T-cell activation and the balance of antibody isotypes in human lymphatic filariasis.

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Abstract

Human filarial infection presents a spectrum of clinical states with two major poles: asymptomatic microfilaraemia and amicrofilaraemic chronic disease. Microfilaremia is associated with a Th1-type tolerance, and maximal IgG4 antibodies, while elephantiasis patients react across a broad range of immune parameters. In this review, Rick Maizels and his colleagues discuss recent advances in the immunology of human filariasis and present a summary of their latest studies in an endemic area of Indonesia.