VACCINATION OF MICE WITH A GENETIC FUSION OF SM14, FROM *SCHISTOSOMA MANSONI*, WITH CTB

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Introduction: Schistosomiasis is a life threatening disease in many tropical and subtropical parts of the world caused by blood flukes from the genus *Schistosoma*. Although the chemotherapic agent Praziquantel is able to eliminate the worms with efficacy, it does not prevent future contaminations. As a result, the development of an effective vaccine against human schistosomiasis remains a highly desirable yet elusive goal for disease control. **Objectives:** Herein we describe the vaccination of female Balb/c mice with the protein Sm14, from *Schistosoma mansoni*, genetically fused to the B subunit of Cholera Toxin (CTB). **Results:** Our data demonstrated that mice vaccinated with Sm14 showed a reduction in 25% in worm burden. These results were not improved by the use of CTB as adjuvant. Moreover, CTB, when genetically fused to Sm14, despite all characterizations made concerning its biological activity and stability, did not protect the animals. **Conclusion:** Although there is a great need for improving vaccines efficacy by the use of biological adjuvants, CTB could not be able to induce higher levels of protection of mice vaccinated with Sm14.

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