

Disruption of VISTA plays an important role in regulating immune response

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Researchers at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth have found that the body's immune system response was enhanced when they disrupted VISTA, a protein that prevents the immune system from overreacting. Understanding how checkpoint regulators like VISTA function is important to cancer researchers, who hope to use the immune system to attack tumors. The study, "VISTA deficiency synergizes with a nonredundant immune checkpoint pathway and leads to enhanced immune activation," will be presented on April 7, 2014 at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA.

"Because there are multiple immune suppressive pathways, disrupting a single pathway like VISTA might not have led us to obvious alterations in the [immune response](#)," said Li Wang, PhD, assistant professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Geisel. "Our data showed clear chronic inflammation due to VISTA deficiency, which leads us to conclude that VISTA likely plays an important role in regulating immunity."

Wang and her colleagues hope to build on these findings to define the molecular pathway involved in VISTA-mediated immune regulation.

Provided by The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

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