

# Antigens

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By  
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# Antigens

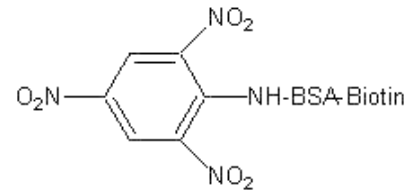
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- **Antigen**
  - Anything that can react with product of immune response
- **Immunogen**
  - Anything that can induce specific immune system it can be cell mediated or humoral or both

# Antigens

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- All immunogens are antigens
- An antigen is only immunogenic under certain circumstances
  - Example – antigens of blood transfusion
- Haptens
  - It can react with product of immune response but can not elicit immune response
  - Example – TNP group of TNP-BSA



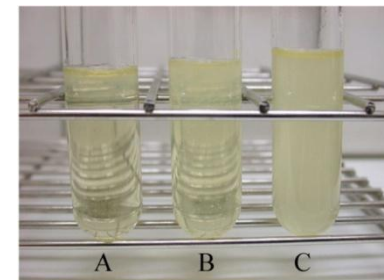
# Immunization schedule

National Immunization Schedule		جدول التطعيمات الوطني	
تاريخ الزيارة التالية Next Visit Date	الختم Stamp	الأسم والتوقيع Name & Signature	التاريخ Date
			• BCG • التهاب كبدى (ب) • التهاب كبدى (ب) • التهاب كبدى (ب)
			• IPV • DTaP • Hepatitis B • Hib • Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV)* • Rota**
			• IPV • DTaP • Hepatitis B • Hib • Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV)* • Rota**
			• OPV • IPV • DTaP • Hepatitis B • Hib • Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV)*
			• Measles • Meningococcal Conjugate quadrivalent (MCV4)
			• OPV • MMR • Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV)* • Meningococcal Conjugate quadrivalent (MCV4)
			• OPV • DTaP • Hib • MMR • Varicella • Hepatitis A
			• Hepatitis A
			• OPV • DTaP (Td)*** • MMR • Varicella

# Factors effecting immunogenicity

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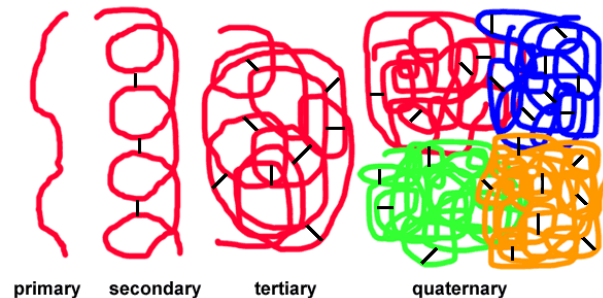
- **Foreignness**
  - Self and non-self discrimination
- **Size**
  - Large molecules are better immunogens compared to small
  - Less than 10 KD are generally weak immunogens or acts a haptens
- **Physical form**
  - Particulate forms are more immunogenic than soluble



# Factors effecting immunogenecity

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- **Chemical composition**
  - More complex molecules are better immunogens
  - Polymer of different a.a is better than polymer of same a.a (poly L-lysin)
  - Primary structure forms – **sequence determinants**
  - Secondary, tertiary and quaternary structure forms – **confirmatory determinants**



# Factors effecting immunogenecity

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- **Degradability**
  - Degradable molecules are more immunogenic
  - Ag processing by APC
- **Genetics of Biological system of host**
  - **Species differences**
    - Pneumococcal polysaccharide do not have good response in rabbit but in mice very good response
  - **Individual differences**
    - Responders vs non responders

# Factors effecting immunogenecity

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- **Age**
  - Infants don't have good response
  - Young and adult have good response
  - As we age immunity is lost also
  - Vaccines are given at childhood
- **Method of administration**
- **Dose**
  - Optimal concentration is required
  - Too much Ag. Can lead to tolerance
  - Too less will be diluted and can not be useful



# Factors effecting immunogenicity

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- Method of administration
  - Dose
  - Route
  - Subcutaneous > Intramuscular > Intravenous > Intra gastric (IgA)

# Factors effecting immunogenicity

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- Adjuvant
  - Substances that enhance immune response to Ag
  - Causes local inflammation
  - Example – complete freunds adjuvant, AIOH...



# Factors effecting immunogenecity

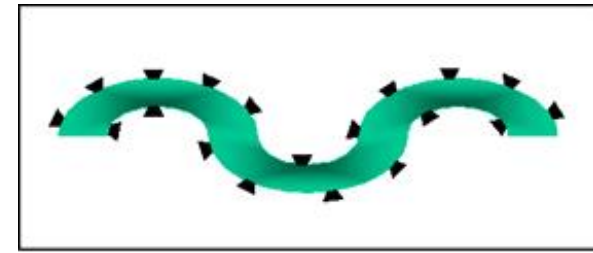
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- Chemical nature
  - Proteins
    - Are very good immunogens
  - Polysaccharides
    - Have large structure and variability
  - Nucleic acids
    - In some disease conditions we can see antibodies against DNA (lupus)
  - Lipids
    - Some glycolipids and phospholipids can be immunogenic

# Types of antigen

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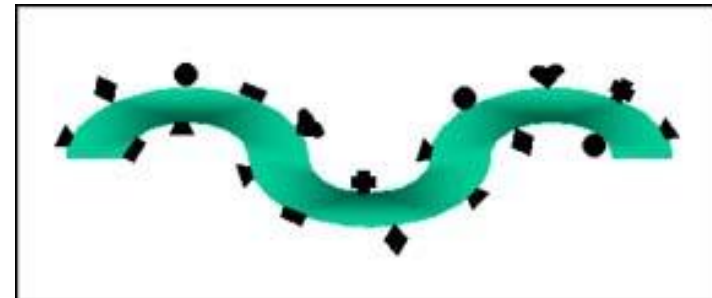
- T-independent – don't need T cells
  - Example polysaccharides
  - Properties
    - Polymeric structure
    - Same epitope many copies
    - Poly clonal B cell activation
    - Resistant to degradation
  - Protein example
    - Flagella
    - Many copies of flagellin



# Types of antigen

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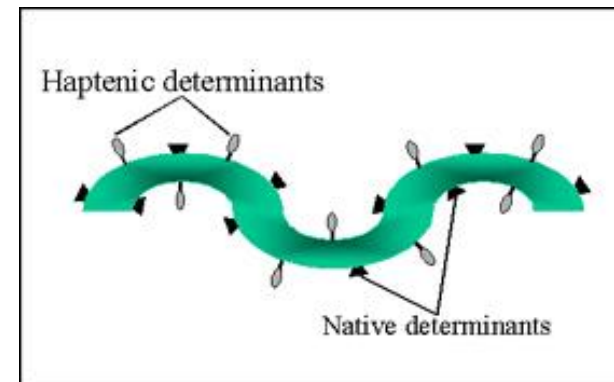
- T-dependent – need T cells
  - Example Proteins
  - Properties
    - Different kinds of epitopes not too many copies of each one
  - example
    - Microbial proteins
    - Altered self proteins...



# Types of antigen

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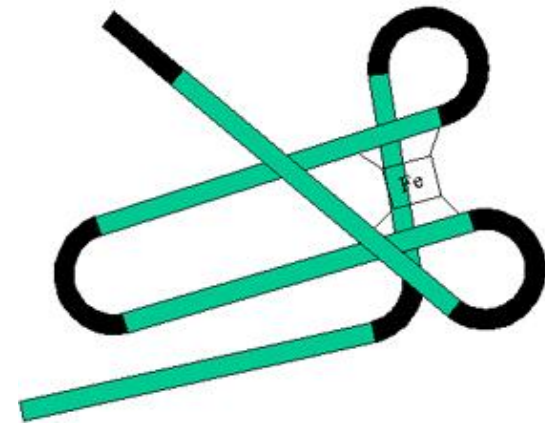
- **Hapten-carrier conjugates**
  - Immunogenic molecule to which hapten is **covalently** attached
  - Have 2 classes of determinants
    - **Native determinants** of immunogenic molecule
    - **Haptenic determinants** of hapten



# Antigenic determinants

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- Antigenic determinants recognized by B cells and Ab.
- Composition
  - Proteins, Polysaccharides, nucleic acids, haptens
  - Sequence determinants (linear)
  - Conformational determinants (3D)
- Size
  - 4-8 a.a or sugar molecules



# Antigenic determinants

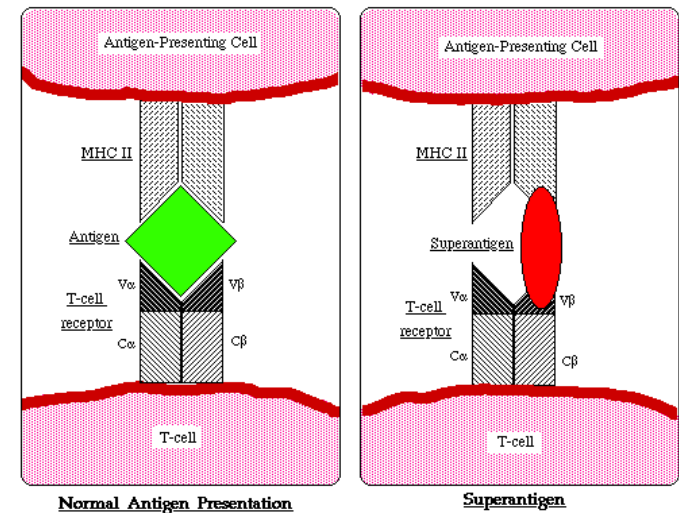
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- Antigenic determinants recognized by T cells
- Composition
  - By enlarge proteins
  - Some lipids also
  - No conformational determinants
  - Only Sequence determinants
    - Processed
    - MHC context is required
- Size
  - 8-15 a.a residues
  - Limited by the ability to bind to MHC



# Super antigens

- Antigen capable of activating large population of T cells are called superantigens
- Usually  $<1\%$  T cells are engaged
- There can be more than 20% of T cells are engaged in case of super antigens
- Huge amount of cytokines will be released leading to organ failure
- Example
  - Staph. Enterotoxin
  - Staph. Toxic shock toxin
  - Strep. Pyrogenic exotoxin



# Sequestered antigens

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- Antigen that is normally hidden from the immune response is called **sequestered antigens**
  - Examples include
    - Myelene basic protein (MBP) of nerves
    - Eye lens protein
    - Spermatozoa.

# Humoral immunity

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Next class.....