unexpectedly diminished by IFX-1 treatment. This is very surprising, since there is no known mechanism which would suggest an involvement of C5a in virus replication.

The results suggest that complement inhibition is a highly promising strategy for an adjunctive treatment of severe viral pneumonia. The therapeutic effects associated with the administration of a C5a inhibitor are so preeminent that even a monotherapy for viral pneumonia based on a C5a inhibitor appears to be feasible.

The above overview does not necessarily describe all advantages associated with and problems solved by the present invention.

SUMMARY ~~OF THE INVENTION~~

In a first aspect, the present invention refers to an inhibitor of C5a for use in the reduction of viral load and/or reduction of acute lung injury (ALI) in a subject suffering from viral pneumonia, wherein the inhibitor of C5a is a binding moiety specifically binding to human C5a, wherein said binding moiety is selected from the group consisting of (a) antibodies or antigen-binding fragments thereof; (b) oligonucleotides; (c) antibody-like proteins; and (d) peptidomimetics. Also described herein is ~~In a first aspect the present invention relates to~~ an inhibitor of C5a for use in the reduction of viral load and/or reduction of acute lung injury (ALI) in a subject suffering from viral pneumonia.

In a second aspect the present invention relates to an inhibitor of C5a for use in the treatment of pneumonia (preferably viral pneumonia) in a subject, wherein the inhibitor is for use as a monotherapy.

In a third aspect the present invention relates to an inhibitor of C5a for use in the treatment of viral pneumonia in a subject, wherein the viral pneumonia in the subject is caused by an H7N9 virus.

In a fourth aspect the present invention relates to an inhibitor of C5a for use in the treatment of pneumonia (preferably viral pneumonia) in a subject, wherein the subject is a primate, preferably an ape, more preferably a human.

This summary of the invention does not necessarily describe all features of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

Before the present invention is described in detail below, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to the particular methodology, protocols and reagents described herein as these may vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention which will be limited only by the appended claims. Unless defined