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ABSTRACT:

MULTIVALENT REPRESSOR OF GENE FUNCTION

Transdominant repressors of viral gene phenotypic expression derived from the rev gene product of HIV-1 or the rex gene product of HTLV-1 and corresponding mutated genes are described, having the capability of repressing the Rev function in HIV-1 and/or the Rex function in HTLV-I and HTLV-II. Transient gene expression analysis of a series of missense and deletion mutants has been used.

Some of the mutants found repress both the Rev and the Rex function and are thus active in more than one viral species.

Transdominant viral mutants represent a promising new class of anti-viral agents. Cellular expression of these transdominant inhibitors may be used in such therapeutic approaches as intracellular immunization in order to protect cells against the deleterious effects of viral, e.g. HIV-1 infection.

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