b. the light chain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:24-27; and wherein the heavy chain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:28-31.

[0019b] In another embodiment, the invention is a process for preparing an isolated antibody as disclosed herein, comprising preparing said antibody from a host cell that secretes said antibody.

[0019c] In another embodiment, the invention is the use of an effective amount of the antibody as disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a condition in a patient in need of treatment or prevention.

[0019d] In another embodiment, the invention is an antibody as disclosed herein for use as a medicament.

[0019e] In another embodiment, the invention is the use of an effective amount of the antibody as disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a condition in a patient in need of treatment or prevention, wherein the condition is age-related macular degeneration (AMD) or a disease associated with an elevation of Factor Bb-related complement activation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] Figure 1 depicts the binding analysis of an anti-Factor Bb monoclonal antibody, using

[0021] Figure 2 shows the results of a hemolysis assay using either anti-Factor B or anti-Factor Bb antibodies in the presence of 10% normal human serum.

CLAIMS

1. A Factor Bb antibody, comprising a heavy chain and a light chain, wherein the antibody binds to Factor Bb with greater affinity than to Factor B; and inhibits complement dependent hemolysis; and wherein either:

a. the light chain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:8-11; and wherein the heavy chain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 12-15;

or

b. the light chain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:24-27; and wherein the heavy chain comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:28-31.

2. The antibody of claim 1, that binds Factor Bb with a K_d of less than about 1 nM.

3. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody blocks formation of membrane attack complex (MAC) in a patient.

4. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising a light chain variable domain and a heavy chain variable domain selected from the light chain and heavy chain variable domain amino acid sequences: SEQ ID NO:8/ SEQ ID NO: 12; SEQ ID NO:8/ SEQ ID NO: 13; SEQ ID NO:8/SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:8/ SEQ ID NO:15; SEQ ID NO:9/ SEQ ID NO:12; SEQ ID NO:9/SEQ ID NO:13; SEQ ID NO:9/ SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:9/ SEQ ID NO:15; SEQ ID NO:10/SEQ ID NO:12; SEQ ID NO:10/SEQ ID NO:13; SEQ ID NO:10/SEQ ID NO:14; and SEQ ID NO:10/SEQ ID NO:15; SEQ ID NO:11/SEQ ID NO:12; SEQ ID NO:11/SEQ ID NO:13; SEQ ID NO:11/SEQ ID NO:14; and SEQ ID NO:11/ SEQ ID NO:15.

5. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising a light chain variable domain and a heavy chain variable domain selected from the light chain

and heavy chain variable domain amino acid sequences: SEQ ID NO:24/ SEQ ID NO:28; SEQ ID NO:24/SEQ ID NO:29; SEQ ID NO:24/SEQ ID NO:30; SEQ ID NO:24/SEQ ID NO:31; SEQ ID NO:25/SEQ ID NO:28; SEQ ID NO:25/SEQ ID NO:29; SEQ ID NO:25/SEQ ID NO:30; SEQ ID NO:25/SEQ ID NO:31; SEQ ID NO:26/SEQ ID NO:28; SEQ ID NO:26/ SEQ ID NO:29; SEQ ID NO:26/SEQ ID NO:30; and SEQ ID NO:26/SEQ ID NO:31; SEQ ID NO:27/SEQ ID NO:28; SEQ ID NO:27/SEQ ID NO:29; SEQ ID NO:27/SEQ ID NO:30; and SEQ ID NO:27/SEQ ID NO:31.

6. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises a light chain variable domain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11 and a heavy chain variable domain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15.

7. The antibody of claim 1, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a recombinant antibody, a humanized antibody, a chimeric antibody, a multispecific antibody, or an antibody fragment thereof.

8. The antibody of claim 7, wherein said antibody fragment is a Fab fragment, a Fab' fragment, a F(ab')2 fragment, a Fv fragment, a diabody, or a single chain antibody molecule.

9. The antibody of claim 7, wherein said antibody is of the IgG1-, IgG2- IgG3- or IgG4-type.

10. The antibody of claim 1, wherein said antibody is coupled to a labeling group.

11. A process for preparing an isolated antibody of claim 1, comprising preparing said antibody from a host cell that secretes said antibody.

12. A nucleic acid molecule encoding an isolated antibody of claim 1.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 1 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 13, further comprising an additional active agent.

15. The antibody of claim 1 for use as a medicament.

16. Use of an effective amount of the antibody of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing a condition in a patient in need of treatment or prevention, wherein the condition is age-related macular degeneration (AMD) or a disease associated with an elevation of Factor Bb-related complement activation.

17. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises a light chain variable domain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:25 and a heavy chain variable domain amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:30.