CLAIMS

1. Use of a human beta-herpesvirus in the preparation of a medicament for the vaccination of a human against beta-herpesvirus and/or for the treatment of an infection of a human with beta-herpesvirus, wherein the beta-herpesvirus is spread-deficient and wherein the beta-herpesvirus is endotheliotropic and has a wild type-like virion surface, wherein the beta-herpesvirus is suitable to or capable of inducing an immune response, wherein the beta-herpesvirus is deficient in at least one gene product involved in primary and/or secondary envelopment, wherein the at least one gene product involved in primary envelopment is encoded by a gene selected from the group consisting of UL50 and UL 53 and homologs of each thereof, and wherein the at least one gene product involved in secondary envelopment is encoded by a gene selected from the group consisting of UL94 and UL99 and homologs each thereof.

2. The use according to f claim 1, wherein the immune response comprises neutralizing antibodies against beta-herpesvirus and $CD4^+$ and $CD8^+$ T-cells directed against epitopes of beta-herpesvirus.

3. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the beta-herpesvirus is a human cytomegalovirus.

4. The use according to any one of claim 1 to 3, wherein the beta herpesvirus comprises the nucleotide sequence according to SEQ.ID.NO:23.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the beta-herpesvirus is deficient in at least one gene product encoded by an immune evasive gene, wherein the at least one gene product encoded by an immune evasive gene is selected from the group consisting of a gene product regulating MHC class I presentation and a gene product regulating NK cell response, wherein the gene product regulating MHC class I presentation is selected from the group consisting of US6, US3, US2, UL18, US11, UL83 and UL40, and wherein the gene product regulating NK cell response is selected from the group consisting of gene products encoded by genes UL40, UL16 and UL18.

6. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the beta-herpesvirus encodes a heterologous nucleic acid, wherein the heterologous nucleic acid is a functional nucleic acid, preferably selected from the group comprising antisense molecules, ribozymes and RNA interference mediating nucleic acids, or wherein the heterologous nucleic acid is a nucleic acid coding for a peptide, oligopeptide, polypeptide or protein.

7. The use according to claim 6, wherein the peptide, oligopeptide, polypeptide or protein comprises at least one antigen.

8. The use of a nucleic acid coding for a beta-herpesvirus according to any of the preceding claims and/or a vector comprising the nucleic acid coding for a beta-herpesvirus according to any of the preceding claims in the preparation of a medicament for the vaccination of a human and/or for the treatment of a human.

9. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the medicament comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.