



RvD1 treatment during primary infection modulates memory response increasing viral load during respiratory viral reinfection

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ABSTRACT

Resolvin D1 (RvD1), which is biosynthesized from essential long-chain fatty acids, is involved in anti-inflammatory activity and modulation of T cell response. Memory CD8+ T cells are important for controlling tumor growth and viral infections. Exacerbated inflammation has been described as impairing memory CD8+ T cell differentiation. This study aimed to verify the effects of RvD1 on memory CD8+ T cells *in vitro* and *in vivo* in a respiratory virus infection model. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells were treated at different time points with RvD1 and stimulated with anti-CD3/anti-CD28 antibodies. Pre-treatment with RvD1 increases the expansion of memory CD8+ T cells. The IL-12 level, a cytokine described to control memory CD8+ T cells, was reduced with RvD1 pre-treatment. When the mTOR axis was inhibited, the IL-12 levels were restored. In a respiratory virus infection model, Balb/c mice were treated with RvD1 before infection or after 7 days after infection. RvD1 treatment after infection increased the frequency of memory CD8+ T cells in the lung expressing *II4*, *II10*, and *Ifng*. During reinfection, RvD1-treated and RSV-infected mice present a high viral load in the lung and lower antibody response in the serum. Our results show that RvD1 modulates the expansion and phenotype of memory CD8+ T cells but contributed to a non-protective response after RSV reinfection.

1. Introduction

Specialized pro-resolution mediators (SPM) have anti-inflammatory activity and are one of the key mediators of the resolution phase of inflammation. SPM is enzymatically derived from arachidonic acid (AA), docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), which are long-chain fatty acids (Simopoulos, 2002; Bannenberg and Serhan, 2010; Schmitz and Ecker, 2008). The main SPM families are resolvins, protectins, maresins, and lipoxins (Isobe et al., 2013). E-series

resolvins (RvE1, RvE2, and RvE3) are derived from EPA, and D-series resolvins (RvD1-6) are derived from DHA. Resolvin D1 (RvD1) is one of the main mediators in the anti-inflammatory response (Levy et al., 2001; Serhan, 2004; Serhan et al., 2004; Hong and Lu, 2013), a role extensively evidenced in the literature. RvD1 reduces infiltration of neutrophils and decreases the levels of inflammatory cytokines, which are important in the pro-resolution phase (Buckley et al., 2014). Also, RvD1 decreases the production of IL-12 by monocytes (Gu et al., 2016). RvD1 treatment decreases symptoms in animal models of autoimmune

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diseases (Zhang et al., 2008). In a model of multiple sclerosis, RvD1 treatment reduces T cell response and cytokine production, inducing M2 differentiation (Poisson et al., 2015). Treatment with an analog of RvD1 also suppresses host T-cell allosensitization in mice (Hua et al., 2014). Also, RvD1 induces the differentiation of regulatory T cells and the production of IL-10 (Chiurchiù et al., 2016). However, the role of RvD1 in memory CD8+ T cell response is unknown.

Memory CD8+ T cell response is essential to lifelong immunity protection, and it has been the focus of various immunotherapy strategies and vaccines for intracellular pathogens and tumors (Joshi et al., 2007; Osborne and Abraham, 2010; Pham et al., 2009; Valbon et al., 2016; Jarjour et al., 2021). The key characteristics that define memory T cells include long-lived homeostatic proliferation driven by cytokines, rapid proliferative capacity, and cytotoxic activity after encountering the cognate epitope.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), is the leading cause of respiratory infection in children, and reinfection with RSV is common (Bont et al., 2002). Nevertheless, the mechanism associated with the development of protective memory against respiratory viral reinfection is not fully elucidated, making this an appealing model to investigate memory (Ascough et al., 2018).

The inflammatory milieu affects different aspects of memory CD8+ T cells' response before, during, and after their reactivation by the antigen (Osborne and Abraham, 2010; Valbon et al., 2016). Studies have demonstrated that the development of memory CD8+ T cells is enhanced after immunization with a low-inflammatory environment (Joshi et al., 2007; Pham et al., 2011). Inflammatory cytokines induced by specific pathogens can also dictate the antigen sensitivity of memory CD8+ T cells (Richer et al., 2012). For example, it has been reported that IL-12 hinders the formation of CD8+ T cell memory that lasts a long time in the mouse model (Pearce and Shen, 2007). In contrast, IL-10 production by regulatory CD4 T cells during the resolution phase of infection is important for the differentiation of memory CD8+ T cells (Laidlaw et al., 2015). Understanding all the factors in the inflammatory environment that dictate the generation and maintenance of memory CD8+ T cell response is of great translational interest for the development of novel vaccines and immunotherapeutic advances (Joshi et al., 2007; Pham et al., 2011).

Given the importance of the anti-inflammatory response and memory CD8+ T cell generation, we hypothesized that RvD1 might have an important effect on the memory CD8+ T cell response. In the current study, we investigate the effects of RvD1 on human memory CD8+ cells *in vitro* and in a murine model of respiratory virus infection.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Subjects of study

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from healthy volunteers (n = 20) between 20 and 40 years old of both sexes. Ten milliliters of blood were collected from donors after signing an informed consent form. All procedures following the Declaration of Helsinki and were approved by the PUCRS Research Ethics Committee (844.206/2014).

2.2. *In vitro* RvD1 treatments and cellular stimulation in PBMC

PBMCs were isolated using Ficoll (Sigma-Aldrich®). Cells (10^6 /well) were seeded in 96 well-plate in RPMI 5% of FBS (Gibco) and stimulated with 2 µg/ml anti-CD3/anti-CD28 antibodies (TCR stimulation) (BD Bioscience®) and/or treated with 10 nM of RvD1 at multiple time points (30 min before the stimulus or 6 or 12 or 24 h after the stimulus). To perform the treatment with RvD1 we diluted the stock (100 µg/µl - Cayman Chemical®) in RPMI media (1/1000) and used 7.5 µl per well. The concentration of 10 nM was established according to (Chiurchiù et al., 2016). The media was replenished after RvD1 treatment before or

after the stimulus and on the third day of culture. The cells were incubated at 37 °C in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ for 7 days, as previously described by Geginat et al. (Geginat et al., 2003). Alternatively, 1 h before RvD1 treatment, cells were incubated with 10 ng/mL rapamycin (Cell Signaling®). Cells were also treated with anti-IL2 receptor antibody (R&D Systems®) before TCR stimulation. Cell supernatant was collected after 3 days of culture for cytokine assay. CD8+ T cell phenotype and viability was assessed after 7 days with Fixable Viability Dye eFluor™ 780 (Invitrogen®) according to the manufacturer's instructions. To characterize the phenotype of the CD8+ human cells, we used the following surface antibodies: anti-CD8 (clone RPA-T8), anti-CD45RA (clone HI100), anti-CD45RO (clone UCHL-1), anti-CD27 (clone M-T271), and granzyme B (clone GB11) (BD Biosciences®). Samples were acquired by FACS CANTO II flow cytometry (BD Bioscience®). The FlowJo software (TreeStar®) was used for data analysis. IL-12p40 cytokine levels in the cell supernatant were analyzed using an ELISA kit (ImmunoTools®) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2.3. Mice

Balb/c mice were obtained from the Animal Facility of Universidade Federal Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (UFSCPA). Female animals (6–8 weeks old) were used for experiments and housed at the animal facility with water and food *ad libitum*. All procedures involving animals were realized according to protocols approved by the Committee on Animal Use of UFSCPA (518/17).

2.4. Virus

RSV A strain (line A2) was kindly donated by Fernando Polack (Fundacion Infant, Argentina). RSV was cultivated in Vero cells (ATCC CCL81) using Optimum medium containing 2% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Viral plaque-forming units (PFU) were identified with a mouse anti-RSV monoclonal antibody (EMD-Millipore®).

2.5. RSV infection and RvD1 treatment in mice

Mice were anesthetized on day 0 with isoflurane, and afterward infected with 10^7 PFU RSV virus intranasally. We diluted the stock solution of RvD1 in PBS (1/200) and administered 100 ng of RvD1 per mice intraperitoneally in 200 µl (Cayman Chemical®). The dose and the administration route were chosen according to (Chiurchiù et al., 2016). RvD1 treatment was performed 30 min before the intranasal RSV infection (10^7 PFU RSV) or after 7 days of infection. The controls were infected and received PBS (Phosphate Buffered saline) treatment at the same time as the experimental groups. Alternatively ethanol (solvent RvD1) was diluted in PBS the same way as RvD1, used as a control. The CD8+ memory response was analyzed 14 after infection. Infected mice after 14 days were challenged with 10^7 PFU of RSV virus intranasally. The response was analyzed after 8 h. The serum was collected, and the spleen and lymph nodes were harvested for cell staining. Cell from lung tissue was obtained using the collagenase D solution for 1 h at 37 °C in 5% CO₂. Cells were analyzed by flow cytometry and reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR).

2.6. Murine memory cells staining

The murine cells were incubated with a specific tetramer to the peptide of the M2 protein (SYIGSINNI) from RSV (M282–90) and were stained with the following surface antibodies: anti-CD8+ (PerCp and PE-Cy7) (clone 53,67), anti-CD127 (PE-Cy7) (clone SB/199), anti-KLRG1 (APC) (clone 2F1), anti-CD103 (PE) (clone: M290), anti-CD44 (PerCp) (clone: IM7), anti-CD62L (APC) (clone: MEL-14) (BD Biosciences®), anti-IL-10 (APC) (clone JES5-16E), anti-IL4 (clone 11B11), and anti-IFN-γ (ALEXA 647) (clone XMG1.2) (BD Biosciences®). Samples were acquired by FACS CANTO II flow cytometry (BD Bioscience®). The FlowJo

software (TreeStar®) was used for data analysis.

2.7. Murine lung memory CD8+ T cells sorting

After 14 days of infection, lung cells were incubated with mouse FcBlock at 4 °C for 20 min and stained with anti-CD8+ (Percp) (clone 53.67) and anti-CD127 (PE) (clone: SB/199) for 30 min. The cells were sorted to gather the population of memory CD8+ T cells (CD8 + CD127^{high}) using a FACS Aria II (BD Bioscience®), achieving 90% purity. Total RNA was extracted, and cDNA was synthesized for gene expression analysis.

2.8. Gene expression of memory cells

cDNA of purified memory cells was used to determine the expression levels of IL-4, IL-10, IL-13, IL-5, IFN- γ , GATA-3, T-bet, and Blimp-1. The following primers were used: *II4* (forward primer: 5'-GGCATTGGAACGAGGTCACA-3'; reverse primer: 5'-GACGTTTGGCA-CATCCATCTC-3'); *II10* (forward primer: 5'-AAGGGTTACTTGGGTTGCCA-3'; reverse primer: 5'-CCTGGGGCAT-CACTTCTACC-3'); *II5* (forward primer: 5'-AGCACAGTCGTGAAAGA-GACCTT-3' reverse primer: 5'-TCCAATGCATAGCTGGTGATT-3'); *II13* (forward primer: 5'GGAGCTGAGCAACATCACACA-3' reverse primer: 5'-GGTCTGTAGATGGCATTGCA-3'); *Gata3* (forward: 5'-CAGCTCTG-GACTCTTCCCAC-3' reverse: 5'-GTTACACACTCCCTGCCTT-3'); *Infg* (forward primer: 5'-TCAAGTGGCATAGATGTGGAAGAA-3'; reverse primer: 5'-TGGCTCTGCAGGCTTTTCATG-3'); *Tbx21* (forward primer: 5'-GCCAGGGAACCGCTTATATG-3' reverse primer: 5'-GACGAT-CATCTGGGTACATTGT-3'); *Zpf683* (Forward primer: 5'-GTGCGGGA-GACGCAAGAGCA-3'; Reverse primer: 5'-CTTGGGGCAGCCAAGGTCG-3'); *e B2M* (forward primer: 5'-CCCAGTGAGACTGATACATACG-3' reverse primer: 5'-CGATCCCAGTAGACGGTCTTG-3') as endogenous control genes. The PCR conditions were according to the SYBR Green/ROX qPCR Master Mix protocols (Thermo Fisher Scientific®). The viral load of the samples was calculated using the StepOnePlus system (Applied Biosystems®). Gene expression analyses were done using the 2⁻ Δ Ct method.

2.9. Viral load analysis

Total RNA was extracted from the lungs of mice with TRIzol® Reagent (Invitrogen®). The cDNA was synthesized by Kit GoScript Reverse Transcriptase (PROMEGA®). The quality of cDNA in each sample was tested for the amplification of endogenous gene B2M (beta-2-microglobulin) with specific primers of TaqMan Assay (Applied Biosystems®). The samples that were not amplified to B2M were excluded. The gene encoding the RSV protein F was amplified using specific primers and probes (forward 5'-AACAGATGTAAGCAGCTCCGTATC-3', reverse 5'-CGATTTTATTGGATGCTGTACATTT-3' and probe 5'-FAM/TGCCA-TAGCATG ACACAATGGCTCCT-TAMRA/-3') by RT-PCR. For the standard curve, we performed a 10-fold serial dilution of a plasmid with RSV F protein sequence. Viral load values were calculated relative to the weight of the lung portion (copies per gram of lung).

2.10. Production of the F protein

Purified plasmid DNA (pGen2.1: RSV F Protein) was used for the transfection of HEK293 cells (Human embryonic kidney) using Lipofectamine 3000 reagent (ThermoFisher Scientific®). The transfected cells were selected using a geneticin antibiotic (G418). RSV F protein was purified using an anti-Flag column and confirmed by Western blot.

2.11. Quantification of RSV-specific IgG

Anti-RSV-specific IgG measurements were done using the ELISA method in mice serum. A 96-well plate was sensitized with the RSV F

protein, produced as described above, overnight. Mice serum was added in 1/10, 1/100, and 1/500 dilutions, and incubated for 3 h at 37 °C. The plate was washed and incubated with HRP-conjugated rabbit anti-mouse IgG (Invitrogen®) for 1 h at room temperature. The plate was washed, and TBM (Life Technologies®) was added for 30 min. The absorbance was measured at a wavelength of 450 nm using an EZ Read 400 Microplate reader (Biochrom®).

2.12. Statistical analysis

Data were tested for normal distribution using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Different groups were analyzed using one-way ANOVA (multiple groups) with a post hoc Bonferroni's test for parametric results and a Friedman test followed by Dunn's multiple comparisons test for non-parametric results. To compare two groups, we used the *t*-test for parametric data and the Mann-Whitney test for non-parametric data. GraphPad Prism 6.0 (San Diego, CA, USA) was used for data analysis. Results were considered significant when the *p*-value less than 0.05 (*p* < 0.05).

3. Results

3.1. RvD1 increases the percentage of memory CD8+ T cells.

To explore the role of the pro-resolution mediators on human memory CD8+ T cells, we treated PBMC with RvD1 at different time-points, as described in Fig. 1A (30 min before TCR stimulation, or 6 h, or 12 h, or 24 h after TCR stimulation). After 7 days of culture, cells were analyzed to characterize the phenotype of memory CD8+ T cells (CD45RO⁺CD45RA⁻CD27⁺), naïve cells (CD45RO⁻CD45RA⁺CD27⁺), and effector cells (CD45RO⁺CD45RA⁺CD27⁻) (Fig. 1B) (H, P.-G., A.-C. D, F.-V. H, M. JJ, L.-G. JS., 2005). RvD1 treatment 30 min before TCR stimulation induced a significant increase in the percentage of memory CD8+ T cells (Fig. 1C and F). There was no significant difference between RvD1 treated and untreated cells regarding naïve and effector CD8+ T cell phenotypes (Fig. 1 C–E). RvD1 did not interfere in the viability of CD8+ T cells (Fig. 1 G), nor the secretion of granzyme B (Fig. 1 H and I).

3.2. RvD1 induces human memory CD8+ T cell expansion depending on the mTOR pathway and decreases IL-12p40 production

Phosphoinositide 3-kinase, serine/threonine-protein kinase, the mammalian target of rapamycin (PI3K/AKT/mTOR) pathway, is important to cell proliferation, survival, and memory cells differentiation (Araki et al., 2010; Pompura and Dominguez-Villar, 2018). To investigate the role of the mTOR pathway in the RvD1-mediated expansion of memory cells, we added an mTOR inhibitor (rapamycin) in the PBMC culture before RvD1 treatment and TCR stimulation. Our results indicated that the effect of RvD1 in memory CD8+ T cell expansion is dependent on the mTOR pathway (Fig. 2 A-B). Monocytes, dendritic cells, macrophages, and B cells produce the cytokine IL-12, which modulates memory CD8+ T response (Raeber et al., 2018; Martins Queiroz-Junior et al., 2010; Vignali and Kuchroo, 2012; Gee et al., 2009). RvD1 treatment decreased IL-12p40 cytokine production of PBMC after 3 days of culture (Fig. 2C). Using rapamycin before RvD1 treatment and TCR stimulation, IL-12p40 production was restored (Fig. 2C). To confirm that the absence of IL12-p40 plays a role in the increased frequency of memory CD8+ T cells, the anti-IL12p40 receptor antibody was used. The effect of IL-12 inhibition in the frequency of memory cells was similar to the increased effect mediated by RvD1 (Fig. 2D and E). Using the anti-IL12p40 receptor, IL12-p40 levels were significantly lower (Fig. 2F). Accordingly, IL12-p40 levels were inversely associated with the frequency of memory CD8+ T cells (Fig. 2G). Our results suggest that RvD1 treatment acts via the mTOR pathway reduces the levels of IL12-p40 and increases the frequency of

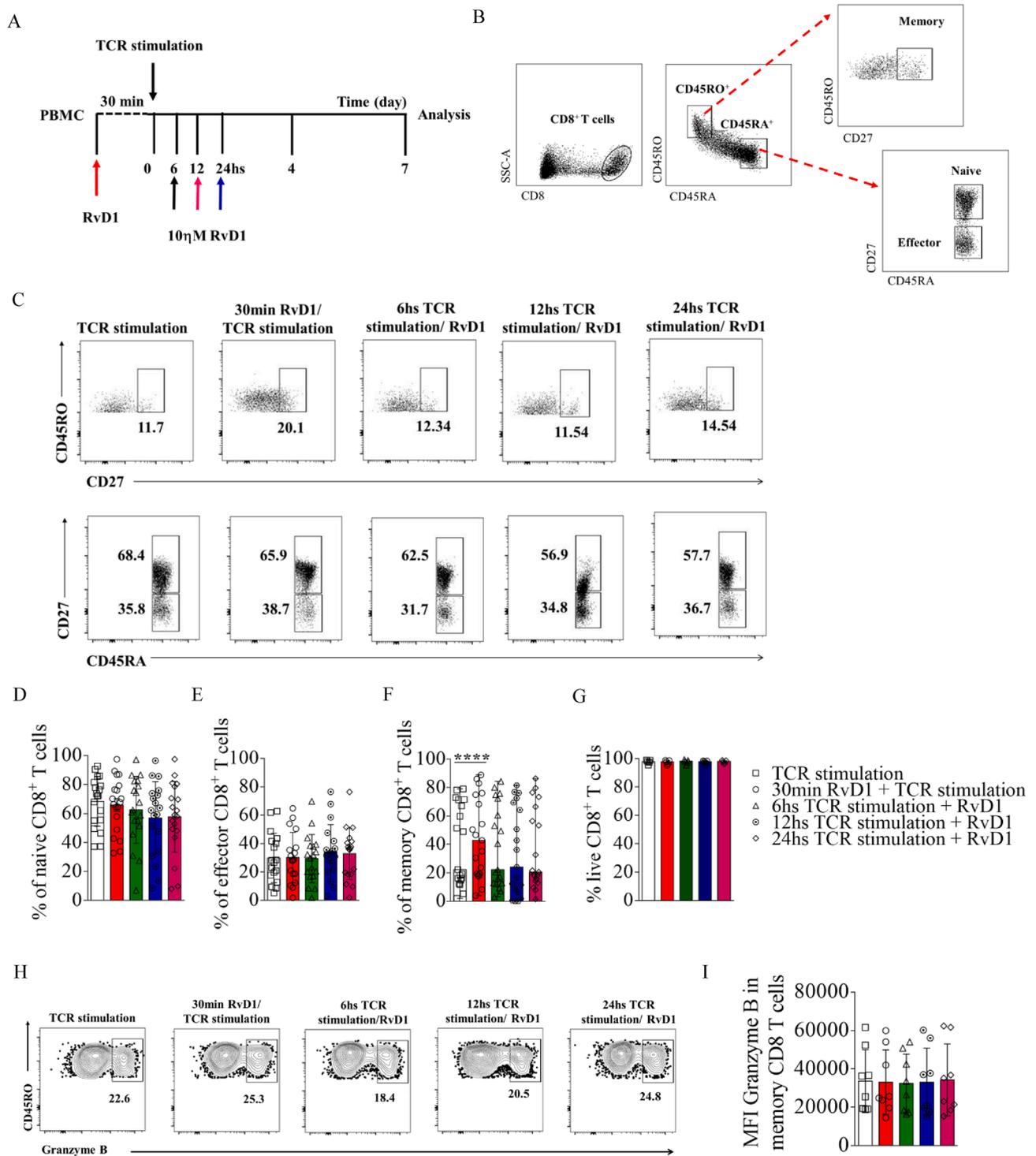


Fig. 1. RvD1 increases the expansion of human memory CD8⁺ T cells. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were treated 10nM RvD1 for 30 min before of stimulus of 2 μg/ml anti-CD3/anti-CD28 (TCR stimulation). Other groups were treated 6, or 12 or 24 h after stimulation. CD8⁺ T cells were evaluated after 7 days of culture. **(A)** Experimental design of RvD1 treatment *in vitro*. **(B)** Representative dot-plots are shown gate strategy to analysis of human naive, effector and memory CD8⁺ T cells population. **(C)** Dot plots are demonstrated the frequency of naive, effector and memory CD8⁺ T cells. **(D)** Frequency of naive (CD45RA⁺CD45RO⁻CD27⁺) CD8⁺ T cells. **(E)** Frequency of effector (CD45RA⁺CD45RO⁻CD27⁻) CD8⁺ T cells. **(F)** Frequency of memory (CD45RA⁻CD45RO⁺CD27⁺) CD8⁺ T cells. These data are representative of 20 healthy volunteers. **(G)** Percentage of live CD8⁺ T cells after 7 days of culture. **(H)** Dot-plot has showed of frequency of granzyme B from memory CD8⁺ T cells. **(I)** Frequency of CD8⁺CD45RA⁻CD45RO⁺CD27⁺ granzyme B⁺ T cells. These data are presented as mean ± SD (n = 8). These data were from four and three independent experiments. Statistical analysis was realized by using One Way ANOVA test with Friedman test followed by Dunn's multiple comparisons test, ****p < 0.0001.

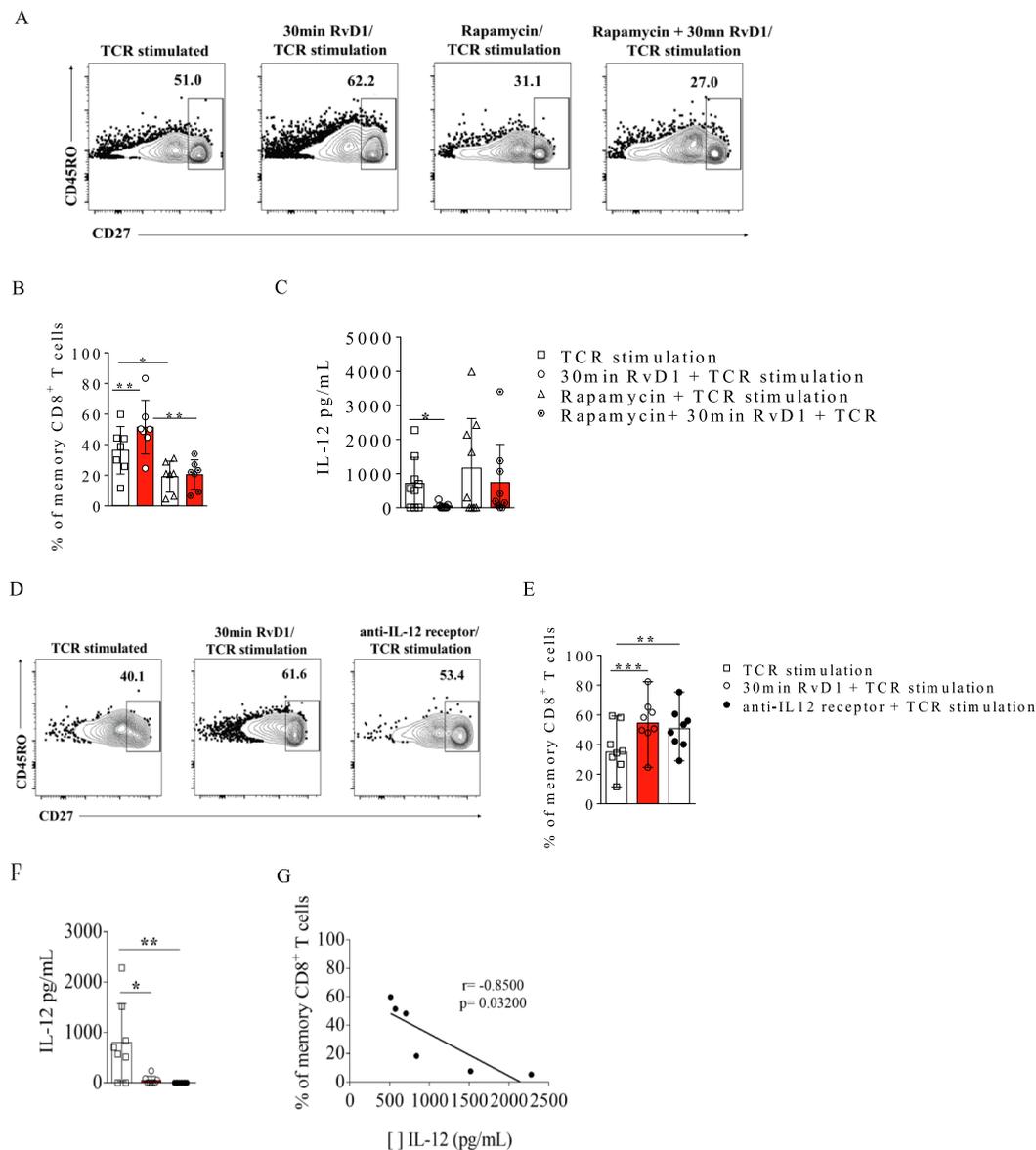


Fig. 2. RvD1 expands human memory CD8⁺ T cells depending on mTOR pathway activation and decreases IL-12 cytokine. PBMC incubation with 20 ng/ml of rapamycin 1-hour prior RvD1 treatment for 30 min and TCR stimulation. After seven days of culture, cells were evaluated by flow cytometry. **(A)** Dot-plot showing the frequency of memory CD8⁺ T cells. **(B)** Frequency of memory CD8⁺ T cells after PBMC treatment with rapamycin. **(C)** Analyze IL-12p40 cytokine levels in cell culture supernatants after 72 h by ELISA assay. These data are introduced as mean \pm SD (n = 10). **(D)** Dot-plot showing the frequency of memory CD8⁺ T cells analyzed by flow cytometry. **(E)** Frequency of memory CD8⁺ T cells after PBMC incubation with 1 μ g/ μ l of anti-IL-12 receptor or RvD1 prior 30 min to TCR stimulation and cultured for seven days. **(F)** Analysis of IL-12p40 levels in cell culture supernatants collected in 72hs of stimulation. **(G)** Correlation of IL12p40 levels with the frequency of memory CD8⁺ T cells. These data are introduced as mean \pm SD (n = 8). Data were performed in two independent experiments. Statistical analyzes were realized by ANOVA test followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test, Friedman test followed by Dunn's multiple comparisons test and the correlation was analyzed by Pearson r test, * p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001.

human memory CD8⁺ T cells.

3.3. RvD1 treatment during primary respiratory infection modulates the response of memory CD8⁺ T leading to an increased viral load during secondary infection

We further investigated the role of RvD1 on memory CD8⁺ T cells using a murine model of respiratory virus infection. Balb/c mice were treated intraperitoneally with RvD1 30 min before intranasal RSV infection, and the CD8⁺ T cell response was analyzed after 14 days (Fig. 3A). Our results demonstrate that pre-treatment with RvD1 decreases both non-specific memory precursors CD8⁺ T cell (CD8⁺Dump-CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) as well as the RSV-specific memory precursors cell

(CD8⁺Dump-tet⁽⁸²⁻⁹⁰⁾CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) frequency in the lung (Fig. 3B–C and F–G). There was no difference in the non-specific and specific memory CD8⁺ T cell populations in the lymph node and spleen (Fig. 3B, D–E, F, and H–I).

The resolution of inflammation during the contraction phase of CD8⁺ T memory, after TCR engagement, favors maturation of memory cells (Laidlaw et al., 2015). Mice were then infected and after 7 days were treated with RvD1 (Fig. 4A). RvD1-treated mice presented an increased frequency of non-specific memory precursors CD8⁺ T cells (CD8⁺Dump⁺CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) and specific memory precursors CD8⁺ T cells (CD8⁺Dump⁺Tet⁽⁸²⁻⁹⁰⁾CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) against of virus in the lung (Fig. 4 B–C and G–F). The treatment did not influence the response of non-specific and specific memory precursors CD8⁺ T

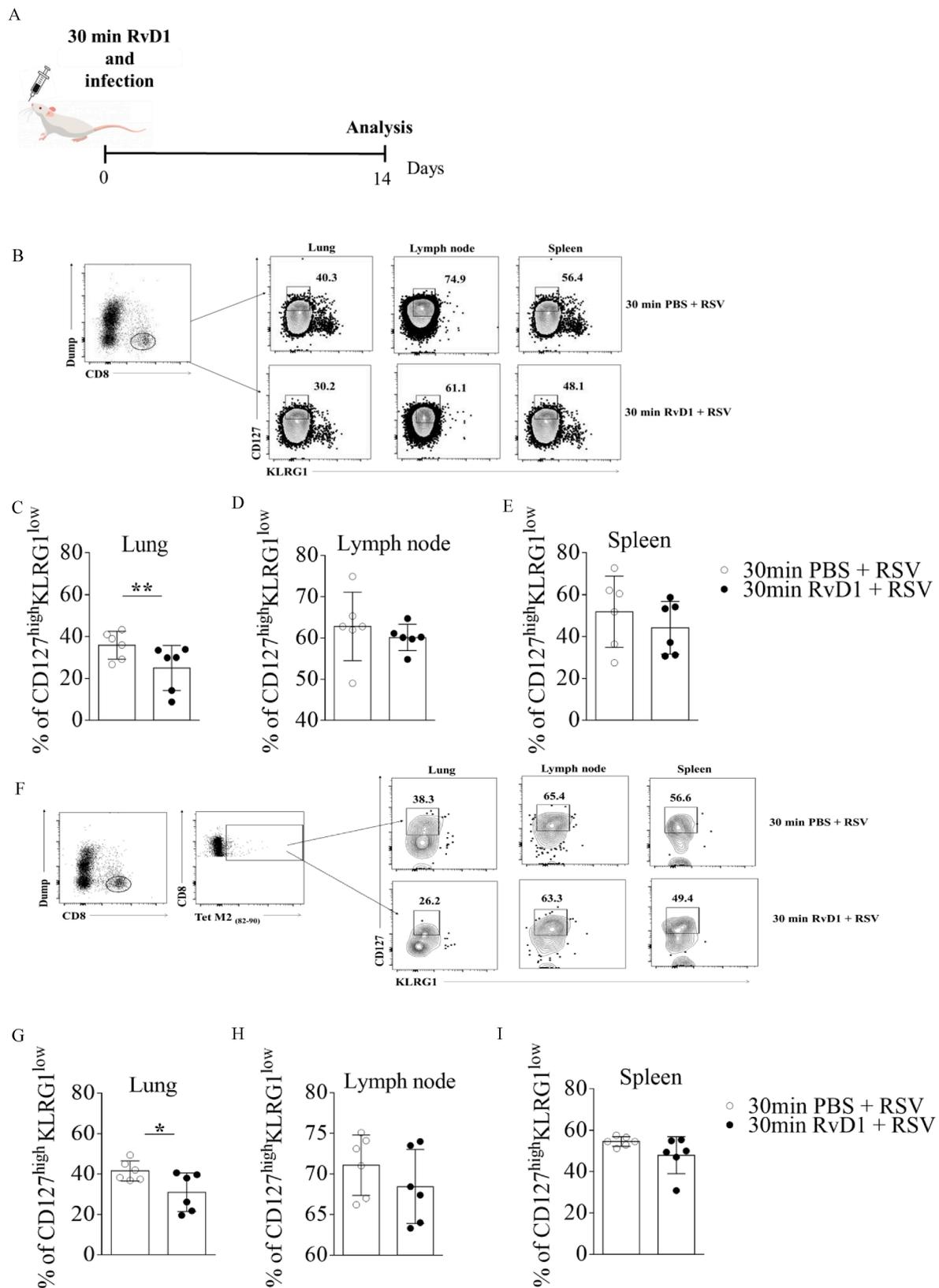


Fig. 3. RvD1 pretreatment decreases memory CD8+ T cells response in the RSV infection. **(A)** Experimental design of 30 min of RvD1 treatment before of RSV infection. **(B)** Dot-plot showed the gates of non-specific-RSV memory CD8+ T cells in pre-treated and infected mice. **(C-E)** Frequency of non-specific memory T cells (CD8 + Dump⁺CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) in the lung, lymph node, and spleen from infected and RvD1 treated mice. **(F)** Dot-plot showed the gates of specific-RSV memory CD8+ T cells in pre-treated and infected mice. **(G-I)** Frequency of RSV-specific memory CD8+ T cells (CD8 + Dump⁺Tet₍₈₂₋₉₀₎⁺CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) in the lung, lymph node, and spleen from pre-treated and infected mice. These data were performed in two independent experiments (n = 6 mice/groups). The analysis statistical has determined by the T test, * p < 0.05.

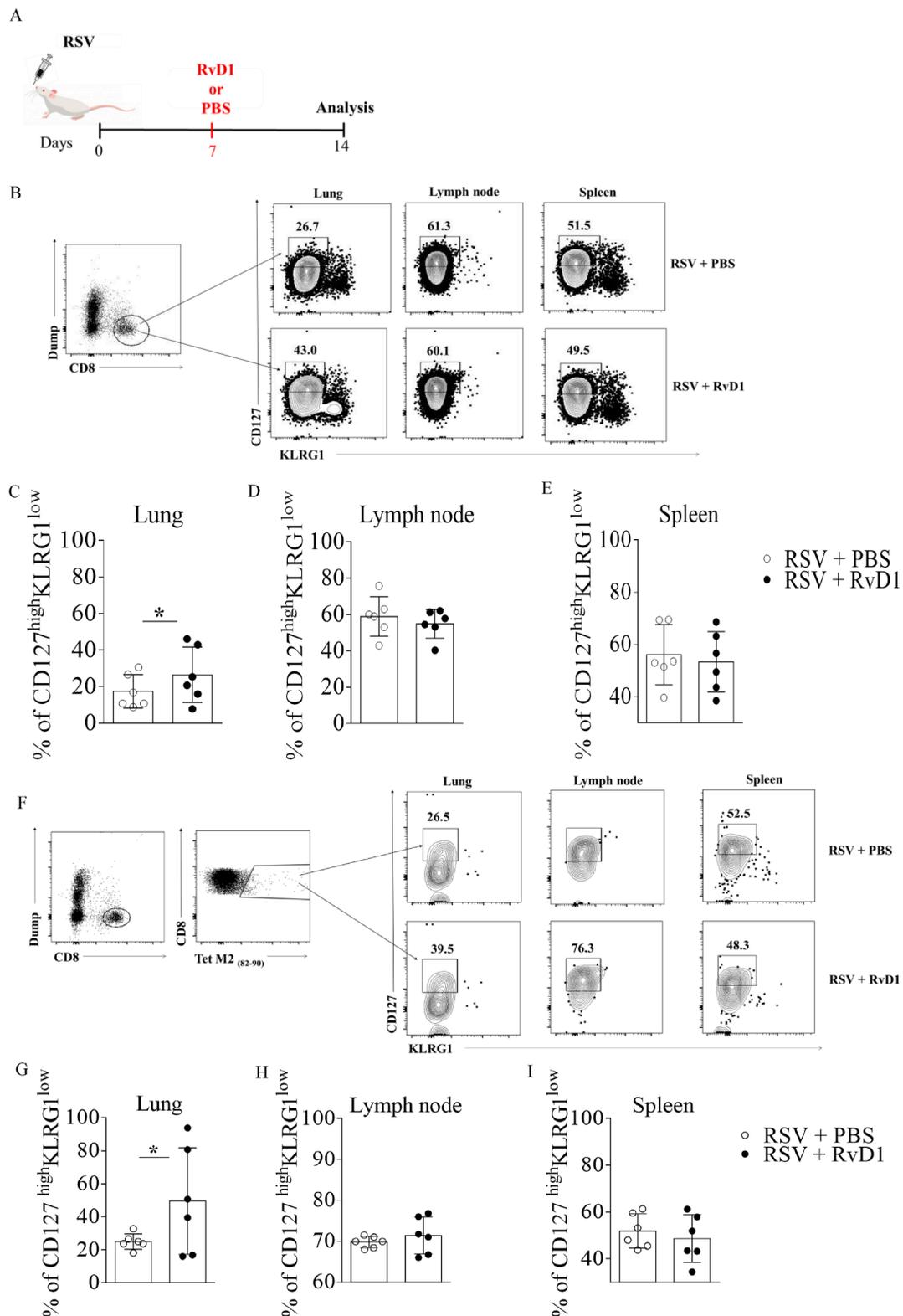


Fig. 4. RvD1 treatment modulates memory CD8+ T cells response in the RSV infection. **(A)** Experimental design of RvD1 treatment on the seventh days of after RSV infection. **(B)** Dot-plot showed the gates of non-specific-RSV memory CD8+ T cells in infected and RvD1 treated mice. **(C-E)** Frequency of non-specific memory CD8+ T cells (CD8 + Dump⁺CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) in the lung, lymph node, and spleen from infected and RvD1 treated mice. **(F)** Dot-plot showed the gates of specific-RSV memory CD8+ T cells in infected and RvD1 treated mice. **(G-I)** Frequency of RSV-specific memory CD8+ T cells (CD8 + Dump⁺Tet₍₈₂₋₉₀₎⁺CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) in the lung, lymph node, and spleen from infected and RvD1 treated mice. Data were from two independent experiments (n = 6mice/groups). Statistical analysis was determined by the *t* test (* p < 0.05, **p < 0.01).

cells in the lymph node and spleen (Fig. 4B, D-F, and H-I). Memory precursors CD8+ T cells of lungs from mice infected and treated were isolated by sorting after 14 days of infection (Fig. 5A-B). These purified cells presented a significantly increased gene expression of cytokines *Il4*, *Il10*, and *Infγ* (Fig. 5C). The cytokine production of memory CD8 T cells precursors was confirmed by intracellular staining (Fig. 5. D-G).

We next investigated the protective capacity of these memory CD8+ T cells following RSV secondary infection. The infected and treated mice were challenged with the virus after 14 or 49 days of primary infection (Fig. 6A). The analysis was performed after 8 h of reinfection, according to a previously established protocol (Schuurhof et al., 2010; Singleton et al., 2003). RvD1-treated mice present an increased viral load in the lungs after different times of reinfection (Fig. 6B). RvD1 treated-mice during reinfection presented a decreased frequency of memory CD8+ T cells (CD8 + CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}) in the lung after 14 days of primary infection (Fig. 6C-E). We also found that RvD1-treated mice during reinfection showed reduced levels of RSV-specific IgG in the serum after 14 and 49 days of primary infection (Fig. 6F). However, there is no significant difference in the lung inflammatory infiltration (Fig. 6G). We also investigate the RSV-specific memory cells after challenge at 49 days of primary infection (Fig. 7A), and the RvD1 treated mice presented an increase percentage of CD44 + CD69L + RSV-specific cells in the lung (Fig. 7B, C) but no differences were found in other memory cells phenotypes analyzed (Fig. D-L). The IL-12 expression was decreased in the lung (Fig. 7 E). In summary, these data indicated that RvD1 treatment during the resolution phase of RSV primary response modulates the gene expression of memory T cells phenotype, and after challenge with the virus RvD1 contributes to a non-protective response.

4. Discussion

In the present study, we observed that RvD1 can modulate the memory CD8+ T cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. However, RvD1 treatment during primary respiratory viral infection results in a non-protective response after secondary infection. RvD1 presents an important role in regulating the resolution phase of inflammation, modulating cells from innate immune response and the tissue repair process (Hsiao et al., 2013; Serhan et al., 2008; Serhan, 2007). The role of RvD1 in CD8+ T cells has been previously demonstrated, RvD1 treatment 30 min before TCR stimulation does not increase human CD8+ T cell proliferation or cell death, but reduces the production of IFN- γ and TNF- α 5 days after culture (Chiurchiù et al., 2016). Here we described that RvD1 treatment before TCR stimulation increases the expansion of human memory CD8+ T cells *in vitro*, but does not interfere in granzyme production in this T cell subtype. RvD1 also is incapable of modulating granzyme production in others types T cells such as regulatory CD4+ T cells (Chiurchiù et al., 2016). Other SPMs have been described to modulated T cell-mediated responses. For example, RvD2 treatment decreases T cell activation and inhibits Th1 phenotype (Mizraji et al., 2018). RvE1 treatment modulates dendritic cells during differentiation inducing T cell apoptosis (Vassiliou et al., 2008). Protectin D1 promotes apoptosis of human T cells (Ariel et al., 2005), and lipoxin A4 and B4 reduce the secretion of TNF-alpha by stimulated human T cells (Ariel et al., 2003).

RvD1 can act through multiple mechanisms, but some have been associated with the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway in different models. The efficacy of RvD1 in suppressing myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury in mice is abrogated by a PI3K inhibitor (Gilbert et al., 2015). The PI3K inhibitor also reduced the efficacy of RvD1 in abolishing inflammation in the lungs in mice models (Wu et al., 2013). RvD1 has been described to phosphorylate AKT and mTOR in macrophages (Gu et al., 2016; Prieto et al., 2015). Our results show that RvD1 decreases IL12p-40 depending on mTOR. This cytokine is secreted by antigen-presenting cells, such as dendritic cells, macrophages, and B cells, and presents proinflammatory activity (Vignali and Kuchroo, 2012). Importantly, IL-12 is involved in the differentiation of memory cells (Raeber et al., 2018). In the moment of T cell activation, the initial presence of IL-12 cytokine during primary

infection induces a potent increase of memory cells (Ha et al., 2004), suggesting that early IL-12 signaling can regulate memory cell generation (Gilbert et al., 2015). However, it has been shown that elevated IL-12 levels impair memory CD8+ T cell response during *Listeria* infection *in vivo* (Joshi et al., 2007). Accordingly, the absence of direct IL-12 signaling to CD8+ T cells is attributed to an improvement in the development of the central memory phenotype during both primary and secondary antigen-specific memory CD8+ T cell responses (Martins Queiroz-Junior et al., 2010; Vignali and Kuchroo, 2012; Gee et al., 2009). Our data indicate that the effect of RvD1 on the expansion of human memory CD8+ T cells *in vitro* might not be related to a direct effect of RvD1 on T cells, but on monocytes and dendritic cells, probably by reducing the production of IL-12 by these cells.

RvD1 treatment 30 min before RSV infection in a murine model decreases the frequency of memory T CD8+ cells precursors in the lung; this data is not consistent with *in vitro* results using human PBMCs, in which RvD1, before TCR engagement, increases the frequency of memory CD8+ T cells. We believe that these differences in RvD1 effects are due to the complexity of an *in vivo* environment during a respiratory viral infection and several stimuli that the CD8+ T cells face, rather than TCR stimulation alone. Nevertheless, when we treated RSV-infected mice with RvD1 after 7 days of infection, we found an increase in the frequency of memory CD8+ T cells in the lung, both specific as well as non-specific to the virus. The treatment of RVD1 after 7 days of infection was in the interface between the expansion and contraction phases of CD8+ T cells (Williams and Bevan, 2007; Harty and Badovinac, 2008; Joshi and Kaech, 2008; Prlic et al., 2007). Additionally, after 7 days of infection, the viral load in the lung of the mice is low, and the mice are recovering from weight loss (Antunes et al., 2019; Gassen et al., 2021; Fazolo et al., 2018). During this period, T cells have already been primed by dendritic cells, and the cytokines milieu can also contribute to the formation of memory CD8+ T cells. Studies suggested that the stimuli received during the early stages of infection promote the generation of effector CD8 T cells, whereas cues at the later stages of infection influence memory differentiation (MA, W., B. MJ., 2004).

This was confirmed by one seminal study that showed the association of the IL-10-IL-21-STAT-3 pathway with memory CD8+ T cells development during LCMV infection. The absence of IL-10 and IL-21 or STAT-3 damages the process of maturation of precursor memory cells to the virus (Cui et al., 2011). Although previous studies have suggested that a resolution of inflammation may contribute to protective memory response, in our model using RvD1 we found divergent results.

Here we described an unfavorable role for RvD1 when administered at the end of primary infection during a secondary response to a respiratory viral infection. The direct effect of RvD1 on RSV infection has not been tested previously, nevertheless, other studies suggested that the use of SPM might be beneficial to reduce lung pathology induced by RSV (Russell and Schwarze, 2014). Mice deficient in 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO), an enzyme required for the SPM lipoxin production, when infected with RSV failed to elicit macrophages with the required phenotypes for the resolution of RSV infection (Shirey et al., 2014). Treatment with lipoxin A4 and resolvin E1 (RvDE1) partially restored the alternatively protective macrophage phenotype in the 5-LO-deficient mice (Shirey et al., 2014). RSV infection increase the levels of leukotrienes, 5-LO (Behera et al., 1998), COX-2, and PGE2 (Walker et al., 2021), and treatment with COX-2 inhibitors decreases lung pathology associated with RSV infection (Richardson et al., 2005). Intranasal administration of the SPM, protectin D1 (PD1) and protectin conjugates in tissue regeneration 1 (PCTR1), reduce viral load during RSV infection (Walker et al., 2021). Also, consumption ω -3 during pregnancy, the precursor for RvDs production, can protect the offspring children under the age of two from asthmatic symptoms and respiratory infections (Bisgaard et al., 2016). Nevertheless, our results showed that treatment with RvD1 during RSV primary infection contributes to unprotective phenotype for reinfection. We found that RvD1-treated mice had increased viral loads in the lung during reinfection, 14 and 49 days after primary infection. RvD1-treated

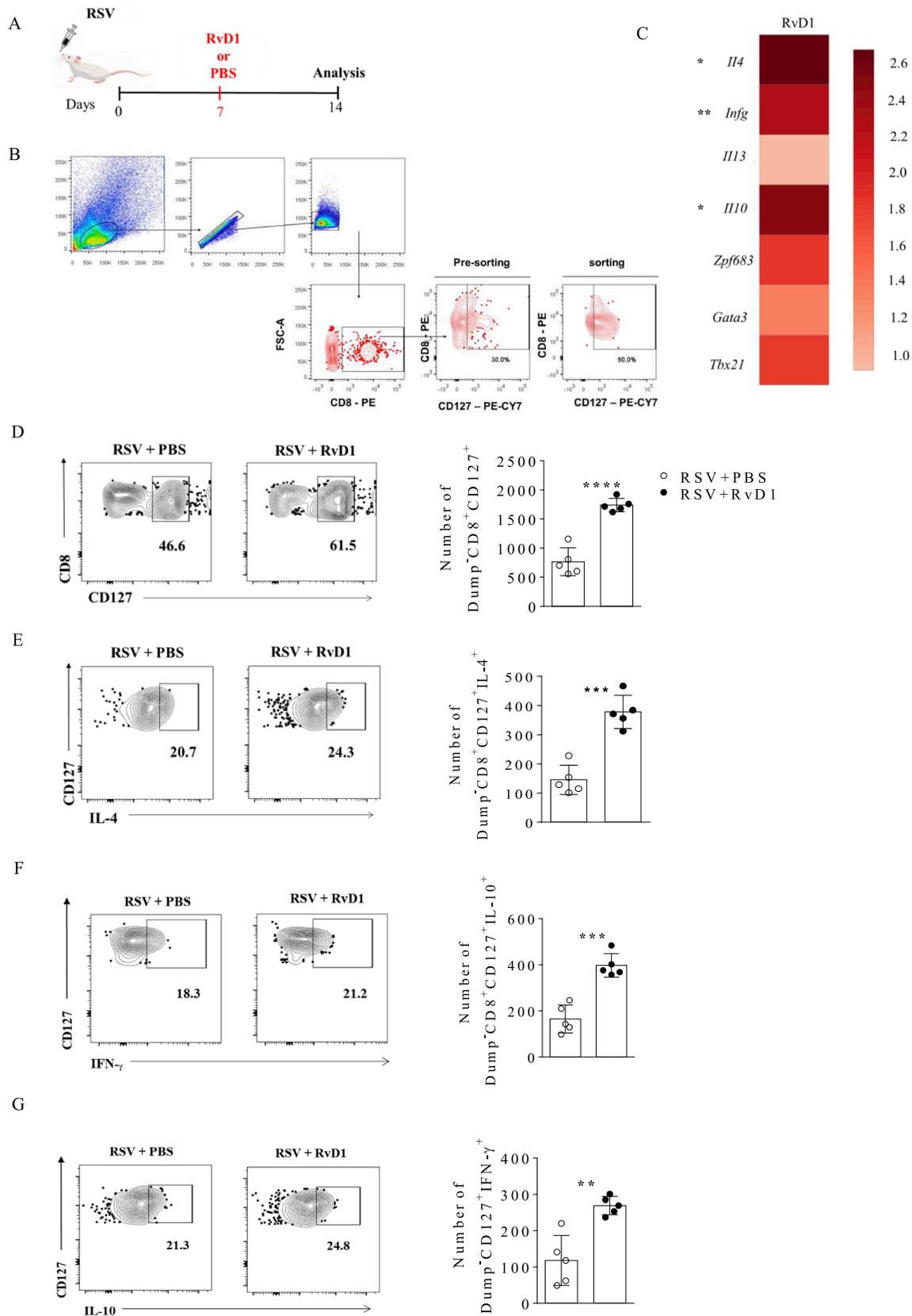


Fig. 5. RvD1 treatment induces the cytokine genes *Il4*, *Il10* and *Infg* on memory CD8+ T cells in the RSV infection. (A) Experimental design of RvD1 treatment on the seventh days of after RSV infection. (B) Gate strategy of sorted memory CD8+ T cells (CD8 + CD127^{high}) in the lung tissue of mice infected and treated after 14 days of infection. (C) Cytokine gene expression *Il4*, *Il10*, *Infg*, and *Il13G* and gene expression of transcription factors *Gata3*, *Tbx21*, and *Zpf683*. (D – G) Intracellular staining of Memory CD8+ T cells producing IL-4, IFN- γ and IL-10. Data are from two independent experiments (n = 6mice/groups). Statistical analysis was determined by the t test (* p < 0.05, **p < 0.01).

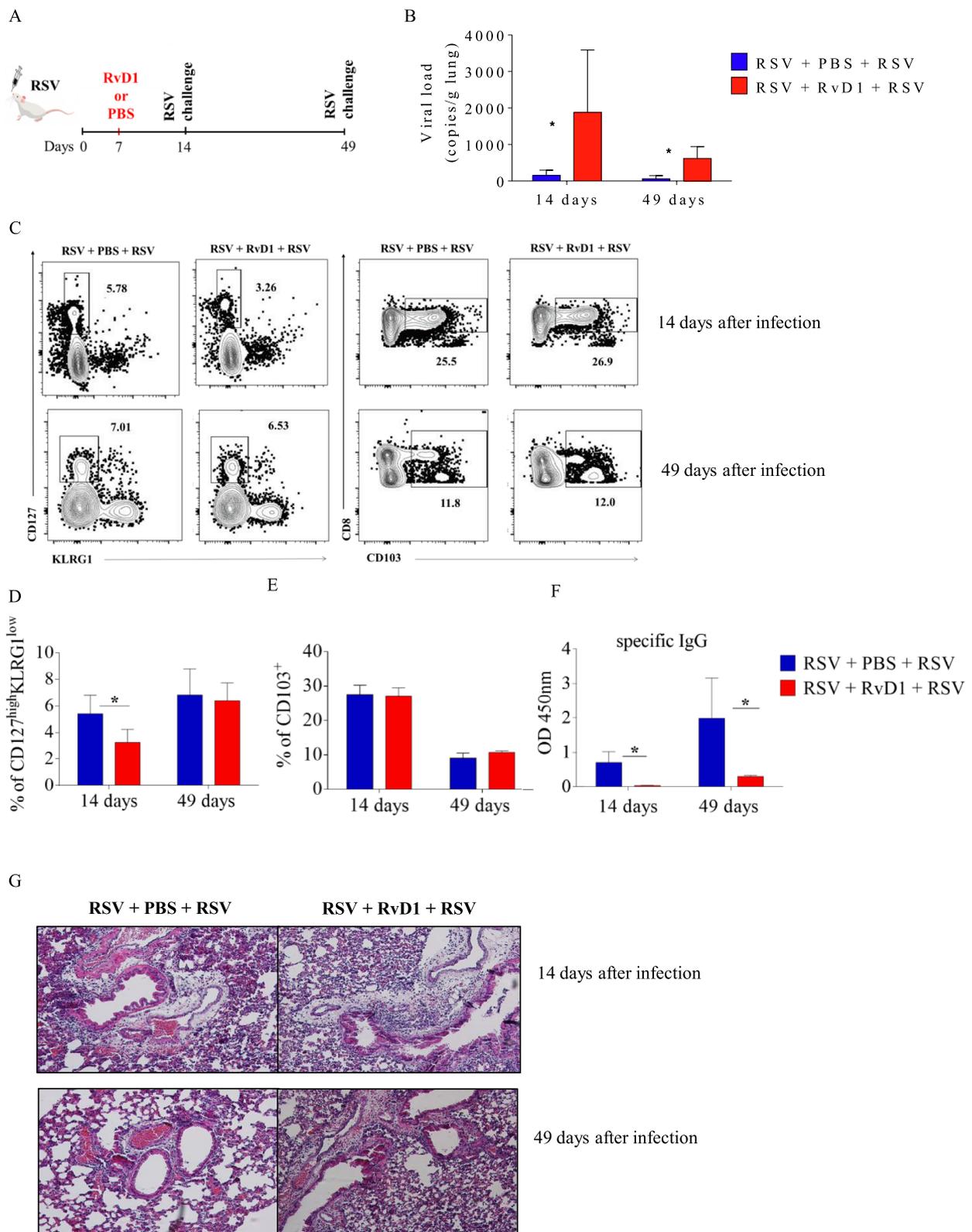


Fig. 6. RvD treatment increases viral load and diminishes the production of virus-specific-IgG in the RSV reinfection after 14 and 49 days of infection. **(A)** Experimental design of RvD1, and RSV reinfection after 14 and 49 days of primary infection. **(B)** Viral load from lung tissue by RT-qPCR (copies of virus/ g lung tissue). **(C)** Dot-plot showing the gate of memory CD8+ T cells in the lung. **(D)** Frequency of memory CD8+ T cell (CD8 + Dump⁺CD127^{high}KLRG1^{low}). **(E)** Frequency of CD103⁺CD8+ T cell (CD8 + Dump⁺CD103⁺). **(F)** Analysis of virus-specific IgG n the serum. **(G)** Representative images of lung tissue section stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) (n = 3). Data are from two independent experiments (n = 6 mice/groups). Statistical analysis was determined by the *t* test (* *p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01).

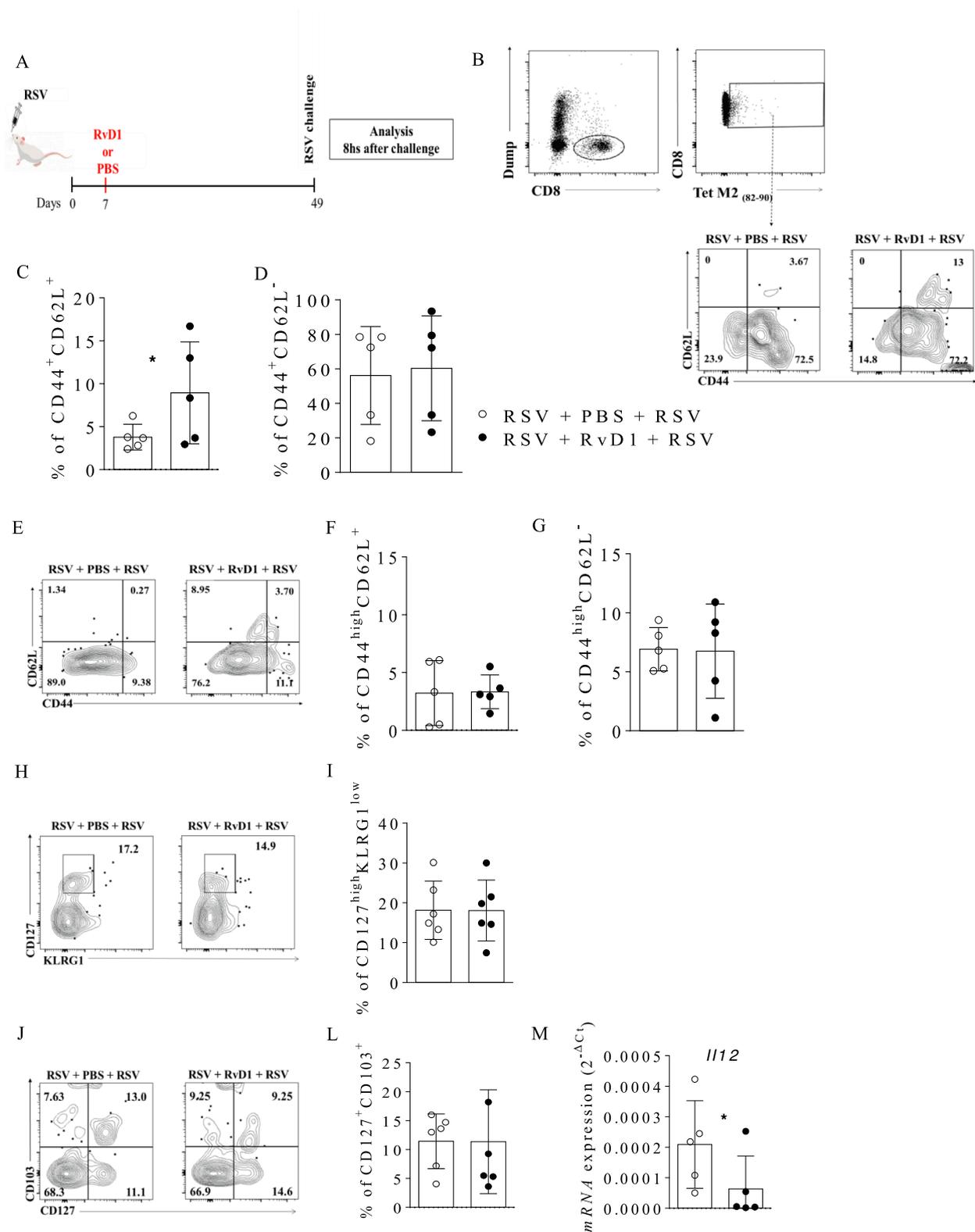


Fig. 7. RvD1 increases effector memory cells and decreasing IL-12 expression in the lung after challenge at 49 days of primary infection. **(A)** Experimental design of RvD1, and RSV reinfection after 49 days of primary infection. **(B)** Dot-plot showing the gate of memory CD8+ T cells in the lung. **(C)** Frequency of memory effector CD8+ T cell (CD8 + Dump⁻Tet₍₈₂₋₉₀₎⁺CD44⁺CD62L⁺). **(D)** Frequency of memory center CD8+ T cell (CD8 + Dump⁻Tet₍₈₂₋₉₀₎⁺CD44⁻CD62L⁻). **(E)** Analysis *Il12* expression in the lung by qPCR. Data are from two independent experiments (n = 6 mice/groups). Statistical analysis was determined by the t test (* p < 0.05, **p < 0.01).

mice showed an increase percentage of RSV-specific CD44 memory CD8 T cell, but not the other phenotypes of memory cells. Although we found in the lung of RvD1-treated mice a reduced expression of IL-12, this effect is not associated with expansion of memory CD8 T cells.

Our data reveal that memory cells from the lung of RSV-infected and RvD1-treated mice present increased gene expression of *IFN- γ* , *IL-4* e *IL-10* after 14 days of infection. Similarly to our findings, a human effector memory CD8+ T cell profile that produce Th2 profile cytokines, express the IL-6R α receptor, have increased levels of GATA-3 and decreased levels of T-bet and Blimp-1 has been described and in response to RSV infection, these memory cells were able to produce IL-13, IL-5, and IFN- γ *in vitro* (Lee et al., 2014). According, the severity of RSV disease is associated with a CD8+ T profile in the nasal aspirates, these cells produce IL-4 that might play a deleterious role during infection (Siefker et al., 2020). Some studies have demonstrated the importance of CD8+ T cells in control virus load in the lungs after RSV reinfection (Slütter et al., 2013; Channappanavar et al., 2014; Schmidt et al., 2018). Nevertheless, CD8+ T cells were already associated with immunopathology (Graham et al., 1991), and RSV-specific memory CD8+ T cells can also induce a severe immunopathology after reinfection when cells were stimulated in the absence of CD4+ T cells and specific antibodies (Schmidt et al., 2018). Recently, the role of CD8+ T cells in conferring RSV immunopathology was associated with a previous neutrophilic inflammation (Graham et al., 1991; Habibi et al., 2020). Intervention that aims to modulate the CD8+ T cell phenotype decreasing the production of IL-4 might be beneficial to control primary and secondary RSV infection.

We also found that RvD1-treated mice after RSV infection presented decreased levels of specific serum IgG during RSV reinfection. Contrariwise, RvD1 and AT-RvD1 are described to influence B cell differentiation and increase the production of IgG and IgM *in vitro*, but decreasing the secretion of IgE in allergic diseases (Kim et al., 2016; Ramon et al., 2012). In the RSV infection, the antibody response decreases rapidly over time. Low titers of RSV-specific IgG result in weak protection against reinfection (Graham et al., 1991). Also, the absence of B cells does not interfere with the virus elimination but impairs the viral clearance after the reinfection (Graham et al., 1991). Some studies have demonstrated that some phenotypes of CD8+ T cells can influence the production of antibodies from B cells (Valentine and Hoyer, 2019). In our model, we cannot confirm that the non-protective profile found during reinfection in RvD1 treated mice, associated with increased viral load and decreased RSV-specific antibody levels is related to CD8+ T cells memory response. RvD1 was administered systemically, thus we cannot exclude diverse effects of the treatment occurring on different cells.

In conclusion, our results emphasize that effects RvD1 on primary infection have consequences for reinfection, stressing that an accurate inflammation it is important for an effective immune response against RSV. Treatment of RvD1 during primary infection modulates memory CD8+ T cells *in vivo* and induces a non-protective response after RSV reinfection. Our data provide important information regarding a mediator of inflammation resolution and secondary response to a respiratory virus.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence

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