

Chapter VI

Conclusion

This is the first report to show that IL-18, as similar to RANTES and MIP1- α , was constitutively expressed in PBMCs from both of HIV seronegative and seropositive individuals. The proportion of IL-18 mRNA expression was not statistically different in the advanced as compared to the less advanced HIV-infected patients. This finding may indicate the essential roles as well as the redundancy of these cytokine and chemokines in the immune system, and therefore were preserved even in advanced HIV infection. Nevertheless, as the RT-PCR used in this study was a qualitative method, for more precise comparative analysis, quantitative RT-PCR assay should be used for the future study. The clear-cut roles of IL-18 both in physiologic state and in HIV infection required further investigation.