

IDENTIFICATION AND SEQUENCING OF THE  
SIMIAN HERPESVIRUS SA8 HOMOLOG  
OF THE HUMAN HERPES SIMPLEX  
VIRUS TYPE 1 gE GENE

By

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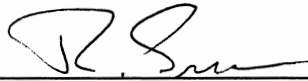
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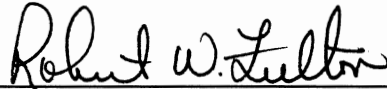
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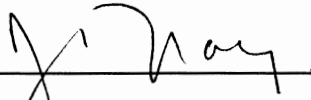


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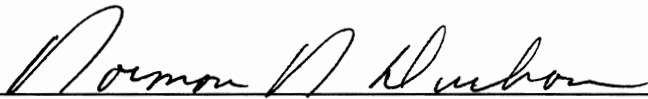
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Dean of the Graduate College

This thesis is dedicated to my wife, Hua,  
for her encouragement, sacrifice,  
and love during this study.

## PREFACE

Over twenty years ago an IgG Fc-binding glycoprotein (gE) was identified in HSV1. Since then homologs of the gE gene have been identified in several other  $\alpha$ -herpesviruses. The purpose of this study was to search for a homolog of the HSV1 gE in SA8, a simian  $\alpha$ -herpesvirus, and to determine its relationship to the HSV1 gE gene.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation and esteem to my major advisor, Dr. R. Eberle, for his tolerated guidance, financial support, great help in this study, and excellent editorial guidance in this paper. I would also like to express my thanks to Mrs. D. Black for her excellent technical assistance and sincere cooperation.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### The Herpesvirus

Herpesviruses have been isolated from humans and numerous other animal species (1,2,3,4,5,6,12,13,14). The herpesvirus family is divided into three subfamilies, the  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ -, and  $\gamma$ -herpesviruses, based on their biological and pathogenic properties (7) (Table 1). Some  $\alpha$ -herpesviruses are human herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 (HSV1, HSV2), varicella-zoster virus (VZV), simian agent 8 (SA8), *Herpesvirus simiae* (B virus), pseudorabies virus (PRV), bovine herpesviruses 1 and 2 (BHV1, BHV2), equine herpesviruses 1 and 4 (EHV1, EHV4), and channel catfish herpesvirus (CCV) (1,2,4,5,7,8,10). The  $\alpha$ -herpesviruses are characterized by a rapid replication cycle which usually results in lysis of the infected cell and establishment of latent infections in sensory ganglionic neurons (7,9). The  $\beta$ -herpesviruses are the cytomegaloviruses (CMV) which include human CMV, *H. aotus* 1 and 3, EHV2, and BHV4 (11,12,13,14). The  $\beta$ -herpesviruses are characterized by their relatively long replication cycle and establishment of latent infections in salivary glands, kidneys, lymphoreticular tissue, and other tissues (11,15). The



TABLE I  
GENERAL PROPERTIES OF MEMBERS OF THE HERPESVIRUS FAMILY  
AFFECTING HUMANS

Subfamily	Members	Site of Latency	Typical Diseases
$\alpha$	HSV1, HSV2	Sensory neurons	Oro-facial, genital lesions, ocular infections, encephalitis
	VZV	Sensory neurons	Chickenpox in children (acute infection), shingles (zoster, recurrent infection)
$\beta$	CMV	Secretory glands, kidneys, lymphoreticular cells	Hepatitis, lymphocytosis, respiratory infections, interstitial pneumonia in organ transplant patients, mental retardation and birth defects in infants
$\gamma$	EBV	B lymphocytes	Infectious mononucleosis, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, Burkett's lymphoma

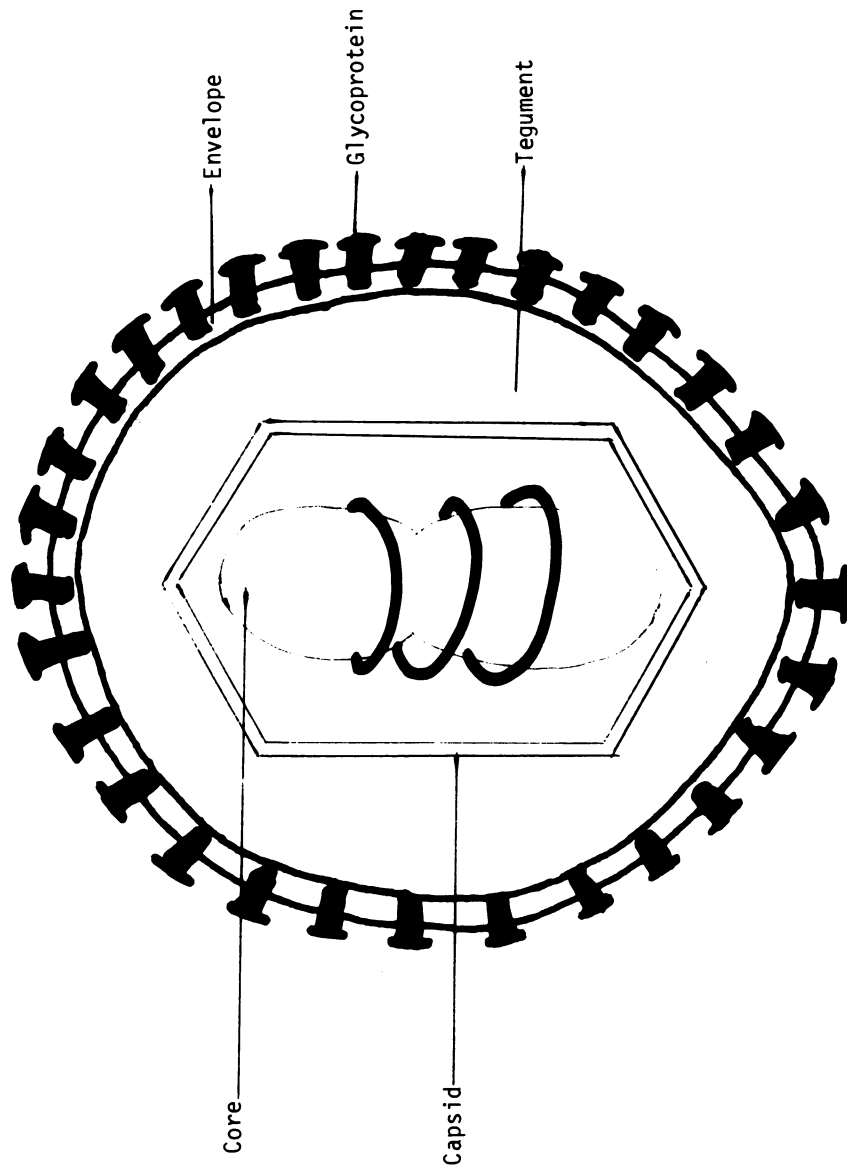
$\gamma$ -herpesviruses include Epstein-Barr virus, *H. saimiri* 2, *H. ateles* 2, *H. aotus* 2, and gallid herpesvirus 2, (3,6,16,17). The  $\gamma$ -herpesviruses commonly cause oncogenic transformation of T or B lymphocytes and establish latent infections in lymphoid tissue (3,17).

HSV1 and HSV2 belong to the  $\alpha$ -herpesvirus group (1,7). Both HSV1 and HSV2 are common infectious agents in human beings and usually cause asymptomatic infection or clinical oro-facial lesions (18). HSV1 is usually acquired from family members during childhood by close personal contact (1,18). HSV2 causes primarily genital infections in individuals and is acquired by venereal contact (1,19). HSV2 can also cause severe generalized disease in newborns when acquired at the time of birth by contact with the mother's infected birth canal (18).

As is typical of herpesvirus infections, HSV infection can be divided into three types: acute, latent and recurrent (18,20,21). Although many primary (acute) infections are asymptomatic, local lesions are also common (18). After primary infection, HSV can remain latent in a noninfectious state in the body for the life of its host (18,21). Since the latent infection is commonly in sensory nerve ganglia, recurrences are often caused by the reactivation of the virus due to stress, trauma or immunosuppression (20). Although HSV infections are usually asymptomatic or are clinically manifested as vesicles or

blisters on the face or other mucosal membrane of body, severe infections may also occur (18). These include ocular infections, encephalitis, and disseminated disease in newborns (18). In addition, HSV2 infection has been associated with cervical carcinoma (22).

Herpesvirus virions consist of a core structure, an icosahedral capsid, a pleomorphic tegument, and an envelope (Figure 1). The core of the virion is composed of the viral DNA and basic and/or phosphoproteins (23). The structure of the core has been suggested to be of toroidal form, but this has not been confirmed so far (57). The herpesvirus icosahedral capsid is characteristically composed of 162 capsomeres which enclose the core structure (24). The tegument is located between the envelope and nucleocapsid and appears in the electron microscopy as an amorphous structure (25). The tegument is probably involved in maintaining the shape or structure of the virion (25). Recent studies suggest that the tegument also includes some important proteins that regulate the transcription of viral DNA (28). The envelope of herpesviruses consists of a lipid bilayer derived from the host cell in which are anchored viral glycoproteins (27). The surface glycoproteins appear as spikes when virions are examined by electron microscopy (26). The number and quantity of glycoproteins vary among different herpesviruses (26,84,85). HSV encodes at least 7 glycoproteins



designated gB, gC, gD, gE, gG, gH and gI (15,26,58,60).

The HSV genome is a linear double-stranded DNA molecule (1). The genome is about  $155 \times 10^6$  base pairs with a 67% G+C composition (37). The genome is composed of two covalently linked parts, the large (L) region and the short (S) region (about 82% and 18% of the viral genome, respectively) (1,15,37). Both L and S consist largely of unique sequences enclosed by a pair of short inverted repeat sequences at either end (37). These repeat sequences allow the L and S regions to invert their orientations during viral DNA replication (1,15,37). Consequently, four isomers of the HSV genome are found in infected cells which differ in the orientation of unique (non-repeat) sequences within the L and/or S regions (1,12,15,37).

The earliest stages of the herpesvirus infectious cycle, attachment and penetration, are mediated by the viral glycoproteins (43,44,45,59). Attachment to the host cell occurs by the formation of complexes between viral glycoproteins and appropriate receptors on the host cell membrane (59). Penetration then occurs by fusion of the viral envelope with the host cell plasma membrane (59). In HSV1, mutation of either the gB or gD glycoproteins causes the virus to lose the ability to penetrate cells (43,44). The gB and gD glycoproteins therefore appear to be somehow involved in viral penetration into host cell.

It has also been suggested that the gC and gB glycoproteins are involved in viral attachment to the host cells (15,59).

After penetration, the nucleocapsid is transported through the cytoplasm and the viral DNA is released into the nucleus (1). Transcription of the viral DNA occurs in the nucleus, and viral proteins are synthesized in the cytoplasm (1,8). The immediate-early (IE) genes, the first genes to be expressed, are transcribed by the host enzyme RNA polymerase II (61). The IE proteins stimulate the transcription of other viral genes which encode the early (E) proteins (61,62). The IE genes are also self-regulated (63). Some IE proteins may bind to the promoters of the IE genes, thereby inhibiting their transcription (63). In addition, some E proteins are also involved in inhibiting IE gene transcription (63). Most of the viral E proteins are involved in replication of the viral DNA, such as the viral DNA polymerase and thymidine kinase (61). Other E proteins function to stimulate transcription of late (L) genes expressed after viral DNA replication (62,63). L proteins are primarily viral structural components such as capsid proteins and viral glycoproteins (62). Some L proteins are also involved in inhibiting transcription of E genes (63). Since some E and L proteins are synthesized at the relatively early times following infection (62,63,64,65), the designation of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$

genes has been widely used in herpesvirus research instead of the designations of IE, E and L genes (64,65). Following nucleocapsid assembly in the nucleus, the envelope is obtained when the nucleocapsid buds through the inner nuclear membrane of the host cell (27). Mature virions accumulate in the membrane systems of the host cell, and may be released slowly by vacuolar membrane fusion and exocytosis or by lysis of the infected cells (21,27).

As a result of herpesvirus infection, both nonspecific and specific immune responses are induced against the virus and infected cells (71,66,67). The nonspecific immune response involves not only production of high levels of interferon (IFN- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\beta$ , IFN- $\gamma$ ), but activation of macrophage, neutrophile, and NK cells as well (71). Macrophage and neutrophile mediate cytotoxicity of virus-infected cells by binding the Fc region of anti-viral antibodies bound to infected cells (71,41,42). In the specific immune response, both humoral and cell-mediated immune mechanisms are involved (66,67). Both neutralizing and non-neutralizing antibodies are induced as a result of herpesvirus infection and neutralizing antibodies are directed against the viral glycoproteins (67,68,69). It has been shown that neutralizing antibodies are directed against and bind to epitopes on gB, gD, gC, and gG glycoproteins allowing antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxic (ADCC) and antibody-dependent complement-mediated cytotox-

icity (ADCMC) processes to occur (69,70,71).

### The gE glycoprotein

Over twenty years ago, it was observed that HSV1 infected cells and virions could agglutinate sheep erythrocytes coated with rabbit anti-sheep erythrocyte antibodies (29). In addition, nonimmune rabbit IgG exhibited increased binding to HSV-infected over uninfected cells (29,30). Hemadsorption and IgG binding were also demonstrated to occur with cells infected by human CMV and VZV (31,32). Further study showed that the F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment produced by pepsin digestion of IgG bound to infected cells much less than intact IgG, suggesting that IgG binding is associated with the Fc region (30).

The IgG Fc receptor induced in cells following HSV infection could be encoded either by the host cell or by the virus. At intervals of addition of actinomycin D to the HSV1 infected cells resulted in a relative decrease in the amount of IgG bound to cells in the infective late stage by comparing with that in the infected cells of no addition of actinomycin D (30). This further supports the idea that the Fc receptor is encoded by the virus genome (30). It has also been shown that the Fc receptor is glycosylated (33). A [<sup>14</sup>C]-glucosamine-labeling polypeptide extracted from HSV1 infected cells was bound to IgG-Sepharose columns and this glycoprotein had the same



electrophoretic mobility as that of [<sup>35</sup>S]-methionine-labeled IgG binding proteins (33). Since this was the fifth glycoprotein identified in HSV1-infected cells, it was designated gE (33).

Although HSV1 and HSV2 encode antigenically related Fc receptors, both vary in size based on SDS-PAGE analysis (34). Virus-specific monoclonal antibodies against the HSV1 and HSV2 gEs were used to identify which gE gene was present in various HSV1xHSV2 recombinant viruses (34,35). These studies mapped the position of the Fc receptor (gE) gene to the S region of the HSV genome (34,35).

The length of unique sequences of the S region (Us) of HSV1 is about 13 Kbp (37). The S region contains 12 genes based on mRNA mapping and DNA sequencing studies (36,37). To precisely map the gE gene, gE mRNA was isolated using gE monoclonal or monospecific antibodies to immunoprecipitate polyribosomes actively translating the gE polypeptide in vitro (36). By hybridization of gE mRNA to DNA subfragments of the Us region, it was determined that gE gene is located between map coordinates 0.924 to 0.951 (36). From DNA sequencing, it was further determined that the length of the gE open reading frame (ORF) is 1650 bp (37). Computer analysis of the predicted amino acid sequence of the gE gene revealed that gE has features typical of membrane proteins. These features include a signal sequence composed mostly of hydrophobic amino acids

near the N-terminus, a hydrophilic extra-cellular domain, an  $\alpha$ -helical hydrophobic transmembrane region composed mostly of hydrophobic amino acids, and an internal cytoplasmic tail at the C-terminus. The exact three-dimensional structure has not been determined.

The function of the IgG Fc receptor (gE) in the infected cell membrane is not known completely (30). It has been suggested that it may serve to interfere with immune attack by the host, since aggregated HSV-immune rabbit IgG on HSV1 infected cells inhibits both ADCC and ADCMC activities in vitro (39). Recent studies have shown that HSV infected cells and virions may evade immune cytolysis when the Fc region of anti-viral IgG is bound by gE glycoprotein (38). In other words, the F(ab') region of immune IgG binds to its target glycoprotein (gB, gC or gD) while CH<sub>3</sub> portion of Fc region of the IgG is bound by the gE glycoprotein (38,40). In this way binding of C1q to CH<sub>2</sub> portion of Fc region of the immune IgG, the first step of activation of classical complement pathway, is inhibited due to steric restriction (38). Consequently, activation of the classical complement pathway by anti-viral IgG is greatly inhibited (38,41). The ADCC process may be similarly inhibited, since the gE glycoprotein may compete with cytotoxic cells for binding of the Fc region of anti-viral antibodies (41).

In addition to its ability to bind IgG Fc, the gE

glycoprotein may also be involved in induction of cell fusion (42). It has been demonstrated that the gB glycoprotein is responsible for penetration of the virion into host cells by inducing fusion of the virion envelope with the cell plasma membrane (43). Both gD and gH have also been suggested to have a role in the fusion process (44,45). Recently it was found that monoclonal antibodies against gE inhibit multinucleate cell formation following HSV1 infection, suggesting that gE is involved in syncytium formation (42). However, the significance of the apparent fusion activity of gE glycoprotein remains unknown at present (42).

Although gE has been identified as the Fc receptor on HSV-infected cells, another glycoprotein (gI) forms a complex with gE. Formation of this gE-gI complex is necessary for Fc receptor activity (46). Mutation of gI has been shown to greatly decrease the ability of gE to bind the Fc region of antiviral IgG in vitro (46,42). It is of interest that gI itself does not bind Fc region of IgG at all (46). However, the exact role of gI in the gI-gE complex has not been established so far.

#### Simian herpesvirus SA8

Simian herpesvirus SA8, an  $\alpha$ -herpesvirus indigenous to African monkeys, causes asymptomatic or oro-genital infections in its natural host species (4,47). SA8 has

also been associated with stillbirths and congenital abnormalities in baboon breeding colonies (48,50). Unlike B virus, the pathogenic potential of SA8 for human beings is unknown (4,47,49). As an  $\alpha$ -herpesvirus, SA8 has a rapid replication cycle and characteristically induces syncytium formation following infection (4). Previous serological studies have shown that SA8 is very closely related to HSV1 and HSV2 (55,56,83). DNA sequencing studies have shown that several genes of SA8 have significant homology to analogous genes of HSV1 (81).

#### Purpose of the study

Since SA8 is evolutionarily intermediate between HSV and other  $\alpha$ -herpesvirus of lower mammals for which gE gene homologs have been identified and sequenced (54,53,52,51), identification and sequencing of the entire gE gene of SA8 could be of value in studies on the molecular evolution of the herpesviruses. The goals of this study are 1) to determine if SA8 has a homolog of the HSV1 gE gene; 2) to locate the position of this gene in the SA8 genome; and 3) to clone and sequence the SA8 gE gene homolog.

## CHAPTER II

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Experimental Approach

The BamHI D fragment (10 Kbp) which contains most of the Us region of the SA8 genome was already cloned into plasmid pUC19 in this laboratory (designated pSBD). To map and to subclone pSBD, the plasmid was first transfected into DH5 $\alpha$  cells and grown on agar plates (72,75). Colonies were picked, grown up in liquid culture overnight, and the plasmid DNA isolated by an alkaline lysis "miniprep" method (74). Plasmid DNAs were characterized by restriction enzyme digestion analysis on agarose gels (72). Subcloning of restriction fragments was performed by shotgun cloning or electroelution of fragments from agarose gels, ligation into pUC19, and transfection into DH5 $\alpha$  cells (73,72). The double stranded plasmid DNA used for sequencing template was purified by a modified miniprep method or by use of QIAGEN anion-exchange columns. DNAs were sequenced using a modified dideoxynucleotide chain-termination procedure (76,77). DNA sequence data were assembled and analyzed with the aid of a computer.

## Specific Methods

### Plasmids and Cells

*E. coli* DH5 $\alpha$  cells (BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) were used for propagation of plasmids. Plasmid pUC19 (75) and pLH1 (78) were used to clone all DNA fragments. pLH1 is the same plasmid as pUC19, differing only in the polylinker sequence. Both of these plasmids carry an ampicillin resistance (Amp<sup>r</sup>) gene with the polylinker cloning sites located between the promoter and coding sequences of the  $\beta$ -galactosidase ( $\beta$ -gal) gene. Cloning of a foreign DNA fragment into these cloning sites results in inactivation of the  $\beta$ -gal gene. Recombinant plasmids can therefore be selected for by Amp<sup>r</sup> (only DH5 $\alpha$  cells which have acquired the plasmid can grow in the presence of ampicillin) and X-gal (which when cleaved by the  $\beta$ -gal enzyme produces a blue color; bacterial colonies containing plasmids with a foreign DNA fragment appear white rather than blue).

### Transformation of Plasmids into *E. coli*

Transformation-competent DH5 $\alpha$  cells were prepared using a modified CaCl<sub>2</sub> procedure (72). DH5 $\alpha$  cells were grown in LB media overnight and 100  $\mu$ l of this culture were inoculated into 10 ml LB broth to grow up until bacteria produced an apparent absorbance of 0.2 at 600 nm. After centrifugation the pellet was resuspended in 20 ml of transformation buffer (50 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 15% glycerol, 10 mM

MOPS, pH 6.6). After setting on ice 20 min, cells were pelleted and resuspended in 2 ml transformation buffer. Cells were then distributed in 100 ul aliquots (about  $6 \times 10^6$  cells) into 1.5 ml microfuge tubes, immersed briefly in liquid nitrogen (about 5 sec), and stored at  $-70^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

One microfuge tube of competent DH5 $\alpha$  cells was used for each transformation. Cells were thawed at room temperature and placed on ice for 30 min. The ligated plasmid-viral DNA (about 1 ug) was added to the bacteria and held on ice for 30 min. Cells were then heat shocked at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a water bath for 2 min. 900 ul of prewarmed SOC media (2.5% LB base, 10 mM  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , 10 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 20 mM glucose, pH 7.5) were added to the tube and incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for about 45 mins. Aliquots of cells (150 ul) were plated on agar plates (1.5% Bacto-Agar in LB broth, 25 ug/ml ampicillin and 40 ug/ml X-gal). The plates were inverted and incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  about 16 hrs.

#### Screening and Plasmid DNA Recovery

Individual white colonies were picked from plates and grown up overnight in LB media containing 25 ug/ml ampicillin at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  with constant shaking. Plasmid DNA was isolated by an alkaline lysis miniprep method as follows (74): 1.5 ml of overnight bacterial culture was added to a microfuge tube and centrifuged in a microfuge (10,000 rpm) for 15 sec. The supernatant was removed and the tube

refilled with another 1.5 ml of the bacterial culture. This was then centrifuged and the supernatant again removed. The pellet was resuspended in 100 ul of Solution I (50 mM glucose, 25 mM Tris, 10 mM EDTA, pH 7.5). After 5 min at room temperature, 200 ul Solution II (0.2 N NaOH, 1% SDS) was added, mixed by inversion, and put on ice for 5 min. 150 ul cold Solution III (3 M KOAc, 11.5% glacial acetic acid) was then added, mixed by inverting gently and put on ice for 5 min. The bacterial chromosomal DNA was then precipitated and removed by centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 5 min. The plasmid DNA in the supernatant was then precipitated by adding an equal volume of isopropanol and centrifugation at 10,000 rpm for 15 min. The pellet was rinsed with 70% EtOH, dried, and resuspended in 10T/0.1E buffer (10 mM Tris, 0.1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0). Since the activity of restriction enzymes could be affected by contaminating proteins in the DNA sample, the plasmid DNA was further purified by adding 1/2 volume  $\text{NH}_4\text{Ac}$  (7.5 M), incubating on ice for 10 min, and centrifugation for 10 min at 10,000 rpm. DNA in the supernatant was then precipitated by adding 2 volumes of cold 100% EtOH. After centrifugation, the DNA pellet was dried and resuspended in 10T/0.1E or distilled water.

#### Restriction Enzyme Digestion

For restriction enzyme analysis of DNA, 0.5-1.0 ug



samples of plasmid DNA were digested with 0.5-2.0 units of restriction enzyme in a 10-15 ul volume for about 1-2 hr at 37°C (72). If digestion with more than one enzyme was necessary, digestion with the enzyme requiring the lowest salt buffer was performed first, followed by digestion for an additional 1 hr with enzyme requiring a higher salt buffer (72).

### Gel Electrophoresis

Agarose gels, usually between 0.6-1.2%, were made by dissolving agarose in Tris-acetate buffer [40 mM Tris-acetate, 2 mM EDTA, pH 8.0; (TAE)] containing 10 ug/ml EtBr by heating in a microwave oven (72). Prior to running on the gels, contaminating RNA in DNA samples was removed by addition of 0.5 ug RNase A together with tracking dye/glycerol to 2% final concentration. Samples were then run by electrophoresis in TAE buffer containing 10 ug/ml EtBr at 60-110 volts, depending on the size of the DNA fragments. Phage DNA cut by EcoRI and by HindIII+EcoRI was used as a size marker. The size of restriction fragments was determined by visualization of DNA under ultraviolet light and determination of their mobility relative to the phage marker DNA.

### Subcloning of Restriction Fragments

Restriction enzyme-digested DNA samples from which a

fragment was to be electroeluted were run on inhibitor-free agarose gels (molecular biology grade, BioRad Laboratories; Richmond, CA) (72). After electrophoresis to separate DNA fragments, a gel plug containing the desired fragment was cut out of the gel and inserted into a dialysis bag (72) with TAE buffer (without EtBr) and electrophoresed in TAE buffer (also without EtBr) for about 45 min at 100 volts. The polarity was then reversed for about 10 sec, the gel removed from the dialysis tubing, and the buffer containing the DNA fragment collected. Plasmid DNA which had been previously digested with the appropriate restriction enzyme was added to the electroeluted DNA fragment, both DNAs were co-precipitated by  $\text{NH}_4\text{Ac}/\text{EtOH}$  precipitation as described above, and the pellet resuspended in 17.5 ul distilled water. Where restriction fragments were shotgun cloned, the parent plasmid DNA and vector DNA were mixed and digested with 0.5-2.0 units restriction enzyme for 2 hr at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  followed by  $\text{NH}_4\text{Ac}/\text{EtOH}$  precipitation, and the DNA resuspended in 17.5 ul distilled water.

For ligation of inserts into plasmid DNA, 2 ul 10x ligase buffer and 0.5 ul (1.5 U) T4 ligase (Promega Biotech, Madison, WI) were added, mixed, and put at  $4^\circ\text{C}$  overnight. The following day the DNA ligation mixture was transfected into DH5 $\alpha$  cells and plated on Amp-Xgal agar as described above. Colonies were picked and grown up in 3.5

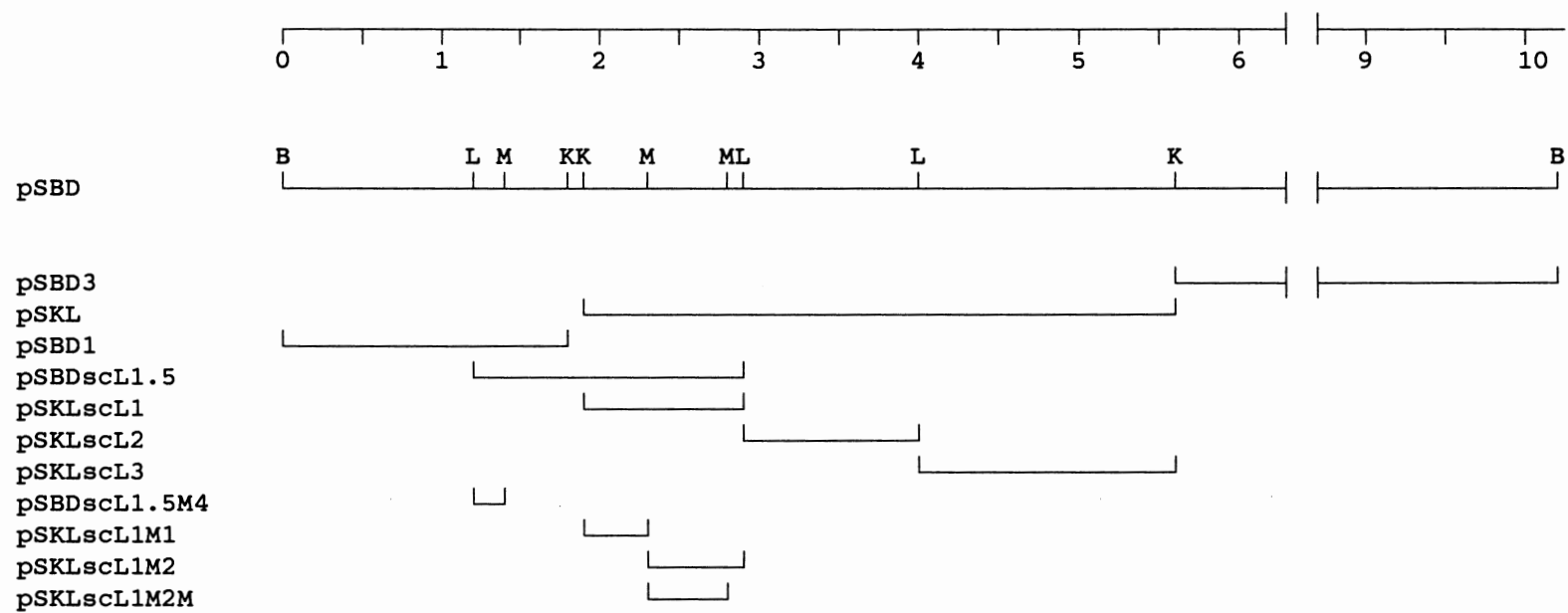
ml LB media with 25 ug/ml ampicillin. Plasmid DNA was isolated by the miniprep method described above and checked with the appropriate restriction enzymes to confirm that the plasmid contained a single copy of the desired restriction fragment.

DH5 $\alpha$  cells carrying plasmids were prepared for long term storage as follows: 700 ul of an overnight liquid culture were transferred to a sterile microfuge tube and 300 ul of sterile 50% glycerol added. These were mixed and stored at -70°C. All cell lines were frozen in triplicate. All the clones and subclones produced and used in this study are shown in Figure 2.

#### DNA Sequence Analysis

Double stranded template DNA was isolated from 20 ml overnight cultures using the miniprep method described above. DNA was then further purified by treatment with RNase A for 10 min at 37°C and precipitated with NH<sub>4</sub>Ac/EtOH. Double stranded plasmid DNA templates were also purified from 100 ml overnight cultures by passing the product of an alkaline lysis procedure over a QIAGEN anion-exchange column (QIAGEN Inc., Chatsworth, CA). The DNA was then recovered by EtOH precipitation. About 4 ug template DNA was denatured in 0.4 M NaOH/4 mM EDTA for 5 min, neutralized by adding NH<sub>4</sub>Ac to a final concentration of 2.5 M, and precipitated with 2 volumes of EtOH. The

SIZE (Kilobase pairs)



DNA was rinsed with 70% EtOH and dried.

Sequencing gels (18x40 cm) of 6.0%-7.5% acrylamide containing 9 M urea were cross-linked with bis using ammonium persulfate (25 mg/ml) and TEMED. The gel solution was added to the gel unit with a syringe while held at a 45° angle. The gel was allowed to polymerize with the unit laying flat for at least 1 hr. Gels were pre-electrophoresed for 1 hr at 1600 volts. All gels were run in Tris-borate buffer (working solution: 89 mM Tris-borate, 89 mM boric acid, 2 mM EDTA, pH 8.3).

The high G+C content of SA8 DNA presented problems in sequencing the gE gene. A high G+C content often causes problems due to formation of secondary structures in the template DNA. This can result in poor annealing of primers with the template DNA, band compression on gels, and lack of fidelity of sequence product in these regions. Since a high reaction temperature will help prevent secondary structure formation, a modified dideoxynucleotide chain termination reaction was used (79,77). First, the Taq polymerase was used for DNA sequencing. The Taq DNA polymerase isolated from *Thermus aquaticus* is thermostable up to 95°C, allowing sequencing to be carried out at 56-60°C rather than the usually 37°C. Second, 7-deaza dGTP was used in place of dGTP in all sequencing reaction to help alleviate band compression caused by self annealing of product DNAs, particularly when the ends have a high

G+C content.

Universal pUC/M13 forward and reverse primers (24 mers) were purchased from Promega Biotech (Madison, WI). Synthetic primers (24 mers) complementary to SA8 sequences were purchased from National Biosciences, Inc. (Hamel, MN). Primers were annealed with template DNA at 56°C for 10 min in 5x sequencing buffer (500 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 50 mM DTT, 1.0 mM spermidine, pH 7.5) and 7.5 uM each of dGTP, dTTP, and dCTP. 2 ul  $\alpha$ -[<sup>32</sup>P]-dATP (20 uCi) and 1.5 ul Taq polymerase (0.75 u) were added and DNA synthesis extension carried out at 56°C for about 5 min. Aliquots of 1 ul of this extension mixture were then transferred to four microfuge tubes each containing one of the four different deoxy/dideoxy nucleotide mixtures. The termination reaction was then allowed to proceed for 15 min at 65°C. In some instances, reaction products were tailed using terminal deoxynucleotide transferase for 30 min at 37°C. All reactions were stopped by addition of stop solution (10 mM NaOH, 95% formamide, 0.05% bromophenol blue, 0.05% xylene cyanole). Samples were heated at 100°C for 5 min immediately before loading on sequencing gels. Samples were usually loaded at multiple times to obtain maximal sequence information from each sequencing reaction. Sequencing gels were run at a constant voltage of 1600 volts. After electrophoresis, gels were transferred to Whatman 3 mm filter paper and dried at 80°C

under vacuum for 30 min. DNA sequencing products were detected by autoradiography on Kodak XAR film for 1-18 hrs.

DNA sequence data were recorded and assembled on a PC using the IBI Pustell DNA analysis programs. These programs were also used for DNA homology searches (80). The UWGCG programs running on a VAX 6320 were used to predict and analyze amino acid sequences. The MULTALIN program of Corpet (81) was used for multiple sequence alignment and hierarchical cluster analysis.

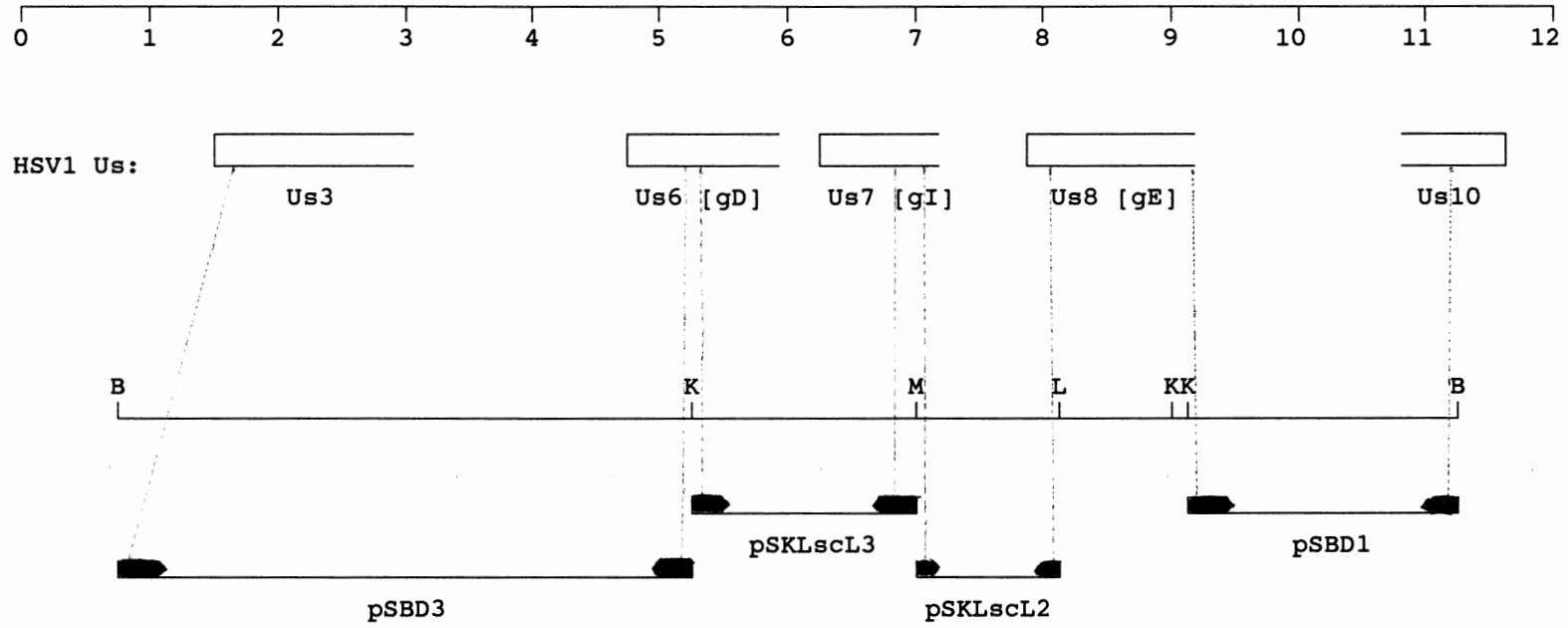
## CHAPTER III

### RESULTS

The BamHI D fragment of SA8 viral DNA had previously been mapped to the short region of the genome and was presumed to comprise most of the Us region of SA8. A number of subclones of this 10 Kbp fragment were made using KpnI, SallI, SmaI/XmaI, and EcoRI (Figure 2). End sequencing of a number of these cloned fragments yielded several hundred base pairs of DNA sequence each. A computer search was made for homology with sequences in the Us region of HSV1 using the IBI Pustell DNA analysis programs. Several regions of the SA8 BamHI D fragment were found to have good homology with genes in the HSV1 Us region. These regions of homology were located in the US3, US6(gD), US7(gI), US8 (gE) and US10 genes of HSV1. Comparison of the distances between these homologous sequences in HSV1 (based on sequences data; 37) and SA8 (based on size estimates of cloned restriction fragments as determined by agarose gel electrophoresis) indicated that distances between the regions of homology were similar in the two viruses (Figure 3). These results imply that 1) the order and orientation of these five genes are the same in SA8 as in HSV1, and 2) no major deletions or insertions are



HSV1 Us REGION (size in Kilobase pairs)



present in the SA8 Us region relative to the HSV1 Us region.

Since the SA8 KpnI L fragment (pSKL) and the adjacent BamHI-KpnI fragment (pSBD1) both had good homology with the gE gene of HSV1, a number of subclones were made of these two fragments (Figure 2). Subclones spanning the two adjacent KpnI sites within the gE gene were completely sequenced on both strands utilizing both universal pUC/M13 primers and synthetic primers. The entire gE sequence of SA8 was assembled based on overlapping sequences and, to a lesser extent, on alignment with the HSV1 gE sequence. The complete DNA sequence of SA8 gE ORF and flanking non-coding sequences is shown in Figure 4. The SA8 gE ORF was 1602 nucleotides in length and had a base composition of 76.2% G+C. This compares to the 1650 nucleotide gE ORF of HSV1 which has a 66.6% G+C (37). The predicted amino acid sequence of the SA8 gE gene product is 534 residues in length as compared to the 550 amino acid HSV1 gE polypeptide.

Alignment of the SA8 gE ORF sequence with the HSV1 gE ORF indicated that the DNA sequence had 58% homology. Figure 5 shows the predicted SA8 gE amino acid sequence aligned with the HSV1 gE sequence. It was necessary to introduce gaps into SA8 and HSV1 sequences in order to obtain maximal alignment. The introduced gaps occur mostly in the N- and C-terminal regions of the polypep-

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      10      20      30      40      50      60      70
      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
CGGAACGCGCGCGTAGGCAGGCTGCGCGGGCCTATTAAGGCCGCGGCCGGCCGGCGTCTTCGCGTTCCGAACGCCCGGT

      90      100     110     120     130     140     150
*      *      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
GGATCGTTCCCCGCTCCGGTCGCTAGCGACGCGCCCGTGGCCAGGAAGAGGGGAGACGACGAGAAGCGGGG ATG GCT
                                           Met Ala

      160     170     180     190     200     210
      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
CTC GCC CGG GCC CCG CGG GGG CTC CTG GCG GCG TGG ATT CTC GCG GCG TGG GTC GGC GTC
Leu Ala Arg Ala Pro Arg Gly Leu Leu Ala Ala Trp Ile Leu Ala Ala Trp Val Gly Val

      220     230     240     250     260     270
      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
GCG GCC GTG GAG ACG ACG TGG AAG CAC GCG AGC GCC GGC GAC GAC GTG GTG TTC TTC GTC
Ala Ala Val Glu Thr Thr Trp Lys His Ala Ser Ala Gly Asp Asp Val Val Phe Phe Val

      280     290     300     310     320     330
      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
CTT CCC GCG GGG CGC CCG GGC GGA CCC CCG CGC GAG CTG GCG TGG GAG TTC GCT TCT ATG
Leu Pro Ala Gly Arg Pro Gly Gly Pro Pro Arg Glu Leu Ala Trp Glu Phe Ala Ser Met

      340     350     360     370     380     390
      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
CGG AAC TGC GGG CCG CTG CGG CCG TCG TGG GTC TCC CTC CAC CCC CCC GGG CAG GTG CTG
Arg Asn Cys Gly Pro Leu Arg Pro Ser Trp Val Ser Leu His Pro Pro Gly Gln Val Leu

```

400		410		420		430		440		450	
* * *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *
GAG ACC GTC GTC GAC GCC CAG TGC GTC GGC GCC CCC CCG GTT CAT GGC GGC GTG GTA CGG											
Glu Thr Val Val Asp Ala Gln Cys Val Gly Ala Pro Pro Val His Gly Gly Val Val Arg											
460		470		480		490		500		510	
* * *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *
CCG ACC CGA CGG GGC CCC CGC CCC GGG CCC CGA GGC GGC GTG GCC CCC GCG CGT GAC GTG											
Pro Thr Arg Arg Gly Pro Arg Pro Gly Pro Arg Gly Gly Val Ala Pro Ala Arg Asp Val											
520		530		540		550		560		570	
* * *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *
AGC AAC GGG ACG CTG ACG CTC CGC GAG GCC CGA CCG AGC GAC AGC GGG ATG TAC GTC CTG											
Ser Asn Gly Thr Leu Thr Leu Arg Glu Ala Arg Pro Ser Asp Ser Gly Met Tyr Val Leu											
580		590		600		610		620		630	
* * *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *
ACG GTG TCG CGC GCC CCC AAC TCC ACG GCG GCC CGT CCG GTG GTG TTC CTG ACC GTC GGG											
Thr Val Ser Arg Ala Pro Asn Ser Thr Ala Ala Arg Arg Val Val Phe Leu Thr Val Gly											
640		650		660		670		680		690	
* * *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *
CCG CGG GTC GCG GCG GCG GTC CCC GGC GGC CCG CCC CCT CTC GCG GAG GGG GCG GGA GCC											
Pro Arg Val Ala Ala Ala Val Pro Gly Gly Pro Pro Pro Leu Ala Glu Gly Ala Gly Ala											
700		710		720		730		740		750	
* * *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *	* *
GAG GCC GGG GCC GCC GCG ACC CGG GCC CCC GCC GCC CAC CCC TAC CCC CAC CCC CAC CCC											
Glu Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala Thr Arg Ala Pro Ala Ala His Pro Tyr Pro His Pro His Pro											

760			770			780			790			800			810					
*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*		*	
ATC	GCC	GAG	GTG	GCG	CAC	GTG	CAC	GGC	GTC	ACG	GTC	TCC	CTG	CGC	ACC	CAG	ACG	GCG	ATC	
Ile	Ala	Glu	Val	Ala	His	Val	His	Gly	Val	Thr	Val	Ser	Leu	Arg	Thr	Gln	Thr	Ala	Ile	
820			830			840			850			860			870					
*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*		*	
CTG	TTT	AGC	CCG	GGG	GAC	ACC	GTC	CAC	ACC	GCG	GTC	TCC	ATC	GTG	CCG	TTC	GCC	CAC	GAC	
Leu	Phe	Ser	Pro	Gly	Asp	Thr	Val	His	Thr	Ala	Val	Ser	Ile	Val	Pro	Phe	Ala	His	Asp	
880			890			900			910			920			930					
*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*		*	
GAC	GAC	CCC	TAC	GTC	ATG	GAG	GTG	GTC	TGG	GTG	CGG	TTC	GAC	GTC	CCC	GAG	GAG	TGC	GGG	
Asp	Asp	Pro	Tyr	Val	Met	Glu	Val	Val	Trp	Val	Arg	Phe	Asp	Val	Pro	Glu	Glu	Cys	Gly	
940			950			960			970			980			990					
*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*		*	
GAG	ATG	CGG	ATC	TAC	GAG	CCC	TGC	CTG	TAC	CAC	CCG	CGG	CTG	CCC	GAG	TGC	CGC	TCG	CCC	
Glu	Met	Arg	Ile	Tyr	Glu	Pro	Cys	Leu	Tyr	His	Pro	Arg	Leu	Pro	Glu	Cys	Arg	Ser	Pro	
1000			1010			1020			1030			1040			1050					
*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*		*	
GCC	GAC	GCC	CCG	TGC	GCG	GCA	AGC	GTC	TGG	ACG	GAG	CGC	CTG	GCA	GTG	CGG	CGG	TAC	GGG	
Ala	Asp	Ala	Pro	Cys	Ala	Ala	Ser	Val	Trp	Thr	Glu	Arg	Leu	Ala	Val	Arg	Arg	Tyr	Gly	
1060			1070			1080			1090			1100			1110					
*	*		*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*	*		*		*	
CCC	TGC	TCG	CGC	CAC	GTG	CCG	CCC	CCC	CGG	TGC	CCC	ACG	GAC	GCC	GCC	ATG	GAG	GCC	AGG	
Pro	Cys	Ser	Arg	His	Val	Pro	Pro	Pro	Arg	Cys	Pro	Thr	Asp	Ala	Ala	Met	Glu	Ala	Arg	

1120		1130		1140		1150		1160		1170									
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
CCC	GGC	CTG	GGG	TGG	TAC	GGG	CCC	ACC	GTT	AAC	CTG	CAG	CTC	CGC	GAC	GCC	TCC	GAG	GCG
Pro	Gly	Leu	Gly	Trp	Tyr	Gly	Pro	Thr	Val	Asn	Leu	Gln	Leu	Arg	Asp	Ala	Ser	Glu	Ala
1180		1190		1200		1210		1220		1230									
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
AGC	GGC	GGG	CTC	TAC	GTG	TGC	GTC	GTG	TAC	GTC	AAC	GGG	CAC	GTG	CAC	GCC	TGG	GGC	CAC
Ser	Gly	Gly	Leu	Tyr	Val	Cys	Val	Val	Tyr	Val	Asn	Gly	His	Val	His	Ala	Trp	Gly	His
1240		1250		1260		1270		1280		1290									
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
GTC	GTC	GTC	AGC	ACC	GCG	GCG	AGG	TAC	CGG	AAC	GCG	GTC	GTG	GAG	CGG	TCC	CTG	CCG	CGG
Val	Val	Val	Ser	Thr	Ala	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Arg	Asn	Ala	Val	Val	Glu	Arg	Ser	Leu	Pro	Arg
1300		1310		1320		1330		1340		1350									
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
TAC	CGC	CCC	CCT	CCG	GCC	GCA	CCC	ACC	CCT	TCG	GCG	CGG	CCC	CAG	GGG	CCG	CCC	GCG	CTC
Tyr	Arg	Pro	Pro	Pro	Ala	Ala	Pro	Thr	Pro	Ser	Ala	Arg	Pro	Gln	Gly	Pro	Pro	Ala	Leu
1360		1370		1380		1390		1400		1410									
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
CGC	TCG	CCG	CGC	CTC	GTG	GGC	GTC	TTC	GGC	GCG	GCC	CTG	GGG	CTG	GCC	GCC	GCC	GGC	CTC
Arg	Ser	Pro	Arg	Leu	Val	Gly	Val	Phe	Gly	Ala	Ala	Leu	Gly	Leu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Gly	Leu
1420		1430		1440		1450		1460		1470									
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*								
TCC	GTG	TGG	GCC	TGC	GTC	ACC	TGC	CGG	CGC	GCG	CGG	GCG	TGG	CGA	GCC	GTT	AAA	AAG	CGG
Ser	Val	Trp	Ala	Cys	Val	Thr	Cys	Arg	Arg	Ala	Arg	Ala	Trp	Arg	Ala	Val	Lys	Lys	Arg

1480                    1490                    1500                    1510                    1520                    1530  
      \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 GAC CCG GGA ACG CAG ACT TAC ATT CGC CTG GCG GAC GAC GAG CTC TAC GCC GAC CTG AGC  
 Asp Pro Gly Thr Gln Thr Tyr Ile Arg Leu Ala Asp Asp Glu Leu Tyr Ala Asp Leu Ser

1540                    1550                    1560                    1570                    1580                    1590  
      \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 TCC GAC GGC GGC TGG GAG GAC TCC GAG GAC GAC GAC TCC GAC GAC GAC CGC CTG CCG GGA  
 Ser Asp Gly Gly Trp Glu Asp Ser Glu Asp Asp Asp Ser Asp Asp Asp Arg Leu Pro Gly

1600                    1610                    1620                    1630                    1640                    1650  
      \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 ACG GAC CGG CCT CCG AAG CGG GGC TCC GGG TTC CAG ATC CTC TCC GGG ACG AAG GCG GAC  
 Thr Asp Arg Pro Pro Lys Arg Gly Ser Gly Phe Gln Ile Leu Ser Gly Thr Lys Ala Asp

1660                    1670                    1680                    1690                    1700                    1710  
      \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 CCG TGG TCC CCC GAG GCG CGC CGG GGC CGC GAC CTC GTC ACC TTC CGC GTG GAT GAC GCG  
 Pro Trp Ser Pro Glu Ala Arg Arg Gly Arg Asp Leu Val Thr Phe Arg Val Asp Asp Ala

1720                    1730                    1740                    1750                    1760                    1770  
      \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 GCC AGA TAT CGC GAC GCC TCG CCC CCC GAT CCA CCG CAC CGG CGC TGA CGCCCGTGCGCGGGC  
 Ala Arg Tyr Arg Asp Ala Ser Pro Pro Asp Pro Pro His Arg Arg -

                  1790                    1800                    1810                    1820                    1830                    1840                    1850  
 \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 CCGAGGCGCCCGACGTTCCCATCGGCGTCGCCGAAGACCTGCGGGCCCTCGCAAGTACGTGCCGCGCCGCGCGCGCT

                  1870                    1880                    1890                    1900  
 \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*               \*  
 CCGCCGTCGGCCCCGCCGCCCTCCCCCTGGAGGCGGTTCGAC

tides. Based on this alignment, the SA8 and HSV1 gE amino acid sequences are 49.1% identical (based on the percent of positions where the same amino acid occurs in the same position in both sequences). When conservative amino acid substitutions are taken in consideration, the SA8 and HSV1 gE sequence are 64.7% identical and/or similar.

Several parameters of the predicted secondary structure of SA8 and HSV1 gE polypeptides generated using UWGCG programs PEPTIDESTRUCTURE\ PLOTSTRUCTURE are shown in Figure 6. Plots are shown for the hydrophilicity and the occurrence of  $\alpha$ -helices,  $\beta$ -sheets, and  $\beta$ -turns in both polypeptides. Prediction of secondary structural features for the SA8 gE indicate that the polypeptide has a number of properties typical of membrane proteins. These include a short strongly hydrophobic region at the N-terminus, a long hydrophilic region which has 2 potential sites for addition of N-linked carbohydrate residues, a hydrophobic region of about 20-25 amino acids near the C-terminus which could serve as a transmembrane anchor sequence, and a charged hydrophilic C-terminus.

The N-terminal hydrophobic region has a stretch of 21 hydrophobic amino acids which probably serves as a membrane insertion signal. This hydrophobic core region is preceded by a positively charged residue (Arg<sub>8</sub>) and is terminated by another positively charged residue (Lys<sub>30</sub>). Two potential sites for cleavage of the signal peptide





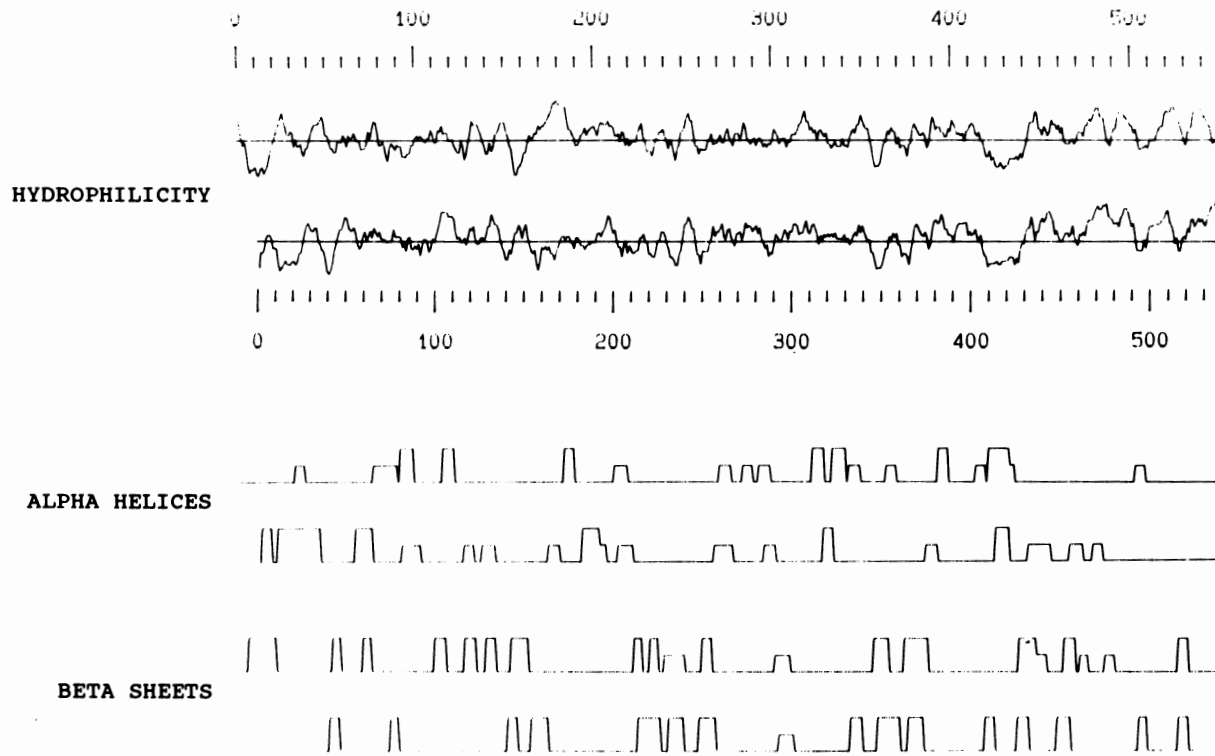


Figure 6

occur following the hydrophobic core sequence. One site is located at Ala<sub>32</sub>-Ser<sub>33</sub>-Ala<sub>34</sub> and the other at Leu<sub>43</sub>-Pro<sub>44</sub>-Ala<sub>45</sub>. The first potential cleavage site at Ala<sub>34</sub> is four residues from the end of the hydrophobic core sequence. The second potential site at Ala<sub>45</sub> is situated within a predicted  $\beta$ -turn structure resulting from the presence of Pro residues at positions 44 and 48. The peptide Ala-X-Ala is the most frequent sequence for potential cleavage and an Ala at position +4 is one of the most frequent residues for peptidase cleavage (82). The presence of a Pro in the second potential site mostly reduces the probability of peptidase cleavage (82). Therefore the sequence Ala<sub>32</sub>-Ser<sub>33</sub>-Ala<sub>34</sub> is favored as the probably site for cleavage of the SA8 gE signal peptide. This is similar to that of HSV1 gE in which the leader sequence is predicted to be cleaved at C-terminal of the Val<sub>32</sub> residue (37).

The external hydrophilic region extends from SA8 gE amino acids 30 to 401. The C-terminal part of this region has strong homology with the HSV1 gE sequence (from HSV1 residues 214 to 414; see Figure 5). In this region the two polypeptides are 63% identical to each other. Introduction of only 1 gap was necessary to achieve maximal alignment of the sequences in this region. Of the seven Cys residues in this region of HSV1 gE, all are conserved in SA8. In addition, predicted secondary structural

features such as  $\alpha$ -helices and  $\beta$ -sheets are also very similar in this region of the two polypeptides (Figure 6). Two potential N-linked glycosylation sites (Asn-Xxx-Ser/Thr) are present in the gE polypeptides of both SA8 and HSV1. One of these is conserved while the other is located at a different but close site in the two polypeptides. These results imply that a substantial part of the extracellular domain of the SA8 gE is structurally very similar to that of the HSV1 gE polypeptide.

The region from amino acids 407-428 of the SA8 gE polypeptide is composed primarily of hydrophobic nonpolar amino acids and has good homology with the corresponding region of the HSV1 gE polypeptide (from amino acids 420-440). The predicted strong  $\alpha$ -helical structure in this region of both viral gE polypeptides (Figure 6) supports the idea that this region of the SA8 gE polypeptide represent the transmembrane domain which may also serves to anchor the cell membrane.

The HSV1 and SA8 gE C-terminii are predicted to extend from the cell membrane into the cell cytoplasm. Both the HSV1 and SA8 gE cytoplasmic tails are highly charged and hydrophilic. Both are also the same size (110 amino acids). However, there is limited sequence homology between the two peptides in this region, particularly at the extreme C-terminus. These results imply that this region may be 1) unimportant (non-functional), 2) involved

in altogether different functions in the two viruses, or 3) serves a common function in the two viruses but does so in some virus-specific manner (such as interaction with non-conserved viral proteins).

Since the SA8 gE amino acid sequence has significant homology with its HSV1 homolog, a multiple alignment of the SA8 gE amino acid sequence with that of other  $\alpha$ -herpesvirus (PRV, VZV, EHV1, and part of EHV4, and HSV2) gE amino acid sequences (51,52,53,54) was made (Figure 7). The published VZV gE ORF was about 120 amino acid residues longer than all the other gE sequences which presented problems in performing multiple alignments. Since an internal Met residue at position of 120 of the VZV gE could possibly serve as an alternative initiation site, the N-terminal 119 amino acids were removed from the VZV gE sequence for alignment.

The multiple alignment of the seven gE sequences revealed that the region of the extracellular domain proximal to the transmembrane region was fairly conserved among all of these viruses. That the seven Cys residues in this region are all conserved in the SA8 and HSV1 gEs has already been described. Six of these seven Cys residues are also conserved in PRV, VZV, EHV1. These results further demonstrate the conserved structure of this region of the gE polypeptide.

The interrelationship among the gE polypeptides of all

```

1           10           20           30           40           50           60
HSV2 MA..RGAGLVFFVGVVVSCLAAP..RTSWKRVTSGEDVLLPAPAERTRA..HKLLWAAEPLDACGPL
*   ***   *   **   *****   *   ***   **   ****   *****   *   *****   ****   ****
HSV1 MD..RGAVVGFLGVCVVSCLAGTP..KTSWRRVSVGEDVSLLPAPGPTGRGPTQKLLWAVEPLDGCGPL
*           **           *           *   *   *   *   *           *   **   *   *           ****
SA8  MA..LARAPRGLLAAWILAAWVGVAAVETTWKHASAGDDVFFVLPAGRPGPPRELAWEFASMRNCGPL
*   *   *   *           *
PRV  MRPFLRLAAQLLALLALALSTEAPSLSAETTPGPVTEVPSPSAEVWDLSTEAGDDDLGDLNGDDRRAGF
*   *   *           *           *           *           *           *
EHV1 ME..LLAASRACIFFGLVTVLDAGVQQVE....LSEGAWAMIDGRDV.....LTPTNTTTRV
*           *           *           *
VZV  MS..AQEDLGDDTGIHVIPTLNGDDRHKIV...NVDQRQYGDVFKGDLNPKPQGQPLIEVSVEENHPFTL

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70           80           90           100          110          120          130
HSV2 RPSWVAL..WPPRRVLETVVDAACMRAPEPLAIAYSPPFPAGDEGLYSELAWRD..RVAVVNESLVIYGA
**** *   **   *   *****   ***   **   **   *   **   *   *   ****   ****   *
HSV1 HPSWVSL..MPPKQVPETVVDAACMRAPVPLAMAYAPPAPSATGGLRTDFVWQE..RAAVVNRSLVIHGV
*****   **   **   *****   *   **           *   *           *   *   *
SA8  RPSWVSL..HPPGQVLETVVDAQCVGAPPVHGGVVRPTRRGPRPGRGVA.PA..RDVS.NGTLTLREA
**   **           *           *   **           **           *   *   *
PRV  GSALASLREAPPAHLVNVSEGANFTLDARGDGAVVAGIWTFLPVRGCDAAVAVTMVCFETACHPDLVLRGA
*   *   *   **           *           *           *   *   *   *   *
EHV1 TKAWTFL.ETPPGCAGDISVKKVCVSHSLCEDNIIIGKHCNL.LTGEHGIALAE..FNVVNGSLRRTDDV
*           *           *           *           *           *
VZV  RAPIQRIYGVRYTETWSFLPSLTCTGDAAPAIQHICLKHTTTCFQDVVVDVDCAENTKEDQLAEISYRFQG

```

```

          140          150          160          170          180          190          200
HSV2 LETDSGLYTL SVVGLSDEARQVASVVLVVEPAPVPTPTPD..DYDEED..DAGVTNARRSAFPPQPPRR
      ***** * ***** * ***** * ***** * * * *
HSV1 RETDSGLYTL SVGDIKDPARQVASVVLV VQ PAPVPTPPPTPADYDEDD.NDEGEDES LAGTPASGTPRLP
      * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
SA8  RPSDSGMYVLT..VSRAPNSTAARRVVFLTVGP.RVAAAVPGGPPPLA.EGAGAEAGAAATRAPAHPYP
          * * * *
PRV  CVPEAPERGIG.DYLPPEV PRLQREPPIVTPERWSPHLTVRRATPNDT.GLYTLHDASGPRAVFFVAVGD
          * * * *
EHV1 YFVNGTVFPIL.AETRSVL.QIHRATPSIA.GVYTLHVSIDGMMKHSV.VLLTVKKPPKQPQPQLRVK
          * * *
VZV  KKEADQPWIVV..NTSTLFDELELDPPEIEPGVLKVL RTEKQYLGVIWNMRGSDGTSTYATFLVTWKGD

```

```

          210          220          230          240          250          260
HSV2 PPVAPPTHPRV IPEVSHVRGVTVMETLEAILFAPGETFGTNSIHAIAHDDG PYAMDVVWVRFD.VPS
      ** *** ***** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
HSV1 PPPAPPRSWPSA PEVSHVRGVTVRMETPEAILFSPGETFSTNSIHAIAHDDQ TYSMDVVWLRFD.VPT
      * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
SA8  HPHPIAEV.....AHVHGVTVSLRQTAILFSPGDTVHTAVSIV.PFAHDDDPYVMEVVVRFD.VPE
      * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PRV  RPPAPLAP.....VGPARHEPRFHALGFHSQ LFS PGDTFDLMPRVVSDMGDSRENFTATLDWY.YARAPP
      ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
EHV1 TPPPVTVP.....QVPVKTH TDFVVHGYHSRVRDGE SFELSVNLESHIVEP..SFSAEIQWY YMNTSSS
      * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
VZV  EKTRNPTP....AVTPQPRGAEFHMWNYHSHVFSV GDTFSLAMHLQYKIHEA..PFDLLEWL.YVPIDP

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                280          290          300          310          320          330
HSV2  SCADMRIYEA
      *** *****
HSV1  SCAEMRIYESCLYHPQLPECLSPADAPCA..ASTWTSRLAVRSYAGCSRTNP...PPRCSAEAHMEPVPG
      * ***** ***** ***** ***** ** ** ***** * *** * **** * ** **
SA8   ECGEMRIYEPCLYHPRLPECRSPADAPCA..ASVWTERLAVRRYGPCSRHVP...PPRCPTDAAMEARPG
      * **** ***** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PRV   RCLLYYVYEPCIYHPRAPECLRPVDPACSFSTSPARAALVARRAYASCSPLLGDRWLTACPFDAFGE...
      * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
EHV1  SCDLFRVFETCIFHPTAMACLHPEQHTCSFTSPIRATKILHRVYGNCSDH.GNSWPSRCHSTLLGNRLYF
      * ***** * *
EHV4  GSTWPSRCHSTLLGDRPHF
      * * ** * * * * * * * * * * * *
VZV   TCQPMRLYSTCLYHPNAPQCLSHMNSGCTFTSPHLAQRVASTVYQNCHEADN..YTAYCLGISHMEPSFG

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                340          350          360          370          380          390          400
HSV1  LAWQAASVNLFRDASPQHSGLYLCVVYVNDHIHAWGHITISTAAQYRNAVVEQPLPQRGADL.AEPTHP
      * * ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
SA8   LGWYGPTVNLQLRDASEASGLYVCVVYVNGHVHAWGHVVVSTAARYRNAVVERS LPRYRPP...PAAP
      * **** * **** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
PRV   .....VHTNATADESGLYVLVMTHNGHVATWDYTLVATAAEYVTVIKELTAPARAPGTPWGPGGG
      * **** * *** * *** ** * * * *
EHV1  IQPAQNRVDLLFKDTPASATGLYVFLVLYNGHPEAWTYTLLSTANHFMMNVLTDVTRPRLGEHFYTDLGHK
      **** ***** * *****
EHV4  IQPAPNRVDLLFKDIPESATGLYVFLVLYNGHPEAWTYTLLSTANHFMMNVLTDRTPRPRLGEHFYTDHGQ
      * * *** * ***** ** ** ** ** * * * * *
VZV   LILHDGGTTLKFVDTPESLSGLYVVFVYFNGHVEAVAYTVVSTVDHFVNAIEERGFPPTAGQ..PPATTK

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                410          420          430          440          450
HSV1  .....HVGAPPAP.PTHGAL..RLGAVMGAALLS...ALGLSVWACMTCWRRRAWRAVKS
      * * * *          ** * **** *          * **** * * * *
SA8   .....TPSARPQGPRPALRSP..RLVGVFGAALGLA...AAGLSVWACVTCRRARAWRAVKK
      * ** *          * **          * ** * * * *
PRV   DDAIYVDGVTPAPPARPWNPYGRTPG..RLFVLALGSFVMTC...VVGAVWLCVLCRRAASRPFR
      ** *          *          * ** * * *
EHV1  .....IITPHPSVA....TTEELGAWTRHYLAFLLVIICTCAALLVALVWGCILYIRSNRKPYEVL
      ***** *          ** ***** ***** *****
EHV4  .....LFTPHPSEA....TTQELGAWTRHYLAFLLVIICTCAALLIALVWGCILYIRSNRKPYEVL
      **          *** **          *
VZV   .....PKEITP...VNPGTSPLLRYAAWTGG.LAAVLL.CLVIFLICTA

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                460          470          480          490          500          510          520
HSV1  RASGKGPTYIRVAYSELYADWSSDS..EGERDQVPWLAPPERPDSPSTNGSGFEILSPTAPSVYPRSDGH
      * *   **** *   ***** **          *          * *   **** * * *          * *
SA8   RDPGT.QTYIRLADDELYADLSSDGGWEDSEDDSDDDRLPGTDRPPKRGSGFQILSGTKAD..PWSPEA
      *          * * *          *          *
PRV   VPTRAGTRMLSPVYTSLP THEDYDGDDEEAGDARRRPPSSPGGDSGYEGPYVSLDAEDEF.SDEDG
      *          *          * *
EHV1  NPFETVYTSVPSNDPSDEVLVFERLASDSDSDFSDSDEELEYPPPKPAPQ.LPPYQFVDGGDAPSGRS
      ***** ***** ***** ***** * * * * * * *          * * **
EHV4  NPFETVYTSVPSNDPTDEVLVFERLASDSDSDFSSSDEEELPQPP.PAAQ.LQPYSSLESADASGRS
      *          * * * *          *          *
VZV   KRMRVKAYRVDKSPYNQSMYYAGLPV...DDFEDSESTDTEEEFGNAIGGSHGGSSYTVYIDKTR

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          530          540          550
HSV1  QSRRQLTTFGSGRPDR.RYSQASDSSVFW
      * * * * * * * *
SA8   RRGRDLVTFRVDDAARYRDASPPDPPHRR
      *   *   **   *
PRV   LYVRPEEAPRSGFDVWFRDPEKPEVTNGPNYGVTASRLLNARPA
          *   *   ** *   ** *
EHV1  GFKVWFRDTPEASPVPLHKPTL...QGPDYSRVASKLKSILK
      ***** ** ** ***** ***** ****
EHV4  GFKVWFRDTPEASPEPLHRPTP...PVGPDYSKVASKLRSILK

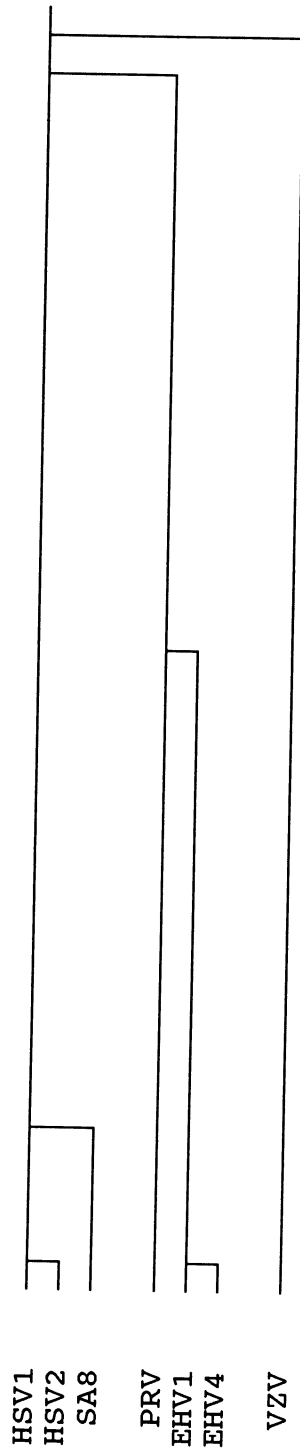
```

these viruses was more completely assessed by using the UWGCG program GAP to generate pairwise alignment scores for SA8, PRV, EHV1 and VZV gE sequences with the HSV1 sequence. Table 2 summarize the results. The predicted amino acid sequences of gE polypeptides show 49.1% identity between the SA8 and HSV1, 27.8% between PRV and HSV1, 23.4% between EHV1 and HSV1 and 24.2% between VZV and HSV1. In addition, the results of pairwise similarity scores were used to hierarchically cluster gE sequences with other sequences, with the most closely related sequences being clustered together. The SA8 gE sequence was more closely related to the HSV1 and HSV2 gEs than to the gEs of the other 4 viruses (Figure 8).

TABLE II  
RELATEDNESS OF gE AMINO ACID SEQUENCES TO HSV1 gE

	HSV2 <sup>1</sup>	SA8	PRV	EHV1	VZV
% Identity <sup>2</sup>	(66.1)	49.1	27.8	23.4	24.2
% Similarity <sup>3</sup>	(78.8)	64.7	49.1	42.5	45.0

- 1) Only partial sequence is available for the HSV2 gE gene; these values are based on the first 280 amino acids of the HSV1 & HSV2 gE sequences.
- 2) Percent of positions in the aligned sequences where an identical amino acid occurs in both sequences.
- 3) Percent of positions in the aligned sequences where similar amino acids (based on the Dayhoff mutational data matrix) occur.



## CHAPTER IV

### DISCUSSION

Comparison of the partial DNA sequences of several SA8 subclones to the DNA sequence of the HSV1 Us region (37) identified regions of homology with the US3, US6(gD), US7(gI), US8(gE) and US10 genes of HSV1. Based on comparison of the distances between these regions of homology and the relative orientation of the SA8 and HSV1 sequences (Figure 3), it is apparent that both the order and orientation of these five genes are the same in SA8 as in HSV1. Although this needs to be confirmed with additional studies, the results do suggest that the Us region of SA8 is co-linear with the HSV1 Us region. At the least we can say that no major insertions or deletions exist in the SA8 Us region relative to the HSV1 Us region.

Comparison of the DNA sequence and the predicted amino acid sequence of SA8 gE with the HSV1 gE show significant homology at both the DNA and amino acid levels. The SA8 gE gene ORF is 1602 bp and 58.8% identical to the HSV1 gE gene ORF (1650bp). At the level of the amino acid sequence, the HSV1 and SA8 gE polypeptides are 49.1% identical and 64.7% similar to each other.

Both pairwise comparison and cluster analysis of

HSV1, SA8, PRV, EHV1, VZV and a portion of the HSV2 and EHV4 gE amino acid sequences further demonstrate that the SA8 gE is more similar to the HSV1 (and HSV2) gE than it is to the PRV, VZV, EHV1 or EHV4 gEs. Although only 280 amino acids of the HSV2 gE sequence were available for analysis, it was still apparent that the HSV2 gE is more closely related to HSV1 gE than to the SA8 gE. This result parallels that obtained for the gB polypeptides of these same viruses (81). This may indicate that some evolutionary pressure is applied equally to all herpesvirus glycoproteins. Adaptation of the viral surface antigens to surface determinants of cells of their particular host species is one such possible pressure.

Multiple alignments demonstrated that in the C-terminal half of the extracellular hydrophilic region there is significant sequence homology among the HSV1, SA8, PRV, VZV, EHV1 and EHV4 gEs. The amino acid sequences in this region are quite similar and six of the seven Cys residues are conserved. The strongly conserved nature of this region implies a structural similarity in this region for the gEs of all these viruses. Since this region is located in the extracellular domain, it is possible that it serves an important function. One obvious functional possibility is binding the Fc region of anti-viral IgG.

It is of interest that the identity of gE gene DNA sequences (58.7%) between SA8 and HSV1 is higher than

their amino acid identity (49.1%). This is the reverse of what is commonly observed for related genes. One possible reason that could explain this is the high G+C content of these two genes. The high G+C content in the gE genes of both SA8 (76.2%) and HSV1 (66.6%) limit the frequency for use of A or T in the coding sequences. The high G+C content also results in almost exclusive use of only G or C in the 3rd position of codons (Table 3). Because of the strong bias in HSV1 and especially SA8 for codons with G or C in the 3rd position, the probability of having a non-identical base in the 3rd position is considerably reduced. For example, where Gly could usually be coded for by any one of four possible codons (GGA, GGC, GGG, or GGT), due to the strong GC bias in HSV1 and SA8 the only practical possibilities for Gly are GGC and GGG. This usually increases the probability of DNA homology in the 3rd position and, thus, in the gene overall.

#### Summary

The purpose of this study was to determine if SA8 has a homolog of the HSV1 gE gene within the Us region and, if so, to clone and sequence this gene. Since the gE gene is located within the Us region of HSV1, the BamHI D fragment (about 10 Kbp) containing most Us region of SA8 was cloned. DNA sequencing of the terminal sequences of a number of subclones of this 10 Kbp BamHI D fragment of SA8



Table III

COMPARISON OF CODON USAGE AND PREDICTED AMINO ACID  
COMPOSITION OF SA8 AND HSV1 gEs

AA	No. Residues		% Codons with G/C in:					
			3rd Position			1st Position		
	SA8	HSV1	Avg <sup>1</sup>	SA8	HSV1	Avg	SA8	HSV1
<b>Non-Polar:</b>								
Ala	74	60	50	93.2	88.3			
Ile	7	11	33.3	71.4	45.4			
Leu	35	41	50	97.1	80.5	66.7	100	80.5
Met	6	10	100	-	-			
Phe	10	9	50	90.0	55.6			
Pro	64	65	50	92.2	78.5			
Trp	13	15	-	-	-			
Val	56	50	50	92.9	82.0			
<b>Polar:</b>								
Asn	6	8	50	100	62.5			
Cys	11	13	50	100	30.8			
Gln	7	16	50	100	75.0			
Gly	47	38	50	91.5	78.9			
Ser	30	52	50	96.7	75.0			
Thr	26	32	50	96.2	87.5			
Tyr	14	15	50	92.9	80.0			
<b>Acidic:</b>								
Asp	32	29	50	93.8	69.0			
Glu	22	26	50	100	69.2			
<b>Basic:</b>								
Arg	57	38	50	87.7	71.1	66.7	94.7	78.9
His	16	16	50	93.8	75.0			
Lys	5	6	50	80.0	50.0			

1) Values represent the expected frequency of occurrence of G/C vs A/T if all codon choices were utilized with equal frequency.

indicated that the Us region of SA8 is co-linear with the Us region of HSV1, since the sequenced regions of this 10 Kbp fragment were found to have good homology with the US3, US6(gD), US7(gI), US8(gE), and US10 genes of HSV1 and distances between these homologous sequences in HSV1 and SA8 were also similar. Both strands of subclones spanning the SA8 gE gene homolog were sequenced completely. The entire sequence of the SA8 gE gene was assembled based on overlapping sequences. The SA8 gE gene ORF is 1602 base pairs long and has 58.8% identity with the HSV gE ORF at the DNA level. The predicted amino acid sequence of the SA8 gE gene product is 534 residues in length and showed 49.1% identity and 64.7% similarity to the HSV1 gE. The predicted secondary structural properties of the SA8 gE polypeptide were very similar to those predicted for the HSV1 gE polypeptide. They included a small N-terminal hydrophobic signal peptide (about 21-25 AAs), a conserved N-linked glycosylation site, an long hydrophilic region representing the extracellular domain, a hydrophobic transmembrane domain, and a highly charged and divergent cytoplasmic tail domain. A highly conserved region in the extracellular domain was apparent which extended from SA8 gE amino acid 205-401. This region was located adjacent to the transmembrane domain. This conserved region of the SA8 gE polypeptide had 63% amino acid sequence identity with the corresponding region of HSV1 gE polypeptide. All

seven Cys residues located in this region were conserved between HSV1 and SA8. Other predicted secondary structure features also indicated that the structure of this region is very similar in both HSV1 and SA8 gE polypeptides. Multiple sequence alignment of seven gE amino acid sequences and hierarchical cluster analysis of these seven gE sequences indicated that the SA8 gE is more similar to the HSV1 gE than the PRV, VZV, or EHV1 gE homologs.

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