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EBV INFECTION OF MITOGEN-STIMULATED HUMAN B LYMPHOCYTES

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B lymphocytes from human blood were treated with the mitogen Protein A (*Staph. aureus*), which induces DNA synthesis in, as well as differentiation of, the B lymphocytes. The cells were subsequently exposed to Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). EBV-infected and mitogen-stimulated cells were detected simultaneously, by using a combination of immunofluorescence (for EBNA) and autoradiography (for DNA-synthesis). In the initial phase (1-2 days) after addition of the mitogen, stimulated cells were as susceptible to infection as resting cells. Thereafter, their susceptibility decreased. This suggests that, although initiation of DNA-synthesis does not seem to limit sensitivity to the viral infection, differentiation of the B cells might do so. The intensity and pattern of EBNA-staining in prestimulated cells differed from that of the controls.

