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Visualizing Induction of Lytic Gammaherpesvirus Infection

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EBV and KSHV both are associated with malignancies. In tumors the latent form of infection predominates and there is little or no expression of lytic genes. FIAU is a nucleoside analogue that is selectively phosphorylated by EBV and KSHV thymidine kinases. We have used a variety of pharmacologic agents to induce lytic infection in xenografts of Burkitt's lymphoma and primary effusion lymphoma cell lines in SCID mice. Using ¹²⁵I labeled FIAU, we have been able to visualize lytic gene reactivation.