

ABSTRACT

Lymphocytes isolated from the tumors and draining lymph nodes of nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) patients exhibit the following characteristics of immune activation: (1) stable E rosette formation, (2) natural attachment to various human cells, (3) sensitivity in vitro to the lytic effect of glucocorticoids. Although the NPC T cells attach in vitro to various cells they kill only EBV-genome-carrying targets. These findings suggest the occurrence of a local cellular immune response in NPC, possibly directed to EBV-determined antigens.