

Idiotypes and antiidiotypes

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Idiotopes are the binding sites of individual antibodies with different structures that recognize the respective antigen:

- specific parts of immunoglobulins,
- **idiotype** is the sum of idiotopes.

Immunoglobulin variability can be:

1. **allotypic**: refers to the constant part; antibody molecules have interindividual variability,
 2. **idiotypic**: refers to the variable portions H and L; an idiotope is an antigenic determinant (epitope) in the variable part of an antibody,
- idiotopes produce **anti-idiotypic antibodies** - a role in the antibody response in the final phase of attenuation of lymphocyte activity,
 - Anti-idiotypic antibodies represent the "internal image" of the antigen in the immune system, and next-generation antibodies can again react with the original antigen → **idiotypic network**.

Sources

- HOŘEJŠÍ, Václav – BARTŮŇKOVÁ, Jiřina. *Základy imunologie*. 3. edition. Praha : Triton, 2008. 280 pp. ISBN 80-7254-686-4.

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