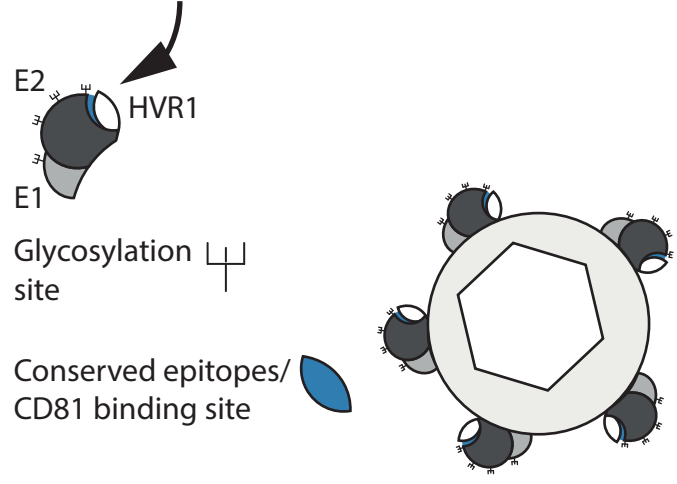


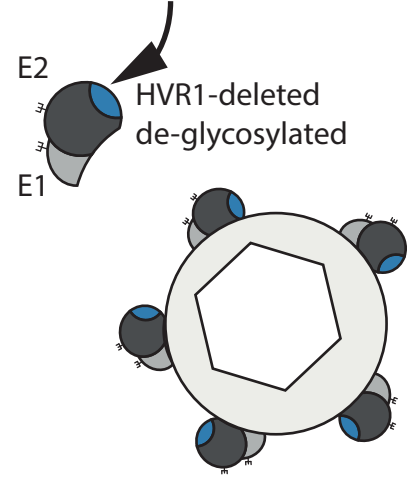
Parental HCV

Conserved epitopes/CD81 binding site partially occluded



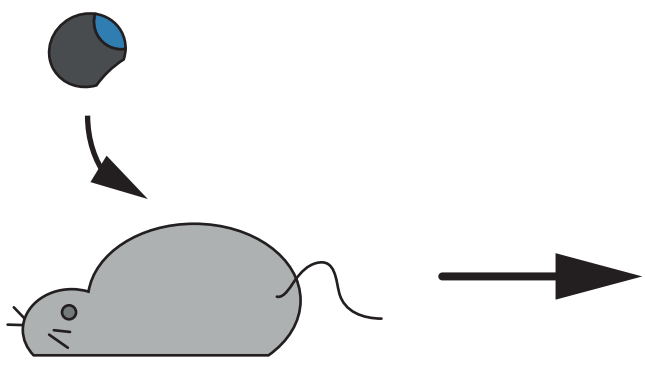
Mutant HCV

Conserved epitopes/CD81 binding site more exposed



Recombinant E2

HVR1-deleted deglycosylated



Antibody response

- Strong binding to recombinant protein
- Enhanced cross-binding to E2
- Comparable binding to E1-E2
- Strain-specific neutralization
- No cross-neutralization