

The human body has both innate and adaptive immune defenses against slow viruses. The innate response includes physical barriers and immune cells like neutrophils and macrophages, which can directly attack infected cells. The adaptive response is more specific, involving antibodies produced by B cells and activated T cells, providing long-term immunity against the specific virus. Interferons, proteins produced by infected cells, further help to inhibit viral replication and activate immune cells. Individual genetic factors can influence the effectiveness of these responses. While these defenses aim to control and eliminate slow virus infections, these viruses have evolved evasion mechanisms, making them difficult to combat.