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(54) Titre : ANTICORPS ANTI-CD37 BISPECIFIQUES, ANTICORPS ANTI-CD37 MONOCLONAUX ET LEURS
METHODES D'UTILISATION
(54) Title: BISPECIFIC ANTI-CD37 ANTIBODIES, MONOCLONAL ANTI-CD37 ANTIBODIES AND METHODS OF USE
THEREOF

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

CD37-specific bispecific antibody molecules binding to different epitopes of the human CD37 antigen which bispecific antibody molecules have enhanced Fc-Fc interactions upon binding to CD37 on the cell surface. The invention also relates to the monoclonal parental antibodies from which the first or the second binding region of the bispecific antibody molecules is obtained. The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing these molecules and the treatment of cancer and other diseases using these compositions.

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(54) **Title:** BISPECIFIC ANTI-CD37 ANTIBODIES, MONOCLONAL ANTI-CD37 ANTIBODIES AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

(57) **Abstract:** CD37-specific bispecific antibody molecules binding to different epitopes of the human CD37 antigen which bispecific antibody molecules have enhanced Fc-Fc interactions upon binding to CD37 on the cell surface. The invention also relates to the monoclonal parental antibodies from which the first or the second binding region of the bispecific antibody molecules is obtained. The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing these molecules and the treatment of cancer and other diseases using these compositions.

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BISPECIFIC ANTI-CD37 ANTIBODIES, MONOCLONAL ANTI-CD37 ANTIBODIES AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to bispecific antibodies that specifically bind the human CD37 antigen. The invention relates in particular to CD37-specific bispecific antibody molecules binding to different epitopes of the human CD37 antigen where the bispecific antibody molecules have enhanced Fc-Fc interactions upon binding to CD37 on the cell surface and thus have enhanced effector functions. The invention also relates to new monoclonal parental antibodies from which the first or the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody molecules is obtained. The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing these molecules and the treatment of cancer and other diseases using these compositions.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Leukocyte antigen CD37 ("CD37"), also known as GP52-40, tetraspanin-26, or TSPAN26, is a transmembrane protein of the tetraspanin superfamily (Maecker et al., FASEB J. 1997;11:428-442). In normal physiology, CD37 is expressed on B cells during the pre-B to peripheral mature B-cell stages but is reportedly absent on plasma cells (Link et al., J Pathol. 1987;152:12-21). The CD37 antigen is only weakly expressed on T-cells and myeloid cells such as monocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells and granulocytes (Schwartz-Albiez et al., J. Immunol 1988;140(3):905-914). CD37 is broadly expressed on malignant cells in a variety of B-cell leukemias and lymphomas, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and chronic lymphoid leukemia (CLL) (Moore et al. J Immunol. 1986;137(9):3013).

Several antibody-based CD37-targeting agents are being evaluated as potential therapeutics for B-cell malignancies and other malignancies. These include, for example, radio-immuno-conjugates such as Betalutin®, antibody-drug conjugates such as IMGN529 and AGS-67E, and reformatted or Fc-engineered antibodies such as otlertuzumab and BI 836826 (Robak and Robak, Expert Opin Biol Ther 2014;14(5):651-61). Anti-CD37 antibodies have been proposed for use as therapeutic agents in the formats described above and other formats (see, e.g., WO 2012/135740, WO 2012/007576, WO 2011/112978, WO 2009/126944, WO 2011/112978 and EP 2 241 577).

Betalutin is a mouse anti-CD37 antibody, lilotomab (formerly HH1/tetulomab), conjugated to 177-lutetium. Betalutin internalizes rapidly, inhibits B cell growth in vitro and prolongs survival in an i.v. Daudi-SCID model (Dahle et al 2013, *Anticancer Res* 33: 85-96).

IMGN529 is an ADC consisting of the K7153A antibody conjugated to the maytansinoid DM1 via an SMCC linker. The K7153 antibody is reported to induce apoptosis on CD37 expressing Ramos cells in the absence of cross-linking. It also induced CDC and ADCC in Burkitt's lymphoma cell lines, though the ability to induce CDC was much less compared to rituximab (Deckert et al, *Blood* 2013; 122(20):3500-10). These Fc-mediated effector functions of K7153A are retained in the DM-1 conjugated antibody.

Agensys is developing AGS-67E, a human anti-CD37 IgG2 mAb conjugated to monomethyl auristatin E. AGS67E induces potent cytotoxicity and apoptosis (Pereira et al, *Mol Cancer Ther* 2015; 14(7): 1650-1660).

Otlertuzumab (originally known as TRU-016) is a SMIP (small modular immuno pharmaceutical; SMIPS are disulfide-linked dimers of single-chain proteins comprised of one antigen binding VH/VL, a connecting hinge region, and an Fc (fragment, crystallizable) region (CH2-CH3)). Its mechanisms of action are induction of apoptosis and ADCC, but not CDC (Zhao et al 2007, *Blood* 110 (7), 2569-2577).

mAb37.1/ BI 836826 is a chimeric antibody that is engineered for high-affinity binding to FcγRIIIa (CD16a)(Heider et al 2011, *Blood* 118: 4159-4168). It has pro-apoptotic activity independent of IgG Fc crosslinking, although the pro-apoptotic activity is increased by cross-linking. It shows potent ADCC of CD37+ B cell lines and primary CLL cells.

Despite these and other advances in the art, however, there is still a need for improved anti-CD37 antibodies for the treatment of cancer and other diseases.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide anti-CD37 antibodies which may be useful in the treatment of cancer and/or other diseases. It is an object of the present invention to provide anti-CD37 antibodies which are improved with respect to CDC of human cells by human complement compared to the prior art antibodies. It is a further object to provide a bispecific antibody having binding arms obtained from two parental antibodies which bind to different epitopes on CD37 and which bispecific antibody has increased CDC and/or ADCC compared to a combination of the two parental monoclonal antibodies binding said different epitopes, and/or to either parental monoclonal antibody by itself. It is a further object to provide new monoclonal antibodies binding different epitopes on CD37 in particular it is an object to provide anti-CD37 antibodies binding new epitopes of CD37. It is a further object of the present invention to provide new monoclonal antibodies binding different epitopes on CD37 which

monoclonal antibodies may serve as parental antibodies for the bispecific antibodies of the invention. It is a further object to provide bispecific antibodies which bind to two different epitopes on CD37 and which bispecific antibodies have enhanced Fc-Fc interaction upon binding to CD37 on the plasma membrane compared to a bispecific antibody of the same isotype and having identical binding arms as the bispecific antibody of the invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventors of the present invention surprisingly found that a bispecific antibody having binding specificity against two different epitopes on CD37 and having a mutation increasing the Fc-Fc interaction upon binding to CD37 on the plasma membrane was more potent in inducing CDC than a combination of two anti-CD37 antibodies each having a binding specificity towards one of the two different epitopes on CD37 and having the same mutation enhancing the Fc-Fc interaction, or either antibody having the same mutation enhancing the Fc-Fc interaction by itself. In addition, a bispecific antibody having binding specificity against two different epitopes on CD37 and having a mutation increasing the Fc-Fc interactions was more potent in inducing ADCC than a combination of two anti-CD37 antibodies each having a binding specificity towards one of the two different epitopes on CD37 and having the same mutation enhancing the Fc-Fc interaction.

Accordingly, the invention relates to novel bispecific antibodies binding to human CD37 which have advantageous properties in terms of their antigen-binding characteristics, their ability to induce CDC and ADCC, their Fc-Fc interaction upon binding to membrane-bound targets, their cytotoxic effect on CD37-expressing cells and other properties, as described herein.

Accordingly, in a first aspect the present invention relates to a bispecific antibody comprising a first and second antigen binding region binding to human CD37 having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62, and a first and second Fc region of a human immunoglobulin, wherein the first and second antigen binding regions bind different epitopes on CD37 and wherein the first and second Fc regions comprises one or more amino acid mutations which mutation(s) enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between the bispecific antibodies upon binding to membrane-bound CD37 compared to the Fc-Fc interaction between bispecific antibodies not having said mutation(s).

Thus, in one aspect a bispecific antibody comprising a first and second antigen binding region binding to human CD37 having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62, and a first and second Fc region of a human immunoglobulin, wherein the first and second antigen binding regions bind different epitopes on CD37 and wherein the first and second Fc regions comprise one or more amino acid mutations which mutation(s) enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between bispecific

antibodies upon binding to membrane-bound target compared to the Fc-Fc interaction between bispecific antibodies not having said mutation(s).

In a second aspect the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody binding to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody which antibody comprises:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21[010]; or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14[005].

In a third aspect the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody which binds to human CD37 which antibody comprises:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27, and CDR2 sequence: YAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; [016] or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and CDR2 sequence: EAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7. [004]

In a fourth aspect the invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising the bispecific antibody or the antibody of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In a fifth aspect the invention relates to the bispecific antibody or the antibody or the composition of the invention for use as a medicament. In specific aspects they are for use in the treatment of cancer or an autoimmune disease or inflammatory disorders and in particular for use in the treatment of B-cell malignancies.

In other aspects the invention relates to methods of treatment, to combination treatments, to nucleic acid sequences encoding the antibodies of the invention, to vectors and host cells

expressing such and to methods of detecting presence or a CD37 antigen or cells expressing CD37 antigens in a sample or in a subject.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1: CDC mediated by G28.1 variants on primary CLL tumor cells. The capacity to induce CDC on primary CLL tumor cells of (A) IgG1-G28.1-K409R-delK, IgG1-G28.1-E345R or IgG1-b12-E345R (cells: Patient derived, Newly Diagnosed/Untreated (PB = peripheral blood derived)) and (B) IgG1-G28.1, IgG1-G28.1-E430G or IgG1-b12 (cells: Patient derived, Newly Diagnosed/Untreated (BM = bone marrow derived)) was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry.

Figure 2: Quantitative determination of CD37, CD46, CD55 and CD59 expression levels on CLL tumor cells. Expression levels of CD37, CD46, CD55 and CD59 on CLL cells from one patient (Patient VM-PB0005 Newly Diagnosed/Untreated) were determined by flow cytometry. Antigen quantity is shown as molecules/cell. mIgG1 is Mouse IgG1, κ Isotype Control.

Figure 3: Binding of humanized CD37 antibodies and variants thereof to Daudi cells. Binding of IgG1-004-H5L2, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2 and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G to Daudi cells was determined by flow cytometry. Data shown are mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) values, for one representative experiment.

Figure 4: Binding of G28.1 and 37.3 and variants thereof to Daudi cells. Binding of IgG1-G28.1, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-37.3 and IgG1-37.3-E430G to Daudi cells was determined by flow cytometry. Data shown are mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) values, for one representative experiment.

Figure 5: Binding of variants of humanized CD37 antibody IgG1-016-H5L2 to Daudi cells. Binding of IgG1-016-H5L2, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430G to Daudi cells was determined by flow cytometry. Data shown are mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) values, for one representative experiment.

Figure 6: Binding of CD37 antibody variants to CHO cells expressing cynomolgus CD37. Binding of IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-

H5L2-E430G, IgG1-G28.1 and IgG1-G28.1-E430G was determined by flow cytometry. Data shown are mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) values, for one representative experiment.

Figure 7: Determination of binding competition between CD37 antibodies, and CDC mediated by humanized CD37 antibodies, variants thereof and combinations of CD37 antibodies on Raji cells. (A) Binding competition between IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E434G was determined by flow cytometry. Raji cells were incubated with unlabeled antibodies for primary binding and subsequently with Alexa Fluor 488 labeled probing antibodies. Loss of binding of the A488-labeled probing antibodies after pre-incubation with an unlabeled antibody, compared to binding of the A488-labeled antibody alone, indicates binding competition between the A488-labeled and the unlabeled antibody. Data shown are duplicate values of Molecules of Equivalent Soluble Fluorochrome (MESF), for one representative experiment. (B-G) The capacity to induce CDC on Raji cells of IgG1-004-H5L2, of IgG1-005-H1L2, IgG1-010-H5L2, IgG1-016-H5L2 and IgG1-37.3, with or without E430G mutation, and combinations of these was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry.

Figure 8: Schematic overview of binding competition between CD37 antibodies. Binding competition between IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E4340G to Raji cells was determined by flow cytometry, using unlabeled antibodies for primary binding and Alexa Fluor 488 labeled probing antibodies for detecting subsequent binding of a competing antibody. Color indication: black; simultaneous binding, white; competition for binding, grey; cognate antibody.

Figure 9: CDC mediated by humanized CD37 antibodies and variants thereof on Daudi cells. The capacity to induce CDC on Daudi cells of IgG1-004-H5L2, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2 and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry.

Figure 10: CDC mediated by G28.1 and 37.3 and variants thereof, and CDC in Daudi cells mediated by humanized CD37 antibodies with different Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations on Daudi cells. (A) The capacity to induce CDC on Daudi cells of IgG1-G28.1, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-37.3 and IgG1-37.3-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis

determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry. (B-C) The capacity to induce CDC on Daudi cells of (A) IgG1-010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E345R-K409R, IgG1-010-H5L2-E345K-K409R, IgG1-010-H5L2-K409R-E430S, IgG1-010-H5L2-RRGY and (B) IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E345K-F405L, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430S and IgG1-016-H5L2-E345R-F405L was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis (maximum killing, at an antibody concentration of 10 µg/mL) determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry, for one representative experiment. Error bars indicate the variation within the experiment (performed in duplicate).

Figure 11: CDC mediated by variants of humanized antibody IgG1-016-H5L2 on Daudi cells. The capacity to induce CDC on Daudi cells of IgG1-016-H5L2, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry.

Figure 12: CDC mediated by bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, (combinations of) CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, and monovalent CD37-binding antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation on Daudi cells; and CDC activity of CD37 antibody variants with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, and combinations thereof, on OCI-Ly-7 cells. (A) The capacity to induce CDC on Daudi cells of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, a combination of IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G, bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G, and (B) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry. (C) The capacity to induce OCI-Ly-7 cells of the CD37 bispecific antibody bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, the CD37 monospecific bivalent (monoclonal) antibodies IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, the monovalent CD37 antibodies bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G, bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and a combination of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-

F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G plus bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry. (D) EC50 values of CDC induction by bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G plus bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, as determined in 2 independent experiments. (E) EC50 values of CDC induction by bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, as determined in 3 independent experiments.

Figure 13: CDC mediated by bispecific CD37 antibodies and by bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation on Daudi cells. The capacity to induce CDC on Daudi cells of (A) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-F405Lx005-H1L2-K409R and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G, and (B) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry.

Figure 14: CDC mediated by bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, (combinations of) CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, and monovalent binding CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation on primary CLL tumor cells. The capacity to induce CDC on primary CLL tumor cells (Patient: VM-BM0091 Newly Diagnosed/Untreated (BM = bone marrow derived)) of (A) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G, a combination of IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G, bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G, and (B) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was determined *in vitro*. Data shown are % lysis determined by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry.

Figure 15: CDC mediated by a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation on B cell lymphoma cell lines. The capacity of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, at a concentration of 10 µg/mL, to induce CDC on a range of B cell lymphoma cell lines was determined *in vitro*. Expression levels of CD37 were

determined by quantitative flow cytometry, and are shown as molecules/cell, average $\pm$ SD of 2 experiments. White bars indicate susceptible to CDC ($>10\%$ lysis, average of 2 experiments) mediated by bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, black bars indicate unsusceptible to CDC ($<10\%$ lysis, average of 2 experiments) mediated by bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G.

Figure 16: ADCC mediated by bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, (combinations of) CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, and monovalent binding CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation on Daudi and Raji cells. The capacity to induce ADCC of (A) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G and a combination of IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G on Daudi cells, and (B) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G and a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G on Daudi cells, and (C) bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G on Raji cells was determined *in vitro* using a chromium release assay. Data shown are % specific lysis; error bars indicate variation within the assay, with 5 replicates (A, B) or 6 replicates (C) per data point.

Figure 17: Quantitative determination of CD37, CD46, CD55 and CD59 expression levels on (A) CLL, (B) FL, (C) MCL or (D) DLBCL tumor cells. Expression levels on tumor cells were determined by flow cytometry. Antigen quantity is shown as antibody binding capacity.

Figure 18: CDC mediated by a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation on primary tumor cells of patients with CLL, FL, MCL, DLBCL or B-NHL (not further specified). The capacity of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G to induce CDC on tumor cells derived from patients with (A) CLL, (B) FL and (C) MCL, DLBCL or B-NHL (not further specified) was determined by flow cytometry. CDC induction is presented as the percentage lysis determined by the fraction of 7-AAD positive tumor cells, using 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (A and B) or 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (C) of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G.

Figure 19: Binding of a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation to B cells in human or cynomolgus monkey blood. Binding of Alexa-488 labeled

bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G to B cells in (A) human or (B) cynomolgus monkey blood was determined by flow cytometry. Alexa-488 labeled IgG1-b12 was used as a negative control antibody. Data are shown as geometric mean A488 fluorescence intensity values, for one representative donor/animal. Error bars show variation within the experiment (duplicate measurements).

Figure 20: Cytotoxicity of a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation and an FcγR-interaction enhanced monoclonal CD37 specific antibody to B cells in human or cynomolgus monkey blood. (A) Cytotoxicity of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and IgG1-CD37-B2-S239D-I332E to B cells in human blood and (B) of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G to B cells in cynomolgus monkey blood was determined in a whole blood cytotoxicity assay. IgG1-b12 was used as a negative control antibody. Data are shown as % B cell depletion for one representative donor/animal. Error bars show variation within the experiment (duplicate measurements).

Figure 21: CDC mediated by a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, a CD20-specific antibody or a combination thereof. (A-D) The capacity to induce CDC on tumor cells derived from 2 CLL patients of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, ofatumumab or a combination thereof, at indicated concentrations, was determined ex vivo. Data are shown as the % of viable B cells.

Figure 22: Dose-effect relationship for 3 weekly doses of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G in the JVM-3 model. (A) Tumor growth of JVM-3 xenografts after treatment with different doses of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G or isotype control antibody (IgG1-b12). Mean and SEM of each group (n=10) is shown per time point. (B) Tumor size per mouse at day 25. Mean and SEM are indicated per treatment group. Differences were analyzed by Mann Whitney test. Statistically significant differences were indicated as follows: **: p<0.01; ***: p<0.001.

Figure 23: Dose-effect relationship for 3 weekly doses of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G in the Daudi-luc model. (A) Tumor growth (measured by luciferase activity, bioluminescence) of Daudi-luc xenografts after treatment with different doses of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G or isotype control antibody (IgG1-b12). Mean and SEM of each group (n=9) is shown per time point. (B) Luciferase activity per mouse at day 36. Mean and SEM are indicated per treatment group.

Differences were analyzed by One Way Anova, Uncorrected Fisher's LSD. Statistically significant differences were indicated as follows: **: $p < 0.01$; ***: $p < 0.001$.

Figure 24: Plasma concentrations of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and IgG1-b12 following intravenous injection in SCID mice.

SCID mice were injected with a single i.v. dose of (A-B) 100 μ g (5 mg/kg) or (C-D) 500 μ g (25 mg/kg) of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G or IgG1-b12.

Figure 25. Analysis of binding of CD37 antibodies to CD37 variants with alanine mutations in the extracellular domains. Zscore(fold change) was defined as $(\text{normalized gMFI}[\text{aa position}] - \mu) / \sigma$, where μ and σ are the mean and standard deviation (SD) of the normalized gMFI of all mutants. Residues where the zscore was lower than -1.5 (indicated by the dotted line) were considered 'loss of binding mutants'. Number above the x-axis refer to amino acid positions. Note that x-axis is non-continuous: the left part (until the striped line) of the axis represents aa residues in the small extracellular loop of human CD37 which are not alanines or cysteines; the right part of the axis represents aa residues in the large extracellular loop of human CD37 which are not alanines or cysteines. The dotted line indicates a zscore(fold change) of -1.5.

Figure 26 CDC mediated by mixtures of CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation plus clinically established CD20 antibody products on Raji cells.

CDC-mediated killing of Raji cells (% lysis expressed as the PI-positive cell fraction as determined by flow cytometry) for antibody concentration dilution series of 1:0, 3:1, 1:1, 3:1 and 0:1 antibody mixtures (10 μ g/mL final concentration) of CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation plus standard of care CD20 antibody products MabThera (rituximab), Arzerra (ofatumumab) and Gazyva (obinutuzumab, GA101): (A) mixtures with IgG1-37.3-E430G, (B) mixtures with IgG1-G28.1-E430G, (C) mixtures with IgG1-004-E430G, (D) mixtures with IgG1-005-E430G, (E) mixtures with IgG1-010-E430G and (F) mixtures with IgG1-016-E430G.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

The term "CD37", as used herein, refers to Leukocyte Antigen CD37, also known as GP52-40, tetraspanin-26, and TSPAN26, which is a heavily glycosylated transmembrane protein with four transmembrane domains (TMs) and one small and one large extracellular domain. Homo sapiens, i.e., human, CD37 protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 62 (human CD37 protein: UniprotKB/Swissprot P11049). In this amino acid sequence, residues 112 to 241 correspond to the large extracellular domain, residues 39 to 59 to the small extracellular domain, while the remaining residues correspond to transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains. *Macaca fascicularis*, i.e., cynomolgus monkey, CD37 protein is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 63 (cynomolgus CD37 protein: Genbank accession no. XP_005589942). Unless contradicted by context the term "CD37" means "human CD37". The term "CD37" includes any variants, isoforms and species homologs of CD37 which are naturally expressed by cells, including tumor cells, or are expressed on cells transfected with the CD37 gene or cDNA.

The term "human CD20" or "CD20" refers to human CD20 (UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot No P11836) and includes any variants, isoforms and species homologs of CD20 which are naturally expressed by cells, including tumor cells, or are expressed on cells transfected with the CD20 gene or cDNA. Species homologs include rhesus monkey CD20 (*macaca mulatta*; UniProtKB/Swiss-Prot No H9YXP1) and cynomolgus monkey CD20 (*Macaca fascicularis*).

The term "antibody binding CD37", "anti-CD37 antibody", "CD37-binding antibody", "CD37-specific antibody", "CD37 antibody" which may be used interchangeably herein, refers to any antibody binding an epitope on the extracellular part of CD37.

The term "antibody" (Ab) in the context of the present invention refers to an immunoglobulin molecule, a fragment of an immunoglobulin molecule, or a derivative of either thereof, which has the ability to specifically bind to an antigen under typical physiological conditions with a half-life of significant periods of time, such as at least about 30 minutes, at least about 45 minutes, at least about one hour, at least about two hours, at least about four hours, at least about 8 hours, at least about 12 hours, about 24 hours or more, about 48 hours or more, about 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or more days, etc., or any other relevant functionally-defined period (such as a time sufficient to induce, promote, enhance, and/or modulate a physiological response associated with antibody binding to the antigen and/or time sufficient for the antibody to recruit an effector

activity). The variable regions of the heavy and light chains of the immunoglobulin molecule contain a binding domain that interacts with an antigen. The constant regions of the antibodies (Abs) may mediate the binding of the immunoglobulin to host tissues or factors, including various cells of the immune system (such as effector cells) and components of the complement system such as C1q, the first component in the classical pathway of complement activation. As indicated above, the term antibody herein, unless otherwise stated or clearly contradicted by context, includes fragments of an antibody that are antigen-binding fragments, *i.e.*, retain the ability to specifically bind to the antigen. It has been shown that the antigen-binding function of an antibody may be performed by fragments of a full-length antibody. Examples of antigen-binding fragments encompassed within the term "antibody" include (i) a Fab' or Fab fragment, a monovalent fragment consisting of the V_L , V_H , C_L and C_{H1} domains, or a monovalent antibody as described in WO2007059782 (Genmab); (ii) $F(ab')_2$ fragments, bivalent fragments comprising two Fab fragments linked by a disulfide bridge at the hinge region; (iii) a Fd fragment consisting essentially of the V_H and C_{H1} domains; (iv) a Fv fragment consisting essentially of the V_L and V_H domains of a single arm of an antibody, (v) a dAb fragment (Ward et al., *Nature* 341, 544-546 (1989)), which consists essentially of a V_H domain and also called domain antibodies (Holt et al; *Trends Biotechnol.* 2003 Nov; 21(11):484-90); (vi) camelid or nanobodies (Reverts et al; *Expert Opin Biol Ther.* 2005 Jan; 5(1):111-24) and (vii) an isolated complementarity determining region (CDR). Furthermore, although the two domains of the Fv fragment, V_L and V_H , are coded for by separate genes, they may be joined, using recombinant methods, by a synthetic linker that enables them to be made as a single protein chain in which the V_L and V_H regions pair to form monovalent molecules (known as single chain antibodies or single chain Fv (scFv), see for instance Bird et al., *Science* 242, 423-426 (1988) and Huston et al., *PNAS USA* 85, 5879-5883 (1988)). Such single chain antibodies are encompassed within the term antibody unless otherwise noted or clearly indicated by context. Although such fragments are generally included within the meaning of antibody, they collectively and each independently are unique features of the present invention, exhibiting different biological properties and utility. These and other useful antibody fragments in the context of the present invention, as well as bispecific formats of such fragments, are discussed further herein. For the bispecific antibodies of the invention such fragments are linked to an Fc domain. It also should be understood that the term antibody, unless specified otherwise, also includes polyclonal antibodies, monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), antibody-like polypeptides, such as chimeric antibodies and humanized antibodies, and antibody fragments retaining the ability to specifically bind to the antigen (antigen-binding fragments) provided by

any known technique, such as enzymatic cleavage, peptide synthesis, and recombinant techniques. An antibody as generated can possess any isotype.

The term "bispecific antibody" refers to antibody having specificities for at least two different, typically non-overlapping, epitopes. Such epitopes may be on the same or different targets. For the present invention the epitopes are on the same target, namely CD37. Examples of different classes of bispecific antibodies comprising an Fc region include but are not limited to: asymmetric bispecific molecules, e.g., IgG-like molecules with complementary CH3 domains; and symmetric bispecific molecules, e.g., recombinant IgG-like dual targeting molecules wherein each antigen-binding region of the molecule binds at least two different epitopes.

Examples of bispecific molecules include but are not limited to Triomab® (Trion Pharma/Fresenius Biotech, WO/ 2002/020039), Knobs-into-Holes (Genentech, WO 1998/50431), CrossMAbs (Roche, WO 2009/080251, WO 2009/080252, WO 2009/080253), electrostatically-matched Fc-heterodimeric molecules (Amgen, EP1870459 and WO2009089004; Chugai, US201000155133; Oncomed, WO 2010/129304), LUZ-Y (Genentech), DIG-body, PIG-body and TIG-body (Pharmabcine), Strand Exchange Engineered Domain body (SEEDbody) (EMD Serono, WO2007110205), Bispecific IgG1 and IgG2 (Pfizer/Rinat, WO 2011/143545), Azymetric scaffold (Zymeworks/Merck, WO2012058768), mAb-Fv (Xencor, WO 2011/028952), XmAb (Xencor), Bivalent bispecific antibodies (Roche, WO 2009/080254), Bispecific IgG (Eli Lilly), DuoBody® molecules (Genmab A/S, WO 2011/131746), DuetMab (Medimmune, US2014/0348839), Biclonics (Merus, WO 2013/157953), NovImmune (κλBodies, WO 2012/023053), FcΔAdp (Regeneron, WO 2010/151792), (DT)-Ig (GSK/Domantis), Two-in-one Antibody or Dual Action Fabs (Genentech, Adimab), mAb2 (F-Star, WO 2008/003116), Zybodies™ molecules (Zyngenia), CovX-body (CovX/Pfizer), FynomAbs (Covagen/Janssen Cilag), DutaMab (Dutalys/Roche), iMab (MedImmune), Dual Variable Domain (DVD)-IgTM (Abbott), dual domain double head antibodies (Unilever; Sanofi Aventis, WO 2010/0226923), Ts2Ab (MedImmune/AZ), BsAb (Zymogenetics), HERCULES (Biogen Idec, US 7,951,918), scFv-fusions (Genentech/Roche, Novartis, Immunomedics, Changzhou Adam Biotech Inc, CN 102250246), TvAb (Roche, WO2012/025525, WO2012/025530), ScFv/Fc Fusions, SCORPION (Emergent BioSolutions/Trubion, Zymogenetics/BMS), Interceptor (Emergent), Dual Affinity Retargeting Technology (Fc-DARTTM) (MacroGenics, WO2008/157379, WO2010/080538), BEAT (Glenmark), Di-Diabody (Imclone/Eli Lilly) and chemically crosslinked mAbs (Karmanos Cancer Center), and covalently fused mAbs (AIMM therapeutics).

The term "full-length antibody", as used herein, refers to an antibody (e.g., a parent or variant antibody) which contains all heavy and light chain constant and variable domains corresponding to those that are normally found in a wild-type antibody of that class or isotype.

The term "chimeric antibody" as used herein, refers to an antibody wherein the variable region is derived from a non-human species (e.g. derived from rodents) and the constant region is derived from a different species, such as human. Chimeric antibodies may be generated by antibody engineering. "Antibody engineering" is a term used generic for different kinds of modifications of antibodies, and which is a well-known process for the skilled person. In particular, a chimeric antibody may be generated by using standard DNA techniques as described in Sambrook et al., 1989, Molecular Cloning: A laboratory Manual, New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Ch. 15. Thus, the chimeric antibody may be a genetically or an enzymatically engineered recombinant antibody. It is within the knowledge of the skilled person to generate a chimeric antibody, and thus, generation of the chimeric antibody according to the present invention may be performed by other methods than described herein. Chimeric monoclonal antibodies for therapeutic applications are developed to reduce antibody immunogenicity. They may typically contain non-human (e.g. murine) variable regions, which are specific for the antigen of interest, and human constant antibody heavy and light chain domains. The terms "variable region" or "variable domains" as used in the context of chimeric antibodies, refers to a region which comprises the CDRs and framework regions of both the heavy and light chains of the immunoglobulin.

The term "oligomer", as used herein, refers to a molecule that consists of more than one but a limited number of monomer units (e.g. antibodies) in contrast to a polymer that, at least in principle, consists of an unlimited number of monomers. Exemplary oligomers are dimers, trimers, tetramers, pentamers and hexamers. Likewise, "oligomerization" such as e.g. "hexamerization", as used herein, means that there is an increase in the distribution of antibodies and/or other dimeric proteins comprising target-binding regions according to the invention into oligomers, such as hexamers. The increased formation of oligomers such as hexamers is due to increased Fc-Fc interaction after binding to membrane-bound targets.

The term "antigen-binding region", "antigen binding region", "binding region" or antigen binding domain, as used herein, refers to a region of an antibody which is capable of binding to the antigen. This binding region is typically defined by the VH and VL domains of the antibody which may be further subdivided into regions of hypervariability (or hypervariable regions which may be hypervariable in sequence and/or form of structurally defined loops), also termed complementarity determining regions (CDRs), interspersed with regions that are more conserved,

termed framework regions (FRs). The antigen can be any molecule, such as a polypeptide, e.g. present on a cell, bacterium, or virion or in solution. The terms "antigen" and "target" may, unless contradicted by the context, be used interchangeably in the context of the present invention.

The term "target", as used herein, refers to a molecule to which the antigen binding region of the antibody binds. The target includes any antigen towards which the raised antibody is directed. The term "antigen" and "target" may in relation to an antibody be used interchangeably and constitute the same meaning and purpose with respect to any aspect or embodiment of the present invention.

The term "humanized antibody" as used herein, refers to a genetically engineered non-human antibody, which contains human antibody constant domains and non-human variable domains modified to contain a high level of sequence homology to human variable domains. This can be achieved by grafting of the six non-human antibody complementarity-determining regions (CDRs), which together form the antigen binding site, onto a homologous human acceptor framework region (FR) (see WO92/22653 and EP0629240). In order to fully reconstitute the binding affinity and specificity of the parental antibody, the substitution of framework residues from the parental antibody (i.e. the non-human antibody) into the human framework regions (back-mutations) may be required. Structural homology modeling may help to identify the amino acid residues in the framework regions that are important for the binding properties of the antibody. Thus, a humanized antibody may comprise non-human CDR sequences, primarily human framework regions optionally comprising one or more amino acid back-mutations to the non-human amino acid sequence, and fully human constant regions. Optionally, additional amino acid modifications, which are not necessarily back-mutations, may be applied to obtain a humanized antibody with preferred characteristics, such as affinity and biochemical properties.

Humanized antibodies can be generated using immunized rabbits, humanization of rabbit antibodies using germline humanization (CDR-grafting) technology, and, if necessary, by back-mutating residues which may be critical for the antibody binding properties, as identified in structural modeling, to rabbit residues. Screening for potential T cell epitopes can be applied.

The term "human antibody" as used herein, refers to antibodies having variable and constant regions derived from human germline immunoglobulin sequences. Human antibodies may include amino acid residues not encoded by human germline immunoglobulin sequences (e.g., mutations introduced by random or site-specific mutagenesis in vitro or by somatic mutation in vivo). However, the term "human antibody", as used herein, is not intended to include antibodies in which CDR sequences derived from the germline of another mammalian species, such as a mouse, have been grafted onto human framework sequences. Human monoclonal

antibodies of the invention can be produced by a variety of techniques, including conventional monoclonal antibody methodology, *e.g.*, the standard somatic cell hybridization technique of Kohler and Milstein, *Nature* 256: 495 (1975). Although somatic cell hybridization procedures are preferred, in principle, other techniques for producing monoclonal antibody can be employed, *e.g.*, viral or oncogenic transformation of B-lymphocytes or phage display techniques using libraries of human antibody genes.

A suitable animal system for preparing hybridomas that secrete human monoclonal antibodies is the murine system. Hybridoma production in the mouse is a very well established procedure. Immunization protocols and techniques for isolation of immunized splenocytes for fusion are known in the art. Fusion partners (*e.g.*, murine myeloma cells) and fusion procedures are also known.

Human monoclonal antibodies can be generated using *e.g.* transgenic or transchromosomal mice or rabbits carrying parts of the human immune system rather than the mouse or rabbit system.

The term "immunoglobulin" refers to a class of structurally related glycoproteins consisting of two pairs of polypeptide chains, one pair of light (L) low molecular weight chains and one pair of heavy (H) chains, all four inter-connected by disulfide bonds. The structure of immunoglobulins has been well characterized. See for instance Fundamental Immunology Ch. 7 (Paul, W., ed., 2nd ed. Raven Press, N.Y. (1989)). Briefly, each heavy chain typically is comprised of a heavy chain variable region (abbreviated herein as V_H or VH) and a heavy chain constant region (abbreviated herein as C_H or CH). The heavy chain constant region typically is comprised of three domains, C_{H1} , C_{H2} , and C_{H3} . Each light chain typically is comprised of a light chain variable region (abbreviated herein as V_L or VL) and a light chain constant region (abbreviated herein as C_L or CL). The light chain constant region typically is comprised of one domain, C_L . The V_H and V_L regions may be further subdivided into regions of hypervariability (or hypervariable regions which may be hypervariable in sequence and/or form of structurally defined loops), also termed complementarity determining regions (CDRs), interspersed with regions that are more conserved, termed framework regions (FRs). Each V_H and V_L is typically composed of three CDRs and four FRs, arranged from amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus in the following order: FR1, CDR1, FR2, CDR2, FR3, CDR3, FR4 (see also Chothia and Lesk J. Mol. Biol. 196, 901-917 (1987)). Unless otherwise stated or contradicted by context, CDR sequences herein are identified according to IMGT rules (Brochet X., Nucl Acids Res. 2008;36:W503-508 and Lefranc MP., Nucleic Acids Research 1999;27:209-212; see also internet http address <http://www.imgt.org/>). Unless otherwise stated or contradicted by context, reference to amino acid positions in the constant

regions in the present invention is according to the EU-numbering (Edelman et al., Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 1969 May;63(1):78-85; Kabat et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, Fifth Edition. 1991 NIH Publication No. 91-3242).

When used herein, unless contradicted by context, the term "Fab-arm" or "arm" refers to one heavy chain-light chain pair and is used interchangeably with "half molecules" herein. Accordingly, a "Fab-arm" comprises the variable regions of the heavy chain and light chain as well as the constant region of the light chain and the constant region of the heavy chain which comprises the CH1 region, the hinge, the CH2 region and the CH3 region of an immunoglobulin. The "CH1 region" refers e.g. to the region of a human IgG1 antibody corresponding to amino acids 118-215 according to the EU numbering. Thus, the Fab fragment comprises the binding region of an immunoglobulin.

The term "fragment crystallizable region", "Fc region", "Fc fragment" or "Fc domain", which may be used interchangeably herein, refers to an antibody region comprising, arranged from amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus, at least a hinge region, a CH2 domain and a CH3 domain. An Fc region of an IgG1 antibody can, for example, be generated by digestion of an IgG1 antibody with papain. The Fc region of an antibody may mediate the binding of the immunoglobulin to host tissues or factors, including various cells of the immune system (such as effector cells) and components of the complement system such as C1q, the first component in the classical pathway of complement activation. The term "hinge region", as used herein, is intended to refer to the hinge region of an immunoglobulin heavy chain. Thus, for example the hinge region of a human IgG1 antibody corresponds to amino acids 216-230 according to the EU numbering.

The term "core hinge" or "core hinge region" as used herein refers to the four amino acids corresponding to positions 226-229 of a human IgG1 antibody.

The term "CH2 region" or "CH2 domain", as used herein, is intended to refer the CH2 region of an immunoglobulin heavy chain. Thus, for example the CH2 region of a human IgG1 antibody corresponds to amino acids 231-340 according to the EU numbering. However, the CH2 region may also be any of the other isotypes or allotypes as described herein.

The term "CH3 region" or "CH3 domain" as used herein, is intended to refer to the CH3 region of an immunoglobulin heavy chain. Thus, for example the CH3 region of a human IgG1 antibody corresponds to amino acids 341-447 according to the EU numbering. However, the CH3 region may also be any of the other isotypes or allotypes as described herein.

As used herein, the term "isotype" refers to the immunoglobulin class (for instance IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgD, IgA, IgE, or IgM) that is encoded by heavy chain constant region genes.

The term "monovalent antibody" means in the context of the present invention that an antibody molecule is capable of binding a single molecule of the antigen, and thus is not capable of antigen crosslinking.

A "CD37 antibody" or "anti-CD37 antibody" is an antibody as described above, which binds specifically to the antigen CD37.

A "CD37xCD37 antibody" or "anti-CD37xCD37 antibody" is a bispecific antibody, which comprises two different antigen-binding regions, one of which binds specifically to a first epitope on the antigen CD37 and a second which binds specifically to a different epitope on CD37.

In an embodiment, the bispecific antibody of the invention is isolated. An "isolated bispecific antibody," as used herein, is intended to refer to a bispecific antibody which is substantially free of other antibodies having different antigenic specificities (for instance an isolated bispecific antibody that specifically binds to CD37 is substantially free of monospecific antibodies that specifically bind to CD37).

The term "epitope" means a protein determinant capable of binding to an antigen-binding region of an antibody ("paratope"). Epitopes usually consist of surface groupings of molecules such as amino acids or sugar side chains and usually have specific three-dimensional structural characteristics, as well as specific charge characteristics. Conformational and nonconformational epitopes are distinguished in that the binding to the former but not the latter is lost in the presence of denaturing solvents. Epitope mapping techniques can determine "structural epitopes" or "functional epitopes". Structural epitopes are defined as those residues within a structure that are in direct contact with the antibody and can for example be assessed by structure based methods such as X-ray crystallography. A structural epitope may comprise amino acid residues directly involved in the binding of an antibody as well as other amino acid residues, which are not directly involved in the binding, such as amino acid residues which are effectively blocked or covered by antibody (in other words, the amino acid residue is within the footprint of the antibody). Functional epitope are defined as those residues that make energetic contributions to the antigen-antibody binding interaction and can for example be assessed by site-directed mutagenesis such as alanine scanning (Cunningham, B. C., & Wells, J. A. (1993) *Journal of Molecular Biology*; Clackson, T., & Wells, J. (1995) *Science*, 267(5196), 383–386). A functional epitope may comprise amino acid residues directly involved in the binding of an antibody as well as other amino acid residues which are not directly involved in the binding, such as amino acid residues which cause conformational changes to the location of residues involved in direct interactions (Greenspan, N. S., & Di Cera, E. (1999) *Nature Biotechnology*, 17(10), 936–937). In case of antibody-antigen interactions, the functional epitope may be used to distinguish antibody

molecules between each other. A functional epitope may be determined by use of the method of alanine scanning as described in Example 17. Thus, amino acids in the protein may be substituted with alanines thereby generating a series of mutant proteins, binding of the antigen-binding region of the antibody to the mutant protein is reduced as compared to a wild type protein; reduced binding being determined as standardized $\log(\text{fold change})$ (expressed as z-scores) in binding of said antibody being less than - 1.5 as set forth in Example 17.

The term "monoclonal antibody" as used herein refers to a preparation of antibody molecules essentially of single molecular composition. A monoclonal antibody composition displays a single binding specificity and affinity for a particular epitope. Accordingly, the term "human monoclonal antibody" refers to antibodies displaying a single binding specificity which have variable and constant regions derived from human germline immunoglobulin sequences. The human monoclonal antibodies may be generated by a hybridoma which includes a B cell obtained from a transgenic or transchromosomal non-human animal, such as a transgenic mouse, having a genome comprising a human heavy chain transgene and a light chain transgene, fused to an immortalized cell.

As used herein, the term "binding" in the context of the binding of an antibody to a predetermined antigen typically is a binding with an affinity corresponding to a K_D of about 10^{-6} M or less, e.g. 10^{-7} M or less, such as about 10^{-8} M or less, such as about 10^{-9} M or less, about 10^{-10} M or less, or about 10^{-11} M or even less when determined by for instance BioLayer Interferometry (BLI) technology in a Octet HTX instrument using the antibody as the ligand and the antigen as the analyte, and wherein the antibody binds to the predetermined antigen with an affinity corresponding to a K_D that is at least ten-fold lower, such as at least 100-fold lower, for instance at least 1,000-fold lower, such as at least 10,000-fold lower, for instance at least 100,000-fold lower than its K_D of binding to a non-specific antigen (e.g., BSA, casein) other than the predetermined antigen or a closely related antigen. The amount with which the K_D of binding is lower is dependent on the K_D of the antibody, so that when the K_D of the antibody is very low, then the amount with which the K_D of binding to the antigen is lower than the K_D of binding to a non-specific antigen may be at least 10,000-fold (that is, the antibody is highly specific).

The term " K_D " (M), as used herein, refers to the dissociation equilibrium constant of a particular antibody-antigen interaction.

"Affinity", as used herein, and " K_D " are inversely related, that is, higher affinity is intended to refer to lower K_D , and lower affinity is intended to refer to higher K_D .

As used herein, an antibody which "competes" or "cross-competes" is used interchangeably with an antibody which "blocks" or "cross-blocks" with another antibody, i.e. a reference antibody,

and means that the antibody and the reference antibody compete for binding to human CD37, e.g. as determined in the assay described in Examples 7 herein. In one embodiment the antibody binds with less than 50%, such as less than 20%, such as less than 15% of its maximum binding in the presence of the competing reference antibody.

As used herein, an antibody which "does not compete" or "does not cross-compete" or "does not block" with another antibody, i.e. a reference antibody, means that the antibody and the reference antibody do not compete for binding to human CD37, e.g. as determined in the assay described in Examples 7 herein. For some pairs of antibody and reference antibody, non-competition in the assay of Example 7 is only observed when one antibody is bound to an antigen on a cell and the other is used to compete, and not vice versa. The term "does not compete with" or "non-competition" or "non-blocking" when used herein is also intended to cover such combinations of antibodies. In one embodiment the antibody binds with at least 75%, such as at least 80%, such as at least 85% of its maximum binding in the presence of the reference antibody.

The term "Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation", as used herein, refers to a mutation in IgG antibodies that strengthens Fc-Fc interactions between neighboring IgG antibodies that are bound to a cell surface target. This may result in enhanced oligomer formation such as e.g. hexamerization of the target-bound antibodies, while the antibody molecules remain monomeric in solution as described in WO 2013/004842; WO 2014/108198 both which are hereby incorporated by reference.

The term "Fc effector functions" or "Fc-mediated effector functions" as used herein, is intended to refer to functions that are a consequence of binding a polypeptide or antibody to its target, such as an antigen, on a cell membrane, and subsequent interaction of the IgG Fc domain with molecules of the innate immune system (e.g. soluble molecules or membrane-bound molecules). Examples of Fc effector functions include (i) C1q-binding, (ii) complement activation, (iii) complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC), (iv) antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC), (v) Fc-gamma receptor-binding, (vi) antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP), (vii) complement-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (CDCC), (viii) complement-enhanced cytotoxicity, (ix) binding to complement receptor of an opsonized antibody mediated by the antibody, (x) opsonisation, and (xi) a combination of any of (i) to (x).

When used herein the term "heterodimeric interaction between the first and second CH3 regions" refers to the interaction between the first CH3 region of the first Fc-region and the second CH3 region of the second Fc-region in a first-CH3/second-CH3 heterodimeric protein. A bispecific antibody is an example of a heterodimeric protein.

When used herein the term "homodimeric interactions of the first and second CH3 regions" refers to the interaction between a first CH3 region and another first CH3 region in a first-CH3/first-CH3 homodimeric protein and the interaction between a second CH3 region and another second CH3 region in a second-CH3/second-CH3 homodimeric protein. A monoclonal antibody is an example of a homodimeric protein.

The term "reducing conditions" or "reducing environment" refers to a condition or an environment in which a substrate, such as e.g. a cysteine residue in the hinge region of an antibody, is more likely to become reduced than oxidized.

The present invention also provides bispecific antibodies comprising functional variants of the V_L regions, V_H regions, or one or more CDRs of the bispecific antibodies of the examples. A functional variant of a V_L , V_H , or CDR used in the context of a bispecific antibody still allows each arm of the bispecific antibody to retain at least a substantial proportion (at least about 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more) of the affinity and/or the specificity/selectivity of the parent bispecific antibody and in some cases such a bispecific antibody may be associated with greater affinity, selectivity and/or specificity than the parent bispecific antibody. Such functional variants typically retain significant sequence identity to the parent bispecific antibody. The percent identity between two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences (*i.e.*, % homology = # of identical positions/total # of positions x 100), taking into account the number of gaps, and the length of each gap, which need to be introduced for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percent identity between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences may e.g. be determined using the algorithm of E. Meyers and W. Miller, *Comput. Appl. Biosci* 4, 11-17 (1988) which has been incorporated into the ALIGN program (version 2.0), using a PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12 and a gap penalty of 4. In addition, the percent identity between two amino acid sequences may be determined using the Needleman and Wunsch, *J. Mol. Biol.* 48, 444-453 (1970) algorithm.

Exemplary variants include those which differ from V_H and/or V_L and/or CDR regions of the parent bispecific antibody sequences mainly by conservative substitutions; for instance 10, such as 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 of the substitutions in the variant are conservative amino acid residue replacements. Preferably, a variant contains at most 10 amino acid substitutions in the V_H and/or V_L region of the parent antibody, such as at most 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 or at most 1 amino acid substitution. Preferably such substitutions are conservative substitutions especially so if the substitutions are in a CDR sequence.

In the context of the present invention, conservative substitutions may be defined by substitutions within the classes of amino acids reflected in the following table:

Amino acid residue classes for conservative substitutions

Acidic Residues	Asp (D) and Glu (E)
Basic Residues	Lys (K), Arg (R), and His (H)
Hydrophilic Uncharged Residues	Ser (S), Thr (T), Asn (N), and Gln (Q)
Aliphatic Uncharged Residues	Gly (G), Ala (A), Val (V), Leu (L), and Ile (I)
Non-polar Uncharged Residues	Cys (C), Met (M), and Pro (P)
Aromatic Residues	Phe (F), Tyr (Y), and Trp (W)

In the context of the present invention, the following notations are, unless otherwise indicated, used to describe a mutation; i) substitution of an amino acid in a given position is written as e.g. K409R which means a substitution of a Lysine in position 409 with an Arginine; and ii) for specific variants the specific three or one letter codes are used, including the codes Xaa and X to indicate any amino acid residue. Thus, the substitution of Lysine with Arginine in position 409 is designated as: K409R, and the substitution of Lysine with any amino acid residue in position 409 is designated as K409X. In case of deletion of Lysine in position 409 it is indicated by K409*.

The term "recombinant host cell" (or simply "host cell"), as used herein, is intended to refer to a cell into which an expression vector has been introduced, e.g. an expression vector encoding an antibody of the invention. Recombinant host cells include, for example, transfectomas, such as CHO, CHO-S, HEK, HEK293, HEK-293F, Expi293F, PER.C6 or NS0 cells, and lymphocytic cells.

The term "treatment" refers to the administration of an effective amount of a therapeutically active bispecific antibody of the present invention with the purpose of easing, ameliorating, arresting or eradicating (curing) symptoms or disease states.

The term "effective amount" or "therapeutically effective amount" refers to an amount effective, at dosages and for periods of time necessary, to achieve a desired therapeutic result. A therapeutically effective amount of a bispecific antibody may vary according to factors such as the disease state, age, sex, and weight of the individual, and the ability of the bispecific antibody to elicit a desired response in the individual. A therapeutically effective amount is also one in which any toxic or detrimental effects of the antibody or antibody portion are outweighed by the therapeutically beneficial effects.

The term "anti-idiotypic antibody" refers to an antibody which recognizes unique determinants generally associated with the antigen-binding site of an antibody.

Embodiments of the invention

In a first main embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and second antigen binding region binding to human CD37 having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62, and a first and second Fc region of a human immunoglobulin, wherein the first and second antigen binding regions bind different epitopes on CD37 and wherein the first and second Fc regions comprises one or more amino acid mutations which mutation(s) enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between the bispecific antibodies upon binding to membrane-bound targets compared to the Fc-Fc interaction between bispecific antibodies not having said mutation(s). Hereby a bispecific anti-CD37 antibody is provided which binds two different epitopes on CD37. Preferably the two epitopes are such that both binding arms can bind the same protein and thus such that each binding arm does not block binding of the other arm and/or does not compete for binding with the other binding arm of the bispecific molecule. Also, the bispecific antibody comprises a mutation that enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between two or more of the bispecific antibodies of the invention. This has the effect that the bispecific molecules form oligomers upon binding to CD37 expressed on the plasma membrane of the target cell. The Fc-Fc interaction is enhanced compared to a molecule that is identical except for the mutation. Preferably the mutation is in the Fc region of the bispecific molecule. In one embodiment it is a single amino acid substitution in the Fc region of the bispecific molecule. It is preferably a symmetric substitution meaning that both half molecules (parental antibodies) have the mutation. It is a further advantage of the present bispecific antibody that it has enhanced CDC and/or ADCC effector functions compared to an identical bispecific molecule not having the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation. Surprisingly the bispecific molecule also has improved CDC and/or ADCC compared to a combination of the two parental monoclonal anti-CD37 antibodies which are mutated to have enhanced Fc-Fc interactions, and improved CDC and/or ADCC compared to either parental monoclonal anti-CD37 antibody which is mutated to have enhanced Fc-Fc interactions by itself. Thus, the bispecific antibody of the invention is more potent in inducing CDC and/or ADCC than a combination of an antibody having the first antigen binding region and a second antibody having the second antigen binding region and where both antibodies comprise the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, or compared to the single monoclonal anti-CD37 antibodies having the first or the second antigen binding regions and which comprise the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation.

In an embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20,
 VL CDR2 sequence KAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21. **[010]**

Preferably competition for binding is determined according to example 7.

In another embodiment the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20,
 VL CDR2 sequence KAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21. **[010]**

In a further embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20,
 VL CDR2 sequence KAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21. **[010]**

In a further embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody of the invention comprise the VH and VL sequences:

- (i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 15 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 or
- (ii) VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as

at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequences of SEQ ID Nos 15 and 19.

In a further embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13,
 VL CDR2 sequence: AAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14. **[005]**

In a further embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13,
 VL CDR2 sequence: AAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14. **[005]**

In one embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody has a functional epitope comprising one or more of the amino acids Y182, D189, T191, I192, D194, K195, V196, I197 and P199 of SEQ ID No: 62 (CD37).

In one embodiment of the invention said first antigen binding region binds to a functional epitope comprising one or more of the amino acids selected from the group consisting of :Y182, D189, T191, I192, D194, K195, V196, I197 and P199 of SEQ ID No: 62 (CD37).

In one embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to a functional epitope on CD37, wherein binding to a mutant CD37 in which any one or more of the amino acid residues at positions corresponding to positions Y182, D189, T191, I192, D194, K195, V196, I197 and P199 of SEQ ID no 62 (CD37). has/have been substituted with alanines, is reduced as compared to wild type CD37 having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 62; reduced binding being determined as zscore(fold change) in binding of said

antibody being lowed that -1.5, wherein zscore(fold change) in binding is calculated as set forth in Example 17.

In a further embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13,
 VL CDR2 sequence: AAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14. **[005]**

In a further embodiment of the invention the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprise the VH and VL sequences:

- (i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12 or
- (ii) VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequences of SEQ ID Nos 8 and 12.

In a further embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group comprising:

- (i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
 VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**
- (ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
 VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

(iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

(iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
 VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

In a further embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
 VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**

(ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
 VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

(iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

(iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
 VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

Hereby bispecific antibodies are provided wherein the first and second antigen binding regions bind different epitopes on human CD37. The inventors of the present invention have found that the antibodies having the CDR sequences of antibody 005 (SEQ ID NOs 9, 10, 11 and 13, 13a, 14) and antibody 010 (SEQ ID NOs 16, 17, 18 and 20, 20a, 21) compete for binding to human CD37 and do not compete for binding to CD37 with any of the antibodies having the CDR sequences of antibodies 016 (SEQ ID NOs 23, 24, 25 and 27, 27a, 28), 004 (SEQ ID NOs 2, 3, 4 and 6, 6a, 7), G28.1 (SEQ ID NOs 40, 41, 42 and 44, 44a, 45) and 37.3 (SEQ ID NOs 47, 48, 49 and 51, 51a, 52). The 016, 004, G28.1 and 37.3 antibodies have however been found to compete with each other for binding to human CD37. Thus, a bispecific antibody comprising a first binding arm which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding with either of or both of the 005 or 010 antibodies and a second binding arm which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding with any of 016, 004, G28.1 and 37.3 or with all of these is a bispecific antibody which has specificity for two different epitopes on CD37. The inventors have surprisingly found that such bispecific antibodies have favorable CDC potency on CD37 expressing cells compared to treating such cells with a combination of the two monoclonal antibodies which do not compete for binding to CD37. Additionally, the inventors have surprisingly found that such bispecific antibodies have favorable ADCC potency on CD37 expressing cells compared to treating such cells with a combination of the two monoclonal antibodies which do not compete for binding to CD37.

In one embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of 016.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of 004.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of G28.1.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of 37.3.

In one embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of 016.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of 004.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and a second binding region which is

obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of G28.1.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a first antigen binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with an antibody having the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and a second binding region which is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with the antibody having the CDR sequences of 37.3.

Such bispecific antibodies described here may in further embodiments comprise an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing substitution in both Fc regions (i.e. the Fc regions obtained from the first and second parental antibody) of the bispecific antibody where the substitution corresponds to E430G in IgG1 when using EU numbering and which substitution enhances the Fc-Fc interaction of two or more bispecific antibodies of the invention upon binding to membrane-bound target. In another embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing substitution corresponds to E345K in IgG1 when using EU numbering.

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a second antigen binding region which binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group comprising:

- (i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**
- (ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**
- (iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

- iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
 VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

In another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody comprises a second antigen binding region which binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group consisting of:

- a. VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
 VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**
- b. VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
 VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**
- c. VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

- d. VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

In one embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody has a functional epitope comprising one or more of the amino acids E124, F162, Q163, V164, L165 and H175 of SEQ ID No:62 (CD37).

In one embodiment of the invention said second antigen binding region binds to a functional epitope comprising one or more of the amino acids selected from the group consisting of : E124, F162, Q163, V164, L165 and H175 of SEQ ID No:62 (CD37)

In one embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to a functional epitope on CD37, wherein binding to a mutant CD37 in which any one or more of the amino acid residues at positions corresponding to positions E124, F162, Q163, V164, L165 and H175 of SEQ ID No :62 (CD37). has/have been substituted with alanines, is reduced as compared to wild type CD37 having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 62; reduced binding being determined as zscore(fold change) in binding of said antibody being lowed that -1.5, wherein zscore(fold change) in binding is calculated as set forth in Example 17.

Accordingly, in one embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 016.

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 004.

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody G28.1.

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 010 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 37.3.

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 016.

In yet another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 004.

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody G28.1.

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 005 and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific

antibody binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences of antibody 37.3.

In a further embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences selected from the group comprising:

- (i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**

- (ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

- (iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

- (v) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

In a further embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
 VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**

(ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
 VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

(iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

(vi) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
 VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

Accordingly, the present invention also provides in another embodiment a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 16-18 and 20-21) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 016 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 23-25 and 27-28). As also described above, such bispecific antibody of the invention further comprises an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation in the Fc region of the antibody. In one embodiment this mutation

corresponds to a mutation in position E430 or E345 in IgG1 when using the EU numbering system. In one embodiment the mutation is an E430G substitution. In another embodiment it is an E345K substitution.

The present invention also provides in another embodiment a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 16-18 and 20-21) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 004 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 2-4 and 6-7).

The present invention also provides in another embodiment a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 16-18 and 20-21) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody G28.1 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 40-42 and 44-45).

The present invention also provides in another embodiment a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 16-18 and 20-21) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the CDR sequences of antibody 37.3 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 47-49 and 51-52).

In a further embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprise the VH and VL sequences selected from the group comprising:

- (i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 **[016]** or
- (ii) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 **[004]** or
- (iii) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 43 **[G28.1]** or
- (iv) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 50 **[37.3]** or

a VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequence, respectively, as set forth in any one of (i) to (iv).

In a further embodiment of the invention the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprise the VH and VL sequences selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 **[016]**,
- (ii) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 **[004]**,
- (iii) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 43 **[G28.1]**,
- (iv) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 50 **[37.3] and**

a VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequence, respectively, as set forth in any one of (i) to (iv).

Thus, in another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 15 and 19) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 016 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 22 and 26).

In another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID Nos 15 and 19) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 004 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 1 and 5).

In another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 15 and 19) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody G28.1 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 39 and 43).

In another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 010 (i.e. SEQ ID Nos 15

and 19) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 37.3 (i.e. SEQ ID Nos 46 and 50).

In yet another embodiment the present invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 005 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 8 and 12) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 016 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 22 and 26).

In another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 005 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 8 and 12) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 004 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 1 and 5).

In another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 005 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 8 and 12) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody G28.1 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 39 and 43).

In another embodiment the present invention also provides a bispecific antibody comprising a first and a second antigen binding region wherein the first antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 005 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 8 and 12) and wherein the second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody comprises the VH and VL sequences of antibody 37.3 (i.e. SEQ ID NOs 46 and 50).

In yet other embodiments of the present invention the VH and VL sequences disclosed above may vary within 90% sequence identity.

In yet a different embodiment the present invention provides a CD37 binding molecule comprising one antigen binding region described herein, wherein the CDR sequences are the CDR sequences of one of the antibodies 004, 005, 010, 016, 28.1 or 37.3. In one embodiment such molecule only has one antigen binding region. Hereby the binding molecule has monovalent binding for CD37. Preferably such molecule comprises an intact Fc region of an immunoglobulin. In one embodiment the CD37-binding molecule comprise a second antigen binding region for an irrelevant target which e.g. may be b12.

Fc-Fc enhancing mutations

In one embodiment of the invention the one or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions of the bispecific antibody are amino acid substitutions. The Fc region of the bispecific antibody can be said to comprise two different Fc regions, one from each parental anti-CD37 antibody. Alternatively, the bispecific antibody may comprise one or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in each half-molecule. It is to be understood that the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are symmetrical, i.e., identical mutations are made in the two Fc regions.

In one embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody wherein the one or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions are amino acid substitutions at one or more positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 440 and 345 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system. In one embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody wherein the one or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions are amino acid substitutions at one or more positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 440 and 345 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system, with the proviso that the substitution in 440 is 440Y or 440W

In another embodiment the invention provides a bispecific antibody comprising at least one substitution in said first and second Fc regions selected from the group comprising: E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a particular preferred embodiment the bispecific antibody comprises at least one substitution in said first and second Fc regions selected from E430G or E345K, preferably E430G. Hereby bispecific antibodies are provided which will have enhanced Fc-Fc interaction between different antibodies having said mutation. It is believed that this mutation cause the antibodies to form oligomers on the target cell and thereby enhancing CDC.

In another embodiment the bispecific antibody contains one further mutation in said Fc regions which mutation is selected from K439E, S440K and S440R. A bispecific antibody having an additional mutation of K439E and a second different antibody or bispecific antibody having an additional S440K or S440R mutation will form oligomers in alternating patterns of the first and the second antibodies. This is thought to be because the additional mutations will cause a preference for interaction between the first and second antibodies rather than interaction between first and first or second and second antibodies due to non-covalent binding between said Fc regions.

It is preferred that the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions are identical substitutions in said first and second Fc regions. Accordingly, in one preferred embodiment the bispecific antibodies have the same Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation in both Fc regions. The Fc region can also be described as Fc chains so that an antibody has two Fc chains

which make up a common Fc region of the antibody. Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment the two Fc chains each comprise a substitution of a position selected from the group of positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 440 and 345 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system. In one embodiment the two Fc chains each comprise an E430G substitution so that a bispecific antibody of the invention comprises two E430G substitutions. In another embodiment the two Fc chains each comprise an E345K substitution so that the bispecific antibody of the invention comprises two E345K substitutions.

In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is an IgG1 isotype.

In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is an IgG2 isotype.

In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is an IgG3 isotype.

In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is an IgG4 isotype.

In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is an IgG isotype.

In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is a combination of the isotypes IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and IgG4. For example the first half antibody obtained from the first parental antibody may be an IgG1 isotype and the second half antibody obtained from the second parental antibody may be an IgG4 isotype so that the bispecific antibody is a combination of IgG1 and IgG4. In another embodiment it is a combination of IgG1 and IgG2. In another embodiment it is a combination of IgG1 and IgG3. In another embodiment it is a combination of IgG2 and IgG3. In another embodiment it is a combination of IgG2 and IgG4. In another embodiment it is a combination of IgG3 and IgG4. Typically the core hinge will be an IgG1 type core hinge having the sequence CPPC but it could be other hinges which are stable and do not allow Fab arm exchange in vivo which is the case for the IgG4 core hinge having the sequence CPSC.

In a preferred embodiment the bispecific antibody of the invention is a full length antibody.

In yet another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is a human antibody. In yet another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is a humanized antibody. In yet another embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is a chimeric antibody. In an embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody is a combination of human, humanized and chimeric. For example the first half antibody obtained from the first parental antibody may be a human antibody and the second half antibody obtained from the second parental antibody may be a humanized antibody so that the bispecific antibody is a combination of human and humanized. In a preferred embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody binds both human and cynomolgus monkey CD37, having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID Nos 62 and 63, respectively. This is an advantage as this will allow preclinical toxicology studies to be performed in the cynomolgus monkey with the same bispecific molecule that will later be tested in humans. In

cases where the antibodies against a human target do not also bind the target in an animal model it is very difficult to perform the preclinical toxicology studies and the non-clinical safety profile of the molecules, which is a requirement by regulatory authorities.

Bispecific antibody formats

The present invention provides bispecific CD37xCD37 antibodies which efficiently promote CDC- and/or ADCC-mediated killing of CD37-expressing tumor cells such as e.g. B-cell derived tumors. Depending on the desired functional properties for a particular use, particular antigen-binding regions can be selected from the set of antibodies or antigen-binding regions provided by the present invention. Many different formats and uses of bispecific antibodies are known in the art, and were reviewed by Kontermann; Drug Discov Today, 2015 Jul;20(7):838-47 and; MAbs, 2012 Mar-Apr;4(2):182-97.

A bispecific antibody according to the present invention is not limited to any particular bispecific format or method of producing it, however, a bispecific antibody of the invention should have an intact Fc domain in order to induce enhanced Fc-Fc interactions.

Examples of bispecific antibody molecules which may be used in the present invention comprise (i) a single antibody that has two arms comprising different antigen-binding regions; (ii) a dual-variable-domain antibody (DVD-Ig) where each light chain and heavy chain contains two variable domains in tandem through a short peptide linkage (Wu et al., Generation and Characterization of a Dual Variable Domain Immunoglobulin (DVD-Ig™) Molecule, In: Antibody Engineering, Springer Berlin Heidelberg (2010)); (iii) a so-called "dock and lock" molecule, based on the "dimerization and docking domain" in Protein Kinase A.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody of the present invention is a cross-body or a bispecific antibody obtained via a controlled Fab-arm exchange (such as described in WO2011131746 (Genmab)).

Examples of different classes of bispecific antibodies include but are not limited to (i) IgG-like molecules with complementary CH3 domains to force heterodimerization; (ii) recombinant IgG-like dual targeting molecules, wherein the two sides of the molecule each contain the Fab fragment or part of the Fab fragment of at least two different antibodies; (iii) IgG fusion molecules, wherein full length IgG antibodies are fused to extra Fab fragment or parts of Fab fragment; (iv) Fc fusion molecules, wherein single chain Fv molecules or stabilized diabodies are fused to heavy-chain constant-domains, Fc-regions or parts thereof; (v) Fab fusion molecules, wherein different Fab-fragments are fused together, fused to heavy-chain constant-domains, Fc-regions or parts thereof; and (vi) scFv- and diabody-based and heavy chain antibodies (e.g.,

domain antibodies, nanobodies) wherein different single chain Fv molecules or different diabodies or different heavy-chain antibodies (e.g. domain antibodies, nanobodies) are fused to an Fc-.

Examples of IgG-like molecules with complementary CH3 domain molecules include but are not limited to the Triomab/Quadroma molecules (Trion Pharma/Fresenius Biotech; Roche, WO2011069104), the so-called Knobs-into-Holes molecules (Genentech, WO9850431), CrossMAbs (Roche, WO2011117329) and the electrostatically-steered molecules (Amgen, EP1870459 and WO2009089004; Chugai, US201000155133; Oncomed, WO2010129304), the LUZ-Y molecules (Genentech, Wranik et al. J. Biol. Chem. 2012, 287(52): 43331-9, doi: 10.1074/jbc.M112.397869. Epub 2012 Nov 1), DIG-body and PIG-body molecules (Pharmabcine, WO2010134666, WO2014081202), the Strand Exchange Engineered Domain body (SEEDbody) molecules (EMD Serono, WO2007110205), the Biclonics molecules (Merus, WO2013157953), Fc Δ Adp molecules (Regeneron, WO201015792), hinge engineered bispecific IgG1 and IgG2 molecules (Pfizer/Rinat, WO11143545), Azymetric scaffold molecules (Zymeworks/Merck, WO2012058768), mAb-Fv molecules (Xencor, WO2011028952), bivalent bispecific antibodies (WO2009080254) and the DuoBody® molecules (Genmab A/S, WO2011131746).

Examples of recombinant IgG-like dual targeting molecules include but are not limited to Dual Targeting (DT)-Ig molecules (WO2009058383), Two-in-one Antibody (Genentech; Bostrom, et al 2009. Science 323, 1610–1614.), Cross-linked Mabs (Karmanos Cancer Center), mAb2 (F-Star, WO2008003116), Zybody molecules (Zyngenia; LaFleur et al. MAbs. 2013 Mar-Apr;5(2):208-18), approaches with common light chain (Crucell/Merus, US7,262,028), $\kappa\lambda$ Bodies (NovImmune, WO2012023053) and CovX-body (CovX/Pfizer; Doppalapudi, V.R., et al 2007. Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 17,501–506.).

Examples of IgG fusion molecules include but are not limited to Dual Variable Domain (DVD)-Ig molecules (Abbott, US7,612,181), Dual domain double head antibodies (Unilever; Sanofi Aventis, WO20100226923), IgG-like Bispecific molecules (ImClone/Eli Lilly, Lewis et al. Nat Biotechnol. 2014 Feb;32(2):191-8), Ts2Ab (MedImmune/AZ; Dimasi et al. J Mol Biol. 2009 Oct 30;393(3):672-92) and BsAb molecules (Zymogenetics, WO2010111625), HERCULES molecules (Biogen Idec, US007951918), scFv fusion molecules (Novartis), scFv fusion molecules (Changzhou Adam Biotech Inc, CN 102250246) and TvAb molecules (Roche, WO2012025525, WO2012025530).

Examples of Fc fusion molecules include but are not limited to ScFv/Fc Fusions (Pearce et al., Biochem Mol Biol Int. 1997 Sep;42(6):1179-88), SCORPION molecules (Emergent BioSolutions/Trubion, Blankenship JW, et al. AACR 100 th Annual meeting 2009 (Abstract # 5465); Zymogenetics/BMS, WO2010111625), Dual Affinity Retargeting Technology (Fc-DART)

molecules (MacroGenics, WO2008157379, WO2010080538) and Dual(ScFv)₂-Fab molecules (National Research Center for Antibody Medicine – China).

Examples of Fab fusion bispecific antibodies include but are not limited to F(ab)₂ molecules (Medarex/AMGEN; Deo et al J Immunol. 1998 Feb 15;160(4):1677-86.), Dual-Action or Bis-Fab molecules (Genentech, Bostrom, et al 2009. Science 323, 1610–1614.), Dock-and-Lock (DNL) molecules (ImmunoMedics, WO2003074569, WO2005004809), Bivalent Bispecific molecules (Biotechnol, Schoonjans, J Immunol. 2000 Dec 15;165(12):7050-7.) and Fab-Fv molecules (UCB-Celltech, WO 2009040562 A1).

Examples of scFv-, diabody-based and domain antibodies include but are not limited to Dual Affinity Retargeting Technology (DART) molecules (MacroGenics, WO2008157379, WO2010080538), COMBODY molecules (Epigen Biotech, Zhu et al. Immunol Cell Biol. 2010 Aug;88(6):667-75.), and dual targeting nanobodies (Ablynx, Hmila et al., FASEB J. 2010).

In one aspect, the bispecific antibody of the invention comprises a first Fc-region comprising a first CH₃ region, and a second Fc-region comprising a second CH₃ region, wherein the sequences of the first and second CH₃ regions are different and are such that the heterodimeric interaction between said first and second CH₃ regions is stronger than each of the homodimeric interactions of said first and second CH₃ regions. More details on these interactions and how they can be achieved are provided in WO2011131746 and WO2013060867 (Genmab), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

As described further herein, a stable bispecific CD37xCD37 antibody can be obtained at high yield using a particular method on the basis of one homodimeric starting CD37 antibody and another homodimeric starting CD37 antibody containing only a few, fairly conservative, asymmetrical mutations in the CH₃ regions. Asymmetrical mutations mean that the sequences of said first and second CH₃ regions contain amino acid substitutions at non-identical positions so that the first and second CH₃ regions have different amino acid sequences.

In one aspect, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises first and second Fc region, wherein each of said first and second Fc region comprises at least a hinge region, a CH₂ and a CH₃ region, wherein in said first Fc region at least one of the amino acids in the positions corresponding to a positions selected from the group consisting of T366, L368, K370, D399, F405, Y407, and K409 in a human IgG1 heavy chain has been substituted, and in said second Fc region at least one of the amino acids in the positions corresponding to a position selected from the group consisting of T366, L368, K370, D399, F405, Y407, and K409 in a human IgG1 heavy chain has been substituted, and wherein said first and said second Fc regions are not substituted in the same positions.

Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment of the invention the first Fc region of the bispecific antibody comprises a mutation of the amino acid corresponding to position F405 in human IgG1 and the second Fc region of the bispecific antibody comprises a further mutation of the amino acid corresponding to position K409 in human IgG1. Accordingly, these mutations are asymmetric compared to the above mentioned Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 366, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 368, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409. In one embodiment the amino acid at position 366 is selected from Ala, Asp, Glu, His, Asn, Val, or Gln.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 368, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 370, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 399, 405, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 399, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 405, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 405, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 407, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, and 409.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at position 409, and said second Fc-region has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, and 407.

Accordingly, in one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the sequences of said first and second Fc-region contain asymmetrical mutations, *i.e.* mutations at different positions in the two Fc-regions, e.g. a mutation at position 405 in one of the Fc-regions and a mutation at position 409 in the other Fc-region.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino-acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 405 and 407. In one such embodiment, said first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino acid other than Phe, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Lys, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, Cys, Lys, or Leu, at position 405. In a further embodiment hereof, said first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino acid other than Phe, Arg or Gly, e.g. Leu, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Met, Lys, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 405.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises a Phe at position 405 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises an amino acid other than Phe, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Lys, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, Leu, Met, or Cys, at position 405 and a Lys at position 409. In a further embodiment hereof, said first Fc-region comprises a Phe at position 405 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises an amino acid other than Phe, Arg or Gly, e.g. Leu, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Met, Lys, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 405 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises a Phe at position 405 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises a Leu at position 405 and a Lys at position 409. In a further embodiment hereof, said first Fc-region comprises a Phe at position 405 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises an amino acid other than Phe, Arg or Gly, e.g. Leu, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Lys, Met, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys,

at position 405 and a Lys at position 409. In another embodiment, said first Fc-region comprises Phe at position 405 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises a Leu at position 405 and a Lys at position 409.

In a further embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises a Lys at position 409, a Thr at position 370 and a Leu at position 405. In a further embodiment, said first Fc-region comprises an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises a Lys at position 409, a Thr at position 370 and a Leu at position 405.

In an even further embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises a Lys at position 370, a Phe at position 405 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises a Lys at position 409, a Thr at position 370 and a Leu at position 405.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises a Lys at position 409 and: a) an Ile at position 350 and a Leu at position 405, or b) a Thr at position 370 and a Leu at position 405.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc region comprises a Lys at position 409 and: a) an Ile at position 350 and a Leu at position 405, or b) a Thr at position 370 and a Leu at position 405.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises a Thr at position 350, a Lys at position 370, a Phe at position 405 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc region comprises a Lys at position 409 and: a) an Ile at position 350 and a Leu at position 405, or b) a Thr at position 370 and a Leu at position 405.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region comprises a Thr at position 350, a Lys at position 370, a Phe at position 405 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region comprises an Ile at position 350, a Thr at position 370, a Leu at position 405 and a Lys at position 409.

In one embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino acid other than Phe at position 405, such as other than

Phe, Arg or Gly at position 405; or said first CH3 region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 and said second CH3 region has an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr at position 407.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region having an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 and a second Fc-region having an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr at position 407.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region having a Tyr at position 407 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 and a second Fc-region having an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region having a Tyr at position 407 and an Arg at position 409 and a second Fc-region having an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment, said first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr, e.g. Leu, Met, Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, His, Asn, Pro, Trp, or Cys, at position 407. In another embodiment, said first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an Ala, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Met, Asn, Val or Trp at position 407.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has a Gly, Leu, Met, Asn or Trp at position 407.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has a Tyr at position 407 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr, e.g. Leu, Met, Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, His, Asn, Pro, Trp, or Cys, at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has a Tyr at position 407 and an amino acid other than Lys,

Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an Ala, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Met, Asn, Val or Trp at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has a Tyr at position 407 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409 and said second Fc-region has a Gly, Leu, Met, Asn or Trp at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has a Tyr at position 407 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an amino acid other than Tyr, Asp, Glu, Phe, Lys, Gln, Arg, Ser or Thr, e.g. Leu, Met, Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, His, Asn, Pro, Trp, or Cys, at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has a Tyr at position 407 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region has an Ala, Gly, His, Ile, Leu, Met, Asn, Val or Trp at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, said first Fc-region has a Tyr at position 407 and an Arg at position 409 and said second Fc-region has a Gly, Leu, Met, Asn or Trp at position 407 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment of the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein, the first Fc-region has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Phe, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 409, and the second Fc-region has

- (i) an amino acid other than Phe, Leu and Met, e.g. Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Lys, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Pro, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 368, or
- (ii) a Trp at position 370, or
- (iii) an amino acid other than Asp, Cys, Pro, Glu or Gln, e.g. Phe, Leu, Met, Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Lys, Arg, His, Asn, Trp, Tyr, or Cys, at position 399 or
- (iv) an amino acid other than Lys, Arg, Ser, Thr, or Trp, e.g. Phe, Leu, Met, Ala, Val, Gly, Ile, Asn, His, Asp, Glu, Gln, Pro, Tyr, or Cys, at position 366.

In one embodiment, the first Fc-region has an Arg, Ala, His or Gly at position 409, and the second Fc region has

- (i) a Lys, Gln, Ala, Asp, Glu, Gly, His, Ile, Asn, Arg, Ser, Thr, Val, or Trp at position 368, or

- (ii) a Trp at position 370, or
- (iii) an Ala, Gly, Ile, Leu, Met, Asn, Ser, Thr, Trp, Phe, His, Lys, Arg or Tyr at position 399, or
- (iv) an Ala, Asp, Glu, His, Asn, Val, Gln, Phe, Gly, Ile, Leu, Met, or Tyr at position 366.

In one embodiment, the first Fc-region has an Arg at position 409, and the second Fc region has

- (i) an Asp, Glu, Gly, Asn, Arg, Ser, Thr, Val, or Trp at position 368, or
- (ii) a Trp at position 370, or
- (iii) a Phe, His, Lys, Arg or Tyr at position 399, or
- (iv) an Ala, Asp, Glu, His, Asn, Val, Gln at position 366.

In addition to the above-specified amino-acid substitutions, said first and second Fc regions may contain further amino-acid substitutions, deletion or insertions relative to wild-type Fc sequences.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the second Fc region of the bispecific antibody comprises a mutation corresponding to F405 in human IgG1 and the first Fc region comprises a mutation corresponding to K409 in human IgG1 when using EU numbering.

In one embodiment the mutations at position F405 and K409 are substitutions. In a particular embodiment the substitution at position F405 is an F405L substitution. In another embodiment the substitution at position K409 is a K409R substitution.

In embodiments where the bispecific antibody is an IgG4 isotype the first Fc region may further comprise an F405L substitution and an R409K substitution. In such embodiments the second Fc region is not substituted in any of 405 and 409 amino acid positions.

It is to be understood that except expressly stated otherwise all the mentioned amino acid mutations at the disclosed positions are mutations relative to a human IgG1 and using human IgG1 for numbering using the EU numbering system.

In one embodiment, neither said first nor said second Fc-region comprises a Cys-Pro-Ser-Cys sequence in the core hinge region.

In a further embodiment, both said first and said second Fc-region comprise a Cys-Pro-Pro-Cys sequence in the core hinge region.

Hereby bispecific antibodies are provided which can be produced in high yields and which are stable in vivo.

In another embodiment the bispecific antibody of the invention has increased CDC and/or ADCC effector functions compared to an identical bispecific antibody which does not have the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In another embodiment the bispecific antibody of the

invention has increased CDC and/or ADCC effector functions compared to a monoclonal parental antibody having a binding region of either the first or the second binding region of the bispecific antibody and having identical Fc-Fc enhancing mutations as the bispecific antibody of the invention.

Method of preparing bispecific antibodies of the invention

Traditional methods such as the hybrid hybridoma and chemical conjugation methods (Marvin and Zhu (2005) Acta Pharmacol Sin 26:649) can be used in the preparation of the bispecific antibodies of the invention. Co-expression in a host cell of two antibodies, consisting of different heavy and light chains, leads to a mixture of possible antibody products in addition to the desired bispecific antibody, which can then be isolated by, e.g., affinity chromatography or similar methods.

Strategies favoring the formation of a functional bispecific product, upon co-expression of different antibody constructs can also be used, e.g., the method described by Lindhofer et al. (1995 J Immunol 155:219). Fusion of rat and mouse hybridomas producing different antibodies leads to a limited number of heterodimeric proteins because of preferential species-restricted heavy/light chain pairing. Another strategy to promote formation of heterodimers over homodimers is a "knob-into-hole" strategy in which a protuberance is introduced on a first heavy-chain polypeptide and a corresponding cavity in a second heavy-chain polypeptide, such that the protuberance can be positioned in the cavity at the interface of these two heavy chains so as to promote heterodimer formation and hinder homodimer formation. "Protuberances" are constructed by replacing small amino-acid side-chains from the interface of the first polypeptide with larger side chains. Compensatory "cavities" of identical or similar size to the protuberances are created in the interface of the second polypeptide by replacing large amino-acid side-chains with smaller ones (US patent 5,731,168). EP1870459 (Chugai) and WO2009089004 (Amgen) describe other strategies for favoring heterodimer formation upon co-expression of different antibody domains in a host cell. In these methods, one or more residues that make up the CH3-CH3 interface in both CH3 domains are replaced with a charged amino acid such that homodimer formation is electrostatically unfavorable and heterodimerization is electrostatically favorable. WO2007110205 (Merck) describe yet another strategy, wherein differences between IgA and IgG CH3 domains are exploited to promote heterodimerization.

Another *in vitro* method for producing bispecific antibodies has been described in WO2008119353 (Genmab), wherein a bispecific antibody is formed by "Fab-arm" or "half-molecule" exchange (swapping of a heavy chain and attached light chain) between two

monospecific IgG4- or IgG4-like antibodies upon incubation under reducing conditions. The resulting product is a bispecific antibody having two Fab arms which may comprise different sequences.

A preferred method for preparing the bispecific CD37xCD37 antibodies of the present invention includes the methods described in WO2011131746 and WO2013060867 (Genmab) comprising the following steps:

- a) providing a first antibody comprising an Fc region, said Fc region comprising a first CH3 region;
 - b) providing a second antibody comprising a second Fc region, said Fc region comprising a second CH3 region, wherein the first antibody is a CD37 antibody and the second antibody is a different CD37 antibody;
- wherein the sequences of said first and second CH3 regions are different and are such that the heterodimeric interaction between said first and second CH3 regions is stronger than each of the homodimeric interactions of said first and second CH3 regions;
- c) incubating said first antibody together with said second antibody under reducing conditions; and
 - d) obtaining said bispecific antibody.

In one embodiment, said first antibody together with said second antibody are incubated under reducing conditions sufficient to allow the cysteines in the hinge region to undergo disulfide-bond isomerization, wherein the heterodimeric interaction between said first and second antibodies in the resulting heterodimeric antibody is such that no Fab-arm exchange occurs at 0.5 mM GSH after 24 hours at 37° C.

Without being limited to theory, in step c), the heavy-chain disulfide bonds in the hinge regions of the parent antibodies are reduced and the resulting cysteines are then able to form inter heavy-chain disulfide bond with cysteine residues of another parent antibody molecule (originally with a different specificity). In one embodiment of this method, the reducing conditions in step c) comprise the addition of a reducing agent, e.g. a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of: 2-mercaptoethylamine (2-MEA), dithiothreitol (DTT), dithioerythritol (DTE), glutathione, tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP), L-cysteine and beta-mercapto-ethanol, preferably a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of: 2-mercaptoethylamine, dithiothreitol and tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine. In a further embodiment, step c) comprises restoring the conditions to become non-reducing or less reducing, for example by removal of a reducing agent, e.g. by desalting.

For this method any of the CD37 antibodies described herein may be used including first and second CD37 antibodies, comprising a first and/or second Fc region. Examples of such first and second Fc regions, including combination of such first and second Fc regions may include any of those described herein.

In one embodiment of this method, said first and/or second antibodies are full-length antibodies.

The Fc regions of the first and second antibodies may be of any isotype, including, but not limited to, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4. In one embodiment of this method, the Fc regions of both said first and said second antibodies are of the IgG1 isotype. In another embodiment, one of the Fc regions of said antibodies is of the IgG1 isotype and the other of the IgG4 isotype. In the latter embodiment, the resulting bispecific antibody comprises an Fc region of an IgG1 and an Fc region of IgG4 and may thus have interesting intermediate properties with respect to activation of effector functions.

In a further embodiment, one of the antibody starting proteins has been engineered to not bind Protein A, thus allowing to separate the heterodimeric protein from said homodimeric starting protein by passing the product over a protein A column.

As described above, the sequences of the first and second CH3 regions of the homodimeric starting antibodies (the parental antibodies) are different and are such that the heterodimeric interaction between said first and second CH3 regions is stronger than each of the homodimeric interactions of said first and second CH3 regions. More details on these interactions and how they can be achieved are provided in WO2011131746 and WO2013060867 (Genmab), which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

In particular, a stable bispecific CD37xCD37 antibody can be obtained at high yield using the above method of the invention on the basis of two homodimeric starting antibodies which bind different epitopes of CD37 and contain only a few, fairly conservative, asymmetrical mutations in the CH3 regions. Asymmetrical mutations mean that the sequences of said first and second CH3 regions contain amino acid substitutions at non-identical positions.

The bispecific antibodies of the invention may also be obtained by co-expression of constructs encoding the first and second polypeptides in a single cell. Thus, in a further aspect, the invention relates to a method for producing a bispecific antibody, said method comprising the following steps:

a) providing a first nucleic-acid construct encoding a first polypeptide comprising a first Fc region and a first antigen-binding region of a first antibody heavy chain, said first Fc region comprising a first CH3 region,

- b) providing a second nucleic-acid construct encoding a second polypeptide comprising a second Fc region and a second antigen-binding region of a second antibody heavy chain, said second Fc region comprising a second CH3 region, wherein the sequences of said first and second CH3 regions are different and are such that the heterodimeric interaction between said first and second CH3 regions is stronger than each of the homodimeric interactions of said first and second CH3 regions, optionally wherein said first and second nucleic acid constructs encode light chain sequences of said first and second antibodies
- c) co-expressing said first and second nucleic-acid constructs in a host cell, and
- d) obtaining said heterodimeric protein from the cell culture.

Thus, the present invention also relates to a recombinant eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cell which produces a bispecific antibody of the present invention.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the bispecific antibody is obtained by any of the methods according to the present invention.

Suitable expression vectors, including promoters, enhancers, etc., and suitable host cells for the production of antibodies are well-known in the art. Examples of host cells include yeast, bacterial and mammalian cells, such as CHO or HEK cells.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region and a second Fc-region, wherein neither said first nor said second Fc-region comprises a Cys-Pro-Ser-Cys sequence in the hinge region.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region and a second Fc-region, wherein both of said first and said second Fc-region comprise a Cys-Pro-Pro-Cys sequence in the hinge region.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region and a second Fc-region, wherein the first and second Fc-regions are human antibody Fc-regions.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region and a second Fc-region, wherein the first and second antigen-binding regions comprise human antibody VH sequences and, optionally, human antibody VL sequences.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region and a second Fc-region, wherein the first and second antigen-binding regions are from heavy-chain antibodies.

In one embodiment, the bispecific antibody as defined in any of the embodiments disclosed herein comprises a first Fc-region and a second Fc-region, wherein the first and second antigen-binding regions comprise a first and second light chain.

In further embodiments, the co-expression method according to the invention comprises any of the further features described under the *in vitro* method above.

Parental antibodies

In another embodiment the invention relates to the parental antibodies which are used to prepare the bispecific antibodies of the invention.

Thus, in an embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody binding to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody which antibody comprises:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21[**010**]; or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14[**005**].

In another embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody which competes for binding with an anti-CD37 antibody comprising:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 [**010**]; or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14 [**005**].

In another embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody comprising:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 [**010**]; or

- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14 **[005]**.

In another embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody which comprises:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27, and CDR2 sequence: YAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]** or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and CDR2 sequence: EAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7. **[004]**

In another embodiment the invention relates to an antibody as defined above which comprises one or more amino acid mutations in the Fc region of the antibody which mutation(s) enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between the antibodies upon target binding compared to the Fc-Fc interaction between antibodies not having said mutation(s).

It is believed that said enhanced Fc-Fc interaction has the effect that the antibodies form oligomers such as e.g. hexamers on the target cells which oligomers formation causes the effect of enhanced CDC. In a preferred embodiment the one or more amino acid mutations in the Fc region of the antibody is amino acid substitutions at one or more positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 440 and 345 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system and where the substitution is relative to the amino acid sequence of human IgG1. In one embodiment the one or more amino acid mutations in the Fc region of the antibody is an amino acid substitution at one or more positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 345 and 440 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system, with the proviso that the substitution in 440 is 440Y or 440W. In an embodiment the at least one amino acid substitution in the Fc region is selected from the group comprising: E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W.

In a preferred embodiment the at least one substitution in said Fc region is selected from E430G or E345K, preferably E430G. These Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are symmetrical mutations so that the two Fc chains of the antibody have identical mutations/substitutions.

In a further embodiment the antibody may further comprise a substitution at a position corresponding to 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409 in human IgG1. An antibody having a

substitution in one of these amino acid positions is a stable antibody; however, it can, under reducing conditions in a so called "fab arm exchange" reaction, form bispecific antibodies with an antibody having a substitution in another of these amino acid positions and having a different antigen binding region. Under reducing conditions sufficient to allow the cysteines in the hinge region to undergo disulfide-bond isomerization an antibody of the invention will form half molecules each comprising a single antigen binding site and an Fc region. The substitutions at non-identical positions in any of positions corresponding to 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409 in human IgG1 will cause the half molecules of the first antibody to favor dimerization with half molecules of the second antibody so that bispecific (heterodimeric) antibodies will form when the reducing conditions are removed and the disulfide bonds in the hinge region re-forms.

Thus, two antibodies of the present invention having different antigen binding regions and binding different epitopes on CD37 and containing a substitution in both Fc chains (Fc regions) in any of the amino acid positions corresponding to 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409 in human IgG1 but in non-identical positions may be suitable for preparing a bispecific antibody of the invention.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 366, and said second homodimeric protein has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 368, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409. In one embodiment the amino acid at position 366 is selected from Arg, Lys, Asn, Gln, Tyr, Glu and Gly.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 368, and said second antibody has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 370, 399, 405, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 370, and said second antibody has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 399, 405, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 399, and said second antibody has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 405, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 405, and said second antibody has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 407 and 409.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 407, and said second antibody has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, and 409.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid substitution at position 409, and said second antibody has an amino acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 405, and 407.

In one embodiment, the first antibody has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 such as an amino acid selected from the group comprising: Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Trp, Phe, or Tyr at position 409 and said second antibody has an amino-acid substitution at a position selected from the group consisting of: 366, 368, 370, 399, 405 and 407.

In one such embodiment, said first antibody has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 such as an amino acid selected from the group comprising: Gly, Ala, Val, Ile, Ser, Thr, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Trp, Phe, or Tyr at position 409 and said second antibody has an amino acid other than Phe at position 405 such as an amino acid selected from the group comprising: Gly, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile, Ser, Thr, Lys, Arg, His, Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln, Trp, Met or Tyr at the position corresponding to 405 in IgG1. In a further embodiment hereof, said first antibody has an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 and said second antibody has an amino acid other than Phe, Arg or Gly at position 405.

In another embodiment, said first antibody comprises a Phe at position 405 and an amino acid other than Lys, Leu or Met at position 409 and said second antibody comprises an amino acid other than Phe at position 405 and a Lys at position 409.

In another embodiment, said first antibody comprises Phe at position 405 and an Arg at position 409 and said second antibody comprises a Leu at position 405 and a Lys at position 409. In embodiments where the antibodies are of IgG1, IgG2 or IgG3 isotypes the first antibody may comprise an F405L substitution and the second antibody may comprise a K409R substitution or vice versa. However, in embodiments where the antibodies are both of the IgG4 isotypes the amino acid in position 409 is naturally an Arg (R). Thus, in such embodiments the first antibody is not substituted in position 409 but naturally has an R409 and the second antibody comprises F405L and R405K substitutions, or vice versa; the second antibody is not substituted in position 409 but naturally has an R409 and the first antibody comprises F405L and R405K substitutions. In embodiments where one or both of the first and the second antibodies are of the IgG4 isotype

Accordingly, in one embodiment the antibody of the invention may comprise a substitution corresponding to F405L in human IgG1. In another embodiment an antibody of the invention may comprise a substitution corresponding to K409R in human IgG1. Such two different antibodies are suitable for preparing a bispecific antibody of the invention. In a particularly preferred embodiment a first antibody of the invention comprises an F405L and an E430G substitution and a

second antibody of the invention comprises a K409R and an E430G substitution. Hereby antibodies are provided which may form bispecific antibodies of the invention which bispecific antibodies comprise a first half molecule comprising F405L+E430G substitutions and a second half molecule comprising K409R+E430G when using IgG1 for numbering. In embodiments where the isotype is IgG4 the first half molecule comprises F405L+R409K+E430G substitutions and the second half molecule comprises an E430G when using IgG4 for numbering. Preferably, in such IgG4 embodiments the core hinge region is substituted from a 'CPSC' amino acid sequence to a 'CPPC' sequence to make the bispecific antibody more stable *in vivo* and/or *in vitro* compared to an IgG4 antibody having the CPSC core hinge.

In one embodiment of the invention the first antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 **[010]**; and an Fc region comprising an F405L substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In another embodiment of the invention the first antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21 **[010]**; and an Fc region comprising an K409R substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In another embodiment of the invention the first antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14 **[005]**; and an Fc region comprising an F405L substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group

comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In yet another embodiment of the invention the first antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14 **[005]**; and an Fc region comprising an K409R substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In one embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27, and CDR2 sequence: YAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28 **[016]**; and an Fc region comprising an F405L substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27, and CDR2 sequence: YAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28 **[016]**; and an Fc region comprising an K409R substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and CDR2 sequence: EAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 **[004]**; and an Fc region comprising an F405L substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction

enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In yet another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and CDR2 sequence: EAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7 **[004]**; and an Fc region comprising an K409R substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44, and CDR2 sequence: FAK, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 **[G28.1]**; and an Fc region comprising an F405L substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In yet another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44, and CDR2 sequence: FAK, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 **[G28.1]**; and an Fc region comprising an K409R substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49, and a VL region comprising a CDR1

sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and CDR2 sequence: VAT, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 **[37.3]**; and an Fc region comprising an F405L substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

In yet another embodiment of the invention the second antibody comprises a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and CDR2 sequence: VAT, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 **[37.3]**; and an Fc region comprising an K409R substitution and on or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations. In a preferred embodiment the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations are substitutions at one or more amino acid positions selected from the group comprising: 430, 345 and 440, such as E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W. In a preferred embodiment it is E430G.

Accordingly, the invention also relates to an anti-CD37 antibody which binds to human CD37 which antibody comprises:

- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44, and CDR2 sequence: FAK, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 **[G28.1]** or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and CDR2 sequence: VAT, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 **[37.3]**;
- (iii) and wherein the antibody of (i) or (ii) comprises an Fc region comprising at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group comprising: E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W; and
- (iv) wherein optionally the Fc region further comprises a mutation of either K409R or F405L.

As mentioned above the anti-CD37 antibodies of the invention may be an IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 isotype. In one embodiment the anti-CD37 antibody of the invention is of an IgG isotype.

In one embodiment, the antibody of the invention is human, humanized or chimeric.

In one embodiment, the antibody of the invention binds to both the human and the cynomolgus CD37 antigens.

Further embodiments of the invention

In another embodiment the invention relates to a composition comprising a bispecific antibody of the invention and further comprising a monospecific anti-CD37 antibody, preferably an anti-CD37 antibody having the antigen binding region of either the first or second antigen binding region of the bispecific antibody.

In one embodiment the invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a bispecific antibody of the invention or an anti-CD37 antibody of the invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another embodiment the invention relates to a bispecific antibody of the invention or an antibody of the invention or a composition of the invention for use as a medicament.

In one embodiment of the invention the bispecific antibody of the invention is for use in the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disease or inflammatory disorders.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD37 antibody of the invention is for use in the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disease or inflammatory disorders.

In one embodiment of the invention the composition of the invention is for use in the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disease or inflammatory disorders.

In another embodiment the invention relates to a bispecific antibody of the invention for use in the treatment of allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

In another embodiment the invention relates to a bispecific antibody of the invention for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis such as acute arthritis, chronic rheumatoid arthritis, gout or gouty arthritis, acute gouty arthritis, acute immunological arthritis, chronic inflammatory arthritis, degenerative arthritis, type II collagen-induced arthritis, infectious arthritis, Lyme arthritis, proliferative arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Still's disease, vertebral arthritis, and juvenile-onset rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, arthritis chronica progrediente, arthritis deformans, polyarthritis chronica primaria, reactive arthritis, and ankylosing spondylids) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) such as cutaneous SLE or subacute cutaneous SLE, neonatal lupus syndrome (NLE), and lupus erythematosus disseminates, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

(COPD), psoriasis, IgA nephropathy, IgM polyneuropathies, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, Reynaud's syndrome, and glomerulonephritis, pustulosis palmoplantaris (PPP), erosive lichen planus, pemphigus bullosa, epidermolysis bullosa, contact dermatitis and atopic dermatitis, polyradiculitis including Guillain-Barre syndrome.

In another embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody of the invention for use in the treatment of allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy.

In another embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody of the invention for use in the treatment of allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

In another embodiment the invention relates to an anti-CD37 antibody of the invention for use in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis such as acute arthritis, chronic rheumatoid arthritis, gout or gouty arthritis, acute gouty arthritis, acute immunological arthritis, chronic inflammatory arthritis, degenerative arthritis, type II collagen-induced arthritis, infectious arthritis, Lyme arthritis, proliferative arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Still's disease, vertebral arthritis, and juvenile-onset rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, arthritis chronica progrediente, arthritis deformans, polyarthritis chronica primaria, reactive arthritis, and ankylosing spondylids) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) such as cutaneous SLE or subacute cutaneous SLE, neonatal lupus syndrome (NLE), and lupus erythematosus disseminates, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), psoriasis, IgA nephropathy, IgM polyneuropathies, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, Reynaud's syndrome, and glomerulonephritis, pustulosis palmoplantaris (PPP), erosive lichen planus, pemphigus bullosa, epidermolysis bullosa, contact dermatitis and atopic dermatitis, polyradiculitis including Guillain-Barre syndrome.

In another embodiment the invention relates to the bispecific antibody of the invention for use in combination with one or more further therapeutic agents. In another embodiment of the invention the anti-CD37 antibodies of the invention is for use in combination with one or more further therapeutic agents. The one or more further therapeutic agent may e.g. be selected from the group comprising: doxorubicin, cisplatin, bleomycin, carmustine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, bendamustine, vincristine, fludarabine, ibrutinib and an anti-CD 20 antibody such as rituximab, ofatumumab, Obinutuzumab, Veltuzumab, Ocaratuzumab, Ocrelizumab or TRU-015.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the further therapeutic agent is an anti-CD20 antibody.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to human CD20 having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID No: 72.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to cynomolgus monkey CD20 having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID No: 73.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to human and cynomolgus monkey CD20 having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID Nos 72 and 73, respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to an epitope on human CD20, which does not comprise or require the amino acid residues alanine at position 170 or proline at position 172, but which comprises or requires the amino acid residues asparagine at position 163 and asparagine at position 166 of SEQ ID No. 72. Examples of such antibodies are the antibodies denoted 2F2 and 7D8 as disclosed in WO2004035607 (Genmab) and the antibody denoted 2C6 as disclosed in WO2005103081 (Genmab). The CDR sequences of 7D8 are disclosed in Table 1.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to an epitope on human CD20, which does not comprise or require the amino acid residues alanine at position 170 or proline at position 172 of SEQ ID No. 72. An example of such an antibody is 11B8 as disclosed in WO2004035607 (Genmab). The CDR sequences of 11B8 are disclosed in Table 1.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to a discontinuous epitope on human CD20, wherein the epitope comprises part of the first small extracellular loop and part of the second extracellular loop.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody is capable of binding to a discontinuous epitope on human CD20, wherein the epitope has residues AGIYAP of the small first extracellular loop and residues MESLNFIRAHTPY of the second extracellular loop.

Anti-CD20 antibodies may characterize as type-I and type II anti-CD20 antibodies. Type I anti-CD20 antibodies, have high CDC and ADCC activity, but low apoptosis activity, such as ofatumumab (2F2) and rituximab, whereas type II anti-CD20 antibodies, having low or no CDC activity, but high ADCC and apoptosis activity, such as obinutuzumab and 11B8. Also, type I antibodies induce CD20 to redistribute into large detergent resistant microdomains (rafts), whereas type II antibodies do not.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20, wherein the antigen-binding region competes for binding to human CD20 with an anti-CD20 antibody comprising the variable heavy chain (VH)

sequence and variable light chain (VL) as set forth in SEQ ID No 74 and SEQ ID No 78 respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20, wherein the antigen-binding region competes for binding to human CD20 with an anti-CD20 antibody comprising the variable heavy chain (VH) sequence and variable light chain (VL) as set forth in SEQ ID No 81 and SEQ ID No 109 respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20, wherein the antigen-binding region competes for binding to human CD20 with an anti-CD20 antibody comprising the variable heavy chain (VH) sequence and variable light chain (VL) as set forth in SEQ ID No 94 and SEQ ID No 98 respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20, wherein the antigen-binding region competes for binding to human CD20 with an anti-CD20 antibody comprising the variable heavy chain (VH) sequence and variable light chain (VL) as set forth in SEQ ID No 87 and SEQ ID No 91 respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20, wherein the antigen-binding region competes for binding to human CD20 with an anti-CD20 antibody comprising the variable heavy chain (VH) sequence and variable light chain (VL) as set forth in SEQ ID No 101 and SEQ ID No 105 respectively.

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:75 ,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:76,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:77 ,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:79
 VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 80. **[7D8]**

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:82 ,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:83,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:84,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:85
 VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 86. **[118B]**

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:95 ,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:96,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:97,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:99,
 VL CDR2 sequence ATS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 100. **[Rituximab]**

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:88,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:89,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:90,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:92
 VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 93. **[ofatumumab]**

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:102,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:103,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:104,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:106
 VL CDR2 sequence QMS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 107. **[obinutuzumab]**

In one embodiment of the invention the anti-CD20 antibody comprises an antigen-binding region capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group consisting of:

- i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:75 ,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:76,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:77 ,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:79

VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 80. **[7D8];**

ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:82 ,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:83,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:84,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:85

VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 86. **[118B];**

iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:95 ,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:96,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:97,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:99,

VL CDR2 sequence ATS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 100. **[Rituximab];**

iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:88,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:89,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:90,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:92

VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 93. **[ofatumumab]; and**

v) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:102,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:103,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:104,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:106

VL CDR2 sequence QMS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 107. **[obinutuzumab].**

In another embodiment the invention relates to use of the bispecific antibody of the invention or the anti-CD37 antibody of the invention for the manufacture of a medicament. In another embodiment hereof the use is for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune diseases or an inflammatory diseases such as allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), rheumatoid arthritis such as acute arthritis, chronic rheumatoid arthritis, gout or gouty arthritis, acute gouty arthritis, acute immunological arthritis, chronic inflammatory arthritis, degenerative arthritis, type II collagen-induced arthritis, infectious arthritis, Lyme arthritis, proliferative arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Still's disease, vertebral arthritis, and juvenile-onset rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, arthritis chronica progrediente, arthritis deformans, polyarthritis chronica primaria, reactive arthritis, and ankylosing spondylids) systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) such as cutaneous SLE or subacute cutaneous SLE, neonatal lupus syndrome (NLE), and lupus erythematosus disseminates, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), psoriasis, IgA nephropathy, IgM polyneuropathies, myasthenia gravis, diabetes mellitus, Reynaud's syndrome, and glomerulonephritis, pustulosis palmoplantaris (PPP), erosive lichen planus, pemphigus bullosa, epidermolysis bullosa, contact dermatitis and atopic dermatitis, polyradiculitis including Guillain-Barre syndrome.

In another embodiment the invention relates to a method of inducing cell death, or inhibiting growth and/or proliferation of a tumor cell expressing CD37 comprising administering to an individual in need thereof an effective amount of a bispecific antibody of the invention or an anti-CD37 antibody of the invention. In certain embodiments the method is for treating an individual having allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of the bispecific antibody of the invention or the anti-CD37 antibody of the invention. In certain embodiments the method comprises administering one or more further therapeutic agents in combination with said antibody or said bispecific antibody such as e.g. doxorubicin, cisplatin, bleomycin, carmustine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, bendamustine, vincristine, fludarabine, ibrutinib or an anti-CD20 antibody such as rituximab, ofatumumab, obinutuzumab, veltuzumab, ocaratuzumab, ocrelizumab or TRU-015.

In one embodiment of the invention the further therapeutic agent is selected from the group comprising: cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, bendamustine, ifosfamide, cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, carmustine, prednisone, dexamethasone, fludarabine, pentostatin, cladribine, fluorouracil, gemcitabine, cytarabine, methotrexate, pralatrexate, gemcitabine, vincristine, paclitaxel, docetaxel, doxorubicin, mitoxantrone, etoposide, topotecan, irinotecan, bleomycin, CD20-specific rituximab, obinutuzumab and ofatumumab, CD52-specific alemtuzumab, CD30-specific brentuximab, JNJ-63709178, JNJ-64007957, HuMax-IL8, anti-DR5, anti-VEGF, anti-CD38, anti-PD-1, anti-PD-L1, anti-CTLA4, anti-CD40, anti-CD137, anti-GITR, anti-VISTA, antibodies specific for other immunomodulatory targets, brentuximab vedotin, HuMax-TAC-ADC, Interferon, thalidomide, lenalidomide, Axicabtagene ciloleucel, bortezomib, romidepsin, belinostat, vorinostat, ibrutinib, acalabrutinib, idelalisib, copanlisib, sorafenib, sunitinib, everolimus, recombinant human TRAIL, birinapant, and venetoclax.

In one embodiment of the invention the further therapeutic agent is selected from the group comprising: ibrutinib, rituximab, venetoclax, CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone), bendamustine, fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, and chlorambucil.

In one embodiment of the invention the further therapeutic agent is selected from the group comprising: ibrutinib, rituximab and venetoclax.

In a further aspect, the invention relates to a nucleic acid construct encoding one or more sequences set out in Table 1. In a further aspect the invention relates to a nucleic acid construct encoding one or more sequences selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 13a, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 20a, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 27a, 28, 29, 30, 30a and 31.

The invention further relates to a nucleic acid construct encoding the VH and/or VL region of the bispecific antibody or the anti-CD37 antibody of any of the embodiments herein.

The invention further relates to a nucleic acid construct encoding the bispecific antibody or the anti-CD37 antibody of any of the embodiments herein.

In a further embodiment the invention relates to an expression vector comprising one or more nucleic acid constructs specified above. In another embodiment the invention relates to a host cell comprising an expression vector as defined above.

An expression vector in the context of the present invention may be any suitable vector, including chromosomal, non-chromosomal, and synthetic nucleic acid vectors (a nucleic acid sequence comprising a suitable set of expression control elements). Examples of such vectors

include derivatives of SV40, bacterial plasmids, phage DNA, baculovirus, yeast plasmids, vectors derived from combinations of plasmids and phage DNA, and viral nucleic acid (RNA or DNA) vectors. In one embodiment, a CD37 antibody-encoding nucleic acid is comprised in a naked DNA or RNA vector, including, for example, a linear expression element (as described in for instance Sykes and Johnston, *Nat Biotech* 17, 355 59 (1997)), a compacted nucleic acid vector (as described in for instance US 6,077, 835 and/or WO 00/70087), a plasmid vector such as pBR322, pUC 19/18, or pUC 118/119, a "midge" minimally-sized nucleic acid vector (as described in for instance Schakowski et al., *Mol Ther* 3, 793 800 (2001)), or as a precipitated nucleic acid vector construct, such as a CaP04-precipitated construct (as described in for instance WO200046147, Benvenisty and Reshef, *PNAS USA* 83, 9551 55 (1986), Wigler et al., *Cell* 14, 725 (1978), and Coraro and Pearson, *Somatic Cell Genetics* 7, 603 (1981)). Such nucleic acid vectors and the usage thereof are well known in the art (see for instance US 5,589,466 and US 5,973,972).

In one embodiment, the vector is suitable for expression of the CD37 antibodies in a bacterial cell. Examples of such vectors include expression vectors such as BlueScript (Stratagene), pIN vectors (Van Heeke & Schuster, *J Biol Chem* 264, 5503 5509 (1989), pET vectors (Novagen, Madison WI) and the like).

An expression vector may also or alternatively be a vector suitable for expression in a yeast system. Any vector suitable for expression in a yeast system may be employed. Suitable vectors include, for example, vectors comprising constitutive or inducible promoters such as alpha factor, alcohol oxidase and PGH (reviewed in: F. Ausubel et al., ed. *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Greene Publishing and Wiley InterScience New York (1987), and Grant et al., *Methods in Enzymol* 153, 516 544 (1987)).

An expression vector may also or alternatively be a vector suitable for expression in mammalian cells, e.g. a vector comprising glutamine synthetase as a selectable marker, such as the vectors described in Bebbington (1992) *Biotechnology (NY)* 10:169-175.

A nucleic acid and/or vector may also comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding a secretion/localization sequence, which can target a polypeptide, such as a nascent polypeptide chain, to the periplasmic space or into cell culture media. Such sequences are known in the art, and include secretion leader or signal peptides.

The expression vector may comprise or be associated with any suitable promoter, enhancer, and other expression-facilitating elements. Examples of such elements include strong expression promoters (e. g., human CMV IE promoter/enhancer as well as RSV, SV40, SL3 3, MMTV, and HIV LTR promoters), effective poly (A) termination sequences, an origin of replication for plasmid product in *E. coli*, an antibiotic resistance gene as selectable marker, and/or a

convenient cloning site (e.g., a polylinker). Nucleic acids may also comprise an inducible promoter as opposed to a constitutive promoter such as CMV IE.

In one embodiment, the CD37 antibody-encoding expression vector may be positioned in and/or delivered to the host cell or host animal via a viral vector.

Thus the present invention also relates to a recombinant eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cell which produces a bispecific antibody of the present invention, such as a transfectoma.

The invention further relates to an anti-idiotypic antibody, which binds to the antigen binding region of the antibody or the bispecific antibody of the invention.

An *in vitro* method for detecting the presence of a human CD37 antigen or a cell expressing human CD37 in a sample, said method comprising:

- (i) contacting the sample with the bispecific antibody of any of the above embodiments or the antibody of any of the embodiments herein under conditions that allow for formation of a complex between the antibody or the bispecific antibody and CD37; and
- (ii) detecting the formation of a complex.

An *in vivo* method for detecting the presence of a human CD37 antigen, or a cell expressing human CD37 in a subject, said method comprising:

- (i) administering the bispecific antibody of any of the above embodiments or the antibody of any of the embodiments herein under conditions that allow for formation of a complex between the antibody or the bispecific antibody and CD37; and
- (ii) detecting the formed complex.

Sequences

Table 1:

SEQ ID NO:	LABEL	SEQUENCE
1	VH-004-H5L2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFSLSITYDMSWVRQAPGKGLE WVSIIYSSVGAYYASWAKGRFTISRDN SKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVY YCAREYGASSSDYIFSLWGQGTLVTVSS
2	VH-004-H5L2- CDR1	GFSLSITYD
3	VH-004-H5L2- CDR2	IYSSVGA

4	VH-004-H5L2- CDR3	AREYGASSSDYIFSL
5	VL-004-H5L2	AQVLTQSPSPLSASVGDRVITTCQASQSVYNSQNLAWYQQKPGKAP KLLIYEASKLASGVPSRFBKSGSGTEFTLTISLQPDDEFATYYCQGEFS CISADCTAFGGGKVEIK
6	VH-004-H5L2- CDR1	QSVYNSQN
	VH-004-H5L2- CDR2	EAS
7	VH-004-H5L2- CDR3	QGEFSCISADCTA
8	VH-005-H1L2	EQSVVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCTVSGFSLSSNAMNWVRQAPGKGLE WIGLIYASGNTDYASWAKGRFTISKSTTVYLKITSPTAEDTATYFCA REGSVWGAAFDPPWGQGTLLTVSS
9	VH-005-H1L2- CDR1	GFSLSNA
10	VH-005-H1L2- CDR2	IYASGNT
11	VH-005-H1L2- CDR3	AREGSVWGAAFDPP
12	VL-005-H1L2	AYDMTQSPSSVSASVGDRVITTCQASQSSISNWLAWYQQKPGKAPK QLIYAASLASGVPSRFBKSGSGTDFTLTISLQPEDFATYYCQQGYS NSNIDNTFGGGKVEIK
13	VL-005-H1L2- CDR1	QSSISNW
	VL-005-H1L2- CDR2	AAS
14	VL-005-H1L2- CDR3	QQGYSNSNIDNT
15	VH-010-H5L2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFSLSYNAMNWVRQAPGKGLE WVSIIIFASGRTDYASWAKGRFTISRDNKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTAVY YCAREGSTWGDALDPPWGQGTLLTVSS
16	VH-010-H5L2- CDR1	GFSLSYNA
17	VH-010-H5L2- CDR2	IFASGRT
18	VH-010-H5L2- CDR3	AREGSTWGDALDP
19	VL-010-H5L2	AYDMTQSPSTLSASVGDRVITTCQASQNIIDYLAWYQQKPGKAPKLL IHKASTLASGVPSRFBKSGSGTEFTLTISLQPDDEFATYYCQQGYSNS NIDNTFGGGKVEIK
20	VL-010-H5L2- CDR1	QNIIDY
	VL-010-H5L2- CDR2	KAS
21	VL-010-H5L2- CDR3	QQGYSNSNIDNT
22	VH-016-H5L2	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGGSLRLSCAASGFSLSNMYMGWVRQAPGKGLE WVSVIDASGTTYATWAKGRFTISRDNKNTLYLQMNSLRAEDTATY YCARRELYFGSSYYDLWGQGTLLTVSS

23	VH-016-H5L2-CDR1	GFSLSNYN
24	VH-016-H5L2-CDR2	IDASGTT
25	VH-016-H5L2-CDR3	ARELLYFGSSYYDL
26	VL-016-H5L2	DVVMTQSPSTLSASVGDRVITCQASQNIDSNLAWYQQKPGKAPKF LIYYASNLPFGVPSRFRKSGSGSGTEFTLTISLQPDDEFATYYCQCADVG STYVAAFGGGGTKVEIK
27	VL-016-H5L2-CDR1	QNIDSN
	VL-016-H5L2-CDR2	YAS
28	VL-016-H5L2-CDR3	QCADVGSTYVAA
29	VL-016-H5L2-C90S	DVVMTQSPSTLSASVGDRVITCQASQNIDSNLAWYQQKPGKAPKF LIYYASNLPFGVPSRFRKSGSGSGTEFTLTISLQPDDEFATYYCQ S ADVG STYVAAFGGGGTKVEIK
30	VL-016-H5L2-C90S-CDR1	QNIDSN
	VL-016-H5L2-C90S-CDR2	YAS
31	VL-016-H5L2-C90S-CDR3	Q S ADVGSTYVAA
32	VH-b12	QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGASVKVSCQASGYRFSNFVIHWVRQAPGQRFE WMGWINPYNGNKEFSAKFQDRVTFADTSANTAYMELRSLRSADTA VYYCARVGPYSWDDSPQDNYYMDVWGKGTTVIVSS
33	VH-b12-CDR1	GYRFSNFV
34	VH-b12-CDR2	INPYNGNK
35	VH-b12-CDR3	ARVGPYSWDDSPQDNYYMDV
36	VL-b12	EIVLTQSPGTLSLSPGERATFSCRSSHISRSRRVAWYQHKPGQAPRL VIHGVSNRASGISDRFSGSGSGTDFTLTITRVEPEDFALYYCQVYGAS SYTFGQGTKLERK
37	VL-b12-CDR1	HSIRSRR
	VL-b12-CDR2	GVS
38	VL-b12-CDR3	QVYGASSYT
39	VH-G28.1	AVQLQQSGPELEKPGASVKISCKASGYSTFTGYNMNWWVKQNNGKSLE WIGNIDPYYGGTTYNRKFKGKATLTVDKSSSTAYMQLKSLTSEDSAV YYCARVGPMDYWGQGTSTVTVSS
40	VH-G28.1-CDR1	GYSFTGYN
41	VH-G28.1-CDR2	IDPYYGGT
42	VH-G28.1-CDR3	ARSVGPMDY
43	VL-G28.1	DIQMTQSPASLSASVGETVTITCRTSENVYSYLAWYQQKQKGKSPQLL VSFAKTAEAGVPSRFRSGSGSGTQFSLKISSLQPEDSGSYFCQHSDN PWTFGGGTELEIK
44	VL-G28.1-CDR1	ENVYSY
	VL-G28.1-CDR2	FAK

45	VL-G28.1-CDR3	QHHSDNPWT
46	VH-37.3	QVQVKESGPGLVAPSQSL SITCTVSGFSLTTSGVSWVRQPPGKGLE WLGVIWGDGSTNYHSALKSRLSIKKDHSSKSQVFLKLNSLQTDDTAT YYCAKGGYSLAHWGQGT LVTVSA
47	VH-37.3-CDR1	GFSLTTS
48	VH-37.3-CDR2	IWGDGST
49	VH-37.3-CDR3	AKGGYSLAH
50	VL-37.3	DIQMTQSPASLSVSVGETVTITCRASENIRSNLAWYQQKQKSPQLL VNVATNLADGVPSRFSGSGSGTQYSLKINSLQSEDFGTYYCQHYWG TTWTFGGG TKLEIK
51	VL-37.3-CDR1	ENIRSN
	VL-37.3-CDR2	VAT
52	VL-37.3-CDR3	QHYWGTTWT
53	IgG1-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPPVLDSD GSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
54	IgG1-Fc-delK	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPPVLDSD GSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG ₂
55	IgG1-E430G-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPPVLDSD GSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMH ~~G~~ ALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
56	IgG1-E345R-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPR ~~R~~ PQVYTLPP SREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPPVLDSD DGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG K
57	IgG1-F405L-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPPVLDSD

		GSFLLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
58	IgG1-K409R-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFFLYSRLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
59	IgG1-F405L-E430G-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFLLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHGAALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
60	IgG1-K409R-E430G-Fc	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFFLYSRLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHGAALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
61	Kappa-C	RTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNFFYPREAKVQWKVDNAL QSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGL SSPVTKSFNRGEC
62	Human CD37	MSAQESCLSLIKYFLFVFNLFVFLGSLIFCFGIWILIDKTSFVSFVGLA FVPLQIWSKVLAIISGIFTMGIALLGCVGALKELRCLLGLYFGMLLLLFA TQITLGILISTQRAQLERSLRDVVEKTIQKYGTNPEETAEEESWDYVQ FQLRCCGWHYPQDWFQVLILRGNGSEAHVRPCSCYNLSATNDSTIL DKVILPQLSRLGHLARSRHSAICAVPAESHIYREGCAQGLQKWLHN NLISIVGICLGVGLLELGFMTLSIFLCRNLDHVYNRLARYR
63	Cynomolgus CD37 (mfCD37)	MSAQESCLSLIKYFLFVFNLFVFLGSLIFCFGIWILIDKTSFVSFVGLA FVPLQIWSKVLAIISGVFTMGLALLGCVGALKELRCLLGLYFGMLLLLFA TQITLGILISTQRAQLERSLQDIVEKTIQKYHTNPEETAEEESWDYVQF QLRCCGWHSPQDWFQVLTIRGNGSEAHVRPCSCYNLSATNDSTILD KVILPQLSRLGQLARSRHSTDICAVPANSHIYREGCARSLQKWLHNN LISIVGICLGVGLLELGFMTLSIFLCRNLDHVYNRLARYR
64	CD37EC2-FcHis	MWWRLWWLLLLLLLLLWPMVWARAQLERSLRDVVEKTIQKYGTNPEE TAAEESWDYVQFQLRCCGWHYPQDWFQVLILRGNGSEAHVRPCSC YNLSATNDSTILDKVILPQLSRLGHLARSRHSAICAVPAESHIYREG CAQGLQKWLHNNPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPEAEGAPSVFLFPPKPKDTL MISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYN STYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPR EPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNY KTAPPVLDSGGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYT QKSLSLSPGKHHHHHHHH
65	CD37MfEC2-FcHis	MWWRLWWLLLLLLLLLWPMVWARAQLERSLQDIVEKTIQKYHTNPEE TAAEESWDYVQFQLRCCGWHSPQDWFQVLTIRGNGSEAHVRPCSC YNLSATNDSTILDKVILPQLSRLGQLARSRHSTDICAVPANSHIYREG CARSLQKWLHNNPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPEAEGAPSVFLFPPKPKDTL

		MISRTPEVTCVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYN STYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPR EPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNY KTAPPVLDSGDSFLLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYT QKSLSLSPGKHHHHHHHH
66	IgG1-F405L- E345R	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPRRPQVYTLPP SREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS DGSFLLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG K
67	IgG1-F405L- E345K	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPRKPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFLLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
68	IgG1-F405L- E430S	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFLLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHSAALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
69	IgG1-K409R- E345R	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPRRPQVYTLPP SREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS DGSFLLYSRLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG K
70	IgG1- K409R - E345K	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPRKPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFLLYSRLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
71	IgG1- K409R - E430S	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALT SGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKV DKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVT CVVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVL TVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPS REEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTPVLDS GSFLLYSRLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHSAALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK

72	Human CD20	MTTPRNSVNGTFPAEPMKGPIAMQSGPKPLFRRMSSLVGPTQSFFMR ESKTLGAVQIMNGLFHIALGGLLMIPAGIYAPICVTVWYPLWGGIMYII SGSLLAATEKNSRKCLVKGKMIMNSLSLFAAISGMILSIMDILNIKISH FLKMESLNFIRAHTPYINIYNCEPANPSEKNSPSTQYCYSIQSLFLGILS VMLIFAFFQELVIAGIVENEWKRTCSPKSNIVLLSAEEKKEQTIEIKE EVVGLTETSSQPKNEEDIEIPIQEEEEEEETETNFPEPPQDQESSPIEN DSSP
73	Cynomolgus monkey CD20	MTTPRNSVNGTFPAEPMKGPIAMQPGPKPLLRRMSSLVGPTQSFFMR ESKALGAVQIMNGLFHIALGGLLMIPAGIYAPICVTVWYPLWGGIMYII SGSLLAATEKNSRKCLVKGKMIMNSLSLFAAISGMILSIMDILNIKISH FLKMESLNFIRVHTPYINIYNCEPANPSEKNSPSTQYCYSIQSLFLGILS VMLIFAFFQELVIAGIVENEWRTCSRPKSSVLLSAEEKKEQVIEIKE EVVGLTETSSQPKNEEDIEIPIQEEEEEEETETNFPEPPQDQESSPIEN DSSP
74	VH CD20-7D8	EVQLVESGGGLVQPDRSLRLSCAAS GFTFHDYA MHWVRQAPGKGL EWWST ISWNSGTI GYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKNSLYLQMNSLRAEDT ALYYC AKDIQYGNYYYGMDV WGQGTTVTVSS
75	VH CD20-7D8 CDR1	GFTFHDYA
76	VH CD20-7D8 CDR2	ISWNSGTI
77	VH CD20-7D8 CDR3	AKDIQYGNYYYGMDV
78	VL CD20-7D8	EIVLTQSPATLSLSPGERATLSCRAS QSVSSY LAWYQQKPGQAPRLL IY DASN RATGIPARFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLEPEDFAVYYC QQRSNW PIT FGQGRLEIK
79	VL CD20-7D8 CDR1	QSVSSY
	VL CD20-7D8 CDR2	DAS
80	VL CD20-7D8 CDR3	QQRSNWPIT
81	VH CD20-11B8	EVQLVQSGGGLVHPGGSLRLSCTGS GFTFSYHA MHWVRQAPGKGL EWWSI IGTGGVT YYADSVKGRFTISRDNVKNLSLYLQMNSLRAEDMA VYYC ARDYYGAGSFYDGLYGMDV WGQGTTVTVSS
82	VH CD20-11B8 CDR1	GFTFSYHA
83	VH CD20-11B8 CDR2	IGTGGVT
84	VH CD20-11B8 CDR3	ARDYYGAGSFYDGLYGMDV
85	VL CD20-11B8 CDR1	QSVSSY
	VL CD20-11B8 CDR2	DAS
86	VL CD20-11B8 CDR3	QQRSDWPLT
87	VH CD20-	EVQLVESGGGLVQPGRSLRLSCAAS GFTFNDYA MHWVRQAPGKGL

	ofatumumab	EWVST <u>ISWNSGSI</u> GYADSVKGRFTISRDNAAKKSLLYLQMNSLRAEDT ALYYC <u>AKDIQYGNYYYGMDV</u> WGQGTTVTVSS
88	VL CD20- ofatumumab CDR1	GFTFNDYA
89	VH CD20- ofatumumab CDR2	ISWNSGSI
90	VH CD20- ofatumumab CDR3	AKDIQYGNYYYGMDV
91	VL CD20- ofatumumab	EIVLTQSPATLSLSPGERATLSCRAS <u>QSVSSY</u> LAWYQQKPGQAPRLL IY <u>DAS</u> NRATGIPARFSGSGSGTDFTLTISSLEPEDFAVYYC <u>QQRSNW</u> <u>PIT</u> FGQGTRLEIK
92	VL CD20- ofatumumab CDR1	QSVSSY
	VL CD20- ofatumumab	DAS
93	VL CD20- ofatumumab CDR3	QQRSNWPIT
94	VH CD20- rituximab	QVQLQQPGAELVKPGASVKMSCKAS <u>GYTFTSYN</u> MHWVKQTPGRG LEWIGAI <u>IYPGNGDT</u> SYNQKFKGKATLTADKSSSTAYMQLSSLTSED SAVYYC <u>ARST</u> <u>YYGGDWYFNV</u> WGAGTTVTVSA
95	VH CD20- rituximab CDR1	GYTFTSYN
96	VH CD20- rituximab CDR2	IYPGNGDT
97	VH CD20- rituximab CDR3	ARSTYYGGDWYFNV
98	VL CD20- rituximab	QIVLSQSPAILSASPGEKVTMTCRAS <u>SSVS</u> YIHWFQQKPGSSPKPWI Y <u>ATS</u> NLASGVPVRFSGSGSGTSSYSLTISRVEAEDAATYYC <u>QQWTSN</u> <u>PPT</u> FGGGTKLEIK
99	VL CD20- rituximab CDR1	SSVS
	VL CD20- rituximab CDR2	ATS
100	VL CD20- rituximab CDR3	QQWTSNPPT
101	VH CD20- obinutuzumab	QVQLVQSGAEVKKPGSSVKVSCCKAS <u>GYAFSYSW</u> INWVRQAPGQG LEWMGR <u>IFPGDGD</u> TDYNGKFKGRVTITADKSTSTAYMELSSLRSED TAVYYC <u>ARNVFDGYWLVY</u> WGQGTLVTVSS
102	VH CD20- obinutuzumab CDR1	GYAFSYSW
103	VH CD20-	IFPGDGD

	obinutuzumab CDR2	
104	VH CD20- obinutuzumab CDR3	ARNVFDGYWLVY
105	VL CD20- obinutuzumab	DIVMTQTPLSLPVTTPGEPASISCRSS KSLHNSNGITY LYWYLQKPGQ SPQLLIY QMS NLVSGVDPDRFSGSGSGTDFTLKISRVEAEDVGVYYCA QNLELPYT FGGGTKVEIK
106	VL CD20- obinutuzumab CDR1	KSLHNSNGITY
	VL CD20- obinutuzumab CDR2	QMS
107	VL CD20- obinutuzumab CDR3	AQNLELPYT
108	IgG1- S239D-I332E	ASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPVTVSWNSGALTSGVHTFPAVLQSS GLYSLSSVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKRVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGPP DVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQY NSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPKEETISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSRE EMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTTPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSR WQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPGK
109	VL CD20 11B8	EIVLTQSPATLSLSPGERATLSCRAS QSVSSY LAWYQQKPGQAPRLLIY DAS NRATGIPAR FSGSGSGTDFTLTISSELPEDFAVYYC QQRSDWPLT FGGGTKVEIK
110	VH CD37-004	QSVEESGGRLVTPGTPLTLTCTVSGFSLSTYDMSWVRQAPGKGLEWI GIIYSSVGAYYASWAKGRFTFSKTSTTVDLKITSPTTEDTATYFCAREY GASSSDYIFSLWGQGTLVTVSS
2	VH CD37-004 CDR1	GFSLSTYD
3	VH CD37-004 CDR2	IYSSVGA
4	VH CD37-004 CDR3	AREYGASSSDYIFSL
111	VL CD37-004	AQVLTQTPSPVSAAVGGTGTINCQASQSVYNSQNLAWYQQKPGQPP KLLIYEASKLASGVPSRFRKGSGSGTQFTLTISGVQSDDAATYYCQGEF SCISADCTAFGGGTEVVVK
6	VL CD37-004 CDR1	QSVYNSQN
	VL CD37-004 CDR2	EAS
7	VL CD37-004 CDR3	QGEFSCISADCTA
112	VH CD37-005	QSVEESGGRLVTPGTPLTLTCTVSGFSLSSNAMNWVRQAPGKGLEW IGLIYASGNTDYASWAKGRFTISKSTSTTVDLKITSPTTEDTATYFCARE GSVWGAAFDPWGPGTLVTVSS
9	VH CD37-005 CDR1	GFSLSSNA

10	VH CD37-005 CDR2	IYASGNT
11	VH CD37-005 CDR3	AREGSVWGAAFD
113	VL CD37-005	AYDMTQTPASVEVAVGGTVTIKCQASQSSISNWLAWYQQKPGQPPKQ LIYAASLASGVPSRFRKGSGSGTQFTLTISGVESADAATYYCQQGYSN SNIDNTFGGGTEVVVK
13	VL CD37-005 CDR1	QSSISNW
	VL CD37-005 CDR2	AAS
14	VL CD37-005 CDR3	QQGYSNSNIDNT
114	VH CD37-010	QSVEESGGRLVTPGTPLTLTCTVSGFSLSYNAMNWVRQAPGKGLEWI GIIFASGRDYSWAKGRFTISKSTTVELKITSPTTEDTATYFCAREG STWGDALDPWGPGLTVTVSS
16	VH CD37-010 CDR1	GFSLSYNA
17	VH CD37-010 CDR2	IFASGRT
18	VH CD37-010 CDR3	AREGSTWGDALDP
115	VL CD37-010	AYDMTQTPSSVEAAVGGTVTIKCQASQNIIDYLAWYQQKPGQPPQLL IHKASLASGVPSRFRKGSGSGTQFTLTISGVQSDDAATYYCQQGYSN SNIDNTFGGGTEVVVK
20	VL CD37-010 CDR1	QNIIDY
	VL CD37-010 CDR2	KAS
21	VL CD37-010 CDR3	QQGYSNSNIDNT
116	VH CD37-016	QSVEESGGRLVTPGTPLTLTCTVSGFSLSNYNMGWVRQAPGKGLEW IGVIDASGTTYATWAKGRFTCSKTSSTVELKMTSLTTEDTATYFCAR ELLYFGSSYYDLWGQGTLTVTVSS
23	VH CD37-016 CDR1	GFSLSNYN
24	VH CD37-016 CDR2	IDASGTT
25	VH CD37-016 CDR3	ARELLYFGSSYYDL
117	VL CD37-016	DVVMTQTPASVSEPVGTVTIKCQASQNIDSNLAWYQQKPGQPPKF LIYYASNLPGVSSRFRKGSGSGTQFTLTISDLESADAATYYCQCADVG STYVAAFSGGGTEVVVK
27	VL CD37-016 CDR1	QNIDSN
	VL CD37-016 CDR2	YAS
28	VL CD37-016 CDR3	QCADVGSTYVAA

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Generation of CD37 specific antibodies in rabbits

Expression constructs for CD37

The following codon-optimized constructs for expression of full-length CD37 variants were generated: human (*Homo sapiens*) CD37 (Genbank accession no. NP_001765) (SEQ ID NO: 62), cynomolgus monkey (*Macaca fascicularis*) CD37 ((mfCD37) (SEQ ID NO: 63). In addition, the following codon-optimized constructs for expression of various CD37 ECD variants were generated: a signal peptide encoding sequence followed by the second extracellular domain (EC2) of human CD37 (aa 112-241), fused to the Fc (CH2-CH3) domain of human IgG with a C-terminal His tag (CD37EC2-FcHis, SEQ ID NO: 64), and a similar construct for mfCD37 (CD37mfEC2-FcHis, SEQ ID NO: 65). The constructs contained suitable restriction sites for cloning and an optimal Kozak (GCCGCCACC) sequence [Kozak et al. (1999) Gene 234: 187-208]. The constructs were cloned in the mammalian expression vector pcDNA3.3 (Invitrogen) or an equivalent vector.

Transient expression in CHO and HEK cells

Membrane proteins were transiently transfected in Freestyle 293-F (HEK293F) cells (Life technologies, USA) using 293fectin (Life technologies) essentially as described by the manufacturer, or in Freestyle CHO-S cells (CHO) (Life technologies) by using the Freestyle Max reagent (Life technologies) essentially as described by the manufacturer. Soluble proteins were transiently expressed in Expi293 cells (Life technologies) by using the ExpiFectamine 293 reagent (Life technologies), essentially as described by the manufacturer.

The Fc fusion proteins (CD37mfEC2-FcHis and CD37EC2-FcHis) were purified from cell culture supernatant using protein A affinity chromatography.

Immunization of rabbits

Immunization of rabbits was performed at MAB Discovery GMBH (Neuried, Germany). Rabbits were repeatedly immunized with a mixture of CD37EC2-FcHis and CD37mfEC2-FcHis or HEK293F cells transiently expressing human or mfCD37. The blood of these animals was collected and B lymphocytes were isolated. Using a MAB Discovery proprietary process, single B-cells were sorted into wells of microtiter plates and further propagated. The supernatants of these single B-

cells were analyzed for specific binding to CHO-S cells transiently expressing CD37 (CHO-CD37) and mfCD37 (CHO-mfCD37).

Recombinant antibody production

Upon analyzing the primary screening results, primary hits were selected for sequencing, recombinant mAb production and purification. Unique variable heavy chain (VH) and light chain (VL) encoding regions were gene synthesized and cloned into mammalian expression vectors containing the human IgG1 constant region encoding sequences (Ig Kappa chain and IgG1 allotype G1m (f) containing an E430G mutation (EU numbering) heavy chain). During this process an unfavorable, unpaired cysteine in some antibody light chains was replaced by a serine.

Recombinant chimeric antibodies were produced in HEK 293 cells by transiently cotransfecting the heavy chain (HC) and light chain (LC) encoding expression vectors using an automated procedure on a Tecan Freedom Evo platform. Immunoglobulins were purified from the cell supernatant using affinity purification (Protein A) on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 HPLC system.

The reactivity of the produced chimeric (VH rabbit, Fc human) monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) containing a mutation E430G was re-analyzed for binding to CHO-CD37 or CHO-mfCD37 cells. In addition, binding to the human lymphoma cell line Daudi and functionality in the CDC assay on Daudi cells was analyzed.

Example 2: Humanization of rabbit chimeric antibodies

Generation of humanized antibody sequences

Humanized antibody sequences from rabbit antibodies rabbit-anti-CD37-004, -005, -010 and -016 were generated at Antitope (Cambridge, UK). Humanized antibody sequences were generated using germline humanization (CDR-grafting) technology. Humanized V region genes were designed based upon human germline sequences with closest homology to the VH and Vk amino acid sequences of the rabbit and murine antibodies. A series of four to six VH and four or five Vk (VL) germline humanized V-region genes were designed for each of the rabbit antibodies.

Structural models of the rabbit antibody V regions were produced using Swiss PDB and analyzed in order to identify amino acids in the V region frameworks that may be important for the binding properties of the antibody. These amino acids were noted for incorporation into one or more variant CDR-grafted antibodies.

The heavy and light chain V region amino acid sequence were compared against a database of human germline V and J segment sequences in order to identify the heavy and light chain human sequences with the greatest degree of homology for use as human variable domain frameworks. The germline sequences used as the basis for the humanized designs are shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Closest matching human germline V segment and J segment sequences.

Rabbit anti-CD37-	Heavy chain		Light chain (κ)	
	Human V region germline segment	Human J region germline segment	Human V region germline segment	Human J region germline segment
004	IGHV3-53*04	IGHJ4	IGKV1-5*01	IGKJ4
005	IGHV3-53*04	IGHJ4	IGKV1-12*01	IGKJ4
010	IGHV3-53*04	IGHJ4	IGKV1-5*03	IGKJ4
016	IGHV3-53*04	IGHJ4	IGKV1-12*01	IGKJ4

A series of humanized heavy and light chain V regions were then designed by grafting the CDRs onto the frameworks and, if necessary, by back-mutating residues which may be critical for the antibody binding properties, as identified in the structural modelling, to rabbit residues. Variant sequences with the lowest incidence of potential T cell epitopes were then selected using Antitope's proprietary in silico technologies, iTope™ and TCED™ (T Cell Epitope Database) (Perry, L.C.A, Jones, T.D. and Baker, M.P. New Approaches to Prediction of Immune Responses to Therapeutic Proteins during Preclinical Development (2008). Drugs in R&D 9 (6): 385-396; Bryson, C.J., Jones, T.D. and Baker, M.P. Prediction of Immunogenicity of Therapeutic Proteins (2010). Biodrugs 24 (1):1-8). Finally, the nucleotide sequences of the designed variants have been codon-optimized.

For antibody IgG1-016-H5L2 a variant with a point mutation in the variable domain was generated to replace a free cysteine: IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S (also generated with additional F405L and E430G mutations). This mutant was generated by gene synthesis (Geneart).

The variable region sequences of the humanized CD37 antibodies are shown in the Sequence Listing herein and in Table 1 above.

Example 3: Generation of bispecific antibodies

Bispecific IgG1 antibodies were generated by Fab-arm-exchange under controlled reducing conditions. The basis for this method is the use of complementary CH3 domains, which promote the formation of heterodimers under specific assay conditions as described in WO2011/131746. The F405L and K409R (EU numbering) mutations were introduced in CD37 antibodies to create antibody pairs with complementary CH3 domains. The F405L and K409R mutations were in certain cases combined with E430G mutation.

To generate bispecific antibodies, the two parental complementary antibodies, each antibody at a final concentration of 0.5 mg/mL, were incubated with 75 mM 2-mercaptoethylamine-HCl (2-MEA) in a total volume of 100 µL TE at 31°C for 5 hours. The reduction reaction was stopped by removing the reducing agent 2-MEA using spin columns (Microcon centrifugal filters, 30k, Millipore) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Example 4: Expression constructs for antibodies, transient expression and purification

For antibody expression the VH and VL sequences were cloned in expression vectors (pcDNA3.3) containing, in case of the VH, the relevant constant heavy chain (HC), in certain cases containing a F405L or K409R mutation and/or an E345R or E430G mutation, and, in case of the VL, light chain (LC) regions.

Antibodies were expressed as IgG1,κ. Plasmid DNA mixtures encoding both heavy and light chains of antibodies were transiently transfected in Expi293F cells (Life technologies, USA) using 293fectin (Life technologies) essentially as described by Vink et al. (Vink et al., Methods, 65 (1), 5-10 2014). Next, antibodies were purified by immobilized protein G chromatography.

The following antibodies were used in the examples:

Wild-type IgG1 antibodies:

IgG1-004-H5L2 (having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:5)

IgG1-005-H1L2 (having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:8 and SEQ ID NO:12)

IgG1-010-H5L2 (having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:19)

IgG1-016-H5L2 (having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:22 and SEQ ID NO:26)

IgG1-G28.1 (having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:39 and SEQ ID NO:43 - based on SEQ ID No 1 and 3 in EP2241577)

IgG1-G28.1-K409R-delK (also containing a C-terminal heavy chain mutation 445-PG-446)

IgG1-37.3 (having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:46 and SEQ ID NO:50 - based on SEQ ID No 55 and 72 in WO2011/112978)

IgG1-b12 ((having the VH and VL sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:32 and SEQ ID NO:36 - based on the gp120 specific antibody b12 [Barbas, CF. J Mol Biol. 1993 Apr 5;230(3):812-23])

IgG1 antibodies with Fc-Fc interaction-enhancing mutation E430G:

IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G

IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G

IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G

IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G

IgG1-G28.1-E430G

IgG1-37.3-E430G

IgG1-b12-E430G

IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G

IgG1-010-H5L2-K409R-E430G

IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G

IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430G

IgG1-004-E430G

IgG1-005-E430G

IgG1-010-E430G

IgG1-016-E430G

IgG1 antibodies with Fc-Fc interaction-enhancing mutation E430S:

IgG1-010-H5L2-K409R-E430S

IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430S

IgG1 antibodies with Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation E345K:

IgG1-010-H5L2-K409R-E345K

IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E345K

IgG1 antibodies with Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation E345R:

IgG1-G28.1-E345R

IgG1-b12-E345R

IgG1-010-H5L2-K409R-E345R

IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E345R

Bispecific antibodies

bsIgG1-016-H5L2-F405LxIgG1-IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R

bsIgG1-016-H5L2-F405LxIgG1-010-H5L2-K409R

Bispecific antibodies with Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation E430G:

bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G

bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G

bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G

bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G

bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G

IgG1 antibody with FcγR-interaction enhancing mutation S239D-I332E:

IgG1-G28.1-S239D-I332E

Example 5: Introduction of an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation into CD37 antibodies results in enhanced, *de novo* capacity to induce complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC)

Determination of complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC)

In a first experiment, tumor cells derived from an untreated CLL patient (AllCells, California, USA), were resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA (bovine serum albumin) and plated into polystyrene 96-well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) at a density of 0.2×10^5 cells/well (40 μ L/well) and 40 μ L of a concentration series of IgG1-G28.1-K409R-delK, IgG1-G28.1-E345R or IgG1-b12-E345R (0.003-10 μ g/mL final antibody concentration). IgG1-b12-E345R (based on the gp120 specific antibody b12 [Barbas, CF. J Mol Biol. 1993 Apr 5;230(3):812-23]) was used as negative control. For IgG1-G28.1-K409R-delK, it should be noted that the K409R mutation has no effect on binding capacity or capacity to induce CDC. Similarly, the delK (445-PG-446) mutation, which had been introduced into the antibody to facilitate biochemical analysis, did not affect target binding or capacity to induce CDC (see below).

After incubation (RT, 10 min while shaking), 20 μ L of pooled normal human serum (NHS Cat # M0008 Sanquin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was added to each well as a source of complement and plates were incubated at 37°C for 45 minutes. The reaction was stopped by cooling the plates on ice. Next, propidium iodide (PI; 10 μ L of a 10 μ g/mL solution; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie B.V., Zwijndrecht, The Netherlands) was added and lysis was detected by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry (FACS Canto II; BD Biosciences). Graphs were generated using best-fit values of a non-linear dose-response fit with log-transformed concentrations in GraphPad Prism V6.04 software (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA).

In a second experiment, tumor cells from another untreated CLL patient (AllCells, California, USA) were resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA, were plated into polystyrene 96-well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) at a density of 0.5×10^5 cells/well (30 μ L/well) and 50 μ L of a concentration series of IgG1-G28.1, IgG1-G28.1-E430G or IgG1-b12 was added (0.003-10 μ g/mL final antibody concentration in 3.33x serial dilutions). After incubation (RT, 15 min), 20 μ L of pooled normal human serum (NHS Cat # M0008 Sanquin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was added to each well as a source of complement and plates were incubated at 37°C for 45 minutes. The reaction was stopped by cooling the plates on ice. Next, propidium iodide (PI; 20 μ L of a 10 μ g/mL solution; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie B.V., Zwijndrecht, The Netherlands) was added and lysis was detected by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry (FACS Canto II; BD Biosciences). Graphs were generated using best-fit values of a non-linear dose-response fit with log-transformed concentrations in GraphPad Prism V6.04 software (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA).

Figures 1A and B show that CD37 antibody G28.1 without the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing E345R or E430G mutation (IgG1-G28.1 or IgG1-G28.1-K409R-delK) did not induce CDC on primary tumor cells from CLL patients, whereas G28.1 with the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations E345R or E430G (IgG1-G28.1-E345R or IgG1-G28.1-E430G) induced profound, dose-dependent CDC of primary CLL cells.

Quantitative determination of cell surface antigens by flow cytometry (Qifi)

The CD37 and membrane complement regulatory proteins (mCRP; CD46, CD55 and CD59) expression levels on CLL tumor cells were determined using the Human IgG Calibrator Kit (Biocytix Cat # CP010). Briefly, tumor cells derived from a CLL patient (as in first experiment described above), resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA, were plated into polystyrene 96-well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) at a density of 0.5×10^5 cells/well (30 μ L/well), centrifuged and 50 μ L of CD37 (Abcam, cat. no. 76522) or control mouse antibody (Purified Mouse IgG1, κ Isotype Control, Clone MOPC-21,; BD cat. no. 555746) was added. After incubation (4°C, 30 min), 50 μ L of calibration beads were added into separate wells. After washing the beads and cells twice (150 μ L FACS buffer, centrifuging for 3 minutes at 300xg at 4°C in between wash steps), 50 μ L/well secondary antibody (FITC-conjugated) dilution, as provided in the Human IgG Calibrator Kit, was added. After incubation in the dark (4°C, 45 min) cells were washed twice with FACS buffer and cells were resuspended in 35 μ L FACS buffer and analyzed by flow cytometry (Intellicyt iQue™ screener). The antigen quantity was determined by

calculating the antibody-binding capacity based on the calibration curve, according to the manufacturer's guidelines.

Figure 2 shows that CD37 was highly expressed on primary tumor cells from this CLL patient. The patient showed normal expression levels of mCRP's.

Example 6: Binding of CD37 antibodies and variants thereof to cell surface expressed CD37

Binding to cell surface expressed CD37 (Daudi cells, CHO cells expressing cynomolgus CD37) was determined by flow cytometry. Cells, resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA, were seeded at 100,000 cells/well in polystyrene 96 well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) and centrifuged for 3 minutes at 300xg, 4°C. Serial dilutions (0.003-10 µg/mL final antibody concentration in 3.33x serial dilutions) of CD37 or control antibodies were added and cells were incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C. Plates were washed/centrifuged twice using FACS buffer (PBS/0.1% BSA/0.01% Na-Azide). Next, cells were incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C with R-Phycoerythrin (PE)-conjugated goat-anti-human IgG F(ab')₂ (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, Inc., West Grove, PA; cat #: 109-116-098) diluted 1/100 in PBS/0.1% BSA/0.01% Na-Azide. Cells were washed/centrifuged twice using FACS buffer, resuspended in 30 µL FACS buffer and analyzed by determining mean fluorescent intensities using an Intellicyt iQue™ screener (Westburg). Binding curves were generated using non-linear regression (sigmoidal dose-response with variable slope) analyses within GraphPad Prism V6.04 software (GraphPad Software, Sand Diego, CA, USA).

Binding to Daudi cells

Figure 3 shows that humanized CD37 antibodies IgG1-004-H5L2, IgG1-005-H1L2, IgG1-010-H5L2 and IgG1-016-H5L2 showed dose-dependent binding to Daudi cells. Introduction of the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing E430G mutation, and for IgG1-005-H1L2 also the K409R mutation, into these antibodies did not affect the binding.

Figure 4 shows that introduction of the E430G mutation into IgG1-G28.1 or IgG1-37.3 did not affect the binding to Daudi cells.

For antibody IgG1-016-H5L2 a variant with a point mutation in the variable domain was generated to replace a free cysteine in the light chain: IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S. This variant was also generated with additional F405L and E430G mutations that were previously shown to not

affect target binding characteristics. Figure 5 shows that the IgG1-016-H5L2, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430G all showed comparable binding to Daudi cells, thus that the LC90S mutation did not affect binding.

Binding to CHO cells expressing cynomolgus monkey CD37

Binding to CHO cells expressing cynomolgus monkey CD37 was determined by flow cytometry using a method as described above. Figure 6 shows that IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G showed dose-dependent binding to CHO cells expressing cynomolgus monkey CD37. IgG1-G28.1 and IgG1-28.1-E430G did not bind to CHO cells expressing cynomolgus CD37.

Example 7: Identification of CD37 antibodies that do not compete for binding to CD37

(Lack of) binding competition – determined by flow cytometry

CD37 antibodies were labeled with Alexa Fluor 488 NHS Ester (Succinimidyl Ester). 1 mg of CD37 antibody (dissolved in PBS) was transferred to a 1 ml micro-centrifuge vial (reaction vial). The pH was raised by addition of a 10% volume of 1 M sodium bicarbonate buffer (pH 9). Immediately before use, 1 mg Alexa Fluor 488 NHS Ester (adjusted to room temperature) was dissolved in 100 µL DMSO. The labeling reaction was initiated by addition of 10 µL of the fresh Alexa dye solution per mg antibody. Reaction vials were capped and mixed gently by inversion. After 1 hour incubation at room temperature, the reaction was quenched by addition of 50 µL 1M Tris to each reaction vial. Unreacted dye was removed from the Alexa-labeled antibody by gel filtration using BioRad PDP10 columns equilibrated with borate saline buffer, according to the manufacturer's directions. Alexa-labeled antibodies were stored at 4°C and protected from light.

Binding competition between different CD37 antibodies was determined by flow cytometry. Raji cells (ATCC, CCL-86) were resuspended in Raji medium (RPMI 1640, 10% FBS, 100 U/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin, 10mM HEPES and 1mM pyruvate) at a concentration of 1x10⁷ cells/mL. Next, 30 µL aliquots of the cell suspension were transferred into FACS tubes together with 30 µL aliquots (40 µg/mL final concentration) of unlabeled antibody solutions. The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 min while shaking gently. Next, A488-labeled antibody dilutions were prepared and after incubation, 10 µL of the labeled antibodies (4 µg/mL final antibody

concentration) was transferred to the FACS tubes containing the unlabeled antibodies and cells. The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 min while shaking gently. After incubation, samples were quenched by adding 4 mL of ice cold PBS, centrifuged for 3 min at 4°C at 2000 rpm, aspirated twice and subsequently resuspended in 125 µL of PBS. Binding competition was analyzed by determining mean fluorescent intensities using a BD FACSCalibur (BD Biosciences). Fluorescence intensities were converted to Molecules of Equivalent Soluble Fluorochrome (MESF) for quantitation.

Figures 7A and Figure 8 show that pre-incubation of Raji cells with IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G blocked subsequent binding of IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G, but not of IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G.

Pre-incubation of Raji cells with IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G substantially reduced subsequent binding of IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, but not of IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G.

Pre-incubation of Raji cells with IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G blocked subsequent binding of IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, but not of IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G.

Pre-incubation of cells with IgG1-37.3-E430G blocked the subsequent binding of all tested antibodies. However, as discussed above pre-incubating with either of IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G or IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G did not block the binding of IgG1-37.3-E430G.

Pre-incubation of cells with IgG1-G28.1-E430G blocked the subsequent binding of IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, but not of IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G.

(Lack of) binding competition – determined by functional screening using a CDC assay

To determine whether non-cross-blocking CD37 antibodies show enhanced CDC when combined, and to confirm the potential to functionally combine non-cross-blocking CD37 antibodies, a CDC assay using individual CD37 antibodies and combinations thereof was performed.

Raji cells, resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA, were plated into polystyrene 96-well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) at a density of 1×10^5 cells/well (30 µL/well)

and 50 μ L of humanized CD37 antibodies, variants thereof, combinations thereof or control antibody IgG1-b12 was added (10 μ g/mL final antibody concentration, combinations 5 + 5 μ g/mL). After incubation (RT, 15 min, while shaking), 20 μ L of pooled normal human serum (NHS Cat # M0008 Sanquin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was added to each well and plates were incubated at 37°C for 45 minutes. Plates were centrifuged (3 minutes, 1200 rpm) and supernatant was discarded. Propidium iodide (PI; 30 μ L of a 1.67 μ g/mL solution; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie B.V., Zwijndrecht, The Netherlands) was added and lysis was detected by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry (Intellicyt iQue™ screener, Westburg). Data was analyzed using GraphPad Prism software (Graphpad software, San Diego, CA, USA).

Figures 7B and C show that the combination of IgG1-004-H5L2 plus IgG1-010-H5L2 (with or without E430G mutation) and the combination of IgG1-005-H1L2 plus IgG1-016-H5L2 (with or without E430G mutation) induced enhanced CDC compared to their individual counterparts. The combination of IgG1-004-H5L2 plus IgG1-016-H5L2 (with or without E430G mutation) did not induce enhanced CDC compared to their individual counterparts.

Figures 7D and E show that the combination of IgG1-004-H5L2 plus IgG1-005-H1L2 (with or without E430G mutation) and the combination of IgG1-010-H5L2 plus IgG1-016-H5L2 (with or without E430G mutation) induced enhanced CDC compared to their individual counterparts. The combination of IgG1-005-H1L2 plus IgG1-010-H5L2 (with or without E430G mutation) did not induce enhanced CDC compared to their individual counterparts.

Figures 7F and G show that the combination of IgG1-37.3 plus IgG1-005-H1L2 (with or without E430G mutation) and the combination of IgG1-37.3 plus IgG1-010-H5L2 (with or without E430G mutation) induced enhanced CDC compared to their individual counterparts.

Hence, functional combination studies confirmed the results of the binding competition studies for described CD37 antibodies and showed that non-cross-blocking CD37 antibodies can functionally be combined.

Example 8: Introducing an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation into humanized CD37 antibodies results in enhanced, *de novo* capacity to induce complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC)

Daudi cells, resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA, were plated into polystyrene 96-well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) at a density of 1×10^5 cells/well (30 μ L/well) and 50 μ L of a concentration series of humanized CD37 antibodies and variants thereof, or control antibody IgG1-b12, was added (0.003-10 μ g/mL final antibody concentration in 3.33x serial dilutions). After incubation (RT, 15 min), 20 μ L of pooled normal human serum (NHS, Cat # M0008 Sanquin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was added to each well and plates were incubated at 37°C for 45 minutes. Plates were centrifuged (3 minutes, 1200 rpm) and supernatant was discarded. Propidium iodide (PI; 30 μ L of a 1.67 μ g/mL solution; Sigma-Aldrich Chemie B.V., Zwijndrecht, The Netherlands) was added and lysis was detected by measurement of the percentage of dead cells (corresponding to PI-positive cells) by flow cytometry (Intellicyt iQue™ screener, Westburg). Graphs were generated using best-fit values of a non-linear dose-response fit with log-transformed concentrations in GraphPad Prism V6.04 software (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA).

Figure 9 shows that IgG1-004-H5L2, IgG1-005-H1L2, IgG1-010-H5L2 and IgG1-016-H5L2 did not induce CDC in Daudi cells. Upon introduction of the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing E430G mutation, these antibodies (IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G, IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G) induced profound, dose-dependent CDC of Daudi cells.

Figure 10A shows that IgG1-G28.1 and IgG1-37.3 did not induce CDC on Daudi cells. Upon introduction of the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing E430G mutation, these antibodies (IgG1-G28.1-E430G and IgG1-37.3-E430G) induced profound, dose-dependent CDC of Daudi cells.

For antibody IgG1-016-H5L2 a variant with a point mutation in the variable domain was generated to replace a free cysteine in the light chain: IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S. In addition, this variant was also generated with an F405L mutation (previously shown not to affect target binding or CDC) and an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing E430G mutation. Figure 11 shows that the IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G, IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G and IgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430G all showed comparable activity in an in vitro CDC assay, thus that the LC90S mutation did not affect the capacity to induce CDC. IgG1-016-H5L2 did not induce CDC on Daudi cells.

Also, introduction of other Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations, E345K, E345R, E430S and RRGY, in IgG1-010-H5L2 and IgG1-016-H5L2 resulted in profound CDC of Daudi cells. Figure

10B and C show that maximum lysis of Daudi cell was comparable for all tested Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations.

Example 9: Bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation are more potent in inducing CDC than monospecific bivalent CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation due to monovalent binding and dual epitope targeting

F405L or K409R mutations were introduced into humanized CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation, to allow for the generation of bispecific antibodies (bsIgG1) with two CD37-specific Fab-arms that do not compete for binding to CD37. The capacity of bispecific CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation to induce CDC was determined as described above, and compared to that of CD37 monospecific bivalent antibodies containing the E430G mutation, a combination of two CD37 monospecific bivalent antibodies containing the E430G mutation that do not compete for binding to CD37 (with the end concentration of the combined antibodies together identical to the concentration of the individual bispecific antibodies), monovalent CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation (i.e. bispecific antibodies containing one CD37-specific Fab arm and one non-binding Fab-arm derived from IgG1-b12, and containing the E430G mutation) or a combination of two monovalent CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation that do not compete for binding to CD37.

CDC on Daudi cells

Figure 12A shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than either IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G or IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G in inducing CDC on Daudi cells. The bispecific bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G was also more potent than a combination of IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G. Monovalent CD37-binding antibodies bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G also induced CDC on Daudi cells, but were less efficient in doing so than bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G.

Figure 12B shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than either IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G or IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G in inducing CDC on Daudi cells. The bispecific bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was also more potent than a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G. Monovalent binding antibodies bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G also induced CDC on Daudi cells, with

bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G being less potent and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G being equally potent compared to bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G.

The capacity to induce CDC by bispecific CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation was also compared to that of bispecific CD37 antibodies without the E430G mutation. Figure 13 shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-F405Lx005-H1L2-K409R as well as bsIgG1-016-H5L2-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R were capable of inducing CDC on Daudi cells, but were less potent in doing so compared to their E430G containing counterparts bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G.

CDC on OCI-Ly-7 cells

Figure 12C shows that monovalent binding antibodies bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G were more potent in inducing CDC on OCI-Ly-7 cells compared to their monospecific bivalent binding counterparts, IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G and IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G. The combination of monovalent binding antibodies (bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G plus bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G) was more potent than the combination of bivalent antibodies (IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G), as demonstrated by a consistent lower EC50 in two independent experiments (Figure 12D). Also, bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was more potent in inducing CDC on OCI-Ly-7 cells than the combination of bivalent antibodies (IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G), as demonstrated by a consistent lower EC50 in three independent experiments (Figure 12E).

The potency of the combination of monovalent binding antibodies (bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G plus bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G) and of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G in inducing CDC in OCI-Ly-7 cells was comparable.

CDC on primary CLL tumor cells

The capacity of bispecific CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation to induce CDC on tumor cells derived from a CLL patient was determined as described above, and compared to that of CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation or a combination of CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation or monovalent CD37 antibodies containing the E430G mutation.

Figure 14A shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than either IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G or IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G in inducing CDC on primary CLL tumor cells. The bispecific bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G was also more potent than a combination of IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G. Monovalent binding antibodies bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G also induced CDC on primary CLL tumor cells, but were less efficient in doing so than bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G.

Figure 14B shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than either IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G or IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G in inducing CDC on primary CLL tumor cells. The bispecific bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was also more potent than a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G. Monovalent binding antibodies bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G also induced CDC on primary CLL tumor cells, with bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G being less potent and bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G being equally potent compared to bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G.

Example 10: Bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation induce CDC on a variety of B cell lymphoma cell lines with a wide range of CD37 expression

The capacity of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G, at a concentration of 10 µg/mL, to induce CDC was determined (as described above) on a range of B cell lymphoma cell lines, derived from a variety of B cell lymphoma subtypes. The expression levels of CD37 molecules on the cell surface of these cell lines were determined by quantitative flow cytometry as described above.

Table 3 gives an overview of the cell lines tested.

Table 3: B cell lymphoma cell lines.

Cell line	Lymphoma type	Source
JVM-2	MCL	DSMZ; ACC 12
JVM-13	MCL	ATCC; CRL-3003
Jeko-1	MCL	DSMZ; ACC 553
Z-138	MCL	ATCC; CRL-3001
Daudi	Burkitt's	ATCC; CCL-213

Raji	Burkitt's	ATCC; CCL-86
Wien-133	Burkitt's	BioAnaLab, Oxford, U.K
SU-DHL-8	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 573
OCI-Ly19	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 528
OCI-Ly7	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 688
SU-DHL-4	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 495
RC-K8	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 561
U-2932	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 633
WIL-2S	Plasmablastic	ATCC; CRL-8885
RI-1	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 585
WSU-DLCL2	DLBCL	DSMZ; ACC 575

Figure 15 shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G induced CDC on a wide range of B cell lymphoma cell lines, derived from various B cell lymphoma types.

Example 11: Bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation are more potent in inducing antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC)

Labeling of target cells

The capacity of CD37 antibodies to induce ADCC was determined by a chromium release assay. Daudi or Raji cells were collected (5×10^6 cells/mL) in 1 mL culture medium (RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% Donor Bovine Serum with Iron (DBSI; ThermoFischer, Cat # 10371029) and Penicillin Streptomycin mixture (pen/strep), to which 100 μ Ci ^{51}Cr (Chromium-51; PerkinElmer, Cat # NEZ030005MC) had been added. Cells were incubated in a water bath at 37°C for 1 hour while shaking. After washing of the cells (twice in PBS, 1500 rpm, 5 min), the cells were resuspended in RPMI 1640/10% DBSI/pen/strep and counted by trypan blue exclusion. Cells were diluted to a density of 1×10^5 cells/mL.

Preparation of effector cells

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells from healthy volunteers (Sanquin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) were isolated from 45 mL of freshly drawn heparin blood (buffy coats) by Ficoll density centrifugation (Bio Whittaker; lymphocyte separation medium, cat 17-829E) according to the manufacturer's instructions. After resuspension of cells in RPMI 1640/10% DBSI/pen/strep, cells were counted by trypan blue exclusion and diluted to a density of 1×10^7 cells/mL.

ADCC assay procedure

50 μ L of ^{51}Cr -labeled targets cells were pipetted into 96-well round-bottom microtiter plates (Greiner Bio-One; Cat # 650101), and 50 μ L of a concentration series of (1.5-5,000 ng/mL final concentrations in 3-fold dilutions) CD37 or control antibodies, diluted in RPMI 1640/10% DBSI/pen/strep was added. Cells were incubated at room temperature (RT) for 15 min and 50 μ L effector cells were added, resulting in an effector to target ratio of 100:1. Cells were incubated for 4 hours at 37°C and 5% CO₂. For determination of maximal lysis, 50 μ L ^{51}Cr -labeled Daudi cells (5,000 cells) were incubated with 100 μ L 5% Triton-X100; for determination of spontaneous lysis (background lysis), 5,000 ^{51}Cr -labeled Daudi cells were incubated in 150 μ L medium without any antibody or effector cells. The level of antibody-independent cell lysis was determined by incubating 5,000 Daudi cells with 500,000 PBMCs without antibody. Plates were centrifuged (1200 rpm, 10 min) and 25 μ L of supernatant was transferred to 100 μ L Microscint-40 solution (Packard, Cat # 6013641) in 96-Wells plates. Plates were sealed and shaken for 15 minutes at 800 rpm and released ^{51}Cr was counted using a scintillation counter (TopCount®, PerkinElmer). The percentage specific lysis was calculated as follows:

$\% \text{ specific lysis} = (\text{cpm sample} - \text{cpm spontaneous lysis}) / (\text{cpm maximal lysis} - \text{cpm spontaneous lysis})$ wherein cpm is counts per minute.

Figure 16A shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx005-H1L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than either IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G or IgG1-016-H5L2-F409L-E430G or than a combination of IgG1-005-H1L2-K409R-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-F405L-E430G in inducing ADCC on Daudi cells.

Figure 16B shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than either IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G or IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G or a combination of IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G plus IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G in inducing ADCC on Daudi cells.

Figure 16C shows similar results as Figure 16B for PBMCs from a different donor, and in addition shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was more potent than monovalent binding antibodies bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G and bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G in inducing ADCC on Raji cells.

Example 12: Bispecific CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation induce potent ex vivo CDC in primary tumor cells from patients with various B cell malignancies

The CDC efficacy of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was analyzed using primary patient-derived tumor cells from five different B cell malignancies: chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (not further specified). All patient samples were obtained after written informed consent and stored using protocols approved by the VUmc Medical Ethical Committee in accordance with the declaration of Helsinki. Patient bone marrow mononuclear cells (BMNCs) or peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated by density-gradient centrifugation (Ficoll-Paque PLUS, GE Healthcare) from bone marrow aspirates or peripheral blood samples of patients. Cells were either used directly or stored in liquid nitrogen until further use.

Patient lymph node tissue was dissected into small fragments and collected in α -MEM medium (ThermoFischer Scientific, Waltham, MA) containing 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin, 0.2% heparin and 5% platelet lysate and left overnight at 37°C. After incubation, the supernatant (non-stromal cell compartment including tumor cells) was collected and cells were filtered using a 70 μ M Easy Strainer (Greiner Bio-one). Cells were counted, resuspended in RPMI 1640 medium containing 25% heat-inactivated FBS and 10% DMSO, and frozen in liquid nitrogen until further use.

The CD37 and membrane complement regulatory proteins (mCRP; CD46, CD55 and CD59) expression levels on isolated patient cells were determined using a QifiKit (DAKO, cat. no. K007811). Cells were incubated with the purified antibodies CD37 (BD, cat. no. 555456), CD46 (BioLegend, cat. no. 352404), CD55 (BioLegend, cat. no. 311302), CD59 (BioLegend, cat. no. 304702), and b12 (Genmab) at 4°C for 30 min. After this the method as provided by the QifiKit manufacturer was used. After the final step of Qifi kit procedure, cells were incubated with lymphoma cell specific markers to enable tumor cell identification. Figure 17 shows the expression levels per indication.

The patient-derived tumor cells were opsonized with 10 μ g/mL or 100 μ g/mL bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and CDC induction was assessed in the presence of 20% pooled NHS. The following cell markers were used to identify different cell populations: CD45-KO (Beckman Coulter B36294), CD19-PC7 (Beckman Coulter, cat. no. IM3628), CD3-V450 (BD, cat. no. 560365), CD5-APC (BD, cat. no. 345783), CD5-PE (DAKO, cat. no. R084201), CD10-APC-H7 (BD, cat. no. 655404), CD10-PE (DAKO, cat. no. R084201), CD23-FITC (Biolegend, cat. no. 338505), lambda-APC-H7 (BD, cat. no. 656648), kappa-PE (DAKO, cat. no. R043601) and

lambda-FITC (Emelca Bioscience CYT-LAMBF). Within the CD45+ cell population, malignant B cells were defined by different markers depending on the indication: CD3-/CD19+/CD5+ (CLL), CD3-/CD19+/CD10+ (FL, DLBCL), CD3-/CD19+/CD5+/CD23- (MCL). In case malignant B cells could not be identified based on these markers, malignant cells were identified based on clonality using kappa/lambda staining. In a few samples, malignant B cells could also not be identified based on clonality; in these cases the total B cell population was assessed, without distinction between normal and malignant B cells. Killing was calculated as the fraction of 7-amino actinomycin D (7-AAD; BD, cat. no. 555816) positive malignant B cells (%) determined by an LSRFortessa flow cytometer (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA).

Figure 18 shows that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was highly potent (lysis of more than 50%) in inducing CDC in tumor cells derived patients with CLL, FL, MCL, DLBCL or B-NHL (not further specified). In cells from one patient with relapsed/refractory FL, bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405Lx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G was less capable of inducing CDC.

Example 13: Binding of a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation to human or cynomolgus monkey B cells in whole blood, and induction of cytotoxicity in B cells in whole blood

Binding to human or cynomolgus monkey B cells

Binding to human or cynomolgus monkey B cells was determined in a whole blood binding assay. Heparin-treated human blood from healthy volunteers was derived from UMC Utrecht (Utrecht, The Netherlands), hirudin-treated blood from cynomolgus monkeys was derived from Covance (Münster, Germany). Blood was aliquoted to wells of a 96-well round-bottom plate (Greiner Bio-one, cat. no. 65010; 35 µL/well). Red blood cells (RBC) were lysed by addition of 100 µL RBC lysis buffer (10 mM KHCO₃ [Sigma P9144], 0.1 mM EDTA [Fluka 03620] and 0.15 mM NH₄CL [Sigma A5666]) and incubated on ice until RBC lysis was complete. After centrifugation for 3 minutes at 300xg, cells were incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C with serial dilutions (0.014-30 µg/mL final antibody concentration in 3x serial dilutions) of Alexa-488 labeled bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G or Alexa-488 labeled control IgG1 (IgG1-b12) and a directly labeled antibody to identify B cells (among a mixture of antibodies to further identify blood cell subsets):

For human blood B cells the following antibody was used

Target protein	Clone	Label	Target cells	Company	Cat. no.
CD19	HIB19	BV711	B cells	Biolegend	302245

For cynomolgus monkey blood B cells the following antibody was used

Target protein	Clone	Label	Target cells	Company	Cat. no.
CD19	J3-119	PE	B cells	Beckman Coulter	A07769

Cells were pelleted and washed twice in 150 μ L FACS buffer and resuspended in 150 μ L TO-PRO-3 (end concentration 0.2 μ M; Molecular Probes, cat no. T3605). Samples were measured by flow cytometry using an LSRFortessa flow cytometer. Binding is expressed as geometric mean of A488 fluorescence intensity for viable TO-PRO-3⁻/CD14⁻/CD19⁺ B-cells (human) or viable TO-PRO-3⁻/CD14⁻/CD19⁺/CD20⁺ B-cells (cynomolgus monkey). Log-transformed data were analyzed using best-fit values of a non-linear dose-response fit in GraphPad PRISM.

Figure 19 shows the concentration dependent binding of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G to B cells in (A) human and (B) cynomolgus monkey blood, for one representative donor/animal. The average EC₅₀ values for binding to human and cynomolgus monkey B cells were in the same range ([0.85 μ g/mL $\pm$ 0.284 based on binding to B cells in blood from 6 human donors] and [0.63 μ g/mL $\pm$ 0.228 based on binding to B cells in blood from 4 animals], respectively), indicating that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G shows comparable binding to human and cynomolgus monkey CD37.

Cytotoxicity to human or cynomolgus monkey B cells

Cytotoxicity towards human or cynomolgus monkey B cells was determined in a whole blood cytotoxicity assay. Hirudin-treated human blood from healthy volunteers was derived from UMC Utrecht (Utrecht, The Netherlands), hirudin-treated blood from cynomolgus monkeys was derived from Covance (Münster, Germany). Blood was aliquoted to wells of a 96-well round-bottom plate, 35 μ L/well.

Serial dilutions (0.0005-10 µg/mL final antibody concentration in 3x serial dilutions; final volume 100 µL/well) of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G or IgG1-b12 were added. In cytotoxicity assays using human whole blood, the monoclonal FcγR-interaction enhanced CD37 specific antibody IgG1-G28.1-S239D-I332E was included as reference. Samples were incubated at 37°C for 4 hours. Thereafter, red blood cells were lysed as described above and samples were stained to identify B cells as described above. Cells were pelleted and washed twice in 150 µL FACS buffer and resuspended in 150 µL TO-PRO-3 (end concentration 0.2 µM; Molecular Probes, cat no. T3605). Samples were measured by flow cytometry using an LSRFortessa flow cytometer. After exclusion of doublets the percentage viable TO-PRO-3⁻/CD14⁻/CD19⁺ B-cells (human) or viable TO-PRO-3⁻/CD14⁻/CD19⁺/CD20⁺ B cells (cynomolgus monkey) was determined. The percentage B-cell depletion was calculated as follows: % B cell depletion = 100 * [(% B-cells no Ab control - % B cells sample) / (% B cells no Ab control)]. Log-transformed data were analyzed using best-fit values of a non-linear dose-response fit in GraphPad PRISM.

Figure 20 shows the concentration dependent cytotoxicity of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G to B cells in (A) human and (B) cynomolgus monkey blood, for one representative donor/animal.

Based on EC₅₀, the capacity of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G to induce cytotoxicity in human and cynomolgus monkey B cells was comparable: the average EC₅₀ for cytotoxicity to human B cells (in blood from 6 donors) was 0.077 µg/mL ± 0.039; the average EC₅₀ for cytotoxicity to cynomolgus monkey B cells (in blood from 4 animals) was 0.043 µg/mL ± 0.019.

Figure 20A also shows the cytotoxicity of the FcγR-interaction enhanced monoclonal CD37 antibody IgG1-G28.1-S239D-I332E to human B cells for a representative responding donor, which showed lower cytotoxicity than bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G. In B cells from 3 responding donors, a maximum B-cell depletion of 50% by IgG1-G28.1-S239D-I332E was measured, whereas in 3 other donors no cytotoxicity to B cells by this antibody was measured. BsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G induced cytotoxicity in 93-99% of B cells in 6/6 donors. Binding of IgG1-G28.1-S239D-I332E to CD37 expressed on Daudi cells was comparable to that of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G (data not shown).

Example 14: Potent CDC activity by a combination of a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation with a CD20-specific antibody

The capacity to induce CDC was tested for a combination of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and an anti-CD20 antibody (IgG1-CD20-ofa; ofatumumab) on patient derived CLL tumor cells obtained from ConversantBio (Huntsville, Alabama, USA). Patient derived PBMCs were resuspended in RPMI containing 0.2% BSA (bovine serum albumin) and plated into polystyrene 96-well round-bottom plates (Greiner bio-one Cat # 650101) at a density of 0.1×10^6 cells/well (30 μ L/well) and 50 μ L of a concentration series of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G (0.0625-0.05 μ g/mL) and IgG1-CD20-ofa (1-8 μ g/mL) was added in 2-fold dilutions. BsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and IgG1-CD20-ofa were combined at antibody concentrations that were based on relative potency (differences in EC50s) of each of the antibodies, by mixing two concentrations that would, on average, separately reach the same effect. IgG1-b12 was used as negative control.

After incubation (RT, 15 min while shaking), 20 μ L of pooled normal human serum (NHS Cat # M0008 Sanquin, Amsterdam, The Netherlands) was added to each well as a source of complement and plates were incubated at 37°C for 45 minutes. The reaction was stopped by cooling the plates on ice. After centrifugation for 3 minutes at 300xg, cells were washed twice with 150 μ L FACS buffer and incubated for 30 minutes at 4°C with an R-Phycoerythrin (PE) labeled mouse-anti-human IgG1-CD19 antibody (clone J3-119, Beckman Coulter, cat no. A07769, 1:50 diluted from stock) to determine the tumor B cells and TO-PRO-3 (end concentration 0.2 μ M; Molecular Probes, cat no. T3605) for the identification of dead cells. Cells were pelleted and washed twice in 150 μ L FACS buffer and measured by flow cytometry using an LSRFortessa flow cytometer. The percentage of viable cells was calculated as follows: % viable cells = $100 * (\# \text{ TO-PRO-3 negative events}) / (\# \text{ total events})$.

Figures 21A-D show that both bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and ofatumumab induced CDC in tumor cells derived from 2 CLL patients, with CDC activity increasing with increasing dose levels. Combining bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G with ofatumumab resulted in enhanced CDC activity at all tested concentrations for both CLL patients tested, although these effects were less evident at higher antibody concentrations, where almost complete cell kill was induced by the single agents (Figure 21A and B). These results indicate that the addition of ofatumumab to bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-

F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G can improve CDC-mediated tumor cell kill in malignant B cells obtained from CLL patients.

Example 15: Anti-tumor activity of a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation in xenograft models of B cell malignancies

Anti-tumor activity in a subcutaneous JVM-3 human chronic B cell leukemia xenograft model

JVM-3 cells (1×10^7) were inoculated into the right flank of CB17.SCID mice and antibody treatment (3 weekly doses of 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3 or 10 mg/kg, injected intravenously; IgG1-b12 was used as negative control, dosed at 10 mg/kg) was initiated when tumors reached a mean volume of approximately 158 mm³. Tumor volumes were measured twice weekly in two dimensions using a caliper, and the volume was expressed in mm³ using the formula: $V = (L \times W \times W)/2$, where V is tumor volume, L is tumor length (the longest tumor dimension) and W is tumor width (the longest tumor dimension perpendicular to L).

Figure 22A shows the tumor volume per dose group over time, Figure 22B shows the tumor volumes per mouse per dose group on day 25 when all groups were still complete. Three weekly doses of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G at 1, 3 or 10 mg/kg significantly reduced the JVM-3 cell tumor growth, whereas dosing at 0.1 or 0.3 mg/kg did not affect tumor growth (Mann Whitney test, $p < 0.01$).

Anti-tumor activity in an intravenous Daudi-luc Burkitt's lymphoma xenograft model

On day 0, SCID mice (C.B-17/IcrHan®Hsd-Prkdcscid; Harlan) were intravenously injected with Daudi-luc cells (luciferase transfected Daudi cell, 2.5×10^6 cells/mouse). At day 14, 21 and 28, mice were injected intraperitoneally with 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3 or 10 mg/kg of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G. IgG1-b12 was used as negative control antibody, dosed at 10 mg/kg. Tumor growth was evaluated weekly (starting at day 2) by bioluminescence imaging (BLI). Mice were injected intraperitoneally with 100 µL firefly D-luciferin (30 mg/mL; Caliper LifeSciences, cat. no. 119222) and bioluminescence (radiance in p/s/cm²/sr [photons per second per cm² per square radian]) was measured under isoflurane anesthesia using a Biospace Bioluminescence Imaging System (PerkinElmer; mice were imaged from the dorsal site).

Figure 23A shows luciferase activity (bioluminescence, as a measure of tumor volume) per dose group over time, Figure 23B shows the luciferase activity per mouse per dose group on day 36 when all groups were still complete. Three weekly doses of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-

E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G at 0.1, 0.3, 1, 3 or 10 mg/kg significantly reduced the in vivo growth of Daudi-luc cells (One Way Anova, Uncorrected Fisher's LSD).

Example 16: Evaluation of plasma clearance of a bispecific CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation in SCID mice

11-12 week old, female SCID mice (C.B-17/IcrHan[®]Hsd-Prkdcscid; Harlan) (3 mice per group) were injected intravenously (i.v.) injected with a single dose of 100 µg (5 mg/kg) or 500 µg (25 mg/kg) of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G or IgG1-b12. The experiment was set up to study antibody clearance in absence of target-mediated clearance as neither bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G nor IgG1-b12 show cross-reactivity with mouse.

50-100 µL blood samples were collected from the saphenous vein at 10 minutes, 4 hours, 24 hours, 2 days, 7 or 8 days, 14 days and 21 days after antibody administration. Blood was collected into heparin containing vials and centrifuged for 5 minutes at 10,000 *g*. Plasma samples were diluted 1:50 for mice dosed with 5 mg/kg (20 µL sample in 980 µL PBSA (PBS supplemented with 0.2% bovine serum albumin (BSA))) and 1:20 for mice dosed with 25 mg/kg (20 µL sample in 380 µL PBSA) and stored at – 20°C until determination of mAb concentrations.

Human IgG concentrations were determined using a sandwich ELISA. Mouse mAb anti-human IgG-kappa clone MH16 (CLB Sanquin, The Netherlands; cat. no. M1268), coated in 100 µL overnight at 4°C to 96-well Microton ELISA plates (Greiner, Germany) at a concentration of 2 µg/mL, was used as capturing antibody. After blocking plates with PBSA for 1 hour at room temperature (RT), samples were added, serially diluted in PBSA, and incubated on a plate shaker for 1 hour at RT. Plates were washed three times with 300 µL PBST (PBS supplemented with 0.05% Tween 20) and subsequently incubated for 1 hour at RT with goat anti-human IgG immunoglobulin (Jackson, West Grace, PA; cat. no. 109-035-098; 1:10.000 in PBST supplemented with 0.2% BSA). Plates were washed again three times with 300 µL PBST before incubation with 2,2'-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS; Roche, Mannheim, Germany) protected from light. The reaction was stopped by adding 100 µL 2% oxalic acid. Absorbance was measured in a microplate reader (Biotek, Winooski, VT) at 405 nm. Human IgG concentration was calculated by using the injected material as a reference curve. As a plate control, purified human IgG1 (The binding site, cat. no. BP078) was included. Human IgG concentrations (in µg/mL) were plotted (Figure 24A and C) and the area under the curve (AUC) was calculated using Graphpad prism 6.0. IgG clearance until the last day of blood sampling (day

21) was determined by the formula $D \times 1.000 / \text{AUC}$, in which D is the dose of injection (1 mg/kg) (Figure 24B and D).

There were no substantial differences between plasma clearance rates of bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G and IgG1-b12, demonstrating that bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G showed a comparable pharmacokinetic profile as wild type human IgG1 in absence of target binding.

Example 17: Determination of the contribution of CD37 amino acid residues to binding of CD37 antibodies using alanine scanning

Library design

A CD37 single residue alanine library was synthesized (Geneart) in which all amino acid (aa) residues in the extracellular domains of human CD37 (Uniprot P11049) were individually mutated to alanines except for positions already containing alanines or cysteines. Cysteines were not mutated to minimize the chance of structural disruption of the antigen. The library was cloned in the pMAC expression vector containing a CMV/TK-polyA expression cassette, an Amp resistance gene and a pBR322 replication origin.

Library production and screening

The wild type CD37 and alanine mutants were expressed individually in FreeStyle HEK293 cells according to the manufacturer's instructions (Thermo Scientific). One day post transfection the cells were harvested. Approximately 100,000 cells were incubated with 20 μL Alexa488 conjugated bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G (monovalent binding 010) or Alexa488 conjugated bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G (monovalent binding 016) at a concentration of 3 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ in FACS buffer (PBS + 0.1% (w/v) bovine serum albumin (BSA) + 0.02% (w/v) sodium azide). Cells were incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. Subsequently, cells were washed twice by adding 150 μL FACS buffer and removing the supernatant after centrifugation. Cells were resuspended in 20 μL fresh FACS buffer and stored at 4°C until analysis by flow cytometry using an iQue screener (IntelliCyt). The entire experiment was performed 2 times.

Data analysis

For every sample, the average antibody binding per cell was determined as the geometric mean of the fluorescence intensity (gMFI) for the ungated cell population. The gMFI is influenced by the affinity of the antibody for the CD37 mutant and the expression level of the CD37 mutant per cell. Since specific alanine mutations can impact the surface expression level of the mutant CD37, and to correct for expression differences for each CD37 mutant in general, data were normalized against the binding intensity of a non-competing CD37 specific control antibody (in this example antibodies monovalent binding 010 and monovalent binding 016 were non-competing antibodies and one antibody was used as control for the other antibody), using the following equation:

$$\text{Normalized } gMFI_{aa \text{ position}} = \text{Log}_{10} \left(\frac{gMFI_{Test \text{ Ab}}}{gMFI_{Control \text{ Ab}}} \right)$$

In which 'aa position' refers to either a particular alanine mutant position in CD37 or wild type (wt) CD37.

To express loss or gain of binding of the antibodies the standard score was determined according to the following calculation:

$$zscore(fold \ change) = \frac{\text{Normalized } gMFI_{aa \text{ position}} - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Where μ and σ are the mean and standard deviation (SD) of the Normalized gMFI of all mutants.

Gain of binding in most cases will be caused by loss of binding of the reference antibody to specific ala mutants. Using these calculations, amino acid positions for which, upon replacing the amino acid with alanine, there is no loss or gain of binding by a particular antibody will give a zscore of '0', gain of binding will result in 'zscore>0' and loss of binding will result in 'zscore<0'. To correct for sample variation, only CD37 amino acid residues where the zscore was lower than -1.5 were considered 'loss of binding mutants'. In case the gMFI of the control antibody for a particular CD37 mutant was lower than the mean gMFI-2.5xSD of the mean gMFI_{Control Ab}, data were excluded from analysis (as for those CD37 mutants it was assumed expression levels were not sufficient).

Figure 25 shows the 'zscore (fold change)' of the CD37 antibodies to CD37 variants with ala mutations at positions 42 to 131 (according to SEQ ID No 94). The results indicate that:

- binding of antibody 010 is at least dependent on aa Y182, D189, T191, I192, D194, K195, V196, I197 and P199 of human CD37,
- binding of antibody 016 is at least dependent on aa E124, F162, Q163, V164, L165 and H175 of human CD37.

In summary

In summary, bispecific antibodies composed of two CD37-specific antibodies that do not compete for target binding with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, showed the most favorable combination of CDC potency and ADCC potency in CD37-positive tumor cells. For both effector mechanisms, the bispecific antibodies with the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation showed superior potency compared to the combination of two non-competing CD37 antibodies containing the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation or to the single CD37 antibodies with the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation.

Example 18: In vitro evaluation of CDC activity of mixtures of novel hexamerization-enhanced CD37 antibodies with clinically established CD20 antibody products on Raji cells.

The CDC activity of mixtures of CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation, IgG1-37.3-E430G, IgG1-G28.1-E430G, IgG1-004-E430G, IgG1-005-E430G, IgG1-010-E430G and IgG1-016-E430G (the latter 4 being chimeric rabbit/human), plus the clinically established CD20-targeting monoclonal antibody products MabThera (rituximab; Roche, H0124B08), Arzerra (ofatumumab; Novartis; C656294) and Gazyva (obinutuzumab, GA101; Roche, D287-41A GACD20) was tested in vitro using Burkitt's lymphoma Raji cells. Raji cells (ATCC, Cat No. CCL-86) were cultured in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS, 1 U/mL penicillin, 1 µg/mL streptomycin, and 4 mM L-glutamine. 0.1×10^6 Raji cells were pre-incubated with antibodies in a total volume of 80 µL RPMI/0.2% BSA per well for 15 min on a shaker at RT. Next, NHS was added to the pre-incubated cells to a final volume of 100 µL (final antibody concentrations 10 µg/mL; 20% NHS) and incubated for 45 minutes at 37°C. For all tested total antibody concentrations, different ratios of the two antibodies in the mixtures were tested (1:0 – 3:1 – 1:1 – 1:3 – 0:1). Plates were centrifuged and cells were resuspended in 30 µL PI (2 µg/mL). Killing was calculated as the fraction PI-positive cells (%) determined by flow cytometry on an iQue screener (Intellicyt). Data were analyzed and plotted using GraphPad Prism software.

The mixtures of the tested CD37 antibodies with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation and clinically established CD20 antibody products showed enhanced dose-dependent CDC activity compared to the same concentration of the single antibodies on Raji cells (Figure 8). There was little difference in CDC activity at the different tested ratios of the two antibodies in the mixtures (1:3, 1:1 or 3:1). These data indicate that the mixture of a hexamerization-enhanced CD37 antibody with an Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutation plus a clinically established CD20 antibody product, such as MabThera, Arzerra (type I CD20 antibodies) or Gazyva (type II CD20 antibody), may improve the therapeutic potential for patients with B cell malignancies, which frequently become refractory to standard CD20 targeted therapies alone.

CLAIMS

1. A bispecific antibody comprising a first and second antigen binding region binding to human CD37 having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 62, and a first and second Fc region of a human immunoglobulin, wherein the first and second antigen binding regions bind different epitopes on CD37, and wherein the first and second Fc regions comprise one or more amino acid mutations which mutation(s) enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between the bispecific antibodies upon binding to membrane-bound target compared to the Fc-Fc interaction between bispecific antibodies not having said mutation(s).
2. The bispecific antibody of claim 1, wherein said first antigen binding region is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:
VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20,
VL CDR2 sequence: KAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21. **[010]**.
3. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said first antigen binding region binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:
VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20,
VL CDR2 sequence: KAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21. **[010]**.
4. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said first antigen binding region comprises the CDR sequences:
VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20,
 VL CDR2 sequence: KAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21. **[010]**.

5. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said first antigen binding region comprises the VH and VL sequences:
 - (i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 15 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 19 or
 - (ii) VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequences of SEQ ID Nos 15 and 19.
6. The bispecific antibody of any one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein said first antigen binding region binds to a functional epitope comprising one or more of the amino acids selected from the group consisting of :Y182, D189, T191, I192, D194, K195, V196, I197 and P199 of SEQ ID No: 62 (CD37).
7. The bispecific antibody of claim 1, wherein said first antigen binding region is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13,
 VL CDR2 sequence: AAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14. **[005]**.
8. The bispecific antibody of claims 1 or 7, wherein said first antigen binding region binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13,
 VL CDR2 sequence: AAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14. **[005]**.

9.

The bispecific antibody of claims 1, 7 or 8, wherein said first antigen binding region comprises the CDR sequences:

VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 13,
 VL CDR2 sequence: AAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14. **[005]**.

10. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 1 or 7 to 9, wherein said first antigen binding region comprises the VH and VL sequences:

- (i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 8 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 12 or
- (ii) VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequences of SEQ ID Nos 8 and 12.

11. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said second antigen binding region is obtained from an antibody which competes for binding to human CD37 with a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group comprising:

- (i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
 VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**

(ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
 VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

(iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

(iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
 VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**

12. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said second antigen binding region binds to the same epitope on human CD37 as a CD37 antibody comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group comprising:

(i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,
 VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**

(ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,
 VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

(iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,
 VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

(iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,
 VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**.

13. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said second antigen binding region binds to a functional epitope comprising one or more of the amino acids selected from the group consisting of: E124, F162, Q163, V164, L165 and H175 of SEQ ID No: 62 (CD37).

14. The bispecific antibody of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said second antigen binding region comprises the CDR sequences selected from the group comprising:

(i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27,

VL CDR2 sequence: YAS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; **[016]**

(ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6,

VL CDR2 sequence: EAS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7; **[004]**

(iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44,

VL CDR2 sequence: FAK, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45; **[G28.1]** and

(iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47,

VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48,

VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51,

VL CDR2 sequence: VAT and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52. **[37.3]**.

15. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein said second antigen binding region comprises the VH and VL sequences selected from the group comprising:

(i) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 26 or

(ii) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 or

(iii) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 39 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 43 or

(iv) VH sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 46 and VL sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 50 or

- (v) a VH sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity and a VL sequence having at least 90% identity, such as at least 95% identity, such as at least 98% identity, such as at least 99% identity with the VH sequence and VL sequence, respectively, as set forth in any one of (i) to (iv).
16. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein the one or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions are amino acid substitutions.
17. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein the one or more Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions are amino acid substitutions at one or more positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 440 and 345 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system.
18. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims comprising at least one substitution in said first and second Fc regions selected from the group comprising: E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W.
19. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims comprising at least one substitution in said first and second Fc regions selected from E430G or E345K, preferably E430G.
20. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein said Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations in said first and second Fc regions are identical substitutions in said first and second Fc regions.
21. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein the bispecific antibody is an IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 isotype or a combination thereof, preferably it is an IgG1 isotype.
22. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein the bispecific antibody is a full length antibody.
23. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein the bispecific antibody is human, humanized or chimeric or a combination thereof.

24. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein the bispecific antibody binds human and cynomolgus CD37, having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID Nos 62 and 63, respectively.

25. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims, wherein

A) the first Fc region comprises a further mutation corresponding to F405L in human IgG1 and the second Fc region comprises a further mutation corresponding to K409R in human IgG1, or

B) the second Fc region comprises a further mutation corresponding to F405L in human IgG1 and the first Fc region comprises a further mutation corresponding to K409R in human IgG1

when using EU numbering.

26. The bispecific antibody of any of the above claims which has increased CDC or increased CDC and ADCC effector functions compared to an identical bispecific antibody but which does not have the Fc-Fc interaction enhancing mutations.

27. An anti-CD37 antibody binding to the same epitope on human CD37 as an anti-CD37 antibody which antibody comprises:

(i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21[010]; or

(ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14[005].

28. The anti-CD37 antibody of claim 27 which comprises:

(i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 16, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 17 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:

- 18, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 20, and CDR2 sequence: KAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 21[**010**]; or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 9, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 10 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 11, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 113, and CDR2 sequence: AAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 14[**005**].
29. An anti-CD37 antibody which binds to human CD37 which antibody comprises:
- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 23, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 25, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 27, and CDR2 sequence: YAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 28; [**016**] or
- (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6, and CDR2 sequence: EAS, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7. [**004**]
30. The antibody of any of claims 27-29, wherein said antibody comprises an Fc region which comprises one or more amino acid mutations which mutation(s) enhances the Fc-Fc interaction between the antibodies upon target binding compared to the Fc-Fc interaction between antibodies not having said mutation(s).
31. The antibody of claim 30, wherein the one or more amino acid mutations in the Fc region of the antibody is amino acid substitutions at one or more positions corresponding to amino acid positions 430, 440 and 345 in human IgG1 when using the EU numbering system.
32. The antibody of claim 31 comprising at least one amino acid substitution in the Fc region selected from the group comprising: E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W.
33. The antibody of claim 32 comprising at least one substitution in said Fc region selected from E430G or E345K, preferably E430G.

34. The antibody of any of claims 27-33 comprising a mutation corresponding to F405L or K409R in human IgG1.
35. An anti-CD37 antibody which binds to human CD37 which antibody comprises:
- (i) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 40, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 41 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 42, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 44, and CDR2 sequence: FAK, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 45 **[G28.1]** or
 - (ii) a VH region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 47, a CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 48 and a CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 49, and a VL region comprising a CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 51, and CDR2 sequence: VAT, and CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 52 **[37.3]**;
 - (iii) and wherein the antibody of (i) or (ii) comprises an Fc region comprising at least one amino acid substitution selected from the group comprising: E430G, E345K, E430S, E430F, E430T, E345Q, E345R, E345Y, S440Y and S440W; and
 - (iv) wherein optionally the Fc region further comprises a mutation of either K409R or F405L.
36. The antibody of any of claims 27-35, wherein the antibody is an IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 or IgG4 isotype.
37. The antibody of any of claims 27-36, wherein the antibody is human, humanized or chimeric.
38. The antibody of any of claims 27-37, wherein the antibody binds to both human and cynomolgus CD37.
39. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
40. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39 for use as a medicament.

41. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39 for use in the treatment of cancer or an autoimmune disease or inflammatory disorders.
42. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39 for use in the treatment of allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).
43. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39 for use of any of claims 40-42 in combination with one or more further therapeutic agents.
44. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39 for use of any of claims 40-43 wherein the one or more further therapeutic agents is selected from the group comprising: doxorubicin, cisplatin, bleomycin, carmustine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, bendamustine, vincristine, fludarabine, ibrutinib and an anti-CD 20 antibody such as rituximab or ofatumumab.
45. The bispecific antibody of any of claims 43-44 or the antibody of any of claims 43-44 or the composition of claim 43-44 for use of claim 43-44, wherein the further therapeutic agent is an anti-CD20 antibody capable of binding to human CD20 comprising the CDR sequences selected from the group consisting of:
- i) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:75 ,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:76,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:77 ,
VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:79
VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and
VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 80;
 - ii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:82 ,
VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:83,
VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:84,

VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:85
 VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 86;

iii) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:95 ,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:96,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:97,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:99,
 VL CDR2 sequence ATS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 100;

iv) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:88,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:89,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:90,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:92
 VL CDR2 sequence DAS, and
 VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 93;; and

v) VH CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:102,
 VH CDR2 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:103,
 VH CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:104,
 VL CDR1 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:106
 VL CDR2 sequence QMS, and

VL CDR3 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 107.

46. Use of the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39 for the manufacture of a medicament.

47. The use of claim 46 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer, autoimmune disease or an inflammatory disease.

48. The use of claim 47 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of allergy, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma

(MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL).

49. The use of any of claims 46-48 in combination with one or more further therapeutic agents.

50. The use of claim 49, wherein the one or more further therapeutic agents is selected from the group comprising: doxorubicin, cisplatin, bleomycin, carmustine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, bendamustine, vincristine, fludarabine, ibrutinib and an anti-CD 20 antibody such as rituximab or ofatumumab.

51. A method of inducing cell death, or inhibiting growth and/or proliferation of a tumor cell expressing CD37 comprising administering to an individual in need thereof an effective amount of the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39.

52. A method of treating an individual having allergy, an autoimmune disease, an inflammatory disease, transplantation rejection or a B-cell malignancy, such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), follicular lymphoma (FL), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), plasma cell leukemia (PCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), or acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), comprising administering to said individual an effective amount of the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-25 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 or the composition of claim 39.

53. The method of any of claims 51-52 comprising administering one or more further therapeutic agents in combination with said antibody or said bispecific antibody.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the one or more further therapeutic agents is selected from the group comprising: doxorubicin, cisplatin, bleomycin, carmustine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, bendamustine, vincristine, fludarabine, ibrutinib and an anti-CD 20 antibody such as rituximab or ofatumumab.

55. A nucleic acid construct encoding one or more sequences selected from the group comprising SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 13a, 14, 15, 16, 17,

18, 19, 20, 20a, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 27a, 28, 29, 30, 30a and 31 as set out in Table 1.

56. A nucleic acid construct encoding the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38.

57. An expression vector comprising one or more nucleic acid constructs of claims 55-56.

58. A host cell comprising an expression vector according to claim 57.

59. The host cell according to claim 58, wherein the host cell is a recombinant host cell, such as a recombinant prokaryotic cell, recombinant eukaryotic cell or recombinant microbial host cell.

60. An anti-idiotypic antibody, which binds to the antibody of any of claims 27-38.

61. An *in vitro* method for detecting the presence of a human CD37 antigen or a cell expressing human CD37 in a sample, said method comprising:

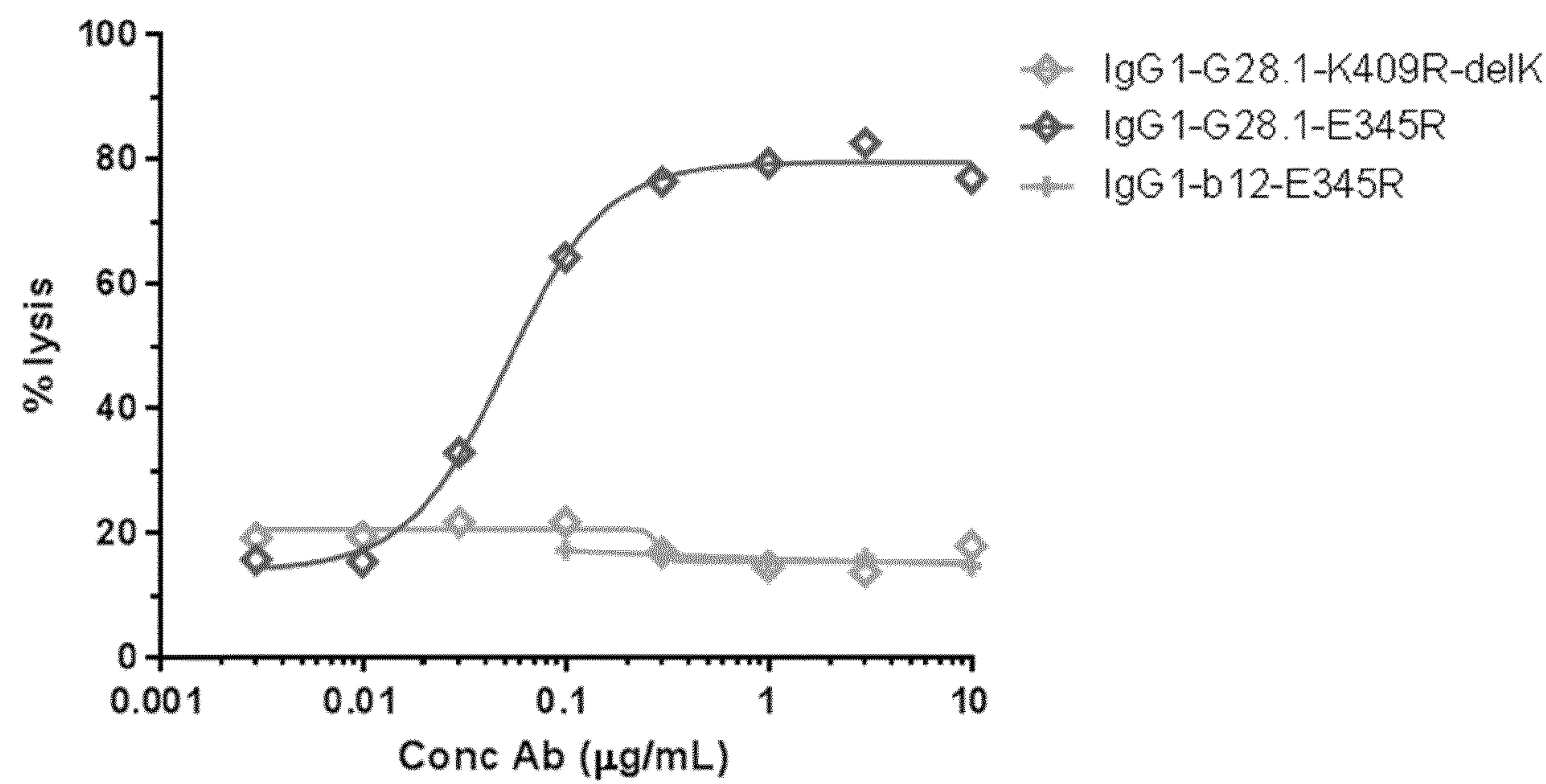
- (i) contacting the sample with the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 under conditions that allow for formation of a complex between the antibody or the bispecific antibody and CD37; and
- (ii) detecting the formation of a complex.

62. An *in vivo* method for detecting the presence of a human CD37 antigen, or a cell expressing human CD37 in a subject, said method comprising:

- (i) administering the bispecific antibody of any of claims 1-26 or the antibody of any of claims 27-38 under conditions that allow for formation of a complex between the antibody or the bispecific antibody and CD37; and
- (ii) detecting the formed complex.

Figure 1

A



B

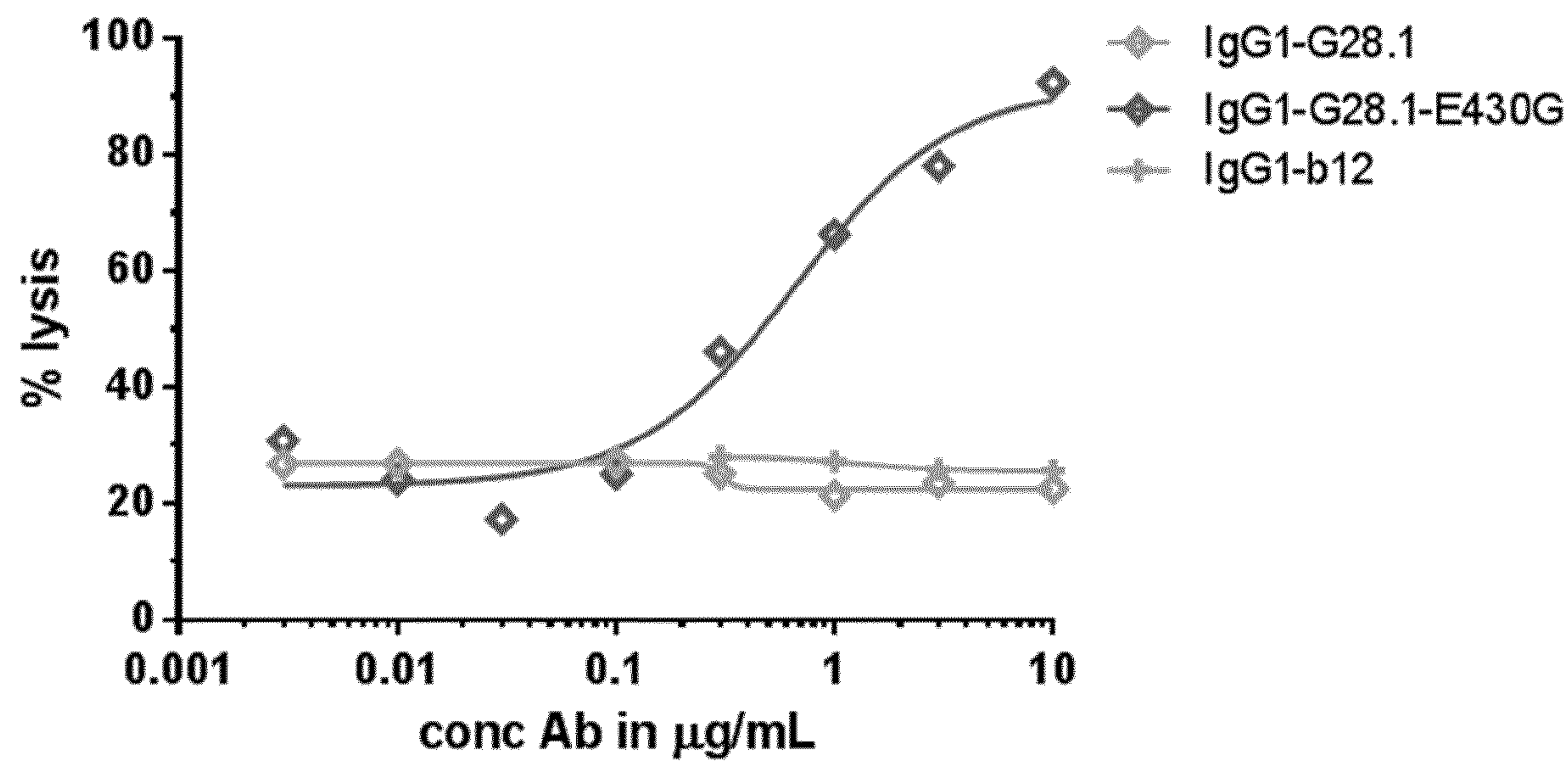


Figure 2

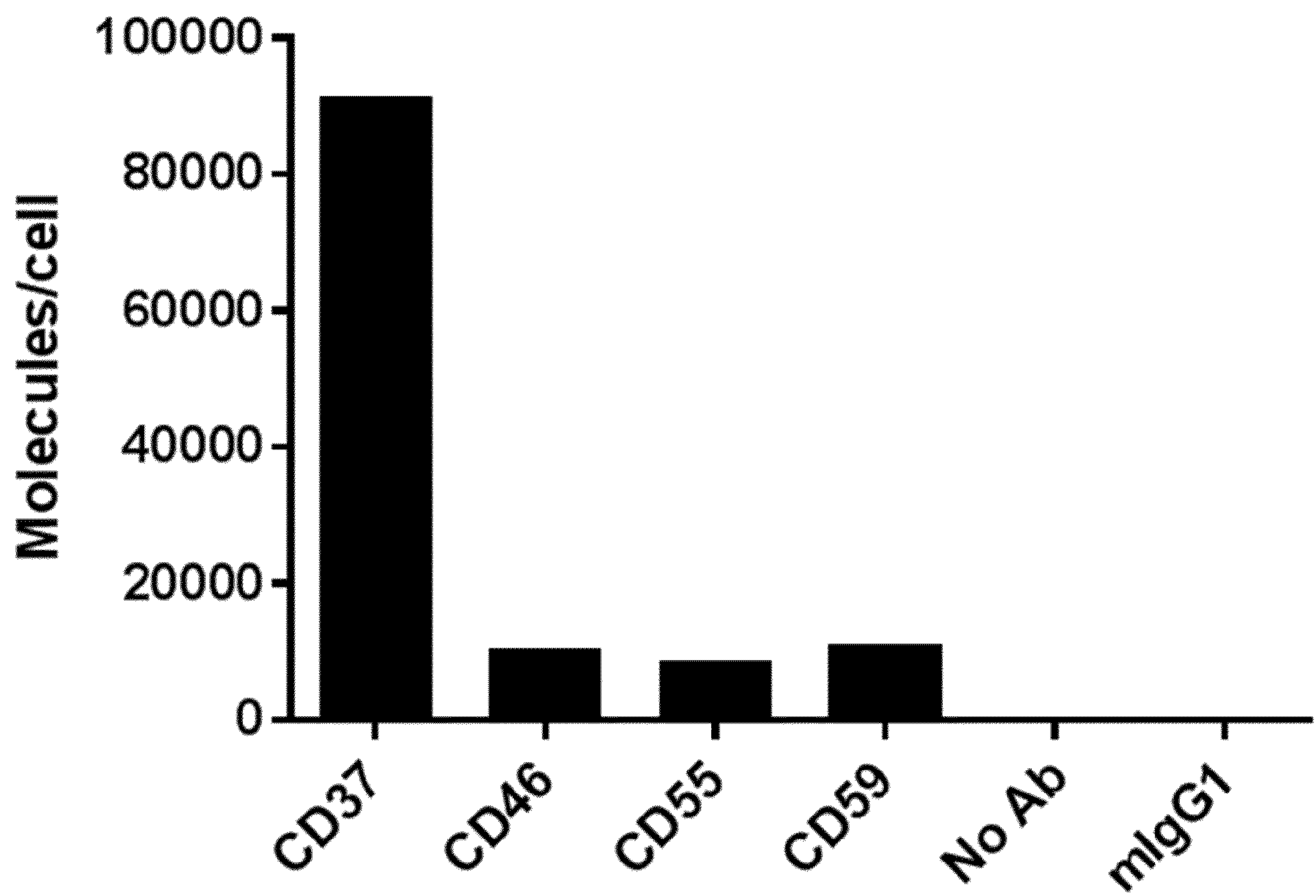


Figure 3

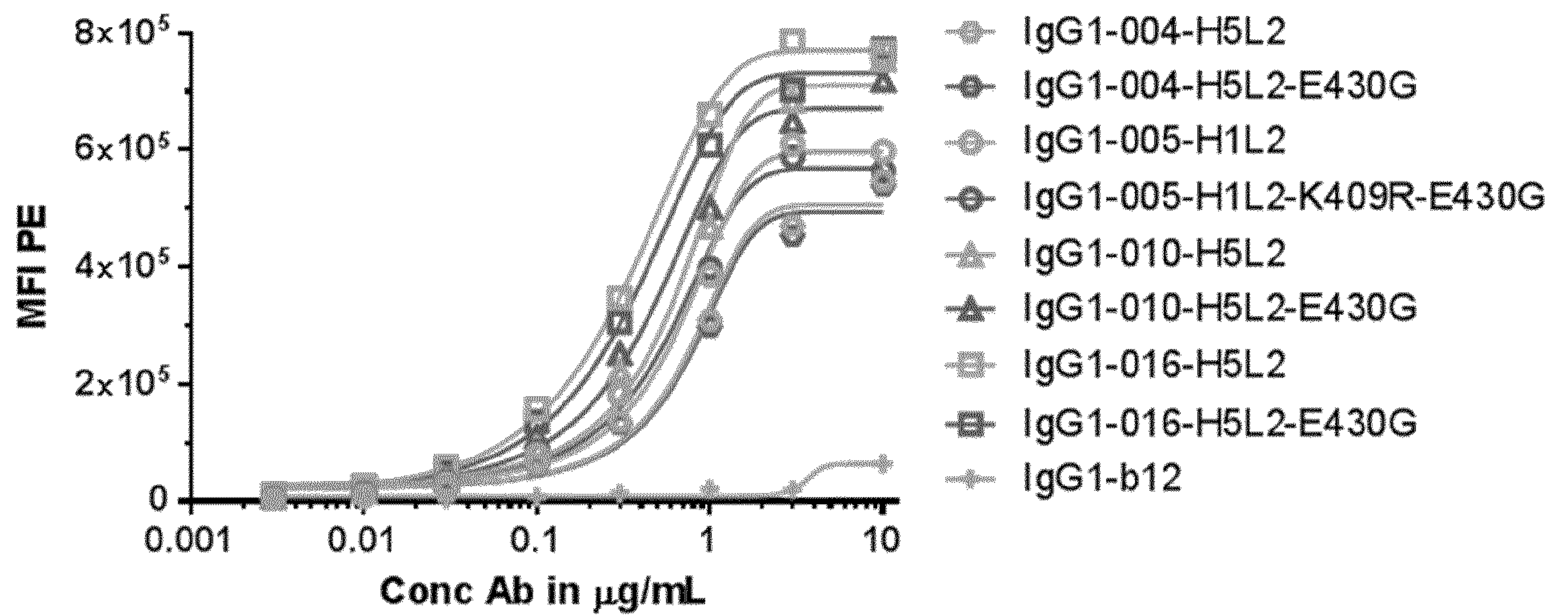


Figure 4

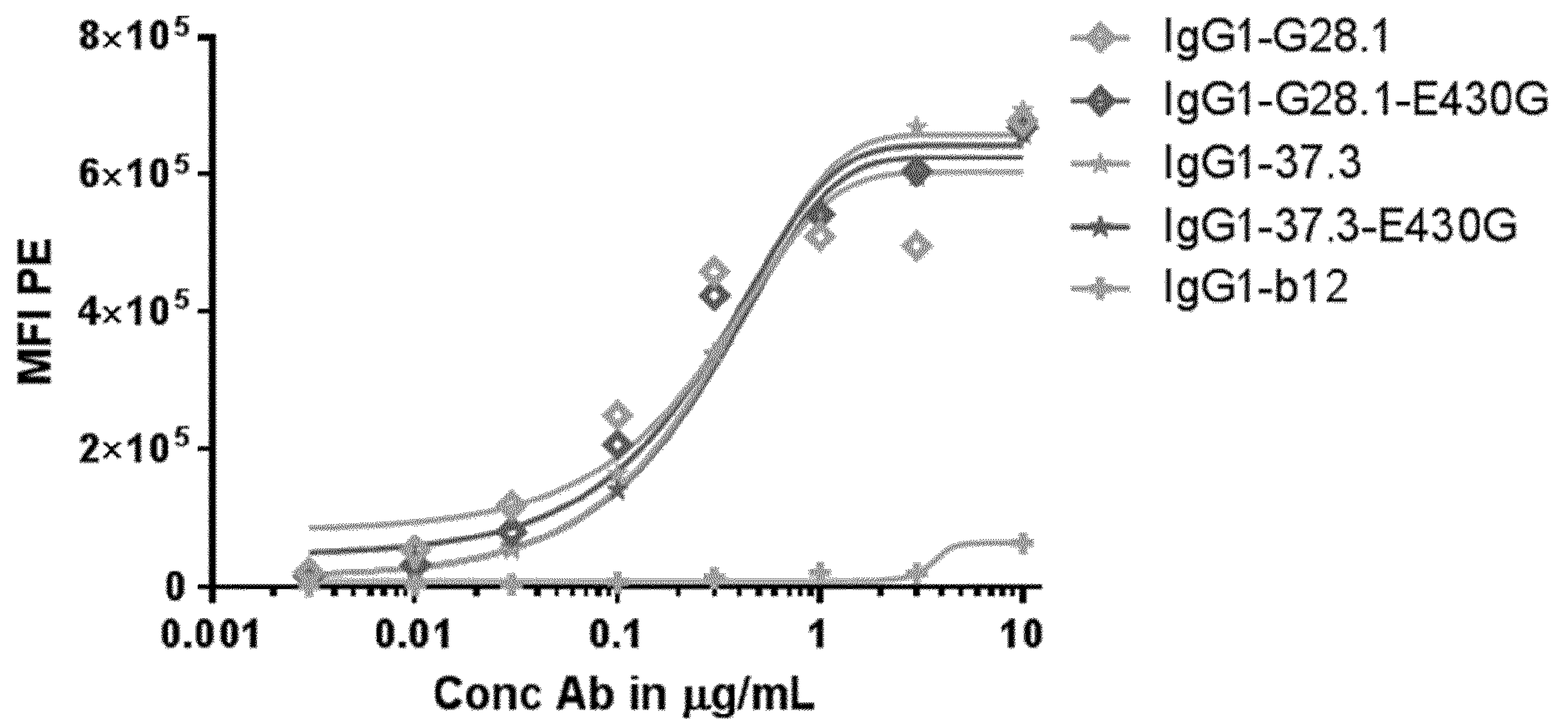


Figure 5

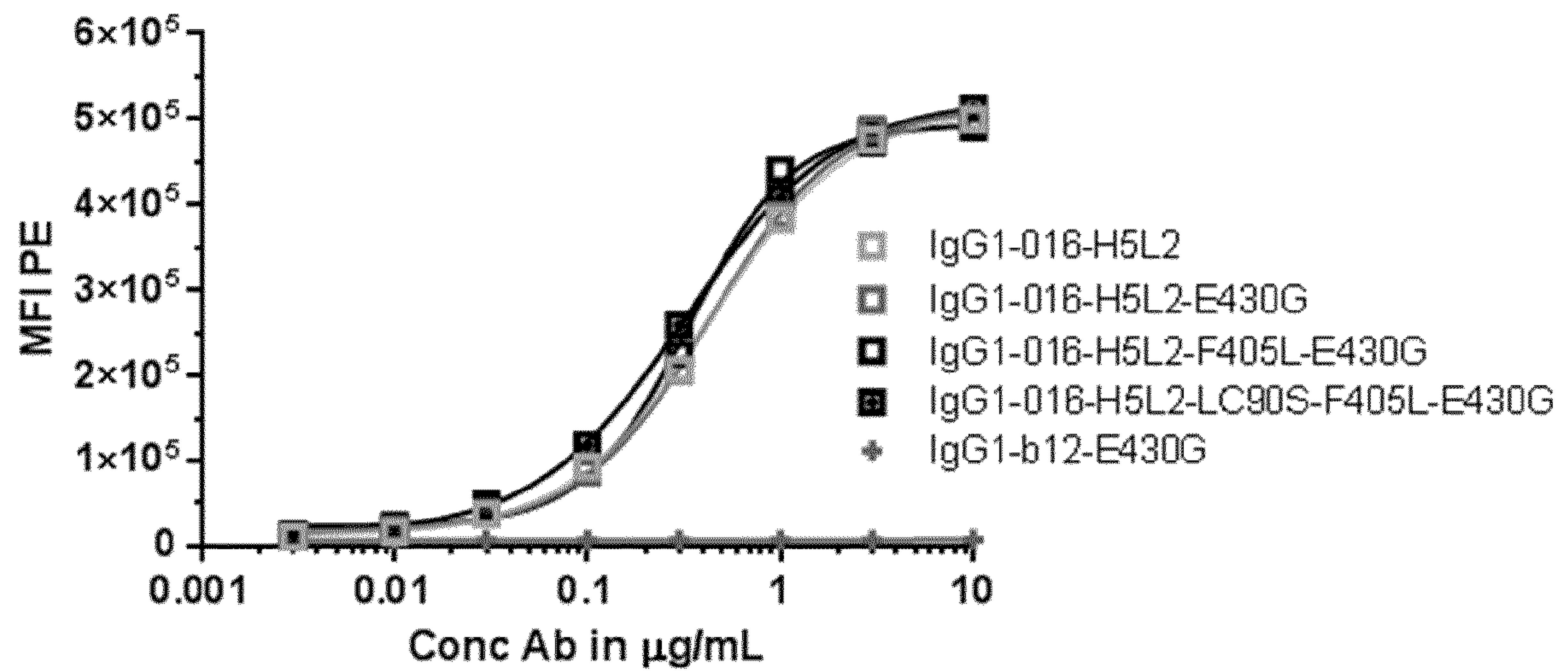


Figure 6

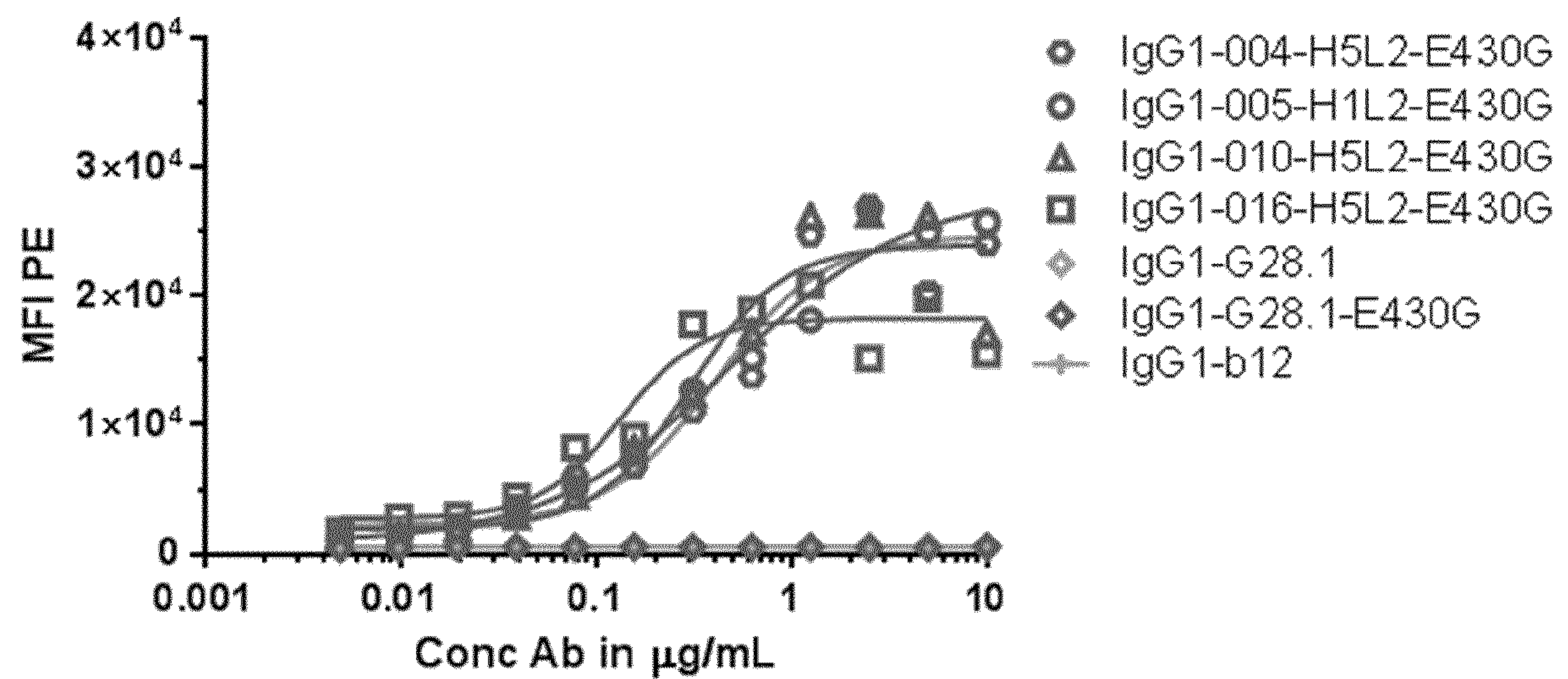
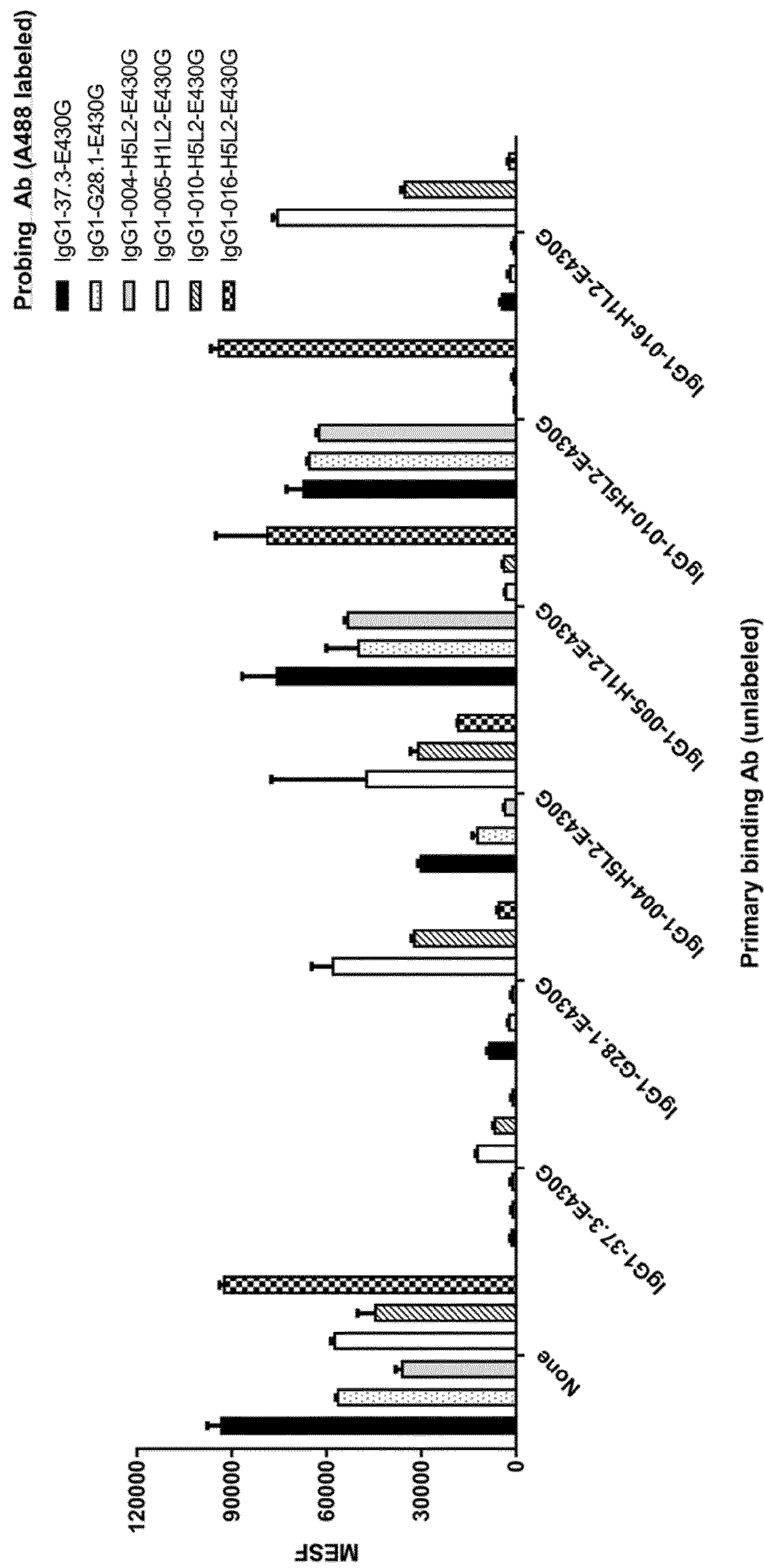
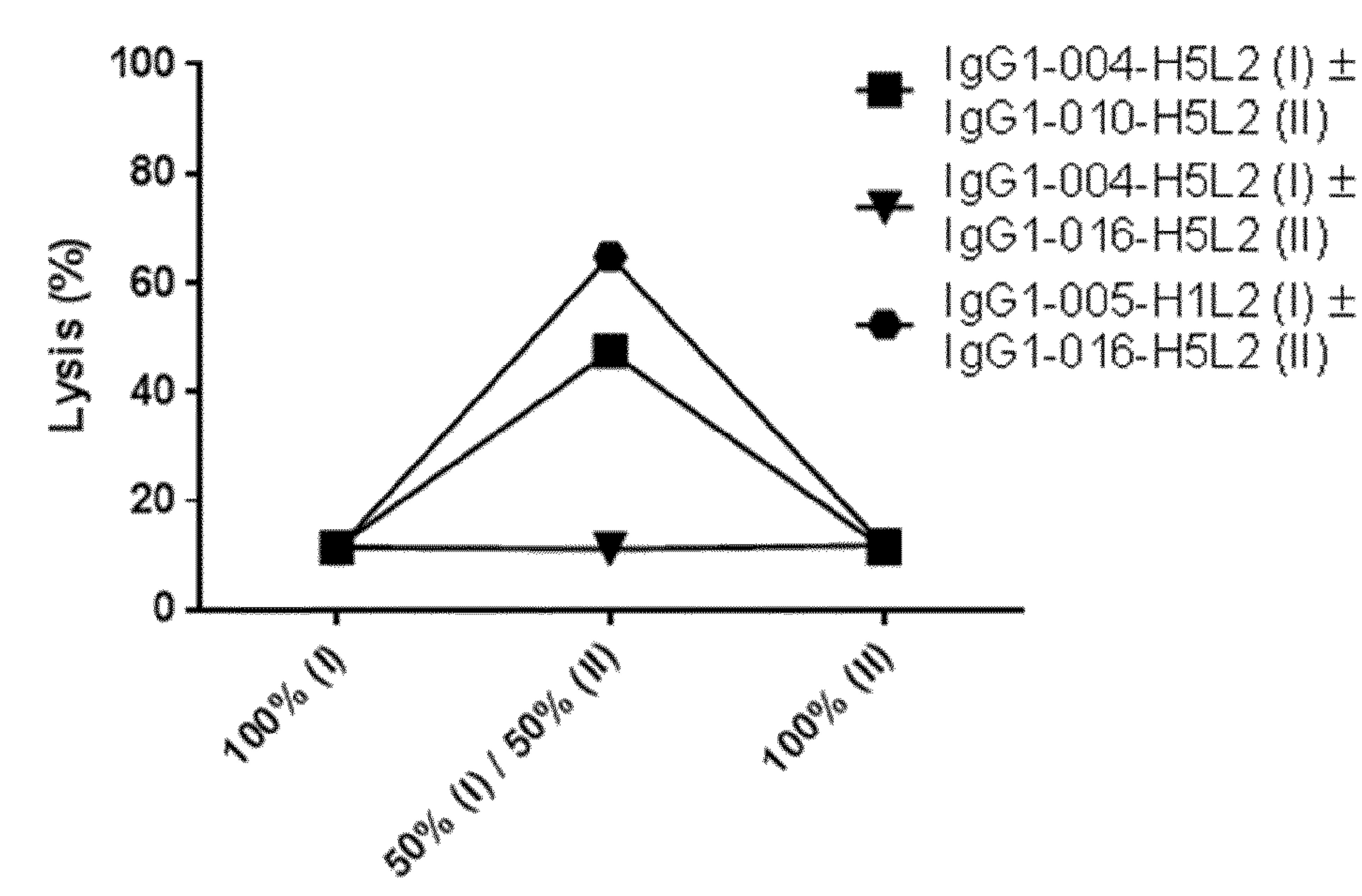


Figure 7

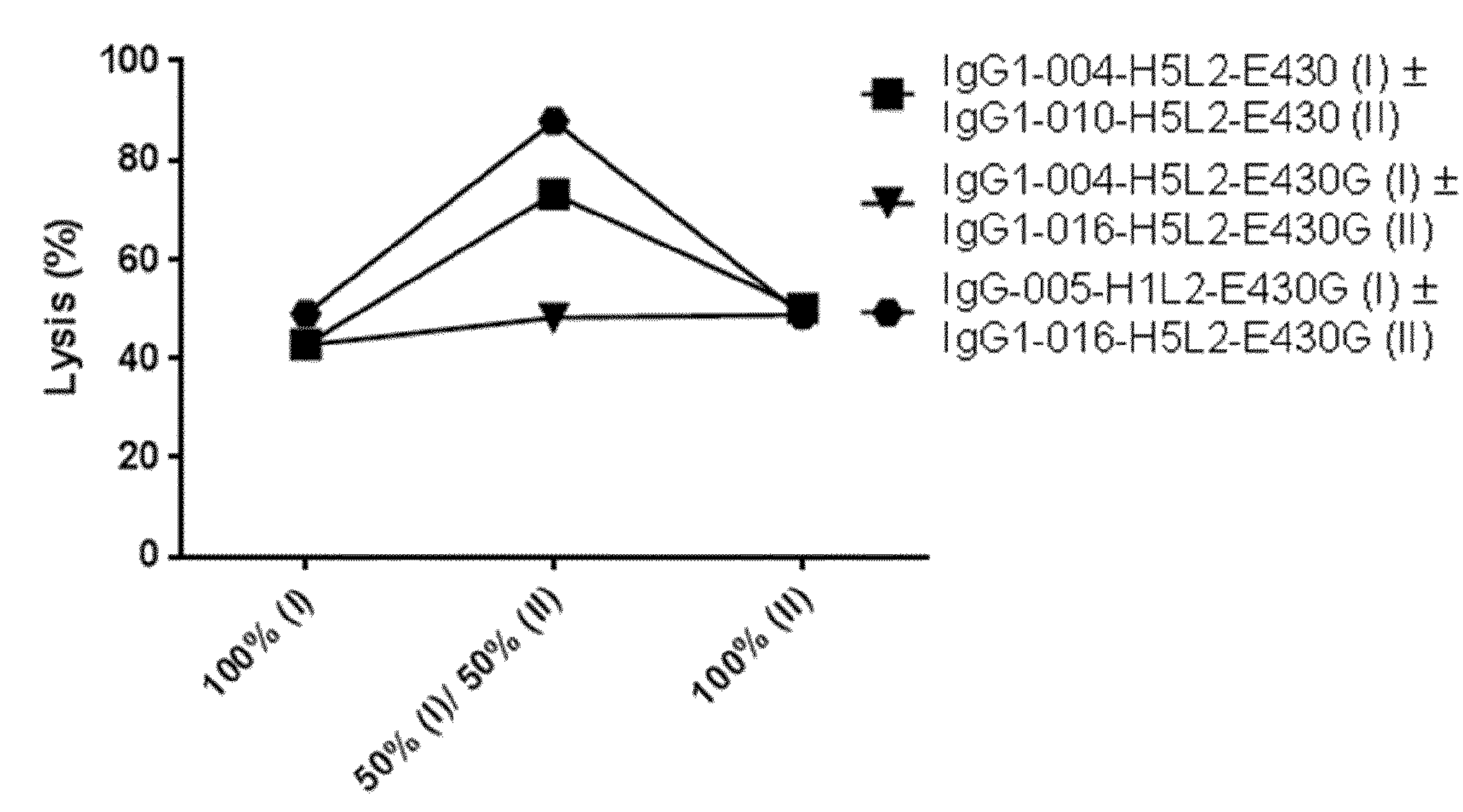
A



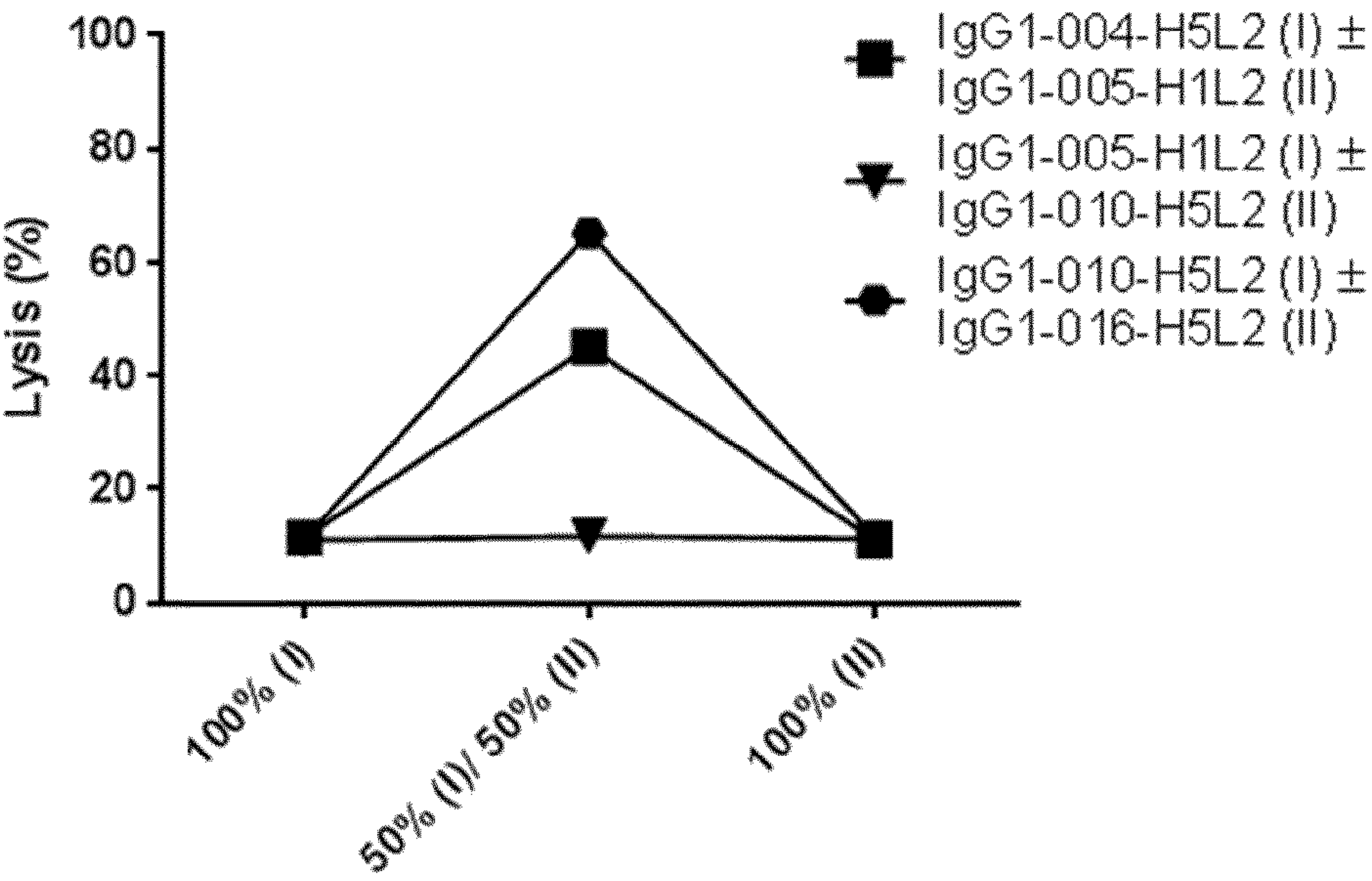
B



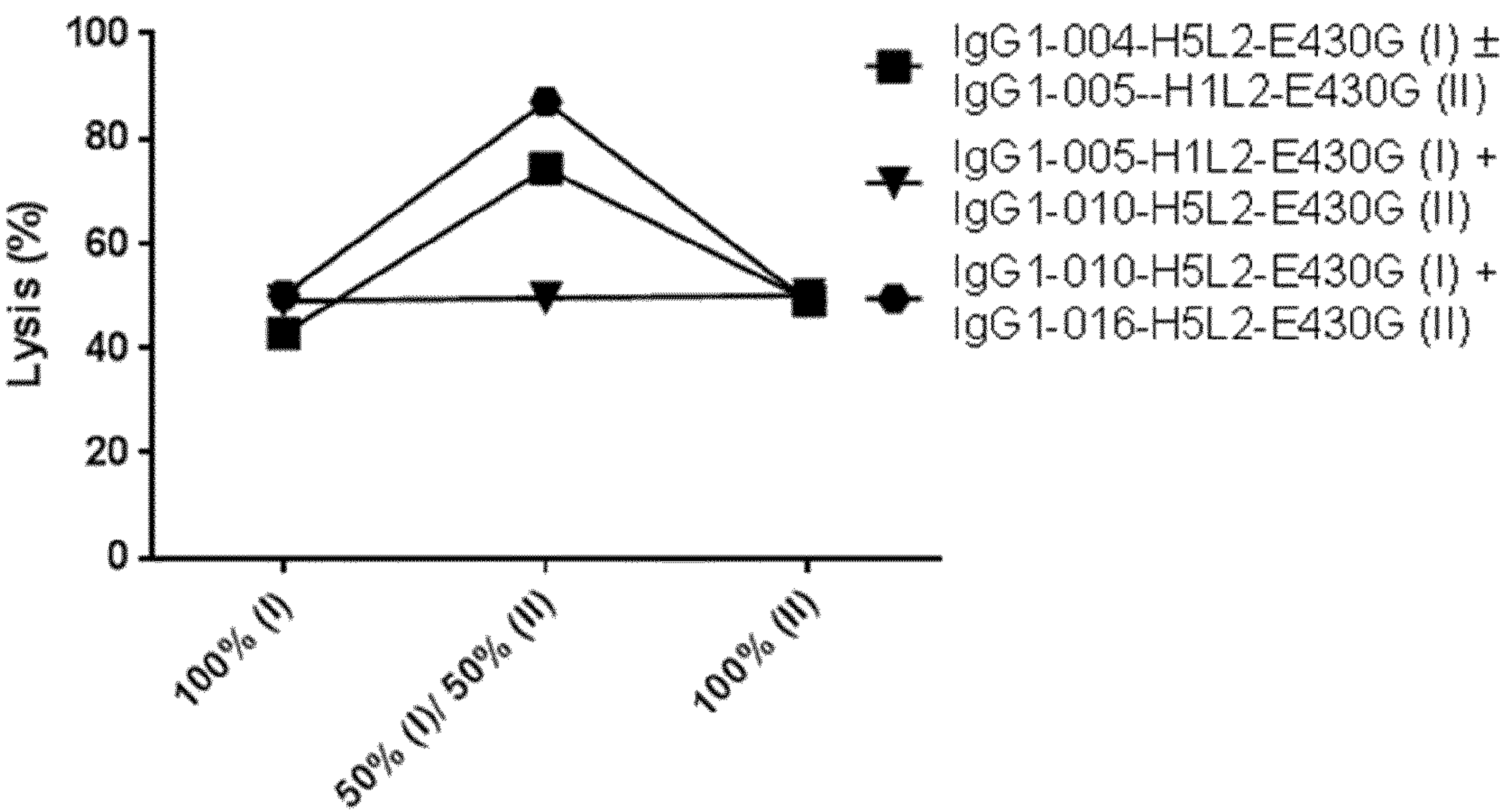
C



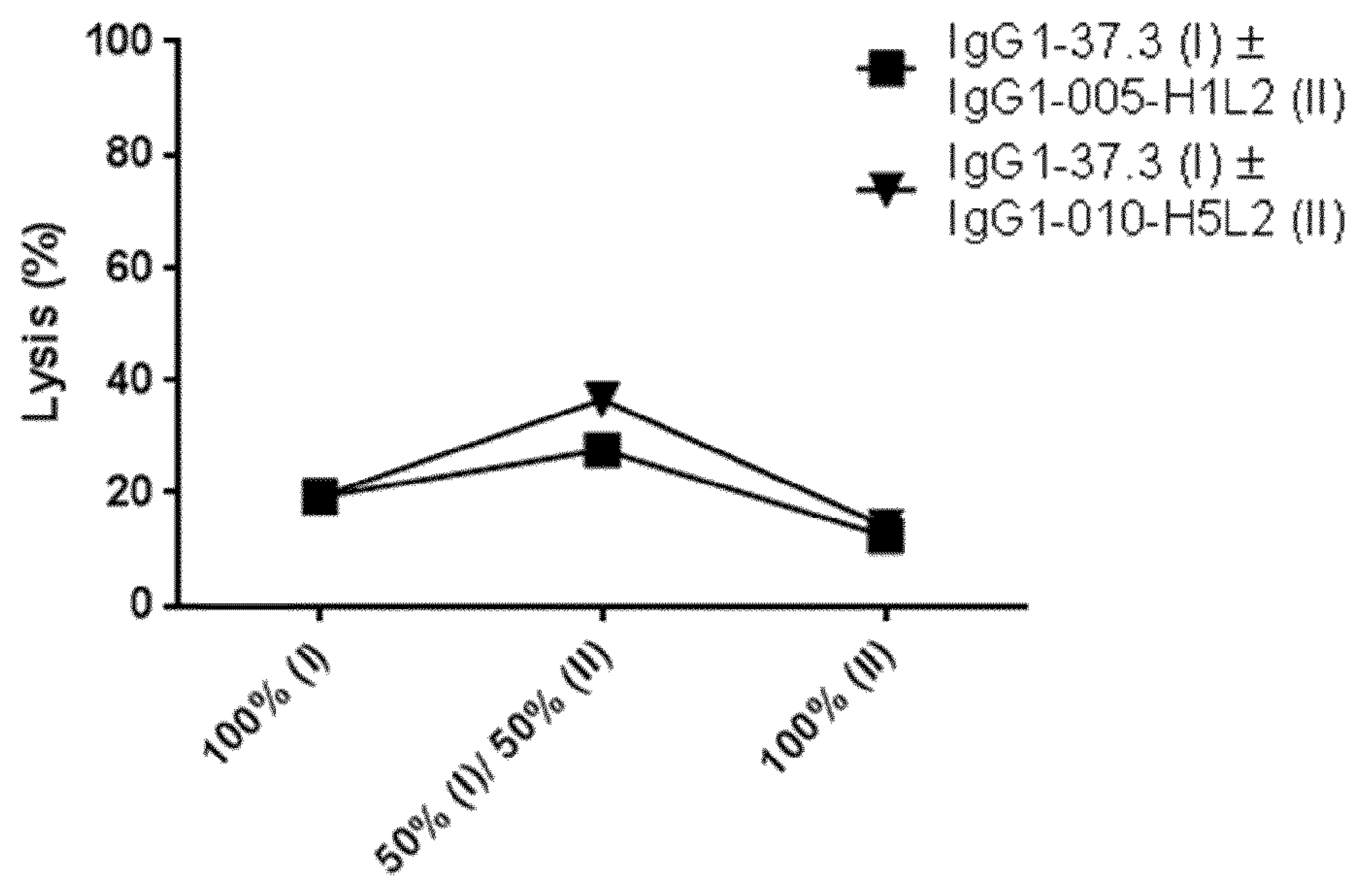
D



E



F



G

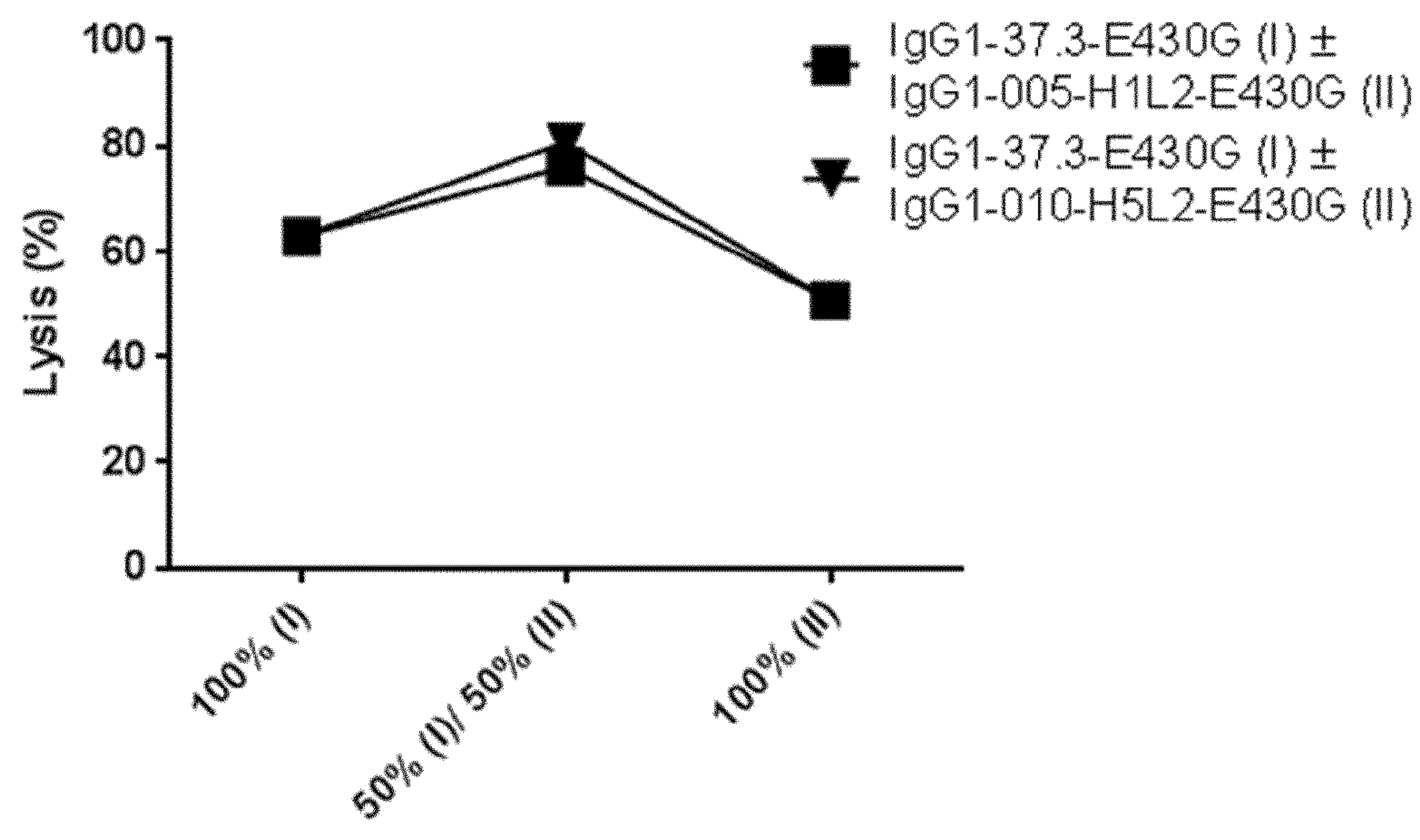


Figure 8

Primary binding Ab (unlabeled) Probing Ab (labeled)	IgG1-37.3- E430G	IgG1-G28.1- E430G	IgG1-004- H5L2-E430G	IgG1-005- H1L2-E430G	IgG1-010- H5L2-E430G	IgG1-016- H5L2-E430G
IgG1-37.3-E430G						
IgG1-G28.1-E430G						
IgG1-004-H5L2-E430G						
IgG1-005-H1L2-E430G						
IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G						
IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G						

Figure 9

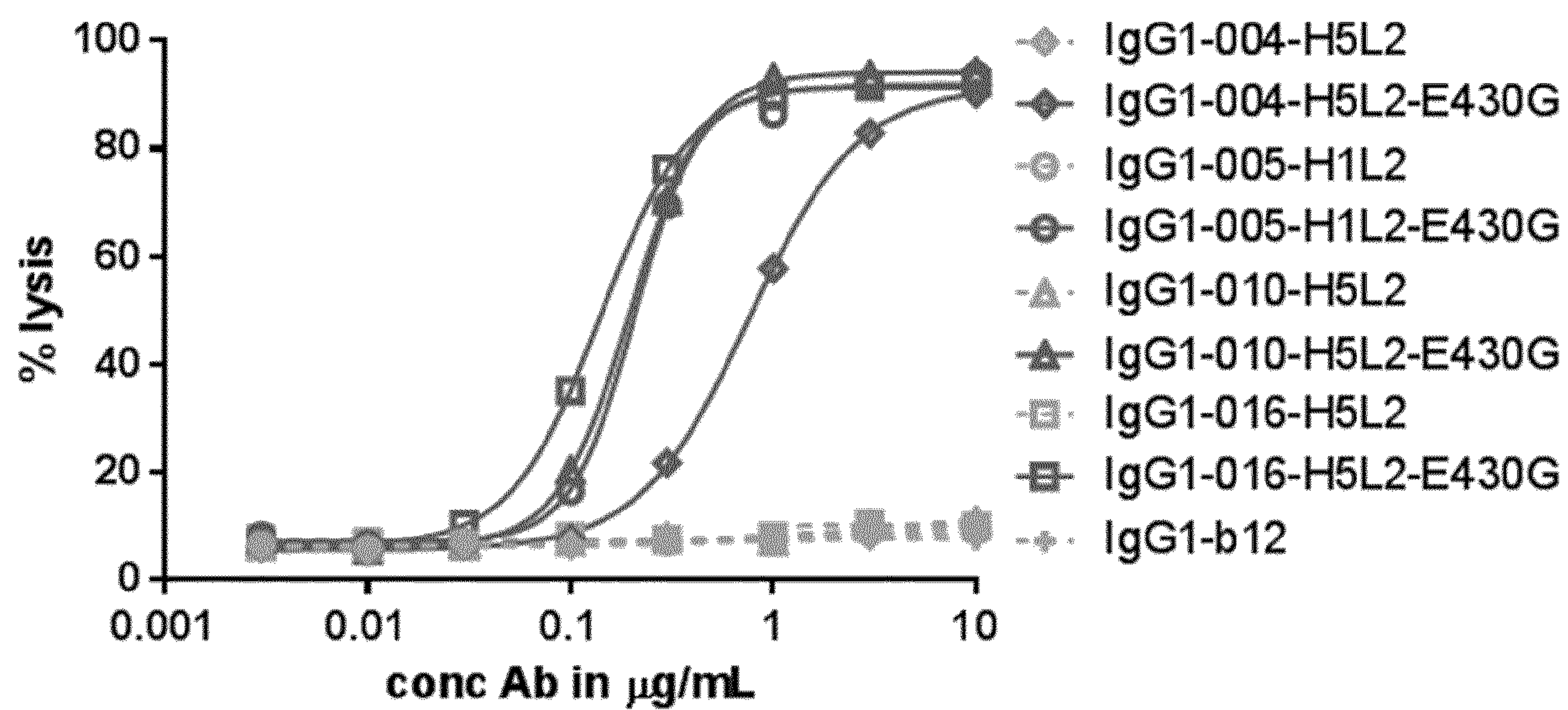
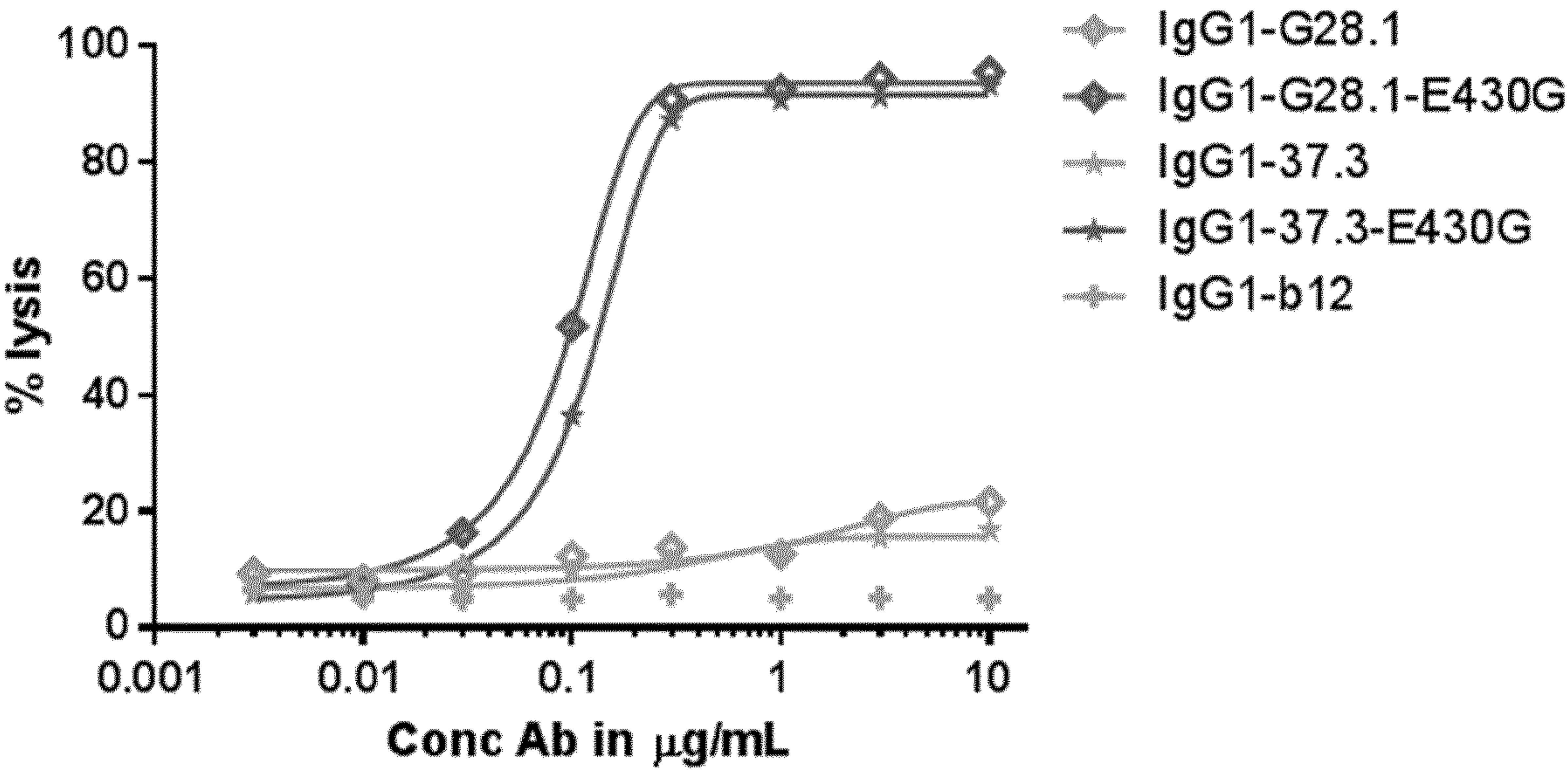
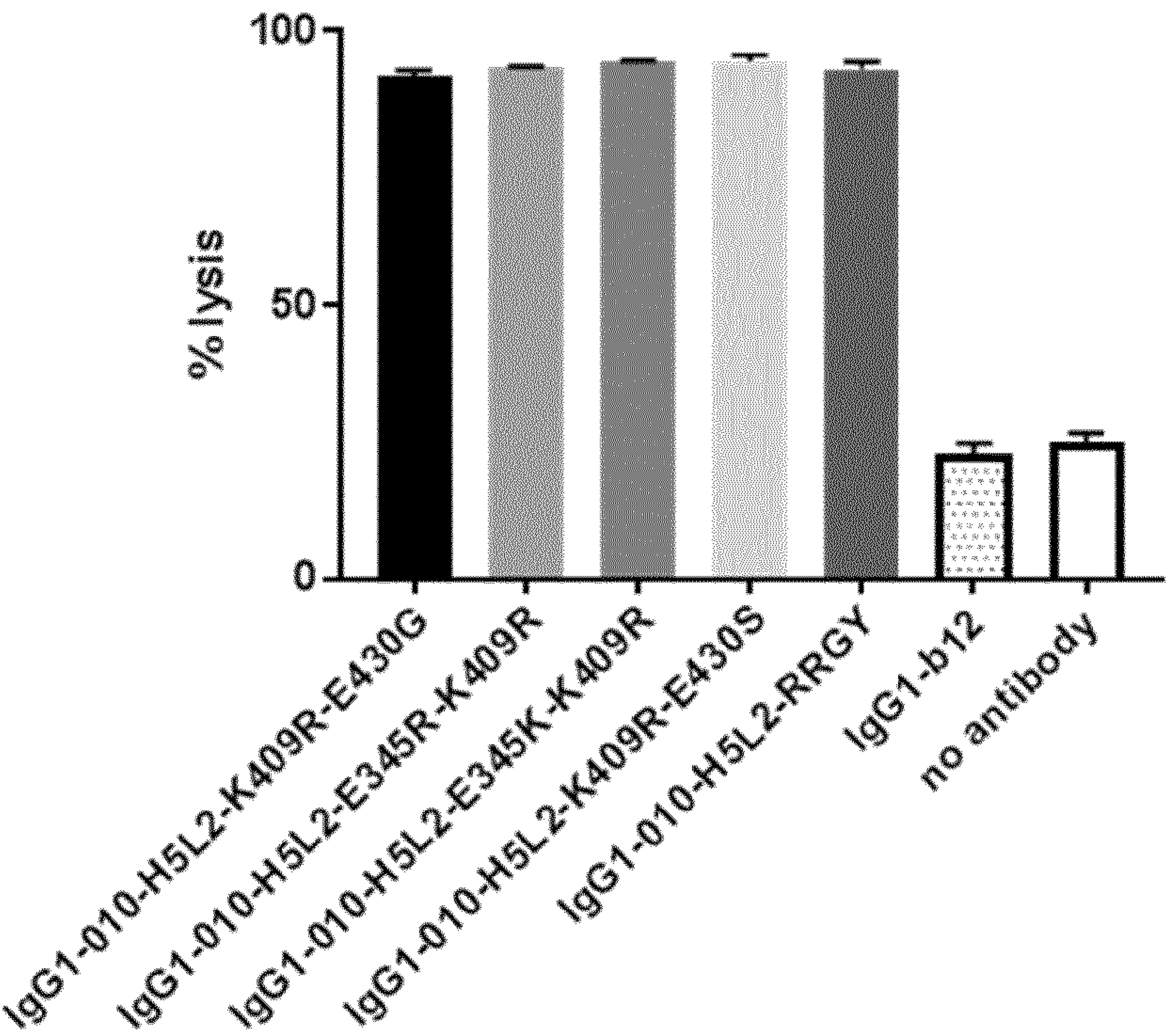


Figure 10

A



B



C

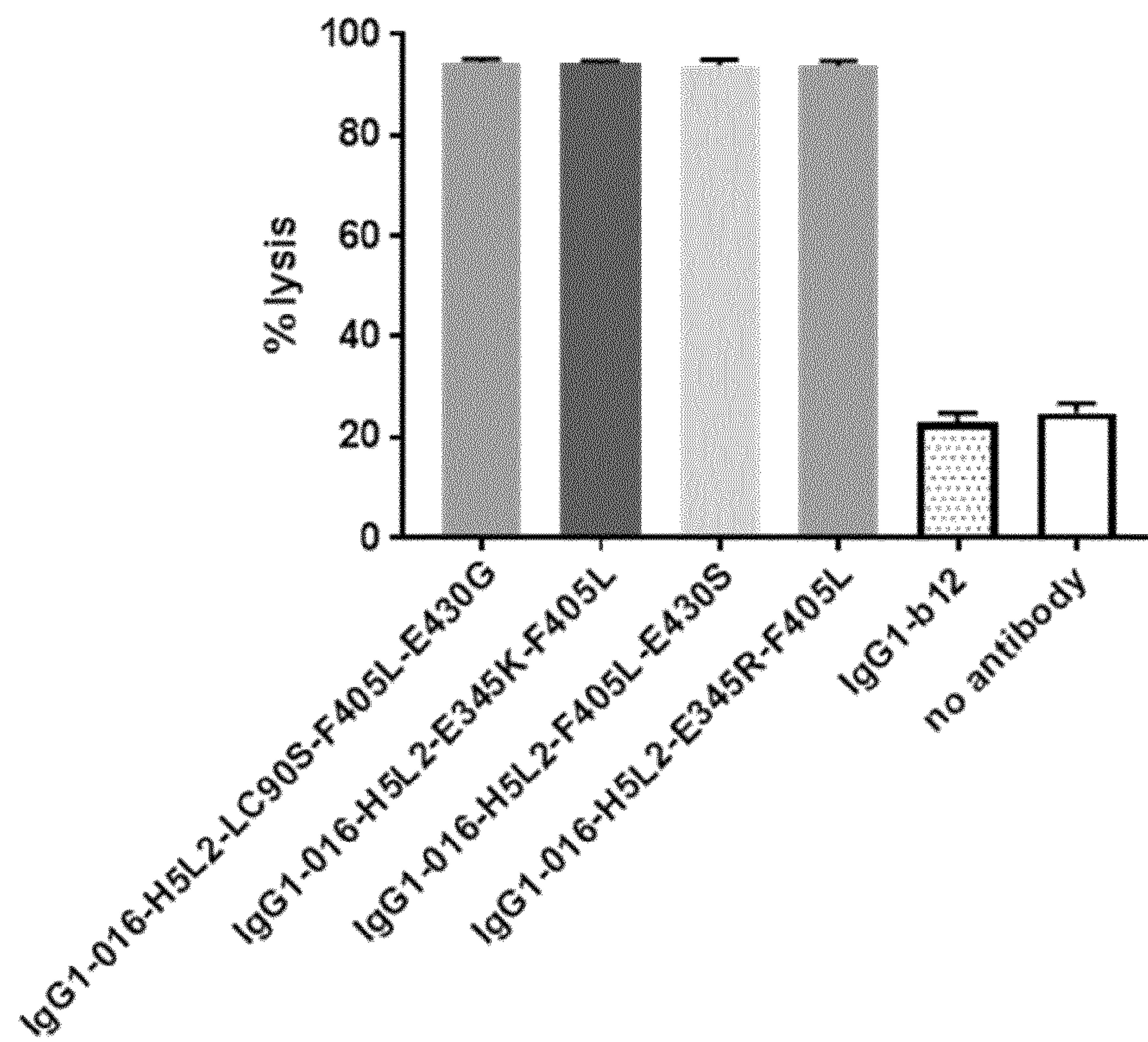


Figure 11

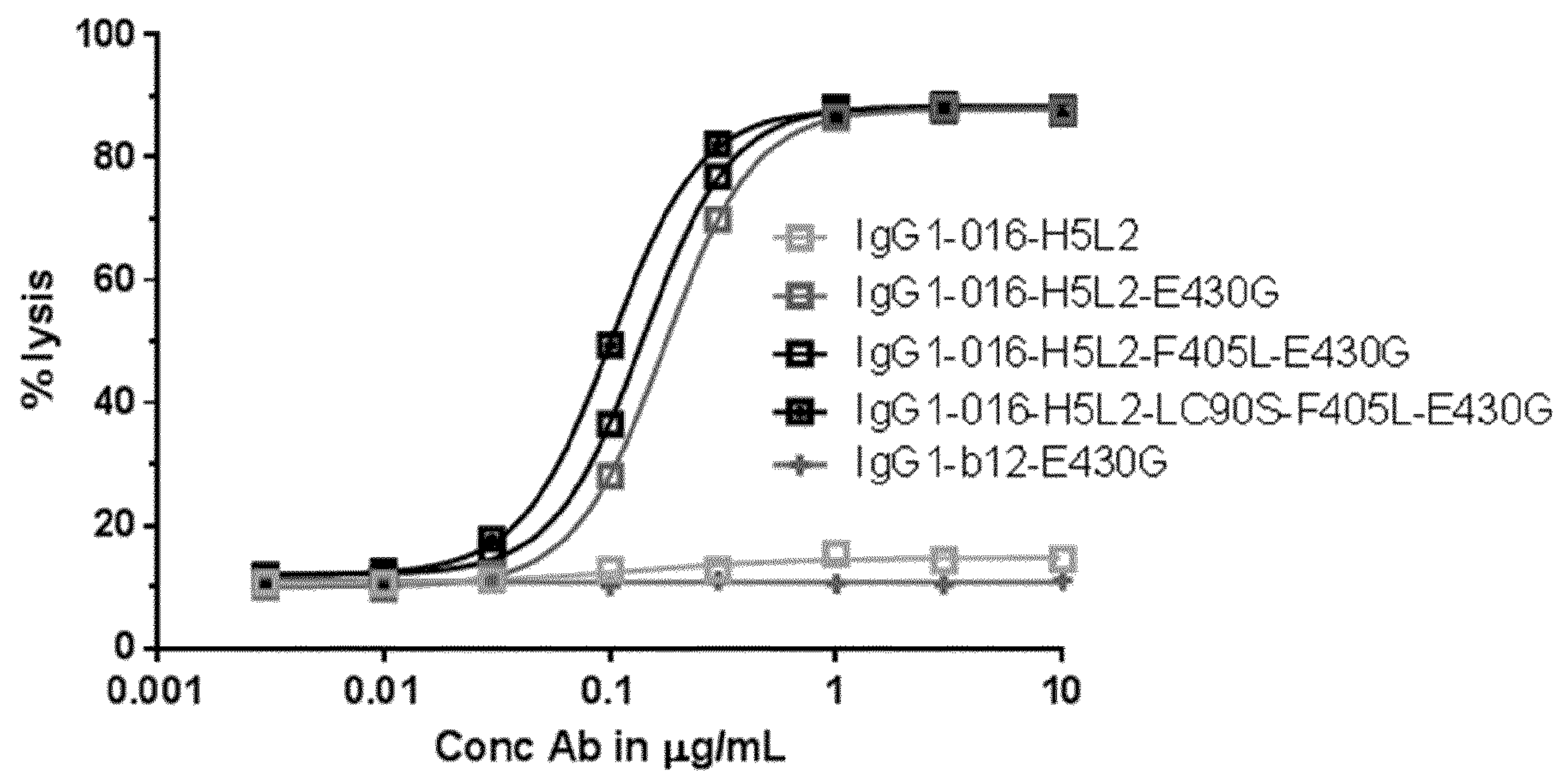
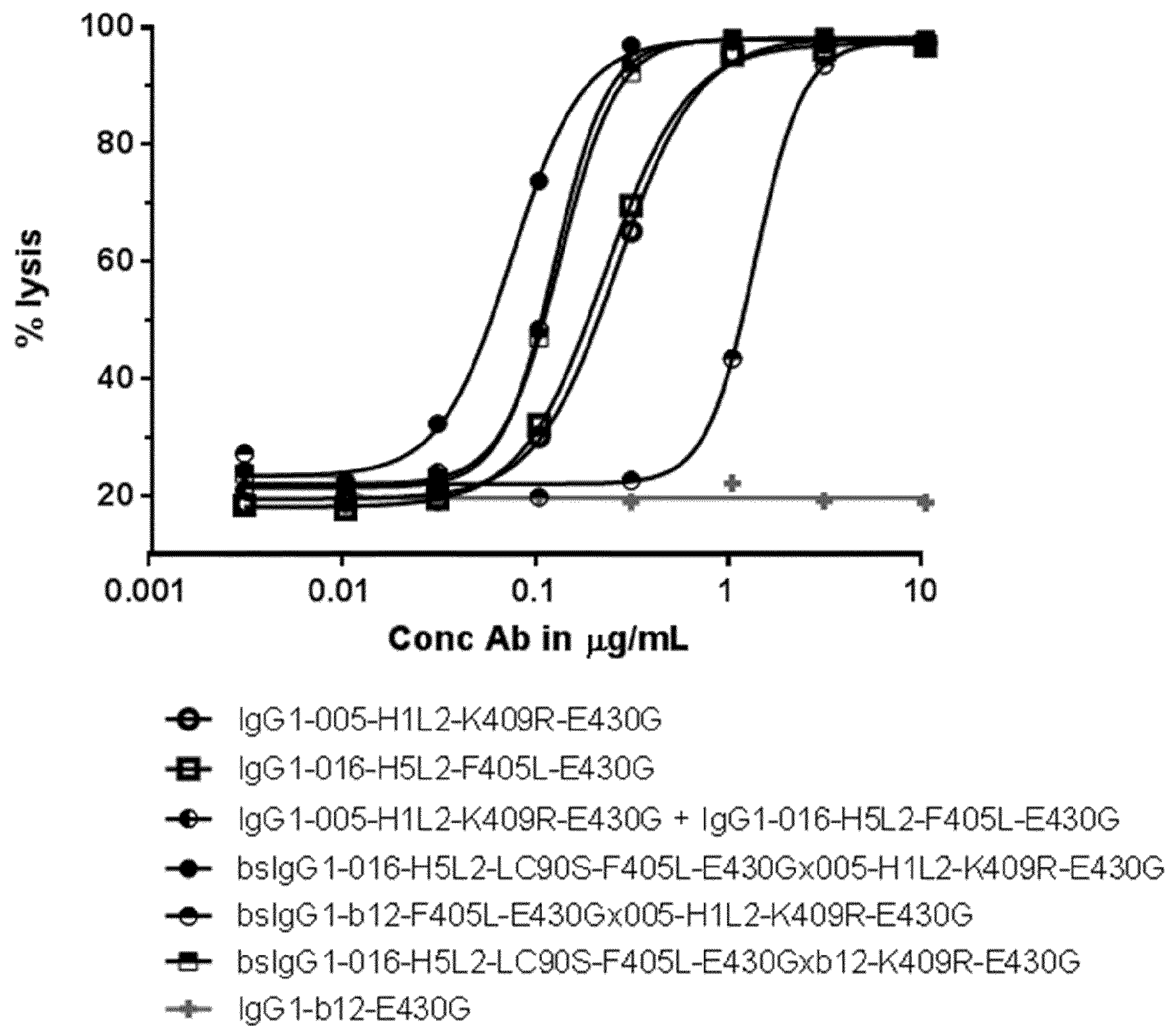
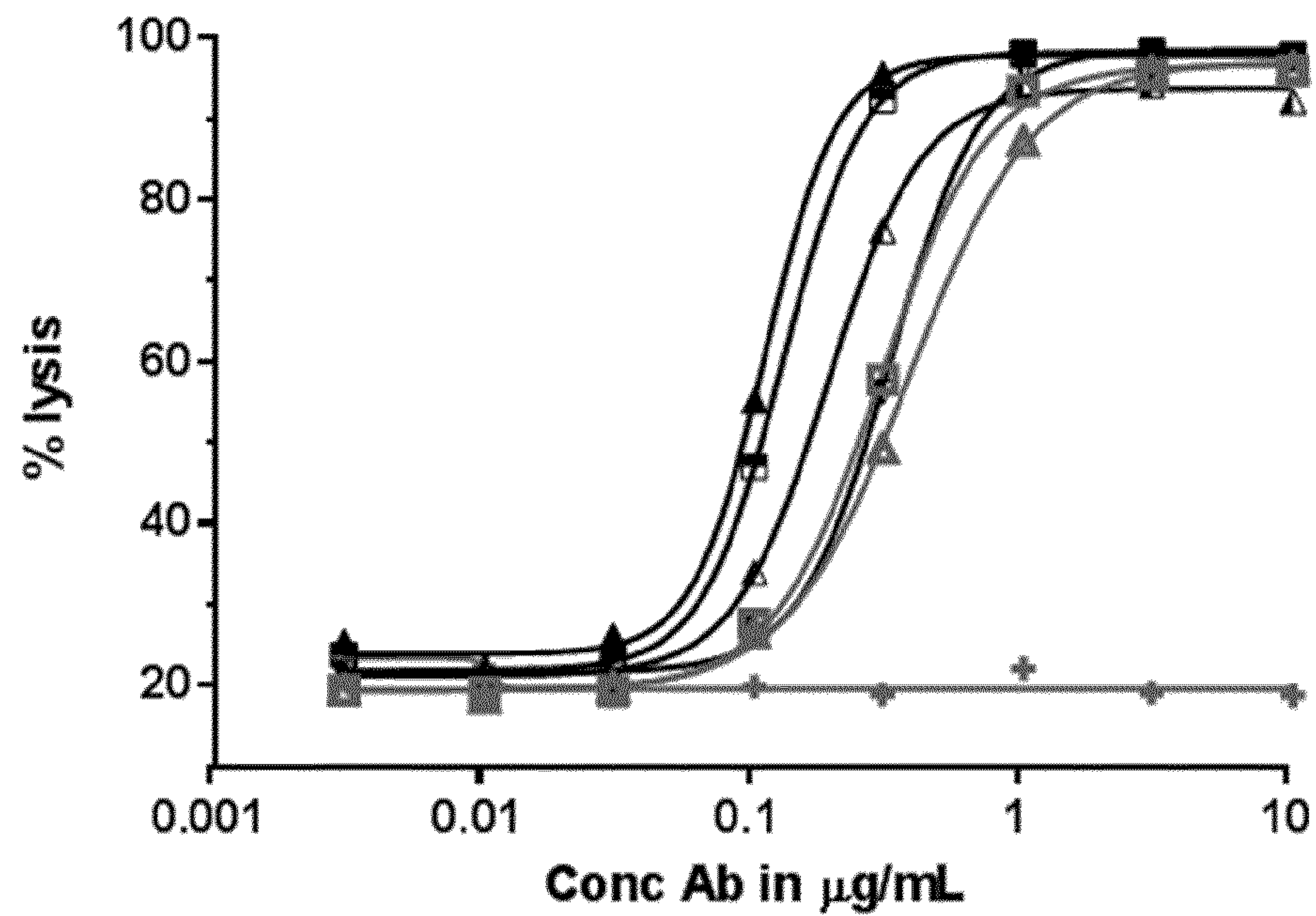


Figure 12

A

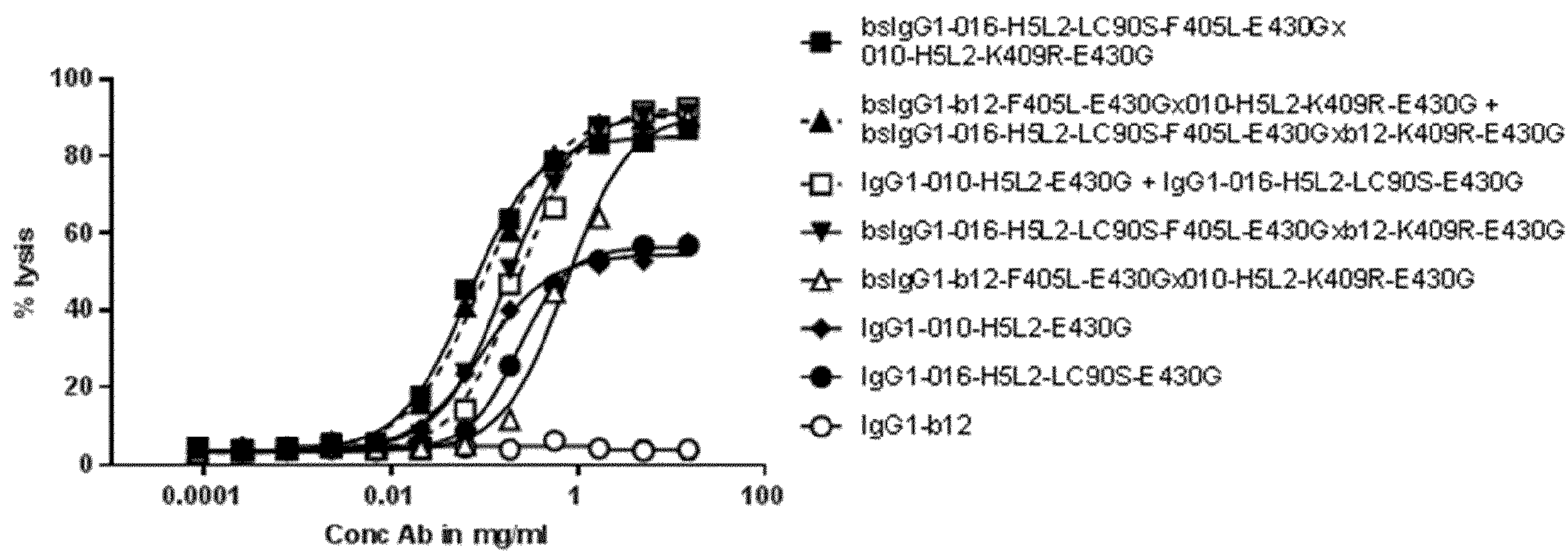


B

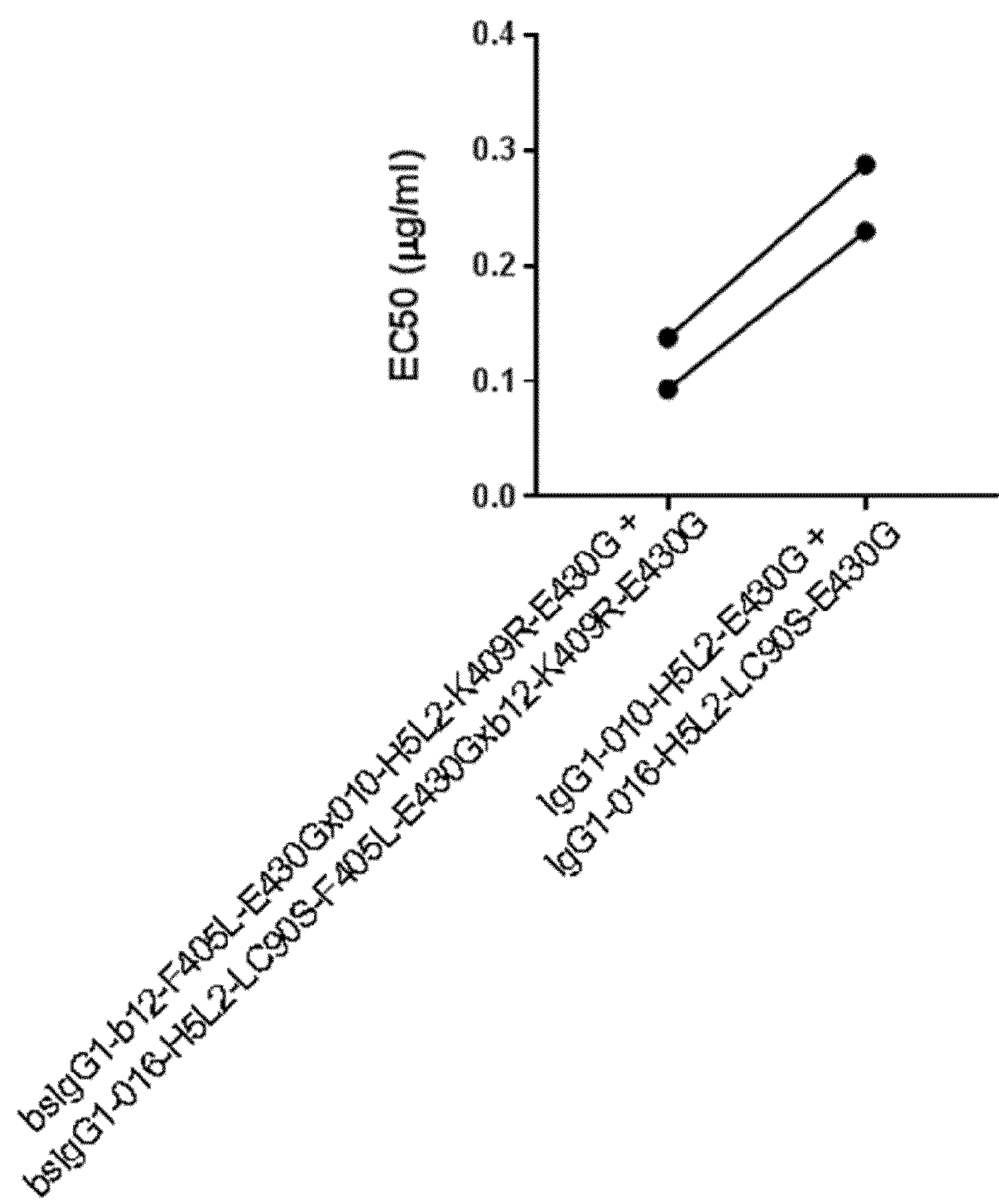


- ▲ IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G
- IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G
- ▲ IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G + IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G
- ▲ bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G
- ▼ bsIgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G
- bsIgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G
- ✦ IgG1-b12-E430G

C



D



E

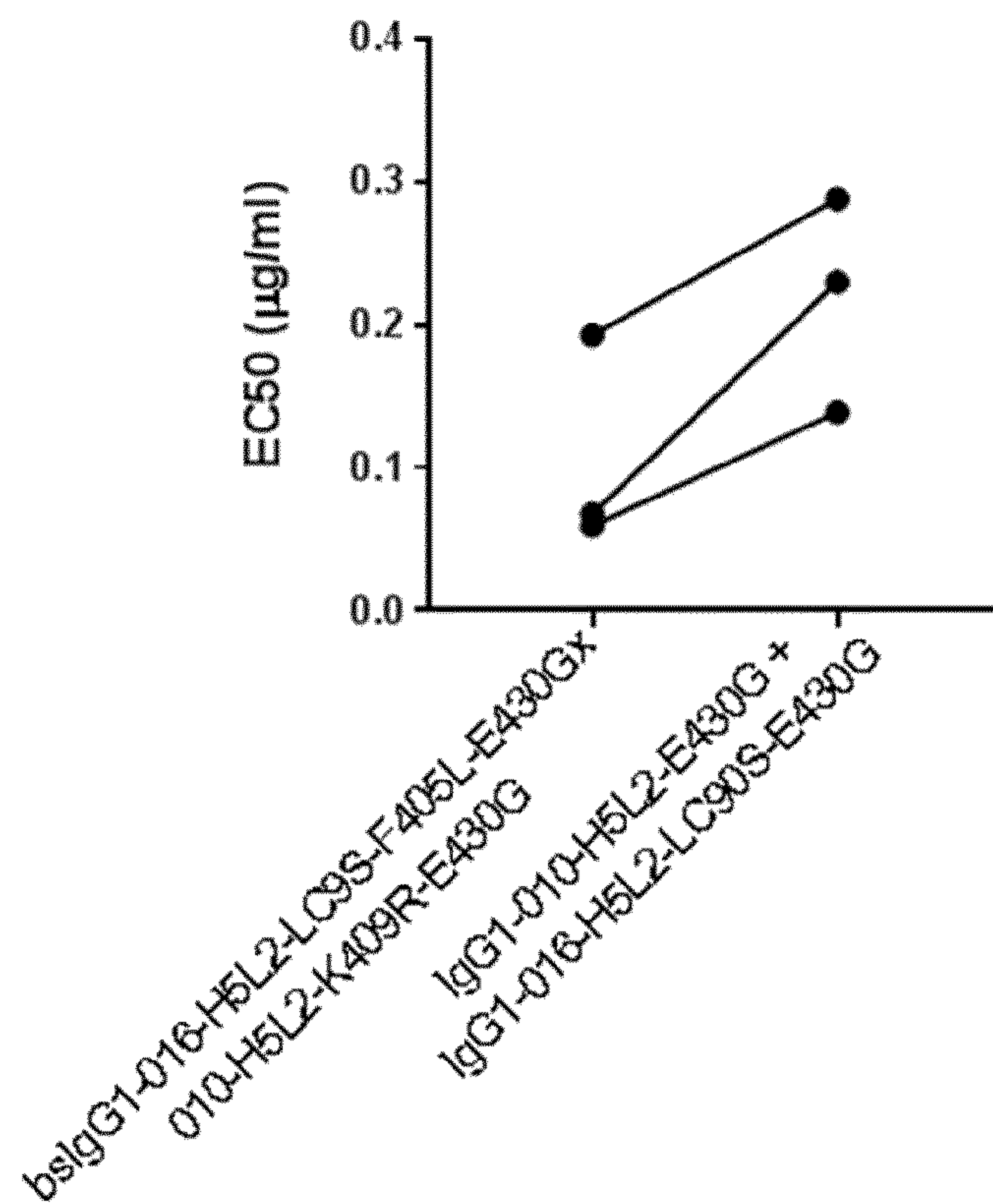
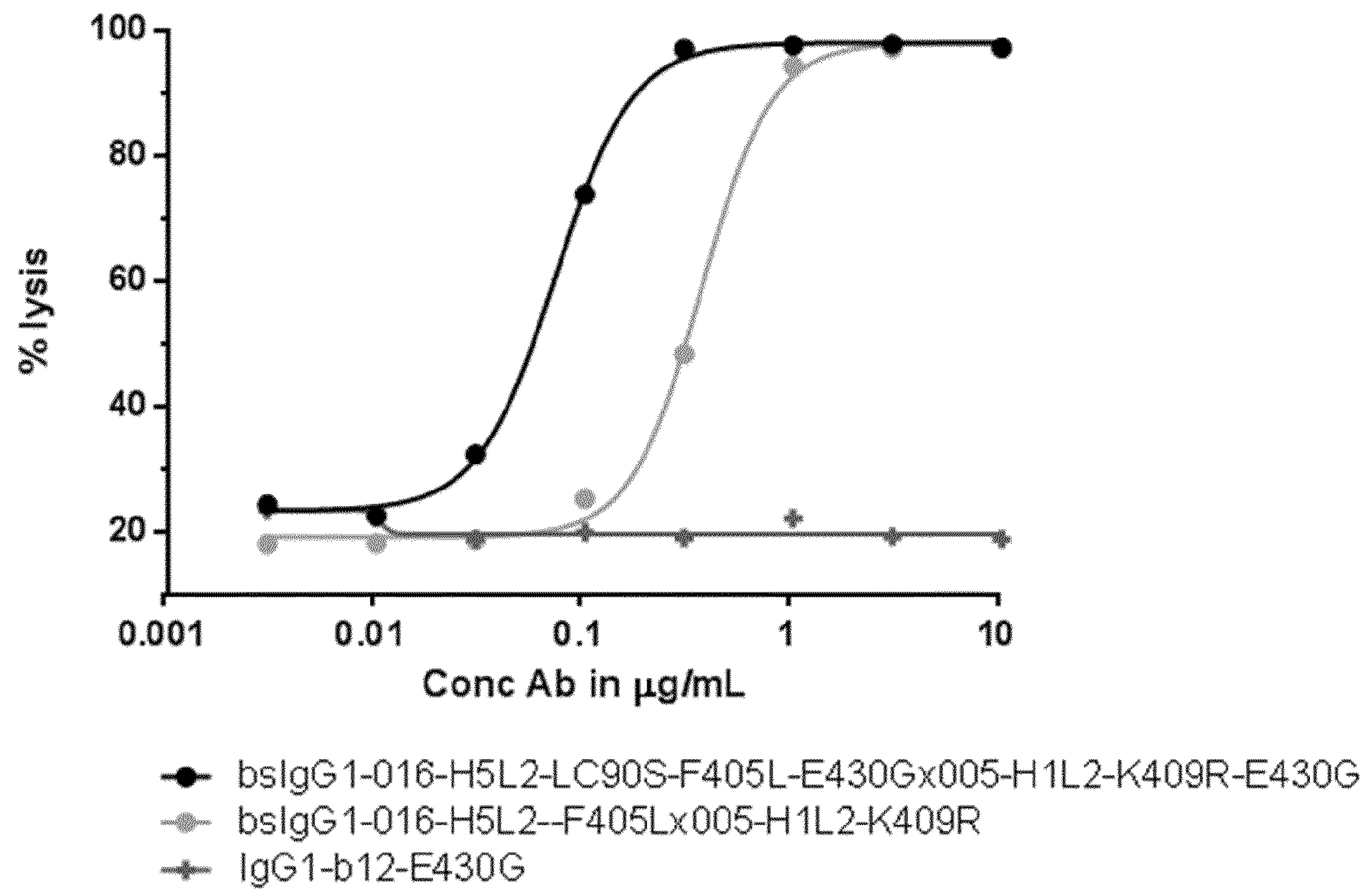


Figure 13

A



B

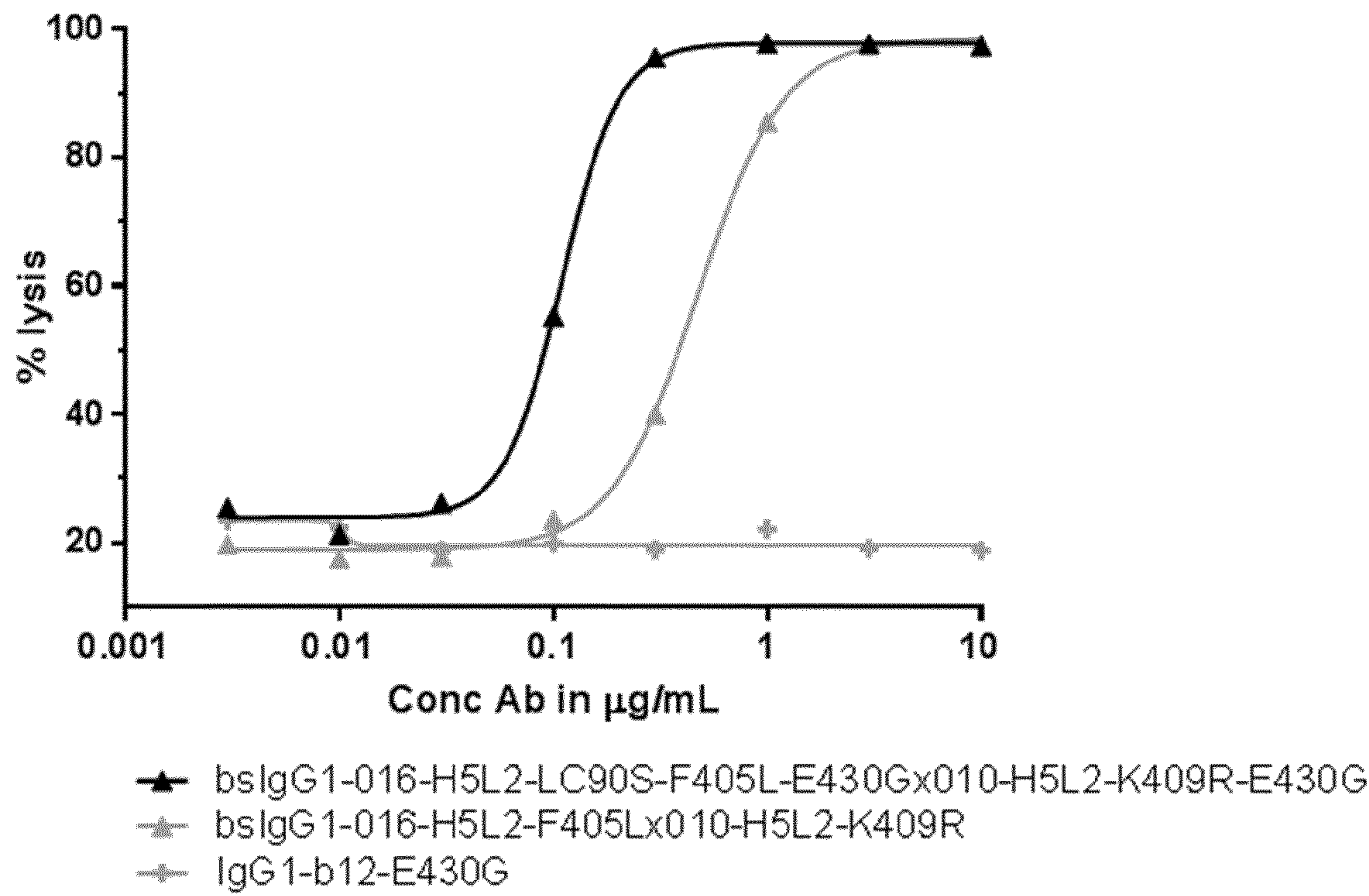
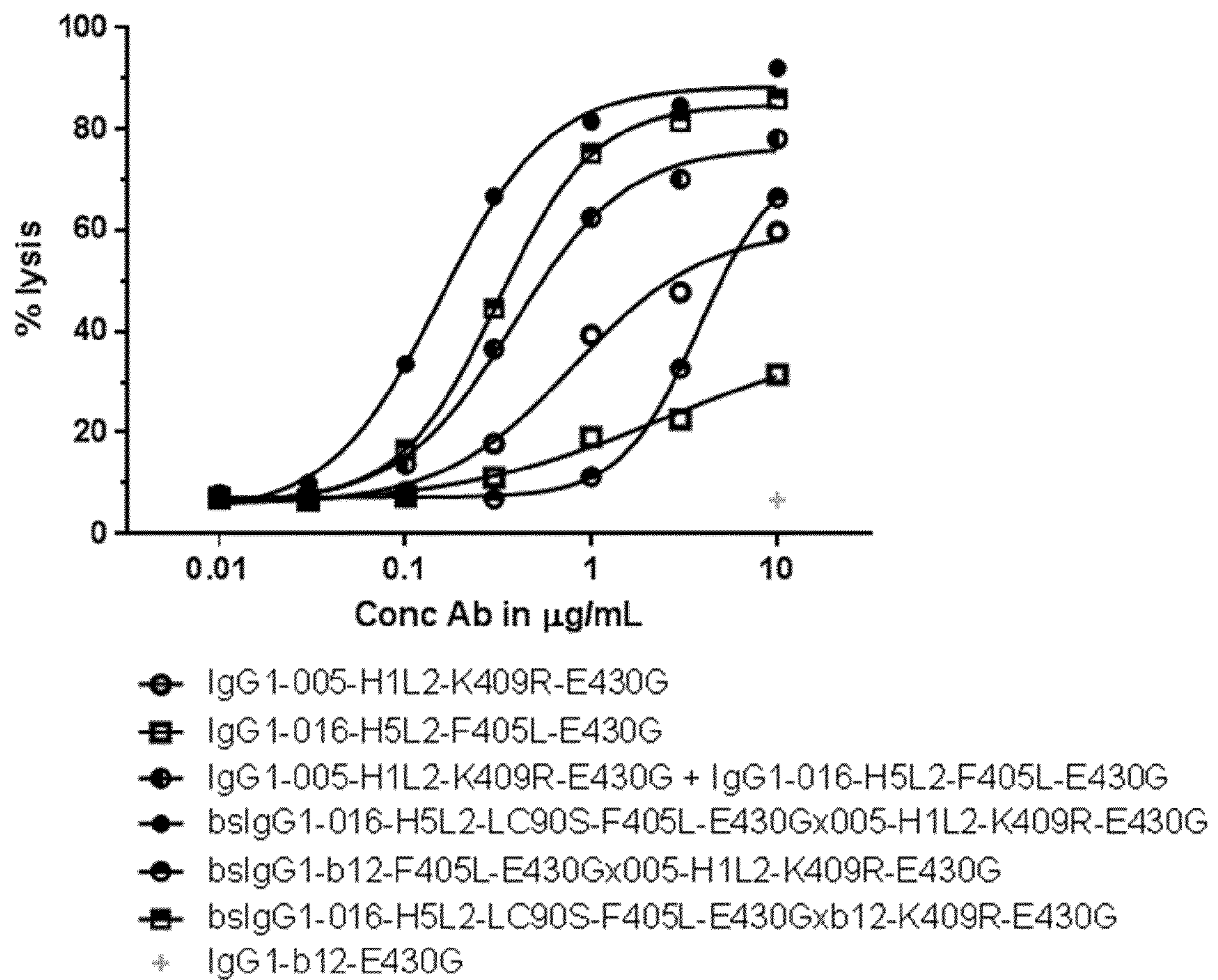
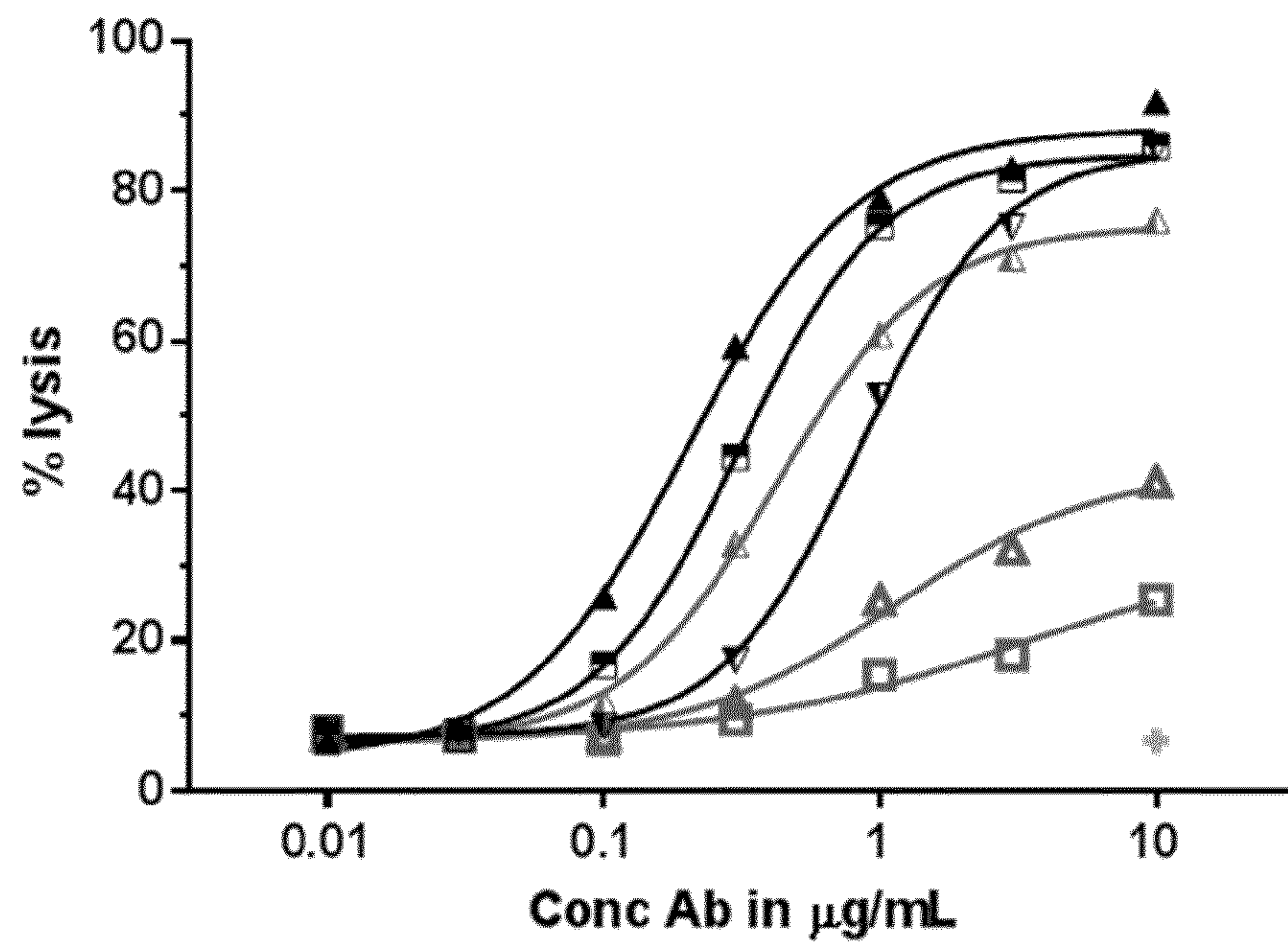


Figure 14

A



B



- ▲ IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G
- IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G
- ★ IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G + IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G
- ▲ bslgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G
- ▼ bslgG1-b12-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G
- bslgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gxb12-K409R-E430G
- ✦ IgG1-b12

Figure 15

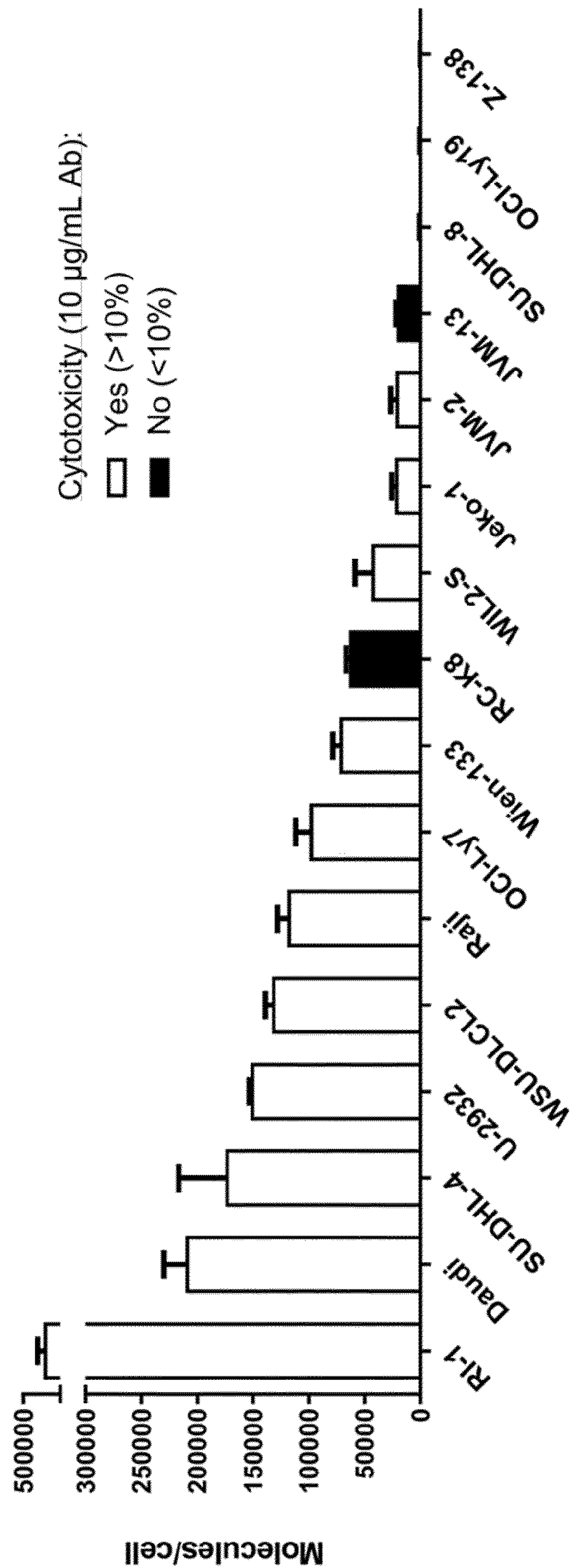
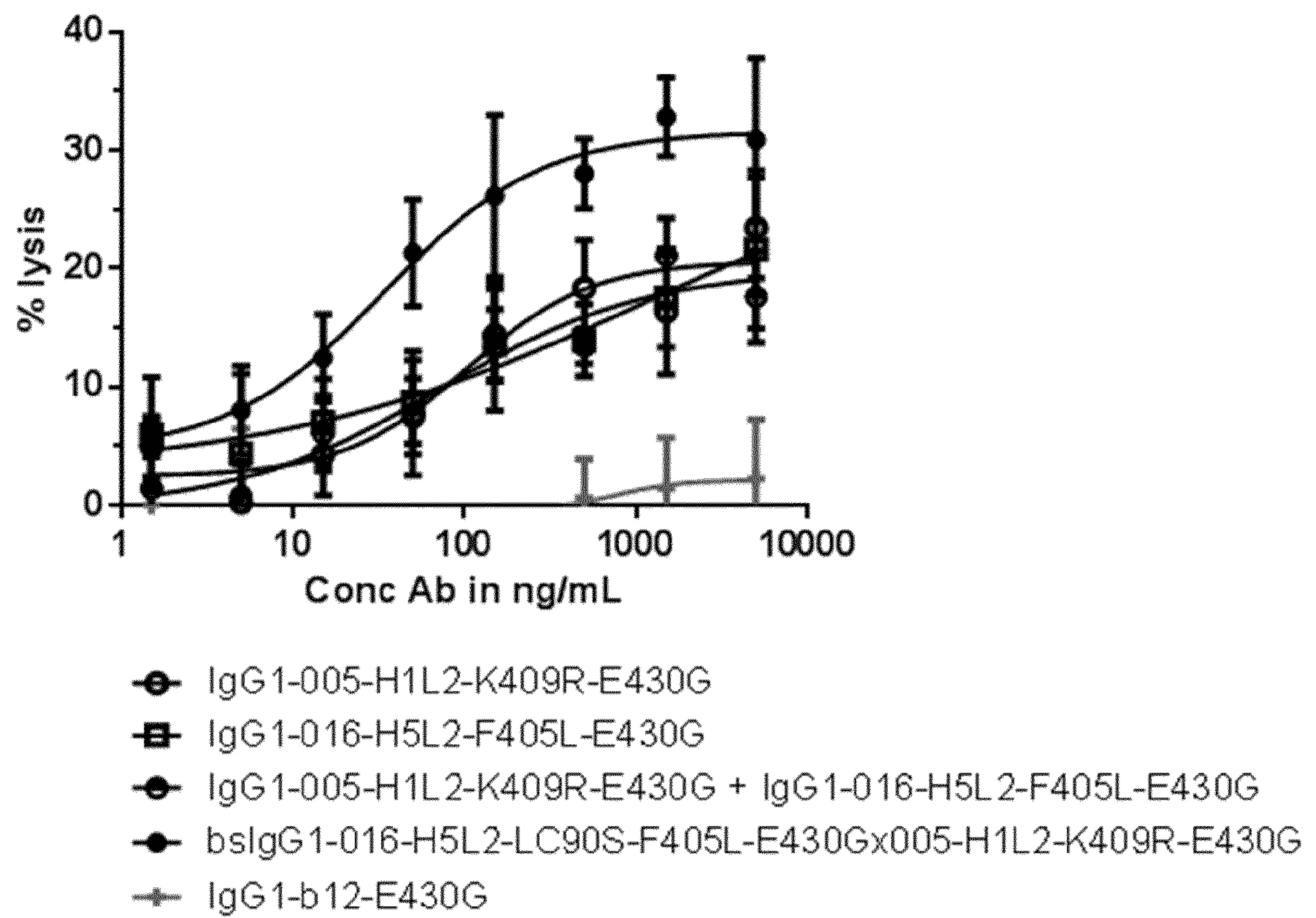
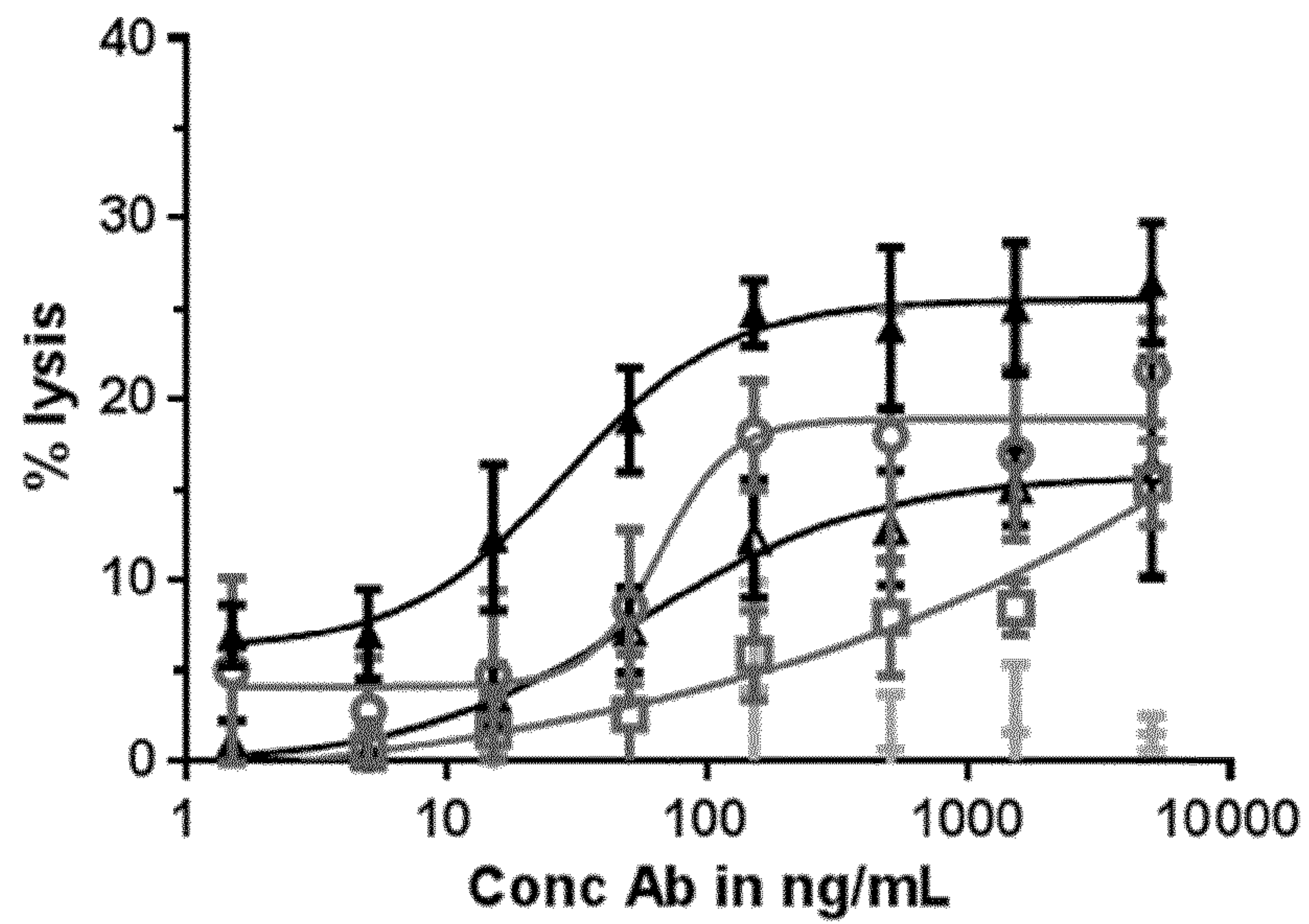


Figure 16

A



B



- IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G
- IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G
- △ IgG1-010-H5L2-E430G + IgG1-016-H5L2-E430G
- ▲ bslgG1-016-H5L2-LC90S-F405L-E430Gx010-H5L2-K409R-E430G
- + IgG1-b12-E430G

C

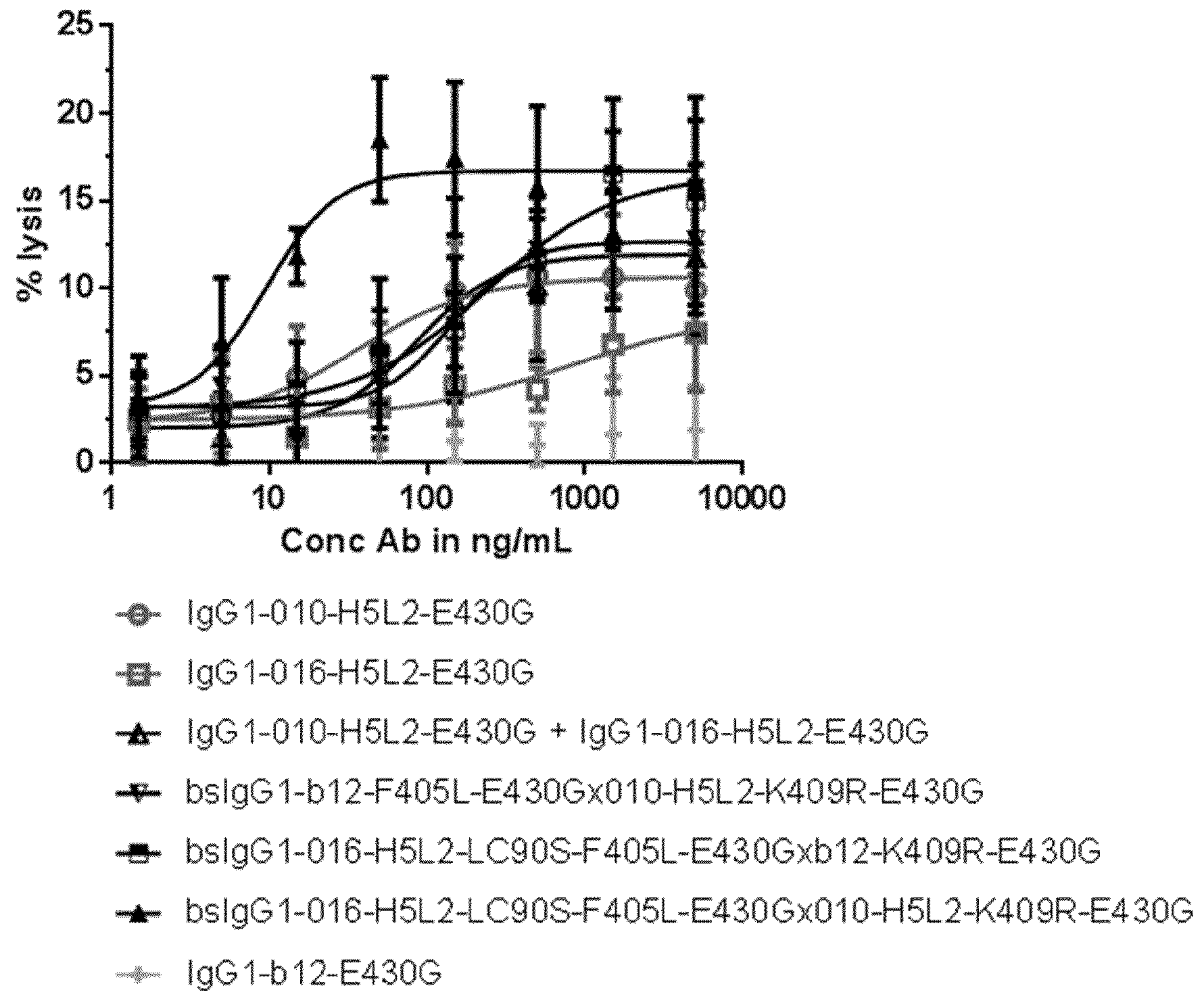
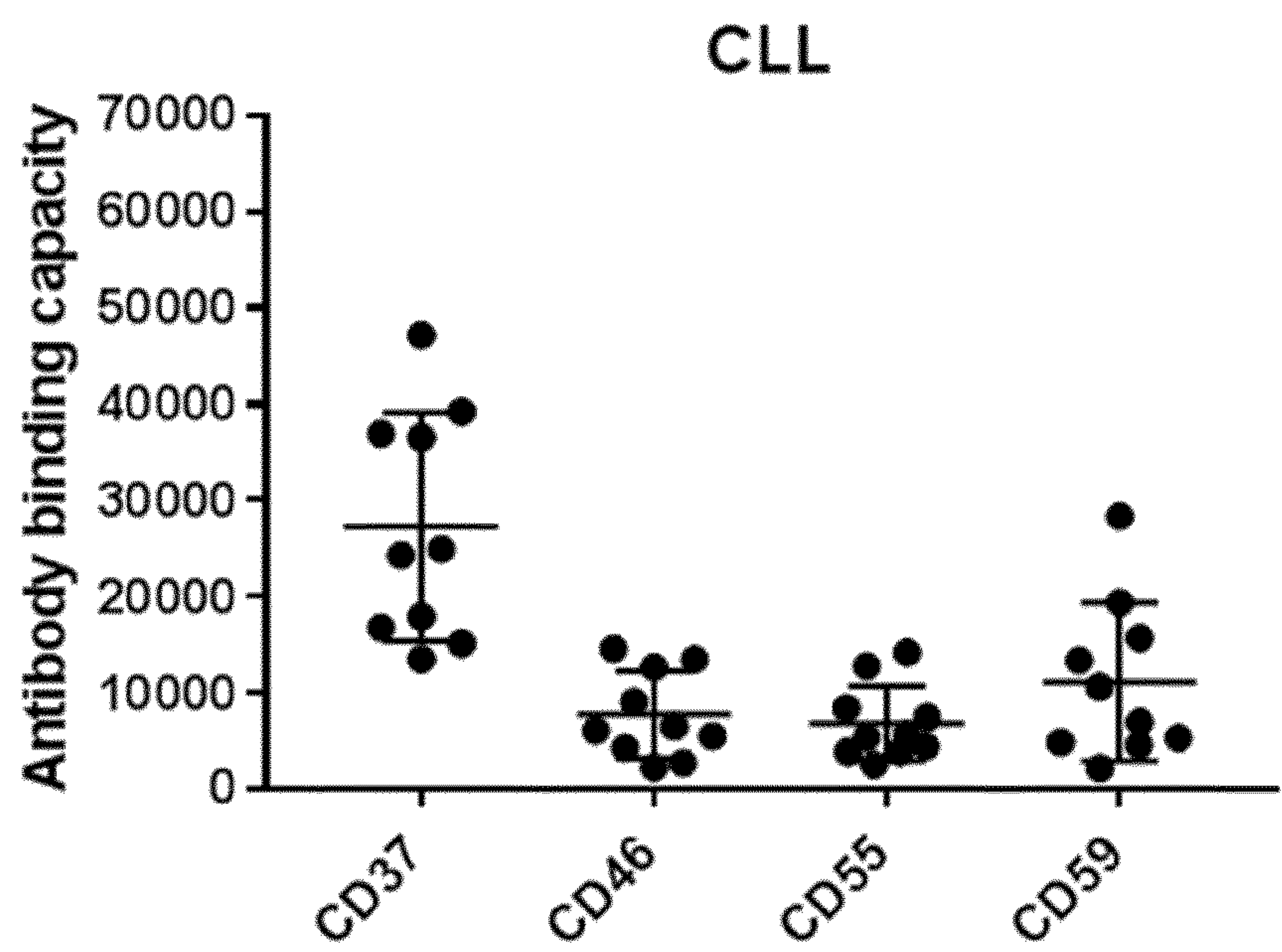
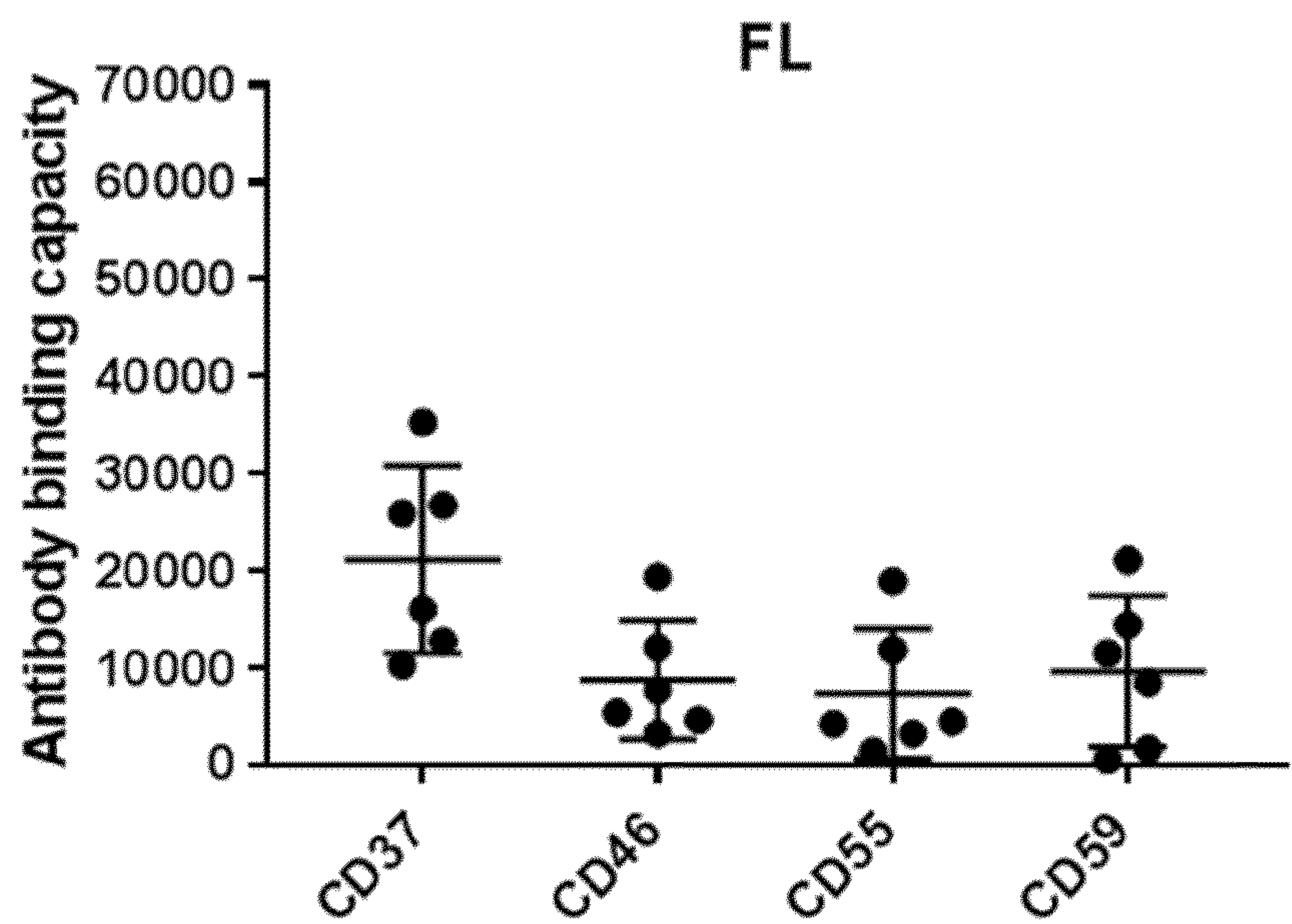


Figure 17

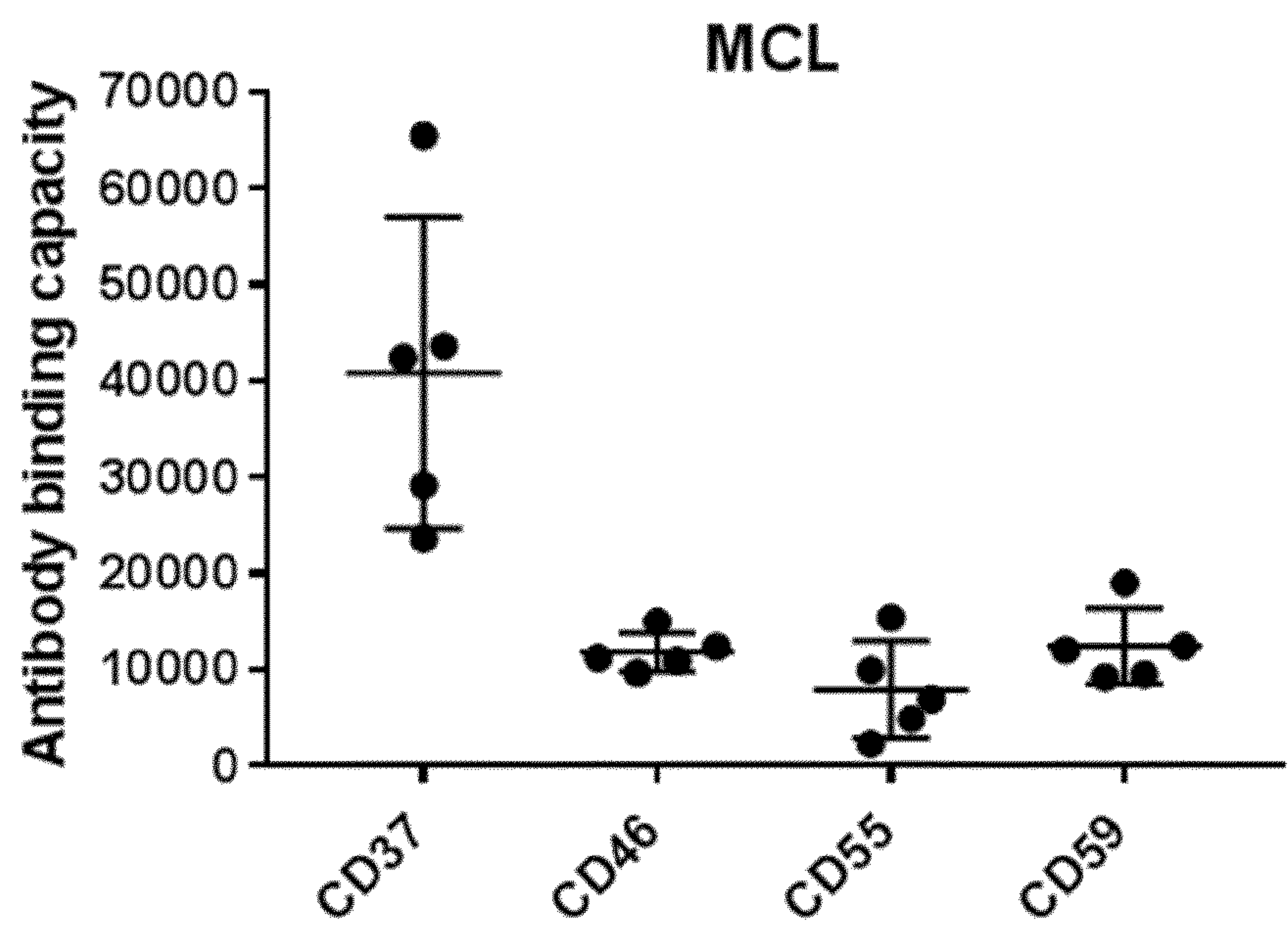
A



B



C



D

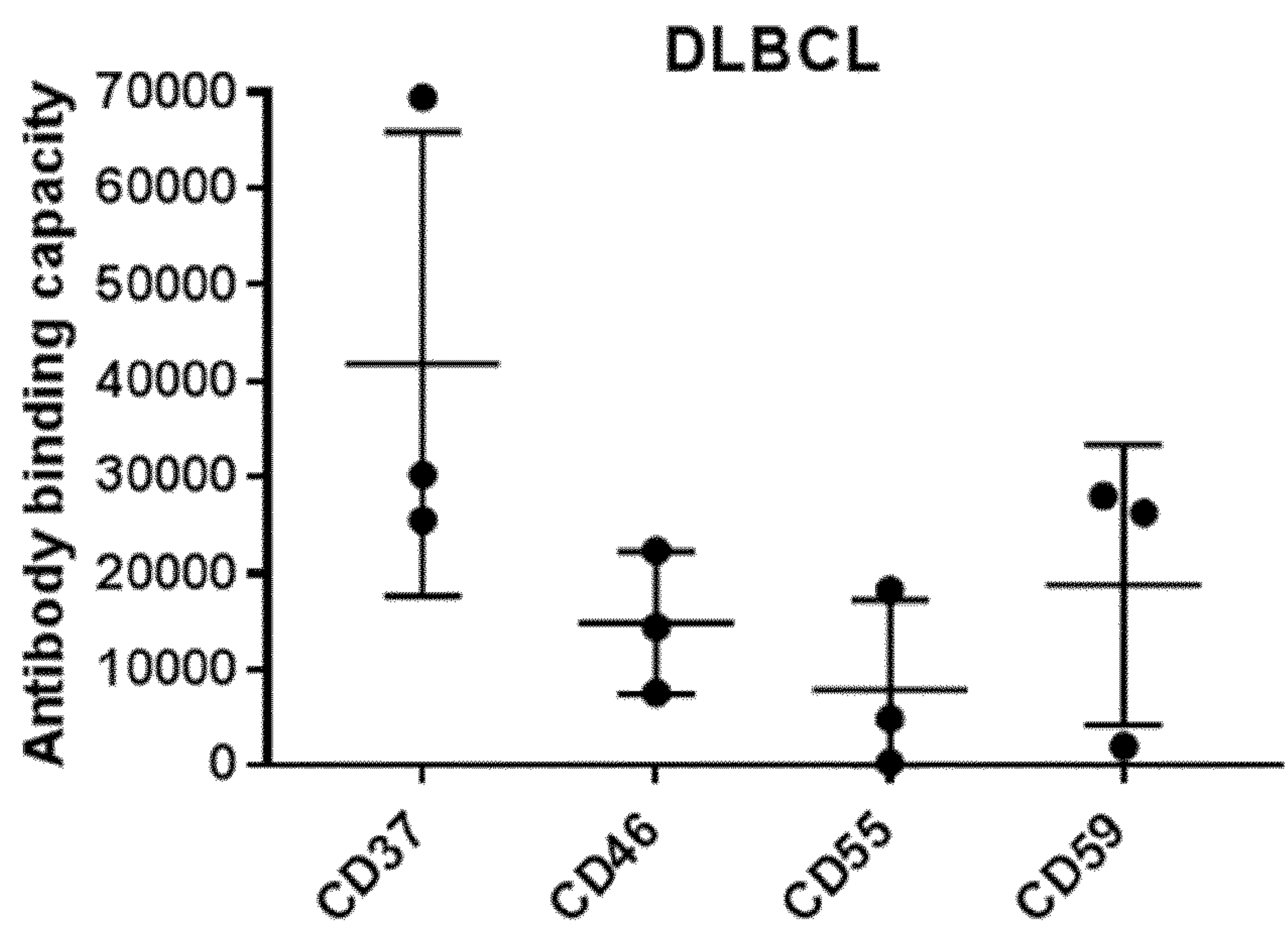
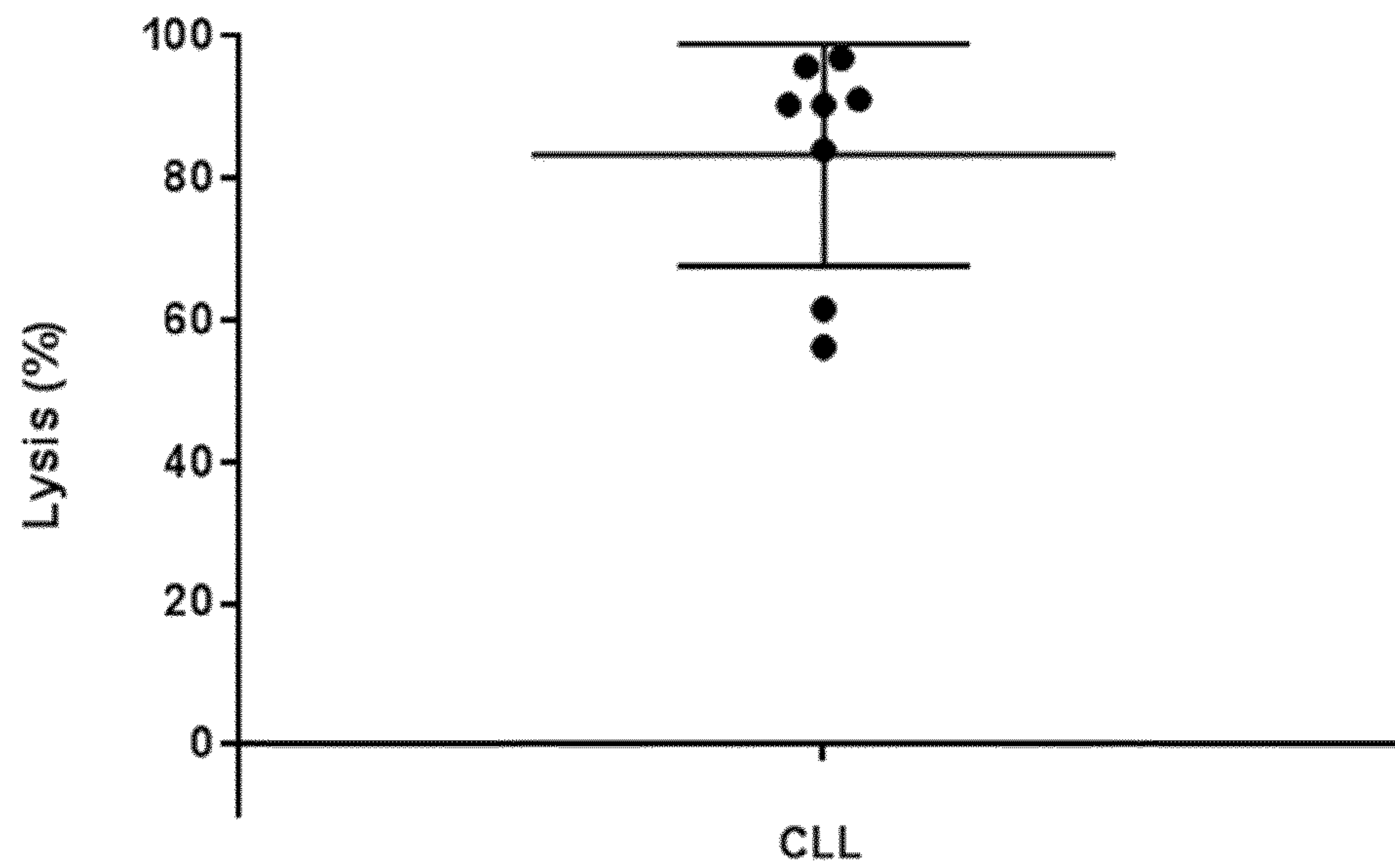
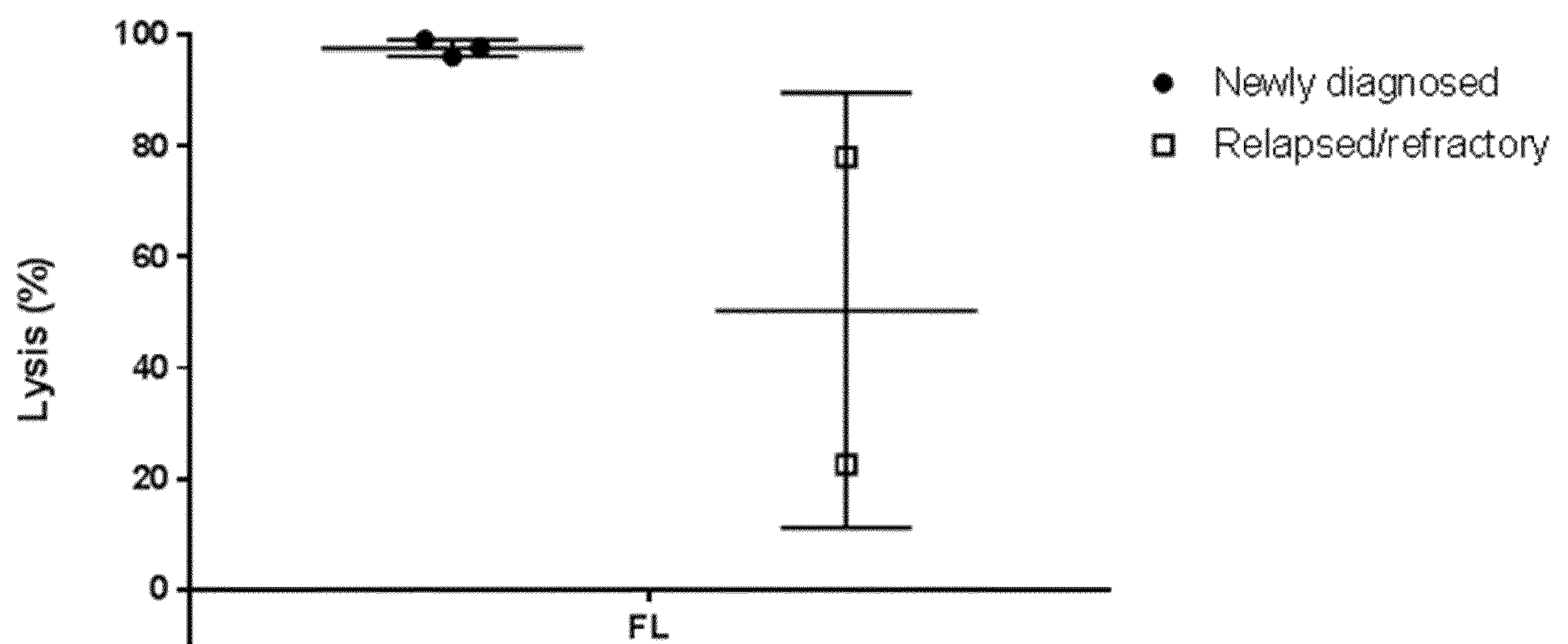


Figure 18

A



B



c

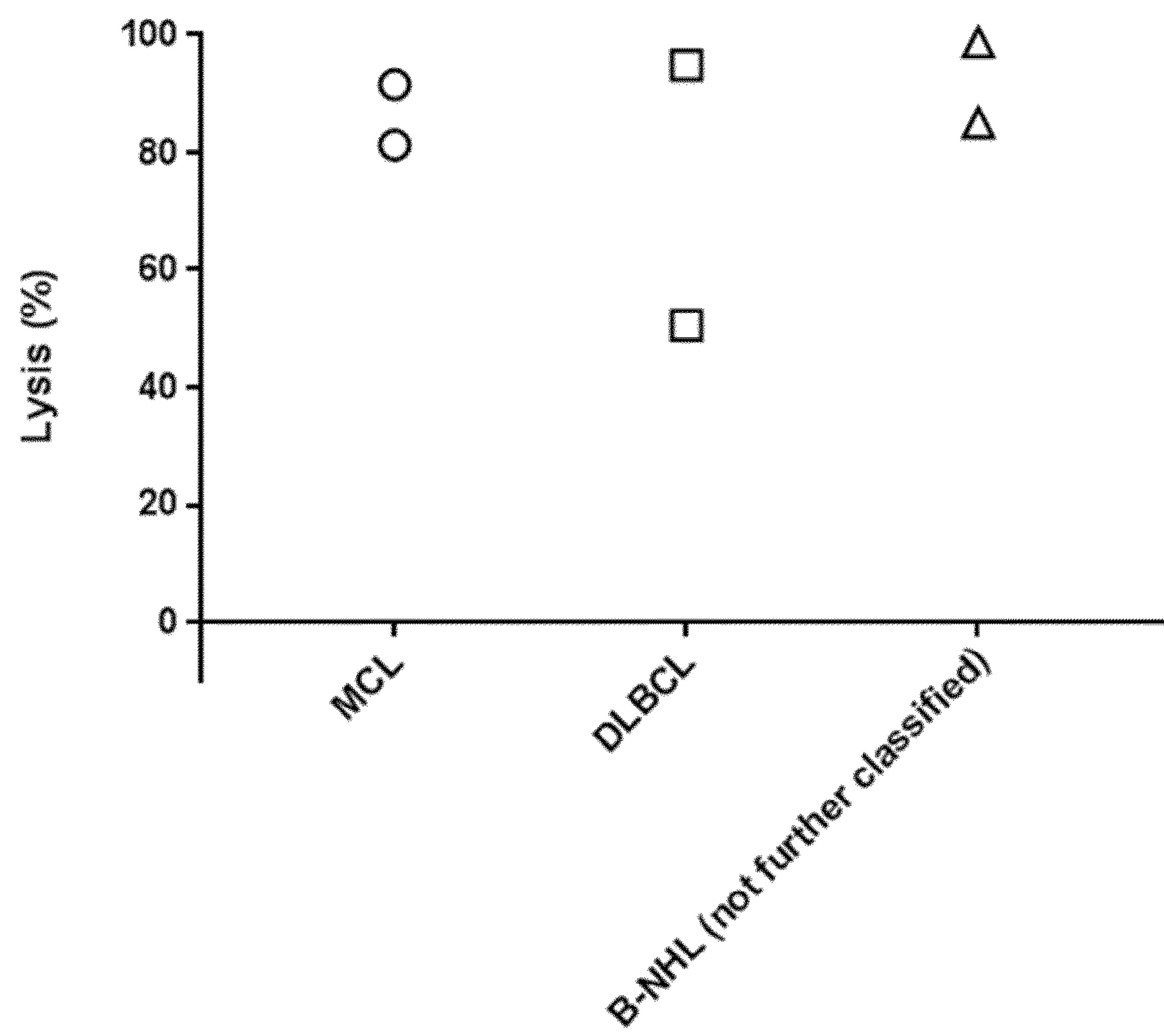
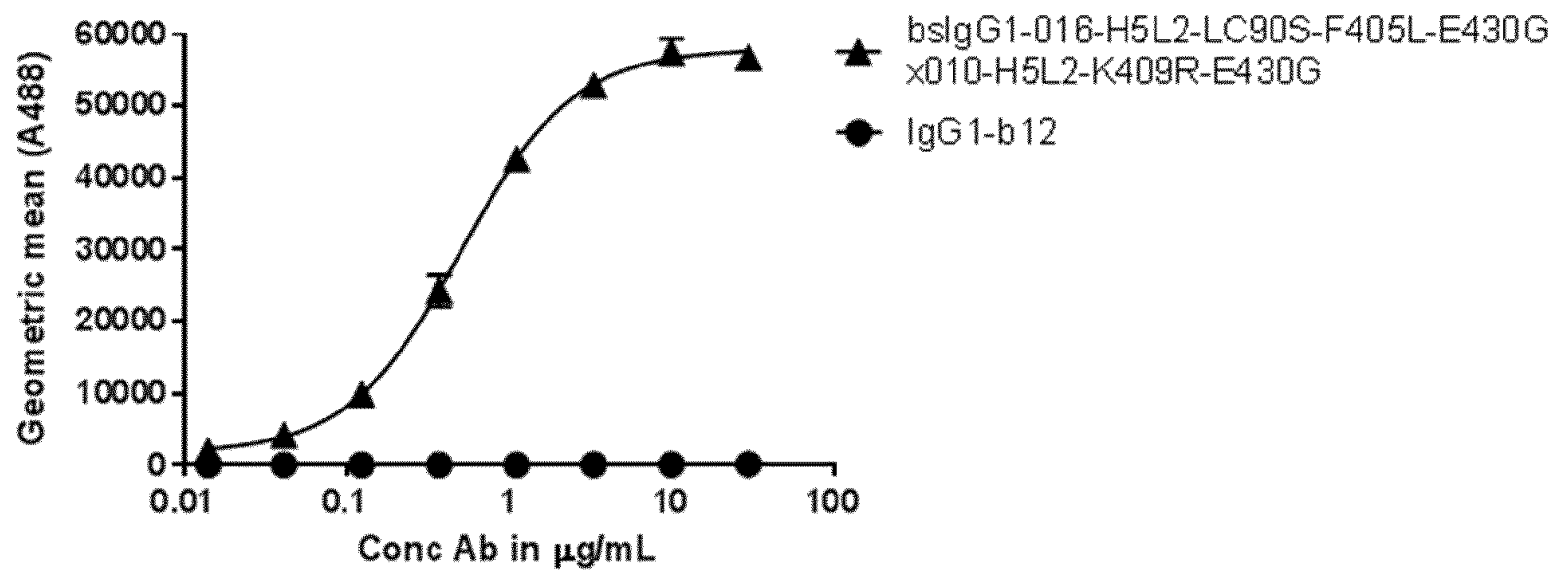


Figure 19

A



B

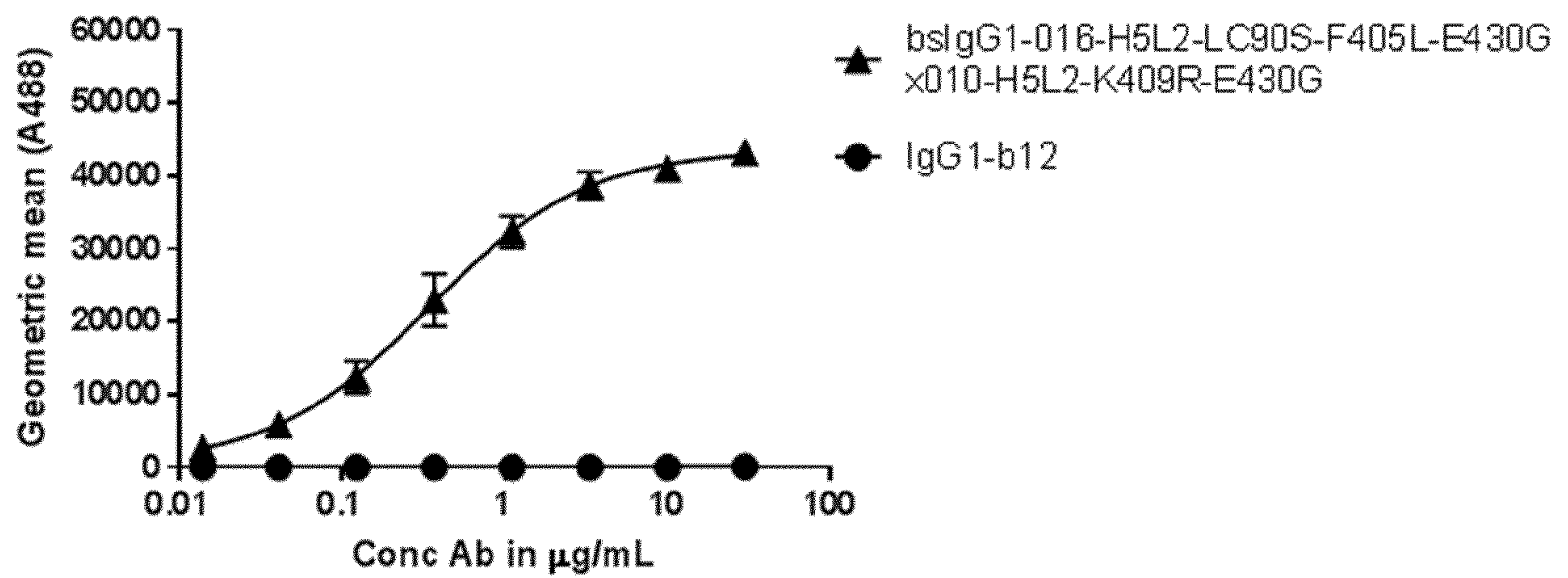
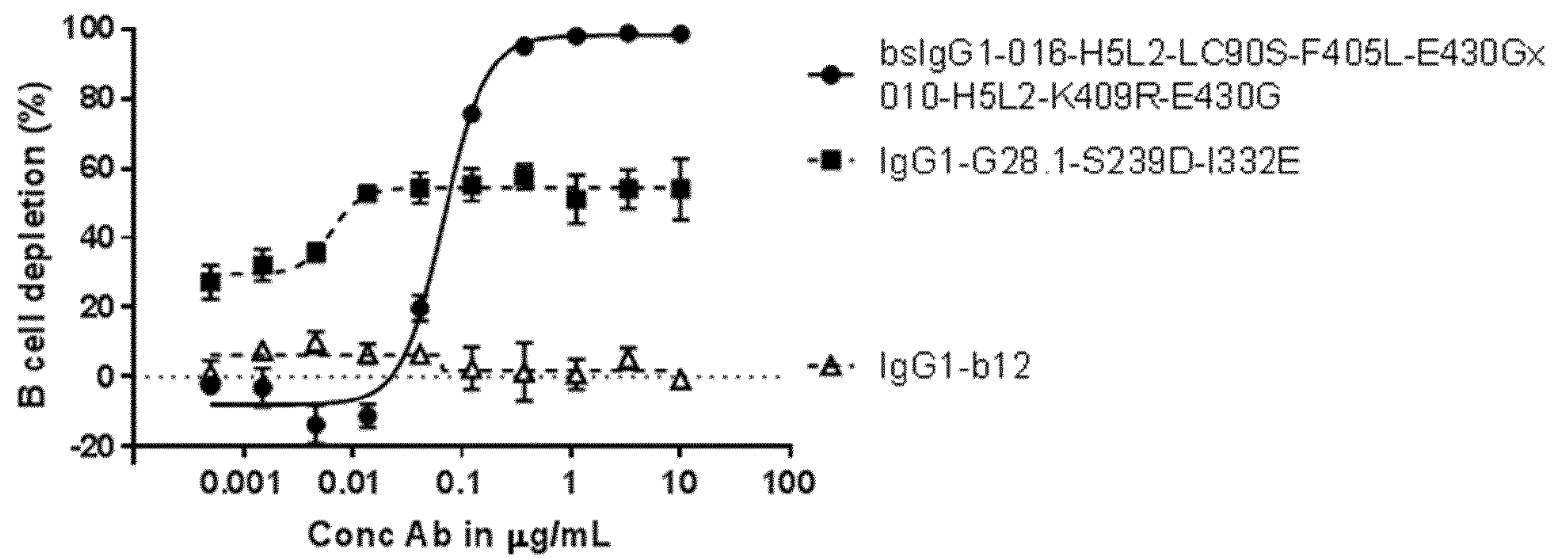


Figure 20

A



B

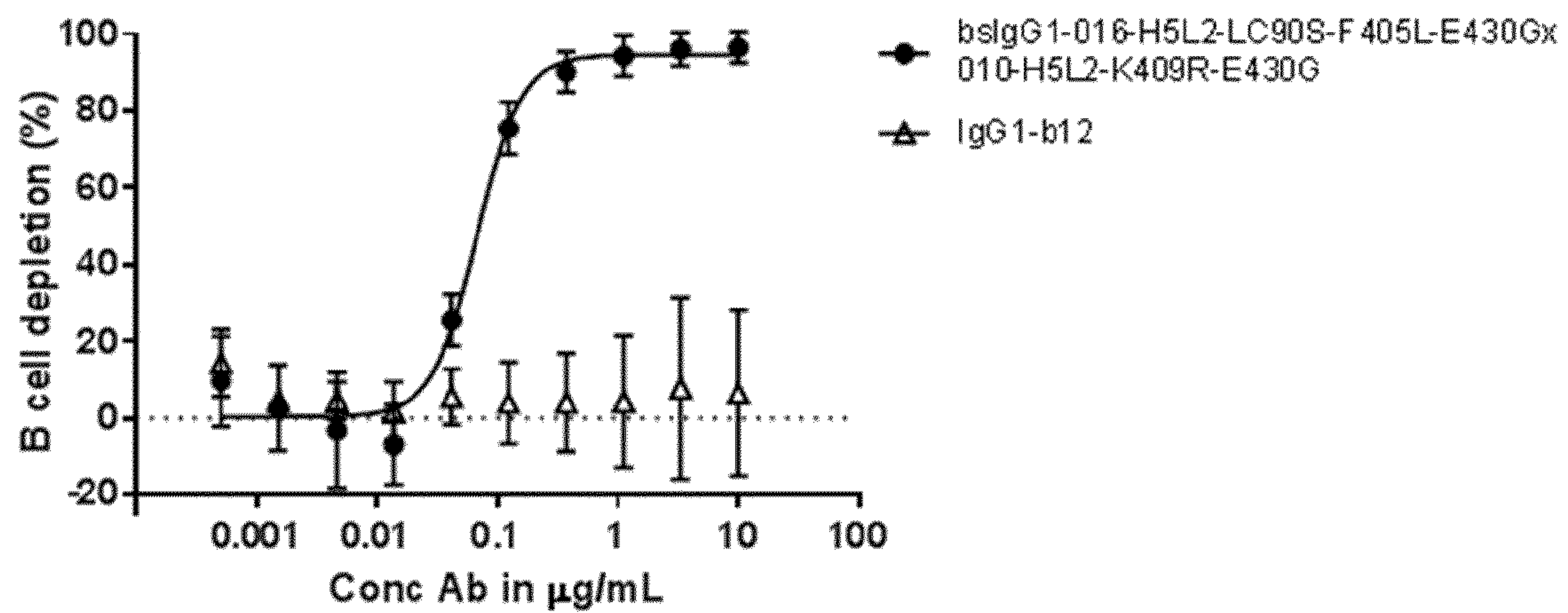
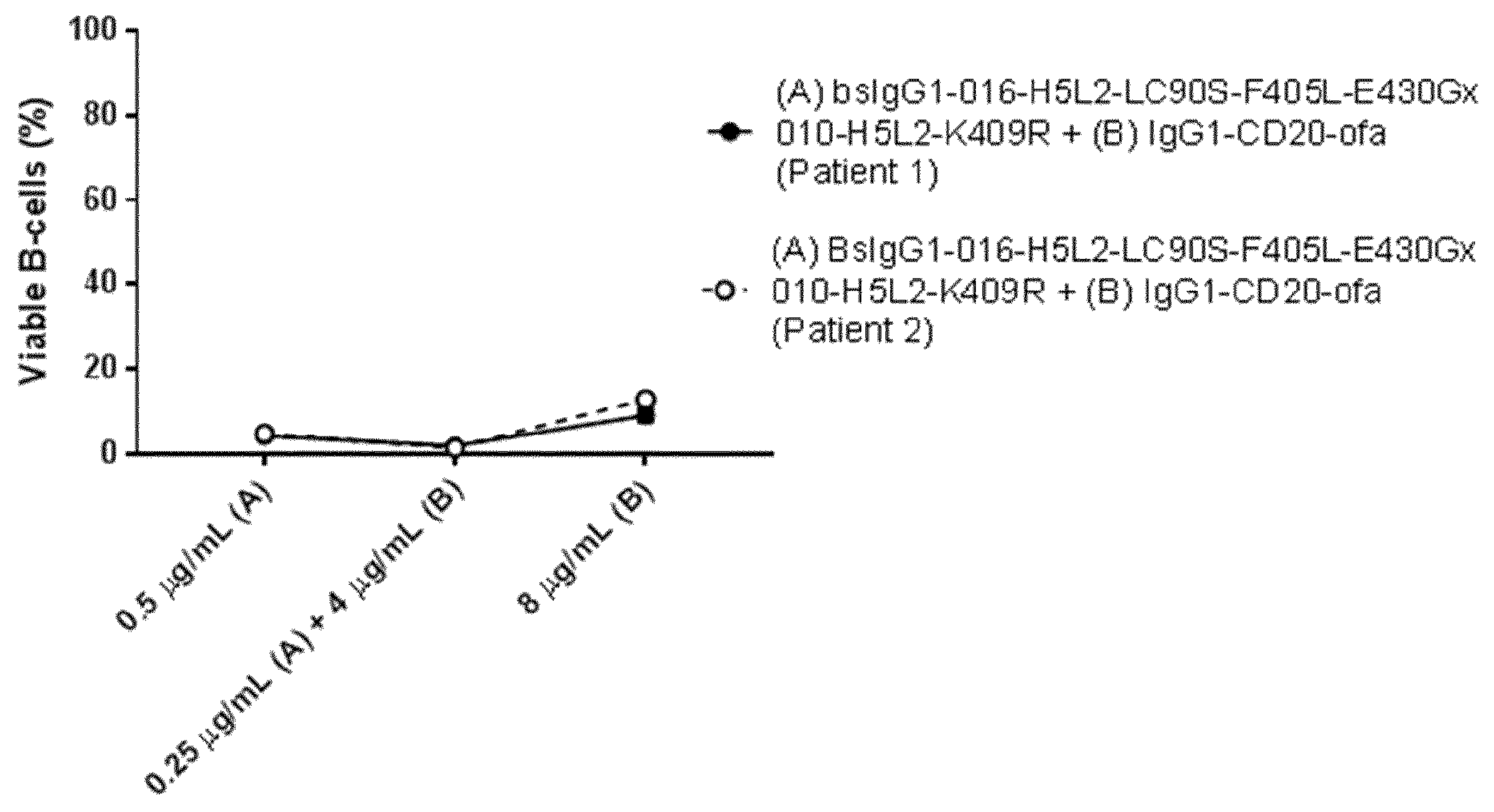
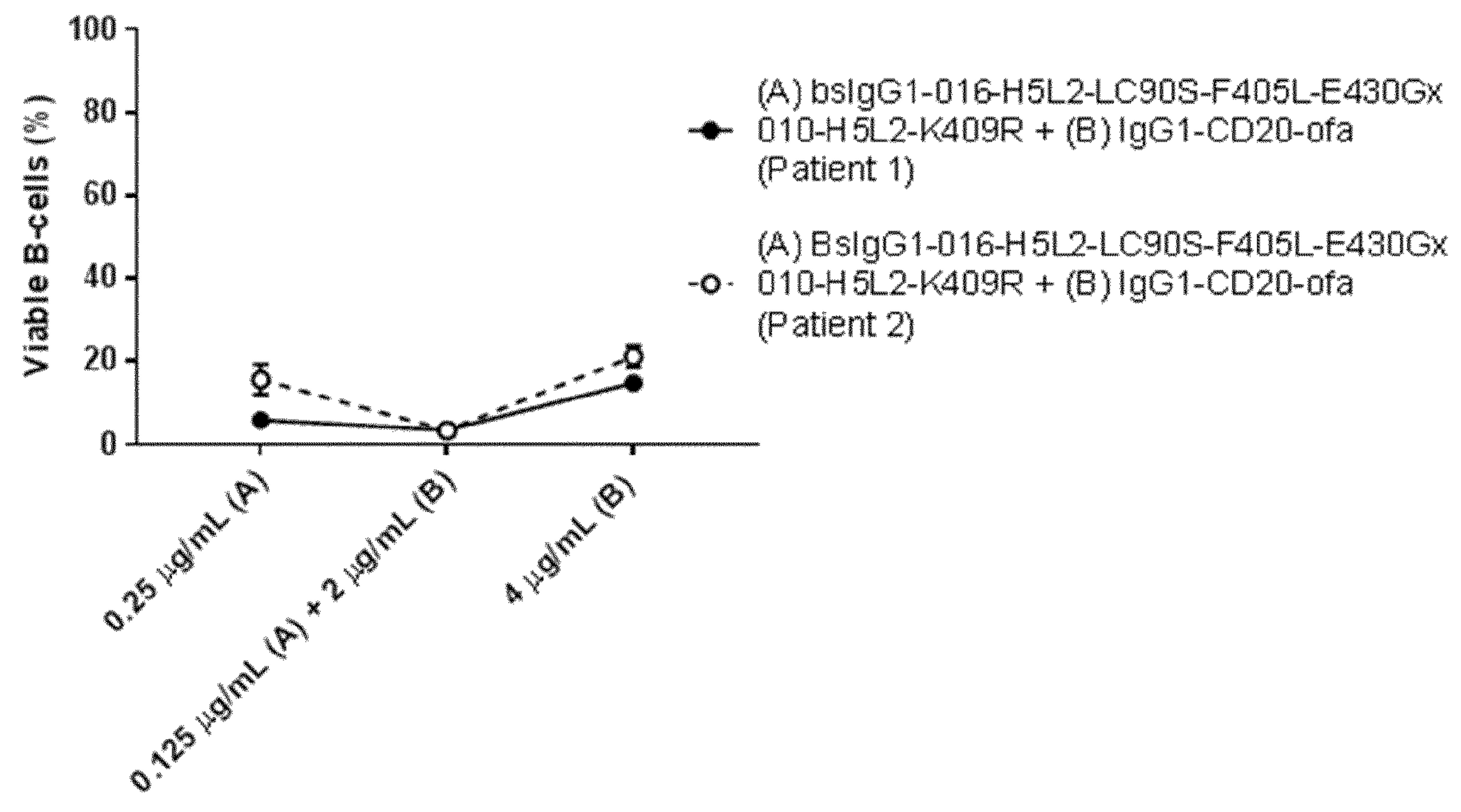


Figure 21

A



B



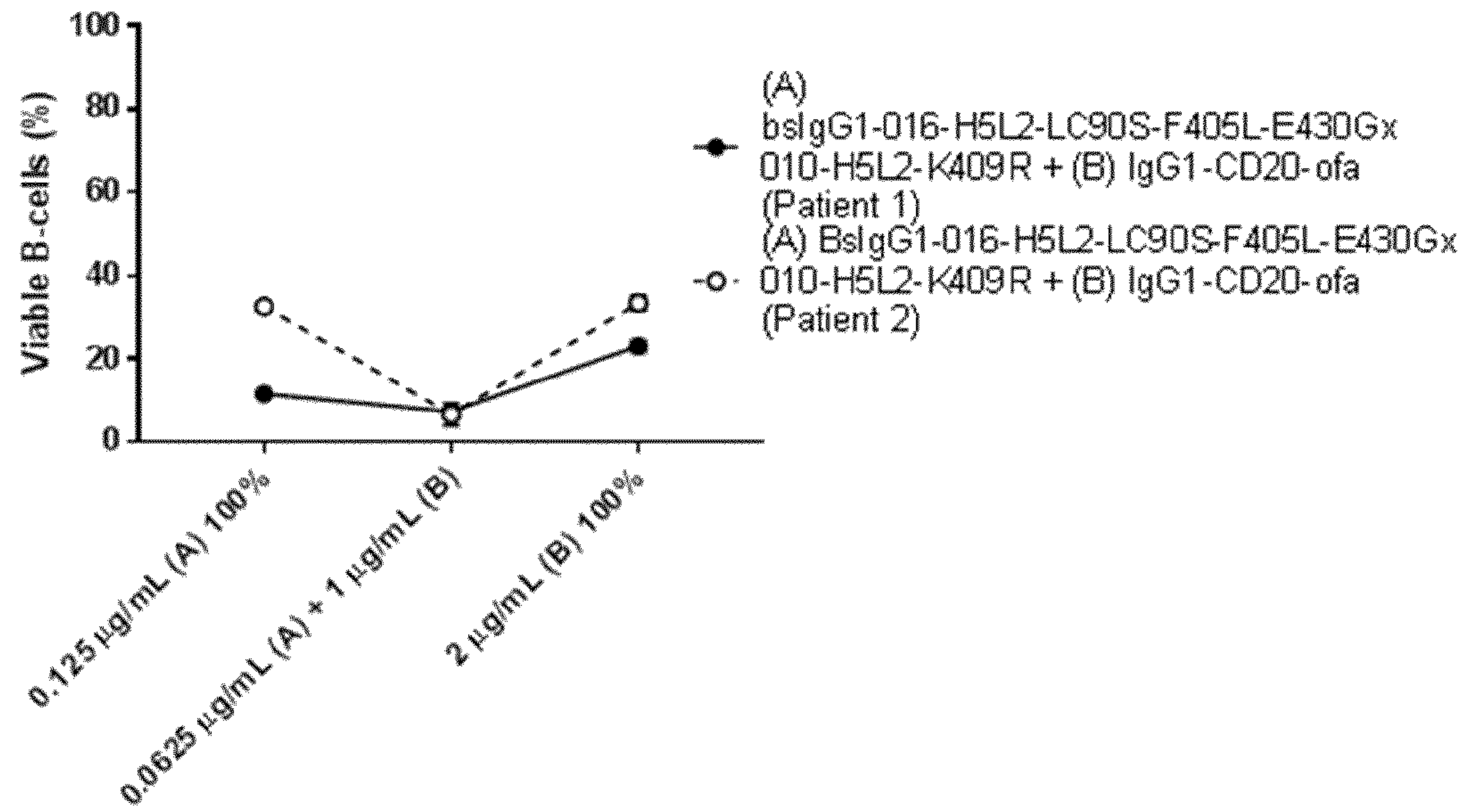
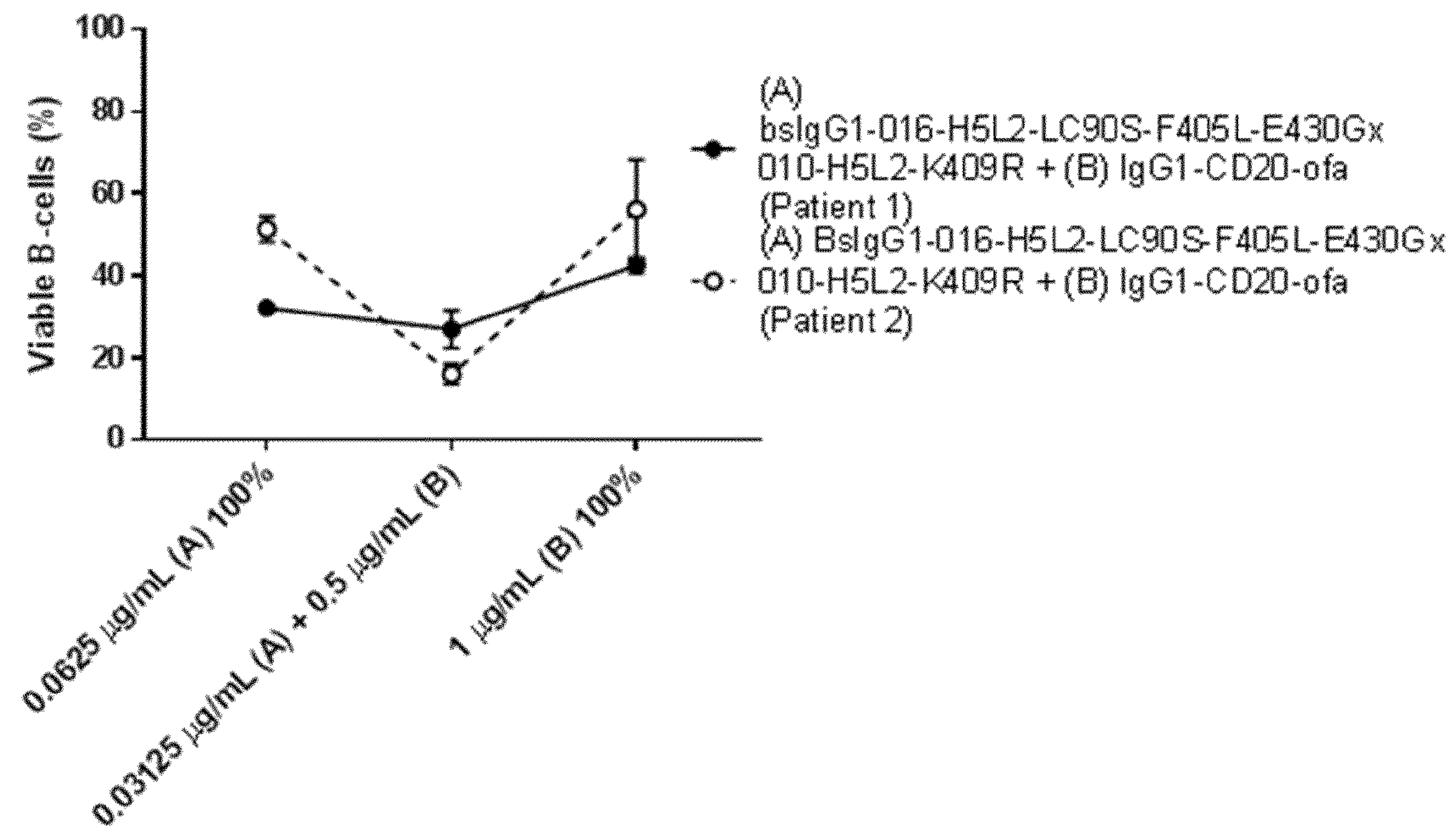
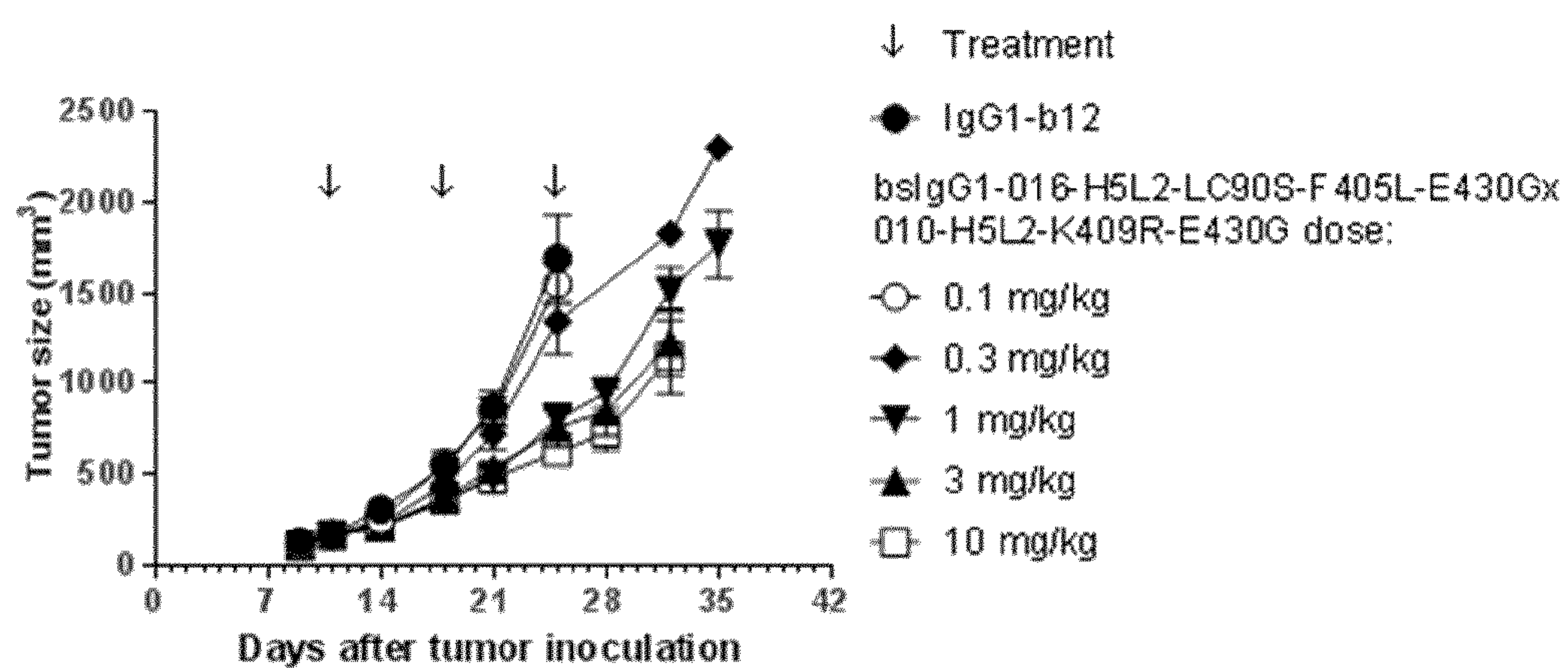
C**D**

Figure 22

A



B

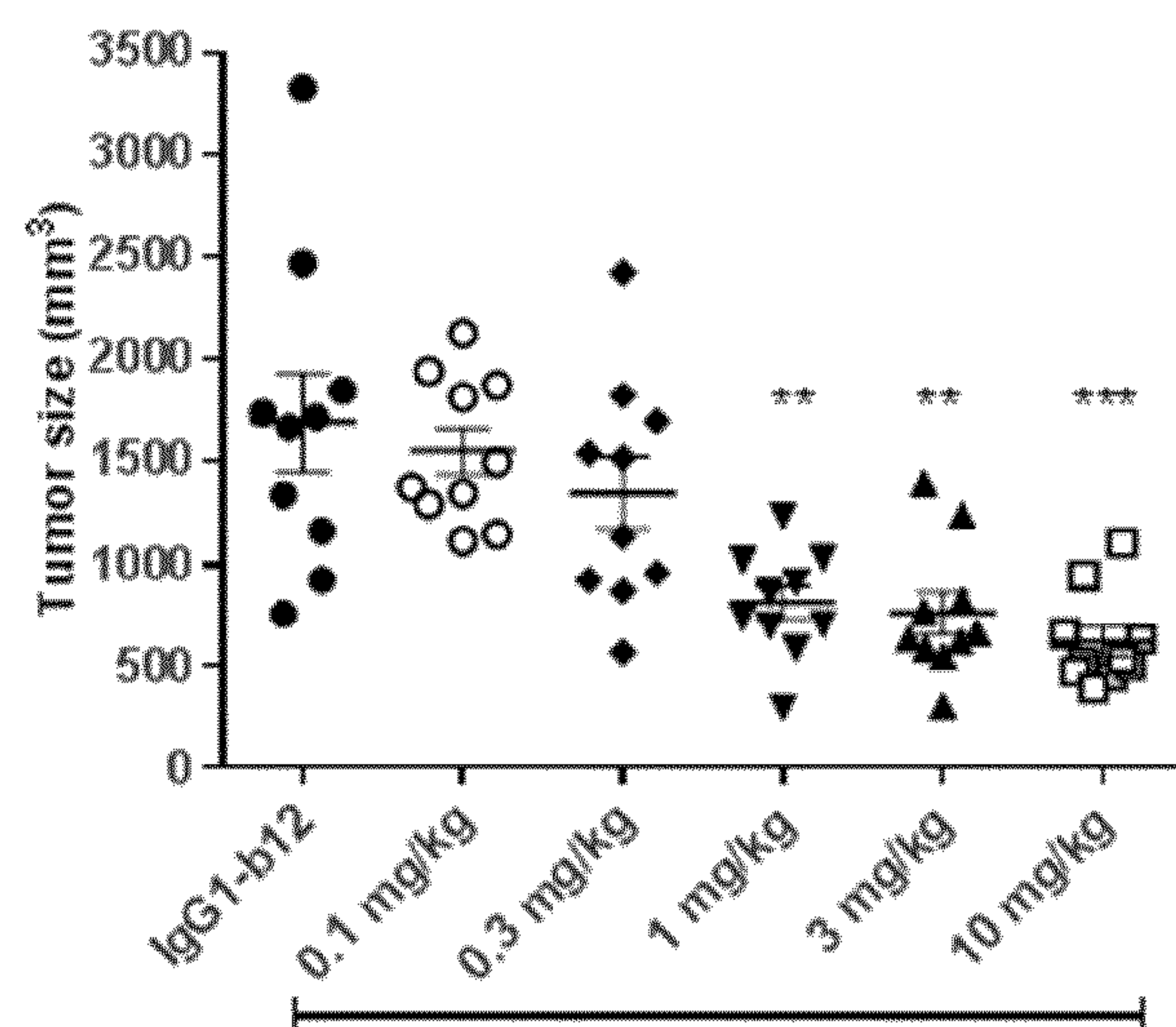
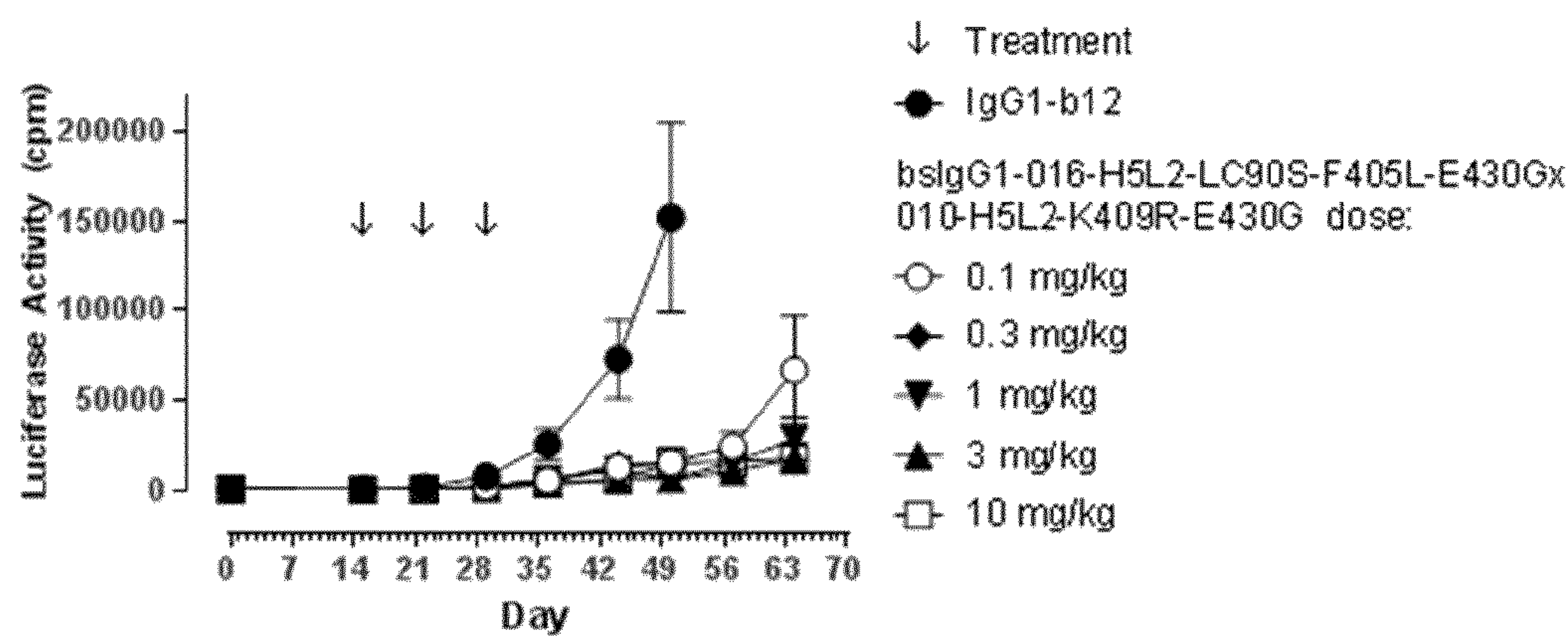


Figure 23

A



B

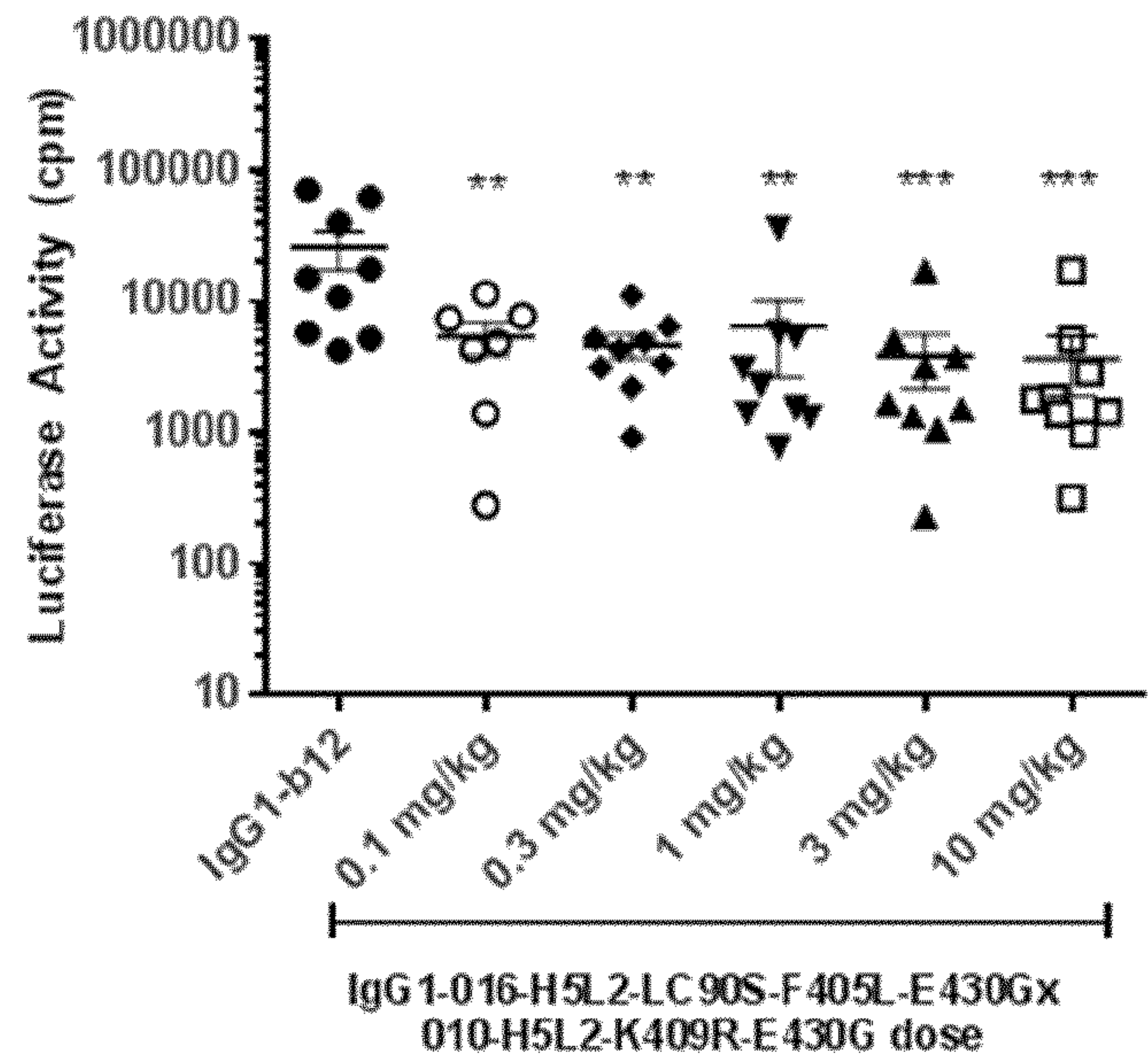
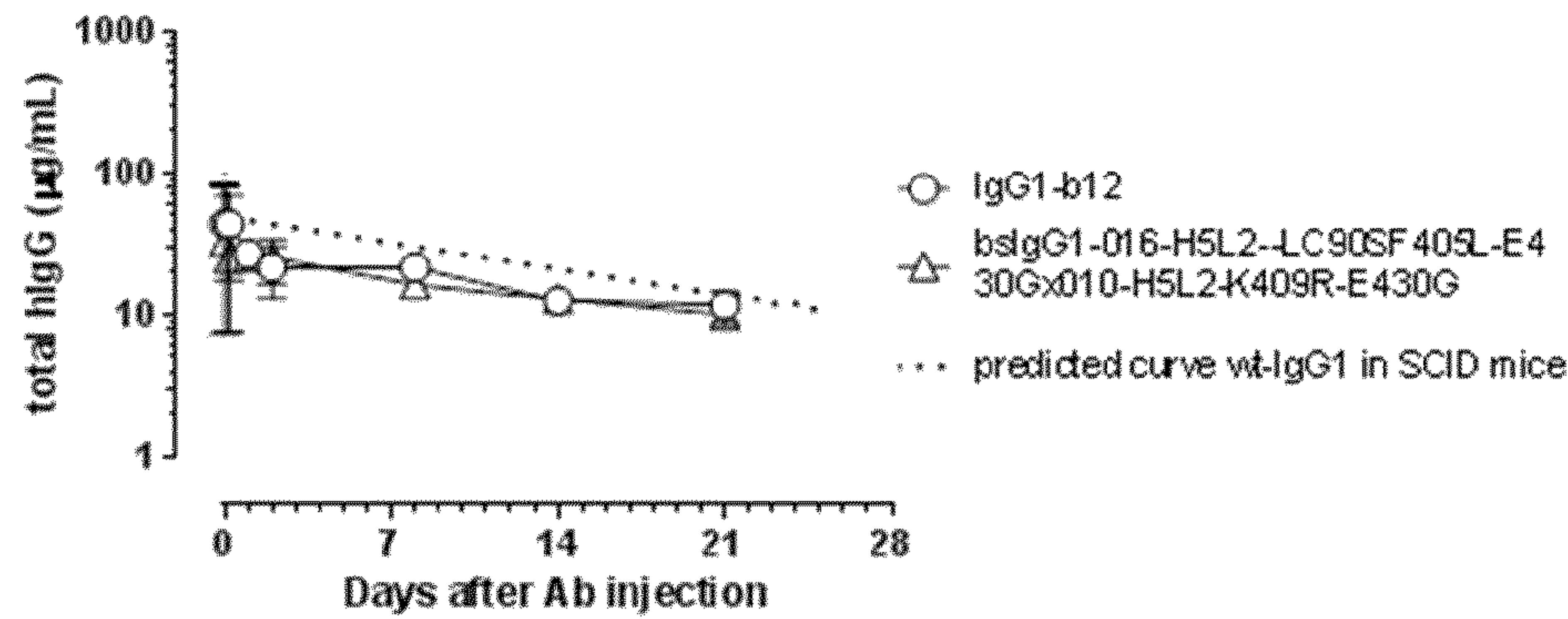
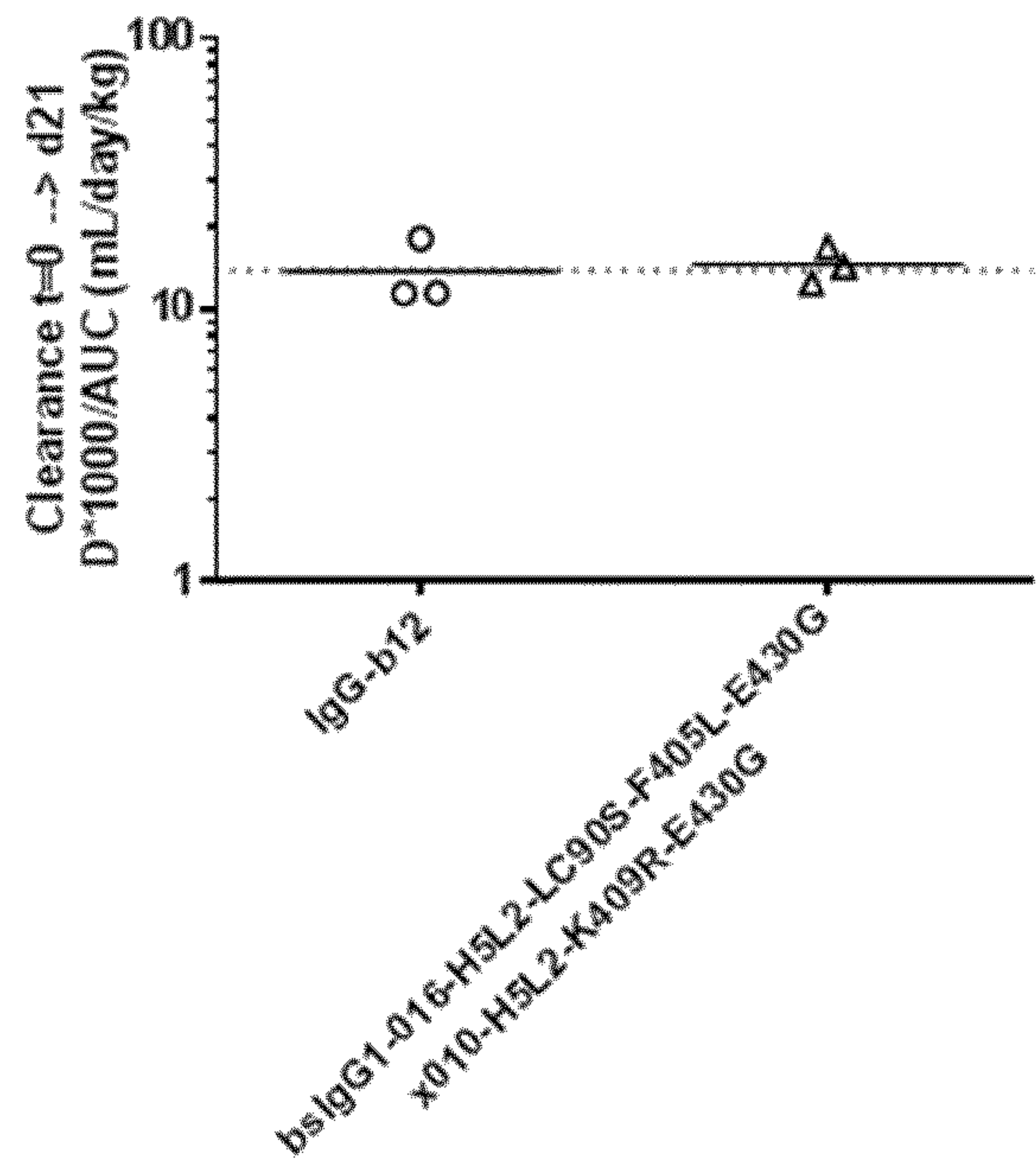


Figure 24

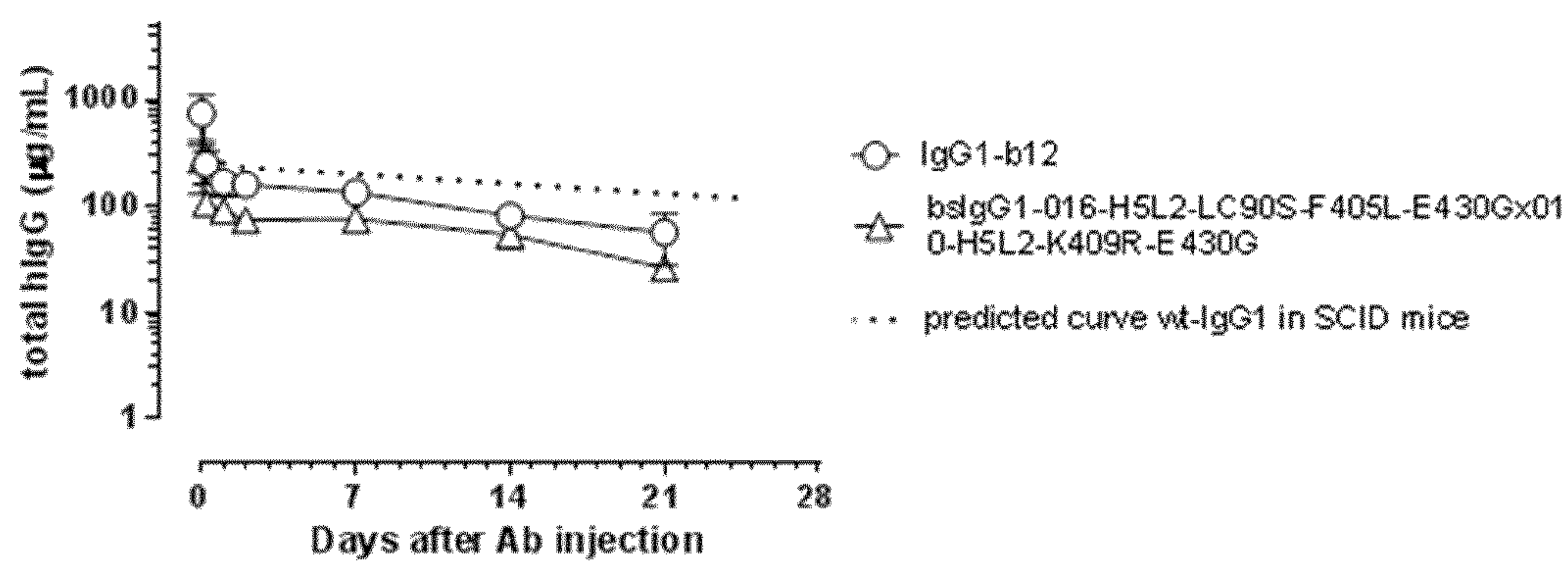
A



B



C



D

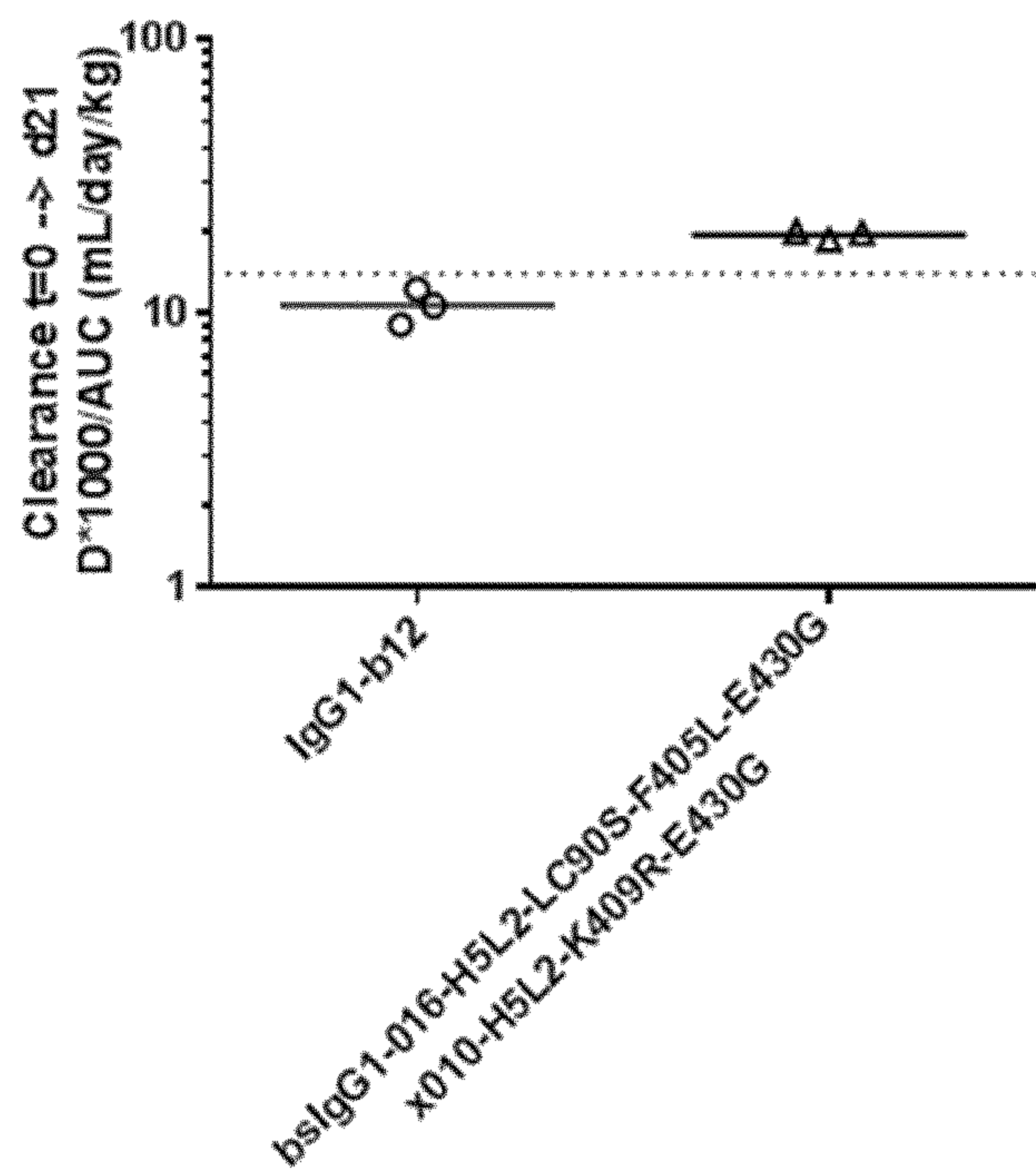


Figure 25

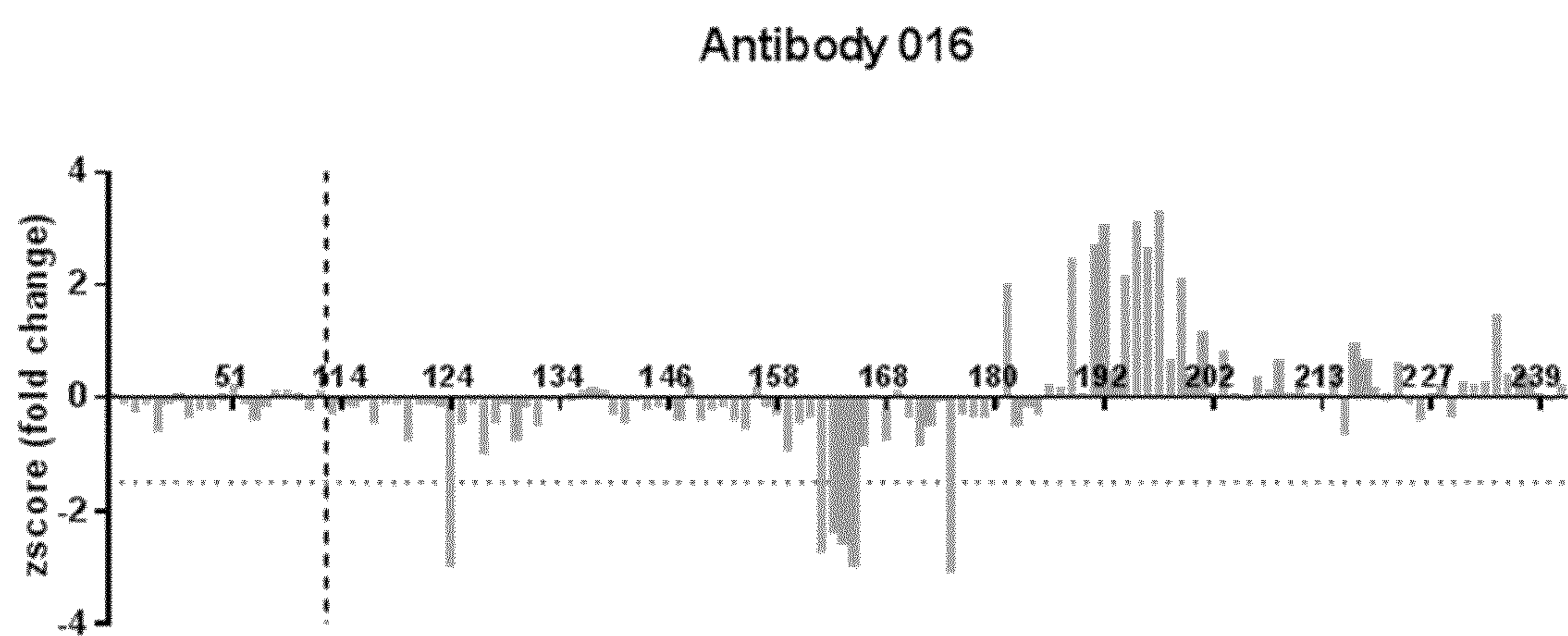
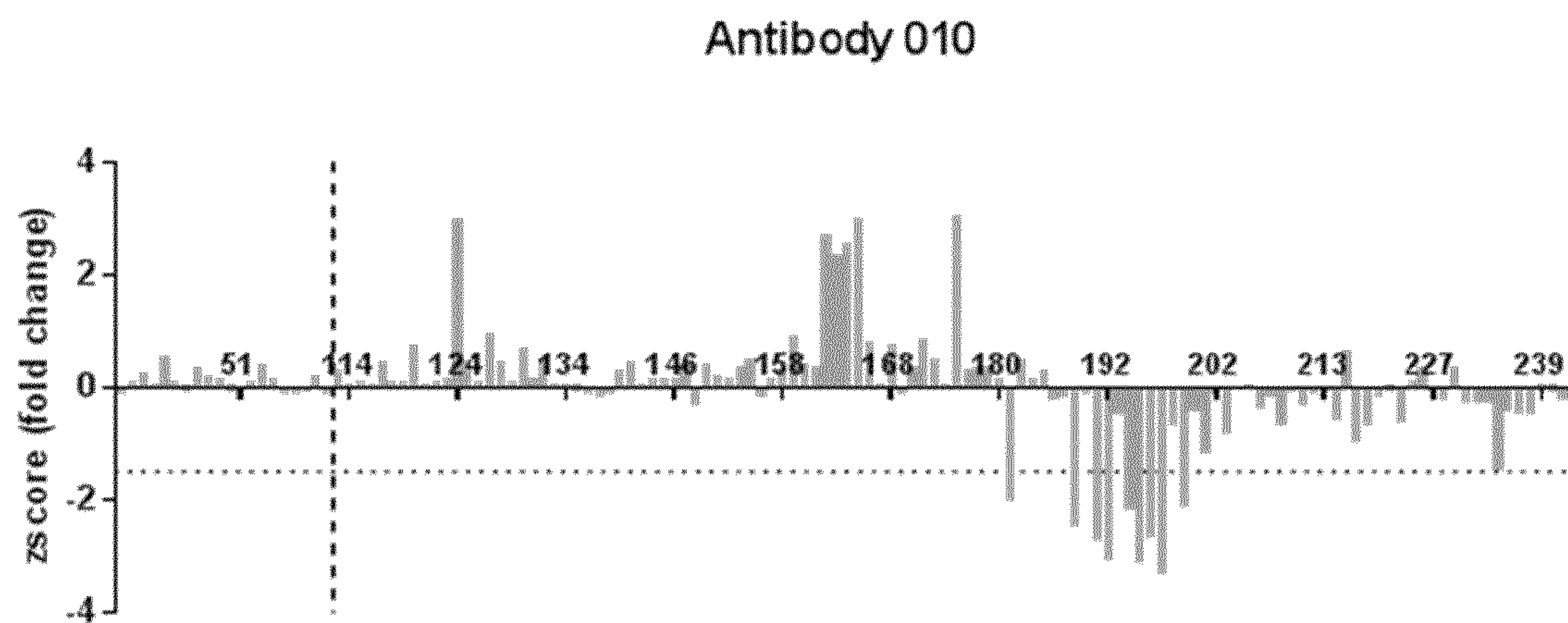
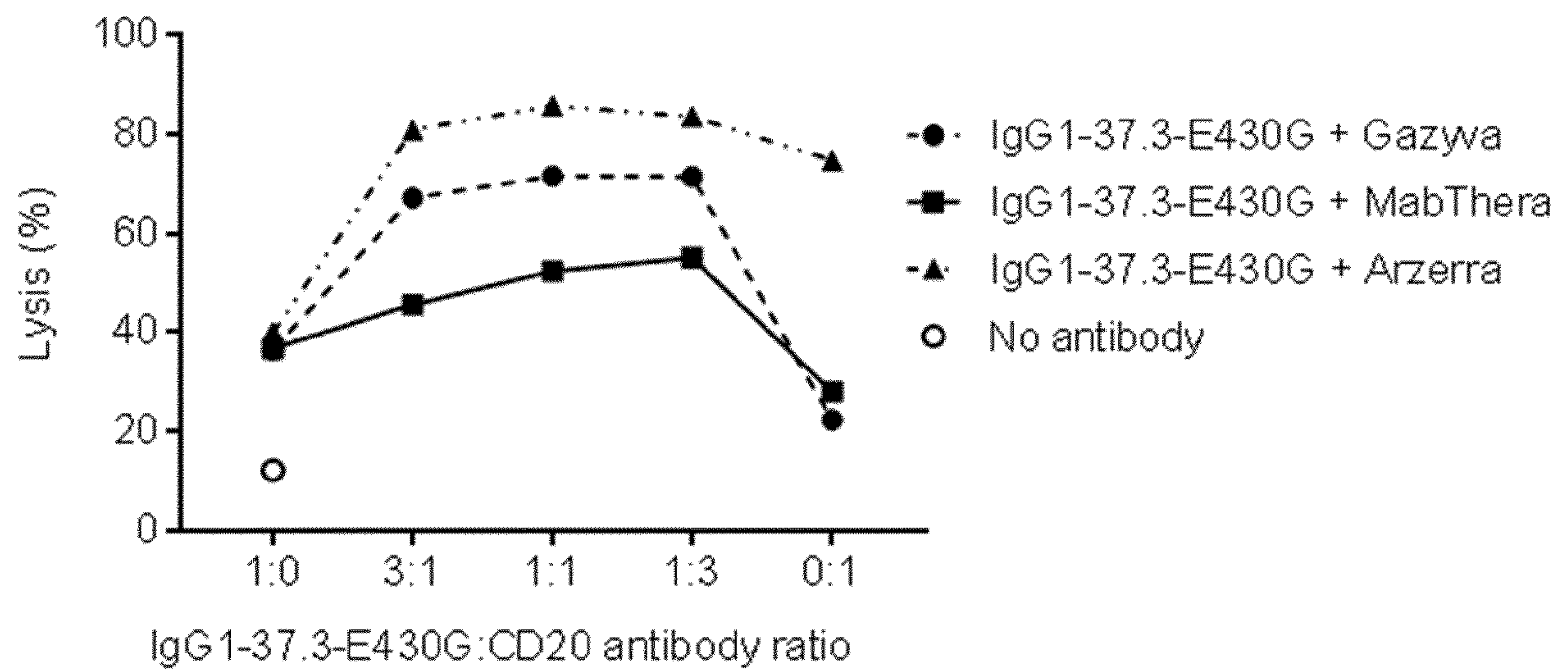
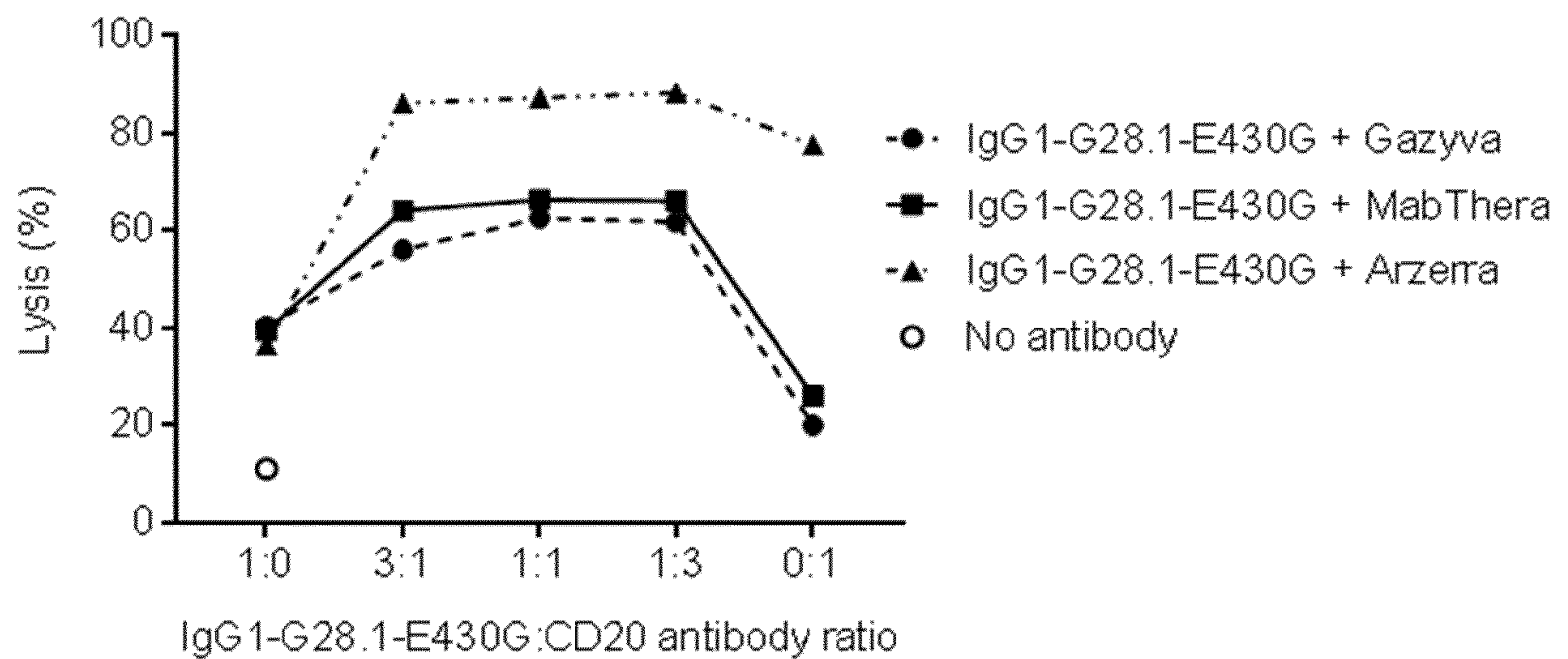


Figure 26

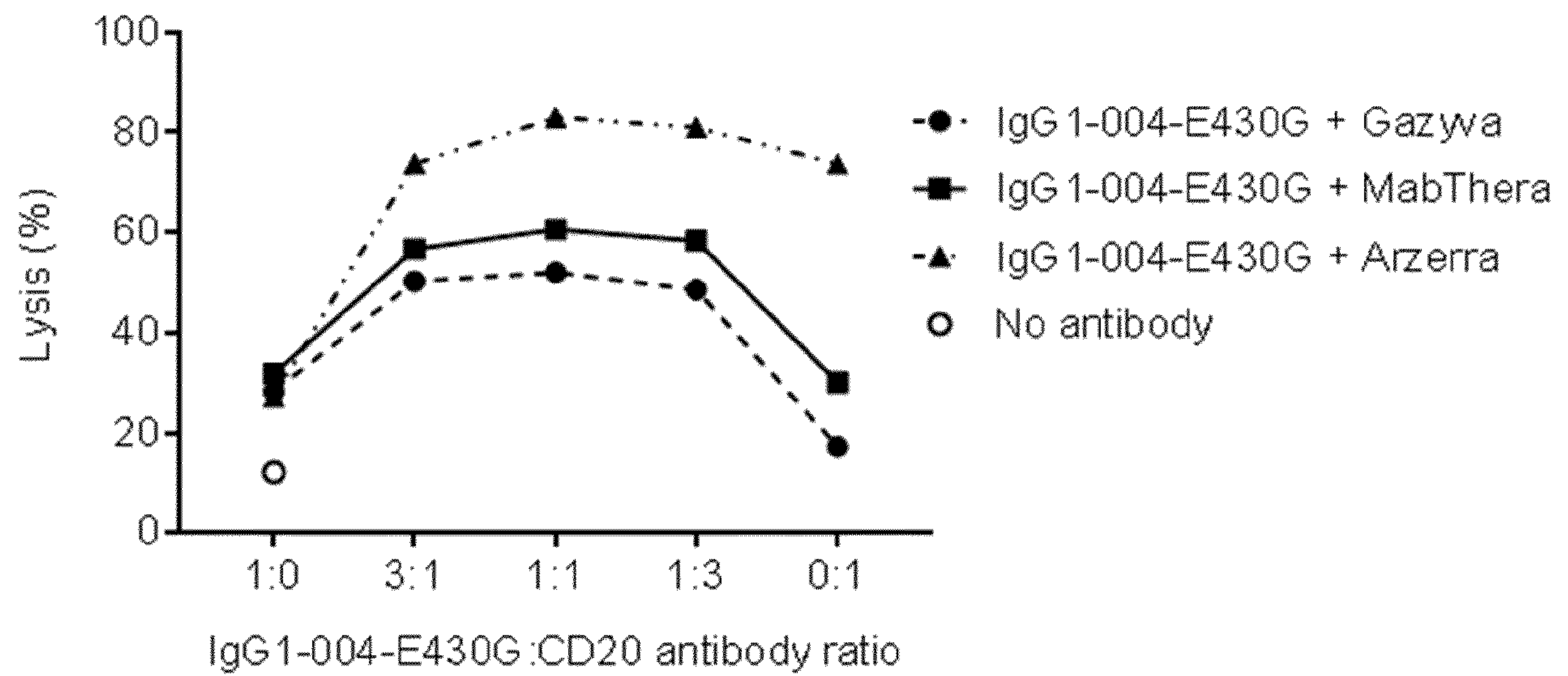
A



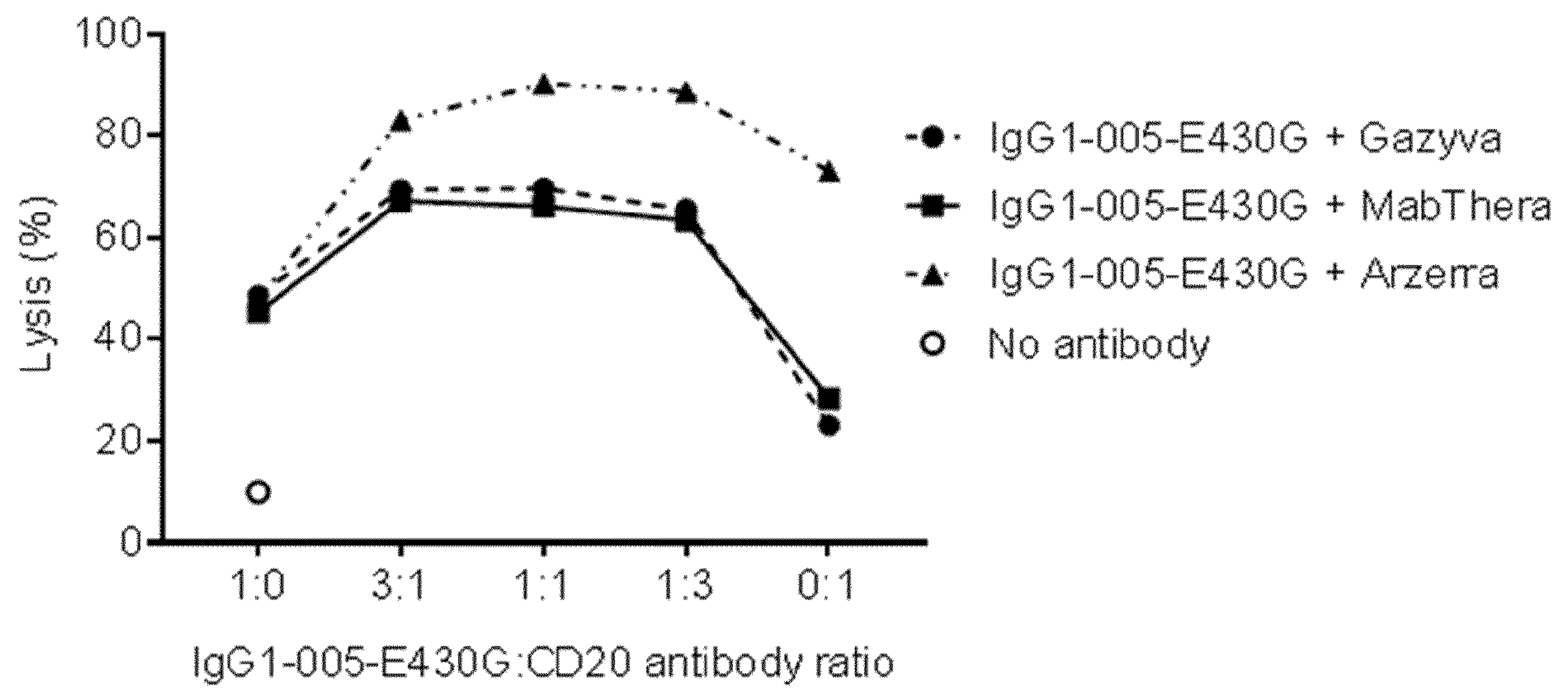
B



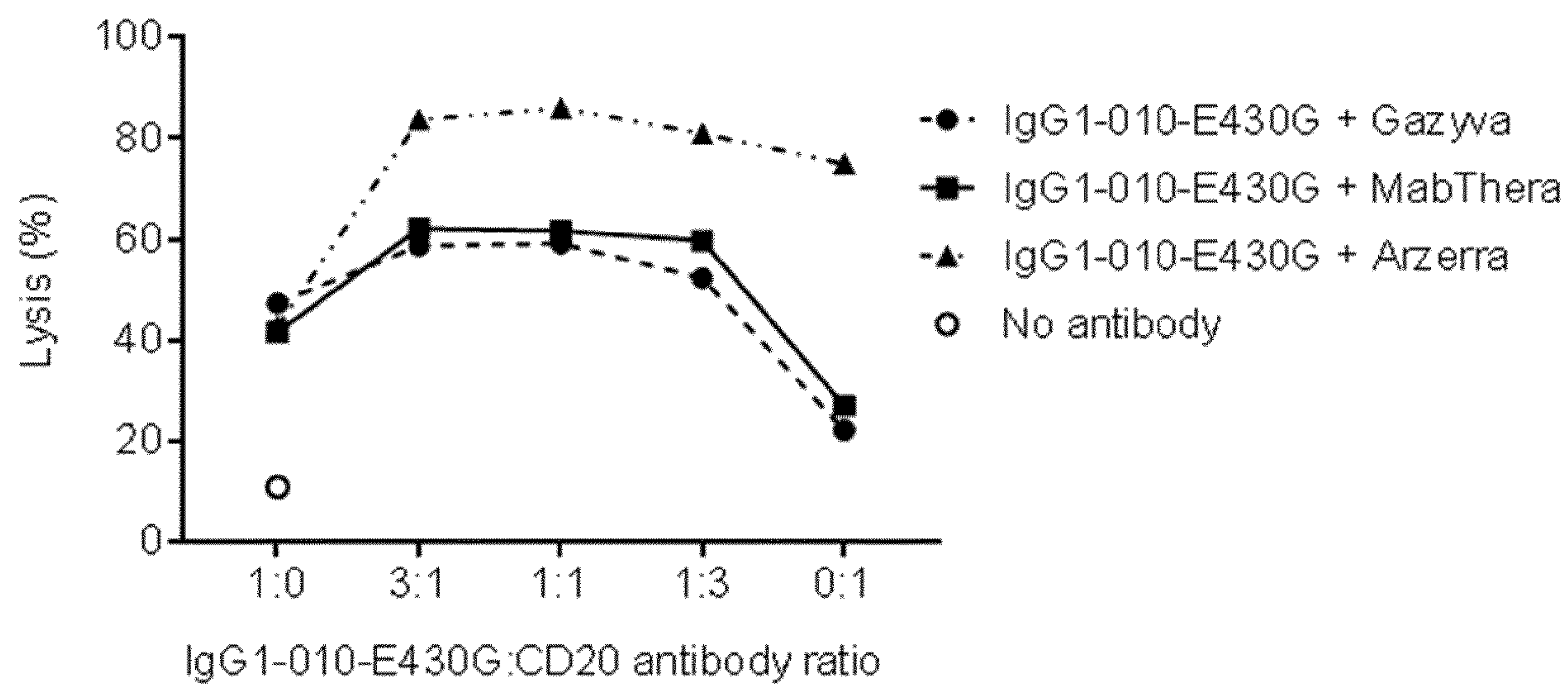
C



D



E



F

