

Correction

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Correction for “Enterovirus D68 receptor requirements unveiled by haploid genetics,” by Jim Baggen, Hendrik Jan Thibaut, Jacqueline Staring, Lucas T. Jae, Yue Liu, Hongbo Guo, Jasper J. Slager, Jost W. de Bruin, Arno L. W. van Vliet, Vincent A. Blomen, Pieter Overduin, Ju Sheng, Cornelis A. M. de Haan(Xander), Erik de Vries, Adam Meijer, Michael G. Rossmann, Thijn R. Brummelkamp, and Frank J. M. van Kuppeveld, which appeared in issue 5, February 2, 2016, of *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* (113:1399–1404; first published January 19, 2016; 10.1073/pnas.1524498113).

The authors note that the author name Cornelis A. M. de Haan(Xander) should instead appear as Cornelis A. M. de Haan. The corrected author line appears below. The online version has been corrected.

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Enterovirus D68 receptor requirements unveiled by haploid genetics

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Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is an emerging pathogen that can cause severe respiratory disease and is associated with cases of paralysis, especially among children. Heretofore, information on host factor requirements for EV-D68 infection is scarce. Haploid genetic screening is a powerful tool to reveal factors involved in the entry of pathogens. We performed a genome-wide haploid screen with the EV-D68 prototype Fermon strain to obtain a comprehensive overview of cellular factors supporting EV-D68 infection. We identified and confirmed several genes involved in sialic acid (Sia) biosynthesis, transport, and conjugation to be essential for infection. Moreover, by using knockout cell lines and gene reconstitution, we showed that both α 2,6- and α 2,3-linked Sia can be used as functional cellular EV-D68 receptors. Importantly, the screen did not reveal a specific protein receptor, suggesting that EV-D68 can use multiple redundant sialylated receptors. Upon testing recent clinical strains, we identified strains that showed a similar Sia dependency, whereas others could infect cells lacking surface Sia, indicating they can use an alternative, nonsialylated receptor. Nevertheless, these Sia-independent strains were still able to bind Sia on human erythrocytes, raising the possibility that these viruses can use multiple receptors. Sequence comparison of Sia-dependent and Sia-independent EV-D68 strains showed that many changes occurred near the canyon that might allow alternative receptor binding. Collectively, our findings provide insights into the identity of the EV-D68 receptor and suggest the possible existence of Sia-independent viruses, which are essential for understanding tropism and disease.

enterovirus D68 | haploid genetic screen | receptor | sialic acid

The genus *Enterovirus* of the family *Picornaviridae* contains many important pathogens for humans and animals. This genus consists of 12 species: four human enterovirus species (*EV-A*, *-B*, *-C*, and *-D*), five animal enterovirus species, and three human rhinovirus species. The best known human enterovirus is poliovirus (*EV-C*), the cause of poliomyelitis and acute flaccid paralysis. Other well-known enteroviruses are the coxsackieviruses (*EV-B* and *EV-C*)—which are the main cause of viral meningitis, conjunctivitis, myocarditis, and herpangina—and enterovirus A71, which causes hand-foot-and-mouth disease and is also associated with severe neurological disease, causing serious public health concerns in Southeast Asia (1).

Another emerging enterovirus that causes growing public health problems is enterovirus D68 (EV-D68, a member of the species *EV-D*). Unlike most enteroviruses, which are acid-resistant and multiply in the human gastrointestinal tract, EV-D68 is an acid-sensitive enterovirus (2) that replicates in the respiratory tract. EV-D68 was first isolated from children with respiratory infections in California in 1962 (3). It was long considered a rare pathogen, but the frequency of detecting EV-D68 during outbreaks of respiratory disease has increased (4, 5) and over the past decades, three clades of EV-D68 (A, B, and C)

have emerged and spread worldwide (6, 7). EV-D68 infections mostly cause mild respiratory disease but can also result in severe bronchiolitis or pneumonia, especially among children (4, 5). In 2014, a nationwide EV-D68 outbreak in the United States was associated with severe respiratory disease and a cluster of acute flaccid myelitis and cranial nerve dysfunction in children, implicating EV-D68 as an emerging public health threat (8, 9).

Enteroviruses are small, nonenveloped viruses that contain a single-stranded RNA genome of positive polarity. To initiate infection, enteroviruses bind to specific receptors on host cells. To date, most known enterovirus receptors are cell surface proteins, many of which belong to the Ig superfamily or the integrin receptor family (10). A majority of these receptors bind to the “canyon,” a depression on the virion surface, thereby destabilizing virions and initiating uncoating (11). In EV-D68, the canyon is unusually shallow and narrow, possibly excluding use of large protein receptors (12). Both sensitivity of EV-D68 infection to neuraminidase (NA) treatment and hemagglutination assays point to the use of Sia as the receptor (13, 14). However, beside the role of a terminal Sia residue on the receptor, little is known about the type(s) of Sia that can be used by

Significance

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is an emerging pathogen that recently caused a large outbreak of severe respiratory disease in the United States and is associated with cases of paralysis. Little is known about EV-D68 host factor requirements. Here, using a genome-wide knockout approach, we identified several genes in sialic acid (Sia) biology as being essential for infection. We also showed that not only α 2,6-linked Sia, which mainly occurs in the upper respiratory tract, but also α 2,3-linked Sia, which mainly occurs in the lower respiratory tract, can serve as the receptor. Moreover, we identified recent EV-D68 isolates that can use an alternative, nonsialylated receptor. Our findings are essential to understand tropism and pathogenesis of EV-D68 as well as the potential of using Sia-targeting inhibitors to treat EV-D68 infections.

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EV-D68 to infect cells, the composition of the underlying glycan, and whether specific sialylated proteins or glycolipids are required for infection.

Genome-wide genetic screening in human haploid cells is a powerful tool to reveal host factors involved in entry of various pathogens, including viruses (15, 16). In this study, we performed a haploid screen and demonstrate that genes involved in synthesis of sialylated glycans are essential for EV-D68 infection. Furthermore, we show that EV-D68 is able to use α 2,6-linked as well as α 2,3-linked Sia as a cellular receptor, and we provide the first insights into the composition of the underlying sugar backbone. Finally, we report the identification of recent EV-D68 isolates that can infect Sia-deficient cells, indicating that these strains can use an alternative receptor.

Results

Multiple Genes Involved in Sia Biology Determine Susceptibility of Cells to EV-D68 Infection. We performed a haploid genetic screen (17, 18) by infecting mutagenized human HAP1 cells with the EV-D68 prototype strain Fermon CA62-1. The screen identified nine genes involved in Sia biology (Fig. 1A and B and Fig. S1), seven of which were in the top 10. Among these nine hits are genes involved in the biosynthesis [UDP-GlcNAc-2-epimerase/ManAc kinase (*GNE*) and N-acetylneuraminic acid synthase (*NANS*)] and activation [cytidine monophosphate N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase (*CMAS*)] of N-acetylneuraminic acid, the predominant form of Sia in humans. Other hits include transporters that transfer the activated sugars CMP-Sia and UDP-galactose [solute carrier family 35 member A1 and A2 (*SLC35A1* and *SLC35A2*)] from the cytosol to the Golgi apparatus and four glycosyltransferases responsible for conjugation of N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) to mannose residues in N-linked glycans [mannoside acetylglucosaminyltransferase 5 (*MGAT5*), galactose [β -1,4-galactosyltransferase 1 (*B4GALT1*), and Sia, either via α 2,3 linkage [ST3 β -galactoside α -2,3-sialyltransferase 4 (*ST3GAL4*)] or α 2,6 linkage [ST6 β -galactosamide α -2,6-sialyltransferase 1 (*ST6GAL1*)]. Together, these data provide insights into the identity and composition of the EV-D68 receptor, pointing to an important role of α 2,6- and α 2,3-linked Sia on N-linked glycans in infection.

To confirm the results of the genetic screen, we used mutant cell lines lacking surface expression of Sia (*SLC35A1*^{KO} and *CMAS*^{KO}) or having a defect in formation of α 2,3- and/or α 2,6-linked Sia (*ST3GAL4*^{KO}, *ST6GAL1*^{KO}, and *ST3GAL4/ST6GAL1*^{DKO}). The integrity of these mutant cell lines was confirmed by genetic analysis (Fig. S2A and B), lectin stainings (Fig. S2C), and infection with Sia-dependent and -independent control viruses. Analysis of the number of infected cells showed that *SLC35A1*^{KO} and *CMAS*^{KO} cells were highly resistant to influenza A virus (IAV), whereas *ST3GAL4/ST6GAL1*^{DKO} cells were partially resistant (Fig. 2A), consistent with the broad Sia specificity of IAV (19). In contrast, coxsackievirus-B3, which does not require Sia, could infect all cell lines (Fig. 2A and B), whereas equine rhinitis A virus, a picornavirus that requires α 2,3-linked Sia (20), could infect *ST6GAL1*^{KO} but not *ST3GAL4*^{KO} cells (Fig. 2C). Upon characterizing EV-D68 Fermon, we observed that infection was inhibited by NA treatment and almost completely blocked in *CMAS*^{KO}, *SLC35A1*^{KO}, and *ST3GAL4/ST6GAL1*^{DKO} cells, both at high (Fig. 2A and Fig. S2D) and low multiplicity of infection (moi) (Fig. 2B). Likewise, little, if any, production of progeny virus was observed in these mutant cell lines (Fig. 2C).

EV-D68 Can Use Both α 2,6- and α 2,3-Linked Sia to Infect Cells. Specificity for α 2,3- or α 2,6-linked Sia can greatly affect tissue tropism of respiratory viruses, as the Sia abundance varies between the upper (mainly α 2,6-linked) and lower (mainly α 2,3-linked) respiratory tract (21, 22). Identification of *ST3GAL4* and *ST6GAL1* suggested that both α 2,6- and α 2,3-linked Sia are used for infection. Indeed, *ST6GAL1*^{KO} cells were less susceptible to EV-D68, whereas

ST3GAL4^{KO} cells were equally susceptible as wild-type cells (Fig. 2A–C), suggesting a preference of EV-D68 for α 2,6-linked Sia. However, EV-D68 can also use α 2,3-linked Sia as a receptor, as shown by the observation that *ST3GAL4/ST6GAL1*^{DKO} cells were more resistant to infection than *ST6GAL1*^{KO} cells (Fig. 2A–C). Consistently, *ST3GAL4/ST6GAL1*^{DKO} cells could be rendered more susceptible to EV-D68 by transfection of plasmid containing *ST3GAL4* cDNA (and also *ST6GAL1*), but the effect was small due

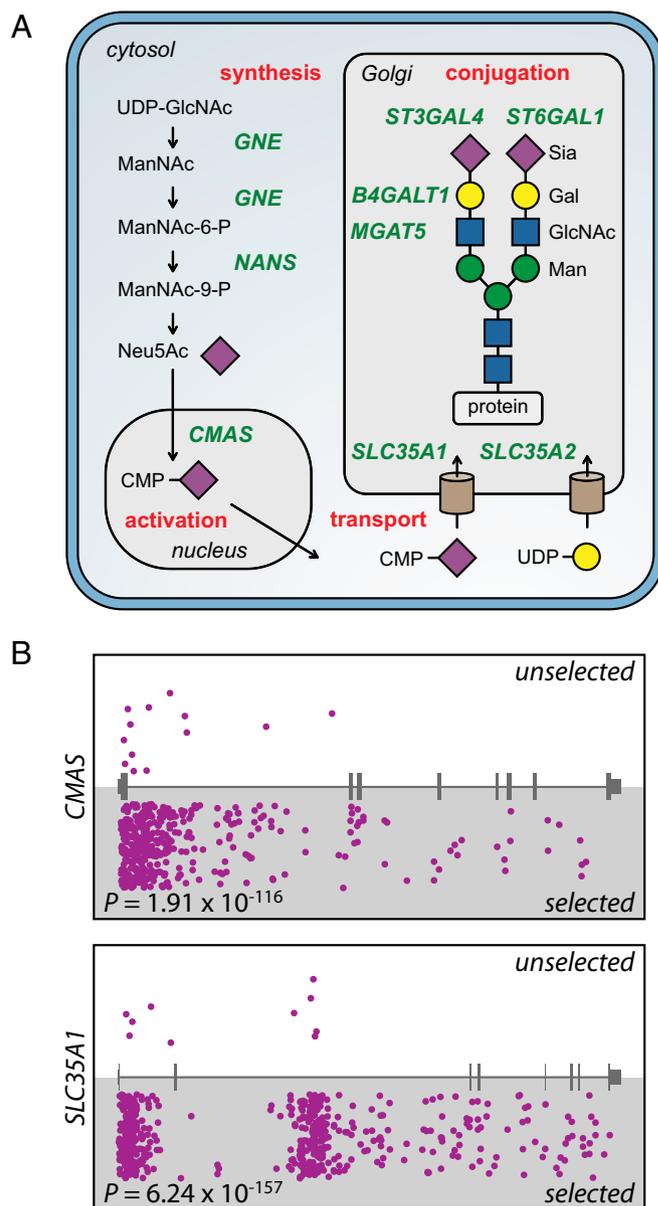


Fig. 1. A haploid genetic screen for EV-D68 identifies genes involved in synthesis of sialylated glycans. (A) An overview of the different steps in synthesis of sialylated glycans. (B) RefSeq gene structures of *CMAS* and *SLC35A1* are shown with the transcriptional orientation pointing from left to right. Gene-trap insertions predicted to disrupt gene function (intronic insertions in sense orientation and insertions mapping to exons) are illustrated for HAP1 cells selected with EV-D68 (selected) and a cell population of similar complexity that had not been selected with EV-D68 (unselected). The FDR-corrected *P* values for the enrichment of disruptive gene-trap mutations in the EV-D68-selected population are indicated (*Materials and Methods*). For insertion plots of the other hits, see Fig. S1.

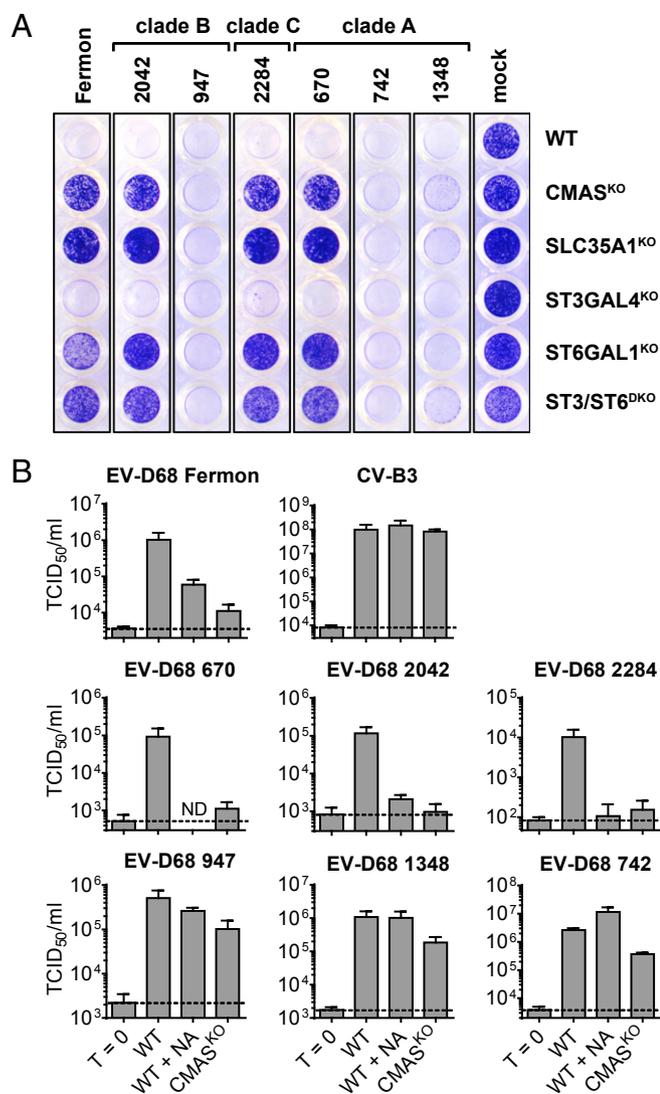


Fig. 3. Identification of EV-D68 strains that can infect cells independently of Sia. (A) HAP1 clones were infected with different EV-D68 strains and stained with crystal violet. (B) HAP1 cells treated with NA or *CMAS*^{KO} cells were infected with different EV-D68 strains, and yields of infectious virus were measured after a single cycle of replication. Virus input levels ($T = 0$) are indicated by a dashed line. ND, not detectable. The mean \pm SEM of three biological replicates is shown.

CPE (Fig. S34). Strikingly, the other three strains (947, 1348, and 742) were able to replicate in Sia-deficient and NA-treated HAP1 cells (Fig. 3A and B). Sia independence of these strains was not specific for HAP1 cells, as these viruses also efficiently infected NA-treated A549 and HeLa-R19 cells (Fig. S3C). In summary, these data demonstrate that several recent EV-D68 strains strongly depend on Sia, whereas other strains can infect cells in a Sia-independent manner, pointing toward the use of a nonsialylated receptor.

Sia-Independent EV-D68 Strains Retain Sia-Binding Capacity. A recent study showed that, in vitro, Sia-containing trisaccharides can bind to EV-D68, where the floor of the canyon would be in the major group rhinoviruses or polioviruses (26) (Fig. 4). To gain insight into the residues that allow Sia-independent infection and their location with respect to the Sia-binding site, we sequenced the capsid regions of the different EV-D68 strains. Amino acid sequence comparison showed that the genetically related Sia-dependent (670) and -independent (742 and 1348) strains in clade A

differed at 10 positions, whereas the Sia-dependent (2042) and -independent (947) strains in clade B differed at seven positions (Fig. 4 and Tables S1 and S2). Although residues that differed between Sia-dependent and -independent strains in clade A show little overlap with those that were altered in clade B, some of the changed residues on the viral surface are near the Sia-binding site (26) (Fig. 4).

To investigate whether the amino acid substitutions that established an alternative receptor-binding site might have affected the Sia-binding capacity of these strains, we performed hemagglutination experiments with blood from nine different human donors. All EV-D68 isolates agglutinated human erythrocytes, although two Sia-independent strains (1348 and 742) agglutinated erythrocytes from only one donor (Table 1). Pretreatment of erythrocytes with NA prevented hemagglutination by EV-D68 strains but not by echovirus-7, which agglutinates erythrocytes by binding to its protein receptor, decay-accelerating factor (27). Remarkably, blood from three donors was not agglutinated by any of the EV-D68 strains, whereas hemagglutination titers of IAV were similar for all donors, indicating equal Sia expression levels. This variability suggests that EV-D68 does not merely bind any sialylated glycan but has a preference for specific sialylated glycan structures that are differentially expressed between individuals. No clear correlation between EV-D68 hemagglutination and ABO blood groups was observed. In summary, these data indicate that Sia-independent strains have retained their Sia-binding capacity, albeit two strains (742 and 1348) seem to have a reduced affinity for Sia.

Discussion

In this study, we provided important insights into the identity/nature of the EV-D68 receptor. Using a genome-wide haploid screen, we identified genes involved in biosynthesis (*GNE* and *NANS*), activation (*CMAS*), transport (*SLC35A1*), and conjugation of Sia to glycans (*ST3GAL4* and *ST6GAL1*) as factors required for EV-D68 infection. Using knockout cell lines and gene reconstitution, we have shown that EV-D68 can use both α 2,6- and α 2,3-linked Sia as a receptor to infect cells. This finding extends recent observations that both α 2,6- and α 2,3-linked Sia-containing trisaccharides can bind to the EV-D68 capsid and initiate virion uncoating in vitro (26). The observation that EV-D68 can use not only α 2,6-linked Sia as a receptor but also α 2,3-linked Sia, which resides mainly in the lower respiratory tract, may provide an explanation for its ability to cause severe lower respiratory tract infections.

Importantly, the screen did not identify a specific protein receptor, suggesting that EV-D68 can use multiple redundant receptors, given these are glycosylated with a suitable sialylated glycan. Our screen also provided insights into the preference of EV-D68 for specific sialylated glycans. Identification of glycosyltransferases responsible for conjugation of galactose (*B4GALT1*) and GlcNAc (*MGAT5*) pointed to the importance of Sia-galactose-GlcNAc chains, consistent with the substrate specificity of *ST3GAL4* and *ST6GAL1*. Furthermore, the identification of *MGAT5*, which forms GlcNAc- β 1,6-Man linkages, suggested that EV-D68 specifically recognizes *N*-linked glycans containing a β 1,6-linked antenna. It should be noted that Sia-galactose-GlcNAc, although mainly expressed on *N*-linked glycans, also occurs on *O*-linked glycans and glycolipids and that we observed that HEK293S cells, which lack complex *N*-linked glycans (19), are susceptible to EV-D68. Further proof that EV-D68 does not merely bind any sialylated glycan but has a preference for specific glycans stems from our observation that erythrocytes of several donors could be agglutinated by IAV but not by EV-D68. More research is required to explore the glycan spectrum that can be bound by EV-D68.

Upon characterizing recent EV-D68 isolates, we identified strains that are able to infect Sia-deficient cells, implying that these viruses can use an alternative entry receptor. Genetic comparison of Sia-dependent and -independent EV-D68 strains within clades A and B revealed little overlap of residues determining Sia independence but pointed toward residues near the Sia-binding site as possible

Haploid Genetic Screen with EV-D68. HAP1 cells were gene-trap mutagenized as described previously (31). Following expansion, 10^8 mutagenized cells were exposed to EV-D68 Fermon (moi 3). After selection, surviving cells were expanded and used for genomic DNA isolation. Insertion sites identified in cells selected with EV-D68 (yielding 414,290 unique gene-trap insertions mapped to genes) and a population of matched control cells of comparable complexity (495,679 unique gene-trap insertions mapped to genes) were aligned to the human genome not filtering for close reads (31). Subsequently, disruptive insertion sites (in sense orientation of the affected gene or mapping to exons) in significantly identified genes were compared in the two cell populations, and *P* values for enrichment were calculated using a Fisher's exact test as described previously (31). Disruptive insertion sites in virus-selected and control cells were plotted onto the RefSeq gene bodies for the following transcripts: NM_001497 (*B4GALT1*), NM_018686 (*CMAS*), NM_001128227 (*GNE*), NM_002410 (*MGAT5*), NM_018946 (*NANS*), NM_006416 (*SLC35A1*), NM_005660 (*SLC35A2*), NM_006278 (*ST3GAL4*), and NM_173216.2 (*ST6GAL1*).

Generation of Knockout Cells. *ST3GAL4*^{KO} and *SLC35A1*^{KO} HAP1 cells have been described (31). *CMAS*^{KO} cells were obtained from Haplogen GmbH. The CRISPR-Cas9 system was used to generate *ST6GAL1*^{KO} cells. The entire *ST6GAL1* locus was excised (Fig. S2A), and subclones were analyzed by genotyping (Table S3). *ST3GAL4/ST6GAL1*^{DKO} cells were obtained by deleting an exonic region in *ST3GAL4* from *ST6GAL1*^{KO} cells using CRISPR-Cas9.

Infectivity Assays. Cells were infected with virus for 1 h. After incubation for the indicated period, virus titers were determined by end-point dilution. Crystal violet staining was performed at 3 d postinfection. Where indicated, cells were pretreated with NA from *Clostridium perfringens* (NEB) or from *Arthrobacter ureafaciens* (Roche) in serum-free medium for 30 min.

Immunofluorescence Assays. Paraformaldehyde-fixed cells were stained using rabbit anti-capsid serum against EV-D68 Fermon (produced in house; 1:1,000) or a mouse monoclonal antibody against CV-B3 protein 3A (1:100) (32). For characterization with lectins, cells were stained with fluorescein-labeled *Sambucus nigra* lectin (Vector Laboratories; 1:1,000) and biotinylated *Maackia amurensis* lectin I (Vector Laboratories; 1:500). Cells were examined by confocal microscopy (Leica SPE-II) or standard fluorescence microscopy (EVOS FL cell imaging system).

The number of nuclei was quantified using ImageJ, and the number of infected cells was quantified visually.

Isolation and Sequencing of EV-D68 Strains from Clinical Specimen. Monolayers of tertiary monkey kidney cells (tMKs) or human rhabdomyosarcoma (RD) cells were incubated with 250 μ L EV-D68-positive clinical material (mixed nose and throat swabs) derived from patients with influenza-like illness or acute respiratory infection (5) and incubated at 34 °C until CPE was observed. EV-D68 strains 4311000670 (clade A; further referred to as 670) and 4311000742 (clade A; 742) were isolated on tMK cells, whereas strains 4310900947 (clade B; 947), 4310901348 (clade A; 1348), 4310902042 (clade B; 2042), and 4310902284 (clade C; 2284) were isolated on RD cells. Viruses were harvested by one freeze-thawing cycle at -80 °C and clarified by centrifugation. Subsequent passages of virus were done on tMK or RD cell monolayers. The full genome of the virus isolates was sequenced from passage 4 for strains 670 and 742 and from passage 2 of the remaining four strains. All infection experiments described in this study were performed with viruses that had undergone one or two more rounds of passage on RD cells. From these viruses, the 5'UTR and capsid region was sequenced. The latter sequences were used for amino acid comparisons shown in Tables S1 and S2. Detailed information on virus passages, sequences, and GenBank accession numbers is described in *SI Materials and Methods*. As required by Dutch legislation, surveillance studies have to be registered in the Personal Data Protection Act Register of the Personal Data Protection Commission. The influenza surveillance from which the clinical enterovirus D68 isolates were obtained is registered in this register and no further ethical approval was needed for this virologic study because only anonymized virus isolates were used.

Hemagglutination Assays. The hemagglutination assay was performed using standard methods. Briefly, twofold dilutions of the virus stocks were incubated with an erythrocyte suspension for 16 h at 4 °C.

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