



Only in the B subtype is GPGR the most common tip of the V3 loop; globally, GPGQ is more prevalent. 2) A highly conserved N-linked glycosylation site is constitutively absent in the C subtype, proximal to the first cysteine (C) in loop. 3) The D subtype consensus has 34 amino acids from cysteine (C) to cysteine (C) rather than the more common 35; at the point where the deletion occurs, it is not uncommon to find insertions of 2 to 4 amino acids, as can be observed in the sequence alignments. 4) The D subtype has two arginine (R) residues in the V3 loop that are uncharacteristic relative to the other consensus sequences; positively charged amino acids in these positions may result in a syncytia inducing, non-monocytropic phenotype (Fouchier RAM, et al., *J. Virol.* **66**:3183–3187 (1992)). 5) A higher degree of variation is seen in the region just downstream of the V3 loop than within it. This difference is also observed internally among the sequences of the different subtypes. 6) The A, C, G and H consensus sequences have very similar V3 loop sequences.

Subtype consensus sequences. This V3 region alignment shows a consensus sequence generated for each of the twelve subtypes or circulating recombinant forms. The subtype consensus sequences indicate the most common amino acid found in each position among the sequences associated with each subtype or form. The sequences are aligned to a consensus based on the most common amino acid in the subtype consensus sequences, which approximates a “global” consensus. It was generated in this way (rather than by using all 3826 sequences) to avoid over-representation of the B subtype, which has by far the largest number of available sequences. As is the convention in this compendium, a dash (-) indicates concurrence with the top sequence in the alignment; a period (.) indicates a deletion. The carets show where the N-linked glycosylation sites are found in the consensus. The V3 loop is set off from the surrounding sequence by a space on either side to facilitate viewing. Interesting features of the consensus alignment are: 1)