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Role of Human Leukocyte Antigens in Studying Population Diversity

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ABSTRACT Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) loci widely known for their role in generation of immune responses are often considered to be effective in reconstructing human phylogenies due to high degree of polymorphism and rarity of recombination observed at HLA loci. In this review, we have made an attempt to discuss the role of HLA in immune response. Further we have tried to highlight the evolutionary significance of HLA diversity. The reason of high degree of HLA diversity is because of gene conversion and recombination. These evolutionary forces lead the HLA molecule to be most the most suitable marker to study the population diversity.