



UAGro
UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE GUERRERO

Facultad de Ciencias Químico-Biológicas
Maestría en Ciencias Biomédicas

**Análisis de la interacción de E6-prototipo de VPH-16 y sus
variantes E6-AAa y E6-AAc con MAGI 1 y el efecto en su
degradación**

T E S I S

**QUE PARA OBTENER EL TÍTULO DE
MAESTRÍA EN CIENCIAS BIOMÉDICAS**

P R E S E N T A:
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Chilpancingo, Gro., 5 de noviembre de 2021

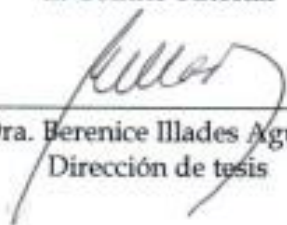


UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE GUERRERO
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS QUÍMICO BIOLÓGICAS
FACULTAD DE MEDICINA
UNIDAD DE INVESTIGACIÓN ESPECIALIZADA EN MICROBIOLOGÍA
MAESTRÍA EN CIENCIAS BIOMÉDICAS

ACTA DE APROBACIÓN DE TESIS


En la ciudad de Chilpancingo, Guerrero, siendo los 02 días del mes de julio de dos mil veinte, se reunieron los miembros del Comité Tutorial designado por la Academia de Posgrado de la Maestría en Ciencias Biomédicas, para examinar la tesis titulada "Análisis de la interacción de E6-prototipo de VPH 16 y sus variantes E6-AAa y E6-AAc con MAGI 1 y el efecto en su degradación", presentada por la alumna Lilian Esmeralda Araujo Arcos, para obtener el Grado de Maestría en Ciencias Biomédicas. Después del análisis correspondiente, los miembros del comité manifiestan su aprobación de la tesis, autorizan la impresión final de la misma y aceptan que, cuando se satisfagan los requisitos señalados en el Reglamento General de Estudios de Posgrado e Investigación Vigente, se proceda a la presentación del examen de grado.

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Scientific Reports - Receipt of Manuscript 'Molecular insights into...'

1 mensaje

Scientific Reports <srep@nature.com>
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22 de octubre de 2021, 21:56

Ref: Submission ID 0d2b511b-47b5-4efd-9601-30becbcaa4a7

Dear Dr Araujo-Arcos,

Please note that you are listed as a co-author on the manuscript "Molecular insights into the interaction of HPV-16 E6 variants against MAGI-1 PDZ1 domain", which was submitted to Scientific Reports on 23 October 2021 UTC.

If you have any queries related to this manuscript please contact the corresponding author, who is solely responsible for communicating with the journal.

Kind regards,

Peer Review Advisors
Scientific Reports

****Our flexible approach during the COVID-19 pandemic****

If you need more time at any stage of the peer-review process, please do let us know. While our systems will continue to remind you of the original timelines, we aim to be as flexible as possible during the current pandemic.

Este trabajo se realizó en el Laboratorio de Biomedicina Molecular de la Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero ubicado en la ciudad de Chilpancingo de los Bravo, Guerrero, México y el Laboratorio de Bioinformática y Simulación Molecular de la Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, Culiacán, Sinaloa, México.

Bajo la dirección de la
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Durante el período que cursó la Maestría en Ciencias Biomédicas, la QBP. Lilian Esmerada Araujo Arcos recibió apoyo del Proyecto de Ciencia Básica 2016 con número 288612 y del tiempo de cómputo de LANCAD a través del Hybrid Cluster Xiuhcoatl.

To my sweet daughter Leeann Vazquez Araujo

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1 *Original Article*

2 **Molecular insights into the interaction of HPV-16 E6 variants**
3 **against MAGI-1 PDZ1 domain**

4
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17
18 **Abstract:** Oncogenic protein E6 from Human Papilloma Virus 16 (HPV-16)
19 mediates the degradation of Membrane-associated guanylate kinase with inverted
20 domain structure-1 (MAGI-1), throughout the interaction of its protein binding motif
21 (PBM) with the Discs-large homologous regions 1 (PDZ1) domain of MAGI-1.
22 Generic variation in the E6 gene that translates to changes in the protein's amino
23 acidic sequence modifies the interaction of E6 with the cellular protein MAGI-1.
24 MAGI-1 is a scaffolding protein found at tight junctions of epithelial cells, where it
25 interacts with a variety of proteins regulating signaling pathways. MAGI-1 is a
26 multidomain protein containing two WW (rsp-domain-9), one guanylate kinase-like,
27 and six PDZ domains. PDZ domains played an important role in the function of
28 MAGI-1 and served as targets for several viral proteins including the HPV-16 E6.
29 The aim of this work was to evaluate, with an *in silico* approach, employing molecular
30 dynamics simulation and protein-protein docking, the interaction of the intragenic
31 variants E-G350 (L83V), E-C188/G350 (E29Q/L83V), E-A176/G350 (D25N/L83V),
32 E6-AAa (Q14H/H78Y/83V) y E6-AAc (Q14H/I27RH78Y/L83V) and E6-reference of
33 HPV-16 with MAGI-1. We found that variants E-G350, E-C188/G350, E-A176/G350,
34 AAa and AAc increase their affinity to our two models of MAGI-1 compared to
35 E6-reference.

36 1. Introduction

37 High-risk human papillomaviruses (HR-HPV) are the principal etiological agents
38 of cervical cancer (CC), being the HPV-16 genotype one of the most prevalent
39 worldwide ¹. The encoding proteins E6 and E7 from HPV-16 are the major oncogenic
40 determinants of the disease's progression. These proteins control regulatory
41 functions of the cell cycle, promote proliferation, induce malignant transformation,
42 and facilitate migration and invasion of transformed cells ².

43 E6 is a 151 amino acids protein, with a molecular weight of approximately 19
44 kDa. Structurally, E6 contains two zinc fingers, a LXXLL domain, which are vital for
45 the oncogenic potential of HPV-16, a PDZ binding motif (PBM) amino acids E148,
46 T149, Q150, and L151, located at the carboxyl terminus of the protein³. Any
47 variability in the amino acid sequence in the PBM motif or in neighboring regions of
48 E6 could modify the degradation of its targets ⁴. The ability of HPV-16 E6 to retain
49 protein binding with cellular proteins with PDZ domains has been shown to
50 contribute to its transforming activity *in vivo* and *in vitro* systems ^{5,6}.

51 Interestingly, the tumorigenic potential of HPV-16 differs among infected
52 women, and it has been proposed that the changes in the amino acidic sequence of
53 E6 are a major risk factor for the development and aggressiveness of the disease ⁷.
54 The variants E-G350 (L83V), E-C188/G350 (E29Q/L83V), E-A176/G350
55 (D25N/L83V), AAa (D25N/L83V), and AAc (Q14H/I27R/H78Y/L83V) are the most
56 prevalent in a population from Guerrero, Mexico, a state with the highest poverty and
57 marginalization rates in the country⁸. Worldwide these variants were named after
58 their nucleotide changes on the gene E6 and according to the geographical region
59 where they were first isolated ⁹. Experimental studies suggested that variants differ
60 in their ability to affect several important cellular processes, including differentiation,
61 apoptosis, immortalization, migration and metastasis ¹⁰⁻¹².

62 Different mechanistic and functional studies showed an increase in viral
63 persistence, disease progression, aggressiveness and, therefore, increased risk of
64 developing cancer in non-European variants, AAa and AAc whose gene sequence

65 shows four mutations (G145T, G188C, C335T and E350G) resulting in changes of a
66 single amino acid at positions Q14H, I27R, H78Y, and L83V ^{7,13,14}. Little is known
67 about the functional impact of variants E-G350, E-C188/G350, E-A176/G350 on the
68 cell's regulatory systems, but it has been observed that they can be involved in the
69 resistant of apoptosis, migration and invasion by interacting with proteins like p53,
70 Bax and enhancing MAPK signaling, more information is needed to determinate the
71 molecular mechanisms by which the variants alter the virus oncogenic
72 potential^{10,15,16}.

73 Previously, our group reported that HPV-16 E6 variants (E-G350, E-A176/G350,
74 E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc) were the most common and had the most oncogenic
75 potential in a population of southern Mexico ⁹. With these results, our group analyzed
76 the effects of the expression of variants AAa, AAc, EA176/G350, E-C188/ G350,
77 E-G350 using an *in vitro* model in C33-A cells transfected with each variant, showing
78 that all variants alter the expression of 431 genes compared to the E6-reference,
79 these genes are involved in cellular processes related to adhesion, angiogenesis,
80 apoptosis, differentiation, cell cycle, proliferation, transcription and protein
81 translation, being membrane-associated guanylate kinase with inverted domain
82 structure-1 (MAGI-1)'s expression down-regulated in our experimental data ¹⁷. The
83 target protein MAGI-1 is a scaffolding protein found at tight junctions of epithelial
84 cells, where it interacts with a variety of proteins which include β -catenin,
85 Phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate 3-phosphatase (PTEN) and α -actin, these
86 make it a key regulator of signalling pathways at cell-cell junctions ¹⁸. MAGI-1 is a
87 multidomain protein composed of two domains WW (rsp-domain-9) (G300-C333 and
88 L359-L392) a protein-protein binding domain that mediates specific interactions with
89 short proline-rich or proline-containing motifs, one guanylate kinase-like domain, and
90 six PDZ domains located at E17-G105, H472-R55, T643-R721, S813-P895,
91 S970-S1066 and E1124-T1206, that are composed of approximately 80–110
92 residues, present in the C-terminal portions of signaling proteins ^{19,20}. MAGI-1
93 domains play important roles in protein-protein interaction, especially PDZ domains,

94 which play a role in localizing proteins to the membrane and acting as molecular
95 scaffoldings or adaptors; also, these domains serve as targets for several viral
96 proteins ²¹.

97 MAGI-1 PDZ1 domain has been identified as a major target of E6 from HPV-16
98 ²²⁻²⁴. *In vitro* experiments had proposed that the degradation of MAGI-1 is mediated
99 by the direct interaction of its PDZ-1 (H472-R55) domain with the PBM motif from E6
100 (E148-L151) ²⁵. The adjacent amino acids of E6 that may play a key role in the
101 interaction of these proteins are: C103- I104, R135,-C136, C139- S140, S82, G85,
102 L88, S97, N105, R124- F125 and N127- I128 ^{4,26}. Since the experiments have been
103 carried out using small portions of the protein (K456-E587), their interaction could be
104 modified if more protein regions were added. The study of protein-protein
105 interactions remains a challenge these days due to the high cost of production and
106 purification of recombinant proteins and the technical difficulties to crystallize them.
107 The 1491 amino acids of MAGI-1 made it difficult to obtain it's 3D structure. The
108 inherent technical difficulties to solve the complex structure of proteins, led to the call
109 for integrating complementary computational approaches ²⁷.

110 Recently, our team has adopted an *in-silico* analysis approach to evaluate the
111 structural changes of E6 and its variants ^{28,29}. Since, evidence of the role of the PBM
112 motive of E6 in the progression and aggressiveness of CC has been published ^{4,26},
113 and the possible changes in the behavior r of the AA variants and the other variants
114 are not clear. We propose an in silico approach to get insights into the interaction of
115 the E6-reference, variant E-G350, variant E-A176/G350, variant E-C188/G350,
116 variant AAa, and variant AAc with Models of MAGI-1. These models were predicted
117 using the amino acidic sequence of the domains that are experimentally proven to
118 interact with E6 ²².

119 **2. Results and Discussion**

120 HPV-16 is accounting for more than 70% of the CC cases ¹, it has been well
121 established that the oncoproteins E6 and E7 are responsible for the onset and

122 aggressiveness of the disease. Of these two proteins, E6 dysregulates the cell cycle,
123 promotes hipper proliferation, induces malignant transformation, and facilitates
124 migration and invasion of transformed cells in *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies ². Also, it
125 has been proposed that the difference in the oncogenic potential of this virus is
126 mediated by the genetic variation that occurs in the E6 gene, which alters the
127 thermodynamics and structural stability on the 3D protein structure. However, the
128 molecular insights of the changes remain unknown⁷.

129 In order to get insights into the interaction of the five variants of E6 from HPV-16
130 with the cellular protein MAGI-1, Molecular Dynamics (MD) simulations and docking
131 analyses were performed.

132 **2.1 3D protein structures**

133 Multiple alignments of the sequence of E6 and its variants were performed to
134 evidence amino acidic changes between them. E6 mutations Q14H, D25N, I27R,
135 E29Q and H78Y are found in a non-domain region adjacent to the zinc finger domain
136 1. While E6 mutations L83V and H78Y are located in an interdomain region between
137 the two zinc finger domains. The 2D structures of the E6-reference and the variants
138 shown that the secondary structure did not change between the variants and
139 E6-reference (Figure 1A).

140 The crystal structure of E6 PDB 4XR8 presents five alfa-helix and four
141 beta-sheets. Also, it contains two zinc molecules forming two finger domains located
142 at C30, C33, C63 C66, and C103, C106, C136, C139 residues (Figure1B). After in
143 silico mutating E6-reference to obtained variants (E-G350, E-A176/G350,
144 E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc) we conducted an structural alignment using the VMD
145 RMSD tool (Figure 1B). The RMSD values less than two Å represents accurate
146 models. The RMSD values obtained for the variants were 0.51Å for E-G350 (green),
147 0.66Å for E-C188/G350 (yellow), 0.18 Å for E-A176/G350 (blue), 0.44 Å for AAa
148 (red), and 0.69 Å for AAc (orange) which means that the mutations did not alter the
149 proteins 3D structure, other than the punctual mutations sites (Figure 1B). All models
150 were evaluated by Ramachandran plot showing for all variants that 91.9% of the

151 amino acids fall in the favored region and 8.1% in the allowed region, which means a
152 good stereochemistry for 100% of the residues (Figure S1).

153 A close up of the mutated residues in the alignment shows that the side chains of
154 mutants H14 and Y78 were exposed to the protein's surface while the amino acids
155 Q14 and H78 side chains of E6-reference were inverted (Figure 1C). According to
156 the program HOPE, which analyses the structural and functional effects of point
157 mutations, H14 is bigger than Q14, bigger residues might lead to bumps on the 3D
158 structure of the protein. H14 is among the observed mutations at this position in
159 other homologous sequences. This sometimes suggests that the mutant is not
160 damaging for the protein's structure and function, on the other hand, the residue is
161 located near a highly conserved position and can gain interactions with target
162 proteins. The Y78 is bigger and more hydrophobic than the H78, this can result in
163 loss of hydrogen bonds and disturbance of correct folding (Figure 1C). The
164 accessibility of the residues in the mutants could increase the number of interactions
165 with the MAGI-1 models ³⁰.

166 Mutations E29Q and D25N remained the same size; therefore, not visible
167 change in 3D structure was observed (Figure 1C). A change in residue charge from
168 negative to neutral can cause loss of interactions with other molecules or residues ³⁰.
169 Mutant R27 is bigger than I27, this can be observed in the 3D structure comparison
170 (Figure 1C). Also, the change of a neutral to positive residue leads to the possibility
171 of repulsion of ligands or other residues with the same charge. Moreover, the
172 hydrophobicity of the wild type residue is lost which will lead to the loss of
173 hydrophobic interactions ³⁰. The mutation L83V found in all the variants can cause
174 the proteins to lose interactions with other proteins because, V83 is a smaller than
175 L83 (Figure 1C), loss of interactions with cellular target proteins could lead to a
176 diminution on the affinity of interactions for the variants ³⁰.

177 There are many crystal structures in the RCSB PDB server related to the
178 crystalized MAGI-1; however, none of these files corresponds to the complete
179 protein structure. Moreover, there are no reliable software for homology modelling

180 such large proteins ²⁷. To overcome this drawback, we delimited our models to
181 domains that have been experimentally shown to interact with E6 ^{21,24,31}. Our first
182 model included the WW1, WW2, PDZ1 domains and was denominated MAGI-1 255
183 and a second model where we added a highly disordered region of 76 amino acids
184 adjacent to the PDZ1 domain denominated it MAGI-1 329. A sequence alignment of
185 our final models is shown in figure 2A.

186 The 3D homology models of MAGI-1 255 (amino acid 300 to 554) and of MAGI-1
187 329 (amino acid 300 to 628) were obtained using the crystal structure from human
188 MAGI-1 PDZ1 (PDB ID:2KPK) ²⁵ as a template on the I-TASSER server ³² (Figure
189 2B and 2C). The best models were chosen according to the criteria of good
190 alignment with the template measured by C-Score, TM score, and RMSD values.
191 Model MAGI-1 255 shown in Figure 2B consists of six alfa-helix, one 310 helix,
192 eleven beta-sheets and the rest of the residues appeared lightly twisted in random
193 coils, which are 15.3%, 2.4%, 13.7% and 68.6% respectively of the protein structure.
194 The two WW domains and the interdomain regions from amino acid G300 to amino
195 acid I471 are shown in magenta, and the PDZ1 domain from amino acid H472 to
196 amino acid R554 is shown in purple (Figure 2B). Model MAGI-1 329 consists of
197 seven alfa-helices, twelve beta-sheets, and the rest of the residues appeared in
198 loops and coils, which are 15%, 14.1%, and 70.9%, respectively the protein
199 structure. For this model, the 3D structure from amino acid G300 to R554 are in
200 purple, and the extra region of 76 (G555 to T628) amino acids are in cyan (figure
201 2C). According to dynamic studies using complementary isothermal titration
202 calorimetry and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), the interaction of E6 with
203 MAGI-1 occurs mainly with the PDZ-1 (H472-R554) domain, but different affinity
204 patterns were observed with adjacent regions ⁴. To evaluate if the interaction of E6
205 with our models is modified by adjacent amino acids, we decided to add a highly
206 disordered region of 76 amino acids (G555-T628) to model MAGI-1 329 shown in
207 cyan (Figure 2C).

208 Ramachandran plot for model MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329 exhibited 92.8%
209 and 91.4% respectively of residues in most favored regions and 7.2% and 8.6%
210 respectively residues are in disallowed regions, which shows a good
211 stereochemistry for more than 90 % of the residues, this makes our models
212 acceptable for more refinement with MD simulation (Figure S2).

213 **2.2 Molecular dynamics simulation analysis**

214 To examine the change in the protein dynamics and stability, the 3D models of
215 HPV-16 E6 and its variants, as well as MAGI-1255 and MAGI-1 329 were refined by
216 MD simulation for 200 ns. Trajectories were analyzed by calculating the root mean
217 square deviation of atomic positions (RMSD), root mean square fluctuation (RMSF),
218 the radius of gyration (Rg), the dPCA analysis and dPCA based clustering (Figure 3).

219 After 200 ns of the MD simulation and using a snapshot of the most populated
220 cluster of E6 and variants, a structural alignment was done (Figure 3A). The carboxyl
221 terminus of the E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc proteins showed a greater difference
222 compared to E6-reference, while the other variants 3D structures remained very
223 similar compare to E6-reference (Figure 3A).

224 The RMSD calculation of the E6-reference (purple) during the 200 ns of MD
225 simulation, reached equilibrium at 20 ns of trajectory, while the non-European
226 variants AAa (orange) and AAc (red) were equilibrated at 80ns, after 150ns AAa
227 variant loses its equilibrium and recovers it at the end of the DM simulation, probably
228 due to its mutations and its context (Figure 3B). Something similar happens to the
229 variant E-C188/G350 (yellow), which reaches equilibrium at 60 ns, and its
230 equilibrium is disturbed from the 150ns to the180ns. This behaviour is attributed to
231 mutations in the E29A and L83V positions that directly affect the structure of the
232 protein, causing disturbs in it's stability (Figure 3B). Concerning E-A176/G350
233 (blue), the equilibrium was reached at the first 20ns, but a greater disturbance
234 episode it's observed from 100ns to the end of the trajectory it is also thought that the
235 nature of mutation D25N on the proteins may contribute to this behavior . It was also
236 observed that for E6-reference, E-G350 (green), and E6-AAc, the RMSD values

237 during the simulation ranged from 2 Å to 5 Å (Figure 3B). While variants AAa,
238 E-A176/G350 and E-C188/G350 were characterized by higher continuous RMSD
239 fluctuations from the 140 ns to the end of the MD simulation (Figure 3B). The RMSD
240 values of simulated proteins indicated their stability and particular behavior and
241 provided a suitable basis for further analysis.

242 The Rg presents different grades of compactness during the simulation
243 evidencing a less compactable grade at the end of the trajectory, mainly in the
244 variants E-A176/G350, E-C188/G350 and AAa (Figure 3C in yellow and orange).
245 Meanwhile, E6-reference and variants E-G350 and AAc maintain compactness
246 during the simulation (Figure 3C in green and red). This also confirms that point
247 mutations caused structural destabilizing effects leading to the loss of protein
248 compactness in the E-A176/G350, E-C188/G350 and AAa variants. Since distance
249 deviations from the starting structure may not necessarily reflect mobility of structural
250 elements, RMSF was used to obtain information on flexibility. According to the data
251 graph in figure 3D, there are six maximum fluctuations peaks areas shared by
252 E6-reference and variants: One at M1 to P5, for E6-reference the fluctuation peak
253 was 16 Å, and for the variants, the highest peak corresponds to E-C188/G350 with
254 27Å, the rest of the variants fluctuate from 14 to 24 Å of distance being E-G350 the
255 lowest peak, this region is composed by coils and turns with non-secondary structure
256 (Figure 3D). The second region at L28 to L50 composed of loops and an alpha helix:
257 reached 15 Å for E6-reference and it was the highest fluctuation peak. Fluctuation for
258 variants ranges from 20 to 25 Å; clearly the variants had greatest fluctuation in these
259 residues, where E-C188/G350 had the greatest fluctuation peaks (Figure 3D). This
260 phenomenon is interesting and it's attributed to mutation E29Q exclusive of the
261 E-C188/G350 variant, while the behavior of the other variants is exclusive of their
262 own structural changes caused by their shared and exclusive mutations. The third
263 peak at C51 to L65, in a coil and two beta-sheets, the variants reached 20 to 23 Å of
264 fluctuation peaks, while E6-reference's fluctuation was only 16 Å (Figure 3D). The
265 fourth region of fluctuation at C80 to L110, was composed of loops, one alpha helix

266 and two beta-sheets and reaches 25 Å for variant E-A176/G350 and E6-reference.
267 For variants AAa and AAc the fluctuation distance was 20 Å. While the peak for
268 variant E-G350 was only 14 Å, evidently less flexible than the other variants and
269 E6-reference (Figure 3D). The fifth fluctuation peak at C111 to C140, in two beta
270 sheets, coils and an one alpha helix, for variants AAa, AAc, E-C188/G350,
271 E-A176/G350 had a fluctuation distance of 20Å . E6-reference, also, reached a
272 distance of 20 Å. On the other hand, the distance of E-G350 reached 15 Å, and it
273 tends to decrease for the rest of the amino acids at the carboxyl terminus (Figure
274 3D). Finally the residue-based RMSF of the backbone for the E6-reference
275 displayed less flexible residues than the variants (E-G350, E-C188/G350,
276 E-A176/G350, E6-AAa, and E6-AAc), at the carboxyl terminus (145-151) composed
277 mainly by loops (Figure 3D). Interestingly, this region includes the PBM (ETQV) motif
278 of E6, which is important for this oncoprotein interaction with MAGI-1. Since there is
279 a higher fluctuation in variants compares to E6-reference, it can be deduced that
280 mutations change the structural flexibility of the 3D protein structure.

281 Ramachandran analysis after the MD simulation of these structures shows that
282 more than 98% of the amino acids of the proteins during the simulation remain in the
283 highly favored regions, which means that the protein's conformation are well refined
284 and have native conformations (Figure S3).

285 For our two MAGI-1 models we showed a snapshot of the most populated
286 cluster from the dPCA clustering analysis in (Figures 4A and B). The PDZ1 domain
287 of our two models have little changes in its 3D structure, but overall it keeps its main
288 3D structure (Figure 4A and B).

289 The RMSD of MAGI-1 255 (purple) and MAGI-1 329 (black) models during the
290 200 ns trajectory showed that both models reached equilibrium before the 100 ns of
291 the simulation and continue stable for the rest of the trajectory. Moreover, MAGI-1
292 255's RMSD value after equilibrium ranges from 10 to 13 Å and MAGI-1 329 model's
293 RMSD values range from 9 to 10 Å, which means our models are reliable for further
294 investigation (Figure 4C).

295 The Rg show that both models maintained a compacted structure throughout the
296 trajectory of MD simulation (Figure 4D). We explored the flexibility of the models by
297 measuring C α . The RMSF values of the models through trajectory, mainly 3 regions
298 of MAGI-1 255-model showed more flexible areas, those regions correspond to
299 amino acids G300 to A309 of the WW1 domain, G349 to D379 belong to the WW2
300 domain and Q399 to H429 that correspond to an interdomain region between the
301 WW2 and PDZ1 domains of MAGI-1 (Figure 4E). MAGI-1 329 model showed three
302 regions with more flexibility which include amino acids E304 to I319 of the WW1
303 domain, Q399 to V433 corresponding to an inter domain between WW2 and PDZ1
304 domains and N566 to T628, this region was the most flexible of the two models.
305 Interestingly, this region corresponds to a highly disordered region of the whole
306 protein (Figure 4E) ⁴. The Ramachandran analysis shows the refinement of more
307 than 80% of the model's residues (Figure S4).

308 **2.3 Dihedral Principal component analysis.**

309 dPCA was used to obtain a broader view of dynamic properties with respect to
310 MD simulation results of E6-reference and its variants, MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1
311 329. The covariance matrix for the first 20 eigenvectors of E6-reference was 11.40
312 nm² and 10.09 nm², 11.14 nm², 7.12 nm², 12.23 nm² and 10.60 nm² for the variants
313 E-G350, E-A176/G350, E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc, respectively (Figure 5A).
314 Moreover, the dPCA analysis showed that the first 20 eigenvectors captured 45-57%
315 of the total protein motions (56.7, 45.5, 52.5, 51.1, 55.3 and 53.8%) for E6-reference,
316 E-G350, E-A176/G350, E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc respectively (Figure 5B).
317 Whereas the projections of the first two principal components (PC1 vs PC2)
318 contributed to 15–28% of the collective motions (28.22, 15.11, 24.20, 22.40, 26.66
319 and 24.59%) for E6-reference E-G350, E-A176/G350, E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc
320 respectively (Figure 5B). There are changes in the motions of the atoms of the
321 variants E-A176/G350, AAa and AAc compared to E6-reference. Moreover a
322 considerable change in the motion of the atoms of G350 and E-C188/G350

323 compared to E6-reference, which suggests that the properties of the movements
324 described by the first PCs were different in the six protein systems (Figure 5A and B).

325 The projection of the first two eigenvectors (PC2 vs. PC1) for E6-reference,
326 E-G350, E-A176/G350, E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc (Figure 5C-H), shows that
327 E6-reference system (Figure 5C) present different mobility behavior compared to the
328 variants systems. The variants E-G350, E-C188/G350 and AAc have more restricted
329 motions, making them the more stable of the six protein systems (Figure 5 D, E and
330 H). The variants E-A176/G350 and AAa were expanded in their conformational
331 space due to their flexibility (Figure 5F and G). This points out that the punctual
332 mutations of residues affect conformation and motion.

333 With respect to MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329 the matrix value obtained for the
334 for the models were of 17.4 nm² and 12.3 nm² and the dPCA analysis showed that
335 the first 10 eigenvectors captured 22.7 and 34.7 % of the proteins total motions
336 (Figure 6A). The projection of the first two eigenvectors (PC2 vs. PC1) for MAGI-1
337 255 and MAGI-1 329 shows differences in their mobility behaviour (Figures 6C and
338 6D). These results showed a considerable change in the motion of the atoms of
339 MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329, which means that the missing 76 amino acids of
340 model 255 restricts its motions, making it more stable. These results support
341 Ramírez et al., 2015 observations about the contribution of the highly disordered 76
342 amino acid region adjacent to the PDZ-1 domain of MAGI-1 to its behavior ⁴.

343 **2.4 Protein-protein docking**

344 Mutations in proteins can affect protein structure and stability, consequently,
345 these mutations alter the kinetics and thermodynamics of protein-protein interactions
346 (PPI) ³³. Using ClusPro blind base docking method, a representative protein
347 structure of the most populated cluster obtained from the dPCA clustering analysis of
348 the MD simulation refined proteins (E6-reference, E-G350, E-A176/G350,
349 E-C188/G350, AAa and AAc) were docked against the representative structure of
350 MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329, also, obtained from dPCA clustering analysis.
351 Docking resulted in 1000 protein conformations of complexes. The top 10 docked

352 complexes from each problem were analyzed for the lowest energy and residues
353 binding between the two proteins. The best complexes were selected base on a
354 greater number of cluster members and the lowest energy according to ClusPro
355 guidelines ⁴⁴.

356 The global free binding energy of the E6-reference against 255 complexes and
357 MAGI-1 329 were calculated as -48.14 and -51.90 kcal/mol respectively, using
358 FiberDock ³⁴. These energies were bigger than the energies obtained from the
359 complexes between the E6 variants and the MAGI-1 models; this means that there is
360 a greater affinity between MAGI-1 models and E6 variants compare to E6-reference
361 (Table 1). However, the variants that presented the lowest binding energy with the
362 MAGI-1 255 model were E-A176/G350, AAa and E-C188/G350 (-191.34, -138.07
363 and -130.89, respectively). Meanwhile variants AAc, E-G350, and E-A176/G350 and
364 against MAGI-1 329 showed the lowest energy values (-166.97, -152.50 and
365 -148.86, respectively). We interpreted this as a gain of interaction affinity between
366 these proteins. In conclusion, the lowest energy docking values was between
367 MAGI-1 255 and variant E-A176/G350 (Table 1). In addition, there was an increment
368 in the number of hydrogen bond in the complexes formed by the variants and both
369 models of MAGI-1 compared to the E6-reference. However the number of salt
370 bridges interactions only increased in the complexes G-350, E-C188/G350 and
371 E-A176/G350 with MAGI-1 255 compared to E6-reference. Concerning the
372 complexes between E6-reference and its variants with MAGI-1 329 only variants
373 AAa and E-C188/G350 increased their salt bridges interactions (Table S1).
374 Therefore, we concluded that the variants gain affinity to our two models of MAGI-1.

375 The protein-protein interfaces of the complexes were analyze using PDBsum
376 generate and are shown in Figure 7A to L³⁵. The top docked complex of each variant
377 against MAGI-1 255 and 329 were subjected to PDBsum to identify the interacting
378 residues. Comparative analysis between the twelve complexes from docking
379 interfaces of E6-reference and its variants identified a list of different amino acids

380 that were shown to be responsible for the interaction with the MAGI-255 and MAGI-1
381 329 (Table 2).

382 For the complex E6-reference and MAGI-1 255 (Figure 7A), the interaction
383 occurs mainly through amino acids of the WW2 domain (Y74, V79, D80, W66, G65,
384 A64, Y78, I76) and from the PDZ1 domain (A234, H231 and G230) with twenty-four
385 amino acids of E6-reference that included: Y81, R77 and Y76 which are adjacent to
386 H78 a highly mutated amino acid in E6 (Table S2). There are nine hydrogen bonds
387 and three salt bridges (Table S1). On the other hand, the interaction of E6-reference
388 with MAGI-1 329 was through amino acids corresponding to WW2 domain and
389 adjacent non-domain regions (Table S2). MAGI-1 329 amino acids C34 to F171
390 were responsible for most of the interactions with twenty-three amino acids of
391 E6-reference that included: R147, R131, H78, R77, Y76, T32 and V31 (Figure 7G).
392 Some of the E6-reference interacting residues are located closed to the mutation
393 sites, and its interacting residues are different compared to the variants.

394 The differences between the interaction of E6-reference with our two models
395 from MAGI-1 is remarkable, the increase in protein's coverage results in a gain of
396 interacting residues, an increase of hydrogen bonds, Salt bridges (Table S1).

397 For complexes E-G350/MAGI-1 255 (Figure 7B), E-G350/MAGI-1 329 (Figure 7H),
398 E-A176/350/MAGI-1 255 (Figure 7D), E-A176/350/MAGI-1 329 (Figure 7J),
399 AAc/MAGI-1 255 (Figure 7E) and AAc/MAGI-1 329 (Figure 7K) detailed information
400 about the amino acids involved in the interaction and the type of bonds can be found
401 in Table S1 and S2.

402 We observed that in complex E-C188/G350/MAGI-1 255 (Figure 7C) the
403 interactions of the PBM motif (E148, T149, Q150, and 151L) were lost, but,
404 interestingly the interacting residues from complex E-C188/G350/MAGI-1 329
405 (Figure 7I) included all the amino acids of the PBM motif of E6 (E148, T149, Q150,
406 and 151L) these residues interact mainly with amino acids from the WW1 (G1-R33)
407 domain and amino acids from a highly disordered region of MAGI-1 (G256-T329 in

408 our model) which agrees with the experimental evidence publish by Ramirez et al ⁴
409 (Table S2).

410 It is important to point out that H78 is mutated to T78 in the Asian American
411 variants this mutation causes the lost of interaction between this residue and our
412 models of MAGI-1 only for AAa variant, meanwhile, AAc variant does not exhibit this
413 behaviour. We observed that the interaction of AAa variant with MAGI-1 255 was not
414 conducted throught its PBM motif (Figure 7F). Meanwhile, the interaction of this
415 variant with MAGI-1 329 included all the residues from the PBM motif (R147, E148,
416 T149, Q150 and L151) (Figure 7L).

417 Regarding the missing interaction of the PBM motif with MAGI-1 255 and 329,
418 we believe that the residues could be oriented in a way that avoids the interaction or
419 may be block by adjacent residues. According to the online server HOPE, this could
420 be attributed to changes in size and in charge from the mutations of each variant³⁶.

421 It is important to understand the changes in PPIs caused by these mutations
422 may alters the affinity and stability of the interaction of E6 with proteins important for
423 tissue homeostasis. The increase in affinity and stability of the interaction of E6 with
424 MAGI-1 result in an increase in the degradation of MAGI-1 and as a consequence in
425 the loss of stability of important cell complexes that maintain cell-cell adherence at
426 the adherents junctions.

427 **3. Materials and Methods**

428 **3.1 3D protein structures**

429 Multiple alignments of the sequences (Accession number P03126) were
430 performed using CLUSTAL X 1.81 ³⁷. The secondary structure of the E6 protein and
431 its variants were predicted using PSIPRED server ³⁸. The crystal structure of VPH-16
432 E6 protein was obtained from the Protein Data Bank (RCSB PDB) ³⁹, with the
433 identification number: 4XR8, chain H⁴⁰. The E6 structure on this PDB contains 151
434 residues with four-point mutations in S80C, S97C, S111C, and S140, which were
435 reverted to obtain the E6 reference in the PyMOL Molecular Graphics System,

436 Version 2.0 Schrödinger, LLC ⁴¹. After that, all the mutations were carried out in the
437 E6 reference to obtain all the variants of HPV-16. The mutations were done as
438 indicated next, to obtain E-G350: L83V; E-C188/G350: E29Q and L83V;
439 E-A176/G350: D25N and L83V; AAa: Q14H, H78Y, and L83V; for AAc: Q14H, I27R,
440 H78Y, and L83V. The obtained proteins were structurally aligned and visualized
441 using VMD⁴².

442 To obtain the 3D structure of MAGI-1, a total of 255 and 329 amino acids from
443 the amino acid terminal region of the protein sequence (300-554 and 300-628) were
444 retrieved from the UniProtKB database ⁴³, (accession number Q96QZ7) and
445 submitted to I-TASSER server as two separate jobs ³². First, the 3D structure with
446 225 residues, which comprises WW1, WW2 and the PDZ1 domains of MAGI-1 was
447 obtained by homology modelling using the I-TASSER server, as a template, we
448 selected PDB file: 2KPK ²⁵, which corresponds to the PDZ-1 domain of the MAGI-1.
449 Furthermore, a 3D structure of 329 amino acids of MAGI-1, which includes the WW1,
450 WW2, PDZ-1 and a 76 amino acidic disordered region of this protein, was obtained
451 by homology modelling on the I-TASSER server using the same template PDB. All
452 the 3D predicted structures were evaluated using the Rampage webserver to obtain
453 the Ramachandran plots (<http://mordred.bioc.cam.ac.uk/~rapper/rampage.php>).

454 **3.2 Molecular dynamics simulation**

455 Parameters for the two Zn²⁺ ions and eight cysteine-ligand coordination of E6
456 were kindly provided by Justin Lemkul from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
457 State University, these parameters included a CYSD patch for the deprotonation of
458 the eight zinc-bound cysteines and a ZN_C patch to covalently link cysteines to the
459 zinc ions. The correct coordination of the deprotonated cysteines and the zinc ions
460 using these patches has been demonstrated in previous studies ⁴⁴, the CHARMM 36
461 force field was employed for the application of the patches using CHARMM software
462 ^{45,46}. Afterwards, a 200 ns of MD simulation of E6 and its variants were performed
463 using the 2.8 NAMD software package ⁴⁷ with CHARMM36 and CHARMM22 force
464 fields ⁴⁶. For MAGI-1 models we used CHARMM 27 topology and parameter files for

465 proteins. Each system was placed in a cubic box of TIP3P water with a minimum
466 distance of 10 Å between the solute atoms and the edge of the box ⁴⁸. To neutralize
467 the systems, we added 7568 water molecules, 21 Na⁺ and 27 Cl⁻ to the
468 E6-reference. To variant E-G350, we added 7420 water molecules, 21 Na⁺, and 27
469 Cl⁻, to E-C188/G350 variant, 7484 water molecules, 21 Na⁺, and 28 Cl⁻ were
470 added, to E-A176/G350 variant, 7660 water molecules, 22 Na⁺ and 29 Cl⁻ were
471 added, to AAa variant 7566 water molecules, 21 Na⁺ and 27 Cl⁻ were added and to
472 AAc variant, 7554 water molecules, 21 Na⁺ and 28 Cl⁻ were added. For MAGI-1 255
473 we added 10932 water molecules and 18 Sodium, and for MAGI-1 329, 11456 water
474 molecules and 23 Na were added. Each system was neutralized to 0.15 mol/L of
475 NaCl and submitted to minimization energy for 10,000 steps of steepest descent
476 minimization followed by equilibration for 1 ns under constant temperature 310 K and
477 pressure 1 atm (NPT) ensemble with protein atoms restraints ^{49,50}. MD simulation
478 were run for 200 ns, considering all proteins as soluble.

479 **3.3 Trajectory and dPCA analysis**

480 The carma software ⁵¹, was used to calculate the root mean square deviation
481 (RMSD) calculates the average deviation in the atomic stability throughout MD
482 simulation, radius of gyration (Rg) measures the compactness and expansion of the
483 molecules, and the root means square fluctuation (RMSF) a parameter to explored
484 the flexibility of the protein through MD simulation, as well as the Principal
485 component analysis (PCA) and dPCA based clustering analysis employing the last
486 50 ns of the trajectory. dPCA is a standard tool in statistical mechanics used in order
487 to determine the correlated motions of the residues to a set of linearly uncorrelated
488 variables called principal components, and it allows to obtain the large scale
489 collective motions of the atoms on the simulations, which frequently correlates with
490 the proteins biological function and structural properties ⁵². Finally, we obtained the
491 PDB files from the most populated cluster analysis and performed a protein-protein
492 docking. Molecular graphics were performed in Sigma plot 12.0. VMD was used to
493 visualize all the 3D proteins ⁴².

494 **3.4 Protein-protein docking**

495 The protein–protein dockings were carried in Cluspro server ^{53,54}, the program
496 has been consistently rated among the best global docking methodologies in the
497 CAPRI challenge (Critical Assessment of Predicted Interactions) ⁵³. For the docking
498 studies, refined models for most populated cluster from E6-reference or its variants
499 were docked within the MAGI-1 (235 and 329) homology models, where MAGI-1
500 models were the receptors and E6, and its variants were used as a ligand. The
501 conformers with the highest cluster members and the lowest energy calculated in
502 FireDock were taken for analysis on the PDBSum server ^{34,35}. All docking complexes
503 were visualized by VMD software ⁴².

504 **4. Conclusions**

505 We proposed an *in-silico* approach to evidence the differences in the interaction
506 of E6 and five of its natural variants with two models, cellular protein MAGI-1.
507 According to our results variants, AAa and E-C188/G350 showed less RMSD
508 values, less compactness, a gain of fluctuation regions that are correlated to the
509 increment of active sites. We attribute this behavior to specific mutations of
510 proteins, and these mutations cause physicochemical changes that affect the
511 behavior of proteins. Very marked dynamic changes are observed, particularly at
512 the amino and carboxyl termini of proteins, where there is a gain in flexibility in the
513 variants compared to E6-reference. Also, according to the dPCA results a dramatic
514 change of motions behaviour for mutants compared to E6-reference. These
515 differences in structure and mobility incremented the affinity of variants
516 E-C188/G350 and AAa for our models of MAGI-1. E-C188/G350 increases its affinity
517 for our models by three times, increasing the binding bonds by 50%. A similar pattern
518 is observed among all the variants compared to E6-reference. Our results suggest
519 that the physicochemical changes that gave rise to thermodynamic changes of the
520 variants and an increase the affinity for our MAGI-1 models. Here, we were able to
521 represent the possible changes in the physicochemical properties of E6 proteins and

522 the repercussion in the interaction affinity with MAGI-1. An experimental validation
 523 will be necessary to evaluate the degradation profile of the MAGI-1 protein mediated
 524 by E6-reference and its variants.

525

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658 **Author Contributions:** This work was carried out with the collaboration of all the
659 authors. B.I.-A., S.M., O.L.G. C., L.E.A.A, were responsible for the research design.
660 L.E.A.A and S.M. Carried out theoretical studies, results analysis and wrote the
661 manuscript; and together with M.A.L.-V., B.I.-A., C.B.R. and O.L.G.-C. S.M. and
662 L.E.A.A, wrote the final version of the manuscript. All authors had read and approved
663 the final manuscript.

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665 **Funding:** This work was partially supported by grants from Basic Science 2016
666 (288612). Thanks Justin Lemkul for his generous advice on the use of the structure
667 patch. The authors want to express their gratitude to LANCAD through the Hybrid
668 Cluster Xiuhcoatl, (<http://clusterhibrido.cinvestav.mx>) CINVESTAV-IPN México, for
669 the supercomputer time support. The MD simulation was performed in the Laboratory
670 of Bioinformatics at FCQB-UAS.

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672 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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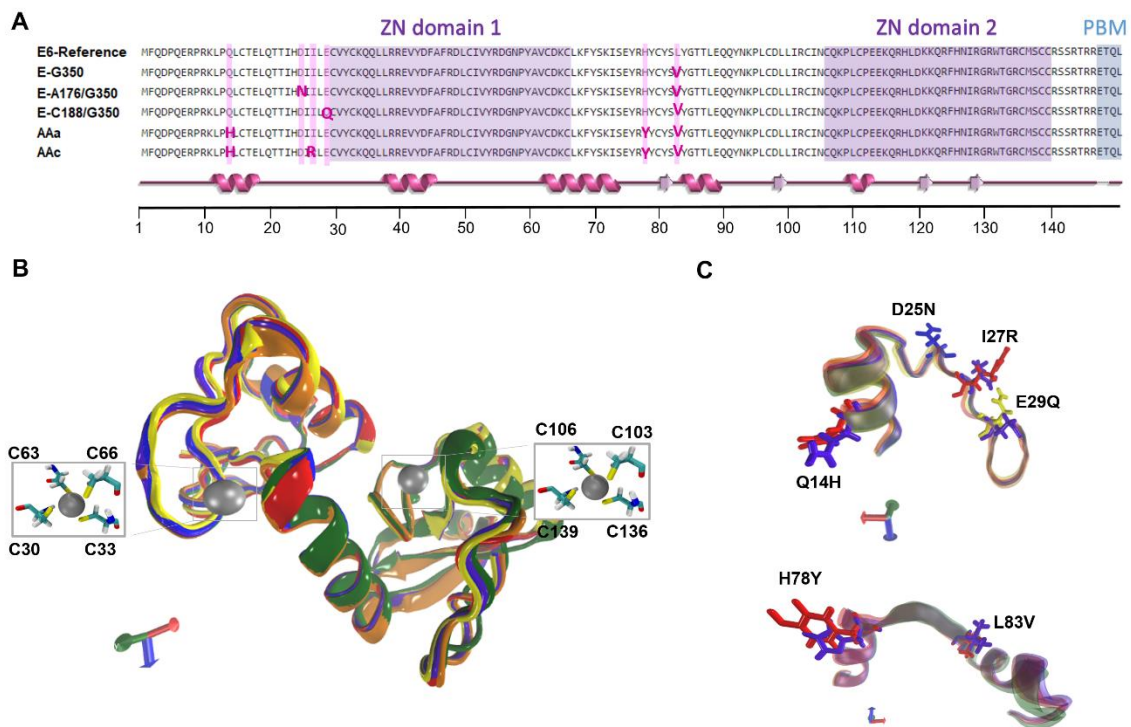
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680 **Figures**
681



682 **Figure 1.** Alingment and super position of the 3D structures of the E6-reference and its variants. (A) Multiple
683 alignment of the sequence of E6 and its variants. Zinc finger domain 1 and 2 are highlighted in purple, PBM in
684 blue and mutations are highlighted in pink. A super position of the secondary structure of all six proteins is shown
685 in pink below the alignment. (B) 3D structure of E6-reference: violet, AAa variant: orange, AAc variant: red,
686 E-G350, green, E-C188/G350: yellow, E-A176/G350: blue. The silver spheres indicate zinc molecules and the
687 licorice residues correspond to C30, C33, C63, C66, C103, C106, C136 and C139, which make up two zinc
688 finger domains in the proteins 3D structures. The orientation of the proteins is indicated by the axes, X: red, Y:
689 green; Z: blue. (C) Visualization of amino acid changes: Q14H, D25N, I27R, H78Y and L83V are in licorice.

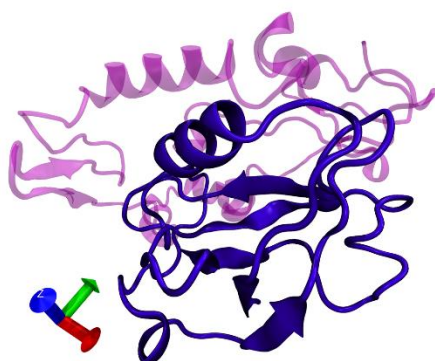
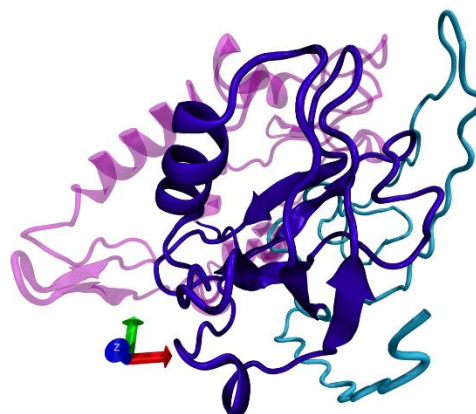
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	WW1	WW2	
MAGI-1 255	GPLPENMEMAYTENGEVYFIDHNTKTTSWLDPRLNKQKPLEECEDEGVHTEELDSELELPAGWEKIEDPVYGIYYVDHINRKTQYENPVLAKRKKQLEQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQ		419
MAGI-1 329	GPLPENMEMAYTENGEVYFIDHNTKTTSWLDPRLNKQKPLEECEDEGVHTEELDSELELPAGWEKIEDPVYGIYYVDHINRKTQYENPVLAKRKKQLEQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQ		419
	PDZ1		
MAGI-1 255	QQTEEWTEHDSALVPPVPIPNHPPSNPEPAREVPLQGKPFTRNPSELKGGFIHTKLRKSSRGGFTVGGDEPDEFLLQIKSLVLDGPAALDGMETGDIVSVNDTCVLGHTHAQVVKIF		539
MAGI-1 329	QQTEEWTEHDSALVPPVPIPNHPPSNPEPAREVPLQGKPFTRNPSELKGGFIHTKLRKSSRGGFTVGGDEPDEFLLQIKSLVLDGPAALDGMETGDIVSVNDTCVLGHTHAQVVKIF		539

MAGI-1 255	QSIPIGASVDLELCR-----		554
MAGI-1 329	QSIPIGASVDLELCRGYLPLFPDPPDNTSLVTSVAILDKEPIIVNGQETYDSPASHSSKTGKVNMGMDARPPSPADVASNSHGYNDT		628

B**C**

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700 **Figure 2.** 3D structure of MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1-329 models. (A) Multiple alignment of the sequence of model
 701 MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329 highlighting domains WW1 and WW2 in soft pink and domain PDZ1 in soft purple.
 702 (B) 3D model visualization of MAGI-1 255 (C) 3D model visualization of MAGI-1 329. The WW1 and the WW2
 703 domains are shown in light pink, the PDZ1 domain is shown in violet, and a highly disordered region of 76 amino
 704 acids in cyan.

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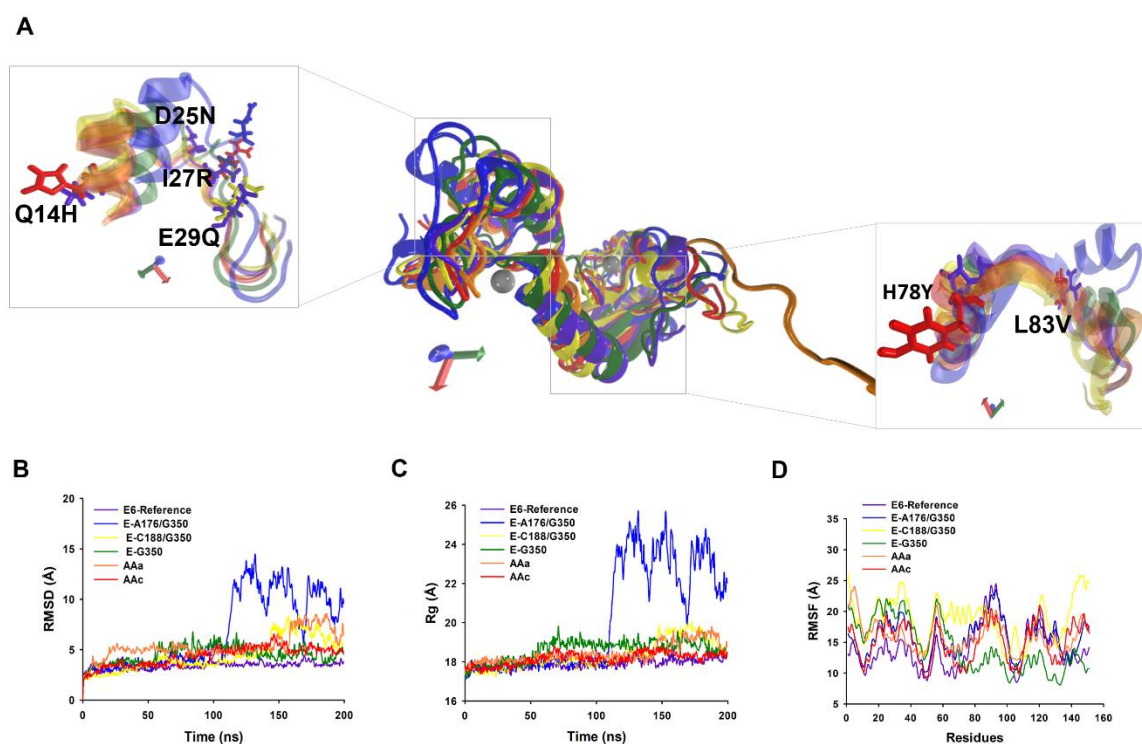
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716 **Figure 3.** 3D structures of the E6-reference and its variants and conformational stability during 200 ns MD
 717 simulation. (A) Super position of average 3D structures of HPV-16 and its variants. Zoom visualization of amino
 718 acid changes: Q14H, D25N, I27R, E29Q, H78Y and L83V. E6-reference: violet, AAa variant: orange, AAC
 719 variant: red, E-G350, green, E-C188/G350: yellow, E-A176/G350: blue. The silver spheres indicate zinc
 720 molecules. The orientation of the proteins is indicated by the axes, X: red, Y: green, Z: blue. (B) RMSD. (C)
 721 Radius of gyration. (D) RMSF.

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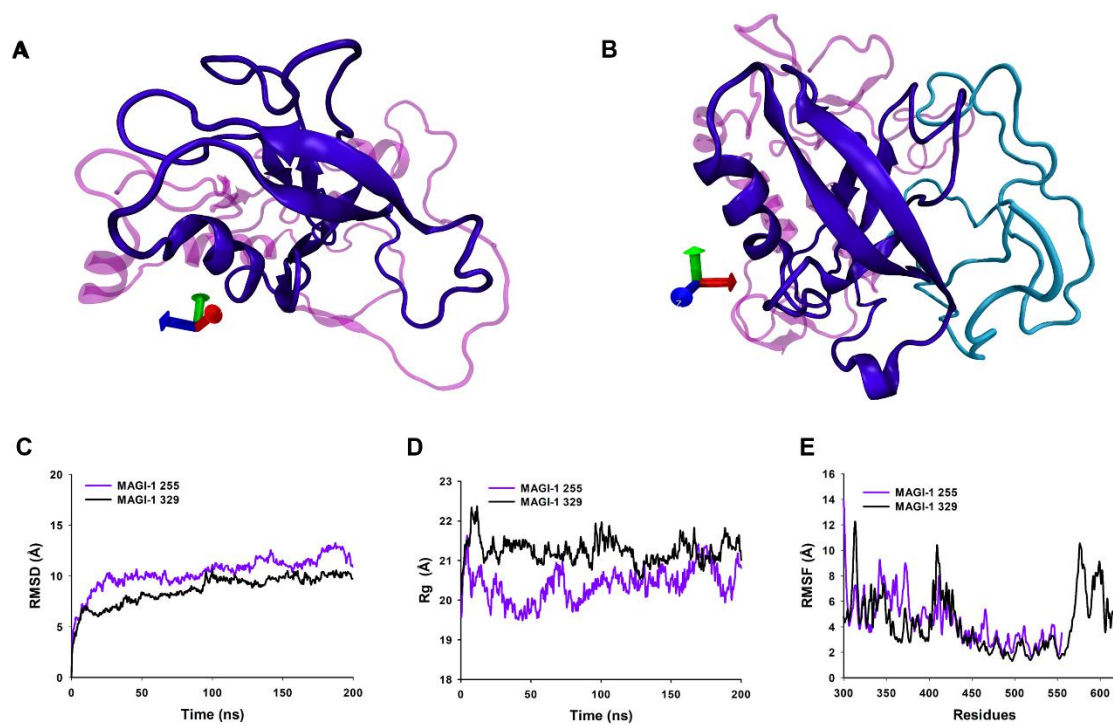
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735 **Figure 4.** 3D structures of MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329 and conformational stability during 200 ns MDs. (A)
 736 Visualization of MAGI-1 255. (B) Visualization of MAGI-1 329. The WW1 and the WW2 domains are shown in
 737 light pink, the PDZ1 domain is shown in violet, and a highly disordered region of 76 amino acids in cyan. (C)
 738 RMSD. (D) Radius of gyration. (E) RMSF.

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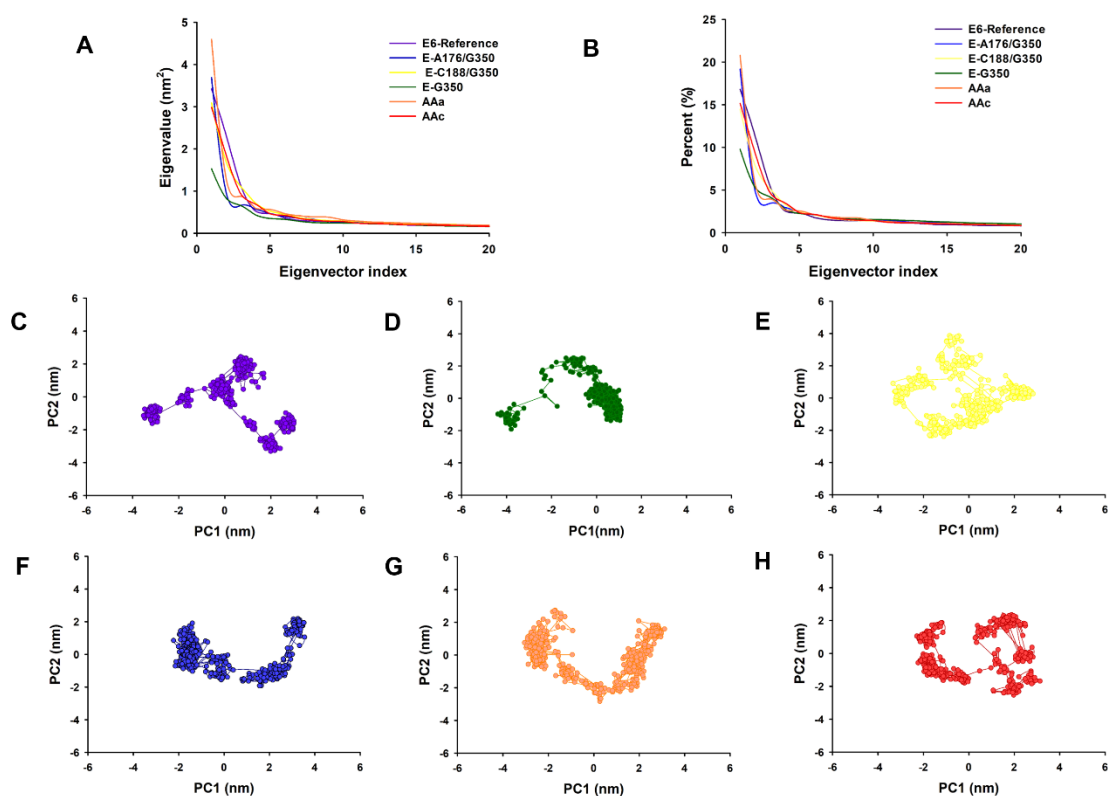
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749 **Figure 5.** Principal component analysis (PCA) of E6-reference and its variants from HPV-16. (A) The
 750 eigenvalues plotted against the corresponding eigenvector indices obtained from the C α covariance matrix
 751 constructed from the 200 ns MD trajectory. E6-reference: violet, AAa variant: orange, AAc C variant: red,
 752 E-G350, green, E-C188/G350: yellow, E-A176/G350: blue. (B) Percentage of each eigenvector vs. eigenvalues.
 753 E6-reference: violet, AAa variant: orange, AAc C variant: red, E-G350, green, E-C188/G350: yellow,
 754 E-A176/G350: blue. Projection of the motion of the structures of the backbone atoms (PC1 vs PC2) (C)
 755 E6-reference. (D) E-G350. (E) E-C188/G350 (F) E-A176/G350. (G) AAa and (H) AAc.

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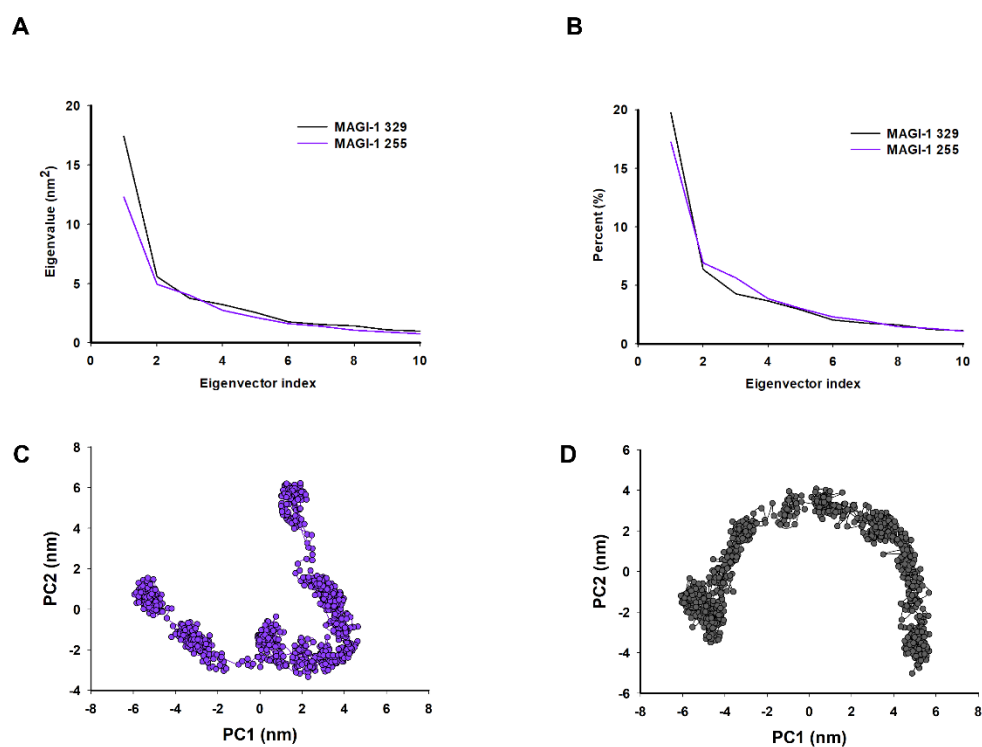
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762 **Figure 6.** Principal component analysis (PCA) of MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329. (A) First ten eigenvalues
 763 plotted against the corresponding eigenvector indices obtained from the C_{α} covariance matrix constructed from
 764 the 200 ns MD trajectory. MAGI-1 255 purple and MAGI-1 329 black. (B) Percentage of each eigenvector vs.
 765 eigenvalues. 2D Projection of Principal Component Analysis. Projection of the motion of the protein in phase
 766 space along the first two principal components. (C) MAGI-1 255 and (D) MAGI-1 329.

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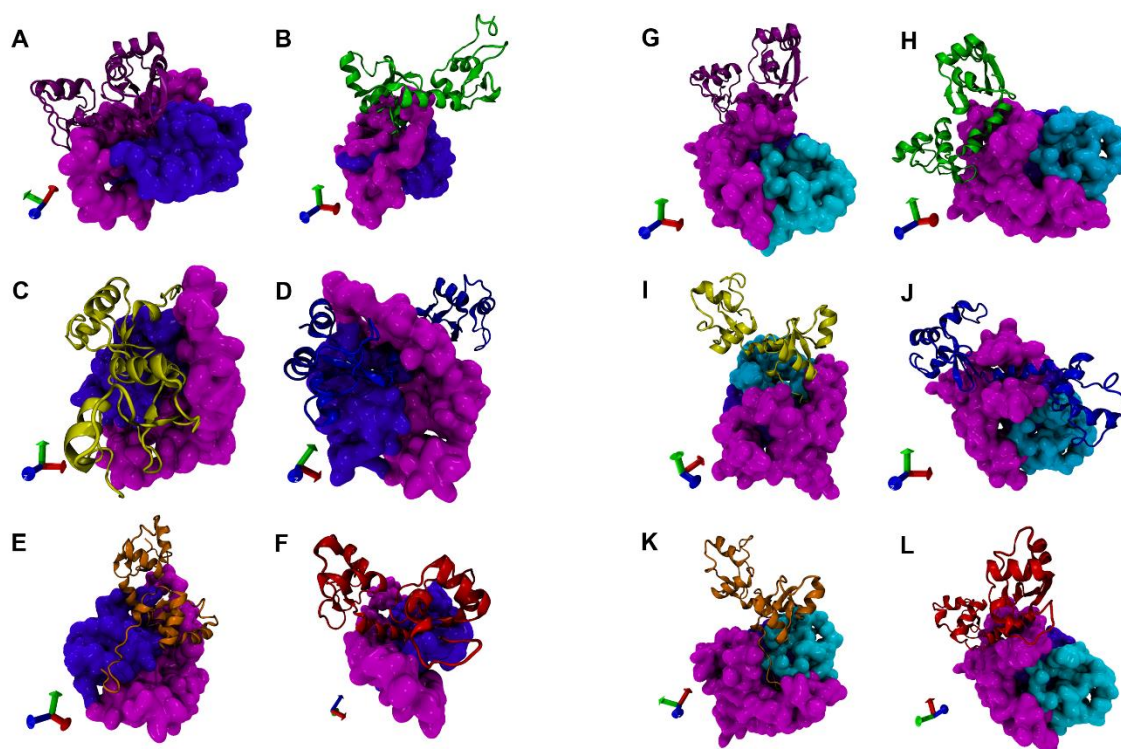
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774 **Figure 7.** Protein-protein docking of E6, its variants with MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329. Protein-protein docking
 775 analysis shows the probable interaction of E6-reference (purple), E-G350 (green), C188/G350 (yellow),
 776 E-A176/G350 (blue), AAa (orange) and AAC (red) with MAGI-1 255 (A to F). Docking between MAGI-1 329 and
 777 E6-references and its variants (G to L) E6-reference (purple), E-G350 (green), C188/G350 (yellow),
 778 E-A176/G350 (blue), AAa (orange) and AAC (red). MAGI-1 255 and MAGI-1 329 are represented in quicksurf in
 779 color magenta. The protein-protein docking was performed using the ClusPro 2.0 web server.

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794 **Tables**

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796 **Table 1.** Docking binding affinity of E6 HPV-16 and its variants.

Complexes	No. members'	Cluster	Binding energy kcal/mol
E6R/MAGI-1 255	83		-48.14
E-G350/MAGI-1 255	126		-111.14
E-C188/G350/MAGI-1 255	111		-130.89
E-A176/G350/MAGI-1 255	74		-191.34
AAa/MAGI-1 255	111		-138.07
AAc/MAGI-1 255	204		-120.23
Complexes	No. members'	Cluster	Binding energy kcal/mol
E6R/MAGI-1 329	118		-54.90
E-G350/MAGI-1 329	88		-152.50
E-C188/G350/MAGI-1 329	82		-121.63
E-A176/G350/MAGI-1 329	91		-148.86
AAa/MAGI-1 329	83		-148.17
AAc/MAGI-1 329	88		-166.97

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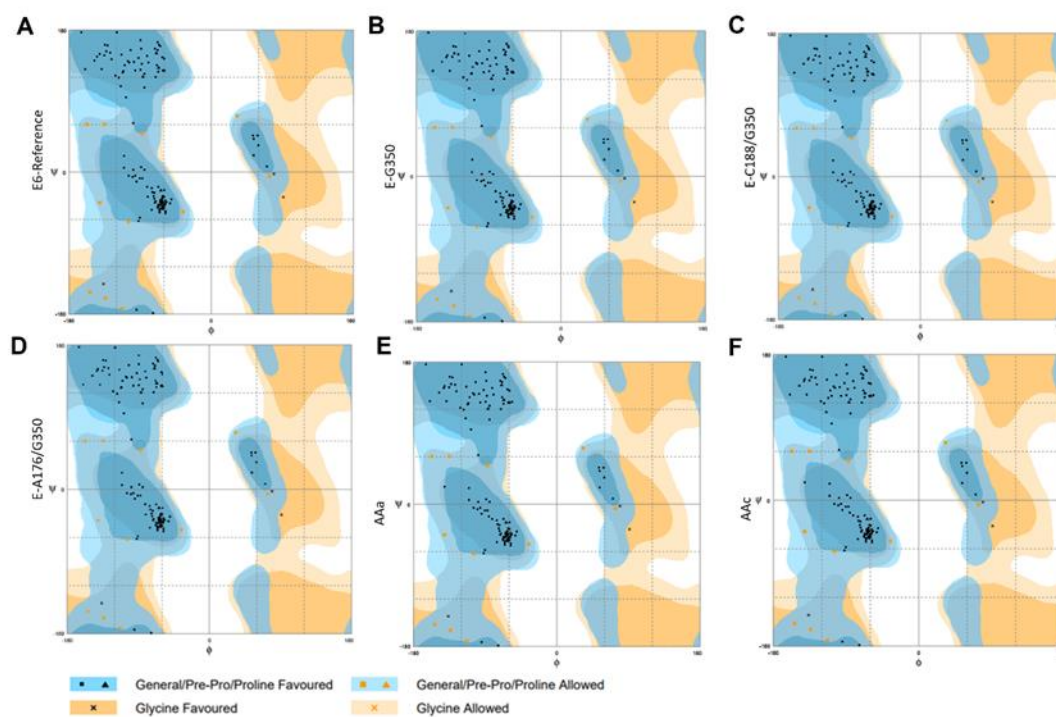
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808 **Supplementary Figures**

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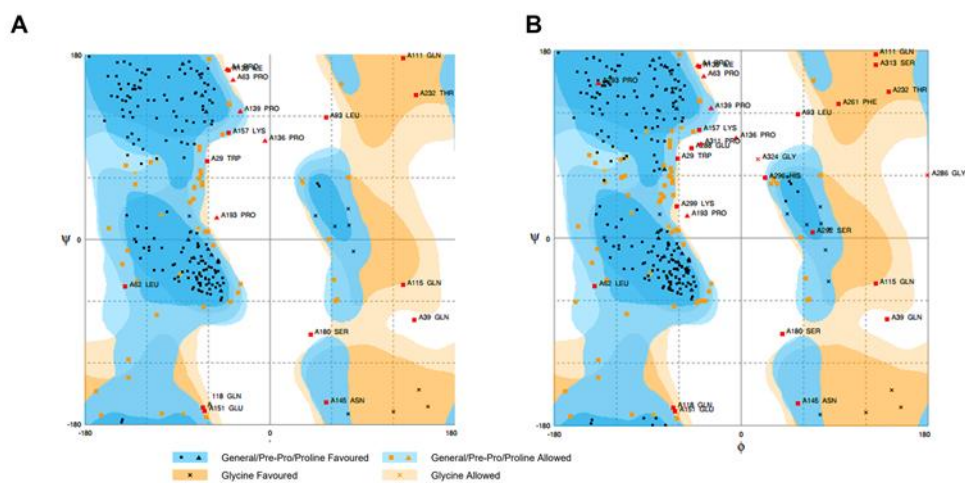
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812 **S1 Figure.** Ramachandran plot analysis of E6 and its variants from HPV-16. (A) E6-reference. (B) E-G350. (C)
 813 E-C188/G350. (D) E-A176/G350. (E) E6-AAa. (F) E6-AAc.

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818 **S2 Figure.** Ramachandran plot of MAGI-I. (A) Ramachandran plot of MAGI-1 255 model from I-TASSER. (B)
 819 Ramchandran plot of I-TASSER model of MAGI-1 329.

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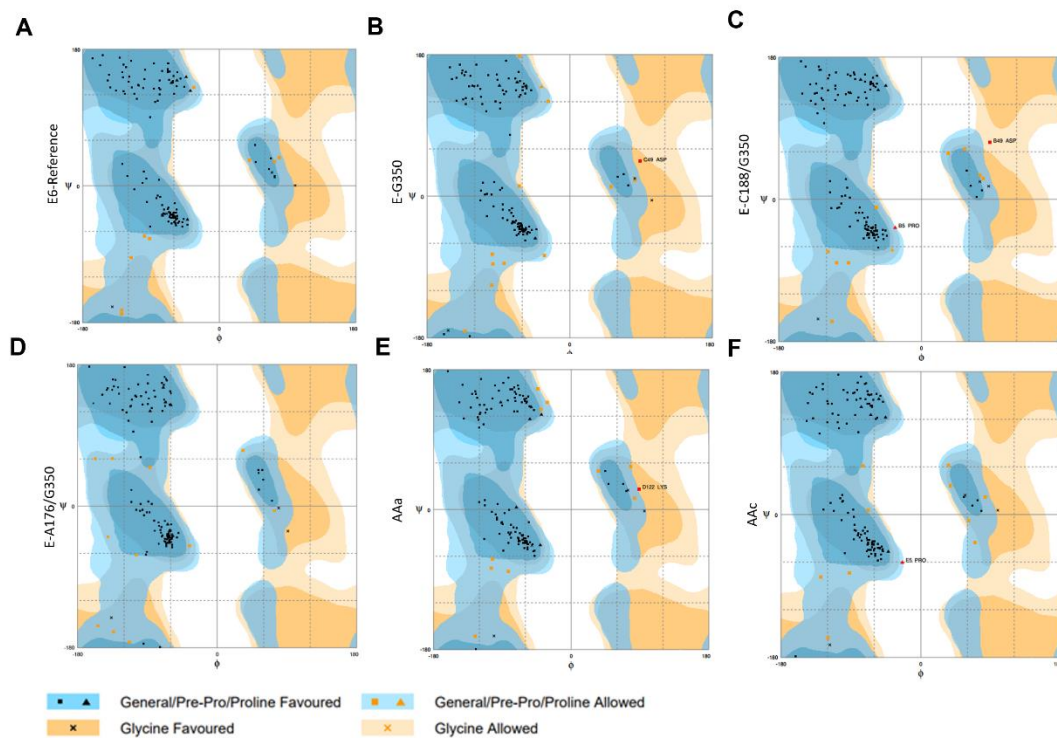
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831 **S3 Figure.** Ramachandran plot analysis of E6-reference and its variants after MD simulation. (A) E6-reference
 832 (D) For the E-G350. (E) variant E-C188/G350. (B) For E6-AAa (C) E6-AAc.

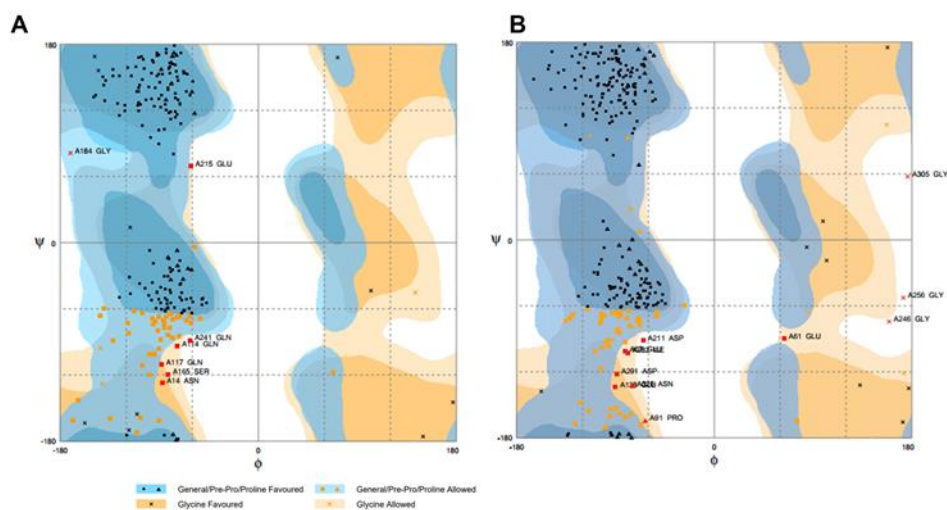
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838 **S4 Figure.** Ramachandran plot analysis after 200 ns of MD simulation. (A) MAGI-I 255. (B) MAGI-1 329

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862 **Supplementary Tables**

863 **Table S1.** Comparison of types and number of interactions between E6, its variants and our
 864 models of MAGI-1. Hydrogen bonds, Salt bridges, Non-bonded contacts.

Complexes	Hydrogen bonds	Salt bridges	Non-bonded contacts
E6R/MAGI-1 255	9	3	156
E-G350/MAGI-1 255	14	9	156
E-C188/G350 /MAGI-1 255	25	7	231
E-A176/G350/ MAGI-1 255	23	10	382
AAa/MAGI-1 255	17	3	239
AAc/MAGI-1 255	13	2	199
Complexes	Hydrogen bonds	Salt bridges	Non-bonded contacts
E6R/MAGI-1 329	11	6	156
E-G350/MAGI-1 329	18	4	220
E-C188/G350 /MAGI-1 329	23	8	298
E-A176/G350/ MAGI-1 329	18	5	212
AAa/MAGI-1 329	24	8	242
AAc/MAGI-1 329	12	6	189

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866 **Table S2.** Detailed results of amino acidic interaction between E6, its variants and our two
 867 MAGI-1 models.

E6 VPH-16	Residues	Residues MAGI-1 255
E6-referece	Y81, R10, C30, R77, V31, Y32, R55, Y76, C66, A61, F69, K65, V62, V53, L67, N127, C51, C80, R131, G130, Q107, I73, R129 and Y70.	G75, A234, Y74, T161, N163, V79, D80, W66, G65, A64, Y78, I76, H231, G230, Y77, E61, G70, K68 and E67.
E-G350	L72, R146, K68, N105, S143, E75, R135, S142, C139, S138, R144, C106, D44, E114, E113, M137, K121, R117, R141 and C140.	D57, S58, E59, L60, E61, P63, E55, L56, L62, A64, G65, Y78, K68, W66, D80, V79, E67 and H81.
E-C188/G350	R146, T145, K72, R144, R141, E150, S82, R147, E75, R124, R135, Y84, E148, Y79, H78, R77, Y76, F69, C82, R129, Y70, Y81, G130, N127, Y92 and R131.	S58, D57, L62, E67, L60, E59, P63, R162, A64, E61, L56, E54, E55, L167, S165, P164, N163, F160, K230, P193, F196, L229, D194, E70, K68, V221, N224, Q235, S222, C227, F171 and D225.
E-A176/G350	R146, Y84, N105, R124, R147, E148, S82, Y81, Q90, Q91, C33, T145, S143, R131, R129, S142, C80, G130, R77, I73, Y79, Y76, E75,	E55, A64, L167, N163, E54, P164, S165, R162, C227, D225, K85, T226, L229, L60, E61, P63, E70, E59, H231, P193, G230,

	K72, S74, S71, K68, D64, P69, K34, L67, K65, C66, C63, Y70, V62, R55, D56, Y32 and V53.	D194, F159, F196, K68, F160, E67, V79, I69, Y78, H81, D80, R84, Y77, E151, N83, Y88, Y74, I82, E89, Q87, T86, E94, N90, P91 and R150.
AAa	R131, R29, S143, R10, Y32, Y70, F69, S74, R55, I73, Y76, Y78, R77, G130, Y92, K72, W132, N127, Y81, L151, E148, E75, Y79, R144, R124, S82, R147 and H126.	E67, W66, K238, E166, L62, P164, R162, L167, N163, F171, E59, S165, D194, T161, F196, F160, E195, I82, F159, K157, K68, C227, E70, I243, L229, P244, Q241, Q122, S242, G230, H231 and Q119.
AAc	C80, R129, R135, H126, Y81, G130, Y79, Y78, Y76, R124, E75, S82, R77, Y84, V83, Y32, Y70, F69, Q91, K72 and K65.	V221, C227, N163, H231, F171, E252, L229, T161, P164, G230, R162, S165, F160, F196, D194, F159, I76, I82, L167, E70, K168, K68 and E67.
	Residues	Residues MAGI-1 329
E6-referece	D64, K72, K68, K65, Y76, R147, F69, I73, L50, R77, Y70, R129, H78, V62, Q17, L67, R131, C66, V31, D56, Y32, R55 and V53.	D57, E54, S58, K157, A64, L62, E65, T53, G65, W66, V79, Y78, H81, I82, E67, D80, V92, E94, N83, R97, P91, N90 and E89.
E-G350	R77, I73, R129, Y76, D56, H78, I128, Y70, S71, N105, R48, C66, L67, I104, Q107, D74, L50, R131, Y32, F69, K72, R55, V31, V53 and K34.	A64, W66, G65, Q106, Y78, I69, K68, E61, E67, V79, T86, R84, H81, I82, D80, L93, E94, V92, T53, E54, D57, E102, R97, Q105, L101 and Q110.
E-C188/G350	K72, E75, R77, Y76, S142, R144, M137, R117, S143, R141, C140, K68, K65, F69, D64, E148, R147, T145, T149, R146, L151 and Q150.	S269, L270, V284, N285, G286, E55, E59, V51, Q39, F261, D262, L60, V317, D316, T272, T26, N23, T24, R33, E280, P263, N36, D265, P41, H22, D264, L35, L42, N145, D21, E43, E151, T12, L25, Y11, A10, E13, E8, M9 and I20.
E-A176/G350	R147, Y32, R55, G57, Y70, I73, K72, F69, S71, S74, Q91, E75, I128, Y79, H126, Y76, H78, R77, V83, R129, R131, C80, S82, R124 and Y81.	E89, L62, Q87, D316, E61, K157, A64, Y78, T86, W66, G65, V79, E67, D80, D57, Q106, H81, N83, I82, R84, P91, T53, H52, E94, N90, E54, L93, V92, and R97.
AAa	R77, Y76, K72, E75, Y79, R135, S138, S143, R141, S142, L151,	L277, E321, D278, V317, A318, D316, A315, N320, L6, L154, S58,

K121, R144, T145, Q150, R147, E61, E59, L60, P260, K200, L259, E148, T149 and R146. P153, V51, V188, D262, F261, D264, L35, P263, Q39, K40, C34, P41, L42, E43, H52, G50 and E55.

K65, K68, F69, Y78, R129, S74, T53, E54, S58, D57, L56, Y78, R77, L50, V62, Y70, I73, R102, D80, I69, K68, E67, V79, H81, Q107, F45, L67, V53, Y32, Y76, I82, E94, W66, A64, G65, N83, Y60, K72, D56, C33, V31, K34 and L62, R84, R97, K157, E61, L93, R55. V92, L101, N90 and E89.

AAc