B cell activation

- Depending on nature of antigen, proceeds by two different routes:
  - 1-Dependent upon Th cells (TD)
  - 2-Independent of Th cells (TI)
- B cell response to TD antigens requires direct contact with Th cells, not simply exposure to Th derived cytokines.
T Independent activation of B cells

- TI antigens divided into TI-1 & TI-2
- TI-2 are highly repetitious molecules such as bacterial cell wall polysaccharides with repeating polysacc. Units, activate B cells by extensively cross-linking M Ig (Immunoglobulin) receptors.
- Most TI-1 antigens are polyclonal activators (mitogens) that activate B cells regardless of antigenic specificity. LPS at low conc. Stimulates specific abs. High conc. Is a polyclonal activator.