



## The 65th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts

## POSTER ABSTRACTS

## 301.VASCULATURE, ENDOTHELIUM, THROMBOSIS AND PLATELETS: BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL

**Non-Activating Integrin  $\beta 3$ (R734C) Mutation Associated with Macrothrombocytopenia and Impaired Platelet Function**

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**Introduction**

We and others identified several mutations in *ITGA2B* or *ITGB3* associated with congenital macrothrombocytopenia. These mutations are located around transmembrane domains of  $\alpha$ IIb or  $\beta 3$ , and basically induce constitutive activation of  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$ . Recently, we identified a mutation,  $\beta 3$ (R734C), which is located in cytoplasmic tail of  $\beta 3$  without inducing  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$  activation in a Japanese family with macrothrombocytopenia. We analyzed the effect of the mutation on platelet production and function using knock-in (KI) mice.

**Cases and Transfection assay**

The proband was a 14-year-old Japanese girl, who showed macrothrombocytopenia with 60-90 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L platelet counts and mild bleeding tendency. Her mother, her maternal aunt and a cousin also showed macrothrombocytopenia. The expression of  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$  on their platelets was decreased to ~50% of healthy control. GPVI expression was decreased, whereas GPIb expression was increased probably due to the increase in platelet size. Genetic analysis revealed that all affected subjects were heterozygous of  $\beta 3$ (R734C) mutation. No PAC-1 binding was observed to the platelets of the affected subjects or  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$ (R734C)-transfected 293T cells, indicating that the mutation does not cause  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$  activation.

**Methods and Results of mouse studies**

We generated  $\beta 3$ (R734C) KI mouse (C57BL6/J background) by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing. The  $\beta 3$ (R734C) KI mice were viable with no apparent bleeding tendency. Platelet counts of heterozygous (Hetero), and homozygous (Homo) KI mice were decreased relative to those of wild-type (WT) mice [WT: 1095 ± 52 (x10<sup>9</sup>/L), Hetero: 834 ± 93\*\*, Homo: 445 ± 30\*\* (mean±SD, \*\*P<0.01 compared with WT, n=6 respectively)], with an increase in platelet size, indicating that  $\beta 3$ (R734C) leads to macrothrombocytopenia. Moreover, the expression of  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$  and GPVI in platelets was decrease in KI mice like human subjects. Platelet aggregations were impaired in KI mice. JON/A binding was not detected on non-stimulated platelets and agonist-induced P-selectin and JON/A binding were impaired in homo KI mice, particularly in PAR4-AP stimulation. Platelet spreading on fibrinogen (Fgn) was impaired in KI mice with or without ADP and thrombin stimulation. Next, we analyzed megakaryocytes (Mgk) derived from bone marrow after 5 days incubation with murine thrombopoietin. Interestingly, the expression of  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$  in Mgk of KI mice was compatible with WT and the rate of filopodia and/or lamellipodia formation of Fgn-adhered Mgk was decreased in KI mice [WT: 78%, Homo: 32% (P<0.01)]. RhoA activation was assessed by ELISA and it was significantly decreased in Fgn-adhered Mgk of KI mice [WT: 0.33±0.039, Homo: 0.16±0.029 (mean OD 490nm Δblank±SD, P<0.01)]. Finally, we observed impaired proplatelet formation of fetal liver derived-Mgk in KI mice [WT: 26.2±2.7%, Homo: 15.2±1.9% (P<0.01)] with abnormal morphology (Figure 1). These results suggest that impaired  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$  outside-in signaling and cytoskeletal remodeling in KI mice lead to macrothrombocytopenia.

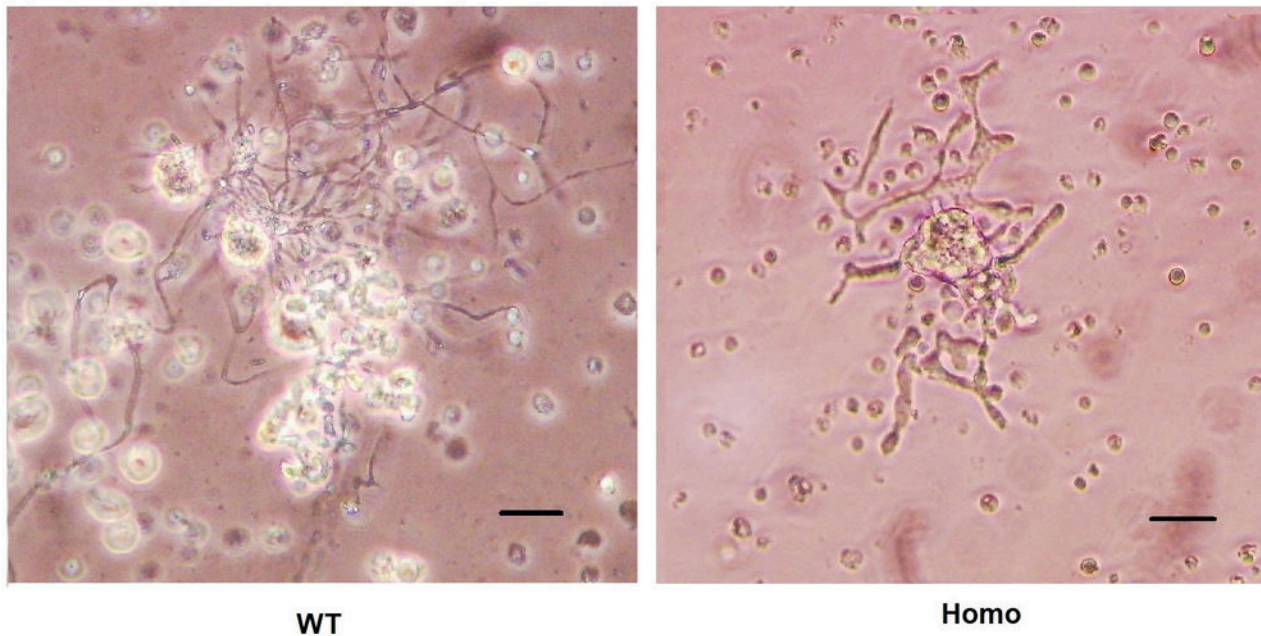
**Conclusions**

We revealed that a non-activating  $\beta 3$ (R734C) is a causal mutation of macrothrombocytopenia in human and mouse. This mutation leads to impaired inside-out and outside-in signaling of  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$ , which results in abnormal platelet production with impaired cytoskeletal reorganization. Our results also suggest that abnormal signaling induced by  $\beta 3$ (R734C) causes reduced expression of GPVI, which has not been reported in other  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta 3$ -related macrothrombocytopenia.

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**Figure 1**



**Figure 1.** Representative microscopic images of murine proplatelet formation of fetal liver derived-megakaryocytes (left: wild type (WT), right: homozygous (Homo) knock-in mice). Scale bars represent 50µm.

**Figure 1**

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