Expansion of EPOR-negative macrophages besides erythroblasts by elevated EPOR signaling in erythrocytosis mouse models

Jieyu Wang,^{1,2,*} Yoshihiro Hayashi,^{1,*} Asumi Yokota,¹ Zefeng Xu,^{1,3} Yue Zhang,^{1,3} Rui Huang,¹ Xiaomei Yan,¹ Hongyun Liu,² Liping Ma,² Mohammad Azam,¹ James P. Bridges,⁴ Jose A. Cancelas,¹ Theodosia A. Kalfa,⁵ Xiuli An,⁶ Zhijian Xiao,^{3,#} and Gang Huang^{1,3,#}

¹Divisions of Pathology and Experimental Hematology and Cancer Biology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, OH, USA; ²Yatsen Memorial Hospital, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China; ³State Key Laboratory of Experimental Hematology, Institute of Hematology and Blood Diseases Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College, Tianjin, China; ⁴Division of Pulmonary Biology, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, OH, USA; ⁵Cancer and Blood Diseases Institute, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, OH, USA and ⁶Laboratory of Membrane Biology, New York Blood Center, New York, NY, USA

*JW and YH contributed equally to this work; #ZJX and GH contributed equally to this study as joint senior authors

©2017 Ferrata Storti Foundation. This is an open-access paper. doi:10.3324/haematol.2017.172775

Received: May 17, 2017. Accepted: October 10, 2017. Pre-published: October 19, 2017. Correspondence: gang.huang@cchmc.org

Quantitative RT-PCR

Total RNA was extracted using RNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA), and mRNA was reverse transcribed using the Invitrogen SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis System (Invitrogen). Quantitative PCR was performed using Applied Biosystems Step One Plus thermal cycler (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA), Taqman universal master mix (Applied Biosystems), and the following gene expression assays (Applied Biosystems): *Epo* (Mm01202755_m1) and *Actb* (Mm00607939_s1). Power SYBR Green PCR master mix (Applied Biosystems) and the following primers were used: for mouse *Il1b*, 5'-AGTTGACGGACCCCAAAAG-3' and 5'-AGCTGGATGCTCTCATCAGG-3'; for mouse *Il6*, 5'-CCAGAAACCGCTATGAAGTTCC-3' and 5'-GTTGTCACCAGCATCAGTCC-3'; for mouse *Il12a*, 5'-TCAGAATCACAACCATCAGCA-3' and 5'-

Multiplex immunoassay

To obtain plasma, PB was obtained from each mouse using heparinized capillary, then samples were centrifuged for 10 minutes at 2,000 g within 1 hour. Plasma concentrations of cytokines/chemokines were measured with Bead-Based Multiplex Assays (EMD Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) Milliplex MAP Mouse Cytokine/Chemokine 32-plex assay (MCYTMAG-70K-PX32, Millipore) was used according to manufacturer's protocol.

ELISA

To obtain serum, PB samples from each mouse were clotted at room temperature for 2 hours. The samples were then centrifuged for 20 minutes at 2,000 g. Serum Epo levels were measured using Quantikine ELISA mouse erythropoietin immunoassay (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN, USA) according to manufacturer's instruction.

Histology and Wright Giemsa staining

Spleen and liver were fixed in formalin and embedded in paraffin. Organs were sectioned and stained with hematoxylin and eosin. Cytospin slides of mouse BM cells were stained using Camco Stain Pak (Cambridge Diagnostic, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA). Morphology images were obtained using Motic BA310 microscope system (Motic).

Colony forming assay

For BFU-E forming assay, 2×10^5 BM cells were cultured in the MethoCult M3334 (StemCells technologies, Cambridge, MA, USA). Colonies were counted on day 10. For CFU-E forming assay, 2×10^5 BM cells were cultured in the MethoCult M3234 (StemCells technologies). Colonies were counted on day 2.

Supplementary Figure S1 Wang et al



Supplementary Figure S1. LysM-Cre expression in hematopoietic cells.

(A) GFP-reporter mice using *LysM*-Cre knock-in allele and *Rosa26/loxP-Stop-loxP* (*LSL*)/*eGFP* allele. (B) In *LysM*-Cre;*Rosa26LSL-eGFP* (*LysM*-Cre;LSL-eGFP) and *LysM*-Cre;*Rosa26-wild-type* (*LysM*-Cre;Control) mice, GFP expressions in the following populations are shown: Lineage marker⁻ Sca-1⁺ c-Kit⁺ cells (LSK), common-myeloid progenitors (CMP), granulocyte-macrophage progenitors (GMP), and megakaryocyte-erythrocyte progenitors (MEP) in BM; and monocytes, neutrophils, and lymphoid cells in PB. (C) GFP-reporter mice using *LysM*-Cre allele, Cre-inducible *Jak2*^{V617F/+} knock-in allele, and LSL-eGFP allele. (D) In *LysM*-Cre;*Rosa26LSL-eGFP* (*LysM*-Cre; *Jak2*V617F;Rosa26LSL-eGFP (*LysM*-Cre; *Jak2*V617F;LSL-eGFP) and *LysM*-Cre;*Rosa26-wild-type* (*LysM*-Cre;Control) mice at 12 week-old age and 16 week-old age. GFP expressions in

wild-type (LysM-Cre;Control) mice at 12 week-old age and 16 week-old age, GFP expressions in the LSK, CMP, GMP, and MEP in BM are shown. (E) Absolute number of BFU-E and CFU-E from indicated mice BM cells. Data are average of triplicate.

Supplementary Figure S2 Wang et al



Supplementary Figure S2. Splenic architecture in the erythrocytosis mouse models HE staining of spleen sections from the indicated mice. Scale bar, 500 μ m; original magnification, ×40.

Supplementary Figure S3 Wang et al





Supplementary Figure S3. Extramedullary erythropoiesis in liver

(A) HE staining of liver sections from the indicated mice. Scale bar, 50 μ m; original magnification, ×200. (B-C) Flow cytometric analysis of liver erythropoiesis. Representative plots from indicated mice (*n* = 7 each) (B), and frequencies of CD45⁻CD71⁺ cells in the viable cells (C) are shown. Data are mean ± s.d. **P* < 0.05 (Student's t-test).

Supplementary Figure S4 Wang et al



Supplementary Figure S4. Distribution of EPOR expression in erythroid lineage Expression pattern of *EPOR* (GFP) in BM erythroid cells from *EPOR*-Cre;*Rosa26LSL-eGFP* (*EPOR*-Cre;LSL-eGFP) and *EPOR*-Cre;*Rosa26-wild-type* (*EPOR*-Cre;Control) mice. GFP expressions in the individual fractions are shown.