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Pflugers Archiv-European Journal of Physiology

ClC-5 mutations associated with Dent's disease: a major role of the dimer interface

ClC-5 mutations associated with Dent's disease: a major role of the dimer interface

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Abstract

re located at the interface between the monomers of Clare ion plays an important role in Dent's disease. On the ions can be divided into three different classes. Class ing, and as a result, the CIC-5 mutants are retained w Dent's disease is an X-linked recessive disorder affecting the proximal tubules. Mutations in the 2Cl^T/H⁺ exchanger ClC-5 gene *CLCN5* are frequently associated with Dent's disease. Functional characterization of mutations of *CLCN5* have helped to elucidate the physiopathology of Dent's disease, and provided evidence that several different mechanisms underlie the ClC-5 dysfunction in Dent's disease. Modeling studies indicate that many *CLCN5* mutations are located at the interface between the monomers of ClC-5, demonstrating that this protein region plays an important role in Dent's disease. On the basis of functional data, *CLCN5* mutations can be divided into three different classes. Class 1 mutations impair processing and folding, and as a result, the ClC-5 mutants are retained within the endoplasmic reticulum and targeted for degradation by quality control mechanisms. Class 2 mutations induce a delay in protein processing and reduce the stability of ClC-5. As a consequence, the cell surface expression and currents of the ClC-5 mutants are lower. Class 3 mutations do not alter the trafficking of ClC-5 to the cell surface and early endosomes, but induce altered electrical activity. Here, we discuss the functional consequences of the three classes of *CLCN5* mutations on ClC-5 structure and function.

Key words

Dent's disease; Chloride/proton exchanger; *CLCN5*; ClC-5; mutation.

Genetics of Dent's disease

nately two-thirds of patients with Dent's disease ex

of the gene for the Lowe syndrome *OCRLI* located on

phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate 5-phosphatase

t 15% of patients with Dent's disease (MIM #300555

1 Dent's Dent's disease is a heterogeneous group of X-linked inherited disorders characterized by low molecular weight proteinuria, hypercalciuria, nephrocalcinosis, nephrolithiasis, and in many cases, renal failure [8,31,32,43,47,58]. Positional cloning analysis in families affected by Dent's disease has identified mutations of *CLCN5* (MIM #300009), which is located on chromosome $Xp11.22$ and encodes the electrogenic $2CI/H⁺$ exchanger $CIC-5$ [41,46]. Although approximately two-thirds of patients with Dent's disease exhibit mutations of *CLCN5* , mutations of the gene for the Lowe syndrome *OCRL1* located on chromosome Xq25, which encodes the phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate 5-phosphatase OCRL1, have also been found in about 15% of patients with Dent's disease (MIM #300555) [24]. Of note, the other patients with Dent's disease do not harbour mutations in either of these genes, suggesting an involvement of other genes [59].

Pathophysiology of Dent's disease

 ClC-5 belongs to the ClC family of membrane proteins originally thought to function as Cl channels and consequently this was presumed to be its function upon its first identification [49]. In the kidney, ClC-5 is predominantly present in the early endosomes of proximal tubule cells and, to a lesser extent, in the thick ascending limb of Henle's loop and in the intercalated cells of the collecting duct [9,11,21,45,50,55]. ClC-5 knock-out mouse models have provided important clues about the mechanisms underlying Dent's disease. These mice reproduce the most common features of Dent's disease, such as low molecular weight proteinuria [22,42,53]. Because of its co-distribution with v-type H⁺-ATPase in early endosomes, it has long been suggested that ClC-5 may provide Cl shunt conductance that

permits efficient intraluminal acidification of these organelles by v-type H⁺-ATPase. ClC-5 loss-of-function would therefore impair endosomal acidification [21-23,42]. This could explain the defective endocytosis observed in Dent's disease, because progression along the endocytic pathway depends on an acidic endosomal lumen. However, the direct measurement of pH in endocytic vesicles in ClC-5 knock-out mice showed that acidification was reduced, but not abolished [22,23]. In addition, ClC-5 disruption also led to a trafficking defect of megalin and cubilin, two multiligands receptors for endocytosis that are heavily expressed at the brush border of proximal tubule cells [6,42].

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 For Proximal EXEC 15, together with other intracellular CIC pr
 For Proximal EXEC 16 The Proximino *et al.* have more recently g
 Execution: **Exampl** The discovery that ClC-5, together with other intracellular ClC proteins, functions as an obligatory 2Cl'/H⁺ exchanger presented the problem that shunting the electrical current of v-type H⁺-ATPase via Cl flux would entail wasteful H⁺ recycling. To unravel the role of ClC-5 in proximal tubule endocytosis, Novarino *et al.* have more recently generated mice that carry a mutation of a critical glutamate residue (i.e, the "gating glutamate", see below) that converts CIC-5 into a pure Cl conductor [40]. Surprisingly, despite normal endosomal acidification, the mice exhibited impaired proximal tubule endocytosis like ClC-5 knock-out mice. As observed in patients with Dent's disease and ClC-5 knock-out mice, these mice also showed low molecular weight proteinuria, hypercalciuria and hyperphosphaturia. This work indicates that modulation of the endosomal Cl concentration in the endosomes of the proximal tubule cells during H⁺ transport by ClC-5 may play a crucial role in proximal tubule endocytosis. In addition to its prominent endosomal expression, small amounts of ClC-5 are also found on the apical surface of proximal tubule cells, where it may play additional roles. This might arise from a role in the protein-protein interactions required for receptor-mediated endocytosis and in microtubular transport as a result of associations with other proteins such as cofilin, a protein involved in the depolymerization of actin in the vicinity of endosomes,

with the PDZ-domain protein NHERF2, with the ubiquitin-protein ligase Nedd-4, and with KIF3B, a member of the kinesin superfamily [25,26,28,44].

Structure-function relationship of CIC 2Cl[']/H⁺ exchangers

 ClC-5 is a 746 amino-acid protein that belongs to the highly conserved ClC family of Cl channels and electrogenic 2Cl7H⁺ exchangers that are expressed in prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms [30]. In mammals, ClC-1, ClC-2, and the ClC-K/barttin complex all function as plasma membrane Cl channels, whereas ClC-3 to -7 function as electrogenic 2Cl /H⁺ exchangers that reside mainly in the membranes of the endosomal/ lysosomal compartments and in synaptic vesicles.

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n synaptic vesicles.
al structures of three CIC 2CI/H⁺ exchangers (*E*. X-ray crystal structures of three CIC 2CI/H⁺ exchangers (*E. coli* EcClC-1, *S. typhimurium StClC*, and *C. merolae* CmClC) have provided significant insights into the structure of ClC proteins, by demonstrating that they function as homodimers with separate ion pathways within each subunit and suggesting molecular mechanisms for the ion permeation process $[12-14, 16]$. In CIC 2Cl[']/H⁺ exchangers, a glutamate residue acts simultaneously as the outside Cl gate and the extracellular H^+ acceptor [13,14,16]. Interestingly, neutralizing this "gating glutamate" of EcClC-1 (E148) and CmClC (E210) by mutation to alanine abolished H^+ flux, and purely anionic conductance was observed [2,16]. Abolition of the rectification of the currents and similar loss of $H⁺$ flux were obtained when equivalent mutations of the "gating glutamate" were introduced in human $ClC-3$ ($E224A$), $CIC-4$ (E224A), $CIC-5$ (E211A), and $CIC-6$ (E200A) [35,39,41,46]. Another glutamate facing the intracellular medium has been identified as being an additional H^+ -binding site in EcClC-1 $(E203)$, in ClC-4 $(E281)$, in ClC-5 $(E268)$, and in ClC-6 $(E267)$ [3,39,62]. Neutralization of

this "proton glutamate", which is strictly conserved among CIC 2Cl⁻/H⁺ exchangers, abolished H^+ flux in EcClC-1 [3], and Cl⁻ and H^+ flux in ClC-4, ClC-5 and ClC-6 [39,62].

All **eukaryotic** ClCs have a large cytoplasmic carboxy-terminus containing a pair of cystathionine beta-synthase (CBS) domains. Recent data have provided evidence that CBS domains bind nucleotides like ATP and are involved in regulating the activity of several ClC, including ClC-5 [36,56,64].

Spectrum of mutations of the *CLCN5* **gene in Dent's disease**

Follow Solution Solutions of the CLCN5 gene in Dent's disease
 Follow Solutions have been reported in patients we out 36% nonsense mutations, 30% missense mutations
 For Peer Solutions and 6% insertional mutations [To date, 148 *CLCN5* mutations have been reported in patients with Dent's disease. They consist of about 36% nonsense mutations, 30% missense mutations, 18% deletional mutations, 7% splice site mutations and 6% insertional mutations [10]. An early modeling study of ClC-5 by Wu *et al.* postulated that a majority of ClC-5 missense mutations involve residues positioned at the interface of the homodimers [60]. Wu *et al.* speculated that mutated residues clustering at the dimer interface of ClC-5 would cause a loss of electrical activity by disrupting the assembly of the homodimers. This would lead to the formation of misfolded proteins in the endoplasmic reticulum, and their rapid degradation within the cell. However, at that time, the subcellular localization of the ClC-5 mutants had not been investigated, and so the model did not take into account the possibility that some of the mutants showed reduced currents as a result of a gating defect.

 Despite the large number of *CLCN5* mutations identified, their functional impact at the cellular and molecular levels in Dent's disease remains unclear. The aim of this review is to describe the findings of a series of recent functional investigations using heterologous expression systems carried out by us and by others that have made it possible to divide the *CLCN5* mutations into different classes, and have helped to elucidate the pathophysiology of

andergo retention in the endoplasmic reticulum, which

Fithin the cell. Class III and class IV mutations lead to a

the plasma membrane, but alter channel regulation

V mutations result in a decreased amount of function

a Dent's disease. We have based the classification of *CLCN5* mutations on the well-established classification of mutations of the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator gene (*CFTR*) that encodes the CFTR Cl- channel. *CFTR* mutations can be divided into five classes that reflect their molecular dysfunction [57,63]. *CFTR* class I mutations comprise nonsense, frameshift and aberrant mRNA splicing mutations that lead to impairment of protein synthesis. Class II mutations cause a defect of processing in the endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi apparatus. As a consequence, the CFTR mutants are misfolded, achieve partial Nglycosylation, and undergo retention in the endoplasmic reticulum, which is followed by their rapid degradation within the cell. Class III and class IV mutations lead to a normal amount of CFTR protein at the plasma membrane, but alter channel regulation and conduction, respectively. Class V mutations result in a decreased amount of functional protein, in most cases resulting from aberrant mRNA splicing.

 To date, mutations in the *CLCN5* gene can be classified into three different classes that are discussed below. However, additional classes of *CLCN5* mutations might exist, as only 20% of the identified mutations have been functionally investigated. In addition, some mutations have been only partially explored (Table 1). Therefore, many mutations remain to be functionally analyzed.

Class 1 mutations inducing defective protein processing

 After their translation, ClC-5 proteins move through the endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi apparatus, where proper folding of the proteins occurs with the help of chaperones and other modifications take place, such as glycosylation. These post-translational modifications allow the 2Cl'/H⁺ exchanger to traffic to the early endosomes and to the plasma membrane.

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 A remarkable number of naturally-occurring *CLCN5* mutations (about 60%) that have been functionally investigated in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes, in HEK-MSR cells, and in HEK293 cells can be assigned to a first class of *CLCN5* mutations that induce defective protein processing (Table 1) [18,19,34,38,48,51]. Although more recent studies have demonstrated that some mutations do not cluster at the dimer interface [18,19], the conclusions from the modeling study by Wu *et al.* [60] remain partially unchallenged, because it appears that many mutations are indeed localized at the interface between the monomers of ClC-5 (Fig. 1 and 2, Table 1) [18,19,34,48]. Immunocytochemical and biochemical analyses have revealed that this class of mutations results in the retention of ClC-5 within the endoplasmic reticulum, where it is subjected to early degradation by quality control systems. As a consequence, the mutant proteins are improperly N-glycosylated, and are non-functional due to defective trafficking to the cell surface and to the early endosomes.

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Il surface a The position of these *CLCN5* mutations in the protein sequence may explain their deleterious impact on ClC-5. As outlined by their position in ClC-5 and in view of the modeling study by Wu *et al.* [60], it looks as though the first subgroup of mutations may impair monomer dimerization. Because CIC-5 normally functions as a homodimer, the misfolded proteins could be then subjected to early degradation by the cells. Concerning the second subgroup of mutations (away from the dimer interface), they may significantly affect the stability of the α-helices, thus enhancing the degradation of the abnormal ClC-5 proteins. These studies have provided evidence that the proper folding of several protein regions, such as the interface, is crucial for the normal function of ClC-5 at the plasma membrane and in the early endosomes.

Defects in protein folding and processing have been shown to be a common cellular mechanism involved in the pathogenesis of several inherited disorders [20]. One well-known example is that of the most common p.F508del *CFTR* class II mutation in cystic fibrosis,

which results in the misprocessing of CFTR, producing a lack of functional protein at the cell surface [4]. Thus, the mechanisms that lead to ClC-5 dysfunction in this category of *CLCN5* mutations are similar to those responsible for the *CFTR* class II mutations in cystic fibrosis.

Class 2 mutations inducing delayed protein processing and lower stability of the mature protein

of the *CLCN5* mutations that have been function
sision systems generate CIC-5 proteins displaying dela
stability of the mature glycosylated form (Fig. 3
ell surface expression and the currents mediated by C
ced. However, About 20% of the *CLCN5* mutations that have been functionally analyzed in heterologous expression systems generate ClC-5 proteins displaying delayed processing and reduced biological stability of the mature glycosylated form (Fig. 3, Table 1). As a consequence, the cell surface expression and the currents mediated by ClC-5 at the plasma membrane are reduced. However, the distribution of the mutants in the early endosomes is normal [18,48].These functional defects of ClC-5 resemble those observed with *CFTR* class V mutations that lead to lower protein levels at the plasma membrane due to a reduced synthesis of the CFTR Cl channel [63].

 Four mutations of this type (c.779G>T, p.G260V; c.1581A>T, p.E527D; c.1637A>G, p.K546E and c.1639T>G, p.W547G) are located at the transporter dimer interface, and one mutation (c.834G $>$ C, p.L278F) at the periphery of the interface (Fig. 1 and 2, Table 1). As shown by their complex N-glycosylation, plasma membrane and early endosome expression in HEK-293 transfected cells, a significant fraction of these mutants is not retained in the endoplasmic reticulum [18]. Despite lower abundance at the cell surface, the residual electrical activity and early endosomal distribution resulting from the mutation located at the edge of the dimer interface (p.L278F) are in accordance with the conclusions from the modeling study by Wu *et al.* [60]. These authors hypothesized that mutations of amino acids located at the periphery of the subunit interface may induce a relatively minor disruption of

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the protein structure. This could explain why the p.L278F mutation is associated with residual function in HEK-293 transfected cells. The residual plasma membrane expression induced by the other mutations (p.G260V, p.E527D, p.K546E and p.W547G) makes the functional consequences of amino acid substitutions at the dimer interface of ClC-5 very difficult to predict in the absence of functional studies.

Smith *et al.* have investigated the effect of another mutant (c.1581A>T, p.E527D) on endosomal pH in HEK-MSR cells by means of a vesicular acidification assay [48]. The p.E527D mutation results in current abolition and reduced plasma membrane expression, but normal expression in early endosomes (Table 1). Expression of this mutant in HEK-MSR cells impairs endosomal acidification. To explain the abnormal intraluminal pH, the authors hypothesize that this occurred by loss of currents of the mutant ClC-5.

results in current abolition and reduced plasma membr
in early endosomes (Table 1). Expression of this mu
omal acidification. To explain the abnormal intralumi
s occurred by loss of currents of the mutant CIC-5.
ion mediat Ion conduction mediated by ClC-5 at the plasma membrane is not thought to be physiologically relevant. However, as we have already mentioned, several studies have provided evidence that the ClC-5 population at the cell surface of proximal tubule cells is a rate-limiting step in receptor-mediated endocytosis of low molecular weight proteins by establishing protein-protein interactions with proteins that are essential for renal endocytosis [27]. According to this view, in contrast to class 3 mutants that are normally targeted to the cell surface, the lower abundance of these mutants at the plasma membrane could severely reduce the rate of receptor-mediated endocytosis by disrupting the protein-protein interactions required for the formation of the endocytic macromolecular complex. This type of reasoning could explain the low molecular weight proteinuria observed in patients, but this point remains to be investigated.

Class 3 mutations inducing altered conduction without any change in subcellular distribution

In this third class of *CLCN5* mutations, ClC-5 mutants can be produced, transformed into a complex glycosylated form in the endoplasmic reticulum and in the Golgi apparatus, and then finally transported to the plasma membrane and to the early endosomes, much as wild-type ClC-5 proteins (Table 1). However, two-electrode voltage-clamp recordings in *Xenopus laevis* oocytes have demonstrated that the mutant proteins display either reduced or no current.

ytes have demonstrated that the mutant proteins displant CLCN5 mutations account for approximately 20% of analyzed [18,19,32,37,38,53,54,61]. These mutations aclass IV mutations that alter regulation and conduction missens This class of *CLCN5* mutations account for approximately 20% of the mutations that we and others have analyzed [18,19,32,37,38,53,54,61]. These mutations are analogous to the *CFTR* class III and class IV mutations that alter regulation and conduction, respectively [57]. Even though two missense mutations (c.815A>G, p.Y272C and c.1558T>C, p.S520P) are positioned at the transporter interface (Fig. 1 and 2, Table 1), the resulting mutant proteins that were expressed in HEK293 cells and in the pig renal proximal tubule cell line, LLC-PK 1, escaped from endoplasmic reticulum retention and the subsequent degradation [18,53]. This finding breaks the rule that mutation of amino acids located at the subunit interface of ClC-5 necessarily cause protein-folding defects. A set of data for other ClCs also support these latter findings. For instance myotonia congenita is underlain by various missense mutations of the CLCN1 gene that encodes the skeletal muscle Cl channel, ClC-1. It appears that many of the mutations that occur at the dimer interface of ClC-1 alter the function of ClC-1 at the plasma membrane by inducing a dramatic shift in the voltage dependence of channel activation [33]. Similarly, several artificially designed mutations positioned at the subunit interface in the Torpedo electric organ Cl channel ClC-0 induce altered gating behavior by inverting the voltage sensitivity of channel activation [5]. Further experiments are needed to find out

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whether the p.Y272C and p.S520P mutations also cause altered gating behavior, as suggested by similarly located mutations in ClC-0 or ClC-1.

The p.G212A mutation induces reduced electrical activity. The mutated glutamate at position 212 is strictly conserved in ClCs. It lies very close to the ion pathway of ClC-5, because it directly follows the "gating glutamate", a residue that is involved in the coupling of the Cl⁻ flux to the H⁺ flux in ClC 2Cl⁻/H⁺ exchangers. The exact mechanism responsible for the decreased currents of ClC-5 remains to be elucidated, but one can hypothesize that mutation of a residue very close to the ion pathway could severely interfere with the gating process. Mutagenesis analysis from ClC-1 supports this hypothesis. Heterologous expression of the ClC-1 p.G233A mutation, which is located at the equivalent G212 position in ClC-5, caused a dramatic alteration of anion-selectivity sequence and gating of ClC-1 [15].

ue very close to the ion pathway could severely interf
is analysis from CIC-1 supports this hypothesis. Heter
33A mutation, which is located at the equivalent G212
Iteration of anion-selectivity sequence and gating of CI
a As we have already mentioned, the first hypothesis advanced to explain the defect of receptor-mediated endocytosis in patients with Dent's disease was that it resulted in altered endosomal acidification due to a loss of proton neutralization by ClC-5 [30]. However, recent work by Novarino et al. contradicts this hypothesis by suggesting that the endosomal Cl concentration, raised by ClC-5 in exchange for H^+ accumulated by H^+ -ATPase, could be an important parameter in the physiology of the endosomal and lysosomal pathway, rather than vesicle acidification [40]. Thus, the altered currents of these ClC-5 mutants may induce severe impairment of endocytosis due to impaired function of v-type H⁺-ATPases in early endosomes, or a reduction in Cl accumulation in early endosomes. It is interesting to note that Wang *et al.* have demonstrated that the S520P (c.1558T>C, p.S520P) mutant, which still displays residual currents and normal cell surface expression, cannot be internalized from the plasma membrane into the early endosomes in LLC-PK1-transfected cells [54]. This suggests that disorders in endocytosis could be caused either by inefficient endosomal acidification or endosomal Cl accumulation due to lack of targeting of ClC-5 to the early endosomes.

Analysis of the effects of these ClC-5 mutants on pH or Cl concentration in the early endosomes of proximal tubule cells would provide very useful information about the cellular mechanisms that lead to Dent's disease in this class of *CLCN5* mutations, but such investigations remain unaddressed.

which causes truncation of the intracellular C terminus and in accordance with these latter mutants that are all
because the R718X mutant protein is not detected at the
loplasmic reticulum. These findings raise the possibi Several mutations affecting the CBS1 and CBS2 domains also belong to this category of mutations. The p.R648X was shown to severely reduce currents [34], and the p.Y617X and p.R704X mutations displayed impaired electrical activity [32,37,54,61]. Data from the p.R718X mutation which causes truncation of the intracellular C terminus and loss of a part of CBS2 domain are not in accordance with these latter mutants that are able to traffic to the plasma membrane, because the R718X mutant protein is not detected at the cell surface due to retention in the endoplasmic reticulum. These findings raise the possibility that the p.R718X mutation may interfere with the proper folding of the C terminus of ClC-5 that is required to pass the process of protein quality control in the endoplasmic reticulum prior to trafficking to the early endosomes and to the plasma membrane.

 Finally, four missense mutations (c.64T>G, p.W22G; c.731C>T, p.S244L; c.815A>G, p.Y272C; c.1558T>C, p.S520P) are not located in close proximity to the Cl or H⁺ transport pathways of the CIC 2Cl⁻/H⁺ exchangers $[2,13,14,16,41,46,62]$ and do not belong to any region with assigned functional association.

Mutations altering the expression at the plasma membrane and in the early endosomes

mutant accumulates in the late endosomes. Surprising
the property and late endosomes in HEK-MSR tracking
type CIC-5 in late endosomes is at variance with its dis-
en-investigated by immunofluorescence with specifical
timal It is not clear whether two other mutations (c.170G>T, p.G57V and c.839G>C, p.R280P) should also be assigned to another class of mutations. These two mutations have been shown to lead to a reduction both in plasma membrane expression and electrical activity in HEK-MSR transfected cells [48]. However they also induce alterations in the endosomal distribution of the mutant proteins: the R280P mutant accumulates in the early endosomes, whereas the G57V mutant accumulates in the late endosomes. Surprisingly, wild-type ClC-5 was found to localize in both early and late endosomes in HEK-MSR transfected cells. The expression of wild-type ClC-5 in late endosomes is at variance with its distribution in kidney tissue. Indeed, when investigated by immunofluorescence with specific antibodies, late endosomes of proximal tubule cells have clearly been shown to be devoid of ClC-5 [9,21,45,55]. Further investigations are needed to unravel the correct classification of these two *CLCN5* mutations, and to exclude the possibility that late endosomal expression of wildtype ClC-5 is not the consequence of an intracellular trafficking defect in HEK-MSR transfected cells due to overexpression or some other mechanism.

Conclusion

Functional studies of *CLCN5* mutations have made it possible to distinguish between three different classes of mutations (Fig. 3). ClC-5 class 1 mutants are characterized by a failure to induce currents, because of defective processing during N-glycosylation, resulting in their retention at the endoplasmic reticulum. ClC-5 class 2 mutants display delayed protein processing and lower stability of their mature form. ClC-5 class 3 mutants are correctly targeted to the plasma membrane and early endosomes, but display reduced electrical activity.

Further investigation is needed to elucidate the mechanisms (altered gating or conduction) leading to dysfunction of ClC-5.

Furthermore, the localization of the mutations deduced from molecular modeling studies demonstrates that about half of them cluster in the helices that form the dimer interface of ClC-5 (Table 1). This highlights the fact that impaired integrity of this region of ClC-5 is a mechanism that can frequently underlie Dent's disease. This observation clearly contrasts with the conclusions of modeling and functional studies of the mutations of ClC-1 that underlie myotonia congenita, and those of ClC-7 that cause recessive and dominant osteopetrosis. Although some mutations are localized at the dimer interface of ClC-1 and ClC-7, most of them appear to be excluded from this region [7,17,33,52].

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pugh some mutations are localized at the dimer inter
n appear to be excluded from this region [7,17,33,52].
studies have demonstrated that pharmacological the
nels and t Numerous studies have demonstrated that pharmacological therapies can rescue dysfunctional channels and transporters, as is the case, for instance, for the CFTR proteincarrying mutations for cystic fibrosis $[4]$. For example, chemical (e.g., quinazoline), pharmacological (e.g., benzo[c]quinolizinium compounds) and molecular chaperones (e.g., sodium 4-phenylbutyrate) have been shown to stabilize and facilitate the folding of class II CFTR mutants, thereby allowing them to escape from degradation in the endoplasmic reticulum and to be targeted to the plasma membrane. Furthermore, several compounds (e.g., genistein) have also been found to directly activate class III and class IV CFTR mutants that display defective regulation and conduction at the plasma membrane, respectively. A major future challenge will be to search for specific therapeutic molecules that will be able to restore sufficient function of mutant ClC-5 in patients with Dent's disease.

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Figure legends

in spheres. The mutation numbers refer to those of T
mation of the dimer interface and those located at the
yellow respectively. Yellow numbers indicate mutated
cc. A monomeric structure of the model was built us
ta of StC **Fig. 1** Location of the *CLCN5* mutations in a three-dimensional model of ClC-5 based on the structure of StClC [13] viewed from the side of the membrane with the extracellular solution at the top. **a** Class 1 mutations inducing defective protein processing. **b** Class 2 mutations inducing delayed protein processing and lower stability of the mature protein. **c** Class 3 mutations inducing altered conduction without any change in subcellular distribution. Mutated residues are shown in spheres. The mutation numbers refer to those of Table 1. The helices involved in the formation of the dimer interface and those located at the edge are shown in yellow and in pale yellow respectively. Yellow numbers indicate mutated residues positioned at the dimer interface. A monomeric structure of the model was built using as template the crystallographic data of StClC channel (PDB ID code 1KPL) using the ICM programme [1]. The dimeric structure and the figures shown here were produced using VMD software [29]

Fig. 2 Location of the *CLCN5* mutations in the three-dimensional model of ClC-5 viewed from the subunit interface [13]. **a** Class 1 mutations inducing defective protein processing. **b** Class 2 mutations inducing delayed protein processing and lower stability of the mature protein. **c** Class 3 mutations inducing altered conduction without any change in subcellular distribution. Mutated residues are shown in spheres. The mutation numbers refer to those of Table 1. The helices involved in the formation of the dimer interface and those located at the edge are shown in yellow and in pale yellow respectively. Yellow numbers indicate mutated residues positioned at the dimer interface

 Fig. 3 Molecular mechanisms responsible for the impaired function of ClC-5 in Dent's disease. A full description of each of the molecular mechanisms observed in the different *CLCN5* mutation classes is provided in the text

Table 1 Summary of the functional effects of *CLCN5* mutations in patients with Dent's disease

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Table 1 Continued

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^a Nucleotide numbering refers to the cDNA numbering with +1 being the A of the ATG translation initiation codon in the reference sequence. Codon 1 is the initiation codon. The GenBank accession number of human wild-type ClC-5 is NG_007159.2

^b Position refers to the predicted topology of ClC-5 determined by Wu *et al.* [62]

 ϵ The mutation belongs to class 1 mutations inducing defective protein processing

^d The mutation belongs to class 2 mutations inducing delayed protein processing and lower stability of the mature protein

^e The mutation belongs to class 3 mutations inducing altered conduction without any change in subcellular distribution

 f The mutation needs further investigation to allow its classification</sup>

 \textdegree The mutation leads to an absence of endosomal acidification

 h ^h This mutation was functionally tested as L521R

ation to allow its classification

endosomal acidification

ed as L521R

e tridimentional model of CIC-5 due to lack of sequence homology be

smic reticulum; N.T., not tested; WT, wild-type

and the smith of the smith of t ⁱ This mutation is not displayed on the tridimentional model of ClC-5 due to lack of sequence homology between StClC and ClC-5

E.E., early endosomes; *E.R.*, endoplasmic reticulum; *N.T.*, not tested; *WT*, wild-type

161x430mm (300 x 300 DPI)

