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Refers to:

The semaphorin 4A-neuropilin 1 axis alleviates kidney ischemia reperfusion injury by promoting the stability and function of regulatory T cells.

Junnan Xu, Xiubin Li, Qing Yuan, Chenfeng Wang, Liang Xu, Xing Wei, Haitao Liu, Bo Yu, Zhekun An, Yuanyu Zhao, Xiang Li, Xu Zhang, Xin Ma, Ming Cai September 14, 2021 DOI:<u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2021.08.023</u>

Kidney International

We read with great interest the article by Xu et al. recently published in Kidney International¹. This study reported that Sema4A systemic delivery could help recruit Neuropilin-1 (Nrp1)- positive regulatory T cells (Tregs) to the kidney and alleviate Ischemia Reperfusion Injury (IRI). These encouraging results need to be reconciled with previous studies by Xia and colleagues² who investigated the respective contribution to IRI of Semaphorins and their receptors Plexins³. These authors did not find changes in either kidney function or kidney damage in PlexinB2-deficient mice 48 hours post IRI. Furthermore they could not detect renal defects in Sema4A-, Sema4B-, Sema4C-, Sema4D-, and Sema4G-deficient mice 7 days post injury. Solely the analysis of triple-knockout mice lacking Sema4B/Sema4D/Sema4G uncovered a role for the class-4 Semaphorin family in kidney repair. While this work emphasised the level of redundancy among these proteins, it also undermined the potential role played by Sema4A alone in the development of IRI.

Another point that deserves special attention is the potential role of circulating Sema4A. Class-4 semaphorins including Sema4A⁴ can be released from the cell membrane by proteolytic cleavage and be secreted, then using Neuropilins as their receptors and Plexins as co-receptors³. Whether secreted Sema4A could help recruit Nrp1-positive Tregs to the damaged kidney is a possibility, although questionable. Indeed, no increase in Sema4A serum concentration in mice following IRI (supplemental Fig10) and in patients who underwent partial nephrectomy (Supplemental Fig13) were reported by Xu *et al.*¹.

Overall, Xu and colleagues described a rather efficient, albeit artificial, way to overcome IRI and provided convincing data for the implication of the Sema4A-Nrp1 axis. However, their findings are to be pondered in the physiological context of AKI where Sema4a is likely to have no effect in IRI development.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	 Xu J, Li X, Yuan Q, et al. The semaphorin 4A-neuropilin 1 axis alleviates kidney ischemia reperfusion injury by promoting the stability and function of regulatory T cells. <i>Kidney International</i>. 2021/09/14/ 2021;doi:<u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2021.08.023</u> Xia J, Swiercz JM, Banon-Rodriguez I, et al. Semaphorin-Plexin Signaling Controls Mitotic Spindle Orientation during Epithelial Morphogenesis and Repair. <i>Dev Cell</i>. May 4 2015;33(3):299-313. doi:10.1016/j.devcel.2015.02.001 Adams RH, Eichmann A. Axon guidance molecules in vascular patterning. <i>Cold Spring Harbor</i> <i>perspectives in biology</i>. May 2010;2(5):a001875. doi:10.1101/cshperspect.a001875 Carvalheiro T, Affandi AJ, Malvar-Fernández B, et al. Induction of Inflammation and Fibrosis by Semaphorin 4A in Systemic Sclerosis. <i>Arthritis & rheumatology (Hoboken, NJ)</i>. Oct 2019;71(10):1711-1722. doi:10.1002/art.40915
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