

The Implementation of Single-Cell Transcriptomics in distinguished Renal Obtaining Tube Cells in Older Animals to Identify Biological Crossover via Notch signals and Sensor Activity.

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ABSTRACT

A deeper knowledge of disease has been made possible by transcriptomics, and the sequencing of individual genes is emerging as a primary method for finding new germ lines. Key marker gene expression that distinguishes principle cells (PC) and intercalated cells (IC) was used to characterise a recently identified cell type known as transitional cells. It was suggested by gene expression patterns that the switch from IC to PC triggered a Notch signalling pathway. Notch signalling and receptor expression are sufficient to trigger cell transition in differentiated adult kidney collecting tubules, according to an experimental model that studied the transition in an inducible transgenic mouse. The discovery of new cell lines enables more precise disease staging and a more accurate diagnosis of kidney disease.

Keywords : *Transcriptomics; Kidney disease; Principle cell; Intercalated cell; Notch signaling; Gene sequencing.*

BACKGROUND

The process of screening molecules to detect deoxyribonucleic

acid (DNA), ribonucleic acid (RNA), and protein is known as molecular profiling. Gene sequencing has emerged as a major scientific advancement in many fields of biology and other sciences, including medicine, within the past 45 years. The development of quick sequencing techniques for DNA, RNA, and proteins has significantly sped up biological and medical research.^{1, 2} By providing a “up close” look at the genomic signature or fingerprint of diseases, its use to medicine continues to aid in further elucidating the molecular nature of disease processes and provides a better knowledge of hereditary diseases.

Advancements in technology, such as transcriptomics, have made it possible to define and comprehend disease more precisely. The emphasis now is on particular pathways and the effects of disease processes on the genome. Prognosis prediction and treatment planning can now be more customised thanks to transcriptomics.^{5, 6, 7} The potential of molecular profiling is enormous. In many instances, it has allowed targeted therapy to establish itself as the cornerstone of conventional care, leading to statistical differences in patient morbidity and death.

Although transcriptomics can forecast lineage “trajectories,” the findings may not accurately reflect genetic relationships. Consequently, methods like “lineage tracing” are employed to provide additional details about single-cell genetic lineage. A single cell marker is used in lineage tracing to identify all offspring generated by a single cell. The details offered enable more comprehensive tissue interpretation and are crucial for comprehending tissue heterogeneity within a particular cell population. The most popular method for identifying new germ lines and somatic mutations in specific regions of the genome, as well as for screening known germ lines, is sequencing individual genes, gene regions, or groups of genes.^{6, 7} This article, which focuses on kidney illness, explains how a lack of

thorough molecular identification of the cell types responsible for the organ's various homeostatic tasks has restricted our understanding of the pathophysiology of kidney disease.^{9, 10} The goal of this review is to locate, describe, and evaluate the literature that supports molecular markers and treatments that are clinically useful. The data from clinical trials concentrating on treatments for various disease processes will be analysed to assess the effectiveness of targeting particular markers. In this article, we summarise the use of single-cell transcriptomics on mouse kidneys and briefly discuss the benefits of this technique. potential to clarify and offer a deeper comprehension of disease patterns and cellular function. Finding a New Cell Type Using Lineage Tracing and Fluorescent Staining The principal cells (PC) and intercalated cells (IC) are two different types of tubule epithelial cells found in the kidney's collecting duct. These cells are crucial for maintaining acid-base homeostasis and fluid and electrolyte balance, respectively. Alpha and beta-ICs are further classified into 11 ICs. Whereas beta-ICs have a basolateral proton ATPase and an apical chloride-anion exchanger pendrin, alpha-ICs have an apical H⁺ ATPase and a basolateral chloride-bicarbonate exchanger.

According to studies, some epithelial cells—like beta-ICs—may not be static. Instead, it's known that some elements that change cellular biology cause cells to reorganise themselves in order to adapt. Changes in acid-base balance, namely metabolic acidosis, have been shown by Schwartz et al. to be capable of converting beta-ICs to alpha-ICs. In order to ascertain whether a common intermediate epithelium element exists, the other researchers have assessed cellular plasticity.¹²

Park et al. characterised transitional cells, a recently identified cell type.⁹ In addition to cell type-specific markers like *Parm1* and *Section 23b*, they found that these cells displayed critical marker genes that characterise PC (*AQP2*, Aquaporin 2) and IC cells (*ATP6V1G3*, H⁺-ATPase) (Figure 1). By employing gene-specific probes in mice and double immunofluorescence labelling, they were able to demonstrate their existence in situ. Low stress response and cell cycle gene expression were tracked to make sure the recently found that no cells were “mislabeled” as artefacts, damaged cells, or growing progenitor cells. The potential of intercalated cells and main cells to interconvert via the recently discovered transitional cell type was verified by additional in vivo lineage tracing studies. This finding led to more research on the transitional cell type, particularly on their

plasticity and the factors that affect cellular transition. Genes with varying expression levels during cellular transitions were found by the researchers in an effort to learn more about the plasticity of collecting duct cells. The Notch signalling pathway may have been triggered during the change from intercalated to main cells, according to gene expression patterns (Figure 2). They used an inducible transgenic mouse to create an experimental model to investigate the IC to PC transition. Their findings showed that in differentiated adult kidney collecting tubules, Notch signalling and receptor expression are sufficient to cause cell transformation. Additionally, by comparing the proportions of PC and IC cells following the induction of chronic renal illness in a mouse model, they investigated if there is elevated Notch expression in kidney disease states. An enhanced shift from IC to PC cells was found in the sick tissue samples, according to computational and gene expression analyses. Furthermore, as a result of the shift towards the PC cell destiny, it was discovered that the enhanced IC to PC transition was a plausible source of metabolic acidosis in sick kidney conditions.

DISCUSSION

The study by Park et al. adds to earlier research that identified the transcriptomes for the main types of collecting duct cells in mice using single-cell RNA sequencing.⁹ Chen et al. showed significant heterogeneity within each of the three cell types in the kidney collecting tubule, as opposed to discovering a new cell type. They conjectured that messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) coding in distinct cell types may have variable degrees of expressivity since transcription of cell type-specific markers is not a static occurrence.^{13, 14} On the other hand, scientists also discovered cells expressing transcripts that are known to be unique to different cell types. During their investigation, they categorised these cells as hybrid IC/PCs.¹⁵ Consequently, it's plausible that their identification of “hybrid cells” is the information acquired makes it possible to identify the genes that express themselves selectively in various cell types. Research utilising single-cell RNA sequencing yields data that can be applied to many different areas, such as identifying possible therapeutic targets, comprehending kidney physiology, determining the aetiology of kidney diseases, and linking genetic renal diseases to specific cell types. In response to acute kidney injury (AKI), the flexibility of renal epithelial cells has been investigated in relation to renal healing mechanisms.^{14, 16} As was previously indicated, Park et al. found that due to fluctuating

gene expression, sick tissue samples had a greater ratio of PC to IC cells.⁹ The cellular plasticity in the collecting duct during recovery from lithium-induced injury was investigated in a work by Trepiccione et al. (12). Six days following lithium washout, they also discovered a new cell type that was positive for both IC and PC cell markers on average. They propose that these cells may serve as a transitional element in the transformation of ICs into PCs and may be responsible for the reversal of cellular change observed during the recovery phase of Li⁺-induced nephrogenic diabetes insipidus.¹² Future studies may focus on determining the physiological function and developmental importance of these novel cells.

CONCLUSION

Medicine is undergoing a transformation thanks to precision therapy and molecular profiling. Potential cellular targets of kidney illness were identified by single-cell transcriptomics of the mouse kidney. The use of sequencing technologies resulted in the discovery of novel cell kinds as well as markers specific to certain cell types. This focused strategy could yield a lot of advantages. The discovery of new cell lines contributes to improved kidney disease diagnosis, accurate disease staging, and a better understanding of kidney physiology.^{17, 18} Protein complexes have been found to provide answers to long-standing biophysical concerns through the application of technologies like immunohistochemistry analysis.^{19–22} Park et al. found that intercalated cells and principal cells go through changes mediated by the Notch signalling system, which were moved towards a principal cell fate and linked to metabolic acidosis. They did this by using computational cell trajectory analysis and in vivo lineage tracing. A deeper comprehension of both normal kidney function and the onset of disease has been made possible by the ongoing application of resources and research into understanding the biochemical environment and cellular mechanisms. For a specific subgroup of patients who stand to benefit most, molecular profiling and precision therapy may improve the efficacy of treatment.

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