

Evaluation of the therapeutic potential of a CDK9-inhibiting compound in human hypertrophic cardiomyopathy using HESC-derived cardiomyocytes

Kirsty Lewis, Lewis Reynolds, Elena Kuzmanova and Nikolai Zhelev

Abertay University, UK, E-mail: k.lewis@abertay.ac.uk

Abstract

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) could be a prevalent kind of upset (CVD) characterized by enlargement of the myocardium of the guts as a results of increased cardiomyocyte cell volume. This elevation in cellular volume caused by hypertrophic stimuli, ends up in thickening of the ventricular walls, which may proceed to impairment of cardiac contractility and functionality, and ultimately cause sudden asystole. Presently, the disease is reported to cause 36% of CVD-related deaths in competitive athletes and a curative pharmacological treatment is yet to be established. Recent research has identified involvement of the cyclin-dependent kinase 9 (CDK9)-related pathway as a fundamental think about the induction of HCM. Through the hormonal induction of HCM within novel 'mini-heart' organ models consisting of human embryonic stem-cell (HESC)-derived cardiomyocytes, the effectiveness of the novel anti-cancer drug, CYC202, at preventing the onset of human HCM was evaluated. Our data has demonstrated that CYC202, a CDK9-inhibiting compound, targets the results of Ang II and ET-1 stimulated hypertrophic growth in HESC-cardiomyocytes. The compound was successful in preventing of the onset of hypertrophic growth through inactivation of CDK9. The 'mini-heart' cell-based assay holds great promise in bringing new and effective cardiovascular treatments to the market through providing an improved testing platform for pre-clinical drug screening, which is scalable, reproducible and from an inexhaustible source. Further research into the pharmacokinetics of CYC202 is required before potentially about to phase-I clinical trials and also the development of a medical therapeutic for HCM in patients at high risk of developing the disease.

With the high morbidity and mortality rates, cardiovascular diseases became one in every of the foremost concerning diseases worldwide. the guts of adult mammals can hardly regenerate naturally after injury because adult cardiomyocytes have already exited the cell cycle, which subsequently triggers cardiac remodeling and heart

condition. Although a series of pharmacological treatments and surgical methods are utilized to enhance heart functions, they can't replenish the huge loss of beating cardiomyocytes after injury. Here, we summarize the most recent research progress in cardiac regeneration and heart repair through altering cardiomyocyte fate plasticity, which is emerging as an efficient strategy to catch up on the loss of functional cardiomyocytes and improve the impaired heart functions. First, residual cardiomyocytes in damaged hearts re-enter the cell cycle to amass the proliferative capacity by the modifications of cell cycle-related genes or regulation of growth-related signals. Additionally, non-cardiomyocytes like cardiac fibroblasts, were shown to be reprogrammed into cardiomyocytes and thus favor the repair of damaged hearts. Moreover, pluripotent stem cells are shown to rework into cardiomyocytes to market heart healing after myocardial infarct (MI). Furthermore, in vitro and in vivo studies demonstrated that environmental oxygen, energy metabolism, extracellular factors, nerves, non-coding RNAs, etc. play the key regulatory functions in cardiac regeneration. These findings provide the theoretical basis of targeting cellular fate plasticity to induce cardiomyocyte proliferation or formation, and also provide the clues for exciting heart repair after injury. Cardiomyocyte plasticity plays a critical role in cardiac adaptive responses like myocardial remodeling and heart repair.

In response to numerous stimuli, the guts will gradually gain appropriate renewal potential to interchange necrotic or apoptotic cardiomyocytes after injury, bringing hope to patients with MI. Recently, increasing evidence has suggested that targeting the plasticity of cell fate is one new potential approach for cardiac regeneration, which may be mainly achieved by reprogramming non-cardiomyocytes into cardiomyocytes, the differentiation of pluripotent stem cells into cardiomyocytes, and also the proliferation of pre-existing cardiomyocytes. Generally, cardiac fibroblasts are activated after MI and recruited to the injured site to create connective tissue to exchange the injured muscle. Therefore, reprogramming these cells into functional cardiomyocytes would be a perfect strategy for heart repair

Extended Abstract

in response to ischemic injury. It had been initially found that the transcription factor encoded by the myogenic regulator MYOD1 induces many sorts of cells to differentiate into skeletal muscles.²⁷ Then, it absolutely was reported that after infected with transcription factors Oct3/4, Sox2, c-Myc, and Klf4 combined with retroviral transduction, fibroblasts are often reprogrammed into iPSCs.²⁸ Interestingly, later studies found that in vitro fibroblasts can also be directly reprogrammed into iCLM after the combination of the transcription factors GMT, which give a possible source of cells for heart repair.¹¹ Previously, just a tiny low portion of those cells were shown to be beating cardiomyocytes, so it's attracted much attention to enhance the reprogramming efficiency. Heart disease (CVD) is an alarming ill health chargeable for an outsized percentage of fatality worldwide. Current treatment is proscribed and research is ongoing to

handle this serious ill health. As mortality rates rise, the demand for novel therapeutics has pressed the pharmaceutical industry to explore alternative approaches for CVD drug development. Human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs) hold great promise in bringing new effective cardiovascular treatments to the market through providing an improved testing platform for pre-clinical drug screening. Both stem cells derived from pre-implantation human embryos or somatic cells by reprogramming are under intense investigation for their potentially valuable attributes of cell renewal and pluripotency. This approach aims to beat the shortage of appropriate human cardiac disease models for toxicology testing by providing a completely unique system that's scalable, reproducible and from an inexhaustible source. Here we review the opportunities for cardiomyocytes derived from human stem cells within the field of cardiovascular drug development.