

Homer2 interacts with Plasma Membrane Ca^{2+}
ATPase and regulates Its Activity
in Mouse Parotid Gland Acinar Cells

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ATPase and regulates Its Activity
in Mouse Parotid Gland Acinar Cells

Directed by Professor Dong Min Shin

The Master's Thesis

Submitted to the Department of Dental Science,

The graduate School of Yonsei University

in partial fulfillment of

the requirements for the degree of

Master of Medical Science

Eun Ho Yang

November, 2007

This certifies that the Master's Thesis
of Eun Ho Yang is approved.

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November, 2007

Acknowledgements

I would like to appreciate Professor Dong Min Shin, Vice Director of Medical Research affairs, Yonsei Health System. He always supported through out my training and graduate school course with warm concerns and academic knowledge. I would like to express my deepest appreciations to Professor Syng-Il Lee, Director of Brain Korea 21 Project, College of Dentistry, for thoughtful advice and guide from start to the end of my doctoral degree. I would like to have a deepest appreciation to Professor Jeong Taeg Seo, a chairman of Oral Biology. Also, I would like to thank so much to research assistant Hae Jo. Without his help, I could not accomplish my experiments effectively. Finally I would like to thank my family, parents, father-in-law and mother-in-law, my loving wife, Jung Min Park, daughter, Jung Eun, and son, In Sung.. Whenever I was in difficulty, they always gave me energy to overcome.

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ABSTRACT

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The Homers are scaffold proteins and consist of an N-terminal Ena/VASP homology 1 (EVH) protein-binding domain and C-terminal leucine zipper/coiled-coil domain. The EVH domain recognizes the proline-rich motifs (PPXXF, PPXF, and LPSSP) and binds many Ca²⁺ signaling proteins including G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) receptors (IP₃Rs), ryanodine receptors (RyRs), and TRP channels. Therefore, Homers critically control Ca²⁺ signaling and thereby regulate

dendritic spine morphogenesis, remodeling of synapses, and synaptic clustering of CNS neurons, and lead to changes in neuronal transcriptional activity. However, their role in Ca^{2+} signaling of non-neuronal cells is not well known, except that Homer2 tunes GPCRs stimulus intensity by regulating RGS proteins and PLC β GAP activities in pancreatic acinar cells. In the present work, the role of Homer2 in Ca^{2+} signaling in parotid gland acinar cells using Homer2^{-/-} mice was investigated with microfluorimeter, immunofluorescence, and co-immunoprecipitation. Homer2 showed polarized luminal localization in these cells, but the deletion of Homer2 did not affect a localization of IP₃Rs or IP₃R channel activity. The protein expression level of plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPase (PMCA) was increased in Homer2^{-/-}, whereas sarco/endo plasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} ATPase was not. Moreover, deletion of Homer2 increased PMCA activity and co-immunoprecipitation showed that Homer2 interacted with PMCAs. These results suggest that Homer2 may play an important role in regulation of PMCA expression and PMCA-mediated Ca^{2+} signaling in mouse parotid gland acinar cells.

Keywords: Homer2; Plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPase; Proline-rich motif; Parotid Gland Acinar Cells

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I. INTRODUCTION

Homers are scaffolding proteins that consists of three members, Homer 1, Homer 2, and Homer 3, and several splice variants (Fagni *et al.*, 2000; Szumlinski *et al.*, 2006). Homers are composed of an EVH protein-binding domain, a coiled-coil multimerization domain, and leucine zipper (Fagni *et al.*, 2002). The EVH domain is a protein-protein binding module that recognizes the proline-rich motifs PPXXF, PPXF, and LPSSP (Brakeman *et al.*, 1997;

Kato *et al.*, 1998; Tu *et al.*, 1998; Yuan *et al.*, 2003), and binds the GPCR mGluR1/5, canonical transient receptor potential (TRPC) channels, inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) receptors (IP₃Rs), ryanodine receptors, and the Shank family of scaffolding proteins (Tu *et al.*, 1998; Xiao *et al.*, 1998; Tu *et al.*, 1999; Feng *et al.*, 2002; Shin *et al.*, 2003; Yuan *et al.*, 2003). These binding receptors are known to consist of a biochemical component in receptor-mediated Ca²⁺ signaling.

Intracellular Ca²⁺ is a common second messenger which has close relationships to fertilization, muscle contraction, neurotransmitter release, exocytosis, learning and memory (Berridge *et al.*, 2003). Especially, there is a close connection between GPCRs and Ca²⁺ signaling in parotid acinar cell and these cells also represent an excellent model system not only for the study of Ca²⁺ signaling in general but also to investigate cross-talk between cAMP and Ca²⁺ signaling (Brini & Carafoli, 2000). Ca²⁺ release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) leads to activation of store-operated Ca²⁺ channels in the plasma membrane, and Ca²⁺ release and influx increase the intracellular Ca²⁺

concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$). Subsequently, the plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPase (PMCA) and sarco/endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} ATPase (SERCA) removes Ca^{2+} from the cytosol to reduce Ca^{2+} toward resting levels until $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ stabilizes at a plateau (Kiselyov *et al.*, 2003). Several previous reports demonstrated that raising cAMP potentiates Ca^{2+} release from intracellular Ca^{2+} through PKA-mediated phosphorylation of IP_3 Rs and enhances the rate of Ca^{2+} clearance by complex modulation of PMCA activity in parotid acinar cells (Bruce *et al.*, 2002a; Bruce *et al.*, 2002b). Specially, IP_3 Rs, which include proline-rich sequence, can be bound to Homer proteins. Accordingly, it is possible that Homer proteins has regulated effects for Ca^{2+} signaling in cells. However, their role in Ca^{2+} signaling of non-neuronal cells is not well known. Therefore, in the present work, the role and functions of Homer 2 in Ca^{2+} signaling using parotid acinar cells from wild-type (WT) and Homer 2 mutant (Homer 2^{-/-}) mice was investigated.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Animals

Wild-type (WT) and Homer 2 mutant (Homer 2^{-/-}) mice have been previously described (Shin *et al.*, 2003). Homer 2^{-/-} mice have a normal life span similar to WT littermates. All animal protocols were performed according to institutional guidelines.

2. Preparation of parotid acinar cells from WT and Homer 2^{-/-}

WT (25-28g) and Homer 2^{-/-} (25-28g) mice were sacrificed by cervical dislocation. The cells were prepared from the parotids of WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice by limited collagenase digestion as previously described (Zeng *et al.*, 1997). After isolation, the acinar cells were resuspended in an extracellular physiologic salt solution (PSS), the composition of which was as follows (in mM): 140 NaCl, 5 KCl, 1 MgCl₂, 1 CaCl₂, 10 HEPES, and 10 glucose, adjusted to pH 7.4 with NaOH. The osmolality of the extracellular solution

(measured with a FISKE 110 osmometer), was 310 mOsm.

3. Measurement of intracellular calcium concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$)

Cells, which were from both types, were incubated for 40 min in PSS containing 5 μ M Fura-2/AM (Teflabs Inc., Austin, TX) with pluronic F-127 to enhance dye loading. Changes in $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ were measured by means of Fura-2 fluorescence, with excitation wavelengths of 340 and 380 nm, and an emission wavelength of 510 nm at room temperature. Background fluorescence was subtracted from the raw signals at each excitation wavelength before calculating the fluorescence ratio as follows: Ratio = F_{340}/F_{380} . The emitted fluorescence was monitored with a CCD camera (Photon Technology International Inc., Lawrenceville, NJ) attached to an inverted microscope. Fluorescence images were obtained at 2 s intervals. All data are presented as means \pm SEM.

4. Immunocytochemistry

The immunostaining procedure was described previously (Shin *et al.*, 2003).

In brief, cells from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice attached to glass coverslips were

fixed and permeabilized with 0.5 ml of cold methanol for 10 min at -20°C.

After removal of methanol, the cells were fixed with 4% formaldehyde for 20

min at room temperature, followed by permeabilization with 0.05 % Triton X-

100. After removal of methanol or Triton X-100, the cells were washed with

PBS and incubated in 0.5 ml of PBS containing 50 mM glycine for 10 min at

room temperature. This buffer was aspirated and the nonspecific sites were

blocked by 1-h incubation at room temperature with 0.25 ml of PBS

containing 5% goat serum, 1% BSA, and 0.1% gelatin (blocking medium).

The medium was aspirated and replaced with 50 µl of blocking medium

containing control serum or a 1:50 dilution of Ab against Homer 2, or a 1:100

dilution of Abs against IP₃R1, 2, or 3. After incubation with the primary Ab

overnight at 4°C and three washes with the incubation buffer (same as

blocking buffer, but with serum), the Abs were detected with goat anti-rabbit

or anti-mouse IgG tagged with fluorescein or rhodamine. Images were collected with a confocal LSM 510 laser scanning microscope (Zeiss, Göttingen, Germany).

5. Western blot

Protein extracts were prepared by parotid acini from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice as follows. Pure acinar cells were washed with ice-cold PBS and then resuspended in lysis buffer containing (in mM): 150 NaCl, 10 Tris (pH 7.8 with HCl), 1 EDTA, 1% NP-40, and 0.1% SDS. Protease and phosphatase inhibitors were added to the lysis buffer containing (in mM): 2 Na₃VO₄, 10 NaF, 10 µg/ml aprotinin, 10 µg/ml leupeptine, and 10 µg/ml PMSF. The samples were then centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 20 min at 4°C, and separated by SDS-PAGE. Proteins were probed with a 1:500 dilution of Ab against SERCA2b; 1:2000 dilution of Abs against IP₃R1, 2, and 3; and 1:200 dilution of Ab against PMCA.

6. Co-immunoprecipitation

The co-immunoprecipitation procedure was modified from Shin *et al.* (2000). Parotid microsomes of WT mice were prepared by homogenizing a minced parotid in a buffer containing (in mM): 20 Mops, 250 sucrose, 1 EDTA, 1 MgCl₂, 10 benzamidine, and 0.2 PMSF, pH-adjusted to 6.7 with KOH. The homogenate was centrifuged at 1,200 rpm for 10 min. The supernatant was collected and centrifuged at 1,800 rpm for 10 min at 4°C. The pellet was resuspended in the same buffer while avoiding suspension of the hard, white-colored granular fraction in the bottom of the tube. When needed, the fraction enriched in secretory granules was collected in homogenization buffer into a separate tube. To avoid protein degradation by digestive enzymes, IP was initiated immediately after completion of microsomal preparation. Parotid microsomes were extracted by a 1-h incubation on ice with a buffer containing (in mM): 50 Tris (pH 6.8 with HCl), 150 NaCl, 3 EDTA, 2 EGTA, and 0.5 % Triton X-100 supplemented with protease inhibitors (0.2 mM PMSF, 10 µg/ml leupeptin, 15 µg/ml aprotinin, 1 mM benzamidine). The

lysate was cleared by centrifugation at 7,000 rpm for 10 min. About 300 μ l of the extract was further incubated with 15 μ l of Sepharose A beads for 1 h at 4°C and centrifuged for 2 min at 7,000 rpm to remove the beads. The cleared supernatant was incubated with 5 μ l anti-PMCA, or 5 μ l anti-Homer 2 Abs for 30 min before addition of 30 μ l Sepharose A beads and an overnight incubation at 4°C under gentle agitation. The beads were washed five times with 0.8 ml lysis buffer and stripped of proteins by boiling in a 50 μ l of SDS sample buffer. To test the effect of the actin cytoskeleton on the binding of the Homer 2 and PMCA, buffer or 20 μ g/ml of the NH₂-terminal fragment of gelsolin was added to equal portions of beads after the second wash. After 20-min incubation at 4°C, the beads were washed three times with lysis buffer and the proteins remaining attached to the beads were released by boiling in a sample buffer. Released proteins were separated by an SDS-PAGE using 7.5% polyacrylamide gels. The separated proteins were transferred to 0.2 μ m polyvinylidene difluoride membranes, and the membranes were blocked by a 1-h incubation at room temperature in 5% nonfat dry milk in a solution

containing 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM Tris (pH 7.5 with HCl), and 0.05% Tween 20 (TTBS). The Homer 2 and PMCA were detected by a 1~2-h incubation of individual membranes with the respective Abs diluted in TTBS.

7. Measurement of extracellular calcium concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_o$)

To measure directly the rate of Ca^{2+} efflux by PMCA, I measured the appearance of Ca^{2+} in the external medium using the procedure modified from Zhang *et al.* (1992). Intact parotid acini were washed once and then suspended in medium containing (in mM): 120 KCl, 20 NaCl, 10 glucose, 0.002 free acid fura-2/AM, and 10 HEPES, pH-adjusted to 7.4 with KOH. After initiation of fluorescence recording, 7.5 μ M EGTA was added to reduce the extracellular Ca^{2+} concentration to ~100 nM. After establishing a baseline leak for ~1 min, the cells were stimulated with 1 mM carbachol. At the end of experiment, the signals were calibrated simply by adding 1 mM $CaCl_2$ and then 1 mM $MnCl_2$ to the medium as previously described (Zhang & Muallem, 1992).

8. Measurement of Ca²⁺ uptake and release from internal stores

IP₃-mediated Ca²⁺ release from internal stores was measured in SLO-permeabilized cells as described before (Xu *et al.*, 1996). Cells washed with a high K⁺, Chelax-treated medium were added to the same medium containing an ATP regeneration system (comprised of 3 mM ATP, 5 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM creatine phosphate, and 5 U/ml creatine kinase), a cocktail of mitochondrial inhibitors, 2 μM Fluo3 and 3 mg/ml SLO (Difco). In this medium, the cells were almost instantaneously permeabilized so that Ca²⁺ uptake into the ER could be measured immediately. Uptake of Ca²⁺ into the ER was allowed to continue until medium [Ca²⁺] was stabilized. Then IP₃ was added in increasing concentrations to measure the extent of Ca²⁺ release and the potency of IP₃ in mobilizing Ca²⁺ from the ER.

9. Data analysis and statistics

All numeric values are represented as the mean ± S.E. The statistical significance of the data was determined using Student's unpaired *t*-test.

Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$ level.

III. RESULTS

1. Deletion of Homer 2 does not affect polarized expression of IP₃Rs and IP₃-mediated Ca²⁺ release.

The mGluRs and its related receptors are well known the targeting and binding receptors with Homer proteins (Tu *et al.*, 1998; Yuan *et al.*, 2003). Therefore, I first examined the localization and expression of Homer 2 and IP₃Rs in parotid acinar cells of wild-type (WT) and Homer 2^{-/-} mice. In WT mice, the immunoreactivity of Homer 2 and IP₃Rs was primary observed in the apical pole of parotid acinar cells, whereas this immunoreactivity did not affect expression and localization of any IP₃R isoform except for Homer 2 in Homer 2^{-/-} mice (Fig. 1). I next examined whether a lack of Homer 2 affects activity of IP₃Rs that regulate the Ca²⁺ content in the stores by the concentration of IP₃ and [Ca²⁺]_i (Xu *et al.*, 1996; Thrower *et al.*, 2001). Parotid acinar cells of WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice are fully permeabilized to SLO within 10-15 sec and reduced [Ca²⁺] of the incubation medium to the 50-

80 nM range within 2 min of incubation at 37 °C. Addition of increasing concentrations of IP₃ and the muscarinic agonist carbachol resulted in the same potency of [Ca²⁺] increase from stores of SLO-permeabilized WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells (Fig. 2A-B). Thus, no compensatory effect in localization and activity of IP₃Rs were observed in Homer 2^{-/-} mice.

2. Level of PMCA is selectively increased in the parotid acini of Homer 2^{-/-} mice

To establish whether expression of Ca²⁺ transporters is normal in Homer 2^{-/-} mice, I examined protein expression by Western blotting using parotid acinar cells from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice. The expression level of PMCA was significantly increased to 2.5 ± 0.1-fold of WT in Homer 2^{-/-} mice ($n = 4$, $p < 0.001$, Fig. 3). However, there was no significant change to SERCA2b between WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice (1.2 ± 0.2 fold of WT, $n = 4$, $p = 0.4$). The results in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 suggest that lack of Homer 2 has no effect on expression and activity of IP₃Rs. Similarly, the levels of IP₃Rs were

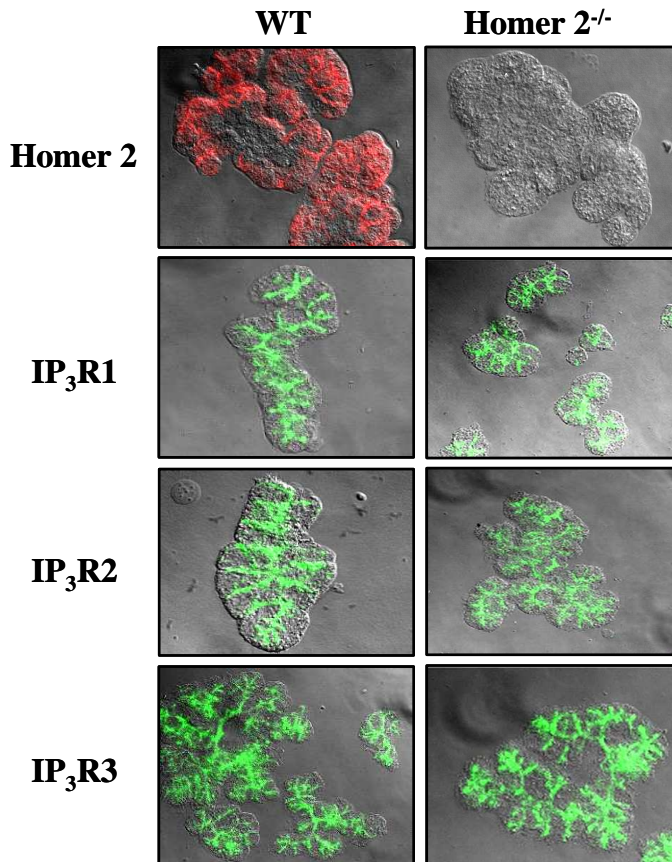


Fig. 1. Localization of Homer2 and IP₃ receptors in parotid gland acinar cells from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells.

Parotid acini from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice were stained for Homer 2, IP₃R1, IP₃R2, and IP₃R3. Note lack of effect of Homer 2 deletion on expression and localization of the IP₃Rs.

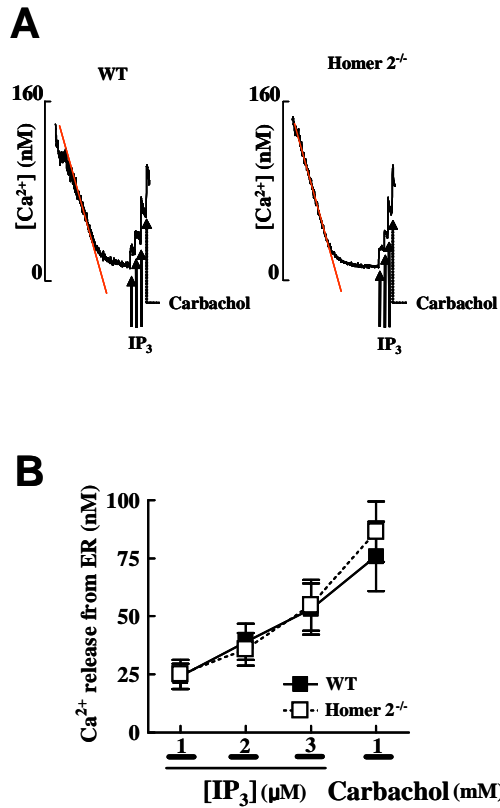


Fig. 2. Ca²⁺ uptake and IP₃-mediated Ca²⁺ release from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells.

A, Cells from WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice were permeabilized with SLO and allowed to reduce [Ca²⁺]_i of the incubation medium to ~75 nM. Next, Ca²⁺ release was measured by adding increasing concentrations of IP₃ (arrows of solid lines) and carbachol (arrows of dashed lines). B, Summarizes the results obtained in the experiment with cells prepared from each of WT (solid lines) and Homer 2^{-/-} (dashed lines) mouse. The results were expressed as the mean ± S.E.

unaffected in Homer 2^{-/-} cells ($n = 4$, data not shown). These findings suggest that Homer 2 has an effect on the Ca²⁺ signaling by changing of component that transports Ca²⁺ into and out of the cytosol.

3. The rates of [Ca²⁺] efflux are increased in Homer 2^{-/-} cells.

The major routes for Ca²⁺ clearance in non-excitable cells, such as parotid acinar cells, are believed to be Ca²⁺ uptake into the ER by the SERCA, Ca²⁺ efflux across the plasma membrane by the PMCA, and Ca²⁺ uptake into mitochondria (Bruce *et al.*, 2002b; Gorr *et al.*, 2005; Homann *et al.*, 2006). The results in Fig. 2B and Fig. 3 suggest that deletion of Homer 2 has no effect on expression and activity of SERCA. Therefore, I measured the change of [Ca²⁺]_o at low external Ca²⁺ concentration during stimulation with 1 mM carbachol. As shown in Fig. 4A, [Ca²⁺]_o was significantly increased by carbachol in both cell types and the change of [Ca²⁺]_o in Homer 2^{-/-} cells was approximately 1.5-fold more abundant than in WT cells ($n = 4$, $p < 0.01$, Fig. 4B). To examine the effect on the Ca²⁺ clearance by PMCA between WT and

Homer 2^{-/-} mice, I performed the experiment following inhibition of SERCA activity by 100 μ M CPA. The increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ reached a maximum and then declined slowly to new steady state, representing a balance of Ca²⁺ efflux and Ca²⁺ influx. Exchange the external solution, addition of 1 mM carbachol and 10 μ M atropine in Ca²⁺ free solution, evoked an immediate clearance of Ca²⁺ that was primarily because of the PMCA (Fig. 5A). Then, I compared with slope of Ca²⁺ clearance during the exchanged the external solution in parotid acinar cells of WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice. Under these conditions, Homer 2^{-/-} cells induced 1.5-fold increase in the slope of Ca²⁺ clearance (1.5 \pm 0.3-fold of slope, $n = 4$, $p < 0.05$, Fig. 5B), indicating that the level of Ca²⁺ clearance due to the increase can be responsible for the potentiation of PMCA activity in the Homer 2^{-/-} mice.

4. Homer 2 is interacted with PMCA in parotid acinar cells.

To identify the specificity of interaction between the PMCA subtypes and PPXXF motif which was interacted EVH domain of Homers, I investigated

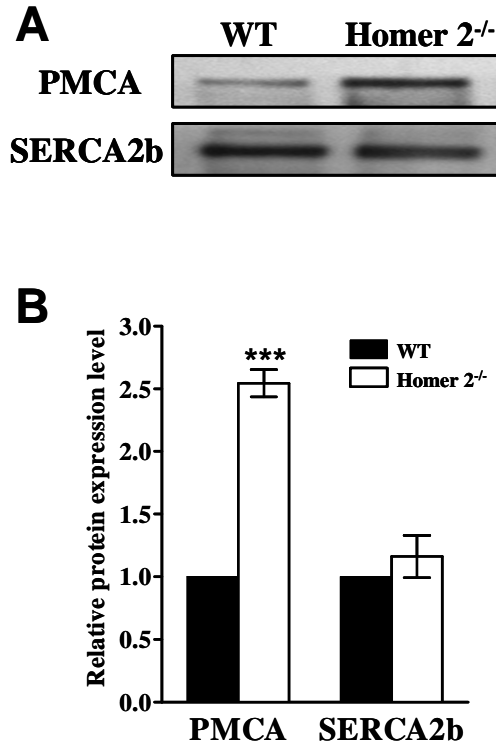


Fig. 3. Expression of Ca²⁺ transporters in WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells.

A, The level of PMCA and SERCA2b were analyzed in extracts prepared from parotid acini of four WT and four Homer 2^{-/-} mice. Expression was analyzed by densitometry. B, Means of protein expression levels between WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells. Expression level was significantly increased for PMCA, except SERCA2b in Homer 2^{-/-} cells. Data were normalized to the expression level in cells of WT mice and expressed as the mean \pm S.E. *** $p < 0.001$ (compared with WT).

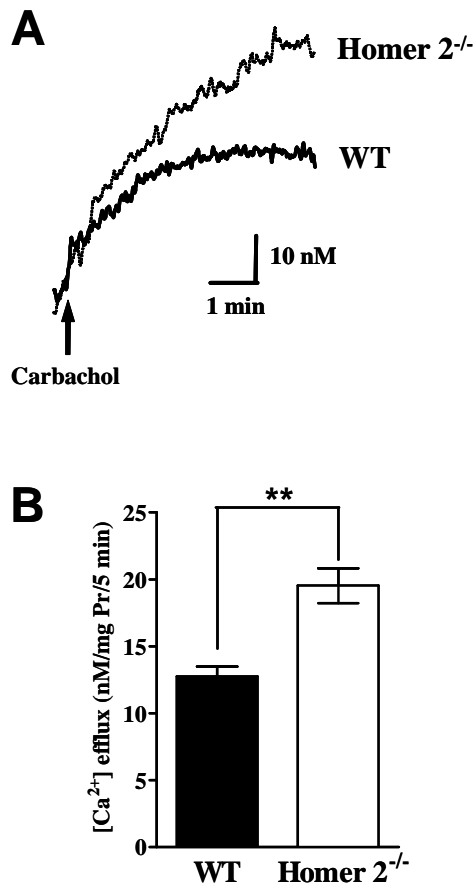


Fig. 4. Plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPase activity in WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells.

A, The parotid acinar cells of WT and Homer 2^{-/-} mice were exposed to 1 mM carbachol while measuring $[Ca^{2+}]_o$. Homer 2^{-/-} cells increased the rate of $[Ca^{2+}]_o$ to a maximal state more activated by PMCA than cells from WT mice. Similar results were obtained using cells prepared from four WT and four Homer 2^{-/-} mice. B, An average rate of $[Ca^{2+}]_o$ was significantly increased in Homer 2^{-/-} cells and data were expressed as the mean \pm S.E.

amino-acid sequences (Fig. 6). The amino-terminal 91~98 residues of PMCA subtypes are identical to the PPXXF motif. This finding suggests that Homer 2 has an interaction with PMCA subtypes. I then examined whether Homer 2 selectively binds to PMCA in parotid acinar cells of WT mice using an *in vivo* co-immunoprecipitation assay. After cell lysates were prepared, immunoprecipitated with anti-PMCA antibodies, and subsequently immunoblotted with anti-Homer 2 antibodies. As shown in left of Fig. 7, the PMCA was able to bind to endogenous Homer 2 (left of Fig. 7, *fourth lane*), whereas no signal was detected from antibodies non- treated cells (*third lanes*). When co-immunoprecipitation assay was performed in reverse with anti-Homer 2 antibodies followed by immunoblotting with anti-PMCA antibodies, the result was the same (right of Fig. 7, *fourth lane*). These results strongly suggest that the Homer 2 is associated (directly or indirectly) with PMCA subtypes.

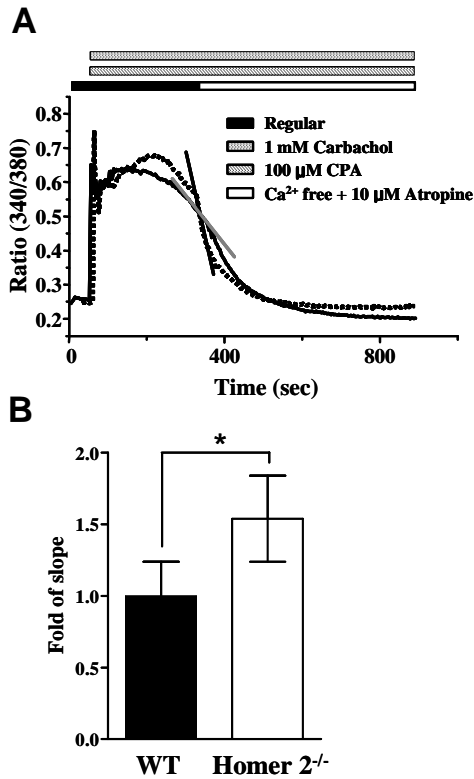


Fig. 5. Characterization of Ca^{2+} signaling in WT and Homer 2^{-/-} cells.

A, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ of parotid acini of four WT and four Homer 2^{-/-} mice were elevated by 1 mM carbachol and inhibition of SERCA with 100 μ M CPA. The increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ maximum and then declined to a new steady state, representing a balance of Ca^{2+} efflux and Ca^{2+} influx. Ca^{2+} clearance was initiated by removal of external Ca^{2+} and addition of 10 μ M atropine. B, An average of Ca^{2+} clearance rate was significantly increased in Homer 2^{-/-} cells. Data were normalized to the fold of slope in cells of WT mice and expressed as the mean \pm S.E. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ (compared with WT).

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PMCA 1  MGDMANNSVAYSGVKNSLKEANHDGDFG I TLAELRALMELRSTDALRK I QESYGDVYVG I C
PMCA 2  MGDMTNS--DFYSK-NQRNESSHGGEFGCSMEELRSLMELRGTEAVVK I KETYGDTES I C
PMCA 3  MGDMANSS I EFHPKPQQREVPHVGGFGCTLAELRSLMELRGAEALQK I QEAYGDVSGLC
PMCA 4  ---MTNP---PGQSVSANTVAESHEGEFGCTLMDLRKLMELRGADAVAQ I SAHYGGVQE I C
PPXXF  -----

PMCA 1  TKLKTSPNEGLSGNPADLERREAVFGKNF I PPKKPKTF LQLVWEALQDVTL I ILE I AA I V
PMCA 2  RRLKTSPVEGLPGTAPDLEKRRQ I FGQNF I PPKKPKTF LQLVWEALQDVTL I ILE I AA I I
PMCA 3  RRLKTSPTEGLADNTNDLEKRRQ I YGQNF I PPKQPKTF LQLVWEALQDVTL I ILEVAA I V
PMCA 4  TRLKTSP I EGLSGNPADLEKRRLVFGKNV I PPKRPKTF LQLVWEALQDVTL I ILE I AA I I
PPXXF  -----
                PPKX--F
                **   *

PMCA 1  SLGLSFYQPPEGDNALCGEVSVGEE-EGEGETGW I EGAA I LLSVVCVVLVTA FN DWSKEK
PMCA 2  SLGLSFYHPPGESNEGCATAQGGAEDEGEAEAGW I EGAA I LLSV I CVVLVTA FN DWSKEK
PMCA 3  SLGLSFYAPPGEESEACGNVSGGAEDEGEAEAGW I EGAA I LLSV I CVVLVTA FN DWSKEK
PMCA 4  SLVLSFYRPPGGDNE I CGH I ASSPEEEEEGETGW I EGAA I LASV I I VVLVTA FN DWSKEK
PPXXF  -----

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Fig. 6. Alignment of PMCAs with proline-rich motif, PPXXF, interacting with EVH domain of Homers.

Amino-acid sequence of mouse PMCA subtypes were aligned and compared with proline-rich motif, PPXXF, which was interacted with EVH domain of Homers. Colored sequences (red) indicate areas of amino-acid similarity between PMCA subtypes and PPXXF motif.

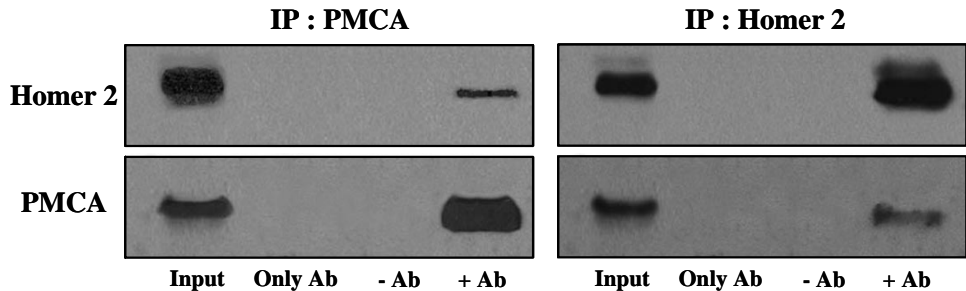


Fig. 7. Co-immunoprecipitation between Homer2 and PMCA.

The interaction between PMCA and Homer 2 were co-immunoprecipitated (IP) using cell lysates, which were prepared from parotid acini of four WT mice. *Left panel* showed IP of PMCA and probing for Homer 2, and *right panel* showed IP of Homer 2 and probing for PMCA. In IP experiments, Input donated extract samples used for Western blot, Only Ab donated control IP using Ab without extract in the IP reaction, -Ab donated control IP using extract without Ab in the IP reaction, and +Ab donated IP using extract and Ab in the IP reaction.

IV. DISCUSSION

In the present study I demonstrated a novel interaction between the EVH domain of Homer 2 and proline-rich motif of PMCA using parotid acinar cells of Homer 2-deficient mice and provided firm evidence in support of a critical role for Homer 2 in PMCA-mediated Ca^{2+} signaling using several assays.

Based on the previous reports concerning the modular structure of Homer proteins in CNS, Homer proteins have ability to bind the GPCR receptors such as mGluR1/5 and IP_3Rs , and act as scaffolding proteins to assemble Ca^{2+} signaling complexes in cellular microdomains (Kato *et al.*, 1998; Tu *et al.*, 1998; Xiao *et al.*, 1998; Kammermeier *et al.*, 2000; Fagni *et al.*, 2002). I, therefore, hypothesized that there is also a functional relationship through the interaction between Homer 2 and IP_3Rs in exocrine cells. First, I found that Homer 2 and IP_3Rs were expressed in the apical pole of parotid acinar cells using immunocytochemistry. In a variety of exocrine cells, the apical region is regarded as the “trigger zone” from which Ca^{2+} waves are initiated (Lee *et al.*,

1997b; Tojyo *et al.*, 1997). Therefore, the apical region seems relative abundance of Ca^{2+} release channels and/or expression of the most sensitive channels. Immunocytochemical studies have reported that the extrame apical region is highly enriched in all IP_3R types (Takemura *et al.*, 1999; Zhang *et al.*, 1999; Shin *et al.*, 2003). However, I also found that deletion of Homer 2 has no effect on expression of any IP_3R isoform by measurement of Ca^{2+} uptake and release from internal stores. The only effect observed is increased PMCA protein expression in parotid acinar cells of Homer 2-deficient mice. These Homer 2 effects were originally reported in pancreatic acinar cells by Shin and his collaborators, but they observed increase of SERCA2b protein expression and activity in pancreatic acini and brain of Homer 2-deficient mice (Shin *et al.*, 2003). It might be possible for Homer 2 to play roles via interactions with several proteins such as PMCA or SERCA2b that are modulated by the activation of Ca^{2+} signaling system.

Second, measurements of PMCA activity and co-immunoprecipitation binding assays confirmed that Homer 2 is interacted with PMCA and

increased rate of $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ clearance by PMCA in parotid acinar cells of Homer 2-deficient mice. The PMCA is a ubiquitously expressed P-type ATPase with a high affinity for Ca^{2+} and has been thought to be the major mechanism for the maintenance of resting $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ (Monteith *et al.*, 1998; Kiselyov *et al.*, 2003). The PMCA consists of four members, PMCA 1, PMCA 2, PMCA 3, and PMCA 4, and PMCA isoforms (PMCA 1, 2, and 4, especially PMCA 2) are expressed in apical region of parotid and submandibular gland cells (Homann *et al.*, 2006). Furthermore, PMCA and SERCA2a are highly expressed in the apical region, while SERCA2b is mostly expressed in the basal pole and basolateral region in salivary gland and pancreatic acinar cells (Lee *et al.*, 1997a). Therefore, it is possible that the Homer 2 in the apical region of parotid acinar cells is physically associated with PMCA and potentially allowing for functional modulation between the proteins in Ca^{2+} signaling by GPCRs. Sgambato-Faure *et al.* (2006), recently, reported that endogenous Ania-3, a member of the Homer 1 family, and Homer 1 are co-expressed with PMCA, especially PMCA 2 in the soma and dendrites of rat

hippocampal neurons. Similarly, PMCA 2 significantly decreases the expression levels of mGluR1, IP₃R1, and Homer proteins (Homer 1b/c and Homer 3) in cerebellar Purkinje neurons of PMCA-deficient mice (Kurnellas *et al.*, 2007). It might be possible that Homer 2 cross-talk with IP₃Rs-mediated Ca²⁺ signaling via regulation of PMCA, serving as the basis for its negative regulator effect. This study provides a novel modular model in Ca²⁺ signaling for examining the role and functions of Homer 2 in the non-neuronal exocrine cells.

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국문요약

생쥐 이하선 세포에서 세포막 칼슘펌프와 결합하여 칼슘펌프 활성도를 조절하는 Homer2.

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호머들은 지주단백이며 이들은 N-터미널에 Ena/VASP homology 1 (EVH) 단백질-결합 도메인과 C-터미널에 leucine zipper/coiled-coiled 도메인들로 구성되어 있다. EVH 도메인은 proline-rich motif (PPXXF, PPXF, 그리고 LPSSP)를 인식하는데 이를 통해 G-단백 연계 수용체, inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) 수용체, ryanodine 수용체, TRP 통로 등과 결합한다. 따라서, 호머들은 세포내 칼슘을 조절하는데, 이와 같은 기전을 이용하여 dendritic spine의 형태형성, 신경에서 시냅스의 개조, 연합신경 중추에서 시냅스의 집중, 신경세포의 유전자 전사활성 등을 조절한다. 그러나 호머들의 비신경 세포에서의 역할은 잘 알려져 있지 않다. 다만 척장 선세포에서 RGS 단백질과 PLCβ의 GAP 활성도를 조절하여 G-단백연계 신호를 조절한다는 보고가 있을 뿐이다. 이에 본 연구에서는 호머 체

이형 유전자 결여 생쥐를 이용하여 이하선세포에서 호머 제 이형의 역할을 미세형광분석법, 면역형광염색법, 면역 침강법 등을 통해 알아보고자 하였다. 이하선 세포에서 호머 제 이형은 내강 측으로 발현하고 있었다. 그런데 IP_3 수용체의 발현위치와 수용체의 활성화에는 영향을 주지 못 하였다. 호머 제 이형 결여 생쥐에서 소포체 칼슘펌프의 발현에는 변화가 없었으나 세포막 칼슘펌프 (PMCA)의 발현을 증가시켰다. 더불어 호머 제 이형 결여 생쥐에서 세포막 칼슘펌프의 활성화가 증가하였으며, 면역침강 결과는 호머 제 이형과 PMCA가 서로 단백질결합을 함을 보여 주었다. 이상의 결과는 생쥐 이하선 세포에서 호머 제 이형은 PMCA의 발현과 PMCA- 연계 칼슘신호 전달에서 중요한 역할을 수행하고 있음을 의미한다.

핵심되는 말: 호머 제 이형, 세포막 칼슘펌프, 이하선 선세포