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Gene expression profiling in the fetal cardiac tissue after folate and low dose trichloroethylene exposure

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Abstract

Background—Previous studies show gene expression alterations in rat embryo hearts and cell lines that correspond to the cardio-teratogenic effects of trichloroethylene (TCE) in animal models. One potential mechanism of TCE teratogenicity may be through altered regulation of calcium homeostatic genes with a corresponding inhibition of cardiac function. It has been suggested that TCE may interfere with the folic acid/methylation pathway in liver and kidney and alter gene regulation by epigenetic mechanisms. According to this hypothesis, folate supplementation in the maternal diet should counteract TCE effects on gene expression in the embryonic heart.

Approach—To identify transcriptional targets altered in the embryonic heart after exposure to TCE, and possible protective effects of folate, we used DNA microarray technology to profile gene expression in embryonic mouse hearts with maternal TCE exposure and dietary changes in maternal folate.

Results—Exposure to low doses of TCE (10ppb) caused extensive alterations in transcripts encoding proteins involved in transport, ion channel, transcription, differentiation, cytoskeleton, cell cycle and apoptosis. Exogenous folate did not offset the effects of TCE exposure on normal gene expression and both high and low levels of folate produced additional significant changes in gene expression.

Conclusions—A mechanism where TCE induces a folate deficiency does not explain altered gene expression patterns in the embryonic mouse heart. The data further suggest that use of folate supplementation, in the presence of this toxin, may be detrimental and non-protective of the developing embryo.

Keywords

Halogenated hydrocarbons; trichloroethylene; cardiac; folate; embryonic development; gene expression; ryanodine receptor

1. Introduction

Halogenated hydrocarbons contaminate water supplies in the United States and around the world. Trichloroethylene (TCE) currently ranks 16th on the CERCLA Priority List of Hazardous Substances (ATSDR, 2007). It is generally used in industry as a degreasing agent and is found in paint removers, correction fluids, and household cleaners (Steinberg and DeSesso, 1993; Waters et al., 1977). Exposure to TCE through contaminated drinking water has been associated with increased incidence of congenital heart malformations in children born to exposed mothers and in model animals (Goldberg et al., 1990; Johnson et al., 1998b; Shaw et al., 1992; Spiegelstein et al., 2005).

TCE and Heart Development

The heart is the earliest functioning organ, first appearing as a simple linear tube that pumps in peristaltic fashion, and undergoing looping to form two chambers with the addition of primitive valves to inhibit retrograde flow (Forouhar et al., 2006; Liebling et al., 2006). The formation of the four chambered heart requires a series of septations in the atrioventricular canal, the atrium and the ventricle (Kirby, 2001). The first septation in the atrioventricular canal involves a process called epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) where endocardial cells migrate into the cardiac jelly, proliferate, and form valve leaflets (Armstrong and Bischoff, 2004). Proper developmental transitions are vital to heart function and embryo survival. Mutations in genes involved in these phases can lead to valve defects, disrupted blood flow and lethality (Clark et al., 2006; Joziassse et al., 2008).

Previous investigations using animal models have reported an association between TCE exposure and increased incidence of congenital heart malformations (Dawson et al., 1993; Goldberg et al., 1992; Johnson et al., 1998a; Johnson et al., 2003; Loeber et al., 1988;). More recently several groups have reported on possible mechanisms by which TCE may affect heart development. In the chick model, Boyer et al. (2000) demonstrated that exposure to 200ppb TCE reduced by 50% EMT of valve progenitors in a collagen gel assay, while lower doses of TCE in ovo enhanced valvuloseptal hypercellularity, endocardial cell proliferation and altered hemodynamic in the embryonic heart (Drake et al., 2006a; Drake et al., 2006b; Mishima et al., 2006). Others found that TCE exposure altered expression of the endothelial nitric oxide synthase and disrupted VEGF-stimulated endothelial proliferation in myocytes, suggesting a possible mechanism for TCE-mediated heart malformations (Ou et al., 2003). Our own studies indicated that exposure to TCE disrupted calcium flux regulation in myocytes (Caldwell et al., 2008). Heart morphogenesis is a complex process in which cascading events must be precisely orchestrated, so any external factor altering one or more of these events is likely to perturb normal cardiac development. Currently, there is no unifying hypothesis that reconciles the effects of TCE on the developing embryonic heart.

Folate and Heart Development

Epidemiological studies have shown maternal use of multivitamins in early pregnancy can reduce the risk for development of CHD in the fetus (Gelineau-van Waes et al., 2008). A study by Botto et al., (2003) showed that the risk of heart defects was lower in children born to mothers who used multivitamin supplements than in children of those who did not take

supplements. High levels of folate are usually included in recommended multivitamin supplements. Folate participates with vitamin B12 in the process that re-methylates homocysteine into methionine, which is the main methyl donor in form of S-adenosyl methionine (SAM) and is necessary for new synthesis of protein and nucleic acids. Folate is especially important in periods of rapid cell division and growth, as in infancy and pregnancy.

Chronic nutritional variations in folate metabolism may affect embryonic development and potentially increase incidence of cardiovascular defects because of the vital role of folate in DNA biosynthesis and amino acid metabolism (Li et al., 2005; Rosenquist et al., 1996). Only a few animal studies have been conducted on the effects of dietary folate and reproductive outcomes (Burgoon et al., 2002; Li et al., 2005; Sakanashi et al., 1996). A recent prevention trial in patients with prior colorectal polyps found an increased risk of reoccurrence when folic acid supplementation was used, suggesting a dual role of folate in carcinogenesis with potential support of tumor growth (Song et al., 2000).

It has been suggested that TCE induces folate deficiency in kidney by producing free radicals, which induce a B12 shortage, and consequently cause folate deficiency (Dow and Green, 2000). In rat, diet supplementation with methionine prevents the effects of TCE on induction of liver tumors, by reversing TCE-induced hypomethylation of c-myc and c-jun (Tao et al., 2000a; 2000b). To date, no studies have investigated whether trichloroethylene interferes with folate's metabolic pathways and, in turn, disrupts normal development of the embryo.

Previous work from our laboratory demonstrated that TCE exposure altered calcium regulation in cardiac myocytes and the expression of genes involved in calcium homeostasis (Caldwell et al., 2008; Selmin et al., 2008), suggesting a possible mechanism by which cardiac malformations occur. To identify other key contributing pathways that may be altered in the embryonic heart after exposure to TCE, we used DNA microarray technology to profile gene expression patterns in mice. Embryonic hearts were isolated from pregnant mice that had received a diet supplemented with low, normal, or high amounts of folate (0, 2, and 8mg/kg) in the presence or absence of 10ppb TCE in drinking water. The goal of this study was to measure transcriptional changes in the developing heart following exposure to low, environmentally significant doses of TCE, and to determine whether folic acid supplementation might counteract the effects of TCE. We found that high levels of folate supplementation with TCE exposure caused dramatic alterations in the expression level of genes involved in cellular pathways crucial for embryo development, such as transport, ion channels, differentiation, cytoskeleton, transcription, cell cycle and apoptosis. These findings suggest that a high folate diet does not offset low level TCE exposure and that the combination of TCE and high folate may have greater detrimental effects on development of the fetal heart.

2. Materials and Methods

All animals used in this study were maintained in a facility approved by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International and in accordance

with the established guidelines of the University of Arizona's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the Animal Welfare Act, and U.S. Public Health Service policy standards.

2.1. Fetal Collection and Morphological Staging

Wild type mice (129S1/SvImJ) were obtained from Jackson Laboratories (Bar Harbor, ME). Female mice were assigned to 3 different folate diets for four weeks before mating: 0mg/kg folate, 2mg/kg folate, and 8mg/kg folate (Dyets Version of the Clifford/Koury Folate Deficient L-Amino Acid Rodent Diet Without Succinyl Sulfathiazole, Modified for Pelleting; Dyets Inc, Bethlehem, PA), and received water *ad libitum*. The presence of a vaginal plug was considered indicative of day 0 pregnancy. At this time, each folate group was divided in two sub-groups of control and TCE exposed mice, and maternal exposure to 10ppbTCE was started via drinking water.

TCE was prepared daily in glass bottles that had been soaked in concentrated TCE solution overnight, rinsed and dried in a chemical hood before use. Each bottle was placed in metal casing to reduce light exposure and subsequent chemical breakdown. Control animals received distilled water throughout pregnancy.

At gestational time point of day 10, corresponding to the first phase of heart development, pregnant dams were sacrificed by CO₂ inhalation, the abdomen opened and the uterine contents removed. The location of all viable fetuses and reabsorption sites were recorded. Decidual capsules were transferred to a phosphate-buffered saline solution and embryos were dissected free. All embryos were examined grossly for size and developmental stage. Cardiac tissue was removed from each viable embryo and placed in RNA later for future use. Maternal organs were also harvested for additional studies. Whole fetuses were viewed under a Nikon SMZ-2T stereomicroscope.

2.2. RNA extraction

Total RNA was extracted from pooled embryo hearts (n= 35, corresponding to 4-6 litters) and purified using a custom RNA extraction method. Briefly, the RNAlater solution was removed from the merged heart pools. 100uL RLT buffer with 1% B-mercaptoethanol and 600ul Trizol (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) was added and mixed. RNA extraction was performed according to manufacturer instructions. Dry RNA pellets were resolubilized in 30uL RNAase-free dionized water. RNeasy Mini Kits (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) were used for further RNA cleanup if needed.

2.3. RNA and microarray preparation

Six sample groups (control and TCE exposed from each one of the three folate diet groups) were tested, each with two biological replicates for a total of 12 sample groups. Total RNA from each group was processed by the University of Arizona microarray facility (Genomics Shared Service, Tucson, AZ). RNA purity was evaluated using an Eppendorf BioPhotometer (Eppendorf North America, Westbury, NY) to obtain values of nucleotides, organics, proteins, and contaminants in the samples. Viable RNA had 260/280 ratios between 1.8 and 2.0 or higher. RNA integrity was confirmed using an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany) following the RNA 6000 Nano Chip Series II Assay

protocol. Twelve Affymetrix Mouse Gene 1.0 ST arrays (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA) containing over 28,000 gene-level probe sets were used for genome wide expression profiling. The arrays were processed according to the protocol (GeneChip Whole Transcript Sense Target Labeling Assay Manual, version4) established by Affymetrix. Briefly, 400ng of total RNA were reverse transcribed into double stranded cDNA using the Affymetrix WT cDNA Synthesis and Amplification kit. The entire cDNA was then transcribed into cRNA overnight, cleaned using the Affymetrix GeneChip Sample Cleanup Module, and quantified on a NanoDrop 1000 (Thermo Scientific, Wilmington, DE). 8ug of cRNA were reverse transcribed into ssDNA, and labeled. Aliquots of the labeled DNA were combined with the hybridization solution overnight. The arrays were scanned using the Affymetrix GeneChip Scanner 3000 with 7G upgrade. The image generated was analyzed using the Affymetrix GeneChip Operating Software (GCOS) were .DAT (image), .CEL (cell intensity data), .CHP (probe analysis data) files were generated.

2.4. Statistical analysis of DNA microarrays

The Affymetrix mouse gene ST arrays were processed with a bioconductor library (<http://www.bioconductor.org>) designed for this array. The arrays were then normalized using the RMA function in the oligo library of bioconductor. In order to identify poor quality arrays, Spearman correlation coefficients between all arrays were computed. A plot of the coefficients revealed that correlations between all arrays were 0.98 or greater, indicating that a relatively small number of genes were changing in response to the treatments. As a further control, the distribution of values for positive and negative control probes were examined on each array and were found to have the correct expected separation. The samples included 2 arrays representing two biological replicates for each treatment.

Since there were only two replicates due to the complexity of the sample preparation, a specific approach was used that identified probes that showed a consistent change between biological duplicates. A cutoff value for the change between treatments of 1.5 fold was chosen based on an examination of the distribution of expression values on these arrays and identified approximately 200-1000 probes that were varying to the greatest extent. Probe lists were generated as described below.

Briefly, the objective was to find genes that were changing between treatments while reducing the effects of the biological variation between duplicate samples. To compare two treatments, probe expression ratios for all 4 possible combinations of the duplicate arrays were calculated. If 2 or more of these ratios were 1.5 fold or greater, the gene was considered to be changed. These probe sets were annotated using Affymetrix data files and the affected genes, biological functions, and pathways were identified. For the biochemical pathway analysis, lists of genes involved in pathways of biological interest were obtained from the KEGG database using the BIORAG resource (<http://www.biorag.org>). Genes showing expression ratios between treatments of greater than 1.5 fold were then identified.

2.5. Reverse-transcriptase and quantitative real-time PCR

Total RNA from pooled embryos was transcribed into cDNA using the ISCRIP T cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA). Gene specific primers were used to

amplify mouse β -actin, Ryr2, ErbB, Sumo1, INSR, GATA3, Cubn, and Gstp2 transcripts. Primers for the six transcripts and the housekeeping gene were designed using the NCBI Primer-BLAST program. SYBR Green analysis using ITAQ SYBR Green supermix with ROX (Bio-rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA) was used according to the manufacturer's instructions and carried out using the gene specific primers to ensure that single band dissociation was acquired. Briefly, the real-time PCR reactions were run at a final volume of 25 μ L consisting of the following master mix: 12.5 μ L of 10 \times buffer supermix, 1 μ L each of forward and reverse primers (10 μ M), 9.5 μ L nuclease free double-distilled water, and 1 μ L cDNA (1 μ g/ μ l). The ABI 7300 Real Time PCR System and Ct values were used to quantify the relative differences in PCR product. Each sample was run a minimum of three times in duplicate using the same two pools of RNA used for the microarray analysis. Expression values for each specific gene were normalized against β -actin expression levels, and expressed in fold change. Values represent means \pm standard deviation (SD). SD was calculated as the ratio of SD of the sample pool (n = or > 6) divided by the average of n.

3. Results

3.1. Physical outcomes of Day 10 embryos

We performed a gross examination of each embryo after removal from the dam, and recorded the results in Table 2. Any empty amniotic sac was recorded as reabsorption. If no amniotic sacs were found in the womb, it was considered false pregnancy. Developmental stages were determined using mouse embryonic development charts (Kaufman, 1992) (Figure 1D). For each category, the first number represents a “per litter basis” of change, the second one is the percent change based on total number of embryos used in each group.

Examining the different levels of folate diet alone, without TCE exposure, both 0mg/kg (0CTL) and 8mg/kg (8CTL) folate increased the number of reabsorptions and underdeveloped embryos compared with the control group (2mg/kg folate, 2CTL). Normally developed embryos were reduced by 10% or more in 0CTL and 8CTL respectively, when compared against 2CTL. In the 10ppb TCE exposed embryo populations, these findings were inverted. We observed that the number of reabsorptions was decreased by ~5% in the 2mg/kg (2TCE) and 8mg/kg (8TCE) folate groups when compared against the non-exposed, control group, 2CTL. Interestingly, the percentage of reabsorptions in the 0T embryos was identical (21.3%) to 2CTL. When 0TCE and 8TCE were compared to 2TCE, we observed an increased number of reabsorptions with both low and high levels of folate in the maternal diet. In addition, there were between 7-10% less underdeveloped embryos, and 2-4% more normally developed embryos with high and low folate, respectively. Finally, the rate of false pregnancy did not change considerably across the different groups. The 0TCE and 2CTL groups had the same percentage of normally developed embryos.

3.2. Microarray Results

We used Venn diagrams to represent possible relations between comparison data sets (Figure 2). The numbers in the circle represent genes changed uniquely in a particular group and the overlapping sections show the number of altered genes in common between two, or all three groups. Figure 2A shows comparisons between 2CTL against all three

folate levels in the presence of 10ppb TCE (0TCE, 2TCE, and 8TCE), separated into over and under-expressed transcripts. This comparison illustrates how TCE exposure in deficient, normal, and high folate groups altered transcript levels when compared to the non-exposed group at a normal folate level. Taking together the over and under-expressed diagrams, we observed that the most genes changed in the 8TCE group (2CTL v 8TCE) (3340 total), whereas 2894 transcripts were altered in 0TCE and 1226 in 2TCE. Furthermore, the overlap between 8TCE and 0TCE showed the highest number of similarly changed genes. Interestingly, all numbers in the under-expressed diagrams are much higher than in the over-expressed diagrams.

We also compared TCE exposed versus non-exposed (CTL) groups at each of the three folate levels (Figure 2B). This diagram illustrates how TCE exposure in deficient, normal, and high folate diets altered transcript expression when compared against similar folate controls. Both over and under-expressed diagrams show a striking number of genes altered in 8TCE versus 8CTL group (1555 and 1484, respectively). 2TCE versus 2CTL is the next highest, totaling 861 under-expressed genes. In both over and under-expressed diagrams fewer than 10 genes were similarly altered by all three groups.

3.3. Gene expression changes in cellular pathways

In order to better define the effects of TCE on gene expression at different levels of folate, we grouped the down- and up- regulated transcripts based on their involvement in specific cellular pathways, and then compared each group as illustrated in Figure 3. In the first three columns, TCE exposed embryos at deficient, normal, and high folate levels were compared against their own non-exposed group. Columns 4 and 5 compared 0TCE and 8TCE against the 2TCE group. These two columns illustrate the different contribution of TCE to transcriptional change in combination with different folate levels. Columns 6 and 7 compared 0CTL and 8CTL against 2CTL. These columns display the effects of different levels of folate alone on gene expression.

In column 1, 0CTL v 0TCE shows 107 altered transcripts representing less than 0.4% of all genes on the microarrays, with the majority involved in the transport pathway. In column 2, 2CTL v 2TCE displays 252 transcripts, corresponding to less than 0.9% of all genes represented. In particular, the majority of these changes occurred in the transcription (56 altered transcripts) and transport (61 altered transcripts) pathways. In column 3, 8CTL v 8TCE shows the most dramatic alterations, with changes in over 3% of the total transcripts: Between 20 and 30 genes were altered in the calcium, DNA repair, extra-cellular matrix, immune system, and ion channels pathways; between 30 and 60 gene changes were observed in the adhesion, apoptosis, cell cycle, cytoskeleton, and differentiation pathways, while 209 genes were altered in both transcription and transport pathways.

In columns 4 and 5, we compared the expression levels in 0TCE and 8TCE against the 2TCE group. In column 4, the adhesion, apoptosis, calcium, extra-cellular matrix, cytoskeleton, and differentiation pathways all revealed between 10 and 30 altered transcripts. The most robust alterations occurred in the transcription (48 under-expressed), and transport pathways (32 over- and 67 under-expressed). In column 5, the number of transcripts altered in 2TCE v 8TCE is lower than the number in column 3, where we

compared 8CTL v 8TCE. The decrease was more pronounced in the transcription, apoptosis, cell cycle, cytoskeleton (~50%), and differentiation and transport pathway (32 and 21% fewer genes, respectively).

In columns 6 and 7, expression levels in 0CTL and 8CTL were compared to 2CTL and showed the most pronounced changes, indicating a drastic effect of folate level on gene expression. At low folate level (column 6), over 50 transcripts were altered in the apoptosis and cytoskeleton pathways, and over 70 in the differentiation pathway. At high folate level (column 7), over 80 transcripts were altered in the differentiation, over 60 in the adhesion, apoptosis and cell cycle, and over 50 in the cytoskeleton pathways.

3.4. TCE effects on individual pathways

Upon examination of individual pathways, we observed common themes of expression changes across some of the comparison columns, in particular, in the calcium and ion channel pathways. The majority of over-expressed genes in the 8CTLv 8TCE and 2CTL v 8TCE groups (Table 3A, 4A: columns 3 and 5) were actually under-expressed in 2CTL v 0CTL and 2CTL v 8CTL (Table 3B, 4B: columns 6 and 7). In both pathways we observed expression changes in genes coding for calcium, potassium, sodium and voltage-gated channels, including Ryr2, NCX, Mef2, and ErbB4. The apoptosis and cell cycle pathways (Tables 5 and 6) show the majority of changes occurring in 8CTL v 8TCE, with 30-40 transcript alterations in both the over and under-expressed tables, 15% of these with over 2-fold changes. In both 2CTL v 0CTL, and 2CTL v 8CTL (Columns 6 and 7) over 40 transcripts were under-expressed. 0CTL v 0TCE and 2CTL v 2TCE (Column 1 and 2) show minor alterations in both pathways with 5 or less genes except for 11 under-expressed genes in the 2CTL v 2TCE group.

3.5. Real-time analysis of expression changes of selected genes

We selected eight transcripts that were altered by TCE in either 8CTL v 8TCE or 0CTL v 0TCE groups, and measured their expression levels by real-time PCR. The objective was to confirm the findings of the microarray analysis by a more sensitive technique. We chose to analyze two genes involved in calcium signaling (Ryr2 and NCX), and two genes involved in cellular growth (INSR and ERBB4). Gata3 was selected for its role during cardiomyocyte differentiation and early steps of heart tube morphogenesis (Cripps and Olson, 2002), and Glutathione-S-Transferase (GstP) for its importance in detoxification pathways. We selected the receptor Cubilin (gp280) (Sahali et al., 1988; Smith et al., 2006) and Sumo1, encoding for a protein that mediates sumoylation of histones and transcription factors, for their role in regulation of transcription during embryogenesis (Alkuraya et al., 2006).

Overall, the results obtained with real-time PCR are consistent with those from the microarray analysis. Figure 4A confirmed up-regulation of INSR, NCX, ERBB4, RYR2, and Gata3 in the 8TCE group. Sumo1 and Cubilin were found under-expressed in the microarray analysis, but no significant regulation was observed by real-time PCR. In 0TCE, the expression change in the three genes tested (Figure 4B) were similar to those in the microarray, although the difference was not significant for Cubilin and Gstp.

4. Discussion

4.1. Physical outcomes of Day 10 embryos

The results from Table 2 suggest two conclusions: 1) Both high and low folate in the maternal diet leads to similar phenotypic outcomes in the embryos; and 2) Exposure to 10ppb TCE counteracted the effects of high and low folate alone. In both 0CTL and 8CTL, we observed an increased rate of reabsorbed and developmentally delayed embryos, and a decrease in normally developed embryos. However, when compared to 0TCE and 8TCE, we observed an almost perfect inversion of phenotypic outcomes (Table 2). Folate is a critical player in pathways involved in amino acid metabolism, nucleotide synthesis and methylation reactions (Wagner, 1995) so it is possible that any variation from a physiological optimum level of folate may create disturbances in one or more of these pathways. This hypothesis is corroborated by the finding that in 0TCE we observed no change in the percentage of reabsorptions and normally developed embryos when compared to 2CTL. Overall, these results suggest that TCE may facilitate the progression of these embryos through otherwise restrictive developmental checkpoints. A detailed examination of embryos is necessary to identify number and type of heart defects possibly present in each group, however, this aim will have to be addressed in future experiments.

4.2. Gene expression changes in cellular pathways

An expected finding of this study is that many changes in gene expression occurred in embryonic hearts in the 0CTL and 8CTL groups, underlying the importance of folate for development. However, TCE exposure in the presence of high folate induced the highest number of changes. This observation suggests that the effects of TCE are more dramatic and potentially detrimental to cardiac development in the presence of high folate levels in the maternal diet.

Calcium signaling is a crucial pathway for heart function (Table 3), and these findings corroborate those previously reported by our group, using in vitro models (Caldwell et al., 2008; Selmin et al., 2008). It is notable that only three out of 414 genes were altered in the 2CTL v 2TCE group and absolutely no changes were observed in the 0CTL v 0TCE level. This finding supports that notion that no further damage is caused by TCE exposure in an environment already under substantial stress due to deficient folate levels.

Ion channels are integral membrane proteins that regulate the flow of ions across the membrane and are fundamental to maintaining proper ion concentrations inside the cell (Table 4). Our data show that high folate levels in combination with TCE exposure induced over-expression of many genes in the ion channel pathway. The majority of the over-expressed genes encodes for potassium, calcium, and other cation transportation channels and corroborates previously published data from our laboratory (Caldwell et al., 2008) showing an increased calcium flux from the sarcoplasmic reticulum in cardiomyocytes exposed to 10ppb TCE. Our microarray data may be explained by TCE ability to interfere with potassium and calcium channels. Since calcium and potassium ions are very similar (both having positive charges, similar electron orbitals and atomic weights) TCE may alter the binding affinity of both channels or maintain the channels open to create a type of super-

highway for calcium transport. Alternatively, TCE could alter the permeability of the cell membrane, causing an electrolyte imbalance and thus activating signaling pathways that increase synthesis of ion channels to correct the imbalance.

Significant alterations in gene expression were observed in the apoptosis and cell cycle pathways (Tables 5 and 6). Apoptosis is essential for the development of organs and structures throughout the embryonic stages, and is closely interconnected with pathways mediating the signals that direct the cell through the different phases of DNA synthesis, repair, and mitosis. Past studies have linked TCE exposure to septal and valvular malformations, hypercellularity and endocardioocyte proliferation (Drake et al., 2006a; Drake et al., 2006b; Hoffmann et al., 1994). Our results indicate that high levels of folate reduced cell cycle and apoptotic signals overall, but in the presence of 10ppb TCE, many of these signals were reversed, providing a possible explanation for the cardiac hypercellularity and induced proliferation observed by other groups.

4.3. Overall conclusions

Epidemiological and animal studies have documented the dual effect of folate on carcinogenesis: protecting normal mucosa, but enhancing progression of early lesions (Kim, 2004). Taken together, our findings also suggest that folate may have a dual effect on cardiogenesis, depending on the presence of environmental toxins, such as TCE. Additionally, our data support the notion that environmental concentrations of TCE may cause drastic changes in gene expression during critical phases of heart development. Notwithstanding the limitations associated with our study, these data suggest that the optimal dose of folate intervention needs to be determined for safe and effective prenatal care. The data also indicate that exogenous folate, whether to restore normal folate levels or raise endogenous levels does not strongly offset the effects of TCE exposure on altered gene expression. Thus, a mechanism where TCE produces a folate deficiency does not explain altered gene expression patterns in the embryonic mouse heart.

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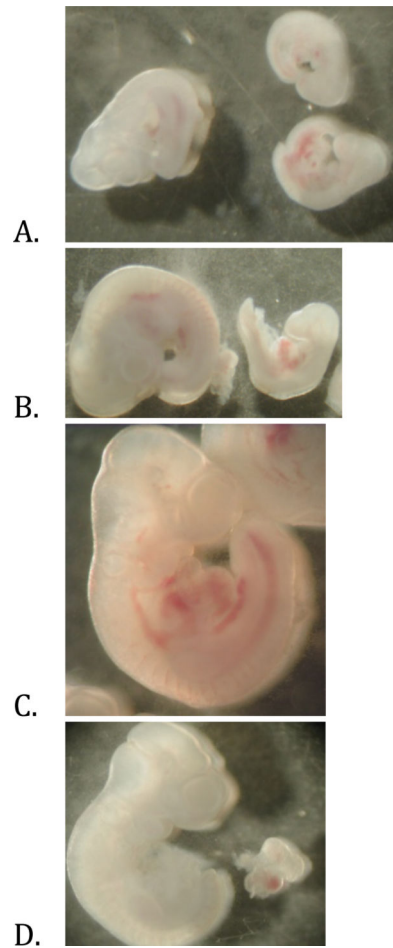


Figure 1. Developmental phenotype of Day 10 embryos

A) Littermates from non-exposed dam on 0mg/kg folate. Day10 embryo shown on left with two under-developed embryos shown on right. B) Embryos from non-exposed dam on 8mg/kg folate. Day 10 embryo on left with under-developed embryo on right. C) Embryo from 10ppb TCE exposed dam on 0mg/kg folate. D) Day 10 embryo from control 2mg/kg folate group with cardiac tissue removed.

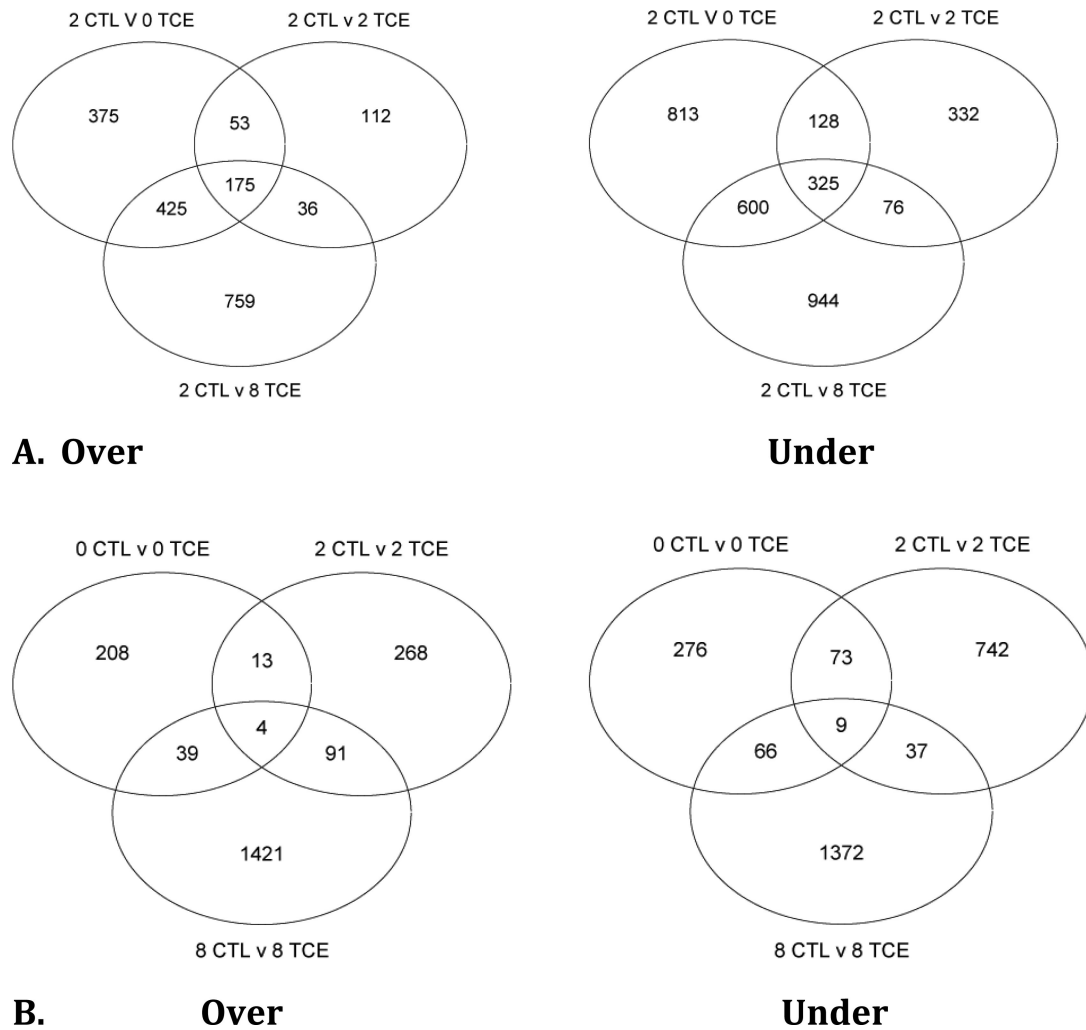


Figure 2. Venn Diagrams

Overview of all genes altered in day 10 embryonic cardiac tissue microarrays. A) Shows comparisons between the 2mg/kg control group (2CTL) against all TCE-treated groups (0TCE, 2TCE, 8TCE). 2CTL v 0 (2, or 8) TCE include transcripts that were either under or over expressed in the TCE groups when compared with the control, 2CTL group. B) Shows comparisons between each individual TCE exposed group (0TCE, 2TCE, 8TCE) against their own folate level control group (0CTL, 2CTL, 8C).

Pathway	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
	0 CTL v 0 TCE		2 CTL v 2 TCE		8 CTL v 8 TCE		2 TCE v 0 TCE		2 TCE v 8 TCE		2 CTL v 0 CTL		2 CTL v 8 CTL	
	over	under	over	under	over	under	over	under	over	under	over	under	over	under
Adhesion	0	5	6	16	29	11	16	10	39	4	31	31	23	40
Apoptosis	4	5	5	11	34	39	4	26	18	18	13	63	21	48
calcium	0	0	0	3	18	3	5	10	7	6	5	23	3	27
cell cycle	2	0	7	3	30	34	11	18	9	21	16	43	16	44
DNA repair	2	0	2	1	14	9	1	4	1	6	2	10	5	16
ECM	0	3	3	4	23	7	15	7	22	4	18	9	13	18
immune	1	1	3	12	27	6	5	1	28	3	11	11	7	9
insulin	0	2	2	0	11	5	0	4	2	3	2	11	2	12
Ion Channel	0	2	0	10	14	1	4	3	11	1	9	17	3	23
Lipids	0	0	0	1	4	6	1	4	5	8	3	12	2	8
Methionine	2	1	2	1	6	7	1	5	1	11	5	16	5	18
Traffic	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
Transcription	8	9	27	28	118	80	15	48	44	57	59	140	54	146
Translation	4	0	2	2	7	8	2	6	3	2	3	13	5	4
Transport	8	30	23	38	77	127	32	67	72	91	76	180	57	179
Cytoskeleton	3	4	1	12	30	21	5	13	11	13	7	58	7	52
Differentiation	3	7	12	14	46	30	14	18	34	18	30	69	26	55
Glyco Metabolism	0	1	1	0	2	7	0	4	0	5	2	12	2	8



Figure 3. Overall gene expression changes

Numbers in each box represent genes over- or under-expressed in each one of the six comparison group, and assigned to specific Kegg pathways. In the first 3 columns, expression level of transcripts in the TCE exposed embryos at low, normal, and high folate were compared against non-exposed embryos at the same folate level. Columns four and five evaluate changes in the TCE exposed embryos at 0 and 8mg/kg folate level compared against the 2mg/kg folate level exposed to 10ppb TCE. Columns six and seven indicate the number of transcripts altered in the 0 and 8mg/kg folate controls compared against 2mg/kg folate control embryos, therefore account for folate-induced changes only.

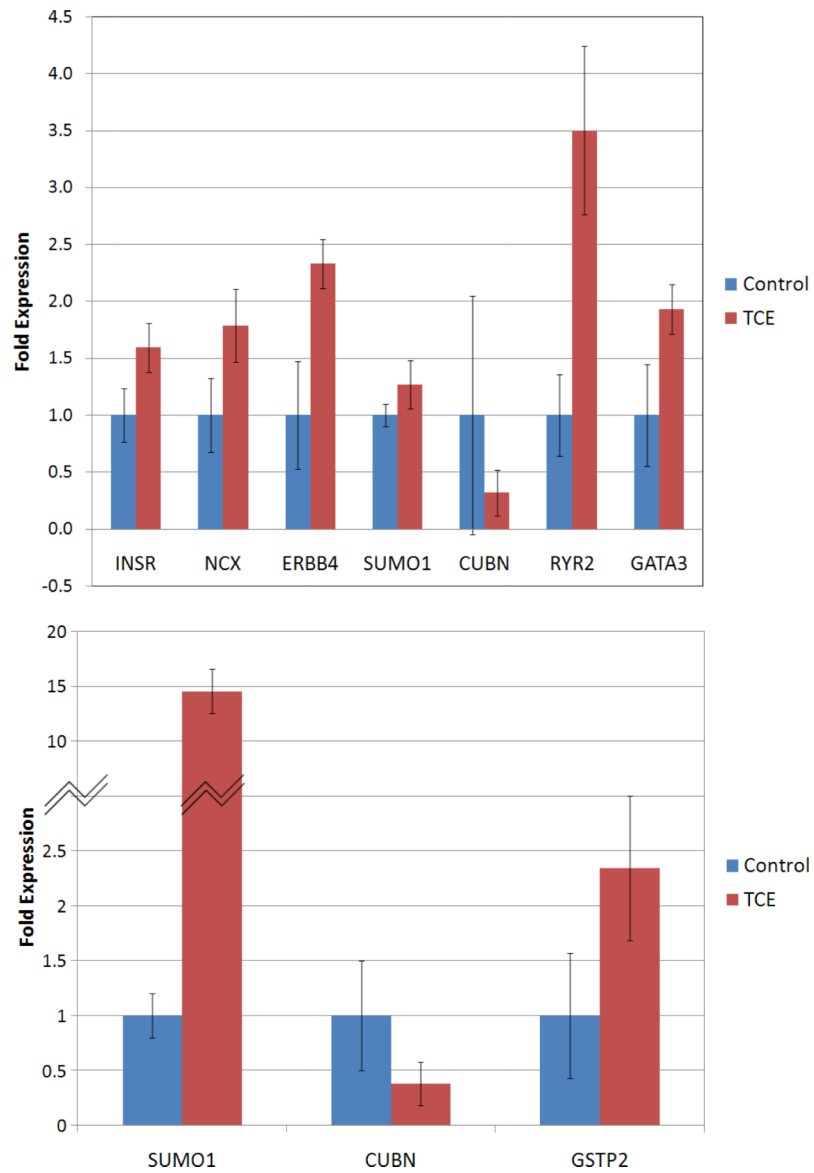


Figure 4. Real-time PCR analysis of transcripts selected for microarray validation

Aliquots of RNA from the same two biological RNA pools used in the microarray analysis were run in duplicates at least three different times. Bars represent average values between different runs \pm SD.

Table 1

Sequences of the primers used for realtime PCR

Gene	GenBank	Primer	Sequence (5'-3')
β-actin	NM_007393	440F	CCAGATCATGTTTGAGACCTTCAA
		526R	GTGGTACGACCAGAGGCATACA
Ryr2	NM_023868	4676F	ACCAAGCCAGATTACAGCACAG
		4899R	ACCGTCACTGTGCGCACTC
NCX	NM_011406	1923F	TCGATGACGAGGAGTATGAGAA
		2031R	CCACCAAGCTCATTCAACAA
ErbB4	NM_010154	431F	AACAGCAGTACCGAGCCTTG
		530R	AAGGAGAGGTCCCGGTTG
Sumo1	NM_009460	803F	TGCTTCACTCCTGGACTGTG
		1003R	TCTCTCCAGTGAAGCCACCT
INSR	NM_010568	1138F	AAAGTTTGCCCAACCATCTG
		1359R	GTGAAGGTCTTGGCAGAAGC
GATA3	NM_008091	246F	GTGGTCACACTCGGATTCCT
		435R	GCAAAAAGGAGGGTTTAGGG
Cubn	NM_1081084	5921F	GAAGGGGATTCTTCTG
		6029R	AGGGGTGTCTCTGTAC
Gstp2	NM_181796	190F	AGCCCACTGTCTGTATGG
		425R	AGGGCCTTCACGTAGTCAT

Table 2
Physical outcomes of Day 10 embryos

Results from gross examination of every embryo removed from the dam are reported. Non-exposed controls (CTL) and 10ppb TCE exposed (TCE) embryos are sub-categorized into 0mg/kg (0CTL and 0TCE), 2mg/kg (2CTL and 2TCE), and 8mg/kg folate (8 CTL and 8TCE) groups. Developmental staging was according to Kaufman, 1992. Reabsorptions indicate empty amniotic sacs and false pregnancy denote no pregnancy development in any way. The amount of embryos are shown on a per litter basis (n) and by the percent of embryos compared to the overall total per treatment group (%).

	control water			10ppb TCE water		
	0mg folate	2mg folate	8mg folate	0mg folate	2mg folate	8mg folate
viable embryos	130	75	94	102	89	102
litters	22	9	11	17	13	17
False Pregnancy [n (%)]	0.18 (3.08)	0.22 (2.67)	0.18 (2.13)	0.24 (3.92)	0.08 (1.12)	0.11 (1.96)
Reabsorptions/Abortions [n (%)]	1.64 (27.69)	1.78 (21.33)	2.27 (26.60)	1.29 (21.33)	1.08 (15.73)	0.94 (16.67)
Under-development [n (%)]	0.77 (13.08)	0.67 (8.0)	0.82 (9.57)	0.35 (5.88)	1.08 (15.73)	0.50 (8.82)
Normal development [n (%)]	3.18 (53.85)	5.67 (68.0)	5.09 (59.57)	4.12 (68.63)	4.54 (66.29)	4.0 (70.59)

n = per litter basis

% = percent of total embryos

Table 3**Calcium pathway**

A) Over and B) under expressed genes involved in the calcium signaling pathway. Each column as described in Table 3.

Calcium Pathway										
Over-Expressed										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v0 TCE	2 CTL v2 TCE	8 CTL v8 TCE	2 TCE v0 TCE	2 TCE v8 TCE	2 CTL v0 CTL	2 CTL v8 CTL	
ENSMUST105420	Adora2a	adenosine A2a receptor								
NM_009781	Cacna1c	calcium channel								
NM_009783	Cacna1g	calcium channel								
ENSMUST31093	Cckar	cholecystokinin A receptor								
NM_203491	Chrm2	cholinergic receptor								
ENSMUST81091	ErbB4	v-erb-a erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 4								
ENSMUST106091	Gjb3	gap junction membrane channel protein beta 3								
NM_010305	Gnai1	guanine nucleotide binding protein								
NM_008170	Grin2a	glutamate receptor								
NM_001081414	Grm5	glutamate receptor								
NM_001012306	Hsd3b3	hydroxy-delta-5-steroid dehydrogenase								
NM_010568	Insr	insulin receptor								
NM_010585	Itp1	inositol 1								
NM_019923	Itp2	inositol 1								
ENSMUST72460	Mef2a	myocyte enhancer factor 2A								
NM_011058	Pdgfra	platelet derived growth factor receptor								
NM_008809	Pdgfrb	platelet derived growth factor receptor								
NM_001077495	Pik3r1	phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase								
NM_013829	Plcb4	phospholipase C								
NM_019588	Plce1	phospholipase C								
ENSMUST27997	Rgs5	regulator of G-protein signaling 5								
NM_023868	Ryr2	ryanodine receptor 2								
NM_177652	Ryr3	ryanodine receptor 3								
ENSMUST57311	Sfn	stratifin								
NM_011406	Slc8a1	solute carrier family 8 (sodium/calcium exchanger)								
NM_001081011	Srgap2	SLIT-ROBO Rho GTPase activating protein 2								
NM_018753	Ywhab	tyrosine 3-monooxygenase/tryptophan 5-monooxygenase activation protein								

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST114913	Adcy5	adenylate cyclase 5							
ENSMUST109749	Akt1	thymoma viral proto-oncogene 1							
NM_009721	Atp1b1	ATPase							
NM_213616	Atp2b4	ATPase							
NM_021415	Caena1h	calcium channel							
ENSMUST32409	Camk1	calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase I							
ENSMUST29454	Casq2	calsequestrin 2							
ENSMUST87104	Cdk15	cyclin-dependent kinase-like 5							
NM_203491	Chrm2	cholinergic receptor							
ENSMUST22718	Ednrb	endothelin receptor type B							
NM_001003817	Erb2	v-erb-b2 erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 2							
ENSMUST81091	Erb4	v-erb-a erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 4							
ENSMUST59193	F2r	coagulation factor II (thrombin) receptor							
ENSMUST106091	Gjb3	gap junction membrane channel protein beta 3							
NM_010305	Gnai1	guanine nucleotide binding protein							
NM_008139	Gnaq	guanine nucleotide binding protein							
NM_010312	Gnb2	guanine nucleotide binding protein							
NM_138719	Gnb5	guanine nucleotide binding protein							
NM_025331	Gng11	guanine nucleotide binding protein							
NM_010318	Gng5	guanine nucleotide binding protein							
NM_010568	Insr	insulin receptor							
NM_001081175	Itpkb	inositol 1							
NM_019923	Itp2	inositol 1							
NM_010605	Kcnj5	potassium inwardly-rectifying channel							
ENSMUST24916	Lhegr	luteinizing hormone/choriogonadotropin receptor							
BC040217	Mef2d	myocyte enhancer factor 2D							
ENSMUST35800	Nfatc1	nuclear factor of activated T-cells							
ENSMUST33086	Phkg2	phosphorylase kinase							
NM_013829	Plcb4	phospholipase C							
NM_019676	Plcd1	phospholipase C							
NM_019588	Plce1	phospholipase C							
NM_024459	Ppp3r1	protein phosphatase 3							
NM_008854	Prkaca	protein kinase							
NM_008855	Prkcb1	protein kinase C							
ENSMUST97275	Prkce	protein kinase C							
NM_008856	Prkch	protein kinase C							

Under-expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST27603	Rgs18	regulator of G-protein signaling 18							
NM_019769	Rik	RIKEN cDNA 150003O03 gene							
NM_023868	Ryr2	ryanodine receptor 2							
NM_011406	Slc8a1	solute carrier family 8 (sodium/calcium exchanger)							
ENSMUST9036	Vdac3	voltage-dependent anion channel 3							
NM_018753	Ywhab	tyrosine 3-monooxygenase/tryptophan 5-monooxygenase activation protein							
NM_011739	Ywhaq	tyrosine 3-monooxygenase/tryptophan 5-monooxygenase activation protein							

Table 4

Ion channel pathway

A) Over and B) under expressed genes involved in the ion channel signaling pathway. Each column as described in Table 3.

Ion Channel Pathway									
Over-Expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
NM_009781	Cacna1c	calcium channel							
NM_009783	Cacna1g	calcium channel							
NM_009784	Cacna2d1	calcium channel							
NM_007582	Cacng1	calcium channel							
BC051033	Fxyd3	FXYP domain-containing ion transport regulator 3							
NM_146017	Gabrp	gamma-aminobutyric acid receptor							
ENSMUST76349	Gria3	glutamate receptor							
NM_008170	Grin2a	glutamate receptor							
ENSMUST72602	Hvcn1	hydrogen voltage-gated channel 1							
NM_010585	Itrp1	inositol 1							
NM_019923	Itrp2	inositol 1							
NM_010597	Kcnab1	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_134110	Kcne2	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_020574	Kcne3	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_010603	Kcnj12	potassium inwardly-rectifying channel							
ENSMUST46765	Kcnk1	potassium channel							
NM_008431	Kcnk4	potassium channel							
NM_023872	Kcnq5	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_173417	Kcns3	potassium voltage-gated channel							
ENSMUST39450	Mcoln3	mucolipin 3							
NM_023868	Ryr2	ryanodine receptor 2							
NM_001099298	Scn2a1	sodium channel							
NM_153417	Trpm6	transient receptor potential cation channel							
ENSMUST103224	Trpm7	transient receptor potential cation channel							
NM_022413	Trpv6	transient receptor potential cation channel							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST49346	Accn3	amiloride-sensitive cation channel 3							
NM_021415	Cacna1h	calcium channel							
NM_009784	Cacna2d1	calcium channel							
NM_023116	Cacnb2	calcium channel							
NM_001037099	Cacnb4	calcium channel							
ENSMUST45706	Cftr	cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator homolog							
ENSMUST71697	Fxyd1	FXYP domain-containing ion transport regulator 1							
BC031112	Fxyd5	FXYP domain-containing ion transport regulator 5							
NM_008070	Gabrb2	gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA-A) receptor							
NM_146017	Gabrp	gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA-A) receptor							
NM_019923	Ipr2	inositol 1							
NM_145983	Kcna5	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_008424	Kcne1	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_020574	Kcne3	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_010600	Kcnh1	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_013569	Kcnh2	potassium voltage-gated channel							
ENSMUST39366	Kcnh8	potassium voltage-gated channel							
NM_145963	Kcnj14	potassium inwardly-rectifying channel							
NM_010604	Kcnj16	potassium inwardly-rectifying channel							
ENSMUST42970	Kcnj2	potassium inwardly-rectifying channel							
NM_010605	Kcnj5	potassium inwardly-rectifying channel							
NM_001033876	Kcnk9	potassium channel							
NM_010610	Kcnma1	potassium large conductance calcium-activated channel							
NM_031169	Kcnmb1	potassium large conductance calcium-activated channel							
NM_080465	Kcnn2	potassium intermediate/small conductance calcium-activated channel							
NM_023872	Kcnq5	potassium voltage-gated channel							
ENSMUST22272	Kctd6	potassium channel tetramerisation domain containing 6							
ENSMUST67951	Kctd9	potassium channel tetramerisation domain containing 9							
ENSMUST23509	Klhl24	kelch-like 24 (Drosophila)							
ENSMUST39450	Mcoln3	mucolipin 3							
NM_177755	Rik	RIKEN cDNA 8230402K04 gene							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
NM_023868	Ryr2	ryanodine receptor 2							
BC039140	Scn1b	sodium channel							
NM_001099298	Scn2a1	sodium channel							
NM_018732	Scn3a	sodium channel							
NM_013838	Trpc6	transient receptor potential cation channel							
ENSMUST103224	Trpm7	transient receptor potential cation channel							
ENSMUST9036	Vdac3	voltage-dependent anion channel 3							

Table 5

Cell cycle pathway

A) Over and B) under expressed genes involved in the cell cycle pathway. Each column as described in Table 3.

Cell Cycle Pathway										
Over-Expressed										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL	
BC028526	Anapc13	anaphase promoting complex subunit 13								
ENSMUST79362	Apc	adenomatosis polyposis coli								
ENSMUST37440	Atm	ataxia telangiectasia mutated homolog (human)								
ENSMUST86248	Aurkc	aurora kinase C								
ENSMUST74077	Bmp4	bone morphogenetic protein 4								
NM_007561	Bmpr2	bone morphogenetic protein receptor								
ENSMUST107228	Brca1	breast cancer 1								
ENSMUST44620	Brca2	breast cancer 2								
ENSMUST93517	Casp3	caspase 3								
NM_001081062	Ccno	cyclin O								
BC005775	Cdc26	cell division cycle 26								
ENSMUST42410	Cdk6	cyclin-dependent kinase 6								
ENSMUST22009	Cetn3	centrin 3								
ENSMUST75853	Cks2	CDC28 protein kinase regulatory subunit 2								
ENSMUST49404	Clasp1	CLIP associating protein 1								
ENSMUST35089	Clasp2	CLIP associating protein 2								
ENSMUST6293	Crkl	v-erk sarcoma virus CT10 oncogene homolog (avian)-like								
ENSMUST5841	Ctcf	CCCTC-binding factor								
ENSMUST31697	Cul1	cullin 1								
ENSMUST26475	Ddit3	DNA-damage inducible transcript 3								
AF396877	Dst	dystonin								
NM_013507	Eif4g2	eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4								
ENSMUST81091	ErbB4	v-erb-a erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 4 (avian)								
BC048734	Fgf8	fibroblast growth factor 8								
ENSMUST9777	G0s2	G0/G1 switch gene 2								
ENSMUST43098	Gadd45a	growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible 45 alpha								
ENSMUST32129	Gkn1	gastrokine 1								
ENSMUST21729	Gpr132	G protein-coupled receptor 132								

Cell Cycle Pathway									
Over-Expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST57884	Gps2	G protein pathway suppressor 2							
ENSMUST23507	Gsk3b	glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta							
ENSMUST80030	Gspt1	G1 to S phase transition 1							
ENSMUST38777	Hipk2	homeodomain interacting protein kinase 2							
ENSMUST28882	Il1a	interleukin 1 alpha							
ENSMUST12587	Kif11	kinesin family member 11							
U67204	Macf1	microtubule-actin crosslinking factor 1							
ENSMUST4986	Mapk13	mitogen activated protein kinase 13							
NM_134092	Mtbp	Mdm2							
ENSMUST52965	Nipbl	Nipped-B homolog (Drosophila)							
NM_010151	Nr2f1	nuclear receptor subfamily 2							
ENSMUST78259	Nsl1	NSL1							
ENSMUST25204	Pfdn1	prefoldin 1							
ENSMUST18361	Pmp22	peripheral myelin protein							
ENSMUST101534	Ptn	pleiotrophin							
ENSMUST49009	Rad9b	RAD9 homolog B (S. cerevisiae)							
ENSMUST28814	Rassf2	Ras association (RalGDS/AF-6) domain family 2							
ENSMUST35842	Rassf4	Ras association (RalGDS/AF-6) domain family 4							
ENSMUST22701	Rb1	retinoblastoma 1							
ENSMUST29170	Rbl1	retinoblastoma-like 1 (p107)							
ENSMUST34091	Rbl2	retinoblastoma-like 2							
ENSMUST102864	Rel	reticuloendotheliosis oncogene							
NM_175238	Rif1	Rap 1 interacting factor 1 homolog (yeast)							
ENSMUST73926	Rps12	ribosomal protein S12							
ENSMUST27495	Sept2	septin 2							
ENSMUST23095	Sept3	septin 3							
ENSMUST30724	Sesn2	sestrin 2							
ENSMUST57311	Sfn	stratifin							
BC086683	Spc24	SPC24							
NM_001081008	Taf1	TAF1 RNA polymerase II							
ENSMUST45288	Tgfb2	transforming growth factor							
NM_172664	Tlk1	tousled-like kinase 1							
AB020317	Trp53	transformation related protein 53							
ENSMUST71648	Vegfa	vascular endothelial growth factor A							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
BC028526	Anapc13	anaphase promoting complex subunit 13							
ENSMUST25561	Anxa1	annexin A1							
NM_009686	Apbb2	amyloid beta (A4) precursor protein-binding							
ENSMUST29842	Bcl10	B-cell leukemia/lymphoma 10							
AF271733	Bin3	bridging integrator 3							
ENSMUST28836	Bmp2	bone morphogenetic protein 2							
NM_007561	Bmpr2	bone morphogenetic protein receptor							
BC061001	Bmyc	brain expressed myelocytomatosis oncogene							
NM_009770	Btg3	B-cell translocation gene 3							
NM_021550	C1galt1c1	C1GALT1-specific chaperone 1							
BC052789	Cables2	Cdk5 and Abl enzyme substrate 2							
ENSMUST93517	Casp3	caspase 3							
ENSMUST48192	Ccdc5	coiled-coil domain containing 5							
BC085238	Ccnb1	cyclin B1							
BC060180	Ceng2	cyclin G2							
ENSMUST114077	Ccny1	cyclin Y-like 1							
BC005775	Cdc26	cell division cycle 26							
ENSMUST50148	Cdc3711	cell division cycle 37 homolog (S. cerevisiae)-like 1							
BC003893	Cdc51	cell division cycle 5-like (S. pombe)							
ENSMUST42410	Cdk6	cyclin-dependent kinase 6							
ENSMUST23829	Cdkn1a	cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1A (P21)							
ENSMUST3115	Cdkn1b	cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1B							
BC049694	Cdkn3	cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 3							
ENSMUST22009	Cetn3	centrin 3							
ENSMUST68532	Cgrrf1	cell growth regulator with ring finger domain 1							
ENSMUST29679	Cks1b	CDC28 protein kinase 1b							
ENSMUST75853	Cks2	CDC28 protein kinase regulatory subunit 2							
ENSMUST27050	Cops5	COP9 (constitutive photomorphogenic) homolog							
ENSMUST17920	Crk	v-crk sarcoma virus CT10 oncogene homolog (avian)							
ENSMUST4478	Cul3	cullin 3							
NM_027545	Cwf1912	CWF19-like 2							
ENSMUST103129	Dsn1	DSN1							
ENSMUST103145	E2f1	E2F transcription factor 1							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
AY957576	E2f8	E2F transcription factor 8							
ENSMUST1757	Eef1e1	eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1 epsilon 1							
NM_001003817	ErbB2	v-erb-b2 erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 2							
ENSMUST81091	ErbB4	v-erb-a erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 4 (avian)							
NM_007951	Erh	enhancer of rudimentary homolog (Drosophila)							
NM_011809	Ets2	E26 avian leukemia oncogene 2							
ENSMUST81028	Etv6	ets variant gene 6 (TEL oncogene)							
NM_001033244	Fancc2	Fanconi anemia							
ENSMUST19907	Fbxo5	F-box protein 5							
ENSMUST187	Fgf6	fibroblast growth factor 6							
ENSMUST62292	Foxc1	forkhead box C1							
ENSMUST15456	Gadd45b	growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible 45 beta							
ENSMUST32129	Gkn1	gastrokine 1							
NM_008179	Gspt2	G1 to S phase transition 2							
ENSMUST34026	Hpgd	hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase 15 (NAD)							
BC024581	Hrasl3	HRAS like suppressor 3							
ENSMUST65537	Jmy	junction-mediating and regulatory protein							
ENSMUST103032	Lgl2	lethal giant larvae homolog 2 (Drosophila)							
NM_010755	Maff	v-maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene family							
ENSMUST25078	Map3k8	mitogen activated protein kinase kinase kinase 8							
ENSMUST88827	Mapk12	mitogen-activated protein kinase 12							
ENSMUST57669	Mapk3	mitogen activated protein kinase 3							
NM_133350	Mapre3	microtubule-associated protein							
ENSMUST34303	Mphosph6	M phase phosphoprotein 6							
NM_134092	Mtbp	Mdm2							
ENSMUST22971	Myc	myelocytomatosis oncogene							
NM_144931	Nae1	NEDD8 activating enzyme E1 subunit 1							
NM_133762	Ncapg2	non-SMC condensin II complex							
ENSMUST35800	Nfatc1	nuclear factor of activated T-cells							
NM_010151	Nr2f1	nuclear receptor subfamily 2							
NM_001024622	Pcnp	PEST proteolytic signal containing nuclear protein							
ENSMUST25204	Pfdn1	prefoldin 1							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST36374	Phb	prohibitin							
ENSMUST34689	Pin1	protein (peptidyl-prolyl cis/trans isomerase) NIMA-interacting 1							
ENSMUST56370	Pmf1	polyamine-modulated factor 1							
NM_198600	Pols	polymerase (DNA directed) sigma							
NM_008014	Ppm1g	protein phosphatase 1G (formerly 2C)							
NM_024209	Ppp6c	protein phosphatase 6							
ENSMUST20685	Pttg1	pituitary tumor-transforming 1							
ENSMUST22136	Rad17	RAD17 homolog (<i>S. pombe</i>)							
ENSMUST20649	Rad50	RAD50 homolog (<i>S. cerevisiae</i>)							
ENSMUST90678	Rap1a	RAS-related protein-1a							
ENSMUST22701	Rb1	retinoblastoma 1							
ENSMUST27040	Rb1cc1	RB1-inducible coiled-coil 1							
ENSMUST102598	Rbbp4	retinoblastoma binding protein 4							
ENSMUST34091	Rbl2	retinoblastoma-like 2							
BC051473	Rbx1	ring-box 1							
ENSMUST84250	Rec1	regulator of chromosome condensation 1							
NM_007483	Rhob	ras homolog gene family							
NM_028228	Rik	RIKEN cDNA 2610028A01 gene							
ENSMUST73926	Rps12	ribosomal protein S12							
NM_009101	Rras	Harvey rat sarcoma oncogene							
BC010774	S100a6	S100 calcium binding protein A6 (calcyclin)							
ENSMUST23457	Senp5	SUMO/sentrin specific peptidase 5							
ENSMUST30724	Sesn2	sestrin 2							
BC086683	Spc24	SPC24							
NM_001005370	Spin2	spindlin family							
ENSMUST29448	Sycp1	synaptonemal complex protein 1							
ENSMUST11258	Tbrg1	transforming growth factor beta regulated gene 1							
ENSMUST2678	Tgfb1	transforming growth factor							
ENSMUST39562	Trim13	tripartite motif protein 13							
NM_021884	Tsg101	tumor susceptibility gene 101							
ENSMUST25914	Vegfb	vascular endothelial growth factor B							
ENSMUST21985	Zfp369	zinc finger protein 369							

Table 6

Apoptosis pathway

A) Over and B) under expressed genes involved in the apoptosis pathway. Each column as described in Table 3.

Apoptosis Pathway									
Over-expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v0 TCE	2 CTL v2 TCE	8 CTL v8 TCE	2 TCE v0 TCE	2 TCE v8 TCE	2 CTL v0 CTL	2 CTL v8 CTL
ENSMUST103020	Aatk	apoptosis-associated tyrosine kinase							
NM 007536	Bcl2a1d	B-cell leukemia/lymphoma 2 related protein A1d							
ENSMUST115094	Birc4	baculoviral IAP repeat-containing 4							
ENSMUST107228	Brca1	breast cancer 1							
ENSMUST31895	Casp2	caspase 2							
ENSMUST93517	Casp3	caspase 3							
NM 001042605	Cd74	CD74 antigen (invariant polypeptide of major histocompatibility complex)							
ENSMUST46506	Clcf1	cardiotrophin-like cytokine factor 1							
ENSMUST53594	Cradd	CASP2 and RIPK1 domain containing adaptor with death domain							
ENSMUST31697	Cul1	cullin 1							
BC092213	Cycs	cytochrome c							
ENSMUST26475	Ddit3	DNA-damage inducible transcript 3							
ENSMUST37907	Ddx58	DEAD (Asp-Glu-Ala-Asp) box polypeptide 58							
ENSMUST84488	Dock1	dedicator of cyto-kinesis 1							
ENSMUST39516	Egln3	EGL nine homolog 3 (C. elegans)							
ENSMUST27066	Eya1	eyes absent 1 homolog (Drosophila)							
ENSMUST25691	Fas	Fas (TNF receptor superfamily member 6)							
NM 010185	Fcer1g	Fc receptor							
BC048734	Fgf8	fibroblast growth factor 8							
ENSMUST57884	Gps2	G protein pathway suppressor 2							
ENSMUST23507	Gsk3b	glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta							
ENSMUST30683	Hgf	hepatocyte growth factor							
ENSMUST38777	Hipk2	homeodomain interacting protein kinase 2							
NM 010478	Hspa1b	heat shock protein 1B							
NM 010414	Htt	huntingtin							
ENSMUST20702	Igfbp3	insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3							
ENSMUST102786	Itgb3bp	integrin beta 3 binding protein (beta3-endonexin)							

Apoptosis Pathway									
Over-expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST49248	Malt1	mucosa associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma translocation gene 1							
ENSMUST95806	Map3k5	mitogen activated protein kinase kinase kinase 5							
ENSMUST67429	Mdm4	transformed mouse 3T3 cell double minute 4							
AK018196	Mitf	microphthalmia-associated transcription factor							
ENSMUST28288	Notch1	Notch gene homolog 1 (Drosophila)							
ENSMUST30154	Nudt2	nudix (nucleoside diphosphate linked moiety X)-type motif 2							
ENSMUST51209	Peg3	paternally expressed 3							
ENSMUST32573	Pglyrp1	peptidoglycan recognition protein 1							
NM 001077495	Pik3r1	phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase							
NM 011159	Prkdc	protein kinase							
AK083198	Prlr	prolactin receptor							
ENSMUST59507	Purb	purine rich element binding protein B							
ENSMUST6851	Qrich1	glutamine-rich 1							
ENSMUST22034	Rasa1	RAS p21 protein activator 1							
NM 011279	Rnf7	ring finger protein 7							
ENSMUST115866	Rock1	Rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase 1							
ENSMUST102843	Rtn4	reticulon 4							
ENSMUST101118	Rybp	RING1 and YY1 binding protein							
NM 001099298	Scn2a1	sodium channel							
ENSMUST21728	Siva1	SIVA1							
NM 011434	Sod1	superoxide dismutase 1							
ENSMUST49931	Spn	sialophorin							
ENSMUST112747	Spp1	secreted phosphoprotein 1							
XM 915205	Syngap1	synaptic Ras GTPase activating protein 1 homolog							
ENSMUST45288	Tgfb2	transforming growth factor							
ENSMUST95753	Tia1	cytotoxic granule-associated RNA binding protein 1							
NM 178931	Tnfrsf14	tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily							
NM 026654	Toe1	target of EGR1							
AF357400	Tpt1	tumor protein							
ENSMUST40312	Trib3	tribbles homolog 3 (Drosophila)							
AB020317	Trp53	transformation related protein 53							

Apoptosis Pathway									
Over-expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST40231	Trp63	transformation related protein 63							
ENSMUST106236	Unc5c	unc-5 homolog C (C. elegans)							
ENSMUST71648	Vegfa	vascular endothelial growth factor A							
ENSMUST21937	Zfp346	zinc finger protein 346							
Under-expressed									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
NM 001033369	Acvr1c	activin A receptor							
ENSMUST109749	Akt1	thymoma viral proto-oncogene 1							
NM 013467	Aldh1a1	aldehyde dehydrogenase family 1							
ENSMUST329	Alox12	arachidonate 12-lipoxygenase							
NM 009686	Apbb2	amyloid beta (A4) precursor protein-binding							
ENSMUST6828	Aplp1	amyloid beta (A4) precursor-like protein 1							
ENSMUST3066	Apoe	apolipoprotein E							
ENSMUST96119	Asah2	N-acylsphingosine amidohydrolase 2							
NM 022305	B4galt1	UDP-Gal:betaGlcNAc beta 1							
ENSMUST108089	Bag1	Bcl2-associated athanogene 1							
ENSMUST54636	Bag5	BCL2-associated athanogene 5							
ENSMUST33093	Bax	Bcl2-associated X protein							
ENSMUST2091	Bcap31	B-cell receptor-associated protein 31							
ENSMUST29842	Bcl10	B-cell leukemia/lymphoma 10							
ENSMUST66460	Bcl2a1c	B-cell leukemia/lymphoma 2 related protein A1c							
ENSMUST22806	Bcl2l2	Bcl2-like 2							
ENSMUST115094	Birc4	baculoviral IAP repeat-containing 4							
NM 172149	Bnip1	BCL2/adenovirus E1B interacting protein 1							
NM 009760	Bnip3	BCL2/adenovirus E1B interacting protein 1							
ENSMUST27499	Bok	Bcl-2-related ovarian killer protein							
NM 175362	Card11	caspase recruitment domain family							
ENSMUST93517	Casp3	caspase 3							
ENSMUST29626	Casp6	caspase 6							
ENSMUST26062	Casp7	caspase 7							
BC055070	Ccl2	chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 2							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
NM 001042605	Cd74	CD74 antigen (invariant polypeptide of major histocompatibility complex)		■				■	
ENSMUST23829	Cdkn1a	cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1A (P21)		■					■
NM 009883	Cebpb	CCAAT/enhancer binding protein					■	■	
ENSMUST34233	Ciapin1	cytokine induced apoptosis inhibitor 1			■				
NM 007702	Cidea	cell death-inducing DNA fragmentation factor							
ENSMUST59091	Clca1	chloride channel calcium activated 1	■			■		■	■
NM 025680	Ctnnb1	catenin			■				
BC092213	Cyts	cytochrome c				■			
ENSMUST111530	Dad1	defender against cell death 1			■				
NM 022994	Dap3	death associated protein 3						■	■
ENSMUST37907	Ddx58	DEAD (Asp-Glu-Ala-Asp) box polypeptide 58		■					
BC024780	Diablo	diablo homolog (Drosophila)			■				
ENSMUST103145	E2f1	E2F transcription factor 1						■	
ENSMUST55990	Eef1a2	eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1 alpha 2						■	
ENSMUST1757	Eef1e1	eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1 epsilon 1				■			
ENSMUST39516	Egln3	EGL nine homolog 3 (C. elegans)						■	■
ENSMUST27066	Eya1	eyes absent 1 homolog (Drosophila)	■						
ENSMUST33394	Fadd	Fas (TNFRSF6)-associated via death domain			■				
ENSMUST35038	Faim	Fas apoptotic inhibitory molecule				■		■	
ENSMUST25691	Fas	Fas (TNF receptor superfamily member 6)		■					
ENSMUST73152	Fastkd1	FAST kinase domains 1				■		■	■
ENSMUST27103	Fastkd2	FAST kinase domains 2						■	■
ENSMUST19198	Fis1	fission 1 (mitochondrial outer membrane) homolog (yeast)			■				
ENSMUST75491	Fkbp8	FK506 binding protein 8			■		■		
ENSMUST15456	Gadd45b	growth arrest and DNA-damage-inducible 45 beta			■			■	
NM 010295	Gclc	glutamate-cysteine ligase	■						■
NM 008129	Gclm	glutamate-cysteine ligase					■		
AK005055	Glo1	glyoxalase 1				■	■	■	
ENSMUST82429	Gpx1	glutathione peroxidase 1			■				
XM_001478151	Hbxip	hepatitis B virus × interacting protein			■				
ENSMUST28600	Hipk3	homeodomain interacting protein kinase 3		■					■
ENSMUST26572	Hras1	Harvey rat sarcoma virus oncogene 1						■	
NM 010478	Hspa1b	heat shock protein 1B						■	

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
ENSMUST89645	Htra2	HtrA serine peptidase 2							
ENSMUST20702	Igfbp3	insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3							
ENSMUST889	Il4	interleukin 4							
ENSMUST102786	Itgb3bp	integrin beta 3 binding protein (beta3-endonexin)							
ENSMUST47616	Jmjd6	jumonji domain containing 6							
ENSMUST65537	Jmy	junction-mediating and regulatory protein							
NM 023788	Mage1	melanoma antigen							
AK018196	Mitf	microphthalmia-associated transcription factor							
ENSMUST22971	Myc	myelocytomatosis oncogene							
NM 144931	Nae1	NEDD8 activating enzyme E1 subunit 1							
NM 023312	Ndufa13	NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) 1 alpha subcomplex							
ENSMUST5647	Ndufs3	NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 3							
NM 010910	Nefl	neurofilament							
ENSMUST53540	Ngfrap1	nerve growth factor receptor (TNFRSF16) associated protein 1							
ENSMUST28288	Notch1	Notch gene homolog 1 (Drosophila)							
ENSMUST23779	Nr4a1	nuclear receptor subfamily 4							
ENSMUST21284	Ntn1	netrin 1							
NM 028778	Nuak2	NUAK family							
ENSMUST30154	Nudt2	nudix (nucleoside diphosphate linked moiety X)-type motif 2							
ENSMUST57195	Nup62	nucleoporin 62							
NM 001081170	Pacs2	phosphofurin acidic cluster sorting protein 2							
ENSMUST29424	Pcd10	programmed cell death 10							
ENSMUST32577	Pcd5	programmed cell death 5							
ENSMUST22060	Pcd6	programmed cell death 6							
ENSMUST27247	Pdc13	phosducin-like 3							
NM 022032	Perp	PERP							
NM 009344	Phlda1	pleckstrin homology-like domain							
ENSMUST34296	Pik3r2	phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase							
ENSMUST98513	Plekhf1	pleckstrin homology domain containing							
ENSMUST14578	Plg	plasminogen							
ENSMUST33938	Polb	polymerase (DNA directed)							
ENSMUST27373	Ppm1f	protein phosphatase 1F (PP2C domain containing)							
NM 001010836	Ppp1r13l	protein phosphatase 1							

Under-expressed									
Sequence ID	Gene ID	Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			0 CTL v 0 TCE	2 CTL v 2 TCE	8 CTL v 8 TCE	2 TCE v 0 TCE	2 TCE v 8 TCE	2 CTL v 0 CTL	2 CTL v 8 CTL
BC002034	Prdx2	peroxiredoxin 2							
NM 011159	Prkdc	protein kinase							
NM 011871	Prkra	protein kinase							
ENSMUST59507	Purb	purine rich element binding protein B							
ENSMUST27040	Rblcc1	RB1-inducible coiled-coil 1							
NM 007483	Rhob	ras homolog gene family							
NM 026443	Rik	RIKEN cDNA 1700020C11 gene							
BC051541	Rik	RIKEN cDNA 2600009E05 gene							
BC025611	Ripk2	receptor (TNFRSF)-interacting serine-threonine kinase 2							
NM 019955	Ripk3	receptor-interacting serine-threonine kinase 3							
AK220529	Rnf130	ring finger protein 130							
NM 011279	Rnf7	ring finger protein 7							
ENSMUST30399	Rragc	Ras-related GTP binding C							
ENSMUST101118	Rybp	RING1 and YY1 binding protein							
ENSMUST78481	Scin	scinderin							
NM 001099298	Scn2a1	sodium channel							
ENSMUST21728	Siva1	SIVA1							
NM 026404	Slc35a4	solute carrier family 35							
ENSMUST25997	Smndc1	survival motor neuron domain containing 1							
ENSMUST56150	Snrk	SNF related kinase							
ENSMUST102774	Sqstm1	sequestosome 1							
ENSMUST27263	Stk17b	serine/threonine kinase 17b (apoptosis-inducing)							
ENSMUST88585	Sulf1	sulfatase 1							
XM 915205	Syngap 1	synaptic Ras GTPase activating protein 1 homolog (rat)							
ENSMUST18407	Tbx5	T-box 5							
NM 025780	Thap2	THAP domain containing							
NM 153552	Thoc1	THO complex 1							
ENSMUST102793	Tm2d1	TM2 domain containing 1							
ENSMUST19997	Tnfaip3	tumor necrosis factor							
NM 134131	Tnfaip8	tumor necrosis factor							
NM 011609	Tnfrsf1a	tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily							
NM 026654	Toe1	target of EGR1							
ENSMUST21471	Txndc1	thioredoxin domain containing 1							
ENSMUST50183	Uaca	uveal autoantigen with coiled-coil domains and ankyrin repeats							