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Dissection of TMEM165 function in Golgi glycosylation and its Mn²⁺ sensitivity

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Abstract

Since 2012, the interest for TMEM165 increased due to its implication in a rare genetic human disease named TMEM165-CDG (Congenital Disorder(s) of Glycosylation). TMEM165 is a Golgi localized protein, highly conserved through evolution and belonging to the uncharacterized protein family 0016 (UPF0016). Although the precise function of TMEM165 in glycosylation is still controversial, our results highly suggest that TMEM165 would act as a Golgi Ca²⁺/Mn²⁺ transporter regulating both Ca²⁺ and Mn²⁺ Golgi homeostasis, the latter is required as a major cofactor of many Golgi glycosylation enzymes. Strikingly, we recently demonstrated that besides its role in regulating Golgi Mn²⁺ homeostasis and consequently Golgi glycosylation, TMEM165 is sensitive to high manganese exposure. Members of the UPF0016 family contain two particularly highly conserved consensus motifs E-φ-G-D-[KR]-[TS] predicted to be involved in the ion transport function of UPF0016 members. We investigate the contribution of these two specific motifs in the function of TMEM165 in Golgi glycosylation and in its Mn²⁺ sensitivity.

Our results show the crucial importance of these two conserved motifs and underline the contribution of some specific amino acids in both Golgi glycosylation and Mn²⁺ sensitivity.

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Authors contribution

Conceived and designed experiments: F.F., A.K., and D.L. Performed experiments: E.L., M.H. and S.P. Contributed reagents/materials: V.L., C.S. Analyzed data: E.L., M.H., G.D.B., and M.K.R. Wrote the paper: F.F., A.K., and D.L.

Competing interests

The author(s) declare no competing interests.

Declaration of interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biochi.2019.07.016>.

Keywords

TMEM165; CDG; UPF0016; Golgi glycosylation; Mn²⁺

1. Introduction

Congenital Disorders of Glycosylation (CDG) are a rapidly expanding family of genetic diseases. The first patient cases were reported 38 years ago; today more than hundred different CDG have been reported [1]. The frequency of most CDG is unknown but they are probably underestimated. The genetic transmission is mostly autosomal recessive [1]. Congenital disorders of protein glycosylation are classified in two groups. CDG-I are assembly defects in the cytosol and the endoplasmic reticulum (ER), while CDG-II are defects in glycan remodeling in the Golgi [2]. They are multisystem disorders with a broad spectrum of severity and mostly comprising neurological involvement.

In 2012, a new CDG called TMEM165-CDG or CDG-IIk (OMIM #614727) has been described [3]. To date, a dozen of TMEM165-CDG patients have been worldwide diagnosed with a common semiology. The most severe phenotypes present a growth retardation resistant to human growth hormone, associated with a psychomotor disability, microcephaly, facial hypoplasia, hypotonia, seizures and hepatosplenomegaly with increased serum transaminases [4]. Some patients also harbor cardiac defects [5] but the pathognomonic signs remain bone and cartilage dysplasia with early and severe osteoporosis. All TMEM165-CDG present a strong defect in the Golgi glycosylation characterized by hypogalactosylation of total serum *N*-glycoproteins [3].

This CDG is due to a deficiency in TMEM165 protein, also named TPARL [3], a 324 amino-acids transmembrane protein member of the UPF family 0016 (Uncharacterized Protein Family 0016; Pfam PF01169). This protein is mainly localized in Golgi membranes [3,6], predominantly in the *trans*-Golgi subcompartment. Similarly to other UPF0016 family members, TMEM165 is highly conserved throughout evolution (919 different species in prokaryotes and 405 species in eukaryotes) [7].

The cellular and molecular functions of UPF0016 family members remain controversial. Gdt1p (Grc1 dependent translation factor 1), the yeast ortholog of TMEM165 in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was initially postulated to be a Ca²⁺/H⁺ exchanger [8]. Recent results however question the nature of the exchanged ions. Unexpectedly, PAM71 (Photosynthesis Affected Mutant 71), the *Arabidopsis thaliana* plant ortholog of TMEM165 has been shown to function as a Ca²⁺/Mn²⁺ cation antiport transporter localized in the thylakoid membranes system and crucial for the regulation of chloroplastic Mn²⁺ homeostasis [9]. In addition, we recently demonstrated that the Golgi glycosylation defect due to TMEM165 deficiency also results from a defect in Golgi Mn²⁺ homeostasis [10]. Very importantly, a slight Mn²⁺ supplementation is sufficient to suppress the observed Golgi glycosylation defect in both deficient yeasts and human cells [11]. Furthermore, our recent studies suggested the function of Gdt1p as a Ca²⁺/Mn²⁺ cation antiport transporter [12]. In agreement with these results, Thines and collaborators have recently demonstrated that the

yeast protein Gdt1p transports Mn^{2+} ions and thereby regulates manganese homeostasis in the Golgi [13].

Protein sequence alignments between PAM71, TMEM165 and Gdt1p underline highly conserved amino acids (Fig. 1) [12]. Two patterns of highly conserved successive amino acid sequences emerge from this alignment: E-x-G-D-K-[TF] and E-x-G-D-R-[SQ]. These motifs are enshrined in the first and fourth transmembrane protein domains (TM1 and TM 4) (Fig. 1).

In this paper, we particularly explored the contribution of these two highly conserved motifs in the function of TMEM165 in Golgi glycosylation and also in its Mn^{2+} sensitivity.

2. MATERIAL and METHODS

2.1. Sequence alignment

Uniprot accession codes are: *Homo sapiens* TMEM165_HUMAN, *Arabidopsis thaliana* PAM71_ARATH and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* GDT1_YEAST.

2.2. Cell culture, transfection and treatment

Control and KO TMEM165 HEK293T cells were maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Lonza, Basel, Switzerland), at 37 °C in humidity-saturated 5% CO₂ atmosphere. Transfections were performed using 4 µl of Lipofectamine 2000® (Thermo Scientific) for 0.5 µg of plasmid for each well of 6 wells-plate at 70% confluence in 1 ml DMEM medium. Transfections were stopped after 5 h. Wells were split 24 h after transfection and treated 48 h post-transfection. Manganese (II) chloride tetrahydrate, from Riedel-de-Haën (Seelze, Germany) treatment 500 µM was pursued for 4 and 8 h. Chloroquine (ICN Biomedicals) 100 µM was added 1 h before manganese as a pretreatment.

2.3. Constructs, vector engineering and mutagenesis

Mutated TMEM165 plasmids were generated and supplied by e-Zyvec (Lille, France).

2.4. Antibodies and other reagents

Anti-TMEM165 and anti-β-actin antibodies were purchased from MilliporeSigma (Burlington, MA, USA), anti-LAMP2 antibody from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Dallas, TX, USA) and *anti*-GM130 antibody from BD Biosciences. Polyclonal goat anti-rabbit IgG and goat anti-mouse IgG Horse Radish Peroxidase-conjugated were from Dako (Denmark).

2.5. Immunofluorescence staining

Cells were seeded on coverslips for 12–24 h, washed once in Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffer Saline (DPBS, Lonza) containing Calcium and Manganese and fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PAF) in PBS (Phosphate Buffer Saline) pH 7.3, for 30 min at room temperature. Coverslips were subsequently washed three times with PBS. Cells were permeabilized with 0.5% Triton X-100 in PBS for 15 min then washed three times with PBS. Coverslips were then saturated for 1 h in blocking buffer [0.2% gelatin, 2% Bovine

Serum Albumin (BSA), 2% FBS (Lonza) in PBS], followed by the incubation for 1 h with primary antibody diluted at 1:100 in blocking buffer, except for GPP130 that was diluted at 1:300. After washing with PBS, cells were incubated for 1 h with Alexa 488- or Alexa 568-secondary antibody (Life Technologies) diluted at 1:600 in blocking buffer. After three washes with PBS, nuclei were labeled with DAPI 1:300 for 15 min and then coverslips were mounted on glass slides with Mowiol. Fluorescence was detected through an inverted Zeiss LSM700 confocal microscope. Acquisitions were done with ZEN pro 2.1 software (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany).

2.6. Image analyses

Immunofluorescent images were edited using imageJ software (<http://imagej.nih.gov/ij>) developed by Fiji[®].

2.7. Western blotting

Cells were collected in PBS after 2 washes and centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 10 min. Cells were lysed in RIPA buffer [Tris/HCl 50 mM pH 7.9, NaCl 120 mM, NP40 0.5%, EDTA 1 mM, Na₃VO₄ 1 mM, NaF 5 mM] supplemented with a protease inhibitors mix (Roche Diagnostics, Penzberg, Germany) by a 30 min centrifugation at 14 000 rpm. Concentration of extracted proteins was determined with the Micro BCA™ Protein Assay Reagent kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA USA). For LAMP2 study only samples were preheated 10 min at 95 °C. 10 or 20 µg of total proteins of each sample were dissolved in reducing NuPage® Sample buffer and resolved by MOPS 4–12% Bis–Tris gel (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA USA) and then transferred with iBlot 2 Dry Blotting System (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA USA). Nitrocellulose membranes were blocked 1 h in TBS (Tris Buffer Saline) containing 0.05% Tween 20 5% (w/v) non-fat dried milk for at least 1 h at room temperature, then incubated 1 h with primary antibodies (used at a dilution of 1:2000 for TMEM165, 1: 20 000 for β Actin) and overnight for LAMP2 primary antibody 1:20 000. After three 5 min-TBS-T washes, membranes were incubated with respective secondary antibodies for 1 h (1:10 000 dilution for polyclonal goat anti-rabbit IgG and 1:20 000 for goat anti-mouse IgG Horse Radish Peroxidase-conjugated).

Signal was detected using chemiluminescence reagent Pierce™ Pico Plus Western Blotting Substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA USA) on imaging film (GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK) or Camera Fusion® (Vilber Lourmat) and its software.

3. Results

3.1. Functionality of TMEM165 mutants in Golgi glycosylation

The ability for TMEM165 to rescue LAMP2 glycosylation defect in TMEM165 KO HEK293T cells was used to investigate the involvement each amino acid of the two highly conserved sequences. To explore this, 10 different mutations in the most conserved amino acids that lay in the two signature-motifs were generated (Fig. 1). The wild type (wt-) and mutated forms of TMEM165 were then transiently expressed in TMEM165 KO HEK293T cells and the Golgi glycosylation of LAMP2 was followed by Western blot experiments as previously described [14] (Fig. 2A). Compared to untransfected cells (KO), the expression

of the wt-TMEM165 rescued fully glycosylated forms of LAMP2 similar to control cells. Even though the mutated forms of TMEM165 transfection gave heterogeneous results (Fig. 2A), only 3 mutants showed a partial restoration of LAMP2 glycosylation: E108G-, K112G-, R252G-TMEM165, E108G and R252G giving the mildest restorations. Interestingly among all our mutants, 6 of the conserved E-x-GDKT/E-x-GDRSQ motifs are unable to restore LAMP2 glycosylation (Fig. 2B). The mutants (D111G-, T113G-, F114G-, E248G-, D251G-, S253G-, Q254G) were found unable to restore LAMP2 glycosylation (Fig. 2B). This result is characteristic from these two motifs as most of the TMEM165 mutated forms, except G304R (patient mutation), were able to rescue LAMP2 glycosylation (Supp. Fig. 1).

To assess these results, the expression level among the mutated forms of TMEM165 was then investigated by Western blot experiments. Although the TMEM165 profile is found heterogeneous with two major bands, there was no major difference in TMEM165 expression level (Fig. 2A). Altogether these results emphasize the importance of some specific amino acids of the two conserved motifs in TMEM165 function in Golgi glycosylation.

3.2. Subcellular localization of TMEM165 mutants

The functionality of TMEM165 mutants in Golgi glycosylation depends of the TMEM165 mutants' expression but also on their subcellular Golgi localization. To reinforce the above results, the Golgi localization of the mutated forms of TMEM165 was then investigated by immunofluorescence and confocal microscopy experiments.

Most of the mutated forms of TMEM165 displayed a Golgi localization as observed by colocalization experiments using the GM130 Golgi marker (Fig. 2C and D). Very interestingly, the D251G- and S253G-TMEM165 mutants, did not entirely colocalize with GM130 as vesicular structures localized throughout the cytoplasm could be detected. To further assess the subcellular localization of these mutants, immunofluorescence staining using the lysosomal/endosomal intracellular marker LAMP2 was performed. A partial colocalization was observed with LAMP2 demonstrating the differential subcellular localization for these mutated forms (Supplementary Figs. 2A and B). For these mutants, it is likely that the observed lack of Golgi glycosylation restoration results from a subcellular mislocalization.

3.3. Sensitivity of TMEM165 mutants to manganese exposure

We recently highlighted that, when exposed to high manganese concentration, TMEM165 was efficiently targeted to lysosomes for degradation [15]. As for the glycosylation study, we investigated the Mn^{2+} sensitivity of these different mutants. To assess this point, the wild-type and mutated forms of TMEM165 were transiently transfected in KO cells. The impact of high Mn^{2+} concentration supplementation on the stability and subcellular localization was investigated during a 4 and 8 h time course by Western blot (Fig. 3) and immunofluorescence experiments (data not shown). Diagrams under each mutant's Western blot describe the quantification of the remaining TMEM165 after 4 and 8 h of Mn^{2+} treatment. As previously published [15] we observed that TMEM165 in normal HEK293T

cells is highly sensitive to manganese, with a complete loss of this protein after 8 h treatment (Fig. 3A). Same observation is made after transfection of the wild-type form of TMEM165 in HEK293T KO TMEM165 cells with a loss over 75% of TMEM165 expression after 4 h manganese treatment (Fig. 3A).

Concerning the mutated forms of TMEM165, 5 are found partially resistant, E108G, D111G, T113G, D251G and S253G. At the opposite, K112G, F114G, E248G, R252G and Q254G are sensitive to manganese treatment. These results were confirmed by immunofluorescence confocal microscopy (data not shown) and demonstrate the crucial importance of specific amino acids in the differential Mn induced sensitivity of TMEM165.

3.4. The functional mutants are targeted and degraded into lysosomes

We recently established that the Mn^{2+} induced degradation of TMEM165 was inhibited by chloroquine treatment [15]. To assess whether the mutated forms of TMEM165 fall under the same regulation, the stability of wt- and mutated forms of TMEM165 were analyzed by Western blot and immunofluorescence after Mn^{2+} exposure, in the presence or the absence of chloroquine. The degradation of every mutated forms of TMEM165 was completely blocked by chloroquine (data not shown). The molecular mechanism by which TMEM165 is sent to lysosomes following Mn^{2+} exposure is currently unknown. Monoubiquitination is known to be a very efficient mechanism to target proteins for lysosomal degradation. It appears that the cytosolic loop of TMEM165 contains 4 lysine residues K198, K199, K200 and K208 that could be involved in the Mn^{2+} induced lysosomal targeting. In order to investigate the role of these lysines, TMEM165 mutants (K198R, K199R, K200R, K208R and K198–K200R) were generated and analyzed by Western blot and immunofluorescence after Mn^{2+} exposure, in the presence or in the absence of chloroquine (Supp. Figure 3). We observed that after Mn^{2+} exposure, the lysine mutants of TMEM165 were localized in the Golgi and were degraded similarly to what is observed for wt-TMEM165. Altogether, these results indicate that the lysine residues of the cytosolic loop are not involved in the expression, neither in the Golgi localization nor in its Mn^{2+} -induced degradation of TMEM165.

4. Discussion

Although the precise molecular and cellular functions of TMEM165 are still under debate, its functional role in Golgi glycosylation is now clearly established. The link between TMEM165 and cellular/Golgi Mn^{2+} homeostasis maintenance is shown by (i) the alteration of GPP130 Mn^{2+} induced degradation in TMEM165 depleted cells, (ii) the restoration of Golgi glycosylation by Mn^{2+} supplementation [11], and (iii) the TMEM165 Mn^{2+} sensitivity [15]. It is now highly suspected that TMEM165 functions as a Golgi Ca^{2+}/Mn^{2+} transporter regulating both Ca^{2+}/Mn^{2+} Golgi homeostasis. As observed in yeasts, the Golgi glycosylation defect due to a lack of TMEM165 would result in an alteration of the Golgi Mn^{2+} homeostasis crucial for the activities of Golgi glycosyltransferases using UDP-sugars as donors [11]. TMEM165 is a member of the UPF0016 family characterized by two highly conserved consensus motifs E- ϕ -G-D-[KR]-[TS]. Our previous results showed that the E- ϕ -G-D-K-T motif (motif 1) was facing the cytosol while the E- ϕ -G-D-R-S (motif 2) was

exposed to the Golgi luminal side and hence are predicted to be involved in the transport function of UPF0016 members [15]. In this paper we wanted to further understand the contribution of these two highly conserved motifs in the role of TMEM165 in Golgi glycosylation and also in its sensitivity to high Mn^{2+} concentration.

Our results first emphasized that some of the mutated forms of TMEM165 are unable to rescue Golgi glycosylation. The mutation of the amino acid E108G does not seem to strongly affect the function of TMEM165 in Golgi glycosylation as a slight restoration of LAMP2 glycosylation is observed. At the opposite, the E248G mutation (second motif) cannot rescue Golgi glycosylation. Interestingly, the polar amino acids (T113 and S253) are found crucial for the function of TMEM165 in Golgi glycosylation while basic amino acids (K112 and R252) are dispensable. We hypothesize that these polar amino acids, via post-translational modifications, play a crucial role in the regulation of TMEM165 functionality.

As proposed for yeasts, it is most likely that amino acids of the two conserved motifs constitute the cation binding sites of TMEM165. In such hypothesis, mutations in specific amino acids of the two conserved motifs alter the transport function of TMEM165 by impairing cation affinity or pocket conformation changes.

The other particularity of TMEM165 is its sensitivity to high Mn^{2+} concentrations. We recently demonstrated that following high Mn^{2+} exposure, TMEM165 was targeted to lysosomes for its degradation [15]. The targeting molecular mechanism is unclear but recent investigations propose the requirement of Sortilin in the Mn^{2+} induced degradation of TMEM165 [16]. The Mn^{2+} sensitivity of the mutated forms of TMEM165 was evaluated. As pointed out for the glycosylation, most of the generated mutated forms of TMEM165 are resistant to Mn^{2+} exposure and only few are sensitive. Our results demonstrate that the acidic amino acids (E and D) of the first conserved motif are crucial in conferring the Mn^{2+} sensitivity to TMEM165. The two resistant mutants D251G and S253G of the second motif are insensitive to manganese presumably due to their mislocalization. Another interesting observation deals with the T113G that is also clearly found resistant to Mn exposure while correctly Golgi localized. The roles of these amino acids in the Mn^{2+} induced degradation mechanism/Golgi subcellular localization are not clear but one can imagine that they are part of a regulatory mechanism that delicately governs the Golgi ion homeostasis.

In conclusion, this paper highlights the importance of the two very conserved regions for the functionality of TMEM165 in Golgi glycosylation, its subcellular Golgi localization and Mn^{2+} sensitivity.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Abbreviations

CQ	Chloroquine
CDG	Congenital Disorder(s) of Glycosylation
GPP130	Golgi Phosphoprotein 4
ER	Endoplasmic Reticulum
LAMP2	Lysosomal-associated membrane protein 2
Mn	Manganese
Mn²⁺	Manganese, ion (2+)
MnCl₂	Manganese (II) chloride tetrahydratex
TMEM165	Transmembrane Protein 165
SPCA1	Secretory-Pathway Ca ²⁺ -ATPase 1
PAM71	Photosynthesis Affected Mutant 71
UPF	Uncharacterized Protein Family

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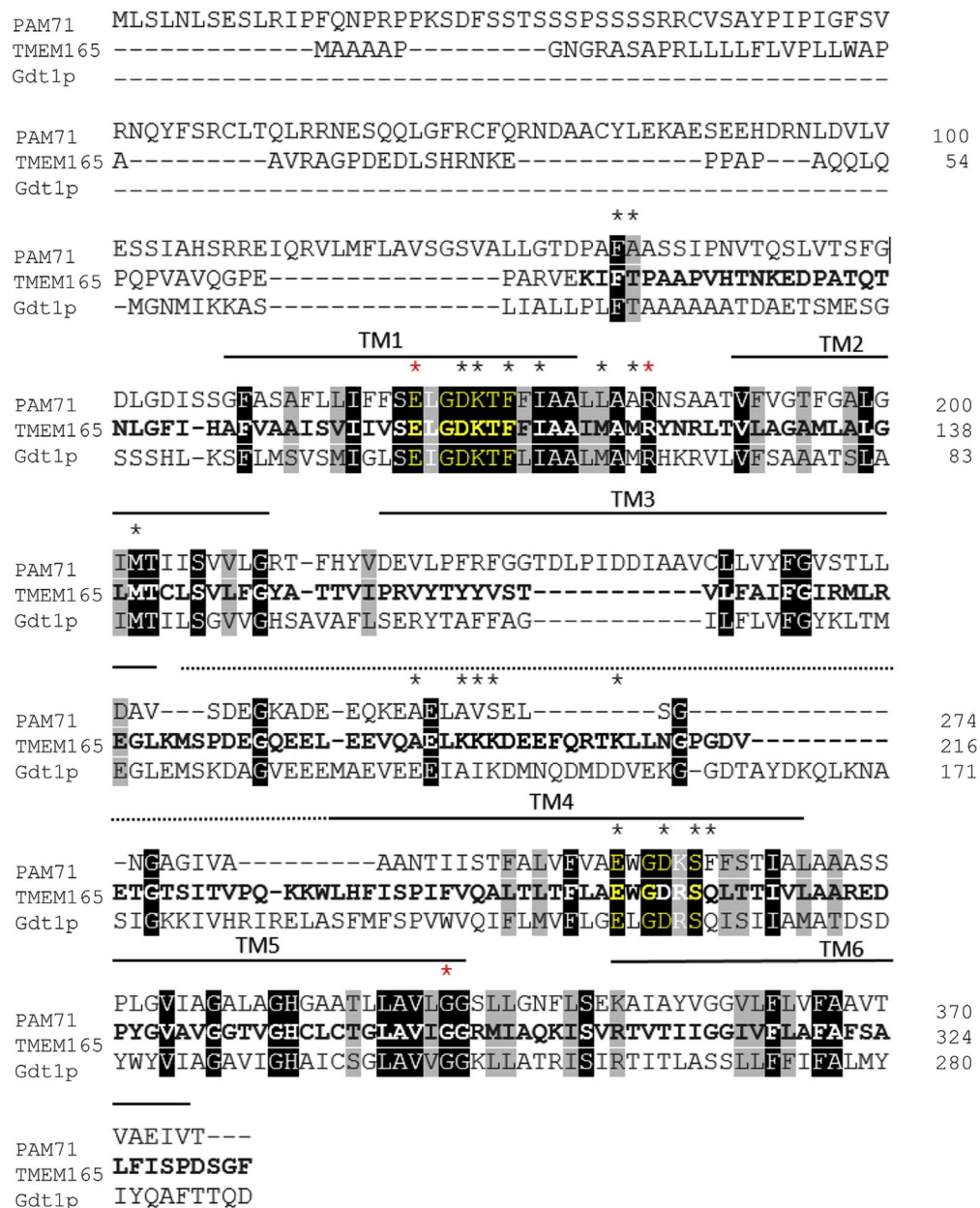


Fig. 1. Protein sequence alignment of TMEM165 and its orthologs PAM71 from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and Gdt1p from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

The sequences were found in Uniprot database (www.uniprot.org) and the protein sequence alignment was generated using Clustal Omega (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo>). Black boxes indicate the amino acid residues that are identical whereas gray boxes show the homologous amino acid residues. The black asterisks indicate the position of the generated mutated amino acids. The red asterisks indicate the mutated amino acids found in TMEM165-CDG patients' proteins. The bold characters correspond to the amino acid residues that are found conserved in the mammalian TMEM165 sequence (SwissProt Database) using the Cobalt-NCBI multiple alignment tool (NCBI). Conserved domains (motif 1 and 2) are highlighted in yellow. Black horizontal bars on the top of the sequences

indicate the amino acids within the predictive transmembrane domains (TMHMM v2.0 server tool). The dotted line indicates the cytosolic central loop.

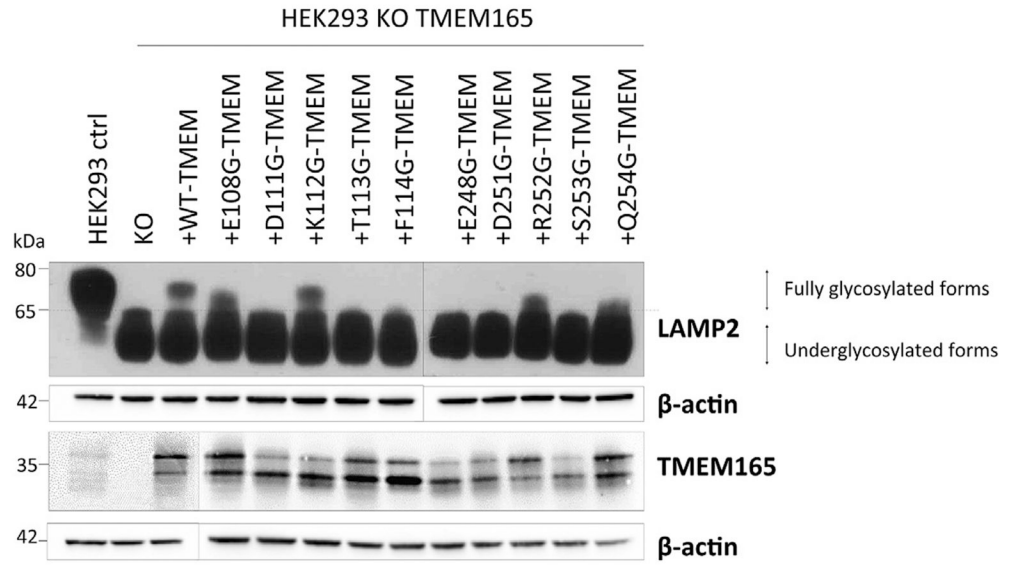
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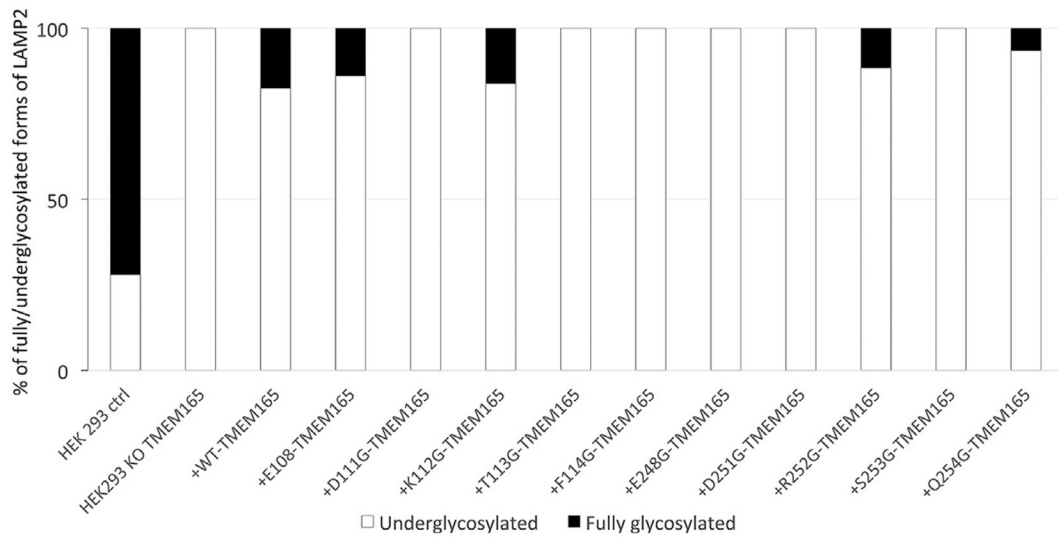
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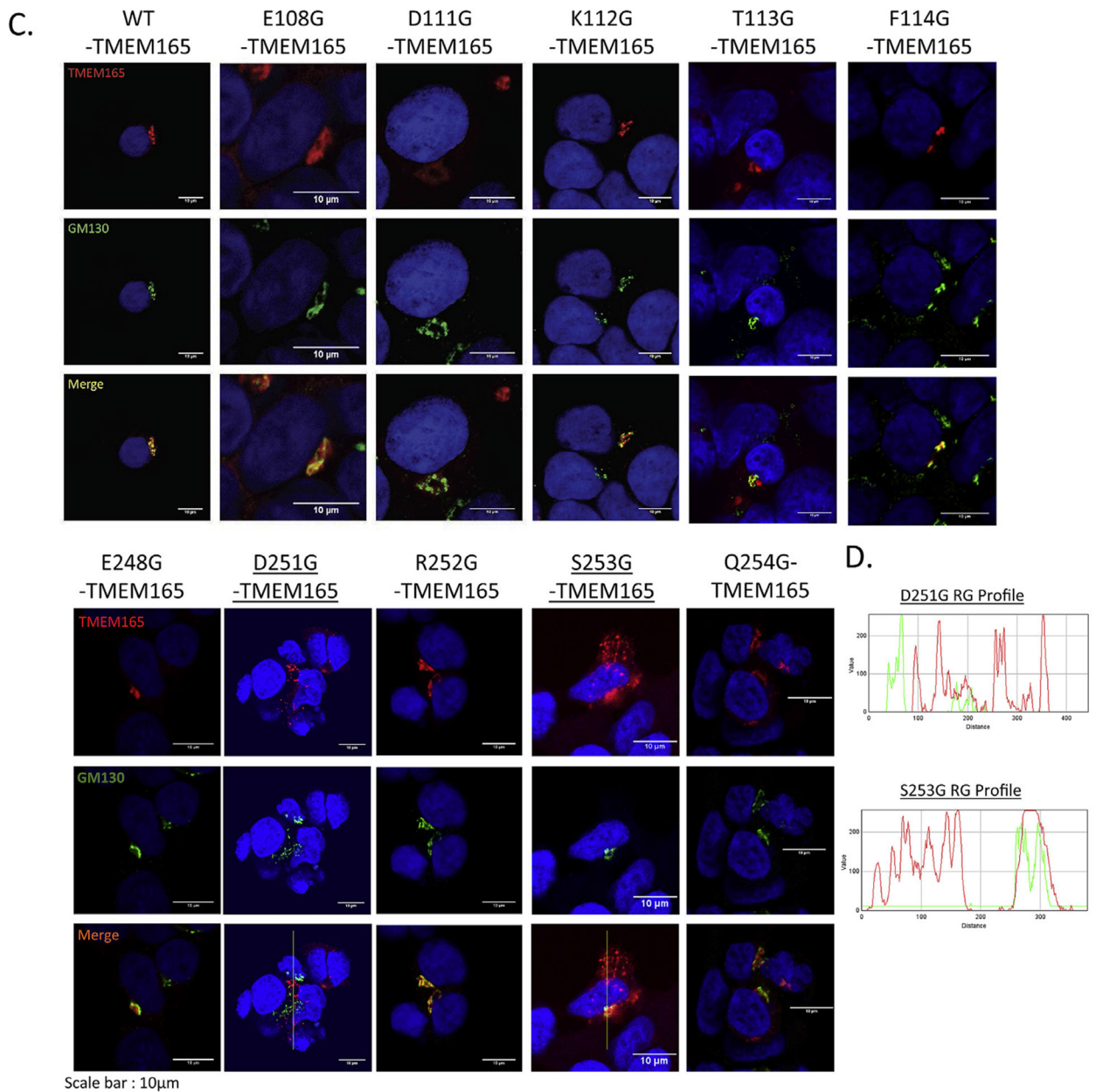


Fig. 2. LAMP2 glycosylation profile after TMEM165 mutants transfection.

HEK293T KO TMEM165 cells were transfected with empty-vector, wild-type or TMEM165 constructs. Total cells lysates were obtained, subjected to SDS-PAGE, Western blot was performed with the respective antibodies. **A.** LAMP2 and TMEM165 profiles obtained 24 h after transfection. **B.** Ratio of fully glycosylated forms of LAMP2 (percentage of fully glycosylated forms versus the total LAMP2). **C.** Immunofluorescence analysis of the expression and localization of TMEM165 in transfected cells with mutated forms of TMEM165 in conserved amino-acids. (GM130 = Golgi marker) **D.** Illustration of red and green fluorescence merge with RGB Profiler (ImageJ Fiji®).

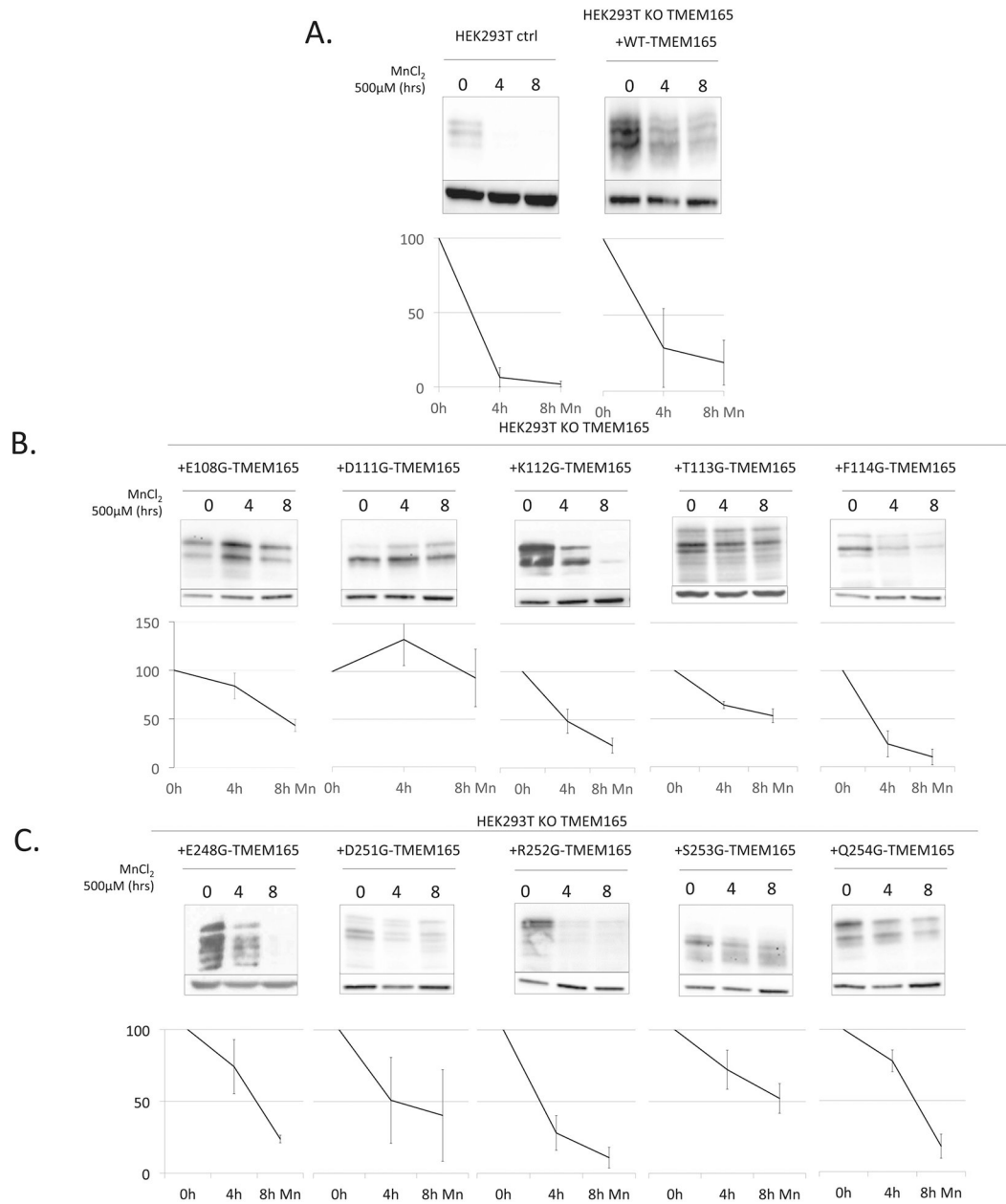


Fig. 3. Sensitivity of TMEM165 mutants to manganese exposure.

TMEM165 expression in cells transfected with transfected cells forms of TMEM165 in the conserved sequences with or without manganese (N = 3) **A.** In control cells and transfected cells with WT-TMEM165. **B.** In the cytosolic E-x-G-D-K-[TF] motif. **C.** In the luminal E-x-G-D-R-[SQ] motif. Relative quantification of TMEM165 degradation at 4 and 8 h manganese treatment below each respective Western blot.