Supplementary Materials for

Antibody-mediated depletion of human CLEC-2 in a humanised mouse model

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Supplemental Methods

Blood donors

Blood samples were obtained from healthy volunteers after obtaining written informed consent in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and with approval from the Institutional Review Boards of the University of Wuerzburg.

Animals

Animal experiments were approved by the district government of Lower Franconia. Humanised CLEC-2 (hCLEC-2KI) mice were generated by replacing the mouse *Clec1b* gene on chromosome 6 with the corresponding region of the human *Clec1b* gene using CRISPR/Cas9. Mice were genotyped by PCR using the following primers: fwd: 5'-GCAAAACAAACCCCAAGTGTCCTGG-3', WT-rev: 5'- ATGCCCAAATTGCTGAATGAGCCTT-3' and KI-rev: 5'-CCGTTATCCCCTTGACTTCTATGCCC-3' yielding a 247 bp PCR product for the WT allele and a 479 bp product for the KI allele.

Antibodies and Reagents

The mouse anti-human CLEC-2 antibodies AYP1 and AYP2, and the rat-anti mouse CLEC-2 antibodies INU1 and INU2, as well as recombinant mouse podoplanin-FC, were generated in house as previously described^{1,2} whereas the AYP1-FITC conjugate was purchased from Biolegend. Anti-mouse and antirat IgG-FITC antibodies were from Dako and the GAPDH antibody from Sigma Aldrich. All other antibodies were from Emfret Analytics. ADP, apyrase, prostacyclin (PGI2), fibrinogen and haematoxylin were from Sigma Aldrich. HORM collagen was from Nycomed Pharma, thrombin from Roche and U46619 from Alexis Biochemicals; heparin was from Ratiopharm, eosin was from Roth. Protein G Sepharose was from GE Healthcare. Rhodocytin and collagen related peptide (CRP) were generated as described previously.3,4

Mouse Platelet Preparation

Mice were bled from the retro-orbital plexus into heparin using a heparinised glass capillary. Blood was centrifuged twice at 300 *g* for 6 min to obtain the platelet-rich plasma (PRP) which was transferred into additional heparin prior to the second centrifugation. 0.02 µg/ml apyrase and 0.1 µg/ml prostacyclin were added to the PRP, which was further centrifuged at 800 *g* for 5 min to pellet the platelets. Platelets were resuspended in Tyrode's buffer supplemented with apyrase and prostacyclin, counted and centrifuged again before being resuspended at 5×10^5 for aggregation or 3×10^5 platelet/µl for spreading assays and left to rest at 37°C for 30 min prior to use.

Human Platelet Preparation

Citrated blood was taken from healthy volunteers and further anticoagulated with acid citrate dextrose (ACD). PRP was obtained by centrifugation at 300 *g* for 20 min and 0.02 µg/ml apyrase, 0.1 µg/ml prostacyclin and 100 µl/ml ACD were added before centrifugation at 500 *g* for 10 min. The resulting platelets were resuspended in 2 ml Tyrode's buffer supplemented with apyrase, prostacyclin and 150 µl/ml ACD and further centrifuged at 500 *g* for 10 min. Platelets were counted and resuspended in Tyrode's buffer at 5 x 10⁵ platelet/ μ l and left to rest at 37°C for 30 min prior to use.

Platelet Aggregation

Washed platelets were further diluted with Tyrode's buffer supplemented with 2 mM Ca²⁺ and 100 µg/ml human fibrinogen for all agonists except thrombin where Tyrode's buffer without fibrinogen was used. Platelet aggregation was measured using a 4-channel aggregometer (APACT) under stirring conditions for 10 min after the addition of 5 µg/ml collagen, 0.01 U/ml thrombin, 0.24 µg/ml rhodocytin, 1-20 µg/ml HEL1 or 10 μ g/ml of either INU1 or AYP1 antibodies or HEL Fab fragments.

For aggregation using ADP PRP was obtained as described above but without the addition of extra heparin. It was diluted in Tyrode's buffer supplemented with 2 mM Ca²⁺ and aggregation was measured for 10 min after the addition of 5 µM ADP.

Platelet Spreading

Platelets were allowed to spread at 37°C for 30 min on fibrinogen and CRP or 60 min on podoplanin before being fixed. For spreading on fibrinogen 0.01 U/ml thrombin were added to the platelets immediately prior to spreading. Platelets were imaged using a Zeiss Axiovert 200 microscope in DIC mode fitted with a 100x objective. 5 fields of view per coverslip were imaged and the platelets were categorised into 4 groups: 1) unspread platelets, 2) platelets forming filopodia, 3) platelets with lamellipodia and 4) fully spread platelets.

Western Blots

Mouse and human platelets were prepared as described above and resuspended at 1 x 10⁶ platelets/ μ l in lysis buffer prior to centrifugation at 20,000 *g* for 10 min at 4°C to remove cell membranes. Lysates were mixed with reducing (AYP2) or non-reducing (AYP1, INU2 and HEL1) Laemmli buffer. Samples were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred onto PVDF membranes which were blocked and then incubated with primary antibody. Membranes were incubated with secondary HRP-conjugated antibodies which were detected using ECL and an Amersham Imager.

Platelet Count

Blood was collected in EDTA coated tubes and platelet count was measured using a ScilVet analyser.

Flow Adhesion Assay

Coverslips were coated with 200 µg/ml HORM collagen overnight at 37°C then blocked in 1% BSA. Blood was diluted 1:2 in Tyrode's buffer supplemented with 2 mM Ca²⁺ and platelets were labelled with a Dylight 488 conjugated anti-GPIX antibody. Blood was perfused over the coverslips at a shear rate of 1200 s-1 for 4 min and washed for a further 4 min with Tyrode's buffer supplemented with calcium. 8 representative fields of view were imaged in both brightfield and fluorescence using a Leica DMI6000B microscope with a 63x objective. Images were then analysed in terms of platelet surface coverage and volume (fluorescent integrated density) using Fiji.5

Flow Cytometry

Glycoprotein Expression

50 µl of mouse blood was collected in heparin, further diluted 1:2 in PBS and incubated with saturating amounts of anti-GPIb, GPVI, GPV, GPIbβ, GPIX, αIIbβ3, β3, α2, α5, mCLEC-2 or hCLEC-2 FITCconjugated antibodies. 500 µl of PBS were added prior to measuring surface expression on a BD FACS Celesta. For assessing CLEC-2 expression on human platelets whole blood was diluted 1:20 in PBS and incubated with 2 µl AYP1-FITC.

Platelet Count

Blood was incubated with saturating amounts of anti-GPIX-FITC and anti-αIIbβ3-PE conjugated antibodies and double positive platelets were counted for 30 s.

Platelet Activation

Blood was diluted with 1 ml of Tyrode's buffer and centrifuged twice at 800 *g* for 5 min, then resuspended in 750 µl of Tyrode's supplemented with 2 mM Ca²⁺. Saturating amounts of JON/A-PE and anti-P-selectin-FITC antibodies were added as well as 10 µM ADP, 3 µM U46619, 0.001 – 0.1 U/ml thrombin, 0.1 – 10 µg/ml CRP, 1.2 µg/ml rhodocytin or 10 µg/ml AYP1 and incubated for 15 min. 500 µl PBS were added and platelet activation measured.

CLEC-2 Depletion

3 µg/g bodyweight of either AYP1, HEL1 or INU1 were injected intraperitoneally and platelet count and CLEC-2 surface expression were measured for up to 25 days. Antibody binding to platelets was determined using anti-mouse (AYP1) or anti-rat (HEL1 and INU1) IgG-FITC antibodies; prior to incubation, blood was further diluted in 1 ml PBS and centrifuged at 800 *g* for 5 min to remove any unbound CLEC-2 antibody. Mice were depleted 5 to 10 days before *in vivo* experiments.

Tail Bleeding Time

Mice were anaesthetised by intraperitoneal injection of medetomidine (0.5 μg/g; Pfizer, Karlsruhe, Germany), midazolam (5 μg/g; Roche, Grenzach-Wyhlen, Germany) and fentanyl (0.05 μg/g; Janssen – Cilag, Neuss, Germany). 1.5 mm of the tail was cut with a scalpel and blood was collected every 20 s using filter paper without touching the wound. This was done until bleeding ceased up to a maximum of 20 min.

Mechanical injury of abdominal aorta

6- to 12-week-old mice were anaesthetised as described above and the abdominal aorta was exposed. A Doppler ultrasonic flow probe (Transonic Systems) was placed around the aorta and thrombosis was induced upstream by mechanical injury resulting from a 15 s compression using forceps. Blood flow was monitored until either it ceased (complete vessel occlusion for 1 min) or 30 min had elapsed.

FeCl3-induced occlusive thrombus formation in mesenteric arterioles

3- to 4-week-old mice were anesthetised as described above. After a midline abdominal incision was made, the mesentery was exteriorised and 35- to 60-µm-diameter arterioles were visualised at x10magnification with an inverted microscope (Axiovert 200, Carl Zeiss) equipped with a 100-W mercury lamp (HBO) and a CoolSNAP-EZ camera (Visitron Systems). Endothelial damage was induced by application of a 3-mm2 filter paper saturated with 20% FeCl3. Metavue software was used to record adhesion and thrombus formation of fluorescently labelled platelets (DyLight488-conjugated anti-GPIX Ig derivative) for 40 minutes or until complete occlusion of the vessel (blood flow stopped for >1 min).

Histology

Intestine, brain, liver, spleen, lymph nodes and femora were removed and fixed before being dehydrated and embedded in paraffin. Sections were stained with haematoxylin and eosin and imaged using a Leica DMI400B microscope. Megakaryocytes were counted in spleen and femoral sections across 8 fields of view.

Antibody Generation

CLEC-2 was immunoprecipitated from human platelet lysates using Protein G Sepharose beads coupled to AYP1 and used to repeatedly immunise female Wistar rats. Splenic B-cells were fused with Ag14 myeloma cells and HAT medium was used to select for hybridomas. These were tested by flow cytometry for secretion of hCLEC-2 specific antibodies; supernatant from each hybridoma was incubated with hCLEC-2KI mouse blood before washing in 1 ml PBS by centrifugation. The supernatant was discarded and the blood was incubated with anti-rat IgG-FITC before being analysed on a BD FACS Calibur. Positive hybridomas were subcloned and tested for hCLEC-2 specificity twice before monoclonal antibody purification.

Statistical Analysis

Normally distributed data, as determined using a Shapiro-Wilk test, are shown as mean ± standard deviation and were analysed by ANOVA followed by multiple comparison correction where appropriate, unless otherwise stated. Data that do not follow a normal distribution are shown as median with interquartile range and were analysed by Mann-Whitney tests unless otherwise stated.

Supplemental References

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- 3. Bergmeier W, Bouvard D, Eble JA, Mokhtari-Nejad R, Schulte V, Zirngibl H, et al. Rhodocytin (aggretin) activates platelets lacking alpha(2)beta(1) integrin, glycoprotein VI, and the ligandbinding domain of glycoprotein Ibalpha. *J Biol Chem*. 2001;276(27):25121-25126.
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Supplemental Tables

Supplemental Table 1. Analysis of genotypes at weaning of pups from heterozygous hCLEC-2^{KI} **matings.**

Supplemental Table 2. Analysis of blood parameters shows no difference between wildtype and hCLEC-2KI mice.

Data is shown as median with the interquartile range in brackets, $n = 12$. WBC, white blood cell; LYM, lymphocyte; MON, monocyte; GRA, granulocyte; EOS, eosinophil; RBC, red blood cell; PLT, platelet; MPV, mean platelet volume; HGB, haemoglobin; HCT, haematocrit; MCV, mean corpuscular volume; MCH, mean corpuscular haemoglobin; MCHC, mean corpuscular haemoglobin concentration; RDW, red cell distribution width.

Supplemental Table 3. Comparison of platelet glycoprotein expression shows no difference between wildtype and hCLEC-2^{KI} mice.

Data is shown as median with the interquartile range in brackets. $n = 4$ and data is representative of 3 independent experiments.

Supplemental Figures

Supplemental Figure 1. Generation of hCLEC-2KI mice. CRISPR/Cas9 was used to replace the wildtype mouse *Clec1b* gene on chromosome 6 with the human variant. The entire mouse gene was replaced with the human but the three and five prime untranslated regions (3' and 5' UTR) remained as the original mouse sequence.

Supplemental Figure 2. No evidence of blood-lymphatic mixing and comparable organ morphology between hCLEC-2KI and WT mice. (**A**) Haematoxylin and eosin staining of intestines, lymph nodes, brains and livers from hCLEC-2^{KI} and WT mice show no differences in morphology. (**B**) Intestines from adult WT, hCLEC-2^{KI} and *Clec1b^{PF4Cre+}* mice were compared for evidence of bloodlymphatic mixing. In *Clec1b^{PF4Cre+}* but not hCLEC-2^{KI} mice there is increased blood filling in the mesenteric vessels. (**C**) Quantification of megakaryocytes in haematoxylin and eosin stained bone sections shows no difference between hCLEC-2KI and WT mice or in bone morphology. (**D**) Quantification of megakaryocytes in haematoxylin and eosin stained spleen sections show no difference between hCLEC- 2^{k_1} and WT mice or in spleen morphology. Scale bars represent 100 μ M. Yellow arrowheads indicate megakaryocytes. Images are representative of $n = 3$. Results are shown as mean ± standard deviation.

Supplemental Figure 3. hCLEC-2KI mice only express human CLEC-2. Western blot analysis of platelet lysates from WT, heterozygous, hCLEC-2KI and healthy human donors show hCLEC-2KI mouse platelet express human but not mouse CLEC-2. CLEC-2 expression was normalised to the loading control GAPDH. (**A**) Representative Western blot and quantification of mouse CLEC-2 using the antibody INU2. (**B**) Representative Western blot and quantification of human CLEC-2 using the antibody AYP2. Results are shown as mean ± standard deviation and each circle represents one individual. Het, heterozygous; GAPDH, Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase; AU, arbitrary units.

Supplemental Figure 4. hCLEC-2KI mice have normal platelet activation and aggregation. (**A**) Platelet integrin activation measured by JON/A-PE binding in flow cytometry shows no difference in hCLEC-2KI compared to WT mice following stimulation with ADP, U46619 or thrombin. Data were analysed using Mann-Whitney tests (P > 0.05) (**B**) Platelet granule secretion measured using an anti-P-selectin antibody in flow cytometry was unaltered in hCLEC-2^{KI} following platelet activation by ADP, U46619 or thrombin. Data were analysed using Mann-Whitney tests (P > 0.05) (A, B) each circle represents one individual. Results are shown as mean ± standard deviation. (**C**) Light transmission aggregometry with washed platelets shows unaltered aggregation in hCLEC-2KI mice in response to collagen (5 μ g/ml) or thrombin (0.01 U/ml) as well as no difference in ADP (5 μ M) induced aggregation in platelet rich plasma. Traces are representative of at least $n = 3$. PE, phycoerythrin; MFI, mean fluorescent intensity; Rest, resting; ADP, adenosine diphosphate; U46, thromboxane A2 mimetic U46619; FITC, fluorescein isothiocyanate.

Supplemental Figure 5. Thrombus formation on collagen under flow is unaltered in hCLEC-2^{KI} mice at a shear rate of 1200 s⁻¹. (A) Surface coverage of thrombi formed on collagen was comparable between WT and hCLEC-2KI mice (unpaired t-test, $P = 0.99$). (B) Thrombus volume did not differ between WT and hCLEC-2^{KI} mice (unpaired t-test, $P = 0.36$). (C) Representative brightfield and fluorescent images of aggregates formed under flow on collagen from WT and hCLEC-2KI mice. Platelets were labelled prior to flow with an anti-GPIX-Dylight488 conjugated antibody. Scale bars represent 50 µm. Data are shown as mean ± standard deviation and each circle represents one animal. AU, arbitrary units.

Supplemental Figure 6. Platelet spreading is unaltered on fibrinogen and CRP but reduced on mouse podoplanin in hCLEC-2KI mice. Platelet spreading is shown as the percentage of platelets in each of the 4 stages of spreading: unspread, forming filopodia, forming lamellipodia and fully spread platelets from 5 fields of view plus representative images. (**A**) Platelet spreading on 100 µg/ml human fibrinogen was comparable between WT and hCLEC-2KI mice after 30 min (P = 0.63). 0.01 U/ml thrombin were added to the platelets immediately prior to spreading. (**B**) Platelet spreading on 10 µg/ml CRP after 30 min was comparable for WT and hCLEC-2KI mice ($P = 0.99$). (C) Platelet spreading on 10 µg/ml recombinant mouse podoplanin-FC was reduced in hCLEC-2KI mice compared to WT. More platelets had filopodia (P = 0.0006) in the hCLEC-2^{KI} group and fewer formed lamellipodia (P = 0.0188). However, no unspread platelets were observed. Data was analysed using a two-way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparison test. Data represents 3 mice per genotype and is representative of at least 2 independent experiments. *** P < 0.001, * P < 0.05.

Supplemental Figure 7. HEL1 is specific to hCLEC-2 and appears to bind at a different site than AYP1 but still activates hCLEC-2KI platelets. (A) HEL1 can detect hCLEC-2 from both hCLEC-2KI and human platelet lysates but not WT mouse lysates. The apparent difference in the molecular weight of hCLEC-2 from hCLEC-2KI and human platelets is most likely the result of slightly different glycosylation patterns between both species. (**B**) HEL1 immunoprecipitates hCLEC-2. This is shown by Western blotting of the eluate following immunoprecipitation by HEL1 (5 µg) coupled to protein G Sepharose beads from platelet lysate. (**C**) HEL1 can detect hCLEC-2 on the surface of hCLEC-2KI but not WT platelets by flow cytometry. HEL was incubated with whole blood, which was then washed by centrifugation and an anti-rat IgG-FITC coupled antibody was used to detect HEL1 on the platelet surface. (**D**) HEL1 and AYP1 bind to different sites on hCLEC-2 as shown by flow cytometry. hCLEC- 2^{k} mouse blood incubated with 10 μq /ml AYP1 had normal surface expression of hCLEC-2 determined using HEL1-FITC and blood incubated with 10 ug/ml HEL1 had normal hCLEC-2 surface expression when measured with AYP1-FITC. In both cases incubating and measuring hCLEC-2 surface expression with the same antibody resulted in a reduction in expression compared to an untreated control due to opsonization of the respective binding site. (**E**) HEL1 IgG causes dose-dependent aggregation of hCLEC-2KI platelets. (**F**) HEL1 Fab fragments do not block rhodocytin (0.24 µg/ml) or AYP1 IgG (10

µg/ml) induced hCLEC-2KI platelet aggregation but do prevent HEL1 IgG (10 µg/ml) induced aggregation providing further evidence HEL1 and AYP1 bind to different epitopes on hCLEC-2. HEL1 Fab fragments themselves do not induce platelet aggregation. Data are show as mean \pm standard deviation and statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparisons test. ****, P < 0.001 **, P < 0.01. Each circle represents one individual. MFI, mean fluorescent intensity; FITC, fluorescein isothiocyanate.

Supplemental Figure 8. hCLEC-2 immunodepletion by HEL1 and AYP1 results in CLEC-2 deficient platelets. (**A**) AYP1 can be detected on the surface of platelets after intraperitoneal injection using an anti-mouse IgG-FITC conjugated antibody for only 1 day following injection. This is shown as an increased in MFI following antibody injection compared to the baseline measurements. (**B**) Traces of HEL1 and INU1 can be detected on the surface of hCLEC-2KI and WT platelets respectively for only 1 day after intraperitoneal injection using an anti-rat IgG-FITC conjugated antibody. This is shown as an increased in MFI following antibody injection compared to the baseline measurements. (**C**) Intraperitoneal AYP1 (3 µg/g bodyweight) depletes both intra- and extracellular hCLEC-2. Western blotting of platelet lysates from AYP1 injected mice at the various time points using AYP2 shows that hCLEC-2 is absent from platelets between 5 and 15 days after injection, earlier time points could not be studied due to the thrombocytopenia caused by AYP1 injection. (**D**) Quantification of Western blots showing hCLEC-2 depletion following AYP1 injection. hCLEC-2 levels increase slightly at 15 days after injection and return fully between day 20 and 25. Data is shown as the percentage of hCLEC-2 compared to untreated mice and normalised to the loading control GAPDH, each dot represents one animal. (**E**) Intraperitoneal HEL1 (3 µg/g bodyweight) depletes both intra- and extracellular hCLEC-2. Western blotting of platelet lysates from HEL1 injected mice at the various time points using HEL1 shows that hCLEC-2 is absent from platelets between 5 and 15 days after injection, earlier time points could not be studied due to the thrombocytopenia caused by HEL1. "-" indicates an empty lane. (**F**) Quantification of Western blots showing hCLEC-2 depletion following HEL1 injection. hCLEC-2 levels increase slightly 15 days after injection and return fully between day 20 and 25. Data is shown as the percentage of hCLEC-2 compared to untreated mice and normalised to the loading control integrin β3, each dot represents one animal.MFI, mean fluorescent intensity; GAPDH, Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase.

Supplemental Figure 9. Occlusive thrombus formation is reduced in hCLEC-2KI mice following FeCl3-induced injury. (A) No differences were observed in the time to appearance of the first thrombi following FeCl₃-induced injury in CLEC-2 depleted or naïve hCLEC-2 mice compared to WT. Data is shown as mean. (B) hCLEC-2KI mice had increased vessel occlusion times compared to WT mice (Fisher exact test P = 0.0028), while the differences to CLEC-2 depleted hCLEC-2^{KI} mice were not significant (Fisher exact test $P = 0.0717$). Horizontal lines represent the mean. (C) Representative images of mesenteric vessels following FeCl₃-induced injury for each group at the times indicated after injury. Representative images of both occluded and non-occluded hCLEC-2KI vessels are shown. Each symbol represents 1 vessel and up to 3 vessels per mouse were injured. **, P < 0.01.