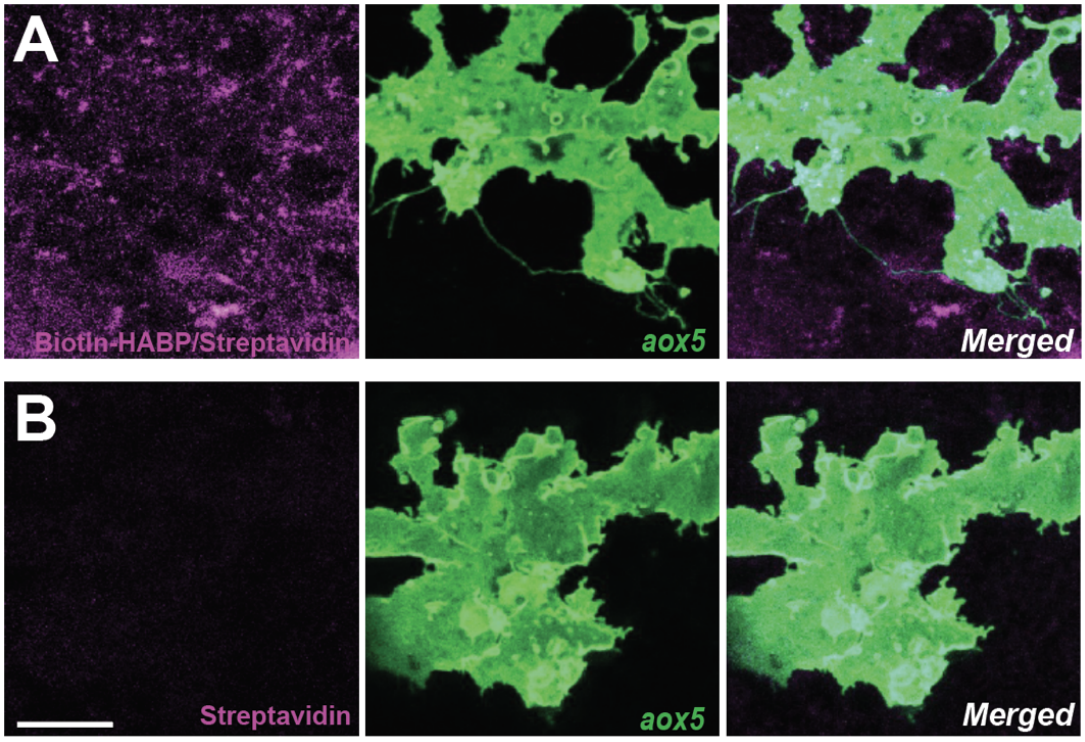

Figure S1. Lack of apparent Hyaluronic acid binding protein (HABP) expression in xanthoblasts
(A) Xanthoblasts appear to show no overlapping expression when traced using Biotin-conjugated HABP and Alexa-546-labelled streptavidin. (B) A control experiment with Alexa-546 streptavidin alone did not result in any detectable signal. Scale bar represents 20μm.

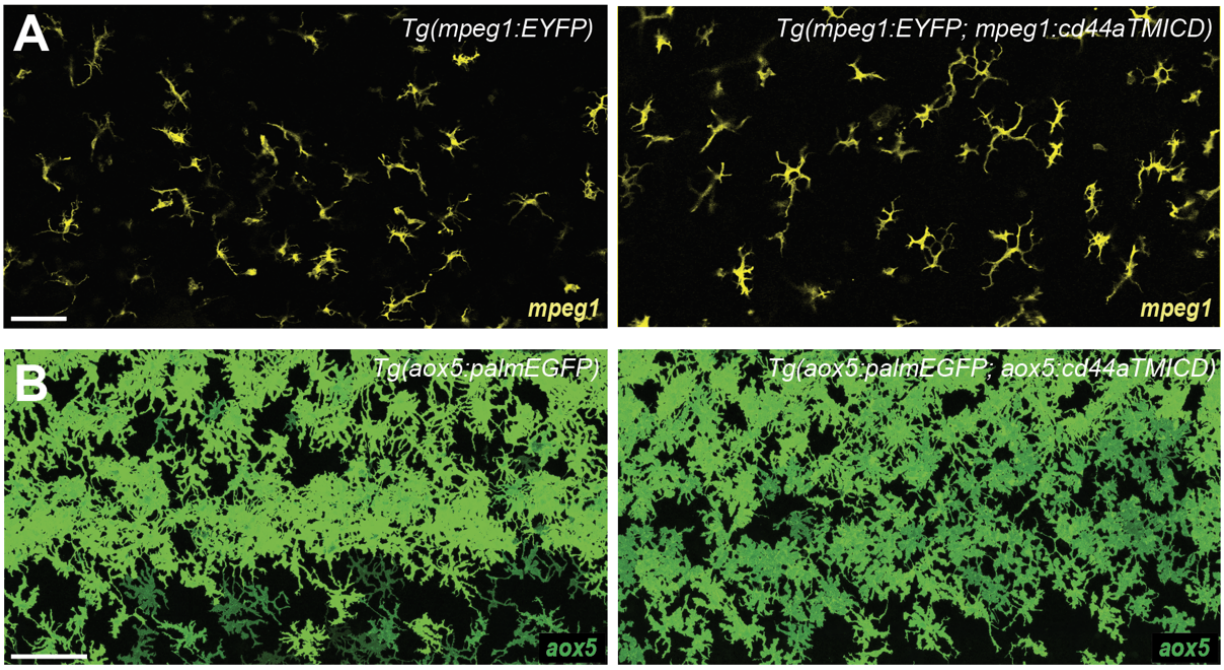

Figure S2. Overexpression of cd44aTMICD does not alter cell survival or behavior
(A) Macrophages, labelled with an mpeg1 promoter driving membrane YFP, display no difference in cell count or morphology when compared to cells with overexpressed cd44aTMICD under the mpeg1 promotor. (B) Similarly, there is no noticeable change in appearance of xanthophore lineages overexpressing cd44aTMICD when compared to control fish. Scale bars represent 20μm (A, B).

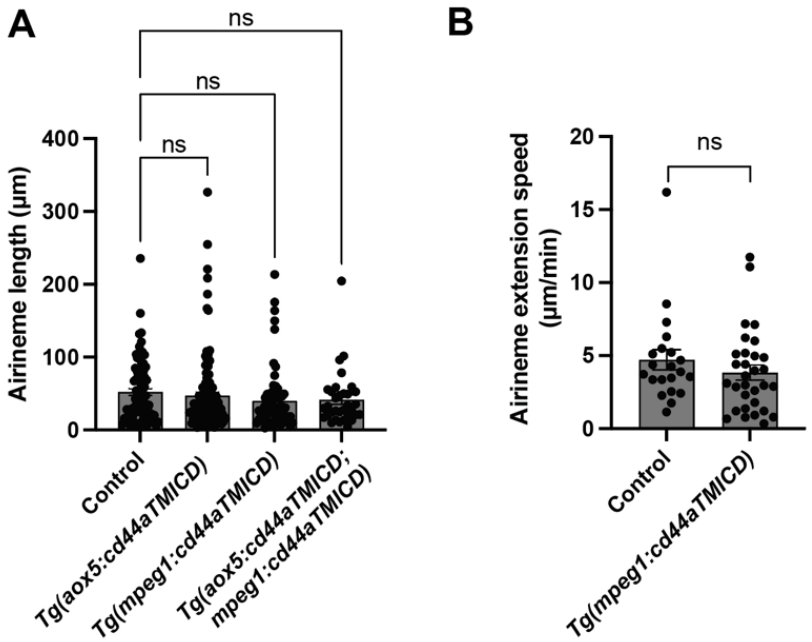

Figure S3. Airineme length and speed remained consistent despite CD44a manipulations
(A) There was no significant difference in airineme length in embryos where cd44aTMICD was overexpressed either in xanthophore-lineages, macrophages, or in both concurrently, ($F_{(3,\ 288)}$=1.020, P=0.3843). (B) There was no statistically significant difference in airineme extension speed in embryos overexpressing cd44aTMICD in macrophages, P=0.2968, 3 embryos each. Statistical significance was assessed using a One-way ANOVA, followed by a Tukey's HSD post hoc test or a Student's t test. Error bars indicate mean ± SEM.