

Supporting Information

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SI Materials and Methods

Cell Culture, Reagents, and Antibodies. U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α and U937-mt-P/R9 cells, which conditionally express promyelocytic leukemia zinc finger/retinoic acid receptor- α (PLZF/RAR α) and promyelocytic leukemia/retinoic acid receptor- α (PML/RAR α) fusion proteins, respectively, were kindly provided by P. G. Pelicci (University of Milano, Milan, Italy). In parallel, U937-mt-Bulk cells were used as parental control. All cell lines were maintained in RPMI 1640 supplemented with 10% (vol/vol) FBS (Gibco BRL) at 37 °C in a fully humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂. COS-7 cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% (vol/vol) FBS. Primary murine leukemic cells were flushed from the tibia and femur of mice afflicted by full-blown myeloid leukemia, and cultured in DMEM containing 20% (vol/vol) FBS. All-*trans* retinoic acid (ATRA), TSA, PMA, DMSO, theophylline, H89 (Sigma-Aldrich), and 8-CPT-cAMP (BIOLOG Life Science) were prepared as described previously (1). The following antibodies were used: RAR α (sc-551), Lamin B (sc-6216) (all from Santa Cruz), PLZF (ab39354), silencing mediator for retinoic acid and thyroid hormone receptors (SMRT; ab24551), nuclear receptor corepressor (NCoR1; ab24552), acetylated H3 (ab47915), trimethylated H3K4 (ab8580), and H3K27 (ab6002) (all from Abcam), acetylated H4 (06-866, Millipore), p-(Ser/Thr) PKA substrates (9621), p-Ser133-CREB (9198), CREB (9104) (all from Cell Signaling), and β -actin (a1978, Sigma).

Microarray Analysis. We performed a cDNA microarray analysis to profile the gene expression patterns in CD34⁺ bone marrow (BM) cells from both *PLZF/RAR α* (three *PLZF-RAR α* and two *PLZF/RAR α -RAR α /PLZF* animals) and *PML/RAR α* (four *PML-RAR α* animals) transgenic mice with leukemia. Primary BM cells were harvested from the indicated transgenic mice with leukemia and subjected to immunomagnetic-positive selection using the CD34 monoclonal antibody (Miltenyi Bio-tech). Total RNA from the sorted cells was hybridized to the CodeLink UniSet Mouse I Bioarray chips (Amersham). Labeled chips were read by GenePix 4000B microarray scanner (Molecular Devices). Normalized data were filtered for minimal expression and then tested for gene-set enrichment using Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) v2.0 (www.broad.mit.edu/gsea). GSEA enrichment results were filtered for statistical significance using a nominal *P*-value threshold of 0.05.

Immunophenotyping, Cytochemistry, and Histology. For immunophenotypic analysis, fresh 1×10^6 BM cells were stained with anti-mouse Mac-1-FITC, Gr-1-PerCP-cy5.5, c-Kit-APC, CD34-PE, Sca-1-PE antibodies, and antineoagent kit (BD Pharmingen) separately or in combination, and then analyzed on an LSR II system (BD Biosciences). For morphological analysis, cytospin slides containing aliquots of $3\text{--}4 \times 10^4$ cells of each sample were stained with Wright-Giemsa staining solution before microscopic inspection. For the nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT) reduction test, cells were incubated in PBS containing 0.1% NBT and 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ PMA for 30 min at 37 °C. Cells were rinsed with

PBS three times before being spun to slides for microscopic examination. For histopathological analysis, sections of selected organs were prepared and stained with H&E by using standard protocol, as previously described (2).

Luciferase Reporter Analysis. The pRARE-tk-Luc reporter plasmid, which was designed to drive the expression of firefly luciferase reporter under the control of a synthetic core consensus sequence derived from the retinoic acid response element (RARE) in the human *RAR β* gene, has been described previously (3). pRL-SV40 was used as internal control for transfection efficiency evaluation (Promega). Transient transfection of U937 cells was carried out using GenePulser II electroporation system (Bio-Rad). Before electroporation, U937-mt-P/R9 and U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α cells were cultured in medium containing 100 μM ZnSO₄ for 12 h to induce the expression of the PML/RAR α and PLZF/RAR α fusion protein, respectively. For electroporation, the complete medium was removed and 2×10^6 cells were resuspended in RPMI 1640 containing pRARE-tk-Luc (10 μg) and pRL-SV40 (2.5 μg). The electroporation parameters were 950 μF and 220 V at room temperature. Twelve hours after transfection, cells were treated with indicated materials for an additional 24 h. Then luciferase activities of each sample were detected with Dual-Luciferase Reporter Assay System (Promega) using Lumat LB9507 luminometer (Berthold).

Mammalian Two-Hybrid Analysis. Plasmids for mammalian two-hybrid analysis including pGAL(RE)₅-tk-Luc, pNLVP16, pVP16-PLZF/RAR α , pGal4 empty vector, pGal4-SMRT and pGal4-NCoR1 were kindly provided by A. Zelent (Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, United Kingdom) and R. N. Cohen (University of Chicago, Chicago, IL) (4, 5). The pVP16-PLZF/RAR α -S765A mutant was constructed by site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). COS-7 cells maintained in 24-well plates were transiently transfected using SuperFect (Qiagen) with 50 ng pVP16-PLZF/RAR α and 50 ng pGal4-SMRT or pGal4-NCoR1, in company with 600 ng pGAL(RE)₅-tk-Luc and 1.5 ng pRL-SV40. After 18 h, cells were treated with ATRA and/or 8-CPT-cAMP for additional 6 h. The activities of luciferase were detected as above.

ChIP. After ZnSO₄ induction, U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α cells were treated with ATRA and/or 8-CPT-cAMP, as described above. Next, 2×10^7 cells of each sample were collected for ChIP assay, as previously described (6). Specific primer pairs spanning RARE sites of individual genes are listed below.

RT-PCR and Western Blot. Real-time RT-PCR assays were carried out by using SYBR Green PCR Master Mix reagents on ABI PRISM 7000 SDS (Applied Biosystems). For Western blot, 20- μg proteins of each sample were fractionated by denatured SDS/PAGE and then transferred onto PVDF membrane (GE Healthcare). Specific antibodies were detected by using an ECL detection kit (Millipore). PCR Primers and ChIP-PCR primers of human or murine genes are listed below.

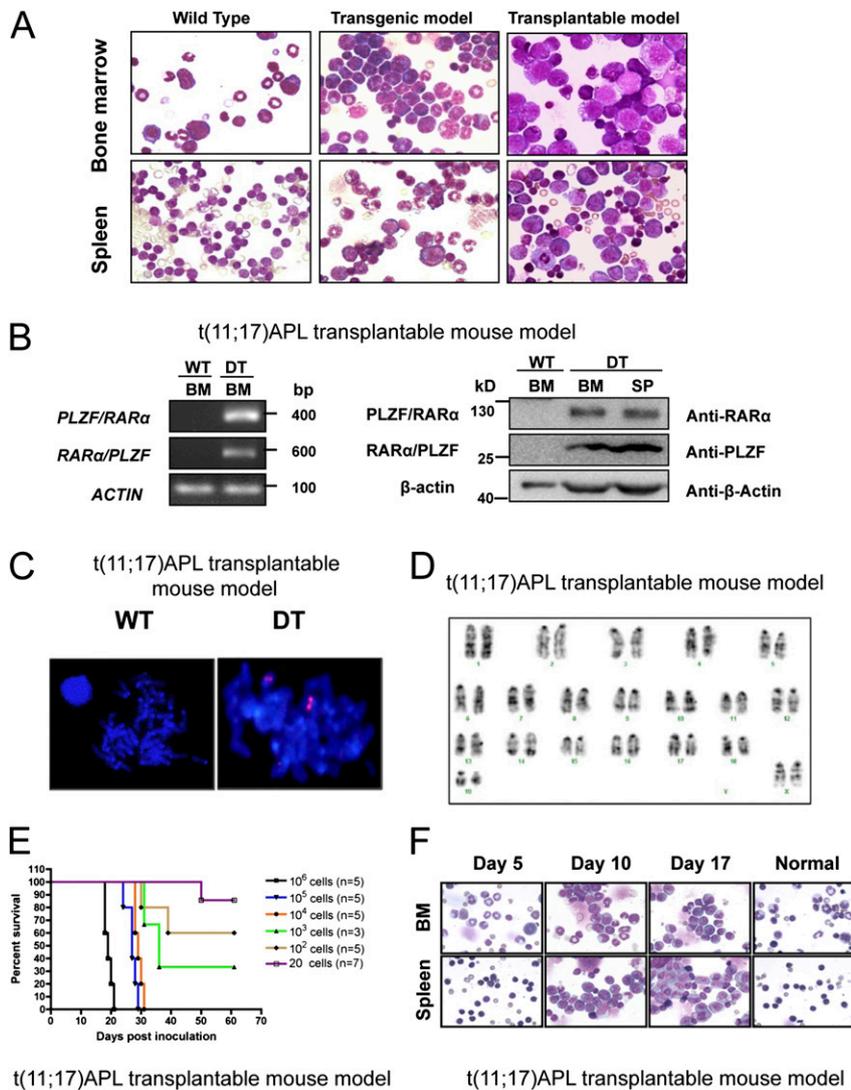
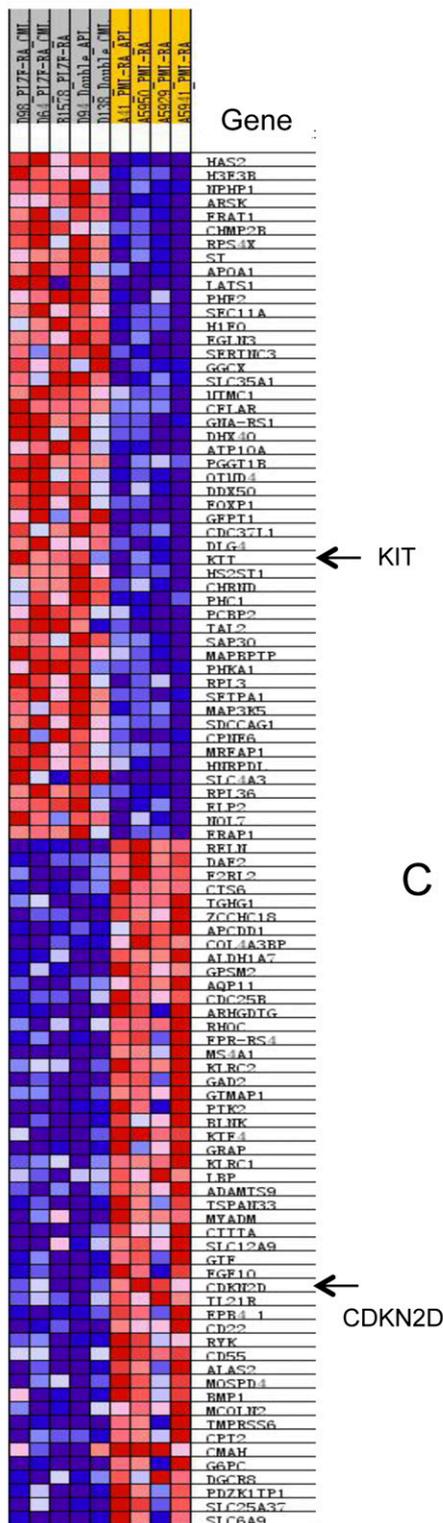


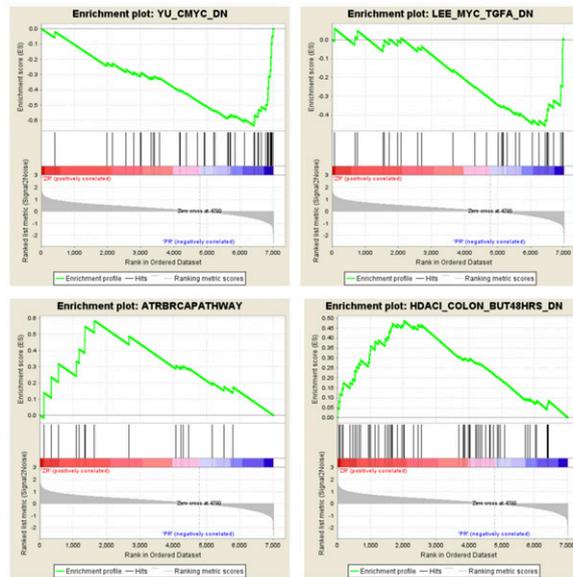
Fig. S1. Establishment of a unique $t(11;17)$ acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) transgenic and transportable murine model. (A) Morphological features of cells collected from bone marrow (Upper) and spleen (Lower) of wild-type C57/BL6J mouse (Left), transgenic leukemic mouse (Center), and recipient of leukemia transplantation (Right) (magnification, 1,000 \times). (B) RT-PCR and Western blot results confirmed expression of the *PLZF/RAR α* and *RAR α /PLZF* fusion genes at the mRNA and protein level in tissues from a transplantable mouse model. (WT, wild-type; DT, dual transgene; BM, bone marrow; SP, spleen). (C) FISH analysis displays the integration of exogenous transgenes in the genome of the transplantable model. Detection of both *PLZF/RAR α* and *RAR α /PLZF* fusion genes in leukemic cells from mouse BM (magnification, 1,000 \times). (D) Cytogenetic analysis of the leukemic blasts cannot detect any gross chromosomal abnormalities. Cytogenetic analysis of leukemic cell from transplantable model with both *PLZF/RAR α* and *RAR α /PLZF* fusion genes is shown. (E) Survival analysis of recipient mice inoculated with different doses of transplantable leukemic cells. Different doses (a dilution from 20 to 1×10^6 cells) of nucleated cells collected from spleens of mice with full-blown leukemia were injected into each recipient mouse via tail vein. (F) Wright–Giemsa staining of BM and spleen cells from the mice inoculated with 1×10^6 leukemic cells at days 5, 10, and 17 postinoculation, respectively (magnification, 1,000 \times). A normal C57BL/6J mouse was used as a wild-type control.

A transgenic model
t(11;17) t(15;17)



B

Gene Set	Size (n)	NES	Nom P value
Genes sets enriched in PML/RAR α transgenic mice			
YU_CMYC_DN	44	-1.66	0.0001
LEE_MYC_TGFA_DN	33	-1.47	0.120
Genes sets enriched in PLZF/RAR α transgenic mice			
ATRBRCAPATHWAY	16	1.73	0.0001
HDAC1_COLON_BUT48HRS_DN	68	1.55	0.0001



C

Gene name	Scores
PLZF target genes up-regulated in PLZF/RAR α transgenic mice	
KIT, c-KIT	1.500
Runx2, runt-related transcription factor 2	1.202
MYC, v-myc myelocytomatosis viral oncogene homolog (avian)	0.635
PLZF target genes down-regulated in PLZF/RAR α transgenic mice	
CDKN2D, cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2D	-1.268
TESK1, testis-specific kinase 1	-0.617
MYC target genes up-regulated in PLZF/RAR α transgenic mice	
HAS2, hyaluronan synthase 2	2.748
H3F3B, H3 histone, family 3B (H3.3B)	1.881
BRD4, bromodomain containing 4	0.821
MYC target genes down-regulated in PLZF/RAR α transgenic mice	
MS4A1, membrane-spanning 4-domains, subfamily A, member 1	-1.400
CMAH	-1.218
Myeloid leukemia cell differentiation related genes	
RXRA, retinoid X receptor, alpha	1.092
NCOR1, nuclear receptor co-repressor 1	1.122
SMRT, nuclear receptor co-repressor 2	0.921

Fig. S2. GSEA of the microarray data of two distinct APL transgenic mouse models. (A) Heat map representation of the top 50 up- and down-regulated genes in t(11;17) APL compared with t(15;17) APL. *KIT* and *CDKN2D* (arrow) is up- and down-regulated in t(11;17) APL, respectively. (B) Representative gene sets were listed by normalized enrichment score (NES) in each APL model. GSEA plots showed particular gene sets that enriched in PML/RAR α APL (Upper) or PLZF/RAR α APL (Lower), respectively. (C) Significant target genes were listed with normalized expression score.

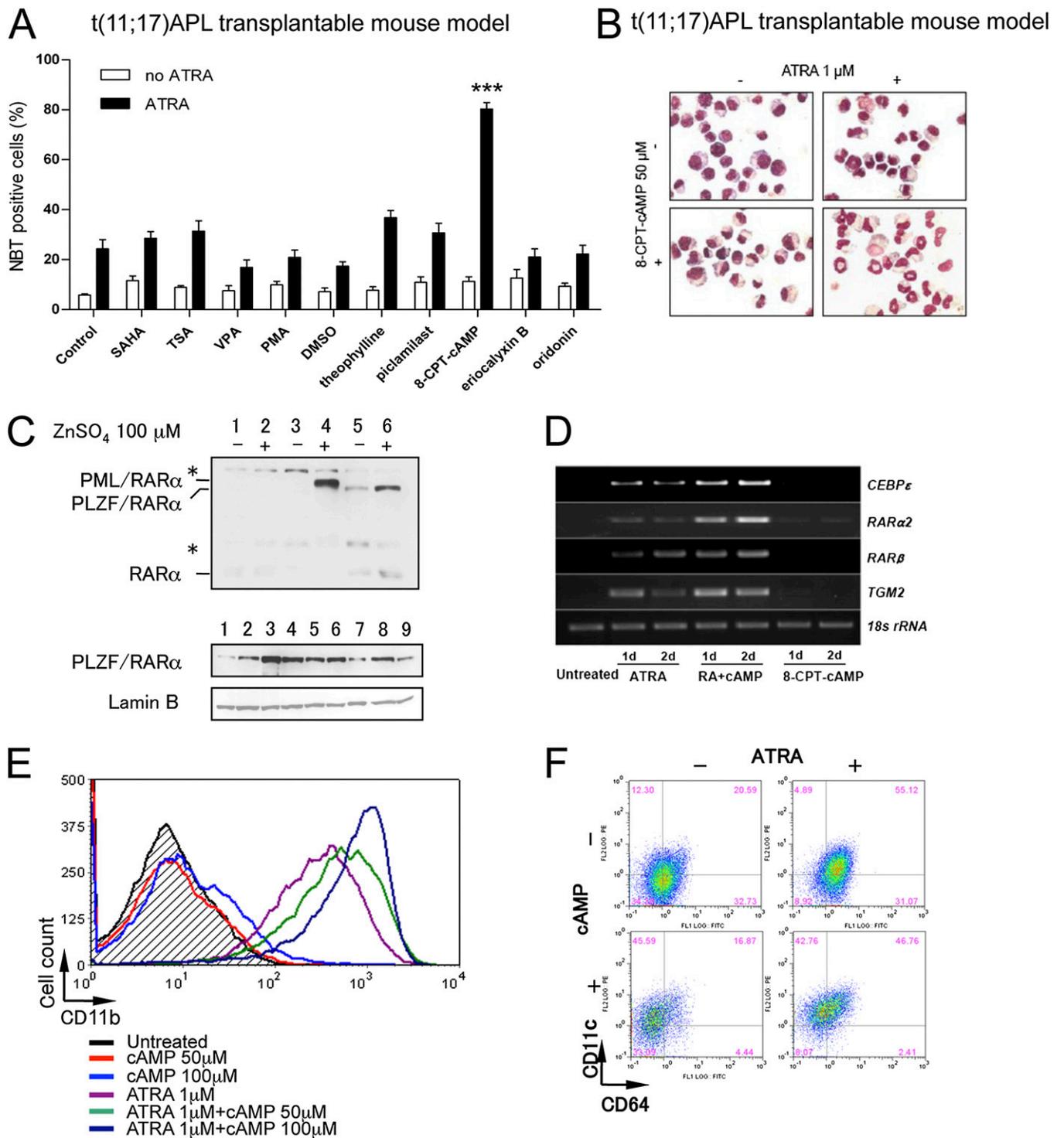


Fig. S3. 8-CPT-cAMP potentiates ATRA-mediated gene transactivation. (A) Results of NBT reduction assay of murine primary leukemic cells after 48-h treatment of differentiating agents [including 1 μ M SAHA, 25 nM TSA, 0.5 μ M VPA, 1 nM PMA, 1% (vol/vol) DMSO, 2 mM theophylline, 2 μ M piclamilast, 50 μ M 8-CPT-cAMP, 0.5 μ M etiofocalyxin B, 1 μ M oridonin] with or without 1 μ M ATRA. (B) Morphological analysis of primary mouse leukemia blasts from t(11;17) APL transplantable mouse model after 8-CPT-cAMP (50 μ M) and/or ATRA (1 μ M) treatment for 2 d (magnification, 1,000 \times). (C) Result of Western blot with anti-RAR α antibody showed the expression of PML/RAR α or PLZF/RAR α fusion proteins in U937-mt-Bulk (lanes 1 and 2), U937-mt-P/R9 (lanes 3 and 4), and U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α (lanes 5 and 6) cells, respectively, after ZnSO₄ exposure for 12 h (Upper, * denotes unspecific band), and the expression pattern of PLZF/RAR α in U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α cells (with lanes 1–9 representing samples after 0, 12, 24, 48, 72, 96, 120, 144, and 168 h of ZnSO₄ exposure, respectively). The amounts of Lamin B were used as internal control indicating equivalent loadings (Lower). (D) Semiquantitative RT-PCR results of RAR α 2, RAR β 2, CEBP ϵ , and TGM2 genes in U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α cells after 8-CPT-cAMP (100 μ M) and/or ATRA (1 μ M) for 1 and 2 d. 18s rRNA was used as an internal control. (E and F) The expression of CD11b, CD11c and CD64 on U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α cells after 8-CPT-cAMP (50 or 100 μ M) and/or ATRA (1 μ M) for 72 h. Each typical result out of three independent assays was shown.

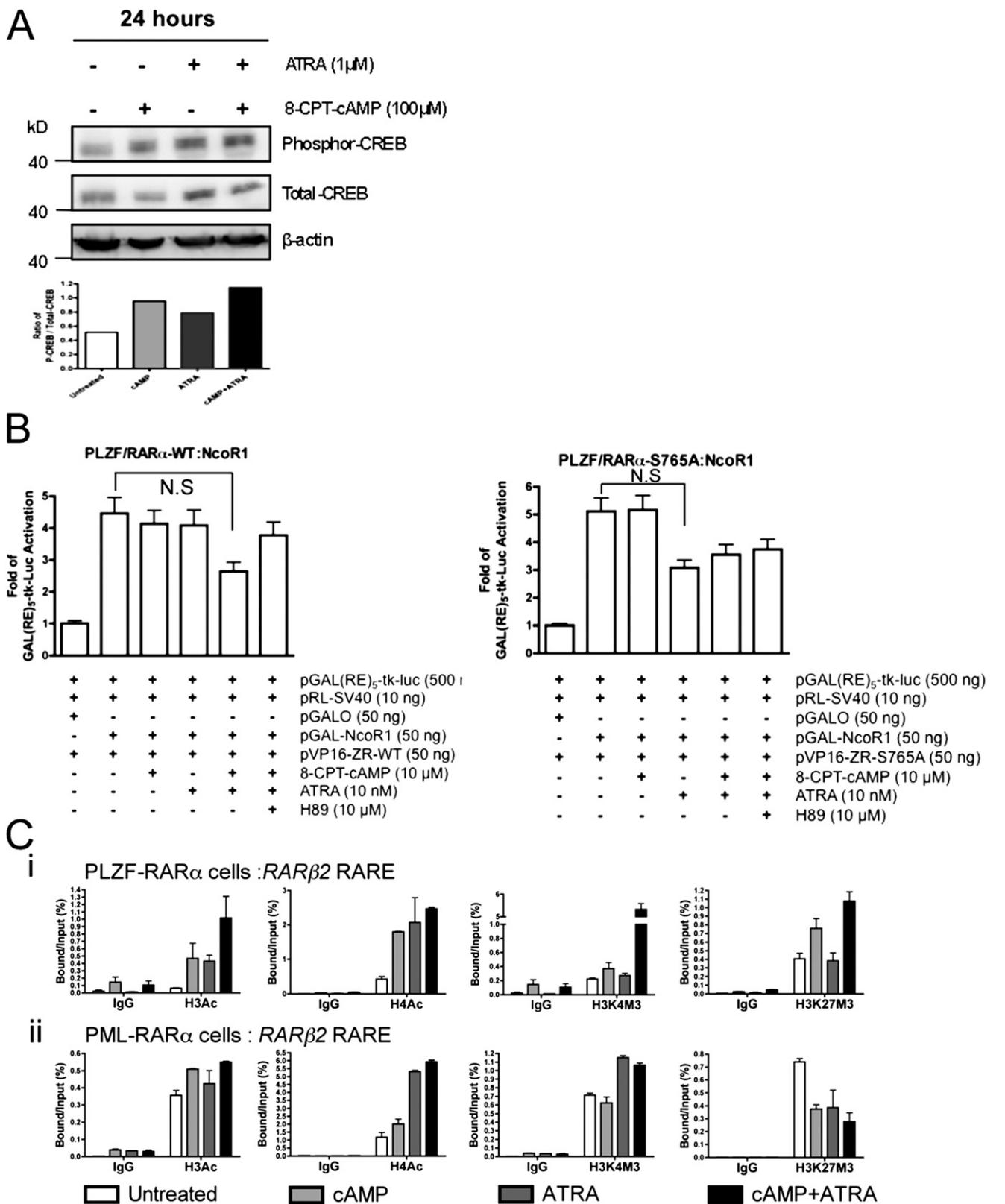


Fig. 54. 8-CPT-cAMP enhances ATRA-induced gene transactivation through its Ser765 phosphorylation. (A) Phosphorylated CREB level is elevated upon 8-CPT-cAMP addition. Both Ser133-phosphorylated and total CREB proteins were detected by Western blot analysis. Loading was calibrated by β -actin (Upper). Quantitative analysis of the ratio of Ser133-phosphorylated and total CREB level was presented by calculating the band's integrated optical density. (B) 8-CPT-cAMP couldn't potentiate the ATRA-induced dissociation between NcoR1 and PLZF/RAR α S765A mutant. A similar experiment was performed as above. Results are expressed as mean \pm SD of two independent experiments. ChIP assays in U937-mt-PLZF/RAR α (C, i) U937-mt-P/R9 (C, ii) cells after being treated with indicated agents. N.S. refers to "not significant" in comparison with Student *t* test.

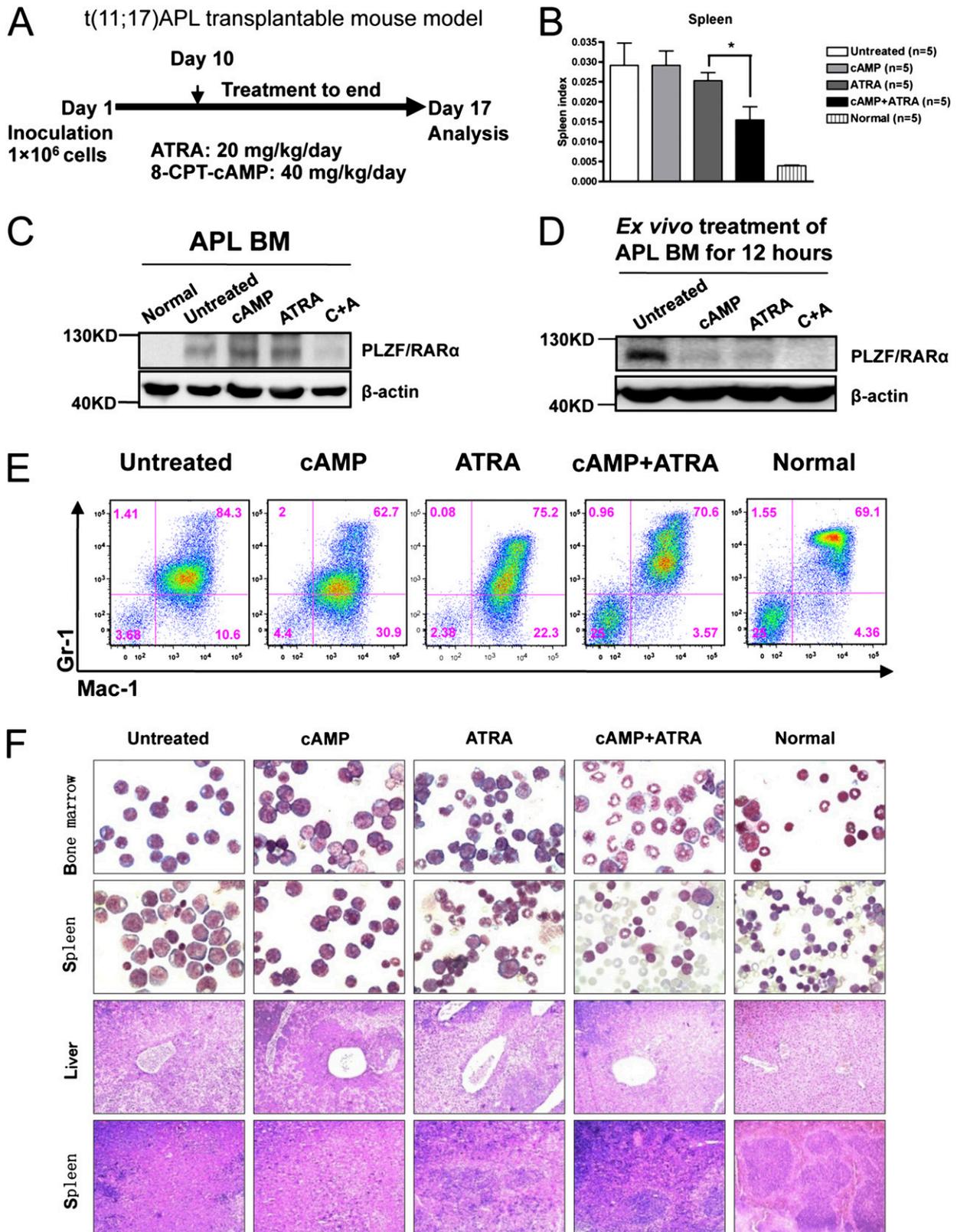


Fig. 55. Combined treatment with 8-CPT-cAMP and ATRA reduces the tumor burden in $t(11;17)$ APL transplantable mouse model in vivo. (A) Scheme of the short-term high-dose drug treatment in vivo. (B) Spleen index of mice receiving drug treatment in vivo. (C) Western blot of PLZF/RAR α protein in bone marrow cells from each treatment group was done by anti-RAR α antibody (Upper). Equal loading was assessed by β -actin (Lower). (D) PLZF/RAR α protein was degraded by combined therapy ex vivo. BM cells from $t(11;17)$ APL mice were treated with 8-CPT-cAMP (100 μ M) and/or ATRA (1 μ M) ex vivo for 12 h. (E) Flow cytometry analysis of bone marrow cells from each treatment group by Mac-1 and Gr-1. Representative data of two independent experiments were shown. (F) Leukemic cell infiltrations of organs (BM, spleen, and liver) among mice receiving different treatments. Both cytosin (Upper two panels; magnification, 1,000 \times) and biopsy results (Lower two panels; magnification, 100 \times) of infiltration organs were presented.

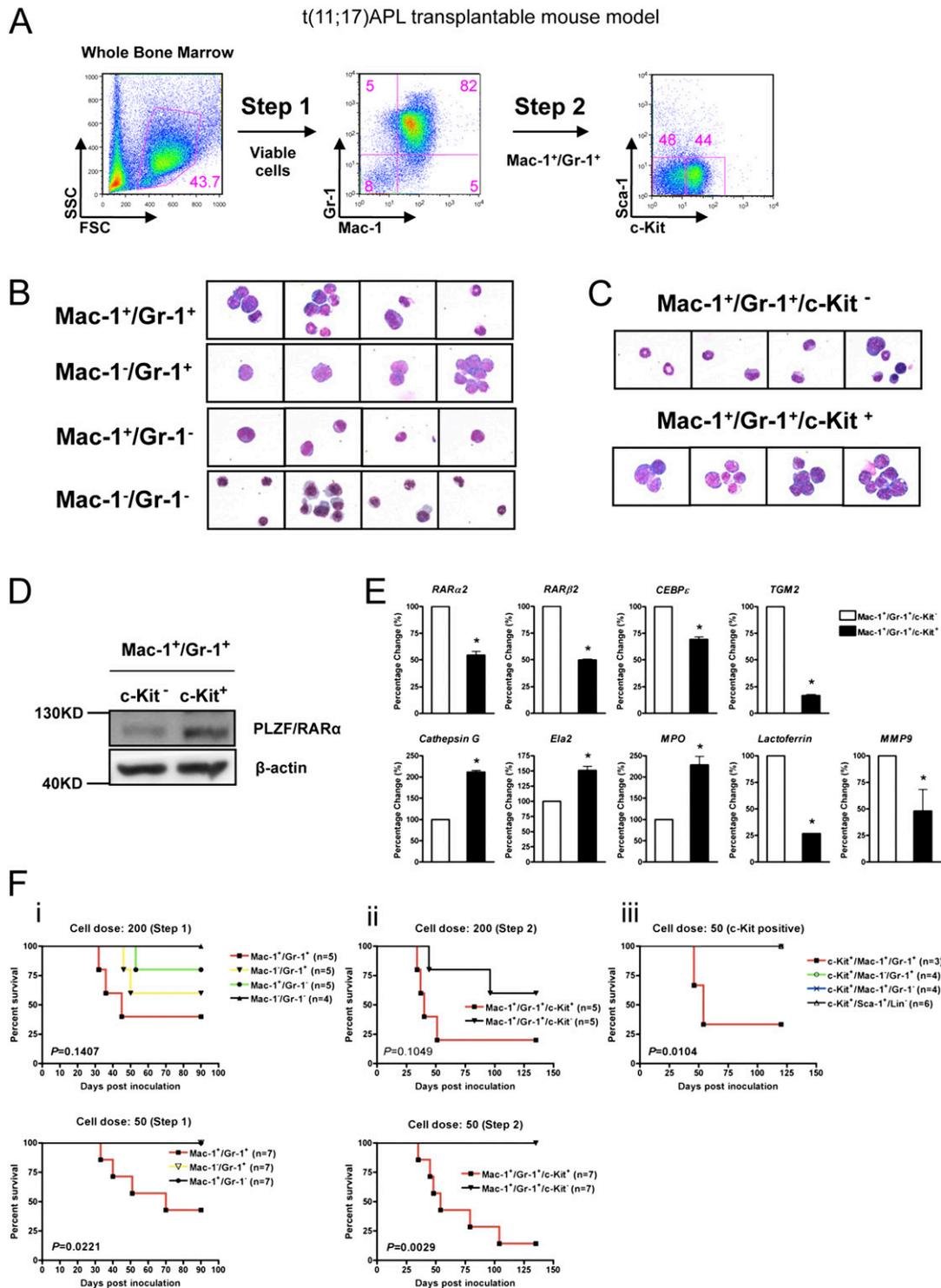


Fig. S6. Identification and characterization of leukemia-initiating cell (LIC) population in $t(11;17)$ APL transplantable mouse model. (A) Illustration of the sorting strategy of LIC population in BM from $t(11;17)$ APL transplantable mouse model. (B) Sorted cells in step 1 were stained by Wright–Giemsa staining, and four representative pictures of each population were taken by an Olympus BX51 microscope (original magnification, 1,000 \times). (C) Cells isolated from step 2 (Mac-1⁺/Gr-1⁺/c-Kit⁺ and Mac-1⁺/Gr-1⁺/c-Kit⁻) were stained by Wright–Giemsa method. Four representative pictures of each population were taken by Olympus BX51 microscope (magnification, 1,000 \times). (D) Expression level of PLZF/RAR α protein in both c-Kit-positive and -negative subsets. (E) Qualitative real-time RT-PCR determined the expression of RA-response genes (*RAR α 2*, *RAR β 2*, *CEBP ϵ* , and *TGM2*) (Upper), and granulocyte-specific genes [*Cathepsin G*, *Elastase2 (Ela2)*, *Myeloperoxidase (MPO)*, *Lactoferrin*, and *MMP9*] (Lower) in sorted cells from Mac-1⁺/Gr-1⁺/c-Kit⁺ and Mac-1⁺/Gr-1⁺/c-Kit⁻ subpopulations. Representative data of two independent experiments are shown. (F) Survival curves of secondary recipients inoculated by different sorted populations from indicated steps. (i) 200-cell and 50-cell doses of sorted populations were transplanted in step 1 isolation. (ii) 200-cell and 50-cell doses of sorted populations were transplanted in step 2 isolation. (iii) Four c-Kit⁺ populations were isolated and transplanted at 50-cell dose.

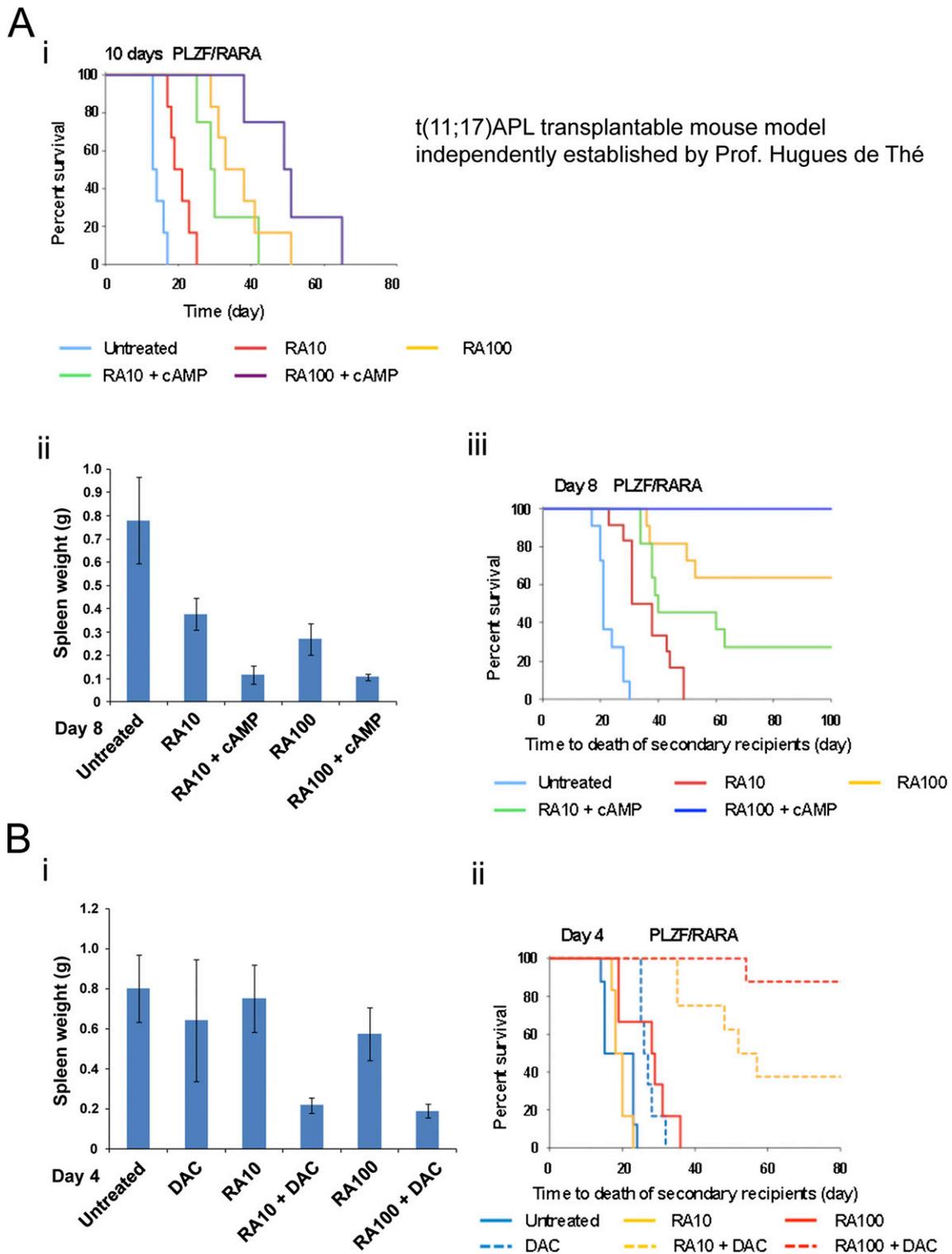


Fig. S7. In vivo combined treatment with 8-CPT-cAMP, 5-Aza-2-Deoxycytidine (DAC) and different doses of ATRA improves the survival of transplantable $t(11;17)$ APL mice by promoting clearance of LICs. (A) A transplantable $t(11;17)$ APL model was independently established and nude mice were treated as previously described (1), using APLs from PLZF/RAR α -RAR α /PLZF mice (2). (i) The survival curve of primary mice treated with indicated therapies for 10 d, 7 d after inoculation. (ii) Spleen weight of moribund mice killed at day 8. (iii) The survival curve of the secondary recipients inoculated with BM APL cells derived from treated mice at day 8. (B) Similar experiments were carried out using DAC (5 mg·kg⁻¹·d), given intraperitoneally, and ATRA. (i) Spleen weight of mice killed at day 4. (ii) The survival curve of the secondary recipients of day 4 for LIC assessment. RA10, ATRA 10 mg·kg⁻¹·d; RA100, ATRA 100 mg·kg⁻¹·d.

- Nasr R, et al. (2008) Eradication of acute promyelocytic leukemia-initiating cells through PML-RARA degradation. *Nat Med* 14(12):1333–1342.
- He LZ, et al. (2000) Two critical hits for promyelocytic leukemia. *Mol Cell* 6(5):1131–1141.

Table S2. 8-CPT-cAMP and ATRA combinatorial therapy can target LIC (Mac-1⁺/Gr-1⁺/c-Kit⁺) and reduce LIC frequency and absolute number in t(11;17) APL model

BMT	Treatment (donor n)	Cell doses	APL incidence of recipients*	LIC frequency (95% CI)	P value [†]	Whole BM [‡] (×10 ⁶ cells)	Mac-1 ⁺ /Gr-1 ⁺ /c-Kit ⁺ (%)	Mac-1 ⁺ /Gr-1 ⁺ /c-Kit ⁺ (×10 ⁶ cells)	Absolute number of LIC [§] (×10 ⁶ cells)	P value [¶]
First BMT (day 27)	Untreated (n = 2)	1,000	3/3 (100%)	1 in 26 (10–64)	P = 0.2625	18.25 ± 3.54	45.00 ± 1.84	8.18 ± 1.26	0.3146 ± 0.048	P = 0.3002
		200	5/5 (100%)							
	8-CPT-cAMP (n = 2)	50	6/7 (86%)	1 in 72 (32–160)		22.50 ± 1.77	36.00 ± 4.95	8.06 ± 0.48	0.1119 ± 0.0066	
		1,000	3/3 (100%)							
	ATRA (n = 2)	200	4/5 (80%)	1 in 417 (164–1063)		28.38 ± 0.88	19.70 ± 13.86	5.53 ± 3.76	0.013 ± 0.0090	
		50	5/7 (71%)							
	cAMP+ATRA (n = 2)	1,000	3/3 (100%)	1 in 1047 (283–3875)		41.75 ± 5.30	11.00 ± 0.47	4.61 ± 0.78	0.004398 ± 0.00074	
		200	2/5 (40%)							
	Ara-C (n = 2)	50	0/7 (0%)							
		1,000	2/2 (100%)	1 in 331 (118–929)		43.25 ± 1.41	10.88 ± 1.41	4.69 ± 0.45	0.036 ± 0.0035	
Second BMT** (day 41)	ATRA (n = 4)	1,000	3/4 (75%)	1 in 428 (211–869)	P = 0.0054	39.67 ± 18.24	28.87 ± 17.99	8.99 ± 4.74	0.021 ± 0.011	P = 0.0374
		200	2/3 (67%)	1 in 2483 (900–6844)		46.11 ± 14.63	16.98 ± 20.01	5.94 ± 5.17	0.0024 ± 0.0021	
	cAMP+ATRA (n = 3)	1,000	2/10 (20%)							
		200	2/6 (33%)							

*APL incidence represented as "Recipients died from APL/total recipients."

[†]Comparison of LIC frequency between groups of ATRA and cAMP+ATRA treatment in each BMT experiment. Two-tailed P value was estimated by limited-dilution assay analysis (L-calc software; StemCell).[‡]Data for LIC quantification were derived from two femurs and tibias.[§]Absolute number of LICs of each group was calculated by multiplying absolute number of Mac-1⁺/Gr-1⁺/c-Kit⁺ by LIC frequency.[¶]Comparison of absolute number of LIC between groups of ATRA and cAMP+ATRA treatment in each BMT experiment. Two-tailed P value was estimated by Student t test.^{||}Follow-up time was up to 120 d.

**Follow-up time was up to 105 d.