Stem Cell Reports, Volume 15

Supplemental Information

Comparison of 10 Control hPSC Lines for Drug Screening

in an Engineered Heart Tissue Format

Ingra Mannhardt, Umber Saleem, Diogo Mosqueira, Malte F. Loos, Bärbel M. Ulmer, Marc D. Lemoine, Camilla Larsson, Caroline Améen, Tessa de Korte, Maria L.H. Vlaming, Kate Harris, Peter Clements, Chris Denning, Arne Hansen, and Thomas Eschenhagen

Supplementary Figure 1. Principle of engineered heart tissue (EHT), Related to Figure 1. (A-G) Casting process of EHT. (A) Teflon® spacer. (B) Silicone rack. (C-G) Graphical display of EHT generation step by step. (C) Upper view on a well of a 24-well-plate with casting mold in agarose after removal of the PTFE spacer. (D) Pair of posts from the PDMS rack positioned in the casting mold. (E) Reconstitutionmix pipetted into the casting mold and around the silicone posts. (F) Freshly generated EHT at day 0, transferred to a new culture dish with medium. (G) Remodeled EHT in medium at day 15. (H-K) Contraction analysis of EHT. (H) EHT analysis instrument with computer-controlled camera above the gas- and temperature controlled incubation chamber with EHTs in 24-well-culture dish on top of a LED panel. (I) Live view of an EHT during analysis with the automated contraction analysis software. (K) Exemplary contraction pattern displaying contraction force over time and enlarged schematic contraction peak, displaying the analysis parameter force, time to peak (TTP), relaxation time (RT), contraction velocity (CV), relaxation velocity (RV) as well as relative TTP and RT phases (modified from Mannhardt et al. 2017).

Supplementary Figure 2. Histo-logical analysis of transversally cut EHTs. Haematoxylin and eosin (HE) , Anti-dystrophin, anti-MLC2v, anti-MLC2a stained slides showing overviews of the EHTs. Scale bar 100 μm. Three-digit code for cell lines: PLU \equiv pluricyte cardiomyocytes, CDI = iCell cardiomyo-cytes, ICE = iCell² cardiomyocytes, CEL = cellartis cardiomyocytes, $COR = Cor4U$ cardiomyocytes, C25/AT1/NCR/REB/ **ERC** in-house $=$ differentiated hiPSCderived cardio-myocytes. Related to Figure 3.

Supplementary Figure 3. **Histological** analysis of transversally cut EHTs. Anti collagen, anti-smooth muscle actin (SMA), antialpha actin, anti-vimentin slides stained showing overviews of the EHTs. Scale bar 100 µm. Three-digit code for cell lines: PLU = pluricyte cardiomyocytes, CDI = iCell cardiomyo-cytes, $ICE = iCell²$ cardiomyocytes, **CEL** = cellartis cardiomyocytes, COR = Cor4U cardiomyo-cytes, C25/AT1/ NCR/REB/ERC = in-house differentiated hiPSCderived cardiomyocytes. Related to Figure 3.

Supplementary Figure 4. Full concentration response curves, Related to Figure 5. Concentration response curves indicating changes in contraction data frequency, force, time to peak (TTP) and relaxation time (RT) for the different cell lines (colour coding see figure legend at bottom right corner; n=2-6 EHTs per drug see Supplementary Table 2).

Supplementary Figure 5. Gene expression analysis expressed as log2 (fold change of non-failing human heart), Related to Figure 7. Heat map coloring indicating lower expression than NFH in red and higher expression in green with cell lines sorted respectively. **(A)** Atrial and ventricular genes in the ten different cell lines. Linear regression analysis of these genes and relaxation time of the EHT did not detect any significant correlation. **(B)** Markers of fibrosis and extracellular matrix proteins. **(C)** Correlation of fibrotic transcripts and relaxation time RT80%. Linear regression analysis indicated overall poor correlation with Pearson's correlation coefficients R^2 <0.4. Slope was significantly different from zero only for CTGF (see p values indicated in each graph).

Supplementary Figure 6. Network analysis of correlating factors, Related to Figure 7. Graphic illustration of contraction force parameters and genes where signal amplitude or gene expression levels correlate with a Pearson's correlation coefficient R²>0.7. Correlation of mean values of the ten different hiPSC-EHT for contraction parameters was performed with Microsoft excel and network analysis visualized in Gephi (version 0.9.2) force atlas-2 layout with color coding for different groups as undirected interaction (red: contraction parameters; yellow: cardiomyopathy genes; blue: ion channels and pumps genes; orange: growth related genes; green: adrenergic signaling genes; purple: apoptosis genes; grey: non-cardiomyocytes genes). The size of the nodes corresponds to the amount of correlating partners, the thickness of the edges indicates level of correlation (thicker line = higher R²), distances are chosen at random.

Supplementary Table 1: Cell line information and quality control (QC) parameters checked prior to drug screening, Related to Figure 1. Cardiomyocyte (CM) purity was evaluated by FACS with antibodies against either cardiac troponin T (cTNT) or alpha actinin (α-act). (1) Mosqueira et al. 2018 Eur Heart J. Please note that CDI and PLU-based EHT seized spontaneous beating at submaximal external Calcium, but could be paced. *Please note that cardiomyocyte purity of commercial cell lines was reported to be lower than the producer provided numbers listed in this table (see discussion section of the manuscript; Huo et al. 2016 Tox Sci). Three-digit code for cell lines: PLU = pluricyte cardiomyocytes, CDI = iCell cardiomyocytes, ICE = iCell² cardiomyocytes, CEL = cellartis cardiomyocytes, COR = Cor4U cardiomyocytes, C25/AT1/ERC/NCR/REB = inhouse differentiated hiPSC-derived cardiomyocytes.

Supplementary Table 2: Results of post-test for differences in sarcomere length, Related to Figure 2. * p<0.05, ** p<0.005, *** p<0.001, ns = not significant. Three-digit code for cell lines: PLU = pluricyte cardiomyocytes, CDI = iCell cardiomyocytes, ICE = iCell² cardiomyocytes, CEL = cellartis cardiomyocytes, COR = Cor4U cardiomyocytes, C25/AT1/NCR/REB = inhouse differentiated hiPSC-derived cardiomyocytes.

Supplementary Table 3. Statistical analysis of drug screening, Related to Figure 5 and Supplementary Figure 4. Repeated measures ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparisons post-test. Significant differences at different drug concentrations compared to baseline level are indicated as * p<0.05, ** p<0.005, *** p<0.001, ns = not significant. Conc. = concentration, n = number of paced EHTs included in the statistical analysis, LOC = loss of capture after drug administration, † = EHT ceased beating, threedigit code for cell lines same as in Supplementary Table 1.

Supplementary Table 4. Correlation analysis between EHT contraction parameter and levels of gene expression for indicator genes, Related to Figure 7 and Supplementary Figure 6. R^2 = Pearson's correlation coefficient indicating linear correlation between parameter A and parameter B listed in the columns in front.

Supplemental Experimental Procedures

Generation of EHT

Human PSC-derived cardiomyocytes were obtained from 4 commercial hiPS cell lines (PLU = Pluricyte cardiomyocytes from Pluriomics (now Ncardia); CDI = iCell cardiomyocytes, and ICE = iCell² cardiomyocytes both Cellular Dynamics International; CEL = Cellartis cardiomyocytes from Takara Bio), 1 commercial hES cell line (COR = Cor4U cardiomyocytes from Axiogenesis) and differentiated from 3 Hamburg hiPS cell lines including 1 NIH-registered iPS cell line NCRM5 (C25, ERC = UKEi003-C, NCR = ND50031), and 2 Nottingham hiPS cell lines (AT1, REB = REBL-PAT).

Frozen cardiomyocytes from commercial suppliers (PLU, CDI, CEL) or Hamburg or Nottingham cell banks were stored at -150°C and cryotubes quickly thawed in a water bath (37 °C) for 3 min. A maximum of four cryotubes was handled in parallel. Cells were transferred to 50 ml falcon tubes and diluted to 10 ml per cryotube by drop-wise addition of warm (37 °C) DMEM (Biochrom F0415) or commercial thawing medium of the respective supplier (Ncardia, CDI, Cellartis).

Living cells from commercial suppliers (Axiogenesis) and cardiomyocytes differentiated from academic hiPS lines were dissociated with a collagenase-based digestion protocol (200 U/ml in HBSS with 1 mM HEPES; 3.5 h) as previously published (Breckwoldt et al. 2017). After centrifugation (100 g; 10 min), freshly dissociated or thawed cells were resuspended in DMEM and counted manually with a Neubauer chamber and trypan blue solution (0.4%; Gibco 15250061).

EHTs were generated from fresh or frozen human PS-derived cardiomyocytes as previously published (Mannhardt et al., 2017a) using 1x10⁶ cells per 100 µl tissue (see also Supplementary Figure 1). There were no additional non-CM added to the master mix to test the hiPSC-CM alone as "of the shelf" product. EHTs were cultivated at 40% O₂, 7% CO₂, 98% RH, 37 °C and showed spontaneous macroscopic contractions, deflecting the silicone posts, after 7-14 days.

Contraction analysis

Contraction analysis of coherently beating EHT was performed with a video-optical analysis system (Hansen et al., 2010; EHT Technologies GmbH A0001; Supplementary Figure 1). Tissue contractility was regularly monitored in serum-supplemented EHT maintenance medium. For drug screening, 1000x stock solutions of the compounds were prepared with DMSO and small aliquots for one-time use frozen at -20 °C to avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles of the drugs. When EHT contraction force reached its plateau (usually day 15-25), drug screening was performed in protein-free Tyrode's solution at submaximal calcium and cumulative concentration-response curves under electrical stimulation (Mannhardt et al., 2017b).

Sharp microelectrode measurement

Action potentials of whole EHTs were recorded with sharp microelectrode measurements in proteinfree Tyrode's solution at 36.5±0.5 °C as described previously (Lemoine et al., 2018).

Histological analysis

For whole mount immunofluorescence analysis and measurement of sarcomere length, relaxed EHTs (2-butandionemonoxime, Sigma B0753; 30 mM, 10 min, 37 °C) were fixed in p-formaldehyde (Roti®- Histofix 4%, Carl Roth, P087.3) at 4 °C overnight. After 6 h incubation in blocking solution (TBS 0.05 M pH 7.4, 10% FCS, 1% BSA, 0.5% Triton X-100), EHTs were incubated with the primary antibodies (monoclonal mouse anti-alpha actinin, 1:800, Sigma A7811; monoclonal rabbit anti-MLC2v, 1:200, Proteintec™ 10906) in antibody solution (TBS 0.05 M pH 7.4, 1% BSA, 0.5% Triton X-100) overnight. After repeated washing in PBS EHTs were exposed to secondary antibodies (Alexa Fluor® 488 goatanti-mouse, 1:800, Invitrogen; Alexa Fluor® 546 goat-anti-rabbit, 1:800, Invitrogen) and nuclear counterstaining dye (DRAQ5TM, 1:1000, Biostatus Ltd. BOS-889-001-R050) in antibody solution for at least 3 h. Finally, whole EHTs were rinsed in PBS 3-4 times and embedded in Fluoromount-G® (SouthernBiotech, 0100-01) in dented microscope slides (Carl Roth, H884.1). Sarcomere length was measured based on Z-bands of the alpha-actinin signal with a Zeiss LSM 800 microscope and respective ZEN software.

RNA isolation and expression analysis

Total RNA was extracted from EHT and native human heart tissue with the RNeasy kit (Qiagen 74104) according to manufacturer's instructions as previously published (Mannhardt et al., 2016). Nonfailing human heart samples, unsuitable for transplantation, were obtained from the University Heart Center with approval of the University of Hamburg's ethical board (reference number 532/116/9.7.1991). After fluorimetric quantitation of RNA concentration with QubitTM according to manufacturer's instructions, transcriptome analysis was performed with the nanoString nCounter Elements technology as described previously (Prondzynski et al., 2017). In brief, 50 ng of sample RNA were used for gene expression analysis of 57 genes coding for proteins involved in cardiac excitation-contraction coupling or dysregulated in heart failure. Analysis with nCounter Sprint Profiler included normalization of mRNA levels to five housekeeping genes (ABCF1, CLTC, GAPDH, PGK1, TUBB).

Statistical analysis

Data in the text are presented as mean±SD. Replicate numbers described as n indicate number of EHTs or trabeculae, n/N indicate e.g. n impalements from N EHTs or n sarcomeres from N cells. Data in the graphs are presented as desribed in the respective figure legend. Statistical tests were performed with the GraphPad Prism 6.0 software. A p-value <0.05 was considered significant.

Histological analysis of engineered heart tissue

For immunohistochemical analysis of transversal sections, fixed EHTs were embedded in paraffin and consecutive 4 µm sections stained with a Ventana benchmark system (UKE Hext mouse pathology core facility) with haematoxylin and eosin, anti-dystrophin (Millipore MAB1645, 1:200, antigen retrieval with EDTA for 60 min), anti-MLC2v (SY310111, 1:300, antigen retrieval with citrate buffer for 30 min), anti-MLC2a (SY311011, 1:75, antigen retrieval with citrate buffer for 30 min), anti-collagen (Abcam Ab138492, 1:1500, antigen retrieval with citrate buffer for 30 min), anti-smooth muscle actin (Dako

M0851, 1:100, antigen retrieval with citrate buffer for 30 min), anti-alpha actin (Dako M0874, 1:200, antigen retrieval with citrate buffer for 30 min), anti-vimentin (Dako M0725, 1:200, antigen retrieval with citrate buffer for 30 min).

Quantitative real-time PCR

200 ng RNA per cell line or non-failing human heart (same samples used for Nanostring analysis; see main manuscript experimental procedures) were transcribed into cDNA with the High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Applied Biosystems™; 4368814). Quantitative RT-PCR was performed with Maxima™ SYBR™ Green/ROX 2x qPCR Master Mix (Thermo Scientific[™]; K0221) according to manufacturer's instructions using the ABI PRISM 7900HT Sequence detection system (Applied Biosystems) with SDS software (version 2.4) and the following primer pairs: GAPDH (for: TCGGAGTCAACGGATTTGGT; rev: TCGCCCCACTTGATTTTGGA), TNNT2 (for: AGACAGAGCGGAAAAGTGGG; rev: GTCGAACTTCTCTGCCTCCAA), MLC2a (for: AAGGTGAGTGTCCCAGAGGA; rev: CGAACATCTGCTCCACCTCAG), MLC2v (for: AGGCGGAGAGGTTTTCCAAG; rev: GGACCACTCTGCAAAGACGA), LOXL2 (for: CCCTGGGGAGAGGACATACA; rev: CCCATTCTCGCAGGTGACAT). Normalization was performed against GAPDH as housekeeping gene.

Supplemental References

Breckwoldt, K., Letuffe-Brenière, D., Mannhardt, I., Schulze, T., Ulmer, B., Werner, T., Benzin, A., Klampe, B., Reinsch, M.C., Laufer, S., et al. (2017). Differentiation of cardiomyocytes and generation of human engineered heart tissue. Nat. Protoc. 12, 1177–1197.

Hansen, A., Eder, A., Bönstrup, M., Flato, M., Mewe, M., Schaaf, S., Aksehirlioglu, B., Schwoerer, A.P., Uebeler, J., Eschenhagen, T., et al. (2010). Development of a drug screening platform based on engineered heart tissue. Circ. Res. 107, 35–44.

Huo, J., Kamalakar, A., Yang, X., Word, B., Stockbridge, N., Lyn-Cook, B., and Pang, L. (2017). Evaluation of Batch Variations in Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Human Cardiomyocytes from 2 Major Suppliers. Toxicol. Sci. 156, 25–38.

Lemoine, M.D., Krause, T., Koivumäki, J.T., Prondzynski, M., Schulze, M.L., Girdauskas, E., Willems, S., Hansen, A., Eschenhagen, T., and Christ, T. (2018). Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Engineered Heart Tissue as a Sensitive Test System for QT Prolongation and Arrhythmic Triggers. Circ. Arrhythmia Electrophysiol. 11, 1–15.

Mannhardt, I., Breckwoldt, K., Letuffe-brenière, D., Schaaf, S., Schulz, H., Neuber, C., Benzin, A., Werner, T., Eder, A., Schulze, T., et al. (2016). Human Engineered Heart Tissue: Analysis of Contractile Force. Stem Cell Reports 7, 29–42.

Mannhardt, I., Eder, A., Dumotier, B., Prondzynski, M., Krämer, E., Traebert, M., Söhren, K.-D., Flenner, F., Stathopoulou, K., Lemoine, M.D., et al. (2017a). Blinded Contractility Analysis in hiPSC-Cardiomyocytes in Engineered Heart Tissue Format: Comparison With Human Atrial Trabeculae. Toxicol. Sci. 158, 164–175.

Mannhardt, I., Saleem, U., Benzin, A., Schulze, T., Klampe, B., Eschenhagen, T., and Hansen, A. (2017b). Automated Contraction Analysis of Human Engineered Heart Tissue for Cardiac Drug Safety Screening. J. Vis. Exp. e55461–e55461.

Mosqueira, D., Mannhardt, I., Bhagwan, J.R., Lis-Slimak, K., Katili, P., Scott, E., Hassan, M., Prondzynski, M., Harmer, S.C., Tinker, A., et al. (2018). CRISPR/Cas9 editing in human pluripotent stem cellcardiomyocytes highlights arrhythmias, hypocontractility, and energy depletion as potential therapeutic targets for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Eur. Heart J. 39, 3879–3892.

Prondzynski, M., Krämer, E., Laufer, S.D., Shibamiya, A., Pless, O., Flenner, F., Müller, O.J., Münch, J., Redwood, C., Hansen, A., et al. (2017). Evaluation of MYBPC3 trans-Splicing and Gene Replacement as Therapeutic Options in Human iPSC-Derived Cardiomyocytes. Mol. Ther. - Nucleic Acids 7, 475–486.