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Supplemental Information

Engineering the Live-Attenuated Polio Vaccine

to Prevent Reversion to Virulence

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Engineering the Live-Attenuated Polio Vaccine to Improve Safety by Preventing

Reversion to Virulence

Yeh et al.

Supplementary figures



Figure S1. Related to Figure 1. Modifications within *domV*.

(A) Sabin2 domain V (domV) predicted secondary structures and optimized S15. The 5'-UTR domV is an RNA stem-loop structure involving nucleotides 468–535. Nucleotide

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481A, the major attenuating mutation in Sabin2, is identified by arrow. Nucleotide differences between Sabin2 and modified domV are shown in red. DomV of Sabin2 was engineered to have all but the top-loop (S15 domV, S2 loop, ii), the entire domain (S15 domV, iii), or stems a and b and connecting loops (S15a, b domV, iv) replaced by the corresponding region from S15 (1).

(**B**, **C**) Temperature sensitivity (**B**) and neurovirulence (**C**) of the mutant viruses were evaluated in Vero cells and by intraspinal (i.s.) inoculation of poliovirus into susceptible Tg66 mice, respectively (STAR methods).



Figure S2. Related to Figure 1 and 5. CRE Optimization.

(A) RNA secondary structures of cre and serially optimized cre 1-5 with optimized base-

pairs shown in red rectangles and "in-frame" STOP codons in green rectangles.

(**B**, **C**) Temperature sensitivity in Vero cells (B) and neurovirulence in Tg66 mice (C) of Sabin2 with *cre* mutants were compared to select sufficiently fit *cre5* for further analysis.





Figure S3. Related to Figure 1 and 5. Plaque Morphology and Replication Phenotype of cre Variants.

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(A) Plaque morphology of S2/S15 *domV/cre1* and *cre4*. For each virus equivalent, 10-fold dilutions were plated from top-right to bottom-left in the 6-well plates of Hep2c and Vero cells. (B) Vero cells were infected with S2/S15 *domV/cre5* and Sabin2 viruses at m.o.i. of 10 at 33 °C for one-step growth analysis. Asterisks indicate significant difference as compared to Sabin2; p values are 0.8796, 0.0238, 0.0136, 0.3419, 0.8796, and 0.5938 for 0, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 24-h post-infection, respectively.

(C) Vero cells were infected with S2/S15 *domV/cre5* and Sabin2 viruses at an m.o.i. of 0.01 under different temperatures and harvested 48 h after infection to compare virus replication yields. Asterisk represents significant difference as compared to Sabin2; p = 0.0359, 0.3061, 0.6433, 0.3165, and 0.4295 for 33, 35, 36, 37 and 39°C, respectively.



Figure S4. Related to Figure 2. Ribavirin Resistant Mutants.

To test for replication fidelity, we used a ribavirin-sensitivity test. Among the 11 fidelity candidates isolated, Sabin2-D53N showed the most significant increase in resistance to mutagen (ribavirin) of the tested concentrations. Asterisks indicate significant difference as compared to Sabin2; p = 0.9990, 0.0267, 0.1237, 0.0054, and 0.0065 for 0, 100, 200, 400, and 800 μ M, respectively.

HiFi and Rec variants replication fitness

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Figure S5. Related to Figure 2. Replication and Virulence of *HiFi* and *Rec1* Viruses.

(A) Effects of D53N and K38R mutation on Sabin2 replication were determined by onestep growth analysis by comparing replication kinetics. Vero cells were infected at an m.o.i. of 10 at 33 °C. Line plots show means \pm standard deviation (SD) of triplicates. * p = 0.0017for difference between S2/S15doV/cre5 and S2/S15doV/cre5-K38R at 3-h post infection. (B) Virulence of PV2, Sabin2 and Sabin2 mutants were compared in an IFNR-KO mouse model.

(C-F) Survival of mice intraperitoneally (i.p.) inoculated with PV2 wild type (C), Sabin2 (D), Sabin2-*Rec1* (E) and Sabin2-*HiFi3* (F) were monitored for 14 days. Log-rank test was performed to compare the virulence of Sabin2 and mutants. *p* values were 0.0076 for Rec1 and Sabin2 at doses of 10^7 , 0.16 at 10^6 , and 0.0387 at 10^5 (E). *p* value = 0.7757 for HiFi3 at doses of 10^7 and 0.3480 at 10^6 (F).



Figure S6. Related to Figure 5. Recombination Assay.

(A) Diagram of the experimental procedure to test the effects of CRE relocation on recombination. HEp2C cells were coinfected with PV3 plus one of the type 2 viruses at 33 °C. Viral progeny was neutralized with anti-PV3 antibodies and further selected in L20B cells at 37 °C after each HEp2c passage. The resulting virus populations were analyzed by RT-PCR and deep sequencing.

(**B**) Recombination between Sabin2 and PV3 was analyzed by RT-PCR after each passage in Hep2C (P1-P4) and after selection in L20B cells (L1-L2) or full-length NGS. Primer sets specific to non-recombinants (left panel), and 5'PV3/PV2 recombinants (right panel) were used in RT-PCR analysis.

	composition of domV	PD50 (log CCID ₅₀)
PV3 + Sabin2	40% PV3; 60% Sabin-2	1.8
PV3 + S2/S15domV	70% PV3; 30% S2/S15domV	1.8
PV3 + S2/S15domV/cre5	100% S2/S15domV/cre5	5.6

Figure S7. Related to Figure 5. Characterization of Progeny Virus from Recombination Assay.

Sequence composition of *domV* in virus populations obtained after five recombination passages in HEp2c cells and two selection passages in L20B cells (H5L2) were determined by deep sequencing. Percentage of *domV* sequence mapped to PV3, Sabin2, S2/S15*domV*, or S2/S15*domV/cre5* is shown. Levels of neurovirulence of the obtained virus populations are compared between conditions using PD₅₀ determined with the Tg66 mouse model.