24-norursodeoxycholic acid reshapes immunometabolism in CD8+ T cells and alleviates hepatic inflammation

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Supplementary materials and methods

Flow Cytometric Analysis

Single cell suspensions of spleen and liver of *in vivo* models were obtained through mechanical disruption through 70μm cell strainers. Intrahepatic T cells were enriched following gradient separation[1]. Total cell count was normalized to tissue weight. Murine peripheral blood was treated by Lyse/Fix buffer (BD) for 10min at 37 °C and cells permeabilized with Perm/Wash I buffer (BD) for 30min on ice. Staining with anti-pRPS6 Abs (Cell Signaling) was performed for 30min on ice together with antibodies listed in Table S1. For circulating immune cells assessment, blood was pipetted into Heparin containing tubes and treated with RBC lysis buffer (eBioscience). Samples were then treated with FcR-Block (Clone 93, eBioscience), and subsequently stained with the respective antibodies as indicated in each experiment. Tetramer staining (GP33/GP276/NP396-specific tetramers from NIH Tetramer Core Facility, US) was performed at 37°C for 15min prior to FcR-block treatment.

Murine CD8+ T cells cultured for 48h with plate-bound anti-CD3/anti-CD28 Abs were stimulated under indicated conditions and fixed for 10min at 37°C with Cytofix (BD), permeabilized 20min on ice with methanol and stained with the indicated phospho-Abs for 30min in the dark at 4°C in PBS/2% FCS. For extracellular staining, CD8+ T cells were incubated with Abs for 30min on ice.

Ex vivo re-stimulation of splenocytes

Splenocytes from LCMV clone13-infected mice were isolated and incubated with LCMV-GP33 peptide (0.4μg/mL) for 5h at 37°C in the presence of CD107a/b Ab. Subsequently, cells were harvested, washed and stained with the phospho-RPS6^{Ser235/236} (Cell Signaling) anti-IFNy and anti-TNF α Abs (BD) using Cytofix/Cytoperm (BD) according to manufacturer's recommendations. Analysis was performed by using FlowJo software (Tree Star). Clones of antibodies used are shown in Table S1.

CD8+ T cell Isolation, Activation and Proliferation Assay

CD8+ T-cells from peripheral lymph nodes and spleens of C57BL/6J male mice (bred in the mouse facility of Medical University of Vienna) were purified by negative depletion (purity>90%) and labeled with cell-proliferation dye eFluor450 (eBioscience) as recommended by the manufacturer, activated *in vitro* with plate-bound anti-CD3 (1µg/ml) and anti-CD28 (3µg/ml) Ab and expanded in RPMI1640 medium containing 10% fetal calf serum, GlutaMAX (2mM, ThermoFisher), β-mercaptoethanol (50µM, ThermoFisher) and Penicillin-Streptomycin (ThermoFisher). To test the impact of bile acids (BAs) on CD8+ T-cell activation and proliferation, culture medium was supplemented ± UDCA or NorUDCA for indicated durations and concentrations. Viability of the cells was monitored by a fixable viability dye eFluor506 (ThermoFisher). Dilution of cell-proliferation dye was evaluated by flow cytometry (LSRII Fortessa, BD Biosciences).

Calcium Influx

Activated CD8+ T cells were labeled at 37°C for 1h with Indo-1 (ThermoFisher), uncoupled Indo-1 was washed out and the cells further incubated ± NorUDCA for 1h at 37°C. Cells were then washed twice with RPMI medium containing 10% FCS, GlutaMAX, β-mercaptoethanol and antibiotics and resuspended in the same medium ± NorUDCA. Cells were incubated with 2µg biotinylated anti-CD3 Ab in 100µl for 15min at room temperature (RT). Cells were mixed with 400µl of 37°C pre-warmed RPMI-1640 medium ± NorUDCA, baseline ratio of violet to blue (405nm/510nm) was measured on a BD-LSR II (Becton Dickinson) flow cytometer for 1 min. 5 µg streptavidin was added to cross-link the TCR. Calcium influx was measured based on the change in the ratio of violet to blue fluorescence for additional 7min. Maximal Calcium flux was induced by addition of Ionomycin (Sigma) after the 7min. Calcium data were analyzed using the FlowJo software.

Lactate Measurements

Supernatants and cells were collected from murine CD8⁺ T-cell culture ± NorUDCA or Rapamycin upon activation for 24h and processed following the manufacturer's instructions (Cayman). Final concentrations of lactate were normalized to cell counts.

Phosphatidic Acid (PA) Analysis

Murine CD8+ T cells were activated for 24h ± NorUDCA or Rapamycin and harvested for the measurement of intracellular PA using the fluorometric PicoProbe™ PA Assay Kit (Biovision) following manufacturer's instructions.

Proteomics Sample Preparation and Phosphopeptide Enrichment

Primary murine CD8⁺ T cells activated with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 for 24h \pm NorUDCA or Rapamycin were harvested in 3 biological replicates for each condition. Each washed cell pellet was lysed separately in 40μL of freshly prepared lysis buffer containing 50mM HEPES (pH8.0), 2% SDS, 0.1M DTT, 1mM PMSF, phosSTOP and protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich). Samples were rested at RT for 20min before heating to 99°C for 5 min. After cooling down to RT, DNA was sheared by sonication using a Covaris S2 high performance ultrasonicator. Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 20, 000g for 15min at 20°C. Supernatants were transferred to fresh eppendorf tubes and protein concentration determined using the BCA protein assay kit (Pierce Biotechnology, Rockford, IL). FASP was performed using a 30kDa molecular weight cutoff filter (VIVACON 500; Sartorius Stedim Biotech GmbH, 37, 070 Goettingen, Germany)[2]. In brief, 43µg total proteins per sample were reduced by adding DTT at a final concentration of 83.3mM followed by incubation at 99°C for 5min. After cooling to room temperature, samples were mixed with 200μL of freshly prepared 8 M urea in 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.5) (UA-solution) in the filter unit and centrifuged at 14, 000g for 15min at 20°C to remove SDS. Any residual SDS was washed out by a second washing step with 200μL of UA. The proteins were alkylated with 100μL of 50mM iodoacetamide in the dark for 30 min at RT. Afterward, three washing steps with 100μL of UA solution were performed, followed by three washing steps with 100µL of 50mM TEAB buffer (Sigma-Aldrich). Proteins were digested with trypsin at a ratio of 1:50 overnight at 37 °C. Peptides were recovered using 40μL of 50mM TEAB buffer followed by 50 μL of 0.5 M NaCl (Sigma-Aldrich). Peptides were desalted using C18 solid phase extraction spin columns (The Nest Group, Southborough, MA). After desalting, peptides were labeled with TMT 10plex™ reagents according to the manufacturer (Pierce, Rockford, IL). After quenching of the labeling reaction, labeled peptides were pooled; organic solvent removed in vacuum concentrator and labeled peptides loaded onto a SPE column. Peptides were eluted with 300µL 80% acetonitrile containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic to achieve a final peptide concentration of \sim 1 µg/µl. Eluate was then used for phosphopeptide enrichment applying a modified method of immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC)[3]. Briefly, two times 100µL of Ni-NTA superflow slurry (QIAGEN Inc., Valencia, USA) were washed with LCMS-grade water and Ni²⁺ stripped off the beads by incubation with 100mM of EDTA, pH8 solution for 1h at RT. Stripped NTA resin was recharged with Fe3+

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ions by incubation with a fresh solution of Fe(III)Cl3 and 100µL of charged resin slurry used for the enrichment of a total of ~400 µg TMT-labeled peptides. The unbound fraction was transferred to a fresh glass vial and used for offline fractionation for the analysis of the whole proteome. After washing the slurry with 0.1% TFA, phosphopeptides were eluted with a freshly prepared ammonia solution containing 3mM EDTA, pH8 and all used for offline fractionation for the analysis of the phophoproteome.

Offline Fractionation via RP-HPLC at High pH

Tryptic peptides were re-buffered in 20mM ammonium formiate buffer shortly before separation by reversed phase liquid chromatography at pH10. The unbound fraction of the phosphopeptide enrichment was separated into 96 time-based fractions on a Phenomenex column (150×2.0 mm Gemini-NX 3µm C18 110Å, Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA) using an Agilent 1200 series HPLC system fitted with a binary pump delivering solvent at 100µL/min. Acidified fractions were consolidated into 40 fractions via a concatenated strategy[4]. The bound fraction containing the phosphopeptides was separated into 20 fractions on a Dionex column (500µm × 50mm PepSwift RP, monolithic, Dionex Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) using an Agilent 1, 200 series nanopump delivering solvent at 4µL/min. Peptides were separated by applying a gradient of 90% aceonitrile containing 20mM ammonium formiate, pH10[5]. After solvent removal in a vacuum concentrator, samples were reconstituted in 5% formic acid for LC-MS/MS analysis and kept at -80°C until analysis.

2D-RP/RP Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry

Mass spectrometry was performed on an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos mass spectrometer (ThermoFisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) coupled to an Dionex Ultimate 3000RSLC nano system (ThermoFisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) via nanoflex source interface. Tryptic peptides were loaded onto a trap column (Pepmap 100 5μm, 5×0.3mm, ThermoFisher Scientific, San Jose, CA) at a flow rate of 10μL/min using 2% ACN and 0.1% TFA as loading buffer. After loading, the trap column was switched in-line with a 30cm, 75µm inner diameter analytical column (packed in-house with ReproSil-Pur 120 C18-AQ, 3μm, Dr. Maisch, Ammerbuch-Entringen, Germany). Mobile-phase A consisted of 0.4% formic acid in water and mobile-phase B of 0.4% formic acid in a mix of 90% acetonitrile and 10% water. The flow rate was set to 230 nL/min and a 90 min gradient used (6 to 30% solvent B within 81min, 30 to 65% solvent B within 8min and, 65 to 100% solvent B within 1min, 100% solvent B for 6min before equilibrating at 6% solvent B for 18min). Analysis was performed in a datadependent acquisition mode. Full MS scans were acquired with a scan range of 375-1650 m/z in the orbitrap at a resolution of 120,000 (at 200Th). Automatic gain control (AGC) was set to a target of $2x10⁵$ and a maximum injection time of 50ms. Precursor ions for MS2 analysis were selected using a TopN dependent scan approach with a max cycle time of 3sec. MS2 spectra were acquired in the orbitrap (FT) at a resolution of 50,000 (at 200Th). Precursor isolation in the quadrupole was set to 1Da and higher energy collision induced dissociation (HCD) with normalized collision energy (NCE) of 38%. AGC was set to 5x104 with a maximum injection time of 54ms and 150ms for the proteome and phosphoproteome, respectively. Dynamic exclusion for selected ions was 60s for the proteome and 30s for the phosphoproteome. A single lock mass at m/z 445.120024 for recalibration was employed[6]. Xcalibur version 4.0.0 and Tune 2.1 were used to operate the instrument. Phosphoproteomics samples were acquired in two technical replicates.

Proteomics and Phosphoproteomics Data Analysis

Acquired raw data files were processed using the Proteome Discoverer 2.2.0. platform, utilizing the Sequest HT database search engine and Percolator validation software node (V3.04) to remove false positives with a false discovery rate (FDR) of 1% on peptide and protein level under strict conditions. Searches were performed with full tryptic digestion against the mouse SwissProt database v2017.12 appended with known contaminants (25,293 sequences) with up to two miscleavage sites. Oxidation (+15.9949 Da) of methionine, deamidation (+0.984Da) of glutamine and asparagine, and protein N-termini acetylation (+42.011Da) were set as variable modifications, whilst carbamidomethylation (+57.0214Da) of cysteine residues and TMT 6-plex labeling of peptide N-termini and lysine residues were set as fixed modifications. For phosphopeptides phosphorylation (+79.966Da) of serine, threonine and tyrosine was additionally included as a variable modification. Data was searched with mass tolerances of ±10ppm and 0.025Da on the precursor and fragment ions, respectively. Results were filtered to include peptide spectrum matches with Sequest HT cross-correlation factor scores of ≥1 and 1% FDR peptide confidence. The ptmRS algorithm was additionally used to validate phospopeptides with a set score cutoff of 90. PSMs with precursor isolation interference values of ≥ 50% and average TMT-reporter ion signal-to-noise values ≤ 10 were excluded from quantitation. Isotopic impurity correction and TMT channel-normalization based on total peptide amount were applied. Protein abundances were further normalized to equal median in each TMT channel. One-way ANOVA test corrected for false discovery rate by Benjamini– Hochberg procedure followed by Tukey post-hoc test was used to calculate statistical significance of comparisons made among 3 groups of observed changes on protein level. In cases where only the data on NorUDCA and control samples were compared the statistical significance was calculated by paired Student's t-test. TMT ratios with *P*-values < 0.01 were considered as significant. For the phosphopeptide analysis, peptides that were changing in opposite directions in the two technical replicates were discarded, moreover Student's ttest was performed on each technical replicate separately and *P*-value was required to be lower than 0.01 in both replicates in order to consider phosphopeptide abundance change as significant. The mean abundance of

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each biological replicate from the two technical replicates was calculated and further normalized to their corresponding proteome abundance.

Human T cell experiments

3 independent experiments with peripheral T-cells obtained from PSC patients (also suffering from associated inflammatory bowel disease) and age and gender matched healthy volunteers were performed in parallel following the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the Ethics Committee of the MUV (747/2011 and 2001/2018). Bulk T-cells from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated by negative depletion[7], labeled with 1μM CFSE and rested overnight in RPMI 1640 medium with 5% heat-inactivated FCS, 2mM L-glutamine, 100μg/ml streptomycin and 100U/ml penicillin. T-cells were activated with plate-bound anti-CD3 (1μg/ml) plus soluble anti-CD28 (0.5μg/ml) Abs ± NorUDCA or UDCA or Rapamycin. Lymphoblastogenesis, proliferation and activity of mTORC1 and Erk1/2 were assessed on day3 on a Fortessa flow cytometer (BD Biosciences)[7].

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Supplementary figures

A

Gating strategy for in vivo liver non-parenchymal cells of Mdr2⁺ model

Fig. S1. Gating strategy for *in vivo* **liver non-parenchymal cells of** *Mdr2-/* **model and impact of NorUDCA on number of cytokine- expressing hepatic CD8+ T-cells.** (A) Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis in vivo liver nonparenchymal cells of *Mdr2-/-* model. (B) Quantitative analysis of hepatic CD8+ T-cells expressing cytokines of indicated groups. Data are representative of 2 independent-experiments. 4 biologically independent-animals were used per group during experiments. Quantitative data are presented as mean±SE. *P*values were calculated by one-way ANOVA corrected for multiple comparisons with Dunnett test using *Mdr2-/-* mice as reference. *=*P*<0.05, **=*P*<0.01. GrzmB, GranzymeB.

Gating strategy for in vivo liver non-parenchymal cells of LCMV model

A

Fig. S2. Gating strategy for liver non-parenchymal cells of *in vivo* **LCMV Clone 13 model and NorUDCA impact on hepatic CD8+ T-cell cytolytic molecule expression.** (A) Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis of liver non-parenchymal cells of *in vivo* LCMV Clone 13 model. (B) Representative plots of intrahepatic virus-specific CD8+ expressing cytolytic molecules. Data are summary of 3 independent-experiments. At least 3 biologically independent-animals were used per group during experiments. Quantitative data are presented as mean±SE. *P*-values were calculated by one-way ANOVA corrected with Tukey post-hoc test. Cells recognizing the GP33 peptide in the

context of MHC class I presentation are labeled as GP33+. ***=*P*<0.001, ***=*P*<0.001, ****=*P*<0.0001. GrzmB, GranzymeB.

Fig. S3. Splenic CD8+ T-cells from NorUDCA treated LCMV mice show reduced mTORC1 and ameliorated TNFα expression but unaltered IFNγ expression upon *ex vivo* **re-stimulation with GP33-LCMV peptide.** (A) Experimental scheme. (B) pRPS6^{Ser235/236} expression in *ex vivo* isolated splenic CD107a/b+CD8+ T-cells (i.e. cells that are true effectors and degranulated)

upon GP33 LCMV peptide re-stimulation. Quantitative analysis is shown alongside. (C) TNFα or IFNγ expression on gated splenic CD107a/b⁺CD8⁺ Tcells isolated from indicated groups upon *ex vivo* LCMV GP33 peptides restimulation. Quantitative analysis is shown alongside. (D) Spleen LCMV virus titer. Data is representative of 2 independent-experiments. At least 3 biological independent-animals were used per group during experiment. Summary data are presented as mean±SE. *P-*values were calculated by one-way ANOVA corrected with Tukey post-hoc test. *=*P*<0.05, **=*P*<0.01. Rapa, Rapamycin.

Fig. S4. Gating strategy and titration assay for *in vitro* **culture of primary murine CD8+ T-cells.** (A) Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis of *in vitro* culture of primary murine CD8+ T-cells. (B) Titration assay of *in vitro* culture of primary murine CD8⁺ T-cells activated ± NorUDCA or UDCA at various concentrations for 24h. Summary data of 2 independent-experiments are presented as mean±SE. *P-*values were calculated by one-way ANOVA corrected with Tukey post-hoc test, untreated group was used as reference for comparison. *=*P*<0.05, **=*P*<0.01, ***=*P*<0.001, ****=*P*<0.0001.

Fig. S5. The top 10 enriched pathways for significantly up- and downregulated proteins by NorUDCA in activated CD8+ T-cells. The top 10 enriched Hallmark, Gene Ontology (GO), KEGG pathways for significantly upand downregulated proteins by NorUDCA. Overlap of top 10 enriched pathways modulated by NorUDCA and Rapamycin are shown in bold, black and italic. Pathways uniquely modulated by NorUDCA are shown in grey, regular.

Fig. S6. NorUDCA reduces glycolysis while enhancing fatty acid oxidation machinery in activated CD8+ T-cells. Schematic summary of key phosphoproteomics data showing the impact of NorUDCA on glycolysis and fatty acid oxidation pathways. Figure shows protein, protein phosphorylation and genes affected by NorUDCA. The color code was inserted for direction of changes. Data were obtained from 3 independent-experiments. *P-*values were calculated with two tailed, paired student's t test between untreated and NorUDCA-treated groups. *=*P*<0.05.

Fig. S7. NorUDCA attenuates Ras-Erk-P90RSK-mTORC1 signaling and reduces intracellular PA level in activated CD8+ T-cells. (A-C) Representative immunoblots of Ras-Erk-P90RSK-mTORC1 pathway in murine CD8+ T-cells activated for 24h. Quantitative analysis is shown alongside. (D) Intracellular PA of CD8+ T-cells activated for 24h stimulated under indicated conditions. Data are representative of 3 independent-experiments. Quantitative data are presented as mean±SE. *P*-values were calculated by one-way ANOVA corrected with Tukey post-hoc test. Data are normalized to protein abundance

of untreated group. *=*P*<0.05, **=*P*<0.01. Rapa, Rapamycin; PA, phosphatidic acid.

Fig. S8. NorUDCA modulation of CD8+ T-cell mTORC1 proteome and phosphoproteome. Schematic overview of mTORC1 signaling and downstream pathways affected by NorUDCA. Color code was inserted for direction of changes. Data were obtained from 3 independent-experiments. Abundance of phosphoproteins were normalized to the relevant total abundance of protein. *P*-values were calculated with two-tailed paired Student's t test between

untreated and NorUDCA groups. *= P<0.05.

Fig. S9. NorUDCA does not affect human CD8+ T-cell viability and activation. (A) Gating strategy for flow cytometry analysis of *in vitro* culture of circulating human CD8+ T-cells. (B) Viability profile of circulating CD8+ T-cells from peripheral blood of healthy volunteer and PSC patients treated as indicated for 3 days. Quantitative analysis of 3 independent experiments is shown alongside. (C) Expression of CD25 and CD69 on live singlet CD8⁺ Tcells of healthy volunteer and PSC patient are shown. Data in (B,C) are

representative of 3 independent-experiments. *P-*values were calculated by oneway ANOVA corrected with Tukey post-hoc test. PSC, primary sclerosing cholangitis; Rapa, Rapamycin.

Table S1. Antibodies used in the study.

Abbreviations: F.C., Flow Cytometry; I.B., Immunoblotting; I.F.,

Immunofluorescence.

Table S2. Primer sequences used in the study.

Table S3. Proteins involved in the GO_Mitochondria pathways upregulated and downregulated by NorUDCA.

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