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# Supplemental Information

## IL-15 blockade and rapamycin rescue

## multifactorial loss of factor VIII from AAV-

## transduced hepatocytes in hemophilia A mice

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# **Supplementary Table S1: Summary of results:**



## **Supplementary Figures:**



**hemophilia A mice.** Hemophilia A mice (F8e16<sup>-/-)</sup> on C57BL6/129 (n=8) or BALB/c (n=18) genetic backgrounds received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector (codon-optimized) at a dose of 1x10<sup>11</sup> vg/mouse. **A.** FVIII activity in plasma as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SD, \*\*\*\* indicates *P*<0.0001). **B.** Inhibitor titers (BU/ml) at week 16 shown for individual mice and as averages ±SEM. Significance was determined with multiple unpaired t tests, corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm-Šídák post hoc test. \*\*\* *P*<0.001, \*\*\*\* *P*<0.0001.



**Fig. S2. Delay in inhibitor formation by transient immune suppression using rapamycin and flt3L. A.** Experimental outline: Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16-/-) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector (codon-optimized) at a dose of  $1x10^{11}$  vg/mouse (n=7-8 per experimental group). Animals were additionally treated three times per week, three weeks prior to and one week after gene transfer with rapamycin combined with flt3L and recombinant human FVIII ("Rapa + Flt3L + rhFVIII") or no immune modulation ("AAV only"). **B.** FVIII activity in plasma as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **C.** Inhibitory antibody titers against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **D.** IgG1 antibodies against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). Significance was determined with multiple unpaired t tests, corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm-Šídák post hoc test. \* *P*<0.05, \*\* *P*<0.01.



**Fig. S3. Prevention of inhibitor formation against FVIII by prolonged immune suppression. A.**  Experimental outline: Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16-/-) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector (codon-optimized) at a dose of  $1x10^{11}$  vg/mouse (n=4-6 per experimental group). Animals were additionally treated three times per week one week prior to and ten weeks after gene transfer, with rapamycin ("Rapa"), rapamycin combined with flt3L ("Rapa + Flt3L"), or no immune modulation ("AAV only"). **B.** FVIII activity in plasma as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **C.** Inhibitory antibody titers against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **D.** IgG1 antibodies against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **E.** IgG2a antibodies against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). Significance was determined by one-way ANOVA for each time point and corrected for multiple comparisons using Tukey post hoc test.



**Fig. S4. Eight weeks of rapamycin administration is sufficient to prevent inhibitor formation against FVIII but does not result in sustained FVIII activity. A.** Experimental outline: Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16-/-) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector (codonoptimized) at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse (n=6 per experimental group). Animals were additionally treated twice per week for either 2, 4, 6, or 8 weeks after gene transfer, with rapamycin ("2w, 4w, 6w, 8w Rapa") or no immune modulation ("AAV only"). **B.** FVIII activity in plasma as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **C.** Inhibitory antibody titers against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **D.** IgG1 antibodies against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). **E.** IgG2a antibodies against hFVIII as a function of time after gene transfer (averages ±SEM). Significance was determined by one-way ANOVA for each time point and corrected for multiple comparisons using Tukey post hoc test (B, C). Significance was determined with multiple unpaired t tests, corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm-Šídák post hoc test (D, E). \*\* *P*<0.01.



**Fig. S5. Hepatic AAV8-hFIX gene transfer in hemophilia A mice. A.** Plasma levels of hFIX as a function of time after gene transfer in BALB/c F8e16-/- mice  $(2x10^{11} \text{ vg/mouse given by})$ intravenous injection; n=7). **B.** Liver enzyme (alanine aminotransferase, ALT) levels in plasma normalized to average pre-treatment levels.



**Fig. S6. Successful vector re-administration after initial immune suppression with rapamycin. A.** Experimental outline: Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16<sup>-/-</sup>) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector (codon-optimized) at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse (n=7-9 per experimental group). Animals were additionally treated twice per week with rapamycin ("Rapa") or rapamycin combined with anti-IL-15 ("Rapa + anti-IL-15") for the first 8 weeks after gene transfer, starting the day of vector administration. Control mice received vector but no immune modulation ("AAV

only"). Naïve mice served as positive control for AAV8-hFIX gene transfer (identical dose given 17 weeks after initial vector administration). **B.** IgG2a antibody titers against AAV8 capsid at week 16. **C.** IgG2a antibody titers against AAV8 capsid at week 20. **D.** Plasma levels of hFIX at week 20 (i.e. 3 weeks after AAV8-hFIX administration). Also shown is percent hFIX expression relative to average levels in naïve control mice after AAV8-hFIX administration (100%, no first vector administration). Significance was determined by multiple unpaired t tests, corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm-Šídák post hoc test (B-D). \* *P*<0.05, \*\*\* *P*<0.001, \*\*\*\* *P*<0.0001.



**capsid. A.** Experimental outline: Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16-/-) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector (codon-optimized) at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse (n=5-7 per experimental group). Animals were additionally treated twice per week with anti-IL-15 ("Anti-IL-15") for the first 8 weeks after gene transfer or received no immune modulation ("AAV only"). **B.** Inhibitory antibody titers against hFVIII at week 16 (averages ±SEM). **C.** IgG1 antibody titers against hFVIII at week 16 (averages ±SEM). **D.** IgG2a antibody titers against AAV8 capsid at week 16 (averages ±SEM). Significance was determined with multiple unpaired t tests, corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm-Šídák post hoc test. \* *P*<0.05.



**Fig. S8. Flow cytometry gating strategy for hepatic CD8+ T cells and NK cells (week 16).** Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16<sup>-/-</sup>) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse. Animals were additionally treated twice per week with rapamycin ("Rapa") or rapamycin combined with anti-IL-15 ("Rapa + Anti-IL-15") or with anti-CD122 ("Rapa + Anti-CD122") for the first 8 weeks after gene transfer or received no immune modulation ("AAV only"). Livers were collected 16 weeks after gene transfer. Isolation using microbeads positively separated the F4/80<sup>+</sup> fraction from the fraction used for NK and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell analysis by flow cytometry. NK cells (NKp46<sup>+</sup>CD3ε<sup>-</sup>) were further classified based on increasing maturity: NK1  $(CD11b^{\text{low}}CD27^{\text{low}})$  < NK2  $(CD11b^{\text{low}}CD27^{\text{high}})$  < NK3  $(CD11b^{\text{high}}CD27^{\text{high}})$  < NK4  $(CD11b^{\text{high}}CD27^{\text{low}})$ . CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (CD3ε<sup>+</sup>CD8α<sup>+</sup>) were further classified by subtype: CD8<sup>+</sup> effector T cells (CD8 T<sub>eff</sub>; CD44<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>-</sup>) or CD8<sup>+</sup> memory T cells (CD8 T<sub>mem</sub>; CD44<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>+</sup>).



**Fig. S9. Flow cytometry gating strategy for Kupffer cells (week 16).** Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16<sup>-/-</sup>) received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse. Animals were additionally treated twice per week with rapamycin ("Rapa") or rapamycin combined with anti-IL-15 ("Rapa + Anti-IL-15") or with anti-CD122 ("Rapa + Anti-CD122") for the first 8 weeks after gene transfer or received no immune modulation ("AAV only"). Livers were collected 16 weeks after gene transfer. Isolation using microbeads positively separated the F4/80<sup>+</sup> fraction for flow cytometry analysis of Kupffer cells (KC; F4/80<sup>+</sup>CD11b<sup>mid</sup>).



**Fig. S10. Flow cytometry gating strategy for hepatic CD8+ T cells and NK cells (week 3).** Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16<sup>-/-</sup>) were either untreated ("Naïve") or received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse. Animals receiving vector were either additionally treated twice per week with rapamycin ("Rapa"), or rapamycin combined with anti-IL-15 ("Rapa + Anti-IL-15") or anti-CD122 ("Rapa + Anti-CD122"), or received no immune modulation ("AAV only"). Livers were collected 3 weeks after gene transfer and cells were isolated for NK and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell analysis by flow cytometry. NK cells (NKp46<sup>+</sup>CD3ε<sup>-</sup>) were further classified based on increasing maturity: NK1 (CD11b<sup>low</sup>CD27<sup>low</sup>) < NK2 (CD11b<sup>low</sup>CD27<sup>high</sup>) < NK3  $(CD11b^{high}CD27^{high})$  < NK4  $(CD11b^{high}CD27^{low})$ .  $CD8^+$  T cells  $(CD3\varepsilon^+CD8\alpha^+)$  were further classified by subtype: CD8<sup>+</sup> effector T cells (CD8 T<sub>eff</sub>; CD44<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>-</sup>), CD8<sup>+</sup> effector memory T cells (CD8 T<sub>em</sub>; CD44<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>+</sup>CD62L<sup>-</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup>), CD8<sup>+</sup> resident memory T cells (CD8 T<sub>rm</sub>; CD44<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>+</sup>CD62L<sup>-</sup>CD69<sup>+</sup>), or CD8<sup>+</sup> central memory T cells (CD8 T<sub>cm</sub>; CD44<sup>+</sup>CD127<sup>+</sup>CD62L<sup>+</sup>CD69<sup>-</sup>).



Fig. S11. Flow cytometry gating strategy for splenic CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (week 3). Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16<sup>-/-</sup>) were either untreated ("Naïve") or received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8hFVIII vector at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse. Animals receiving vector were either additionally treated twice per week with rapamycin ("Rapa"), or rapamycin combined with anti-IL-15 ("Rapa + Anti-IL-15") or anti-CD122 ("Rapa + Anti-CD122"), or received no immune modulation ("AAV only"). Spleens were collected 3 weeks after gene transfer and analysis by flow cytometry. Isolation using microbeads positively separated the CD19<sup>+</sup> fraction from the fraction used for CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell analysis by flow cytometry. CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (CD4<sup>+</sup>CD19<sup>-</sup>CD8<sup>-</sup>) were further classified by subtype: follicular regulatory T cells (T<sub>fr</sub>; PD1<sup>high</sup>CXCR5<sup>+</sup>FoxP3<sup>+</sup>) or follicular helper T cells (T<sub>fh</sub>; PD1<sup>high</sup>CXCR5<sup>+</sup>FoxP3<sup>-</sup>).



**Fig. S12. Flow cytometry gating strategy for splenic B cells (week 3).** Hemophilia A mice (BALB/c F8e16<sup>-/-</sup>) were either untreated ("Naïve") or received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector at a dose of  $2x10^{11}$  vg/mouse. Animals receiving vector were either additionally treated twice per week with rapamycin ("Rapa"), or rapamycin combined with anti-IL-15 ("Rapa + Anti-IL-15") or anti-CD122 ("Rapa + Anti-CD122"), or received no immune modulation ("AAV only"). Spleens were collected 3 weeks after gene transfer and analysis by flow cytometry. Isolation using microbeads positively separated the CD19<sup>+</sup> fraction for B cell analysis by flow cytometry. Mature B cells (B220+CD93-) were further classified by subtype: marginal zone B cells (MZ B cells; CD1dhighCD23<sup>low</sup>), follicular B cells (Fo B cells; CD1d<sup>low</sup>CD23high), or germinal center B cells (GC B cells; CD1d<sup>low</sup>CD23<sup>high</sup>CD95<sup>+</sup>GL7<sup>high</sup>).



**Fig. S13. Example of CD8+ T cell infiltration in the liver of a hemophilia A mouse 16 weeks after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer.** This BALB/c F8e16-/- mouse is identical to the animal shown in Fig. 5D of the main manuscript. It had received hepatic gene transfer with AAV8-hFVIII vector at a dose of 2x10<sup>11</sup> vg. Shown are immunofluorescent stains for hFVIII (green) and CD8 (red). Blue stain is DAPI. Original magnification: 200x.



**Fig. S14. F8 transgene mRNA levels quantitated using two different primer pairs. A.** Liver F8 transgene (targeting transgene middle) mRNA levels (normalized to endogenous β-actin mRNA levels using standard 2-Δ∆Ct methods) relative to average of "Rapa" treated mice (averages ±SEM; week 16). **B.** Liver F8 transgene (targeting transgene start) mRNA levels (normalized to endogenous β-actin mRNA levels using standard 2<sup>-ΔΔCt</sup> methods) relative to average of "Rapa" treated mice (averages ±SEM; week 16). **C.** Simple linear regression line drawn to show correlation between measurement of mRNA levels by targeting transgene middle ("hFVIII-mid and start ("hFVIII-start mRNA"). Significance was determined with multiple unpaired t tests, corrected for multiple comparisons using Holm-Šídák post hoc test. \*\*\*\* *P*<0.05.



**Fig. S15.** hFVIII expression (green) in liver of a HA-BALB/c mouse 14 weeks after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer. This animal had initial hFVIII activity >200% of normal (week 4) that declined to ~6% by week 14 despite continuous immune suppression with rapamycin. Blue stain: DAPI. Original magnification: 200x.



**Fig. S16.** ALT (alanine aminotransferase) levels normalized to those in naïve HA-BALB/c mice as a function of time after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer without ("AAV only") or with rapamycin administration (twice per week for the duration of the experiment; "rapa"). Statistical significance is indicated for comparison to naïve animals (no gene transfer or immune suppression).



**Fig. S17.** Hepatic F8 mRNA vs FVIII activity in plasma (**A-C**) or vector copy number (**D-F**) at different time points (4, 8, and 14 weeks) after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer to HA-BALB/c mice. Mice received rapamycin twice per week for the duration of the experiment. No correlation between hepatic mRNA and systemic FVIII expression was observed. Vector copy numbers and mRNA levels did not correlate for weeks 4 and 8 but trended toward a correlation by week 14.



Fig. S18. Western blots for cellular stress markers GRP94, BiP, and CHOP, as well as  $\beta$ -actin, phosphorylated and total eIF2 $\alpha$ . Protein extracts were obtained from livers of HA-BALB/c mice 16 weeks after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer.



**Fig. S19.** Hepatic CHOP mRNA expression 16 weeks after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer to HA-BALB/c mice. Treatment groups are indicated. Each symbol represents an individual animal.



**Fig. S20.** Western blots for phosphorylated and total eIF2a. Protein extracts were obtained from livers of HA-BALB/c mice 16 weeks after AAV8-hFVIII gene transfer. Western blots were probed with antibodies that are specific for the phosphorylated form of murine eIF2 $\alpha$  or detect total murine eIF2 $\alpha$ .



**Fig. S21.** Model for interaction between FVIII expression and the immune system, leading to shutdown of transgene expression in AAV-transduced hepatocytes, and targeting of IL-15 signaling to preserve FVIII protein production.

# **Supplementary Methods:**

## **Supplementary Table S2: Immunophenotyping:**



Note that maturation of mouse NK cells follows a 4-stage developmental program (*Blood* **113 (22):** 5488-5496, 2009). Further, CD27 distinguished between two subsets of mature NK cells with distinct responsiveness and migratory capacity (*J Immunol* **176 (3):** 1517-1524, 2006).

### **Supplementary Table S3: Antibodies used for flow cytometry:**

# **Hepatic NK cell/CD8+ T cell panel**



### **Kupffer cell panel**



### **Splenic CD4+ T cells panel**



### **Splenic B cells panel**



### **FISH probes:**

Probe C1 (AAV-co-hF8-transgene (1058881-C1) detecting *hF8* mRNA): accactgacctgggacagtgaatgatccccctgatctgcggcctcgacggtatCGATGCCACCATGCAGATCGAGCTGTCTA CCTGCTTCTTCCTGTGCCTGCTGCGGTTCTGCTTCAGCGCCACCCGGCGGTACTACCTGGGCGCCGTGGA ACTGAGCTGGGACTACATGCAGAGCGACCTGGGGGAGCTGCCCGTGGACGCCAGATTCCCCCCAAGAG TGCCCAAGAGCTTCCCCTTCAACACCTCCGTGGTGTACAAGAAAACCCTGTTCGTCGAGTTCACCGACCA CCTGTTCAATATCGCCAAGCCCAGACCCCCCTGGATGGGCCTGCTGGGCCCTACAATCCAGGCCGAGGT GTACGACACCGTGGTCATCACCCTGAAGAACATGGCCAGCCACCCCGTGTCCCTGCACGCCGTGGGCGT GTCCTACTGGAAGGCCTCTGAGGGCGCCGAGTACGACGACCAGACCAGCCAGCGCGAGAAAGAGGAC GACAAAGTCTTTCCTGGCGGCAGCCATACCTACGTGTGGCAGGTCCTGAAAGAAAACGGCCCTATGGCC TCCGACCCCCTGTGCCTGACCTACAGCTACCTGAGCCACGTGGACCTGGTCAAGGACCTGAACAGCGGC CTGATCGGCGCCCTGCTCGTGTGTAGAGAGGGCAGCCTCGCCAAAGAGAAAACCCAGACCCTGCACAA GTTCATCCTGCTGTTCGCCGTGTTCGACGAGGGCAAGAGCTGGCACAGCGAGACAAAGAACAGCCTGA

TGCAGGACCGGGACGCCGCCTCTGCCAGAGCCTGGCCTAAGATGCACACCGTGAACGGCTACGTGAAC AGAAGCCTGCCCGGACTGATCGGCTGCCACCGGAAGTCCGTGTACTGGCACGTGATCGGCATGGGCAC CACCCCCGAGGTGCACAGCATCTTTCTGGAAGGCCACACCTTCCTCGTGCGGAACCACAGACAGGCCAG CCTGGAAAT

Probe C2 (AAV-co-hF8-transgene-O1-sense (1058891-C2) detecting vector genome): TGCAGATGCTCGCCGATCAGACATTCCACCCGCCAGATGCCGGCCTTGCTGGGCAGCATTTCCACTGTCT CGAACACGCCGGGGTACAGGTTGTACAGGGCCATCTTGTACTCTTCTTTCTTCCGCACTGTGAACACGTG GCCGCTGAAGTGGATGCTGTGGATGTTCTCGTTGCTGCCCATGCTCAGCAGATACCACCGGATTCTCTGA TCCTGGGCCATGACCAGGCCGGGCAGGGTGTCCATGATGTAGCCGTTGATGGCGTGGAACCGATAGTT CTCTTTGAAGGTAGGATCTTCCATCTGGATGTTGCAGGGGGCTCTGCAGTTTCTTTCCATGTTCTCGGTG AAGTACCAGCTCTTTGTCTCATCGAAGATGGTGAAGAACAGGGCAAATTCCTGCACTGTGACCTGCCGG CCGTGGGCGGGGTTCAGGGTGTTGGTGTGGCAGACGAGCAGAGGTCCAATCAGGCCAGAGTGCACGT CCTTTTCCAGGTCCACATCGGAGAAGTAGGCCCAGGCCTTGCAGTCGAACTCGTCCTTTGTGGGGGCCA TGTGGTGCTGCACCTTCCAGAAGTAGGTCTTAGTCTCGTTGGGCTTCACGAAGTTCTTCCGGGGTTCGGC GCCCTGCCGCTGGTCCTCTTCGTAGCTGATCAGGCTGCTGTAGAAGCTGTAGGGTCTGGAGGCCTGGTT TCTGAAGGTGACCATGATGTTATCTTCCACCTCGGCTCTAATGTAAGGTCCCAGCAGTCCCAGGTGCTCG TTCAGCTCGCCCCGATACAGGGGCTGGGTGAAGCTGCCGTCGGTGAACTCCTGGAACACCACTTTCTTG AACTGGGGCACGCTGCCGCTCTGGGCTCTGTTCCGCAGCACGTGGGGGCTGCTGCTCATGCCGTAGTCC CACAGTCTTTCCACGGCGGCAATGAAGTAGTGCCGGGTTTTCTTCTGGAAGGACCGGGGGCTCTGGTTC TCGTCCTCGTCGTAGATGTCGAAATCCTCTTTCTTCATCTCGACGCTGATGGTGTCGTCGTAATCAATCTC TTCCTGGTCGGACTGCAGGGTGGTCCGGGTGATCTCTCTCTGGTGCCGCTTCAGCACGGGGGGGTTCTG GCTGAAGCTTCTGGGCTCGATGGCGTTGTTCTTGCTCAGCAGGTAGGCGCTGATGTCCTCATAGCTGTCC TCGTAGTAGTCGCCGGTGTTCTTGTCGCAGCTGGACACCTTCAGCAGGGCGGTCATGCCCCGGTTCCGG AAGTCGCTGTTGTGGCAGCCCAGAATCCACAGGCCGGGGTTTTCCATGCTCATGAACACGGTTTCGCCG GAGAAGGGGAACAGGGTCAGGGTATCCTCGTACACCATCTTGTGCTTGAAGGTGTAGCCGCTGAAGAA CACGCTCAGGAAGTCGGTCTGGGCGCCGATGCTCAGGATGTACCAGTAGGCCACCTCGTGCAGGCACA CGCTCAGCTGCAGGCTGTCGAACACGTAGCCATTGATGGAGTGCATGATGTTGCTGGCCTGGAACTCGG GATCTTCCAGCTGCACGCCGGCAGGGTTGGGCAGGAACCGCTGGATATTCTCGGTCAGATACCAGGACC GATTCTCATCGAACACGCTGAACAGGATCACGTTCCGCTTGTCGCTCATGATCTGGTTGCCCCGCTGGTC CACGCTTTCTTTGTAGCAGATCAGCAGAGGGCCGATCAGCCCGGAGGCCAGGTCCCGTTCCATGTTCAC GAAGCTGC