

## The $\beta$ Subunit of Heterotrimeric G Protein Interacts Directly with Kinesin Heavy Chains, Kinesin-I

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Kinesin-I exists as a tetramer of two heavy chains (KHCs, also called KIF5s), which contain the amino (N)-terminal motor domain and carboxyl (C)-terminal domain, as well as two light chains (KLCs), which bind to the KIF5s (KIF5A, KIF5B and KIF5C) stalk region. To identify the interaction proteins for KIF5A, yeast two-hybrid screening was performed and a specific interaction with the  $\beta$  subunit of heterotrimeric G proteins (G $\beta$ ) was found. G $\beta$  bound to the amino acid residues between 808 and 935 of KIF5A and to other KIF5 members in the yeast two-hybrid assay. The WD40 repeat motif of G $\beta$  was essential for interaction with KIF5A. In addition, these proteins showed specific interactions in the glutathione *S*-transferase (GST) pull-down assay. An antibody to KIF5s specifically co-immunoprecipitated KIF5s associated with heterotrimeric G proteins from mouse brain extracts. These results suggest that kinesin-I motor protein transports heterotrimeric G protein attachment vesicles along microtubules in the cell.

**Key words** : Kinesin-I, molecular motors, heterotrimeric G protein, binding protein

### Introduction

Intracellular transport is the process by which motor proteins walk along microtubule tracks [40]. Motor proteins fall into two superfamilies, dynein and kinesin [13,45]. Kinesins and dyneins walk in a unidirectional manner so that dyneins move toward the microtubule minus end, while kinesins move toward the microtubule plus end [11,29,44]. Kinesin-I, a conventional kinesin, was the first identified and is the most abundant motor protein. Kinesin-I is a heterotetramer composed of two kinesin heavy chains (KHC, also called KIF5s) and two kinesin light chain (KLC) [11]. Kinesin-I has specific cargo-binding regions in the carboxyl (C)-terminus of KHC and KLC-binding domains, and have the ability to bind directly to cargoes [5,8,9]. KIF5s have now been revealed to consist of three closely related subtypes: Kinesin superfamily protein (KIF) 5A, KIF5B, and KIF5C [11,16,27]. To investigate the intracellular functions of KIF5 proteins, depletion of KIF5 proteins from cell culture systems was performed using antisense oligonucleotides. In neurons, induction of antisense oligonucleotides against *kit5* reduced the overall length of neuritis and inhibited the transport of GAP-43 and synapsin to the tips of neuritis, showing specific

transport of these two molecules by KIF5 proteins [4,24]. In mice, a *kit5B* null mutation is embryonic lethal, but the mitochondrial phenotype in yolk sac-derived cultured cells from *kit5B* null mice could be rescued by exogenous expression of KIF5A, KIF5B, or KIF5C, suggesting that any type of KIF5 can transport mitochondria separately [16,23,38]. When *kif5A* was conditionally targeted by a synapsin-promoted Cre-recombinase transgene, young mutant mice showed no sign of interrupted transport within cells, but an accumulation of neurofilament in the cell body, suggesting a role for KIF5A as a neurofilament transport motor protein [11]. In contrast to KIF5A, *kit5C* knockout mice survive with no abnormality [16]. Mutation in KIF5A has been implicated in human disease, as a point mutation in the motor domain of KIF5A has been associated with the autosomal dominant neurodegenerative disorder hereditary spastic paraplegia type 10 (SPG10) [7,25].

The identification of conserved protein-protein interaction motifs in the KIF5s tail domain provided additional evidence that KIF5s bind their cargoes through protein-protein interactions [13,28,32]. Kinesin-I binding proteins fall into six classes: mRNP transport, pathogen transport, slow axonal transport and movement of cytoskeleton subunits, transport of membrane-bound organelles, transport of signaling molecules to specific locations within the cell, and proteins that regulate kinesin-I activity [2,6,10,15,18,21,26,39,41]. Although an increasing number of cargo molecules have been re-

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ported, not all components or functions have been revealed yet [17]. In addition, little is known about the mechanism for KIF5A-cargo recognition and interaction. To improve the understanding of the role KIF5A in brain, using the yeast two-hybrid screens, we identified the  $\beta$  subunit of heterotrimeric G proteins ( $G\beta$ ) as a protein that interacts with KIF5A *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

## Materials and Methods

### Plasmid constructs

A previously described mouse KIF5A cDNA [16] was utilized as a template to amplify the region coding for amino acids 808-1027 using the appropriate primers. The amplified fragment was subcloned into pGEM T-easy vector (Promega Corp, Madison, WI, USA). The fragment was then *EcoRI*, *XbaI*-restricted and subcloned into the *EcoRI*, *XbaI* site of pLexA (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA, USA). The coding regions of  $G\alpha$  and  $G\gamma$  were amplified by RT-PCR from mouse brain and cloned into pGEM T-easy vector. The  $G\alpha$  and  $G\gamma$  full length were inserted into pB42AD (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA, USA).

### Screening of KIF5A-binding proteins by yeast two-hybrid assay

The Matchmaker LexA two-hybrid system was used for screening according to the manufacturer's manual (Clontech). In brief, KIF5A cDNA fragment coding for amino acids 808-1027 was fused to the DNA-BD region of the pLexA vector and the plasmid DNA was transformed into yeast strain EGY48 carrying the p8op-lacZ gene. The EGY48 yeast cells containing the KIF5A bait plasmid were transformed with the mouse brain cDNA library [30] and grown on synthetic dextrose (SD) plates supplemented with glucose but with no histidine, tryptophan, or uracil (SD/-His/-Trp/-Ura). The selection of positive clones was performed on an SD/-His/-Trp/-Ura/-Leu plate containing galactose, raffinose, X-gal, and BU salts. Library plasmids from positive colonies were isolated and rescued using *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) strain KC8 strain on ampicillin-resistant plates. Library inserts were analyzed by restriction digestion. Unique inserts were sequenced and DNA sequence analysis was performed with the BLAST algorithm at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Library plasmids were tested for interactions of the reporter gene in yeast by the retransformation.

### $\beta$ -Galactosidase activity in liquid cultures of yeast

The strength of the interactions between heterotrimeric G proteins ( $G\alpha$ ,  $G\beta$ , and  $G\gamma$ ) and KIF5A was assessed by measuring the  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in liquid cultures. Yeast was co-transformed with the expression plasmid of the positive clone and the plasmid expressing KIF5A. The  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in liquid cultures of yeast was assayed as described previously [36]. In brief, mid-log phase transformed yeast cells were collected and permeabilized with 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) and chloroform. An excess amount of chromogenic substrate o-nitrophenyl- $\beta$ -D-galactoside was added in excess to this lysate, and the mixture was incubated at 30°C, and then the reaction was stopped by increasing pH to 11 by the addition of 1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ . The formation of the reaction product, o-nitrophenol, was determined by measuring absorbance at 420 nm on a spectrophotometer and normalizing for the reaction time and the cell density.

### Co-immunoprecipitation and Western blot analysis

Mouse brain lysate was prepared as previously described [30]. Mouse brains were homogenized in ice-cold homogenization buffer (0.32 M sucrose, 4 mM HEPES, pH 7.3) supplemented with protease inhibitors. The mouse brain homogenate supernatant was centrifuged again at 12,000 $\times$  g for 15 min, and the resulting supernatant was saved. For immunoprecipitation, the brain lysate was diluted in the same volume of 2 $\times$  binding buffer (50 mM HEPES, 240 mM KCl, 2 mg/ml BSA, 0.2% Triton X-100, pH 7.4) and incubated with anti-kinesin antibodies H1, and H2 (Chemicon, Temecula, CA) or with control IgG overnight at 4°C, followed by precipitation with protein-A Sepharose (Amersham Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ, USA). The beads were collected by brief centrifugation and washed three times with TBS-T (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.15 M NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20). The pellets were resuspended with Laemmli's loading buffer, the proteins were eluted and denatured by boiling for 2 minutes and then separated by SDS-PAGE. The gel was transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane and incubated with anti- $G\alpha$ ,  $G\beta$ , and  $G\gamma$  antibodies (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA).

### Glutathione S-transferase (GST) pull-down assays

Pull-down assays using GST fusion proteins were performed as follows. cDNAs encoding the full length of  $G\alpha$ ,  $G\beta$ , and  $G\gamma$  were cloned in pET 41, and the recombinant

GST-G $\alpha$ , G $\beta$ , and G $\gamma$  fusion proteins were expressed in bacterial strain BL21 GOLD (Stratagene, La Jolla CA, USA) after induction with 0.5 mM isopropyl thio- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside (IPTG) (Fisher Biotech, South Australia, Australia) for 3 hr. The fusion proteins were purified using glutathione-agarose beads (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. GST alone or GST fusion proteins were dialyzed for 2 hr in PBS using Slide-A-Lyzer (Pierce, Rockford, IL, USA). Ten  $\mu$ g of each of the GST fusion proteins was then coupled to 50  $\mu$ l of glutathione-agarose beads by incubating at room temperature for 1 hr, followed by rinsing several times with PBS. The mouse brain lysate was incubated overnight at 4°C with the GST fusion protein-coupled glutathione beads. The beads were pelleted by centrifugation, washed three times with the extraction buffer (1% Triton X-100 in PBS containing 10  $\mu$ g/ml each aprotinin, leupeptin, and pepstatin and 1  $\mu$ M phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride), and once with PBS. The bound proteins were eluted from the glutathione beads with 100  $\mu$ l of Laemmli's loading buffer. The samples were boiled for 5 min and then processed for SDS-PAGE and immunoblot analysis with anti-KIF5s antibody [15].

## Results

### Identification of KIF5A interacting proteins by yeast two-hybrid screening

Recent studies suggested that the C-terminal regions of KIFs recognize and bind to the adaptor or scaffolding proteins to transport membrane organelles that contain functional membrane proteins [11,29]. Using the C-terminal region (808-1027 aa) as a bait, 6 positive clones were obtained from screening  $2 \times 10^7$  independent mouse brain pB42AD-cDNA colonies. Plasmid DNAs encoding putative interactors were isolated from the positive clones. These clones were individually isolated, sequenced and subjected to further yeast two-hybrid filter assay to confirm the interactions. Two positive clones were turned out cDNA fragments containing G $\beta$  (Fig. 1A). The two positive G $\beta$  clones (clones 1, and 5) overlapped at the open reading frame (ORF) of G $\beta$  (Fig. 1A). To identify the region of KIF5A required for the interaction with G $\beta$ , a series of deletion mutants of KIF5A was constructed and analyzed their interactions with G $\beta$  using the yeast two-hybrid assay (Fig. 1B). This experiment demonstrated that the minimal binding domain was located in a small region of KIF5A corresponding to amino

acids 808-935.

G $\beta$  contains seven consensus WD40 repeat motifs, which seem to function as adaptors and enzyme regulators [19]. To identify the region of G $\beta$  required for the interaction with KIF5A, a series of deletion mutants of G $\beta$  was constructed and analyzed their interactions with KIF5A using the yeast two-hybrid assay. The only one WD40 motif of G $\beta$  interacted with KIF5A in the yeast two-hybrid assay (Fig. 1A). These results indicate that the binding domain was located in WD40 repeat motifs of G $\beta$ .

To clarify whether G $\beta$  interacts specifically with KIF5A or with other KIFs, the tails of KIF1A, KIF5A, KIF5B, KIF5C, and KIF17 were constructed and the interaction of KIFs were tested for binding with G $\beta$ . There was no detectable binding between G $\beta$  and the tail domains of other neuronal KIFs (KIF1A, and KIF17). G $\beta$  interacted with the tail domains of the KIF5A, KIF5B, and KIF5C in the yeast two-hybrid system (Fig. 2A). This result was not surprising in view of the fact that the KIF5A, KIF5B, and KIF5C share extensive similarity in their primary structure (81%-83% identity in the minimal binding domain). These data indicate that G $\beta$  binds specifically to the C-terminal domain of KIF5s. To clarify whether KIF5A interacts specifically with G $\beta$  or with other subunits of heterotrimeric G proteins, G $\alpha$ , G $\beta$ , and G $\gamma$  were tested for binding with KIF5A (Fig. 2B). There was no detectable binding between KIF5A and the other subunits of heterotrimeric G proteins, such as G $\alpha$ , and G $\gamma$ . These data indicate that KIF5A binds specifically to G $\beta$ . To quantify the binding affinity of KIF5A to G $\beta$ , the bait plasmid of KIF5A and G $\beta$  was transformed to yeast and was measured using  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity in liquid cultures. The interaction of KIF5A with G $\beta$  yielded approximately 412 units of  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity (Fig. 2C), reflecting a binding strength that is sufficient to mediate molecular sorting *in vivo* [36].

G $\beta$  is associated with KIF5A at the protein level

As an additional demonstration for direct interaction between KIF5s and G $\beta$ , direct interaction between KIF5s and G $\beta$  was assayed using a GST pull-down experiments. Recombinant GST-G $\alpha$ , GST-G $\beta$  or GST-G $\gamma$  fusion proteins were expressed in *E. coli*. The purified GST fusion proteins are allowed to interact with mouse brain extracts. Western blot analyses revealed that KIF5s interacted with GST-G $\beta$ , but not with GST-G $\alpha$  and GST-G $\gamma$ , consistent with the yeast two-hybrid assay results (Fig. 3A).

In order to determine whether the interaction between

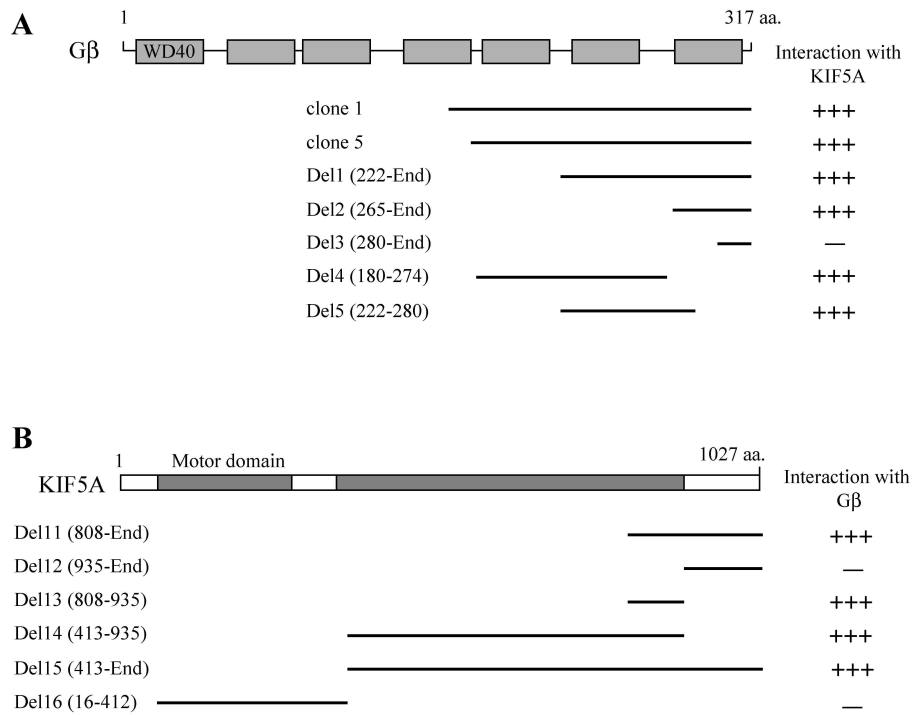


Fig. 1. Identification of the proteins interacting with KIF5A by yeast two-hybrid screening. (A) Schematic diagram of Gβ. The gray box corresponds to WD40 domain of Gβ. Clone 1 and 5 were isolated from the yeast two-hybrid screen and were overlapped at the C-terminal region of Gβ. Different truncations of Gβ were constructed by PCR. Several truncated forms of Gβ were tested in the yeast two-hybrid assay for interaction with KIF5A. aa, the amino acid residue number. +++, interaction with KIF5A; -, no interaction with KIF5A. (B) Minimal Gβ binding region in KIF5A. KIF5A has motor domain and coiled-coil domain. Motor domain and coiled-coil domains are indicated in gray. Several truncated KIF5As were constructed by PCR and were tested in the yeast two-hybrid assay for interaction with Gβ. aa, the amino acid residue number. +++, interaction with Gβ; -, no interaction with Gβ.

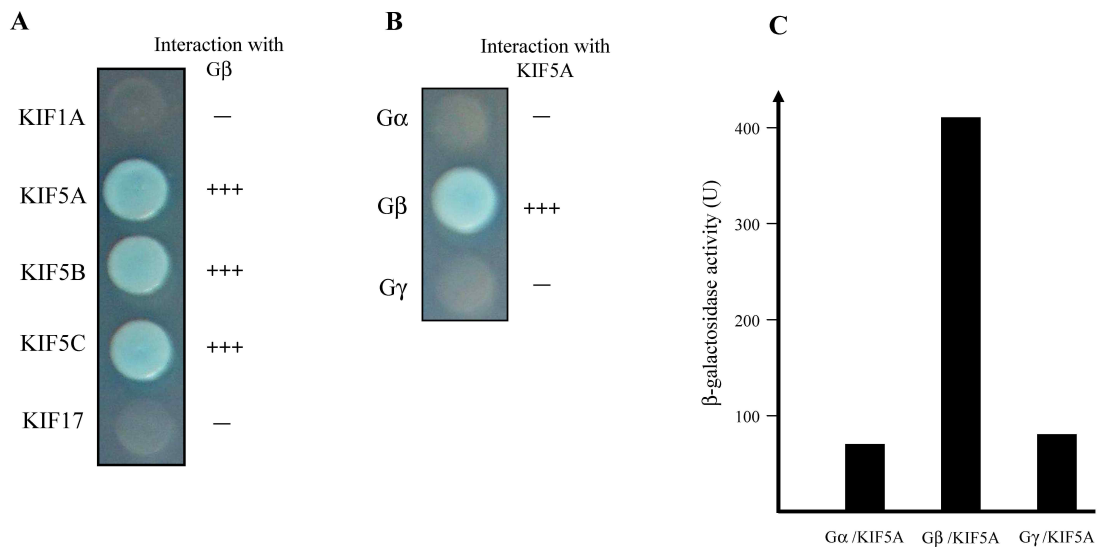


Fig. 2. Interaction between KIFs and Gβ. (A) The C-terminal regions of each KIF protein were fused to the pLexA DNA binding domain. Gβ specifically interacted with KIF5s but not with KIF1A and KIF17. +++, interaction with Gβ; -, no interaction with Gβ. (B) Gα, Gβ, and Gγ were fused to the pLexA DNA binding domain. KIF5A specifically interacted with Gβ but not with Gα or Gγ. +++, interaction with KIF5A; -, no interaction with KIF5A. (C) The strength of interaction of Gα, Gβ, or Gγ and KIF5A was examined quantitatively using β-galactosidase activity in yeast two-hybrid reporter assay.

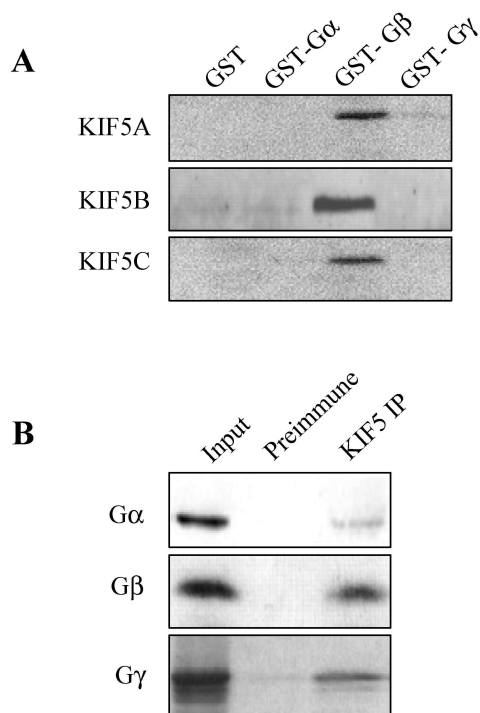


Fig. 3. Association of KIF5s with  $G\beta$  in the GST pull-down assay and co-immunoprecipitation. (A) Proteins in the mouse brain lysate were allowed to bind to GST alone, GST- $G\alpha$ , GST- $G\beta$  and GST- $G\gamma$  fusion proteins. The elution fractions were resolved by SDS-PAGE, and Western blotting was performed using an antibody to KIF5A or KIF5B. (B) Mouse brain lysates were immunoprecipitated with an anti-KIF5s antibody or preimmune serum, and then the precipitates were immunoblotted with anti- $G\alpha$ ,  $G\beta$  or  $G\gamma$  antibodies. Input: 10% of the mouse brain lysates used for each co-immunoprecipitation assay.

KIF5s and  $G\beta$  also takes place *in vivo* immunoprecipitation analyses were performed. Lysates from mouse brain were incubated with an anti-KIF5s antibody. Protein G-agarose beads selectively precipitated the immuno-complexes, which were then subsequently separated by SDS-PAGE and immunoblotted with anti- $G\alpha$ ,  $G\beta$ , and  $G\gamma$  antibodies (Fig. 3B). As shown in Fig. 3B, KIF5 was co-immunoprecipitated with  $G\beta$ . These results indicate that  $G\beta$  is a specific binding partner of KIF5s *in vivo*

### Discussion

The identification of kinesin-I binding proteins has greatly improved models of kinesin-dependent transport pathways. Transmembrane and peripheral membrane proteins serve

as cargo receptors [11,29]. In this study, yeast two-hybrid assays using the C-terminal domain of KIF5A isolated  $G\beta$ . Furthermore, using a combination of yeast two-hybrid analysis, *in vitro* and *in vivo* association assays, KIF5s was interacted directly with  $G\beta$ . The findings of this study provide evidence that  $G\beta$  is a candidate the cargo receptor of Kinesin-I. Therefore, it is tempting to speculate that kinesin-I transports the heterotrimeric G proteins attachment vesicle along microtubules to the plasma membrane through its interaction with  $G\beta$ .

Heterotrimeric G proteins, consisting of  $G\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  subunits, function as signal transducers for the seven transmembrane helix G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) [12,33,42]. In the classical model for G protein signaling, binding of GTP results in activation of the G protein and dissociation of the  $G\alpha$  subunit from the  $G\beta\gamma$  subunits [35].  $G\beta$  and  $G\gamma$  subunits have no transmembrane hydrophobic domain and are synthesized in the cytoplasm.  $G\beta$  and  $G\gamma$  subunits, not modified by lipid, are membrane bound by virtue of its interaction with  $G\gamma$  subunit [34].  $G\gamma$  subunit is processed at the C-terminus to attach an isoprenoid moiety. Subsequently, the C-terminal three amino acids are proteolytically cleaved, and the C-terminus is carboxymethylated. This carboxymethylation is believed to be a membrane-associated event, and the insertion of the attached lipid into the cellular membrane completes the anchoring of  $G\beta\gamma$  complex on the inner side of the cellular membrane [46]. Once modified with lipid  $G\beta\gamma$  complex is targeted to the ER. Assembly with  $G\alpha$  may also occur on the cytoplasmic surface of the ER. The co-expression of  $G\beta$  and  $G\gamma$  leads to localization to intracellular membranous structures, primarily ER. However, when co-expressed with  $G\alpha$ ,  $G\beta$  and  $G\gamma$  localizes primarily to the plasma membrane through an unknown mechanism [22,37,43].

The identification of proteins that bind to the C-terminal domain of KHC (KIF5s) and KLC has suggested that there are two mechanisms of linkage. KIF5s and KLC may bind indirectly, through adaptor proteins linked in their turn to transmembrane proteins such as GRIPI, Milton and  $\beta$ -Dystrobrevin or they may bind directly to vesicles through transmembrane proteins such as Sunday driver (SYD) and amyloid precursor protein (APP) [1,3,14,20,24,31]. Although this study did not show the interaction of kinesin-I with other heterotrimeric G protein isoforms, these observations suggest a mechanism that KIF5s are linked directly to heterotrimeric G protein attachment vesicle and could transport

to the plasma membrane similar to SYD and APP in axonal transport. To address this issue, it would be worth to identify the heterotrimeric G proteins containing. In this study, it is proposed that heterotrimeric G proteins are a new kinesin-I receptor protein. The direct interaction between G $\beta$  and KIF5s sheds new light on the mechanisms of vesicle transport, giving at the same time one more example of kinesin-I binding to a vesicle receptor.

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초록 : Kinesin-I의 kinesin heavy chains과 직접 결합하는 heterotrimeric G protein의  $\beta$  subunit의 규명

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Kinesin-I은 4분자의 단백질로 구성되어 있으며, N-말단의 motor 영역과 C-말단영역을 가지는 장쇄(KHC, 또한 KIF5s로도 통용) 2분자와 KIF5s (KIF5A, KIF5B와 KIF5C)의 줄기영역과 결합하는 단쇄(KLC) 2분자로 구성되어 있다. KIF5A의 결합 단백질을 동정하기 위하여 효모 two-hybrid system을 사용하여 특이적으로 결합하는 heterotrimeric G 단백질의  $\beta$  단위체 단백질(G $\beta$ )을 분리하였다. G $\beta$ 은 KIF5A의 808에서 935아미노산 부위와 결합하며, 다른 KIF5들과도 결합함을 효모 two-hybrid assay로 확인하였다. 또한 G $\beta$ 의 WD40 반복 서열은 KIF5A와의 결합에 필수영역임을 확인하였으며, 이러한 단백질간의 결합은 Glutathione S-transferase (GST) pull-down assay를 통하여 확인하였다. 생쥐의 뇌 파쇄액에 KIF5들의 항체로 면역침강을 행하여 heterotrimeric G 단백질을 확인한 결과, KIF5들은 heterotrimeric G 단백질과 특이적으로 같이 침강하였다. 이러한 결과들은 kinesin-I는 heterotrimeric G 단백질이 포함된 소포를 미세소관을 따라 이동시킴을 시사한다.