Transcriptomics data of a human in vitro model of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis exposed to elafibranor

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Abstract

The present dataset contains the transcriptomic characterization of a novel in vitro model of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) as well as its transcriptomics read-outs for the evaluation of elafibranor, a potential anti-NASH compound. We report whole genome microarray data (Affymetrix HG U133 plus 2.0) of human multipotent stem cell-derived hepatic cells (hSKP-HPC) exposed to mediators of NASH. These cells were exposed to lipogenic inducers (insulin, glucose, fatty acids) and pro-inflammatory factors (IL-1β, TNF-α, TGF-β) to trigger hepatocellular responses characteristic of NASH. In addition, to evaluate the anti-NASH features of elafibranor, a dual peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR) agonist that currently is under investigation as a potential anti-NASH therapeutic, was tested this in vitro set-up.

This paper provides a detailed description of the microarray data as well as an indication of their value for evaluating cell signaling pathways (e.g. NFκB network) during the in vitro evaluation of anti-NASH compounds. Raw microarray data of different testing conditions were deposited as.CEL files in the Gene Expression Omnibus of NCBI with GEO Series accession number GSE126484.
Whole genome transcriptomics data were obtained from hSKP-HPC exposed to a cocktail of insulin, glucose, fatty acids and inflammatory cytokines, mimicking NASH in vivo. In addition, data from NASH-triggered cells concomitantly exposed to elafibranor at two different concentrations is also reported. All data were generated using Affymetrix Human Genome U133 plus 2.0. and processed using Robust Multichip Average (RMA) Express, Transcriptome Analysis Console (TAC) (version 4.0.025, Applied Biosystems) and Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA) (version 43605602, Qiagen). The transcriptomics data that were generated are visualized through a principle component analysis (PCA) plot (Fig. 1a),
hierarchical clustering (Fig. 1b) and volcano plots (Fig. 2). Top 10 up- and down-regulated genes are listed in Table 1. A proof of principle of the use of the novel in vitro model for anti-NASH drug testing is represented in Fig. 3.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

hSKP were differentiated towards hSKP-HPC according to an earlier established 24-day protocol [3]. Subsequently, hSKP-HPC were exposed to insulin (100 nM), glucose (4.5 mg/mL), sodium oleate (65 μM), palmitic acid (45 μM) (all purchased from Sigma-Aldrich), tumor necrosis factor-α (50 ng/mL) (Prospec), interleukin-1β (25 ng/mL) and transforming growth factor-1β (8 ng/mL) (both purchased from Peprotech). Bovine serum albumin (BSA) fatty acid free (Sigma-Aldrich) 7% (w/v) (Sigma-Aldrich) was used to complex sodium oleate in day-24-medium. Palmitic acid and elafibranor (Adooq Bioscience) were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (Sigma-Aldrich). Final concentrations of BSA and DMSO in the exposing media were 1.4% (w/v) and 0.15% (v/v), respectively. Exposures were performed for 24h, in the presence or absence of elafibranor (10 μM and 30 μM).

RNA extractions and microarray procedures were performed according to De Kock et al. [4]. Three biological replicates of each condition were used. The PCA plot, hierarchical cluster and volcano plots were generated using TAC (RMA-normalized). Pathway analyses were conducted using IPA for which the data were prior normalized using RMA Express. PCA and hierarchical clustering of all analyzed samples are given in Fig. 1.

Differentially regulated probesets in ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ versus untriggered hSKP-HPC, which correspond to 3173 differentially expressed genes, are shown in Fig. 2 a–c show the probesets that
were significantly modulated in ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ treated with elafibranor at 10 μM and 30 μM, respectively corresponding to 107 and 1667 differentially expressed genes.

The 10 highest up-regulated and down-regulated genes in ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ versus control samples as well as the highest gene expression modulations induced by elafibranor are shown in Table 1.

To describe the value of the above described data in the elucidation of molecular mechanisms involved in the development or reduction of NASH, the activation of the NFκB pathway, which is a prototypical pro-inflammatory signaling pathway, has been investigated. As shown in Fig. 3, the NFκB complex is activated in the ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ model, but becomes inhibited in the presence of elafibranor (30 μM). Further analysis of this finding as well as interpretation of the reported data in the context of evaluation of anti-NASH properties of elafibranor, can be found in the corresponding research article [1].

Fig. 2. Volcano plots representing significantly modulated probesets between a) ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ vs ‘hSKP-HPC’ control samples, (b) ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ + elafibranor 10 μM vs ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ and (c) ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’ + elafibranor 30 μM vs ‘hSKP-HPC NASH’. [Analysis cut-off: fold change [-2; +2], p < 0.05 (eBayes ANOVA)] [green = down-regulated; red = up-regulated].
Table 1
Top-10 highest up- and down-regulated genes between 'hSKP-HPC NASH' vs control samples, 'hSKP-HPC NASH' + elafibranor 10 μM vs 'hSKP-HPC NASH' and 'hSKP-HPC NASH' + elafibranor 30 μM vs 'hSKP-HPC NASH'. [Analysis cut-off: fold change [-2; +2], p ≤ 0.05 (Fischer’s exact test)].

|                  | 'hSKP-HPC NASH' vs control samples | 'hSKP-HPC NASH' + elafibranor 10 μM vs 'hSKP-HPC NASH' | 'hSKP-HPC NASH' + elafibranor 30 μM vs 'hSKP-HPC NASH' |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Gene             | Fold change                       | Gene                                                  | Fold change                                           |
| CCL20            | 649.2                             | F2RL2                                                 | 7.8                                                   |
| CXCL5            | 505.4                             | SLC7A11                                                | 4.7                                                   |
| CCL8             | 388.5                             | NMRAL2P                                               | 4.2                                                   |
| PTGS2            | 178.5                             | OSGIN2                                                | 3.8                                                   |
| MMP3             | 138.9                             | CES1                                                  | 3.5                                                   |
| CXCL8            | 126.2                             | SEL1L3                                                | 3.0                                                   |
| C15orf48         | 121.9                             | NQO1                                                  | 3.0                                                   |
| SERPINB4         | 102.1                             | PIR                                                   | 2.9                                                   |
| CSF3             | 91.8                              | TMEFF2                                                | 2.9                                                   |
| HCK              | 87.8                              | MRPS15                                                | 2.8                                                   |
|                  | Top upregulate                    | SELENOP                                               | −77.3                                                 |
|                  |                                   | SLC40A1                                               | −70.9                                                 |
|                  |                                   | AQP3                                                  | −66.4                                                 |
|                  |                                   | ST8SIA4                                               | −57.6                                                 |
|                  |                                   | ADH1B                                                 | −39.3                                                 |
|                  |                                   | PPL                                                   | −34.4                                                 |
|                  |                                   | AHNAK2                                                | −31.1                                                 |
|                  |                                   | DEPP1                                                 | −28.0                                                 |
|                  |                                   | STMN2                                                 | −27.0                                                 |
|                  |                                   | SYNE2                                                 | −25.8                                                 |
|                  | Top down-regulated                | PI15                                                  | −3.1                                                  |
|                  |                                   | SLC3A1                                                | −3.0                                                  |
|                  |                                   | CCL5                                                  | −3.0                                                  |
|                  |                                   | VCAM1                                                 | −2.9                                                  |
|                  |                                   | TSPAN11                                               | −2.8                                                  |
|                  |                                   | P5AT1                                                 | −2.7                                                  |
|                  |                                   | MEG8                                                  | −2.7                                                  |
|                  |                                   | KLHL24                                                | −2.6                                                  |
|                  |                                   | MRRA5                                                 | −2.6                                                  |
|                  |                                   | RAB27B                                                | −2.5                                                  |

Fig. 3. NFκB (complex) displayed as a network with a) 'hSKP-HPC NASH' vs control samples and b) 'hSKP-HPC NASH' + elafibranor 30 μM vs 'hSKP-HPC NASH'. [Analysis cut-off: fold change [-2; +2], p ≤ 0.05 (Fischer’s exact test)].
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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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