Changes in beta cell function occur in prediabetes and early disease in the Lepr<sup>db</sup> mouse model of diabetes

Oanh H. Do<sup>1,2</sup> · Jenny E. Gunton<sup>3,4</sup> · Herbert Y. Gaisano<sup>5</sup> · Peter Thorn<sup>1,2</sup>

Received: 10 September 2015 / Accepted: 29 February 2016 / Published online: 5 April 2016
© The Author(s) 2016. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com

Abstract
Aims/hypothesis Type 2 diabetes is a progressive disease that increases morbidity and the risk of premature death. Glucose dysregulation, such as elevated fasting blood glucose, is observed prior to diabetes onset. A decline in beta cell insulin secretion contributes to the later stages of diabetes, but it is not known what, if any, functional beta cell changes occur in prediabetes and early disease.
Methods The Lepr<sup>db</sup> mouse (age 13–18 weeks) was used as a model of type 2 diabetes and a two-photon granule fusion assay was used to characterise the secretory response of pancreatic beta cells.
Results We identified a prediabetic state in db/db mice where the animals responded normally to a glucose challenge but have elevated fasting blood glucose. Isolated islets from prediabetic animals secreted more and were bigger. Insulin secretion, normalised to insulin content, was similar to wild type but basal insulin secretion was elevated. There was increased glucose-induced granule fusion with a high prevalence of granule–granule fusion. The glucose-induced calcium response was not changed but there was altered expression of the exocytic machinery. db/db animals at the next stage of disease had overt glucose intolerance. Isolated islets from these animals had reduced insulin secretion, reduced glucose-induced granule fusion events and decreased calcium responses to glucose.
Conclusions/interpretation Beta cell function is altered in prediabetes and there are further changes in the progression to early disease.

Keywords Beta cell · Compound exocytosis · Exocytosis · Insulin granules · Islets · Prediabetes · Progression

Abbreviations
FBG Fasting blood glucose
GTT Glucose tolerance test
IFG Impaired fasting glucose
IGT Impaired glucose tolerance
qPCR Quantitative real-time PCR
SNARE Soluble N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptor
SRB Sulforhodamine B
WT Wild-type

Introduction
Type 2 diabetes is a chronic, progressive disease characterised by loss of glucose homeostasis and leading to morbidity and premature mortality [1–4]. A key feature of the later disease stages is the failure of insulin secretion from beta cells to meet the demand of increased peripheral insulin resistance [1, 5].
However, in early disease there can be an increase in insulin secretion that might be explained by an increase in beta cell mass; nevertheless, it is unknown whether beta cell function also changes. Here, we have used the Leprdb mouse model of diabetes to investigate beta cell function in early disease.

Prior to overt type 2 diabetes, a prediabetic state can be identified by impaired fasting glucose (IFG) or impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) after a glucose tolerance test (GTT). A study of prediabetic individuals (identified by IFG) showed increased insulin secretion in response to an OGTT [6]. Some studies have also shown that individuals with IGT have enhanced insulin secretion [6, 7], but it is not known whether this is due to upregulation of beta cell secretion or an increased number of beta cells [3].

There is indirect evidence that compensatory increases in beta cell number can occur in obese humans [8, 9] and in animal models such as prediabetic Zucker diabetic fatty rats [10], TALLYHO diabetic mice [11], ob/ob mice [12] and animals fed a high-fat diet [13–15].

There is no direct evidence that beta cell function changes in prediabetes or early disease. However, it is known to occur in other contexts. For example beta cell secretory function is enhanced in pregnancy to cope with the increased demand from the developing fetus [16]. Moreover, in the ob/ob model of obesity, in addition to increased numbers of beta cells, there is increased secretion per cell [12].

In this paper, we describe experiments using the Leprdb mouse model of type 2 diabetes [17] aimed at understanding beta cell function during prediabetes and early disease. Our results show beta cells do undergo functional changes during prediabetes and their exocytic capacity is upregulated in response to glucose. We conclude that pathological changes are already occurring in beta cells during prediabetes.

Methods

Glucose tolerance test We performed i.p. glucose tolerance tests (1 g/kg body weight) for wild-type (WT, +/-) and all db/db mice (see electronic supplementary material [ESM] Methods for details).

Cell preparation Mice of both sexes and aged 13–18 weeks were used, except where otherwise stated (BKS.Cg-Dock7m+/-Lepr+/+), The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME, USA) were humanely killed according to local animal ethics procedures (approved by the University of Queensland Anatomical Biosciences Ethics Committee). Islets were prepared by enzymatic digestion of the pancreas from WT, stage 1 and stage 2 db/db mice for experiments (except the insulin assay, which was performed in WT and db/db mice of all stages; see ESM Methods for details).

Experimental solution Two-photon imaging, insulin assays and calcium measurements were performed in a sodium-rich extracellular solution (see ESM Methods for details).

Two-photon imaging Isolated islets were first cultured for 2–3 days and then prior to imaging were bathed in an extracellular solution containing 3 mmol/l glucose for 30 min (37°C, 95%/5% air/CO2). Islets were then transferred to an extracellular solution containing 15 mmol/l glucose and 0.8 mmol/l sulforhodamine B (SRB). Two-photon imaging was performed at 34°C, with exocytic events recorded as entry of the SRB extracellular dye (excitation 950 nm, detection 550–650 nm) into each fused granule (see ESM Methods for details).

Insulin assay Homogeneous time resolved fluorescence with the HTTRF Insulin Kit (no. 62INSPEB, Cisbio Bioassays, Brisbane, QLD, Australia) was used to measure islet insulin secretion (see ESM Methods for details).

Calcium measurement For intracellular calcium measurement, we used the ratiometric calcium indicator Fura2-AM (see ESM Methods for details).

Immunofluorescence Freshly isolated islets were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilised with Triton X-100 and blocked with donkey serum containing BSA for 1 h prior to incubation with primary antibodies (see ESM Methods for details).

Quantitative real-time PCR Total RNA was isolated from islets using RNeasy plus Micro kit (Qiagen). cDNA was synthesised from 100 ng total RNA using the SuperScript III reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen, Mt Waverley, VIC, Australia; see ESM Methods for details).

Serial block-face scanning electron microscopy Islets cultured for 2 days were stimulated with 15 mmol/l glucose for 7 min and then fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde and processing for imaging (see ESM Methods for details).

Statistical analyses All numerical data are presented as the mean ± SEM. Statistical analysis was performed using Microsoft Excel 2010 (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, USA) and GraphPad Prism version 6 (La Jolla, CA, USA). Datasets containing just two groups were subjected to a two-tailed, unpaired Student’s t test with statistical significance identified at p < 0.05. Islets from at least three animals were used in each experiment. Statistical significance is indicated in the figures as *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, and ***p < 0.001.
Results

The Lepr<sup>db</sup> spontaneous mutant (BKS.Cg-Dock7m+/-Lepr<sup>db</sup>/J) is a recognised mouse model for type 2 diabetes [17]. The <i>db/db</i> animals gained weight and developed disease, as assessed in 13–18-week-old animals using GTTs (Fig. 1a; seven WT, four <i>db</i>/+ , 105 <i>db/db</i> mice). As in human disease [18], there is great variability in phenotype among individual animals. In <i>db/db</i> animals, the AUC (derived from the GTTs) ranged from normal to a fivefold increase (Fig. 1b). We categorised the AUC into four stages of severity, stage 1 (compensation) to stage 4 (severe disease), analogous to those of human disease [3]. Performing GTTs before each animal was sacrificed thus enabled us to classify the severity of their disease.

We next tested islet function to determine whether insulin secretion changed according to the stage of disease severity. Isolated islets were stimulated for 20 min with 3 or 15 mmol/l glucose. At stage 1, <i>db/db</i> islets showed a significant increase in insulin secretion at both 3 and 15 mmol/l glucose compared with WT (Fig. 1c; 24 WT and 25 <i>db/db</i> mice). At stage 2, insulin secretion decreased to levels resembling those of WT islets; at stage 3, there was a further decrease in insulin secretion; and at stage 4, insulin secretion was significantly lower than in WT islets (Fig. 1c).

We used this classification to subdivide the animals’ phenotype. At stage 1, <i>db/db</i> animals were heavier than WT (Fig. 1d, with no significant difference in the GTT (Fig. 1e) and a small, but significant, increase in fasting blood glucose (FBG) (Fig. 1f). By stage 2, the body weight, GTT and FBG of <i>db/db</i> animals all differed significantly from those of WT animals and were indicative of frank diabetes (Fig. 1d–f). These changes approximate to the progression of human type 2 diabetes.

**Islet size and insulin content increase in prediabetes** The basis of increased insulin secretion during the prediabetic phase could be an increase in islet size. Consistent with this, islets isolated from WT, stage 1, and stage 2 <i>db/db</i> animals showed an increase in islet size (Fig. 2a–d) and insulin content (Fig. 2e). The islet composition also changed: there was a decreased relative percentage of alpha cells (Fig. 2g). When normalised to the islet content, the increase in basal secretion persisted but the increase in glucose-induced secretion (Fig. 1c) was no longer apparent (Fig. 2f). We therefore expected to see little change in secretory output per cell.

**Insulin secretion during stage 1 shows upregulation of the exocytic capacity** To study secretory function within individual beta cells in intact islets, we used a two-photon, granule fusion assay that we previously used to characterise the fusion of individual insulin granules from beta cells within intact islets [19]. When recording from the islet core, where most cells are beta cells (see Fig. 2g), this method detects the fusion of granules that are the same size as insulin granules, colocalise with insulin and, in terms of fusion numbers, fully account for insulin secretion from the islets [19].

Islets were stimulated with 15 mmol/l glucose for 20 min. As each granule fuses with the cell membrane, extracellular dye enters the granule, thus enabling the precise spatial and temporal localisation of the fusion event (Fig. 3a). Compared with WT islets, there are more granule fusion events in stage 1 islets, demonstrating that functional changes are occurring in beta cells. At stage 2, there are fewer granule–granule fusion events compared with WT. This was expected because these animals have overt diabetes, and has been previously reported by us [20].

The increased exocytic response at stage 1 reflects both an apparent increase in the numbers of cells responding to glucose and an increase in the number of fusing granules per cell (Fig. 3a; nine WT and 21 <i>db/db</i> mice). This shows...
that individual beta cells have become more responsive to a glucose stimulus.

These data were all obtained from 13- to 18-week-old animals. To test whether the \( db/db \) animals were born with the increased insulin granule exocytosis seen at stage 1 or progressed to this point, we studied 6-week-old \( db/db \) animals classified as stage 1 by their GTT responses. These animals had not yet developed abnormal FBG; in addition, their islet diameter, insulin content and insulin secretion were indistinguishable from those of WT animals (Table 1). After glucose stimulation, the number of exocytic events in 6-week-old \( db/db \) animals was not different from that of age-matched WT animals (Fig. 3b). These data indicate that the enhanced granule–granule fusion seen in stage 1 animals aged 13–18 weeks is an adaptive response to disease progression.

These changes in insulin granule fusion could be due to changes in the exocytic machinery or to upstream changes, such as altered calcium responses that are triggered by glucose. Using Fura-2 loading, we showed higher resting calcium levels in stage 1 \( db/db \) than in WT islets (64 ± 6.8 mmol/l in stage 1 vs 35.5 ± 3.4 mmol/l in WT islets, \( p < 0.01 \), Student’s \( t \) test).
Table 1 Phenotype of 6-week-old WT and stage 1 db/db mice

| Variable                        | +/+          | db/db       | p value<sup>a</sup> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| AUC (mmol l⁻¹ min⁻¹)            | 916 ± 43     | 1,076 ± 108 | 0.24                |
| FBG (mmol/l)                    | 6.3 ± 0.5    | 7.6 ± 1.0   | 0.34                |
| Islet diameter (μm)             | 145 ± 7      | 132 ± 11    | 0.41                |
| Islet insulin content (ng/islet)| 40.2 ± 10.3  | 43.2 ± 8.7  | 0.83                |
| Islet insulin secretion<sup>b</sup> (% of insulin content) | 1.23 ± 0.43 | 1.43 ± 0.41 | 0.75                |

Data are expressed as the mean ± SEM. n = 3 for all values.
<sup>a</sup>Student’s t test
<sup>b</sup>In response to 15 mmol/l glucose

supported by experiments using high extracellular potassium as a stimulus that directly depolarises cells and bypasses glucose metabolism. The high potassium-induced calcium response was similar in stage 1 db/db as in WT islets (Fig. 4b) but there was greater insulin secretion (Fig. 4c). This evidence for an enhanced exocytic capacity in stage 1 db/db islets is supported by quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR) data, which show upregulation of the mRNAs for soluble N-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptors (SNAREs), Snap25 and Vamp2, although the Stx1a mRNA level does not change significantly (Fig. 4d).

Our data also indicate the mechanism responsible for decreased insulin secretion at stage 2. Stage 2 islets showed continued upregulation of the mRNA for SNAREs (as measured by qPCR; Fig. 4d), an enhanced high extracellular potassium response and an intact potassium-induced calcium response compared with WT islets (Fig. 4b). However, their glucose-induced calcium response was much lower (Fig. 4a). Although we haven’t explored this in detail, the reduced mRNA for Slc2a2 (which encodes glucose transporter 2 [GLUT2]; Fig. 4d) suggests that beta cells at stage 2 are still secretory competent but are defective in glucose sensing.

Granule fusion behaviour in stage 1 prediabetic islets

Our findings in stage 1 islets demonstrate increased insulin granule fusion. However, we also noticed a difference in the spatial pattern of granule fusion, with evidence for spatial clustering of fusion sites that was not seen in WT (see Fig. 3a). To quantify this we measured the spatial coordinates of all fusion events. We then looked at a 4 μm² area around each individual fusion event and determined the frequency with which one or more fusion events had occurred. In WT (and stage 2) islets, we observed that the frequency of other fusion events occurring around each pre-existing fusion event became significantly lower than the number of fusion events within this area increased (Fig. 5a; 27 WT and 46 db/db islets; 845 WT vs 1,514 db/db fusion granules). This suggests that, at least on this small scale, there is little evidence for the clustering of insulin granule fusion events in WT islets. In contrast, in stage 1 db/db islets, the frequency of multiple events (even up to ten events) remained high (Fig. 5a; 4.62% of events had seven or more fusion events within 4 μm² in WT vs 22.71% in stage 1 db/db islets). A closer study (which was limited by our optical spatial resolution) showed that repeated fusion had occurred within the same region of interest (Fig. 5b). In many cases, this led to a build-up of fused granules suggesting sequential, compound exocytosis in which granules fuse with each other (Fig. 5c). To quantify this behaviour, we chose an arbitrary threshold of at least seven granules within a 4 μm² area as suggestive of compound exocytosis and of less than seven granules as suggestive of primary exocytosis. Both the total number of primary exocytic events and
the proportion of compound exocytic events increased significantly in stage 1 \( \text{db/db} \) islets and decreased to below WT in stage 2 \( \text{db/db} \) islets (Fig. 5d).

Our data is consistent with, but does not prove, compound exocytosis. We therefore undertook serial block-face electron microscopy of islets that had been fixed after 15 mmol/l glucose stimulation for 7 min (Fig. 6a, b and ESM Video 1). We could readily identify chains of fused insulin granules with a single exit point (i.e. fusion pore) at the cell membrane, thus providing good evidence for granule–granule fusion. Interestingly, we also found evidence of granule–granule fusion without contact with the cell membrane (Fig. 6c). Chains of fused insulin granules were found in both WT and \( \text{db/db} \) islets and could be part of the granule maturation process. Our evidence for granule–granule fusion is dependent on the appearance of continuity and the lack of a membrane between granules. Further work will be required to show granule–granule fusion and content mixing.

However, and consistent with previous findings [21], analysis of the live-cell data (Fig. 5) showed that although most granule fusion events are similar in size (see Fig. 5b), some are larger and therefore could arise from multigranular objects that fuse with the cell membrane (ESM Fig. 1 [21]). We conclude that live-cell imaging and electron microscopy indicate that at stage 1 the prediabetic phenotype shows an increased prevalence of compound exocytosis.

**Discussion**

We used GTTs to classify disease severity in \( \text{db/db} \) animals and demonstrated that changes in beta cell function do occur in prediabetes. In stage 1 \( \text{db/db} \) mice, the GTT is the same but FBG is elevated compared with WT mice; however, we observe an increase in islet size and insulin content, which supports previous work demonstrating beta cell expansion in early disease. Our new finding is that function is also altered, including an increase in basal insulin secretion and an increase in the number of glucose-induced granule fusion events, the latter due to upregulation of compound exocytosis.

**Beta cell function in prediabetes** Our evidence demonstrates significant changes in the secretory function of islets in prediabetes.

First, we observed an increase in basal (i.e. at 3 mmol/l glucose) insulin secretion. This increase is maintained in stage 2 islets, consistent with previous work on the \( \text{db/db} \) model [20, 22, 23]. The increased secretion could be driven by the elevated basal intracellular calcium concentration that was previously observed at stage 2 [20] and which we now show also occurs in stage 1 islets (Fig. 4a), possibly through calcium-dependent granule mobilisation step [24].

Second, after stimulation, we showed that stage 1 islets have more glucose-induced insulin granule fusion events compared with WT islets (Fig. 3a), but with no change in the calcium response (Fig. 4a). Since the high potassium-induced response is also bigger, again with no increase in the calcium response, these data are consistent with upregulation of the terminal stages of the stimulus secretion pathway that are downstream of calcium entry. This conclusion is supported by the increase in mRNA expression of some of the SNAREs (Fig. 4d).

A direct comparison of insulin secretion from islets (Figs 1c, 2f) shows that the fold increase in secretion is decreased at all disease stages in \( \text{db/db} \) islets. This largely reflects the reduced capacity of the beta cells to respond to glucose at stages 2–4. However, at stage 1 this is mostly due to increased basal secretion: glucose-stimulated secretion increases when measured per islet (Fig. 1c) but remains the same when measured per insulin content (Fig. 2f).
Given the similarities in islet insulin secretion between WT and stage 1 *db/db* islets, the large increase in insulin granule fusion numbers was surprising: the explanation for the discrepancy between increased fusion events but comparable secretory output is not clear. One possibility is heterogeneity in the beta cell content and function, which has been observed in late-stage disease [20], possibly due to cell dedifferentiation [25]. Heterogeneity might give rise to some cells that contain insulin but are non-responsive, therefore explaining the increase in granule fusion events in the other cells. An alternative possibility is that insulin granule fusion at stage 1, in particular via compound exocytosis, is less efficient. This idea is difficult to test, but we might expect that multiple granules releasing content through a common, single, fusion pore would at least have slower kinetics of insulin release compared with normal fusion, in which each granule releases its content through its own fusion pore.

Compound exocytosis is rarely observed in WT cells after glucose stimulation but is specifically upregulated, for example with glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) stimulation [26]. Although it is possible that stage 1 *db/db* islets selectively enhance pathways that normally regulate compound exocytosis, we suggest that this is more likely to result from non-specific upregulation of the exocytic machinery. Given the critical importance of the balanced expression of SNARES for regulating granule fusion [27], it is possible that an imbalance might lead to an increased prevalence of compound exocytosis.

Comparison with disease progression in humans Our phenotypic data showing disease progression in *db/db* mice are consistent with previous work [28] and with the progression of type 2 diabetes in humans [3]. In humans, compensatory increases in the insulin response...
occur in stage 1 disease [18, 29] and are associated with increased islet size and insulin content [8, 9]. As the disease progresses, insulin content decreases [30] and, as we observed in the mouse, glucose-induced insulin secretion is reduced [31, 32].

Humans with relatively poorer insulin sensitivity tend to have a higher insulin secretion [33]. The product of insulin sensitivity and pancreatic responsiveness (the disposition index), has a hyperbolic relationship [33] that does not normally change over time. However, evidence, from obese humans that are developing insulin resistance, shows that insulin secretion can increase according to the demand [34]. Another human study showed increasing insulin secretion up to a maximum at a FBG of 5.6 mmol/l, followed by a decline [29]. Longitudinal studies show that individuals who progressed to diabetes did not have compensatory increases in insulin secretion; in contrast, those that did, did not progress [18, 35]. Consistent with this, animal models of diabetes also show increased insulin secretion in early disease [11, 36, 37].

Our data represent a step towards understanding the mechanisms that underlie increased insulin secretion in prediabetes and show that, in addition to an expansion in cell numbers, functional changes are occurring in the beta cell.

Summary of disease progression to diabetes The changes in phenotype and function associated with WT and stage 1 and 2 db/db animals is shown in a spider plot (Fig. 7). At stage 2, the dramatic drop in the number of granule fusion events (Fig. 3) is coincident with the increase in AUC, thus closely aligning beta cell dysfunction with a loss of glucose homeostasis. These stage 2 beta cells still secrete insulin in response to high extracellular potassium (Fig. 4b), which is consistent with effectiveness of sulfonylureas (potassium channel blockers) for treating diabetes [38]. The possibility of an upstream defect is supported by the reduced calcium response to glucose that we and others have observed [20, 23] and the decrease in Slc2a2 mRNA levels (Fig. 4d [39]). In type 2 diabetic human islets, the loss of glucose-induced secretion, but with little change in arginine-induced insulin secretion, also suggests defects in glucose sensing [32]. In addition to these upstream defects, the altered expression of exocytic machinery that we observed is consistent with evidence that genetic variation affecting downstream factors, such as granule docking and decreased calcium sensitivity, are involved in the development of type 2 diabetes [40]. Thus, later disease is probably due to a combination of aberrant exocytosis and changes in glucose sensing.

Conclusion We conclude that altered beta cell function is intimately associated with prediabetes and progression to diabetes.
13. Hull RL, Kodama K, Utzschneider KM, Carr DB, Prigeon RL, Kahn SE (2005) Dietary-fat-induced obesity in mice results in beta cell hyperplasia but not increased insulin release: evidence for specificity of impaired beta cell adaptation. Diabetologia 48:1350–1358
14. Terauchi Y, Takamoto I, Kubota N et al (2007) Glucokinase and IRS-2 are required for compensatory β cell hyperplasia in response to high-fat diet–induced insulin resistance. J Clin Invest 117:246–257
15. Gonzalez A, Merino B, Marroqui L et al (2013) Insulin hypersecretion in islets from diet-induced hypertinsulinemic obese female mice is associated with several functional adaptations in individual β-cells. Endocrinology 154:3515–3524
16. Sorenson RL, Brelje TC (1997) Adaptation of islets of Langerhans to pregnancy: β-cell growth, enhanced insulin secretion and the role of lactogenic hormones. Horm Metab Res 29:301–307
17. Berglund O, Frankel BJ, Hellman B (1978) Development of the β-cell with pregnancy. Beta cell growth, enhanced insulin secretion and the role of lactogenic hormones. Horm Metab Res 29:301–307
18. Festa A, Williams K, D’Agostino R, Wagenknecht LE, Haffner SM (2006) The natural course of beta-cell function in nondiabetic and diabetic individuals—the insulin resistance atherosclerosis study. Diabetes 55:1114–1120
19. Low JT, Mitchell JM, Do OH et al (2013) Glucose principally regulates insulin secretion in islets by controlling the numbers of granule fusion events per cell. Diabetologia 56:2629–2637
20. Do OH, Low JT, Gaisano HY, Thorn P (2014) The secretory deficit in islets from db/db mice is mainly due to a loss of responding beta cells. Diabetes 53:624–632
21. Hoppa MB, Jones E, Karanauskaite J et al (2012) Multivesicular exocytosis in rat pancreatic beta cells. Diabetologia 55:1001–1012
22. Kjorholt C, Akerfeldt MC, Biden TJ, Laybutt DR (2005) Chronic hyperglycemia, independent of plasma lipid levels, is sufficient for the loss of beta-cell differentiation and secretory function in the db/db mouse model of diabetes. Diabetes 54:2755–2763
23. Roe MW, Philipson LH, Frangakis CJ et al (1994) Defective glucose-dependent endoplasmic-reticulum Ca²⁺ sequestration in diabetic mouse islets of Langerhans. J Biol Chem 269:18279–18282
24. Gromada J, Hoy M, Renstrom E et al (1999) CaM kinase II-dependent mobilization of secretory granules underlies acetylcholine-induced stimulation of exocytosis in mouse pancreatic B cells. J Physiol-Lond 518:745–759
25. Talchai C, Xuan S, Lin HV, Sussel L, Accili D (2012) Pancreatic beta cell dedifferentiation as a mechanism of diabetic beta cell failure. Cell 150:1223–1234
26. Kwan EP, Gaisano HY (2005) Glucagon-like peptide 1 regulates sequential and compound exocytosis in pancreatic islet beta-cells. Diabetes 54:2734–2743
27. Hugo S, Dembla E, Halimani M, Matti U, Rettig J, Becherer U (2013) Deciphering dead-end docking of large dense core vesicles in bovine chromaffin cells. J Neurosci 33:17123–17137
28. Dalboge LS, Almholt DLC, Neerup TSR et al (2013) Characterisation of age-dependent beta cell dynamics in the male db/db mice. Plos One 8:e82813
29. Gastaldelli A, Ferrannini E, Miyazaki Y, Matsuda M, DeFronzo RA, San Antonio metabolism study (2004) Beta-cell dysfunction and glucose intolerance: results from the San Antonio metabolism (SAM) study. Diabetologia 47:31–39
30. Ward WK, Bolgiano DC, McKnight B, Halter JB, Porte D (1984) Diminished B cell secretory capacity in patients with noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. J Clin Invest 74:1318–1328
31. Deng S, Vatamaniuk M, Huang X et al (2004) Structural and functional abnormalities in the islets isolated from type 2 diabetic subjects. Diabetes 53:624–632
32. Del Guerra S, Lapi R, Marselli L et al (2005) Functional and molecular defects of pancreatic islets in human type 2 diabetes. Diabetes 54:727–735
33. Bergman RN, Phillips LS, Cobelli C (1981) Physiologic evaluation of factors controlling glucose tolerance in man: measurement of insulin sensitivity and beta-cell glucose sensitivity from the response to intravenous glucose. J Clin Invest 68:1456–1467
34. Polonsky KS, Given BD, Hirsch L et al (1988) Quantitative study of insulin secretion and clearance in normal and obese subjects. J Clin Invest 81:435–441
35. Weyer C, Bogardus C, Mott DM, Pratley RE (1999) The natural history of insulin secretory dysfunction and insulin resistance in the pathogenesis of type 2 diabetes mellitus. J Clin Invest 104:787–794
36. Kaneko K, Ueki K, Takahashi N et al (2010) Class IA phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase in pancreatic beta cells controls insulin secretion by multiple mechanisms. Cell Metab 12:619–632
37. Tokuyama Y, Sturis J, DePaoli AM et al (1995) Evolution of β-cell dysfunction in the male Zucker diabetic fatty rat. Diabetes 44:1447–1457
38. UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) Group (1998) Intensive blood-glucose control with sulphonylureas or insulin compared with conventional treatment and risk of complications in patients with type 2 diabetes (UKPDS 33). Lancet 352:837–853
39. Thorens B, Wu YJ, Leahy JL, Weir GC (1992) The loss of GLUT2 expression by glucose-unresponsive beta cells of db/db mice is reversible and is induced by the diabetic environment. J Clin Invest 90:77–85
40. Rosengren AH, Braun M, Mandl T et al (2012) Reduced insulin exocytosis in human pancreatic beta-cells with gene variants linked to type 2 diabetes. Diabetes 61:1726–1733