
Supplementary Material

Article

Gene Editing Correction of a Urea Cycle Defect in Organoid Stem Cell Derived Hepatocyte-like Cells

Mihaela Zabulica ¹, Tomas Jakobsson ¹, Francesco Ravaioli ², Massoud Vosough ³, Roberto Gramignoli ¹, Ewa Ellis ⁴, Olav Rooyackers ⁴ and Stephen C. Strom ^{1,*}

¹ Department of Laboratory Medicine, Karolinska Institute, 141 52 Stockholm, Sweden; mihaela.zabulica@ki.se (M.Z.); tomas.jakobsson@ki.se (T.J.); roberto.gramignoli@ki.se (R.G.)

² Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine, University of Bologna, 40 138 Bologna, Italy; francesco.ravaioli2@unibo.it

³ Department of Regenerative Medicine, Cell Science Research Centre, Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology, Tehran 16635-148, Iran; masvos@royaninstitute.org

⁴ Department of Clinical Sciences Intervention and Technology, Karolinska Institute, 141 86 Stockholm, Sweden; ewa.ellis@ki.se (E.E.); olav.rooyackers@ki.se (O.R.)

* Correspondence: stephen.strom7.4@gmail.com

Citation: Zabulica, M.; Jakobsson, T.; Ravaioli, F.; Vosough, M.; Gramignoli, R.; Ellis, E.; Rooyackers, O.; Strom, S.C.

Gene editing correction of a urea cycle defect in organoid stem cell derived hepatocyte-like cells. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2021**, *22*, 1217.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms22031217>

Received: 30 December 2020

Accepted: 20 January 2021

Published: 26 January 2021

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



Copyright: © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Supplementary Figures



Figure S1: Verification of homology-directed repair (HDR)-mediated editing efficiency. HDR-mediated editing efficiency was validated with the web-tool Inference of CRISPR Edits (ICE, Synthego), along with the percentages of insertions/deletions of various lengths. The platform estimated the HDR efficiency to be 8.4%.

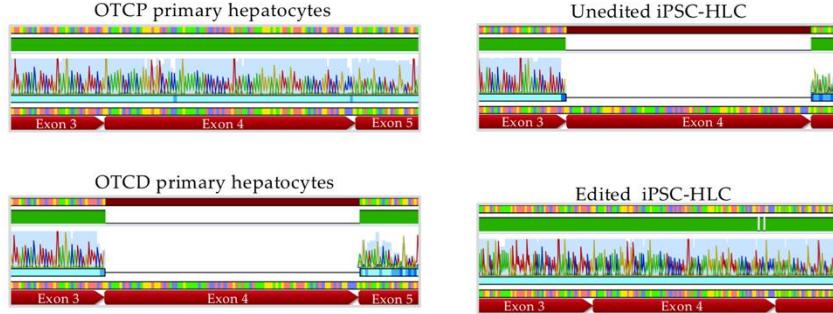


Figure S2: Sequencing of *OTC* transcript. *OTC* transcript in OTC-proficient (OTCP) and OTC-deficient (OTCD) primary hepatocytes, as well as in unedited and edited iPSC hepatocyte-like cells (iPSC-HLC) were sequenced and aligned to reference *OTC* transcript (NCBI). Transcripts in OTCD primary hepatocytes and unedited iPSC-HLC are lacking exon 4, while the exon is present in edited iPSC-HLC, same as in OTCP primary cells.

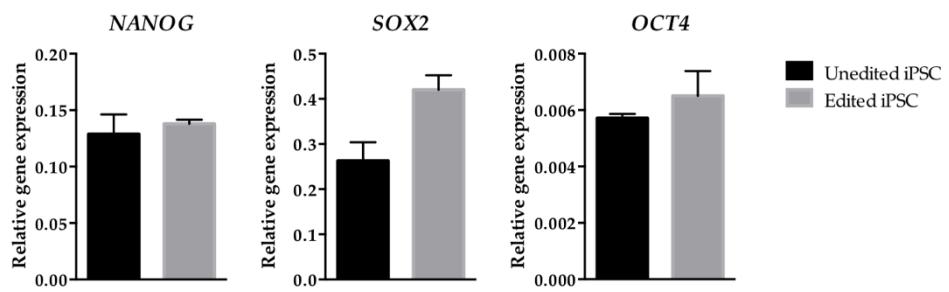


Figure S3: Comparison of pluripotency marker levels between unedited and edited iPSC clones. Gene expression of pluripotency markers was assessed in unedited and genetically edited iPSC clones and normalized to endogenous gene (*PPIA*). Technical replicates n=2.

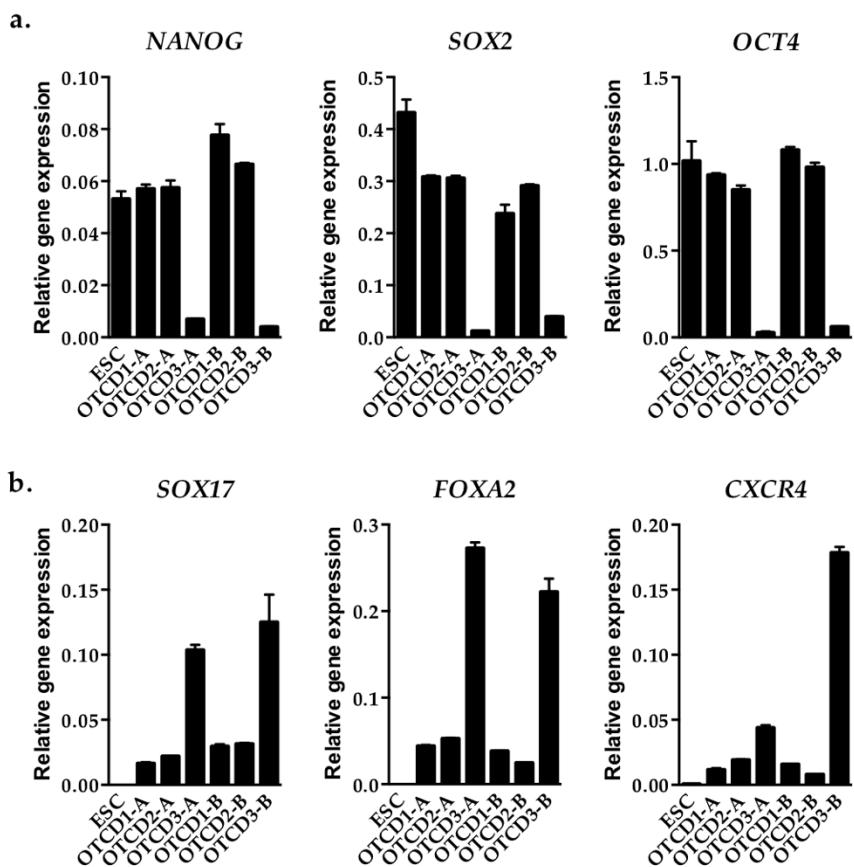


Figure S4: Selection of iPSC clone and protocol for definitive endoderm induction. Three iPSC clones (OTCD1, OTCD2 and OTCD3) were submitted to endoderm differentiation with DE protocol A or DE protocol B. **(a)** Expression of pluripotency (*NANOG*, *OCT4* and *SOX2*) and **(b)** definitive endoderm genes (*SOX17*, *FOXA2* and *CXCR4*) was analyzed and compared to the respective levels in undifferentiated embryonic stem cells (ESC). Gene expression was normalized to endogenous gene (*PPIA*). Technical replicates n=3.

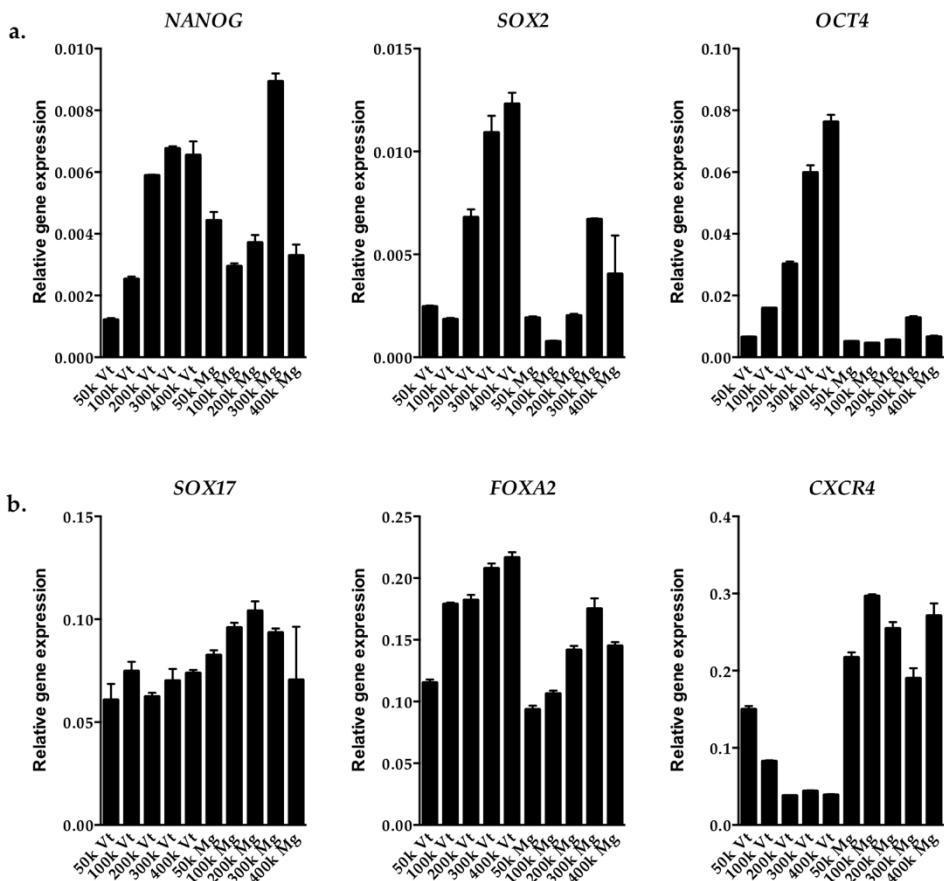


Figure S5: Optimization of cell seeding density and coating material for definitive endoderm induction. Optimization experiments were performed to identify the optimal cell seeding density (50k, 100k, 200k, and 400k) and coating material (Vt: Vitronectin and Mg: Matrigel) for definitive endoderm differentiation. Cells were submitted to definitive endoderm induction with DE protocol B. The efficiency of induction was determined through gene expression levels of essential pluripotency (**a**) and definitive endoderm genes (**b**). Expression was normalized to endogenous gene control (*PPIA*). Technical replicates n=3.

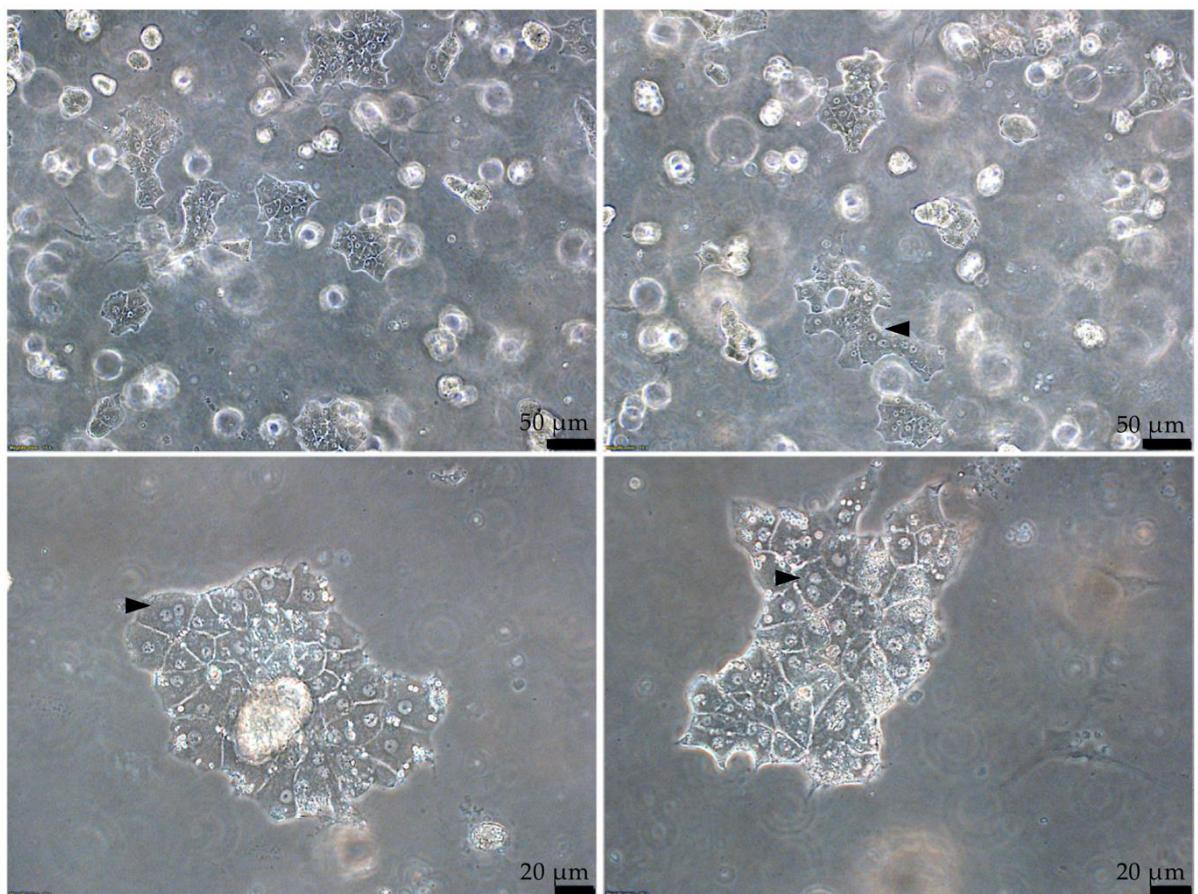


Figure S6: Morphology of organoid iPSC hepatocyte-like cells (iPSC-HLC). Representative pictures of organoid iPSC-HLC which eventually seeded at the bottom of the culture plate, facilitating the visualization of the morphology, are presented. Spare binucleated iPSC-HLC were observed (indicated with arrows). Scale bar indicated in each image.

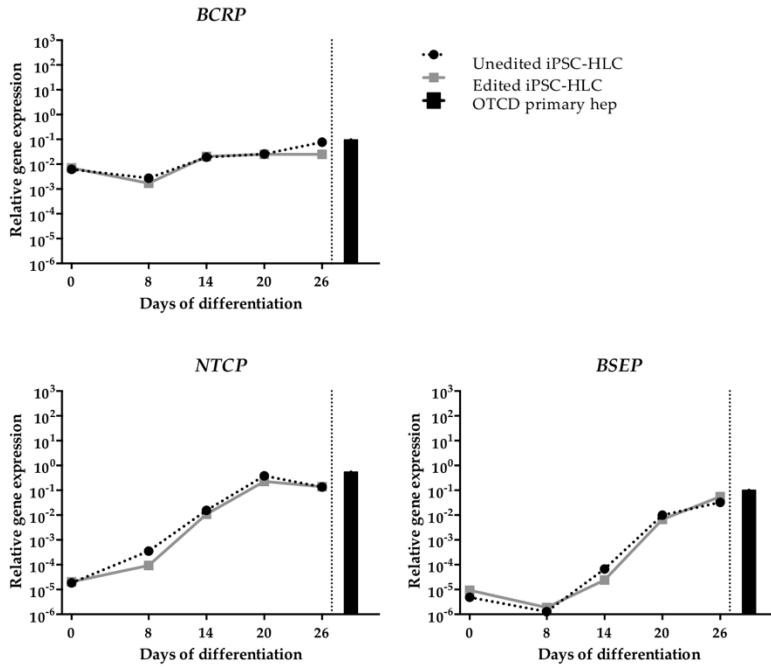


Figure S7: Gene expression profiling of organoid iPSC hepatocyte-like cells (iPSC-HLC). Expression of genes encoding transporter proteins was measured at different time points of differentiation protocol. Dashed and continuous lines show unedited and edited iPSC-HLC, respectively. Black bar indicates the level of expression of the respective gene in primary OTCD hepatocytes from the same patient. Expression levels were normalized to endogenous gene (*PPIA*).

Supplementary Tables

Table S1: gRNA sequences.

gRNA name	Vector	Sequence gRNA on + DNA strand 5'-3' *	Sequence gRNA on + DNA strand 5'-3' *
1	pX458 Wild type Cas9	cacc G AAAGTCTCACGGACAC-GGCC	aaacGCCGTGTCGTGA-GACTTC
2	pX458 Wild type Cas9	caccGAATGAAAGTCTCACGGACA	aaacTGTCCGTGAGACTTCATT
3a	pX461 D10A nickase Cas9	cacc G AAAGTCTCACGGACAC-GGCC	aaacGCCGTGTCGTGA-GACTTC
3b	pX461 D10A nickase Cas9	cacc G CACAAGATATTCATTTGGGT	aaacACCCAAATGAATATCTT-GTGC
4a	pX461 D10A nickase Cas9	caccGAATGAAAGTCTCACGGACA	aaacTGTCCGTGAGACTTCATT
4b	D10A nickase Cas9	cacc G TGTTTCTTACACACAAGA	aaacTCTTGTGTGGTAA-GAAAACAC

* Note: Additional nucleotides were added for the cloning (red, lowercase) and a guanidine (G) in some cases where the position 20 was not a G, in order to enhance the expression by the human U6 promoter.

Table S2: DNA donor template sequences.

Donor template name	Used for gRNAs	Sequence 5'-3'
DT 7.1	pX458 – Wild type Cas9 with gRNA1 pX461 – D10A nickase Cas9 with gRNA3a and gRNA3b	AAAGAGAATTATGTTTATTTGAAATTATCCATCAGATTCTGA AATCAGCTTGAGAGAAGAAAATATTACAAACCGGGCAGTAT CCGTGAGACTTCATTCACACCAAATGAATATCTTGACTCGTAA GAAAACAAGGATGTCCTCCCAGAAGTGC
DT. 7.23	pX458 – Wild type Cas9 with gRNA2 pX461 – D10A nickase Cas9 with gRNA4a and gRNA4b	AAAGAGAATTATGTTTATTTGAAATTATCCATCAGATTCTGA AATCAGCTTGAGAGAAGAAAATATTACAAACCGGGCAGTAT CCGTGAGACTTCATTCACACCAAATGAATATCTTGTTGGTAA GGAAGCACGGATGTCCTCCCAGAAGTGC

Table S3: Variant list in off-target regions.

Chromosome				Unedited Cells				Edited Cells				Gene	dsSNP142	
Chr	Position	Ref	Alt	Ref depth	Alt depth	Genotype	Ref depth	Alt depth	Genotype	Effect	Amino acid change	Codon change		
chr5	114940200	C	A	20	23	0/1	24	22	0/1	Intron	-	-	TMED7-TICAM2	rs10079000
chr11	112978377	G	A	0	31	1/1	0	39	1/1	Intron	-	-	NCAM1	rs12788208
chr13	87536313	G	A	18	13	0/1	16	18	0/1	Intergenic	-	-	-	rs9301816

Table S4: Variant list in on-target region.

Chromosome				Unedited Cells				Edited Cells				Gene	dsSNP142	
Chr	Position	Ref	Alt	Ref depth	Alt depth	Genotype	Ref depth	Alt depth	Genotype	Effect	Amino acid change	Codon change		
chrX	38240674	C	T	15	0	0/0	0	18	1/1	Synonymous coding	gaC/gaT	D126	OTC	-
chrX	38240677	G	T	16	0	0/0	0	18	1/1	Synonymous coding	agC/acT	T127	OTC	-
chrX	38240682	G	A	0	16	1/1	19	0	0/0	Non-synonymous coding	cGt/cAt	R129H	OTC	rs66656800

Table S5: Sequences of primers used for long range PCR amplification.

Region	Forward primer	Reverse primer
	5'- sequence - 3'	5'- sequence - 3'
1	CCCACACAGCACAGAGGATT	GGTGGTGAGGGCCTGTAATC
2	ACCGCTTTGTCCCCAAGAA	GAGTCTGAATGTGGGTGGG
3	TGAGCCAAGATCGTGCCATT	GGCGAGAGAGTGAGACTTCG
4	AGCTGCTACCACCTGTTCC	CTCAGTGCTCCCCTCAGTC
5	AATGTTCTCCCGCGITCGTTC	ATCCGGCCTCAGTCTACCAA
6	CTTCTGGGCAGCCAGATGA	CCAGAACAGGAAGAGGCAA
7	ACCTTGCTGCTCTCACAG	GGCAACATGATGAAACCCCC
8	TAGCTGCAAGGGAGTTGGG	AGAATTGGGCTGAGAATGAGGT

Table S6: TaqMan assays used for gene expression analyses.

	Gene name	Gene full name	Assay ID
Urea cycle genes	<i>PPIA</i>	Cyclophilin A (peptidylprolyl isomerase A)	Hs99999904_m1
	<i>OTC</i>	Ornithine carbamoyltransferase	Hs00166892_m1
	<i>CPS1</i>	Carbamoyl-phosphate synthetase 1, mitochondrial	Hs00157048_m1
	<i>ASS1</i>	Argininosuccinate synthetase	Hs01597989_g1
	<i>ASL</i>	Argininosuccinate lyase	Hs00902699_m1
	<i>ARG1</i>	Arginase 1	Hs00163660_m1
	<i>ALB</i>	Albumin	Hs00609411_m1
	<i>AFP</i>	Alpha-fetoprotein	Hs00173490_m1
	<i>FAH</i>	Fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase	Hs00908445_m1
	<i>A1AT</i>	Alpha-1 antitrypsin (SERPINA1)	Hs01097800_m1
Liver proteins and transcription factors	<i>HNF4a</i> (total)	Hepatic nuclear factor 4 alpha	Hs00230853_m1
	<i>HNF4a</i> (fetal isoforms)	Hepatic nuclear factor 4 alpha	Hs01025522_m1
	<i>HNF4a</i> (adult isoforms)	Hepatic nuclear factor 4 alpha	Hs00604431_m1
	<i>HNF3a</i>	Hepatic nuclear factor 3 alpha	Hs04187555_m1
	<i>HNF3b</i>	Hepatic nuclear factor 3 beta	Hs00232764_m1
	<i>FXR</i>	Farnesoid X nuclear receptor (NR1H4)	Hs00231968_m1
	<i>CY1A2</i>	Cytochrome P450 family 1 subfamily A member 2	Hs01070374_m1
	<i>CYP2B6</i>	Cytochrome P450 family 2 subfamily B member 6	Hs03044634_m1
	<i>CYP3A4</i>	Cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 4	Hs00430021_m1
	<i>CYP3A7</i>	Cytochrome P450 family 3 subfamily A member 7	Hs00426361_m1
Phase I and II genes	<i>UGT1A6</i>	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 1 family, A6	Hs01592477_m1
	<i>NANOG</i>	Nanog homeobox	Hs04260366_g1
	<i>OCT4</i>	Octamer-binding transcription factor	Hs00742896_s1
	<i>SOX2</i>	SRY (sex determining region Y)-box 2	Hs01053049_s1
	<i>CXCR4</i>	C-X-C receptor type 4	Hs00607978_s1
	<i>SOX17</i>	SRY (sex determining region Y)-box 17	Hs00751752_s1
	<i>BSEP</i>	ATP-binding cassette, B11 (ABCB11)	Hs00184824_m1
Puripotency genes	<i>BCRP</i>	ATP-binding cassette, G2 (ABCG2)	Hs00184979_m1
	<i>NTCP</i>	Sodium/bile acid cotransporter 1 (SLC10A1)	Hs00914889_m1