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Author manuscript Stem Cell Res. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2021 July 27.

Published in final edited form as:

Stem Cell Res. 2021 May ; 53: 102354. doi:10.1016/j.scr.2021.102354.

Generation of fourteen isogenic cell lines for Parkinson's disease-associated leucine-rich repeat kinase (LRRK2)

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Abstract

Mutations in leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) are associated with inherited forms of Parkinson's disease (PD), causing disease by a gain of kinase function. Here, we describe a series of isogenic iPSC lines with any of five pathogenic mutations (N1437H, R1441C, Y1699C, G2019S and I2020T); two hypothesis testing mutations (GTP binding null, T1348N, and kinase dead, K1906M) and two LRRK2 knockouts. This resource could be used to assess effects of mutations on the function of endogenous LRRK2 and/or to study LRRK2 interactors and substrates in iPSC-derived cellular models.

1. Resource Table

Unique stem cell lines identifier	NIAi001-A
	NIAi001-B
	NIAi001-C
	$NIAi001-D$
	NIAi001-E
	NIAi001-F
	NIAi001-G
	NIAi001-H
	NIAi001-I
	$NIAi001-K$
	NIAi001-L
	NIAi001-M
	NIAi001-N

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Declaration of Competing 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.

2. Resource utility

This unique set of lines will be an important resource for the PD community to study effects of LRRK2 mutations in cell lines expressing endogenous levels of LRRK2. Studies with models derived from these iPSC lines could help determine the roles of different cell types in PD pathogenesis.

3. Resource details

Leucine-rich repeat kinase 2 (LRRK2) encodes a large (2527 amino acid) multidomain protein with kinase and GTPase enzymatic domains. Mutations in LRRK2 are associated with autosomal dominant familial Parkinson's disease (Nalls et al., 2019; Paisan-Ruiz et al., 2004). Seven mutations in LRRK2 have been demonstrated to be pathogenic: N1437H, R1441C/G/H, Y1699C, G2019S and I2020T (Rudenko et al., 2012). Most data suggests that LRRK2 mutations induce a gain of function while loss of function variants are not associated with PD risk. Prior studies indicate that LRRK2 may play a role in lysosomal biology, vesicle trafficking, cytoskeletal maintenance, and the immune system, but how these relate to PD pathogenesis is uncertain (Cookson, 2015). Looking for common effects of mutations that are not shared with loss of function variants may help resolve this question.

We created five PD pathogenic mutations in heterozygous and homozygous states, as well as GTP-binding null (T1348N) and kinase dead (K1906M) mutations and two LRRK2 knockout lines (Table 1). We used CRISPR/Cas9 technology to introduce all of these mutations into a single female iPSC background, A18945 (TMOi001-A). CRISPR-Cas9 gRNAs within 10–15 bp of each mutagenesis site were selected based on low off-target risk and high on-target potential. LRRK2 knockout (KO) lines were made using two gRNAs targeting the T1348 and K1906 regions of LRRK2. Knock-in mutations were introduced by using donor oligos (DO) with the desired mutation. Additional variants were introduced into some donor oligos to disrupt the CRISPR-Cas9 binding site, and improve editing efficiency, without changing amino acid sequences. Three 96 well plates per mutation were picked and analyzed by Sanger sequencing. Positive clones were expanded and sequenced again to confirm mutations (Fig. 1C, Table 2). To verify clonal purity, and homozygosity, and heterozygosity of the introduced variants we submitted clones for targeted amplicon sequencing and performed Amplican analysis. Pluripotency of the verified iPSC lines was validated by expression of the pluripotency markers: OCT4, SOX2, and NANOG as shown by immunocytochemistry (Fig. 1A, Table 2). Quantitative assessment showed that more than 94% of cells were positive for markers essential for pluripotency, OCT3/4 and SSEA-4 in all iPSC lines (Fig. 1B, Table 2). OCT3/4 was assessed by ICC, and SSEA-4 by flow cytometry. All iPSC lines have a normal female karyotype (46, XX) without any obvious aberrations (Supplementary Fig. 1, Table 2). Short tandem repeat (STR) analysis of 16 genomic loci showed 100% identical polymorphisms in the parental iPSC line and all derived iPSC lines (archived at journal; available from authors). The differentiation potential of the iPSC lines was confirmed by targeted differentiation into cells of all three germ layers. Immunocytochemistry confirmed expression of SOX17 and α-fetoprotein (AFP) (endoderm); alpha-muscle actin (<SMA) and Brachyury (mesoderm); and Nestin and MAP2 (ectoderm) (Fig. 1D, Table 2). All generated iPSC lines were free of mycoplasma contamination (Supplementary Fig. 1B, Table 2). In conclusion, we generated knockin and knockout iPSC lines to support studies of LRRK2-related neurodegeneration in human cellular models.

4. Materials and methods

4.1. Growth, propagation and morphology of iPSC lines.

A18945 cell line and isogenic clones derived from this line were grown in E8 media (Thermo Scientific, cat #A1517001). 10uM Rock inhibitor (STEMCELL, Cat # 72304) was added to E8 media for 18–24 h after splitting and thawing. iPSC clones were frozen in Synth-A-Freeze Cryopreservation media (Thermo Scientific, Cat # A1254201).

4.2. Genome editing of A18945 iPSC line using RNPs

4.2.1. RNP complex formation—Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 guide RNA (crRNA) were custom designed using the IDT website [https://www.idtdna.com/site/order/designtool/index/](https://www.idtdna.com/site/order/designtool/index/CRISPR_CUSTOM) [CRISPR_CUSTOM](https://www.idtdna.com/site/order/designtool/index/CRISPR_CUSTOM) based on low off-target risk and high on-target potential. Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 crRNAs for each targeted region are shown in Table 3. Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA and Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 tracrRNA (IDT, cat # 1072533) were resuspended in nuclease-free duplex buffer (IDT, cat# 11010301) to 200 μM. Five μl of 200 μM crRNA and 5 μl of 200 μM tracrRNA were mixed together and heated at 95°C for 5 min and then the mixture was cooled to RT. Next, 1.7μ (104 pmol) of Alt-R S.p. Cas9 nuclease (IDT, cat # 1081058) were mixed together with 1.2 μl (120 pmol) Alt-R CRISPR-Cas9 crRNA/ tracrRNA duplex and 2.1 μl of 1xPBS solution and incubated 30 min at RT.

4.2.2. ssDO preparation—Single stranded donor oligos (ssDO) with the desired mutations (see Table 3) were synthetized by IDT and resuspended in DPBS at a concentration of 100 pmol/μl.

4.2.3. Nucleofection—70–80% confluent iPSC were dissociated into single cells using Accutase (Thermo Scientific, cat # A1110501) and counted using a TC20 Automated Cell Counter (Bio-Rad). iPS cells $(8x10^5$ per sample) were pelleted at 1000 rpm for 3 min and cell pellet were gently resuspended in 100 μl of P3 Primary Cell Solution (Lonza, PBP3– 02250). Immediately prior to nucleofection, 2 μ (100 pmol/ μ) of ssDO was added to 5 μ of pre-assembled Cas9/RNP. One hundred μl of iPS cells resuspended in P3 primary cell solution were transferred to the tube containing Cas9/RNP complexes and ssDO. Cells were mixed twice with Cas9/RNP/Donor oligo and the mixture was transferred to the 100 μl nucleocuvette (Lonza; 2022–01). iPSC were nucleofected immediately using the 'Primary Cell P3′ program and 'CA-137′ pulse code. After nucleofection, iPSC were transferred using a Lonza disposable Pasteur pipette into one well of a Matrigel-coated 6-well plate containing 3 mL E8 media with 10 μM Rock inhibitors. Cells were cultured in a 32°C/5% CO2 incubator for two days and then transferred to a 37°C incubator. Edited iPSC pools were expanded, frozen, and used for generation of clones from single cells.

4.3. Generation of clones from single cell

Expanded pools were dissociated with Accutase, counted, and 10,000 single cells were plated on 10 cm Matrigel-coated dishes containing E8 media with 10 μM Rock inhibitor for two days. Subsequently, the media was changed without Rock for 5–7 days. Single cell colonies were expanded to $250-500 \mu M$ diameter and picked using a 100 μ pipet tip under a Bioimager microscope. Individual colonies were transferred to Matrigel-coated 96-well

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plates. Three 96 well plates per mutation were picked and expanded until 70–80% confluency. Each expanded plate was split into two plates: half of the cells were transferred onto a new 96 well plate for further propagation and half of the cells were used for sequencing analysis.

4.4. Sequencing

Plates with collected cells were centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 5 min and resuspended in 30 μl of water. Cells were heated at 95° C for 10 min and 2 μl of cells were used for PCR with region specific primers listed in Table 3. PCR was carried out using Terra polymerase (Takara Bio). Each PCR product was sequenced using forward and reverse primers with Applied Biosystems BigDye terminator v3.1 sequencing chemistry according to manufacturer's instructions. The products were cleaned using Agencourt CleanSEQ reagent (Beckman Coulter), run on a 3730xl DNA analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Hitachi) and analyzed with Sequencher software. Positive clones were expanded and re-sequenced.

4.5. Amplicon sequencing

Amplicon sequencing of pools and individual clones was performed by Psomagen using MiSeq Nano (250PE) sequencing on Illumina platform. Amplicon sequencing primers are listed in Table 3. FASTQ files for each sample were analyzed using the ampliCan tool in R (Labun et al., 2019).

4.6. Karyotyping and STR analysis

Karyotyping and STR analysis were performed by WiCell Research Institute.

4.7. Mycoplasma detection

Mycoplasma test was performed using PCR (ATCC, cat # 30–1012K). Positive control PCR was performed for the LRRK2 gene with the primers listed in Table 3.

4.8. Pluripotency assessment

iPSC clones were grown on Matrigel-coated coverslips, fixed with 4% PFA, and stained with pluripotency markers listed in Table 3. Images were taken on a Zeiss 880 confocal microscope. The percentage of cells positive for OCT3/4 was calculated on immunofluorescence images using the Fiji software. SSEA4 quantifications were performed by flow cytometry using PE-SSEA4 antibody (Table 3). At least 5,000 cells per sample were acquired and analyzed using BD FACs Diva 8.01 analysis software.

4.9. Differentiation potential

iPSC clones were differentiated into three layers according to STEMdiff™ Trilineage Differentiation Kit (StemCell, Cat# 05230), fixed in 4% PFA, and stained with differentiation markers listed in Table 3. Images were taken on a Zeiss 880 confocal microscope.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgement

This research was supported entirely by the Intramural research Program of the NIH, National institute on Aging.

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Fig. 1.

Generation of lines with LRRK2 mutations on an isogenic background. (A) iPSC lines carrying the indicated mutations ($WT = wild$ type, $KO = knockout$; clone ID below each mutation) were stained for pluripotency markers OCT4 (top panels, green), SOX2 (middle panels, red) and NANOG (lower panels, green) and counterstained with the nuclear stain DAPI (blue, all panels). Scale bars = 20 μ m. (B) Quantitative analysis of SSEA-4 expression by flow cytometry (upper panels) or by staining for Oct3/4 (lower panels; red is Oct3/4, blue is DAPI; Scale bars $= 20 \mu m$) allowed percentages of pluripotent cells to be estimated as indicated. (C) Sequence chromatograms of LRRK2 coding changes, where upper panels show homozygous and lower panels show heterozygous clones. (D) Differentiation potential was assessed using immunostaining for endodermal markers SOX17 (green, first row) and α-fetoprotein (AFP, red, first row); mesodermal markers alpha-muscle actin (SMA, green, second row) and Brachyury (green, third row); and ectodermal markers Nestin (green, fourth

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row) and MAP2 (red, fourth row). All cells were counterstained with the nuclear dye DAPI (blue) and scale bars $= 20 \mu m$.

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Table 1

Summary of lines. Summary of lines.

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Table 2

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