

## Functional expression of delayed rectifier potassium channels in cardiomyocytes derived from embryonic stem cells

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**Background and Aims:** Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) studies shows expression of potassium channels in mouse embryonic stem cell derived cardiomyocytes (ES-cardiomyocytes) but functional activity has not been reported in the. Therefore, the aim of this study was to detect the functional objective of this reactivity of these potassium channels from stem cell stage and after differentiation into cardiomyocyte.

**Methods:** Mouse embryonic stem (ES) cells were differentiated into beating cardiomyocytes by hanging drop method. The ES cells and ES-cardiomyocytes were isolated to single cell suspension for current recording using whole cell patch +Kclamp technique. The bath solution included 130mM NaCl and 1.5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. The intracellular pipette solution included 130 mM KCl, 3 mM ATP and 0.2mM EGTA.

**Results:** The predominant depolarizing current in ES-cardiomyocytes was a tetraethylammonium (TEA, 10 mM) sensitive current which was partially blocked by nifedipine (1 μM) and attenuated by increasing concentration of EGTA (10 mM) in the pipette solution. The electrophysiological properties of this oscillatory sustained current very well matched with characteristics of Ca<sup>2+</sup> activated potassium current. In addition there was another kind of sustained outward K<sup>+</sup> current which was resistance to TEA but was inhibited by 4-aminopyridine (4-AP, 1 mM). The characteristic features of this current indicate that this current was due to activation of delayed rectifier potassium channels.

**Conclusions:** RT-PCR studies confirms expression of K<sup>+</sup> channels in ES-cardiomyocytes. However these channels to less extent were also expressed in early stem cell stage. The present study shows that at early stage, these channels are not functional but develop into specific potassium ionic currents as the cells convert into adult cardiomyocytes.

**Keywords:** Patch-clamp; stem cell ES-cardiomyocytes; K<sup>+</sup> current