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TGF- β Signaling Regulates Development of Midbrain Dopaminergic and Hindbrain Serotonergic Neuron Subgroups
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Abstract

Molecular and functional diversity within midbrain dopaminergic (mDA) and hindbrain serotonergic (5-HT) neurons has emerged as a relevant feature that could underlie selective vulnerability of neurons in clinical disorders. We have investigated the role of transforming growth factor beta (TGF- β) during development of mDA and 5-HT subgroups. We have generated T β RII $^{flox/flox};En1^{cre/+}$ mice where type II TGF- β receptor is conditionally deleted from engrailed 1-expressing cells and have investigated the hindbrain serotonergic system of these mice together with Tgf- $\beta 2^{-/-}$ mice. The results show a significant decrease in the number of 5-HT neurons in TGF- $\beta 2$ -deficient mice at embryonic day (E) 12 and a selective significant decrease in the hindbrain paramedian raphe 5-HT neurons at E18, compared to wild type. Moreover, conditional deletion of TGF- β signaling from midbrain and rhombomere 1 leads to inactive TGF- β signaling in cre-expressing cells, impaired development of mouse mDA neuron subgroups and of dorsal raphe 5-HT neuron subgroups in a temporal manner. These results highlight a selective growth factor dependency of individual rostral hindbrain serotonergic subpopulations, emphasize the impact of TGF- β signaling during development of mDA and 5-HT subgroups, and suggest TGF- β s as potent candidates to establish diversity within the hindbrain serotonergic system. Thus, the data contribute to a better understanding of development and degeneration of mDA neurons and 5-HT-associated clinical disorders. © 2018 IBRO

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5-HT; cell fate; growth factor; neurogenesis; raphe nuclei

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