

Nardilysin Is Required for Maintaining Pancreatic β -Cell Function

Abstract

Type 2 diabetes (T2D) is associated with pancreatic β -cell dysfunction, manifested by reduced glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (GSIS)(1). Several transcription factors enriched in β -cells, such as MafA, control β -cell function by organizing genes involved in GSIS(2). Here we demonstrate that nardilysin (N-arginine dibasic convertase; Nrd1 and NRDC) critically regulates β -cell function through MafA. Nrd1(-/-) mice showed glucose intolerance and severely decreased GSIS. Islets isolated from Nrd1(-/-) mice exhibited reduced insulin content and impaired GSIS in vitro. Moreover, β -cell-specific NRDC-deficient (Nrd1(del β)) mice showed a diabetic phenotype with markedly reduced GSIS. MafA was specifically downregulated in islets from Nrd1(del β) mice, whereas overexpression of NRDC upregulated MafA and insulin expression in INS832/13 cells. Chromatin immunoprecipitation assay revealed that NRDC is associated with Islet-1 in the enhancer region of MafA, where NRDC controls the recruitment of Islet-1 and MafA transcription. Our findings demonstrate that NRDC controls β -cell function via regulation of the Islet-1-MafA pathway.

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References

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