

Combination of SB431542, Chir9901, and Bpv as a novel supplement in the culture of umbilical cord blood hematopoietic stem cells

Morteza Zarrabi

Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology

Elaheh Afzal

Royan Institute <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4567-4821>

Mohammad Hassan Asghari

Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology

Marzieh Ebrahimi (✉ marzieh.ebrahimi@gmail.com)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1140-0379>

Research

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Abstract

Background: Small molecule compounds have been well recognized for their promising power in generation, expansion and maintenance of embryonic or adult stem cells. The aim of this study was to identify a novel combination of small molecules in order to optimize the *ex vivo* expansion of umbilical cord blood derived-CD34⁺ cells.

Methods: Considering the most important signaling pathways involved in the self-renewal of hematopoietic stem cells, CB-CD34⁺ cells were expanded with cytokines in the presence of seven small molecules including SB, PD, Chir, Bpv, Pur, Pμ and NAM. Elimination approach was used to find the best combination of selected small molecules for effective *ex vivo* expansion of CD34⁺ cell. In each step, proliferation, self-renewal, and clonogenic potential of the expanded cells as well as expression of some hematopoietic stem cell related genes were studied. Finally, the engraftment potential of expanded cells was also examined by the mouse intra-uterine transplantation model.

Results: Our data shows that simultaneous use of SB431542 (TGF-β inhibitor), Chir9901 (GSK3 inhibitor) and Bpv (PTEN inhibitor), resulted in a 50-fold increase in the number of CD34⁺CD38⁻ cells. This was further reflected in approximately 3 times increase in clonogenic potential of the small molecule cocktail-expanded cells. These cells, also, showed a 1.5-fold higher engraftment potential in the peripheral blood of NMRI model of in utero transplantation. These results are in total conformity with up-regulation of HOXB4, GATA2 and CD34 marker gene as well as CXCR4 homing gene.

Conclusion: Taken together, our findings introduce a novel combination of small molecules to improve the yield of existing protocols used in the expansion of hematopoietic stem cells.

Introduction

Umbilical cord blood (UCB) as one of the most valuable and convenient source of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) has a great potential for treatment of various haematological, non-haematological disorders and cancers (1-4). However, limited number of HSCs in a UCB unit has limited its use to the young patients. In this regard, *ex vivo* expansion is one of the main solutions proposed to acquire sufficient number of HSCs (5, 6). Therefore, in recent years, many efforts have been made to identify the factors affecting the self-renewal of the umbilical cord CD34⁺ cells as well as the more primitive hematopoietic stem and progenitors, CD34⁺CD38⁻ cells (7).

The use of small molecules in the field of hematopoietic stem cell research has grown rapidly in recent years, as they are good tools for controlling the variety of cellular processes (8). There are different approaches to select small molecules in HSCs expansion; induction of self-renewal (9), inhibition of lineage commitment differentiation (10), inhibition of HSC apoptosis (11, 12). In the present study, we hypothesized that the best expansion is achieved when the proliferation, survival and self-renewal pathways are induced, while the apoptosis and differentiation pathways are inhibited, simultaneously.

Therefore, through data mining, a limited set of seven small molecules were selected which are as following:

- SB431542 (SB) and Purmorphamin that respectively regulate TGF β and SHh pathways and are associated with the proliferation of HSCs (13, 14).
- PD0325901 (PD) and Chir9901 (Chir) that regulate Wnt/ β -catenin and ERK pathways and play important role in HSCs differentiation (15-18) .
- Bisperoxovanadium (Bpv) and Pifithrin- μ (P μ) that are associated with the pathways related to HSC survival like Akt and P53 (19, 20).
- Nicotinamide that facilitate the transcriptional epigenetic changes of chromatin (21).

The main question was whether a cocktail of these small molecules along with SCF, TPO and Flt3L, the common cytokines which are basically used in the culture media of hematopoietic stem cells (22), could improve the self-renewal and transplantation potential of *ex vivo* expanded cells. To find the best combination, the eliminative approach was used, in which the components of a system are removed one by one; then the interaction between the other components is investigated and the system is re-constructed. Here, we report that a cocktail consisting of SB, Chir and Bpv is effective in promoting the cord blood hematopoietic stem cell proliferation while their stemness and *in vivo* engraftment potential maintained.

Methods

Ethical approval

All the experiments in this study were reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of Royan institute and was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles and the national norms and standards for conducting Medical Research in Iran (IR.ACECR.ROYAN.REC.1398.189).

Isolation of CD34⁺ Cells

Schematic illustration of procedure was shown in Supplementary Fig. 1. Umbilical cord blood (UCB) samples were obtained from Royan Cord Blood Bank. Collection of UCB was performed with the informed consent of the mother. Mononuclear cells were isolated using hydroxyethyl starch (Grifols, Spain) followed by LymphoprepTM (Stem cell Technology Inc.) density-gradient centrifugation. To isolate CD34⁺ cells immuno-magnetic selection kit (Miltenyi Biotec, Germany) was used. Highly purified (>90%) CD34⁺ cells were confirmed by flow cytometry (Partec PAS system, USA) and then prepared to expand in different culture condition.

MTS assay

To determine the maximum tolerated dose of small molecules, the MTS assay was performed. At first, the initial concentration of small molecules was selected based on the previous studies (Supplementary

Table 1). Two-point lower and two-higher concentrations were selected for cytotoxic assay. Briefly, cells were seeded into 96-well plates at a density of 1.0×10^4 cells/well in different concentrations of small molecules for 48 hrs. Control cells received an equal amount of 10% FBS-IMDM medium without any small molecule. Then, 100 μ L of MTS (promega) was subsequently added to each well and then incubated in the dark at 37 °C for at least 1 h. The absorbance was measured at 490 nm. All groups were normalized to the same control group and significant data was calculated using one-way ANOVA. All data were collected from five independent experiments.

***Ex vivo* expansion**

Umbilical cord blood CD34⁺ cells were cultured for 10 days in the serum-free StemSpan™ medium (Stem cell technology Inc.) supplemented with 100 ng/mL stem cell factor (SCF), 100 ng/mL Fms-related tyrosine kinase 3 ligand (Flt3-L), and 50 ng/mL thrombopoietin (TPO), all from R&D. Seven small molecules: SB (10 μ M), Bpv (5 μ M), NAM (2.5 μ M), Pur (4 μ M)PD (0.25 μ M), Chir (0.37 μ M) and P μ (2.5 μ M) were added to the media. CD34⁺ cells treated just with cytokines served as a positive control. The cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% of CO₂ and passaged every three days. Total nuclear cells were enumerated by trypan blue and cellular expansion fold was calculated based on the initial inputs.

Immunophenotyping of expanded cells

Cells were collected and stained with an anti-human CD34 monoclonal antibody conjugated to phycoerythrin (PE; BD Pharmingen™) and an anti-human CD38 monoclonal antibody conjugated to allophycocyanin (PerCP-Cy™ 5.5, BD Pharmingen™), together or separately. The appropriate isotype control antibodies were used for setting the Partec PAS system. At least 10⁴ events were acquired and data was analyzed using FlowMax software.

Colony-forming assay

Colony-forming units (CFUs) were generated by seeding 300 expanded cells into 1.1 ml methylcellulose media (H4434, Stem Cell Technologies, Canada) diluted with IMDM + 2% FBS at a ratio of 1/10. The colonies including burst-forming units-erythroid (BFUs-E), CFUs granulocyte-macrophage (CFUs-GM), CFUs granulocyte-erythrocyte-macrophage-megakaryocyte (CFUs-GEMM), were scored based on their morphology on day 14-16 at 4X magnification under an inverted microscope. All experiments were done as duplicates; all colonies were counted by an expertise in hematological colony counts and mean of at least three independent experiments were reported.

RNA extraction and qPCR

Total RNA was isolated using QIAzol lysis reagent. Integrity and quality of RNA samples were checked using a Nanodrop (ND-1000) spectrophotometer. 1 μ g of the total RNA was subjected to reverse transcription using oligo-dT and PrimeScript™ 1st strand cDNA kit (Takara, Japan). Transcript levels

were determined using the SYBR Green master mix and Corbett Rotor-Gene 6000. The GAPDH-normalized transcript data are shown as relative expression levels in the small molecules cocktail compared to the corresponding level in positive control group. The primer sequences for qRT-PCR are listed in Supplementary Table 2.

Animals and xeno-transplantation study

Xeno-Transplantation was done as reported previously by our group (23). Briefly, on embryonic days E11.5– E13.5, each NMRI embryo injected intraperitoneally with $2-3 \times 10^4$ fresh CD34⁺ cells or their entire progeny following 10 days expansion. To repopulate CD34⁺ cells, newborn mice were treated with human hematopoietic growth factors (Interleukin 3 (IL-3) 4 ng/g, SCF (4 ng/g) and granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) 50 ng/g), beginning at 3 weeks of age. Then the percentage of human CD45 cells (as a marker of human chimerism) in peripheral blood of recipients was assessed monthly up to 4 months post birth. After staining the peripheral blood with anti-Human CD45, at least 10^5 cells were analyzed on a Partec system. Engraftment defined as detection of 0.2% or more human CD45 cells.

Statistical analysis

All the data were presented as mean \pm SD of at least three different biological replicates. One way ANOVA was used to analyze the MTS assay data and the two-tailed Student's t-test was used for statistical comparisons between the groups. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant difference.

Results

Optimization of small molecules doses for HSC expansion

The proper concentration of selected small molecules which was not cytotoxic for CD34⁺ cells was determined using MTS assay (Fig. 1). In consistent with the other studies, CD34⁺ cells cultivated in SB (10 μ M), Bpv (5 μ M), NAM (2.5 μ M) and Pur (4 μ M) were viable. However, predetermined concentrations of PD (1 μ M), Chir (3 μ M) and P μ (10 μ M) were toxic for UCB-HSCs. Therefore, lower concentrations of PD (0.25 μ M), Chir (0.37 μ M) and P μ (2.5 μ M) were added to the culture medium.

Figure 1. Dose finding and optimization for small-molecules (SB, Bpv, NAM, Pur, PD, Chir, P μ). In each graph, the middle column corresponds to the reference concentration of the small molecules based on the literatures. Cell viability was measured by MTS assay post 48 hours incubation with small molecules. The negative control in each group was used for normalization of data. Bars indicated as mean \pm SD at least five independent replicates. * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P \leq 0.001$, **** $P \leq 0.0001$.

SB, Chir and Bpv are sufficient for *ex vivo* expansion of UCB-CD34⁺ cells

We next did some serial experiments (Supplementary Fig. 1). In the first round of experiments, isolated UCB-CD34⁺ cells were cultured in the presence of cytokines (SCF, TPO and Flt3L) and selected small

molecules. In the other groups small molecules were deleted one by one from the pool of 7 SMs. Although, individual removal of SB, Chir, Bpv, Pur, NAM and P μ did not make significant differences in total nuclear cells (TNCs) number compared to the 7SMs group, removal of PD yielded increased total number of mononuclear cells (Fig. 2A). The precise effect of PD on *ex vivo* expansion of CD34⁺ cells has been discussed before (24). Additional round of small molecules removal showed that, deletion of NAM and Pur from the cocktail increased the fold expansion of TNCs and CD34⁺ cells. Furthermore, the groups lacking NAM and Pur had a higher colony forming potential, especially CFU-GM, compared to other groups containing small molecules (Fig. 2B). In next round, by removing P μ the number of CD34⁺ cells, CFU-GM and CFU-GEMM colonies was increased significantly compared to the PC group (Fig. 2C). In the final round removal of SB, Chir, or Bpv reduced the expansion of CD34⁺CD38⁻ cells and abolished formation of CFU-GM and CFU-GEMM colonies, showing that these are essential for CD34⁺ cell expansion (Fig. 2D). Although, there was no significant difference between the 3SMCs and the positive control in terms of TNC expansion, removal of Bpv slightly increased the TNC fold expansion compared to 3SMs group (118 to 140). Moreover, exclusion of each of the remaining three SMs (SB, Chir, or Bpv) had a dramatic negative impact on the expansion CD34⁺CD38⁻ cells. Expansion with these three SMs (SB, Chir and Bpv) produced a 2.7-fold increase in the number of CD34⁺CD38⁻ cells relative to positive control (17 vs. 47). Finally, a CFU assay was performed to determine if the optimal SM cocktail actually promotes the expansion of hUCB-HPCs. As shown in Fig. 2D, the number of total CFUs increased more than 3-fold when CD34⁺ cells were expanded in the presence of SB, Chir and Bpv for 10 days compared to the positive control. The expanded cells generated significantly more BFU and CFU-GM than the positive control ($p < 0.01$). However, the number of GEMMs in SM group was slightly greater than that of the PC, but the difference was not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$).

Figure 2. Characterization of expanded UCB-CD34⁺ cells in the presence/absence of different combinations of small molecules. TNC fold expansion, CD34⁺ cells percentage, fold expansion of CD34⁺ cells and colony forming potential of UCB-CD34⁺ cells was evaluated in each experiment. (A) 7 SMs cocktail (SB, PD, Chir, Bpv, NAM, Pur, P μ) and its derivative groups (B) 6 SMs cocktail (SB, Chir, Bpv, NAM, Pur, P μ) and its derivative groups (C) 4 SMs cocktail (SB, Chir, Bpv, P μ) and its derivative groups (D) 3 SMs cocktail (SB, Chir, Bpv). CD34⁺ cells cultivated in presence of SCF, FLT3L and TPO was used as positive control. Fold expansion was determined by dividing the total number of viable cells expressing the phenotype at the end of the culture by the input number of viable cells expressing the same phenotype (n=3). Statistically significant difference compared with positive control group, * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P \leq 0.001$.

The ability of 3SMs cocktail to enhance the short-term engraftment potential of *ex vivo* expanded CD34⁺ cells in the in utero transplanted NMRI mice

In order to evaluate the *in vivo* functional capability of the expanded CD34⁺ cells, we used in utero transplantation model (23). We transplanted 30-50 $\times 10^3$ freshly isolated hUCB-CD34⁺ cells or the cells harvested from the cultures with the same number of input hUCB-CD34⁺ cells in the presence or absence

of SMs cocktail into NMRI mouse embryos, E11.5-E13.5. Two weeks after birth, born mice were treated with human hematopoietic growth factors SCF (4ng/g), IL-3 (4ng/g) and G-CSF (50ng/g) for one week. As shown in Fig.3, by treatment with human hematopoietic factor, the hCD45⁺ chimerism was distinctly increased compared with initial values, 4 and 8 weeks post transplantation. 16 weeks after transplantation, the average human cell engraftment in the peripheral blood of the mice transplanted with freshly isolated hUCB CD34⁺ cells was about 1%. While, the percentage of CD45⁺ cells in 3SMs and positive control transplanted mice was 9 times and 3.4 times (3.6 ± 1 and 3.2 ± 0.3) respectively, compared to the unexpanded cell recipients (Fig. 3). In the other words, *ex vivo* expansion of hUCB CD34⁺ cells with SM cocktail resulted in 1.5 fold increase in human cell engraftment compared to the positive control.

Figure 3. Mean human engraftment levels in the peripheral blood of NMRI mice fetal transplanted with expanded hUCB-CD34⁺ cells. (A) The percentage of human CD45 cells in the peripheral blood of newborn mice. Each bar indicated mean \pm SD for at least 6 independent samples. **** $P \leq 0.0001$. (B) Each shape indicates the percentage of human CD45 expression in the peripheral blood of one newborn mouse. Mice with $\geq 0.2\%$ human cells were considered chimeric.

Ability of the optimal SMs cocktail to modulate the cell signaling pathways

Subsequently, RT-qPCR was performed in order to determine the expression of typical genes involved in HSC stemness. The result shows that the relative expression of the two major genes involved in the proliferation and self-renewal of HSCs, including *HOXB4* and *GATA2* as well as the HSC-specific marker, CD34, have significantly increased in the presence of 3SMs cocktail after normalization to the level of the PC group. Furthermore, the expression of the *CXCR4* gene involved in the migration and transplantation of HSCs has increased dramatically in the presence of 3SMs cocktail. The expression of other genes associated with self-renewal, such as *ABCG2*, *Notch* and *Bmi1*, does not show a significant difference between the groups (Fig. 4).

Figure 4. Treatment by SB, Chir and Bpv modifies the gene expression of UCB-CD34⁺ cells. Bars represent the mean fold-changes of gene expression in the 3 SMs-expanded cells relative to the positive control group detected by quantitative real-time PCR (n=3), * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P \leq 0.001$ vs. positive control.

Discussion

In recent years, small molecules have been widely used in the field of stem cell research. So far, there have been numerous indications for the successful use of small molecules to inhibit apoptotic and differentiation processes during hematopoietic stem cell reproduction (8). It seems that combination of two or more small molecules may produce a better result. For example, the effect of chir and insulin (10), chir and rapamycin (25) along with SCF, TPO and Flt3L have been reported to enhance the proliferation of mouse hematopoietic stem cells. The proliferation of human hematopoietic stem cells has also been studied in the presence of various combinations of 5Aza, TSA, VPA and NAM (26-28). Notably, based on

the cell status, synergistic/antagonistic interactions may have been created between the small molecules. As a result, the simultaneous use of small molecule compounds can produce unpredictable results compared to their individual use. To our knowledge this is the first study in which expansion of CD34⁺ cells is targeted through the simultaneous modulation of proliferation, differentiation and apoptosis signaling pathway.

Figure 5. The molecular mechanisms which through them SB, Chir and Bpv modulate proliferation, differentiation and survival of hematopoietic stem cells.

In this study, a cocktail of seven small molecules were selected to target the TGF β , ERK, Wnt, Akt, Hedgehog and P53 signaling pathways as well as the cell epigenome. Then, their best combination to induce efficient HSC expansion was screened through eliminative approach. To successful expansion of UCB-CD34⁺ cells, SCF, TPO and Flt3L which greatly affect the HSC signaling pathways were also added to the culture medium. Our experiments conducted us to this notion that addition of SB, Chir and Bpv to the HSC conventional HSC culture medium increases the efficiency of *ex vivo* expansion of CD34⁺ cells with 50-fold enhancement in the number of CD34⁺38⁻ cells. The small molecule cocktail can also augment colony formation ability of expanded cells (Fig. 2). All these changes were associated with up-regulation of HOXB4, GATA2 as well as CD34 gene. Moreover, here, higher engraftment potential and higher percentage of human CD45 cells in infused mice confirm the *in vivo* potential of the expanded cells in the presence of small molecule cocktail.

According to our findings, the best result is obtained by simultaneous controlling of PTEN/Akt, Wnt/ β -catenin and TGF β signaling pathways. In such a way that Bpv leads to exiting the cells from the quiescence and proliferation through inhibiting PTEN and enhancing the Akt pathway. On the other hand, Chir indirectly inhibits the differentiation process through GSK3 inhibition and β -Catenin activation. All of these events occur while TGF β , the most important apoptotic pathway is inhibited by SB (Fig. 5).

PI3K-AKT pathway is one of the most important pathways affecting a wide range of stem cells cellular signaling molecules (29). In particular, many apoptotic proteins such as Bim and Bcl-2 can be inactivated by the pathway. AKT, also, inhibits certain cell cycle inhibitors such as P21 and P27 and activates Cyclin D, which in turn leads to exit from G0 and entry into the cell cycle (30). Furthermore, Akt facilitates the migration of HSCs and their binding to the bone marrow stromal cells through induction of integrin expression (31, 32). PTEN is a tumor suppressor protein that inhibits the PI3K-AKT pathway. Actually, inhibition of PTEN leads to increased survival, proliferation, self-renewal as well as incomplete differentiation potential of embryonic stem cells (33) and also *in vitro* proliferation of HSCs (10).

Wnt pathway not only plays a critical role in development of embryonic stem cells (34), but also in proliferation and differentiation of adult stem cells including HSCs (35, 36). The major effects of Wnt are applied through β -catenin which can increase the self-renewal and proliferation of HSCs, even independently of Wnt pathway (37, 38). According to previous studies, accumulation of the β -catenin,

following GSK3 inactivation, facilitates maintenance the pluripotency state of embryonic and adult stem cells (39, 40).

TGF β is one of the major negative regulators of HSC proliferation (41). The pathway, specifically, inhibits cell cycle progression through induction of P57 expression; which, in turn leads to CyclinD-Cdk4/6 and CyclinE-Cdk2 inactivation. P38MAPK is also a downstream molecule of TGF β pathway which its inhibition results in decreased in vitro apoptosis and aging of HSCs (41). JNK is another downstream target of TGF β which activates some apoptotic factors such as Bcl2, Bad. Therefore, inhibition of TGF β pathway not only leads to P57, P38MAPK, and JNK inhibition which is associated with cell cycle promotion, but also inhibits the apoptotic pathways (42-44).

Altogether, a cocktail of SB431542, Chir99021 and Bpv, which respectively inhibits the TGF β differentiation pathway and activates the Wnt and Akt pathways, can be used to improve the conventional protocol of HSC expansion.

Abbreviations

UCB: Umbilical cord blood, HSCs: Hematopoietic stem cells, SMs: Small molecules, SB: SB431542, Pur: Purmorphamin, PD: PD0325901, Chit: Chir9901, Bpv: Bisperoxovanadium, P μ : Pifithrin- μ , NAM: Nicotinamide, CFUs: Colony-forming units, BFUs-E: Burst-forming units-erythroid, CFUs-GM: CFUs Granulocyte-macrophage, CFUs-GEMM: CFUs Granulocyte-erythrocyte-macrophage-megakaryocyte

Declarations

Acknowledgments

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Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and in supplementary figures.

Ethics approval

All the experiments in this study were reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of Royan institute and was conducted in accordance with the ethical principles and the national norms and standards for conducting Medical Research in Iran (IR.ACECR.ROYAN.REC.1398.189).

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Author details

¹Department of Stem Cells and Developmental Biology, Cell Science Research Center, Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology, ACECR, Tehran, Iran.² Royan Stem Cell Technology Company, Cord Blood Bank, Tehran, Iran.³Animal Core Facility, Reproductive Biomedicine Research Center, Royan Institute for Animal Biotechnology, ACECR, Tehran, Iran.

Authors' Contributions

M.Z., E.A.; Performed all *in vitro* experiments, analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript. M.H.A.; Performed *in vivo* experiment and analyzed the *in vivo* data. M.E.; Contributed to concept and design, financial support, and final approval of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Figures

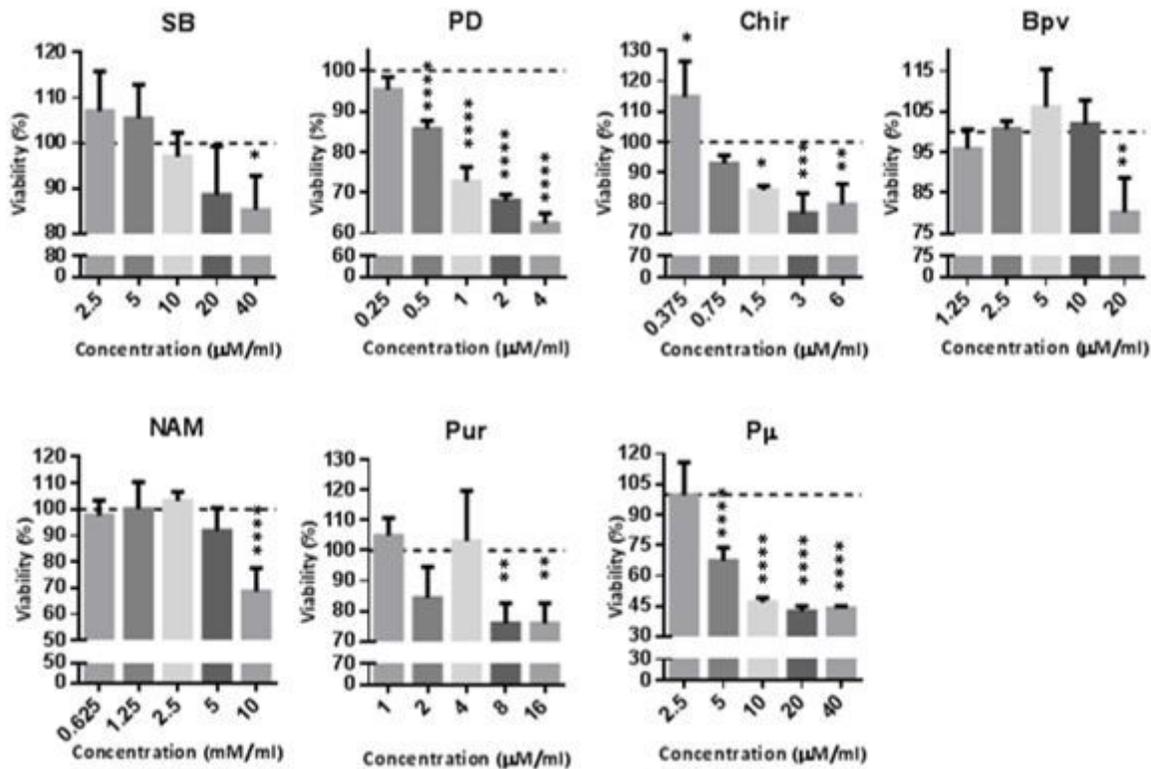


Figure 1

The cytotoxic effect of selected small molecules (SB, Bpv, NAM, Pur, PD, Chir and Pμ) on UCB-HSCs. In each graph, the middle column corresponds to the reference concentration of the small molecules based on literatures. Two-point lower and Two-higher concentrations were selected for cytotoxic assay. Cell viability was measured by MTS assay post 48 hours incubation with small molecules. The negative control in each group was used for normalization of data. Bars indicated as mean \pm SD at least five independent replicates. * $P \leq 0.05$, ** $P \leq 0.01$, *** $P \leq 0.001$, **** $P \leq 0.0001$.

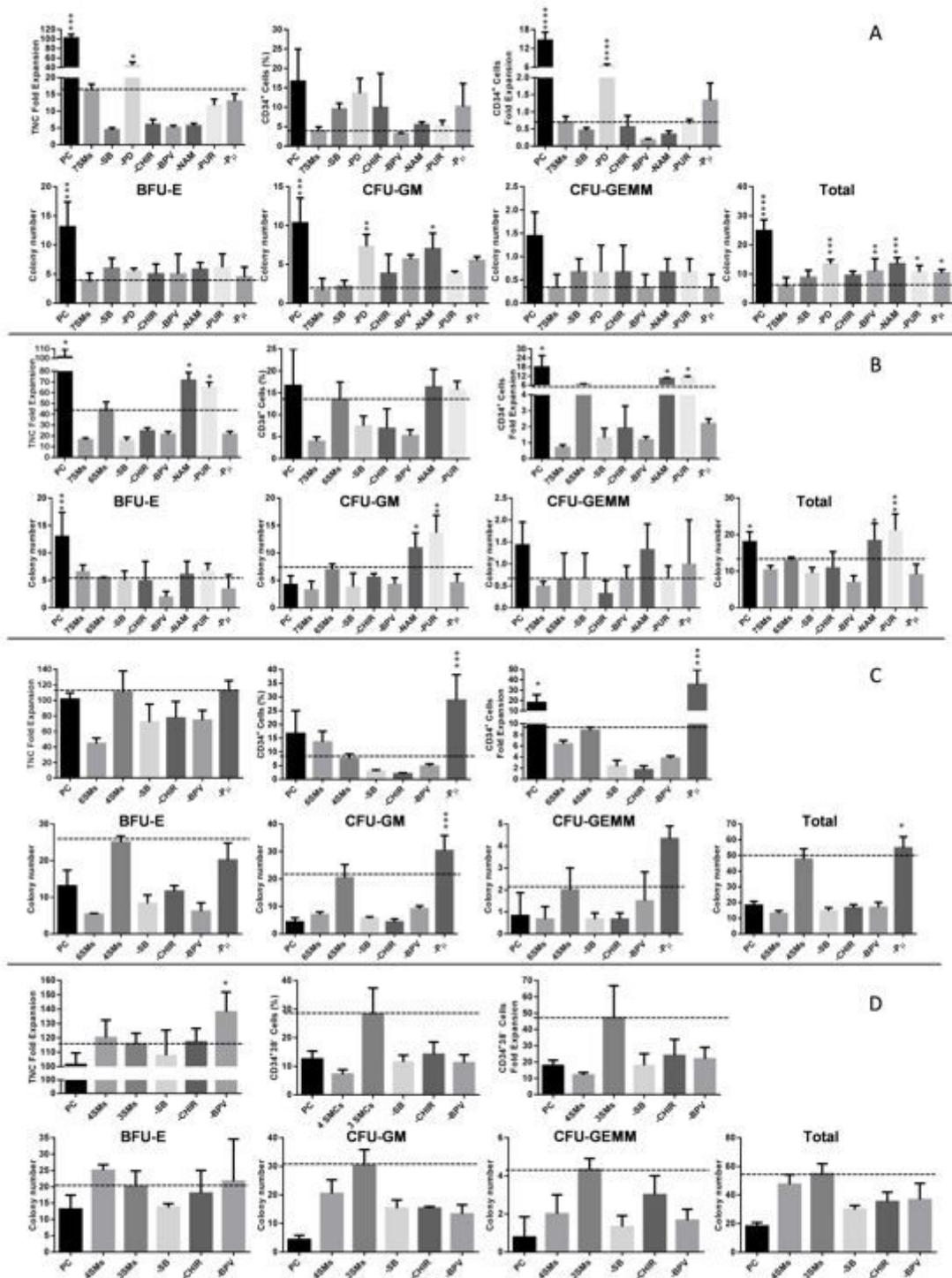


Figure 2

Characterization of expanded UCB-CD34⁺ cells in the presence or absence of different combination of small molecules. TNC fold expansion, CD34⁺ cells percentage, fold expansion of CD34⁺ cells and colony forming potential of UCB-CD34⁺ cells was evaluated in each experiment. (A) 7 SMs cocktail (SB, PD, Chir, Bpv, NAM, Pur, P_μ) and its derivative groups (B) 6 SMs cocktail (SB, Chir, Bpv, NAM, Pur, P_μ) and its derivative groups (C) 4 SMs cocktail (SB, Chir, Bpv, P_μ) and its derivative groups (D) 3 SMs cocktail (SB,

Chir, Bpv). CD34+ cells cultivated in presence of SCF, FLT3L and TPO was used as positive control. Fold expansion was determined by dividing the total number of viable cells expressing the phenotype at the end of the culture by the input number of viable cells expressing the same phenotype (n=3). Statistically significant difference compared with positive control group, *P≤0.05, ** P≤0.01,***P≤0.001.

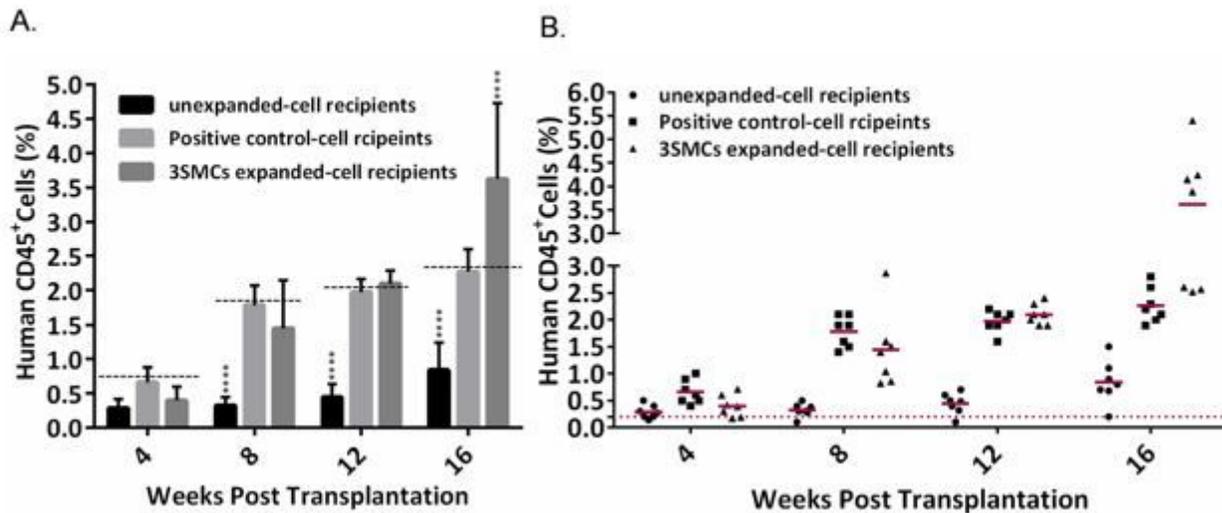


Figure 3

Mean human engraftment levels in the peripheral blood of NMRI mice fetal transplanted with expanded hUCB-CD34+ cells. (A) The percentage of human CD45 cells in the peripheral blood of newborn mice. Each bar indicated mean±SD for at least 6 independent samples. ****P≤0.0001. (B) Each shape indicates the percentage of human CD45 expression in the peripheral blood of one newborn mouse. Mice with ≥0.2% human cells were considered chimeric.

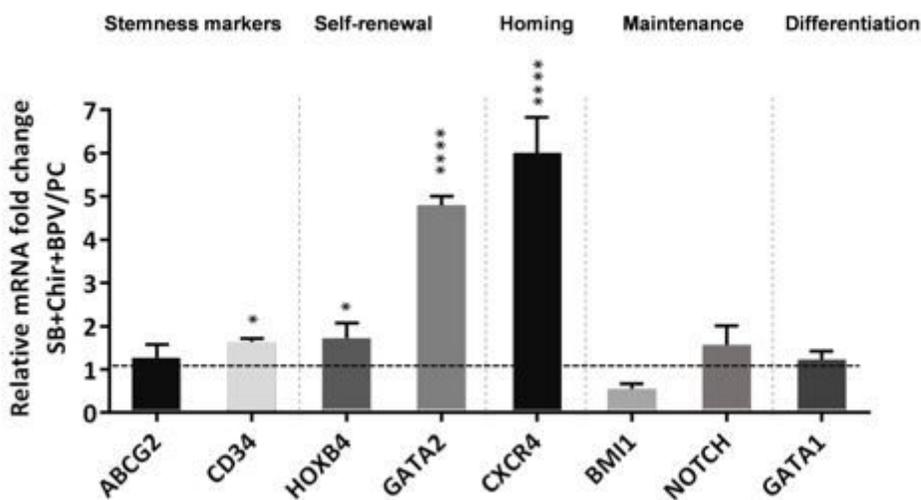


Figure 4

Treatment by SB, Chir and Bpv modifies the gene expression of UCB-CD34+ cells. Bars represent the mean fold-changes of gene expression in the 3 SMs-expanded cells relative to the positive control group detected by quantitative real-time PCR (n=3), *P≤0.05, **P≤0.01, ***P≤0.001 vs. positive control.

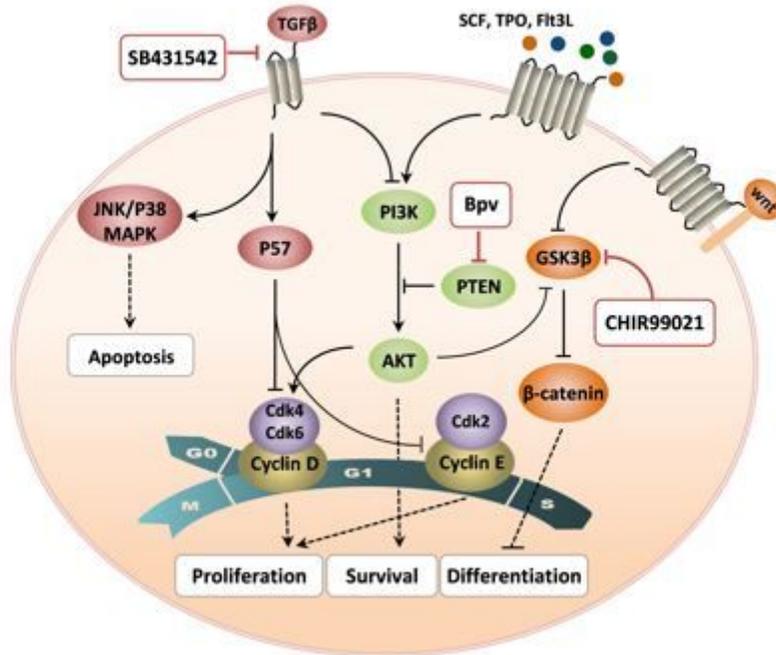


Figure 5

The molecular mechanisms which through them SB, Chir and Bpv modulate proliferation, differentiation and survival of hematopoietic stem cells.

Supplementary Files

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