

# AQP0 is a novel surface marker for deciphering abnormal erythropoiesis

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## Research

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# Abstract

## Background

Hematopoiesis occurs in the bone marrow, producing whole spectrum of blood cells to maintain homeostasis. In addition to light microscopy, chromosome analysis, and polymerase chain reaction, flow cytometry is a feasible, fast, and quantitative analysis method to examine hematological diseases. However, because the lack of sufficient specific cell markers, dyserythropoiesis diseases are not easy to be identified by flow cytometry.

**Methods:** Bone marrow samples from C57BL/B6 mice and one healthy donor were analyzed using traditional 2-marker (CD71 and glycophorin A) flow cytometry analysis. After cell sorting, gene expression of membrane proteins in early and late erythropoiesis precursors and in non-erythroid cells were characterized using microarray analysis.

## Results

Among characterized gene candidates, aquaporin 0 (AQP0) expresses as a surface protein in early and late stage erythropoiesis precursors and is not expressed on non-erythroid cells. In this present study, with assistant of AQP0 staining, we can define up to 5 stages of erythropoiesis in both mice and human bone marrow using flow cytometry. In addition, because patients with dyserythropoiesis generally displayed a reduced population of AQP0 high cells as compared to the normal subjects, analyses results also suggested that the levels of AQP0 high cells in the early erythropoiesis may serve as novel biomarker to distinguish normal versus dysregulated erythropoiesis.

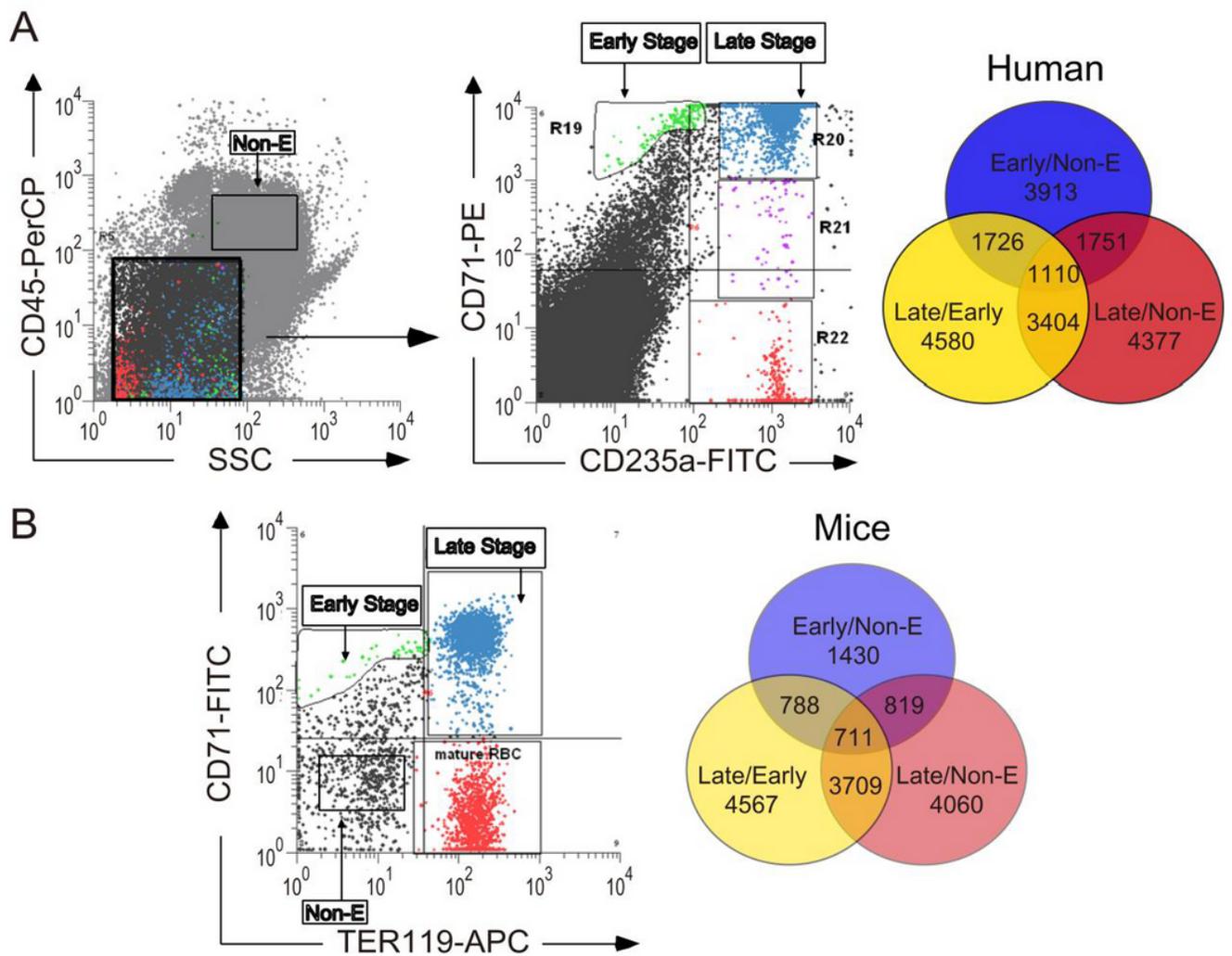
## Conclusions

AQP0 was successfully demonstrated as an erythroid differentiation marker. The expression levels of AQP0 are down-regulated in patients with dyserythropoiesis, implicating a critical and functional role of AQP0 in erythropoiesis. Accordingly, the levels of AQP0 high population in early erythroid precursor cells may serve as a reference parameter for diagnosing diseases associating with dyserythropoiesis.

## Full Text

This preprint is available for [download as a PDF](#).

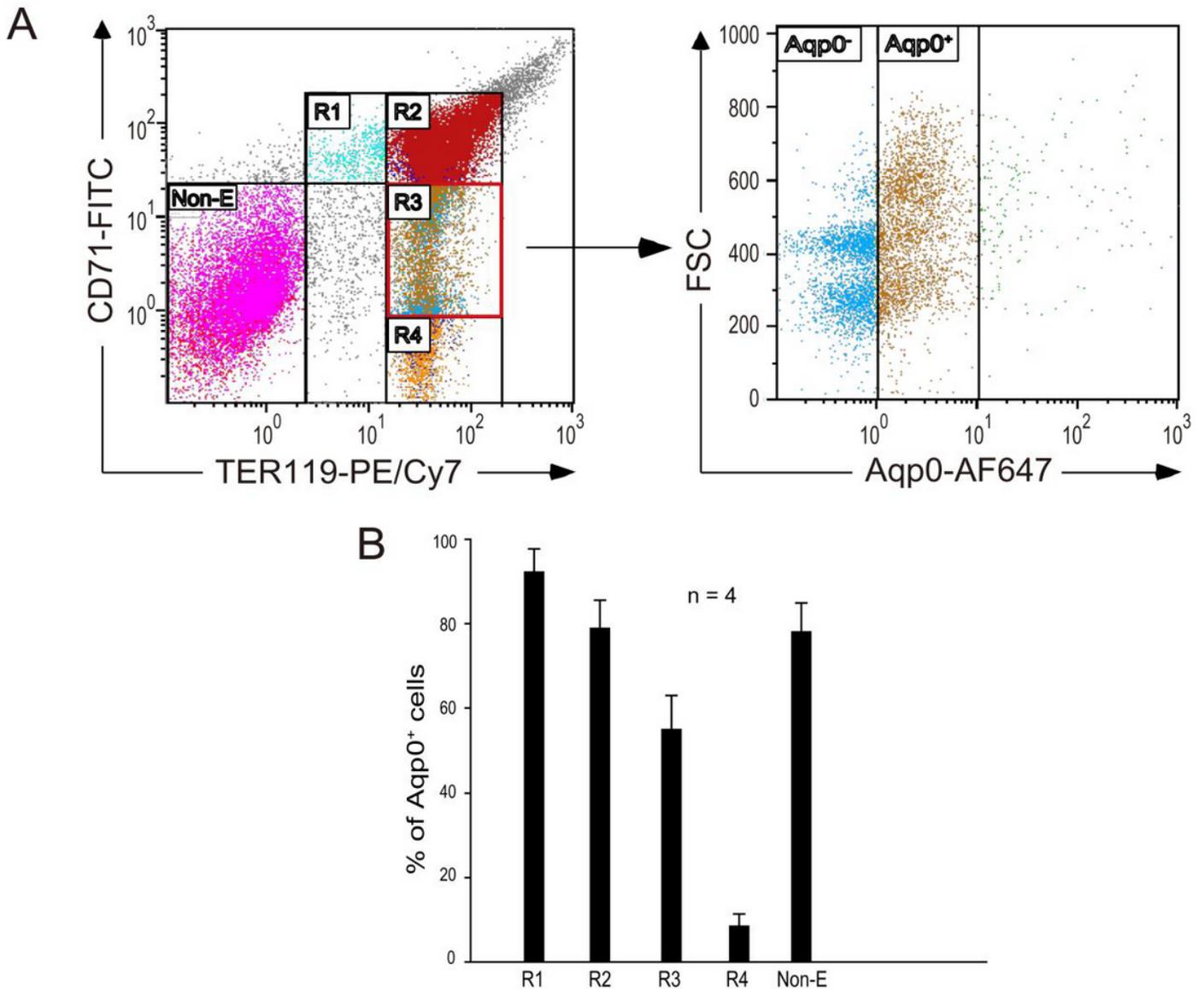
## Figures



**Figure 1**

Microarray analysis of sorted erythroid differentiation stages from human and mouse bone marrow. Panel A shows human cells. Panel B shows mouse cells. The Venn diagrams illustrate the number of genes specifically expressed in each stage and the overlap between groups.

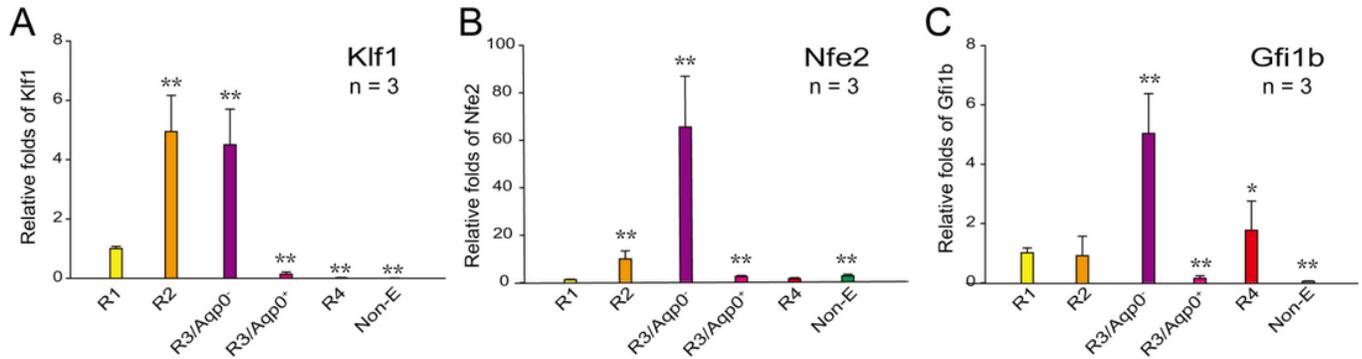
stage 2.1 re stage of erythropoiesis, respectively. The numbers 1430 and 4.0 indicate the gene numbers specifically expressed only and late erythroid differentiation stages compared to non-erythroid number 4567 indicates the gene number specifically expressed 0010, erythroid differentiation stage compared to early erythroid differentiation stage. The numbers 819 3709, and 788 indicate the gene numbers shared between each 2-group: late non-erythroid vs. early non-erythroid, late non-erythroid vs. early and late early vs. early, non-erythroid. The number 711 indicates the gene number shared with all 3 groups (early non-erythroid, late non-erythroid, 2201 re/early).



**Figure 2**

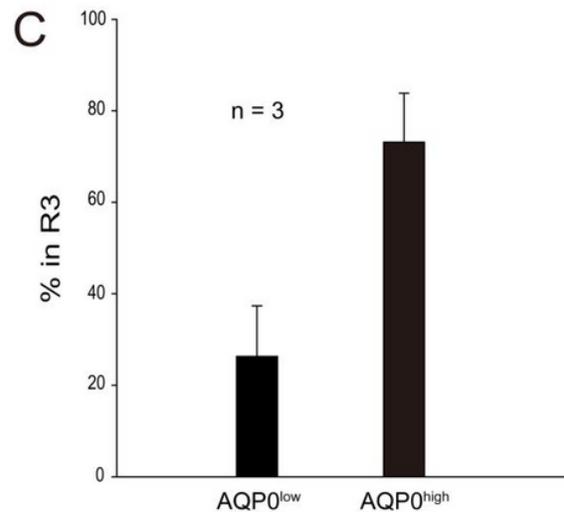
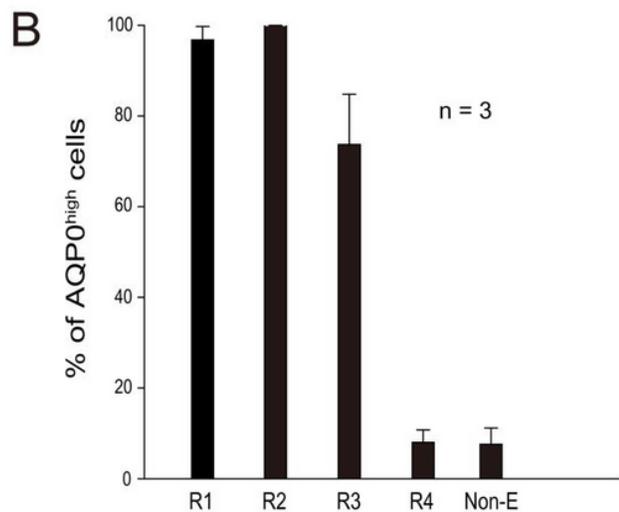
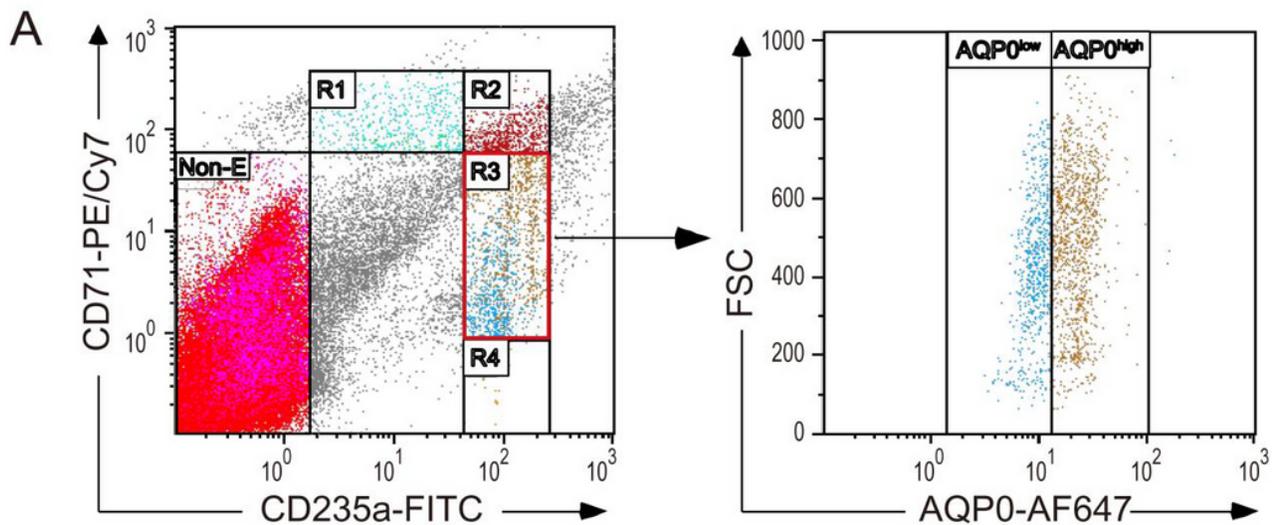
Characterization of erythropoiesis stages using 3 surface markers (Can, TER119, and Amk) Flow cytometry analysis of bone marrow cells was performed. Cells were isolated and stained with anti-CD71-FITC antibodies conjugated with FITC, anti-TER119-PE/Cy7, and anti-Aqp0 antibodies conjugated with AF647. Cells were gated as non-erythroid (CD71<sup>+</sup> TER119<sup>-</sup>),

can.vram00,0370-frmul9.°, and CDn-fram(.w.:reaea as region I Oil), region 2 (II2). region 3 (II3). and region 4 (M), respectively F3 was gated and analyzed the relations], between FSC (cell sere) and A))) expresmon. The percentages f Aqp0 ell m each populaton were analyzed and gum.. (B) [Mare representahve of 4 Independent expernents and reported as meal, standard demahon (SD)



**Figure 3**

Relative mRNA expression of erythroid specific transcription factors in each erythroid ...lawn stage Mace bone marrow cells were isolated and sorted as R1, R2, R3/Aqp0-, 123/..41e, R4, and Non-erythroid populations based on the fluorescence sten., a 3 erythroid speafic cell surface markers (CD71., TER110 and Aqp0) The mRNA expression level of each gene in R1 region was normalized to R1. Relative folds of mRNA expression of Klf1 (A), Nfe2 (B), and Gfi1b (C) in each cell population compared to R1 were analyzed using quantitative reverse polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) assay. Data are representative of 3 independent experiments and reported as mean ± SD, \* < 0.05 and \*\* < 0.01 compared with R1 groups.



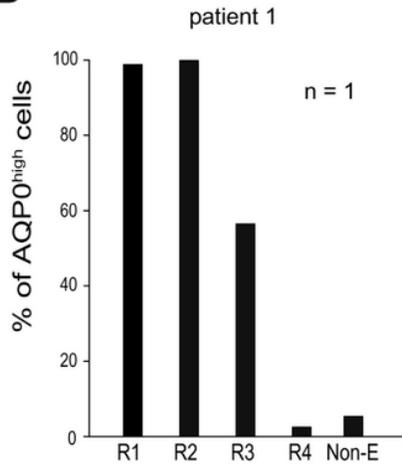
**Figure 4**

Characterization of human erythropoiesis stages using 3 surface markers (CD71, CD235a, and AQP0). Flow cytometry analysis of human erythropoiesis (A) Human bone marrow cells were isolated a. slm. with ant-CD71 antibodies conjugated with P&Cy7, anti-CD235a antibodies conjugated with FITC, anti-AQP0 antibodies conjugated with Alexa 647. CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD235a<sup>+</sup> cells were gated as non-erythroid cells (Non-E), CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD235a<sup>+</sup>, CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD235a<sup>+</sup>, CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD235a<sup>+</sup> were defined as region 1 (R1), region 2 (R2), region 3 (R3), and region 4 (R4), respectively. R1 was gated and analyzed the relationship between FSC (cell size) and AQP0 expression. The percentages of AQP0<sup>+</sup> cells in each population were analyzed and quantified (B). The percentages of AQP0<sup>+</sup> and AQP0<sup>+</sup> cells were shown (C). Data are representative of 3 independent experiments and reported as mean, SD.

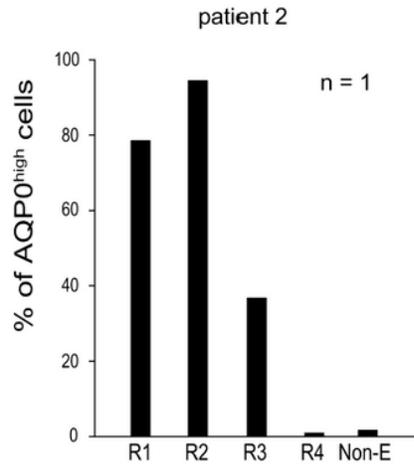
A

	WBC (10 <sup>3</sup> /μl)	RBC (10 <sup>6</sup> /μl)	Hb (g/dL)	Hct (%)	MCV (fL)	MCH (pg)	MCHC (%)	PLT (10 <sup>3</sup> /μl)
patient 1	6.46	4.93	14.4	41.6	84.4	29.2	34.6	260
patient 2	6.76	4.18	9.2 ↓	29.4 ↓	70.3 ↓	22.0 ↓	31.3	386
patient 3	10.01	3.07 ↓	8.7 ↓	26.2 ↓	85.3	28.3	33.2	44 ↓

B



C



D

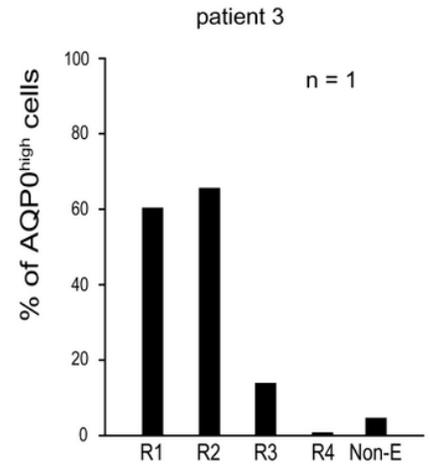


Figure 5

Characterization of ea-Ampex. errata. us, 3 surface markers (CD71, CD2353, and AQP0) The clinical complete blood count (CBC) values of 3 patients (A) were bone marrow cells from 3 patients were isolated, stained with anti-CD1371 conjugated with PE-Cy7, anti-CD2353 antibody conjugated with FITC, and anti-AQP0 antibody conjugated with Alexa Fluor 647. CD1371<sup>+</sup>/CD2353<sup>+</sup> cells were gated as erythroid progenitor cells (CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD2353<sup>+</sup>, CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD2353<sup>+</sup>, CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD2353<sup>+</sup>, and CD71<sup>+</sup>/CD2353<sup>+</sup> cells were determined in (ID), region 2 (R2), region 3 (R3), and region 4 (R4), respectively as was gated and analyzed with respect to expression of ESC (cell surface) and AQP0 expression. The percentages of AQP0<sup>high</sup> cells in each population were analyzed in patient 1 (B), patient 2 (C), and patient 3 (D). Data are representative of independent experiments.