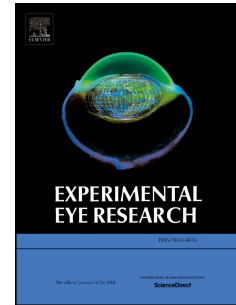


# Accepted Manuscript

Establishment of a conditionally immortalized mouse optic nerve astrocyte line

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PII: S0014-4835(18)30161-1

DOI: [10.1016/j.exer.2018.07.011](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exer.2018.07.011)

Reference: YEXER 7433

To appear in: *Experimental Eye Research*

Received Date: 2 March 2018

Revised Date: 6 July 2018

Accepted Date: 8 July 2018

Please cite this article as: Liu, Y., Patel, G.C., Mao, W., Clark, A.F., Establishment of a conditionally immortalized mouse optic nerve astrocyte line, *Experimental Eye Research* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.exer.2018.07.011.

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## 1 Establishment of a conditionally immortalized mouse optic nerve astrocyte line

### 2 Abstract

3 Optic nerve astrocytes play a major role in axonal degeneration and regeneration. Astrocyte lines are an  
4 important tool to elucidate the responsible cellular mechanisms. In this study, we established a  
5 conditionally immortalized mouse optic nerve astrocyte line. Astrocytes were cultured from explants  
6 derived from postnatal day 5-7 *H-2k<sup>b</sup>-tsA58* transgenic mouse optic nerves. Cells were cultured in  
7 defined astrocyte culture medium under permissive (33°C) or non-permissive (38.5°C) temperature with  
8 or without interferon- $\gamma$  (IFN- $\gamma$ ). Astrocytes were characterized by immunocytochemistry staining using  
9 antibodies against glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) and neural cell adhesion molecule (NCAM). Cell  
10 proliferation rates were determined by cell growth curves and percentage of Ki67 positive cells.  
11 Karyotyping was performed to validate the mouse origin of established cell line. Conditional  
12 immortalization was assessed by western blot-determined expression levels of SV40 large T antigen  
13 (TAg), p53, GFAP and NCAM in non-permissive culture conditions. In addition, phagocytic activity of  
14 immortalized cells was determined by flow cytometry-based pHrodo fluorescence analysis. After 5 days in  
15 culture, cells migrated out from optic nerve explants. Immunocytochemistry staining showed that  
16 migrating cells expressed astrocyte makers, GFAP and NCAM. In permissive conditions, astrocytes had  
17 increased expression levels of TAg and p53, exhibited a greater cell proliferation rate as well as a higher  
18 percentage of Ki67 positive cells ( $n=3$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) compared to cells cultured in non-permissive conditions.  
19 One cell line (ImB1ON) was further maintained through 60 generations. Karyotyping showed that  
20 ImB1ON was of mouse origin. Flow cytometry-based pHrodo fluorescence analysis demonstrated  
21 phagocytic activity of ImB1ON cells. Quantitative PCR showed mRNA expression of trophic factors. Non-  
22 permissive culture conditions decreased expression of TAg and p53 in ImB1ON, and increased the  
23 expression of NCAM. A conditionally immortalized mouse optic nerve astrocyte line was established.  
24 This cell line provides an important tool to study astrocyte biological processes.

25 Key words: optic nerve astrocyte, cell line, conditional immortalization

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