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Research Article

A tyrosine kinase Src; regulator of bone homeostasis

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ABSTRACT

The balance of bone formation by osteoblasts and bone resorption by osteoclasts is important for bone homeostasis. Pathologic high activity of osteoclasts and repression of bone osteoblastic bone formation result in bone metabolic diseases such as periodontal disease. To understand the mechanism of osteoblast and osteoclast function leads to establishment of therapy for bone metabolic disease. A tyrosine kinase Src deficient mice shows osteopetrosis because of defect bone resorbing activity and acceleration bone formation. This indicates Src is a key molecule to regulate bone resorption and bone formation. We discuss about the role of Src in osteoclast and osteoblast and entire bone metabolism.

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Introduction

Bone formation by osteoblast and bone resorption by osteoclasts are coordinately regulates bone homeostasis [1]. Accentuation of bone resorption compared with bone formation results in metabolic bone disease such as osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis and periodontitis [1-3]. Abnormal bone formation by osteoblast due to tooth ankylosis in dental field [4]. Thus, the normal activity balance between osteoclasts and osteoblasts are important in health promotion. The tyrosine Src deficient mice show osteopetrosis because of decreased osteoclastic bone resorption activity and osteoblastic bone formation acceleration [5-7]. This indicates Src is one of the important regulators of bone homeostasis. Understanding of the molecular role of Src will develop methods of treatment for the bone metabolic disease.

The role of Src in osteoclasts

Src plays important role in cell proliferation, cell growth, cell spreading and cell migration [7-11]. However, only phenotype Src deficient mice have osteopetrosis because of defect of bone resorption and activation of bone formation [6, 7]. Src has 8 family members and these family members may complement the role of Src in many tissues. The expression and activation of Src is strictly regulated lower level by

several systems in many tissues [12-19]. On the other hand, expression level and activation is very high in osteoclasts [20]. This shows there is unique regulatory mechanism of Src in osteoclasts. In many tissues, c-terminal Src kinase (Csk) phosphorylates the tyrosine in Src c-terminal and negatively regulates Src kinase activity [14]. Even though Csk is expressed as much as other tissue, Src activity is highly regulated in osteoclasts. Src is localized around cell membrane by myristoylation or palmitoylation of its n-terminal. On the other hand, Csk is ubiquitously localized in cytoplasm because Csk does not have transmembrane domain. Phosphoprotein membrane anchor with glycosphingolipid microdomains 1 (PAG) / Csk binding protein (Cbp) binds Csk and recruits Csk when Csk inhibits Src activity [21]. In osteoclasts, Cbp expression is suppressed by Receptor activator NF- κ B ligand (RANKL) during osteoclast differentiation. As the results, Csk cannot be localized in cell membrane and regulate Src activity [16]. In recent study, Src localization is regulated by protein phosphatase 1 regulatory protein 18 (PPP1R18) and Protein phosphatase 1 (PP1) complex through dephosphorylation of Serine residue of Src n-terminal domain [17]. Actin ring formation and bone resorbing activity of osteoclasts are suppressed due to separation of Src from cell membrane by PPP1r18 and PP1 complex [17].

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Osteoclasts lose attachment to bone matrix at sealing zone and acidic environment to bone resorption, although osteoclasts are differentiated and survive in Src deficient mice. Moreover, Src deficient osteoclasts did not form a characteristic actin structure, actin ring corresponding with sealing zone because of disturbance of actin organization in vitro [16, 22]. This indicates Src regulates actin organization although Src does not have an actin binding domain [10]. Thus, it needs some actin regulatory proteins in regulation of actin ring formation by Src in osteoclasts. Src makes complex with many proteins such as Cortactin, p130Cas, c-Cbl, Cbl-b, Pyk2, Dynamin and Vav3 to promote actin ring formation [23-27]. Recently, an actin binding protein Plectin is reported as a Src binding and actin ring regulatory protein [28, 29]. These proteins are essential for actin ring formation and bone resorption.

The role of Src in osteoblasts and osteocytes

Src expression and activity is not so higher in osteoblasts and osteocytes than other tissues. However, bone formation by osteoblasts is promoted in Src deficient mice [5]. This result indicates Src has a specific role in osteoblasts. The transcriptional factor runt related transcription factor 2 (Runx2) is essential for osteoblast differentiation and plays a master regulator of osteoblast differentiation and bone formation [30]. Runx2

localization to nuclear and transcriptional activity is inhibited by binding to Yes associated protein 1 (YAP) through YAP phosphorylation by Src [31]. This study indicates Src plays an inhibitory protein of Runx2 in osteoblasts. On the other hand, it is reported that Src phosphorylates Osterix, a transcriptional factor that is essential for osteoblast differentiation subsequent to Runx2 activation and up-regulates Osterix nuclear localization and osteoblast differentiation [32, 33]. Together, Src has functions both activation and inhibition of osteoblast differentiation. To think of the phenotype of Src deficient mice, other Src family kinase may rescue Osterix nuclear localization but may not interrupt Runx2 activation.

Osteocytes are differentiated from osteoblasts and regulate the balance of bone remodeling [1]. Osteocytes receive mechanical stress and regulate bone mass [34, 35]. Src suppresses anabolic gene expression in osteocytes under mechanical loading [36].

Altogether, Src promotes osteoclastic bone resorption and suppresses osteoblast function (Figure). Regulation of Src function is one of the targets of therapy for periodontal disease and other bone metabolic disease. Src inhibitor is one of the candidates of treatment [37].

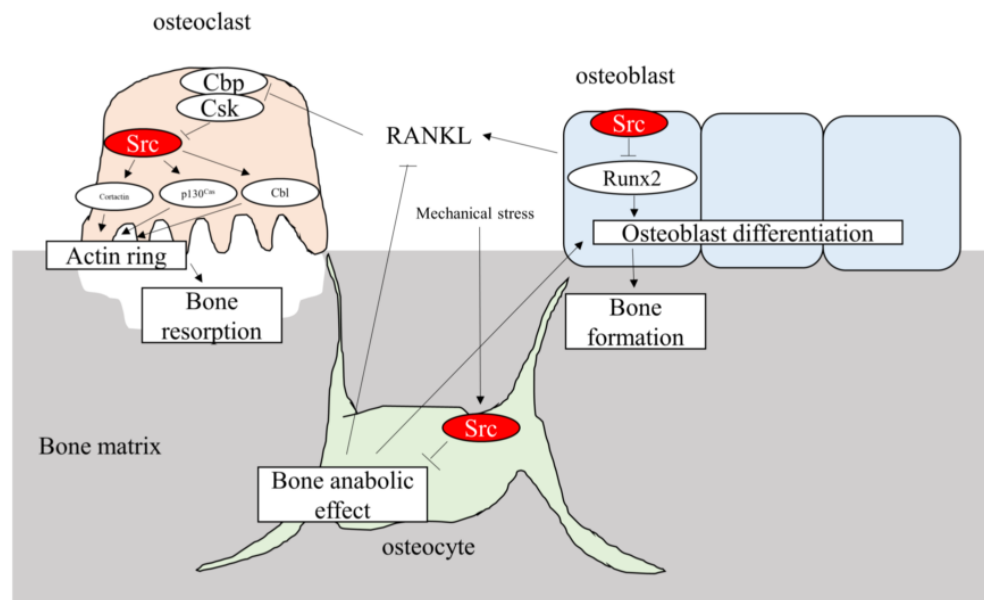


Figure: Schema of Src function in osteoclast, osteoblast and osteocyte. Src plays a central role in osteoclastic bone resorption through actin organization. Src is a negative regulator of Runx2 transcriptional activity and osteoblast differentiation. Src also receives mechanical stress and regulates bone homeostasis in osteocyte.

Conflict of interest

All authors state that they have no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgements Affiliations

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