

Multi-Specific Monoclonal Antibody MsMab-2 Recognizes IDH1-R132L and IDH2-R172M Mutations

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Mutations of isocitrate dehydrogenase 1/2 (IDH1/2) produce oncometabolite R(-)-2-hydroxyglutarate in several tumors. Arginine 132 (R132) of IDH1 and arginine 172 (R172) of IDH2 are functionally important residues. Although MsMab-1 monoclonal antibody (MAb), which is multi-specific for mutated IDH1/2, has been established, MsMab-1 does not react with all IDH1/2 mutations. Herein, we immunized rats with IDH1-R132L peptide, and screened IDH1-R132L-reactive/IDH1-wild-type non-reactive MAbs in enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Unexpectedly, the newly established MsMab-2 MAb recognized not only IDH1-R132L but also IDH2-R172M in Western blot analyses, neither of which was detected by MsMab-1. Taken together, the combination of MsMab-1 and MsMab-2 could be useful in diagnosis of mutated IDH1/2-bearing tumors.

Introduction

ISOCITRATE DEHYDROGENASE 1/2 (IDH1/2) CATALYZES the oxidative carboxylation of isocitrate to α -ketoglutarate.⁽¹⁾ In contrast, somatic mutations of IDH1/2 were found to convert α -ketoglutarate to oncometabolite R(-)-2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG). Most changes by far are heterozygous. A recent report describes two gliomas that lost the wild-type IDH1 allele but retained the mutant IDH1 following tumor progression from anaplastic astrocytoma to glioblastoma.⁽²⁾ The intratumoral 2-HG level was 14-fold lower in the glioblastomas lacking wild-type IDH1 compared with glioblastomas of heterozygous IDH1 mutations, indicating that both wild-type and mutant IDH1 alleles are necessary for 2-HG production in glioma cells. It is noteworthy that the expression of mitochondrial IDH2 mutations led to robust 2-HG production in a manner that is independent of wild-type mitochondrial IDH function.⁽³⁾ Another report demonstrated that 2-HG can inhibit histone demethylation and that inhibition of histone demethylation can be sufficient to block the differentiation of non-transformed cells.⁽⁴⁾ Turcan and colleagues also showed that IDH1 mutation is sufficient to establish the glioma hypermethylator phenotype.⁽⁵⁾ Taken together, the blockade of 2-HG production by inhibiting the functional mutated IDH1/2 is thought to be an ideal molecular targeting therapy against gliomas and leukemias.^(6,7)

The IDH1 mutations are remarkably specific to a single codon in the conserved and functionally important arginine 132 residue (R132).⁽⁸⁾ In contrast, the IDH2 mutations are specific to a single codon in arginine 172 residue (R172). IDH2 mutations of leukemias were discovered subsequently in arginine 140 residue (R140), which is found more frequently than R172.⁽⁹⁾ In gliomas,

IDH1 mutations were reported as IDH1-R132H (664/716, 92.7%), IDH1-R132C (29/716, 4.2%), IDH1-R132S (11/716, 1.5%), IDH1-R132G (10/716, 1.4%), and IDH1-R132L (2/716, 0.2%).⁽¹⁰⁾ In contrast, IDH2 mutations were reported as IDH2-R172K (20/31, 64.5%), IDH2-R172M (6/31, 19.3%), and IDH2-R172W (5/31, 16.2%) in gliomas. To date, we have established several mono-specific monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) against IDH1/2 mutations.⁽¹¹⁻¹⁷⁾ A recent report has described a multi-specific anti-mutated IDH1/2 monoclonal antibody, MsMab-1, which is useful for diagnosis of IDH1/2 mutation-bearing gliomas.^(18,19) Herein, we report another multi-specific MAb, MsMab-2, which can react with MsMab-1-negative IDH1/2 mutations.

Materials and Methods

Cell lines

Chinese hamster ovary (CHO)-K1 and Sp2/0-Ag14 were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA) and was cultured at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air in RPMI 1640 medium, including 2 mM L-glutamine (Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS, Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA).

Hybridoma production

MsMab-2 was produced using rat medial iliac lymph node methods.⁽¹⁸⁾ The institutional animal committee approved our study. Briefly, WKY/Izm rats (Japan SLC Inc., Shizuoka, Japan) were immunized by injecting 170 μ g of synthetic peptides of CCGVVKPIIIGLHAYGDQYRA (IDH1-R132L), conjugated with KLH together with Freund's complete adjuvant

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(FCA, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) into the footpad. The lymphocytes were fused with mouse myeloma Sp2/0-Ag14 cells using polyethylene glycol (PEG). The culture supernatants were screened using ELISA for binding to the IDH1-R132L and IDH1-WT peptides, conjugated with BSA.

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

Synthetic peptides or recombinant proteins were immobilized on Nunc Maxisorp 96-well immunoplates (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA) at 1 µg/mL for 30 min. Synthetic peptides are as follows: GGVKPIII^RGHAYGDQYRA (IDH1-WT), GGVKPIII^HGHAYGDQYRA (IDH1-R132H), GGVKPIII^GGHAYGDQYRA (IDH1-R132G), GGVKPIII^LGHAYGDQYRA (IDH1-R132L), and GGVKPIII^VGHAYGDQYRA (IDH1-R132V). After blocking with SuperBlock T20 Blocking Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific), the plates were incubated with culture supernatant or purified MAbs (1 µg/mL) with subsequent 1:1000 diluted peroxidase-conjugated anti-rat IgG or anti-mouse IgG (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark). The enzymatic reaction was conducted with 1-Step Ultra TMB-ELISA (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The optical density was measured at 655 nm using an iMark microplate reader (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Philadelphia, PA). These reactions were performed with a volume of 50 µL at 37°C.

Plasmid preparation

Human IDH1 cDNA (GenBank accession no. AF113917) and human IDH2 cDNA (accession no. NM_002168) encoding a full-length open-reading frame (ORF) were obtained using PCR with a human lung cDNA library (Cosmobio Co., Tokyo, Japan) and cDNA derived from the U373 glioblastoma cell line as template, respectively. The primer set for IDH1 was: EcoRI-IDH1-F1, 5'-cacgaattcATGTCCAAAAAATCA GTGG-3' and SalI-IDH1-R1, 5'-gtggtcgacTTAAAGTTTGGC CTGAGCTA-3'; and for IDH2: EcoRI-IDH2.F1, 5'-ccgaattc gggATGGCCGGCTACCTGCGGG-3' and SalI-IDH2w-terR1359, 5'-gccgtcgacCTACTGCCTGCCAGGGCTCT-3'. The amplified cDNA was subcloned into a pcDNA3.1/V5-His-TOPO vector (Life Technologies). Substitution of the arginine 132 (R132) to appropriate amino acid codons in IDH1 or arginine 172 (R172) to appropriate amino acid codons in IDH2 was done using the QuikChange Lightning site-directed mutagenesis kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). The full-length IDH1 was subcloned into an expression vector, pMAL-c2 (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA), via EcoRI and SalI restriction sites. The full-length IDH2 and each mutated ORF were amplified using the primer set EcoRI-IDH2.F1 and IDH2woterR1356-XhoI, 5'-taactcgagcCTGCC TGCCAGGGCTCTG-3'. These PCR products were digested with EcoRI and XhoI restriction enzymes and were subcloned into pcDNA3 vector (Life Technologies) together with the nucleotide sequence (ctcgagTGGCGTTGCCATGCCAGGT GCCGAAGATGATGTGGTGTAAAtctaga), which encodes 12 amino acids, GVAMPGAEDDVV (PA tag).^(13,16,18,19)

Protein expression using bacteria cells and mammalian cells

Competent *Escherichia coli* TOP-10 cells (Life Technologies) were transformed with the plasmid pMAL-IDH1-WT, pMAL-

IDH1-R132H, pMAL-IDH1-R132C, pMAL-IDH1-R132S, pMAL-IDH1-R132G, pMAL-IDH1-R132L, or pMAL-IDH1-R132V. Then they were cultured overnight at 37°C in LB medium (Life Technologies) containing 100 µg/mL ampicillin (Sigma-Aldrich). Cell pellets were resuspended in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) with 1% Triton X-100 with 50 µg/mL aprotinin (Sigma-Aldrich). After sonication using Branson Advanced Sonifier (Branson Ultrasonics, Danbury, CT), the crude extracts were collected by centrifugation (9000 g, 30 min, 4°C). The supernatants were loaded onto amylose resin (New England Biolabs). The loaded resins were washed extensively with column buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.4], 200 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA). The fusion proteins were eluted by column buffer with 10 mM maltose. Then CHO cells were transfected with appropriate amounts of plasmids (pcDNA3.1/IDH1-WT, pcDNA3.1/IDH1-R132H, pcDNA3.1/IDH1-R132C, pcDNA3.1/IDH1-R132S, pcDNA3.1/IDH1-R132G, pcDNA3.1/IDH1-R132L, pcDNA3.1/IDH1-R132V, pcDNA3/IDH2-R172K, pcDNA3/IDH2-R172M, pcDNA3/IDH2-R172W, pcDNA3/IDH2-R172G, pcDNA3/IDH2-R172S) using Lipofectamine LTX (Life Technologies) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The expression level of IDH1/2 was confirmed using Western blot analysis.

Western blot analyses

Cultured cell pellets were lysed with PBS with 1% TritonX-100 for 30 min on ice. The lysate supernatants were centrifuged for 15 min at 15,000 rpm to remove cellular debris. Cell lysates were prepared for Western blot analyses by boiling in SDS sample buffer (Nacalai Tesque). They were electrophoresed on 5–20% polyacrylamide gels (Wako Pure Chemical Industries). The separated proteins were transferred to a PVDF membrane (EMD Millipore, Billerica, MA). After blocking with 4% skim milk in PBS with 0.05% Tween-20 for 15 min, the membrane was incubated with 1 µg/mL of primary antibodies for 30 min. Then the membrane was incubated with peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies (1:1000 diluted; Dako) for 15 min and developed with ImmunoStar LD Chemiluminescence Reagent (Wako Pure Chemical Industries) using Sayaca-Imager (DRC Co., Tokyo, Japan).

Results and Discussion

Production of an IDH1-R132L-specific monoclonal antibody

We previously established several mono-specific anti-mutated IDH1/2 MAbs: HMab-1 against IDH1-R132H, SMab-1 against IDH1-R132S, GMab-r1 against IDH1-R132G, KMab-1 against IDH2-R172K, MMab-1 against IDH2-R172M, and WMab-1 against IDH2-R172W.^(11–17) Recently we reported a multi-specific MAb MsMab-1 that recognizes IDH1-R132H, IDH1-R132S, IDH1-R132G, and IDH2-R172M, but not IDH1/2 wild type of mammalian cells in Western blot analyses.⁽¹⁸⁾ Furthermore, MsMab-1 is very useful in immunohistochemistry against mutated IDH1/2-possessing gliomas. However, MAbs against other IDH1/2 mutations, including IDH1-R132L, are still necessary to cover all IDH1/2 mutations in immunohistochemistry. Here, we immunized rats with synthetic peptides of IDH1-R132L and screened IDH1-R132L-reactive/IDH1 wild-type non-reactive MAbs using ELISA.

After limiting dilution, clone MsMab-2 (rat IgG_{2a}, kappa) against IDH1-R132L was established.

Specificity of multi-specific MAbs against IDH1 peptides and proteins in ELISA

The specificity of MsMab-2 and MsMab-1 was investigated by ELISA using synthetic IDH1 peptides (IDH1-WT, IDH1-R132H, IDH1-R132C, IDH1-R132S, IDH1-R132G, IDH1-R132L, IDH1-R132V) or purified IDH1 proteins expressed in *Escherichia coli*. As depicted in Figure 1A, MsMab-2 strongly reacted with IDH1-R132L peptide, moderately with IDH1-R132S, IDH1-R132G, and IDH1-R132V peptides, and very weakly with IDH1-R132H peptide. In contrast, MsMab-2 weakly recognized IDH1-R132S, IDH1-R132G, and IDH1-R132L recombinant proteins. Compatible with previous reports, MsMab-1 strongly recognized IDH1-R132H, IDH1-R132S, and IDH1-R132G peptides and weakly with IDH1-R132C and IDH1-R132L peptides (Fig. 1B). Recombinant proteins of IDH1-R132S and IDH1-R132G were detected strongly by MsMab-1, although the reaction against IDH1-R132H was slightly better compared with wild-type IDH1. When the concentration of coated IDH1-WT peptide or protein was increased or the concentration of MsMab-1 MAb was

increased in ELISA, the reactivity of MsMab-1 against IDH1-WT was also augmented (data not shown), demonstrating that the concentration of MsMab-1 MAb is very critical in immunohistochemistry to detect only IDH1/2 mutations. These results indicate that MsMab-2 is a multi-specific MAb against several IDH1 mutations, although MsMab-2 was produced by immunizing IDH1-R132L peptide.

Specificity of anti-mutated IDH MAbs in Western blot analyses

To further determine the specificity of MsMab-2 against IDH1/2 mutations, IDH1/2-WTs and IDH1/2 mutants (IDH1-R132H, IDH1-R132C, IDH1-R132S, IDH1-R132G, IDH1-R132L, IDH1-R132V, IDH2-R172K, IDH2-R172M, IDH2-R172W, IDH2-R172G, IDH2-R172S) were transiently expressed in CHO cells and were Western blotted using MsMab-2 and other anti-IDH1/2 MAbs. As shown in Figure 2, MsMab-2 recognized not only IDH1-R132L protein but also IDH2-R172M protein. Unexpectedly, the reactivity of MsMab-2 against IDH2-R172M was much stronger than that against IDH1-R132L. In contrast, MsMab-1 strongly reacted with IDH1-R132S, IDH1-R132G, IDH2-R172G, and IDH2-R172S; moderately with IDH1-R132H; and weakly with IDH2-R172M, indicating that MsMab-2 epitope is totally different from MsMab-1 epitope. Recombinant human IDH1 and endogenous hamster IDH1 proteins were detected by RcMab-1 MAb. In contrast, only IDH2-WT and IDH2-R172K were recognized by KrMab-3. These results indicate that only one

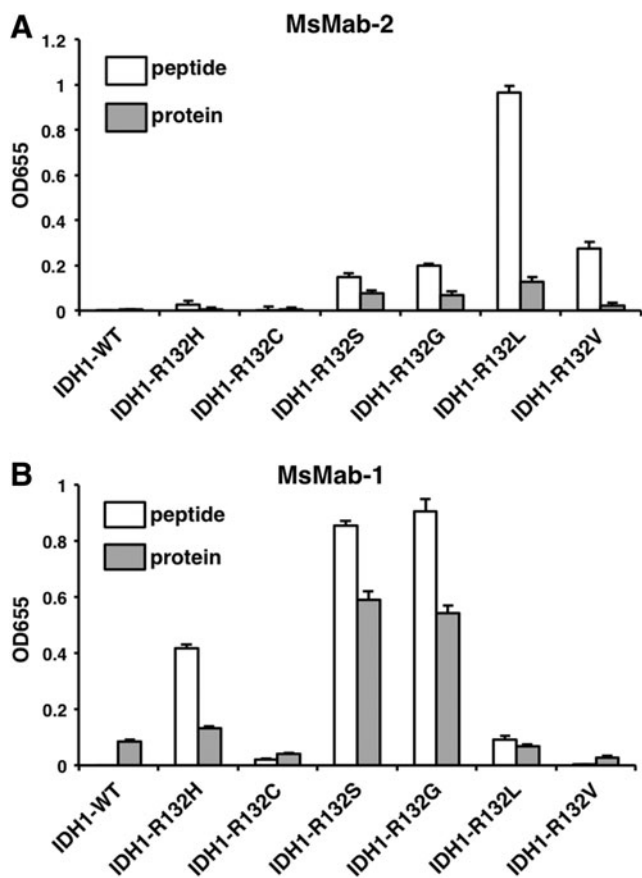


FIG. 1. Reactivity of multi-specific antibodies against IDH1 peptides and proteins by ELISA. Synthetic peptides or purified proteins of IDH1 wild type (WT) and mutants (R132H, R132C, R132S, R132G, R132L, R132V) expressed in *E. coli* were immobilized, followed by MsMab-2 (A) and MsMab-1 (B). Data are representative of mean \pm S.D. of triplicates.

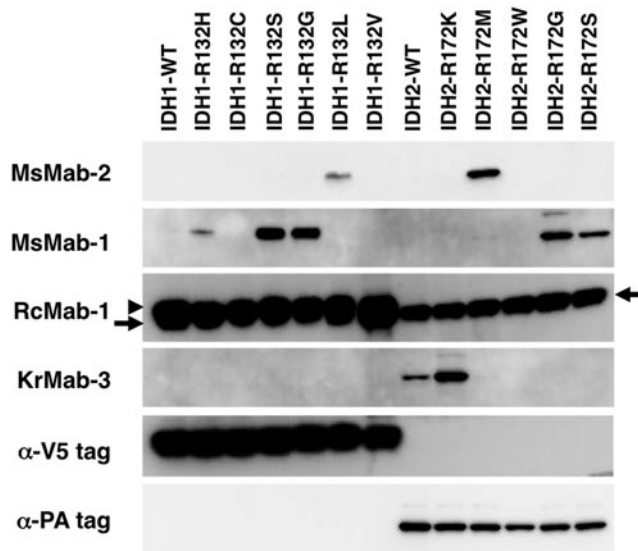


FIG. 2. Western blot analyses by anti-IDH1/2 MAbs against wild-type and mutated IDH1/2 proteins. Total cell lysate from CHO cells expressing IDH1 (lane 1, IDH1-WT; lane 2, IDH1-R132H; lane 3, IDH1-R132C; lane 4, IDH1-R132S, lane 5, IDH1-R132G; lane 6, IDH1-R132L; lane 7, IDH1-R132V) and IDH2 (lane 8, IDH2-WT; lane 9, IDH2-R172K; lane 10, IDH2-R172M; lane 11, IDH2-R172W; lane 12, IDH2-R172G; lane 13, IDH2-R172S) were electrophoresed under reducing conditions using 5–20% gels and were Western blotted with MsMab-2, MsMab-1, RcMab-1, KrMab-3, anti-V5 tag, and anti-PA tag. RcMab-1 detected two bands, including recombinant human IDH1 (arrowhead) and endogenous hamster IDH1 (arrow).

mutation at codon R132 of IDH1 or R172 of IDH2 makes conformational variation of IDH1/2 proteins.

In conclusion, the newly established MsMab-2 is a multi-specific MAb that recognizes IDH1-R132L and IDH2-R172M of mammalian cells. The combination of MsMab-2 and MsMab-1 covers more than 95% of IDH1 mutations, which could be extremely useful for diagnosis and biological evaluation of IDH1/2 mutation-bearing tumors. Unfortunately, we could not obtain an IDH1-R132L or IDH2-R172M-possessing specimen in this study; therefore, we could not show clearly the usefulness of MsMab-2 in immunohistochemistry. Nevertheless, MsMab-2 is believed to be useful in immunohistochemistry because MsMab-2 is able to react strongly with recombinant proteins expressed in mammalian cells (Fig. 2). The combination of multi-specific MAbs with previously established anti-mutated IDH2 mono-specific MAbs (KMab-1 and WMab-1) covers almost all IDH2 mutations, and could increase the diagnostic rate of IDH1/2 mutation-bearing tumors.

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Author Disclosure Statement

The authors have no financial interests to disclose.

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