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Hippocampal to basal forebrain transport of Mn^{2+} is impaired by deletion of KLC1, a subunit of the conventional kinesin microtubule-based motor

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ABSTRACT

Microtubule-based motors carry cargo back and forth between the synaptic region and the cell body. Defects in axonal transport result in peripheral neuropathies, some of which are caused by mutations in Q2 KIF5A, a gene encoding one of the heavy chain isoforms of conventional kinesin-1. Some mutations in KIF5A also cause severe central nervous system defects in humans. While transport dynamics in the peripheral nervous system have been well characterized experimentally, transport in the central nervous system is less experimentally accessible and until now not well described. Here we apply manganeseenhanced magnetic resonance (MEMRI) to study transport dynamics within the central nervous system, focusing on the hippocampal-forebrain circuit, and comparing kinesin-1 light chain 1 knock-out (KLC-KO) mice with age-matched wild-type littermates. We injected Mn^{2+} into CA3 of the posterior hippocampus and imaged axonal transport in vivo by capturing whole-brain 3D magnetic resonance images (MRI) in living mice at discrete time-points after injection. Precise placement of the injection site was monitored in both MR images and in histologic sections. Mn²⁺-induced intensity progressed along fiber tracts (fimbria and fornix) in both genotypes to the medial septal nuclei (MSN), correlating in location with the traditional histologic tract tracer, rhodamine dextran. Pairwise statistical parametric mapping (SPM) comparing intensities at successive time-points within genotype revealed Mn²⁺-enhanced MR signal as it proceeded from the injection site into the forebrain, the expected projection from CA3. By region of interest (ROI) analysis of the MSN, wide variation between individuals in each genotype was found. Despite this statistically significant intensity increases in the MSN at 6 h post-injection was found in both genotypes, albeit less so in the KLC-KO. While the average accumulation at 6 h was less in the KLC-KO, this difference did not reach significance. Projections of SPM T-maps for each genotype onto the same grayscale image revealed differences in the anatomical location of significant voxels. Although KLC-KO mice had smaller brains than wild-type, the gross anatomy was normal with no apparent loss of septal cholinergic neurons. Hence anatomy alone does not explain the differences in SPM maps. We conclude that kinesin-1 defects may have only a minor effect on the rate and distribution of transported Mn^{2+} within the living brain. This impairment is less than expected for this abundant microtubule-based motor, yet such defects could still be functionally significant, resulting in cognitive/emotional dysfunction due to decreased replenishments of synaptic vesicles or mitochondria during synaptic activity. This study demonstrates the power of MEMRI to observe and measure vesicular transport dynamics in the central nervous system that may result from or lead to brain pathology

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Introduction

Within the brain, neurons extend processes across long distances to reach distal targets. The axonal transport system, which depends on microtubule-based motors, carries information and

1 building blocks within these long processes to create and maintain 2 distant synapses. Kinesins, a family of microtubule-based motor 3 proteins, walk along microtubules carrying cargo towards pre-sy-4 naptic termini (Hirokawa et al., 2009; Vale et al., 1985; Yildiz et al., 5 2004). Kinesin-1, the most abundant of this motor family in brain, 6 is a heterotetramer with two heavy chains and two light chains. 7 The heavy chains encode the motor domain while light chains are involved in cargo binding. KIF5 genes (KIF5A, B and C) encode 8 9 kinesin-1 heavy chains in mouse (Gudkov et al., 1994; Nakagawa 10 et al., 1997; Niclas et al., 1994; Xia et al., 1998), and four other 11 genes encode kinesin light chains (KLC1, KLC2, KLC3 and KLC4) 12 (Chung et al., 2007; Ota et al., 2004; Rahman et al., 1998), all of which appear to interact with any KIF5. All three KIF5s are ex-13 14 pressed in brain, as well as at least two of the light chains, KLC1 15 and KLC2 (Rahman et al., 1998). Kinesin-1 has been implicated in 16 transport of synaptic vesicles (Sato-Yoshitake et al., 1992), amyloid 17 precursor protein (Kamal et al., 2001, 2000; Satpute-Krishnan 18 et al., 2006; Seamster et al., 2012), neurofilaments (Li et al., 2012; 19 Xia et al., 2003), post-synaptic neurochemical receptors (Hirokawa 20 et al., 2010), endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi membranes (Lip-21 pincott-Schwartz et al., 1995), and mitochondria (Campbell et al., 22 2014). Defects in kinesin-1 have been implicated in accelerating 23 Alzheimer's disease (Stokin et al., 2005), activation of axonal stress 24 kinase with enhanced phosphorylation of tau (Falzone et al., 2010) 25 and abnormal proteasome transport and distribution (Otero et al., 26 2014). Human genetic defects in genes encoding transport motors, 27 such as kinesin subunits, are rare and correlate with peripheral 28 neuropathology (Djagaeva et al., 2012; Musumeci et al., 2011; Zhao 29 et al., 2001). In some cases, symptoms of central nervous system defects are also present in patients with KIF5A mutations, in-30 31 cluding pyramidal dysfunction (Liu et al., 2014), and cognitive 32 impairment (Hamdan et al., 2011). While much is known about the 33 molecular structure and motor activity of kinesin-1 both in vitro 34 and ex vivo, its transport activity within the living brain has thus 35 far only been inferred. Since other kinesin family members are also 36 expressed in brain, it is of interest to learn what the contribution 37 of kinesin-1 is to organelle/vesicular transport within the central 38 nervous system.

39 Manganese-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (MEMRI) 40 provides an experimental approach to study organelle transport 41 dynamics in the living brain (Bearer et al., 2007b, 2009; Gallagher et al., 2013, 2016; Pautler et al., 2003, 1998; Smith et al., 2007). 42 43 Mn^{2+} , a divalent paramagnetic ion, produces a hyper-intense signal by T₁-weighted MRI and thus acts as a contrast agent for MR 44 imaging. Mn²⁺ enters active neurons through the voltage-gated 45 46 Ca²⁺ channel (Finley, 1998; Merritt et al., 1989; Takeda, 2003) and 47 is secondarily taken up by intracellular organelles that are then 48 transported along axons (Massaad and Pautler, 2011). We assume 49 that transport of Mn²⁺ represents a general measure of vesicular transport in axons, involving a wide variety of organelle cargoes, 50 each moving in association with a set of motors with various 51 52 subunit composition. Our work in the optic tract demonstrated 53 that KLC1-dependent transport represented only a third of the 54 total Mn²⁺ transport (Bearer et al., 2007a). Thus, MEMRI can be 55 used to study transport dynamics during progression or experi-56 mental treatment of neurodegenerative disease in pre-clinical 57 animal models without particular organelle or specific motor bias, 58 where particular focus has been on accumulation in the olfactory 59 bulb after nasal delivery (Cross et al., 2008; Majid et al., 2014; 60 Pautler et al., 1998; Smith et al., 2007, 2011; Wang et al., 2012).

61 Previously we reported that disruption of the kinesin-1-based transport system influenced the rate of Mn²⁺ transport in the 62 63 optic nerve (Bearer et al., 2007a). We and others have determined a dose and volume of Mn^{2+} that is non-toxic in either the eye or 64 brain (Bearer et al., 2007a; Eschenko et al., 2012; Lindsey et al., 65 2013). To measure the rate of Mn^{2+} transport in a kinesin-1 66

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defective mouse, we used a transgenic mouse whose gene for one of the kinesin-1 subunits, kinesin-1 light chain 1, had been knocked out (KLC-KO). KLC1 is the most abundant of the kinesin light chains expressed in brain, and this KLC-KO mouse displays defects in the behavior of the kinesin heavy chain (Rahman et al., 1999). KLC-KO are smaller than their littermates and display pronounced motor disabilities (Rahman et al., 1999). In the optic nerve KLC-KO mice displayed delayed transport of Mn²⁺ (Bearer et al., 2007a). No increased vulnerability to Mn²⁺ was observed in the KLC-KO in that study. Thus Mn²⁺ transport in the optic nerve is in part dependent on intact kinesin-1 function.

Here we selected the hippocampal-forebrain circuit to investigate the contribution of kinesin-1 to intracerebral transport. Neurons in CA3 of the hippocampus project to the septal nuclei via the hippocampal fimbria and the fornix in fiber bundles large enough to be imaged by MR in living mice with a 90µm isotropic voxel resolution (Bearer et al., 2007b; Gallagher et al., 2016). Indeed, Mn²⁺ transport dynamics are altered within hippocampalforebrain projections in Down Syndrome (Bearer et al., 2007b) and in amyloid precursor protein (APP) knockout mice (Gallagher et al., 2016). Whether this transport depends on kinesin-1 or other kinesins is unknown.

After stereotaxic injection of Mn²⁺ together with the traditional histologic tracer, rhodamine dextran, into CA3 of the hippocampus we imaged cohorts of KLC-KO mice and their agematched wild-type (WT) littermates by time-lapse, whole brain, high-field MRI and, after sacrifice, by fluorescence microscopy of the traditional tract-tracer. To obtain an unbiased comprehensive evaluation of Mn²⁺ transport, we aligned cohorts of MR brain images of individual KLC-KO and wild-type littermates, each captured at three time-points after injection, and performed statistical parametric mapping (SPM), which identifies all voxels displaying increased intensity values between time-points. To compare between genotypes, we measured Mn²⁺-induced intensity differ-100 ences in the target area. We confirmed SPM results with region of 101 interest analysis. 102 103

Materials and methods

Animals

108 Mouse lines were obtained from Larry S. Goldstein at UC San 109 Diego (Bearer et al., 2007a; Falzone et al., 2010, 2009; Rahman 110 et al., 1999). Mice were bred from heterozygotes, producing 111 knockouts, heterozygotes and wild-type littermates and litter-112 mates imaged at 8–13 months of age. Equal numbers of male and 113 female were included in each group. Genotyping was performed 114 by PCR of the tail (Bearer et al., 2007a; Rahman et al., 1999). While 115 the mice tolerated the Mn²⁺ injection without apparent distress, some did not survive in the vertical bore MR scanner under anesthesia for 102 min scans three times over a 25-h period necessary to complete the time-lapse imaging sequence to detect transport. We imaged 19 individual mice and selected only those 120 121 with consistent placement of the injection site who also survived 122 the entire 2-week experimental sequence for analysis (n=10). Pairs of KLC-KO and wild-type were often from the same litter. All 123 experimental procedures received prior approval by Caltech, 124 Brown University, and UNM IACUCs. 125 126

Stereotaxic injection

After collection of a pre-injection image, aqueous MnCl₂ 129 (3-5 nL of 200 mM) together with 0.5 mg/mL 3k rhodamine-dex-130 tran-amine (RDA) (Molecular Probes/Invitrogen, Eugene, OR) were 131 injected into the right hippocampus (coordinates × 3.2 mm (right 132

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1 of midline), y -4.1 mm (posterior to Bregma), z 3.4 mm (down 2 from brain surface)) similar to the procedure described in Bearer 3 et al. (2007a, 2007b). We have previously reported that this vo-4 lume (3-5 nL) and concentration (200-500 mM) does not produce 5 detectible injury by histologic analysis (Bearer et al., 2007b; Gal-6 lagher et al., 2016), and did not observe any here. Coordinates 7 were selected based on pre-injection image and mouse brain atlas 8 (Paxinos and Franklin, 2001). Since precise volumes of injectate in 9 the nanoliter range are difficult to control, we calculated an amount of Mn^{2+} that would be non-toxic vet "saturate" the uptake 10 11 system as determined by Mn²⁺-induced intensity remaining at the injection site throughout the experiment (Bearer et al., 2007a). 12 13 Review of histologic sections of brains after injection with this 14 volume and concentration of Mn²⁺ show no significant evidence 15 of cellular toxicity (Bearer et al., 2007b, 2009; Gallagher et al., 16 2013, 2016; Zhang et al., 2010).

17 The actual placement of the injection site was calculated from 18 aligned MR images as previously described (Bearer et al., 2007b, 19 2009; Gallagher et al., 2013, 2016; Zhang et al., 2010). Briefly, 20 aligned images are projected onto the atlas and the point of hyper-21 intensity identified in atlas coordinates. The centroid was calcu-22 lated in Excel as the common least distance between injection 23 sites in a 3D matrix. Injection sites were projected onto the atlas in 24 Amira to produce a 3D image. Since injection sites were projected 25 onto the atlas, the coordinates refer to locations in the atlas for 26 each genotype. 27

28 Manganese-enhanced magnetic resonance imaging

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30 An 11.7 T 89 mm vertical bore Bruker BioSpin Avance DRX500 31 scanner (Bruker BioSpin Inc, Billerica, MA) equipped with a Mi-32 cro2.5 gradient system was used to acquire all mouse brain images 33 with a 35 mm linear birdcage radio frequency (RF) coil. For in vivo 34 imaging the animal's head was secured in a Teflon stereotaxic unit 35 within the RF coil to minimize movement and to aid in re-36 producible placement. Temperature and respiration were con-37 tinuously monitored during data acquisition and remained within 38 normal ranges (Zhang et al., 2010). We employed a 3D RARE 39 imaging sequence (Hennig et al., 1986) with RARE factor of 4, 40 4 averages, TR/TE_{eff}=300 ms/11 ms; matrix size of 41 $256 \times 160 \times 128$ and FOV 23.04 mm \times 14.4 mm \times 11.52 mm, yielding 90 µm³ anisotropic voxels for 102 min scan time. Image col-42 43 lection was performed before injection and then begun at three 44 time-points after injection (0.5 h, 6 h, and 25 h) (Bearer et al., 45 2007b). Time of imaging throughout the paper refers to the start of 46 the imaging time after injection. 47

Registration and statistical parametric mapping

To perform statistical comparisons across time-points and between genotypes, co-registration of the images is required. All alignments began by converting the Bruker Paravision format to Analyze 7.5 (.hdr/.img) (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN) or to NIFTI (.nii) format (Modat). For within genotype analysis, pre-injection and post-injection whole head scans for both genotypes were skull-stripped to segment the brain tissue from the rest of the tissue in the head initially using the multitracer semi-automated tool, tracewalker, from the LONI website (http://www.loni.usc.edu) (Woods, 2003). This method required some manual correction of the output mask (Hayes et al., 2014), which was time consuming. Hence we developed our own automation program to accelerate brain extraction (Delora et al., 2015).

63 After skull stripping, "field inhomogeneities" were corrected 64 using the N3 method (Sled et al., 1998), the mode of the intensity 65 histogram of each images was scaled to that of the atlas with in-66 house generated software (Bearer et al., 2007b; Kovacevic et al., 2005). This atlas was created in three steps using the AIR 5.2.5 package through the LONI Pipeline environment (Woods et al., 1998a, 1998b). First, pre-injection scans were linearly co-registered to one randomly chosen scan using a full affine 12-parameter model. The cost function used was a least squares cost function with intensity scaling. The scaling parameter in the cost function accounted for any discrepancies in intensity range that the scans may have had. The transformations from the space of each scan to the space of the randomly chosen scan were averaged accordingly such that the bias towards the randomly chosen scan was eliminated. The final step consisted of non-linearly warping of all the pre-injection scans to the unbiased atlas obtained in the second step. The polynomial warp started with a 2nd order 30parameter model and finished with a 5th order 168-parameter model. Once the pre-injection wild-type atlas was obtained, it was then used as a template to create an averaged image for each genotype to compare intensities between time-points by following the same steps as above.

Since there was a lot of variation in voxels that were part of the hyper- and hypo- intense region around the injection site, a second mask was created for the post-injection images to exclude such voxels from the computation of the cost function at each iteration (MacKenzie-Graham et al., 2007). The Pipeline processing environment was used to undertake these tasks (http://www.loni. usc.edu) (Rex et al., 2003). A specialized workflow computed the registration parameters using a linear affine model followed by a non-linear high degree polynomial model. Images and corresponding injection-site masks were resampled using chirp-z and nearest neighbor interpolation, respectively (MacKenzie-Graham et al., 2007). All images were processed in parallel with the same parameters in all respects, including N3 correction, modal scaling, and alignment. The data was difficult to scale and to align due to large differences in sizes between the wild-type and the KLC-KO littermates that required large scale warping, and to the hyperintense injection site which interfered with modal scaling.

For within group analysis, statistical parametric mapping was 102 performed in SPM8 (Penny et al., 2006) by a paired T-test between 103 time-points to detect statistically significant intensity increases 104 between two time-points at each voxel. This produces a 3-di-105 mensional map of intensity changes that was expected to overlay 106 107 with the known projections from CA3 of the hippocampus where 108 tracers were injected. Despite some degree of warp artifact visible 109 in the striatum of some individuals, no signal was detected there. 110 Hence although alignments were not perfect, warping did not 111 introduce signal in unexpected regions for the expected hippocampal-forebrain circuit for within group analysis, probably be-112 cause pair-wise analysis compares changes over time within each 113 individual and the warp artifacts were consistent within all scans 114 115 for each individual. Even without correction for false discovery rates (FDR) and with the warping issues, we did not detect ex-116 traneous voxels outside the expected circuitry. However these is-117 sues precluded SPM analysis between genotypes in unpaired 118 t-tests and in flexible factorial ANOVAs by SPM. For between 119 120 genotype analysis, a region of interest (ROI) analysis was per-121 formed. In addition, some concern has been raised about the validity of statistical mapping (Eklund et al., 2012, 2015) which lead 122 us to measure differences between genotypes ROI (Figs. 1-4). **Q5**23

Region of interest analysis (ROI)

To compare differences between genotype and determine the degree of intensity change, we performed ROI analyses, selecting a target region of CA3 projections in the medial septal nuclei (MSN) 130 on the same side as the injection site, as identified by the withingroup statistical mapping. A control region was chosen for each 131 132 image in an area not highlighted by the statistical map, in this case

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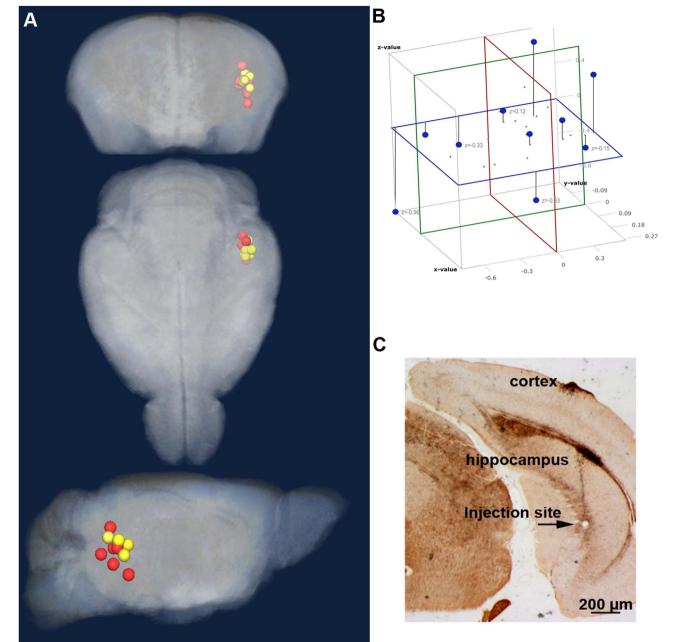


Fig. 1. Injection site analysis. A. The location of the injection site determined from analysis of the aligned MR images is shown as projected onto the pre-injection atlas three dimensional image. Wild-type (WT) littermates (yellow); KLC-KO (red). B. To measure the distance between all sites in the dataset, a 3D coordinate system was developed. The average position in the x, y, z axes of all injection sites shown as a Cartesian coordinate system, with x plane (blue), y plane (green), z plane (red). C. An example of histologic examination of brain sections from the same mice imaged by MR showing a tiny injection site in CA 3 of the posterior hippocampus with minimal damage, as detected in this Campbell-Switzer-stained section. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

we chose a region in the cortex-striatum on the contralateral side to the injection site. To ensure measurements were made in the same anatomic location of all brains in the dataset, the ROIs (control and MSN) were selected in one image and propagated to all images throughout the dataset using FIJI's ROI manager (http:// rsbweb.nih.gov/ij/docs/guide/146-30.html). Signal intensity was background-corrected by calculating the ratio between MSN and the control region. For box plots in Fig. 5B, measurements of the KLC-KO were normalized to the median of the wild-type by finding the difference between the WT and the KO medians at 0.5 h after injection and subtracting this value from all other values in the KLC-KO dataset. Line graphs were equalized by setting the average value at 0.5 h to 1 within each dataset and proportionally adjusting other values. Graphs were generated in Microsoft Excel and GraphPad (http://www.graphpad.com/company/). Statistical119analyses (ANOVA, T-test and Tukey post-hoc) were performed on120background-corrected intensity values in Excel using XLStat121Toolbox (https://www.xlstat.com/en/) and on equalized data by122two-way ANOVA with repeated measures and Tukey's post-hoc123testing in GraphPad. Background-corrected equalized values were124used for the line graphs in Fig. 5C-E.125126

Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI)

We selected two animals for DTI imaging, the two oldest in the129KLC-KO and WT cohorts, as these would have the most significant130differences, since age influences animal size (Rahman et al., 1999),131transport rates in vitro and neurofilament aggregation (Falzone132

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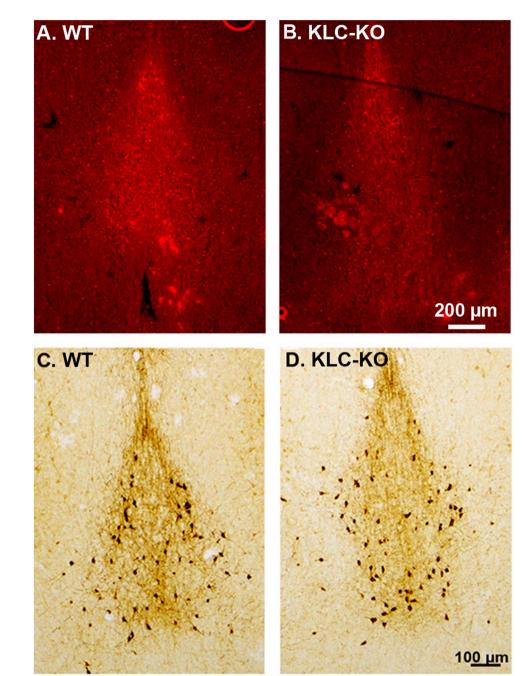


Fig. 2. Analysis of the medial septal nuclei by histology. A and B. Shown are examples of fluorescent images of the co-injected RDA in histologic sections through the medial septal nucleus (MSN), a major projection from CA3 of the hippocampus. WT (A) and KLC-KO (B). Note that RDA signal appears qualitatively weaker in the MSN of the KLC-KO (B) than the WT (A), possibly due to decreased transport. C and D. Examples from serial sections adjacent to those in A-B also through the MSN that were stained for ChAT, a marker of cholinergic neurons. No obvious difference in numbers of these neurons is apparent in these examples. At higher magnification (not shown) no abnormal axonopathies (swellings or varicosities) were observed.

et al., 2009). Briefly, animals were sacrificed 7-8 days after ima-ging, and fixed by cardiac perfusion (see Histology section for fixation details). After decapitation, fixed brains in the skull were immersed in 5 mM Prohance for 5 days. The two intact fixed heads were secured together in a Teflon[®] holder and submerged in a perfluoropolyether (Fomblin[®],Solvay Solexis, Inc, Thorofare, NJ) inside a 50 mL tube and placed in the 11.7 scanner. Imaging was performed as previously described (Bearer et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2010). Briefly thermostatically controlled airflow maintained the ambient bore temperature at 4 °C. Diffusion-weighted images were acquired using a conventional pulsed-gradient spin echo (PGSE) sequence (TR/ TE=300 s/11.9 ms, $256 \times 150 \times 120$ matrix, 25.6 mm \times 15 mm \times 12 mm FOV, 100 $\,\mu m$ isotropic voxel size,

1 average, $\sigma = 3$ ms, $\Delta = 5.2$ ms, Gd = 1125 mT/m, nominal b-factor=3370 s/mm²). An optimized six-point icosahedral en-coding scheme (Hasan et al., 2001) was used for diffusion-weighted acquisitions with a single unweighted reference image for a total imaging time of 14.5 h. The apparent diffusion tensor was calculated conventionally by inversion of the encoding b-matrix. The b-matrix for each diffusion encoding was de-termined by numerical simulation of the pulse sequence k-space trajectory in order to account for gradient cross-terms (Mattiello et al., 1997). Eigenvalues, eigenvectors, tensor trace and fractional anisotropy were calculated conventionally using built-in and custom MATLAB functions (The Mathworks Inc., Natick, MA). The six diffusion-weighted images were averaged to generate a high

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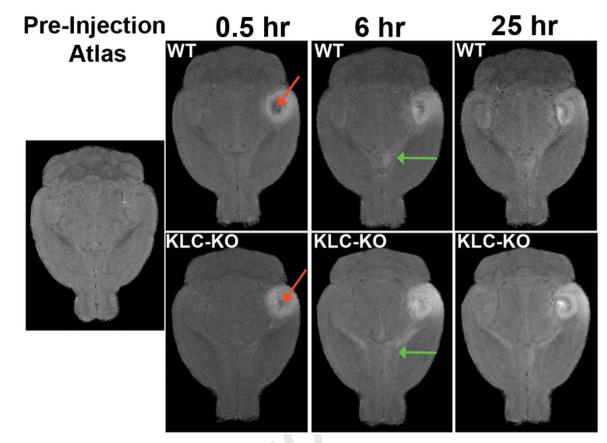


Fig. 3. Aligned and averaged MR images across time-points within genotype. Shown are axial slices from averaged images for the pre-injection atlas, and for each time-point within genotype. Note that anatomical features are preserved in these T_1 -weighted images, and the injection site appears distinct, placed in the same location, and similar in size in both genotypes (red arrow). Also note that increased intensity in the medial septal nuclei (MSN) (green arrows) is brighter in wild-type than in KLC-KO at 6 h postinjection. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

SNR isotropic diffusion-weighted image (iDWI) (Tyszka et al., 2006).

Diffusion tensor image eigenvalues (λ i; trace Tr(D) and fractional anisotropy (FA) were calculated and used for a rigid body alignment (9-parameter). Registration was performed to bring these maps to the same coordinate space as the Pre-injection Atlas, using the AIR package (Woods et al., 1998a, 1998b). Since the FA, iDWI and TrD maps of each scan are scalar, a simple rigid body registration was performed. To create a color-coded representation of the principal eigenvector two steps were necessary: First the rigid body parameters that mapped the KO iDWI to the WT's iDWI were used to rotate the principal eigenvectors at each voxel and afterwards to rotate the voxel grid itself. Visage Imaging's Amira (formerly Mercury's ResolveRT) software was used to perform this task (Stalling et al., 2005).

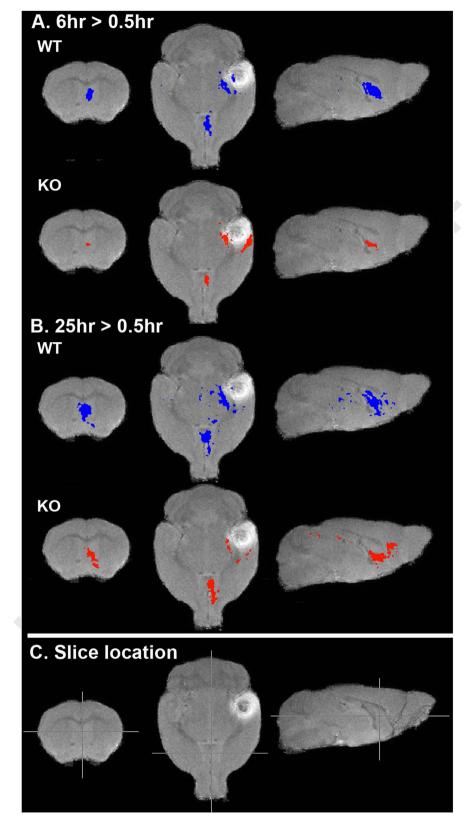
Using the FSLview tool of the FSL package (http://www.fmrib. ox.ac.uk), the two vector fields were visualized having each x, y, z component mapped to an RGB triplet (red to left-right, green to anterior-posterior, blue to dorsal-ventral) (Aggarwal et al., 2010). The FA map was used to control the saturation of the colors. Voxels (100 μ m isotropic) with null anisotropy would appear black and those with high anisotropy would appear brighter in the color indicating their maximum direction. For voxels with vector oblique to the orthogonal directions, the colors are weighted according to the components of the vector. No zero-filling was used.

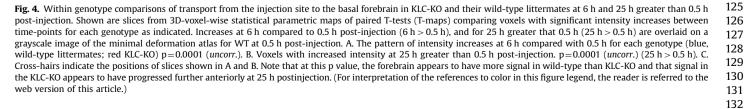
Histology

All mice used in this study were prepared after live MR imaging by fixation for DTI and/or histology. Two animals were imaged by DTI first and then submitted for histology with the others. Thus we

could correlate MR image results with histologic detail. Eight days after in vivo MR imaging, each mouse was anesthetized, sacrificed and fixed by transcardial perfusion, beginning with a 30 mL wash-out with warm heparinized phosphate buffered saline (PBS) fol-lowed by 30 mL of room temperature 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS at a rate of 5 mL/min (Bearer et al., 2007b). After decapitation the head was rocked in 4% PFA in PBS overnight at 4 °C. Then brains were dissected from the calvarium and sent to Neuroscience As-sociates (NSA, Knoxville, TN). The two brains selected for DTI were imaged within the skull first and then dissected and sent to NSA. All brains from this study were embedded in two groups into two gelatin blocs and serially sectioned in the coronal plane at 35 µm. Each 24th section was collected into the same cup, producing 24 cups, each containing serial sections of all brains embedded in the block across the complete brain from olfactory bulb to spinal cord at 840 µm intervals. Sets of serial sections in one cup or multiple cups were then selected for staining with Thionine/Nissl for anatomy, Campbell Switzer silver for amyloid plaques and phospho-tau (Switzer, 1993; Wang et al., 2011), anti-choline acetyl transferase (ChAT) immunohistochemistry (IHC) for cholinergic neurons (Bearer et al., 2007b; Gallagher et al., 2013, 2016), anti-AT8 IHC for phosphorylated tau, or mounted unstained in anti-quench (Vector Lab, Burlingame, CA) for imaging RDA fluorescence. The anti-quench contains Hoechst reagent that stains nuclear DNA and thus provides an anatomical reference. Since alternate sets of serial sections were used for different histology, no single region was sampled in its entirety with one staining procedure. For example we did not stain serial sections through the entire hippocampus or MSN with one stain. Sections were imaged on a Zeiss ZO1 Axio-scope fluorescence microscope equipped with neofluor objectives

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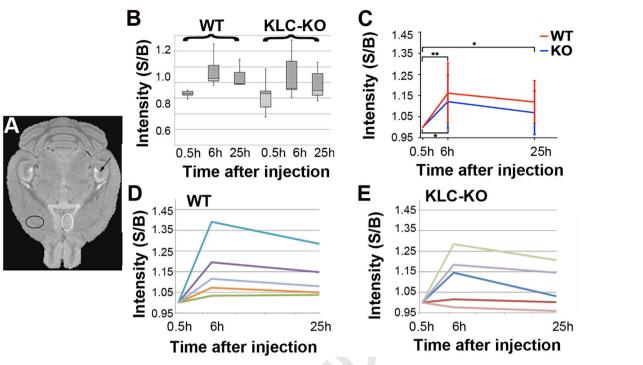


Fig. 5. Region of interest analysis (ROI). A. Locations selected for ROI analysis shown on a high-resolution template image for anatomy. White circle indicates the MSN, a location with increased intensity that differed between KLC-KO and their WT littermates as observed by visual inspection of the averaged images (Fig. 3) and in T-maps of within-group between time-points (Fig. 4). Black circle indicates the "control" region that had no signal by SPM and lies outside the CA3-septal circuit on the contralateral side from the injection. B. Box plot shows the distribution of background-corrected intensities in the MSN of WT and KLC-KO mice at each time-point. Data has been normalized. S/B=ratio of signal to background. C. Average intensities are shown for background-corrected, equalized data at each time-point in the WT (red) and in KLC-KO (blue). Intensity measurements were background-corrected and equalized by setting the 0.5 h signal/background to 1.0. Error bars indicate standard deviation of the WT at 6 h and 25 h. Mixed model ANOVA with Tukey's post-hoc analysis was used to determine significance within genotype between time-points on this corrected/equalized data. One asterisk indicates p < 0.05; two asterisks indicate p < 0.01. S/B=ratio of signal to background. D. and E. Line graphs showing intensity increases in background-corrected, equalized measurements over time for each animal. Each individual is represented by a different color. D, wild type (WT); and E, KLC-KO. S/B=ratio of signal to background. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

(5, 10, 20, 40, 63 and 100x), and captured on an AxioCam MRM digital camera in the Bearer lab and Zeiss Axioplan II Imaging, Photomicroscope III, and SV11 dissecting scope at the Central Microscopy Facility at the Marine Biological Laboratory; on a Nikon Eclipse Ci brightfield clinical microscope with a DS L3 cooled digital camera; or on a Zeiss V8 zoom stereoscope with AxioCam for lower magnification of whole brain sections.

Brain volume

The volume of the brains was determined in two ways: 1) MR brain images after skull stripping and prior to alignment were measured in FSLstats as we previously described (Delora et al., 2015); and 2) the width was measured with a micrometer in 4 coronal histologic sections through Bregma 1.18 mm, 0.22 mm, -1.06 mm and -2.6 mm. In addition, brains stained for solochrome, which preferentially highlights white matter and fiber tracts, were imaged at higher magnification and the width of the corpus callosum measured with DS L3 imaging software. Results were analyzed in Excel for within-group and between-group size differences.

Results

Injection location

All stereotaxic injection locations lie within CA3 of the right posterior hippocampus (Fig. 1A). As shown, the average injection site (\pm standard deviation) was: x (lateral to midline) 3.3 ± 0.2 mm; y (anterior posterior with reference to Bregma) -4.3 ± 0.4 mm; z (dorsal ventral from the brain surface) -3.5 ± 0.5 mm, as we have

previously reported (Bearer et al., 2007b; Gallagher et al., 2016). Injection sites lay at an average distance of 0.57 mm \pm 0.35 of the centroid, as determined by image analysis of the postinjection MR images begun 0.5 h after injection, demonstrating a fairly consistent placement of tracer within all brains in the datasets (Fig. 1B). Be-cause of the smaller size of the KLC-KO brains, the actual distance between injection sites would be smaller than in wild-type litter-mates. Since this analysis was done on aligned images, the anatomic coordinates are the same between the two genotypes.

Further confirmation of consistent placement of the injection within CA3 of the hippocampus was obtained from histologic sec-tions (Fig. 1C). The injection site in CA3 of the right posterior hip-pocampus was clearly visible in histologic sections (Fig. 1C). Histo-14 logic examination of both wild-type and KLC-KO in Nissl-, Campbell Switzer-, or AT8 (phospho-tau)-stained sections revealed similar features and little to no AT8 staining, suggesting similar low levels of tissue injury due to the injection in both genotypes.

Histologic analysis of traditional tracer

We co-injected the classical tract tracer, rhodamine-dextran-amine (RDA), with Mn²⁺. RDA allowed detection of the injection site and distal transport by fluorescence microscopy in histologic sections prepared from the same brains imaged by MR (Bearer et al., 2007b, 2009). To determine that the injection sites were placed appropriately to introduce tracer into the CA3-septal fore-brain circuit, we reviewed in histologic sections of all brains in the dataset by fluorescence, which detects the transport of the tradi-tional tract-tracer, rhodamine dextran (RDA). RDA fluorescence was found as expected in the medial septal nucleus (MSN) of the wild-type (Fig. 2A), a known target of CA3 neurons. In the KLC-KO

mice, RDA fluorescence was qualitatively less bright in the MSN (Fig. 2B), suggesting decreased transport, although the degree of decrease would be difficult to quantify from these fluorescent images. These results demonstrate that the injection site was placed correctly in CA3 for uptake and transport to expected distal projections into the basal forebrain.

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In the KLC knockout (KLC-/-) in a wild-type background, no obvious change in the numbers of cholinergic neurons in the MSN compared to wild-type littermates was found, nor were any differences in axonal morphology of cholinergic neurons apparent between the two genotypes (Fig. 2C and D). Decreases in the numbers of these neurons could affect the amount of transport, and alterations in these neurons have been reported in KLC-KO^{+/-} when also expressing mutant amyloid precursor protein (Stokin et al., 2008, 2005) or mutant tau protein (Falzone et al., 2010). Since only one section through the MSN was available for ChAT staining, a statistical comparison to determine whether there were a minor yet significant difference not apparent by visual inspection was not performed here.

Time-lapse MEMRI suggests minor delays in transport from CA3in the
hippocampus into the basal forebrain in KLC-KO mice: within geno type time-dependence observed by statistical parametric mapping

25 To image transport over time in living animals and quantify 26 differences in genotypes, we used MEMRI followed by statistical 27 parametric mapping (SPM). Paired t-tests between time-points with 28 SPM provides an un-biased method to detect any voxel with sta-29 tistically significant intensity changes between time-points within 30 each group. After injection, we collected 3D whole brain 31 T₁-weighted MR images at successive time-points after co-injection 32 of Mn²⁺ into CA3 of the posterior hippocampus (0.5 h, 6 h and 25 h) 33 (Fig. 3). Aligned images display distinct anatomical features as is 34 typically witnessed in T₁-weighted mouse brain images and retained 35 with our alignment strategy, as previously reported (Bearer et al., 36 2007b, 2009). A precisely located injection site (a hypo-intense 37 sphere) is readily observed in 0.5 h averaged images for both gen-38 otypes, and the halo of hyperintensity around the injection site ap-39 pears similar in averaged images from both genotypes. In the aver-40 aged 6 h postinjection images, the intensity qualitatively increases in 41 the basal forebrain of the wild-type littermates but is not obvious in 42 this area of the KLC-KO mice at this time-point, suggesting less 43 Mn^{2+} has arrived in the MSN of the KLC-KO at this time-point. By 44 25 h the signal has reached the MSN in both genotypes.

45 For further analysis of differences in transport between time-46 points within each genotype (WT and KLC-KO) we first applied 47 statistical parametric mapping using between time-point pair-48 wise Student's t-tests (http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/) (Penny 49 et al., 2006) (Fig. 4). This unbiased comprehensive approach de-50 tects all voxels that display statistically significant intensity dif-51 ferences between datasets. At 6 h after injection we found that, as 52 for visual inspection of the averaged images shown in Fig. 3, the 53 statistical map of the wild-type littermates detected statistically 54 significant increased intensity along the expected transport path-55 way from hippocampal injection site into the basal forebrain 56 (Fig. 4A), while fewer statistically significant voxels are detected at 57 the same p-value in the KLC-KO (Fig. 4B). At 25 h, the KLC-KO 58 appears to catch up to the location of the wild-type, with more 59 voxels displaying statistically significant intensity changes pro-60 gressing anteriorly to the basal forebrain.

Region of interest analysis confirms differences in transport in KLC-KO
compared to wild type

For quantitative analysis of differences between genotypes we performed a region of interest analysis (Fig. 5). While the T-maps shown in Fig. 4 identify the anatomical locations of intensity changes that reach statistical significance within each group, intensity values measured by ROI identify the degree of change in one location and permit quantitative comparison between genotypes. Measurements of intensities were performed in the medial septal nucleus (MSN) (Fig. 5A), where differences were visually apparent in the averaged images and also detected in the SPM within-group between time-point t-tests.

Box plots show wide variation within each genotype (Fig. 5B), with KLC-KO mice displaying greater variability than their wildtype littermates at every time-point. Both WT and KO had significantly increased accumulation of Mn^{2+} , as detected by intensity values, at 6 h compared to 0.5 h (p=0.006 and p=0.04respectively), albeit with less significance in the KLC-KO. The average intensity increase in the KO from 0.5 h to 6 h was only slightly less than WT with such large variation between individuals that this difference is not significant statistically (WT increase: 0.16 + 0.14, versus KO increase: 0.12 + 0.12). A 25% reduction in accumulation would compare well with our previous results in the optic nerve, where we found a similar delay in transport along an oriented, mono-directional axon bundle (Bearer et al., 2007a), and could not be confirmed here. At 25 h, accumulation of Mn²⁺ in the MSN dropped off in the KO to the point where it was no longer significantly different from 0.5 h post-injection (p=0.30). This drop-off was not as drastic in the WT, which retained statistically significance increase compared to the 0.5 h time-point (p=0.04).

The change in intensity over time varied widely between individual mice (Fig. 5D and E). When background-corrected intensity values were analyzed by a mixed model ANOVA with repeated measures, confirmed by a post-hoc Tukey's test, the difference between genotypes was highly significant (p=0.0001) possibly due to high variability at 0.5 h, particularly in the KLC-KO images. To eliminate variation at the 0.5 time-point and make graphs shown in Fig. 5 C–E, we equalized the data by setting the 0.5 h values to 1 and adjusting the 6 h and 25 h values accordingly (see Materials and Methods). When the equalized data as graphed were subjected to mixed model ANOVA analysis, no statistical significance was found (p=0.55).

Neither differences in injection site nor mouse age correlated with greater transport in either group. No neurofilament accumulation or p-tau was found in either group by histologic examination, although both of these were reported in KLC-KO mice, albeit at an older age (18 mo) than the mice studied here (Falzone et al., 2010, 2009).

Overlays of T-Maps for visual comparisons of anatomy show differences in sites of accumulation between genotypes

The anatomical distribution of voxels with significantly in-116 creased signal in each genotype can be compared when the 117 T-maps are displayed on the same 3D image. Three-dimensional 118 renderings of SPM maps for each genotypes overlaid together onto 119 120 the same grayscale image allows a comparison of time-dependent anatomical distribution of statistically significant intensity pat-121 terns for each genotype in terms of spread and accumulation of 122 Mn^{2+} throughout the projections of CA3 to the forebrain (Fig. 6, 123 see Supplemental Videos S1 and S2 to view the rendering in 124 three dimensions). In wild-type mice statistically significant voxels 125 are found in the MSN at 6 h after injection (Fig. 6A). Similar to our 126 previous findings (Gallagher et al., 2016), wild-type mice also 127 displayed intensity increases in the contralateral hippocampus at 128 25 h post-injection (Fig. 6B). In contrast, in KLC-KO statistically 129 130 significant voxels at this T-value in the MSN were fewer at 6 h, and not evident in the contralateral hippocampus of the KLC-KO even 131 132 at 25 h.

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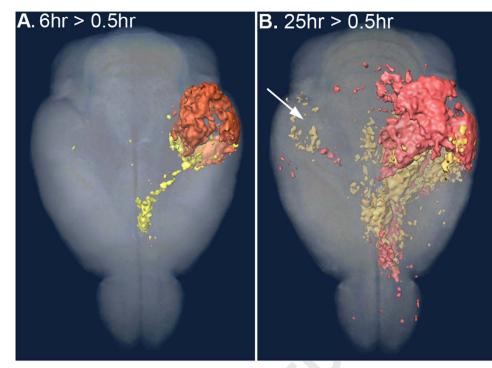


Fig. 6. Anatomical comparison of statistical parametric maps from wild-type and knock-out at each time-point superimposed in 3D renderings. These are axial projections of 3D images, with all significant voxels within the full thickness of the brain displayed. Two different T-maps between time-points within each genotype are superimposed on the same 3D grayscale image to enable comparison of the anatomical position of the Mn^{2+} signal. T-Map of WT (yellow) and KLC-KO (orange). Color intensities are affected by their depth and overlap in the original 3D image used for these projections. See Supplemental Videos S1 and S2 to view these images in 3D. A. At 6 h greater than 0.5 h (6 h > 0.5 h) after injection, the intensity from the Mn^{2+} in WT (yellow) has reached the basal forebrain while the KLC-KO (red) remains primarily at the injection site. B. By 25 h after injection (25 h > 0.5 h), intensity in the KLC-KO occupies the forebrain also, while in WT the Mn^{2+} signal is also detected in the contralateral hippocampus (B, white arrow). Only sparse signal is detected in the fornix in this projection of the KLC-KO mice (orange), although signal can be seen in the video. Decreased volume in the fiber tract is likely due to its diminished size (see Figs. 8 and 9). All four T-Maps at p 0.005 (*uncorr*). (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Supplementary material related to this article can be found online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2016.09.035.

Transport is detected in fiber tracts within the brain by MEMRI

In addition to detecting Mn²⁺ accumulation in the MSN, we also detected Mn²⁺-induced intensity changes along the fiber tracts that connect CA3 to the forebrain in both datasets (Fig. 7). We compared the anatomy of the F-Map for effect of condition in a flexible factorial analysis of both genotypes and saw statistically significant signal along the fimbria and fornix that compared anatomically with position of the rhodamine dextran co-injected into CA3 in histologic sections. Thus MEMRI tract tracing in the brain could detect not only accumulation at expected distal sites, but actual progress—*i.e.* transport—along large fiber tracts. To measure the rate of such transport, more frequent image capture than that performed here would be required.

Anatomical effects of KLC-KO by diffusion tensor imaging and histology

To investigate the anatomy of the KLC-KO mice compared to wild-type, we performed diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) on two se-lected individuals, one from each genotype, and compared the or-ientations of anisotropy by color-coded computational image ren-dering (Aggarwal et al., 2010) (Fig. 8, and Supplemental Videos and **4**). To avoid the introduction of non-linear alignment effects on volumes (van Eede et al., 2013), we limited alignments to rigid body rotations. Results of these DTI alignments demonstrated that the KLC-KO mouse brains were smaller than their wild-type littermates (Supplemental Fig. S1). Comparison of volumes of all KLC-KO

T₁-weighted MR brain images with wild-type found a 23.2% decrease in size (with KLC-KO/WT size= 0.77 ± 0.03 , p=0.00002). Supplementary material related to this article can be found

online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2016.09.035.

Anisotropy was color-coded for the 3 coordinates, with red being left-right, green anterior-posterior, and blue dorsal-ventral. Color-coded DTI images of the KLC-KO revealed thinner corpus callosum, a major fiber bundle. In addition, the KLC-KO had less distinct fiber tracts throughout the brain, as detected by blending of the colors to pastels and concomitant decrease in primary colors in the color-coded DTI images. Despite these minor size differ-ences, the KLC-KO had grossly normal anatomy, with no missing structures and all major brain regions in their normal relative positions, supporting the conclusion that large-scale structural abnormalities did not produce the observed delay in transport dynamics. However, at higher magnification some differences in the orientation of fiber tracts in the MSN was detected, with the KLC-KO having more signal in the blue, dorsal-ventral, direction (Supplemental Fig. S2). This altered orientation may account for the slightly different anatomy of the T-maps in the different gen-otypes, best appreciated in Fig. 6.

The same mice imaged for DTI were also imaged post-mortem by microscopy. As in the DTI, histologic analysis found that the KLC-KO brains were smaller than wild-type littermates of the same age, as was originally described for the whole animal (Rah-man et al., 1999) (Fig. 9A and B). Measurements of the brain width in coronal sections demonstrated an average $17 \pm 5\%$ decrease in width (range 10.5–23.3%, p=0.02). As previously described (Fal-zone et al., 2009) the corpus callosum was proportionately smaller, 23.8% decreased in KLC-KO compared to wild-type (p=0.003) (Fig. 9C and D). Hence the decrease in width of the corpus

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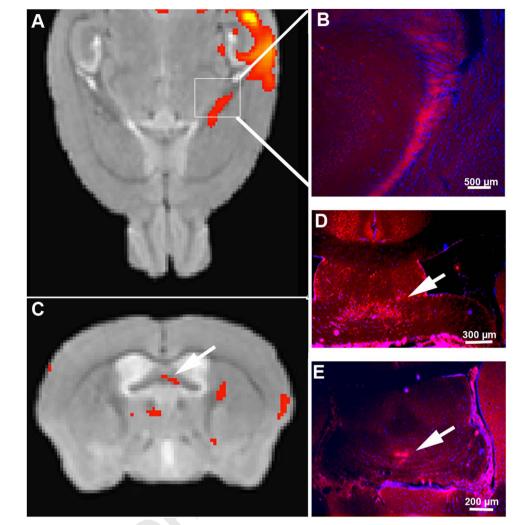


Fig. 7. MEMRI detects transport within the fimbria and fornix in the fiber tracts from hippocampus to forebrain. A and C. Statistical map of the effect of condition (time) in an ANOVA across all 30 post-injection images for both genotypes (p < 0.05, *FDR corr*) overlaid onto a gray-scale template image. Signal (red) appears along the fimbria emanating from the hippocampal injection site and not on the contralateral side. A. Axial slice in the MR corresponding to the anatomical position of the hippocampal fimbria (boxed area). Note the red signal from the SPM F-Map highlighting the injection site and emanating from the hippocampus along the fimbria. B, D and E show fluorescence microscopy of histologic sections from mice injected with RDA in similar anatomic locations as the Mn²⁺, CA3 of the hippocampus. B. Fluorescence microscopy of a coronal histologic section of the corresponding area shows RDA (red fluorescence), the traditional histologic tract-tracer in the hippocampal fimbria. C. In a coronal slice of the same datasets shown in A, statistically significant signal (red) is identified by voxel-wise ANOVA F-map in the fornix (arrow), which correlates anatomically with RDA signal detected by fluorescence microscopy (arrows in D and E), and with the anatomy of CA3 projections. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

callosum was analogous to the overall decrease in volume of the brain. In a background of Alzheimer's models expressing mutant amyloid precursor protein (Stokin et al., 2008, 2005), or mutant tau protein (Falzone et al., 2010), KLC1 reduction enhances neuropathology with increased phospho-tau and amyloid, and varicosities in cholinergic axons (Falzone et al., 2010; Stokin et al., 2005). We stained serial sections across the whole brain of all animals in parallel in this study for plaque with a standard silver stain and for phosphorylated pathogenic tau with the AT8 antibody. Neither of these pathologic features was found in any of the brains, even of the oldest of our KLC-KO mice in a wild type background absent other mutations or transgenes.

Discussion

Here we show that conventional kinesin, otherwise known as kinesin-1, plays a role in axonal transport dynamics not only in the periphery, as has previously been described, but also within the central nervous system, as the cognitive deficits in humans with KIF5A and B mutations predict (Liu et al., 2014; Su et al., 2013). Our statistical parametric maps within group show differences in Mn²⁺ distribution in the KLC-KO, with apparently slower exten-sion of the signal from the injection site into the forebrain, fol-lowed by further extension at later time-points. After reaching a peak at 6 h the intensity decreases in the MSN of both genotypes at 25 h. Statistical analysis of ROI measurements showed that differences in intensity in the MSN over time within each geno-type were significant, but differences between genotypes were not. These two different analyses, statistical maps within genotype and ROI analysis between genotype, appear to conflict. However, SPM shows delayed progression of anatomical distribution of significant voxels, ROI shows differences in intensity values be-tween genotypes. Anatomical differences such as smaller brain size could not account for the differences in SPM maps. Taken together, these results suggest that transport, as witnessed by MEMRI, is somewhat decreased in the CNS in the absence of the KLC1 subunit of the kinesin-1 motor, but is not as drastically affected by this subunit knock-out as might be expected, given the abundance of kinesin-1 in brain.

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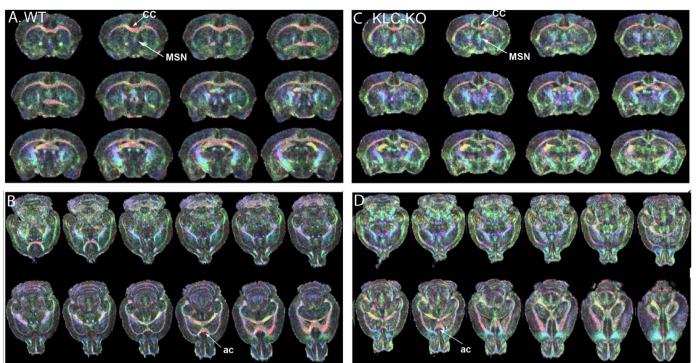


Fig. 8. Anatomy of age-matched KLC-KO and its littermate by diffusion tensor imaging (DTI). Two of the most aged mice, one from each genotype, were selected for further investigation by DTI. Shown are DT images color-coded for directionality of FA vectors. Eigenvectors were color-coded with red, left-right; green, anterior-posterior; and blue, dorsal-ventral. When the eigenvector is exactly aligned with the coordinate, the color is bright and pure; when at an angle to the coordinate system, the color is mixed proportionally to the directions. 3D stacks of color-coded DTI images from a single WT and its littermate KLC-KO at 13 mo of age are shown, with coronal (A) and axial (B) slices from the WT, and analogous slices from the KLC-KO (C and D respectively). Because of slightly different sizes, the slices do not always pass through the same anatomical structures in the 3D image. Of note is more blended pastel colors in the KLC-KO, suggesting less linearity within the tracts. Also of note is that overall anatomy is not altered significantly in the knock-out compared to its own age-matched littermate. CC: Corpus callosum; AC: Anterior commissure; MSN, medial septal nucleus. Slices are tilted because of the orientation in the 3D dataset. See **Supplemental videos S3 and S4** for animation of slices through the two DTI color-coded datasets. Also see **Supplemental Fig. S1** for size comparison of these two mice, and Fig. S2 for higher magnification of the MSN. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

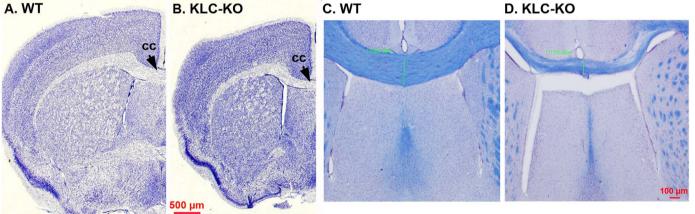


Fig. 9. Histologic analysis shows decreased size. A and B. Examples of coronal sections through the MSN stained for Thionine/Nissl of WT (A) and KLC-KO (B). Other than decreased size ($17 \pm 5\%$ decrease in left-right width of coronal sections, p=0.02), the KLC-KO appears anatomically normal. C and D. A comparison of the corpus callosum shows diminished width (on average 23% smaller in KLC-KO, p=0.003).

While kinesin-1 driven transport has been imaged in the optic nerve (Bearer et al., 2007a), in peripheral nerves, and in cultured cells, both neuronal and other cell types; this study is the first to image transport dynamics within the living intact mammalian brain in a KLC1 knockout mouse. Our results demonstrate that intact kinesin-1 together with the KLC1 light chain is not as necessary for transport within the living brain as in the optic nerve.

In mice, defective transport in the brain from a knock-out of the KLC1 gene was expected, since kinesin-1 is the most abundant of the kinesin motors in brain, and delays in proteasome transport

are seen in hippocampal neurons in culture (Otero et al., 2014). In addition, enhanced pathological phenotypes occur in double transgenic mice heterozygous for KLC1 deletions and carrying familial Alzheimer's disease-associated mutations in amyloid precursor protein (Stokin et al., 2008, 2005). The impairment we observed is less than these reports would suggest.

Other kinesin light chains could be responsible for the residual 129 transport in the brain observed in the KLC1-KO mice. In addition to 130 KLC1, at least two and perhaps three kinesin light chains are also 131 expressed in brain: KLC2 (Rahman et al., 1998), KLC3 (Chung et al., 132

1 2007) and possibly KLC4, sequenced from a brain cDNA library and 2 predicted to interact with all three kinesin heavy chain isoforms 3 (Ota et al., 2004). Thus viability and residual transport in the KLC-KO mice may be mediated by other light chains such that a knock-4 5 out of one light chain does not produce complete loss-of-function 6 of the kinesin-1 holoenzyme (Rahman et al., 1999). We may have 7 been able to detect an even greater impact on transport rates had 8 the mice withstood imaging at earlier time-points after injection. 9 Our study cannot rule-out an even more significant contribution 10 by kinesin-1 on CNS axonal transport, since the other light chains 11 may rescue the lack of KLC1, and since the phenotype of a knock-12 out of even one of the heavy chain genes, KIF5A, is embryonic 13 lethal (Tanaka et al., 1998).

Continued but lower Mn²⁺ transport could also be accom-14 15 plished in the KLC-KO by redundant or compensatory mechanisms due to other motors. Mn²⁺ may enter several different vesicular 16 17 compartments, and thus be transported by more than one mi-18 crotubule-based motor. In the giant axon of the squid, at least 19 three other kinesins are expressed (DeGiorgis et al., 2011). Dele-20 tion of one of these, KIF1A, a gene encoding the heavy chain of 21 kinesin-3, in mice results in perinatal death, with severe devel-22 opmental defects in both motor and sensory systems and abnor-23 mal aggregation of synaptic vesicle precursors in neuronal cell 24 bodies (Yonekawa et al., 1998). Other axonal kinesins include ki-25 nesin-2 (Noda et al., 1995). Thus some of the compartments oc-26 cupied by Mn²⁺ are likely to be transported normally by other 27 kinesin-family motors in the absence of KLC1. How these many 28 different motors interact with various cargo is an area of vigorous 29 investigation by cell biologists.

30 Transport in the KLC-KO mouse may be compromised by sec-31 ondary effects of the deletion on other transported macro-32 molecules. The variation in accumulation in the MSN between 33 individuals occurred in both wild-type and the knock-outs and 34 was not correlated with age or injection site, and thus is probably a 35 normal fluctuation in transport within this circuit and not a con-36 sequence of secondary effects in the mutant. Neurofilaments are 37 transported by kinesin-1 (Uchida et al., 2009), and form abnormal 38 aggregates in aging KLC-KO (15-18 month old) mice when carry-39 ing a human tau transgene (Falzone et al., 2009; Li et al., 2012; Xia 40 et al., 2003). Such aggregates could produce obstructions in the 41 axonal highways. Our histology did not feature this pathology, nor 42 did we detect phosphorylated tau in the younger mice (8-13 43 month old) studied here. It is also conceivable that other cellular 44 processes compromised by KLC1 deletion underlie the delayed 45 Mn²⁺ transport observed here. Decreased transport of synaptic 46 vesicles could impair trans-synaptic signaling, upon which Mn²⁺ 47 depends to cross synapses (Bearer et al., 2007a). For example, 48 delayed transport of ion channels could delay uptake (Barry et al., 49 2014). However, the relatively normal behavior of these mice ar-50 gues against a large deficit in ion channels required for neuronal 51 function, although a minor contribution from decreased release or 52 uptake could enhance the transport deficit reported here.

53 Consistent with our results suggesting a small but significant 54 role for kinesin-1 in axonal transport are reports that mutations in 55 human KIF5A, one of three genes in humans encoding kinesin-1 56 heavy chain, cause hereditary spastic paraplegia with early to mid-57 life onset (Hamdan et al., 2011; Klebe et al., 2012; Musumeci et al., 58 2011; Schule et al., 2008; Yonekawa et al., 1998). Very long per-59 ipheral nerves are even more vulnerable than the shorter axons in 60 the CNS to transport defects. In the periphery, symptomatology of 61 transport defects is more apparent than in more subtle CNS 62 functions, such as cognition, memory and emotion. Genetic mu-63 tations in proteins that interact with kinesin-1 activity produce 64 hereditary neurological and cognitive disorders symptomatically. 65 For example, mutations in HSPB1 increase cdk5-mediated phos-66 phorylation of neurofilaments, reducing their ability to bind kinesin-1, altering their intraneuronal structure, and producing a Charcot-Marie Tooth neuropathy (Holmgren et al., 2013); and beta-tubulin mutations that cause significant human developmental malformations, such as polymicrogyria, congenital fibrosis of extra-ocular muscle type 3 (CFEOM3) and malformation of cortical development (MCD) (Tischfield et al., 2011), also reduce kinesin-1 driven axonal transport (Niwa et al., 2013) and probably other microtubule-based motors as well. Among these mutations in the Class III tubulin gene, TUBB3, induce very severe neurological symptoms, including peripheral neuropathy and loss of axons in many kinds of brain neurons through their effect on microtubule-kinesin interactions (Tischfield et al., 2010). The alteration of fiber orientation in the KLC-KO detected by DTI in the MSN could have resulted in different anatomic position and would be expected to increase rather than decrease the rate of Mn²⁺ accumulation. However, although anatomic analysis by DTI and by histology did not reveal major structural differences, the possibility remains that such differences below the resolution of the techniques employed here may contribute to the altered distribution of Mn²⁺ intensity changes in the statistical parametric T-maps of KLC-KO.

88 The surprising extension of signal deep into the forebrain at 89 25 h in the KLC-KO mice, exceeding that of the wild-type, suggests the existence of confounding effects in these experiments, such as 90 91 secondary effects of the mutation on trans-synaptic Mn²⁺ transfer, variations in Mn²⁺ uptake, or even abnormal axonal connectivity. 92 Since the signal in each 90–100 µm³ voxel represents hundreds, or 93 even thousands, of axons, we cannot rule-out small alterations in 94 axonal pathways, even with histologic comparisons at much 95 higher resolution than the MR studies allow. Visual comparison of 96 97 DTI images for two mice, one for each genotype, suggested a difference in orientation of axons anterior/dorsal to the anterior 98 99 commissure, correlating with the location of the altered MEMRI signal. This alteration explains the differences in location of the 100 signal better than it might explain a delayed arrival in KLC-KO. We 101 also considered alterations in numbers or axonal structure of 102 cholinergic neurons in the MSN, which are affected in hetero-103 zygous KLC1 knockout mice at 18 months of age in a background 104 of other Alzheimer's-related transgenes (Stokin et al., 2008), and 105 found neither decreased numbers nor axonal varicosities in the 106 107 homozygous KLC-KO mice studied here. Decreased width of the 108 corpus callosum (23% narrower than wild-type on average) was found in these homozygous KLC-KO mice, although this decrease 109 110 was proportional to the overall decrease in brain size - KLC-KO 111 brains were on average 23% smaller as determined by volumebased morphometry of skull-stripped MR brain images. While 112 accumulation in the MSN via axonal transport would be affected 113 by a diminished number of axons in the circuitry, this could be 114 115 balanced by a similar decrease in the distance to be traveled.

A delay in arrival in the MSN in KLC-KO would be consistent 116 with a constitutive transport process, like a conveyor belt, where 117 vesicular movements are at steady state and accumulation is sa-118 turable. In this hypothetical scenario, accumulation would reach a 119 120 maximum more slowly in KLC-KO due to fewer vesicles moving 121 per unit time. Decreased transport is detected in our studies because the bolus of tracer is introduced in a specific location at a 122 single time-point and we imaged at early enough time-points, 123 before accumulation has reached maximal, to detect the small 124 difference in arrival. At these early time-points, when the tracer, 125 Mn^{2+} , is first being picked up by the transport system, differences 126 between KLC-KO and WT are revealed. As time goes on, accumu-127 lation reaches saturation in both WT and KLC-KO, and then loss of 128 Mn²⁺ from the distal site exceeds accumulation and becomes 129 130 detectable, as shown in the decreasing intensity between 6 h and 25 h in the ROI analyses. Should synaptic vesicle usage increase, as 131 132 occurs during neuronal excitation, our results predict that those

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Acknowledgments

the Harvey Family Endowment.

Appendix A. Supplementary material

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animals with decreased transport may experience functional def-

icits in central nervous system processing due to slower replen-

ishment of synaptic vesicles, just as occurs in hereditary peripheral

neuropathies. Such CNS processing defects would also be pre-

lapse MEMRI as a tool for pre-clinical studies of transport dy-

namics and their contribution to progression of central nervous

system pathology. Previously we reported that the KLC1 knockout

reduced the rate of Mn²⁺ transport in the visual system by ap-

proximately one third (Bearer et al., 2007a). Here we show that

this defect is minimized in brain. An APP knock-out produces

 Mn^{2+} transport defects in the CNS (Gallagher et al., 2016), de-

monstrating that such deficits can be detected by MEMRI. Thus

knockout of KLC1 has less effect than APP knockout on transport of

Mn²⁺, suggesting that other kinesin-1 lights chains or other mo-

tors may contribute to cargo transport in the CNS. Thus detection

of Mn²⁺ transport in the CNS makes MEMRI an exciting tool for

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studying the role of transport in Alzheimer's research.

Our results furthermore demonstrate the usefulness of time-

dicted in humans with kinesin-1 mutations.

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