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A CRISPR-Cas9-engineered mouse model for GPI anchor deficiency mirrors human phenotype and shows hippocampal synaptic dysfunctions.

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Pathogenic germline mutations in *PIGV* lead to glycosylphosphatidylinositol biosynthesis deficiency (GPIBD). Individuals with pathogenic biallelic mutations in genes of the glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchor pathway show cognitive impairments, a motor delay and in many cases epilepsy. Thus far, the pathophysiology underlying the disease remains unclear and suitable rodent models that mirror human pathophysiology have not been available. We therefore generated a mouse model using CRISPR-Cas9 to introduce the most prevalent hypomorphic missense mutation in European patients, at a site that is also conserved in mice, *Pigv*:c.1022C>A (p.A341E). Reflecting the human pathology mutant $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed deficits in motor coordination and cognitive impairment with poorer long-term spatial memory than wild-type mice, as well as alterations in sociability and sleep patterns. Furthermore, immunohistochemistry showed decreased synaptophysin-immunoreactivity and electrophysiology recordings demonstrated reduced hippocampal synaptic transmission in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice that may underlie impaired memory formation. In single-cell RNA sequencing, $Pigv^{341E}$-hippocampal cells exhibited changes in gene expression, most prominently in a subtype of microglia and subicular neurons. A significant reduction of *Abl1* transcripts in several cell clusters suggests a link to the signaling pathway of GPI-anchored ephrins. We also observed increased levels of *Hdc* that might affect histamine metabolism with consequences in circadian rhythm. This new mouse model will not only open the doors for further investigation into the pathophysiology of GPIBD in future studies, but will also deepen our understanding in the role of GPI anchor related pathways in brain development.

Keywords: GPI anchor deficiency, disease modeling, hippocampal synaptic defect

Significance statement

Inherited GPI-anchor biosynthesis deficiencies (IGD) explain a significant number of cases with syndromic intellectual disability. Even though diagnostic approaches are increasing, the pathophysiology underlying the disease remains unclear. Furthermore, suitable rodent models in order to characterize cognitive and social abilities are lacking. Therefore, we generated the first viable mouse model for GPI anchor deficiency with a behavior phenotype that mirrors the patients condition in many aspects. Moreover, we were able to demonstrate novel neurological insights in the mouse model that will facilitate the understanding of the pathophysiology of IGDs in the future.

Introduction

The glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchor is essential for anchoring a remarkable number of proteins (GPI-linked proteins) to the cell membrane. GPI-linked proteins are essential for signal transduction, cell-cell adhesion, axonal outgrowth, synapse formation and plasticity, as well as for the regulation of the complement system (1,2). Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) was the first disorder to be characterized as a GPI anchor biosynthesis deficiency (GPIBD) (3). However, PNH is an exception in two regards. First, it is the only GPIBD that is acquired and it is due to somatic mutations that cause a complete loss of function. In inherited GPIBDs that are also referred to as inherited GPI-anchor biosynthesis deficiencies (IGDs), there is a residual function of GPI anchor synthesis and maturation. Second, the prevalence of inherited GPIBDs is at least ten-fold higher than of PNH. To date, the recessive phenotypes for 21 genes of the GPI anchor pathway have been reported and Bellai-Dussault discussed the clinical variability in detail for the first 19 GPIBDs (4). However, most patients, including the recently described cases that are due to GPIBD20 and GPIBD21, exhibit intellectual disability, psychomotor delay and epilepsy (5,6). Furthermore, due to residual function of GPI anchor synthesis, patient-derived fibroblasts display a reduced number of GPI-linked proteins on the cell surface (7).

Mouse models prior to the discovery of IGDs, focused mainly on chimeric and conditional knock outs that delete GPI-anchor biosynthesis in different tissues, acknowledging that a complete loss of GPI anchors is embryonic lethal (8–12). Interestingly, resulting phenotypes are often still so severe that mutant mice died early suggesting an essential function of GPI anchor proteins in skin, white matter development and dendritic arborization of Purkinje cells in the cerebellum (8,10). In recent years, mice with constitutional GPIBDs could be identified in mutation screens that are probably viable because the mutations are only hypomorphic or

affect isoforms that are limited to other tissues and thus only explain partial aspects of most inherited GPIBDs (13,14). Lukacs et al. showed that a missense mutation in *Pgap2*, p.(M1V), compromised transcription of this gene particularly in neural crest cells and results in a craniofacial phenotype in mutant mice. In contrast to most other genes of the GPI-anchor biosynthesis and maturation, *Pgap2* has a tissue-specific expression pattern that also changes over embryonic developmental stages and the multiple isoforms that exist in humans further complicate the comparison of the phenotype between humans and mice: Most likely, the facial abnormalities that have been described in human patients with a similar mutation, p.(M1R), might be due to a similar mechanism, however, the other phenotypic features seem to be milder in humans, either due to the different amino acid substitution or the other isoforms resulting in p.(M52R) or p.(M58R) do not exist in mice. Furthermore, McKean et al. observed a holoprosencephaly-like phenotype in two mouse models with a frame-shift mutation in *Pign* and an in-frame deletion in *Pgap1* (14).

Since most of the exiting mouse models died at an early stage due to the severe phenotype, the cognitive deficits have not been characterized, which represent the main clinical challenge in patients with IGDs. For this purpose, we engineered a mouse model using CRISPR-Cas9 with the missense mutation c.1022C>A, p.A341E in *Pigv*, which is also one of the most frequently encountered pathogenic alleles in humans (Krawitz et al. 2010). *PIGV* encodes the mannosyl transferase II that is essential for the attachment of the second mannose to the GPI anchor (16). Due to the residual function of $Pigv^{341E}$, mutant mice are viable with a normal life span that made it possible to complete behavior experiments testing motor, social and cognitive abilities.

Results

Patients with IGDs show a heterogeneous spectrum of symptoms, including neurologic findings, movement disorders and intellectual disability (7,17–19). In general, IGDs that are due to pathogenic mutations in genes that catalyze early steps of the GPI-anchor synthesis, such as *PIGA,* tend to have more severe clinical features such as status epilepticus. In patients with mutations in later steps of the synthesis such as *PIGV* epilepsies do also occur in a substantial proportion, however, they often disappear later in life and the intellectual disability becomes the key clinical feature. In contrast to acquired GPIBDs such as PNH, all patients with IGDs do have some residual function of GPI-anchor synthesis, indicating that null mutants are not viable and at least one allele is required to be hypomorphic. When a novel mutation is encountered in a suspected IGD, flow cytometry with two or more different

markers serves as a confirmatory assay to prove a GPIBD. We therefore used fluor-proaerolysin (FLAER), which is able to recognize all GPI anchored proteins and CD90, a GPI linked protein that is highly expressed in human fibroblasts, to analyze the effect of $Pigv^{341E}$ on a cellular level: the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of FLAER was decreased in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) of hom-$Pigv^{341E}$ mice (Fig. 1A). Likewise, CRISPR-Cas9-engineered mouse embryonic stem (mES) cell clones (hom-$Pigv^{341E}$, hom-$Pgap3^{107L}$) revealed a partial reduction in FLAER and GPI-anchored CD90 (*Appendix*, Fig. S1E). Unlike the clones with homozygous hypomorphic mutations, the null mES clone (*Pigv* (-/-)) showed a cell surface expression of FLAER and CD90 that was close to 0 (*Appendix*, Fig. S1E). We therefore conclude that $Pigv^{341E}$ is hypomorphic in mice, too.

General characteristic features and alterations in sleep patterns in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice

The most prominent differences that we observed first between $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type mice were a reduced weight (Fig. 1B; SI *Appendix*, Fig. S1F) and a hindlimb clasping behavior (Fig. 1C, D).

Due to the intellectual disability and psychomotor delay as key clinical features in IGD, patients are impaired in their everyday life. Therefore, we investigated which spontaneous behaviors our mouse model would show in while living undisturbed in their home cage (singly or group-housed). We monitored $Pigv^{341E}$ mice for 23h in the home cage scan (HCS) at two different time points (time point 1=8 weeks, time point 2=16 weeks). Among the 19 behaviors accurately detected by the post-analysis of the HCS data, three behaviors appeared consistently altered in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice at both time points. $Pigv^{341E}$ mice hung less often to the top of the cage (total occurrences) and for shorter durations (total duration and duration per hour) as compared to wild-type, groomed more often (total occurrences) and for longer durations (total duration and duration per hour) and slept less (total duration and duration per hour) (Fig. 2A, B; SI *Appendix*, Fig. S2A). Only at a younger age (time point 1), $Pigv^{341E}$ mice spent more time walking (duration per hour) during the dark phase of the day than wild-type mice (Fig. 2B, top graph). Furthermore, at both time points hanging behavior appeared as an important variable to differentiate genotypes along the dimensions of a principal component analysis (PCA) (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S4A-F).

Spontaneous home cage activity while living in a group setting was also assessed in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice using the social activity monitor (SAM). For this test, we implanted a RFID transponder into the mice and put the home cage with mixed genotypes on a grid box that could locate the individual animals and their position in the cage at all times (continuous 24h/d recording).

Because the animals are undisturbed in their home cage, the SAM analysis can be done several times without the animals noticing. For the first two time points (time point 1=9 weeks, time point 2=17 weeks), SAM analysis revealed no difference in total distance traveled over 14 days between genotypes (SI *Appendix*, S4G), but an unexpected switch in diurnal/nocturnal activity for both genotypes was observed. The mice were more active during the light (normal sleeping time) than during the dark phases of their days (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S5A, S5C, confirmed by Markov chain Monte Carlo generalized linear mixed-effects models (MCMCglmm), p=0.001). This observation added to the fact that we observed in the HCS shorter sleeping periods in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice and that some patients with IGDs suffer from sleep disturbances (7,20). We performed a second experiment in which we evaluated the spontaneous activity of the $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type mice separately (nonmixed *vs.* mixed genotype cages). When $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type mice lived together in the same cage (i.e. mixed genotype), we reproduced our previous results: Mice of different genotype showed no difference in total distance traveled over 4 days (Fig. 2C, left graph), per phase (Fig. 2D, left graph), per day (SI *Appendix*, Fig. 2C) and per hour (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S2D) but they still showed higher activity levels (larger variability) during the light *vs.* dark phase (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S2D, confirmed by Markov chain Monte Carlo generalized linear mixed-effects models (MCMCglmm), p=0.001). However, in non-mixed housing conditions $Pigv^{341E}$ mice walked more distance over 4 days (Fig. 2C, right graph), per phase (Fig. 2D, right graph), per day and hour (Fig. 2E, F) as compared to wild-type and again, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice were found to be more active during the light than during the dark cycle at day 1 and 2 (Fig. 2E).

$Pigv^{341E}$ mice show motor dysfunction and alterations in sociability and social recognition.

Extensive testing of different motor functions in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice revealed a clear and elaborated dysfunctional motor phenotype. $Pigv^{341E}$ mice had a reduced balancing ability and motor coordination displayed by a decreased latency to fall off the rotarod (Fig. 3A). This was confirmed by an increased latency to traverse an elevated beam (Fig. 3B). In the rope grip test, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed an increased latency to climb on the rope and had a lower hanging score than wild-type mice (Fig. 3C; *Appendix*, Fig. S6A right graph). Furthermore, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice revealed a reduced grip strength (Fig. 3D). The walking pattern of the $Pigv^{341E}$ mice was evaluated using the footprint test (Fig. 3E). $Pigv^{341E}$ mice displayed an increased distance between forepaw and hindpaw (S) in paw placement of the stride (Fig. 3F). This is remarkable

since walking mice usually place their hind paws at the same position as the forepaws (Fig. 3E, see wt).

We evaluated social behavior in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice in the social proximity and three-chamber test. In the social proximity test, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed a decreased number of "rear up" behavior and an increased number of nose-to-anogenital contacts with the stranger mouse (Fig. 3G). However, no differences in number of nose-tip-to-nose-tip, nose-to-head-contact, "crawl over" and "crawl under" behavior were observed between genotypes (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S7A). In the three-chamber test, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice spent more time with the stranger mouse than with the empty cage (Figure 3H). Furthermore, the discrimination ratio, stranger over empty cage, was higher in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice than in wild-type (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S7D, right graph). Nevertheless, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice did not distinguish between the familiar (stranger 1) and unfamiliar mice (stranger 2) in contrast to wild-type mice (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S7D, left graph).

$Pigv^{341E}$ mice show cognitive deficits in spatial long-term memory and species-specific, hippocampus-dependent functions.

To identify the cognitive and affective profile of $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, a battery of tests was performed to assess aspects of spatial learning and memory, species-specific functions (Barnes maze, y-maze, marble burying, nest building behavior) and their spontaneous response to novel, open and elevated or bright environments (Open field, elevated plus maze and dark/light box). In the Barnes maze test, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice were delayed in spatial learning as indicated by an increased latency to escape during day 1-3 (Fig. 4A). Despite this delay in spatial learning during day 1-3, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice proved to have learnt the location of the escape box at day 4 and showed normal short-term spatial memory at day 5. However, we observed in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice impaired long-term spatial memory at day 12 displayed by an increased latency to escape (Fig. 4A). Similar to the results that measured the latency to escape, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed an increased path length for the days 1-4 and 12 but not day 5 (Fig. 4B). Furthermore, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice spent less time in the target quadrant than wild-type mice at day 12 confirming deficits in long-term spatial memory (SI *Appendix* Fig. S8B, right graph). In the y-maze test, similar spontaneous alternation behavior between genotypes suggested normal short-term spatial working memory in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S8A). In the species-specific and hippocampus-dependent tests of marble burying and nest construction (21), $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed a decrease in number of buried marbles and in the quality of their nests (Fig. 4C,D).

$Pigv^{341E}$ mice behaved similar to wild-type mice in the dark/light-box and elevated plus maze (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S9A, B). In the open field test, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice spent less time in the center and more time in the periphery than wild-type (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S9C). Moreover, the path length and number of visits to the center were decreased in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice during the open field test (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S9D, E).

$Pigv^{341E}$ mice reveal a synaptic defect in synaptic transmission.

Since $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed a cognitive defect in spatial learning and memory, we hypothesized a hippocampal defect. A decreased burrowing and nest building behavior (hippocampus-dependent) in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice supported this notion and we decided to analyze the hippocampus in more detail. We performed a Nissl staining and, however, observed no morphological abnormalities in the hippocampus of $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S10C). Since it is known that a valuable number of GPI linked proteins play a crucial role in synapse formation and plasticity with deficits already shown in cell culture (22), we performed an immunostaining to visualize synaptophysin, a presynaptic marker. In fact, we observed a decreased immunoreactivity for synaptophysin in *Cornu Ammonis* 1 - *Stratum Radiatum* (CA1-SR) of $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (Fig. 5A). In contrast, there were no significant differences in *Cornu Ammonis* 3 - *Stratum Radiatum* (CA3-SR), and *Cornu Ammonis* 1 - molecular layer of dentate gyrus (CA1-ML) between genotypes (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S10A, B). To test whether the observed behavioral abnormalities are accompanied by deficits in synaptic transmission, electrophysiology recordings were conducted, specifically in the CA1-SR region, where synaptophysin appeared to be reduced in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice. We tested input-output functions and observed lower amplitudes of excitatory post-synaptic potential (EPSPs) at different stimulation intensities in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (Fig. 5B). In the paired pulse facilitation (PPF), $Pigv^{341E}$ mice revealed an increased paired pulse ratio (PPR) (Fig. 5C). Moreover, the post-tetanic potentiation (PTP) showed an increased facilitation in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (Fig. 5D).

Shift in relative cell count of hippocampal cellular subgroups in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice

We detected a synaptic defect in the CA1-SR region of $Pigv^{341E}$ mice that potentially resulted in impaired spatial learning and memory. In order to identify the cell types most affected by GPIBD, we performed single-cell RNA sequencing on hippocampal cells of mice after cognitive behavioral tests. Based on the gene expression profiles of around 8,800 $Pigv^{341E}$ and 7,100 wild type single-cells, we defined 17 cellular subgroups (Fig. 6A). Cells from both $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type mice were present in all subgroups, but the distribution differed

between genotypes ($\chi^2 = 267.61, df = 14, p < 2.2 * 10^{-16}$). While the fractions of granule cells, oligodendrocytes and a microglia subpopulation (microglia 3) were decreased in the pooled samples from $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, the fractions of a subicular neuron subpopulation (Neurons subiculum 1), gabaergic (inhibitory) interneurons and fibroblast-like cells were increased compared to the pooled wild type samples (Fig. 6B).

$Pigv^{341E}$ hippocampal cells exhibit a de-regulation in gene expression related to synapse organization and signaling transduction

Expression analysis of single-cell RNA sequencing data yielded a number of differentially expressed genes between $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type cells within each cellular subgroup (Fig. 6 C), with a robust decrease in expression of the non-receptor tyrosine kinase *Abl1* and increase of the histidine decarboxylase *Hdc*, the cytochrome P450 member *Cyp4x1* and the predicted lncRNA *Gm14216* both within and across all cellular subgroups (Fig. 6D; *Appendix*, Fig. S16-18). The most extensive change in gene expression within a cellular subgroup was observed in the first subgroup of subicular neurons and the third subgroup of microglia cells (Fig. 6C; *Appendix*, Fig. S16-17). We also performed gene ontology (GO) analysis for differentially expressed genes between genotypes including the three categories "biological process", "cellular component", and "molecular function" (Fig. 6 E-G). Among the differentially expressed genes in subicular neurons, GO terms (biological process) related to "regulation of synapse organization" were enriched in genes with increased expression in $Pigv^{341E}$ cells, while the GO terms (biological process) related to regulation of "cell morphogenesis" and to "commissural neuron axon guidance" were enriched in genes with a decreased expression (Fig. 6E). Furthermore, GO terms (biological process) associated with "cell-cell adhesion via plasma-membrane adhesion molecules" were enriched in genes with increased and decreased expression (Fig. 6E).

In the single-cell RNA sequencing we identified three different hippocampal microglia populations in both genotypes (Fig. 6A, B, microglia 1-3). All three subpopulations expressed the marker genes *Csf1r* and *C1qa* (Appendix, Fig. S15). However, GO term analysis for genes showing the most significant differential expression between the three microglia subgroups and all remaining cells in both genotypes, yielded "cell activation", "migration", "phagocytosis" and "immune responses" in the top 10 of GO terms related to biological process in microglia 1 and 2 (*Appendix*, Table S2). In contrast, microglia 3 cells displayed top 10 GO terms (biological process) that were related to ribosome, ribonucleoprotein complex biogenesis and cytoplasmic translation (*Appendix*, Table S2). Thus, we considered microglia

1 and 2 cells as potentially more phagocytic and migrating than microglia 3 cells. We found over 326 genes differentially expressed between genotypes in the potentially less phagocytic and migrating microglia cells (microglia 3). Remarkably, 306 out of 326 were down-regulated in microglia 3 cells of $Pigv^{341E}$ mutants (Fig. 6C). In GO analysis (biological process), down-regulated genes were enriched in pathways that are involved in "small GTPase-mediated signal transduction" and "regulation of microtubule cytoskeleton polymerization and de-polymerization" in $Pigv^{341E}$ microglia 3 cells (Fig. 6E). In addition, we observed a low proportion of differentially expressed genes (20 genes) between genotypes that were up-regulated in $Pigv^{341E}$ microglia 3 cells. Among these, we found *Rpl38*, *Rps21* and *Rps28* which encode for ribosomal proteins.

CA3 pyramidal neurons project their axons to the CA1 region where we observed dysfunction in synaptic transmission in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice. Therefore, we were particularly interested in the cellular subgroup of CA3 pyramidal neurons, in which we observed 79 differentially expressed genes between genotypes (Fig. 6C). In GO analysis, genes were enriched in pathways with a decreased expression associated with "adherens junction organization" as well as "regulation of cell-substrate junction assembly" and "focal adhesion assembly" in $Pigv^{341E}$ CA3 pyramidal neurons (Fig. 6E). Interestingly, we observed also an enrichment of genes with a decreased expression related to "neuron-neuron synaptic transmission" and to "regulation of synaptic vesicle exocytosis" and "synaptic vesicle transport" (SI *Appendix*, Table S3).

Discussion

$Pigv^{341E}$ is the first mouse model for GPI anchor deficiency with a hypomorphic mutation that is viable after weaning and that displayed drastic alterations in behavior reflecting key aspects of patients with IGD without life threatening conditions such as severe epilepsies.

We were able to demonstrate in these mice a severe motor phenotype that included deficits in motor coordination, grip or muscle strength, climbing and hanging behavior (in HCS), alterations in the walking pattern and hindlimb clasping. Behavioral traits such as altered walking pattern, hindlimb clasping and motor coordination deficits are usually observed in mouse models with an ataxia-like behavior and cerebellar dysfunctions (23,24). In agreement with these findings, ataxia was reported in some IGD patients and an ataxia-like behavior was observed in a conditional *Piga* knock out mouse model (10,19). Therefore, Lukasc, *et al.* analyzed the microscopic anatomy of cerebellum sections from their conditional *Piga* knock out mouse model and found mild deficits in Purkinje cell arborization (10). However, in

histologic analysis the cerebellum of our $Pigv^{341E}$ mutants did not reveal any abnormalities in various stainings (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S11A-F). The overall folial pattern appeared to be unchanged. Particularly, calbindin staining showed no differences in Purkinje cell dendritic arborization between genotypes (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S11E-F). We therefore hypothesize that deficits in dendritic arborization in this neuronal cell type as shown by Lukacs, *et al.* require a more severe GPI-anchor biosynthesis deficiency than the one induced by the hypomorphic mutation c.1022C>A in *Pigv*. This would also be in line with the longer life span of our mouse model that allowed us to analyze the cognitive deficits additionally. Besides the cerebellum, we focused on the hippocampus and performed histology and electrophysiology for a deeper understanding of the memory deficits. Although we did not observe significant morphological changes in the hippocampus, the input-output curve, PPR and PTP were significantly altered in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, suggesting that electrophysiology is a sensitive functional assay for mouse models with mild GPIBD.

Since $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed increased self-grooming in the HCS, which is a repetitive, highly stereotyped pattern that can be associated with autistic-like behavior in rodents (25), we suspected abnormalities in social behavior as well. Moreover, autistic features are reported in a subgroup of patients with IGD due to pathogenic mutations in *PGAP3* (7). In contrast, patients with *PIGV* deficiency are keen to interact socially despite their severe speech impairments. Interestingly, we observed in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice an enhanced social approach behavior displayed by an increased number of nose-to-anogenital contact and a reduced "rear up" behavior in the social proximity test. A reduced "rear up" behavior towards the cage in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice suggested reduced social avoidance. The enhanced social approach behavior was confirmed in the three-chamber test: in comparison to wild-type controls, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice spent more time with the stranger mouse than with an empty cage. Comparable performance between genotypes in the buried food test ruled out a compromised olfaction, which is a potential confounder in social behavior tests (SI *Appendix*, Fig S7C). Taking into account the enhanced social approach behavior in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, the positive social abilities in patients with *PIGV* deficiency seem to be characteristic for these individuals and should be considered for diagnosis. However, it is yet unknown to which extent other IGD patients affected in other genes than *PIGV* reveal positive social abilities. In addition, since we did not observe in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice a characteristic social behavior for autism (26) and autistic features were seen only in a subgroup of patients with IGD, autism should not be considered as very specific feature of IGD.

$Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed a deficit in spatial long-term memory in the Barnes maze, correct short-term spatial memory and short-term working memory (y-maze test). Furthermore, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice revealed a delay in spatial learning compared to wild-type mice in the Barnes maze (day 1-3). Since, in the Barnes maze, not only the latency to escape was increased in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, but also the path length, we excluded the motor phenotype as a confounder. However, even though the path length and the latency to escape were increased in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, the number of visits to wrong holes was not significantly altered from day 2-12 (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S8C). The analysis of the searching strategy revealed that $Pigv^{341E}$ mice were less often targeting the correct hole without any errors (number of wrong holes) than wild-type mice (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S8D, direct strategy) (Wt: 15.8 %, $Pigv^{341E}$: 3.3 %). Moreover, two further searching strategies were quantified: a random choice of a hole without any order, and a serial strategy, that is testing holes one after another in close proximity. While $Pigv^{341E}$ mice used more often the random strategy (Wt: 9.7 %, $Pigv^{341E}$: 56.7 %), wild-type mice used the serial strategy more often in order to find the correct hole (Wt: 25.4 %, $Pigv^{341E}$: 20.0 %) (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S8D). Therefore, $Pigv^{341E}$ mice covered with only a few wrong holes already a larger distance than wild-type and it may explain why the path length and the latency to escape were significantly increased in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, whereas the number of wrong holes was not significantly altered between genotypes.

Furthermore, there was no difference between genotypes in affective related behavior (dark/light box, elevated plus maze) except in the open field test, where $Pigv^{341E}$ mice spent more time in the periphery than in the center. However, this observation could also represent a confounder due to the motoric phenotype in this test, since the number of entries to the center and the path length was reduced in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice.

Interestingly, electrophysiology recordings revealed reduced synaptic transmission at CA1-SR in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, which could be consistent with the observed impairment in long-term spatial memory and hippocampus-dependent species-specific behaviors (marble burying and nest construction test). While PTP and PPR were increased in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice, the input-output curve was reduced indicating a reduced synaptic release probability. Due to an increased PTP, PPR and a reduced immunoreactivity of synaptophysin, a presynaptic vesicle protein, we hypothesize that the pool of ready releasable vesicles in the pre-synapse is reduced resulting in a damped input-output curve in the post-synapse. In this regard, it is noteworthy that GO analysis of single-cell RNA sequencing data revealed that genes with a significantly decreased expression in $Pigv^{341E}$-CA3 pyramidal neurons were enriched for GO-terms (biological process) associated with synaptic transmission and vesicle transport.

Single-cell RNA sequencing data revealed the most prominent differences in gene expression in a subgroup of subicular neurons and microglia. In subicular neurons 1, up-regulated genes were associated with biological processes such as "synapse organization". Since we observed a synaptic defect in CA1-SR, revealed by immunohistochemistry and further supported by electrophysiological recordings, we hypothesized a synaptic defect in the subiculum as well, also due to the results obtained from the single-cell RNA sequencing. The subiculum is an important brain area in the hippocampus for memory retrieval that is linked through microcircuits with the CA1 (27). Lederberger, *et al.* described two distinct circuits for memory acquisition and retrieval: Memory acquisition involves the CA1 and medial-entorhinal-cortex in contrast to memory retrieval that involves the CA1, subiculum and the medial-entorhinal-cortex. However, whether memory acquisition or memory retrieval or even both conditions are affected in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice could be more specifically tested in future studies.

Strikingly, $Pigv^{341E}$-microglia 3 cells showed 306 down-regulated genes. Therefore, microglia might play a more important role in GPI anchor deficiency than previously thought. These genes were enriched in GO terms (biological process) related to "protein localization to cell periphery", "small GTPase mediated signal transduction" and "regulation of microtubule polymerization or de-polymerization". Small GTPases are important mediators of the cytoskeleton (28). Thus, we hypothesized that a GPI anchor defect leads to down-regulation of small GTPase-mediated pathways that has further on consequences on cytoskeleton organization in this microglia subtype. In this regard, GPI-anchored ephrinAs could play an important role, since EphrinA1 are known to regulate smallGTPase (Rho)-dependent cytoskeleton rearrangement through Src/focal adhesion kinases (29).

It is estimated that up to 0.5% of the eukaryotic proteins are GPI-linked with a broad range of different functions comprising cell-cell adhesion, signal transduction and antigen presentation (30). It is therefore surprising that the pathophysiology of the acquired GPI-anchor deficiency PNH is mainly explained by the reduced expression of only two substrates, CD55 and CD59, reducing the protection of the cell from the MAC, which can also be effectively treated by eculizumab, inhibiting complement activation (31). Likewise, the analysis of mouse models for congenital forms of GPI-anchor deficiencies has also aimed at identifying other lead targets. McKean et al. suggested a pivotal role of Cripto/TGFb signaling in the development of holoprosencephaly (14), while Lukacs et al. discussed the compromised role of the GPI-anchored Folr1 in neural crest cells and the cranial neuroepithelium that could be linked to the facial gestalt (13). Interestingly, there is a remarkable subset of GPI linked proteins involved

specifically in synapse formation and plasticity (1). Since $Pigv^{341E}$ mice show a hippocampal synaptic defect, this subset of GPI-linked proteins, among these GPI-linked EphrinA, may have a pivotal role in the development of the disease as well. Activation of EphA1-8 and 10 receptor tyrosine kinase by GPI anchored Ephrin-A1-5, for instance, defines synaptic strength and plasticity through activation of downstream pathways involved in learning and memory formation in the hippocampus (32). Single-cell RNA sequencing analysis revealed that *Abl1*, known to interact on protein level with several EphrinA-receptors (*Appendix*, Fig.S6F) (33), was not only down-regulated in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice across all cellular subgroups but also within each cellular subgroup. Our hypothesis is that the GPI anchor defect in the hippocampus is especially critical for EphrinA signaling, and that defective GPI anchoring of EphrinA in turn reduces hippocampal EphrinA receptor and Abl1 activity. In this regard, other studies have shown as well that axon repulsion is ephrin-A-dependent and mediated through the Abl kinase family (34). Furthermore, Ephrin-A2/-A3 double knockouts exhibit behavioral alterations similar to $Pigv^{341E}$ mice that are displayed by a decreased locomotor activity in the open field test, a reduced marble burying behavior and an increased grooming behavior (35).

Along with *Abl1*, also *Hdc* and *Ptgds* were de-regulated in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice with increased expression across all cellular subgroups. *Hdc* encodes for a histidine decarbocylase catalyzing the conversion from histidine to histamine that is an important neurotransmitter regulating circadian rhythm (36). In rodents, histamine is increased during the dark phase to induce wakefulness and decreased during the light phase to induce sleep (37). Furthermore, it was shown that intracerebroventricular application of histamine triggers characteristic signs of wakefulness such as increased grooming and exploration behavior that were also observed in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (HCS, SAM) (37). Furthermore, during home-cage activity monitoring (group housed) and the HCS (individually housed), $Pigv^{341E}$ mice were found to be, during the light cycle, more active and slept for shorter durations respectively. Consequently, a higher expression of *Hdc* may lead to a higher production of histamine, thereby disturbing circadian rhythm and showing classical signs of wakefulness in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice during the light phase. Interestingly, in the conditional *Piga* knock out mouse model bulk RNA sequencing of the cerebellum displayed an enrichment of de-regulated genes associated to the circadian rhythm (10). Moreover, *Ptgds* codes for prostaglandin D2 synthase, which converts prostaglandin H2 (PGH2) into prostaglandin D2 (PGD2), which in turn is able to induce sleep (38). It was shown that PGD2 fluctuates with the circadian rhythm and is increased in the cerebrospinal fluid, when rats were sleep deprived (39). Therefore, up-regulation of *Ptgds* expression could be an indicator of sleep deprivation in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice. However, how a miss-regulation of

Ptgds and *Hdc* could be associated to GPI anchor deficiency is still unknown and should be answered in future studies. Furthermore, since $Pigv^{341E}$ mice showed fewer resting phases during their classical inactive (light) phase, a careful analysis of sleep pattern in IGD patients seems indicated. So far, sleep disturbances have been mainly reported for patients with *PGAP3* deficiency (19).

In conclusion, we presented in this work a deeply phenotyped mouse model that mirrors the human phenotype. Furthermore, we detected a hippocampal synaptic defect that may lead to impaired spatial long-term memory. We hope that our model, as well as our phenotyping approach will be useful in the future to study in more detail the pathomechanism and the response to therapeutic interventions.

Material and Methods

Animals

$Pigv^{341E}$ mice were generated by diploid or tetraploid aggregation (40) (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S1A) and maintained by crossing them with C57Bl.6/J mice. Mice were genotyped by PCR using the primers m*Pigv*Ex4_fw and m*Pigv*Ex4_rv. PCR amplicons were subsequently digested by *BcuI* restriction enzyme (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For restriction analysis agarose gel electrophoresis was performed and genotypes were determined (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S1D). All animals were handled according to government regulations as approved by local authorities (LaGeSo Berlin) under the license (G0365/17, G0346/13, G0176/19, G0247/13, G0243/18). Moreover, experiments were carried out following the 3R guidelines for animal welfare. Mice were housed in groups with mixed genotypes in single ventilated cages with an enriched environment. Furthermore, mice were housed in a pathogen free animal facility with a 12 h dark/light cycle. Mice had food and water *ad libitum* unless otherwise indicated. Mice used for experiments were 8 weeks to 6 months old unless otherwise indicated. $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type mice had the same age for each experiment. In addition, littermates were assigned equally to both experimental groups according to their genotype and sex in order to avoid bias effects. The experimenter was blinded except during behavioral testing, since $Pigv^{341E}$ mice were physically smaller. Moreover, experiments were randomized.

Flow cytometry of mouse embryonic fibroblasts and mouse embryonic stem cells

Isolation of MEFs from E13.5 embryos (Wt (n=4), het-$Pigv^{341E}$ (n=4), hom-*Pigv* (n=5)) is described elsewhere (14). MEFs were maintained in Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS), 1% ultra-glutamine and 1%

penicillin/streptomycin. mES cells were maintained as previously described (41). For flow cytometry, cells were detached with cold ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) diluted in 1x phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and a cell scraper. Afterwards, cell suspension was pipetted several times to get a single cell suspension. Cells were stained with FLAER [Af-488] and Anti-mCD90/Thy1-PE (only used in mES cells) (R&D Systems, FAB7335P) in 1x PBS supplemented with 2% FCS for 30 min. Cells were then centrifuged at 400g for 5 min and washed in 1x PBS supplemented with 2% FCS two times. The stained cells were subsequently analyzed using the MACSQuant® VYB flow cytometer and the FlowJo[TM] v. 9.8.2 software. For mES cells the average and standard deviation was calculated including two technical replicates.

Behavioral testing

Mice were habituated to the room adjacent to the testing room 30 min before starting behavior experiments. The equipment was cleaned with 70% ethanol before the experiments. In between animals and trials, the equipment was cleaned with 5% ethanol. Behavior experiments were conducted during the light phase (approx. 4 hours after the dark cycle ended). For the motor tests (rope grip, grip strength, beam walking, rotarod, foot print) nest construction test, HCS (CleverSys) recording and the SAM (PhenoSys) (first approach) one cohort, Wt (female n=8, male n=4) $Pigv^{341E}$ (female n= 4, male n=2), was phenotyped at two consecutive time points (motor and nest construction test: 7 and 15 weeks, HCS: 8 and 16 weeks, SAM: 9 and 17 weeks). For cognitive tests (Barnes maze, y-maze), affective tests (open field, dark-light-box, elevated plus maze), social tests (three-chamber, social proximity), the marble burying tests and the buried food test two cohorts of the same age were used (first cohort: Wt (female n=4, male n=5) $Pigv^{341E}$ (female n=2, male n=2), second cohort: Wt (female n=5 male n=6) $Pigv^{341E}$ (female n= 2, male n=5)). For the SAM (second approach) only the second cohort was used. The behavioral experiments were conducted in the same order in both cohorts. For the hindlimb clasping test a separate cohort was used (age: 6 weeks, Wt (female n=3, male n=5), het-$Pigv^{341E}$ (female n=4, male n=4), hom-$Pigv^{341E}$ (female n=4, male= n=6). For a detailed description of the behavioral tests see the supplementary material and methods part (SI *Appendix*).

Synaptophysin-staining

Paraffin-embedded sections were rehydrated as already described (see supplementary material and methods, SI *Appendix*) and then washed twice in 1x PBS for 3 min. Afterwards, antigen retrieval of sections was performed in 10 mM citrate buffer for 5 min at 60 °C and washed twice in 1x PBS for 3 min. Sections were permeabilized and blocked in 0.2% Triton-X and 3% bovine serum albumin (BSA) for 30 min at room temperature. Sections were then washed twice for 3 min in 1x PBS and stained with Anti-synaptophysin antibody (1:800, Abcam, ab32127) that was diluted in 1x PBS supplemented with 3% BSA at 4°C overnight. Afterwards, sections were washed in 1x PBS and secondary antibody (anti-rabbit-488Af, 1:1000) was applied in 1x PBS supplemented with 3% BSA for 1h. Sections were washed with 1x PBS for 3 min and stained with 4′,6-Diamidin-2-phenylindol (DAPI) (1:1000) for 10 min. Finally, sections were washed three times for 3 min and embedded in fluoromount.

For each biological replicate (Wt(female n=3, male n=2) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=2, male n=4), age: P23-25) three sections were analyzed. Furthermore, three images were taken for each section per area (CA1-SR, CA3-SR, CA1-ML) at 63x magnification with the ZEISS LSM 700 confocal microscope. 6 Z-stacks were recorded and transformed to one image with the ZEISS Zen Blue Software. Images were then analyzed with FIJI imageJ for quantification of synaptophysin-immunoreactivity/μm^2=Pixel(green)/μm^2.

Schaffer-Collateral recordings

Acute hippocampal brain slices were prepared as described elsewhere (42) (see supplementary material and methods, SI *Appendix*). Recordings were performed in a submerged recording chamber (Warner instruments RC-27L), filled with artificial cerebrospinal fluid (ACSF) with solution exchange speed set to 2.5 ml/min at room temperature (22-24°C). Low resistance stimulation electrodes were placed in CA3-SR to stimulate Schaffer Collaterals and the recording electrode was placed in the CA1-SR field. Basal stimulation was applied every 10 sec. In order to analyze the input-output relationship, stimulation intensities were adjusted to different fiber volley (FV) amplitudes (0.05 mV increments) and were correlated with the corresponding field EPSP (fEPSP) amplitudes. PPR were determined by dividing the amplitude of the second fEPSP (50 ms inter-stimulus interval) with the amplitude of the first (average of ten repetitions). Four high frequency trains (100 pulses, 100 Hz) were applied every 10 sec and the amplitude of the following fEPSP was normalized to the baseline (PTP). For each animal, several measurements were conducted.

The mean was calculated including all measurements of all animals. (Wt(female n=2, male n=2) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=2, male n=2).

Single-cell RNA sequencing, preprocessing and analysis

Preparation of single-cell suspension from hippocampi was carried out according to Mattei et al. (43) (see supplementary material and methods, SI *Appendix*). Sequencing libraries were generated using the Chromium Single-cell Gene Expression Solution v3 (10X Genomics, Inc.) according to manufacturer's protocol and sequenced with the Illumina NovaSeq 6000. Both the pooled $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type sample were sequenced on the same lane. Demultiplexed sequencing data was provided by the core facility. Quality assurance of raw sequencing reads was performed with FastQC. For alignment to reference genome GRCm38.96 and quantification of single-cell gene expression, the zUMI pipeline with internal usage of the STAR aligner was employed. Both exonic and intronic reads were considered for downstream analysis.

Further processing and analysis of the generated gene expression count table was conducted in R, mainly using the single-cell genomics toolkit Seurat. Based on the distribution of cells, a total of 19 out of 15,949 cells with ≤ 100 genes, ≤ 100 unique molecular identifiers (UMIs) or $\geq 30\%$ of UMIs mapping to mitochondrial genes was removed by filtering (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S12). Gene expression values of the remaining 8,836 $Pigv^{341E}$ mutant cells and 7,094 wild-type cells were normalized using the sctransform procedure developed by Hafemeister and Satija (2019), including the percentage of UMIs mapping to mitochondrial genes as regression variable (44). After PCA, the first 11 principal components were selected for dimensionality reduction based on the amount of captured variance (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S13). They were used as input to clustering of cells as well as to UMAP for two-dimensional visualization. For cluster definition we employed the unsupervised graph-based approach implemented in Seurat with k=10 nearest neighbors. The resolution parameter was set to 0.2 based on visual concordance with the 2D representation in UMAP space. We then assigned cellular identities by analyzing the differentially expressed genes between the clusters. Candidate genes were compared with the adult mouse brain atlas (http://dropviz.org/) and *in-situ* hybridization data from the Allen brain atlas (https://mouse.brain-map.org/search/index) (45) (SI *Appendix*, Fig. S15). Distribution of cells across defined cellular subgroups was compared between genotypes via Pearson's Chi-squared test. For differential expression testing between groups of cells, the default settings in Seurat were applied. Genes with an absolute average $\log_2$ fold change of at least 0.25 and a Bonferroni-adjusted p-value below 0.01 were considered

significantly differentially expressed. Genes with significant differential expression between groups of interest were examined for overrepresentation of GO terms compared to the background of all genes expressed in our data set using the clusterProfiler package; terms with an FDR-adjusted p-value below 0.05 were considered significantly enriched.

Statistical analysis

For all experiments at least four animals per genotype were used except for the weight curve for which at least three animals per genotype were used. One animal was defined as one biological replicate and represented one data point except for electrophysiology recordings (see section: Schaffer-Collateral recordings). The mean and standard deviation was calculated for each genotype group unless otherwise indicated. Data was statistically analyzed with GraphPad Prism (Version 7) or R (46) and results are demonstrated with a mean ± standard deviation. Statistical tests were performed for each experiment as indicated in SI *Appendix,* table S1. Results with a p-value<0.05 were considered significant unless otherwise indicated.

Data availability

The single-cell RNA sequencing data are freely available from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) repository under accession number GSE147722. Other data is available from the corresponding author on a reasonable request.

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Competing interests

The authors report no competing interests.

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Fig. 1. Features of *Pigv*^{341E} mice. (A) Flow cytometry analysis of hom-*Pigv*^{341E} mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) isolated from embryos (E13,5) revealed a reduced mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) in fluor-proaerolysin (FLAER). MFI was normalized to wild-type (B) Male *Pigv*^{341E} mice showed a reduced weight from postnatal day (P) 1-82. (C) hom-*Pigv*^{341E} mice displayed a hindlimb clasping behavior. (D) Representative posture of hindlimb clasping behavior in hom-*Pigv*^{341E} mice. In contrast, wild-type mice spread their hindlimbs when picked up by their tail.

Hom-*Pigv*^{341E}=homozygous for Pigv p.Ala341Glu, het-*Pigv*^{341E}=heterozygous for *Pigv* p.Ala341Glu, wt=wild-type. Animals used for the weight curve: Wt(male=3), hom(male=4). Animals used for the hindlimb clasping test were 6 weeks old: Wt(female n=3, male n=5), het-*Pigv*^{341E}(female n=4, male n=4), hom-*Pigv*^{341E}(female n=4, male= n=6).The data from the weight curve was analyzed by two-way of variance (ANOVA) followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. The data from the flow cytometry and hindlimb clasping test was analyzed with a non-parametric t-test (Mann-Whitney). *$P<0.05$, **$P<0.01$, ***$P<0.001$.

Fig. 2. *Pigv*^{341E} mice reveal a behavior phenotype in the HCS and an increased activity level in the SAM (second approach). (A) Duration of selected behaviors from the home cage

scan (HCS). *Pigv*^{341E} mice revealed increased grooming, decreased hanging and sleeping behavior at both time points. (B) Duration of selected behaviors per hour from the HCS. The dark phase took place between the two dashed vertical lines. *Pigv*^{341E} mice showed increased grooming, hanging and decreased sleeping at both time points. *Pigv*^{341E} mice showed increased walking at time point 1. (C) The social activity monitor (SAM) revealed an increased distance traveled in total in *Pigv*^{341E} mice when separated by their genotype (non-mixed). When housed in mixed genotypes (mixed) there was no significant difference in total distance traveled between genotypes. (D) *Pigv*^{341E} mice displayed an increased distance traveled per phase when separated by their genotype (non-mixed). When housed in mixed genotype (mixed) there was no significant difference in distance traveled per phase between genotypes. (E,F) *Pigv*^{341E} mice traveled longer distances per day and per hour when separated by their genotype (non-mixed).

Pigv^{341E}=homozygous for Pigv p.Ala341Glu, wt=wild-type. Animals used for the HCS (wt: female n=8, male n=4; *Pigv*^{341E}: female n= 4, male n=2) were phenotyped at two different consecutive time points, tp1 at the age of 8 weeks, tp2 at the age of 16 weeks. Animals used for the SAM: wt(female n=4, male n=6) *Pigv*^{341E}(female n= 2, male n=5). The data from the HCS (total duration) and SAM (total distance, mean distance traveled per phase and per day) was analyzed with Wilcoxon rank sum test (non parametric). The data from the HCS (duration per hour) and SAM (distance traveled per hour) was analyzed with a generalized linear mixed-effects models (glmm) using a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC). *$P<0.05$, **$P<0.01$, ***$P<0.001$.

Fig. 3. *Pigv*^{341E} mice show motor dysfunctions. (A-B) *Pigv*^{341E} mice revealed a reduced motor coordination displayed by a decreased latency to fall off the rotarod and an increased latency to traverse the beam (15 diameter). (C) *Pigv*^{341E} mice exhibited a decreased climbing performance showed by a decreased time to climb on the rope. (D) *Pigv*^{341E} mice showed a reduced grip strength in the grip strength meter. [g] was normalized to the weight of the animal. (E) Representative image of walking pattern between genotypes. SL-FL=stride length-forelimb, SL-HL=stride length-hindlimb, FBW=fore base width, HBW=hind base width, S=distance between forepaw and hindpaw. (F) *Pigv*^{341E} mice have an altered walking pattern displayed by an increased distance between forepaw to hindpaw and decreased fore base width. (G) *Pigv*^{341E} mice showed an enhanced social approach behavior displayed by a decreased "rear up" behavior and an increased number of nose-to-anogenital contacts when put together with a stranger mouse in the social proximity test. (H) The three-chamber test

(first 5 minutes) indicated in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice an enhanced social approach behavior displayed by spending more time with the stranger mouse than with the empty cage in contrast to wild-type mice.

$Pigv^{341E}$=homozygous for Pigv p.Ala341Glu, wt=wild-type. Animals for the motor tests were 7 weeks old: Wt(female n=8, male n=4) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n= 4, male n=2). Animals used for the social proximity test: Wt(female n=9, male n=11), $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=4, male n=7). Animals used for the three-chamber test: Wt(female n=9, male n=11), $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=4, male n=6). The data from the motor tests and the social proximity test was analyzed with a non-parametric t-test (Mann-Whitney). The data from the three-chamber test was analyzed by two-way of variance (ANOVA) followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.

Fig. 4. $Pigv^{341E}$ **show cognitive deficits in learning and memory.** (A-B) $Pigv^{341E}$ mice show cognitive deficits in learning and long term memory displayed by an increased latency to escape and path length during day 1-3 (learning) and day 12 (long term memory in the Barnes Maze. (C) $Pigv^{341E}$ mice revealed a decreased burying and nest construction behavior. (D) Representative image of burrowing behavior (left) and nest construction behavior (right) of wild-type and $Pigv^{341E}$ mice.

$Pigv^{341E}$=homozygous for Pigv p.Ala341Glu, wt=wild-type. Animals used for the Barnes maze: Wt(female n=8, male n=11) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=4, male n=6). Animals used for the marble burying test: Wt(female n=9, male n=11) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=4, male n=7). Animals used for the nest construction test were 7 weeks old: Wt (female n=8, male n=4) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=4, male n=2). The data from the nest construction and marble burying test was analyzed with a non-parametric t-test (Mann-Whitney). The data from the Barnes maze (latency to escape, path length) was analyzed by two-way of variance (ANOVA) followed by Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test. *P<0.05 **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.

Fig. 5. $Pigv^{341E}$ **show a hippocampal synaptic defect.** (A) Representative images of immunofluorescence staining show less synaptophysin immunoreactivity (green) in *Cornu Ammonis* 1 - *Stratum Radiatum* (CA1-SR) of $Pigv^{341E}$ mice. 4',6-Diamidin-2-phenylindol (DAPI) (blue) (left), scale: 10 µm. Synaptophysin immunoreactivity was quantified with Fiji ImageJ and reveal significantly reduced immunoreactivity/µm^2 in CA1-SR in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice (right). (B) Input-output: excitatory post-synaptic potential (EPSP) amplitude is reduced in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice at different pre-synaptic fiber volleys (PFV). Scale: L indicates 0.2 mV/ 5 ms

(C) Paired pulse facilitation (PPF) revealed an increased paired pulse ratio (PPR) in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice. Scale: ∟ indicates 0.2 mV/ 10 ms (D) post-tetanic potentiation (PTP) is increased in $Pigv^{341E}$ mice. Scale: ∟ indicates 0.2 mV/ 5 ms.

$Pigv^{341E}$=homozygous for Pigv p.Ala341Glu, wt=wild-type. Animals used for the synaptophysin-staining were 3 weeks old: Wt(female n=3, male n=2) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=2, male n=4) Animals used for the electrophysiology recordings: Wt(female n=2, male n=2) $Pigv^{341E}$(female n=2, male n=2). The data from the synaptophysin immunofluorescence staining and electrophysiology recordings (input-output, PPF, PTP) was analyzed with a parametric student t-test. *P<0.05 **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.

Fig. 6. Differences in transcriptional landscape of hippocampus cells between Pigv341E and wild type at single-cell resolution.

(A) Hippocampus cells from both $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type mice cluster into 17 cellular subgroups, (B) with a skewed distribution of cells across subgroups in the $Pigv^{341E}$ sample in comparison to wild type. Percentages below 3% are not shown. (C) Differential expression testing between $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type cells within each cellular subgroup yielded a number of differentially expressed genes with an absolute $\log_2$ fold change of at least 0.25 and an adjusted p-value below 0.01. The most extensive changes in gene expression were observed for the third subgroup of microglia cells and the first subgroup of subicular neurons. For sets with less than 20 differentially expressed genes, gene counts are not shown. (D) The global comparison between all $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type cells highlights the hippocampus-wide effect on the genes *Abl1*, *Hdc*, *Cyp4x1* and *Gm14216*, for which a significant change in expression was detected within each cellular subgroup. The dashed horizontal line is located at an adjusted p-value of 0.01, the dashed vertical lines at an absolute $\log_2$ fold change of 0.25 and the dotted vertical lines at an absolute $\log_2$ fold change of 0.7. For genes with an absolute $\log_2$ fold change above 0.7, gene symbols are shown. Within the subgroups of microglia 3, neurons subiculum 1 and pyramidal neurons (CA3), GO enrichment analysis revealed a number of overrepresented biological process terms (E), cellular component terms (F), and molecular function terms (G) in the sets of differentially expressed genes between $Pigv^{341E}$ and wild-type cells within the cellular subgroups. For each set of genes with significantly increased or decreased expression between genotypes, up to 3 terms with the lowest adjusted p-value after removal of redundant gene ontology terms are shown. The gene ratio, i.e. the number of genes annotated with a term divided by the respective number of differentially expressed genes, is encoded by point size. Cellular subgroups with no significantly enriched

terms were omitted. GO terms enriched in both differentially expressed genes with increased and decreased expression within a subgroup are contracted into a single star-shaped symbol. DE genes, differentially expressed genes; FC, fold change; GO, Gene Ontology; P_{adj}, adjusted p-value. Pooled samples (wt(male=4), $Pigv^{341E}$(male=4)). n=1 per genotype.

Figure 1

A Flow cytomery analysis

B Weight curve - male

C Hindlimb clasping

D Wt   *Pigv*341E

Figure 2

A HCS - total duration of behavior

B HCS - mean duration of selected behaviors per hour

C SAM- total distance traveled

D SAM- mean distance traveled per phase

E SAM - mean distance traveled per day - nonmixed

F SAM - mean distance traveled per hour - nonmixed

Figure 3

Figure 4

A Barnes maze-latency to escape

B Barnes maze-path length

C Burying behavior   Nest construction

D Burying behavior   Nest construction

Figure 5

A Wt **Pigv**^{341E} — CA1-SR

Synaptophysin

DAPI + synaptophysin, 63x magnification, P23-25

Figure 6