1

Surface-bound antigen induces B-cell permeabilization and lysosome exocytosis

facilitating antigen uptake and presentation to T-cells

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Abstract

B-cell receptor (BCR)-mediated antigen internalization and presentation are essential for humoral memory immune responses. Antigen encountered by B-cells is often tightly associated with the surface of pathogens and/or antigen-presenting cells. Internalization of such antigens requires myosin-mediated traction forces and extracellular release of lysosomal enzymes, but the mechanism triggering lysosomal exocytosis is unknown. Here we show that BCR-mediated high-affinity recognition of antigen tethered to beads or planar lipid-bilayers causes localized plasma membrane (PM) permeabilization, a process that requires BCR signaling and non-muscle myosin II activity. B-cell permeabilization triggers a PM repair response involving lysosomal exocytosis. B-cells transiently permeabilized by surface-associated antigen internalize more antigen than cells that remain intact, and higher affinity antigens that cause more B-cell permeabilization and lysosomal exocytosis are more efficiently presented to T-cells. Thus, PM permeabilization by surface-associated antigen triggers a lysosome-mediated B-cell resealing response, which provides the extracellular hydrolases that can facilitate antigen internalization and presentation.

Introduction

B-cells are responsible for generating antibody responses that neutralize pathogens and attract immune cells. B-cell activation is initiated by the B-cell receptor (BCR), which surveys antigen through its membrane-anchored immunoglobulin (Reth 1994). Antigen-BCR interaction induces signaling cascades and antigen internalization, followed by intracellular processing and surface presentation to T-cells. Antigen presentation is essential for the activation of B-cells and their differentiation into high-affinity memory B-cells or antibody-secreting cells (Shlomchik and Weisel 2012). A property that is critical for maximizing humoral protection is the ability of clonal-specific BCRs to recognize antigen in different physical, chemical, and biological forms.

Antigen encountered by B-cells *in vivo* can be tightly associated with the surface of pathogens, such as parasites, bacteria and viruses, and/or antigen-presenting cells such as follicular dendritic cells (Gonzalez *et al.* 2011). Internalization, processing, and presentation of such surface-bound antigens are essential for specific B-cells to obtain T-cell help, which is critical for B-cell activation and differentiation. Follicular dendritic cells, which are uniquely present in germinal centers of the secondary lymphoid organs, acquire antigens that drain into these organs and present them as antibody- or complement-opsonized complexes (Suzuki *et al.* 2009; Cyster 2010). Competition between high and low-affinity B-cells to acquire antigen from follicular dendritic cells is a critical step in the selection of high-affinity B-cells that differentiate into memory B-cells and long-lived plasma cells.

B-cells, and follicular B-cells in particular, are thought to have a limited ability to phagocytose large insoluble antigen particles (Vidard *et al.* 1996). However, B-cells are able to extract and

endocytose antigen that is tightly associated with non-internalizable surfaces (Batista and

Neuberger 2000). Importantly, the efficiency by which B-cells present antigen depends more

strongly on the BCR-antigen binding affinity when the antigen is associated with non-

internalizable surfaces, compared to antigen bound to particles that can be internalized (Batista

and Neuberger 2000). Recent studies using antigen-coated beads, planar lipid bilayers, and/or

plasma membrane (PM) sheets revealed two major mechanisms by which B-cells extract antigen

from non-internalizable surfaces for endocytosis. Mechanical forces, generated by non-muscle

myosin II (NMII) activation at sites of antigen-BCR interaction, can directly pull antigen from

presenting surfaces for endocytosis. When mechanical forces alone are not sufficient, hydrolases

released from lysosomes cleave surface-associated antigen to facilitate internalization (Yuseff *et al.* 2011; Natkanski *et al.* 2013; Spillane and Tolar 2017; Wang *et al.* 2018). Surface-associated

antigen was previously shown to induce polarization of B-cell lysosomes towards antigen-

binding sites (Yuseff *et al.* 2011), but the mechanism responsible for triggering lysosome

exocytosis and release of hydrolytic enzymes was unknown.

When cells are permeabilized by physical tearing or by pore-forming proteins, Ca^{2+} influx

triggers rapid exocytosis of lysosomes as part of the process that repairs the PM and prevents cell

death (Reddy *et al.* 2001; Andrews *et al.* 2014). Since its discovery several decades ago

(Rodríguez *et al.* 1997), Ca^{2+}-dependent lysosomal exocytosis has been observed in many cell

types (Zhang *et al.* 2007; Naegeli *et al.* 2017; Villeneuve *et al.* 2018; Ibata *et al.* 2019). We

previously reported that permeabilizing the PM of mouse splenic B-cells with the pore-forming

toxin streptolysin O triggers lysosomal exocytosis, releasing lysosomal enzymes extracellularly

and exposing the luminal epitope of the lysosome-associated protein LIMP-2 on the cell surface.

B-cells rapidly reseal these PM lesions, in a process that requires lysosomal exocytosis (Miller *et*

al. 2015). Surprisingly, in this study we found that interaction of the BCR with surface-

associated antigen can permeabilize the B-cell PM, triggering a resealing mechanism that

involves exocytosis of lysosomes. We investigated this process by determining if antigen-

induced PM permeabilization depends on BCR-antigen binding affinity, BCR signaling and

NMII motor activity, and if it influences the ability of B-cells to internalize and present surface-

associated antigens to T-cells.

Results

BCR interaction with surface-associated antigen induces B-cell PM permeabilization at

antigen-binding sites

We utilized two experimental models extensively used previously to study BCR-mediated

internalization of surface-associated antigen: F(ab')$_2$-anti-mouse IgM+G (αM, binding and

activating mouse BCRs) and hen egg lysozyme (HEL, recognized by BCRs of MD4 mice)

immobilized on beads or tethered to planar lipid bilayers (PLB) by biotin-streptavidin

interaction. Beads or PLB coated with transferrin (Tf) at similar surface density were used as

controls, as Tf does not activate the BCR and interacts with the Tf receptor with similar affinity

as HEL-MD4 BCR interaction (Batista and Neuberger 1998; Fuchs and Gessner 2002).

Strikingly, live-cell imaging revealed entry of the membrane-impermeable dye propidium iodide

(PI) at the B-cell side in contact with αM-beads, indicating that PM permeabilization occurred at

bead-binding sites (*Figure 1A, Figure 1-figure supplement 1, and Videos 1-3*). A significantly

higher fraction of B-cells binding αM-beads than those binding Tf-beads became PI-positive,

even though similar percentages of B-cells bound αM- or Tf-beads (*Figure 1B and C*). Flow

Figure 1

Figure 1. BCR binding to surface-associated antigen causes B-cell PM permeabilization.
(**A**) Spinning disk time-lapse images of a splenic B-cell incubated with αM-beads (1:2 cell:bead ratio) in the presence of PI (Movie S1). (**B**) Percentages of B-cells bound to beads. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**C**) Percentages of PI-positive (PI+) cells in bead-bound B-cells at 30 min quantified from the images. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**D**) Gate for bead-bound B-cells in a flow cytometry forward and side scatter dot plot. (**E**) Histograms of PI fluorescence intensity (FI) of αM- and Tf-bead-bound B-cells after 30 min incubation. (**F**) Percentages of PI+ bead-bound B-cells after 30 min incubation with αM- or Tf-beads in the presence or absence of soluble αM (sαM). Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**G**) Percentages of PI+ bead-bound B-cells after 30 min with αM-beads at indicated cell:bead ratios. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**H**) Histograms of PI FI of WT or MD4 B-cells incubated with αM- or HEL-beads for 30 min. (**I**) Percentages of WT and MD4 B-cells binding αM- or HEL-beads. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**J**) Percentages of PI+ bead-bound WT or MD4 B-cells after 30 min incubation. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**K**) Spinning disk time-lapse images of a B-cell interacting with αM-PLB in the presence of FM1-43 and PI (Arrows, FM1-43 or PI entry, *Video 4*). (**L**) Percentages of PI+ B-cells interacting with αM- or Tf-PLB for 30 min. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**M**) PI or FM1-43 entry time in B-cells interacting with αM-PLB. Data points represent individual cells in three independent experiments (mean ± SD). Bars, 5 μm. *$p \leq 0.05$, **$p \leq 0.01$, ***$p \leq 0.005$, unpaired Student's *t*-test or one-way ANOVA.

Figure supplement 1. BCR binding to αM-beads causes localized PM permeabilization in B-cells.

Figure supplement 2. Identification of bead-bound B-cells by flow cytometry.

Figure supplement 3. BCR binding to αM-beads does not increase apoptosis in B-cells.

Figure supplement 4. Early detection of B-cell permeabilization by intracellular FM staining.

Figure supplement 5. The lipophilic FM dye enters B-cells permeabilized by surface-associated antigen, staining the nuclear envelope.

cytometry analysis confirmed the increased PI entry in B-cells binding αM-beads when

compared to Tf-beads (*Figure 1D-G and Figure 1-figure supplement 2*). Addition of soluble

F(ab')$_2$-anti-mouse IgM+G (sαM, capable of binding and activating the BCR) did not increase

the frequency of PI entry in B-cells binding to Tf-beads (*Figure 1F*). The percentage of cells

positive for cleaved caspase-3, an early apoptotic marker, was similar in B-cells interacting or not

with αM- or Tf-beads, and only increased significantly after treatment with staurosporine (*Figure 1-*

figure supplement 3). Flow cytometry analysis also revealed similar fractions of bead-bound MD4

B-cells becoming PI-positive after binding beads coupled to αM or to the *bona fide* antigen HEL

(*Figure 1 H-J*). In contrast, WT B-cells binding to HEL-beads showed a low percentage of PI-

positive cells, similar to those binding Tf-beads (*Figure 1F and J*). Similar observations were

made using the PLB system that allows lateral movement of the tethered antigen (Dustin *et al.*

2007). Significantly more B-cells became PI-positive when contacting αM-PLB when compared

to Tf-PLB (*Figure 1K and L*).

We confirmed that binding to surface-associated antigen induces B-cell PM permeabilization by

using membrane-impermeable, fluorescent lipophilic FM probes. These dyes are used

extensively for detecting PM permeabilization, because they only label the outer PM leaflet in

intact cells but rapidly stain intracellular membranes when entering cells (Bansal *et al.* 2003;

McNeil *et al.* 2003; Demonbreun *et al.* 2019). After >30 min of interaction with αM-PLB we

observed sudden, massive increases in intracellular FM associated with intracellular structures,

including the nuclear envelope (*Figure 1K, Figure 1-figure supplements 4 and 5, and Video 4*).

Sudden FM influx was only observed in B-cells that eventually became PI-positive, but not in

cells that remained PI-negative during interaction with αM-PLB. This observation, in addition to

the minimal amounts of intracellular FM dye detected in all B-cells prior to 30-40 min, indicate

that the massive intracellular staining of B-cells interacting with αM-PLB is a result of PM

permeabilization and extracellular dye influx, and not endocytosis. FM influx was detected on

average ~8 min before nuclear staining with PI (*Figure 1K and M, Figure 1-figure supplements*

4, and Video 4). Thus, FM intracellular influx is a more sensitive method for detecting the onset

of B-cell PM permeabilization when compared to PI, which can only be visualized after

accumulating inside the nucleus and intercalating into DNA. Collectively, these results show that

BCR binding to surface-associated antigen can cause localized permeabilization of the B-cell

PM.

Antigen-induced B-cell permeabilization requires high-affinity BCR-antigen binding, BCR

signaling, and NMII motor activity

Previous studies showed that high-affinity BCR-antigen binding induce high levels of BCR

signaling, cytoskeleton reorganization, and endocytosis of antigen bound to non-internalizable

surfaces (Batista and Neuberger 1998; Batista and Neuberger 2000; Fleire *et al.* 2006). To

examine the impact of BCR binding affinity on antigen-induced PM permeabilization, we

incubated MD4 B-cells with beads coated with equal densities of HEL or the duck egg lysozyme

isoform DEL-I. The MD4 BCR binds DEL-I with >100 fold lower affinity than it binds HEL

(Langley *et al.* 2017). As expected, the percentage of B-cells binding to multiple beads was

reduced when the BCR-antigen affinity decreased, but B-cells binding one single bead were

detected with both HEL and DEL-I, and also Tf (*Figure 2-figure supplement 1*). In these single

bead-bound populations, DEL-I-beads caused significantly less PI entry than HEL-beads (*Figure*

2A). Signaling inhibition with non-toxic concentrations of the Src kinase inhibitor PP2 (Cheng *et*

Figure 2

A

% PI+ one bead-bound cells

HEL DEL-I Tf

**

B

pY MFI in bead-bound cells

NT   iSrc

*

C

pBTK   77 kDa
BTK   77 kDa

Beads   −   +   +
iBTK   −   −   +

D

% PI+ cells (relative to untreated)

NT   iSrc   iBTK

**   ***

E

Time (min)   4   13   25   40   60

BCR (XZ)

FM (XY)

F

Time after bilayer contact (min)

BCR polarization   FM entry

G

        αM   Tf

DIC

BCR

pMLC

H

■ αM beads   ▼ Tf beads

BCR FIR

*   ***   ***   ***

I

pMLC FIR

**   **   ***

Time (min)

J

% PI+ cells

Bleb   −   +   +
Beads   +   +   −

****

K

% of cells bound to beads

NT   Bleb

Figure 2. PM permeabilization induced by surface-associated antigen depends on high-affinity BCR-antigen binding, BCR signaling, and non-muscle myosin II (NMII) motor activity. (**A**) Percentages of PI+ single bead-binding B-cells after incubation with HEL-, DEL-I- or Tf-beads (1:4 cell:bead ratio) for 30 min. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**B**) Mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of phosphotyrosine (pY) in HEL-bead-bound B-cells treated or untreated (NT) with a Src kinase inhibitor (iSrc) by flow cytometry. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**C***)* Western blot analysis of pBTK and BTK in B-cells incubated with HEL-beads in the presence or absence of BTK inhibitor (iBTK) for 30 min. (**D**) Percentages of PI+ HEL-bead-bound cells treated with iSrc or iBTK relative to NT at 30 min. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**E**) Spinning disk time-lapse images of BCR polarization (yellow arrow) in a B-cell incubated with αM-PLB in the presence of FM4-64 (white arrow, intracellular FM). (**F**) Timing of BCR polarization and FM entry of individual cells interacting with αM-PLB. Data points represent individual cells in three independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**G**) Confocal images of BCR and phosphorylated NMII light chain (pMLC) staining in B-cells interacting with αM- or Tf-beads (Arrows, bead binding sites). (**H** and **I**) Mean fluorescence intensity ratio (FIR) of BCR (**H**) and pMLC (**I**) staining at the bead-binding site relative to the opposite PM in αM- and Tf-bead-bound cells over time. Data represent the averages of three independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**J**) Blebbistatin effect on B-cell permeabilization. Data points represent percentages of PI+ cells in individual videos from three independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**K**) Percentages of bead-bound B-cells incubated with αM-beads for 30 min in the presence or absence of blebbistatin (Bleb). Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). Bar, 5 μm. *$p \leq 0.05$, **$p \leq 0.01$, ***$p \leq 0.005$, ****$p \leq 0.001$, unpaired Student's *t*-test or one-way ANOVA.

Figure supplement 1. Impact of BCR-antigen affinity on B-cell-bead binding.

Figure supplement 2. B-cell binding to αM-PLB but not to Tf-PLB triggers BCR polarization first and PM permeabilization later.

Figure supplement 3. BCR and phosphorylated myosin light chain (pMLC) polarize towards αM-bead binding sites.

al. 2001) (iSrc) or the Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase inhibitor AVL-292 (Aalipour and Advani 2013)

(iBTK) (*Figure 2B and C*) also reduced PI entry in cells binding HEL-beads (*Figure 2D*).

Following contact with αM-PLB or αM-beads but not Tf-PLB or Tf-beads, surface BCRs

became polarized (measured using image analysis software) towards PLB- or bead-binding sites

within ~10 min, a period markedly shorter than what was required for the onset of PM

permeabilization, detected through FM influx (*Figure 2E-H, Figure 2-figure supplements 2 and*

3, and Video 5). Similarly, the activated form of the actin motor protein NMII, detected through

its phosphorylated light chain (pMLC), accumulated along with the BCR at αM-bead-binding

sites (*Figure 2G, Figure 2-figure supplement 3, and Video 6*). The fluorescence intensity ratios

(FIR) of both surface BCRs and pMLC in B-cells binding αM-beads were significantly higher

than those binding Tf-beads (*Figure 2H and I*). Importantly, inhibition of NMII motor activity

with blebbistatin (Bleb) markedly reduced the number of B-cells that became PI-positive during

interaction with αM-beads, without affecting the cells' ability to bind the beads (*Figure 2J and*

K). Live-imaging detected PI entry following a "tug-of-war" between two B-cells simultaneously

engaging an αM-bead (*Video 3 and Figure 1-figure supplement 1C*), further supporting a role for

NMII-mediated traction forces in antigen-induced PM permeabilization. These data suggest that

PM permeabilization caused by surface-associated antigen requires strong BCR-antigen

interaction and the subsequent activation of signaling and NMII motor activity.

Antigen-induced B-cell permeabilization triggers lysosome exocytosis as a repair response

We previously showed that permeabilizing B-cells with the pore-forming toxin streptolysin O

triggers lysosomal exocytosis (Miller *et al.* 2015), a response required for sealing PM wounds

(Reddy *et al.* 2001). In this study, we found that B-cells permeabilized during interaction with

surface-associated antigen also rapidly reseal their PM, by utilizing an assay involving sequential

exposure to the membrane impermeable dyes FM4-64 and SYTOX Blue. Repaired cells were

quantified by flow cytometry as the percentage of permeabilized αM-bead-binding cells (stained

intracellularly with FM4-64 kept throughout the assay) that excluded the membrane-

impermeable dye SYTOX Blue added during the last 10 min of the assay (*Figure 3A*). The

inhibitor of lysosomal exocytosis bromoenol lactone (BEL) (Fensome-Green *et al.* 2007; Tam *et*

al. 2010) significantly reduced the percentage of resealed cells (*Figure 3B*) while not increasing

the numbers of dead cells, detected as low forward- and side-scatter populations by flow

cytometry (*Figure 3-figure supplement 1*). These data suggested that lysosomal exocytosis is

required for the resealing of B-cells permeabilized by binding to surface-associated antigen.

To directly determine if PM permeabilization by surface-associated αM or HEL triggers

lysosome exocytosis in B-cells, we utilized two independent methods: Surface exposure of

luminal epitopes of the lysosomal membrane protein LIMP-2 and live total internal reflection

fluorescence microscopy (TIRF). Flow cytometry analysis detected surface LIMP-2 in a higher

percentage of B-cells binding αM-beads than in B-cells binding Tf-beads (*Figure 3C and D*).

Notably, surface exposure of LIMP-2 was lower in MD4 B-cells binding DEL-I-beads compared

to HEL-beads (*Figure 3E*). These results show a close correlation between the extent of PM

permeabilization (*Figure 2A*) and lysosomal exocytosis induced by surface-associated αM and

HEL/DEL-I (*Figure 3D-E*). Surface LIMP-2 was predominantly detected at sites of αM-bead

binding (*Figure 3F and Figure 3-figure supplement 2*) and this polarized pattern, measured by

FIR, increased after ~30 min of interaction with αM- but not Tf-beads (*Figure 3G*), a timeframe

similar to the period required for PM permeabilization (*Figure 1M*). Using TIRF microscopy, we

Figure 3

Figure 3. Antigen-induced permeabilization triggers PM repair mediated by lysosomal exocytosis. (**A**) Resealed bead-bound B-cells after incubation with αM-beads were assessed by flow cytometry analysis of FM4-64 (added at the start) and SYTOX Blue (added in the last 10 min) fluorescence intensity (FI) in the presence or absence of BEL. (**B**) Percentages of permeabilized αM-bead-bound cells that resealed in the presence or absence of BEL. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**C**) Flow cytometry analysis of surface-exposed (no detergent permeabilization) and/or intracellular LIMP-2 (with detergent permeabilization) of bead-bound B-cells after incubation with αM- or Tf-beads for 30 min. (**D** and **E**) Percentages of surface-exposed LIMP-2 (relative to values obtained with secondary antibody alone) in bead-bound B-cells incubated with αM- or Tf-beads (**D**) or with HEL-, DEL-I- or Tf-beads for 30 min (**E**). Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**F**) Confocal images of surface-exposed LIMP-2 in B-cells incubated with αM- or Tf-beads (Arrows, bead-binding sites). Bars, 5 μm. (**G**) FIR (bead-binding site:opposite PM) of surface-exposed LIMP-2 in individual cells over time. Data points represent individual cells (mean ± SD). (**H**) Total internal reflection microscopy (TIRF) images (left column) and FI surface plots (right column) of SiR-Lyso at the B-cell surface contacting αM-PLB. (**I**) Representative MFI versus time plot of a SiR-Lyso-loaded lysosome undergoing exocytosis. (**J**) SiR-Lyso exocytosis events (circles) in individual B-cells during the first 0-15 min or 25–45 min of incubation with αM-PLB. (**K**) Times of individual SiR-Lyso exocytosis events in B-cells incubated with αM-PLB during a 45 min incubation. Data points represent individual cells from three independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**L**) Numbers of SiR-Lyso exocytosis events per B-cell permeabilized (PI+) or not permeabilized (PI-) by αM-PLB during a 45 min incubation. Data points represent individual cells from three independent experiments (mean ± SD). *$p \leq 0.05$, **$p \leq 0.01$, unpaired Student's *t*-test or one-way ANOVA.

Figure supplement 1. Bromoenol lactone (BEL) does not affect B-cell viability.

Figure supplement 2. BCR-mediated binding of αM-beads induces surface exposure of the LIMP-2 luminal domain at bead contact sites.

Figure supplement 3. Detection of lysosomal exocytosis by total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) microscopy.

imaged live B-cells preloaded with a specific lysosome probe (SiR-lyso, a membrane-permeable

fluorescent dye conjugated to a peptide that binds the lysosomal enzyme cathepsin D) while

contacting αM-PLB. Exocytosis events were identified by rises in the fluorescence intensity of

SiR-lyso puncta (reflecting lysosome entry into the TIRF evanescent field adjacent to the PM)

followed by sharp decreases within ~2 s (indicating dye dispersion upon fusion) (*Figure 3H and*

I, Figure 3-figure supplement 3, and Video 7). Exocytosis events were observed in the majority

of individual PI+ cells interacting with αM-PLB (*Figure 3J*) and occurred predominantly ~30-45

min after αM-PLB contact (*Figure 3J and K*), a timing similar to PM permeabilization and

LIMP-2 exposure. Importantly, lysosomal exocytosis events were significantly more frequent in

permeabilized B-cells when compared to B-cells that remained intact (*Figure 3L*). Thus,

permeabilization of B-cells by surface-associated αM triggers localized lysosomal exocytosis at

antigen-BCR interaction sites as a PM repair response.

B-cell permeabilization and lysosome exocytosis facilitate internalization and presentation

of surface-associated antigen

Next we investigated the relationship between PM permeabilization by surface-associated

antigen and antigen internalization, using fluorescent αM covalently bound to beads or tethered

to PLB. Live-cell imaging detected αM puncta moving away from bead-binding sites into B-

cells, increasing progressively between 30 and 60 min of interaction (*Figure 4A and B and Video*

8). In contrast, intracellular fluorescent puncta were markedly less abundant during the same

time period in cells not binding αM-beads, or binding Tf-beads (*Figure 4B*). Importantly,

inhibition of antigen-mediated PM permeabilization with blebbistatin significantly reduced

extraction and internalization of αM coupled to beads (*Figure 4C*). When similar experiments

Figure 4

Figure 4. Antigen-induced PM permeabilization promotes antigen internalization and presentation. (**A**) Confocal live imaging of a B-cell interacting with fluorescent αM-beads (Arrows, internalized αM). (**B**) Percentages of cells containing internalized αM or Tf, bound or not to αM- or Tf-beads, over time. Data points represent individual fields in three independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**C**) Percentages of bead-bound B-cells with internalized αM in the presence or absence of Bleb after 60-min incubation. Data points represent individual fields in three independent experiments (mean ±SD). (**D**) Confocal images (xz) of αM internalization in B-cells permeabilized (FM-high) or not permeabilized (FM-low) by αM-PLB after 60-min incubation. (**E**) Percentages of B-cells permeabilized (FM-high) or not permeabilized (FM-low) by αM-PLB containing internalized αM over time. Data points represent individual fields in three independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**F**) MFI of internalized αM in individual B-cells permeabilized (FM-high) or not permeabilized (FM-low) by αM-PLB over time. Data points represent independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**G**) IL-2 secretion by 3A9 T-cells activated by B-cells incubated with or without (no Ag) soluble HEL or DEL-I (10 µg/ml) for 72 h. Data points represents independent experiments (mean ± SD). (**H**) IL-2 secretion by 3A9 T-cells activated by B-cells incubated with or without HEL-, DEL-I- or Tf-beads (1:4 cell:bead ratio) for 72 h. Bar, 5 µm. Data points represents independent experiments (mean ± SD). *$p \leq 0.05$, **$p \leq 0.01$, ****$p \leq 0.0001$, unpaired Student's *t*-test or one-way ANOVA. (**I**) Cartoon depicting the spatiotemporal relationship of events initiated by interaction of the BCR with surface-associated antigen. Our results enabled us to establish a working model. High-affinity binding stabilizes BCR-antigen bonds and induces strong BCR signaling (1) and NMII activation (2). Activated NMII generates local traction forces that permeabilize the PM (3), which triggers a localized PM repair response mediated by lysosomal exocytosis. Lysosome exocytosis releases hydrolases that can cleave antigen off surfaces (4), facilitating endocytosis (5) and presentation to T-cells (6).

were performed with PLB, the fraction of cells containing internalized αM and the total amount

of αM uptake were significantly higher in permeabilized cells, identified by high levels of FM

staining (FM-high), compared to non-permeabilized cells with low FM staining (FM-low)

(*Figure 4D-F*). Collectively, these data suggest that αM-induced PM permeabilization, rapidly

followed by lysosomal exocytosis, promotes extraction and internalization of αM from non-

internalizable surfaces.

Next, we investigated whether antigen internalization enhanced by PM permeabilization and

lysosome exocytosis impacts antigen presentation by B-cells. We compared the levels of IL-2

secretion by the 3A9 T-cell hybridoma line (Allen and Unanue 1984) after activation by B-cells

exposed to bead-bound HEL or DEL-I. B-cells exposed to a high concentration of soluble HEL

or DEL-I induced similar levels of IL-2 secretion (*Figure 4G*), demonstrating that the primary B-

cells used in these assays could process and present the conserved peptide present in both HEL

and DEL-I for T-cell activation. In contrast, when the B-cells were exposed to lower amounts of

surface-associated antigens, B-cells exposed to HEL-beads activated T-cells to produce IL-2 at

markedly higher levels compared to cells exposed to DEL-I-beads *(Figure 4H)*. These results

suggest that B-cell permeabilization resulting from high-affinity antigen-BCR interaction, with

its corresponding lysosomal exocytosis response, facilitates the presentation of antigen

associated with non-internalizable surfaces.

Discussion

Extracellular release of lysosomal enzymes by B-cells was previously proposed to cleave

antigens tightly associated with non-internalizable surfaces, facilitating their internalization and

presentation to T-cells (Yuseff *et al.* 2011; Spillane and Tolar 2017). However, it was unclear

what the mechanism was responsible for inducing lysosomal enzyme release when B-cells

engaged such insoluble antigen. In this study we show that interaction of the BCR with surface-

associated antigen can cause permeabilization of the B-cell PM, triggering lysosomal exocytosis

as part of the PM repair response (Rodríguez *et al.* 1997; Reddy *et al.* 2001). The antigen-

dependent PM permeabilization occurs at antigen-binding sites, and is reversible under

conditions that allow lysosomal exocytosis. We further demonstrate that PM permeabilization

and lysosomal exocytosis require high-affinity binding of the BCR to antigen, BCR signaling,

activation of NMII motor activity, and promote antigen internalization and presentation. Thus,

our study identifies a critical novel step in the affinity-dependent process by which B-cells

capture antigen tightly associated with surfaces, for effective internalization and subsequent

presentation to T-cells.

Capture and internalization of antigen tightly associated with surfaces is an immunologically

important process, as B-cells encounter this type of antigen *in vivo* on parasites, bacteria, and

viruses, as well as on immune cells such as follicular dendritic cells. Follicular dendritic cells

capture antigen drained into lymph nodes and present it on their surface to germinal center B-

cells. In this manner, follicular dendritic cells enhance BCR antigenic stimulation by increasing

antigen avidity, in addition to providing costimulatory molecules (Natarajan *et al.* 2001). While

the exact percentage is unknown, studies have suggested that the majority of antigen that B-cells

encounter *in vivo* are in a membrane-associated form (Batista and Harwood 2009). Importantly,

the capture, internalization, and presentation of such surface-associated antigens to T-cells are

essential for selecting specific B-cells for survival, clonal expansion, and differentiation into

long-lived high-affinity memory B-cells and antibody-secreting cells (Gitlin *et al.* 2014).

We found that B-cell PM permeabilization induced by surface-associated antigen depends on the

motor activity of NMII. Following BCR polarization, activated NMII accumulates at sites of B-

cell binding to αM- or HEL-beads or PLB before PM permeabilization occurs. These findings

are consistent with previous studies showing that internalization of surface-associated but not

soluble antigen requires NMII-mediated traction forces at antigen-binding sites (Natkanski *et al.*

2013; Spillane and Tolar 2018). Our results support the notion that NMII-mediated traction

forces generated during BCR-antigen interaction are responsible for B-cell PM permeabilization.

Whether this permeabilization is due to tearing of the membrane (Andrews *et al.* 2014) or the

opening of mechanosensitive ion channels (Liu *et al.* 2018; Liu and Ganguly 2019) is currently

unknown. However, the number of permeabilized B-cells that were able to reseal was reduced

when lysosomal exocytosis, a component of the PM resealing response (Reddy *et al.* 2001), was

inhibited - suggesting that NMII-mediated membrane tearing is the mechanism underlying

antigen-dependent B-cell PM permeabilization.

We detected B-cell PM permeabilization during interaction with surface-associated antigen by

following the entry of membrane-impermeable DNA-binding or lipophilic dyes. While the two

types of dyes bind to different intracellular structures, both showed sudden rather than gradual

increases in intracellular staining, consistent with PM permeabilization rather than dye

endocytosis. Strengthening this conclusion, FM lipophilic dyes rapidly associated with the

nuclear envelope in a kinetics that was closely followed by PI nuclear staining. Not all cells

binding surface-associated antigen were permeabilized, possibly as a result of the heterogeneity

of the B-cell population. Splenic B-cells are found at different stages of peripheral maturation

and differentiation (Sagaert and De Wolf-Peeters 2003; Allman and Pillai 2008), thereby binding

antigen with variable affinity and at different times. It will be interesting to examine further

which subsets of B-cells are more effective in capturing and presenting surface-associated

antigen through NMII-dependent PM permeabilization.

The rapid exocytosis of lysosomes triggered by B-cell permeabilization that was uncovered in

our study provides a mechanistic explanation for previously reported affinity-dependent

extraction and presentation of antigen associated with non-internalizable surfaces (Batista and

Neuberger 2000). We showed that DEL-I, which binds the MD4 BCR with a 100-fold lower

affinity than HEL, induces markedly lower levels of PM permeabilization, lysosome exocytosis,

and antigen presentation than HEL, when both antigens are displayed on beads and PLB at

similar densities. Surface association significantly enhances the avidity of antigens by increasing

their valency, a process that can reduce the impact of BCR-binding affinity on BCR signaling,

antigen internalization and presentation when compared to soluble forms of the same antigen.

However, this avidity effect is primarily observed with antigen associated to surfaces that B-cells

are able to internalize (Batista and Neuberger 2000), and it is known that B-cell subsets such as

native follicular B-cells have very low phagocytic capacity (Vidard *et al.* 1996). We envision

that when antigen is strongly associated with non-internalizable surfaces, low-affinity BCR-

antigen interactions are disrupted before B-cells can extract antigen. In this scenario, high-

affinity BCR interactions would be critical for sustaining antigen binding under NMII-mediated

traction forces that promote PM permeabilization, lysosomal enzyme release, and antigen

extraction. High-affinity BCR-antigen binding is also expected to induce more robust signaling

than low-affinity binding, enabling higher levels of NMII activation (Fleire *et al.* 2006;

Natkanski *et al.* 2013) and polarization to drive PM permeabilization. Collectively, in addition to

supporting the notion that tight antigen attachment to non-internalizable surfaces facilitates B-

cell affinity discrimination, our results expand the mechanistic understanding of why different

physical and chemical forms (size, solubility, geometry, and molecular patterns) of immunogens

impact the efficacy of vaccines (Bachmann and Jennings 2010; Khan *et al.* 2015).

Our study also provides important insight into the spatiotemporal relationship of events initiated

by interaction of the BCR with surface-associated antigen (*Figure 4I*). Our results suggest that

high-affinity binding stabilizes BCR-antigen bonds, inducing strong BCR signaling and NMII

activation to locally generate traction forces that permeabilize the PM. Ca^{2+} entry then triggers a

localized PM repair response mediated by lysosomal exocytosis, releasing hydrolases that can

cleave antigen off surfaces, facilitating endocytosis and presentation to T-cells. Thus, our results

support the notion that B-cells utilize a cellular mechanism that evolved for surviving PM injury

to promote the acquisition, presentation, and possibly affinity discrimination of surface-

associated antigens.

Materials and Methods

447 Key resources table

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Primary cell (spleen - C57BL/6)	WT	Jackson Laboratories	000664	
Primary cell (spleen - C57BL/6-Tg(IghelMD4)4Ccg/J)	MD4	Jackson Laboratories	002595	
Primary cell (spleen B10.BR-H2^{K2} H2-T18^a/ SgSnJJrep	B10.BR-H2^{K2} H2-T18^a/ SgSnJJrep	Jackson Laboratories	004804	
Cell line (Mus musculus)	A20	ATCC	TIB-208	B-cell lymphoma
Cell line (Mus musculus)	3A9	ATCC	CRL-3293	T-cell hybridoma
Reagent	Latex NH$_2$-beads	Polysciences	17145-5	
Ligand	αM (F(ab')$_2$ goat-anti-mouse IgM+G)	Jackson Immune Research	115-006-068	Binds to BCR
Antigen	HEL (Hen egg lysozyme)	Sigma-Aldrich	L6876	Binds to BCR from MD4 mice
Antigen	DEL-1 (Duck egg lysozyme)	David B. Langley and Daniel Christ laboratory		Binds to BCR from MD4 mice
Ligand	Tf (Holo- transferrin)	Sigma-Aldrich	T0665-50MG	Binds to transferrin receptor
Ligand	AF488-αM	Jackson Immune Research	115-546-003	Binds to BCR
Ligand	AF488-Tf	Thermo Fisher Scientifc	T13342	Binds to transferrin receptor
Commercial kit	BCA kit	Thermo Fisher Scientific	23235	Protein measurement during bead preparation
Control for antigen	Biotinylated transferrin (Tf-PLB)	Sigma-Aldrich	T3915-5MG	

Reagent	Streptavidin-conjugated Yellow-Green latex beads	Polyscience	24159-1	
Ligand	Biotin-SP (long spacer)-conjugated Fab fragments of goat-anti-mouse IgG (H+L)	Jackson Immune Research	115-067-003	
Inhibitor	Bleb (Blebbstatin)	Sigma-Aldrich	B0560	50 µM
Antibody	anti-phosphotyrosine mAb 4G10	Millipore	05-321	1:500
Antibody	AF488-goat-anti-mouse IgG$_{2b}$	Thermo Fisher Scientific	A-21141	
Reagent	PI (Propidium iodide)	Sigma-Aldrich	P4170-10MG	50 µg/ml
Reagent	FM1-43FX	Thermo Fisher Scientific	F35355	10 µg/ml
Reagent	FM4-64FX	Thermo Fisher Scientific	F34653	10 µg/ml
Reagent	SYTOX^{TM} Blue nucleic acid stain	Invitrogen	S11348	300 nM
Inhibitor	Staurosporine	Abcam	120056	Apoptosis induction (1 µM)
Antibody	Cleaved Caspase-3 (Asp175) Antibody	Cell Signaling	9661T	1:500
Antibody	Cy5-Fab donkey-anti mouse IgG	Jackson ImmunoResearch	715-175-151	5 µg/ml
Antibody	Donkey anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) Highly cross-adsorbed secondary antibody, Alexa Fluor 488	Thermo Fisher Scientific	A-21206	1:200
Inhibitor	PP2	Millipore-Sigma	529573	Src kinase inhibitor (5 µM)
Inhibitor	AVL-292	Selleckchem	S7173	BTK inhibitor (10 nM)
Antibody	anti-BTK	Cell Signaling	8547	1:1000
Antibody	Rabbit anti-phospho-BTK	Abcam	68217	1:500
Antibody	HRP goat-anti-rabbit	Jackson Immune Research	111-035-144	1:1000
Antibody	Cy3-Fab donkey-anti–mouse IgM+G	Jackson Immune Research	115-165-166	1:200

Antibody	Rabbit anti-phosphorylated myosin light chain (pMLC)	Cell Signaling	3671S	1:50
Antibody	AF633-goat-anti-rabbit IgG	Invitrogen	A-21070	1:500
Inhibitor	BEL (Bromoenol lactone)	Sigma-Aldrich	B1552	12 µM
Commercial kit	SiR-Lysosome and Verapamil	Cytoskeleton	CY-SC012	Lysosome probe 1 µM and 10 µM
Antibody	Rabbit-anti-LIMP-2	Sigma-Aldrich	SAB3500449-100UG	1:200
Antibody	AF488 donkey-anti-rabbit IgG	Life technology	A32790	1:200
Commercial kit	IL-2 ELISA kit	Biolegend	431804	
Software	FlowJo 10.1	FlowJo, LLC		https://www.flowjo.com/solutions/flowjo/downloads
Software	Volocity Suite	PerkinElmer		https://ir.perkinelmer.com/news-releases/news-release-details/perkinelmer-launches-volocityr-60-high-performance-3d-cellular
Software	NIH Image J			https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/
Software	MATLAB	MathWorks		https://www.mathworks.com/products/matlab.html
Software	Prism	GraphPad		https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/
Antibody	Anti-CD90.2	Biolegend	105310	1 µl/ $2x10^6$ cells
Reagent	Guinea pig complement	Innovative Research	IGGPCSER	100 µl/ $4x10^7$ cells
Reagent	1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine	Avanti Polar Lipids	850375P	5 mM (PLB)
Reagent	1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-cap-biotin	Avanti Polar Lipids	870273C	50 µM (PLB)

Mice, B-cell isolation, and culture

Primary B-cells were isolated from the spleens of wild type C57BL/6, MD4 transgenic

(C57BL/6 background), B10.BR-$H2^{k2}$ $H2$-$T18^a$/SgSnJJrep (Jackson Laboratories), and F1 of

B10.BR-$H2^{k2}$ $H2$-$T18^a$/SgSnJJrep x MD4 mice using a previously published protocol (Miller *et*

al. 2015). Briefly, mononuclear cells were isolated by Ficoll density-gradient centrifugation

(Sigma-Aldrich). T-cells were removed with anti-mouse CD90.2 mAb (BD Biosciences) and

guinea pig complement (Innovative Research, Inc.) and monocytes and dendritic cells by

panning. B-cells were kept at 37°C and 5% CO_2 before and during experiments. All procedures

involving mice were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Usage Committee of the

University of Maryland.

The A20 B-cell lymphoma line (ATCC #TIB-208) was cultured in DMEM (Lonza)

supplemented with 10% of FBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.05 mM 2-mercaptoethanol

(Sigma-Aldrich), 10 mM MOPS, 100 units/ml Penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (Gemini)

at 37°C and 5% CO_2.

The 3A9 T-cell hybridoma line (ATCC #CRL-3293) was cultured in DMEM (ATCC)

supplemented with 5% FBS (Thermo Fisher Scientific), 0.05 mM 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma-

Aldrich) at 37°C and 5% CO_2.

Antigen-coated beads

Latex NH_2-beads (3 µm diameter, 3.5 x 10^8 beads/preparation, Polyscience) were activated with

8% glutaraldehyde in 0.5 ml PBS for 120 min under rotation at room temperature, washed with

PBS, and incubated overnight with equal molar amounts of F(ab')$_2$ goat-anti-mouse IgM+G

(αM, 20 µg/ml, Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories), hen egg lysozyme (HEL, 5.8 µg/ml,

Sigma-Aldrich), duck egg lysozyme (DEL)-I (Langley *et al.* 2017), holo-transferrin (Tf, 32

μg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich), Alexa Fluor (AF) 488-conjugated Tf (AF488-Tf, 32 μg/ml, Thermo

Fisher Scientific), or AF488-F(ab')$_2$ goat-anti-mouse IgM+G (AF488-αM, 20 μg/ml, Jackson

ImmunoResearch Laboratories) in 1 ml PBS. Protein content determination (BCA, Thermo

Fisher Scientific) of coupling solutions before and after bead incubation confirmed that similar

molar amounts of protein were conjugated in each case. The beads were then blocked with PBS

1% BSA in PBS for 30 min under rotation, washed to remove unconjugated proteins, counted in

a Neubauer chamber and stored at 4°C in PBS containing 1% BSA and 5% glycerol.

Streptavidin-conjugated Yellow-Green latex beads (2 μm diameter, 5 x 10^8 beads/preparation,

Polyscience) were washed with 1% BSA in PBS and incubated with Biotin-SP (long spacer)-

conjugated Fab fragments of goat-anti-mouse IgG (H+L) (40 μg of biotinylated antibody/mg of

beads, Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) for 30 min at 4°C, washed, counted in a

Neubauer chamber and stored at 4°C in PBS containing 1% BSA and 5% glycerol.

Antigen-coated planar lipid bilayers (PLB)

PLB were prepared as previously described (Dustin *et al.* 2007; Liu *et al.* 2012; Spillane and

Tolar 2017). Briefly, liposomes were generated from 5 mM 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-

phosphocholine plus 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-cap-biotin (Avanti Polar

Lipids) at a 100:1 molar ratio by sonication. Eight-well coverslip chambers (Lab-Tek) were

incubated with liposomes for 20 min at room temperature and washed with PBS. The chambers

were then incubated with 1 μg/ml streptavidin (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) for 10

min, washed, and incubated with 10 μg/ml mono-biotinylated Fab' goat-anti-IgM+G (αM-PLB)

(Liu *et al.* 2012) or the same molar amount of biotinylated Tf (16 µg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich) (Tf-

PLB) for 10 min at room temperature.

Flow cytometry analysis of PM permeabilization

Mouse splenic B-cells were incubated with beads coated with αM, HEL, DEL-I or Tf in DMEM

containing 6 mg/ml BSA (DMEM-BSA) at a cell:bead ratio of 1:2 (or as indicated), or with

soluble F(ab')$_2$ goat-anti-mouse IgM+G (sαM, 0.5 µg/ml) for 30 min at 37°C with 5% CO_2.

Propidium iodide (PI, Sigma-Aldrich) was present during the 37°C incubation as an indicator of

PM permeabilization. Cells were then analyzed by flow cytometry (BD FACSCanto II) at 10,000

cell counts/sample. Bead-bound cells were identified based on their forward (FSC)- and side-

scattering (SSC) properties and fluorescence intensity (FI) when using fluorescent beads (*Figure

1-figure supplement 2*). The percentages of PI+ cells among the bead-bound cell populations

were quantified using FlowJo 10.1 software.

Live-cell imaging of PM permeabilization

To assess PM permeabilization by protein-coated beads, mouse splenic B-cells or a B-cell line

(A20) were incubated for 30 min at 4°C in 35 mm glass-bottom dishes (MatTek) coated with

poly-lysine and then with protein-coated beads at a cell to bead ratio of 1:2 for another 30 min at

4°C. Cells were washed with DMEM-BSA and imaged in a Live Cell System chamber

(Pathology Devices) at 37°C with 5% CO_2 in the presence of 50 µg/ml PI (Sigma-Aldrich) and

with or without 50 µM blebbistatin (Sigma-Aldrich). Images were acquired for 60 min at 1

frame/15-30 s using a spinning disk confocal microscope (UltraVIEW VoX, PerkinElmer with a

63X 1.4 N.A. oil objective). Images were analyzed using Volocity Suite (PerkinElmer) and NIH

ImageJ. More than 200 cells from 3 independent experiments were analyzed for each condition.

To analyze PM permeabilization by protein-coated PLB, splenic B-cells were incubated

with FM1-43FX or FM4-64FX (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in DMEM-BSA for 5 min at 4°C,

added to coverslip chambers containing mono-biotinylated Fab' goat-anti-IgM+G or biotinylated

Tf tethered to PLB, and imaged immediately at 37°C with 5% CO_2 in the presence of 50 μg/ml

PI and/or 10 µg/ml FM1-43FX or FM4-64FX (Thermo Fisher Scientific) using a spinning disk

confocal microscope (UltraVIEW VoX, PerkinElmer with a 63X 1.4 N.A. oil objective). Images

were acquired at 1 frame/6-10 s and analyzed using Volocity (PerkinElmer) and NIH ImageJ.

For quantitative analysis, the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of FM1-43FX or FM4-64FX in

a defined area was measured using Volocity (PerkinElmer). More than 270 cells from 3

independent experiments were analyzed for each condition.

Cleaved caspase-3 detection

Splenic B-cells were pretreated or not with 1 µM staurosporine (Abcam) for 24 h at 37°C in

DMEM-BSA to induce apoptosis (Diaz *et al.* 2004), exposed to αM- or Tf-beads for 30 min at

37°C, washed, fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA), blocked with 1% BSA, and

permeabilized with 0.05% saponin. Cells were then incubated with antibodies specific for

cleaved caspase-3 (Asp175) (Cell Signaling Technology) followed by AF488 donkey-anti-rabbit

IgG (Life Technologies) and analyzed by flow cytometry (BD FACSCanto II) at 10,000 cell

counts/sample. The percentages of cells with cleaved caspase-3 staining were determined using

FlowJo 10.1 software.

BCR signaling

BCR signaling was analyzed using both flow cytometry and western blotting. For flow cytometry assays, splenic B-cells from MD4 mice were pretreated or not 5 μM of the Src kinase inhibitor PP2 (Millipore) (Cheng *et al.* 2001) for 30 min at 37°C (conditions selected not to cause B-cell toxicity) and then incubated with HEL-beads in the presence or not of the inhibitor at 37°C for 30 min. Cells were fixed with 4% PFA, permeabilized with 0.05% saponin, incubated with mouse anti-phosphotyrosine mAb (4G10, Millipore) followed by AF488-goat-anti-mouse IgG$_{2b}$ (Thermo Fisher Scientific) secondary antibodies, and analyzed by flow cytometry (BD FACSCanto II) at 10,000 cell counts/sample. The data were analyzed using FlowJo 10.1 software.

For western blot assays, splenic B-cells from MD4 mice were pretreated or not with 10 nM of the BTK inhibitor AVL-292 (Selleckchem) (Aalipour and Advani 2013) for 30 min at 37°C (conditions selected not to cause B-cell toxicity) and then incubated with HEL-beads in the presence or not of the inhibitor at 37°C for 30 min. Cells treated as above were lysed using RIPA buffer (150 mM NaCl$_2$, 1% of NP40, 0.5% Sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 50 mM Tris, pH 8.0) with protease and phosphatase inhibitors (50 mM NaF, 1 mM Na$_3$VO$_4$ and 10 mM Na$_4$P$_2$O$_7$) at 4°C. Cell lysates were run in 4-20% gradient SDS-PAGE gels (Bio-Rad) (5x10^6 cells/ lane) and transferred (Bio-Rad Trans-Blot transfer system) to PVDF membranes (Millipore). The membranes were blotted with rabbit anti-phospho-BTK (pBTK; Abcam) or anti-BTK (Cell Signaling Technology) followed by HRP-anti-rabbit antibody (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) and visualization using ECL substrate (Bio-Rad) and imaging (iBright FL-1500, (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

To check if signaling affected PM permeabilization, splenic B-cells from MD4 mice were

pretreated or not with 5 μM PP2 (Cheng *et al.* 2001) or 10 nM AVL-292 (Aalipour and Advani

2013) for 30 min at 37°C and then incubated with HEL-beads in the presence or not of the

inhibitor and 50 μg/ml PI (Sigma-Aldrich) at 37°C for 30 min. The percentage of PI+ cells was

expressed in relation to the untreated condition.

BCR and NMII polarization

BCRs on the surface of mouse splenic B-cells were stained with Cy3-Fab donkey-anti–mouse

IgM+G (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories) for 30 min at 4°C. Cells were then incubated

with αM- or Tf-beads at 4°C for 30 min and 37°C for different lengths of time. Cells were fixed

with 4% PFA, permeabilized with 0.05% saponin, and incubated with rabbit anti-phosphorylated

myosin light chain 2 (pMLC2) antibodies (Cell Signaling Technology) to label activated NMII

(Bresnick 1999), followed by AF633-goat-anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen). Cells were analyzed by

confocal fluorescence microscopy (Zeiss LSM710 with a 63X 1.4 N.A. oil objective). The

percentages of cells with polarization of surface labeled BCRs and activated NMII towards bead-

binding sites were quantified by visual inspection. More than 300 cells from 3 independent

experiments were analyzed for each condition.

PM repair assay

Mouse splenic B-cells were pretreated or not with 12 μM bromoenol lactone (BEL, Sigma-

Aldrich) in DMEM-BSA for 30 min at 37°C before and during assays to inhibit lysosomal

exocytosis and PM repair (Fensome-Green *et al.* 2007). Cells were then incubated with αM-

beads (1:2 cell-bead ratio) with or without inhibitors at 4°C for 5 min and 37°C for 30 min in the

presence of FM4-64FX (Thermo Fisher Scientific), to stain wounded cells. Cells were then

incubated with SYTOX[TM] Blue nucleic acid stain (300 nM, Invitrogen) at 4°C for 10 min, to

stain cells that failed to repair their PM tears during the 30 min incubation. Cells were analyzed

by flow cytometry (BD FACSCanto II) at 10,000 cell counts/sample. Cells that were FM4-64FX

positive but SYTOX Blue negative were identified as permeabilized cells that resealed. The

percentages of resealed cells among total bead-bound permeabilized cells were quantified using

FlowJo 10.1 software.

BCR polarization in relation to permeabilization

Surface BCRs of splenic B-cells were labeled with Cy5-Fab donkey-anti mouse IgG (Jackson

ImmunoResearch) at 4°C for 30 min. Cells were incubated with αM-PLB in the presence of FM

4-64FX (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and imaged immediately at 37°C with 5% CO_2 using a

confocal spinning disk confocal microscope (UltraVIEW VoX, PerkinElmer with a 60X 1.4 N.A.

oil objective). Images were acquired at 1 frame/20 s for 60 min and analyzed using a custom-

made MATLAB script (MathWorks) and NIH ImageJ software. BCR polarization were analyzed

using maximal projection of XZ images and quantified by the MFI ratio between defined regions

within the bottom half (closer to PLB) and the top half (away from PLB) of individual cells.

Cells with the bottom to top ratio ≥2 were considered polarized. More than 20 cells from 3

independent experiments were analyzed.

Lysosome exocytosis

To detect LIMP-2 exposed on the cell surface, splenic B-cells (C57BL/6 or MD4) were

incubated with αM-, HEL-, DEL-I or Tf-beads for 30 min at 37°C, cooled to 4°C, and incubated

with rabbit-anti-LIMP-2 antibodies (Sigma-Aldrich) for 60 min at 4°C. Cells were then washed

and fixed with 4% PFA, washed, blocked with 1% BSA in PBS and incubated with AF488

donkey-anti-rabbit IgG (Life Technologies) secondary antibodies. For intracellular LIMP-2

staining, B-cells were fixed with 4% PFA, washed, permeabilized with 0.05% saponin for 20

min, and incubated with rabbit anti-LIMP-2 antibodies followed by AF488 donkey-anti-rabbit

IgG. Flow cytometry (BD FACSCanto II) was performed at 10,000 cell counts per sample. Cells

were also analyzed by confocal fluorescence microscopy (Leica SPX5 with a 63X 1.4 N.A. oil

objective). Polarization of LIMP-2 towards bound beads was quantified by calculating the

fluorescence intensity ratio (FIR) of anti-LIMP-2 at the B-cell-bead contact site relative to the

opposite side of the cell PM, using NIH ImageJ and a custom-made MATLAB script

(MathWorks).

Individual events of lysosome exocytosis were captured using total internal reflection

fluorescence (TIRF). Splenic B-cells were preloaded with SiR-Lysosome (1 µM, Cytoskeleton)

in the presence of verapamil (10 µM, Cytoskeleton) for 30 min at 37°C. Cells were added to

coverslip chambers containing mono-biotinylated Fab' goat anti-IgM+G tethered to PLB and

imaged at 37°C with 5% CO_2 in the presence of PI (50 µg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich) using a TIRF

microscope (NIKON Eclipse Ti-E TIRF, 63X 1.49NA oil objective). Images were acquired at 8

frames/s during 15-20 min intervals of the 45 min incubation and analyzed using NIH ImageJ

and Nikon NIS Elements software. Increases in the FI of individual SiR-Lysosome puncta

(reflecting lysosome movement within the TIRF evanescent field towards the PM in contact with

PLB) followed by sharp decreases within a period of 1-2 s (corresponding to a loss of the SiR-

lysosome signal upon PM fusion) were scored as exocytosis events (Jaiswal *et al.* 2004). More

than 20 cells were analyzed in 4 independent experiments.

Antigen internalization

For live-imaging of antigen internalization, splenic B-cells were incubated with AF488-αM-beads (1:4 cell to bead ratio) in the presence of 1 μM SiR-Lysosome and 10 μM verapamil for 30 min at 4°C, washed with DMEM-BSA and imaged by confocal fluorescence microscopy (Leica SPX5 with a 63X 1.4 N.A. oil objective) for 60 min at 1 frame/min at 37°C. Live time-lapse images were analyzed using NIH ImageJ.

For fixed cell imaging, splenic B-cells were pretreated or not with 50 μM blebbistatin on poly-lysine coated slides for 30 min at 4°C and incubated with AF488-αM beads or AF488-Tf-beads at 37°C for varying lengths of time in the presence or not of 50 μM blebbistatin. After fixation with 4% PFA, cells were imaged by confocal fluorescence microscopy (Zeiss LSM710 with a 63X 1.4 N.A. oil objective). Percentages of cells with intracellularly-located AF488-αM puncta were determined by visual inspection of images. More than 200 cells from 3 independent experiments were analyzed for each condition.

For live-imaging of B-cells interacting with PLB, mouse splenic B-cells were added to coverslip chambers containing PLB coated with AF488-conjugated mono-biotinylated Fab' goat-anti-mouse IgM+G and incubated at 37°C with 5% CO_2 in the presence of 10 µg/ml FM 4-64FX (Thermo Fisher Scientific) for varying lengths of time. Samples were then moved to 4°C for 5 min and immediately imaged using a confocal microscope (Leica SPX5 with a 63X 1.4 N.A. oil objective). Internalization of antigen was quantified by determining the percentages of cells with intracellularly-located AF488-Fab' goat-anti-mouse IgM+G puncta in each field and by measuring the AF488 FI associated with intracellular puncta in individual cells, using a custom-made MATLAB (MathWorks) script. Cells with high FM staining were identified as wounded

653   and those with low FM staining as unwounded. More than 15 fields or ~90 cells from 3

654   independent experiments (high or low FM staining) were analyzed for each condition.

656   Antigen presentation and T-cell activation

To detect antigen presentation to T-cells, splenic B-cells from F1 mice of a crossing between

B10.BR-*H2^{k2} H2-T18^a*/SgSnJJrep and MD4 mice were co-cultured with 3A9 T-cell hybridoma

cells (ATCC® CRL-3293™) at equal concentrations (3.5×10^6 cells/ml). Cells were incubated in

DMEM supplemented with 5% FBS and 0.05 mM 2-mercaptoethanol for 72 h in the presence or

not of soluble HEL or DEL-I (10 µg/ml), or of beads coated with HEL, DEL-I or Tf (1:4 cell-

bead ratio). After incubation, the concentration of IL-2 in the supernatant was measured using an

IL-2 ELISA kit (Biolegend).

665   Statistical analysis

666   Statistical significance was assessed using unpaired, two-tailed Student's *t*-tests (Prism -

667   GraphPad software) when only two groups were compared, and one-way ANOVA when 3 or

668   more groups were compared. All data were presented as the mean ± SD (standard deviation).

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