Development and Comparative Evaluation of Endolysosomal Proximity Labeling-based Proteomic Methods in Human iPSC-derived Neurons.

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ABSTRACT

Proximity-based *in situ* labeling techniques offer a unique way to capture both stable and transient protein-protein and protein-organelle interactions. Combining this technology with mass spectrometry (MS)-based proteomics allows us to obtain snapshots of molecular microenvironments with nanometer resolution, facilitating the discovery of complex and dynamic interaction networks. However, a number of technical challenges still exist, such as interferences from endogenously biotinylated proteins and other highly abundant bystanders, the challenge of selecting proper controls to minimize false discoveries, and experimental variations among biological/technical replicates. Here, we developed a new method to capture the proteomic microenvironment of the neuronal endolysosomal network, by knocking in (KI) an engineered ascorbate peroxidase (APEX2) gene to the endogenous locus of lysosome-associated membrane protein 1 (LAMP1). We systematically investigated and optimized the key parameters involved in proximity labeling MS to address the major challenges in the field. We also conducted comparative evaluation between this KI-LAMP1-APEX2 method and our overexpressed LAMP1-APEX2 probes, achieving complementary identification of both known and novel lysosomal membrane and membrane-interacting proteins in human iPSC-derived neurons. To summarize, this study demonstrated new analytical tools to characterize lysosomal functions and interactions in human neurons and filled critical gaps in the field for designing and optimizing proximity labeling technologies.

KEYWORDS: Proximity labeling mass spectrometry, Lysosome, Endolysosome, LAMP1, APEX, iPSC-derived neuron, Biotinylated proteins, Streptavidin

INTRODUCTION

Protein-protein interactions are essential for almost all cellular processes and provide key insights into disease processes.[1,2] Traditionally, protein-protein interactions are characterized by yeast two-hybrid assays or affinity-purification followed by mass spectrometry (AP-MS) or western blotting.[3–5] However, AP-MS often fails to capture transient and weak protein interactions, which are crucial for signal transduction and cellular transport processes. In recent years, proximity labeling (PL)-based techniques have emerged as a new class of tools for identifying both stable and transient protein interactions and molecular microenvironment in living cells and organisms.[6,7] PL enzymes can be genetically fused to a target protein (i.e. "bait") to biotinylate neighboring protein interactors (i.e. "prey") upon activation. Biotinylated proteins can then be selectively purified by streptavidin-coated beads, and subsequently analyzed by MS-based proteomics.

Biotin ligase and engineered ascorbate peroxidase represent the two most commonly used classes of PL enzymes, both developed in 2012.[8,9] Bifunctional ligase/repressor (BioID) is a promiscuous mutant of *Escherichia coli* biotin protein ligase, which can be genetically tagged onto a bait protein to biotinylate neighboring proteins upon the addition of biotin substrate.[8,10] However, BioID method often requires a 12-24 hour labeling period, causing the diffusion of the reactive biotin cloud and non-specific labeling.[11] Recently developed biotin ligase, TurboID, mitigated this issue and shortened the labeling time to 10 min.[12] The other type of PL enzyme is the engineered soybean ascorbate peroxidase (APEX/APEX2), originally developed by the Ting group to map protein interactions within the mitochondria lumen for electron microscopy.[9] Nowadays, APEX2-based proximity labeling has become a powerful tool for identifying protein-protein and protein-RNA interactions in different compartments in cells and whole organisms. [13–17] The major advantages of APEX over biotin ligases are the rapid and highly efficient labeling reaction (≤ 1 min) and smaller size (27 kDa) compared to BioID/TurboID (35 kDa), minimizing the potential impact on the function of the fusion protein. Upon addition of the biotin-phenol substrate, the APEX enzyme can be activated by rapid hydrogen peroxide treatment to generate highly reactive phenoxyl radicals that form a covalent bond with electron-rich aromatic amino acid residues (e.g. tyrosine) from proteins within a 20 nm

labeling radius. Biotinylated proteins can then be enriched by streptavidin-coated beads followed by MS-

based proteomic strategies.

Despite the advances of proximity labeling methods, a number of technical challenges still exist

for PL-MS. For example, the addition of biotin substrate in PL experiments enriches the endogenously

biotinylated proteins within the mitochondria, which can occupy streptavidin binding sites and compete

with other proteins/peptides in LC-MS/MS analysis.[18] The use of hydrogen peroxide for APEX activation

raised concerns about oxidative stress.[19,20] Experimental variations between different batches of cell culture

during PL activation hinder the accurate and precise quantification of protein-protein interactions. The

selection of proper controls is also critical to minimize both false-positive and false-negative protein

interactions. These challenges have limited the applicability of PL-MS and generate technical gaps between

method development and successful biological applications.

In this study, we aimed to address these major challenges by developing a new endogenous

APEX2-based PL-MS method and conducting a thorough investigation and optimization of key factors

involved in the PL-based proteomic workflow. We integrated the APEX2 gene onto the endogenous locus

of lysosomal-associated membrane protein 1 (LAMP1), localizing to the cytosolic surface of

endolysosomes in human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs)-derived neurons. Lysosomes are acidic

vacuoles that digest and recycle macromolecules through a cellular mechanism known as autophagy.[21]

Lysosomes are particularly important for neurons, because neurons are highly polarized, postmitotic, and

rely on autophagy to maintain cellular homeostasis.[22] LAMP1 is an abundant transmembrane protein on the

endolysosomal membrane and has served as a classical lysosomal marker in biochemistry assays.[23] The

LAMP1-APEX proteomic workflow was systematically optimized to reduce interferences and variations,

improve reproducibility and specificity, and address the potential effect of hydrogen peroxide on cellular

processes. A comparative evaluation was also conducted between this endogenous knock-in (KI)-LAMP1-

APEX method and our two other overexpressed LAMP1-APEX probes to discover known and novel

lysosome membrane and lysosome-interacting proteins in hiPSC-derived neurons.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Human iPSC Culture and Development of LAMP1-APEX Lines

Wild type hiPSCs from a WTC11 control male were obtained from Coriell and routinely maintained in Matrigel-coated plates in Essential 8 Flex media as described previously.[24] To generate an endogenously-expressed APEX2 probe targeted to the endolysosomal membrane, hiPSCs were transfected with a custom DNA plasmid containing a LAMP1-APEX2 homologous recombination construct. Three stable LAMP1-APEX2 iPSC lines were generated in this study for comparative analysis, endogenous knock-in (KI) LAMP1-APEX, KuB-LAMP1-APEX2 (high overexpression) and KuD-LAMP1-APEX2 (modest overexpression). The expression levels of LAMP1-APEX2 in iPSCs are KuB> KuD> KI. The successful integration of APEX2 into the LAMP1 locus was confirmed by PCR for each transgenic iPSC line. Nuclear exporting signal (NES)-APEX2 (overexpression) was also generated as a cytosolic localized APEX2 line. The detailed steps to generate stable transgenic iPSCs lines are described in Supporting Information and our previous study.[25]

Differentiation of hiPSCs into i³Neurons

We implemented the advanced i³Neuron platform developed in the Ward Lab as our primary cellular platform in this study.[24,26] The hiPSCs used in this study contain a stably integrated doxycycline-inducible neurogenin-2 cassette, which promotes the differentiation of the stem cells into functionally mature glutamatergic cortical neurons in two weeks.[26] LAMP1-APEX hiPSCs were differentiated into cortical neurons as described previously.[24] Briefly, transgenic hiPSCs were seeded into a 15cm dish with Neuronal Induction Medium[24], which promotes terminal differentiation within three days. Then, the cells were dissociated with Accutase (StemPro) and seeded onto polyornithine-coated plates. These cultures were maintained in Cortical Neuron Culture Medium and underwent half-medium changes every other day until neuronal maturation for APEX2 activation experiment and harvest.

In vivo Proximity Labeling in hiPSC-derived Neurons

Prior to APEX2 activation, neurons were incubated with 500µM biotin-phenol at 37 °C for 30 min.

Then, 1 mM of H_2O_2 was added to the cells for exactly 1 min at 37 °C to activate APEX2 enzyme. The PL

reaction was immediately terminated by aspirating the growth medium and rapid washing and incubating

with ice-cold quench buffer (10mM sodium azide, 10mM sodium ascorbate, 5mM TROLOX in PBS)

before the addition of the ice-cold lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM NaCl, 0.2 % SDS, 1mM DTT,

10mM sodium azide, 10 mM sodium ascorbate, 5 mM TROLOX, cOmplete mini protease inhibitor).

Neurons were then rocked at 4°C for 10 min and scraped into QSonica (Q800R) sonication tubes and

sonicated for 15 min at 2 °C with alternating 40 seconds on, 20 seconds off cycles. The lysate was

centrifuged at 4 °C at 16,500 g to collect supernatants and stored at -80 °C.

Beads Titration Assay to Determine Optimal Streptavidin Beads/Proteins Ratio

Biotinylated proteins can be captured by streptavidin-coated beads because of the strong non-

covalent interactions between biotin and streptavidin (Kd $\sim 10^{-14}$). The optimal beads/protein ratio can be

determined by the bead titration assay. Protein concentrations of neuron lysates were first determined by

DC (detergent-compatible) Colorimetric Protein Assay (Bio-Rad). Twenty micrograms of the protein lysate

were added to each 0.5 mL tube containing a series volume of streptavidin magnetic beads (GE) (0, 0.5, 1,

2, 5, 10, 20, 40 µL), followed by overnight rotation at 4°C. The next morning, the tubes were placed on a

magnetic rack, and 2 µl of the supernatant from each tube was spotted on a dry nitrocellulose membrane.

Once completely dried, the membrane was incubated in Odyssey Blocking Buffer for 1 hour, and then

Streptavidin Alexa Fluor 680 conjugate (1:1000 in blocking buffer) for 1hr and washed 5 times with TBST

buffer. The fluorescent signal of each dot on the membrane was measured under 700 nm wavelength to

calculate the optimal beads amount needed for each µg of input protein sample.

Biotinylated Protein Pull Down and On-Bead Digestion

Protein lysate samples were incubated with streptavidin magnetic beads (with optimal

protein/beads ratio) overnight at 4°C. Supernatants were then removed and beads were washed twice with

each of the four sequential buffers (Buffer A: 2% SDS; Buffer B: 50mM Tris-HCl, 500mM NaCl, 0.1%

deoxycolic acid, 1% Triton-X, 1 mM EDTA; Buffer C: 50mM Tris-HCl, 250mM NaCl, 0.5% deoxycolic

acid, 0.5% NP-40, 1 mM EDTA; Buffer D: 50mM Tris-HCl, 2 M Urea). Magnetic beads were washed two

more times with Buffer D to remove all residue detergents. For on-beads digestion, 100 µL of Buffer D

was added to each tube to resuspend the magnetic beads. The beads were incubated with 5 mM of Tris(2-

carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP) for 30 min, 15 mM of iodoacetamide for 30 min, and 5 mM of TCEP for

10 min in a ThermoMixer shaking at 1200 rpm at 37 °C. Trypsin/Lys-C Mix enzyme (Promega) was then

added to the beads for a 16-hour digestion at 37 °C in a ThermoMixer shaking at 1200 rpm. Then a half

amount of Trypsin/LysC mix was added for an additional 3 hours of digestion. The sample tubes were then

briefly centrifuged and put on a magnetic rack to collect supernatants. The magnetic beads were washed

with 50 µL of 50 mM Tris buffer, and supernatants were combined. To quench the digestion, 10%

trifluoroacetic acid was added to the supernatant until pH <3. Peptide desalting was achieved by Waters

Oasis HLB 96-well extraction plate based on manufacture protocol. Peptide samples were dried under

SpeedVac and stored at -80°C.

LC-MS Analysis

Dried peptide samples were resuspended in 10 µL of 2% acetonitrile (ACN), 0.1% formic acid

(FA) in LC-MS grade water and centrifuged to collect supernatant. LC-MS analyses were performed on a

Dionex UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano system coupled with a Thermo Scientific Q-Exactive HF mass

spectrometer. The mobile phase buffer A was 0.1% FA, 5% DSMO in H_2O, and buffer B was 0.1% FA,

5% DSMO in ACN. Two microliters were injected for each sample onto an Easy-spray PepMap C18

column (2 µM, 100 Å, 75 µM x 75 cm) with a 2-hour LC gradient and 60 °C column temperature. The LC

flow rate is 0.2 µl/min. MS was scanned from *m/z* 360 to1500 at 120K resolution in top 15 data dependent

acquisition. Parent masses were isolated (m/z 1.4 window) and fragmented with higher-energy collisional

dissociation (HCD) with a normalized collision energy of 27% and dynamic exclusion time of 22.5s.

Maximum injection times were 30 ms for MS and 35 ms for MS/MS. Automatic gain control (AGC) targets

were $1e^6$ for MS and $2e^5$ for MS/MS.

Proteomics Data Analysis

LC-MS/MS raw files were analyzed by MaxQuant software for peptide/protein identification and quantification.[27] Uniprot *Homo sapiens* proteome database was used for protein identification (1% false discovery rate cutoff) with a fixed modification of cysteine carbamidomethylation and variable modifications of oxidation of methionine, acetylation of protein N-terminus, and biotin-phenol modification of tyrosine. PEAKS Studio software was used to conduct a semi-open post-translational modification (PTM) search. The PEAKS PTM algorithm was used to search for 309 potential pre-set modifications. Additional modifications for oxidation at other amino acid residues were imported from the Unimod database.[28] Maxquant and PEAKS output files were analyzed in Excel and R for statistical analysis. For data normalization to the most abundant biotinylated protein (PCCA), raw protein intensities from Maxquant output were used to normalize to the intensity of PCCA followed by log-transformation before statistical analysis.

Fluorescence Imaging of Neurons

Human i[3]Neurons expressing LAMP1-APEX2 were incubated in 500μM phenol-biotin at 37 °C for 30 min, stimulated with 1mM H_2O_2 for one second, and immediately fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde. Neurons were washed three times in PBS, then blocked and permeabilized (3% donkey serum and 0.1% saponin in PBS) on a nutator (medium speed) for 30 min at room temperature (RT). Samples were incubated with primary antibody against LAMP1 (mouse monoclonal H3A4, DHSB, 1:1000) overnight on a nutator (medium speed) at 4°C. The following day, samples were washed three times with PBS, then incubated with anti-mouse AF561 secondary antibody (Jackson ImmunoResearch) and Streptavidin-680 (1:1000) for 1 hour on a nutator (medium speed) at RT. After two washes with PBS, samples were incubated with Hoechst (nuclear marker) for 10 min at RT. Samples were washed twice with PBS and visualized with a Nikon Eclipse Ti spinning disk confocal microscope.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

 Development and Validation of Endogenous LAMP1-APEX Probe

Lysosomes frequently make contacts with other organelles for autophagy and other cellular

processes, but these transient and dynamic interactions have historically been restricted to individual

observations by live cell microscopy.[22] In order to study both stable and transient lysosomal interactions in

a high-throughput fashion, we developed a novel endogenous LAMP1-APEX2 probe in human iPSC-

neurons. The overall workflow of LAMP1-APEX proteomics is illustrated in **Figure 1A**. Human iPSCs

expressing the LAMP1-APEX2 fusion protein were differentiated into cortical neurons based on our

i^{3}Neuron protocol.[24] After neuronal maturation in 2 weeks, we incubated the neurons with biotin-phenol

substrate for 30 min and H_2O_2 for 1 min. Upon rapid activation by H_2O_2, the APEX2 enzyme transforms

biotin-phenol molecules into highly reactive phenoxyl radicals that form covalent bonds with electron-rich

aromatic amino acid residues (e.g. tyrosine) from proteins within a 20 nm labeling radius (**Figure 1B**).

After quenching the reaction, the neurons were harvested, and proteins were extracted from neurons.

Streptavidin magnetic beads were used to enrich biotinylated proteins followed by on-beads digestion,

peptide desalting, and LC-MS/MS analysis.

In our recent study about lysosomal trafficking in neurons, we overexpressed KuB-APEX2 tagged

LAMP1 protein in hiPSC-derived neurons and identified Annexin A11 as a molecular tether that links RNA

granules to lysosomes during long-distance RNA transport in neuronal axons.[25] Although overexpressing

proteins is a common practice in cell biology, it might generate overexpression artifacts that can be picked

out by the sensitive LC-MS platform. For instance, overexpressing LAMP1 might expand a small

percentage of its localization to the plasma membrane, increasing non-specific labeling background.[29] To

address this issue, we developed a new LAMP1-APEX2 probe by knocking in (KI) APEX2 to the

endogenous LAMP1 locus, namely KI-LAMP1-APEX2 proteomics. The correct localization of LAMP1-

APEX2 probe was confirmed by fluorescence microscopy. As shown in **Figure 1C and Figure S1**,

biotinylated protein signals stained by streptavidin (SA) exhibit excellent colocalization with LAMP1-

staining in neurons. In the negative control without H_2O_2 activation, no biotinylation signal was observed.

The ability of APEX2 to biotinylate neighboring proteins was also validated in a dot-blot assay.

The neuronal protein lysate (50 µg) was spotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane and stained against

streptavidin. The APEX2 enzyme was only activated when exposed to both biotin-phenol and H_2O_2 (**Figure**

2A). In control neurons with no APEX expression, no clear signals were observed. Therefore, our KI-

LAMP1-APEX2 probe demonstrated specific endolysosomal localization and enzymatic activity to

biotinylate proteins on and surrounding the endolysosome membrane in hiPSC-derived neurons.

Optimization of the Proximity Labeling Experiment

Despite the various applications of PL-proteomics in biological studies, technical challenges still

exist that compromise the specificity and accuracy in identifying and quantifying protein interactions. Here,

we conducted a systematic optimization of the key factors involved in PL-proteomics to achieve the optimal

beads-to-protein ratio, improved reproducibility, reduced interferences, and optimal digestion efficiency. [30]

In PL experiments, streptavidin-coated beads are often added in excess to ensure the complete and

reproducible capture of all biotinylated proteins from the samples. However, excess beads can cause

increased non-specific binding and overwhelming signals of streptavidin peptides from on-beads digestion.

Therefore, a precise control of beads-to-protein ratio is critical for PL-MS. We conducted a beads titration

assay to determine the optimal beads amount per µg of input protein. The dot-plots signals from supernatant

of beads-protein mix are directly proportional to the amount of biotinylated proteins that are not captured

by the streptavidin beads. As shown in **Figure 2B**, fluorescence signals of the dot-blots declined with an

increase of beads amount until reaching a plateau at 10 µL of beads, indicating the complete capture of

biotinylated proteins from the sample (50 µg of protein lysate). Therefore, the optimal beads-to-protein

ratio for KI-LAMP1-APEX proteomics was 0.2 µL of beads per µg of input proteins. Since different PL

probe captures different amount of prey proteins, beads titration assay should always be conducted for each

PL probe targeting on different proteins of interest or has different expression levels.

To evaluate the interference background signals from on-beads digestion, we added 2 µg of

Trypsin/LysC enzyme to 200 µL of pure streptavidin magnetic beads for overnight digestion without any

input protein. As shown in **Figure 3A**, LC-MS chromatography was overwhelmed with streptavidin

peptides from the magnetic beads. A total of 35 proteins and 384 peptides were identified as interference

signals resulted from streptavidin, trypsin, keratins, and others. When compared to an actual APEX2

proteomic experiment, these interference signals accounted for 2% of the identified protein, 3% of peptides,

and 8% of MS/MS scans. Based on these interference peptides, we generated an LC-MS/MS exclusion list

for all PL experiments. The starting *m/z* for full MS scan was also adjusted to *m/z* 360 to exclude several

abundant interference peaks (eg. Streptavidin peptide with *m/z* 354.7068). An alternative to on-beads

digestion is to use biotin antibody to enrich biotinylated proteins, which can preserve the information about

biotinylation sites, but has non-specific binding issues from antibodies.[31,32] Excess biotin in harsh detergent

buffer with heating can also be used to elute biotinylated proteins from streptavidin beads, but detergent

must be removed before LC-MS analysis.[33]

Although protein concentration was initially determined with a colorimetric protein assay, the

concentration of enriched proteins by streptavidin beads is unknown. To achieve the optimal on-beads

digestion efficiency and minimum interferences from trypsin, we optimized the amount of protease

concentration for on-beads digestion. Compared to trypsin alone, Trypsin/Lys-C mix resulted in 15% more

protein and peptide IDs with much less miscleavages (data not shown), in agreement with previous

findings.[34] With an increased amount of Trypsin/Lys-C mix, The number of identified proteins, peptides,

and PSMs (peptide spectral matches) increased and peptide miscleavages decreased until reaching a plateau

at ~ 1-1.5 µg of enzyme for 1mg of input protein from KuB-LAMP1-APEX2 iPSC-neurons (**Figure 3B**).

Most identified peptides had +2 or +3 charges, and increased amount of protease shifted the peptides

towards lower charges and smaller precursor masses (**Figure S2**).

Controlling the false discoveries in proximity labeling proteomics

An inherent challenge in identifying protein interactions is the false discoveries, both false positives

and false negatives.[35] For PL-proteomics, false positive interactions include proteins that bind non-

specifically to beads, endogenously biotinylated proteins, and other highly abundant bystanders. False

negative interactions include low abundance and transient/weak protein interactions which can be ruled out

if using overly strict cut-off thresholds. Here, we demonstrated that rational experimental design with data

normalization and proper selection of controls can reduce these false positive and false negative

discoveries.[30,36]

The presence of highly abundant endogenously biotinylated proteins has been a major concern in

PL-proteomics.[20] Within the mitochondria, pyruvate carboxylase (PC), 3-methylcrontonyl-coa carboxylase

(MCC), propionyl-CoA carboxylase (PCC), and acetyl-CoA carboxylase 1 (ACACA) are known to be

endogenously biotinylated.[37] Upon the addition of the biotin substrate, these endogenously biotinylated

proteins as well as their interacting proteins in the mitochondria are enriched by streptavidin beads,

accounting for a major source of false positives in PL experiments. In our dataset, 6 endogenously

biotinylated proteins were identified, PCCA, PCCB, PC, MCCC1, MCCC2, and ACACA (heatmap

intensities shown in **Figure 4A**). These abundant proteins cannot be removed from the samples, but we

found that normalizing the proteomic dataset to the most abundant endogenously biotinylated protein

(PCCA) can greatly reduce variations for both technical and biological replicates. As shown in the scatter

plots of two biological replicates (**Figure 4B**), excellent reproducibility was achieved with both slope and

R^2 close to 1 after normalization to PCCA.

For the study of the lysosomal microenvironment in neurons, proper controls are important to

minimize false discoveries. We established two control lines for our LAMP1-APEX2 neurons: cytosol-

localized NES-APEX2 line, and negative control neurons that has no APEX2 expression. As illustrated in

Figure 5, all quantified proteins are ranked based on their abundance ratio between LAMP1-APEX2 vs.

control neurons. Using a known set of lysosomal transmembrane proteins (ratios should be positive) and

endogenously biotinylated proteins (ratios should be ~1), we can evaluate the false positives and false

negatives in these comparison groups: For KI-LAMP1-APEX2 neurons, the parental line lacking APEX2

is a better control (**Figure 5A**). Using NES-APEX2 control for KI neurons caused massive false negatives,

which could be due to the disparity in APEX expression levels (**Figure 5B**). Whereas, for high expression

KuD-LAMP1-APEX or KuB neurons, the line lacking APEX2 created substantial false positives (**Figure**

5C). Thus, NES-APEX2 line is a better control for the overexpressed LAMP1-APEX2 constructs (**Figure**

5D). Therefore, designing the appropriate control group for each PL study is critical in controlling false

discoveries.

APEX2 activation requires brief H_2O_2 (1 mM for 1 min at 37 °C) and biotin-phenol (500 μM for

30 min at 37 °C) treatment for cells, which raised the concerns in the field for possible oxidative stress and

perturbation of cellular processes. To address this question directly, we conducted whole cell lysate

proteomics from parental iPSC-neurons under different treatments (H_2O_2 treated vs. biotin-phenol treated

vs. control). Label-free proteomics quantification (N=3) identified 4339 proteins from neurons, but none of

them reached statistical significance (**Figure 6A**). Interestingly, glutathione peroxidase 4 (GPX4) and

mitogen-activated protein kinase 3 (MAPK3), which function to protect against oxidative stress, were

slightly upregulated in H_2O_2 vs. control group without reaching statistical significance.[38,39] To evaluate

possible PTMs caused by H_2O_2 and biotin-phenol, we conducted a semi-open PTM search for the

proteomics dataset with more than 300 PTMs from PEAKS software and Unimod database.[28] As expected,

methionine was found to be the most oxidized amino acid residue in peptides/proteins (**Figure 6B**). No

obvious increase of PTMs were observed in H_2O_2 and biotin-phenol groups vs. control, except that H_2O_2

treated group did present more oxidized peptide numbers compared to controls. Therefore, we proved that

the activation steps for APEX2 should not influence cellular processes other than enriching the

endogenously biotinylated proteins in mitochondria and slightly higher number of oxidized peptides.

However, a strict control of the concentration and time for H_2O_2 treatment is critical to minimize potential

oxidative stress.

Comparison of Different Lysosome Proximity Labeling Probes

PL probes have been developed for various cell biology applications, but their proteomics performance has rarely been compared. Here, we comparatively evaluated our three PL methods, KI-LAMP1-APEX (endogenous expression), KuB-LAMP1-APEX (overexpression), and KuD-LAMP1-APEX (modest overexpression). The expression levels of LAMP1-APEX2 in iPSC-neurons are KuB> KuD> KI. The proteomic profiles are compared in **Figure 7A**. Overexpressing probes presented higher numbers of identified proteins compared to the endogenous KI methods. The KuB method had slightly more IDs compared to KuD. These results were validated by the beads titration assay, where the optimal amount of beads per μg of input proteins was determined to be 0.2, 0.25, and 0.25 for KI, KuB, and KuD neurons, respectively (**Figure 2 and S3**). Because the KI probe is expressed at physiological level, the proteomics result is less prone to false positives and mislocalization of LAMP1. However, more starting material is needed for the KI method compared to KuB/KuD. Therefore, scalability of the cell lines and overexpression artifacts must be considered when determining the appropriate probe for PL experiments. The complete protein list and comparisons from APEX probes are provided in **Table S1** and **Figure S4**.

After comparing to proper controls (KI vs. No-APEX2 control; KuB/KuD vs. NES-APEX2 control), all three of our LAMP1-APEX2 methods successfully identified and quantified specific endolysosomal membrane and membrane interacting proteins with complementary coverage (**Figure 7A**). Protein network analysis was conducted for the overlapping proteins from at least two LAMP1-APEX2 methods, shown in **Figure 7B**. These proteins are lysosomal membrane proteins (LAMP1, LAMP2, LAMTORs, PIP4P1, PIP4P2 et al.) and proteins related to lysosomal acidification, transport, degradation, mobility and regulatory pathways. For instance, the identified Rab GTPases (Rab7 and Rab39) and SNARE protein family (STX7, STX12, VTI1B) play key roles in autophagy, endolysosomal trafficking, and lysosome biogensis.[40,41] The homotypic fusion and vacuole protein sorting (HOPS) complex is composed of six vacuolar protein sorting (Vps) subunits that act as a tether between the autophagosome and lysosome for autophagy and interact with the Rab GTPases.[40,41] Additionally, multiple components of the vacuolar-type ATPase (V-ATPase), which maintains the acidic environment of lysosomes, were reproducibly

330   identified.[42] Besides controlling the lysosomal pH, the V-ATPases are also important for nutrient sensing

331   and amino acid efflux through the mTORC1 pathway.[42] Key proteins in the mTORC1 pathway

332   (LAMTOR1,2,3, RRAGC, RRAGB, RPTOR, MTOR) were also identified across our LAMP1-APEX2

333   proteomics experiments.

336   **CONCLUSIONS**

337   We developed a new proximity labeling proteomic method, KI-LAMP1-APEX2, to study the

endolysosomal membrane and membrane interacting proteins in human iPSC-derived neurons. Excellent

reproducibility, specificity, and accuracy were achieved after systematic investigation of key experimental

parameters in proximity labeling proteomics. We recommend conducting beads titration assay to achieve

the optimal protein/beads ratio, normalizing proteomics data to the endogenously biotinylated proteins, and

selecting proper controls for all PL experiment to reduce variation and false positive/negative interactions.

These findings not only provided helpful guides to design proximity labeling experiments, but also can be

applied to general affinity purification experiments. Additionally, hydrogen peroxide treatment during

APEX2 activation did not cause significant proteome perturbation but the time and concentration of H_2O_2

treatment need to be strictly controlled, addressing a major concern in the field. Furthermore, comparative

evaluations of different LAMP1-APEX2 probes (KI, KuD, and KuB) revealed complementary proteome

coverage and provided key references for the rational design of proximity labeling experiments. To

summarize, our study established lysosomal proximity labeling methods that can serve as promising tools

to study lysosomal functions and filled critical gaps in the field of proximity labeling and affinity

purification mass spectrometry.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supplemental methods for transgenic LAMP1-APEX iPSC lines; Fluorescence imaging of APEX2

activity in overexpressing KuD-LAMP1-APEX2 and cytosolic NES-APEX2 iPSC-derived neurons;

Distribution of peptide charges and precursor masses with different amount of proteases for on-beads

digestion; Beads titration assay for overexpressed APEX probes; Venn diagram of all identified proteins

from all APEX proteomics datasets; Table of identified proteins from all APEX-proteomics datasets.

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Figure 1. **Development of endogenous lysosomal proximity labeling proteomics.** (A) Illustration of

LAMP1-APEX2 proteomic workflow in human iPSC-derived neurons. (B) Schematic of APEX enzymatic

labeling reaction. (C) Fluorescence imaging of APEX2 activity in an iPSC-derived neuron with

endogenously tagged KI-LAMP1-APEX2 probe. Biotinylation is visualized by staining against streptavidin

(SA) Fluor 680 (far red). LAMP1 (red) is used as an endolysosome marker. Hoechst is a nuclear marker

(blue). Control neurons without H_2O_2 treatment exhibit no SA signals.

Figure 2. Validation and optimization of endogenous lysosomal proximity labeling proteomics (KI-LAMP1-APEX) with streptavidin dot-blots. (A) Streptavidin dot-blot validation of APEX2 activity. (B) Determination of the optimal beads-to-protein ratio using dot blot intensities in the beads titration assay. Increasing volume of bead slurry were incubated with 50 µg of input protein lysate in eight tubes overnight. Supernatants were spotted on the nitrocellulose membrane and stained against streptavidin. Dot blot signal intensities were measured and plotted against the amount of beads.

Figure 3. Evaluation of interference signals and different amount of proteases for on-beads digestion.
(A) Base peak chromatogram of digesting streptavidin magnetic beads with no input proteins. Contaminant proteins/peptides in the table was used to generate an exclusion list for LC-MS/MS experiment. The percentages were generated in comparison with an actual APEX proteomics experiment. **(**B**)** The normalized number of identifications and missed cleavages with different amount of Trypsin/LysC mix for on-beads digestion with 1 mg of input protein samples.

Figure 4. **Normalization of APEX2 proteomics data to endogenously biotinylated protein.** (A)
Heatmap intensity of six endogenously biotinylated proteins and LAMP1 bait proteins across different
APEX2 probes. LAMP1 is not detected in cytosolic NES-APEX2 and parental iPSC-derived neurons
without APEX. (B) Scatter plots between biological replicates with excellent reproducibility for different
APEX2 proteomic datasets in iPSC-derived neurons.

Figure 5. Evaluation of false discoveries in LAMP1-APEX proteomics using different control dataset.

Scatter plots of the rank of protein ratios in (A) KI-LAMP1-APEX2 Proteomics with No-APEX2 parental line as control; (B) KI-LAMP1-APEX2 with NES-APEX2 as control; (C) KuD-LAMP1-APEX2 with No-APEX as control; (D) KuD-LAMP1-APEX2 with NES-APEX2 as control. Protein intensities were normalized to endogenously biotinylated protein PCCA.

Figure 6. Evaluation of potential influence of H_2O_2 and PB treatment to the whole cell proteome. (A) Volcano plots of all the quantified proteins from H_2O_2 vs. Ctrl and PB vs. Ctrl comparison group in the whole cell protein extract. (B) Pie graph of oxidized amino acids from the identified proteins in iPSC-derived neurons.

558 **Figure 7. Comparative evaluation of different lysosome proximity labeling probes.** (A) Venn diagram

559 of all identified proteins and truly enriched proteins after ratiometric analysis vs. controls from KI, KuB,

560 and KuD LAMP1-APEX iPSC-neurons. (B) STRING network of overlapped proteins from three LAMP1-

561 APEX2 probes.