Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) utilizes the NDP52/CALCOCO2 selective autophagy receptor to disassemble processing bodies

Short title: Selective targeting of processing bodies for autophagy by KSHV

inflammatory cytokine transcripts / Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus / NDP52 / processing bodies / selective autophagy

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<u>Abstract</u>

Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) causes the inflammatory and angiogenic

endothelial cell neoplasm, Kaposi's sarcoma (KS). We previously demonstrated that expression

of the KSHV protein, Kaposin B (KapB), promoted inflammation via the disassembly of

cytoplasmic ribonucleoprotein granules called processing bodies (PBs). Processing bodies (PBs)

modify gene expression by silencing or degrading labile messenger RNAs (mRNAs) including

many transcripts that encode inflammatory or angiogenic proteins that are associated with KS

disease. Although our work implicated PB disassembly as one of the causes of inflammation

during KSHV infection, the precise mechanism used by KapB to elicit PB disassembly was

unclear. Here we reveal a new connection between the degradative process of autophagy and PB

disassembly. We show that both latent KSHV infection and KapB expression enhanced

autophagic flux via the phosphorylation of the autophagy regulatory protein, Beclin 1. KapB was

necessary for this effect, as infection with a recombinant virus that does not express the KapB

protein did not induce Beclin 1 phosphorylation or autophagic flux. Moreover, we reveal that PB

disassembly mediated by KSHV or KapB depended on canonical autophagy genes and the

selective autophagy receptor *NDP52/CALCOCO2*. These studies reveal a new role for autophagy

and the selective autophagy receptor NDP52 in promoting PB turnover and the concomitant

synthesis of inflammatory molecules during KSHV infection.

Author Summary

Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) is the causative agent of the inflammatory, endothelial cell cancer, Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS). KSHV induces a pro-tumourigenic inflammatory environment which aids in the establishment and maintenance of the KS lesion. Processing bodies (PBs) are cellular structures that dampen inflammatory gene expression by suppression or decay of their cognate RNA molecules. We previously showed that the viral protein KapB caused PB disappearance during KSHV infection, identifying a new pathway used by KSHV to elicit inflammation. Now, we show that KSHV and KapB hijack the cellular degradative process of autophagy to promote PB disassembly and increase inflammatory gene expression. This places autophagy as central to the regulation of inflammation by KSHV and illustrates another remarkable strategy used by these viruses to create a tumourigenic microenvironment.

Introduction

Macroautophagy, hereafter referred to as autophagy, is an evolutionarily conserved degradative

process that ensures the continuous recycling of material to maintain cellular homeostasis (1–3).

Autophagy begins with the formation of a phagophore that elongates and encloses a portion of

the cytoplasm to form a double-membrane organelle, the autophagosome, which fuses with

lysosomes to form autolysosomes, where contents are degraded (4). Under basal conditions,

autophagic activity ensures the clearance of damaged macromolecular complexes and organelles,

acting as an intracellular quality control system to maintain homeostasis (2). Various changes to

the cellular microenvironment, including nutrient scarcity, hypoxia, and endoplasmic reticulum

(ER) stress can upregulate autophagy, reprioritizing resources and promoting cell survival during

adverse and stressful conditions (2).

Although previously considered a non-selective bulk degradative pathway of cytoplasmic

recycling, recent work shows differential cargo targeting by autophagy through a process known

as selective autophagy (5,6). Autophagy can selectively target specific cellular components,

including organelles (e.g mitochondria, peroxisomes, ER) and protein complexes (e.g.

ribosomes, focal adhesion complexes, protein aggregates) for degradation (5,7). In selective

autophagy, target cargo is either selected directly, by binding to lipidated microtubule associated

protein 1 light chain 3 (LC3) protein (LC3-II)/Atg8, or via a receptor that mediates cargo

recognition. These molecular bridges are termed selective autophagy receptors (SARs), and their

role is to link the selected cargo to lipidated LC3-II molecules which are anchored to the

expanding phagophore (8). Some of the best characterized SARs include p62/SQSTM1, valosin

containing protein (VCP), optineurin (OPTN), neighbor of BRCA1 gene 1 (NBR1), nuclear dot

protein 52 (NDP52/calcium binding and coiled-coil domain protein, CALCOCO2) and its

paralogue TAX1BP1/CALCOCO3 (5,9,10). Of these, OPTN, p62, NDP52, and NBR1 are

members of the sequestosome-like family and contain several conserved motifs including a LC3-

interacting region (LIR) and a ubiquitin-binding domain (UBD) to mediate cargo selection via

binding ubiquitin chains present on the cargo surface (6,11–13).

While SARs play important homeostatic roles maintaining, and at times magnifying, the turnover

of organelles and aggregates via cargo selection, emerging functions of these receptors is to

localize the initiation of autophagy and modulate cellular signalling. SARs p62 and NDP52 both

promote autophagosome formation at the cargo site through direct interactions with autophagic

initiating complexes (14–16). SARs also play important roles in fine-tuning innate immune

responses by targeting key signaling platforms for degradation (17–22). For example, NDP52 is

required for the autophagic degradation of interferon regulatory factor 3 (IRF3) and

mitochondrial antiviral signaling protein (MAVS), which supports the resolution phase of type I

interferon signaling (19,23,24). Selective autophagy can also degrade invading pathogens such

as viruses in a process called xenophagy (25). Both proviral and antiviral roles have been

attributed to SARs (26,27) and viruses can both enhance or limit SAR function accordingly,

promoting their replication (28).

Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) is the infectious cause of two B-cell

malignancies and the endothelial cell cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), which features aberrant

angiogenesis, tortuous leaky blood vessels, and inflammation (29–31). Infection with KSHV has

two forms, a latent phase and a lytic phase and it is the latent phase that predominates in KS

tumours (32–34). Like many viruses, KSHV manipulates the autophagic machinery. During

latency, the viral FLICE inhibitory protein (v-FLIP) binds Atg3 to suppress the LC3 lipidation

process during autophagosome biogenesis (35). KSHV also expresses a viral cyclin D homolog

(v-cyclin), that triggers DNA damage leading to autophagy and cellular senescence (36),

facilitating the production and non-conventional secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines/

chemokines such as IL-1β, IL-6 and CXCL8 (37). KSHV manipulation of autophagic flux

prevents xenophagy, limits interferon responses, and enhances inflammatory cytokine

production. Precisely how KSHV fine-tunes autophagy during latency to balance proviral and

antiviral activities and promote inflammation and chronic viral infection is not clear.

Processing bodies (PBs) are ubiquitous, cytoplasmic, ribonucleoprotein (RNP) granules that

regulate expression of many cytokine RNA transcripts, making them important sites of

inflammatory control. PBs contain enzymes involved in mRNA turnover, including those that

mediate mRNA decapping (Dcp2; co-factors Dcp1a and Edc4/Hedls), 5'-3' exonucleolytic

degradation (5'-3' exonuclease Xrn1 and RNA helicase Rck/DDX6) and some components of

the RNA-induced silencing complex (28,38–43). mRNAs are routed to PBs for decay and/or

repression by RNA-binding proteins (RBPs) through recognition of common sequence elements

(39). AU-rich elements (AREs) are destabilizing RNA regulatory elements found in the 3'

untranslated regions (UTRs) of ~8% of cellular transcripts that are responsible for targeting

RNAs to PBs (44–46). When bound by destabilizing RBPs, ARE-containing RNAs are directed

to PBs and suppressed (47–49). Our group and others showed that PB size and numbers correlate

with the constitutive turnover or translational suppression of ARE-mRNAs; when PBs are

dispersed, this suppression is reversed (50–54). Because ARE-mRNAs encode potent regulatory

molecules such as inflammatory cytokines, PBs are important post-transcriptional sites of

regulation that fine-tune the production of inflammatory cytokines whose transcripts contain

AREs, including IL-6, CXCL8, IL-1β, and TNF (45,55–61).

PBs are dynamic structures that are continuously assembled and disassembled, yet relatively

little is known about how their activity is regulated. Stimuli that activate the p38/MK2 MAP

kinase pathway as well as many virus infections elicit PB disassembly and a concomitant

reduction in ARE-mRNA suppression to promote inflammatory molecule production

(50,51,54,62–64). We have previously shown that KSHV causes PB disassembly during latent

infection, and that the viral protein Kaposin B (KapB) induces PB disassembly while enhancing

the production of an ARE-containing reporter (51,62,65). These data support the notion that PB

disassembly is likely an important contributor to inflammation associated with KS (51,66).

Although we know that KapB binds and activates the kinase MK2, and that MK2 is an important

component of the mechanism of KapB-mediated PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA stabilization,

we do not precisely understand how PB loss is elicited by KapB (51,67). The observation that

MK2 can phosphorylate the autophagy regulatory protein Beclin 1 to increase autophagic flux in

response to nutrient scarcity (68) suggested to us that KapB may drive autophagic flux through

MK2. We now show that the KSHV KapB protein enhances autophagic flux via the

phosphorylation of Beclin 1, and that KSHV infection also enhances autophagic flux and Beclin

1 phosphorylation in a KapB-dependent manner; thus revealing an additional layer of complexity

in viral regulation of autophagy during KSHV latency. We show that both KSHV infection and

KapB alone require autophagy proteins including the selective autophagy receptor, NDP52, to

induce PB disassembly and that KapB requires NDP52 to elevate selected ARE-containing

mRNA transcripts. PB turnover is likewise elicited by the mTOR inhibitor and potent autophagy

inducer, Torin-1, and this process is also dependent on Atg5 and NDP52. These data forge a new

connection between the selective autophagy receptor NDP52 and cytoplasmic PBs and show that

selective autophagy of PBs is promoted by the viral protein KapB during KSHV infection.

Results

KapB induces autophagic flux

KapB expression activates the stress-responsive kinase MAPKAPK2 (MK2) (51,67). Since MK2

phosphorylates the essential autophagy inducer Beclin 1 in response to amino acid starvation

(68–70), we questioned whether KapB expression could promote autophagic flux. Essential for

autophagosome expansion is the lipidation of LC3 to form LC3-II, permitting its incorporation

into autophagosome membranes where it is degraded along with autophagosomal contents in the

final step of autophagy (71).. Since p62 is a selective autophagy receptor (SAR) that delivers

target cargo to the autophagosome, p62 is also degraded during the final step of autophagy. If

autophagic flux is elevated, blocking autophagic flux with a lysosomal inhibitor should result in

an accumulation of both p62 and LC3-II (72). To measure autophagic flux, we examined levels

of LC3-II and p62 with and without treatment with the lysosomal inhibitor, Bafilomycin A1

(BafA1). Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were transduced with lentiviral

vectors that express KapB or an empty vector control and treated for increasing times with

BafA1. As expected, LC3-II and p62 accumulated in the presence of BafA1 treatment, and both

proteins showed higher accumulation after BafA1 treatment in KapB-expressing cells than

equivalently treated vector controls (Fig 1A), indicating that autophagic flux was enhanced in

KapB-expressing cells compared to vector controls. When KapB-expressing cells were treated

for 4 h with BafA1, the amount of LC3-II and p62 increased two- and four-fold, respectively

(Fig 1A). We also measured the formation of LC3 puncta as an indicator of autophagic flux by

staining KapB-expressing cells treated with BafA1 for endogenous LC3 (73,74). Untreated

KapB-expressing HUVECs displayed LC3 puncta area similar to that of control cells; however,

LC3 puncta area significantly increased after BafA1 treatment in KapB-expressing cells and not

in control cells, further suggesting that KapB expression enhanced autophagic flux (Fig 1B).

KapB-mediated PB disassembly requires Atg5 and Atg14

Our group previously described that MK2 activation was an important component of KapB-

mediated PB loss (51); however, these experiments did not reveal the precise mechanism of PB

loss. Since PBs are dynamic RNP granules, we wanted to determine whether KapB-mediated PB

loss was a result of enhanced disassembly of PBs or prevention of their *de novo* assembly. To do

so, we utilized HeLa cells that express a Dox-inducible GFP-tagged version of the PB-resident

protein, Dcp1a (41). When fixed, GFP-positive puncta co-stain with endogenous PB proteins

such as the RNA helicase DDX6/Rck and the decapping co-factor Hedls/Edc4, indicating that

they represent PBs (Fig S1). KapB was transfected into these cells either before or after inducing

GFP-Dcp1a granule formation. When KapB was expressed prior to granule induction, Dcp1a

puncta formed, although appearance of GFP-positive puncta was delayed compared to vector

control cells (Fig S1A). In the presence of KapB, *de novo* PB assembly was not blocked;

however, when KapB was expressed after PB induction, GFP-positive puncta were lost (Fig

S1B), indicating that KapB expression induced PB disassembly. As further evidence that KapB

does not prevent PB formation, we treated KapB-expressing HUVECs with sodium arsenite, a

known inducer of PB assembly (75). Sodium arsenite induced endogenous PB formation in

KapB-expressing HUVECs was indistinguishable from equivalently treated control cells (Fig

S1C). Taken together, these results show that KapB expression caused PB disappearance by

inducing PB disassembly but did not block PB assembly. We speculated that KapB may be

utilizing a normal cellular pathway that mediates the turnover of RNPs or their components, such

as autophagy.

To determine if autophagy was required for KapB-mediated PB disassembly, we first inhibited

autophagic flux by independently silencing two genes in the macroautophagy pathway, Atg5 and

Atg14 (Fig S2A, B). When either Atg5 or Atg14 were silenced in KapB-expressing HUVECs,

PBs were restored, whereas their silencing did not have the same effect in control cells (Fig 1C

and D). We then examined the ability of KapB to mediate PB disassembly in Atg5 -/- mouse

embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs), which (76) lack conversion of LC3-I to LC3-II (Fig S2C). KapB

failed to disassemble PBs in Atg5 -/- MEFs but did disassemble PBs in matched wild-type

controls (Fig S2D). Moreover, KapB expression resulted in a significant increase in Atg5 protein

levels in HUVECs (Fig S2A), consistent with our other data that show that KapB promotes

autophagy. Additionally, blocking autophagic degradation with BafA1 also restored PBs in

KapB-expressing cells (Fig 1E). Together, these data indicate that KapB mediates PB

disassembly by enhancing autophagy.

Autophagy, although always occurring at a basal level, can be upregulated by many different cell

stimuli including starvation or inhibition of mTOR using Torin-1, hereafter referred to as Torin

(77). It was previously reported that rapamycin, an inhibitor of mTORC1, caused a loss of PBs in

mammary epithelial cells (78). We reasoned that if we inhibited both mTOR complexes

mTORC1 and mTORC2 using Torin (79) to induce autophagy, PBs would disassemble. We

observed that the number of Hedls/Edc4 puncta were significantly reduced after Torin treatment,

indicating that chemical induction of autophagy also resulted in the disappearance of PBs (Fig

2A). To ensure that Torin treatment was inducing disassembly of PBs and not preventing

assembly, HUVECs were treated with sodium arsenite to induce PB formation; like KapB, Torin

treatment did not prevent the assembly of PBs under these conditions (Fig 2B).

Given these similarities, we wondered if KapB induced autophagy via inhibition of mTOR

complexes mTORC1 and mTORC2. To test this, we performed immunoblotting for the

phosphorylated form of the ribosomal protein S6 (Serine 235/236) (80) and the phosphorylated

form of the Unc-51 like autophagy activating kinase (ULK1; Serine 757/555), both downstream

targets of mTOR activation and the latter a component of the ULK autophagy initiation complex

(81). Unlike Torin, KapB expression did not decrease phosphorylation of S6 (Fig 2C) or ULK

(Fig 2D). We also tested the effect that expression of a constitutively active form of MK2 in

which two threonine residues that are normally phosphorylated by the upstream kinase p38, have

been substituted with glutamic acid residues (T205E/T317E, called MK2EE) (82–84) had on

phospho-S6 and phospho-ULK. We previously demonstrated that MK2EE caused PB

disassembly (51) and others showed it increased autophagic flux after starvation (68). Like

KapB, MK2EE expression did not decrease phosphorylation of S6 (Fig 2C) or ULK (Fig 2D).

These data indicate KapB does not inhibit mTOR activity to induce autophagy. Since KapB can

bind and activate MK2, we next wondered if KapB expression would mediate phosphorylation of

Beclin 1 at Serine 90, as shown by others for MK2EE (68). Like MK2EE, KapB induced

phosphorylation of Beclin 1 at Serine 90 (Fig 2E), indicating that induction of autophagy via

KapB expression is mediated by Beclin 1. Taken together, these data show that although both

KapB expression and Torin treatment caused PB disassembly in an autophagy-dependent

manner, the mechanism used to upregulate autophagic flux differed in each case.

Canonical autophagy is required for KapB-mediated increases in ARE-containing cytokine transcripts

PBs are nodes of post-transcriptional mRNA regulation and microscopically visible PBs are associated with ARE-mRNA decay or suppression (43,50,51,53,54,85,86). However, in untreated HUVECs, the transcription of most ARE-mRNAs is minimal. To activate transcription of ARE-containing cytokines in a biologically relevant manner, rather than using common inflammatory stimuli such as the bacterial product, lipopolysaccharide, we treated KapB-expressing or control HUVECs with 0.22 μm-filtered conditioned media from KSHV latently infected cells. Conditioned media from latent KSHV cells would be expected to contain inflammatory cytokines, e.g. TNF, that are elevated in KS, without containing virions (87). We then examined levels of some endogenous ARE-containing RNA transcripts in KapB-expressing cells (Fig 3A). We observed significant increases of cytokine mRNA for IL-6 and IL-1β in KapB-expressing cells compared to equivalently treated controls, suggesting these increases resulted from reduced transcript decay in PBs (Fig 3A). In addition, treatment with Torin promoted the enhanced steady-state levels of IL-1β and COX-2 (Fig 3B), suggesting that inducing autophagy reduced the decay of some ARE-mRNA transcripts. To support these findings and to simplify further studies, we utilized a luciferase reporter assay that we developed, described in (65). Using this assay, we previously showed that KapB-mediated PB loss correlated with enhanced luminescence of an ARE-containing firefly luciferase (FLuc) reporter because its rapid turnover was reversed and FLuc translation was enhanced (51,65). Briefly, HeLa cells were co-transfected with a FLuc construct containing the destabilizing AU-rich element from the *CSF2* gene in its 3'UTR and a Renilla luciferase (RLuc) construct with no

ARE; transcription of both reporter constructs was then stopped by the addition of doxycycline.

In control (vector transfected) cells, the FLuc-ARE mRNA decayed rapidly and FLuc

luminescence relative to the RLuc transfection control was low. Torin treatment caused a

significant increase in FLuc/RLuc relative luminescence compared to DMSO-treated control

cells, supporting our RT-qPCR findings (Fig 3C) and suggesting that enhanced autophagy

reverses the constitutive turnover/suppression of the ARE-mRNA reporter. Furthermore, KapB

expression also caused a significant increase in FLuc/RLuc relative luminescence compared to

empty vector control cells (Fig 3D) as previously shown in (51). When canonical autophagy was

perturbed by either Atg5 or Atg14 silencing (Fig S3A, B) KapB-expressing cells had

significantly decreased luminescence compared to KapB-expressing controls (Figs 3D, E).

Likewise, when KapB-expressing cells were treated with BafA1, relative luminescence was

significantly decreased compared to KapB-expressing untreated control cells (Fig 3F). Together,

these data showed that canonical autophagy is required for KapB-mediated increases in cytokine

mRNA levels and the enhanced expression of an ARE-mRNA reporter.

Dcp1a protein levels are decreased by KapB and Torin treatment

Both KapB and Torin mediated PB disassembly but did not prevent *de novo* PB formation. We

reasoned that KapB and Torin could have this effect because they cause the autophagic

degradation of the entire PB granule. Alternatively, since some PB proteins have important

scaffolding roles that hold granules together (EDC4/Hedls, Xrn1, DDX6/Rck, or Dcp1a (88)),

PB disassembly could be induced by KapB or Torin if one or more key PB proteins was missing

due to accelerated degradation. To differentiate between these two scenarios, we immunoblotted

for PB proteins after Torin treatment and in the context of KapB expression (Fig 4).

Immunoblotting revealed that steady-state levels of Dcp1a were reduced in Torin-treated (Fig

4A) and KapB-expressing cells (Fig 4B); however, steady-state levels of other PB-resident

proteins were not affected (Fig 4A, C). Moreover, KapB-mediated Dcp1a decreases were

reversed by BafA1 treatment (Fig 4B) and steady-state levels of the SAR, p62, included as a

measure of autophagic flux, were likewise restored (Fig 4B). Together, these data suggest that

autophagy induction with Torin or KapB expression promote the accelerated degradation of the

PB-resident protein Dcp1a, but not all PB proteins. Silencing the canonical autophagy gene,

Atg5, resulted in a reversal of KapB-mediated Dcp1a loss (Fig 4D), suggesting that autophagy is

required for the loss of Dcp1a observed in KapB-expressing cells.

KapB-mediated PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA stabilization require the selective

autophagy receptor NDP52

After establishing a link between KapB expression, autophagy, and PB disassembly, we

wondered what specific autophagy mechanisms were at work and if selective autophagy

receptors (SARs) were involved. One previous study observed the SAR, NDP52, partially co-

localized with some PB proteins (89). For this reason, we used RNA silencing to investigate

whether NDP52, p62, VCP, NBR1, or OPTN were required for KapB-mediated PB disassembly.

Despite trying several different shRNA sequences, our attempts to silence NBR1 were

unsuccessful, and shRNAs targeting VCP resulted in significant HUVEC toxicity (Fig S4A, B).

Therefore, the role of these molecules in KapB-mediated PB disassembly could not be

determined. Knockdown of NDP52, p62, and OPTN was validated in control and KapB-

expressing cells (Fig S4C-E). Silencing of p62 or OPTN did not restore PBs in KapB-expressing

cells whereas NDP52 knockdown significantly restored PBs (Fig 5A, Fig S4F). These data

pinpointed an important role for NDP52 and selective autophagy in KapB-mediated PB

disassembly. We then tested whether NDP52 silencing could prevent Torin-mediated PB

disassembly and found that PBs could not be disassembled in cells lacking NDP52 (Fig 5B,

S4G). We also examined whether these SARs were required for KapB-enhanced relative

luminescence in our ARE-mRNA reporter assay. We validated silencing of NDP52, p62, and

OPTN in HeLa cells (Fig S5A-C). Similarly, we found that p62 or OPTN knockdown had no

effect on KapB-mediated ARE-containing reporter luminescence, but NDP52 silencing

decreased the signal compared to non-targeting, KapB-expressing controls (Fig 5C), further

supporting the role of NDP52 in autophagy-mediated PB disassembly. We then performed an

NDP52 complementation experiment. We first silenced endogenous NDP52 in control or KapB-

expressing HUVECs using shRNAs targeting the 3'UTR of NDP52 and verified its knockdown

(Fig S6A). Next, NDP52 expression was restored by overexpressing a fluorescently tagged

NDP52 construct. Complementation of NDP52-silenced HUVECs with NDP52 restored KapB-

mediated PB disassembly compared to vector controls (Fig 5D-E; S6B, C). Taken together, these

data indicate that NDP52 is required for KapB- and Torin-mediated PB disassembly and KapB-

mediated ARE-mRNA stabilization.

Atg5 and NDP52 are required for KSHV-mediated PB disassembly

Autophagy regulation during KSHV latency is complex, as the viral gene products v-FLIP and v-

cyclin also modulate autophagic flux in addition to KapB (35,36). To simplify our study of

autophagy and PBs, we initially used a reductionist approach, expressing only KapB in

HUVECs. However, to confirm the relevance of our study to KSHV infection, we performed a

study in KSHV-infected HUVECs. We infected cells with rKSHV.219 (90) for 96 hours to

permit latency establishment and then treated or with either BafA1 or a vehicle control for 30

minutes prior to staining infected cells for LC3 puncta as a measure of autophagic flux. We

observed a dramatic increase in LC3 puncta in KSHV infected cells after BafA1 treatment when

compared to mock infection controls (Fig 6A). These data demonstrate that autophagic flux was

upregulated during KSHV latency despite the concurrent expression of vFLIP, an inhibitor of

autophagy, during this infection phase.(35). In parallel, we immunoblotted infected cell lysates

and observed that KSHV increased phosphorylation of Ser90 of Beclin 1 (Fig 6B), consistent

with earlier observations of Ser90 phosphorylation after ectopic expression of KapB (Fig 2D).

To confirm if KapB was necessary for upregulated autophagic flux after KSHV infection, we

used a recombinant KSHV that does not express KapB (delB BAC16) and matched wild-type

control (BAC16 KSHV), described in our recent publication (91). Primary infection of HUVECs

with BAC16 KSHV also induced LC3 puncta formation and phosphorylation of Ser90 of Beclin

1, consistent with our result using the KSHV.219 virus, whereas infection with delB BAC16

virus failed to enhance autophagic flux or phosphorylation of Beclin 1 at Ser90 (Fig 6C, D).

Together, these data validate a necessary role for KapB in KSHV enhancement of autophagic

flux and show that during this KSHV infection phase, autophagy proceeds via a non-canonical

activation mechanism that involves phosphorylation of Ser90 in Beclin 1 (68).

In our previous work, we showed that KSHV infection induced PB disassembly (51) and more

recently we confirmed that KapB was not only sufficient but also necessary for this effect with

the delB BAC16 virus (91) . To determine if autophagic machinery is also required for PB

disassembly in the context of KSHV infection, we silenced *Atg5* or *NDP52* in HUVECs prior to

infecting with rKSHV.219 for 96 hours, then stained for PBs. Consistent with our data that

showed a requirement for autophagy in KapB-mediated PB disassembly , blocking autophagic

degradation with silencing *Atg5* or *NDP52* restored PBs in KSHV-infected cells (Fig 7A). We

quantified PBs and compared their levels between KSHV-infected and mock-infected cells in

control cells or in silenced cells. We did not compare PB counts between KSHV-infected and

silenced cells to infected controls because silencing of autophagy regulatory proteins influences

PB homeostasis. In control cells that expressed a non-targeting shRNA, KSHV infection

decreased PBs, as expected from our previous work (Fig 7B). However, when either *Atg5* or

NDP52 were silenced, KSHV infection had no effect on PBs relative to the matched uninfected

control, and silencing autophagy regulatory proteins restored PBs to levels observed in the

absence of infection (Fig 7B). These data confirm an essential role for autophagy and the

selective autophagy receptor NDP52 in KSHV-mediated PB disassembly.

Discussion

Here, we demonstrated that the KSHV protein KapB relies on selective autophagy to cause PB

disassembly and enhance ARE-mRNA stability. Furthermore, we identified NDP52 as the

selective autophagy receptor required for this process. To our knowledge, this is the first report

that NDP52 regulates the turnover of endogenous PBs and the first description of the

contribution of NDP52 to immune regulation by altering inflammatory cytokine RNA

turnover/suppression in PBs. We also showed that PB disassembly induced by infection with

KSHV required Atg5 and NDP52, suggesting an important role for KapB-mediated elevated

autophagic flux and PB catabolism in regulating KSHV-associated inflammation. Our major

findings are: i) KapB and KSHV latent infection increased autophagic flux by phosphorylation

of the autophagy regulatory protein, Beclin 1, thereby contributing to the complex regulation of

autophagic processes during KSHV latent infection and tumourigenesis, ii) KapB expression was

necessary for KSHV-mediated autophagy increases, iii) KapB- and KSHV-mediated PB

disassembly and enhanced translation of an ARE-containing reporter required canonical

autophagy machinery and the selective autophagy receptor, NDP52, iv) Activation of autophagy

by chemical inhibition of mTORC1 using Torin caused PB disassembly using a mechanism that

was dependent on canonical autophagy and NDP52, suggesting that KapB manipulates an

existing cellular pathway that regulates PB catabolism. These results reveal that PB turnover

elicited by the KSHV KapB protein during infection requires a host pathway that uses NDP52 to

enhance PB catabolism and promote inflammatory molecule production.

MK2 activation promotes autophagy by phosphorylating Beclin 1 (68); therefore, we

hypothesized that KapB, an MK2-activating viral protein (67), would utilize autophagy to

promote PB clearance. Our data showed that both KapB and MK2EE increased autophagic flux

via phosphorylation of Beclin 1 at Serine 90 and that KapB-mediated PB disassembly required

the canonical autophagy proteins Atg5 and Atg14, and the selective autophagy protein NDP52.

Our data are supported by previous work showing that in yeast, PB recycling requires canonical

autophagy machinery, and in mammalian cells NDP52 colocalizes with a GFP-tagged version of

Dcp1a when overexpressed (89,92). We add significantly to these studies, by performing our

work in primary human endothelial cells and by staining for endogenous PBs using

immunofluorescence for the decapping co-factor Hedls/EDC4. We revealed that when KapB was

expressed, endogenous PBs disassemble via an Atg5-, Atg14-, and NDP52-dependent

mechanism. We also complemented NDP52-silenced cells with an shRNA-resistant NDP52 and

observed the restoration of KapB-mediated PB disassembly. These data suggest that it is the

ability of NDP52 to bind cargo for autophagic degradation that is required for KSHV and KapB-

mediated PB disassembly, as has been observed in other studies on NDP52 SAR function

(93,94). In addition to identifying cargo for clearance, NDP52 has recently been shown to

orchestrate autophagosome biogenesis by recruiting essential autophagic machinery to initiation

sites (14,95,96), suggesting another possible way that NDP52 may promote KapB-mediated PB

disassembly.

Immunoelectron microscopy showed that PBs range in size from 150 to 350 nm and possess an

external area of peripheral protrusions that contain the helicase Rck/DDX6 anchored to a dense

central core of decay enzymes, including Dcp1a and Xrn1 (38). Many PB-localized enzymes are

required for PB stability including Dcp1a; however, only three PB proteins are required for *de*

novo PB formation, DDX6, the translation suppressor, 4E-T, and LSM14a (88). Our data showed

that KapB expression decreased the steady-state levels of Dcp1a, while the steady-state levels of

other PB proteins were unaffected. Inducing autophagy with the mTORC1/2 inhibitor Torin

recapitulated this effect, decreasing steady-state levels of Dcp1a, but not other PB proteins.

These data support a model where the entire PB granule is not degraded by autophagy, but PB

disassembly is induced by the selective degradation of Dcp1a or another unidentified PB protein.

Consistent with this, we show that PBs can still form during KapB expression if we overexpress

Dcp1a-GFP or block translation using sodium arsenite. Dcp1a is also a target for other viruses

that mediate PB disassembly; for example, infection with poliovirus also caused PB disassembly

and the loss of Dcp1a over a time course of infection (97). We do not yet understand how KapB

expression or Torin treatment alters Dcp1a to promote its degradation and the resultant PB

disassembly, but we speculate that modulation of known post-translational modifications of

Dcp1a, such as phosphorylation or ubiquitination, may be involved (98–104). In our model, we

propose that KapB expression increases the recognition of Dcp1a or another PB protein by

NDP52, which then targets the protein to nascent autophagosomes (Fig 7C).

Infection with KSHV induces high levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, chemokines and

angiogenic factors such as TNF, IL-1α, IL-1β, IL-6, CXCL8, IFN-γ, VEGF, COX-2 and GM-CSF

(55–61). Although several KSHV proteins promote the transcription of these products, many harbor

AREs in the 3'UTR of their cognate mRNA, meaning their transcripts are subject to additional post-

transcriptional regulation by PBs. We previously showed that KapB and the lytic KSHV protein,

viral G-protein-coupled receptor (vGPCR) enhanced the translation of an ARE-containing reporter

and elevated steady-state levels of inflammatory products, and that this coincided with the ability of

KapB and vGPCR to induce PB disassembly (50,51,65,67). We now show that KapB expression

increased steady-state levels of three ARE-containing transcripts, IL-6, GM-CSF, and TNF,

coincident with PB disassembly. However, KapB expression did not increase CXCL8, indicating

that there remains additional regulation, beyond PB disassembly, of ARE-mRNA decay

(105,106). We also show that the ability of KapB to induce PB disassembly and enhance our ARE-

mRNA reporter requires both canonical and selective autophagic machinery. RNA transcripts for

some canonical autophagy proteins in the Atg5-Atg12-Atg16 complex are also rendered labile by

3'UTR AREs, suggesting that expression of KapB or vGPCR may cause a pro-autophagic

positive feedback loop where PB disassembly culminates in the enhanced translation of pro-

autophagic products (107,108), a feature that may be aided further by KapB-mediated

upregulation of the ARE-mRNA stabilizing RBP, HuR (109). This feed forward loop may

contribute to the KapB-mediated increase in Atg5 protein levels and the induction of autophagic

flux. Taken together, our study reveals a novel way that KSHV infection manipulates autophagic

machinery to induce PB turnover and promote inflammatory molecule production. The fact that

KSHV encodes more than one protein that reverses the constitutive repression of inflammatory

mRNAs in PBs highlights its central importance.

Viral gene products both enhance and block autophagic flux during latent KSHV infection; v-

cyclin induces oncogene-induced senescence via induction of autophagy, whereas v-FLIP

counteracts v-cyclin, blocking autophagy by binding Atg3 and inhibiting LC3 lipidation (35,36).

We show herein that KapB also upregulates autophagic flux, and that KapB is necessary for the

enhanced autophagic flux we observe after KSHV infection of ECs. These data are consistent

with autophagy enhancement observed in latent B-lymphocytes (110) and show for the first time

that KSHV infection of primary ECs culminates in an elevated autophagic state. It is possible

that KSHV products may cooperate to promote autophagy during latency, perhaps via

dysregulation of the cellular transcription factor, Nrf2, responsible for the activation of several

antioxidant response genes as well as NDP52 (111–113). Nrf2 activity is upregulated by the viral

protein vFLIP after *de novo* infection of ECs and during KSHV latency (114,115). Thus, despite

being an established negative regulator of autophagic flux, vFLIP may indirectly promote the

selective autophagy of PBs during KSHV latency by increasing NDP52 expression, thereby

synergizing with KapB-mediated effects on autophagy.

In viral cancers like KS, autophagic flux promotes a pro-tumourigenic and pro-inflammatory

environment (110,116–118). The data shown herein brings new understanding to this complex

relationship during KSHV infection. We show that KapB was both sufficient to induce

autophagic flux and was necessary for enhanced autophagy after primary KSHV infection. We

confirmed that autophagy machinery and NDP52 were required for PB disassembly; this

supports an important role for KapB in eliciting the pro-inflammatory environment associated

with latent KSHV infection and KS. The manipulation of NDP52 function and autophagic flux

by KSHV and KapB is yet another example of the ingenuity with which viruses usurp cellular

processes; revealing a regulatory network that links NDP52 to inflammatory molecule

production via PB catabolism.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture

All cells were grown at 37 °C with 5% CO_2 and 20% O_2. HEK293T cells (ATCC), HeLa Tet-Off

cells (Clontech), Atg5 +/+ and -/- MEFs (119), HeLa Flp-In TREx GFP-Dcp1a cells (a generous

gift from Anne-Claude Gingras), and iSLK.219 cells (a generous gift from Don Ganem) (90)

were cultured in DMEM (Thermo Fisher) supplemented with 100 U/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL

streptomycin, 2 mM L-glutamine (Thermo Fisher) and 10% FBS (Thermo Fisher). iSLK.219

cells were additionally cultured in the presence of puromycin (10 µg/mL). HUVECs (Lonza)

were cultured in endothelial cell growth medium (EGM-2) (Lonza). HUVECs were seeded onto

gelatin (1% w/v in PBS)-coated tissue culture plates or glass coverslips. All drug treatments were

performed for the times indicated in each experiment at the concentrations listed in Table 1.

Cloning

All plasmids used in this study can be found in Table 2. All shRNAs were generated by cloning

shRNA hairpin sequences found in Table 3 into pLKO.1-TRC Puro (pLKO.1-TRC cloning

vector was a gift from David Root (Addgene plasmid # 10878; http://n2t.net/addgene:10878;

RRID:Addgene_10878) or pLKO.1-blast (pLKO.1-blast was a gift from Keith Mostov (Addgene

plasmid #26655; http://n2t.net/addgene:26655; RRID:Addgene_26655).

Lentivirus Production and Transduction

All lentiviruses were generated using a second-generation system. Briefly, HEK293T cells were

transfected with pSPAX2, MD2G, and the plasmid containing a gene of interest or hairpin using

polyethylimine (PEI, Polysciences). psPAX2 was a gift from Didier Trono (Addgene plasmid

#12260; http://n2t.net/addgene:12260; RRID:Addgene_12260) and pMD2.G was a gift from

Didier Trono (Addgene plasmid #12259; http://n2t.net/addgene:12259; RRID:Addgene_12259).

Viral supernatants were harvested 48 h post-transfection, clarified using a 0.45 µ

polyethersulfone filter (VWR), and frozen at -80°C until use. For transduction, lentiviruses were

thawed at 37°C and added to target cells in complete media containing 5 µg/mL polybrene

(Sigma) for 24 h. The media was changed to selection media containing 1 µg/mL puromycin or 5

µg/mL blasticidin (Thermo) and cells were selected for 48 h before proceeding with

experiments.

Viral conditioned media treatments

iSLK.219 cells (latently infected with rKSHV.219 virus) were sub-cultured into a 10 cm cell

culture dish and grown without puromycin for 72 h. At 72 h, conditioned media was reserved

and cleared of cellular debris by centrifugation at 500 G for 5 min. Supernatant was collected

and filtered through a 0.22 µM polyethersulfone (PES) membrane filter (VWR) and stored in

aliquots at -80. Prior to the experiment, conditioned media was thawed at 37°C and combined

1:1 with fresh HUVEC EGM-2 media and used to treat vector or KapB-expressing HUVECs for

0 or 6 h prior to total RNA harvest.

Production of KSHV

Cloning and creation of the iSLK-BAC16ΔKapB cell line is described in (91). iSLK.219 or

iSLK-BAC16 cells were sub-cultured into a 10 cm cell culture dish without puromycin and

reactivated from latency with either 1 µg/mL doxycycline (Sigma-Aldrich) alone (iSLK.219) and

1 µg/mL doxycycline and 1 mM sodium butyrate (Sigma-Aldrich) (iSLK-BAC16). After 72 h,

supernatants were collected, centrifuged to remove cellular debris, aliquoted, and stored at -80°C

until use.

De novo **infection of HUVECs**

Sub-confluent (50-70%) 12-well plates of HUVECs were incubated with either rKSHV.219 or

KSHV BAC16 viral inoculum diluted in antibiotic and serum free DMEM containing 5 µg/mL

polybrene. Plates were centrifuged at 800 x g for 2 hours at room temperature (120), the

inoculum was removed and replaced with either EGM-2. For KSHV BAC16 infections, WT and

ΔKapB inoculums were normalized empirically prior to infection to circumvent our previously

observed impairment in latency establishment during ΔKapB infection (91).

<u>Immunofluorescence</u>

Cells were seeded onto coverslips for immunofluorescence experiments and fixed for 10 mins at

37 °C in 4% (v/v) paraformaldehyde (Electron Microscopy Sciences). Samples were

permeabilized with 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich) for 10 min at room temperature

and blocked in 1% human AB serum (Sigma-Aldrich) for 1 h at room temperature. For

autophagosome immunofluorescence cells were fixed for 10 min in ice cold methanol at -20 °C

and blocked in 1% human AB serum for 1 h at room temperature. Primary and secondary

antibodies were diluted in 1% human AB serum and used at the concentrations in Table 4.

Samples were mounted with Prolong Gold AntiFade mounting media (Thermo). Image analysis

was performed using CellProfiler (cellprofiler.org), an open source platform for image analysis

(Carpenter et al., 2006); quantification of puncta was performed as previously described, with the

exception that cells were defined by propagating out a set number of pixels from each nucleus

(121).

<u>Immunoblotting</u>

Cells were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and stored at -20°C until use. The DC Protein Assay

(Bio-Rad) was used to quantify protein concentration as per the manufacturer's instructions. 10-

15 µg of protein lysate was resolved by SDS-PAGE on TGX Stain-Free acrylamide gels

(BioRad). Total protein images were acquired from the PVDF membranes after transfer on the

ChemiDoc Touch Imaging system (BioRad). Membranes were blocked in 5% bovine serum

albumin (BSA) or skim milk in Tris-buffered saline-Tween20 (TBS-T). Primary and secondary

antibodies were diluted in 2.5% BSA or skim milk, dilutions can be found in Table 4.

Membranes were visualized using Clarity Western ECL substrate and the ChemiDoc Touch

Imaging system (BioRad).

Luciferase Assays

Luciferase assays were performed as previously described (65). HeLa Tet-Off cells were

transduced with recombinant lentivirus expressing different shRNAs and selected. Cells were

transfected according to Corcoran *et al.* (2011) with pTRE2 Firefly Luciferase ARE (FLuc),

pTRE2 Renilla Luciferase (RLuc), and the expression plasmid of interest using Fugene HD

(Promega). FLuc and RLuc activity were quantified using the Dual Luciferase Assay Kit

(Promega) and read on a GloMax multi-detection system (Promega).

Quantitative PCR

RNA was collected using a RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's

instructions and stored at -80°C until further use. RNA concentration was determined and was

reverse transcribed using Maxima H Minus First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Fisher)

using a combination of random and oligo (dT) primers according to the manufacturer's

instructions. cDNA was diluted either 1:5 or 1:10 for all qPCR experiments and GoTaq qPCR

Master Mix (Promega) was used to amplify cDNA. The ΔΔquantitation cycle (Cq) method was

used to determine the fold change in expression of target transcripts. qPCR primer sequences can

be found in Table 5.

Statistics

550 Data shown are the mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM). Statistical significance was

551 determined using a one-way ANOVA, a 2-way ANOVA or Student's t-test when appropriate

552 with the applicable post-test (indicated in the corresponding figure legends). All statistics were

553 performed using GraphPad Prism v.9.0.

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Jennifer A. Corcoran: Conceptualization, Experimentation, Supervision, Funding Acquisition,

Project Administration, Paper Writing

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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 Figure Legends

Figure 1: Kaposin B requires canonical autophagy to disassemble PBs. Primary human

umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses

expressing either Kaposin B (KapB) or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

µg/mL). A: Cells were treated with Bafilomycin A1 (BafA1, 10 nM) or a vehicle control

(DMSO) for the indicated times prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates were

resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for p62 and LC3. Samples were

quantified using Image Lab (Biorad) software and then normalized, first to total protein and then

to their respective starting time points (0 h). Results were plotted in GraphPad and a linear

regression statistical test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, ***=P<0.001. B: Cells were

treated with BafA1 for 30 min prior to fixation in methanol. Immunofluorescence was performed

for LC3 (white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Total LC3 area per field was

quantified by identifying LC3-positive puncta using CellProfiler and normalizing to the number

of nuclei and the vector DMSO control. Results were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was

performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison test, matched data from each replicate was paired

for comparison, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05. C, D: HUVECs were sequentially transduced: first with

recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 (C) or Atg14 (D) (shAtg5,

shAtg14) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), and second

with either KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Coverslips

were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100, and immunostained

for the PB-resident protein Hedls (white) and nuclei (DAPI). Scale bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta

were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells

counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed

on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean;

n=4 (C), n=3 (D), ****=P<0.0001. E: HUVECs were treated as in B. Coverslips were fixed in

4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100, and immunostained for the PB-

resident protein Hedls (white) and nuclei (DAPI). Scale bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were

quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells counted

are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed on the

main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean; n=3,

**=P<0.01.

Figure 2: Torin treatment disassembles PBs. A: HUVECs were treated with either Torin (250

nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde. Samples were

permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100. Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs, white)

and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and

presented as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were

plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a

Tukey's multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean; n=3, ****=P<0.0001. B: HUVECs

were treated with either Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 90 min prior to the addition of

sodium arsenite (0.25 mM) for 30 min. Cells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and

permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100. Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs, white)

and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. C: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant

lentiviruses expressing either KapB, constitutively active MK2 (MK2EE), or an empty vector

control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Cells were treated with either Torin (250 nM) or

a DMSO control for 2 h prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates were resolved by

SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for phospho-S6 (Ser235/236) and total S6. D:

HUVECs were transduced and treated as in C and harvested in 2X Laemmli buffer. Protein

lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for phospho-ULK

(Ser757), phospho-ULK (Ser555), and total ULK. E: HUVECs were transduced as in C and

harvested in 2X Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot

was performed for phospho-Beclin 1 (Ser90) and total Beclin 1. Samples were quantified by

normalizing total and phospho-Beclin 1 protein levels to the total protein in each lane and then

using Image Lab (Biorad), normalizing to the Vector control, and then dividing phospho- over

total Beclin 1. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a one-way ANOVA was performed with a

Dunnett's test, ±SEM; n=4, *=P<0.05.

Figure 3: KapB-mediated ARE-mRNA reporter expression requires canonical autophagy.

A: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB or an empty

vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Conditioned media harvested from

r.219.KSHV latently infected iSLK cells was used to mimic the KS lesion microenvironment

and induce the transcription of cytokines for 6 h prior to lysis for total RNA, normal media was

used for the 0 h time point. Transcript levels were quantified by qPCR and normalized to 18S as

a reference gene. Data is represented as the fold change in target transcript expression relative to

the untreated vector control and was quantified using the ΔΔCq method. Results were plotted in

GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01. B: HUVECs

were treated with Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to lysis for total RNA.

Transcript levels were quantified by qPCR and normalized to HPRT as a reference gene. Data is

represented as the fold change in target transcript expression relative to the untreated vector

990 control and was quantified using the ΔΔCq method. An unpaired t-test was performed, ±SEM;

991 n=3, *=P<0.05. C: HeLa Tet-Off cells were co-transfected with expression plasmids for an ARE-

992 containing firefly luciferase plasmid (pTRE-FLuc-ARE) and a stable renilla luciferase plasmid

993 (pTRE-RLuc). 36 h post transfection, doxycycline (Dox) was added to halt reporter gene

994 transcription of both luciferase reporters, at the same time Torin (250 nM) or DMSO were added;

995 12 h after Dox addition, lysates were harvested in passive lysis buffer (Promega). Luciferase

996 activity for both FLuc and RLuc was analyzed using the Dual-Luciferase Reporter Assay

997 (Promega) and normalized (FLuc/RLuc) relative luciferase was calculated in relative light units

998 (RLUs). Results were plotted using GraphPad, an unpaired t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=6,

999 ***=P<0.001. D&E: HeLa Tet-Off cells were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses

1000 expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or Atg14 (shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control

1001 (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 μg/mL). After selection, cells were co-transfected and Dox

1002 treatment was performed as described in C, except that co-transfection also included an

1003 expression plasmid for KapB or an empty vector control. Results were plotted using GraphPad,

1004 an unpaired t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01. F: Cells were co-

1005 transfected as in E and BafA1 (10 nM) was added at the same time as Dox. Results were plotted

1006 in GraphPad and a Student's t-test was performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01.

1007

1008 **Figure 4: Dcp1a protein levels are decreased by KapB expression and Torin treatment.** A:

1009 HUVECs were treated with DMSO or Torin (250 nM) for 4 h prior to harvest. Samples were

1010 lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE before immunoblotting with Xrn1,

1011 EDC4/Hedls, Dcp1a, and DDX6. Samples were quantified by normalizing the PB resident

1012 protein levels to the total protein in each lane and then the DMSO control using ImageLab

(Biorad). Results were plotted in GraphPad and a one-way ANOVA was performed ±SEM; n=3,

**=P<0.01. B: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB

or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Cells were treated with

DMSO or bafilomycin A1 (BafA1, 10 nM) for 4 h prior to harvest in 2x Laemmli buffer.

Samples were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for Dcp1a or p62

(autophagy marker). Samples were quantified by normalizing Dcp1a protein levels to the total

protein in each lane using Image Lab (Biorad) and then to the Vector DMSO control. Results

were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed, ±SEM; n=3, ***=P<0.001. C:

HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either KapB or an empty

vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were harvested in 2x Laemmli

buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for Xrn1, Hedls/EDC4, or

DDX6. Samples were quantified by normalizing PB protein levels to the total protein in each

lane using Image Lab (Biorad) and then to the Vector control. Results were plotted in GraphPad.

D: HUVECs were sequentially transduced: first with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either

shRNAs targeting Atg5 (shAtg5) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1

µg/mL), and second with either KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

µg/mL). Samples were harvested in 2x Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE.

Immunoblot was performed for Dcp1a, Atg5, and KapB. Samples were quantified by

normalizing Dcp1a protein levels to the total protein in each lane using Image Lab (Biorad) and

then to the Vector NS control. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was

performed, ±SEM; n=3, *=P<0.05, **P=<0.01.

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Figure 5: KapB-mediated PB disassembly and ARE-mRNA reporter expression require the selective autophagy receptor NDP52. A: HUVECs were sequentially transduced with recombinant lentivirus expressing KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL), and second with shRNAs targeting NDP52 or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL). Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 and immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean; n=3, *=P<0.05. B: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentivirus expressing an shRNA targeting NDP52 and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL). Cells were treated with Torin (250 nM) or a DMSO control for 2 h prior to fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilization in 0.1% Triton X-100. Samples were immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean; n=3, ****=P<0.0001. C: HeLa Tet-Off cells were transduced with recombinant lentivirus expressing shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62 or a NS control and selected with puromycin (1µg/mL) then cells were co-transfected, treated with Dox and luciferase activity was recorded and analyzed as in Figure 3. Data were plotted in GraphPad as the mean fold change in the relative luciferase activity of each condition compared to vector NS or KapB NS; n=4. An unpaired t-test was performed; * = P<0.05 **= P<0.01. D: HUVECs were sequentially transduced first with

recombinant lentivirus expressing shDNP52 targeting the 3'-UTR of NDP52 or a NS control and

selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL), and second, with KapB and either mCherry control (mCh) or

RFP-NDP52. Coverslips were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton

X-100, and immunostained with Hedls (PBs, green). Scale bar=20 µm. E: Samples from D were

quantified; Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls

puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way

ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test,

bar represents the mean; n=3, ****=P<0.0001.

1066

Figure 6: KSHV infection induces autophagic flux and phosphorylation of Beclin 1. A:

HUVECs were infected with rKSHV.219 via spinoculation and infection was allowed to proceed

for 96 h prior to treatment with bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) for 30 min. Coverslips were fixed in

methanol and immunostained for LC3 (autophagosomes; white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Cells

were visually assessed for infection via LANA immunofluorescence. Scale bar=20 µm. Total

LC3 area per field was quantified by identifying LC3 puncta using CellProfiler and normalizing

to the number of nuclei and the Mock DMSO control. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-

way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison test, ±SEM n=5; *=P<0.05. B:

HUVECs were infected as in A for 96 h and harvested in 2x Laemmli buffer. Protein lysates

were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for phosphor-Beclin 1 (S90) and

total Beclin 1. Samples were quantified using Image Lab (Biorad) software and then normalized,

first to total protein and then to the Mock control. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a

Student's t-test was performed, ±SEM n=3; *=P<0.05. C: HUVECs were infected with wild-

type (WT) or delete KapB (delB) BAC16 KSHV via spinoculation and infection was allowed to

proceed for 96 h prior to treatment with bafilomycin A1 (10 nM) for 30 min. Coverslips were

fixed in methanol and immunostained for LC3 (autophagosomes; white) and DAPI (nuclei,

blue). Cells were visually assessed for infection via LANA immunofluorescence. Scale bar=20

μm. Total LC3 area per field was quantified by identifying LC3 puncta using CellProfiler and

normalizing to the number of nuclei and the Mock DMSO control. Results were plotted in

GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed with a Šidák's multiple comparison test, ±SEM

n=3; *P<0.05. D: HUVECs were infected as in C for 96 h and harvested in 2x Laemmli buffer.

Protein lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for phospho-

Beclin 1 (S90) and total Beclin 1. Samples were quantified using Image Lab (Biorad) software

and then normalized, first to total protein and then to the Mock control. Results were plotted in

GraphPad and a one-way ANOVA was performed, ±SEM n=3; *=P<0.05.

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Figure 7: KSHV-mediated PB disassembly requires Atg5 and the selective autophagy

receptor NDP52. A: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentivirus expressing shRNAs

targeting Atg5, NDP52, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 μg/mL).

Cells were infected with rKSHV.219 via spinoculation and infection was allowed to proceed for

96 h. Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 and

immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), LANA (KSHV latency, green), and DAPI (nuclei, blue).

Scale bar=20 μm. Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of

Hedls puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-

way ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison

test, bar represents the mean; n=3, *=P<0.05. B: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant

lentiviruses and infected with rKSHV.219 as in A. Cells were harvested in 2X Laemmli buffer.

Protein lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE and immunoblot was performed for Atg5 and

NDP52. C. Model of PB disassembly induced by KSHV/KapB. KapB increases the

phosphorylation of Beclin 1 at Serine 90 to enhance autophagic flux while Torin induces

autophagic flux via the inhibition of mTORC1/2 and dephosphorylation of the ULK complex.

Enhanced activation of autophagic flux by either mechanism results in PB disassembly that is

dependent on the selective autophagy receptor, NDP52. In our model, we predict that NDP52

recruits a PB component(s) to the nascent autophagosome. Our top candidate for this recruitment

is Dcp1a, as steady state levels of Dcp1a decrease in response to KapB expression or Torin

treatment, and Dcp1a is required for PB stability. Autophagic degradation of Dcp1a and/or

another PB component leads to PB disassembly.

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1117 **Tables**

1118 Table 1: Drugs

Drug	Vendor/Catalogue #	Concentration
Torin1	Sigma-Aldrich 475991	250 nM
Bafilomycin A1	Sigma-Aldrich B1793	10 nM
Chloroquine	Sigma-Aldrich C6628	25 µM
MG-132	Selleckchem S2619	5 µM
LPS	Sigma-Aldrich L3129	1 µg/mL
Sodium Arsenite	Sigma-Aldrich 1.06277	0.25 mM
Doxycycline	Sigma-Aldrich D9891	1 µg/mL

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1120 Table 2: Plasmids

Plasmid	Use	Source	Mammalian Selection
RFP-NDP52	Overexpression	Dr. Andreas Till (University Hospital of Bonn)	N/A
pcDNA 3.1 (+)	Empty Vector Control	Invitrogen V79020	N/A
pcDNA KapB BCBL1	ARE-mRNA stability	(51)	N/A
pcDNA FLAG-MK2EE	ARE-mRNA stability	(51)	N/A
pLKO.1-TRC	shRNA expression	Addgene #10878 (122)	Puromycin
pLKO.1-blast	shRNA expression	Addgene #26655 (123)	Blasticidin
pLJM1	Empty Vector Control	(124)	Blasticidin/ Puromycin
pLJM1 KapB (pulmonary KS)	Overexpression	Cloned from pBMNIP-KapB (51) into pLJM1-BSD	Blasticidin
pLJM1 mCh	Overexpression Control	Craig McCormick (Dalhousie University)	Blasticidin
pLJM1 FLAG-MK2EE	Overexpression	Cloned into pLJM1 using BamHI and EcoRI from pBMN FLAG-MK2EE (51)	Blasticidin/ Puromycin
pLJM1 RFP-NDP52	Overexpression	Cloned into pLJM1 using NheI and BamHI from RFP-NDP52	Puromycin
pMD2.G	Lentivirus generation	Addgene #12259	N/A
psPAX2	Lentivirus generation	Addgene #12260	N/A
pTRE2 Firefly Luciferase-ARE	ARE-mRNA stability	(65)	N/A
pTRE2-Renilla Luciferase	ARE-mRNA stability	(65)	N/A

1121
1122 Table 3: shRNA target sequences

shRNA target	shRNA sequence 5'→3'	Region

Non-targeting (NS)	AGCACAAGCTGGAGTACAACTA	
Atg14	GTCTGGCAAATCTTCGACGAT	CDS
Atg5	CTTTGATAATGAACAGTGAGA	CDS
NDP52(1)	GAGCTGCTTCAACTGAAAGAA	CDS
NDP52(2)	GACTTGCCTATGGAAACCCAT	CDS
NDP52(3)	CCCTTTGTGAACTAAGTTCAA	3'-UTR
NDP52(4)	CCTGACTTGATACTAAGTGAT	3'-UTR
Optineurin (1)	GCACGGCATTGTCTAAATATA	CDS
Optineurin (2)	GCCATGAAGCTAAATAATCAA	CDS
p62	CCGAATCTACATTAAAGAGAA	CDS
NBR1 (1)	GCCAGGAACCAAGTTTATCAA	CDS
NBR1 (2)	CCATCCTACAATATCTGTGAA	CDS
VCP (1)	ACCGTCCCAATCGGTTAATTG	CDS
VCP (2)	AGATCCGTCGAGATCACTTTG	CDS

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1124   Table 4: Antibodies

Antibody	Species	Vendor/Catalogue #	Application	Dilution
Hedls	Mouse	Santa Cruz sc-8418	Immunofluorescence Immunoblot	1:1000 1:1000
KapB	Rabbit	A generous gift from Don Ganem	Immunofluorescence	1:1000
NDP52	Rabbit	CST 60732	Immunoblot	1:1000
p62	Rabbit	CST 7695	Immunoblot	1:1000
Dcp1a	Mouse	CST 15365	Immunoblot	1:500
DDX6	Rabbit	Bethyl A300-461	Immunoblot	1:1000
MK2	Rabbit	CST 12155	Immunofluorescence	1:1000
LC3B	Rabbit	CST 2775	Immunofluorescence Immunoblot	1:200 1:1000
Atg5	Rabbit	CST 2630	Immunoblot	1:1000
Atg14	Rabbit	CST 96752	Immunoblot	1:1000
OPTN	Rabbit	Abcam ab23666	Immunoblot	1:1000
Xrn1	Rabbit	Abcam ab231197	Immunoblot	1:1000
VCP	Rabbit	CST 2649	Immunoblot	1:1000
NBR1	Rabbit	CST 9891	Immunoblot	1:1000
LANA	Rabbit	A generous gift from Don Ganem	Immunofluorescence	1:1000
Phospho-S6 (Ser235/236)	Rabbit	CST 4858	Immunoblot	1:1000
Total S6	Rabbit	CST 2217	Immunoblot	1:1000
Phospho-Beclin 1 (Ser90)	Rabbit	CST 86455	Immunoblot	1:500
Total Beclin 1	Mouse	CST 4122	Immunoblot	1:1000
Phospho-ULK (Ser555)	Rabbit	CST 5869	Immunoblot	1:1000

Phospho-ULK (Ser757)	Rabbit	CST 14202	Immunoblot	1:1000
Total ULK	Rabbit	CST 8054	Immunoblot	1:1000

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1126 Table 5: qPCR primers

Primer	Primer Sequence
HPRT-1- Forward	5' CTTTCCTTGGTCAGGCAGTATAA 3'
HPRT-1 - Reverse	5' AGTCTGGCTTATATCCAACACTTC 3'
18S - Forward	5' TTCGAACGTCTGCCCTATCAA 3'
18S - Reverse	5' GATGTGGTAGCCGTTTCTCAGG 3'
IL-6 - Forward	5' GAAGCTCTATCTCGCCTCCA 3'
IL-6 - Reverse	5' TTTTCTGCCAGTGCCTCTTT 3'
CXCL8 - Forward	5' AAATCTGGCAACCCTAGTCTG 3'
CXCL8 - Reverse	5' GTGAGGTAAGATGGTGGCTAAT 3'
IL-1β - Forward	5' CTCTCACCTCTCCTACTCACTT 3'
IL-1β - Reverse	5' TCAGAATGTGGGAGCGAATG 3'
COX-2 - Forward	5' CCCTTGGGTGTCAAAGGTAA 3'
COX-2 - Reverse	5' GCCCTCGCTTATGATCTGTC 3'

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Supplemental Figure Legends

Figure S1: KapB expression promotes PB disassembly but does not prevent PB assembly.

HeLa cells expressing a doxycycline-inducible GFP-Dcp1a were used to determine whether

KapB prevented granule assembly or promoted disassembly. A: HeLa cells were transfected with

either KapB or an empty vector control prior to inducing expression of GFP-Dcp1a with

doxycycline (1 μg/mL). Cells were fixed 12 h post-induction and immunostained for Hedls (PBs,

red) and KapB (blue). Scale bar=20 μm. B: GFP-Dcp1a expression was induced with

doxycycline (1 μg/mL) in HeLa cells prior to transfection with either KapB or an empty vector

control. Cells were fixed 12 h post-transfection and immunostained for Hedls (PBs, red) and

KapB (blue). Scale bar=20 μm. C: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses

expressing either Kaposin B (KapB) or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

μg/mL). Cells were treated with sodium arsenite (0.25 mM) or a vehicle control for 30 min prior

to fixation in 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilization in 0.1% Triton X-100. Scale bar=20

μm.

Figure S2: Canonical autophagy knockdown prevents KapB-mediated PB disassembly.

A&B: HUVECs were sequentially transduced: first with recombinant lentiviruses expressing

either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or Atg14 (shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control (NS) and

selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), and second with either KapB or an empty vector control and

selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli and resolved by SDS-

PAGE. Samples were immunoblotted for Atg5 (A) or Atg14 (B). For Atg5 (A), representative

blot is from the same membrane, hashed line indicates skipped lanes. For Atg5 (A) samples were

quantified by normalizing Atg5 protein levels to the total protein in each lane using Image Lab

(Biorad) and then to Vector NS. Results were plotted in GraphPad, a 2-way ANOVA was

performed, ±SEM; n=3, ***=P<0.001. C: Atg5 +/+ (WT) and -/- (KO) MEFs were transduced as

in A and harvested in 2x Laemmli buffer before being resolved by SDS-PAGE. Samples were

probed for LC3, a representative blot is shown. D: Atg5 +/+ and -/- MEFs were transduced with

recombinant viruses expressing KapB or an empty vector control and selected with blasticidin (5

µg/mL). Samples were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde and permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100.

Immunofluorescence was performed for Hedls (PBs, white) and DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale

bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls

puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way

ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test,

bar represents the mean; n=3, **=P<0.01.

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Figure S3: Canonical autophagy shRNA silencing in HeLa cells. A&B: HeLas were

transduced with recombinant lentiviruses expressing either shRNAs targeting Atg5 or Atg14

(shAtg5, shAtg14) or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL) prior

to transfection with KapB or an empty vector for luciferase assays. Samples were lysed in 2x

Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE before immunoblotting with Atg5 (A) or Atg14 (B).

Representative blots are shown.

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Figure S4: Selective autophagy receptor knockdown in HUVECs reveals that OPTN and

p62 are not required for KapB-mediated PB disassembly. A&B: HUVECs were transduced

with shRNAs targeting VCP, NBR1, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with

puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced with an empty vector control or KapB and selected with

blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and

immunoblotted for NBR1 (A) and VCP (B). Representative blots are shown, successful VCP

knockdown was lethal, while NBR1 knockdown was not successful. C: HUVECs were

transduced with shRNAs targeting NDP52 or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with

puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced with an empty vector control or KapB and selected with

blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and

immunoblotted for NDP52. D&E: HUVECs were transduced with shRNAs targeting p62,

OPTN, or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), then transduced

with an empty vector control or KapB and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL). Samples were

lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE. Samples were immunoblotted for p62

(D) and OPTN (E), representative blots are shown. F: HUVECs were transduced as in D and E.

Coverslips were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, permeabilized in 0.1% Triton X-100 and

immunostained for Hedls (PBs; white), DAPI (nuclei, blue). Scale bar=20 µm. Hedls puncta

were quantified using CellProfiler and presented as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells

counted are displayed. Results were plotted in GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed

on the main column effects with a Tukey's multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean;

n=3, **=P<0.01. G: HUVECs were transduced with recombinant lentiviruses targeting NDP52

or a non-targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL). Samples were lysed in

2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted for NDP52 to confirm

knockdown for paired Torin immunofluorescence experiments.

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1194 **Figure S5: shRNA silencing of selective autophagy receptors in HeLa cells.** A, B&C: HeLas

1195 were transduced with shRNAs targeting NDP52, OPTN, p62, or a non-targeting control (NS) and

1196 selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL) prior to transfection with KapB or an empty vector for

1197 luciferase assays. Samples were lysed in 2x Laemmli buffer, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and

1198 immunoblotted for NDP52 (A), p62 (B), and OPTN (C). Representative blots are shown.

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Figure S6: NDP52 shRNA silencing and rescue in control HUVECs. A: Representative

western blot of HUVECs transduced with an shRNA targeting the 3'UTR of NDP52 or a non-

targeting control (NS) and selected with puromycin (1 µg/mL), then co-transduced with an

empty vector control and mCherry (mCh) or KapB and mCh. Samples were lysed in 2x

Laemmli, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted for NDP52. B: HUVECs were

sequentially transduced first with recombinant lentivirus expressing shDNP52 targeting the 3'-

UTR of NDP52 or a NS control and selected with blasticidin (5 µg/mL), and second, with vector

and either an mCherry control (mCh) or RFP-NDP52. Coverslips were fixed with 4% v/v

paraformaldehyde, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100, and were immunostained with Hedls

(PBs, green). Scale bar=20 µm. C: Hedls puncta were quantified using CellProfiler and presented

as number of Hedls puncta per cell, all cells counted are displayed. Results were plotted in

GraphPad and a 2-way ANOVA was performed on the main column effects with a Tukey's

multiple comparison test, bar represents the mean; n=3.

1213

A

B

C

D

A

	Mock	Zoom	rKSHV.219	Zoom
NS				
shAtg5				
shNDP52				

Hedls puncta/cell

*

ns

ns

ns

Mock rKSHV.219   Mock rKSHV.219   Mock rKSHV.219

NS   shAtg5   shNDP52

B

NS   shAtg5

Mock rKSHV.219 Mock rKSHV.219

Atg5

Total Protein

NS   shNDP52

Mock rKSHV.219 Mock rKSHV.219

NDP52

Total Protein

C

KSHV / KapB   **Torin**

MK2 → ^{P}Ser90 Beclin ——→ ULK1 complex ⊣ mTOR

Processing Body

EDC3 Dcp2
DDX6 Dcp1a —AUUA
EDC4/Hedls Xrn1

Processing Body Disassembly

Dcp1a NDP52
PB protein
NDP52 PB protein

PB protein NDP52
Dcp1a NDP52 LC3