Enolase-1 is Essential for Neutrophil Recruitment During Acute Inflammation

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Summary

Enolase-1 (ENO1) is a moonlighting protein with multiple functions. When expressed on the cell surface, ENO1 binds plasminogen (PLG) and promotes cell migration by facilitating plasmin (PLM)-mediated extracellular matrix degradation. Here, we observed that inflammatory stimulation significantly upregulated ENO1 expression on the neutrophil surface, both in vitro and in vivo. An anti-ENO1 monoclonal antibody (mAb), 7E5, which blocks the ENO1-PLG interaction, effectively suppressed neutrophil transmigration. In mouse models of acute inflammation, including lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced lung injury and necrotic cell challenge, 7E5 treatment markedly reduced neutrophil recruitment and neutrophil extracellular trap (NET) formation. Moreover, 7E5 neutralized the immunostimulatory activity of soluble ENO1, which was significantly elevated in circulation during acute inflammation. These findings highlight ENO1 as a key regulator of inflammation and neutrophil infiltration. Targeting ENO1 with antibodies could be a promising strategy to mitigate tissue damage caused by excessive neutrophilic inflammation.

Introduction

Neutrophils are the first innate immune cells recruited from the bloodstream to sites of microbial infection or tissue injury during acute inflammation. These cells eliminate pathogens through multiple mechanisms, including phagocytosis, release of granular enzymes and reactive oxygen species (ROS), and formation of neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs) [1]. Additionally, neutrophils secrete cytokines and chemokines to regulate other leukocytes [2]. However, these antimicrobial responses are inherently cytotoxic and may cause collateral tissue damage when inflammation becomes dysregulated. This can contribute to autoimmune diseases or chronic inflammation [3-5]. In the context of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) during the COVID-19 pandemic, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection can trigger excessive neutrophil recruitment and activation. This leads to lung injury, cytokine storm, septic shock, and even multiple organ failure [6,7].

Upon infection or injury, neutrophils migrate from the bloodstream to sites of insult via a complex multistep cascade. Cytokines and chemokines secreted by tissue-resident innate immune cells stimulate neutrophils to express adhesion molecules, such as integrins and selectins, which interact with counter-receptors on endothelial cells, the basement membrane, and pericytes, enabling neutrophil extravasation [8]. As neutrophils transmigrate across the endothelium and navigate the extracellular matrix (ECM), neutrophil proteases can facilitate cellular movement by cleaving proteins in the vascular endothelium and ECM [9-11]. Additionally, the plasminogen (PLG)/tissue-type plasminogen activator (tPA)/urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) system promotes neutrophil adhesion, migration, and thrombolysis [12-14]. In diseases

characterized by excessive neutrophilic inflammation, targeting neutrophil recruitment

and activation may mitigate tissue damage and facilitate inflammation resolution [15,16].

Enolase-1 (ENO1, or α-enolase) is a glycolytic enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of

2-phosphoglycerate to phosphoenolpyruvate and is ubiquitously expressed in most

tissues. Interestingly, ENO1 has been detected on the surface of various cell types,

including immune cells [17-20], cancer cells [21,22], and neuronal cells [23]. On the cell surface,

ENO1 functions as a plasminogen receptor (PLGR), facilitating plasmin (PLM)

activation and cell migration. This mechanism contributes to cancer metastasis [22,24] and

immune cell infiltration [19]. Cell surface ENO1 may also bind other immunostimulatory

molecules, such as apolipoprotein B, which promotes monocyte activation [25].

Additionally, ENO1 serves as an autoantigen, triggering autoimmune responses in

diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) [26], systemic sclerosis (SSc) [27], systemic lupus

erythematosus (SLE) [28], and inflammatory bowel disease [29]. Beyond its role as a PLGR,

ENO1 is released from injured cells and acts as a damage-associated molecular pattern

(DAMP), activating monocytes, neutrophils, and endothelial cells [30,31]. ENO1 levels

increase in the circulation following acute injury, suggesting a role in regulating

inflammatory responses [31-33]. Thus, ENO1 is a moonlighting protein with diverse

immunoregulatory functions that vary based on cellular localization and

pathophysiological context.

The PLGR function of ENO1 has been documented on human monocytes [17],

neutrophils [18], and B lymphocytes [20]. On monocytes, ENO1 surface expression

increases upon lipopolysaccharide (LPS) stimulation, promoting monocyte recruitment

in an ENO1-dependent manner [19]. However, despite its known role in PLG activation,

the in vivo impact of ENO1 on neutrophilic inflammation remains unclear. Here, we demonstrate that inflammatory stimulation induces ENO1 expression on the neutrophil surface. Furthermore, an anti-ENO1 monoclonal antibody (mAb) effectively attenuates neutrophil recruitment and migration while also neutralizing the DAMP activity of ENO1. Our findings highlight ENO1 as a critical regulator of neutrophil-driven inflammation, suggesting that targeting ENO1 may be a potential therapeutic strategy for controlling excessive neutrophilic inflammation.

Results

Surface ENO1 expression on neutrophils is upregulated after LPS stimulation in vitro and in vivo

To investigate surface ENO1 expression on neutrophils during inflammation, we first isolated neutrophils from mouse bone marrow and analyzed ENO1 expression using flow cytometry. Murine bone marrow neutrophils exhibited basal surface ENO1 expression, which significantly increased following LPS stimulation in vitro (Figure 1A). To determine whether surface ENO1 is similarly upregulated in vivo during inflammation, we examined neutrophils from mice challenged intraperitoneally (i.p.) with LPS. Under systemic inflammatory conditions, neutrophils in both the bone marrow and circulation showed elevated surface ENO1 expression (Figure 1B). Likewise, in mice subjected to intratracheal (i.t.) LPS administration to induce acute lung injury (ALI), we observed increased surface ENO1 levels on neutrophils in the bone marrow and blood (Figure 1C). To explore the underlying mechanism of ENO1 upregulation on inflammatory neutrophils, we assessed ENO1 expression at both mRNA and protein levels. Neutrophils from LPS-challenged and control animals expressed comparable levels of ENO1 mRNA (Figure 1D) and total protein (Figure 1E),

suggesting that the increased surface ENO1 expression during acute inflammation may

result from the exteriorization of cytosolic ENO1 rather than de novo synthesis.

The anti-ENO1 mAb 7E5 disrupts ENO1-PLG interaction and inhibits neutrophil

transmigration

ENO1 has been identified as a PLGR that promotes PLM activation on the cell surface

[17-19]. To confirm the interaction between ENO1 and PLG, we conducted a cell-free dot

blot assay. As shown in Figure 2A, ENO1 specifically interacted with PLG, while no

binding was observed with the control protein, bovine serum albumin (BSA). Next, we

evaluated whether the rat anti-mouse ENO1 mAb 7E5 could block the ENO1-PLG

interaction using an ELISA-based protein binding assay. Notably, 7E5 mAb

significantly disrupted ENO1-PLG binding compared to the control IgG (Figure 2B).

To investigate whether ENO1 expression on the neutrophil surface facilitates PLM-

mediated neutrophil migration in vitro, we performed a neutrophil transmigration assay.

Neutrophils treated with PLG and uPA migrated through an ECM gel-coated membrane

in response to the chemokine KC. Notably, pretreatment with mAb 7E5, but not control

IgG, inhibited neutrophil transmigration (Figure 2C). As a positive control, neutrophil

transmigration was also blocked by tranexamic acid (TXA), a lysine analog that binds

PLG and prevents its activation. These findings indicate that ENO1 expression on the

neutrophil surface facilitates PLM-mediated proteolysis and neutrophil migration and

that this process can be effectively inhibited by the mAb 7E5.

ENO1 drives neutrophilic inflammation and tissue injury in the LPS-induced ALI

mouse model

Given that increased ENO1 expression enhances neutrophil pericellular proteolytic

activity, we next investigated its role in neutrophil migration using the LPS-induced

ALI mouse model, which is characterized by excessive neutrophil infiltration into the

alveolar compartment [34]. Mice were intravenously (i.v.) administered the anti-ENO1

mAb 7E5 (5 mg/kg) or a control IgG 2 hours before i.t. LPS instillation. The antibody

dose was selected based on previous observations that the same dose of 7E5 mAb

ameliorated disease severity in a mouse model of experimental autoimmune

encephalomyelitis [35]. At 24 hours post-challenge, mice were sacrificed, and

bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) was analyzed for inflammatory cell infiltration

and proinflammatory mediator production. Lung tissue sections were also examined for

histopathological changes. LPS-challenged mice exhibited a robust influx of

neutrophils into the alveolar space (Figure 3A). Treatment with 7E5 mAb significantly

reduced neutrophil infiltration (Figure 3B), proinflammatory cytokine levels (TNF, IL-

6, and KC), and protein accumulation in BALF, a marker of lung edema.

Histopathological analysis further demonstrated that 7E5 mAb treatment reduced

neutrophil accumulation in both alveolar and interstitial spaces and alleviated lung

injury (Figure 3D).

We also investigated the effect of ENO1 blockade on neutrophil extracellular trap (NET)

formation, a known contributor to ALI [36]. Treatment with the 7E5 mAb reduced the

number of NETotic neutrophils containing citrullinated histone 3 (citH3) (Figures 4A

and 4B) and decreased cell-free double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) levels in BALF

(Figure 4C). Additionally, ENO1 blockade lowered the frequency of NETotic

neutrophils in the blood (Figure 4B). These findings suggest that ENO1 plays a key role

in neutrophilic inflammation and lung injury during LPS-induced ALI.

Anti-ENO1 mAb inhibits neutrophil recruitment in cell injury-induced inflammation

In the absence of infection, acute inflammation can be triggered by DAMPs released from injured cells, with recruited neutrophils potentially exacerbating tissue damage [37]. To investigate whether ENO1 regulates neutrophil migration during sterile inflammation, we injected necrotic EL4 cells i.p. into mice pretreated with either the 7E5 mAb or control IgG. At 12 hours post-injection, a robust influx of neutrophils and monocytes was observed in the peritoneal cavity (Figure 5A). However, treatment with 7E5 mAb significantly reduced the total number of peritoneal exudate cells (PECs) and diminished neutrophil and monocyte recruitment (Figure 5B). These findings suggest that ENO1 plays a crucial role in neutrophil recruitment to injured tissues during sterile inflammation.

7E5 mAb reduces soluble ENO1-induced alveolar macrophage activation

Elevated levels of ENO1 have been detected in the plasma of post-trauma patients, and soluble ENO1 may directly activate innate immune cells [30,31]. In both LPS-induced ALI and necrotic cell-induced models of acute inflammation, serum ENO1 levels significantly increased following inflammatory challenges (Figure 6A and 6B). We hypothesized that soluble ENO1 acts as a DAMP, stimulating tissue-resident macrophage activation, and that this effect could be blocked by the 7E5 mAb. To test this, we stimulated alveolar macrophage MH-S cells with recombinant ENO1 protein in the presence or absence of 7E5 mAb. ENO1 stimulation led to a significant increase in TNF and IL-6 production by MH-S cells, while 7E5 mAb dose-dependently suppressed this inflammatory response (Figure 6C). These findings demonstrate that,

beyond blocking PLM-mediated neutrophil migration, the anti-ENO1 mAb 7E5 also

attenuates inflammation by neutralizing the DAMP activity of soluble ENO1.

A PLG inhibitor attenuates neutrophil recruitment in LPS-induced ALI

To confirm the role of PLG activation in neutrophil migration during inflammation, we

examined the effect of TXA, a clinically used PLG inhibitor, on neutrophil recruitment.

Mice were i.v. administered PBS or TXA 0.5 hours before i.t. LPS instillation. At 24

hours post-LPS challenge, BALF analysis revealed a robust neutrophil influx in LPS-

challenged mice, which was significantly inhibited by TXA treatment (Figures 6A and

6B). These findings demonstrate that the PLG/PLM system plays a critical role in

mediating neutrophil migration during inflammation. Collectively, these findings

demonstrate that the PLG/PLM system is essential for neutrophil migration during

inflammation.

Discussion

Acute inflammation is a crucial component of the host immune response; however,

excessive neutrophil activation can lead to collateral tissue damage and, in severe cases,

organ failure. Identifying key molecular mediators of neutrophilic inflammation is

essential for developing targeted therapeutic strategies. In this study, we demonstrate

that surface ENO1 expression on neutrophils is upregulated during inflammation and

facilitates PLG activation, which enhances neutrophil migration through extracellular

matrix proteolysis. Using LPS-induced ALI and necrotic cell-induced peritonitis

models, we show that administration of an anti-ENO1 mAb, 7E5, significantly

attenuates neutrophilic inflammation. Furthermore, we provide evidence that soluble

ENO1, which increases in circulation following inflammatory challenges, acts as a

DAMP that amplifies the inflammatory response. These findings suggest that ENO1

plays a key role in mediating neutrophilic inflammation and may be a promising

therapeutic target for conditions such as ALI/ARDS.

ENO1 is known to be present on the surface of various immune cells, including

neutrophils [17,18,20]. However, it remains unclear whether ENO1 expression on the

neutrophil surface is altered during inflammation. Our findings reveal that

inflammatory stimulation, both in vitro and in vivo, leads to increased ENO1

translocation to the neutrophil surface without corresponding changes in total ENO1

mRNA or protein levels. This suggests that ENO1 is mobilized from intracellular stores,

a process previously observed in monocytes [19] and cancer cells [38,39]. In human breast

cancer MDA-MB-231 cells, Ca^{2+} influx mediated by stromal interaction molecule

(STIM) 1 and the calcium release-activated calcium (ORAI) 1 molecule regulates

ENO1 exteriorization [38]. In human lung adenocarcinoma A549 cells, protein arginine

methyltransferase 5 (PRMT5) was identified as responsible for ENO1 methylation and

cell surface trafficking [39]. The molecular mechanism underlying ENO1 exteriorization

in inflammatory neutrophils has not yet been identified, and whether similar

mechanisms observed in cancer cells contribute to ENO1 translocation in neutrophils

remains to be investigated.

The PLG/PLM system is known to promote cell migration by degrading extracellular

matrix proteins [19,22,40]. Our study demonstrates that neutrophil transmigration is blocked

by the 7E5 mAb, which specifically interrupts the interaction between ENO1 and PLG.

In the LPS-induced ALI model, neutrophil recruitment was significantly reduced by

both 7E5 mAb and the PLG inhibitor TXA, underscoring the essential role of PLM-

mediated proteolysis in neutrophil migration. Previous studies have presented differing

perspectives on the role of PLG/PLM in neutrophil migration using PLM-deficient

mice. Ploplis et al. reported that Plg (+/+) and Plg (-/-) mice showed similar neutrophil

recruitment during thioglycolate-induced peritoneal inflammation [41]. However, in a

biomaterial-induced peritonitis model, neutrophil recruitment was markedly reduced in

Plg (-/-) mice [42]. Neutrophil infiltration in response to ischemia/reperfusion injury was

also diminished in tPA (-/-) mice [12]. These discrepant observations may result from the

use of different inflammation models in those studies. In the LPS-induced ALI and

necrotic cell-induced peritonitis mouse models, our pharmacological inhibition

approach strongly supports the contribution of PLG activation to neutrophil

transmigration during inflammation.

We also observed a marked increase in circulating ENO1 following inflammatory

challenges, suggesting its role as a soluble proinflammatory mediator. In vitro,

recombinant ENO1 robustly activated alveolar macrophages, promoting the release of

TNF and IL-6, an effect that was dose-dependently inhibited by 7E5 mAb. These

findings indicate that ENO1 functions as a DAMP, stimulating innate immune

activation and amplifying the inflammatory response. Similar proinflammatory effects

of ENO1 have been reported in autoimmune diseases and trauma-induced ALI, where

ENO1 activates monocytes via the CD14-TLR4 pathway and stimulates pulmonary

endothelial cells and neutrophils through PLM activation of protease-activated receptor

2 [27,28,30,31]. Given these dual functions of ENO1—both as a PLGR facilitating neutrophil

migration and as a soluble immune activator—therapeutic targeting of ENO1 may

provide a more comprehensive anti-inflammatory strategy than inhibiting PLG

activation alone.

In conclusion, our findings highlight ENO1 as a key mediator of neutrophilic

inflammation, promoting both neutrophil migration and immune activation. The anti-

ENO1 mAb 7E5 effectively attenuates neutrophil recruitment, limits tissue damage,

and neutralizes the proinflammatory effects of soluble ENO1. Given that 7E5 is a rat

anti-mouse ENO1 mAb designed as a surrogate for HL217, a humanized anti-human

ENO1 mAb [43,44], our results provide a strong rationale for further evaluating HL217 as

a potential therapeutic for inflammatory diseases characterized by excessive

neutrophilic responses.

Limitations of the study

Our data highlight the critical role of ENO1 in mediating neutrophilic inflammation

using mouse neutrophils and acute inflammation models. However, whether this

mechanism similarly regulates neutrophilic inflammation in humans remains to be

determined. The process by which ENO1 translocates from the cytosol to the neutrophil

surface also requires further investigation. In this study, we primarily used antibody-

mediated blockade and neutralization to examine the role of ENO1 in inflammation.

Due to the lack of suitable neutrophil cell lines, we were unable to use genetic

approaches to study ENO1 in neutrophil migration, as previously done in monocytes [19].

Additionally, since ENO1 is essential for glycolysis, its role in inflammation could not

be assessed in animals lacking ENO1 expression.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and

will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Chun-Jen Chen (cjchen1@ntu.edu.tw)

Materials availability

This study did not generate new unique reagents.

Data and code availability

● This paper does not report the original code.

● This paper does not report nucleotide sequencing-associated datasets,

proteomics, peptidomics, metabolomics, structures of biological

macromolecules, or small-molecule crystallography.

● Any additional information about the data reported in this paper is available

from the lead contact upon request.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization: H.-Y.L., P.-H.H., N.-Y.C., Y.-J.Z. and C.-J.C.; methodology: H.-

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C.-J.C.; formal analysis: H.-Y.L., P.-H.H., and C.-J.C.; investigation: H.-Y.L., P.-H. H.,

T.-W.L., and H.-W.C.; resources: H.-Y.L., P.-H.H., T.-T.Y., and C.-J.C.; data curation:

H.-Y.L and C.-J.C.; writing – original draft: H.-Y.L and C.-J.C.; writing – review and

editing: H.-Y.L and C.-J.C.; visualization: H.-Y.L and C.-J.C.; supervision: C.-J.C.;

project administration: C.-J.C.; funding acquisition: C.-J.C.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Ta-Tung Yuan is an R&D consultant at HuniLife Biotechnology Inc.

DECLARATION OF GENERATIVE AI AND AI-ASSISTED

TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this work, the authors used ChatGPT to enhance language

and readability. They subsequently reviewed and edited the content as necessary and

take full responsibility for the final publication.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. Surface ENO1 expression on neutrophils is upregulated after LPS stimulation in vitro and in vivo.

(A) Flow cytometry analysis of surface ENO1 expression on mouse bone marrow neutrophils treated ex vivo with LPS for 3 hours.

(B) Flow cytometry analysis of surface ENO1 expression on bone marrow (BM) and blood neutrophils from mice challenged i.p. with LPS for the indicated times ($n = 3$).

(C) Flow cytometry analysis of surface ENO1 expression on BM and blood neutrophils from mice 24 hours after i.t. challenge with PBS ($n = 2$) or LPS ($n = 4$).

(D) RT-qPCR analysis of ENO1 mRNA expression in neutrophils from mice challenged i.p. with LPS for the indicated times.

(E) Western blot analysis of ENO1 protein expression in neutrophils from mice challenged i.p. with LPS for the indicated times. ENO1 signal intensity (normalized to actin) is expressed as fold changes relative to the 0-h group and shown below each lane. Data are representative of two (A, B) or three (C, E) independent experiments. Data in (D) are combined from four independent experiments. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$.

Figure 2. The anti-ENO1 mAb 7E5 disrupts ENO1-PLG interaction and inhibits neutrophil transmigration.

(A) Dot blot analysis showing the specific interaction between ENO1 and PLG.

(B) ELISA-based protein binding assay measuring PLG binding to plate-bound ENO1 in the presence of 7E5 mAb or control IgG.

(C) Neutrophil transmigration assay using cells from naïve mice, assessed in the presence of 7E5 mAb, control IgG, or TXA ($n = 3$).

Data in (A) and (C) are representative of two and three independent experiments,

respectively. Data in (B) are combined from three independent experiments performed

in duplicates. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$.

Figure 3. ENO1 drives neutrophilic inflammation and tissue injury in the LPS-

induced ALI mouse model.

(A) Representative flow cytometry density plots and gating strategy for BALF cells

from mice 24 hours after i.t. LPS challenge. Neutrophils are identified as

Ly6G$^+$Ly6B.2$^+$ cells.

(B) Total cell counts, neutrophil percentages, and neutrophil counts in BALF from LPS-

challenged mice treated with mAb 7E5 or control IgG. Mice receiving i.t. PBS served

as the negative control.

(C) Cytokine and protein levels in BALF.

(D) Representative H&E-stained lung sections and quantitative lung injury scores.

Data in (B) and (C) represent combined results from three independent experiments.

Data in (D) are from two independent experiments. Data are presented as mean ± SEM.

*$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$, ****$p < 0.0001$.

Figure 4. ENO1 blockade reduces NETotic neutrophils in LPS-induced ALI.

(A) Representative flow cytometry density plots and gating strategy for Ly6G$^+$citH3$^+$

NETotic neutrophils in BALF and blood 24 hours after i.t. challenge with PBS, LPS +

control IgG, or LPS + 7E5 mAb.

(B) Frequencies and absolute counts of NETotic neutrophils in BALF and blood.

(C) Cell-free dsDNA levels in BALF.

Data in (B) and (C) are combined from two and three independent experiments, respectively, and presented as mean ± SEM. **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$.

Figure 5. Anti-ENO1 mAb inhibits neutrophil recruitment in cell injury-induced inflammation.

(A) Representative flow cytometry density plots and gating strategy for PECs from mice 12 hours after i.p. challenge with necrotic EL4 cells. The CD11b$^+$Ly6C$^+$Ly6G$^-$ and CD11b$^+$Ly6C$^+$Ly6G$^+$ gates represent monocytes and neutrophils, respectively.

(B) Frequencies and absolute counts of total PECs, monocytes, and neutrophils recruited to the peritoneal cavity.

Data are combined from two independent experiments and presented as mean ± SEM. **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$.

Figure 6. 7E5 mAb reduces soluble ENO1-induced alveolar macrophage activation.

(A) ELISA analysis of soluble ENO1 levels in plasma from mice 24 hours after i.t. challenge with PBS or LPS.

(B) ELISA analysis of soluble ENO1 levels in plasma from mice 12 hours after i.p. challenge with PBS of necrotic EL4 cells.

(C) ELISA analysis of TNF and IL-6 production by MH-S cells 20 hours after recombinant rENO1 stimulation, in the presence or absence of 7E5 mAb or control IgG at the specified dose.

Data in (A) and (B) are combined from two and three independent experiments, respectively. Data in (C) are representative of three independent experiments. Data are presented as mean ± SEM. **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$, ****$p < 0.0001$.

Figure 7. A PLG inhibitor attenuates neutrophil recruitment in LPS-induced ALI.

(A) Representative flow cytometry density plots and gating strategy of BALF cells from

mice 24 hours after i.t. challenge with LPS. The CD11b$^+$ Ly6C$^+$Ly6G$^+$ gate represents

neutrophils.

(B) Total cell counts, neutrophil percentages, and neutrophil counts in BALF of LPS-

challenged mice treated with PBS or TXA. Mice challenged i.t. with PBS served as

negative controls.

Data are combined from two independent experiments and presented as mean ± SEM.

***$p < 0.001$.

STAR METHODS

SKEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Rabbit anti-ENO1 [EPR19758]	Abcam	Cat# ab227978; RRID:AB_2827927
Mouse anti-beta actin	Santa Cruz Biotechnology	Cat# sc-47778; RRID:AB_626632
Goat anti-plasminogen, Biotin	Abcam	Cat# ab7335, RRID:AB_305860)
Donkey anti-rabbit IgG, HRP	Cytiva	Cat# NA934, RRID:AB_772206)
Sheep anti-mouse IgG, HRP	Cytiva	Cat# NA931, RRID:AB_772210)
Anti-CD11b, PE/Cyanine7	BioLegend	Cat# 101215, RRID:AB_312798
Anti-mouse Ly-6G, FITC	BioLegend	Cat# 127606, RRID:AB_1236494
Anti-mouse Ly-6C, Biotin	BioLegend	Cat# 128004, RRID:AB_1236553
Anti-mouse Ly-6B.2, Biotin	Bio-Rad	Cat# MCA771B, RRID:AB_323346
Anti-mouse Ly-6G, Biotin	BioLegend	Cat# 127604, RRID:AB_1186108
Goat anti-rat IgG, PE	BioLegend	Cat# 405406, RRID:AB_315017
Donkey anti-rabbit IgG, PE	BioLegend	Cat# 406421, RRID:AB_2563484
Rabbit anti-histone H3 (citrulline R2 + R8 + R17)	Abcam	Cat# ab5103, RRID:AB_304752
Mouse anti-rat IgG (H+L), Biotin	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# 13-4813-85, RRID:AB_466659
Rat anti-mouse ENO1 monoclonal antibody (7E5)	HuniLife Biotechnology, Inc.	N/A
Humanized anti-human ENO1 antibody (HL217)	HuniLife Biotechnology, Inc.	N/A
Rat IgG-UNLB (rat IgG control)	SouthernBiotech	Cat# 0108-01, RRID:AB_2793932
FITC Annexin V	BioLegend	Cat# 640906
Bacterial and virus strains		
BL21(DE3)	N/A	N/A
Biological samples		
Mouse blood	This paper	N/A
Mouse lung	This paper	N/A
Mouse bone marrow	This paper	N/A
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
RPMI-1640	Cytiva (Hyclone)	Cat# H30027.02
Fetal bovine serum (FBS)	Peak Serum	Cat# PS-FB2
Penicillin-Streptomycin-Amphotericin B	Biological Industries	Cat# 03-033-1B
Beta-mercaptoethanol	Cyrusbioscience Inc.	Cat# 101-60-24-2
Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline (DPBS)	Corning	Cat# 21-031-CM

Percoll	Cytiva	Cat# 17-0891-01
Fc blocking buffer (2.4G2 mAb)	N/A (hybridoma)	N/A
APC-conjugated streptavidin	BioLegend	Cat# 405207
7-AAD Viability Staining Solution	BioLegend	Cat# 420404
MojoSort™ Streptavidin Nanobeads	BioLegend	Cat# 480016
Qiazol	Qiagen	Cat# 79306
iQ SYBR Green supermix	Bio-Rad	Cat# 1708882
Protease-inhibitor cocktail	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# P8340
Tween 20	Cyrusbioscience Inc.	Cat# 101-9005-64-5
BSA	BioVision	Cat# 7906
Recombinant ENO1	N/A	N/A
Plasminogen	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# 528180
10X blocking buffer	Abcam	Cat# ab126587
Peroxidase-conjugated avidin	BioLegend	Cat# 405103
ELISA diluent	eBioscience	Cat# 00-4202-56
TMB substrate solution	BioLegend	Cat# 421101
Lipopolysaccharide	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# SI-L2630
Tranexamic acid	Daiichi Sankyo Taiwan Ltd.	N/A
Glu-plasminogen	Technoclone	Cat# I-TC41005
Urokinase	Taiwan Green Cross Co., Ltd.	Urokinse 60,000 IU
Chromogenix S-2251™	Diapharma	Cat# S820332
Isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat# #367-93-1
Detoxi-Gel™ Endotoxin Removing Gel	Thermo Scientific	Cat# 20339
HisTrap FF Crude histidine-tagged protein purification columns	Cytiva	Cat# 29048631
Critical commercial assays		
Deoxy+ HiSpec Reverse Transciptase kit	Yeastern Biotech Inc.	Cat# XR-LYT501
ELISA MAX™ Deluxe Set Mouse TNF-α	BioLegend	Cat# 430916
ELISA MAX™ Deluxe Set Mouse IL-6	BioLegend	Cat# 431301
Mouse KC/CXCL1 ELISA Development Kit	Peprotech	Cat# 900-K127
Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay Kits	Thermo Scientific	Cat# 23225
Qubit™ dsDNA BR Assay Kit	Invitrogen	Cat# Q32853
ToxinSensor™ Single Test Kit	GenScript	Cat# L00856-20
Experimental models: Cell lines		
EL4	N/A	N/A
MH-S	N/A	N/A
Experimental models: Organisms/strains		
Mouse: C57BL/6JNarl	NARLabs	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
Primers for mouse *Eno1* Forward: AGCGATCCTACTGCCAGAAAT Reverse: GATCGACCTCAACAGTGGGA	Genomics BioSci & Tech. Co.Ltd.	N/A
Primers for mouse *Actb* Forward: AGGTATCCTGACCCTGAAG Reverse: GCTCATTGTAGAAGGTGTGG	Genomics BioSci & Tech. Co.Ltd.	N/A
Recombinant DNA		

pTrcHis-ENO1 expressing vector	HuniLife Biotechnology, Inc.	N/A
Software and algorithms		
GraphPad Prism 8	Graphpad	https://www.graphpad.com
FlowJo_V10	BD Biosciences	https://www.flowjo.com
Image J	Image J	https://imagej.net/ij/

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Cell lines

576 Murine T lymphoblast EL4 cells and murine alveolar macrophage MH-S cells were

577 cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Cytiva, MA, USA) supplemented with 10% fetal

578 bovine serum (FBS) (Peak Serum, FL, USA), penicillin-streptomycin-amphotericin B

579 (Biological Industries, Israel), and 0.05 mM β-mercaptoethanol (Cyrusbioscience,

580 Taiwan). All cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO_2.

Mice

583 Male C57BL/6 mice (6-8 weeks old) were purchased from the National Laboratory

584 Animal Center (Taiwan). The mice were housed under standard 12-hour light/dark

585 cycle conditions in rooms with a controlled temperature (22 ± 2°C) and humidity ($50 \pm$

586 10%). All animal studies were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use

587 Committee of National Taiwan University (Approval number: NTU-113-EL-00011).

METHOD DETAILS

Isolation of mouse neutrophils from bone marrow and peripheral blood

591 Mouse bone marrow neutrophils were isolated from the femurs and tibias of C57BL/6

592 mice using a modified procedure described previously [45]. Briefly, bone marrow cells

593 were flushed from the bones using Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline (DPBS,

Corning, NY, USA) containing 2% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 5 mM EDTA. Neutrophils were purified by Percoll (62.5%, Cytiva) density gradient centrifugation at $1,000 \times g$ for 30 minutes. The neutrophil-enriched fraction beneath the 62.5% Percoll layer was collected, washed twice with DPBS, and treated with ammonium-chloride-potassium (ACK) lysis buffer to remove residual erythrocytes. For stimulation experiments, purified bone marrow neutrophils were incubated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS, 100 ng/mL, Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA) for 3 hours and analyzed for surface ENO1 expression. For ENO1 mRNA and protein expression analysis, mice were challenged intraperitoneally (i.p.) with LPS (2 mg/mL), and bone marrow and peripheral blood neutrophils were isolated by Ly6G$^+$ positive selection (MojoSort™ Magnetic Cell Separation, BioLegend, CA, USA) and pooled together.

Flow Cytometry

For neutrophil and monocyte analysis, single-cell suspensions were first incubated with Fc blocking buffer (containing mAb 2.4G2) for 15 minutes at 4°C, followed by incubation with PE/Cyanine7-anti-CD11b (BioLegend), FITC-anti-Ly6G (BioLegend), and biotin-anti-Ly6B.2 (Bio-Rad, CA, USA) or biotin-anti-Ly6C (BioLegend) for 30 minutes at 4°C. After washing, the cells were incubated with APC-streptavidin (BioLegend) for 30 minutes at 4°C. Dead cells were excluded using 7-AAD staining. For cell surface ENO1 expression analysis, single-cell suspensions were first blocked with mouse serum for 15 minutes at 4°C, followed by incubation with rat-anti mouse ENO1 mAb 7E5 (provided by HuniLife Biotechnology, Taiwan) [35] and PE-goat anti-rat IgG (BioLegend) for 30 minutes at 4°C. Afterward, cells were stained with the respective cell surface markers. For NETotic neutrophil analysis, single-cell suspensions were incubated with Fc blocking buffer for 15 minutes at 4°C, followed by

incubation with anti-citH3 antibody (Abcam, UK), PE/Cyanine7-anti-CD11b, and

FITC-anti-Ly6G for 60 minutes at 4°C. Cells were then incubated with PE-donkey anti-

rabbit IgG (BioLegend) for 30 minutes at 4°C. Samples were analyzed on the

FACSCanto II flow cytometer (BD Biosciences, NJ, USA), and data, including median

fluorescence intensity (MFI), were analyzed using FlowJo software (BD Biosciences).

RNA extraction and real-time quantitative reverse transcription PCR (RT-qPCR)

Total RNA was purified from cell samples using Qiazol reagent (Qiagen, Germany)

following the manufacturer's instructions. Reverse transcription was performed using

the Deoxy+ HiSpec Reverse Transcriptase kit (Yeastern Biotech, Taiwan). RT-qPCR

was carried out using the iQ SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad) on a CFX Connect

thermal cycler (Bio-Rad) according to the manufacturer's protocol. mRNA expression

levels were normalized to *Actb* (β-actin) and calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$ method. The

primers used in this study were as follows: For *Eno1*, forward 5'-

AGCGATCCTACTGCCAGAAAT-3'   and   reverse   5'-

GATCGACCTCAACAGTGGGA-3';   for   *Actb*,   forward   5'-

AGGTGTGCACCTTTTATTGGTCTCAA-3'   and   reverse   5'-

TGTATGAAGGTTTGGTCTCCCT-3'.

Total cell lysate preparation and Western blotting

Purified neutrophils were resuspended in radioimmunoprecipitation assay (RIPA)

buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 0.5% SDS)

supplemented with a protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich) and incubated on ice

for 30 minutes. After centrifugation at 14,000 × g for 10 minutes, the supernatant

containing whole-cell lysates (20 μg of protein) was separated by 10% SDS-PAGE and

transferred onto polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membranes (Millipore, MA, USA).

The membranes were blocked with Tris-buffered saline containing 0.1% Tween-20

(Cyrusbioscience) (TBST) and 2% BSA (BioVision, CA, USA) for 1 hour at room

temperature (RT). They were then incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibodies

against ENO1 (Abcam, UK) or β-actin (Santa Cruz, CA, USA). After extensive

washing with TBST, the membranes were incubated with horseradish peroxidase

(HRP)-conjugated secondary antibodies (Cytiva) for 1 hour at RT. Protein signals were

detected using the T-Pro LumiLong Plus Chemiluminescent Substrate Kit (T-Pro

Biotechnology, Taiwan) and visualized using an imaging system. Densitometric

analysis of band intensities was performed using ImageJ software (National Institutes

of Health, USA).

Expression of recombinant ENO1 (rENO1)

The cDNA encoding human *ENO1* was cloned into the pTrcHis vector (provided by

HuniLife Biotechnology) and expressed in *E. coli* BL21(DE3) cells. Bacterial cultures

were incubated at 37°C on an orbital shaker at 140 rpm. When the optical density at

600 nm (A_{600}) reached 0.6–0.7, expression of r ENO1 was induced by adding isopropyl-

1-thio-β-D-galactopyranoside (IPTG, Sigma-Aldrich) to a final concentration of

0.7 mM, followed by incubation at 25°C for 16 hours. Cells were harvested by

centrifugation, resuspended in binding buffer (20 mM NaH_2PO_4, 0.5 M NaCl, 5 mM

imidazole, pH 7.0) supplemented with a protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich),

and lysed using a Continuous Flow Cell Disruptor (Constant Systems, UK). rENO1

protein was purified using a HisTrap FF Crude histidine-tagged protein purification

column (Cytiva) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Protein purity was

assessed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. The purified protein was desalted using

a HiTrap Desalting column (Cytiva), and endotoxin was removed using Detoxi-Gel™

Endotoxin Removing Gel (Thermo Fisher Scientific) per the manufacturer's protocol.

The endotoxin level was measured using the ToxinSensor™ Single Test Kit (GenScript,

NJ, USA) and determined to be < 0.03 EU/mL.

Stimulation of MH-S cells

MH-S cells (1×10^4) were seeded in 96-well plates and cultured overnight. The

following day, cells were stimulated with rENO1 (50 μg/mL) either alone or in the

presence of 7E5 mAb or control IgG. To prevent potential LPS contamination in rENO1,

polymyxin B (10 μg/mL) was added. After 20 hours of stimulation, TNF and IL-6 levels

in the culture supernatants were measured using ELISA kits (BioLegend).

Dot blot analysis

The interaction between ENO1 and PLG was assessed using dot blotting. Recombinant

ENO1, PLG (Sigma-Aldrich), and BSA (1 μg each) were spotted onto PVDF membrane

strips. The membranes were blocked with TBST supplemented with 2% BSA for 1 hour

at room temperature. Subsequently, the membranes were incubated with 1 μg/ml of

either ENO1 or PLG in PBS for 1 hour at RT. After washing with TBST,

immunoblotting (IB) was performed using rabbit anti-ENO1 antibodies (Abcam) or

biotinylated goat anti-PLG antibodies (Abcam) for 1 hour at RT. Following additional

washes, the membranes were incubated with HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies

(Cytiva) or HRP-conjugated avidin (BioLegend), and signals were detected using

chemiluminescence as described above.

ELISA-based protein binding assay

To evaluate the inhibitory effect of 7E5 mAb on the ENO1-PLG interaction, ELISA

plates (96-well, Corning) were coated with 10 μg/ml of recombinant ENO1 in PBS and

incubated overnight at 4°C. After blocking with ELISA diluent (eBioscience, CA, USA)

for 1 hour at RT, the wells were incubated for 2 hours at RT with ELISA diluent

containing varying concentrations of 7E5 mAb or a rat IgG control (SouthernBiotech,

AL, USA). Subsequently, PLG (10 μg/ml in ELISA diluent) was added and incubated

for 2 hours at RT. The wells were then probed with biotinylated anti-PLG antibodies

(Abcam) for 1 hour, followed by incubation with HRP-conjugated avidin (BioLegend)

for 30 minutes at RT. Colorimetric detection was performed using TMB substrate

(BioLegend), and absorbance was measured at 650 nm using a microplate reader

(Thermo Fisher Scientific).

LPS-induced ALI mouse model

To induce ALI and inflammation, mice were i.t. challenged with LPS (2 mg/kg in 50

μL of DPBS) or DPBS alone (sham). To evaluate the effect of anti-ENO1 antibody

treatment, mice received an i.v. injection of mAb 7E5 or a rat IgG control (5 mg/kg) 2

hours before LPS challenge. To assess the effect of TXA treatment, mice were

administered an i.v. injection of TXA (100 mg/kg) or PBS 0.5 hour before LPS

challenge. At 6, 12, or 24 hours post-LPS challenge, blood was collected, mice were

sacrificed, BALF was harvested, and lung tissues were prepared for histological

analysis.

Bronchoalveolar lavage and BALF analysis

Bronchoalveolar lavage was performed as previously described [46]. Briefly, 0.5 mL of

PBS containing 5 mM EDTA was instilled into the trachea four times using a 24G i.v.

catheter (Terumo, Japan), and BALF was collected. The BALF was centrifuged at 350

× g for 5 minutes, and the supernatant was stored at -20°C for further analysis. The cell

pellet was resuspended in PBS, and total cell counts were determined using a

hemocytometer. BALF cells were further analyzed by flow cytometry. Cytokine and

chemokine concentrations in the BALF were measured using ELISA kits for TNF, IL-

6, and keratinocyte chemoattractant (KC) (PeproTech, NJ). Total protein and dsDNA

levels in the BALF were quantified using the Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay Kit (Thermo

Fisher Scientific) and the Qubit™ dsDNA Quantification Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher

Scientific), respectively.

Measurement of soluble ENO1 by ELISA

Ninety-six-well plates were coated overnight at 4°C with humanized anti-ENO1 mAb

HL217 (HuniLife Biotechnology) in PBS. The plates were then blocked with a blocking

buffer (Abcam) for 1 hour at RT. Serially diluted recombinant ENO1 (used as the

standard) and mouse plasma samples were added and incubated for 2 hours at RT. Next,

the wells were incubated with 7E5 mAb (1 μg/ml in blocking buffer) for 1 hour at RT,

followed by incubation with biotinylated mouse anti-rat IgG (Thermo Fisher Scientific)

for 1 hour at RT. Avidin-HRP (BioLegend) was then added and incubated for 30 minutes

at RT. The reaction was visualized using TMB substrate solution (BioLegend), and

absorbance was measured at 650 nm using a microplate reader.

Neutrophil transmigration assay

Neutrophil transmigration was assessed using a Transwell system, as previously

described [47]. Briefly, Transwell inserts (6.5-mm diameter, 3.0-μm pores; Corning) were

coated with ECM gel (200 μg/mL; Sigma-Aldrich) and incubated overnight at 37°C.

Purified neutrophils from naïve mice were resuspended in RPMI-1640 medium at $3 \times$

10^6 cells/mL and preincubated with 10 μg/mL 7E5 mAb, rat IgG control, or 10 mM

TXA for 30 minutes at 37°C. The cells were then incubated with 500 nM Glu-

plasminogen (Glu-PLG; Technoclone, Austria) for 1 hour at 37°C. After washing to

remove unbound PLG, neutrophils were resuspended in RPMI-1640 medium

containing 50 U/mL urokinase (Taiwan Green Cross, Taiwan), and 3×10^5 cells were

loaded into the Transwell inserts. The lower chambers were filled with 600 μL RPMI-

1640 medium with or without 50 ng/mL CXCL1. After incubation at 37°C for 18 hours,

migrated cells in the lower chambers were counted using a hemocytometer.

Necrotic cell-induced peritonitis mouse model

Necrotic EL4 cells were prepared using the heat-shock method as previously described

[48]. To induce sterile peritonitis, C57BL/6 mice were injected i.p. with 2×10^7 necrotic

EL4 cells in 0.5 mL PBS, while control mice received 0.5 mL PBS alone. To assess the

effect of anti-ENO1 antibody treatment, mice were administered i.p. with 5 mg/kg of

7E5 mAb or rat control IgG 2 hours before necrotic cell challenge. Twelve hours post-

challenge, blood was collected, mice were euthanized, and peritoneal lavage was

performed using PBS supplemented with 2% FBS and 5 mM EDTA. PECs were

counted using a hemocytometer and analyzed by flow cytometry.

Histopathology

Mouse lung tissues were perfused and fixed in 10% formalin, then embedded in paraffin

and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) at the Histology Center, Institute of

Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology, National Taiwan University. Lung injury

was assessed by a veterinarian using a previously described scoring system [34]. Briefly,

lung sections were graded on a scale of 0–2 based on the following parameters: (A)

neutrophils in the alveolar space, (B) neutrophils in the interstitial space, (C)

proteinaceous debris filling the airspaces, and (D) alveolar septal thickening. For each

sample, twenty high-magnification fields were randomly selected, and the total lung

injury score was calculated using the formula: $[(20 \times A) + (14 \times B) + (7 \times C) + (2 \times D)]$

$/ 20 \times 72)$.

Statistics

Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism (version 8.0). Data are

presented as the mean ± standard error of the mean (SEM). Group comparisons were

conducted using an unpaired Student's *t*-test for two-group comparisons and a one-way

ANOVA followed by Tukey's post hoc test for multiple-group comparisons. Statistical

significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

Figure 1. Surface ENO1 expression on neutrophils is upregulated after LPS stimulation in vitro and in vivo.

Figure 2. The anti-ENO1 mAb 7E5 disrupts ENO1-PLG interaction and inhibits neutrophil transmigration.

Figure 3. ENO1 drives neutrophilic inflammation and tissue injury in the LPS-induced ALI mouse model.

Figure 4. ENO1 blockade reduces NETotic neutrophils in LPS-induced ALI.

Figure 5. Anti-ENO1 mAb inhibits neutrophil recruitment in cell injury-induced inflammation.

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Figure 6. 7E5 mAb reduces soluble ENO1-induced alveolar macrophage activation.

Figure 7. A PLG inhibitor attenuates neutrophil recruitment in LPS-induced ALI.