1   **Loss of ErbB3 redirects Integrin β1 from early endosomal recycling to secretion**

2   **in extracellular vesicles**

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ABSTRACT

Receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) are important cargo in endocytic trafficking, yet their role in endosomal sorting and maturation of multivesicular bodies (MVBs) remains unclear. Here we show that the ErbB3 receptor sorts internalised Integrin β1, and the transferrin receptor (TfR), for endocytic recycling, in a manner that does not require ligand-induced ErbB3 signaling in breast epithelial cells. Loss of ErbB3 abrogates recycling of Integrin β1, likely from a Rab4-positive compartment, and redirects it toward lysosomal degradation and secretion as extracellular vesicle (EV) cargo. ErbB3 depletion impairs the collective migration of breast epithelial cell sheets, coinciding with reduced cell surface levels of Integrin β1 and increased release of Integrin β1-containing EVs. In contrast, EVs secreted from ErbB3-depleted cells enhance the motility of wild-type cells. Mechanistically, ErbB3 promotes assembly of the Arf6–GGA3–Rabaptin5 endosomal sorting complex to facilitate early recycling and suppress EV release. These findings provoke the notion that pseudo-RTKs play an active role in vesicular trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

The epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) family of receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs),

including EGFR, ErbB2, ErbB3 and ErbB4, form homo- or heterodimers and play key roles in

epithelial development and homeostasis while their deregulation contributes to most epithelial

cancers (Schlessinger et al. 2002). RTK dimers are activated upon ligand-binding, leading to

recruitment of molecules that initiate intracellular signaling cascades. ErbB3 has impaired

kinase activity, but signals by forming heterodimers with other members of the EGFR family,

and accumulating evidence highlights its potent oncogenic activity. In particular, ErbB3 has

been linked to the migratory behaviour and metastasis of cancer cells and is responsible for

acquired resistance to anti-EGFR therapies (Gaborit et al. 2016; Pradeep et al. 2014; Smirnova

et al. 2012; Yoshioka et al. 2010; Tiwary et al. 2014).

Ligand-binding to RTKs also triggers receptor internalisation and trafficking within the cells

which determines strength, duration and spatial distribution of EGFR signals (Al-Akhrass et al.

2017; Avraham et al. 2011; Miaczynska et al. 2010; Sorkin et al. 2009; Wiley et al. 2003).

RTKs, including EGFRs, are internalised through clathrin-dependent and -independent

mechanisms, converging on the delivery of the receptors to early endosomes (Sorkin et al.

2009). Notably, although the mechanisms regulating ErbB3 turnover are still not fully

understood, protein kinase C (PKC) has been linked promoting ErbB3 endosomal sorting

(Dietrich et al. 2019). Thereafter, RTKs are diverted towards either (i) the plasma membrane

via recycling; (ii) protein degradation through lysosomes; or (iii) secretion in the extracellular

milieu as cargo of small extracellular vesicles (EVs) (Fosdahl et al. 2017; van Niel et al. 2022).

The collective term EVs refers to a variety of secreted nanovesicles confined by a lipid bilayer,

such as (i) exosomes, which have endosomal origin, are formed upon the maturation of MVBs

and are released into the extracellular milieu or (ii) microvesicles originating from the plasma

membrane, both mediating intercellular communication from secreting to recipient cells by

carrying bioactive molecules (Raposo et al. 2013; van Niel et al. 2022).

Rab GTPases Rab4 ("short-loop") and Rab11 ("long-loop") are major regulators driving

endosomal trafficking and recycling of RTKs and other transmembrane proteins, including

Integrins (Bridgewater et al. 2012; Lolo et al. 2022; Tomas et al. 2014). Of note, the

ubiquitously expressed GGA1-3 proteins, which are clathrin adaptors dependent on small

GTPases of the Arf family, have been found to regulate Rab4- or -11-dependent endosomal

recycling of Integrin β1 (GGA2, GGA3), the Met and Ret RTKs (GGA3) and the Transferrin

receptor (TfR) (GGA1) (Arjonen et al. 2012; Crupi et al. 2020; Parachoniak et al. 2011;

Puertollano et al. 2004; Ratcliffe et al. 2016; Sahgal et al. 2019; Zhao et al. 2008). GGA

proteins contain several functional domains that bind to accessory proteins modulating

membrane trafficking, including Rabaptin5 (Puertollano et al. 2004; Mattera et al. 2003; Miller

et al. 2003; Zhai et al. 2003; Zhu et al. 2004). Rabaptin5 cooperatively promotes a linkage

among Rab5- and Rab4-containing microdomains on early endosomes to coordinate the

coupling of these domains, thereby regulating sorting of cargo including Integrin β3 and TfR

into recycling endosomes (Christodorides et al. 2012; de Renzis et al. 2002; Deneka et al.

2003; Pagano et al. 2004).

We found a novel role for ErbB3 in vesicular sorting whereby it stabilizes the Arf6-GGA3-

Rabaptin5 endosomal sorting complex, to promote early recycling of TfR and Integrin β1.

Depletion of ErbB3 or its effectors Rabaptin5 or GGA3 re-routes Integrin β1 from endocytic

recycling towards lysosomal degradation and secretion as EV cargo. Altogether, these findings

depict a novel mechanism by which a pseudo-RTK regulates endosomal events with potential

impact on endocytic pathway-related biomedicine.

RESULTS

ErbB3 guides Integrin β1 to the leading edge of motile epithelial cell sheets

ErbB3 (HER3) is commonly overexpressed in several types of cancer, contributing to tumor

progression and dissemination proposedly by promoting cell migration, yet the underlying

molecular mechanism and cellular function remain poorly understood likely due to its lack of

intrinsic kinase activity. To better elucidate the role of ErbB3 in cell migration, we assessed the

impact of ErbB3 silencing on migrating sheets of non-malignant breast epithelial MCF10A

cells. Depletion of ErbB3 in MCF10A cells (Figure 1A) reduced the rate of wound closure

compared to control (Figures 1B, C), with area under curve (AUC) increasing by 50.2% and

48.2% in DMSO vs. lapatinib-treated samples respectively (Figure 1D). Lapatinib is a dual

specificity EGFR/ErbB2 inhibitor that was administered to eliminate potential influence of EGF-

induced cell migration (Lauand et al. 2013; Maretzky et al. 2011). At the applied concentration

of 1µM, no cytotoxic effects were observed, while activation-linked phosphorylation of EGFR

and downstream ERK1/2 signaling was effectively blocked (Supplementary Figures S1A, B).

Additionally, the cell proliferation determined by EdU incorporation did not differ between

control or ErbB3 siRNA-transfected cells (Figure 1E). Thus, in the absence of any impaired

proliferation, the observed sheet migration defect caused by ErbB3 loss cannot be attributed

to reduced cell proliferation. Our data show that ErbB3 promotes migration of epithelial sheets

in a manner that does not require canonical transphosphorylation of ErbB3 by EGFR or ErbB2

or the kinase activity of these receptors.

Integrins are pivotal molecules regulating cell-cell adhesion and cell-extracellular matrix (ECM)

interactions and the β1 subunit is the most common among the 18 α and 8 β subunits, forming

the basis for cell survival and motility of epithelial (Sun et al. 2023; Weaver et al. 1997).

Endocytic recycling is important for the polarised and dynamic distribution of Integrins in

migrating cells (Haskins et al. 2014; Nader et al. 2016; Qu et al. 2016; Wali et al. 2014). Integrin

β1 localizes to the leading edge of migrating epithelial cells in a Rab4-dependent manner

(Arjonen et al. 2013; Ratcliffe et al. 2016). To evaluate whether ErbB3 regulates the distribution

of recycled Integrin β1 in sheets of migrating breast epithelia, a scratch wound was inflicted on

confluent monolayers of MCF10A cells, followed by their incubation for surface labelling with

Alexa488-conjugated Integrin β1 antibody for 1 hour on ice, prior to removal of the antibody

and subsequent incubation at 37°C for 1 hour (Figure 1F). Chased Integrin β1 and F-actin

were visualized in cells at the leading front of the closing cell-sheets by immunofluorescence

imaging (Figure 1G). Integrin β1 enrichment at the leading edge, or along cell-cell contacts

relative to adjacent cytoplasm was quantified in cells bordering the wound (boxed regions in

Figure 1G). RNAi-mediated depletion of ErbB3 led to a 59.6% decrease in Integrin β1

enrichment at the leading edge, as compared with control siRNA-treated cells after 1 hour of

tracing at 37°C (Figure 1H). At cell-cell contacts, Integrin β1 enrichment decreased by 42.5%

(Figure 1I). These results are consistent with a ligand-independent role of ErbB3 in recycling

Integrin β1 to the leading edge of migrating cells and to a lesser extent to cell-cell contacts.

ErbB3 promotes endocytic recycling of Integrin β1

Notably, ErbB3, like integrin β1, has been found to continuously endocytose and recycle back

to the plasma membrane in a manner that does not require ligand stimulation or other members

of the EGFR family (Fosdahl et al. 2017; Sak et al. 2012). Thus, we wondered whether

endosomal trafficking of ErbB3 might be coordinated with, or even regulate, endocytic sorting

and trafficking of Integrin β1. As an initial step, we asked whether ErbB3 colocalises with

internalised Integrin β1. Briefly, the surface pool of Integrin β1 on the luminal breast cancer

(BRCA) cell line, MCF7, was labelled on ice with an Alexa488-conjugated antibody, and

allowed to internalise for 15 minutes at 37°C, prior to fixation and immunolabelling of

endogenous ErbB3. MCF7 cells were used since they overexpress ErbB3 facilitating detection

of endogenous protein by immunofluorescence (Supplementary Figure S1C). Confocal

microscopy showed that ErbB3 and traced Integrin β1 colocalised on intracellular structures

likely to be endosomes based on their estimated size (0.5-2 μm), as well as in filopodia (Figures

2A-C). The degree of colocalisation on putative endosomes was determined from

deconvoluted confocal images by measuring enrichment of Integrin β1 on ErbB3-positive

putative endosomes, relative to their adjacent surrounding cytoplasm (Figure 2C). A significant

proportion, 32%, of the ErbB3-positive endosomal structures showed prominent Integrin β1

enrichment (>100%) (Figure 2D). Furthermore, traced surface labelled ErbB3 and Integrin β1

partially colocalised with EHD1, a marker of recycling endosomes, at the endogenous level

(Supplementary Figure S1D), consistent with co-ordinated trafficking of the two.

We next investigated the putative role of ErbB3 in endocytic trafficking of Integrin β1 by

conducting a recycling assay in MCF10A and in primary breast epithelial cells HMEC

(prHMEC) cells, as outlined in Figure 2E. Briefly, the cell-surface pools of Integrin β1 were

labelled with Alexa488-conjugated antibody on ice, prior to 15-minute incubation at 37°C, time

during which the internalised Integrins accumulate primarily in early endosomes (Roberts et

al. 2001). The proportion of surface-labelling Integrin antibody that remained on the cell surface

was then quenched with an anti-Alexa488 antibody on ice, as previously described (Arjonen

et al. 2012). Cells were subsequently incubated at 37°C and re-emergence of internalised

Integrin β1 at the basal membrane was followed by live cell TIRF microscopy imaging. About

70% of the chased Integrin β1 was detected at the plasma membrane already after 10 minutes

and ErbB3 silencing, using two independent and validated siRNAs reduced recycling of

Integrin β1 by 40-50% (Figures 2F, G; Supplementary Figures S1E, F). Similar results were

obtained on prHMEC cells (Figures 2H, I; Supplementary Figures S1G, H). The initial amount

of fluorophore-labelled Integrin β1 detected on the cell surface, prior to tracing, was 18-19%

lower upon ErbB3 knockdown when compared with MCF10A control (Supplementary Figures

S1I, J), but unchanged in prHMEC (Supplementary Figures S1K, L), as determined by confocal

imaging. Notably, Integrin β1 protein levels did not change significantly upon ErbB3 depletion

in MCF10A (Supplementary Figure S2A) and prHMEC cells (Supplementary Figure S2B), yet

ErbB3 ablation significantly increased *ITGB1* mRNA levels in MCF10A cells (Supplementary

Figure S2C).

The ErbB3 pseudo receptor is currently thought to exclusively act in a dimer configuration with

other members of the ErbB family. Thus, in order to determine whether its preferred

dimerization partners EGFR or ErbB2 play a part in endocytic recycling of Integrin β1 alongside

ErbB3, we subjected MCF10A cells to RNAi-mediated depletion of EGFR or ErbB2 prior to

assaying endocytic recycling of Integrin β1. Depletion of EGFR or ErbB2 did not impair Integrin

β1 recycling (Figures 2J, K; Supplementary Figures S2A, E-H), suggesting that ErbB3 acts

independently of its canonical heterodimer partners to promote endocytic recycling of Integrin

β1. Of note, ectopic expression of siRNA-resistant ErbB3 restored the surface pool of traced

surface-labelled Integrin β1 in ErbB3-depleted MCF10A cells, as visualized by confocal

imaging (Supplementary Figures S2I, J), indicating that off-target effects of the ErbB3 siRNA

does not underlie the observed recycling defect. Both EGFR and ErbB2 were expressed at

levels comparable to ErbB3 in MCF10A cells (Supplementary Figure S2A). In contrast, ErbB4

was excluded from these experiments due to the lack of its expression in these cells, as

previously reported (Haskins et al. 2014; Wali et al. 2014). Of importance, the recycling assays

were conducted in a cell culture medium devoid of growth factors. Under these conditions we

did not detect tyrosine phosphorylation of immunoprecipitated ErbB3 by immunoblotting with

an antibody that recognises global phosphotyrosine (Supplementary Figure S2K), nor did we

detect phosphorylation of ErbB3 on Tyr1289, or significant activation of the AKT and ERK1/2

kinases, typically observed downstream of ligand-stimulated ErbB3 (Supplementary Figure

S2A). These results indicate that ErbB3 promotes Integrin β1 recycling in a manner that does

not require ligand-induced receptor signaling.

The finding that ErbB3 regulates endocytic recycling of Integrin β1 in non-malignant breast

epithelial cells raises the question of whether this mechanism is also relevant in cancer cells

overexpressing ErbB3. *ErbB3* mRNA is highly expressed in BRCA patients in comparison to

healthy controls (extracted from TCGA datasets; Supplementary Figure S3A), which correlates

significantly with a poorer overall survival of BRCA patients (Supplementary Figure S3B).

Moreover, higher mRNA levels of *ErbB3* were associated with the lack of response of BRCA

patients to chemotherapies (Supplementary Figure S3C), which is consistent with the known

pro-tumorigenic role of ErbB3 in BRCA (Pradeep et al. 2014; Smirnova et al. 2012; Tiwary et

al. 2014; Yoshioka et al. 2010; Gaborit et al. 2016). Notably, a meta-analysis of 12 studies

found that elevated ErbB3 protein expression was associated with worse overall survival not

only in BRCA patients, but also in patients with colorectal, gastric, melanoma, ovarian, head

and neck, pancreatic and cervical cancers (Ocana et al. 2013). Accordingly, we found *ErbB3*

mRNA levels significantly higher in the luminal BRCA cell line, MCF7, when compared to the

non-malignant breast epithelial cells MCF10A and the prHMEC (Supplementary Figure S1C).

To assess the putative role of ErbB3 in Integrin β1 recycling in malignant MCF7 cells we

surface-labelled Integrin β1 on ice, allowed internalisation at 37°C, followed by quenching of

the remaining surface labelling and subsequent tracing of internalised Integrin β1 in siCtrl or

siErbB3 cells, in line with our prior recycling assays. We found that Integrin β1 internalisation

was less effective in MCF7 cells as compared to MCF10A and prHMEC with limited detectable

return of internalised Integrin β1 to the cell surface of both control or ErbB3-depleted cells,

precluding reliable assessment of Integrin β1 recycling in these cells (Supplementary Figures

S3D, E). This observation may reflect differing Integrin β1 trafficking dynamics and underlying

mechanisms between malignant and normal breast epithelial cells.

Notwithstanding, we asked whether ErbB3 plays a more general role in regulating endosomal

recycling beyond Integrin β1, by assessing the effect of ErbB3-depletion on recycling of the

transferrin receptor (TfR) that has been extensively studied as a generic recycling cargo that

undergoes continuous internalisation and recycling with negligible sorting to late endosomes

and lysosomes (Sönnichsen et al. 2000). TfR on the cell-surface of MCF7 transfected with

control siRNA (siCtrl) or siErbB3 (Supplementary Figure S3F) were tagged with Alexa594-

conjugated transferrin on ice for 30 minutes. Unbound, labelled transferrin was washed away

and cells were incubated at 37°C in the presence of unlabelled transferrin for up to 1 hour.

Cells were brought back on ice and subjected to low pH treatment to quench Alexa594 that

had returned to the cell surface, followed by visualisation of chased transferrin retained in

endosomes by fluorescence imaging (Figures 2L-N). After 1 hour at 37°C, most TfR was

recycled back to the plasma membrane as indicated by the shedding of labelled transferrin

from the cells. However, half of the chased transferrin was still retained in endosomes in cells

transfected with siErbB3 (Figures 2M, N). In conclusions ErbB3 promotes recycling of both

Integrin β1 and TfR, consistent with a general role for ErbB3 in regulating endocytic recycling.

ErbB3 colocalises with Rab4-positive recycling endosomes and impairs extracellular vesicle release

Our data shows a marked reduction in Integrin β1 recycling in ErbB3-depleted cells already 10 minutes post onset of tracing (Figure 2), which corresponds to the reported peak time of colocalisation of Rab4 with traced TfR, preceding Rab11 and TfR colocalisation that peaks at 30 minutes (Lindsay et al. 2002; Sönnichsen et al. 2000). To determine which recycling compartment ErbB3 preferentially resides in, ErbB3-mCherry was co-expressed with either GFP-Rab4 or GFP-Rab11 in MCF10A cells, followed by treatment with either primaquine (PQ), an inhibitor of endocytic recycling (Arjonen et al. 2012; Woods et al. 2004), or vehicle alone for 10 minutes and subsequent visualisation of the proteins by confocal imaging (Figure 3A). Colocalisation was analysed as enrichment of ErbB3 fluorescence in Rab4- or Rab11-positive compartments (Figure 3B) or visualized as average intensity projections of all structures (Figure 3C). A large majority of ErbB3-mCherry did not colocalise with GFP-Rab4 or GFP-Rab11 positive structures in the absence of PQ-treatment. However, upon PQ-treatment for 10 minutes, ErbB3 enrichment in Rab4-positive structures increased 6.2-fold (p=0.0003), while no significant enrichment was observed in Rab11-positive structures (Figure 3B). The preferred ErbB3 colocalisation with Rab4-positive rather than Rab11-positive recycling endosomes and requirement for ErbB3 for early endocytic recycling (within 10 minutes) (Bridgewater et al. 2012; Tomas et al. 2014), suggest that ErbB3 is required for early Rab4-dependent endocytic recycling, although its involvement in other Rab dependent pathways are not excluded.

We next asked whether ErbB3 might play a broader role in regulating exocytic trafficking, beyond its known involvement in endocytic recycling. Thus, we used a well-established system to analyse exocytic trafficking from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) using ectopically expressed vesicular stomatitis virus, VSV-G-ts-GFP (Hirschberg et al. 1998). The temperature sensitive form of VSV-G accumulates in the ER at 40°C and upon shift to 32°C, this protein

traffics via the trans-Golgi-network (TGN) to the cell surface (Figure 3D). Of note, ErbB3

silencing in MCF10A cells did not affect the amount of VSV-G that was transported from the

ER to the cell surface after 30 minutes, 1 or 2 hours at permissive temperature as monitored

by immunoblotting of isolated surface-biotinylated proteins (Figures 3E, F and Supplementary

Figure S4A). Immunoblotting against the transmembrane protein Muc1 on the isolated

biotinylated proteins controlled for equal sampling. To complement the surface-biotinylation

assay, traced VSV-G-ts-GFP was visualized by confocal imaging. In both siCtrl- or siErbB3-

transfected MCF10A cells, VSV-G-ts-GFP exhibited predominant localization in the ER at

40°C. Following the shift to 32°C, VSV-G-ts-GFP was first detected in the GM130$^+$ TGN at 30

minutes and in the E-cadherin$^+$ membrane compartment at 1 hour, in both control and ErbB3

siRNA-transfected cells (Supplementary Figure S4B), suggesting that ErbB3 does not impact

trafficking from the TGN to the plasma membrane.

Interestingly, Rab4 has been proposed to restrict exosome biogenesis by promoting early

endosomal recycling (Zhang et al. 2022). To elucidate whether impaired endocytic recycling

caused by loss of ErbB3 could also influence EV release, we isolated small EVs secreted from

MCF10A cells transfected or not with ErbB3 or non-targeting siRNAs (Figure 3G) by an

established protocol of tangential flow filtration, followed by immune-affinity selection of the

tetraspanin CD81, or by ultracentrifugation (UC) (Figure 3H) (Rodrigues-Junior et al. 2019;

Théry et al. 2006). EVs enriched in the vesicular secretome fraction (VSF) were visualized by

transmission electron microscopy (TEM), validating the presence of membrane-surrounded

nanoparticles of 75–200 nm in size and consistent with small EVs (Supplementary Fig S4C).

Nanoparticle tracking analysis (NTA) revealed that the number of secreted EVs increased

significantly in cells with ErbB3 silenced by two independent siRNAs, in comparison to siCtrl,

while the EV modal size was not affected (Figure 3I, Supplementary Figure S4D). Additionally,

at equal EV fraction sample volume enriched as VSF, CD81-EVs or UC EVs from ErbB3-

depleted cells, the expression of established EV markers, including the endosomal sorting

complexes required for transport (ESCRT)-associated molecules ALIX and TSG101 or the

tetraspanins CD81 and CD63 were increased (Figures 3J-L), validating the NTA results.

Similarly, ErbB3 loss in prHMEC cells (Supplementary Figure S4E) did not impact the modal

size of EVs, but significantly enhanced the EV release (Supplementary Figure S4F).

Furthermore, Rab4A silencing in MCF10A cells (Figure 3L) significantly increased EV

secretion (Figure 3M), which is in line with the previous findings of Zhang et al. (2022). These

results were also reproduced in MCF7 cells, since ErbB3 or Rab4A silencing (Supplementary

Figure S4G) significantly boosted EV secretion (Supplementary Figures S4H, I). Collectively,

our data reveal a novel role for ErbB3 in promoting early endocytic recycling of different cell

surface-derived receptors, and restricting EV secretion in breast epithelial cells.

ErbB3 loss directs Integrin β1 for lysosomal degradation and secretion in extracellular

vesicles

We sought to trace the fate of internalised Integrin β1 that fails to recycle back to the cell

surface in the absence of ErbB3. Towards this end, MCF10A cells were labelled with an

Alexa488-conjugated surface-binding Integrin β1 antibody on ice, followed by incubation at

37°C for 15 minutes to allow Integrin β1 internalisation and subsequent quenching on ice of

the Integrin β1 that remained on the cell surface (0 minute). Finally, the cells were returned to

37°C and the fate of the internalised pool of Integrin β1 was visualized by confocal fluorescence

microscopy for up to half an hour (Figures 4A, B). Already after 15 minutes of tracing, Integrin

β1 levels decreased by 42.4% in ErbB3-depleted cells at which time no significant change was

observed in cells transfected with siCtrl (Figures 4B, C). Notably, traced Integrin β1 levels were

somewhat reduced already at the onset of the tracing (0 minute) in ErbB3-depleted cells

compared to control cells (13.3%) (Figure 4C), which is probably due to accelerated Integrin

β1 turnover in ErbB3 depleted cells evident within the 15-minute internalisation step that

precedes quenching and the onset of tracing.

To further assess the impact of ErbB3 on Integrin β1 turnover, we subjected control or ErbB3

siRNA-transfected MCF10A cells to treatment with the protein synthesis inhibitor

cycloheximide (CHX; up to 8 hours) and monitored Integrin β1 levels by immunoblotting

(Supplementary Figures S5A, B). While Integrin β1 levels were slightly reduced for up to 8

hours in the presence of CHX in the control cells, their levels were significantly decreased by

72% after 8 hours of CHX treatment in ErbB3-depleted cells (Supplementary Figures S5A, B).

To evaluate directly Integrin β1 stability, we performed a pulse-chase analysis of Integrin β1

turnover. Control or ErbB3 siRNA-transfected MCF10A cells were labelled with ^{35}S-

methionine/cysteine for 1 hour, followed by chasing with un-labelled amino acids at 37°C.

Integrin β1 was subsequently immunoprecipitated and the protein-incorporated ^{35}S-label was

determined by radiography. The data show that cells transfected with two independent siRNAs

against ErbB3 exhibited a significantly accelerated Integrin β1 turnover (49% or 84%

decrease), compared to control cells (Figures 4D, E).

The Integrin β1 turnover is slow, yet, limited degradation of this protein has been found to occur

in the lysosomes (De Franceschi et al. 2015). To better characterize Integrin β1 turnover, we

traced surface-labelled Integrin β1 in control or ErbB3 siRNA-transfected MCF10A cells by

confocal fluorescence microscopy, in the presence or absence of chloroquine, which impairs

phagolysosomal fusion (Figure 4F). Chloroquine treatment caused traced Integrin β1 to

accumulate in cells bordering the migratory front of wounded monolayers of both wild type and

ErbB3-depleted cells (Figures 4G). Quantification of fluorescence intensity showed that while

the level of traced Integrin β1 was reduced in the ErbB3-depleted cells relative to siCtrl cells

(by 44.8%, p<0.0001), consistent with its increased turnover, chloroquine treatment

significantly restored traced Integrin β1 levels (Figure 4H). Our results indicate that elevated

Integrin β1 turnover caused by ErbB3-loss is in part due to increased lysosomal degradation.

It has been reported that EV-associated Integrins assist organotropic metastasis and in

particular Integrin β1 was found to be associated with increased tumor invasiveness and

metastatic potential of BRCA cells (Hoshino et al. 2015; Weaver et al. 1997). In this context,

we sought to assess whether the sorting of Integrin β1 into EVs could be affected by ErbB3

silencing. We found that siRNA-mediated depletion of ErbB3 in MCF10A cells (Supplementary

Figure S5C) increased the amount of UC EV-associated Integrin β1, as detected by

immunoblotting (Figure 4I). The prevalence of EVs in the UC samples were further validated

by the increased presence of ALIX and CD81, in addition to the absence of the Golgi marker

GM130 (Figure 4I), and membranous nanovesicles labelled with CD63-immuno-gold were

visualized by TEM (Figure 4J), attesting to the EV integrity. These results imply that the

increased turnover of Integrin β1 in ErbB3-silenced cells occurs due to both increased

shedding in EVs and lysosomal degradation.

We sought to validate that EVs could be involved in promoting viability or invasive properties

of the breast epithelial cells. We therefore stimulated transfected MCF10A cells with

normalized concentrations of VSF (1×10^9 nanoparticles/mL) derived from either siCtrl or

siErbB3 cells for 48 hours and assessed cell viability by PrestoBlue fluorescence or invasion

into ECM (Matrigel) for additional 16 hours. We found that equalised amounts of EVs from

either control or ErbB3-depleted cells to the same extent, modestly promoted cell viability in

the recipient cells (Figure 4K). Accordingly, ErbB3 absence reduced MCF10A motility in

comparison to siCtrl cells (Figures 1A-D and Figure 4L), whereas the EV pools substantially

enhanced not only the motility of recipient ErbB3-depleted cells, but also the recipient siCtrl

cells into a Matrigel matrix (Figure 4L). Together, our results indicate that while ErbB3-silenced

MCF10A cells exhibited lower motility, these cells are sensitive to external stimuli received

from the EV cargo that elevate invasive behaviour, while simultaneously releasing a larger

amount of EVs with enhanced motility properties to neighbouring wild-type cells. Furthermore,

to test if Integrin β1 was essential for promoting EV-induced invasive behaviour, WT MCF10A

cells were pre-treated with EVs in the presence of 5 μg/mL IgG or Integrin β1 blocking

monoclonal antibody (mAb; clone P4C10) for 48 hours prior to the transfer into ECM (Figure

4M). We found that blocking Integrin β1 significantly reduced invasiveness of the cells both in

the presence or absence of EVs derived from MCF10A (Figure 4M). Moreover, MCF10A cells

transfected with siCtrl or siErbB3 were both sensitive to the inhibitory action of P4C10. The

data is consistent with EV-derived Integrin β1 playing a role in promoting invasive behaviour

of the MCF10A cells, in line with its known functions (Sun et al. 2023; Weaver et al. 1997).

ErbB3 promotes assembly of the Arf6-Rabaptin5-GGA3 sorting complex and stability of

Rabaptin5 and GGA3

Interestingly, selected components of the endosomal machinery that could be implicated in the

Rab4-dependent early recycling of β Integrins such as ADP-ribosylation factor-binding protein

3 (also known as Golgi-associated gamma adaptin ear containing, GGA3) (Arjonen et al. 2012)

and Rab GTPase-binding effector protein 1 (Rabaptin5 or RABPT5) (Christoforides et al. 2012;

Mattera et al. 2003) co-localised with ErbB3 in MCF7 cells (Supplementary Figures S5D, E).

Thus, to explore whether ErbB3 could interact with these proteins, we immunoprecipitated

endogenous ErbB3 from MCF10A cell extracts and examined co-precipitates by

immunoblotting. We found that ErbB3 co-precipitated efficiently with both GGA3 and

Rabaptin5 at endogenous levels (Figure 5A) and the abundance of this complex was increased

after a 30-minute treatment with PQ, consistent with these proteins interacting in the recycling

compartment. Thus, GGA3 and Rabaptin5 are plausible effectors of ErbB3 in early recycling

endosomes.

GGA3 has been shown to interact with ADP-ribosylation factor 6 (Arf6) to drive recycling of

different transmembrane proteins (Parachoniak et al. 2011; Ratcliffe et al. 2016) and with

Rabaptin5 to regulate TGN cargo export and endosomal tethering/fusion events (Mattera et al.

2003; Miller et al. 2003). We therefore set out to determine the influence of ErbB3 on the Arf6-

GGA3-Rabaptin5 adaptor network (Supplementary Figure S5F). MCF10A cells were

transfected with control or ErbB3 siRNA, prior to treatment with PQ or vehicle alone for 10

minutes. Harvested cell lysates were subsequently subjected to Arf6 immunoprecipitation and

immunoblotting for bound GGA3 and Rabaptin5 (Figure 5B). The data revealed that loss of

ErbB3 indeed reduced the amount of GGA3 and Rabaptin5 associated with Arf6 both in the

absence and in the presence of PQ. Notably, PQ treatment of siCtrl cells led to a stronger

interaction of Arf6 with GGA3 and Rabaptin5 (Figure 5B). Of note, Rabaptin5 and GGA3

protein levels were reduced in ErbB3-depleted cells (Figure 5C), which could explain the

reduced interaction. Nevertheless, the lower protein levels of GGA3 and Rabaptin5 was not

due to their reduced transcription, as determined by RT-qPCR (Figure 5D), suggesting

reduced protein stability. This is supported by the observation that treatment of ErbB3-depleted

MCF10A cells with the proteasome-inhibitor MG132 partially restored GGA3 and Rabaptin5

protein levels (Supplementary Figure S5G). It is possible that reduced engagement of GGA3

and Rabaptin5 in a stable complex with ErbB3, underlies its proteasomal degradation.

Deepening the mechanistic analysis, we noticed that ErbB3 has a unique putative GGA3-

binding motif (DxxLL) in the activation loop of the pseudokinase domain, that is not found on

EGFR or ErbB2 (Figure 5E). The DxxLL motif constitutes a consensus binding site for VHS

domains found in GGA proteins. To test whether ErbB3 binds GGA3 via this motif, we mutated

the two conserved leucines in ErbB3 to alanine (LL866/7AA). GGA3 was overexpressed with

or without ErbB3 wildtype or the LL866/7AA mutant in HEK293T cells followed by

immunoprecipitation of ErbB3 and immunoblotting against GGA3 (Figure 5F). We found that

GGA3 co-immunoprecipitated with wild-type but not the LL866/7AA mutant ErbB3 (Figure 5F),

suggesting that ErbB3 interacts with the VHS domain of GGA3 (Figure 5E). Thus, we tested

the hypothesis that ErbB3 scaffolds the assembly of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 complex by

ectopically expressing these proteins in HEK293T cells with or without wild-type or LL866/7AA

mutant ErbB3, followed by immunoprecipitation of Arf6 and immunoblotting analysis of

associated ErbB3, GGA3 and Rabaptin5. We found that GGA3 and Rabaptin5 co-precipitated

more efficiently with Arf6 in the presence of wild-type but not mutant (LL866/7AA) ErbB3

(Figure 5G). In agreement, we found that the ectopically expressed LL866/7AA mutant form of

mCherry-tagged ErbB3 co-localised with fewer internalised Integrin β1-positive structures

compared to the wild-type (WT) receptor (Figure 5H). In addition to its interaction with GGA3

and consistent with its proposed scaffolding role for ErbB3, we found that ErbB3 can directly

bind Rabaptin5 in vitro, as demonstrated by pull-down experiments using recombinant GST-

ErbB3 incubated with recombinant MBP-Rabaptin5 (Supplementary Figure S5H). Taken

together, our data suggest that ErbB3 acts as a scaffold that associates with both GGA3 and

Rabaptin5 to promote the assembly of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 endosomal sorting complex.

In the absence of ErbB3, GGA3 and Rabaptin5 protein levels are reduced possibly as a

consequence of their release from this sorting complex.

Rabaptin5 and GGA3 are effectors of ErbB3 in endosomal trafficking

Previous studies revealed the critical importance of Rabaptin5 for directing Integrin β3 towards

Rab4-dependent recycling (Do et al. 2017; Christoforides et al. 2012), however the same has

not yet been demonstrated for Integrin β1. Thus, we traced surface-labelled Integrin β1 in

MCF10A cells transfected with either control or Rabaptin5 siRNA and visualized the re-

emergence of internalised Integrin β1 at the basal membrane by TIRF live cell imaging (Figure

6A). Depletion of Rabaptin5 caused a significant reduction in the rate and amount of Integrin

β1 that recycled back to the basal membrane (Figures 6B-D), quantified as a significant

decrease of 28.7% in AUC.

Furthermore, we examined the impact of Rabaptin5-depletion on Integrin β1 stability by pulse-

chase analysis of protein turnover. Control or Rabaptin5 siRNA-transfected MCF10A cells

were labelled with ^{35}S-methionine/cysteine for 1 hour, followed by chasing with unlabelled

amino acids at 37ºC. Integrin β1 was subsequently immunoprecipitated and the incorporated

^{35}S-label was determined by autoradiography. The data shows that Rabaptin5-depleted cells

exhibited accelerated Integrin β1 turnover, with a significant 49% reduction in 9 hours when

compared to control-treated cells (Figures 6E, F). Likewise, previous work has shown that

siRNA-mediated silencing of GGA3 re-routes Integrin β1 from Rab4-dependent recycling

towards lysosomal degradation (Ratcliffe et al. 2016).

We next assessed the impact of Rabaptin5 or GGA3 on EV release. Thus, Rabaptin5

knockdown in MCF10A and MCF7 cells (Figure 6G and Supplementary Figure S5I), followed

by NTA, revealed a significant increase in release of small EVs without impairing the EVs'

modal size in comparison to siCtrl cells (Figure 6H and Supplementary Figure S5J), while TEM

confirmed the presence of membrane-surrounded nanovesicles in the enriched VSF (Figure

6I and Supplementary Figure S5K). Moreover, MCF10A cells transfected with siCtrl, siErbB3

or siGGA3 (Figure 6J and Supplementary Figure S5L) had their EVs enriched by UC and

characterized by NTA, indicating that GGA3 depletion enhanced significantly EV secretion in

comparison to the siCtrl cells (Figure 6K), similar to ErbB3-depletion (Figure 3). In line with this

finding, further analysis of different positive and negative EV markers by immunoblotting

showed enrichment of ALIX, TSG101 and Integrin β1 in the UC EV fraction upon ErbB3 or

GGA3 depletion, while the Golgi marker GM130 was absent (Figure 6L). Of note, the

morphology of these EVs was monitored by TEM (Figure 6M). Hence, loss of either GGA3 or

Rabaptin5 mimics the effect of loss of ErbB3 on endocytic trafficking of Integrin β1, consistent

with the hypothesis that GGA3 and Rabaptin5 are effectors of ErbB3 in promoting endosomal

recycling and impeding EV release.

DISCUSSION

We report that the RTK family protein ErbB3 promotes endocytic recycling of Integrin β1 and

TfR in a ligand-independent manner, as well as that ErbB3 restricts the release of EV-

associated Integrin β1 (Figure 7). Endocytic trafficking of RTKs provides critical spatial and

temporal control of the intracellular signaling events they trigger, which ultimately governs

cellular response. Hence, the mechanisms by which RTKs internalise and traffic within the cell

has been subject to intense scrutiny. While prevailing knowledge centres on RTKs as vesicular

passengers, our study provides a compelling example of an RTK family member playing an

integral role in the endocytic trafficking machinery per se.

RTK signaling is integrated at many levels with the regulation of endocytic trafficking of

Integrins (Caswell et al. 2009; Ivaska et al. 2011; Woods et al. 2004). Growth factor mediated

activation of AKT or protein kinase D (PKD) can regulate Integrin recycling by phosphorylating

proteins, such as ACAP1, an ARF6GAP or Rabaptin5 (Christoforides et al. 2012; Li et al.

2005). Conversely, several studies have shown that Integrins alter recycling of other receptors,

such as EGFR and vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR2), further highlighting

the close coordination of Integrins with RTK trafficking (Caswell et al. 2008; Reynolds et al.

2009). We found that ErbB3 can promote endocytic recycling of Integrin β1 and TfR,

independently of canonical ErbB3-driven tyrosine kinase signaling. Intriguingly, EGFR has

been reported to function in a ligand-independent manner to scaffold an exocyst subcomplex

needed to assemble autophagosomes (Tan et al. 2015). This invites wider speculation that

'inactive' RTKs, as exemplified by EGFR and ErbB3, might play an instrumental role in

intracellular vesicular trafficking as scaffolding centres.

We show that ErbB3 interacts with both GGA3 (via its VHS domain) and Rabaptin5 to promote

assembly and stability of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 endosomal sorting complex. GGA3 has

previously been reported to be required to sort multiple cargos, such as Integrin β1, c-Met and

c-Ret for Rab4-dependent recycling (Crupi et al. 2020; Parachoniak et al. 2011; Ratcliffe et al.

2016). It is therefore possible that ErbB3 drives recycling of not only Integrin β1 and TfR as

reported here, but of diverse cargo that depends on Arf6-GGA3, although this remains to be

addressed. Furthermore, loss of ErbB3 redirects Integrin β1 towards lysosomes for

degradation, mimicking loss of GGA3 that similarly redirects both Integrin β1 (Ratcliffe et al.

2016) and c-Met towards lysosomal degradation (Parachoniak et al. 2011), or Rabaptin5

depletion that we find similarly redirects trafficking of internalised Integrin β1 towards lysosomal

degradation. Taken together these results lead us to propose that ErbB3 engages into

endocytic recycling by promoting formation and stability of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 vesicular

adaptor complex, in line with the emerging concept that pseudo-kinases have evolved to

acquire scaffolding functions.

In addition to this, it has been shown by others that Arf6 interacts with Phospholipase D2, to

promote synthesis of phosphatidic acid and thereby formation of syntenin-ALIX intraluminal

vesicles, which are later secreted as exosomes (Ghossoub et al. 2014). Likewise, ARF6

activation leads to the phosphorylation of myosin light chain (MLC) and actomyosin

contraction, which allows the vesicles to bud off from the membranes of cancer cells

(Muralidharan-Chari et al. 2009). Thus, since ErbB3 promotes the assembly of the Arf6-GGA3-

Rabaptin5 complex, we speculate that ErbB3 association with GGA3 could negatively control

EV release by retaining Arf6 at early endosomes, which could suppress the formation of Arf6-

PLD2-PA complexes, explaining the reduced EV secretion in breast epithelial cells, although

further studies are required to address this hypothesis more rigorously.

Activation of EGFR and ErbB2 involve formation of asymmetric kinase domain dimers,

whereby one kinase domain acts as an 'activator' and the other as a 'receiver', that becomes

activated (Jura et al. 2009; Littlefield et al. 2014). However, the ErbB3 pseudo-kinase domain

acts only as an activator while the receiver interface diverges in sequence from other ErbB

receptor family members and is not engaged in kinase domain dimerization (Jura et al. 2009).

Interestingly, GGA3 interacts with a DxxLL motif situated on the activation loop within the

dysfunctional catalytic site in the ErbB3 pseudokinase domain. This motif is not present in

other ErbB receptor family members, where the corresponding position is instead involved in

regulating kinase activity. It is tempting to speculate that the dysfunctional catalytic domain in

ErbB3 may have evolved a novel kinase-independent function in regulating endocytic

trafficking, perhaps shedding some light on the enigmatic nature of pseudokinases.

Previous studies have found that Integrin β1 can physically interact with EGFR and endocytose

together (Caswell et al. 2008; Yu et al. 2000). Although ErbB3 and Integrin β1 were partially

co-localised at focal adhesions, cell-cell contacts and recycling endosomes, we did not find

that ErbB3 depletion influenced Integrin β1 internalisation. Thus, it remains to be elucidated

whether ErbB3 and Integrin β1 associate during endocytosis. Notwithstanding, our results

suggest that ErbB3 encounters Integrin β1 in recycling endosomes, presumably at the step

when the cargo is sorted into Rab4-positive vesicles through engagement of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5-complex. This is suggested by the observation that Integrin β1 and ErbB3 colocalisation was primarily observed upon treatment with the recycling inhibitor primaquine, when ErbB3 is retained in a Rab4-positive compartment, which coincides with enhanced binding of ErbB3 to GGA3 and Rabaptin5. This is in accordance with previous studies showing that the sortilin-related receptor (SorLA) attenuates ErbB3 lysosomal degradation by retaining ErbB3 within Rab4-positive recycling endosomes (Al-Akhrass et al. 2021). Additionally, GGA3 has been found to be enriched in Rab4-positive endosomes alongside endocytosed Met, with significantly lower enrichment observed in Rab5-positive early endosomes (Parachoniak et al. 2011). Interestingly, we found that ErbB3 is required for rapid recycling of Integrin β1 in non-malignant breast epithelial cells, but failed to demonstrate the same effect in malignant MCF7 cells. It is well established that Integrin trafficking is regulated by multiple context-dependent mechanisms (Moreno-Layseca et al. 2019). Thus, it will be interesting to investigate whether Integrin endosomal sorting mechanisms change upon malignant transformation.

The proposed role of ErbB3 in endosomal sorting of Integrin β1 and TfR and possibly other cargo into recycling endosomes, postulates that ErbB3 frequently resides in the sorting compartment independent of ligand-stimulation. In line with this prediction, ErbB3 has been found to continuously endocytose and recycle back to the plasma membrane (Cao et al. 2007; Fosdahl et al. 2017; Sak et al. 2012) independent of either ligand stimulation or other members of the EGFR family (Sak et al. 2012). Intriguingly, dynamic availability of ErbB3 in vesicular compartments may also be regulated independently of EGFR and ErbB2, since steady-state protein levels of ErbB3, but not EGFR or ErbB2, are tightly controlled by ligand-independent ubiquitination by the E3-ligase Nrdp1 that localizes in perinuclear membranes and targets ErbB3 for proteasomal degradation (Diamonti et al. 2002; Qiu et al. 2002). Furthermore, we found that ErbB3-dependent cell sheet migration also does not require EGF or other growth factors to signal. It is however noteworthy to stress that growth factor-induced EGFR or ErbB2 signaling is well known to promote cell migration, and our data does not rule out or address

the possible ErbB3 cooperation with EGFR or ErbB2 to drive growth factor-induced cell motility.

In this manuscript, we focus entirely on the unexpected and growth factor-independent roles

of ErbB3, distinguishing our investigation from the frequently studied and complex growth

factor-induced cell signaling events.

Hence, our data points to ErbB3 regulating Integrin β1 delivery to the leading edge of migrating

sheets of epithelial cells, promoting their migration. Since several studies established that

Integrin recycling promotes cell migration and cancer cell invasiveness (Caswell et al. 2008;

Pellinen et al. 2006), we reveal a new perspective of how ErbB3 could mechanistically

contribute to cell dissemination in part by promoting Integrin recycling. Conversely, we

speculate that loss of ErbB3 could lead to increased dissemination of heterogeneous tumours

by increasing EVs release, with the potential to increase invasiveness of surrounding wild-type

or mutant cells. This is consistent with the findings of Luhtala et al. (2018), who identified low

ErbB3 expression as a prognostic biomarker for shorter recurrence-free survival in patients

with ErbB2-amplified breast cancer. Furthermore, reduced ErbB3 levels were associated with

clinically aggressive features, including positive lymph node status, larger tumor size, triple-

negative subtype, and basal-like phenotype (Luhtala et al., 2018). Yet, in what context either

gain or loss of ErbB3 might be contributing to carcinogenesis remains to be explored. Of note,

EVs carry multiple functional molecules and whether ErbB3 affects the sorting of selected

protein EV cargo remains to be addressed by proteomic studies. Yet, our study revealed that

the pseudo-kinase ErbB3 plays a role in the vesicular sorting machinery by promoting rapid

endosomal recycling of other cargo and impeding EV release. This invites the wider

speculation that other pseudo-RTKs may also have evolved scaffolding functions that might

play instrumental roles in vesicular trafficking.

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Author Contributions

D.M.R-Jr., A.R.S., T.T., O.I., T.M. and I.F. conceived and designed the experiments; D.M.R-

Jr., A.R.S., J.S., O.I. and N.D. performed the experiments; D.M.R-Jr., A.R.S., O.I. N.D., A.M.

and I.F. interpreted the results; D.M.R-Jr., A.R.S. and I.F. wrote the manuscript, with input from

all authors.

Declaration of Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data and materials availability

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

fulfilled by the Lead Contacts, Ingvar Ferby (ingvar.ferby@igp.uu.se) and Dorival Mendes

Rodrigues-Junior (dorival.mrj@imbim.uu.se). The plasmids generated in this study are

available upon request.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Correlation analysis of gene expression

ErbB3 mRNA expression comparison in BRCA tumor versus normal samples was retrieved from the GEPIA2 server (https://gepia2.cancer-pku.cn/) (Tang et al. 2019). BRCA patients overall survival was acquired using the KM plotter database (KMplot) (Lánczky et al. 2021). Correlation of *ErbB3* mRNA expression and chemotherapy response in BRCA patients was conducted using the ROC Plotter database (http://www.rocplot.org) (Fekete et al. 2019). BRCA patients were categorized as non- or responders to treatment, according to the relapse-free survival status at five years post-surgery.

Cell lines and treatments

MCF10A (RRID:CVCL_0598) cells were cultured in DMEM/F12 (Gibco) supplemented with glutamine (Sigma-Aldrich), 5% horse serum (Gibco), 20 ng/mL epidermal growth factor (EGF) (Miltenyi Biotech), 0.5 mg/mL hydrocortisone, 100 ng/ml cholera toxin and 10 µg/mL insulin (all from Sigma-Aldrich). Where indicated, a starvation medium lacking serum, insulin and EGF was used. Primary human mammary epithelial cells (prHMEC; RRID:CVCL_0307) from Gibco were cultured in HMEC ready medium (Invitrogen). MCF7 (RRID:CVCL_0031) cells were cultured in EMEM supplemented with 0.01 mg/mL human recombinant insulin and 10% foetal bovine serum (FBS). HEK293T (RRID:CVCL_0063) cells were cultured in DMEM (Sigma-Aldrich) with 10% FBS (Gibco). Unless otherwise stated, the cell lines were purchased from ATCC. Culture conditions were 5% CO_2 at 37°C. Cell line authentication barcodes were purchased from Eurofins to confirm the cells' identity and absence of contamination.

The EGFR/ErbB2 inhibitor lapatinib was used at 1 µM (LC Laboratories) and was batch-tested for efficiency; cycloheximide at 50 µM (from Sigma-Aldrich); chloroquine at 50 µM (#14774; Cell Signaling); primaquine (PQ) at 0.5 mM (#160393; Sigma-Aldrich) for 10 or 30 minutes; MG132 (Calbiochem) at 50 µM. In all cases, control cells were treated with vehicle alone (DMSO, from Sigma-Aldrich) at the corresponding concentration.

Transfections

Cells were transfected with RNAiMAX (Invitrogen) according to the supplier's instructions. A final concentration of 20 nM of the following siRNAs were used: siErbB3#1 (5'CAAUACCAGACACUGUACAAGCUCU53'); siErbB3#2 (5'UCGUCAUGUUGAACUAUAA3'); siRab4A (5'GAACGAUUCAGGUCCGUGATT); siRabaptin5 (5'CCGGGCAAUUCUGAAUGAUACUAAA3'); siGGA3 (5'CCCGGGUCAUCAACUCUUATT3') or scramble siRNA (siCtrl: non-targeting pre-designed ID 12935112). All siRNAs were purchased from Invitrogen and the silencing experiments were performed 48 hours post transfection.

cDNAs and DNA transfection

MCF10A cells were transfected with Lipofectamine 3000 (#L3000075; ThermoFisher Scientific) according to the supplier's instructions. Constructs for Rab4, Rab11 and Rabaptin5 were kindly provided from Marino Zerial (MPG Dresden, Germany), and mCherry- and Citrine-tagged ErbB3 were kindly provided by Martin Offterdinger (Innsbruck, Austria). Rabaptin5 was subcloned into pMALC2 (#75286, Addgene) for bacterial expression (see below). mCherry-tagged Rabaptin5 and YFP-tagged Arf6 were purchased from Addgene. Flag-ErbB3 cDNA was subjected to site-directed mutagenesis (Agilent) to generate LL866/7AA mutant Flag-ErbB3. For rescue experiments mCherry-ErbB3 carrying two non-sense point mutations in the siRNA-recognition sequence was subcloned into pAdEasy XL and adenovirus produced using the AdEasy XL adenovirus system (#240010; Agilent) according to the manufacturer's instructions and MCF10A cells infected at a titter that yielded ErbB3 overexpression in approximately 90% of the cells.

RT-qPCR

RNA was extracted with the RNeasy Mini Kit (#74104; Qiagen). cDNA was synthesized with the iScript™ cDNA Synthesis Kit (#170-8891; Bio-Rad). qPCR was performed using the KAPA SYBR® Fast and primers for *ERBB3* (5'CAACTCCAGATGAAGACTATG3' and 5'TGCTATGCCAGTAATCAGG3'), *ITGB1* (5'AGATCCGAAGTTTCAAGGGC3' and 5'GAACCATGACCTCGTTGTTC3'), *GGA3* (5'GGGACAGGGTGTCTGAGAAAG3' and 5'GTGCCTCGTCTTCCTTCACC3'), *RABEP1* (5'TTCCCAGCCTGACGTTTCTC3' and 5'GCTGCTGTTGTGCACGTAAA3') and *GAPDH* (5'CCCTTCATTGACCTCAACTA3' and 5'CCAAAGTTGTCATGGATGAC3'). The comparative C_t method was used to calculate fold-change in gene expression relative to *GAPDH*.

Antibodies

The following primary antibodies were used: anti-ErbB3 (#05-390, clone 2F12, Millipore - for IP, and #12708S, clone D22C5, Cell Signaling Technology - for immunoblotting); anti-Integrin β1 monoclonal (#ab52971, Abcam - for immunoblotting; and #MAB1987Z; clone P4C10, Sigma-Aldrich - for blocking activity). For immunoblotting, we used the antibodies: Anti-phospho-ErbB3 Tyr1289 (#4791, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-EGFR (#2232, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-ErbB2 (#06-562, Millipore); anti-phospho-AKT Thr308 (#2965, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-AKT (#9272, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-phospho ERK1/2 (#9101, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-ERK1/2 (#9102. Cell Signaling Technology); anti-Phosphotyrosine (#05-1050-M; 4G10® Platinum, Millipore); anti-E-cadherin (#610182, BD Transduction Laboratories); anti-Muc1 (#4538, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-Alix (#sc-53540, clone 1A12, SantaCruz Biotechnology); anti-CD81 (#sc-166029, clone B11, SantaCruz Biotechnology); anti-CD63 (#sc-5275, MX-49.129.5, SantaCruz Biotechnology); anti-GM130 (#610822, clone 35, BD Biosciences); anti-Rab4A (#610888, BD Biosciences); anti-EDH1 (#ab109747, Abcam); anti-Rabaptin5 (#sc-271069, SantaCruz Biotechnology); anti-GGA3 (#612311, clone 8, BD Transduction Laboratories); anti-Arf6 (#sc-7971, clone 3A-1, SantaCruz Biotechnology); anti-GAPDH (##2118, clone 14C10, Cell Signaling Technology); anti-α-

Tubulin (#T5168, Sigma-Aldrich); anti-β-Actin (#sc-69879, SantaCruz Biotechnology). HRP-

conjugated goat anti-mouse (#62-6520), goat anti-rabbit (#65-6120) and rabbit anti-sheep

(#31480) secondary antibodies were purchased from ThermoFisher Scientific. Alexa fluor® 594

(#A-11037) or Alexa fluor® 488 (#A-11008) conjugated anti-rabbit antibodies (ThermoFisher

Scientific) were used for immunofluorescence. For the Integrin β1 recycling assay, we used

the Alexa Fluor® 488 anti-human Integrin β1 antibody (#303016, clone TS2/16, Biolegend).

Immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation

Cells were lysed in sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS)-sample buffer (120 mM Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 3

% SDS, 15 % glycerol, 0.03 % bromophenol blue, 75 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) and run on 8-

10% polyacrylamide gels. Proteins were transferred onto Hybond™-P polyvinylidene fluoride

(PVDF) membranes at 100 V for 120 minutes at 4°C. Membranes were blocked in 4% milk or

5% bovine serum albumin (BSA), dissolved in TTBS (tris-buffered saline, 0.1% Tween 20).

The protein bands were visualized using ECL™ or ECL plus™ reagents and Hyperfilm® ECL

(all from GE Healthcare) and detected with a CCD camera (Biorad). Quantification of western

blots was performed using the ImageJ software.

For ErbB3 immunoprecipitation cells were lysed in: 1% NP40, 50mM Tris HCl pH8.0, 150mM

NaCl, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS and 1mM EDTA supplemented with

Halt™ phosphatase/protease inhibitor (ThermoFisher Scientific). Preclearing of lysates was

performed by incubating samples for 1 hour at 4°C under rotation with Pierce control agarose

resin. Antibody incubation was performed overnight 4°C under rotation and precipitates

washed 4 times in lysis buffers. Precipitated proteins were resolved by immunoblotting. Arf6

immunoprecipitations were performed as above but with lysis buffer: 1% Triton-X100, 100 mM

sodium chloride (NaCl), 50mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4. IgG was used as negative control for

immunoprecipitations. Immuno-isolation/detection kits coupled to CD63 or CD81 antibodies

were purchased from ThermoFisher Scientific (#10606D and #10616D) and used for EV

enrichment. The 100K pellets were re-suspended in 100μL PBS with 0.1% BSA (filtered

through a 0.2 μm filter) and mixed with 100μL of magnetic beads slurry conjugated to the

corresponding antibody according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Immunofluorescence

MCF10A or MCF7 cells were cultured on type I bovine collagen (Advanced BioMatrix) coated

coverslips and fixed with 4% PFA in PBS for 20 minutes, permeabilized with 0.5% Triton in

PBS for 10 minutes and then blocked in Superblock T20 blocking buffer (ThermoFisher

Scientific). Primary and secondary antibodies and, where indicated, Alexa fluor® 488-

conjugated Phalloidin (ThermoFisher Scientific) were diluted in blocking buffer. Coverslips

were mounted using ProLong® Antifade Reagent (ThermoFisher Scientific) with or without

DAPI. Images were taken with a Leica SP8 (confocal) or Zeiss Axio Imager M2

(epifluorescence) microscopes and processed using Leica Suite or Zeiss ZEN 2011 software,

respectively. Images were processed in 8-bit format. Deconvolution of confocal image stacks

was carried out in Huygens Essential 19.04 (Scientific Volume Imaging B.V.) using a

theoretical PSF, automatic background estimation and CMLE deconvolution algorithm. The

final signal to noise ratio was set to 10.

Transferrin recycling assay

MCF7 cells were incubated in starvation media supplemented with 25 mM HEPES for 3 hours

prior to the assay. Cells were treated with 5 μg/mL of Alexa fluor®-conjugated transferrin

(T13343, ThermoFisher Scientific) for 30 minutes on ice. Thereafter, excess of labelled

transferrin was removed by three washes with PBS and subsequently incubated in media

containing 50 μg/mL unlabelled holo-transferrin (T4132, Sigma-Aldrich) for the indicated times

(0, 10, 30, 60 minutes). Finally, the cells were treated with an acidic solution (0.2 M acetic acid

and 0.5 M NaCl) for 30 seconds to remove surface labelling, fixed in 4% PFA in PBS for 20

minutes at room temperature and mounted. Quantification was performed on tree independent

experiments. Mean cell intensity was measured with ImageJ (n>17 images of 1-4 cells for each

data point). MCF7 cells were chosen for this assay due to efficient surface-labelling with Alexa

fluor®-conjugated transferrin. Attempts to perform the transferrin-recycling assay in MCF10A

cells were unsuccessful, due to insufficient surface-labelling with Alexa fluor®-conjugated

transferrin in these cells.

Integrin recycling assay

MCF10A cells were plated on collagen-coated 24-well plates either sparsely or at high

confluency for subsequent scratching. Cells were growth factor-deprived for 3 hours and then

put on ice for 5 minutes to cool down. Surface Integrin β1 was labelled at 4°C during 45

minutes, then washed twice with PBS and returned to 37°C in order to allow internalisation, as

previously described (Arjonen et al. 2012). After 15 minutes, cells were put back on ice and

treated for 1 hour with anti-Alexa fluor® 488 (#A11094 ThermoFisher Scientific) in order to

quench the remaining surface signal. After quenching, cells were again washed twice with PBS

and incubated in deprivation media at 37°C. At indicated times cells were fixed with PFA 4%

in PBS for 20 minutes at room temperature. When only Integrin internalisation was monitored,

the quenching step was not performed. Quantification of total pixel intensity per cell, mean

pixel intensity and average projections were performed with ImageJ.

TIRF microscopy

A prism-type TIRF microscope built around a Nikon E600FN upright microscope equipped with

a 16× 0.8-NA water-immersion objective was used. The output from diode-pumped solid-state

lasers (Cobolt, Stockholm, Sweden) were merged by dichroic mirrors and homogenized and

expanded by a rotating, light-shaping diffusor (Physical Optics Corp., Torrance, CA). Excitation

light was selected by interference filters (491 nm for Alexa-488 and 561 nm for mRFP, Chroma)

mounted in a filter wheel (Lambda 10-3, Sutter Instruments, Novato, CA) and refocused

through a modified dove prism (Axicon, Minsk, Belarus) at a 70° angle to achieve total internal

reflection. Cells grown on 25-mm glass coverslips (Menzel-Gläser, #1) were kept on ice and

mounted in a modified Sykes-Moore perfusion chamber just before imaging, placed on top of

the prism and perfused with DMEM/F12 at a rate of 0.1 mL/minute. Emission wavelengths

were selected with interference filters (525/25 nm for Alexa 488, 590/20 for mRFP, Chroma)

mounter in a filter wheel (Sutter Instruments) and fluorescence was detected by a back-

illuminated EM-CCD camera (DU-887, Andor Technology, Belfast, Northern Ireland). Filter

wheels and camera were controlled by MetaFluor (Molecular Devices Corp., Downington, PA)

and images were acquired every 10 seconds. TIRF penetration depth was 83nm and an

electronic shutter prevented light exposure between image captures. Imaging was done at

37°C.

TIRF microscopy 8-bit images were analysed off-line using ImageJ. Briefly, cell footprints were

manually identified and regions of interest covering the edges of the adherent cells were drawn.

Intensity changes within these regions through the time course of the experiment (45 minutes)

were measured and exported to Excel. All data points were background corrected, followed by

normalization to the pre-stimulatory level (F/F0). Cells within large cell clusters were excluded

from the analysis.

Wound healing assay

MCF10A cells were seeded in Falcon Multiwell 48-well plates and grown to full confluency.

Before performing the wound, cells were pre-treated with 1 µM lapatinib or DMSO alone in

serum-containing media lacking added growth factors for 1 hour. Thereafter, a scratch was

placed in the middle of each well with a sterile pipette tip. After two washes with PBS,

lapatinib/DMSO-containing growth-factor deprived but serum containing media was added

back to the cells and the wound healing process was monitored using an IncuCyte ZOOM

40008 microscope for 14 hours. The obtained images were analysed using the FIJI software.

^{35}**S-Met/Cys pulse-chase protein turnover assay**

MCF10A cells transfected with control or ErbB3 siRNA were incubated with growth factor

deprived DMEM media lacking methionine and cysteine supplemented with 10 µCi/mL ^{35}S-

methionine/cysteine (Perkin Elmer) for 30 minutes at 37°C. The labelling media was replaced

with growth factor deprived MCF10A culture media containing 5 mM L-cysteine and 5 mM L-

methionine (Sigma-Aldrich) for the indicated times, prior to cell lysis and immunoprecipitation

of Integrin β1, SDS-polyacrylamide (PAGE) gel electrophoresis and detection of incorporated

radioactivity using a Phosphoimager. Images were scanned and quantification of three

independent experiments was perform in ImageJ.

Recombinant protein purification and *in vitro* binding assay

pMalC2-Rabaptin5 was transformed into the BL21S(DE3)pLysS bacterial strain (Invitrogen).

Protein expression was induced with 0.3 mM IPTG for 2 hours at 37°C and recombinant MBP-

rabaptin5 was purified with an amylose resin (New England Biolabs) according to the

manufacturer's instructions and dialysed against lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 50 mM

NaCl, 0.05 mM PMSF, 6 KIU7/mL aprotinin 0.5 mM DTT, 5% glycerol and 0.5% Triton X-100).

Recombinant 6His-ErbB3 was purchased from Sigma. The in vitro binding assay was

conducted by incubating 1 μg/mL recombinant ErbB3 with 1 μg/mL recombinant Rabaptin5 in

a stringent buffer containing 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP40, 0.5% sodium

deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 1 mM EDTA, HALT protease and phosphatase inhibitor overnight at

4°C. ErbB3 was immunoprecipitated and bound Rabaptin5 detected by immunoblotting.

Colocalisation analysis

Analysis was conducted on confocal fluorescence images and analysed using Image J.

Rab4/11 and ErbB3 colocalisation: Single Rab4 or Rab11 positive structures were identified

and 40 × 40-pixel squares were drawn with the structures in the centre and saved as separate

images. For each cell, a minimum of 15 structures were randomly selected and the intensity

of the centre (7-pixel diameter circle, a) and the adjacent volume (background, b) for each

structure was determined using ImageJ. These regions were subsequently transferred to the

other channel (ErbB3) and similar measurements were performed. The relative enrichment of

ErbB3 at the Rab-positive structures was determined by the formula (a-b)/b. An average for

each cell was determined, and a minimum of 16 cells was analysed for each condition. Images

shown in the paper are average projections of all structures from all cells analysed. ErbB3 and

Integrin β1colocalisation: Deconvoluted confocal image stacks were processed into maximum

intensity projections using Fiji ImageJ. Signal intensities along manually drawn lines were

obtained using the histogram tool. Colocalisation was analysed in image J as enrichment of

Integrin β1 in ErbB3 positive structures (as described for ErbB3 and Rab colocalisation above).

VSV-G trafficking assay

VSV-G ts045-GFP was expressed in MCF10A cells for 24 hours. Cells were incubated at 40°C

for 6 hours, which causes misfolding and trapping of VSV-G in the ER. The cells were then

shifted to permissive temperature (32°C) and either PFA-fixed at indicated times for

immunofluorescence imaging or subjected to incubation on ice with Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin

(ThermoFisher Scientific) to biotinylate all surface proteins. Biotinylated cells were lysed in 1%

Triton X-100 containing lysis buffer followed by pulldown with Streptavidin-agarose beads

(Sigma) overnight and western blot analysis with indicated antibodies.

EdU incorporation assay

EdU incorporation into DNA of MCF10A monolayers subjected to a scratch assay in the

presence of 1 μM lapatinib or vehicle alone was detected using the Click-iT EdU Alexa-488

Fluor Imaging kit (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were later fixed,

double stained with DAPI and mounted for microscopic imaging with a Zeiss Axio Imager M2.

Quantification of EdU-positive cells at the indicated times in control or ErbB3-silenced cells

was performed with ImageJ.

EV isolation and characterization

EV isolation and characterization was performed as previously described (Rodrigues-Junior et

al. 2019; Théry et al. 2006). The cells were incubated for 48 hours in DMEM/F12 supplemented

without horse serum as described above. The serum-free conditioned medium was centrifuged

at 1,200 × g for 5 minutes to clear cell debris while measuring the corresponding number of

cells. The medium supernatant was filtered through a 0.2 µm filter, was further concentrated

20× by tangential flow filtration on a 50 kDa Ultra-15 Centrifugal Filter (Amicon;

Merck/Millipore) by centrifugation at 1,200 × g for 30 minutes, and defined as the VSF. EVs

smaller than 200 nm were sub-fractionated based on the presence of the tetraspanin CD81

protein. VSF (150 µl) was incubated with 40 µL of anti-CD81-magnetic Dynabeads™

(#10616D, ThermoFisher Scientific) in 100 µl of 0.2 µm filtered PBS, respectively, for 60

minutes at 37°C. The magnetic beads containing CD81-EVs were immobilized, washed with

PBS and the isolated EVs were stored at -20°C for up to 30 days. Additionally, conditioned

media derived from MCF10A cells were first centrifuged at 1,200 × g to remove cell debris,

and subsequently filtered through a 0.2 µm-filter (Sarstedt) and transferred to a polypropylene

ultracentrifuge tube (Beckman Coulter). Ultracentrifugation (UC) was carried out for 2 hours at

100,000 × g and 4°C degrees in a swinging bucket rotor (SW28, Beckman Coulter).

Nanoparticle number and size distribution were measured through NTA (NanoSight system;

Malvern Panalytical, equipped with a 532 nm laser and the NTA 3.4 analytic software). Three

videos of 60 seconds each were recorded of each sample, using the following settings: camera

level 8 and detection threshold 10. The system was calibrated with polystyrene beads of

100nm (Malvern). Modal diameter and per cell ratio of nanoparticles were analysed

statistically.

Transmission electron microscopy preparation was performed on freshly purified VSF or UC

enriched EVs. The EVs were mixed with an equal volume of 4% w/v formaldehyde and further

incubated with uranyl oxalate, pH 7.0, for 5 minutes, then stained in a drop containing 4% w/v

uranyl acetate and 2% w/v methylcellulose on ice and protected from light for 10 minutes, as

described (Rodrigues-Junior et al. 2019). Excess of UA/MC was removed by blotting on filter

paper.

For immuno-gold staining, after the first 3 washes on PBS the protocol follows as indicated:

sample was transferred to drops of 50mM Glycine in PBS for 3 × 1 minute. Then the sample

was transferred to a drop of blocking solution, 1 % BSA in PBS, for 20 minutes. Primary and

secondary incubations were carried out in 0.1% BSA in PBS for 40 minutes and washed away

in 0.1 % BSA in PBS for 5 × 1 minute. Sample was then processed for TEM contrasting as

described above. Dried grids were examined by TEM (FEI Tecnaii G2) operated at 80kV with

an ORIUS SC200 CCD camera and Gatan Digital Micrograph software (Gatan Inc/Blue

Scientific).

Cell viability assay

Cell viability was quantified using PrestoBlue Cell Viability Reagent (ThermoFisher Scientific)

following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 3×10^3 MCF10A cells were seeded into

96-well plates and incubated at 37˚C for 24 hours. Then, 1×10^9 nanoparticles/mL of VSF

enriched from cells transfected with siCtrl or siErbB3 was added to each well. Upon 48 hours

of treatment, 10 μl of PrestoBlue reagent was added to each well and fluorescence (540 nm

excitation/ 590 nm emissions) was measured. The fluorescence units from VSF treated cells

were normalized relative to those of vehicle-treated (EV-free media) and the graphs show

average values of % viability with standard error of the mean (SEM) of at least three biological

experiments.

Matrigel invasion assay

Transwell inserts (#351152) for 24-well plates (6.5 mm diameter, 8 μm pore) were coated with

300 μg/mL Matrigel matrix (#734-0269; Corning) diluted in coating buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 8.0,

0.7% w/v NaCl) and incubated at 37°C for 1 hour. MCF10A cells (5×10^4) treated for 48 hours

with VSF (1×10^9 nanoparticles/mL) enriched from cells transfected with siCtrl or siErbB3, or

with EV free media (as control), in the absence or presence of IgG or Integrin β1 blocking

antibody P4C10 (5 μg/mL), were seeded in DMEM/F12 in the upper chamber, while

DMEM/F12 complete media was placed in the lower chamber and incubated at 37°C to induce

the invasion through the Matrigel barrier for 16 hours. After incubation, the inserts were fixed

in methanol and stained with 4′,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; Sigma-Aldrich). Nuclei were

counted in at least five pictures per insert, taken with the 20× objective, using ImageJ. Data

were expressed as the percentage of invasion based on the ratio of the mean number of cells

invading through Matrigel matrix per mean number of cells in the uncoated permeable support.

Protein-protein interaction network analysis

A protein–protein interaction network for proteins interacting with GGA3 was constructed using

the Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes database (STRING-version 12.0;

http://string-db.org/), with the required high confidence score (> 0.7).

Statistical analyses

All data, unless otherwise pointed out, are presented as the mean ± SEM, from the indicated

independent biological experiments performed in triplicate or quintuplicate technical repeats.

Comparisons were performed using two-tailed paired Student's t-test or one-way ANOVA,

followed by multiple paired comparisons conducted by means of Bonferroni's post-test method

when applicable. Additional statistical methods are explained in the respective figure legends.

The data were analysed with GraphPad Prism 10.1 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA). A

p-value <0.05 was necessary to determine statistically significant differences.

Online Supplemental Material

Supplementary Figure S1. ErbB3 promotes Integrin β1 endocytic recycling.

Supplementary Figure S2. ErbB3 promotes endocytic recycling of Integrin β1 in absence of

EGFR or ErbB2.

Supplementary Figure S3. ErbB3 gene expression correlates with BRCA patient survival and

chemotherapy response.

Supplementary Figure S4. ErbB3 does not affect exocytic trafficking of VSV-G but reduces EV

release.

Supplementary Figure S5. ErbB3 enhances Integrin β1 stability and binds to GGA3 and

Rabaptin5 in vitro.

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 FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Ligand-independent role of ErbB3 in epithelial sheet motility. (**A**) Protein

expression of ErbB3 and GAPDH (as loading control) in the cell extract of MCF10A transiently

transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siRNA targeting ErbB3 (#2). Densitometric values of

ErbB3 protein expression in three biological replicates $\pm$ SEM of MCF10A cells is shown

normalized to the respective siCtrl. Data are presented as mean values ± SEM. P-values

determined by unpaired Student's t-test. ** $p \leq 0.01$. (**B**) Scratch closure assay of MCF10A

cells transiently transfected with siCtrl or siErbB3#2, cultured in serum-containing but growth

factor-deprived media in the presence of DMSO (vehicle) or 1 µM of the EGFR/ErbB2 inhibitor

lapatinib. Wound area highlighted in yellow. (**C** and **D**) Quantification of scratch aperture (**C**)

or area under curve (AUC) (**D**) of samples treated as in (**B**). Data are presented as mean

values ± SEM, n-values indicated in parenthesis. (**E**) Quantification of cell proliferation as

incorporation of EdU for the indicated times in control or ErbB3 siRNA#2-transfected cells in

the presence of DMSO (vehicle) or 1 µM lapatinib. Data presented as mean values ± SEM.,

n=3 independent experiments. (**F-I**) Confocal immunofluorescence imaging of surface-labelled

Integrin β1 (green) or actin (blue/black) on confluent sheets of MCF10A cells transfected with

control siRNA (siCtrl) or siErbB3#2 at 0 or 1 hour after labelling (**G**), as outlined in **F**. (**H**) Integrin

β1 enrichment was determined as ((a-b)/b) where a= mean fluorescence intensity (Integrin β1)

at a defined area of the leading edge (**H**) or cell-cell contact (**I**) and b=mean intensity of

adjacent cytoplasm of the same area. Data are presented as mean values (>74 cells per data

point) ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments. Scale bars, 1 mm (**B**) and 10 µm (**G**).

1187

Figure 2. ErbB3 promotes Integrin β1 and Transferrin receptor endocytic recycling. (**A-**

D) Confocal immunofluorescence imaging of traced surface-labelled Integrin β1 and ErbB3:

MCF7 cells were labelled on ice with an Alexa488-conjugated anti-Integrin β1 antibody prior

to incubation for 15 minutes at 37ºC to allow Integrin β1 internalisation, and subsequent cell-

fixation and immunolabelling of ErbB3 (red) and counterstaining with DAPI (blue). Note that

panel B represents the magnified (squared) regions of panel A. (**C**) Histogram of fluorescence

intensities along dotted lines indicated in **B**. (**D**) Analysis of Integrin β1 and ErbB3

colocalisation. Integrin β1 enrichment in ErbB3-positive intracellular structures (0.5-2 µm

diameter) was determined by the formula (a-b)/b where a is the Integrin β1 intensity at ErbB3

positive structures, and b the adjacent intensity (background) for each structure. Average

intensity projections of all analysed structures are shown on the right-hand side. (**E**) Schematic

outline of Integrin β1 recycling assays conducted in **F-K** after transfection with siRNA against

the indicated targets. Integrin β1 surface-pool was labelled with an Alexa488-conjugated

antibody and allowed to endocytose. Fluorophore label remaining on the cell surface was

quenched with an anti-Alexa488 antibody, prior to visualisation of traced Integrin β1 re-

emerging on the cell surface by live-cell TIRF microscopy. (**F**) Representative TIRF microscopy

images of Integrin β1 from peripheral areas of MCF10A cells transiently transfected with

control siRNA (siCtrl), siErbB3#1 or siErbB3#2. (**G**) Quantifications of recycled Integrin β1

performed on indicated number of cells (outside of brackets on the right-hand side of graphs),

from three independent experiments and shown as Alexa488 intensity normalized between 0-

1, with the control as reference where $F_{norm}=((F_{max}-F_{min})/(F-F_{min}))$. (**H**) Representative TIRF

microscopy images of Integrin β1 from prHMEC cells transiently transfected with siCtrl,

siErbB3#1 or siErbB3#2. (**I**) Quantifications of recycled Integrin β1 in prHMEC performed as

described in E. (**J** and **K**) Quantified Integrin β1 recycling, after siRNA-mediated depletion of

either EGFR (**J**) or ErbB2 (**K**). Data are presented as mean values ± SEM and p-values

determined by two-tailed paired Student's t-test. ns, non-significant. (**L**) Schematic outline of

Transferrin recycling assays. (**M**) Confocal imaging of Alexa594-conjugated Transferrin

chased with unlabelled holo-Transferrin for the indicated times in MCF7 cells. (**N**)

Quantification of Alexa594 fluorescence intensity in cells treated as in **M** (n>17 cells for each

data point from three experiments) normalized against the control siRNA treated, 0-hour

timepoint of each independent experiment. Scale bars, 7 µm (**A**), **4** µm (**B**), 10 µm (**F, H**) and

M) and 0.5 µm (**D**).

1220

Figure 3. Loss of ErbB3 directs Integrin β1 for secretion as EV cargo. (**A**) Confocal

imaging of ErbB3-mCherry and indicated Rab marker expressed in MCF10A cells, with or

without prior treatment with the recycling inhibitor primaquine (PQ). (**B**) Analysis of ErbB3-

mCherry colocalisation with Rab4 or Rab11. The relative ErbB3 enrichment at the Rab-positive

structures was determined by the formula (a-b)/b where a is the ErbB3-mCherry intensity of

the centre in Rab4 structures, and b the adjacent volume (background) for each structure.

Each data point represents the minimum average of 20 structures in one cell. P-values were

determined using unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test. (**C**) Average projections of all analysed

(indicated number) GFP-Rab4 or GFP-Rab11 positive structures from the indicated number of

cells (3 independent experiments). (**D**) Experimental outline of the VSV-G trafficking

experiments in MCF10A cells transiently transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siErbB3#2.

(**E**) Immunoblot analysis of the surface pool of VSV-G-ts45-GFP (pulldown of surface-

biotinylated VSV-G-ts45-GFP), after its release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) at

permissive temperature for the indicated times. (**F**) Quantification of VSV-G-GFP in biotin-

pulldowns; normalized levels as determined by immunoblot band intensities (n=3 independent

experiments). (**G**) ErbB3 and β-Actin (as loading control) protein expression in MCF10A protein

extracts of wild-type (WT) and transiently transfected cells with the indicated siRNA. (**H**)

Scheme of the EV enrichment protocol by (*i*) ultracentrifugation or (*ii*) tangential flow filtration,

followed by CD81-immunoaffinity capture of EVs from conditioned media of breast epithelial

cells. (**I**) EVs enriched in the VSF released by the indicated MCF10A cells were quantified by

NTA in terms of nanoparticle modal size (nm) and number after normalization to the total cell

number. (**J** and **K**) Protein expression levels of the indicated EV-marker proteins in EV extracts

enriched as VSF (**J**) or CD81-EVs (**K**) derived from MCF10A cells transiently transfected with

the indicated siRNAs; average densitometric values of at least three independent biological

replicates were normalized to siCtrl. (**L**) CD63 protein expression level in EV extracts enriched

by UC derived from MCF10A cells transiently transfected with the indicated siRNAs.

Densitometric quantification of CD63 expression is presented as the mean ± SEM from three

biological replicates, normalized to the corresponding siCtrl condition. (**M**) Rab4A and GAPDH

(as loading control) protein levels in MCF10A cells transiently transfected with the indicated

siRNAs. (**N**) EVs enriched in the VSF released by MCF10A transiently transfected with the

indicated siRNAs were quantified by NTA in terms of nanoparticle modal size (nm) and number

upon normalization to the total cell number. Data presented as mean values ± SEM. P-values

determined by two-tailed paired Student's t-test or one-way ANOVA, followed by multiple

paired comparisons conducted by means of Bonferroni's post-test method. *p ≤ 0.05; **p ≤

0.01; ***p ≤ 0.001; ns, non-significant. Scale bars, 1 μm

1256

Figure 4. ErbB3 loss directs Integrin β1 towards lysosomal degradation or EV secretion.

(**A**) Schematic outline of traced internalised Integrin. (**B**) Confocal immunofluorescence

imaging of traced internalised Integrin β1 in MCF10A cells transiently transfected with control

siRNA (siCtrl) or siErbB3#2. (**C**) Quantification of immunofluorescence intensity of internalised

Integrin β1 that was traced for the indicated times after a 15-minute internalisation step (n>32

cells per data point from 5 independent experiments). (**D**) Determination of Integrin β1 turnover

by pulse-chase metabolic labelling: Control or ErbB3 siRNA#1-transfected MCF10A cells were

pulse-chase labelled with radioactive (^{35}S) methionine and cysteine. Radiolabelled Integrin β1

was visualized by radiography of immunoprecipitates (upper panel). Cell lysates and

immunoprecipitates were analysed by immunoblotting. (**E**) Quantification of pulse chased ^{35}S-

labelled Integrin β1 (left panel siErbB3#1 and right panel siErbB3#2) (n=4 independent

experiments). (**F** and **G**) Confocal immunofluorescence imaging of surface-labelled Integrin β1

(using an Alexa488-conjugated anti-Integrin β1 antibody), prior to (0 hour) or after tracing at

37°C for 1.5 hours. A scratch was inflicted prior to antibody incubation. Note that application

of the lysosome inhibitor chloroquine caused Integrin β1 accumulation in intracellular vesicular

compartments both in MCF10A transiently transfected with siCtrl or siErbB3#2. (**H**)

Quantification of Integrin β1 fluorescence intensity in cells bordering the migratory front in

samples treated as in **G**, showing that chloroquine restored Integrin β1 levels in ErbB3-

depleted cells. Data were presented as mean values ± SEM., n=19-27 cells per data point from

3 independent experiments. P-values were determined by two-tailed paired Student's t-test.

ns, non-significant. (**I**) Protein expression of Integrin β1 and the indicated EV-markers in the

UC EV protein extract; average densitometric values of at least three independent biological

replicates were normalized to siCtrl. (**J**) Representative TEM micrographs of EVs enriched by

ultracentrifugation (UC EVs) from control or ErbB3-depleted MCF10A cells and stained with

gold-conjugated anti-CD63 antibody (CD63-EVs are indicated by red arrows). (**K**) Cell viability

assay measured with PrestoBlue Cell Viability Reagent in MCF10A cells transiently transfected

with siCtrl or siErbB3#2 incubated with EV free media as vehicle (Ctrl) or 1×10^9 nanoparticles

of EVs secreted from MCF10A cells transiently transfected with control (VSF^{siCtrl}) or ErbB3-

siRNA (VSF^{siErbB3}) for 48 hours. (**L**) Matrigel invasion assay in trans-wells with MCF10A cells

stimulated with EV free media (Ctrl) or incubated with equal number of VSF^{siCtrl} or VSF^{siErbB3} as

described in **K** for 16 hours. (**M**) Matrigel invasion assay in trans-wells with MCF10A WT cells

pre-stimulated for 48 hours with EV free media (Ctrl) or incubated with equal number of VSF^{siCtrl}

or VSF^{siErbB3} in the presence of 5 ug/mL IgG or Integrin β1 monoclonal antibody (mAb; P4C10)

for additional 16 hours. The data in **K-M** are presented as mean values of three biological

replicates ±SEM and p-values shown based on two-way ANOVA, followed by multiple paired

comparisons conducted by means of Bonferroni's post-test method (*$p \leq 0.05$; **$p \leq 0.01$; ***p

≤ 0.001; ****$p \leq 0.0001$). Scale bars, 15 μm (**A**)**,** 10 μm (**G**), 200nm (**J**).

1294

Figure 5. ErbB3 scaffolds assembly of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 endosomal sorting

complex. (**A**) Immunoblotting of ErbB3 immunoprecipitates or input cell lysates, after 30

minutes treatment with primaquine (PQ), showing endogenous binding of ErbB3 with GGA3

and Rabaptin5 that increases upon PQ treatment, and the presumed accumulation of recycling

endosomes (representative of 3 independent experiments). IgG was used as negative control

for immunoprecipitations. (**B**) Immunoblotting of Arf6 immunoprecipitates or input cell lysates,

transfected with the indicated siRNAs, following PQ or vehicle treatment for 10 minutes. (**C**

and **D**) Quantification of GGA3 and Rabaptin5 protein levels (**C**: immunoblotting) and mRNA

levels (**D**: RT-qPCR) in ErbB3 siRNA-transfected MCF10A cells relative to control cells (n=4

experiments for protein and n=3 for mRNA). Data are presented as mean values ± SEM. P-

values determined by unpaired Student's t-test. (**E**) Structural model highlighting the putative

GGA3-binding motif 864-DxxLL-867 in the ErbB3 kinase domain. (**F**) Immunoblotting of ErbB3

immunoprecipitates or input cell lysates, after ectopic expression of ErbB3 or the ErbB3

LL866/867AA mutant with GGA3 in HEK293T cells. (**G**) The LL866/867AA mutation

compromises the ability of ErbB3 to promote assembly of the Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 sorting

complex: Immunoblotting of Arf6 immunoprecipitates or input cell lysates, following ectopic

expression of Arf6, GGA3 and Rabaptin5, with or without ErbB3 or ErbB3-LL866/867AA.

Average densitometric values of at least two independent biological replicates were normalized

to the respective controls and to the loading control protein when appropriate. (**H**) Confocal

imaging of wild-type (WT) or LL866/7AA mutant ErbB3-mCherry and Alexa594-conjugated

Integrin β1 in MCF10A cells. The analysis of ErbB3-mCherry colocalisation with Integrin β1

shows the relative ErbB3 enrichment at the Integrin β1-positive structures, as determined by

the formula (a-b)/b where a is the ErbB3-mCherry intensity of the centre in Integrin β1

structures, and b the adjacent volume (background) for each structure. Each data point

represents the minimum average of 20 structures in one cell. P-values were determined using

unpaired two-tailed Student's t-test. Scale bars, 15 μm (**H**).

1321

Figure 6. Rabaptin5 and GGA3 are effectors of ErbB3 in endosomal trafficking. (**A**)

(**B**) Representative TIRF microscopy images of Integrin β1 from peripheral areas of MCF10A

cells transiently transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siRabaptin5. (**C**) Quantification of

recycled Integrin β1 was conducted on the indicated number of cells (right-hand side of graphs)

from three independent experiments and shown as Alexa488 intensity normalized against

levels at onset of tracing (0) and maximum intensity (1). (**D**) Columns show area under curves

(AUC). (**E**) Determination of Integrin β1 turnover by pulse-chase metabolic labelling. Control

or Rabaptin5 siRNA-transfected MCF10A cells were pulse-chase labelled with radioactive

(^{35}S) methionine and cysteine. Radiolabelled Integrin β1 was visualized by radiography of

Integrin β1 immunoprecipitates (upper panel). Cell lysates and immunoprecipitates were

analysed by immunoblotting as indicated. (**F**) Quantification of radiolabelled Integrin β1 at the

indicated times of three independent pulse and chase experiments. Data are presented as

mean values ± SEM. P-values determined by two-tailed paired Student's t-test. ns, non-

significant. (**G**) Expression of the indicated proteins and GAPDH (as loading control) in the cell

extract of MCF10A cells transiently transfected with siCtrl, siErbB3#2 or siRabaptin5.

Densitometric quantification of the indicated protein expression in MCF10A cells is presented

as the mean ± SEM from three biological replicates, normalized to the corresponding siCtrl

condition. Data are presented as mean values ± SEM. P-values determined by one-way

ANOVA, followed by multiple paired comparisons conducted by means of Bonferroni's post-

test method. *$p \leq 0.05$; ** $p \leq 0.01$. (**H**) EVs enriched in the VSF released by the indicated

MCF10A transiently transfected with control or Rabaptin5 siRNAs were quantified by NTA in

terms of nanoparticle modal size (nm) and number after normalization to the total cell number.

(**I**) Representative TEM micrographs of EVs enriched in the VSF of control or Rabaptin5-

depleted MCF10A cells (EVs are indicated by red arrows). (**J**) Protein expression in the cell

extract of MCF10A control samples, ErbB3#2- or GGA3-depleted (left panel) of ErbB3, Integrin

β1, GGA3, besides the indicated EV-specific positive (ALIX, TSG101 and CD81) and GAPDH

(as loading control). (**K**) EVs enriched by UC and released by the indicated MCF10A transiently

transfected with control or GGA3 siRNAs were quantified by NTA in terms of nanoparticles

modal size (nm) and number after normalization to the total cell number. Data in **H** and **K** are

presented as mean values ± SEM. P-values were determined by unpaired Student's t-test. *p

≤ 0.05. (**L**) Protein expression levels of Integrin β1 and the indicated positive and negative EV-

markers in the UC EVs isolated from MCF10A cells described in **I**. Average densitometric

values of at least two independent biological replicates were normalized to siRNA control. (**M**)

Representative TEM micrographs of EVs enriched by UC secreted from control, ErbB3- or

GGA3-depleted MCF10A cells (EVs are indicated by red arrows). Scale bars, 10μm (**B**),

200nm (**I**), 1μm (**M**).

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Figure 7. Schematic model summarizing the effect of ErbB3 in vesicular trafficking. ErbB3, in a ligand-independent manner, engages with Arf6-GGA3-Rabaptin5 endosomal sorting complex, to promote early recycling of TfR and Integrin β1. Depletion of ErbB3 or its effectors Rabaptin5 or GGA3 re-routes Integrin β1 from endocytic recycling towards lysosomal degradation and secretion as EV cargo. Created in BioRender.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES AND LEGENDS

Supplementary Figure S1. ErbB3 promotes Integrin β1 endocytic recycling. (A) Viability curves of MCF7 and MCF10A cells in the presence of increasing concentrations of lapatinib (logarithmic scale) assessed by PrestoBlue fluorescence. Note the lack of significant differences. **(B)** Protein expression levels of the indicated signaling proteins and GAPDH (as loading control) in MCF10A cells stimulated with 20 ng/mL EGF in the absence or presence of 1 µM lapatinib for 30 minutes. Average densitometric values of at least two independent biological replicates were normalized to the respective control condition (EGF-negative; Lapatinib-positive). **(C)** RT-qPCR analysis of the indicated mRNA levels in MCF7, MCF10A and prHMEC cells. Values represent fold-change of *ErbB3* (left) and *Integrin β1* (*ITGB1*; right) mRNA expression relative to *GAPDH*. Data are presented as mean values of three biological replicates ± SEM, each in technical duplicates. **(D)** Analysis of colocalisation of endogenous traced Integrin β1, ErbB3 and the recycling endosomal marker EDH1: MCF7 cells were labelled on ice with an Alexa488-conjugated anti-Integrin β1 antibody (green) prior to incubation for 30 minutes at 37ºC to allow Integrin β1 internalisation, and subsequent immunolabelling of ErbB3 (magenta), counterstained for EDH1 (white, right panel). Note that the squared region in the left panel represents the magnified images of panel **D**. **(E, G)** Protein expression of ErbB3 and GAPDH (as loading control) in the cell extract of MCF10A (**E**) and prHMEC (**G**) cells transiently transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or two independent siRNAs targeting ErbB3 (#1 and #2). Densitometric values of ErbB3 protein expression in three

biological replicates ± SEM of MCF10A cells is shown normalized to the respective siCtrl. **(F,**

H) Columns show area under curve (AUC) of the Integrin β1 recycling data in MCF10A (**F**:

related to **Figure 2G**) and prHMEC cells (**H**: related to **Figure 2I**). Data presented as mean

values ± SEM, n-values indicated in the main figures. **(I-L)** Immunofluorescence imaging of the

surface pool of Integrin β1 labelled with Alexa488-conjugated antibody on ice for 1 hour, on

MCF10A **(I, J)** or prHMEC cells **(K, L)** transfected with siCtrl or ErbB3-targeting siRNAs. The

columns in **J** and **L** show quantification of Integrin β1 fluorescence intensity, normalized

against control siRNA treated samples. Data presented as mean ± SEM, from 6 independent

experiments. P-values in panels **C**, **E**, **F**, **H**, **J** and **L** were determined by one-way ANOVA

followed by multiple paired comparisons conducted by Bonferroni's post-test method. *p ≤

0.05; **p ≤ 0.01; ***p ≤ 0.001; ****p ≤ 0.0001; ns, non-significant. Scale bars, 10 μm (**D**), 20

μm (**I,K**).

1399

Supplementary Figure S2. ErbB3 promotes endocytic recycling of Integrin β1 in

absence of EGFR or ErbB2. (A) Immunoblotting analysis of the indicated proteins and α-

Tubulin (as loading control) in the total MCF10A cell lysates under GF-deprived culture

conditions or upon supplementation of the EGF and βNRG, after depletion of ErbB3, EGFR or

ErbB2. **(B)** Immunoblotting analysis of ErbB3, Integrin β1 and GAPDH (as loading control)

upon transfection of prHMEC cells with control or ErbB3 siRNA #1. **(C)** Relative levels of

Integrin β1 (*ITGB1*) mRNA in MCF10A control or ErbB3 siRNA #1 transfected cells as

determined by RT-qPCR (n=6 independent experiments). Data presented in C are shown as

mean ± SEM. P-value was determined by Mann-Whitney U-test. **(D)** Immunofluorescence

imaging of the surface pool of Integrin β1 labelled with Alexa488-conjugated antibody on ice

for 1 hour, on MCF10A cells transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siRNAs targeting EGFR

or ErbB2. **(E, F)** Quantification of Integrin β1 fluorescence intensity upon silencing of EGFR

(E) or ErbB2 **(F)** and normalized against the respective control siRNA-treated samples. Data

presented as mean values ± SEM. **(G)** Live-cell TIRF imaging of MCF10A cells to monitor

recycling of labelled Integrin β1, after prior siRNA-mediated depletion of ErbB2, EGFR or

ErbB3 (#1 and #2). **(H)** Related to the Figures 2J and 2K: shows AUC of the Integrin β1

recycling data. Data presented as mean values ± SEM. n-values indicated in main figures. n-

values indicated in main figures. **(I, J)** Expression of siRNA-resistant ErbB3 restores the

surface pool of traced Integrin β1 in ErbB3-depleted MCF10A cells. **(I)** Confocal imaging of

Integrin β1 labelled on the cell surface with an Alexa488-conjugated antibody, prior to (0 hour)

or after tracing (1 hour), on cells expressing siRNA-resistant mCh-ErbB3 or fluorophore alone

with or without transfection of control (siCtrl) or ErbB3 siRNA as indicated. **(J)** Fluorescence-

intensity (Integrin β1) along cell-cell borders was quantified from 3 independent experiments.

Values were normalized against intensities prior to tracing (0 hour). The results suggest that

off-target effects of the ErbB3 siRNAs do not underlie the observed recycling defect. Data

presented as mean values ± SD, n>230 cell-cell borders from 3 independent experiments and

p values determined by two-tailed paired Student's t-test. **(K)** Immunoblotting analysis of ErbB3

immunoprecipitates or total cell lysates of MCF10A cells cultured in the presence of 5% horse

serum or under growth factor (GF) deprived. Antibodies detecting total phospho-tyrosine

(4G10; pTyr) or the specific phospho-tyrosine 1289 on ErbB3 were used and α-Tubulin was

used as loading control for the total cell lysates. Scale bars, 20 μm (**D,G**), 10 μm (**I**).

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Supplementary Figure S3. ErbB3 gene expression correlates with BRCA patient survival

and chemotherapy response. (A) *ErbB3* mRNA expression levels as log2-transformed

transcripts per million (TPM) in tumor or corresponding normal tissue from TCGA BRCA tumor

vs TCGA normal + GTEx normal datasets was retrieved from the GEPIA2 portal. The data in

the bottom indicates the number (N) of tissue samples analysed in each group and the

differential expression analysis was performed with one-way ANOVA, using disease state as

variable for calculating differential expression. Red *$p \leq 0.01$. **(B)** BRCA patient overall survival

was calculated after sample stratification and compared with the Kaplan-Meier plotter

database by auto select cut-off, based on the low and high expression level of *ErbB3* mRNA.

(C) BRCA patients were classified as chemotherapy non-responders or responders based on

the relapse-free survival at five years post-treatment. The diagram presents median *ErbB3*

mRNA expression values, along with SEM and minimal and maximal values, as explained in

the table below the graph, which also presents the number (*N*) of analysed patients.

Comparisons were performed using Mann–Whitney U-test (*p ≤ 0.05). **(D)** Representative

protein expression of ErbB3 and GAPDH (as loading control) in the cell extract of MCF7

transiently transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siRNA targeting ErbB3 (#2). **(E)** Confocal

immunofluorescence imaging of traced internalised Integrin β1 in MCF7 cells transiently

transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siErbB3#2. Integrin β1 that was traced for the

indicated times after a 15-minute internalisation step. **(F)** RT-qPCR analysis of *ErbB3* mRNA

levels in MCF7 cells transiently transfected with siRNAs targeting ErbB3 (#2). Values represent

fold-change of *ErbB3* mRNA expression relative to *GAPDH*. Data are presented as mean

values of three biological replicates ± SEM, each in technical duplicates and p-values are

shown based on unpaired Student's t-test. p-values: ****p ≤ 0.0001. Scale bar, 50 µM **(E)**.

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Supplementary Figure S4. ErbB3 does not affect exocytic trafficking of VSV-G but

reduces EV release. (A) Immunoblotting analysis of isolated surface-biotinylated VSV-G-ts45-

GFP, following its temperature-dependent release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) for 2

hours in MCF10A cells transiently transfected with control siRNA (siCtrl) or siErbB3#2. Note

that ErbB3-depletion does not influence the emergence of VSV-G at the plasma membrane.

(B) Confocal imaging of VSV-G-ts45-GFP (green) and markers of the TGN (GM130; blue) and

the cell surface (E-cadherin; magenta) in control or ErbB3 siRNA transfected MCF10A cells at

non-permissive temperature (40°C) and following its subsequent shift to permissive (32°C)

temperature. Note that VSV-G-ts45-GFP localises to the ER at 40°C, while after 30 minutes at

permissive temperature most of the VSV-G-ts45-GFP has moved to the TGN and after 1 hour

to the cell surface, both in the presence or absence of ErbB3. **(C)** Representative TEM

micrographs of EVs enriched in the VSF of control or ErbB3-depleted MCF10A cells (EVs are

indicated by red arrows). **(D)** Representative nanoparticle traces measured by NTA. The VSF

from MCF10A transiently transfected or not (WT) with control siRNA (siCtrl) or independent

ErbB3 siRNAs were analysed by NTA 3.4 software, according to the manufacturer's protocol.

100nm beads were used as a positive control. **(E)** ErbB3 and β-Actin (as loading control)

protein levels in prHMEC cells transiently transfected with the indicated siRNAs. **(F)** EVs

enriched in the VSF released by prHMEC transiently transfected with the indicated siRNAs

were quantified by NTA in terms of nanoparticle modal size (nm) and numbe normalized to the

total cell number. **(G)** ErbB3, Rab4, Integrin β1 and β-Actin (as loading control) protein levels

in MCF7 cells transiently transfected with the indicated siRNAs. **(H)** EVs enriched in the VSF

released by MCF7 transiently transfected with the indicated siRNAs were quantified by NTA in

terms of modal size (nm) and number of nanoparticles, upon normalization to the total cell

number. **(I)** Representative TEM micrographs of EVs enriched in the VSF of control, ErbB3-

depleted or Rab4-depleted MCF7 cells (EVs are indicated by red arrows). Data in panels **F**

and **H** are presented as mean values ± SEM. P-value in panel **F** was determined by unpaired

Student's t-test, while in panel **H** by one-way ANOVA followed by multiple paired comparisons

conducted by Bonferroni's post-test method. *p ≤ 0.05; *** p ≤ 0.001; ****p ≤ 0.0001. Scale

bars, 10 μm **(B)**, 200nm **(C)**, 1 μm **(J).**

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Supplementary Figure S5. ErbB3 enhances Integrin β1 stability and binds to GGA3 and

Rabaptin5 in vitro. (A) Immunoblotting analysis of the indicated proteins and GAPDH (as

loading control) in MCF10A cells, transfected with control (siCtrl) or ErbB3 siRNA #2 prior to

treatment with protein synthesis inhibitor cycloheximide (CHX) or vehicle alone for the

indicated times in hours. **(B)** Quantification of Integrin β1 band intensities presented as mean

values ± SEM, n = 3 independent experiments. **(C)** Protein expression of ErbB3, Integrin β1

and the indicated EV-specific positive (Alix and TSG101) and negative (GM130) markers,

besides α-Tubulin (as loading control) in the cell extract of MCF10A control or ErbB3-depleted

samples. **(D)** Confocal imaging of colocalisation of endogenous ErbB3 with ectopically

expressed mCherry-GGA3 and endogenous Rabaptin5 in MCF7 cells. **(E)** Analysis of ErbB3-

colocalisation with mCherry-GGA3 or Rabaptin5. The relative ErbB3 enrichment at the positive

colocalisation was determined by the formula (a-b)/b where a is the ErbB3 intensity of

mCherry-GGA3 or Rabaptin5 structures centre, and b the adjacent volume (background) for

each structure. Each data point represents the minimum average of 20 structures in one cell.

(F) GGA3 protein-protein interaction network analysis using STRING and a confidence score

> 0.7. **(G)** Immunoblotting analysis of MCF10A cells, transfected with control (siCtrl) or ErbB3

siRNA #2 prior to treatment with the proteasome inhibitor MG132 (50 µM) for the indicated

times in hours. MG132 partially restores GGA3 and Rabaptin5 levels in ErbB3-depleted cells.

(H) In vitro binding of ErbB3 to Rabaptin5. Immunoblotting of ErbB3-immunoprecipitates

following incubation of recombinant ErbB3 and Rabaptin5. **(I)** Rabaptin5, ErbB3, Integrin β1

and β-Actin (as loading control) protein levels in MCF7 cells transiently transfected with control

siRNA (siCtrl) or siRabaptin5. **(J)** EVs enriched in the VSF released by MCF7 transiently

transfected with siCtrl or siRabaptin5 were quantified by NTA in terms of nanoparticle modal

size (nm) and number upon normalization to the total cell number. **(K)** Representative TEM

micrographs of EVs enriched in the VSF of control or Rabaptin5-depleted MCF7 cells (EVs are

indicated by red arrows). **(L)** Related to **Figure 6J**. Densitometric quantification of the indicated

protein expression in MCF10A cells is presented as the mean ± SEM from three biological

replicates, normalized to the corresponding siCtrl condition. Data are presented as mean

values ± SEM. P-value in panel **B** was determined by two-tailed paired Student's t-test, while

in panel **J** unpaired Student's t-test. P-values in panel **L** was determined by one-way ANOVA

followed by multiple paired comparisons conducted by Bonferroni's post-test method. *p ≤

0.05; ****p ≤ 0.0001. Scale bars, 10 µm **(B)**, 500nm **(C)**

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6