Regenerative growth is constrained by *brain tumor* to ensure proper patterning in *Drosophila*

Short Title: The role of *brain tumor* in imaginal disc regeneration

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1 **Abstract**

Some animals respond to injury by inducing new growth to regenerate the lost

structures. This regenerative growth must be carefully controlled and constrained to

prevent overgrowth and to allow correct organization of the regenerating tissue.

However, the factors that restrict regenerative growth have not been identified. Using a

genetic ablation system in the *Drosophila* wing imaginal disc, we have identified one

mechanism that constrains regenerative growth, impairment of which also leads to

erroneous patterning of the final appendage. Regenerating discs with reduced levels of

the RNA-regulator Brain tumor (Brat) exhibit enhanced regeneration, but produce adult

wings with disrupted margins that are missing extensive tracts of sensory bristles. In

these mutants, aberrantly high expression of the pro-growth factor Myc and its

downstream targets likely contributes to this loss of cell-fate specification. Thus, Brat

constrains the expression of pro-regeneration genes and ensures that the regenerating

tissue forms the proper final structure.

16 **Author Summary**

While much has been published about the signals that stimulate regeneration, the

mechanisms that constrain and/or terminate regeneration have not been well

characterized. Thus, we do not understand what limits may exist on the rate of

regenerative growth, what mechanisms constrain regeneration, and what the

consequences might be of enhancing regrowth. Here, we detail our discovery and

characterization of a mechanism that constrains regeneration, and the deleterious

effects of reducing that constraint. In this manuscript, we describe our identification of

the RNA regulator Brat as a factor that constrains regenerative growth. Without this

constraint on regenerative growth, patterning mistakes occur leading to a malformed

regenerated structure. We demonstrate that the patterning errors are not due to faster

growth itself, but are due to the overexpression of the pro-growth transcription factor

Myc.

Introduction

Regeneration is the remarkable process by which some organisms replace tissues and

organs after damage such that both morphology and function are restored. Complete

regeneration requires several steps to occur correctly including wound healing, cell

proliferation, and proper patterning and cell-fate specification in the newly formed tissue.

The degree of regenerative capacity varies among different species, ranging from

whole-body regeneration in hydra and planaria to limited tissue regeneration in

mammals. Work in several model organisms has identified signaling pathways and

molecular mechanisms that are important for initiating and executing regenerative

growth after tissue damage, including JNK signaling (1–5), JAK/STAT signaling (6–8),

EGFR signaling (9–12), Hippo signaling (13–17), Wnt signaling (18–24), and Myc

(23,25). Many of these mechanisms are also important during normal development, and

the process of regeneration was traditionally thought to be a redeployment of earlier

developmental steps (3,9,25–29). However, recent evidence suggests that regeneration

is not a simple reiteration of development but can employ regeneration-specific

regulatory mechanisms (3,25,30–34). Indeed, faithful regeneration likely requires

additional mechanisms, since regrowth happens in the presence of wound-response

signaling and in a developed juvenile or adult organism. Additionally, pro-growth

pathways that are used during normal development are often activated in new ways and

at higher strengths in the regenerating tissue (2,7,15,23). These augmented pro-growth

signals must be constrained as regeneration progresses to prevent overgrowth and to

enable re-establishment of pattern and cell-fate specification. Thus, growth suppressors

and additional patterning factors are likely used to terminate regeneration and allow

differentiation (35). However, despite our understanding of the pro-growth signals

needed for regeneration, we do not yet know what factors exist in different model

organisms to restrain growth and promote re-patterning of regenerating tissue.

Drosophila melanogaster imaginal discs, precursors of adult fly appendages, are simple

columnar epithelia that have well-characterized, complex expression of patterning

genes that determine cell-fate specification. Imaginal discs undergo regeneration after

damage (36), and we have previously used a genetic ablation system to study

patterning in the regenerating tissue (23,32). Here we identify the RNA-regulator Brain

tumor (Brat) as a key constraint on regenerative growth that ensures proper formation of

the regenerated structure. Brat is a member of the TRIM- (tripartite motif containing)-

NHL (NCL-1, HT2A, and LIN-41) family of proteins and functions as a translational

repressor by binding to its target RNAs either independently or in a complex with

Pumilio and Nanos (37–39). It acts as a potent differentiation factor and tumor

suppressor in neural and ovarian germline stem cell lineages (40–43). Human and

mouse orthologs of Brat, TRIM3 and TRIM32 respectively, also possess tumor-

suppressor activity in glioblastomas and are required for neuronal and muscle

differentiation (44–47).

We show that regenerating wing imaginal discs with reduced levels of Brat regenerate

better than controls, but the resulting adult wings have a disrupted margin. The margin

loses some of the characteristic sensory bristles and veins, demonstrating an error in

cell-fate specification. Importantly, these phenotypes are regeneration-specific, as they

are not observed in the mutant animals after normal development. The enhanced

regeneration is due to increased expression of the growth regulators Myc and Wingless

as well as upregulation of *ilp8,* which delays metamorphosis and allows the damaged

tissue more time to regenerate. Intriguingly, this seemingly beneficial elevated Myc

expression can also cause aberrant cell-fate specification at the wing margin. This

disruption of patterning does not occur through general enhanced proliferation, but may

be due to misregulation of Myc target genes, including Chronologically inappropriate

morphogenesis (Chinmo). Hence, Brat acts as an important growth regulator and

protective factor during regeneration, by constraining levels of Myc, Chinmo, and

possibly other Myc targets to prevent errors in patterning, cell-fate specification, and

differentiation in the regenerating tissue.

Results

Brat suppresses regenerative growth and is required for wing margin cell-fate

specification during regeneration

To identify genes important for regenerative growth and re-patterning, we performed a

candidate screen, using our wing imaginal disc ablation system (23). The primordial

wing was targeted for ablation at the early third-instar larval stage by using *rotund-GAL4*

to drive the expression of the proapoptotic gene *reaper* for 24 hours (Figure 1A). Our

ability to restrict damage to 24 hours was provided by *tubulin-GAL80^{ts}*, which can inhibit

GAL4 activity at 18°C, but allows GAL4-driven cell death at 30°C in the 24-hour window.

The extent of wing imaginal disc regeneration in the larvae was reflected in the adult

wing size. Hence, the resulting adult wings were scored based on size and patterning

features to identify mutants that affect genes that are involved in regulating regenerative

growth and establishment of cell fates. There is inherent variability in this system

because of its sensitivity to environmental conditions such as temperature, humidity,

and food quality, causing the results of different experiments to vary slightly (14,48–51).

Animals with the same genotype within an experiment also showed some variation, due

to stochastic differences in the time each animal takes to eclose, with animals that take

longer to eclose having larger wings (23,50). However, differences between control and

mutant animals using this system are reproducible, consistent, and have identified key

regeneration genes (32,49–51).

Using this genetic ablation system, we identified the gene *brain tumor (brat)* as an

important regulator of regenerative growth. *brat¹/+* mutants that did not experience

damage during development had adult wings that were not significantly different in size

from controls (Figure S1A). However, after ablation and regeneration were induced,

brat¹/+ mutants showed enhanced regeneration and had adult wings that were, on

average, much larger than controls that had also undergone regeneration (Figure 1B

and 1C). We confirmed this enhanced regeneration phenotype in heterozygotes for

three other *brat* mutant alleles: *brat¹⁹²*, *brat¹⁵⁰* (52) and *brat¹¹* (53)(Figure S1B).

Interestingly, we also discovered a role for *brat* in cell-fate specification during

regeneration. After normal development, *brat¹/+* mutants had adult wings that were

patterned normally (Figure 1D-E and Figure S1C). To confirm that reduction in *brat*

expression does not cause patterning errors during normal development, we knocked

down Brat levels in the entire wing pouch using *brat* RNAi, which resulted in adult wings

that were patterned normally (Figure S1D and S1E). A previous study in which Brat

levels were reduced in the anterior and posterior compartments of the wing also did not

report any patterning defects (54). However, when discs were ablated and allowed to

regenerate, *brat* heterozygous mutant wings showed aberrant patterning such that the

wing margin lost sensory bristles and vein material (Figure 1F and 1G). By contrast,

control regenerated wings lost margin tissue at a lower frequency (Figure 1H and 1I).

Furthermore, the extent of margin tissue lost was not as severe in control regenerated

wings as compared to *brat¹/+* regenerated wings (Figure 1H and 1I). Similar to the

enhanced regeneration seen in *brat* mutants, we confirmed the loss-of-margin defect in

heterozygotes for the additional three mutant alleles (Figure S1F).

***brat* regulates entry into metamorphosis**

Tissue damage in imaginal discs can induce a systemic response in the larvae, which

extends the larval phase of development and delays pupariation (23,55). This delay in

pupariation is due to expression of the relaxin-like peptide *ilp8* in damaged discs

(56,57). To determine whether *brat* mutants regenerated better due to an enhanced

delay in pupariation, we measured rates of pupariation in control and mutant animals.

We found that during normal development, control and *brat^{1}/+* animals pupariated at the

same time, indicating that the two genotypes develop at similar rates (Figure S2A). After

disc damage, *brat* mutants delayed pupariation an additional day compared to controls

in which discs were also damaged (Figure 2A and Figure S2B). Note that direct

comparisons cannot be made between regenerating larvae that spent 24 hours at 30°C

(Figure 2A, Figure S2B) and normally developing larvae that remain at 18°C (Figure

S2A), due to the effects of temperature on development. Our data show that *brat/+*

mutants are able to stay in the larval stage even longer than controls, giving them more

time to regenerate.

To determine why discs with reduced Brat had an increased delay in pupariation, we

measured *ilp8* transcript levels through qPCR. Undamaged control animals express

very low *ilp8* levels. However, after regeneration was induced, we saw an 80-fold

increase in *ilp8* levels in controls, while the *brat[1]/+* animals showed a 140-fold increase

(Figure 2B). Thus, *brat* suppresses *ilp8* during regeneration, regulating the timing of

pupariation.

brat restricts growth and proliferation during regeneration

Regenerative growth occurs through localized cell proliferation at the wound site

(23,58).The proliferating cells, known as the blastema, give rise to the regenerated

tissue. The blastema and the subsequent regenerated wing pouch can be labeled with

the wing primordium marker Nubbin (Nub) (59). To determine whether *brat[1]/+* discs

regenerated better due to increased growth rates in the wing pouch, we measured the

area of the Nub-expressing cells in control and *brat[1]/+* regenerating discs. In the initial

stages of regeneration, the control and mutant had similar Nub-expressing areas,

indicating equal ablation and equal early regrowth. However, by 48 hours after tissue

damage (recovery time 48, or R48), *brat[1]/+* wing discs had a significantly bigger Nub-

expressing pouch than the control (Figure 2D-F), indicating that *brat/+* mutants were

regenerating faster than controls. To assess whether this difference in growth rates was

due to differences in proliferation, we counted cells going through mitosis by quantifying

Phospho-histone H3 (PH3)-positive nuclei in the regenerating blastema. Reduction of

brat resulted in a significantly higher number of PH3-positive nuclei per area at R0, but

this increased proliferation had subsided to normal levels by R24 (Figure 2G-I). To

confirm that the increased number of PH3-positive nuclei were not simply due to an

increased number of total cells in the blastema, we also counted total Nubbin-positive

nuclei in the regenerating blastema to calculate a ratio of proliferating cells to blastema

cells (Figure S2C). These data confirm increased proliferation in *brat¹/+* regenerating

discs at R0. Differences in proliferation early in regeneration often become evident later

when measuring wing pouch area (51). Therefore, reduction of *brat* gives the

regenerating tissue a growth advantage early in regeneration, resulting in a measurable

difference in tissue area by R48.

Wingless (Wg) and Myc are regulators of regenerative growth and are upregulated at

the wound site after damage (20,21,23). Interestingly, Brat regulates stem cell

differentiation in the brain by suppressing self-renewal signaling pathways such as Wnt

signaling, and acting as a post-transcriptional inhibitor of Myc, to enable specification of

progenitor cell fate (42,60). Additionally, Brat overexpression can suppress Myc at the

post-transcriptional level in wing disc epithelial cells, although loss of *brat* does not lead

to elevated Myc protein in wing discs during normal development (54). To determine

whether these regulators of regenerative growth are upregulated in *brat¹/+* regenerating

discs, we examined the expression of Wg and Myc. Wg is normally expressed along the

Dorso-ventral (DV) boundary and in two concentric circles at the inner and outer edge of

the wing pouch (61) (Figure 3A), and Myc is expressed in the wing pouch, but is

repressed in the cells at the DV boundary as they undergo cell cycle and growth arrest

(62) (Figure 3B). Both Wg and Myc expression were comparable to controls in

undamaged *brat¹/+* discs (Figure S3A-E). When damage is induced, Wg is upregulated

throughout the blastema by R0 (23) (Figure 3C). Reduction of *brat* expression resulted

in significantly higher levels of Wg expression at R0 (Figure 3D and 3E) but not at R24

(Figure 3F). After ablation, Myc expression is elevated in the regenerating tissue (23)

(Figure 3G and 3H). $brat^1$/+ discs showed significantly higher levels of Myc at R0, which

were sustained through R24 (Figure 3I-K). Thus, being heterozygous mutant for *brat*

caused an increase in the levels of both Wg and Myc early in regeneration. The

elevated expression of these growth regulators likely explains the high proliferation seen

in $brat^1$/+ discs at R0, and the larger wing pouch at R48.

205   *brat* is required for margin cell-fate specification during regeneration

Reduction of *brat* during regeneration caused patterning defects specifically at the wing

margin, resulting in the loss of vein at the margin and loss of sensory bristles (Figure

1G). Thus, *brat* is required for correct cell-fate specification at the DV boundary during

regeneration. The wing imaginal disc is divided into the dorsal and the ventral

compartments, with expression of the LIM-homeodomain protein Apterous (Ap) in

dorsal cells. The juxtaposition of the dorsal and ventral cells forms the DV boundary,

which develops into the adult wing margin (63) (Figure 4A). Notch (N) and Wg signaling

at the DV boundary are crucial for the correct organization and cell-fate specification at

the boundary (64). *cut (ct)* and *achaete (ac)* are margin-specific genes that are

expressed downstream of N and Wg signaling. *ct* is required for the specification of the

wing margin, and *ac* specifies the pro-neural sensory organ precursors (64,65) (Figure

4A).

To investigate whether the errors in fate specification seen in *brat¹/+* discs were due to

a compromised compartment boundary, we examined the expression of Ap using the

ap-lacZ reporter. *ap-lacZ* expression showed a clear DV boundary in the undamaged

control discs (Figure 4B). The DV boundary remained intact after ablation in control and

brat¹/+ discs (Figure 4C-D, Figure S4A and S4B). *ap-lacZ* expression was also seen in

the debris found in the damaged wing imaginal disc, due to the perdurance of β-gal. Wg

expression was restored to its normal DV expression by R48 in both control and *brat¹/+*

discs (Figure S4C and S4D). Therefore, the patterning defects were not caused by

disruptions in the DV boundary or changes in Wg expression.

Next, we examined N signaling in *brat¹/+* discs due to its critical role in specifying fates

at the DV boundary. We used a N signaling reporter, which uses *Notch Response*

Elements (*NREs*) that bind to the Notch co-receptor Suppressor of Hairless, to drive the

expression of GFP (66). No difference was detected in the expression of the N reporter

for undamaged control and *brat¹/+* discs (Figure 4E and 4F). N signaling at the DV

boundary was restored by R24 in controls and continued at R48 (Figure 4G and 4H).

Note that the reporter signal can also be seen in cellular debris in the regenerating discs

due to the perdurance of GFP. Interestingly, *brat¹/+* discs showed highly elevated levels

of the N signaling reporter at both these time points (Figure 4I and 4J). This result is

consistent with recent evidence demonstrating Brat's ability to attenuate N nuclear

transport in the brain (67). We wondered whether this elevated N signaling could also

disrupt margin fates. However, overexpressing the N-intracellular domain in the wing

pouch during the 24-hour ablation period (Figure S4E and S4F) resulted in adult wings

that were patterned remarkably well, with significantly fewer wings showing any margin

defects when compared to the control (Figure S4G). Thus, increased N activity during

regeneration suppresses margin defects. Additionally, decreasing N signaling activity in

brat¹/+ regenerating discs by using a mutation in the *anterior pharynx defective 1 (aph-*

1) gene was unable to rescue the *brat* heterozygous phenotype. *aph-1^{D35}/+* discs

showed significantly reduced N signaling during normal development (Figure S4H-J)

and at R24 during regeneration (Figure S4K-M), but could not rescue the loss of margin

phenotype in the *brat* mutant (Figure S4N). Thus, while Brat constrains N signaling

during regeneration, the elevated N signaling in *brat¹/+* mutants does not cause the

margin cell-fate specification defects.

To determine whether the loss of margin cell fates was due to apoptosis of those cells

later in regeneration, we immunostained regenerating discs for the cleaved caspase

Dcp-1 as a marker of cell death, and Wg to mark the margin. We did not observe dying

cells in the margin in either control or *brat¹/+* regenerating discs (Figure S4 C-D).

brat specifies margin fate by controlling the expression of Cut and Achaete

To understand how patterning was disrupted in *brat¹/+* regenerating discs, we examined

expression of margin cell-fate genes. Cut (Ct) expression was present along the DV

boundary in both undamaged control and *brat¹/+* discs (Figure 4K and 4L), consistent

with our results showing that adult undamaged *brat¹/+* wings do not have margin

defects (Figure S1D). In control regenerating discs, Ct expression was detected at the

DV boundary at R72, which is when regeneration and repatterning are largely complete

(Figure 4M). By contrast, Ct expression was either not observed in *brat¹/+* discs or was

still missing in segments of the DV boundary at R72 (Figure 4N and 4O). These results

indicate a specific error in cell-fate specification, as the DV boundary was intact at R72

(Figure S4A and S4B). Undamaged control and *brat¹/+* discs also showed appropriate

Ac expression in two stripes of cells directly flanking the DV boundary in the anterior

half of the disc (Figure 4P and 4Q). Ac expression was also detected in control

regenerating discs at R72 (Figure 4R). While Ac-expressing cells appeared in *brat¹/+*

discs, they were not clearly separated across the DV boundary (Figure 4S). This finding

is consistent with previous reports showing that Ct suppresses Ac at the margin, and

mutations in *ct* lead to aberrant expression of Ac at the DV boundary, followed by

degeneration of the wing margin through cell death (68,69).

High Myc expression perturbs margin cell-fate specification during regeneration

Our results show that Brat both restricts regenerative growth and ensures correct cell-

fate specification at the wing margin. Interestingly, JNK signaling in regenerating tissue

can cause aberrant posterior-to-anterior cell-fate changes, which can be suppressed by

a regeneration-specific protective factor, Taranis, to ensure correct patterning of the

regenerating tissue (32). Therefore, we wondered whether unconstrained regenerative

growth, or unconstrained expression of growth drivers, could also have deleterious side

effects such as loss of margin cell fates. As Wg expression is normal during late

regeneration and we have ruled out elevated N signaling as the causative factor for the

cell-fate errors that occurred in *brat[1]/+* regenerating discs, we wondered whether high

Myc levels caused by reduced Brat could cause the margin defects.

Brat overexpression can suppress Myc in wing imaginal disc cells (54), and in

undamaged wing discs Brat protein levels were elevated at the DV boundary where Myc

was reduced (Figure 5A and 5A'), suggesting that Brat may regulate Myc at the DV

boundary. Furthermore, our results showed that regenerating *brat/+* mutant discs

experienced elevated Myc levels compared to controls (Figure 3G-K). Previous studies

demonstrated that Brat regulates Myc at the post-transcriptional level (54). To confirm

that Brat is also regulating *myc* post-transcriptionally during regeneration, we measured

myc transcript levels through qPCR. Regenerating discs showed significantly increased

transcription of *myc* compared to undamaged controls. However, there was no

significant difference in *myc* transcript levels between regenerating control and *brat[1]/+*

discs at R0 and R24 (Figure 5B and 5C), indicating that Brat's regulation of Myc must

be post-transcriptional.

To test whether the elevated Myc protein levels could cause margin defects during

regeneration and phenocopy the *brat* mutation, we overexpressed Myc in the wing

pouch during the 24-hour ablation period. Myc was highly upregulated at R0 (Figure 5D-

F), but Myc levels had returned to normal by R24 (Figure 5F). Overexpression of Myc

also resulted in a significantly higher number of proliferating nuclei in the regenerating

tissue at R0, similar to *brat[1]/+* discs (Figure 5G-I). Remarkably, we observed that adult

wings resulting from Myc-overexpressing regenerating discs also showed margin

defects similar to the *brat^1/+* wings (Figure 5J and 5K). Moreover, the frequency of

margin defects in the adult wings resulting from Myc-overexpressing regenerating discs

was even higher than in adult wings resulting from *brat^1/+* regenerating discs (Figure

5L). This difference in severity of phenotype correlates with levels of Myc at R0; in

brat^1/+ regenerating discs Myc levels are higher than the control by 1.4 and 1.5-fold at

R0 and R24 respectively (Figure 3K), and in Myc-overexpressing regenerating discs,

Myc levels are higher than control by 2.75 fold at R0 but become similar to controls by

R24 (Figure 5F). Thus, elevated levels of Myc alone can cause errors in margin cell-fate

specification. Similar to *brat^1/+* discs, *ap-lacZ* expression showed that the compartment

boundary was not compromised in Myc-overexpressing regenerating discs (Figure 5M

and 5N). Likewise, Ct expression was missing in segments at the DV boundary as in the

brat^1/+ discs (Figure 5O and 5P).

Overexpressing Myc for a 24-hour window during normal development resulted in 3

adult wings out of 730 that showed any margin defects (Figure S5A). Even in these

wings, only one segment of the margin was affected. To rule out the possibility that

transient overexpression of Myc during development may not be sufficient to perturb

patterning, we overexpressed Myc continuously after the animals entered the third

instar larval stage. Continuous Myc overexpression proved to be lethal for many

animals. While the flies that survived had significantly smaller wings, the margins

showed no defect (Figure 5Q and 5R). 31 hours of Myc overexpression during normal

development showed significantly higher Myc protein levels (Figure 5S-U) but did not

interfere with Ct expression (Figure 5V and 5W). These data indicate that high Myc

levels do not cause cell-fate specification errors during normal development, and the

extensive loss of wing margin induced by high Myc expression is a regeneration-specific

phenotype.

Loss of Myc expression also perturbs margin cell-fate specification during

regeneration

We hypothesized that if the *brat* phenotype was due to elevated Myc levels, we would

be able to rescue the phenotype by reducing Myc levels in the *brat* mutant. For this

purpose, we used dm^4, which is a null allele of Myc (70). Surprisingly, we observed that

the dm^4/+ mutants alone showed margin defects in the regenerated wings at a

frequency similar to $brat^1$/+, even though the dm^4/+; $brat^1$/+ double mutant showed

slightly reduced frequency of margin defects (Figure S5B). To confirm that Myc levels

were reduced in the dm^4/+ mutants, we quantified Myc protein through immunostaining.

We observed that there was no significant difference in Myc expression levels between

the dm^4/+ mutant and control, both during development and regeneration (Figure S5C

and S5D). Indeed, Myc levels were trending higher in the dm^4/+ discs during

regeneration, perhaps accounting for the margin defects. The failure of the dm^4

mutation to reduce Myc levels could be due to compensatory expression of the

functional copy of the Myc locus. We next tried reducing Myc levels though RNAi.

Despite the RNAi expression being transient in our system, and only occurring in cells

that survive ablation, RNAi-mediated persistent knockdown has worked for multiple

genes, likely due to the shadow RNAi effect (71). Two RNAi lines could significantly

reduce Myc levels during normal development when expressed during early third instar

(Figure S5E). However, when Myc RNAi was expressed during the 24-hour ablation

period, Myc levels were not reduced at either R0 or R24, with one Myc RNAi line

showing significantly higher levels of Myc compared to the control (Figure S5F).

To reduce Myc levels without the possibility of compensatory expression from an

endogenous allele, we turned to the viable hypomorphic allele Myc^{P0}, which is reported

to eliminate Myc mRNA in the wing pouch (72). Indeed, we found that male larvae

hemizygous for Myc^{P0} did not show the typical Myc expression in third-instar wing discs,

and lacked upregulation of Myc during regeneration (Fig S5 G-H). The Myc^{P0} males

developed more slowly than control larvae, so we adjusted the timing of induction of

ablation later by 4 hours to coincide with the early third instar larval phase. Surprisingly,

we found that Myc^{P0} males that had undergone ablation and regeneration in the wing

discs also had adult wings that were missing substantial sections of their margins, as

did Myc^{P0}; $brat^1$/+ double mutants (Fig S5I). Indeed, immunostaining Myc^{P0} regenerating

discs showed gaps in *cut* expression, indicating disruption of margin fate (Fig S5J-K).

Therefore, reduction of Myc as well as elevation of Myc disrupts margin cell fate during

regeneration, underscoring the importance of tightly regulating expression of this pro-

regeneration, pro-growth factor. However, this phenotype means that rescuing the

$brat^1$/+ phenotype by reducing Myc is not possible, given that reducing Myc alone

disrupts the wing margin, and we cannot rule out the possibility that other Brat targets in

addition to Myc contribute to the patterning defects in $brat^1$/+ regenerated wings.

Importantly, animals that overexpressed Myc in the wing pouch during ablation did not

undergo a regeneration-induced pupariation delay (Figure S5L), confirming that Brat

regulates the entry into metamorphosis independently of its regulation of Myc.

Therefore, not all effects of reduced Brat are mediated through Myc.

Enhanced proliferation does not disrupt margin cell-fate specification during

regeneration

Myc is an important driver of regenerative growth, and yet, we found that cell-fate

specification during regeneration can be negatively affected if Myc levels are not

constrained. To test whether the aberrant patterning was a specific result of high Myc

levels or whether increases in growth and proliferation could, in general, cause margin

defects, we also increased proliferation during regeneration by overexpressing both

cyclinE (cycE) and *string (stg)*.

Overexpressing the cell cycle genes in the wing imaginal disc during the 24-hour

ablation period caused the resulting adult wings to be much larger than controls that

had also undergone damage and regeneration (Figure 6A), though not larger than a

normal wing. No significant regeneration-induced pupariation delay was seen, making

the enhanced regeneration even more remarkable (Figure 6B). Intriguingly, we did not

observe many margin defects for wings that had experienced *cycE* and *stg*

overexpression during regeneration (Figure 6C-E). Furthermore, we have not observed

this loss of margin phenotype with overexpression of other pro-regeneration genes such

as *dilp8* (data not shown). Thus, pattern disruption during regeneration appears to be

specifically associated with Myc overexpression and does not appear to be caused by

increased proliferation alone.

Loss of cell-fate specification may be due to misregulation of Myc target genes

Given that driving growth by overexpressing Cyclin E and String does not cause loss of

wing margin cell fates in regenerating tissue, this phenotype might be caused by

misregulation of one or more targets of the Myc transcription factor. To identify genes

that may regulate margin cell fate downstream of Myc, we screened through genes

reported in the literature as regulating *ct* expression, and identified one that was

misregulated in *brat¹/+* and *UAS-Myc* regenerating discs. We have previously identified

the gene *Chronologically inappropriate morphogenesis (chinmo)* as a novel regulator of

regeneration (50). Chinmo is a transcription factor that regulates the balance between a

proliferative self-renewal state and a differentiated state in stem cells (73,74). Recent

work has shown that *chinmo* also maintains wing epithelial cells in an unspecified state

during development by inhibiting *ct* expression, and enhances regenerative potential

(75). Therefore, we included *chinmo* in our targeted screen for genes that are

misregulated in the *brat¹/+* or *UAS-Myc* regenerating discs and that contribute to the

disruption of cell fate.

Several lines of evidence suggest that *chinmo* can be a transcriptional target of Myc.

First, the model organism Encyclopedia of Regulatory Networks (modERN) data show

Myc binding near the *chinmo* promoter (76). Second, ChIP-seq experiments in

Drosophila embryonic Kc cells have shown that Myc does indeed bind to the *chinmo*

locus (77). Finally, *chinmo* levels are upregulated in response to elevated Myc

expression in wing imaginal discs (78). To determine whether *chinmo* expression was

altered in *brat¹/+* wing discs, we immunostained for Chinmo protein. Chinmo levels were

not significantly different in undamaged control and *brat¹/+* discs (Figure 7A, 7B and

7E). However, Chinmo levels were significantly higher in *brat¹/+* regenerating discs

compared to control regenerating discs at R24 (Figure 7C, 7D and 7F). To confirm

regulation of *chinmo* downstream of Myc, we examined Chinmo levels in regenerating

discs over-expressing Myc. Chinmo levels were elevated in Myc-overexpressing discs

at R0, when Myc overexpression was the highest (Figure 5F and Figure 7G-I).

However, Chinmo levels were restored to control levels by R24 in Myc-overexpressing

discs, consistent with the return of Myc levels to normal at this time point (Figure 5F and

Figure S6A-C). Interestingly, Myc and Chinmo expression almost perfectly co-localized,

consistent with the hypothesis that Myc regulates Chinmo expression (Figure S6A-B''').

Additionally, we observed a high correlation between Myc and Chinmo expression

levels in individual discs (Figure S6D and S6E). Undamaged discs overexpressing Myc

did not show elevated Chinmo levels (Figure S6F-H), possibly explaining why Myc

overexpression during normal development did not cause margin defects.

While *chinmo* mRNA can be a direct Brat target (39), *chinmo* is regulated at the level of

transcription in the wing imaginal disc (75). To confirm the absence of regulation of

chinmo mRNA by Brat during regeneration, we assessed expression of mCherry from a

transgene in which the *chinmo* UTRs were fused to the *mCherry* coding region to serve

as a reporter for *chinmo* mRNA regulation (*UAS-mCherry-chinmoUTR*) (79). We did not

detect any change in mCherry levels in *brat¹/+* regenerating discs compared to control

regenerating discs, indicating that reduction of Brat does not impact the *chinmo* mRNA

reporter and Brat does not likely regulate *chinmo* mRNA in regenerating discs (Fig S6I).

Thus, the loss of *ct* expression and loss of margin cell fates in *brat/+* regenerating discs

and *UAS-Myc* regenerating discs may be due, at least in part, to upregulation of Myc

targets, including *chinmo*. Importantly, other unidentified Myc targets likely also

contribute to *ct* misregulation in regenerating discs with reduced Brat or overexpressed

Myc. To test whether expression of *chinmo* in the regeneration blastema is sufficient to

disrupt the margin, we expressed *UAS-chinmo* alongside the ablation system. Doing so

led to a moderate level of gaps in cut expression in R72 regenerating discs (4/14

compared to 0/12 for controls) (Figure 7J, K). To test whether the loss of margin in

regenerating wing discs overexpressing Myc is due at least in part to expression of

chinmo, we asked whether the phenotype could be ameliorated by a *chinmo* mutation.

Indeed, regenerating wing discs overexpressing Myc but heterozygous for *chinmo¹* had

significantly less margin loss compared to those just overexpressing Myc (Figure 7L).

Thus, we have identified at least one Myc target that contributes to disruption of cell fate

in regenerating tissue with Myc expression elevated beyond what is normally found in

the regeneration blastema.

Based on our findings, we propose a model in which pro-growth factors are important

for coordinating regenerative growth, but can lead to deleterious side effects by

perturbing cell-fate gene expression and patterning. Brat prevents a prolonged

proliferative and unspecified state in regenerating wing discs by constraining Wg, Ilp8,

Myc, and Myc targets, to enable cessation of growth, induction of cell-fate specification,

and entry into metamorphosis (Figure 8).

Discussion

Here we have shown that Brat acts as a protective factor during regeneration, in part by

constraining levels of the transcription factor Myc, which promotes growth and

proliferation but also inhibits cell-fate specification. If Brat is unable to perform its

protective function during regeneration, Myc levels increase unchecked, resulting in

misregulation of its targets, causing loss of proper cell fates at the wing margin.

Myc is broadly used across organisms to promote proliferation and prevent

differentiation (80,81). It is is required for efficient regeneration, and increased levels

can enhance regeneration in both younger discs as well as mature discs that normally

regenerate poorly (23,25). Nevertheless, we have found that while these abnormally

high Myc levels can enhance regenerative growth, they can also perturb differentiation

by misregulating target genes such as Chinmo. Thus, enhanced regeneration happens

at the expense of correct cell-fate specification. Intriguingly, our attempts to rescue the

brat/+ phenotype by reducing Myc led to the discovery that loss of Myc expression in

the regeneration blastema also leads to loss of margin cell fates. Many Myc targets are

ribosomal protein genes, and, interestingly, adults transheterozygous for mutations in

the ribosomal protein gene *RpL38* also have missing wing margins even without

damage and regeneration of the wing disc (82). This finding provides precedent for

disruption of margin fates when ribosomal protein expression is reduced, and suggests

that the reasons for the lost margin in the *Myc^{P0}* and *UAS-Myc* regenerating discs may

be different. Importantly, expression of *ct* and possibly other cell-fate genes requires an

appropriate amount of Myc, with too much or too little Myc disrupting cell fate. This

phenomenon of requiring just the right amount of signaling or gene activity is not

unprecedented, as we have previously shown that activation of JNK signaling after wing

disc damage requires the right amount of reactive oxygen species (ROS) production;

too much ROS and too little ROS both lead to inadequate JNK activity and poor

regeneration (51).

Brat promotes differentiation in *Drosophila* larval neuroblasts and ovarian germline stem

cells by asymmetrically segregating to one of the daughter cells where it post-

transcriptionally inhibits Myc (41,42). This daughter cell is then able to differentiate while

the other daughter cell remains a stem cell. In *brat* mutants, progeny of stem cells are

unable to differentiate, resulting in an abnormal expansion of the stem-cell population,

which can form tumors in the brain (40–43). Thus, Brat protects these tissues from

overproliferation of stem cells. Importantly, wing imaginal disc regeneration is not stem-

cell based, but in wing disc regeneration Brat also inhibits Myc to allow correct cell-fate

specification. Based on these similarities in function, Brat likely acts as a protective

factor across different biological contexts, including regeneration that does not employ

stem cells.

We have previously shown that JNK signaling can induce posterior-to-anterior fate

changes in regenerating wing discs, which can be prevented by the protective factor

Taranis (32). In addition, we have shown that the chromatin-remodeling SWI/SNF BAP

complex, defined by the complex-specific component Osa, similarly prevents aberrant

posterior-to-anterior fate changes in regenerating wing discs (83). We have now

identified a third protective factor, Brat, which is needed specifically for correct

patterning of the regenerating wing margin. Interestingly, while elevated JNK signaling

causes anterior markers to appear in the posterior wing compartment, it does not cause

margin loss, indicating that posterior fate and margin fate are regulated in distinct ways

(32). Protective factors such as Tara, Osa, and Brat are important for maintaining the

balance between fate specification and regenerative potential, but they do so by using

very different mechanisms. While the molecular function of Tara is unknown, genetic

interactions in *Drosophila* coupled with the demonstrated functions of its vertebrate

homologs suggest it may regulate gene expression at the level of transcription and

chromatin (84–87). By contrast, Brat acts as a translational repressor by negatively

regulating translation and stability of its target mRNAs (88,89). Tara is required to

prevent fate changes induced by JNK signaling, which is necessary for wound repair

and regeneration but is not required for the normal growth of the wing. By contrast, Myc

is required for both development and regeneration of the wing disc, but is constrained

by Brat only during regeneration.

An important open question in the field of regeneration is how patterning and cell-fate

specification are regulated in regenerating tissue, and whether these mechanisms are

different from the developmental program. Many studies have highlighted that

regeneration must be distinct from development in some ways, because the damaged

tissue already has complex patterning, and the wound-healing response causes strong

activation of signaling pathways, some of which are not normally present in developing

tissue (1,3,25,30–35). We are just beginning to identify regulators like Brat that are

crucial for attenuating regenerative growth signaling and shielding the regenerating

tissue from the harmful side effects of such signaling. Identification of these regulators

highlights the fact that the regenerating tissue is distinct from normally developing

tissue. Since regeneration signaling is complex and comprised of many signaling

pathways, additional factors that play protective roles during regeneration likely exist.

Identification of these factors will be important for the development of clinical therapies

targeted at tissue repair, enabling these therapies to protect against the deleterious side

effects of exogenous and unconstrained pro-growth signaling.

Materials and Methods

Ablation and Regeneration experiments

Ablation experiments were done as previously described (32). Briefly, cell death was

induced by driving *UAS-reaper* under *rotund-GAL4,* with *GAL80^{ts}* for temporal control.

Animals were raised at 18°C for 7 days after egg lay (AEL) (early third instar) before

they were shifted to a 30°C circulating water bath for 24 hours. Animals were brought

back to 18°C to allow regeneration. Wing discs were dissected at different time points

after the end of ablation, or the animals were allowed to grow to adulthood to observe

the adult wing phenotype. Undamaged control wing discs were the same genotype as

the experimental animals but kept at 18°C and dissected on day 9 after egg lay, which

is mid-late third instar. For undamaged adult wings, the animals were kept at 18°C until

after eclosion. Any other undamaged conditions used are mentioned specifically in the

figure legends.

Fly stocks

The following *Drosophila* stocks were used: w^{1118} (wild type)(90), w^{1118} ; *rnGAL4, UAS-*

rpr, tubGAL80ts/TM6B,tubGAL80 (23), *brat^1* (91)(FBst0003988), *brat^{192}* and *brat^{150}*

(52)(a gift from Juergen Knoblich, Austrain Academy of Science), *brat^{11}* (53)(a gift from

Chen-Yu Lee, University of Michigan), *Df(2L)Exel8040* (92)(FBst0007847),

Df(2L)TE37C-7 (93)(FBst0006089), *rnGAL4, tubGAL80ts/TM6B* (23)*,*

P{Trip.HM05078}attP2 (called *bratRNAi* in the text)(FBst0028590), *P{CaryP}attP2*

(called *attP2* control in the text)(FBst0036303), *{PZ}ap^{rK568}* (94)(FBst0005374), *NRE-*

GFP (66)(FBst0030727), *UAS-Nintra* (a gift from Gary Struhl, Columbia University),

aph-1^{D35} (95)(FBst0063242), *UAS-Myc* (72)(FBst0009674), *UAS-cycE, stg* (a gift from

Laura Buttitta, University of Michigan), *dm^4* (70), *P{GD1419}v2947* (called *MycRNAi#1*

in the text)(VDRC ID# 2947) and *P{GD1419}v2948* (called *MycRNAi#2* in the

text)(VDRC ID# 2948), *P{GD6000}v15293* (called control in the text) (VDRC ID#

15293), *Myc^P0* (72) (FBal0100372), UAS-mCherry^chinmoUTRs (73).All fly stocks are

available from the Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center unless stated otherwise.

Pupariation timing

581   Pupariation experiments were performed in a similar manner to the ablation

582   experiments. Starting at day 9, newly formed pupal cases were counted in each vial.

583   Pupal cases were counted every 24 hours, up until day 15. Pupariation rates from three

584   independent experiments were used to calculate the average plotted in the graphs.

Immunohistochemistry

Immunostaining was carried out as previously described (23). Primary antibodies were

rat anti-Brat (1:200) (37) (a gift from Robin Wharton, Ohio State University), mouse anti-

Nubbin (1:500) (96) (a gift from Steve Cohen, University of Copenhagen), rabbit anti-

Phospho-Histone H3 (1:500) (Millipore), mouse anti-Wingless (1:100) (The

Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank [DSHB]), rabbit anti-dMyc (1:500 or 1:250)

(Santa Cruz Biotechnologies), mouse anti-βgal (1:100) (DSHB), mouse anti-Cut (1:100)

(DSHB), mouse anti-Achaete (1:10)(DSHB), rat anti-Chinmo (1:500) (a gift from Nick

Sokol, Indiana University), and anti-cleaved Dcp-1 (1:250)(Cell Signaling #9578). The

Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (DSHB) was created by the NICHD of the NIH

and is maintained at the University of Iowa, Department of Biology, Iowa City, IA 52242.

Secondary antibodies were AlexaFluor probes (1:1000) (Life Technologies). DNA was

marked using TO-PRO3 (1:500) (Life Technologies) or DAPI (1:5000 of 0.5 mg/mL

stock) (Sigma). Discs were mounted in Vectashield mounting medium (Vector

Laboratories).

Discs were imaged on a Zeiss LSM 510 or a Zeiss LSM 700 confocal microscope.

Parameters for imaging were identical for quantified images. Images were processed

using ZEN lite (Zeiss), ImageJ (NIH) and Photoshop (Adobe). Maximum intensity

projections were created for the confocal images. Fluorescence intensity was measured

within the wing pouch as marked by anti-Nubbin or by using the morphology of the

undamaged wing disc. Myc and Chinmo intensities were measured by outlining the

region expressing elevated Myc or Chinmo levels. *NRE-GFP* intensity was measured by

outlining the GFP-expressing region at the DV boundary.

Adult wing quantifications

Adult wings were mounted in Gary's Magic Mount (Canada balsam [Sigma] dissolved in

methyl salicylate [Sigma]). Images were taken with an Olympus SZX10 microscope with

an Olympus DP21 camera using the CellSens Dimension software (Olympus).

All adult wings that were 75% or 100% the size of a normal wing were used to quantify

the loss of the wing margin. The wing margin was divided into five segments defined by

where the wing veins intersect the margin. Each wing was scored for the number of

segments with missing margin to assess the extent of the patterning defect.

Percentages from the three independent experiments were used to calculate averages

plotted in the graphs. The area of undamaged and regenerated wings was measured

using ImageJ (NIH). ImageJ was also used to measure the percentage of linear length

of margin lost for the entire perimeter of the wing. Graphs were plotted using Excel and

Graphpad Prism 7.

qPCR

For quantitative PCR (qPCR), 40-60 wing imaginal discs were collected in Schneider's

medium and stored at -80°C. RNA was extracted using the Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit

(#74104), and cDNA synthesis was performed using the Superscript III First Strand

Synthesis kit (#11752-050). qPCR reactions using the Power SYBR Green MasterMix

(ABI) were run on the ABI Step One Plus Real Time PCR System. The experiment

consisted of 3 biological replicates. For each biological replicate there were three

technical replicates. Gene expression was analyzed by the $\Delta\Delta C_t$ method and

normalized to *Gapdh2* expression. The following primers were used: *Gapdh2* forward

primer (GTGAAGCTGATCTCTTGGTACGAC), *Gapdh2* reverse primer

(CCGCGCCCTAATCTTTAACTTTTAC) (97), *ilp8* primers used from Qiagen

(QT00510552), *dmyc* forward primer (AACGATATGGTGGACGATGG), and *dmyc*

reverse primer (CGGCAGATTGAAGTTATTGTAGC) (98). For qPCR experiments

undamaged controls were *rnGAL4, tubGAL80ts/TM6B* females crossed to *w*[1118] males

and shifted to 30°C for 24 hours at 7 days AEL. Discs were dissected either immediately

or 24 hours after shifting the animals back to 18°C for R0 and R24 time points,

respectively.

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Author Contribution Section

Experiments were designed by SNFA and RKSB, and conducted and analyzed by SNFA and FT-YH. The manuscript was written by SNFA and RKSB.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Data Availability

All relevant data are available at (insert web address for UIUC library repository when manuscript accepted) and upon request.

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Figure 1

Figure 1. Enhanced regenerative growth and wing margin cell-fate specification
defects in *brat¹/+* during regeneration.

(A) The protocol used to study regeneration. Animals were raised at 18°C and shifted to

30°C for 24 hours during early third-instar larval development on day 7 after egg lay

(AEL). Larvae were returned to 18°C and were dissected at the time points noted during

recovery (R) or allowed to pupariate and eclose. Representative wings depicting the

range of adult wing sizes observed after regeneration compared to the size of a normal

wing are shown. (B) Adult wing sizes observed after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118})

(n = 317) and *brat¹/+* (n = 208) wings, from three independent experiments. (C) Adult

wing area after disc regeneration, measured using ImageJ after mounting and imaging

wings, for control (w^{1118}) (n = 309) and *brat¹/+* (n = 195) wings. p = 2.5158E-119. Wings

in (C) are from the same experiments as (B). Note that number of wings in (C) is less for

both control and *brat¹/+* due to some wings being damaged during the mounting

process. (D) Undamaged control (w^{1118}) wing. (E) Undamaged *brat¹/+* wing. (F) Adult

control (w^{1118}) wing after disc regeneration. (G) Adult *brat¹/+* wing after disc

regeneration. (H) Frequency of margin defects seen in adult wings after disc

regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 93) and *brat¹/+* (n = 218) wings, from three

independent experiments. The wing margin was divided into five segments based on

where the veins intersect the margin as shown in the diagram. Each wing was scored

for the number of segments that had some margin tissue missing, with wings with a

perfectly intact margin scoring at zero. Wing shown in (G) had tissue missing in four

segments. (I) Margin tissue lost as a percentage of total wing perimeter for control

(w^{1118}) (n = 76) and *brat¹/+* (n = 221) wings. p = 9.947E-08. The margin perimeter and

the length of margin tissue lost were measured using ImageJ after mounting and

imaging wings. Wings in (I) are from the same experiments as (H). Note that number of

wings in the two quantifications is different because we did not quantify wings with

length <1.1 mm for males and <1.7 mm for females, to ensure analysis was being

carried out on nearly fully regenerated wings. (I). Percentage of wings with no defects

fell from 79.0% to 77.6% for control and from 56.3% to 53.8% for $brat^1$/+ wings due to

the increased ability to detect lost margin tissue at the higher magnification and

resolution achieved by imaging the wings. Wing shown in (G) had 33.9% of margin

tissue missing. Error bars mark standard error of the mean (SEM). Student's T-test

used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 0.5 mm.

Figure 2

A Pupariation rates after disc regeneration

B

C Nubbin — Undamaged control

D Nubbin — R48 control

E Nubbin — R48 *brat¹/+*

G PH3 — R0 control

H PH3 — R0 *brat¹/+*

F

I PH3+ nuclei/area

Figure 2. *brat¹/+* animals have a regenerative growth advantage.

(A) Pupariation rates after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 384) and *brat¹/+* (n =

107) animals, from three independent experiments. (B) Relative expression levels of

ilp8 for undamaged control, R24 control (w^{1118}) and R24 *brat¹/+* discs. (C) Anti-Nubbin

immunostaining in an undamaged control disc. (D-E) Anti-Nubbin immunostaining in an

R48 control (w^{1118}) disc (D), and an R48 *brat¹/+* disc (E). (F) Quantification of area of

Nubbin-expressing cells for control (w^{1118}) and *brat¹/+* discs at R0 (n = 10 and 10), R24

(n = 12 and 12) and R48 (n = 10 and 10). * $p < 0.03$. (G-H) Anti-PH3 immunostaining in

an R0 control (w^{1118}) disc (G), and an R0 *brat¹/+* disc (H). The yellow dashed lines

outline the Nubbin-expressing wing pouch. (I) PH3-positive nuclei were counted within

the regenerating tissue as marked by Anti-Nubbin co-immunostaining. Quantification of

PH3-positive nuclei in Nubbin area for control (w^{1118}) and *brat¹/+* discs at R0 (n = 16 and

18) and R24 (n = 15 and 16). ** $p < 0.002$. Error bars represent SEM. Student's T-test

used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100 μm.

Figure 3

Figure 3. *brat^1/+* animals experience elevated regeneration signaling.

(A) Anti-Wg immunostaining in an undamaged control (w^{1118}) disc. (B) Anti-Myc

immunostaining in an undamaged control (w^{1118}) disc. (C-D) Anti-Wg immunostaining in

an R0 control (w^{1118}) disc (C) and an R0 *brat^1/+* disc (D). (E) Quantification of Wg

fluorescence intensity in R0 control (w^{1118}) (n = 13) and R0 *brat^1/+* (n = 17) discs. *** p <

0.0006. (F) Quantification of Wg fluorescence intensity in R24 control (w^{1118}) (n = 12)

and R24 *brat^1/+* (n = 11) discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was

defined by the Wg expression domain in the wing pouch. (G-J) Anti-Myc

immunostaining in an R0 control (w^{1118}) disc (G), an R24 control (w^{1118}) disc (H), an R0

brat^1/+ disc (I) and an R24 *brat^1/+* disc (J). (K) Quantification of Myc fluorescence

intensity in R0 control (w^{1118}) (n = 13), R0 *brat^1/+* (n = 12), R24 control (w^{1118}) (n = 13),

and R24 *brat^1/+* (n = 12) discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was

defined by the elevated Myc expression domain in the wing pouch. R0 *** p < 0.0003,

R24 *** p < 0.0001. Error bars represent SEM. Student's T-test used for statistical

analyses. Scale bars are 100 μm.

Figure 4

Figure 4. *Brat* regulates margin cell-fate specification.

(A) Drawings of a wing imaginal disc and an adult wing. D = dorsal and V = ventral

compartments of the wing disc, with the dorsoventral boundary marked in purple. Notch

signaling and Cut expression are present at the dorsoventral boundary, which forms the

adult wing margin, also marked in purple. Achaete-expressing cells, marked in green,

give rise to the sensory bristles at the anterior half of the margin in the adult wing, also

marked in green. (B) *ap-lacZ* expression in an undamaged control disc from a third-

instar *ap-lacZ/CyO* animal. (C-D) *ap-lacZ* expression in an R24 control (w^{1118}) disc (C)

and an R24 *brat^1/+* disc (D). (E-F) *NRE-GFP* expression in an undamaged control

(w^{1118}) disc (E) and an undamaged *brat^1/+* disc (F). (G-J) *NRE-GFP* expression in an

R0 control (w^{1118}) disc (G), an R24 control (w^{1118}) disc (H), an R0 *brat^1/+* disc (I) and an

R24 *brat^1/+* disc (J). (K-L) Anti-Ct immunostaining in an undamaged control (w^{1118}) disc

(K) and an undamaged *brat^1/+* disc (L). (M-O) Anti-Ct immunostaining in an R72 control

(w^{1118}) disc (M) and an R72 *brat^1/+* discs (N-O). Arrowheads point to loss of Ct

expression in (O). (P-Q) Anti-Ac immunostaining in an undamaged control (w^{1118}) disc

(P) and an undamaged *brat^1/+* disc (Q). (R-S) Anti-Ac immunostaining in an R72 control

(w^{1118}) disc (R) and an R72 *brat^1/+* disc (S). Scale bars are 100 µm.

Figure 5

Figure 5. High Myc expression causes margin defects.

(A-A') Anti-Myc and Anti-Brat co-immunostaining in an undamaged control disc.

rnGAL4, GAL80^{ts}/attP2 animals were shifted to 30°C on day 7 AEL and dissected 24

hours later. (B-C) Relative expression levels of *myc* for undamaged control,

regenerating control (*w^{1118}*), and regenerating *brat^1/+* discs at R0 (B) and R24 (C). P

values for comparison between regenerating control and *brat^1/+* discs: p > 0.1 at R0,

and p > 0.3 at R24. (D-E) Anti-Myc immunostaining in an R0 control (*w^{1118}*) disc (D) and

an R0 *UAS-Myc/+* disc (E). (F) Quantification of Myc fluorescence intensity in R0 control

(*w^{1118}*) (n = 13), R0 *UAS-Myc/+* (n = 12), R24 control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 13), and R24 *UAS-*

Myc/+ (n = 12) discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was defined by the

elevated Myc expression domain in the wing pouch. *** p = 1.2E-11. (G-H) Anti-PH3

immunostaining in an R0 control (*w^{1118}*) disc (G), and an R0 *UAS-Myc/+* disc (H). The

yellow dashed lines outline the Nubbin-expressing wing pouch. (I) PH3-positive nuclei

were counted within the regenerating wing pouch as marked by Anti-Nubbin co-

immunostaining. Quantification of PH3-positive nuclei in the Nubbin area for R0 control

(*w^{1118}*) (n = 15) and *UAS-Myc/+* (n = 15) discs. *** p < 0.00002. (J) Adult control (*w^{1118}*)

wing after disc regeneration. (K) Adult *UAS-Myc/+* wing after disc regeneration. (L)

Frequency of margin defects, as quantified in Figure 1H, seen in adult wings after disc

regeneration for control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 134), *brat^1/+* (n = 193) and *UAS-Myc/+* (n = 200)

wings, from three independent experiments. (M-N) *ap-lacZ* expression in an R24 control

(*w^{1118}*) disc (M) and an R24 *UAS-Myc/+* disc (N). (O-P) Anti-Ct immunostaining in an

R72 control (*w^{1118}*) disc (O) and an R72 *UAS-Myc/+* disc (P). (Q) Adult undamaged

control (+*; rnGAL4,GAL80ts/+*) wing from animals shifted to 30°C on day 7 AEL and

maintained at 30°C until eclosion. (R) Adult wing from discs continuously

overexpressing Myc from day 7 AEL onwards (*UAS-Myc/+; rnGAL4, GAL80ts/+)*. (S)

Quantification of Myc fluorescence intensity in undamaged discs dissected 31 hours

after animals were shifted to 30°C on day 7 AEL. Control (*+; rnGAL4,GAL80ts/+*) (n =

14) and *UAS-Myc (UAS-Myc/+; rnGAL4, GAL80ts/+)* (n = 14). Area for fluorescence

intensity measurement was defined by the Myc expression domain in the wing pouch.

*** $p = 1.2E-11$. (T-U) Anti-Myc immunostaining in an undamaged control disc (T) and

an undamaged *UAS-Myc/+* disc (U). (V-W) Anti-Ct immunostaining in an undamaged

control disc (V) and an undamaged *UAS-Myc/+* disc (W). Error bars represent SEM.

Student's T-test used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100 µm. Scale bars for

adult wings are 0.5 mm.

Figure 6

A Adult wing size
after disc regeneration

percent of wings / wing size

control
UAS-cycE, UAS-stg/+

B Pupariation rates
after disc regeneration

percent pupariated / Days after egg lay

control
UAS-cycE, UAS-stg/+

C control
regenerated

D *UAS-cycE, UAS-stg/+*
regenerated

E Frequency of margin defects
after disc regeneration

percent of wings

control   *UAS-Myc/+*   *UAS-cycE, UAS-stg/+*

Figure 6. Overexpression of cell cycle genes does not cause patterning defects.

(A) Adult wing sizes observed after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 280) and

UAS-cycE, UAS-stg/+ (n = 194) wings, from three independent experiments. (B)

Pupariation rates after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 174) and *UAS-cycE,*

UAS-stg/+ (n = 115) wings, from three independent experiments. (C) Adult control

(w^{1118}) wing after disc regeneration. (D) Adult *UAS-cycE, UAS-stg/+* wing after disc

regeneration. (E) Frequency of margin defects seen in adult wings after disc

regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 118), *UAS-Myc/+* (n = 146), and *UAS-cycE, UAS-*

stg/+ (n = 188) wings, from three independent experiments. Error bars represent SEM.

Scale bars for adult wings are 0.5 mm.

Figure 7

Figure 7. Chinmo levels are elevated in *brat^1/+* and Myc-overexpressing

regenerating discs.

(A-B) Anti-Chinmo immunostaining in an undamaged control (*w^{1118}*) disc (A) and an

undamaged *brat^1/+* disc (B). (C-D) Anti-Chinmo immunostaining in an R24 control

(*w^{1118}*) disc (C) and an R24 *brat^1/+* disc (D). (E) Quantification of Chinmo fluorescence

intensity in undamaged control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 11) and undamaged *brat^1/+* (n = 10) discs.

p=0.16 (F) Quantification of Chinmo fluorescence intensity in R24 control (*w^{1118}*) (n =

13) and R24 *brat^1/+* (n = 14) discs. p < 0.006. Area for fluorescence intensity

measurement was defined by the elevated Chinmo expression domain in the wing

pouch. (G) Merge of anti-Nubbin, anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo immunostaining in an R0

control (*w^{1118}*) disc. (G'-G'') Same disc as (G) showing anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo

immunostaining, respectively. (H) Merge of anti-Nubbin, anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo

immunostaining in an R0 *brat^1/+* disc. (H'-H'') Same disc as (H) showing anti-Myc and

anti-Chinmo immunostaining, respectively. (I) Quantification of Chinmo fluorescence

intensity in R0 control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 10) and R0 *UAS-Myc/+* (n = 11) discs. p < 0.02. Area

for fluorescence intensity measurement was defined by the elevated Myc expression

domain in the wing pouch. (J-K) Anti-Cut immunostaining in control (J) and UAS-chinmo

(K) R72 discs. Arrowhead shows missing Cut expression in K. (L) Margin tissue lost as

a percentage of total wing perimeter for control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 69), *chinmo^1/+ (n=26),*

UAS-Myc/+ (n = 107) *, and UAS-Myc/+; chinmo^1/+* (n=55) wings. ****p = 9.11E-05. Error

bars represent SEM. Student's T-test used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100

µm.

Figure 8

1085   **Figure 8. Brat restricts pro-regeneration factors and ensures correct margin cell-**

1086   **fate specification.**

1087   Model describing the network of Brat targets in the regenerating wing imaginal disc.

1088   Importantly, Brat restricts Myc levels, limiting expression of Myc's targets, including

1089   Chinmo, to allow correct margin cell-fate specification.

Figure S1

Figure S1. Reduction of *brat* expression does not cause enhanced growth or

margin defects during normal development (Related to Figure 1).

(A) Adult wing area measured using ImageJ after mounting and imaging wings, for

undamaged control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 63 female and 70 male) and *brat^1/+* (n = 38 female and

48 male) wings. *rnGAL4, GAL80^{ts}/TM6B* females were crossed to *w^{1118}* or *brat^1/SM6-*

TM6B males and taken through the protocol shown in Figure 1A. (B) Adult wing sizes

after disc regeneration for control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 599), *brat^1/+* (n = 199), *brat^{192}/+* (n = 237),

brat^{150}/+ (n = 235) and *brat^{11}/+* (n = 188) wings, from three independent experiments.

(C) Margin defects detected in adult wings from undamaged control (*w^{1118}*) and *brat^1/+*

discs. *rnGAL4, GAL80^{ts}/TM6B* females were crossed to *w^{1118}* or *brat^1/SM6-TM6B* males

and taken through the protocol shown in Figure 1A. Margin defects detected in the

undamaged wings were never as severe as the ones seen in *brat^1/+* wings after disc

regeneration. A representative wing with margin defects is shown. (D) Anti-Brat

immunostaining in undamaged control (*attP2*) and *bratRNAi/+* discs. *rnGAL4,*

GAL80^{ts}/TM6B females were crossed to *attP2* or *bratRNAi* males. Larvae were kept at

18°C and shifted to 30°C on day 7 AEL. Discs were dissected 24 hours after the shift to

30°C. Quantification of Brat fluorescence intensity in undamaged control *(attP2)* (n = 15)

and *bratRNAi/+* (n = 15) discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was

defined by wing pouch morphology and Anti-Myc co-immunostaining. * p = 0.02. (E)

Margin defects detected in adult wings from undamaged control (*attP2*) and *bratRNAi*

dics. *rnGAL4, GAL80^{ts}/TM6B* females were crossed to *attP2* or *bratRNAi* males. Larvae

were kept at 18°C and shifted to 30°C on day 7 AEL and kept there until eclosion. (F)

Frequency of margin defects seen in adult wings after disc regeneration for control

(w^{1118}) (n = 240), $brat^1$/+ (n = 191), $brat^{192}$/+ (n = 196), $brat^{150}$/+ (n = 213) and $brat^{11}$/+ (n

= 152) wings. Wings in (G) are from the same experiments as (B). Error bars represent

SEM. Student's T-test used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100 µm. Scale bars

for adult wings are 0.5 mm.

Figure S2

A

Pupariation rates
no damage to discs

B

Pupariation rates
after disc regeneration

C PH3+ nuclei/Nubbin-positive nuclei

Figure S2. Reduction of *brat* expression delays pupariation in a regeneration-

specific manner (Related to Figure 2).

(A) Pupariation rates in undamaged control (w^{1118}) (n = 221) and *brat^1*/+ (n = 110)

animals, from three independent experiments. (B) Pupariation rates after disc

regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 384), *brat^1*/+ (n = 107), *brat^{192}*/+ (n = 131), *brat^{150}*/+

(n = 114) and *brat^{11}*/+ (n = 113) animals. Pupariation rates are from the same

experiments as in Figure 2A. (C) PH3-positive nuclei were counted within the

regenerating tissue as marked by Anti-Nubbin co-immunostaining. Total number of

nuclei were also counted in the Nubbin expressing region. Ratio of PH3-positive nuclei

and total Nubbin-positive nuclei for control (w^{1118}) and *brat^1*/+ discs at R0 (n = 16 and

18). *** $p < 0.0005$. Error bars represent SEM. Student's T-test used for statistical

analyses. Error bars represent SEM.

Figure S3

A Wg — Undamaged control

B Wg — Undamaged *brat¹/+*

C Myc — Undamaged control

D Myc — Undamaged *brat¹/+*

E

n.s

Myc intensity (a.u.)

25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0

Undamaged control
Undamaged *brat¹/+*

Figure S3. Effects of reduced Brat on Wg and Myc expression are regeneration

specific (Related to Figure 3).

(A-B) Anti-Wg immunostaining in an undamaged control (w^{1118}) disc (A) and an

undamaged $brat^1$/+ disc (B). (C-D) Anti-Myc immunostaining in an undamaged control

(w^{1118}) disc (C) and an undamaged $brat^1$/+ disc (D). (E) Quantification of Myc

fluorescence intensity in undamaged control (w^{1118}) (n = 10) and $brat^1$/+ (n = 10) discs.

Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was defined by wing pouch morphology

and the elevated Myc expression domain in the wing pouch. Error bars represent SEM.

Student's T-test used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100 µm.

Figure S4

Figure S4. Elevated Notch signaling does not cause margin defects (Related to

Figure 4).

(A-B) *ap-lacZ* expression in an R72 control (w^{1118}) disc (A) and an R72 *brat^1/+* disc (B).

Dashed yellow lines are drawn next to the DV boundary to highlight it. (C-D) Anti-Wg

(green) and anti-cleaved Dcp1 (red) immunostaining in an R48 control (w^{1118}) disc (C)

and an R48 *brat^1/+* disc (D). (E-F) *NRE-GFP* expression in an R24 control (w^{1118}) disc

(E) and an R24 *UAS-Nintra/+* disc (F). (G) Frequency of margin defects seen in adult

wings after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 84) and *UAS-Nintra/+* (n = 357)

wings, from five independent experiments. (H-I) *NRE-GFP* expression in an undamaged

control (w^{1118}) disc (H) and an undamaged *aph-1^{D35}/+* disc (I). *NRE-GFP*/+ and *NRE-*

GFP/aph-1^{D35} animals were raised at room temperature and dissected during third

instar. (J) Quantification of GFP intensity in undamaged control (w^{1118}) (n = 15) and *aph-*

1^{D35}/+ (n = 15) discs. *** $p < 0.0006$. (K-L) *NRE-GFP* expression in an R24 control

(w^{1118}) disc (K) and an R24 *aph-1^{D35}/+* disc (L). (M) Quantification of GFP intensity in

R24 control (w^{1118}) (n = 13) and R24 *aph-1^{D35}/+* (n = 11) discs. * $p < 0.02$. (N)

Frequency of margin defects in adult wings after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n

= 21), *brat^1/+* (n = 137), *aph-1^{D35}/+* (n = 38) and *brat^1/aph-1^{D35}*(n = 80) wings. Error bars

represent SEM. Student's T-test used for statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100 μm.

Figure S5

Figure S5. Reduction of Myc expression during regeneration also disrupts margin

fate specification (Related to Figure 5).

(A) Margin defects detected in adult wings from undamaged control (w^{1118}) and *UAS-*

Myc/+ discs. *rnGAL4, GAL80^{ts}/TM6B* females were crossed to w^{1118} or *UAS-Myc* males

and taken through the protocol shown in Figure 1A. (B) Frequency of margin defects in

adult wings after disc regeneration for control (w^{1118}) (n = 103), *brat^1/+* (n = 203), *dm^4/+*

(n = 94) and *dm^4/+; brat^1/+* (n = 94) wings, from three independent experiments. (C)

Quantification of Myc fluorescence intensity in undamaged control (w^{1118}) (n = 12) and

dm^4/+ (n = 11) discs. w^{1118} males were crossed to w^{1118} or *dm^4/FM7i, ActGFP* females

and dissected when the animals were third instar. Area for fluorescence intensity

measurement was defined by wing pouch morphology and the elevated Myc expression

domain in the wing pouch. (D) Quantification of Myc fluorescence intensity in R0 control

(w^{1118}) (n = 13), R0 *dm^4/+* (n = 10), R24 control (w^{1118}) (n = 13), and R24 *dm^4/+* (n = 10)

discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was defined by the elevated Myc

expression domain in the wing pouch. (E) Quantification of Myc fluorescence intensity in

undamaged control (VDRC genetic background line, called control) (n = 14),

MycRNAi#1/+ (n = 12), and *MycRNAi#2/+* (n = 13) discs. *rnGAL4, GAL80^{ts}/TM6B*

females were crossed to the control, *MycRNAi#1*, or *MycRNAi#2* males. The animals

were shifted to 30°C during early third instar and kept there for 28 hours then dissected.

MycRNAi#1/+ *** p < 0.000007, *MycRNAi#2/+* *** p < 0.00002. Area for fluorescence

intensity measurement was defined by wing pouch morphology. (F) Quantification of

Myc fluorescence intensity in R0 control (n = 13), R0 *MycRNAi#1/+* (n = 15), R0

MycRNAi#2/+ (n = 13), R24 control (n = 13), R24 *MycRNAi#1/+* (n = 13), and R24

1179 *MycRNAi#2/+* (n = 13) discs. Fluorescence intensity was measured in the area marked

1180 by Anti-Nubbin immunostaining. *** $p < 0.00007$. (G,H) Anti-Myc immunostaining in

1181 undamaged (G) and regenerating R24 (H) *Myc^{P0}/Y* imaginal wing discs. Dashed line

1182 outlines the wing pouch defined by anti-Nubbin immunostaining. (I) Margin tissue lost as

1183 a percentage of total wing perimeter for adult wings after disc damage and regeneration

1184 in the noted genotypes. (J, K) Immunostaining for Cut in control (J) and *Myc^{P0}/Y* (K)

1185 regenerated (R72) discs showing margin disruption in the mutants.(L) Pupariation rates

1186 after disc regeneration for control (*w^{1118}*) (n = 216), *brat^{1}/+* (n = 114) and *UAS-Myc/+* (n

1187 = 209) animals, from three independent experiments. Error bars represent SEM.

1188 Student's T-test used for statistical analyses.

Figure S6

Figure S6. Myc regulates Chinmo expression (Related to Figure 7).

(A) Merge of anti-Nubbin, anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo immunostaining in an R24 control

(w^{1118}) disc. (A'-A'') Same disc as (A) showing anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo

immunostaining, respectively. (A''') Same disc as (A) showing an enlarged merge of

anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo immunostaining. (B) Merge of anti-Nubbin, anti-Myc and anti-

Chinmo immunostaining in an R24 *UAS-Myc/+* disc. (B'-B'') Same disc as (B) showing

anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo immunostaining, respectively. (B''') Same disc as (B) showing

an enlarged merge of anti-Myc and anti-Chinmo immunostaining. (C) Quantification of

Chinmo and Myc fluorescence intensity in R24 control (w^{1118}) (n = 13) and R24 *UAS-*

Myc/+ (n = 14) discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was defined by the

elevated Myc expression domain in the wing pouch. Note that Myc and Chinmo

expression co-localize. (D-E) Scatter plot showing correlation between Myc and Chinmo

expression levels at R0 (D) and R24 (E). Pearson correlation coefficient for R0 = 0.93

and R24 = 0.94. (F) Quantification of Chinmo fluorescence intensity in undamaged discs

dissected 31 hours after animals were shifted to 30°C on day 7 AEL. Control (+ *;*

rnGAL4,GAL80ts/+) (n = 14) and *UAS-Myc (UAS-Myc/+ ; rnGAL4, GAL80ts/+)* (n = 14).

Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was defined by the Myc expression

domain in the wing pouch. (G-H) Anti-Chinmo immunostaining in an undamaged control

disc (G) and an undamaged *UAS-Myc/+* disc (H). (I) Quantification of fluorescence

intensity from the *UAS-mCherry-chinmoUTR* transgene in control (n=16) and brat/+

(n=15) R24 regenerating discs. Area for fluorescence intensity measurement was

defined by Nubbin expression. Error bars represent SEM. Student's T-test used for

statistical analyses. Scale bars are 100 µm, unless stated otherwise.