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ARTICLE

Concomitant *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* deficiencies cause chronic active Epstein-Barr virus infection of T cells

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Infection of T cells by Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) causes chronic active EBV infection (CAEBV) characterized by T cell lymphoproliferative disorders (T-LPD) of unclear etiology. Here, we identified two homozygous biallelic loss-of-function mutations in *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* in a patient who developed a fatal CAEBV. The mutation in *TNFRSF9* gene coding CD137/4-1BB, a costimulatory molecule expressed by antigen-specific activated T cells, resulted in a complete loss of CD137 expression and impaired T cell expansion toward CD137 ligand-expressing cells. Isolated as observed in one sibling, CD137 deficiency resulted in persistent EBV-infected T cells but without clinical manifestations. The mutation in *PIK3CD* gene that encodes the catalytic subunit p110δ of the PI3K significantly reduced its kinase activity. Deficient T cells for *PIK3CD* exhibited reduced AKT signaling, while calcium flux, RAS-MAPK activation, and proliferation were increased, suggestive of an imbalance between the PLCγ1 and PI3K pathways. These skewed signals in T cells may sustain accumulation of EBV-infected T cells, a process controlled by the CD137-CD137L pathway, highlighting its critical role in immunity to EBV.

Introduction

The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is an oncogenic virus that infects most of humans with a marked tropism for epithelial cells and B lymphocytes (Taylor et al., 2015). The primary infection is self-limited, while latent EBV-infected B cells persist lifelong. In immune-compromised hosts, primary infection and persistence of proliferative EBV-infected B cells result in severe and often fatal lymphoproliferative diseases, including hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) and nonmalignant and malignant B cell proliferations (Taylor et al., 2015; Tangye et al., 2017; Latour and Winter, 2018). Several inherited forms of susceptibility to develop EBV-driven B cell lymphoproliferative disorders have been identified, including gene defects in *SH2DIA*, *CORO1A*, *CTPS1*, *MAGT1*, *ITK*, *CD27*, and *CD70* (Cohen, 2015; Tangye et al., 2017; Latour and Winter, 2018). Heterozygous gain-of-function (GOF) mutations in *PIK3CD* have also been associated with impaired immune control of EBV-infected B cells (Coulter et al., 2017; Edwards et al., 2019). Patients with these

primary immunodeficiencies are characterized by their inability to mount efficient virus-specific T cell responses to eliminate EBV-infected B cells. Studies of these primary immunodeficiencies allowed the identification of several key factors required for T cell expansion and cell cytotoxicity and highlighted the role of T-B interactions in the control of EBV-infected B cells.

EBV can also occasionally infect T lymphocytes and/or natural killer (NK) cells, leading to EBV-driven T/NK cell lymphoproliferative diseases, also termed as chronic active EBV infection (CAEBV; Fujiwara et al., 2014; Park and Ko, 2014). T/NK cell lymphoproliferative diseases are rare diseases of childhood and young adults often observed in populations from Asia and Central South America. CAEBV is characterized by persistence of EBV-infected T or/and NK cells that may progress to life-threatening lymphoproliferative disorders including T and NK lymphomas frequently associated with HLH symptoms

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(Kimura et al., 2001, 2012). Patients typically exhibit a high EBV load that can persist over years. They also often develop characteristic cutaneous manifestations, namely hypersensitivity to mosquito bites and hydroa vacciniforme-like lymphoma (Okano et al., 2005; Quintanilla-Martinez et al., 2013). The pathogenesis of T/NK lymphoproliferative disorders is poorly understood. It is associated in some cases with somatic mutations in *DDX3X* (Okuno et al., 2019). However, it is strongly suspected that these patients may suffer from an immune defect that results in inefficient CD8⁺ T cell responses toward EBV-infected T cells (Fujiwara et al., 2014; Taylor et al., 2015). Of note, few cases of B cell type of CAEBV associated with B cell lymphoproliferations, chronic viremia, and HLH have been also reported (Kimura and Cohen, 2017). It is not clear whether these cases differ from “classical” EBV-associated B cell disorders.

Herein, we report the first identification of germline mutations causing CAEBV. We identified two homozygous loss-of-function (LOF) mutations in *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* in a patient presenting lethal CAEBV. Studies of the functional consequences of these mutations indicate that occurrence of CAEBV may be viewed as a consequence of factors providing a growth advantage to EBV-infected T cells combined with defective cell immunity toward EBV-infected cells.

Results

Identification of a family with a susceptibility to infection of T cells by EBV

We investigated the case of a male child born to consanguineous parents originating from Pakistan diagnosed with an EBV-associated T cell lymphoproliferative disease (Fig. 1 A). He had recurrent upper respiratory tract and skin infections that started at 3 mo of age necessitating recurrent hospitalizations. Those included episodes of paronychia (at the age of 6, 7, and 9.5 yr) and boils requiring antibiotic intravenous infusion. *Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and HSV were found in skin specimens. At the age of 10 yr, he received a prophylactic antibiotic treatment, and since then, he had not developed infections (with the exception of EBV infection [see below]) requiring hospitalization and antibiotic intravenous infusion. At the age of 9 yr and 10 mo, he came to our attention for persistent fever, weight loss, hepatosplenomegaly, and recurrent lymphadenopathies associated with persistent high blood load of EBV (6.5×10^6 copies/ml; Fig. 1 B). Episodes resolved spontaneously without treatment in a few weeks. High EBV loads were also detected in a liver biopsy (data not shown). Immunohistochemistry of the liver biopsy showed mild portal infiltration with CD3⁺ CD8⁺ mononuclear cells (Fig. 1 D). In situ hybridization with Epstein-Barr encoding region (EBER) probe was mainly positive in CD3⁺ cells, while most of CD20⁺ B cells were negative indicative of liver infiltration by EBV-infected T cells. Hydroa vacciniforme-like lesions also contained accumulation of EBV-containing CD8⁺ T cells that hybridized with EBER (Fig. S1). The presence of EBV in T cells was also examined by PCR on purified CD3⁺ cells from blood showing a high EBV load (5.3×10^6 copies/ μ g DNA) in CD3⁺ cells similar to the level detected in whole blood at that time (5.5×10^6 copies/ μ g DNA), whereas purified

B cells were negative. Blood EBV load remained stably high over the years (between 5.5×10^6 and 6.5×10^6 copies/ml) despite treatment with the anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (Fig. 1 B). Between the ages of 10 and 14 yr, symptoms recurred one or twice a year. At the age of 14 yr, he developed a fatal acute episode of HLH.

Immunological investigations showed no major abnormalities. The patient had normal T cell counts with fluctuating CD8⁺ lymphopenia associated with decreased naive CD8⁺ T cells and an increased proportion of memory CD8⁺ T cells (Table 1). Prior to anti-CD20 therapy, B cell counts were normal, but there was a nearly complete lack of circulating memory and switched B cells. Ig levels were normal to high for IgG and low to normal for IgM and IgA. Low IgM levels persisted after recovery of normal B cell numbers following anti-CD20 treatment. NK, invariant NKT (iNKT), and mucosal-associated invariant T cell counts were reduced. T cell proliferation in response to CD3, PHA, and antigen stimulations was elevated. Based on the severity of the clinical phenotype, a gene defect leading to T and B cell immunodeficiency was suspected to be the cause of his condition.

The other healthy siblings were also evaluated repeatedly for the presence of EBV during the study. All had EBV-positive serology with IgG anti-VCA and anti-EBNA. No detectable EBV load was found in the three brothers. In contrast, the asymptomatic 8-yr-old sister exhibited a persistent and elevated blood EBV load ($>10^6$ copies/ml) once she encountered EBV at the age of 6 yr (Fig. 1 C). This high EBV load was only slightly reduced by treatment with anti-CD20, indicating that persistent EBV-infected cells were not B lymphocytes. This was confirmed by PCR from purified CD3⁺ cells, which detected a high content of EBV (5.9×10^6 copies/ μ g DNA), as well as by EBER staining of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs; not shown). Even though she maintained a persistent high viremia, she remained asymptomatic since. She had normal immunological parameters, except that the proportion of memory B cells that was low before the anti-CD20 treatment remained low 2 yr after treatment (Table 1). These results suggest that the sister is affected by the same immunodeficiency, with the possibility of an up-to-now incomplete clinical penetrance.

Identification of a homozygous LOF mutation in *TNFRSF9* in both siblings with EBV-infected T cells

To identify a gene defect responsible for the disease in the patient and his sister, whole-exome sequencing (WES) was performed in all family members. Because of the consanguinity, an autosomal recessive inheritance pattern of the gene defect was applied to filter WES data with a focus on homozygous genetic variations. One significant homozygous variation in *TNFRSF9* was identified in exon 4 (NM_001561.5), corresponding to a frameshift point deletion that results in a premature stop codon (chromosome 1, g.7998819delC, c.170delG, p.G57fsX91; Fig. 1 E). It predicted to remove a large part of the extracellular, transmembrane, and intracytoplasmic domains of the protein. Sanger sequencing confirmed the WES results; only the patient and his sister were homozygous carriers of the mutation, while the parents were heterozygous (Fig. 1 A). Other siblings had heterozygous or WT genotypes. This mutation was not present in

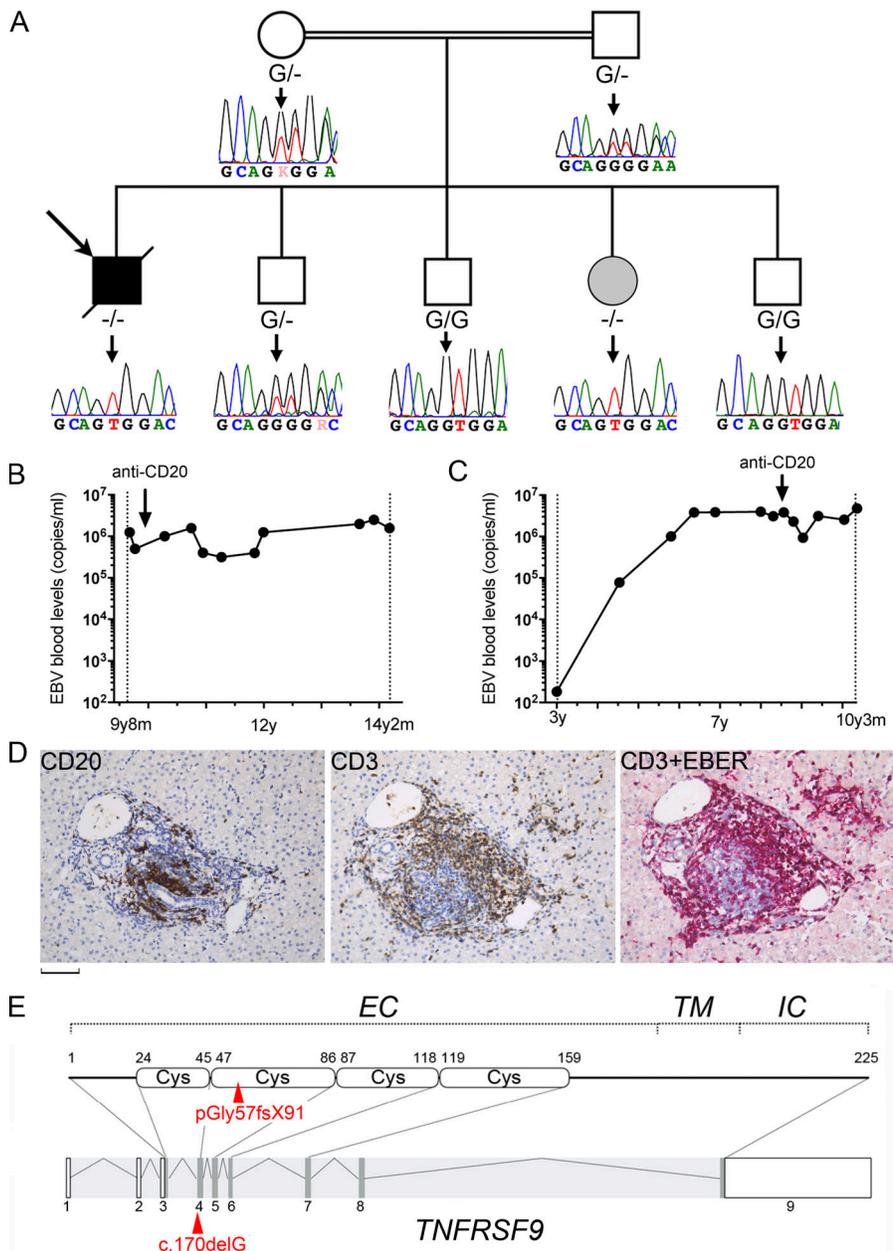


Figure 1. Identification of a homozygous mutation in *TNFRSF9* in two siblings with chronic EBV viremia and EBV-infected T cells. (A) Family pedigree with DNA electropherograms and the *TNFRSF9* c.170delG (-) genotype of each individual. The proband is indicated by an arrow. The healthy sister with chronic EBV corresponds to the gray circle. (B and C) EBV blood loads in the patient (B) and his sister (C) with EBV copies at different time points (black circles; y, years; m, months). Arrows indicate anti-CD20 treatments. (D) Patient liver biopsy. Staining with anti-CD3 (CD3) or anti-CD20 (CD20) showing portal and sinusoidal inflammatory infiltrate composed of CD3⁺ T lymphocytes and CD20⁺ B cells. Double staining with anti-CD3 antibody and EBER probe (CD3+EBER) detects EBV in the nucleus of most of CD3⁺ T cells. Magnification, ×200. Scale bar, 60 μm. (E) Schematic representation of *TNFRSF9* intron-exon organization (coding regions in dark gray) and protein structure (extracellular [EC], transmembrane [TM], and intracytoplasmic [IC] domains) above. The mutation is indicated in red.

public WES and whole-genome sequencing databases and our own databases at IMAGINE Institute.

TNFRSF9 encodes CD137 (also known as 4-1BB), which belongs to the TNF receptor (TNFR) family (Wortzman et al., 2013). CD137 is a costimulatory molecule that is only expressed by activated T cells. When engaged by its ligand (CD137L), CD137 enhances antigen-specific T cell responses, including proliferation, IL-2 secretion, survival, and cytolytic activity (DeBenedette et al., 1997, 1999; Shuford et al., 1997; Wen et al., 2002; Bukczynski et al., 2004). As reported, CD137 expression was only detectable on control T cells that were activated with anti-CD3 antibody, anti-CD3/CD28-coated beads, PHA, or PMA + ionomycin, but not on resting T cells (Fig. 2, A–C). In contrast, T cells of the patient and his sister failed to express CD137 in these conditions. The expression of the full transcript of CD137 was also examined in PHA-activated T cells by semiquantitative

RT-PCR and found to be markedly decreased in cells of the patient and his sister, while cells were activated similarly as control cells based on CD25 expression up-regulation (Fig. 2 C). This suggests that the CD137 transcript is subject to nonsense mutation-mediated RNA decay. Furthermore, no alternative spliced CD137 transcripts were detected in cells from the patient and his sister. These findings indicate that the premature stop codon p.G57fsX91 led to the absence of CD137 expression.

The costimulatory function of CD137 was next examined in T cells of the asymptomatic mutated sister only, since no material was available to test her affected brother. T cell proliferation was assessed following coculture with mouse mastocytoma P815 cells stably expressing or not CD137L (P815-CD137L) in the presence of soluble anti-CD3 antibody at a low concentration (Wen et al., 2002; Fig. 2 D). Coculture with P815-CD137L cells, but not with CD137L-negative P815 (P815-empty), triggered

Table 1. Immunological features of PBMCs from the patient and his sister

		Patient 10/12/14 yr	Sister 6/10 yr
Age-matched normal values			
Leukocytes (cells mm ⁻³)	(4,400–15,500)	6,800/ND/4,900	6,600/6,000
Neutrophils (cells mm ⁻³)	(1,800–8,000)	1,400/ND/2,200	3,800/ND
Monocytes (cells mm ⁻³)	(200–1,000)	400/ND/200	400/ND
Lymphocytes (cells mm ⁻³)	(1,900–3,700)	1,900/2,000/2,200	2,100/1,543
T cells			
CD3 ⁺ (cells mm ⁻³)	(1,200–2,600)	1,501/1,440/1,474	1,596/1,096
CD4 ⁺ (cells mm ⁻³)	(650–1,500)	1,102/1,140/1,056	987/663
CD8 ⁺ (cells mm ⁻³)	(370–1,100)	342/260/396	462/370
CD4/CD8 ratio	(0.9–2.6)	3.2/4.4/2.7	2.1/2.9
TCR γ / δ (%)	(0.2–14)	4/ND/ND	1.4/ND
CD31 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺ /CD4 ⁺ (recent naive thymic emigrant; %)	(43–55)	23/35/34	50
CD45RO ⁺ /CD4 ⁺ (memory; %)	(13/30)	69/53/52	32/40
CCR7 ⁺ CD45RA ⁺ /CD8 ⁺ (naive; %)	(52/68)	23/29/25	62/58
CCR7 ⁺ CD45RA ⁻ /CD8 ⁺ (central memory; %)	(2–4)	6/5/4	4/4.5
CCR7 ⁻ CD27 ⁻ CD45RA ⁻ /CD8 ⁺ (effector memory; %)	(11/20)	67/48/67	17/21
CCR7 ⁺ CD27 ⁻ CD45RA ⁺ /CD8 ⁺ (exhausted effector memory; %)	(1–18)	6/18/8	0.7
CD127 ^{low} CD25 ⁺ /CD4 ⁺ (regulatory; %)	(4–20)	5.2/ND/ND	6.6/ND
Va7.2 ⁺ CD161 ⁺ /CD3 ⁺ (MAIT; %)	(1–8)	0.2/0.7/0.1	2.9/ND
Va24 ⁺ Vb11 ⁺ CD161 ⁺ /CD3 ⁺ (iNKT; %)	(>0.02)	0.06/0.09/0.05	0.03/ND
T cell proliferation (cpm 10⁻³)			
PHA (6.25 mg ml ⁻¹)	(>50)	150/ND/ND	75/ND
OKT3 (10 ng ml ⁻¹)	(>30)	65.5/ND/ND	ND
<i>Candida</i>	(>10)	23/ND/ND	ND
<i>Tetanus toxoid</i>	(>10)	12/ND/ND	ND
NK cells			
CD16 ⁺ CD56 ⁺ (cells mm ⁻³)	(100–480)	57/40/2	147/123
CD16 ⁺ CD56 ⁺ (%)	(4–17)	3/2/1	7/8
B cells			
CD19 ⁺ (cells mm ⁻³)	(270–860)	342/520/704	357/332
CD19 ⁺ (%)	(13–27)	18/26/32	17/23
CD21 ⁺ CD27 ⁺ /CD19 ⁺ (memory; %)	(>10)	2/1/1	3/1
IgD ⁻ IgM ⁻ /CD19 ⁺ CD21 ⁺ CD27 ⁺ (switched; %)	(21–49)	ND/ 0.3/0.2	ND
Ig levels (g liter⁻¹; 16 yr old)			
IgG	(6.6–12.8)	13.9/14.21/8.92	ND/12.5
IgM	(0.5–2.1)	0.99/0.74/0.28	ND/0.27
IgA	(0.7–3.4)	0.69/0.56/0.45	ND/0.81

Different immunological parameters of the patient were tested from blood and PBMCs: numbers of blood cell populations, different T cell subsets, B cell subsets, and NK cells from PBMCs (tested by flow cytometry), T cell proliferation in response to different stimuli (evaluated by incorporation of [³H]thymidine), and serum (Ig subclasses). Values in bold correspond to values below the age-matched normal values. MAIT, mucosal-associated invariant T cell.

proliferation and up-regulation of the activation marker CD25 of both control CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells from a healthy donor (Fig. 2 E, left panels). Importantly, dividing control CD25⁺ T cells expressed CD137, whereas nonproliferating cells were negative for

CD137 (Fig. 2 F, upper panels). In contrast, T cells of the sister failed to proliferate when cocultured with CD137L-expressing P815 (Fig. 2 E, right panels), while CD137 was not detected (Fig. 2 F, lower panels). However, CD3/CD28-dependent

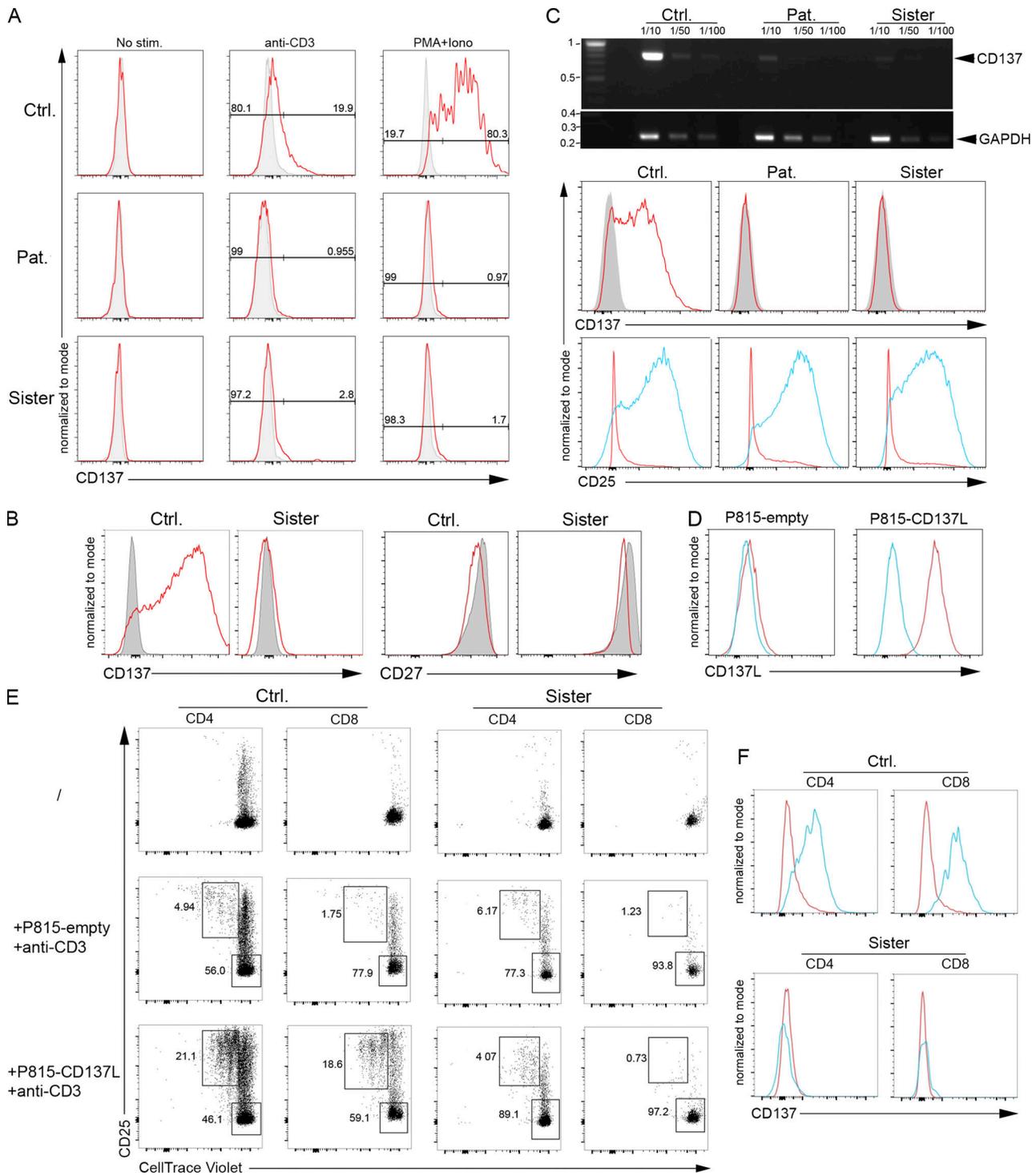


Figure 2. The G57fsX91 mutation prevents CD137 expression in activated T cells. (A) FACS histograms of CD137 of T cell blasts from the patient (Pat.), his sister, and a control (Ctrl.) unstimulated (No stim.) or stimulated with immobilized anti-CD3 antibody or PMA+ionomycin (PMA+Iono) for 7 d. Isotype control in gray. **(B)** FACS histograms of CD137 and CD27 of PBMCs unstimulated (gray) or stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28-coated beads (red) for 3 d. **(C)** Expression of CD137 full-length transcript (768 pb) and GAPDH (258 pb) by qRT-PCR in 72 h PHA-stimulated blasts. GAPDH as normalization controls for cDNA samples diluted as indicated, with the DNA ladder (kilobases) on the right. Bottom: FACS histograms of CD137 (isotype control in gray) and CD25 (non- and PHA-stimulated cells in red and blue, respectively). **(D)** FACS histograms of CD137L expression on P815 expressing CD137L (P815-CD137L) or not (P815-empty). Isotype control is shown in blue. **(E)** FACS dot-plots of proliferation assays of PBMCs labeled with the CellTrace Violet dye and cocultured or not (/) for 5 d with irradiated P815-CD137L or P815-empty cells preincubated with anti-CD3. Staining with anti-CD25 antibody as activation marker and gating on CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T cells. Proliferating and nonproliferating T cells in the upper left and right lower gates, respectively. **(F)** FACS histograms of CD137 in proliferating (blue) or nonproliferating (red) CD4⁺ or CD8⁺ T cells gated from E. Numbers in A and E correspond to the percentage of cells in gates. **(D)** One representative experiment of three. **(E and F)** experiments done in duplicate with the same results. One replicate is shown.

proliferation of T cells of the sister (as well as the patient) was preserved and thus unaffected by CD137 deficiency (Fig. 6 E and Fig. 7, A and B).

To formally prove that the premature stop codon p.G57fsX91 in CD137 was responsible for the defect of CD137L-triggered proliferation, CD137 expression was restored in T cells of the sister by transfecting PBMCs with a CD137-containing lentiviral vector or an empty vector (Figs. 3 and S2). CD137 expression was achieved in >40% of CD8⁺ T cells of the sister (Fig. 3 A). Restored CD137 expression by both CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells was associated with their ability to proliferate and to express CD25 when co-cultured with P815-CD137L, but not with P815-empty (Figs. 3 B and C and S2 and data not shown). Overexpression of CD137 by control CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells only resulted in a slight increase of proliferating CD137⁺ T cells. These results demonstrate that the mutation in *TNFRSF9* identified in the patient and his sister behaves as an amorphic mutation leading to impaired T cell expansion toward cells expressing CD137L. Thus, the loss of costimulatory function of CD137 in activated T cells of the patient and his sister could impair clearance of EBV-infected cells resulting from defective expansion of EBV-specific T cells.

Identification of a homozygous missense LOF mutation in *PIK3CD* in the patient, but not in his sister

Because the patient's sister has not developed any clinical manifestation despite the persistence of EBV viremia and circulating EBV-infected T cells, we postulated that the patient could be a carrier of an additional genetic factor that might account for the overt clinical phenotype. First, we looked for an allelic reversion event of the *TNFRSF9* mutation in the patient's sister that could have explained why she has no clinical signs. We failed to detect any reversion event in PBMCs and PHA-activated T cells from the sister (as well as from the patient) using Sanger and next-generation sequencing (Fig. S3). Therefore, WES results were reanalyzed considering the sister as not affected. One significant missense biallelic mutation in *PIK3CD* was identified in the patient at position 9783218 (rs573872848) on chromosome 1, (NM_005026.3 c.2462G>A) in exon 20 that led to a R821H substitution (Fig. 4 A). In public WES and whole-genome sequencing databases and own databases, the mutation was only found as heterozygous with a frequency of 3.8×10^{-5} . The mutation was further verified by Sanger sequencing confirming the autosomal recessive inheritance in the kindred (Fig. 4 B). Both parents were heterozygous carriers of the mutation as well as the sister and one brother, while the other siblings were not mutated. The patient was thus the only homozygous carrier of the mutation. *PIK3CD* encodes p110 δ , the catalytic subunit of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K). *PIK3CD* deficiency was recently reported to cause immunodeficiency in four patients, but the functional consequences of the *PIK3CD* defect were not studied (Sogkas et al., 2018; Cohen et al., 2019; Swan et al., 2019). p110 δ is highly expressed in lymphocytes and is the main active isoform of the PI3K catalytic subunit in human T cells (Okkenhaug et al., 2007; Okkenhaug and Fruman, 2010). p110 δ associates with the regulatory p85 α subunit which is also shared with other isoforms of PI3K catalytic subunit, including the p110 γ and p110 α (Engelman et al., 2006).

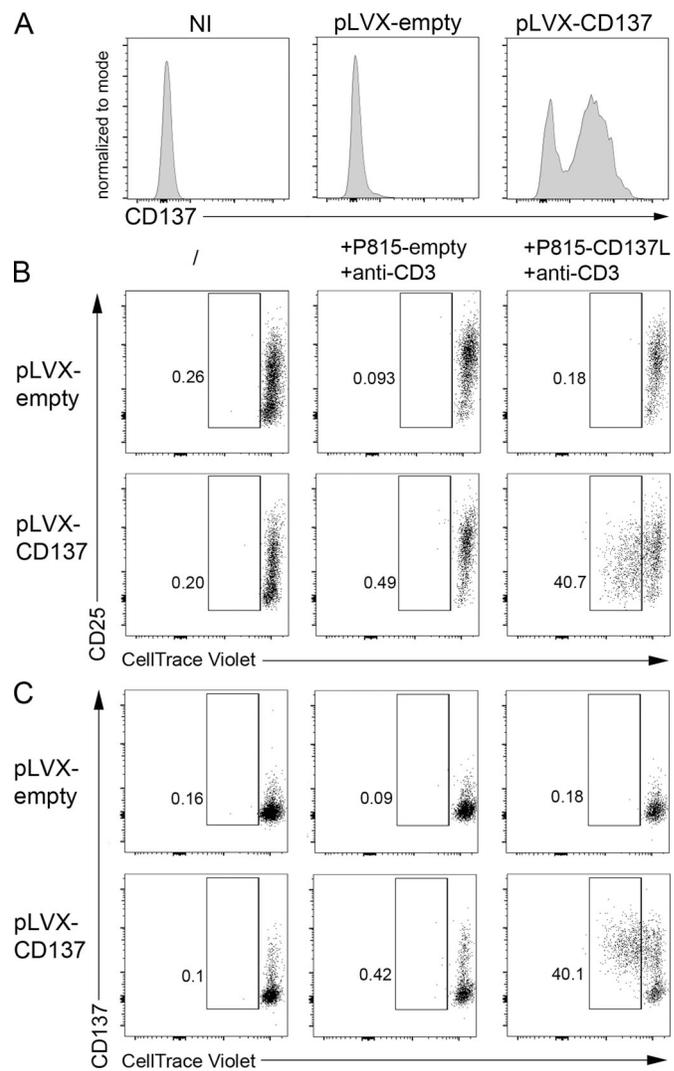


Figure 3. **Correction of CD137 expression in CD137-deficient T cells restores their capacity to proliferate in response to CD137L-expressing cells.** (A) FACS histograms of CD137 expression of T cells from the sister infected or not (NI) with a lentiviral vector containing or not (pLVX empty) a cDNA for CD137 (pLVX-CD137). (B and C) FACS dot-plots of proliferation assays from T cells shown in A (same as cells shown in Fig. 2 E). Cells were stained with an anti-CD25 antibody (B) as an activation marker or with an anti-CD137 antibody (C) and CellTrace Violet dilution analyzed by flow cytometry after gating on CD8⁺ T cells. Numbers correspond the percentage of proliferating cells in gates. Experiments in A–C were done in duplicate with the same results. One replicate is shown.

Reduced kinase activity of the mutant *PIK3CD*/p110 δ R821H

The R821H mutation is located in a highly conserved region of the p110 δ catalytic domain. To characterize the impact of this mutation, analysis of the three-dimensional structures of p110 δ -p85 α complexes was undertaken. p110 δ associates with its p85 α subunit through interactions outside the kinase domain and involves the adaptor-binding domain (ABD) and the C2 domains (Huang et al., 2007; Vadas et al., 2011; Burke, 2018; Fig. 4 C). The R821 is located in the β 6- β 7 loop of the kinase domain in the vicinity of the active site that includes the gate-keeper I825 and catalytic lysine K779 (Fig. 4 D, upper panel).

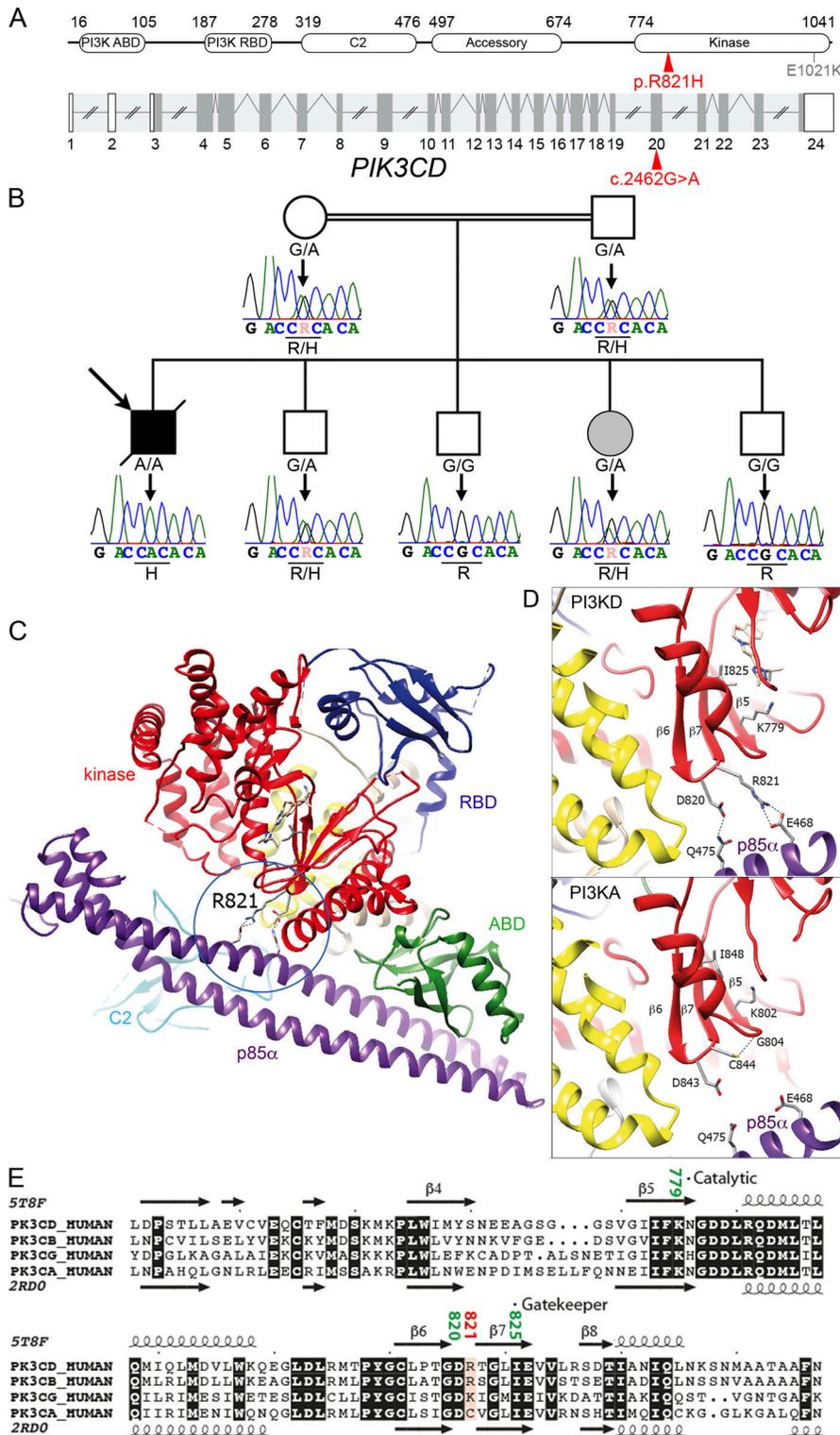


Figure 4. Identification in the patient of a homozygous mutation in PIK3CD affecting the catalytic site. (A) Schematic representation of PIK3CD coding the p110δ. Intron-exon organization (coding regions in dark gray) and corresponding protein structure. ABD, adaptor-binding domain; RBD, Ras-binding domain. The mutation is indicated in red, and the previously GOF mutation E1021K in gray. (B) Family pedigree with DNA electropherograms and the PIK3CD c.2462 G>A genotype of each individual (also see Fig. 1 A). (C) Ribbon representation of the p110δ-p85α complex (PDB: 5T8F), highlighting possible bonds between the p110δ kinase domain and p85α, in addition to contacts made by C2 and ABD. (D) Comparison of the experimental three-dimensional structures of PIK3CD (PI3KD; PDB: 5T8F; Castanedo et al., 2017) and PIK3CA (PI3KA; PDB: 2RDO; Huang et al., 2007) in complex with p85α. The catalytic residues K779 (PI3KD) and K802 (PI3KA) are shown and specific contacts with p85α (in purple) are highlighted. (E) Alignment of isoforms of p110 within the kinase domain. The observed secondary structures of p110δ/PIK3CD (PDB: 5T8F) and p110α/PIK3CA (PDB: 2RDO) are reported above and below the alignment, respectively (UniProtKB accession numbers PIK3CD_HUMAN: O00329, PK3CB_HUMAN: P42338, PK3CG_HUMAN: P48736, and PK3CA_HUMAN: P42336).

R821 and D820 are the only amino acids in the kinase domain able to establish bonds, after side-chain rotamer change, with p85α Q475 (H-bond) and E468 (salt-bridges). Thus, these interactions provide a specific contact point between the p110δ kinase domain and p85α, in addition to the well-recognized contacts made between p85α and the ABD and the C2 domain, which are shared by all isoforms. The former specific contact is

lost in the p110δ R821H mutant protein. Such an interaction does not exist between p110α and p85α (Huang et al., 2007), where the equivalent amino acid to R821 in p110α is a cysteine (C844), which makes an endogenous H-bond with the G802 residue, thereby contributing to the structure of the catalytic site (Fig. 4 D, lower panel; and Fig. 4 E). Similarly, the R821 likely contributes to the structure of the catalytic site through a salt

bridge formed with the E468 of p85 α . When this specific conformation is disrupted, kinase activity is likely impaired.

We therefore tested the respective consequences of the R821H substitution on both p110 δ enzymatic activity and binding to p85 α (Fig. 5). First, whole-cell extracts lysates from control and patient cells showed comparable levels of p110 δ and p85 α , indicating that the mutation had no impact on p110 δ expression (Fig. 5 A). Similarly, immunoprecipitations (IPs) of p85 α or p110 δ recovered from both donor and patient cell extracts showed comparable amounts of p110 δ and p85 α , showing that the R821H mutation in p110 δ did not disrupt association with p85 α . Consequences of the R821H mutation on p110 δ kinase activity was next examined in HEK293T cells that transiently expressed WT p110 δ , the R821H mutant, or an overactive E1021K p110 δ mutant and were cotransfected or not with p85 α . Total cell extracts showed comparable expression of both WT and mutated forms of p110 δ (Fig. 5 B). In IP experiments, recovery of WT and mutated p110 δ was similar and comparable amounts of p85 α were found to be associated with p110 δ . Immunoprecipitates were then tested for PI3K activity. No production of PIP3 was detected in cells expressing p110 δ alone in the absence of p85 α , highlighting the need of the p85 α subunit for actual kinase activity, as previously reported (Yu et al., 1998). Cotransfection of p85 α and WT p110 δ led to a significant production of PIP3 that was significantly diminished when p85 α was coexpressed with the R821H p110 δ (Fig. 5 C). As expected, cotransfection of p85 α with the overactive E1021K p110 δ further increased PIP3 production. Similar diminution in PIP3 production was observed from T cell blast protein extracts of the patient when compared with protein extracts of control cells (Fig. 5, D and E). These data demonstrate that the p110 δ R821H mutation behaves as an LOF hypomorphic mutation resulting in a profound defect in PI3K activity.

Reduced PI3K-dependent AKT/S6K signaling in patient T cells

Activation of the AKT and p70-S6K kinase pathway is dependent on PI3K activity in T cells (Okkenhaug et al., 2007). Increased phosphorylation of AKT and p70-S6K in T cells is considered a hallmark of patients carrying *PIK3CD* GOF mutations associated with activated PI3K delta syndrome type 1 (Angulo et al., 2013; Lucas et al., 2014). Phosphorylation of p70-S6K and AKT on serine 473 and threonine 308 (not shown), respectively, were found to be significantly reduced in T cell blasts of the patient in response to TCR/CD3 stimulation in comparison to control cells (Fig. 6, A–C). However, tyrosine phosphorylation of ZAP-70 (Fig. 6 A) and whole tyrosine phosphorylation signals (data not shown) that are independent of PI3K activity were equivalent between patient and control cells. Residual AKT phosphorylation in patient cells is likely explained by the hypomorphic nature of the mutation and/or by the activity of other PI3K catalytic subunit isoforms. Of note, the p110 δ -specific pharmacological inhibitor IC87114 reduced TCR/CD3-induced AKT phosphorylation in control cells to a level comparable to that seen in cells of the patient (Fig. 6 C). These results show that decreased kinase activity of the mutant R821H p110 δ leads to reduced AKT and p70-S6K activation in patient T cells.

Increased proliferation of patient T cells associated with an elevated Ca²⁺ influx

PI3K-dependent signaling is known to regulate many lymphocyte functions, including cell survival and proliferation. Hence, we assessed T cell proliferation using a vital dye tracer. It was striking to observe that patient T cells directly tested from PBMCs or T cell blasts in culture exhibited a significantly increased proliferation in comparison to control cells in response to TCR/CD3 stimulation (Fig. 6, D and E). However, T cell blasts from the patient exhibited normal degranulation and activation-induced cell death upon anti-CD3 stimulation as well as normal apoptosis upon anti-FAS stimulation, indicating that not all T cell functions were increased (Fig. S4, A–C). We also examined intracellular Ca²⁺ mobilization and the MAPK/ERK pathway in response to TCR activation, which are known to be downstream and dependent of phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PIP2) metabolism in T cells. Ca²⁺ flux and phospho-ERK to anti-CD3 stimulation were found to be increased in patient T cells when compared with control cells (Fig. 6, F–H). Consistent with increased Ca²⁺ flux, phospho-PLC γ 1 was found to be enhanced in T cells of the patient upon anti-CD3 stimulation (Fig. S4 D).

T cells of the sister, who is heterozygous for the *PIK3CD* mutation, were also evaluated, showing an intermediate decrease of TCR-dependent AKT phosphorylation and Ca²⁺ flux upon CD3 stimulation when compared with the patient (Fig. 7 D; and Fig. S4, E and F), while T cell proliferation upon stimulation with CD3 alone or CD3/CD28-coated beads was not significantly different from that of controls cells (Figs. 7 A and S4 G). Taken together, these results indicate that the LOF of R821H mutation in *PIK3CD* independently of the mutation in *TNFRSF9* is associated with increased TCR-dependent proliferation and calcium mobilization in T cells.

We previously reported that CD27, another costimulatory molecule of the TNFR superfamily expressed by T cells, is required for expansion of EBV-specific T cells toward EBV-infected B lymphoblastoid cell lines (LCLs) expressing CD70, the ligand of CD27 (Izawa et al., 2017). CD27-dependent T cell proliferation toward LCL-expressing CD70 (LCL-CD70⁺) or CD70-negative LCL (LCL-CD70⁻) was analyzed with T cells from the patient and his sister (Fig. 7 B). LCL-CD70⁺, but not LCL-CD70⁻, triggered proliferation of T cells from the sister that was normal or slightly increased compared with control cells. Proliferation of T cells from the patient was increased in the same conditions. CD27 was found normally expressed on T cells from the sister and the patient (Fig. 7 C). The increased CD27-dependent proliferation in the patient might suggest a compensatory mechanism for the absence of the CD137 pathway and/or related to the increased proliferation rate of activated T cells associated with the R821H mutation in *PIK3CD*.

Imbalanced phospholipase C gamma 1 (PLC γ 1)-dependent signals in *PIK3CD*-deficient T cells

Because of the lack of available material from the patient and in order to further demonstrate the effect of the R821H p110 δ mutation on T cell responses, two Jurkat T cell lines deficient for p110 δ (*PIK3CD*^{-/-}) were generated by the CRISPR-Cas9 technology using RNA guides targeting respectively exon 4 or exon 5

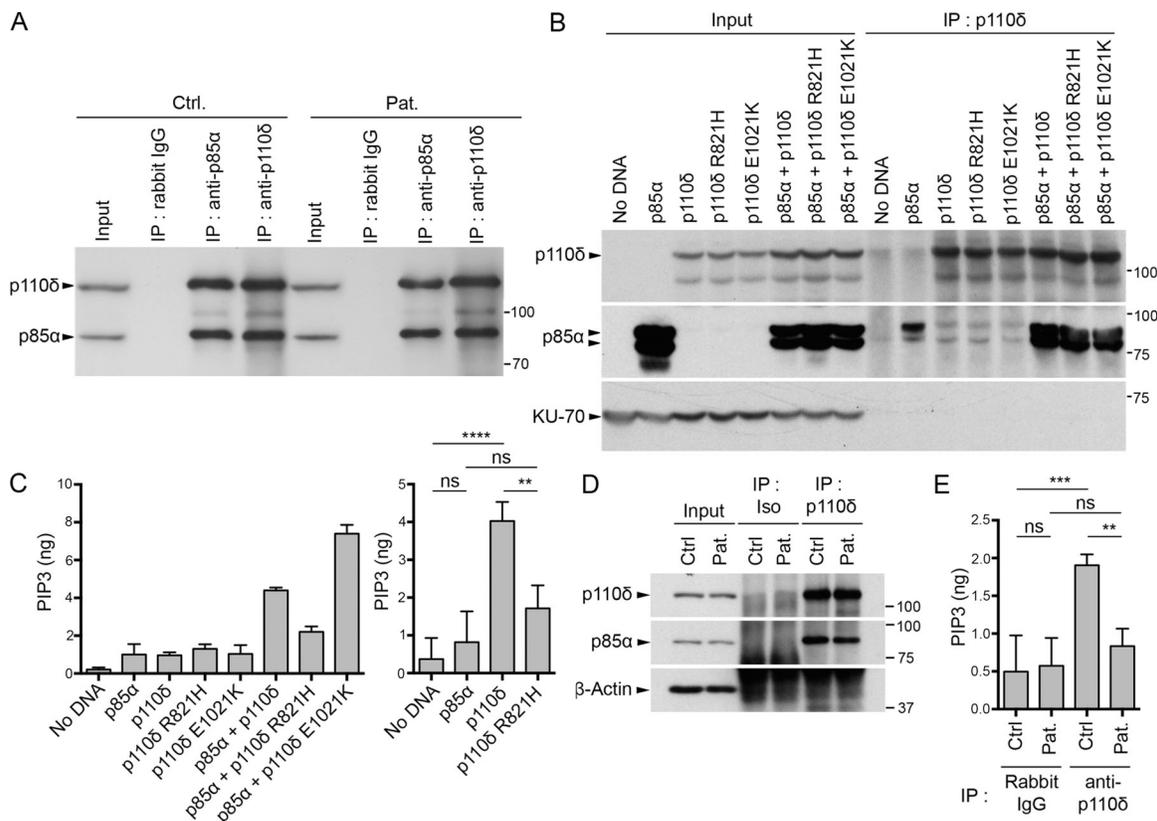


Figure 5. The R821H mutation in *PIK3CD* impairs p110δ kinase activity, but not binding to p85α. (A and B) Analysis of the p85α-p110δ association. (A) T cell lysates from the patient (Pat.) or a control (Ctrl.) after IP with control IgG (Rabbit IgG) or with antibody to p85α or p110δ followed by WB with anti-p85α or anti-p110δ. Total lysates (input) are shown on the left; molecular weight markers are shown on the right. (B) Lysates of HEK293T cells ectopically expressing or not p85α and/or WT, R821H, or E1021K p110δ, followed or not (input controls) by IP with anti-p110δ antibody (IP: p110δ) and WB with anti-p110δ, -p85α, and -KU-70 antibody as loading control. HEK293T expressed small amount of p85α that is not detected in the input but detectable in the IP of the p110δ, p110δ R821H, and p110δ E1021K (without ectopic p85α expression). (C) In vitro PI3K assays after IP, as in B, followed by quantification of produced PIP3 (left). Statistical analyses are shown on the right. (D) Same as A, except that total lysates are shown (input) and WB with anti-β-actin was used as a loading control. (E) In vitro PI3K assay of IPs obtained as in D followed by quantification of produced PIP3. Data are representative of two independent experiments (A, B, and C, left, and D) or are mean and SD of two independent experiments with three (C, right) or two (E) kinase assay replicates per group. ns, not significant; **, P < 0.01; ***, P < 0.001; ****, P < 0.0001 (one-way ANOVA with post hoc Bonferroni t test).

of *PIK3CD* (referred as CRISPR-Ex4 and CRISPR-Ex5). They were then reconstituted with the R821H mutant, the GOF E1021K mutant, or WT p110δ/*PIK3CD* (Figs. 8 and S5). Absence of p110δ expression in CRISPR-Ex4 and CRISPR-Ex5 cell lines was confirmed by Western blot (WB) analysis (Fig. 8 A). CRISPR-Ex4 and CRISPR-Ex5 cell lines transduced with WT, R821H p110δ, or E1021K p110δ coding lentiviruses showed comparable levels of p110δ (Figs. 8 B and S5). Constitutive AKT phosphorylation was examined and found to be increased in cells reconstituted with the activating E1021K mutant and reduced in cells expressing the inactive R821H mutant or in cells transduced with the empty vector (Figs. 8 C and S5). Of note, in Jurkat cells, AKT phosphorylation/activation and proliferation are constitutive and uncoupled to the TCR activation, in contrast to Ca²⁺ mobilization, which still requires TCR-CD3 stimulation (Shan et al., 2000; Astoul et al., 2001; Abraham and Weiss, 2004). When compared with E1021K p110δ-expressing cells, proliferation of p110δ-deficient cells and R821H p110δ-expressing cells was significantly increased (Fig. 8, E and D; and Fig. S5). Anti-CD3-induced calcium flux was also found to be increased (Figs. 8 F

and S5). The abnormal T lymphocyte phenotypes of the patient were thus recapitulated in these Jurkat cell lines. Taken together, these results demonstrate that impaired PI3K activity leads to an increased calcium flux and cell proliferation, while increased PI3K activity results in the opposite phenotypes.

Calcium entry and ERK1/2 activation are initiated by PLCγ1, which shares with p110δ the same PIP2 substrate (Rhee, 2001; Engelman et al., 2006; Okkenhaug et al., 2007). TCR-dependent activation of PLCγ1 results in the cleavage of PIP2 into inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP3) and diacylglycerol. IP3 and diacylglycerol are second messengers that activate Ca²⁺ mobilization and the MAPK pathway, respectively. Thus, our findings strongly suggest the existence of a balance between PLCγ1-dependent and PI3K-dependent signaling pathways that could compete for PIP2 availability. To test this hypothesis, we examined PLCγ1 and MAPK activation in response to TCR-CD3 stimulation in WT Jurkat cells compared with *PIK3CD*-deficient Jurkat cell lines (Figs. 8 G and S5). Phosphorylation of PLC-γ1 and ERK1/2 kinases, which are known to reflect PLCγ1 and MAPK activation, was tested in response to anti-CD3 stimulation. Strikingly, a

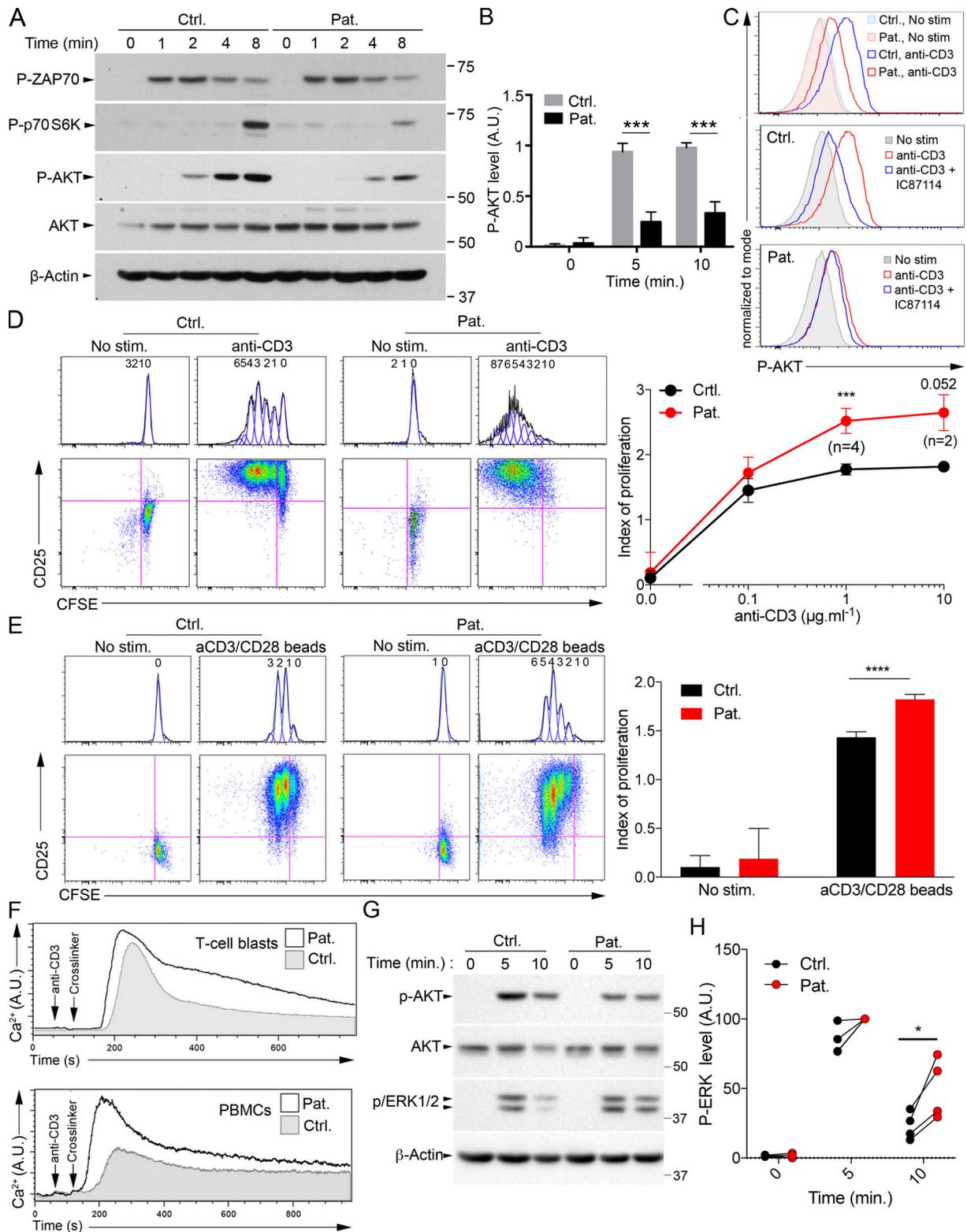


Figure 6. The R821H mutation in *PIK3CD* is associated with diminished activation of AKT and increased T cell proliferation and calcium flux. (A) Immunoblots of phosphorylated AKT (P-AKT), p70 S6K (P-p70 S6K), and ZAP70 (P-ZAP70) in T cell blasts from a control (Ctrl.) and the patient (Pat.) stimulated with anti-CD3 antibody for 0, 1, 2, 4, and 8 min. Total AKT and ACTIN were used as loading controls. Molecular weight markers are shown on the right. (B) Densitometry quantifications of immunoblots of P-AKT of T cells stimulated as in A for 0, 5, and 10 min. (C) FACS histograms of intracellular P-AKT in activated T cells not stimulated (no stim.) or stimulated with anti-CD3 in the presence or not of the p110 δ pharmacological inhibitor IC87114 (IC). (D and E) FACS dot-plots and corresponding histograms of proliferation assays (after gating on CD3⁺ cells) assessed with the CFSE dye. T cell blasts (D) or PBMCs (E) stimulated or not with immobilized 1 μ g ml⁻¹ anti-CD3 (D, left), different doses of anti-CD3 (D, right) or anti-CD3/CD28 coated beads (E). Staining

with anti-CD25 antibody as an activation marker. Numbers ahead each peak correspond to the number of divisions. Calculated proliferation indexes from FACS data are shown on the right. **(F)** Intracellular Ca^{2+} levels by real time flow cytometry in T cell blasts or PBMCs of Ctrl. (gray) or Pat. (black line) after stimulation with anti-CD3 and a cross-linker. **(G)** Same as A, with immunoblots of phosphorylated ERK (P-ERK). **(H)** Normalized densitometry quantifications of P-ERK immunoblots. Stimulation of patient cells at 5 min was used as 100%. *, $P < 0.1$; ***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$ with unpaired (B) or paired (D, E, and H) Student's *t* test from data of five (B), two (0.1 and $10 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$; D), or four (0 and $1 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$; D) or four (E and H) independent experiments with mean and SD. In D, at $10 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, $P = 0.052$ as indicated. Data are representative of three independent experiments for A, C, and F. A.U., arbitrary units.

constitutive phosphorylation of PLC γ 1 and ERK1/2 was strongly detectable in PIK3CD-deficient cell lines, but not in WT cells. In PIK3CD-deficient cells, TCR-CD3 activation led to a further increased ERK1/2 phosphorylation that was more intense, fast, and blunted more rapidly compared with WT cells. Activation did not further increase PLC γ 1 phosphorylation, which was already very high in unstimulated cells. In p110 δ -deficient cells reconstituted with R821H, a marked constitutive phosphorylation of PLC γ 1 and ERK1/2 was detectable, while in cells reconstituted with the GOF E1021K mutant, constitutive PLC γ 1 and ERK1/2 phosphorylation was low (Figs. 8 H and S5). Therefore, these data show that in the absence of p110 δ or impaired p110 δ activity, PLC γ 1 is more active, leading to increased calcium flux and activation of the downstream MAPK pathway. This may likely result in increased proliferation.

Discussion

We have identified herein an immunodeficient patient carrier of two homozygous LOF mutations in *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* with recurrent infections and an uncontrolled EBV-induced T cell proliferative disorder with features of CAEBV. His asymptomatic sister, who poorly controlled EBV replication, shared the same homozygous *TNFRSF9* LOF mutation. These differential genotypes contributed to dissect the potential roles of each gene alteration.

Recently, four patients with severe infections and inflammatory colitis associated with hypogammaglobulinemia and loss of B cells have been reported to be carriers of homozygous frameshift mutations in *PIK3CD* resulting in premature stop codons leading to absence of protein or removing the catalytic domain (Sogkas et al., 2018; Cohen et al., 2019; Swan et al., 2019). These patients had normal T cell subsets and counts, and T cell proliferation in response to various stimuli was reported to be normal or enhanced (like in our patient). No EBV infection was reported in these patients, but it was not known whether these patients had encountered EBV. However, the clinical phenotype of our patient partially differs from those patients. There are several explanations for this difference. First, the R821H mutation of our patient is hypomorphic and associated with a normal expression and residual PIK3CD enzymatic activity, in contrast to the mutations in PIK3CD-deficient patients, which are either null or lead to a truncated protein. Thus, this may explain that in our patient, the B cell phenotype is attenuated. Second, our patient did not develop colitis. CD137 deficiency may impair T cell responses avoiding the occurrence of colitis in our patient. Indeed, the inflammatory colitis in one patient was examined and found to be associated with a substantial increase in activated effector CD8⁺ T compartments in the lamina propria,

suggesting an abnormal expansion of effector CD8⁺ T cells (Swan et al., 2019). Of note, CD137 costimulation is well characterized in humans to induce CD8 T cell expansion with effector functions (see below), thus supporting that in our patient, such an expansion of CD8⁺ T cells in the lamina propria would be impaired. Interestingly, two patients with dual PIK3CD and small kinetochore-associated protein deficiency have been reported (Sharfe et al., 2018). Notably, these patients did not develop inflammatory colitis and exhibited strong T cell defects, including proliferation, in contrast to the other patients with PIK3CD deficiency. These T cell defects are likely caused by the small kinetochore-associated protein deficiency that impaired kinetochore/spindle microtubule dynamics during mitosis and might also explain why these two patients did not develop inflammatory colitis.

Heterozygous activating GOF mutations in *PIK3CD* have also been reported. They are responsible for activated PI3K delta syndrome type 1 syndrome, a complex immunodeficiency associated with variable clinical phenotypes (Angulo et al., 2013; Lucas et al., 2014; Coulter et al., 2017). To our knowledge, EBV-associated T/NK-cell lymphoproliferative disorders have not been reported in patients with GOF (and LOF) mutations in *PIK3CD*. Functional features associated with *PIK3CD* GOF mutations are increased activation-induced T cell death, low T cell proliferation, and increased phosphorylation of AKT and p70-S6K kinase (Angulo et al., 2013; Lucas et al., 2014; Carpiere and Lucas, 2018). The T cell abnormalities detected herein in the patient are the opposite, consisting of increased T cell proliferation, decreased phosphorylation of AKT and p70-S6K kinase, normal senescent CD57⁺ T cells, and preserved activation-induced cell death. Therefore, these functional abnormalities (associated with the *PIK3CD*^{R821H} mutation) correspond to dysfunctions that would have been expected to be caused by PIK3CDLOF mutations (in opposition to those associated with PIK3CD GOF mutations).

The observed association of the *PIK3CD*^{R821H} LOF mutation with increased proliferation, ERK1/2 activation, and calcium flux comes as a relative surprise given the known role of the PI3K-AKT pathway in cell survival. However, an identical phenotype was reproduced in p110 δ -deficient Jurkat cell lines obtained by CRISPR-Cas9, demonstrating that these abnormalities are not the consequence of unrelated genetic variations in the patient and/or indirect consequence of EBV infection of T cells. These results suggest that there is a physiological balance between PLC γ 1 and PI3K-dependent pathways in T cells. Indeed, PLC γ 1 and PI3K δ (p110 δ) activities share the same substrate, PIP2, and hence are competing to access to it (Okkenhaug et al., 2007). We propose that the skewed signaling toward PLC- γ 1 resulting from PIK3CD deficiency may provide a permissive

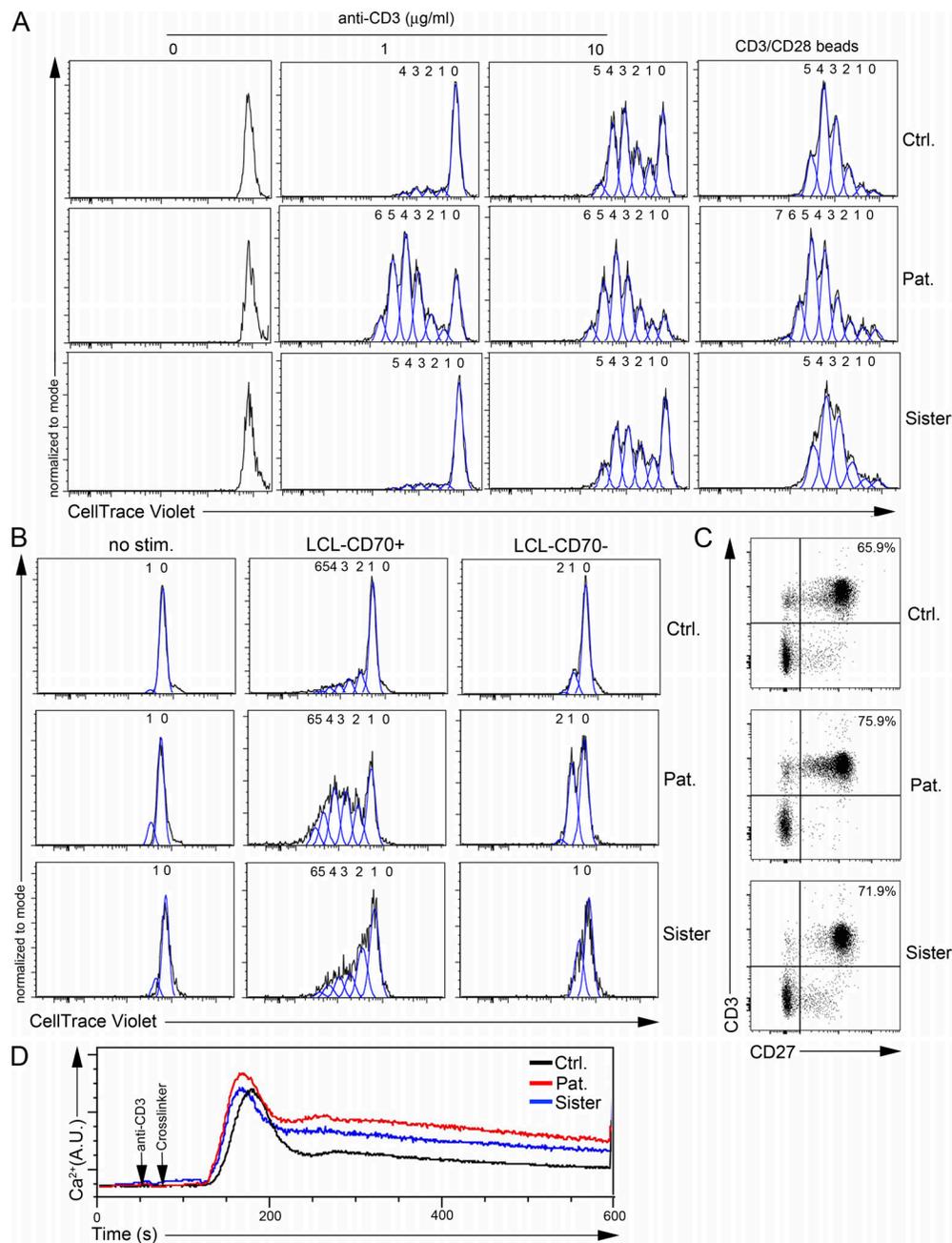


Figure 7. **Increased proliferation of activated T cells from the patient is not observed in his sister.** (A and B) FACS histograms from plots of proliferation assays of T cell blasts (A) or PBMCs (B) from a control (Ctrl.), the patient (Pat.), or his sister assessed with the CellTrace Violet dye. Numbers ahead each peak correspond to the number of divisions. Cells were (A) stimulated or not (0) with immobilized 1 or 10 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ anti-CD3 antibody or anti-CD3/CD28-coated beads or (B) stimulated by coculture or not (no stim.) with LCLs expressing (LCL-CD70⁺) or not CD70 (LCL-CD70⁻) after preincubation with anti-CD3 antibody. (C) FACS dot-plots of CD27 and CD3 of PBMCs. Numbers represent the percentage of CD27⁺ CD3⁺ cells in the gates. (D) Intracellular Ca^{2+} levels analyzed by real-time flow cytometry in T cell blasts from the control (black line), the patient (red line), or his sister (blue line) after stimulation with anti-CD3 and a cross-linker. Data are from a single experiment (in which the cells of the patient and his sister were compared) but representative of several independent experiments in which the patient and his sister were tested separately and compared with controls (see Fig. 6, D and E; and Fig. S4 G).

cellular background in T cells to EBV infection or/and for the persistence and expansion of infected T cells because of the related proliferation advantage. The mechanisms involved in the entry and maintenance of EBV in T cells are not known (Fujiwara et al., 2014). However, a recent study identified somatic cancer driver mutations in EBV-positive infected T cells of

CAEBV patients (Okuno et al., 2019). These mutations accumulated when the disease progressed and were associated with a shorter overall survival. The homozygous germline $\text{PIK3CD}^{\text{R821H}}$ found in the patient might be viewed as a driver mutation allowing EBV-infected T cells to persist and acquire additional somatic mutations, leading to uncontrolled proliferation. Thus, a

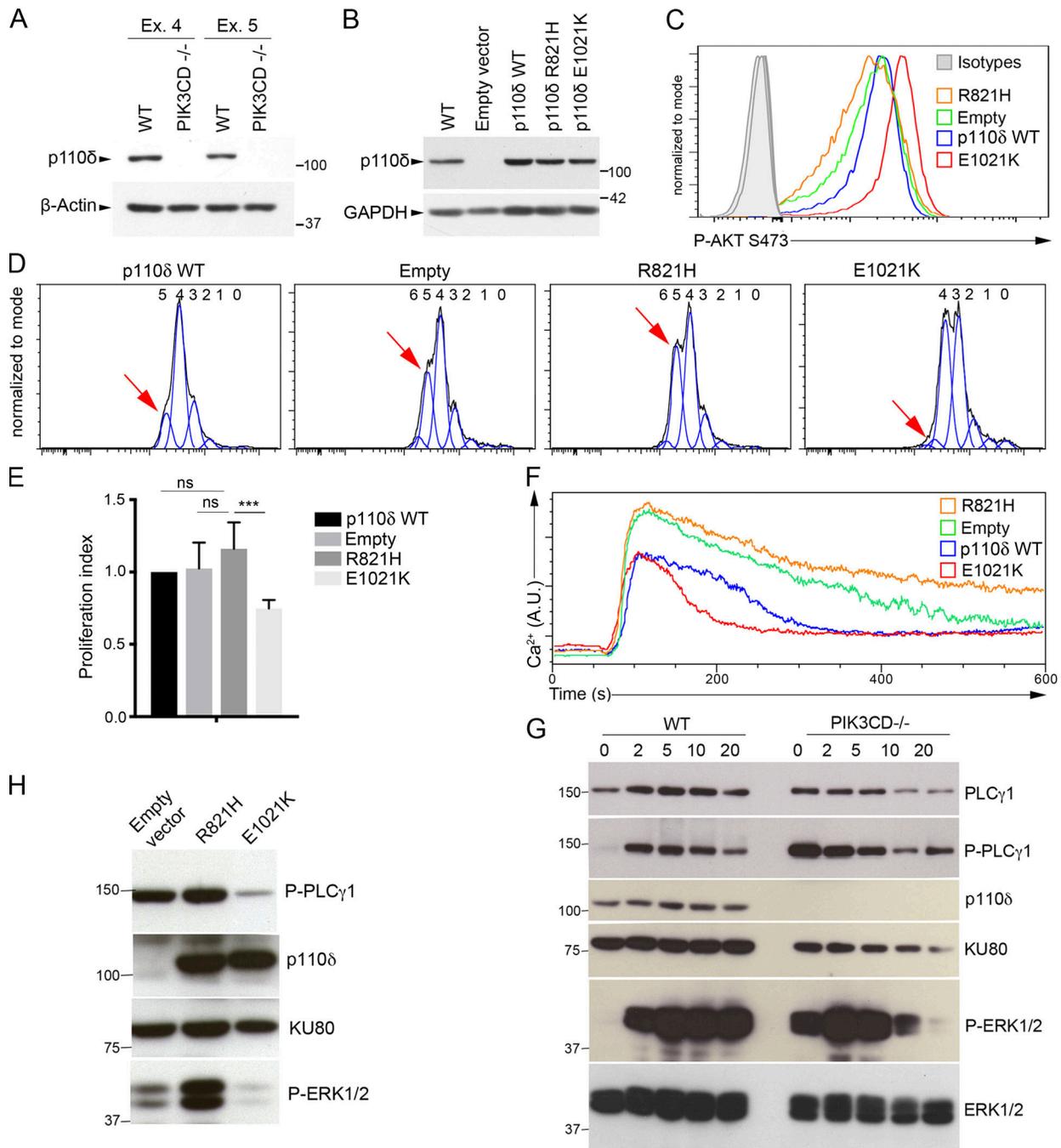


Figure 8. Imbalanced PLC γ 1-dependent signals in PIK3CD-deficient Jurkat T cells. (A and B) Immunoblots of p110 δ expression (A) of PIK3CD-deficient (PIK3CD $^{-/-}$) Jurkat cell lines obtained from CRISPR-Cas9 targeting of exon 4 (Ex. 4) or exon 5 (Ex. 5) of *PIK3CD* or nontargeted (WT) Jurkat cell lines (B) of WT or exon 4–targeted PIK3CD-deficient Jurkat cells (CRISPR-Ex4-PIK3CD $^{-/-}$) reconstituted with an empty vector or a vector coding for WT (p110 δ WT), R821H, or E1021K p110 δ . (C) FACS histograms of intracellular phosphorylated AKT at serine 473 (Ser473 P-AKT) in the different exon 4 PIK3CD $^{-/-}$ Jurkat cell lines shown in B. Isotype controls are in gray. (D) FACS histograms from plots of proliferation assays of the different CRISPR–exon 4–PIK3CD $^{-/-}$ Jurkat cell lines shown in B assessed with the CellTrace Violet dye. Numbers ahead each peak correspond to the number of divisions. The red arrow indicates the peak of the fifth division in each histogram. (E) Indexes of proliferation calculated from D. (F) Intracellular Ca $^{2+}$ levels analyzed by real-time flow cytometry in the different CRISPR–exon 4–PIK3CD $^{-/-}$ Jurkat cell lines shown in B stimulated with anti-CD3 antibody. (G) Immunoblots of phosphorylated PLC γ 1 (P-PLC γ 1) and ERK1/2 (P-ERK1/2) in WT Jurkat (WT) or CRISPR–exon 4–PIK3CD $^{-/-}$ Jurkat (PIK3CD $^{-/-}$) stimulated with anti-CD3 for 0, 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 min. Total amounts of PLC γ 1, PIK3CD (p110 δ), KU80, and ERK1/2 are shown. (H) Same as G in nonstimulated PIK3CD $^{-/-}$ Jurkat (exon 4) reconstituted cells shown in B. (G and H) One representative experiment of two is shown. Similar experiments done with cells PIK3CD $^{-/-}$ cells obtained by targeting exon 5 showing the same results (see Fig. S4). Molecular weight markers are shown on the right (A and B) and left (G and H). Data are representative of three (A and B) or two (C, D, and F) independent experiments with three (D) or one (C and F) biological replicate per group in each. Two-way ANOVA test in E with mean and SD of two independent experiments with three and two replicates. ns, not significant; ***, $P < 0.001$, $n = 5$.

growth selective advantage could be a very significant contributing factor to the onset of CAEBV originating from germline (the present report) or somatic mutations.

The persistent EBV replication and the presence of circulating EBV-infected T cells in the healthy sister led us to the discovery of a homozygous deleterious mutation in *TNFRSF9* shared by the patient and his sister. It is unlikely that the CD137 deficiency plays a role in the functional abnormalities detected in T cells of the patient, as these functional phenotypes were reproduced in p110 δ -deficient Jurkat cells. Rather, it is likely that CD137 deficiency accounts for the impaired immune control of EBV-infected T cells. CD137 is a highly potent costimulatory molecule of T cell responses during viral infections (Wortzman et al., 2013). It has been shown that CD137 ligation sustains antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cell responses (Shuford et al., 1997; DeBenedette et al., 1999; Takahashi et al., 1999; Lee et al., 2002; Maus et al., 2002). Furthermore, targeting CD137 with agonistic antibodies also demonstrated potent effects on antitumoral and viral responses (Chester et al., 2018). Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy using CARs containing the intracytoplasmic domain of CD137 was also shown to be the most efficient to sustained CAR T cell responses (Li et al., 2018).

CD27 is a well-known costimulatory molecule belonging to the TNFR super family, like CD137 (Watts, 2005). In contrast to CD137, CD27 is highly expressed on both resting and activated T cells. Importantly, primary immunodeficiencies caused by mutations in CD27 or CD70, the ligand of CD27, have been reported in patients with a high susceptibility to develop EBV-driven B cell lymphoproliferative disorders (van Montfrans et al., 2012; Salzer et al., 2013; Alkhairy et al., 2015; Abolhassani et al., 2017; Izawa et al., 2017). We showed that CD70 expression on EBV-infected B cells is required for expansion of EBV-specific T cells via cosignals delivered by CD27 (Izawa et al., 2017). Similarly, CD137-CD137 ligand (CD137L) interactions with antigen presenting cells possibly including EBV-infected T cells or B cells, may play an important similar nonredundant role in the expansion of EBV-specific T cells notably required to target EBV-infected T cells. Supporting this assumption, CD137L is expressed by T cells and was shown to induce T cell trans-costimulation resulting in potent tumor rejection (Stephan et al., 2007). Furthermore, EBV-unrelated cutaneous T cell lymphomas have been shown to express significant amount of CD137L (Kamijo et al., 2018). The recent description of EBV-driven B cell lymphomas in two patients with CD137 deficiency is strongly in favor of a key role of CD137 in immunity to EBV (Alosaimi et al., 2019), although the clinical asymptomatic feature of the sister (in our study) suggests incomplete penetrance. In this study, expansion and function of antigen-specific CD137-deficient CD8⁺ T lymphocytes in coculture with B-LCLs were impaired. With our observations, this supports that CD137 delivers to EBV-specific T cells cosignals required for their expansion.

In conclusion, we report the first genetically well-documented case of EBV-driven T/NK cell lymphoproliferative disorder associated with homozygous mutations in *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9*, highlighting the potential role of these pathways in the immunity to EBV when EBV infects T cells. Additional

genetic and/or environmental factors may also participate to this susceptibility. These results provide the first evidence of the multifactorial genetic inheritance underlying EBV-associated T/NK cell lymphoproliferative disorders, that can be now considered as the result in part of a primary immune defect. This observation also constitutes one of the first examples of a recessive immunodeficiency resulting from two gene defects with mechanisms likely to independently contribute (and even synergize) to cause the disease.

Materials and methods

Ethics

Written informed consent was obtained from all humans in this study in accordance with the Helsinki declaration and local legislation and ethical guidelines from the Comité de Protection des Personnes de l'Île de France II, Hôpital Necker-Enfants Malade, Paris. Blood from healthy donors was obtained at Etablissement français du sang under approved protocols (convention 15/EFS/012).

WES

Genomic DNA was extracted from whole blood according to standard methods, and WES and data analysis were performed as previously described (Martin et al., 2014; Izawa et al., 2017; Winter et al., 2018). Genomic DNA regions flanking *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* mutations were amplified using the forward primer 5'-CTTGACCATGCCATTTGC-3' and reverse primer 5'-CTTGGA CTTACAGCCAGTTG-3' (for *PIK3CD*) or the forward primer 5'-CGTGTACCACTATTGTCTGCC-3' and the reverse primer 5'-GAACTCATACTTTACTACTGCC-3' (for *TNFRSF9*) with Platinum Taq DNA Polymerase (Invitrogen) according to manufacturer's recommendations, gel purified with the High Pure PCR Product Purification Kit (Roche), sequenced with the BigDye terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems), and analyzed on a 3500xL Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). All collected sequences were analyzed using DNADynamo (BlueTractorSoftware). To search for reversion events, amplicons of *TNFRSF9* obtained by RT-PCR were also sequenced by WES methods to analyze single reads.

Cell cultures

PBMCs were isolated by Ficoll-Paque (Lymphoprep; Proteogenix) density-gradient centrifugation and washed and resuspended at a density of 10⁶ cells/ml in complete Panserin 401 medium (Pan Biotech) containing 5% human male AB serum (BioWest), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 μ g/ml streptomycin (Gibco). T cell blasts were expanded by incubating PBMCs for 72 h with 2.5 μ g ml⁻¹ PHA (Sigma-Aldrich); dead cells were then removed by Ficoll-Paque density-gradient centrifugation (Lymphoprep), and T cell blasts were cultured in complete Panserin 401 medium culture supplemented with 100 IU/ml recombinant human IL-2 (R&D Systems). Murine mastocytoma P815 cell lines, EBV-infected B-LCLs, and Jurkat T cell lines were cultured in complete RPMI 1640 GlutaMAX medium (Invitrogen) containing 10% heat-inactivated fetal calf serum (Gibco), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 μ g ml⁻¹ streptomycin

(Gibco). HEK293T cells were cultured in complete DMEM, high glucose, GlutaMAX supplement, pyruvate medium (Gibco) containing 10% heat-inactivated fetal calf serum (Gibco), 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ streptomycin (Gibco).

Constructs and RT-PCR for *TNFRSF9*

WT *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* coding sequences were obtained by RT-PCR from control T cell blasts with the forward primer 5'-CACCATGCCCCCTGGGGTGGACTG-3' and the reverse primer 5'-GGGAGGAGCCACTACTGCCTGTTG-3' for *PIK3CD* and with the forward primer 5'-CACCATGGGAAACAGCTGTACAA-3' and the reverse primer 5'-TCACAGTTCACATCCTCCTTCTTC-3' for *TNFRSF9*. The *PIK3CD* and *TNFRSF9* cDNAs were inserted into the plasmid pcDNA3.1 directional TOPO (Invitrogen) according to manufacturer's instructions. The c.2462G>A (p.R821H) and c.3061G>A (p.E1021K) mutants were obtained with a Q5 site-directed mutagenesis kit (Promega) with the following primers: 2462GA-F, 5'-ACCGGGGACCACACAGGCCTC-3'; 2462GA-R, 5'-GGGAGGCAGCCATAGGG-3'; 3061GA-F, 5'-GAAGTTTAACAAAGCCCTCCGTG-3'; and 3061GA-R, 5'-ACTCGGAAGTGCTTCAGT G-3'. Coding sequences were confirmed by Sanger sequencing and subcloned into the bicistronic lentiviral plasmid (pLenti7.3/V5 TOPO; Invitrogen) or modified by replacing puromycin coding sequences by those of GFP as the reporter gene (pLenti7.3-GFP). p85 α coding expression plasmid (p3XFLAG-CMV-p85 α) was previously reported (Deau et al., 2014).

CD137/*TNFRSF9* transcript expression was analyzed by semiquantitative PCR with the forward primer 5'-ATGGGAAACAGCTGTACAA-3' and the reverse primer 5'-TCACAGTTCACATCCTCCTTCTTC-3' for *TNFRSF9* and with the forward primer 5'-ATGCCATCACTGCCACCCAG-3' and the reverse primer 5'-CCTGCTTACCACCTTCTTG-3' for *GAPDH* as a control for amplification and normalization.

CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing

The pSpCas9(BB)-2A-GFP (pX458) plasmid was a gift from Feng Zhang (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA; plasmid 48138; Addgene). All sgRNAs were designed using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology CRISPR Design Tool (<http://crispr.mit.edu>). 24-bp oligonucleotides containing the target sequences in exon 4 and exon 5 of *PIK3CD* were synthesized (Eurogentec) with a 4-bp overhang (later shown in lowercase) to enable cloning into the *BbsI* site. sgRNA sequences are as follows: sgEx4F, 5'-caccgAGGTGAACACATAGGCCTCG-3'; sgEx4R, 5'-aaacCGAGGCCTATGTGTTACCTc-3'; sgEx5F, 5'-caccgGTACCCTGCGGCTCCCGAAC-3'; sgEx5R, 5'-aaacGTTCCGGAGCCGAGGGTACC-3'. Pairs of synthesized oligos were annealed, phosphorylated, ligated to linearized vector, and transformed into *Stbl3* bacteria (Life Technologies). sgRNA insertion was confirmed by Sanger sequencing using sequencing primer (5'-TTTCTTGGGTAGTTTGCAGTTTT-3'). The plasmids were serially transfected three times into Jurkat T cells with Napa21 electroporator (Nepagene). Cells were subcloned by limit dilution and cultured for 3 wk. DNA was extracted, and regions flanking the targeted site were amplified and sequenced using the following primers: Ex4F, 5'-ACTGTCCTCCAGCTGCTGT-3'; Ex4R, 5'-GAGCTACCTTTGCCGATGAGGAGG; Ex5F, 5'-CCG

CAGGCCTCCACGAGTTT-3'; Ex5R, 5'-CTCACCTCGCTGCCCTCAACT. Two clones presenting biallelic frameshift mutations in exon 4 (g.1:9715598delG, c.199delG, p.A67fsX42) or exon 5 (g.1:9716036_046, c.558_568del, p.P186PfsX) were selected.

Lentiviral gene transfer

PIK3CD-deficient Jurkat cell lines with empty pLenti-7.3-GFP or pLenti-7.3-GFP encoding WT, p.R821H, and p.E1021K p110 δ were performed by lentivirus-mediated gene transfer. HEK293T cells were cotransfected with the lentiviral plasmid together with the plasmids pVSVG and pGag-pol at a molar ratio of 1:1:1 with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) according to supplier's instructions. Supernatants containing virus particles were harvested 36 h after transfection and freshly used for infection of Jurkat cells. All Jurkat cell lines expressed comparable levels of CD3 and CD28. Transductions of CD137-deficient T cells or control T cells with the pLenti-7.3-CD137 as previously described (Martin et al., 2014).

Immunoblotting

Stimulation of cells, protein extraction, and immunoblotting protocols have been described previously (Hauck et al., 2012; Martin et al., 2014; Winter et al., 2018). Briefly, cells (5×10^6 cells per ml) were stimulated by anti-CD3 antibody (1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, clone OKT3) cross-linked with a rabbit anti-mouse IgG (2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) for the different time periods. Cells were washed in PBS, and proteins were extracted with cell lysis buffer (1% NP-40 [NP-40 alternative; Calbiochem], 50 mM Tris, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM EDTA, 1 mM Na_3VO_4 , 1 mM NaF, complete protease inhibitor cocktail [Roche], and phosphatase inhibitor cocktails 2 and 3 [Sigma]). Proteins were denatured by boiling 10 min with sample buffer (125 mM Tris, pH 6.8, 3% SDS, 10% glycerol, 5% 2 β -mercaptoethanol, and 0.01% bromophenol blue), separated by SDS-PAGE, and transferred on polyvinylidene fluoride membrane (Millipore). Membranes were blocked with milk or BSA-based buffer before incubation with antibodies. The following antibodies were used for immunoblotting: anti-AKT (11E7, #4685S), anti-AKT phosphorylated on T308 (244F9, #4056S), anti-AKT phosphorylated on S473 (193H12, #4058S), anti-Erk1/2 (p44/42 MAPK, 137F5, #4695S), anti-phosphorylated Erk1/2 (phospho-p44/42 MAPK, 20G11, #4376S), anti-Ku70 (D35, #4103S), anti-p110 α (C73F8, #4249S), anti-p85 α (#4292), anti-p70 S6K (#9202S), anti-phosphorylated p70 S6K (108D2, #9234S), anti-PLC- γ 1 (#2822S), anti-phosphorylated PLC γ 1 (D6M9S, #140008S), anti-PTEN (138G6, #9559S), anti-phosphorylated tyrosine (P-Tyr-100, #9411S), anti-ZAP-70 (99F2, #2705S), and anti-phosphorylated ZAP-70 (#2704S; all from Cell Signaling Technology), anti-PI3K p110 δ (H-219, sc-7176; Santa Cruz), and anti- β -actin (A2066, Sigma-Aldrich). Membranes were then washed and incubated with secondary anti-mouse (GE-Healthcare) or anti-rabbit (Cell Signaling Technology) HRP-linked antibodies. Pierce ECL WB substrate and Bio-Rad Clarity ECL substrate were used for revelation. For reprobing, membranes were incubated with Restore WB stripping buffer (Thermo Scientific) before blocking. Densitometry analyses were performed using ImageJ software and normalized to loading WB controls.

Immunocytochemistry

Staining and in situ hybridization were performed on an automated stainer (Bond Max; Leica Biosystems). The presence of EBV was demonstrated by in situ hybridization for the small RNA-encoding regions 1 and 2 (EBER). Antibodies used and dilution were anti-CD3 (polyclonal anti-CD3, 1/200; DAKO), anti-CD20 (polyclonal anti-CD3, 1/200; DAKO), and anti-CD8 (clone C8/144B; 1/200; DAKO).

PI3 kinase assay and IPs

HEK293T cells were transfected with the indicated expression plasmids using Lipofectamine 2000 reagent (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. T cell blasts or transfected (HEK293T cells 48 h after transfection) were lysed as described above. 500 mg protein was incubated with 2 μ g polyclonal rabbit anti-anti-p110 δ from Santa-Cruz (clone H-219) or normal rabbit IgG from Cell Signaling Technology (#2729) for 1 h, and immune complexes were recovered with Protein A Sepharose beads (GE Healthcare) at 4°C. The beads were then washed three times with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 137 mM NaCl, 1 mM CaCl₂, 1 mM MgCl₂, and 1 mM sodium orthovanadate; three times with 0.1 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 5 mM LiCl, and 1 mM sodium orthovanadate; and two times with 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, and 5 mM EDTA. For immunoblot, proteins were eluted from beads by boiling with SDS sample buffer for 10 min and were processed as described above. Kinase assay was performed with PI3K Activity ELISA:pico kit (Echelon) according to supplier recommendations. Briefly, immunoprecipitates were incubated with PI(4-5)P₂ substrate for 6 h, and enzyme reaction and PIP₃ standards were then incubated with a PIP₃-binding protein. The mixture was transferred on a PIP₃-coated microplate for competitive binding. Afterwards, a peroxidase-linked detector was added, allowing colorimetric detection of the amount of PIP₃ produced by comparison with the standard curve.

Flow cytometry

Cell membrane staining and the flow cytometry-based phenotypic analyses were performed according to standard flow cytometry methods. The following validated antibodies were used: anti-CD3 (UCHT1), anti-CD4 (OKT4), anti-CD8 (RPA-T8), anti-CD14 (M5E2), anti-CD19 (HIB19), anti-CD25 (BC96), anti-CD27 (O323), anti-CD28 (CD28.2), anti-CD56 (HCD56), anti-CD57 (NK.1), anti-CD107a/b (H4A3/HAB4), anti-CD137 (4B4-1), anti-CD161 (HP-3G10), anti-TCR V α 7.2 (3C10), and anti-IgM (MHM88; all purchased from BioLegend); anti-CD16 (3G8), anti-CD45RA (HI100), anti-CD45RO (UCHL1), anti-CD197/CCR7 (3D12), anti-Perforin (dG9), anti-TCR $\alpha\beta$ (OT31), and anti-IgD (IA6-2; BD Biosciences); anti-CD21 (BL13), anti-TCR $\gamma\delta$ (IMMY510), anti-TCR V α 24 (C15), and anti-TCR V β 11 (X21; Beckman Coulter). These antibodies were conjugated to FITC, PE, phycoerythrin-cyanin5 (PE-Cy5), PE-Cy5.5, PE-Cy7, peridinin-chlorophyll, peridinin-chlorophyll-Cy5.5, allophycocyanin, allophycocyanin-Cy7, allophycocyanin-Vio7, Brilliant Violet 421 (BV421), BV510, BV605, BV650, BV711, or BV785. For phosflow staining, 10⁶ cells were incubated in 1 ml PBS with 1 μ g/ml anti-CD3, pelleted, resuspended in 100 μ l hot PBS containing 2 μ g/ml rabbit anti-mouse cross-linker, incubated at 37°C for 5 min, fixed with 1 ml preheated phosflow fix buffer 1 (BD

Biosciences), and then permeabilized with phosflow perm buffer 3 (BD Biosciences) according to manufacturer's instructions. Cells were then incubated with Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated anti-AKT phosphorylated on S473 antibody (D9E; Cell Signaling) or Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated anti-AKT phosphorylated on T308 antibody (C31E5E; Cell Signaling). All data were collected on an LSRFortessa X-20 cytometer (BD Biosciences).

Proliferation assays

T cell blasts were washed and cultured without IL-2 for 72 h to synchronize the cells. T cell blasts or PBMCs were labeled with CellTrace Violet dye (Invitrogen) or CFSE (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Cells were then cultured for 4 to 7 d in complete Panserin 401 medium alone or in the presence of 0.1, 1, or 10 μ g/ml immobilized anti-CD3 antibody (clone OKT3; eBioscience), dynabeads Human T-Activator CD3/CD28 (Invitrogen), 100 IU/ml IL-2, 2.5 μ g ml⁻¹ PHA, or 10⁻⁵ M ionomycin (Sigma-Aldrich) plus 10⁻⁷ M PMA (Sigma-Aldrich). Cells were surface stained for CD3, CD4, CD8, and CD25 detection and analyzed by flow cytometry (LSRFortessa X-20; BD Biosciences). Proliferation assays with coculture of T cells with the P815 cells or EBV B cells have been previously described elsewhere (Wen et al., 2002; Izawa et al., 2017). Briefly, irradiated P815 expressing or not CD137L or irradiated EBV B cell lines (LCLs) expressing CD70 were preincubated with soluble 0.25 μ g ml⁻¹ anti-CD3 antibody, washed, and cocultured with PBMCs or T cell blasts labeled with CellTrace Violet dye. The proliferation index (corresponding to the total number of divisions divided by the number of cells that went into division) was calculated using FlowJo software (TreeStar).

Calcium flux analysis

Ca²⁺ influx was assessed by real-time flow cytometry, as previously described (Martin et al., 2014). Briefly, cells were loaded with 5 μ M Indo-1 AM (Molecular Probes) in presence of 2.5 mM of probenecid (PowerLoad; Molecular Probes), washed, and surface stained for CD4 and CD8 detection. Cells were analyzed in real time with a FACS ARIA II flow cytometer (BD Biosciences). During acquisition, 1 μ g ml⁻¹ anti-CD3 antibody was added to the cells, followed by 10 μ g ml⁻¹ of F(ab')₂ rabbit-anti-mouse IgG cross-linker (Jackson ImmunoResearch) and finally incubated with a calcium ionophore (1 mM ionomycin; Sigma). Changes in the intracellular calcium concentration are quantified by a shift in the indo-1 emission peak from 485 nm (indo-blue) for unbound dye to 405 nm (indo-violet) when the indo-1 molecule is bound to calcium. Data were analyzed using kinetic tool of FlowJo software (TreeStar). Intracellular Ca²⁺ levels correspond to the normalized ratio of 405 nm/485 nm indo-1 emission peaks.

Apoptosis assay

T cell blasts were left unstimulated or stimulated for 12 h with 0.01, 0.1, 1, and 10 μ g ml⁻¹ immobilized anti-CD3 (clone OKT3) or cross-linked anti-FAS antibody (clone Apo1.3) as previously described (Rigaud et al., 2006). Cells were then washed and stained for viability (viaprobe; BD Biosciences); surface

expression of CD3, CD4, and CD8; and surface localization of phosphatidylserines using PE-conjugated Annexin-V (BD Biosciences) and analyzed by flow cytometry. Apoptotic cells corresponding to Annexin V⁺/viaprobe⁻ cells.

Degranulation assay

T cell blasts were stimulated for 4 h with 0.3, 3, and 30 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ of immobilized anti-CD3 in the presence of PE-conjugated anti-LAMP-1/2 (H4A3, H4B4; BD Biosciences) as previously described (Martin et al., 2014). Cells were then washed and stained for surface expression of CD3 and CD8 and analyzed by flow cytometry.

Statistical analyses

Data were analyzed using paired and unpaired Student's *t* test or one-way ANOVA with a post hoc Bonferroni *t* test using PRISM software (GraphPad).

Online supplemental material

Fig. S1 shows the infiltrate of EBV-infected CD3⁺CD8⁺ T cells in hydroa vacciniforme-like lesions from a skin biopsy of the patient. Fig. S2 shows that correction of CD137 expression in CD4⁺ CD137-deficient T cells from the sister restores their capacity to proliferate in response to CD137L-expressing cells. Fig. S3 shows that sequencing of the mutation by Sanger or NGS does not reveal any reversion genetic event in lymphocytes from the patient and his sister. Fig. S4 shows additional functional analyses of T cells from the patient and his sister, including apoptosis, degranulation, phospho-PLC- γ 1, phospho-AKT, calcium flux, and proliferation. Fig. S5 shows signaling analyses of PIK3CD/p110 δ -deficient Jurkat T cells obtained by targeting PIK3CD exon 5 by CRISPR-Cas9 and reconstituted or not with WT, R821H, or E1021K p110 δ .

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