

## CM2 antigen, a potential novel molecule participating in glucuronide transport on rat hepatocyte canalicular membrane

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### Abstract

The polarized molecules predominately distributing at hepatocyte canalicular surface play a vital role in disclosing the process of bile formation and etiopathogenesis of cholestatic live diseases. Therefore, it is important to find novel polarized molecules on hepatocyte canalicular membrane. In the present study, canalicular membrane vesicles (CMVs) isolated from rat hepatocyte by density gradient centrifugation were used as immunogens to produce hybridoma and 46 strains of monoclonal antibodies (mAb) against CMVs were obtained. With a series of morphological assay methods, including immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence and immuno-electron microscope, the antigens recognized by canalicular mAb1 (CM1) and canalicular mAb2 (CM2) were confirmed to predominately distribute at hepatocyte canalicular membrane. Transport activity assay revealed that CM2 could inhibit ATP-dependent E217βG uptake of rat hepatocyte CMVs. Meanwhile, Western blotting analysis showed that the molecular mass of CM2 antigen was approximately 110kDa, which was much less than Mr 180kDa of multidrug resistance-associated protein 2 (MRP2) involved in glucuronide transport. These data indicated that CM2 antigen might be a potential novel molecule participating in glucuronide transport on the hepatocyte canalicular membrane.

### Introduction

Hepatocyte exhibits a striking polarity with three distinct membrane surfaces, which are sinusoidal, canalicular and lateral surfaces.

Different surface represents the unique morphological and functional characteristics. Bile secretion is mediated by many polarized molecules on hepatocyte canalicular membrane, which is characterized by numerous microvilli and has special transport activities.<sup>1</sup>

So far, many polarized molecules including enzymes, receptors, transporters and exchangers, are identified to specifically localize to hepatocyte canalicular membrane.<sup>2</sup> These polarized molecules play important roles in various liver diseases, especially in cholestatic liver diseases. Due to hepatocyte damage, liver plasma membrane fragments are released into the circulation and several canalicular membrane specific enzymes in serum, such as glutamyltranspeptidase ( $\gamma$ -GT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), leucine aminopeptidase (LAP) and 5'-nucleotidase (5'-Nu), have been deemed as clinical diagnostic markers.<sup>3,4</sup> In addition, the absence or mutation of some transporters could directly lead to bile metabolism disorders. Dubin-Johnson syndrome, an autosomal recessive cholestatic disorder, results from the mutation of the multidrug resistance-associated protein 2 (MRP2) with the absence of MRP2 protein at hepatocyte canalicular membrane.<sup>5-7</sup> Mutations in code sequence of the familial intrahepatic cholestasis-1 (FIC1) contribute to Byler's disease, progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (PFIC) type 1, with severe and progressive intrahepatic cholestasis.<sup>8</sup> Besides, the lower expression, decreased immunoreactivities and defective transport activities of chloride-bicarbonate anion exchangers (AE2) could be associated with primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC) disease.<sup>9</sup>

Therefore, the present study aimed to find novel molecules distributing at the hepatocyte canalicular membrane with hybridoma technology and functional screening.

### Materials and Methods

#### Isolation and identification of rat canalicular membrane vesicles

According to the method described previously,<sup>10,11</sup> canalicular membrane vesicles (CMVs) and sinusoidal membrane vesicles (SMVs) were prepared from Sprague-Dawley rats liver homogenates using density gradient centrifugation method. Vesicles were suspended in 50 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.4) buffer containing 250 mM sucrose and frozen in liquid nitrogen until further use. The morphological and biochemical characteristics of isolated CMVs and SMVs were confirmed by transmission electron microscopy and enzyme assay respectively as described in our published paper.<sup>12</sup>

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Key words: hepatocyte canalicular membrane; glucuronide transport, canalicular mAb2 (CM2); hybridoma technique.

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### Immunization of animals and production of hybridomas

The rat CMVs were used as immunogens to produce hybridoma. In each case, BALB/c mice were immunized with 100  $\mu$ g proteins in comL. Wangplete Freund's adjuvant (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) and boosted twice with 50  $\mu$ g proteins in incomplete Freund's adjuvant (Sigma) at 3-week intervals. After immunization, serological responses to CMVs were monitored by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Selected mice were intravenously boosted with 30  $\mu$ g proteins in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) 3 days before sacrifice. According to the standard hybridoma technique, spleen cells were fused with SP2/0 myeloma cells using polyethylene glycol and hybridomas were cultured in HAT (hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine) selective growth medium. Seven-eight d after fusion, hybridoma cell supernatants were screened with ELISA and immunohistochemistry methods respectively. Positive hybridomas were cloned by limiting dilution.

### ELISA

Ninety-six well ELISA plates (Corning

Costar Corp., Cambridge, MA, USA) were coated with CMVs (10 µg/mL of CMVs in 0.05 M bicarbonate buffer, pH 9.6, 100 µL/well) overnight at 4°C. The coated wells were washed with PBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (Sigma, PBST) and then blocked with PBS containing 2% (w/v) BSA for 2 h at 37°C. Hybridoma cell supernatants were added to the wells (100 µL/well) and incubated for 1 h at 37°C. After three rinses with PBST, the wells were incubated with 5000-fold diluted horseradish peroxidase labelled anti-mouse IgG (Zhongshan Corp, Peking, China) for 1 h at 37°C. Reaction product was visualized with citric acid solution (pH 9.6) containing 0.5 mg/mL ABTS (Sigma) and 2 µL/mL H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 10 min at 37°C. At last, the plates were read at a wave length of 405 nm on an automatic microplate reader (Model 680, Bio-Rad Lab, Hercules, CA, USA).

### Immunohistochemistry

Sections of paraformaldehyde-fixed and paraffin-embedded rat liver, small intestine, colon and renal tissues were treated with xylene for 30 min to remove paraffin, rehydrated for 5 min each with 95%, 85%, and 75% ethanol, treated for 15 min in a microwave oven with 0.05 M glycine-HCl (pH 7.4) for antigen retrieval, and treated for 20 min with 3% hydrogen peroxide to eliminate endogenous peroxidase activity. Sections were incubated with 10% normal goat serum (NGS) for 1 h at room temperature and then with hybridoma cell supernatant overnight at 4°C. Sections were rinsed in PBS three times and incubated with horseradish peroxidase labeled goat anti-mouse IgG (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark) for 1 h at room temperature. Reaction products were visualized with diaminobenzidine (Maixin-Bio Inc., Fuzhou, China) for 5 min. Sections were counterstained with hematoxylin (Santa Cruz Biotech Inc., Santa Cruz, CA, USA), dehydrated and mounted. Images were obtained under a light microscope (Olympus BX51, Olympus, Japan).

### Pre-embedding immunogold-silver cytochemistry

Pre-embedding immunogold-silver cytochemistry was performed as previously described.<sup>13</sup> The deeply anesthetized rats were perfused transcardially with 150 mL warm saline, followed by 500 mL ice-cold mixture of 4% paraformaldehyde, 0.05% glutaraldehyde, and 15% (v/v) saturated picric acid in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) for 2 h. The rat liver tissues were removed and postfixed by immersion in the same fixative for 3 h at 4°C. Serial liver sections of 50 µm thickness were prepared and placed in PBS containing 25% sucrose and 10% glycerol for 1 h. After a freeze-

thaw treatment, sections were immersed in PBS containing 5% BSA and 5% NGS to block nonspecific immunoreactivity, incubated with CM1 or CM2 hybridoma cell supernatant and goat anti-mouse IgG conjugated to 1.4 nm gold particles at 1:100 dilution (Nanoprobes, Stony Brook, NY, USA). After rinsing, sections were postfixed in 2% glutaraldehyde and silver enhancement was carried out in the dark with HQ Silver Kit (Nanoprobes). After fixing with 0.5% osmium tetroxide in 0.1 M phosphate buffer for 1 h, immunolabeled sections were dehydrated in graded ethanol series, then in propyleneoxide, and finally embedded in Epon 812. After mounting the ultra thin sections on mesh grids (six to eight sections/grid), they were counterstained and observed under a JEM-1230 electron microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

### Immunofluorescence

The ice-frozen sections were incubated with CM1 or CM2 hybridoma cell supernatant and anti-CD13 rabbit polyclonal antibody (Santa Cruz Biotech Inc.), then reacted with FITC-conjugated goat anti-mouse secondary antibody and tetraethyl rhodamine isothiocyanate-conjugated goat anti-rabbit secondary antibody (Santa Cruz Biotech Inc.). Sections were washed before visualization with confocal microscope (Fluoview-FV10i, Olympus Corp., Tokyo, Japan).

### Purification and isotype assay of antibody

High-titer antibody preparation was obtained from the ascites fluid of mice inoculated intraperitoneally with hybridoma cells (2.5×10<sup>6</sup> cells/mouse). The purification of ascites was performed according to the protocol of antibody purification kit (Pierce, Rockford, IL, USA). Protein concentration was determined using the bovine serum albumin (BSA) protein assay kit (Bio-rad Lab, Hercules, CA, USA). The isotype of monoclonal antibody was identified with Amersham mouse monoclonal antibody isotyping kit (HyCult Biotech, Uden, The Netherlands).

### Transport activity assay with CMVs

[3H]17β-estradiol-17β-D-glucuronide (E217βG, 55 Ci/mmol) was purchased from PerkinElmer Life Science, Inc. (Boston, MA, USA). Transport activity assay was performed using a rapid filtration technique as described previously.<sup>14</sup> In brief, reaction mixture consisted of transport medium (10 mM Tris-HCl, 250 mM sucrose, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 7.4), 2×10<sup>-3</sup> mCi/mL [3H]-E217βG, 5 mM ATP, ATP-regenerating system (10 mM creatine phosphate and 100 µg/µL creatine phosphokinase) and

different concentration of purified CM1 or CM2 antibody (1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 µg/mL). Normal mouse IgG was used as control. Fifteen µL reaction mixture was preincubated at 37°C for different time, rapidly mixed with 5 µL CMVs suspension (10 µg proteins) and then terminated by adding 1 mL ice-cold stop solution (250 mM sucrose, 0.1 M NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4). The stopped reaction mixture was filtered through a 0.45-µm membrane filter (Millipore Corp, Temecula, CA, USA) and then washed twice with 5 mL stop solution. Radioactivity (dpm) retained on the filter reacted with 50 µL scintillation cocktail and was determined in a liquid scintillation counter (LKB 1215, Bromma, Sweden). The ATP-dependent uptake was calculated by subtracting dpm values in the absence of ATP from that in the presence of ATP.

### Western blot

The proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and transferred to the nitrocellulose membrane. Non-specific binding was blocked with TBS buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl and 150 mM NaCl) containing 10% (w/v) skim milk for 2 h at room temperature. Then, the membrane was incubated with hybridoma culture supernatant overnight at 4°C, rinsed with TBS containing 0.05% Tween-20 (TBST) for three times, then followed by incubation with HRP-conjugated goat anti mouse IgG (1:2000 dilution) for 2 h. Finally, the membrane was treated with enhanced chemoluminescence reagent (Santa Cruz Biotech Inc.) and exposed to Kodak X-ray film.

### Statistical analysis

All statistical analysis was performed with Student's *t*-test by Statistical SPSS software package (Version 12.0; SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). Differences were considered statistically different at *P*<0.05.

## Results

### Distribution of CM1 and CM2 antigens on rat liver tissues

With rat CMVs as immunogens to immunize mice and prepare hybridoma cells, we obtained 46 strains of monoclonal antibodies against CMVs by ELISA screening. Immunohistochemistry assay showed that the distribution of only two strains of mAb, termed as canalicular mAb1 (CM1) and canalicular mAb2 (CM2) respectively, were highly distinctive of the hepatocyte canalicular membrane: anastomosing networks of branched channels as well as circular profiles restricted to regions

between adjacent hepatocytes. At high magnification, staining appeared to be associated either with the luminal cell surface or with intraluminal convoluted particles. There was no sinusoidal plasma membrane or intracellular staining of both CM1 and CM2 (Figure 1). In addition, the CM1 antigen was present in the brush border of interlobular bile duct epithelium (Figure 1A), but CM2 antigen was not (Figure 1D). Immunoglobulin subclass determination results showed that the isotypes of both CM1 and CM2 were confirmed to be IgG2a/ $\kappa$  type.

### Distribution of CM1 and CM2 antigens on rat small intestine, colon and kidney tissues

As intestine and renal tubular epithelial cells also exhibit a striking polarity, we further explored the distribution of CM1 and CM2 antigens on rat small intestine, colon and kidney tissues. It was shown that CM1 and CM2 antigens also specifically expressed on the brush border of small intestine, colon and proximal tubule epithelial cells (Figure 2). However, staining of CM2 antigen on proximal tubule epithelial cells was much less than that of CM1 antigen (Figure 2 C,F). In addition, CM2 antigen was positive at vascular endothelial cells (Figure 2F), but CM1 antigen was negative (*data not shown*).

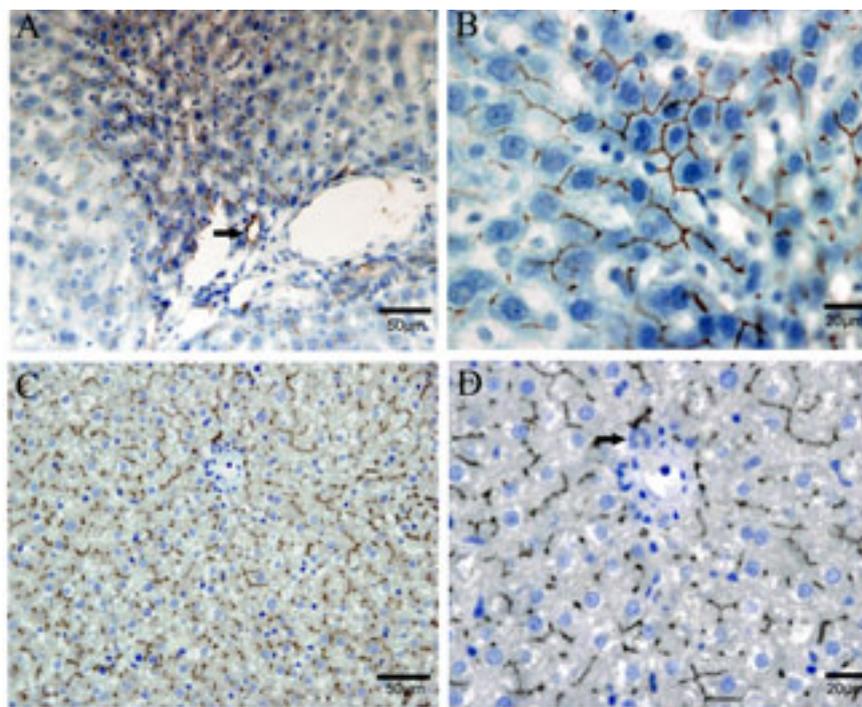
### Subcellular localization of CM1 and CM2 antigens in rat hepatocyte

To confirm the distribution of CM1 and CM2 antigens in rat hepatocyte canalicular membrane, subcellular localization was further determined by immunofluorescence, immuno-electron microscope and organelle protein quantitative analysis. CD13 exhibited a characteristic of strict distribution on the canalicular membrane of hepatocyte,<sup>15</sup> so we observed the co-localization of CD13 and CM1 or CM2 antigens by confocal microscopy. The results showed that CM1 or CM2 antigen stained green was completely overlapping with CD13 stained red in the regions between adjacent hepatocytes (Figure 3 A-C, E-G).

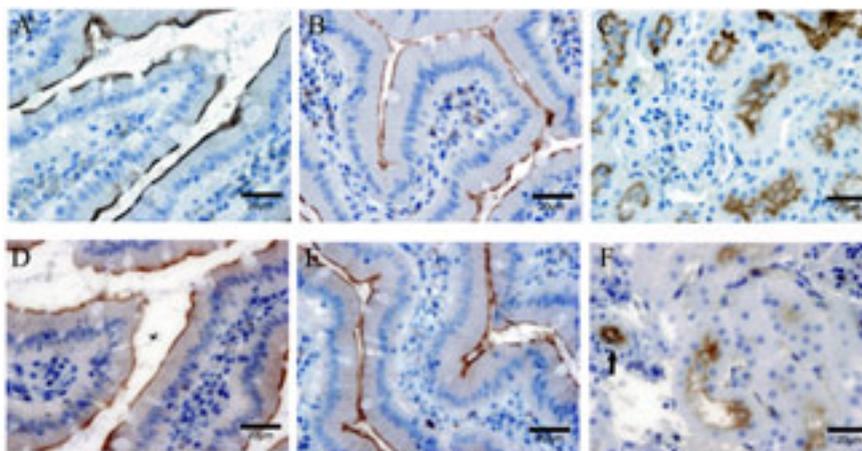
Pre-embedding immunogold-silver cytochemistry also demonstrated that CM1 and CM2 antigens were almost entirely restricted to the canalicular membrane and was negative on the sinusoidal or lateral membrane of hepatocytes (Figure 3 D,H). Furthermore, we quantitatively analyzed the expression of CM1 and CM2 antigens in rat hepatocyte CMVs and SMVs by western blot. It showed that either CM1 or CM2 antigens in rat hepatocyte CMVs was much more than that in hepatocyte SMVs (Figure 4A).

### Identification and characterization of CM1 and CM2 antigens

Western blot showed CM1 recognized a sin-



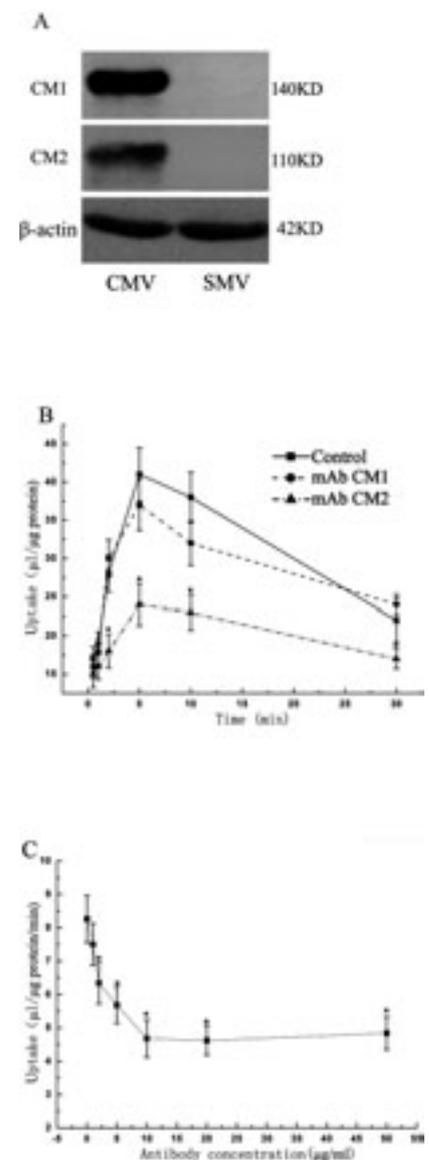
**Figure 1.** Distribution of CM1 and CM2 antigens on rat liver tissue by immunohistochemistry analysis. A, B) Distribution of CM1 antigen on rat liver tissue. C, D) Distribution of CM2 antigen on rat liver tissue. Both CM1 and CM2 antigens were high positive on the hepatocyte canalicular membrane, but not on sinusoidal membrane or intracellular staining. Brown areas represented positive staining, blue areas represented hematoxylin counterstaining and arrow represented interlobular bile duct.



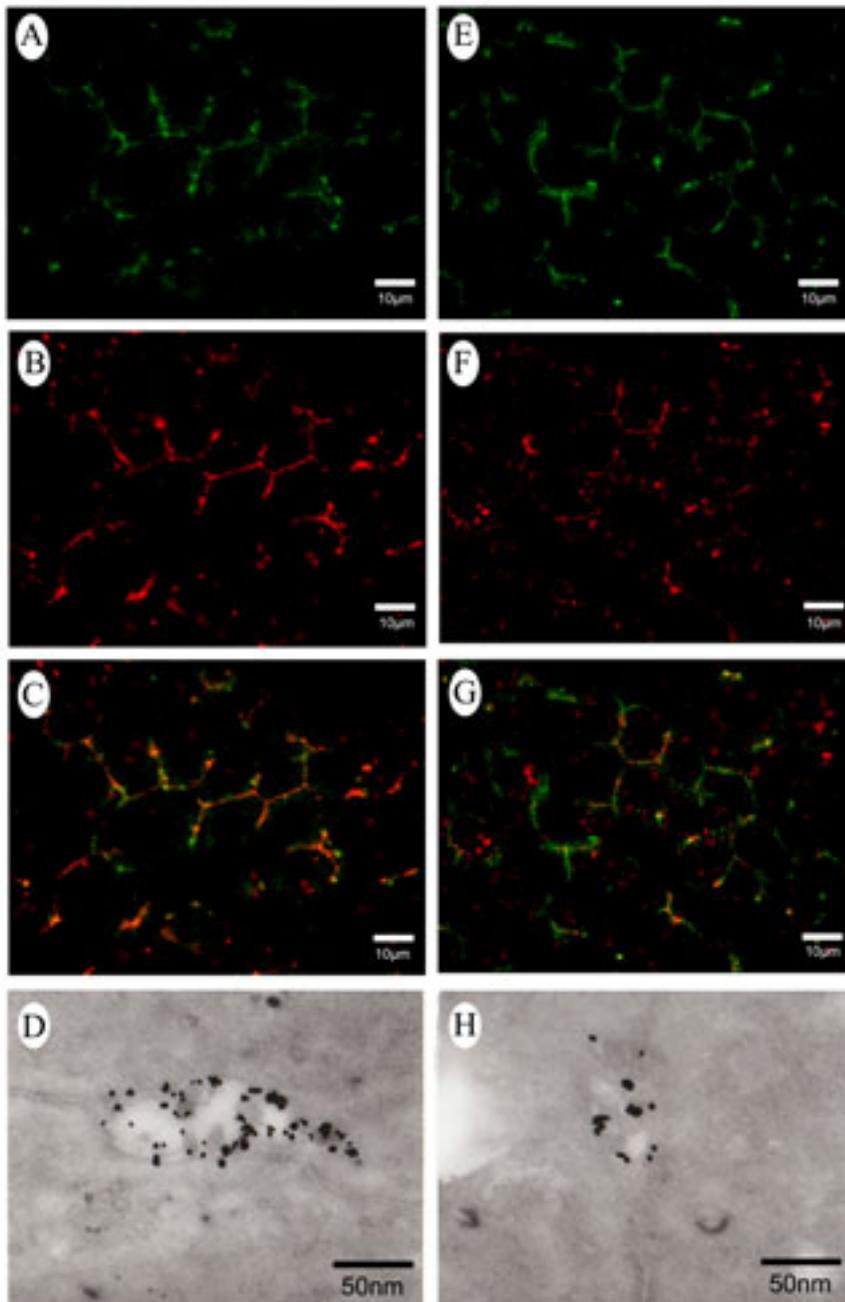
**Figure 2.** Distribution of CM1 and CM2 antigens in rat small intestine, colon and renal tissues by immunohistochemistry analysis. A, B, C) Distribution of CM1 antigen in rat small intestine, colon and renal tissues respectively; CM1 antigen specifically expressed on the brush border of small intestine, colon and proximal tubule epithelial cells. D, E, F) Distribution of CM2 antigen in rat small intestine, colon and renal tissues respectively; CM2 antigen displayed the same distribution pattern with CM1 antigen in small intestine and colon epithelial cells, but its staining intensity was remarkably less on proximal tubule epithelial cells compared with CM1 antigen; in addition, CM2 antigen was positive at vascular endothelial cells (arrow in F).

gle protein band with approximately Mr 140kDa and CM2 recognized a broad band at Mr 110kDa with a trailing shoulder (Figure 4A). Furthermore, we evaluated the effect of CM1 or CM2 on glucuronide transport activities of CMVs. It was noted that CM2 but not

CM1 could partially inhibit ATP-dependent E217 $\beta$ G uptake of CMVs (Figure 4B). In addition, CM2 inhibited ATP-dependent E217 $\beta$ G uptake of CMVs in a concentration-dependent manner and saturatus level was obtained at about 10  $\mu$ g/mL (Figure 4C).



**Figure 4.** Identification and characterization of CM1 and CM2 antigens. A) CM1 and CM2 antigens by western blot analysis; molecular mass of CM1 and CM2 antigens were approximately Mr 140 kDa and Mr 110 kDa respectively; either CM1 or CM2 antigens in rat hepatocyte CMVs was much more than that in hepatocyte SMVs. B) Effect on ATP-dependent E217 $\beta$ G uptake activities of CMVs of CM1 or CM2 (10  $\mu$ g/mL) for different incubated time (0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 min); CM2 inhibited most E217 $\beta$ G uptake activities of CMVs at 5 min. C) Effect on ATP-dependent E217 $\beta$ G uptake activities of CMVs of CM2 with different concentration of antibody (1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50  $\mu$ g/mL) when incubated for 5 min; CM2 inhibited E217 $\beta$ G uptake of CMVs in a concentration-dependent manner and saturatus level was obtained at about 10  $\mu$ g/mL. Points represented the average ATP-dependent uptake, which subtracted that in the absence of ATP; bars represented the SD. Statistics were performed by Student's *t*-test and significance (\*) means  $P < 0.05$ .



**Figure 3.** Subcellular localization of CM1 and CM2 antigens in rat hepatocyte. (A-C and E-G) Co-localization of CD13 and CM1 or CM2 antigens by confocal microscopy. Green fluorescence visualized CM1 and CM2 antigens, red fluorescence visualized CD13 (a marker of hepatocyte canalicular membrane), yellow fluorescence visualized co-localization of CD13 and CM1 or CM2 antigens. D, H) CM1 and CM2 antigens localization on hepatocyte canalicular membrane by Pre-embedding immunogold-silver cytochemistry; CM1 and CM2 antigens were almost entirely restricted to the canalicular membrane of hepatocyte; dots represent CM1 and CM2 antigens.

## Discussion

The polarized molecules predominately distributing at hepatocyte canalicular surface play a vital role in disclosing the process of bile formation and etiopathogenesis of cholestatic live diseases. Therefore, it is important to find novel polarized molecules on hepatocyte canalicular membrane. In our experiments, we utilized hybridoma technique and obtained 46 stains of monoclonal antibodies against rat hepatocyte CMVs, two of which, CM1 and CM2, were confirmed to predominately localize to hepatocyte canalicular membrane. According to their distinct cell-specific distribution, molecular mass and blocking activity of E217βG uptake, it was speculated that CM1 and CM2 antigens could be different polarized molecules on hepatocyte canalicular membrane.

The polarized molecules on hepatocyte canalicular membrane belong to plasma membrane (PM) proteins, which were often difficult to analysis in proteomics studies, due to their low abundant, insoluble, high molecular mass and complicated post-translational modification. Gel-based proteomics strategies, multidimensional liquid chromatography techniques coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), subtractive cDNA strategy and differential display technique were common approaches for studying PM proteomics,<sup>16</sup> but each had different disadvantages.

For example, Gel-based proteomics strategies had major limitations of poor sensitivity and narrow dynamic range to hydrophobic PM proteins.<sup>17</sup> LC-MS/MS was a high-throughput screening approach for efficient solubilization of hydrophobic proteins utilizing SDS, but had difficulties for comparative quantitation between biological samples and needing much experiments with morphological and biochemical methods to confirm the results.<sup>18</sup> Subtractive cDNA strategy and differential display technique could analyze the differentially expressed proteins but need phage-host biology and successful phage display.<sup>19</sup> The hybridoma approach was proved to be a powerful approach to screening PM proteins, which allowed us to use heterogeneous immunogens to obtain the most interesting antigens by further functional screening.<sup>20,21</sup> For example, rat hepatocyte plasma membrane proteins such as B10 and H4 were found using hybridoma technology and subsequently identified.<sup>22,23</sup> In our studies, we used subcellular fractions to aggregate the abundance of rat canalicular membrane proteins as heterogeneous immunogens. Meanwhile, we could also use the obtained mAbs to further screen our interesting proteins with morphological and functional methods.

MRP2 was identified to be the only known glucuronide transporter on the hepatocyte canalicular membrane, while many studies illustrated other unknown transporters should also be

responsible for the biliary excretion of glucuronide conjugate. Kouzuki *et al.* found that indomethacin glucuronide transport clearance across the bile canalicular membrane in hepa Eisai hyperbilirubinemic rats (EHBR) with MRP2 function hereditarily defective was approximately 50% that in Sprague-Dawley rats (SDRs).<sup>24</sup> Nishino *et al.* confirmed that no significant difference was observed in the biliary excretion of BIBR 277 glucuronide between SDRs and EHBR, although the plasma disappearance of BIBR 277 glucuronide was delayed in EHBR.<sup>25</sup> In our study, we found that CM2 antigen could inhibit ATP-dependent glucuronide uptake of CMVs (Figure 4B) and contribute to the glucuronide excretion.

As previous studies showed, almost all transporters on hepatocyte canalicular membrane such as bile salt-export pump (BSEP), multidrug resistance-1 (MDR1), multidrug resistance-3 (MDR3), and breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP) belong to ATP binding cassette (ABC) superfamily proteins.<sup>26-28</sup> Since the structure of ABC transporters were classified into seven transmembrane proteins, their molecular mass were much more than 140kDa except for BCRP,<sup>29</sup> a 72kDa half-transporter protein, which was believed to homodimerize, or possibly oligomerize in order to function. It should be noted that the molecular mass of CM2 antigen was just 110kDa, much less than those of classic ABC transporters. Thus, it could be assumed that

**Table 1. The known polarized molecules at the canalicular membrane of hepatocytes.**

Species	Proteins	Functions	Expression	Molecular mass (kDa)
<b>Enzymes</b>				
Rat/human	Alkaline phosphatase (ALP)	Phosphatase	Epithelia and other cells	63
Rat/human	Dipeptidylpeptidase IV (DPP IV)/CD 26	Ectoepitidase	Epithelia and other cells	110
Rat/human	B10	Alkaline phosphodiesterase	Epithelia	130
Rat/human	HA4/pp120 cell-CAM 105	EctoATPase	Epithelia	105-115
Rat/human	5' nucleotidase (5'NT)	Nucleotide hydrolase	Liver and other cells	72
Rat/human	Aminopeptidase N (APN)/CD 13/LAP	Peptidase	Epithelia and fibroblasts	140-160
<b>Skeleton proteins</b>				
Rat/human	Ezrin	Membrane/cytoskeleton link	Epithelia and fibroblasts	81
<b>Channel proteins</b>				
Rat/human	Aquaporin 8 (AQP8)	Water channels	Liver and other cells	30
<b>Exchangers</b>				
Rat/human	Anion exchanger 2 (AE2)	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> /Cl <sup>-</sup> anion exchange	Epithelia and other cells	160
<b>Transporters</b>				
Rat/human	Multidrug resistance-1 (MDR1) / P-glycoprotein (P-gp)/ABCB1	Pleiotropic membrane transporter	Epithelia and other cells	170
Human	Multidrug resistance-3 (MDR3)/ABCB3	Phospholipid transporter	Epithelia and other cells	170
Rat	Multidrug resistance-2 (Mdr2)/ABCB2	Phospholipid transporter	Epithelia and other cells	170
Rat/human	Multidrug resistance-associated protein-2 (MRP2)/ABCC2	Canalicular conjugate export pump	Epithelia and other cells	190
Rat/human	Bile salt export pump (BSEP)/Sister of P-glycoprotein (SPGP)/ABCB11	Canalicular efflux of bile salts	Epithelia and other cells	160
Rat/human	Breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP) ABCG2	Canalicular conjugate export pump	Epithelia and other cells	75
Rat/human	Familial intrahepatic cholestasis-1 (FIC1)/ATP8B1	Putative aminophospholipid translocator	Liver and other cells	144

CM2 antigen should not belong to ABC transporter and could indirectly participate in glucuronide transport as ABC transporters interacting proteins.

In all the known polarized molecules at hepatocyte canalicular membrane (Table 1), the molecular weight and distribution of CM2 antigen were nearly similar with those of dipeptidylpeptidase IV (DPP-IV) and cell-cell-adhesion molecule (cell-CAM 105).<sup>30-33</sup> However, DPP-IV, cell-CAM 105 and CM2 antigen actually displayed different characters in some details. First, DPP-IV was positive in the luminal portion of interlobular bile ducts and glomeruli, while CM2 antigen was negative (Figure 1 D,F). Second, CM2 antigen was positive at vascular endothelial cells (Figure 1F), while cell-CAM 105 was not. In addition, although cell-CAM 105 was identified to be an ATP-dependent taurocholate transporter, CM2 could partially inhibit ATP-dependent glucuronide uptake of CMVs (Figure 4B). Therefore, it suggested that CM2 antigen be neither DPP-IV nor cell-CAM 105.

Taken together, CM2 antigen predominately distributed at rat hepatocyte canalicular membrane and might be a potential novel molecule participating in glucuronide transport on rat hepatocyte canalicular membrane.

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