Immunoprofiling reveals novel mast cell receptors and a continuous nature of human lung mast cell heterogeneity

Short title: Immunoprofiling of human lung mast cells

Elin Rönnberg^{1,2}, Daryl Zhong Hao Boey^{1,2}, Avinash Ravindran^{1,2}, Jesper Säfholm^{2,3}, Ann-Charlotte Orre⁴, Mamdoh Al-Ameri⁴, Mikael Adner^{2,3}, Sven-Erik Dahlén^{2,3}, Joakim S. Dahlin^{1,2}, Gunnar Nilsson^{1,2,5}.

Affiliations:

¹Division of immunology and Allergy, Department of Medicine Solna, Karolinska Institutet, and SLL Karolinska University Hospital, Clinical limmunology and transfusion medicin, Stockholm, Sweden.

²Centre for Allergy Research, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm Sweden

³Unit for Experimental Asthma and Allergy Research, Centre for Allergy Research, The Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

⁴Thoracic Surgery, Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, and Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden.

⁵Department of Medical Sciences, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.

Acknowledgements

We thank Andrew Walls for the generous gift of CPA3 antibody. This study was supported by grants from the Swedish Research Council; the Heart-Lung Foundation; The Swedish Cancer Society; the Ellen, Walter and Lennart Hesselman's foundation; Tore Nilssons Foundation; the Lars Hiertas memory fund; the Konsul Th C Burghs Foundation; the Tornspiran Foundation; the O. E. and Edla Johanssons Foundation; the Swedish Society for Medical Research; The ChAMP (Centre for Allergy Research Highlights Asthma Markers of Phenotype) consortium funded by the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research; the AstraZeneca & Science for Life Laboratory Joint Research Collaboration; and the Karolinska Institutet.

Abstract

Background: Immunohistochemical analysis of granule-associated proteases have revealed that human lungs mast cells constitute a heterogeneous population of cells, with distinct subpopulations identified. However, a systematic and comprehensive analysis of cell surface markers to study human lung mast cell heterogeneity is yet to be performed.

Methods: Human lung mast cells were obtained from lung lobectomies and the expression of 332 cell surface markers were analyzed using flow cytometry and the LEGENDScreenTM kit. Markers that exhibited a high variance were selected for additional analyses to reveal whether they correlated and if discrete mast cell subpopulations were discernable.

Results: We identified expression of 102 surface markers on human lung mast cells. Several markers showed a high continuous variation of expression within the mast cell population. Six of these markers correlated: SUSD2, CD49a, CD326, CD34, CD66 and HLA-DR. The expression of these markers also correlated to the size and granularity of the mast cells. However, no marker produced an expression profile consistent with a bi- or multimodal distribution.

Conclusions: LEGENDScreen analysis identified more than 100 cell surface markers on mast cells, out of which 23 have to our knowledge not previously described on human mast cells. Several of the newly described markers are known to be involved in sensing the microenvironment, and their identification can shed new light on mast cell functions. The exhaustive expression profiling of the 332 surface markers failed to detect distinct mast cell subpopulations. Instead, we demonstrate a continuous nature of human lung mast cell heterogeneity.

Keywords: Human lung mast cells, heterogeneity, SUSD2

Introduction

Heterogeneity among mast cells has been known for long time and was first attributed to differential expression of proteoglycans in rodent mast cells, which gave them distinct staining patterns ¹. This led to the division of rodent mast cells into connective tissue mast cells and mucosal mast cells. In humans, mast cell heterogeneity has been based on the expression of mast cell proteases, i.e., the expression of tryptase only (MC_T) or those expressing both tryptase and chymase (MC_{TC}) as well as carboxypeptidase A ^{2,3}. These subtypes have been defined using immunohistochemistry, a method that produced binary results, that is absence or presence of expression. The MC_{TC} subtype is more predominant in connective tissues such as in the skin, while the MC_T subset is more prevalent in mucosal surfaces such as in the airways and the gastrointestinal tract ⁴.

Mast cells are found in the human lung in all different compartments; i.e., under the epithelium, in smooth muscle bundles, around pulmonary vessels, in the parenchyma and in close proximity to sensory nerves ⁵. Human lung mast cells (HLMC) are attributed to several important functions in health and diseases, such as host defense, induction of acute inflammatory responses, vascular regulation, bronchoconstriction and tissue remodeling ⁶⁻⁹. Heterogeneity of HLMCs was first described to be related to differences in cell size and functionality; i.e., response to secretagogoues^{10,11}. Later it was described that the MC_T subtype is the predominant subtype in the lung, except around pulmonary vessels where MC_T and MC_{TC} are found in equal numbers ². However, the heterogeneity among HLMC goes beyond size and protease expression as demonstrated by the differential expression of certain mast cell related markers (FcɛRI, IL-9R, 5-LO, LTC₄S etc.) among MC_T and MC_{TC} populations in different lung compartments ¹².

Mast cell heterogeneity have primarily been studied in a binary manner using immunohistochemistry, describing absence or presence of expression. Here, we used a quantitative flow cytometry-based approach to study HLMC heterogeneity, profiling the expression of 332 markers. None of these markers distinctly divided the mast cells into subpopulations. However, several markers showed a high degree of variation within the mast cell population with gradient- non-clustered expression pattern. Six of these markers correlated to each other, revealing a continuous nature of HLMC heterogeneity rather than distinct subpopulations.

Materials and Methods

Ethical Approval

The local ethics committee approved the collection of lung tissue from patients undergoing lobectomies, and all patients provided informed consent (Regionala Etikprövningsnämnden Stockholm, 2010/181-31/2).

Cell preparation

Single cell suspensions from macroscopically healthy human lung tissue were obtained as previously described ¹³. Briefly, human lung tissue was cut into small pieces and enzymatically digested for 45 min with DNase I and Collagenase. Thereafter, the tissue was mechanically disrupted by plunging through a syringe, the cells were washed, and debris was removed by 30% Percoll centrifugation. The cells were, after preparation, stained and analyzed by flow cytometry.

Flow cytometry

The following antibodies were used for surface staining: CD45-V500 (Clone HI30, BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA), CD14- APC-Cy7 (Clone M5E2, Biolegend, San Diego, CA, USA), CD117-APC (clone 104D2, BD Biosciences), FccRI-FITC (clone CRA1, Miltenyi Biotec, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany), FccRI-PE (clone CRA1, Biolegend), SUSD2-PE (clone W3D5, Biolegend), CD63- PE/Cy7 (Clone H5C6, BD Biosciences), CD49a-BV786 (Clone SR84, BD Biosciences), CD66a/c/e-A488 (clone ASL-32, Biolegend), CD326-BV650 (Clone 9C4, Biolegend), CD34-BV421 (Clone 581, BD Biosciences), HLA-DR-PE/Cy5 (Clone L243, Biolegend), CD344-PE/Vio770 (Clone CH3A4A7, Miltenyi Biotec). For the LEGENDScreenTM human cell Screening kit, that contain 342 antibodies all conjugated to PE (Cat. 70001, Biolegend), detailed in Supplementary Table S1, cells were first stained with CD45, CD117, CD14 and FccRI antibodies, thereafter they were stained with the kit according to the manufacturer's instructions. Mast cells were gated as CD45⁺, CD14^{low}, CD117^{high} (Figure 1). For intracellular staining, cells were fixed with 4% PFA and permeabilized using PBS-S buffer (0.1% saponin in PBS with 0.01 M HEPES). Unspecific binding was blocked using blocking buffer (PBS-S with 5% dry milk and 2% FCS). The cells were thereafter stained with tryptase antibodies (clone G3, Millipore, Burlington, MA, USA) conjugated in-house with an Alexa Flour 647 Monoclonal antibody labeling kit (Thermo

Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), or CPA3 antibodies (clone CA5, a kind gift from Andrew Walls, Southampton, UK) conjugated in-house with an Alexa Fluor[™] 488 Antibody Labeling Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The cells were analyzed using a BD FACSCanto (BD, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) or BD LSRFortessa, and FlowJo software version 10 (FlowJo LLC, Ashland, OR, USA) was used for flow cytometry data analysis.

Statistics

Statistical analyses were performed with GraphPad Prism software version 7.0b, or the Python environment (3.7) with the following packages: statsmodels (0.10.1), seaborn (0.9.0), scipy (1.4.1), pandas (1.1.0), numpy (1.18.1), matplotlib (3.1.3). For specific methods used see figure legends. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.001.

Results

Immunoprofiling of human lung mast cells

The expression of cell surface antigens was thoroughly investigated by flow cytometry using the LEGENDscreenTM kit containing 342 antibodies, including 10 isotype controls. The HLMCs were gated as CD45⁺, CD14^{low}, CD117^{high} (Figure 1A) and the gated HLMC population expressed high levels of tryptase, confirming the identity of the gated cells (Figure 1B). The expression of some relevant mast cell markers included in the LEGENDscreen are highlighted in figure 1C showing the percent positive cells, the median fluorescent intensity (MFI) and the significance of expression within the HLMC population. Many of the highly expressed markers on HLMCs are broadly expressed, such as β 2-microglobulin (B2M), CD44, and CD9 (Figure 1C). To determine which of the markers are more relevant for HLMCs, we compared the expression to CD45⁺CD14⁺CD117⁻FSC^{int}SSC^{low} cells (Figure 1A). Well-known monocyte markers such as CD11b, CD11c, CD31, CD141, CXCR1 and HLA-DR had higher expression on the CD14⁺ cells, whereas classical mast cell markers such as CD117, FccRI, CD203c, Siglec-8, and TSLPR, showed a higher expression on the HLMCs. The highest significant differences of HLMCs to the CD14+ cells included; CD9, CD59, CD274 and CD226 (Figure 1D). CD9 is a broadly expressed tetraspanin with a wide variety of functions, in mast cells it is abundantly expressed and has been implicated in chemotaxis and activation¹⁴. CD59 can prevent complement induced cytolytic cell death by preventing assembly of the complement membrane attack complex and have also been implicated in T cell activation¹⁵. CD274 is also known as programmed death ligand -1 (PD-L1) and can cause blockade of T-cell activation¹⁶. CD226 has received increasing interest in

recent years and can play a role in many immunological processes¹⁷ including enhancement of FcɛRI mediated activation in mast cells¹⁸. HLMCs significantly expressed (MFI compared to the fluorescent minus one (FMO) control) 102 out of the 332 markers included in the LEGENDScreen (Figure 2). Surface expression of 23 of those have to the best of our knowledge not been described on (non-neoplastic) human mast cells before (Table 1).

Heterogeneous expression of the high-affinity IgE receptor, FcERI

The LEGENDScreen analysis failed to capture significant staining of the high-affinity IgE receptor, FccRI (Figure 2). However, the use of the same antibody clone in the backbone staining panel likely explains this observation. To investigate this further we studied the expression of FccRI on mast cells separately from additional donors. The expression of CD117 and FccRI from four donors are shown in Figure 3A. Approximately one half were ~100% positive for the marker (Figure 3B). Furthermore, even in the 100% positive individuals the level of expression, i.e., MFI, varied considerably (Figure 3C).

Heterogeneous expression of cell surface markers with a continuous distribution

None of the markers clearly and consistently divided the HLMCs into subpopulations (data not shown). However, several markers showed a considerable continuous expression variation within the population, quantified by calculating the robust coefficient of variation (CV) (Table 2). The two antibodies with the highest CV was to the same antigen, SUSD2, a marker identified on mesenchymal and pluripotent stem cells with functional domains inherent to adhesion molecules ^{19,20}. Co-stainings of the seven highest CV markers revealed that six of these markers correlated (SUSD2, CD49a, CD326, CD34, CD66 and HLA-DR), while CD344 did not correlate to any of the other markers (figure 4, FMO controls in supplementary figure S1). Furthermore, to investigate if these markers correlated with the classical mast cell subtypes, MC_T or MC_{TC}, co-staining with anti-CPA3 was performed but no correlation was observed (Figure 4G, FMO control in supplementary figure S1). In addition, these markers did not show co-staining with any of the other markers that were included for gating purposes in the LEGENDScreen, including CD45, CD14, CD117 and the FcsRI receptor (data not shown). Furthermore, cells high in SUSD2 showed a higher FSC and SSC, indicating that they are bigger and have a higher inner complexity, i.e, have more granules (Figure 4 H-J). SUSD2 have been linked to proliferation in cancer cells ²¹, why we investigated the proliferation status of the cells with the proliferation marker Ki-67. However, in agreement

with that mast cells are long-lived cells with a low turnover ²² no staining was observed (Supplementary Figure S2.).

Discussion

Although attempts have been made to map cell-surface antigens on HLMCs ²³⁻²⁸, an extensive mapping including the heterogeneity of expression of the cell-surface antigens has not been carried out. In this study, we identified significant expression of 102 markers on the HLMCs out of which, to the best of our knowledge, 23 are novel mast cell markers (Table 1). Several of these markers are described as markers expressed on stem cells, including SSEA-5, SUSD2, W4A5, CD243, CD111, CD131 and CD164. The expression of stem cell markers on mast cells is in accordance with results from the FANTOM5 consortium, in which mast cells exhibit similarities with stem cells ²⁹. In some cases, our results are in disagreement with previous published data, for example CD4, CD10, CD36 and CD74 have previously been shown to not be expressed by HLMC ^{25,27}. This discrepancy might be explained by differences in the procedures, where to the contrary of published data we did not purify or culture the mast cells prior to analysis^{24,26-28}. Culturing mast cells have been shown to alter their phenotype and expression of cell surface receptors before ^{29,30}.

In an immunohistological study by Andersson et al. they found that the expression of the FccRI receptor on HLMC differed within different compartments of the lung, with mast cells present in the parenchyma being negative for FccRI ¹². In our study, it was not a clear-cut division of a negative and positive FccRI population but rather a continuous spectrum of different levels of expression and about 50 percent of the patients expressed FccRI on virtually all of the mast cells (Figure 3A). These discrepancies could be due to different detection limits of the two different techniques used, immunohistochemistry and flow cytometry. We measured the expression in a quantitative manner using flow cytometry, thus finding that there is a spectrum of different expression levels, while in the immunohistological study by Andersson et al. the cells were classified into FccRI positive/negative in a binary manner depending on the detection limit of the technique. We also observed a big variation of expression between individuals (Figure 3) and in line with our results this has previously been shown to be true also for human skin mast cells ³¹. The reason for the variation could be manifold as the surface expression of FccRI can be regulated in many different ways. It is, for example, upregulated by IL-4 and stabilized on the cell surface by the binding of IgE

antibodies³² and recently is was described that IL-33 downregulates the expression ^{33,34}, indicating that the state of inflammation in the tissue could influence the FccRI expression.

Human lung mast cells have been shown to be heterogenous, classically this have been studied using immunohistochemistry in a binary manner and they have been divided into MC_T and MC_{TC}, depending on whether or not the mast cell proteases chymase and CPA3 are detectable [6]. How this heterogeneity is reflected on heterogenous expression of cell surface markers is scarcely investigated. We investigated the heterogeneity of cell surface markers using flow cytometry in a quantitative manner and did not find any markers that distinctly and consistently divided the mast cells into subpopulations with a bi- or multimodal distribution (data not shown). We did however find several markers with considerable continuous variation of expression within the mast cell populations (Table 2) and co-staining revealed that six of these markers correlated, including SUSD2, CD49a, CD326, CD34, CD66 and HLA-DR (Figure 3). To investigate if these markers correlated to the classical mast cell subpopulations, MC_T and MC_{TC}, we co-stained SUSD2 with CPA3, but no correlation was detected ruling out the possibility that they are extracellular markers of the classical mast cell subtypes (Figure 4G). CD344 did not correlate to MC_T and MC_{TC} profile either (data not shown). CD88 have been reported to be a cell surface marker that distinguish the MC_{TC} from the MC_T subset³⁵, however in our hands we did not detect any expression of CD88 on the HLMC (Figure 2), thus we were unable to find an extracellular marker that distinguishes the classical mast cell subsets.

Considering that one of our six correlating heterogeneity markers, CD34, is expressed on circulating mast cell progenitors ³⁶, we speculated that these markers could identify cells in different stages of maturation. However, if that was the case one would expect that cells with a high expression of CD34, and by correlation all the other heterogeneity markers, to be small and contain few granules similar to mast cell progenitors³⁶. To the contrary, the cells had a higher FSC and SSC (Figure 4 H-J), suggesting that they are bigger and more granular, and therefore they are not likely to be immature mast cells. SUSD2 is a marker for pluripotent²⁰ and mesenchymal¹⁹ stem cells but it is also expressed in certain cancers where it has been linked to proliferation²¹, thus one could imagine that cells high in SUSD2 are proliferating. However, we could not detect any staining of the proliferation marker Ki67 in the HLMC (Supplementary figure S2). We also saw varying expression of HLA-DR, an MHC class II receptor that presents antigens to CD4⁺ T-cells, suggesting that cells high in the heterogeneity

markers could be able to present antigen and activate CD4⁺ T cells. There have initially been conflicting results from murine experiments regarding whether or not mast cells are able to present antigen and activate T cells via MHC II (reviewed in ³⁷). However, human mast cells that are present in close proximity to T cells in tonsils express HLA-DR and CD80, indicating that they can present antigen to CD4⁺ T cells ³⁸. *In vitro* derived human mast cells from CD34+ progenitors and *ex vivo* human skin mast cells have been shown to express MHC II and co-stimulatory ligands when stimulated with IFN- γ and activate T cells in an antigendependent manner ^{38,39}. In this context it is worth noting that the co-stimulatory ligands for T cell activation, CD80, CD86, CTLA-4 (CD152), OX40L (CD252), Tim-1, Tim-4, 41BB-L (CD137L), ICOS-L (CD275), CD70, CD40, LIGHT (CD258) and CD112 were not detected on the HLMC, while CD48, CD58, CD155 and HVEM (CD270) were expressed (Figure 2). The co-inhibitory ligands PD-L1 (CD274) and PD-L2 (B7-DC, CD273) were also expressed, while Galectin-9 was not detected (Figure 2)⁴⁰. Thus, the HLMCs are endowed with receptors/ligands given them possibilities to interact with and regulate T cells and the adaptive immunity ^{41,42}.

In summary, we found expression of 102 cell surface antigens on HLMC, several of which had a high continuous variability of expression within the mast cell population. The expression of six of these markers correlated to each other (SUSD2, CD49a, CD326, CD34, CD66 and HLA-DR) and the size and granularity of the cells. Further studies are needed to determine how these cells differ functionally. To the contrary of the dogma of distinct mast cell subtypes, we demonstrate a continuous nature of HLMC heterogeneity.

References

- 1. Enerback L. Mast cells in rat gastrointestinal mucosa. 2. Dye-binding and metachromatic properties. *Acta Pathol Microbiol Scand*. 1966;66(3):303-312.
- 2. Irani AA, Schechter NM, Craig SS, DeBlois G, Schwartz LB. Two types of human mast cells that have distinct neutral protease compositions. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 1986;83(12):4464-4468.
- 3. Irani AM, Goldstein SM, Wintroub BU, Bradford T, Schwartz LB. Human mast cell carboxypeptidase. Selective localization to MCTC cells. *J Immunol*. 1991;147(1):247-253.
- 4. Metcalfe DD, Baram D, Mekori YA. Mast cells. *Physiol Rev.* 1997;77(4):1033-1079.
- 5. Balzar S, Fajt ML, Comhair SA, et al. Mast cell phenotype, location, and activation in severe asthma. Data from the Severe Asthma Research Program. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2011;183(3):299-309.

- 6. Holgate ST, Hardy C, Robinson C, Agius RM, Howarth PH. The mast cell as a primary effector cell in the pathogenesis of asthma. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 1986;77(2):274-282.
- 7. Erjefalt JS. Mast cells in human airways: the culprit? *Eur Respir Rev.* 2014;23(133):299-307.
- 8. Arthur G, Bradding P. New Developments in Mast Cell Biology: Clinical Implications. *Chest.* 2016;150(3):680-693.
- 9. Bradding P, Walls AF, Holgate ST. The role of the mast cell in the pathophysiology of asthma. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2006;117(6):1277-1284.
- 10. Schulman ES, Kagey-Sobotka A, MacGlashan DW, Jr., et al. Heterogeneity of human mast cells. *J Immunol*. 1983;131(4):1936-1941.
- 11. Lowman MA, Rees PH, Benyon RC, Church MK. Human mast cell heterogeneity: histamine release from mast cells dispersed from skin, lung, adenoids, tonsils, and colon in response to IgE-dependent and nonimmunologic stimuli. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 1988;81(3):590-597.
- 12. Andersson CK, Mori M, Bjermer L, Lofdahl CG, Erjefalt JS. Novel site-specific mast cell subpopulations in the human lung. *Thorax*. 2009;64(4):297-305.
- 13. Ravindran A, Ronnberg E, Dahlin JS, et al. An Optimized Protocol for the Isolation and Functional Analysis of Human Lung Mast Cells. *Front Immunol.* 2018;9:2193.
- 14. Brosseau C, Colas L, Magnan A, Brouard S. CD9 Tetraspanin: A New Pathway for the Regulation of Inflammation? *Front Immunol.* 2018;9:2316.
- 15. Venneker GT, Asghar SS. CD59: a molecule involved in antigen presentation as well as downregulation of membrane attack complex. *Exp Clin Immunogenet*. 1992;9(1):33-47.
- 16. Qin W, Hu L, Zhang X, et al. The Diverse Function of PD-1/PD-L Pathway Beyond Cancer. *Front Immunol.* 2019;10:2298.
- 17. Huang Z, Qi G, Miller JS, Zheng SG. CD226: An Emerging Role in Immunologic Diseases. *Front Cell Dev Biol.* 2020;8:564.
- 18. Bachelet I, Munitz A, Mankutad D, Levi-Schaffer F. Mast cell costimulation by CD226/CD112 (DNAM-1/Nectin-2): a novel interface in the allergic process. *J Biol Chem.* 2006;281(37):27190-27196.
- 19. Sivasubramaniyan K, Harichandan A, Schumann S, et al. Prospective isolation of mesenchymal stem cells from human bone marrow using novel antibodies directed against Sushi domain containing 2. *Stem Cells Dev.* 2013;22(13):1944-1954.
- 20. Bredenkamp N, Stirparo GG, Nichols J, Smith A, Guo G. The Cell-Surface Marker Sushi Containing Domain 2 Facilitates Establishment of Human Naive Pluripotent Stem Cells. *Stem Cell Reports*. 2019;12(6):1212-1222.
- 21. Umeda S, Kanda M, Miwa T, et al. Expression of sushi domain containing two reflects the malignant potential of gastric cancer. *Cancer Med.* 2018;7(10):5194-5204.
- 22. Kiernan JA. Production and life span of cutaneous mast cells in young rats. *J Anat.* 1979;128(Pt 2):225-238.
- 23. Wimazal F, Ghannadan M, Muller MR, et al. Expression of homing receptors and related molecules on human mast cells and basophils: a comparative analysis using multi-color flow cytometry and toluidine blue/immunofluorescence staining techniques. *Tissue Antigens*. 1999;54(5):499-507.
- 24. Ghannadan M, Hauswirth AW, Schernthaner GH, et al. Detection of novel CD antigens on the surface of human mast cells and basophils. *Int Arch Allergy Immunol.* 2002;127(4):299-307.
- 25. Agis H, Fureder W, Bankl HC, et al. Comparative immunophenotypic analysis of human mast cells, blood basophils and monocytes. *Immunology*. 1996;87(4):535-543.

- 26. Florian S, Sonneck K, Czerny M, et al. Detection of novel leukocyte differentiation antigens on basophils and mast cells by HLDA8 antibodies. *Allergy*. 2006;61(9):1054-1062.
- 27. Ghannadan M, Baghestanian M, Wimazal F, et al. Phenotypic characterization of human skin mast cells by combined staining with toluidine blue and CD antibodies. *J Invest Dermatol.* 1998;111(4):689-695.
- 28. Sperr WR, Agis H, Czerwenka K, et al. Differential expression of cell surface integrins on human mast cells and human basophils. *Ann Hematol.* 1992;65(1):10-16.
- 29. Motakis E, Guhl S, Ishizu Y, et al. Redefinition of the human mast cell transcriptome by deep-CAGE sequencing. *Blood*. 2014;123(17):e58-67.
- 30. Guhl S, Neou A, Artuc M, Zuberbier T, Babina M. Skin mast cells develop nonsynchronized changes in typical lineage characteristics upon culture. *Exp Dermatol.* 2014;23(12):933-935.
- 31. Babina M, Guhl S, Artuc M, Trivedi NN, Zuberbier T. Phenotypic variability in human skin mast cells. *Exp Dermatol.* 2016;25(6):434-439.
- 32. Kraft S, Kinet JP. New developments in FcepsilonRI regulation, function and inhibition. *Nat Rev Immunol.* 2007;7(5):365-378.
- 33. Ronnberg E, Ghaib A, Ceriol C, et al. Divergent Effects of Acute and Prolonged Interleukin 33 Exposure on Mast Cell IgE-Mediated Functions. *Front Immunol.* 2019;10:1361.
- 34. Babina M, Wang Z, Franke K, Guhl S, Artuc M, Zuberbier T. Yin-yang of IL-33 in human skin mast cells: reduced degranulation, but augmented histamine synthesis through p38 activation. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2019.
- 35. Oskeritzian CA, Zhao W, Min HK, et al. Surface CD88 functionally distinguishes the MCTC from the MCT type of human lung mast cell. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2005;115(6):1162-1168.
- 36. Dahlin JS, Malinovschi A, Ohrvik H, et al. Lin- CD34hi CD117int/hi FcepsilonRI+ cells in human blood constitute a rare population of mast cell progenitors. *Blood*. 2016;127(4):383-391.
- 37. Kambayashi T, Laufer TM. Atypical MHC class II-expressing antigen-presenting cells: can anything replace a dendritic cell? *Nat Rev Immunol.* 2014;14(11):719-730.
- 38. Suurmond J, van Heemst J, van Heiningen J, et al. Communication between human mast cells and CD4(+) T cells through antigen-dependent interactions. *Eur J Immunol.* 2013;43(7):1758-1768.
- 39. Lotfi-Emran S, Ward BR, Le QT, et al. Human mast cells present antigen to autologous CD4(+) T cells. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2018;141(1):311-321 e310.
- 40. Chen L, Flies DB. Molecular mechanisms of T cell co-stimulation and co-inhibition. *Nat Rev Immunol.* 2013;13(4):227-242.
- 41. Galli SJ, Nakae S, Tsai M. Mast cells in the development of adaptive immune responses. *Nat Immunol.* 2005;6(2):135-142.
- 42. Bulfone-Paus S, Bahri R. Mast Cells as Regulators of T Cell Responses. *Front Immunol.* 2015;6:394.

Marker (clone)	Description
CD36	Receptor binding a broad range of lipids

CD45RO	Isoform of CD45
CD66a/c/e	Adhesion molecules
CD74	Involved in MHC class II antigen processing and a receptor for
	macrophage migration inhibitory factor.
CD111	Adhesion molecule
CD115	Receptor for M-CSF and IL-34.
CD131	Common β subunit of the IL-3, IL-5 and GM-CSF receptors
CD143	Metallopeptidase
CD148	Tyrosine phosphatase involved in signal transduction
CD164	Sialomucin involved in cell adhesion and proliferation
CD166	Glycoprotein involved in cell adhesion and migration
CD205	Endocytic receptor involved in antigen uptake and processing
CD243	Involved in transportation of molecules across cell membranes
CD270	Receptor for TNFSF14, BTLA, LTA and CD160
CD277	Regulate T cell responses
CD317	Blocks the release of certain viruses from infected cells
CD344 (Frizzled-	Receptor for Wnt proteins and norrin
4)	
CLEC12A/CD371	C-type lectin-like receptor with immunoreceptor tyrosine-based
	inhibitory motif (ITIM)
Integrin α9β1	Integrin mediating cell adhesion and migration
SUSD2 (W3D5,	Potentially involved in cell adhesion as this transmembrane protein
W5C5)	contains functional domains associated with adhesion molecules
(W4A5)	Antigen has yet to be described
Siglec-9	Lectin that binds sialic acid and has ITIMs
SSEA-5	A glycan

Table 2. The 10 markers from the LEGENDScreen with the highest Robust coefficient of variation (Robust CV)

Marker	Robust CV
SUSD2 (W5C5)	264
SUSD2 (W3D5)	246

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.12.435093; this version posted March 12, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

CD344	172
CD49a	160
CD326	155
CD66a/c/e	153
CD34	134
HLA-DR	133
SSEA-5	131
CD63	124
CD38	123

Figure Legends

Figure 1. Gating strategy and LEGENDSscreen results

Single cell suspensions of human lung tissue were stained with CD45, CD114, CD14 and FccRI and thereafter the LEGENDScreen human cell Screening kit. (A) A representative of the gating strategy of human lung mast cells and CD14⁺ cells are shown. (B) Intracellular tryptase stained human lung mast cells, compared to isotype stained mast cells and tryptase stained CD45⁺, CD117⁻ cells. (C) Scatter plot of p-values, MFI and percent positive of each marker on the human lung mast cells. Y-axis plots -log10 FDR-adjusted p-values from 2-sided individual t-tests (marker against FMO controls), blue line represents the confidence cut-off of -log10 (0.05). X-axis plots normalised ln(MFI) values (marker subtracted by plate matched FMO control) and size of circles represents percentage positive cells with the positive gate set according to the FMO. Some mast cell markers are highlighted in blue. (D) Comparison of marker expression on mast cells and CD14⁺ cells. Volcano plot showing log2-fold change of mast cells divided by CD14⁺ cells (normalized MFI values with plate matched FMO subtracted) against -log-10 p-values (independent 2-sided t-test) of mast cells against CD14⁺ cells. Markers are only annotated if abs(log2fc) => 2, and p-value < 0.05. n=3.

Figure 2. Expression of cell-surface antigens of human lung mast cells.

Single cell suspensions of human lungs were stained with CD45, CD117, CD14 and FccRI antibodies and thereafter stained with the LEGENDScreen human cell screening kit. Mast cells were gated as CD45⁺, CD14^{low} and CD117^{high}. Shown are the percent positive (%) for each marker and the MFI that was normalized to the plate matched FMO control and log10

transformed. Significance of the MFI compared to the FMO control is shown (one-way Anova with Dunnett's multiple comparisons test), * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.001. n=3.

Figure 3. FccRI expression on human lung mast cells.

Examples of CD117/FccRI expression on HLMCs gated as CD45⁺, CD14^{low} and CD117^{high} from four donors (A). Quantification of percent positive for FccRI (B) and MFI of FccRI normalized to the matched FMO control (C). n=9.

Figure 4. Correlations between markers with high CV, size and granularity.

HLMCs gated as CD45⁺, CD14^{low} and CD117^{high} were co-stained with SUSD2 (A-H), CD66a/c/e (A), CD49a (B), HLA-DR (C), CD34 (D), CD326 (E), CD344 (F), and CPA3 (G). Representatives of 4 donors are shown. Pearson correlations to SUSD2 of the fluorescent intensity data in each donor was calculated using Graphpad prism and the average r value of four donors is shown. All correlations had a p>0.0001. SUSD2low, intermediate and high cells were gated and FSC (H) and SSC (I) of the low (dotted line) and high (filled grey) SUSD2 populations are shown. Quantification of FSC and SSC is shown in (J), mean \pm SEM, n=5. Two-way Anova with Bonferroni's multiple comparisons test was performed. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p<0.001; **** p<0.0001. bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.12.435093; this version posted March 12, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.



Figure 1

Figure 2

Marker	%	MFI		Marker	%	MFI	
CD1a	6,38	0,63		CD82	100,00	10,38	****
CD1b	8,40	0,73		CD83	55,90	3,15	**
CD1C	4,80	0,58		CD84	12.05	0.90	
CD2	52,23	2,44		CD85d	9,81	0,78	
CD3	25,25	1,13		CD85g	4,97	0,66	
CD4	75,90	3,23	**	CD85h	13,45	0,92	
CD5	8,56	0,63		CD85j	33,97	1,75	
CD7	22 17	0,71		CD85k CD85k	9.28	0.65	
CD8a	16,26	0,92		CD87	11,71	0,79	
CD9	100,00	10,80	****	CD88	8,53	0,71	
CD10	52,60	2,57	*	CD89	8,44	0,50	
CD11a CD11b	72,90	4,08	*	CD90	16,83	0,94	
CD11b act	31.11	1.39		CD94	1.93	0,40	
CD11c	84,93	3,87	****	CD95	27,90	1,40	*
CD13	97,10	5,36	****	CD96	2,70	0,29	
CD14	26,34	1,24		CD97	99,87	4,89	****
CD15 CD16	2,94	0,46		CD99	31 75	5,81	*
CD18	94,13	5,13	****	CD101	2,79	0,27	
CD19	2,01	0,30		CD102	26,33	1,33	
CD20	5,40	0,35		CD103	1,01	0,16	
CD21	10,04	0,58	****	CD104	6,23	0,49	
CD22 CD23	98,63	5,35		CD105	2 36	0,65	
CD24	21,46	1,09		CD107a	80,00	2,59	****
CD25	8,43	0,49		CD108	6,18	0,62	
CD26	92,17	4,51	****	CD109	2,14	0,20	
CD27	3,42	0,46		CD111	29,92	1,48	*
CD28 CD29	30,95	1,23	****	CD112 CD114	13,46	0.52	
CD30	35,11	1,74		CD115	40,34	1,93	***
CD31	74,40	3,88	****	CD116	6,29	0,41	
CD32	56,11	2,81	*	CD117	100,00	5,41	****
CD33	100,00	6,85	****	CD119	55,00	1,98	***
CD34	27,53	2,28		CD122 CD123	1,42	0,21	
CD36	67,67	3,61	***	CD124	5,40	0,73	
CD38	68,20	3,76	***	CD126	6,01	0,84	
CD39	41,10	1,70		CD127	2,18	0,21	
CD40	33,20	1,61		CD129	4,30	0,46	****
CD41 CD42h	2 32	2,72		CD131 CD132	17 18	2,18	
CD43	99,60	6,41	****	CD134	3,92	0,30	
CD44	100,00	10,80	****	CD135	1,95	0,28	
CD45	92,47	4,51	****	CD137	3,85	0,35	
CD45RA	85,67	3,97	****	CD137L	12,18	0,80	
CD45RO	40,55	4.59	****	CD138	1.79	0.33	
CD46	100,00	7,85	****	CD140b	5,49	0,59	
CD47	100,00	8,69	****	CD141	25,27	1,14	
CD48	99,37	5,55	****	CD146	32,83	1,41	*
CD49a CD49c	47,47	1,88	****	CD144 CD146	2,80	1.02	
CD49d	97,37	4,86	****	CD148	56,17	2,01	***
CD49e	91,77	4,73	****	CD150	2,34	0,18	
CD49f	53,73	2,16		CD152	20,44	0,79	
CD50	80,70	4,43	****	CD154	4,58	0,21	*
CD51/61	99.83	5,72	****	CD156c	93.80	3.91	****
CD52	91,67	5,37	****	CD158a/h	1,53	0,16	
CD53	98,03	5,39	****	CD158b	4,61	0,50	
CD54	98,93	5,54	****	CD158d	33,85	1,31	
CD55 CD56	2 56	6,23		CD158e1 CD158f	2,05	0,15	
CD57	3.28	0,44		CD161	1.83	0,23	
CD58	100,00	6,76	****	CD162	91,83	3,53	****
CD59	100,00	9,93	****	CD163	18,49	0,99	
CD61	90,30	4,04	****	CD164	99,60	4,81	****
CD62E	4,82	0,57		CD165 CD166	1,92	0,40	****
CD62P	35,24	1,77		CD167a	12,64	0,76	
CD63	100,00	6,80	****	CD169	2,42	0,44	
CD64	54,73	2,91	**	CD170	71,10	2,23	****
CD66a/c/e	66,50	2,83	*	CD172a	74,23	3,05	****
CD660	3,//	6.24	****	CD1720 CD1720	5 21	0,59	
CD70	4,99	0,56		CD178	32,82	1,14	
CD71	66,10	3,25	**	CD179a	9,19	0,67	
CD73	41,83	1,68		CD179b	2,16	0,19	
CD70	54,54	2,72	*	CD180	1,22	0,23	
CD80	24,90	0,99		CD181 CD182	1.38	0,42	
CD81	100,00	7,57	****	CD183	6,53	0,43	

Marker	%	MFI		Marker	%	MFI	
CD184	3,89	0,41		CCR10	29,73	1,47	
CD193	2,37	0,24		CLEC12A	92,43	3,23	***
CD195	4,45	0,45		CLEC9A	1,90	0,28	
CD196	4,33	0,25		CX3CR1	0,89	0,28	
CD197	3,23	0,42		CXCR7	1,96	0,26	
CD200	5,80	0,67		OPRD	1,52	0,17	
CD200 R	99,70	4,60	****	DLL1	2,97	0,12	
CD201	35,50	1,48	*	DLL4	0,53	-0,05	
CD202b	1,66	0,24		DR3	13,98	0,66	
CD203c	98,13	3,93	****	EGFR	3,64	0,47	
CD205	38,72	1,47	*	erbB3	1,13	0,05	
CD206	5,01	0,51		FcεRIα	41,23	1,72	
CD207	1,85	0,19		FcRL6	1,77	0,09	
CD209	0,65	0,22		Galectin-9	4,48	0,15	
CD210	3,21	0,38		GARP	3,17	0,22	
CD213a2	3,22	0,34		HLA-A,B,C	99,40	6,55	****
CD215	18,85	1,04		HLA-A2	34,66	2,51	*
CD218a	3,54	0,44		HLA-DQ	46,10	1,79	
CD220	2,38	0,49		HLA-DR	83,63	3,87	****
CD221	7,94	0,63		HLA-E	37,53	1,70	
CD226	88,03	3,50	****	HLA-G	8,80	0,60	
CD229	1,12	0,21		IFNGR2	1,93	0,25	
CD231	7,13	0,64		lg light chain κ	25,93	1,36	
CD235ab	4,09	0,10		Ig light chain λ	35,50	1,65	
CD243	77,07	2,82	**	IgD	1,46	0,14	
CD244	1,88	0,34		lgM	1,15	0,23	
CD245	18,05	1,21		IL-28RA	1,73	0,22	
CD252	2,56	0,25		Integrin α9β1	76,67	2,98	****
CD253	1,56	0,25		Integrin β5	7,02	0,88	*
CD254	1,48	0,32		Integrin β7	11,48	1,15	***
CD255	1,64	0,21		Jagged 2	5,55	0,75	
CD257	6,68	0,67		LAP	0,74	0,32	
CD258	2,97	0,45		LT-B R	8,37	1,30	****
CD261	2,33	0,16		Mac- 2	2,64	0,27	
CD262	4,68	0,50		MAIR- II	11,33	1,28	****
CD263	2,49	0,28		MICA/MICB	1,20	0,26	
CD266	2,06	0,40		W3D5	45,03	2,08	****
CD267	2,19	0,25		W5C5	46,47	2,14	****
CD268	0,76	0,09		W7C6	1,78	0,48	
CD270	99,73	4,75	****	W4A5	53,27	2,36	****
CD271	1,80	0,42		MSCA-1	0,88	0,32	
CD273	62,63	2,39	*	NKp80	0,38	0,33	
CD274	93,07	3,17	***	Notch 1	1,78	0,67	
CD275	17,42	1,14		Notch 2	2,06	0,76	
CD276	93,13	3,86		Notch 3	1,14	0,48	
CD277	91,00	3,28	***	Notch 4	1,24	0,29	
CD278	1,98	0,18		NPC (57D2)	2,85	0,41	
CD279	1,33	0,10		Podoplanin	7,20	0,78	
CD282	1,35	0,19		Pre- BCR	2,31	0,37	
CD284	2,18	0,34		PSIVIA	5,65	0,40	
CD286	1,/2	0,23		Siglec-10	24,81	1,/3	
CD290	1,16	0,15		Siglec-8	81,73	3,40	
CD294	24,30	1,45		Siglet-9	17,99	1,38	
CD296	27.02	0,59		SSEA-1	0,58	0,19	
CD300E	27,05	0,69	****	SSEA-A	1 20	0,55	
CD301	4.04	0.57		SSEA-5	22 17	1 20	****
(D301	2 30	0.26		TCR v/a	2 91	0.49	
CD304	29.57	1.46		TCR VB13 2	0.79	0 19	
CD307	1.66	0.12		TCR V623	2,10	0 31	
CD307d	1,69	0,23		TCR VB8	0.95	0.12	
CD314	3,33	0,41		TCR VB9	0.49	0.28	
CD317	95,40	3,45	****	TCR Vo2	0,52	0.12	
CD318	12,77	0,88		TCR Vy9	1,18	0,21	
CD319	4,97	0,55		TCR Vα24-Jα18	6,25	0,79	
CD324	3,42	0,52		TCR Vα7,2	0,80	0,17	
CD325	1,76	0,16		TCR a/B	1,87	0,48	
CD326	44,97	1,82		Tim-1	1,05	0,26	
CD328	64,57	2,76	**	Tim-3	30,37	1,90	****
CD344	1,04	-0,04		Tim-4	0,94	0,28	
CD335	5,22	0,38		TLT-2	0,46	0,17	
CD336	1,17	0,13		TRA-1-60-R	0,59	0,10	
CD337	2,20	0,17		TRA-1-81	0,64	0,12	
CD338	1,19	0,21		TSLPR	9,87	1,34	****
CD340	1,18	0,22		Ms IgG1 κ	1,04	0,24	
CD344	55,30	2,46	*	Ms lgG2a κ	4,22	0,75	
CD351	1,69	0,15		Ms IgG2b	0,93	0,27	
CD352	11,95	0,70		Ms IgG3 κ	1,54	0,34	
CD354	14,52	0,83		Ms IgM κ	0,43	0,06	
CD355	1,69	0,13		Rat IgG1	0,98	0,32	
CD357	4,21	0,66		Rat IgG2a	1,56	0,31	
CD360	1,64	0,19		Rat IgG2b	0,62	0,18	
B2M	100,00	9,31	****	Rat IgM к	0,27	0,15	
BTLA	2,11	0,30		AH IgG	1,37	0,31	
C3AR	49,57	1,96					
C5L2	4.57	0.59					

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.12.435093; this version posted March 12, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.12.435093; this version posted March 12, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.



Figure 3

bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.12.435093; this version posted March 12, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.



Figure 4