

TRPM2 Channels Protect against Cardiac Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury

ROLE OF MITOCHONDRIA^{*[5]}

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Background: TRPM2 channels are present in the heart, but their function is unknown.

Results: Genetic ablation of TRPM2 results in cardiac mitochondrial dysfunction, enhanced ROS production, and exacerbated cardiac ischemic injury.

Conclusion: TRPM2 channels preserve cardiac mitochondrial bioenergetics and protect cardiac myocytes from ischemic injury.

Significance: TRPM2 is a rational target for treatment of ischemic heart disease.

Cardiac TRPM2 channels were activated by intracellular adenosine diphosphate-ribose and blocked by flufenamic acid. In adult cardiac myocytes the ratio of G_{Ca} to G_{Na} of TRPM2 channels was 0.56 ± 0.02 . To explore the cellular mechanisms by which TRPM2 channels protect against cardiac ischemia/reperfusion (I/R) injury, we analyzed proteomes from WT and TRPM2 KO hearts subjected to I/R. The canonical pathways that exhibited the largest difference between WT-I/R and KO-I/R hearts were mitochondrial dysfunction and the tricarboxylic acid cycle. Complexes I, III, and IV were down-regulated, whereas complexes II and V were up-regulated in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R hearts. Western blots confirmed reduced expression of the Complex I subunit and other mitochondria-associated proteins in KO-I/R hearts. Bioenergetic analyses revealed that KO myocytes had a lower mitochondrial membrane potential, mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake, ATP levels, and O_2 consumption but higher mitochondrial superoxide levels. Additionally, mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uniporter (MCU) currents were lower in KO myocytes, indicating reduced mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake was likely due to both lower ψ_m and MCU activity. Similar to isolated myocytes, O_2 consumption and ATP levels were also reduced in KO hearts. Under a simulated I/R model, aberrant mitochondrial bioenergetics was exacerbated in KO myocytes. Reactive oxygen species levels were also significantly

higher in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R heart slices, consistent with mitochondrial dysfunction in KO-I/R hearts. We conclude that TRPM2 channels protect the heart from I/R injury by ameliorating mitochondrial dysfunction and reducing reactive oxygen species levels.

Transient receptor potential channels are voltage-independent, monovalent and divalent cation-permeable ion channels with six transmembrane domains (1, 2). To form a functional channel, TRP³ proteins assemble into either homo- or heterotetramers (3, 4). The mammalian TRP superfamily consists of 28 members grouped into 6 subfamilies (1, 2), of which TRPM is one subfamily. TRPM subfamily contains eight mammalian members (TRPM1-TRPM8) (2), of which TRPM2 (5), -M4, -M5, and -M7 (6) have been demonstrated by immunostaining, RT-PCR, and biochemical studies to be expressed in the heart. Of these, TRPM2 has a role in the regulation of glucose uptake and insulin signaling in the heart (7), whereas TRPM4 is associated with conduction abnormalities and cardiac arrhythmias (8, 9). There are significant structural and functional differences between TRPM2 and TRPM4. Unlike TRPM2, TRPM4 is

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^[5] This article contains supplemental Table 1.

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³ The abbreviations used are: TRP, transient receptor potential; TRPM, TRP-melastatin; ADPR, adenosine diphosphate-ribose; BNIP3, Bcl2/adenovirus E1B 19 kDa-interacting protein 3; $[Ca^{2+}]_o$, extracellular Ca^{2+} concentration; $[Ca^{2+}]_i$, intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration; CCCP, carbonyl cyanide *m*-chlorophenylhydrazone; $\Delta\psi_m$, mitochondrial membrane potential; DHE, dihydroethidium; E_m , membrane potential; E_{rev} , reversal potential; FoxO3a, forkhead box transcription factor 3a; G , ion conductance; G_{Ca} , Ca^{2+} conductance; G_{Na} , Na^+ conductance; GeLC, gel electrophoresis LC; HIF-1 α , hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α ; H/R, hypoxia/reoxygenation; I , macroscopic current; I/R, ischemia/reperfusion; I-V, current-voltage; LV, left ventricular; MCU, mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uniporter; MTFP1, mitochondrial fission process 1; NDUFA4L2, NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) 1 α subcomplex 4-like 2; OCR, oxygen consumption rate; RACK1, receptor for activated C kinase 1; ROS, reactive oxygen species; SOD, superoxide dismutase; TCA, tricarboxylic acid.

not expressed in normal adult ventricular myocytes (9), lacks ADPR pyrophosphatase domain (Nudix-like domain) in its C terminus (10), and is permeable to monovalent cations but impermeable to Ca^{2+} (11). The unitary conductance of TRPM2 (52–80 picosiemens (pS)) is much larger than TRPM4 (25 pS) (2). Phenotypically, compared with their respective WT controls, TRPM4 KO mice have elevated blood pressure (12), prolonged PR and QRS intervals on ECG, and cardiac hypertrophy due to neonatal hyperplasia (9), whereas TRPM2 KO mice have normal LV mass and ejection fraction (5) as well as normal blood pressure and ECG under basal conditions.

We previously demonstrated that TRPM2 channels are expressed in the sarcolemma and transverse tubules in adult mouse ventricular myocytes (5). When stimulated with H_2O_2 in physiological $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_o$, increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ are much higher in WT compared with TRPM2 KO myocytes. A H_2O_2 -induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ increase in WT myocytes is dependent on extracellular Ca^{2+} and inhibited by clotrimazole. These observations provide support that TRPM2 channels are functional in adult cardiac myocytes. In addition, in contrast to the classical paradigm in which enhanced Ca^{2+} signaling with TRPM2 activation in pathological states contributes to cell injury and death (13), it was recently revealed that TRPM2 channels protect hearts from I/R injury (5). Protection is associated with reduced I/R-induced oxidative stress, but the cellular mechanisms by which protection is achieved remain to be elucidated. The present study was undertaken to (i) measure TRPM2 currents and evaluate $G_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}/G_{\text{Na}^{+}}$ ratio in adult cardiac myocytes, (ii) analyze proteomes of WT-I/R and TRPM2 KO-I/R hearts to identify major cellular mechanisms that afford protection from I/R injury, (iii) perform Western blots to validate proteomics results, (iv) evaluate whether mitochondrial function is more severely depressed in TRPM2 KO-H/R compared with WT-H/R myocytes, and (v) measure ROS in TRPM2 KO-I/R and WT-I/R heart slices *in situ*. We found that loss of TRPM2 in cardiac myocytes perturbed mitochondrial proteomes and mitochondrial function. Additionally, TRPM2 KO hearts subjected to I/R exhibited exacerbation of mitochondrial malfunction.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Generation of Global TRPM2-KO Mouse—Global TRPM2 KO mice were generated as described previously (5). For brevity, throughout the manuscript TRPM2 knock-out is abbreviated to KO whether applied to mice, hearts, myocytes, or LV homogenates. Homozygous adult littermates ~8–10 weeks old were used in this study. Mice were housed and fed on a 12:12-h light-dark cycle in either the Temple University or the Pennsylvania State University animal facility supervised by full-time veterinarian staff members. Standard care was provided to all mice used for experiments. All protocols and procedures applied to the mice in this study were approved and supervised by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees at Temple University and the Pennsylvania State University.

Isolation of Adult Murine Ventricular Myocytes—Cardiac myocytes were isolated from the LV free wall and septum of WT and KO mice according to the protocol of Zhou *et al.* (14) and modified by us (15–20). Myocytes were either seeded onto

laminin-coated coverslips or left in suspension and used within 2–8 h of isolation.

Measurement of TRPM2 Current and Estimation of $G_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}/G_{\text{Na}^{+}}$ in Adult Ventricular Myocytes—TRPM2 currents were measured in isolated LV myocytes (30 °C) with whole cell patch clamp (15–20). Fire-polished pipettes (tip diameter 4–6 μm) with resistances of 0.8–1.4 megaohms when filled with pipette solutions were used. Pipette solution contained 110 mM CsCl, 20 mM triethylammonium chloride, 10 mM HEPES, 10 mM EGTA, and 5 mM MgATP, pH 7.2, and bathing solution contained 127 mM NaCl, 5.4 mM CsCl, 2 mM CaCl_2 , 1.3 mM MgSO_4 , 4 mM 4-aminopyridine, 10 mM HEPES, 10 mM Na-HEPES, 15 mM glucose, and 0.001 mM verapamil, pH 7.4. Our solutions are designed to minimize L-type Ca^{2+} current, Na^{+} - K^{+} -ATPase current, $\text{Na}^{+}/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchange current, and potassium currents. Freshly isolated mouse LV myocytes were held at -70 mV. To inactivate fast inward Na^{+} current, myocytes were held at -40 mV before application of voltage ramp ($+100$ to -100 mV; 500 mV/s). In some experiments, ADPR (300 μM) was included in pipette solutions to activate TRPM2 channels (21). In other experiments, after full activation of TRPM2 channels by ADPR, flufenamic acid (0.5 mM) was added to the extracellular medium to inhibit TRPM2 currents (22).

To estimate $G_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}/G_{\text{Na}^{+}}$, WT myocytes were voltage-clamped at -80 mV. Pipette solution was identical to that used above and contained ADPR. Extracellular solution contained 140 mM NaCl, 10 mM HEPES, and 15 mM glucose, pH 7.4. After break-in, steady-state inward Na^{+} currents were obtained at an E_m of -80 , -90 , and -100 mV. Extracellular solution was then changed to one containing 110 mM CaCl_2 , 10 mM HEPES, and 15 mM glucose, pH 7.4. Steady-state inward Ca^{2+} currents were obtained at an E_m of -80 , -90 , and -100 mV from the same myocyte. By Ohm's law, $E_m - E_{\text{rev}} = I/G$. Taking derivatives, $\Delta I/\Delta E_m = G$. $G_{\text{Ca}^{2+}}/G_{\text{Na}^{+}}$ is given by the ratio of the slopes of I versus E_m plots with Ca^{2+} or Na^{+} as the permeant ion.

I/R Surgery in Mice—I/R surgery was performed as previously described (23, 24). Briefly, male WT and KO mice (8–10 weeks) were anesthetized with 2% isoflurane, and the heart was exposed through a left thoracotomy at the fifth intercostal space. The slipknot was tied around the left anterior descending coronary artery 2–3 mm from its origin, and the heart was immediately returned to the chest cavity followed by evacuation of pneumothorax and closure of muscle and skin layers. The slipknot was released after 30 min of ischemia to allow reperfusion. Sham-operated animals were subjected to the same surgical procedure except that the slipknot was not tied. Animals recovered from anesthesia within 5 min after the completion of surgery and received ibuprofen (10 mg/50 ml drinking water) for 48 h as post-surgery analgesia. Studies on survivors were performed on day 3 post-surgery.

Heart Proteomics Analysis—Label-free proteomics analysis was performed using GeLC-MS/MS technology. To enhance the dynamic range of the identified proteins in this discovery phase study, the pooled LV samples from WT-I/R ($n = 4$) and KO-I/R ($n = 4$) were fractionated into cytoplasmic, nuclear, and organelle fractions. Extracted proteins in radioimmuno-precipitation assay buffer were processed for GeLC-MS/MS analysis as previously described (25). Briefly, nano-electrospray

ionization tandem MS was performed using a Brukers HCT Ultra ion trap mass spectrometer. Nano-electrospray ionization was delivered using a distal-coating spray Silica tip (internal diameter (ID) 20 μM , tip inner ID 10 μM , New Objective) at a spray voltage of -1300 V . Automatic switching between MS and MS/MS modes was used. MS/MS fragmentation was performed on the two most abundant ions on each spectrum using collision-induced dissociation with active exclusion (excluded after 2 spectra and released after 2 min). The complete system was fully controlled by HyStar 3.1 software.

Mass spectra processing was performed using Bruker Daltonics esquire 6.1 DataAnalysis (Version 3.4). The generated de-isotoped peak list was submitted to an in-house Mascot server 2.2.07 for searching against the *Mus musculus* Swiss-Prot database (Version 2013_01; 538,849 sequences, 191,337,357 residues). Mascot search parameters were set as follows: enzyme, trypsin with maximal 2 missed cleavages; fixed modification, cysteine carboxymethylation; variable modification, methionine oxidation; 0.45-Da mass tolerance for precursor peptide ions; 0.6 Da for MS/MS fragment ions. All peptides matches were filtered using an ion score cutoff of 30. In each MS/MS spectrum a total of at least 4 b- and y-ions were observed.

Label free quantitation was performed in Mascot Distiller using an average protein ratio, minimum 1 peptide with unique sequence, and 0.05 of significant threshold, and the results were analyzed with MS Data Miner (26). Label-free quantified proteins with higher than a 2-fold increase were selected and clustered by biological functions.

To identify the biological networks of differentially expressed proteins, we performed a standard network analysis using Ingenuity Pathways Analysis software as previously described (27). To build the network, the Ingenuity Pathways Analysis software queries the Ingenuity knowledge database for physical and functional interactions between the submitted proteins and all other proteins in the database. Ingenuity Pathways Analysis was optimized to include up to 35 proteins in a network. Differentially expressed proteins were input from an Excel file containing the protein accession numbers.

Immunoblotting—Pieces of mouse heart apices were homogenized (hand-held homogenizer) in lysis buffer containing 50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM NaF, and 1% Triton X-100, pH 7.4, and supplemented with Complete Protease Inhibitors (Roche Diagnostics) and Phosphatase Inhibitors (Sigma). Homogenates were centrifuged at $10,000 \times g$ for 10 min, and the supernatants were subjected to 12% SDS-PAGE. Proteins were transferred to Hybond-C-Extra (Amersham Biosciences). Blots were blocked for 1 h with 5% milk and probed overnight at 4 °C with anti-NDUFA4L2 (1:1,000, Abcam), anti-BNIP3 (1:750, Abcam), anti-MTFP1 (1:200, Santa Cruz), or anti-calsequestrin (1:15,000, Fitzgerald). Blots were washed and probed with anti-rabbit horseradish peroxidase-conjugated antibody (1:2,000, Amersham Biosciences). Enhanced chemiluminescence was used for signal detection. Intensity of the bands was quantitated with densitometry and normalized to that of calsequestrin (loading control).

In Situ Measurement of ROS in Heart Slices—Hearts from male WT and KO mice were subjected to 30 min of ischemia followed by 30 min of reperfusion or underwent sham opera-

tion. LV cross-sections (2 mm) from freshly isolated mouse hearts were equilibrated in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (30 min; 37 °C), stained with DHE (30 μM), and incubated in the dark (30 min) with gentle rotation (28). DHE-stained LV sections were imaged with a Carl Zeiss 710 multiphoton confocal microscope (10 \times objective; 561-nm excitation). ZEN software was used to collect and analyze confocal images of each section and generate 2.5-dimensional heatmap plots of mean DHE intensity.

Measurement of Mitochondrial Membrane Potential ($\Delta\Psi_m$) and Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} Uptake—To simulate I/R *in vitro*, LV myocytes isolated from WT and KO hearts were exposed to either 21% O_2 , 5% CO_2 (normoxia) or 1% O_2 , 5% CO_2 (hypoxia) for 2 h followed by 30 min of reoxygenation (5). Myocytes were incubated in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer containing 5 mM pyruvate as substrate (29). After gentle centrifugation, cardiac myocytes were transferred to an intracellular-like medium containing 120 mM KCl, 10 mM NaCl, 1 mM KH_2PO_4 , 20 mM HEPES-Tris, 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ thapsigargin, 80 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ digitonin, pH 7.2, and protease inhibitors (EDTA-free complete tablets, Roche Applied Science). Permeabilized myocytes were supplemented with succinate (10 mM) and gently stirred. Fura-FF (0.5 μM) was added at 0 s, and JC-1 (800 nM; both Molecular Probes) was added at 20 s to measure extra-mitochondrial Ca^{2+} and $\Delta\psi_m$, respectively. Fluorescence signals were monitored in a temperature-controlled (37 °C) multiwavelength-excitation and dual wavelength-emission spectrofluorometer (Delta RAM, Photon Technology Int.) using 490-nm excitation (ex)/535-nm emission (em) for the monomer, 570-nm ex/595-nm em for the J-aggregate of JC-1, and 340- and 380-nm ex/510-nm em for Fura-FF. The ratiometric dye Fura-FF was calibrated as previously described (30). At 450 s, 10 μM Ca^{2+} pulse was added, and $\Delta\psi_m$ and extra-mitochondrial Ca^{2+} were monitored simultaneously. $\Delta\psi_m$ was calculated as the ratio of the fluorescence of the JC-1 oligomeric to monomeric forms. Cytosolic Ca^{2+} clearance rate was taken to represent mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake.

Measurement of Mitochondrial O_2 Consumption and ATP Levels—WT and KO myocytes were subjected to 2 h of hypoxia followed by 30 min of reoxygenation (H/R) or normoxia. Oxygen consumption rate in intact adult LV myocytes was measured at 37 °C in an XF96 extracellular flux analyzer (Seahorse Bioscience). Myocyte suspensions were sequentially exposed to oligomycin, carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazide, and rotenone plus antimycin A using the XF Cell Mito Stress kit (Seahorse Bioscience) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Preliminary experiments were performed in untreated adult cardiac myocytes to select optimal seeding density (10^4 cells/well) and compound concentrations, according to manufacturer's instructions. To measure ATP levels, isolated myocytes from WT and KO mice were lysed, and ATP (luminescence) levels were measured using a CellTiter-Glo luminescent cell viability assay kit as described previously (31).

To assess the oxygen consumption rate (OCR) in hearts from WT and KO mice, heart slices were generated and suspended in XF media. OCR in heart slices were measured at 37 °C in an XF96 extracellular flux analyzer. The remaining heart slices were homogenized, and ATP levels were measured as described earlier (31).

TRPM2, Cardiac Ischemia, and Mitochondria

Measurement of Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} Uniporter (MCU) Current (I_{MCU})—Mitoplast patch clamp recordings were conducted at 30 °C as previously described (32, 33). I_{MCU} was recorded using a computer controlled Axon200B patch clamp amplifier with a Digidata 1320A acquisition board (pClamp 10.0 software; Axon Instruments). Mitoplasts were bathed in solution containing 5 mM $\text{CaCl}_2 \pm 0.3$ mM inorganic phosphate, 150 mM sodium gluconate, 5.4 mM KCl, 10 mM HEPES, pH 7.2. The pipette solution contained 150 mM sodium gluconate, 5 mM NaCl, 135 mM sucrose, 10 mM HEPES, and 1.5 mM EGTA, pH 7.2. After formation of gigohm seals (pipette resistance 20–35 megaohms), mitoplasts were ruptured with a 200–400-mV pulse varying from 2 to 6 ms duration. Mitoplast capacitance was measured (2.2–3.8 picofarads). After capacitance compensation, mitoplasts were held at 0 mV, and I_{MCU} was elicited with a voltage ramp (from –160 to +80 mV, 120 mV/s).

Confocal Mitochondrial ROS and ψ_m Measurement—Freshly isolated ventricular cardiomyocytes were loaded with the mitochondrial ψ_m indicator rhodamine 123 (Invitrogen; 13 μM) and mitochondrial superoxide-sensitive fluorophore MitoSOX Red (Invitrogen; 22 μM) in the extracellular media containing 2% BSA, 0.06% pluronic acid, and 20 μM sulfapyrazone at 37 °C for 30 min. Cells were then washed, resuspended in the extracellular media containing 0.25% BSA, and imaged using a Carl Zeiss Meta 510 confocal microscope with a 40 \times oil objective with 1.7 \times digital zoom at 488 and 561 nm for Rhodamine 123 and MitoSOX Red, respectively (34, 35).

Statistics—All results are expressed as the means \pm S.E. For analysis of TRPM2 current as a function of group and voltage, two-way analysis of variance was used. For analysis of protein expression levels, ROS levels, $\Delta\psi_m$, mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake, and O_2 consumption, one-way analysis of variance was used. A commercially available software package (JMP version 7; SAS Institute, Cary, NC) was used. In all analyses, $p < 0.05$ was taken to be statistically significant.

RESULTS

TRPM2 Currents in Cardiac Myocytes—In the absence of ADPR and under our experimental conditions, currents measured in myocytes isolated from either WT or KO hearts were negligible (Fig. 1). Intracellular ADPR elicited a large inward and outward current in WT but not in KO myocytes. ADPR-activated currents displayed the characteristic TRPM2 linear I-V relationship with E_{rev} close to 0 mV (10, 36). Extracellular flufenamic acid (0.5 mM) (22) abolished the current elicited by ADPR in WT myocytes ($n = 3$; data not shown). These characteristics indicate that the ADPR-activated current was mediated by TRPM2.

TRPM2 currents in WT cardiac myocytes did not inactivate (Fig. 2), consistent with the findings in HEK293 cells stably expressing WT TRPM2 (10, 36). Under our experimental conditions, G_{Na} and G_{Ca} of TRPM2 channels in cardiac myocytes were 19.07 ± 0.53 ($n = 4$) and 10.51 ± 0.58 pA/mV ($n = 5$), respectively (Fig. 2). The ratio of $G_{\text{Ca}}/G_{\text{Na}}$ was 0.56 ± 0.02 in adult cardiac myocytes ($n = 4$), which compares favorably with $P_{\text{Ca}}/P_{\text{Na}}$ (Ca^{2+} permeability/ Na^+ permeability) of 0.80 ± 0.03 determined for WT TRPM2 channels expressed in HEK293 cells (37).

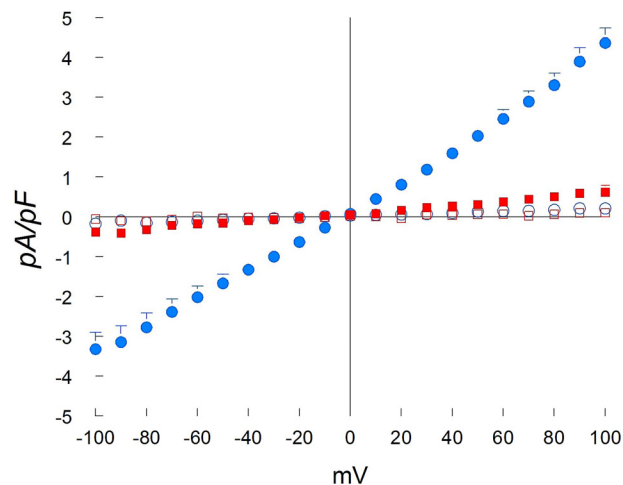


FIGURE 1. ADPR activates cationic currents in WT but not TRPM2 KO myocytes. LV myocytes were isolated from WT and KO hearts. The standard patch clamp whole cell configuration was used. Composition of pipette and external solutions and voltage-ramp protocols are given under “Experimental Procedures”. I-V relationships of cationic current (means \pm S.E.) from WT + ADPR (300 μM) (●; $n = 5$), WT (○; $n = 4$), KO + ADPR (■; $n = 7$) and KO (□; $n = 3$) myocytes are shown. Error bars are not shown if they fell within the boundaries of the symbol. Two-way analysis of variance indicate $p < 0.0001$ for WT + ADPR versus WT or KO + ADPR or KO myocytes. pF, picofarads.

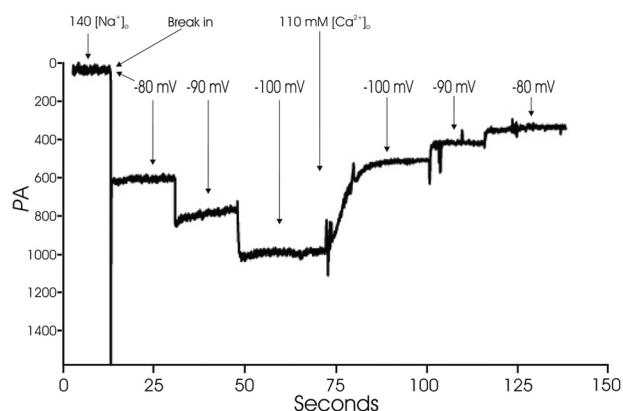


FIGURE 2. WT TRPM2 currents do not inactivate and estimation of G_{Ca} and G_{Na} . WT myocytes were held at –80 mV. ADPR was included in the pipette solution to activate TRPM2 channels. With 140 mM $[\text{Na}^+]_o$, after break-in, a large inward current that did not inactivate was observed. The current showed a linear increase with increasing hyperpolarization. After media change to a medium containing 110 mM $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_o$, current became smaller and demonstrated a linear decrease with depolarization from –100 to –80 mV. G_{Ca} and G_{Na} were estimated from the slope of I-V relationship (“Experimental Procedures”).

Perturbation of Mitochondrial Respiratory Complexes Is More Prominent in TRPM2 KO Myocytes Post-I/R—To explore the cellular mechanisms responsible for the observation that myocardial function in KO hearts is more depressed than WT hearts after I/R (5), we performed global label-free proteomics analysis using GeLC-MS/MS technology. Comparing KO-I/R to WT-I/R hearts, the top 20 differentially expressed proteins are given in Table 1 (see also supplemental Table 1). The canonical pathways that exhibited the largest differences between KO-I/R and WT-I/R hearts are mitochondrial dysfunction and TCA cycle (Fig. 3). Complexes I, III, and IV were down-regulated, whereas Complexes II and V were up-regulated in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R hearts (Fig. 4).

TABLE 1
Differentially expressed proteins between KO-I/Rand WT-I/R Hearts

ID	Symbol	-Fold change	Entrez gene name
Top 20 up-regulated proteins			
P58771	Tpm1	21.194	Tropomyosin 1, α
O55126	GBAS	9.090	Glioblastoma-amplified sequence
P54071	IDH2	8.477	Isocitrate dehydrogenase 2 (NADP+), mitochondrial
Q92111	TF	6.783	Transferrin
Q9D3D9	ATP5D	5.947	ATP synthase, H ⁺ transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, δ subunit
Q8BH95	ECHS1	5.919	Enoyl CoA hydratase, short chain, 1, mitochondrial
Q8VEM8	SLC25A3	5.740	Solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carrier; phosphate carrier), member 3
P07759		5.443	Serine (or cysteine) peptidase inhibitor, clade A, member 3K
Serpina3K (includes others)			
Q03265	ATP5A1	5.279	ATP synthase, H ⁺ transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, α subunit 1, cardiac muscle
P09542	MYL3	5.162	Myosin, light chain 3, alkali; ventricular, skeletal, slow
Q8R4N0	CLYBL	4.997	Citrate lyase β -like
Q9CRB9	CHCHD3	4.898	Coiled-coil-helix-coiled-coil-helix domain containing 3
Q8K2B3	SDHA	4.828	Succinate dehydrogenase complex, subunit A, Flavoprotein (Fp)
Q03734		4.753	Serine (or cysteine) peptidase inhibitor, clade A, member 3K
Serpina3K (includes others)			
P17182	ENO1	4.481	Enolase 1, (α)
Q9EQ20	ALDH6A1	4.468	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 6 family, member A1
Q8BH59	SLC25A12	4.261	Solute carrier family 25 (aspartate/glutamate carrier), member 12
Q99PT1	ARHGDI3	4.246	Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor (GDI) α
P52480	Pkm	4.160	Pyruvate kinase, muscle
P07724	ALB	4.120	Albumin
Top 20 down-regulated proteins			
Q9CPU4	MGST3	-18.409	Microsomal glutathione S-transferase 3
P03911	ND4	-16.485	NADH dehydrogenase, subunit 4 (complex I)
P10107	ANXA1	-12.534	Annexin A1
P08752	GNAI2	-11.634	Guanine nucleotide-binding protein (G protein), α inhibiting activity polypeptide 2
Q9D0M3	CYC1	-10.717	Cytochrome <i>c</i> -1
P19783	COX4/1	-7.542	Cytochrome <i>c</i> oxidase subunit IV isoform 1
Q924H7	WAC	-7.256	WW domain containing adaptor with coiled-coil
Q9CR62	SLC25A11	-6.208	Solute carrier family 25 (mitochondrial carrier; oxoglutarate carrier), member 11
P20029	HSPA5	-6.013	Heat shock 70-kDa protein 5 (glucose-regulated protein, 78 kDa)
Q9CRB8	MTFP1	-5.801	Mitochondrial fission process 1
E9Q401	RYR2	-5.714	Ryanodine receptor 2 (cardiac)
Q9WUB3	PYGM	-5.499	Phosphorylase, glycogen, muscle
P01027	C3	-5.051	Complement component 3
Q08857	CD36	-5.015	CD36 molecule (thrombospondin receptor)
P07356	ANXA2	-4.982	Annexin A2
P04247	MB	-4.304	Myoglobin
A2ASS6	TTN	-4.198	Titin
Q9J191	ACTN2	-3.957	Actinin, α 2
Q9CQ62	DECR1	-3.762	2,4-Dienoyl-CoA reductase 1, mitochondrial
P38647	HSPA9	-3.517	Heat shock 70-kDa protein 9 (mortalin)

To validate the key results of proteomics analysis, we performed Western blots and demonstrated that NDUFA4L2 (a subunit of Complex I), BNIP3 (a protein in mitochondrial outer membrane), and MTFP1 were significantly lower in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R hearts (Fig. 5). These results are consistent with the proteomics data that Complex I and MTFP1 were down-regulated in KO-I/R as compared with WT-I/R hearts (Fig. 4 and Table 1).

Mitochondrial Membrane Potential ($\Delta\psi_m$) and Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} Uptake Are Lower in TRPM2 KO Myocytes Post-H/R—Perturbation of mitochondrial complexes in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R hearts would be expected to result in lower $\Delta\psi_m$ and decreased mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake. To simulate I/R, isolated myocytes were subjected to H/R before mitochondrial measurements. Compared with WT-normoxic myocytes, $\Delta\psi_m$ was basally reduced in KO-normoxic myocytes and further lowered in WT-H/R and KO-H/R myocytes (Fig. 6A). Interestingly, $\Delta\psi_m$ in WT-normoxic myocytes recovered after the addition of a Ca^{2+} pulse (10 μM). However, $\Delta\psi_m$ of KO-normoxic, WT-H/R, and KO-I/R myocytes failed to recover after 10 μM Ca^{2+} pulse (Fig. 6A). Additionally, $\Delta\psi_m$ measured after a 10 μM Ca^{2+} pulse and just before CCCP addition was significantly lower in KO-H/R than in WT-H/R myocytes (Fig. 6B).

Because $\Delta\psi_m$ was lower in KO myocytes, we next assessed mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake in permeabilized myocytes post-H/R (Fig. 6C). When challenged with repeated pulses of Ca^{2+} , only WT-normoxic myocytes were able to repeatedly lower extra-mitochondrial Ca^{2+} (Fig. 6C). The rate of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake was higher in WT-normoxic compared with KO-normoxic myocytes (Fig. 6D). Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake was significantly lower in KO-H/R compared with WT-H/R myocytes (Fig. 6D).

Basal Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} Content Is Similar, but Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} Uniporter Activity Is Lower in KO Myocytes—To elucidate the mechanism of reduced mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake in KO myocytes (Fig. 6, C and D), we measured MCU activity using electrophysiology in which the driving force, ψ_m , was controlled. I_{MCU} in mitoplasts isolated from KO myocytes was lower when compared with that isolated from WT myocytes (Fig. 7, A and B). This observation indicates that reduced mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake in KO myocytes was due to both reduction in the driving force ψ_m (Fig. 6, A and B) and intrinsic defects in the mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uniporter. Conversely, basal mitochondrial Ca^{2+} contents were similar in permeabilized WT and KO myocytes under unstimulated conditions, indicating that the existence of alternative mecha-

Canonical Pathways

■ IPA TRPM2 KO - 2013-03-13 01:53 AM ■ Ratio

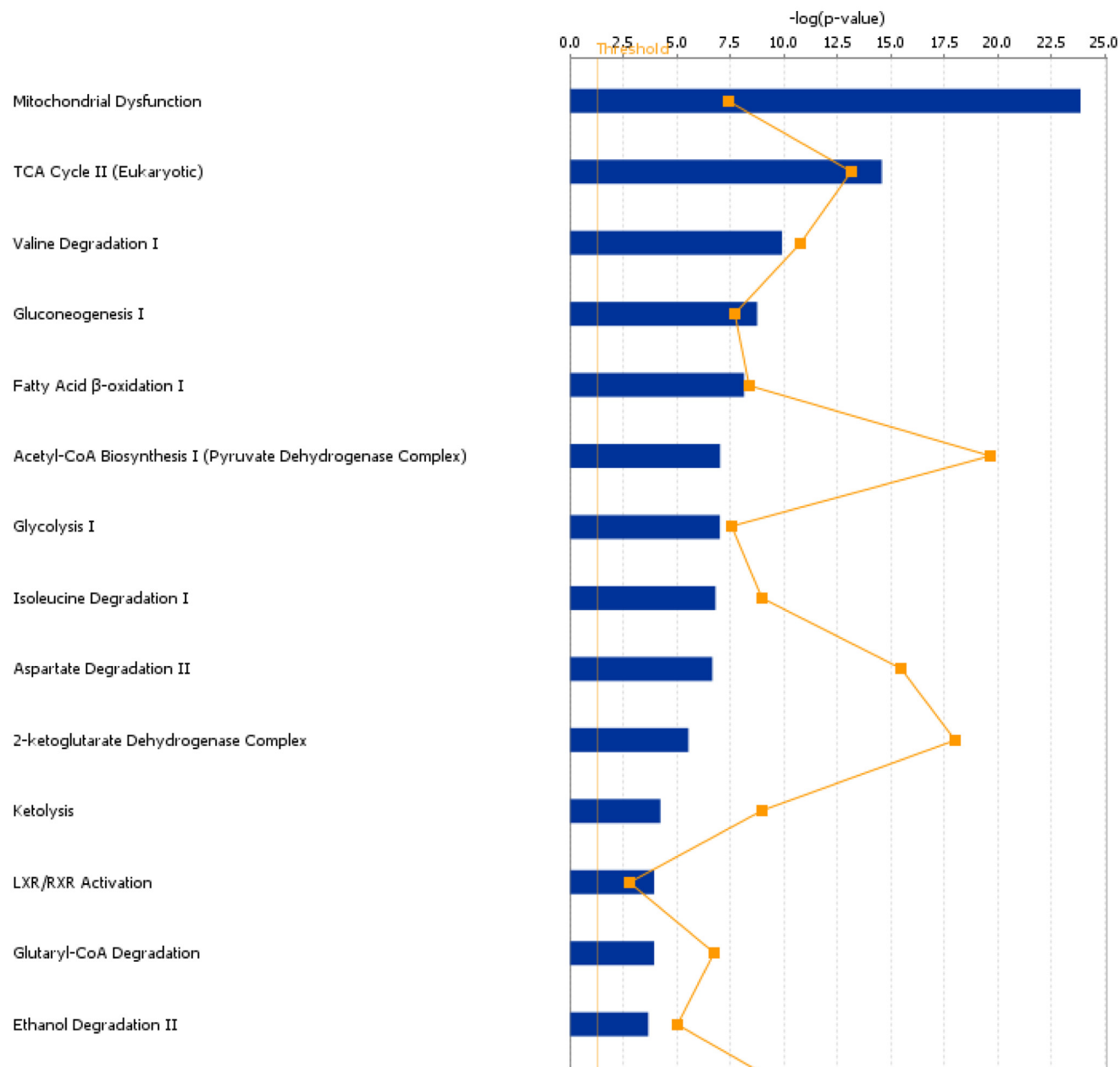


FIGURE 3. **Top network functions generated using Ingenuity Pathways Analysis for KO-I/R versus WT-I/R hearts.** Differentially expressed proteins between KO-I/R and WT-I/R hearts ($n = 4$ each) were determined using GeLC-MS/MS ("Experimental Procedures"). The graph represents cell functions with the highest score (y axis) based on the number of differentially regulated proteins. The orange squares and line in the graph show the ratio of the number of proteins altered identified from our dataset that are in the pathway relative to the total number of proteins in the pathway.

nisms to maintain the mitochondrial Ca^{2+} homeostasis (Fig. 7, C and D).

Mitochondrial O_2 Consumption Is Lower in TRPM2 KO-H/R Myocytes—Having observed the dysregulation of mitochondrial complexes in KO I/R myocytes, we next asked whether mitochondrial complex activities were altered in cardiac myocytes. We measured OCR in intact adult LV cardiac myocytes subjected to normoxia or H/R. Under normoxic conditions,

both basal and maximal OCR was reduced in KO compared with WT myocytes (Fig. 8, A–C). As expected, H/R reduced both basal and maximal respiration rates in WT myocytes. This was further exacerbated in KO-H/R myocytes (Fig. 8, A–C). Our results indicated that KO myocytes were more vulnerable to H/R injury due to impairment of mitochondrial bioenergetics.

To confirm the aberrant mitochondrial function in intact KO hearts, we measured O_2 consumption and ATP levels in WT

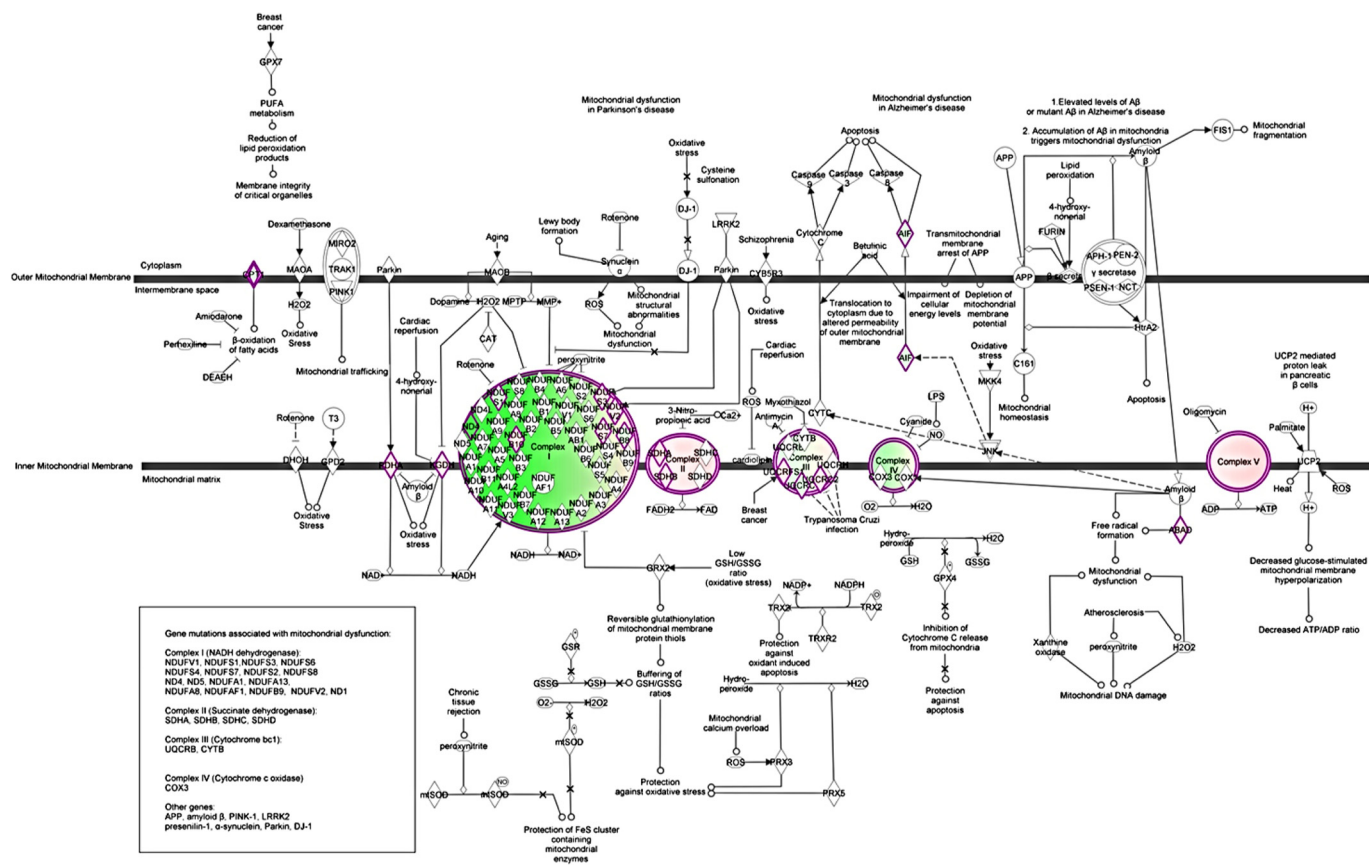


FIGURE 4. **Ingenuity Pathways Analysis of mitochondrial proteins that are differentially expressed between KO-I/R and WT-I/R hearts.** Mitochondrial network was generated from the differentially expressed proteins according to the Ingenuity Pathway Knowledge Criteria. *Pink*, significantly up-regulated proteins; *green*, significantly down-regulated proteins; *white*, proteins known to be in the network but were not identified in our analysis.

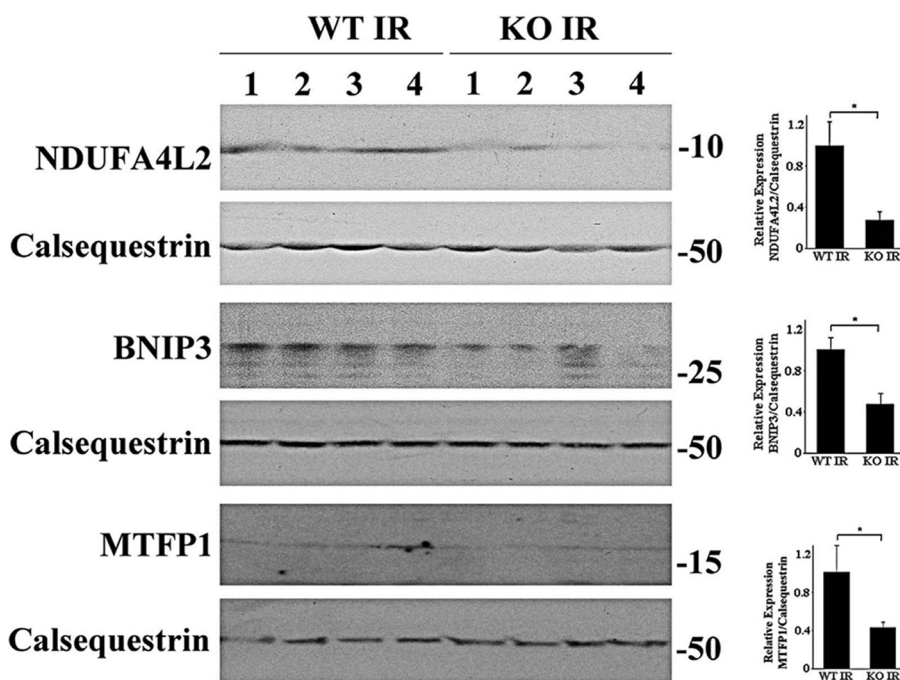


FIGURE 5. **Expression of proteins associated with mitochondria.** Homogenates of LV apices from WT-I/R and KO-I/R hearts were prepared and proteins subjected to Western blots ("Experimental Procedures"). Protein band intensities are quantified by densitometry, normalized to calsequestrin signals, and summarized in *bar graphs* at the *right*. *, $p < 0.05$.

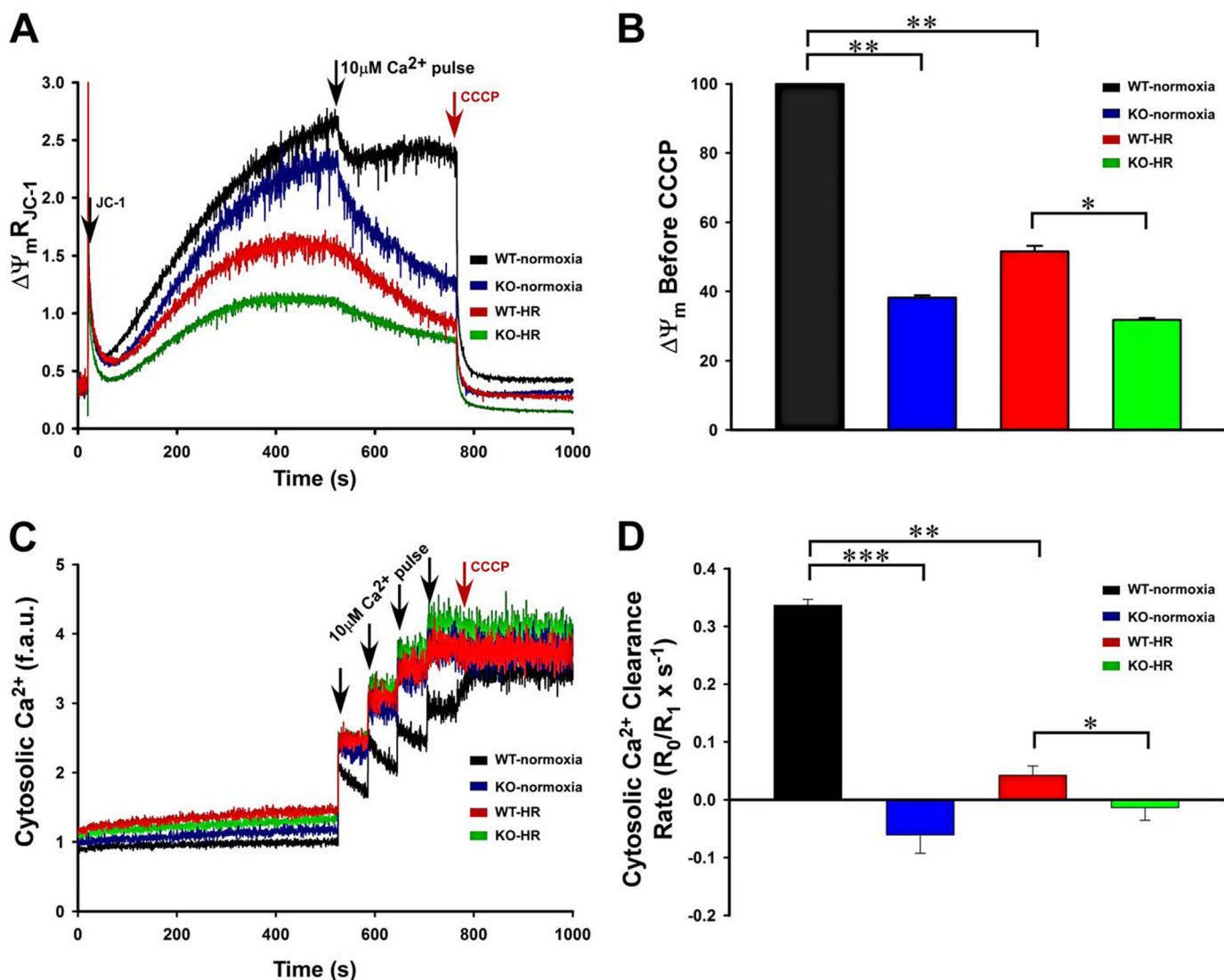


FIGURE 6. Mitochondrial membrane potential and mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake are lower in KO myocytes subjected to hypoxia/reoxygenation. LV myocytes isolated from WT and KO mice were subjected to normoxia or hypoxia for 2 h followed by 30 min of reoxygenation ("Experimental Procedures"). Myocytes were permeabilized with digitonin and supplemented with succinate. *A*, the ratiometric indicator JC-1 was added at 20s and used to monitor $\Delta\Psi_m$. Arrows indicate the addition of JC-1, Ca^{2+} ($10 \mu\text{M}$), and the mitochondrial uncoupler CCCP ($2 \mu\text{M}$). *B*, summary of $\Delta\Psi_m$ after Ca^{2+} addition but before CCCP addition ($n = 3$ each). *C*, the ratiometric dye Fura-FF was added at 0 s and used to monitor extra-mitochondrial Ca^{2+} . Repeated pulses of Ca^{2+} were added as indicated (arrows). The cytosolic Ca^{2+} clearance rate after the first Ca^{2+} pulse was measured. *f.a.u.*, fluorescence arbitrary units. *D*, summary of cytosolic Ca^{2+} clearance (mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake) rates ($n = 3$ each). *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$.

and KO heart slices (Fig. 9). Under basal conditions, ATP levels were significantly lower in KO compared with WT hearts (Fig. 9A). Because cardiac myocytes are the major cell types in the heart, ATP levels were also measured in freshly isolated myocytes from WT and KO hearts. As expected, ATP levels were markedly lower in KO myocytes when compared with WT myocytes (Fig. 9B). O_2 consumption rates were also significantly lower in KO when compared with WT hearts (Fig. 9C). These results demonstrate that loss of TRPM2-mediated Ca^{2+} entry impacts mitochondrial bioenergetics.

In Situ ROS Levels Are Higher in TRPM2 KO-I/R Hearts—Mitochondria are the major source of ROS in cardiac myocytes. Because mitochondrial dysfunction was prominent in KO-I/R hearts (Figs. 3 and 4), we measured ROS levels in WT and KO hearts after I/R. Strikingly, KO-I/R heart slices had higher levels of ROS than WT-I/R heart slices (Fig. 10). Interestingly, KO-

sham hearts also had significantly higher ROS compared with WT-sham hearts, suggesting mitochondrial dysfunction may be present pre-I/R and subsequently prone to enhanced ROS levels.

To confirm that the elevated ROS levels observed in KO heart slices were mitochondrial in origin, we measured mitochondrial ROS in isolated myocytes using MitoSOX Red, which detects mitochondrial superoxide anion. MitoSOX Red co-localized with mitochondrial membrane potential marker rhodamine 123 (Fig. 11A), confirming MitoSOX Red fluorescence was mitochondrial in origin. KO myocytes had lower rhodamine 123 fluorescence (Fig. 11B) but much higher MitoSOX Red fluorescence compared with WT myocytes (Fig. 11C), suggesting that enhanced mitochondrial superoxide production accounted for most of the elevated ROS levels detected by DHE in heart slices (Fig. 10).

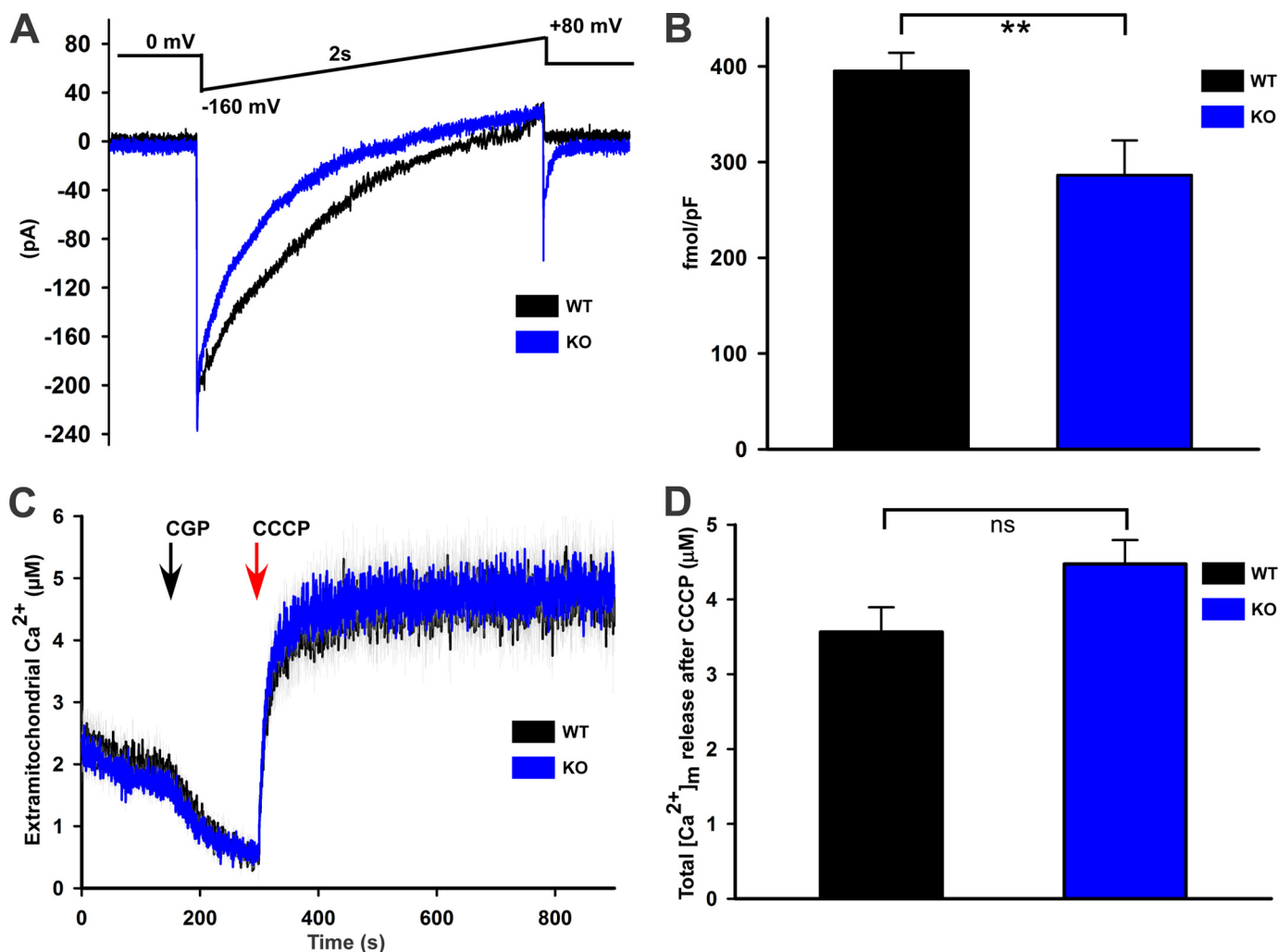


FIGURE 7. Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uniporter activity (I_{MCU}) is lower in KO myocytes, but basal mitochondrial Ca^{2+} levels are similar between WT and KO myocytes. *A*, currents from cardiac mitoplasts (I_{MCU}) were recorded before and after application of 5 mM Ca^{2+} to the bath medium. I_{MCU} were recorded during a voltage-ramp as indicated. Traces are representative single recordings of I_{MCU} from WT (black) and KO (blue) myocytes. *B*, current-time integral indicating the amount of Ca^{2+} influx during voltage-ramp (fmol/picofarads) in WT (black) and KO (blue) mitoplasts; $n = 3$ each. *pF*, picofarads. *C*, freshly isolated myocytes from WT and KO mice were permeabilized with digitonin and supplemented with succinate. The ratiometric dye Fura-FF was used to monitor extra-mitochondrial Ca^{2+} . After steady-state Fura-FF signals were obtained, CGP37157 (10 μM) was added to inhibit mitochondrial Ca^{2+} release via the mitochondrial $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchanger. CCCP (2 μM) was then added to release endogenous mitochondrial Ca^{2+} . *D*, quantitation of mitochondrial Ca^{2+} contents ($n = 4$ each). **, $p < 0.01$.

DISCUSSION

TRP channels have been implicated in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular diseases (2, 6). For example, TRPC (TRP-canonical) channels have been proposed to be critical regulators of microdomain Ca^{2+} signaling in the heart to control pathological hypertrophy (38). Focusing on TRPM channels, although TRPM4 channels have been associated with conduction abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmias, and hypertension (8, 9), to date there is limited understanding of TRPM2 channels in the heart (5, 7, 39, 40). The present study provides evidence that TRPM2 channels were activated by ADPR (Fig. 1) and inhibited by flufenamic acid and that TRPM2 conductance to Ca^{2+} is $\cong 55\%$ that of Na^+ in adult ventricular myocytes (Fig. 2). Our recent report indicates that H_2O_2 induces a much larger $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ increase in WT compared with KO myocytes and that the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ increase is inhibited by clotrimazole (5). These data provide evidence that TRPM2 is present and functional in adult ventricular myocytes.

Additionally, TRPM2 offers protection against cardiac I/R injury (5).

To identify the molecular pathways involved in amelioration of cardiac I/R injury by TRPM2, we employed GeLC-MS/MS to assess TRPM2-induced differential expression of the whole proteome of post-I/R hearts (Table 1). The canonical pathway that stands out (highest $\log(p)$ value) is mitochondrial dysfunction (Fig. 3). Specifically, the mitochondrial electron transport chain was significantly dysregulated in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R hearts (Fig. 4).

Because the proteome characterization and bioinformatics analysis revealed that mitochondrial dysfunction was the major pathway that was significantly altered in KO-I/R hearts, we sought to independently validate the proteomics results with protein expression and functional mitochondrial assays. In agreement with proteomics results (Fig. 4 and Table 1), Western blots demonstrated that NDUFA4L2 (a subunit of

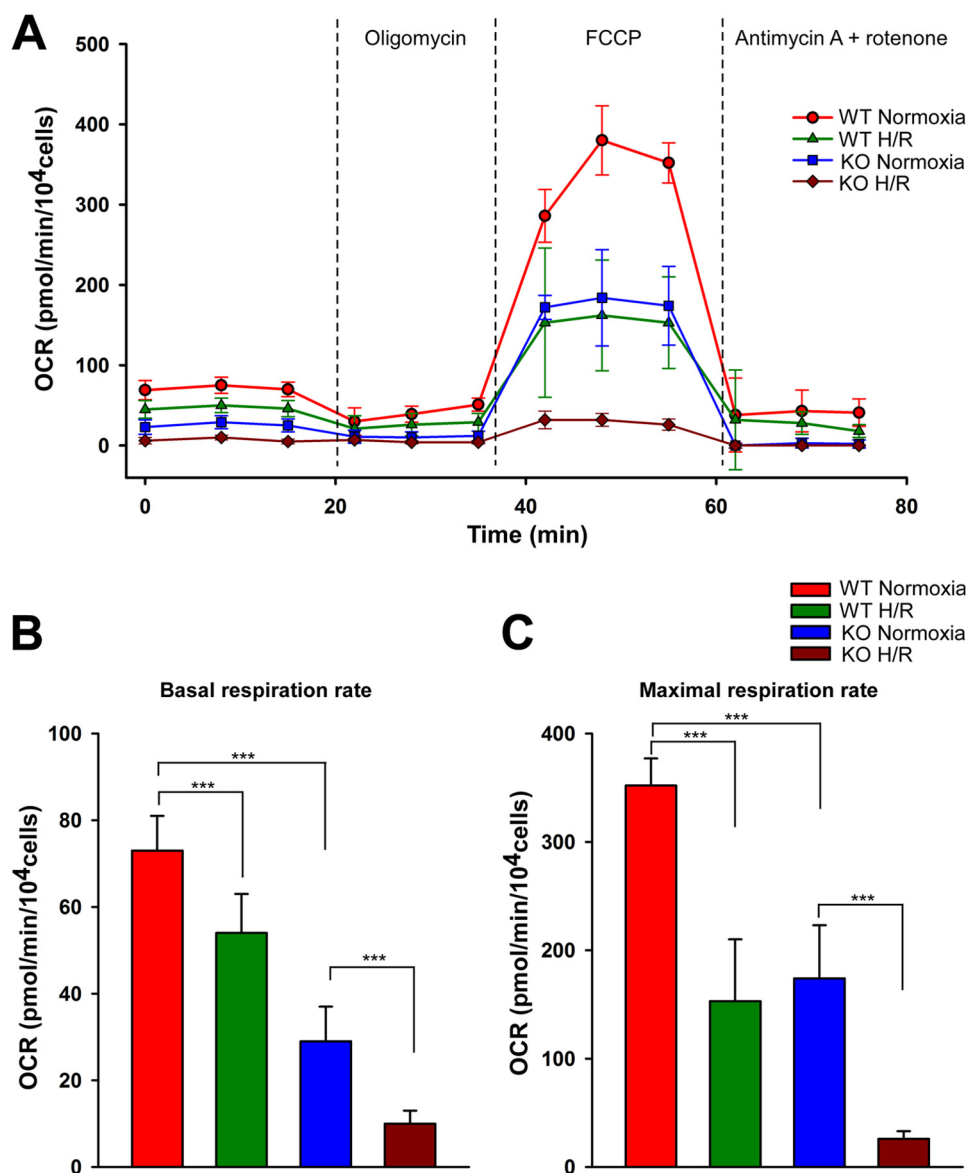


FIGURE 8. **O₂ consumption is markedly reduced in KO-H/R myocytes.** LV myocytes isolated from WT and KO mice were subjected to normoxia or hypoxia for 2 h followed by 30 min of reoxygenation. O₂ consumption rate was measured in intact myocytes ("Experimental Procedures"). A, after basal OCR was obtained, oligomycin (1 μ M) was added to inhibit F₀F₁ ATPase (Complex V). The uncoupler carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone (FCCP; 1 μ M) was then added, and maximal OCR was measured. Finally, antimycin A + rotenone (1 μ M each) were added to inhibit cytochrome bc1 complex (Complex III) and NADH dehydrogenase (Complex I), respectively. Each point in the traces represents the average of eight different wells. B and C, summary of basal (B) and maximal (C) OCR of 4 groups of myocytes ($n = 3$ each). ***, $p < 0.001$.

Complex I), BNIP3, and MTFP1 were significantly lower in KO-I/R hearts (Fig. 5). Using H/R to simulate I/R, we first established that H/R resulted in mitochondrial injury in WT myocytes as manifested by lower $\Delta\psi_m$, decreased mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake (Fig. 6), and reduced oxygen consumption (Fig. 8) when compared with their normoxic controls. Consistent with the results of global proteomics analysis, $\Delta\psi_m$, mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake (Fig. 6), and O₂ consumption (Fig. 8) were consistently lower in KO-H/R compared with WT-H/R myocytes.

One interesting observation is that under normoxic conditions, KO myocytes already had significantly lower $\Delta\psi_m$ (Figs. 6 and 11), decreased mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake (Fig. 6), higher mitochondrial superoxide levels (Fig. 11), and reduced ATP (Fig. 9) and O₂ consumption (Fig. 8) when compared with WT

myocytes, suggesting the loss of TRPM2 was associated with mitochondrial impairment. Reduced mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake in KO myocytes (Fig. 6) was due to both reduction in driving force (ψ_m) (Figs. 6 and 11) and suboptimal mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uniporter activity (Fig. 7). Surprisingly, at equivalent membrane potential, I_{MCU} was still lower in mitoplasts prepared from KO myocytes, suggesting the perturbation of MCU complex (30, 33, 41–46). Impaired mitochondrial function in KO myocytes was manifested as lower ATP levels and O₂ consumption in both KO myocytes and intact KO hearts (Figs. 8 and 9).

Physiologically, ROS are produced during respiration by the mitochondrial electron transport chain and pathologically by increased electron leakage. This is supported by the observation that ROS levels were significantly higher in KO-sham com-

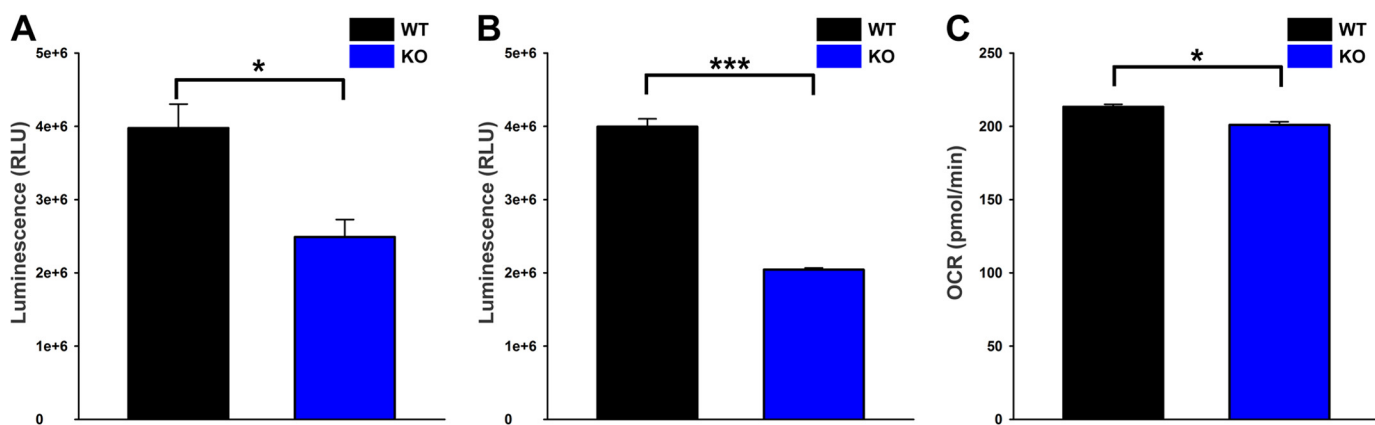


FIGURE 9. **ATP levels and O₂ consumption are lower in KO hearts.** *A*, hearts from WT (*black*) and KO (*blue*) mice were homogenized, and ATP levels were measured by CellTiter-Glo assay. *n* = 3 each. *B*, similarly, freshly isolated myocytes from WT (*black*) and KO (*blue*) mice were used to measure the ATP levels. *n* = 6 each. *C*, heart slices generated from WT (*black*) and KO (*blue*) mice were subjected to OCR measurement, and the graph represents the basal OCR. *n* = 3 each. *, *p* < 0.05; ***, *p* < 0.001.

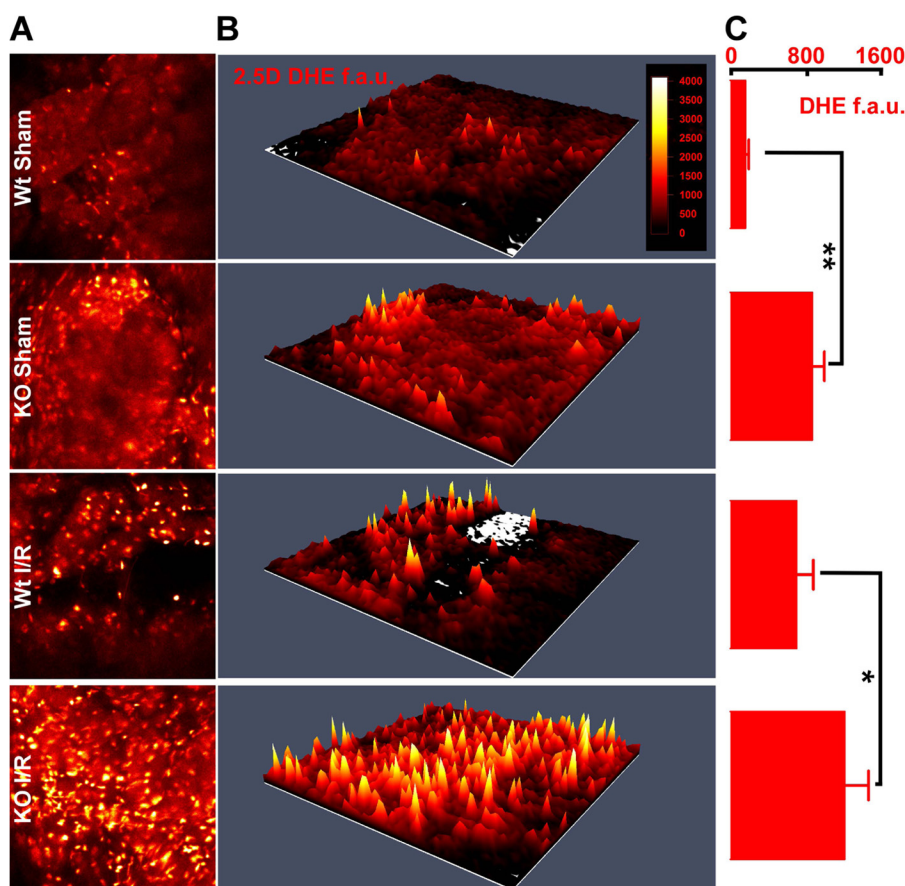


FIGURE 10. **In situ ROS levels are prominent in KO-I/R heart slices.** Hearts from WT and KO mice were subjected to sham operation or 30 min ischemia followed by 30 min reperfusion, after which ROS levels were measured in heart slices ("Experimental Procedures"). *A*, multi-photon confocal images of DHE-stained LV slices. *B*, 2.5-dimensional heatmap plots of mean DHE intensity are shown for WT-sham, KO-sham, WT-I/R, and KO-I/R heart slices. *C*, quantitation of DHE fluorescence in fluorescence arbitrary units (*f.a.u.*). DHE fluorescence from at least 3 slices from each heart are quantitated for WT-sham (2 mice), KO-sham (2 mice), WT-I/R (2 mice), and KO-I/R (5 mice) animals. *, *p* < 0.05; ***, *p* < 0.01.

pared with WT-sham heart slices (Fig. 10). Further characterization of ROS generation in KO myocytes revealed that elevated ROS are derived from mitochondria (Fig. 11), possibly due to aberrant mitochondrial bioenergetics.

Although TRPM2 ablation elicits mitochondrial bioenergetics impairment, the mechanism by which TRPM2, a cell surface ion channel, affects mitochondrial function warrants further

studies. Based on our previous observations that WT-I/R hearts had higher levels of HIF-1 α , FoxO3a, and SOD2 (5) and our current demonstration that BNIP3 and NDUFA4L2 were higher in WT-I/R myocytes (Fig. 5), we postulate the following mechanism linking TRPM2 activation to amelioration of mitochondrial dysfunction and reduced ROS production in WT-I/R as compared with KO-I/R hearts (Fig. 12). Ca²⁺ influx from

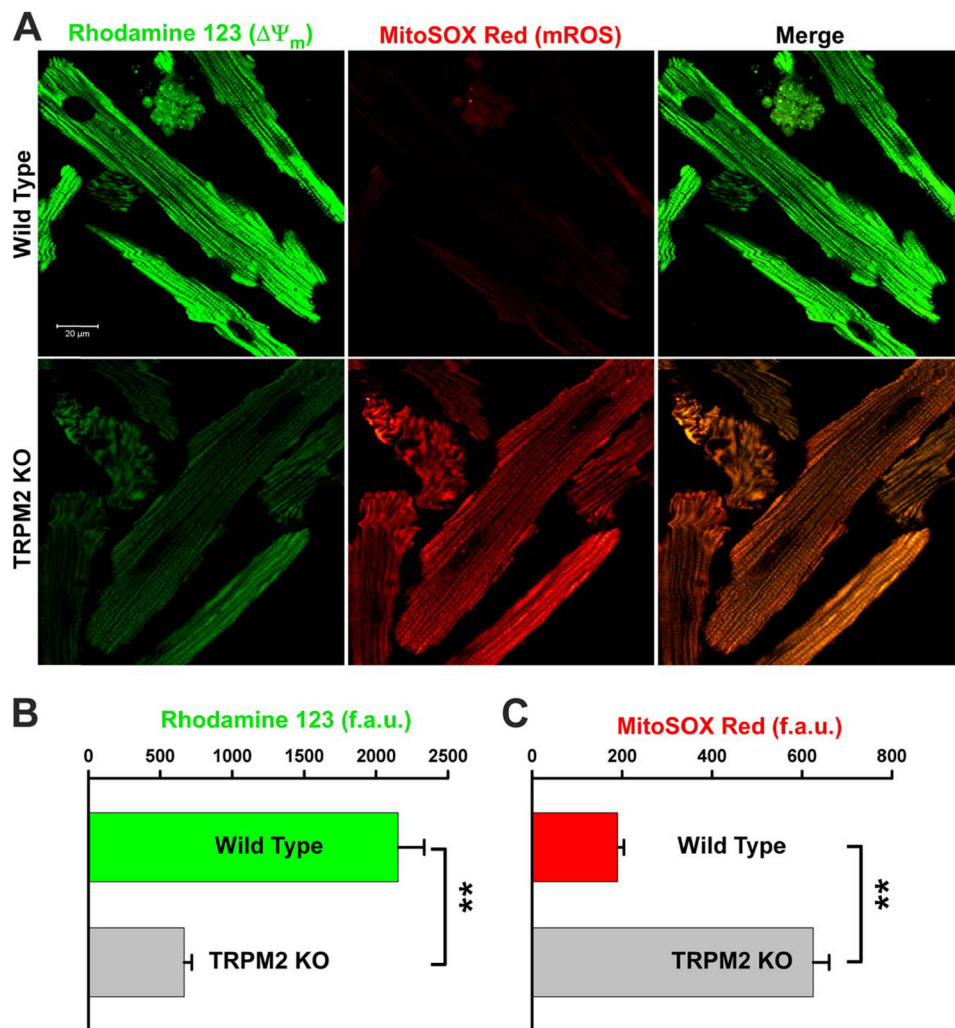


FIGURE 11. **Mitochondrial membrane potential is lower and mitochondrial ROS level is higher in KO myocytes.** *A*, myocytes isolated from WT and KO mice were loaded with the mitochondrial membrane potential indicator rhodamine 123 and mitochondrial superoxide indicator MitoSOX Red. Confocal images showed co-localization of MitoSOX Red and rhodamine 123 signals. *B* and *C*, quantitation of rhodamine 123 (ψ_m) and MitoSOX Red (mROS) signal intensities in fluorescence arbitrary units (f.a.u.) from WT ($n = 21$) and KO ($n = 19$) myocytes. **, $p < 0.01$.

activated TRPM2 channels enhances calcineurin activity, which in turn dephosphorylates RACK1 and blocks RACK1 dimerization (47). This results in increased HIF-1 α levels by impeding its ubiquitination and degradation. HIF-1 α is a transcription factor that enhances cell viability through regulation of a large number of target genes including those involved in angiogenesis, glycolysis, and energy and redox homeostasis. These include FoxO3a (48), MnSOD (49), and genes involved in electron transport chain (NDUFA4L2) (50) and mitochondrial autophagy (BNIP3) (51). NDUFA4L2 expression has been shown to reduce ROS production, although the exact mechanism is not known (50), and BNIP3 is necessary for mitochondrial autophagy, which also limits ROS production (51, 52). Another interesting speculation is that TRPM2 may participate in the recently identified essential role of constitutive, low level mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake in maintaining cellular bioenergetics (53). TRPM2 may provide the necessary Ca²⁺ for mitochondrial bioenergetics maintenance in the heart.

A recent study using an independent TRPM2 knock-out mouse (C57BL/6 background) reported very different results (40). Specifically, after 45 min of ischemia followed by 24 h of

reperfusion *in vivo*, neutrophil infiltration was less, infarct size was smaller, and +dP/dt was higher in KO compared with WT hearts. In addition, pretreatment with econazole (10 μ M) to inhibit TRPM2 channels in WT neutrophils followed by re-infusion of neutrophils in isolated perfused hearts reduced infarct size in KO hearts subjected to 60 min ischemia followed by 2 h of reperfusion. The authors speculated that increased neutrophil adhesion to endothelial cells mediated by TRPM2 channels caused increased damage post-I/R. We have previously (5) discussed some of the reasons accounting for the differences between our results and those of Hiroi *et al.* (40). In addition, alternative strategies like conditional, organ-specific knock-out approach could be employed to clarify the contribution of TRPM2 in I/R injury. In this context, we have generated a cardiac-specific, TRPM2KO mouse in which hematopoietic progenitors but not cardiac myocytes express TRPM2. After I/R, cardiac-specific TRPM2KO hearts exhibited significantly lower +dP/dt compared with WT hearts,⁴ similar to the findings in

⁴ J. Y. Cheung, unpublished observations.

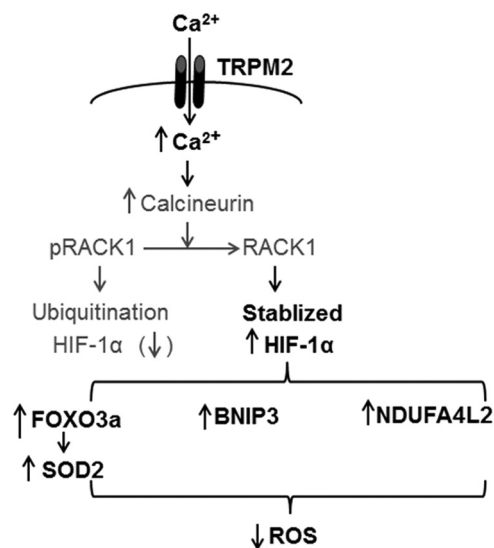


FIGURE 12. Hypothetical mechanism by which cardiac TRPM2 channels modulate mitochondrial function and ROS production. Ca^{2+} influx via activated TRPM2 channels increases cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentration, thereby activating calcineurin. Calcineurin dephosphorylates RACK1 and blocks RACK1 dimerization. The net result is increased HIF-1 α levels by impeding its ubiquitination and degradation. HIF-1 α enhances many target gene transcription including FoxO3a, which leads to increased SOD2 expression, and mitochondrial NDUFA4L2 (Complex I) and other mitochondrial gene (BNIP3) expression. Both SOD2 and physiological Complex I activity result in reduced mitochondrial ROS levels. Differences in protein levels between WT-I/R and KO-I/R hearts that have been authenticated by experimental results from the present (Fig. 5) or previous (5) studies are in *bold fonts*, whereas hypothetical signaling molecules are in regular fonts.

global TRPM2KO mice (5). Our preliminary observations suggest that the role played by TRPM2 channels in neutrophils on cardiac I/R injury is likely to be small.

The conventional wisdom regarding the role of TRPM2 channels in disease states is that activation of TRPM2 induces cell death by sustained increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ (13, 54) or mediates enhanced chemokine production in hematopoietic cells thereby triggering inflammatory response and tissue injury (55). TRPM2 also plays a role in susceptibility to oxidative stress (54, 56, 57). On the other hand, TRPM2 channels participate in cell proliferation and differentiation and, therefore, have become novel targets for cancer (58). The present findings that TRPM2 channels protected hearts from injury by alleviating oxidative stress have clinical relevance. When targeting TRPM2 for cancer therapy, it is important to assess potentially adverse effects on cardiac function and devise a rational approach to ameliorate cardiac side effects while preserving therapeutic efficacy.

In summary, genetic ablation of TRPM2 resulted in decreased cardiac mitochondrial function that was further compromised after hypoxia/reoxygenation. Mitochondrial electron transport chain impairment was coupled with elevated ROS levels in KO-I/R compared with WT-I/R hearts. Aberrant bioenergetics together with elevated ROS levels may account for poor cardiac performance despite similar infarct sizes in KO-I/R hearts (5). Collectively, our findings indicated that TRPM2 channels preserved mitochondrial bioenergetics and protected cardiac myocytes from ischemic injury.

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