

Table of contents

Summary

Table of contents

1 General Introduction	1
1.1 Epithelial to mesenchymal transition	1
1.1.1 Basics of EMT	1
1.1.2 EMT in biological contexts	4
1.1.3 EMT and the metastatic cascade	6
1.1.4 EMT in breast cancer	8
1.2 Inducers of EMT	11
1.2.1 Canonical and non-canonical TGF β signaling in EMT	11
1.2.2 TGF β signaling in cancer	13
1.3 Molecular networks regulating EMT	15
1.3.1 Alternative splicing and EMT	15
1.3.2 Epigenetic regulation of EMT	17
1.3.2.1 DNA methylation during EMT	18
1.3.2.2 Histone modifications during EMT	19
1.3.3 Transcriptional control of EMT	23
1.3.3.1 EMT transcription factors – drivers of a cell dedifferentiation program	23
1.3.3.2 The Tead transcription factors	25
1.3.4. Post-transcriptional control of EMT by ncRNAs	31
1.3.4.1 miRNAs	31
1.3.4.2 piRNAs	42
1.3.4.3 lncRNAs	43
1.3.4.4 circRNAs	43
2 Aim of the study	45
3 Results	46
3.1 Tead2 expression levels control the subcellular distribution of Yap and Taz, zyxin expression and epithelial-mesenchymal transition	46
3.1.1 Abstract	47
3.1.2 Introduction	47
3.1.3 Results	49
3.1.3.1 Formation of a nuclear Tead2–Yap–Taz complex and its transcriptional activity during EMT	49

3.1.3.2 Nuclear localization of Yap and Taz is mediated by Tead2 and is required for EMT	53
3.1.3.3 Tead2 promotes tumor cell migration, invasion and metastasis.....	56
3.1.3.4 The transcriptional Tead2 target genes during EMT	57
3.1.3.5 Zyxin is a Tead2–Taz target gene critical for EMT	61
3.1.4 Discussion	64
3.1.5 Materials and methods.....	67
3.1.6 Supplementary data	73
3.2 Identification and characterization of miR-1199-5p in EMT and mesenchymal migration	84
3.2.1 Abstract	85
3.2.2 Introduction	85
3.2.3 Results	88
3.2.3.1 Identification of new regulatory miRNAs in EMT and mesenchymal tumor cell migration	88
3.2.3.2 Ectopic expression of miRNA-1199-5p inhibits TGFβ-induced EMT.....	90
3.2.3.3 Expression of miR-1199-5p reduces mesenchymal tumor cell migration and invasion	93
3.2.3.4 miR-1199-5p post-transcriptionally controls the expression of the key EMT transcription factor Zeb1	95
3.2.3.5 Zeb1 controls the expression of miR-1199-5p on the transcriptional level.....	97
3.2.4 Discussion	99
3.2.5 Materials and methods.....	103
3.2.6 Supplementary data	110
4 General conclusions and future plans.....	116
5 References.....	118
6 Curriculum Vitae	131
7 Acknowledgments	134