

The *cl2/dro1/ccdc80* null mice develop thyroid and ovarian neoplasias.

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Abstract

We have previously reported that the expression of the CL2/CCDC80 gene is downregulated in human papillary thyroid carcinomas, particularly in follicular variants. We have also reported that the restoration of CL2/CCDC80 expression reverted the malignant phenotype of thyroid carcinoma cell lines and that CL2/CCDC80 positively regulated E-cadherin expression, an ability that likely accounts for the role of the CL2/CCDC80 gene in thyroid cancer progression. In order to validate the tumour suppressor role of the CL2/CCDC80 gene in thyroid carcinogenesis we generated *cl2/ccdc80* knock-out mice. We found that embryonic fibroblasts from *cl2/ccdc80*(*-/-*) mice showed higher proliferation rate and lower susceptibility to apoptosis. Furthermore, *cl2/ccdc80*(*-/-*) mice developed thyroid adenomas and ovarian carcinomas. Finally, *ret/PTC1* transgenic mice crossed with the *cl2/ccdc80* knock-out mice developed more aggressive thyroid carcinomas compared with those observed in the single *ret/PTC1* transgenic mice. Together, these results indicate CL2/CCDC80 as a putative tumour suppressor gene in human thyroid carcinogenesis.

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KEYWORDS:

Carcinoma; Knock-out mice; Ovary; Thyroid; *cl2/dro1/ccdc80*