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# Proviral integration of an Abelson-murine leukemia virus deregulates BCLF-expression in the hypermutating pre-B cell line 18-81

Jörg Kirberg <sup>a</sup> ... Jürgen Bachl <sup>b</sup>

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### Abstract

The transcription factor BCLF (basic Krüppel-like factor, KLF3) is a member of the Krüppel-like factors (KLF) family. KLF members harbor a characteristic C-terminal zinc-finger DNA-binding domain and bind preferentially to CACCC-motifs. BCLF is highly expressed in haematopoietic and erythroid cells and works either as repressor or activator of transcription in various genes. BCLF-deficient mice display myeloproliferative disorders and abnormalities in haematopoiesis. Other members of the KLF-family such as GKLF and BCL11A have been implicated in tumorigenesis, however, for BCLF such association has not yet been demonstrated. We report here that a single Abelson-murine leukemia virus (A-MuLV) provirus is present in the genome of the hypermutating murine pre-B cell line 18-81. The provirus has integrated into the locus of the transcription factor BCLF. In

the 18-81. The provirus has integrated into the locus of the transcription factor BCLF. In contrast to other A-MuLV transformed pre-B cell lines, BKLF is highly transcribed in cell line 18-81. BKLF transcripts originate from the retroviral long terminal repeats (LTRs) and BKLF protein can be detected by gel shift retardation assay. We hypothesize on a potential role of BKLF deregulation in tumorigenesis and/or in the induction of somatic hypermutation in cell line 18-81.



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## Abbreviations

A-MuLV, Abelson-murine leukemia virus; BKLF, basic Kr<sup>1/4</sup>ppel-like factor; M-MuLV, Moloney-murine leukemia virus; LM-PCR, linker-mediated PCR

## Keywords

Hypermutation; Class switch recombination; Leukemia; Retrovirus; Tumor cell line

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† Nucleotide sequence data were submitted and received the following accession numbers: [AJ810304](#), [AJ810305](#), [AJ810306](#), [AJ867251](#).

<sup>1</sup> Present address: Swiss Tropical Institute, Basel, Switzerland.

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