

Paper highlight: New driver of T cell leukemia growth

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NKX3.1, a protein that suppresses the development of prostate tumors, promotes the growth of a different type of tumor in the blood, according to an article published online on September 20 in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*.

Paul-Henri Romeo and colleagues find that TAL1, a [protein](#) abundantly expressed in approximately 40% of patients with T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL), drives expression of NKX3.1. Eliminating NKX3.1 halted the growth of TAL1-expressing T-ALL cells in culture and after injection into mice.

It's not yet clear how NKX3.1 sustains the growth of T-ALL cells, but these findings show that this protein can either halt or hasten tumor development depending on the tissue environment.

More information: Kusy, S., et al. 2010. J. Exp. Med.
[doi:10.1084/jem.20100745](https://doi.org/10.1084/jem.20100745). www.jem.org/

Provided by Rockefeller University

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