

## **Researchers reveal a novel mechanism of mechanical regulation of bone homeostasis**

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PC1, as a mechanical stress sensitive factor, influences osteoclastogenesis and bone resorption by regulating TAZ nuclear translocation. Patients with ADPKD,



which is mainly caused by loss-of-function mutation of the *PKD1* gene, have lower risk of hip fracture than those with other chronic kidney diseases. Credit: *Science Bulletin* (2024). DOI: 10.1016/j.scib.2024.04.044

Professor Changjun Li and his colleagues at Xiangya Hospital of Central South University have <u>published</u> a research paper titled "Mechanical protein polycystin-1 directly regulates osteoclastogenesis and bone resorption" in *Science Bulletin*.

In the paper, the authors point out that mechanical loading is required for bone homeostasis, but that the underlying mechanism is still unclear. Their research has found that mechanosensitive protein polycystin-1 (PC1, encoded by Pkd1) plays an important role in osteoclast-mediated <u>bone resorption</u>.

The authors conducted a <u>cohort study</u> of 32,500 <u>patients</u> and found that patients with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease, which is mainly caused by loss-of-function mutation of the PKD1 gene, had a significantly lower risk of hip fracture than those with other chronic kidney diseases. Furthermore, the conditional deletion of Pkd1 in the osteoclast lineage resulted in decreased bone resorption, increased bone mass and complete resistance to unloading-induced bone loss.

A mechanistic study revealed that PC1 facilitated TAZ nuclear translocation via the C-terminal domain, thereby increasing the transcription of osteoclast-related genes, and that conditional deletion of Taz in the osteoclast lineage resulted in reduced osteoclastogenesis and increased bone mass. Pharmacological regulation of the PC1-TAZ axis alleviated unloading- and estrogen deficiency-induced bone loss.

The research team elucidates a new mechanism by which mechanical



loading could directly regulate bone resorption and affect <u>bone</u> <u>homeostasis</u>, which provides a potential new therapeutic target for the prevention and treatment of osteoclast-related osteoporosis.

Mei Huang, an assistant researcher in Xiangya Hospital of Central South University, is the first author of the paper. Prof. Changjun Li, Prof. Guanghua Lei, Prof. Xianghang Luo and Prof. Chao Zeng are cocorresponding authors.

**More information:** Mei Huang et al, Mechanical protein polycystin-1 directly regulates osteoclastogenesis and bone resorption, *Science Bulletin* (2024). DOI: 10.1016/j.scib.2024.04.044

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