

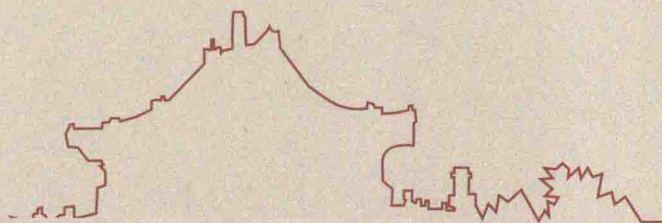
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生长因子信号在小鼠牙胚和 腭部发育中的作用

Role of Growth Factor Signal in the Development of
Bulbus Dentis and Jaw of Mouse

李璐 著



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总 序

创新是一个民族进步的灵魂,也是中国未来发展的核心驱动力。研究生教育作为教育的最高层次,在培养创新人才中具有决定意义,是国家核心竞争力的重要支撑,是提升国家软实力的重要依托,也是国家综合国力和科学文化水平的重要标志。

武汉大学是一所崇尚学术、自由探索、追求卓越的大学。美丽的珞珈山水不仅可以诗意栖居,更可以陶冶性情、激发灵感。更为重要的是,这里名师荟萃、英才云集,一批又一批优秀学人在这里砥砺学术、传播真理、探索新知。一流的教育资源,先进的教育制度,为优秀博士学位论文的产生提供了肥沃的土壤和适宜的气候条件。

致力于建设高水平的研究型大学,武汉大学素来重视研究生培养,是我国首批成立有研究生院的大学之一,不仅为国家培育了一大批高层次拔尖创新人才,而且产出了一大批高水平科研成果。近年来,学校明确将“质量是生命线”和“创新是主旋律”作为指导研究生教育工作的基本方针,在稳定研究生教育规模的同时,不断推进和深化研究生教育教学改革,使学校的研究生教育质量和知名度不断提升。

博士研究生教育位于研究生教育的最顶端,博士研究生也是学校科学研究的重要力量。一大批优秀博士研究生,在他们学术创作最激情的时期,来到珞珈山下、东湖之滨。珞珈山的浑厚,奠定了他们学术研究的坚实基础;东湖水的灵动,激发了他们学术创新的无限灵感。在每一篇优秀博士学位论文的背后,都有博士研究生们刻苦钻研的身影,更有他们导师的辛勤汗水。年轻的学者们,犹如在海边拾贝,面对知识与真理的浩瀚海洋,他们在导师的循循善诱下,细心找寻着、收集着一片片靓丽的贝壳,最终把它们连成一串串闪闪夺目的项

链。阳光下的汗水,是他们砥砺创新的注脚;面向太阳的远方,是他们奔跑的方向;导师们的悉心指点,则是他们最值得依赖的臂膀!

博士学位论文是博士生学习活动和研究工作的主要成果,也是学校研究生教育质量的凝结,具有很强的学术性、创造性、规范性和专业性。博士学位论文是一个学者特别是年轻学者踏进学术之门的标志,很多博士学位论文开辟了学术领域的新思想、新观念、新视阈和新境界。

据统计,近几年我校博士研究生所发表的高质量论文占全校高水平论文的一半以上。至今,武汉大学已经培育出 18 篇“全国百篇优秀博士学位论文”,还有数十篇论文获“全国百篇优秀博士学位论文提名奖”,数百篇论文被评为“湖北省优秀博士学位论文”。优秀博士结出的累累硕果,无疑应该为我们好好珍藏,装入思想的宝库,供后学者慢慢汲取其养分,吸收其精华。编辑出版优秀博士学位论文文库,即是这一工作的具体表现。这项工作既是一种文化积累,又能助推这批青年学者更快地成长,更可以为后来者提供一种可资借鉴的范式抑或努力的方向,以鼓励他们勤于学习,善于思考,勇于创新,争取产生数量更多、创新性更强的博士学位论文。

武汉大学即将迎来双甲华诞,学校编辑出版该文库,不仅仅是为武大增光添彩,更重要的是,当岁月无声地滑过 120 个春秋,当我们正大踏步地迈向前方时,我们有必要回首来时的路,我们有必要清晰地审视我们走过的每一个脚印。因为,铭记过去,才能开拓未来。武汉大学深厚的历史底蕴,不仅在于珞珈山的一草一木,也不仅仅在于屋檐上那一片片琉璃瓦,更在于珞珈山下的每一位学者和学生。而本文库收录的每一篇优秀博士学位论文,无疑又给珞珈山注入了新鲜的活力。不知不觉地,你看那珞珈山上的树木,仿佛又茂盛了许多!

李晓红

2013 年 10 月于武昌珞珈山

主要缩略词表

Apalf, Apoptotic protease activation factor	凋亡蛋白酶激活因子
BMP, Bone morphogenetic protein	骨形成蛋白
BMPRIa, BMP receptor I a	骨形成蛋白I型受体 a
BMPRIb, BMP receptor I b	骨形成蛋白I型受体 b
BrdU, 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine	5-溴脱氧尿嘧啶核苷
BSA, Bovine Serum Albumin	牛血清白蛋白
caBmprIa, Constitutively active form of BmprIa	持续性激活的 BmprIb
caBmprIb, Constitutively active form of BmprIb	持续性激活的 BmprIa
CCD, Cleidocranial dysplasia	锁骨颅骨发育不全
Dsp, Dentin sialophosphoprotein	牙本质涎磷蛋白
E, Embryonic day	胎龄(天)
Eda, Ectodysplasin	外异蛋白
Edar, Ectodysplasin A receptor	外异蛋白 A 型受体
Edaradd, EDAR-associated death domain	EDAR 关联死亡域
EGFP, Enhanced green fluorescence protein	强化绿荧光蛋白
EMT, Epithelial-mesenchymal transformation	上皮-间充质转化
FGF, Fibroblast growth factor	成纤维生长因子
GABA, γ -Aminobutyric acid	γ -氨基丁酸
GS, Glycine-serine rich region	富甘氨酸-丝氨酸区
HE, Hematoxylin-eosin staining	苏木精-伊红染色
IRES, Internal ribosome entry site	内部核糖体插入位点
Irf6, Interferon regulatory factor 6	干扰素调节因子 6
KLF, Krüppel-like factors	Krüppel 样因子

LRP5/6, Low density lipoprotein receptor related protein	低密度脂蛋白受体相关蛋白
MAPK, Mitogen-activated protein kinase	促分裂素原活化蛋白激酶
MEE, Medial edge epithelium	中缝上皮
MES, Medial epithelial seam	中间上皮缝
MMPs, Matrix metalloproteinase	基质金属蛋白酶
MS, Mesial segment	前部无牙区牙蕾
NF- κ B, Nuclear factor κ B	核因子 κ B
NSCLP, Non-syndromic cleft of lip and palate	非综合征型唇腭裂
OPG, Osteoprotegerin	骨保护素
P, Postnatal day	新生鼠龄(天)
PBS, Phosphate Buffered Saline	磷酸盐缓冲溶液
PCD, Programmed cell death	程序性细胞死亡
PCR, Polymerase chain reaction	聚合酶链式反应
PFA, Paraformaldehyde	多聚甲醛
PVRL1, Poliovirus receptor related-1	脊髓灰质炎病毒受体相关基因 1
R2, Second rudimentary segment	后部无牙区牙蕾
RANK, Receptor activator of NF- κ B	NF- κ B 受体激活剂
RANKL, RANK ligand	NF- κ B 受体激活剂配体
R-Smad, receptor-regulated Smads	受体调节 Smads
RSTK, Receptor serine-threonine kinases	受体丝氨酸-苏氨酸激酶
Shh, Sonic hedgehog	刺猬因子
TGF- β , Transformation growth factor	转化生长因子 β
TIM, Tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase	金属蛋白酶组织抑制剂
TNF, Tumor necrosis factor	肿瘤坏死因子
TRAF6, TNF receptor-associated factor 6	TNF 受体相关因子 6

TUNEL, Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated deoxyuridine triphosphate nick end-labeling	原位末端转移酶标记技术
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摘 要

一、外源性 FGF8 蛋白可以在体外挽救无牙区牙胚发育

研究目的:小鼠牙列在牙胚的退化过程中形成了一个不长牙的无牙区,这是小鼠牙列的一个特征。无牙区牙胚的再生,为研究牙的再生和替换提供了一个极佳的模型;以前有研究发现,无牙区 FGF 信号被抑制是无牙区牙胚退化的一个原因。本研究中,在小鼠胚胎无牙区加入外源性 FGF 蛋白,观察外源性 FGF 蛋白对无牙区发育的影响,进一步确认 FGF 是否可以挽救无牙区牙胚的发育。

研究方法:① 将 CD-1 小鼠交配后,查到母鼠孕栓当天中午记为 E0.5;E13.5 时收集胚胎,在显微镜下,将下颌同个象限中的切牙胚、无牙区和磨牙胚分离出来。将浸泡过生长因子液体的蓝色琼脂小珠加到无牙区牙胚上。将同时分离的切牙胚、磨牙胚和加了生长因子小珠的无牙区牙胚体外培养 24 小时后,移植至 CD-1 小鼠肾囊膜下培养 4 周后,分离移植块中的牙组织。②分离 E13.5 小鼠胚胎半个下颌,将浸有生长因子的琼脂小珠从无牙区插到间充质中,浸泡 BSA 的小珠作为对照。肾囊膜下培养 4 周后分离牙组织。③将浸泡过生长因子液体的蓝色琼脂小珠加到分离的无牙区牙胚上,浸泡过 BSA 的小珠作为对照。置于半固体培养基上体外培养 24 小时或 48 小时后,分别用作组织学分析、原位杂交分析、BrdU 标记和 TUNEL 分析。

研究结果:FGF8 可以诱导 E13.5 的无牙区牙胚体外成牙。但是,并不能在一个下颌象限中挽救无牙区牙胚的发育。FGF8 通过促进细胞增殖和抑制细胞凋亡,而阻止了无牙区牙胚的退化。原位杂

交结果显示,FGF8 诱导了一些成牙相关基因在无牙区牙胚的表达,从而启动了无牙区牙胚的发育程序。

结论:FGF8 可以促进无牙区细胞增殖并且抑制无牙区牙胚上皮细胞凋亡,FGF8 还可以诱导多种对牙发育非常关键的基因在无牙区牙胚表达,由此重新启动无牙区牙胚的发育程序。我们的结果还证明了无牙区周围的牙胚,通过多种信号途径抑制了无牙区牙胚的发育。

关键词:牙发育 成纤维生长因子 8 无牙区

二、BMP 信号通路在牙和腭发育中的作用

研究目的:骨形成蛋白家族(BMPs)属于 TGF- β 超家族,它们包括超过 20 种多功能的细胞因子。BMP 信号路径在颅颌面部器官发育中起着关键作用,包括牙和腭部发育。*Bmpr1a* 和 *Bmpr1b* 编码的两种 I 型 BMP 受体,是 BMP 信号路径转导的主要受体。这以前的研究发现,在上皮中表达的 *Bmpr1a* 对牙和腭突发育起着重要作用,但是间充质中 *Bmpr1a* 的作用仍不清楚。在本研究中,我们研究了牙及腭突发育的过程中,在间充质中表达的 *Bmpr1a* 的作用;并检测了小鼠腭部和牙发育过程中,*Bmpr1a* 和 *Bmpr1b* 是否有功能互补。

研究方法:①将 *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a*^{+/-} 小鼠与 *Bmpr1a*^{F/F} 小鼠交配就可以得到 *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a*^{F/-},即在神经嵴来源的细胞中特异的失活 *Bmpr1a* 的小鼠。为了阻止胚胎期小鼠早死,将终浓度为 200 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ 的异丙肾上腺素,加到 2.5 mg/ml 的维生素 C 溶液中,从胚胎 E7.5 开始给孕鼠喂药。小鼠胎龄计算时,以查到孕栓的当天中午计为胚胎 E0.5,按胎龄获得的胚胎先用冷的 PBS 冲洗数遍,分离小鼠胚胎头部,4% 的多聚甲醛在 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 过夜固定,经过脱水、透明、石蜡包埋、10 μm 切片,用来进行组织学染色分析和原位杂交实验。另外,有一部分标本经过不同的处理后,准备用来做冰冻切片进行免疫组化分析。②为了得到同时含有 *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a*^{F/-} 和 *pMescBmpr1b* 两个位点的小鼠,将 *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a*^{+/-} 小鼠与 *Bmpr1a*^{F/+};

pMes-caBmpr1b 小鼠交配, 含有这些复合位点的小鼠的基因型, 则为 *Wnt1 Cre; Bmpr1a^{F/-}; calb*。如上所述, 给孕鼠喂药, 收集胚胎进行组织学分析。③为了确定 *Wnt1 Cre; Bmpr1a^{F/-}; calb* 小鼠的牙发育是否延迟, 将 E13.5 的 *Wnt1 Cre; Bmpr1a^{F/-}; calb* 和野生型小鼠胚胎下颌磨牙牙胚分离出来后进行肾囊膜移植。本实验使用成熟的 CD-1 雄鼠进行肾囊膜移植和培养。

研究结果: *Bmpr1a* 和 *Bmpr1b* 在发育的牙和腭部的表达区域, 有重叠但又明显不同。特异性失活神经嵴来源的间充质细胞中的 *Bmpr1a*, 会导致一种并不常见的腭裂——继发腭前部裂。这种突变型小鼠的牙发育停滞在蕾状期或帽状早期, 并且伴有严重的下颌缺陷。牙及腭部的缺陷, 与其间充质中 BMP 应答基因下调及细胞增殖的降低相关。为了确定在牙和腭部的发育过程中 *Bmpr1b* 是否可以代替 *Bmpr1a* 的作用, 在神经嵴来源间充质中特异性失活 *Bmpr1a* 的同时持续的过表达激活的 *Bmpr1b*, 结果发现: 在间充质中用 *caBmpr1b* 代替 *Bmpr1a*, 可以挽救磨牙及上颌切牙的缺陷。但是, 被挽救的牙表现出成牙本质细胞和成釉细胞分化的延迟。相反, *caBmpr1b* 并不能挽救腭裂及下颌缺陷, 包括下切牙的缺失。

结论: 正常的腭突和牙发育, 绝对需要正常表达的 *Bmpr1a*, 在颅颌面部发育的过程中, *Bmpr1b* 以组织特异性的方式与 *Bmpr1a* 有局限性的功能互补。

关键词: BMP 信号通路 Bmp 受体 IA Bmp 受体 IB 牙发育 腭发育

三、BMP 信号平衡在牙和腭发育中的作用

研究目的: 在实验二中, 我们用 *Wnt1 Cre* 特异性地失活神经嵴来源的间充质细胞中的 *Bmpr1a*, 会导致一种并不常见的腭裂——继发腭前部裂。这种突变小鼠的牙发育停滞在蕾状期或帽状早期, 并且伴有严重的下颌缺陷。并且发现, 在间充质中用 *caBmpr1b* 代替 *Bmpr1a*, 可以部分挽救磨牙及上颌切牙的缺陷。但是, *caBmpr1b* 并不能

挽救腭裂及下颌缺陷包括下切牙的缺失。在用 *caBmpr1b* 挽救突变型小鼠的牙及腭部缺陷的同时,我们也用 *caBmpr1a* 作为阳性的平行对照,利用转基因小鼠模型研究了 BMP 信号平衡对小鼠颅颌面部发育的影响。

研究方法:①将 *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a^{+/-}* 小鼠与 *Bmpr1a^{F/+}; pMes-caBmpr1a* 小鼠交配得到基因型分别为 *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a^{F/+}*, *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a^{F/-}*; *pMes-caBmpr1a*, *Wnt1Cre; Bmpr1a^{F/+}*; *pMes-caBmpr1a* 和 *Wnt1Cre; pMes-caBmpr1a*。将终浓度为 200 μ g/ml 的异丙肾上腺素加到 2.5mg/ml 的维生素 C 溶液中,从胚胎 E7.5 开始给孕鼠喂药,以阻止胚胎死亡的发生。②小鼠胎龄计算时以查到孕栓的当天中午计为胚胎 E0.5,按胎龄获得 *Wnt1Cre; pMes-caBmpr1a* 小鼠不同时期胚胎。胚胎用冷的 PBS 冲洗数遍,分离小鼠胚胎头部,4% 的多聚甲醛在 4 $^{\circ}$ C 过夜固定,经过脱水、透明、石蜡包埋、10 μ m 切片,用来进行组织学染色分析和原位杂交实验。另一部分标本经过不同的处理后,准备用来做冰冻切片进行免疫组化分析。③为了确定 *Wnt1Cre; pMes-caBmpr1a* 小鼠的牙发育是否延迟,将 E13.5 的 *Wnt1Cre; pMes-caBmpr1a* 和野生型小鼠胚胎下颌磨牙牙胚分离后进行肾囊膜移植。本实验,使用成熟的 CD-1 雄鼠进行肾囊膜移植和培养。

研究结果:①随着间充质中 *Bmpr1a* 量的变化小鼠颅颌面部畸形的不同。② *Wnt1Cre* 介导的 *Bmpr1a* 在间充质中的过表达会导致继发腭完全性的腭裂和牙分化的延迟,同时伴有腭突前部间充质细胞增殖缺陷和腭突后部异位软骨的形成。

结论:正常的腭突和牙发育需要平衡的 BMP 信号活性,间充质中过度的 BMP 信号通路活性会造成腭突前部细胞增殖水平的降低和后部异位软骨的形成而导致腭裂,并且延迟成牙本质细胞和成釉细胞分化。

关键词:BMP 信号通路 Bmp 受体 IA 牙发育 腭发育

Abstract

1. Exogenous FGF8 rescues development of mouse diastemal vestigial tooth ex vivo

PURPOSE: Regression of vestigial tooth buds results in the formation of the toothless diastema, a unique feature of mouse dentition. Revitalization of the diastemal vestigial tooth bud provides an excellent model for studying tooth regeneration and replacement. It has been previously shown that suppression of FGF signaling in the diastema results in vestigial tooth bud regression. In this study, we report that application of exogenous FGF8 to mouse embryonic diastemal region rescues the development of diastemal vestigial tooth.

METHODS: ①Embryonic day 13.5 (E13.5) embryos from timed pregnant CD-1 females were collected. Mandibular quadrants were carefully dissected out, containing only the diastema, incisor and molar germs. It was further dissected into the diastema, the incisor, and molar tissues. Affi-gel blue agarose beads (100 ~ 200 μm in diameter) were prepared and soaked with growth factor proteins. 3 ~ 4 protein soaked beads were inserted into the diastemal mesenchyme. After 24 hours in culture, samples were subjected to subrenal culture using adult male CD-1 mice as hosts. Grafts were cultured underneath the kidney capsule for 4 weeks prior to being harvested for further analyses. ②Mandibular quadrants were carefully dissected out. Each quadrant was either used as a tissue transplant. For whole quadrant transplant, 3 ~ 4 protein soaked beads were inserted into the diastemal mesenchyme from the aboral side, and then beads-containing quadrants were transferred to a semisolid cul-

ture. BSA beads as control. Grafts were cultured underneath the kidney capsule for 4 weeks prior to being harvested for further analyses. ③ Affigel blue agarose beads (100 ~ 200 μm in diameter) were prepared and soaked with growth factor proteins. 3 ~ 4 protein soaked beads were inserted into the diastemal mesenchyme. After 24 hours or 48 hours in culture, samples were further used for histological analysis, in situ hybridization, BrdU labeling and TUNEL assay.

RESULTS: Isolated diastemal vestigial buds appeared to escape the suppressing effects of factors from the adjacent developing tooth germs, and in the presence of FGF8, became revitalized and continued to development. FGF8 promotes cell proliferation and inhibits apoptosis in diastemal tooth epithelium, and revitalizes the tooth developmental program, evidenced by the expression of genes critical for tooth development.

CONCLUSION: FGF8 promotes cell proliferation and inhibits apoptosis in diastemal tooth epithelium, and revitalizes the tooth developmental program, evidenced by the expression of genes critical for tooth development. Our results also support the idea that adjacent tooth germs contribute to the suppression of diastemal vestigial tooth buds via multiple signals.

2. The role of BMP signaling in tooth and palate development

PURPOSE: The family of BMPs comprises over 20 multi-functional cytokines that belong to the TGF- β superfamily. The BMP signaling plays a pivotal role in the development of craniofacial organs, including the tooth and palate. *Bmpr1a* and *Bmpr1b* encode two type I BMP receptors that are primarily responsible for BMP signaling transduction. Despite the essential role for *Bmpr1a* in the epithelial component for tooth and palate development, the requirement of *Bmpr1a* in the mesenchymal component remains unknown. In this study, we investigated mesenchymal tissue-specific requirement of *Bmpr1a* and its functional redundancy with *Bmpr1b* during the development of mouse tooth and palate.

METHODS: ① Embryos containing inactivated *Bmpr1a* in their neural crest cells (*Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/-}) were obtained by crossing *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{+/-} mice with *Bmpr1a*^{F/F} line. To prevent the embryonic lethality, drinking water was supplemented with 200 µg/ml isoproterenol and 2.5 mg/ml ascorbic acid from 7.5 post-coitum (dpc). Embryos were collected from timed-mate pregnant females in ice-cold PBS. Embryonic head samples were dissected and fixed individually in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) overnight at 4°C, and processed for paraffin section for histological and in situ hybridization analyses or for frozen section for immunostaining. ② To obtain embryos carrying *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/-} alleles and a *pMescaBmpr1b* transgenic allele, *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{+/-} mice were crossed with *Bmpr1a*^{F/+}; *pMes-caBmpr1b* mice. Mice containing such compounded alleles are referred as *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/-}; *calb*. Samples were processed as previous described. ③ To determine if the *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/-}; *calb* mouse exhibited delay of tooth development. Mandibular molar germs were isolated from *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/-}; *calb* embryos and wild type controls, and were subjected to subrenal culture. Adult CD-1 male mice were used as hosts for subrenal culture.

RESULTS: *Bmpr1a* and *Bmpr1b* exhibit partially overlapping and distinct expression patterns in the developing tooth and palatal shelf. Neural crest-specific inactivation of *Bmpr1a* leads to formation of an unusual type of anterior clefting of the secondary palate, an arrest of tooth development at the bud/early cap stages, and severe hypoplasia of the mandible. Defective tooth and palate development is accompanied by the down-regulation of BMP-responsive genes and reduced cell proliferation levels in the palatal and dental mesenchyme. To determine if *Bmpr1b* could substitute for *Bmpr1a* during tooth and palate development, we expressed a constitutively active form of *Bmpr1b* (*caBmpr1b*) in the neural crest cells in which *Bmpr1a* was simultaneously inactivated. We found that substitution of *Bmpr1a* by *caBmpr1b* in neural crest cells rescues the development of molars and maxillary incisor, but the rescued teeth ex-

hibit a delayed odontoblast and ameloblast differentiation. In contrast, *caBmpr1b* failed to rescue the palatal and mandibular defects including the lack of lower incisors.

CONCLUSION: *Bmpr1a* is essential in the mesenchymal compartment for palate and tooth development. *Bmpr1b* has a restricted redundant function with *Bmpr1a* in a tissue specific manner in craniofacial development.

3. The role of BMP signaling homeostasis in tooth and palate development

PURPOSE: In Part II, we have shown that neural crest-specific inactivation of *Bmpr1a* leads to formation of an unusual type of anterior clefting of the secondary palate, an arrest of tooth development at the bud/early cap stages, and severe hypoplasia of the mandible. Substitution of *Bmpr1a* by a constitutively active form of BMP receptor IB (*caBmpr1b*) in the cranial neural crest cells rescues the development of molars and maxillary incisor, but the rescued teeth exhibit a delayed odontoblast and ameloblast differentiation (Li et al., 2011). In parallel to the *caBmpr1b* rescue study, we used a conditional transgenic allele that expresses a constitutively active form of BMP receptor IA (*caBmpr1a*) as a positive control. Using transgenic mouse model, we set to investigate the role of BMP signaling homeostasis in tooth and palate development.

METHODS: ① Embryos with different combination of *Bmpr1a* allele in the neural crest-derived tissues were obtained by crossing *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{+/-} mice with *Bmpr1a*^{F/+}; *pMescBmpr1a* mice. The genotypes of the embryos are: *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/-}, *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/+}; *pMescBmpr1a*, *Wnt1Cre*; *Bmpr1a*^{F/+}; *pMesc-caBmpr1a* and *Wnt1Cre*; *pMescBmpr1a*. To prevent the embryonic lethality, drinking water was supplemented with 200 µg/ml isoproterenol and 2.5 mg/ml ascorbic acid from 7.5 post-coitum (dpc). ② Embryos were collected from timed-mate pregnant females in ice-cold PBS. Embryonic head samples were dis-