

Lack of CD47 Impairs Bone Cell Differentiation

parameters (osteoblast surface, osteoblast number, and osteoid surface) were estimated using sections stained with von Kossa stain and toluidine blue. Only osteoblasts identified adjacent to osteoid surfaces were included in the analysis. Bone formation (mineralizing surface, MS) was estimated using the bone surface (BS) coverage of single- and double-labeled (sLS and dLS) fluorescent bands using the equation $MS = ((0.5 \times sLS) + dLS) \times 100/BS$, expressed as a percentage of bone surface. Mineral apposition rate (MAR) was estimated by the distance between the calcein labels divided by the time interval between injections of labels ($MAR = \text{interlabel distance} / 7$), expressed in $\mu\text{m}/\text{day}$). Bone formation rate (BFR) was calculated after fluorescence microscopy (Leica Microsystems, Heerbrugg, Switzerland) as $BFR = MS/\text{bone surface} \times MAR$, expressed in $\mu\text{m}^2/\mu\text{m}^3/\text{day}$. For measurements of osteoclast surface and osteoclast number, sections were stained for TRAP positivity.

Peripheral quantitative computed tomography was used to analyze cortical bone of the tibia, using a Stratec XCT Research SA scanner (Stratec Medizintechnik, Pforzheim, Germany). Scans were conducted using a voxel size of $70 \mu\text{m}$, scan speed of 5 mm/s and slice width of 1 mm on excised tibia, as described previously (18). Bones were scanned in a single slice 4 mm distal from the proximal margin of the tibia.

Micro-computed Tomography—A Skyscan 1174 scanner and associated analysis software (Skyscan, Aartselaar, Belgium) were used to visualize the three-dimensional bone structure of the distal femoral metaphysis. Following fixation, representative bones were scanned in 70% ethanol. A 0.5-mm aluminum filter was applied to the 50 kV x-ray source, with an exposure time of 3600 ms and sharpening at 40%. Distal femora were scanned at a $6.2 \mu\text{m}$ pixel resolution acquired over an angular range of 180° , with a rotation step of 0.4° . Following reconstruction, $67\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ -thick images were created from a point $400 \mu\text{m}$ from the most proximal aspect of the growth plate.

Statistical Analyses—The statistical analyses were performed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Levene's homogeneity test, and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's t test. Students t test were used in the histomorphometric analyses (SPSS, version 18). All experiments were performed at least twice with comparable results, and all data are represented as the means \pm S.E. Significance levels were set to $p < 0.05$ (*), 0.01 (**), or 0.001 (***)

RESULTS

CD47 Is Required for Functional Osteoclast Differentiation in Vitro—We have previously shown that mice lacking CD47 have reduced numbers of osteoclasts on trabecular bone surfaces *in vivo* (12). To further elucidate the role of CD47 in osteoclastogenesis within the bone marrow, we studied $CD47^{-/-}$ or $CD47^{+/+}$ crude BMC, containing both mesenchymal/stromal cells and hematopoietic cells, to mimic the *in vivo* situation. Addition of PTH (10^{-8} M) or D3 (10^{-8} M) stimulated formation of multinucleated osteoclasts in $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC ($n = 96 \pm 15.8$ and 142 ± 14.1 , respectively) (Fig. 1, A and B). In marked contrast, only a few multinucleated osteoclasts were detected in PTH or D3-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures ($n = 4 \pm 1.1$ and $n = 8 \pm 3.2$, respectively) (Fig. 1, A and B). When $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC

were cultured on bone slices, we found both fewer osteoclasts (Fig. 1C) and dramatically fewer resorption pits reflected as an 82% reduced release of collagen type I fragments into the culture medium, as compared with that in $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures (Fig. 1D). *Trap/Acp5* mRNA and TRAP protein expressions were substantially increased in $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC in response to PTH (10^{-8} M) or D3 (10^{-8} M), whereas no (D3), or only a slight (PTH) ($p < 0.001$), increase in TRAP protein expression was seen in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 2, A and B). Quantitative real-time PCR analyses of $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC revealed that D3 substantially stimulated the mRNA expression of *ctr* and *catK*, whereas D3 did not increase *ctr* expression and only marginally increased *catK* expression ($p < 0.05$) in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 2, C and D). The mRNA expression of *nfatc1*, the master transcription factor regulating osteoclastogenesis, and the osteoclast-associated receptor *oscar*, were both increased in D3-stimulated $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures but not in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 3). D3 did not significantly regulate the mRNA expression of the receptors *c-fms* or *SIRP α* , and no significant difference was seen comparing the two genotypes (Fig. 3). However, we found that the mRNA expression of *rank* was up-regulated in $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC stimulated with D3 ($p < 0.001$), whereas no such response to D3 was seen in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC (Fig. 3). Additionally, the mRNA expression of dendritic cell-specific transmembrane protein (*dc-stamp*), a protein of importance for osteoclast fusion was substantially increased in response to D3 in the $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures ($p < 0.05$; Fig. 3), whereas only a minor increase was seen in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures ($p < 0.05$; Fig. 3).

Because production of M-CSF in BMC-cultures is pivotal for osteoclastogenesis due to its capacity to increase survival of osteoclast progenitor cells (3), we next investigated whether this function was impaired in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. These experiments revealed that *m-csf* gene expression was significantly reduced in unstimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC cultures, as compared with that in unstimulated $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC ($p < 0.05$; Fig. 4A). By comparing M-CSF protein levels in culture medium from $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures, we confirmed a significantly lower concentration of M-CSF, both in control and D3-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 4B). The effect of D3 on M-CSF expression in BMC is to our knowledge unknown, but in our experiments, D3 seems to decrease the M-CSF expression in the normal mice. Analyses of RANKL expression in D3-stimulated $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC revealed a significant increase in *rankl* mRNA, as well as RANKL protein in culture medium, whereas no such response to D3 was detected in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures with the exception of a very slight but significant increase ($p < 0.01$) in the protein levels of RANKL in $CD47^{-/-}$ culture medium (Fig. 4, C and D). When stimulating BMC cultures with D3, the osteoprotegerin protein expression decreased in both $CD47^{-/-}$ and $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures (data not shown), and thus, the RANKL/osteoprotegerin-ratio increased in both genotypes.

CD47 Is Required for Osteoblastogenesis and Bone Formation in Vitro—The strongly reduced production of M-CSF and RANKL in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures indicated a stromal cell differentiation defect when CD47 was absent. Therefore, we next analyzed osteoblastic differentiation in BMC and found that the major transcription factors for osteoblast differentiation, *runx2* and *osterix*, were increased over time in $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures

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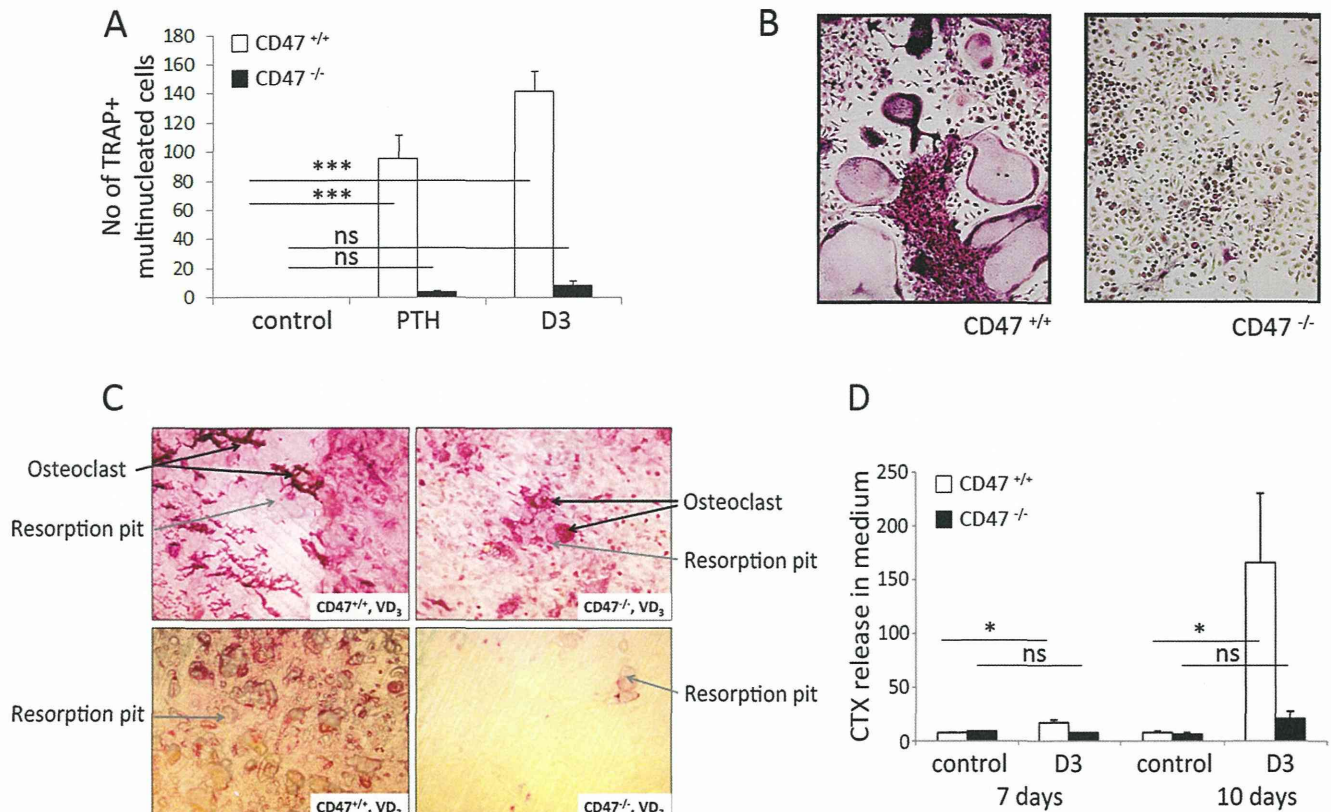


FIGURE 1. Strongly reduced osteoclast differentiation, osteoclast formation, and bone resorption in *CD47*^{-/-} BMC. *A*, significantly fewer osteoclasts were formed in *CD47*^{-/-} BMC stimulated with PTH (10^{-8} M) or D3 (10^{-8} M), as compared with that in *CD47*^{+/+} BMC. Data in *A* are the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one of five representative experiments. *B*, representative photomicrographs showing the difference in TRAP⁺ multinucleated osteoclasts between *CD47*^{-/-} and *CD47*^{+/+} BMC after 6 days of culture. Cells that contained three or more nuclei and stained red/purple were counted as TRAP⁺ multinucleated osteoclasts. BMC performed on bone slices, stimulated with D3, showed both fewer osteoclasts and resorption pits in *CD47*^{-/-} cultures compared with *CD47*^{+/+}, which is illustrated by representative photomicrographs (*A*) and subsequently significantly lower release of collagen type I fragments (CTX) in culture medium in *CD47*^{-/-} cultures compared with *CD47*^{+/+} cultures (*B*). Data in *B* are means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one of two representative experiments. ns, not significant. *, $p < 0.05$ and ***, $p < 0.001$, using Student's *t* test or ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's *t* test.

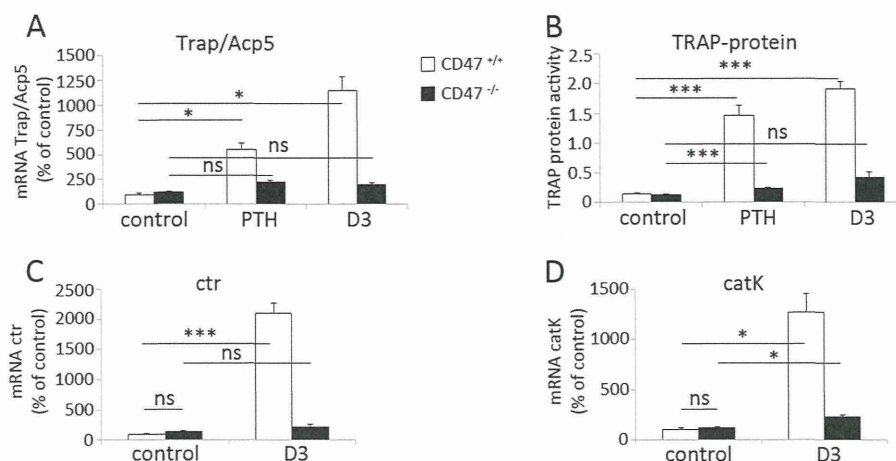


FIGURE 2. Impaired expression of osteoclast-specific genes in *CD47*^{-/-} BMC. *A* and *B*, the mRNA expressions of *Trap/Acp5*, as well as the TRAP protein activity, were significantly increased in *CD47*^{+/+} BMC when stimulated with either PTH or D3, whereas expressions of *Trap/Acp5* mRNA or TRAP protein were markedly blunted in PTH or D3-stimulated *CD47*^{-/-} BMC. Data in *A* and *B* are the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one of three representative experiments. *C*, the expression of *ctr* was significantly increased in *CD47*^{+/+} BMC, but not in *CD47*^{-/-} BMC following D3 stimulation. *D*, enhanced *catK* expression in D3-stimulated *CD47*^{+/+} BMC, as compared with that in *CD47*^{-/-} BMC. Data in *C* and *D* are means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one of two representative experiments. The mRNA expression data shown in *A*, *C*, and *D* are quantitative values normalized to the housekeeping gene β -actin. The *CD47*^{+/+} control was set to 100%. *, $p < 0.05$ and ***, $p < 0.001$, using ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's *t* test. ns, not significant.

(Fig. 5A). However, in *CD47*^{-/-} cultures, we observed no increase in osterix mRNA expression and only a modest increase in *runx2* mRNA expression (Fig. 5A). Moreover, although the expression of *Alp/Akp1* and α -1-collagen substan-

tially increased over time in *CD47*^{+/+} BMC, no significant increase of *Alp/Akp1* and only a small increase in α -1-collagen were seen in *CD47*^{-/-} cultures (Fig. 5B). Thus, the mRNA expression of *Alp/Akp1* and α -1-collagen were significantly

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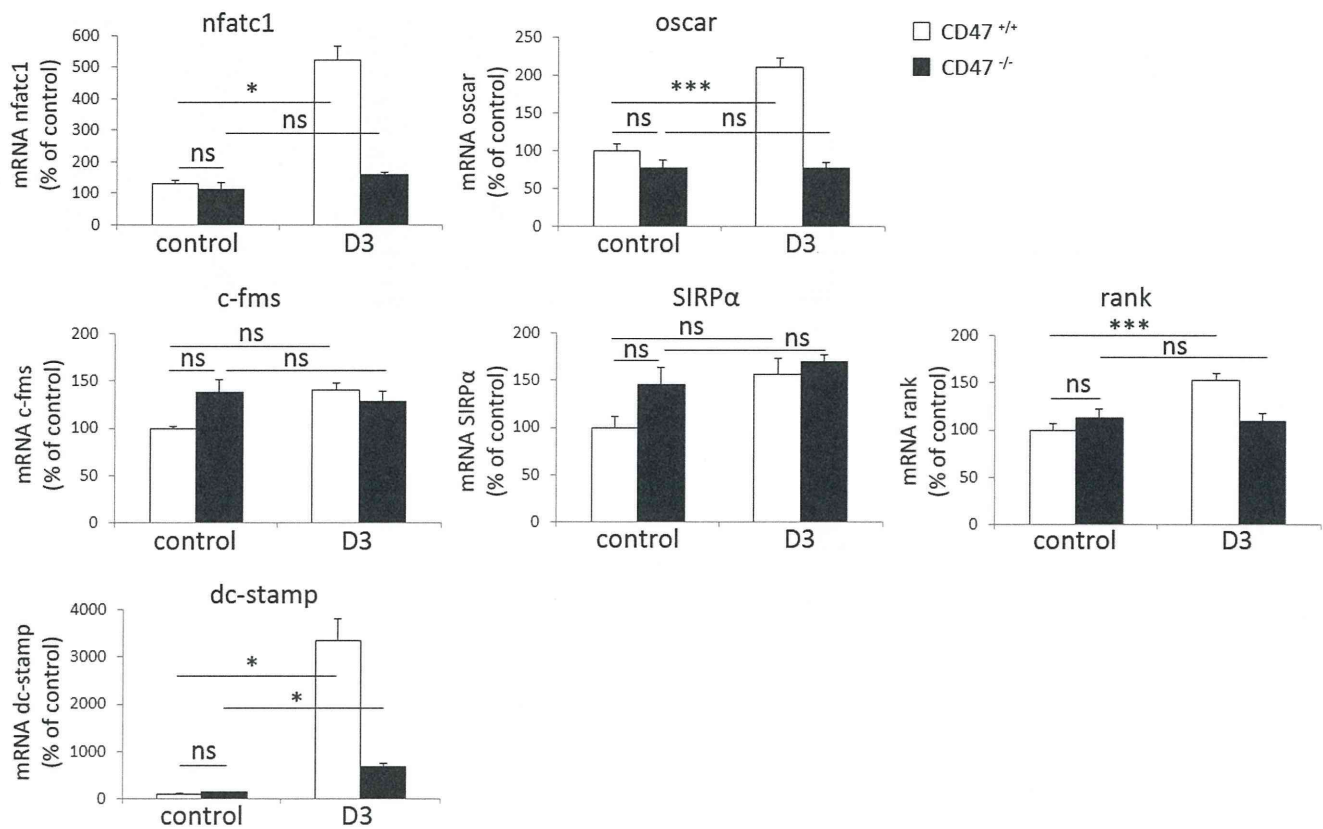


FIGURE 3. Impaired expression of osteoclast differentiation-associated genes in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. The expression of *nfatc1*, *oscar*, *rank*, and *dc-stamp* were all significantly increased when stimulating $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC with D3 (10^{-8} M). With the exception of *dc-stamp*, which was weakly but statistically significantly increased, neither of these genes were up-regulated in D3-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. The mRNA expression of *c-fms* or *SIRPα* were not significantly up-regulated when stimulating BMC from $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ with D3 (10^{-8} M). The $CD47^{+/+}$ control was set to 100%, and data shown are quantitative values normalized to the housekeeping gene β -actin. All genes were analyzed in two or more different experiments, and the data shown are the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one representative experiment. *ns*, not significant. *, $p < 0.05$ and ***, $p < 0.001$, using ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's *t* test.

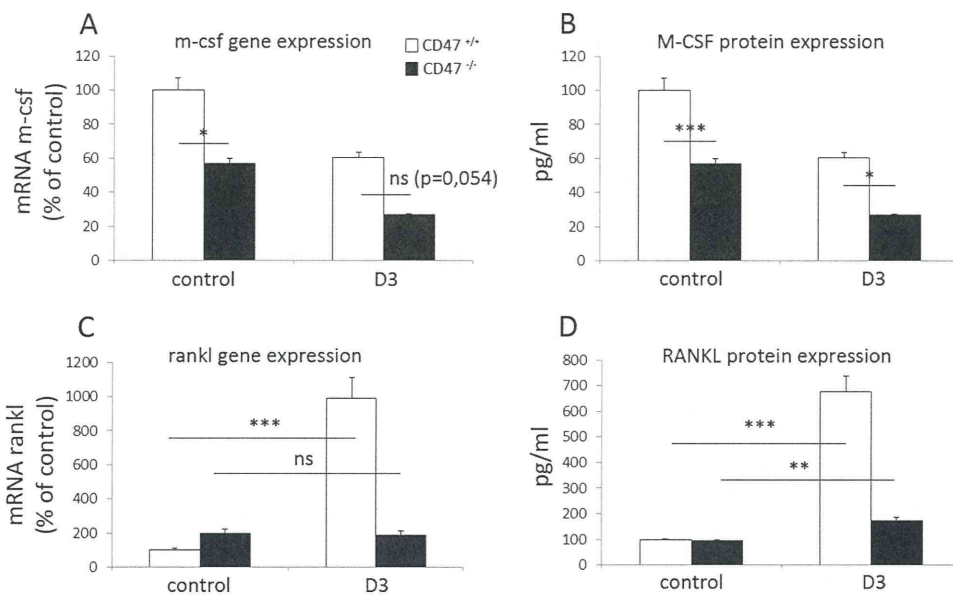


FIGURE 4. Reduced expression of M-CSF and RANKL in D3-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. The mRNA expression of *m-csf* (A), as well as M-CSF protein in culture medium (B), were lower both in control and D3-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC, as compared with that in $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC. In D3-stimulated $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC, both *rankl* mRNA expression (C) and RANKL protein in culture medium (D) were strongly increased, as compared with that in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. The unstimulated $CD47^{+/+}$ control was set to 100%, and data of mRNA analyses are quantitative values normalized to the housekeeping gene β -actin. All genes were analyzed in two or more different experiments, and the data shown are the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one representative experiment. *ns*, not significant. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; and ***, $p < 0.001$, using ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's *t* test.

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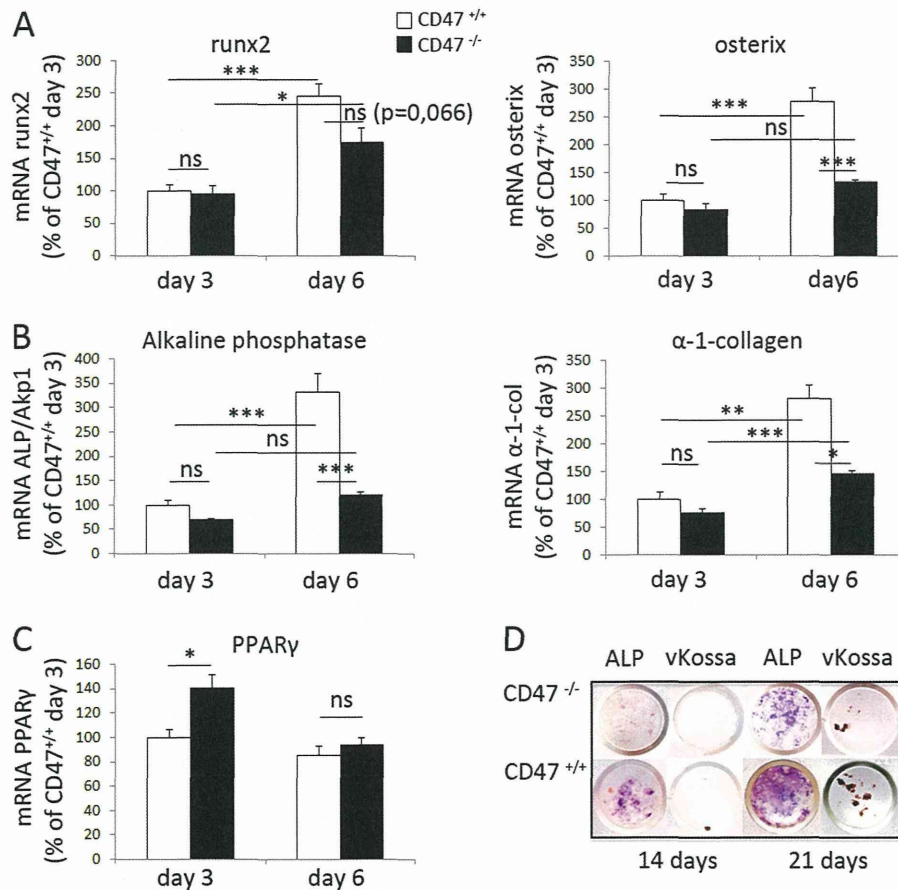


FIGURE 5. Impaired expression of osteoblast-specific genes and osteoblast differentiation in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. *A* and *B*, the mRNA expression of *runx2*, *osterix*, *Alp/Akp1*, and α -1-collagen were significantly increased from day 3 to 6 during culture of $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC. With the exception of *runx2*, these responses were significantly lower in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC, as compared with $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC. *C*, the expression of the adipocytic gene *PPAR γ* was higher in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures, as compared with that in $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures on day 3 but not on day 6. Data shown are quantitative values normalized to the housekeeping gene β -actin, where the $CD47^{+/+}$ control day 3 was set to 100%. All genes were analyzed in two or more different experiments, and the data shown are the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one representative experiment. ns, not significant. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; and ***, $p < 0.001$, using ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's test. *D*, representative photographs of ALP staining (purple) and von Kossa staining (brown mineral deposits) in BMC from both $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ mice after 14 and 21 days of culture in osteogenic medium supplemented with β -glycerophosphate and ascorbic acid.

lower in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC when compared with $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC. Interestingly, at day 3 of culture, we found a slight up-regulation of the adipocyte-specific gene *PPAR γ* expression in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures, as compared with $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures, whereas no difference in *PPAR γ* expression was seen at day six of culture (Fig. 5C).

We further analyzed the stromal cell differentiation capacity in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC by culturing the cells in osteogenic medium supplemented with β -glycerophosphate and ascorbic acid. Under these conditions, $CD47^{+/+}$ BMCs were positive for the osteoblastic marker ALP at day 14 of culture, when small spots of mineral deposits were also detected (Fig. 5D). In marked contrast, less ALP-staining and no mineral deposits were seen at day 14 in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC cultures (Fig. 5D). By 21 days of culture, the ALP expression and mineral deposits increased in both $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures, but the expression of ALP and formation of mineral were still much lower in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 5D).

Because BMP-2 is a known stimulator of osteoblastic differentiation (19), we next investigated the effects of exogenous BMP-2 on BMC differentiation toward the osteoblastic lineage. As shown in Fig. 5D, culture of $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC for 6 days in osteogenic medium alone induced ALP protein expression, as

compared with the virtual lack of ALP expression in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures. Addition of BMP-2 induced a robust increase in ALP protein expression in $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC, whereas the ALP was maintained at extremely low levels in BMP-2-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 6, A and B). Furthermore, there was a marked difference in cellular morphology between the two genotypes. In both unstimulated and BMP-2-stimulated $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC, the vast majority of the cells showed spreading on the plastic surface. However, cell spreading appeared to be strongly reduced in unstimulated as well as BMP-2-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures (Fig. 6B).

Tyrosine phosphorylation of SIRP α , for which CD47 is a ligand, is important in mediating adhesion-dependent cellular functions (16). In endothelial cells, adhesion-dependent SIRP α tyrosine phosphorylation requires CD47 (20). Therefore, we next investigated whether impaired signaling through SIRP α could be involved in mediating the reduced osteoblast differentiation in $CD47^{-/-}$ cultures. Flow cytometric analysis of bone marrow stromal cells showed that SIRP α was expressed at equal levels by both $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ stromal cells (Fig. 6C). When SIRP α was immunoprecipitated from stromal cell cultures of $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, a strong tyrosine phos-

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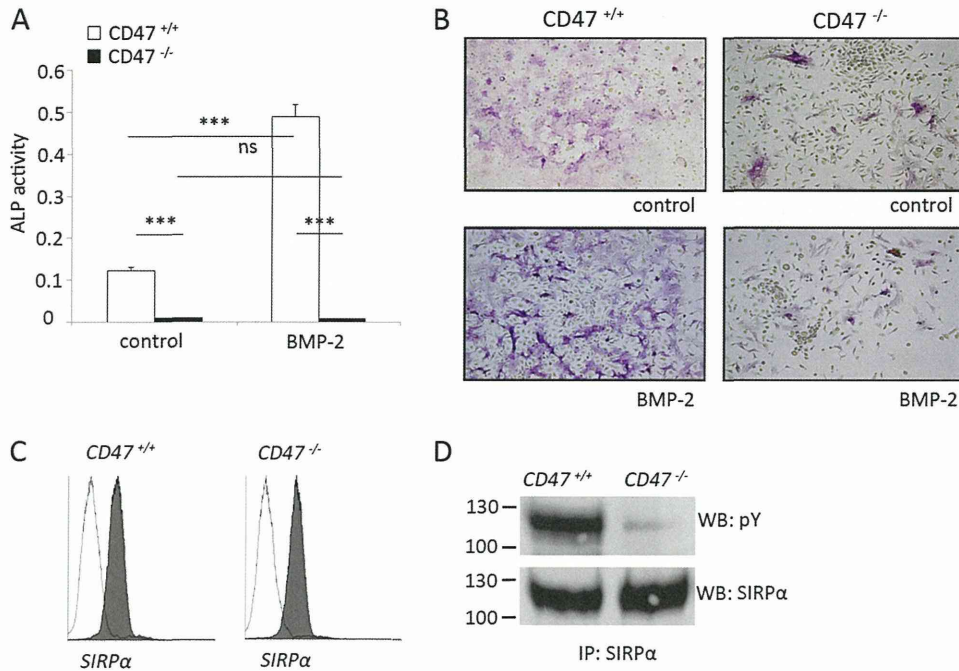


FIGURE 6. Blunted osteoblast differentiation in $CD47^{-/-}$ stromal cells is associated with the lack of SIRP α tyrosine phosphorylation. A, ALP protein expression was evident following 6 days of $CD47^{+/+}$ BMC culture in osteogenic medium alone (control) and significantly increased in cultures stimulated for 6 days with BMP-2 (125 ng/ml). $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC expressed remarkably little ALP protein when cultured in osteogenic medium and were unresponsive to BMP-2. B, representative photomicrographs showing purple ALP⁺ cells in $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC cultured in osteogenic medium alone (control), or in BMC stimulated with BMP-2 (125 ng/ml) stimulated at 6 days of culture. ALP⁺ cells are stained blue. Data are shown as the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one of two representative experiments. ns, not significant. $***, p < 0.001$, using ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's *t* test. C, flow cytometric analysis of cell surface SIRP α expression in $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ bone marrow stromal cells cultured for 14 days. Cells were labeled with anti-SIRP α mAb P84 (gray histogram) or isotype rat IgG1 mAb (open histogram), where both antibodies were conjugated to Alexa Fluor 488. D, adherent bone marrow stromal cells derived from $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ mice and cultured for 14 days were lysed, and SIRP α was immunoprecipitated from equal amounts of protein. The tyrosine phosphorylation (pY) of SIRP α immunoprecipitated from stromal cells of each genotype was determined by Western blot (WB), using anti-phosphotyrosine mAb 4G10. Equal loading of SIRP α immunoprecipitates was confirmed by blotting for SIRP α using mAb P84. The data are representative of two separate experiments with virtually identical results.

phorylation of SIRP α was detected in $CD47^{+/+}$ cells, whereas the SIRP α phosphorylation was virtually blunted in $CD47^{-/-}$ cells (Fig. 6D). Thus, lack of SIRP α tyrosine phosphorylation in $CD47^{-/-}$ stromal cells could explain the reduced osteoblastic differentiation in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. To further challenge this hypothesis, we investigated differentiation of bone marrow stromal cells from SIRP α -mutant mice. These mice express normal levels of CD47 as well as the SIRP α extracellular domain, but the cytoplasmic SIRP α domain is deleted and cannot be phosphorylated upon ligation of the receptor (17). Interestingly, ALP protein expression was strongly reduced in SIRP α mutant BMC cultured for 12 days, as compared with that in SIRP α wild-type cultures (data not shown). Thus, osteogenic differentiation of bone marrow stromal cells requires CD47-dependent SIRP α signaling.

Based on these findings, we next hypothesized that the absence of stromal cell CD47, and subsequent lack of SIRP α signaling, could explain the impaired osteoclast formation in D3-stimulated $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. To address this hypothesis, we conducted D3-stimulated co-culture experiments combining bone marrow stromal cells and bone marrow myeloid precursor cells of either genotype (wild-type, $CD47^{-/-}$, or SIRP α mutant). These experiments revealed that wild-type and $CD47^{-/-}$ myeloid precursor cells generated equal numbers of multinucleated osteoclast on CD47 wild-type bone marrow stromal cells, whereas myeloid precursors of both genotypes generated low numbers of

multinucleated osteoclast on $CD47^{-/-}$ stromal cells (Fig. 7A). Similarly, SIRP α wild-type and SIRP α mutant myeloid precursors gave rise to an equal number of multinucleated cells on SIRP α wild-type bone marrow stromal cells, whereas SIRP α mutant stromal cells showed a strongly reduced ability to promote multinucleated osteoclast formation in both wild-type and SIRP α mutant myeloid precursors (Fig. 7B).

Reduced Osteoclast and Osteoblast Numbers and Impaired Skeletal Parameters, in $CD47^{-/-}$ Mice—To investigate the biological impact of our *in vitro* observations, we next analyzed osteoclast and osteoblast densities in femoral bones of 18- or 28-week-old male $CD47^{+/+}$ or $CD47^{-/-}$ mice. We have previously reported a 37% reduction in TRAP⁺ osteoclast surface and a 29% reduction in osteoclast number in the distal femoral metaphysis of 18-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, as compared with that in age-matched $CD47^{+/+}$ mice (12). Herein, we further analyzed the osteoclast density in 28-week-old mice and found that $CD47^{-/-}$ mice had a 38% ($p < 0.01$) reduction in osteoclast numbers and a 46% ($p < 0.01$) reduction in osteoclast surface, as compared with $CD47^{+/+}$ mice (Fig. 8, A and B). Importantly, osteoblast numbers were also reduced in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, with a 55 and 47% reduction, respectively, in 18- and 28-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, as compared with age-matched $CD47^{+/+}$ mice ($p < 0.001$ and $p < 0.01$, respectively; Fig. 8, C and D).

To further investigate the effects of reduced osteoclastogenesis and osteoblastogenesis in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, trabecular

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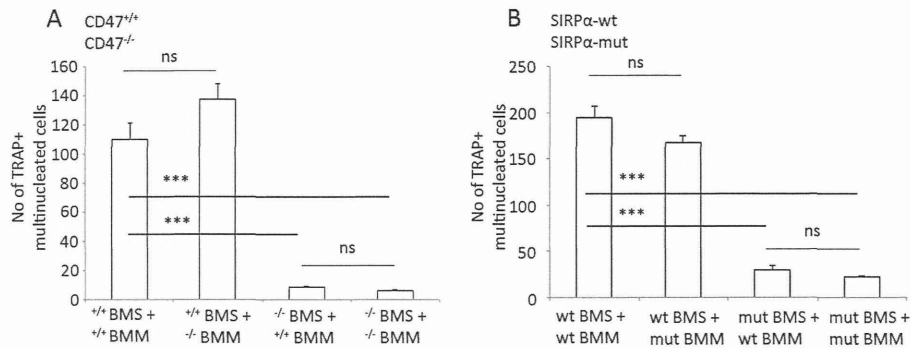


FIGURE 7. D3-stimulated bone marrow stromal cells lacking CD47, or expressing mutated non-signaling SIRP α , are unable to support osteoclastogenesis. *A*, CD47^{+/+} D3-stimulated (10⁻⁸ M) BMS induced similar levels of osteoclast formation in both CD47^{+/+} and CD47^{-/-} non-adherent BMM. In contrast, D3-stimulated CD47^{-/-} BMS showed strongly reduced capacity to induce osteoclast formation in non-adherent bone marrow myeloid precursor cells of either genotype. *B*, wild-type D3-stimulated BMS induced osteoclast formation in non-adherent bone marrow myeloid precursor cells from both wild-type and non-signaling SIRP α mutant mice. However, osteoclast formation in non-adherent bone marrow myeloid precursor cells of either genotype was strongly reduced when co-cultured with D3-stimulated BMS expressing the non-signaling SIRP α protein. Data are shown as the means \pm S.E. of four to six samples/group in one of two representative experiments. *ns*, not significant. ***, $p < 0.001$, using ANOVA with Levene's homogeneity test and post hoc Bonferroni's test or, where appropriate, Dunnett's t test. *mut*, mutant.

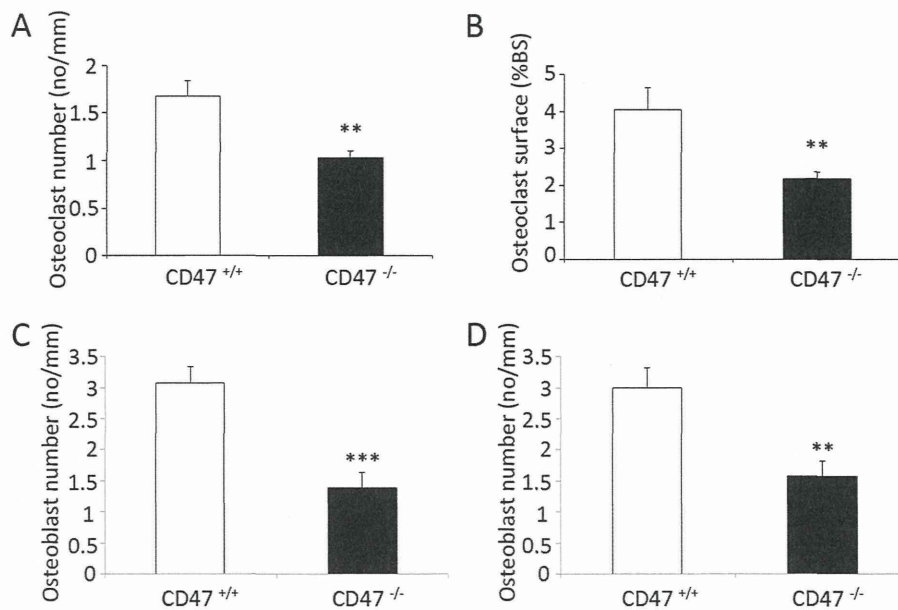


FIGURE 8. Reduced osteoclast and osteoblast numbers in bones of CD47^{-/-} mice. At 28 weeks of age, the number of osteoclasts covering trabecular bone surface (*A*) and the total osteoclast surface that covers the trabecular bone (*B*) were both significantly reduced in CD47^{-/-} mice, as compared with that in CD47^{+/+} mice. At both 18 (*C*) and 28 (*D*) weeks of age, the number of osteoblasts covering the bone surface was significantly lower in CD47^{-/-} mice, as compared with that in CD47^{+/+} mice. Data are means \pm S.E. of 7–10 mice in each age group. **, $p < 0.01$ and ***, $p < 0.001$, as compared with that in CD47^{+/+} mice, using Student's t test for unpaired analyses.

microarchitecture was evaluated both in adult and aged mice bone. Histomorphometric analysis of the distal femurs revealed that the trabecular bone volume was significantly reduced by 15% in 18-week-old CD47^{-/-} mice as compared with that in CD47^{+/+} mice ($p < 0.01$; Fig. 9, *A* and *B*). In 28-week-old CD47^{-/-} mice, the trabecular bone volume was further reduced to 45% of that in CD47^{+/+} mice ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 9*B*). These differences in trabecular bone microarchitecture were also confirmed by micro-computed tomography (Fig. 9*C*). To further investigate this intriguing observation, we next examined bone formation in 18-week-old CD47^{+/+} or CD47^{-/-} mice using dual calcein labeling *in vivo* (Fig. 9*D*). These experiments revealed that the bone formation rate was markedly reduced in 18-week-old CD47^{-/-} mice, being 62% of that in CD47^{+/+} mice (0.26 \pm 0.008 $\mu\text{m}^2/\mu\text{m}^3/\text{day}$ versus 0.10 \pm 0.030 $\mu\text{m}^2/\mu\text{m}^3/\text{day}$, $p < 0.001$; Fig. 9*D*). This inhibition was consist-

ent with a reduction of both osteoblast activity and surface extent, with mineral apposition rate and mineralizing surface reduced by 34 and 42%, respectively ($p < 0.01$; Fig. 9*D*). In 28-week-old CD47^{+/+} mice, the mineralizing surface, mineral apposition rate, and bone formation rate were much lower, as compared with that in 18-week-old CD47^{+/+} mice (Fig. 9*D*), and no difference in these parameters were seen between CD47^{+/+} or CD47^{-/-} mice at 28 weeks of age (Fig. 9*D*). In line with the reduced mineralization observed in 18-week-old CD47^{-/-} mice, these mice were also found to have a 66% reduction in osteoid surface, as compared with that in age-matched CD47^{+/+} mice ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 9*D*). In 28-week-old CD47^{-/-} mice, osteoid surface was reduced by 43%, as compared with that in CD47^{+/+} mice (Fig. 9*D*).

We also investigated the cortical bone compartment in 18- or 28-week-old CD47^{+/+} and CD47^{-/-} mice, using peripheral

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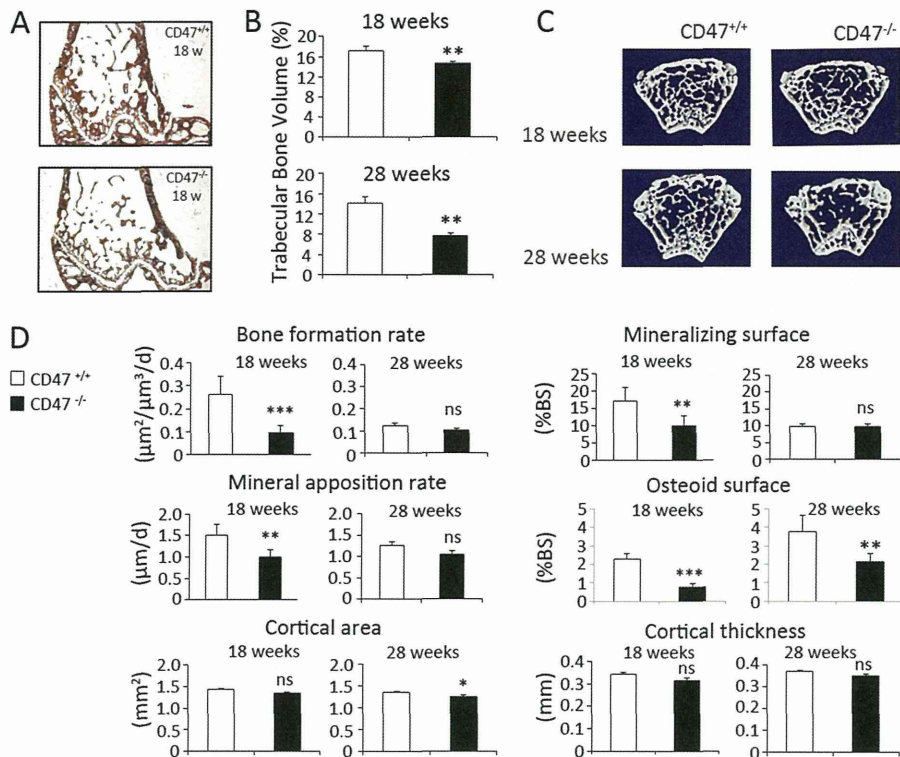


FIGURE 9. Reduced bone formation in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice. *A*, representative femoral sections from 18-week-old $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ mice stained for mineral with von Kossa. *B*, at 18 and 28 weeks of age, the trabecular bone volume was lower in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, as compared with age-matched $CD47^{+/+}$ mice. *C*, micro-computed tomography images of left femur from 18- and 28-week-old $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ mice. At 18 weeks of age, trabecular bone formation rate, mineral apposition rate, and mineralizing surface were all significantly reduced in femurs from $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, as compared with that in $CD47^{+/+}$ mice. At 28 weeks of age, the same parameters did not show any significant differences between $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ mice. Osteoid surface was significantly lower in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice at both 18 and 28 weeks, as compared with that in $CD47^{+/+}$ mice. A non-significant (*ns*) difference was seen in cortical area, when comparing $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ mice at 18 weeks of age; however, a 6% statistically significant difference was evident in cortical area at 28 weeks of age. The cortical thickness was not significantly different in the two genotypes at 18 or 28 weeks of age. Data are means \pm S.E. of 7–10 mice in each age group. *ns*, not significant. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; and ***, $p < 0.001$, as compared with that in $CD47^{+/+}$ mice, using Student's *t* test for unpaired analyses. *d*, day.

quantitative computed tomography analysis. Although this analysis showed a slight decrease in cortical area and thickness in both 18- and 28-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, the only statistically significant difference was detected in cortical area of 28-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice (Fig. 9D). Note that there were no differences in bone marrow fat content in 28-week-old $CD47^{+/+}$ and $CD47^{-/-}$ mice (data not shown).

DISCUSSION

The mechanisms regulating bone homeostasis are multiple and still not fully understood. In the present study, we have shown that CD47 is required to activate its receptor SIRP α in stromal cells/osteoblasts, which is critically important within the bone marrow for the ability of stromal cells/osteoblasts to promote formation of osteoclasts. Lack of CD47/SIRP α signaling in the stromal cell compartment impairs osteoblast differentiation *in vivo* and *in vitro*. This functional defect not only impairs osteoid formation and mineralization *in vivo* but also results in impaired formation of osteoclasts. Together, this suggests an explanation to the osteopenic bone phenotype of $CD47^{-/-}$ mice.

Investigations of osteoclast formation *in vitro* are based on a number of different experimental systems, which show important variations. One system is based on selection of monocyte/macrophage progenitors from the bone marrow and differentiation of these cells toward the osteoclastic lineage by addition of

M-CSF and RANKL to the culture medium (bone marrow myeloid precursor cell (BMM) cultures) (21). Another system can be used to mimic more physiological conditions *in vivo*, which is based on the culture of crude bone marrow (BMC cultures), containing both stromal cells (with osteoblast progenitor potential) and hematopoietic progenitor cells (which can differentiate into pre-osteoclasts) (22). In the latter system, which is used in this paper, stimulation with PTH or D3 will induce stromal cells/osteoblasts to produce RANKL, resulting in a natural indirect stimulation of pre-osteoclast differentiation and osteoclast maturation. The importance of stromal cells can be bypassed if M-CSF and RANKL are added to this type of culture.

Our previous data suggest that the physical interaction between CD47 and SIRP α is important for osteoclast formation in BMM cultures because functional blocking antibodies against either CD47 or SIRP α impaired osteoclast formation in $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures, and that $CD47^{-/-}$ BMM cultures generated less osteoclasts than $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures (12). Uluçkan *et al.* (13) also showed impaired generation of osteoclasts from $CD47^{-/-}$ BMM cells but that the osteoclast formation defect could be rescued by pre-incubation with M-CSF and by increasing the levels of RANKL. We have confirmed the rescued osteoclast formation in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMM cultures by pre-incubating the cells with M-CSF and by adding increased concentrations of

RANKL or a highly efficient truncated form of RANKL (data not shown). This is an interesting observation, suggesting that M-CSF-mediated early differentiation of pre-osteoclasts can rescue the osteoclast phenotype in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice if sufficient RANKL levels are provided.

In the present study, we found that osteoclast formation was virtually abolished in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC stimulated with PTH or D3 *in vitro*. In this more complex system, the observed defect cannot only be explained as a pre-osteoclast fusion defect, since gene expression levels of *nfatc1*, *oscar*, *Trap/Acp5*, the *ctr*, and *catK*, all important markers of differentiation along the osteoclastic lineage (5, 23), were strongly impaired as well, whereas the expression levels of the M-CSF receptor *c-fms* or that of *SIRP α* were not impaired in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC. Rather, our data suggest that a key defect in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC is associated with impaired function and differentiation of stromal cells along the osteoblastic lineage. These cells, when stimulated with PTH or D3, are induced to produce M-CSF and RANKL, which are pivotal to drive osteoclast differentiation and formation in this system and also *in vivo* (4). It is therefore interesting to note that D3-stimulated M-CSF and RANKL expression in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC were both strongly reduced at the gene as well as protein levels and that these cultures showed a very low TRAP activity. The importance of this finding is emphasized by data from Maile *et al.* (14), showing that addition of exogenous M-CSF and RANKL to a crude $CD47^{-/-}$ bone marrow cultures rendered the same TRAP staining levels as in $CD47^{+/+}$ cultures.

The lack of M-CSF and RANKL expression in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC pointed toward a phenotypic change in the bone marrow stromal cells when CD47 was absent. To further understand the mechanism behind this, we investigated the hypothesis that the stromal cell defect was due to the absence of CD47-mediated induction of *SIRP α* signaling. We found a strongly decreased tyrosine phosphorylation of *SIRP α* in bone marrow stromal cells when CD47 was absent. Together with the results from the co-culture experiments, showing that bone marrow stromal cells lacking either CD47 or the signaling domain of *SIRP α* could not efficiently support osteoclast formation, this clearly suggests that *SIRP α* signaling in bone marrow stromal cells is necessary for osteoclastogenesis. The fact that osteoclast formation was intact in bone marrow macrophages, lacking either CD47 or the *SIRP α* signaling domain, when cultured on wild-type bone marrow stromal cells, further suggest that the impaired osteoclast formation in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC cultures was unlikely due to lack of CD47/*SIRP α* interaction in pre-osteoclasts but that the defect was rather isolated to the stromal cells.

In 2011, Maile *et al.* (14) showed an impaired osteoclast formation in $CD47^{-/-}$ crude bone marrow cells cultured in the presence of M-CSF and RANKL. The authors suggested that the physical interaction between CD47 and *SIRP α* induced *SIRP α* tyrosine phosphorylation, recruitment of SHP-1, and subsequent dephosphorylation of non-muscle cell myosin IIA, which, altogether, would be important to promote fusion and formation of osteoclasts (14). It is hard to interpret these data because the osteoclast formation was driven by addition of exogenous M-CSF and RANKL to the crude bone marrow culture, which based on data from the present study and that of a

previous study (13) can compensate for the lack of CD47. The reason why Maile *et al.* (14) only detected late fusion defects when CD47 was missing in the cultures could be that the early osteoclast precursors proliferated and differentiated in the presence of M-CSF. In marked contrast, data by van Beek *et al.* (24) in 2009 showed that bone marrow cells from *SIRP α* mutant mice (lacking the signaling *SIRP α* cytoplasmic domain, but expressing the extracellular CD47-binding domain of *SIRP α*) generated normal numbers of osteoclasts with the same number of nuclei, as compared with that in wild-type bone marrow cultures, when cultured with exogenous M-CSF and RANKL (24). Notably, van Beek *et al.* (24) used a truncated form of mouse RANKL with a much lower EC_{50} value than the human RANKL that was used by Maile *et al.* (14), which could be one explanation behind the normal osteoclast formation in *SIRP α* mutant bone marrow cultures.

The stromal cell phenotypic change apparent when CD47 was missing did not only impair osteoclast differentiation but also affected the osteoblast differentiation pathway. At the gene expression level, we found an impaired expression of *runx2* and α -1-collagen and a virtually blunted expression of osterix and *Alp/Akp1*, whereas the expression of the adipocyte-associated gene *PPAR γ 2* was found to be normal. To find out whether the mechanism of action in $CD47^{-/-}$ cells was lack of *SIRP α* signaling, we took advantage of the *SIRP α* mutant mice where the cytoplasmic *SIRP α* domain is deleted and cannot be phosphorylated. Culture of bone marrow stromal cells from these mice showed dramatically decreased alkaline phosphatase activity. These findings support the hypothesis that CD47 has a profound effect on osteoblastic differentiation by inducing activation of *SIRP α* signaling. Further studies of the downstream signaling from *SIRP α* in stromal cells are necessary to understand how the receptor is linked to the master regulator of osteoblast differentiation, RUNX-2.

The strong *in vitro* phenotype in $CD47^{-/-}$ BMC suggested that there should also be an obvious bone phenotype in these mice *in vivo*. We previously reported that 18-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice had reduced numbers of osteoclasts *in vivo* (12), which we in the present study confirmed to also be the case in 28-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice. By looking at the osteoclast phenotype *per se*, one would assume that $CD47^{-/-}$ mice would present with an osteopetrotic bone phenotype. However, in agreement with the data from our *in vitro* BMC experiments, analyses of the skeleton in 18-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice indeed demonstrate an osteopenic bone phenotype including a reduced trabecular bone volume, bone mineral density, bone formation rate, mineral apposition rate, and osteoblast number. Furthermore, aged 28-week-old $CD47^{-/-}$ mice showed a persistent osteopenic bone phenotype with reduced numbers of osteoblasts and osteoclasts. Our bone phenotype data in $CD47^{-/-}$ mice, on the Balb/c background, are in part confirmed by data from C57BL/6 $CD47^{-/-}$ mice where an osteopenic bone phenotype was demonstrated (14). Although lack of CD47 was not associated with a reduced number of osteoclasts in the bones of C57BL/6 mice, which could possibly be explained by strain differences (13, 14). Van Beek *et al.* (24) showed that the *SIRP α* mutant mice had a decreased cortical bone volume, suggested to be due to an increased bone resorbing activity of osteoclasts lacking *SIRP α* .

Lack of CD47 Impairs Bone Cell Differentiation

In conclusion, in a physiologically relevant *in vitro* system where stromal cells/osteoblasts regulate differentiation and formation of osteoclasts, lack of CD47 or the signaling domain of SIRP α in stromal cells results in a dramatically impaired osteoclast formation. These findings identify a mechanism where CD47 induces tyrosine phosphorylation of SIRP α in bone marrow stromal cells, which appears to be pivotal for normal osteoblast differentiation and ability to stimulate osteoclast formation. The biological importance of this mechanism is also confirmed by the osteopenic bone phenotype in *CD47*^{-/-} mice.

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Inflammation-induced proteolytic processing of the SIRP α cytoplasmic ITIM in neutrophils propagates a proinflammatory state

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Signal regulatory protein α (SIRP α), an immunoreceptor tyrosine-based inhibitory motif (ITIM)-containing receptor, is an essential negative regulator of leukocyte inflammatory responses. Here we report that SIRP α cytoplasmic signalling ITIMs in neutrophils are cleaved during active inflammation and that the loss of SIRP α ITIMs enhances the polymorphonuclear leukocyte (PMN) inflammatory response. Using human leukocytes and two inflammatory models in mice, we show that the cleavage of SIRP α ITIMs in PMNs but not monocytes occurs at the post-acute stage of inflammation and correlates with increased PMN recruitment to inflammatory loci. Enhanced transmigration of PMNs and PMN-associated tissue damage are confirmed in mutant mice expressing SIRP α but lacking the ITIMs. Moreover, the loss of SIRP α ITIMs in PMNs during colitis is blocked by an anti-interleukin-17 (IL-17) antibody. These results demonstrate a SIRP α -based mechanism that dynamically regulates PMN inflammatory responses by generating a CD47-binding but non-signalling SIRP α 'decoy'.

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