Application Report:

CHO-KvLQT1/minK

KCNQ1/KCNE1

QPatch

The human KCNQ1 gene encodes the pore-forming unit of the voltage-gated potassium channel, while KCNE1 encodes for the regulatory minK subunit. The complex is responsible repolarizing the heart action potential.

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Sophion Bioscience A/S, Baltorpvej 154, DK-2750 Ballerup, Danmark
Phone: + 45 44 60 88 00 Fax: +45 44 60 88 99 E-mail: info@sophion.dk www.sophion.com

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CHO-KvLQT1/minK optimized for QPatch

Background

The slowly activating, delayed rectifier K^+ channel is among other activities important for regulating the repolarization phase of cardiac action potentials. The KvLQT1/minK channel consists of two transmembrane proteins. Mutations in the genes KCNQ1/KCNE1 coding for KvLQT1/minK are associated with predisposition to deafness, cardiac arrhythmia syndromes including long QT syndrome, atrial fibrillation and sudden infant death syndrome.

Introduction

Experiments were performed in order to validate the CHO-KvLQT1/minK cells line on the QPatch HT. The cell line was characterized in terms of biophysical properties such as IV-relationship, activation, inactivation together with the pharmacological properties of the channel. Furthermore, the current stability and current expression was evaluated. This ion channel is known for having notorious run-down, but by using this QPatch optimized cell line in combination with the experimental conditions described in this report, stable current recordings can be obtained.

Materials & Methods

Ringer solutions

Intracellular saline (in mM): 120 KF, 20 KCl, KOH/EGTA, 10 EDTA, 10 Hepes, pH 7.2 with KOH, 285-296 mOsm. Extracellular saline (in mM): 2 CaCl2, 1 MgCl2, 10 Hepes, 4 KCl, 145 NaCl, 10 Glucose, pH 7.4 with NaOH, ~305 mOsm.

Cells

CHO cells stably expressing K_VLQT1/minK were obtained from B'SYS (Basel, Switzerland, www.bsys.ch). Cells were cultured and harvested for QPatch experiments as described in the Sophion SOP.

QPatch

Experiments were performed using the QPatch single-hole & QPatch multi-hole technologies. The QPlate contains 16 or 48 individual patch-clamp sites that are operated asynchronously and in parallel. Ringer's solutions and compounds are applied by eight pipettes. CHO cells expressing the KvLQT1/minK were kept in culture medium in the QStirrer for up to four hours. Prior to testing, the cells were transferred to the QFuge, spun down and washed in Ringer's solution twice before being applied to the measuring site in the QPlate. Gigaseals were formed upon execution of a combined suction/voltage protocol. Further suction lead to establishment of the whole-cell configuration. Solutions and compounds were applied through the glass-coated flow channels in the QPlate.

Results

Electrophysiological recordings on KvLQT1/minK channels are often associated with run-down problems. Using the QPatch system and the conditions cited in this report, we are able to overcome the run-down. Figure 1 (left) shows raw traces of KvLQT1/minK with four subsequent additions of extracellular solution measured on a single cell. The corresponding current-time plot is shown data to the right (Figure 1).

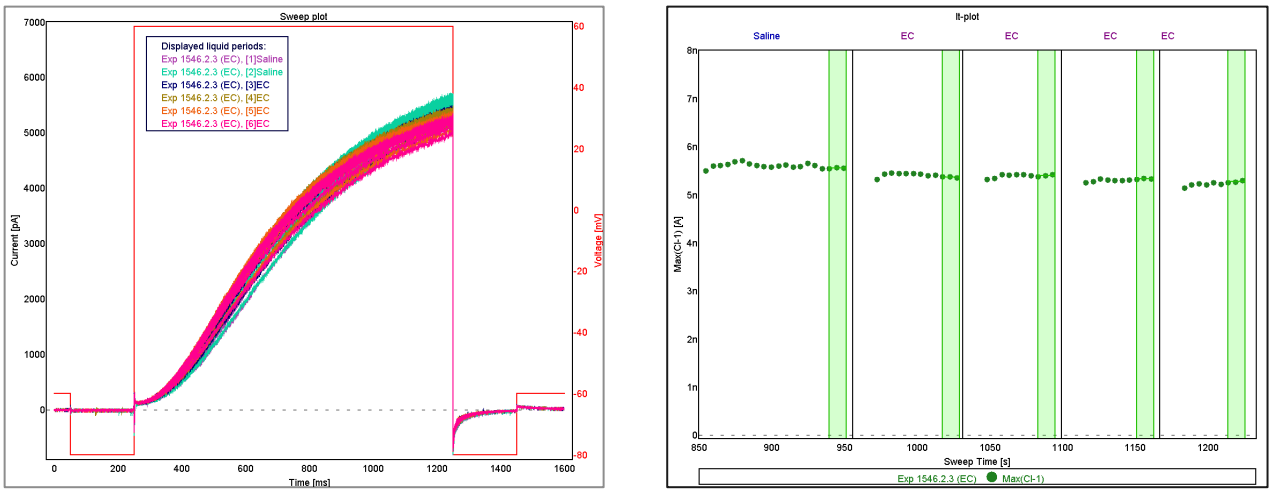

Figure 1: Raw traces of KvLQT1/minK recordings of 4 consecutive application of extracellular solution on a single cell (left). Right: corresponding current-time plot.

Experiments were conducted to evaluate the IV-relationship of the K_VLQT1/minK channel. Figure 2 (left) shows the currents elicited at potentials ranging from -80 mV to +40 mV in a representative experiment. The corresponding IV plot is shown in Figure 2 (right).

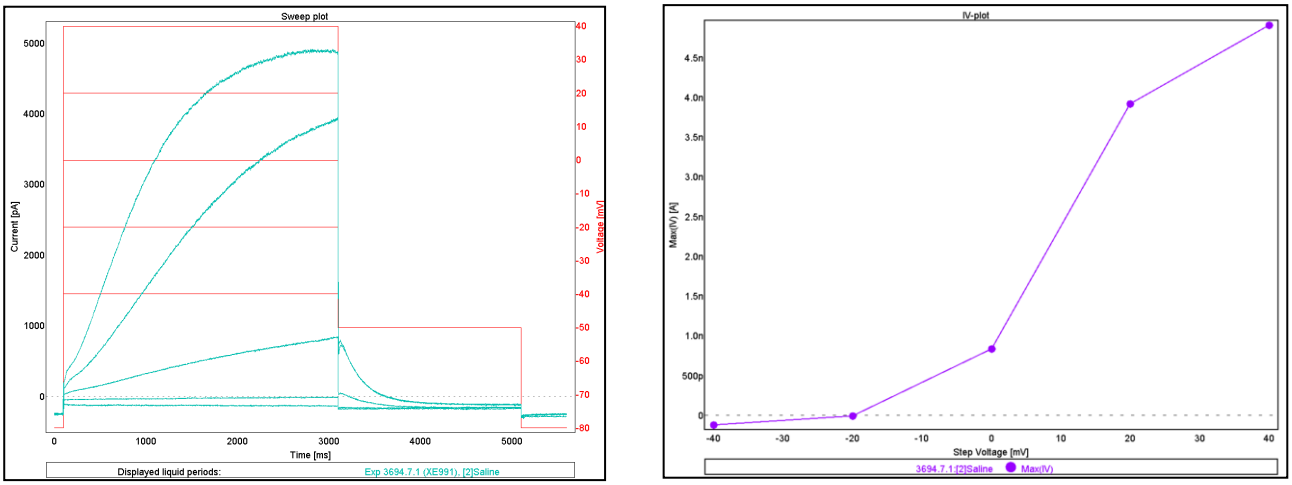

Figure 2: IV-relationship of the KvLQT1/minK channel. Left: Raw data sweeps elicited using an IV-protocol ranging from -80 mV to +40 mV. The voltage step protocol is shown in red. Right: corresponding IV-curve measured at the end of the step protocol.

Experiments were performed in order to evaluate the pharmacological properties of the KvLQT1/minK channel. The response of K_VLQT1/minK to a known blocker XE-991 was tested. Figure 5 (left) shows the IT-plot of the peak amplitude to four concentrations of XE-991 (0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 μM). Figure 3 (right) shows the corresponding Hill fit. The resulting IC_{50} for XE-991= 0.96±0.4 μM, n=7 (literature value 1-6 μM).

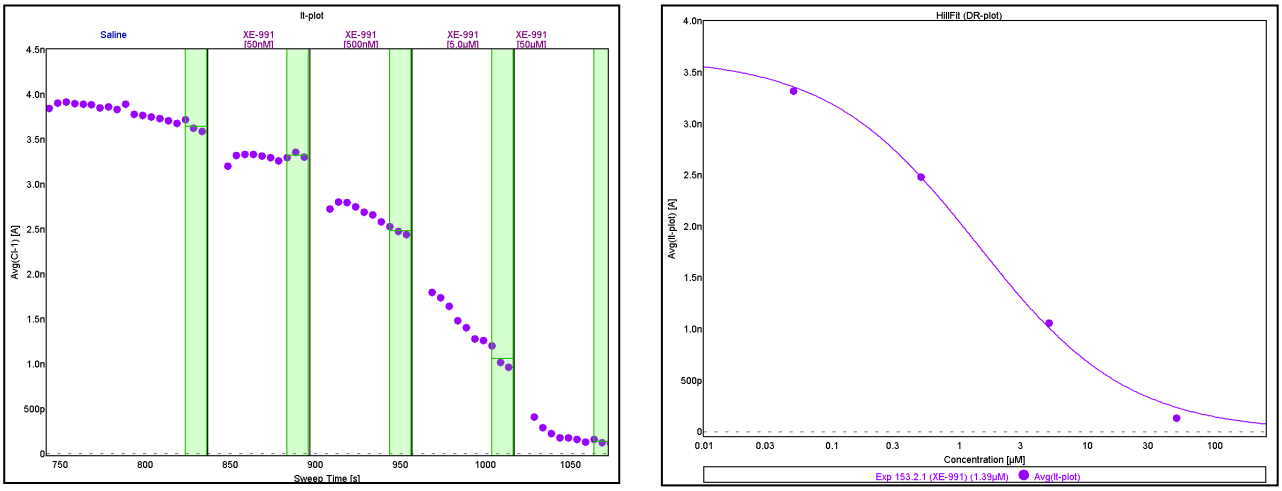

Figure 3: Block of KvLQT1/mink current with XE-991. Left: IT-plot showing the current amplitude in response to four increasing concentrations of XE-991. Right: Corresponding Hill fit.

Next, the effect on the blocker Bepridil was tested on the KvLQT1/mink currents. Figure 4 (left) shows the current–time plot of the peak amplitude in response to four increasing concentrations of Bepridil (0.05, 0.5, 5, 50 μM). Figure 4 (right) shows the corresponding Hill fit. The resulting IC_{50} = 8.96±1.0 μM, n=8 (literature value 5.3-10.5 μM).

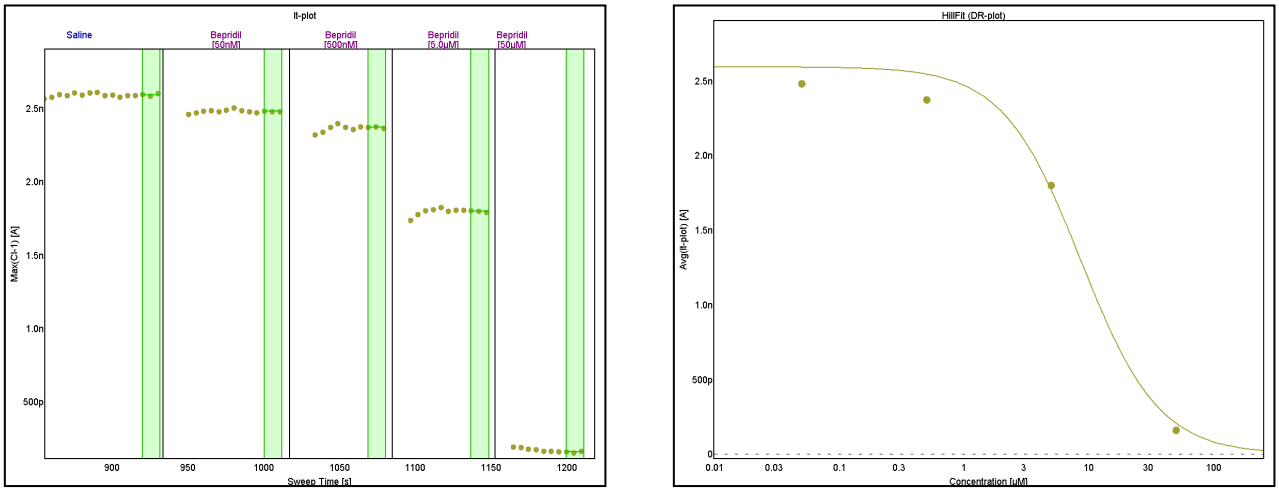

Figure 4: Block of KvLQT1/minK current with Bepridil. Left: IT-plot showing the current amplitude in response to four increasing concentrations of Bepridil. Right: Corresponding Hill fit.

Furthermore, experiments were performed in order to evaluate Chromanol 293B on KvLQT1/minK currents. Figure 5 (left) shows the current–time plot of the peak amplitude to in relation to four concentrations of Chromanol 293B (0.05, 0.5, 5, 50 μM). Figure 3 (right) shows the corresponding Hill fit. The resulting IC_{50} for Chromanol 293B= 10.6±1.1 μM, n=13 (literature value 10-12.4 μM).

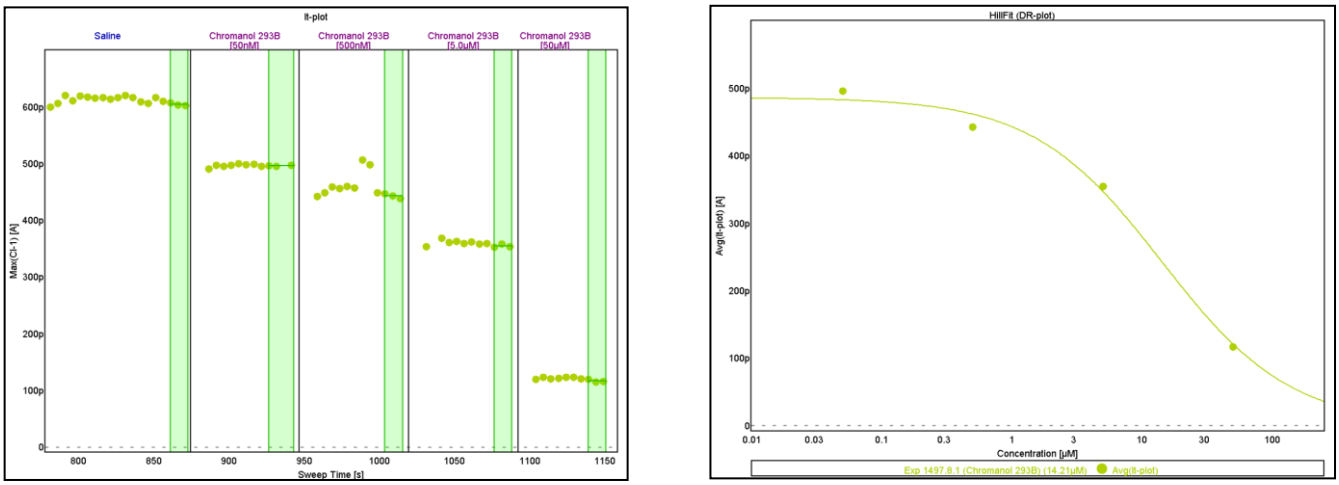

Figure 5: Block of KvLQT1/minK current with Chromanol 293B. Left: IT-plot showing the current amplitude in response to four increasing concentrations of Chromanol 293B. Right: Corresponding Hill fit.

	XE-991 [μM]	Bepridil [μM]	Chromanol 293 [μM]
IC_{50}	0.96±0.4, n=7	8.96±1.0, n=8	10.6±1.1 μM, n=13

The average peak amplitude was 2.80±0.46 nA, n=28

Experimental Statistics

The table below (Figure 6) shows the success rate and overall performance of a typical KvLQT1/minK experiment in single hole. The table shows that > 80% of the cells had a true giga-seal throughout the experiment. Whole-cell duration was in average 15-20 min in the experiments shown in this report. The average number of completed experiments was 62.5% and from this group there were 67.4% useful experiments.

QPlate '01065535028240'

Used in job: #1551 - HLO_KvLQT1/minK DR_1 rerun 1

Start of use: 2012-01-25 13:30:53

Pos.	Primed	Cell attached	Seal	Whole-cell	R chip [MΩ]	R seal [MΩ]	R whole-cell [MΩ]	WC duration [sec]	Completed exp.
C4	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.69	2826.1	1847.1	544	1
D4	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.68	1828.3	2423.2	127	0
E4	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.70	3004.5	2075.0	544	1
F4	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.72	2120.7	1497.9	79	0
G4	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.69	2240.6	301.5	82	0
H4	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.71	1177.6	548.6	77	0
A5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.70	1400.5	1339.3	547	1
B5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.67	1954.2	1537.1	545	1
C5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.67	2005.3	1724.7	554	0
D5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.64	1039.1	1053.0	554	0
E5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.66	1222.3	1376.0	575	0
F5	✓	✓	✓		1.72	1176.8	9.9	0	0
G5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.72	1952.5	612.0	555	0
H5	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.69	2133.1	1424.5	555	0
A6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.69	1833.6	1203.3	553	0
B6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.68	3055.1	1474.8	551	0
C6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.70	1733.4	1138.0	552	0
D6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.70	2294.7	1296.1	553	0
E6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.73	1565.4	1060.1	553	0
F6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.72	2826.6	1930.6	553	0
G6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.71	2397.4	1503.8	549	0
H6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.68	2660.4	1272.3	552	0
Total	47	47	46	45					20
Success rate	98 %	98 %	96 %	94 %					

Figure 6: QPlate overview showing overall success rate for KvLQT1/minK experiments in single hole.

References

S. Y. M. Yeung, I. A. Greenwood. Electrophysiological and functional effects of the KCNQ channel blocker XE991 on murine portal vein smooth muscle cells. (2005). Br J Pharmacol. 146 (4): 585-595

A. R. Mackie, K. L. Byron. Cardiovascular KCNQ (Kv7) potassium channels: Physiological regulators and new therapeutic intervention. (2008). Mol Pharmacol fast forward. 74 (5): 1171-1179 http://molpharm.aspetjournals.org/content/52/2/314.full - target-3#target-3

Conclusion

We have demonstrated the functionality of CHO-KvLQT1/minK on QPatch. Biophysical- and pharmacological properties was studied in high resistance whole-cell recordings in IV- and dose-concentration experiments.

We conclude that the CHO-KvLQT1/mink application can be efficiently run on QPatch with high through-put while maintaining high data quality, which match literature values for the given test compounds.