Role of RyR2 Phosphorylation at S2814 During Heart Failure Progression

Jonathan L. Respress,* Ralph J. van Oort,* Na Li, Natale Rolim, Sayali S. Dixit, Angela deAlmeida, Niels Voigt, William S. Lawrence, Darlene G. Skapura, Kristine Skårdal, Ulrik Wisloff, Thomas Wieland, Xun Ai, Steven M. Pogwizd, Dobromir Dobrev, Xander H.T. Wehrens

Rationale: Increased activity of Ca\(^{2+}\)/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII) is thought to promote heart failure (HF) progression. However, the importance of CaMKII phosphorylation of ryanodine receptors (RyR2) in HF development and associated diastolic sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca\(^{2+}\) leak is unclear.

Objective: Determine the role of CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 in patients and mice with nonischemic and ischemic forms of HF.

Methods and Results: Phosphorylation of the primary CaMKII site S2814 on RyR2 was increased in patients with nonischemic, but not with ischemic, HF. Knock-in mice with an inactivated S2814 phosphorylation site were relatively protected from HF development after transverse aortic constriction compared with wild-type littermates. After transverse aortic constriction, S2814A mice did not exhibit pulmonary congestion and had reduced levels of atrial natriuretic factor. Cardiomyocytes from S2814A mice exhibited significantly lower sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca\(^{2+}\) leak and improved sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca\(^{2+}\) loading compared with wild-type mice after transverse aortic constriction. Interestingly, these protective effects on cardiac contractility were not observed in S2814A mice after experimental myocardial infarction.

Conclusions: Our results suggest that increased CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 plays a role in the development of pathological sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca\(^{2+}\) leak and HF development in nonischemic forms of HF such as transverse aortic constriction in mice. (Circ Res. 2012;110:1474-1483.)

Key Words: calcium ■ heart failure ■ ryanodine receptor ■ sarcoplasmic reticulum

Heart failure (HF) is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality and is responsible for one of every nine deaths in the United States alone. Recent studies have revealed that increased activity of the enzyme Ca\(^{2+}\)/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII) plays a major role in the development of HF. CaMKII can promote pathological cardiac remodeling by increasing cell death, stimulating cardiac dilatation, promoting cardiac arrhythmias, and interfering with excitation-contraction coupling.

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Excitation-contraction coupling is initiated by the influx of extracellular Ca\(^{2+}\) via voltage-gated Ca\(^{2+}\) channels, which triggers a much greater release of Ca\(^{2+}\) from the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR). In the normal heart, the amplitude of SR Ca\(^{2+}\) release can be dynamically increased by activation of CaMKII at faster heart rates, leading to a frequency-dependent enhancement of cardiac contractility. In contrast, it has also been suggested that chronic elevation of CaMKII activity in diseased hearts can cause diastolic Ca\(^{2+}\) leak from the SR associated with a loss of contractility. However, it remains unclear which Ca\(^{2+}\) handling proteins downstream of CaMKII are responsible for SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak abnormalities, although the ryanodine receptor (RyR2) and phospholamban can be functionally altered by CaMKII.

In previous work, we have demonstrated that CaMKII predominantly regulates RyR2 by phosphorylation of residue...
S2814.6,8 This site is near, but distinct from, the primary protein kinase A (PKA) phosphorylation site S2808, which also modulates gating properties of the channel.12 We recently demonstrated that CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 is sufficient to increase SR Ca2+ leak in mice with constitutively phosphorylated RyR2 attributable to mutation S2814D.6 Moreover, this RyR2-mediated SR Ca2+ leak leads to the development of late-onset cardiomyopathy in S2814D mice, suggesting that chronic phosphorylation of S2814 might promote the development of HF.6 These data are consistent with studies showing that pharmacological or genetic inhibition of CaMKII can prevent or delay the onset of HF in animal models.5,13 However, it also has been shown that PKA hyperphosphorylation of RyR2 at S2808 occurs in failing hearts and that genetic inhibition of S2808 phosphorylation prevents development of ischemic HF in some mouse models.14,15 Therefore, the contribution of these two phosphorylation sites on RyR2 in the development of HF remains controversial.

Our studies revealed increased phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 in patients with nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), but not in patients with ischemic cardiomyopathy (ICM). Knock-in mice with a genetically inactivated S2814 phosphorylation site (S2814A mutation) were relatively protected from HF development after transverse aortic constriction (TAC) compared to wild-type (WT) littermates. These effects were associated with a decline in the amount of spontaneous SR Ca2+ release events after TAC in S2814A mice, attributable to prevention of enhanced S2814 phosphorylation. Interestingly, S2814A mice were not protected from the development of ischemic HF after myocardial infarction (MI), consistent with our data obtained in ICM human samples. Thus, our findings suggest that increased CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 plays a critical role in the development of pathologic SR Ca2+ leak and HF progression in nonischemic forms of HF in both humans and mice with transverse aortic constriction.

**Methods**

Detailed Methods are provided in the Online Supplement and provide expanded details of surgical procedures, echocardiography, MRI, hemodynamic measurements, histology, Western blot analysis, quantitative reverse-transcriptase polymerase reaction, and calcium imaging.

**Surgical Procedures**

Generation of RyR2-S2814A knock-in mice has been described.16 All animal studies were performed according to protocols approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Baylor College of Medicine, conforming to the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals published by the United States National Institutes of Health (National Institutes Health Publication No. 85–23, revised 1996). TAC and MI were performed as described.15,17

**Statistical Analysis**

All data are represented as average±SEM. Statistical significance of differences between experimental groups was determined using Student paired t test or ANOVA, followed by Tukey posttest when appropriate. A value of P<0.05 was considered statistically significant.

**Results**

**Increased S2814 Phosphorylation of RyR2 in Patients With Nonischemic Dilated Cardiomyopathy**

Increased activity of CaMKII has been suggested to contribute to contractile dysfunction and hypertrophy development associated with HF in patients and in animal models.2,3,18 To determine whether RyR2 phosphorylation by CaMKII is altered in patients with HF, we measured RyR2 phosphorylation levels of S2814 (the principal CaMKII site) as well as S2808 (the principal PKA site and potential secondary CaMKII site) using phosphoepitope-specific antibodies. Poncet staining confirmed that similar amounts of heart lysate were loaded on the protein gels. Western blots revealed a significant increase in S2814 phosphorylation in nonischemic DCM but not in ICM patients, compared with healthy controls (Figure 1). In contrast, there were no significant changes in S2808 phosphorylation of RyR2 in both patient groups. The finding that S2814 phosphorylation of RyR2 is elevated in patients with DCM was confirmed in a second cohort of nonischemic DCM patients (Online Figure IA, B, and Online Table I). In these samples, increased RyR2 phosphorylation of S2814 may be attributed to enhanced CaMKII activity, because CaMKII T286 autophosphorylation was increased in nonischemic DCM patients compared with controls (Online Figure IC, D).

**S2814A Knock-In Mice Exhibit Reduced HF Development in Response to Pressure Overload**

Because previous studies have suggested that CaMKII activity plays an important role in development of HF after...
pressure overload in mice,13,18 we tested whether CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of RyR2 is important for HF development. We studied RyR2-S2814A knock-in mice (S2814A) in which the CaMKII phosphorylation site was genetically inactivated. At baseline, cardiac dimensions and function in S2814A mice were similar to WT mice up to at least 12 months of age, as determined by echocardiography (Online Table II). Next, 10- to 12-week-old S2814A mice (n=9) and WT littermates (n=13) were subjected to TAC. TAC was performed by partial constriction of the transverse aorta between the right and left carotid arteries, which led to pressure overload. Additional S2814A (n=9) and WT (n=8) mice were subjected to a sham procedure. One-week after TAC, Doppler ultrasound was performed to measure flow velocity in the right and left carotid arteries to estimate the severity of aortic stenosis.19 The ratio between right and left carotid flow velocities was similar in S2814A (6.9±0.3) and WT mice (6.2±0.2), which indicates that both groups were subjected to similar levels of pressure overload. To determine the effects of the S2814A mutation on development of cardiac hypertrophy and failure, cardiac geometry and function were evaluated using serial echocardiography 0, 4, 8, 12, and 16 weeks after TAC (Figure 2A–C and Table 1).

Echocardiographic analysis revealed a similar hypertrophic response in S2814A and WT mice after TAC, evidenced by a similar initial increase in left ventricular posterior wall thickness during diastole compared with sham mice (Figure 2A). There was, however, a trend toward a lower left ventricular posterior wall diameter during diastole at 16 weeks after TAC in WT mice compared with S2814A mice (0.78±0.02 mm versus 0.83±0.04 mm, respectively; P<0.20), suggesting ventricular wall thinning as a possible result of cardiac dilation. WT mice had development of a more pronounced cardiac dilatation after pressure overload in comparison with S2814A mice starting at 12 weeks after surgery (Figure 2B). The ejection fraction declined similarly in S2814A and WT mice up to 8 weeks after TAC (Figure 2C). However, subsequently only WT mice exhibited a further decline in ejection fraction consistent with development of severe HF, whereas ejection fraction leveled off in S2814A mice. At 16 weeks after TAC, ejection fraction was decreased in WT mice after TAC, which was blunted in S2814A mice. Numbers in bar indicate number of animals used in (E, F). Unlike WT mice, S2814A mice did not have development of elevated end-diastolic left ventricular pressure at 16 weeks after TAC. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 vs corresponding sham group. #P<0.05 vs WT TAC.
significantly higher in S2814A mice (43.0% ± 2.9%) compared with WT mice (32.4% ± 3.4%; P < 0.05; Table 1).

To confirm these results, at 16 weeks after TAC, cardiac contractility also was evaluated using left ventricular cathe-
terization and pressure–volume measurements (Figure 2D, Online Table III). These hemodynamic measurements revealed a significant decrease in the first derivative of left ventricular pressure over time (dP/dt max) in WT mice after TAC (8068 mm Hg/s; P < 0.001), indicating loss of systolic function attributable to pressure overload (Figure 2E). In S2814A mice, however, dP/dt max was not significantly decreased after TAC (8068 mm Hg/s ± 506 mm Hg/s) compared with sham mice (8833 mm Hg/s ± 446 mm Hg/s). Quantification of diastolic blood pressure (P diastolic) revealed impaired diastolic function in WT mice after TAC (8.46 mm Hg ± 3.40 mm Hg), which was not seen in S2814A TAC mice (2.08 mm Hg ± 1.1 mm Hg; P < 0.01; Figure 2F).

Thus, these data suggest that inhibition of RyR2 phosphorylation by CaMKII is sufficient to reduce the development of HF and to preserve cardiac function in a mouse model of nonischemic HF.

### Table 1. Echocardiographic Parameters of Wild-Type and S2814A Mice at 8 and 16 Weeks After Sham or Transverse Aortic Constriction Surgery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>8 Weeks</th>
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<td>Sham</td>
<td>TAC</td>
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<td>WT (n = 8)</td>
<td>S2814A (n = 9)</td>
<td>WT (n = 13)</td>
<td>S2814A (n = 9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR (bpm)</td>
<td>462.1 ± 10.5</td>
<td>467.9 ± 16.1</td>
<td>489.2 ± 12.3</td>
<td>471.3 ± 16.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESD (mm)</td>
<td>2.76 ± 0.08</td>
<td>2.75 ± 0.07</td>
<td>3.36 ± 0.14*</td>
<td>3.12 ± 0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDD (mm)</td>
<td>4.00 ± 0.08</td>
<td>3.94 ± 0.08</td>
<td>4.22 ± 0.11</td>
<td>3.95 ± 0.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>EF (%)</td>
<td>59.2 ± 1.5</td>
<td>58.0 ± 1.0</td>
<td>42.1 ± 2.6‡</td>
<td>43.7 ± 2.2‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS (%)</td>
<td>31.1 ± 1.0</td>
<td>30.2 ± 0.7</td>
<td>20.7 ± 1.4‡</td>
<td>21.3 ± 1.2‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>IVS, diastolic (mm)</td>
<td>0.75 ± 0.02</td>
<td>0.74 ± 0.01</td>
<td>0.84 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.77 ± 0.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>LVPW, systolic (mm)</td>
<td>0.95 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.95 ± 0.03</td>
<td>1.11 ± 0.03*</td>
<td>1.10 ± 0.04*</td>
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EDD indicates end-diastolic diameter; EF, ejection fraction; ESD, end-systolic diameter; FS, left ventricular fractional shortening; HR, heart rate; IVS, intraventricular septal wall thickness; LVPW, left ventricular posterior wall thickness; TAC, transverse aortic constriction; WT, wild-type.

**Data are expressed as mean ± SEM.**

*P < 0.05 vs corresponding sham.
‡P < 0.01 vs corresponding sham.
§P < 0.001 vs corresponding sham.
§§P < 0.05 vs WT TAC.

Hematoxylin and eosin staining of transverse cardiac sections confirmed that S2814A mice exhibited a hypertrophic response (ie, thickening of left ventricular posterior wall) 16 weeks after TAC (Figure 3B). In contrast, WT mice exhibited slightly thinner posterior walls with enlarged cavities (Figure 3C), consistent with cardiac dilatation. Only hearts from WT mice but not S2814A mice exhibited a significant increase in cardiac anteroposterior diameter at 16 weeks after TAC (Figure 3D), consistent with our echocardiography data (Figure 2A–C). Moreover, peak systolic ventricular pressure (end-systolic pressure, mm Hg) was decreased in WT mice (121.1 ± 11.5) compared with S2814A mice (148.7 ± 8.1) after 16 weeks of TAC, consistent with more severe HF development in WT mice after TAC. Correlation of end-systolic pressure values with heart weight/TL ratios revealed less cardiac enlargement despite higher pressures in S2814A mice after TAC, consistent with a protective effect of the S2814A mutation (Online Figure II). Therefore, inhibition of CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of RyR2 does not prevent the hypertrophic response, but it prevents the progression from hypertrophy to cardiac dilatation and failure in the setting of pressure overload.

### Reduction in Cardiac Dilatation in S2814 Mice After TAC

To further study structural changes in the heart induced by TAC, we performed postmortem analyses of the hearts at 16 weeks postsurgery. Heart weight-to-tibia length (TL) ratios were increased in WT mice (13.8 mg/mm ± 1.4 mg/mm) at 16 weeks after TAC compared with sham-operated WT mice (7.9 mg/mm ± 0.4 mg/mm; P < 0.01; Figure 3A). In contrast, there was a smaller but still significant increase in heart weight/TL ratios of S2814A mice after TAC (9.9 mg/mm ± 0.6 mg/mm) compared with sham hearts (7.6 mg/mm ± 0.5 mg/mm; P < 0.01). In addition, the heart weight/TL ratio was smaller in S2814A compared with WT mice after TAC (Figure 3A).

**Reduced Cardiac Remodeling Associated With HF After TAC in S2814A Mice**

To determine whether genetic inhibition of CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 prevented adverse remodeling of the heart after TAC, Masson trichrome staining of cardiac sections was performed to measure cardiac fibrosis (Figure 4A, B). Whereas there was a significant increase in the development of cardiac fibrosis in WT mice after TAC, the amount of fibrosis was reduced in S2814A mice after TAC (Figure 4B). Additionally, WT mice had development of a significant increase in lung weight-to-TL ratio after TAC (14.6 mg/mm ± 1.7 mg/mm) compared with sham-operated mice (9.5 mg/mm ± 0.4 mg/mm;
which is indicative of pulmonary edema in the context of congestive HF (Figure 4C). In contrast, there was no significant increase in lung weight/TL ratio after TAC in S2814A mice (9.4 mg/mm$^2$ vs 0.3 mg/mm$^2$) compared with sham-operated S2814A mice (9.9 mg/mm$^2$ vs 0.6 mg/mm$^2$). However, at 16 weeks after TAC, there was a significant increase in lung weight/TL ratio in WT compared with S2814A mice, suggesting a rescue from pulmonary edema development in S2814A mice (Figure 4C).

Another major determinant of stress-induced cardiac remodeling is reactivation of fetal cardiac genes. Therefore, mRNA levels of fetal genes nppa (atrial natriuretic factor) and nppb (brain natriuretic peptide) were determined using quantitative polymerase chain reaction. In sham-operated animals, there were no differences in transcript levels comparing S2814A and WT mice. In contrast, TAC induced a significant increase in atrial natriuretic factor and brain natriuretic peptide levels in WT mice, compared with sham-operated WT mice (Figure 4D, E). However, there was no increase in atrial natriuretic factor levels and a blunted brain natriuretic peptide response in S2814A mice compared with WT mice after TAC. Taken together, these data suggest that inhibition of CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 does not suppress the hypertrophic response after pressure overload, but it does prevent cellular signs of maladaptive HF.

**Increased S2814 but Not S2808 Phosphorylation of RyR2 After TAC**

Next, we determined the time course of potential changes in RyR2 phosphorylation at S2814 (the principal CaMKII site) and S2808 (the principal PKA site). Western blotting of ventricular lysates using phosphoepitope-specific antibodies revealed an increase in CaMKII phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 in WT mice after TAC (Figure 5A). The level of S2814 phosphorylation displayed a gradual increase, which became significant at 8 and 16 weeks after TAC (Figure 5B). As expected, there was no phosphorylation of this site in S2814A mice because of the
whether inhibition of CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of RyR2 attenuated spontaneous SR Ca\(^{2+}\) release (SCR) events after pressure overload. Ventricular myocytes isolated from mice at 16 weeks after TAC or sham surgery were loaded with a Ca\(^{2+}\)-sensitive dye and imaged under an epifluorescence microscope. In previous studies, we found a good correlation between SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak measured using the tetracaine protocol and the number of SCR events. After 1 Hz pacing to obtain steady-state, the number of SCR events was measured after termination of pacing over a 40-second time period (Figure 6A). The number of myocytes in which SCR events occurred was significantly higher in WT mice after TAC (46 events in 75 cells; \(\sim 61\%\)) compared with WT sham mice (8 events in 31 cells; \(\sim 26\%\); \(P<0.01\); Figure 6B). In addition, SCR amplitude (measured as \(\Delta F/F_0\)) was also increased in WT TAC compared with WT sham mice. In contrast, SCR amplitude was not increased in S2814A TAC compared with S2814A sham mice (Online Figure IV). The increase in SCR was not attributable to increased SR Ca\(^{2+}\) loading, because SR content was decreased in WT TAC (\(\Delta F/F_0: 1.54 \pm 0.1\)) compared with WT sham mice (\(1.97 \pm 0.2\); \(P<0.05\); Online Figure IVB). Moreover, the increase in SCR amplitude also was not attributable to increased SR Ca\(^{2+}\) content, because each release event was normalized to SR Ca\(^{2+}\) content (Online Figure IVC).

There were no differences in the rate of uptake of Ca\(^{2+}\) into the SR, a measure of SERCA activity (tau [\(\tau\)]; Online Figure IVD). The incidence of SCR in myocytes from S2814A mice after TAC (29.7%) was not increased compared with sham-operated S2814A mice (29.4%) and was significantly lower than myocytes from WT mice after TAC (61.3%; \(P<0.01\); Figure 6B). Moreover, SR Ca\(^{2+}\) content remained unchanged in S2814A mice after TAC (1.88 \pm 0.1) and S2814A sham mice (1.96 \pm 0.2; Online Figure IVB). These data suggest that the increase in SCR incidence in WT mice after TAC is attributable to increased S2814 phosphorylation on RyR2 induced by TAC.

Similar findings were obtained when the average number of SCR was quantified per myocyte (Figure 6C). In WT mice, there was a significant increase in SCR events per myocyte over a 40-second time period after TAC (2.0 \pm 0.3 events/cell) in comparison with WT sham (0.4 \pm 0.1; \(P<0.01\)). This increase in SCR event rate attributed to TAC was blunted in S2814A mice (0.4 \pm 0.1; \(P<0.01\)). Finally, addition of the global CaMKII inhibitor KN93 also significantly reduced the SCR incidence and number of SCR events per cell in myocytes from WT mice after TAC (Figure 6B, C). However, KN93 had no additional effect on SCR incidence or events in S2814A TAC cells, suggesting a specific and major role for CaMKII in the development of HF.

**Inhibition of S2814 Phosphorylation on RyR2 Fails to Protect Against HF Induced by MI**

Previous studies demonstrated that PKA phosphorylation of RyR2 played a role in the development of ischemic HF after MI, but not after TAC-induced pressure overload. However, these data are controversial in view of a recent study that argued against a role for PKA phosphorylation of RyR2 after MI. To determine the functional importance of CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of RyR2, we next determined...
KII phosphorylation of RyR2 during the development of ischemic HF, we subjected S2814A knock-in and WT mice to left anterior descending coronary artery ligation to induce MI. In mice subjected to the sham procedure, cardiac dimensions and contractility (Online Table IV) were similar in S2814A mice compared with WT mice. The effects of both mild (30% infarct area) and severe (60% infarct area) MI were determined in two separate experimental groups of S2814A and WT mice (Figure 7A, B), as determined by MRI and echocardiography and confirmed by histology. Infarct size did not differ in the 30% group comparing S2814A (32.8% ± 2.2%) and WT mice (32.4% ± 1.0%) or in the “60% group” comparing S2814A (61.8% ± 2.1%) and WT (64.9% ± 4.0%). Echocardiography revealed that there were no differences in the relative increase in left ventricular end-diastolic diameter comparing S2814A and WT mice after both 30% and 60% MI 3 weeks after surgery (Figure 7A). As expected, cardiac dilatation was more pronounced after 60% infarction compared with 30% infarction. Similarly, there was an equal decline in ejection fraction in S2814A and WT mice after both 30% and 60% MI 3 weeks after surgery (Figure 7B). There were no significant differences in ejection fraction comparing S2814A and WT mice. At the end of the experiment, ventricular myocytes were isolated from the sham and 60% MI mice. At 3 weeks after coronary artery ligation, ventricular myocyte length was increased similarly in S2814A and WT mice (Figure 7C).

To determine the levels of CaMKII-mediated RyR2 phosphorylation in response to MI, we performed Western blot analysis of ventricular lysates obtained from mice subjected to 60% MI. Using phospho-specific antibodies, the level of S2814A phosphorylation on RyR2 was significantly decreased in WT mice ($P < 0.001$). As expected, there was no phosphorylation of S2814 in S2814A mice attributable to the genetic mutation of this site (Online Figure VA, B). Taken together, these data suggest that inhibition of CaMKII phosphorylation on S2814 of RyR2 does not prevent the development of HF induced by MI.

**Discussion**

There is ample evidence that CaMKII plays a role in the development of HF. Previous studies have demonstrated increased expression and activity levels of CaMKII in animals and patients with congestive HF.10,26,27 Transgenic overexpression of CaMKII-δ causes HF in mice,3 whereas overexpression of a peptide blocker of CaMKII delays the onset of HF in AC3-I transgenic mice.4 Moreover, knockout of CaMKII-δ was shown to limit the progression to HF.13,18 It

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**Figure 6.** Inhibition of CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 attenuates sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) Ca$^{2+}$ leak after transverse aortic constriction (TAC). A, Representative images of spontaneous Ca$^{2+}$ release (SCR) events in ventricular myocytes after 1-Hz pacing. B, Incidence of SCR events in isolated myocytes from sham-operated and mice 16 weeks after TAC, before and after pretreatment with KN93, respectively. C, Quantification of SCR events per cell before and after pretreatment with KN93. N = 30 to 75 cells from 3 to 6 mice per group. **$P < 0.01$ vs corresponding sham. ##$P < 0.01$ vs wild-type TAC.

**Figure 7.** Inhibition of S2814 phosphorylation on RyR2 fails to protect against heart failure induced by myocardial infarction (MI). Echocardiographic analysis of wild-type (WT) and S2814A mice subjected to sham operation or MI, resulting in average infarcts comprising 30% or 60% of the left ventricle, respectively. There were no differences in left ventricular end-diastolic diameter (LVEDD) (A) or ejection fraction (EF) (B) comparing WT and S2814A. Numbers in bars indicate number of animals and cells per group. *$P < 0.05$ vs corresponding sham.
was shown that CaMKII-δ ablation reduced ventricular dilation and fibrosis and enhanced cardiac contractility after TAC. The beneficial effects of CaMKII-δ ablation have been attributed to a reduction in SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak, although the downstream targets of CaMKII responsible for these effects were not identified.

The results of the current study revealed increased CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 in patients with nonischemic DCM but not in patients with ICM. These findings suggest that the level of CaMKII activation might depend on the type of HF in patients. Previous studies have clearly demonstrated activation of CaMKII-δ by pressure overload in mice. Our data in mice showed that S2814 phosphorylation on RyR2 is increased in mice subjected to TAC (pressure overload) but not after MI. An important observation was that S2814 phosphorylation increases over time after TAC in WT mice, whereas ablation of the S2814 site alone provided a beneficial effect on deterioration toward severe HF in these mice. Thus, our data now identify RyR2 as a downstream target of CaMKII involved in HF after pressure overload.

Moreover, our data for mice subjected to TAC revealed increased CaMKII phosphorylation of phospholamban at T17, but not at the PKA site S16. These findings suggest that activated CaMKII phosphorylates multiple downstream targets in failing hearts. However, the protective effects of the S2814A mutation in RyR2 in mice subjected to TAC shows that RyR2 is a preeminent downstream target of CaMKII in this model of HF associated with detrimental remodeling of the heart. Thus, RyR2 phosphorylation at S2814 plays a role in the progression of cardiac hypertrophy to HF after TAC.

Transgenic overexpression of CaMKII-δ induces transient cardiac hypertrophy followed by dilated cardiomyopathy and HF in mice. However, hypertrophic remodeling induced by pressure overload was not attenuated in CaMKII-δ-deficient mice, suggesting that CaMKII-δ is not required for the development of cardiac hypertrophy in response to TAC. Our data are in agreement with those previous studies of CaMKII-δ-deficient mice, because S2814A mice also had development of hypertrophic remodeling similar to that of WT mice in the early stages after TAC.

**Relative Importance of RyR2 Phosphorylation Sites Subsequent to HF**

There has been considerable controversy about the relative importance of RyR2 phosphorylation sites, particularly the S2808 and S2814 sites. Our studies demonstrated that CaMKII phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 was increased after pressure overload induced by TAC, which correlated to our findings in nonischemic DCM patients (Figure 1). These data are consistent with recent studies by Ling et al. The fact that genetic ablation of this site only prevented the development of decompensation after TAC confirms the importance of S2814 in the pathogenesis of congestive HF induced by TAC. Our data also show that phosphorylation of the PKA site S2808 increases, but not significantly, after chronic TAC during later stages of HF development. Those findings are in agreement with a previous study showing that genetic ablation of the S2808 site did not ameliorate the development of HF in S2808A knock-in mice after TAC.

It has been proposed that chronically elevated plasma levels of catecholamines may promote PKA hyperphosphorylation of RyR2 in HF and contribute to abnormal SR Ca\(^{2+}\) release. Genetic inhibition of phosphorylation of the main PKA site S2808 was shown to reduce the development of MI-induced HF in S2808A knock-in mice. In addition, a recent study by Shan et al demonstrated that S2808D knock-in mice with constitutively activated PKA phosphorylation sites on RyR2 had development of spontaneous HF with age and also exhibited increased mortality after MI. However, our data did not reveal increased S2808 phosphorylation in patients with nonischemic DCM or ICM. Moreover, Zhang et al recently reported a lack of protective effects in S2808A mice after MI, adding to the controversy in the field about the importance of S2808 phosphorylation in HF development. Interestingly, this article did show increased S2808 phosphorylation after MI. One possible explanation for the discrepant findings is that PKA hyperphosphorylation may only occur in advanced and more severe stages of ischemic HF. Unless studies are performed during the same time points or the same severity of cardiac decompensation, phosphorylation levels of S2808 might greatly vary between studies. In addition, there may be regional differences in ischemic failing hearts.

Although previous studies had implicated activation of CaMKII in HF development after MI, the role of CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 at S2814 had not been studied before in sufficient detail. Our data revealed that the level of S2814 phosphorylation on RyR2 slightly decreased after MI. Therefore, it was not surprising that S2814A knock-in mice were not protected from development of decompensating HF after MI. These findings are in agreement with recent work by Kushnir et al, who also demonstrated a lack of protection from MI-induced HF in S2814A mice.

**Effects of CaMKII Phosphorylation on RyR2 on SR Ca\(^{2+}\) Leak in HF**

Enhanced activity of CaMKII in the heart profoundly affects SR Ca\(^{2+}\) handling. Ventricular myocytes isolated from CaMKII-δc transgenic mice exhibit increased diastolic SR Ca\(^{2+}\) release events (SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak) despite a lower SR Ca\(^{2+}\) load, which could be partly caused by increased CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2. Phosphorylation of the CaMKII phosphorylation site S2814 on RyR2 enhances channel open probability and Ca\(^{2+}\) spark activity. Our recent studies revealed that constitutive activation of this CaMKII site in S2814D knock-in mice causes SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak, which is associated with a mild dilated cardiomyopathy at 12 months of age. Moreover, S2814D mice exhibit markedly reduced survival after TAC, suggesting that maximal phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 promotes development of decompensated HF.

Our data revealed an increased incidence of spontaneous SCR events in WT mice after TAC. Pharmacological inhibition of CaMKII reduced the number of SCR events, suggesting that CaMKII activation after pressure overload underlies Ca\(^{2+}\) release defects, as previously shown. Genetic ablation of the S2814 phosphorylation site on RyR2 led to a similar decrease in SCR incidence after TAC in the absence of exogenous CaMKII blockade, suggesting that RyR2 is a
major downstream target of CaMKII underlying defective SR Ca\(^{2+}\) release. Thus, pressure overload induces spontaneous releases of SR Ca\(^{2+}\) during diastole attributable to increased CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of RyR2. Taken together, these data suggest that the preservation of cardiac contractility, attenuation of SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak, and delayed development of HF in S2814A mice are mediated by the direct prevention of CaMKII phosphorylation of site S2814 on the RyR2 Ca\(^{2+}\) release channel.

Conclusions

Taken together, our present work has demonstrated that increased CaMKII phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 plays a critical role in the development of pathological SR Ca\(^{2+}\) leak and HF in a mouse model of pressure overload. However, phosphorylation of the S2814 site does not appear to play a role in the development of HF after MI. Moreover, there seems to be a difference in phosphorylation of RyR2 sites depending on whether HF is ischemic in nature. Overall, our current findings suggest an important role for CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 in the development of nonischemic HF in mice with pressure overload, and support its role as a potential new target for the treatment of HF.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Julia Reynolds and Claudia Liebetrut for their expertise and technical assistance.

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Disclosures

None.

References


### Novelty and Significance

**What Is Known?**

- Heart failure (HF) is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality and is responsible for one of every nine deaths in the United States.
- Ca\textsuperscript{2+}/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII) is upregulated in patients with HF.
- Phosphorylation of CaMKII phosphorylation site S2814 on RyR2 enhances open probability, Ca\textsuperscript{2+} spark activity, and sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) Ca\textsuperscript{2+} leak.

**What New Information Does This Article Contribute?**

- S2814 phosphorylation of RyR2 is increased in patients with nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and in mice after pressure overload, but not in patients and mice with ischemic cardiomyopathy (ICM).
- Genetic inhibition of S2814 phosphorylation of RyR2 prevents SR Ca\textsuperscript{2+} leak and decompensated HF after transverse aortic constriction (TAC) in mice.

Previous studies demonstrated that increased levels of CaMKII might contribute to enhanced SR Ca\textsuperscript{2+} leak in animals and patients with HF. Here, we tested the hypothesis that CaMKII phosphorylation of S2814 on RyR2 underlies Ca\textsuperscript{2+} cycling defects in HF. First, we found that S2814 phosphorylation is only increased in patients with nonischemic DCM, but not in those with ICM. Next, genetic inhibition of S2814 phosphorylation in mice was found to prevent development of decompensated HF after TAC. The time course of the protective effect correlated well with the delayed increase in S2814 phosphorylation on RyR2. Finally, SR Ca\textsuperscript{2+} leak was reduced in S2814A knock-in mice after TAC, compared with WT control mice. In contrast, S2814A mice were not protected from development of HF after myocardial infarction, consistent with the findings in human ICM samples. Thus, our data suggest that increased S2814 phosphorylation of RyR2 might play an important role in development of nonischemic types of HF.
Role of RyR2 Phosphorylation at S2814 During Heart Failure Progression
Jonathan L. Respress, Ralph J. van Oort, Na Li, Natale Rolim, Sayali S. Dixit, Angela deAlmeida, Niels Voigt, William S. Lawrence, Darlene G. Skapura, Kristine Skårdal, Ulrik Wisløff, Thomas Wieland, Xun Ai, Steven M. Pogwizd, Dobromir Dobrev and Xander H.T. Wehrens

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Supplemental Material

Role of RyR2 phosphorylation at S2814 during heart failure progression
by Respress et al.

Human heart samples - LV tissue was obtained from four failing human hearts after explantation in patients undergoing clinically indicated cardiac transplantation for end-stage idiopathic non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) performed at the University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB) or Loyola University Chicago Hospital (see Online Table I). Four non-failing (NF) human hearts (which could not be used for transplantation) were obtained from Gift of Hope (formerly the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois) or the Alabama Organ Center as described previously 1. The study was approved by the Human Studies Committees of Loyola University, Gift of Hope, UAB and the Alabama Organ Center, respectively. Another set of LV tissue samples were obtained with approval of the Institutional Review Board of the University of Mannheim, Germany.

Transverse aortic constriction - Mice were anesthetized using a mixture of 1.5-2% isoflurane in 100% O₂, and left anterior thoracotomy was performed to visualize the aortic arch. Transverse aortic constriction (TAC) was induced by subjecting the aorta to a defined, 27-gauge constriction using a 6-0 suture between the first and second trunk of the aortic arch, as previously described in detail 2,3. The aorta was not constricted during the surgical sham procedure. Doppler velocities were measured to quantify the alterations in the right and left carotid arteries following TAC as previously described. Right-to-left carotid peak velocity ratios were similar in WT and S2814A TAC groups. Mice were sacrificed 16 weeks after surgery.

Myocardial infarction - Myocardial infarction (MI) was induced while maintaining aseptic conditions by ligating the left anterior descending coronary artery (LAD) approximately 2 mm below the tip of the left auricle with a 7-0 silk ligature, as previously described 4. Occlusion was confirmed by observing myocardial pallor and restricted ventricular motion in the area of interest. The chest was closed in layers followed by subcutaneous administration of buprenorphine (0.1 mg/kg, 0.5 ml in volume Temgesic, Reckitt and Coleman, Hull, UK) to reduce postoperative acute pain. The LAD was not ligated during the sham procedure. Infarct size was estimated as the extent of akinesis/dyskinesis of the left ventricular free wall on MRI or of the left ventricle wall. The final determination of infarct size was made on histological sections.

Transthoracic echocardiography - Echocardiography was performed using the VisualSonics VeVo 770 Imaging System (VisualSonics, Toronto, Canada) equipped with high-frequency 30 MHz probe, as described 5. All measurements were made while the mouse had a heart rate of 450 ± 50 beats per minute. In addition, body temperature was maintained between a narrow range (37.0 ± 0.5 °C) to avoid confounding effects of hypothermia.

Invasive hemodynamic measurements - Cardiac catheterization was used to assess left ventricular (LV) contractility using a 1.4F high-fidelity micromanometer catheter (Millar Instruments, Houston, TX) advanced into the left ventricle via the right carotid artery, as described 2. Data were digitized and analyzed using the IOX data acquisition system (Emka Technologies, Falls Church, VA). The first derivative of LV pressure over time is expressed as dP/dt_max. The pressure inside of the LV during diastole is expressed as P_min. The pressure inside of the LV during systole is expressed as P_max.

MRI - MRI was performed on a 7T Bruker Biospec Avance 70/20 system (Bruker Biospin, Ettlingen, Germany) with a 72 mm volume coil for transmission and an actively decoupled rat head surface coil for receive only (RAPID MR International, LLC, Ohio, USA). Anesthetized animals, 1-2% isoflurane in 1:2 O₂:N₂, were positioned prone atop of the surface coil in a dedicated animal bed and anaesthesia level was
amplification was performed on a qPCR machine and fluorescence detection was performed in a 96-well plate format.

Following localization of the heart, 7-9 contiguous short axis black blood cine movies were acquired for complete coverage of the left ventricle using a self-gated fast low flip angle shot (FLASH) sequence with an oblique navigator echo. Acquisition parameters were repetition time (TR) 6.9 ms, echo time (TE) 2.5 ms, flip angle 10°, slice thickness 1 mm, field of view 4×4 cm² and image matrix 128x128. The sequence was repeated 300 times. In all slices, end-diastole and end-systole were visually identified and the area of the lumen was traced manually using ImageJ (ImageJ 1.44p, National Institute of Health, USA). Papillary muscles were not included in the left ventricular lumen segmentation. By summing up for all slices, LVESV and LVEDV were extracted and SV and EF calculated.

Histology – Whole hearts were excised, washed briefly in normal saline, dried, weighed, and sectioned into three pieces. The middle transverse section was fixed in 4% buffered formaldehyde for 48 hours. After paraffin embedding and sectioning, 5 mm sections were stained with hematoxylin-eosin (H&E) for cell morphology and Masson’s trichrome (MT) for fibrosis. Infarct size was calculated as total infarct circumference divided by total left ventricle circumference. Sections were examined on an Olympus BH-2 epifluorescence microscope. MT staining was quantified using Adobe Photoshop and ImageJ (National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD). Infarct size was measured at the papillary muscle level on the transverse plane, and quantified as the length of the arc corresponding to the segment of the MI scar in relation to the total perimeter of the endocardial border of the left ventricle.

Western blot analysis (mouse) - Cardiac homogenates were prepared as described previously. Mouse heart homogenates were subjected to electrophoresis on 6% (for RyR2) acrylamide gels, and transferred onto polyvinyl difluoride (PVDF) membranes. Membranes were probed with monoclonal anti-RyR2 (1:5,000; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA), polyclonal anti-pS2814-RyR2 (1:1,000), 8 polyclonal anti-pS2808-RyR2 (1:1,000), 7 monoclonal anti-pT286- CaMKII (1:1,000; Cayman Chemicals, Ann Arbor, MI), polyclonal anti-CaMKII (1:1000), polyclonal anti-pT17-PLN (1:5,000; Badrilla, Leeds, UK), polyclonal anti-pS16-PLN (1:5000; Badrilla, Leeds, UK), monoclonal anti-PLN (1:5000; Badrilla, Leeds, UK), and monoclonal anti-GAPDH (1:10,000; Millipore, Temecula, CA) antibodies at room temperature (RT) for 4 hours or overnight at 4 °C. Membranes were then incubated with secondary anti-mouse and anti-rabbit antibodies conjugated to Alexa-Fluor 680 (Invitrogen Molecular Probes, Carlsbad, CA) and IR800Dye (Rockland Immunochemicals, Gilbertsville, PA), respectively, and bands were quantified using infrared visualization (Odyssey System, Lincoln, NE) and densitometry (ImageJ Data Acquisition Software, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD).

Western blot analysis (human) - The protein levels of total RyR2 (1:500, Affinity BioReagents, Golden, CO), Ser2808 and Ser2814 phosphorylated RyR2 (1:2,000 and 1:1,000, respectively) were quantified by Western blotting as described. The RyR2-Ser2808 and RyR2-Ser2814 phosphoepitope-specific antibodies were custom generated using the peptide C-RTRRR-(pS)-QTSQV corresponding to the PKA phosphorylation site region at Ser2808 on RyR2 and peptide CSQTSQV-(pS)-VD corresponding to CaMKII phosphorylated RyR2 at Ser2814. Peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit (1:5,000, Sigma-Aldrich), goat anti-mouse (Sigma-Aldrich) and donkey anti-goat (Santa-Cruz) were used as secondary antibodies and visualized by chemifluorescence (GE Healthcare, Chalfont St. Giles, UK). AIDA Software (raytest, Straubenhardt, Germany) was used for quantification. The total amount of protein in each blot was determined by Ponceau staining.

Quantitative RT-PCR - One µg of RNA from indicated mice was reverse-transcribed using Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), as described. Real-time PCR using the Eppendorf qPCR machine and fluorescence detection was performed in 96-well plates using SYBR Green. PCR amplification was performed as a singleplex reaction in a total reaction volume of 25 µl, consisting of
400 nM forward and reverse primers, 1 ml cDNA, 12.5 ml 2x SYBR Green PCR master mix (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). The PCR was cycled between 95°C /30 s and 60°C /30 s for 40 cycles, following an initial denaturation step at 95°C for 2 min. Primers were specific for mouse sequences and designed as described 11. Transcript quantities were compared using the relative Ct method, where the amount of target normalized to the amount of endogenous control (L7) and relative to the control sample is given by $2^{-\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}}$.

**Calcium imaging in isolated ventricular myocytes** - Single ventricular myocytes were isolated by a modified collagenase method, as described 2. Ventricular myocytes were loaded with 5 mmol/L Fluo-4 AM (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) for 30 min at room temperature (RT), ventricular myocytes were perfused with 1.8 mM Ca$^{2+}$ normal Tyrode (NT) solution to wash out extra fluorescent. Intracellular Ca$^{2+}$ concentrations ([Ca$^{2+}$]$_i$) were measured using an illumination device (model Lambda DG-4, Sutter Instruments, Novato, CA), and an electro-multiplier intensified back-illuminated charge coupled device (CCD) camera (model Cascade 512B, Photometrics, Tucson, AZ). After precondition, myocytes were paced at 20 V, 1 Hz for 20 seconds, followed by a 40 second pause. Caffeine (10 mM) was applied in 0 Ca$^{2+}$ NT to estimate steady-state SR Ca$^{2+}$ content. The amplitude and number of spontaneous Ca$^{2+}$ release (SCR) events during the 40-second pause were quantified. As negative control experiments, myocytes from WT TAC and S14A TAC mice were pretreated with the CaMKII inhibitor KN93 (1 μmol/L) at least 10 min before pacing. Curve fittings of single isolated transients under steady state were used to determine SERCA activity (tau, $\tau$) during the 20-second pacing phase.

**Cell length measurements** - Microscopic pictures of cardiomyocytes were captured and analyzed using a Nikon Eclipse E400 Microscope with a DSFiL camera (Nikon NIS-Elements Basic Research Version 3.00 software, Nikon Instruments Inc., Melville, NY). Myocytes were measured along their long axis to determine cell lengths. At least 3 mice were analyzed per group. Data on cell lengths were analyzed in a blinded manner.
Online References


Online Table I. Characteristics of human heart failure subject (non-ischemic DCM cohort)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics &amp; Regimen</th>
<th>Patient Population</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>control</td>
<td>HF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. patients</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, y</td>
<td>43.7±8.8</td>
<td>41.5±8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male/female, n</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta blockers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diuretics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE inhibitors/ ARB</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca(^{2+}) channel blockers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statins</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Factors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myocardial infarction (prior)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Function</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ejection fraction, %</td>
<td>50±5.0</td>
<td>11.7±1.7 ***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are expressed as mean ± SEM or number of patients. HF indicates non-ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). ***P<0.001 versus control. All patients were of Caucasian descent.
**Online Table II.** Echocardiographic parameters of WT and S2814A mice at 3 and 12 months of age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3 months</th>
<th>12 months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WT (n=7)</td>
<td>S2814A (n=8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR (bpm)</td>
<td>484.7±7.3</td>
<td>462.6±3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESD (mm)</td>
<td>2.94±0.03</td>
<td>2.78±0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDD (mm)</td>
<td>4.13±0.03</td>
<td>3.97±0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF (%)</td>
<td>56.0±0.4</td>
<td>57.8±0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS (%)</td>
<td>28.9±0.3</td>
<td>30.0±0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSd (mm)</td>
<td>0.67±0.01</td>
<td>0.67±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSs (mm)</td>
<td>0.91±0.01</td>
<td>0.88±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVPWd (mm)</td>
<td>0.68±0.01</td>
<td>0.67±0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVPWs (mm)</td>
<td>0.99±0.01</td>
<td>0.98±0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are expressed as mean ± SEM. NS = not significant versus WT. HR = heart rate; ESD = end-systolic diameter; EDD = end-diastolic diameter; EF = ejection fraction; FS = left ventricular fractional shortening; IVS = intraventricular septal wall thickness; LVPW = left ventricular posterior wall thickness.
**Online Table III.** Pressure-volume loop parameters of WT and S2814A mice at 16 weeks after sham or TAC surgery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>sham</th>
<th>16 weeks</th>
<th>TAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WT (n=6)</td>
<td>S2814A (n=8)</td>
<td>WT (n=6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&lt;sub&gt;max&lt;/sub&gt; (mmHg)</td>
<td>100.6±3.1</td>
<td>97.7±4.4</td>
<td>121.1±11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&lt;sub&gt;min&lt;/sub&gt; (mmHg)</td>
<td>-0.8±0.5</td>
<td>0.0±0.9</td>
<td>8.5±3.4**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR (bpm)</td>
<td>513.6±19.6</td>
<td>509.7±8.6</td>
<td>522.9±24.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV (µL)</td>
<td>7.2±0.6</td>
<td>7.0±0.8</td>
<td>3.2±0.3***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO (µL/min)</td>
<td>3726.6±292.5</td>
<td>3546.1±425.8</td>
<td>1722.0±168.4***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dP/dt&lt;sub&gt;max&lt;/sub&gt; (mmHg/s)</td>
<td>10497.8±536.9</td>
<td>8883.2±446.2</td>
<td>6141.6±655.1***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dP/dt&lt;sub&gt;min&lt;/sub&gt; (mmHg/s)</td>
<td>-8606.9±424.0</td>
<td>-8271.7±471.5</td>
<td>-6354.9±723.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW (mmHg)</td>
<td>562.5±62.4</td>
<td>559.3±75.4</td>
<td>239.9±27.2***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are expressed as mean ± SEM. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001 versus corresponding sham, #P<0.05, ###P<0.001 versus WT TAC. P<sub>max</sub> = maximum rate of ventricular pressure change; P<sub>min</sub> = minimum rate of ventricular pressure change; HR = heart rate; SV = stroke volume; CO = cardiac output (HR x SV); dP/dt<sub>max</sub> = maximum derivative of left ventricular pressure (contractility); dP/dt<sub>min</sub> = minimum derivative left ventricular pressure (relaxation); SW = stroke work.
**Online Table IV.** MRI parameters of WT and S2814A mice before and after MI.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>sham</th>
<th></th>
<th>60% MI</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WT (n=5)</td>
<td>S2814A (n=3)</td>
<td>WT (n=2)</td>
<td>S2814A (n=2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVESV (µl)</td>
<td>27.13±4.0</td>
<td>20.80±1.1</td>
<td>182.81±20.3*</td>
<td>168.0±43.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVEDV (µl)</td>
<td>63.38±6.8</td>
<td>50.91±5.9</td>
<td>230.42±17.0*</td>
<td>192.68±51.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF (%)</td>
<td>57.0±4.0</td>
<td>57.0±8.0</td>
<td>20.88±3.0*</td>
<td>12.64±1.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SV (µl)</td>
<td>36.25±4.6</td>
<td>30.11±7.0</td>
<td>48.0±3.0*</td>
<td>24.85±8.3*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are expressed as mean ± SEM. NS = not significant versus WT counterpart. LVESV = end-systolic volume; LVEDV = end-diastolic volume; EF = ejection fraction; SV = stroke volume. * P<0.05 versus corresponding sham.
Online Figure I. Increased CaMKII auto-phosphorylation and its phosphorylation of RyR2 at site S2814 in human patients with non-ischemic heart failure. A. Representative Western blots for phosphorylated RyR2-S2814 (pS2814) and total RyR2 in heart lysates from biopsies of human patients with non-ischemic heart failure (non-ischemic DCM) in comparison to non-HF controls. B. Quantification revealed increased S2814 phosphorylation in patients with HF. C. Representative Western blots for phosphorylated CaMKII-T286 (pT286), total CaMKII, and GAPDH in heart lysates from biopsies of human patients with non-ischemic heart failure. D. Quantification shows a trend towards increased T286 phosphorylation normalized to GAPDH in patients with HF. ** \( P<0.01 \) vs. control. Numbers in bars indicate number of patients analyzed in panels B and D.
Online Figure II. Correlation between heart weight normalized to tibia length and peak systolic pressure. This graph shows the correlation between heart weight normalized to tibia length (HW/TL) and peak systolic ventricular pressure (Pmax) measured at 16 weeks after transverse aortic constriction (TAC). Although the average Pmax was greater in S2814A mice, the HW/TL ratio was lower consistent with a protective effect of the S2814A mutation following pressure overload-induced remodeling. N=6-8 animals per group.
Online Figure III. Increased CaMKII auto-phosphorylation and its phosphorylation of PLN at site T17. A. Representative Western blots for phosphorylated CaMKII-T286 (pT286), total CaMKII, and GAPDH in heart lysates from WT and S2814A mice 16 weeks after TAC surgery, respectively. B. Quantification revealed increased T286 phosphorylation in WT mice with a trend in S2814A mice after TAC. N=4 animals per group. C. Representative Western blots for phosphorylated PLN-T17 (pT17) and total PLN in heart lysates from WT and S2814A mice 16 weeks after TAC. D. Quantification showing increase in T17 phosphorylation following TAC in WT mice with a trend in S2814A mice. N=4-7 animals per group. E. Representative Western blots for phosphorylated PLN-S16 (pS16) and total PLN in heart lysates from WT and S2814A mice 16 weeks after TAC. F. Quantification revealed no change in S16 phosphorylation following TAC in either group. * P<0.05 vs. corresponding sham. N=4 animals per group.
Online Figure IV. Inhibition of CaMKII phosphorylation of RyR2 attenuates SR Ca\textsuperscript{2+} Leak after TAC. A. Quantification of spontaneous calcium release (SCR) amplitude in isolated myocytes from WT and S2814A mice revealed an increase in WT mice after TAC. B. Quantification of SR Ca\textsuperscript{2+} content in WT and S2814A mice revealed a decrease in WT mice after TAC. C. Quantification of SCR amplitude normalized to SR Ca\textsuperscript{2+} content revealed a significant increase in WT TAC cells. D. SERCA2a activity was estimated by calculating the time course of Ca\textsuperscript{2+} transient decay (tau). An average of >25 cells from 3 or more mice per group were analyzed. * P<0.05, *** P<0.001 versus corresponding sham, # P<0.05 versus WT TAC.
Online Figure V. Myocardial infarction does not increase S2814 phosphorylation on RyR2 in mice. 
A. Representative Western blots for phosphorylated RyR2-S2814 (pS2814) and total RyR2 in heart lysates from WT and S2814A mice subjected to sham or MI surgery resulting in 60% infarcts. B. Quantification of RyR2 phosphorylation indicates decreased S2814 after 60% MI in WT mice. Numbers in bars indicate number of animals. *** $P<0.001$ versus corresponding sham.