Author’s response to reviews

Title: Expression of a novel short isoform of the kidney disease protein podocin in human kidney

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to resubmit an improved version of our manuscript. Please find below a point-by-point response to the referee’s concerns.

In addition to the changes suggested by the reviewers we slightly changed figure 2. There we added “retention time” as the label for the x-axis.

We hope that our manuscript now is suitable for publication in BMC Nephrology.

With kind regards,

Martin Höhne

Reviewer 1 (Hiroyasu Tsukaguchi)

Major comments

Völker A et al., have revised the manuscript mainly by improving the quality of mass spectrometry analysis. This experiment has been done very carefully (Fig.2 b-d) by collaborating with the specialist (Dr. Rinschen). The Co-IP studies (Fig 4) are provided as additional piece of evidence supporting the possible physical interaction of short form of podocin with other SD proteins. These results have strengthened the author’s conclusion that human short podocin does exist in the kidneys at the protein level and may have some physiological roles, in addition to well-characterized canonical long form of podocin.

We thank the reviewer for the kind comment.
Minor comments

1. The last sentence in Abstract (line 58), “sequestration of lipids and protein interactors into other cell compartments” sounds ambiguous. The reader may wonder what do “other cell compartments” mean. It would become clear if authors specify the cell compartments exactly (i.e., ER).

Response:
We changed the text according to the reviewer’s recommendation. Line 58 now reads:
“sequestration of lipid and protein interactors into the endoplasmic reticulum.”

2. In Fig 4 D legend, it would be helpful for readers to understand, if authors explain which samples are shown for their isotopic pattern in this panel (human glomerular lysate or HEK293 cell lysates? or both).

Response:
We think that the reviewer is referring to Fig 2 D here. We changed the figure legend according to the recommendation.

Old version: D) MS1 isotope pattern of the respective mass. The isotope pattern is consistent with a triply charged peptide.

New version: D) MS1 isotope pattern of the respective mass of the HEK293T sample transfected with the short isoform. The isotope pattern is consistent with a triply charged peptide.

Reviewer 2 (Maddalena Gigante)

Minor Revisions

I would only suggest to change the title to avoid the repetition of the word “kidney” (e.g. “Characterization of a short isoform of podocin in human kidney”).

Response
We changed the title according to the reviewer’s suggestion. The title now reads:
“Characterization of a short isoform of the kidney protein podocin in human kidney”