

# Nonmuscle myosin heavy chain IIA mediates integrin LFA-1 de-adhesion during T lymphocyte migration

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**Precise spatial and temporal regulation of cell adhesion and de-adhesion is critical for dynamic lymphocyte migration. Although a great deal of information has been learned about integrin lymphocyte function-associated antigen (LFA)-1 adhesion, the mechanism that regulates efficient LFA-1 de-adhesion from intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM)-1 during T lymphocyte migration is unknown. Here, we show that nonmuscle myosin heavy chain IIA (MyH9) is recruited to LFA-1 at the uropod of migrating T lymphocytes, and inhibition of the association of MyH9 with LFA-1 results in extreme uropod elongation, defective tail detachment, and decreased lymphocyte migration on ICAM-1, without affecting LFA-1 activation by chemokine CXCL-12. This defect was reversed by a small molecule antagonist that inhibits both LFA-1 affinity and avidity regulation, but not by an antagonist that inhibits only affinity regulation. Total internal reflection fluorescence microscopy of the contact zone between migrating T lymphocytes and ICAM-1 substrate revealed that inactive LFA-1 is selectively localized to the posterior of polarized T lymphocytes, whereas active LFA-1 is localized to their anterior. Thus, during T lymphocyte migration, uropodal adhesion depends on LFA-1 avidity, where MyH9 serves as a key mechanical link between LFA-1 and the cytoskeleton that is critical for LFA-1 de-adhesion.**

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Abbreviations used: DIC, differential interference contrast; ICAM, intercellular adhesion molecule; MLC, myosin regulatory light chain; MyH9, non-muscle myosin heavy chain IIA; ROCK, Rho-associated kinase; siRNA, small interfering RNA; TIRF, total internal reflection fluorescence.

By contributing to the positioning of immunocompetent cells throughout the body, leukocyte migration plays a central role in the function of the immune system. Extravasation of blood leukocytes is critical for immune surveillance and is a crucial step in the development of inflammatory responses. During migration, integrins mediate leukocyte adhesion to the extracellular matrix or other cells and function as traction sites over which leukocytes migrate. Integrins are a family of  $\alpha\beta$  heterodimeric membrane receptors that mediate cell-cell, cell-extracellular matrix, and cell-pathogen interactions. The integrin LFA-1 (or  $\alpha_L\beta_2$ ) is expressed on most leukocytes and plays a major role in regulating leukocyte adhesion and recruitment to damaged or infected tissues during inflammation.

Extracellular signals such as chemokines stimulate G protein-coupled receptors and their associated signaling cascades ("inside-out" signals), resulting in dramatic changes in cell shape and eventually leukocyte polarization. Polarized leukocytes exhibit dynamic spatio-temporal regulation of intracellular signaling events and cytoskeletal rearrangement. Precise spatial and temporal regulation of integrin activation occurs during the directional migration of these cells. The process of leukocyte migration can be conceptualized as a cyclic process that involves at least three interdependent events, including de novo cell adhesion at the leading edge, cell contraction at the cell body, and detachment at the trailing edge. Active integrins mediate adhesion at the leading edge to provide traction, and de-adhesion by inactive integrins takes place at

the trailing edge to allow for leukocyte detachment and forward movement (1). Therefore, both integrin-mediated cell adhesion and de-adhesion are essential for efficient cell migration.

Several components of the inside-out signaling pathways involved in the regulation of LFA-1 adhesiveness have been identified. After being freed from the rod domain by proteolysis or truncation, talin head domain activates integrins by directly binding to  $\beta$  subunits (2–5). Mutant talin resistant to calpain proteolysis reduces adhesion turnover during cell migration (6). Rap-1, a member of Ras family of small GTPases, and its interacting molecule, RAPL, mediate TCR- and chemokine-induced adhesion of leukocytes to intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM)-1 and vascular cell adhesion molecule 1 (7, 8). Although an extensive amount of information has been gathered from the intensive investigation of integrins, most studies have focused on the signaling processes associated with integrin activation and cell adhesion. However, the mechanisms for integrin inactivation or de-adhesion during cell migration are equally important and remain uncharacterized.

LFA-1 ligand binding activity is controlled by two distinct mechanisms, “affinity” regulation and “avidity” (or “valency”) regulation. In the former, conformational changes in the protein impart high affinity ligand binding. In the latter, membrane redistribution of LFA-1 functions to strengthen overall cellular adhesiveness. During inside-out signaling, stimuli received by a variety of cell surface receptors initiate intracellular signaling that impinges upon integrin cytoplasmic domains and disassociates the cytoplasmic tails of  $\alpha_L$  and  $\beta_2$  subunits (2, 9–11). These events lead to disruption of the association between the integrin head and legs (10, 12). The resultant switchblade-like opening of the integrin molecule is linked to the active high affinity conformation that binds extrinsic ligands such as ICAMs (13–15). In addition to alterations in the conformation of individual integrin  $\alpha\beta$  heterodimers, the overall strength of cellular adhesive interactions is also regulated by the total number of bonds formed (16). The number of adhesive bonds that can form is mainly mediated by changes in the cell surface receptor diffusivity or local clustering, and ligand binding-dependent redistribution as a consequence of adhesion strengthening (8, 13, 16–21). Although LFA-1 affinity and avidity is thought to be tightly and dynamically regulated during T lymphocyte migration, the relative importance of the different states of integrin activation during cell migration remains unknown. Recently, we have assessed the effects of two distinct classes of small molecule allosteric LFA-1 antagonists on LFA-1 regulation (16). The  $\alpha$  I allosteric antagonist, BIRT377, binds to the  $\alpha_L$  I domain and stabilizes it in the low affinity closed conformation. In contrast, the  $\alpha/\beta$  I-like allosteric antagonist, XVA143, binds to the metal-ion-dependent adhesion site of the  $\beta_2$  I-like domain and also, in part, to the  $\alpha_L$  subunit. XVA143 blocks the communication of conformational signals from the  $\beta_2$  I-like domain to the  $\alpha_L$  I domain; therefore, it blocks inside-out affinity enhancement (16). BIRT377 inhibits both affinity and avidity regulation of LFA-1 by stabilizing the I domain in the

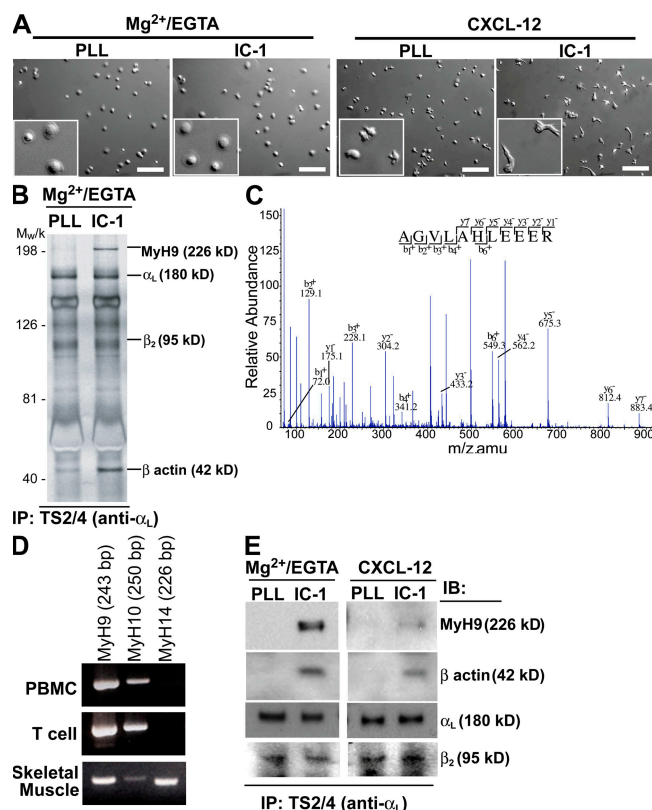
low affinity state. Whereas, XVA143 inhibits only affinity regulation activation, suggesting that avidity regulation does not require conformational change in response to signals from within the cell, but still requires conversion of the  $\alpha_L$  I domain to the high affinity and open conformation driven by ICAM-1 binding (16). Therefore, these reagents are excellent tools for distinguishing between affinity and avidity regulation of LFA-1 adhesiveness during cell migration.

Myosins are actin-dependent molecular motors that use the energy of ATP hydrolysis to move along actin filaments. The myosin family consists of at least 20 structurally and functionally distinct classes (22). Myosin heavy chains typically consist of three distinct regions, including an N-terminal motor or head domain responsible for actin binding and ATP hydrolysis, a neck region that binds light chains or calmodulin, and a C-terminal tail that is responsible for cargo binding and/or dimerization of heavy chains. The myosin II family can be divided into nonmuscle cytoplasmic, cardiac muscle, smooth muscle, and skeletal muscle subclasses, each with multiple isoforms (23). Myosin II in nonmuscle cells plays important roles in cytokinesis and cell migration (24). In *Dictyostelium*, myosin II gene knockout reduces migration speed and results in a loss of forward bias in protrusion (25). Genomic analysis has identified at least three different nonmuscle myosin heavy chain type II isoforms in humans termed nonmuscle myosin heavy chain IIA (MyH9), nonmuscle myosin heavy chain IIB (MyH10), and nonmuscle myosin heavy chain IIC (MyH14) (23). Most cell types contain both MyH9 and MyH10. However, some are selectively enriched either in MyH9 (e.g., platelets, lymphocytes, neutrophil granulocytes, brush border cells, and RBL2H3 cells) (26) or in MyH10 (e.g., neurons) (27). Here, we provide evidence that adhesion of the tail of migrating T lymphocytes is mediated by avidity-regulated LFA-1 and that MyH9 plays a key role in LFA-1 de-adhesion and tail retraction.

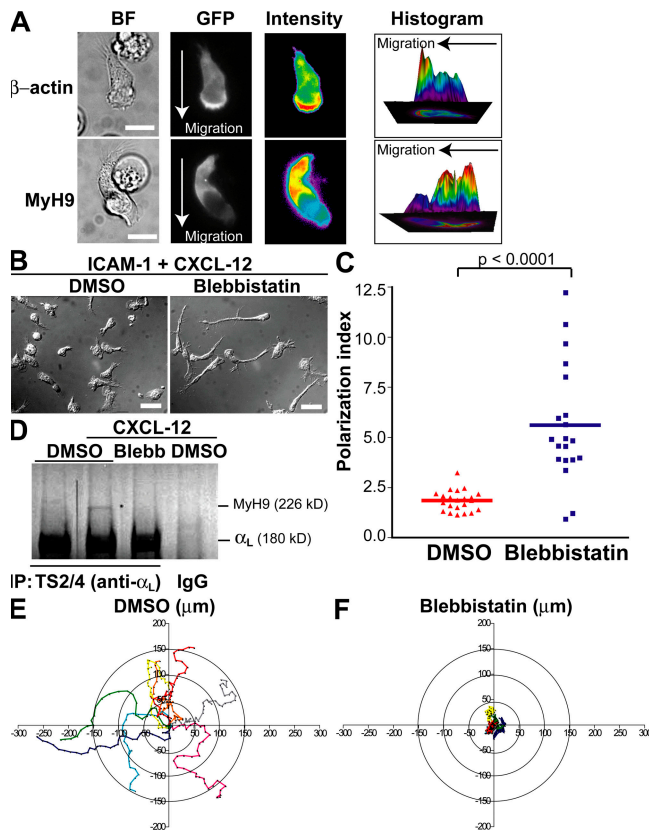
## RESULTS

### ICAM-1 binding recruits MyH9 to LFA-1

To identify key cytoplasmic molecules mediating LFA-1-dependent T lymphocyte migration on ICAM-1, LFA-1 immunoprecipitates obtained from human primary T lymphocytes adherent to four different substrate conditions were analyzed (Fig. 1). First, T lymphocytes were exposed to  $Mg^{2+}$ /EGTA and, thus, cell surface LFA-1 was constitutively active. Both on poly-L lysine and on ICAM-1 surfaces, T lymphocytes spread out, but no polarization or migration was observed (Fig. 1 A and Videos S1 and S2, which are available at <http://www.jem.org/cgi/content/full/jem.20071543/DC1>). This suggests that LFA-1/ICAM-1 binding (“outside-in” signal) is not sufficient to induce cell polarization and migration. Next, when T lymphocytes were placed on a poly-L lysine/CXCL-12 surface in buffer with  $Ca^{2+}$ / $Mg^{2+}$ , cell polarization became obvious, although no significant cell migration was detected (Fig. 1 A and Video S3). On ICAM-1/CXCL-12-coated surfaces, T lymphocyte polarization was more evident as seen by membrane ruffling at the leading edge and contraction of the opposing edge

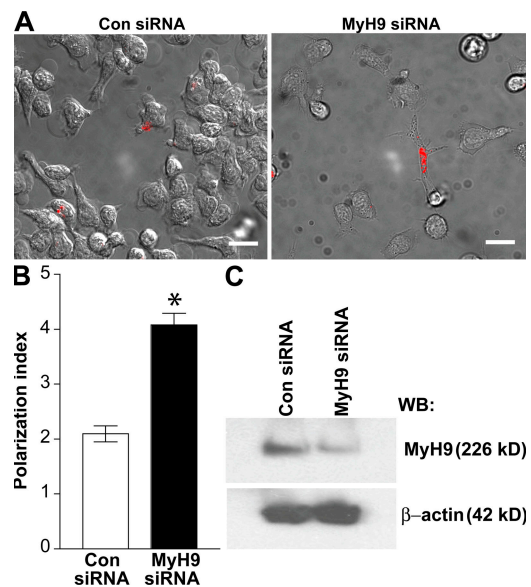






**Figure 2. MyH9 mediates LFA-1 de-adhesion at the uropod.** (A) Human T lymphocytes were transfected with MyH9-GFP or  $\beta$ -actin-GFP, and cell migration on ICAM-1 and CXCL-12 was analyzed by time-lapse fluorescence microscopy at 37°C (see also Video S5 for MyH9-GFP and Video S6 for  $\beta$ -actin-GFP). Arrows mark the direction of migration. Two-dimensional images and three-dimensional histograms of fluorescence intensity and cell surface distribution are shown in a pseudo-color scale (from low [black] to high [red]). Bar, 20  $\mu$ m. (B and C) Human T lymphocytes were pretreated with DMSO or 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin and allowed to migrate on ICAM-1- and CXCL-12-coated cover glass for 20 min at 37°C (B). The polarization index of cells was calculated as the ratio of  $x$  to  $y$ , where  $x$  is the longest distance across cells (from head to tail) and  $y$  is the greatest width perpendicular to  $x$  (C). Bar, 25  $\mu$ m (B). (D) T lymphocytes were pretreated with DMSO or 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin for 2 h and stimulated with CXCL-12 for 20 min. LFA-1 immunoprecipitates (TS2/4 antibody) were then obtained and subjected to silver staining. (E and F) Human T lymphocytes were pretreated with DMSO or 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin for 1 h at 37°C, and cell migration on ICAM-1/CXCL-12-coated cover glasses was tracked over a 30-min period. Each line represents one cell. Experiments were repeated on T lymphocyte preparations from three independent donors.

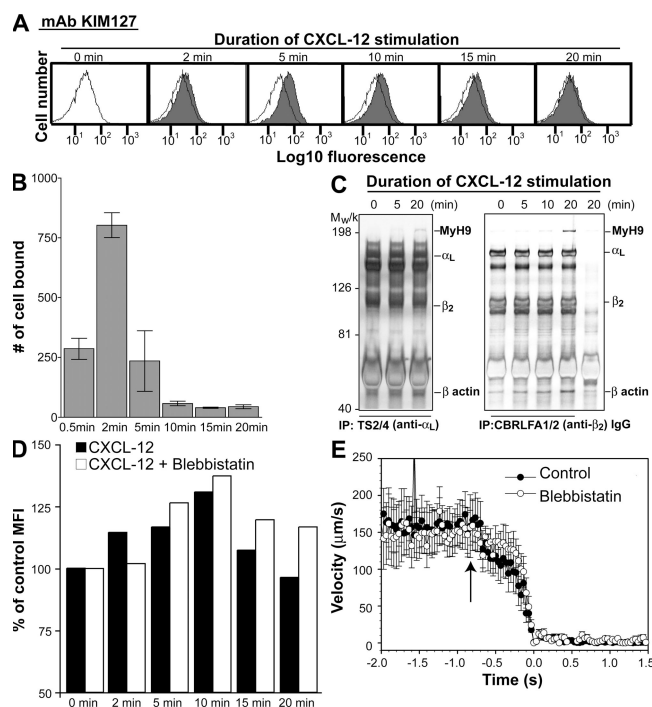
occurs before LFA-1 activation and possibly mediates LFA-1 activation, the kinetics of CXCL-12-induced LFA-1 activation were measured by flow cytometric analysis of KIM127 labeling. KIM127 is an activation-dependent monoclonal antibody; it recognizes a portion of the  $\beta_2$  EGF2 domain that is buried in the bent, inactive conformation and exposed in the extended, active conformation. Unlike the continuous regeneration of active LFA-1 during cell migration, chemokines elicit transient LFA-1 activation in suspended cells (31, 32).



**Figure 3. Selective suppression of MyH9 protein with siRNA.** Human primary T lymphocytes were transfected with Cy3-conjugated control siRNA only or Cy3-conjugated control siRNA plus MyH9 siRNA at a 1:10 ratio and allowed to migrate on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 cover glasses. (A) An overlay of DIC and Cy3 fluorescence images is shown. Bar, 20  $\mu$ m. (B) Quantification of tail detachment, as determined by the polarization index. The polarization index was measured on Cy3<sup>+</sup> cells. \*,  $P < 0.0001$  for MyH9 siRNA ( $n = 19$ ) versus control siRNA only. (C) T lymphocyte cell lysates were analyzed for MyH9 and  $\beta$ -actin levels by Western blot. Experiments were repeated on T lymphocyte preparations from three independent donors.

Accordingly, binding of KIM127 to T lymphocytes in cell suspension significantly increased 5 min after adding CXCL-12, whereas the binding was undetectable at points beyond 20 min (Fig. 4 A). Rapid and transient LFA-1 activation was confirmed in cell adhesion assays, where T lymphocyte adhesion on immobilized ICAM-1 was significantly enhanced after 2 min of soluble CXCL-12 stimulation and rapidly down-regulated within 5–10 min (Fig. 4 B), and in a flow chamber assay, where T lymphocytes arrest on immobilized ICAM-1 and CXCL-12 triggered by LFA-1 activation occurs within 1 s under flow (Fig. 4 E). Therefore, stimulation of human primary T lymphocytes with CXCL-12 induces a rapid and transient LFA-1 activation that peaks within a few seconds after activation.

During rapid LFA-1 activation by CXCL-12, no significant association of MyH9 with LFA-1 was observed (Fig. 4 C). MyH9 and LFA-1 association occurred later, at ~20 min after CXCL-12 stimulation (Fig. 4 C). All leukocytes that express LFA-1 also express one or more of its ligands, facilitating the formation of aggregates of homotypically adherent cells (16). Therefore, the late association of MyH9 with LFA-1 may be due to LFA-1 and ICAM-1 binding through homotypic T lymphocyte interaction in the cell suspension. Inhibition of MyH9 with blebbistatin had no effect on LFA-1 activation by CXCL-12 (Fig. 4, D and E). The results suggest that MyH9 recruitment to LFA-1 does not precede or coincide with LFA-1 activation.



**Figure 4. MyH9-LFA-1 association is not required for CXCL-12-induced LFA-1 activation.** (A) T lymphocytes were stimulated with (filled histograms) or without (open histograms) 100 ng/ml CXCL-12 for the indicated time period. Cells were labeled with KIM127 antibody and subjected to flow cytometry. Experiments were performed in triplicate with cells from three different donors. Representative histograms showing the time course of KIM127 epitope expression are shown. (B) Human T lymphocytes adherent to ICAM-1-coated slides were stimulated with 100 nM CXCL-12. Nonadherent cells were removed, and the number of bound cells was counted. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM of three experiments. The experiment is representative of results from three independent donors. (C) Lysates obtained from CXCL-12-stimulated T lymphocytes were subjected to  $\alpha_L$  (TS2/4 antibody) and  $\beta_2$  (CBR LFA-1/2 antibody) immunoprecipitation, and then to silver staining. Mouse IgG antibody served as a negative control. (D) T lymphocytes were pretreated with 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin or DMSO and analyzed as described above (A). A representative result of three separate experiments is shown. (E) Data represent the mean instantaneous velocities of 10 representative T lymphocytes without (Control) or with 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin (Blebbistatin), respectively, in a parallel-plate flow chamber coated with CXCL-12 and ICAM-1 at a wall shear stress of 0.5 dyn/cm<sup>2</sup>. T lymphocyte trajectory was monitored for 2 s before the first contact between cells and substrate (arrow) and arrest (time 0). The time interval between data points is 33 ms. All data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM.

The spatial regulation of LFA-1 activation is thought to play an important role in cell migration (33–35). Recently, the human monoclonal antibody AL-57, which specifically recognizes the active conformation of the  $\alpha_L$  I domain in a fashion that mimics physiological ligands, has been used to demonstrate the activation of LFA-1 on human T lymphocytes surface (32). We used this activation-dependent antibody to examine the effect of MyH9 inhibition with blebbistatin on the spatial distribution of active LFA-1 on polarized T lymphocytes during migration. A nonfunction blocking and activation-

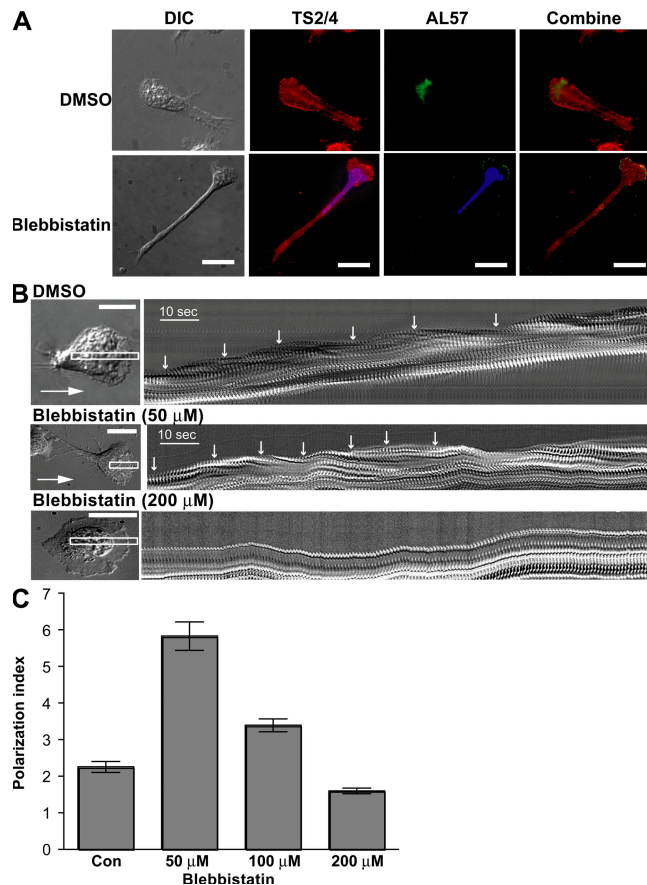
insensitive monoclonal antibody, TS2/4, was used to measure total LFA-1. TS2/4 labeling revealed that LFA-1 molecules were broadly distributed on T lymphocytes migrating on ICAM-1 substrate in response to CXCL-12 (Fig. 5 A). AL-57 labeling was mainly present at the leading edge of migrating T lymphocytes under control conditions (Fig. 5 A). The restricted distribution of AL-57 labeling at the leading edge was not significantly altered by blebbistatin treatment (Fig. 5 A).

Periodic lamellipodial contraction at the leading edge is often seen in spreading and migrating cells (36). We analyzed the periodic contraction of the protruding leading edge by creating kymographs using differential interference contrast (DIC) microscopy (Fig. 5 B). In control cells, a single cycle of the contraction, defined as a protrusion followed by a retraction (white arrows), had a period of  $\sim$ 10 s. The time interval between each contraction was not significantly altered by blebbistatin (Fig. 5 B and Video S9, which is available at <http://www.jem.org/cgi/content/full/jem.20071543/DC1>). These results, collectively with the finding that MyH9 association is not required for LFA-1 activation and blebbistatin does not affect localization of active high affinity LFA-1 at the leading edge of migrating T lymphocytes, suggest that MyH9 is dispensable for LFA-1 activation and de novo cell adhesion at the leading edge.

Although highly specific to myosin II, treatment of cells with 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin only partially inhibits nonmuscle myosin heavy chain II functions (37). In addition, periodic retractions of the lamellipodia are induced by myosin light chain kinase-dependent, but Rho-associated kinase (ROCK)-independent, force generation by myosin II (36). To investigate whether the contractile oscillations at the leading edge and the retraction at the uropod are differentially sensitive to blebbistatin, we tested a range of blebbistatin concentrations. Unlike a 50- $\mu$ M concentration, treatment of T lymphocytes with 200  $\mu$ M blebbistatin abolished the periodic lamellipodia retraction (Fig. 5 B) and dramatically reduced the uropod elongation (Fig. 5 C). Therefore, MyH9 at the uropod appears to be more susceptible to inhibition by blebbistatin than at the leading edge of migrating T lymphocytes.

#### Affinity- and avidity-regulated LFA-1 mediates adhesion at the anterior and at the posterior of migrating T lymphocytes, respectively

Both affinity regulation and avidity regulation govern the strength of integrin-ligand adhesiveness (38). The relative importance of the integrin activation states in cell migration remains unknown, but is thought to vary during the cell migration process. To investigate the spatial organization of affinity and avidity regulation of LFA-1 during T lymphocyte migration, we used two classes of LFA-1 small molecule antagonists, the  $\alpha$  I allosteric antagonist, BIRT377, and the  $\alpha/\beta$  I-like allosteric antagonist, XVA143. Because of their different modes of action (refer to Introduction),  $\alpha$  I allosteric antagonists inhibit both affinity and avidity regulation of LFA-1, whereas  $\alpha/\beta$  I-like allosteric antagonists inhibit only affinity regulation (16).

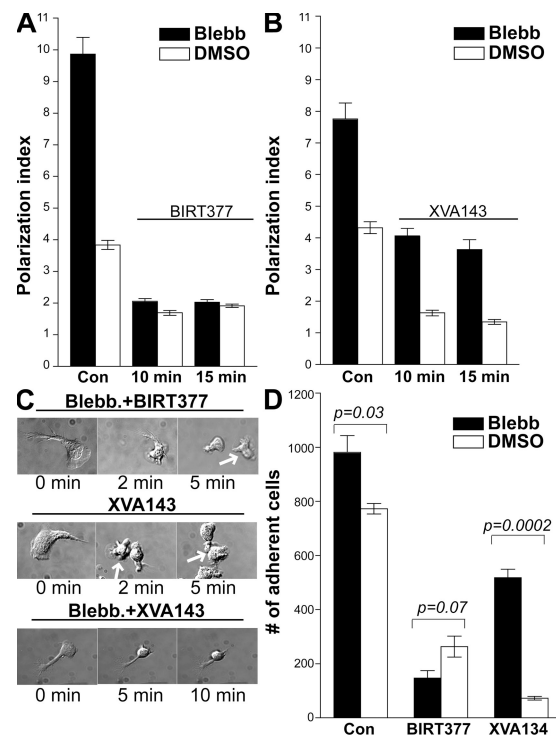


**Figure 5. MyH9-LFA-1 association is not required for the localization of active LFA-1 at the leading edge.** (A) Human primary T lymphocytes were pretreated for 1 h with DMSO or 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin, incubated on cover glasses coated with ICAM-1 and CXCL-12 for 30 min, and processed for dual immunofluorescence labeling with AL-57 (green), an antibody specific for the active human  $\alpha_L$  I domain, and TS2/4 (red). Nuclei of blebbistatin-treated cells were counterstained with DAPI (blue). Bar, 20  $\mu$ m. (B) T lymphocytes treated with DMSO, 50  $\mu$ M, or 200  $\mu$ M blebbistatin for 1 h were allowed to migrate on ICAM-1/CXCL-12-coated surfaces. DIC time-lapse images were obtained at an acquisition rate of one frame per second. A narrow rectangular cursor was drawn on the time-lapse image stack (left, white line) so that the long axis of the rectangle was aligned with the direction of cell movement, which was determined by viewing the series as a movie. The rectangle was 4 pixels in width and long enough for complete motion analysis. This region of interest was then taken from each image in the time-lapse series, and the images were pasted side-by-side in a montage to form the kymograph picture. Each cycle of contractions was marked with white arrows (right). Bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (C) T lymphocytes treated with DMSO (Con), 50  $\mu$ M, 100  $\mu$ M, or 200  $\mu$ M blebbistatin for 1 h were allowed to migrate on ICAM-1/CXCL-12-coated surfaces. The polarization index of cells was calculated as the ratio of x to y, where x is the longest distance across cells (from head to tail) and y is the greatest width perpendicular to x. 30 cells for each group were analyzed.

In control T lymphocytes, both BIRT377 and XVA143 (Video S11, available at <http://www.jem.org/cgi/content/full/jem.20071543/DC1>) abolished cell polarization and inhibited adhesion to ICAM-1/CXCL-12 surfaces, suggesting that affinity regulation of LFA-1 is more critical in normal T

lymphocyte migration (Fig. 6, A, B, and D). BIRT377 also blocked cell polarization and adhesion in the presence of blebbistatin (Fig. 6, A and D). In contrast, XVA143 was only able to reduce the total cell length by  $\sim$ 50% in the presence of blebbistatin (Fig. 6 B). Time-lapse video microscopy revealed that XVA143 (Video S12) partially detached the front half of elongated T lymphocytes in the presence of blebbistatin, whereas BIRT377 (Video S11) fully detached the elongated T lymphocytes (Fig. 6 C). XVA143 also only partially reduced T lymphocyte binding to ICAM-1/CXCL-12 surfaces in the presence of blebbistatin (Fig. 6 D). These results suggest that LFA-1 affinity regulation mainly mediates cell adhesion at the anterior of the polarized T lymphocytes, whereas avidity regulation of LFA-1 predominantly mediates adhesion of the uropod.

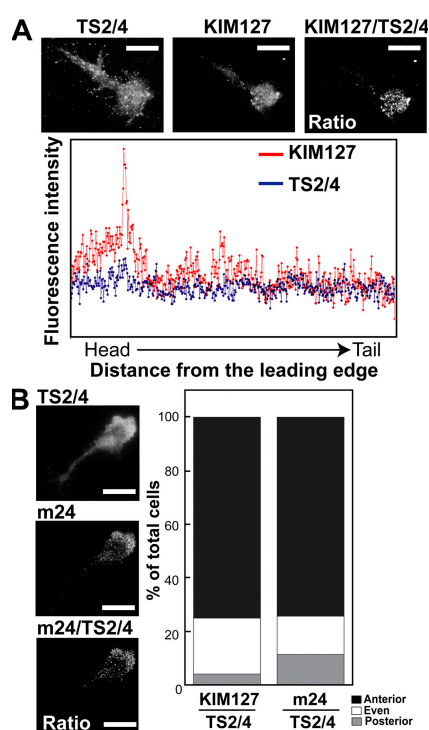
To visualize the spatial organization of affinity regulation and avidity regulation at the cell-substrate contact, we performed total internal reflection fluorescence (TIRF) imaging of KIM127, m24, and TS2/4 labeling. Because the epitopes of



**Figure 6. Uropodal adhesion depends on LFA-1 avidity regulation, and uropodal detachment is mediated by MyH9.** (A–C) Human T lymphocytes were pretreated with DMSO or 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin for 1 h and allowed to migrate on ICAM-1/CXCL-12-coated surfaces for 20 min. Then cells were treated with 20  $\mu$ M BIRT377, 1  $\mu$ M XVA143, or an equivalent concentration of DMSO for the indicated times. The cell polarization index was then determined. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM of three experiments, each performed in triplicate. Representative DIC images from time-lapse movies are shown in C. (D) T lymphocytes were pretreated with DMSO or blebbistatin and allowed to settle on the ICAM-1/CXCL-12-coated cover glasses for 20 min in L-15 plus 2 mg/ml glucose. Cells were then treated with 20  $\mu$ M BIRT377, 1  $\mu$ M XVA143, or DMSO. After removal of nonadherent cells from the cover glasses, bound cells were counted. Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM of three experiments.



KIM127 (39) and m24 (40) map to the EGF2 domain in the leg of  $\beta_2$  subunit and the activated  $\beta_2$  I-like domain, respectively, they will recognize both ligand-bound and -unbound active conformations of LFA-1 and thus, are predicted to detect affinity-regulated sites (41). As we predicted, KIM127 labeling was concentrated at the cell contact zone, predominantly at the anterior of the cell. Total LFA-1, as seen by labeling with the conformation nonselective antibody, TS2/4, was evenly distributed throughout the contact area (Fig. 7 A). Consistent with previous reports (34, 42), no obvious m24 labeling was displayed at the uropod (Fig. 7 B). These results suggest that LFA-1 at the posterior contact zone, which is not stained by KIM127 or m24, mediates cell adhesion without conformational activation, probably through avidity regulation.



**Figure 7. High affinity LFA-1 is not required for uropodal adhesion.** (A and B) Human primary T lymphocytes were pretreated with blebbistatin and incubated on cover glasses coated with ICAM-1 and CXCL-12 for 20 min. Cells were then processed for dual immunofluorescent labeling with TS2/4 antibody and KIM127 (A) or m24 (B) antibody and subjected to TIRF microscopy. Ratio images were generated by subtracting the background and dividing KIM127 (A) or m24 (B) intensity by TS2/4 intensity. Line profiles of LFA-1 intensity are presented along the front (Head)-to-back (Tail) line (A). (B) From three independent experiments, a total of 48 (KIM127/TS2/4) and 35 (m24/TS2/4) cells was randomly selected, carefully analyzed, and scored for the presence of KIM127 or m24 staining enriched at the anterior region, the posterior region, or both, based on the ratio images. Each bar represents the percentage of total cells scored. The black portion of each bar is the fraction of cells scored for the anterior region dominant staining of KIM127 or m24. The white portion of each bar is the fraction of the cells that showed even distribution of staining. The gray portion of each bar is the fraction of cells scored for the posterior region dominant staining of KIM127 or m24. Bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

## DISCUSSION

The data presented here demonstrate that MyH9 associates with ICAM-1-bound LFA-1 in T lymphocytes and provides the critical force for rapid rupture of the bonds between LFA-1 and ICAM-1 at the uropod during cell migration. MyH9 association with LFA-1 is mainly involved in the tail detachment from the ICAM-1 surface during migration, but is not directly related to LFA-1 activation. The overall strength of cellular adhesive interactions results from the combination of both the affinity of individual receptor–ligand bonds and the total number of bonds formed. According to Bell's theory (43), although most individual cellular bonds are reversible, a mechanical force against a bond is required to separate the cells when many bonds exist between them ("avidity regulation"), and the mechanical force acting against a bond can increase the frequency of bond dissociation between the receptor and the bound ligand. Thus, as a cell migrates, its ability to detach its tail from the posterior contacts may depend on the cytoskeletal contractile force exerted against the bonds between the plasma membrane adhesion molecules and their ligands. Our findings support this theory and demonstrate that, as T lymphocytes migrate on ICAM-1 surfaces, the contact between the tail and the substrate is mediated by the "valency" of the interaction between low affinity LFA-1 and ICAM-1, and that subsequent detachment depends on the contractile force exerted by MyH9 on LFA-1.

MyH9 is one of three different isoforms of the heavy chain of type II nonmuscular myosin. Although MyH9 is clearly involved in cell migration and there have been many reports of myosin II localization at the posterior of migrating cells (44), no studies have assessed the specific role of MyH9 in integrin-mediated cell adhesion and migration. Consistent with our findings in human T lymphocytes, a recent study in mouse lymphocytes has revealed that MyH9 is localized to the uropod (45). In addition, inhibition of MyH9 dramatically reduced T lymphocyte motility and migration. The authors proposed that MyH9 inhibition reduces cell migration mainly by abolishing cell polarization. In stark contrast, our study reveals that inhibition of MyH9 in human T lymphocytes induces an extreme polarization as well as a defect in tail retraction, with the motility of the leading edge being only minimally affected. This discrepancy may be due to the different sensitivity of mouse MyH9 to blebbistatin (Fig. 5 C) or the different substrates used. In the aforementioned study, migration assays were performed mainly on plain cover glass, which lacks protein substrates required for cell migration. On the other hand, most of our experiments have been performed on ICAM-1, which is a highly specific ligand for LFA-1.

The association between LFA-1 and MyH9 was demonstrated by coimmunoprecipitation of endogenous proteins. This association occurs in response to LFA-1 binding to ICAM-1, but not in response to CXCL-12 stimulation. A direct association between myosin and integrin has previously been reported (46). Myo10, an unconventional myosin, binds directly to the NPXY motif of integrin  $\beta$  subunit cytoplasmic domains via its FERM (band 4.1/ezrin/radixin/moesin)

domain (46). Overexpression of Myo10 results in the formation of elongated filopodia due to the transport of excess integrins to the tips of filopodia. Unlike Myo10, MyH9 does not contain any known integrin-binding motifs in its tail domain. Therefore, it is possible that association of MyH9 with LFA-1 may require adaptor molecules. Interestingly, the LFA-1–MyH9 complex also contains  $\beta$ -actin (Fig. 1 B). Although it is currently unclear whether there are additional proteins in the complex, it is tempting to speculate that  $\beta$ -actin binds to LFA-1 through adaptor molecules such as talin (9, 47, 48), and activated MyH9 binds to the LFA-1– $\beta$ -actin complex to exert the mechanical force necessary for LFA-1 detachment.

Blebbistatin was originally discovered in a screen for inhibitors of nonmuscle myosin II (28). Blebbistatin, a noncompetitive myosin II inhibitor, functions by binding the large cleft in the motor domain, which opens and closes during the contractile cycle. Binding of blebbistatin to myosin II results in a long-lived complex of myosin with ADP and inorganic phosphate. The formation of this complex precedes the force-generating step, which is catalyzed by the release of phosphate upon the rebinding of myosin with actin. Thus, blebbistatin inhibits the transition into force-producing states (49). Therefore, the elongated tail and the defects in tail detachment seen in blebbistatin-treated T lymphocytes on ICAM-1 may simply be due to down-regulation of the cytoskeletal traction force that is required for tail contraction. The concentration of blebbistatin used here (50  $\mu$ M) did not totally abolish tail contraction; however, BIRT377 co-treatment caused the elongated T lymphocytes to quickly contract their tails and round up (Fig. 6, A and C, and Video S10). These results suggest the presence of both a blebbistatin-resistant cellular contraction force and a blebbistatin-sensitive LFA-1 detachment force at the posterior of migrating T lymphocytes.

Surface particle tracking measurements on wild-type and mutant *Dictyostelium* lacking myosin II suggest that a myosin II–based force predominates at the posterior of the cell (50). Myosin II–mediated cell contractility is also implicated in adhesion, protrusion, and actin organization at the leading edge, especially in slow migrating cells (51). There are numerous reports that myosin II contraction is a key regulator of adhesion maturation and actin organization at the anterior of cells (51, 52). Compared with the dramatic effects of 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin at the tail of migrating T lymphocytes, the effects of myosin II inhibition at the leading edge require higher concentrations of blebbistatin (Fig. 5 and Video S9). Based on this, we conclude that, in fast migrating T lymphocytes, the cellular contraction force generated at the anterior of the cell is less sensitive to blebbistatin, and that MyH9 provides a blebbistatin-dependent detachment force at the tail.

Inhibition of ROCK in human T lymphocytes resulted in similar cell morphology as we have seen in our T lymphocyte migration assay in the presence of blebbistatin, showing extreme tail elongation (53). Like the inhibition of MyH9, ROCK inhibition had no effect on the T lymphocyte adhesion on ICAM-1. Involvement of ROCK activity in the tail

detachment of T lymphocytes was further confirmed by inhibition of RhoA, which is an upstream activator of ROCK (53). Phosphorylation of the myosin regulatory light chain (MLC) stimulates the actin-dependent ATPase activity of myosin II and promotes the filament assembly. At least three kinases can phosphorylate MLC in vitro: myosin light chain kinase, ROCK, and p21-activated kinase (24). Unlike other kinases, ROCK is mainly localized at the trailing edge during T lymphocyte migration, suggesting that it may play a major role in the signaling events responsible for MyH9 activation and LFA-1 de-adhesion. Therefore, it is tempting to speculate that LFA-1 outside-in signaling mediated by the RhoA–ROCK pathway (54) may impinge on MyH9 to regulate LFA-1 de-adhesion during T lymphocyte migration. Direct functional relation between MyH9 and ROCK in T lymphocytes is not currently known, but RhoA and its effector kinase ROCK regulate MyH9 activity through MLC phosphorylation in platelet (55).

We have previously found (16) that  $\alpha$  I– (BIRT377) and  $\alpha/\beta$  I–like (XVA143) allosteric antagonists provide a useful means for distinguishing between affinity and avidity regulation of LFA-1 adhesiveness. Using these two classes of antagonists, we have demonstrated that LFA-1 affinity regulation occurs at the anterior of the polarized T lymphocyte, and LFA-1 avidity regulation mainly works at the posterior to mediate cell adhesion during migration. The ability of XVA143 to inhibit T lymphocyte migration on ICAM-1 demonstrates that affinity regulation of LFA-1 is crucial for normal cell migration. In contrast, the inability of XVA143 to restore tail detachment in the presence of blebbistatin demonstrates that LFA-1–ICAM-1 interactions at the tail of migrating T lymphocytes are not subject to affinity regulation.

The lack of affinity regulation (active conformation) of LFA-1 at the tail adhesion was also confirmed by TIRF microscopy of KIM127 and m24 labeling. Binding of ligands to the extracellular domains of integrins initiates intracellular signaling (outside-in signal) and induces conformational changes in both the extracellular and the cytoplasmic domains. These conformational changes are predicted to be similar to those induced by inside-out signals. Therefore, because KIM127 and m24 recognize the EGF2 domain in the leg of the  $\beta_2$  subunit and the activated  $\beta_2$  I–like domain, respectively, it is also likely that they recognize both ligand-bound and -unbound active conformations of LFA-1. Both ligand-bound and -unbound active LFA-1, as identified by KIM127 and m24, are primarily located at the anterior of the cell body, but less at the posterior. Also, the  $\alpha_L$  I domain antibody AL-57 revealed that a small population of ICAM-1–unoccupied active LFA-1 is exclusively located at the tip of the leading edge. Collectively, our results support the hypothesis that high affinity LFA-1 forms a stable adhesion in the front area of migrating T lymphocytes and switches to a low affinity conformation upon reaching the uropod, where it maintains adhesion through avidity regulation. Moreover, MyH9 is critical for generating sufficient pulling force to detach LFA-1 from ICAM-1 at the tail and to retract the uropod.



## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Materials.** The small molecule LFA-1 inhibitor XVA143 was provided by P. Gillespie (Roche). The inhibitor BIRT377 was from Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. The source for anti-human  $\alpha_L$  monoclonal antibody TS2/4 has been described previously (39). The monoclonal antibody m24 was provided by N. Hogg (London Research Institute, London, UK). KIM127 monoclonal antibody was prepared from hybridoma (American Type Culture Collection). Monoclonal antibody to  $\beta$ -actin was from Abcam, and MyH9 antibody was from Covance. Blebbistatin was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

**Cell culture.** PBMCs were separated from 50 ml of whole blood by Histopaque (Sigma-Aldrich) density gradient centrifugation. Lymphocytes were cultured for 3 d in RPMI 1640 containing 10% FBS and 1  $\mu$ g/ml PHA (Remel). Lymphocytes were then cultured in the presence of 10 ng/ml IL-15 (R&D Systems) for 4–7 d. These cells were 97% CD3<sup>+</sup> and CD56<sup>+</sup> as determined by flow cytometry (16). The Human Research Studies Review Board of the University of Rochester approved this study.

**RT-PCR.** Total RNA was prepared from PBMCs and a T lymphocyte RNeasy mini kit (QIAGEN). Isolated mRNA was reverse transcribed and amplified by PCR in one step using a QIAGEN One-Step RT-PCR kit with the following sense and antisense primers: MyH9: sense, gaagagctagag-gcgctgaa; antisense, ctttgccttcctcaggtttg; MyH10: sense, gtaccttgcccatgttctt; antisense, ttttgcctgcagcaacagcac; and MyH14: sense, ccagaatcgggaagtgaac; antisense, ctctcctccagctcttct.

**siRNA.** A pool (SMARTpool) of siRNAs specific for human MyH9 and Cy3-conjugated RISC-free control siRNAs were synthesized by Dharmacon. Primary T lymphocytes were transfected using the AMAXA Nucleofector system (Program T-14). Cultures were transfected with 0.15  $\mu$ g Cy3-conjugated RISC-free control siRNA  $\pm$  1.45  $\mu$ g MyH9 siRNA. After transfection, cells were cultured for 18 h in IL-15-containing media (RPMI 1640, 10% FBS, 10 ng/ml IL-15). Cy3 fluorescent cells were considered to be MyH9 siRNA cotransfectants.

**FACS analysis.**  $2 \times 10^6$  primary T lymphocytes were treated with 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin or a 1:1,000 dilution of DMSO for 1 h at 37°C, and then stimulated with 100 ng/ml CXCL-12 (R&D Systems) for 0, 2, 5, 10, 15, or 20 min. Cells were fixed with an equal volume of 2% formaldehyde (7.4%) and incubated with 4  $\mu$ g/ml KIM127 antibody for 30 min. After thorough washing, cells were then incubated with R-phycoerythrin-conjugated donkey anti-mouse IgG antibody (1:100; BD Biosciences). Mean fluorescence intensity was determined using a Becton Dickinson FACS Array system and WinMDI 2.8 software.

**Immunoprecipitation.** Cover glasses were coated with 6  $\mu$ g/ml of human tonsil ICAM-1 or 10  $\mu$ g/ml poly-L lysine in the presence or absence of 2  $\mu$ g/ml CXCL-12 (suspended in 20 mM Tris, pH 9, 159 mM NaCl, and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>). Coatings were performed at 4°C for 12 h, followed by 4 h at room temperature. T lymphocytes ( $5 \times 10^6$ /500  $\mu$ l) were washed and resuspended in L-15 medium (Invitrogen) containing 2 mg/ml glucose or in 20 mM Hepes, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM EGTA, and 2 mg/ml glucose. They were then incubated at 37°C for 20 min on the coated cover glass. Cells were lysed in cold buffer containing HBSS, 2% Triton X-100, 120 mM N-octyl  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, and EDTA-free mini-protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche). Insoluble cell debris was removed by centrifugation. Lysates were then precleared with 2  $\mu$ g mouse IgG isotype control antibody and protein G agarose beads (Invitrogen) for 30 min at 4°C. Immunoprecipitation was performed by incubating lysates with protein G agarose and 14  $\mu$ g TS2/4 or CBR LFA1/2 antibody for 2 h at 4°C. Beads were thoroughly washed, suspended in 30  $\mu$ l Laemmli buffer, and boiled for 5 min. 5  $\mu$ l of each sample was separated on a 4–12% gradient gel (Cambrex), and the gel was silver stained using a Silver Quest kit (Invitrogen). Species of interest were excised, destained, and analyzed by mass spectrometry. For immunoblotting, proteins were transferred to

PVDF membrane (Bio-Rad Laboratories). Membranes were probed with primary antibodies and appropriate peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibody. Immunoreactive bands were visualized by chemiluminescence.

**Migration assay.** Delta T dishes (Thermo Fisher Scientific) were coated with 6  $\mu$ g/ml of human tonsil ICAM-1 and 2  $\mu$ g/ml CXCL-12 (suspended in 20 mM Tris, pH 9, 159 mM NaCl, and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) for 12 h at 4°C and for 4 h at room temperature. To inhibit MyH9, primary T lymphocytes were incubated with 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin for 1 h or transfected with MyH9 siRNA. Either DMSO (1:1,000) or nontargeting siRNA served as a control. Approximately  $5 \times 10^4$  T lymphocytes were washed and added to the delta T dish containing 1 ml of L-15 medium with 2 mg/ml glucose  $\pm$  blebbistatin. Bright field or DIC images were acquired every second or every 5 s for 30 min under a 20 $\times$  objective lens using MetaVue software. The temperature was maintained at 37°C throughout the experiment. Migration was analyzed by tracing the movement of individual cells in video using ImageJ software.

**Assay of cell adhesion to ICAM-1.** In vitro dynamic cell adhesion assays were performed as reported previously (56, 57). In brief, cells were resuspended at  $10^7$ /ml in L-15 medium containing 2 mg/ml glucose. Adhesion assays were performed on 18-well glass slides. Slides were coated with purified human tonsil ICAM-1 (1  $\mu$ g/ml in 20 mM Tris, pH 9, 150 mM NaCl, and 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>) overnight at 4°C and for 4 h at room temperature. They were then blocked with 2% BSA at 37°C. 5  $\mu$ l of cell suspension was added to each well, and cells were stimulated at 37°C with 5  $\mu$ l of 200 nM CXCL-12. Cells were then washed and fixed, and the number of bound cells was quantified.

Flow chamber assay was performed in a rectangular parallel-plate flow chamber (GlycoTech) with a gasket (0.25 cm wide, 127 mm thick, and 2 cm long). Polystyrene Petri dishes (diameter, 35 mm; Falcon 1008) enclosed using a single-well flexiPERM (Sigma-Aldrich) were coated with a mixed solution of 10  $\mu$ g/ml Purified Recomb Protein A/G (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and 1  $\mu$ g/ml CXCL-12 at room temperature for 2 h. The surfaces were then washed with 1% BSA in PBS. 5  $\mu$ g/ml ICAM-1/Fc (R&D Systems) was applied to the surfaces and allowed to bind the protein A/G-coated surfaces at room temperature for 2 h. The surfaces were then blocked for nonspecific adhesion with 2% BSA in PBS at 4°C for overnight. Before the flow chamber experiments, the dishes were washed with prewarmed L-15 medium (37°C). The flow chamber was mounted on an inverted microscope (IX81; Olympus) and a microscope stage top incubator (LiveCell2; Pathology Devices) was installed on the flow chamber to perform the flow chamber experiments at 37°C.  $10^6$ /ml T lymphocytes were prewarmed in L-15 medium at 37°C and perfused into the chamber using a syringe pump (New Era Pump Systems Inc.) at a flow rate corresponding to a calculated wall shear stress of 0.5 dyn/cm<sup>2</sup>. To investigate the effect of blebbistatin, T lymphocytes were incubated with 50  $\mu$ M blebbistatin at 37°C for 1 h before experiments. Arrest of T lymphocytes on immobilized ICAM-1 was observed in the field of view of  $864 \times 648 \mu\text{m}^2$  using bright field microscopy under a 10 $\times$  objective (NA, 0.30; Plan Fluorite; Olympus) with a microscope-linked CCD camera (KP-M1AN; Hitachi). Cell adhesion videos were redigitalized to  $640 \times 480$  pixels at 29.97 fps with ffinpegX software. The stacked images were thresholded and de-interlaced, and the coordinates of the centroid of interacting T lymphocytes with immobilized ICAM-1 were then acquired using ImageJ 1.39a (National Institutes of Health [NIH]). To overlay the cell trajectories, the earliest time when each cell rolled slower than 5  $\mu\text{m/s}$  was set to zero.

**Fluorescence microscopy.** Coverslips were prepared as described for immunoprecipitation experiments. T lymphocytes were washed, resuspended in L-15 medium containing 2 mg/ml glucose, and incubated on the cover glass for 20 min at 37°C. Cells were transferred to room temperature, fixed (3.7% formaldehyde in PBS for 10 min), and blocked with 10% FBS overnight. Cells were labeled with 10  $\mu$ g/ml AL-57 IgG for 1 h, followed by a 1-h incubation with 10  $\mu$ g/ml anti- $\alpha_L$  monoclonal antibody (TS2/4). Cells were then incubated with Cy3-conjugated anti-mouse Ig (Invitrogen) and FITC-conjugated anti-human Ig (Invitrogen) for 20 min, and then washed three times with PBS. Image acquisition was conducted on an epifluorescence

microscope (TE2000-U microscope; Nikon), using a 60× oil objective coupled to a CoolSNAP HQ CCD (Roper Scientific).

**TIRF microscopy.** TIRF imaging was performed with a white light TIRF aperture diaphragm coupled to a microscope (TE2000-S; Nikon) and a 100× TIRF 1.49 NA oil immersion objective. All image processing was performed with MetaVue and Metamorph software (Molecular Devices). Cellular staining was performed as described above using 10 µg/ml of monoclonal antibody fluorescent conjugates, KIM127 Alexa 546, and TS2/4 Alexa 488. Alternatively, cells were stained using 10 µg/ml of m24 antibody in conjunction with Cy-3 goat anti-mouse IgG and TS2/4 Alexa 488.

**Online supplemental material.** In Video S1, time-lapse video microscopy of human T lymphocyte migration on poly-L-lysine in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$ /EGTA (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time) is shown. Video S2 features time-lapse video microscopy of human T lymphocyte migration on ICAM-1 in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$ /EGTA (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time). Video S3 shows time-lapse video microscopy of human T lymphocyte migration on poly-L-lysine/CXCL-12 surface (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time). In Video S4, time-lapse video microscopy of human T lymphocyte migration on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 surface (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time) is shown. In Video S5, a time-lapse movie shows GFP intensity (highest [red] to lowest [blue]) of a MyH9-GFP-transfected human T lymphocyte migrating on ICAM-1/CXCL-12. The time scale of each frame is 30 sec. Video S6 is a time-lapse movie showing GFP intensity (highest [red] to lowest [blue]) of a  $\beta$  actin-GFP-transfected human T lymphocyte migrating on ICAM-1/CXCL-12. The time scale of each frame is 30 sec. Videos S7 and S8 feature time-lapse video microscopy of a blebbistatin (50 µM; Video S7) or DMSO (1:1,000 dilution; Video S8) -treated human T lymphocyte migrating on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 surface (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time). Video S9 shows a high-resolution (60× objective + 1.5× zoom) movie of a blebbistatin (50 µM) -treated human T lymphocyte migrating on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 surface. Time scale of each frame is 1 sec. In Video S10, time-lapse video microscopy shows inhibition of T lymphocyte migration on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 by XVA143 (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time). XVA143 was added during the interval of the movie. In Video S11, time-lapse video microscopy shows inhibition of a blebbistatin-treated human T lymphocyte migrating on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 by BIRT377 (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time). BIRT377 was added during the interval of the movie. In Video S12, time-lapse video microscopy shows partial inhibition of a blebbistatin-treated human T lymphocyte migrating on ICAM-1/CXCL-12 by XVA143 (1 sec video = 2.5 min real time). XVA143 was added during the interval of the movie. Videos S1–S12 are available at <http://www.jem.org/cgi/content/full/jem.20071543/DC1>.

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