



Supplementary Figure S1. Analysis of sex-specific inflammatory cytokine expression in WT and p38δ-cKO^{ΔK} male (WT males: n = 11, cKO males: n = 7) and female (WT females: n = 9; cKO females: n = 10) mouse skin subjected to a short-term DMBA/TPA regimen as detailed in the Materials and Methods. Total skin lysates were isolated from full-thickness dorsal skin 2 h after the final TPA treatment, and levels of protein expression of the indicated cytokines were analyzed using ELISA. Results are shown as mean ± SE. ns, not significant; M, males; F, females.

Supplementary Table S1

Tumor latency (time to first tumor) did not differ significantly between the WT and p38 δ -cKO ^{Δ K} genotypes.

We used one-sided log-rank tests to compare tumor latency between genotypes.

| | WT | p38 δ -cKO ^{ΔK} |
|---|----------------|---|
| Number of animals | 19 | 21 |
| Median time to tumor (weeks) | 22 | 23 |
| 95% confidence interval for median | 18, 25 | 18, 25 |
| Mean time to tumor \pm s.e. | 22.8 \pm 1.6 | 23.4 \pm 1.5 |
| Number of tumor-free animals at the end of study (%) | 1 | 2 |
| | | |
| Log-rank p-values | | |
| | WT vs. | 0.3520 |

Supplementary Tables S2

Tumor volume comparisons between WT and p38 δ -cKO Δ^K genotypes.

(In the analyses below, the tumor was treated as the unit of analysis.)

- a) The ratios of mean individual tumor volumes in female mice were compared between the WT and p38 δ -cKO Δ^K genotypes at the indicated week after detection during TPA promotion stage; ns, not significant.

| Week after detecting individual tumors in females during TPA promotion | Ratio of mean tumor volumes of genotypes (p38 δ -cKO Δ^K / WT) | Significance by Mann-Whitney test (one-sided) | p-value |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| 1 | 1.2 | ns | 0.1086 |
| 2 | 1.3 | ns | 0.2791 |
| 3 | 1.0 | ns | 0.4024 |
| 4 | 2.4 | ns | 0.0955 |
| 5 | 0.8 | ns | 0.3141 |
| 6 | 1.1 | ns | 0.2051 |
| 7 | 10.6 | ** | 0.0079 |
| 8 | 10.9 | * | 0.0357 |
| 9 | 13.0 | ns | 0.0667 |

- b) Tumor Volume, Mean \pm s.e. There were no significant differences between the WT and p38 δ -cKO Δ^K genotypes for any group at any time point.

| | WT | | | p38 δ -cKO Δ^K | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | M | F | M&F | M | F | M&F |
| 25 weeks | 8.7 \pm 2.4 (n = 15) | 12.6 \pm 4.6 (n = 4) | 9.5 \pm 2.1 (n = 19) | 6.5 \pm 1.8 (n = 20) | 62.2 \pm 26.6 (n = 9) | 23.8 \pm 9.4 (n = 29) |
| 40 weeks | 28.4 \pm 7.4 (n = 16) | 45.1 \pm 17.7 (n = 12) | 35.6 \pm 8.6 (n = 28) | 29.1 \pm 11.7 (n = 14) | 66.4 \pm 34.4 (n = 7) | 41.5 \pm 13.9 (n = 21) |
| 51 weeks | 72.4 \pm 22.3 (n = 16) | 72.6 \pm 22.3 (n = 12) | 72.5 \pm 15.6 (n = 28) | 60.3 \pm 21.7 (n = 16) | 51.7 \pm 20.9 (n = 6) | 58.0 \pm 16.6 (n = 22) |

c) Mann-Whitney p-values (one-sided) for tumor volumes listed in (b).

| | M | F | M&F |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | WT vs. cKO | WT vs. cKO | WT vs. cKO |
| 25 weeks | 0.2167 | 0.2437 | 0.4790 |
| 40 weeks | 0.3935 | 0.2914 | 0.4398 |
| 51 weeks | 0.2796 | 0.2130 | 0.1306 |

d) We used one-sided Mann-Whitney tests to compare tumor volumes (tumor volume, mean \pm s.e) of males and females for each genotype, at each time point. For p38 δ -cKO Δ^K , mean tumor volume was significantly increased for females compared to males at week 25 (see bolded text).

Tumor Volume, Mean \pm s.e.

| | WT | | | p38δ-cKOΔ^K | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | M | F | p-value | M | F | p-value |
| 25 weeks | 8.7 \pm 2.4 (n = 15) | 12.6 \pm 4.6 (n = 4) | 0.137 | 6.5 \pm 1.8 (n = 20) | 62.2 \pm 26.6 (n = 9) | 0.003 (**) |
| 40 weeks | 28.4 \pm 7.4 (n = 16) | 45.1 \pm 17.7 (n = 12) | 0.455 | 29.1 \pm 11.7 (n = 14) | 66.4 \pm 34.4 (n = 7) | 0.075 |
| 51 weeks | 72.4 \pm 22.3 (n = 16) | 72.6 \pm 22.3 (n = 12) | 0.211 | 60.3 \pm 21.7 (n = 16) | 51.7 \pm 20.9 (n = 6) | 0.320 |

Supplementary Tables S3

Histopathological evaluation of WT and p38 δ -cKO^{AK} skin tumors collected after 51 weeks of the DMBA/TPA chemical skin carcinogenesis regimen.

a) Incidence of malignant tumors: % (mice bearing malignant tumors) / (total mice)

| Incidence | WT | p38 δ -cKO ^{AK} |
|--|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Mice with malignant tumors (SCC and/or KA) | 84% (16/19) | 47% * (9/19) |

* cKO differs from WT at one-sided $p < 0.05$ by Fisher's exact test.

b) Tumor Multiplicity at 51 weeks, Mean \pm s.e. Comparisons with significant p-values < 0.05 are highlighted in bold (p-values are shown in panel (c) below)

| | Tumors per Animal Examined | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | WT | | p38 δ -cKO ^{AK} | |
| | M | F | M | F |
| # examined | 10 | 9 | 8 | 11 |
| SCC | 0.70 \pm 0.26 | 0.67 \pm 0.17 | 0.38 \pm 0.18 | 0.55 \pm 0.21 |
| KA | 0.70 \pm 0.26 | 0.44 \pm 0.18 | 0.75 \pm 0.53 | 0.00 \pm 0.00 |
| PAP | 0.50 \pm 0.27 | 0.33 \pm 0.24 | 1.00 \pm 0.38 | 0.18 \pm 0.12 |
| Seb.Ad | 0.10 \pm 0.10 | 0.11 \pm 0.11 | 0.00 \pm 0.00 | 0.00 \pm 0.00 |
| Mel | 0.10 \pm 0.10 | 0.33 \pm 0.17 | 0.00 \pm 0.00 | 0.00 \pm 0.00 |
| Total | 2.10 \pm 0.60 | 1.89 \pm 0.42 | 2.12 \pm 0.85 | 0.73 \pm 0.24 |
| Malignant | 1.50 \pm 0.40 | 1.44 \pm 0.29 | 1.12 \pm 0.61 | 0.55 \pm 0.21 |
| Benign | 0.60 \pm 0.34 | 0.44 \pm 0.24 | 1.00 \pm 0.38 | 0.18 \pm 0.12 |
| | | | | |
| # Tumor-free | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |

c) One-sided Mann-Whitney p-values for tumor multiplicities listed in (b); significant p-values < 0.05 are highlighted in bold. SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; KA, keratoacanthoma; PAP, papilloma; Seb.Ad., Sebaceous adenoma; Mel, melanoma; Malign., malignant.

| Tumors per Animal Examined | | SCC | KA | PAP | Seb. Ad. | Mel | Total | Malign. | Benign |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|----------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Males | cKO vs. WT | 0.272 | 0.289 | 0.145 | 0.556 | 0.556 | 0.448 | 0.169 | 0.167 |
| Females | cKO vs. WT | 0.311 | 0.026 | 0.421 | 0.450 | 0.074 | 0.019 | 0.017 | 0.276 |
| cKO | Males vs. Females | 0.422 | 0.164 | 0.035 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.102 | 0.345 | 0.035 |
| WT | Males vs. Females | 0.459 | 0.322 | 0.444 | 0.737 | 0.249 | 0.527 | 0.461 | 0.500 |

Supplementary Table S4

Incidence of malignant tumors in WT and p38 δ -cKO $^{\Delta M}$ males at 51 weeks post-DMBA.

% (mice bearing malignant tumors) / (total mice)

| Incidence | WT Males | p38 δ -cKO $^{\Delta M}$ Males |
|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Mice with malignant tumors (SCC and/or KA) | 78% (7/9) | 33% (4/12) [#] |

approaching significance at $p = 0.0563$ by Fisher's exact test (one-sided)

Supplementary Table S5

The expression of the genes linked to the Myeloid Leukocyte Activation gene category was significantly downregulated by p38 δ ablation in v-ras^{Ha} transformed keratinocytes [1].

The following genes were downregulated:

| Gene Symbol | Ratio (p38 δ -KO vs Control) | Description |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| SLC11A1 | -4.1 | solute carrier family 11 (proton-coupled divalent metal ion transporters), member 1 |
| CPLX2 | -1.4 | complexin 2 |
| FCGR2B | -5.8 | Fc receptor, IgG, low affinity IIb |
| SLC7A2 | -1.8 | solute carrier family 7 (cationic amino acid transporter, y+ system), member 2 |
| TICAM1 | -1.7 | toll-like receptor adaptor molecule 1 |
| SNCA | -3.1 | synuclein, alpha |
| TGFBR2 | -3.1 | transforming growth factor, beta receptor II |
| MYO1F | -4.6 | myosin IF (unconventional class I myosin 1f) |
| FCER1G | -2.1 | Fc receptor, IgE, high affinity I, gamma polypeptide |
| IRF4 | -1.9 | interferon regulatory factor 4 |
| FCGR3 | -3.3 | Fc receptor, IgG, low affinity III (CD16) |

Reference:

1. Kiss, A.; Koppel, A.C.; Anders, J.; Cataisson, C.; Yuspa, S.H.; Blumenberg, M.; Efimova, T. Keratinocyte p38 δ loss inhibits Ras-induced tumor formation, while systemic p38 δ loss enhances skin inflammation in the early phase of chemical carcinogenesis in mouse skin. *Mol Carcinog* **2016**, *55*, 563–574.