

**Publication****IL-36 $\gamma$  drives skin toxicity induced by EGFR/MEK inhibition and commensal *Cutibacterium acnes*****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 4517951**Author(s)** Satoh, Takashi K.; Mellett, Mark; Meier-Schiesser, Barbara; Fenini, Gabriele; Otsuka, Atsushi; Beer, Hans-Dietmar; Rordorf, Tamara; Maul, Julia-Tatjana; Hafner, Jürg; Navarini, Alexander A.; Contasot, Emmanuel; French, Lars E.**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Navarini, Alexander](#) ;**Year** 2020**Title** IL-36 $\gamma$  drives skin toxicity induced by EGFR/MEK inhibition and commensal *Cutibacterium acnes***Journal** JCI The Journal of Clinical Investigation**Volume** 130**Number** 3**Pages / Article-Number** 1417-1430**Keywords** Cytokines; Dermatology; Inflammation; Molecular biology; Skin

Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and MEK inhibitors (EGFR/MEKi) are beneficial for the treatment of solid cancers but are frequently associated with severe therapy-limiting acneiform skin toxicities. The underlying molecular mechanisms are poorly understood. Using gene expression profiling we identified IL-36 $\gamma$  and IL-8 as candidate drivers of EGFR/MEKi skin toxicity. We provide molecular and translational evidence that EGFR/MEKi in concert with the skin commensal bacterium *Cutibacterium acnes* act synergistically to induce IL-36 $\gamma$  in keratinocytes and subsequently IL-8, leading to cutaneous neutrophilia. IL-36 $\gamma$  expression was the combined result of *C. acnes*-induced NF- $\kappa$ B activation and EGFR/MEKi-mediated expression of the transcription factor Krüppel-like factor 4 (KLF4), due to the presence of both NF- $\kappa$ B- and KLF4-binding sites in the human IL-36 $\gamma$  gene promoter. EGFR/MEKi increased KLF4 expression by blockade of the EGFR-MEK-ERK pathway. These results provide an insight into understanding the pathological mechanism of the acneiform skin toxicities induced by EGFR/MEKi and identify IL-36 $\gamma$  and the transcription factor KLF4 as potential therapeutic targets.

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