QTempo Cardiomyocyte Assay for Drug discovery

May 2009



Cell Types used in Drug Discovery

- Tumor cells or Immortalized cells
 - Unlimited supply of uniform cell population
 - Loss of characters of original tissues
 - Abnormal karyotype
- Primary cells derived from tissues
 - Close to normal cells
 - Lot-to-lot variation
 - Difficult to get sufficient quantity of cells
- → Human ES / iPS cells
 - Differentiated into various cell types
 - Unlimited supply of uniform cell population
 - Genetic manipulation



Cardiotoxicity Problem (1)

- Significant cause of pre- and post- approval drug failure
 - Vioxx (80m patients, \$2.5bn annual sales, \$4.5bn compensation)
- hERG channel assay dominates pre-clinical market
 - About 80% detection rate
 - False positives as well as false negatives
 - Not a functional assay
- Animal experiments costly, time consuming and unreliable

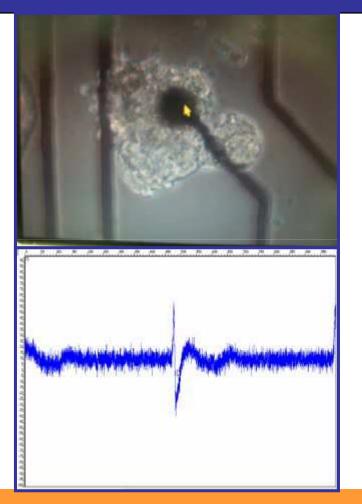


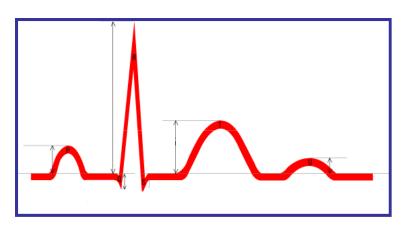
Cardiotoxicity Problem (2)

- The goal of cardiotoxicty testing is to prevent arrest of beating human heart cells.
- At present, the first beating human heart cells a drug will interact with are in phase I patients.
 Higher drug doses which might reveal cardiotoxic potential can not be safely tested in clinical trials.



QTempo is a functional assay based on human or monkey beating Cardiomyocytes that detects functional waveform responses in response to therapeutic challenge



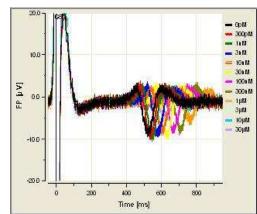


Ex. Human ECG



Standard QTempo Assay service

- → Cell:
 - Human iPS cell derived cardiomyocyte
 - Human ES cell derived cardiomyocyte
 - Monkey ES cell derived cardiomyocyte
- → Standard Assay conditions :
 - Number of test concentration: 12 (in maximum);
 Treatment with 11 concentrations and no treatment (accumulative method)
 - Number of test on each concentration: 1
 - Lead time: 1-2 week
- → Standard Observation points :
 - Na-K interval (corresponding to QT interval)
 - Beating rate
 - Other observation points



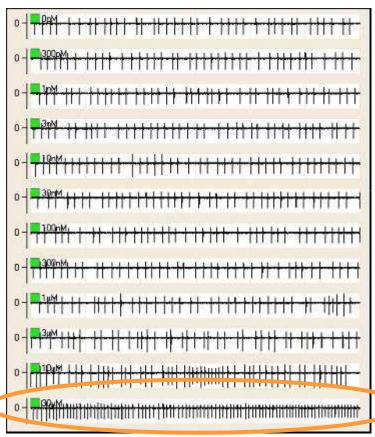


QT interval prolongation

ECMG

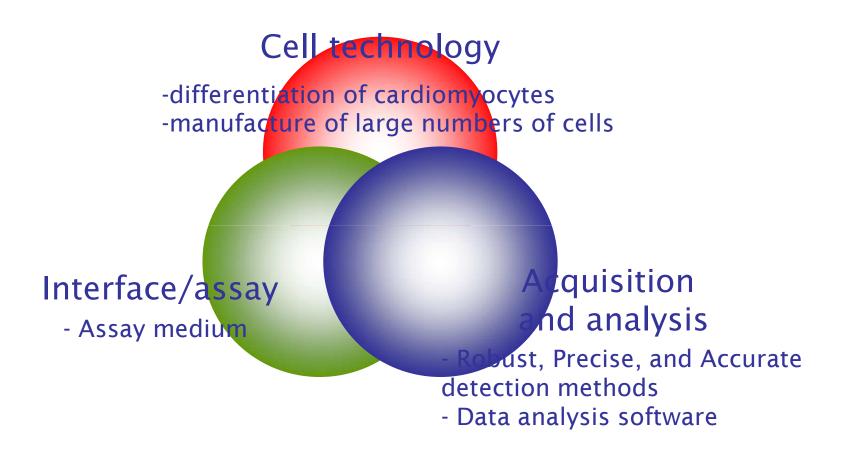
Beat Interval





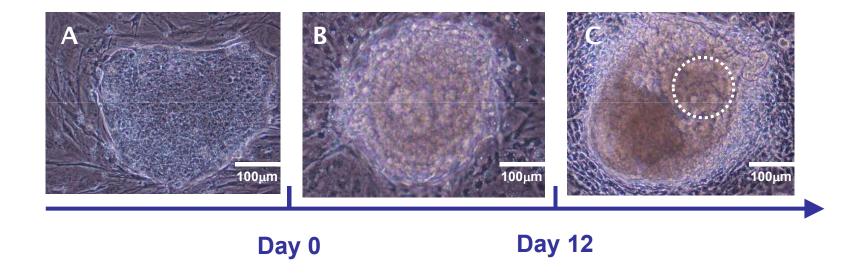


Technology Elements of assay system



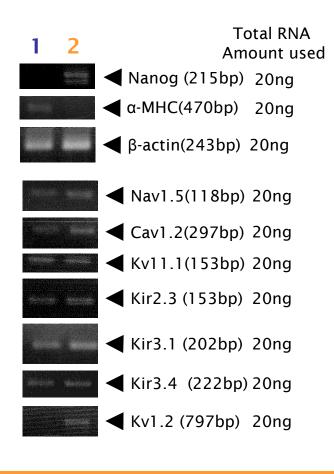


Cardiomyocyte Differentiation

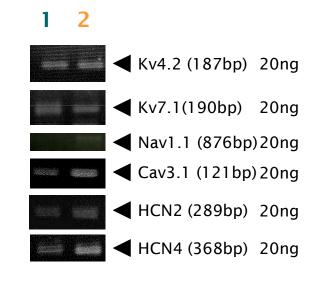




Gene Expression in Monkey ES cell and Monkey ES-derived beating cells



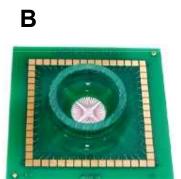
- 1. Monkey ESC-derived beating cell
- 2. Monkey ESC

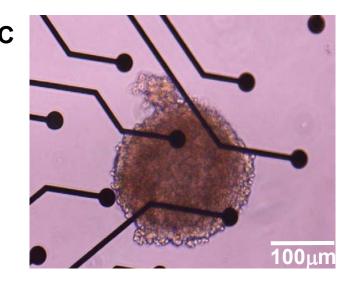




Data Acquisition Platform MEA Instruments





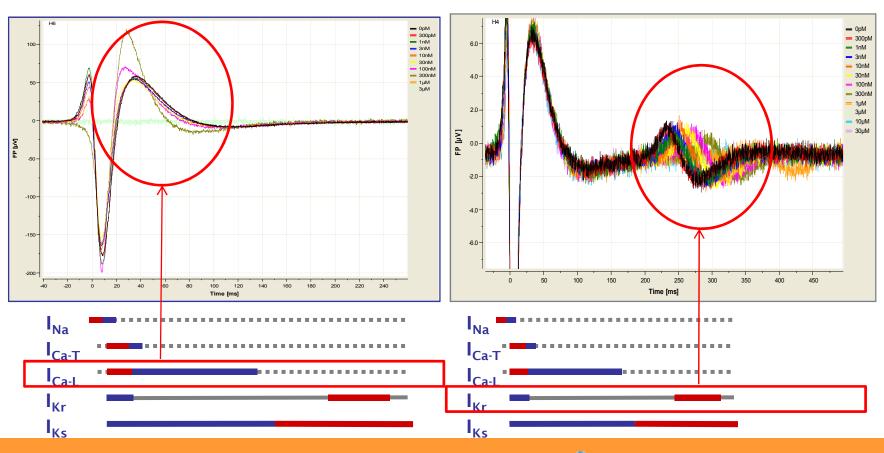




Covers multi ion channels

L-type Ca blocker

K blocker





Cell Characteristics/Quality control for QTempo (1/3)

1-a. Cardiomyocyte cluster diameter

between 100-300 um (about 10,000 cells, thickness not defined).

1-b. Magnitude/amplitude of voltage from beating clumps:

Na amplitude: 40 uV or larger (between first positive and negative peak)

K amplitude: 2 uV or larger (between first positive and negative peak) and opposite polarity of Na wave. Prior to treatment, the start of the K-wave is within 600 msec. from start of the Na-wave.

1-c. Beat rate:

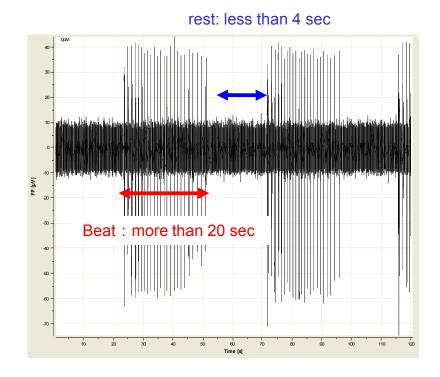
30~120 beats/minute (average from 3-minute measurement of untreated cells)

Allowable variation in beat rate < 10bpm form single cluster



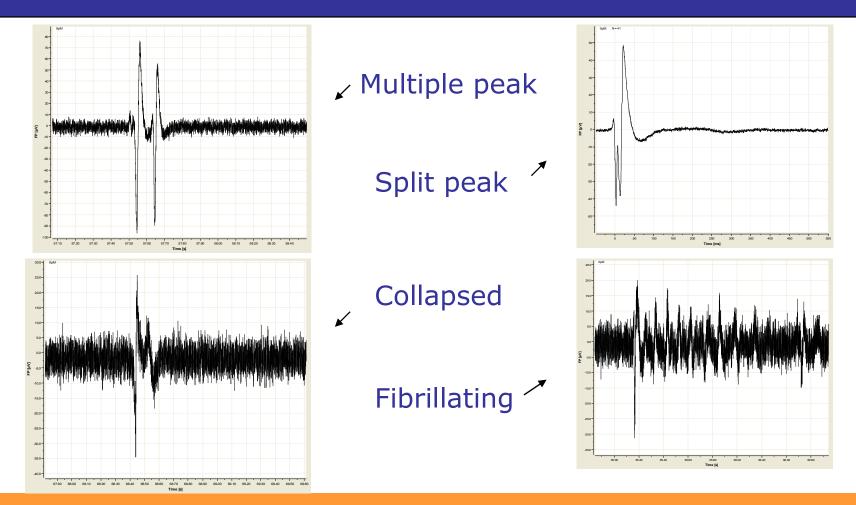
Cell Characteristics/Quality control for QTempo (2/3)

1-d. Cells must beat continuously for more than 20 sec. Any resting interval between beating states must be < 4 sec.



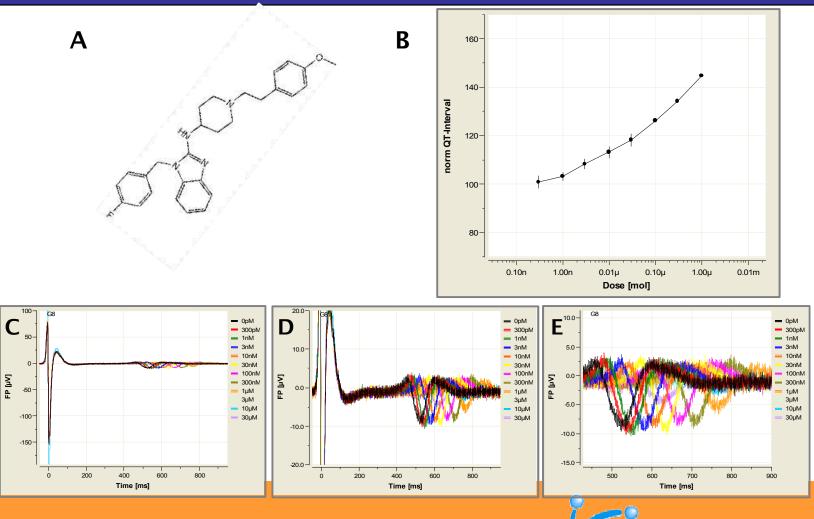


Cell Characteristics/Quality control for QTempo (3/3): Aberrant waveforms



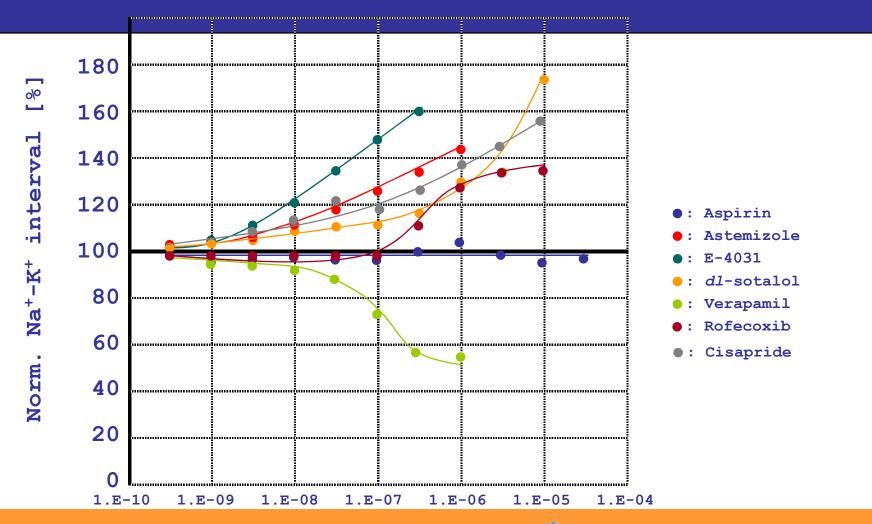


Astemizole on Monkey ES-derived: a potent histamine H1-receptor antagonist withdrawn from market due to QT prolongation



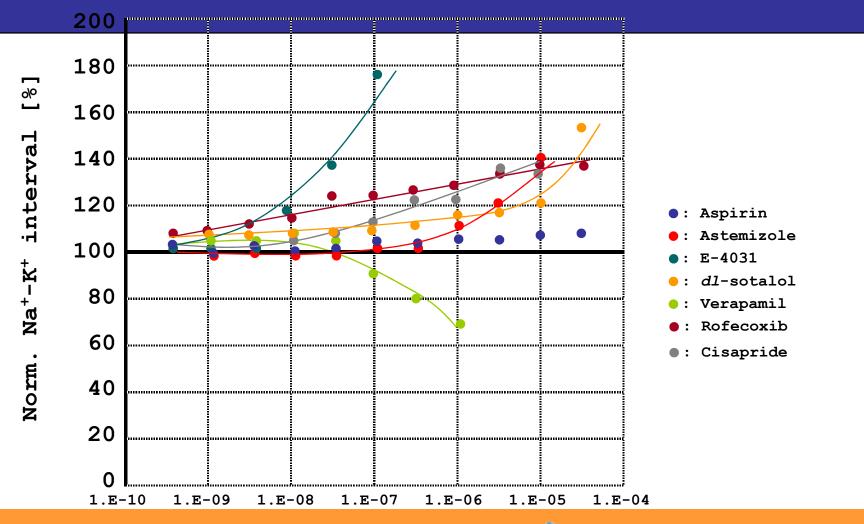


Na⁺-K⁺ interval prolongation on **monkey ES-derived** cardiomyocytes treated with various compounds



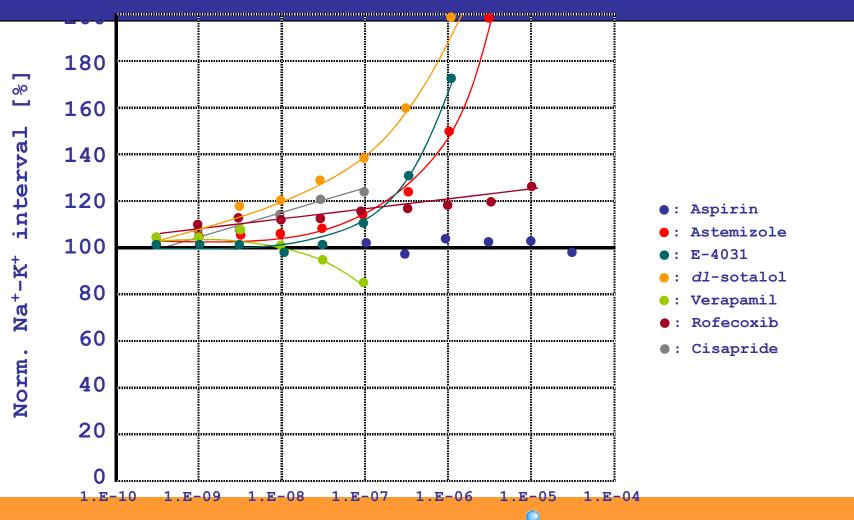


Na+-K+ interval prolongation on **human ES-derived** cardiomyocytes treated with various compounds





Na+-K+ interval prolongation on **human iPS-derived** cardiomyocytes treated with various compounds





QTempo comparison with hERG for eight reference compounds

QTempo

30 to 100

3 to 10

shortening

10 to 100

10 to 100

shortening

no prolongation

Compound

Astemizole

Cisapride

Nimodipine

Rofecoxib

dl-Sotalol

Verapamil

Aspirin

E-4031

3 to 30

1 to 10

shortening

300 to 1000

10 to 100

shortening

no prolongation

Repro CELL's ES/iPS-derived cells with MEA 10% prolongation, nM			HERG with patch clamp (conventional or automated)*1
From Monkey ES	From Human ES	From Human iPS	HERG block, IC ₅₀ , nM
30 to 100	100 to 300	30 to 100	1 to30

3 to 30

30 to 100

shortening

30 to 100

3 to 30

shortening

no prolongation

*1 Redfern WS, et al. Cardiovasc Res 2003; 32-45.
Ducroq J, et al. J Pharmacol Toxicol Methods. 2007; 159-70
Kiss L, et al. Assay and Drug Development Technologies 2003; 127-135.
Schroeder, K. et al Journal of Biomolecular Screening 2003; 50-64.

30 to 100

10 to 100

no reported

no reported

>30000/no effect

140 to 800

no effect



in vivo or ex vivo: dog or human

Indication

prolongation

prolongation

prolongation

no prolongation

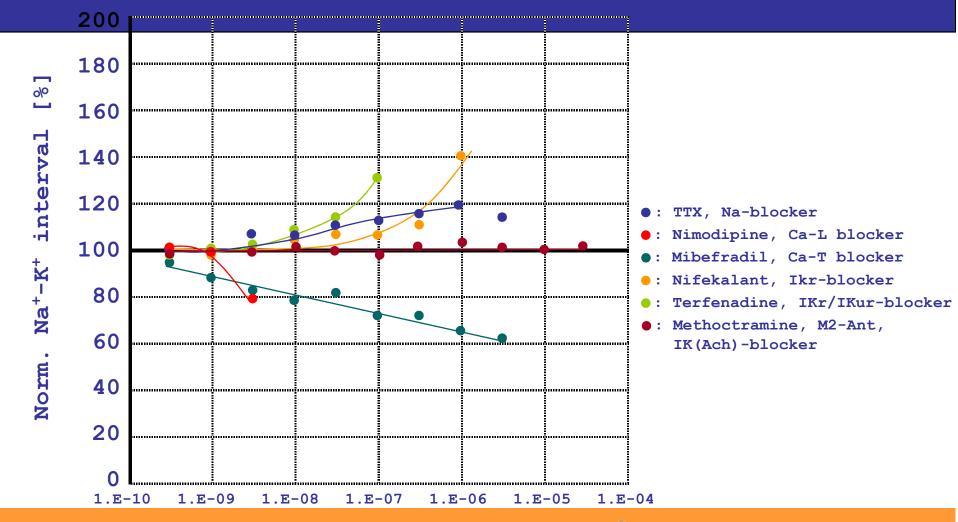
no reported

prolongation

no prolongation

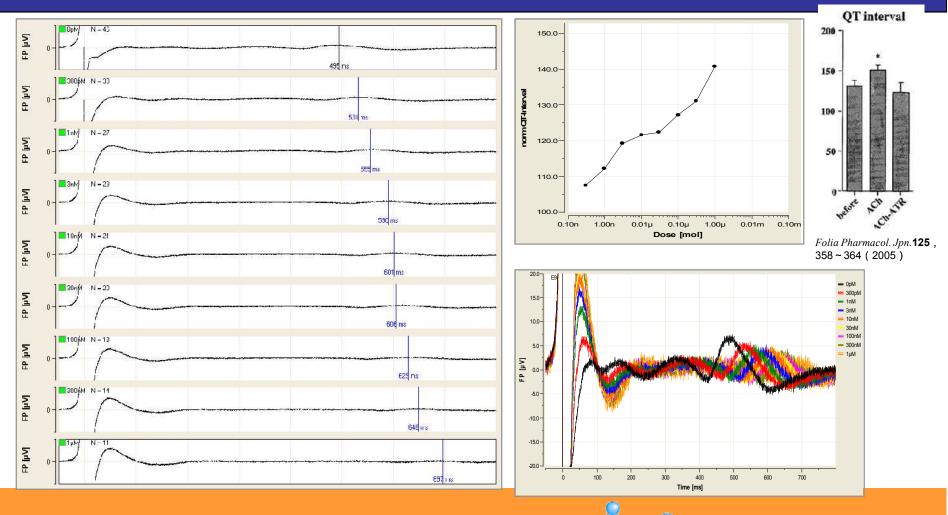
no prolongation

Na+-K+ interval prolongation on Monkey ES-derived cardiomyocytes treated with various specific blockers

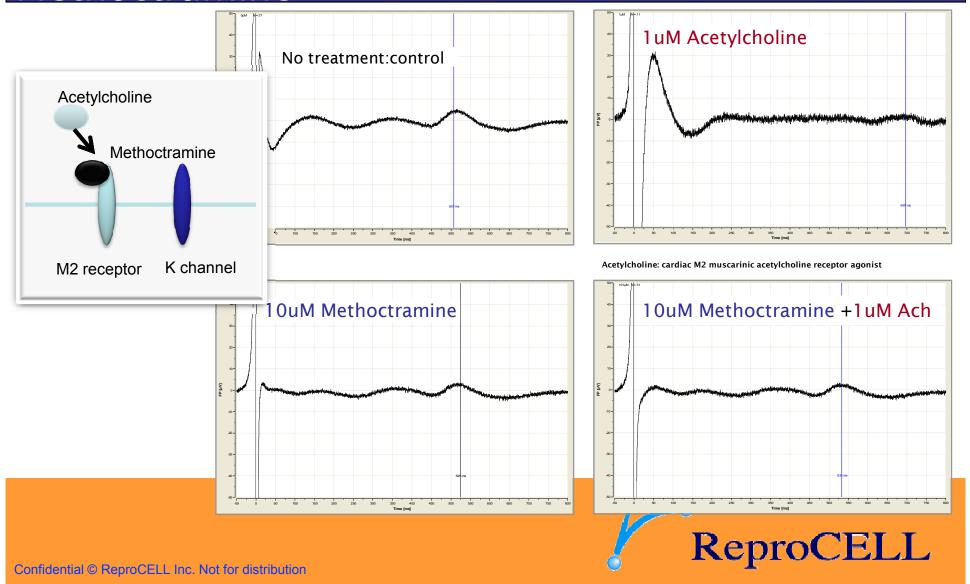




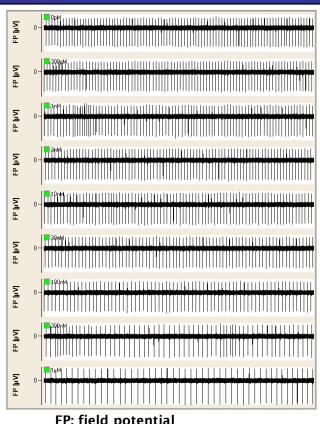
Na+-K+ interval prolongation observed on Human ESderived cardiomyocytes treated with Acetylcholine



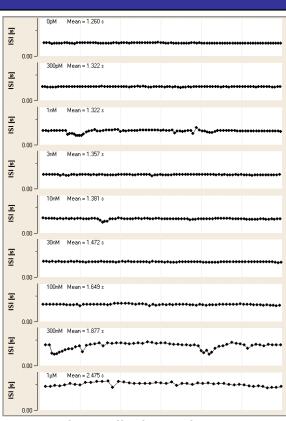
Effect to Na+-K+ interval in human ES-derived cardiomyocytes treated with Acetylcholine and/or Methoctramine



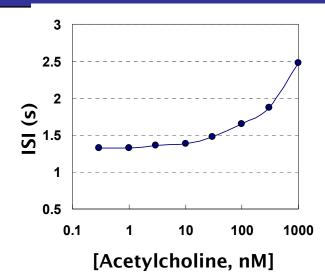
Acetylcholine treatment causes bradycardia of Human ES-derived cardiomyocytes

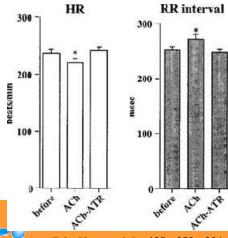


FP: field potential

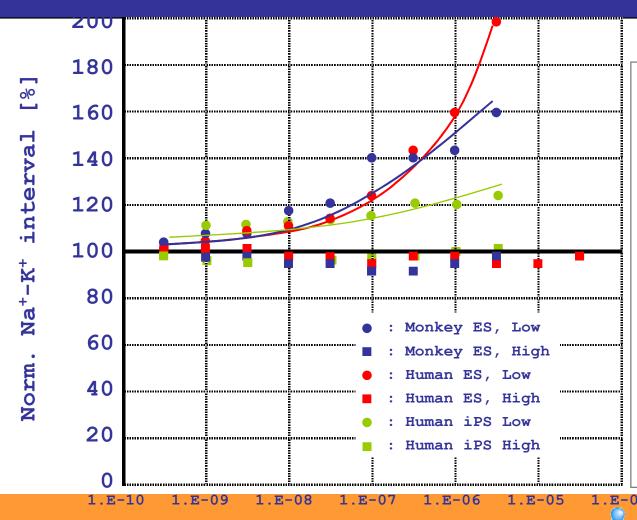


ISI: interspike interval





Na⁺-K⁺ interval prolongation on Primate ES/iPS-derived cardiomyocytes treated with Chromanol 293B, IKs blocker



Prolongation observed in low frequency cardiomyocytes, not in high frequency cardiomyocytes

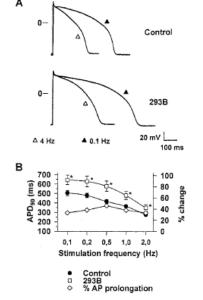
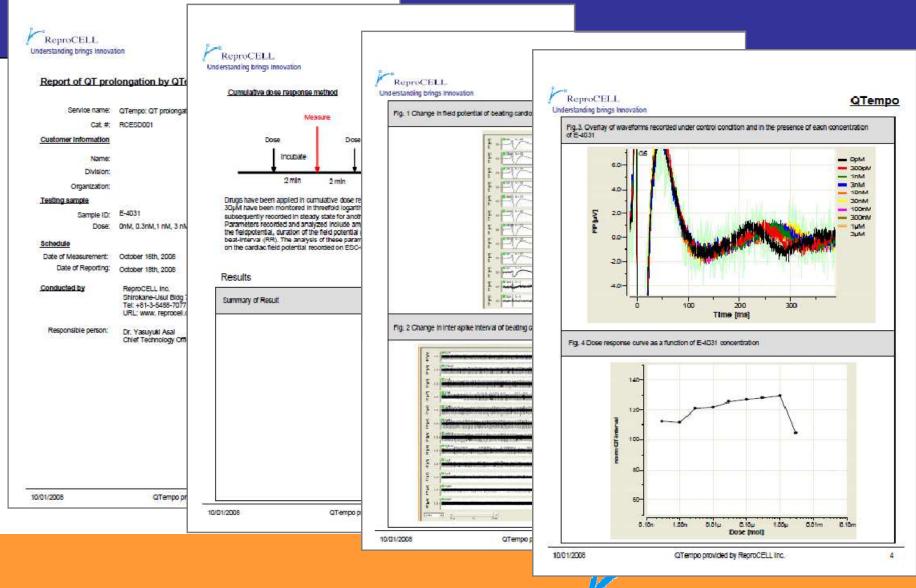


Fig. 8. Effects of 293B (1 μ mol/L) on action potentials recorded in human ventricular myocytes. (A) Action potentials recorded at 36°C from left ventricular midmyocardial cells from an explanted heart of a patient with dilated cardiomyopathy under control (top) and 293B (middle) conditions. Resting membrane potential is not corrected for the junction potential. (B) Frequency dependence of differences in action potential duration. APD₉₀ was significantly prolonged at all frequencies and the effect was not rate-dependent. * P < 0.05 versus control, n = 5 for each group. Raiph f. Bosch, et.al, Cardiovascular Research 38 (1998) 441-450



QTempo assay service & validation study



QTempo assay service

Typical service is 12 concentrations of each compound against a single cluster of cells.

Modifications of assay are available as required.

Compounds

Data (1-2 weeks)

ReproCELL

3 cell types available
QTempo monkey ES

QTempo human ES

QTempo human iPS



QTempo Advantages

- Beating human heart cells
- Multiple data points from ECMG including multi ion channels and beat interval
- More accurate than the hERG assay (QT)
- Cheaper (animal costs and drug synthesis costs), more rapid and possibly more accurate than animal tests
- Screens complex ion channels and receptor interactions
- Scalable



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