

# The Role of Podoplanin in Cancer-associated Thrombosis

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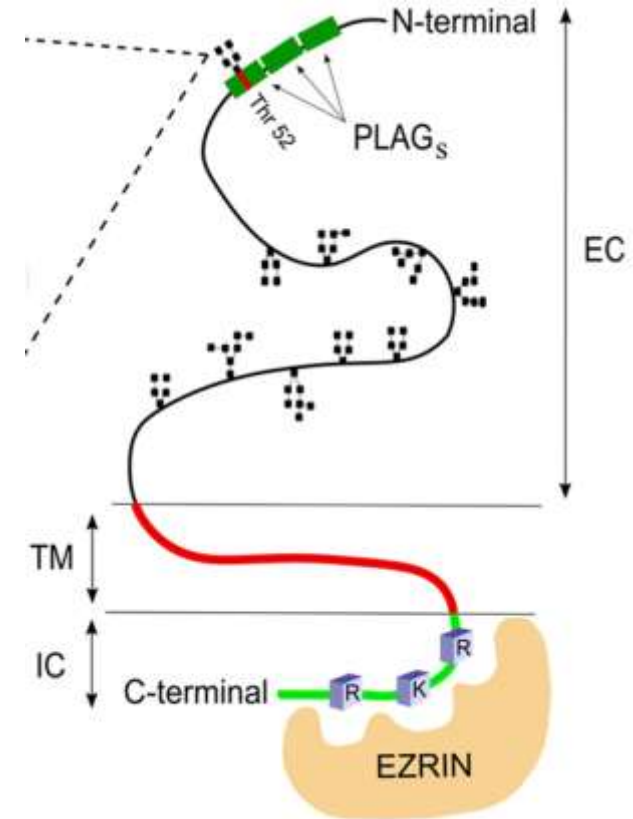
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# Podoplanin – a transmembrane, mucin-type glycoprotein

- Expressed by a variety of different cells and normal tissues

Podoplanin in normal tissues

Organ	Cell type
Vasculature	Lymphatic endothelial cells
Lymphoid organs	Stromal reticular cells; Follicular dendritic cells
Skin	Focal expression in basal keratinocytes
Lung	Type I alveolar cells; Pleura
Kidney	Glomerular podocytes; Parietal epithelial cells of Bowman's capsule
Liver	Bile ducts; Peritoneum
Esophagus	Basal keratinocytes
Intestine	Peritoneum
Central nervous system	Choroid plexus; Ependyma; Meninges
Peripheral nervous system	perineural fibroblasts
Ovary	Follicular granulosa cells; Germinal epithelium
Cervix	Basal keratinocytes
Breast	Myoepithelial cells
Prostate	Myofibroblasts
Testis	Fibrocytes
Salivary gland	Myoepithelial cells
Bone	Osteocytes; Periosteum
Joint	Synovial cells



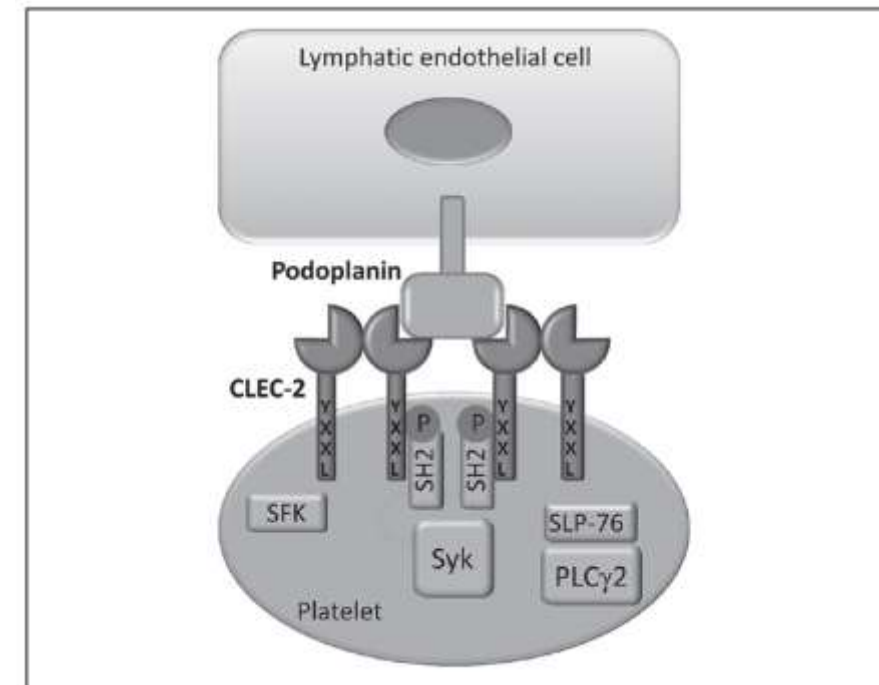
EC - extracellular domain, TM - transmembrane domain, IC - intracellular domain, PLAG - platelet aggregation-stimulating domain

# Podoplanin – a transmembrane, mucin-type glycoprotein

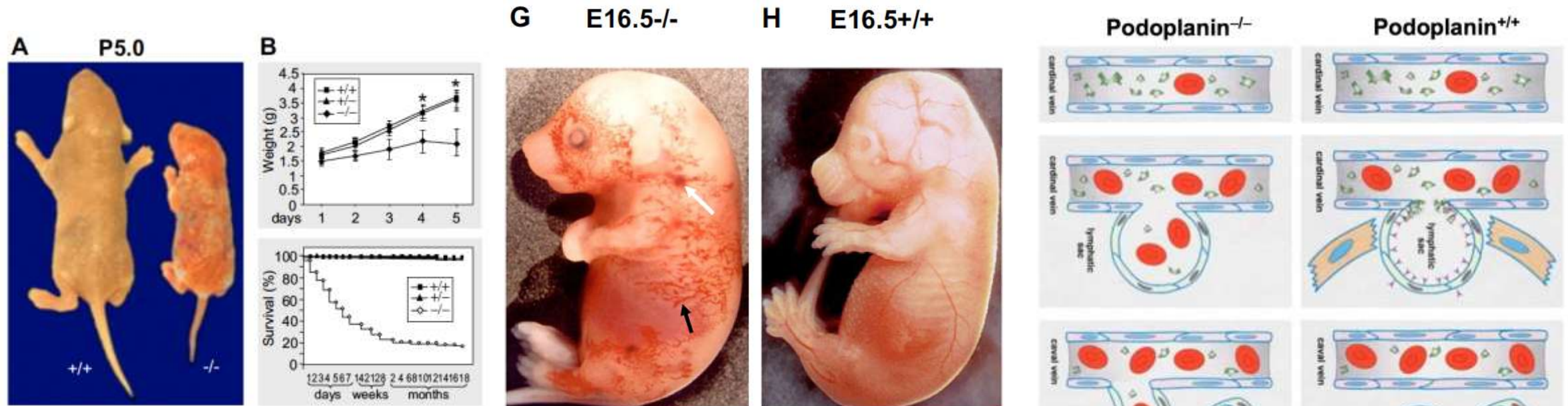
- Expressed by a variety of different cells
- Activates platelets via C-type lectin receptor type 2 (CLEC-2)

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# Podoplanin-mediated platelet activation is critically involved in separation of blood and lymphatic vessels



- Podoplanin $\square^{-/-}\square$  mice
  - Significantly smaller, ectatic vessels and skin bleeding
  - Approximately 20% reach fertility age
- Blood-filled capillary network (black arrows) in podoplanin $\square^{-/-}\square$ , but not in podoplanin $\square^{+/+}\square$  embryos



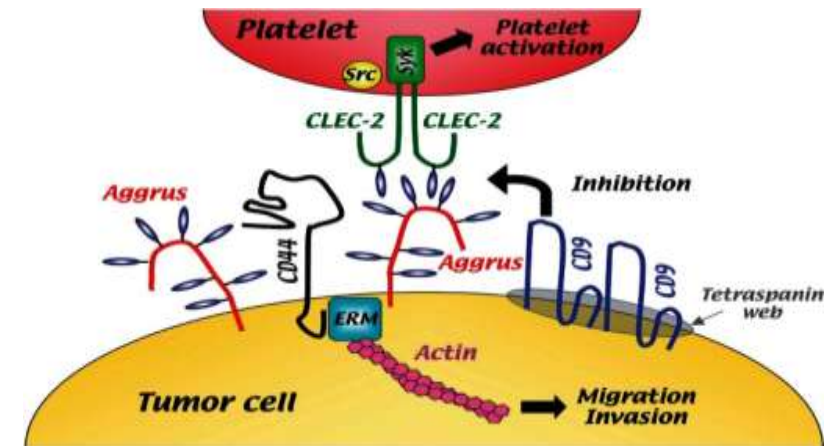
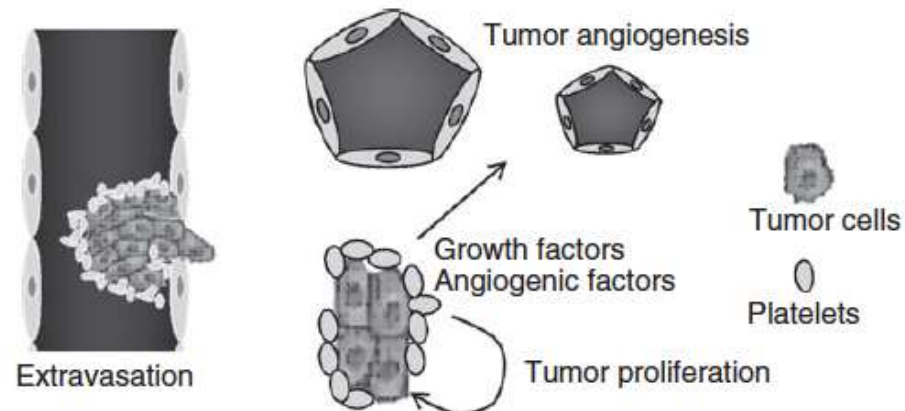
# Podoplanin expression in tumors

Tumor type	Frequency
Squamous cell carcinoma	80% of squamous cell carcinoma (lung, larynx, cervix, skin, and esophagus), 25% of oral carcinoma
Germinal tumors	Seminoma (98%), Embryonal carcinoma (69%), Teratoma (29%), York sac tumor (25%)
Brain tumors	Anaplastic astrocytoma (25%), Glioblastoma (47%), Germinoma (98%), Immature teratoma (71%)
Others	Mesothelioma (93%), Kaposi's sarcoma (90-100%), Lymphangioma (100%)

Podoplanin expression in primary brain tumors associated with

- Grade of malignancy
- Poor survival

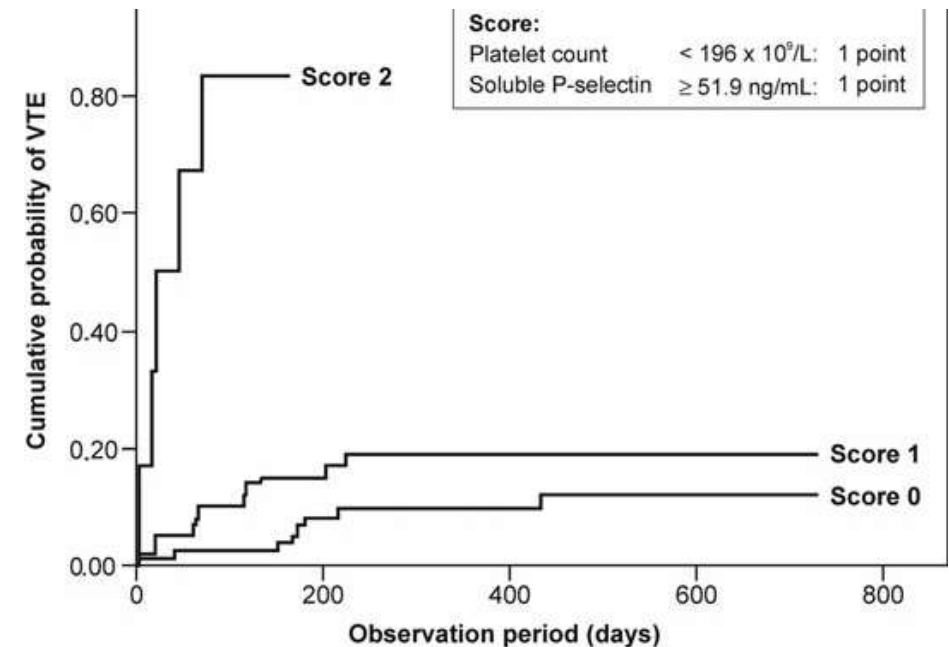
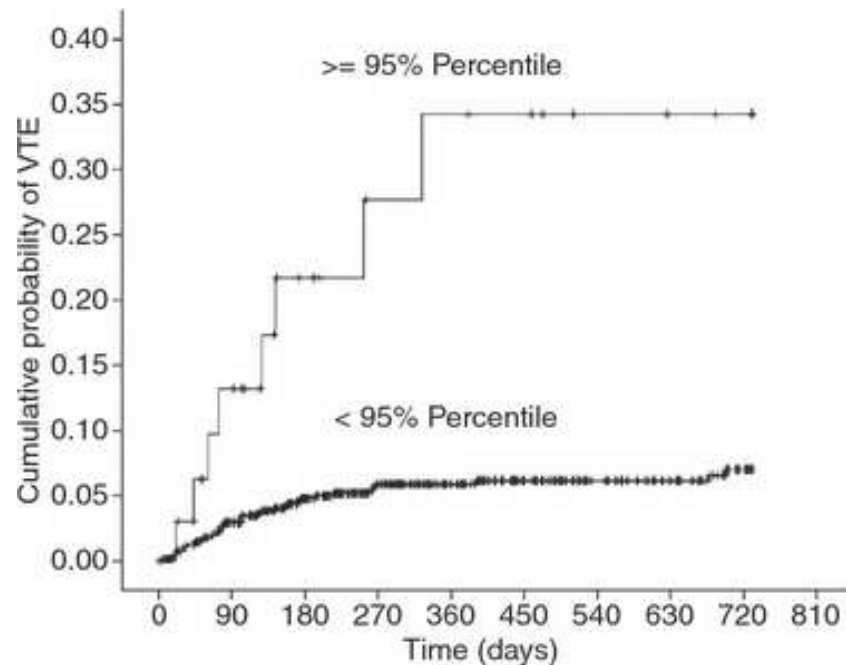
## E Tumor metastasis



Tsuruo T et al. Proc Jpn Acad Ser B Phys Biol Sci 2008

# Cancer, platelets and venous thromboembolism

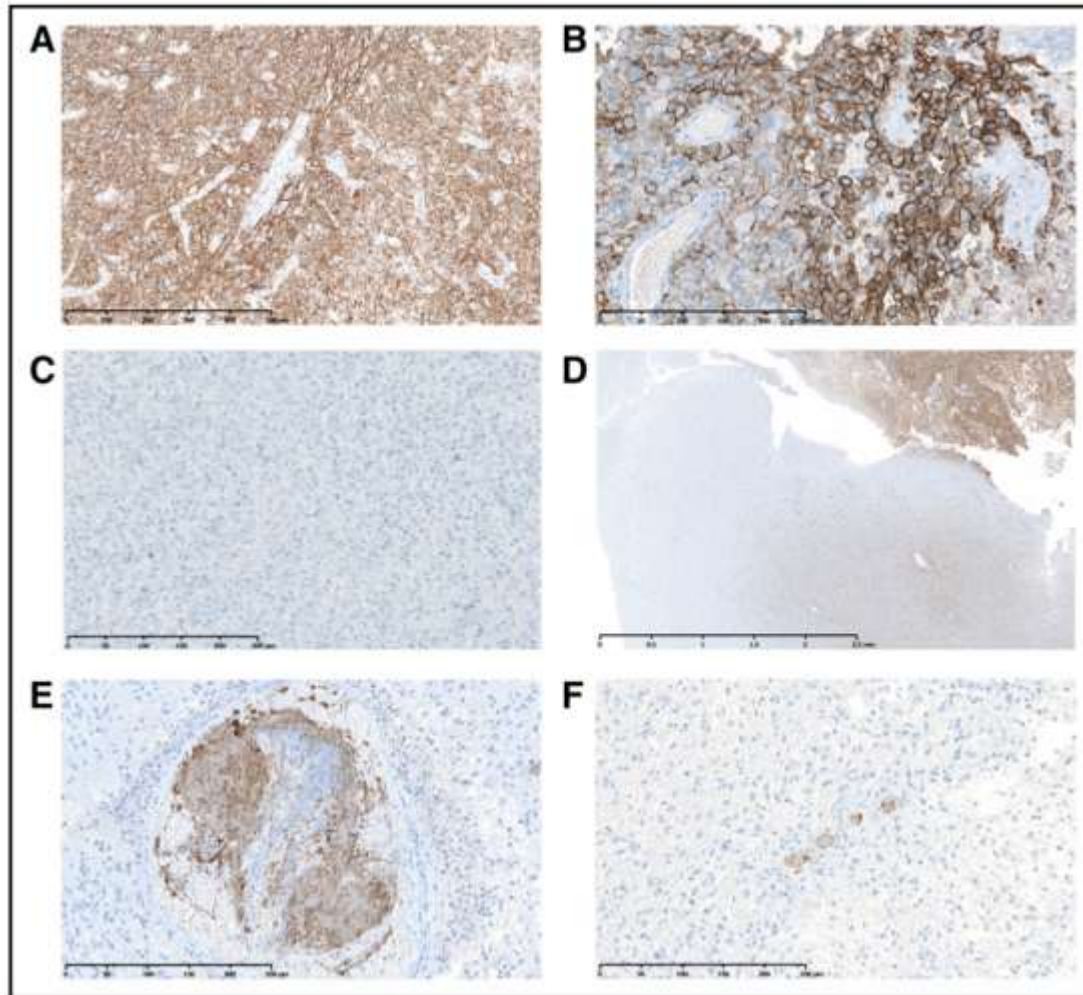
- In solid tumors a **high platelet** count is associated with risk of VTE<sup>1</sup>
- Primary brain tumours **lower platelet** count is associated with risk of VTE<sup>2</sup>



# Role of podoplanin in brain cancer-associated thrombosis

- Hypothesis
  - Podoplanin, due to its ability in activating blood platelets, is involved in the procoagulatory state and the development of VTE in patients with primary malignant brain tumors

# Immunohistochemical staining against podoplanin and intratumoral platelet aggregates in brain tumor specimens



A, B: Representative examples of high podoplanin (+++)-expressing tumors

C: Representative example of a podoplanin-negative (-) tumor.

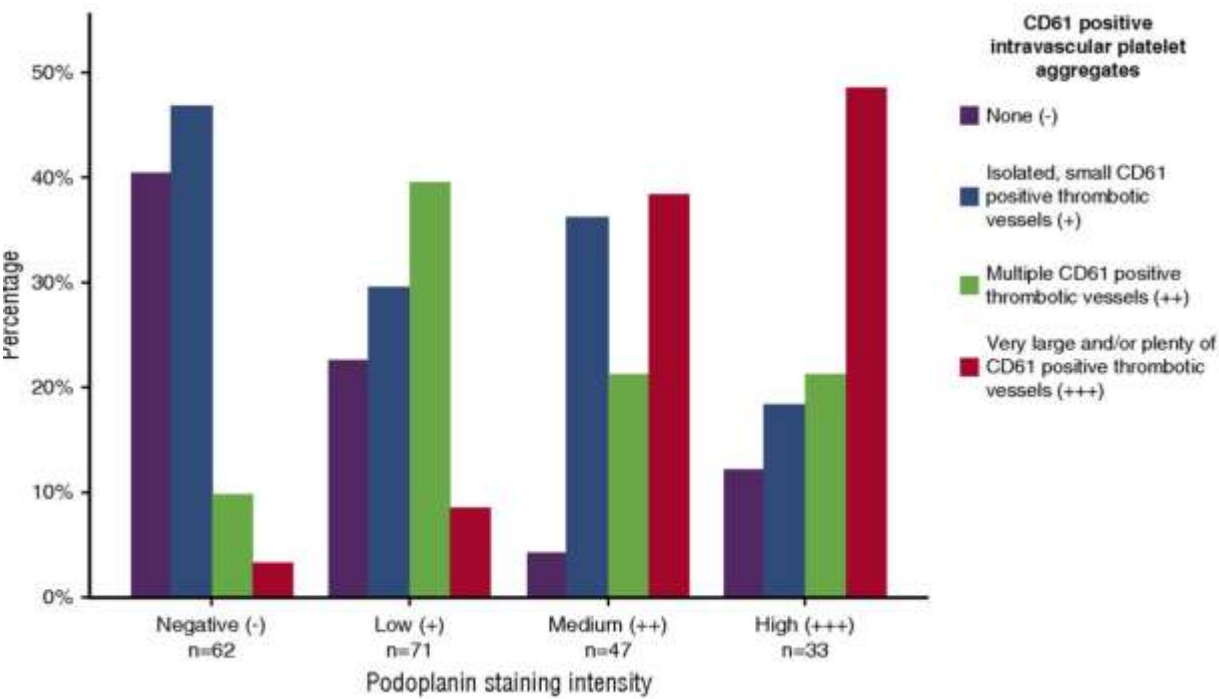
D: Invasion zone of a podoplanin-expressing tumor

E: A very large CD61<sup>+</sup> intravascular thrombosis

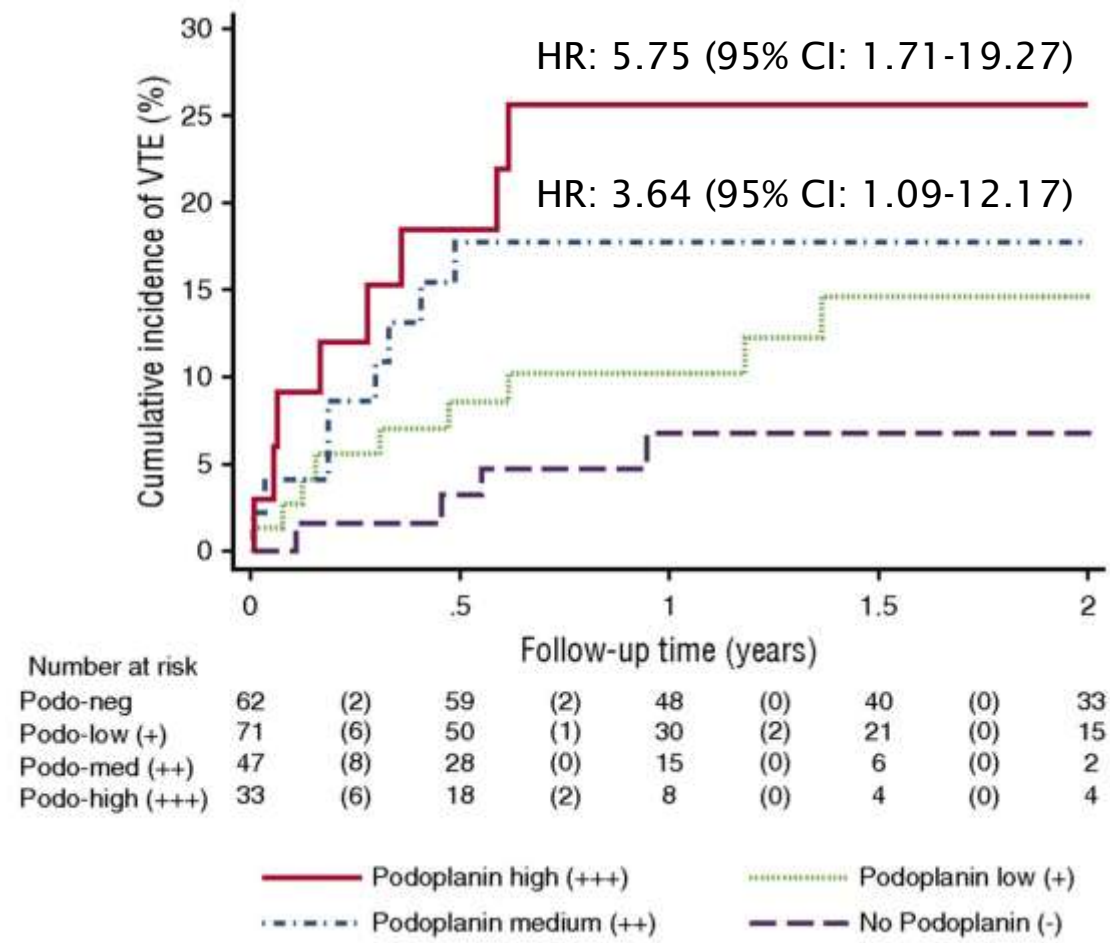
F: Tumor sample with multiple CD61<sup>+</sup> thrombotic vessels



Correlation between podoplanin expression levels and intratumoral intravascular platelet aggregates ( $p<0.001$ )



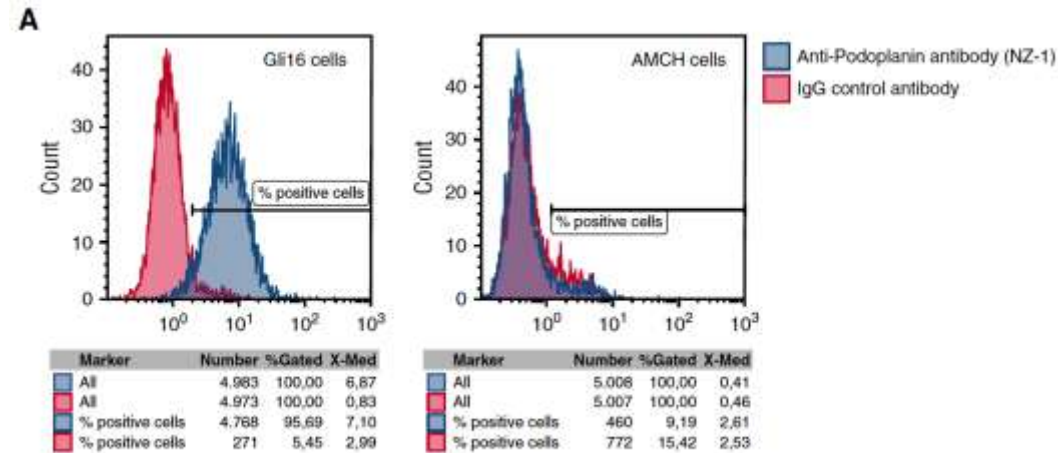
Cumulative incidence of VTE according to expression levels of podoplanin ( $p=0.019$ )



# Podoplanin expression, peripheral blood count parameters, and biomarkers of blood coagulation

	Podoplanin-positive tumors (+, ++, and +++), n = 151	Podoplanin-negative tumors (-), n = 62	<i>P</i>
Platelet count, $\times 10^9/L$	227 (186-285)	286 (241-355)	<.001
Hemoglobin, g/dL	13.6 (13.0-14.5)	13.9 (13.0-14.6)	.232
Leukocyte count, $\times 10^9/L$	8.68 (6.30-12.15)	7.11 (5.36-10.55)	.029
sP-selectin, ng/mL	36.8 (28.7-47.9)	38.8 (28.8-51.2)	.513
D-dimer, $\mu g/mL$	0.85 (0.46-1.92)	0.42 (0.23-0.79)	<.001
F1+F2, pmol/L	210 (154-325)	194.5 (123-260)	.047
FVIII activity, %	224 (156-295)	179.5 (147-239)	.006

# Podoplanin expression and tumor cell–induced platelet aggregation and platelet activation *in-vitro*



## THROMBOSIS AND HEMOSTASIS

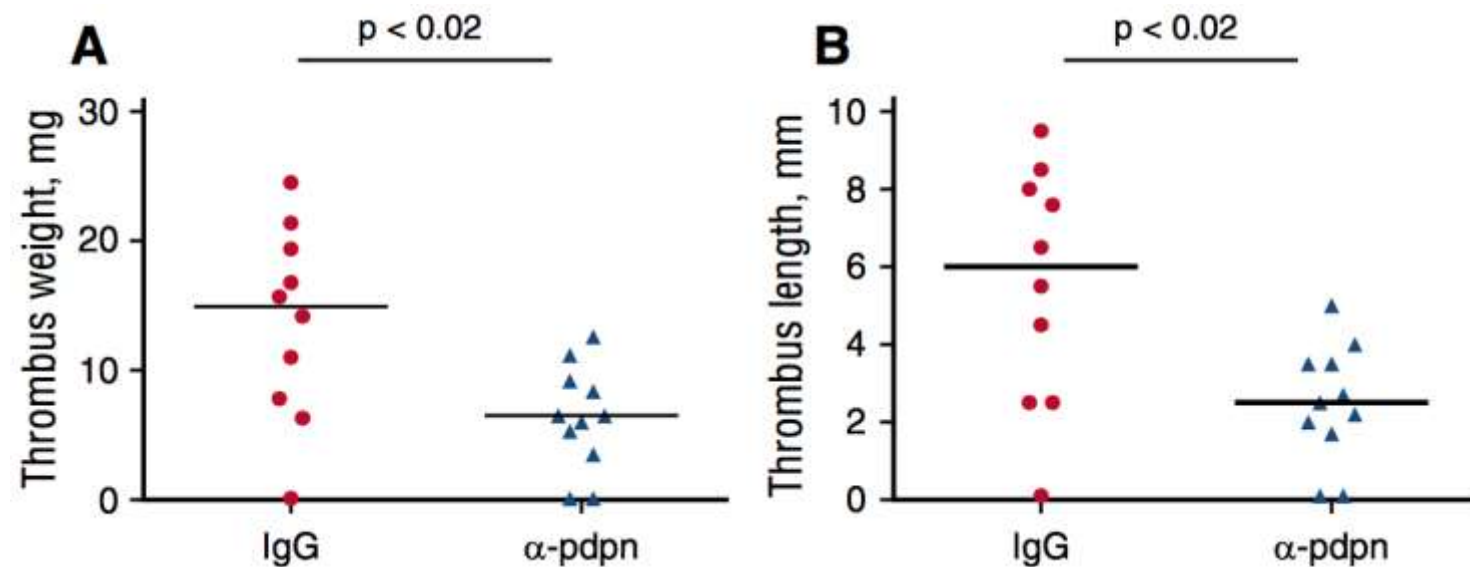
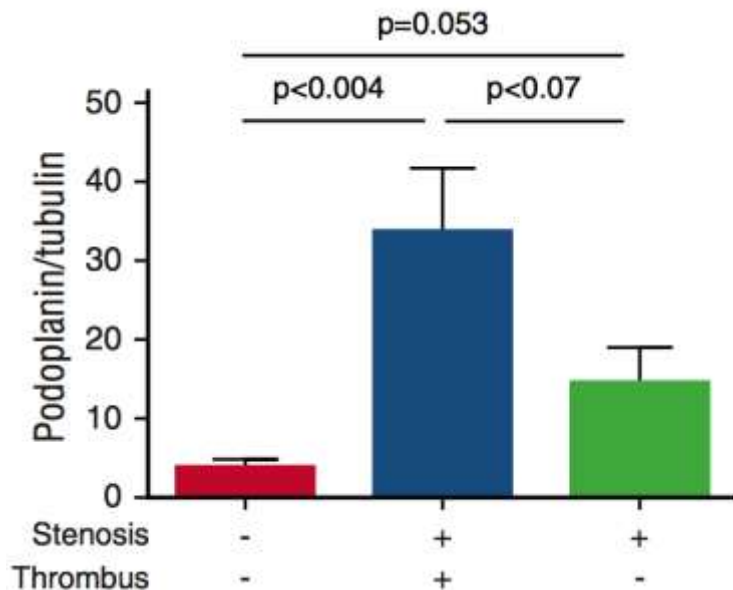
**Mice with a deficiency in CLEC-2 are protected against deep vein thrombosis**

Holly Payne,\* Tatyana Ponomaryov,\* Steve P. Watson, and Alexander Brill

Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

Podoplanin expression in the IVC vessel wall increases with thrombosis

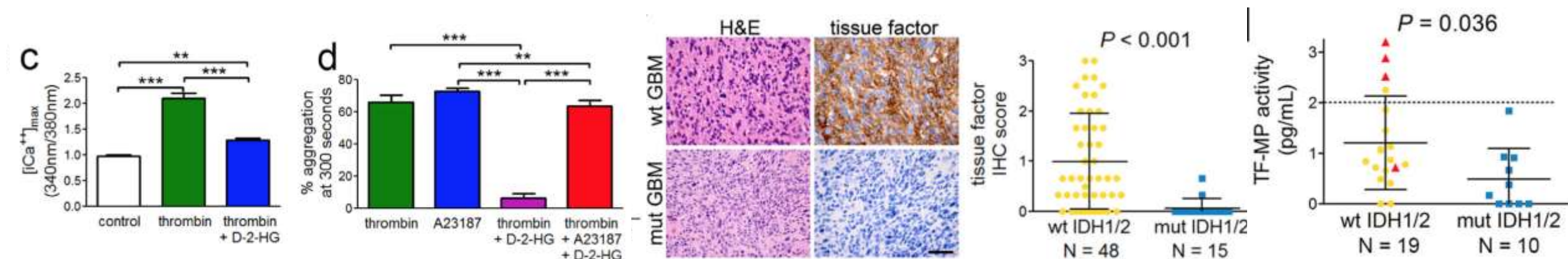
Anti-podoplanin antibody decreases size of thrombi in murine DVT





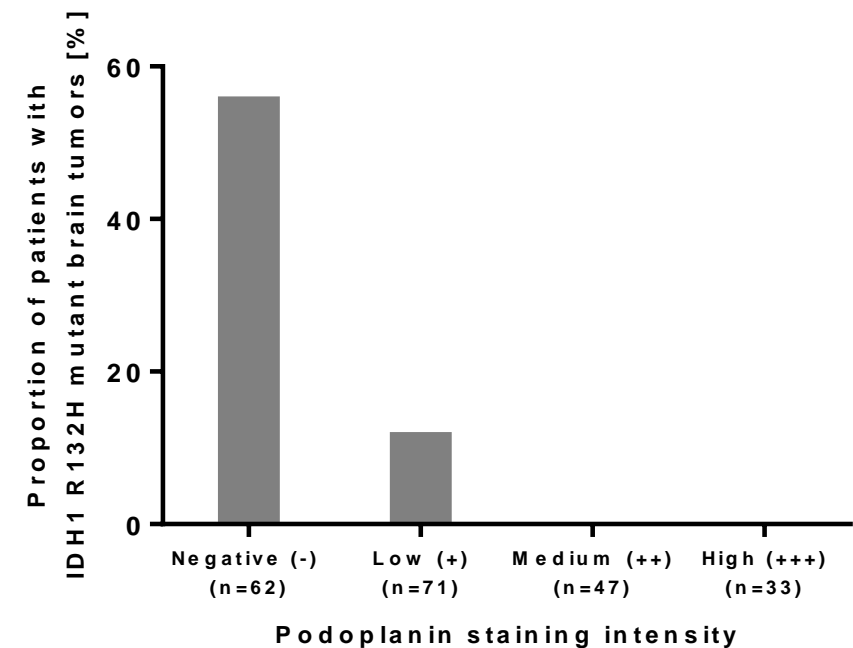
# Mutant IDH1 and thrombosis in gliomas

- Mutant isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 (IDH1) is common in gliomas, and produces D-2-hydroxyglutarate (D-2-HG), an oncometabolite associated with DNA hypermethylation
- Full effects of IDH1 mutations on glioma biology and tumor microenvironment are unknown, but mutant IDH1 tumors have less aggressive behavior
- VTE rate in patients with wild-type IDH1: 26-30%
- VTE rate in mutant IDH1 gliomas: 0%

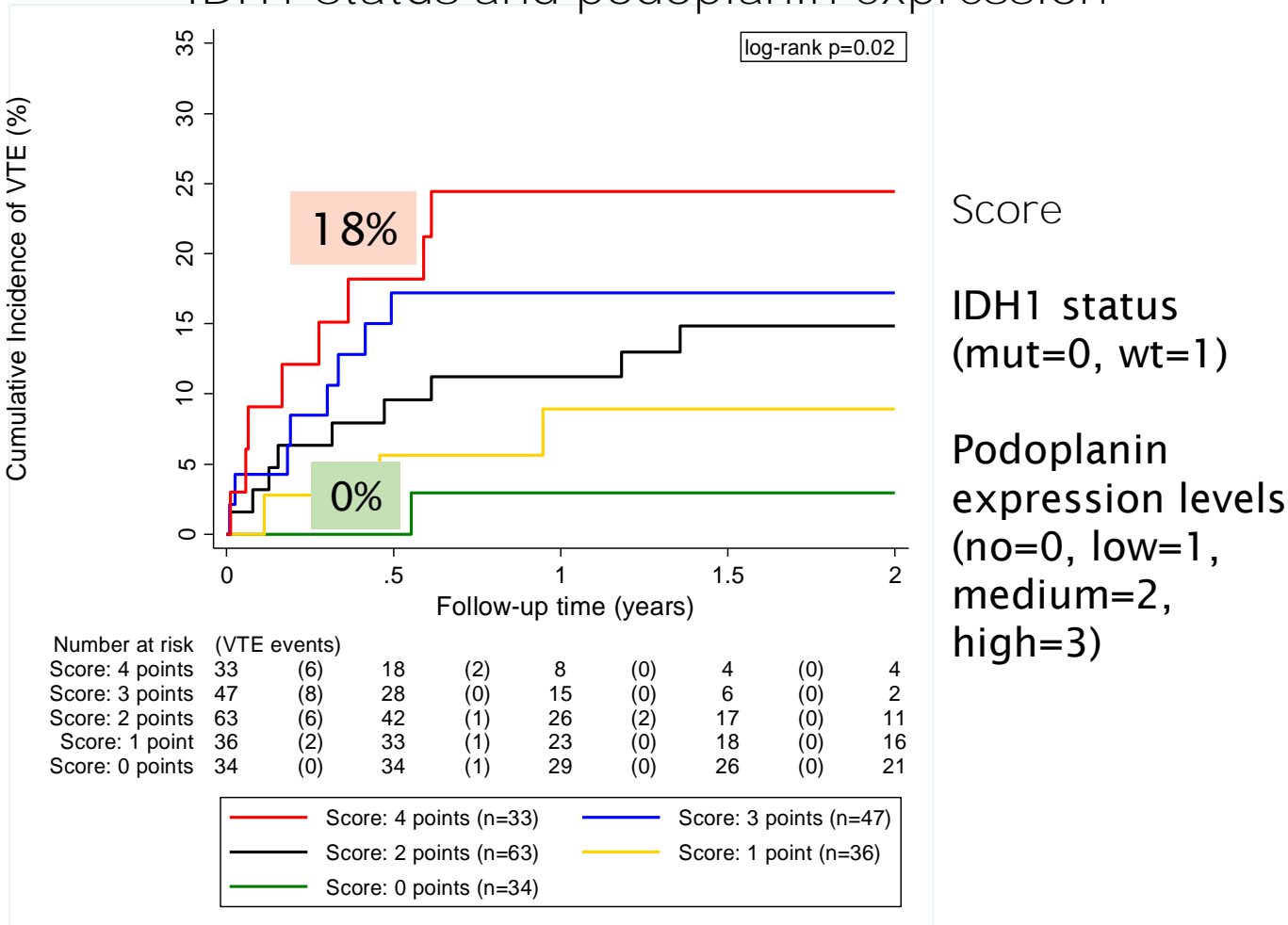


# Combined effect of IDH1 and podoplanin in glioma

Proportion tumors with IDH1 mutation and different levels of podoplanin expression



Cumulative incidence of VTE according to IDH1 status and podoplanin expression



# Podoplanin methylation and mRNA expression levels in IDH1 mutant and wildtype tumors

- Data extracted from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)
  - Podoplanin methylation was strongly increased in IDH1 mutant compared to wildtype tumors
  - Mean podoplanin mRNA levels were significantly lower in both low-grade glioma (LGG) and glioblastoma (GBM) patients with an IDH1 mutation than those with an IDH1 wildtype tumor ( $p < 0.0001$ )
  - Higher podoplanin methylation was associated with lower podoplanin mRNA expression only in LGG patients (Spearman's  $\rho = -0.64$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) but not GBM patients ( $\rho = -0.15$ ,  $p = 0.35$ )

# Summary & Take Home Messages

- In primary brain tumors, podoplanin expression is associated with intratumoral platelet aggregates, procoagulant state and high risk of VTE
- IDH1 mutation and podoplanin overexpression in primary brain tumors appear to be exclusive
  - Patients with IDH1 wildtype and high podoplanin expression have an increased VTE risk (6-month VTE risk of 18.2%)
  - Patients with IDH1 mutation and no podoplanin expression have a low VTE risk (6-month VTE risk of 0%)
- Podoplanin is able to induce platelet aggregation via the receptor CLEC-2 on platelets
- Podoplanin and CLEC-2 might represent attractive drug targets for prevention of (brain) cancer-associated VTE.



# The „Pabinger-Lab“

Podoplanin Project

Julia Riedl

Pegah Mir Seyed Naza



# Podoplanin expression in acute promyelocytic leukemia contributes to coagulopathy

- RNA-sequencing-based characterization of APL (n = 30) compared to other acute myeloid leukemia (n = 400) samples and normal promyelocytes
  - Podoplanin (PDPN) gene was aberrantly expressed in APL promyelocytes and was the most distinctive transcript for APL
  - PDPN was the most specific surface marker for APL in flow cytometry
  - All-trans retinoic acid therapy rapidly decreases podoplanin expression
  - Functional studies
    - PDPN-expressing primary APL cells, but not PDPN-negative primary leukemias induced platelet binding, activation and aggregation.
  - PDPN expression on leukemia cells in a xenograft model was associated with thrombocytopenia (platelet consumption) and prolonged bleeding time in vivo

# Mutant IDH1 and thrombosis in gliomas

- Mutant isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 (IDH1) is commonly mutated in gliomas and produces D-2-hydroxyglutarate (D-2-HG), an oncometabolite that causes DNA hypermethylation
- Full effects of IDH1 mutations on tumor microenvironment are unknown, but mutant IDH1 promotes tumor cell growth and tumor aggressiveness (Thaler et al. Thromb. Res. 2013)
- VTE rate in patients with IDH1: 26-30% (Thaler et al. J. Thromb. Haemost. 2012)
- VTE rate in patients with gliomas: 0% (Thaler et al. J. Thromb. Haemost. 2012)

**No correlation of tissue factor (TF) expression and VTE in primary brain tumors (gliomas)**

**No association of microvesicle-associated TF activity with risk of VTE in primary brain tumors (gliomas)**

