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The linker region of breast cancer resistance protein ABCG2 is critical for coupling of ATP-dependent drug transport

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Abstract:	<p>The ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters of class G display a different domain organisation than P-glycoprotein/ABCB1 and bacterial homologues with a nucleotide-binding domain preceding the transmembrane domain. The linker region connecting these domains is unique and its function and structure cannot be predicted. Sequence analysis revealed that the human ABCG2 linker contains a LSGGE sequence, homologous to the canonical C motif/ABC signature present in all ABC nucleotide-binding domains. Predictions of disorder and of secondary structures indicated that this C2-sequence was highly mobile and located between an α-helix and a loop similarly to the C-motif. Point mutations of the two first residues of the C2 sequence fully abolished the transport-coupled ATPase activity, and led to the complete loss of cell resistance to</p>	

	mitoxantrone. The interaction with potent, selective and non-competitive, ABCG2 inhibitors was also significantly altered upon mutation. These results suggest an important mechanistic role for the C2-sequence of the ABCG2 linker region in ATP binding and/or hydrolysis coupled to drug efflux.
Response to Reviewers:	See attachment entitled "Detailed answers to reviewer's comments"

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The linker region of breast cancer resistance protein ABCG2 is critical for coupling of ATP-dependent drug transport

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Abbreviations: ABC, ATP-binding cassette; MDR, multidrug resistance

Abstract

1
2 The ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters of class G display a different **domain**
3 **organisation** than P-glycoprotein/ABCB1 and bacterial homologues with a nucleotide-
4 binding domain preceding the transmembrane domain. The linker region connecting
5 these domains is unique and its function and structure cannot be predicted.
6
7 Sequence analysis revealed that the human ABCG2 linker contains a LSGGE
8 sequence, homologous to the canonical C-motif/ABC signature present in all ABC
9 nucleotide-binding domains. Predictions of disorder and of secondary structures
10 indicated that this C2-sequence was highly mobile and located between an α -helix
11 and a loop similarly to the C-motif. Point mutations of the two first residues of the
12 C2-sequence fully abolished the transport-coupled ATPase activity, and led to the
13 complete loss of cell resistance to mitoxantrone. The interaction with potent, selective
14 and non-competitive, ABCG2 inhibitors was also significantly altered upon mutation.
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16 These results suggest an important mechanistic role for the C2-sequence of the
17 ABCG2 linker region in ATP binding and/or hydrolysis coupled to drug efflux.
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Introduction

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2 The ABCG2 transporter was discovered simultaneously in three different groups; it
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4 was called ABCP for its abundance in placenta [1], BCRP as a breast cancer
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6 resistance protein [2] and MXR for its induced resistance to mitoxantrone [3]. Its
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8 overexpression in cancer cells was identified to strongly contribute to multidrug
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10 resistance, similarly to previously discovered P-glycoprotein/ABCB1 [4, 5] and
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12 MRP1/ABCC1 [6]. ABCG2 also plays an essential physiological control within
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14 barriers protecting sensitive organs [7, 8] as well as in stem cells of which it is
15
16 considered to be a marker [9].
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21 All members of the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) superfamily are constituted of
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23 cytosolic nucleotide-binding domains (NBDs), responsible for ATP binding and
24
25 hydrolysis, and two transmembrane domains (TMDs) generally comprising 6
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27 α -helical spans ensuring substrate transport across the membrane. These four
28
29 domains are fused through linkers into a single **TMD1-NBD1-TMD2-NBD2**
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31 polypeptide, as a “full-transporter” in P-glycoprotein (ABCB1) and MRP1 (**which** also
32
33 contains an additional **N-terminal TMD0** domain). In contrast to **ABCB1 and MRP1**,
34
35 ABCG2 is a “half-transporter”, with a single NBD fused to a single TMD, and
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37 therefore requires dimerization, at a minimum, to form a functional unit. **Its NBD-TMD**
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39 domain arrangement is **different; as** a consequence, the linker connecting both
40
41 domains is unique and its structure cannot be modeled using a template, such as the
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43 crystal structures of P-glycoproteins from mice [10] or *Caenorhabditis elegans* [11],
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45 or of a bacterial homologue [12].
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53 All NBDs of the ABC transporters contain several ATP-binding motifs: in
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55 addition to the Walker-A and Walker-B motifs also present in other ATPases, a
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57 conserved specific sequence LSGGQ, followed by three basic residues, is called “C-
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59 motif” or “C-loop” and is considered to be an “ABC signature”. Its critical function in
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ATP hydrolysis and in coupled substrate transport was demonstrated by site-directed mutagenesis in various transporters such as P-glycoprotein [13, 14], MRP1 [15], TAP [16, 17] and MalK [18]. The crystal structure of HlyB precisely identified the interactions with different moieties (adenine, ribose and γ -phosphate) of bound ATP, and additionally showed protein-protein interactions with the Walker-A motif of the other NBD [19]. The C-motif is therefore contributing to NBD dimerization, which is required for ATP hydrolysis and its coupling to the transport process by two types of direct interactions: (1) with ATP, mainly bound to the other NBD through Walker-A, Walker-B and other motifs, and (2) with the Walker-A motif of the other NBD.

In the present work, an additional C-motif LSGGE, called the C2-sequence, was identified at positions 352-356, within the poorly known linker region of human ABCG2. The aim was therefore to look at its conservation among ABCGs and species, and a potential function. The results show that the C2-sequence is predicted to be quite mobile and structurally similar to the C-motif; point mutations fully altered ABCG2-mediated coupled ATPase activity and cellular multidrug resistance, suggesting a critical role in coupling between ATP hydrolysis and drug efflux.

Materials and Methods

Sequence alignment and structure predictions

Sequences were downloaded from UniProt [20]. Sequence alignments were generated using ClustalW using default parameters [21], analyzed and displayed in Cinema5 (<http://aig.cs.man.ac.uk/research/utopia/cinema/cinema.php>). Sequences were queried for the ABC signature pattern (ProSite; <http://prosite.expasy.org/PDOC00185>) employing the preg software from EMBOSS (The European Molecular Biology Open Software Suite) [22]. Two conceptually different algorithms were used to predict disorder tendency with default parameters

including DISOPRED2 [23] and IUPRED [24]. Secondary structure prediction was done employing also different predictors: Prof (<http://www.aber.ac.uk/~phiwww/prof/>), Jnet [25] and PSI [26].

Compounds

Commercial reagents were of the highest available purity grade: mitoxantrone ($\geq 97\%$) and Ko143 ($\geq 98\%$) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (France), and nilotinib from Selleck Chemicals (Boston, MA). Chromone 1 was obtained as previously described [27]. The 5D3 monoclonal antibody was purchased from eBioscience and BXP-21 antibody from Alexis Biochemicals.

Generation of Mutants

The L352A, S353A, G354A, G355A and E356A point mutants were generated by site-directed mutagenesis in a pcDNA3.1 vector (Invitrogen) carrying the full length *ABCG2* cDNA, kindly provided by the laboratory of Dr. Douglas Ross. Site-directed mutagenesis was carried out using the "QuickChange® Site-Directed Mutagenesis" kit (Stratagene). The plasmid containing *ABCG2* was amplified by PCR from primers containing the desired mutation. The full-length sequences of all mutant constructs were tested for correctness by sequencing. The designed primer sequences are presented in the following table, where the mutated nucleotides are in bold letters.

Primers	Sequences
L352A-Fw	ACAAAAGCTGAATTACATCAAG G CTTCCGGGGGTGAGAAG
L352A-Rv	CTTCTCACCCCGGAAG G CTTGATGTAATTCAGCTTTTGT
S353A-Fw	AAAGCTGAATTACATCAACTT G CCGGGGGTGAGAAGAAG
S353A-Rv	CTTCTTCTCACCCCGG C AAGTTGATGTAATTCAGCTTT
G354A-Fw	CCTGAATTACATCAACTTTCCG C GGGTGAGAAGAAGAAG
G354A-Rv	CTTCTTCTTCTCACCC G CGGAAAGTTGATGTAATTCAGG

1 G355A-Fw TTACATCAACTTTCCGGGGCTGAGAAGAAGAAGAAGATC
 2
 3 G355A-Rv GATCTTCTTCTTCTTCTCAGCCCCGGAAAGTTGATGTAA
 4
 5 E356A-Fw TTACATCAACTTTCCGGGGGTGCGAAGAAGAAGAAGATC
 6
 7 E356A-Rv GATCTTCTTCTTCTTCTCGCACCCCCGGAAAGTTGATGTAA
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10 11 12 *Cell cultures*

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 14 Human Embryonic 293 cell line (CelluloNet n°109) was transfected (Nucleofector
 15 technique, solution 5, programme A23, LONZA) with either ABCG2 (HEK293-
 16 ABCG2, also called “293BCRP3, CelluloNet n° 234”) or the empty vector (HEK293-
 17 pcDNA3) or ABCG2 mutants. Stable polyclonal cell lines were then selected with
 18 0.75mg/ml G418, and cell lines were cloned. They were maintained in high-glucose
 19 DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 1% penicillin/streptomycin
 20 at 37 °C, 5% CO₂ under controlled humidity. The cell culture medium was
 21 supplemented with 0.75 mg/mL G418.
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37 *5D3 binding*

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 39 In studies with the anti-ABCG2 antibody 5D3, cells were incubated in 2% BSA/DPBS
 40 (Dulbecco’s Phosphate Buffered Saline) with either phycoerythrin-labeled negative
 41 control antibody (IgG2b) or phycoerythrin-labeled 5D3 antibody (both from
 42 eBioscience, San Diego, CA), used in excess according to the manufacturer’s
 43 instructions, washed with DPBS, and subsequently analyzed. Surface expression of
 44 ABCG2 was calculated as the difference in mean channel numbers between the 5D3
 45 histogram and the negative-control antibody histogram. Samples were analyzed on a
 46 FACSsort flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson, San Jose, CA). Phycoerythrin
 47 fluorescence was detected with a 488 nm argon laser and a 585 nm bandpass filter.
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 49 At least 10,000 events were collected for each flow cytometry experiment. By gating
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1 on forward *versus* side scatter, debris was eliminated, and dead cells were excluded
2 based on propidium iodide staining.
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6 *Mitoxantrone efflux and inhibition by characteristic inhibitors*

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9 HEK-293 cells expressing wild-type or mutated ABCG2 were trypsinized and
10 incubated for 30 min with 20 μ M mitoxantrone in the presence or absence of 10 μ M
11 of the ABCG2 inhibitor fumitremorgin C (FTC). Cells were then washed and
12 incubated for 1 h in mitoxantrone-free medium continuing with or without FTC.
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14 Mitoxantrone efflux was calculated by subtracting the mean fluorescence of the cells
15 incubated without FTC from the mean fluorescence of the cells incubated with FTC
16 as previously described [28].
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29 *Cell growth resistance to mitoxantrone*

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31 HEK-293 cells expressing wild-type or mutated ABCG2, as well as control cells were
32 seeded at a density of 10^4 cells/well into 96-well culture plates, incubated overnight,
33 and treated with mitoxantrone (up to 1 μ M) for 72 h. To assess viability, the cells
34 were exposed to 0.5 mg/mL MTT and incubated for 4 h at 37 °C [29]. The culture
35 medium was discarded, and 100 μ L of a DMSO/ethanol (1:1) solution was added into
36 each well and mixed by gently shaking for 10 min. Absorbance was measured at 570
37 nm using a microplate reader, and the value measured at 690 nm was subtracted.
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39 Data are the mean \pm SD of at least three independent experiments.
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54 *ATPase activity assay*

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56 Beryllium-fluoride-sensitive ATPase activity was assayed using crude membranes
57 (10 μ g protein/tube) of HEK293 cells expressing WT and mutant ABCG2 as
58 described previously [30]. Briefly crude membranes isolated from HEK cells
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1 expressing ABCG2 (1 mg of protein/ml) were incubated at 37°C in ATPase assay
2 buffer (50 mM KCl, 5 mM sodium azide, 2 mM EGTA, 1 mM ouabain, 10 mM MgCl₂,
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4 2 mM dithiothreitol, and 50 mM Tris-MES, pH 6.8) in the presence or absence of
5
6 indicated substrates for 5 min. The ATPase reaction was started by the addition of 5
7
8 mM ATP and was terminated by the addition of 0.1 ml SDS solution after 20 min. The
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10 amount of inorganic phosphate released was quantified by a colorimetric reaction as
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12 described previously [30].
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19 Results

20 *Identification of a specific C2-sequence in human ABCG2*

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22 Sequence alignment of the different human ABCG transporters indicated the
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24 following consensus for the canonical ABC signature/C-motif, L/V-S-G-G-E/Q
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26 followed by R-K/R-R (Fig. 1A), **except for some degenerescence in ABCG5 which is**
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28 **fuctionally active as an heterodimer with ABCG8**. The ABCG2 sequence located at
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30 positions 188-192 **was V-S-G-G-E**. Quite interestingly, a very similar additional
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32 sequence, called hereafter C2-sequence (L-S-G-G-E, followed by K-K-K), was found
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34 exclusively in human ABCG2, at positions 352-356 (Fig. 1B). It obeyed the
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36 consensus sequence illustrated here above for human ABCG members, and known
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38 to be common to all ABC transporters; it could therefore be defined as an extra, non-
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40 canonical, C-motif. Sequence alignment of human ABCG2 with ABCG2 homologues
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42 from different species indicated in Fig. 1C that this non-canonical human C2-
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44 sequence was well conserved in mammals (elephant, dog, horses, goat, bovines,
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46 ovines, primates and rodents), partly in avian organisms (chicken, turkey) and in
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48 amphibia, but not in fishes, protozoan parasites and plants. Interestingly, no C2-
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50 sequence was found in yeast MDR full-transporters, with similar **domain organisation**
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as ABCG2, such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Pdr5p or *Candida albicans* Cdr1p (not shown).

Secondary structure predictions indicate the C2-sequence located at the border of an α -helix and a region without stable secondary structure similarly as the canonical C-motif. Moreover, the latter segment around a.a. 360 is predicted to be the most disordered part of the 301-396 linker region when using the DISPORED2 program, and one among the regions with higher disorder tendency determined by the IUPred program (Fig. 2). The coherence of the secondary structure and disorder predictions employing different algorithms strengthens the hypothesis that the C2-sequence can be embedded into a similar structural environment as the canonical C-motif.

Slight alterations of C2-sequence mutations on cell surface expression and activity of ABCG2

Single point mutation into alanine of each of the five residues of the C2-sequence (L352-S353-G354-G355-E356) induced variable consequences on the total ABCG2 expression monitored by Western blotting with the BXP-21 ABCG2-specific antibody: from at least 2-fold decrease *versus* the wild-type protein for L352A, S353A and E356A mutants, to no apparent effect for the G354A and G355A mutants (not shown here). However, the plasma membrane expression of ABCG2, as monitored with the 5D3 antibody recognizing the ABCG2 extracellular loop 3, was hardly modified except for the S353A mutant exhibiting a decrease of 13% (Fig. 3A-B). The correct trafficking to plasma membrane was visualized and confirmed by confocal microscopy (Fig. 3C). Mitoxantrone efflux was measured by flow cytometry as differential intracellular accumulation (Fig. 4A-B) and was also corrected for the small differences observed in membrane expression: the two L352A and S353A mutants

1 showed a moderate decrease of 23-32% in activity when compared to that of the
2 wild-type ABCG2 (Fig. 4C). Symmetrically, a positive control with the gain-of-function
3 R482G mutant showed a marked increase in mitoxantrone efflux: about 45% *versus*
4 wild-type ABCG2, and 90-115% *versus* the two L352A and S353A mutants.
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10 *C2-mutants exhibit a markedly decreased resistance to mitoxantrone*

11 The consequences of point mutations were much more pronounced in 72 h long
12 cytotoxicity assays, performed in the presence of mitoxantrone and quantified by a
13 cell survival MTT test. A complete loss of resistance to mitoxantrone cytotoxicity was
14 observed with both L352A (Fig. 5A) and S353A (Fig. 5B) mutants, both of which
15 reached sensitivity levels similar to that of the ABCG2-negative HEK-293 control cells
16 transfected with the empty pcDNA3.1 vector. A lower, but significant,
17 chemosensitization was observed with the G354A (Fig. 5C) and E356A (Fig. 5D)
18 mutants.
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34 *Alterations of basal and drug-stimulated ATPase activities*

35 The beryllium-fluoride-sensitive ATPase activity of membranes, prepared from
36 resistant ABCG2-overexpressing HEK-293 cells, was altered upon point mutations,
37 both in the absence or presence of drug substrate (Fig. 6). **While the basal ATP**
38 **hydrolysis (14.6 nmol Pi/min.mg protein) was decreased (up to 30%) for the S353A**
39 **mutant, L352A and S353A mutants showed at least a 3-fold decrease in the K_m**
40 **values for ATP hydrolysis (Fig. 6A). More strikingly, the stimulation of basal ATPase**
41 **activity in the wild-type protein by transport substrates such as nilotinib [31] was**
42 **completely abolished in L352A and S353A mutants (Fig. 6B), whereas nilotinib still**
43 **stimulated the ATPase activity of G354A and E356A mutants.**
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Alterations of the interaction with different types of drug-efflux inhibitors

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2 The point-mutation effect on the efficiency of different types of inhibitors was studied
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4 with S353A, the most altered mutant, in comparison with wild-type ABCG2 (Fig. 7).
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6 The inhibition of mitoxantrone efflux by Ko143, an ABCG2-selective and highly-
7
8 potent inhibitor [32] known to also inhibit the basal ATPase activity [33] and not to be
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10 transported, was found here to be strongly impaired in this mutant. The EC₅₀ of
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12 Ko143 [34] and chromone 1 [27], which are known to inhibit ABCG2-mediated
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14 mitoxantrone efflux, was increased from 0.06 to 0.26 μ M (4.3-fold increase) and from
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16 0.11 to 0.39 μ M (3.5-fold increase), respectively (Fig. 7A and 7B). By contrast, no
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18 significant alteration in the EC₅₀ values was observed for the inhibition of activity by
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20 nilotinib, a competitive inhibitor [35] known to be transported by ABCG2 [31] (Fig.
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22 7C).
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Discussion

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32 This paper demonstrates the functional role of a selective sequence of human
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34 ABCG2, identified as a potential extra ATP-binding motif, and its unique implication in
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36 the coupling mechanism between ATP hydrolysis and drug-efflux activity.
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The ABCG2-selective C2-sequence as an additional C-motif?

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44 Three different approaches have identified the C2-sequence LSGGE, at 352-356
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46 positions of human ABCG2, as a possible nucleotide-binding motif. First, sequence
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48 alignment unambiguously showed complete agreement with the consensus
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50 sequence of the canonical C-motif/ABC signature found in all NBDs; second,
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52 disorder and secondary-structure predictions indicate the C2-sequence to be located
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54 between an α -helix and a loop similarly to the canonical C-motif; third, the strong
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alterations induced upon point-mutations further confirmed a critical function, associated to both ATPase and drug-efflux activities.

This suggests that the C2-sequence, belonging to the linker connecting NBD and TMD, might be possibly located close to the ATP-binding site of the NBD to directly interact with bound nucleotide. The C2-sequence, at positions 352-356, is distant by about 40 residues from the beginning of TMD, which is similar to the length of the intracellular loops in crystallized bacterial Sav1866 [12] and eukaryotic P-glycoproteins [10, 11]. However, it not known if the presence of the C2-sequence might compensate the lack of a long intracellular loop, as shown in the human ABCG2 molecular model [36], or if such a multidrug homodimeric half-transporter might require additional interactions than full-transporters such as ABCB1 and ABCC1. It is not either known if the absence of such a C2-sequence in lower eukaryotes might be correlated to differences in the regulation of activity or in structural divergence of these ABCG2 homologs.

A critical function of the C2-sequence

Single-point mutations have allowed here the identification of two types of dramatic functional alterations. The first type concerned the ATPase activity, for which a decrease in both V_{max} and K_m for ATP hydrolysis was observed; this suggested a role of the C2-sequence in either ATP binding or in ADP release, which is known to be often a rate-limiting step of ATP hydrolysis for various ATPases. In addition, the complete abolition of drug-induced stimulated ATP hydrolysis, recognized as coupling ATPase activity, was consistent with the strong catalytic impairment observed upon C-motif point-mutations in various ABC transporters, such as the second glycine in either only P-glycoprotein NBD1 [13] or both MRP1 NBD1 and NBD2 [15], the two serines in both P-glycoprotein NBD1 and NBD2 [14], and either

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single glycine or glutamine in homodimeric MalK [18]. For TAP1/TAP2 heterodimer, it was demonstrated, by point-mutations within both monomers and C-motifs exchange in chimeras, that the strong alterations observed on substrate transport were correlated to changes in ATP hydrolysis [17], and not to ATP binding [16], and that the natural substitutions in degenerated TAP2 (AA *versus* SG in canonical TAP1) allowed the control of transport activity and coupled ATP hydrolysis [17]. It is not known whether residues of the ABCG2 C2-sequence might additionally establish protein-protein interactions contributing to the closure/dimerization of NBDs as shown for the C-motif within the crystal structure of HlyB [19]. The much stronger consequences induced on coupled *versus* basal ATPase indicates that both activities obey distinct mechanisms, as previously concluded from different approaches with either ABCG2 [34] or P-glycoprotein [37].

The second type of alteration concerned drug-efflux activity: i) the complete loss of cellular resistance to mitoxantrone cytotoxicity, upon 3-day culturing, appeared to contrast with the only partial decrease of mitoxantrone efflux observed in short-term flow-cytometry experiments. Different hypothetical explanations might be considered, such as time-dependent amplification under cell-culture conditions of the initially moderate alteration of drug efflux, changed IC_{50} values of mitoxantrone for its target, or mitoxantrone-induced lowered metabolic activity of mutant cells reducing ATP concentration below threshold for basal ATPase activity (?). A marked alteration in substrate transport was also observed upon TAP1/TAP2 mutations, as mentioned above [16, 17]. Since the same C2-sequence point mutations induced a complete, primary, alteration of coupled ATP hydrolysis, the alterations observed on drug efflux might be considered as consequences, or secondary effects, rather than a direct contribution of mutated residues; ii) the strong alteration of the potent, selective, and noncompetitive Ko143 and chromone 1 inhibitors [34], known to inhibit basal ATPase

1 activity, suggested (despite their high hydrophobicity) a rather “cytosolic” inhibitor-
2 binding site, in close proximity to the NBDs where ATP binds, although a distant
3
4 conformational change cannot be excluded. The interaction of these inhibitors with
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6 the selective C2-sequence might, at least partly, explain their ABCG2 selectivity
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9 *versus* the other multidrug ABC transporters P-glycoprotein/ABCB1 and
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11 MRP1/ABCC1.
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14 It may be concluded that the C2-sequence, especially L352 and S353 in human
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16 ABCG2, plays a unique role in coupling ATP hydrolysis to drug efflux, and related
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18 conformational changes of the transporter. This might constitute a new selective
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20 target to antagonize multidrug resistance in ABCG2-overexpressing cancer cells.
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26 **Acknowledgments**

27
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Figure captions

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3 **Fig. 1.** Sequence alignment of human ABCG sub-family members, emphasizing the
4 regions containing the canonical signature/C-motif (marked with a blue line) (**A**) or a
5 non-canonical C2-sequence that is only present in ABCG2 (marked with red line) (**B**).
6
7 Alignment of the linker region containing the non-canonical C2-sequence of human
8 ABCG2 with homologous regions of ABCG2 homologs from various species (**C**).
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17 **Fig. 2.** Predictions of disorder within the linker region of human ABCG2 containing
18 the LSGGE C2-sequence at positions 352-356. The arrows show the C2-sequence
19 position.
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27 **Fig. 3.** Detection and quantification of the C2-sequence point mutants within the
28 plasma membrane of transfected cells by flow cytometry with the 5D3 surface
29 antibody. Stably-transfected HEK293 cells were incubated with phycoerythrin-labeled
30 5D3 antibody (blue line) or a negative control antibody (red line) (**A**). Similarly to wild-
31 type ABCG2, the C2-sequence mutants and the R482G gain-of-function mutant were
32 detected on the cell surface, and quantified by 5D3 fluorescence; the bars represent
33 the mean of median fluorescence (**B**). HEK293 cells with stable expression of either
34 pcDNA3.1 empty vector, wild-type ABCG2 or the C2-sequence L352A mutant were
35 fixed and immunostained with the ABCG2-specific BXP-21 antibody, and nuclei were
36 counterstained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) (**C**) .
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54 **Fig. 4.** Mutation-induced alterations of ABCG2-mediated drug-efflux activity. HEK293
55 cells expressing wild-type ABCG2, the different C2-sequence mutants or the R₄₈₂G
56 gain-of-function mutant were incubated with 20 μ M mitoxantrone with (blue line) or
57 without (red line) 10 μ M fumitremorgin C (FTC) as a specific inhibitor, to generate the
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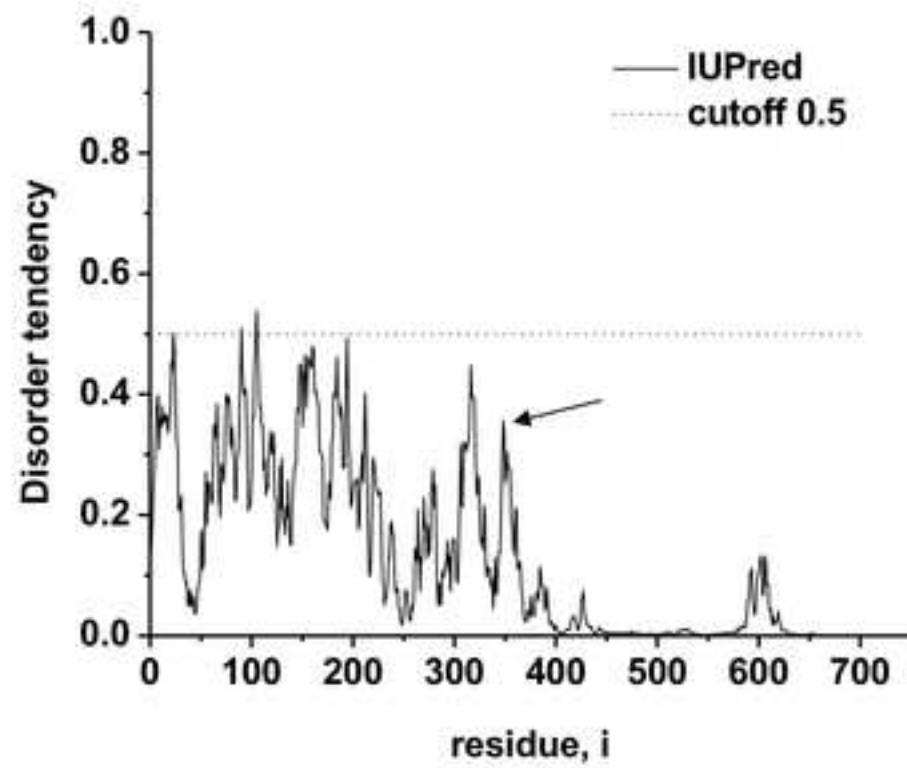
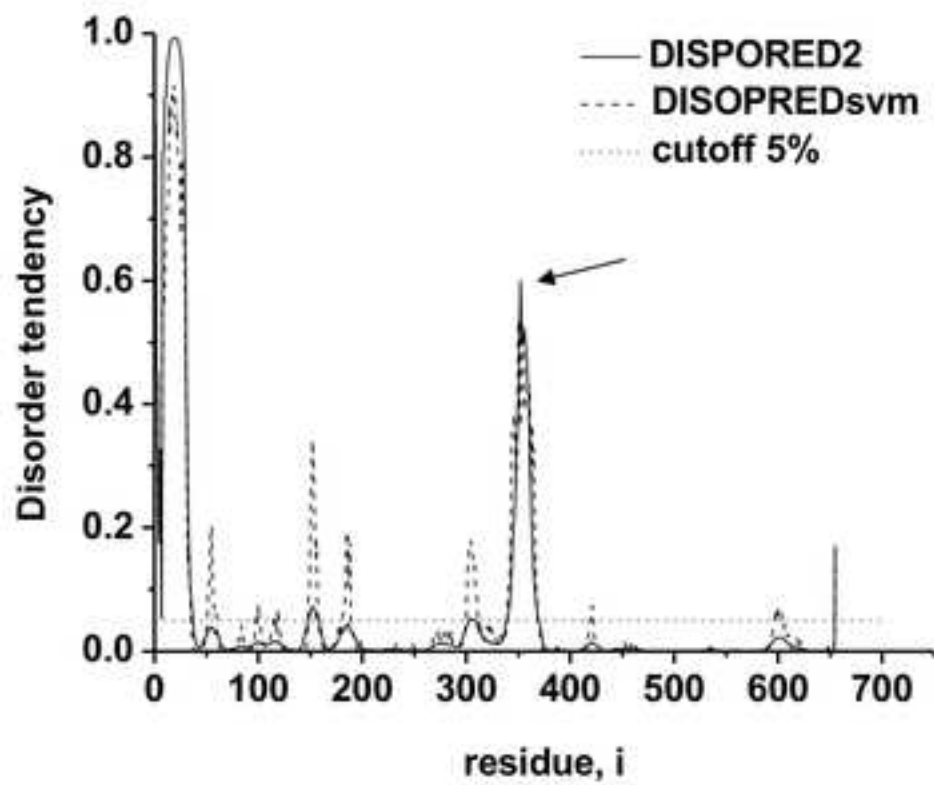
histograms **(A)**. The efflux was quantified by difference between the two histograms either without further corrections **(B)** or by taking into account the exact plasma membrane ABCG2 content determined in Fig. 3B **(C)**.

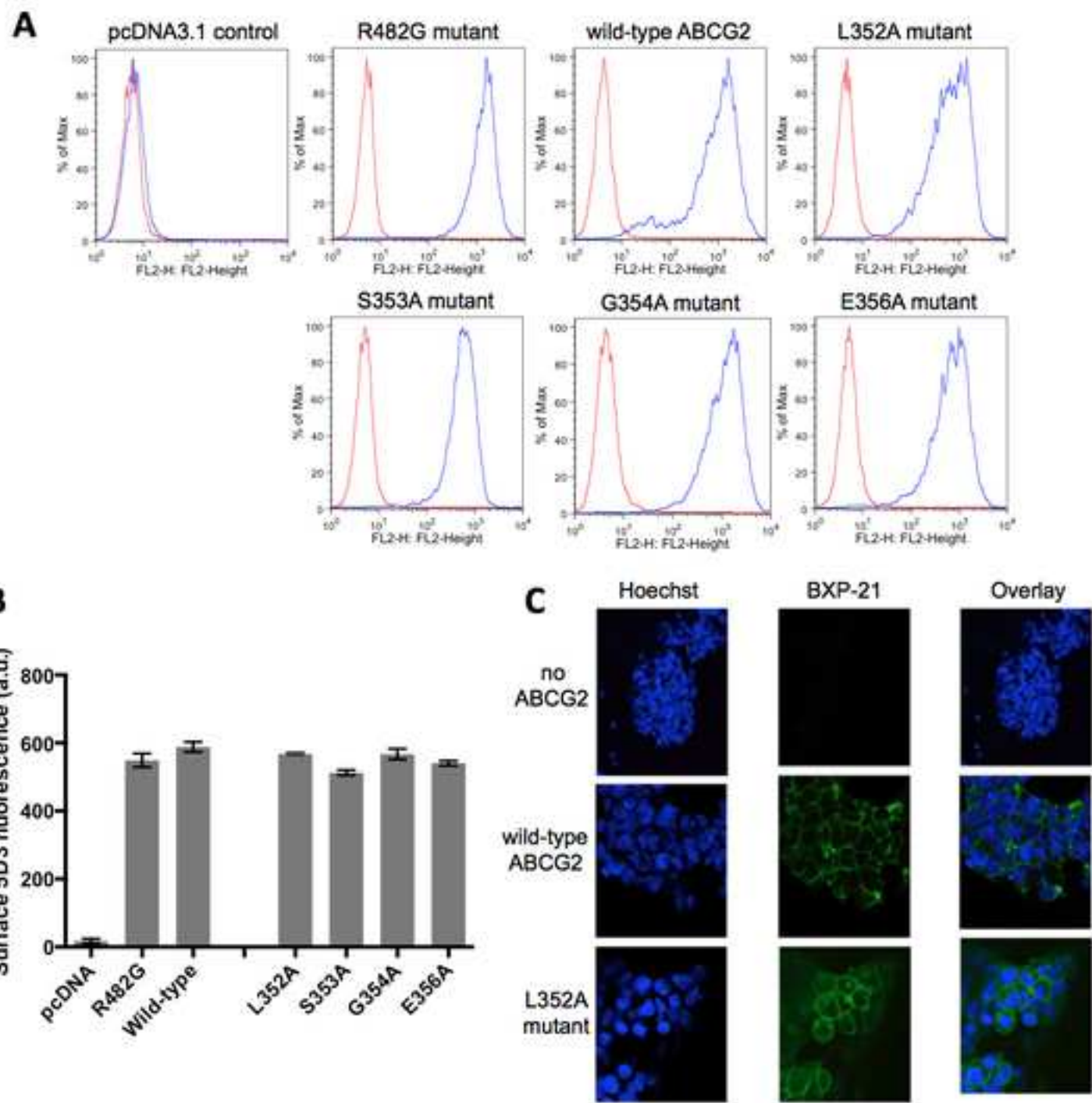
Fig. 5. Mutation-induced sensitization to mitoxantrone toxicity of the growth of multidrug-resistant cells. The different sensitivities to mitoxantrone of transfected HEK293 cells with stable expression of wild-type ABCG2 (in green) or the control pcDNA3.1 empty vector (in magenta) were compared to that of ABCG2 mutants (in black) with the following point mutations: L352A **(A)**, S353A **(B)**, G354A **(C)** or E356A **(D)**. The cells were cultured on monolayer at day 0, and increasing concentrations of mitoxantrone were added to cells at day 1 until day 5; they were stained with MTT, and the absorbance read at 570 nm. Data points represent mean values \pm SD (n = 3).

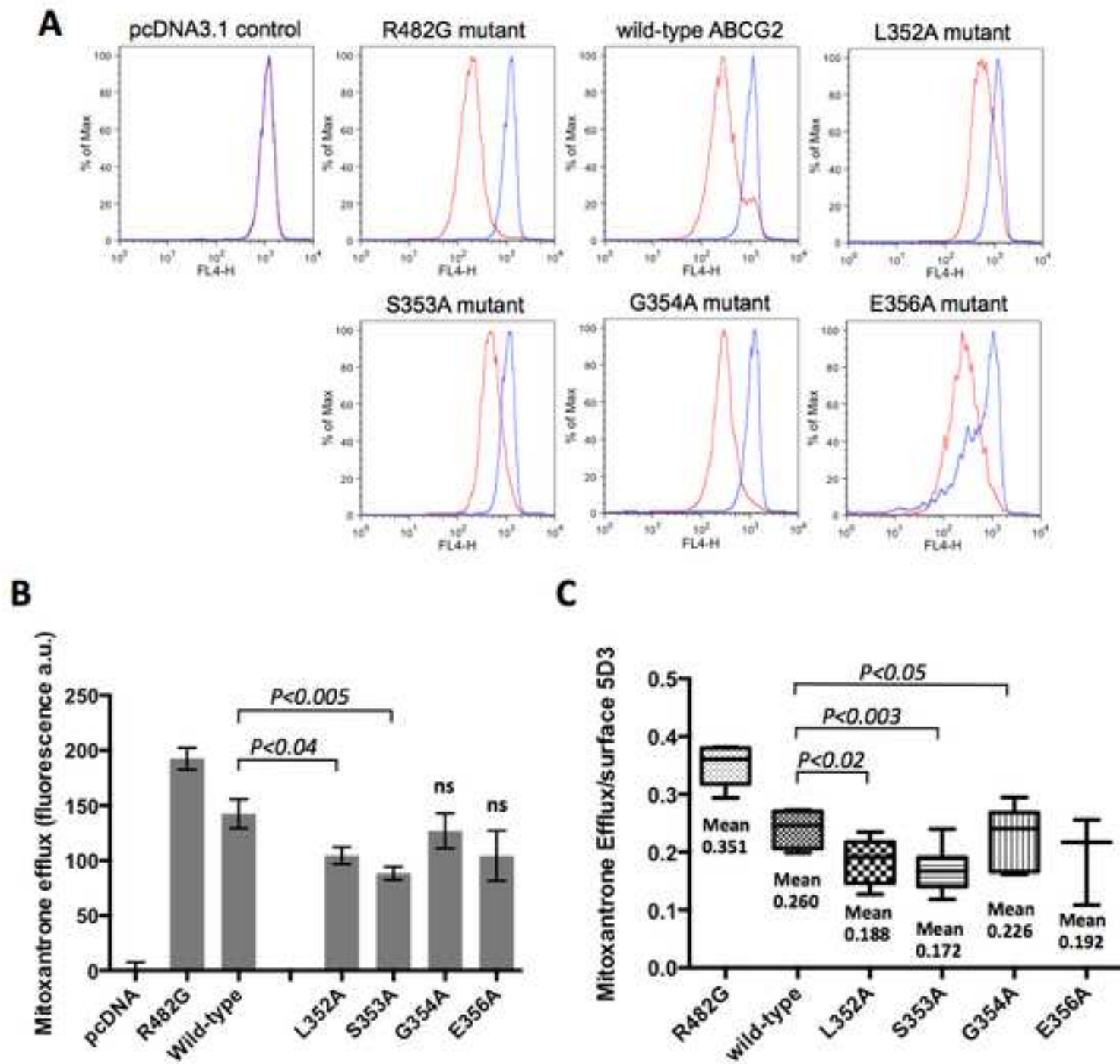
Fig. 6. Differential mutation-induced alterations of basal **(A)** and substrate-stimulated **(B)** ATPase activity of ABCG2. **(A)** Crude membranes from transfected HEK293 cells expressing wild-type ABCG2, or the L352A, S353A or E356A mutant were incubated in the presence or absence of beryllium-fluoride (0.2 mM beryllium sulfate and 2.5 mM sodium fluoride) in ATPase assay buffer with increasing ATP concentrations in the absence of substrate drug. **(B)** The drug-stimulated activity was measured at 5 mM ATP upon addition of 0.25 μ M nilotinib (grey bars) in comparison to the basal activity without substrate addition (black bars). The results are expressed as mean values \pm standard deviations from three independent experiments.

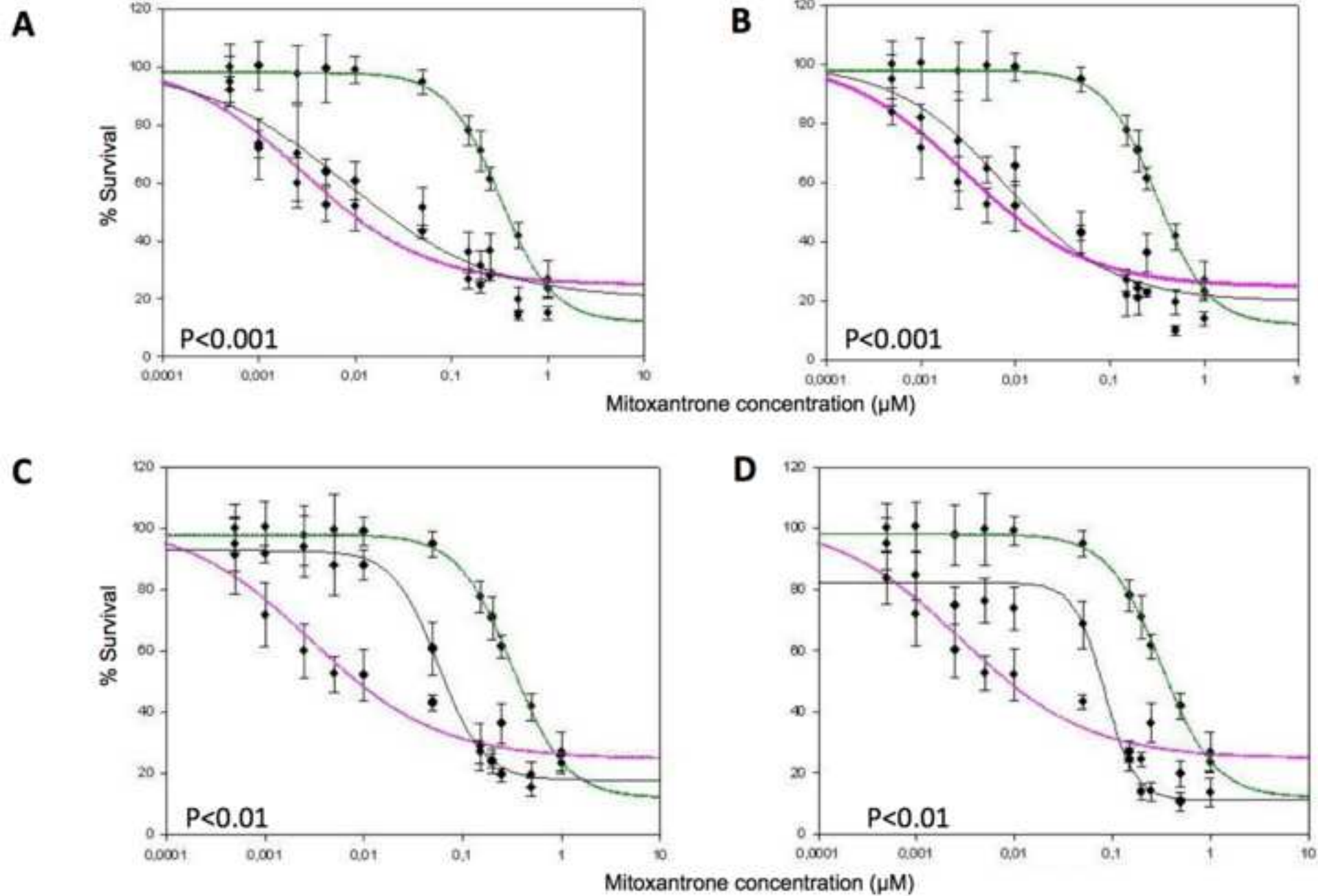
Fig. 7. Mutation-induced alterations of ABCG2 interaction with different types of inhibitors. The efflux of mitoxantrone by HEK293 cells expressing either wild-type

1 ABCG2 (circles) or the S353A mutant (triangles) was measured by flow cytometry as
2 in Fig. 4. Its inhibition by increasing concentrations of Ko143 (**A**), chromone 1 (**B**) or
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4 nilotinib (**C**) was plotted as indicated.
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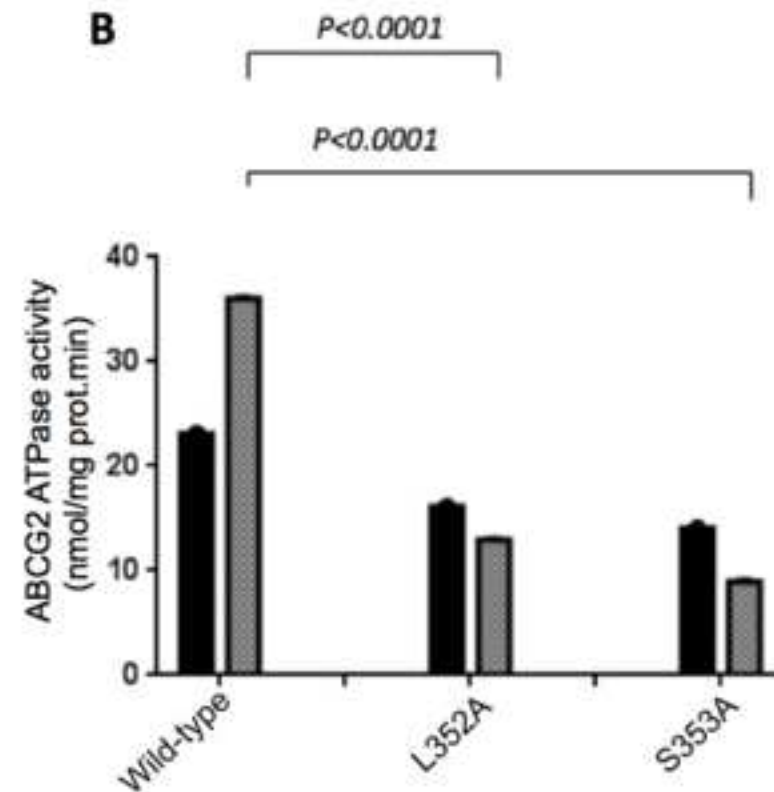


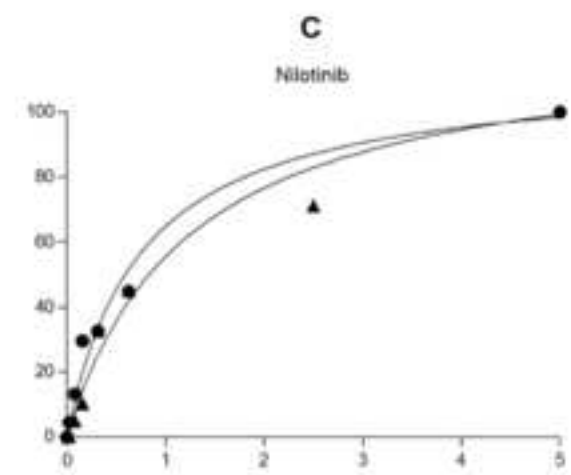
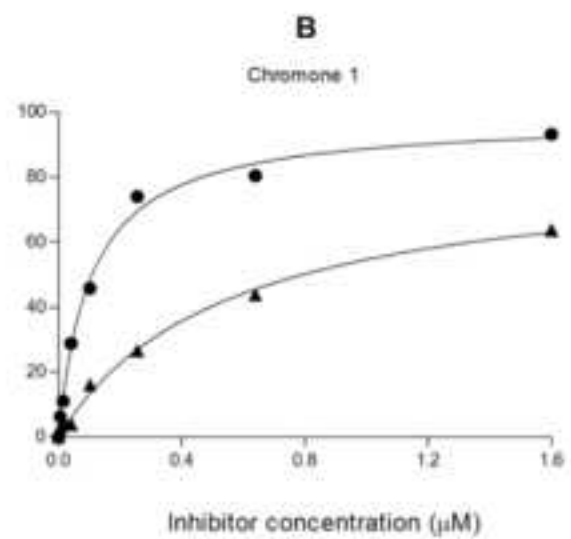
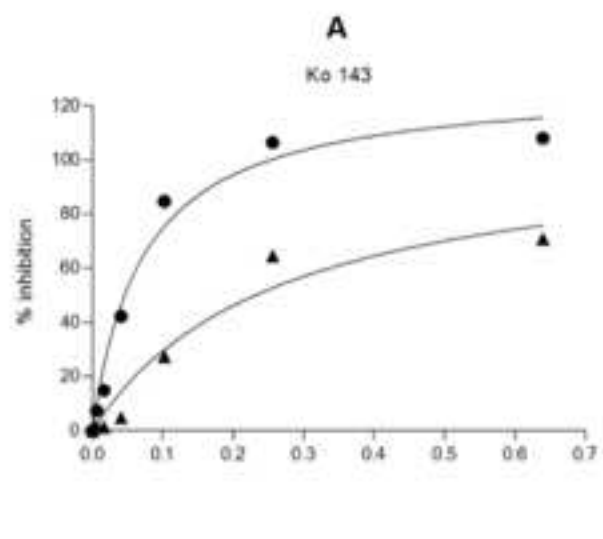




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	Wild-type ABCG2	L352A mutant	S353A mutant	E356A mutant
V_{max} (nmol Pi/ mg protein.min)	14.6	11.3	10.2	11.1
K_m ATP (mM)	0.45	0.15	0.06	0.46

B





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