



Revascularization of Chronic Hibernating Myocardium Stimulates Myocyte Proliferation and Partially Reverses Chronic Adaptations to Ischemia

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND The time course and extent of recovery after revascularization of viable dysfunctional myocardium are variable. Although fibrosis is a major determinant, myocyte structural and molecular remodeling may also play important roles.

OBJECTIVES This study sought to determine whether persistent myocyte loss and/or irreversibility of protein changes that develop in hibernating myocardium have an impact on functional recovery in the absence of infarction.

METHODS Swine implanted with a chronic left anterior descending artery (LAD) stenosis to produce hibernating myocardium underwent percutaneous revascularization, with serial functional recovery evaluated for 1 month (n = 12). Myocardial tissue was evaluated to assess myocyte size, nuclear density, and proliferation indexes in comparison with those of normal animals and nonrevascularized controls. Proteomic analysis by 2-dimensional differential in-gel electrophoresis was used to determine the reversibility of molecular adaptations of hibernating myocytes.

RESULTS At 3 months, physiological features of hibernating myocardium were confirmed, with depressed LAD wall thickening and no significant infarction. Revascularization normalized LAD flow reserve, with no immediate change in LAD wall thickening. Regional LAD wall thickening slowly improved but remained depressed 1 month post-percutaneous coronary intervention. Surprisingly, revascularization was associated with histological evidence of myocytes re-entering the growth phase of the cell cycle and increases in the number of c-Kit⁺ cells. Myocyte nuclear density returned to normal, whereas regional myocyte hypertrophy regressed. Proteomic analysis demonstrated heterogeneous effects of revascularization. Up-regulated stress and cytoskeletal proteins normalized, whereas reduced contractile and metabolic proteins persisted.

CONCLUSIONS Delayed recovery of hibernating myocardium in the absence of scar may reflect persistent reductions in the amounts of contractile and metabolic proteins. Although revascularization appeared to stimulate myocyte proliferation, the persistence of small immature myocytes may have contributed to delayed functional recovery. (J Am Coll Cardiol 2015;65:684-97) © 2015 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation.

Hibernating myocardium is characterized by viable, dysfunctional myocardium that develops as an adaptive response to chronic repetitive ischemia from a flow-limiting stenosis.

It arises from a severe impairment in coronary flow reserve (1,2), which leads to myocyte apoptosis with regional myocyte loss, compensatory cellular hypertrophy (3), reduced myocardial oxygen consumption

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(4), regional down-regulation of enzymes involved in oxidative metabolism, and up-regulation of stress proteins that allow the heart to adapt and prevent infarction (5). In some patients, these adaptations are incomplete, and progressive fibrosis and myocyte loss develops. In others, these adaptations ultimately minimize stress-induced ischemia, which prevents further myocyte death, but at the expense of chronic regional contractile dysfunction.

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Although contractile dysfunction in hibernating myocardium can improve after revascularization, complete recovery is infrequent (<25% of patients) (6,7), and 1 in 4 dysfunctional segments without fibrosis (determined by magnetic resonance imaging) fail to improve (8). The time course of functional recovery is also variable. Different studies have demonstrated rapid recovery (9), recovery within several weeks (10-12), and delayed improvement requiring 1 year (13-15). This protracted course contrasts with the complete normalization of function within hours or days following acute stunning and short-term hibernation (16). The roles of myocyte loss (3) and myocardial protein changes (5,17) in the delayed response to revascularization are unclear.

We performed percutaneous revascularization of swine with chronic hibernating myocardium to determine the initial time course of functional recovery and the cellular mechanisms contributing to persistent dysfunction in the absence of scar. We demonstrated that revascularization of hibernating myocardium stimulated myocyte proliferation (Central Illustration). Nevertheless, functional improvement was delayed and incomplete, with persistent reductions in metabolic and contractile proteins 1 month after revascularization.

METHODS

Experimental procedures and protocols conformed to institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals in research and were approved by the University at Buffalo Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

CORONARY ARTERY INSTRUMENTATION.

Juvenile farm-bred pigs (8 to 10 kg) were chronically implanted with a left anterior descending artery (LAD) stenosis to produce hibernating myocardium using a modification of previously published techniques (1). Fasted pigs pre-medicated with tiletamine 50 mg/ml and zolazepam 50 mg/ml (tiletamine)/ketamine 100 mg/ml (0.037 ml/kg intramuscular [IM]), cefazolin 0.5 g intravenous (IV), and gentamicin 40 mg IV were intubated and anesthetized with isoflurane (1% to 2%). A thoracotomy was performed in the fourth left intercostal space. The proximal LAD was implanted with a short piece of expandable 1.5-mm internal diameter silicone tubing with a longitudinal slit for vessel insertion (18). It was secured with circumferential sutures that could be expanded using standard angioplasty balloon inflation pressures. The chest was closed, intercostal nerves were infiltrated with 2% lidocaine, and the pneumothorax was evacuated. Post-operative antibiotics and analgesics (butorphanol 0.025 mg/kg) were administered as needed for pain.

SERIAL PHYSIOLOGICAL STUDIES AND PERCUTANEOUS INTERVENTION.

Pigs with hibernating myocardium undergoing revascularization (n = 12) were compared with nonrevascularized animals (n = 12) and normal sham controls that underwent stent insertion (n = 10). Animals underwent baseline physiological studies at approximately 3 months post-instrumentation in the closed-chest sedated state (tiletamine/zolazepam/

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- CSC** = cardiac stem cell
- LAD** = left anterior descending artery
- LADΔWT** = LAD wall thickening (end-systolic – end-diastolic wall thickness)
- LV** = left ventricular
- PCI** = percutaneous coronary intervention

TABLE 1 Hemodynamics in Revascularized and Nonrevascularized Animals With Hibernating Myocardium

	Heart Rate, beats/min	LV Systolic Pressure, mm Hg	LVEDP, mm Hg	LV dP/dt _{Max} , mm Hg/s	LV dP/dt _{Min} , mm Hg/s	Regional Wall Thickening				
						WT, %		ΔWT, mm		
						LAD	Remote	LAD	Remote	
Revascularized										
Baseline	108 ± 4	108 ± 14	28 ± 3	2,549 ± 165	-2,467 ± 148	38.6 ± 4.0‡	92.2 ± 7.5	2.9 ± 0.3‡	5.8 ± 0.3	
2 h post-PCI	105 ± 6	113 ± 6	30 ± 3	1,988 ± 89*	-2,247 ± 125	35.2 ± 4.6‡	86.6 ± 7.2	2.9 ± 0.4‡	5.7 ± 0.4	
1 Month post-PCI	101 ± 2	128 ± 5	28 ± 3	2,439 ± 136†	-2,514 ± 96	58.6 ± 4.9*‡	86.9 ± 6.9	4.6 ± 0.4*‡	6.3 ± 0.3	
Nonrevascularized										
Baseline	107 ± 5	121 ± 4	23 ± 2	2,284 ± 168	-2,225 ± 154	34.0 ± 2.1‡	80.6 ± 8.4	3.5 ± 0.3‡	6.1 ± 0.4	
1 Month	103 ± 5	120 ± 4	23 ± 2	2,073 ± 69	-2,184 ± 139	26.5 ± 3.2‡	76.9 ± 5.4	2.8 ± 0.3‡	7.2 ± 0.5	

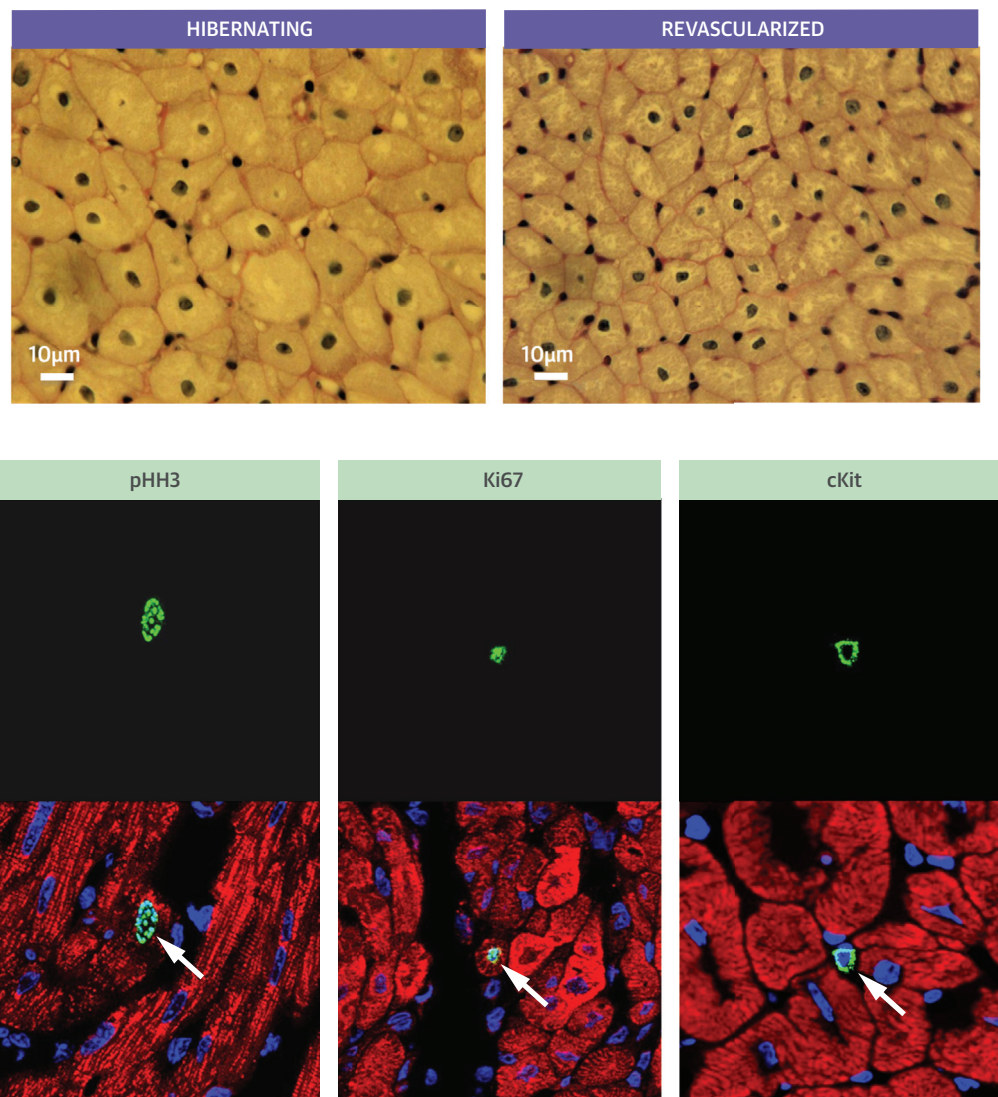
Values are mean ± SEM. Baseline measurements were made 3 months after surgical placement of a LAD stenosis. *p < 0.05 versus baseline. †p < 0.05 versus 2 h post-PCI. ‡p < 0.05 LAD versus remote. LAD = left anterior descending artery; LV = left ventricular; LVEDP = left ventricular end-diastolic pressure; PCI = percutaneous coronary intervention; WT = wall thickening.

xylazine IM and propofol 2 to 5 mg/kg/min IV). Coronary angiography was performed with a 5-F multipurpose catheter and nonionic contrast to quantify stenosis severity and angiographic collaterals. Myocardial perfusion was measured using fluorescent microspheres at rest and after adenosine vasodilation (0.9 mg/kg/min, with coinfusion of phenylephrine to prevent hypotension) (19). Regional function was

measured using off-axis M-mode echocardiography (Vivid 7, GE Healthcare, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, United Kingdom) (19).

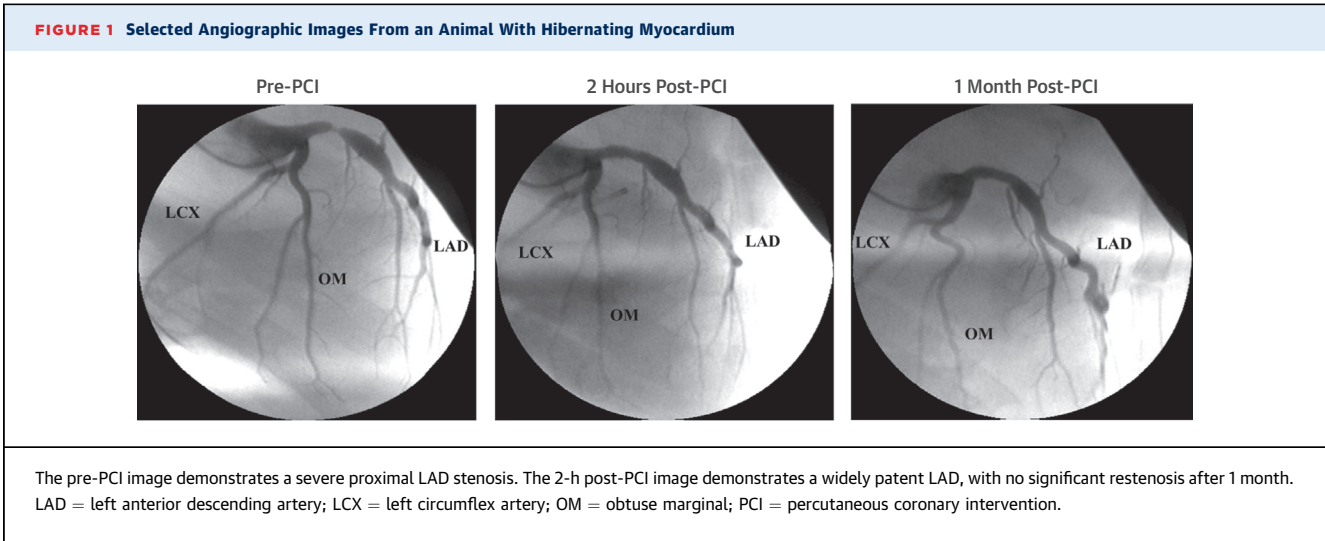
Percutaneous intervention (PCI) was performed 89 ± 3 days after placement of the LAD stenosis. Five days before the procedure, animals undergoing PCI were pre-treated with clopidogrel (300 mg orally), followed by daily aspirin (325 mg) and clopidogrel

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Revascularization of Hibernating Myocardium



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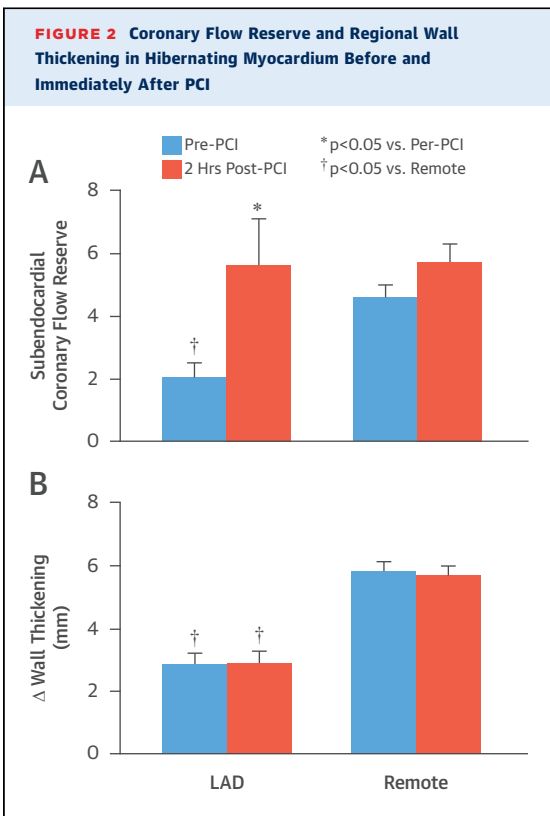
Delay in the functional recovery of hibernating myocardium is partly related to stimulating new myocyte formation with myocyte cellular hypertrophy replaced by small new myocytes (**upper panels**). Immunohistochemistry in the **lower panels** shows that revascularization increases the number of proliferating myocytes (pHH3 and Ki-67 stains), as well as c-Kit⁺ cardiac stem cells. pHH3 = phospho-histone H3.



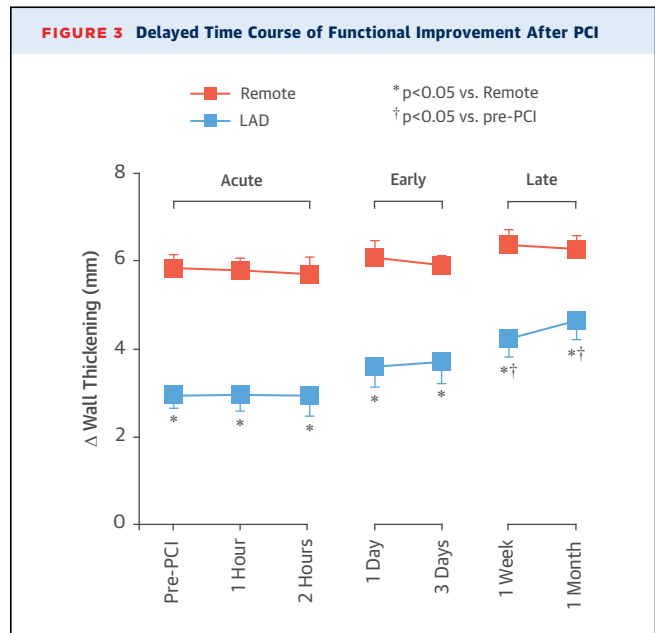
(75 mg). After heparin (5,000 U IV), a 6-F guiding catheter was inserted and a 0.014-inch guide wire advanced into the LAD. If total LAD occlusion was present, pre-dilation was performed with a

low-profile balloon. Subsequently, percutaneous revascularization was performed with a bare-metal stent (Multi-Link Zeta, Abbott Vascular, Santa Clara, California) placed in most animals (n = 9) to prevent recoil of the Silastic stenosis.

Flow and function were reassessed 2 h after revascularization. To define the time course of functional recovery, animals were brought back for serial echocardiography at 1 day, 3 days, 1 week, and 1 month.



LAD subendocardial flow reserve (A) and wall thickening (B) were reduced in hibernating myocardium (pre-PCI). Flow reserve normalized 2 h later (post-PCI), but LAD wall thickening remained depressed. Abbreviations as in Figure 1.



Regional wall thickening was reduced at rest (pre-PCI). There was no immediate effect of revascularization, but a delayed improvement in function became evident after 1 week. No further functional improvement occurred at 1 month, and LAD wall thickening remained depressed. Abbreviations as in Figure 1.

TABLE 2 Proteomic Profiling in Swine With Hibernating Myocardium With and Without Revascularization*

Protein Name	n	Average Ratio	
		Hibernating LAD/Sham	Revascularized LAD/Sham
Citric acid cycle proteins			
Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 alpha subunit	12	0.68†	0.74
Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 beta subunit	12	0.60†	0.77‡
Dihydropyruvate acetyltransferase (PDH E2)	12	0.74†	0.85‡
Dihydropyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH E3)	12	0.86	0.87
Dihydropyruvate dehydrogenase (PDH E3)	12	0.77†	0.79
Aconitase	10	1.28†	1.05‡
Aconitase	12	1.06	1.05
Aconitase	12	0.86	0.98
Aconitase	9	0.95	0.81
Aconitase	11	1.00	1.18
NAD ⁺ isocitrate dehydrogenase (alpha subunit)	12	0.69†	0.75†
NAD ⁺ isocitrate dehydrogenase (alpha subunit)	12	0.72†	0.83‡
Dihydropyruvate succinyltransferase	12	0.87	0.96
Dihydropyruvate succinyltransferase	11	0.97	1.02
Malate dehydrogenase (mitochondrial)	11	0.77	0.91‡
Malate dehydrogenase (mitochondrial)	9	0.85	0.91
Malate dehydrogenase (mitochondrial)	12	0.84	0.91
Electron transport chain and ATP synthesis proteins			
NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) 75-kDa subunit	12	0.86	0.84
NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) 75-kDa subunit	11	0.72	0.76
NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) 51-kDa subunit	12	0.82	0.89
NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) 51-kDa subunit	12	0.67†	0.79‡
NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) 30-kDa subunit	10	0.61†	0.62†
NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) 24-kDa subunit	11	0.78	0.88
Flavoprotein subunit of complex II	12	0.58†	0.74‡
Cytochrome Bc1 core protein I (complex III)	12	0.69†	0.95‡
ATP synthase F1 alpha chain	7	0.87	1.00
ATP synthase F1 alpha chain	7	0.91	0.94
ATP synthase F1 alpha chain	12	0.86	0.89
ATP synthase F1 alpha chain	12	0.71†	0.81
ATP synthase F1 beta chain	12	1.20	0.91‡
ATP synthase F1 beta chain	12	0.84	0.77†
Fatty acid oxidation proteins			
Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase	12	0.88	0.80
Long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase	12	0.84	0.81‡
Other mitochondrial matrix proteins			
60-kDa heat shock protein, mitochondrial	12	0.95	0.94
Aspartate aminotransferase, mitochondrial	8	1.07	1.05
Creatine kinase, mitochondrial	6	1.01	0.96
Creatine kinase, mitochondrial	12	0.80	0.78
Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase	12	0.78	0.82
Mitochondrial stress 70 protein (GRP75)	12	0.92	0.98
NADP ⁺ isocitrate dehydrogenase (47-kDa subunit)	11	0.58†	0.77‡
NADP ⁺ isocitrate dehydrogenase (47-kDa subunit)	11	0.62	0.76‡
Succinyl-CoA 3-ketoacid-CoA transferase 1	12	0.69†	0.78†
Translation elongation factor EF-Tu	12	0.76†	0.84
Other mitochondrial membrane proteins			
Mitofilin	10	1.07	1.23
Mitofilin	12	0.78†	0.95
Prohibitin	3	0.83	0.95
Voltage-dependent anion channel 2	12	0.70†	0.96‡
Voltage-dependent anion channel 1	8	0.85	0.93
Voltage-dependent anion channel 1	12	0.87	0.97

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Angiography and flow measurements were repeated at 1 month, after which animals were euthanized under general anesthesia 72 h later. Hearts were stained with triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC) to exclude infarction, and samples were obtained for histology.

PROTEOMIC PROFILING. Samples for proteomics taken from the LAD subendocardium were immediately flash-frozen at -80°C . We used 2-dimensional differential in-gel electrophoresis (2D-DIGE) to assess protein expression, using published techniques (5,17), as described in the Online Appendix. Total protein extracted from hibernating swine that were revascularized ($n = 12$) and nonrevascularized ($n = 12$) were compared with a pooled sham control sample (5). Samples were labeled with CyDye DIGE fluor, run on 2D gels, scanned, and imported into DeCyder version 6.5 software (GE Healthcare) for gel matching and analysis. Spot identification was performed by in-gel trypsin digestion, matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (Mascot search engine), and liquid chromatography (LC)/mass spectrometry (MS) (Bioworks software and SEQUEST). A heat map was created to compare proteins identified as dysregulated in hibernating myocardium in animals with and without revascularization (R package version 2.13.0 [20]). Selected enzyme activities were assayed as described (5).

MYOCYTE NUCLEAR DENSITY AND MORPHOMETRY. Myocyte nuclear density was quantified using hematoxylin and eosin-stained sections (3). Periodic acid-Schiff-stained sections were used to quantify myocyte diameter (100 longitudinal myocytes per region) in revascularized ($n = 12$), nonrevascularized ($n = 8$), and sham normal ($n = 6$) samples (19). Myocytes were included regardless of size, as long as myofilaments could be identified surrounding the nucleus.

IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL ASSESSMENT OF MYOCYTE PROLIFERATION. Paraffin-fixed tissue sections (approximately $4\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ thickness) were incubated with anti-Ki-67 (mouse monoclonal antibody, clone MIB-1, 1:200, Dako, Carpinteria, California) or anti-phosphohistone-H3 (rabbit polyclonal antibody, 1:1,000, Upstate Biotech, Lake Placid, New York) and costained with anti-cTnI (rabbit polyclonal antibody, 1:200, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, Texas) to confirm colocalization in myocytes (19,21). Myocardial c-Kit⁺/CD45⁻ cells (both antibodies 1:200 dilution, AbD-Serotec, Raleigh, North Carolina) and c-Kit⁺/GATA4⁺ cells (1:200 dilution, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) were

quantified in frozen sections (19,21), post-treated with fluorescein isothiocyanate-conjugated anti-mouse and TexasRed-conjugated anti-rabbit antibodies (Dako). Nuclei were stained with TO-PRO-3 (Life Technologies, Grand Island, New York) or 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (Vectashield, Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, California). Image acquisition was performed with a confocal microscope (MRC 1024, Bio-Rad, Hercules, California) and an ApoTome-equipped AxioImager (Zeiss, Thornwood, New York). Results represent means of 363 ± 25 fields ($57 \pm 4 \text{ mm}^2$).

STATISTICS. Data are expressed as mean \pm SEM (SigmaStat 3.0, SPSS, Systat Software Inc., San Jose, California). Within-group comparisons over time and comparisons between hibernating and normally perfused remote regions were assessed using paired Student *t* tests. Between-group differences were assessed using a 2-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the post-hoc Holm-Sidak test. An unpaired Student *t* test was used for statistical analysis of proteomics data, and a 1-way ANOVA was used for analysis of enzyme activity data.

RESULTS

TEMPORAL FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT AFTER REVASCULARIZATION. Serial angiographic images from an animal with hibernating myocardium are displayed in Figure 1. Revascularized and non-revascularized animals exhibited slight differences in stenosis severity ($93\% \pm 2\%$ vs. $99\% \pm 1\%$; $p < 0.05$) but similar reductions in subendocardial LAD flow reserve (2.0 ± 0.5 vs. 2.1 ± 1.3 ; $p = 0.93$) and LAD wall thickening (LAD Δ WT) ($2.9 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm}$ vs. $3.5 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm}$; $p = 0.17$). Restenosis 1 month after PCI was insignificant ($23\% \pm 5\%$). TTC staining showed $<1\%$ infarction, and LAD connective tissue was similar ($9.8 \pm 1.3\%$ vs. $7.9 \pm 0.9\%$ after PCI; $p = 0.28$).

Hemodynamics and measurements of regional wall thickening are summarized in Table 1. Indexes of global function were normal at all time points and are summarized in Online Table 1. Despite immediate normalization of LAD flow reserve (Figure 2), wall thickening initially remained unchanged (LAD Δ WT 2.9 ± 0.4 vs. $2.9 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm}$; $p = 0.77$). Regional LAD function gradually increased in the first week following revascularization and became significant after 1 week (LAD Δ WT 2.9 ± 0.3 to $4.2 \pm 0.4 \text{ mm}$; $p < 0.05$) (Figure 3). There was little additional improvement thereafter and, despite complete revascularization, LAD dysfunction persisted at 1 month (LAD Δ WT 4.6 ± 0.4 vs. $6.3 \pm 0.3 \text{ mm}$ in remote; $p < 0.05$).

TABLE 2 Continued

Protein Name	n	Average Ratio	
		Hibernating LAD/Sham	Revascularized LAD/Sham
Glycolytic proteins			
Fructose biphosphate aldolase A	7	0.61	0.78
Fructose biphosphate aldolase A	11	0.67	0.87‡
Triosephosphate isomerase	12	0.67†	0.73†
Triosephosphate isomerase	12	0.99	0.83‡†
GAPDH	11	1.58	1.19‡
GAPDH	12	1.27	0.93‡
GAPDH	12	0.96	0.77‡
GAPDH	8	1.05	0.87‡
Phosphoglycerate kinase 1	6	0.67†	0.90‡
Phosphoglycerate mutase 2 M isozyme	12	0.70†	0.71†
Enolase 3	12	0.94	0.90
<i>Alpha enolase</i>	11	0.98	1.09
Beta enolase	12	0.84	0.86
Muscle specific phosphopyruvate hydratase (enolase)	12	0.81†	0.77†
Pyruvate kinase	12	0.66†	0.86
Anaerobic metabolism proteins			
L-lactate dehydrogenase B chain	6	0.64†	0.68†
L-lactate dehydrogenase B chain	12	0.68†	0.89‡
Contractile proteins			
Actin, alpha-cardiac	12	0.83	0.89
Actin, alpha-cardiac	12	1.20	1.01‡
Actin, alpha-cardiac	3	0.80	0.71
Actin, alpha-cardiac	11	1.03	0.86
Actin, alpha-cardiac	12	0.65†	0.86‡
Actin, alpha-cardiac	11	0.45†	0.57‡†
Actin, alpha-cardiac	8	0.58†	0.78‡
Actin, alpha-cardiac	10	0.92	0.77‡†
Myosin heavy chain alpha (cardiac)	11	0.99	0.92
Myosin heavy chain alpha (cardiac)	10	0.66†	1.29
Myosin heavy chain beta	8	0.69	0.95
Myosin heavy chain beta	6	0.77	0.88
Myosin heavy chain beta	6	0.92	1.08
Myosin heavy chain beta	3	1.20	0.84
Myosin heavy chain beta	12	0.94	0.95
Myosin heavy chain beta	9	0.87	1.36
Myosin heavy chain beta	4	1.46	1.11
Myosin heavy chain beta	3	1.14	1.05
Myosin heavy chain beta	9	1.23	1.07
Myosin light chain 3	11	0.65†	0.71†
Myosin light chain 3	11	0.60†	0.67†
Myosin light chain 3	11	0.83†	0.74†
Troponin T, cardiac	6	0.69	0.86‡
Troponin T, cardiac	12	0.70†	0.74†
Troponin T (cardiac isoform type 2)	12	0.67†	0.71†
Troponin T, cardiac	12	0.73†	0.60*‡
<i>Troponin T cardiac</i>	12	0.74†	0.64*‡
Tropomyosin alpha chain	11	0.82	0.81
Tropomyosin beta chain	12	0.61†	0.63†

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THE EFFECTS OF REVASCULARIZATION ON THE HIBERNATING MYOCARDIUM PROTEOME. Table 2 summarizes the effects of revascularization on proteomic adaptations in hibernating myocardium

TABLE 2 Continued

Protein Name	n	Average Ratio	
		Hibernating LAD/Sham	Revascularized LAD/Sham
Structural/cytoskeletal proteins			
Actin-interacting protein	12	0.79	0.97‡
Desmin	12	1.23	1.21
Desmin	11	1.14	0.87‡
Desmin	12	1.34†	0.90‡
Desmin	10	0.85	1.44
<i>Desmin</i>	12	1.37†	0.93‡
Gelsolin precursor	11	1.42	1.21
<i>Vimentin</i>	12	1.54†	1.10‡
Vinculin	12	1.14	1.09
Stress proteins			
<i>Alpha,beta crystalline</i>	12	1.50†	0.90‡
AlphaB crystalline	12	0.90	0.70†‡
Annexin 2	5	1.24	1.29
Annexin 2	12	1.05	1.04
GRP78	12	1.29	0.99‡
GRP78	12	1.22†	1.17
HSP70 (70-kDa protein 1)	12	1.11	0.99‡
HSP70 (70-kDa protein 1)	12	0.83	0.96‡
HSP60	12	0.95	0.94
HSP27	12	1.39	0.99
HSP27	12	1.07	0.91
HSP27	4	1.07	0.85
<i>HSP20 beta-6</i>	12	1.69†	0.73†
T-complex protein 1 (chaperonin)	12	0.88	0.87
Antioxidant proteins			
Peroxiredoxin 2	12	0.90	0.87
Peroxiredoxin 6	12	0.73†	0.75†
Other cytoplasmic proteins			
Aconitase 1 (iron regulatory protein 1)	11	0.97	1.06
Aminoacylase 1	5	0.55†	0.68‡
Aspartate aminotransferase (cytoplasmic)	12	0.52†	0.64†
Creatine kinase, M chain (cytoplasmic)	11	0.84	0.69†‡
<i>Creatine kinase, M chain (cytoplasmic)</i>	12	0.73†	0.71†
Creatine kinase, M chain (cytoplasmic)	12	0.56†	0.65†
Cytosolic aminopeptidase	12	1.00	0.97
Dihydropyrimidinase-related protein 2	12	0.87†	0.83†
Malate dehydrogenase (cytoplasmic)	12	0.64†	0.69†
<i>Myoglobin</i>	8	0.62	0.61
Myoglobin	10	0.43†	0.36†
Transitional endoplasmic reticulum ATPase	11	0.99	1.04
Endoplasmic reticulum proteins			
Protein disulfide isomerase A3	12	1.04	1.06

**Italicized* proteins are depicted in [Figure 5](#). †p < 0.05 versus sham. ‡p < 0.05 versus hibernating. Abbreviation as in [Table 1](#).

(5,17,22), and proteins correlating with increases in flow and function after revascularization are summarized in the heat map ([Figure 4](#)). [Figure 5](#) summarizes average changes in selected proteins from each category (proteins italicized in [Table 2](#)). In general, reductions in the levels of contractile proteins and

metabolic enzymes persisted after revascularization. NADH dehydrogenase (42- and 30-kDa subunits), ATP synthase (F1 alpha and beta chains), pyruvate dehydrogenase (E1 alpha, dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase), and isocitrate dehydrogenase remained down-regulated, whereas the levels of long-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase decreased. The levels of the 51-kDa subunit of NADH dehydrogenase, flavo-protein subunit of complex II, cytochrome Bc1 core protein 1, pyruvate dehydrogenase (E1beta and E2), malate dehydrogenase, and medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase increased but did not completely normalize. Cytochrome c oxidase and citrate synthase activities, which were reduced in hibernating myocardium, corroborated the heterogeneous effects of revascularization on metabolic enzymes ([Figure 6](#)).

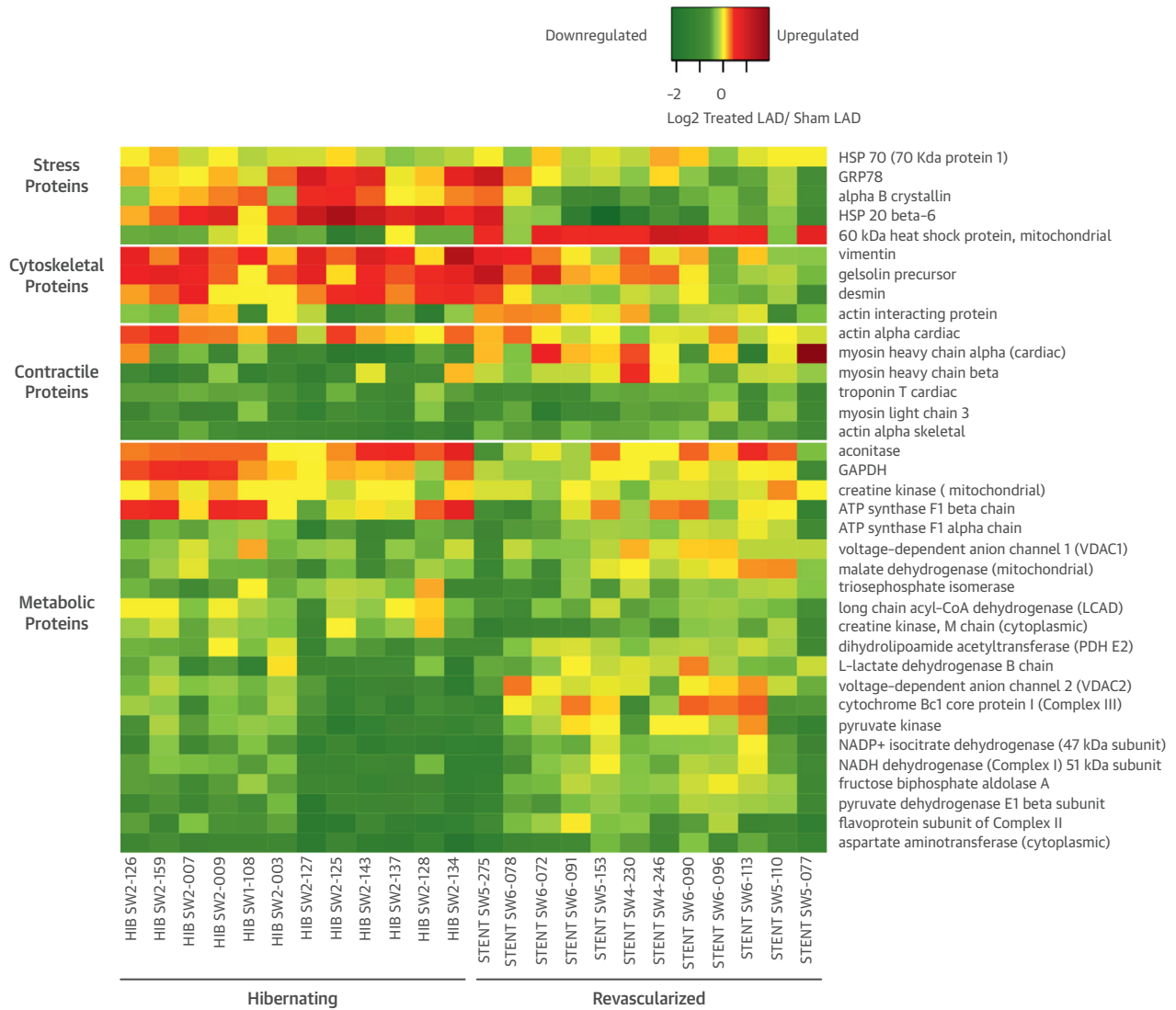
Despite variable effects of revascularization on metabolic enzymes, alleviation of repetitive ischemia by PCI normalized the levels of cytosolic stress and structural proteins ([Figures 4 and 5](#)). Stress proteins including alpha,beta-crystalline, GRP78, and HSP20, as well as structural proteins such as vimentin and desmin, were no longer up-regulated. Revascularization had limited effects on contractile proteins, with most levels that were reduced in hibernating myocardium remaining so after revascularization. This failure to reverse chronic reductions in contractile and metabolic protein levels may contribute to persistent dysfunction and delayed functional recovery of hibernating myocardium.

REVASCULARIZATION STIMULATES MYOCYTE PROLIFERATION IN HIBERNATING MYOCARDIUM.

We evaluated the effects of revascularization on myocyte number (nuclear density) and cell diameter ([Figure 7](#)). Nonrevascularized animals exhibited regionally reduced nuclear density and increased myocyte diameters, as we previously reported in hibernating myocardium (3). In contrast, we found a prominent increase in LAD nuclear density (998 ± 52 to 1,406 ± 103 myocyte nuclei/mm²; p < 0.05) 1 month after revascularization, with smaller-diameter cardiomyocytes (10.3 ± 0.3 μm vs. 15.7 ± 0.5 μm; p < 0.05). Despite these prominent changes, LAD end-diastolic wall thickness was unchanged after revascularization (7.8 ± 0.4 mm to 8.2 ± 0.6 mm; p = 0.63). The relative increase in end-diastolic wall thickness of 4.7 ± 4.1 % was similar to the 6.0 ± 2.4% change observed in non-revascularized animals (p = 0.28).

To explain the increased myocyte nuclear density, we evaluated the effects of revascularization on indexes of myocyte proliferation. The levels of Ki-67, a

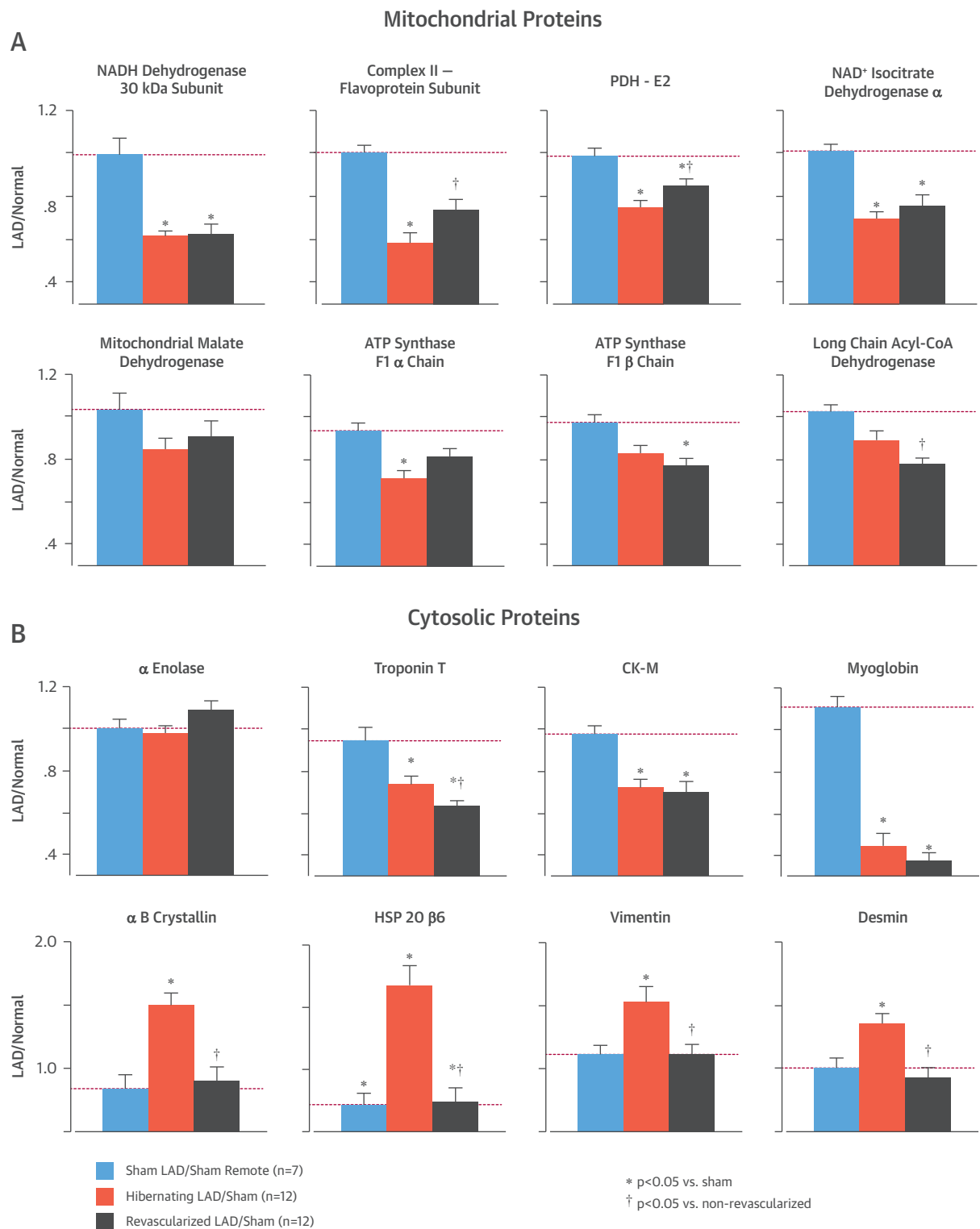
FIGURE 4 Heat Map Demonstrating Differential Expression of Proteins Correlating With Increased Flow and/or Function From Animals With Hibernating Myocardium



Following revascularization and the alleviation of ischemia, up-regulated (red) stress and cytoskeletal proteins and glycolytic enzymes generally normalized (yellow). In contrast, many metabolic and contractile protein levels remained depressed (green) 4 weeks after revascularization. Abbreviation as in Figure 1.

marker of cell cycling, and the mitotic marker, phospho-histone-H3 (pHH3), were no different in LAD myocytes from sham and nonrevascularized animals. In contrast, the levels of Ki-67 increased from 410 ± 82 to $2,109 \pm 400$ nuclei/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei after revascularization (Figure 8A). Likewise, myocyte pHH3 levels increased from 9 ± 5 to 350 ± 50 nuclei/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei (Figure 8B). Resident cardiac stem cells (LAD c-Kit⁺/CD45⁻ cells) (Figure 8C) were rare in shams (20 ± 11 cells/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei; n = 6), but

the levels tended to be higher in hibernating myocardium (178 ± 59 cells/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei; n = 7; p = 0.052), with significant increases 1 month after revascularization (401 ± 43 cells/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei; n = 6; p < 0.05). Progenitor cells committed to a cardiac lineage (c-Kit⁺/GATA4⁺) were not detected in shams but were present in hibernating myocardium (15 ± 10 cells/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei; p < 0.05 vs. sham) and 1 month after revascularization (43 ± 20 cells/ 10^6 myocyte nuclei; p < 0.05 vs. sham; p = 0.38 vs.

FIGURE 5 Summary of Selected Proteins From 2-Dimensional Differential In-Gel Electrophoresis

(A) Mitochondrial protein levels were reduced in animals with hibernating myocardium, with little improvement after revascularization. **(B)** Revascularization had heterogeneous effects on cytosolic proteins. Increases in the levels of stress and structural proteins tended to normalize after alleviation of ischemia. In contrast, contractile proteins such as troponin T remained persistently down-regulated 4 weeks after revascularization. LAD = left anterior descending artery.

hibernating myocardium). The increased proliferative indexes, reductions in myocyte size, and increased myocyte nuclear density collectively support the notion that revascularization stimulated new myocyte formation in hibernating myocardium.

DISCUSSION

Despite complete revascularization of chronic hibernating myocardium and the absence of scar, there was no immediate improvement in regional LAD wall thickening. Although it improved 1 week after revascularization, there was little subsequent improvement, and it remained depressed 1 month later. Tissue analysis at this time point demonstrated variable effects of revascularization on the proteome. Up-regulated stress and cytoskeletal proteins normalized, but reductions in the levels of contractile, metabolic, and mitochondrial proteins persisted. Unexpectedly, revascularization stimulated myocyte proliferation. These results suggest that the prolonged time course required for functional improvement in some patients with viable dysfunctional myocardium reflects heterogeneous effects of revascularization on the myocardial proteome, as well as the potentially time-dependent maturation of small, newly formed cardiomyocytes.

TIME COURSE OF FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY FOLLOWING REVASCULARIZATION. Patients with viable dysfunctional myocardium display considerable variability in the magnitude and time course of functional recovery after revascularization (13,14). This is in part due to variable degrees of fibrosis and subendocardial infarction, but even completely viable myocardium exhibits variability. This likely reflects the underlying mechanisms of dysfunction, which arise from reversible ischemia (acute stunning, chronic stunning, and chronic hibernating myocardium) (23). The spectrum of viable dysfunctional myocardium leads to heterogeneity in the extent of myocyte loss (3,24) and variability in chronic molecular adaptations induced in response to reversible ischemia (5,17). We previously demonstrated that similar degrees of chronic contractile dysfunction from a chronic stenosis result in variable degrees of myocyte loss and proteomic remodeling (17,24). These variations are related to physiological stenosis severity, with more profound abnormalities developing in hibernating myocardium where coronary flow reserve becomes critically impaired.

Our results in swine with chronic hibernating myocardium excluded infarction as a covariate and

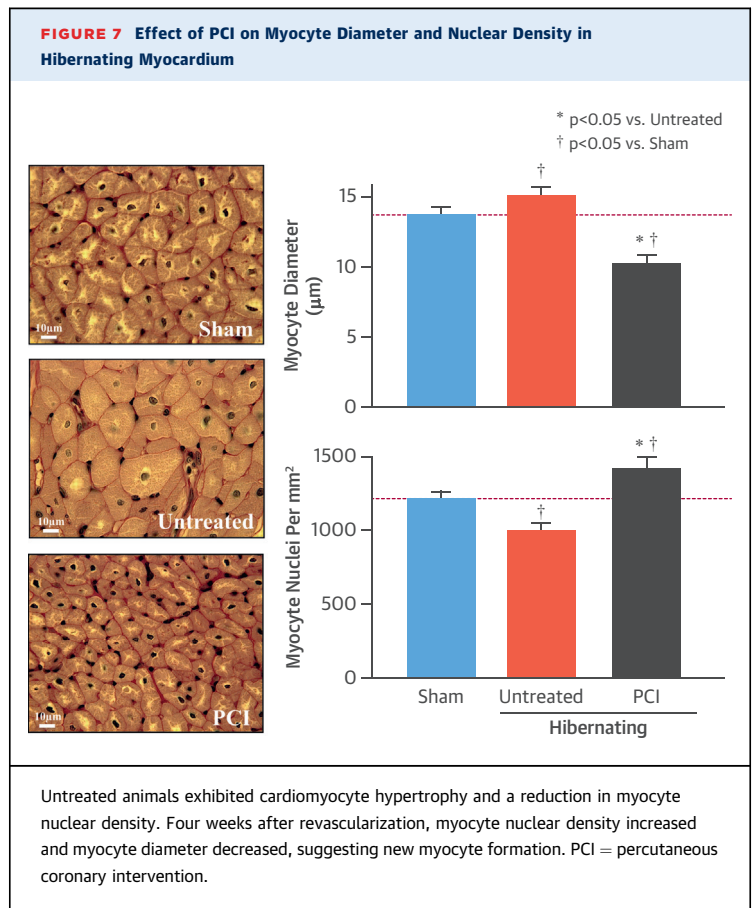
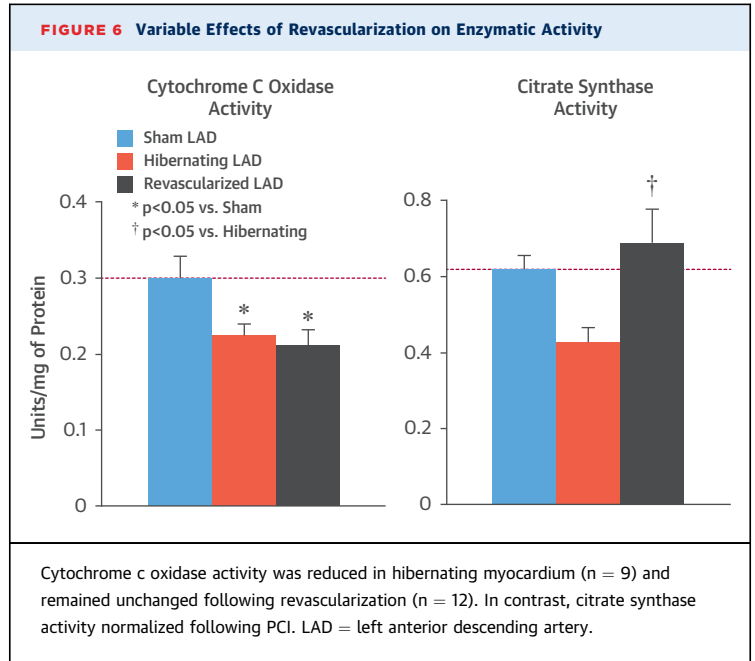
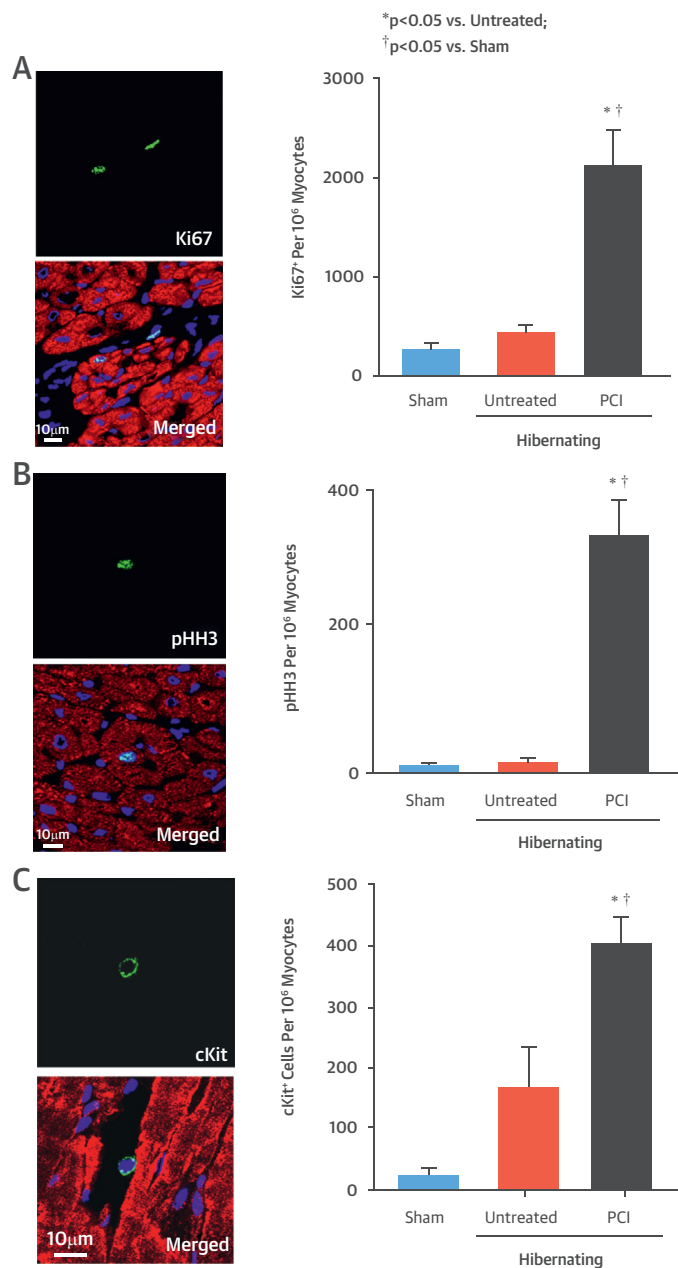


FIGURE 8 Revascularization of Hibernating Myocardium Increases the Number of c-Kit⁺ Cells, Ki-67⁺ Myocytes, and pHH3⁺ Myocytes

(A) Confocal images of Ki-67⁺ staining (green) in a myocyte (cardiac troponin I) (red) and nonmyocyte after revascularization. Nuclei are stained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (blue). Revascularization significantly increased the number of Ki-67⁺ myocytes, consistent with increased DNA synthesis. (B) Confocal images depicting a pHH3⁺ nucleus (green), indicating a myocyte undergoing mitosis. Revascularization increased the number of pHH3⁺ myocytes compared with nonrevascularized animals with hibernating myocardium and sham controls. (C) Confocal images of a c-Kit⁺ cell between cardiomyocytes. The number of myocardial c-Kit⁺ cells increased after revascularization. PCI = percutaneous coronary intervention; pHH3 = phospho-histone H3.

demonstrated several phases of functional recovery (Figure 3). Despite complete restoration of perfusion, there was no immediate change in function nor did function increase in the first several days after revascularization. A significant, but delayed, increase in LADΔWT was observed 1 week later. This early time course is reminiscent of the normalization seen following short-term hibernation (16,23). No further functional improvement occurred up to 1 month later. This delay in functional recovery contrasts with prior animal models (18,25,26), in which dysfunction was not as chronic and resting function normalized early (within 1 to 2 weeks after revascularization). Thus, the present findings are more compatible with clinical observations following revascularization in chronic ischemic cardiomyopathy, in which function rarely normalizes and frequently requires 3 to 12 months to reach a new steady state (13).

INCOMPLETE PROTEOMIC REMODELING AFTER REVASCLARIZATION. We previously demonstrated a spectrum of proteomic abnormalities in viable dysfunctional myocardium that progress as stenosis severity increases (17). Proteomic changes in non-revascularized animals with hibernating myocardium were characterized by down-regulation of multiple mitochondrial proteins, including enzymes that are entry points to oxidative metabolism (e.g., pyruvate dehydrogenase and acyl-CoA dehydrogenase), down-regulation of contractile proteins, and up-regulation of stress and cytoskeletal proteins, as previously described (5,27). Other investigators have shown that up-regulated stress and cytoskeletal proteins normalize 1 month after revascularization, accompanied by reductions in the amount of interstitial connective tissue (26,28). In contrast, revascularization had only modest effects on metabolic enzyme levels, and reductions in contractile protein levels persisted. We previously demonstrated that regional metabolic protein levels and mitochondrial oxygen consumption progressively decline as stenosis severity increases in viable dysfunctional myocardium (5,17,22,29). Consonant with our findings, Kelly et al. (25) reported persistent reductions in the mitochondrial proteome before and after surgical revascularization of hibernating myocardium. Nevertheless, resting contractile function normalized 1 month post-revascularization (25). In their study, attenuation of the flow and functional responses to dobutamine persisted, suggesting that mitochondrial dysfunction continued to limit oxygen consumption during beta-adrenergic stimulation (30,31). This attenuated response could also reflect

persistent regional sympathetic denervation and reduced beta-adrenergic responsiveness, despite revascularization (18,32,33).

STIMULATION OF MYOCYTE REGENERATION BY REVASCULARIZATION. An unexpected finding was the prominent reverse myocyte remodeling induced by restoring perfusion to hibernating myocardium. This has not been evaluated in patients because it would require serial left ventricular (LV) biopsies after revascularization. Consonant with previous studies, nonrevascularized animals with hibernating myocardium had reductions in myocyte nuclear density and compensatory cellular hypertrophy that maintained near normal regional wall thickness in the face of apoptosis (3,21). Revascularization increased myocyte nuclear density and reduced cellular hypertrophy, despite LAD wall thickness remaining unchanged. Myocyte proliferation after revascularization was suggested by immunohistochemistry of myocytes in the synthetic phase of the cell cycle using Ki-67 and increases in the levels of myocyte mitotic marker, phospho-histone-H3. Previous studies in this model have shown that myocyte apoptosis returns to low values (approximately 0.003%) during the time period in which experiments were performed in the present study (19). Thus, proliferation indexes were 1 to 2 orders of magnitude higher than myocyte apoptosis at this time, resulting in a net increase in myocyte number. These findings suggest that de novo myocyte formation with delayed maturation may contribute to delayed functional recovery. The observation that revascularization stimulates new myocyte formation is also reinforced by recent clinical observations. First, some patients with reversible dyssynergic myocardium have regional wall thinning that reverses after revascularization (34). Although originally thought to indicate irreversibility from infarction, some of these regions develop profound increases in wall thickness and systolic function after revascularization. Revascularization might plausibly have stimulated endogenous myocyte proliferation. Secondly, D'Amario et al. (35) recently isolated cardiac stem cells (CSCs) from biopsies obtained from patients undergoing coronary bypass surgery and demonstrated that CSC proliferation and function in vitro correlated with late functional improvement after revascularization. Increased telomere length and reduced population doubling time in c-Kit⁺ CSCs predicted increased wall thickness, increased LV mass, and increases in LV ejection fraction 12 months after revascularization. Our results are compatible with these clinical observations, but a limitation relates to our inability

to determine whether the new myocytes arose from the increase in the number of c-Kit⁺ CSCs or from the proliferation of existing myocytes; experimental evidence is available to support (36) and to refute (37) c-Kit⁺ cells as a source of new myocytes. Elucidating the answer will require sophisticated approaches to study endogenous myocyte fate, which currently are largely confined to transgenic animal studies. Regardless of their source, our findings suggest that new myocyte formation and/or maturation may delay functional recovery after revascularization.

STUDY LIMITATIONS. Farm-bred pigs require 3 to 4 months to develop hibernating myocardium and, due to their size, could only be studied for 1 month after revascularization in our facility. Although this study provided new insight into the factors responsible for persistent dysfunction, we cannot assess long-term functional recovery, proteomic remodeling, or myocyte proliferation. Thus, it is uncertain whether regional function would completely recover over a longer follow-up period and whether changes in protein expression would normalize. Mini-swine (31) may facilitate longer-term studies of coronary revascularization. Likewise, young healthy animals may have more plasticity in myocyte regeneration than humans with disease, which could also significantly impact the extent of functional recovery and remodeling.

Our results demonstrated that revascularization elicited a significant increase in myocyte number and reciprocal reduction in myocyte size. Although these new myocytes appear to be consistent with new myocyte formation, it is unclear if they would continue to increase in size and ultimately develop into functionally mature cardiomyocytes over a longer follow-up period. In this case, the delayed time course of new myocyte maturation may contribute to the delayed recovery of contractility after PCI. However, if the myocytes remain small and immature, their long-term contribution to contractile function may be limited (38,39). Future studies with a longer follow-up period are necessary to definitively address this question.

Finally, proteomics involves the parallel analysis of multiple proteins on a 2-dimensional gel, which can lead to false discovery of differential protein expression via type I errors (40). These can be minimized using large samples, as employed in our study, which reduces the impact of biological and experimental variability. Nearly all protein changes in nonrevascularized animals were previously reported in independent experiments using the same

experimental approach in this model and in an expanded protein analysis using label-free quantification with LC/MS (22).

CONCLUSIONS

Our study demonstrated that, even in the absence of infarction, the delayed improvement in LV function after revascularization of hibernating myocardium was associated with an incomplete reversal of the molecular phenotype and the stimulation of new cardiomyocytes originally lost via regional apoptosis from reversible ischemia. Thus, adjunctive treatments, such as intracoronary stem cells (21) and growth factors (19), may accelerate functional recovery following revascularization of high-risk patients with heart failure, as well as those in whom complete revascularization is not technically feasible. Studies evaluating hybrid strategies to treat viable dysfunctional myocardium will be needed to test these hypotheses.

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PERSPECTIVES

COMPETENCY IN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE: In patients with ischemic cardiomyopathy, improvement in ventricular function after revascularization may be delayed as a consequence of chronic cellular protein adaptations to repetitive ischemia and immature cardiomyocyte formation, even in zones of viable myocardium.

TRANSLATIONAL OUTLOOK: Beyond alleviating ischemia through revascularization, the efficacy of hybrid interventions that concurrently accelerate endogenous myocyte formation to enhance functional recovery of hibernating myocardium warrants further study.

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APPENDIX For a supplemental methods section, please see the online version of this article.