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The Mouse *Kreisler* (*Krml1/MafB*) Segmentation Gene Is Required for Differentiation of Glomerular Visceral Epithelial CellsVirginia S. Sadl <sup>a1</sup> ... Sabine P. Cordes <sup>a, c2</sup> **Show more**<https://doi.org/10.1006/dbio.2002.0751>[Get rights and content](#)Under an Elsevier [user license](#)[open archive](#)

## Abstract

Molecular components of the glomerular filtration mechanism play critical roles in renal diseases. Many of these components are produced during the final stages of differentiation of glomerular visceral epithelial cells, also known as podocytes. While basic domain leucine zipper (bZip) transcription factors of the Maf subfamily have been implicated in cellular differentiation processes, *Kreisler* (*Krml1/MafB*), the gene affected in the mouse *kreisler* (*kr*) mutation, is known for its role in hindbrain patterning. Here we show that mice homozygous for the *kr*<sup>enu</sup> mutation develop renal disease and that *Kreisler* is essential for cellular differentiation of podocytes. Consistent with abnormal podocyte differentiation, *kr*<sup>enu</sup> homozygotes show proteinuria, and fusion and effacement of podocyte foot processes, which are also observed in the nephrotic syndrome. *Kreisler* acts during the final stages of glomerular development—the transition between the capillary loop and mature stages—and downstream of the Pod1 basic domain helix–loop–helix transcription factor. The levels of Podocin, the gene mutated in autosomal recessive steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome (NPHS2), and Nephlin, the gene mutated in congenital nephrotic syndrome of the Finnish type (NPHS1), are slightly reduced in *kr*<sup>enu</sup>/*kr*<sup>enu</sup> podocytes. However, these observations alone are unlikely to account for the aberrant podocyte foot process formation. Thus, *Kreisler* must regulate other unknown genes required for podocyte function and with possible roles in kidney disease.






## Keywords







*Kreisler* (*Krml1/MafB*); *Pod1* (*epicardin/capsulin*); podocyte; kidney disease; cellular differentiation; proteinuria[Recommended articles](#)   [Citing articles \(79\)](#)





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