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5 Title: Enzootic nasal tumor virus type 2 envelope of goats acts as a retroviral oncogene in cell  
6 transformation

7

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19

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22

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27 **Abstract**

28 Enzootic nasal tumor virus type 1 (ENTV-1) (ovine nasal tumor virus) and ENTV-2 (caprine nasal tumor  
29 virus) are known to be causative agents of enzootic nasal adenocarcinoma (ENA) in sheep and goats,  
30 respectively. Although the nucleotide and amino acid sequences of ENTV-1 and ENTV-2 are quite similar,  
31 they are recognized as phylogenetically distinct viruses. The envelope protein of ENTV-1 functions as an  
32 oncoprotein in the *in vitro* transformation of epithelial cells and fibroblasts. Thus, it is the primary  
33 determinant of *in vivo* tumorigenesis in ENA. As per our knowledge, no previous studies have reported in  
34 detail the role of ENTV-2 in ENA tumorigenesis. Here, in order to investigate the molecular mechanism of  
35 caprine ENA oncogenesis by ENTV-2, we have attempted to identify the transforming potential of ENTV-  
36 2 envelope, and investigated the activation of cell signaling pathways in oncogenic transformation. Our  
37 findings confirmed that ENTV-2 envelope was capable of inducing oncogenic transformation of rat cell  
38 lines *in vitro*. Further, we found that MAPK, Akt, and p38 were constitutively activated in ENTV-2  
39 envelope-transformed clone cells. In addition, inhibitor experiments revealed that MEK-MAPK and PI3K-  
40 Akt signaling pathways are involved in the ENTV-2 envelope-induced cell transformation. These data  
41 indicate that ENTV-2 envelope could induce oncogenic transformation by signaling pathways that are also  
42 utilized by ENTV-1 envelope.

43

44

45 **Introduction**

46 Enzootic nasal adenocarcinoma (ENA), previously known as enzootic intranasal tumor, is a contagious  
47 neoplasia in sheep and goats [1]. It has been reported worldwide [2-9], with several cases being reported in  
48 China in recent times [10-13]. The etiological agent of ENA has been identified as retroviruses [14-17].  
49 Experimental infection was successful in inducing ENA by cell-free tumor filtrates in sheep [18-20], and  
50 by concentrated ENA nasal exudate in goats [21]. The sequences of ovine nasal tumor virus (ENTV-1 in  
51 sheep) and caprine nasal tumor virus (ENTV-2 in goats) were identified as similar but phylogenetically  
52 distinct viruses [22-26]. The target tissues in ENA were the secretory epithelial cells of the ethmoid  
53 turbinate of the nasal cavity; however, the tissue distribution of the two viruses was different; while ENTV-  
54 1 was detected in tumors, lymph nodes, kidneys, and lungs, ENTV-2 was additionally detected in peripheral  
55 blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and bone marrow [26].

56 Both ENTV-1 and ENTV-2 are classified as simple ovine  $\beta$ -retroviruses. This category also  
57 includes jaagsiekte sheep retrovirus (JSRV), which is an etiological agent for naturally occurring and  
58 experimentally induced ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA) in sheep [27]. These three retroviruses  
59 consist of 5'-long terminal repeat (LTR)-*gag-pro-pol-env*-3'-LTR, without any viral oncogenes [23, 26, 27].  
60 However, they encode another open reading frame x, designated as *orf-x*, which was initially in focus for  
61 its role in oncogenesis by JSRV [28]; but it was found that it was not required for the *in vitro* transformation  
62 and induction of OPA *in vivo* [29, 30]. In the classical transformation assay, the full-length envelope  
63 glycoprotein of ENTV-1, as well as that of JSRV, was identified as an oncoprotein contributing to the  
64 transformation of fibroblasts and epithelial cells *in vitro* [29, 31-33]. The JSRV envelope itself induced lung  
65 tumors not only in sheep [34] but also in mice *in vivo* [35-38]. Interestingly, ENTV-1 envelope also induced  
66 lung tumors in mice [39]. In addition to the envelopes, the LTR region is considered to be an important  
67 factor in determining their tissue tropism [37, 40]. A recent study has further revealed that the expression  
68 of a glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored cell surface protein hyaluronidase-2 (Hyal-2), an entry receptor

69 for JSRV and ENTV [31], influences the entry of ENTV into nasal target cells, but not JSRV [41].

70 The JSRV envelope transmembrane (TM) domain is required for the transformation of fibroblasts  
71 [42]. Further mutational analysis revealed that the cytoplasmic tail (CT) region of JSRV envelope TM, in  
72 particular, is required for transformation *in vitro*. Certain tyrosine residues of the CT region, including  
73 Tyr590 of JSRV and Tyr592 and Tyr596 of ENTV-1, were initially regarded as critical for transformation  
74 in the context of signal transduction [43-47]; phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) to Akt and mitogen  
75 extracellular regulated kinase (MEK) to mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathways are involved  
76 in transformation *in vitro* [43-49]. Besides the molecules involved in the above signaling pathways, other  
77 molecules including Ras, Rac1, p38, Hsp90, and Sprouty2 have also been reported to play a role in cell  
78 transformation [48, 50, 51]. Signaling pathways utilized by ENTV-1 resemble those used by JSRV *in vitro*  
79 and *in vivo* [52, 53].

80 While a lot of research has been conducted on cell transformation induced by ENTV-1 and JSRV,  
81 no previous studies have reported on the molecular mechanism of caprine ENA oncogenesis induced by  
82 ENTV-2. The present study aims to address this by focusing on the identification of the transforming  
83 potential of ENTV-2 envelope *in vitro*, and further investigation on the activation of signaling pathways  
84 associated with oncogenic transformation.

85

## 86 **Materials and methods**

### 87 **Constructs**

88 ENA tumors isolated from goats were collected and embedded in paraffin. Integrated genomic ENTV-2  
89 genes were recovered from a paraffin block using TaKaRa DEXPAT (TaKaRa Bio, Shiga, Japan). PCR was  
90 performed using the recovered genomes as templates, forward and reverse primers designed according to  
91 the ENTV-2 sequence (GenBank accession number: AY197548) [26], dNTP mixture, *TaKaRa Ex Taq* DNA  
92 polymerase, and *TaKaRa Ex Taq* Buffer (TaKaRa Bio). PCR conditions were as follows: 95°C for 2 min,

93 30 cycles of 95°C for 30 sec, 45°C for 30 sec, and 68°C for 1 min. The PCR products were purified with a  
94 Gel Extraction Kit and PCR Purification Kit (QIAGEN, CA, USA), cloned into T-Vector pMD20 (TaKaRa  
95 Bio), and sequenced. Each PCR product was ligated using a DNA Ligation Kit (Mighty Mix) (TaKaRa Bio),  
96 and inserted into the HA-tagged JSRV envelope expression plasmid  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV-HA) [48], designated as  
97  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2). New ENTV-2 sequence has been deposited as NAOM-HU3118124 strain in DNA Data  
98 Bank of Japan with accession number LC570918. The JSRV envelope expression plasmid was provided by  
99 Dr. Hung Fan (University of California, Irvine, CA, USA). The ENTV-2 envelope expression construct  
100 with 6 histidines (His)-tagged version was also developed, designated as  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2-His).

101

## 102 **Cell culture**

103 Rat embryonic fibroblasts 208F cells and rat kidney epithelial RK3E cells were purchased from the  
104 European Collection of Authenticated Cell Cultures and the American Type Culture Collection, respectively.  
105 The two cell lines, along with human kidney epithelial 293T cells, were grown in Dulbecco's modified  
106 Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), penicillin (100 units/mL),  
107 and streptomycin (100  $\mu$ g/mL).

108

## 109 **Transformation assay and establishment of transformed clone cells**

110 208F and RK3E cells were seeded at  $4 \times 10^5$  cells/plate in 6 cm dishes, 24 h prior to transfection. Five  
111 micrograms of  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2),  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2-His), or  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV) were transfected into the cells using X-  
112 tremeGENE HP DNA Transfection Reagent (Roche, Mannheim, Germany). To inhibit MAPK, PI3K, and  
113 p38 signaling pathways, cells after transfection were treated with inhibitors, PD98059, LY294002, and  
114 SB203580 (Calbiochem, CA, USA), respectively, or DMSO (WAKO, Osaka, Japan) as a control vehicle.  
115 Transformed foci were counted on days 11-20 after transfection. To establish transformed clone cells,  
116  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2-His) was transfected into 208F and RK3E cells. Transformed foci were picked up 3-4 weeks

117 after transfection, and single clone cells were isolated by a limiting dilution. The cells were lysed with lysis  
118 buffer (20 mM Tris (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 10% glycerol, 1% Triton X-100) supplemented with Complete  
119 protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche).

120

#### 121 **Treatment with epidermal growth factor (EGF)**

122 Parental and transformed 208F cells were seeded at  $5 \times 10^5$  cells/plate in 6 cm dishes. They were serum-  
123 starved for 20-24 h, and the parental 208F cells were subsequently stimulated with 100 ng/mL recombinant  
124 human EGF (BioAcademia, Osaka, Japan) for 30 min. The cells were lysed with lysis buffer supplemented  
125 with Complete protease inhibitor cocktail.

126

#### 127 **Immunoblot**

128 The cell lysate was mixed with 5X sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) loading buffer (50 mM Tris (pH 6.8),  
129 10% glycerol, 1% SDS, and 0.05% bromophenol blue) with or without reducing agent 1%  $\beta$ -  
130 mercaptoethanol, and boiled at 95°C for 5 min. The total proteins were separated on SDS polyacrylamide  
131 gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane (GE Healthcare, USA).  
132 The membranes were incubated with Tris-buffered saline with Tween 20 (TBS-T) having 5% nonfat dry  
133 milk or bovine serum albumin at room temperature for 1 h. The membranes were incubated with specific  
134 antibodies overnight at 4°C. Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2), phospho-  
135 p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2) (Thr202/Tyr204), Akt (pan), phospho-Akt (Ser473), p38 MAPK, phospho-p38  
136 MAPK (Thr180/Tyr182) (Cell Signaling, MA, USA), and His-tag (MBL, Nagoya, Japan) were used as  
137 primary antibodies. After washing the membranes three times with TBS-T, the membranes were incubated  
138 with anti-mouse or anti-rabbit IgG labeled with Alexa Fluor 680 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA) at  
139 room temperature for 1 h. After washing the membranes three times with TBS-T, signals were detected  
140 using an Odyssey CLx Infrared Imaging System (LI-COR Biosciences, NE, USA).

141

## 142 **Immunohistochemistry**

143 Naturally occurring ENA tumors and normal goat ethmoid turbinate were embedded in paraffin. For antigen  
144 retrieval, the sections were microwaved at 95°C for 5 min. in 10 mM citrate buffer (pH 6.0). Endogenous  
145 peroxidase was quenched with 0.3% hydrogen peroxidase in methanol for 30 min. The sliced sections were  
146 stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E), anti-phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2) (Thr202/Tyr204) mAb,  
147 and anti-phospho-Akt (Ser473) mAb. Immunohistochemistry was performed by using a commercially  
148 available EnVision<sup>TM</sup>+ (Dako, CA, USA) according to instructions by the manufacturer.

149

## 150 **Statistical analysis**

151 Statistically significant differences were calculated using Student's *t*-test and are indicated as *p* values.  
152 Differences of  $p < 0.05$  were considered to be statistically significant.

153

## 154 **Results**

### 155 **Transformation of rat cells by ENTV-2 envelope**

156 In order to make a construct for the expression of full-length ENTV-2 envelope, we performed PCR to  
157 amplify proviral ENTV-2 *env* DNA derived from the ENA tumor genome. The nucleotide sequence of the  
158 recovered ENTV-2 *env* gene had 98% identity (1,805 out of 1,848 nucleotides) with AY197548, which had  
159 been previously identified in Spain [26]. The deduced amino acid sequence of the new ENTV-2 was  
160 identical to that of the AY197548 strain, though Ser at position 111 was mutated to Arg. For efficient  
161 expression in mammalian cells, the JSRV *env* gene in the expression plasmid ΔGP(JSRV-HA) was replaced  
162 with the full-length ENTV-2 *env* gene for its expression under the cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter,  
163 designated as ΔGP(ENTV-2) (Fig. 1). In addition, for the easy detection of ENTV-2 envelope, an expression  
164 construct was developed for ENTV-2 envelope with His-tag (ΔGP(ENTV-2-His)) (Fig. 1).

165 To investigate the transforming potential of the ENTV-2 envelope, we transfected rat fibroblast  
166 208F cells with the ENTV-2 envelope expression plasmid  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2), JSRV envelope expression  
167 plasmid  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV) or pcDNA3.1(-), with the latter two plasmids as positive and negative plasmid controls,  
168 respectively. In the transformation assay, we found that the ENTV-2 and JSRV envelopes induced foci of  
169 transformed cells in 208F cells (Fig. 2a and c), as did the ENTV-2 envelope with His-tagged construct  
170  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2-His) (Fig. 2b). Moreover, we found that the ENTV-2 envelope induced foci of transformed  
171 cells in rat epithelia RK3E cells (Fig. 2e-g). The negative plasmid control did not induce any foci of  
172 transformed cells in either cell line (Fig. 2d and h).

173

#### 174 **Signaling pathways in ENTV-2 envelope-induced transformation *in vitro***

175 In order to investigate the molecular mechanisms involved in ENTV-2 envelope-induced transformation,  
176 we utilized the chemical inhibitors PD98059 for MEK, LY294002 for PI3K, and SB203580 for p38 in the  
177 transformation assay. The number of foci of transformed cells treated with MEK and PI3K inhibitors at day  
178 20 after transfection was lower compared to that in cells treated with DMSO as a control vehicle (Fig. 3a).  
179 Moreover, the size of each focus on cells treated with MEK and PI3K inhibitors was smaller than that in  
180 cells treated with DMSO (Fig. 3b-j). These results suggested that MEK and PI3K pathways are involved in  
181 the ENTV-2 envelope-induced transformation. On the other hand, the number of foci of transformed cells  
182 treated with p38 inhibitor at day 13 after transfection showed an increase, compared to that in cells treated  
183 with DMSO (Fig. 4a). The foci on cells treated with p38 inhibitor were larger in size, compared to those in  
184 cells treated with DMSO (Fig. 4b-g). Similar results were also observed in the experiments conducted using  
185 RK3E cells (data not shown). These results suggest that the ENTV-2 envelope triggers MEK and PI3K  
186 signaling pathways to induce transformation, while the p38 signaling pathway may negatively regulate the  
187 transformation.

188 To further investigate the signaling pathways involved in ENTV-2 envelope-induced

189 transformation, we established 208F clone cells transformed with ENTV-2 envelope having a His-tag (Fig.  
190 5a). The transformed cells (Fig. 5a) showed differences in morphology compared to the parental 208F cells  
191 (Fig.5b). Full-length and TM domain of ENTV-2 envelope were detected by western blot analysis (Fig. 5c).  
192 In the ENTV-2 envelope-transformed clone cells, we found constitutive activation of MAPK (also called  
193 p44/42 or Erk1/2), Akt, and p38 (Fig. 5d-f).

194

#### 195 **MAPK and Akt activation in naturally occurring ENA tumors *in vivo***

196 Immunohistochemical staining of naturally occurring caprine ENA tumors, from which the  
197 ENTV-2 *env* gene was recovered, showed the typical histological features of adenocarcinoma (Fig. 6a and  
198 d). In serial sections of the same sample, we detected phosphorylation of p44/42 MAPK at Thr202/Tyr204  
199 (Fig. 6b and e) and Akt at Ser 473 (Fig. 6c and f). Normal goat ethmoid turbinate did not show any  
200 phosphorylation of these molecules (Fig. 6g-l). These results, together with those of the *in vitro* experiments,  
201 strongly suggest that the MEK-MAPK and PI3K-Akt signaling pathways are involved in ENTV-2  
202 envelope-induced ENA oncogenesis *in vivo*.

203

#### 204 **Discussion**

205 ENA and OPA caused by ENTV-1 and JSRV, respectively, are interesting and unusual examples  
206 of neoplasms induced by virus envelopes having transforming potential [54]. While the mechanisms of  
207 ENTV-1 and JSRV transformation have been widely studied, there's been a lack of in-depth investigation  
208 into caprine ENA oncogenesis by ENTV-2. Thus, in order to understand the molecular mechanisms of  
209 caprine ENA, this study focused on identifying the transforming potential of ENTV-2 envelope *in vitro*.  
210 Our findings confirmed that ENTV-2 envelope was indeed capable of inducing oncogenic transformation  
211 of rat cell lines *in vitro*. Further, we found that MAPK, Akt, and p38 were constitutively activated in ENTV-  
212 2 envelope-transformed clone cells. In addition, inhibitor experiments revealed that MEK-MAPK and

213 PI3K-Akt signaling pathways are involved in the ENTV-2 envelope-induced cell transformation.  
214 Collectively, these results revealed that the transforming potential of ENTV-2 envelope seems to be quite  
215 similar to that of JSRV *in vitro*. In previous studies, activation of MAPK phosphorylated on Thr202/Tyr204  
216 was observed not only in naturally occurring ENA, but also in naturally occurring OPA as well as  
217 experimentally induced OPA *in vivo* [48, 53]. However, while the staining of ENA tumors from sheep and  
218 goats with anti-phosphorylated Akt mAb was positive, the staining of OPA tumor section with that was not  
219 positive in all cases, although phosphorylation of Akt at Ser473 was observed in JSRV envelope-  
220 transformed cells *in vitro* [44]. This led us to postulate that although the signaling pathways leading to  
221 oncogenic transformation by the ENTV-1 and JSRV envelopes shared an overall similarity, there were slight  
222 differences in the mechanism. Additionally, we found that the caprine ENA tumor used in this study also  
223 exhibited phosphorylation of MAPK and Akt. Taken together, we concluded that ENTV-2 envelope could  
224 induce oncogenic transformation by signaling pathways that are also utilized by the ENTV-1 envelope.

225         The molecular mechanism through which the ENTVs and JSRV envelopes activate these  
226 signaling pathways has not yet been fully understood. In particular, the elucidation of the cellular molecules  
227 that interact with these envelopes should be a key factor towards understanding their oncogenic potential.  
228 One of the interacting partners identified as an entry receptor for JSRV as well as ENTV-1 is Hyal-2, which  
229 was initially considered to be a tumor suppressor located at human chromosome 3p21.3 [55]. However, the  
230 involvement of Hyal-2 in transformation is controversial; mouse fibroblast NIH-3T3 cells are successfully  
231 transformed, although Hyal-2 of the murine homolog does not function as a receptor for the JSRV and  
232 ENTV-1 envelopes [56]. Two studies independently reported that RalA binding protein 1 (RALBP1) and  
233 zinc finger protein 111 (Zfp111) directly interacted with the JSRV envelope CT region [57, 58]. RALBP1  
234 was involved in JSRV transformation, via the formation of a complex with CDC42 to induce the activation  
235 of downstream effectors such as the mammalian target of rapamycin and p70S6 kinase in canine kidney  
236 epithelial MDCK cells [57]. On the other hand, Zfp111 was found to interact with a nuclear form of JSRV

237 envelope in rat fibroblast 208F cells, suggesting that JSRV transformation involves events in the nuclear  
238 region [58]. These studies indicated that JSRV envelope interacts with multiple cellular or nuclear proteins  
239 to induce cellular transformation *in vitro*. Nevertheless, the mechanism of activation of MAPK and other  
240 molecules, including p38, Ras, and Rac1, in the JSRV envelope-induced transformation, as well as their  
241 involvement in OPA oncogenesis, remains unclear. Further research is needed on the identification of  
242 proteins interacting with the ENTV-1 and ENTV-2 envelopes. The amino acid sequence of variable region  
243 3 (VR3), especially in the CT region, in the ENTV and JSRV envelopes, is not conserved; thus, the proteins  
244 interacting with ENTVs may be different from those interacting with JSRV. This fact could help distinguish  
245 between the similar yet slightly different signaling pathways leading to oncogenic transformation by the  
246 ENTV and JSRV envelopes. In addition to the transforming potential of CT regions, they have also been  
247 reported to contribute to the infectivity and fusogenicity of viruses; thus, the CT regions play a critical role  
248 in exhibiting multiple functions in the viral life cycle [59-65]. It has been observed that the Moloney murine  
249 leukemia virus envelope CT region possesses an amphipathic  $\alpha$ -helix that facilitates membrane fusion [66,  
250 67]. Previous studies have predicted the presence of a putative amphipathic  $\alpha$ -helical wheel structure in the  
251 CT region of JSRV envelope [47]; this possibility is backed by multiple structural analyses (Maeda *et al.*,  
252 unpublished observations). Further investigation is also needed to elucidate the structure-function and  
253 relationship of ENTV-2 envelope, especially the CT region, in ENA tumorigenesis.

254           So far, it is not yet unclear why ENTV-1 and ENTV-2 cause identical diseases but could be  
255 detected only in sheep and goats, respectively. JSRV could experimentally induce lung tumors in goats that  
256 differ from those induced in sheep, suggesting that there are several restricting factors which determine  
257 species specificity [68]. In addition to the main target cells, such as type II pneumocytes and club (Clara)  
258 cells, JSRV can infect other cell types, including undifferentiated cells in the respiratory tract [69],  
259 indicating that its envelope may be able to induce different neoplastic diseases in tissues other than those  
260 of the lungs. For instance, JSRV, but not ENTV-1, infection was detected in ovine ENA [70]. Thus, tissue

261 specificity is believed to be influenced by other viral factors apart from the envelope. The viral LTR could  
262 be a critical factor in determining retrovirus tropism. The JSRV LTR is preferentially active in lung  
263 epithelial cells [40]. Rosales *et al.* recently reported that nasal turbinate chondrocytes could be potential  
264 target cells for ENTV-1 infection *in vivo*, in cells in which ENTV-1 LTR is significantly active [41]. It is  
265 notable that the LTR sequence of ENTV-2, especially the U3 region, is highly divergent from that of ENTV-  
266 1 and JSRV [11, 26]. As mentioned above, the envelope VR3 sequence of ENTV-2 is also significantly  
267 different from that of ENTV-1 and JSRV. These facts collectively may account for the yet unexplained goat  
268 tropism of ENTV-2, which would be an interesting point of focus in future studies.

269

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279

#### 280 **Author Contributions**

281 NM conceived and designed the experiments. MDLH and YI provided the materials. NM and MDLH  
282 carried out the experiments. NM wrote the manuscript. NM, YI, MDLH, and KM reviewed and edited the  
283 manuscript. NM, YI, MDLH, and KM read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

284

285 **Compliance with ethical standards**

286 **Conflict of Interest**

287 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

288

289 **Ethical approval**

290 All applicable international, national, and institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals were

291 followed.

292

293 **Informed consent**

294 Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in this study.

295

296

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479

480 **Figure legends**

481 Figure 1 Expression constructs used in this study.  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV) was previously described [29]. The JSRV  
482 *env* gene in the expression plasmid ( $\Delta$ GP(JSRV-HA)) [47] was replaced with the full-length ENTV-2 *env*  
483 gene, designated as  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2). The His-tag (black box) was inserted into  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2) at the C-  
484 terminus of the ENTV-2 *env* reading frame. All *env* genes are expressed in rodent cells driven by the CMV  
485 promoter. SD: *env* splice donor, SA: *env* splice acceptor

486

487 Figure 2 Transformation of rat 208F and RK3E cells. 208F (a-d) and RK3E (e-h) cells were transfected  
488 with 5  $\mu$ g of  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2) (a, e),  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2-His) (b, f),  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV) (c, g), and pcDNA3.1(-) (d, h).  
489 Foci of transformed 208F cells or RK3E cells at day 11 after transfection are shown (Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m).

490

491 Figure 3 Effects of MEK and PI3K inhibitors on the transformation of 208F cells. 208F cells were  
492 transfected with 5  $\mu$ g of  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2) (b, e, h),  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV) (c, f, i), and pcDNA3.1(-) (d, g, j),  
493 respectively. The number of foci of transformed 208F cells at day 20 after transfection was scored (Scale  
494 bar = 200  $\mu$ m). The MEK and PI3K inhibitors at a final concentration of 20  $\mu$ M were added daily to the  
495 cells. For (a), bars indicate mean values  $\pm$  standard deviations of three independent experiments.  
496 Statistically significant differences are shown as *P* values (\*\*\*\*; *P* < 0.0001).

497

498 Figure 4 Effects of p38 inhibitor on the transformation of 208F cells. 208F cells were transfected with 5  $\mu$ g  
499 of  $\Delta$ GP(ENTV-2) (b, e),  $\Delta$ GP(JSRV) (c, f), and pcDNA3.1(-) (d, g), respectively. The number of foci of  
500 transformed 208F cells at day 13 after transfection was scored (Scale bar = 200  $\mu$ m). The p38 inhibitor at  
501 a final concentration of 5  $\mu$ M was added daily to the cells. For (a), bars indicate mean values  $\pm$  standard  
502 deviations of three independent experiments. Statistically significant differences are shown as *P* values  
503 (\*\*\*; *P* < 0.001, \*\*\*\*; *P* < 0.0001).

504

505 Figure 5 Activation of signaling pathways in His-tagged ENTV-2 envelope-transformed clone cells.  
506 Transformed clone cells (a) with a different morphology as parental 208F cells (b) were established (Scale  
507 bar = 100  $\mu$ m). Expression of ENTV-2 envelope with His-tag (c), p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2), and phospho-  
508 p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2) (Thr202/Tyr204) (d), Akt (pan), phospho-Akt (Ser473) (e), p38 MAPK, and  
509 phospho-p38 MAPK (Thr180/tyr182) (f), in the transformed clone cells was detected by western blot  
510 analysis. For positive controls for detecting phosphorylated proteins, parental 208F cells were stimulated  
511 with 100 ng/mL recombinant human EGF to detect phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2) (Thr202/Tyr204) (d).  
512 T: transformed, P: parental, kDa: kilodalton

513

514 Figure 6 Immunohistochemical staining of the caprine ENA tumor and normal goat ethmoid turbinate.  
515 Lower magnification micrographs of naturally occurring ENA tumor and normal goat ethmoid turbinate  
516 sections immunohistochemically stained with H&E (a, g), phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Thr202/Tyr204) mAb  
517 (b, h), and phospho-Akt (Ser473) mAb (c, i) are shown, respectively, (Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m). Higher  
518 magnification micrographs of each section are also shown in (d) to (f) for the caprine ENA tumor, and (j)  
519 to (l) for normal goat ethmoid turbinate, respectively, (Scale bar = 50  $\mu$ m).

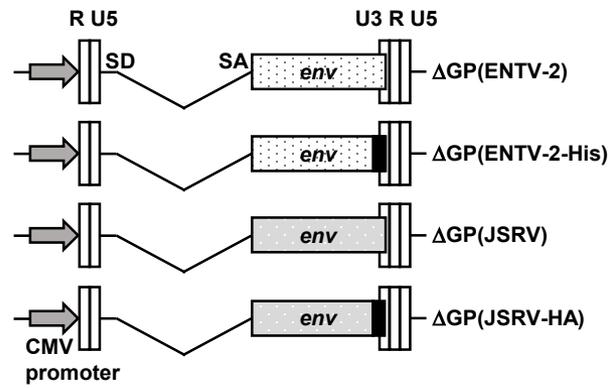
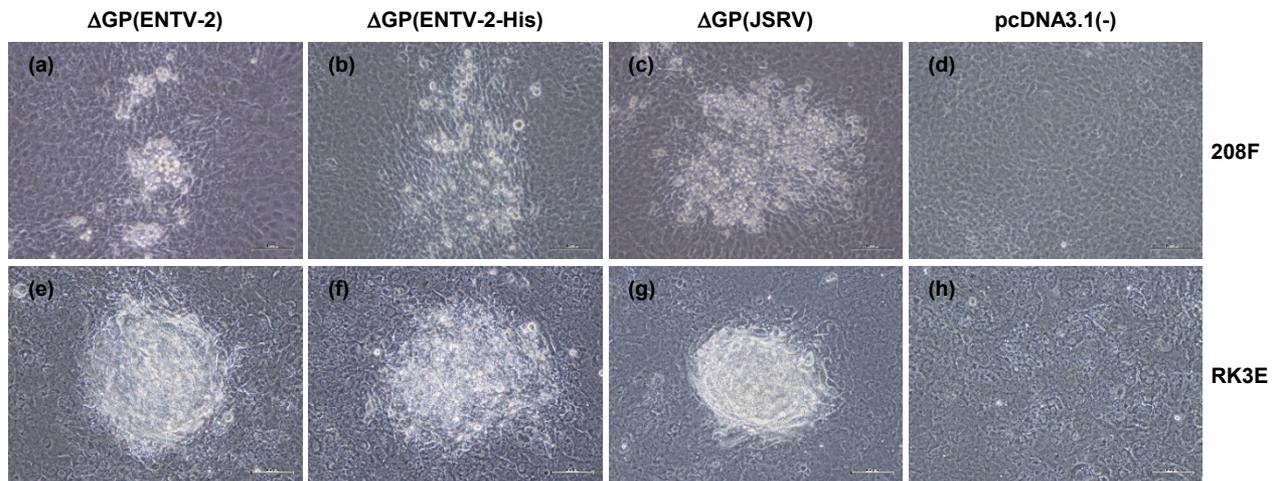


Figure 1



**Figure 2**

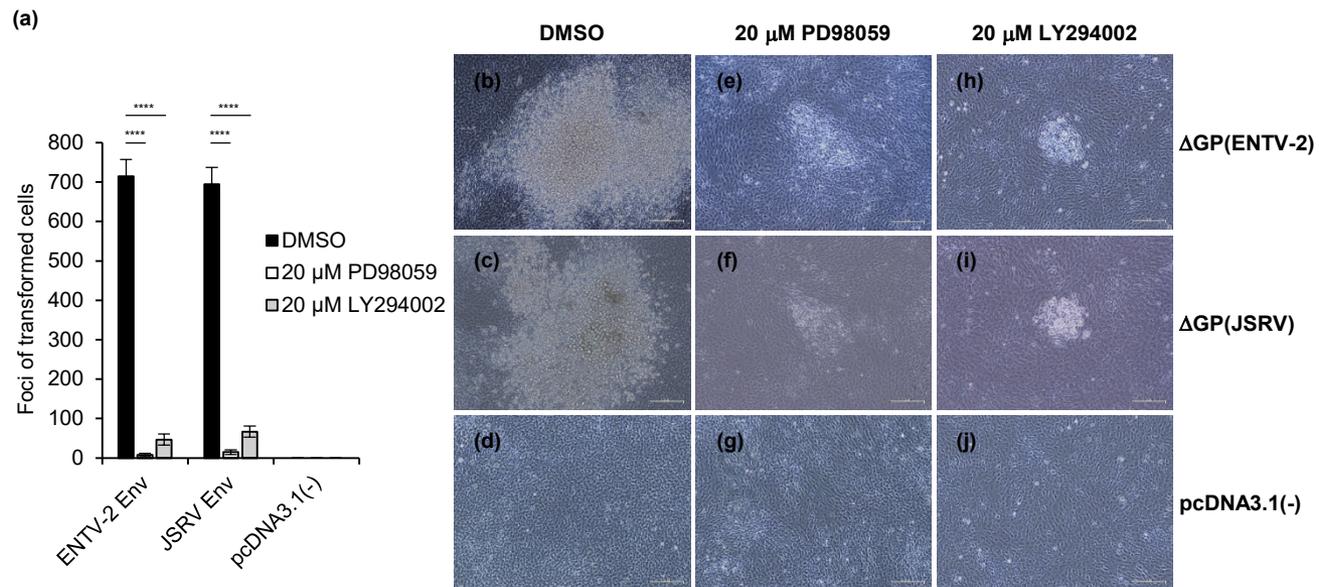


Figure 3

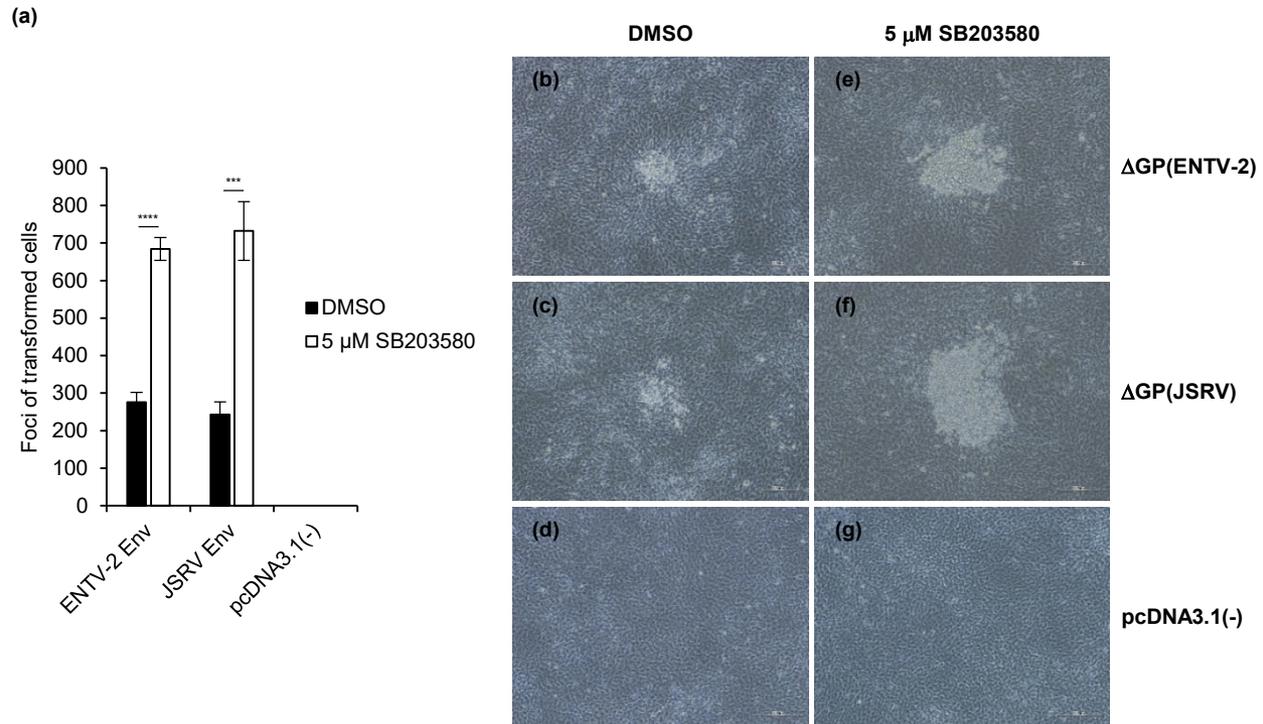
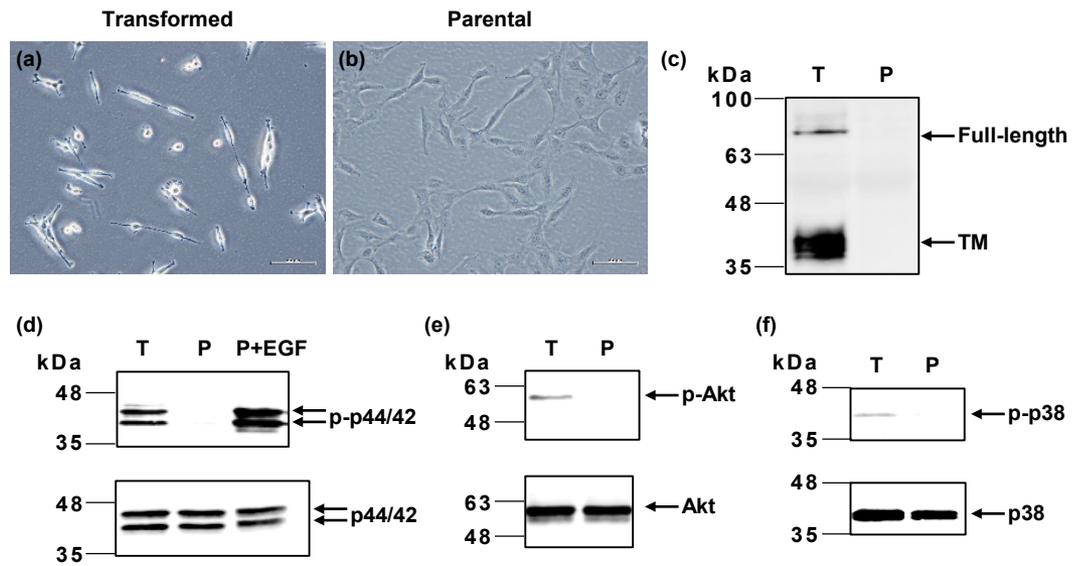


Figure 4



**Figure 5**

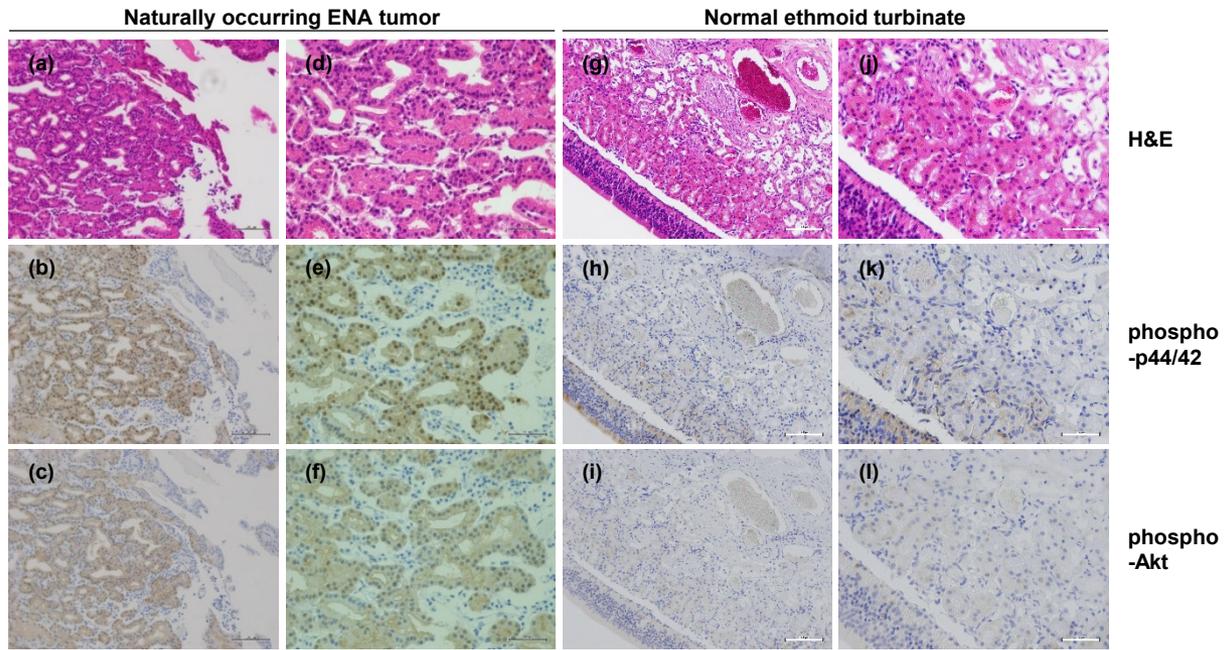


Figure 6