

Kinesins, including the kinesin 2/KIF3 molecular motor, play an important role in intracellular traffic and can deliver vesicles to distal axon terminal, to cilia, to non-polarized cell surface or to epithelial cell basolateral membrane, thus taking part to the establishment of cellular polarity. We report here the consequences of the kinesin 2 motor inactivation in the thyroid of 3 week-old  $Kif3a^{\Delta/flox} Pax8^{Cre/+}$  mutant mice. Our results indicate first that 3 week-old  $Pax8^{Cre/+}$  mice used in these experiments present minor thyroid functional defects resulting in a slight increase in circulating bioactive TSH and intracellular cAMP levels, sufficient to maintain blood T4 levels in the normal range. Second,  $Kif3a$  inactivation in thyrocytes markedly amplified the phenotype observed in  $Pax8^{Cre/+}$  mice, resulting in an altered TSH signaling upstream of the second messenger cAMP and mild hypothyroidism. Finally, our results in mouse embryonic fibroblasts indicate that  $Kif3a$  inactivation in the absence of any  $Pax8$  gene alteration leads to altered GPCR plasma membrane expression, as shown for the  $\beta_2$  adrenergic receptor, and we suggest that a similar mechanism may explain the altered TSH signaling and mild hypothyroidism detected in  $Kif3a^{\Delta/flox} Pax8^{Cre/+}$  mutant mice.