

## **Biological Characterization of Dazl, a Male Infertility Gene Located at the *AZF* Loci of the Y Chromosome**

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Microdeletions in *AZF* loci of the Y chromosome are tightly linked to defects in sperm production, suggesting that products of the genes at these loci play critical roles in spermatogenesis. *DAZ* is a male infertility gene that locates at *AZFc*. In order to understand biological functions of *DAZ*, we identified and characterized molecules that interacted with *Dazl*, a mouse homologue of *DAZ*. *Dazl* associated to dynein motor complex and traveled through microtubule networks. Interaction of *Dazl* with specific mRNA species such as *Cdc25C* and *Tpx1* was also confirmed. These results indicated that *Dazl* is involved in mRNA transport through microtubule network.