Integrin endosomal signalling suppresses anoikis

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Abstract

Integrin containing focal adhesions (FAs) transmit extracellular signals across the plasma membrane to modulate cell adhesion, signalling and survival. Although integrins are known to undergo continuous endo/exocytic traffic, potential impact of endocytic traffic on integrin-induced signals is unknown. Here, we demonstrate that integrin signalling is not restricted to cell-ECM adhesions and identify an endosomal signalling platform that supports integrin signalling away from the plasma membrane. We show that active focal adhesion kinase (FAK), an established marker of integrin-ECM downstream signalling, localises with active integrins on endosomes. Integrin endocytosis positively regulates adhesion-induced FAK activation, which is early endosome antigen-1 (EEA1) and small GTPase Rab21 dependent. FAK binds directly to purified endosomes and becomes activated on them, suggesting a role for endocytosis in enhancing distinct integrin downstream signalling events. Finally, endosomal integrin signalling contributes to cancer-related processes such as anoikis resistance, anchorage-independence and metastasis.

Integrins are heterodimeric cell surface adhesion receptors functioning as integrators of the extra-cellular matrix (ECM) driven cues, the cellular cytoskeleton and the cellular signalling apparatus [1].

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Upon adhesion, integrins trigger the formation of plasma-membrane proximal large mechanosensing and signal-transmitting protein clusters depicted as "adhesomes" [2, 3]. In addition, integrins undergo constant endocytic traffic to facilitate focal adhesion turnover, cell migration, invasion and cytokinesis [4]. For other receptor systems it is well established that endocytic membrane traffic regulates bioavailability of cell-surface molecules and therefore the intensity and/or specificity of receptor-initiated signals [5, 6]. Although active integrins and their ligands have been detected in endosomes [7-9] and increased integrin recycling to the plasma membrane contributes to enhanced signalling of co-trafficked receptor tyrosine kinases[10, 11] it has remained unclear whether endocytosed active integrins signal in endosomes. Here, we demonstrate that integrin signalling is not restricted to focal adhesions as previously described and that endocytosis is necessary for full ECM-induced, integrin mediated ERK, AKT and FAK signalling. We find that FAK binds directly to and can become activated on purified endosomes. Moreover, the FERM-domain of FAK is able to bind purified integrin containing endosomes, suggesting the potential for integrin signalling complexes to assemble on endosomes after internalization of active integrins. Importantly, FAK is required for anchorage-independent growth and suppression of anoikis [12]. Integrin endosomal signalling correlates with reduced anoikis sensitivity in normal cells and anchorage-independent growth and metastasis in breast cancer cells.

Results

Active FAK localizes to integrin-containing endosomes

Cell-ECM adhesion and activation of integrin signalling is necessary for cell survival, differentiation and developmental processes [13, 14]. Integrin endocytosis offers an efficient system to control integrin heterodimer availability at the cell surface and thus the specific ECM-induced cellular response during processes such as cell migration and tumour cell invasion [15, 16]. As FAK

recruitment to focal adhesions and subsequent Y397 autophosphorylation (pFAK-Y397) is an established marker of integrin-ECM engagement and downstream signalling [17] we used an anti-pFAK-Y397 antibody to visualise integrin signalling and subcellular localisation in adherent cells. The pFAK-Y397 antibody detected a dominant 125 kDa protein band in wild-type FAK +/+ MEFs that was absent in FAK-/- cells (Supplementary Fig. 1a) and strongly reduced upon treatment with FAK inhibitors in western blots and in immunofluorescence (Supplementary Fig. 1b, c) indicative of antibody specificity towards pFAK-Y397. Immunofluorescence analyses of cells plated on micropatterns revealed that in addition to the expected ECM-interface localization of integrin and pFAK, substantial pools of both proteins could be detected within the cell body (Supplementary Fig. 1d). Analysis of 3D probabilistic density maps [18] of active integrin and pFAK, in which density contours represent the smallest intracellular volume containing 50% of the total immunofluorescence signal, indicated a substantial pool of pFAK at the cell centre where it overlapped with internalised active β1-integrin (9EG7 antibody) (Fig. 1a). The extent of co-localization between active β1-integrin and pFAK in micropattern normalized cells (n=24) was 38.3±6.2 (s.d.)%, as assessed by a particle-based analysis. A similar intracellular localisation of pFAK was detected in unconstrained cells (Fig. 1b), suggesting that the non-adhesion-site-localised pFAK was not an artefact of restricting the cell geometry with micropatterns.

Exogenous expression of the constitutively active Rab5 GTPase (Rab5Q79L, Rab5-CA) results in the formation of enlarged endosome structures [19] and can be used to visualize endosomal localization of a variety of proteins, including integrins [20]. In addition, overexpression of Rab21 induces β1-integrin endocytosis and localization to enlarged early endosomes [9]. We used these properties to further investigate the subcellular localisation of the intracellular active β1-integrin and pFAK. Active β1-integrin (12G10 antibody) and pFAK were visible as closely associated puncta in both Rab5-CA and Rab21-positive endosomes in serum-starved TIFFs actively adhering to fibronectin (Fig. 1c, Rab5CA; 98.7% and Supplementary Fig. 1e, Rab21; 97.1% of active β1-

integrin positive endosomes contained pFAK, n = 243 and 209 endosomes, respectively) and similar data were obtained using a total β1-integrin antibody (Fig. 1c, Supplementary Fig. 1e). Endosomal puncta of active β1-integrin and pFAK closely associated with a mean distance of ~2-3 pixels, a value similar to those obtained between active β1-integrin and Rab5 (mean distance of ~3 pixels; Fig 1c). Similar association between active β1-integrin and pFAK was observed on EEA1- (Fig. 1b) and Rab21-positive endosomes (Supplementary Fig. 1e). For comparison, the mean distance between randomly distributed non-endosomal pFAK and pFAK (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Fig. 1e) or active β1 and pFAK outside the endosomes (Fig. 1b) was ~8-10 pixels. These puncta co-distribution analyses [21] indicate that active β1-integrin and pFAK are found in the same endosomes. Phospho-FAK recruitment to integrin-positive endosomes was further confirmed using super resolution STED microscopy (Fig. 1d). Thus, phosphorylated FAK is not restricted to focal adhesions but can also be detected on endosomes in adherent cells.

Integrin ligands and talin are present in FAK-positive endosomes

Several studies report integrin ligand localisation in endosomes [8, 10, 22] and we have demonstrated increased endosomal retention of active β1-integrins compared to inactive receptors [7]. Importantly, we detected the integrin ligand fibronectin in pFAK and active β1-integrin-positive endosomes (Fig. 2a; 90.5% of pFAK-positive endosomes contained fibronectin, n = 200 endosomes), suggesting that functional receptor-ligand coupling is linked to the endosome-associated active FAK pool. Biochemical fractionations separating plasma membrane, cytoplasm and endomembrane compartments [23] demonstrated the presence of FAK in EEA1, Rab21 and β1-integrin-positive endosomal fractions (Fig. 2b). Interestingly, corresponding to the presence of active integrin receptors in endosomes, the integrin activator and focal adhesion component talin, but not paxillin and only very low levels of vinculin, was also detected in endosomes suggesting the recruitment of a specific subset of integrin adhesome proteins to endosomes.

Endocytosis contributes to integrin signalling

Next, we set out to investigate whether the endosome-associated active integrin and FAK are crucial components of integrin-ECM-induced signalling. Serum-starved cells were maintained in suspension for 1 hour (to inactivate RTKs and adhesion-induced pathways) and subsequently plated on integrin ligands. Under these conditions, ECM engagement induced time-dependent activation of the canonical downstream integrin signalling mediators including FAK, ERK1/2 and Akt without significant adhesion-dependent activation of any of the 48 different RTKs tested (Supplementary Fig. 2a, b), suggesting that the observed signals were a consequence of integrin-mediated adhesion and not due to growth factor receptor stimulation. Dynasore-mediated inhibition of dynamin [24], an important mediator of integrin receptor endocytosis [16], abrogated integrin and transferrin receptor internalisation (Supplementary Fig. 3a-c) and significantly attenuated the activation of FAK and ERK1/2 in carcinoma cells and in normal fibroblasts spreading on collagen or fibronectin (Fig. 3a-d and Supplementary Fig. 4a-d) suggesting that endocytosis was key for adhesion-induced signalling. These results were recapitulated with another dynamin inhibitor Dyngo4 [25] and a dynamin dominant-negative construct (Dynamin-2^{K44A}-GFP; [26]) (Supplementary Fig. 4e, f). Interestingly, not all integrin-mediated pathways, such as Src activation, were consistently inhibited upon defective dynamin function (Fig. 3a-d; Supplementary Fig. 4a-d). This may be attributed to increased integrin plasma-membrane signalling supported by the slightly elevated cell surface β1-integrin levels in dynamin-inhibited cells (Supplementary Fig. 4g). In line with these data, dynamin inhibition triggered a reduction in the in situ Proximity Ligation Assay (PLA) signal between integrin and pFAK specifically in endosomes and promoted a converse increase in the plasma membrane-localised integrin-pFAK PLA signal (Fig. 3e). In addition, reduced endosomal pFAK and pAkt (another marker of downstream integrin signalling) levels, following dynasore treatment, were confirmed by subcellular fractionation (Supplementary Fig. 4h).

Integrin endosomal signalling is Rab21 dependent

As dynamin inhibition blocks several cellular endocytic routes we next used siRNA-mediated silencing of Rab21, which interacts directly with the integrin α-subunit cytoplasmic tail (residues K1160/R1161), as a more direct mechanism to target integrin endocytosis and traffic [9, 27]. RNAi-mediated silencing of Rab21 [27] significantly reduced FAK phosphorylation (Fig. 3f) upon matrix engagement corresponding with decreased integrin endocytosis observed in Rab21-depleted cells [9]. Furthermore, adhesion-induced signalling (pFAK levels) was significantly impaired in cells expressing an endocytosis-defective collagen-binding integrin (α2-subunit KR1160/61AA mutation as compared to wild-type α2-integrin receptor expressing cells adhering to collagen [28] (Fig. 3g). Taken together, these data demonstrate that impaired integrin endocytosis attenuates adhesion-induced FAK activation.

FAK is recruited to and activated on purified endosomes

The requirement for endocytosis for enhanced integrin signalling could be linked to sustained signalling of plasma membrane initiated signalling on the endosomes or the ability of integrins to trigger signalling from endomembranes. To study this further we isolated endosomes from FAK+/+ and FAK-/- MEFs. β1-integrin localised to endosomal and plasma membrane fractions in both cell types indicating that integrin endosomal localisation is not FAK dependent (Fig. 4a). As we found that endosomes contain a subset of integrin signalling components (Fig. 2b) we next addressed the possibility that these components could assemble directly on the endosome. We incubated isolated integrin-containing endosomes, from FAK-/- cells, with purified recombinant FAK protein. Strikingly, soluble FAK was specifically recruited to the endosomes, independently of its phosphorylation status (Fig. 4b). Integrins contribute to this recruitment since silencing of β1-integrins reduced the amount of recruited active FAK (Fig. 4c and Supplementary Fig. 4i). Finally,

the non-phosphorylated recombinant FAK became phosphorylated on Y397 on the isolated endosomes *in vitro* (Fig. 4d), suggesting the possibility that internalised integrins could assemble endosomal signalling complexes distinct from the plasma-membrane localised adhesions. This notion was further supported by the observation that exogenous focal adhesion targeting domain of FAK alone (FAK FAT) was unable to localize to the endosomal fraction whereas the endogenous FAK and the FERM-domain of FAK (FAK FERM) localized to the endosomal fraction (Fig. 4e). Taken together, these data suggest a role for endocytosis in enhancing and possibly triggering distinct integrin downstream signalling events, including FAK activation.

Integrin endocytosis is intimately coupled to the cellular cytoskeleton and cell spreading. In line with this, we observed slightly reduced cell spreading in dynasore-treated cells after 45 min of adhesion to collagen (Supplementary Fig. 5a, b). To exclude the possibility that attenuated adhesion-signalling, upon inhibition of integrin endocytosis, was secondary to alterations in adhesion area, we induced integrin-ECM ligation in suspension using small collagen-coated beads. Dynasore treatment significantly inhibited FAK activation upon cell binding to collagen beads (Supplementary Fig. 5c), indicative of a cell spreading independent regulatory role for endocytosis in ECM-induced integrin signalling. In addition, we found that cell adhesion to round micropatterns with restricted dimensions that constrain cell spreading, supported FAK activation in an endocytosis dependent manner (Fig. 4f).

Integrin and FAK-proximal proteins on endosomes

To gain further insight into the integrin and FAK signalling networks on the endomembranes we carried out mass spectrometric (MS) analyses of the cytoplasmic, plasma membrane and endosomal fractions of fibroblasts (Fig 5a-d and Supplementary Table 1). Importantly, integrin ligands fibronectin and collagen as well as many established endomembrane proteins, in addition to classic

endosome markers, EHD1, Rab14 and rabaptin-5, were detected in the endosomal fraction (Fig. 5b and Supplementary Table 1). Interestingly, 69 proteins identified in the endosomal fraction are components of the literature-curated map of adhesion complexes [29] (Supplementary Table 1) and many more endosome fraction proteins were identified as adhesion components in several published MS datasets (Supplementary Table 1 and materials and methods for details). To highlight putative regulators of FAK or β1-integrin on endosomes, proteins identified in the endosomal fraction were mapped onto a human protein-protein interaction network and sub-networks containing FAK (Fig. 5c) and β1-integrin (Fig. 5d) binders were created.

The proteins in both networks have very interesting activities that are likely to contribute to integrin signalling and maintenance of receptor activity. These included actin-binding proteins, scaffolding proteins, integrin activity regulators (e.g. talin), phosphatases known to contribute to signalling and several guanine nucleotide exchange factors (GEFs) implicated in the regulation of small GTPases Rac and Rho. Interestingly, Src and paxillin, both important components of FAK signalling in focal adhesions, were not abundant in the endomembrane fraction (compared to the plasma membrane or cytosolic fractions; Fig. 5b). These data suggest that integrin signalling on endosomes may involve unique features not present in integrin signalling in focal adhesions.

Integrin endosomal signalling is EEA1-dependent

We next investigated whether increased integrin traffic could augment signalling. Transient overexpression of Rab5-CA and Rab21, previously reported to increase integrin endocytosis in multiple cell types[9, 28, 30], significantly promoted adhesion-dependent FAK activation (Supplementary Fig. 6a, b). Active β1-integrin and pFAK are present on endosomes positive for endogenous EEA1, a key Rab5 effector [31, 32], associated with both Rab5- and Rab21-positive endosomes [4] (Fig. 1c, Supplementary Fig. 1e) and EEA1 and pFAK localize to GFP-EEA1 positive

endosomes in fibroblasts adhering to fibronectin (Supplementary Fig. 6c). Although multiple endosomal signalling pathways are EEA1 dependent, a second class of Rab5-positive, EEA1-negative early endosomes containing one or both of the closely related APPL1 and APPL2 adaptors have also been implicated in signalling [33-35]. Silencing of EEA1 with a single siRNA oligonucleotide (Fig. 6a) or an independent siRNA smart pool (Supplementary Fig. 6d) significantly reduced adhesion-induced FAK activation (Fig. 6a) without influencing integrin endocytosis (Fig. 6b). In contrast, silencing of APPL1 had no effect on integrin signalling or endocytosis in response to adhesion (Fig. 6b-c). The recruitment of EEA1 to endosomes requires the generation of phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate (PI(3)P) and inhibition of phosphoinositide-3-phosphate kinase (PI3K) has been shown to decrease the number of EEA1-containing endosomes while increasing the size of APPL1-positive vesicles [36]. Accordingly, treatment of cells with a PI3K inhibitor triggered a reduction in the number of EEA1-positive endosomes without reducing total EEA1 levels and inhibited adhesion-induced FAK activation similarly to dynasore treatment (Fig. 6d-e). Taken together, our results reveal an important role for EEA1 but not APPL1 in integrin endosomal signalling.

Integrin endosomal signalling inhibits anoikis

A central function for integrin-induced signalling is adhesion-dependent cell survival. Upon detachment, normal cells undergo a specialised form of programmed cell death called anoikis, and canonical integrin-mediated activation of FAK on the plasma membrane has been considered critical for anoikis suppression [12]. Upon detachment, serum-starved fibroblasts exhibited relatively fast anoikis and inhibition of integrin endocytosis with dynasore or Dyngo4a significantly increased the fraction of apoptotic cells 5 hours post detachment but had no effect on cell survival in adherent cells (Fig. 7a and Supplementary Fig. 7a). Importantly, dynasore treatment reduced pFAK and

induced anoikis sensitivity in FAK+/+ MEFs in suspension to levels seen in FAK-/- MEFs under the same experimental condition; however dynamin inhibition did not further increase apoptosis in FAK-/- MEFs (Fig. 7b), indicative of a link between FAK activation and sensitivity to dynasore-induced anoikis. Finally, since EEA1-endosomes (but not APPL-endosomes) and Rab21 mediated endocytosis were identified as critical contributors to integrin endosomal FAK signalling (Fig. 3h, 2f), we tested the effect of EEA1, APPL-1 and Rab21 silencing on anoikis sensitivity. RNAi transfections increased the proportion of apoptotic cells to some extent in all siRNA transfected adherent cells (Fig. 4d, e). However, upon cell detachment EEA1- and Rab21-silenced cells showed significantly higher anoikis sensitivity and reduced pFAK levels (Fig. 7c-d, 6a, 3f), whereas APPL1 silencing did not significantly increase anoikis (Supplementary Fig. 7b). Next we tested whether impairment of integrin signalling from endosomes negatively affects the ability of anoikis-resistant cells to grow in an anchorage-independent manner, which is a critical hallmark of cancer. We found that anchorage-independent growth of tumorigenic MDA-MB-231 cells was sensitive to FAK and dynamin inhibition (Supplementary Fig. 8a), suggesting the suitability of these cells for investigation of the functional contribution of endosomal FAK signalling. *In vitro*, silencing of EEA1 and even more significantly silencing of Rab21 reduced the proportion of live cells in suspension cultures (Fig. 7e). Since anchorage-independent growth has been linked to metastasis [37] we investigated the ability of MDA-MB-231 cells to survive in vasculature and metastasise to lungs. When control and Rab21 siRNA or control and EEA1 transfected cells were co-injected into the same recipient animals, the number of extravasated Rab21-silenced cells in the lung tissue was significantly lower after 48 hours (Fig. 7f-g and Supplementary Fig. 8b). Thus, impaired integrin endosomal signalling sensitises cancer cells to detachment-induced cell death and impairs their metastatic potential *in vivo*.

Discussion

Our study provides evidence, using multiple complementary approaches, for a non-canonical β1-integrin signalling that is distinct from the signalling role of integrins in adhesion sites at the plasma membrane (Fig. 8). Our data indicate that active integrins bound to their ligands co-localize with active FAK in endosomes away from the plasma membrane. Integrin-positive endosomes contain talin which may function to maintain the integrin active. In addition, several other signalling and scaffolding proteins are detected in the isolated endosomal fraction and their functional contribution to integrin endosomal signalling will be interesting to investigate in detail in the future. We find that integrin-containing endosomes harbour the capacity to recruit and activate soluble FAK suggesting that a subset of integrin-associated proteins, present in cell-ECM adhesions, may form the core integrin signalling platform in endosomes. It is also possible that active phosphorylated FAK is co-endocytosed with integrin receptors from the plasma membrane and that additional pFAK recruitment to the endosome acts to reinforce signalling downstream of integrin-ECM engagement. Differentiating between these two distinct mechanisms, co-endocytosis or reassembly of integrin-signalling complexes at the endosome, will be crucial for our understanding of integrin endosomal signalling and will require further comprehensive investigation. Nevertheless, integrin signalling from EEA1 endosomes, revealed in this study, functions to accentuate adhesion-induced signalling and facilitates extended survival in anoikis-sensitive cells. Interestingly, the targeting of FAK to endosomes seems to be distinct from its focal adhesion recruitment [38]. The focal adhesion targeting sequence (FAT) in FAK is sufficient alone to localize to focal adhesions in cells, however, we find that localization to the endosomes is mediated by the FAK-FERM domain and not the FAT-domain. Furthermore, Src which is a critical enhancer of FAK activity and its down-stream signalling in focal adhesions [39] is only very weakly detectable in the integrin-containing endosomal fractions. Thus, targeting and activation of FAK on endosomes may be mechanistically distinct to from its regulation in focal adhesions.

We show here that endosome-localised active integrin and FAK signalling contribute to cancer-related processes such as anchorage independent growth and metastasis. In the future, unravelling mechanisms involved in the endosomal activation of FAK in non-adherent cells may uncover possible therapeutic targets in anoikis-resistant transformed cells.

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Author Information

Authors declare no conflict of interests. Correspondence should be addressed to J.I. (johanna.ivaska@utu.fi). The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD001870 and 10.6019/PXD001870.

Contributions

J.I. conceived and supervised the study, carried out experiments, analysed the data and wrote the manuscript with the contribution of J.A., B.G. and A.M. K.S. and B.G. supervised and helped analyse micropatterning experiments and gave helpful insights and discussion. J.A. designed, carried out and analysed most of the experiments with crucial help from A.M., R.K. and M.S. G.J.

and A.M. designed, carried out and analysed the mass-spec experiments. H.H. (acknowledged) provided instrumental help in editing the manuscript text and figures.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. pFAK-Y397 localizes to endosomes together with β1-integrin. a, Representative images and 3D probabilistic density maps of active β1-integrin and pFAK-Y397 localisation in MDA-MB-231 cells plated on crossbow-shaped fibronectin-coated micropatterns (24 cells assessed in three independent experiments). **b,** Representative confocal images of endogenous active β1-integrin, pFAK and EEA1 staining in MDA-MB-231 cells and box plot of the distance between adjacent puncta of active β1-integrin and pFAK in or outside the EEA1-positive endosomes (in

pixels) (box plots show the 25th–75th percentiles delineated by the upper and lower limits of the box; the median is shown by the horizontal line inside the box. Whiskers indicate maxima and minima). n= the number of active β1-integrin-pFAK and EEA1-EEA1 doublets (indicated in the figure) analysed from multiple cells (numbers indicated in the figure) from three independent experiments are indicated. **c**, Representative confocal images of pFAK and total or active β1-integrin staining in GFP-Rab5-CA-expressing TIFFs adhering to fibronectin (45 min). Box plot of the distance between adjacent puncta of active β1-integrin and pFAK or Rab5 in GFP-Rab5-positive endosomes and between pFAK and pFAK outside the endosomes (in pixels) (box plots show the 25th–75th percentiles delineated by the upper and lower limits of the box; the median is shown by the horizontal line inside the box. Whiskers indicate maxima and minima). Numbers of cells and of active β1-integrin-pFAK, active β1-integrin-Rab5 and pFAK-pFAK doublets (n) analysed from three independent experiments are indicated. **d,** Super-resolution STED images of active β1-integrin and pFAK-Y397 on single GFP-Rab5-CA endosomes in TIFFs adhering to fibronectin (45 min). Images displaying PDM (product of the differences from the mean) values were generated to visualize the colocalization between β1-integrin and pFAK-Y397. ROI: region of interest.

Mann-Whitney test *P* values are provided.

Figure 2. pFAK-Y397 localizes to endosomes together with fibronectin. a, Active β1 integrin, pFAK and fibronectin localisation in GFP-Rab5-CA-expressing TIFFs plated on fibronectin (top panel) or incubated with 647-labelled fibronectin fragment (FN(7-10)) for 45 min (bottom panel). Fluorescence intensity profiles (normalized grey value) across representative endosomes (solid lines) are illustrated. **b**, Subcellular fractionation of FAK -/- MEFs re-expressing GFP-FAK and representative immunoblots from more than three independent experiments. Lys: cell lysate; PM: plasma membrane; Cyto: cytosol; Endo: Endosomal fraction; ROI: region of interest.

Uncropped images of blots are shown in supplementary figure 9.

Figure 3. Inhibition of integrin endocytosis attenuates integrin signalling. a-d, Analysis of kinase activity in NCI-H460 cells (**a, b**) and TIFFs (**c, d**) ± dynasore plated on collagen (**a, c**) or fibronectin (**b, d**) (mean ± SEM, **a**, n=5 independent experiments; **b-d**, n=3 independent experiments). **e**, In-situ PLA signal (red dots) representing colocalisation between 12G10 (active integrin antibody) and the indicated antibodies in GFP-Rab5-CA-expressing cells (10 cells assessed from two independent experiments). **f**, Representative immunoblot and quantification of pFAK protein levels in Rab21- or control-silenced NCI-H460 cells plated on collagen for the indicated times (mean ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments). **g**, Representative immunoblot and quantification of pFAK in CHO cells expressing α2-integrin wild-type (WT) or Rab21-binding deficient integrin α2-AA-mutant and plated on collagen for 45 min (mean ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments). a.u: arbitrary units. Student's two-tailed unpaired t-test *P* values are provided and statistics source data can be found in Supplementary Table 2.

Uncropped images of blots are shown in supplementary figure 9.

Figure 4. FAK recruitment and activation on integrin-positive endosomes a, Representative immunoblot of subcellular fractionation of FAK+/+ and FAK-/- MEFs (five independent experiments). **b,** Representative immunoblot of recombinant FAK (phosphorylated/activated or non-activated: n.a) recruitment to insoluble endosomal pellet (P) and soluble supernatant (S) fractions isolated from FAK -/- MEFs (five independent experiments). **c,** Representative immunoblot analysing the recruitment of recombinant FAK to purified endosomes derived from either control- or β1-integrin-silenced FAK -/- MEFs (five independent experiments). **d,** Representative immunoblot analysing the activation of recombinant FAK in purified endosome

fractions derived from FAK -/- MEFs in the presence or absence of 10 μM ATP (five independent experiments). **e,** Subcellular fractionation of FAK+/+ MEFs transfected with GFP-FAK FAT or GFP-FAK FERM. Shown are representative immunoblots of GFP-FAK fragments and endogenous FAK (total-FAK) from two independent experiments. **f**, MDA-MB-231 cells plated on 20 μm round fibronectin-coated micropatterns (45 min) ± dynasore. Representative maximum projections and quantification of pFAK (mean fluorescence ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments, 10 cells analysed / experiment). Lys: cell lysate; PM: plasma membrane; Cyto: cytosol; Endo: Endosomal fraction. Student's two-tailed unpaired t-test P =0.01. Uncropped images of blots are shown in supplementary figure 9.

Figure 5. Endosomal proteome. a, Representative western blot validation of fractionated samples analysed by mass spectrometry. **b-d,** The threshold for protein identification was set at a minimum of 3 spectral counts with at least 2 unique peptides. Altogether, 2021, 1667 and 2006 proteins were detected in the cytosolic, endosomal and plasma membrane fractions, respectively. **b,** Hierarchical clustering of Geiger adhesome proteins identified in the cytoplasmic, plasma membrane and endosomal fractions. Examples of proteins detected in multiple clusters are displayed on the right hand side (two independent experiments). **c-d**, Known FAK (PTK2) (c) and β1-integrin (ITGB1) (d) interacting proteins identified in the mass spectrometric analysis of purified endosomal fractions in FAK +/+ MEFs. Proteins were mapped onto a human protein-protein interaction network. Each node represents a protein (labelled with gene name) and each edge represents a reported interaction between two proteins. The nodes are coloured according to protein abundance (two independent experiments).

Uncropped images of blots are shown in supplementary figure 9.

Figure 6. Integrin signalling is EEA-1 dependent.

a, c, Representative blots and quantification of pFAK protein levels following EEA1 (**a**) or APPL1 (**c**) silencing in NCI-H460 cells plated on collagen (mean ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments). **b,** Integrin endocytosis in EEA1- or APPL1-silenced NCI-H460 cells plated on collagen (30 min) using active β1-integrin (9EG7) antibody (proportion of cytoplasmic/total staining, mean ± SEM, n=43 cells pooled from three independent experiments). **d,** Representative immunoblot and quantification of pFAK protein levels in NCI-H460 cells plated on collagen ± dynasore or PI3K-inhibitor LY294002 (mean ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments). **e,** Representative confocal images of EEA1 and actin staining in NCI-H460 cells ± PI3K inhibitor (LY294002 40 μM) and quantification of the number of EEA1-endosomes larger than 0.7 μm and the total mean EEA1 intensity (mean ± SEM, n = 16 cells per condition pooled from two independent experiments). Student's two-tailed unpaired t-test *P* values are provided and statistics source data can be found in Supplementary Table 2. Uncropped images of blots are shown in Supplementary Figure 9.

Figure 7. Integrin endosomal signalling and anoikis sensitivity are Rab21- and EEA1-dependent. a-d, Quantification of caspase-3 positive (FL1) apoptotic cells in serum-starved TIFFs and representative dot blots (**a**), in FAK-/- or FAK+/+ WT MEFs ± dynasore (**b**) and following EEA1 (**c**) or Rab21 (**d**) silencing in TIFFs (mean fluorescence ± SEM, n=3 independent experiments). **e**, Quantification of anchorage-independent survival of MDA-MB-231 cells following EEA1 or Rab21 silencing (mean ± s.d., n=3 independent experiments). a-e, Student's two-tailed unpaired t-test *P* values are provided. **f-g**, MDA-MB-231 cells transfected with siCtrl and siRab21 (**f**) or siCtrl and siEEA1 (**g**) were fluorescently labelled with green or far-red cell trackers and coinjected 1:1 into the tail vein of mice. The proportion of extravasated cells was analysed by flow cytometry 48 hr after coinjection and is represented as a percentage of total extravasated cells in the lung (box plots show the 25th–75th percentiles delineated by the upper and lower limits of the box; the median is shown by the horizontal line inside the box. Whiskers indicate maxima and

minima; siRab21: n = 15 mice from one experiment, siEEA1: n=10 & 15 mice pooled from two independent experiments). Student's two-tailed unpaired t-test *P* values are provided. Uncropped images of blots are shown in supplementary figure 9. Statistics source data can be found in Supplementary Table 2.

Figure 8. Conclusion model: the role of adhesion-induced integrin endosomal signalling in the regulation of anoikis. The full activation of the ECM-induced integrin pFAK-Y397 signal is dependent on Rab21-mediated integrin endocytosis to EEA1-containing early endosomes, and this is ultimately required for suppression of anoikis and anchorage-independent growth. Blocked integrin endocytosis leads to reduced FAK activation and to increased anoikis sensitivity.