A dural lymphatic vascular system that drains brain interstitial fluid and macromolecules

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The central nervous system (CNS) is considered an organ devoid of lymphatic vasculature. Yet, part of the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) drains into the cervical lymph nodes (LNs). The mechanism of CSF entry into the LNs has been unclear. Here we report the surprising finding of a lymphatic vessel network in the dura mater of the mouse brain. We show that dural lymphatic vessels absorb CSF from the adjacent subarachnoid space and brain interstitial fluid (ISF) via the glymphatic system. Dural lymphatic vessels transport fluid into the deep cervical LNs (dcLNs) via foramina at the base of the skull. In a transgenic mouse model expressing a VEGF-C/D trap and displaying complete aplasia of the dural lymphatic vessels, macromolecule clearance from the brain was attenuated and transport from the subarachnoid space into dcLNs was abrogated. Surprisingly, brain ISF pressure and water content were unaffected. Overall, these findings indicate that the mechanism of CSF flow into the dcLNs is directly via an adjacent dural lymphatic network, which may be important for the clearance of macromolecules from the brain. Importantly, these results call for a reexamination of the role of the lymphatic system in CNS physiology and disease.

Lymphatic circulation extends throughout most of the body and contributes to tissue homeostasis and function by facilitating the clearance of excess fluid and macromolecules from the interstitium (Secker and Harvey, 2015). However, the central nervous system (CNS) is considered to lack lymphatic vasculature, which has raised long-standing questions about how cerebral interstitial fluid (ISF) is cleared of waste products (Iliff and Nedergaard, 2013). The exchange of compounds is limited by the blood–brain barrier, which functions as a diffusion barrier between the brain and circulating blood. Therefore, the transvascular clearance of most compounds is dependent on specific active transporter mechanisms (Zlokovic, 2011). In addition, the brain has adapted to use a unique paravascular route in which fluids may freely exchange between the brain ISF and the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) along glial “lymphatic” (glymphatic) routes without crossing the tightly regulated endothelial cell (EC) layer (Iliff et al., 2012; Xie et al., 2013). Downstream of the glymphatic system, the majority of the CSF is considered to drain into the venous circulation through arachnoid granulations.

Still, several studies have found that a substantial proportion of the CSF is also drained into extracranial lymphatic vessels and LNs (Koh et al., 2005). However, the mechanisms of CSF entry into the extracranial lymphatic compartment are unclear.

The visualization of lymphatic vessels has been markedly facilitated over the last decade by the identification of specific lymphatic EC markers, such as prospero homeobox protein 1 (PROX1) transcription factor, a master regulator in the program specifying the lymphatic EC fate (Hong et al., 2002), vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 3 (VEGFR3), a lymphangiogenic tyrosine kinase receptor (Secker and Harvey, 2015), chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 21 (CCL21), a chemokine secreted by lymphatic ECs which facilitates the migration of dendritic cells into LNs (Liao and von der Weid, 2015), lymphatic vessel endothelial hyaluronan

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Figure 1. Terminally differentiated lymphatic vessels in the dura mater of the brain. Visualization of CNS lymphatic vasculature using Prox1-GFP reporter mice with Dil counterstaining for blood vasculature, Vegfr3^lox/lox reporter mice and immunofluorescence for PECAM1, and the lymphatic markers PROX1, LYVE1, PDPN, CCL21, and VEGFR3, as indicated. White arrowheads denote lymphatic vessels, yellow arrowheads denote the skull exit sites, and asterisks denote valves. (A) A schematic image of the various areas analyzed. The letters in bold refer to the corresponding images below. MMA, middle meningeal artery; PPA, pterygopalatine artery; RGV, retroglenoid vein; RRV, rostral rhinal vein; SS, sigmoid sinus; SSS, superior sagittal sinus; TV, transverse vein. (B) Lymphatic vessels running down along the SS and exiting the skull. (C) Lymphatic vessels running down along the proximal MMA branches.
receptor 1 (LYVE1), and podoplanin (PDPN; Oliver and Srinivasan, 2010). We have recently discovered that in the eye, another immune-privileged organ previously considered to lack lymphatic circulation, the Schlemm’s canal is a lymphatic-like vessel (Aspelund et al., 2014). These intriguing inconsistencies and our recent discoveries led us to investigate the possibility of lymphatic circulation in the CNS in more detail.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Lymphatic vessels in the dura mater surrounding the brain
The brain is enveloped by meningeal linings consisting of three layers: the pia mater tightly attached to the surface of the brain, the avascular arachnoid mater overlying the subarachnoid space, and the vascularized dura mater fused to the cranial bones. To determine whether lymphatic vessels exist within the CNS and surrounding meninges, we analyzed the Prox1-GFP and Vegfr3+/-LacZ reporter mice and whole-mount immunofluorescence preparations of the skull and brain of WT mice against LYVE1, PROX1, PDPN, CCL21, VEGFR3, and PECAM1. To visualize blood vessels, the Prox1-GFP mice were perfused with the fluorescent dye 1,1’-dioctadecyl-3,3,3’,3’–tetramethylindocarbocyanine (DiI; Li et al., 2008).

After removing the brain from the skull, no lymphatic vessels were seen on the brain parenchyma or pia mater (not depicted). However, a surprisingly extensive network of lymphatic vessels was observed in the meninges underlying the skull bones (Fig. 1, A–J; and Video 1). In sagittal planes of the inner skull, lymphatic vessels were observed to run down toward the base of the skull along the transverse sinus, the sphenoid sinus, the retroglenoid vein, the rostral rhinal vein, and the major branches of the middle and anterior meningeal arteries (Fig. 1, B and D; and Video 1). In preparations of the superior portions of the skull, the lymphatic vessels were visualized along the superior sagittal sinus, the transverse sinus, the rostral rhinal veins, and the middle meningeal artery (Fig. 1, E and F). A concentration of lymphatic vessels could be observed to exit the skull along the meningeal portions of the pterygopalatine artery, a branch of the internal carotid artery which diverges in and out of the skull to give rise to the middle meningeal artery (Fig. 1 I). Lymphatic vessels along the sphenoid sinus and retroglenoid vein exited the skull along the veins (Fig. 1, B and D). In preparations of the base of the skull, lymphatic vessels could be seen in the distal portion of several cranial nerves (optic, trigeminal, glossopharyngeal, vagus, and accessory), exiting the skull along the nerve (Fig. 1, G and H). Lymphatic vessels could be observed also in the dural lining of the cribiform plate, where some vessels passed through the skull into the nasal mucosa (Fig. 1, G and J).

Generally, lymphatic vessels were relatively scarce in the superior portions of the skull, whereas the base of the skull contained a more extensive lymphatic vessel network (Fig. 1 A). Interestingly, only the lymphatic vessels at the base of the skull contained valves, but their distribution was relatively scarce. Valves were separated by long stretches of valveless vessel segments (Fig. 1, B–D).

To determine the localization of these vessels in relation to the meninges, thick skull sections were analyzed. In these preparations, PROX1- and CCL21-positive lymphatic vessels were observed in the meninges underlying the bony parts of the skull, adjacent to the dural blood vasculature (Fig. 1 K).

Whole-mount immunofluorescence staining of the superior sagittal lymphatic vessels showed that, like conventional lymphatic vessels, the dural lymphatic vessels express very low levels of PECAM1 (Fig. 1 L) but high levels of LYVE1, PDPN, VEGFR3, CCL21, and PROX1 (Fig. 1, M–P; Aspelund et al., 2014). Thus, the dural lymphatic vessels are lined by terminally differentiated lymphatic endothelium.

Overall, these data indicated that lymphatic vessels are present in the dura mater of the CNS and drain out of the skull via the foramina of the base of the skull alongside arteries, veins, and cranial nerves. We named these lymphatic vessels on the basis of their venous, arterial, or cranial nerve counterparts. The localization of the vessels suggested a possible role in CSF absorption through the arachnoid mater.

Dura mater lymphatic vessels drain brain ISF into deep cervical LNs (dcLNs)
Tracers injected into the brain ISF have been shown to translocate into the CSF via the glymphatic system and further into dcLNs (Koh et al., 2005; Iliff et al., 2012; Plog et al., 2015). However, it is unclear how these tracers gain access into the LNs. We hypothesized that the dura mater lymphatic vessels absorb brain ISF and CSF. To test this, we injected an inert 20-kD poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) conjugate of the bright near-infrared dye IRDye 680 (PEG-IRDye; Proulx et al., 2013) into the brain parenchyma of the Prox1-GFP mice. 2 h after injection, the tracer was observed to exit the brain via paravenous routes for entry into the CSF space (not depicted), as previously reported (Iliff et al., 2012). Lymphatic...
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Figure 2. Dural lymphatic vessels drain brain ISF into dcLNs. (A–J) Analysis of lymphatic outflow routes of cerebral ISF by fluorescent stereomicroscopy in Prox1-GFP (green) mice 1 h after PEG-IRDye (red) injection into the brain parenchyma without (A–F) and with (G–J) ligation of the efferent lymphatic vessel of the dcLN. See K for schematic illustration of the experimental setup and summary of the results with and without ligation. (A and B) dcLNs and scLNs (both indicated with arrowheads) showing preferential filling of the ipsilateral dcLN but no filling in the scLNs. (C) Drainage into the ipsilateral dcLN via the efferent carotid lymphatic vessels (arrowheads). CCA, common carotid artery. (D) Internal carotid artery (ICA) and adjacent lymphatic vessels (white arrowheads) immediately below the osseous skull, showing drainage from the skull (yellow arrowhead). (E and F) Lymphatic vessels around the pterygopalatine artery (PPA), showing tracer uptake by the dura mater lymphatic vessels (arrowheads) only in the basal parts of the skull, nearby their exit site. MMA, middle meningeal artery. (G) Placement of a suture around the efferent lymphatic vessel (asterisk) of the dcLN. Arrowheads, afferent lymphatic vessels. (H) Afferent lymphatic vessel of the dcLN after ligation (asterisk), showing bulging of the afferent vessels (arrowheads). (I and J) Lymphatic vessels around the posterior branch of the MMA, showing increased filling of lymphatic vessels after ligation, extending above the retroglenoid vein (RGV) level. n = 2–3/group. Data are representative of two independent experiments. Bars: (A–E and G–J) 500 µm; (F) 100 µm.

Drainage of brain ISF was confirmed by visualization of an intense signal in the dcLN but not in the superficial cervical LN (scLN; Fig. 2, A and B). Preferential drainage into the dcLN ipsilateral to the side of injection was observed (Fig. 2, A and C). When the tracer-filled afferent lymphatic vessels of the dcLNs were followed upstream, the vessels appeared to drain from the base of the skull (Fig. 2, C and D). Inside the skull, some PEG-IRDye filling of dura mater lymphatic vessels was observed only in the basal parts of the skull (Fig. 2, E and F), suggesting uptake by the lymphatic vessels but a quick washout. When the effenter lymphatic vessel of the dcLN was ligated (Fig. 2, G and H), enhanced filling of the dural lymphatic vessels was observed (Fig. 2, I–K). These data suggest that the dural lymphatic vessels absorb brain ISF/CSF from the subarachnoid space for transport into downstream dcLNs.

Absence of dural lymphatic vasculature in K14-VEGFR3-Ig mice

VEGF-C/D signaling via VEGFR3 is a critical regulator of lymphangiogenesis (Secker and Harvey, 2015). To (a) study whether dural lymphatic vessels are regulated by VEGF-C/D–VEGFR3 signaling and (b) characterize an animal model in which the functional consequences of dura mater lymphatic vessel aplasia can be examined, we investigated the K14-VEGFR3-Ig transgenic (TG) mouse, which has impaired
Lack of dural lymphatic vessels compromises CNS macromolecule clearance

First, we hypothesized that the absence of dural lymphatic vessels would impair the clearance of ISF and solutes from the brain. Thus, brain water content and ISF pressures (IFPs) were measured in TG and WT mice. Surprisingly, the IFP (TG vs. WT: 2.50 ± 0.54 vs. 2.53 ± 0.53 mmHg, P = 0.92, n = 6/group) and water content (TG vs. WT: 3.68 ± 0.023 vs. 3.71 ± 0.043 g/g dry weight, P = 0.27, n = 4/group) were not significantly different between the two groups. These results suggest that in physiological conditions, the brain has alternative ways to manage fluid extravasated from the blood vessels.

Second, we hypothesized that the absence of dural lymphatic vessels may impair macromolecule clearance from the brain. To test this, we studied the cerebral clearance of Alexa Fluor 488–conjugated OVA (A488-OVA, ~45 kD), a macromolecule which retains fluorescent signal during fixation. We recorded cerebral, dLN, and dural mater lymphatic vessel fluorescence from tissues 2 h after injection into the brain parenchyma of TG and WT littermate mice. Mice were perfusion fixed after sacrifice to prevent outflow of the tracer. Interestingly, the TG mice displayed a significant reduction in the amount of OVA cleared at the 2-h time point after injection (Fig. 4, A and B). Furthermore, a nearly complete abrogation of OVA accumulation was observed in the dCLNs of the TG mice (Fig. 4, C and D). Tracer-filled lymphatic vessels could be observed around the pterygopalatine artery and middle meningeal artery of WT mice, but this was absent in the TG mice (Fig. 4, E and F). To assess other possible causes for the drainage defect, we analyzed lymphatic function and TG mice (Fig. 4, G and H). We also studied PEG-IRDye transfer from the subarachnoid space into the dCLNs after cisterna magna injection, which was significantly inhibited in the TG mice (Fig. 5). Overall, these data imply that the dural lymphatic vessels contribute to the clearance of macromolecules from the brain.

In this study, we report the surprising finding of a lymphatic vessel network in the dura mater of the CNS and show that dural lymphatic vessels are lined by fully differentiated PROX1+/VEGFR3+/LYVE1+/PDLP1+/CCL21+/PECAM1low lymphatic endothelium that is unique in its morphology and scarcity of valves. In the late eighteenth century the Italian anatomist Paolo Mascagni described what he called lymphatic vessels in the meninges and on the surface of the brain, but his finding could never be reproduced (Mascagni and Bellini, 1816; Lukić et al., 2003). The CNS proper has since been considered devoid of lymphatic vasculature.
Incidentally, lymphatic vessels were mentioned in an electron microscopic study of the rat dura mater innervation. Furthermore, lymphatic vessels were detected in association with the murine cribriform plate and the human optic nerve (Andres et al., 1987; Gausas et al., 2007; Furukawa et al., 2008). However, the extent of the dura mater lymphatic network, or its role in CSF clearance, has not been realized.

According to the classical textbook model, CSF is produced by the choroid plexus, flows through the ventricles and the subarachnoid space, and is absorbed by arachnoid granulations for transport into the cerebral venous sinuses (Pollay, 2010). However, recent discoveries have established the glymphatic system as a critical regulator of cerebral waste clearance, especially during sleep (Iliff et al., 2012; Xie et al., 2013). In addition to the CSF clearance via arachnoid granulations, several studies have established that a part of brain ISF and CSF is drained into cervical LNs, yet it has been unclear how CSF enters the LNs (Koh et al., 2005; Weller et al., 2009). The observation of CSF tracers in the nasal lymphatic vessels under the cribriform plate has suggested clearance via olfactory...
nerve sheaths through the cribriform plate (Kida et al., 1993; Koh et al., 2005). Additionally, CSF clearance has been observed to occur along spinal and cranial nerve sheaths with subsequent entry into extracranial lymphatic vessels (Miura et al., 1998; Weller et al., 2009).

Our data indicated filling of the dura mater lymphatic vessels after intraparenchymal injection of the tracer and the lack thereof in the K14-VEGFR3-Ig-TG mice. This suggests a model in which a part of the brain ISF, downstream of the glymphatic system, is cleared directly from the subarachnoid space as CSF into the dura mater lymphatic vasculature. Interestingly, we also observed lymphatic vessels draining out of the skull along the dura mater of cranial nerves. Furthermore, we observed lymphatic vessels crossing the cribriform plate, which may explain some of the previous observations. Because of the lack of other known direct anatomical connections between the CSF space and extracranial lymphatic vessels, the dura mater lymphatic vessels are likely to represent the most important CSF source for the extracranial lymph compartment.

The importance of understanding the mechanisms of brain waste management are highlighted in patients suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative diseases characterized by the pathological accumulation of misfolded proteins, such as amyloid β, into the brain parenchyma (Deane et al., 2008; Huang and Mucke, 2012). In other tissues, lymphatic vessels are critical for the absorption of macromolecules (Tammela and Alitalo, 2010). In the brain under physiological conditions, a major part of the cerebral amyloid β is removed by the transvascular route (Zlokovic, 2011; Zhao et al., 2015). However, recent evidence suggests that the glymphatic system may also be key in amyloid β clearance (Iliff et al., 2012). The present data show that the absence of dura mater lymphatic drainage results in inhibited clearance of macromolecules from the brain ISF and CSF.

Importantly, these findings open new avenues for research. Several other potential roles of dura mater lymphatic vessels can be envisioned, such as in the trafficking of cerebral immune cells, in antigen presentation in the dCLNs, and in the clearance of brain edema. These data may also explain why primary brain tumors can rarely metastasize into cervical LNs (Mondin et al., 2010). Interestingly, surgical removal of the dCLNs in children with gliomas has been reported to aggravate cerebral ischemia after stroke by increasing brain water edema and infarction volume in rats (Si et al., 2006). Further studies should be conducted to define the full contribution of dura mater lymphatic vasculature in CNS homeostasis and disease.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study approval. The study was approved by the Committee for Animal Experiments of the District of Southern Finland.

Mice and tissues. The K14-VEGFR3-Ig (FVB/N and C57BL/6J backgrounds; Mäkinen et al., 2001), Prox1-GFP (C57BL/6J) albino background; Chot et al., 2011), and Vegf631−/−LacZ (FVB/N background; Dumont et al., 1998) mouse lines have been published previously. WT littermate mice were used as controls. For WT analysis, C57BL/6J mice were used. For tissue analysis, mice were given a lethal dose of ketamine and xylazine and perfusion fixed through the left ventricle with ice-cold 1% paraformaldehyde (PFA) after puncture of the right auricle. The tissues were immediately immersed in 4% ice-cold PFA and postfixed overnight at 4°C, washed in PBS, and processed for staining. Prox1-GFP mouse tissues were freshly imaged without fixation.

Immunostaining and X-gal staining. For whole-mount staining of the skull bones for laser-scanning confocal microscopy, the fixed skulls were dissected and underwent a mild decalcification with 0.5 M EDTA, pH 7.4, overnight at 4°C. For whole-mount staining of the basal skull for fluorescent stereomicroscopy, no decalcification was performed. After washes with PBS, the tissues were permeabilized in 0.3% Triton X-100 in PBS (PBS-TX) and blocked in 5% donkey serum/2% bovine serum albumin/0.3% PBS-TX. Primary antibodies were added to the blocking buffer and incubated with the tissue overnight at room temperature (RT). After washes in PBS-TX, the tissues were incubated with fluorophore-conjugated secondary antibodies in PBS-TX overnight at RT, followed by washing in PBS-TX. After post fixation in 1% PFA, the superior portions of the skull were washed with PBS and mounted in Moviol 4-88 mounting medium (Sigma-Aldrich) containing 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (DABCO; Sigma-Aldrich) and sealed with Cytoseal (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Clothespins were used to hold the coverslip and the microscopic slide together before the Cytoseal and Moviol hardened. Tissues for fluorescent stereomicroscopy were stored in PBS and imaged immediately.

For cryosections of the skull, the fixed tissues underwent decalcification with 0.5 M EDTA, pH 7.4, for 72 h, immersion into 20% sucrose and 2% polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) for 24 h at 4°C, embedding in OCT compound (Tissue-Tek), and freezing for storage at −80°C. For other cryosections, the fixed tissues were immersed into 25% sucrose and embedded as above. Tissues were cut into 10–100-μm sections using a cryostat (Microm HM 550; Thermo Fisher Scientific). The sections were air-dried, encircled with a pap-pen, rehydrated in PBS, and blocked with 3% BSA in PBS-TX at RT. After primary antibody incubation at 4°C for 3 h in PBS overnight, the sections were washed with PBS and incubated for 2–3 h with the appropriate fluorophore-conjugated secondary antibody conjugates and 3% BSA in PBS. After washes with 0.1% PBS-TX, the sections were mounted with

![Figure 5. Lack of dural lymphatic vasculature inhibits CSF uptake into the dCLNs.](image-url)

(A) Schematic illustration of the experimental setup. (B) Representative fluorescent images of the dCLN in TG and WT mice 30 min after PEG-IRDye injection into the cisterna magna. AF, green channel autofluorescence. Bar, 1,000 μm. (C) Quantification of the dCLN fluorescence. n = 6 (TG) and 5 (WT). Data are representative of two independent experiments. Error bars indicate SD. Statistical analysis: two-tailed Student’s t test. *P < 0.05.
**ZEN 2010** software (Carl Zeiss) was used for image acquisition.

Plan-Apochromat with NA 1.4) using multichannel scanning in frame. The
10× Plan-Apochromat with NA 0.45 and 20× Plan-Apochromat with NA
at high resolution with an LSM 780 microscope (Carl Zeiss; air objectives

**Biological drilling** line skin incision was made to reveal the skull bone, which was thinned with
or 160 mg/kg ketamine (Narketan; Vétoquinol) and 0.4 mg/kg medetomide (Domitor)
were anesthetized with a mixture of 80 mg/kg ketamine (Ketalar; Pfizer) and

**Antibodies.** The following primary antibodies were used for immunostain-
ing of mouse tissues: rabbit anti–mouse PROX1 (1:200; Petrova et al., 2008),
goat anti–human PROX1 (1:500; R&D Systems), polyclonal goat an-
ti–mouse VEGFR3 (1:50; R&D Systems), rat anti–mouse PECAM-1 (1:500; clone MEC 13.3; BD), polyclonal rabbit anti–mouse LYVE1 (1:1,000;
Karkkainen et al., 2004), goat anti–CCL21 (1:500; R&D Systems), IgG fraction
of rabbit polyclonal anti–mouse PDIPN (1:500) provided by D. Kerjaschki,
University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; Wick et al., 2007), and rat anti–mouse
endothucin (EMCN; 1:500; clone V7C7; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.).
The primary antibodies were detected with the appropriate Alexa Fluor 488,
568/594, or 633/647 secondary antibody conjugates (1:500; Molecular
Probes/Invitrogen).

**Intraparenchymal PEG-IRDye and A488-OVA clearance.** To evaluate the outflow pathways and clearance of tracers from the brain interstitium, mice
were anesthetized with a mixture of 80 mg/kg ketamine (Ketalar; Pfizer) and
6 mg/kg xylazine (Rompun vet; KVP Pharma + Veterinar Produce GmbH)
or 160 mg/kg ketamine (Narketan; Vetoquinol) and 0.4 mg/kg medetomi-
dine (Domitor; Orion Pharma) and placed into a stereotactic device. A mid-
line skin incision was made to reveal the skull bone, which was thinned with
a dental drill ∼2 mm lateral and 2.5 mm caudal to the bregma. + mg/ml
A488-OVA (O-34781; Molecular Probes) or 20 µm of 20-kD PEG-IRDye
(provided by P. Luciani and J.-C. Leroux, ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland;
Proulx et al., 2013) was injected into a 2-mm depth from the bregma in 0.5 µl
with a 34-G Hamilton needle at a 0.1 µl/min rate over 5 min with a syringe
pump (Harvard Apparatus). After the indicated time, the mice were sacrificed
with a lethal dose of anesthesia. For visualization of PEG-IRDye, tissues were
immediately imaged ex vivo. For visualization of A488-OVA, mice were per-
fusion fixed, and the entire head and neck with the cervical LNs were
immersed in 4% ice-cold PFA and further postfixed overnight at 4°C with
constant shaking. Fixed tissues were then washed in PBS and processed for
imaging or staining as described above.

**Cisterna magna PEG-IRDye clearance.** To evaluate the PEG-IRDye clearance from the subarachnoid space, mice were anesthetized with a mixture of
160 mg/kg ketamine (Narketan) and 0.4 mg/kg medetomidine (Domitor)
and placed into a stereotactic device. The neck muscles were bluntly dissected
through a small midline incision to reveal the dura mater overlaying the cis-
terna magna. 20 µm of 20-kD PEG-IRDye was injected into the subarach-
noid space in 10 µl with a 34-G Hamilton needle at a rate of 2 µl/mm over
5 min with a syringe pump.

**Image acquisition, processing, and quantitative analysis.** Laser-scanning
confocal micrographs of the fluorescently labeled samples were acquired at
high resolution with an LSM 780 microscope (Carl Zeiss; air objectives
10× Plan-Apochromat with NA 0.45 and 20× Plan-Apochromat with NA
0.80, oil objective 40× Plan-Neofluar with NA 1.3 and oil objective 63×
Plan-Apochromat with NA 1.4) using multichannel scanning in frame. The
ZEN 2010 software (Carl Zeiss) was used for image acquisition.

Fluorescent stereomicrographs of labeled samples were obtained with an
Axio Zoom.V16 fluorescence stereo zoom microscope (Carl Zeiss) equipped
with an ORCA-Flash 4.0 digital sCMOS camera (Hamamatsu Photonics) or
an OptiMOS sCMOS camera (QImaging). The ZEN 2012 software (Carl
Zeiss) was used for image acquisition. Brain epifluorescence images were ob-
tained with a Caliper IVIS Kinetic imaging system (PerkinElmer) equipped
with a XFO-6 (Dolan-Jenner Fiber-Lite PL-900 Illuminator; quartz halogen
lamp) for fluorescent imaging and an iXon* 888 EMCCD camera (Andor
Technology). Images were processed and region of interest efficiencies were
calculated with the Living Image 3.2 software. Image brightness and contrast
were adjusted using ImageJ (National Institutes of Health) or Photoshop
(Adobe) software. Quantitative analysis of the micrographs was performed using
the ImageJ software.

**Measurement of brain water content.** Mice were sacrificed with carbon
dioxide. The brains were removed from the skull and placed on a preweighed
piece of aluminum foil and immediately weighed to obtain the wet weight.

**Online supplemental material.** Video 1 shows dura mater lymphatic ves-
sels in the lateral aspects of the interior portions of the skull in sagittal plane in
the Prox1-GFP mouse. Online supplemental material is available at http://
www.jem.org/cgi/content/full/jem.20142290/DC1.

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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

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Video 1. Dura mater lymphatic vasculature in the Prox1-GFP mouse. Video showing dura mater lymphatic vessels in the lateral aspects of the interior portions of the skull in sagittal plane in the Prox1-GFP mouse (grayscale).