

Supplementary Information

Reverse engineering of BNIP3 identifies a mitochondrial protective peptide

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Supplementary Table 1. BAX/BNIP3 Interface

Amino acids BAX	Amino acids BNIP3
74A	12P
74A	13P
74A	14P
75A	12P
75A	13P
75A	14P
75A	15P
78A	14P
78A	15P
78A	16P
78A	17P
78A	145P
79A	15P
82A	15P
82A	16P
106A	172P
106A	176P
159A	181P
159A	182P
160A	181P
163A	179P
163A	180P
163A	181P
163A	182P
163A	183P
164A	172P
164A	175P
164A	176P
164A	179P
164A	181P
165A	175P
165A	179P
166A	175P
166A	179P
167A	175P
168A	175P
169A	175P
172A	168P
173A	172P
173A	175P
175A	168P
176A	169P
176A	172P
186A	154P
189A	147P
189A	150P
190A	150P
191A	105P
191A	109P
191A	147P
191A	148P
191A	150P

Supplementary Table 2. BAX/BNIP3-Peptide₁₋₄₉ Interface

Amino acids BAX	Amino acids BNIP3 Peptide₁₋₄₉
34A	20A
35A	20A
36A	22A
37A	18A
37A	20A
37A	21A
37A	22A
38A	18A
38A	20A
38A	22A
38A	31A
38A	32A
38A	33A
39A	22A
40A	29A
77A	17A
78A	11A
78A	12A
78A	13A
78A	15A
78A	47A
81A	15A
81A	17A
82A	15A
119A	18A
122A	18A
122A	20A
123A	18A
123A	35A
123A	36A
123A	37A
125A	33A
126A	18A
126A	19A
126A	20A
126A	32A
126A	33A
126A	34A
126A	35A
127A	33A
127A	35A
128A	32A

Supplementary Table 3. BNIP3 peptides truncated

Peptide sequences

MSQSGEENLQGSWVELHFSN	N	M
QG	SN	MS
LQGS	FSN	MSQ
NLQGSW	HFSN	MSQS
ENLQGSWV	LHFSN	MSQSG
EENLQGSWVE	ELHFSN	MSQSGE
GEENLQGSWVEL	VELHFSN	MSQSGEE
SGEENLQGSWVELH	WVELHFSN	MSQSGEEN
QSGEENLQGSWVELHF	SWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENL
SQSGEENLQGSWVELHFS	GSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQ
	QGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQG
	LQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGS
	NLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSW
	ENLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSWV
	EENLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSWVE
	GEENLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSWVEL
	SGEENLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSWVELH
	QSGEENLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSWVELHF
	SQSGEENLQGSWVELHFSN	MSQSGEENLQGSWVELHFS

Supplementary Table 4. BNIP3 peptides (20mer) substituted

Peptide sequences

[illegible]

Supplementary Table 5. BNIP3 peptides (8mer) substituted.

Peptide sequences

WVELHFSN	WVPLHFSN	WVELHHSN
AVELHFSN	WVQLHFSN	WVELHISN
CVELHFSN	WVRLHFSN	WVELHКСN
DVELHFSN	WVSLHFSN	WVELHLSN
EVELHFSN	WVTLHFSN	WVELHMSN
FVELHFSN	WVVLHFSN	WVELHNSN
GVELHFSN	WVWLHFSN	WVELHPSN
HVELHFSN	WVYLHFSN	WVELHQSN
IVELHFSN	WVEAHFSN	WVELHRSN
KVELHFSN	WVECHFSN	WVELHSSN
LVELHFSN	WVEDHFSN	WVELHTSN
MVELHFSN	WVEEHFSN	WVELHVSN
NVELHFSN	WVEFHFSN	WVELHWSN
PVELHFSN	WVEGHFSN	WVELHYSN
QVELHFSN	WVEHHFSN	WVELHFAN
RVELHFSN	WVEIHFSN	WVELHFCN
SVELHFSN	WVEKHFSN	WVELHFEN
TVELHFSN	WVEMHFSN	WVELHFFN
VVELHFSN	WVENHFSN	WVELHFGN
YVELHFSN	WVEPHFSN	WVELHFHN
WAEHFSN	WVEQHFSN	WVELHFIN
WCELHFSN	WVERHFSN	WVELHFKN
WDELHFSN	WVESHFSN	WVELHFLN
WEELHFSN	WVETHFSN	WVELHFMN
WFELHFSN	WVEVHFSN	WVELHFNN
WGELHFSN	WVEWHFSN	WVELHFPN
WHELHFSN	WVEYHFSN	WVELHFQN
WIELHFSN	WVELAFSN	WVELHFRN
WKELHFSN	WVELCFSN	WVELHFTN
WLELHFSN	WVELDFSN	WVELHFVN
WMELHFSN	WVELEFSN	WVELHFWN
WNELHFSN	WVELFFSN	WVELHFYN
WPELHFSN	WVELGFSN	WVELHFSА
WQELHFSN	WVELIFSN	WVELHFSС
WRELHFSN	WVELKFSN	WVELHFSD
WSELHFSN	WVELLFSN	WVELHFSE
WTELHFSN	WVELMFSN	WVELHFSF
WWELHFSN	WVELNFSN	WVELHFSG
WYELHFSN	WVELPFSN	WVELHFSH
WVELHFSN	WVELQFSN	WVELHFSI
WVALHFSN	WVELRFSN	WVELHFSK
WVCLHFSN	WVELSFSN	WVELHFSL
WVDLHFSN	WVELTFSN	WVELHFSM
WVFLHFSN	WVELVFSN	WVELHFSP
WVGLHFSN	WVELWFSN	WVELHFSQ
WVHLHFSN	WVELYFSN	WVELHFSR
WVILHFSN	WVELHASN	WVELHFSS
WVKLHFSN	WVELHCSN	WVELHFST
WVLLHFSN	WVELHDSN	WVELHFSV
WVMLHFSN	WVELHESN	WVELHFSW
WVNLHFSN	WVELHGSN	WVELHFSY

Supplementary Table 6. Serum chemistry in rats – Revocery phase

Sex: Male Day 29 relative to Start Date

Group 1, 0 mg/kg/day	ALT	AST	TP	ALB	BIL-T	ALP	GGT	sGLU	UREA	CRE	Ca	P	TCHO	TG	K	Na	Cl	GLB	A/G	CK
	(U/L)	(U/L)	(g/L)	(g/L)	(μmol/L)	(U/L)	(U/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(μmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(g/L)		(U/L)
1011	32	151	57.0	33.1	1.09	125	-1 E ^a	7.81	6.84	28	2.37	1.81	1.51	1.61	4.6	142	100	23.9	1.38	937
1012	21	130	56.3	33.4	1.24	120	-1 E ^a	5.28	5.42	26	2.35	2.16	1.61	0.64	4.4	144	101	22.9	1.46	1091
1013	29	108	57.0	33.0	1.20	92	-1 E ^a	8.99	6.87	22	2.28	2.18	2.07	1.10	4.3	141	99	24.0	1.38	652
1014	24	104	54.4	32.7	0.96	96	-1 E ^a	7.58	8.06	30	2.40	2.22	1.29	0.87	4.4	142	101	21.7	1.51	718
1015	23	133	58.1	34.0	1.08	96	-1 E ^a	8.36	8.44	28	2.24	1.69	1.55	0.48	4.4	142	103	24.1	1.41	765

Group 4, 12 mg/kg/day	ALT	AST	TP	ALB	BIL-T	ALP	GGT	sGLU	UREA	CRE	Ca	P	TCHO	TG	K	Na	Cl	GLB	A/G	CK
	(U/L)	(U/L)	(g/L)	(g/L)	(μmol/L)	(U/L)	(U/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(μmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(g/L)		(U/L)
4011	24	101	61.3	34.4	1.01	101	0 E ^a	7.52	7.96	28	2.39	1.79	2.41	1.37	4.6	142	99	26.9	1.28	687
4012	33	127	58.6	34.2	1.38	103	-1 E ^a	5.98	5.55	25	2.41	2.24	1.74	0.56	4.5	142	100	24.4	1.40	824
4013	24	191	59.5	32.1	1.31	139	-1 E ^a	6.16	7.30	30	2.37	2.08	1.80	0.42	4.7	140	100	27.4	1.17	1377
4014	30	113	58.6	33.8	1.13	97	-1 E ^a	8.24	8.71	29	2.31	1.96	1.60	0.90	4.8	140	100	24.8	1.36	758
4015	39	157	54.3	31.4	0.97	158	-1 E ^a	10.14	10.29	27	2.21	1.54	1.40	0.55	4.8	140	103	22.9	1.37	1016

Sex: Female Day 29 relative to Start Date

Group 1, 0 mg/kg/day	ALT	AST	TP	ALB	BIL-T	ALP	GGT	sGLU	UREA	CRE	Ca	P	TCHO	TG	K	Na	Cl	GLB	A/G	CK
	(U/L)	(U/L)	(g/L)	(g/L)	(μmol/L)	(U/L)	(U/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(μmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(g/L)		(U/L)
1511	25	156	59.3	35.5	1.46	54	0 E ^a	6.23	8.13	31	2.29	1.92	0.99	0.38	4.1	139	97	23.8	1.49	1129
1512	17	115	57.8	36.0	1.06	67	0 E ^a	8.34	7.45	27	2.40	2.17	0.84	0.30	4.2	142	102	21.8	1.65	735
1513	18	99	62.5	38.5	1.02	63	0 E ^a	8.47	6.20	28	2.35	1.72	1.96	0.50	4.0	141	102	24.0	1.60	737
1514	21	96	64.1	38.9	1.23	76	0 E ^a	5.92	8.47	31	2.44	2.60	2.39	0.34	3.7	144	99	25.2	1.54	782
1515	19	97	60.0	36.1	1.45	68	0 E ^a	11.29	9.02	31	2.37	1.94	1.43	0.32	4.3	140	102	23.9	1.51	515

Group 4, 12 mg/kg/day	ALT	AST	TP	ALB	BIL-T	ALP	GGT	sGLU	UREA	CRE	Ca	P	TCHO	TG	K	Na	Cl	GLB	A/G	CK
	(U/L)	(U/L)	(g/L)	(g/L)	(μmol/L)	(U/L)	(U/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(μmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(mmol/L)	(g/L)		(U/L)
4511	16	82	63.2	37.6	1.52	74	0 E ^a	5.86	7.34	32	2.52	2.04	2.12	0.44	4.1	142	100	25.6	1.47	508
4512	20	120	63.7	39.5	1.75	81	1 E ^a	7.71	7.05	27	2.40	1.86	0.91	0.35	4.0	141	100	24.2	1.63	858
4513	19	113	62.9	37.9	1.57	44	0 E ^a	6.68	6.17	30	2.43	2.38	2.06	0.44	3.9	139	99	25.0	1.52	549
4514	21	121	59.5	36.6	1.72	53	0 E ^a	8.24	9.35	26	2.48	2.20	1.66	0.57	4.4	139	99	22.9	1.60	589
4515	18	106	59.0	36.5	1.62	48	0 E ^a	5.87	7.93	36	2.43	2.16	1.13	0.39	4.0	146	107	22.5	1.62	660

E = Exclude

^a [RC: Below the Limit of Quantification]

Abbreviations

ALT	Alanine Aminotransferase
AST	Aspartate Aminotransferase
TP	Total Protein
ALB	Albumin
BIL-T	Total Bilirubin(Diasys)
ALP	Alkaline Phosphatase
GGT	Gamma-Glutamyltransferase
sGLU	Glucose
UREA	Urea
CRE	Creatinine
Ca	Calcium
P	Inorganic Phosphorus
TCHO	Total Cholesterol
TG	Triglyceride
K	Potassium
Na	Sodium
Cl	Chloride
GLB	Globulin
A/G	A/G Ratio
CK	Creatine Kinase

Supplementary Table 7. Urine analysis parameters in rats – Recovery phase

Sex: Male Day 29 relative to Start Date

Group 1, 0 mg/kg/day	LEU	GLU	BIL	KET	BLD	PRO	URO	Color	Clarity	pH	SG	Volume (mL)
1011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	7.5	1.009	27
1012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	7.0	1.006	37
1013	-	-	-	-	-	+-	-	ST	-	7.0	1.020	12
1014	-	-	-	-	-	+-	-	ST	-	6.5	1.013	17
1015	-	-	-	-	-	+-	-	ST	-	8.0	1.014	22
Group 4, 12 mg/kg/day	LEU	GLU	BIL	KET	BLD	PRO	URO	Color	Clarity	pH	SG	Volume (mL)
4011	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST	-	7.5	1.011	27
4012	-	-	-	-	-	+-	-	ST	-	7.5	1.014	20
4013	-	-	-	-	+-	+-	-	ST	-	6.0	1.014	22
4014	-	-	-	-	-	+-	-	ST	-	7.5	1.020	15
4015	+	-	-	-	-	+-	-	ST	-	7.0	1.027	10

Sex: Female Day 29 relative to Start Date

Group 1, 0 mg/kg/day	LEU	GLU	BIL	KET	BLD	PRO	URO	Color	Clarity	pH	SG	Volume (mL)
1511	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST	-	5.5	1.012	17
1512	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	6.5	1.009	3
1513	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	6.0	1.009	25
1514	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST	-	6.5	1.015	15
1515	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST	-	7.0	1.017	12
Group 4, 12 mg/kg/day	LEU	GLU	BIL	KET	BLD	PRO	URO	Color	Clarity	pH	SG	Volume (mL)
4511	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	6.0	1.009	25
4512	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	6.0	1.007	25
4513	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST	-	6.5	1.014	12
4514	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ST	-	6.5	1.019	12
4515	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L-YE	-	6.0	1.005	35

Abbreviations

LEU Urine Leucocyte (Semi-quantitative)
 GLU Urine Glucose (Semi-quantitative)
 BIL Urine Bilirubin (Semi-quantitative)
 KET Urine Ketones (Semi-quantitative)
 BLD Urine Occult Blood (Semi-quantitative)
 PRO Urine Protein (Semi-quantitative)

URO Urine Urobilinogen (Semi-quantitative)
 Color Urine Color
 Clarity Clarity
 pH Urine pH
 SG Urine Specific Gravity

Supplementary Table 8. Haematological values in rats – Recovery phase

Sex: Male Day 29 relative to Start Date

Group 1, 0 mg/kg/day	WBC (10 ³ /μL)	RBC (10 ⁶ /μL)	HGB (g/dL)	HCT (%)	MCV (fL)	MCH (pg)	MCHC (g/dL)	RDW (%)	#RET (10 ⁹ /L)	%RET (%)	#NEUT (10 ³ /μL)	%NEUT (%)	#LYMP (10 ³ /μL)	%LYMP (%)	#MONO (10 ³ /μL)	%MONO (%)	#EOS (10 ³ /μL)	%EOS (%)	#BASO (10 ³ /μL)	%BASO (%)	PLT (10 ³ /μL)	MPV (fL)
1011	4.54	8.31	14.4	42.6	51.2	17.3	33.8	13.4	175.2	2.11	0.86	18.9	3.43	75.6	0.16	3.5	0.07	1.6	0.01	0.2	813	10.1
1012	4.44	7.76	14.3	41.2	53.1	18.5	34.9	13.1	191.7	2.47	0.63	14.2	3.58	80.7	0.14	3.2	0.05	1.2	0.01	0.1	905	10.4
1013	3.85	6.99	14.0	40.9	58.5	20.0	34.2	17.2	285.1	4.08	0.87	22.7	2.77	72.0	0.14	3.6	0.04	1.1	0.01	0.1	862	10.4
1014	3.00	7.37	14.2	40.8	55.5	19.2	34.7	12.5	193.1	2.62	0.56	18.6	2.26	75.2	0.13	4.3	0.04	1.5	0.00	0.0	719	10.4
1015	6.23	8.00	13.8	42.6	53.3	17.3	32.5	12.2	179.5	2.24	0.89	14.2	5.04	80.9	0.14	2.2	0.12	2.0	0.01	0.2	898	10.0

Group 4, 12 mg/kg/day	WBC (10 ³ /μL)	RBC (10 ⁶ /μL)	HGB (g/dL)	HCT (%)	MCV (fL)	MCH (pg)	MCHC (g/dL)	RDW (%)	#RET (10 ⁹ /L)	%RET (%)	#NEUT (10 ³ /μL)	%NEUT (%)	#LYMP (10 ³ /μL)	%LYMP (%)	#MONO (10 ³ /μL)	%MONO (%)	#EOS (10 ³ /μL)	%EOS (%)	#BASO (10 ³ /μL)	%BASO (%)	PLT (10 ³ /μL)	MPV (fL)
4011	3.77	7.66	14.0	41.3	54.0	18.3	34.0	11.6	165.5	2.16	0.60	16.0	3.04	80.7	0.06	1.7	0.05	1.3	0.00	0.1	829	10.3
4012	3.95	7.55	14.1	41.1	54.4	18.6	34.2	12.9	215.7	2.86	0.83	21.1	3.01	76.3	0.04	1.0	0.05	1.3	0.01	0.1	752	10.7
4013	5.58	8.25	14.3	43.9	53.2	17.3	32.6	13.9	295.3	3.58	1.43	25.7	3.86	69.2	0.22	3.9	0.03	0.6	0.00	0.1	1040	9.8
4014	5.40	8.25	13.9	42.5	51.5	16.8	32.6	13.1	223.4	2.71	1.09	20.2	4.02	74.6	0.19	3.5	0.07	1.4	0.01	0.2	844	10.7
4015	4.33	7.38	13.3	38.7	52.4	18.1	34.5	13.7	191.7	2.60	0.93	21.5	3.23	74.7	0.06	1.5	0.08	1.9	0.01	0.2	831	10.1

Sex: Female Day 29 relative to Start Date

Group 1, 0 mg/kg/day	WBC (10 ³ /μL)	RBC (10 ⁶ /μL)	HGB (g/dL)	HCT (%)	MCV (fL)	MCH (pg)	MCHC (g/dL)	RDW (%)	#RET (10 ⁹ /L)	%RET (%)	#NEUT (10 ³ /μL)	%NEUT (%)	#LYMP (10 ³ /μL)	%LYMP (%)	#MONO (10 ³ /μL)	%MONO (%)	#EOS (10 ³ /μL)	%EOS (%)	#BASO (10 ³ /μL)	%BASO (%)	PLT (10 ³ /μL)	MPV (fL)
1511	1.82	7.79	13.5	41.1	52.7	17.4	32.9	12.1	295.6	3.79	0.29	15.7	1.46	80.4	0.03	1.8	0.03	1.8	0.00	0.0	953	10.7
1512	1.68	6.47	12.8	37.2	57.4	19.8	34.5	23.4	209.7	3.24	0.27	16.1	1.32	78.2	0.04	2.6	0.05	2.8	0.00	0.0	914	10.5
1513	1.13	6.91	13.0	38.2	55.3	18.8	34.0	15.1	231.6	3.35	0.52	45.6	0.46	40.5	0.08	7.5	0.07	6.2	0.00	0.0	962	10.3
1514	4.13	7.04	13.4	40.6	57.6	19.1	33.1	11.9	242.5	3.45	0.59	14.3	3.34	80.9	0.08	2.0	0.10	2.3	0.01	0.2	952	10.1
1515	2.97	6.93	13.7	40.2	58.1	19.8	34.1	11.8	260.1	3.76	0.66	22.2	2.21	74.4	0.05	1.6	0.04	1.3	0.00	0.1	982	10.0

Group 4, 12 mg/kg/day	WBC (10 ³ /μL)	RBC (10 ⁶ /μL)	HGB (g/dL)	HCT (%)	MCV (fL)	MCH (pg)	MCHC (g/dL)	RDW (%)	#RET (10 ⁹ /L)	%RET (%)	#NEUT (10 ³ /μL)	%NEUT (%)	#LYMP (10 ³ /μL)	%LYMP (%)	#MONO (10 ³ /μL)	%MONO (%)	#EOS (10 ³ /μL)	%EOS (%)	#BASO (10 ³ /μL)	%BASO (%)	PLT (10 ³ /μL)	MPV (fL)
4511	2.78	7.19	13.8	40.2	56.0	19.2	34.4	13.0	254.0	3.53	0.43	15.3	2.24	80.7	0.05	1.8	0.05	1.7	0.00	0.1	929	10.0
4512	2.22	6.88	13.4	39.5	57.5	19.5	33.8	12.1	238.8	3.47	0.44	19.6	1.64	73.6	0.07	2.9	0.07	3.4	0.00	0.1	936	10.2
4513	4.27	7.46	14.1	41.7	56.0	18.9	33.8	11.0	270.8	3.63	0.56	13.2	3.55	83.2	0.10	2.4	0.04	0.8	0.01	0.1	827	9.8
4514	4.17	7.74	14.3	41.5	53.6	18.4	34.4	12.0	239.1	3.09	0.62	14.9	3.38	81.2	0.10	2.4	0.05	1.2	0.00	0.1	885	9.6
4515	4.48	7.75	14.0	43.0	55.5	18.1	32.5	11.8	203.1	2.62	0.47	10.6	3.81	85.0	0.11	2.5	0.07	1.5	0.00	0.1	765	10.7

Supplementary Table 9. Toxicokinetic parameters of B-017 following once daily i.v. injection of B-017 to male and female rats for 14 days

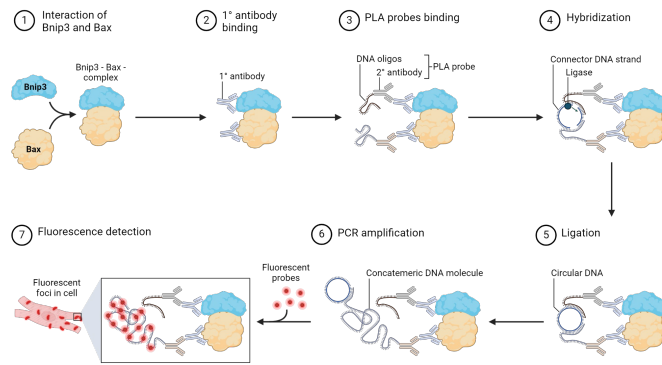
Dose (mg/kg/day)	Study Day	Sex	C ₀ (ng/mL)	C _{max} (ng/mL)	T _{max} (h)	T _{1/2} (h)	AUC _{0-24h} (h*ng/mL)
3	1	Male	1360	1010	0.1	0.3	479
		Female	1020	863	0.1	0.4	510
	14	Male	1790	1460	0.1	0.3	812
		Female	1800	1510	0.1	0.4	917
6	1	Male	1840	1430	0.1	0.4	821
		Female	1890	1570	0.1	0.3	964
	14	Male	5290	4050	0.1	0.4	2220
		Female	3680	2990	0.1	0.3	1750
12	1	Male	7890	5750	0.1	0.6	2900
		Female	6750	4990	0.1	0.6	2780
	14	Male	9890	7550	0.1	0.5	4210
		Female	10700	8290	0.1	0.5	4950

Supplementary Table 10. The modified Bederson's neurological deficit scale

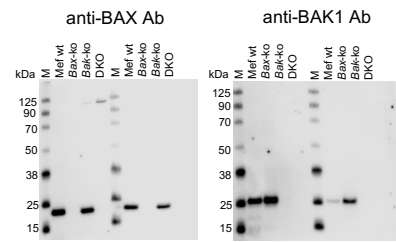
Score signs

0	Normal
1	Flexion of the left front paw
2	Flexion of the left front paw and decreased resistance to lateral push
3	Circling to one side
4	Circling and spinning around the cranial-caudal axis, loss of walking or righting reflex
5	Comatose or moribund

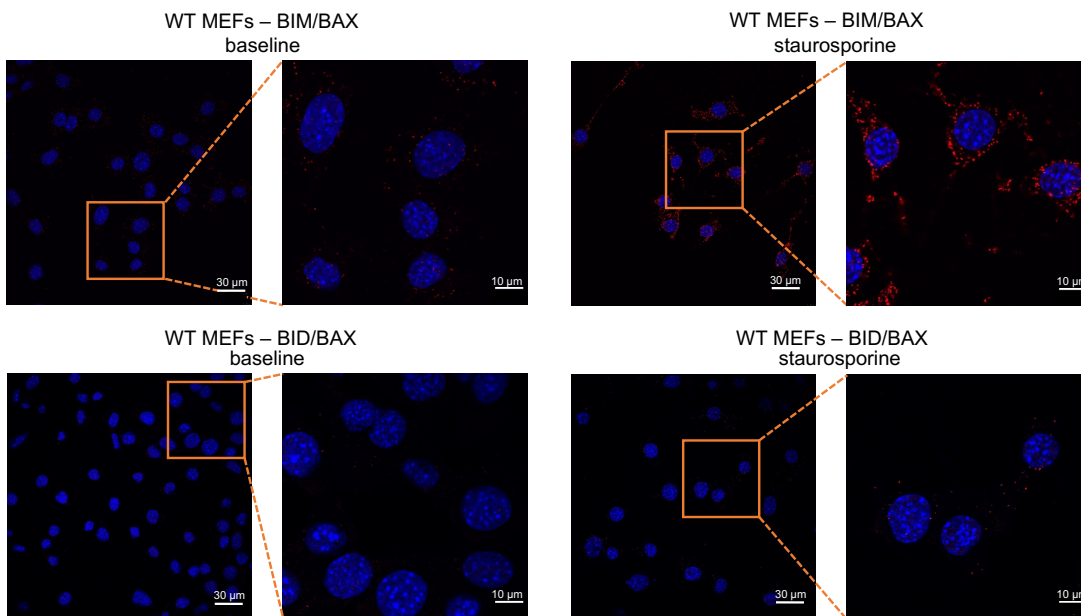
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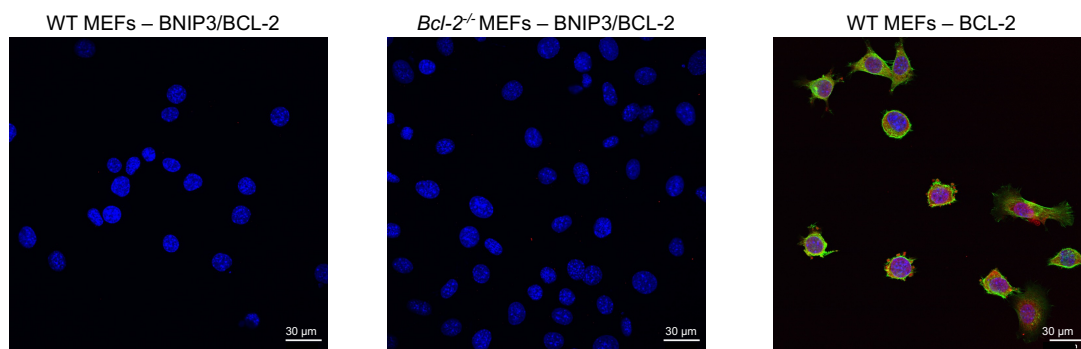
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c

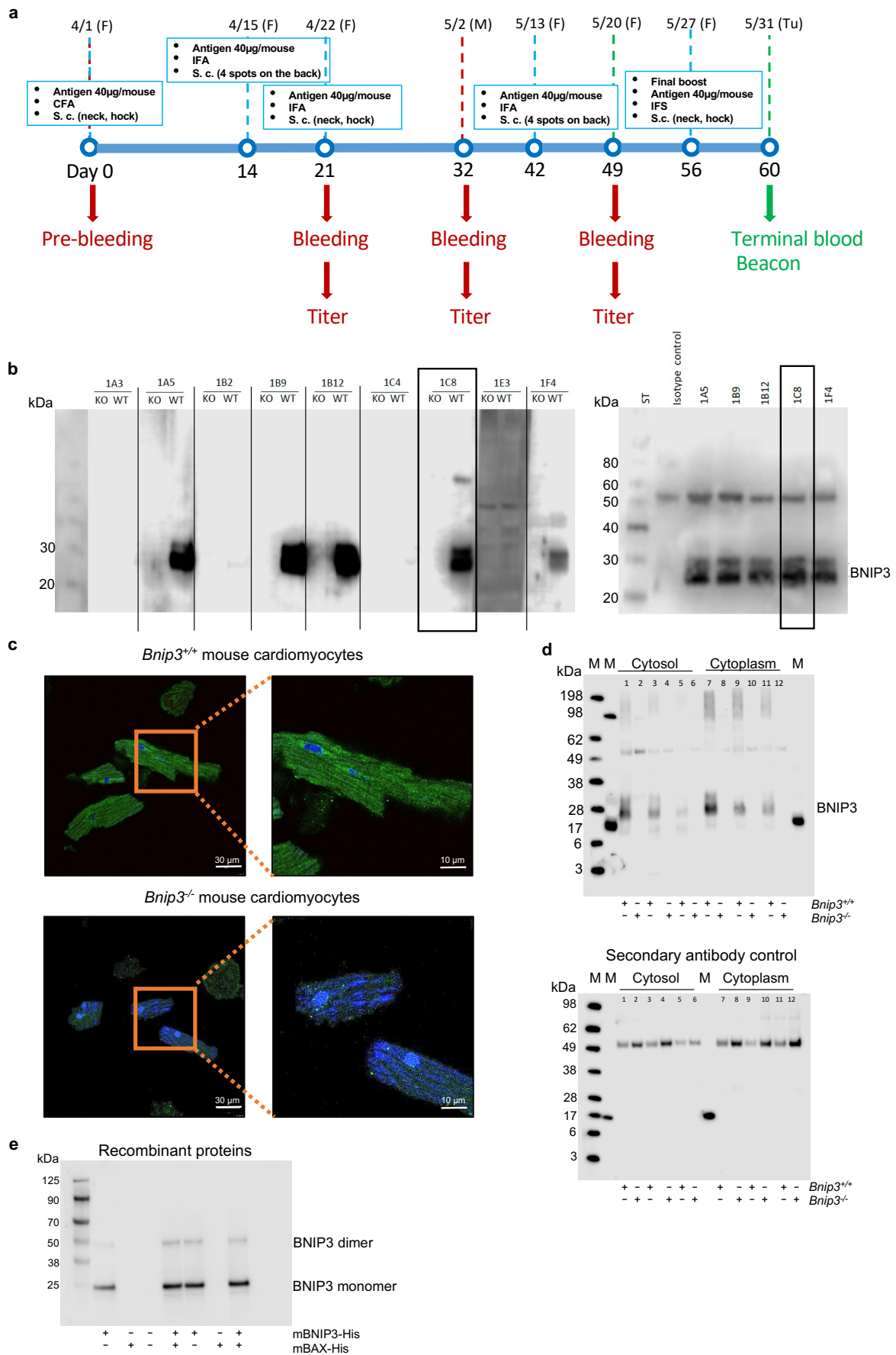


d



Supplementary Fig. 1. Additional data on the identification of BNIP3 interactions with BCL-2 family members.

a, Workflow for the proximity ligation assay (PLA, Created in BioRender. Settelmeier, S. (2024). BioRender.com/x56a488). **b**, Immunoblot analysis of BAX expression in *Bak* knockout (*Bak*^{-/-} mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) and of BAK in Bax knockout (*Bax*^{-/-}) MEFs, using the anti-BAX antibody (1:1,000, C2772, Cell Signaling; anti-rabbit HRP, 1:20,000) and the anti-BAK1 antibody (1:1,000, 12105, Cell Signaling). (*n* = 2 independent experiments). **c**, PLA in wild-type (WT) MEFs revealed that BIM and BAX are not localised in close proximity under baseline conditions (left, top). The interaction requires a stimulus, as demonstrated by staurosporine (STS) treatment (right, top). The same applies to the interaction of BID with BAX (bottom). A pair of validated primary antibodies against BIM, BAX, and BID, as well as a pair of secondary species-specific antibodies conjugated to complementary oligonucleotides, were used. Generation of proximity ligation puncta, the specific PLA signal, occurs when targets are in close proximity (≤ 40 nm). Scale bars, 30 μ m, 10 μ m. (*n* = 3 independent experiments). **d**, PLA in WT MEFs showed that BNIP3 and BCL-2 are not localised in close proximity (left). A pair of validated primary antibodies against BNIP3 and BCL-2 and a pair of secondary species-specific antibodies conjugated to complementary oligonucleotides were used. Scale bars, 30 μ m. No signal was observed in *Bcl-2*^{-/-} MEFs (middle). To validate that the antibody binds to its specific target, BCL-2 was detected *via* immunofluorescence staining in WT MEFs (red, right). (Nuclei stained with DAPI, blue, cytoskeleton stained with phalloidin, green), (*n* = 3 independent experiments).



Supplementary Fig. 2. Generation of a mouse monoclonal antibody against mouse BNIP3 by single B cell cloning technology.

a, Immunisation regimen. Five female SJL-Elite mice were immunised with 40 µg of recombinant mouse BNIP3. **b**, Immunoblot analysis of nine clones. *Bnip3*^{+/+} and *Bnip3*^{-/-} mouse heart lysates were loaded at 20 µg per lane for SDS-PAGE. Purified antibodies were diluted to a final concentration of 500 ng ml⁻¹ (left). Immunoprecipitation using individual antibodies was followed by immunoblot analysis probed with clone 1B9 (right). The 1C8 antibody was selected for all subsequent experiments. **c**, **d**, Knockout validation to confirm the anti-BNIP3 antibody 1C8 specificity for BNIP3 in isolated *Bnip3*^{-/-} mouse cardiomyocytes (BNIP3 green, nuclei blue, *n* = 2 biological replicates) and mouse heart cytosolic and cytoplasmic fractions (*n* = 3 biological replicates). The antibody yielded no signal in *Bnip3*^{-/-} mouse cardiomyocytes (**c**) or in mouse heart cytosolic and cytoplasmic fractions (**d**). In isolated *Bnip3*^{+/+} mouse cardiomyocytes (**c**) and mouse heart cytosolic and cytoplasmic fractions (**d**) the antibody detected the BNIP3 signal. For immunoblot analysis 20 µg (lanes 1, 2, 7, 8), 15 µg (lanes 3, 4, 9, 10) and 10 µg of protein (lanes 5, 6, 11, 12) were used. **e**, Immunoblot analysis using recombinant mouse (m) BNIP3-His (200 nM) and recombinant mBAX-His (200 nM). The anti-BNIP3 antibody 1C8 specifically detected recombinant mBNIP3. (*n* = 2 independent experiments).

a

Targeting strategy

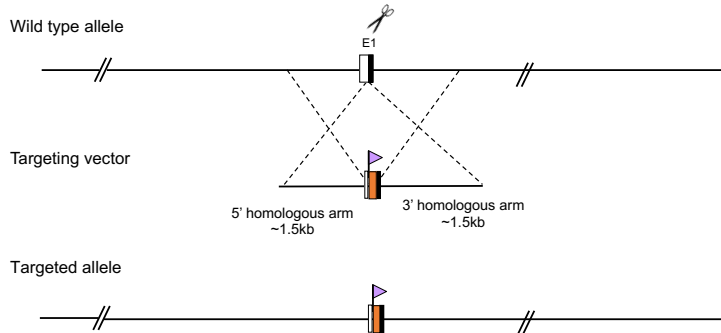
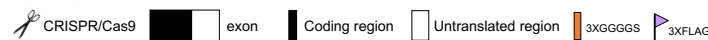
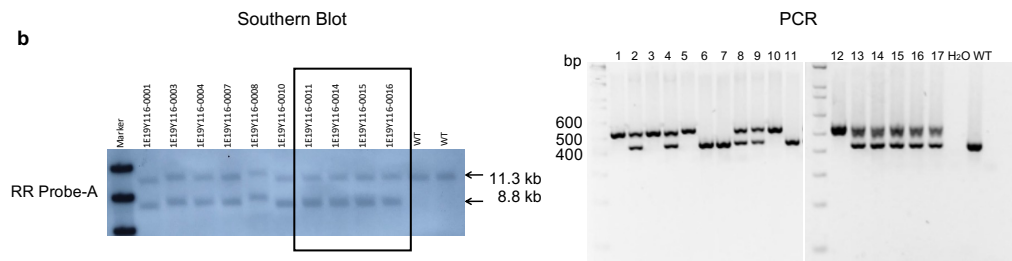


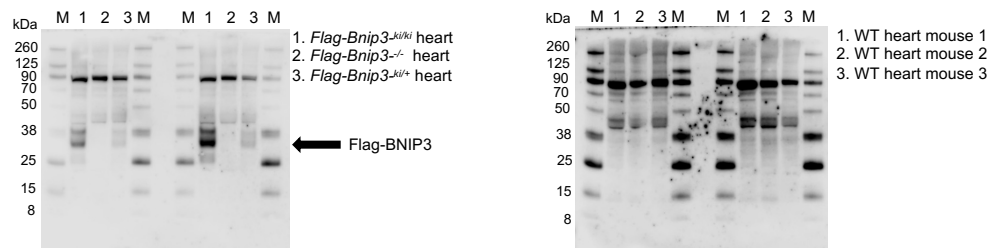
Figure legends



b



c

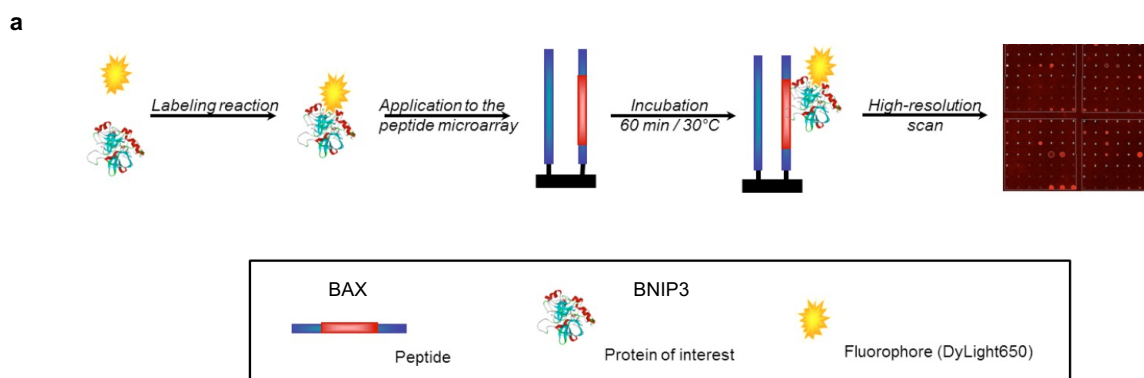


Supplementary Fig. 3. Generation of an EGE-LY2-0116-A-3xFlag knockin (ki) mouse model by EGE® system, a CRISPR/Cas9 based technology.

a, Targeting strategy (provided and assigned by Biocytogen Co., Ltd). The design was based on transcript-201 (NM_009760.4, NP_033890.1). EGE® is a trademark of Biocytogen Co., Ltd, registered in 2015. **b**, Southern blot using the restriction enzyme BspHI (wild-type (WT; 11.3 kb; targeted 8.8) (left). The marked mice (F1 generation) were used for breeding. PCR screening was performed on *Flag-Bnip3*^{ki/ki}, *Flag-Bnip3*^{ki/+}, *Flag-Bnip3*^{-/-} mice from heterozygous crosses (434-bp wild-type allele product and 545-bp *Bnip3*-3xFlag allele product) (right). Female and male mice of the F5 generation were used for experiments. **c**, Immunoblot analysis using an anti-Flag antibody. The antibody yielded a signal in *Flag-Bnip3*^{ki/ki} and *Flag-Bnip3*^{ki/+} mouse hearts (left, top), whereas no signal was observed in *Flag-Bnip3*^{-/-} (left, top) and C57BL/6J wild-type mouse hearts (left, bottom). Western blot analysis using the fluorescence-labelled anti-BNIP3 antibody 1C8 (200 ng ml⁻¹) following co-immunoprecipitation with the anti-Flag antibody verified its immunoprecipitation in *Flag-Bnip3*^{ki/+} mouse hearts. *Flag-Bnip3*^{-/-} mouse hearts served as controls (right).

Supplementary Fig. 5. Identification of BNIP3/BAX interaction in mouse heart lysates and *in vitro*.

a, Co-immunoprecipitation of Flag-BNIP3 using *Flag-Bnip3^{ki/ki}* mouse heart lysates. Western blot analysis of Flag-BNIP3 conjugates using the anti-BAX antibody 2D2 showed that endogenous BAX was co-isolated. Western blot analysis using an anti-Flag antibody and the anti-BNIP3 antibody 1C8 following co-immunoprecipitation verified immunoprecipitation of Flag-BNIP3. ($n = 3$ independent experiments). **b, c**, Co-immunoprecipitation of recombinant mouse (m)/human (h)BAX-GST and mBNIP3-His/hBNIP3 untagged. Western blot analysis following SDS-PAGE showed that BNIP3 was co-isolated with BAX and vice versa, supporting a BNIP3/BAX interaction. **d**, Western blot analysis using the fluorescence-labelled anti-BNIP3 antibody 1C8 following co-immunoprecipitation with the unlabelled anti-BNIP3 antibody 1C8 verified its immunoprecipitation. **e**, Western blot analysis of the activation status of BAX within the BNIP3/BAX complex. Recombinant untagged human BNIP3 (hBNIP3) and human BAX-GST (hBAX-GST) were incubated simultaneously with 6A7 antibody and IgG control. Western blot analysis following SDS-PAGE using the anti-BAX antibody 2D2 showed that BAX is in its inactive state within the BNIP3/BAX complex. ($n = 3$ independent experiments).



b

α1

PEPTIDE 1: MDGSGEQLGSGGPTS**SEQIM**

α1

PEPTIDE 2: **SEQIMKTGAFL**LQGFIQDRA

PEPTIDE 3: **AGRMAGETPELT**LEQPPQDA

α2

PEPTIDE 4: D**ASTKKLSECL**RRIGDELDS

α3

PEPTIDE 5: ELDSN**MELQRM**IADVDTDSP

α4

PEPTIDE 6: TDS**PREVFFRVA**ADM**FADGN**

α5

PEPTIDE 7: WGRV**VALFYF**ASKLVL**KALC**

α6

PEPTIDE 8: V**PELIR**TIMGWTLDFLRE**RL**

α7 α8

PEPTIDE 9: RLLV**WIQDQGG**WEG**LLSYFG**

α9

PEPTIDE 10: **TWQTVTIFVAG**VL**TASLTIW**

BH1 DOMAIN

PEPTIDE 11: **MFADGNFNWGRV**VALFY**FAS**

BH2 DOMAIN

PEPTIDE 12: LV**WIQDQGG**WEG**LLSYFGTP**

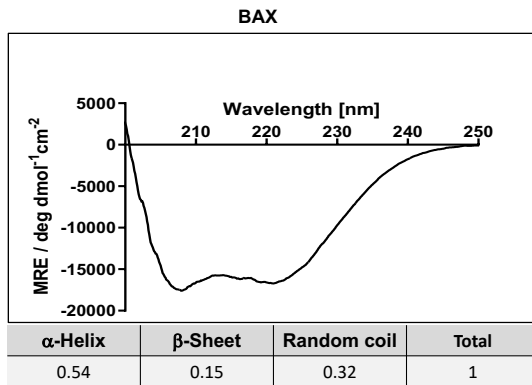
BH3 DOMAIN

PEPTIDE 13: **ASTKKLSECL**RRIGDELD**SN**

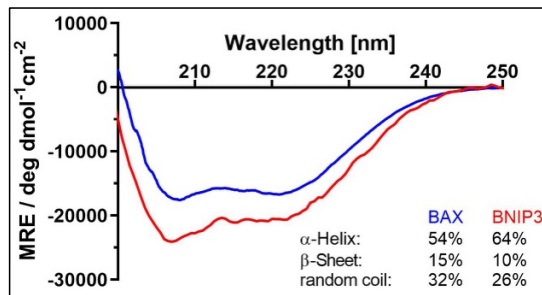
Supplementary Fig. 6. Additional data on BNIP3/BAX peptide microarray.

a, Workflow for protein-peptide microarray (provided and assigned by JPT Peptide Technologies). **b**, Library of 13 synthesised BAX peptides. The peptides were designed to each comprise one or two of the BAX alpha-helices, or one of the three BH domains.

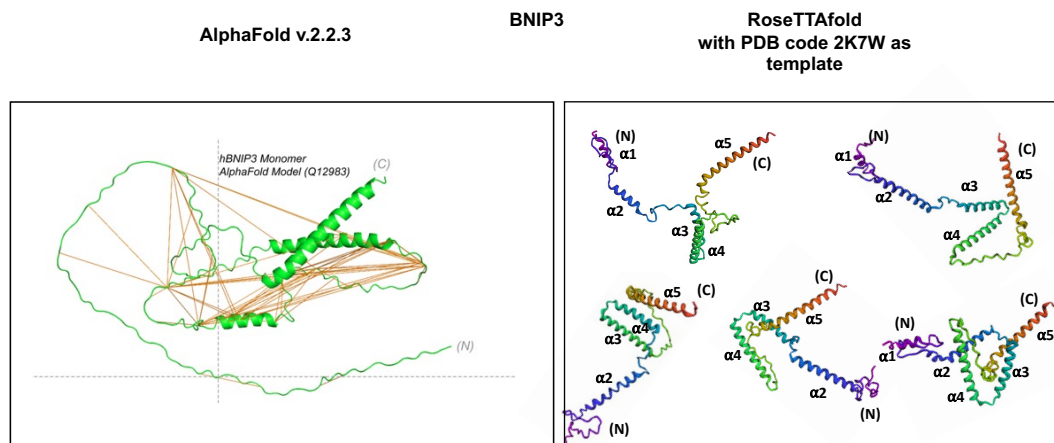
a



b



c



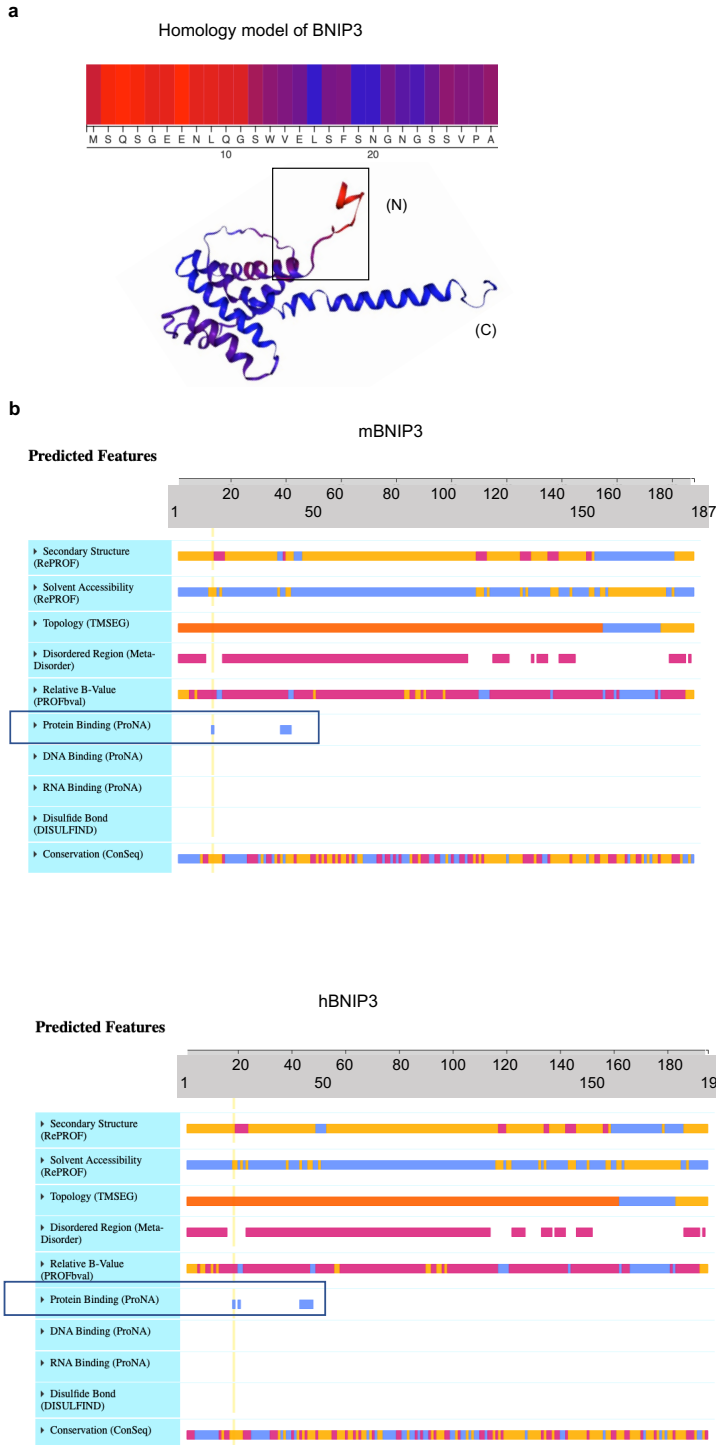
Supplementary Fig. 7. BNIP3 3D structure models.

a, The secondary structure composition of recombinant hBAX, as determined by circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy, is in good agreement with its nuclear magnetic resonance structure (PDB code 2K7W, model 1, alpha-helices: 63%). **b**, Overlay of the CD spectra of BAX and BNIP3. **c**, Computational approach to predict the structure of BNIP3 using the neural network-based models AlphaFold v.2.2.3 (left) and RoseTTAFold (template structure: PDB code 2K7W) (right). Both, the AlphaFold model and the RoseTTAFold models, which consist of four to five helices without a defined tertiary structure, did not agree with the CD data obtained with recombinant hBNIP3. The DSSO cross-links identified in recombinant hBNIP3 by mass spectrometry mapped on the AlphaFold model (highlighted in orange) also do not confirm this model.



Supplementary Fig. 8. Additional data on the interaction of BNIP3 and BAK1

HDOCK docking simulation of BNIP3 and BAK1 (red; pdb template code 2JCN) did not yield a favourable docking profile and did not converge on a defined binding interface. The 10 best models were aligned according to BAK1 (shown in red, BNIP3 molecules coloured by number).



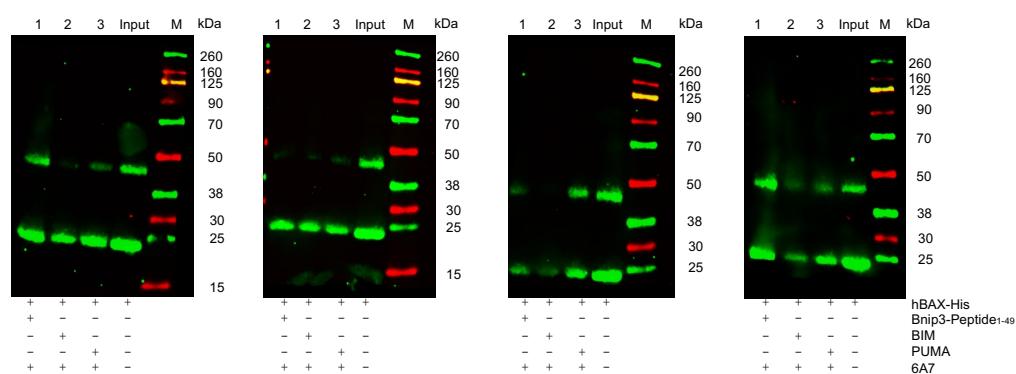
Supplementary Fig. 9. Additional data on the functional domain of BNIP3.

a, Prediction of a functional binding domain in BNIP3 using the DeepFRI server (<https://beta.deepfri.flatironinstitute.org/workspace/3HDE54/predictions/QYTKES>).

The predicted N-terminal region as a functional binding domain supports our hypothesis that the N-terminus of BNIP3 may be involved in BAX activation, which also implies the proximity of the N-terminus to the activation site as determined by cross-linking mass spectrometry. **b**, Prediction of a functional binding domain in recombinant human and mouse BNIP3 using the PredictProtein web server (<https://predictprotein.org/>). The predicted N-terminal region as a functional binding domain in recombinant mouse (top) and human BNIP3 (bottom) agreed with the results obtained with the DeepFRI algorithm.

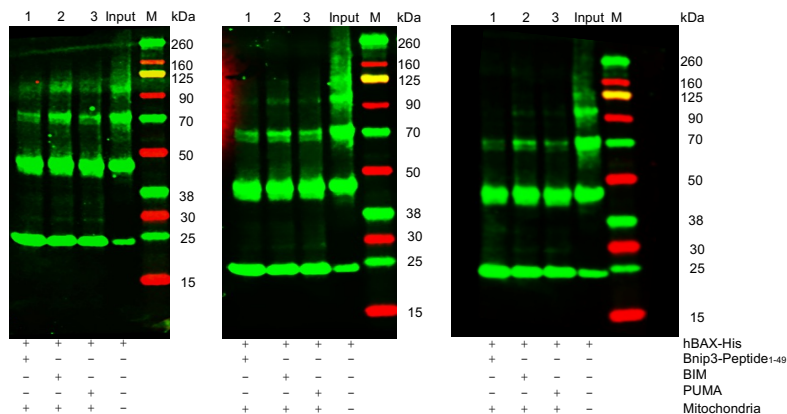
a

Activated BAX



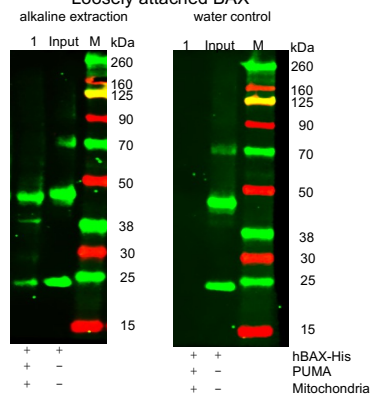
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Inserted BAX



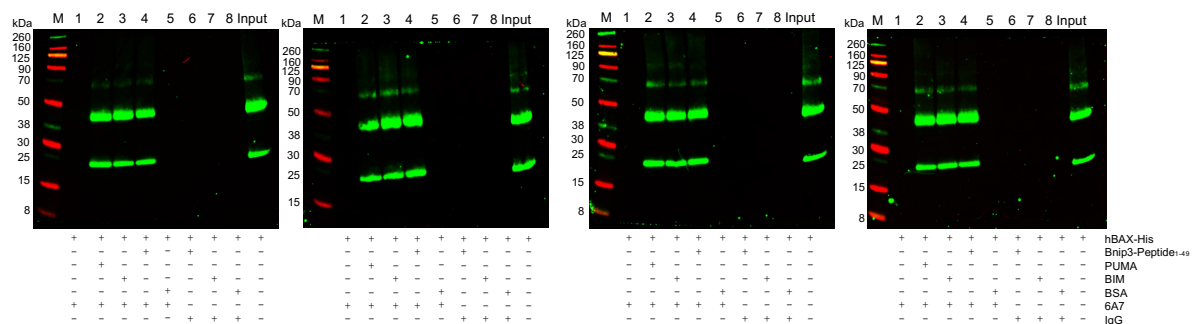
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Loosely attached BAX



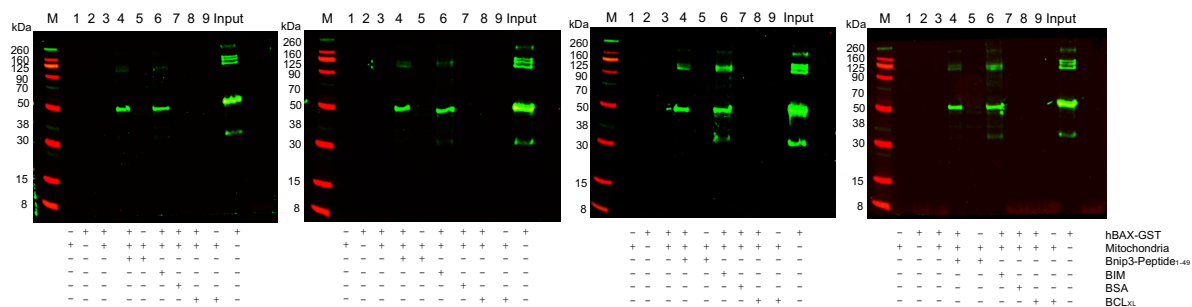
d

Activated BAX



e

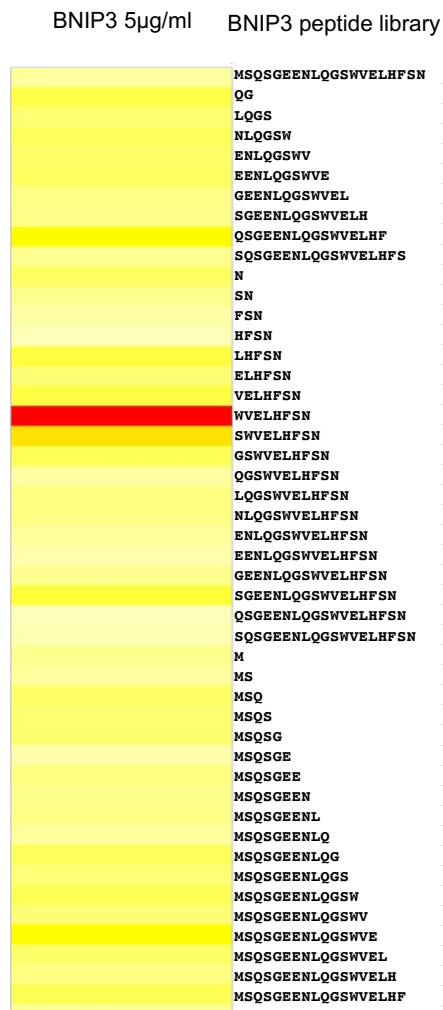
Inserted BAX



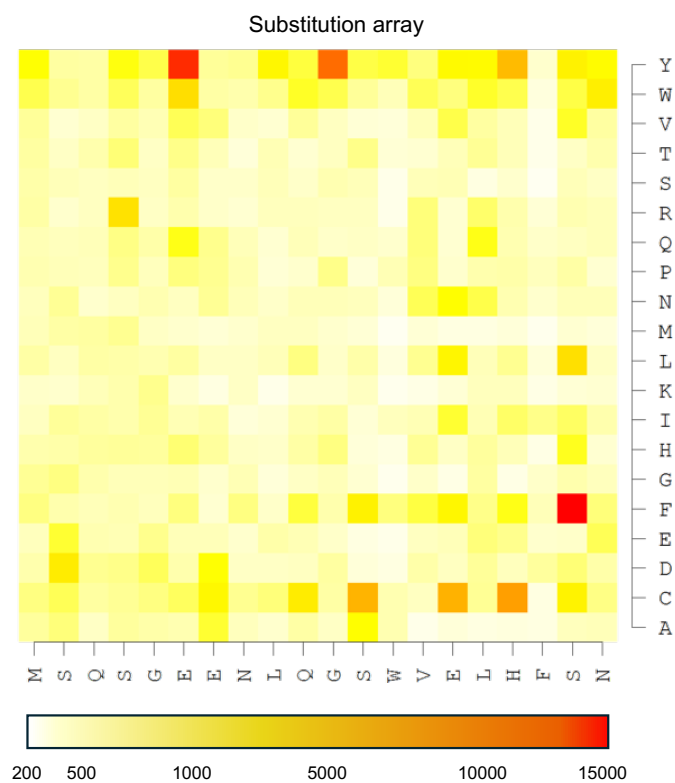
Supplementary Fig. 10. Additional data on the activation capacity of BNIP3-Peptide₁₋₄₉.

a, b, Immunoblot analyses of activated and inserted BAX, related to Fig. 2b. **c**, Immunoblot analysis showing successful alkaline extraction, evidenced by the removal of loosely attached BAX (left) and a negative control using water (right). **d, e**, Impact of bovine serum albumin (BSA, 5 μ M) and the antiapoptotic protein BCL_{XL} (500 nM) on the 1st and 2nd activation steps of BAX. Staurosporine (STS), BNIP3-Peptide₁₋₄₉ (Peptide₁₋₄₉), PUMA and BIM were used as stimulation agents. Immunoblot analyses of activated (**d**) and inserted BAX (**e**) showed no activation of BAX upon treatment with BSA and BCL_{XL}.

a

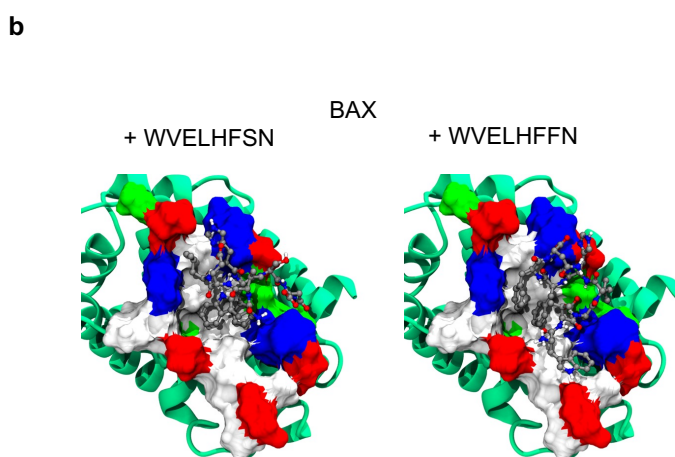
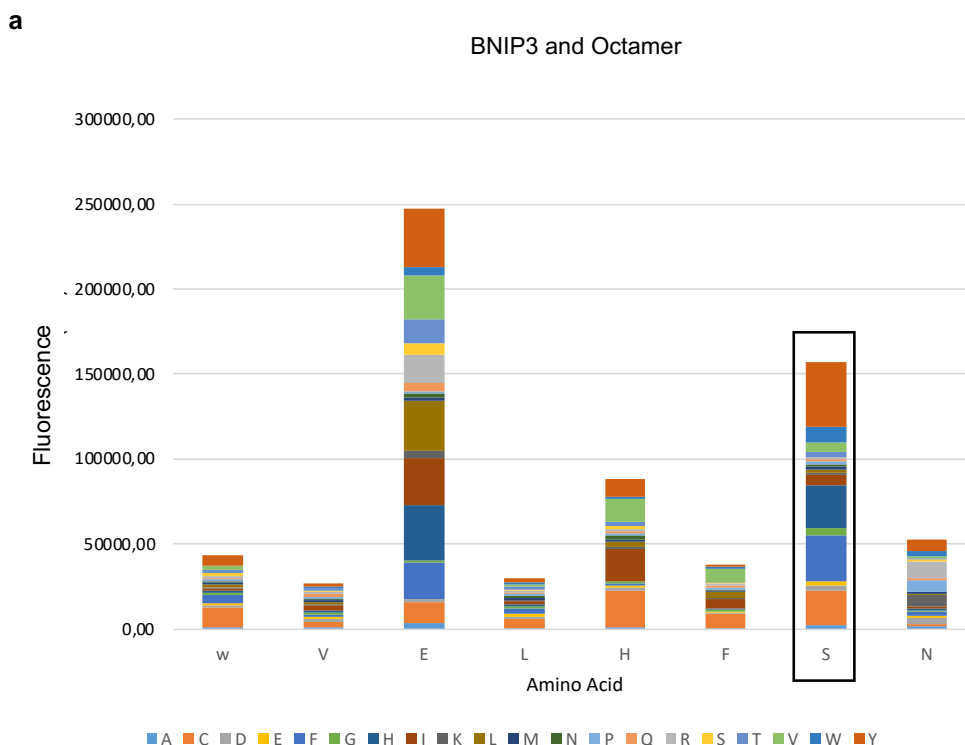


b



Supplementary Fig. 11. Additional data on BNIP3/BAX interaction.

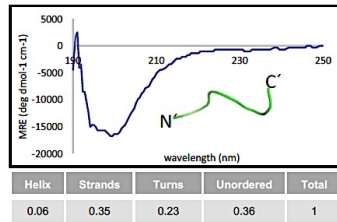
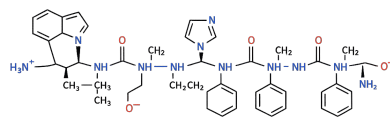
a, Incubation of fluorescence-labelled recombinant mouse BNIP3 with a library of 65 synthesised peptides representing N-terminal truncations of the BNIP3 sequence MSQSGEENLQGSWVELHFSN (amino acid residues 1-20) immobilised on microarrays revealed that the WVELHFSN sequence resulted in the strongest binding signal, with a 14-fold increase compared to the non-truncated peptide, as shown in the heatmap. ($n = 3$ identical subarrays with mouse IgG protein controls). **b,** Substitution analysis was performed using fluorescence-labelled recombinant BNIP3 and a library of 379 synthesised peptides immobilised on microarrays. Single residues of the BNIP3 sequence MSQSGEENLQGSWVELHFSN (amino acid residues 1-20) were exchanged for 20 natural amino acids (Ala, Cys, Asp, Glu, Phe, Gly, His, Ile, Lys, Leu, Met, Asn, Pro, Gln, Arg, Ser, Thr, Val, Trp, Tyr). Exchanging Trp-13 and Phe-18 with each of the canonical amino acids impaired BNIP3 binding. The most intense signal was observed when Ser-19 was exchanged for phenylalanine as shown in the heatmap. ($n = 3$ identical subarrays with mouse IgG protein controls).



Supplementary Fig. 12. Additional data on peptide binding to BNIP3 and BAX.

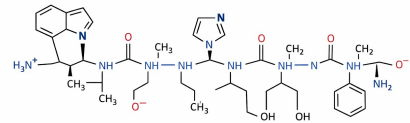
a, Substitution analysis was performed using fluorescence-labelled recombinant BNIP3 and also BAX and a library of 156 synthesised peptides immobilised on microarrays. Single residues of the BNIP3 sequence WVELHFSN (amino acid residues 1-20) were exchanged with 20 natural amino acids (Ala, Cys, Asp, Glu, Phe, Gly, His, Ile, Lys, Leu, Met, Asn, Pro, Gln, Arg, Ser, Thr, Val, Trp, Tyr). Exchanging Glu-14 and Ser-19 for the canonical amino acids strengthened the binding affinity to BNIP3. ($n = 3$ identical subarrays with mouse IgG protein controls). **b**, Docking experiments on BAX (PDB code 4S0O) with TAT-WVELHFSN and TAT-WVELHFFN were performed using HADDOCK. Addition of a third aromatic residue results improves intrapeptide aromatic interactions.

WVELHFFN



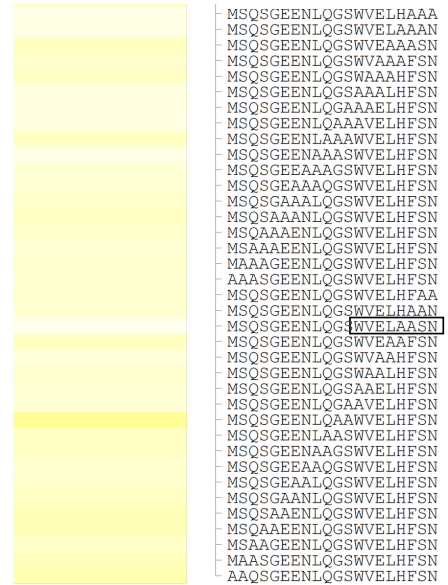
b

WVELAASN - Negative control peptide

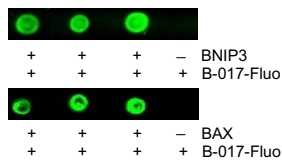


BNIP3 5μg/ml

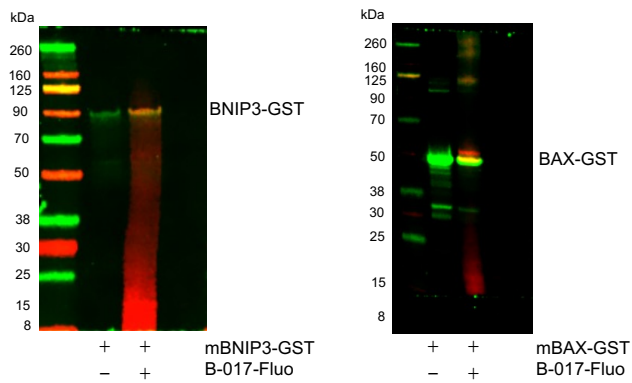
Alanine scan



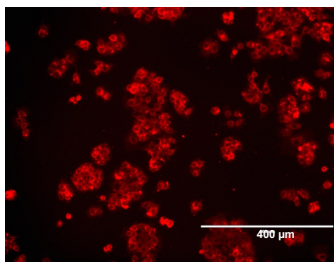
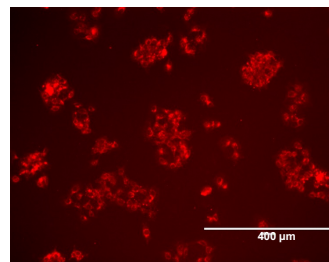
C



d



e

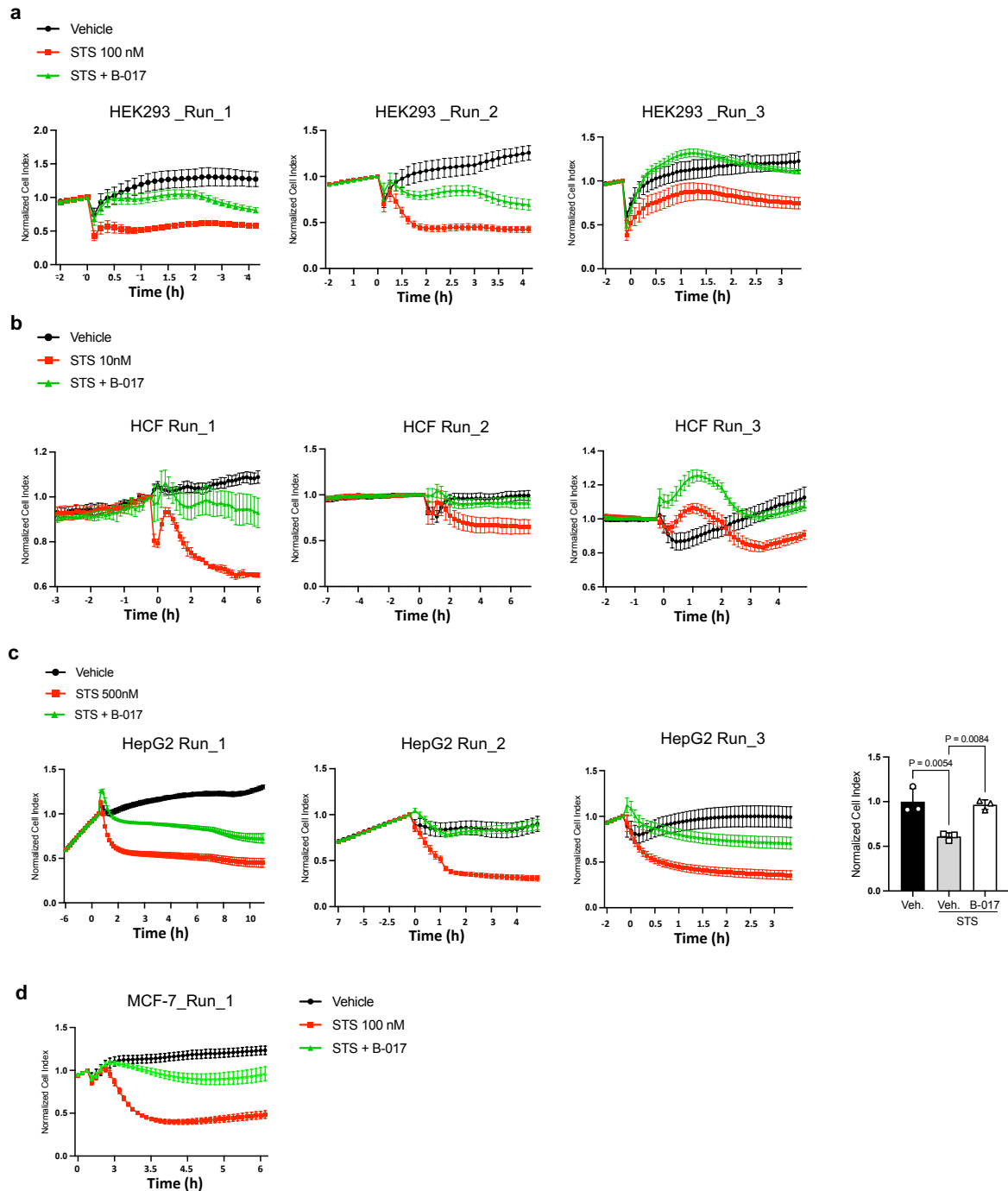
**f**

Supplementary Fig. 13. B-017 structure and binding to BNIP3 and BAX.

a, Structure of the truncated and substituted sequence WVELHFFN. Since this octamer showed stronger binding to BNIP3 than the non-truncated, non-substituted peptide consisting of the first 20 amino acid residues of BNIP3, we assigned the octamer to a potential functional antagonist of BNIP3 due to its ability to form critical hydrophobic interactions for binding affinity between biomolecules and drugs (top). To enable cellular uptake, we covalently attached the HIV-1 TAT protein transduction domain⁴⁸⁻⁵⁹ (GRKKRRQRRRPQ) as a delivery sequence to the WVELHFFN octamer. Circular dichroism spectroscopy showed a random coil conformation (bottom). **b**, Structure of the designed negative control peptide (top). Alanine scan was performed using fluorescence-labelled recombinant mouse BNIP3 and a library of 19 double-substituted and 18 triple-substituted alanine peptides immobilised on microarrays. No peptide with double or triple alanine substitution demonstrated stronger binding to the protein than the BNIP3 sequence MSQSGEENLQGSWVELHFSN (amino acid residues 1-20), as shown by the heatmap (bottom), which was part of the truncation array. **c**, Images of membranes spotted with recombinant mouse BNIP3-His (top) and recombinant mouse BAX-His (bottom) and incubated with fluorescently labelled B-017 (B-017-Fluo). **d**, Immunoblot analysis showing interaction of recombinant mouse (m) BNIP3-GST (1 µg) (left) and recombinant mBAX-GST (1 µg) (right) with B-017-Fluo (10 ng) after 1 h incubation; representative immunoblot of $n = 3$ independent experiments. **e**, Representative image of MCF-7 cells showing uptake of Cy5.5-conjugated B-017. Scale bar 200 µm. **f**, Representative image of MCF-7 cells showing uptake of Cy5.5-conjugated negative control peptide. Scale bar, 200 µm.

Supplementary Fig. 14. Additional data on the impact of B-017 on BAX activation.

a, MCF-7 cells (3×10^6 cells) were exposed to staurosporine (STS) ($2 \mu\text{M}$) and B-017 ($160 \mu\text{M}$), and vehicle (Veh.). To assess BAX insertion, mitochondria were isolated after 2 h of incubation and subjected to alkaline extraction to remove loosely attached BAX. Immunoblot analyses showed that B-017 prevents BAX insertion. ($n = 3$ independent experiments, one-way ANOVA). **b**, **c**, Immunoblots of activated and inserted BAX related to Fig. 3b and c. **d**, Response to B-017 in staurosporine-treated wild-type mouse embryonic fibroblasts (WT MEFs) and MEFs lacking BCL-2 family members in terms of late-stage cell death signalling. Deletion of *Bax* resulted in decreased caspase activity compared to WT MEFs when exposed to STS (500 nM) for 4 h, an effect that was mitigated by B-017. MEFs lacking the anti-apoptotic protein BCL-2 exhibited a substantial increase in caspase activity, which was predominately alleviated by co-treatment with B-017. Knockout of *Bak* in MEFs also led to the expected reduction in caspase activity, which was not significantly attenuated by B-017. (Experiment with 4 technical replicates related to Fig. 3d; two-way ANOVA). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



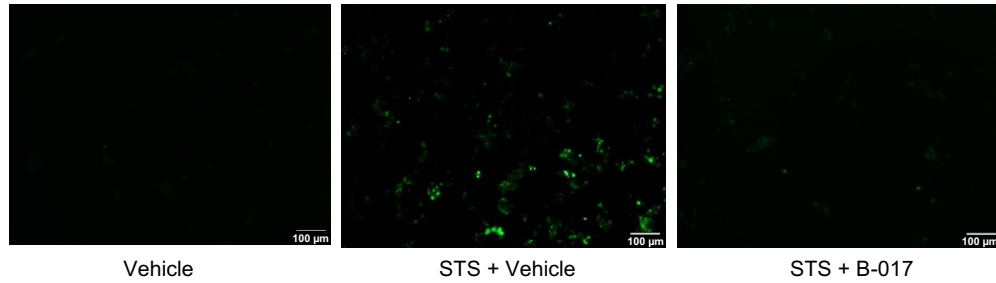
Supplementary Fig. 15. Additional data on B-017 protects cell viability.

a, b, Additional data to cell adhesion experiments in human cardiac fibroblasts (HCF) and HEK293 cells. **c, d,** HepG2 (12,000 cells per well) and MCF-7 cells (8,000 cells per well) were simultaneously treated with 500 nM or 100 nM staurosporine (STS) and B-017 (160 μ M) or vehicle (Veh.) after reaching a cell index of 1. Live cell impedance measurements showed that B-017 rescued the viability of HepG2 cells (**c**) and MCF-7 cells (**d**), which is impaired by STS treatment, as cell adhesion rates over time displayed a similar pattern to cells treated with vehicle alone. The time point chosen to assess the differences was 1 h after treatment for HepG2 cells to exclude a proliferation effect. ($n = 3$ independent experiments in HCF, HEK293 and HepG2 cells, one-way ANOVA, $n = 1$ experiment in MCF-7).

a

H_2O_2

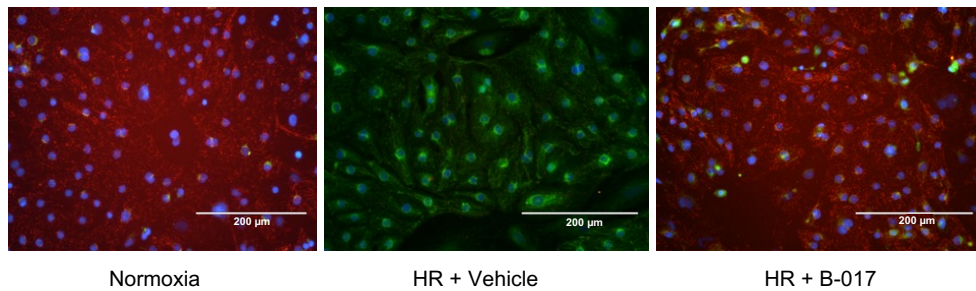
HEK293



b

Mitochondrial membrane potential

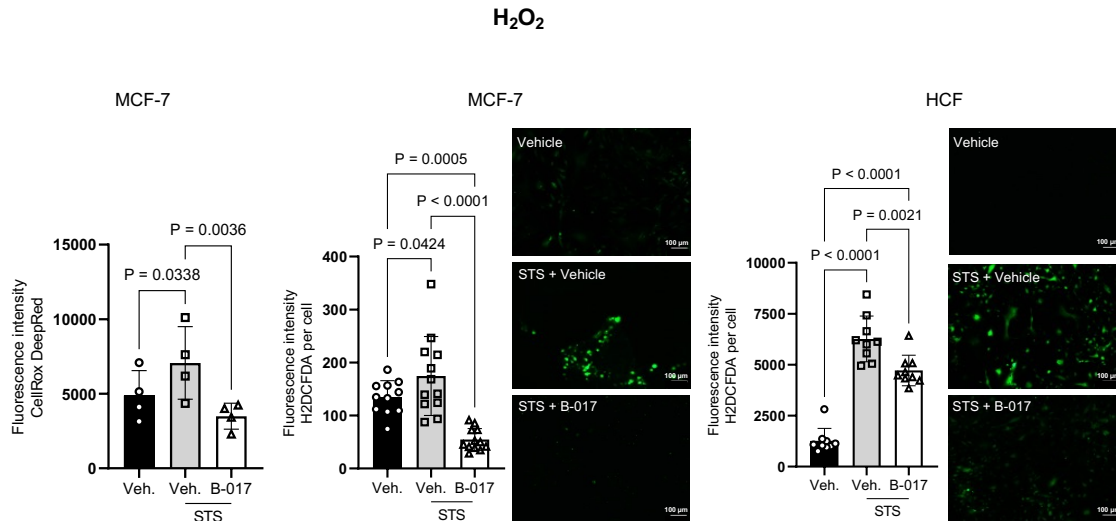
iPSC-CM



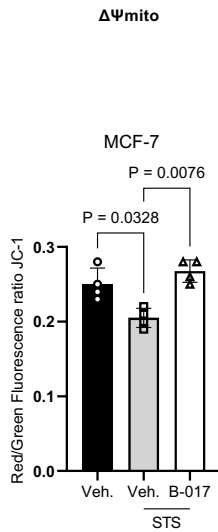
Supplementary Fig. 16. Additional data on B-017 protects cell viability.

a, Representative fluorescence micrographs for assessing hydrogen peroxide in HEK293 cells exposed to staurosporine (STS) with vehicle or B-017 treatment, related to Fig. 4c. **b**, Representative fluorescence micrographs for assessing mitochondrial membrane potential in induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived cardiomyocytes exposed to normoxia or hypoxia/reoxygenation (HR) and treated with vehicle or B-017, related to Fig. 4f right.

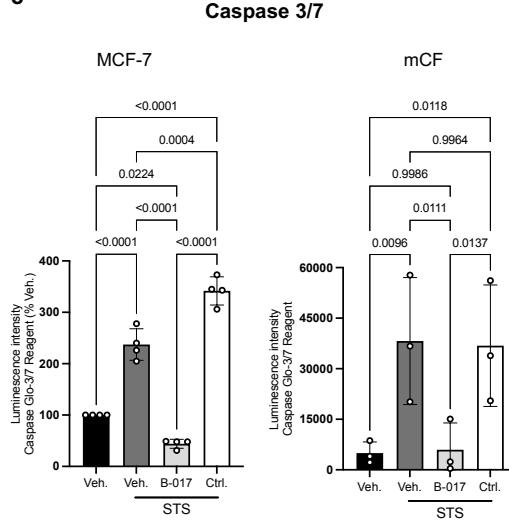
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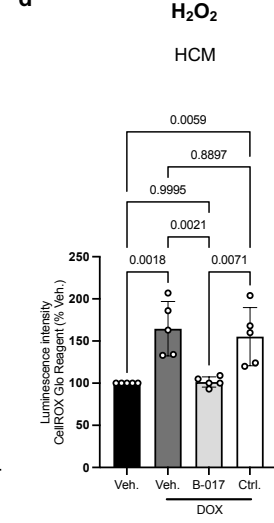
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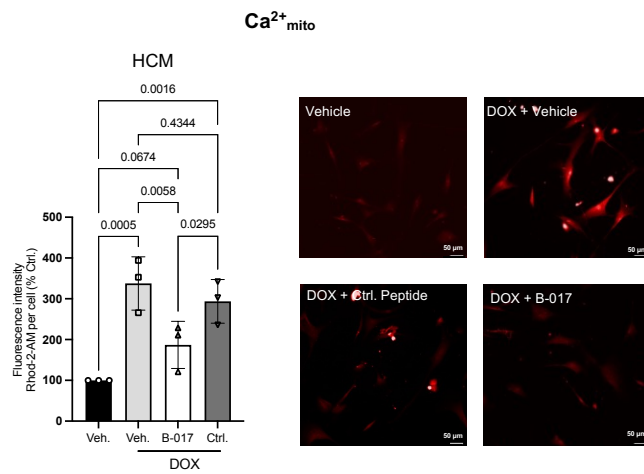
c



d

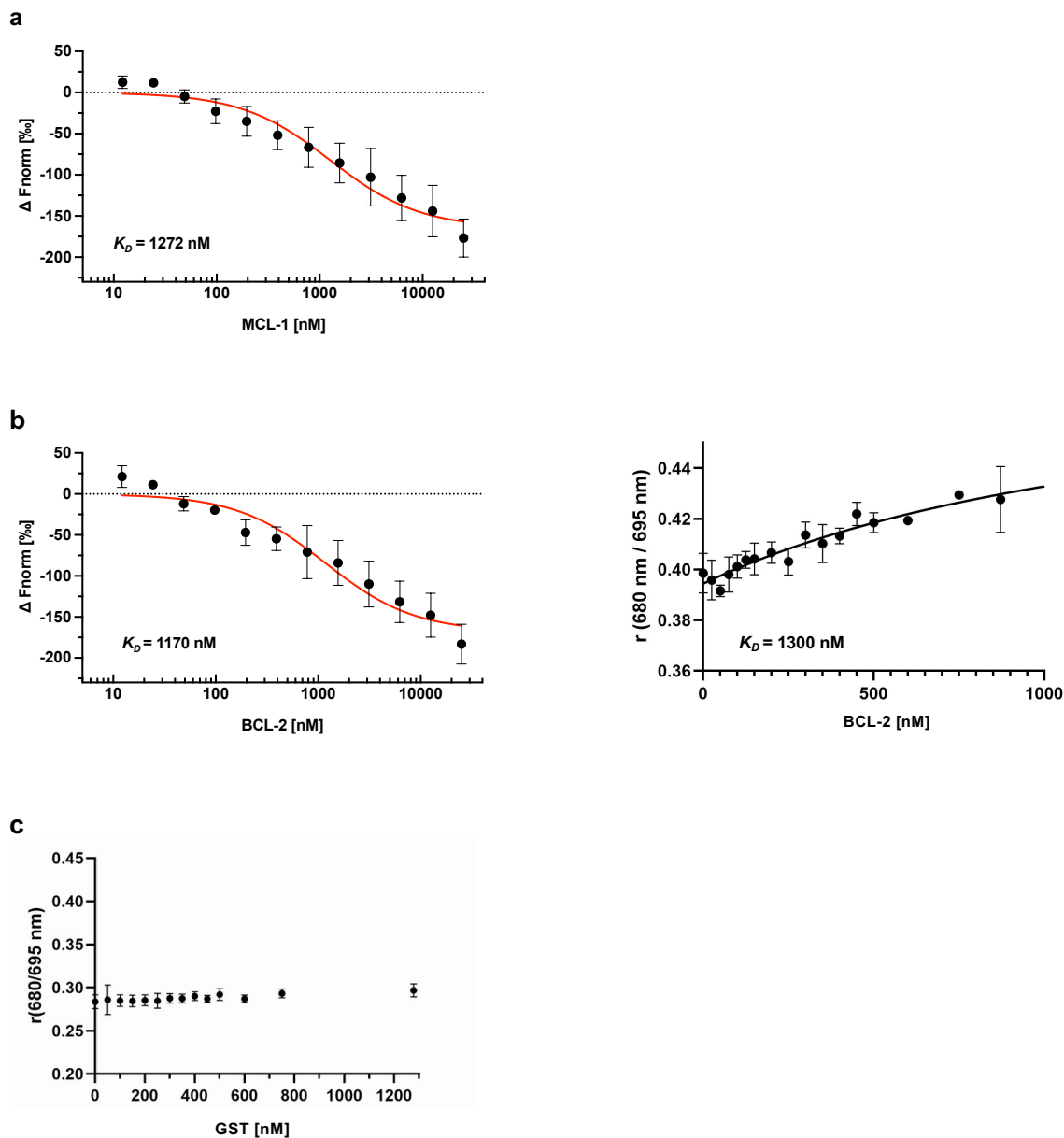


e



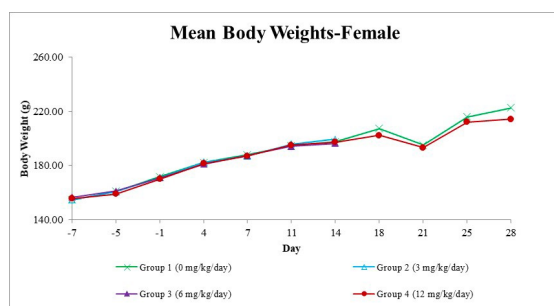
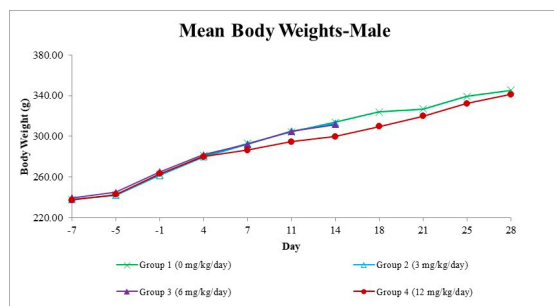
Supplementary Fig. 17. Additional data on B-017 protects mitochondrial health.

a, b, Additional data on cellular consequences of B-017 treatment in MCF-7 cells and human cardiac fibroblasts (HCF) in detail. Staurosporine (STS) was chosen as cell death signalling inducing-agent (500 nM, 2 μ M). B-017 (52 μ M) or vehicle (Veh.) was administered concomitantly with the stimulus. Cell death signalling characterised by reactive oxygen species generation (ROS) and mitochondrial membrane depolarisation ($\Delta\Psi_{\text{mito}}$) were determined. The fluorescence intensity of CellROX DeepRed and JC-1 ($\Delta\Psi_{\text{mito}}$) was assessed using a fluorescence microplate reader and H₂DCFDA (H₂O₂) by fluorescence microscopy. B-017 significantly prevented STS-induced cell death signalling as evidenced by decreased generation of ROS in MCF-7 (**a**, left and middle) and HCF (**a**, right) and mitochondrial membrane depolarisation in MCF-7 (**b**). ($n = 1$ experiment with 4 and 12 technical replicates in MCF-7 and 9 technical replicates in HCF, one-way ANOVA). **c-e**, Additional data on cellular consequences of B-017 treatment in MCF-7 and mouse cardiac fibroblasts (mCF) related to caspase 3/7 activity upon treatment with staurosporine (**c**), and in human cardiomyocytes related to ROS (H₂O₂) generation (**d**) and mitochondrial calcium level upon treatment with doxorubicin (**e**). The negative control peptide was used as control to evaluate a potential impact of the TAT sequence and a peptide itself ($n = 3$ independent experiments, two-way ANOVA). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



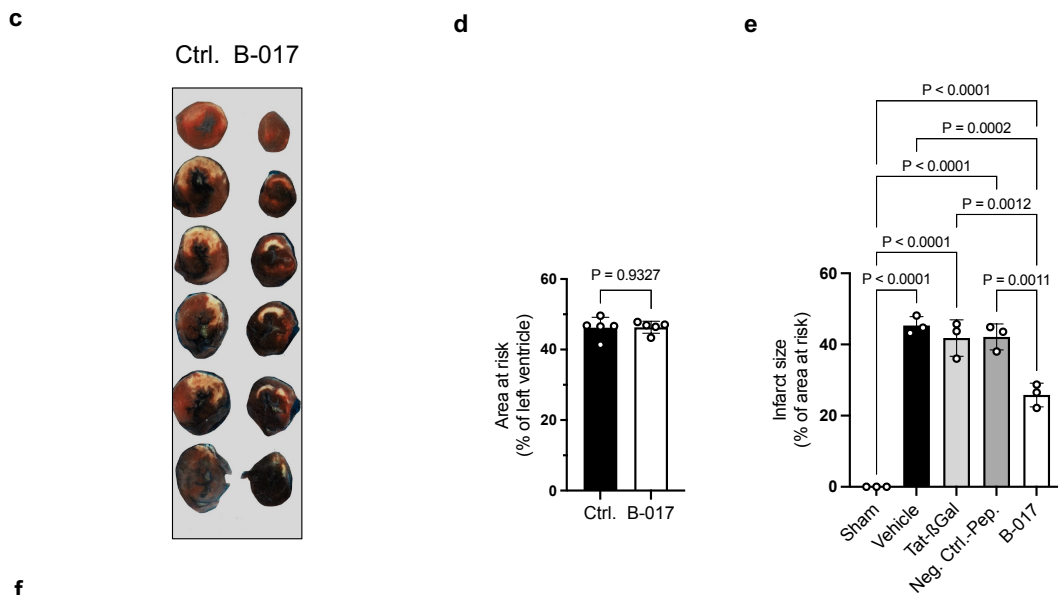
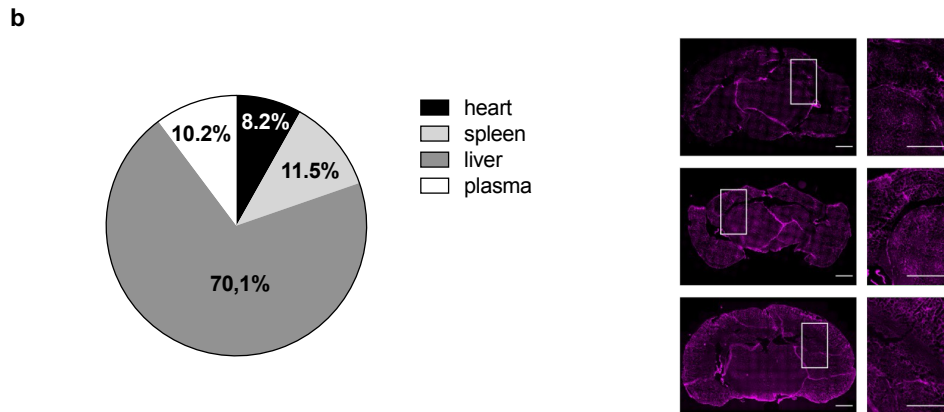
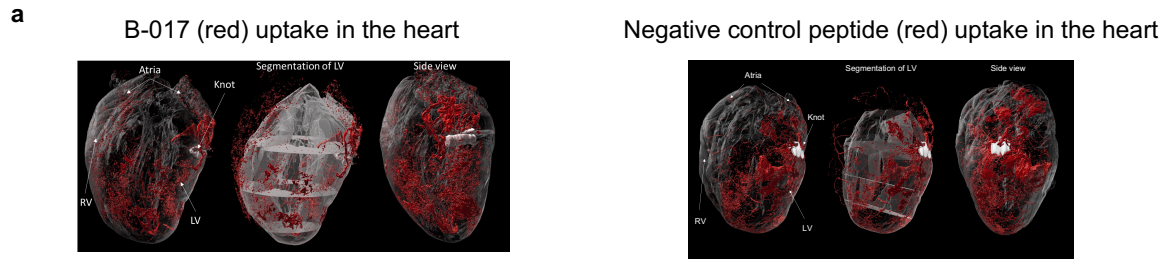
Supplementary Fig. 18. Dose-response curves of the binding of the proteins MCL-1, BCL-2, and glutathione-S-transferase to Cy5.5-labelled peptide.

Microscale thermophoresis dose-response curves for the binding of Cy5.5-labelled B-017 to the human proteins **(a)** MCL-1 and **(b, left)** BCL-2. A constant concentration of 200 nM fluorescence-labelled B-017 was incubated with serial dilutions of each protein (12.2–25,000 nM). Normalised fluorescence changes were plotted as a function of protein concentration. To determine binding affinities (K_D), nonlinear regression analysis was performed using a one-site binding model. Data points represent the mean $\pm$ SD from three biological replicates ($n = 3$), and solid red lines show the fitted binding curves. **b, c**, Fluorescence anisotropy measurement (680/695 nm) with titration of increasing human BCL-2 **(b, right)** or glutathione-S-transferase (GST) concentrations **(c)** to 100 nM Cy5.5-labelled B-017. All titrations were performed in $n = 3$ technical replicates and data points are shown as means $\pm$ SD based on the three independent experiments ($n = 3$). Binding curves of the averaged data were fitted with GraphPad Prism 10.0 (GraphPad) using the quadratic binding equation for a one-site specific binding model and K_D values are given as fit of the averaged data points $\pm$ standard deviation of the fit.



Supplementary Fig. 19. Impact of B-017 on body weight in male and female rats.

The animals received four different doses of B-017 (0, 3, 6 or 12 mg kg⁻¹ body weight) for 14 days, followed by a 14-day recovery phase. Neither sex showed any loss of body weight during the dosing or recovery phases of the B-017 treatment.

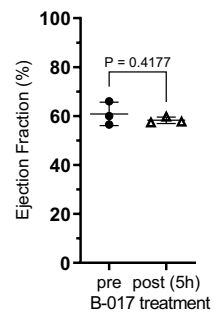


Supplementary Fig. 20. Additional data on B-017 induced protective biological responses in ischaemia/reperfusion injury.

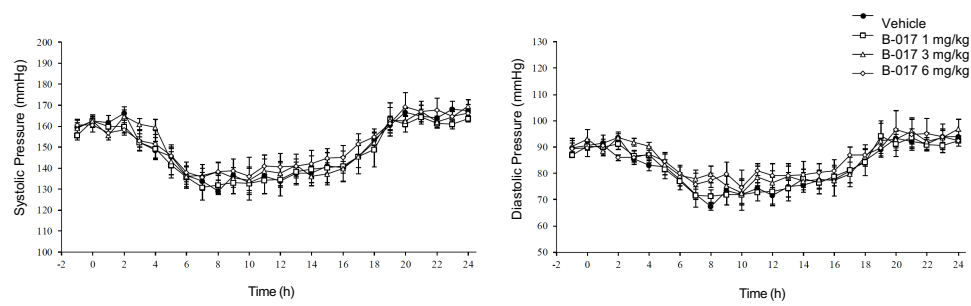
a, Representative 3D visualisation of B-017-Cy5.5 (red, left) and negative control peptide-Cy5.5 (red, right) distribution across a whole mouse heart after 30 min of ischaemia with 5 min of reperfusion with endogenous autofluorescence (green). Ischaemic wild-type male mice were initially injected with fluorescence-labelled B-017 or negative control peptide-Cy5.5 5 min prior to reperfusion. As in the light sheet microscopic analysis of the whole heart, the distribution of B-017 and the negative control peptide was remote and within the region, which was blocked from blood flow through ligation of the left coronary artery (knot), the so-called area at risk (AAR). LV, left ventricle; RV, right ventricle. ($n = 2$ C57BL/6J male mice). **b**, Uptake of Lys(5(6)-FAM-labelled B-017 in different mouse organs at 5 min reperfusion following 30 min of myocardial ischaemia. The peptide was administered into the LV cavity 5 min before reperfusion (**left**) ($n = 3$ C57BL/6J male mice). Representative micrographs showing uptake of Lys(5(6)-FAM-labelled B-017 in the brain at 30 min ischaemia. The peptide was administered intravenously at the onset of ischaemia (**right**) ($n = 3$ C57BL/6J male mice). (Scale bars 1,000 μm). **c**, Representative tetrazolium chloride (TTC)-stained slices of male mouse hearts subjected to 30 min of ischaemia followed by 24 h of reperfusion with vehicle (Ctrl.) or B-017 ($0.8 \text{ mg kg}^{-1} \text{ BW}$) administered. (Blue (remote area) and red (AAR), live tissue; white, infarcted tissue). **d**, Experimental occlusion of the left coronary artery induces ischaemia downstream of the ligation, namely the AAR. For comparison of dead tissue per AAR, it is a prerequisite that the risk zone is similar in all animals. Measurement of the AAR in the vehicle (Ctrl.) and B-017 treated group are similar (left) ($n = 5$ C57BL/6J mice per group, two-tailed Student's t -test). **e**, Therapeutic response to various control treatments and B-017 in mice exposed to 30 min of ischaemia followed by 24 h of reperfusion. Mice were injected with vehicle (0.9% sodium chloride, NaCl), TAT- βGal , and the negative control peptide TAT-WVELAASN or B-017 administered into the LV cavity 5 min prior to reperfusion. TAT- βGal served as a control for the TAT-sequence in B-017, and TAT-WVELAASN for the peptide drug class. Sham mice served as control. Infarct size measurement (infarcted tissue per AAR) showed no difference between vehicle, TAT- βGal , and negative control peptide treatments and no protective effects. B-017 significantly reduced infarct size by 40% relative to the control treatments ($n = 3$ C57BL/6J mice per group, one-way ANOVA). **f**, Therapeutic response to B-017 in pigs exposed to 60 min of ischaemia and 4 h of reperfusion. Pigs were injected with vehicle (0.9% sodium chloride, Ctrl.) or B-017 ($0.075 \text{ mg kg}^{-1} \text{ BW}$), administered *via* intravenous bolus injection 5 min prior to reperfusion. No difference in the AAR was observed (left). Infarct size measurement (infarcted tissue per AAR) showed that B-017 significantly reduced infarct size per left ventricle (LV; right) compared to vehicle treatment (middle). Representative tetrazolium chloride (TTC)-stained slices of pig hearts subjected to 60 min of ischaemia followed by 4 h of reperfusion with vehicle or B-017 ($0.075 \text{ mg kg}^{-1} \text{ BW}$) administered. ($n = 3$ pigs per group, two-tailed Student's t -test). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

a

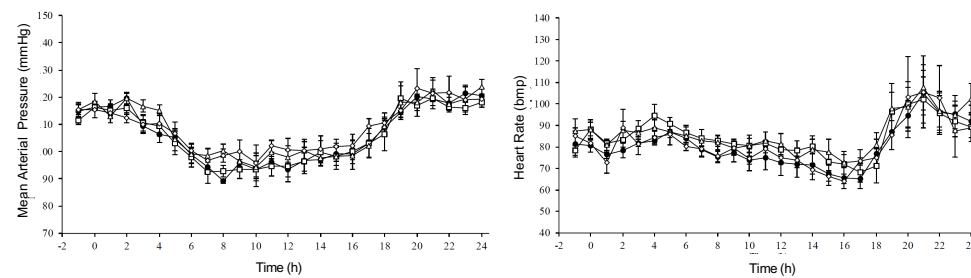
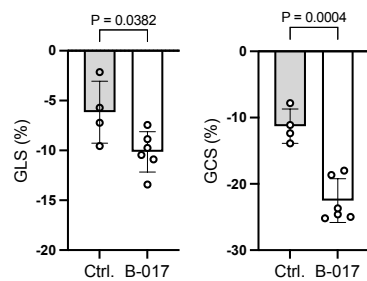
Impact of B-017 on basal LV-function in mice

**b**

Long-term blood pressure measurements in dogs



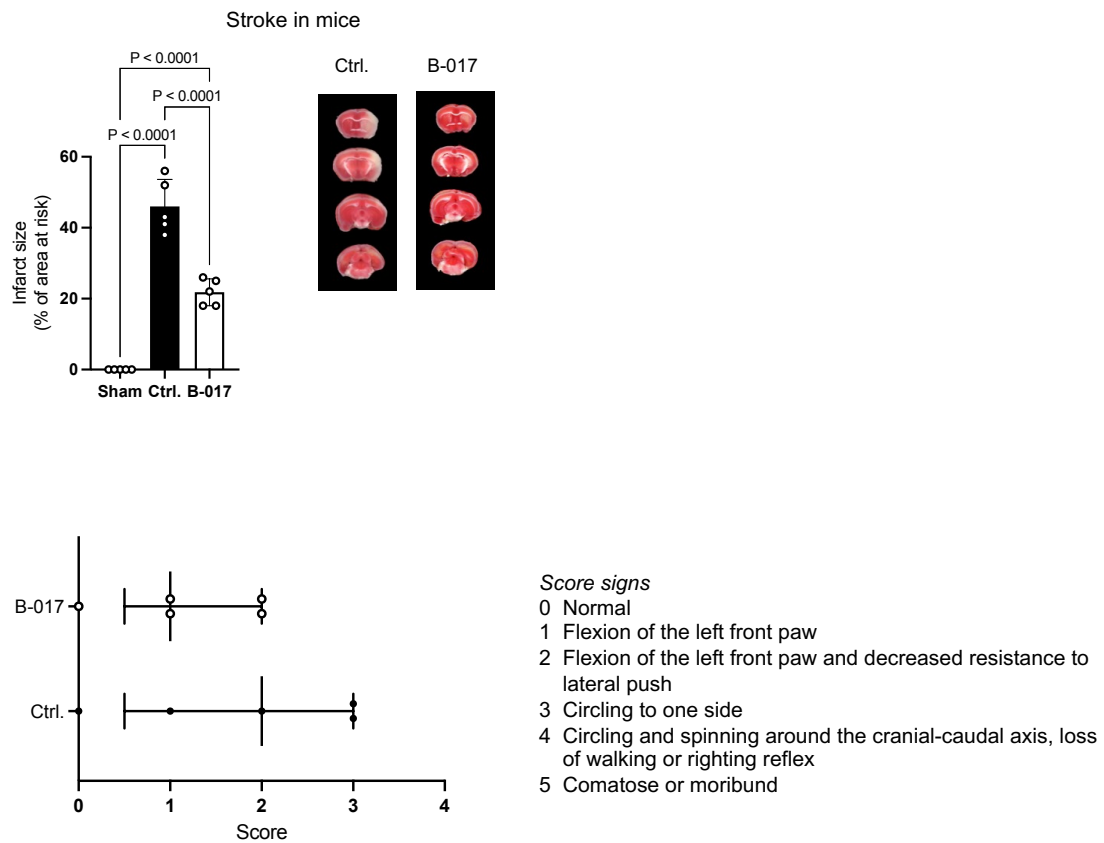
Long-term measurements of mean arterial pressure and heart rate in dogs

**c**

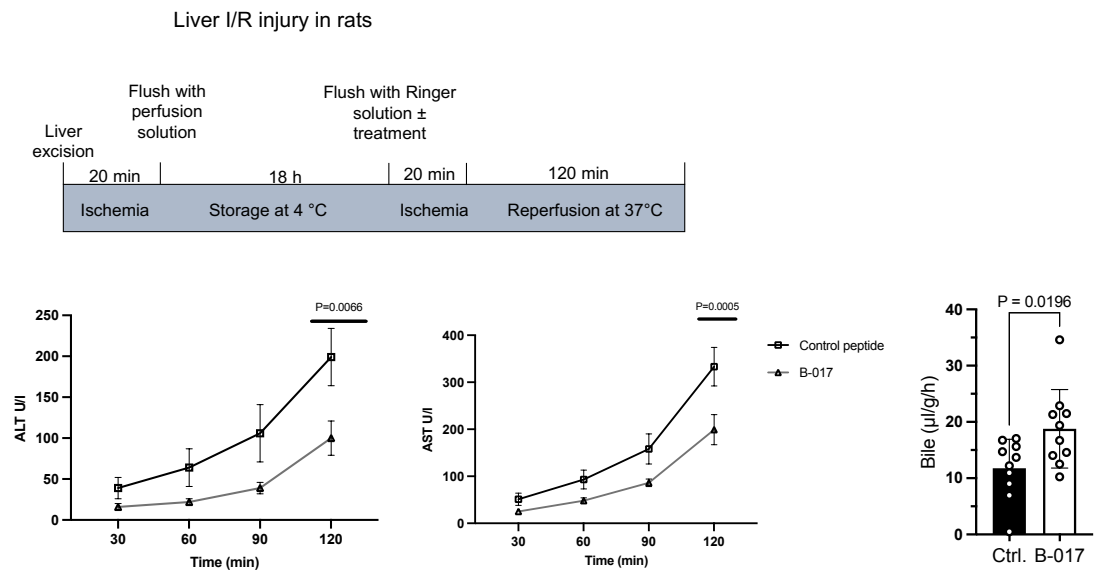
Supplementary Fig. 21. Additional data on impact of B-017 on left ventricular function and haemodynamics.

a, Therapeutic response of basal cardiac function to B-017 in mice. Mice were injected B-017 ($0.8 \text{ mg kg}^{-1} \text{ BW}$). Changes in cardiac function were monitored by echocardiography baseline and 5 h post treatment. At the end of 5 h, B-017 showed no impact on cardiac function, as indicated by left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) calculated by Simpson's method ($n = 3$ C57BL/6J male mice per group, two-tailed Student's *t*-test). **b**, Therapeutic response of blood pressure and heart rate to 3 doses of B-017 (1, 3 and $6 \text{ mg kg}^{-1} \text{ BW}$) in male dogs. Parameters were examined in 4 conscious telemetered dogs prior to and following intravenous administration of vehicle (0.9% sodium chloride, Ctrl.) or B-017 and showed no effect of B-017 on systolic, diastolic, or mean arterial pressure and heart rate compared to respective pre-dose baseline values. Group mean values followed a similar pattern to the control group ($n = 3$ male dogs per group). **c**, Therapeutic response of left ventricular function to B-017. Mice were injected with either vehicle (Ctrl.) or B-017 ($0.8 \text{ mg kg}^{-1} \text{ BW}$) 5 min before reperfusion and on d1, d3, d5, and d7 after ischaemia. At the end of the 28-days follow-up, discrete changes in myocardial contraction speckle-tracking-based strain analysis were assessed. The global longitudinal strain and global circumferential strain (GRS, GCS), measured midventricular, were impaired by ischaemia/reperfusion injury and protected by B-017 treatment. ($n = 4$ Ctrl. and $n = 6$ B-017-treated C57BL/6J male mice per group, two-tailed Student's *t*-test).

a



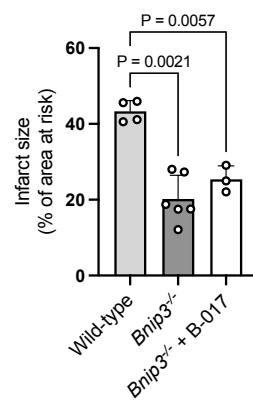
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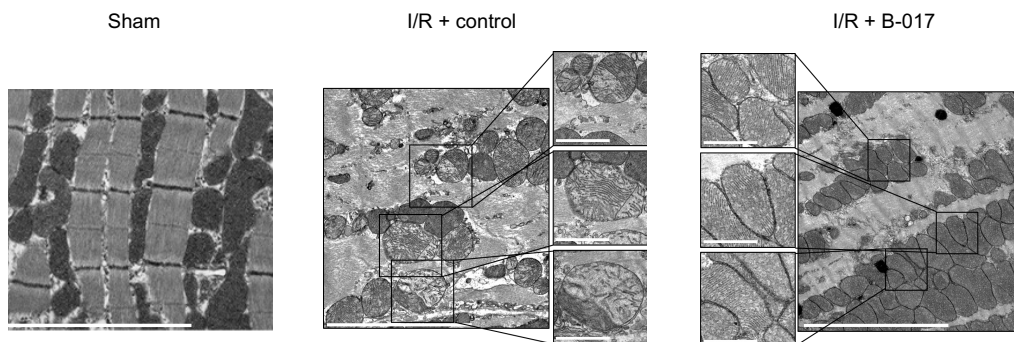
Supplementary Fig. 22. Additional data on B-017 induces protective biological responses in ischaemia/reperfusion injury.

a, Therapeutic response to B-017 in mice exposed to brain ischaemia/reperfusion. Mice were subjected to 30 min of transient middle cerebral artery occlusion (tMCAO) followed by reperfusion and treated with B-017 (0.8 mg kg^{-1}) or vehicle (Ctrl.) immediately prior to ischaemia. Sham operated mice served as controls. Stroke volumes assessed by TTC staining 24 h after tMCAO (right) showed that B-017 markedly reduced infarct size by 52% compared to controls ($n = 5$ C57BL/6 male mice per group, one-way ANOVA). The Bederson Score assessment 24 hours postoperative in control group and B-017 treatment group tended to show fewer neurological deficits under B-017 treatment. ($n = 5$ C57BL/6J male mice per group, Student's t-test, $P = 0.4112$). **b**, Therapeutic effect of B-017 on ischaemia/reperfusion in male rat liver explanted for organ transplant. Timeline of the *ex vivo* liver ischaemia/reperfusion model (top). After excision during the 20 min of ischaemia after cardiac arrest, rat livers were cold stored for 18 h, flushed with 20 ml of saline with or without B-017, kept at room temperature for 20 min (simulating surgical implantation), and then reperfused at 37°C for 120 min. Measurement of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine transaminase (ALT) levels showed that B-017 reduced tissue injury at 120 min reperfusion, as evidenced by significantly lower AST (left) and ALT (right) levels in the circulating perfusion solution compared to negative control peptide treatment (Ctrl.). B-017 improved also functional recovery as shown by higher hepatic bile production during reperfusion compared to control. Total bile secretion was collected by inserting a 27-gauge polyethylene tubing into the common bile duct. Hepatic bile production was calculated as $\mu\text{l g}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. ($n = 6$ male rats per group, two-way ANOVA; $n = 9$ male rats per group, two-tailed Student's t-test). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

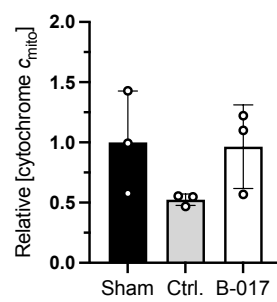
a



b

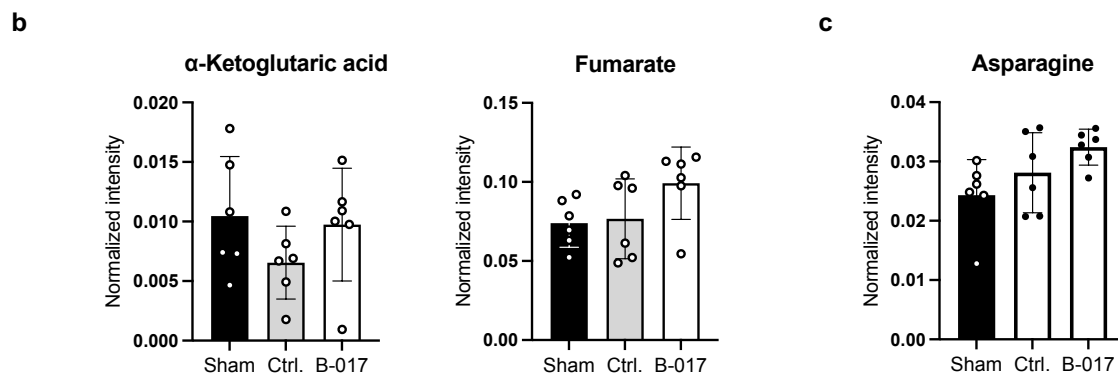
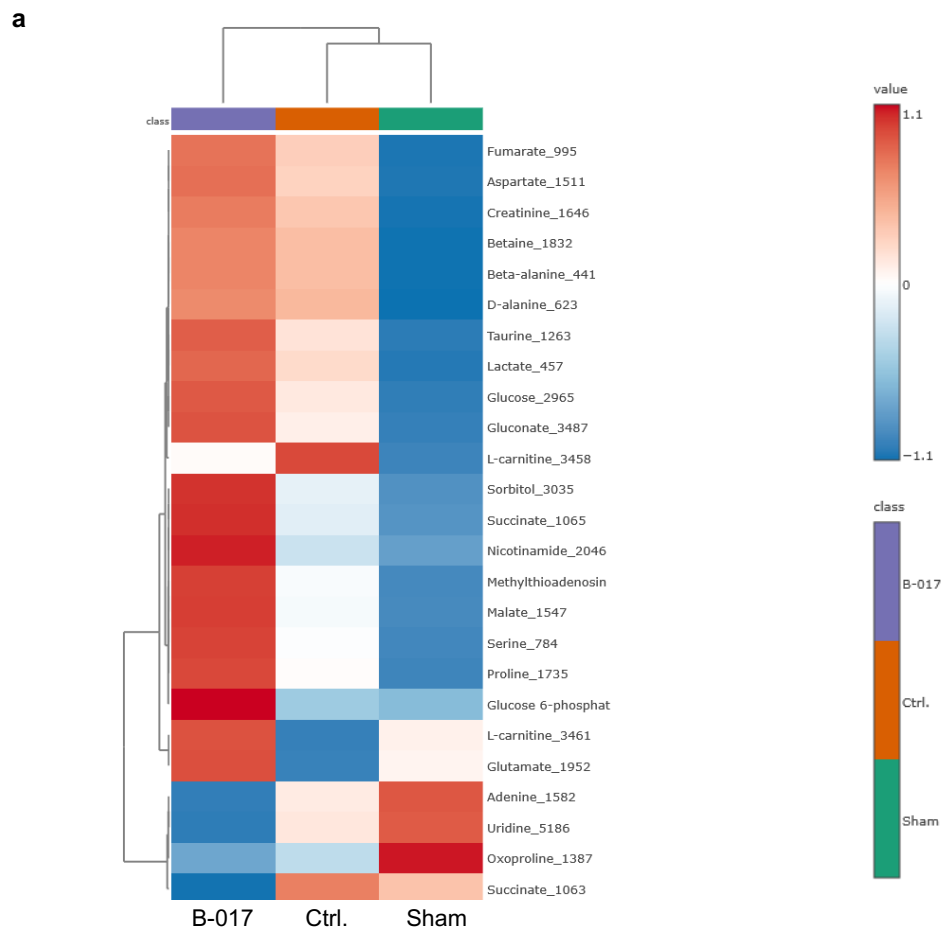


c



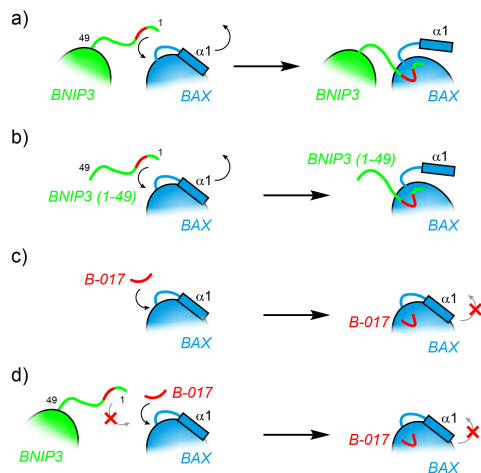
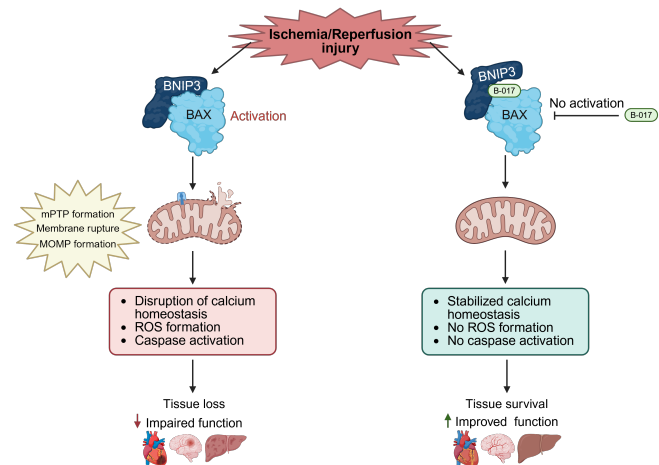
Supplementary Fig. 23. Additional data on impact of B-017 on cell death signalling in ischaemia/reperfusion injury.

a, Therapeutic response to the intracardiac injection of B-017 in *Bnip3* knockout (*Bnip3*^{-/-}) mice, compared to untreated wild-type and *Bnip3*^{-/-} mice, in ischaemia/reperfusion (I/R). Mice were exposed to 30 min of ischaemia, followed by 24 h of reperfusion. Infarct size measurement (infarcted tissue per AAR) showed that *Bnip3* deletion generally protected cardiac tissue from I/R injury, as evidenced by a 51% reduction in infarct size compared to wild-type mice. B-017 treatment provided no additional protection ($n = 4$ C57BL/6J untreated male mice, $n = 6$ untreated *Bnip3*^{-/-} male mice, $n = 6$ B-017-treated *Bnip3*^{-/-} male mice, one-way ANOVA). **b**, Representative electron micrographs depicting swollen mitochondria in the area at risk in negative control peptide-treated mice related to Fig. 6a. Scale bars, 2 μm , 1 μm , $n = 3$ C57BL/6 male mice. **c**, Immunoblot analysis of mitochondrial cytochrome *c* levels in the AAR showed a tendency towards higher levels under B-017 treatment compared to those treated with the negative control peptide. ($n = 3$ C57BL/6J male mice, one-way ANOVA). Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Fig. 24. Additional data on impact of B-017 on cardiac metabolism.

a-c, Altered cardiac metabolomics after 60 min of reperfusion following 30 min of ischaemia in the B-017-treated group compared with control. **a**, Heatmap of cardiac metabolomics based on a principal component analysis showing the top 25 metabolites that are different between B-017-treated, control and sham group in the setting of ischaemia/reperfusion injury. **b**, Levels of altered TCA intermediates α -ketoglutarate and fumarate and **c**, levels of the amino acid asparagine altered by B-017 treatment compared to control and sham group. ($n = 6$ C57BL/6J male mice per group).

a**b**

Supplementary Fig. 25. Mode of action of B-017.

a, Schematic diagram showing the proposed mechanism of B-017 illustrating (a) the functional domain of full-length BNIP3 activating BAX, exposing the transmembrane domain for insertion into the mitochondrial outer membrane (MOM), created with Adobe Illustrator. (b) binding of the functional domain of BNIP3 as BNIP3-peptide₁₋₄₉ activating BAX, exposing the transmembrane for insertion into the MOM, (c) binding of B-017 to BAX with no activation of BAX, and (d) competition of B-017 with the BNIP3 activating domain, preventing the activation of BAX. **b**, Schematic diagram showing the impact of B-017 on the mitochondrial protection pathway. BNIP3 plays a crucial role in BAX-induced mitochondrial damage. Direct activation of BAX by BNIP3 leads to the perturbation of the mitochondrial membranes, resulting in mitochondrial outer membrane rupture or pore formation in the mitochondrial outer membrane. These culminate in the initiation of apoptotic and necrotic cell death, which has a dramatic effect on cardiac function. (mPTP, mitochondrial permeability transition pore; MOMP, mitochondrial outer membrane pore). Created in BioRender. Roth, A. (2026). BioRender.com/XE29MK0Y32

Source Data

Supplementary Fig. 14a



one-way ANOVA		Groups
P value	0.0004	Vehicle vs. Vehicle + STS
P value	0.0154	Vehicle + STS vs. B-017 + STS

Supplementary Fig. 23c

Negative control peptide	n = 3
B-017	n = 3

