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Notch pathway molecules are essential for the maintenance, but not the generation, of mammalian neural stem cells.

Hitoshi S, Alexson T, Tropepe V, Donoviel D, Elia AJ, Nye JS, Conlon RA, Mak TW, Bernstein A, van der Kooy D
Genes Dev 2002 Apr 1 **16**(7):846-58 [[abstract on PubMed](#)] [[related articles](#)] [UC-eLinks](#)

Selected by | Judith S. Eisen
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Faculty Comments

Faculty Member

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NEUROSCIENCE

New Finding

Comments

This study shows that Notch signaling is required for the maintenance, but not the generation of mammalian neural stem cells, and it provides evidence inconsistent with the idea that Notch signaling acts as a neuronal/glia fate switch. This is important, because historically Notch signaling was thought to maintain cells in an undifferentiated state. However, several recent gain-of-function studies have suggested that in the nervous system, Notch signaling prevents neuronal fate and instructs glia fate.

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