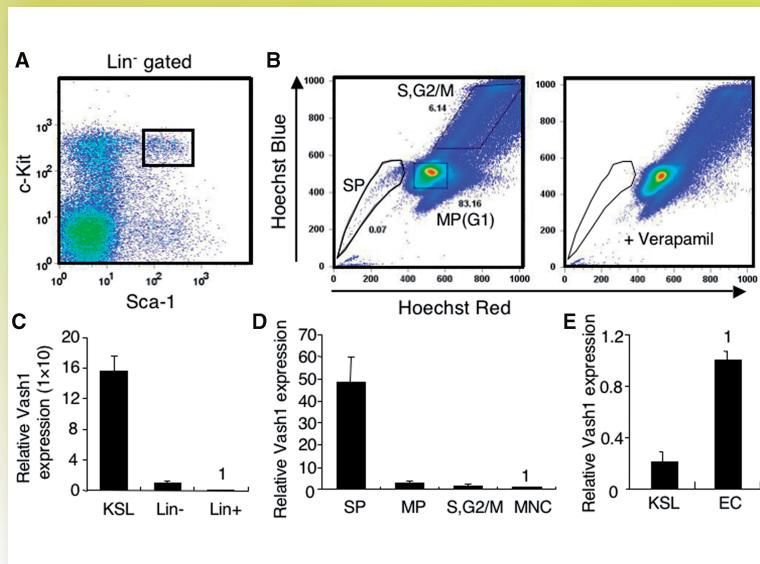


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COVER: (A) Flow cytometric analysis of adult bone marrow (BM) HSC population ($\text{Lin}^- \text{c-Kit}^+ \text{Sca-1}^+$) in mice as indicated by box. (B) Analysis of side population (SP) cells, main population (MP) cells, and cells in the S,G2/M phase of the cell cycle from adult BM in mice. The identification of SP cells was confirmed by their disappearance in the presence of Verapamil (right panel). (C-E) qRT-PCR for *VASH1* in several cells as indicated. (C) KSL HSC population specifically expresses *VASH1*. (D) SP cells strongly express *VASH1*. Mononuclear cells (MNCs) from whole BM were also used for comparison. (E) Comparison of *VASH1* expression by KSL cells as indicated in (A) and ECs from hind limb muscle of adult mice defined as $\text{CD31}^+ \text{CD45}^-$ cells. *VASH1* expression in HSCs suggests that *VASH1* regulates pool size of HSCs by negatively regulating proliferation of HSCs. [See Naito *et al.*; p. 653]