

Rett syndrome (RTT) is a progressive neurodevelopmental disorder mainly caused by mutations in the X-linked *MECP2* gene. It affects 1 in 10.000 live female births and represents the main genetic cause of intellectual disability in girls worldwide. Besides neurons, astrocytes have been identified as active contributors to RTT pathogenesis as *Mecp2* knock-out (KO) astrocytes fail to correctly support neuronal maturation and synaptogenesis. Indeed, culturing wild-type (WT) neurons with KO astrocytes or treating them with KO astrocyte-conditioned medium (ACM) affects their synaptic phenotype. Of note, one of the key synaptogenic factors released by astrocytes is cholesterol, which plays a crucial role in synapse formation and functioning. Several data highlight a defective cholesterol metabolism in RTT, supporting the hypothesis that abnormalities in astrocyte-produced cholesterol might contribute to synaptic dysfunctions. In this study, we report a downregulation of genes involved in cholesterol synthesis and secretion in primary KO astrocytes cultured alone or in co-culture with neurons and KO MACS-sorted astrocytes from P7 mice pups. Moreover, we demonstrate that cholesterol supplementation completely rescues synaptic defects not only in WT neurons treated with KO ACM but also in *Mecp2* heterozygous (HET) neurons, which better recapitulate the genetic pattern of RTT patients.