

Point mutations in *Picalm*, a gene for a clathrin-assembly protein, result in abnormal growth, blood-cell development, iron transport and other defects.

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- Five ENU-induced mutations causing severe anemia, runting (top right), abnormal iron transport and other defects were previously generated by Rinchik and coworkers at the *fit1* locus in mouse Chr 7 (Potter et al., 1997, Blood).
- We have now found alterations in the *Picalm* gene that lead to truncations of the encoded clathrin-assembly protein in three of the mutant *fit1* alleles (bottom right).
- The *fit1* mutants are unique models for exploring PICALM's role in the intracellular transport processes that are essential for blood cell development, iron uptake/transport and growth.
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