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eIF3f depletion impedes mouse embryonic development, reduces adult skeletal muscle mass and amplifies muscle loss during disuse

Aurélie Docquier, Laura Pavlin, Audrey Raibon, Christelle Bertrand, Chamroeun Sar, Serge S. Leibovitch, Robin Candau, Florence Sabatier, Henri Bernardi

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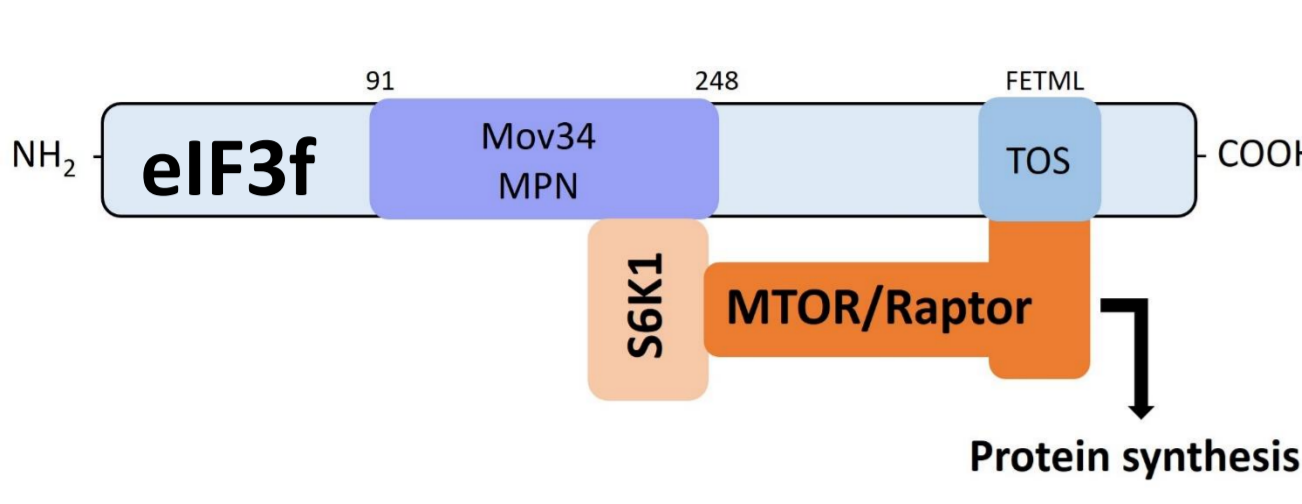


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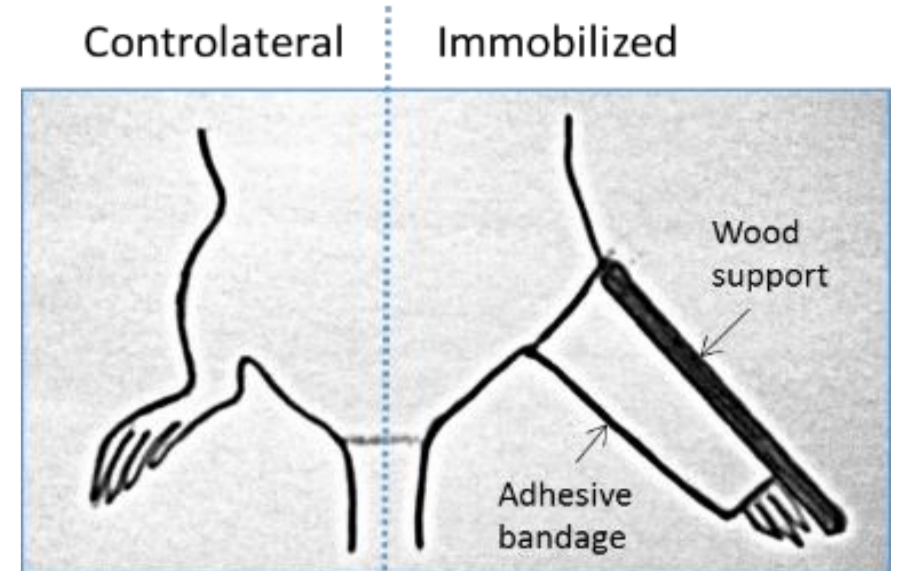
INTRODUCTION

Muscle mass homeostasis is controlled by protein synthesis and degradation. Eukaryotic initiation factor 3f, a subunit of eIF3 complex, is a fundamental element of MTORC1 pathway, allowing physical interaction between S6K1 and MTOR. Phosphorylation of downstream effectors of MTORC1 pathway like S6 leads to enhanced translational capacity and myotubes hypertrophy. Despite its important role in protein synthesis regulation shown *in vitro*, its physiological role in skeletal muscle is poorly described. Generation of mice carrying a mutation in the *eIF3f* gene allows to further define *in vivo* eIF3f roles in muscular homeostasis.

MATERIAL & METHODS



Entire *eIF3f* allele coding sequence was substituted by *lacZ* reporter gene to generate heterozygous mice (*eIF3f*^{+/-}). *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice intercrosses were done to generate homozygous *eIF3f* knockout. Genotyping using *eIF3f* and *lacZ* primers allowed to identify newborn mutants. *eIF3f* mRNA and protein expression were analyzed in skeletal muscles of *eIF3f*^{+/-} and wild-type (WT) mice. Then, 6/9-months-old C57BL/6 WT and *eIF3f*^{+/-} males mice were submitted to unilateral immobilization for 3, 7 or 14 days. Mice were anesthetized by isoflurane inhalation to gently fix adhesive bandage. A puromycin injection was performed 15 minutes before cervical dislocation. Analysis of mass, cross-sectional areas (CSA), synthesis flows and MTORC1 pathway activity were all conducted on quadriceps muscle. Opposed hindlimb was used as an internal control.

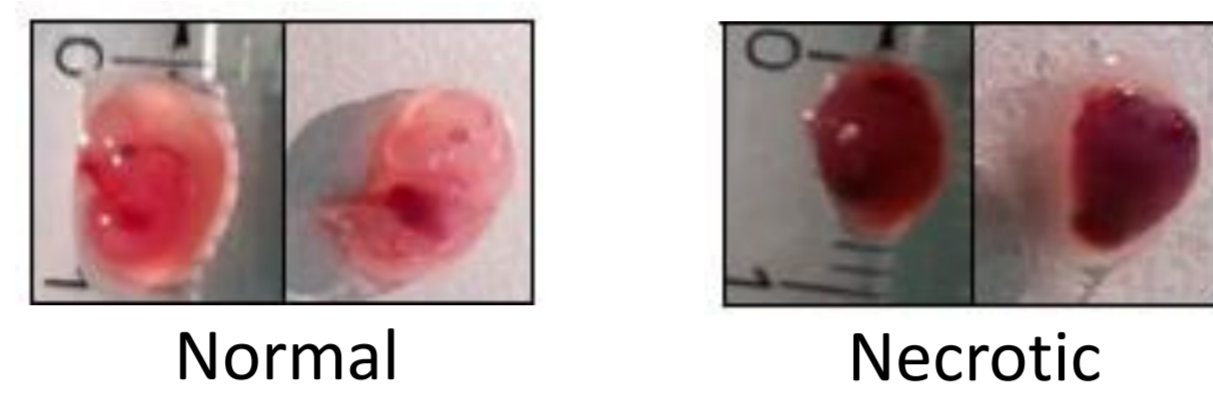


MODEL CHARACTERIZATION

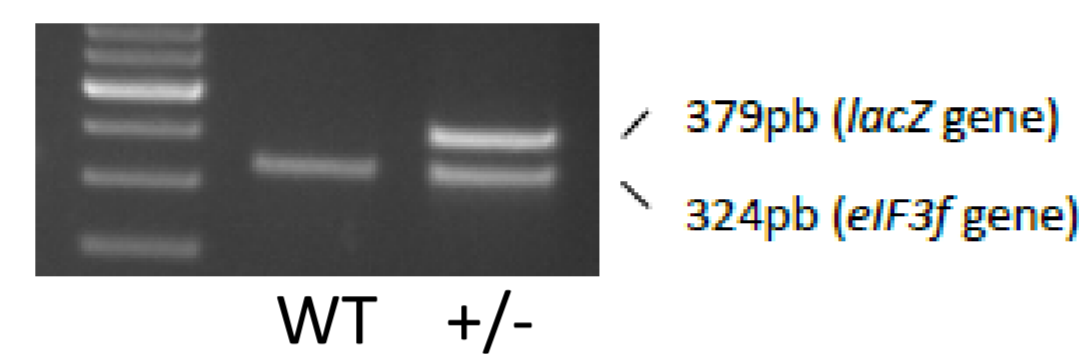
Values are mean ± SEM

Embryonic death occurs at early stage of development

Embryo phenotype	Normal	Necrotic
Percentage (n=116)	76,7	23,3



lacZ gene allows to identify *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice

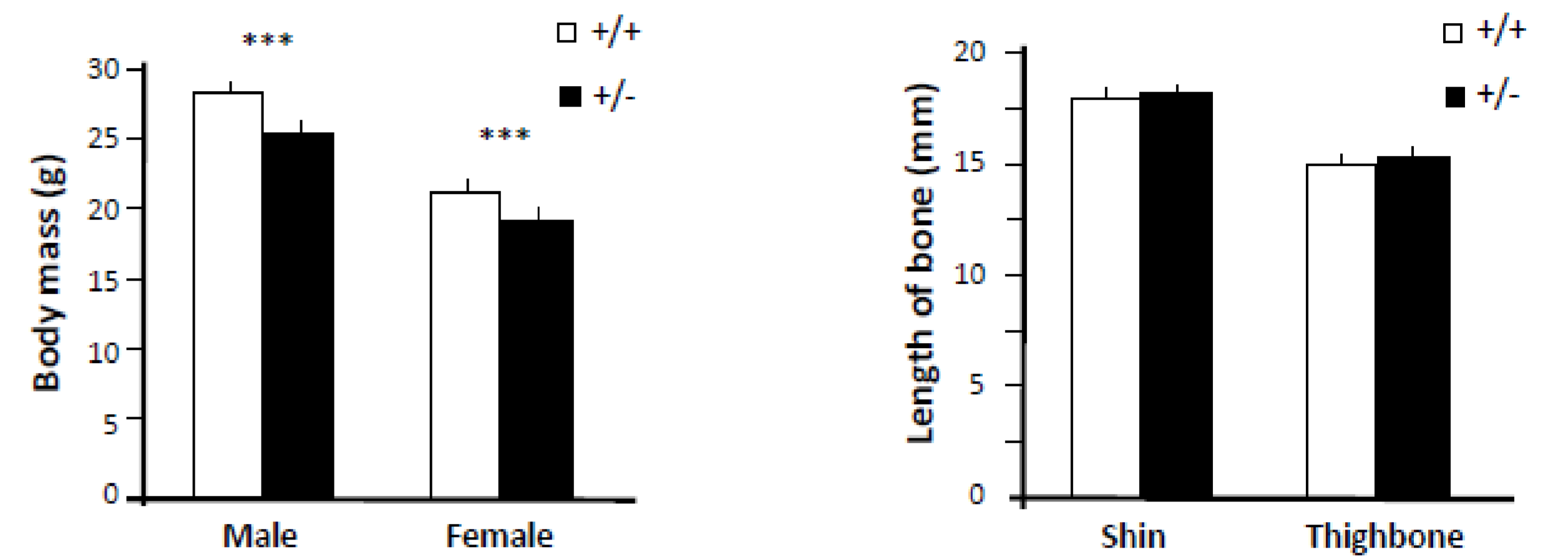


Any homozygous *eIF3f*^{-/-} embryo was recovered

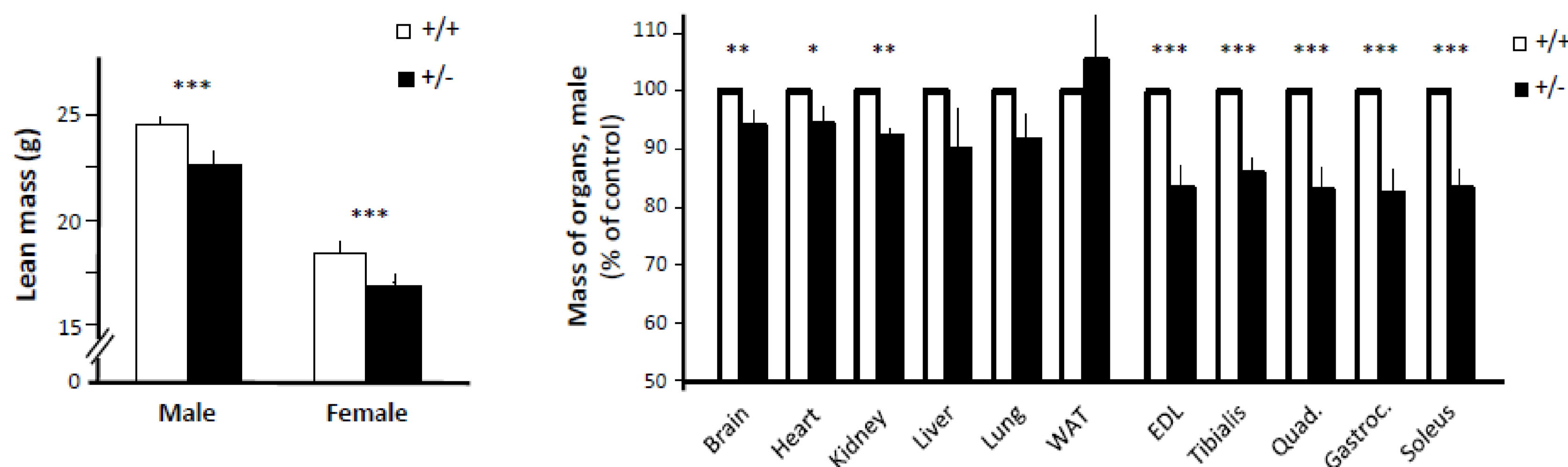
Embryo genotype	+/+	+/-	??
Percentage (n=116)	25,8	50,2	24,0

Significantly different at * : p<0.05, ** : p<0.01 or *** : p<0.001

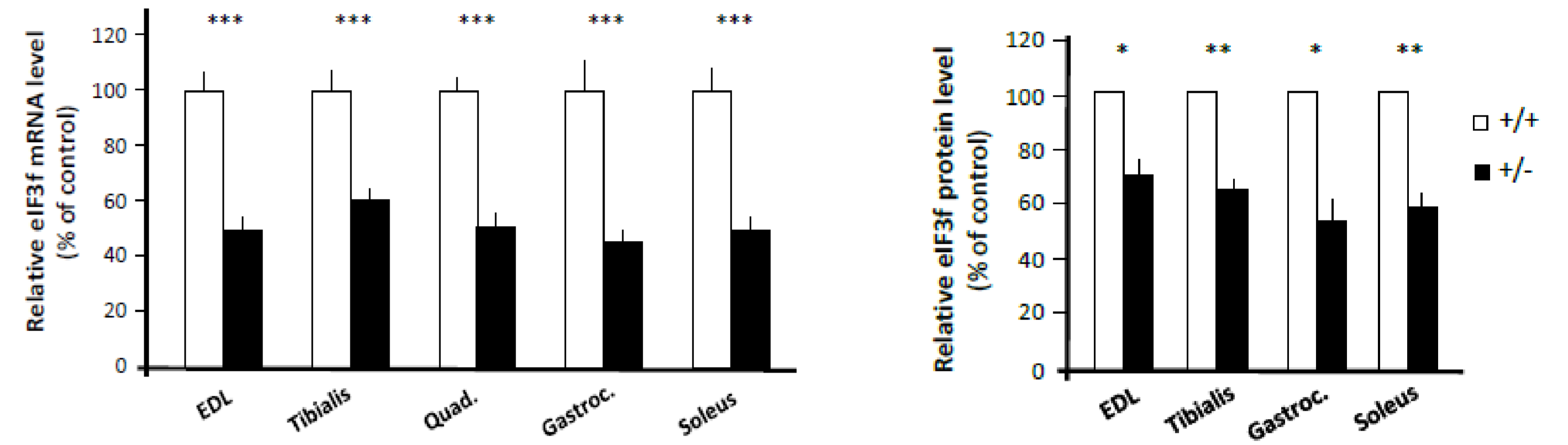
eIF3f^{+/-} are viable and fertile and display diminished body mass



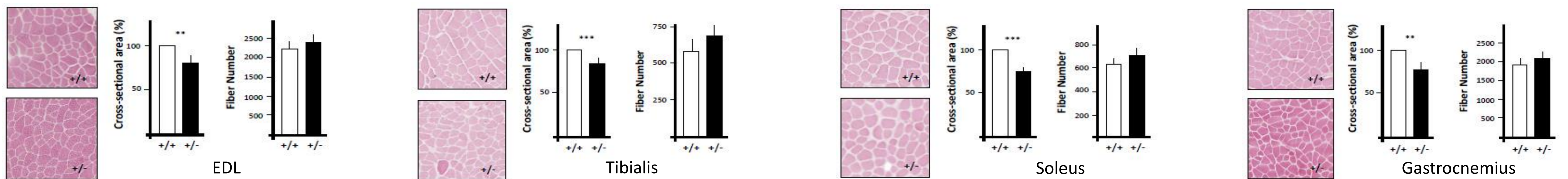
Reduced *eIF3f* expression mainly impacts skeletal muscles mass



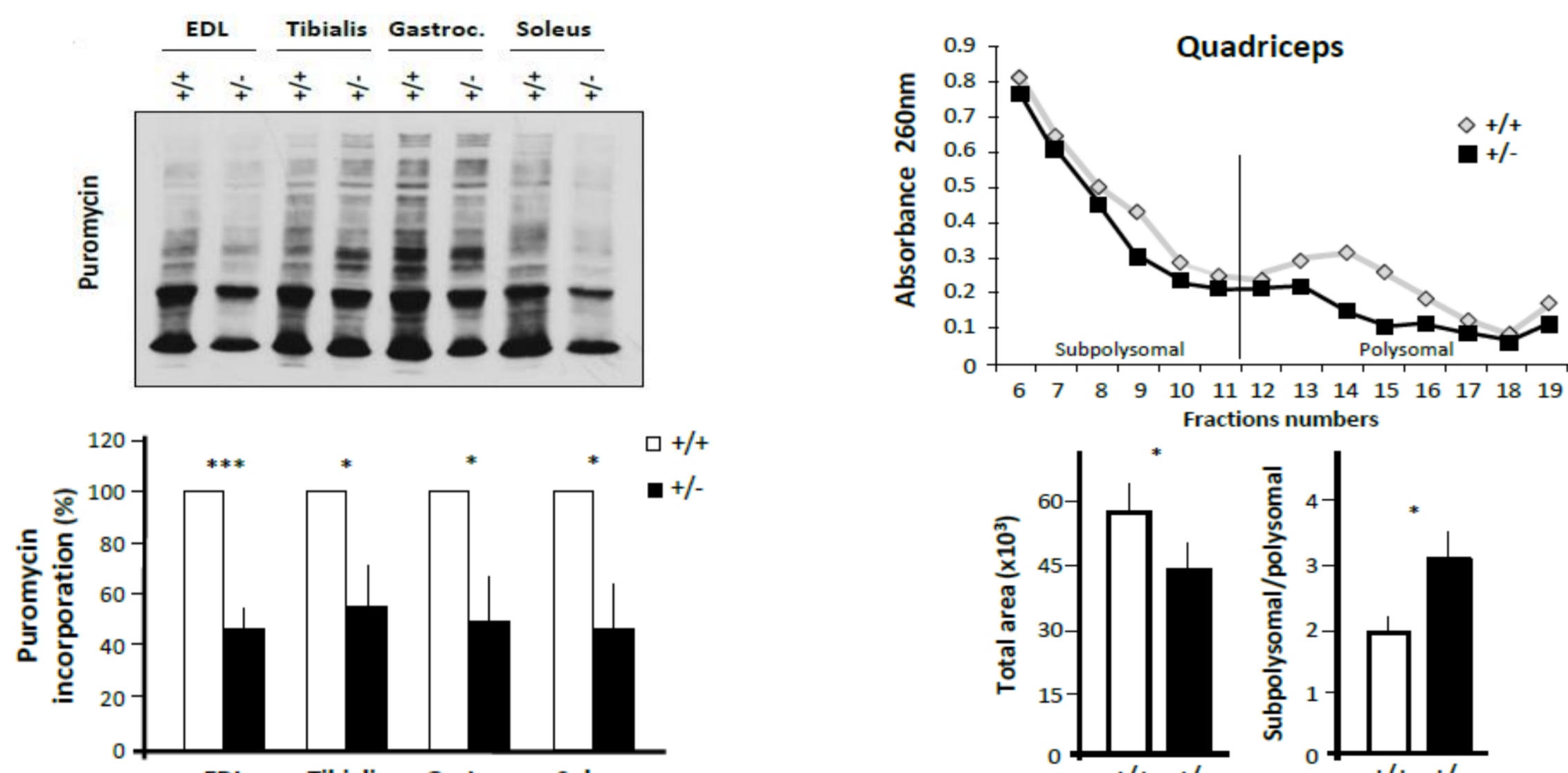
eIF3f mRNA and protein expression levels are lower in *eIF3f*^{+/-} skeletal muscles



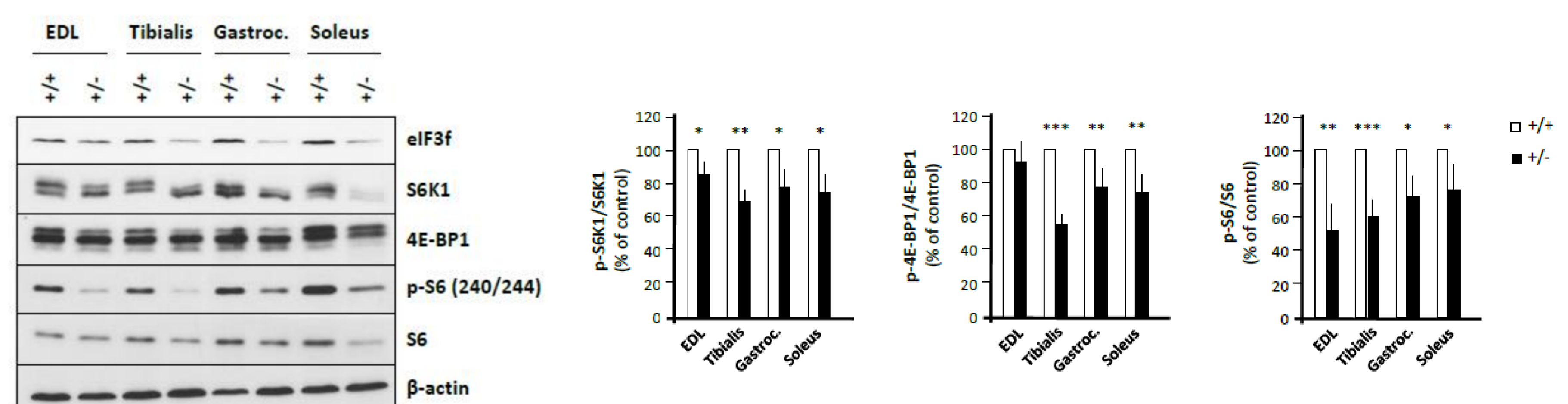
Fiber size is smaller without any change in fiber number in skeletal muscles of *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice



Protein synthesis activity and efficiency are altered in *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice

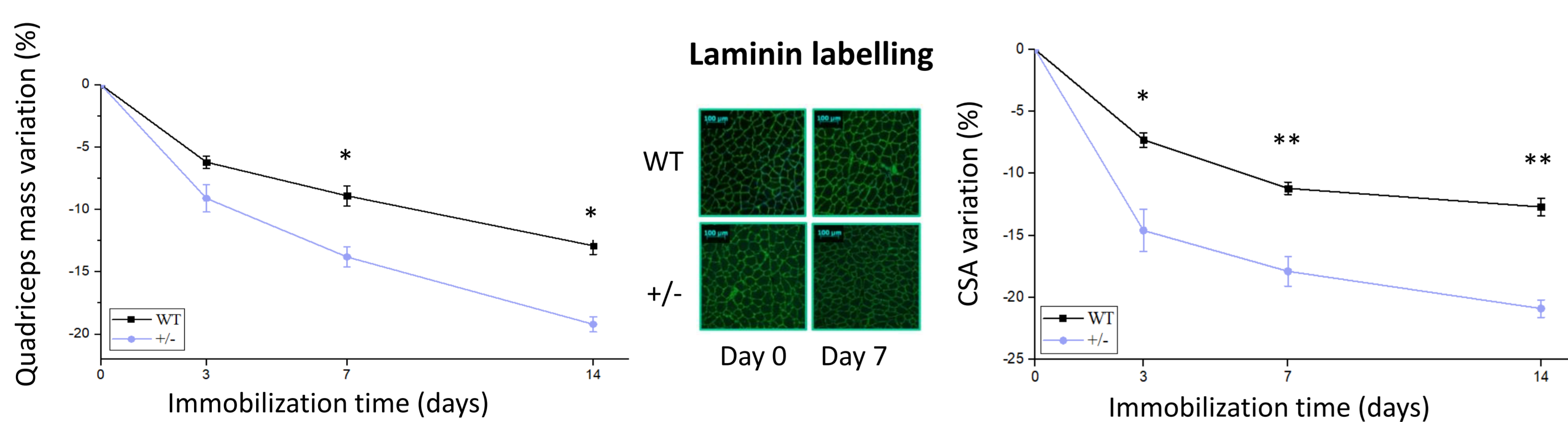


MTORC1 downstream effectors activity is decreased in skeletal muscles of *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice

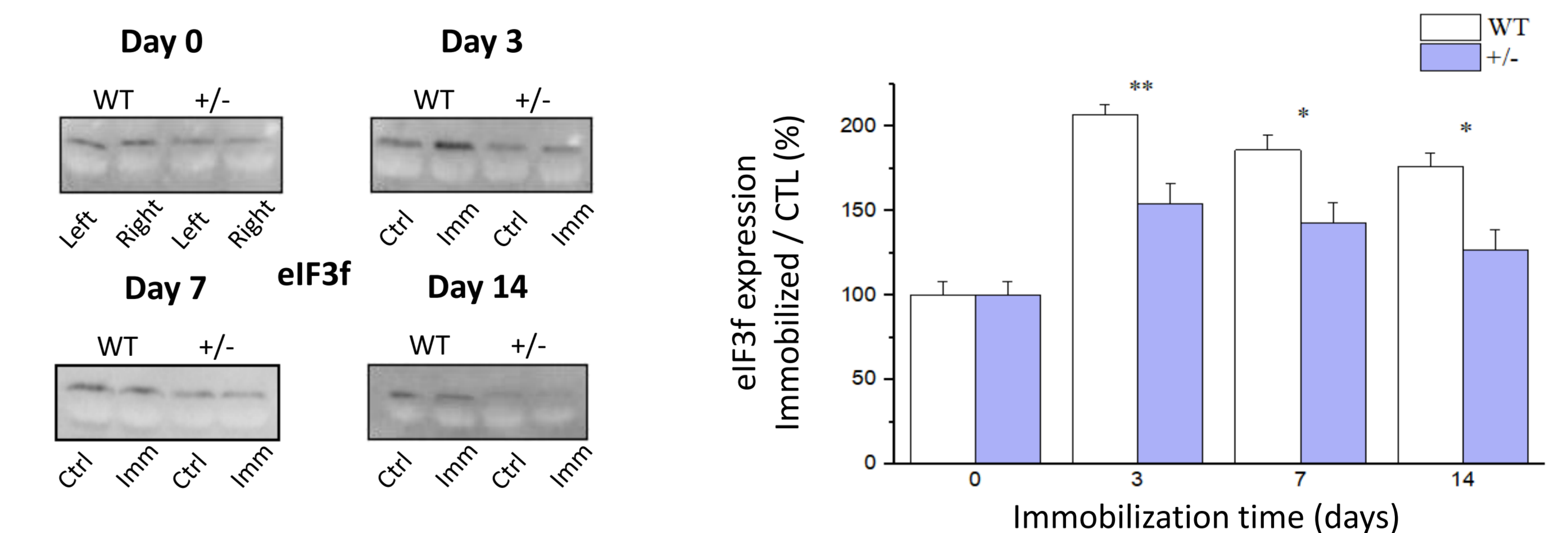


HINDLIMB IMMOBILIZATION STUDY

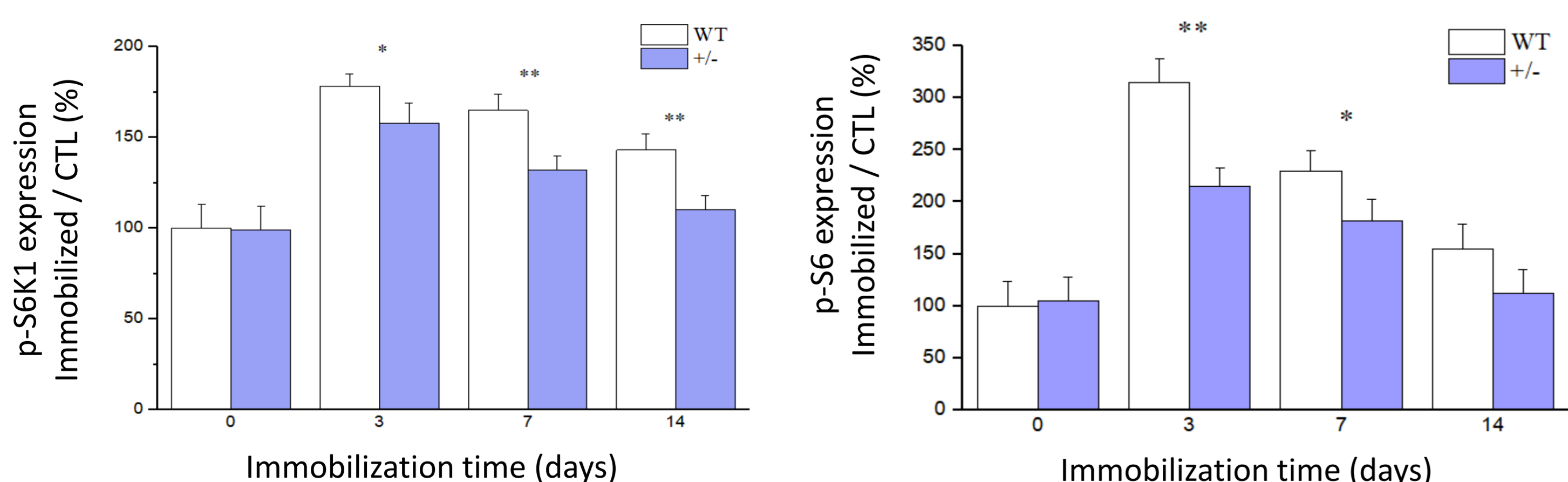
Decrease of muscle mass and CSA is larger in *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice



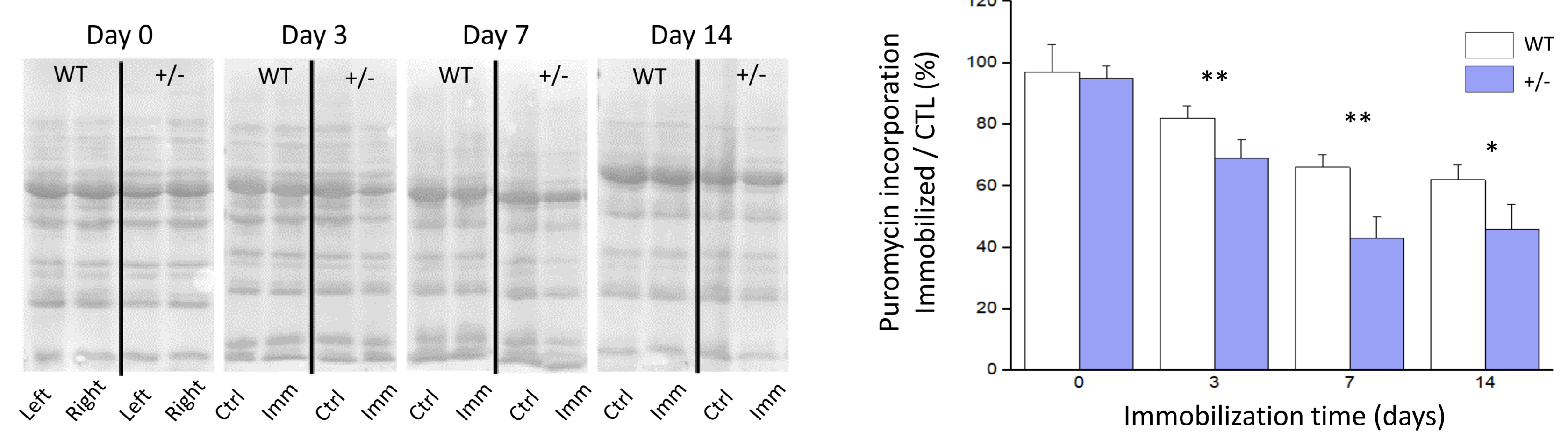
Induction of *eIF3f* expression is decreased in *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice



Activities of S6K1 and S6 are reduced in *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice



Reduced *eIF3f* expression level exacerbates protein synthesis decrease



CONCLUSION

Embryonic death suggests an essential role of eukaryotic Initiation Factor 3f for mice development. Whole body partial depletion allows normal growth despite a body mass reduction without change in body size. Mass lowering concerns only lean mass, skeletal muscles of heterozygous mice displaying a smaller fiber size. *eIF3f* mRNA and protein expressions are reduced in muscles of *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice, as well as protein synthesis and MTORC1 pathway activity. During immobilization, reduction of *eIF3f* induction results in a stronger atrophy, with a larger decrease in muscle mass and CSA in *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice. Protein synthesis is also reduced and associated with a lower MTORC1 pathway activity in *eIF3f*^{+/-} mice. These results confirm *in vivo* the essential role of *eIF3f* in development, muscular growth and muscle mass homeostasis.