

Supplementary Figure 1. Internalization of cholera toxin via caveolae. Alexa Fluor 647conjugated cholera toxin subunit β (Molecular Probes) was incubated with cells expressing Caveolin-1-EGFP at 4°C for 15 min. After removing excess cholera toxin, the temperature was raised to 37°C to initiate endocyosis. Cholera toxin was found to localize into discrete spots (red images), all of which colocalize with caveolin-1-EGFP structures (green images). Three examples of these cholera toxin-containing structures are indicated by arrows. For each example, three consecutive images, each 10 s apart in time, are shown to illustrate the movement of these structures. Treating cells with nocodazole (60 μ M) completely inhibited this movement, indicating that these EGFP-labeled caveolin structures containing cholera toxin were internalized and moving in a microtubule-dependent manner. Such structures were not observed in cells treated with filipin (5 μ g/ml), an inhibitor of caveolin-dependent endocytosis, suggesting that the internalization of cholera toxin here is via caveolae. During the observation window (50–100 s), 54% of the cholera toxin-containing structures showed microtubule-dependent movement in Caveolin-1-EGFP expressing cells; and this fraction is similar in untransfected cells (52%). In both transfected and untransfected cells, we started to observe such mobile structures within 5 minutes of the initiation of endocytosis. These results indicate that the expression of Caveolin-1-EGFP did not significantly perturb caveolin-mediated endocytosis. Scale bars: 3 μ m.