

Embryonic development of *Abl2^{-/-}* **diaphragm**. Embryos were collected between E12.5-E14.5 to detect differences in diaphragm muscle development between *Abl2* mutant and control mice. β -galactosidase activity was detected in myoblasts and muscle fibers from *Abl2^{-/-}; Pax3^{cre/+}; ROSA26^{LacZ/+}* mutant and *Pax3^{cre/+}; ROSA26^{LacZ/+}* mutant and *Pax3^{cre/+}; ROSA26^{LacZ/+}* control littermates. (A) At E12.5, Pax3⁺ cells accumulated at the dorsal edge of the developing diaphragm (white arrows) in both *Abl2* mutant and control mice. (B) At 14.5, the muscle domain appears larger in *Abl2* mutant mice (white line) compared to control mice. (C) Higher magnification images of the ventral left quadrant of the diaphragm from E13.5-14.5 mice. Muscle fibers begin to extend into the central tendon domain in *Abl2* mutant mice (white arrowheads), whereas muscle fibers are largely excluded from the central tendon domain in control mice.