Immunostaining of NMB and NMBR in chondrocytes of mouse hind limb joints. (A and B) Immunostaining results for NMB in joints are shown at low (A) and high (B) magnifications. Boxes (A) indicate areas enlarged in the panel (B). Most NMB-positive cells were chondrocytes (B). (D) Immunostaining results for NMBR in joints at high magnification. Most NMBR-positive cells were chondrocytes (D). (C and E) Immunostaining of NMB or NMBR in growth plates from mouse hind limb joints. Cells positive for NMB (C) and NMBR (E) were proliferative chondrocytes. The growth plate was divided into three subregions based on morphology: PC(upper), the upper zone containing proliferative chondrocytes away from the hypertrophic layer and facing the articular surface; PC(lower), the lower zone containing proliferative chondrocytes, including maturing cells adjacent to the hypertrophic layer; and HC, the zone containing hypertrophic chondrocytes adjacent to the proliferative layer and the chondro-osseous junction, which includes calcified cartilage.