

1,25-Dihydroxyvitamin D₃ and Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor-1 Synergistically Phosphorylate Talin

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Abstract Macrophage colony stimulating factor (CSF-1) and 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ (1,25(OH)₂D₃) are potent inducers of macrophage differentiation. Both appear to modulate protein phosphorylation, at least in part, through protein kinase C (PKC) raising the question as to whether they concurrently impact on macrophage-like cells. In this regard, we utilized the CSF-1 dependent murine macrophage-like line BAC 1.25F5. CSF-1 treatment of these cells for 30 min leads to particular phosphorylation of a 165 kDa protein, the putative CSF-1 receptor, and a 210 kDa moiety. 1,25(OH)₂D₃ exposure for 24 h prior to addition of CSF-1 enhances phosphorylation of the 165 kDa species and, especially, the 210 kDa protein. Phosphorylation of the latter protein is 1,25(OH)₂D₃ dose- and time-dependent and the molecule is specifically immunoprecipitated with a rabbit polyclonal anti-talin antibody. Experiments with okadaic acid show that the enhanced phosphorylation of talin does not result from serine phosphatase inhibition. CSF-1 and 1,25(OH)₂D₃, alone or in combination, do not increase talin protein expression. The tyrosine kinase inhibitor, genestein, blocks 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 induced phosphorylation of the putative CSF-1 receptor but has no effect on talin phosphorylation which occurs exclusively on serine. In contrast to genestein, staurosporin, an inhibitor of PKC, inhibits phosphorylation of talin. Moreover, exposure of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ pretreated cells to phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) in place of CSF-1 also prompts talin phosphorylation. Finally, 1,25(OH)₂D₃ enhances ³[H]PDBu binding, indicating that the steroid increases PMA receptor capacity. Thus, CSF-1 and 1,25(OH)₂D₃ act synergistically via PKC to phosphorylate talin, a cytoskeletal-associated protein. © 1993 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

Key words: CSF-1, talin, macrophages, phosphorylation, vitamin D

The macrophage colony stimulating factor, CSF-1, is responsible for survival, proliferation, and differentiation of mononuclear phagocytes from bone marrow progenitor cells to mature macrophages [Tushinski et al., 1982]. It is a homodimeric glycoprotein growth factor, and its pleiotropic effects are mediated via a high affinity cell surface CSF-1 receptor [Guilbert and Stanley, 1980; Byrne et al., 1981; Bartelmez and Stanley, 1985] identical to the *c-fms* proto-oncogene product [Sherr et al., 1985].

Abbreviations used: 1,25(OH)₂D₃ = 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃; CSF-1 = colony stimulating factor; PKC = protein kinase C; PDBu = phorbol dibutyrate; PMA = phorbol-12 myristate-13 acetate; PY-20 = antiphosphotyrosine antibody; SDS-PAGE = sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

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Like CSF-1, 1,25(OH)₂D₃, the biologically active form of vitamin D₃ (calciferol), promotes differentiation of transformed and nontransformed cells along a monocytic pathway [Rovera et al., 1979; Bar-Shavit et al., 1983; Mangelsdorf et al., 1984; Murao et al., 1983]. While the precise mechanisms by which the steroid prompts such maturation are unknown, it modulates expression of *c-fms* [Perkins and Teitelbaum, 1991], suggesting commonalities between 1,25(OH)₂D₃ and CSF-1 mediated macrophage differentiation.

c-fms is a member of a family of growth factor receptors with tyrosine kinase activity which undergo autophosphorylation when occupied by their ligand [Yeung et al., 1987]. Exposure of macrophages to CSF-1 also prompts phosphorylation of several cytosolic proteins and ultimately leads to downregulation of its receptor, an event associated with ligand internalization and degradation [Guilbert and Stanley, 1986]. The means by which CSF-1 phosphorylates in-

tracellular proteins appears to involve, at least in part, activation of phospholipase C, thereby hydrolyzing phosphatidyl inositol 4,5-phosphate to inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate and diacylglycerol, leading in turn to increased diacylglycerol production and activation of protein kinase C (PKC) [Shurtleff et al., 1990; Veis and Hamilton, 1991; Imamura et al., 1990].

1,25(OH)₂D₃, acting through its receptor, has been shown to modulate membrane phospholipid metabolism, resulting in an increased synthesis of phosphatidyl serine [Matsumoto et al., 1985], activation of PKC [Martell et al., 1987; Obeid et al., 1990; Kim et al., 1991], and, ultimately, phosphorylation of endogenous proteins [Obeid et al., 1990]. Furthermore, 1,25(OH)₂D₃-mediated macrophage differentiation is mimicked by the PKC agonist, phorbol-12-myristate-13 acetate (PMA), suggesting that activation of the kinase by the steroid may be central to the maturational process [Ways et al., 1987]. Consistent with this hypothesis, we have recently shown that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ increases phorbol ester receptor number in bone marrow macrophage precursors [Tanaka et al., 1991].

Thus CSF-1 and 1,25(OH)₂D₃, both of which are potent inducers of macrophage maturation, appear to modulate protein phosphorylation through PKC, raising the question as to whether they concurrently impact on macrophage-like cells and, in so doing, synergistically phosphorylate, via PKC, talin, a high molecular weight protein critical to cytoskeletal function.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

α-MEM and newborn calf serum were purchased from Gibco (Grand Island, NY). BAC 1,2F5 cells [Morgan et al., 1987] were kindly provided by Dr. R. Stanley (Department of Developmental Biology and Cancer, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, NY). 1,25(OH)₂D₃ is supplied by Dr. Milan Uskokovic (Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc., Nutley, NJ). Genestein and PY20-antiphosphotyrosine antibody were purchased from ICN Biochemicals, Inc. (Irvine, CA), and Staurosporin was purchased from Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals (Indianapolis, IN). Carrier-free [³²P] orthophosphate (9,000 Ci/mmol), ¹²⁵I-iodine and rainbow MW markers were purchased from Amersham Corporation (Arlington Heights, IL). [³H] PDBu was purchased from DuPont-New England Nuclear (Boston, MA). All other reagents were from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO). A

previously characterized [Beckerle et al., 1986] anti-chicken talin polyclonal rabbit antibody was kindly provided by Dr. Keith Burrigge (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC).

CSF-1 Purification and Labeling

CSF-1 was generated from murine L cells and purified to Stage IV as described [Stanley and Guilbert, 1981].

¹²⁵I-Binding to BAC 1,2F5 Cells

BAC 1,2F5 cells were maintained as described [Sengupta et al., 1988]. Purified CSF-1 was radioiodinated with retention of biological activity (as assessed by proliferation of bone marrow macrophage precursors) using carrier-free ¹²⁵I by a modification of Greenwood's chloramine-T method [Greenwood et al., 1963; Stanley et al., 1975]. The specific activity was approximately 2.9 × 10¹¹ cpm/mg CSF-1. CSF-1 binding studies were performed in an assay volume of 250 μl [Perkins and Teitelbaum, 1991]. Protein determination was performed by the Bradford Protein Assay (Bio-Rad Kit Bio-Rad, Rockville Centre, NY).

Cell Labeling and Stimulation

BAC 1,2F5 cells cultured (4 × 10⁶ cells/60 mm diameter tissue culture dishes) as described [Sengupta et al., 1988], were treated with 10⁻⁶ M 1,25(OH)₂D₃ or with ethanol carrier for 25 h. Six h after the initiation of treatment, CSF-1 was removed, in the presence or absence of 1,25(OH)₂D₃, for 16 h, to upregulate the CSF-1 receptor. Cells were incubated for 2 h in phosphate-free medium and labeled with carrier-free [³²P]-orthophosphate for 2 h.

After labeling, cells were cooled to 4°C for 30 min and stimulated with saturating concentrations (as determined by binding studies) of purified CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) for 30 min at 4°C (1U CSF-1 = .44 fmol) [Stanley, 1985]. The cells were washed five times with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (136 mM NaCl, 3 mM KCl, 8 mM Na₂HPO₄, pH 7.4) at 4°C and solubilized with Triton-containing buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, 50 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 30 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 50 mM NaF, 100 μM sodium orthovanadate, 5 μM ZnCl₂, 1 mM phenylmethyl sulfonyl fluoride, and 0.1% BSA, pH 7.05 (1.5 ml/100 mm dish, 1 ml/60 mm dish). Cell debris was removed by centrifugation (11,000 g, 30 min, 4°C).

Equal amounts of cell protein extracts (500 µg) were used for immunoprecipitation with anti-phosphotyrosine antibody, PY-20. After binding for 15–18 h, the proteins were competitively eluted at 4°C in 40 µl of 1 mM phenylphosphate containing buffer [Golden et al., 1986]. The eluates were subjected to 5–15% gradient SDS-PAGE [Laemmli, 1970] and autoradiography.

Sequential Immunoprecipitation

Eluates from antiphosphotyrosine antibody (PY-20) were subjected to sequential immunoprecipitation with anti-talin antibody coupled to Sepharose-protein A. Bound proteins were washed several times in lysis buffer, eluted in boiling Laemmli buffer, and subjected to SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

Phosphoamino Acid Analysis

The phosphoprotein of interest was eluted from the gels by digestion with 50 µg of trypsin in 1 ml of 10 mM NH₄HCO₃. Supernatants of the digestions were hydrolyzed in 6 N HCl for 2 h at 110°C and lyophilized. The samples were dissolved in 5 µl electrophoresis buffer [50:156:1796 = formic acid (88%): glacial acetic acid: H₂O] with 0.3–0.5 µg of internal phosphotyrosine, phosphoserine, and phosphothreonine as internal amino acid standards. Phosphoamino acids were separated by high voltage electrophoresis on a thin layer chromatography plate for 90 min at 2,500 V [Cooper et al., 1982]. The amino acids were visualized by staining with 0.5% (w/v) ninhydrin in 30:70% v/v acetic acid/acetone mixture and radioactive spots by autoradiography.

³H-PDBu Binding

Cells cultured in 24-well plates (5 × 10⁵/well) were treated with 1,25(OH)₂D₃ or carrier for 25 h in the presence of 3,000 U/ml CSF-1. The cells were washed twice with medium containing 0.1% BSA. ³H-PDBu binding studies were performed as described [Tanaka et al., 1991; Jaken, 1987]. Total and non-specific binding were determined in duplicate.

RESULTS

CSF-1 Binding to BAC 1.2F5

As previously reported [Li and Stanley, 1991], purified biologically active ¹²⁵I-CSF-1 binds at 4°C in a concentration dependent manner to BAC 1.2F5 cells. Saturation is achieved with

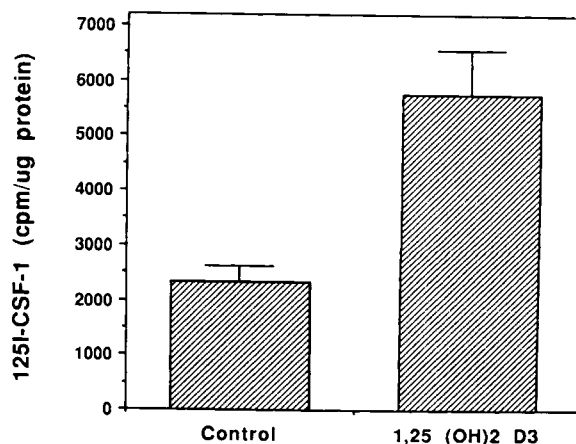


Fig. 1. Effect of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ on CSF-1 binding by BAC 1.2F5 cells. Cells were cultured in 24-well plates (5 × 10⁵ cells/well) in 1 ml medium containing 3,000 U CSF-1 in the presence or absence of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (10⁻⁸ M) for 24 h. After 6 h, the CSF-1 receptor was upregulated by removal of ligand and incubation continued in the presence of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ or carrier for an additional 18 h. In the presence or absence of 100 nM CSF-1, 30,000 U ¹²⁵I-CSF-1 was added at 4°C for 30 min and the cells were lysed in 1 N NaOH. Data expressed are specific counts bound. Each point represents a mean of triplicate cultures ± S.D.

24,000 U/ml (data not shown). Thus, in subsequent experiments, maintenance and saturating doses of 3,000 and 30,000 U/ml, respectively, of the cytokine were used.

1,25(OH)₂D₃ Upregulates the CSF-1 Receptor in BAC 1.2F5 Cells

We have previously shown that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ prompts appearance of CSF-1 receptor in murine bone marrow precursors [Perkins and Teitelbaum, 1991]. As shown in Figure 1, specific ¹²⁵I-CSF-1 binding by BAC 1.2F5 cells is also enhanced (*P* < .001) after 24 h exposure to 10⁻⁸ M 1,25(OH)₂D₃.

Effect of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ and CSF-1 on Protein Phosphorylation

Sengupta et al. [1988] have shown CSF-1 stimulation of BAC 1.25F5 cells at 4°C facilitates identification of proteins phosphorylated under the influence of CSF-1. Using this approach, we labeled 1,25(OH)₂D₃ or carrier-treated BAC 1.2F5 cells with [³²P] orthophosphate. The cells were then maintained at 4°C in the absence of CSF-1 or exposed for 30 min to a saturating concentration of purified CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml). They were then solubilized and phosphotyrosine-containing (i.e., PY-20 reac-

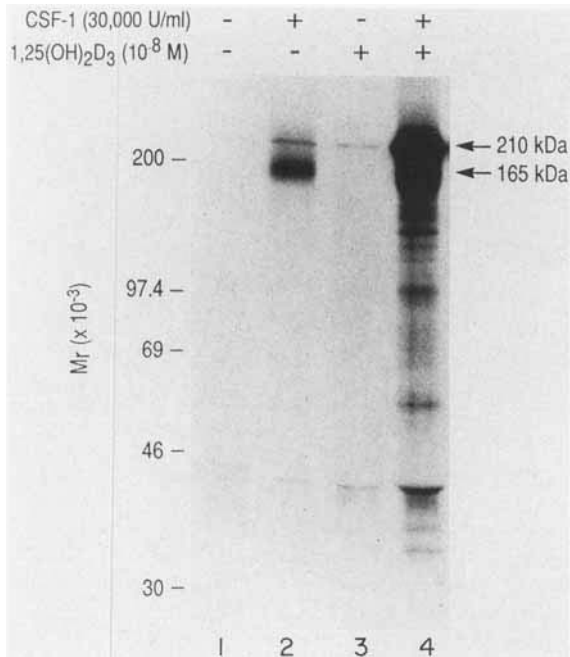


Fig. 2. Effect of $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ and CSF-1 on protein phosphorylation. Cells were treated with carrier or $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ (10^{-8} M) and labeled with ^{32}P -orthophosphate for 2 h. They were then incubated in the presence or absence of saturating concentrations of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml), lysed and PY-20 antibody added to 500 μg protein lysates. The immunoprecipitates were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

tive) proteins immunoprecipitated and electrophoresed.

As shown in Figure 2, newly phosphorylated proteins of approximate molecular mass 210 and 165, the latter being the probable CSF-1 receptor, appear in cells treated with a saturating concentration of CSF-1. In contrast, $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ alone does not appear to phosphorylate the 165 kDa protein, but slightly phosphorylates the 210 kDa species. Even more dramatic protein phosphorylation occurs, however, when cells treated with $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ for 25 h are exposed for 30 min to 30,000 U/ml CSF-1. In this circumstance, an abundance of proteins (210, 165, 116, 97, 52, and 35 kDa), including those induced by CSF-1 alone, are phosphorylated. Consistent with the facts that $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ up-regulates c-fms expression (Fig. 1) and, upon occupancy, the CSF-1 receptor undergoes auto-phosphorylation, the 165 kDa protein is phosphorylated to a much greater degree in response to both $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ and CSF-1 than to the cytokine alone.

$1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ treatment also enhances CSF-1-mediated phosphorylation of the 210 kDa

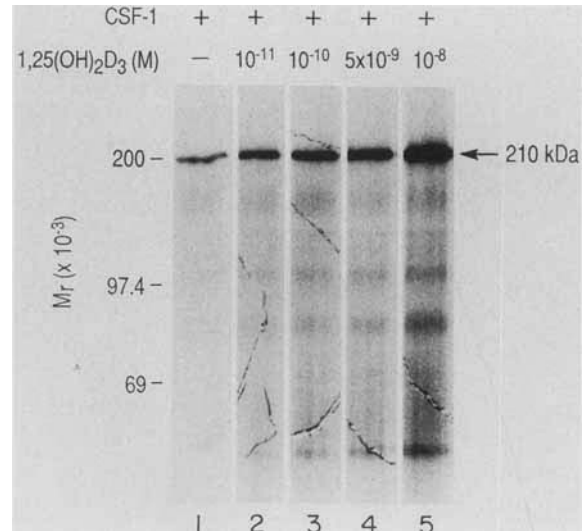


Fig. 3. Dose response of $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ -induced phosphorylation. Cells were exposed to either carrier or $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ at the specified concentrations, ^{32}P -orthophosphate labeled, and incubated in the presence of a saturating concentration of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) for 30 min at 4°C prior to solubilization and immunoprecipitation with PY-20 antibody. The immunoprecipitates were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

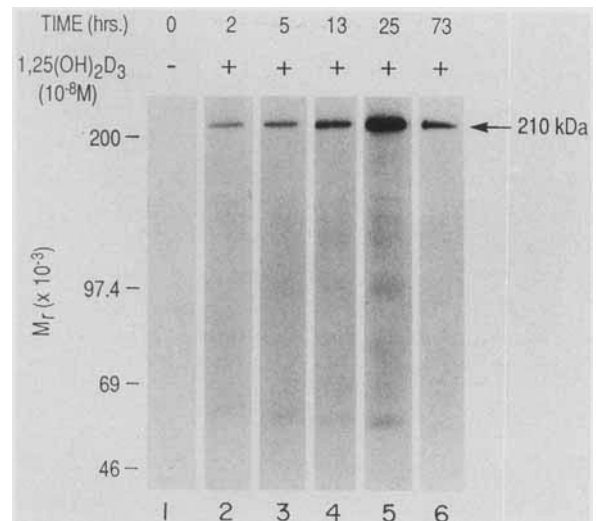


Fig. 4. Kinetics of $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ -induced protein phosphorylation. Cells were pretreated with carrier or $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ (10^{-8} M) for the indicated duration, labeled with ^{32}P -orthophosphate, and incubated in the presence of 30,000 U/ml CSF-1, at 4°C for 30 min. Solubilization, immunoprecipitations, and analysis were performed as described in Figure 2.

protein. The phenomenon is dose-dependent as regards $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ with increased phosphorylation appearing at 10^{-11} M (Fig. 3). As shown in Figure 4, CSF-1-stimulated 210 kDa protein phosphorylation occurs as early as two h after $1,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ treatment, and peaks at 25 h. Phos-

phorylation falls slightly when induced after 73 h of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ exposure but is still greater than that occurring in carrier-treated cells. It is of interest that while the 210 and 165 kDa proteins are invariably the major phosphorylated species in cells sequentially exposed to 1,25(OH)₂D₃ and CSF-1, the relative amounts of these phosphoproteins vary. For example, in light of the abundance of the 210 kDa protein, Figures 3 and 4 represent relatively underexposed autoradiograms so as to demonstrate 1,25(OH)₂D₃ dose and time dependency, respectively. In these experiments, the 210 kDa phosphorylated species was significantly greater than that of the 165 kDa protein. Furthermore, we observed that the 165 kDa phosphoprotein is sensitive to freezing and thawing, and the specimen was so treated in those experiments yielding a relative paucity of the molecule.

Characterization of 210 kDa Protein

The nature of the 210 kDa phosphoprotein was established as talin by subjecting the ³²P-labeled proteins to sequential immunoprecipitations. The total phosphotyrosine-containing product precipitated with the anti-phosphotyrosine antibody PY-20, was reprecipitated with anti-talin yielding a 210 kDa phosphoprotein induced by CSF-1 and 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (Fig. 5).

The enhanced ³²P labeling of talin may theoretically reflect either increased protein substrate or accelerated kinase activity. To resolve this issue, we estimated the quantity of PY-20 immunoprecipitated talin by silver staining. As can be seen in Figure 6, regardless of treatment, there are no differences in intensity of 210 kDa silver-stained protein band.

Mechanisms of Phosphorylation of Talin

Having identified the 210 kDa protein as talin, we turned to the mechanism by which it undergoes phosphorylation under the influence of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ and CSF-1. We first addressed the possibility that the phenomenon reflects inhibition of phosphatase activity. To this end, we utilized okadaic acid, a potent inhibitor of pp1 and pp2A [Haystead et al., 1989; Cohen et al., 1990] and found it fails to enhance talin phosphorylation (Fig. 7). Thus the 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 effect probably does not reflect serine phosphatase inhibition.

With this information in hand, we addressed the kinase(s) responsible for 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 stimulated talin phosphorylation. Because c-fms

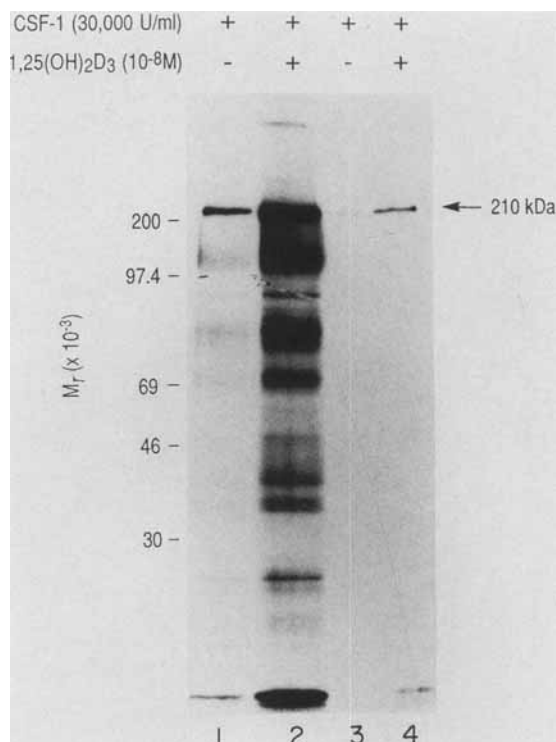


Fig. 5. Characterization of 210 kDa protein. Cells were exposed to carrier or 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (10⁻⁸ M) for 24 h. The CSF-1 receptor was upregulated and the cells were labeled with ³²P-orthophosphate for 2 h, and incubated in the presence of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) for 30 min at 4°C. Protein lysates (500 µg) were used for immunoprecipitation with PY-20 antibody. The PY-20 (anti-phosphotyrosine) immunoprecipitates were eluted and reimmunoprecipitated with chicken anti-talin rabbit polyclonal antibody. The PY-30 reactive proteins (lanes 1, 2) and anti-talin immunoprecipitates (lanes 3, 4) were subjected to SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

is a tyrosine-specific protein kinase [Yeung et al., 1987], we first explored the effect of the tyrosine kinase inhibitor, genestein [Akiyama et al., 1987; Watanabe et al., 1989]. As shown in Figure 8, this agent blocks phosphorylation of the putative CSF-1 receptor but not of talin.

In contrast to genestein, staurosporin, a potent PKC inhibitor [Tamaoki et al., 1986; Easom et al., 1989], attenuates 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 induced phosphorylation in a concentration-dependent manner (Fig. 9). To further investigate the possible role of PKC in talin phosphorylation, cells were pretreated with 1,25(OH)₂D₃ for 24 h and labeled with ³²P orthophosphate for 2 h in the absence of steroid. The cells were then cooled to 4°C and stimulated with the PKC agonist, PMA (1.6 × 10⁻⁷ M). As shown in Figure 10, similar to CSF-1, PMA enhances talin phosphorylation by cells pretreated with 1,25(OH)₂D₃.

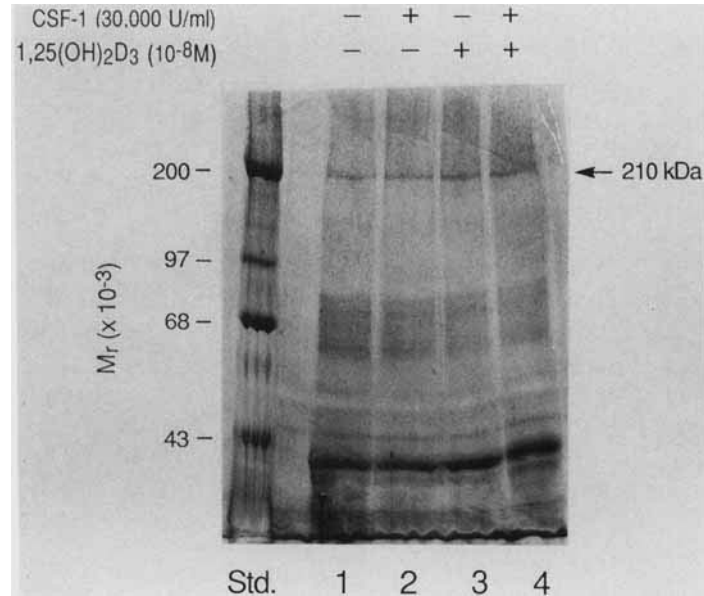


Fig. 6. Silver stained phosphoproteins. Protein lysates were prepared from control cells (lane 1), or those treated at 4°C with CSF-1 (lane 2), only with 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (lane 3), or with both CSF-1 and 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (lane 4). They were then immunoprecipitated with anti-phosphotyrosine antibody (PY-20). The immunoprecipitates were eluted to SDS-PAGE and silver stained.

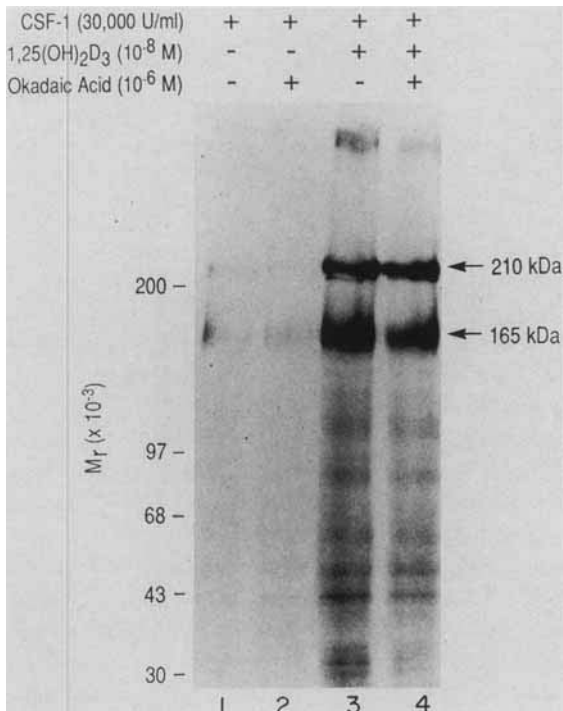


Fig. 7. Effect of okadaic acid on protein phosphorylation. Cells were treated with carrier or 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (10⁻⁸ M) and labeled with ³²P-orthophosphate for 2 h. They were then incubated with 10⁻⁸ M okadaic acid at 37°C for 15 min prior to addition of a saturating concentration of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) for 30 min at 4°C. Solubilization, immunoprecipitation, and analysis were done as described in Figure 3.

Phosphoamino acid analysis of the ³²P orthophosphate-labeled talin is also consistent with PKC mediation as 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 induced phosphorylation occurs exclusively on serine (Fig. 11). In contrast, minimal phosphorylation occurs in cells treated only with CSF-1.

These observations are in keeping with the hypothesis that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ enhances expression of PKC which is, in turn, activated by CSF-1. We therefore examined the effects of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ on ³[H]-PDBu binding by BAC 1.2F5 cells. As seen in Figure 12, treatment with 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (10⁻⁸ M) for 25 h significantly increases specific cell-associated radioligand, indicating that in these circumstances the steroid induces expression of PKC.

DISCUSSION

The development of appropriate cell lines and the capacity to isolate homogeneous populations of monocytic precursors at various stages of differentiation has yielded major insights into agents which modulate macrophage differentiation. CSF-1 is clearly pivotal in this regard as early macrophage precursors die in the absence of the growth factor [Clohisy et al., 1987]. While not proven to be essential to macrophage survival, 1,25(OH)₂D₃ accelerates maturation of mononuclear phagocyte precursors [Watanabe et al., 1989] and differentiates myelomonocytic

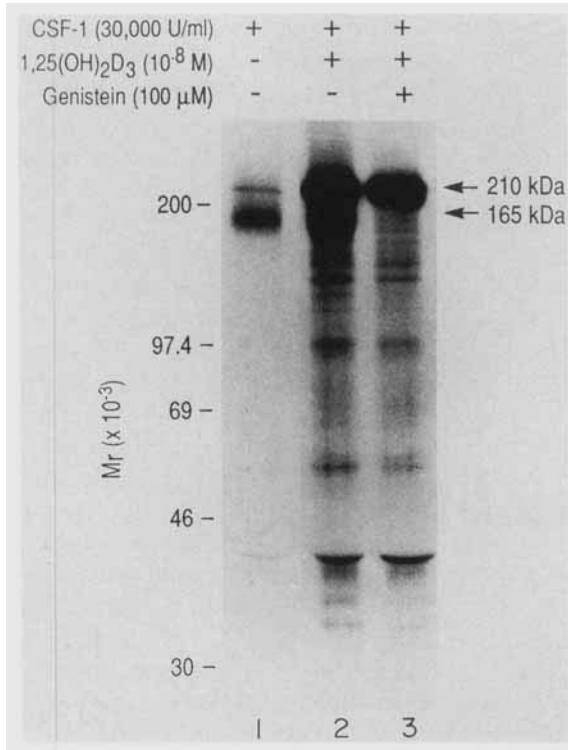


Fig. 8. Effect of genistein on protein phosphorylation. Cells were labeled with ³²P-orthophosphate for 2 h. They were then incubated with 100 μM genistein for 15 min at 37°C prior to addition of a saturating concentration of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) for 30 min at 4°C. Protein lysates (500 μg) were used for immunoprecipitations with PY-20 antibody. The immunoprecipitates were subjected to SDS-PAGE and autoradiography. Note that lanes 1 and 2 are identical to lanes 3 and 4, respectively, of Figure 2, as the experiments were performed simultaneously.

leukemia cells along a monocytic pathway [Reitsma et al., 1983].

These findings suggest that CSF-1 and 1,25(OH)₂D₃ enjoy complimentary, albeit different roles in macrophage differentiation. To explore this hypothesis, we turned to a CSF-1 dependent murine line, BAC 1.2F5, known to respond to the growth factor by phosphorylation of a number of proteins, including its own receptor [Sengupta et al., 1988]. We confirmed this observation and found that consistent with our report that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ modulates the CSF-1 receptor [Perkins and Teitelbaum, 1991], the steroid augments the quantity of putative c-fms phosphorylated by its ligand.

Most importantly as regards this communication, a major species phosphorylated by CSF-1 in conjunction with 1,25(OH)₂D₃ is a 210 kDa protein. Phosphorylation of the protein is concentration-dependent as regards 1,25(OH)₂D₃ with induction apparent within the physiologi-

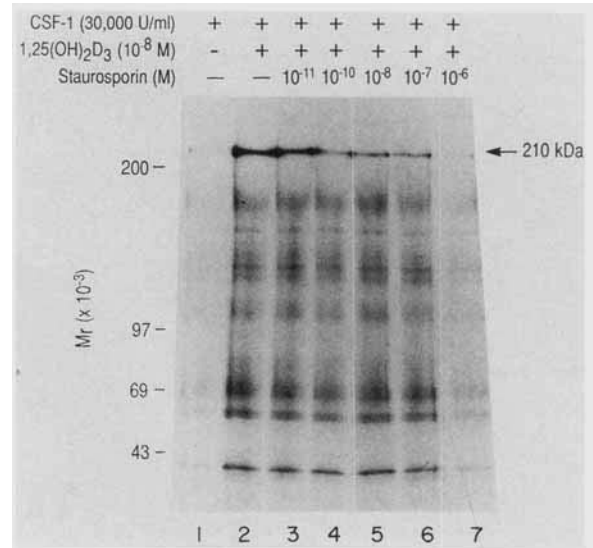


Fig. 9. Effect of staurosporin on protein phosphorylation. Cells were labeled with ³²P-orthophosphate for 2 h and then incubated with indicated concentrations of staurosporin for 30 min at 37°C. The saturating concentration of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) was then added for 30 min at 4°C. Protein lysates (500 μg) were used for immunoprecipitation with PY-20 antibody. The immunoprecipitates were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

cal range of the hormone. Moreover, despite the fact that the quantity of 210 kDa phosphoprotein maximizes after 24 h of steroid exposure, an effect obtains within two h.

Macrophage differentiation is characterized by the progressive ability of the precursor cell to attach to substrate. In fact, 1,25(OH)₂D₃ treatment of either authentic bone marrow macrophage precursors [Clohisy et al., 1987] or poorly differentiated leukemic lines, such as HL-60 [Reitsma et al., 1983], leads to rapid transition of non-adherent to adherent cells. These observations argue that vitamin-D induced differentiation may in some way alter cytoskeleton-associated proteins. We have, in this regard, recently shown that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ enhances expression of the vitronectin receptor integrin, α_vβ₃ by avian bone marrow macrophages [Medhora et al., 1993]. With this in mind, and given the size of the 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 phosphorylated species, we queried if it is talin and indeed found this to be the case.

Talin is a large molecule which interacts with the β1 integrin subunit on the one hand and vinculin and actin on the other [Horwitz et al., 1986]. These proteins recognize distinct binding sites on talin [Horwitz et al., 1986] and, as they all colocalize to adhesion sites on the plasma

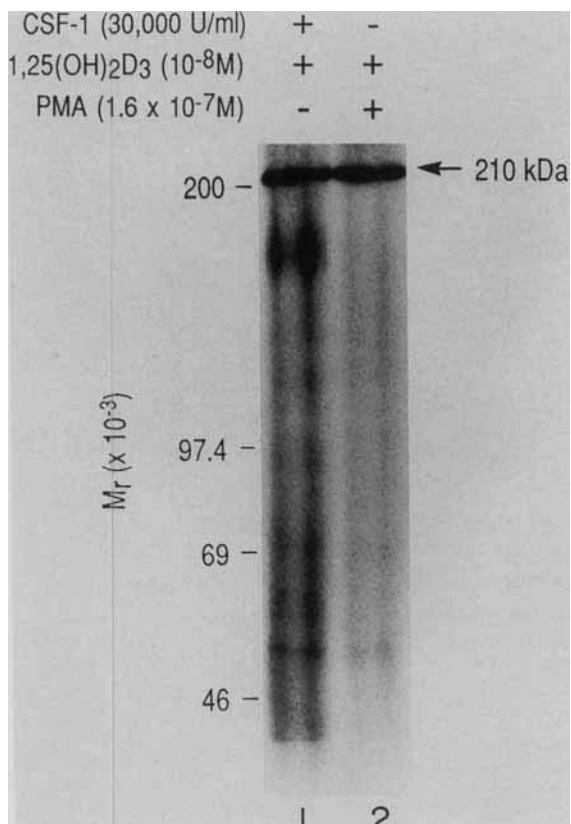


Fig. 10. Effect of PMA on protein phosphorylation. Cells were treated with 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (10⁻⁸ M) for approximately 24 h and labeled with [³²P]-orthophosphate for 2 h at 37°C. They were then exposed to either a saturating concentration of CSF-1 (30,000 U/ml) (lane 1) or PMA (1.6 × 10⁻⁷ M) (lane 2) for 30 min at 4°C. The cells were solubilized and the phosphoproteins immunoprecipitated (PY-20), eluted, and analyzed by SDS-PAGE and autoradiography.

membrane [Burridge et al., 1990], it is likely that talin plays a pivotal role in associating matrix recognizing integrins with the cytoskeleton.

While the physiological significance of the 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1-mediated effect is yet to be determined, talin phosphorylation is known to have biological consequences which appear cell-specific. For example, PKC-mediated talin phosphorylation of African green monkey kidney cells [Meigs and Wang, 1986] or chicken embryo fibroblasts [Beckerle, 1990] prompts actin fiber disarray and/or disappearance of focal contacts. Similarly, interleukin-1 induced talin phosphorylation is associated with retraction of periodontal ligament fibroblasts from substrate [Qvarnstrom et al., 1991]. While these observations suggest that talin phosphorylation disrupts cell-matrix attachment, induction of the phosphoprotein in lymphocytes associates it with integrins [Burn et al., 1988]. Thus, depending upon the target cell, talin phosphorylation may potentially disrupt or stabilize the cytoskeleton.

Having identified the 210 kDa protein as talin, we turned to the mechanism of its phosphorylation. We found that 1,25(OH)₂D₃ and CSF-1 do not increase the absolute amount of talin, leading us to conclude that the mechanism must involve kinase activation or phosphatase inhibition. Eliminating serine phosphatase inhibition by the use of okadaic acid [Cohen, 1989], we explored the probability of enhanced tyrosine kinase activity, a serious consideration in light of the enzymatic activity of the occupied CSF-1 receptor [Yeung et al., 1987]. While as expected, the tyrosine kinase inhibitor genestein [Akiyama

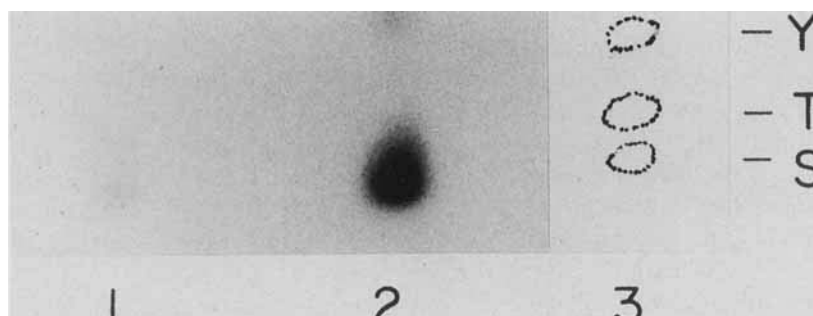


Fig. 11. Phosphoamino acid analysis of talin. The 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 induced 210 kDa protein excised from dried gel was extracted with trypsin and hydrolyzed in 6N HCl for 2 h at 110°C. The product was lyophilized and rehydrated in 5 μl loading buffer containing internal standards phosphoserine, phosphotyrosine, and phosphothreonine. The samples were subjected to thin layer electrophoresis and autoradiography. The dotted circles represent the positions of phosphoamino acid standards revealed by ninhydrin staining. S = phosphoserine; T = phosphothreonine; Y = phosphotyrosine.

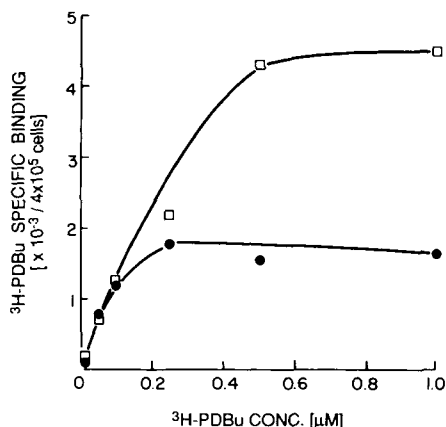


Fig. 12. Effect of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ on [³H]PDBu binding. Cells were treated with carrier (closed symbols) or 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (open symbols) for 24 h in the presence of 3,000 U/ml CSF-1. [³H]PDBu binding was then measured by incubation with radioligand for 30 min at 37°C. Non-specific binding was determined by the co-addition of 100 µM PDBu. Specific binding is illustrated which represents total minus non-specific (20–40% of total binding). Each point depicts the mean of duplicate determinations and the data are illustrative of 3 experiments.

et al., 1987; Watanabe et al., 1989] blocks phosphorylation of putative c-fms by 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1, it has no effect on talin phosphorylation. On the other hand, talin is a known substrate for PKC [Litchfield and Ball, 1990], and we found that its phosphorylation by 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 is dampened by relatively low concentrations of the enzyme's inhibitor, staurosporin. Also consistent with the properties of PKC [Litchfield and Ball, 1990], serine and not tyrosine is phosphorylated in talin under the influence of the steroid and growth factor. Moreover, the PKC agonist PMA, when substituted for CSF-1 in vitamin D-treated cells, effectively phosphorylates talin.

1,25(OH)₂D₃ is known to directly enhance PKC transcription [Obeid et al., 1990], to activate the enzyme [Wali et al., 1990], and to translocate it to cell membranes [Simboli-Campbell et al., 1992]. While 1,25(OH)₂D₃-induced PKC activation may [Burn et al., 1988] or may not involve stimulated diacylglycerol production [Obeid et al., 1990], regardless of mechanism, the steroid has both immediate and long-term agonistic effects on the kinase. Thus it is not surprising that while 1,25(OH)₂D₃-primed talin phosphorylation maximizes after 1 day, it may be detected within 2 h. The mechanism of relatively short-term phosphorylation-priming remains elusive, but as evidenced by enhanced PDBu binding,

the steroid ultimately appears to promote expression of PKC.

Relative to its effect when combined with CSF-1, 1,25(OH)₂D₃ alone has little impact on talin phosphorylation, which requires short co-exposure to the growth factor. This latter finding is consistent with the known capacity of CSF-1 to activate PKC, probably by enhanced generation of diacylglycerol from phosphatidyl choline [Imamura et al., 1990]. Thus, we propose that the mechanism of talin phosphorylation by 1,25(OH)₂D₃/CSF-1 involved increased PKC synthesis under the influence of the steroid with subsequent activation by the growth factor.

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