

Inositol Phosphates Modulate Human Red Blood Cell Ca^{2+} -Adenosine Triphosphatase Activity In Vitro by a Guanine Nucleotide Regulatory Protein

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D-*myo*-inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate [$\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$] inhibits human red blood cell (RBC) Ca^{2+} -stimulable, Mg^{2+} -dependent adenosine triphosphatase (Ca^{2+} -ATPase) activity in vitro. Because we have previously shown that adrenergic receptors exist on the human mature RBC membrane and can modulate Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity, we examined the possibility that a guanine nucleotide regulatory protein (G protein) mediated the $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ effect. Guanosine 5'-O-(3-thiotrisphosphate) ($\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$) 10^{-4} mol/L also inhibited RBC Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity. Pertussis toxin 200 ng/mL blocked the effects of both $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ and $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ on Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity. In separate studies, pertussis toxin-catalyzed adenosine diphosphate (ADP) ribosylation was shown to occur in RBC membranes under conditions in which measurements of Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity were performed. When $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ 10^{-7} mol/L and $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ 10^{-6} mol/L were added to membranes concurrently, their inhibitory actions on the enzyme were additive. At greater concentrations of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ (10^{-6} to 10^{-5} mol/L) and $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (10^{-4} mol/L), the inositol phosphate reversed the inhibitory effect of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$. These observations indicate that the novel effect of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ on the activity of a plasma membrane Ca^{2+} -ATPase depends at least in part on the action of a pertussis toxin-susceptible G protein.

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HUMAN RED BLOOD CELL (RBC) Ca^{2+} -stimulable, Mg^{2+} -dependent adenosine triphosphatase (Ca^{2+} -ATPase) activity is regulated by the intracellular calmodulin- Ca^{2+} complex^{1,2} and several other cellular factors, such as fatty acids,^{3,4} phospholipids,³ and D-glucose.^{5,6} We have previously shown that D-*myo*-inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate [$\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$] and D-*myo*-inositol 4,5-bisphosphate, but not other inositol phosphates inhibit RBC Ca^{2+} -ATPase in vitro.⁷ This effect of a product [$\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$] of the phosphoinositide pathway is one of a series of recent observations supporting plasma membrane actions of inositol phosphates⁸⁻¹⁰ distinct from the Ca^{2+} -liberating effects of the compounds on $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ -sensitive intracellular Ca^{2+} pools.¹¹

Our laboratory has reported that $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ can inhibit the binding of calmodulin, a major cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} -binding protein,^{1,2} to the human RBC membrane,⁷ and this may be one mechanism by which this inositol phosphate can affect Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity. $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ also antagonizes the binding of other small molecules, such as thyroid hormone, to RBC ghosts.¹² On the other hand, $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ can reduce Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity in the absence of added purified calmodulin,⁷ and this observation suggested that inositol phosphates may affect the enzyme by a mechanism separate from that involving the calmodulin- Ca^{2+} complex. Because we have shown that α_1 - and β -adrenergic receptors are present in the human RBC membrane and that ligands for such receptors can increase or decrease the activity of membrane Ca^{2+} -ATPase¹³ depending on experimental conditions, we proceeded in the current studies to examine erythrocyte ghosts for evidence of the presence of a guanine nucleotide regulatory protein (G protein) that may affect Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

Reagents

$\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ and pertussis toxin were obtained from Calbiochem (San Diego, CA), Na_2 adenosine triphosphate (Na_2ATP) and guanosine 5'-O-(3-thiotrisphosphate) ($\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$) from Sigma (St Louis, MO), and [^{32}P]NAD from New England Nuclear (Boston, MA).

Human Erythrocyte Membranes

Heparinized venous blood was obtained from healthy adult volunteers under a protocol approved by the Institutional Review Boards and after provision of informed consent. Membranes were prepared as previously described,¹⁴ by hypotonic lysis of cells in 10 mmol/L Tris, pH 7.45, and 0.1 mmol/L EDTA. Harvested membranes were washed in 10 mmol/L Tris, pH 7.45, and stored at -70°C until used in the Ca^{2+} -ATPase assay within 5 days.

Ca^{2+} -ATPase Activity

Enzyme activity was measured as the difference in hydrolysis of Na_2ATP in the presence and absence of 2×10^{-5} mol/L free Ca^{2+} as previously reported,¹⁵ and expressed as micromoles P_i liberated per milligram membrane protein after a 90-minute assay period. The assay buffer contained 25 mmol/L Tris, pH 7.45, 0.1 mmol/L EGTA, 75 mmol/L NaCl, 25 mmol/L KCl, 1 mmol/L MgCl_2 , and 1 mmol/L Na_2ATP , with or without 0.15 mmol/L CaCl_2 . P_i level was measured by the Fiske-Subbarow method¹⁶ and membrane protein level by the Lowry method,¹⁷ with bovine serum albumin as standard. Results presented are the mean \pm SE of at least three experiments conducted in duplicate.

Effect of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$, $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$, and Pertussis Toxin on Ca^{2+} -ATPase Activity

Actions of these substances were determined by adding each individually or concurrently in the concentrations specified to aliquots of RBC membranes (1.0 mg/mL) and incubating the resultant mixtures for 60 minutes at 37°C before enzyme assay. Control samples contained the diluent for each substance, which was 10 mmol/L Tris, pH 7.45. After this preincubation, aliquots of

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Submitted February 7, 1994; accepted November 9, 1994.

Supported in part by Department of Veterans Affairs Merit Review funding (P.J.D.).

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0026-0495/95/4407-0006\$03.00/0

each sample were incubated in the assay buffer in the presence or absence of Ca^{2+} , as described earlier.

Effect of Pertussis Toxin on Adenosine Diphosphate Ribosylation of a 39-kd RBC Membrane Protein

In phase 1 of these experiments, RBC membranes were incubated with or without pertussis toxin 200 ng/mL in 10 mmol/L Tris, pH 7.45, for 60 minutes at 37°C, followed by a 90-minute incubation in Ca^{2+} -ATPase assay buffer containing Ca^{2+} , thus using our standard preincubation and assay protocol. The membranes were then centrifuged at $14,000 \times g$ for 2 minutes, and the membrane pellet was resuspended in 2% Triton X-100 containing 4 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ aprotinin and 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ leupeptin. The membranes were then subjected to phase 2 pertussis toxin-catalyzed adenosine diphosphate (ADP) ribosylation using [^{32}P]NAD, based on a modification of the method reported by Ribeiro et al.¹⁸ The resuspended membranes were diluted (final concentration, 100 μg protein/30 μL) with buffer containing (in final concentrations) 2 mmol/L Tris, pH 7.6, 2 mmol/L EDTA, 2 mmol/L dithiothreitol (DTT), 2 mmol/L Na_2ATP , and 25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ pertussis toxin. After addition of 0.5 μCi [^{32}P]NAD, the samples were incubated at 32°C for 20 minutes. The reaction was stopped with Laemmli solubilizer,¹⁹ and the proteins in each sample were separated by discontinuous 12% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, followed by gel drying and radioautography.

RESULTS

Inhibition of Ca^{2+} -ATPase Activity by $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$

At concentrations of 10^{-6} and 10^{-4} mol/L, $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ reduced enzyme activity by 12% and 35%, respectively ($P < .001$, one-way ANOVA; Fig 1). In the presence of these concentrations of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$, 10^{-7} mol/L $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$

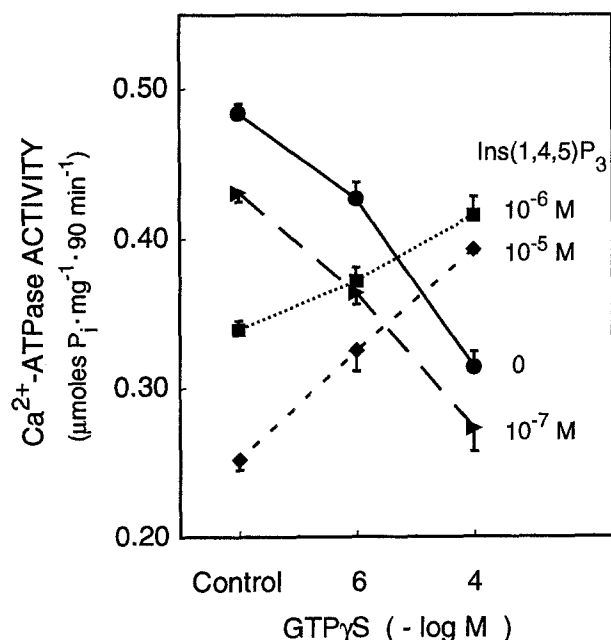


Fig 1. Effect of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ and $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ on human RBC Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity. $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ 10^{-6} and 10^{-4} mol/L progressively inhibited enzyme activity (●), as did $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ 10^{-7} to 10^{-5} mol/L (control values at left). The inhibitory effect of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ 10^{-7} mol/L (◻) was additive to that of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$, whereas $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ 10^{-6} (◻) and 10^{-5} (◈) mol/L blocked the inhibitory effect of 10^{-4} mol/L $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ on the enzyme.

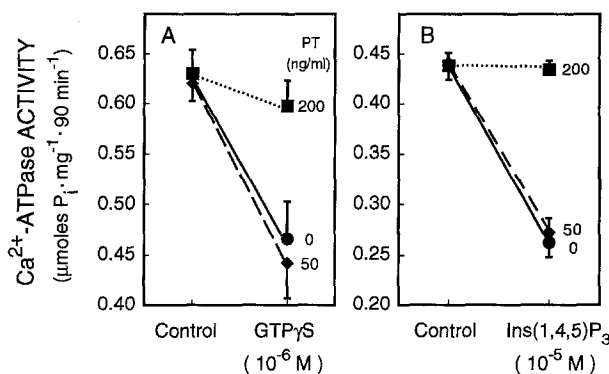


Fig 2. Effect of pertussis toxin (PT) on inhibition of RBC Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity by $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (A) and $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ (B). PT 50 and 200 ng/mL had no effect alone on enzyme activity (control values in each panel). There was complete inhibition of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ and $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ effects by 200 ng/mL pertussis toxin (◻), but no inhibition by 50 ng/mL pertussis toxin (◈). Differences in absolute levels of control enzyme activity in A and B are due to different RBC membrane preparations used in the two sets of experiments.

had a further inhibitory effect on Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity, whereas higher concentrations of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ (10^{-6} to 10^{-5} mol/L) blocked the inhibitory effect of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (Fig 1). The effects of GTP 10^{-6} to 10^{-4} mol/L were similar to those of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (results not shown).

Action of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ on Ca^{2+} -ATPase Activity

As previously shown⁷ and as evident in Fig 1, $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ 10^{-7} to 10^{-5} mol/L decreased human RBC Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity significantly ($P < .001$, ANOVA). $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ concentrations of 10^{-6} and 10^{-4} mol/L blocked the inhibitory effect of 10^{-6} and 10^{-5} mol/L $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ on the enzyme.

Effect of Pertussis Toxin on Enzyme Activity

Pertussis toxin (50 to 200 ng/mL) added to RBC membranes had no significant effect alone on Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity (Fig 2A and B control values). The toxin at a concentration of 50 ng/mL had no effect on the inhibitory action of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (Fig 2A) or $\text{Ins}(1,4,5)\text{P}_3$ (Fig 2B) on Ca^{2+} -ATPase activity, but at 200 ng/mL, pertussis toxin completely reversed the inhibitory action of both agents. However, the higher concentration of pertussis toxin did not block the inhibitory effect of 10^{-4} mol/L $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ (results not shown).

Effect of Pertussis Toxin on ADP Ribosylation of RBC Membrane Protein

Measurement of ADP ribosylation in membranes previously exposed in phase 1 to 200 ng/mL pertussis toxin allowed us to assay previously unused ribosylation sites, demonstrated by radiolabeling in the presence of [^{32}P]NAD and an excess of pertussis toxin activated by DTT (phase 2), using the method reported by Ribeiro et al.¹⁸ In Fig 3, lane 1, there was no labeling of membranes that had not been exposed to pertussis toxin either in phase 1 or in phase 2. In lane 2, in membranes not exposed to pertussis toxin in phase 1 but later exposed to pertussis toxin, DTT, and radiolabeled NAD in phase 2, there was ample labeling of a

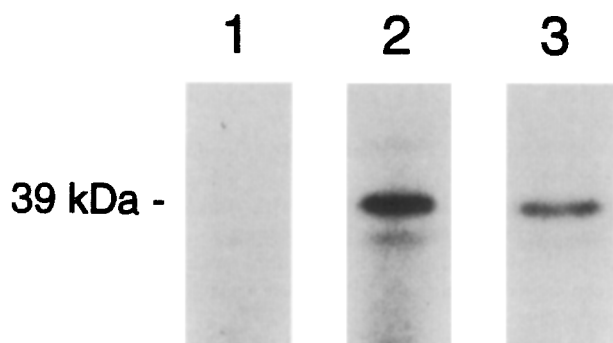


Fig 3. Effect of prior exposure of RBC membranes to pertussis toxin (phase 1) on subsequent [³²P]ADP ribosylation of a 39-kD membrane protein band on a second exposure to pertussis toxin (phase 2). Sample 1 was not exposed to pertussis toxin in either phase. Sample 2 was only exposed to pertussis toxin in phase 2, when DTT was also present. Sample 3 was exposed to pertussis toxin in phase 1, causing ADP ribosylation at that time and reducing substrate availability for labeling during phase 2.

39-kD band, consistent with the results reported by Ribeiro et al.¹⁸ Lane 3 demonstrates decreased radiolabeling in a sample exposed to pertussis toxin in both phases, providing evidence that during the 60-minute preincubation and 90-minute assay periods ADP ribosylation did occur in RBC membrane samples in the presence of pertussis toxin 200 ng/mL, yielding less available substrate for labeling when the membranes were later exposed to an excess of DTT-activated pertussis toxin and radiolabeled NAD.

DISCUSSION

The calmodulin-Ca²⁺ complex^{1,2} and lipids³ in the plasma membrane microenvironment of erythrocyte Ca²⁺-ATPase are intrinsic factors known to affect the activity of the enzyme. We have also shown that Ins(1,4,5)P₃, a product of the action of phospholipase C in the phosphoinositide pathway,^{11,20} inhibits Ca²⁺-ATPase activity at a concentration known to be physiologic.⁷ It has been established that phospholipase C is present in RBC membranes, and that in the presence of added calcium, membrane content of inositol phosphates increases.²¹⁻²³ Absolute levels of inositol phosphates in whole RBCs or RBC membranes have not been reported. A number of extracellular factors also affect Ca²⁺-ATPase activity,²⁴ including thyroid hormone^{14,15,25} and D-glucose,^{5,6} and in myocardial and skeletal muscle membranes, several pharmacologic agents.²⁶⁻²⁹ The mechanisms by which these factors act to modulate Ca²⁺-ATPase activity are incompletely understood, although several of the factors bind to calmodulin and may disrupt the interaction of the enzyme and the calmodulin-Ca²⁺ complex.²⁷⁻²⁹

Adrenergic agonists and polypeptide hormones such as glucagon depend on cell-surface receptors specific for the hormone ligands and subsequent signal transduction by guanine nucleotide regulatory proteins (G proteins).³⁰ The turkey erythrocyte has been extensively studied as a model of the hormone receptor-G protein complex.³¹⁻³³ The presence of GTP-binding proteins in human erythrocyte membranes has also been reported.³³⁻³⁵ No physiologic role for these proteins in the RBC has previously been estab-

lished,³⁶ although changes in a stimulatory G protein (G_s) extracted from human erythrocytes and identified as stimulatory in a mouse cell line adenylate cyclase system have been used as a marker for pseudohypoparathyroidism.³⁷ The current report provides functional significance for a G protein (inhibitory G protein [G_i], recognized by its susceptibility to pertussis toxin) in human RBC membranes in the regulation of Ca²⁺-ATPase activity.

The lines of evidence presented here for the existence of G proteins that are functional in the human erythrocyte ghost are (1) the ability of GTPγS and GTP to inhibit erythrocyte Ca²⁺-ATPase activity and (2) the ability of pertussis toxin, an agent that inactivates inhibitory guanine nucleotide regulatory proteins (G_i), to antagonize the effects of GTPγS on Ca²⁺-ATPase. We also show that the inhibitory action of Ins(1,4,5)P₃ on RBC Ca²⁺-ATPase activity can be blocked by pertussis toxin and by GTPγS when both factors are used in maximal concentrations, suggesting that the inositol phosphate and GTPγS may both act on a G_i protein in this model, and when present together, may act at related sites on G_i and result in an inactivated protein, perhaps by an allosteric mechanism. The fact that the susceptibility to pertussis toxin of the Ins(1,4,5)P₃ effect on membrane Ca²⁺-ATPase activity indeed reflected participation of a G protein was confirmed by additional studies showing the presence in RBC membranes of pertussis toxin-catalyzed ADP ribosylation. It was necessary to prove that ADP ribosylation can occur in erythrocyte membranes in which Ca²⁺-ATPase activity measurements are made, since such membranes are exposed to Mg²⁺ and phosphate, factors known to reduce ADP ribosylation.³⁸ The additive effect of submaximal concentrations of Ins(1,4,5)P₃ and GTPγS on inhibition of Ca²⁺-ATPase activity can also be explained: GTPγS may stimulate phospholipase C by a G protein-dependent mechanism, leading to increased Ins(1,4,5)P₃ concentrations and further inhibition of Ca²⁺-ATPase activity. These observations support our contention⁷ that the activity of the phosphoinositide pathway is a determinant of the activity of Ca²⁺-ATPase in the human RBC.

The concept that the calmodulin-Ca²⁺ complex is the principal regulator of human RBC Ca²⁺-ATPase activity^{1,2} is confining in light of the substantial number of extracellular factors that may modulate activity of the enzyme.²⁴ The fact that mature RBC Ca²⁺-ATPase activity can be modulated by G proteins indicates that mechanisms may exist by which extracellular hormones, such as those traditionally acknowledged to act via surface receptor-linked G proteins, may modulate behavior of the enzyme and presumably intracellular Ca²⁺ concentration. G proteins have not previously been implicated in the regulation of human RBC Ca²⁺-ATPase activity. The presence of adrenergic receptors¹³ and G proteins in the human mature RBC membrane that are capable of regulating membrane Ca²⁺-ATPase (calcium pump) activity suggests that this human cell system may be used to model adrenergic activity *in vitro*. There is crosstalk between the G protein and inositol phosphate signaling pathways in this model.

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