

Hyperosmotic stress stimulates inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate and inositol 1,3,4,5-tetrakisphosphate formation independently of bis-diphosphoinositol tetrakisphosphate modulation [☆]

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Abstract

Hyperosmotic stress induces water diffusion out of the cell, resulting in cell shrinkage, and leading to DNA damage, cell cycle arrest, and cytoskeletal reorganization. A previous report showed that low concentrations of sorbitol (200 mM) could increase up to 25-fold the concentration of InsP₈ in animal cells. Here, we investigate the effect of sorbitol (200 mM) on the inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (InsP₃) and inositol 1,3,4,5-tetrakisphosphate (InsP₄) pathway. A 3- to 4-fold increase in InsP₃ and InsP₄ levels after sorbitol challenge was observed. It was prevented by the phospholipase C inhibitor U-73122 but was insensitive to the MAP kinase inhibitor U0126. We also observed an increase in the free intracellular [Ca²⁺] and the occurrence of Ca²⁺ oscillations in response to sorbitol. A hyperosmotic stress could therefore affect the levels of both hyperphosphorylated inositol phosphates and InsP₃/InsP₄-signalling molecules.

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It is well known that stress such as UV, osmotic shock, heat shock, and cytokines are external stimuli that are able to activate different cell signalling mechanisms (for review [1]). Unbalance in osmolality across the plasma membrane leads to major changes in cell size and ions, metabolites or water transport. Osmotic shock can induce cell proliferation too by increasing interleukin expression [2]. Cells react by activating their intracellular protein kinase cascade or by rapid synthesis of

compatible osmolytes like *myo*-inositol, sorbitol or taurine [3].

In yeast, the osmoregulatory signalling pathway has been well studied involving scaffolding proteins and protein kinase phosphorylation steps. In mammalian, one of the most important pathways involved in the transduction of signals from the cell membrane to the nucleus is the mitogen/stress-activated protein kinase (MAPK, p38, and JNK) pathway [4]. Activation of this pathway has been shown to enhance cell resistance to a variety of stress signals [5].

In mammalian cells, little is known about the effects of osmotic stress on other signalling pathways. The rapid hydrolysis of phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate to InsP₃ and 1,2-diacylglycerol plays an essential role in cellular physiology [6]. Particularly, InsP₃ mediates

[☆] Abbreviations: InsP₃, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate; InsP₄, inositol 1,3,4,5-tetrakisphosphate; InsP₆, inositol hexakisphosphate; InsP₇, diphosphoinositol pentakisphosphate; InsP₈, bis-diphosphoinositol tetrakisphosphate; PLC, phospholipase C.

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the release of Ca^{2+} from internal Ca^{2+} stores. InsP_3 is also a precursor in the formation of a wide family of other derived molecules such as InsP_4 which has been shown to play a crucial role in T lymphocytes [7]. The metabolism of InsP_3 is also producing higher phosphorylated inositol phosphates such as diphosphoinositol pentakisphosphate (InsP_7) and bis-diphosphoinositol tetrakisphosphate (InsP_8) found in all organisms or cells from fungi to humans [8]. They have the property to contain high energetic phosphate bonds and it has recently been shown that InsP_7 could serve as phosphate donor to nuclear proteins of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* [9]. Other functions of diphosphoinositol polyphosphates have been proposed including telomere length regulation and messenger RNA transport control [10,11]. Recently, we have investigated the effect of a sorbitol challenge on the metabolism of inositol polyphosphates. We have shown that a low concentration (0.2 M) of sorbitol, which does not provoke cell death within 24 h, induces an important increase in the levels of intracellular InsP_8 (up to 25-fold) associated with a decrease of its precursor InsP_7 , suggesting the activation of an unknown InsP_7 kinase. Moreover, this InsP_8 production was sustained upon long-term sorbitol challenge and regulated mainly by the MAP (ERK1/2 and p38) kinase protein pathway [12].

Here, we report on the stimulatory effect of hyperosmotic stress on InsP_3 and InsP_4 levels together with their consequences for the Ca^{2+} response after sorbitol challenging. The kinetics of production of these two inositol phosphates (i.e., InsP_3 and InsP_4) were quite slow and lasted for at least 2 h as compared to the classical short-term kinetics of IP_3 production (within minutes) in response to ATP.

Materials and methods

Materials. [^3H]myo-Inositol was from Amersham. [^3H]InsP₃, [^3H]InsP₄, and [^3H]InsP₆ used as standards to calibrate the HPLC SAX column were from Perkin-Elmer. Sorbitol was from Sigma. DDT₁-MF₂ cells were provided by Dr. H. De Smedt (K.U. Leuven, Leuven, Belgium). InsP_6 was from Sigma.

Cell labelling and inositol phosphate analysis. DDT₁-MF₂ cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO_2 . Culture medium was supplemented with 1 μM sodium pyruvate, 100 U/ml penicillin G, and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ streptomycin. Cells were harvested by brief trypsinization and 6×10^5 cells were seeded in 6 cm tissue culture plates and labelled with 50 $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{ml}$ [^3H]myo-inositol for 3 days. After completion of the labelling protocol, the cells were pre-incubated with different inhibitors or DMSO as control and stimulated by ATP or challenged by sorbitol. Cells were quenched with ice-cold 0.6 M perchloric acid containing 0.2 mg/ml InsP_6 and neutralized with 1 M K_2CO_3 . The perchlorate precipitates were pelleted by centrifugation (10,000g, 5 min). Inositol phosphates were separated by HPLC (4.6 \times 250 mm Partisphere SAX) at a flow rate of 1 ml/min using a protocol adapted to determine the complete profile of inositol phosphates: it was reached by mixing Buffer A (1 mM Na_2EDTA) and

Buffer B (Buffer A containing 1.3 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{HPO}_4$, pH 3.85, with H_3PO_4): 0–10 min, 0% B; 10–30 min, 0–45% B; 30–100 min, 45–100% B; 100–110 min, 100% B). To assess the relative levels of the InsP_3 or InsP_4 isomers, the protocol described above was modified by using a gradient of buffer A (1 mM Na_2EDTA) and Buffer B (Buffer A plus 2 M $\text{NH}_4\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4$, pH 3.35, with H_3PO_4): 0–1 min, 0% B; 1–6 min, 0–50% B; 6–56 min, 50–100% B; 56–61 min, 100% B). Fractions of 1 ml were collected and mixed with scintillation liquid for radioactivity measurements. When possible, the radioactivity was also directly determined with an online detector from Raytest.

Ca^{2+} measurements. Single-cell [Ca^{2+}] measurements were performed using a laser-scanning MRC-1024 UV system (Bio-Rad, Hertfordshire, UK) attached to an inverted Nikon Diaphot 300 epifluorescence microscope with a CF Fluor 40 \times (NA = 1.3) oil immersion objective. Briefly, after removing the culture medium and washing the cells, they were incubated for 30 min with 5 μM Indo-1-AM dissolved in a modified Krebs solution containing 135 mM NaCl, 5.9 mM KCl, 1.5 mM CaCl_2 , 1.2 mM MgCl_2 , 11.6 mM Hepes, and 11.5 mM glucose (pH 7.3). The cells were then further incubated for 1–1.5 h in the absence of Indo-1. During the experiment, the cells were continuously superfused from a pipette placed on top of the cell. The scan speed was 1 images per 1.5 s and the temperature 25 °C. The signals were not averaged.

Results

Hyperosmotic stress increases InsP_3 and InsP_4 levels in intact cells

We recently reported that DDT₁-MF₂ cells challenged with 0.2 M sorbitol for 30 min show a dramatic increase in the levels of InsP_8 (up to 25-fold) [12]. In response to sorbitol, the mechanism underlying that increase was due in part to MAP kinase activation. We therefore questioned whether low phosphorylated inositol phosphates, i.e., InsP_3 and InsP_4 were also modified by a hyperosmotic stress. In those experiments, InsP_3 and InsP_4 levels were increased by at least 3-fold when cells were challenged for 30 min with 0.2 M sorbitol (Figs. 1A and B). No changes in the levels of InsP_5 or InsP_6 were observed (not shown). As expected, levels of InsP_8 were increased about 10-fold in this particular experiment.

We compared the effect of ATP and sorbitol on the kinetics of $\text{InsP}_3/\text{InsP}_4$ formation. DDT₁-MF₂ cells were stimulated for different time periods by 100 μM ATP (Fig. 2A). A transient increase in InsP_3 level (up to 30-fold) was observed with a maximum at 15 s. It returned to basal level after 3 min. InsP_4 level was increased up to 3-fold at 5 or 10 s and stayed elevated up to 3 min (Fig. 2A). In the case of sorbitol, the increase of InsP_3 started at 5 min, was maximal at 30 min, and declined after 2 h. InsP_4 level was increased with a maximum at 60 min and decreased at 45% of its control value after 2 h. Finally, the $\text{Ins}(1,3,4)\text{P}_3$ level was maintained at a 10-fold higher level than basal until at least 30 min (Fig. 2B). The data suggest that $\text{Ins}(1,3,4)\text{P}_3$ formation mainly results from the dephosphorylation of InsP_4 by the type-I $\text{InsP}_3/\text{InsP}_4$ 5-phosphatase [13].

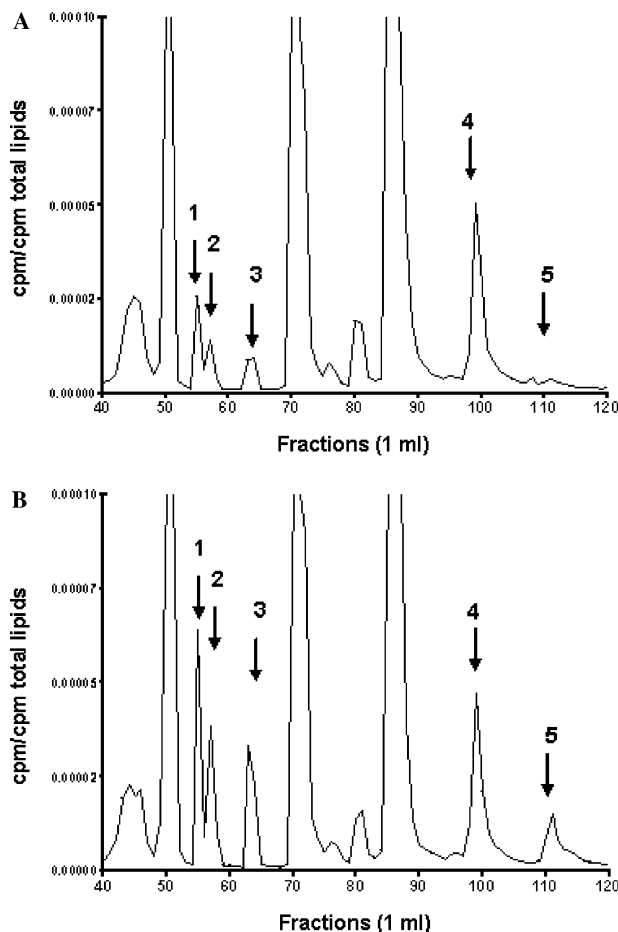


Fig. 1. Inositol polyphosphate levels in DDT₁-MF₂ cells challenged by sorbitol. [³H]Inositol labelled cells were incubated in the presence of 0.2 M sorbitol (B) or water (A) for 30 min. Tritiated inositol phosphates were extracted as described in Materials and methods and analysed by anion exchange HPLC. The radioactivity (in ordinate) was normalized with respect to the total radioactivity present in the lipid fraction. Data presented are representative of two different experiments. 1, Ins(1,3,4)P₃; 2, InsP₃; 3, InsP₄ pool; 4, InsP₇; 5, InsP₈.

PLC and Ser/Thr protein phosphatases but not MAP kinases are involved in this process

We have shown that the stimulatory effect of sorbitol on InsP₃ level was inhibited by pre-treatment with 50 μ M of the PLC inhibitor U-73122 (Fig. 3), suggesting that the effect of sorbitol on InsP₃ results from an effect (direct or indirect) on PLC. In many types of cells, MAP kinases ERK1/2 have important roles in differentiation, survival, and proliferation [4]. To investigate whether members of the ERK family are involved in the osmotic stress effect on InsP₃/InsP₄, we used U0126, a MEK inhibitor which specifically attenuates the activation of ERKs. The net increase in InsP₈ formation was prevented in the presence of U0126 as reported before (Table 1 and [12]). In contrast in the presence of sorbitol, InsP₃ or InsP₄ levels were not affected by U0126, suggesting that the MAP kinase pathway was not involved.

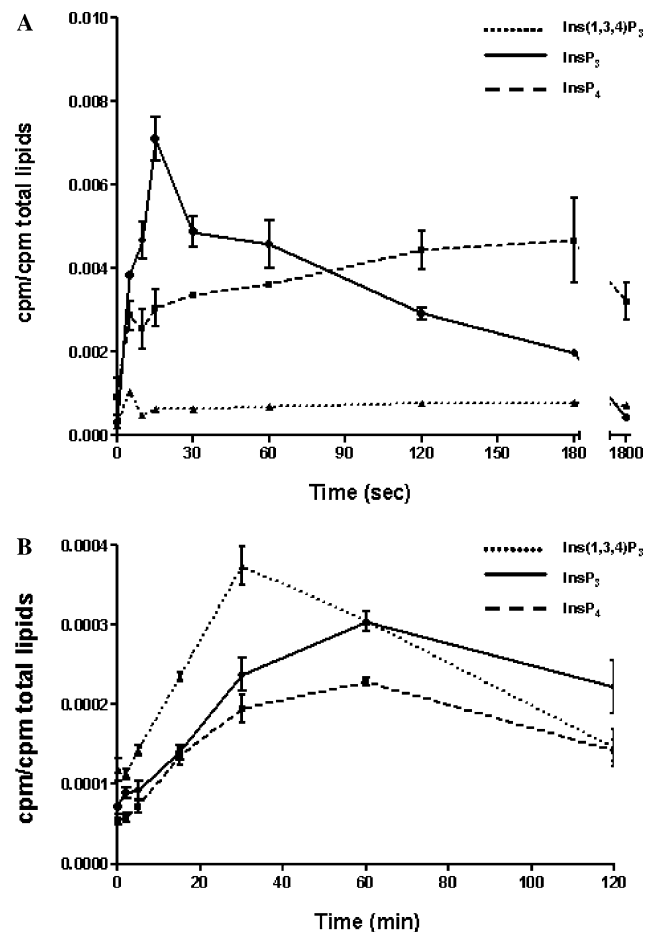


Fig. 2. Time-course of inositol polyphosphate production in DDT₁-MF₂ cells in response to different stimuli. Inositol phosphate levels were stimulated by 100 μ M ATP (A) or 0.2 M sorbitol (B). They were determined as referred to in Materials and methods and in Fig. 1. Data are means of triplicate \pm SEM.

Therefore, the fact that InsP₃ upregulation was not affected by U0126 (in contrast to InsP₈ levels) argues against the hypothesis that InsP₈ could serve as an intermediate in the effect of sorbitol on PLC activity.

A low concentration of sorbitol leads to Ca²⁺ oscillations

Ca²⁺ is an intracellular second messenger involved in the control of a wide range of effects such as proliferation, differentiation, transcription or muscle contraction [14]. It has been shown before that osmotic cell swelling induced by hypotonic stress is associated with a raise in free intracellular [Ca²⁺] [15]. Since our data on hyperosmotic stress indicated an activation of PLC, we questioned whether this would also produce a Ca²⁺ response.

DDT₁-MF₂ cells from a Coverglass chamber have been challenged with 0.2 M sorbitol in 1.5 mM Ca²⁺-containing Krebs medium. By single cell measurements, we observed a Ca²⁺ response assessed by fluorescence

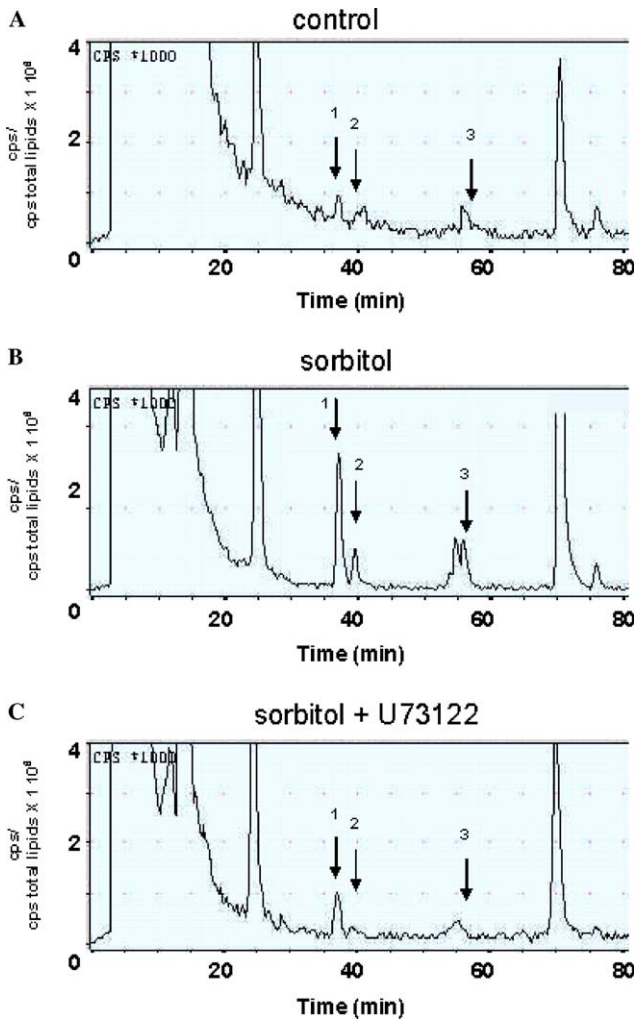


Fig. 3. Effect of a PLC inhibitor on inositol polyphosphate production. DDT₁-MF₂ cells were pre-incubated (B) or not (A,C) with 50 μ M U73122 for 1 h and challenged for 30 min (B,C) or not (A) with 0.2 M sorbitol. Soluble inositol phosphates were isolated and analysed by HPLC. Data presented are from one representative experiment out of two. 1, Ins(1,3,4)P₃; 2, InsP₃; 3, InsP₄.

Table 1
Effect of U0126 on inositol phosphate levels after osmotic stress

	DMSO		U0126	
	No sorbitol	30 min	No sorbitol	30 min
InsP ₈	0.97 \pm 0.09	12.14 \pm 0.29	0.79 \pm 0.03	6.93 \pm 0.90
InsP ₃	9.42 \pm 0.42	31.37 \pm 0.85	8.79 \pm 0.03	29.01 \pm 0.26
InsP ₄	4.74 \pm 0.07	25.48 \pm 0.05	5.90 \pm 0.64	25.19 \pm 1.04

InsP₃, InsP₄, and InsP₈ levels were determined in DDT₁-MF₂ cells challenged (30 min) or not (no sorbitol) with 0.2 M sorbitol during 30 min. Results are expressed as a ratio of specific cpm normalized with respect to the total lipid value (cpm/lipid cpm $\times 10^{-4}$). The data are means of duplicate \pm SD.

changes of Indo 1 at 405 and 460 nm (Figs. 4A and B) and the occurrence of Ca²⁺ oscillations (Fig. 4C). At higher concentrations of sorbitol, we could clearly observe an increase in Ca²⁺ response that returned to basal

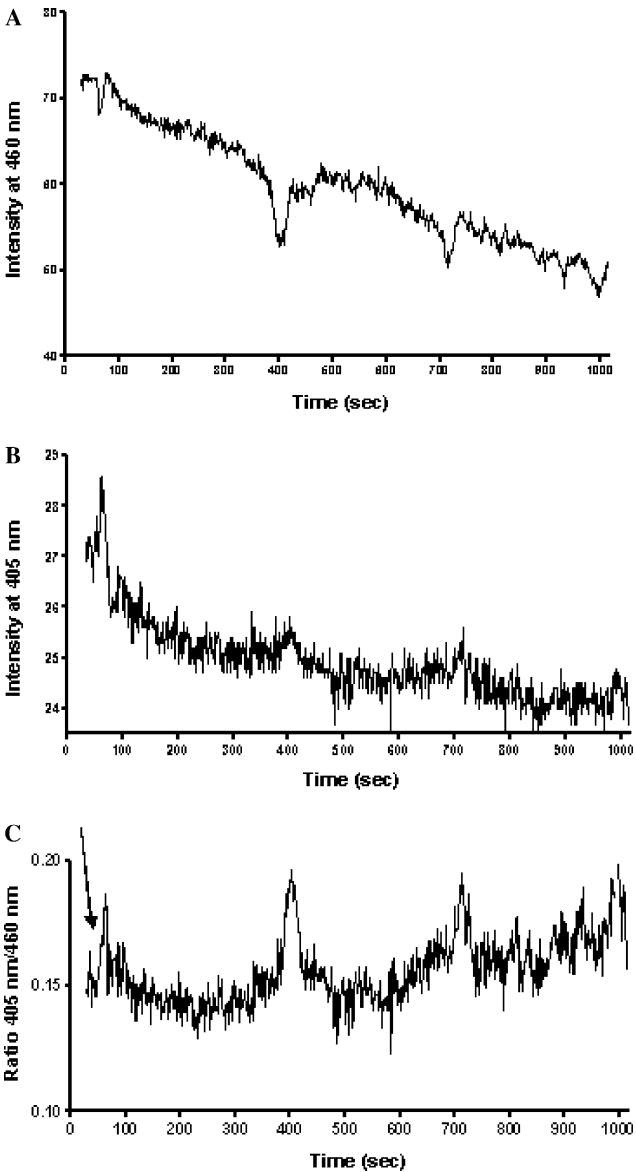


Fig. 4. Fluorescence and [Ca²⁺] changes in response to sorbitol in DDT₁-MF₂ cells. Time-course of the emitted fluorescence at a wavelength of 460 nm (A) or 405 nm (B) after addition of 0.2 M sorbitol (arrow). (C) Ratio between the emission at 405 and at 460 nm, which corresponds to the free [Ca²⁺].

level after 5–10 min (data not shown). The Ca²⁺ peaks induced by 0.2 M sorbitol were of smaller intensity as compared to those induced by ATP (100 μ M). The upregulation of InsP₃ was also more pronounced with ATP (100 μ M) as compared to sorbitol (0.2 M).

Discussion

Cellular stress has been largely studied in plants and mammalian cells the last 10 years [16]. However, the effect of stress on phosphoinositide signalling is not yet fully understood and subject to controversy. For

example, it has been shown that mechanical stress could mobilize Ca^{2+} by an InsP_3 -insensitive way in vascular smooth muscle cells [17] or by an InsP_3 -sensitive pathway in THP-1 cells [18]. In addition, a wide range of stresses including heat shock, hypotonic stress or oxidative stress can raise the level of intracellular Ca^{2+} [16,19]. It is, however, not clear whether this always involves an increase in PLC activity.

Recently, we showed that the amount of InsP_8 could be increased up to 25-fold following a 30 min hyperosmotic stress. The regulation of this effect was mediated by the MAP kinase pathway which is, to our knowledge, an unusual way to control soluble inositol phosphates. The concentration of sorbitol used in those experiments did not affect the viability of the DDT₁-MF₂ cells, even after 24 h of treatment [12]. We proposed that InsP_8 was a sensor of hyperosmotic stress that could mediate other signalling pathways. A molecular dissection making a link between highly phosphorylated inositol phosphates and InsP_3 has been obtained in mice lacking the IPMK (also known as IPK2). Cells derived from those knock-out mice show the absence of higher phosphorylated inositol phosphates as compared to normal cells [20].

Despite the fact that it has been reported that PLC could be activated by short-term osmotic stress in other cells [21,22], it is surprising that long-term effects of hyperosmotic challenge can lead to an increase in the formation of InsP_3 and InsP_4 in a sustained manner. We demonstrated here that 30 min incubation with 0.2 M sorbitol increases by 3- and 4-fold the amount of InsP_3 and InsP_4 in DDT₁-MF₂ cells. We have shown that this regulation is PLC dependent since it was prevented by the presence of U73122, a specific PLC inhibitor. However, in contrast to InsP_8 , it was not dependent on the MAP kinase pathway. It is well known that most agonists which increase PLC activity do not modify the levels of InsP_8 . Our data suggest that sorbitol-induced increase in the formation of InsP_3 and InsP_8 follows two different and independent mechanisms.

The effect of sorbitol differs from the classical ATP-induced PLC activation mechanism. In our experiments, ATP (100 μM) increases the InsP_3 level up to 35-fold within 15 s and the concentration drops down after 3 min to nearly basal level. On the contrary, sorbitol increases the amount of InsP_3 by 3- to 4-fold in a sustained manner up to at least 2 h. This slower kinetics of InsP_3 production are not unique in the inositol phosphate field: for example, the levels of $\text{Ins}(1,4,5,6)\text{P}_4$ or $\text{Ins}(3,4,5,6)\text{P}_4$ are known to be increased after a long time stimulation [23]. This prolonged production of InsP_3 could reflect two different manners of PLC activation (or the involvement of different isoforms) leading to different Ca^{2+} responses as suggested in neonatal rat cardiomyocytes [24]. Moreover, it has been shown that an intact cytoskeleton was required for agonist-induced Ca^{2+} signalling in NIH3T3 cells [25]. In another model

in bone marrow-derived macrophage precursors, M-CSF in a model of cell differentiation induces the translocation of PLC- γ 2 to the cell membrane [26]. Therefore, in the case of sorbitol challenging, modulation of cytoskeleton may also affect signal transduction, PLC activation, and the generation Ca^{2+} oscillations.

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