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Three Novel Oligosaccharides with the Sialyl-Le^a Structure in Human Milk: Isolation by Immunoaffinity Chromatography[†]

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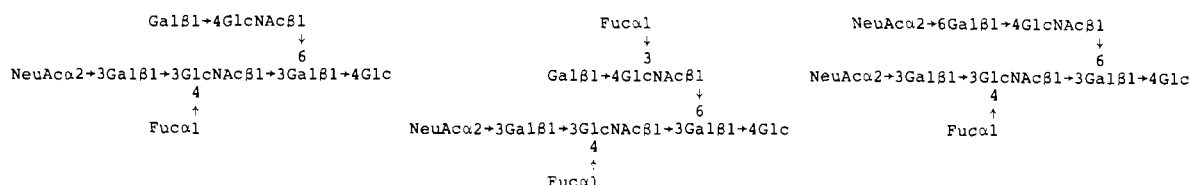
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ABSTRACT: We have determined the structures of three novel oligosaccharides isolated from human milk using the monoclonal antibody MSW 113. These oligosaccharides were purified by affinity chromatography on a column of the immobilized monoclonal antibody and by high-performance liquid chromatography. From the results of 500-MHz ¹H NMR spectroscopy and fast atom bombardment-mass spectrometry, their structures were deduced to be



These oligosaccharides bound to MSW 113 to nearly the same extent as sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide but bound to another sialyl-Le^a structure-directed monoclonal antibody, NS 19-9, only weakly.

Many of the sialyloligosaccharides that occur in human milk have been found to correspond to the carbohydrate moieties of glycolipids and glycoproteins on cell surfaces. Therefore, they have been used as models for studies on the

acceptor specificities of glycosyl transferases, the substrate specificities of glycosidases, and the structures of antigenic determinants (Kobata et al., 1968, 1969, 1972).

We have recently established several monoclonal antibodies directed toward mucin carbohydrates (Fukui et al., 1988; Kurosaka et al., 1987, 1988; Kitagawa et al., 1988a). During studies to determine the epitopic structure for one of these antibodies, MSW 113, we found that acidic oligosaccharides from human milk significantly inhibited the antigen-antibody reaction. By means of immunoaffinity chromatography with MSW 113, we were able to isolate the inhibitory oligosaccharides. One of the immunoreactive oligosaccharides was

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identified as a hexasaccharide with the sialyl-Le^a structure (Kitagawa et al., 1988b). This hexasaccharide was reported for the first time by Wieruszkeski et al. (1985) and later briefly commented on by Smith et al. (1987). In this paper, we describe the isolation and identification of three immunoreactive oligosaccharides that had not been detected previously, either as free oligosaccharides in milk or as the carbohydrate moieties of glycolipids and glycoproteins.

Since the use of high-field ¹H NMR spectroscopy to determine oligosaccharide structures has been carefully developed by Vliegenthart and others (Hirdsgaul et al., 1982; Vliegenthart et al., 1983; Lamblin et al., 1984; Lönn, 1985a,b; Klein et al., 1988; Breg et al., 1988), this method was used to determine the structures of a set of closely related milk oligosaccharides like those isolated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials. The human milk samples were gifts from the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto, and Hikone City Hospital, Hikone. A murine monoclonal antibody of the IgG₃ type, designated MSW 113 and established by Kitagawa et al. (1988a), was used. Another monoclonal antibody, NS 19-9 (Koprowski et al., 1979), of the IgG₁ type used was a gift from CENTOCOR EUROPE B.V., Leiden. DE 52 (microgranular, preswollen DEAE-cellulose) was purchased from Whatman Ltd., London. MSW 113-protein A-Sepharose CL-4B (6 mg of antibody/mL of resin) was prepared according to the method of Schneider et al. (1982). The column used for high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)¹ was of TSK-GEL NH₂-60, which was obtained from TOSOH Ltd., Tokyo. Sephadex G-25 and Sephadex G-50 were purchased from Pharmacia, Uppsala. Sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide (sialyllacto-N-fucopentaose II) was prepared from human milk by affinity chromatography on a column of MSW 113-protein A-Sepharose CL-4B, as described previously (Kitagawa et al., 1988b).

Fractionation of Sialyloligosaccharides. Acidic oligosaccharides of human milk were prepared according to the method of Smith et al. (1978). The oligosaccharides obtained from 3 L of milk were dissolved in 50 mL of 2 mM acetic acid-pyridine buffer, pH 5.4, and the resultant solution was applied to a column (3.0 × 50 cm) of DE 52 previously equilibrated with the same buffer. The column was washed with the same buffer, and then the acidic oligosaccharides were eluted with 100 mM acetic acid-pyridine buffer, pH 5.4. The eluates were pooled and then lyophilized.

Affinity Chromatography. The dried material was dissolved in 20 mL of 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.2, and the resultant solution was mixed with 20 mL of MSW 113-protein A-Sepharose CL-4B, which had been equilibrated with the same buffer. The resin was packed into a column and then washed with the same buffer. Antigens retained on the column were eluted with 50 mM diethylamine, pH 11.5. The eluates were neutralized with acetic acid, pooled, and then lyophilized. All procedures were carried out at 4 °C.

High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). The oligosaccharides obtained by affinity chromatography were passed through a column of Sephadex G-25 equilibrated with 50 mM pyridine-acetic acid buffer, pH 5.0. The effluent was

lyophilized. The oligosaccharides were further fractionated by HPLC, which was carried out with a Shimadzu Model LC-6A system on a TSK-GEL NH₂-60 column (4.6 × 25 cm). The initial solvent consisted of acetonitrile containing 20% 15 mM potassium phosphate, pH 5.2, the buffer concentration being subsequently increased to 100% over 80 min. The flow rate was 1.0 mL/min. Oligosaccharides were detected as to the absorbance at 195 nm. The oligosaccharides purified by HPLC were desalted by chromatography on Sephadex G-25 as described above.

500-MHz ¹H NMR Spectroscopy. NMR spectra of the sialyloligosaccharides corresponding to HPLC fractions 2-4 were measured with a JEOL JNM-GX500 500-MHz ¹H NMR spectrometer at 40 °C. NMR samples were dissolved in 150 μL of D₂O (99.96% CEA) in microcells, the pH of the sample solutions being ca. 7.0. Homogated decoupling was performed to suppress residual HDO resonance. The Gaussian function was applied for resolution enhancement of 1D spectra. For measurement of 2D homonuclear Hartmann-Hahn (2D HOHAHA) spectra (Bax & Davis, 1985), 64 scans were accumulated for each *t*₁, with a mixing time of 100 ms, and 512 × 2048 data points were used, with a spectral width of 3000 Hz and a relaxation delay of 1 s. The digital resolution was ca. 3.0 Hz/point in both dimensions, with zero-filling in the *t*₁ dimension. A phase-shifted sine bell was applied for both the *t*₁ and *t*₂ dimensions. 2,2-Dimethyl-2-silapentane-5-sulfonate (DSS) was used as an internal standard for chemical shifts.

Fast Atom Bombardment-Mass Spectrometry (FAB-MS). A few micrograms of an oligosaccharide mixed with 1 μL of triethanolamine was put on a stainless steel sample holder (1 × 5 mm) as the FAB ion source. The analysis was performed by bombardment with a neutral xenon beam, detecting negative ions with a mass spectrometer (JMS-HX 110; JEOL Ltd., Tokyo) equipped with a JMA-DA5000 computer system (JEOL).

Preparation of Glycopeptides from Human Colonic Cancer Cells. SW 1116 cells were treated with 1% Triton X-100 in 10 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.2, containing 0.15 M NaCl to solubilize cell membrane glycoproteins. The solubilized glycoproteins were then digested with Pronase P exhaustively, and the resulting glycopeptides were fractionated on Sephadex G-50 into mucin-type (G-50I) and serum-type (G-50II) glycopeptides according to the method of Funakoshi and Yamashina (1982).

Solid-Phase Radioimmunoassay. Antibodies were reacted with G-50I, coated on poly(vinylchloride) plates (Costar, Cambridge) according to the method of Fukui et al. (1988), and ¹²⁵I-labeled protein A (about 100 000 dpm/12.5 ng) was added to the immune complex. The amount of antibodies bound was expressed as the radioactivity of bound ¹²⁵I-labeled protein A, as determined with a γ spectrophotometer (Gamma 5000; Beckman).

Other Materials. [¹²⁵I]NaI, carrier free, 16 mCi/mmol, was purchased from Amersham. Protein A (from *Staphylococcus aureus*) was from Nakarai Chemicals, Kyoto, and Pronase P (750 000 units/g) from Kaken Kagaku Co., Tokyo. Preparation of ¹²⁵I-labeled protein A was carried out by the chloramine T method of Langone (1980), except that termination of the reaction was performed with saturated tyrosine.

RESULTS

Isolation of Immunoreactive Oligosaccharides from Human Milk. The immunoreactive oligosaccharides of human milk were isolated by affinity chromatography on a MSW 113-protein A-Sepharose CL-4B column, as described previously

¹ Abbreviations: HPLC, high-performance liquid chromatography; 2D HOHAHA, two-dimensional homonuclear Hartmann-Hahn spectroscopy; FAB-MS, fast atom bombardment-mass spectrometry; Fuc, L-fucose; Gal, D-galactose; Glc, D-glucose; GlcNAc, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine.

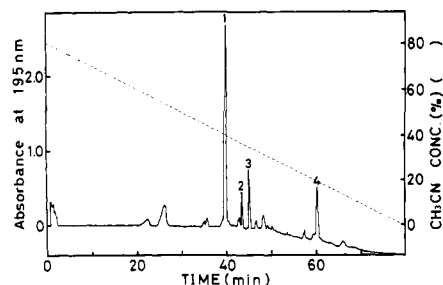


FIGURE 1: High-performance liquid chromatography of the immunoreactive oligosaccharides isolated from human milk by affinity chromatography on a MSW 113-protein A-Sepharose CL-4B column. The oligosaccharides were detected as to the absorbance at 195 nm.

(Kitagawa et al., 1988b). Only about 0.1% of the total sialic acid from human milk was retained and eluted. The eluate was further fractionated by HPLC on a column of TSK-GEL NH₂-60. As shown in Figure 1, the eluate gave one major peak accompanied by several minor peaks. The fractions corresponding to four peaks (peaks 1-4) were pooled, and then each pooled fraction was submitted to gel filtration on Sephadex G-25 to remove inorganic ions in the buffer used for the HPLC. The structure of the major peak material, fraction 1, was previously identified as sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide (Kitagawa et al., 1988b). Fractions 2-4 were subjected to structural characterization as described below.

Structural Characterization of the Oligosaccharides by 500-MHz ^1H NMR Spectroscopy. Figure 2 shows the 500-MHz ^1H NMR spectra of fractions 2–4. The spectra were closely related to the spectrum of sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide, reported previously (Kitagawa et al., 1988b), showing that these oligosaccharides have a common sialyl-Le^a structure.

In a previous paper, we reported that subspectra extraction for individual sugar components is helpful for analysis of the NMR spectra of glycolipids (Inagaki et al., 1987a,b). In the present study, we applied the 2D HOHAHA method (Bax & Davis, 1985) to extract the subspectrum of each sugar component of the oligosaccharides. The 2D HOHAHA spectrum of fraction 2 is shown in Figure 3a, which shows the cross-peak regions of the anomeric proton and other sugar proton resonances. Cross peaks due to magnetization transfer from the anomeric proton resonances were observed and are connected by horizontal lines in the figure. It should be noted that the magnetization transfer in the case of HOHAHA spectra is insufficient beyond H4 for galactose, so the H5 and H6 resonances of β -linked galactose were not detected in the present study. On the basis of the chemical shifts and splitting patterns observed in the 1D NMR spectrum (Figure 2a) together with those observed in the 2D HOHAHA spectrum (Figure 3a), the type and the anomeric configuration of each sugar component of fraction 2 were determined, as shown in Figure 2a and 3a. Fraction 2 was found to contain one β -linked glucose [Glc β] residue, three β -linked galactose [Gal β (I), Gal β (II), and Gal β (III)] residues, two β -linked *N*-acetylglucosamine [GlcNAc β (I) and GlcNAc β (II)] residues, one α -linked fucose [Fuc α (I)] residue, and one α -linked *N*-acetylneuraminic acid [NeuAc α (I)] residue. In a similar manner, 2D HOHAHA spectra were measured for fractions 3 and 4, and the sugar components were identified, as shown in Figure 2b, 3b, and 2c, 3c, respectively. On comparison with the 2D HOHAHA spectrum of sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide (Kitagawa et al., 1988b), fraction 2 was found to contain one β -linked *N*-acetylglucosamine [GlcNAc β (II)] residue and one β -linked galactose [Gal β (III)] residue in addition. Fractions 3 and 4 contain additionally one α -linked fucose [Fuc α (II)] residue and one

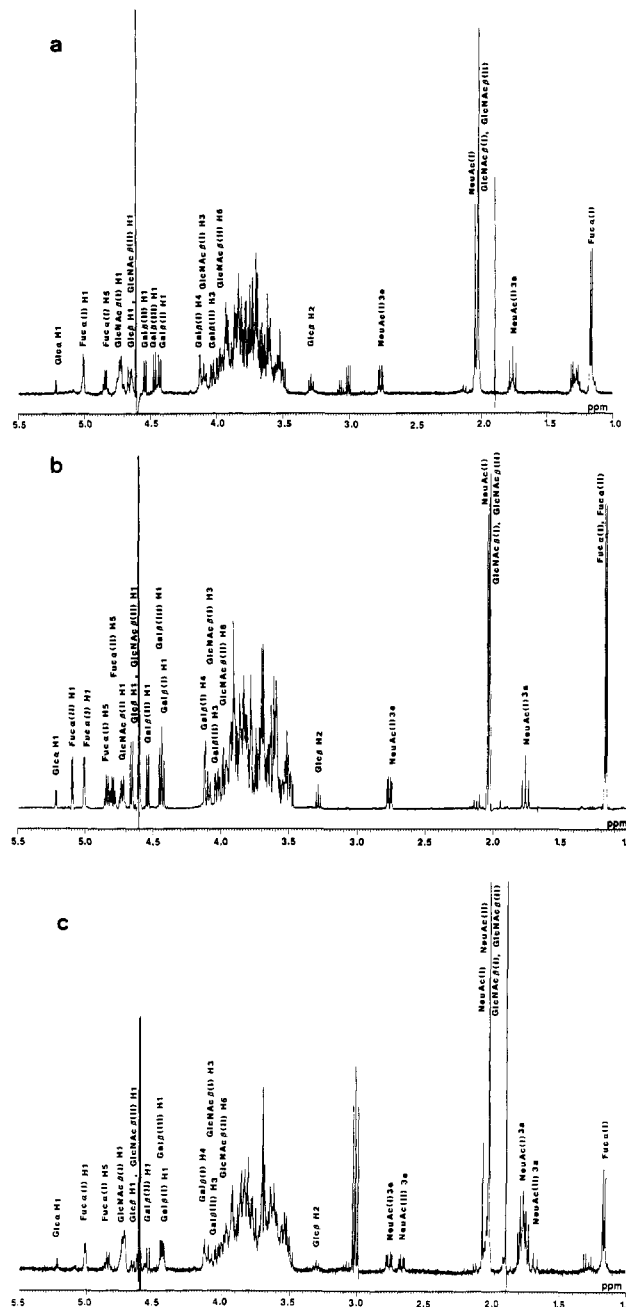


FIGURE 2: 500-MHz ^1H NMR spectra of the three oligosaccharides found in HPLC fractions (a) 2, (b) 3, and (c) 4; 300, 500, and 250 μg of fractions 2, 3, and 4, respectively, were dissolved in 150 μL of D_2O in microcells. Base-line correction was performed to remove the background around 4.7 ppm. Due to water suppression by homogated decoupling, the resonances around HDO were suppressed.

α -linked *N*-acetylneuraminic acid [NeuAc α (II)] residue, respectively, attached to the fraction 2 octasaccharide. In Table I, the chemical shifts of the structural reporter group protons of the constituent monosaccharides of sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide and fractions 2–4 are summarized. The linkages of GlcNAc β (II), Gal β (III), NeuAc α (II), and Fuca α (II) in the oligosaccharides were subsequently examined on the basis of the 2D HOHAHA spectra by use of the structural reporter groups, as established by Vliegthart et al. (van Halbeek et al., 1982; Vliegthart et al., 1983; Lamblin et al., 1984; Klein et al., 1988; Breg et al., 1988). The H2, H3, and H4 resonances of GlcNAc β (II) shifted downfield when Fuca α (II) was attached to fraction 2 (see Figure 3a,b), suggesting that this fucose residue is attached to GlcNAc β (II) in fraction 3. The chemical shift of Fuca α (II) H1 in fraction 3 was 5.093 ppm,

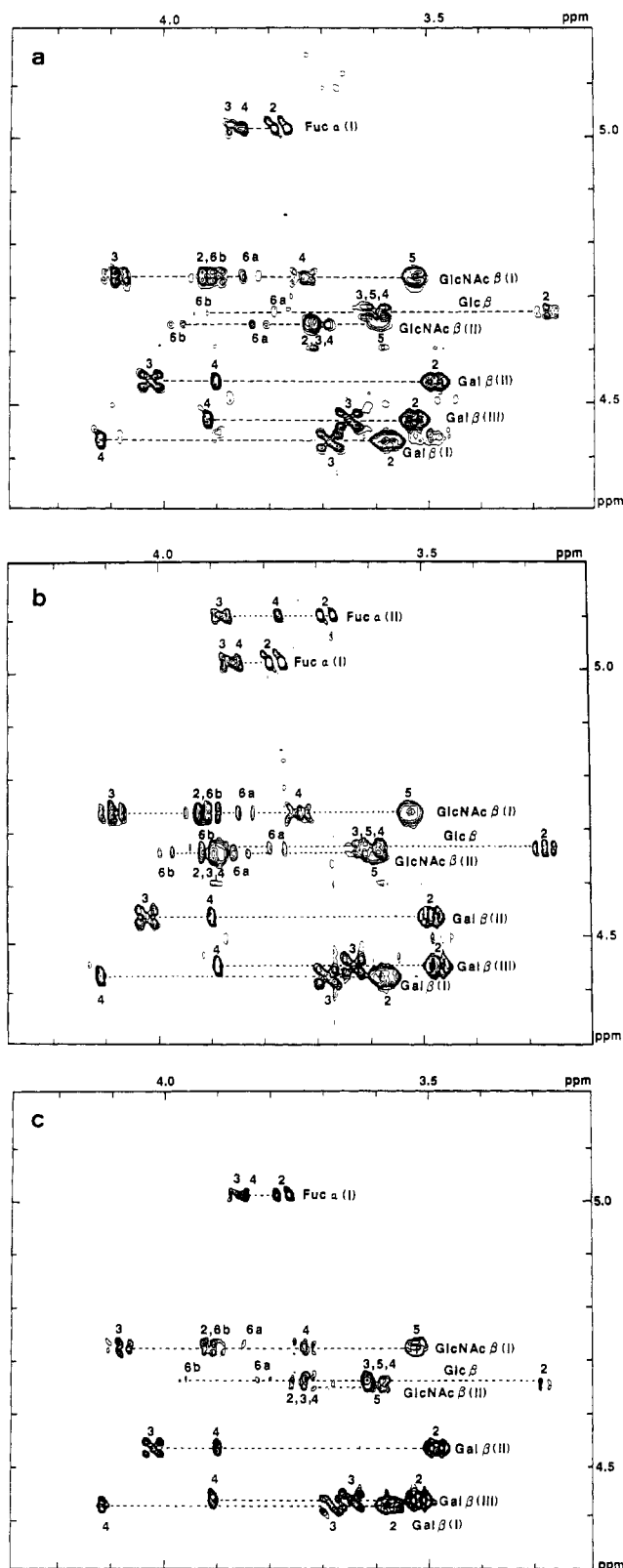


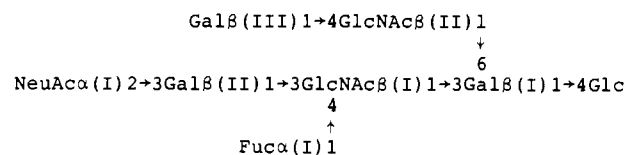
FIGURE 3: Cross-peak regions of anomeric proton resonances and other sugar proton resonances of 2D HOHAHA spectra of fractions (a) 2, (b) 3, and (c) 4. The mixing time was 100 ms. Cross peaks due to magnetization transfer from the anomeric proton resonances of individual sugar components are connected by horizontal lines with the assignments of cross peaks.

which is characteristic of the $\text{Fuc}\alpha 1 \rightarrow 3$ linkage (van Halbeek et al., 1982; Lamblin et al., 1984; van Halbeek, 1984; Klein et al., 1988; Breg et al., 1988). Moreover, the chemical shift of $\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{II})$ H6b was observed at 3.994 ppm, which is consistent with the $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{III})(1 \rightarrow 4)\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{II})$ linkage (van

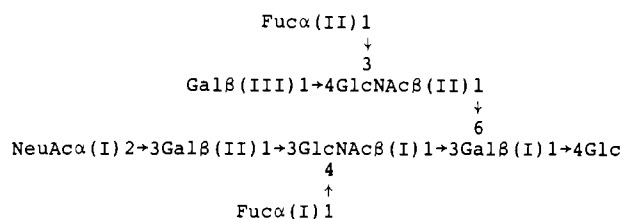
Halbeek et al., 1982; Lamblin et al., 1984; van Halbeek, 1984). Taking these observations together, it was concluded that fractions 2 and 3 comprise the groups $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{III})(1 \rightarrow 4)\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{II})$ and $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{III})(1 \rightarrow 4)[\text{Fuc}\alpha(\text{II})(1 \rightarrow 3)]\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{II})$, respectively, attached to sialyl- Le^a hexasaccharide.

The linkage between $\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{II})$ and sialyl- Le^a hexasaccharide was then studied. All the sugar proton resonances of $\text{Glc}\beta$ and $\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{I})$, and the H1-4 proton resonances of $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{I})$ and $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{II})$ in fractions 2-4 were found to be quite similar to those in sialyl- Le^a hexasaccharide. However, a significant upper field shift of H4 of $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{I})$, i.e., from 4.139 (sialyl- Le^a hexasaccharide) (Kitagawa et al., 1988b) to 4.123 (fraction 2), was observed, which indicates the presence of the $\text{GlcNAc}\beta(\text{II})(1 \rightarrow 6)\text{Gal}\beta(\text{I})$ linkage in fraction 2, as pointed out by van Halbeek (1984). This linkage has been reported to occur in the neutral oligosaccharides from human milk (Kobata & Ginsburg, 1972; Yamashita et al., 1976; Tachibana et al., 1978). $\text{NeuAc}\alpha(\text{II})$ is present in fraction 4. The chemical shifts of H3e and H3a of $\text{NeuAc}\alpha(\text{II})$ (2.667 and 1.693 ppm, respectively) are characteristic of the $\alpha 2 \rightarrow 6$ linkage (Vliegthart et al., 1983). A small but significant difference was observed in the signal patterns between fractions 2 and 4 for $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{III})$ (Figure 3a,c), indicating the occurrence of the $\text{NeuAc}\alpha(\text{II})(2 \rightarrow 6)\text{Gal}\beta(\text{III})$ linkage in fraction 4. It should be noted that the occurrence of $\text{Fuc}\alpha(\text{II})(1 \rightarrow 3)\text{GlcNAc}(\text{II})$ in fraction 3 also causes a similar downfield shift of H1 of $\text{Gal}\beta(\text{III})$. Thus, the structures of fractions 2-4 were deduced to be

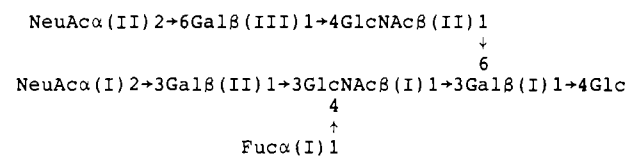
fraction 2



fraction 3



fraction 4



Analysis of the Oligosaccharides by Fast Atom Bombardment-Mass Spectrometry (FAB-MS). Negative ion FAB-MS (Figure 4) of the three oligosaccharides corresponding to HPLC fractions 2-4 gave molecular ions $(M - H)^-$ of 1508, 1654, and 1799, respectively. These results are consistent with the structures proposed on the basis of the results of 500-MHz ^1H NMR spectroscopy described above. However, it was not possible to obtain fragment ions. Bombardment of a reducing oligosaccharide with a xenon beam seems to result in random fragmentation of the whole oligosaccharide molecule.

Immunoreactivity of the Milk Oligosaccharides. By use of G-50I-coated assay plates, the immunoreactivities of the oligosaccharides with the antibodies MSW 113 and NS 19-9

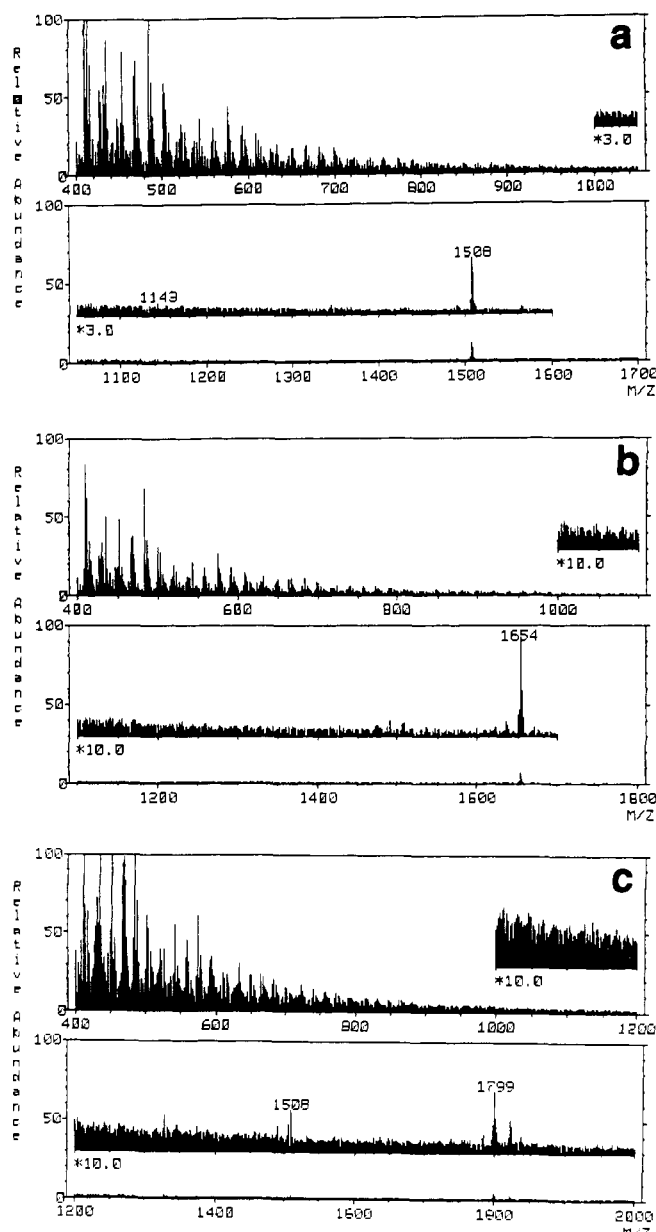


FIGURE 4: Negative ion fast atom bombardment-mass spectra of the three oligosaccharides found in HPLC fractions (a) 2, (b) 3, and (c) 4.

were compared with respect to their inhibitory activities toward the antigen-antibody reaction, as shown in Figure 5. Sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide and the three novel oligosaccharides with the sialyl-Le^a structure reacted with MSW 113 to similar extents. In contrast, the reactivities of these three novel oligosaccharides with NS 19-9 were at least 30-fold less on a molar basis compared to sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide.

DISCUSSION

Many monoclonal antibodies that recognize cellular antigens associated with differentiation and malignant transformation are directed toward oligosaccharides constituting glycoproteins or glycolipids on the cell surface (Magnani, 1986). Isolation of these antigens generally requires laborious, multistep chemical and/or physical separation procedures, with monitoring of the immunological reactivities of the antigens at each purification step (Magnani et al., 1987). Recently, affinity purification of oligosaccharides from complex mixtures using monoclonal antibodies attached to a solid matrix was successfully achieved (Zopf et al., 1987; Kitagawa et al., 1988b;

Table I: Chemical Shifts (ppm) of Structural Reporter Group Protons of the Constituent Monosaccharides for Sialyl-Le^a Hexasaccharide and the Oligosaccharides Found in HPLC Fractions 2-4

residue	¹ H	chemical shift in			
		sialyl-Le ^a	2	3	4
Glcβ	H1	4.656	4.658	4.658	4.660
Galβ(I)	H1	4.434	4.424	4.426	4.428
	H4	4.139	4.123	4.118	4.122
GlcNAcβ(I)	H1	4.729	4.725	4.726	4.723
	H3	4.098	4.095	4.095	4.095
Galβ(II)	H1	4.539	4.537	4.536	4.537
	H3	4.032	4.031	4.031	4.031
Fuca(I)	H1	5.002	5.005	5.005	5.008
	H5	4.837	4.836	4.836	4.837
	H6	1.168	1.168	1.167	1.168
NeuAca(I)	H3e	2.762	2.762	2.762	2.762
	H3a	1.761	1.760	1.763	1.762
GlcNAcβ(II)	H1		4.651	4.648	4.654
	H6b		3.984	3.994	3.989
Galβ(III)	H1		4.464	4.443	4.437
Fuca(II)	H1			5.093	
	H5			4.795	
	H6			1.167	
NeuAca(II)	H3e				2.667
	H3a				1.693

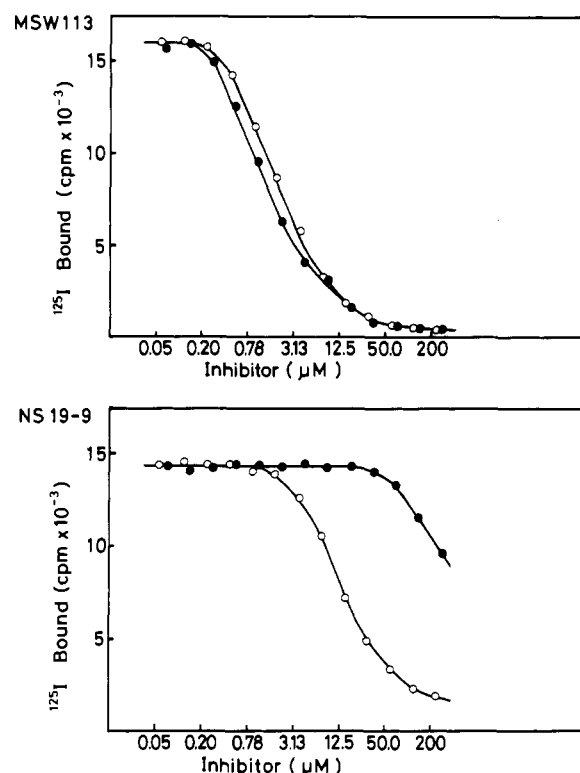


FIGURE 5: Reactivities with MSW 113 and NS 19-9 of the oligosaccharides with the sialyl-Le^a structure from human milk. (O) Sialyl-Le^a hexasaccharide (NeuAca2→3Galβ1→3(Fuca1→4)-GlcNAcβ1→3Galβ1→4Glc); (●) novel oligosaccharides with the sialyl-Le^a structure (see the structures in the Abstract). The reactivities of these three oligosaccharides were indistinguishable.

Dakour et al., 1988; Mårtensson et al., 1988). This includes our work, in which a monoclonal antibody, MSW 113, was successfully used for the isolation of an antigenic oligosaccharide from human milk. This work was further extended to the isolation of a family of novel oligosaccharides from pooled human milk.

Previously, we determined the structure of one of the oligosaccharides that reacted with MSW 113, on the basis of the results of 500-MHz ¹H NMR and FAB-MS analyses, which

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Structure and Protein Environment of the Retinal Chromophore in Light- and Dark-Adapted Bacteriorhodopsin Studied by Solid-State NMR[†]

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ABSTRACT: Our previous solid-state ¹³C NMR studies on bR have been directed at characterizing the structure and protein environment of the retinal chromophore in bR₅₆₈ and bR₅₄₈, the two components of the dark-adapted protein. In this paper, we extend these studies by presenting solid-state NMR spectra of light-adapted bR (bR₅₆₈) and examining in more detail the chemical shift anisotropy of the retinal resonances near the ionone ring and Schiff base. Magic angle spinning (MAS) ¹³C NMR spectra were obtained of bR₅₆₈, regenerated with retinal specifically ¹³C labeled at positions 12-15, which allowed assignment of the resonances observed in the dark-adapted bR spectrum. Of particular interest are the assignments of the ¹³C-13 and ¹³C-15 resonances. The ¹³C-15 chemical resonance for bR₅₆₈ (160.0 ppm) is upfield of the ¹³C-15 resonance for bR₅₄₈ (163.3 ppm). This difference is attributed to a weaker interaction between the Schiff base and its associated counterion in bR₅₆₈. The ¹³C-13 chemical shift for bR₅₆₈ (164.8 ppm) is close to that of the *all-trans*-retinal protonated Schiff base (PSB) model compound (~162 ppm), while the ¹³C-13 resonance for bR₅₄₈ (168.7 ppm) is ~7 ppm downfield of that of the 13-*cis* PSB model compound. The difference in the ¹³C-13 chemical shift between bR₅₆₈ and bR₅₄₈ is opposite that expected from the corresponding ¹⁵N chemical shifts of the Schiff base nitrogen and may be due to conformational distortion of the chromophore in the C₁₃=C₁₄-C₁₅ bonds. We have also obtained spectra of dark-adapted bR regenerated with retinal ¹³C labeled at positions 1-4, 16, and 17. The chemical shifts of the ¹³C-1 (34.5 ppm), ¹³C-2 (42.7 ppm), ¹³C-3 (18.6 ppm), and ¹³C-4 (34.6 ppm) resonances in bR are very close to their values in the *all-trans* PSB model compound. This indicates that the perturbation previously observed near the β-ionone ring is localized near C-5. The spin-lattice relaxation times (T₁) of the ¹³C-16,17 bR resonances of ~1.2 s are closer to the T₁'s of 6-*s-trans* model compounds than to those of 6-*s-cis* model compounds, confirming the previous solid-state NMR determination of a 6-*s-trans* chromophore in the protein.

Absorption of light by the retinal chromophore in bacteriorhodopsin (bR)¹ initiates a cyclic photochemical reaction which drives the transport of protons across the cell membrane of *Halobacterium halobium* [for reviews, see Birge (1981) and Stoeckenius and Bogomolni (1982)]. The structure of bR's retinal prosthetic group and its interaction with specific binding site protein residues determine in large part its efficiency as a light-energy converter. Spectroscopic methods have revealed many of the details of the proton translocation process.

Resonance Raman (Smith et al., 1985; Terner & El-Sayed, 1985; Stockburger et al., 1986) and FTIR spectroscopy (Engelhardt et al., 1985; Dollinger et al., 1986; Braiman et al., 1987) have been used to study chromophore structural changes and protein protonation changes during the bR photocycle, while visible absorption studies of bR regenerated with dihydro derivatives of retinal have provided evidence for protein charges (or dipoles) near the β-ionone ring of the chromophore (Nakanishi et al., 1980; Lugtenburg et al., 1986; Spudich et al., 1986). Solid-state NMR spectroscopy has also been used to probe the structure of bR and has provided specific information on the chromophore's C₆-C₇ single-bond conformation and C=N double-bond configuration, as well as the location of specific protein perturbations in the retinal binding site

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¹ Abbreviations: bR, bacteriorhodopsin; bR₅₆₈, light-adapted bacteriorhodopsin; bR₅₄₈, 13-*cis* component of dark-adapted bacteriorhodopsin; MAS, magic angle spinning; PSB, protonated Schiff base; ppm, parts per million; SB, unprotonated Schiff base; TMS, tetramethylsilane.