complex defects in the brain and may have high control over nerve terminal function and dysfunction in the brain.

doi:10.1016/j.bbabio.2008.05.178

S7/2 Modulation of glucose consuming pathways by nitric oxide in neurons: Impact on survival

Juan P. Bolanos[a], Maria Delgado-Esteban[a,b], Angeles Almeida[a,b]
[a]*Departamento de Bioquimica y Biologia Molecular, Universidad de Salamanca-Instituto de Neurociencias de Castilla y Leon, Salamanca, Spain*
[b]*Unidad de Investigacion, Hospital Universitario de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain*
E-mail: jbolanos@usal.es

Besides its essential role at regulating neural functions through cyclic GMP, nitric oxide is emerging as an endogenous physiological modulator of energy conservation for the brain. Thus, nitric oxide inhibits cytochrome *c* oxidase activity in neurones and glia, resulting in down-regulation of mitochondrial energy production. The subsequent increase in AMP facilitates the activation of 5′-AMP-dependent protein kinase, which rapidly triggers the activation of 6-phosphofructo-1-kinase–the master regulator of the glycolytic pathway–and Glut1 and Glut3–the main glucose transporters in the brain. In addition, nitric oxide activates glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, the first and rate-limiting step of the pentose-phosphate pathway. Here, we review recent evidences suggesting that nitric oxide exerts a fine control of neuronal energy metabolism by tuning the balance of glucose-6-phosphate consumption between glycolysis and pentose-phosphate pathway. This may have important implications for our understanding of the mechanisms controlling neuronal survival during oxidative stress and bioenergetic crisis.

doi:10.1016/j.bbabio.2008.05.179

S7/3 Oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction

Simon Heales, John Land, Simon Pope
Department of Molecular Neuroscience, Institute of Neurology and Neurometabolic Unit, National Hospital, Queen Square, London, UK
E-mail: sheales@ion.ucl.ac.uk

Increased generation of reactive oxygen/nitrogen species and subsequent impairment of the mitochondrial electron transport chain is implicated in the neurodegenerative process. Within the brain, neuronal and astroglial cells may display differential susceptibility to oxidant exposure. Thus, astrocytes can up regulate glutathione availability and, in response to mitochondrial damage, glycolytic flux. While neuronal cells do not appear to possess such mechanisms, neuronal glutathione status may be enhanced due to the trafficking of glutathione precursors from the astrocyte. However, when antioxidant reserves are not sufficient or the degree of oxidative stress is particularly great, mitochondrial damage occurs, particularly at the level of complex IV (cytochrome oxidase). Although the exact mechanism for the loss of activity of this enzyme complex is not known, it is possible that loss and/or oxidative modification of the phospholipid, cardiolipin (CL) is a critical factor. CL is documented to be essential for maximal complex IV activity and is reported to be susceptible to oxidative modification. In order to investigate this suggestion further we have evaluated the effects of peroxynitrite exposure on tissue CL status. Preliminary data revealed loss of functional CL and increased formation of oxidised CL. Furthermore, this oxidation of CL is prevented in the presence of antioxidant molecules such as reduced glutathione and the vitamin E analogue, trolox. Supported by SPARKS (UK).

doi:10.1016/j.bbabio.2008.05.180

S7/4 The effect of calcium on the generation of reactive oxygen species in brain mitochondria

Vera Adam-Vizi, Laszlo Tretter, Zsofia Komary
Department of Medical Biochemistry, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary
E-mail: av@puskin.sote.hu

Calcium as well as reactive oxygen species (ROS) is a key factor in the pathogenesis of several neurodegenerative diseases but it is unclear how calcium regulates the production of ROS in mitochondria. We present evidence that calcium in >1 μM concentration significantly decreases the rate of production of hydrogen peroxide in brain mitochondria supported by succinate or glutamate plus malate in the absence of adenine nucleotides or inhibitors of the respiratory chain. The effect of calcium on the hydrogen peroxide generation was more robust in mitochondria respiring on succinate. The reduced rate of hydrogen peroxide production paralleled a calcium-induced sustained depolarization, loss of NAD(P)H fluorescence and decreased calcein fluorescence signal indicating an increased permeability of mitochondria. In the presence of ADP the calcium-induced NAD(P)H loss and swelling were prevented, hydrogen peroxide generation was decreased but not reduced further by calcium. With glutamate plus malate as substrate, but not with succinate, β-OH-butyrate, or malate alone, calcium, in the presence of ADP induced an increase in the NAD(P)H level and in the membrane potential. It is suggested that an increased permeability of the mitochondrial membrane induced by calcium is a crucial factor in the decreased ROS generation induced by calcium due to depolarization and loss of pyridine nucleotides.

doi:10.1016/j.bbabio.2008.05.181

S7/5 Loss of NAD(H) limits mitochondrial respiration after neonatal cerebral hypoxic ischemia

Gary Fiskum, Zara Mehrabian, Tibor Kristian
Trauma and Anesthesiology Research Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
E-mail: gfiskum@anes.umm.edu

The aim of this study was to determine if loss of mitochondrial NAD(H) is responsible for impaired respiration and Ca^{2+} uptake capacity observed with mitochondria isolated after neonatal cerebral hypoxic ischemia (H/I). Postnatal day 7 rats were placed under 7% O_2 for 75 min 24 h after surgical occlusion of the right carotid artery. Animals were sacrificed 20 min after transfer to 21% O_2 and mitochondria were isolated from the ipsilateral (H/I) and contralateral (H) hemispheres. Respiration was reduced by 30% and Ca^{2+} uptake by over 50% in HI compared to H mitochondria, using malate plus glutamate but not succinate (+rotenone) as oxidizable substrates. Addition of 2 mM NAD^+ to the medium resulted in complete reversal of respiratory inhibition and impaired Ca^{2+} uptake for HI mitochondria without any effect on succinate-dependent respiration and either respiration or Ca^{2+} uptake by H mitochondria. Measurements of NAD(H) present in mitochondrial extracts indicated a 30% reduction in HI mitochondria. These and other results suggest that mitochondrial NAD(H) is lost during H/I through transient opening of the permeability transition pore. Reversal of respiratory inhibition by added