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THE EFFECT OF HYDROXYLAMINE ON TRANSPORT ATPASE

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SUMMARY

When pig brain microsomes or NaI-treated microsomes are preincubated with ATP and NH_2OH , phosphorylation from $[\gamma\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{ATP}$ in the presence of Mg^{2+} plus Na^+ is inhibited by 80% or more, whereas hydrolysis is only slightly reduced. This shows that NH_2OH is capable of reacting with the native enzyme, and various explanations for these findings are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

When preparations from a variety of tissues of $(\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+)\text{-activated Mg}^{2+}$ -dependent ATPase are incubated with $[\gamma\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{ATP}$, a phosphoenzyme is formed^{1,2}. Since it has been shown that NH_2OH dephosphorylates the acid-precipitated proteins, and that, using labelled *N*-propyl hydroxylamine, a γ -glutamyl hydroxamate can be isolated from the hydrolysate³ it would appear that the phosphate is bound to a γ -glutamyl carboxyl group in the enzyme.

On this basis, NH_2OH might be expected to inhibit the enzyme, which is not what has been found^{4,5}. One possible explanation for this finding is that NH_2OH does not react with the γ -glutamyl phosphate when the enzyme is in its native configuration. However, in the presence of certain metals⁶ or when microsomes are treated with deoxycholate⁷ or with electric organ ATPase⁸ NH_2OH does inhibit transport ATPase.

In the case of pig brain microsomes, NH_2OH does not appear to inhibit the ATPase reaction. However, preincubation with ATP, cations and NH_2OH significantly lowers phosphorylation, but does not appreciably alter hydrolysis. These data have been presented in preliminary form⁹.

METHODS

Pig brain microsomes were prepared by previously described methods¹⁰ and treated with NaI by the method of NAKAO *et al.*¹¹. NH_2OH was prepared from the hydrochloride by reaction with sodium methoxide in methanol followed by fractional distillation. $[\gamma\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{ATP}$ was prepared by a minor modification of the method of GLYNN AND CHAPPELL¹².

$(\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+)\text{-ATPase}$ activity was assayed in a solution containing, in 1 ml, 1 mg enzyme protein, 20 mM Tris buffer, pH 7.4, 1 mM Tris-ATP, 1 mM MgCl_2 , and, as necessary, 100 mM NaCl and 20 mM KCl. Following 20 min incubation at

37°, protein was precipitated with 10% trichloroacetic acid and the phosphate analyzed by the FISKE-SUBBAROW procedure¹⁸. Alternatively, for short incubation times, 1 mM [γ -³²P]ATP was used, and the phosphomolybdate samples extracted into isobutanol and counted. A standard curve was run to correct for non-extracted counts.

Preincubation was carried out at 37° for 30 min in the presence of 10 mM Na₂ATP, 10 mM MgCl₂ with or without 1 M NH₂OH and in the case of the NaI-treated microsomes with the addition of 20 mM KCl. The preparation was centrifuged and washed 3 times with the addition of 10 mM acetyl phosphate in the first wash to remove residual NH₂OH. Omission of the acetyl phosphate was found not to affect the results, and hence was omitted in later experiments.

The enzyme was then resuspended, and the same preparation assayed for ATPase activity as above, and for Na⁺-dependent phosphorylation as detailed below.

The treated enzyme was incubated at 0° for 15 sec with 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 1 mM tris- $[\gamma$ -³²P]ATP, 1 mM MgCl₂ with or without 100 mM NaCl. The protein was precipitated by 10% trichloroacetic acid containing 3 mM ATP and 10 mM inorganic phosphate, washed 3 times, suspended in hyamine hydroxide, and aliquots of the solution were counted in a liquid scintillation counter.

All reagents were reagent grade and dissolved in double glass distilled water.

RESULTS

The ATPase present in microsomal fractions from pig brain is stimulated by the presence of Na⁺ *plus* K⁺. In this particular preparation there was a 2-fold increase of activity when Na⁺ and K⁺ were present. The stimulation was increased by NaI treatment, when a 6-fold stimulation was seen with the addition of Na⁺ *plus* K⁺.

Addition of 1 M NH₂OH directly to the incubation mixture did not significantly inhibit the (Na⁺ + K⁺)-ATPase activity, and only slightly increased the activity when assayed in the presence of Mg²⁺ *plus* Na⁺. Phosphorylation, however, was significantly reduced. These data are summarized in Table I for the NaI-treated microsomes.

When microsomes or NaI-treated microsomes were preincubated at 37° with ATP, NH₂OH or ATP *plus* NH₂OH, there was a non-selective reduction in the specific activity of the preparation and a slight reduction in the (Mg²⁺ + Na⁺ + K⁺)/Mg²⁺ ratio.

When untreated microsomes were used for the preincubation experiments

TABLE I

ATPase ACTIVITY AND PHOSPHORYLATION USING NaI-TREATED MICROSOMES

Additions	Hydrolysis (μ moles P _i /mg protein)	Phosphorylation (μ moles P _i /mg protein)
Mg ²⁺	0.74	182
Mg ²⁺ , NH ₂ OH	0.80	104
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺	0.91	1232
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺ , NH ₂ OH	1.03	228
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺ , K ⁺	4.10	206
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺ , K ⁺ , NH ₂ OH	3.75	191

TABLE II
UNTREATED MICROSOMES

Assay	Preincubation conditions					
	ATP, Na ⁺		NH ₂ OH, Na ⁺		ATP, NH ₂ OH, Na ⁺	
	Hydrolysis*	Phosphorylation**	Hydrolysis*	Phosphorylation**	Hydrolysis*	Phosphorylation**
Mg ²⁺	0.64 ± 0.07	32 ± 6	0.41 ± 0.09	26 ± 10	0.90 ± 0.10	16 ± 8
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺	0.70 ± 0.09	257 ± 17	0.88 ± 0.09	239 ± 22	0.76 ± 0.12	21 ± 15
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺ , K ⁺	1.33 ± 0.12	—	1.22 ± 0.05	—	1.26 ± 0.19	—

* Hydrolysis is expressed in μ moles P_i released/mg protein \pm S.D. (n = 5).** Phosphorylation is expressed as pmoles P_i incorporated/mg protein \pm S.D. (n = 5).TABLE III
NaI-TREATED MICROSOMES

Assay	Preincubation conditions					
	ATP, Na ⁺ , K ⁺		HN ₂ OH, Na ⁺ , K ⁺		ATP, NH ₂ OH, Na ⁺ , K ⁺	
	Hydrolysis*	Phosphorylation**	Hydrolysis*	Phosphorylation**	Hydrolysis*	Phosphorylation**
Mg ²⁺	0.50 ± 0.06	125 ± 19	0.60 ± 0.04	200 ± 20	0.4 ± 0.13	115 ± 39
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺	0.61 ± 0.04	1500 ± 89	0.66 ± 0.03	1100 ± 114	0.052 ± 0.19	325 ± 74
Mg ²⁺ , Na ⁺ , K ⁺	2.14 ± 0.21	—	1.90 ± 0.30	—	1.93 ± 0.17	—

* Hydrolysis is expressed as μ moles P_i released/mg protein \pm S.D. (n = 5).** Phosphorylation is expressed as pmoles P_i incorporated/mg protein \pm S.D. (n = 5).

in the presence of ATP and Na⁺, in addition to NH₂OH there was significant inhibition of phosphorylation, with little effect on the hydrolysis rate relative to the ATP or NH₂OH preincubated enzyme (Table II).

In the case of the NaI-treated enzyme, preincubation affected neither hydrolysis nor phosphorylation. However, if K⁺ was added to the preincubation, phosphorylation was significantly depressed, with little effect on hydrolysis (Table III). In the absence of K⁺, the data obtained were not significantly different from those of column 1 in Table III.

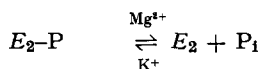
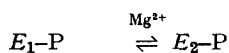
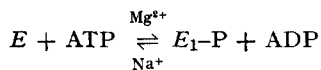
With both these preparations, therefore, the phosphorylation reaction can apparently be dissociated from the overall hydrolysis rate provided both ATP and NH₂OH are present in the preincubation. Neither of these agents alone are effective, and in the case of NaI treatment there is an additional requirement for K⁺ in the preincubation.

The hydrolysis rate tested in the presence of Mg²⁺ plus Na⁺ was not significantly increased.

Using short incubation times for both hydrolysis and phosphorylation did not affect the pattern of the above data, and extending the time for phosphorylation studies to 1 min incubation did not substantially increase the amount of protein-bound phosphate detected.

DISCUSSION

The current view of ATP hydrolysis is that there are two intermediates formed in the reaction:



Ouabain prevents the breakdown of $E_2\text{-P}$ in the presence of K^+ , whereas *N*-ethyl maleimide prevents the interconversion of the two forms of the intermediate^{14, 15}.

Various explanations are possible for the findings reported, which fall into two general groups:

The effect is due to the presence of unreacted NH_2OH in the assay medium

1. NH_2OH dephosphorylates the denatured enzyme. This is unlikely since NH_2OH is not an effective nucleophile under these conditions of low pH.

2. NH_2OH accelerates the breakdown of $E_2\text{-P}$: If the breakdown of $E_2\text{-P}$ is rate limiting, as would be suggested by the effect of K^+ on the overall reaction, and the quantity of $E_2\text{-P}$ detected in the presence of K^+ , then the reaction rate tested in the presence of Mg^{2+} *plus* Na^+ would increase. Since it does not, NH_2OH does not act by increasing the rate of breakdown of $E_2\text{-P}$, if this is rate-limiting.

3. NH_2OH reduces the formation rate of $E_2\text{-P}$: In the case of the enzyme reaction in the presence of Mg^{2+} *plus* Na^+ , it is considered that ATP hydrolysis is catalyzed by an Mg^{2+} -ATPase different from the $(\text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+)\text{-ATPase}$. Since, therefore, the overall rate is independent of $E_2\text{-P}$, the formation of $E_2\text{-P}$ could be completely inhibited without an effect on hydrolysis. In the presence of K^+ , however, where $E_2\text{-P}$ is considered to be the intermediate of the $(\text{Mg}^{2+} + \text{Na}^+ + \text{K}^+)\text{-enzyme}$, slowing of formation of $E_2\text{-P}$ would not affect the overall reaction rate, depending on the relative rates of formation and breakdown of $E_2\text{-P}$. If the rate of formation of $E_2\text{-P}$ is rate limiting reduction of $E_2\text{-P}$ by the presence of NH_2OH would therefore lead to inhibition of hydrolysis. Since this does not occur, breakdown of $E_2\text{-P}$ must be rate limiting, to the extent that 80% inhibition of formation can occur without affecting the overall hydrolysis.

These above explanations depend on the continuing presence of an effective concentration of NH_2OH and do not account for the necessity of ATP in the reaction mixture.

The requirement for ATP in obtaining an effect of NH_2OH preincubation suggests that NH_2OH reacts with the enzyme, and that the effects observed are not due to contamination with unreacted NH_2OH , since ATP would not be expected to affect this.

An alternative view is that NH_2OH reacts with the enzyme:

NH₂OH effects are due to the presence of reacted NH₂OH

1. NH₂OH reacts with the γ -glutamyl phosphate forming the hydroxamate. In this case, if the hydroxamate breakdown is slow, even in the presence of K⁺, hydrolysis should be inhibited, if the phosphate is an intermediate.

2. NH₂OH reacts with other groups in the enzyme protein or lipid component and alters the sensitivity of E₂-P to trichloroacetic acid or other denaturing agents.

BADER *et al.*¹⁶ have recently suggested that the effects of NH₂OH may be accounted for by the presence of a variable amount of metal in the enzyme preparation. They used concentrations of 20 mM, whereas in this work 1 M NH₂OH was used. At lower concentrations, NH₂OH reacts slowly with carboxyl phosphate compounds, hence the effects of 20 mM NH₂OH are probably accounted for by some internal rearrangement of a metal from a storage to an inhibitory site. At 1 M, however, one would predict, as happened for the trichloroacetic acid-denatured protein, formation of the hydroxamate, with attendant inhibition of phosphorylation which, in part, occurs.

Consideration of the fast and slow labelling from ATP and ITP has also led SKOU¹⁷ to suggest that the covalent phosphorylated intermediates in the ATPase reaction may be absent in the Na⁺ *plus* K⁺ hydrolysis.

Clearly, a variety of nucleophilic or carboxyl groups directed reagents should be used to clarify the complex action of NH₂OH on the enzyme and to establish the necessity of the γ -glutamyl phosphate intermediate in the presence of both Na⁺ and K⁺.

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