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c-src LOCUS DETERMINES INCREASED RATE OF Na+,K+-COTRANSPORT AND INCREASED CALCIUM CONTENT IN $(SHR \times WKY)F_2$ HYBRID ERYTHROCYTES

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Spontaneously hypertensive Okamoto-Aoki rats, (SHR, Wistar-Kyoto strain) are nowadays used as an experimental model of essential hypertension in man, for which they are the closest prototype [7]. In both forms of pathology characteristic disturbances have been found in the cation-transport function of the plasma membrane in various types of cells (the so-called membrane defect), and the key role of these disturbances in the pathogenesis of these forms of primary hypertension has been demonstrated [5]. Further development of these investigations has shown that a high proportion of these membrane disturbances can be reproduced by activating intracellular protein kinases, and it has been suggested that products of cell oncogenes may participate in the genesis of the membrane disturbances in these forms of hypertension [4, 6]. Recently, by the method of restriction analysis of DNA of SHR rats and of WKY controls to them (normotensive Wistar-Kyoto rats) interlinear polymorphism of the c-src locus was found, characterized by SHR (srcs) and WKY (srcw, HindIII: 3.4 kbp, srcs, 4.1 kbp, srcW; PstI: 4 kbp, srcS, 4.6 kbp, srcW) alleles [1].

In the investigation described below linking of c-src alleles with Na, K-cotransport and the calcium content in erythrocytes (in the presence of the Ca-ATPase inhibitor, Na VO ,), was studied for the first time in (SHR × WKY)F, hybrids. Previously work wiith such hybrids demonstrated positive correlation of the above-mentioned parameters with the blood pressure [2].

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

Male second generation hybrids between SHR and WKY, aged 8 weeks, were used. They were obtained by crossing F_1 sibs, progenies of SHR σ × WKY ϕ and SHR ϕ × WKY σ pairs. SHR and WKY rats were obtained in 1973 from the Montreal Institute of Clinical Research, and both lines of rats were maintained under strict genetic supervision in the animal house of the laboratory.

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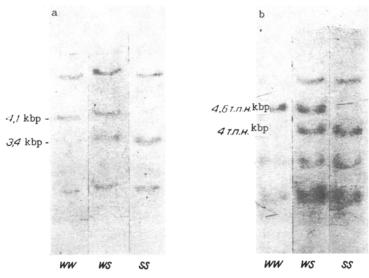


Fig. 1. Blot hybridization of DNA of $(SHR \times WKY)F_2$ c v-src hybrids. Restriction: a) HindIII, b) PstI. WW, SS) Homozygous genotype, WS) heterozygous genotype.

TABLE 1. Physicochemical Properties of Erythrocytes of $(SHR \times WKY)F_2$ Hybrids Differing in c-src Genotype

Serial No.	Group of of animals	n	Na,K-ATPase	Na,K-cotransport	(Ouabain + furo- semide) insensitive component of ^{8 6} Rb entry	Ca, µmoles/ liter of cells
		μmoles/liter cells/h			cells/h	
1 2 3 4 5	F ₂ -WW F ₂ -SS F ₂ -WS WKY SHR \$\rho_{1,2}\$ \$\rho_{1,3}\$ \$\rho_{4,5}\$	8 4 14 5 5	1631±124 1899±251 1874±101 1647±181 1808±195 NS NS NS	251±24 448±96 379±22 298±36 431±50 0,03 0,002 0,05	1536±77 1736±107 1578±38 1601±89 1588±95 NS NS	19,08±0,76 24,14±1,80 22,22±1,55 21,08±1,93 40,71±3,14 0,02 0,03 <0,001

The procedure of taking blood, obtaining erythrocytes, and determining Na,K-ATPase activity (ouabain-inhibited component of the rate of entry of ⁸⁶Rb), the Na,K-cotransport (ouabain + furosemide), and the insensitive component of the rate of entry of ⁸⁶Rb, and the quantity of calcium accumulated by erythrocytes in the presence of orthoxanadate, were all determined by methods described previously [3, 6].

Isolation of DNA from rat liver tissue, and restriction and electrophoresis of the DNA were carried out as described in [1]. DNA transfer was carried out in 0.4 M NaOH on a nylon membrane (Zeta-probe, Bio-Rad, USA). Insertion of the v-src gene was labeled by nick-translation in the presence of one radioactive nucleotide. Specific activity of the label was not less than 5×10^7 cpm, and its concentration 2×10^6 cpm/ml of hybridization buffer. Hybridization was carried out at 42°C in buffer: 50% formamide, $5 \times SSC$, 0.5% "Blotto" dried milk, 0.1 mg/ml yeast tRNA, and 1% SDS. The sample was washed for 2×15 min successively with $1 \times SSC$, $0.5 \times SSC$ at 20° , $0.2 \times SSC$, and $0.1 \times SSC$ at 65° C in the presence of 0.1% SDS. The duration of exposure was 10-14 days at -70° C.

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

On the basis of detection of restriction fragments corresponding to src^S and src^W alleles, the male hybrids were divided into three groups: src^{SS} (n = 4), src^{WS} (n = 14), and src^W (n = 8). Hybridization maps corresponding to these genotypes are shown in Fig. 1. Genotypes determined on the basis of HindIII and PstI restriction fragments coincided in all cases. Table 1 gives mean values of Na,K-ATPase, Na,K-cotransport, passive entry of Rb[†], and the calcium content, calculated for groups of hybrids formed in accordance with their genotypes for the src locus. It will be clear from Table 1 that the value of Na,K-cotransport for the group of hybrids with src^{WW} genotype coincides with the corresponding values for WKY and differs substantially from src^{WW} , which has intermediate value, and src^{SS} , coinciding with the

value of SHR. These data definitely indicate that the c-src locus belongs to the part of the genome determining the magnitude of Na⁺,K⁺-cotransport. Analysis of the situation, when one feature is quantitative, makes isolation of crossover individuals and, correspondingly, calculation of the probability of linkage, difficult. Nevertheless, the absence of individuals with the srcww genotype, and of values of Na,K-cotransport for srcws falling within the confidence interval, and vice versa, is evidence of the sufficiently close linkage of c-src with the locus determining the magnitude of Na,K-cotransport. However, strict proof of their identity requires analysis of a larger number of individuals and of additional DNA markers close to c-src.

The calcium content in src^{WW} erythrocytes was the same as that in WKY, and lower than in src^{WS} and src^{SS} which, in turn, was substantially lower than in SHR. The Ca⁺⁺ concentration is evidently controlled by several unlinked genes, and the locus inherited as linked with c-src has a significant effect on this trait.

The results are evidence that a fragment of the genome close to the c-src gene determines the magnitude of Na,K-cotransport and affects the calcium content in the erythrocytes — parameters which correlate with the blood pressure in F_2 hybrids [2].

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