

GTP γ S and phorbol ester act synergistically to stimulate both Ca²⁺-independent secretion and phospholipase D activity in permeabilized human platelets

Inhibition by BAPTA and analogues

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We have tested the hypothesis that phospholipase D (PLD) is the effector of the unidentified G protein (G_E) mediating Ca²⁺-independent exocytosis in platelets. Although GTP γ S, and to a lesser extent phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA), caused some secretion of 5-HT from electroporabilized human platelets in the effective absence of Ca²⁺ (pCa > 9), these stimuli had much more potent synergistic effects when added together. In all cases, secretion of 5-HT was closely correlated to the stimulus-induced formation of [³H]phosphatidic acid ([³H]PA) from [³H]arachidonate-labelled phospholipids. Addition of ethanol inhibited both secretion and [³H]PA formation and led to the accumulation of [³H]phosphatidylethanol ([³H]PET), indicating that [³H]PA was formed largely by activation of PLD. BAPTA and analogues caused dose-dependent inhibitions of both GTP γ S-induced secretion and PLD activity in the permeabilized platelets. This action of BAPTA did not appear to be mediated by chelation of Ca²⁺ or by direct inhibition of protein kinase C (PKC). The results suggest that PLD is the target of G_E in platelets and that BAPTA can block PLD activation.

GTP γ S; Phosphatidic acid; Phospholipase D; BAPTA; Secretion; Permeabilized platelet

1. INTRODUCTION

A previous study from this laboratory [1] showed that GTP γ S can induce the Ca²⁺-independent secretion of both dense and α -granule constituents from electroporabilized human platelets without causing stimulation of phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C. This action of GTP γ S was dependent on PKC activity [2] and was potentiated by phorbol ester (PMA) [1,2]. Similar studies with other permeabilized cells, particularly neutrophils [3], HL-60 cells [4] and RINm5F cells [5], in which Ca²⁺-independent secretion was observed, and with mast cells in which Ca²⁺ was required [6,7], have led Gomperts and colleagues to propose that an unidentified G protein, designated G_E , may mediate GTP γ S-induced exocytosis (reviewed in [8]). Since treatment of rabbit platelets with PMA enhances the ability of GTP γ S to stimulate PLD in membrane preparations

[9], we have suggested that PLD may be the effector of G_E in platelets [1]. In the present study, we have investigated this possibility and have demonstrated a close correlation between the Ca²⁺-independent release of a dense granule constituent (5-HT) and activation of PLD in permeabilized human platelets incubated with GTP γ S and/or PMA.

There is evidence that the Ca²⁺-chelator BAPTA [10] can inhibit GTP γ S-induced secretion from a number of cell types by a mechanism that may be unrelated to its ability to bind Ca²⁺ ions [11]. Thus in electroporabilized platelets, the secretion of both dense granule and lysosomal constituents in response to GTP γ S was abolished by 20 mM BAPTA but not by 20 mM EGTA, although the equilibrium affinities of these compounds for Ca²⁺ were similar under the conditions of these experiments [12]. In permeabilized neutrophils, much less GTP γ S-induced secretion of β -glucuronidase was seen in the presence of BAPTA than of EGTA [3]. Finally, dibromo-BAPTA (4 mM) inhibited GTP γ S-induced exocytosis from mast cells, despite the presence of Ca²⁺ [13]. Since these actions of BAPTA have not been adequately explained, we investigated the effects of BAPTA and analogues on both the Ca²⁺-independent secretion of 5-HT from permeabilized platelets and the associated activation of PLD. The results provide further evidence of a role for PLD in secretion.

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Abbreviations: PLD, phospholipase D; GTP γ S, guanosine 5'-[γ -thio]triphosphate; PMA, phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate; PA, phosphatidic acid; PET, phosphatidyl-ethanol; BAPTA, 1,2-bis(*o*-aminophenoxy)ethane-*N,N,N',N'*-tetraacetic acid; PKC, protein kinase C

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Materials

[5,6,8,9,11,12,14,15-³H]Arachidonic acid (100 Ci/mmol) and [γ -³²P]ATP (3000 Ci/mmol) were obtained from Du Pont, Mississauga, ON, Canada, and [*side-chain*-2-¹⁴C]5-HT (55 mCi/mmol) from Amersham, Oakville, ON, Canada. GTP γ S was from Boehringer Mannheim, Laval, PQ, Canada, and PMA and BAPTA from Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA. BAPTA was also obtained from Fluka, Ronkonkoma, NY, USA. 5,5'-Dibromo-BAPTA was from Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR, USA and 5,5'-dinitro-BAPTA was a generous gift from Dr. M.P. Charlton, Department of Physiology, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada. Other materials were from sources listed previously [1,14].

2.2. Labelling and electroporation of platelets

Human platelets, isolated as described previously [14], were resuspended at 5×10^9 /ml in citrated plasma, pH 6.5, and incubated at 37°C for 1.5 h with [³H]arachidonate (5 μ Ci/ml). [¹⁴C]5-HT was added in three equal amounts during the last 30 min (to a final concentration of 0.25 μ Ci/ml). The platelets were then washed in Ca²⁺-free Tyrode's solution containing 5 mM PIPES (pH 6.5) and 0.35% (w/v) bovine serum albumin and, after addition of 5 mM EGTA, were permeabilized by high-voltage electric discharges [14]. The permeabilized platelets were cooled to 4°C, freed from low- M_r solutes by gel filtration [14] and eluted in a medium (pH 7.4) containing 3.9 mM MgCl₂ and the potassium salts of glutamic acid (160 mM), HEPES (20 mM), EDTA (2.5 mM) and EGTA (2.5 mM). ATP (final concentration 5 mM) was added to the eluate, which was adjusted to contain 5×10^8 platelets/ml. This suspension was stored at 0°C until used (30–60 min).

2.3. Incubations

All samples of permeabilized platelet suspension were first equilibrated for 15 min at 0°C with an additional 10 mM EGTA (to give a pCa > 9 even after release of platelet Ca²⁺ [1]), with sufficient MgCl₂ to give 5.0 mM Mg²⁺_{free} and with any other additions. Concentrations of added MgCl₂ were calculated using binding constants given elsewhere [10,15]. After equilibration, samples (final vol. 0.4 ml containing 1.6×10^8 platelets) were incubated for 10 min at 25°C before measurement of [¹⁴C]5-HT secretion in 0.05 ml portions [14] and extraction of lipids from the remainder [16]. [³H]PA and [³H]PEt were then isolated by t.l.c. [17] and counted for ³H as in [9]. Basal values for extracellular [¹⁴C]5-HT and for ³H-labelled lipids were obtained from permeabilized platelet suspension stored at 0°C and subtracted from values obtained after incubations. These corrections were very small for [¹⁴C]5-HT and [³H]PEt, but significant [³H]PA was present prior to incubations. To normalize results from different experiments, ³H-labelled lipids were expressed as percentages of total platelet ³H. In some experiments, PKC activation was measured in small samples of permeabilized platelet suspension (0.1 ml) containing [γ -³²P]ATP (16 μ Ci) by determining the phosphorylation of its major substrate, pleckstrin [1,14].

3. RESULTS

3.1. Relationship between secretion and [³H]PA formation

In the absence of additions, incubation of permeabilized platelets at a pCa > 9 did not lead to [¹⁴C]5-HT secretion, though some [³H]PA was formed (Fig. 1). However, equilibration of the platelets with 100 μ M GTP γ S, or even with 100 nM PMA, caused significant secretion of [¹⁴C]5-HT at pCa > 9 and enhanced [³H]PA formation. Moreover, when added together, these stimuli induced a much more marked secretion that was on average 2.2-fold greater than the sum of their individual effects (Fig. 1A). In these experiments, the effect of

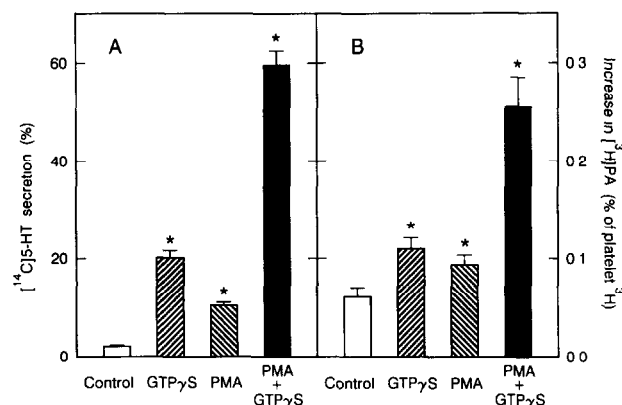


Fig. 1. Effects of GTP γ S and PMA on Ca²⁺-independent 5-HT secretion and PA formation in permeabilized platelets. Samples of labelled permeabilized platelets were incubated with no stimulus (control), 100 μ M GTP γ S, 100 nM PMA or 100 μ M GTP γ S and 100 nM PMA, as indicated. Secretion of [¹⁴C]5-HT (A) and the increases in [³H]PA (B) were determined. To normalize results from different experiments, [³H]PA was expressed as a percentage of the total ³H in the permeabilized platelets; basal [³H]PA (0.071 \pm 0.004% of platelet ³H) was subtracted. Values shown are means \pm S.E. from all experiments ($n = 17$); the significance of changes was evaluated by two-sided paired t -tests (* $P < 0.001$).

PMA alone was weaker and the synergism between GTP γ S and PMA stronger than in a previous study at pCa > 9 [1] in which the [Mg²⁺_{free}] was 2.7 mM, rather than 5.0 mM. Measurement of [³H]PA accumulation in the same experimental samples (Fig. 1B) showed that the stimulus-induced formation of this phospholipid closely paralleled secretion. In particular, the increases in [³H]PA caused by simultaneous addition of GTP γ S and PMA amounted to 2.4-fold the sum of the increases they induced individually.

3.2. Role of PLD activity in [³H]PA formation

Since phosphoinositide-specific phospholipase C activity was not detected in permeabilized platelets incubated at pCa > 9 [1], the role of PLD in [³H]PA formation was evaluated. The decreases in the amounts of [³H]PA formed on addition of ethanol and the associated accumulation of [³H]PEt by transphosphatidylolation were used as measures of PLD activity [17]. Addition of 400 mM ethanol markedly inhibited the accumulation of [³H]PA caused by GTP γ S alone or by GTP γ S and PMA (Fig. 2A); in three separate experiments, these inhibitions amounted to $64 \pm 7\%$ and $74 \pm 7\%$, respectively (mean values \pm S.E.). These actions of ethanol were associated with the formation of amounts of [³H]PEt comparable to or larger than the decreases in [³H]PA (Fig. 2B). When present together, GTP γ S and PMA had markedly supra-additive effects on [³H]PEt formation (Fig. 2B), showing that these stimuli acted synergistically to increase PLD activity. Although ethanol had little effect on [³H]PA accumulation in platelets incubated with PMA alone, [³H]PEt formation was al-

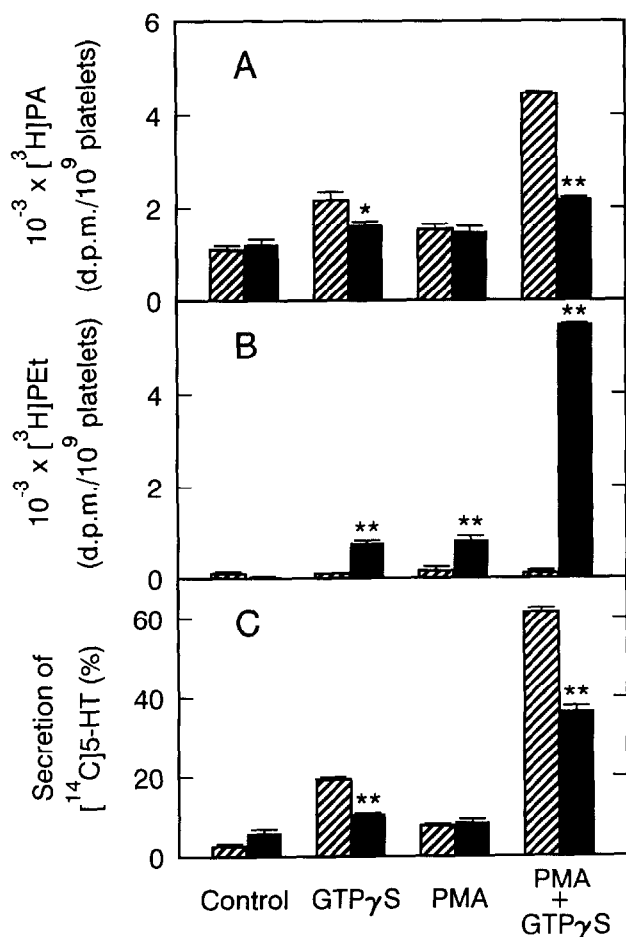


Fig. 2. Effects of ethanol on Ca^{2+} -independent PA and PEt formation and on the associated 5-HT secretion. Samples of labelled permeabilized platelets were incubated with no stimulus (control), 100 μM GTP γ S, 100 nM PMA or 100 μM GTP γ S and 100 nM PMA, in each case in the absence (▨) and presence (■) of 400 mM ethanol. The formation of both $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ (A) and $[^3\text{H}]\text{PEt}$ (B) and the secretion of $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ (C) were determined. Values are means \pm S.E. from triplicate incubations in a single experiment; significant effects of ethanol (two-sided unpaired *t*-test) are shown: * $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$.

ways observed. However, in control incubations with ethanol, little or no $[^3\text{H}]\text{PEt}$ was detected and ethanol tended to increase rather than decrease $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ accumulation, though this was rarely significant in individual experiments (Fig. 2A). These results indicate that stimulus-induced $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ formation is largely attributable to PLD activity, whereas in control incubations, $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ appears to be formed by other mechanisms.

Ethanol (400 mM) markedly inhibited $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ secretion induced by GTP γ S or by GTP γ S and PMA (Fig. 2C); these inhibitions amounted to $74 \pm 3\%$ and $47 \pm 3\%$, respectively (means \pm S.E.; 3 experiments). However, ethanol had no significant effect on the weak secretion caused by PMA alone (Fig. 2C). This observation may, in part, be explained by a small increase in $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ secretion caused by ethanol in control samples. As a whole, these results demonstrate a correlation between the effects of ethanol on the accumulation of $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ attributable to PLD activation and its effect on $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ secretion. The residual secretion observed in the presence of ethanol correlated with both the residual stimulus-induced $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ accumulation and with $[^3\text{H}]\text{PEt}$ formation.

3.3. Inhibition of 5-HT secretion and PLD activation by BAPTA and analogues

High (mM) concentrations of BAPTA have been reported to inhibit Ca^{2+} -independent secretion from permeabilized cells, including platelets [11,12]. The results in Table I confirm this and show that BAPTA also inhibited the increases in $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ caused by GTP γ S and/or PMA. To study the relationship between the effects of BAPTA on secretion and PLD activity, $[^3\text{H}]\text{PEt}$ formation was measured in the presence of 200 mM ethanol, which inhibited the secretion of $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ induced by GTP γ S alone and by GTP γ S with PMA by only $34 \pm 4\%$ and $15 \pm 2\%$, respectively (mean values \pm S.E., 5 experiments). Under these conditions, the IC_{50} for inhibition of the GTP γ S-induced secretion of $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$

Table I

Effects of BAPTA on Ca^{2+} -independent 5-HT secretion, PA formation and pleckstrin phosphorylation in permeabilized platelets

| Additions | Secretion of $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ (8%) | | $10^{-3} \times$ Increase in $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ (d.p.m./ 10^9 platelets) | | ^{32}P in pleckstrin (pmol/ 10^9 platelets) | |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|--|------------------|
| | - BAPTA | + BAPTA | - BAPTA | + BAPTA | - BAPTA | + BAPTA |
| None | 3 ± 1 | 4 ± 0 | 3.3 ± 0.4 | 2.9 ± 0.4 | 101 ± 8 | 73 ± 6 |
| GTP γ S | 26 ± 1 | $7 \pm 1^{**}$ | 5.7 ± 0.3 | $3.6 \pm 0.1^{**}$ | 219 ± 8 | $111 \pm 2^{**}$ |
| PMA | 12 ± 1 | $8 \pm 1^*$ | 5.2 ± 0.5 | $3.8 \pm 0.1^*$ | 329 ± 3 | 320 ± 25 |
| GTP γ S + PMA | 51 ± 3 | $25 \pm 1^{**}$ | 12.3 ± 0.8 | $7.6 \pm 0.5^*$ | 319 ± 9 | 326 ± 7 |

Samples of labelled permeabilized platelets were incubated with no stimulus, 100 μM GTP γ S, 100 nM PMA or 100 μM GTP γ S and 100 nM PMA, in each case in the absence and presence of 10 mM BAPTA. The secretion of $[^{14}\text{C}]\text{5-HT}$ and formation of $[^3\text{H}]\text{PA}$ were determined from triplicate incubations in the same experiment. $[\gamma\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{ATP}$ was added to additional duplicate samples for measurement of pleckstrin phosphorylation. Values are means \pm S.E.; the significance of the effects of BAPTA was evaluated by two-sided unpaired *t*-tests (* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$).

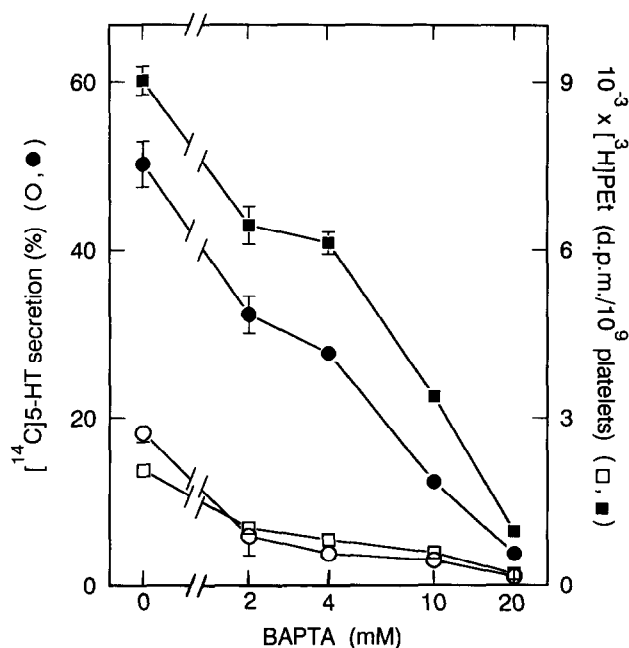


Fig. 3. Inhibition of Ca^{2+} -independent 5-HT secretion and PEt formation by BAPTA. Samples of labelled permeabilized platelets were incubated with the indicated concentrations of BAPTA and either 100 μM GTP γ S (○, □) or 100 μM GTP γ S and 100 nM PMA (●, ■), in each case in the presence of 200 mM ethanol. Secretion of [¹⁴C]5-HT (○, ●) and the formation of [³H]PEt (□, ■) were determined. Values are means \pm S.E. from triplicate incubations in the same experiment.

by BAPTA was less than 2 mM, whereas the IC_{50} for inhibition of the synergistic effect of GTP γ S and PMA was about 5 mM (Fig. 3). The results also show that BAPTA caused parallel dose-dependent inhibitions of PLD activation ([³H]PEt formation). In five separate experiments, 10 mM BAPTA inhibited GTP γ S-induced secretion and [³H]PEt formation by $71 \pm 3\%$ and $64 \pm 5\%$, respectively, whereas the corresponding effects of GTP γ S with PMA were inhibited by $66 \pm 3\%$ and $52 \pm 3\%$, respectively (mean values \pm S.E.). Dibromo-BAPTA was considerably more effective than BAPTA as an inhibitor of both the Ca^{2+} -independent [¹⁴C]5-HT secretion and [³H]PEt formation induced by GTP γ S with PMA; 1 mM dibromo-BAPTA and 4 mM BAPTA were roughly equipotent (Table II). Dinitro-BAPTA had effects on secretion and PLD activity intermediate between those of BAPTA and dibromo-BAPTA (not shown).

To investigate the mechanism of action of BAPTA, the phosphorylation of pleckstrin during Ca^{2+} -independent secretion from permeabilized platelets was also studied (Table I). BAPTA (10 mM) did not affect the phosphorylation of this protein induced by PMA added with or without GTP γ S, indicating that BAPTA did not directly inhibit PKC. However, BAPTA did inhibit the phosphorylation of pleckstrin caused by GTP γ S alone,

suggesting that PA formed by PLD, or a PA metabolite, may activate PKC.

4. DISCUSSION

The results provide three independent lines of evidence consistent with the hypothesis [1] that the target of G_E in the platelet is PLD. First, GTP γ S and PMA acted synergistically in permeabilized platelets to stimulate both Ca^{2+} -independent secretion of 5-HT and PLD activity, whether the latter was measured as the accumulation of [³H]PA in the absence of ethanol or of [³H]PEt in the presence of ethanol. This synergistic activation of PLD is in accord with a previous report in which rabbit platelet membranes were studied [9], as well as with recent work on permeabilized HL-60 cells [18]. Second, ethanol inhibited the GTP γ S-induced secretion of 5-HT from permeabilized platelets and caused comparable decreases in [³H]PA accumulation, which were attributable to the formation of [³H]PEt by PLD-catalysed transphosphatidylolation. Similar effects of ethanol on stimulus-induced PA accumulation and secretion in intact mast cells [19] and differentiated HL-60 cells [20] have been cited as evidence of a role for PLD in these cells. Third, BAPTA and analogues caused parallel concentration-dependent inhibitions of GTP γ S-induced secretion and PLD activity in permeabilized platelets, despite the presence of sufficient EGTA to give a $p\text{Ca} > 9$. This unexpected result not only greatly strengthens the correlation between secretion and PLD activity, but can also explain previously reported anomalous inhibitory effects of BAPTA and analogues on secretion from permeabilized platelets [12] and other cells [3,11,13]. It is of interest that dibromo-BAPTA, which has an equilibrium affinity for Ca^{2+} about tenfold lower than that of BAPTA [10,21], was about fourfold more potent than BAPTA as an inhibi-

Table II

Comparison of the inhibitory effects of dibromo-BAPTA and BAPTA on Ca^{2+} -independent secretion and PLD activity in permeabilized platelets

| Inhibitor | Secretion of [¹⁴ C]5-HT (%) | $10^{-3} \times$ Increase in [³ H]PEt (d.p.m./ 10^9 platelets) |
|----------------------|---|--|
| None | 41 ± 2 | 9.6 ± 0.4 |
| Dibromo-BAPTA (1 mM) | $27 \pm 1^*$ | 7.9 ± 0.7 |
| Dibromo-BAPTA (4 mM) | $8 \pm 1^*$ | $3.2 \pm 0.1^*$ |
| BAPTA (4 mM) | $23 \pm 1^*$ | $7.4 \pm 0.2^*$ |

Samples of labelled permeabilized platelets were incubated with 100 μM GTP γ S and 100 nM PMA in the presence of 200 mM ethanol and the indicated concentrations of dibromo-BAPTA or BAPTA. The secretion of [¹⁴C]5-HT and formation of [³H]PEt were determined from triplicate incubations in the same experiment; values are means \pm S.E. The significance of changes was evaluated by two-sided unpaired *t*-tests (* $P < 0.05$).

tor of secretion and PLD activity. Although BAPTA binds Ca^{2+} more rapidly than does EGTA [10], which may account for the ability of the former to block neurotransmitter release [22], differences in the Ca^{2+} -binding kinetics of these chelating agents are unlikely to explain the present results. Thus, we have observed similar inhibitions of $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ -stimulated secretion and PLD activity by BAPTA in the presence of Ca^{2+} buffered to a final pCa of 6 [2]. Moreover, dinitro-BAPTA, which has little or no Ca^{2+} -binding capacity [21], was slightly more potent than BAPTA as an inhibitor of secretion and PLD activity in our experiments. We conclude that BAPTA and analogues do not inhibit secretion by chelation of Ca^{2+} . In addition, BAPTA did not appear to exert a direct inhibitory effect on PKC in permeabilized platelets and may therefore act on either G_E or PLD itself.

Although our results are most simply explained if activation of PLD by a hypothetical G_E mediates the stimulation of secretion by $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$, more complex mechanisms involving multiple GTP-binding proteins and target enzymes cannot easily be excluded, particularly in intact cells. However, the absence of significant $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ -induced inositol phosphate or diacylglycerol formation in permeabilized platelets at pCa > 9 [1,2] indicates that phospholipase C activity has no role in secretion under the conditions of the present study. Moreover, although preliminary work shows that $\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ and PMA act synergistically to stimulate phospholipase A_2 at pCa > 9, inhibition of this enzyme did not affect secretion from permeabilized platelets (Coorssen, Davidson and Haslam, in preparation). These considerations focus attention on the possibility that PA generated by PLD acts as a second messenger that mediates secretion from platelets. A similar role for PLD has also been suggested by others working with mast cells [19], HL-60 cells [20] and pancreatic islets [23]. However, in intact human platelets, PLD activity accounts for only 10–20% of the total PA that accumulates after stimulation by thrombin [2,24]; most of the PA is formed by the sequential actions of phospholipase C and diacylglycerol kinase. Thus, a major role for PLD in secretion from intact platelets is only likely if the PA generated by this enzyme differs in its fatty acid composition or, more plausibly, in its subcellular localization from that formed as a result of phospholipase C activity. Some support for this possibility is provided by our observation that the PA accumulating in control incubations of permeabilized platelets was formed by a PLD-independent mechanism and was not associated with secretion. There are multiple mechanisms through which PA generated by PLD might enhance secretion. These include activation of PKC, as suggested by the

$\text{GTP}\gamma\text{S}$ -induced phosphorylation of pleckstrin [1], stimulation of other protein kinases [25], effects on factors that regulate low- M_r GTP-binding proteins [26] and a direct membrane-fusogenic action [27].

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