

Intramolecular migration of co-ordinated platinum from a sulfur to N⁷ in the nucleopeptide Met-d(TpG) (5'-O-methioninate-N-ylcarbonylthymidine 2'-deoxyguanosine monophosphate)[†]

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The nucleopeptide Met-d(TpG) (5'-O-methioninate-N-ylcarbonylthymidine 2'-deoxyguanosine monophosphate), containing a methionine moiety covalently linked to a TpG dinucleotide, upon reaction with platinum complexes, initially yielded platinum co-ordination to the sulfur atom, which subsequently is substituted by the N⁷ atom of guanine for the reaction with monofunctional [Pt(dien)Cl]Cl (dien = diethylenetriamine); in the case of the cisplatin analogue [Pt(en)Cl₂] (en = ethane-1,2-diamine) formation of a stable S,N chelate takes place.

Platinum anticancer drugs are believed to exert their therapeutic action through interactions with DNA, the ultimate target being the N⁷ of guanine.^{1,2} At present it is not clear how the Pt species reaches the DNA, as platinum(II) complexes are known to react rapidly with sulfur-donor ligands, such as those found in the amino acids cysteine and methionine. Currently there is much interest in studying the interaction of platinum complexes with sulfur-containing proteins and peptides, since these interactions are likely to play an important role in platinum metabolism.^{3,4} Platinum-sulfur interactions have been associated with the negative side effects of platinum treatment, as well as with the development of resistance.⁵

It has been shown recently that both inter- and intramolecular displacement of platinum(II) of the S-bound thioethers by guanine N⁷ can occur,^{3,4,6} implying that DNA platination might occur *in vivo* after intermediate interactions with thioether-containing biomolecules.

However, the molecules used so far, S-guanosyl-L-homocysteine and methionine, suffer from the fact that at pH 7 other groups may also compete, *e.g.* NH₂ and COO⁻. Therefore a molecule is required in which only thioether and nucleobase atoms are available. Consequently the nucleopeptide model Met-d(TpG) **1** (5'-O-methioninate-N-ylcarbonylthymidine 2'-deoxyguanosine monophosphate) (Fig. 1) has been designed and synthesized;[‡] this model species contains methionine which is covalently linked through a carbamate linkage to a bis(2'-deoxynucleotide). A competition study was undertaken in platinum co-ordination between the sulfur and the N⁷ of guanine at physiological pH.

The nucleopeptide **1** (3 mM) was first reacted with [Pt(dien)Cl]Cl (dien = diethylenetriamine) in a 2:1 ratio to avoid a possible excess of the platinum complex. The reaction was carried out in D₂O in an NMR tube (310 K, pH 7) and monitored by ¹H NMR spectroscopy.[§] The signals corresponding to the H⁸ of guanine and the SCH₃ provided information on the course of the reaction.

Two monofunctional complexes [Pt(dien){Met-d(TpG)-S}]⁺ **1** and [Pt(dien){Met-d(TpG)-N⁷}]⁺ **2** were found to be formed subsequently. The H⁸ of the guanine of free Met-d(TpG), observed at δ 8.04, and the SCH₃ signal at δ 2.06, are taken as monitors for the reaction. Within 2 h of incubation with [Pt(dien)Cl]Cl the intensity of the SCH₃ peak had decreased to half its original intensity and an additional peak appeared at δ 2.52 with equal intensity, and the intensity of the H⁸ signal also decreased by 50% and an additional peak appeared 0.02 ppm downfield, both being indicative for a 1:1 adduct. These signals have been assigned to the SCH₃ and H⁸ of complex **1**, clearly indicating that the platinum is co-ordinated to the thioether function. After prolonged incubation the intensity of the peak at δ 2.52 gradually decreased, whilst the intensity of the singlet at δ 2.06 returned to its original value. The H⁸ region shows the simultaneous appearance of a singlet at δ 8.45, 0.39 ppm downfield from the free H⁸ signal. This signal has been assigned to the H⁸ of complex **2**. The H⁶ signal of thymine was found to be slightly shifted downfield to δ 7.45 (from δ 7.30). Co-ordination to the N⁷ of guanine was confirmed by a pH titration, showing the absence of a N⁷ protonation effect on the H⁸ resonance at low pH. The rearrangement of complex **1** into **2** was found to be complete after 6 d at room temperature. Complex **2** proved to be a stable end product of the reaction.

Repeating the above experiment in a ratio 1:2 {for **1**: [Pt(dien)Cl]Cl} revealed that within 2 h the methionine moiety was platinated; in this case subsequent platination of N⁷ was found to be completed after 15 h. On the basis of the downfield shift of both H⁸, H⁶ and SCH₃ the end product has unambiguously been determined to be complex **3**, [Pt(dien)₂{Met-d(TpG)-N⁷,S}]³⁺, in which both the thioether and the N⁷ are platinated. Formation of these complexes is schematically depicted in Scheme 1.

In a next step the behaviour of a bifunctional platinum compound was investigated. The reaction of nucleopeptide **1** with

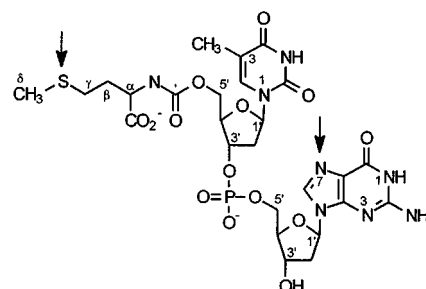


Fig. 1 Schematic structure of nucleopeptide Met-d(TpG) **1**, arrows indicate possible platination sites

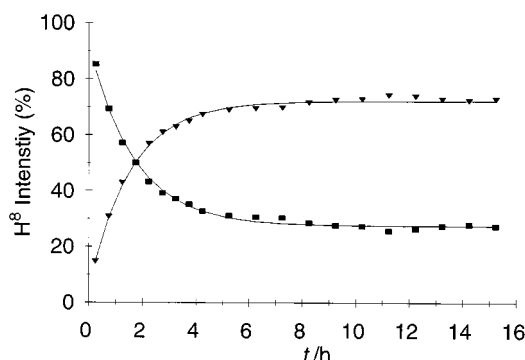
[†] Based on the presentation given at Dalton Discussion No. 2, 2nd–5th September 1997, University of East Anglia, UK.

[‡] Met-d(TpG) has been synthesized from methionine, 5'-deoxyribosylthymine and 5'-deoxyguanosine. Successful introduction of the carbamate linkage required easily removable protecting groups and use of 1-hydroxybenzotriazole hydrate in the carbonyldiimidazole-mediated coupling reaction. The synthesis has been described in more detail elsewhere.⁶

[§] The complexes [Pt(dien)Cl]Cl and [Pt(en)Cl₂] (en = ethane-1,2-diamine) were prepared by methods previously described.^{7,8} All platination reactions were performed at nucleopeptide concentrations of 3 mM in D₂O at 310 K, pH was adjusted to 7. The pH meter readings were not corrected for deuterium isotope effects. The NMR spectra were recorded on a 300 MHz Bruker DPX300 spectrometer in D₂O at 310 K at pH 7, unless indicated otherwise. Proton NMR spectra were calibrated against NMe₄NO₃ [at δ 3.18 with respect to sodium 3-(trimethylsilyl)propanesulfonate].

Table 1 Relevant ^{13}C chemical shifts for **1** and complex **4** in ppm relative to sodium phosphate in D_2O at 293 K at pH 7 ($t_2 = 100$ min)

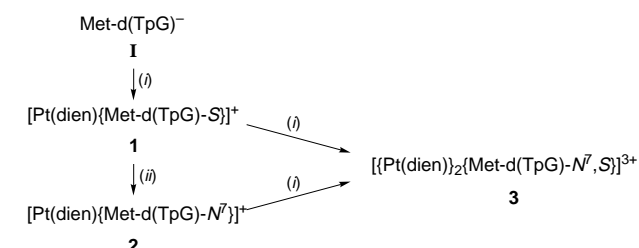
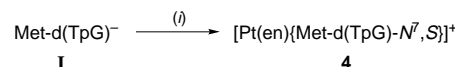
	$\text{G}^2\text{-C}$	$\text{G}^4\text{-C}$	$\text{G}^8\text{-C}$	$\alpha\text{-C}$	$\beta\text{-C}$	$\gamma\text{-C}$	$\delta\text{-C}$	CO
1 Met-d(TpG) $^-$	154.6	152.0	137.3	54.7	30.2	31.2	14.8	178.0
4 [Pt(en){Met-d(TpG)-S,N 7 }] $^+$	155.7	155.8	141.5	54.5	30.0	38.3	19.5	175.9
			141.9			39.4	20.3	

**Fig. 2** Plot of relative intensity of H^8 signals versus time for the reaction of Met-d(TpG) **1** (■) with $[\text{Pt}(\text{en})\text{Cl}_2]$ to give complex **4** (▼) at pH 7 at 310 K

$[\text{Pt}(\text{en})\text{Cl}_2]$ (4:3 ratio, *i.e.* a slight excess of the nucleopeptide) was monitored under the same conditions as mentioned above. Co-ordination of the $\text{Pt}(\text{en})$ unit to the sulfur atom of the thioether function was found to proceed slower than for $\text{Pt}(\text{dien})$ and appeared to be completed within 10 h, resulting in a broadened peak for SCH_3 (δ 2.51, +0.45 ppm). The intensity of the free H^8 signal decreased simultaneously with that of the free SCH_3 signal, and a new signal appeared 0.51 ppm downfield from the free H^8 signal. The variation in intensity of the H^8 protons versus time is plotted in Fig. 2 ($t_2 = 100$ min). The nearly simultaneous decrease of intensity of the peaks corresponding to the free SCH_3 and H^8 indicates platination of the sulfur atom to be the rate-limiting step, followed by a fast chelation step yielding a stable chelate between the sulfur atom and the N^7 of the guanine moiety, complex **4**, $[\text{Pt}(\text{en})\{\text{Met-d}(\text{TpG})\text{-N}^7, \text{S}\}]^+$. No subsequent displacement of the S-bound thioether by N^7 was observed even after prolonged standing in the presence of unreacted nucleopeptide **1**. The reaction is depicted in Scheme 2.

The preparation of complex **4** was also repeated on a larger scale in a 1:1 ratio. Platination of N^7 was confirmed by monitoring the pH-dependent behaviour of proton H^8 in the NMR spectrum. Carbon-13 NMR spectroscopy confirmed chelation of N^7 and the sulfur in the methionine moiety. Carbon-13 chemical shifts most affected by platination are listed in Table 1 for **1** and for complex **4**. Most apparent are the splittings and downfield shifts by 8.2/7.1 ppm and 5.5/4.7 ppm for the $\gamma\text{-C}$ and $\delta\text{-C}$ respectively. The $\text{G}^8\text{-C}$ signal is also split and shifted downfield by 4.2/4.6 ppm. Co-ordination of the platinum to the sulfur atom in methionine should result in the formation of two diastereomers, giving rise to a doubling of these signals. This splitting is indeed observed, but not for carbon atoms further away from the Pt co-ordination site; although many signals are severely broadened. In fact the broadening of the SCH_3 signal in the ^1H NMR spectrum can also be attributed to the occurrence of the two diastereomers.

The results of the reaction **1** with $\text{Pt}(\text{dien})$ are in agreement with previous competition studies using the nucleopeptide model *S*-guanosyl-L-homocysteine³ and intermolecular studies using methionine and 5'-GMP (guanosine 5'-monophosphate),⁴ and using *S*-methyl- γ -glutamylcysteinylglycine and 5'-GMP⁶ at lower pH, showing that the thioether function in a platinum-sulfur adduct can be substituted by the N^7 of guanine. Reaction of **1** with bifunctional $\text{Pt}(\text{en})$, however, results in formation of a stable S, N^7 chelate even in the presence of extra unplatinated N^7 . This seemingly contrasting finding is in agreement with pre-

**Scheme 1** (i) $\text{Pt}(\text{dien})^{2+}$; (ii) Pt migration**Scheme 2** (i) $\text{Pt}(\text{en})^{2+}$

vious reports that S, N^7 chelates are remarkably stable,^{8,9} and in fact suggests a biological role for sulfur-containing molecules in the formation of protein-DNA cross links formed by DNA.¹⁰

We are currently investigating reactions with the nucleopeptide Met-d(TpGpG), containing an extra guanosine. This model will enable the study of the competition in co-ordination of bifunctional platinum compounds between thioethers and the highly reactive GpG sequence.

In summary, we have shown that monofunctional Pt migration from S to N^7 can occur in a nucleopeptide under physiological conditions. However, the chelate containing a Pt-(S, N^7) bond is stable towards Pt-S dissociation and migration.

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