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### Influence of Phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>-Prostaglandin System Linked to A1 Adenosine Receptor on Protein Kinase C Activity of Cultured Glial Cells

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**INFLUENCE OF PHOSPHOLIPASE A<sub>2</sub>-PROSTAGLANDIN SYSTEM LINKED TO A<sub>1</sub> ADENOSINE RECEPTOR ON PROTEIN KINASE C ACTIVITY OF CULTURED GLIAL CELLS**

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**Abstract:** In cultured astrocytes phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> seems to be functionally linked to G<sub>i</sub> protein of A<sub>1</sub> adenosine receptors. Phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> inhibition and A<sub>1</sub>-linked G<sub>i</sub> protein inactivation resulted in purine release increase due to protein kinase C activation.

Glial cells exert an ionic buffer role in the CNS and support neuronal activities by releasing various substances with different functional targets. Our previous findings pointed out that cultured glial cells, able to release purines (P)<sup>1</sup>, are provided with an autoregulatory mechanism involving A<sub>1</sub> and probably A<sub>2</sub> subtype of adenosine (ado) receptors<sup>2</sup>. An enhanced P outflow, equivalent to that observed in presence of a selective A<sub>1</sub> antagonist (8-cyclophenyl-1,3-dipropylxanthine), was assayed both in cultures pretreated with N-ethylmaleimide (NEM), a drug able to uncouple G<sub>i</sub> protein from A<sub>1</sub> receptor sites, and in cultured astrocytes with completely inhibited phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>-prostaglandin (PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG) system<sup>2</sup>. Thus PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG system seems to be involved in the regulation of P release from glial cells and probably its activation is functionally linked to A<sub>1</sub> ado receptor stimulation. Since it was pointed out that protein kinase C regulates hormone and neurotransmitter release from different tissues<sup>3</sup> and its activity (pkC-a) can be influenced by the products of PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG system activation<sup>4</sup>, we investigated the possible changes of pkC-a related to those pharmacological manipulations of both PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG system and A<sub>1</sub>-mediated ado receptor activity able to modulate P release<sup>2</sup>. The pkC-a was determined according to Kikkawa et al. method<sup>5</sup>, in both the supernatant (sf) and particulate fractions (pf) of rat striatum cultured astrocytes at the 14th day of culture. In control cells approximately 80% of the total

pkC-a was found in the sf, the specific enzyme activity being  $0.118 \pm 0.09$  nmol phosphate transferred/min/mg protein. In these cells, cultured for 14 days, the assayed specific pkC-a was less 10% of that found in adult rat cortex<sup>5, 6</sup>. The specific pkC-a progressively increased in astrocytes cultured for 21 and 28 days, reaching  $25.1 \pm 1.6\%$  and  $68.3 \pm 9.8\%$  respectively of the pkC-a assayed both in the adult rat brain<sup>5</sup> and in glial cells cultured for 6-8 weeks<sup>7</sup>. However, the ratio between specific pkC-a of the sf and that of pf was not significantly changed. 400 nM phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate, administered to the cultures for 30 min, very strongly increased pkC-a in the pf while remarkably reduced that of sf. In 28 days old cultured astrocytes the full responsiveness of pkC-a was reached ( $283.7 \pm 33.6\%$  of control), while at the 14th day of culture a satisfactory responsiveness ( $71.8 \pm 6.1\%$  of the maximal one) was assayed. In 14 days old cultures treated with 1  $\mu$ M dexamethasone, daily administered for 3 days to obtain a complete inhibition of PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG system<sup>2</sup>, a significant increase of pkC-a in the pf ( $+70.3 \pm 5.9\%$ ) was observed too. A similar trend of pkC-a was measured in the pf ( $+58.1 \pm 7.2\%$  of control) deriving from 100  $\mu$ M NEM pretreated astrocytes. NEM addition to dexamethasone pretreated cultures produced no further effect on pkC-a. These results underline that PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG system is functionally connected with G<sub>i</sub> protein linked to A<sub>1</sub> adrenoceptor sites. Furthermore, the previously observed increase of P release from cultured astrocytes, induced by A<sub>1</sub>-linked G<sub>i</sub> protein inactivation<sup>2</sup> or by PLA<sub>2</sub>-PG system complete inhibition<sup>2</sup>, could be related to a pkC activation.

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