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# Effects of egtazic acid and calcimycin on synthesis of DNA and collagen in cultured human lung fibroblasts

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**KEY WORDS** egtazic acid; calcimycin; DNA; collagen; fibroblasts; cultured cells

AIM: To study the effects of egtazic acid (EA) and calcimycin (Cal) on the synthesis of DNA and collagen in cultured human lung fibroblasts (HLF). **METHODS:** The synthesis of DNA and collagen was determined by measuring the incorporation of [<sup>3</sup>H]TdR and [<sup>3</sup>H]proline of HLF respectively. **RESULTS:** The collagen synthesis increased markedly 24 h after exposure to both EA ( $0.05 - 4 \text{ mmol} \cdot L^{-1}$ ) and Cal ( $0.25 - 20 \mu \text{mol} \cdot L^{-1}$ ), and that there was no obvious change in DNA synthesis. After 36-48-h exposure, both DNA and collagen syntheses decreased in the groups of EA (1, 2, and 4 mmol  $\cdot L^{-1}$ );

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the DNA synthesis was also suppressed in Cal groups in a concentration-dependent manner, whereas collagen synthesis decreased only in Cal (10 and 20  $\mu$ mol · L<sup>-1</sup>). **CONCLUSION**: Extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx into fibroblasts increased collagen production, However, the DNA synthesis was suppressed when the cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> was too high or too low.

 $Ca^{2+}$  plays an important role in modulating cell proliferation and functional activities<sup>(1,2)</sup>. Most studies focused on the effects of  $Ca^{2+}$  on nerve cells, myocardium cells, smooth muscle cells, and tumor cells<sup>(3-5)</sup>. Few articles dealt with the influences of  $Ca^{2+}$  on DNA and collagen synthesis of fibroblasts. Organ fibroses, such as pneumonocirrhosis and hepatocirrhosis, result from an overproliferation of fibroblasts and excessive collagen synthesis. To determine the effects of  $Ca^{2+}$  influx on the DNA and collagen syn-

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thesis of fibroblasts and investivgate the potentiality of treating organ fibroses with  $Ca^{2+}$  channel blockers, we observed the influences of egtazic acid (EA) and calcimycin (Cal, a calcium ionophore) on the incorporation rate of [<sup>3</sup>H]TdR and [<sup>3</sup>H] proline in cultured human lung fibroblasts (HLF).

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**HLF** HLF was provided by Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

**Reagents** EA was the product of Huzhou Biochemical Factory. Cal (Sigma). RPMI-1640 medium (Gibco). [<sup>3</sup>H]TdR and [<sup>3</sup>H]proline were purchased from Shanghai Institute of Nuclear Research. Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Atomic Energy Science, respectively. Scintillation liquid was xylene containing 0.5 % PPO and 0.005 % POPOP. Other reagents are all of AR.

Measurement of DNA and collagen synthesis HLF was suspended in RPMI-1640 medium  $(1.2 > 10^8$  cells • L<sup>-1</sup>) supplemented with 10 % calf serum containing penicillin 100 kU •  $L^{-1}$  and streptomycin 100 mg •  $L^{-1}$ , and were plated in 48-well cell culture cluster dishes. Cells were grown at 37 C in a humidified 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>+95 %air. After 24-h incubation, EA or Cal was added, and for the untreated controls an equal amount of drug-solvent (RPMI-1640 containing 1 % NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 7.4 % ethanol) was added. DNA and collagen synthesis was assessed by measuring the incorporation rates of ['H] TdR and [<sup>3</sup>H] proline. The period of exposure to [<sup>3</sup>H] TdR or [<sup>3</sup>H] proline was 24 h. The final concentrations of  $[^{3}H]$ TdR and  $[^{3}H]$ proline were 37 and 296 MBq •  $L^{-1}$ , respectively. At the termination of culture, the cells were treated with 0.25 % trypsin and harvested onto glass fiber filters, which were washed with trichloroacetic acid 0.6 mol • L<sup>-1</sup> after rinsing with 0.9 % NaCl. The precipitates were dehydrated and decolorized with ethanol. and stoved at 80 °C. The radioactivities (dpm) were counted in a liquid scintillation counter (YSJ 80). Data were expressed as  $\bar{x} \pm s$  (n=3 wells).

Statistical significance was assessed by ANOVA (Dunnett analysis).

#### RESULTS

**Cell morphology** Under light microscope, HLF grew well in all groups of Cal (0.25-20  $\mu$ mol · L<sup>-1</sup>). In the groups of EA (0.05 and 0.1 mmol · L<sup>-1</sup>), cells showed no obvious change. After 12-h exposure to EA, the cells shrank at 2 or 4 mmol · L<sup>-1</sup>; the cell distribution appeared to be slightly sparse but there was no obvious change in shape at 1 mmol  $\cdot L^{-1}$ . After 24 h or longer of exposure to EA, the cells became round in all groups >1 mmol  $\cdot L^{-1}$ .

Effects of EA and Cal on DNA synthesis The incorporation of [ ${}^{3}H$ ]TdR was not remarkably affected in Cal 0. 25-20 µmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-t</sup> after 24h exposure. But, it was suppressed in a concentration-dependent manner after 36-48 h.

DNA synthesis was not influenced after addition of EA 0.05-4 mmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>1</sup> for 24 h. After 36-48 h, DNA synthesis was concentrationdependently suppressed in 1-4 mmol  $\cdot$  L<sup>-1</sup>, and the suppression rate increased along with 36-48 h.

Effects of EA and Col on collagen synthesis Collagen synthesis increased in all groups of Cal and EA after 24-h exposure. But after 36-48-h exposure, collagen synthesis decreased remarkably in Cal (10 and 20  $\mu$ mol • L<sup>-1</sup>) and EA (1, 2, and 4 mmol • L<sup>-1</sup>) (Tab 1).

#### DISCUSSION

As a Ca<sup>2+</sup> carrier. Cal can elevate the cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration by transporting Ca<sup>2+</sup> from extracellular fluid into the cytosol<sup>(3)</sup>. The incorporation rate of [<sup>3</sup>H]proline increased markedly and the DNA synthesis was not influenced after 24-h exposure to Cal. These showed that an elevated cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration promoted collagen synthesis of HLF, and here Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx was As to the collagen synthesis inimportant. creased after 24-h exposure to EA, we presume that the chelation of Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the medium can prevent the Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx into the cells, resulting in a compensatory release of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from intracellular stores into the cytosol. But we did not measure the cytosolic  $Ca^{2+}$  to demonstrate it.

Both Cal and EA suppressed the DNA synthesis of HLF after 36-48-h exposure, we deem that Ca<sup>2+</sup> probably possesses a double-direction regulation on DNA synthesis, viz DNA synthesis requires certain amount of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, but when the cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration is beyond the upperlimit, DNA synthesis will be suppressed on the contrary. This was in consensus with the results of literature<sup>(2,4)</sup>.

In conclusion, the elevated cytosolic  $Ca^{2+}$ promoted collagen synthesis of HLF, in which  $Ca^{2+}$  influx played a significant role. The DNA

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Tab 1. Effect of calcimycin and egtazic acid on syntheses of DNA and collagen in cultured human lung fibroblasts. n=3 wells,  $\bar{x}\pm s$ . 'P>0.05, 'P<0.05, 'P<0.01 vs control.

		DNA			Collagen		
		24 h	36 h	48 h	24 h	36 h	48 h
Calcimycin	0	$4514 \pm 38$	6 326±15	6 102±75	1 279±129	3 175±434	$3046 \pm 251$
(µmol •L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.25	4 544±130°	4 686±120°	4 461±47°	$3196 \pm 222^{\circ}$	3 146±77	2 744±259
	2.50	4 0 <b>87</b> ±22⁵	$3592\pm63^{\circ}$	$3.263 \pm 20^{\circ}$	$3\ 507\pm 665^{\circ}$	$2.734 \pm 157$	2 796±210°
	5.0	3 988±72"	$3916 \pm 12^{\circ}$	$2.487\pm80^{\circ}$	2 919±237°	$3.128 \pm 15^{\circ}$	$2814 \pm 194^{\circ}$
	10.0	$4\ 150 \pm 109^{\circ}$	3 116 ± 35°	2 014±72°	2 979±227°	$2702 \pm 274^{b}$	2 438±3 <b>39</b> ⁵
	20.0	$3\ 180 \pm 59^{*}$	2 722±205*	$1 827 \pm 152^{\circ}$	$3.075 \pm 224^{\circ}$	2 669±241⁵	$2502 \pm 217^{b}$
Egtazîc acid	0	6 710±1 239	6 <b>221</b> ±1251	5 858±262	$1595 \pm 302$	3 <b>199</b> ±122	$2587 \pm 261$
(mmol·L <sup>-1</sup> )	0.05	4 098±603°	6 436±332°	4 529±1 084°	$2697\pm331^\circ$	$3.009 \pm 391^{\circ}$	$2473 \pm 209^{\circ}$
	0.10	5 003±1 150°	4 783±1 171°	$5\ 306\pm409^{*}$	$2.198 \pm 122^{\circ}$	3 447±150°	2 547±464*
	1.0	4 456±399°	2 958土454。	$2421 \pm 70^{\circ}$	2 353±182°	$1.553\pm404^{ b}$	1 558±122°
	2.0	4 033±491°	2 898±483	2 329±232°	$2\ 320\pm524^{\circ}$	$1 456 \pm 134^{\circ}$	$1.398 \pm 5^{\circ}$
	4.0	3 779±933*	$2.669 \pm 82^{\circ}$	727±255	2 448±172°	$1\ 269 \pm 55^{b}$	$1.603 \pm 397^{\circ}$

synthesis was suppressed when the cytosolic  $Ca^{2+}$  concentration was too high or too low. The results suggest that  $Ca^{2+}$  antagonists may be a group of potential useful drugs for antifibrosis. (2)

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## 依他酸和卡西霉素对人胚肺成纤维细胞脱氧核糖

# 核酸和胶原合成的影响

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关键词	<i>师钟转</i> 变 依他酸;	<u>卡西霉素;</u>	3D 脱氧核物	ん 唐核酸;
胶原;成:		培养的细胞	- •	RSI

目的:研究依他酸(EA)和卡西霉素(Cal)对人胚 肺成纤维细胞脱氧核糖核酸和胶原合成的影响. 方法:采用[<sup>3</sup>H]TdR 与[<sup>3</sup>H]脯氨酸掺入分别测定 脱氧核糖核酸和胶原合成. 结果:给药24 h 后, EA 0.05-4 mmol·L<sup>-1</sup>和 Cal 0.25-20  $\mu$ mol·L<sup>-1</sup> 组胶原合成均显著增加,脱氧核糖核酸合成无明 显改变. 给药36和48 h, EA 1-4 mmol·L<sup>-1</sup>组胶 原与脱氧核糖核酸合成降低; Cal 0.25-20  $\mu$ mol ·L<sup>-1</sup>组脱氧核糖核酸合成亦下降,胶原合成仅10 和20  $\mu$ mol·L<sup>-1</sup>组降低. 结论:细胞外液 Ca<sup>2+</sup>内 流促进胶原合成,细胞内 Ca<sup>2+</sup>浓度过高或过低均 抑制脱氧核糖核酸合成.