its lack leads to an incomplete repression of mitochondrial respiration in presence of glucose [1]. Voltage Dependent Anion Channel 1 (VDAC1) is the protein that ensures the exchanges of metabolites and ions through the mitochondrial outer membrane (MOM). Saccharomyces cerevisiae cell lacking VDAC1 (Δpor1) show a defective growth on not fermentable carbon source. In a recent work, we demonstrated that the expression of human SOD1 in Δpor1 restores the yeast growth on glycerol, the mitochondrial functionality and the ROS level [2]. Moreover the presence of hSOD1 increases the gene expression of β-barrel MOM proteins. Among them, the second VDAC isoform (also known as porin2) was found 8 times over-expressed [2]. The pore-forming activity of yeast VDAC2 has never been characterized. Our results strongly suggest that it can substitute for VDAC1 function. Accordingly, we observed that the expression of SOD1 in a yeast strain devoid of both VDAC1 and VDAC2 is unable to reactivate the mitochondrial metabolism. In this work we present these observations and a preliminary characterization of purified S. cerevisiae VDAC2.

References


07.11

Beneficial and deleterious roles of mitochondrial ROS upon inflammation
Johanna-Cathartina Duvigneau1, Andrea Müllebnerab,Andreas T. Meszaros1,2, Adelheid Weidinger1, Gabriel Dorighello1, Sergiu Dumitrescu3, Heinz Redl1, Mihaly Boross1, Andrey V. Kozlov1
1Institute of Medical Biochemistry, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria
2Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Experimental and Clinical Traumatology in AUVA Center, Vienna, Austria
3Institute of Surgical Research, University of Szeged, Hungary
E-mail address: Andrey.kozlov@trauma.lbg.ac.at (A.V. Kozlov)

The aim of this study was to clarify the impact of mitochondrial reactive oxygen species (mtROS) upon inflammation induced by bacterial toxin in rats and in rat hepatocyte and macrophage cultures incubated with inflammatory mediators (IM). Inflammation influenced mtROS generation in two manners, namely elevating mtROS generation within mitochondria and releasing mtROS into cytoplasm, tentatively via mPTP. The increase in mtROS levels inside and outside of mitochondria caused oxidative stress and activated specific signaling pathways. The oxidative stress was manifested as a drop in mitochondrial membrane potential and a damage to cellular membrane resulted in the release of intracellular enzymes (AST, LDH) in the blood. The increase in mtROS resulted in up-regulation of IM (iNOS and IL-6) accompanied by a drastic increase in intracellular and blood NO levels; in addition it resulted in an increase in NADPH-oxidase activity in macrophages. The treatment with mitoTEMPO, a mitochondria targeted antioxidant, decayed mtROS, normalized membrane potential, decreased expressions of iNOS and IL-6 in hepatocytes, decreased NADPH-oxidase activity in macrophages and reduced circulating NO and AST/ALT levels in the blood. In addition we demonstrated that the increase in mtROS was induced by late phase IM such as IL-4 released during compensatory anti-inflammatory response phase rather than by IM such as TNF-alpha released during systemic inflammatory response, an early acute phase. The nature of the IM is still unclear. All together our data suggest that mtROS predominantly affect inflammatory response not via oxidative stress reactions but via two signaling pathways, namely up-regulation of inflammatory genes and elevation NADPH-oxidase activity. Since both these pathways are components of the immune response, the application of mitochondria targeted antioxidants can be both deleterious weakening immune system and beneficial attenuating host tissue damage.

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07.12

Structural insights into biological hydrazine synthesis
Christina Ferousi1, Andreas Dietl2, Wouter J. Maalka, Frauke Baymann1, Jan T. Keltjens3, Mike S.M. Jetten4, Thomas R.M. Barends5, Boran Kartal6, Joachim Reimann7
1Department of Microbiology, Radboud University, Heyendaalseweg 135, 6525AJ Nijmegen, the Netherlands
2Department of Biomolecular Mechanisms, Max Planck Institute for Medical Research, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany

E-mail address: Andrey.kozlov@trauma.lbg.ac.at (A.V. Kozlov)

Abstracts

Nitrite is present in tissues in micro molar concentrations and recently has also been employed as a drug, because it ameliorates ischemia-reperfusion induced mitochondrial dysfunction and tissue damage. The mechanism of this action of nitrite is not completely understood. Here we provide evidence that this action of nitrite is due to the inhibition of iron-mediated oxidative stress caused by the release of ferrous ions upon hypoxia. We show that hypoxia and re-oxygenation substantially reduced mitochondrial respiration in state 3 with both complex I and II substrates and prevented lipid peroxidation in the outer mitochondrial membrane and in close vicinity to mitochondria due to the formation of inactive dinitrosyl iron complexes (DNIC). The scavenging of iron ions in turn prevented lipid peroxidation in the outer mitochondrial membrane and the release of cytochrome c. The release of cytochrome c was accompanied by iron mediated lipid peroxidation. The experiments with nitrite pre-treatment showed that upon hypoxia mitochondria reduce nitrite to nitric oxide (NO) in amounts sufficient to inactivate redox active ferrous ions in close vicinity to mitochondria due to the formation of inactive dinitrosyl iron complexes (DNIC). The scavenging of iron ions in turn prevented lipid peroxidation in the outer mitochondrial membrane and the release of cytochrome c. This action of nitrite protected respiratory function of mitochondria during reoxygenation. However, at high concentrations nitrite, in addition to beneficial deactivation of iron ions, exerted also toxic effects inhibiting mitochondrial respiration. This explains why beneficial effects of nitrite are restricted to a narrow therapeutic window described previously in in vivo models. The formation of DNIC with nitrite-derived NO was also demonstrated in a ischemia/reperfusion model on perfused liver. Our data suggest that the formation of DNIC is a key mechanism of nitrite-mediated protection of mitochondrial, cellular and organ function upon ischemia reperfusion.

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Anaerobic ammonium oxidizing (anammox) bacteria are ubiquitously present in nature and contribute substantially to the global release of fixed nitrogen to the atmosphere. The biological novelty of the anammox process is the production of the reactive intermediate hydrazine ($N_2H_4$), which gets subsequently oxidized to dinitrogen gas ($N_2$) yielding the necessary reducing equivalents for respiration. The protein complex catalyzing the formation of $N_2H_4$ from nitric oxide (NO) and ammonium ($NH_4^+$), that is Hydrazine Synthase (HZS), was purified to homogeneity as a dimer of heterotrimers (α/γ/β). Analyses of the crystal structure of HZS at 2.7 Å resolution together with spectroscopic studies led to the formulation of a working hypothesis. We suggest that hydrazine synthesis occurs via a two-step mechanism facilitated by two heme c active sites. First, NO undergoes a three-electron reduction to hydroxylamine ($NH_2OH$) at the active site of the γ-subunit (heme yl). NH$_2$OH is then transferred to the α-subunit through an intraprotein tunneling system that is presumably regulated by a short amino acid stretch of the β-subunit. The second active site heme of the HZS complex (heme αl) facilitates the condensation of ammonia ($NH_3$) and NH$_2$OH to the end product N$_2$H$_4$. Interestingly, the resolution of the structure of HZS revealed few oddities with regards to the architecture of the active site hemes. The γ-subunit is structurally similar to cytochrome c peroxidase and methylamine utilization protein G but displays a third covalent attachment between a cysteine residue and the porphyrin ring of the yl heme moiety. Heme αl also differs considerably from a canonical heme c site, as the histidine residue of the COXCH heme binding motif does not coordinate the heme iron, but a zinc ion instead. The fifth ligand of heme αl appears to be a tyrosine, resembling the active site of catalases. These results provide the first insight into the molecular mechanism of biological hydrazine synthesis.


07.14
Respiratory complex II catalyzed ROS production
Vera G. Grivennikova, Andrei D. Vinogradov
Department of Biochemistry, School of Biology, Moscow State University, Moscow, Russian Federation
E-mail address: adv@biochem.bio.msu.su (A.D. Vinogradov)

Complex II plus complex III contribute about 20% to the overall ROS production by the mammalian respiratory chain components [1]. A bell-shaped dependence of ROS-producing complex II activity on succinate concentration have been described [2,3]. Here we present further analysis of complex II ROS generating activity. The succinate-reduced membrane-bound respiratory complex II in inside-out bovine heart submitochondrial particles freed of superoxide dismutase and treated with rotenone and myxothiazol reacts with oxygen (at 50 µM “optimal” succinate concentration) at the specific rate of about 5% of its NADH-supported fumarate reductase activity. The enzyme produces more than 80% of ROS as superoxide anion. The reaction is insensitive to Arpenin 5 (the inhibitor of iron–sulfur S3–ubiquinone junction site) and its rate decreases upon increase of succinate concentration. The contribution of complex II to the ROS production by myxothiazol-inhibited, NADH-reduced respiratory chain (complexes I + II) is about 15%. The dependence of ROS production on succinate/fumarate ratio shows that the midpoint redox potential of oxygen-reactive component is about 40 mV more positive than that of succinate/fumarate couple, a value close to that of S3 iron–sulfur center. A possibility of the dicarboxylate binding-induced conformational change of the enzyme structure propagated to S3 specific protein environment is proposed.

References
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