

MASTER'S THESIS

Mechanistic study of type I ribosome-inactivating protein as anti-influenza and anti-tumour agent

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Mechanistic Study of Type I Ribosome-inactivating Protein
as Anti-influenza and Anti-tumour Agent

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Abstract

Ribosome-inactivating proteins (RIPs) such as trichosanthin (TCS) have been used as antiviral and anti-tumour agents. The mechanistic study of antiviral and anti-tumour action of single chain (type 1) RIPs was investigated in this thesis.

An indirect immunotoxin was constructed by conjugating the RIPs, trichosanthin (TCS), with goat immunoglobulin (IgG). The IC_{50} of TCS-IgG immunotoxin (0.042 μ M) is 10-fold higher than the native TCS (0.004 μ M) in a cell-free protein synthesis inhibition assay. The antiviral activities of TCS-IgG immunotoxin on influenza A/NWS/33 virus infected Madin Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells were examined. In the absence of immunotoxin, over 90 % of MDCK cells were killed two days after influenza virus infection. However, addition of antiviral hyperimmune serum and TCS-IgG immunotoxin (11.3 μ M) resulted in a significant reduction of the cytopathic effect of the influenza virus on the infected MDCK cells. Protective effect was not observed when monoclonal anti-matrix protein antibody was used as the primary antibody. The failure on the reduction of cytopathic effect was related to the localization of matrix protein which was presented only in the cytoplasm but not in the membrane of virus infected cells. These results suggest that the indirect TCS-IgG immunotoxin may be used as an antiviral agent. Neotrichosanthin (NTCS), an isoform of TCS, and its site-directed muteins were used for immunotoxin construction. The NTCS muteins, Y70A mutein (the tyrosine residue at position 70 being replaced by alanine) has a reduced N-glycosidase activity while R163H (arginine residue at

position 163 being replaced by histidine) has an increased DNase activity. The antiviral activity of NTCS-IgG immunotoxin and R163H-IgG immunotoxin were similar to TCS-IgG immunotoxin. But the antiviral activity of Y70A-IgG immunotoxin was the lowest because of the reduced N-glycosidase activity. Results indicates that N-glycosidase activity was responsible for the antiviral activity of the immunotoxins constructed by RIPs.

Anti-tumour activity of RIPs such as TCS has previously been reported. Results indicated that PU-5 cells (a mouse macrophage cell line) were more sensitive towards TCS than L929 cells (a mouse fibroblast cell line). To study the mechanistic actions of TCS or related RIPs on tumour cells, the uptake rate of TCS was examined by confocal laser scanning microscopy and spectrofluorometry. The uptake rate of TCS towards both PU-5 and L929 cells has no significance differences. Within 30 minutes, TCS was found to rapidly internalize into both PU-5 and L929 cells and localized in the cytoplasm. To further characterize the contribution of its enzymatic activity towards the cytotoxic effect, neotrichosanthin (NTCS), an isoform of TCS, and its site-directed muteins were used. The NTCS muteins, Y70A mutein (the tyrosine residue at position 70 being replaced by alanine) has a reduced N-glycosidase activity while R163H (arginine residue at position 163 being replaced by histidine) has an increased DNase activity. Although, R163H mutein possess higher DNase activity, there is no significant differences between the cytotoxicity of R163H mutein and NTCS. However, the reduced N-glycosidase activity in Y70A mutein leads to lower cytotoxicity of Y70A mutein. As a result, the differential cytotoxicity of RIPs towards different tumour cell lines is independent of the uptake rate. And N-glycosidase activity is responsible for the anti-viral and anti-tumour activities of type 1 RIPs.

Table of Content

	Pages
Declaration	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Content	v
List of Figures	xii
List of Tables	xvi
List of Abbreviations	xvii
Chapter One – Introduction	1
1.1 Ribosome-inactivating proteins (RIPs)	1
1.1.1 Classification of RIPs	1
1.1.2 Distribution of RIPs	2
1.1.3 N-glycosidase activity of RIPs	3
1.1.4 Deoxyribonuclease (DNase) activity of RIPs	3
1.1.5 Antiviral activity of RIPs	4
1.1.6 Abortifacient and teratogenic activity of RIPs	5
1.2 Trichosanthin (TCS)	5
1.2.1 Abortifacient activity of TCS	6
1.2.2 N-glycosidase activity of TCS	7
1.2.3 Immunosuppressive activity of TCS	7

1.2.4 Anti-tumour activity of TCS	7
1.2.5 Anti-HIV activity of TCS	8
1.3 Neo-trichosanthin (NTCS)	8
1.4 Immunotoxin	9
1.5 Influenza virus	15
1.5.1 Structure of influenza virus	15
1.5.2 Control of influenza virus infection	19
1.5.2.1 Vaccination	19
1.5.2.2 Interferon as anti-influenza agent	19
1.5.2.3 Chemotherapy	20
1.5.2.3.1 Amantidine	21
1.6 The relationship between the cytotoxicity and the uptake kinetics	23
1.7 Intracellular localization and trafficking of RIPs	24
Chapter Two – Materials and Methods	26
2.1 Cells and media	26
2.2 Virus preparations	27
2.2.1 Virus	27
2.2.2 Preparation and titration of virus titer	27
2.2.2.1 Cultivation of influenza virus in embryonated eggs	27
2.2.2.2 Preparation of chicken red blood cells	27
2.2.2.3 Titration of Hemagglutination Units (HAU)	28
2.3 Preparation of antisera and monoclonal antibodies	28

2.4 Isolation of TCS, NTCS and NTCS muteins	29
2.4.1 Isolation of TCS	29
2.4.2 Regeneration of Mono-S column column	30
2.4.3 Preparation of NTCS and NTCS muteins	30
2.4.4 Isolation of NTCS and NTCS muteins by Econo-system	31
2.4.5 Regeneration of SP-Sepharose fast flow column	32
2.5 Preparation of immunotoxins	32
2.6 Physico-chemical characterization	34
2.6.1 Determination of the level of SPDP derivation of IgG and the level of conjugation	34
2.6.2 Estimation of total protein sulfhydryl group	34
2.6.3 Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate Polyarylamide Gel Electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE)	35
2.6.4 Isoelectric Focusing (IEF)	36
2.6.5 Western blotting for immunodetection	37
2.7 Enzyme activity assays	38
2.7.1 Inhibition of protein synthesis	38
2.7.2 DNase Activity Assay	38
2.7.2.1 Mini-preparation of Plasmid DNA by Minipreps Kit (Promega)	38
2.7.2.2 DNase Activity Assay	39
2.8 Anti-viral Assay	40
2.9 MTT cytotoxicity Assay	41

2.10	Fluorescent labeling of RIPs	41
2.11	Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy (LSM)	42
2.12	Spectrofluorometric measurement	43
2.13	Immunocytochemical staining	43
2.14	Immunofluorescence staining	44
 Chapter Three – Construction of Immunotoxins		45
3.1	Introduction	45
3.2	Results	47
3.2.1	Purification of TCS, NTCS and NTCS muteins	47
3.2.1.1	Purification of TCS	47
3.2.1.2	Purification of NTCS and NTCS muteins	51
3.2.2	Construction of immunotoxins	56
3.2.2.1	Modification of immunoglobulins	56
3.2.2.2	Thiolation of TCS, NTCS and Y70A muteins	56
3.2.2.3	Construction of immunotoxin	58
3.2.3	Enzymatic activity assays	65
3.2.3.1	Inhibition of protein synthesis	65
3.2.3.2	DNase Activity	71
3.3	Discussion	79
3.3.1	Purity of TCS and NTCS muteins	79
3.3.1.1	Purity of TCS	79
3.3.1.2	Purity of NTCS, Y70A and R163H muteins	80

3.3.2 Levels of conjugation	81
3.3.2.1 Modification of immunoglobulins	81
3.3.2.2 Thiolation of TCS, NTCS, Y70A and R163H mutein	82
3.3.2.3 Construction of immunotoxin	83
3.3.3 Activities of the constructed immunotoxin	84
3.3.3.1 Inhibition of protein synthesis	84
3.3.3.2 DNase activity	86
Chapter Four –Immunotoxin as antiviral agent	89
4.1 Introduction	89
4.2 Results	94
4.2.1 Antiviral activity of immunotoxin	94
4.2.2 Immunostaining of influenza virus infected cells	101
4.2.3 Comparison of the immunotoxin constructed by TCS, NTCS and Y70A mutein	104
4.3 Discussion	106
4.3.1 Antiviral activity of immunotoxins	106
4.3.2 Comparison of the immunotoxin constructed by TCS, NTCS and Y70A mutein	109
4.4 Further studies	112

Chapter Five – Mechanistic study of RIPs as Anti-tumour agent	115
5.1 Introduction	115
5.2 Results	117
5.2.1 The cytotoxicity of TCS on PU-5 and L929 cells	117
5.2.2 Fluorescent labeling of RIPs	119
5.2.3 Internalization and localization of TCS	120
5.2.3.1 Spectrofluorometric method	120
5.2.3.2 Confocal laser scanning microscopy	123
5.2.3.3 Competition Assay	126
5.2.3.4 Intracellular localization of TCS	132
5.2.4 The cytotoxicities of NTCS, Y70A and R163H muteins on PU-5 and L929 cells	137
5.2.5 Uptake kinetics of TCS by spectrofluorometric measurement	139
5.2.6 DNase activity of NTCS, Y70A and R163H muteins	139
5.2.7 Protein synthesis inhibitory activities of NTCS, Y70A and R163H mutein	142
5.3 Discussion	144
5.3.1 Differential cytotoxicity of TCS on PU-5 and L929 cells	144
5.3.1.1 Cytotoxicity of TCS	144
5.3.1.2 Fluorescent labeling of RIPs	145
5.3.1.3 Uptake of TCS	145
5.3.2 Differential cytotoxicity of NTCS to L929 and PU-5 cells	147
5.3.3 Intracellular localization of TCS	149

Conclusion	153
Appendix	155
References	164
Curriculum Vitae	183