

行政院國家科學委員會專題研究計畫進度報告

計畫名稱：胰島素調控 STAT 蛋白質之機轉與影響之基因表現(3/3)

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主持人：莊立民

執行機構及單位名稱：臺大醫院、內科

一、中文摘要

訊息傳遞及活化轉錄作用之蛋白質 (Signal Transducers & Activators of Transcription, 簡稱 STAT), 與許多細胞素、生長因子、胰島素之訊息傳遞路徑有關, 活化之 STAT 蛋白質進入細胞核而調節基因之表現; 吾等研究胰島素及介白素 4 (Interleukin-4, IL-4) 在肝癌細胞之訊息傳遞作用, 發現二者在傳遞路徑上有許多共通處, 如二者皆可促進受器基質磷酸化, 而 grb2-ras-MAP kinase 和 p85-PI 3-kinase 亦同時受到影響, 除此之外, 吾等亦發現 STAT 蛋白質, 如 STAT1, STAT6 亦同時受到影響。至於真正受 STAT 蛋白質影響之基因, 則尚未深入研究。

為達上述目標, 吾等用介白素 4 刺激肝癌細胞, 並以 staurosporine 抑制 STAT6 蛋白質之磷酸化, 比較其間基因表現之差異, 可以瞭解那些基因表現是受到 STAT6 蛋白質路徑之調控。吾等以 cDNA microarray hybridization system 找出一系列受 STAT6 調節之基因, 在 7075 個不同之基因株中含有 4107 已知之基因和 2968 個 ESTs (Genome System, Incyte), 以 balanced differential expression 1.7 倍以上當作有意義之差距時, 則可發現其中有 44 種不同之基因可能受到 STAT6 蛋白質調控而增加, 有 23 種不同之基因受到 STAT6 蛋白質調控而減少表現。至於這些基因是否真正受到胰島素調節, 並是否受 JAK-STAT 路徑之調節則尚需進一步之研究驗證。

關鍵詞：胰島素、介白素 4、基因調控、STAT6 蛋白質、cDNA microarray

二、緣由與目的

胰島素之作用非常廣泛, 生理學上胰島素可調控蛋白質、脂肪、醣類之代謝作用, 從細胞層次之作用而言, 胰島素可調控許多與代謝作用有關之蛋白質或酵素之活性、或其基因表現之調控, 另一方面, 胰島素也可調控與代謝作用有關之基質如葡萄糖、氨基酸、脂肪酸等之傳送, 而非胰島素依賴型糖尿病之致病機轉即與胰島素作用之不良有極大之相關。目前胰島素作用在細胞層次之訊息傳遞路徑, 瞭解了相當清楚, 從胰島素與細胞表面之受器結合後, 受器之酪氨酸酵素即催化一些細胞質內受器基質之磷酸化, 而胰島素之作用就分成與受器基質相關或不相關之路徑傳遞下去, 大部分胰島素之作用靠受器基質而傳遞訊息。受器基質磷酸化後, 胰島素之作用可藉由兩條訊息傳遞路徑: 一是由 grb2 與受器基質結合而促動 MAP kinase; 一是由 p85 與受器基質結合而促動 PI 3-kinase。經由這兩條路徑胰島素影響之細胞質內葡萄糖之傳送、酵素之活化、及基因之表現得以調控。

最近另有一類之蛋白質被發現與訊息傳遞及轉錄作用之活化有關 (Signal Transducers & Activators of Transcription, 簡稱 STAT), 目前知道許多細胞素刺激 JAK 類之酪氨酸酵素, 會經由 STAT 路徑傳遞訊息, 而調控細胞核內基因之表現; 而少數之生長因子如表皮生長因子 (EGF)、血小板衍生之生長因子 (PDGF), 也會活化 STAT 蛋白質, 使 STAT 蛋白質進入細胞核而影響基因之表現; 吾等擬就胰島素作用在 STAT 路徑之調節、並有系統地找出受到 STAT 蛋白質

影響之基因，進而分析這些基因在胰島素或介白素 4 刺激中，表現上之差異，及對細胞作用之影響，並以瞭解胰島素或介白素 4 對肝癌細胞作用之異同。

三、研究結果與討論

最近吾等研究胰島素及介白素 4 (Interleukin-4, IL-4) 在肝癌細胞之訊息傳遞作用，發現二者在傳遞路徑上有許多共通處，如二者皆可促進受器基質磷酸化，而 grb2-ras-MAP kinase 和 p85-PI 3-kinase 亦同時受到影響，除此之外，吾等亦發現 STAT 蛋白質，如 STAT1, STAT6 亦同時受到影響。然而胰島素不會促進 JAK 類之酪氨酸酵素，卻也可活化 STAT 蛋白質，另一方面，介白素 4 雖與胰島素作用之傳遞路徑類似，但在肝細胞之作用卻完全不明；現今研究報告亦僅局限在訊息傳遞路徑之分子，至於真正受 STAT 蛋白質影響之基因，則尚未深入研究。

在第一年研究中，吾等發現瘦素 (leptin) 會抑制胰島素及介白素-4 之訊息傳遞作用；首先我們利用反轉錄-聚合酵素鏈鎖反應證明肝癌細胞有兩種瘦素受器，OB-R_L 及 OB-R_S，瘦素刺激會造成 MAP kinase 之活化，但接下來，細胞再經胰島素或介白質 4 之刺激 MAP kinase 卻不會再活化，吾等詳細分析發現瘦素抑制介白質-4 活化 JAK kinase 之能力，及其下游之反應。但瘦素處理不會影響胰島素活化 Receptor tyrosine kinase, IRS 蛋白磷酸化，但卻抑制 MAP kinase 之活化，吾等猜測可能與 MKP 之活化及其對基質之特異性有關。

在第二年為研究受到 STAT6 蛋白質調控之基因，吾等擬就 Hep3B 肝癌細胞株在胰島素或介白素 4 刺激中，分析基因表現之差異，因此，構築 Hep3B 經 transfection of STAT6 之細胞株，但結果未如預期，在第三年則利用化學法以 staurosporine 阻斷

STAT6 之活化為研究模式，並利用來找出受其調控之基因，茲討論如下：

Construction of expression plasmid containing STAT6-GFP. To observe the translocation of STAT6 protein upon insulin or IL-4 stimulation, we have constructed the plasmid (pCMV) with STAT6 fused with a green fluorescein protein (GFP). By use of lipofectin transfection system, we have found the GFP(+) cells upon transient transfection. However, the expression level of green fluorescein became very weak suggesting the expression level of transfected STAT6-GFP was decreased tremendously following passage of the cells. The protein of the transfected STAT6-GFP was also assessed by Western blot analysis with antibodies. Unfortunately, we could not observe the translocation of the transfected protein during ligand stimulations under the fluorescent microscope.

Effects of the staurosporine on the activation of STAT6. Since the stable cell lines with transfected STAT6 are not easily available, we tested the possibility of chemical knock-out of STAT6. It has been reported that staurosporine at different concentrations showed an inhibitory action on the ligand-stimulated tyrosine phosphorylation of STAT6 previously. We therefore tested the action of staurosporine in Hep3B cells. Staurosporine at high concentration (15 μ M) for 2 hours can block IL4-stimulated tyrosine phosphorylation of STAT6. Some diminution of the binding to a oligo containing I ϵ sequences was observed in the cells treated with staurosporine, indicating an inhibitory action of staurosporine on STAT6 signaling. Therefore, we designed to isolate the mRNAs from the cells with or without staurosporine pretreatment followed by IL-4 stimulation. We expect to study the differential expression of the genes in these two sets of mRNAs.

Identification of the genes under STAT6 regulation. With hybridization on cDNA

microarrays (Genome System, Incyte). We tentatively isolated a series of clones that showed differential expression in those 2 mRNAs. After adjusting hybridization signals with those for the control probes, a value of 1.7 fold of the “balance differential expression” was deemed to a cut-off of true significant difference. By these criteria, we found that increased expression via STAT6 pathways was found in 44 unique different cDNA clones, and decreased expression found in 23 different cDNA clones out of a collection of 7075 (4107 of known genes and 2968 ESTs) unique cDNA clones, see table. The differences in the gene expression would indicate the gene(s) that are under STAT6 regulation. Although not confirmed yet by Northern blot analyses, we can tentatively conclude that those differentially expressed genes might be important for IL4 or insulin function downstream of STAT6 pathway.

四、研究結果自評

對於 STAT6-del C 是否真的能夠完全抑制內源性 STAT6 之作用，從過去文獻報告顯示(Patel et al: Regulation of interleukin 4-mediated signaling by naturally occurring dominant negative and attenuated forms of human Stat6. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 95: 172-177, 1998)，STAT6-del C 會抑制 STAT6 之 phosphorylation 及 STAT6 dimer 之形成，而降低 STAT6 之作用，吾等尚未能檢驗此現象，但為了增加對照，吾等將表現 STAT6-del C 蛋白質，期待能得到特異的結果，以檢驗介白素 4 或胰島素透過 STAT6 之作用。吾等擬再用不同之細胞學方法，略述如下：

Construction of expression plasmid containing TAT-STAT6. From previous study, it has been reported that the dominant inhibitory STAT6 would down regulate the ligand-stimulated tyrosine phosphorylation of STAT6; and the TAT-fusion protein can be transferred into cell very efficiently. We therefore decide to construct a TAT-fused

STAT6, including the full-length and the deleted form (dominant inhibitory form). We have used the baculovirus expression system to express those proteins for protein transduction assay. In this system, we can test the role of STAT6 unequivocally in the insulin or IL-4 signal pathways to downstream gene expression by Northern blot analyses.

至於找到之基因(見表)，其功能如何，可從 Northern blot, Western blot 分析其表現是否受到胰島素和介白素 4 之調控；若是核甘酸之序列為全新而未報告過，則可能需再從細胞生物學、分子生物學之研究，如 overexpression 或 knock-out 來探討可能之功能。但是這需要更多的時間來進一步研究。

Table. Some examples of the genes that are expressed under STAT6 pathways.

Increased:

TNF- α induced protein 3
Dual specificity phosphatase 5
LIF
Forkhead box D1
Nidogen (enactin)
IGFBP1
Apoptosis inhibitor 2
Superoxidase dismutase 2, mitochondrial
Etc.

Decreased:

Alcohol dehydrogenase 2
HNF3 α
GATA-binding protein 6
Putative transmembrane protein
P85 subunit of PI3K
BH-protocdherin
Transcription factor EC
Sortilin 1
Etc.
