Oral Abstracts

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Differential Effects Of GPR55 On Cardiac Adrenoceptor Subtypes In Mice
Cherry L Wainwright, Sarah K Walsh. Inst Health & Wellbeing Res, Robert Gordon Univ, Aberdeen, UK.

Introduction. Increased cardiac sympathetic activity in heart failure (HF) leads to chronic stimulation and subsequent loss of cardiac β1-adrenoceptors (β1-ARs) and reduced AR mediated inotropy [1]. We have previously shown reduced contractile reserve following dobutamine administration in GPR55-/- mice [2]. Aims. To identify the AR subtype(s) affected by GPR55 gene deletion and determine their role in the cardiac decompensation.

Methods. Mice (WT and GPR55-/-; 3months old) were anaesthetised with ketamine/xylazine (120mg/kg & 16mg/kg i.p.,) and a 1.4-Fr pressure conductance catheter inserted into the left ventricle to measure pressure volume loops (PVL). Responses to dobutamine (10⁻⁹-10⁻⁴ mol/L; during contractions to 10⁻³ mol/L phenylephrine), procaterol (0.02-2⁻⁶ mol/L; β2-AR agonist; n=7-8), A-61603 (0.2-20⁻⁶ mol/L; β1-AR agonist; n=9) and dobutamine (1-10⁻¹⁰ g/kg) plus prazosin (β1-AR antagonist) and ICI 118,551 (β2-AR antagonist, both 1mg/kg i.p; n=9) were assessed in both strains.

Results. GPR55 -/- mice exhibited reduced contractile responses to dobutamine alone. GPR55 -/- mice exhibited significantly attenuated β1-AR mediated (dobutamine in the presence of prazosin/ICI 118,551) pressor (ESP; 4±1 vs. 14±1mmHg), lusitropic (dP/dt min; -82±174 vs. -1013±175mmHg/µL), and inotropic (dP/dt max; 1354±128 vs. 2047±145mmHg/µL) responses compared to WT mice (all P<0.05). In the absence of endothelium, the contractions to phenylephrine were reduced significantly in Rap1 knockout aortae (pE50: 13±0.10 vs 6.38±0.15, P<0.005).

Discussion. Our findings demonstrate that GPR55 influences adrenoceptor function in the heart and may play a role in the altered adrenoceptor signalling characteristic of heart failure.


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Deletion Of Repressor Activator Protein 1 Modulates Vascular Function In Mouse Aorta
Kenneth HK Wong1, Paul M Vanhoutte1, Eva HC Tang1,2. Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy1, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China; Department of Physiology2, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China.

Introduction. Repressor activator protein 1 (Rap1) is a telomeric protein which resides within the shelterin complex and docks at chromosomal ends. Besides maintaining chromosome integrity, it also participates in metabolic regulation and body-weight homeostasis. Its role, if any, in vascular responsiveness is unknown.

Aims. The present study investigated whether or not Rap1 deletion affects vascular responsiveness.

Methods. Female Rap1 knockout and wild-type littermates on a C57BL/6N background were used in the experiments (Aged 13-15 weeks, n=5-6). All mice were kept on standard chow. The thoracic aortae from the two groups of mice were dissected and rings with or without endothelium were suspended in wire myographs to determine contractions and relaxations to increasing concentrations of phenylephrine (10⁻⁹-10⁻⁴ mol/L) and acetylcholine (10⁻¹⁰-10⁻⁴ mol/L; during contractions to 10⁻³ mol/L phenylephrine), respectively. Contractions were expressed as percentage to the reference response obtained with 60mmol/L potassium solution at the beginning of the experiment. Relaxations were expressed as percentage of the pre-contraction to phenylephrine.

Results. Relaxations to acetylcholine were diminished significantly in Rap1 knockout compared to wild type aortae with endothelium (pEC50: 8.13±0.14 vs 7.61±0.08, P<0.001). The Emax of contractions induced by phenylephrine was increased in Rap1 knockout aortae with endothelium (Emax: 72.51%±2.60 vs 79.54%±1.69, P<0.05). In the absence of endothelium, the contractions to phenylephrine were reduced significantly in Rap1 knockout aortae (pEC50: 6.97±0.13 vs 6.38±0.15, P<0.005).

Discussion. These results demonstrate that Rap1 modulates vascular responsiveness in the mouse aorta. Deletion of Rap1 appears to result in impaired basal and acetylcholine-stimulated release of nitric oxide.

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Discussion. Our findings demonstrate that GPR55 influences adrenoceptor function in the heart and may play a role in the altered adrenoceptor signalling characteristic of heart failure.