

## BEHAVIOR OF TWO PURINE AND PYRIMIDINE METABOLISM RELATED KEY REGULATIVE ENZYMES IN NORMAL AND PATHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

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Phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate synthetase-1 (PRPS-1; EC 2.7.6.1) is widely distributed in the human tissues and serves as a regulative key enzyme for purine and pyrimidine metabolism, whereas Xanthine Oxidoreductase (XOR; EC 1.1.3.22) is the enzyme responsible for the catabolism of purine nucleotides. These enzymes might serve as the aimolecules for triggering of regenerative processes after stroke. In case of inhibition of PRPS-1 and activation of XOR might serve as the targets for prevention of the cancer development. It was recently published in PLOS (Donini S, Garavaglia S, 2017), regulation of these enzymes prevents bioactivity of the pathogenic microorganisms. Thus, investigations of these enzymes' activities in normal and pathological conditions might be vital for the development of new treatment avenues.

*Phosphoribosyl pyrophosphate Synthetase, Xanthine Oxidoreductase, experimental stroke*

Фосфорибозил пирофосфатсинтаза (ФРПС-1; EC 2.7.6.1) широко распространена в тканях организма человека и служит в роли регуляторного фермента при метаболизме пуринов и пиримидинов, в то время как ксантин оксидоредуктаза (КОР; EC 1.1.3.22) является ферментом, ответственным за катаболизм пуринов. Эти ферменты могут выступать в роли основных иницирующих регенеративные процессы белков после инсульта. В случае ингибирования (ФРПС-1) и активации (КОР) могут служить в роли мишеней для предотвращения развития раковой опухоли. Недавно было опубликовано в PLOS статья о том (Donini S, Garavaglia S, 2017), что регуляция этих ферментов подавляет биоактивность патогенных микроорганизмов. Таким образом, исследование активности этих ферментов при нормальных и патологических условиях может стать жизненно важным для разработок новых путей лечения.

Ֆոսֆորիբոզիլ-պիրոֆոսֆատսինթազը (ՖՌՊՍ-1; EC 2.7.6.1) լայն տարածում ունի մարդու հյուսվածքներում և ծառայում է որպես կարգավորող ֆերմենտ պուրինների և պիրիմիդինների մետաբոլիզմի համար, այն դեպքում, երբ քսանտին-օքսիդոռեդուկտազը (ԶՕՌ; EC 1.1.3.22) պատասխանատու է պուրինների կատաբոլիզմի համար: Այս ֆերմենտները կարող են հանդես գալ որպես հիմնական ռեգեներատիվ գործընթացները խթանող սպիտակուցներ ինսուլտից հետո: Կարող են հանդես գալ որպես բաղկացիկների զարգացմանը խոչընդոտող թիրախներ, եթե ճշգրիտ մեկի ակտիվությունը (ՖՌՊՍ-1) և խթանել մյուսինը (ԶՕՌ): Վերջերս PLOS-ում (Donini S, Garavaglia S, 2017) տպագրվել է այն միտքը, որ այս ֆերմենտների ակտիվության կարգավորմամբ կարելի է կանխարգելել ախտածին միկրոօրգանիզմների կենսունակությունը: Այսպիսով, այս ֆերմենտների ակտիվության ուսումնասիրությունը ֆիզիոլոգիական և ախտաբանական պայմաններում կարող են դառնալ կենսունակ կարևորություն ունեցող ուսումնասիրություններ նոր բուժման ճանապարհների փնտրտուկում:

We will be discussing two enzymes: one of them is responsible for the synthesis of purine as well as pyrimidine, the other is responsible for purine catabolism.

**Phosphoribosylpyrophosphate synthetase-1** (PRPS-1; EC 2.7.6.1) catalyzes the phosphoribosylation of ribose 5-phosphate to 5-phosphoribosyl-1-pyrophosphate, which is necessary for the salvage pathways of purine and pyrimidine, pyridine nucleotide cofactors NAD and NADP, the amino acids histidine and tryptophan biosynthesis. Three PRPS genes have been identified: the widely expressed are PRPS1 and PRPS2 genes, and PRPS3, which is predominantly transcribed only in testis.

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Most PRSPs belong to class I, which require  $Mg^{2+}$  and phosphate for enzymatic activity, but can be inhibited allosterically by ADP and possibly other nucleotides.

Class II PRSPs are found specifically in plants which are not dependent on phosphate for activity and lack an allosteric site for ADP

While class I PRSPs transfer the diphosphoryl group only from ATP or dATP to ribose 5-phosphate, class II PRSPs have a much broader specificity for a diphosphoryl donor, including ATP, dATP, UTP, CTP and GTP. Recently, a novel class III PRS has been identified from *Methanocaldococcusjannaschii* which is activated by phosphate and uses ATP and dATP as a diphosphoryl donor, but also lacks an allosteric site for ADP.

$Mg^{2+}$  forms a complex with ATP (Mg-ATP) to act as the actual substrate of the enzyme although other divalent cations, such as  $Mn^{2+}$ ,  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$  or  $Cd^{2+}$  can serve as substitutes for  $Mg^{2+}$  with relatively lower activity. Phosphate has multiple effects on the activity and structure of the enzyme. It usually acts as an activator for the activity of bacterial and mammalian PRSPs although  $SO_4^{2-}$  can mimic the effect of phosphate at approx. 10-fold higher concentrations.

In patients with PRPS super activity, Roessler et al., and Becker et al. identified mutations in the PRPS-1 gene. All patients except 1 had hyperuricemia, neurodevelopmental abnormalities, and sensorineural deafness; the other patient had only hyperuricemia and gout. Functional expression studies of all mutations showed that enzyme over activity were due to alteration of allosteric feedback mechanisms.

Thus, abnormalities in synthesis of purines might influence on the catabolism of them and induce hyperuricemia and gout. The final enzyme, responsible for the formation of uric acid is Xanthine Oxidoreductase.

Also, it is necessarily to mention, that very little is known about the PRPS-1 in the stroke or experimental stroke conditions.

Xanthine oxidoreductase (XOR; EC. 1.1.3.22) is key and primer enzyme responsible for the formation of the uric acid from xanthine and hypoxanthine.

In our previous publications we stated that regulation of XOR might have an impact on the entire catabolism of the purines. By the utility of XOR inhibitors we demonstrated in our experiments that inhibition of this enzyme might trigger cells genesis in vitro.

**XOR and brain ischemia.** It is very well documented that after forebrain ischemia/reperfusion it might be generated excessive amount of superoxide anion radicals. Evidence exists that allopurinol, a xanthine-oxidase inhibitor, reduces delayed cell death in animal models of perinatal asphyxia and in human patients with other forms of organ reperfusion injury. Thus, allopurinol pretreatment suppresses generation of superoxide anion radicals, making XO (xanthine oxidase) the main enzyme responsible for the oxidative damage caused after oxidative stress, early inflammation, endothelial injury. By the other group of authors it was demonstrated that XO and cyclooxygenase are mostly responsible for postanoxic damage of the brain. Also, it was demonstrated that hydrogen peroxide damage is mediated through the activity of the XO in cerebellar granule neurons obtained from 8-day old Sprague-Dawley rat pups. By the other work it was shown that superoxide anion generated by the XO as well as singlet oxygen initiated the apoptosis-like cell death whereas hydrogen peroxide, generated because of the activity of the glucose oxidase and glucose deprivation in neuronal cell culture initiated necrosis.

**PRPS-1 and XOR after experimental stroke conditions, induced by intracranial injection of hydrogen peroxide.**

In accordance to the literature data, allopurinol inhibits the enzyme XOR, thereby blocking the conversion of the oxypurines hypoxanthine and xanthine to uric acid. Allopurinol administration also leads to deceleration of the rate of de novo synthesis of purine nucleotides.

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In our own experiments to clarify the behavior of the XOR and PRPS-1 enzymes in the pathological conditions, first, we needed to evaluate their activities in the brain of intact animals.

The activity of the PRPS-1 was diminished in the presence of GTP (inhibitor of PRPS-1) as well as allopurinol, which means that purines catabolism inhibition by feed-back mechanism might inhibit also the activity of PRPS-1.

Interestingly, XOR activity was inhibited by GTP, which might be explained or as the influence of key regulative enzyme PRPS-1 impact on XOR activity or overwhelming concentration of energetic source – GTP.

After comparison of the dynamic changes of XOR and PRPS-1 activities in 3 groups: peroxide intracranial injected animals serving as the control group; phosphate treated animals; allopurinol treated animals in peroxide treated as well as phosphate groups it is notable negative correlation of XOR and PRPS-1 activities. Strong, over activation of the PRPS-1 and simultaneous inhibition of XOR might trigger of purine and pyrimidine nucleotides source generation, which in turn might stimulate cells proliferation.

Also, its necessarily to take into the consideration, that patients with hypoxanthine–guanine phosphoribosyl transferase (HGPRT) deficiency or Lesch-Nyhan disease (MIM 300322) having uric acid overproduction similar to PRPS-1 super activity can also have mental retardation and hypotonia, as described in patients with Arts syndrome .

Thus, the phosphate related elevation of PRPS-1 activity and simultaneous decrease of XOR activity will promote synthesis of purines and will prevent above mentioned negative side effects related with overproduction of uric acid.

In allopurinol treated animals group the negative correlation was not notable.

In contrast to the intact animals brain tissue, GTP didn't activate XOR in pathological condition; exception is the allopurinol treated animals group. Allopurinol after modifications in the organism might by itself possess with the high absorption in the conditions of very low baseline XOR activity.

It might be explained due to the formation of Xanthine Oxidase from Xanthine Dehydrogenase via limited proteolysis, because XOR is the dual enzyme and in pathological conditions act mostly as the oxidase.

Allopurinol in hydrogen peroxide treated animals brain tissue was inhibiting activity of PRPS-1; exception is the allopurinol treated animals group. In pathological conditions, we might assume, that PRPS-1 might be structurally changed and behaves not as in normal, physiological conditions.

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## **INSIGHTS ON GLUCOCORTICOID RECEPTOR MODULATION THROUGH BINDING OF ARTEMISININ**

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In this work *in silico* study of the interaction of artemisinin with ligand bind domain of glucocorticoid receptor by molecular modeling methods. Artemisinins belong to the family of sesquiterpene lactones, secondary metabolites of medicinal plant *Artemisia annua*, which has been traditionally used in Chinese medicine. Artemisinins exhibit antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic and other activities. Molecular docking, principal component analysis, cluster analysis have revealed three binding sites of artemisinin with ligand bind domain of glucocorticoid receptor which are very important regions. Comparative analysis was performed with dexamethasone, which is a corticosteroid medication. Thus, we have shown for the first time that artemisinin affects extremely important sites of ligand bind domain of glucocorticoid receptor, it should be noted that the first binding site of artemisinin corresponds to the interaction site of dexamethasone. This may represent a molecular basis for ligand-dependent receptor activation and the possibility of using artemisinin as a new ligand for glucocorticoid receptor.

*Glucocorticoid receptor – artemisinin – dexamethasone - molecular docking – cluster analysis*

В данной работе изучено *insilico* взаимодействие артемизинина с лиганд связывающим доменом глюкокортикоидного рецептора методами молекулярного моделирования. Артемизинины относятся к семейству сесквитерпеновых лактонов, вторичных метаболитов лекарственного растения *Artemisia annua*, которое традиционно используется в китайской медицине. Артемизинины проявляют антиоксидантную, противовоспалительную, антиканцерогенную и др. активности. Методами молекулярного докинга, анализа по главным компонентам и кластерного анализа выявлено три сайта связывания артемизинина с лиганд связывающим доменом глюкокортикоидного рецептора, которые являются чрезвычайно важными участками. Проведен сравнительный анализ с кортикостероидным препаратом дексаметазоном. Нами впервые показано, что артемизинин влияет на чрезвычайно важные участки лиганд связывающим доменом глюкокортикоидного рецептора, при этом первый сайт связывания артемизинина соответствует сайту взаимодействия дексаметазона. Это может представлять молекуляр-