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Control/Tracking Number: A-10-417-EASD

Activity: Abstract

Current Date/Time: 3/30/2010 9:17:28 AM

**Abnormal regulation of pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell Na,K-ATPase on glucose intolerant rats**Author Block: A.R. Costa<sup>1,2</sup>, C.M. Antunes<sup>1,3</sup>, J. Cruz-Morais<sup>1,2</sup>;

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*Abstract:*

Background and aims: Glucose (G) is the most important physiological insulin secretagogue. It is widely accepted that, in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell, G evoked early ionic events such as membrane depolarization and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx through voltage dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels triggers insulin exocytosis. However, the role of other electrogenic systems, namely ionic pumps, to these events remains essentially uninvestigated. It is known that the activity of Na,K-ATPase is modified in type 2 diabetes (T2D). The pump is responsible for maintaining  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{K}^+$  gradients across the plasma membrane and generates a net outward current as a result of  $3\text{Na}^+/2\text{K}^+$  exchange. It remains elusive whether Na,K-ATPase activity is regulated by G in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell and/or this current contributes to the ionic events regulating insulin secretion.

The aim of this work was to assess G evoked regulation of Na,K-ATPase activity in intact  $\beta$ -cells of normal and G intolerant rats.

Materials and methods: Pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells, from normal (controls) or glucose-intolerant Wistar rats (GIR), were isolated and cultured (48h). Cell batches were pre-incubated (30min) with 2.1mM G to reach basal.

Afterwards cells were challenged with [G] in the interval 0-11.1mM for 60min, for dose-dependence evaluation, or with 8.4mM G for 5-120min, for time-dependence evaluation. ATPase activity was assessed in intact cells by colorimetric quantification of Pi formed in 30min. Na,K-ATPase activity was calculated by the difference between the activities obtained in the absence and in presence of 1mM ouabain.

Results: G evoked both time- and dose-dependent regulation of Na,K-ATPase. In  $\beta$ -cells from controls, G induced a bimodal regulation of Na,K-ATPase. In the absence of G, Na,K-ATPase activity was  $0.056 \pm 0.015 \text{ U/mg}$ . Raising [G] to 2.1mM induced a  $\approx 3$  fold increase of Na,K-ATPase activity whereas a further increase in [G] in the interval of 5.6-11.1mM evoked a significant reduction of Na,K-ATPase activity to the levels observed in the absence of the secretagogue. Compared to 2mM G, the activity was reduced in 68%, 55% and 66% when [G] was increased to 5.6, 8.4 and 11.1mM, respectively ( $n=3-12$ ). GIR  $\beta$ -cells exhibit an altered profile of response to the secretagogue; In the absence of G, Na,K-ATPase activity was  $\approx 4$  fold the activity observed in the controls ( $0.202 \pm 0.036 \text{ U/mg}$ ;  $n=3$ ). The pump activity remained unchanged for 2.1-5.6mM G and similar to maximal activity observed in the controls ( $0.188 \pm 0.035 \text{ U/mg}$ , for 2.1mM G;  $n=4$ ). A significant reduction of the pump activity in GIR  $\beta$ -cells was induced by 8.4mM G ( $0.118 \pm 0.018 \text{ U/mg}$ ). G (8mM) induced a time-dependent inhibition of Na,K-ATPase with a biphasic profile. Pump activity decreased to a minimum value (32%) after 20min exposure to G, showing a partial recovery to 45%, 46% and 47% for 30, 60 and 120min, respectively ( $n=5-12$ ). GIR  $\beta$ -cells showed an attenuated response to G (59% activity after 20min) without any recovery ( $n=5-11$ ).

Conclusions: This work demonstrates that Na,K-ATPase is finely regulated by G in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cell from normal subjects. This regulation is impaired in GIR where desensitization and an attenuation of the inhibitory action of G were observed. In summary, Na,K-ATPase contribution to G-induced ionic events and insulin secretion might be relevant in T2D development.

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Keyword (Complete): 12 Beta cell signal transduction

Study information (Complete):

No human / animal studies : True

Grant Acknowledgement (Complete):

Was grant/support received for this study?: Yes

Supported By: : This work was supported by ICAAM, CNC and a PhD grant from FEA

Status: Complete

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