Calcium signalling in health and disease



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Calcium in biology

Information transfer by intracellular Ca²⁺

Bio-functions of calcium

"on the path from plasma membrane to store"



Ca²⁺- the main "secondary messenger"



Cell signaling by calcium (neurona & glia)



Calcium binding proteins



Secondary messengers and Ca²⁺ oscilations / *cross-talk* of the plasma membrane and Ca²⁺ stores



$$\frac{d[G_{\alpha} - GTP]}{GTP GDP} = k_{g}[G_{\alpha} - GDP] - 4k_{p}[G_{\alpha} - GTP]^{4}[PLC] - h_{g}[G_{\alpha} - GTP],$$

$$\frac{d[DAG]}{dt} = k_{d}[PLC^{*}] - h_{d}[DAG] + l_{d},$$

$$\frac{d[Ca^{2+}]_{i}}{dt} = \rho \left\{ k_{c} \frac{[IP_{3}]^{3}}{K_{s}^{3} + [IP_{3}]^{3}} - h_{c} [Ca^{2+}]_{i} + l_{c} \right\},$$

dt

Calcium & neurodegeneration



Calcium fluorescent probe

Measurement of intracellular Ca²⁺

From Ca²⁺ bufer to Ca²⁺ indicator (sintesis of fluo-3)



Family of Fluo-indicators



Indicator	K _d (Ca ²⁺)	R ²	R ⁷	R ⁵	R ⁶
Fluo-3	0.39 µM	CI	CI	CH_3	н
Fluo-4	0.35 µM	F	F	CH₃	н
Fluo-5F	2.3 µM	F	F	F	н
Fluo-5N	90 µM	F	F	NO ₂	н
Fluo-4FF	9.7 µM	F	F	F	F



Intensity of fluo-3 fluorescence vs. Ca²⁺ concentraction



Raciometric dyes







In vivo calibration of the Ca²⁺ signal



$$[Ca]_{in}(t) = K_d \frac{F_0^{380}}{F_{\max}^{380}} \cdot \frac{R(t) - R_{\min}}{R_{\max} - R(t)}$$

Space & time dynamics of Ca²⁺ in a multicellular system



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Time (min)

Probe entrance into the cell (1) (Roger Y. Tsien)





Ca²⁺-sensitive proteins







Aequorin



3 Ca2+









Videomicroscopy in vivo



Experimental study cases

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)



Lou Gehrig (1903-1941)

- Late-onset neuromuscular disorder
- Death of large motor neurons in spinal cord and brainstem
- sALS sporadic and fALS familial (5-10%) forms.
- 15-20% familial ALS -> mutant form of Cu⁺²/Zn⁺² SOD (SOD1)
- Transgenic animal models mice and rat with mutant hSOD1



Effect of ALS IgGs on astrocytes in culture

CASE 1

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Humoralna imunost u ALS – poznati efekti ALS IgG

- Transfer to mouse induces degeneration of motor neurons, increase in calcium containing organelles (*Pullen et al. 2004*)
- Apoptotic cell death in hybrid motor neuron cell line (*Alexianu et al. 1994*) and human neuroblastoma cells (*Yi et al. 2000*)
- Activates caspase-3 pathway and induces selective apoptosis of neurons in rat mixed primary spinal cord cultures whereas astrocytes are less susceptible (*Demestre et al. 2005*)
- Increased P/Q type Ca²⁺ currents in Purkinje cells (*Llinas et al., 1993*), or decreased Ca²⁺ currents of cultured granule cells (*Zhainazarov et al., 1994*).
- Cultured hippocampal neurons: increased frequency, but not amplitude of the spontaneous and miniature glutamatergic currents; partly independent of external Ca²⁺ (*Andjus et al. 1997*)
- Modulate calcium transients (*Andjus et al., 1996*)
- Enhance mobility of acidic vesicles in cultured astrocytes (*Stenovec et al., 2011*) by affecting calcium homeostasis

M&M

- Primary cortical astrocytic culture from Wistar P2
- Laser scanning confocal microscopy of astrocytes loaded with fluo-calcium indicators Fluo-3 AM and Fluo-4 AM
- Relative change in intracellular calcium concentration calculated from the absolute change in the indicator's intensity normalized by the basal fluorescence:

$$I_t = \frac{\Delta F}{F_0} = \frac{F_t - F_0}{F_0}$$

Signal parameters: peak amplitude, time to peak, and time integral

$$SIgG = \sum_{i=s}^{e} \left(I_i \times \Delta t \right)$$

ALS IgGs evoke calcium transients in cultured rat astrocytes



Various types of transients



(i) single transients
(ii) high frequency bursts
(iii) repetitive calcium transients with variable peak amplitude

Extracellular Ca²⁺ shapes calcium transients



Uloga intracelularnih depoa Ca²⁺





Calcium transients are abolished by selective blockers of **IP3-sensitive** but not of **Ryanodine-sensitive** receptors on the endoplasmic reticulum membrane



CONCLUSION 1

- IgG from sALS patients, but not from non-ALS controls, evoked complex calcium transients in ~50% of treated astrocytes
- The probability to evoke calcium transients by ALS IgG did not dependent on extracellular calcium
- ~60% of calcium involved in these responses originates from intracellular organelles, while the remaining ~40% of calcium originates from the extracellular space
- ALS IgG-evoked Ca^{2+} transients depend on IP_3R , while RyR is not involved
- The influx of extracellular calcium through SOCE channels prolongs the responses.
- Inhibition of PLC diminishes, while the inhibition of PI3K completely prevents ALS IgG evoked calcium response.

ALS IgG affect calcium homeostatic system in astrocytes by IP₃ mediated calcium release from the endoplasmic reticulum and entry of extracellular calcium through SOCE channels, with the activation of PI3K upstream of PLC.

Effects exogenous mutant SOD1



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Mutant SOD1



Nature Reviews | Neuroscience

Exogenous mSOD forms tetrameric structures that are incorporated in lipid bilayers and from pores

Allen et al. 2011





M&M

- Astrocyte cultures from postnatal 2d Wistar rats
- Laser scanning confocal microscopy with **Fluo-4 AM**
- Aplication of metalised (Cu, Zn) recombinant mSOD1 i wtSOD1 (Jean Pierre Julien, Université Laval, Quebec)
- Measured parameters: percent if cells with change in intracellular calcium and time integral of transients

mSOD vs wtSOD – Ca^{2+} oscillations





Acute Ca²⁺ response



Data summary





responders non-responders

Electrophysiological exploration of SOD1 effect on astrocytes



Imunocitohemija astrocita u kulturi







Change in membrane resistance, R_m



Change in current density at -150 mV









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