

INHIBITION OF RENIN SECRETION BY PLATELET ACTIVATING FACTOR  
(ACETYLGLYCERYL ETHER PHOSPHORYLCHOLINE) IN CULTURED RAT  
RENAL JUXTAGLOMERULAR CELLS

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Acetylglyceryl ether phosphorylcholine (AGEPC), commonly known as platelet activating factor, was found to strongly inhibit renin secretion in cultures rich in juxtaglomerular cells. This inhibitory action of AGEPC was accompanied by an enhanced calcium permeability of the cell membrane as evaluated from measurements of the uptake of  $^{45}\text{Ca}$ . Simultaneous addition of the calcium channel blocker verapamil abolished the effects of AGEPC on both renin secretion and calcium permeability. Furthermore, addition of AGEPC to the cell cultures led to a decrease of  $^{32}\text{P}$ -labeled phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate and to an increase in  $^3\text{H}$ -labeled diacylglycerol, indicating an activation of phospholipase C by AGEPC. © 1985 Academic Press, Inc.

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Platelet activating factor (PAF) was first described as an inducer of platelet aggregation during IgE-mediated anaphylaxis in the rabbit (1,2). PAF has recently been identified as 1-O-alkyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphorylcholine (AGEPC) (3). This phospholipid causes marked vasoconstriction and increased permeability of blood vessels (4) as well as contraction of ileal smooth muscle (5). AGEPC is produced from basophils on immunological challenges and from platelets, neutrophils and macrophages in response to specific stimuli (6-11) and has also been demonstrated in the venous effluent of isolated perfused rat kidney (12) and also in isolated glomeruli (28). Authors in (13) have shown that AGEPC possesses marked antihypertensive activity when given to "Goldblatt" one-kidney, one-clip hypertensive rats. Hypertension in this condition is known to be due to increased levels of plasma renin with subsequent production of angiotensin II. In view of the fact that AGEPC has vasoconstrictive properties and vasoconstrictive agents such as

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Abbreviations used: AGEPC, acetylglyceryl ether phosphorylcholine; PAF, platelet activating factor; AI, angiotensin I;  $\text{PIP}_2$ , phosphatidylinositol 4,5 bisphosphate; DAG, 1,2-diacylglycerol;  $\text{IP}_3$ , inositoltrisphosphate.

angiotensin II and arginine-vasopressin markedly inhibit renin secretion (14), it is tempting to speculate that the antihypertensive properties of AGEPC in Goldblatt hypertension might be due to a direct inhibition of renin secretion in the kidney.

Recently we have established a cell culture system from rat kidneys containing about 60% of juxtaglomerular cells which allows study of renin secretion in some detail. Aim of the present study was to investigate the influence of AGEPC on renin secretion as well as on some pertinent cellular processes like calcium permeability of the cell membrane (15) and phosphoinositide metabolism (16-19).

#### Materials and Methods

Stock solutions of AGEPC (Sigma), ( $10^{-3}$ M) in ethanol were prepared and complexed with 0.3 mg/ml of bovine serum albumin (BSA) in MEM to give a concentration of  $10^{-6}$ M. The BSA bound AGEPC was added to the cells to give a final concentration of  $10^{-8}$ M or  $10^{-10}$ M. Carrier free  $^{32}$ P<sub>i</sub>,  $^{45}$ Ca and ( $^3$ H)-glycerol were from Amersham International. T.L.C. plates (precoated silicagel 60 with concentration zone, 0,25 mm thick) came from Merck, Darmstadt, F.R.G. Lipid standards and BSA (essentially fatty acid-free) were obtained from Sigma. Cell culture dishes and cell culture media were from Greiner, Mürtingen, F.R.G. and Boehringer-Mannheim, respectively.

Cell Cultures rich in juxtaglomerular cells were prepared as described previously (15). In brief, rat kidneys were perfused in situ with Hank's balanced salt solution supplemented with 1 g glucose, 12.11 g sucrose, 0,2g NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, 2.6 mM glutamine, 0,84 g Na-citrate and 10 mg BSA per liter. Cortical pieces (1 mm<sup>3</sup>) were incubated with this buffer, containing 0,25% trypsin and 0,1% collagenase instead of Na-citrate. The suspension was gassed with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in air and stirred with a magnetic bar at 37°C. After 120 min. the solution was poured over a 0,22 mm sieve. Cells passing the sieve were washed two times with culture medium (RPMI 1640, 25mM Hepes, 0,66 U/ml insulin, 100 µg/ml streptomycin, 100 U/ml penicillin and 10% fetal bovine serum) and seeded in tissue culture dishes at a density of 10<sup>5</sup> cells/cm<sup>2</sup>. Cultures were kept at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere at 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in air. After two days of culture, 60% of the adherent cells displayed a strong immunoreactivity for a specific antibody against renin. The renin content of the cultured cells was about 1µg AI/h x 10<sup>6</sup> cells at that time.

Determination of Renin Secretion. Renin activity was determined by its ability to generate angiotensin I (AI) from the plasma of bilaterally nephrectomized rats exactly as described in (20). AI was determined by radioimmunoassay (IDW, Dreieich, F.R.G.) Renin secretion was investigated at the second day of culture. The culture medium was substituted by a prewarmed buffer consisting of 132 mM NaCl, 5mM KCl, 0,8mM Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 2mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 10mM Na-acetate, 2mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 10mM glucose, 20mM hepes (pH = 7,3) and the culture dishes were placed on a heating block at a temperature of 37°C. The renin secretion rate was calculated from the linear increase of the renin activity of the cell-conditioned buffer.

Measurement of  $^{45}$ Calcium-uptake. The culture medium was substituted by a prewarmed Hepes buffered saline (HBS) consisting of 20mM He-

pes, 148mM NaCl, 5mM KCl, 2mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 6mM Glucose, pH 7,3 supplemented with <sup>45</sup>Ca (4μ Ci/ml). Simultaneously, AGEPC or verapamil or a combination of both was added. At different times, buffer was withdrawn and the cells quickly washed with 10 x 1 ml ice-cold HBS containing 10mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. The cells were lysed by the addition of 1 ml of 0,5N NaOH and the radioactivity was counted in 10 ml Aquasol 2 (New England Nuclear) in a β-scintillation counter.

Prelabeling of cells with <sup>32</sup>P<sub>i</sub> and (<sup>3</sup>H)-glycerol. After two days of culture, medium was removed and the cells were incubated for 24 hours in phosphate-poor MEM (50μM P<sub>i</sub>) containing 100μCi/ml <sup>32</sup>P<sub>i</sub> or with MEM containing 5μCi/ml (<sup>3</sup>H)-glycerol. After this prelabeling period the medium was replaced by fresh medium either without (control) or with AGEPC (10<sup>-8</sup>M).

Extraction, separation and quantitation of Phosphoinositides and Diacylglycerol. Incubations were terminated by addition of ice-cold methanol-chloroform, and lipid extraction was done as described (21). The extracted <sup>32</sup>P-labeled phospholipids were separated on thin-layer plates impregnated with potassium oxalate and EDTA with a solvent system consisting of chloroform/methanol/4N NH<sub>4</sub>OH (45/35/10, by vol.) Neutral lipids were separated using n-heptane/ diethyl ether/acetic acid (75/25/4, by vol.) as described (21). Phospholipids and neutral lipids were localized by comigration of standards followed by iodine staining and <sup>32</sup>P-labelled lipids additionally by autoradiography. The spots were scraped from the chromatographs and counted by liquid scintillation in water (Cerenkov counting) for <sup>32</sup>P labelled lipids. (<sup>3</sup>H)-labeled lipids were analysed with a TLC-linear analyzer LB 2821 from Berthold, München, F.R.G. The detection efficiency for (<sup>3</sup>H) was about 1%. Protein determination was done according to the method of Lowry (22) with BSA as standard.

## Results

Fig. 1 shows that AGEPC strongly inhibited the spontaneous renin secretion in a concentration dependent manner. Whilst in control experiments, the rate of renin secretion was about 390 pg AI/h per min per dish, AGEPC at concentrations of (10<sup>-10</sup>M) and (10<sup>-8</sup>M) reduced the secretion rate to 175 pg AI/h and to 72.5 pg AI/h per min. and dish respectively. Note, that the term AI/h is formally equivalent with one unit of renin activity. This inhibition could only be observed during the first 15 minutes and reached control levels after 60 minutes. Simultaneous addition of verapamil (10<sup>-5</sup>M) completely abolished the inhibitory effect of AGEPC, whilst the addition of verapamil alone greatly enhanced renin secretion (Fig. 1).

Fig. 2 shows that calcium uptake by the cultured cells was increased in the presence of AGEPC (10<sup>-8</sup>M). Verapamil (10<sup>-5</sup>M) strongly reduced the calcium uptake and the simultaneous addition of AGEPC and verapamil also reduced the calcium uptake, but to a slighter degree than did verapamil alone.

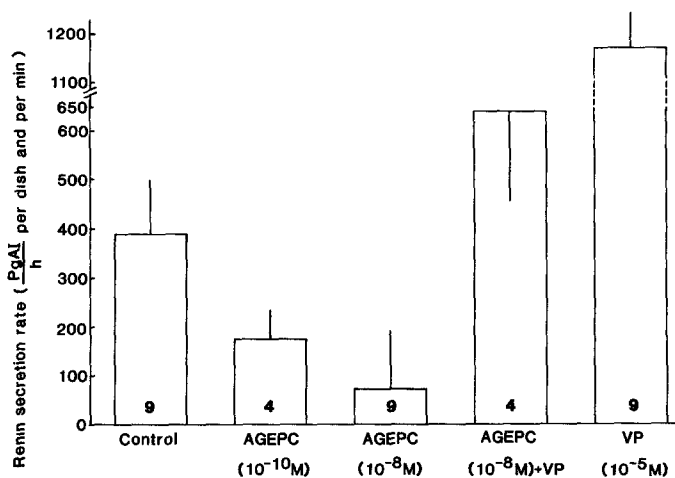


Fig. 1

Renin secretion rate of cultured juxtaglomerular cells in the presence of acetylcholine (AGEPC) ( $10^{-8}M$ ) and ( $10^{-10}M$ ), verapamil (VP) ( $10^{-5}M$ ) and the combination of AGEPC ( $10^{-8}M$ ) and VP ( $10^{-5}M$ ). Data are mean  $\pm$  S.E.M. Figures at the bottom of the columns indicate the number of independent experiments.

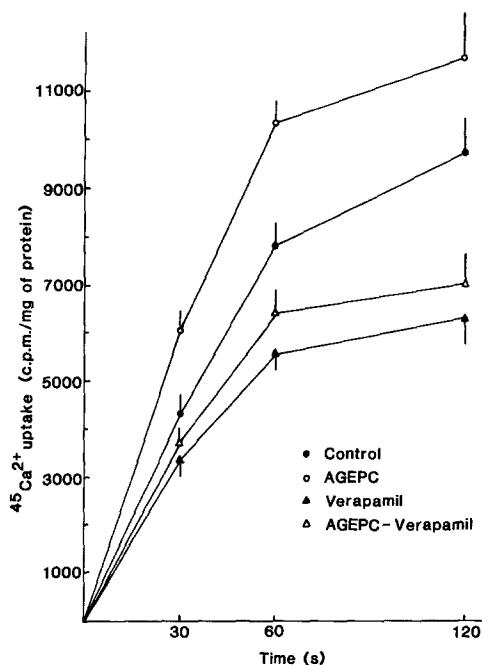


Fig. 2

$^{45}Ca^{2+}$  uptake in the presence of AGEPC ( $10^{-8}M$ ), verapamil ( $10^{-5}M$ ) and after simultaneous addition of AGEPC ( $10^{-8}M$ ) and verapamil ( $10^{-5}M$ ). Results are presented as mean  $\pm$  S.E.M. of eight experiments.

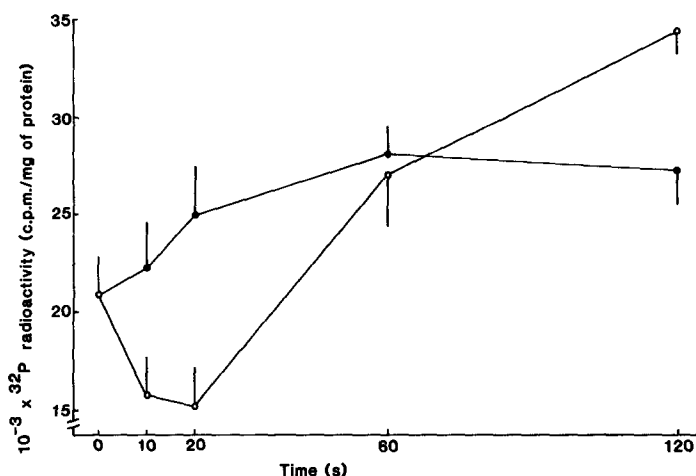


Fig. 3 Time course of  $^{32}\text{P}$  radioactivity in phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate. Open symbols represent stimulation with AGEPC ( $10^{-8}\text{M}$ ); filled symbols represent control values. Values are mean  $\pm$  S.E.M.,  $n = 5$ .

lition of AGEPC ( $10^{-8}\text{M}$ ) to the cells provoked a rapid decrease of  $^{32}\text{P}$  radioactivity found in phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate ( $\text{PIP}_2$ ) (Fig. 3). This effect could be detected as early as 10 seconds after addition of AGEPC and was maximal (60% of control) within 20 seconds. One minute after addition of AGEPC, the level of  $^{32}\text{P}$  in  $\text{PIP}_2$  increased and approached control levels, followed by an increase above initial levels at 2 minutes. This early decrease of  $^{32}\text{P}$ -label in  $\text{PIP}_2$  was followed by a subsequent increase of ( $^3\text{H}$ )-glycerol-label in diacylglycerol (DAG) which had a maximum 30 s after addition of AGEPC (Fig. 4).

#### Discussion

The strong inhibition of renin secretion by AGEPC (Fig. 1) is comparable to that of other vasoconstrictive agents like angiotensin II and arginine-vasopressin (14). In analogy to what we have recently shown for angiotensin II, AGEPC inhibits renin secretion probably by enhancing the permeability of the cell membrane, thereby increasing the intracellular calcium concentrations (15). The complete suppression by verapamil of the action of AGEPC on renin secretion suggests that AGEPC acts by opening calcium channels. The fact that an inhibition of renin secretion could be observed only during the first 15 min. after addition of AGEPC

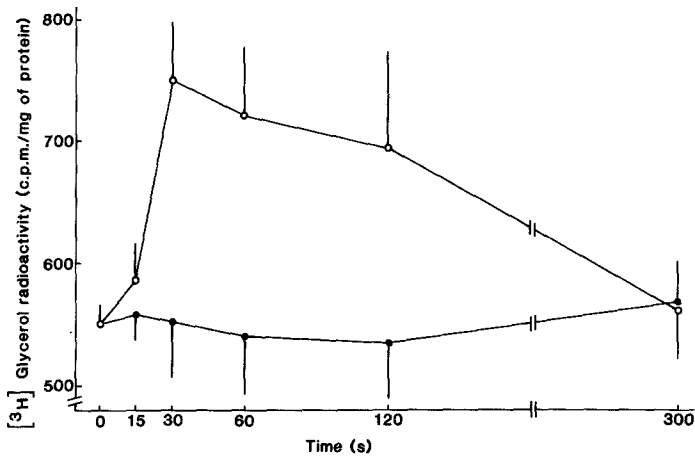


Fig. 4 Time course of (<sup>3</sup>H)glycerol radioactivity in 1,2-diacylglycerol in juxtaglomerular cells stimulated with AGEPC (10<sup>-8</sup>M); open symbols represent stimulation with AGEPC (10<sup>-8</sup>); filled symbols represent control values.

s very likely to be due to the fast degradation of the agent (23). It now appears to be generally accepted that hormones and neurotransmitters that use calcium as second messenger specifically hydrolyse membrane phosphoinositides. Michell suggested in 1975 that calcium mobilization is linked to phosphatidylinositol breakdown (24). However, more recent experiments have demonstrated that the primary event in receptor stimulated inositol phospholipid metabolism is by an action of phospholipase C (PLC) upon phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP<sub>2</sub>) (for review see 25-26). Since AGEPC is known to cause IP<sub>2</sub> degradation in platelets (17-19) and hepatocytes (16), we have examined the effect of AGEPC on PIP<sub>2</sub> metabolism in our cell culture system. The results presented in Figs. 3 and 4 clearly show that AGEPC leads to a loss of radioactivity from PIP<sub>2</sub> and an increase of (<sup>3</sup>H)-glycerol label in diacylglycerol (DAG). Therefore, AGEPC apparently stimulates PLC in our cell culture system. We have observed very similar effects of angiotensin II and arginine-vasopressin on the inositol phospholipid metabolism in these cells (manuscript submitted). Both of the cleavage products of PIP<sub>2</sub> metabolism, i.e. DAG and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) are important second messengers (for review see (27)). IP<sub>3</sub> is thought to be the intracellular signal to promote hormone induced calcium mobilization and DAG activates protein kinase C which in turn phosphorylates various cellular proteins. We have recently found that the phorbol ester, 12-O-tetradecanoyl-

bol-13-acetate, which is widely used as an activator of protein kinase C, enhances the calcium permeability in cultured glomerular mesangial cells (unpublished results). In view of this, it can be speculated that an activation of protein kinase C by DAG is causally related to the increase in calcium permeability observed in the present experiments (2).

In this report we have presented evidence, that AGEPC strongly influences renin secretion and phosphoinositide metabolism in cultures of glomerular juxtaglomerular cells. The low concentration at which AGEPC inhibits renin secretion ( $10^{-10}$ M) and also the fact that AGEPC is produced by the kidney itself (12, 28) supports the notion that AGEPC is involved in the regulation of kidney renin secretion and may be part of an intrarenal feedback mechanism controlling renin secretion.

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