Different Mode of Induction of Galectin-9 and Osteopontin in THP-1 Cells upon Dengue Virus Infection In Vitro

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MCPs in infectious diseases.

A family of secreted extracellular matrix (ECM) proteins which influence on cell-matrix interactions was termed as "matricellular" proteins (MCPs).

MCPs include connective-tissue growth factors, galectins and osteopontin (OPN).

The multitasking aspects of MCPs are derived from the different structural proteins, cell-surface receptors, proteases, and cytokines with which these proteins come into contact in the local environment of various tissues.



Gene structure and domain organization of human osteopontin





Elevated plasma Levels of osteopontin and N-half osteopontin in dengue virus infection



Experiment conditions

Cell line	THP-1	293T
Cell type	Human monocytes	Embrionic kidney
Growth medium	RPMI-1640 10% FBS	DMEM 10% FBS
Cell number (at infection time)	2 x 10E5 cells	3.2 x 10E5 cells
Type of cell culture flasks/dishes/plates/tubes	Cell culture tube	12-wells tissue culture plates
Total volume of medium	1 mL	2 mL
Virus type	DENV 3 (MOI 0.001, 0.003, 0.005); 1, 3, and 5 days incubation	
Purification kit	Maxwell 16 LEV SimplyRNA Cells Kit	
ELISA kit	Human OPN DuoSet ELISA R&D Systems	
RT-PCR kit	RNA Ultrasense One-Step Quantitative RT-PCR System	



Figure 1. MOI- and time-dependent change in *OPN* **mRNA expression upon DENV infection.** (A) THP-1 and (B) 293T cells were infected with DENV-3 at various MOIs (range: 0.01-0.1). PMA was used as a positive control. Cells were harvested daily (1–3 days). Total RNA was prepared from cell lysates and OPN levels were determined by RT-qPCR. GAPDH was used as reference gene to normalize the expression level. The table summarizes statistical analysis, *P < 0.005, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0005 vs. control (uninfected cells; unpaired two-tailed t test). Data represent mean \pm SEM. § and § § represent MOI- and time-dependent variables



MOI- and time-dependent change in OPN protein expression upon DENV infection. (A) THP-1 and (B) 293T cells were infected with DENV-3 at various MOIs (range: 0.01–0.1). PMA was used as a positive control. Normalized OPN levels in each sample are expressed as pg/ml/10⁶ cells., *P < 0.005, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0005 vs. control (uninfected cells; unpaired two-tailed t test

Figure 3. DENV RNA copy number in infected cell lines.

(A, B) THP-1 and (C, D) 293T cells were left uninfected or infected with DENV-3 at various MOIs (range: 0.01 – 0.1). Total RNA was extracted from cell lysates and the culture supernatant and DENV genome copy number was determined by RT-qPCR.,*P < 0.005, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0005, ****P < 0.0001 vs. control..



A glimpse of chemical compounds 40 and 62

 A new aromatic amide, brefelamide, was isolated from methanol extracts of the fruiting bodies of Dictyostelium brefeldianum and D. giganteum (slime molds).



Figure 4. Changes in *OPN* mRNA expression by treatment with compounds A and B in DENV-infected cells.

Uninfected and DENV-infected THP-1 (A,B) or 293T (C,D) cells were left untreated or treated with compound A or compound B (range: $3-30 \mu$ M), or statin (range: $0.3-1 \mu$ M) for 72 h. *P < 0.005, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0005, ****P < 0.001, vs. control (0.2% DMSO; unpaired two-tailed t test). Data represent mean ± SEM.



Figure 5. Effect of compounds A and B on OPN protein level in DENV-infected cells.

Uninfected and DENV-infected THP-1 (A,B) or 293T (C,D) cells were left untreated or treated with compound A or compound B (range: 3–30 μ M), or statin (range: 0.3–1 μ M) for 72 h. *P < 0.005, **P < 0.001, ***P < 0.0005 vs. control (0.2% DMSO; unpaired two-tailed t test). Data represent mean ± SEM.



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Galectin-9 levels in dengue virus-infected THP-1 cells. Cells were mock-infected or infected with dengue virus-3 (DENV-3) at varying doses. Cells were incubated and harvested after 1, 2 and 3 days post-infection. Extracellular (A) and intracellular (B) galectin-9 was assayed using ELISA. Unpaired *t*-test was used to calculate significance (ns = no significance, * $p \le 0.05$, ** $p \le 0.01$, *** $p \le 0.001$ and **** $p \le 0.0001$) vs. control.



Relative expression of galectin-9 mRNA. THP-1 cells were uninfected, r infected with DENV-3 at varying doses. Cells were incubated and harvested after 1, 2 and 3 days post-infection. Total RNA from cell lysates was extracted and reverse transcription quantitative RT-PCR was used to determine the expression of gal-9 mRNAs. The mRNA levels of gal-9 were normalized to GAPDH mRNA.

Conclusion

- THP-1 constitutively expressed OPN mRNA and protein which was enhanced by DENV-3 infection.
- Brefelamide and its derivative isolated from slime mold fruiting bodies suppressed OPN production in DENV-3 infected THP-1 cells.
- DENV-3 infection increased gal-9 levels in the supernatant, while reduced in the cells.
- Decreased expression of *LGALS9* mRNA, together implicated gal-9 as a potential DAMP in DENV infection.
- MCP proteins are released by distinct mechanisms in THP-1 cells by DENV infection.

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