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Research Article

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Alterations in Adenosine Triphosphate and Energy Charge in Cultured Endothelial and P388D₁ Cells after Oxidant Injury

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Abstract

To investigate mechanisms whereby oxidant injury of cells results in cell dysfunction and death, cultured endothelial cells or P388D₁ murine macrophagelike cells were exposed to oxidants including H₂O₂, O₂⁻ (generated by the enzymatic oxidation of xanthine), or to stimulated polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMN). Although Trypan Blue exclusion was not diminished before 30 min, cellular ATP was found to fall to <30% of control values within 3 min of exposure to 5 mM H₂O₂. Stimulated PMN plus P388D₁ caused a 50% fall in cellular ATP levels. During the first minutes of oxidant injury, total adenylate content of cells fell by 85%. Cellular ADP increased 170%, AMP increased 900%, and an 83% loss of ATP was accompanied by a stoichiometric increase in IMP and inosine. Calculated energy charge [(ATP + 1/2 AMP)/(ATP + ADP + AMP)] fell from 0.95 to 0.66.

Exposure of P388D₁ to oligomycin plus 2-deoxyglucose (which inhibit oxidative and glycolytic generation of ATP, respectively) resulted in a rate of ATP fall similar to that induced by H₂O₂. In addition, nucleotide alterations induced by exposure to oligomycin plus 2-deoxyglucose were qualitatively similar to those induced by the oxidant. Loss of cell adenylates could not be explained by arrest of *de novo* purine synthesis or increased ATP consumption by the Na⁺-K⁺ ATPase or the mitochondrial F₀-ATPase. These results indicate that H₂O₂ causes a rapid and profound fall in cellular ATP levels similar to that seen when ATP production is arrested by metabolic inhibitors.

Introduction

Exposure of certain mammalian cells and organs to oxygen radicals formed by the reduction of molecular oxygen has been shown to result in cell dysfunction and death. Liberation of intracellular enzymes and release of ⁵¹Cr from previously labeled cells occurs several hours after exposure of a variety of cells including cultured endothelial cells, tumor cells, and fibroblasts to oxygen radicals produced either by chemical-generating systems or by stimulated polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMN) (1-4). In addition, lung edema and postischemic organ edema occur coincident with exposure to oxygen radicals (5-7).

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Although oxidation of proteins, lipids, and deoxyribonucleic acids may play a role in the cellular and organ dysfunction induced by oxidant exposure (8-10), specific cellular events resulting from oxidant injury and necessary for cell death are yet unknown. While studying the relationships between blood platelet adenosine triphosphate (ATP), adenylate energy charge, and platelet function, Holmsen and Robkin (11) found that H₂O₂ caused a rapid conversion of metabolically available ATP to inosine and/or hypoxanthine. This conversion was augmented by the presence of catalase inhibitors and was not accompanied by significant changes in inorganic phosphate concentration. Absolute changes in ATP levels in the metabolic pool were not measured. Endothelial cells have also been noted to undergo alterations in adenylate metabolism after exposure to H₂O₂ or xanthine oxidase/xanthine. Ager (12) reported increased release of ³H from cells preincubated with [³H]adenosine and then exposed to oxidants. In addition, cell uptake of [³H]adenine was inhibited in a dose-dependent fashion by exposure to >0.1 mM H₂O₂.

Because adenine nucleotides participate in many metabolic reactions and are major factors in maintaining cellular homeostasis (13), we investigated adenine nucleotide alterations in two cultured cell lines, early passage bovine aortic endothelial cells and P388D₁ murine macrophages, after exposure of those cells to H₂O₂ (delivered either as a bolus or by the enzymatic oxidation of glucose by glucose oxidase) or to stimulated PMN. Because the energy charge [(ATP + 1/2 ADP)/(ATP + ADP + AMP)] of a cell has been related to control of multiple metabolic functions, that value was determined. We have demonstrated a rapid and profound fall in cellular ATP levels and energy charge after exposure to these oxygen radicals. This fall precedes other evidence of cell injury and is consistent with a marked reduction of phosphorylation of ADP.

Methods

Chemicals. Superoxide dismutase (SOD),¹ luciferin-luciferase, and oligomycin were obtained from Calbiochem, La Jolla, CA; culture media from Gibco Laboratories, Santa Clara, CA; fetal calf serum from Flow Laboratories, Inglewood, CA; ⁵¹Cr from New England Nuclear, Boston, MA; the remainder of chemicals used from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO.

Cell culture. The murine macrophagelike cell line P388D₁ has been previously described (14). It was maintained in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum, 2 mM glutamine, and 50 µg/ml gentamycin sulfate. Cells were grown just to confluence in 150-cm² flasks (Corning Glass Works, Corning, NY) and used immediately. When exposed to FNLP (2.6 µM) or PMA (100 µg/ml), these cells showed no evidence of O₂⁻ liberation as assessed by ability to reduce cytochrome *c*. Bovine aortic endothelial cells, a gift of Dr. David Loskutoff, Department

1. **Abbreviations used in this paper:** HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; MEM, minimal essential medium; PMA, phorbol myristate acetate; SOD, superoxide dismutase.

of Immunology, the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic, were grown to confluence on Cytodex 3 microcarrier beads (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Uppsala, Sweden) (25 mg/ml) in spinner culture flasks (Techne Instruments Co., Princeton, NJ) in minimal essential medium (MEM) supplemented with 10% calf serum, 5 mM glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin G, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (15). Both cell cultures were maintained in 5% CO₂ in air at 37°C.

Cell suspension for experiments. P388D₁ cells were suspended using a rubber policeman, centrifuged at 500 g for 5 min and resuspended at a concentration of 2 × 10⁶/ml in RPMI-1640 with 20 mM Hepes at 37°C unless otherwise noted. Cell counts were performed with a hemocytometer or counter (Coulter Electronics Inc., Hialeah, FL). Cell viability as assayed by Trypan Blue exclusion was always >95% in all initial cell suspensions. 10 µl of 0.1% Trypan Blue in 0.9% NaCl was added to 90 µl of a suspension of 2 × 10⁶ cells/ml and the cells were examined in a hemocytometer under light microscopy. For studies of ⁵¹Cr release, 2 × 10⁶ cells/ml were labeled with 1 µCi ⁵¹Cr/ml for 30 min, washed once, and resuspended. ⁵¹Cr-release was assayed by gamma scintillation spectrometry of 1 ml of cell supernatant after pelleting of the cells. Endothelial cells on microcarrier beads were pipetted from the culture flask, allowed to settle, and resuspended in MEM 199 with 20 mM Hepes. Cell number was indexed by the amount of DNA present per milliliter sample using a fluorimetric assay (16).

ATP by luciferin/luciferase. 100 µl of cell suspension was added to 2.0 ml 10 mM KH₂PO₄, 4 mM MgSO₄, pH 7.4, at 95°–99°C. After 4 min, samples were placed in ice and assayed within 4 h. At the time of assay, 1 ml sample was added to 2 ml 50 mM NaAsO₂, and 20 mM MgSO₄, pH 7.40. 50 µl luciferin/luciferase was added, and precisely 15 s later the light emission was quantified in a LS 8000 beta counter (Beckman Instruments, Inc., Fullerton, CA) with the photomultiplier tube signals accepted out of coincidence (17). Pulse height analyzer channels 81–120 were recorded, as preliminary calibration showed 80% of the photon peak to be in this region. Standards were prepared in 100 mM KH₂PO₄, 4 mM MgSO₄ buffer, and ATP concentration was measured spectrophotometrically at 259 nm using an extinction coefficient of 15,400. Standard curves of log photon counts vs. log [ATP] were linear from 10⁻⁹ to 10⁻⁵ M ATP.

Rate of de novo purine synthesis. P388D₁ cells in suspension were exposed to various concentrations of H₂O₂ and [¹⁴C]formate (250 µM, 40 mCi/mM) was added either immediately or after 30 min. Cells were incubated for ½ h after the addition of formate, centrifuged, and the cell pellets and supernatants were separately extracted with 1 ml 0.4 N HClO₄. The extracts were hydrolyzed for 70 min at 100°C, chilled to 0°C, centrifuged, and free purine bases (derived from intracellular purine-containing nucleotides and polynucleotides) or purine bases released to the media were isolated using the methods of Hersfield and Seegmiller (18) and counted to determine the rate of labeling of total intracellular purines. Because the media was free of hypoxanthine, guanine, or adenine, the comparative net rates of purine synthesis before and after oxidant injury were estimated.

High pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC). Experiments for HPLC analysis were performed with P388D₁ cells at a density of 2 × 10⁷ cells/ml; 1.5-ml samples of cell suspension were taken into Eppendorf tubes, centrifuged in a microfuge for 30 s, and the supernatant was removed and saved for analysis. The pellet was extracted with 0.5 ml of iced 0.8 N HClO₄, and after removing acid-insoluble material by centrifugation, the supernatants were neutralized by treatment with Alamine 336 (General Mills, Inc., Minneapolis, MN) in freon-TF (1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane, Aldrich Chemical Co., Milwaukee, WI) (19). Nucleotides in the original cell pellet supernatant and the cell pellet extract were separated on an Ultrasil AX anion exchange column (Altex Scientific, Inc., Berkeley, CA) according to the method of Pogliotti (20). Nucleosides and bases were separated on a C18 reverse-phase column (DuPont Co., Willington, DE) using a gradient of buffer A (10 mM K₂HPO₄, pH 3.3) and solvent B (60% acetonitrile in 10 mM K₂HPO₄, pH 4.0) at a flow rate of 1.5 ml. After equilibration at 99% A, 1% B, an 11% gradient to 88% A, 12% B was run over 25 min. A Series 4 liquid chromatograph with an LC-75 variable detector set at 256 nm was used

(Perkin Elmer Corp., Norwalk, CT). Solutions of nucleotide, nucleoside, and base standards whose concentrations had been established by ultraviolet absorbance were used to establish retention times and convert peak areas to nanomoles.

Exposure of P388D₁ cells to metabolic inhibitors. Cells were washed 1 time, suspended in low K⁺ buffer (0.65 mM KCl, 145 mM NaCl, 1 mM CaCl₂, and 10 mM Hepes, pH 7.4) at 2 × 10⁶/ml, incubated for 20 min at 24°C in the presence or absence of 0.1 mM ouabain, and then exposed to 5 mM H₂O₂ or phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Samples were taken frequently over the subsequent 30 min.

Cells in RPMI/Hepes (20 mM) at a concentration of 2 × 10⁶/ml were exposed to ±25 µg oligomycin/ml (equivalent to 111 µg/mg cell protein) for 3 min and then to ±5 mM H₂O₂. Samples were taken frequently over the subsequent 30 min. In additional experiments, cells were exposed to ±oligomycin at the concentrations stated, and to ±2-deoxyglucose (10 mM) for 3 min, and then to ±H₂O₂ (5 mM).

Measurement of H₂O₂ levels. H₂O₂ in the extracellular medium was assayed using the fluorometric assay described by Hyslop and Sklar (21). Cell suspensions were rapidly centrifuged and 0.15 ml of the supernatant was taken for H₂O₂ determination.

Results

Exposure of aortic endothelial cells and P388D₁ cells to H₂O₂. When endothelial cells were exposed to 1, 5, or 8.3 mM H₂O₂, a rapid and substantial loss of intracellular ATP was observed (Fig. 1). This loss persisted for 3 h without evidence of recovery.

When P388D₁ were exposed to H₂O₂, a rapid and profound decrement in ATP levels was always demonstrable, as shown in Fig. 2. This result was not due to a simple effect of H₂O₂ on ATP, since exposure of 5 µM ATP to 0.005, 0.05, 0.5, or 5 mM H₂O₂ for 10 min resulted in recovery of 99±4%. Neither was loss of measurable ATP due to loss of cells from the cell suspension, for cell counts of suspensions were unchanged after H₂O₂ exposure. In addition, ATP was not detected in the extracellular media.

The early loss of P388D₁ ATP was in contrast to release of ⁵¹Cr from labeled cells into the medium. Cells exposed to 5 mM H₂O₂ released intracellular ⁵¹Cr at a rate of 6.5%/h over 4 h of incubation (*r* = 0.99, *n* = 3), whereas control cells did not exhibit progressive loss of ⁵¹Cr. In addition, cells exposed to 5 mM H₂O₂ showed >95% Trypan Blue exclusion for the first hour after exposure. This value then gradually declined to 50% at 3 h (data not shown).

The effect of various doses of H₂O₂ on P388D₁ ATP levels, shown in Fig. 3, demonstrates dose dependency, both of the extent of the ATP decrement and of the rate of ATP restoration. Exposure to 5 mM H₂O₂ resulted in fall of ATP to <98% control levels, with no recovery over 4 h. This fall begins 45 s after the addition of H₂O₂ (data not shown). The concentration of H₂O₂ in the extracellular medium was measured, and fell exponentially from the initial value, with *t*_{1/2} = 14.4, 11.3, 8.7, or 7.7 min with

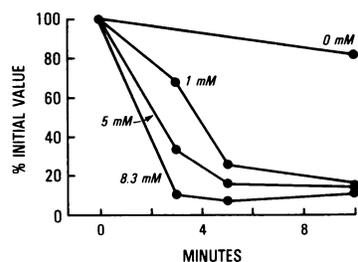


Figure 1. Bovine aorta endothelial cell ATP levels after H₂O₂ exposure. Bovine aortic endothelial cells on Cytodex beads were exposed to different concentrations of H₂O₂ at *t* = 0, and samples were withdrawn for ATP determinations at various times. Results are expressed as percentage of control value of 100% = 2.6±0.6 × 10⁻⁹ mol ATP/µg DNA (mean of three experiments).

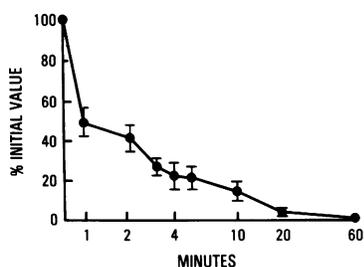


Figure 2. P388D₁ ATP levels after exposure to 5 mM H₂O₂. P388D₁ cells were exposed to 5 mM H₂O₂ at *t* = 0, and samples were withdrawn for ATP (luciferin/luciferase) determinations at various times. Graph is a composite of all such experiments per-

formed. Results are expressed as percentage of control (exposed to saline) ± SEM; control values vary by <11% over 240 min; 100% = 4.9 ± 0.2 (SEM) nmol ATP/10⁶ cells (*n* = 16). Values for *t* = 120, 180, 240 min = <1%.

initial H₂O₂ concentrations of 5, 2.5, 1.0, or 0.5 mM, respectively. In the absence of cells, H₂O₂ *t*_{1/2} was >8 h.

The effect of intracellular catalase on attenuating the fall in ATP was demonstrated by preincubating P388D₁ for 20 min with 1 mg/ml 3-amino 1,2,4 triazole (aminotriazole). Cells exposed to aminotriazole lose catalase activity in the presence of H₂O₂. These cells were then exposed to a range of H₂O₂ concentrations (Fig. 4). Cells so treated demonstrated increased H₂O₂-dependent loss of ATP when compared with cells not exposed to aminotriazole. In separate experiments, rates of azide-sensitive disappearance of H₂O₂ were determined in P388D₁ cell suspensions. Since azide effectively abolishes catalase activity, these rates are a direct measure of catalase activity and document the effect of aminotriazole pretreatment. Cells, either preexposed for 20 min to 1 mg/ml aminotriazole or not, were exposed in the presence or absence of 167 μM sodium azide to 1.0 mM H₂O₂, and the disappearance of H₂O₂ was monitored. Azide-sensitive *t*_{1/2} for the disappearance of H₂O₂ was 7.9 and 37.0 min in the absence or presence of aminotriazole, respectively. Thus, aminotriazole preexposure significantly reduced P388D₁ catalase activity.

To investigate the time of exposure to H₂O₂ required for the effect on intracellular ATP levels, P388D₁ cells were exposed to 1 mM H₂O₂ for variable lengths of time, after which catalase was added to inactivate the remaining H₂O₂ (Fig. 5). Cellular ATP levels were measured after 10 min. As shown in Fig. 5, exposure of P388D₁ cells to 1 mM H₂O₂ for as short a time as 30 s induced a marked decrement in ATP levels. When cells were exposed for 300 or 600 s, ATP levels were 57 and 34% of control, respectively.

Exposure of P388D₁ to other oxidant-generating systems. When exposed to xanthine oxidase (31 mU) plus acetaldehyde (33 mM), or to glucose oxidase (48 mU) in the presence of 5 mM glucose, P388D₁ ATP levels fell to <5% within 1 h and

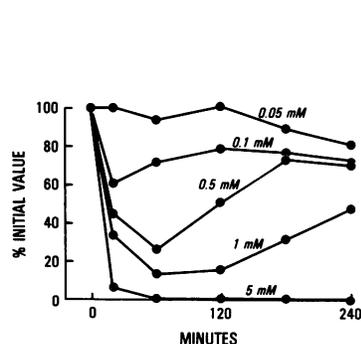


Figure 3. P388D₁ ATP levels after H₂O₂ exposure. P388D₁ cells were exposed to levels of H₂O₂ as indicated, and ATP (luciferin/luciferase) determinations were performed on samples obtained over 4 h. Results are expressed as percentage of initial values, which averaged 4.8 ± 0.1 (SEM) nmol ATP/10⁶ cells (mean of three experiments).

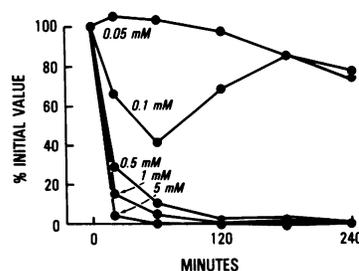


Figure 4. P388D₁ ATP levels after aminotriazole and H₂O₂. P388D₁ cells from the harvest used for the experiment in Fig. 3 were preincubated for 20 min at 37°C with 1 mg/ml aminotriazole and then exposed to the levels of H₂O₂ indicated. ATP (luciferin/luciferase) determinations were performed on samples obtained over 4 h. Results are expressed as percentage of initial values, which averaged 4.6 ± 0.2 (SEM) nmol ATP/10⁶ cells (mean of three experiments).

remained at that level for 4 h. Identical concentrations of glucose oxidase plus glucose in the absence of cells generated H₂O₂ at an initial rate of 0.8 μM/min. ATP levels of controls exposed to buffer, acetaldehyde, or glucose were >85% control after 4 h.

To determine if PMN stimulated by phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) could cause a decrement in P388D₁ ATP levels, P388D₁ and PMN were incubated for 30 min either separately or together and in either the presence of or absence of PMA. In addition, P388D₁ cells plus PMA-stimulated PMN were incubated in the presence of SOD plus catalase. Results, shown in Fig. 6, demonstrate SOD plus catalase inhibitable decrement of P388D₁ ATP only in the presence of PMA-stimulated PMN.

Effect of ouabain or oligomycin on ATP level after H₂O₂ exposure. Because the stimulation of the membrane Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase by augmented passive ion flux after oxidative membrane damage might contribute to the observed decrement in intracellular ATP, experiments were performed in which ouabain was used to inhibit that ATPase (22). Similarly, injury to the inner mitochondrial membrane might result in loss of the transmembrane proton gradient and hydrolysis of ATP by the oligomycin-sensitive ATPase (23). Therefore, experiments were performed in which oligomycin was used to block that ATPase. In neither case was protection from the H₂O₂-induced decrement in ATP seen (data not shown).

Effect of oligomycin and 2-deoxyglucose on P388D₁ ATP levels. To investigate whether complete interruption of phosphorylation of ADP might result in a fall in P388D₁ ATP levels at a rate similar to that seen after oxidant injury, cells were exposed to oligomycin (to inhibit mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation) and 2-deoxyglucose (to inhibit glycolysis). As seen in Fig. 7, exposure to oligomycin resulted in a 29% fall in ATP after 13 min, exposure to 2-deoxyglucose resulted in a 77% fall in ATP after 13 min, and exposure to oligomycin plus 2-deoxyglucose resulted in a 97% fall in ATP after 13 min. When cells

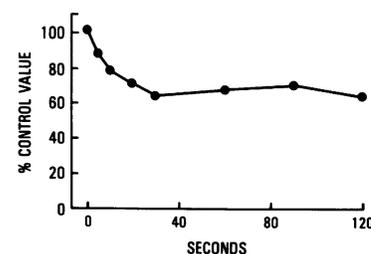


Figure 5. Influence of time of exposure to H₂O₂ on P388D₁ ATP level 10 min after onset of exposure. P388D₁ cells were exposed to 1 mM H₂O₂, and after the time interval indicated on the abscissa, catalase (100,000 U/ml) was added. ATP (luciferin/luciferase)

levels were determined 10 min after initial exposure to H₂O₂. Results are expressed as percentage of initial value, which was 3.4 nmol ATP/10⁶ cells. H₂O₂ was undetectable in cell supernatants immediately after catalase addition (mean of three experiments).

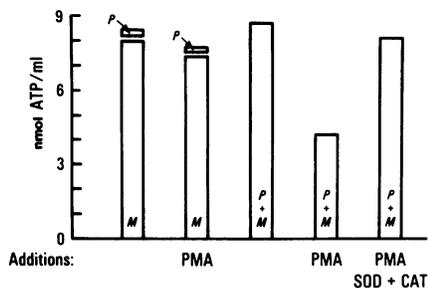


Figure 6. Effect of stimulated PMNs on P388D₁ ATP. P388D₁ cells (M) (2×10^6 /ml) and PMN (P) (1×10^6 /ml) were incubated either separately (broken bars) or together in either the absence or presence of PMA (2.5 μ l/ml). ATP determinations (luciferin/luciferase) were made at 30 min. SOD = 1,000 U/ml; catalase = 5,000 U/ml (mean of three experiments).

preexposed to 2-deoxyglucose and oligomycin for 3 min were exposed to 5 mM H₂O₂, the level of ATP fell by 95% over the 13-min total exposure.

ATP breakdown products and alterations in energy charge. P388D₁ cells were exposed to H₂O₂ at a ratio of 2×10^6 cells/5 mM H₂O₂. Table I shows the result of analysis of cell pellet extracts and cell supernatants for nucleotides, nucleosides, and bases. The decrement in ATP was largely accounted for by the increase in inosine monophosphate (IMP) and inosine; release of other cell constituents obscured further interpretation of chromatograms of supernatant fluids for nucleosides and bases. Nucleotides were found only in the cell pellet extract. ADP values increased slightly, while AMP values increased ninefold after H₂O₂ exposure. The energy charge (13) [(ATP + 1/2 ADP)/(ATP + ADP + AMP)] fell from 0.95 to values of 0.66 and less within 1 min.

HPLC analyses of extracts of cells that had been exposed for 6 min to oligomycin plus 2-deoxyglucose were performed to see if nucleotide alterations were qualitatively similar to those seen after H₂O₂ exposure. As seen in Table II, ADP levels did not change, while AMP levels increased 3.2-fold, IMP levels increased fivefold, and inosine levels increased 18-fold. Values in control cells were different from those shown in Table I because of the necessary absence of a nutrient medium.

De novo purine synthesis. To investigate the relationship between the rapid fall in purine nucleotides and the rate of purine synthesis, cells were exposed to H₂O₂ and the incorporation of [¹⁴C]formate into purine bases was determined. Incorporation measured from 0 to 30 or 30 to 60 min after exposure to H₂O₂

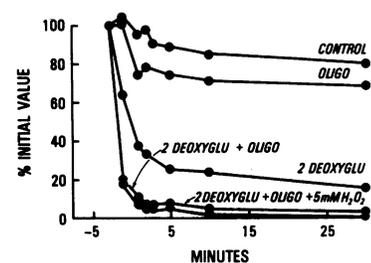


Figure 7. ATP levels after oligomycin and 2-deoxyglucose. P388D₁ cells suspended in Gey's buffer were exposed to oligomycin (oligo) (25 μ g in 3 μ l EtOH/ml cell suspension, equivalent to 111 μ g oligomycin/mg cell protein), 2-deoxyglucose (2 deoxyglu) (10

mM), both (2-deoxyglu + oligo), or 3 μ l EtOH/ml (control) at $t = -3$ min. At $t = 0$, an aliquot exposed to oligomycin + 2 deoxyglucose was further exposed to 5 mM H₂O₂. ATP (luciferin/luciferase) was determined at the times indicated (mean of three experiments).

Table I. Purine Nucleotides and Inosine* After Exposure to H₂O₂ or Buffer‡

<i>t</i> = (min)	H ₂ O ₂				Buffer
	0	1	3	6	6
ATP	3.19	0.54	0.26	0.15	3.37
ADP	0.28	0.40	0.30	0.21	0.31
AMP	0.02	0.18	0.21	0.16	0.02
IMP	0.03	2.06	2.28	1.80	0.05
GTP	0.41	0.14	0.09	0.06	0.43
GDP	0.03	0.14	0.13	0.09	0.04
GMP	0.01	0.07	0.10	0.08	0.01
Inosine	0	0.85	0.72	0.56	0
Sum	3.97	4.38	4.09	3.11	4.23
Energy charge	0.95	0.66	0.53	0.65	0.95

* Nanomoles per 10⁶ P388D₁ cells.

‡ Cells were suspended in RPMI media and exposed to H₂O₂ (5 μ mol: 2×10^6 cells) or buffer for the times shown, rapidly pelleted, and extracted with 0.4 N HClO₄. The extract was neutralized with alamine/freon and analyzed by HPLC (mean of two experiments). GDP, guanosine diphosphate; GMP, guanosine 3'5'-monophosphate; GTP, guanosine triphosphate.

was similar, and was 39, 15, and 4% of control when cells were exposed to 50, 100, and 500 μ M H₂O₂, respectively ($n = 3$; control cells incorporated 26,640 dpm/10⁶ cells per 30 min).

Discussion

Experiments reported here demonstrate that intracellular ATP levels fall markedly when either of the cell lines studied is exposed to H₂O₂. Detailed study of P388D₁ cells shows that this response

Table II. Purine Nucleotides and Inosine* 6 min After Exposure‡

	Oligomycin (1.25 μ g/10 ⁶ cells) plus 2-deoxyglucose (10 mM)	Control
ATP	0.37	2.67
ADP	0.52	0.51
AMP	1.31	0.41
IMP	1.00	0.19
GTP	0.14	0.62
GDP	0.27	0.15
GMP	0.33	0.02
Inosine	0.18	0.01
Sum	4.12	4.58
Energy charge	0.19	0.81

* Nanomoles per 10⁶ P388D₁ cells.

‡ Cells were suspended in Gey's buffer and exposed to oligomycin and 2-deoxyglucose or buffer for 6 min, rapidly pelleted, and extracted with 0.4 N HClO₄. The extract was neutralized with alamine/freon and analyzed by HPLC (mean of three experiments). GDP, guanosine diphosphate; GMP, guanosine 3'5'-monophosphate; GTP, guanosine triphosphate.

occurred after exposure to a variety of oxidant sources which included bolus H_2O_2 and enzymatically generated H_2O_2 and O_2^- .

Neutrophils stimulated by PMA were similarly able to cause a reduction in P388D₁ ATP, and this effect was fully inhibitable by catalase plus SOD. The neutrophil-induced ATP fall of ~45% over 30 min corresponds to the effect of an initial exposure to 0.1 mM H_2O_2 for 30 min (Fig. 2). As the $t_{1/2}$ for H_2O_2 under these conditions was 7 min, the 30-min exposure is equivalent to a total exposure of ~1.0 mM/min (the integral value of the H_2O_2 concentration with respect to time). Test and Weiss (24) report the production of 0.6 mM/min H_2O_2 from 3×10^5 neutrophils/ml in the presence of PMA, and approximately a twofold increase in H_2O_2 concentration occurring with a fourfold increase in cell concentration. Thus, the fall in ATP seen in target P388D₁ exposed to PMA-stimulated PMN is consistent with the H_2O_2 sensitivity of P388D₁ demonstrated in this report and the known capabilities of PMN to produce H_2O_2 .

The impact of H_2O_2 on cellular ATP was augmented by aminotriazole-induced reduction in intracellular catalase. This reduction occurs because of the high affinity complex formed between aminotriazole and compound I (catalase plus H_2O_2), effectively removing functional catalase from the cell (25). The more pronounced fall in ATP seen in aminotriazole-exposed cells is consistent with the observations of Holmsen and Robkin (11) that catalase inhibitors augmented the loss of intracellular ATP.

Decreased phosphorylation of ADP—both from glycolysis and from mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation—might result in a fall in the concentration of ATP and energy charge, with a consequent increased metabolism of ADP to AMP to IMP (via adenylate deaminase) (26). Although the control mechanisms for these metabolic steps have not been determined in P388D₁, the data from cells exposed to H_2O_2 demonstrate that accumulation of AMP and IMP accounts (during the initial 6 min) for the amount of ATP lost.

Qualitatively similar results were obtained when phosphorylation of ADP was arrested by exposing cells to oligomycin and 2-deoxyglucose. Oligomycin exposure caused a modest fall in cell ATP content; 2-deoxyglucose caused a much greater fall (Fig. 7). The predominance of glycolytic production of ATP has been described in other cultured cell lines (27). Arrest of both glycolytic and mitochondrial ATP production caused a rapid fall in ATP over a time course roughly equivalent to that seen after exposure of cells to 5 mM H_2O_2 (Figs. 3 and 7). In addition, this fall in ATP was accompanied by little change in ADP, and significant increases in AMP, IMP, and inosine. Thus, arrest of phosphorylation of ADP as an explanation for our experimental results is consistent with our data.

Detailed studies of glycolysis and oxidative phosphorylation in P388D₁ cells after H_2O_2 exposure will be reported separately. They disclose that lactate production falls from 1.7 to 0.6 nmol/10⁶ cells per min during 20-min exposure to 100 μM H_2O_2 , and is essentially unmeasurable during 20-min exposure to 5 mM H_2O_2 . Glucose uptake shows similar changes. When [6-¹⁴C]glucose is used to measure tricarboxylic acid cycle activity, production of ¹⁴CO₂ increases slightly (from 6 to 12 pmol/10⁶ cells per min). Calculated net ATP production (assuming 2 mol ATP/mole lactate produced and 34 mol ATP/mol ¹⁴CO₂ produced) shows that the rate of ATP production falls by ~50% over 20 min of exposure to 100 μM H_2O_2 . These results assume complete coupling of oxidative phosphorylation. To the extent

that uncoupling occurs, however, oxidative phosphorylation of ADP and hence net ATP production will be less.

Decreased synthesis of purine nucleotides might provide a second explanation for the fall in purine nucleotides which we observed. We believe this explanation is unlikely for two reasons. First, if arrest of purine synthesis were primarily responsible for the loss in adenylates, the total of intracellular purine nucleotides plus inosine ought to decrease dramatically. As shown in Table I, that sum is relatively constant. Secondly, data from the [¹⁴C]formate labeling experiments also support this argument. As adenine, guanine, and hypoxanthine are lacking in the cell suspension media, the *de novo* pathway provides the only route for net purine synthesis (18). We observed net purine synthesis to be 85–96% inhibited after exposure of P388D₁ to 100 and 500 μM H_2O_2 . These concentrations of H_2O_2 cause far less than complete loss of ultracellular ATP (Fig. 3). Thus, additional factors must be responsible for the ATP loss observed.

A third explanation for the observed fall in intracellular ATP might be relief of the normal phosphate inhibition of AMP deaminase with loss of adenylate compounds via inappropriately increased activity of that enzyme (28). Intracellular phosphate levels might fall secondary to the increased activity of the hexose monophosphate shunt seen after H_2O_2 exposure (29). In addition, there may be increased loss of phosphate across a damaged cell membrane. Increased AMP deaminase activity appears unlikely to be a primary cause of the oxidant-induced fall in ATP, however, for if it were, we would expect to see decreased levels of AMP at the earliest times after H_2O_2 exposure. The marked increase in AMP makes this mechanism unlikely. Metabolism of AMP to IMP presumably does occur as a secondary event, however, for we found an increase in IMP coincident with loss of ATP. Either the decrease in energy charge (26) or the decrease in Pi (28) may be responsible for the increase in nucleotide catabolism.

A final explanation for the decrease in ATP observed after H_2O_2 exposure could be increased activity of the membrane-associated cation ATPase pumps, for modest damage to lipid components of the cell membrane might allow augmented passive leak of Na⁺, K⁺, or Ca⁺⁺ across the membrane, stimulating ATPase activity. We reasoned that, if increased Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase pump activity contributed significantly to ATP decrement, blockage of the Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase with ouabain should reduce the fall in ATP seen after H_2O_2 exposure. No differences, however, were seen, and we therefore conclude a partial oxidant-induced stimulation of ATP-dependent Na⁺-K⁺-ATPase did not contribute significantly to the fall in intracellular ATP.

Similarly, disruption of the transmembrane proton gradient across the inner mitochondrial membrane might occur and result in ATP hydrolysis by the mitochondrial ATPase (23). We reasoned that, were this the case, inhibition of this enzyme with oligomycin should reduce the fall in ATP seen after H_2O_2 exposure. In fact, oligomycin-exposed cells showed a fall in ATP which was as great as seen in control cells, both with or without H_2O_2 exposure. In addition, in experiments to be reported elsewhere, we have shown that the calmodulin sensitive and insensitive Ca⁺⁺-ATPase activities (investigated in red cell ghosts) are actually decreased after exposure to H_2O_2 (0.5–5 mM). Thus, increased activities of these ATPases are unlikely to explain the rapid decrease in intracellular ATP seen after oxidant injury. Besides the three ATPases investigated, many others exist within the cell and may contribute to ATP hydrolysis.

The results of this study may be compared with alterations

in adenylate nucleotides in stimulated human neutrophils (30). In that cell, in the presence of glucose, stimulation results in a rapid irreversible fall in ATP without significant increases in ADP or AMP. However, in contrast to our findings, lactate production and glucose uptake were not altered.

Of interest is the contrast between our results and those obtained when endothelial cells or intact lungs are exposed to 1 atm oxygen, a setting in which cellular production of O₂⁻ may be increased (31). Rubin (32) found no significant decrease in cellular ATP content of pig aortic endothelial cells after a 24-h exposure, and Fisher (33) found no change in the whole lung adenine nucleotide content, ATP/ADP ratio, or energy charge during exposure of rats for 48 h. These results suggest that the consequences of endothelial cell or lung damage from hyperoxic exposure may be distinct from those described in this report.

We have shown that profound ATP loss may be seen in endothelial cells, and may be produced in a cultured cell line by stimulated PMN. It will now be important to determine if there is a loss of ATP-dependent cellular functions in these cells, and if such loss contributes to the cell dysfunction and death seen after exposure to oxidants.

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