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Research Article

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Atrial Natriuretic Factor Inhibits Vasopressin-stimulated Osmotic Water Permeability in Rat Inner Medullary Collecting Duct

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Abstract

The inner medullary collecting duct (IMCD) has been proposed to be a site of atrial natriuretic factor (ANF) action. We carried out experiments in isolated perfused terminal IMCDs to determine whether ANF (rat ANF 1–28) affects either osmotic water permeability (P_f) or urea permeability. In the presence of a submaximally stimulating concentration of vasopressin (10^{-11} M), ANF (100 nM) significantly reduced P_f by an average of 46%. Lower concentrations of ANF also significantly inhibited vasopressin-stimulated P_f by the following percentages: 0.01 nM ANF, 18%; 0.1 nM, 46%; 1 nM, 48%. Addition of exogenous cyclic GMP (0.1 mM) mimicked the effect of ANF, decreasing P_f by an average of 48%. ANF also inhibited cyclic AMP-stimulated P_f by an average of 31%. ANF did not affect urea permeability, nor did it alter vasopressin-stimulated cyclic AMP accumulation. We conclude that ANF at physiological concentrations causes a large inhibition of vasopressin-stimulated P_f in the rat terminal IMCD, and that cyclic GMP is the second messenger mediating the effect. ANF appears to act at a site distal to cyclic AMP generation in the chain of events linking vasopressin receptor binding to an increase in osmotic water permeability.

Introduction

It is now generally accepted that atrial natriuretic factor (ANF)¹ is a circulating hormone involved in the regulation of extracellular fluid volume and blood pressure. Several end-organ responses have been identified. As detailed in recent reviews (1–3), ANF relaxes vascular smooth muscle, inhibits renin secretion, inhibits aldosterone production by the adrenal cortex, and increases renal NaCl and water excretion. Several

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1. *Abbreviations used in this paper:* ANF, atrial natriuretic factor; AVP, arginine vasopressin; IBMX, 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine; IMCD, inner medullary collecting duct; P_f , osmotic water permeability.

renal actions of ANF have been identified which can contribute to the increase in NaCl and water excretion. These actions include increases in glomerular filtration rate and in filtration fraction, inhibition of tubular-glomerular feedback, increases in inner medullary blood flow, and direct effects on renal tubular transport (1–3).

The evidence for direct tubular actions of ANF has been steadily increasing, with the collecting duct appearing to be a major site of action. Briggs et al. (4) showed that low concentrations of atrial extracts induced natriuresis and diuresis in the absence of a measurable increase in GFR, a result which has been confirmed using low-dose infusion of synthetic ANF (5–8). Briggs et al. (4) found no evidence for an effect of ANF on NaCl transport in either the proximal tubule or the loop of Henle. Thus they concluded that there must be an effect of ANF beyond the distal convoluted tubule, i.e., in the collecting duct system. Similar studies by Sonnenberg et al. (9) also supported the view that ANF inhibits NaCl reabsorption in the medullary collecting duct. Other evidence points to the inner medullary collecting duct as a likely site of ANF action. Nonoguchi et al. (10) have demonstrated that ANF causes a large increase in cyclic GMP production in the terminal part of the inner medullary collecting duct (terminal IMCD). Binding studies using autoradiography have shown high-affinity binding sites for ANF in the inner medulla (11–13) thought to be associated with the vasa recta and/or inner medullary collecting ducts. Furthermore, there is evidence from *in vivo* studies in rats that ANF inhibits NaCl and water absorption in the inner medullary collecting duct (14, 15). Finally, Zeidel et al. (16) have shown that ouabain-inhibitable oxygen consumption, an indirect measure of NaCl transport, is decreased by ANF in suspensions of rabbit collecting duct cells isolated from the inner medulla. Thus, there is considerable evidence pointing to the IMCD as a likely site of ANF action.

In the present study, to examine more closely the possibility that ANF can directly affect transport in the IMCD, we have employed the isolated perfused tubule technique. Specifically, we have tested the effects of ANF on vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability and urea permeability of isolated perfused inner medullary collecting ducts.

Previous studies have shown that vasopressin stimulates both osmotic water permeability and urea permeability in the rat terminal IMCD (17–19). The studies presented here, in isolated perfused tubules from the terminal part of the IMCD, show that physiological concentrations of ANF significantly inhibit vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability without affecting urea permeability. The effect on osmotic water permeability is large and, if present *in vivo*, is predictive of a major effect on renal water excretion. The results also show that exogenous cyclic GMP mimics the inhibitory action of ANF suggesting that cyclic GMP is the second messenger, and that the ANF effect is not dependent on a change in cyclic AMP metabolism.

Methods

Tissue preparation. Terminal inner medullary collecting duct segments were dissected from the kidneys of pathogen-free male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 65–140 g (Small Animal Breeding Facility, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD) using methods described previously (20). 20 min before death by decapitation, the animals were injected with furosemide (5 mg/100 g of body wt i.p.) to create a brisk diuresis and presumably wash out the medullary osmolality gradient (20).

The kidneys were removed and placed in chilled isotonic dissection medium (described below). Coronal slices were cut from the kidneys and transferred to a dissection dish containing chilled (17°C) dissection solution for isolation of terminal IMCDs. The dissection medium contained (in millimolar): NaCl, 118; NaHCO₃, 25; CaCl₂, 2; K₂HPO₄, 2.5; MgSO₄, 1.2; glucose, 5.5; creatinine, 4; raffinose, 5; and urea, 5. It was gassed continuously with 95% air and 5% CO₂ before and during the dissection.

Terminal IMCDs were dissected from carefully localized positions along the inner medullary axis as previously described (20). Terminal IMCDs are defined as those collecting ducts whose proximal-most end originated in the two-thirds of the inner medulla closest to the papillary tip (17). The tubules were mounted on concentric pipettes as described previously (21) and were studied at 37°C.

Osmotic water permeability. Osmotic water permeability was determined by measuring the water flux resulting from an imposed osmotic gradient. For these experiments, the perfusion and bath solutions were identical to the dissection medium (described above) except that an additional 106 mM NaCl was added to the bath. This created a 200 mosmol/kg H₂O bath-to-lumen osmolality gradient. The osmolalities of the perfusate and bath were measured by vapor pressure osmometry (Wescor, Inc., Logan, UT) before the start of each experiment allowing the calculation of the actual osmolality gradient.

Creatinine was used as the volume marker for the measurement of osmotic water permeability (P_f). We have previously shown that the creatinine permeability in terminal IMCDs is low and that the error in measuring P_f due to creatinine fluxes, under the conditions of our study, is < 4% (17, 20). To calculate osmotic water permeability, the perfusion rate (V_0) was first calculated from the collection rate (V_L) using: $V_0 = V_L \cdot (X_L/X_0)$, where X_L and X_0 are, respectively, the collected and perfused concentrations of creatinine. Then the P_f was calculated using the equation of Al-Zahid et al. (22):

$$P_f = -\frac{V_0 C_0}{AV_w} \left[\frac{C_0 - C_L}{C_0 C_b C_L} + \frac{1}{(C_b)^2} \ln \frac{(C_L - C_b) C_0}{(C_0 - C_b) C_L} \right],$$

where C_0 and C_b are the osmolalities of the perfusate and bath, respectively, A is the luminal surface area, V_w is the partial molar volume of water, and C_L is the calculated collected fluid osmolality, defined as: $C_L = C_0 \cdot (V_0/V_L)$. The luminal surface area, A , was calculated as $A = \pi DL$ from the measured tubule length (L) and diameter (D) determined from Polaroid photographs of the perfused tubule. We have previously shown (17) that NaCl fluxes in the terminal IMCD, under the conditions of this study, are low enough to allow use of the equation of Al-Zahid et al. (22).

The creatinine concentrations in perfusate, bath, and collected fluid were measured using a continuous flow ultramicrocolorimeter as previously described (23). The reagents were purchased as a kit (Kit 555-A, Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO). The method is linear up to 150 pmol creatinine and is capable of resolving differences of 3% between samples in the size range 50–150 pmol.

In a previous study (17), we performed time-control experiments which demonstrated that the basal osmotic water permeability remained at a steady level between 40 and 150 min. All reported measurements of P_f in the absence of hormone, after addition of atrial natriuretic factor (rat ANF 1–28, Peninsula Laboratories, Inc., Belmont, CA), after addition of arginine vasopressin (Sigma Chemical

Co.), or after addition of 8-bromo-cyclic AMP (sodium salt, Sigma Chemical Co.) were completed during this stable period between 40 and 150 min after warming the tubule to 37°C.

Urea permeability. To measure urea permeability, the net flux of urea was measured in response to an imposed 5 mM bath-to-lumen urea concentration gradient. For these experiments, the perfusion and bath solutions were identical to the dissection medium (described above) except that the bath contained 5 mM urea (without raffinose) and the perfusate contained 5 mM raffinose (without urea). The urea transport rate (J_u) was calculated as: $J_u = (c_0 \cdot V_0 - c_L \cdot V_L)/L$, where c_0 is the urea concentration in the perfusate, c_L is the urea concentration in the collected fluid, V_0 is the perfusion rate, and V_L is the collection rate, and L is the tubule length. The perfusate urea concentration (c_0) was zero for all experiments, thus obviating any need to measure V_0 . The urea permeability (P_u) was calculated from the urea transport rate (J_u) using the equation: $P_u = J_u/(\pi \cdot D \cdot \Delta c)$, where Δc is the mean urea concentration difference along the tubule and D is the tubule inner diameter measured from Polaroid photographs of the perfused tubule.

The urea concentrations in perfusate, bath, and collected fluid were measured enzymatically using a continuous flow ultramicrofluorometer (20). The reagents were purchased as a kit (Kit 65-A, Sigma Chemical Co.). The method is linear from 0 to 60 pmol urea and is capable of resolving differences of 4% or greater in urea content between samples in the size range used in these experiments (12–36 pmol).

In a previous study (17), we performed time-control experiments which demonstrated that the basal urea permeability remained at a steady level between 40 and 120 min. All reported measurements of P_u in the absence of hormone, after addition of ANF or after addition of arginine vasopressin were completed during this stable period between 40 and 120 min after warming the tubule to 37°C.

Cyclic AMP accumulation studies. To test whether ANF inhibits the vasopressin-stimulated rate of cyclic AMP production, terminal IMCDs were microdissected and cyclic AMP was measured by radioimmunoassay as previously described (10). Two solutions were used for the cyclic AMP studies. Solution A was bicarbonate buffered and consisted of (in millimolar): NaCl, 117; KCl, 5; NaH₂PO₄, 1; MgSO₄, 1.2; CaCl₂, 2; glucose, 5.5; L-alanine, 6; and NaHCO₃, 25. Solution B was Hepes buffered and differed from solution A only in that the NaHCO₃ was replaced by Hepes (10 mM) and the NaCl was increased to 135 mM. (The pH was titrated to 7.4 by the addition of NaOH.)

Briefly, the left kidney was perfused with 10 ml of ice-cold solution A and then perfused with 10 ml of solution A containing 0.1% collagenase. Coronal slices containing the inner medulla were torn into four pieces and incubated in solution A containing 0.1% collagenase for 30 min at 37°C. The solution was gassed with 95% air and 5% CO₂. After incubation, the slices were washed with ice-cold solution B. Terminal IMCDs were microdissected at 17°C in solution B containing 0.05% BSA. After measuring tubule length using an ocular micrometer, tubules were transferred with 2 μ l of dissection solution into 18 μ l of solution B either with or without 0.56 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX). In the experiments with IBMX, the mean tubule length for each sample was 4.04 mm. In the experiments without IBMX, the mean tubule length was 8.95 mm.

During the subsequent incubations, ANF, if present, was used at a final concentration of 100 nM; and vasopressin, if present, was used at a final concentration of 10⁻¹¹ M. Tubules were preincubated for 10 min at 37°C at 50 oscillations/min in a shaking water bath. Next, 20 μ l of solution B containing ANF or vehicle, with or without 0.5 mM IBMX, was added. After incubation for 3 min, 20 μ l of solution B containing vasopressin, with or without 0.5 mM IBMX, was added. All of the solutions were prewarmed at 37°C. In the experiments with IBMX, incubation after the addition of vasopressin was continued for 5 min. In the experiments without IBMX, incubation after the addition of vasopressin was continued for 10 min. The reaction was stopped by the addition of 70 μ l of 10% trichloroacetic acid and the sample tubes were vortexed immediately. Each tube was centrifuged and 115 μ l of supernatant was stored in a glass test tube at -20°C until

assayed. Blank samples for standards were prepared in a similar fashion.

In order to perform the cyclic AMP assay, the samples were thawed and the trichloroacetic acid was extracted by water-saturated ether. After evaporation of the ether, the remaining aqueous phase was dried in a speed vacuum concentrator. Next, 100 μ l of 50 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.2) was added to each sample. (100 μ l of 50 mM sodium acetate buffer with the appropriate cyclic AMP standard was added to each blank sample.) Previously, we have shown that the recovery of added cyclic AMP using this method was $99.0 \pm 5.2\%$ ($n = 11$) (10). Cyclic AMP content was measured by radioimmunoassay (Kit NEK-033, New England Nuclear, Boston, MA). Using this RIA kit, 50% of the tracer was displaced at 84.9 ± 1.6 fmol of cyclic AMP ($n = 4$).

Statistics. Two to four measurements of each variable were averaged to obtain a single value for each experimental condition in each tubule. These average values were used in the statistical analysis of the results. Testing of statistical significance employed a Student's t-test, either paired or unpaired, as appropriate, with $P < 0.05$ indicating statistical significance.

Results

ANF effect on vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability. In these experiments (Fig. 1), vasopressin (10^{-11} M) was present in the bath throughout, and either ANF (100 nM) or vehicle was added to the bath after control measurements were made. ANF significantly inhibited P_f by $46.5 \pm 11.0\%$ (Fig. 1, left panel). When vehicle alone was added, there was no significant change in P_f (Fig. 1, right panel). An effect of ANF was seen within 20 min after adding ANF to the bath.

ANF dose response. Plasma ANF concentrations in rats have been reported to range from 0.01 nM under basal conditions to 0.1 nM under conditions which stimulate ANF release (24). We tested whether concentrations of ANF in the physiologic range would inhibit vasopressin-stimulated P_f . The peritubular bath contained 10^{-11} M vasopressin throughout and ANF was added after control measurements. As described in detail in Table I (series 1–4) and summarized in Fig. 2, 0.1 nM ANF, 1 nM ANF, and 100 nM ANF all caused large inhibitions of vasopressin-stimulated P_f , decreasing P_f by $45.5 \pm 6.2\%$, $48.0 \pm 7.5\%$, and $46.5 \pm 11.0\%$, respectively. 0.01 nM ANF caused a smaller, but significant, inhibition of vasopressin-stimulated P_f , decreasing P_f by $18.2 \pm 8.7\%$. Without ANF addition there was no significant change in P_f . Thus, the dose-response data are compatible with an inhibition by ANF

of vasopressin-stimulated P_f at physiological ANF concentrations.

Response to cyclic GMP and 8-bromo-cyclic GMP. Cyclic GMP is the second messenger responsible for many of the actions of ANF in various tissues (25–29). In the present studies, 0.1 mM cyclic GMP added to the peritubular bath inhibited vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability by $48.0 \pm 5.4\%$ (Fig. 3). This result is compatible with the conclusion that cyclic GMP is the second messenger that mediates the inhibition of P_f by ANF.

We also tested the effect of a cyclic GMP analogue 8-bromo-cyclic GMP on vasopressin-stimulated P_f . In contrast to cyclic GMP, 8-bromo-cyclic GMP (0.1 mM) addition did not affect vasopressin-stimulated P_f (Fig. 4). Thus, 8-bromo-cyclic GMP had a much different effect than did the natural form of cyclic GMP.

Vasopressin dose dependence. ANF did not affect P_f in the absence of vasopressin (left bars, Fig. 5) or in the presence of a very high concentration of vasopressin (10^{-8} M, Fig. 5, right bars). These results contrast with the previous observation that ANF inhibited osmotic water permeability in the presence of a submaximally stimulating concentration of vasopressin (10^{-11} M), repeated as the middle bars in Fig. 5 for comparison. A detailed summary of these experiments is presented in Table I (series 4–6).

Urea permeability. ANF (100 nM) had no significant effect on either the basal urea permeability (Fig. 6, left bars) or the urea permeability in the presence of 10^{-11} M vasopressin (Fig. 6, right bars). A detailed summary of these experiments is presented in Table II.

Cyclic AMP accumulation. To test whether ANF inhibits the production of cyclic AMP in the presence of 10^{-11} M vasopressin, cyclic AMP accumulation was measured in microdissected unperfused terminal IMCDs. ANF (100 nM) had no effect on the vasopressin-stimulated rate of cyclic AMP formation, either in the presence of IBMX (0.5 mM, Fig. 7, left panel) or in the absence of IBMX (Fig. 7, right panel).

ANF effect on cyclic AMP-stimulated osmotic water permeability. In further experiments, we tested the ability of ANF to inhibit cyclic AMP-stimulated P_f . The cyclic AMP analogue, 8-bromo-cyclic AMP (10^{-3} M), was added to the peritubular bath throughout each experiment. ANF (10 nM) significantly inhibited 8-bromo-cyclic AMP-stimulated osmotic water per-

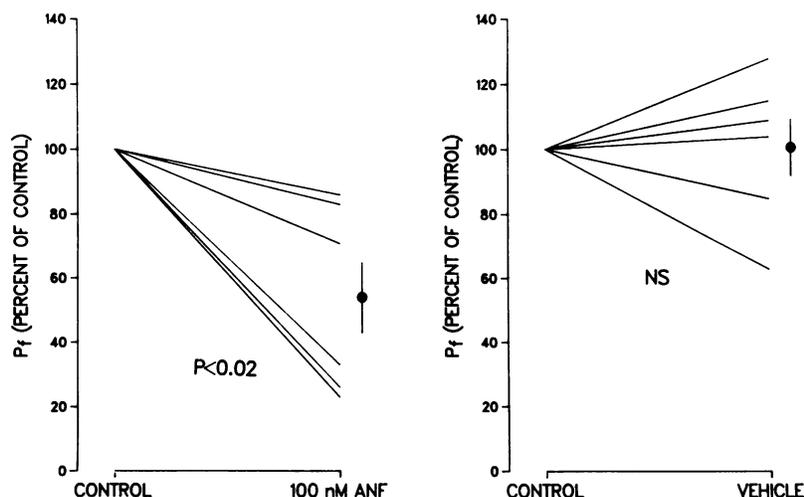


Figure 1. The effect of 100 nM ANF (left) and vehicle (right) on vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability (P_f). Vasopressin was present throughout each experiment at a concentration of 10^{-11} M. Each line represents the result in one tubule. Mean \pm SE is shown at right side of each panel.

Table I. Osmotic Water Permeability

Length	Diameter	[AVP]	[ANF]	Coll. rate	[Creatinine] coll./perf.	P_f
μm	μm	M	M	nl/min		$\mu\text{m/s}$
Series 1 (n = 6):						
690±90	32±2	10 ⁻¹¹	0	9.24±1.70	1.24±0.05	193.8±64.7
		10 ⁻¹¹	0	8.41±1.80	1.26±0.06	191.6±68.2
Series 2 (n = 6):						
590±60	30±1	10 ⁻¹¹	0	6.67±0.40	1.33±0.07	285.5±82.5
		10 ⁻¹¹	10 ⁻¹¹	6.30±0.59	1.27±0.07	196.4*±50.9
		10 ⁻¹¹	10 ⁻¹⁰	6.41±0.55	1.22±0.06	151.7*±50.5
Series 3 (n = 5):						
500±60	28±1	10 ⁻¹¹	0	4.91±0.48	1.32±0.08	220.0±58.3
		10 ⁻¹¹	10 ⁻⁹	4.79±0.92	1.18±0.04	96.2*±18.5
Series 4 (n = 6):						
540±50	30±2	10 ⁻¹¹	0	6.39±0.39	1.23±0.04	161.4±23.1
		10 ⁻¹¹	10 ⁻⁷	5.99±0.34	1.14±0.03	89.3*±24.3
Series 5 (n = 5):						
490±40	28±1	0	0	5.29±0.77	1.07±0.02	41.6±15.4
		0	10 ⁻⁷	5.29±0.75	1.07±0.02	41.7±10.3
Series 6 (n = 5):						
420±20	33±2	10 ⁻⁸	0	5.28±0.65	1.39±0.03	316.9±54.0
		10 ⁻⁸	10 ⁻⁷	4.42±0.25	1.40±0.04	309.3±61.5

* P_f significantly different from value in the absence of ANF, by paired *t* test. All data are presented as mean±SE. Diameter is tubule inner diameter. P_f , osmotic water permeability coefficient; Coll., collection; Perf., perfusate; [AVP], vasopressin concentration; [ANF], ANF concentration; *n*, number of tubules.

meability by 30.9±4.8% (*n* = 5), decreasing P_f from 455.0±93.0 to 297.2±41.8 (*n* = 5, *P* < 0.04). In time control experiments in which vehicle alone was added, no significant change occurred in P_f (from 393.9±84.0 to 399.9±82.3, *n* = 5).

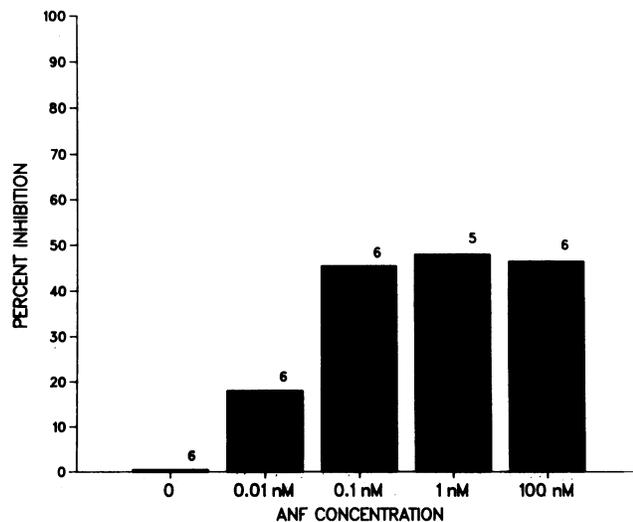


Figure 2. Relation between ANF dose and P_f inhibition. Vasopressin was present throughout each experiment at a concentration of 10⁻¹¹ M. Bars show mean at each dose. Responses to all non-zero concentrations of ANF were statistically significant (*P* < 0.05). The 100 nM ANF data is the same as that in Fig. 1. In two additional tubules (not shown), the P_f increased by 32.2% and 65.5%, respectively, when 0.1 nM ANF was washed out of the bath.

Discussion

Since the observation by DeBold et al. (30) that atrial extracts induce natriuresis and diuresis, considerable progress has been made in understanding the physiology of ANF action (1–3). Despite this progress, the precise physiological mechanism of ANF action in the kidney remains to be fully elucidated. It was our goal in this study to determine whether ANF directly affects osmotic water permeability or urea permeability in the rat terminal IMCD.

ANF inhibits vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability. The chief new finding in this study is that ANF inhibits vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability in the rat terminal IMCD. ANF, at concentrations of 0.1 nM or higher, caused nearly a 50% decrease in osmotic water permeability. At 0.01 nM, ANF caused a smaller decrease in osmotic water permeability (18%). Plasma levels of ANF in rats have been reported in a number of studies, and while not all investigators agree, most of the studies have reported a basal plasma ANF concentration in rats of ~ 0.01 nM. For example, Ballermann (31) reported that the basal fasting plasma ANF concentration was 0.034 nM, and the plasma ANF concentration doubled postprandially. Ogawa et al. (32) reported a similar basal value (0.020–0.027 nM). Lang et al. (24) reported that the basal plasma ANF was 0.018 nM, increasing to 0.11 nM after volume expansion. The dose-response data reported in this article (Fig. 2) indicate that changes in ANF concentration in the physiologic range can alter vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability of terminal IMCDs.

Dillingham and Anderson (33) have also reported that ANF inhibits vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability in rabbit cortical collecting ducts, although 2 nM ANF was required for a significant effect; and Samson and Vanetta (34) have reported that ANF inhibits vasotocin-induced water reabsorption in the toad urinary bladder.

Role of cyclic GMP. Cyclic GMP is believed to be the second messenger responsible for many of the actions of ANF (25–29). Previously, Nonoguchi et al. (10) demonstrated that ANF causes a large increase in cyclic GMP accumulation in the rat terminal IMCD. Zeidel et al. (16) have shown that cyclic GMP can mimic the effects of ANF to inhibit ouabain-inhibitable sodium-dependent oxygen consumption in rabbit IMCD cell suspensions, and Gunning et al. (35) have shown that these cells possess a high-affinity ANF receptor which is apparently coupled to guanylate cyclase. In the present studies, 0.1 mM cyclic GMP mimicked the effect of ANF to inhibit vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability. These results are therefore compatible with the conclusion that cyclic GMP is the second messenger that mediates the inhibition of osmotic water permeability in response to ANF.

In contrast to the natural form of cyclic GMP, the 8-bromo analogue, 8-bromo-cyclic GMP (0.1 mM) did not affect osmotic water permeability. The 8-bromo modification probably results in much higher intracellular concentrations than with unmodified cyclic GMP. Because of its high concentration, 8-bromo-cyclic GMP may have nonspecific effects on intracellular metabolism that counter the physiological effect of cyclic GMP. For example, 8-bromo-cyclic GMP at high concentrations may mimic cyclic AMP by stimulating protein kinase A, thus negating any inhibitory effect it might otherwise have had. Consistent with this possibility, previous studies by Dillingham and Anderson (36) have demonstrated that 0.1

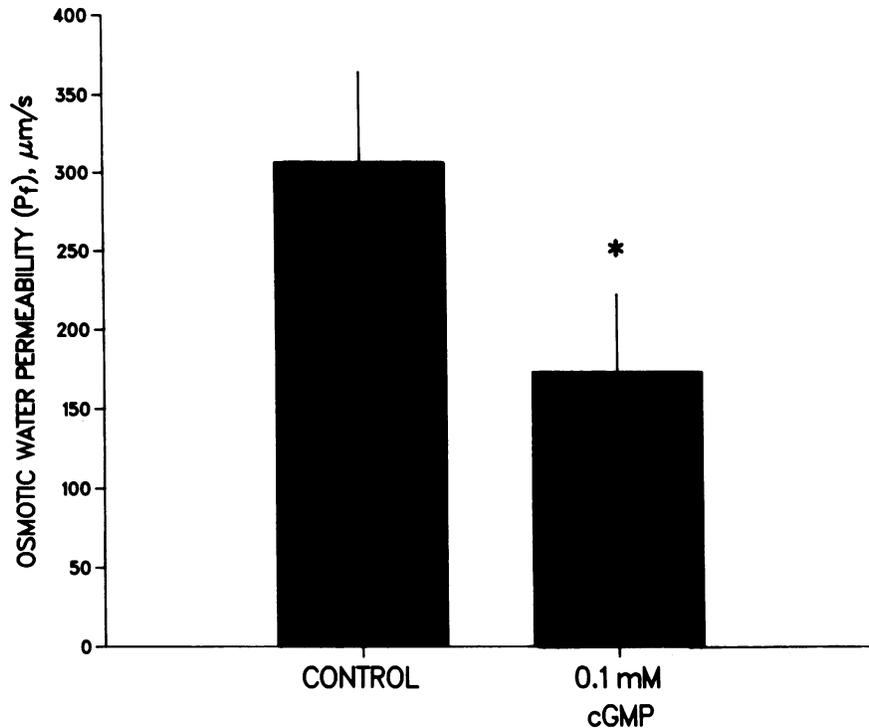


Figure 3. The effect of 0.1 mM cyclic GMP on P_f . Vasopressin was present throughout each experiment at a concentration of 10^{-11} M. Bars show mean \pm SE for six tubules. * $P < 0.002$ by paired t test. Tubule length 550 ± 60 μm ; tubule inner diameter 32 ± 2 μm ; collection rate 6.26 ± 0.86 nl/min (control), 6.11 ± 0.64 nl/min (cyclic GMP).

mM 8-bromo-cyclic GMP increases P_f in the absence of vasopressin in rabbit cortical collecting duct.

Another possibility is that cyclic GMP does not act through protein kinase G but through the activation of cyclic GMP-stimulated cyclic AMP phosphodiesterase (37). Cyclic GMP, but not 8-bromo-cyclic GMP, activates the cyclic GMP-stimulated cyclic AMP phosphodiesterase (38), a pattern consistent with that observed in the present study (Figs. 3 and 4). If

stimulation of the cyclic AMP phosphodiesterase were the mechanism of control of osmotic water permeability by ANF, then ANF should cause a decrease in the accumulation of cyclic AMP in the absence of IBMX. However, as discussed in the next section, inhibition of cyclic AMP accumulation by ANF was not observed.

Role of cyclic AMP. Dunn et al. (39) have reported that rat plasma vasopressin levels average 0.2×10^{-11} M during water

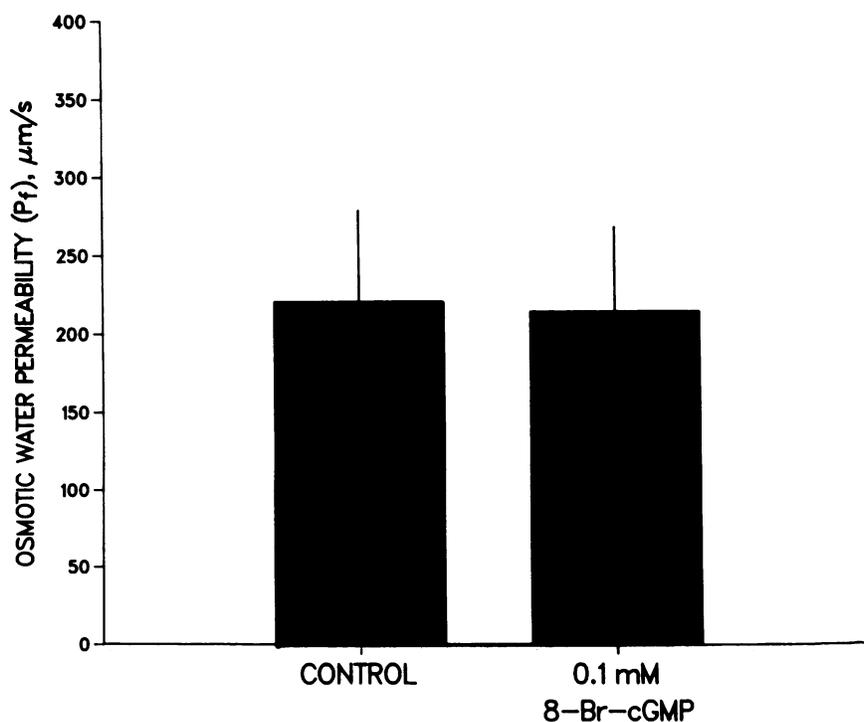


Figure 4. The effect of 0.1 mM 8-bromo-cyclic GMP on P_f . Vasopressin was present throughout each experiment at a concentration of 10^{-11} M. Bars show mean \pm SE for five tubules. 8-bromo-cyclic GMP had no significant effect on vasopressin-stimulated osmotic water permeability. Tubule length 500 ± 60 μm ; tubule inner diameter 28 ± 1 μm ; collection rate 4.91 ± 0.48 nl/min (control), 6.12 ± 0.46 nl/min (8-bromo-cyclic GMP).

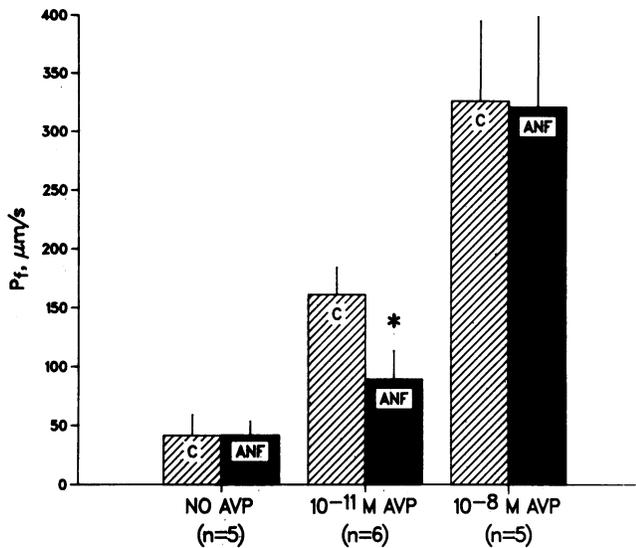


Figure 5. The effect of 100 nM ANF on P_f in the absence of vasopressin (left bars), in the presence of 10^{-11} M vasopressin (center bars), and in the presence of 10^{-8} M vasopressin (right bars). ANF inhibited P_f only in the presence of 10^{-11} M vasopressin. ANF had no significant effect in the absence of vasopressin or in the presence of 10^{-8} M vasopressin. * $P < 0.02$ by paired t test.

diuresis and 2.3×10^{-11} M during water deprivation. In the present studies, when the peritubular bath contained a physiologic concentration of vasopressin (10^{-11} M), ANF inhibited osmotic water permeability. In contrast, ANF had no effect on osmotic water permeability either in the absence of vasopressin, or in the presence of a supraphysiologic concentration of vasopressin (10^{-8} M). It could be argued that the dependence of ANF inhibition of P_f on the bath vasopressin concentration could be explained if ANF worked by inhibiting vasopressin-stimulated cyclic AMP production. Because much more cyclic

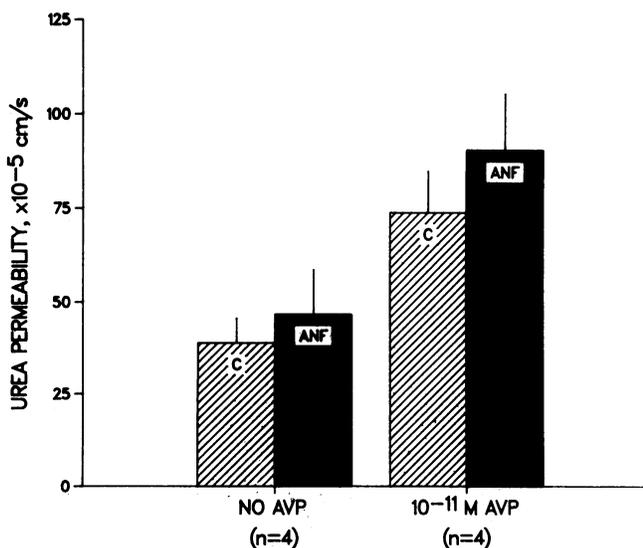


Figure 6. The effect of 100 nM ANF on urea permeability in the absence of vasopressin (left bars) and in the presence of 10^{-11} M vasopressin (right bars). ANF had no effect on urea permeability either in the absence or the presence of vasopressin.

AMP is produced at 10^{-8} M vasopressin than is required for a maximal P_f response (40), inhibition of cyclic AMP accumulation would not necessarily reduce the P_f in the presence of 10^{-8} M vasopressin. Three lines of evidence, however, suggest that ANF does not exert its effect by inhibiting vasopressin-stimulated production of cyclic AMP.

First, cyclic AMP accumulation was not affected by ANF in microdissected nonperfused terminal IMCDs. Previously, Nonoguchi et al. (10) showed that ANF did not inhibit cyclic AMP accumulation in IMCDs exposed to 10^{-10} M vasopressin. In the current study, we found no tendency of ANF to inhibit cyclic AMP accumulation in tubules in the presence of 10^{-11} M vasopressin. There was no inhibition regardless of the presence or absence of the phosphodiesterase inhibitor IBMX. The negative result in the absence of IBMX suggests that the effect of ANF on osmotic water permeability is not likely to be due to stimulation of the cyclic AMP phosphodiesterase, as discussed above.

Second, ANF did not inhibit vasopressin-stimulated urea permeability (Fig. 6). Studies by Star et al. (40) have shown that the urea permeability response to vasopressin in rat terminal IMCDs is mediated by cyclic AMP. If the inhibitory effect of ANF on P_f were due to an inhibition of cyclic AMP production, ANF should also inhibit the urea permeability, contrary to our results.

Finally, ANF inhibited 8-bromo-cyclic AMP-stimulated P_f . Thus, it appears that the effect of ANF to inhibit vasopressin-stimulated P_f in the rat terminal IMCD is not due to an effect on cyclic AMP production. Rather, the ANF effect is apparently exerted at a site subsequent to cyclic AMP generation in the chain of events that couples vasopressin receptor binding to an increase in osmotic water permeability.

Role of ANF inhibition of P_f in the mechanism of ANF-induced increases in water and solute excretion. In this article, we have demonstrated a direct effect of ANF to inhibit P_f in the rat terminal IMCD. The effect is large and if present in vivo is predictive of a major effect on renal water excretion. To what extent could the demonstrated effect on water permeability contribute to the observed increases in renal solute excretion in response to ANF?

Many studies have demonstrated that ANF induces a rapid large increase in sodium chloride excretion, followed by a smaller sustained increase (1–3). The sustained increase is almost certainly associated with ANF-induced suppression of aldosterone secretion by the adrenals, but this effect may be too slow to account for the rapid transient response. The rapid increase in NaCl excretion could be in part due to direct effects of ANF on rat NaCl transport along the collecting ducts (14–16, 41), or to effects of ANF elsewhere in the kidney (42–44). In addition, there are two ways that inhibition of collecting duct water permeability could contribute to the rapid increase in NaCl excretion. First, inhibition of collecting duct water absorption by ANF would affect NaCl concentration gradients across the collecting duct, potentially altering active or passive NaCl transport. (Inhibition of water absorption would decrease luminal NaCl concentration, all other factors being equal.) Secondly, by increasing urine flow, ANF could cause reflux of urine into the renal pelvis and fornices allowing NaCl transfer from the medullary interstitium to the urine via the papillary surface epithelium. Schmidt-Nielsen (45) has shown in rats that under normal conditions pelvic reflux does not occur, but that rising urine flow is associated

Table II. Urea Permeability

Length	Diameter	[AVP]	[ANF]	Coll. rate	Urea concentration			J_u	P_u
					Perf.	Bath	Coll.		
μm	μm	M	M	nl/min				pmol/mm/min	$\times 10^{-5}$ cm/s
Series 1 (n = 4):									
570 \pm 140	31 \pm 1	0	0	27.43 \pm 6.37	0.00 \pm 0.00	4.93 \pm 0.00	1.69 \pm 0.12	89.6 \pm 13.7	38.9 \pm 6.6
		0	10 ⁻⁷	27.94 \pm 6.47			1.90 \pm 0.42	97.8 \pm 19.1	46.7 \pm 11.9
Series 2 (n = 4):									
490 \pm 70	28 \pm 1	10 ⁻¹¹	0	32.68 \pm 3.04	0.08 \pm 0.01	5.27 \pm 0.12	2.28 \pm 0.12	154.0 \pm 18.8	73.9 \pm 10.9
		10 ⁻¹¹	10 ⁻⁷	31.92 \pm 2.50			2.66 \pm 0.23	177.4 \pm 22.3	90.5 \pm 14.9

P_u is not significantly different from control in either series, based on paired *t* test. All data are presented as mean \pm SE. Diameter is tubule inner diameter. [AVP], vasopressin concentration; [ANF], ANF concentration; *n*, number of tubules; J_u , urea flux; P_u , urea permeability coefficient; Coll., collection; Perf., perfusate.

with reflux. The high NaCl permeability of the papillary surface epithelium (46) would permit NaCl efflux from the medullary interstitium to the pelvic urine when reflux occurs. Thus, ANF-induced pelvic reflux would open a pathway for NaCl secretion into the urine not present under nondiuretic conditions.

In conclusion, we have shown that ANF inhibits vasopressin-stimulated and cyclic AMP-stimulated P_f in the rat terminal IMCD. This effect is mediated by cyclic GMP and does not appear to be due to an alteration of cyclic AMP metabolism. Rather, the ANF effect is apparently exerted at a site subsequent to cyclic AMP generation in the chain of events that couples vasopressin receptor binding to an increase in P_f . ANF-mediated inhibition of collecting duct water permeability may account in part for the observed increases in water and solute excretion in response to ANF.

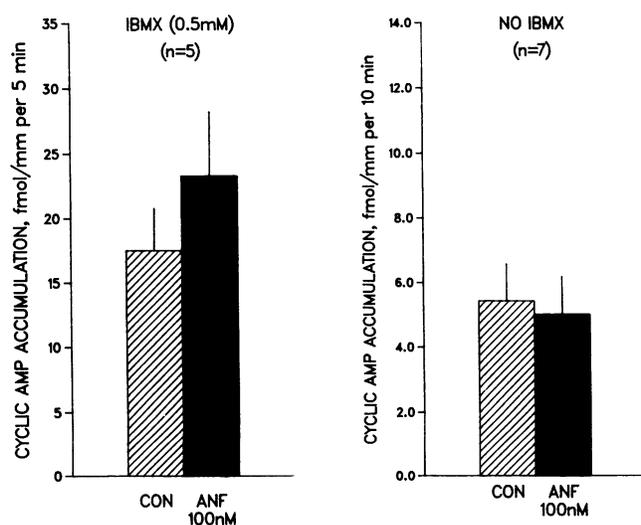


Figure 7. The effect of 100 nM ANF on cyclic AMP accumulation. Vasopressin was present throughout each experiment at a concentration of 10⁻¹¹ M. ANF had no significant effect on vasopressin-stimulated cyclic AMP production either in the presence of the phosphodiesterase inhibitor IBMX (0.5 mM, left panel) or in the absence of IBMX (right panel). (Unpaired *t* tests.)

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