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Research Article

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Cyclic Guanosine Monophosphate Is the Mediator of Platelet-activating Factor Inhibition on Transport by the Mouse Kidney Thick Ascending Limb

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Abstract

Since we have previously shown a direct inhibitory effect of platelet-activating factor (PAF) on Cl reabsorption in the medullary thick ascending limb of Henle's loop (TAL), the aim of this study was to extend this effect to the whole TAL and to further investigate the signaling pathway involved. In microperfused cortical TALs, PAF significantly decreased Cl reabsorption by $50.3 \pm 6.5\%$. On the one hand, this effect was not modified in the presence of staurosporine and was not mimicked by phorbol ester; chelating cytosolic Ca by BAPTA/AM failed to suppress the inhibitory effect of PAF on Cl reabsorption; moreover, no significant increase in intracellular Ca concentration could be observed in the presence of PAF on isolated tubules. On the other hand, 8-bromo cyclic GMP mimicked the PAF effect on Cl reabsorption and prevented a further effect of this agent; the PAF effect was significantly reduced by H-8, a cyclic GMP-dependent protein kinase inhibitor; in medullary TALs, PAF significantly increased by twofold cyclic GMP content, an effect inhibited by the PAF antagonist BN 50730, whereas PAF did not significantly modify cAMP content in basal or stimulated conditions. Finally, inhibition of nitric oxide production by NAME or NMMA failed to prevent the effect of PAF on Cl reabsorption.

It is concluded that the PAF-induced inhibition of Cl reabsorption in the TAL was mediated by cyclic GMP, likely independent of a nitric oxide synthesis. (*J. Clin. Invest.* 1994; 94:1156–1162.) Key words: protein kinase C • protein kinase • calcium • adenosine cyclic monophosphate • nitric oxide

Introduction

Platelet-activating factor (PAF)¹ (1-O-alkyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycerol-3-phosphocholine) is a ubiquitous autacoid that is involved in many

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1. Abbreviations used in this paper: $[Ca]_i$, intracellular calcium concentration; cTAL, cortical thick ascending limb of Henle's loop; J_{Cl} , net chloride flux; mTAL, medullary thick ascending limb of Henle's loop; NAME, N^G-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester; NMMA, N mono methyl arginine; NO, nitric oxide; PAF, platelet-activating factor; V, tubular flow rate.

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pathophysiological events, among which are inflammation and anaphylactic reaction (1). In the kidney, it was established that PAF decreased the sodium chloride transport rate in the medullary thick ascending limb of Henle's loop (mTAL) by a dual manner: first by direct inhibition of the reabsorptive function of the mTAL, as demonstrated in our laboratory on isolated tubules (2); and second by decreasing the solute delivery to the mTAL, since PAF was shown to induce a decline of the glomerular filtration rate (3). These results, combined with the demonstration by Brezis et al. (4) that decreasing the reabsorptive function of the mTAL prevented the epithelium from the damages occurring during hypoxia, allowed us to postulate that PAF may play a role in the preservation of the cell integrity during renal injury (2).

It is known that the action of PAF on its target cells involves multiple signaling pathways among which are stimulation of tyrosine kinase, stimulation of phospholipase A₂, C, or D, and inhibition of adenylate-cyclase (5). In the glomerulus, it has been reported extensively that PAF increased prostaglandin production via a calcium-mediated stimulation of phospholipase A₂ (3). However, other signaling pathways can be involved in that structure, especially in the glomerular mesangial cells (6). At variance with those reported for the glomerulus, the results obtained from the mTAL indicated that the PAF-induced net chloride flux (J_{Cl}) inhibition did not result from phospholipase A₂ activation, neither was it mediated by adenosine (2). The effect of PAF on mTAL was antagonized by BN 50730, a result in accordance with the recent localization of PAF receptors in the cortical and medullary parts of the kidney (7).

The aim of the present study was to further investigate the mechanism of action underlying the inhibitory effect of PAF on the TAL reabsorptive function. TAL is involved in two main reabsorptive functions which are sodium chloride reabsorption, contributing to the generation of the corticopapillary gradient, and the reabsorption of the bulk of the filtered calcium and magnesium. Since chloride transport has been shown to be closely correlated to sodium transport as well as to the passive reabsorption of the divalent cations (8, 9), J_{Cl} , determined on microperfused tubules, was used as the representative parameter of the TAL function. The fact that, in the present study, the inhibitory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} was found to be similar in the cortical TAL (cTAL) and in the mTAL allowed us to investigate the mechanism of action involved in this effect on either segment. The results here obtained showed that the inhibitory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} (a) did not involve protein kinase C activation; (b) was not associated with any increase in intracellular calcium concentration ($[Ca]_i$); (c) was independent of cyclic AMP content modifications; but (d) was mediated by cyclic GMP, independently of NO production. This study thus brings the first indication that PAF can directly stimulate the cyclic GMP pathway and underlines that, in the kidney, the PAF signaling pathways are different for the glomerulus and for the TAL.

Methods

Microperfusion experiments. cTALs (length = $459 \pm 18 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 73$) were microperfused in vitro following the technique first described by

Burg et al. (10) and usually used in our laboratory. Briefly, male Swiss white mice, 18–20 g body wt, were killed by cervical dislocation and exsanguinated. Coronal slices were then cut from both kidneys and were immersed immediately in a cold perfusing solution (see composition detailed below) in which 0.4% bovine serum albumin was added. The cTALs were then transferred to a Lucite chamber in which the bath, thermostatically maintained at $36 \pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$, was flowing continuously at about 5 ml/min.

Each perfused tubule was allowed to equilibrate during 1 h. After equilibration, a 30-min control period was followed by one or two 30-min experimental periods, during which the luminal fluid was collected every 10 min. Between each period, 10 min was allowed for equilibration. All the tested agents were added into the bath, either since the beginning of the control period or during the experimental period, as mentioned in the text. When the tubules were loaded with BAPTA/AM (acetoxymethyl ester), the perfused tubules were incubated 30 min in the dark at room temperature, in the bathing solution containing 10^{-5} M BAPTA/AM in dimethylsulfoxide (final dilution 3,000 vol/vol). This incubation solution was then washed out and replaced by the flowing bathing solution before the beginning of the control period.

The composition of the perfusing solution was as follows (mM): NaCl 147, MgCl₂ 2, CaCl₂ 1, KCl 2, urea 10, Hepes 10. The composition of the bathing solution was similar, except for a lower NaCl concentration, 142 mM, because of the addition of glucose (5 mM) and Na acetate (5 mM). All the solutions were adjusted to 300 mosmol H₂O with urea and to pH 7.39–7.42.

In the collected fluid and perfusate, chloride concentration (C_c and C_p , respectively) was determined by microelectrometric titration (11). The tubular flow rate (V) was calculated from the volume of the collected sample, assuming that water reabsorption was negligible in the TAL (12). The net chloride reabsorption was calculated as $J_{Cl} = (C_c - C_p) \times V$. Since, in the cTAL, no evidence was brought that the chloride reabsorption was proportional to the tubular length when the chloride concentration decreased, and because the length of the perfused segments was fairly similar from one experiment to another, the net fluxes were not monitored by this parameter.

Data from the three collections of each 30-min period were pooled and considered as one point. Values were expressed as means \pm SE. Statistical significance was evaluated within each series by the paired Student's *t* test and between series by the one-way analysis of variance followed by the Fisher's least significant difference test.

Determination of [Ca]. Experiments were carried out on isolated tubules, according to the technique already described (13). Briefly, tubules were microdissected from 11 male Swiss white mice, 18–20 g body wt, according to the protocol described above for microperfusion experiments. cTALs ($n = 11$) were harvested from the cortex of mouse kidney. Each tubule was then transferred on a slide where it was loaded for 1 h at room temperature in the dark, with a solution containing fura-2/AM (acetomethoxy ester, 10^{-5} M) in dimethyl sulfoxide (final dilution 500 vol/vol). Each fura-2-loaded tubule was then transferred to a Lucite chamber and superfused at 37°C with a bath continuously flowing at a rate of 10–12 ml/min, so that full equilibrium concentration in the chamber was achieved in ~ 15 –20 s. For each tubule, measurements of fura-2 fluorescence were carried out after a 5–10-min equilibration period. The composition of the bathing solution was as follows (mM): NaCl 150, KCl 1, KHCO₃ 4, Na₂HPO₄ 0.33, NaH₂PO₄ 0.44, MgCl₂ 1, MgSO₄ 0.8, CaCl₂ 2, glucose 5, Hepes 10, pH 7.4.

Microscopic determinations of fura-2 fluorescence were performed with a standard photometric setup (model MSP 21; Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) assisted by a microcomputer. For each tubular sample, the portion selected for fluorescence measurements was centered across a circular field diaphragm (60 μm diameter) including ~ 20 –30 cells. Fluorescence intensities were recorded for two excitation wavelengths, 340 and 380 nm. Tubule autofluorescence at the two wavelengths was determined on homologous segments not loaded with fura-2 and superfused as described above. For each tubule, the net fluorescence intensities of fura-2 at 340 (S) and 380 nm (L) were obtained by subtracting the corresponding autofluorescence from all measurements. [Ca]_i was

calculated from the ratio (R) of S and L according to the following equation:

$$[\text{Ca}]_i = K_d \times \frac{(R - R_{\text{min}})}{(R_{\text{max}} - R)} \times \lambda,$$

where K_d (224 nM) is the dissociation constant of fura-2 for calcium; R_{min} and R_{max} are the values of R at 0 and saturating calcium concentrations, respectively; and λ ($L_{\text{max}}/L_{\text{min}}$) is the ratio of L at 0 and saturating calcium concentrations.

Cyclic GMP and cyclic AMP content. Cyclic GMP and cyclic AMP content were determined by radioimmunoassay in microdissected tubular segments, following a procedure first described by Chabardes et al. (14). 29 (13 for cyclic GMP and 16 for cyclic AMP) male Swiss white mice were anesthetized with sodium pentobarbital (0.1 mg/10 g body wt). The left kidney was perfused in situ via the abdominal aorta with 5 ml of incubation solution containing (mM), for cyclic GMP: NaCl 120, KCl 5, CaCl₂ 1, MgSO₄ 1, NaH₂PO₄ 4, NaHCO₃ 4, glucose 5, lactate 10, pyruvate 1, arginine 0.8, and Hepes 20. The incubation solution was similar for cyclic AMP, except that lactate, pyruvate, and arginine were omitted and replaced by CH₃COONa 10 mM.² Dextran 40,000 (0.3% wt/vol), collagenase (151 U/mg) 0.3% wt/vol, and bovine serum albumin 0.1% wt/vol were added. The left kidney was removed, and thin pyramids were then cut out along the corticopapillary axis of the kidney and were incubated for 10–15 min at 35°C in the incubation solution containing 0.1% collagenase. cTALs, mTALs, and medullary collecting tubules were microdissected from the cortex and the inner stripe of the outer medulla, respectively. The length of the tubules was determined with an ocular micrometer.

For cyclic GMP determination, a pool of tubular segments (20–30 mm for each point) was transferred into a tube containing 10 μl incubation solution added with 10^{-3} M 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine. Each sample was preincubated for 15 min at 35°C and then was incubated for 10 min at 35°C in the presence of 10 μl of either the solution alone (basis), PAF (10^{-7} M), or PAF (10^{-7} M) plus BN 50730 (10^{-6} M). The reaction was stopped with 200 μl of a mixture of formic acid in absolute ethanol (10% vol/vol), at 4°C . After evaporation, acetate buffer was added, and cyclic GMP was determined by radioimmunoassay after acetylation. The limit of detection was 3 fmol of cyclic GMP per tube.

For cyclic AMP determination, one or two tubular segments were transferred to a slide in 2 μl of incubation solution added with 5×10^{-6} M Ro 201724, an inhibitor of the high affinity cyclic AMP phosphodiesterase (type IV). Each sample was preincubated for 10 min at 35°C and then incubated for 4 min at 35°C in the presence of 2 μl of either the solution alone (basis) or the required hormone. The reaction was stopped by transferring the tubular sample (1 μl) into a tube containing 25 μl of a mixture of formic acid in absolute ethanol (10% vol/vol). After evaporation, acetate buffer was added, and cyclic AMP was determined by radioimmunoassay after acetylation. The limit of detection was 1 fmol of cyclic AMP per tube.

For cyclic AMP, five to seven replicates per condition were pooled and considered as one point. For cGMP, a single assay was tested per condition. Values were expressed as means \pm SE. Statistical significance was evaluated by the paired Student's *t* test when two conditions were tested in the same series (cyclic GMP) and by the one-way analysis of variance followed by the Fischer's least significant difference test when more than two conditions were tested in the same series (cyclic AMP).

Materials. PAF was purchased from Eurobio (Paris, France), *N*-[2-(methylamino)-ethyl]-5-isoquinoline-sulfonamide (H-8) from Research Biochemicals Inc. (Natick, MA), collagenase CLS II from Worthington Biochemical Corp. (Freehold, NJ), BAPTA/AM and ionomycin from Calbiochem-Novabiochem (La Jolla, CA). BN 50730 was a gift from Beaufour (Les Ulis, France), and Ro 201724 from Hoffman-La Roche (Basel, Switzerland). Cyclic AMP and cyclic GMP antibodies were

2. Substrates were added in the cGMP medium in order to use proximal tubules and glomeruli as well, when necessary.

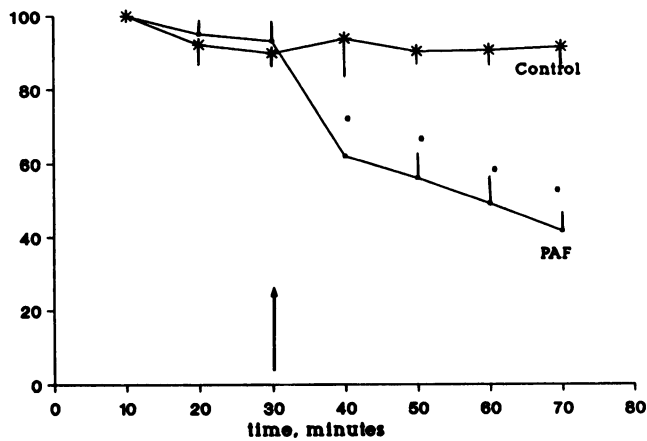


Figure 1. Evolution with time of net chloride reabsorption (J_{Cl}) in the cTAL. J_{Cl} was expressed as a percentage of the first value (vertical axis) (mean of the first J_{Cl} value: 72.4 ± 11.1 , $n = 4$, and 96.6 ± 4.4 , $n = 5$, for control and PAF, respectively). The beginning of the first period was considered as zero time. At the time indicated by the arrow, PAF 10^{-7} M was added to the bath. *Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the control.

obtained in unité INSERM 64 (Hôpital Tenon, Paris, France). All other compounds were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO).

Results

Effect of PAF on chloride reabsorption. In the cTAL, PAF 10^{-7} M significantly decreased J_{Cl} while this parameter was not significantly modified in time-control tubules (Fig. 1). In the presence of PAF, indeed, J_{Cl} was decreased from 92.9 ± 4.8 pmol/min in the control period (mean values from time 0 to 30 min) to 46.5 ± 6.7 pmol/min in the experimental period (mean values from time 40 to 70 min, $P < 0.01$, Table I).

Role of protein kinase C. The presence throughout the experiment of 10^{-7} M staurosporine, a protein kinase C inhibitor, did not prevent the inhibition of J_{Cl} by PAF (Fig. 2). Moreover, administration during the experimental period of 10^{-8} – 10^{-7} M PMA, a protein kinase C activator, failed to mimick the inhibi-

Table I. Absence of Additivity between PAF and 8-Bromo cGMP on Chloride Reabsorption in the cTAL

	Number of tubules	V n/min	ΔCl mM	J_{Cl}
				pmol/min
C	5	5.2 ± 0.7	19.3 ± 2.5	92.9 ± 4.8
E (PAF)		5.3 ± 0.7	$9.9 \pm 2.3^*$	$46.5 \pm 6.7^*$
C	8	5.6 ± 1.0	16.3 ± 5.7	69.5 ± 12.6
E (8BrcG)		5.5 ± 0.9	$9.1 \pm 3.0^\ddagger$	$42.1 \pm 9.2^*$
C	4	4.0 ± 1.2	31.1 ± 9.5	96.6 ± 12.5
E (8BrcG + PAF)		3.7 ± 1.0	19.7 ± 4.9	$61.1 \pm 10.0^*$

Values are means \pm SE. ΔCl , chloride concentration difference between the perfused and the collected fluid; J_{Cl} , net chloride reabsorption; C, control period; E, experimental period; PAF, 10^{-7} M; 8BrcG, 8-bromo cyclic GMP 5.10^{-5} M. $^\ddagger P < 0.001$, $^* P < 0.01$ versus the control value.

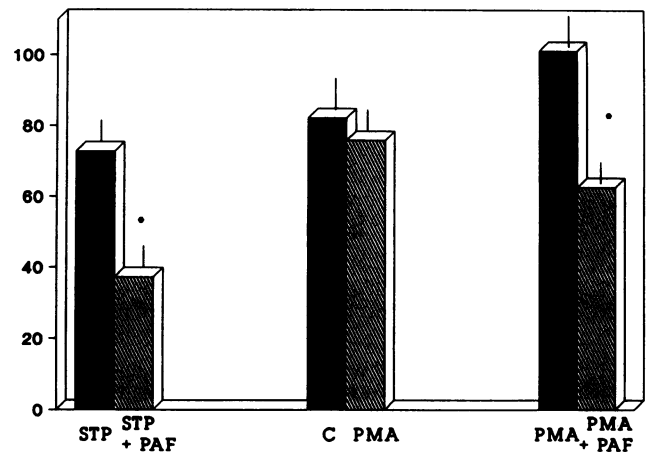


Figure 2. Role of protein kinase C in the effect of PAF on chloride reabsorption (J_{Cl} in pmol/min, vertical axis) in the cTAL. Control period, black columns; experimental period, hatched columns. STP, staurosporine, 10^{-7} M; PMA, phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate, 10^{-8} – 10^{-7} M; PAF: platelet-activating factor, 10^{-7} M. *Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the control period; $n = 5$ for each group.

tory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} . Finally, the presence of PMA throughout the experiment did not prevent the effect of PAF (Fig. 2).

PAF effect on intracellular calcium. When $[Ca]_i$ was determined in isolated cTALs, PAF 10^{-7} M induced a trivial increase in this parameter ($\Delta[Ca]_i$: 9.7 ± 2.9 nM, $n = 22$) by comparison with 10^{-8} M angiotensin II ($\Delta[Ca]_i$: 69.2 ± 17.7 nM, $n = 9$, Fig. 3). When tested on the same tubule, 10^{-7} M Lyso-PAF elicited a similar effect as PAF ($\Delta[Ca]_i$: 3.9 ± 3.0 and 5.6 ± 3.7 nM for PAF and Lyso-PAF, respectively, $n = 8$). However, the signal observed with angiotensin II was highly variable in the cTAL (from 13 to 150 nM), as well as in the mTAL (data not shown). Similar experiments have thus been performed in the rat mTAL, in which angiotensin II induced a reproducible increase in $[Ca]_i$ ($\Delta[Ca]_i$: 142.8 ± 13.4 nM, $n = 6$). In the rat mTAL, as well as in the mouse cTAL, PAF did not increase $[Ca]_i$ ($\Delta[Ca]_i$: 15.2 ± 10.2 nM, $n = 6$) while it decreased J_{Cl} , as checked on two microperfused tubules.

Chelating cytosolic calcium by 10^{-5} M BAPTA/AM failed to prevent the PAF-induced decrease of J_{Cl} (Fig. 4). Nevertheless, the same maneuver completely blocked the inhibitory ef-

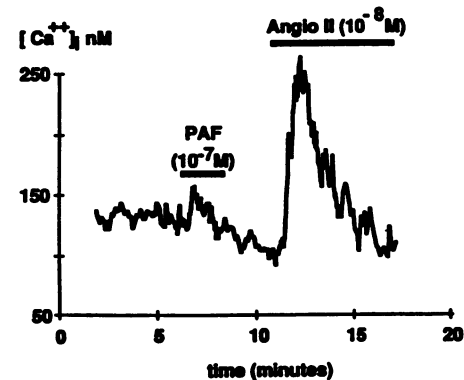


Figure 3. Recording from one experiment of intracellular calcium concentration determination (ordinate) in the presence of PAF and angiotensin II (Angio II), in the mouse cTAL.

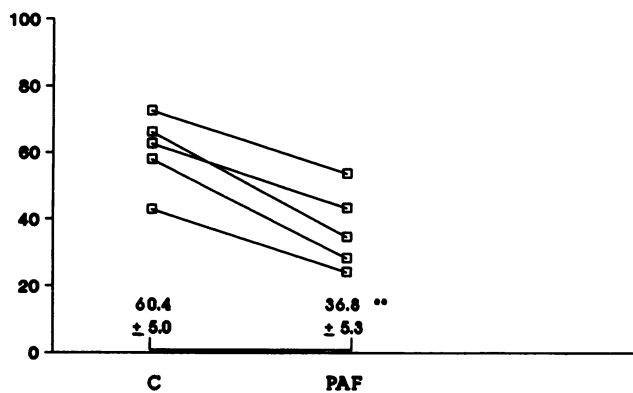


Figure 4. Effect of PAF on chloride reabsorption (J_{Cl} in pmol/min, vertical axis) in individual cTALs pretreated with BAPTA/AM. Tubules were loaded with BAPTA/AM 10^{-5} M half an hour before the beginning of the control period (C). PAF 10^{-7} M was added to the bath in the experimental period.

effect on J_{Cl} of a Ca ionophore (10^{-7} M), ionomycin or A_{23187} ($24.8 \pm 2.8\%$ inhibition, $n = 5$ vs $4.6 \pm 2.6\%$, $n = 3$, $P < 0.01$, without and with BAPTA/AM pretreatment, respectively). Moreover, it was verified that 10^{-5} M BAPTA/AM abolished the $[Ca]_i$ peak induced by angiotensin II, in the rat mTAL ($\Delta[Ca]_i$, nM: 136.7 ± 22.4 , $n = 6$ vs 6.2 ± 1.2 , $n = 6$, $P < 0.001$, in the absence and in the presence of BAPTA, respectively).

Role of cyclic GMP. The inhibitory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} was mimicked by 10^{-4} M 8-bromo cyclic GMP (Table I and Fig. 5). Simultaneous addition of PAF and 8-bromo cyclic GMP in the experimental period did not decrease J_{Cl} to a further extent than each agent alone (50.3 ± 6.5 , 39.6 ± 5.2 , and $37.7 \pm 2.7\%$ inhibition for PAF, 8-bromo cyclic GMP, and PAF plus 8-bromo cyclic GMP, respectively, NS, Table I). Moreover, on the same tubule, previous administration of 8-bromo cyclic GMP prevented a further decrease of J_{Cl} by PAF (Fig. 5).

To investigate whether the PAF effect on J_{Cl} required a cyclic GMP-dependent protein kinase activation, experiments

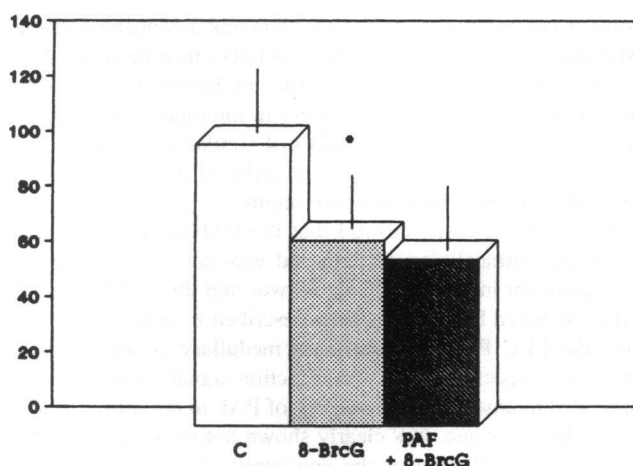


Figure 5. Absence of PAF effect on chloride reabsorption (J_{Cl} in pmol/min, vertical axis) in the presence of 8-bromo cyclic GMP (8-BrcG). After the control period (C), 8-BrcG 10^{-4} M was added to the bath; PAF 10^{-7} M was further added to the bath, always in the presence of 8-BrcG. *Significantly different ($P < 0.01$) from the preceding period; $n = 6$.

Table II. Effect of PAF on Chloride Reabsorption in the Presence of H-8, in the cTAL

	V	ΔCl	J_{Cl}
	nl/min	mM	pmol/min
C(H-8)	5.9 ± 1.2	10.7 ± 1.9	58.7 ± 9.7
E(H-8 + PAF)	5.8 ± 1.4	10.0 ± 2.1	51.3 ± 6.7

Values are means \pm SE. For abbreviations see Table I. PAF, 10^{-7} M; H-8, N -[2-(methylamino)-ethyl]-5-isoquinoline-sulfonamide, 10^{-6} M. Four tubules were tested.

have been performed in the presence of H-8, a protein kinase inhibitor more selective for the cyclic GMP than for the cyclic AMP-dependent enzyme. As already reported (15), it was verified that H-8, 10^{-6} M in the bath, did not significantly modify J_{Cl} (60.5 ± 10.1 vs 66.0 ± 10.2 pmol/min, $n = 10$). The presence of this agent completely abolished the inhibitory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} (Table II).

Cyclic GMP content was determined on isolated mTALs in two series of experiments. In the first one, PAF significantly increased this parameter over the basal values by about twofold, and, in the other one, the PAF-induced increase in cGMP content was significantly reduced in the presence of the PAF antagonist BN 50730 (Fig. 6). Since an effect of PAF on the transepithelial resistance was recently described in cultured medullary collecting tubules cells (16), cyclic GMP content was determined in medullary collecting tubules as well; no difference was observed in cyclic GMP content between PAF alone (2.82 ± 1.32 fmol/10 min per mm) and PAF plus BN 50730 (2.18 ± 0.97 fmol/10 min per mm, NS, $n = 6$).

Effect of PAF on cAMP content. Since cyclic AMP content may be modulated by cyclic GMP-dependent phosphodiesterase, a possible effect of PAF on cyclic AMP content was tested in isolated mTALs and cTALs (Table III). In the presence of Ro 201724, PAF did not significantly modify cyclic AMP content either in basal or stimulated conditions, in both segments.

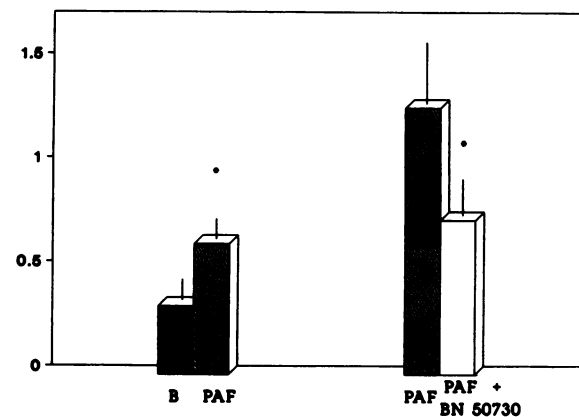


Figure 6. Cyclic GMP (cGMP in fmol/mm per 10 min, vertical axis) content in isolated mTALs from mouse kidney. Each determination has been performed on a 20–30-mm tubular segment. Experiments have been performed in two paired series: in one (left, $n = 8$), the effect of PAF (10^{-7} M) was compared to basal values (B); in the other one (right, $n = 5$), the effect of PAF in the presence of BN 50730 (10^{-6} M) was compared with the effect of PAF alone. *Significantly different ($P < 0.05$) from basal (left) or PAF (right) values.

Table III. Cyclic AMP Content on Isolated mTALs and cTALs

	cAMP content (fmol/4 min per mm)	
	mTAL (8)	cTAL (9)
Basis	1.7±0.3	2.1±0.8
PAF	1.9±0.3	2.9±1.2
Hormone	11.1±3.3*	13.3±3.0 [‡]
Hormone + PAF	7.3±2.0	10.4±2.8*

Values are means±SE. *n*, number of mice. For each experiment, five to seven tubules per condition were tested. PAF, 10⁻⁷ M; Hormone, either parathyroid hormone, 10⁻⁸ M (3 cTALs), glucagon 10⁻⁸ M (6 cTALs, 3 mTALs), or antidiuretic hormone 10⁻⁸ M (5 mTAL). * *P* < 0.05, [‡] *P* < 0.01, ^{||} NS versus hormone.

The absence of statistical significance of the slight difference in the means between hormone and hormone plus PAF did not likely result from a too low number of experiments. No significance was reached, indeed, when the data from cTAL and mTAL were pooled (*t* = 1.6).

Role of nitric oxide (NO) synthase. In the cTAL, sodium nitroprusside significantly decreased J_{Cl} (Table IV), suggesting the presence of a soluble guanylate cyclase activity in this segment. To investigate a possible activation of this enzyme by PAF through NO production, experiments have been performed in the presence of two NO synthase inhibitors, N^G-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester (NAME) or N mono methyl arginine (NMMA). Administration of each of these agents, 10⁻⁴ M in the bath, throughout the experiment failed to impair the inhibitory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} (32.8±4.6 vs 52.8±6.2 pmol/min, in the experimental and control period, respectively, *n* = 7, *P* < 0.001, Fig. 7). Moreover, it was verified that the presence of NAME did not significantly modify J_{Cl} (53.3±7.7 vs 55.8±8.2 pmol/min, with and without this agent, respectively, *n* = 5).

Discussion

This study was undertaken to investigate the signaling pathway involved in the PAF-induced decrease of J_{Cl} in the thick ascending limb of Henle's loop. In a previous work (2), it was shown that this effect was not mediated either by arachidonic acid metabolites or by adenosine. The present results further indicate that, at variance with what was reported in other target cells (5), the inhibition by PAF of J_{Cl} in the cTAL did not involve protein kinase C, was not associated with any [Ca]_i

Table IV. Effect of Sodium Nitroprusside on Chloride Reabsorption in the cTAL

	<i>V</i>	ΔCl	J _{Cl}
	<i>n/mm</i>	<i>mM</i>	<i>pmol/min</i>
C	3.4±0.9	24.6±6.1	57.8±6.3
E (SNP)	3.4±0.9	13.4±3.5*	35.4±5.0 [‡]

Values are means±SE. For abbreviations, see Table I. SNP, sodium nitroprusside 10⁻³ M. Seven tubules were tested. [‡] *P* < 0.001, * *P* < 0.01 versus the control value.

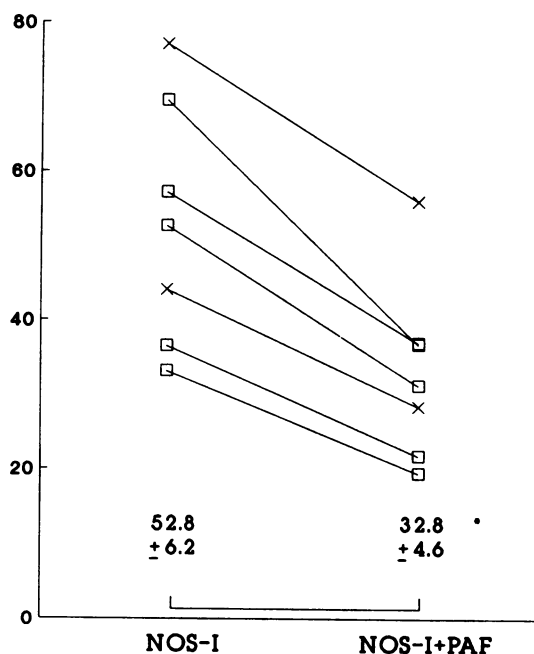


Figure 7. Effect of PAF on chloride reabsorption (J_{Cl} in pmol/min, vertical axis) in individual cTALs in the presence of NO synthase inhibitors (NOS-I), either NAME (square) or NMMA (cross). 10⁻⁴ M NO synthase inhibitor was present in the bath since the control period. PAF 10⁻⁷ M was added in the experimental period. *Significantly different (*P* < 0.01) from the NO synthase inhibitor alone.

increase, did not modify cyclic AMP content, but was mediated by cyclic GMP. Moreover, it was strongly suggested that this effect of PAF was not related to an NO synthesis.

Absence of role of protein kinase C and intracellular calcium. The present data strongly suggested that protein kinase C was not involved in the inhibitory effect of PAF on J_{Cl} since the latter was not modified by the stimulation or by the inhibition of the enzyme activity. The absence of effect of staurosporine and PMA observed in this study likely did not result from the use of too low concentrations of the agents since (a) a similar concentration of staurosporine and a concentration of PMA one or two orders of magnitude lower than those used in this study were able to modulate the antidiuretic hormone-induced increase in water permeability in microperfused collecting tubule (17), and (b) in a protocol similar to that reported here, PMA did inhibit the glucagon-induced increase in J_{Cl} in the cTAL (our unpublished observations).

The results clearly showed that the PAF effect on J_{Cl} did not require intracellular calcium and was not associated with any significant increase in [Ca]_i. A two- and threefold increase in [Ca]_i induced by PAF has been described in tubular cultured cells like LLC PK₁ (18) and inner medullary collecting duct cells (16), respectively. This transduction signal, however, was not related to any biological activity of PAF in the former study and, in the latter one, was clearly shown not to account for the PAF-induced inhibition of the antidiuretic hormone effect on the transepithelial resistance.

These results, associated with our previous work showing that the effect of PAF on J_{Cl} was not mediated by arachidonic acid metabolites (2), strongly argue for an absence of involvement of a PAF-stimulated phospholipid turnover in the effect reported here.

Role of cyclic GMP. Several lines of evidence suggested that cyclic GMP mediated the PAF-induced decrease of J_{Cl} since, firstly, this effect in the cTALs was mimicked by 8-bromo cyclic GMP analogue, was not additive with the effect of the analogue, was inhibited by a cyclic GMP-dependent protein kinase inhibitor (H-8), and since, secondly, PAF significantly increased cyclic GMP content in mTALs. Similar results have been obtained previously in our laboratory (15) with the atrial natriuretic factor, which is known to activate guanylate-cyclase. As discussed elsewhere (15), one can question the selectivity of H-8 on the cyclic GMP-dependent protein kinase. The fact that, in the same work, staurosporine, another protein kinase inhibitor more selective for the protein kinase C than for the cyclic GMP-dependent enzyme, failed to abolish the effect of PAF on J_{Cl} strongly argues, in the results presented here, for a specific enough effect of H-8 on the cyclic GMP-dependent protein kinase.

In regard to cyclic GMP content in microdissected mTALs, the basal and stimulated values reported here and by others (12, 15, 19) were low as compared with the cyclic AMP ones. Nevertheless, the cyclic GMP content in the presence of PAF was similar to those obtained by Nonoguchi et al. (12, 19) with atrial natriuretic factor or by Koike et al. (20) with urodilatin, both hormones exhibiting an effect on J_{Cl} similar to that of PAF (12, 15).

The question was to be raised whether the PAF-induced inhibition of J_{Cl} resulted from a cyclic GMP-mediated decrease of cyclic AMP content. The present data indicated that, in the presence of a partial inhibition of phosphodiesterase activity, PAF did not significantly modify cyclic AMP content in the TAL. Moreover, this result was in agreement with our previous study showing that the effect of PAF on J_{Cl} was similar whether isoproterenol was present or not (2). Conversely to PAF, PGE₂, which has been described to inhibit chloride reabsorption in the mTAL, in the presence of vasopressin but not in basal conditions (21), exhibited an 80% inhibition of the vasopressin-induced increase in cAMP content, in the rat and mouse mTAL (reference 22, and our unpublished observation). Moreover, the present results indicated that the mechanism of PAF action in the TAL was different from the one reported in platelets, in which PAF induced a 95% inhibition on the PGE₁-increased cAMP content (23). Finally, the absence of interaction between PAF and cyclic AMP allowed us to exclude a possible increase in cyclic GMP content mediated by the PAF-stimulated cyclic AMP production, as reported in bacteria (24).

Absence of PAF effect on NO synthesis. Evidence exists that the PAF-induced increase in cyclic GMP did not result from a stimulation of NO synthase. First, two different NO synthase inhibitors, at a concentration usually used (25), failed to abolish the effect of PAF on J_{Cl} in this study. Second, recent reports (26, 27) have detected in the cTAL and mTAL an inducible but not constitutive NO synthase. The short delay for the response to PAF of J_{Cl} (Fig. 1) as well as transepithelial voltage (2) is against a possible induction of NO synthase by PAF in this segment. It must be noted, however, that the present results did not bring any evidence for effectiveness of the NO synthase inhibitors in the conditions used here. The absence in TAL of a constitutive NO synthase and the fact that, to this date, no effect of NO synthase activation on TAL transport is available rendered such a control uneasy. Cyclic GMP has been described to be involved in the vasodilatory action of PAF on the renal afferent arteriole (28). This effect, however, resulted from an

activation by PAF of the endothelial, calcium-stimulated NO synthase.

The results presented here thus raise the question of the mechanism of action of PAF on the cyclic GMP production. On the one hand, a PAF receptor cloned from human heart (29) was described to belong to the rhodopsin-type receptor family, suggesting a PAF action on the phosphodiesterase activity rather than on a membranous guanylate cyclase. On the other hand, the fact that, in this work, PAF increased cyclic GMP content in the presence of a nonspecific phosphodiesterase blocker a priori allowed us to rule out a possible inhibition by PAF of this enzyme activity. Other investigations are needed to further elucidate the signal involved in the PAF-induced increase in cyclic GMP production.

In conclusion, the present paper showed that the PAF-induced decrease of J_{Cl} in the TAL is mediated by cyclic GMP, independent of NO production, indicating that PAF exerted its action on the TAL reabsorptive function through a signaling pathway different from that involved in its glomerular effects.

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