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Regulation of Topoisomerase II α Expression in Humans

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Abstract

In mammalian cells, the loss or down-regulation of tumour-suppressor genes and/or the mutation or overexpression of proto-oncogenes, whose products promote unregulated proliferation in cells, characterise the process of malignant transformation. This generates mitogenic signals that promote abnormal cell growth resulting in tumour progression. Topoisomerase II α (topo II α) is an enzyme present in elevated concentrations in highly proliferating cells due to the requirement for untwisting and unknotting of the DNA which is essential for replication. Because of this requirement, a number of anti-cancer drugs have been designed with topo II α as their primary target. The effectiveness of these drugs however is limited by the development of resistance. One factor linked to drug resistance is the down-regulation of topo II α at the transcription level. Expression of topo II α appears to be regulated through various transcription factors with members of the Sp1 family having a major contribution.

Previous work has shown down regulation of topo II α can occur at the level of transcription. Nucleotide sequencing of the topo II α promoter in drug-resistant cell lines has not revealed any mutations thus far. Three known proteins and one uncharacterised protein are capable of interacting with the proximal topo II α promoter region. The uncharacterised protein may act as a co-activator or a co-repressor depending on the complement of transcription factors associated with the DNA in this region. Because drug resistant cell lines showed modulated expression of these transcription factors, it is important to identify the unknown protein and characterise its role in regulating topo II α expression.

This research aimed to identify the minimal binding site and DNA elements required for the uncharacterised protein to bind, as well as introduce mutations into this proximal region and examine their functional significance. The results of this study could provide insights into the molecular mechanisms responsible for the development of drug resistance, contributing to more efficient and effective methods for the treatment of cancer.

Abbreviations

Amp	Ampicillin
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
β-gal	β -galactosidase
bp	Base pairs (DNA)
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
CDE	Cell-cycle dependent element
cpm	counts per minute
CTD	C-terminal domain
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	deoxyribose nucleic acid
dNTP	deoxynucleoside triphosphate (dATP, dTTP, dGTP, dCTP)
EDTA	Ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid
EMSA	Electrophoretic mobility shift assay
FCS	Fetal calf serum
GC1	GGGCGGG box
GC2	GGGGCGGGG box
GCG	Genetics computer group
GFP	Green fluorescent protein
G segment	Gated segment (DNA)
HAT	Histone acetyl transferases
HeLa	Human cervical carcinoma cells (Helen Lane)
HTETOP	Human fibrosarcoma cell line HT180, tTA-expressing topo II α
ICB	Inverted CCAAT box
kb	kilobases
LB	Luria Bertani bacteriological media
MCS	Multiple cloning site
MDR1	Multidrug resistance gene
MEM	Eagle's minimal essential media
mt	mutated/mutant

NES	nuclear export signal
NLS	nuclear localisation signal
NF-Y	nuclear factor Y
ONPG	o-Nitrophenyl β -D-Galacto-pyranoside
PAGE	Polyacrylimide gel electrophoresis
p53	Tumour suppressor protein
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
PBSE	Phosphate buffered saline plus EDTA
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
pGL3B	pGL3 Basic vector
PIC	preinitiation complex
RNase	Ribonuclease
RT	Room temperature
Sp1	Specificity protein 1
Sp3	Specificity protein 3
STET	Sucrose, Tris, EDTA and triton-X buffer
SV40	Simian virus 40
T segment	Transport segment (DNA)
TAE	Tris acetate EDTA buffer
TAFs	TBP associated factors
TATA	TATA box; conserved A/T rich septameter transcriptional sequence
TBE	Tris borate EDTA
TBP	TATA binding protein
TE	Tris-EDTA buffer
TEMED	N,N,N',N'-Tetramethylethylenediamine
TEN	Tris-EDTA buffer with sodium
TIFs	Transcription initiation factors
TFIID	Transcription initiation factor complex; TBP and TAFs
TF	Transcription factor
UV	Ultra-violet light
wt	wild type

List of Figures

	Page Number
Figure 1.1: Model of topoisomerase II activity.	6
Figure 1.2: Topoisomerase II poison action.	8
Figure 1.3: Schematic representation of the topoisomerase II α promoter region.	13
Figure 1.4: Schematic representation of ICB1, GC1 and putative transcription factors.	22
Figure 1.5: Models of transcriptional regulation of topoisomerase II α	25
Figure 3.1: Schematic representation of electrophoretic mobility shift assays.	47
Figure 3.2: Schematic representation of the uncharacterised protein binding probes.	49
Figure 3.3: Schematic representation of uncharacterised protein recruitment probes.	50
Figure 3.4: Gel purification X-ray film of ³³ P labelled binding probes for EMSAs.	51
Figure 3.5: Gel purification X-ray film of ³³ P labelled recruitment probes.	52
Figure 3.6: Double element competitor assay.	56
Figure 3.7: Single element competitor assay.	58
Figure 3.8: EMSA of the uncharacterised protein DNA binding probes.	60
Figure 3.9: PSL profiles of proteins binding respective DNA probes in EMSAs.	61
Figure 3.10: Antibody supershift with uncharacterised protein binding probes.	64
Figure 3.11: EMSA of the uncharacterised protein recruitment probes.	66
Figure 3.12: Antibody supershift of uncharacterised protein recruitment probes.	68
Figure 3.13: Antibody supershift of uncharacterised protein recruitment probes.	69
Figure 4.1: Schematic representation of PCR mutagenesis.	75
Figure 4.2: First PCR mutagenesis samples and subsequent quantification gel.	76
Figure 4.3: Second PCR mutagenesis samples and subsequent quantification gel.	79
Figure 4.4: <i>Hae</i> III diagnostic digest.	80
Figure 4.5: <i>Kpn</i> I and <i>Nco</i> I restriction endonuclease digests and quantification gel.	82
Figure 4.6: Schematic representation of ligation strategy.	83
Figure 4.7: Plasmid identity screen with <i>Sae</i> I.	86
Figure 4.8: Chromatograms of the new topo II α promoter mutants.	89
Figure 4.9: Chromatograms of the double GC2 and ICB1-GC1 centre mutants.	91
Figure 5.1: Schematic representation of a transient transfection.	94
Figure 5.2: ONPG is hydrolysed by β -galactosidase.	94

Figure 5.3: Luciferase assay reaction equation.	95
Figure 5.4: Equation used to normalise transient transfection data.	96
Figure 5.5: The influence of cell confluence and harvest times on luciferase activity....	99
Figure 5.6: Transient transfection titrations of control and reporter DNA construct amounts.....	100
Figure 5.7: Transfection control for the effect of the β -gal vector on the activity of luciferase.....	102
Figure 5.8: Control to test effects of different β -gal vectors on luciferase activity from different promoters.	104
Figure 6.1: Summary of EMSA results with uncharacterised protein binding probes. .	109
Figure 6.2: Summary of EMSA results with uncharacterised protein recruitment probes.	110
Figure 6.3: Schematic representation of future DNA probes.	116

List of Tables

	Page Number
Table 3.1: Scintillation counts of ^{33}P radioactivity incorporation.....	53
Table 4.1: Ligation reactions and transformation results.....	84
Table 5.1: Students t-test p-value descriptions.....	97
Table 5.2: Significant differences from Figure 5.5.	99
Table 5.3: Significant differences from Figure 5.6.	100
Table 5.4: Significant differences from Figure 5.8.	104

Table of Contents

	Page Number
Acknowledgments	ii
Abstract	iii
Abbreviations.....	iv
List of Figures.....	vi
List of Tables	viii
Table of Contents	ix
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Cancer.....	1
1.2 Topoisomerases.....	2
<i>1.2.1 Topoisomerase IIα and β.....</i>	<i>3</i>
1.3 Anti-cancer Drugs & Topoisomerase IIα.....	7
1.4 Development of Resistance.....	8
1.5 Eukaryotic Transcription.....	10
1.6 Topoisomerase IIα Transcription.....	12
<i>1.6.1 CCAAT Elements.....</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>1.6.2 NF-Y.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>1.6.3 GC boxes.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>1.6.4 Specificity protein 1.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>1.6.5 Specificity protein 3.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>1.6.6 Protein Interactions.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>1.6.7 The Uncharacterised Protein.....</i>	<i>26</i>
1.7 Research Aims.....	26

Chapter 2: Materials and Methods.....	27
2.1 Materials.	27
2.2 DNA modification, purification and binding assays.	29
2.2.1 <i>Oligonucleotides.....</i>	29
2.2.2 <i>Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assays.....</i>	29
i) <i>Radioactively Labelling Oligonucleotide Probes.....</i>	29
ii) <i>Purification of Radioactively Labelled Oligonucleotides.....</i>	30
iii) <i>Scintillation Counting.....</i>	30
iv) <i>Double-stranded Competitor Oligonucleotides.....</i>	31
v) <i>Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assays.</i>	31
vi) <i>EMSA Photo Stimulated Luminescence Quantification Profiles.....</i>	32
2.2.3 <i>Agarose Gel Electrophoresis.....</i>	32
2.2.4 <i>Purification of DNA Fragments by Freeze-squeeze.....</i>	33
2.2.5 <i>Ethanol Precipitation.....</i>	33
2.2.6 <i>Polymerase Chain Reaction.....</i>	33
2.2.7 <i>PCR Mutagenesis.....</i>	34
2.2.8 <i>PCR Purification.....</i>	35
2.2.9 <i>DNA Quantification.....</i>	35
(i) <i>Gel Electrophoresis DNA Quantification.....</i>	35
(ii) <i>Spectrophotometric DNA Quantification.....</i>	35
2.2.10 <i>DNA sequencing.....</i>	36
2.2.11 <i>Analysis of DNA Sequences.....</i>	36
2.2.12 <i>Restriction Endonuclease Digests.....</i>	36
2.2.13 <i>NuSeive Gel Electrophoresis.....</i>	37
2.2.14 <i>Thermosensitive Alkaline Phosphatase Treatment of Vectors.....</i>	37
2.2.15 <i>Ligations.....</i>	37
2.3 Transformation of E.coli XL-1 blue cells.....	38
2.3.1 <i>Transformation of Escherichia coli (E.coli) XL-1 cells.....</i>	38
2.3.2 <i>Plasmid Isolation.....</i>	39
(i) <i>Rapid Boil Plasmid Preparations.....</i>	39

(ii) <i>Small Scale Plasmid Preparations</i>	39
(iii) <i>Large-scale Plasmid Preparations</i>	40
2.3.3 <i>Glycerol Stocks of Transformed XL-1 blue cells</i>	40
2.4 Tissue Culture	41
2.4.1 <i>HeLa Cell Media</i>	41
2.4.2 <i>Beginning HeLa Cell Cultures</i>	41
2.4.3 <i>Maintaining HeLa Cell Cultures</i>	41
2.4.4 <i>Preparing HeLa Cells for Freezing</i>	42
2.4.5 <i>Preparation of HeLa Cell Extracts</i>	42
2.4.6 <i>Bradford Protein Assay</i>	43
2.5 Transient Transfections	44
2.5.1 <i>Transient Transfections</i>	44
2.5.2 <i>Harvesting HeLa Cell Extracts for Luciferase and β-galactosidase Assays</i> ..	44
2.5.3 <i>β-galactosidase Assays</i>	44
2.5.4 <i>Luciferase Assays</i>	45
2.6 GMO approval codes	45
Chapter 3: Protein Binding Assays of the ICB1-GC1 Region from Topoisomerase IIα	46
3.1 Introduction	46
3.2 DNA-protein binding assays of the ICB1-GC1 region	48
3.2.1 <i>Producing the ^{33}P radioactively Labelled Oligonucleotide Probes</i>	51
3.2.2 <i>HeLa Cell Extract Preparation</i>	53
3.2.3 <i>Competitor Assays</i>	54
(i) <i>Double Element Competitors</i>	54
(ii) <i>Single Element Competitors</i>	57
3.2.4 <i>EMSAs of the Uncharacterised Protein Binding Set of Oligonucleotide Probes</i>	59
3.2.5 <i>Antibody Supershift Assay of the Uncharacterised Protein Binding Probes</i> ..	62
3.2.6 <i>EMSAs of the Uncharacterised Protein Recruitment Set of Oligonucleotide</i>	

<i>Probes</i>	65
3.2.7 <i>Antibody Supershift Assay of the Uncharacterised Protein Recruitment</i>	
<i>Probes</i>	67
3.3 Chapter Summary.	70
Chapter 4: Generation of Mutant Topoisomerase IIα Promoter	
Constructs.	72
4.1 Introduction.	72
4.2 Generation of the ICB1-GC1 Centre Region Mutant Constructs. 73	
4.2.1 <i>PCR Mutagenesis.</i>	73
4.2.2 <i>Diagnostic Restriction Endonuclease Digests.</i>	77
4.2.3 <i>Restriction Endonuclease Digests.</i>	81
4.2.4 <i>DNA Ligations.</i>	83
4.2.5 <i>Transformation of E.coli XL-1 Blue Cells with Ligation Reactions.</i>	84
4.2.6 <i>Identifying Plasmids Sequences.</i>	85
(i) <i>Plasmid Identity Screen with Diagnostic Restriction Endonuclease Digest.</i>	85
(ii) <i>Plasmid Sequence Identity Analysis.</i>	87
4.3 Combining the GC2 Mutation with the ICB1-GC1 Centre Region	
Mutations.	90
4.4 Chapter Summary.	90
Chapter 5: Transient Transfections.	92
5.1 Introduction.	92
5.2 Transient Transfections.	93
5.2.1 <i>β-galactosidase Assays.</i>	94
5.2.2 <i>Luciferase Assays.</i>	95
5.2.3 <i>Data Analyses.</i>	95
5.3 HeLa Cell Transfections.	97
5.3.1 <i>Controls.</i>	97

5.3.2 <i>Trouble Shooting</i>	101
5.4 Chapter Summary	105
Chapter 6: Discussion and Future Research	106
6.1 Overview	106
6.2 Summary of Results	107
6.2.1 <i>Results of DNA Binding Assays</i>	107
6.2.2 <i>Protein Interactions</i>	111
6.2.3 <i>Functional Assays</i>	112
6.3 Future Research	114
6.3.1 <i>Protein-DNA Binding Assays</i>	114
6.3.2 <i>Functional Assays</i>	115
6.3.3 <i>Protein Purification</i>	117
6.4 Conclusion	117
References	118
Appendices	132
Appendix 1: Oligonucleotide Sequences	133
1.1 <i>Topoisomerase IIα Oligonucleotide Sequences used in EMSAs</i>	133
1.2 <i>Topoisomerase IIα Competitor Oligonucleotide Sequences used in EMSAs</i>	134
Appendix 2: Protein Assays	135
2.1 <i>HeLa Extract Protein Quantification Assays</i>	135
Appendix 3: Vector Maps	136
3.1 <i>pGL3-Basic Vector</i>	136
3.2 <i>pCMV Sport-βgal Vector</i>	136
Appendix 4: Primer Sequences	137

Appendix 5: <i>SacI</i> Diagnostic Digests.	138
Appendix 6: Alignment of Sequences.	139
Appendix 7: Transient Transfection Data Example.	141
Appendix 8: Statistical Formulas.	142
<i>8.1 Average deviation.</i>	142
<i>8.2 Students T-test.....</i>	142