

Technical University of Denmark



The antimicrobial lysine-peptoid hybrid LP5 inhibits DNA replication and induces the SOS response in *Staphylococcus aureus*

Gottschalk, Sanne; Ifrah, Dan; Lerche, Sandra; Gottlieb, Caroline Trebbien; Cohn, Marianne T; Hiasa, Hiroshi; Hansen, Paul R.; Gram, Lone; Ingmer, Hanne; Thomsen, Line Elnif

Published in:
BMC Microbiology

Link to article, DOI:
[10.1186/1471-2180-13-192](https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2180-13-192)

Publication date:
2013

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link back to DTU Orbit](#)

Citation (APA):
Gottschalk, S., Ifrah, D., Lerche, S., Gottlieb, C. T., Cohn, M. T., Hiasa, H., ... Thomsen, L. E. (2013). The antimicrobial lysine-peptoid hybrid LP5 inhibits DNA replication and induces the SOS response in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *BMC Microbiology*, 13(1), [192]. DOI: 10.1186/1471-2180-13-192

DTU Library

Technical Information Center of Denmark

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

The antimicrobial lysine-peptoid hybrid LP5 inhibits DNA replication and induces the SOS response in *Staphylococcus aureus*

Sanne Gottschalk^{1,6}, Dan Ifrah¹, Sandra Lerche^{2,7}, Caroline T Gottlieb^{3,8}, Marianne T Cohn^{1,9}, Hiroshi Hiasa⁴, Paul R Hansen², Lone Gram⁵, Hanne Ingmer¹ and Line E Thomsen^{1*}

Abstract

Background: The increase in antibiotic resistant bacteria has led to renewed interest in development of alternative antimicrobial compounds such as antimicrobial peptides (AMPs), either naturally-occurring or synthetically-derived. Knowledge of the mode of action (MOA) of synthetic compounds mimicking the function of AMPs is highly valuable both when developing new types of antimicrobials and when predicting resistance development. Despite many functional studies of AMPs, only a few of the synthetic peptides have been studied in detail.

Results: We investigated the MOA of the lysine-peptoid hybrid, LP5, which previously has been shown to display antimicrobial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*. At concentrations of LP5 above the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC), the peptoid caused ATP leakage from bacterial cells. However, at concentrations close to the MIC, LP5 inhibited the growth of *S. aureus* without ATP leakage. Instead, LP5 bound DNA and inhibited macromolecular synthesis. The binding to DNA also led to inhibition of DNA gyrase and topoisomerase IV and caused induction of the SOS response.

Conclusions: Our data demonstrate that LP5 may have a dual mode of action against *S. aureus*. At MIC concentrations, LP5 binds DNA and inhibits macromolecular synthesis and growth, whereas at concentrations above the MIC, LP5 targets the bacterial membrane leading to disruption of the membrane. These results add new information about the MOA of a new synthetic AMP and aid in the future design of synthetic peptides with increased therapeutic potential.

Background

Growing concern over the increase in multidrug resistant bacteria has urged the interest for development of new types and classes of antimicrobial compounds. One such class is antimicrobial peptides (AMPs), also known as host defence peptides, that are found in all multicellular organisms and form an important part of the innate immune system [1]. They exhibit antimicrobial activity against a wide range of pathogenic microorganisms, have immune-modulatory effects and enhance the host defence against pathogenic bacteria [2-4]. AMPs are usually small cationic and amphiphatic peptides comprised of less than 40 amino acids with immense diversity in

sequence, secondary structure motifs, charge and/or the abundance of certain specific amino acids [5]. Their ability to selectively kill prokaryotic rather than eukaryotic cells, make them promising candidates for drug development. However, one drawback of most natural AMPs as therapeutics is their susceptibility to proteolytic degradation [6]. To overcome this problem an approach known as peptidomimetics has emerged in recent years by which compounds are produced that mimic a peptide structure and/or function but carries a modified backbone and/or non-natural amino acids. The peptide-mimetic compounds have been designed based on essential biophysical characteristics of AMPs: charge, hydrophobicity, and amphiphatic organization [7-9]. Oligomeric N-substituted glycines, also known as peptoids, belong to the simpler AMP-mimetic designs. They are structurally similar to α -amino peptides, but the side chain is shifted to amide

* Correspondence: leth@sund.ku.dk

¹Department of Veterinary Disease Biology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, DK-1870 Frederiksberg, Denmark
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

nitrogen instead of the α -carbon [10-12]. This feature offers several advantages including protease stability [13], and easy synthesis by the submonomer approach [11].

Previously, a study screening 20 lysine-peptoid hybrids identified a hybrid displaying good antimicrobial activity toward a wide range of clinically relevant bacteria, including *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*), in addition to low cytotoxicity to mammalian cells [14,15]. The lysine-peptoid hybrid LP5 (lysine-peptoid compound 5) contains the peptoid core [N-(1-naphthalenemethyl)glycyl]-[N-(4-methylbenzyl)glycyl]-[N-(1-naphthalenemethyl)glycyl]-N-(butyl)glycin amide and 5 lysines (Figure 1) [14,15]. LP5 is thus potentially interesting as a lead structure in the development of new antimicrobials functioning against pathogens like *S. aureus* which are increasingly becoming resistant toward conventional antibiotics [16].

Due to their cationic and amphiphatic nature, it is believed that most AMPs selectively kill bacteria by penetrating the negatively charged cell membrane leading to membrane disintegration. However, during the last two decades it has become apparent that some AMPs may also act by other mechanisms without destruction of the cell membrane, namely, acting on intracellular targets leading to inhibition of enzymatic activities, cell wall synthesis and RNA, DNA and protein synthesis [5,17,18].

The inhibition of RNA, DNA and protein synthesis in bacteria is often the result of AMPs interacting with DNA [19,20]. Additionally, interaction with DNA by the hexapeptide WRWYCR and its D-enantiomers was shown to interfere with DNA repair [21]. DNA repair damage elicits the SOS response that is a conserved pathway essential for DNA repair and restart of stalled or collapsed replication forks, regulated by the repressor LexA and the activator RecA [22,23].

In this study, we set out to investigate the mode of action (MOA) of LP5 using the pathogenic bacterium *S. aureus*. Collectively, our data suggest that LP5 has a

dual mode of action; at MIC values it is able to bind DNA leading to inhibition of DNA biosynthesis, inhibition of the function of topoisomerase IV (Topo IV) and DNA gyrase and induction of the SOS response through *recA*. However, when using concentrations above the MIC, LP5 targets the bacterial membrane leading to disruption of the bacterial membrane.

Results and discussion

Determination of MIC of LP5 against *S. aureus*

Given that the lysine-peptoid LP5 has antimicrobial activity toward a number of bacterial and fungal pathogens, we investigated how LP5 interacts with and affects the pathogenic bacterium *S. aureus*. We tested the MIC of LP5 against two *S. aureus* strains, 8325-4, a laboratory strain of human origin [24], and the clinically relevant community acquired strain USA300 [25]. MIC was in the range of 16 to 32 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ for both strains.

Permeabilization of the *S. aureus* membrane by LP5 is concentration dependent

Many AMPs interact with the bacterial membrane, leading to pore-formation and subsequently leakage of intracellular components [5]. Therefore, to determine whether LP5 influences *S. aureus* membrane structure, we investigated membrane integrity by measuring ATP leakage. We found that increasing concentrations of LP5 added to *S. aureus* 8325-4 at time-point 0, lead to a gradual increase in ATP leakage from the cells (Figure 2). The addition of 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of LP5 most likely resulted in an abrupt destruction of the bacterial membrane, since no intracellular ATP was detectable and an immediate increase in extracellular ATP was detected. However, at low concentrations of LP5 only limited leakage of ATP was observed, showing that the leakage of ATP is concentration dependent. Thus, in this experiment we find that LP5

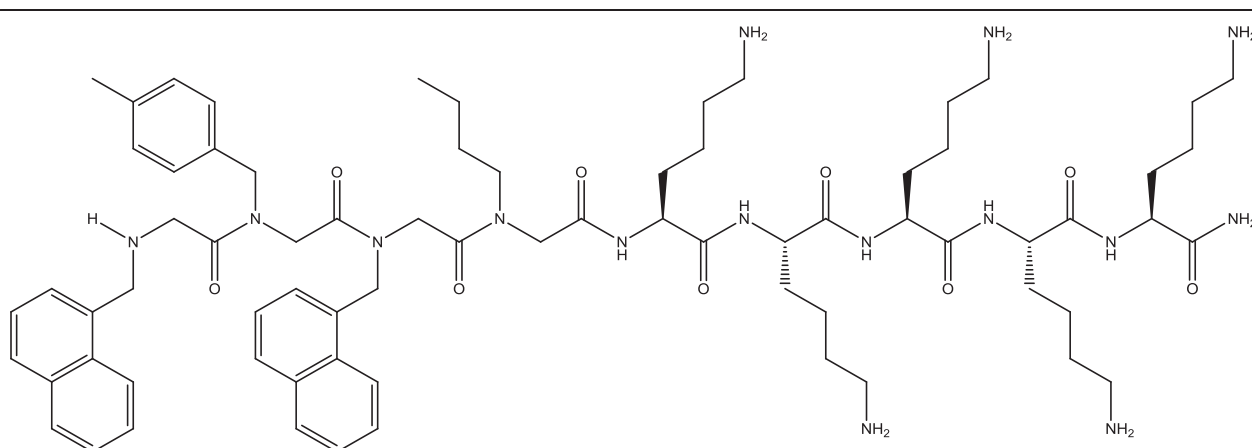
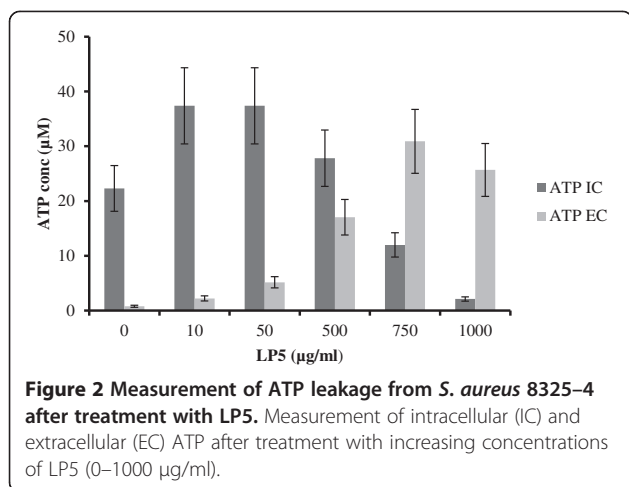
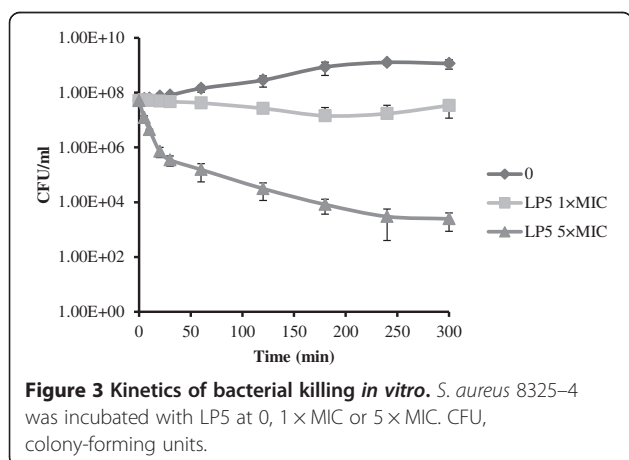


Figure 1 Chemical structure of the lysine-peptoid hybrid LP5.



targets the membrane at high concentrations whereas little effect on the membrane was seen at low concentrations.

These observations agree well with the killing kinetics of LP5 against *S. aureus* (Figure 3). Here, we performed dose-dependent time-kill assays at two concentrations representing 1 × MIC and 5 × MIC (Figure 3). LP5 reduced the colony forming unit (CFU) counts by 2 log units during the first 30 min of the experiment at 5 × MIC. Thereafter, the killing rate gradually decreased and after the 5 h time course approached a total reduction of CFU count by 4 log units. At 1 × MIC LP5 did not reduce the CFU within the 5 h of exposure (Figure 3) and the exposed bacteria resumed growth when transferred to media without LP5 (data not shown). Thus, at this concentration LP5 does not to kill *S. aureus*, instead it prevents growth, indicating that LP5 does not affect the cell membrane but rather has an intracellular target. This notion is supported by the finding that concentrations several fold above the MIC is needed to see ATP leakage. Some AMPs can cause small membrane lesions,



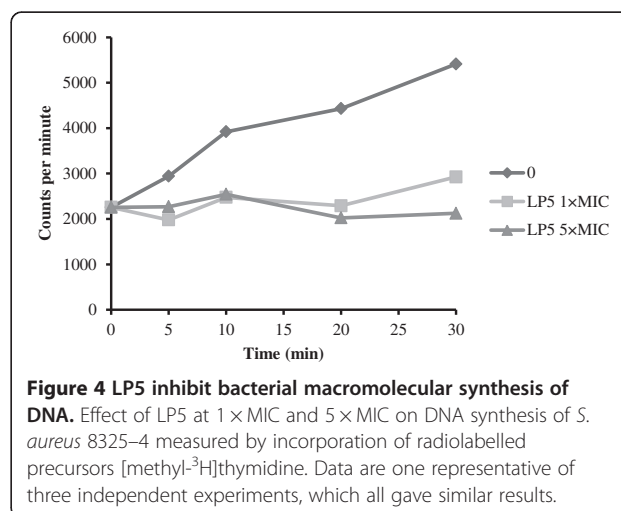
which lead to transient leakage of protons and thereby depletion of intracellular ATP, which would affect synthesis of cellular molecules [26]. However, from our ATP leakage experiment, it is clear that the intracellular level of ATP does not decrease, until high concentrations of LP5 are used and increased ATP leakage is observed (Figure 2).

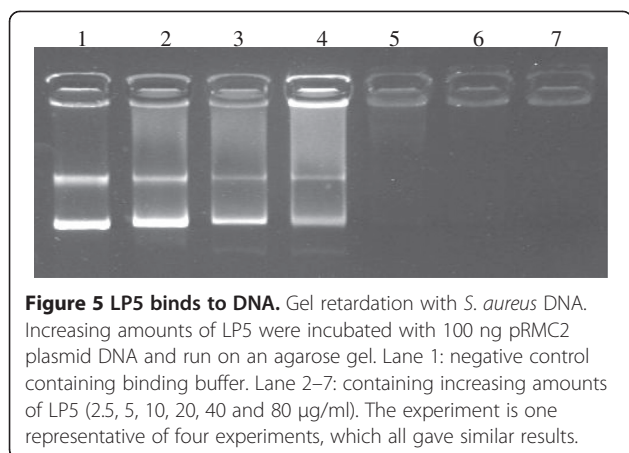
AMPs have previously been suggested to have multiple targets, including both intracellular targets and the membrane, depending on the concentration of the AMP [18]. Indolicidin and the peptidomimetic oligo-acyl-lysine (OAK) C₁₂K-2β₁₂ (OAKs: a group of AMPs composed of amino fatty acids) induce membrane damage at magnitudes above their MICs, whereas around their MICs they were both found to have intracellular targets [27-29].

LP5 inhibits macromolecular synthesis of DNA and binds DNA in vitro

AMPs can affect the synthesis of macromolecules [30] and since LP5 is likely to have an intracellular target, we investigated its effect on DNA synthesis. We assessed the ability of *S. aureus* to incorporate radiolabeled thymidine into DNA after exposure to concentrations of LP5 at either 1 × MIC or 5 × MIC. The incorporation was monitored over a time period of 30 min and the DNA synthesis was clearly inhibited within the first 5 min after addition of LP5 at both 1 × MIC and 5 × MIC (Figure 4).

Previously it has been shown that the inhibition of DNA synthesis by AMPs is associated with their DNA binding [19,20,31]. Therefore, to clarify whether LP5 inhibits DNA synthesis by binding to bacterial DNA, a gel retardation assay was performed. As shown in Figure 5, gel retardation with plasmid DNA demonstrated that in the absence of LP5 pRMC2 migrates as a plasmid. However, upon the addition of increasing concentrations of LP5, the pRMC2 plasmid was no longer able to migrate into the gel. This suggests that LP5 interacts with plasmid DNA and inhibits the migration of plasmid DNA.





From the gel retardation assay we observed that at LP5 concentrations well below the MIC value (2.5 µg/ml) LP5 interferes with the migration of plasmid DNA and at 20 µg/ml LP5 the plasmid DNA was altered to such an extent that it no longer entered the gel. DNA binding is not a general property of AMPs, since another peptide, plectasin, did not bind to plasmid DNA in the same experiment (data not shown). The ability of AMPs containing peptoid residues to translocate across lipid bilayers and bind to bacterial DNA has been shown for KLW-L9,13a containing two Nala (Alanine-peptoid) [32]. However, whether this is a general MOA of peptoids still needs to be elucidated. Collectively, these observations strongly support our hypothesis that LP5 exert its MOA intracellularly by binding to DNA and inhibiting DNA synthesis.

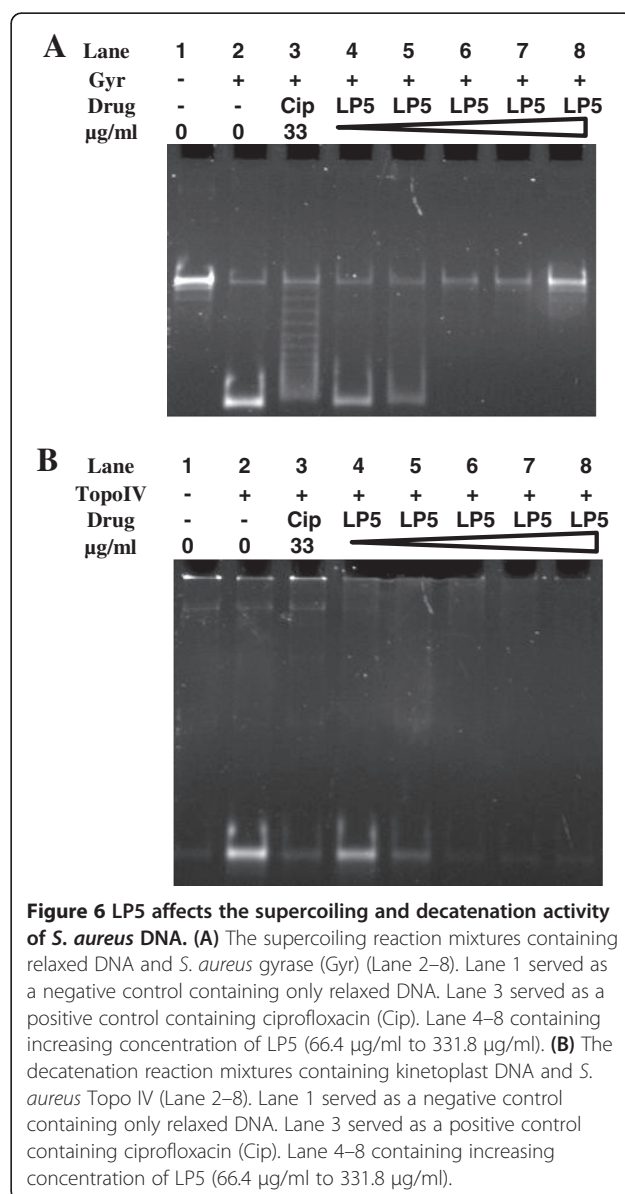
LP5 inhibits DNA gyrase and Topo IV and induces the SOS response through the *recA* gene

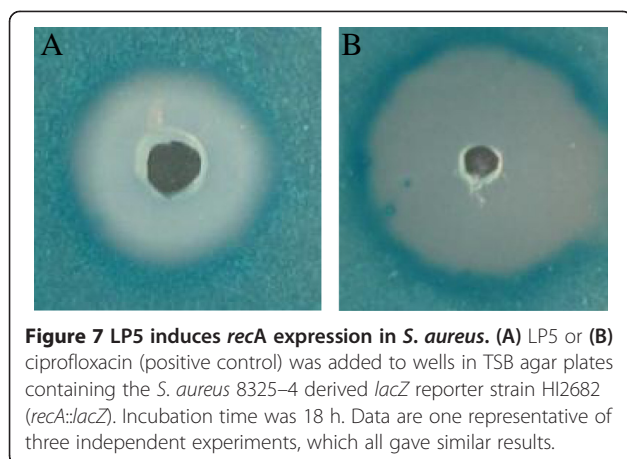
Since LP5 inhibits DNA synthesis and binds DNA we speculated that the DNA replication machinery was affected by LP5. Some of the main players of bacterial DNA replication are the type II topoisomerases, DNA gyrase and Topo IV. DNA gyrase is responsible for the removal of positive supercoils in front of the advancing replication fork, whereas Topo IV decatenates the precatenanes behind the replication fork [33]. To investigate if the activity of these enzymes is influenced by LP5 *in vitro*, supercoiling and decatenation assays were performed using *S. aureus* DNA gyrase and Topo IV, respectively. The supercoiling and decatenation activity of *S. aureus* DNA gyrase and Topo IV was measured in the presence of various concentrations of LP5 with ciprofloxacin used as a positive control [34].

LP5 was inhibitory on both *S. aureus* DNA gyrase and Topo IV in that the enzymes were unable to supercoil or decatenate DNA, respectively (Figure 6). This suggests that LP5 interferes with the activity of both enzymes. However, because we found that LP5 binds to DNA, the

observed inhibition of the DNA gyrase and Topo IV is likely due to the inaccessibility of the enzymes to bind to DNA and exert their function possibly leading to stalled replication forks.

Stalling of replication forks often lead to induction of the SOS response in bacteria [35]. The ability to induce the SOS response was determined by visualizing the β-galactosidase synthesis from a *recA-lacZ* fusion using an agar diffusion assay [36] (Figure 7). The result clearly demonstrated an induction of the expression of *recA in vitro* by LP5 monitored as a blue ring at the point of bacterial growth (Figure 7(A)). Ciprofloxacin was used as a positive control as it is known to induce *recA* expression in *S. aureus* (Figure 7(B)) [37] and H₂O was used as a negative control (data not shown). The ability to induce the





SOS response was shown recently for the hexapeptide WRWYCR that exerts its broad bactericidal activity by inducing the SOS response through stalling of bacterial replication forks [36].

To our knowledge these results show for the first time that a peptoid is able to bind DNA, induce the SOS response and interfere with the functions of DNA gyrase and Topo IV.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we propose a model in which LP5 exerts a dual MOA. At $1 \times \text{MIC}$ the lysine-peptoid hybrid traverses the cytoplasmic membrane of *S. aureus* without causing lethal damage and binds the chromosomal DNA, inhibits topo IV and DNA gyrase and thereby the replication machinery by blocking the accessibility to DNA. The inhibitory effect on DNA replication induces the SOS response leading to inhibition of growth. At concentrations of $5 \times \text{MIC}$ and above, LP5 also targets the cell membrane leading to leakage of intracellular compounds like ATP, resulting in cell death. These results add new information about the MOA of a new synthetic peptide, and advance our knowledge of these compounds as potential antimicrobial therapeutics.

Methods

Peptide synthesis

The synthesis of LP5 was performed using a combination of the sub-monomer approach and Fmoc SPPS, as previously described [38].

Strains and culture conditions

Three *S. aureus* strains were used in this study: Strain 8325–4 [24], FPR3757 USA300 a multidrug resistant community-acquired strain (CA-MRSA) implicated in outbreaks of skin and soft tissue infection [25] and HI2682, which contains a *recA-lacZ* fusion made in this study as described below. The bacteria were grown in Tryptone Soy

Broth (TSB, CM0129 Oxoid). When appropriate, antibiotics were added at the following concentrations: 5 and 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ tetracycline and 50 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ciprofloxacin (Sigma).

Minimum inhibitory concentration determination

The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of LP5 was determined using the modified microtiter broth dilution assay for cationic antimicrobial peptides from Hancock (<http://cmdr.ubc.ca/bobh/methods/MODIFIEDMIC.html>). Briefly, serial 2-fold dilution of LP5 (at 10 times the required test concentration) was made in 0.2% bovine serum albumin (Sigma, A7906) and 0.01% acetic acid in polypropylene tubes. Overnight cultures of *S. aureus* 8325–4 and FPR3757 USA300 were diluted in Mueller Hinton broth (Oxoid, CM0405) to a final concentration of approximately 5×10^5 CFU/ml and 100 μl was added to each well of a 96-well polypropylene microtiter plate. To each well was added 11 μl of the 2-fold serial diluted LP5. The plate was incubated overnight and the MIC was read as the lowest concentration of peptide that inhibited visible growth of *S. aureus*. The reported results are from three independent experiments.

Determination of the effect of LP5 on the bacterial envelope - ATP measurements

Pore formation as caused by peptide addition was determined by measuring ATP leakage from the bacterial cell using a bioluminescence assay as previously described [39]. *S. aureus* 8325–4 was grown in TSB at 37°C overnight and then re-inoculated in TSB at 37°C. *S. aureus* was harvested (3000 RPM, 10 min) at mid-exponential phase (OD_{546} of 2.5 ± 0.1), washed once in 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.0 and once in 50 mM HEPES buffer pH 7.0. The pellet was resuspended in 50 mM HEPES pH 7.0 to a final OD_{546} of 10. Bacteria were stored on ice and used within 5 h. Bacteria were energized in 50 mM HEPES (pH 7.0) with 0.2% (w/v) glucose and treated with various concentrations of LP5 up to a concentration of 1000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. ATP measurements were performed at time-point 0. ATP was determined using a bioluminescence kit (Sigma, FLAA-1KT) and a BioOrbit 1253 luminometer. Total ATP content was determined by rapidly permeabilizing 20 μl cell suspension with 80 μl dimethyl sulfoxide. The cell suspension was diluted in 4.9 ml sterile water, and ATP content was determined in 100 μl of the preparation as described by the manufacturer. To determine the extracellular ATP concentration, the 20 μl cell suspension was mixed with 80 μl sterile water and analysed as described above. Intracellular ATP concentrations were calculated by using the intracellular volumes of $0.85 \mu\text{m}^3$. The number of cells in suspension was determined by plate spreading. The reported results are from two independent experiments.

In vitro killing kinetics of *S. aureus*

S. aureus 8325–4 was grown overnight in TSB medium and diluted 1:50 in TSB medium and allowed to grow to OD₆₀₀ of 0.2. LP5 was added to final concentrations equally to one (16 µg/ml) and five times (80 µg/ml) the MIC value, followed by incubation at 37°C while shaking. A control without LP5 was included. At the specified time points aliquots were diluted (serial 10-fold dilutions in saline) and plated on TSB agar. CFU were counted after an overnight incubation at 37°C. The reported results are from three independent experiments.

Survival of *S. aureus* after LP5 exposure

The ability of *S. aureus* 8325–4 to resume growth after incubation with 1 × MIC was investigated as follows: bacteria were grown overnight in TSB medium and diluted 1:50 in TSB medium and allowed to grow to OD₆₀₀ of 0.2. LP5 was added to a final concentration 1 × MIC, followed by incubation at 37°C while shaking. A control without LP5 was included. After 3 h cells were harvested and resuspended in fresh TSB medium and 3 × 100 µl cell suspension was added to 100 µl TSB medium in a 96-well microtiter plate. Growth was monitored by measuring the optical density at 600 nm every 20 min for 17 h by the Gen5™ program (BioTek®). The reported results are from two independent experiments.

Macromolecular synthesis and bacterial killing

Overnight cultures of *S. aureus* 8325–4 were diluted 1:50 in TSB and allowed to grow to OD₆₀₀ of 0.2. 1 µCi/ml (37MBq) of [methyl-³H] thymidine was added to the culture. After 10 min of incubation at 37°C, LP5 was added at 1 × MIC and 5 × MIC. Samples of 500 µl were removed immediately before addition of LP5 (0 min) and at 5, 10, 20 and 30 min after addition of LP5 and added to 2 volume of 99.9% ice cold EtOH and 0.1 volume of 3M sodium acetate (NaAc) pH 5.5 in order to precipitate macromolecules. After overnight precipitation at –20°C samples were collected by centrifugation (12000 rpm, 10 min) and washed twice in 1 ml of ice cold 70% EtOH. Samples were resuspended in 100 µl of milliQ water and added to 4 ml scintillation vials with EcoscintA liquid scintillation cocktail, and counts were obtained in a Beckman scintillation counter for 5 min for each sample using the tritium program. The reported results are from three independent experiments.

DNA-binding analysis

Gel retardation analysis was performed as previously described [40] by mixing 100 ng of plasmid DNA (pRMC2) [41] isolated from *S. aureus* 8325–4 with increasing amounts of LP5 in 20 µl binding buffer (5% w/v glycerol, 10 mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 20 mM KCl and 50 µg/ml bovine serum albumin). Reaction

mixtures were incubated 1 h at room temperature and subjected to 1% agarose gel electrophoresis and visualised using ethidium bromide. The reported results are one representative of four independent experiments, showing similar results.

Construction of *recA-lacZ* fusion

Plasmid pHI1496 carrying a *lacZ* gene was digested with *Sma*I and *Xho*I (New England Biolabs) and ligated into pCL25 (a vector carrying the L54a attachment site for integration into the lipase gene (*geh*) of the *S. aureus* chromosome) [42] digested with *Sma*I and *Sal*I (New England Biolabs). The *recA* promoter was amplified by PCR using the primers RecA-BstBI-F (5' tatttcgaatcggcaccttaccgaaag a3') and RecA-BamHI-R (5' tatttcgaatcggcaccttaccgaaag a3') and was cloned into pCR[®]2.1-TOPO[®] (Invitrogen). The 663 bp *recA* sequence was excised from pCR[®]2.1-TOPO[®] using *Bst*BI and *Bam*HI (New England Biolabs) and cloned into *Bst*BI/*Bam*HI-cut *lac-Z* vector, to give pMTC100 in *E. coli* DH5α. The pMTC100 plasmid was electroporated into *S. aureus* RN4220 [43] and recombinants selected on 10 µg/ml tetracycline. Since the pMTC100 do not contain a replicon active in *S. aureus*, tetracycline resistant clones occur as a result of a recombination event between the plasmid insert and the host. Finally, the *recA::lacZ* fusion from RN4220 was transduced into *S. aureus* 8325–4 using the Φ11 phage from *S. aureus* 8325 as the carrier [24], and selected on 5 µg/ml tetracycline plates. The expected integrational event was confirmed by colony-PCR using the primers RecA-BamHI-F (5' tatggatcctgacacattaattgagcaagctgt3') and LexA/*lacZ*-R (5' cccattgccattcagg3'). The strain is called HI2682.

Agar diffusion assay

The assay use a transcriptional reporter strain, HI2682, carrying *lacZ* fused to *recA*. 30 µl of 13.33 mg/ml LP5, 0.05 mg/ml ciprofloxacin or H₂O was tested in the agar diffusion assay where the expression from the promoter of *recA* is monitored as previously described [36]. Induction of the *recA* gene was monitored as colour change. The reported results are one representative of three independent experiments, showing similar results.

Supercoiling and decatenation assays

Supercoiling and decatenation assays were performed as previously described [34] with minor modifications in the reaction mixture content. In the reaction mixtures we used 5 µg/ml tRNA, various concentrations (0; 66.4; 132.7; 199.1; 265.4; 331.8 µg/ml) of LP5 and added either 100 fmol (as a tetramer) of *S. aureus* gyrase or 50 fmol of *S. aureus* Topo IV. In the control reaction 33 µg/ml ciprofloxacin was used instead of LP5. Additionally, the DNA products were purified with phenol/chloroform to deproteinize the reactions.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

SG participated in the design of the study, did the experiments and drafted the manuscript, SG and CTG did the ATP leakage analysis. MTC did the HI2682 construction. PRH, SL and DI supplied the Peptoid LP5. SG and HH did the supercoiling and decatenation assays. LET and HI participated in the design of the study and HI, LG and LET helped revise the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

SG was funded by a PhD-grant from the Lundbeck Foundation and University of Copenhagen, DI was funded by The Lundbeck Foundation, CTG was funded by a PhD-grant from The Technical University of Denmark, SLS was funded by a Ph.D. grant from the University of Copenhagen and MTC was funded by Danish Research Council of Independent Research (274-08-0531).

Author details

¹Department of Veterinary Disease Biology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, DK-1870 Frederiksberg, Denmark. ²Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. ³National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark, K-2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark. ⁴Department of Pharmacology, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. ⁵Department of Systems Biology, Technical University of Denmark, DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark. ⁶Present address: Novo Nordisk, Hagedornsvej, Gentofte, Denmark. ⁷Present address: Novo Nordisk Park, Maaloev, Denmark. ⁸Present address: Chr. Hansen, Boege Allé, Hoersholm, Denmark. ⁹Present address: Novozymes, Krogshoejvej, Bagsvaerd, Denmark.

Received: 30 May 2013 Accepted: 13 August 2013
Published: 14 August 2013

References

- Zaslouff M: Antimicrobial peptides of multicellular organisms. *Nature* 2002, **415**:389–395.
- Brown KL, Hancock RE: Cationic host defense (antimicrobial) peptides. *Curr Opin Immunol* 2006, **18**:24–30.
- Lai Y, Gallo RL: AMPed up immunity: how antimicrobial peptides have multiple roles in immune defense. *Trends Immunol* 2009, **30**:131–141.
- Pasupuleti M, Schmidtchen A, Malmsten M: Antimicrobial peptides: key components of the innate immune system. *Crit Rev Biotechnol* 2012, **32**:143–171.
- Jenssen H, Hamill P, Hancock RE: Peptide antimicrobial agents. *Clin Microbiol Rev* 2006, **19**:491–511.
- Marr AK, Gooderham WJ, Hancock RE: Antibacterial peptides for therapeutic use: obstacles and realistic outlook. *Curr Opin Pharmacol* 2006, **6**:468–472.
- Chongsirawatana NP, Patch JA, Czyzewski AM, Dohm MT, Ivankin A, Gidalevitz D, Zuckermann RN, Barron AE: Peptoids that mimic the structure, function, and mechanism of helical antimicrobial peptides. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2008, **105**:2794–2799.
- Rotem S, Mor A: Antimicrobial peptide mimics for improved therapeutic properties. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 2009, **1788**:1582–1592.
- Scott RW, DeGrado WF, Tew GN: De novo designed synthetic mimics of antimicrobial peptides. *Curr Opin Biotechnol* 2008, **19**:620–627.
- Simon RJ, Kania RS, Zuckermann RN, Huebner VD, Jewell DA, Banville S, Ng S, Wang L, Rosenberg S, Marlowe CK: Peptoids: a modular approach to drug discovery. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 1992, **89**:9367–9371.
- Zuckermann RN, Kerr JM, Kent SBH, Moos WH: Efficient method for the preparation of peptoids [oligo(N-substituted glycines)] by submonomer solid-phase synthesis. *J Am Chem Soc* 1992, **114**:10646–10647.
- Giuliani A, Rinaldi AC: Beyond natural antimicrobial peptides: multimeric peptides and other peptidomimetic approaches. *Cell Mol Life Sci* 2011, **68**:2255–2266.
- Miller SM, Simon RJ, Ng S, Zuckermann RN, Kerr JM, Moos WH: Proteolytic studies of homologous peptide and N-substituted glycine peptoid oligomers. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett* 1994, **4**:2657–2662.
- Ryge TS, Frimodt-Moller N, Hansen PR: Antimicrobial activities of twenty lysine-peptoid hybrids against clinically relevant bacteria and fungi. *Chemotherapy* 2008, **54**:152–156.
- Ryge TS, Hansen PR: Novel lysine-peptoid hybrids with antibacterial properties. *J Pept Sci* 2005, **11**:727–734.
- Boucher HW, Talbot GH, Bradley JS, Edwards JE, Gilbert D, Rice LB, Scheld M, Spellberg B, Bartlett J: Bad bugs, no drugs: no ESKAPE! An update from the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clin Infect Dis* 2009, **48**:1–12.
- Hale JDF, Hancock REW: Alternative mechanisms of action of cationic antimicrobial peptides on bacteria. *Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther* 2007, **5**:951–959.
- Peschel A, Sahl HG: The co-evolution of host cationic antimicrobial peptides and microbial resistance. *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2006, **4**:529–536.
- Rotem S, Radziszewsky IS, Bourdetsky D, Navon-Venezia S, Carmeli Y, Mor A: Analogous oligo-acyl-lysines with distinct antibacterial mechanisms. *FASEB J* 2008, **22**:2652–2661.
- Sarig H, Goldfeder Y, Rotem S, Mor A: Mechanisms mediating bactericidal properties and conditions that enhance the potency of a broad-spectrum oligo-acyl-lysyl. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2011, **55**:688–695.
- Gunderson CW, Segall AM: DNA repair, a novel antibacterial target: Holliday junction-trapping peptides induce DNA damage and chromosome segregation defects. *Mol Microbiol* 2006, **59**:1129–1148.
- Butala M, Zgur-Bertok D, Busby SJ: The bacterial LexA transcriptional repressor. *Cell Mol Life Sci* 2009, **66**:82–93.
- Cox MM: Regulation of bacterial RecA protein function. *Crit Rev Biochem Mol Biol* 2007, **42**:41–63.
- Novick R: Properties of a cryptic high-frequency transducing phage in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Virology* 1967, **33**:155–166.
- Diep BA, Gill SR, Chang RF, Phan TH, Chen JH, Davidson MG, Lin F, Lin J, Carleton HA, Mongodin EF, Sensabaugh GF, Perdreau-Remington F: Complete genome sequence of USA300, an epidemic clone of community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Lancet* 2006, **367**:731–739.
- Huang HW: Molecular mechanism of antimicrobial peptides: The origin of cooperativity. *Biochim Biophys Acta* 2006, **1758**:1292–1302.
- Hsu CH, Chen C, Jou ML, Lee AY, Lin YC, Yu YP, Huang WT, Wu SH: Structural and DNA-binding studies on the bovine antimicrobial peptide, indolicidin: evidence for multiple conformations involved in binding to membranes and DNA. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2005, **33**:4053–4064.
- Makobongo MO, Gancz H, Carpenter BM, McDaniel DP, Merrell DS: The oligo-acyl lysyl antimicrobial peptide C12k-2beta12 exhibits a dual mechanism of action and demonstrates strong in vivo efficacy against *Helicobacter pylori*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2012, **56**:378–390.
- Wu M, Maier E, Benz R, Hancock RE: Mechanism of interaction of different classes of cationic antimicrobial peptides with planar bilayers and with the cytoplasmic membrane of *Escherichia coli*. *Biochemistry* 1999, **38**:7235–7242.
- Patrzykat A, Friedrich CL, Zhang L, Mendoza V, Hancock REW: Sublethal concentrations of pleurocidin-derived antimicrobial peptides inhibit macromolecular synthesis in *Escherichia coli*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2002, **46**:605–614.
- Subbalakshmi C, Sitaram N: Mechanism of antimicrobial action of indolicidin. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 1998, **160**:91–96.
- Song YM, Park Y, Lim SS, Yang ST, Woo ER, Park IS, Lee JS, Kim JI, Hahn KS, Kim Y, Shin SY: Cell selectivity and mechanism of action of antimicrobial model peptides containing peptoid residues. *Biochemistry* 2005, **44**:12094–12106.
- Hiasa H, Mariani KJ: Two distinct modes of strand unlinking during theta-type DNA replication. *J Biol Chem* 1996, **271**:21529–21535.
- Oppegard LM, Hamann BL, Streck KR, Ellis KC, Fiedler HP, Khodursky AB, Hiasa H: In vivo and in vitro patterns of the activity of simocyclinone D8, an angucyclinone antibiotic from *Streptomyces antibioticus*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2009, **53**:2110–2119.
- Mori T, Nakamura T, Okazaki N, Furukohri A, Maki H, Akiyama MT: *Escherichia coli* DinB inhibits replication fork progression without significantly inducing the SOS response. *Genes Genet Syst* 2012, **87**:75–87.
- Nielsen A, Nielsen KF, Frees D, Larsen TO, Ingmer H: Method for screening compounds that influence virulence gene expression in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2010, **54**:509–512.
- Cirz RT, Jones MB, Gingles NA, Minogue TD, Jarrahi B, Peterson SN, Romesberg FE: Complete and SOS-mediated response of *Staphylococcus aureus* to the antibiotic ciprofloxacin. *J Bacteriol* 2007, **189**:531–539.

38. Ryge TS, Hansen PR: Potent antibacterial lysine-peptoid hybrids identified from a positional scanning combinatorial library. *Bioorg Med Chem* 2006, **14**:4444–4451.
39. Thomsen LE, Gottlieb CT, Gottschalk S, Wodskou TT, Kristensen HH, Gram L, Ingmer H: The heme sensing response regulator HssR in *Staphylococcus aureus* but not the homologous RR23 in *Listeria monocytogenes* modulates susceptibility to the antimicrobial peptide plectasin. *BMC Microbiol* 2010, **10**:307.
40. Park CB, Kim HS, Kim SC: Mechanism of action of the antimicrobial peptide buforin II: buforin II kills microorganisms by penetrating the cell membrane and inhibiting cellular functions. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 1998, **244**:253–257.
41. Corrigan RM, Foster TJ: An improved tetracycline-inducible expression vector for *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Plasmid* 2009, **61**:126–129.
42. Luong TT, Lee CY: Improved single-copy integration vectors for *Staphylococcus aureus*. *J Microbiol Methods* 2007, **70**:186–190.
43. Schenk S, Laddaga RA: Improved method for electroporation of *Staphylococcus aureus*. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* 1992, **73**:133–138.

doi:10.1186/1471-2180-13-192

Cite this article as: Gottschalk et al.: The antimicrobial lysine-peptoid hybrid LP5 inhibits DNA replication and induces the SOS response in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *BMC Microbiology* 2013 **13**:192.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

