

Cloning and Sequencing of cDNA Encoding Rabbit Inter- α -Trypsin Inhibitor Heavy-Chain 1 Precursor

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Summary

Complementary DNA encoding a precursor of heavy chain 1 (HC1) of the inter- α -trypsin inhibitor was amplified from rabbit liver total RNA by reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and rapid amplification of cDNA end (RACE), cloned and sequenced. The cDNA spanned a stretch of 2,899 nucleotides with open reading frame coding for 906 amino acid residues. The amino acid sequence of HC1 precursor was 82, 79, 79, and 79% identical with those of the HC1 precursors from man, mouse, pig and hamster, respectively.

Key words: cDNA sequencing of inter- α -trypsin inhibitor heavy chain 1, Rabbit

Introduction

The inter- α -trypsin inhibitor (ITI) is a family of structurally related plasma serine proteinase inhibitors (1-2). This family is composed of multiple proteins made up of a given combination of polypeptide chains after complex posttranslational maturation (3-4). Members of ITI family can be divided into two subclasses depending of their composition with or without bikunin (a Kunitz-type trypsin inhibitor). When bikunin is present, mature heavy chains named HC1, HC2, HC3 are covalently linked to bikunin by an unusual cross-link named protein glycosaminoglycan protein (5-7).

PK120 (8) is a member of the bikunin-uncompelled subclass (also known as ITI heavy chain-related protein or HC4). It is a single chain glycoprotein of 120 kDa, cleaved into 85- and 35-kDa fragments when plasma is incubated at 37°C. PK120 is highly sensitive to plasma kallikrein.

Although ITI was isolated more than 30 years ago, its physiological role is still unclear (9). Recent findings indicate that ITI is required for the maturation of oocytes (10) and may also play a role in inflammation (11-12). It is necessary to establish an appropriate animal model in order to get further insight into the physiological role of the ITI family. This paper describes the cloning and sequencing of HC1 of rabbit ITI, and comparison of the sequences with those of known four species, man, mouse, pig and hamster.

Materials and Methods

Materials—QuickPrep Total RNA Extraction Kit, terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TDT), 2'-deoxyadenosine 5'-triphosphate (dATP) and oligonucleotides were purchased from amersham pharmacia biotech. RNA LA PCR Kit (AMV) Ver. 1. 1 and pGEM-T Easy vector system were obtained from Takara Shuzo Co. and Promega respectively. Restriction enzymes were obtained from Takara Shuzo Co. and BioLabs. Plasmid purification kit was obtained from QIAGEN. DNA sequencing kit (BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing) was obtained from Applied Biosystems.

Isolation of Total RNA from Rabbit Liver and Sequencing Strategy for cDNA—Total RNA was prepared from rabbit liver by the method of Chirgwin, J. M *et al* (13) using QuickPrep Total RNA Extraction kit. The complete cDNA sequence encoding HC1 was determined by the following three step strategy, (i) RT-PCR of the region specific for HC1, (ii) 3'-RACE, and (iii) 5'-RACE. RT-PCR was carried out essentially by the method of Lynas *et al*. (14) using the RNA LA PCR kit, and the RACEs were performed by the method of

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Frohman *et al.* (15). The PCR products were ligated into pGEM-T Easy vector and sequenced by the dideoxynucleotide chain termination method (16) using the BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing kit on a Genetic Analyze System model 310 (Applied Biosystems). The protocols and primers are briefly described below and in Fig. 1.

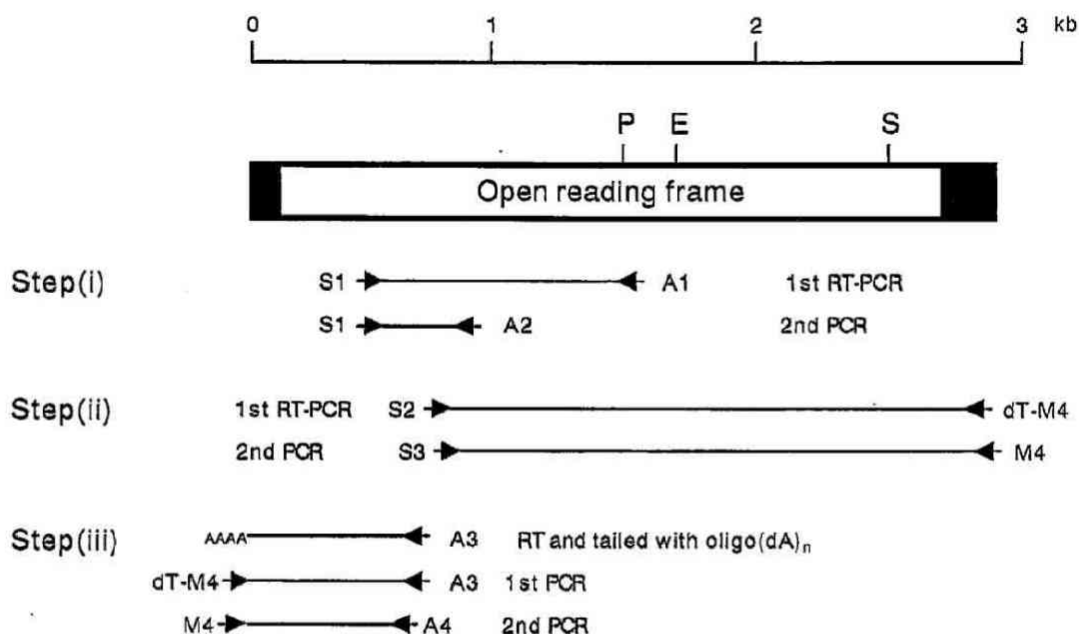


Figure 1. Schematic representation of primer positions and the PCR strategy for cloning of the cDNA encoding the HC1 precursor of rabbit ITI. The restriction endonuclease sites are only those used in the sequence determination. P, Pst I; E, EcoRI; S, Sph I.

Sequencing of cDNA Encoding the HC1 Precursor—Step (i): A portion (1 μ g) of total RNA was incubated with avian myeloblastosis virus reverse transcriptase in the presence of an antisense primer A1 (21bp: TGC TAC CAC GAT CTC GGA GCC), which is complementary to nucleotides 1501-1521 (Fig. 2), for 30 min at 50°C, and then heated for 5 min at 99°C prior to cooling at 5°C for 5 min. Thereafter, the reaction mixture was subjected to PCR amplification using Takara La Taq polymerase in the presence of a sense primer S1 (20bp: AAA CGG CAG GCC GTG GAT AC), corresponding to positions 335-354 (Fig. 2). PCR was performed at 94°C for 30 sec, 55°C for 30 sec, and 72°C for 1.0 min for a total 30 cycles. The final extension step was 7 min at 72°C. The resulting first round PCR product was further amplified using S1 and an antisense primer A2 (21bp: CAT TGA GCC GCT GAT GTC AAT), positions 874-893 (Fig. 2). The sequence of these primers was specific for HC 1, as judged from the corresponding of the human, mouse, and hamster HC 1s. The PCR product was analyzed by electrophoresis on a 1% agar gel and staining with ethidium bromide. The single band material (about 550bp) separated on the gel was eluted and ligated into the pGEM-T Easy vector, and then sequenced with the BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing kit according to the manufacture's instructions.

Step (ii): The 3'half of the HC1 precursor transcript was amplified by 3'-RACE using a sense primer S2 (20bp: ACC TCC TGG TGG CCA ACA AC), positions 791-810 (Fig. 2) and an antisense primer oligo- (dT) 20-M4 (Takara Shuzo Co.); the resulting first round RACE product was further amplified using a sense primer S3 (20bp: CCT GAA GAA CAT GAG CAA GA), positions 840-859 (Fig. 2) and an antisense primer M4 (Takara Shuzo Co.). These sense primers had been determined through the above RT-PCR. Experimental conditions are identical to those described in Step (i). The single band material (about 2 kbp) separated on the gel was eluted, ligated and sequenced described above. The pGEM-T Easy vector was

digested with restriction enzyme Pst I or Sph I or EcoRI to shorten the inserted cDNA, and then sequenced. These restriction sites were in the multi-cloning-site of pGEM-T Easy vector and inserted cDNA.

Step (iii) : The 5' half of the HC 1 precursor transcript was amplified by 5'-RACE. Briefly, liver mRNA was reverse transcribed using an antisense primer A 3 (20bp : CAC GTC GAT CTC AAA GTG CT), positions 548-567 (Fig. 2) and then tailed with oligo (dA) n ; the product was subsequently amplified by PCR using oligo (dT) 20-M 4 and A 3, and then further amplified using an antisense primer A 4 (20bp : TTC ACT CTG ATG ACG ATG TT), positions 511-530 (Fig. 2) and M4. These antisense primers also had been determined in Step (i). Experimental conditions are the same described above.

Results and discussion

The nucleotide sequence of the rabbit ITI HC 1 precursor cDNA and the deduced amino acid sequence are shown in Fig. 2. The sequence spans a stretch of 2899 nucleotides with one open reading frame coding for 906 amino acid residues. When the deduced amino acid sequence of this polypeptide was aligned with amino acid sequences of human (17) and mouse HC1 precursor (18), a putative signal peptide of 24 amino acids residues was identified. A consensus hexapeptide (Asp-Pro-His-Phe-Ile-Ile : positions 667-672, Fig. 2) sequence which is cleaved by one or more processing enzymes at the Asp-Pro junction and added protein-glycosaminoglycan-protein/bikunin to the Asp residue, was also conserved in rabbit HC 1 precursor. Four potential N-glycosylation sites, Asn-X-Ser/Thr, were present in the deduced sequence at amino acid positions Asn-283, Asn-583, Asn-745, and Asn-749. The only third site is well conserved in human, mouse, pig and hamster.

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          tggctctgcgcgaagggacagggcagcggggagcctggggactcctccgtacagtgcc   -1
          ATGGGCCTCGGGGACTGCTGTGCGTGTGCGCTGGTGTCCCTCCTCATCTTGCAGGCCAGG   60
1   M G P R G L L C V C L V S L L I L Q A R
          CCTGCTCCGAGCTCAGCCACAGGCAGGTCCAAGGGCAGTCAGAAGCGACAGGCTGTGGAC   120
21  P A P S S A T G R S K G S Q K R Q A V D
          AGAACAGTGGATGGCGTGCTCATCCGGAGTTTGAAAGTCAACTGCAAAGTCACCTCTCGC   180
41  R T V D G V L I R S L K V N C K V T S R
          TTCGCCACTACGTATCACCAGCCAGGTGGTCAACAGCGCCAACGAAACCCAGGGAAGTG   240
61  F A H Y V I T S Q V V N S A N E P R E V
          GCCTTCGATGTGAAATTCCEAAGACAGCCTTCATCAGCGACTTCGCCATCACGGCCAAT   300
81  A F D V E I P K T A F I S D F A I T A N
          GACAAATGCCTATGTTGGGAACATAAAGGACAAAGCAGCCGCGTGGAAAGCAGTACCGGAAG   360
101 D N A Y V G N I K D K A A A W K Q Y R K
          GCAGCCATCGCAGGGGAGAATGCCGGCTTAGTCAGGGCCTCGGGGAGGACGATGGAGCAG   420
121 A A I A G E N A G L V R A S G R T M E Q
          TTCACCATCCACATCACCGCCAGTCCCCGCGAGCAAGGTCACCTTCAGCTGACCTACGAG   480
141 F T I H I T A S P R S K V T F Q L T Y E
          GAGGTGCTGAAGCGAAGACTGGGGCAGTACAACATCGTCATCAGAGTGAAGCCAAGCAG   540
161 E V L K R R L G Q Y N I V I R V K P K Q
          CTGGTGCAGCACTTTGAGATCGACGTGGACATATTTGAGCCACAAGGGATCAGCAAGCTG   600
181 L V Q H F E I D V D I F E P Q G I S K L
          AACGCCAAGCCCCCTCCTCCCAAGGAAGTGGCGGCTCGAACTATCAAGAAGTCCCTC   660
201 N A Q A P F L P K E L A A R T I K K S F
          TCAGGGAAAAAGGGTCACGTGCATTTCCGGCCACCGTGGCCAGCAGCAGTCTGCCCC   720
221 S G K K G H V H F R P T V A Q Q Q S C P
          ACGTGCTCCACATCCCTGCTGAATGGGGACTTCAGGGTGACCTACGACGTCAATCGGGAC   780
241 T C S T S L L N G D F R V T Y D V N R D
          AAGCTCTGTGACCTCCTGGTGGCCAACAACCACTTTGCCATTTTTTCGCCCCCAAAAC   840
261 K L C D L L V A N N H F A H F F A P Q N
          CTGAAGAACATGAGCAAGAGCCTGGTTTTTTGTGATTGACATCAGCGGCTCAATGGAAGGC   900
281 L K N M S K S L V F V I D I S G S M E G
          CAGAAAGTGAAGCAGACCAAAGAGGCACTGCTTAAGATCCTGGGCGACATCCGGCCAGAG   960
301 Q K V K Q T K E A L L K I L G D I R P E
          GACTACTTCGACCTGGTCTCTCGGCTCTCGAGTGCAGTCTGGAGGGGTTCACTGGTG   1020
321 D Y F D L V L F G S R V Q S W R G S L V
          CCAGCCAGCGAGGCCAACCTGCAAGCAGCCCGGCACTTCGTGCAGCGCTTCTCCCTGGCT   1080
341 P A S E A N L Q A A R D F V Q R F S L A
          GGGGCCACAACTGAACGGCGGTTTGTCCGGGAATTGAGATCTTGAACAATGCCCAA   1140
361 G A T N L N G G L L R G I E I L N N A Q
          GGGAACTCTCCCGCGGTGAGCAAGCAGCTGCGATTCTCATGCTGACCGACGGCGAG   1200
381 G N L P A V S K H A A I L I M L T D G E

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	CCCACCGAGGGGTGACAGACCCGCCCAATCCTTAAGAACATCCGGAGTGCCATCGGG	1260
401	P T E G V T D R P Q I L K N I R S A I G	
	GGCAGGTTCCCGCTCTACAGCCTGGGCTTTGGCCACGACCTGGACTTCAACTTCTGAAG	1320
421	G R F P L Y S L G F G H D L D F N F L K	
	AGCCTGTCCATGGAGAACAACGGGTGGGCCAGAGGATCTACGAGGACCACGACGCCGCC	1380
441	S L S M E N N G W A Q R I Y E D H D A A	
	CAGCAGCTGCAGGGCTTCTACAACCAGGTGGCCAACCCCTGCTGGTGGATGTGGAGCTG	1440
461	Q Q L Q G F Y N Q V A N P L L V D V E L	
	CTGTACCCCGCAGGACGCTGTGGTGGCCCTCACCAGCACCGCCATAAGCAGTACTACGAC	1500
481	L Y P Q D A V V A L T Q H R H K Q Y Y D	
	GGCTCAGAGATCGTGGTGGCCGGCGCATTGCTGACCACAAGCTGGGCAGCTTCAAGGCT	1560
501	G S E I V V A G R I A D H K L G S F K A	
	GACGTGGGGCCCGTGGGGAGGACAAGAATTCCAGACCCTGCCTGGTGGATGAGGAA	1620
521	D V R A R G E G Q E F Q T T C L V D E E	
	GAGATGAAGAAGCTGCTCCGGGAGCGCGGCACATGCTGGAGAACCACGTGGAGCGCCTC	1680
541	E M K K L L R E R G H M L E N H V E R L	
	TGGCCTACCTCACCATCCAGGAGCTGCTGGCCAGGCATGTGAAGCGAAGGGGGAGGAG	1740
561	W A Y L T I Q E L L A R H V K A K G E E	
	AAGCCAATGTGTGCTCCGAGGCCCTGAAAATGTCCTGGCCTACCAGTTTGTGACGCCG	1800
581	K A N V S S E A L K M S L A Y Q F V T P	
	CTGACCTCCATGACCATCAGAGGATGGCGGACGAGGATGGCCTGGAGCCCACCATCGAC	1860
601	L T S M T I R G M A D E D G L E P T I D	
	AAGCCTCCGAGGATTGCGAGCCCTTGGAGATGGTGGGACCAGAAAGGACGTTCTGTGCTG	1920
621	K P P E D S Q P L E M V G P R R T F V L	
	CCAGCCGGGACGCCCCCGCTACCAGCTCCAGCTTGAACGTGCAGCAGCTGCCGGACCGA	1980
641	P A G G Q P P P T S S S L N V Q Q L P D R	
	GTGACCGGGTGGCACTGACCCCACTTCCATCCAGCTGCCCCAGAAAGGAGGACGCC	2040
661	V T G V D T D P H F I I H V P Q K E D A	
	CTGTGTTCCAACATCAACGAGCAGCTGGGGTGATCCTGAGCTTGGTGCAGGACCCCAAC	2100
681	L C S N I N E Q P G V I L S L V Q D P N	
	ACAGGCTTTTCAGTGAATGGCCAGCTCATCGGGGACAAGGCCCGGAGCCCCGGGCGGCAC	2160
701	T G F S V N G Q L I G D K A R S P G R H	
	GGGGGACGTACTTCCGGGGCTGGGCATCGCAAACCTGCCACAGGCTTTCAGTGGAA	2220
721	G G T Y F G R L G I A N P A T G F Q L E	
	GTAACCTCAGAACATCACGCTGAACCCAGCTCGGGTGGGCCCCGTGTTCTCCTGGAGG	2280
741	V T P Q N I T L N P S S G G P V F S W R	
	GACCAGGCTGTGCTGCGGGGGAGGGGTGGTGGTACCATCAACAGGAAGAAGAACCCTG	2340
761	D Q A V L R R E G V V V T I N R K K N L	
	CTGGTGTCCGTGGACGGCAGGGCCACATTTGAGGTGGCCCTGCACCGAGTGTGGAAGGGG	2400
781	L V S V D G R A T F E V A L H R V W K G	
	AGCACAGCCCCCAGGACTTCTGGGCTTCTACGTGCTGGACAGTACGGCATGCCCGCC	2460
801	S T A P Q D F L G F Y V L D S H G M P A	
	CGGACACACGGGCTGCTGGGACAATTCTCCACCCCTTCCACTTTGAAGTGTCCGACCTC	2520
821	R T H G L L G Q F F H P F H F E V S D L	
	CGCCAGGCTCCGACCCCAAGCCGGACGCCACCATGACGGTGAAGAACCGCCGGCTG	2580
841	R P G S D P T K P D A T M T V K N R R L	
	ACGGTCAACAGGGGCTTACAGAAGGATTACAGCAAGGACCCCGGCACGGGTGGCAGTG	2640
861	T V T R G L Q K D Y S K D P R H G V A V	
	TCCTGCTGGTTCGTGCATGACAACGGAGCTGGCCTGATCGACGGCGTGCACACTGACTAC	2700
881	S C W F V H D N G A G L I D G V H T D Y	
	ATCGTCCCCGACATCTTCTGAgctggcgccaagtacctgttccccaccaggccccattgcg	2816
901	I V P D I F *	
	gtggcggggaacagacccccgacctgtggccaggccacgcctccagtgtcaagcacctt	2876
	gagacttctattaagagtctg	2899

Figure 2. Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of the cDNA encoding the HCl precursor of rabbit ITI. The nucleotide and predicted amino acid residues are numbered on the right and left, respectively. Nucleotides preceding the start codon are presented as lower case letters, and numbered negatively. An asterisk shows the stop codon limiting the open reading frame and the ensuing untranslated nucleotides are shown as lower case letters.

The deduced amino acid sequence of rabbit HC 1 precursor shows 82% identity to that of human and 79% to that of mouse, pig (19) and hamster (20). The cysteine residue positions (65, 239, 242, 263, 535, 682, and 882) are conserved in the HC 1 precursors of all animals. In human, the segments containing Cys-682 and Cys-882 are cleaved off when the HC precursors are linked to bikunin and the mature HC 1 contains one free thiol group and two disulfide bridges of which one links two largely spaced cysteins residues (Cys-263 and Cys-535)(21).

All ITI heavy chains possess a von Willebrand type-A domain (18). Adhesion molecules such as integrins, collagen, proteoglycans and heparin are targets for proteins with von Willebrand domains. ITI stabilizes the cumulus extracellular matrix and supports the process of ovulation, possibly due to a hyaluronan-binding capacity (22). HC1 and HC 3 harbour a multicopper oxidase domain within their C-terminal segment that is trimmed off during chain assembly (18). But, whether the multicopper oxidase domain actually binds copper is currently unknown. Rabbit HC 1 precursor also possessed a von Willebrand type-A domain (amino acid positions 285-445) and a multicopper domain (positions 809-829).

For further functional studies of ITI, cloning of HC 2, HC 3, HC 4, and bikunin will be helpful. Experiment along such lines is currently in progress in this laboratory.

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要 約

ウサギ・インター- α -トリプシンインヒビター重鎖1前駆体を
コードする cDNA のクローン化と塩基配列の決定

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ウサギの肝臓から、インター- α -トリプシンインヒビター重鎖1前駆体(HC1)をコードするcDNAを、RT-PCR(reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction)法およびRACE(rapid amplification of cDNA end)法を用いて単離し、その塩基配列を決定した。単離したcDNAは906残基のアミノ酸翻訳領域を含む2,899塩基対であった。このアミノ酸配列をヒト、マウス、ブタ、およびハムスターのHC1と比較したところ、82, 79, 79, 79%であった。