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The effects of methylglyoxal, a metabolite derived from glycolysis, on metabolic responses of adipocytes( Abstract\_要旨 )

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Methylglyoxal induces multiple serine phosphorylation in insulin receptor substrate 1 via the TAK1-p38-mTORC1 signaling axis in adipocytes" SU-PING NG, WATARU NOMURA, HARUYA TAKAHASHI, KAZUO INOUE, TERUO KAWADA, TSUYOSHI GOTO, YOSHIHARU INOUE ("Biochemical Journal" November 2022, Volume 479, Issue 21, pp 2279-2296) doi: 10.1042/BCJ20220271 The final publication is available at Portland Press via <https://doi.org/10.1042/BCJ20220271>  
"Methylglyoxal attenuates isoproterenol-induced increase in uncoupling protein 1 expression through activation of JNK signaling pathway in beige adipocytes" SU-PING NG, WATARU NOMURA, HARUYA TAKAHASHI, KAZUO INOUE, TERUO KAWADA, TSUYOSHI GOTO ("Biochemistry and Biophysics Reports" December 2021, Volume 28, Article 101127) doi: 10.1016/j.bbrep.2021.101127 The final publication is available at Elsevier B.V. via <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrep.2021.101127>

( 続紙 1 )

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論文題目	The effects of methylglyoxal, a metabolite derived from glycolysis, on metabolic responses of adipocytes (解糖系由来代謝物メチルグリオキサールが脂肪細胞の代謝応答に与える影響)		
(論文内容の要旨)			
<p>Adipocytes play a crucial role in the regulation of systemic energy homeostasis by responding to hormones such as insulin and catecholamines which activate metabolic signaling pathways to induce either glucose uptake or free fatty acid (FFA) release, respectively. While hormones play a large role in dictating these adipocyte metabolic processes, it is becoming apparent that certain metabolites like adenosine monophosphate also trigger signaling cascades that influence metabolism. Methylglyoxal (MG), a metabolite derived from glycolysis, has been implicated in the impairment of systemic glucose and lipid homeostasis. However, the effects of MG on adipocyte metabolic signaling and subsequent functions remain unclear. Therefore, focusing first on the fundamental adipocyte metabolic responses to hormones—glucose uptake and FFA release, this research aimed to elucidate if MG affects adipocyte functions via their respective metabolic signaling pathways. The content of this thesis is divided into two chapters and summarized as follows.</p> <p><b>Chapter 1: The effect of MG on insulin-stimulated glucose uptake in adipocytes</b></p> <p>Insulin-stimulated glucose uptake is a physiological response of the insulin signaling pathway where insulin receptor substrate (IRS)-1 is the primary mediator. MG-treated adipocytes show significantly inhibited insulin-stimulated glucose uptake, and the insulin-induced IRS-1 tyrosine phosphorylation which is necessary for its activation was found to be significantly reduced. IRS-1 is negatively regulated by serine phosphorylation via the negative feedback loop of the insulin signaling pathway which is regulated by mammalian target of rapamycin complex (mTORC)-1. MG was found to induce serine phosphorylation on IRS-1 through mTORC1; and the inhibition of mTORC1 recovered insulin-induced IRS-1 tyrosine phosphorylation and glucose consumption in MG-treated adipocytes. Although Akt is the nodal point between insulin receptor and mTORC1 signaling, inhibition of Akt had no effect on MG-induced mTORC1 signaling, suggesting that MG activated mTORC1 independently of the insulin signaling pathway. Instead, MG was found to increase inflammatory gene expression via the activation of transforming growth factor-<math>\beta</math>-activated kinase (TAK)-1, which activates the stress-activated protein kinases (SAPKs), p38 and c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK). Among them, only p38 inhibition neutralized MG-induced mTORC1 activation. Altogether, these results indicate that MG negatively affects insulin-signaling and subsequent glucose consumption in adipocytes via TAK1-p38-mTORC1</p>			

signaling.

## **Chapter 2: The effect of MG on isoproterenol-induced FFA release and Ucp1 expression in adipocytes**

Catecholamine-induced FFA release in adipocytes is mediated by the protein kinase A (PKA) pathway which activates multiple lipolytic proteins upon the binding of catecholamine to  $\beta$ -adrenergic receptors (ARs). Stimulation of MG-treated adipocytes with the  $\beta$ -AR agonist, isoproterenol (iso), did not significantly affect the iso-induced phosphorylation of PKA-activated proteins as well as subsequent FFA and glycerol release, suggesting that MG has no effect on iso-induced adipocyte lipolysis. Apart from lipolysis, PKA signaling also contributes to adipocyte thermogenesis which is conferred by increased expression of uncoupling protein 1 (UCP1) upon  $\beta$ -AR activation. MG-treatment significantly reduced the iso-induced expression of *Ucp1* without affecting other thermogenic gene markers, confirming that MG suppressed iso-induced *Ucp1* expression independently of PKA. Inflammation has been reported to downregulate *Ucp1* expression, and among the SAPKs activated by MG, MG was found to suppress iso-stimulated *Ucp1* expression via JNK. Altogether, these findings elucidate MG as a metabolite which is capable of modulating adipocyte *Ucp1* expression via JNK.

### **Conclusion**

This study aimed on elucidating the effects of the MG on adipocyte function. Adipocytes play a huge role in systemic glucose and lipid metabolism, and these metabolic processes are regulated by hormones, which activate metabolic signaling pathways such as the insulin and PKA signaling pathways.

The results showed that the metabolite, MG, contributes to adipocyte metabolic dysfunction by activating SAPKs signaling to cause insulin resistance and thermogenic impairment by inhibiting *Ucp1* expression. These adipocyte metabolic dysfunctions caused by MG may contribute towards the pathophysiology of diabetes and obesity.

注) 論文内容の要旨と論文審査の結果の要旨は1頁を38字×36行で作成し、合わせて、3,000字を標準とすること。

論文内容の要旨を英語で記入する場合は、400～1,100 wordsで作成し  
審査結果の要旨は日本語500～2,000字程度で作成すること。

(続紙 2)

(論文審査の結果の要旨)

脂肪細胞は、インスリンやカテコールアミンなどのホルモンに応答し、代謝シグナル伝達経路を活性化してグルコースと脂質の代謝を亢進させることにより、全身のエネルギー恒常性の調節に重要な役割を果たしている。脂肪細胞の代謝プロセスを決定する上で、ホルモンが大きな役割を果たす一方で、AMPやNADのようなある種の代謝産物も脂肪細胞の代謝に影響を与えることが明らかになりつつある。解糖に由来する代謝産物であるメチルグリオキサール (MG) は、糖尿病や肥満時に生体内でその濃度が増大し、インスリン抵抗性や脂質代謝障害を引き起こし、脂肪組織の代謝機能障害に関与することが報告されている。しかし、脂肪細胞の代謝機能に対するMGの影響の全容は不明なままであった。MGは、信号伝達経路の活性に影響を及ぼすことが見出されていることから、本研究では、脂肪細胞の糖代謝および脂質代謝に対するMGの作用機序が、シグナル伝達への影響によるものであるかどうかを検討した。本論文では、インスリン刺激によるグルコース取り込み、アドレナリン作動性刺激による脂肪分解および熱産生遺伝子の発現に及ぼす影響から、MGが脂肪細胞のグルコース代謝および脂質代謝を減弱する分子機構を明らかにした。評価すべき点は以下のように要約される。

1. MGは脂肪細胞において、IRS-1を負に制御するTAK1-p38-mTORC1経路を活性化してインスリン信号伝達を減弱し、インスリン刺激によるグルコース取り込みを阻害することによって糖代謝に影響する。
2. MGは脂肪細胞において、イソプレレノール刺激による脂肪分解やPKA信号伝達には影響しないが、JNKの活性化を介してUcp1遺伝子発現の亢進を阻害する。

以上のように、本論文は、MGが細胞内信号伝達に影響を及ぼし、糖代謝においてはグルコース取込みを阻害し、脂質代謝においては脱共役タンパク質の遺伝子発現を抑制して、いずれも糖尿病や肥満症の増悪に関連し得る事を明らかにしたことから、食品生理機能学、食品分子機能学、栄養化学の発展に寄与するところが大きい。

よって、本論文は博士（農学）の学位論文として価値あるものと認める。

なお、令和5年6月29日、論文並びにそれに関連した分野にわたり試問した結果、博士（農学）の学位を授与される学力が十分あるものと認めた。

注) 論文内容の要旨、審査の結果の要旨及び学位論文は、本学学術情報リポジトリに掲載し、公表とする。

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要旨公開可能日： 年 月 日以降（学位授与日から3ヶ月以内）