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Ultra-violet B (UVB)-induced skin cell death occurs through a cyclophilin D intrinsic signaling pathway

Chao Ji [a,1], Bo Yang [b,1], Zhi Yang [c], Ying Tu [c], Yan-li Yang [d], Li He [d,*], Zhi-Gang Bi [e,*]

[a] Department of Dermatology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210024, Jiangsu, China
[b] Department of Dermatology, Huashan Hospital, Fudan University, Shanghai 200040, China
[c] Department of Dermatology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Kunming Medical University, Yunnan Provincial Institute of Dermatology, Kunming 650032, Yunnan, China
[d] Department of Otorhinolaryngology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210024, Jiangsu, China
[e] Department of Dermatology, BenQ Medical Center, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210019, Jiangsu, China

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ABSTRACT

UVB-induced skin cell damage involves the opening of mitochondrial permeability transition pore (mPTP), which leads to both apoptotic and necrotic cell death. Cyclophilin D (Cyp-D) translocation to the inner membrane of mitochondrion acts as a key component to open the mPTP. Our Western-Blot results in primary cultured human skin keratinocytes and in HaCaT cell line demonstrated that UVB radiation and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) induced Cyp-D expression, which was inhibited by anti-oxidant *N*-acetyl cysteine (NAC). We created a stable Cyp-D deficiency skin keratinocytes by expressing Cyp-D-shRNA through lentiviral infection. Cyp-D-deficient cells were significantly less susceptible than their counterparts to UVB- or H_2O_2-induced cell death. Further, cyclosporine A (Cs-A), a Cyp-D inhibitor, inhibited UVB- or H_2O_2-induced keratinocytes cell death. Reversely, over-expression of Cyp-D in primary keratinocytes caused spontaneous keratinocytes cell death. These results suggest Cyp-D's critical role in UVB/oxidative stress-induced skin cell death.

1. Introduction

The ultraviolet radiation (UVR) is the major environmental factor that affects the functions and survival of many skin cell types. Excessive UVR contributes to skin cancers such as basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma [1–3]. Acute responses of human skin to UVR include photo-damage, erythema, mutation, immune-suppression, vitamin D synthesis and tanning. Chronic UVR effects include immune-suppression, photo-aging and photo-carcinogenesis [1–3]. The UVR that reaches human skin consists mainly of long wavelength UVA (320–400 nm), together with only a minority of short wavelength UVB (280–320 nm) [3]. UVC (200–280 nm) is screened out by atmospheric oxygen through the ozone layer absorption [4]. Although the amount of UVB is much less than UVA (estimated at 5%) in UVR that reaches human skin, it is more cytotoxic and mutagenic than UVA, and is 3–4 orders of magnitude more effective per unit physical dose (J cm^{-2}) than UVA for DNA damage [1–4]. As such, our group has been focusing on the molecular mechanisms of UVB-induced skin damage [5–8].

The mitochondrial permeability transition pore (mPTP) plays a pivotal role in both necrotic and apoptotic neuronal cell death. Various stress conditions open mPTP to cause the membrane potential collapses, which induces apoptotic cell death by releasing proteins from the inner membrane space [9–11]. Cyclophilin D (Cyp-D), a peptidylprolyl isomerase, resides in the mitochondrial matrix and associates with the inner mitochondrial membrane [12–14]. Studies have confirmed that oxidative and other cellular stresses promote Cyp-D translocation to the inner membrane of mitochondrion, which triggers the opening of the mPTP and cell death [12–14]. And a genetic deficiency of CypD inhibits mPTP opening and protects from Ca^{2+}- and oxidative stress-induced cell death [15–17]. In the current study, we are set to understand the potential role of Cyp-D in UVB-induced skin cell damage.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Chemicals and reagents

Cyclosporine A (CsA) and tumor-necrosis factor-α (TNF-α) were obtained from Sigma (Sigma, St. Louis, MO); Anti-Erk1/2, tubulin,

Abbreviations: Cyp-D, cyclophilin D; Cs-A, cyclosporine A; H_2O_2, hydrogen peroxide; mPTP, mitochondrial permeability transition pore; ROS, reactive oxygen species; NAC, *N*-acetyl cysteine; TNF-α, tumor-necrosis factor-α; UVB, ultraviolet B.

* Corresponding authors.
E-mail addresses: heli2662@yahoo.com.cn (L. He), eltonbibenqhospital@yahoo.com.cn (Z.-G. Bi).

[1] These authors contributed equally to this work.

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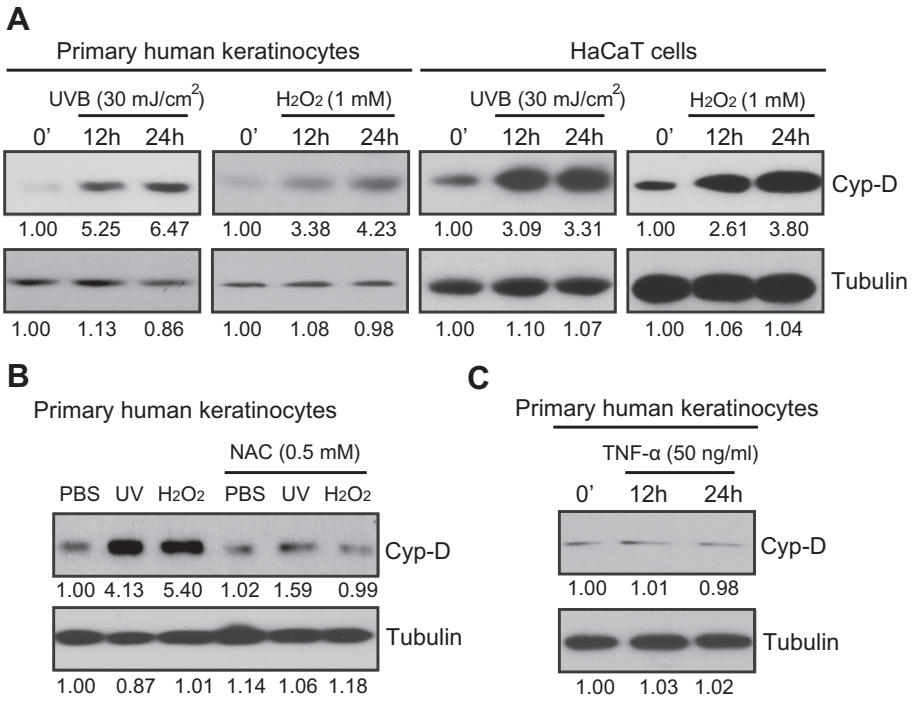

Fig. 1. UVB radiated skin keratinocytes show Cyclophilin D upregulation. Representative Western-Blots showing the expression of Cyclophilin D (Cyp-D) and tubulin (equal loading) in primary cultured human skin keratinocytes and HaCaT cell line after indicated UVB radiation or H_2O_2 treatment (A). Representative western-blots showing the expression of Cyp-D and tubulin in UVB (30 mJ/cm^2, 24 h) or H_2O_2 (0.5 mM, 24 h) treated skin keratinocytes, with or without NAC pretreatment (0.5 mM, 1 h pretreatment) (B). Representative Western-Blots showed the expression of Cyp-D and tubulin in primary cultured skin keratinocytes with indicated TNF-α treatment (C). The blots in this figure were quantified by Image J software. Experiments in this figure were repeated three times to insure consistency of results.

rabbit/mouse IgG-horseradish peroxidase (IgG-HRP) were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA). Cyp-D shRNA (sc-44892-V) and scramble shRNA (sc-108080) lentiviral particles were obtained from Santa Cruz Biotech (Santa Cruz, CA).

2.2. Cell culture and UVB radiation

Primary human skin keratinocytes (ATCC, PCS-200-010, Beijing, China) were maintained in a Dermal Cell Basal Medium (ATCC, PCS-200-030, Beijing, China), supplemented with a Keratinocyte Growth Kit (ATCC PCS-200-040, Beijing, China), penicillin/streptomycin (1:100, Sigma, St. Louis, MO), in a CO_2 incubator at 37 °C. HaCaT keratinocytes cell line was cultured as previous reported [6,8]. UVB radiation equipments and procedure were described in [8,18].

2.3. Live cell counting by trypan blue staining

As previous reported [8,18], the total number of viable skin keratinocytes (trypan blue positive) after indicated treatment/s was counted, and the percentage (%) of viable cells was calculated by the number of the trypan blue stained cells divided by the total number of the cells.

2.4. Clonogenicity assay

Primary cultured skin keratinocytes (1×10^4) were suspended in 1 ml of culture medium (ATCC, PCS-200-030+040, Shanghai, China) and with indicated treatments or vehicle controls. The cell suspension was then added on top of a pre-solidified 1% agar in a 100 mm culture dish. The medium was replaced every two days. After 8 days of incubation, colonies were photographed at 4×. Colonies larger than 50 μm in diameter were counted.

2.5. Generation of Cyp-D knockdown stable skin keratinocytes by lentiviral shRNA transfection

Cyp-D shRNA containing lentiviral particles (20 μl/ml) were added to primary cultured human skin keratinocytes for 48 h. Afterwards, puromycin (2 μg/ml)-containing fresh medium was added every 2–3 days until resistant stable cells were formed. The expression level of CHOP was detected by Western-Blots. Only Cyp-D deficient (knockdown) stable cells were selected for further experiments. Same amount of scramble shRNA lentiviral particles were added in control cells.

2.6. Cyp-D vector construction and transfection

Cyclophilin D cDNA was PCR amplified from a PC12 cell cDNA library using a pair of specific primers (5′-GCA CCGAATTCATGC-TAGCTCTGC-3′ and 5′-GGCTTGAATTCTTAGCTCAACTGGCC-3′) to introduce EcoRI flanking linkers before and after the CypD coding sequence. The fragment was cut with EcoRI (Invitrogen) and ligated into the EcoRI site of the pSuper-puromycin vector (Clontech). The insertion and correct orientation of CypD was verified by PCR and restriction mapping. Lipofactamine (Invitrogen) protocol was used to transfect vector or the plasmid [6,19,20]. Stable cells were selected by puromycin. The resulting pSuper-CypD construct was subjected to Western-Blots detecting Cyp-D expression in stable cells.

Western Blot, analysis of cell death by propidium iodide (PI) fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS), and cell viability assay ("MTT" assay) were described in our previous studies [6,19–21].

2.7. Statistical analysis

Individual culture dishes or wells were analyzed separately. In each experiment a minimum of three wells/dishes of each treat-