

Q3 Glycan specificity of a testis-specific lectin chaperone calmegin and 2 effects of hydrophobic interactions

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7 A R T I C L E I N F O

8 Article history:

9 Received 9 October 2013

10 Received in revised form 19 March 2014

11 Accepted 14 April 2014

12 Available online xxxx

13 Keywords:

14 Lectin chaperone

15 Calnexin

16 Calmegin

17 Glycan

18 Hydrophobicity

A B S T R A C T

Background: Testis-specific chaperone calmegin is required for the generation of normal spermatozoa. Calmegin 19
is known to be a homologue of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) residing lectin chaperone calnexin. Although func- 20
tional similarity between calnexin and calmegin has been predicted, detailed information concerned with sub- 21
strate recognition by calmegin, such as glycan specificity, chaperone function and binding affinity, are obscure. 22

Methods: In this study, biochemical properties of calmegin and calnexin were compared using synthetic glycans 23
and glycosylated or non-glycosylated proteins as substrates. 24

Results: Whereas their amino acid sequences are quite similar to each other, a certain difference in secondary 25
structures was indicated by circular dichroism (CD) spectrum. While both of them inhibited protein heat- 26
aggregation to a similar extent, calnexin exhibited a higher ability to facilitate protein folding. Similarly to 27
calnexin, calmegin preferentially recognizes monoglucosylated glycans such as Glc₁Man₉GlcNAc₂ (G1M9). 28
While the surface hydrophobicity of calmegin was higher than that of calnexin, calnexin showed stronger bind- 29
ing to substrate. We reasoned that lectin activity, in addition to hydrophobic interaction, contributes to this 30
strong affinity between calnexin and substrate. 31

Conclusions: Although their similarity in carbohydrate binding specificities is high, there seems to be some differ- 32
ences in the mode of substrate recognition between calmegin and calnexin. 33

General significance: Calmegin exhibited higher hydrophobic interaction to aglycons than calnexin. 34

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38 1. Introduction

41 Glycan processing plays an important role in glycoprotein qual- 50
ity control in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) [1,2]. As nascent 51
glycoproteins bearing triglycosylated high-mannose-type N-glycan 52
(Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂; G3M9) are generally unfolded, various carbohy- 53
drate active proteins and chaperones in the ER assist them in achieving 54
mature folding. Namely, in the beginning, nascent glycoproteins are 55
trimmed by glucosidase-I and -II to the Glc₁Man₉GlcNAc₂ (G1M9) 56
glycoform and then captured by ER-residing chaperones calnexin 57
(CNX) or calreticulin (CRT). Both CNX and CRT are characterized by 58

59 their property as lectins, which are specific to monoglucosylated gly- 60
cans, typically G1M9. In addition, Erp57, a member of the protein disul- 61
fide isomerase family, is in association with CNX/CRT, and facilitates 62
disulfide bond formation and isomerization [3]. Subsequently, upon 63
removal of the remaining glucose residue by glucosidase II, client 64
glycoproteins are liberated from CNX/CRT. At this stage, their folding 65
states are surveyed by a folding sensor enzyme, UDP-glucose:glycopro- 66
tein glucosyltransferase (UGGT). When the folding is incomplete, liber- 67
ated glycoproteins are reglucosylated by UGGT, regenerating the 68
monoglucosylated glycoforms (e.g. G1M9), which are re-captured by 69
CNX/CRT. After repeated interaction with glucosidase II, CNX/CRT, and 70
UGGT (CNX/CRT cycle), glycoproteins that have achieved mature fold-
ing are exported to the Golgi apparatus.

While CNX is a transmembrane protein, previous studies have shown
that its lectin and chaperone regions both localize in the luminal side of
the ER [4]. As shown in Fig. 1, CNX is composed of N-, P-, and C-domains.
The N-domain is proposed to have a carbohydrate binding activity, while
the P- and C-domains are responsible for association with Erp57 and cal-
cium storage, respectively [5]. In addition to the C-domain, a calcium
binding site was also identified in the N-domain. X-ray diffraction
study has revealed that the structure of the N-domain is globular and

Abbreviations: Glc, glucose; Man, mannose; GlcNAc, N-acetylglucosamine; CNX,
calnexin; CRT, calreticulin; UGGT, UDP-glucose:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase; CMG,
calmegin; CRT3, calsperin or calreticulin 3; ANS, 8-anilino-1-naphthalene sulfonic acid;
CAB, bovine carbonic anhydrase B; Cbz, carboxybenzyl; CS, citrate synthase

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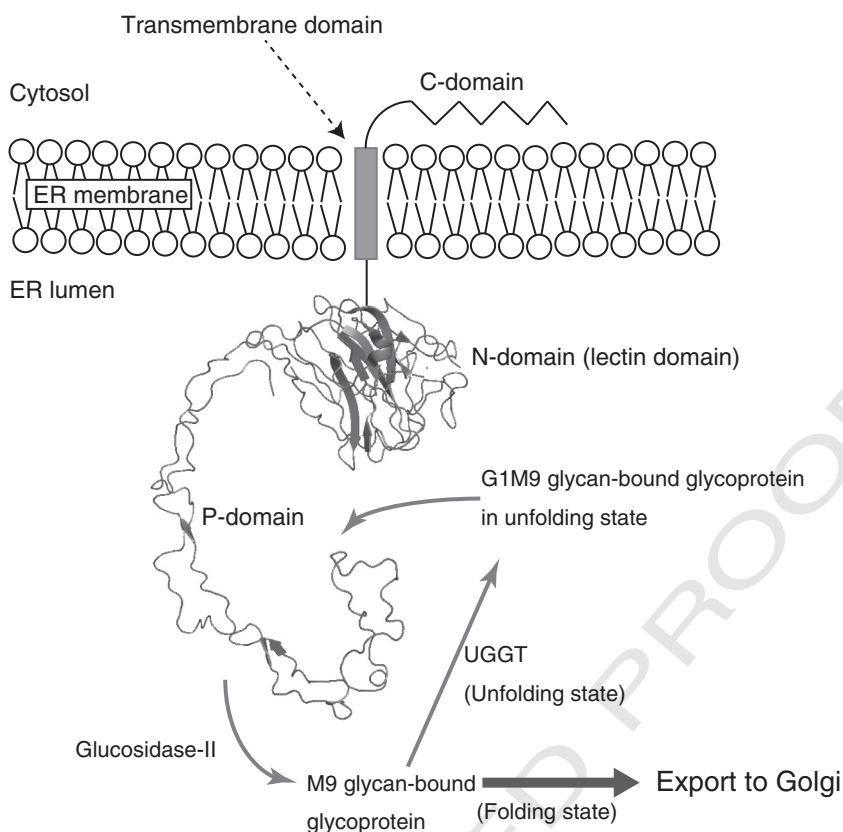


Fig. 1. Structure and schematic function of calnexin. The figure was drawn based on the structure of cCNX (PDB code 1JHN).

71 composed of β sandwich folds, while the P-domain holds a β strand hair-
 72 pin form due to the presence of a proline-rich amino acid sequence [6].

73 Testis-specific chaperones calmegin (CMG) and calsperin (CRT3) are
 74 homologues of CNX and CRT, respectively [7–9]. Although CNX gene de-
 75 letion was shown to cause early-postnatal death in mouse [10], CMG
 76 knockout mice were fully viable, while the generation of normal sper-
 77 matozoa was affected [11]. In particular, expression of spermatozoal
 78 proteins such as ADAM1, ADAM2 and ADAM3, which are involved in
 79 zona pellucida binding or migration from the uterus into the oviduct,
 80 was reduced by CMG deletion, which caused male infertility [12–14].
 81 Whereas CMG is required for the formation of a heterodimeric complex
 82 consisting of ADAM1 and ADAM2, CNX is not able to support this func-
 83 tion [11]. Moreover, it has been reported that CMG is specifically
 84 expressed in germ cells of pachytene spermatocyte to spermatid stage,
 85 while CNX is expressed throughout all stages of spermatogenesis [15].
 86 Therefore, the physiological role of CMG is assumed to be distinct
 87 from CNX. However, unlike CNX, the mode of substrate–CMG interac-
 88 tion, such as glycan specificity, chaperone activity and binding affinity,
 89 has been obscure.

90 Our previous studies have employed synthetic oligosaccharides
 91 modified by various aglycons as versatile substrates to study carbohy-
 92 drate active proteins involved in the glycoprotein quality control system
 93 [16,17]. For instance, we have previously clarified that the reactivity of
 94 synthetic M9 derivatives as substrates of UGGT was affected by the na-
 95 ture of aglycons, particularly the magnitude of their hydrophobicity
 96 [18]. Synthetic N-glycan derivatives have proven valuable also as sub-
 97 strates of glucosidase-II and CRT [18–20]. Kinetic constants of enzyme
 98 reactions were found to be quite similar between glycoproteins and
 99 synthetic N-glycans [21], indicating that our approaches based on
 100 non-proteinic substrates are reasonable for the analyses of the glyco-
 101 protein quality control system mediated by carbohydrate–protein
 102 interactions.

103 In this study, to clarify its substrate recognition mechanism, we
 104 examined the biochemical properties of CMG, in comparison with
 105 CNX, using synthetic N-glycan derivatives and glycosylated or non-
 106 glycosylated proteins. Although their amino acid sequences are quite
 107 similar to each other, some differences in the secondary structure were
 108 observed by CD analysis. Both of them were able to inhibit protein aggre-
 109 gation to a similar extent, whereas differences were seen in their ability
 110 to assist refolding of a non-glycosylated protein. Although, similarly to
 111 CNX, CMG was able to interact specifically with monoglucosylated
 112 high-mannose-type glycans such as G1M9, subtle differences between
 113 them in terms of fine specificity of substrate recognition were observed.

2. Materials and methods 114

2.1. Materials 115

M7-BODIPY, M8-BODIPY, M9-BODIPY, G1M9-BODIPY, G2M9-
 BODIPY, G3M9-BODIPY, G1M8B-BODIPY, G1M8C-BODIPY, G1M7BC-
 BODIPY, G1M5B2C2-BODIPY, G1M6BC2-BODIPY, and G1M9-Cbz were
 prepared as previously reported [20,22]. ClogP values were calculated
 using ChemDraw Ultra version 6.0, Cambridge Soft (Cambridge, MA).
 Calcium chloride, calcium carbonate, guanidine hydrochloride, 10–20%
 Tris–glycine gels, tris–hydroxymethyl aminomethane hydrochloride,
 β -mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol and acetonitrile were purchased
 from Wako Pure Chemical Industries (Osaka, Japan). 8-Anilino-1-
 naphthalene sulfonic acid (ANS) was obtained from MP Biomedicals
 (Illkirch, France). Recombinant firefly luciferase, citrate synthase,
 bovine carbonic anhydrase (CAB) and *p*-nitrophenylacetate were
 purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). IgY was isolated from
 chicken egg yolk as previously reported [23]. VIVACON500 was
 obtained from Sartorius Stedim Biotech S.A. (Goettingen, Germany). 130

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