

In the apical membrane of epithelial cells from the small intestine and the kidney, the high-affinity $\text{Na}^+/\text{D-glucose}$ cotransporter SGLT1 plays a crucial role in selective sugar absorption and reabsorption, respectively. How sugars are selected at the molecular level and the topology of SGLT1 in the membrane are, however, poorly understood. Here atomic force microscopy (AFM) was employed to investigate the stereospecificity of D-glucose binding to the surface of living *rabbitSGLT1*-transfected Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells on the single molecule level. In addition, competitive-uptake assays by using isotope-labeled sugars were performed to study the stereospecificity of the transport. Topology, arrangement, and function of the large surface subdomains of SGLT1 were also examined. These investigations were performed by using AFM tips carrying either 1-thio-D-glucose or specific-antibodies coupled to biheterofunctional-PEG linkers. The results suggest that the stereospecificity of transport is determined by at least two different selectivity filters; one located at the surface of the transporter, the other close to or within the translocation pathway. In addition, for the topology of SGLT1 we could observe that the loop 6-7 and loop 13-14 are connected by a disulfide bridge. This bridge brings also loop 8-9 into close vicinity of the former subdomains to create a vestibule for sugar binding. Altogether, the use of biophysical, molecular biological, physiological, and biochemical approaches could provide an important step in understanding the chain of dynamic events comprising transmembrane translocation of organic compounds in general.