

THE ROLE OF ADAPTOR PROTEIN NCK1 IN T CELL ACTIVATION AND FUNCTION

ICHAYA YIEMWATTANA

A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School of Naresuan University
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Oral Biology
April 2012
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This thesis entitled "The Role of Adaptor Protein Nck1 in T Cell Activation and Function" submitted by Ichaya Yiemwattana in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Oral Biology is hereby approved.

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Title

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ABSTRACT

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The non-catalytic region of tyrosine kinase (Nck) is proposed to play an essential role in T cell activation. However, evidence based on functional and biochemical studies has brought into question the critical function of Nck. Therefore, the aim of the present work was to investigate the role of Nck in T cell activation. To study this, the human Jurkat T cell line was used as a model for human T lymphocytes. The short interfering (si) RNA targeting Nck1 gene was used with electroporation to knock-down Nck1 protein expression in Jurkat T cells. The results showed that decreased Nck1 protein expression did not affect the apoptosis of the transfected Jurkat T cells compared with control siRNA-transfected cells and non-transfected cells both in unstimulated or anti-TCR monoclonal antibody (C305) stimulated groups. Upon CD3ɛ/CD28 stimulation, knock-down of Nck1 in Jurkat T cells caused a decrease in CD69 expression and in interleukin (IL)-2 secretion. However, no significant alterations of CD69 and IL-2 expression were found upon phytohaemagglutinin (PHA)/phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) stimulation. Knock-down of Nck1 had no effect on the proliferation of Jurkat, T cells stimulated with either PHA or anti-TCR antibody. In conclusion, the decreased Nck1 protein in Jurkat T cells resulted in impairment of TCR/CD3-mediated activation and function.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ab = antibody

TCR = T cell antigen receptor

MHC = major histocompatibility complex

ITAM = immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif

SFK = Src family tyrosine kinase

Lck = lymphocyte protein -tyrosine kinase

 $ZAP-70 = \zeta$ -chain-associated protein 70 kDa

LAT = linker for activation of T cells

SLP-76 = SH-2-domain containing leukocyte protein of 76 kDa

GRB2 = Growth factor receptor-bound protein 2

GADS = Grb2-related adaptor downstream of shc

 $PLC\gamma 1 = phospholipase C\gamma 1$

PIP2 = phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate

 IP_3 = inositol 3,4,5-triphosphate

DAG = diacylglycerol

PKC = protein kinase C

RasGRP = Ras guanyl nucleotide-releasing protein

RasGEF = Ras guanine nucleotide exchange factor

SOS = son of sevenless

PAK = p21-activated kinases

NFAT = nuclear factor of activated T cell

Nck = non-catalytic region of tyrosine kinase

PRS = proline-rich sequence

IL-2 = interleukin 2

SEB = staphylococcal enterotoxin B

SH2 = Src homology 2

SH3 = Src homology 3

WASP = Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome protein

Arp2/3 = actin-related proteins 2 and 3

Cdc42 = cell division cycle 42

ABBREVIATIONS (CONT.)

WIP = WAS-interacting protein

RNAi = small RNA interference

siRNA = short interfering RNA

RISC = RNA-induced silencing complex

RT-PCR = reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction

PHA = phytohemagglutinin

PI = propidium iodide

SOCS7 = suppressor of cytokine signal-7

PMA = phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate

AIM = activation inducer molecule

 $NF-\kappa B =$ nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells

Egr-1 = Early growth response protein 1

AP-1 = activating protein-1

CD25 = IL-2 receptor α

pEGFP = plasmid enhanced green fluorescent protein

BCA = bicinchoninic acid

SDS-PAGE = sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis

FITC = fluorescein isothiocyanate

BrdU = 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine

TMB = tetramethylbenzidine

PBS = phosphate-buffered saline

RT = room temperature

PE = phycoerythrin

SSC = side scatter

FSC = forward scatter

ELISA = Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

HIP55 = HPK1-interacting protein of 55 kDa

FYB = Fyn-binding protein