Identification of PDE10A related proteins via proteomic analysis

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Aim: Phosphodiesterase 10A (PDE10A) regulates the expression of secondary messengers of cyclic adenosine monophosphate and cyclic guanosine monophosphate, which control several intracellular signaling pathways. Recently, deactivation of PDE10A has been a notable target for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Herein, we identified the effects of PDE10A inhibition on protein profile using TAK-063 under physiological conditions in mice.

Materials and Methods: In this study, 8-12 weeks old male C57BL6/J mice were divided into vehicle or 3 mg/kg TAK-063 groups. Thirty minutes after oral delivery of vehicle or TAK-063, animals were sacrificed and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) mediated proteomic analyses were performed from tissue samples taken from the striatum region of mice. After the LC-MS/MS analysis, identified proteins were classified based on biological activity, molecular function, and signal transduction pathways using PANTHER (protein annotation through evolutionary relationship, http://www.pantherdb.org/) program.

Results: As a result of proteomic analyses, 1873 different proteins were identified. Sixty-one different proteins changed significantly depending on the administration of TAK-063. According to PANTHER classification, a significant part of the identified proteins found to be in the metabolite interconversion enzyme, transporter, and protein modifying enzyme category. The molecular function classification includes the catalytic activity, transporter activity, and binding functions. The signal transduction pathway analysis demonstrated that PDE10A affects ATP synthesis, FGF signaling, EGF receptor signaling, Huntington’s Disease, Parkinson’s Disease, pyrimidine metabolism, and ubiquitin-proteasome signal transduction pathways.

Conclusion: TAK-063 mediated PDE10 deactivation is an essential target in the mechanism of energy metabolism and neurodegenerative diseases.

Introduction

The phosphodiesterase (PDE) superfamily contains 11 different PDE proteins (PDE1 through PDE11) with diverse enzyme and substrate specificities. Also, they differ in the protein expression profiles in human tissue. Phosphodiesterases (PDEs) regulate cyclic nucleotide levels in the central nervous system (CNS) and peripheral tissues. PDEs hydrolyze the cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) to 5'-adenylic acid (5'-AMP) and 5'-guanidylic acid (5'-GMP), respectively. Secondary messengers, cAMP and cGMP, are essential regulators of many intracellular signaling mechanisms, including apoptosis, immune system, and cell proliferation. Recent studies indicated that PDEs play a crucial role in the neuronal function, synaptic plasticity, homeostasis, cognition, and anxiety. Therefore, the PDE superfamily has become an important therapeutic target in CNS injuries [1-3].

PDE10A is a double substrate enzyme that regulates the inactivation of cAMP and cGMP to 5'-AMP and 5'-GMP, respectively. It has a higher affinity for cAMP compared to the affinity for cGMP [4]. PDE10A is highly available and scattered in the striatum region, which is the central input of the basal ganglia, and is closely related to cognitive and motor functions [5, 6]. It regulates the du-
Animals were divided into two main groups; vehicle (100 µl tap water containing 1% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)) or 3 mg/kg TAK-063 (in 100 µl tap water). Thirty minutes after oral administration of vehicle or 3 mg/kg TAK-063, mice were sacrificed under high-dose anesthesia (4% isoflurane with 30% O₂, remainder N₂O). Then, the brains were removed and frozen on dry ice.

Western blotting

Tissue samples were harvested from the striatum region. Total proteins were extracted from the brain tissue with ice-cold radioimmunoprecipitation assay buffer (RIPA buffer; 89900, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Massachusetts, USA) containing complete™ Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (11697498001, Sigma, USA). After homogenization, samples were centrifugated at 14,000 rpm. The total protein concentration was determined by Qubit 3.0 Fluorometer (Q33216, Invitrogen, Life Technologies Corporation, California, USA). Twenty microgram proteins from the vehicle or TAK-063 groups were size-fractionated using 4-20% Mini-PROTEAN TGX (4561096, Bio-Rad, Life Sciences Research) via Trans-Blot Turbo Transfer System (1704155, Bio-Rad, Life Sciences Research). Next, PVDF membranes were blocked in 5% non-fat dry milk (Blotto; sc-2324, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) in 50 mMol Tris-buffered saline (TBS) containing 0.1% Tween (TBS-T; blocking solution) for one hour. Then, the membranes were incubated overnight with monoclonal mouse PDE10A (sc-515023; Santa Cruz Biotechnology) or polyclonal rabbit anti-β-actin (4967, Cell Signaling Technology) antibodies. The next day, membranes were washed three times with TBS-T and treated with appropriate secondary antibodies (31460 or 31430; Thermo Fisher Scientific) at room temperature. After one hour of incubation, membranes were incubated with WesternBright ECL kit (K-12045-D20, Bi-oLegend) and visualized via ChemiDoc MP Imaging System (1708280, Bio-Rad). Thereafter, PDE10A protein abundance was densitometrically calculated by Image J software (National Institute of Health). The relative expression of PDE10A was normalized to β-actin. Western blot analyses were performed for at least three times for each protein.

Sample preparation for liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) analysis

Sample preparation for LC-MS/MS analysis was performed according to previously published protocols [20, 21]. Briefly, a fifty mM ammonium bicarbonate solution was added to the brain tissue samples for tissue homogenization. The remaining was centrifuged at 14,000 G for 10 min. Supernatant concentration was calculated via Qubit 3.0 Fluorometer. To obtain tryptic peptides, Filter Aided Sample Preparation (FASP; al270519, Abcam) kit was used according to the instructions [22]. Fifty microgram samples were filtered and alkylated with ten mM iodoacetamide. After that, protein samples were treated with mass-spectrometry grade trypsin protease (90057, Thermo Fisher Scientific) enzyme and incubated

Materials and Methods

All procedures including animal treatment were performed in accordance with National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals and approved by the Istanbul Medipol University, Animal Research Ethics Committee (Reference number: 10.01.2022-09). Mice were housed in the Istanbul Medipol University animal facility (MEDITAM) in cohorts of 4 or 5 animals per cage and kept under standard animal room conditions (ambient temperature 20±2 °C, 12-12 h light-dark cycle), Investigators were blinded for experimental groups at all stages and data analysis stages.

Preparation of TAK-063 and experimental groups

TAK-063 (510331, MedKoo Biosciences) was used to inhibit the PDE10A protein expression. TAK-063 was dissolved using tap water containing 1% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO).

Twelve adult (8-12 weeks) male C57BL/6 mice were used. Animals were divided into two main groups; vehicle (100 µl tap water containing 1% DMSO) or 3 mg/kg TAK-063...
at 37°C for 16 h. The next day, samples were centrifuged at 14,000 G for 10 min and lyophilized. Lyophilized peptides were dissolved in 0.1% formic acid (1002642510, Merck) and diluted to 100 ng/µl at the end of the lyophilization process.

**LC-MS/MS analysis**

LC-MS/MS analysis using ACQUITY UPLC M-Class coupled to a SYNAPT G2-Si high-definition mass spectrometer (Waters) was performed according to previously published protocols with minor modifications [20, 21]. ACQUITY UPLC M-Class Symmetry C18 trap column (180 µm x 20 mm; 186007496, Waters) and the analytic column (ACQUITY UPLC M-Class HSS T3 Column, 100Å, 1.8 µm, 75 µm X 250 mm; 186007474, Waters) were used for the peptide separation [23]. All 50-1900 m/z ions were fragmented in resolution mode without any precursor ion preselection.

**Data processing**

Progenesis-QI for proteomics software (Waters) was used to identify and quantify the peptides. All proteins were identified by at least 2 unique peptide sequences. Then the expression ratio of identified proteins was calculated and demonstrated as a heatmap. Next, the identified proteins were classified based on their biological activities, molecular functions, and signal transduction pathways using the PANTHER (protein annotation through evolutionary relationship, http://www.pantherdb.org/) program.

**Statistical analysis**

Statistical analyses were performed with SPSS program version 15, SPSS Inc., Chicago, USA) to determine the differences between groups (Vehicle and TAK-063). Statistical differences between the groups were calculated by conducting the independent samples t-test. Data are expressed as the mean ± standard deviation. Throughout the study, p values < 0.05 were considered significant [13].

**Results**

Western blotting was performed with brain tissue samples taken from the striatum region to investigate the effect of TAK-063 (3 mg/kg), delivered by oral gavage, on the PDE10A protein expression. Results demonstrated that PDE10A protein abundance in the mice brain significantly diminished by the administration of 3 mg/kg TAK-063 (Figure 1). The protein profile affected by PDE10A inhibition was demonstrated via LC-MS/MS-based proteomic analyses. We identified 1873 different proteins between the vehicle and TAK-063 groups. Sixty-one proteins significantly (p<0.05, independent sample t-test) altered between the groups. TAK-063 treatment significantly decreased 26S proteasome non-ATPase regulatory subunit 6 (PSM2D), Amyloid-like protein 1 (APLP1), Ankyrin repeat domain-containing protein 17 (ANKRD17), Apolipoprotein E (APOE), ATP synthase subunit alpha (ATP5F1A), ATP synthase subunit beta (ATP5F1B), ATP synthase subunit O (ATP5PO), Calcium-binding mitochondrial carrier protein Aralar1 (SLC25A12), Calcium-binding mitochondrial carrier protein ScamC-3 (SLC25A23), COPS9 signalosome complex subunit 6 (COPS6), Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6A1 (COX6A1), Dedicator of cytokinesis protein 4 (DOCK4), DNA polymerase zeta catalytic subunit (REV3L), Fibromectin (FN1), Gasdermin-E (GSDME), Hydroxycyl-glutathione hydrolase (HAGH), Importin subunit alpha-4 (KPN4A), Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein (SLC25A11), NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 beta subcomplex subunit 4 (NDUFB4), NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 4 (NDUFS4), NADPH–cytochrome P450 reductase (POR), Neuronal pentraxin receptor (NPTXR), Neuroplastin (NPTN), Osteopontin (SPP1), Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase D (PPI), Potassium-transporting ATPase alpha chain 2 (ATP12A), Proline-rich protein 12 (PRR12), Proteasome subunit alpha type-1 (PSMA1), Ras-related protein Rab-8B (RAB8A), Reticulin (RTN1), Rh-associated protein kinase 2 (ROCK2), Secretory carrier-associated membrane protein (SCAMP1), Separin (ESPL1), Spectrin beta chain (SPTBN4), STE20-like serine/threonine-protein kinase (SLK), Ubiquitin-specific peptidase 9, Y chromosome (USP9Y), and Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 3 (VDAC3) amount with respect to the vehicle treated group (Figure 2).

Moreover, deactivation of PDE10A significantly increased Acyl-CoA-binding protein (DBI), Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member A1 (AKR1A1), Ankyrin-2 (ANK2), Band 4.1-like protein 2 (EPB41L2), Cytosolic acyl
identified proteins were classified using the PANTHER (protein annotation through evolutionary relationship, http://www.pantherdb.org/) program. The identified proteins were predicted to belong to 5 protein classes: metabolite interconversion enzyme (10 proteins), protein modifying enzyme (5 proteins), protein-binding activity modulator (4 proteins), transfer/carryer protein (2 proteins), and transporter (8 proteins) (Figure 3A). Molecular function-related classification showed that 8 binding, 15 catalytic activity, 1 molecular function regulator, and 7 transporter activity proteins were identified (Figure 3B). Then, the identified proteins were mapped to seven important cell signaling pathways (Figure 3C) including ATP synthesis, FGF signaling, EGF receptor signaling HD, PD, pyrimidine metabolism, and ubiquitin-proteasome pathway.

Discussion

Twenty-one genes encode eleven various members of the PDE family, leading to the production of more than 100 different enzymes [24]. PDE10A has become a prominent therapeutic target in recent years because it highly

coenzyme A thioester hydrolase (ACOT7), F-box only protein 2 (FBXO2), Glutathione S-transferase Mu 1 (GSTM1), Large neutral amino acids transporter small subunit 1 (SLC7A5), Long-chain-fatty-acid-CoA ligase ACSBG1 (ACSBG1), Methionine adenosyltransferase 2 subunit beta (MAT2B), Methylmalonate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH6A1), Mitochondrial tRNA-specific 2-thiouridylase 1 (TRMU), Neutral amino acid transporter A (SLC1A4), Ornithine aminotransferase (OAT), Peroxiredoxin (PRDX6), Phosphatidylethanolamine-binding protein 1 (PBP2), Protein S100-B (S100B), Pyridoxal phosphate homeostasis protein (PLPBP), Ras GTPase-activating protein 3 (RASA3), Ras/Rap GTPase-activating protein SynGAP (SYNGAP1), Speckle-targeted PIP5K1A-regulated poly(A) polymerase (TUT1), Tyrosine-protein phosphatase non-receptor type substrate 1 (SIRPA), Zinc finger MYM-type protein 4 (ZMYM4), and Zinc finger protein 518A (ZNF518A) amount (Figure 2).

![Figure 2](image-url) Heatmap visualization of the PDE10A related proteins. The protein profile affected by 3 mg/kg TAK-063 was determined by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry/mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) mediated proteomic analyses.

![Figure 3](image-url) Classification of PDE10A related proteins. PDE10A related proteins were classified with respect to (A) protein class, (B) molecular function, and (C) signal transduction pathway by the PANTHER (protein annotation through evolutionary relationship; http://www.pantherdb.org/) program.

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available and scattered through the mammalian striatum, which is one of the principal components of the basal ganglia. PDE10A hydrolyzes and controls the level of cGMP and cAMP, which are essential in regulating intracellular signal transduction pathways [25]. Recent studies indicated that PDE10A plays pivotal role in modulating striatal neuronal activity in motor and cognitive processes [26, 27]. Due to its modulatory functions in the CNS, it is speculated that PDE10A may be an essential target in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

TAK-063 is the most studied and well-known inhibitor for PDE10A. We previously demonstrated that oral delivery of 0.3 mg/kg and 3 mg/kg TAK-063 reduced PDE10A protein abundance 25% and %51, respectively [11]. It has been shown that TAK-063 does not affect plasma prolactin and glucose levels up to 3 mg/kg [28]. In the current study, we used high (3 mg/kg) dose of TAK-063 to inhibit PDE10A activity effectively. In accordance with the literature, oral delivery of high dose TAK-063 significantly reduced PDE10A protein abundance in mice striatum compared to the vehicle-treated mice.

Proteomics is an essential member of the omics technologies (genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics). It serves as an emerging tool for the identification and quantification of the proteome of tissues and cells. Characterization of the proteome is crucial for diagnosing, prognosis, and monitoring of the disease developments [29]. Moreover, it is essential for the drug development studies. In the present study, we demonstrated that the protein profile affected by the TAK-063 mediated PDE10A inhibition under physiological conditions. Because of this, we performed LC-MS/MS based proteomic analysis. Chemical deactivation of PDE10A significantly altered 61 different protein expressions in the mouse striatum. According to the proteomic analysis PSMD2, APLP1, ANKRD17, APOE, ATP5F1A, ATP5F1B, ATP5PO, SLC25A12, SLC25A23, COPS6, COX6A1, DOCK4, REV3L, FN1, GSDME, HAGH, KPN3A, SLC25A11, NDUFb4, NDUFs4, POR, NPTXr, NPTN, SPP1, PPID, ATP12A, PRR12, PSMA1, RAB8A, RTN1, ROCK2, SCAMP1, ESPL1, SPTBN4, SLK, USP9Y, and VDAC3 protein abundance decreased by PDE10A inhibition. However, protein abundance of DBI, AKR1A1, ANK2, EPB41L2, ACOT7, FBXO2, GSTM1, SLC7A5, ACSBG1, MAT2B, ALDH6A1, TRMU, SLC1A4, OAT, PRDX6, PBP2, S100B, PLPBP, RASA3, SYNGAP1, TUT1, SIRPA, ZMYM4, and ZNF518A increased by deactivation of PDE10A.

It is well known that TAK-063 improves behavioral deficits in a mouse model of HD, however decreases disseminated neuronal injury after brain injury, and regulates pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines in rodents [11, 12, 30]. Moreover, it is suggested that TAK-063 has therapeutic potential for basal ganglia disorders [24]. We proposed that the identified proteins in the current study could potentially increase the effectiveness of TAK-063. In this way, we speculated that TAK-063 could be used more effectively in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Sixty-one differentially expressed proteins were classified extensively into several categories via PANTHER analysis. The classification of the protein class includes metabolite interconversion enzyme, transporter, protein modifying enzyme, protein-binding activity modulator, and transfer/carrier protein. The identified proteins are suggested to belong to 4 different molecular functions as catalytic activity, binding, transporter activity, and molecular function regulator. In addition, the intracellular signal transduction pathway analysis demonstrated that PDE10A-related proteins have essential roles in ATP synthesis, FDF signaling, EGF receptor signaling, pyrimidine metabolism, and ubiquitin-proteasome signal transduction pathways. Furthermore, the identified proteins are involved in the mechanism of neurodegenerative diseases such as HD and PD. Altogether, the proteomics profiles indicate that ATP synthesis is the most affected signal transduction pathway due to PDE10A inhibition. Although the effects of PDE10A on energy metabolism have been demonstrated in previous studies, its mechanism has not yet been fully understood [31, 32]. A recent study using transgenic HD mice revealed that the protein and mRNA expression of PDE10A significantly reduced in the striatum before the onset of motor symptoms [33]. Furthermore, in mice with HD pathology, chemical deactivation of PDE10A decreased striatal and cortical cell death and microglial activation [34]. In a mouse PD model, deactivation of PDE10A has been shown to increase neuronal survival and decrease microglial activation via the cAMP/ protein kinase A (PKA) signal transduction pathway [35].

Conclusion

In conclusion, the chemical deactivation of PDE10A using 3 mg/kg TAK-063 directly or indirectly affects the abundance of 61 different proteins in the mice striatum under physiological conditions. It is suggested that the identified proteins might enhance the activity and effectiveness of TAK-063. Moreover, these proteins might be essential in PDE10A-related signal transduction pathways.

Funding

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Ethics approval

Experiments were performed in accordance to National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines for the care and use of laboratory animals and approved by Istanbul Medipol University, Animal Research Ethics Committee (Reference number: 10.01.2022-09).

References
