

**EFFECT OF PROLACTIN ON CALCIUM METABOLISM
IN MAMMARY GLAND CELLS**



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ABSTRACT

Although calcium (Ca^{2+}) is the major ion in milk, the mechanism and regulation of its secretion is not well understood. This study hypothesized that PRL, the major lactogenic hormone, stimulated calcium secretion and regulated its level, which in turn contributed other transport activities. First, the effect of PRL on the intracellular Ca^{2+} ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) was studied in human cancerous mammary cells, MCF-7. Twenty-four hour treatment with $1 \mu\text{g/ml}$ PRL suppressed the ATP- and thapsigargin-induced increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$. The Ca^{2+} lowering effect of PRL was not due to suppression of Ca^{2+} release or Ca^{2+} influx, but was due to enhancement of Ca^{2+} removal as a result of increased mRNA expression of the Secretory-Pathway Ca^{2+} -ATPase 2 (SPCA2) in the Golgi apparatus. These results were confirmed by the use of siRNA for SPCA2. Next, the most abundant mRNA expression of Classical Transient Receptor Potential channels (TRPCs) in MCF-7 cells, normal mouse mammary cells, (HC-11), and rat mammary tissue were found to be TRPC1, TRPC3, and TRPC1 and 6, respectively. PRL alone had no effect on the TRPC3 mRNA expression in HC-11 cells. In rat mammary tissue, TRPCs varied with stages of the reproductive phase. By using the TRPC inhibitor 2-APB, TRPCs in HC-11 cells were shown to be the channels for the Ca^{2+} influx. To find out the type of PRL receptor (PRLR) isoform involved in PRL action, HC-11 cells, which contains only the long form of PRLR were used. Co-treatment with PRL and dexamethasone (D) was required to suppress the ATP-evoked $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$. Interestingly, PRL+D did not increase SPCA2 mRNA but decreased TRPC3 mRNA expression. When the short form of PRLR (PRLR-S) was transfected into the HC-11 cells, its presence decreased the ATP-evoked $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$, suppressed the TRPC3 mRNA expression and increased the SPCA2 mRNA expression, all of which were not further changed by PRL+D. Finally, PRL was investigated as to whether it could affect Cl^- secretion by altering the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$. PRL+D were found to suppress Cl^- efflux apparently by decreasing ATP-evoked $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$. In conclusion, PRL probably increased Ca^{2+} concentration in milk by 1) increasing Ca^{2+} uptake into the Golgi apparatus by increasing SPCA2 mRNA expression, and 2) suppressing Cl^- efflux possibly by lowering the ATP-evoked $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$. As well as showing the differential distribution of Ca^{2+} influx channels TRPCs, the present study also demonstrated that HC-11 cells required PRL+D synergism for the regulation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$, which in turn regulated Cl^- secretion. In normal mammary epithelial cells, the regulatory action of PRL on $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ may be mediated by the PRLR-L and PRLR-S.

KEYWORDS: MAMMARY EPITHELIAL CELLS/PROLACTIN/PROLACTIN RECEPTOR/CALCIUM/SPCAs/TRPCs

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