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Enterobacter aerogenes에서 XP 기질특이성을 보이는 UDP-sugar hydrolase (UshX) 유전자의 염기서열 결정 및 특성

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일반적으로 *E. coli*의 *phoA* (Bacterial Alkaline Phosphatase, BAP)는 XP와 pNPP에 대해서 기질특이성을 나타내고 있다. 그러나 장내세균인 *Enterobacter aerogenes*의 *phoA* 유전자를 클로닝하는 과정에서 XP⁺-pNPP⁺가 아닌 XP⁺-pNPP⁺인 유전자를 클로닝하여 염기서열 결정 및 생화학적 특성을 연구하였다. 염기서열 결과 위 XP⁺-pNPP⁻ 유전자는 *E. coli* 및 *S. typhimurium*의 UDP-sugar hydrolase (*ush*)와 염기서열상 79% 이상 및 아미노산 서열상 90% 이상의 상동성을 보였으며, 1650 bp의 구조유전자로 550아미노산 잔기 (Mr. 60 kD)를 암호화하고 있음을 알 수 있었다. 또한 *E. coli*의 *ushA* 및 *S. typhimurium*의 *ushAO*와는 달리 오직 *E. aerogenes*의 *ushX*의경우에 있어서만이 XP에 대해서 매우 강력한 기질 특이성을 보이고 있으며, XP 기질에 대한 발현량측정 결과 매우 강한 활성을 보이고 있음을 확인할 수 있었다. 본 결과로 *E. aerogenes*가 세포내외에서 매우 다양한 phosphate source를 자화할 수 있는 능력을 보존한 채로 진화하였음을 예측할 수 있게 해준다.

E342 Hammerhead Ribozymes Reduce the Expression of HBV X gene in Mammalian Cells

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Human hepatitis B virus (HBV) is the infective agent causing several liver diseases like liver cirrhosis and liver carcinoma. HBV has a compact 3.2 kb DNA genome, which contains 4 open reading frames encoding the viral surface antigen protein, core protein, viral polymerase and X protein. The product of HBV X gene, HBx, consists of 154 amino acid residues and transactivates various kinds of cellular and viral promoters. The HBx may potentially play a role in hepatocarcinogenesis. To repress the expression of HBx gene in mammalian cells, we synthesized two HBx-specific hammerhead ribozymes to cleave at two different target sites (nt 114 GUC, nt 309 GUC). These target sites are shown to be located in single stranded RNA region by secondary structure analysis. Ribozyme expression plasmids were constructed by inserting ribozyme cDNAs in pRc/RSV plasmid containing RSV LTR promoter. Ribozyme expression plasmids were cotransfected with HBx expression plasmid into HepG2 cells. Total RNA was isolated and HBx mRNA level was quantitated by Northern blot analysis. RT-PCR analysis was also carried out to confirm the level of HBx mRNA. We found that the levels of HBx mRNA were reduced by each ribozyme. We also cloned the HepG2 cell lines which express each ribozyme constitutively. HBx expression plasmid was transfected into these ribozyme expressing cell lines. The HBx expression was dramatically reduced in each ribozyme expressing cell line. These results demonstrate that the hammerhead ribozymes may be developed as anti-HBX gene therapy agents.