

Molecular Events of Insulin Action Occur at Lipid Raft/Caveolae in Adipocytes

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Insulin stimulates the fusion of intracellular vesicles containing glucose transporter 4 (GLUT4) with plasma membrane in adipocytes and muscle cells. Here we show that adipocyte differentiation results in enhanced insulin sensitivity of glucose uptake. On the other hand, glucose uptake in response to platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) stimulation was markedly reduced by adipocyte differentiation. Expression level of insulin receptor and caveolin-1 was dramatically increased during adipocyte differentiation. Adipocyte differentiation caused slightly enhanced activation of acutely transforming retrovirus AKT8 in rodent T cell lymphoma (Akt) by insulin stimulation. However, activation of Akt by PDGF stimulation was largely reduced. Activation of ERK was not detected in both fibroblasts and adipocytes after stimulation with insulin. PDGF-dependent activation of ERK was reduced by adipocyte differentiation. Insulin-dependent glucose uptake was abrogated by LY294002, a phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) inhibitor, in both fibroblasts and adipocytes. Also disassembly of caveolae structure by methyl- β -cyclodextrin caused impairment of Akt activation and glucose uptake. Finally, insulin receptor, Akt, SH2-domain-containing inositol 5-phosphatase 2 (SHIP2), and regulatory subunit of PI3K are localized at lipid raft domain and the translocation was facilitated upon insulin stimulation. Given these results, we suggest that lipid raft provide proper site for insulin action for glucose uptake.

Key words – glucose uptake, GLUT4, Akt, Insulin, lipid raft

Introduction

Adipocytes are not only storage cells but are also specialized cells under the influence of various hormones, cytokines, and nutrients, and exert pleiotropic functions. The major function of adipocytes is to control full body fuel homeostasis[9]. One of the metabolic processes that are acquired during adipocyte differentiation is a highly insulin-responsive glucose-transport system[24]. For example, stimulation of insulin redistributes intracellular vesicle containing the glucose transporter GLUT4 to the cell surface membrane by process called translocation. These plasma membrane-localized transporters subsequently facilitate influx of glucose into the cell. Impairment in the insulin receptor signal linking GLUT4 vesicle has been described and is speculated to be a molecular and physiological basis for insulin-resistant status in obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Binding of insulin to its cognate receptor evokes ty-

rosine phosphorylation of insulin receptor substrate (IRS) protein, which provides binding site for p85 subunit of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)[6]. Multiple studies using various pharmacological inhibitors, dominant negative and/or constitutive active version of constructs have demonstrated pivotal roles of PI3K in insulin-stimulated GLUT4 translocation[7,10,14]. Increased level of phosphatidylinositol 3, 4, 5-trisphosphate (PIP₃) by PI3K leads to the activation of protein kinase cascade such as 3-phosphoinositide-dependent kinase-1 (PDK-1), protein kinase B/Akt (PKB), and atypical protein kinase C (PKC). Especially, Akt is primarily activated by PDK-1 upon insulin stimulation [1] and full activation is achieved by phosphorylation at Ser⁴⁷³ residue by Rictor-mTOR complex, which sense nutritional status[25]. Although it is now clear that above kinases are involved in insulin-mediated glucose uptake, exact interrelationship among those kinases requires further investigation.

Despite the essential nature of PI3K, substantial information suggests that insulin signaling requires additional mechanisms for GLUT4 translocation[12,13]. For ex-

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ample, insulin signaling gets assists from certain region of plasma membrane of distinct lipid and protein composition, referred to as lipid raft/caveolae domain[4,29]. Caveolae represents subset of lipid rafts that are formed from polymerization of caveolins, hairpin-like palmitoylated integral membrane proteins that strongly binds cholesterol[4], and is indicated to be important for insulin receptor signaling[11]. Also, insulin receptors are found to be located in caveolae of adipocyte plasma membrane[16], and many signaling molecules involved in insulin receptor signal cascade are also found to be enriched in lipid raft/caveolae[31]. In addition to signaling proteins, it has been reported that phosphoinositide turnover occurs at lipid raft domain[23], GLUT4 itself is localized at lipid raft/caveolae[19]. Other reports have demonstrated that Cbl and Cbl-associated protein (CAP) are also important for insulin-induced glucose uptake[3,8]. Therefore, studies on the assessment of PI3K involvement in a concert with lipid raft domain have to be undertaken to dissect insulin-induced GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake.

Adipocyte differentiation changes cells to highly insulin-sensitive status. Adipocyte differentiation requires an interplay between the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- γ (PPAR- γ) and two other groups of transcriptional factors: the CCAATT/enhancer binding proteins (C/EBP) and ADD-1/ SREBP-1[33]. Although all of these transcriptional factors can independently induce adipocyte differentiation *in vitro*, they act synergistically *in vivo*. Sequential expression of adipogenic transcriptional factors during adipocyte differentiation induces the expression of another set of genes that provide fat cells with highly insulin responsive context. However, few of genes have identified as insulin sensitizer so far. In this study, we provide evidences that expression of insulin signaling molecules and structural protein of lipid raft are increased during adipocyte differentiation and that integration of insulin signaling molecules at the lipid raft is essential for GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake.

Materials and Methods

Materials

Insulin and platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. 2-[1,2- 3 H]Deoxy-D-glucose (30Ci/ mmole) was purchased from Amersham Pharmacia. Methyl- β -cyclodextrin was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich.

LY294002 and PD98059 were purchased from Calbiochem. Anti-Akt, anti-phospho-Akt (Ser⁴⁷³) antibodies were obtained from Cell Signaling Technology Inc. Anti-insulin receptor (IR), anti-p85 PI3K, anti-phospho-ERK, anti-SHIP2, anti-actin antibody were purchased from Upstate Biotechnology Inc. Anti-flotillin-1 and anti-caveolin-1 antibody were obtained from BD Transduction Laboratory. All other high quality reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich unless indicated elsewhere.

Cell culture and differentiation of 3T3-L1

3T3-L1 preadipocytes were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) containing 10% bovine calf serum at 37 °C in 5% CO₂. To reserve differentiation potency, cells were maintained at less than 50% confluency. Adipocyte differentiation was conducted as described previously[2]. Briefly, 3T3-L1 preadipocytes were seeded at high density and keep cultured for another two days to reach confluent. After 2 days post-confluent stage, medium was switched to differentiation cocktail containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 2 μ g/ml of insulin, 0.4 μ g/ml of dexamethason, and 0.5 mM of isobutyl-methyl xanthine in DMEM. Two days later, medium was changed with fresh differentiation cocktail and incubated for another 2 days. Four days after induction of differentiation, medium was switched to normal medium for another 4 days. Cells at 8-10 days post-differentiation were used for the experiments.

2-deoxyglucose uptake

2-deoxyglucose uptake of preadipocytes and adipocytes were done as described elsewhere with slight modification[15]. Briefly, cells grown in 12-well plates were washed two times with serum-free DMEM and starved overnight. The cells were washed three times with KRP buffer (136 mM NaCl, 4.7 mM KCl, 0.9 mM CaCl₂, 0.9 mM MgSO₄, 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.4) containing 0.2% bovine serum albumin (BSA), and incubated for 30 min in 0.42 ml KRP buffer containing 0.2% BSA. Thirty microliter of insulin solution (100 nM in KRP buffer containing 0.2% BSA) was added for 20 min. With 5 min remaining, 50 ml of 10X START Solution (1 mM 2-deoxyglucose, 5 μ Ci/ml of [3 H]-2-deoxyglucose) was added to the 0.45 ml of insulin-stimulated KRP/BSA solution. To subtract non-specific binding, 10 μ M of cytochalasin B was added at time of insulin stimulation. The reaction was ter-

minated by aspirating the medium and washing the plates three times with cold PBS. The cells were solubilized with 0.5 ml of 0.05% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) in PBS and the radioactivity determined in a 0.3 ml aliquot by liquid scintillation counter.

Sucrose density gradient fractionation of lipid raft

Isolation of lipid raft by detergent-free sucrose density gradient fractionation was performed as described previously[32]. In brief, cells were suspended in 2 ml of 500 mM sodium carbonate buffer, pH 11. Sodium vanadate (1 mM) was present at all steps. The cells suspensions were homogenized with 10 strokes of Dounce homogenizer, three 10 sec bursts of a Polytron tissue grinder, and three bursts of a sonicator. The homogenate was then adjusted to 45% sucrose by addition of 80% sucrose prepared in MES buffer (150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, 25 mM MES, pH 6.5) and transferred to ultracentrifugation tubes. A 5-35% discontinuous sucrose gradient was formed on top of the samples. The samples were centrifuged at 39,000 rpm for 6 hrs in a SW41 rotor. Fractions were collected from the top of the tubes in 1 ml amount.

Western blot analysis

Cells were lysed with lysis buffer containing 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.3, 1 mM EGTA/EDTA, 10 mM NaF, 1% Triton X-100, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, and 10% glycerol. Forty mg of cell lysates were submitted to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis on 7%-18% gradient polyacrylamide gel under reduced conditions. Following transfer to nitrocellulose membranes, the membranes were subjected to immunoblotting using indicated antibody in figures and HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies. Western blots were developed using enhanced chemiluminescence (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech).

Results and Discussion

Adipocyte differentiation enhanced insulin-induced glucose uptake

Insulin is believed to be unique among growth factors and hormones in its ability to control metabolic functions such as the stimulation of glucose uptake, lipolysis, and protein synthesis in metabolic organs and tissues. However, many reports have suggested that other hor-

mones such as PDGF and insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) also can induce certain amount of glucose uptake in isolated metabolic cells[27,28,37,38]. Nonetheless, the signaling specificity remains to be elucidated, particularly, in view of some other growth factors that share similar signaling events.

Metabolic function of insulin is enhanced during differentiation. As shown in Fig. 1, adipocyte differentiation strongly augmented insulin-dependent glucose uptake. On the other hand, PDGF-dependent glucose uptake was markedly reduced by adipocyte differentiation. Adipocyte differentiation also abrogates IGF-1-induced glucose uptake[27] though IGF-1 seems to be critical inducer of differentiation[30]. Reduction of PDGF-dependent glucose uptake is resulted from decreased expression of PDGF receptor gene[26]. As shown in Fig. 1, adipocytes still respond to PDGF stimulation. This result might come from incomplete differentiation of the cells and/or PDGF receptor signaling also contributes GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake. Eileen and her colleagues have demonstrated that PDGF receptor signaling in adipocytes elicits GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake in the absence of insulin receptor substrate (IRS) activation[37]. Therefore, enhanced insulin or decreased PDGF response in adipocyte seems to be caused by dynamic changes of receptor expression, and common signaling pathway in between insulin receptor and PDGF receptor is important for glucose uptake.

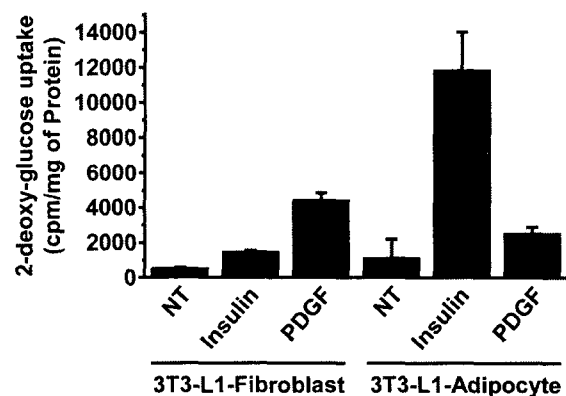


Fig. 1. Insulin- and PDGF-induced glucose uptake in fibroblasts and adipocytes. Both cells were pretreated with either insulin (100 nM) or PDGF (50 ng/ml) for 15 min, and glucose uptake during last 5 min was measured as described in "Materials and Methods" Data are mean±SEM of three duplicated experiments.

Insulin-induced glucose uptake is mediated by PI3K activation

Both insulin and PDGF elicit activation of PI3K and ERK pathways. It is now well accepted that p42/p44 mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) is not involved in insulin-induced glucose uptake (Fig. 2)[21]. As shown in Fig. 2, pretreatment of both fibroblasts and adipocytes with PD98059 did not affect PDGF- or insulin-induced glucose uptake. These results indicate that activation of MAPK is not involved in GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake. However, pretreatment of both fibroblasts and adipocytes with LY294002 completely blocked PDGF- or insulin- induced glucose uptake. The importance of PI3K signaling in hormone-induced glucose uptake is further verified via mutant PDGF receptor expression in adipocytes[37]. For example, mutation at binding sites for p85 regulatory sub-unit of PI3K impairs PDGF-induced GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake. Our results also indicate that PI3K pathway is important for glucose uptake in both fibroblasts and adipocytes (Fig. 2). However, the question about how adipocyte acquires more sensitive cellular context for insulin stimulation remains to be elucidated though increased insulin receptor expression seems to be causative for enhanced glucose uptake in adipocyte.

Insulin signaling molecules are up regulated during adipocyte differentiation

The answer for increased insulin response might be re-

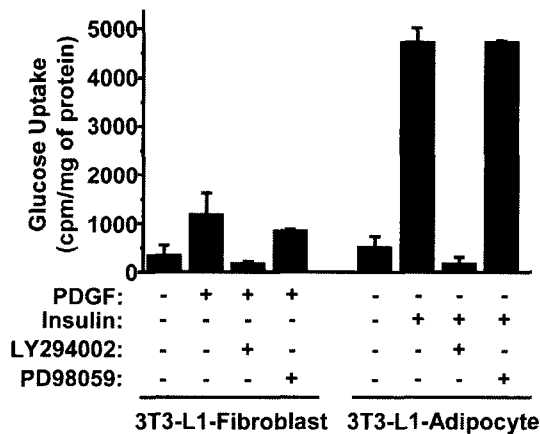


Fig. 2. Effect of PI3K and MAPK inhibitors on insulin- or PDGF-induced glucose uptake. Both fibroblasts and adipocytes were pretreated with either LY294002 (20 μM) or PD98059 (1 μM) for 20 min. Glucose uptake was measured as described in "Materials and Methods" Data are the mean±SEM of three duplicated experiments.

lated with gene expression of insulin signaling molecules. Actually, adipocyte differentiation enhanced gene expression of insulin receptor about 10-fold (Fig. 3). Also it has been reported that expression of insulin responsive Akt2 but not Akt1 is enhanced during adipocyte differentiation[34]. Expression of glucose transporter GLUT4 is also induced during adipocyte differentiation (unpublished data). However, expression of PDGF receptor is reduced during adipocyte differentiation[35]. Therefore, differentiation to metabolic fat cells augments insulin responsive glucose uptake and abolishes glucose uptake in response to PDGF stimulation. Also, changes in cellular context by differentiation makes insulin as unique metabolic regulator in organism level.

Beside insulin signaling molecules, expression of caveolin-1, a structural protein of lipid raft, is induced after adipocyte differentiation (Fig. 3). Lipid raft/caveolae is thought to be important for insulin signaling[4,11]. It has been known that insulin activates two major signaling pathways such as PI3K-Akt and ERK. Recently, we have reported that one of the insulin signaling molecules, serine/threonine protein kinase Akt2, is important for insulin-induced GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake[2]. As shown in Fig. 3, adipocyte differentiation resulted in the enhancement of insulin-dependent activation of Akt or reduction of PDGF-dependent activation of Akt. However,

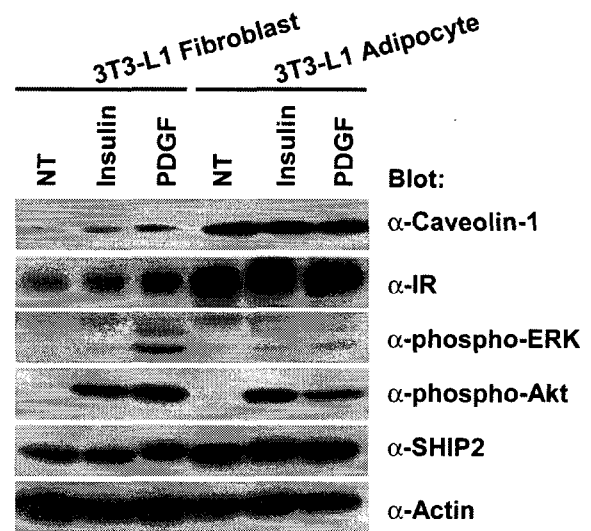


Fig. 3. Expression of insulin signaling molecules during adipocyte differentiation. Both fibroblasts and adipocytes were stimulated with either insulin (100 nM) or PDGF (50 ng/ml) for 10 min and expression of indicated proteins were detected by western blotting as described in "Materials and Methods"

stimulation of adipocytes with insulin did not activate ERK (Fig. 3). Moreover, pharmacological ERK inhibitor such as PD98059 did not affect insulin-induced glucose uptake (Fig. 2). Given these results, we suggest here that adipocyte differentiation confer enhancement of insulin signaling such as PI3K-Akt, and that ERK signaling pathway is not involved in insulin-induced glucose uptake. The inter-relationship in between PI3K-Akt signaling pathway and lipid raft/caveolae should be addressed.

Disruption of lipid raft/caveolae abolished insulin-induced glucose uptake

As shown in Fig. 3, expression of caveolin-1 is dramatically increased during adipocyte differentiation, and glucose uptake in response to insulin stimulation is also augmented by adipocyte differentiation (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2). Depletion of cholesterol by methyl-β-cyclodextrin (MCD) destroys lipid raft/caveolae structure[22], and abolishes insulin-induced glucose uptake in adipocytes but not PDGF-induced glucose uptake in fibroblasts (Fig. 4). This result correlates with many other reports suggesting that insulin signaling molecules are integrated into lipid raft/caveolae structure[11,16,18,19]. Since expression of

caveolin-1 is increased during adipocyte differentiation, it is possible that MCD will affect glucose uptake in adipocytes rather than fibroblasts that express relatively low level of caveolin-1 and lipid raft/caveolae. Destroy of lipid raft/caveolae structure by MCD also caused defect of Akt activation by both insulin and PDGF (Fig. 4). Involvement of lipid raft/caveolae in insulin-induced glucose uptake and Akt activation was also reported in other cells types such as H9c2 cardiomyoblasts[17]. Therefore, involvement of lipid raft/caveolae in Akt activation and glucose uptake is apparent. However, it is also possible that lipid raft/caveolae provide docking site for the fusion of GLUT4 vesicle with plasma membrane regardless activation of PI3K-Akt signaling pathway[5,19].

Localization of insulin signaling molecules to lipid raft

Though we have shown that destroy of caveolae abolishes insulin-induced glucose uptake and Akt activation, it is still necessary to provide evidence that Akt is localized and activated at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain. As shown in Fig. 5, we have fractionated samples by using sucrose-density gradient and isolation of lipid raft/caveolae is verified by western blotting with marker proteins such as caveolin-1 and flotillin-1. Significant amount of insulin re-

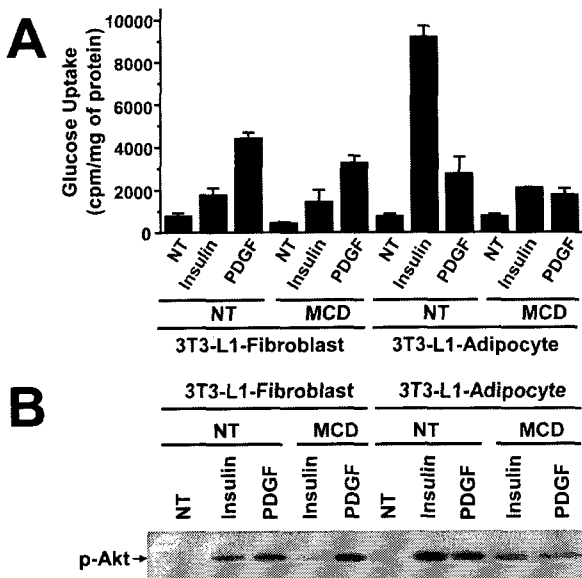


Fig. 4. Effect of cholesterol depletion on the glucose uptake and insulin-induced phosphorylation of Akt. 0.2 mM cholesterol complex with MCD was applied to both fibroblasts and adipocytes, and subsequently glucose uptake was measured after simulation with either insulin (100 nM) or PDGF (50 ng/ml) (A), or activation of Akt was detected by western blotting (B). Data are mean±SEM of three duplicated experiments.

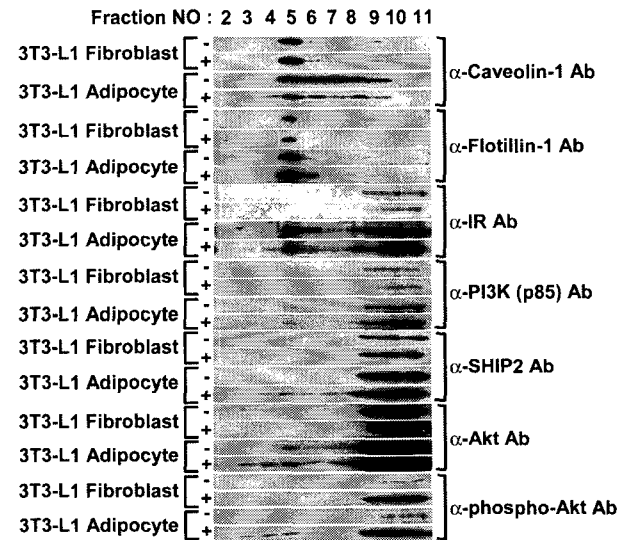


Fig. 5. Localization of insulin signaling molecules at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain. Both fibroblasts and adipocytes were stimulated with either PDGF (50 ng/ml) or insulin (100 nM) for 10 min, respectively. Cells were fractionated on sucrose-density gradient as described in "Materials and Methods" and each fraction was subjected western blotting with indicated antibodies.

ceptor was localized at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain (Fig. 5)[16]. Interestingly, the regulatory subunit of p85 PI3K was also found in lipid raft/caveolae microdomain. These results suggest that activation of insulin receptor and PI3K might occur at lipid raft/caveolae, and subsequent production of phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate (PIP₃) and activation of downstream target molecules such as PDK-1 and Akt occurs at the same site. The catalytic product of PI3K, PIP₃, is converted to PIP₂ by dephosphorylation of phosphate at D5 position of inositol ring. This reaction is carried out by lipid phosphatase SHIP2, which is 5'-phosphatase containing SH2 domain[20]. SHIP2 also modulates insulin signaling and controls its metabolic functions[36]. Our results also showed that SHIP2 was also localized at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain in insulin-dependent manner (Fig. 5). Given these results, we provide evidences that negative and positive PI3K signaling molecules are co-localized at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain. Next, we have verified activation of Akt, which is a key regulator of GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake, at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain. Stimulation of adipocytes with insulin resulted in translocation of Akt from cytosol to lipid raft/caveolae microdomain. Also significant amount of phosphorylated Akt (active form) was detected at lipid raft/caveolae microdomain (Fig. 5). These results indicate that lipid raft/caveolae is essential membrane site for both stimulatory and inhibitory insulin signaling.

Our results provide three major evidences that lipid raft/caveolae is crucial membrane structure for proper insulin signaling. First, adipocytes are more sensitive than fibroblasts in response to insulin-induced glucose uptake, and expression of caveolin-1 is increased during adipocyte differentiation. Though the expression of insulin receptor itself is induced by adipocyte differentiation, MCD-induced lipid raft/caveolae disruption studies showed that lipid raft/caveolae microdomain plays pivotal roles in insulin signaling. Second, PI3K-Akt signaling molecules play crucial roles in GLUT4 translocation and glucose uptake rather than other ERK signaling pathways. Disruption of lipid raft/caveolae also abolished insulin-induced activation of PI3K-Akt pathway. Finally, insulin signaling molecules such as insulin receptor, p85 PI3K, Akt, and SHIP2 are localized at lipid raft/caveolae. Therefore, we suggest here that lipid raft/caveolae may provide essential site for insulin signaling molecules to induce GLUT4 translocation

and glucose uptake.

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초록 : 지방세포의 Lipid Raft/Caveolae에서 인슐린의 분자적 작용기전배순식¹ · 윤성지¹ · 김은경¹ · 김치대¹ · 최장현² · 서판길^{2*}(¹부산대학교, ²포항공과대학교)

인슐린은 지방세포 또는 근육세포에서 포도당 흡수 조절 통로단백질이 함유되어 있는 소포체를 세포막으로의 이동을 촉진시킨다. 우리는 여기서 지방세포로의 분화는 인슐린에 의한 포도당 흡수에 대한 반응이 증가됨을 보였다. 반면에 지방세포로의 분화는 PDGF에 의한 포도당 흡수 반응이 감소됨을 보였다. 인슐린 수용체나 caveolae는 지방세포로의 분화과정 동안 발현이 증가된다. 또한 지방세포로의 분화는 인슐린에 의한 Akt의 활성을 증가시켰다. 하지만 PDGF에 의한 Akt의 활성은 크게 감소하였다. 하지만 인슐린은 지방세포 또는 섬유아 전구세포에서 ERK의 활성을 유도하지 않았다. PDGF에 의한 ERK 활성 또한 지방세포로의 분화과정에 따라 감소하였다. P13K의 저해제인 LY294002는 지방세포 뿐만 아니라 섬유아 전구세포에서 인슐린에 의한 포도당 흡수를 저해하였다. 마지막으로 인슐린 수용체, Akt, SHIP2, p85등이 lipid raft/caveolae에 존재함을 확인하였고 인슐린에 의해 이런 단백질 들이 lipid raft/caveolae로 이동함을 관찰하였다. 이런 결과를 토대로 lipid raft는 포도당 흡수를 위한 인슐린의 기능적 작용을 하는데 매우 중요한 환경을 제공함을 주장한다.