

Effect of m-3M3FBS on Ca^{2+} Movement in PC3 Human Prostate Cancer Cells

Jeng-Yu Tsai^{1,2}, Pochuen Shieh³, Daih-Huang Kuo³, Fu-An Chen^{3,4}, Chun-Chi Kuo^{2,4}, and Chung-Ren Jan⁵

¹Department of Surgery, Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital, Kaohsiung 81362

²Department of Biological Sciences, National Sun Yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung 80424

³Department of Pharmacy, Tajen University, Pingtung 90741

⁴Department of Nursing, Tzu Hui Institute of Technology, Pingtung 92641

and

⁵Department of Medical Education and Research, Kaohsiung Veterans General Hospital
Kaohsiung 81362, Taiwan, Republic of China

Abstract

The effect of 2,4,6-trimethyl-N-(meta-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-benzenesulfonamide (m-3M3FBS), a presumed phospholipase C activator, on cytosolic free Ca^{2+} concentrations ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) in PC3 human prostate cancer cells is unclear. This study explored whether m-3M3FBS changed basal $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ levels in suspended PC3 cells by using fura-2 as a Ca^{2+} -sensitive fluorescent dye. M-3M3FBS at concentrations between 10-50 μM increased $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ in a concentration-dependent manner. The Ca^{2+} signal was reduced by 60% by removing extracellular Ca^{2+} . M-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} influx was inhibited by the store-operated Ca^{2+} channel blockers nifedipine, econazole and SK&F96365, and by the phospholipase A2 inhibitor aristolochic acid. In Ca^{2+} -free medium, 30 μM m-3M3FBS pretreatment greatly inhibited the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise induced by the endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pump inhibitor thapsigargin or BHQ. Conversely, pretreatment with thapsigargin, BHQ or cyclopiazonic acid reduced the major part of m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. Inhibition of phospholipase C with U73122 did not much alter m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. Collectively, in PC3 cells, m-3M3FBS induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rises by causing phospholipase C-independent Ca^{2+} release from the endoplasmic reticulum and Ca^{2+} influx *via* store-operated Ca^{2+} channels.

Key Words: Ca^{2+} , m-3M3FBS, PC3, prostate

Introduction

Bae *et al.* (1) has reported a compound: 2,4,6-trimethyl-N-(meta-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-benzenesulfonamide (m-3M3FBS) that was thought to evoke a transient cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentration ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) increase in neutrophils by stimulation of phospholipase C (PLC). Subsequent studies have used m-3M3FBS as a selective PLC activator in various systems, including snail neurons (27), membrane preparation (9), neuronal cells (18), retinal cells (44), human submandibular gland (HSG) cells (13), B lymphocytes (31), intestinal epithelial cells (34), mouse taste cells (8) and ovary cells (14). On the

other hand, evidence from SH-SY5Y human neuroblastoma cells suggested that m-3M3FBS altered Ca^{2+} movement in a manner independent of PLC stimulation, and doubted the application of this chemical as a pharmacological tool to stimulate PLC (23). Therefore whether m-3M3FBS is a selective PLC activator is still controversial.

Ca^{2+} ions play a pivotal role in various biological events. A rise in intracellular free Ca^{2+} concentrations ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) is a crucial trigger for numerous physiological and pathological responses in cells (4). However, an abnormal $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise often cause interference of ion flux, dysfunction of proteins, apoptosis, and proliferation, *etc.* (7). In this regard, m-3M3FBS was thought

to release store Ca^{2+} in rat primary cortical neuronal cultures and pheochromocytoma (PC12) cells (18); but the mechanism was unknown. In human renal Caki cancer cells, m-3M3FBS was suggested to evoke apoptosis *via* inducing a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise; however how this Ca^{2+} signal arose was unclear (22).

The effect of m-3M3FBS on $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ in human prostate cancer cells has not been examined. We investigated the effect of this compound on $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ in PC3 cells. The PC3 cell line is a useful model for prostate research. It has been shown that in this cell line, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ can increase in response to the stimulation of various ligands such as desipramine (6), safrole (5), capsazepine (15) and econazole (16).

In this study, fura-2 was used as a fluorescent Ca^{2+} -sensitive dye to measure $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ changes. We show that m-3M3FBS induced concentration-dependent $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rises both in the presence and absence of extracellular Ca^{2+} in PC3 cells. The $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rises are characterized, the concentration-response plots in the presence and absence of extracellular Ca^{2+} are established, and the pathways underlying m-3M3FBS-evoked Ca^{2+} entry and Ca^{2+} release are explored.

Materials and Methods

Cell Culture

PC3 cells obtained from American Type Culture Collection were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ streptomycin.

Solutions Used in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ Measurements

Ca^{2+} -containing medium (pH 7.4) contained 140 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 1 mM MgCl_2 , 2 mM CaCl_2 , 10 mM Hepes, and 5 mM glucose. M-3M3FBS was dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide as a 1 M stock solution. The other agents were dissolved in water, ethanol or dimethyl sulfoxide. The concentration of organic solvents in the solution used in experiments did not exceed 0.1%, and did not alter viability or basal $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$.

$[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ Measurements

Confluent cells grown on 6 cm dishes were trypsinized and made into a suspension in culture medium at a density of $10^6/\text{ml}$. Cells were subsequently loaded with 2 μM fura-2/AM for 30 min at 25°C in the same medium. After loading, cells were washed with Ca^{2+} -containing medium twice and was made into a suspension in Ca^{2+} -containing medium at a density of $10^7/\text{ml}$. Fura-2 fluorescence measure-

ments were performed in a water-jacketed cuvette (25°C) with continuous stirring; the cuvette contained 1 ml of medium and 0.5 million cells. Fluorescence was monitored with a Shimadzu RF-5301PC spectrofluorophotometer immediately after 0.1 ml cell suspension was added to 0.9 ml Ca^{2+} -containing or Ca^{2+} -free medium, by recording excitation signals at 340 nm and 380 nm and emission signal at 510 nm at 1-sec intervals. During the recording, reagents were added to the cuvette by pausing the recording for 2 sec to open and close the cuvette-containing chamber. For calibration of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$, after completion of the experiments, the detergent Triton X-100 and 5 mM CaCl_2 were added to the cuvette to obtain the maximal fura-2 fluorescence. Then the Ca^{2+} chelator EGTA (10 μM) was subsequently added to chelate Ca^{2+} in the cuvette to obtain the minimal fura-2 fluorescence. $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ was calculated as previously described (11). Mn^{2+} quench of fura-2 fluorescence was performed in Ca^{2+} -containing medium containing 50 μM MnCl_2 . MnCl_2 was added to cell suspension in the cuvette 1 min before starting the fluorescence recording. Data were recorded at excitation signal at 360 nm (Ca^{2+} -insensitive) and emission signal at 510 nm at 1-sec intervals as described previously (29).

Chemicals

The reagents for cell culture were from Gibco (Gaithersburg, MD, USA). Fura-2/AM was from Molecular Probes (Eugene, OR, USA). M-3M3FBS and other reagents were from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

Statistics

Data are reported as typical or means \pm SEM of three experiments. Data were analyzed by two-way analysis of variances (ANOVA) using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS®, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). Multiple comparisons between group means were performed by *post-hoc* analysis using the Tukey's HSD (honestly significant difference) procedure. A *P*-value less than 0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Fig. 1A shows that the basal $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ level was approximately 50 nM. At concentrations between 10 and 30 μM , m-3M3FBS evoked $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rises in a concentration-dependent manner in Ca^{2+} -containing medium. At 1 μM , m-3M3FBS did not cause a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. The $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise induced by 30 μM m-3M3FBS attained to 175 ± 2 nM ($n = 3$) followed by a slow decay.

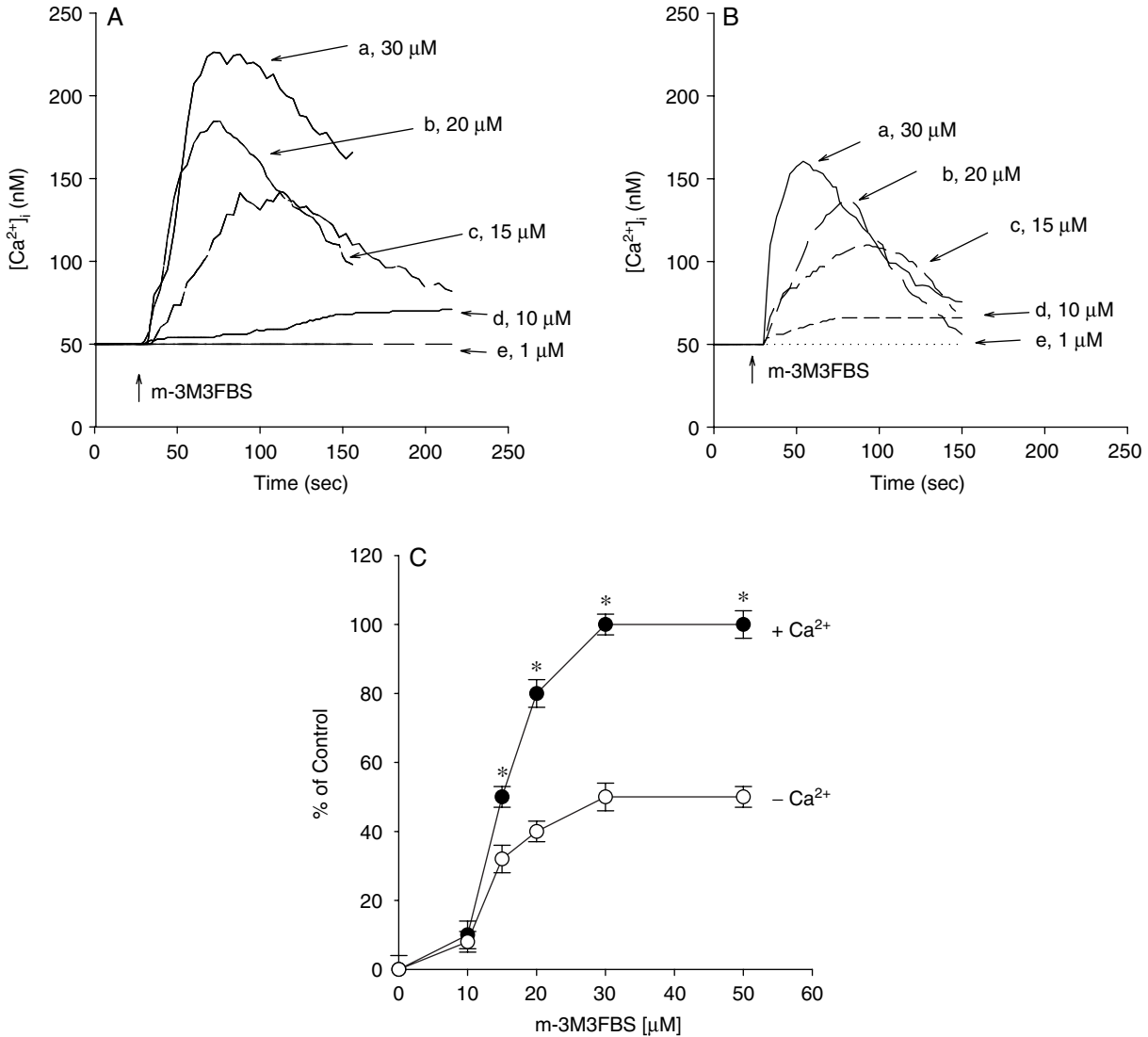


Fig. 1. A. Effect of m-3M3FBS on $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ in fura-2-loaded PC3 cells. M-3M3FBS was added at 25 sec. The concentration of m-3M3FBS was indicated. The experiments were performed in Ca^{2+} -containing medium. B. Effect of removal of Ca^{2+} on m-3M3FBS-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ signal. Experiments were performed in Ca^{2+} -free medium (Ca^{2+} was replaced with 0.3 mM EGTA). C. Concentration-response plots of m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} signals in the presence (filled circles) or absence (open circles) of extracellular Ca^{2+} . Y axis is the percentage of control which is the net (baseline subtracted) area under the curve (25-150 sec) of the $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rise induced by 30 μM m-3M3FBS. Data are typical of three experiments. * $P < 0.05$ compared with open circles.

The Ca^{2+} response saturated at 30 μM m-3M3FBS because at a concentration of 50 μM , m-3M3FBS induced a similar response as that induced by 30 μM . Fig. 1C (filled circles) shows the concentration-response plot of m-3M3FBS-induced response.

Two possible sources of a Ca^{2+} signal are extracellular medium and intracellular Ca^{2+} stores. Further experiments were performed to determine the relative contribution of extracellular Ca^{2+} entry and intracellular Ca^{2+} release in m-3M3FBS-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rises. The $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rises evoked by 10-30 μM m-3M3FBS in Ca^{2+} -free medium are shown in Fig. 1B. At a con-

centration of 1 μM , m-3M3FBS did not cause a $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rise. Removal of extracellular Ca^{2+} did not change the baseline, suggesting that the amount of leaked fura-2 from the cells was insignificant. At a concentration of 30 μM , m-3M3FBS evoked a $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rise by 105 nM above baseline followed by a gradual decay. The concentration-response plot of m-3M3FBS-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rises in Ca^{2+} -free medium is shown in Fig. 1C (open circles). The EC_{50} value is approximately 15 μM .

Experiments were performed to confirm m-3M3FBS-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ rise involved Ca^{2+} influx. Mn^{2+} enters cells through similar pathways as Ca^{2+}

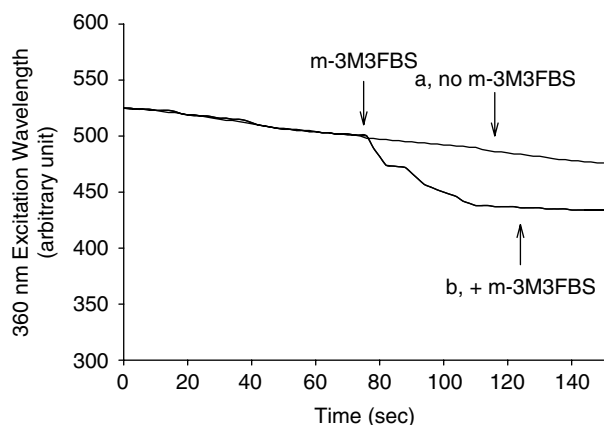


Fig. 2. Effect of m-3M3FBS on Ca^{2+} influx by measuring Mn^{2+} quench of fura-2 fluorescence. Experiments were performed in Ca^{2+} -containing medium. MnCl_2 (50 μM) was added to cells 1 min before fluorescence measurements. The y axis is fluorescence intensity (in arbitrary units) measured at the Ca^{2+} -insensitive excitation wavelength of 360 nm and the emission wavelength of 510 nm. Trace a: no m-3M3FBS was present. Trace b: 30 μM m-3M3FBS was added as indicated. Data are typical of three experiments.

but quenches fura-2 fluorescence at all excitation wavelengths (29). Thus, quench of fura-2 fluorescence excited at the Ca^{2+} -insensitive excitation wavelength of 360 nm by Mn^{2+} suggests Ca^{2+} entry. Fig. 2 shows that 30 μM m-3M3FBS evoked an immediate decrease in the 360 nm excitation signal (compared to trace a). This implies that m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise involved Ca^{2+} entry. The decrease attained to a maximum of 65 ± 2 units ($n = 3$) at the time point of 110 sec.

Experiments were further conducted to explore the Ca^{2+} entry pathway of the m-3M3FBS-induced response. Three store-operated Ca^{2+} influx inhibitors: nifedipine (1 μM), econazole (0.5 μM), SK&F96365 (5 μM); and aristolochic acid (20 μM ; a phospholipase A2 inhibitor) partly inhibited 30 μM m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. In contrast, phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA; 10 nM; a protein kinase C activator) or GF109230X (2 μM ; a protein kinase C inhibitor) had no effect on m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise (Fig. 3).

Previous studies have shown that the endoplasmic reticulum is the major Ca^{2+} store in PC3 cells (5, 6, 15, 16). Fig. 4A shows that in Ca^{2+} -free medium, after treatment with 30 μM m-3M3FBS, addition of 1 μM thapsigargin (TG), an inhibitor of endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pumps (39), evoked a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 25 ± 2 nM ($n = 3$). Fig. 4B shows that addition of TG induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 65 ± 3 nM ($n = 3$). Subsequently added m-3M3FBS (30 μM) induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 21 ± 2 nM which was smaller than the

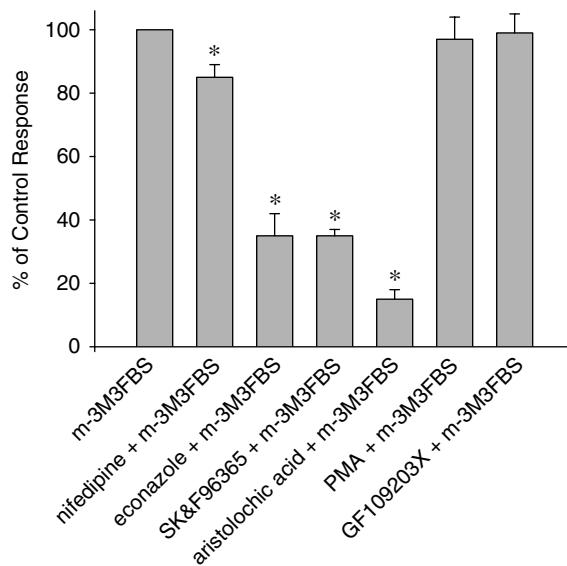


Fig. 3. Effect of Ca^{2+} channel blockers and phospholipase A2 inhibitor on m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. The $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise induced by 30 μM m-3M3FBS was taken as control. In blocker- or modulator-treated groups, the reagent was added 1 min before m-3M3FBS. The concentration was 1 μM for nifedipine, 0.5 μM for econazole, 5 μM for SK&F96365; 20 μM for aristolochic acid, 10 nM for phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA) and 2 μM for GF109230X. Data are expressed as the percentage of control (1st column from the left) that is the maximum value of 30 μM m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise, and are means \pm SEM of three experiments. * $P < 0.05$ compared to control.

control m-3M3FBS-induced response (120 ± 2 nM; Fig. 4A) by 82% ($P < 0.05$) in the maximal value. Similar experiments were repeated by using another inhibitor of endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pumps, 2,5-di-tert-butylhydroquinone (BHQ) (42). Fig. 4C shows that BHQ (50 μM) added after pretreatment with 30 μM m-3M3FBS failed to induce a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. In contrast, Fig. 4D shows that BHQ induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 40 ± 2 nM ($n = 3$). Subsequently added 30 μM m-3M3FBS induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 61 ± 2 nM which was smaller than the control m-3M3FBS-induced response (126 ± 3 nM; Fig. 4C) by 52% ($P < 0.05$) in the maximal value. Cyclopiazonic acid (CPA) was another inhibitor of endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pump (36). Fig. 4E shows that 50 μM CPA induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 30 ± 2 nM ($n = 3$). Subsequently added m-3M3FBS induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 22 ± 2 nM ($n = 3$) which was smaller than the control m-3M3FBS-induced response by 83% ($P < 0.05$).

PLC-dependent production of inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate is a key process for releasing Ca^{2+} from the endoplasmic reticulum (4, 7). Because m-3M3FBS was able to release Ca^{2+} from the endoplasmic

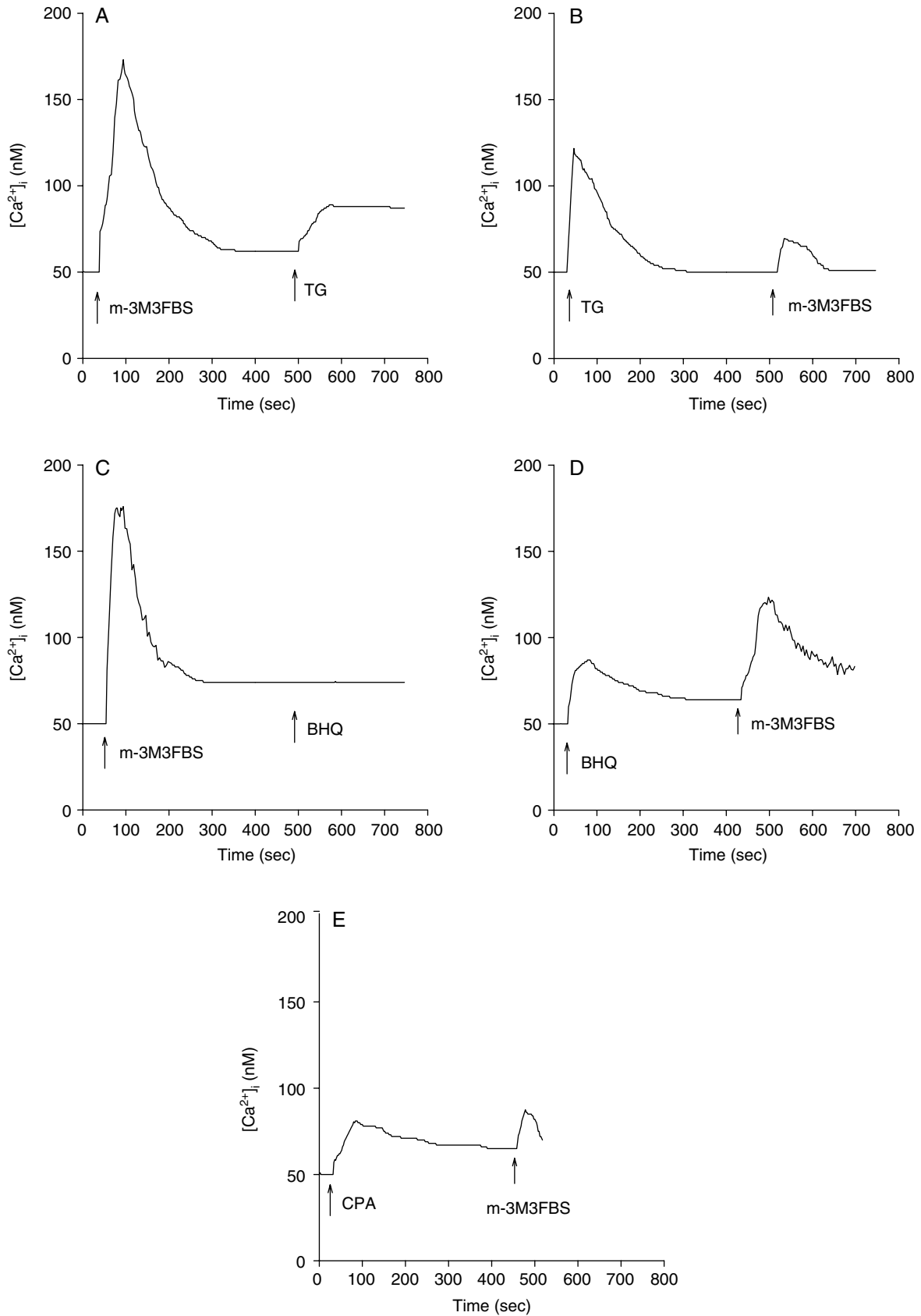


Fig. 4. Intracellular Ca^{2+} stores of m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} release. Experiments were performed in Ca^{2+} -free medium. M-3M3FBS (30 μ M), thapsigargin (TG, 1 μ M), BHQ (50 μ M) and cyclopiazonic acid (CPA, 50 μ M) were added at time points indicated. Data are typical of three experiments.

reticulum, the role of PLC in this release was examined. U73122, a PLC inhibitor (19, 40), was used to see whether this enzyme was necessary for m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} release. Fig. 5A shows that ATP (10 μM) induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise of 101 ± 2 nM ($n = 3$). ATP is a PLC-dependent agonist of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise in most cell types (10, 41). It has been shown that PC3 cells express P2X and P2Y receptors (35). Fig. 5B shows that incubation with 2 μM U73122 did not change basal $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ but abolished ATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rises. This suggests that U73122 effectively suppressed PLC activity. Fig 5B also shows that addition of 30 μM m-3M3FBS after U73122 and ATP treatments caused a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise not different from control (1st column, m-3M3FBS-induced group).

Discussion

Ca^{2+} signaling plays a crucial role in the function of almost all cell types including prostate cancer cells. Li *et al.* (25) show that the amino-terminal peptide of Bax perturbs intracellular Ca^{2+} homeostasis to enhance apoptosis in prostate cancer cells. Liao *et al.* (26) suggest that extracellular Ca^{2+} acts as a candidate mediator of prostate cancer skeletal metastasis. M-3M3FBS has been shown to induce a significant activation of PLC at concentration > 25 μM and marked Ca^{2+} elevation in several cell lines and *in vitro* (1). In contrast to the spiky responses induced by 25 μM m-3M3FBS seen in the study of Bae *et al.* (1), and slowly developing Ca^{2+} elevations in SH-SY5Y cells (23), our data reveal that 20 μM m-3M3FBS induced an immediate increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ followed by a slow decay. The mechanism of m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise was apparently different in PC3 cells and SH-SY5Y cells, in the latter the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise was not altered by removal of extracellular Ca^{2+} ; in contrast, our findings show that removal of Ca^{2+} reduced the m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise by more than 50%. In SH-SY5Y cells, it was also shown that 5 μM U73122 strongly inhibited m-3M3FBS-mediated Ca^{2+} release (by $78 \pm 13\%$); however, our results suggest that 2 μM U73122 effectively inhibited ATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise without altering m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise.

Our study is the first to show that m-3M3FBS induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise in PC3 cells and examined the underlying mechanisms. Our data show that m-3M3FBS induced a concentration-dependent $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise in PC3 cells between 10 μM and 30 μM . Most of previous studies utilizing m-3M3FBS to activate PLC were at concentration > 25 μM . The data suggest that m-3M3FBS increased $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ by depleting intracellular Ca^{2+} stores and causing Ca^{2+} influx from extracellular milieu because removing extracellular Ca^{2+} reduced more than 50% of m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rises.

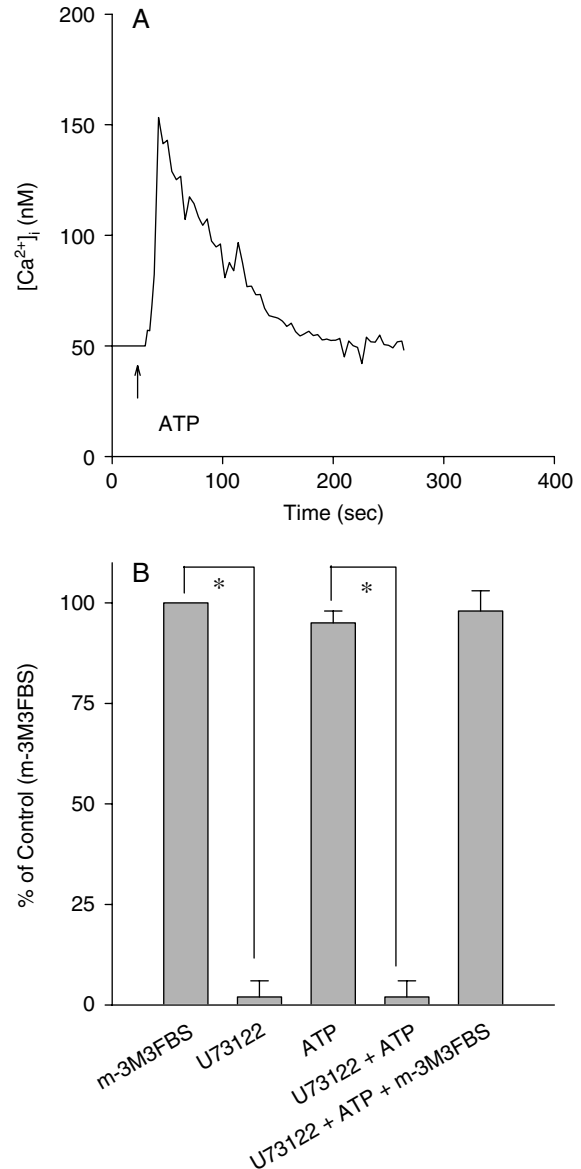


Fig. 5. Lack of effect of U73122 on m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} release. Experiments were performed in Ca^{2+} -free medium. (A) ATP (10 μM) was added as indicated. (B) Experiments were performed by adding U73122 (2 μM ; for 1 min), ATP (10 μM ; for 100 sec), and m-3M3FBS (50 μM ; for 100 sec) sequentially. U73122 did not increase $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ while abolished ATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. Subsequently added m-3M3FBS induced a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise similar to control response shown in Fig. 1B. Data are means \pm SEM of three experiments. * $P < 0.05$.

Removal of extracellular Ca^{2+} reduced the m-3M3FBS-induced response throughout the measurement period, suggesting that Ca^{2+} influx occurred during the whole stimulation period. The ability of m-3M3FBS to induce Ca^{2+} influx was also independently demonstrated by m-3M3FBS-induced Mn^{2+} quench of fura-2 fluorescence.

The mechanism of m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} influx was examined. The results suggest that m-3M3FBS might cause Ca^{2+} influx *via* stimulating store-operated Ca^{2+} entry which is induced by depletion of intracellular Ca^{2+} stores (32), based on the inhibition of m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise by nifedipine, econazole and SK&F96365. Nifedipine was originally thought to be a selective blocker of L-type voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels. Recent evidence shows that nifedipine also blocks store-operated Ca^{2+} channels (12, 33, 43). Econazole has been shown to inhibit store-operated Ca^{2+} channels in different models (17, 21, 30). SK&F96365 is also used as a blocker of store-operated Ca^{2+} entry (36). Furthermore, aris-tolochic acid, a phospholipase A2 (PLA2) inhibitor, significantly inhibited 30 μM m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. PLA2 activity is thought to be associated with Ca^{2+} movement. Tedesco *et al.* (38) show that snake PLA2 neurotoxins evoked Ca^{2+} overload in nerve terminals of cultured neurons. Lupescu *et al.* (28) suggest that human parvovirus B19 capsid protein VP1-induced Ca^{2+} entry was suppressed if PLA2 activity was inhibited. Most importantly, recent evidence shows that PLA2 controls endothelial store-operated Ca^{2+} entry and vascular tone in intact aorta (2), and enhances store-operated Ca^{2+} entry in dystrophic skeletal muscle fibers (3). Singaravelu *et al.* (37) show that PLA2 mediates store-operated Ca^{2+} entry in rat cerebellar granule cells. Therefore, these studies are in keeping with our results that PLA2 activity was necessary for m-3M3FBS-evoked Ca^{2+} signal in PC3 cells. Unfortunately, there exists no specific inhibitors of store operated Ca^{2+} channels. Thus nifedipine, econazole and SKF96365 were not expected to fully block Ca^{2+} entry through these channels. The result that inhibition of PLA2 was more effective in inhibiting m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} entry might suggest that PLA2 played a crucial effect in the opening of store-operated Ca^{2+} channels.

Because activation of PLC produces IP_3 and diacylglycerol, which stimulates PKC, the effect of regulation of PKC activity on m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise was examined. Neither activation nor inhibition of PKC changed m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. One of the possible mechanisms that might cause m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise is that m-3M3FBS inhibited plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATP pump so that cytosolic Ca^{2+} could not be pumped out of the cells and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ would rise *via* leaks in the plasma membrane.

Regarding the Ca^{2+} stores involved in m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} release, the TG/BHQ/CPA-sensitive endoplasmic reticulum stores might be the main stores because TG/BHQ/CPA pretreatment reduced a major part of m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise; and conversely, pretreatment with m-3M3FBS inhibited TG-induced

$[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise and abolished BHQ-induced response. Other Ca^{2+} stores responsible for m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} release may include mitochondria (20). However the main drawback of previous reports that used the mitochondrial uncoupler carbonylcyanide m-chlorophenylhydrazone to deplete mitochondrial Ca^{2+} was that this treatment would alter cellular energy production and renders data interpretation difficult.

Furthermore, it seems that PLC-dependent pathways did not play a role in m-3M3FBS-induced Ca^{2+} release, since the response was not affected when PLC activity was inhibited by U73122. This is consistent with the evidence found in SH-SY5Y cells that 25 μM m-3M3FBS failed to activate PLC and did not stimulate inositol phosphate generation (23). How m-3M3FBS released Ca^{2+} from endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} store was unclear. One possibility was that m-3M3FBS might act similarly to TG/BHQ/CPA by inhibiting endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pumps.

Lee *et al.* (24) reported that m-3M3FBS induced apoptosis of monocytic leukemia cells *via* a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise. M-3M3FBS was thought to induce apoptosis through caspase activation in human renal Caki cancer cells. This apoptosis was attenuated by chelating intracellular Ca^{2+} , suggesting that m-3M3FBS-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ rise lead to apoptosis (22).

Together, the data show that m-3M3FBS induced Ca^{2+} release from endoplasmic reticulum and also caused Ca^{2+} influx *via* store-operated Ca^{2+} entry in a PLC-independent, PLA2-dependent manner. Because a rise in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ can alter many cellular responses, caution should be applied in using 25 μM m-3M3FBS as a putative PLC activator.

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