Human thioredoxin1 (hTRX1) is a small 12-kD oxidoreductase enzyme consisting of 105 amino acids and containing a dihiole-disulfide active site with multiple cellular functions. This enzyme has activity as a cellular reductase by a dihiole-disulfide exchange reaction using two cysteine residues (Cys32 and Cys35) in the conserved active site sequence. Apart from the two cysteines, there are three additional conserved cysteines, Cys62, Cys69, and Cys73 in the mammalian TRX, which have not been known to their biological functions. Although it has been identified that the Cys73 residue is involved in dimerization of hTRX via an intermolecular disulfide bond formation between Cys73 of each monomer in the oxidized state, biological function of the Cys62 and Cys69 residues in the non-active remain to be fully elucidated. In the previous paper, researchers proposed that the formation of a disulfide bond between Cys62 and Cys69 could give a way to transiently inhibit hTRX activity for redox signaling or oxidative stress. Furthermore, they proposed a model structure of the non-active site disulfide in the hTRX. Here, we present the high-resolution crystal structure of fully oxidized hTRX1, which shows an intramolecular disulfide bond between Cys62 and Cys69. The disulfide bond formation disengages a helix proximal to the active site and results in a conformational change of the hTRX enzyme, providing a structural basis for understanding the regulation mechanism of redox signaling or oxidative stress.

Keywords: human thioredoxin1, intramolecular disulfide, redox signaling

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Joint neutron and X-ray diffraction studies at 293 K of antifreeze protein

Andre Mitschler1, Mathew Blakeley2, Michael Haertlein2, Christoph Mueller-Dickmann3, Alexandre Popov4, Eduardo Howard4, Isabelle Haertlein2, Alberto Podjarny1

1IGBMC, 1 rue Laurent Fries, Illkirch, CUS Strasbourg, 67404, France, 2ESRF, 6 rue Jules Horowitz, Grenoble, France, 3ESRF, 6 rue Jules Horowitz, Grenoble, France, 4IFLYSIB, 59 N 789, La Plata, Argentina, E-mail: mitschler@gmail.com

Type III Antifreeze Proteins (AFPs) are small globular monomeric proteins (66 aa, M.W.=7kDa), which are highly homologous. Their shared antifreeze property is linked to a network of hydrogen bonding between a specific lattice plane on ice and several conserved, polar and solvent accessible amino acids located along a flat Ice-Binding Surface (IBS). We shall present our developments: 1) - Neutron Laue data collection on the new LADI III (ILL) on an ab-initio fully deuterated tiny crystal (volume = 0.12 mm³, resolution = 2 Å), including production of fully deuterated protein, crystallization by macro-seeding in D2O. The ratio resolution/volume is similar to the Human Aldose Reductase [1, 2] - X-ray diffraction at Synchrotron ESRF beamline ID29 on a fully deuterated crystal of the same crystallization batch at a resolution of 1.05 Å, necessary to carry out a joint Neutron - X-ray refinement like for Human Aldose Reductase h AR [2]. 3) Specific H labelling on Leucine and Isoleucine of the fully deuterated protein, in order to create a contrast useful for specific phasing methods for neutron diffraction data. (Human Frontier Science Program).


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X-ray induced perturbation in an ultra-high resolution protein structure

Kazuki Takeda, Kouji Kusumoto, Yu Hirano, Kunio Miki

Keywords: neutron diffraction, antifreeze protein, perdeuteraton

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High resolution crystals of human hematopoietic & lipocalin-type prostaglandin D synthases in space

Hiroaki Tanaka1, Koji Inaka2, Toshiharu Tsurumina1, Kosuke Aritake1, Masaru Sato1, Sachiko Takahasi2, Mari Yamanaka1, Naoki Furubayashi3, Erika Hirota4, Satoshi Sano4, Tomoyuki Kobayashi5, Tetsuo Tanaka1, Yoshihiro Urade1

1Confocal Science Inc., Wakamatsu Building 7F, 3-3-6 Nihonbashi Honcho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, 103-0023, Japan, 2Maruwa Foods and Biosciences, 170 Tsutsui-cho, Yamakotokamoriyama, Nara, 639-1123, Japan, 3Osaka Bioscience Institute, 6-2-4, Furueda, Suita-shi, Osaka, 565-0874, Japan, 4Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, 2-1-1 Sengen, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8505 Japan, E-mail: tanakah@confsci.co.jp

Hematopoietic and lipocalin-type prostaglandin (PG) D synthases (H-PGDS and L-PGDS) are responsible for production of PGD2, which acts as an allergic inflammatory mediator1 and an endogenous sleep-promoting substance2, respectively. The specific inhibitors of each enzyme are important for suppression of various diseases. To obtain high-quality crystals for structural analysis, we crystallized both H-PGDS and L-PGDS by using a counter-diffusion method under a microgravity environment on the International Space Station (ISS). The three-dimensional structure of human H-PGDS has already been determined in a complex with an H-PGDS inhibitor HQL-79 (PDB ID: 2CVD)3. Since novel H-PGDS inhibitors with affinities 100-fold higher than HQL-79 have recently been developed, we obtained high quality crystals of human H-PGDS in complexes with those novel inhibitors by using PEG 6000 as a precipitant in microgravity. The crystals showed diffraction up to 1.2 Å resolution.