Conklin, D. J., Guo, Y., Nystoriak, M. A., Jagatheesan, G., Obal, D., Kilfoil, P. J., Hoetker, J. D., Guo, L., Bolli, R., & Bhatnagar, A. (2019). TRPA1 channel contributes to myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury. *American Journal of Physiology-Heart and Circulatory Physiology*, *316*(4), H889-H899. https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpheart.00106.2018

Definitions

- **Myocardial ischemia-reperfusion (I/R) injury:** Damage caused when blood supply returns to the heart after a period of ischemia (lack of oxygen).
- **TRPA1 channel:** A protein in cells that allows calcium ions to enter, activated by certain chemicals, including those produced during I/R injury.
- **Cardiomyocytes:** Heart muscle cells.
- **Unsaturated aldehydes:** Toxic compounds produced during lipid peroxidation, such as acrolein.
- **Hypercontraction:** Excessive contraction of heart muscle cells, often leading to cell death.

Key Findings

- TRPA1 channels in heart cells contribute to injury during myocardial ischemia-reperfusion.
- Mice lacking TRPA1 channels have smaller heart infarcts compared to normal mice.
- TRPA1 activation by toxic aldehydes increases calcium overload and cell death in heart cells.
- Blocking TRPA1 can protect heart cells from damage caused by these toxic aldehydes.

Introduction

This study investigates the role of TRPA1 channels in heart cells during myocardial ischemia-reperfusion (I/R) injury. I/R injury occurs when blood returns to the heart after a period of lack of oxygen, leading to damage and pain. The TRPA1 channel is known for its role in pain signaling and its activation by toxic chemicals produced during I/R injury.

Main Content

Background

Myocardial ischemia-reperfusion (I/R) injury results in heart muscle damage and pain due to the sudden return of blood supply after an ischemic event. TRPA1 channels, present in various body tissues, including heart cells, are activated by toxic aldehydes produced during this injury. These channels allow calcium ions to enter cells, potentially leading to harmful effects.

Methods

- **Animal Models:**

    - Used TRPA1-null mice (genetically modified to lack TRPA1 channels) and wild-type (WT) mice.
- **Heart Function Measurement:**
    - Performed echocardiography to assess heart function.
    - Measured blood pressure using the tail-cuff method.
- **Infarct Size Determination:**
    - Induced ischemia by occluding the left coronary artery for 30 minutes, followed by 24 hours of reperfusion.
    - Measured infarct size using triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC) staining.
- **Molecular and Cellular Analysis:**
    - Conducted immunofluorescence staining to detect TRPA1 in heart tissues.
    - Used quantitative RT-PCR and Western blotting to measure TRPA1 expression.
    - Performed electrophysiology to assess TRPA1 channel activity.
- **Cellular Response to Acrolein:**
    - Exposed isolated cardiomyocytes to acrolein and measured calcium overload and cell hypercontraction.
    - Tested the effect of a TRPA1 blocker (HC-030031) on acrolein-induced changes.

Results

- **Infarct Size:** TRPA1-null mice had significantly smaller infarcts compared to normal mice after I/R injury.
- **TRPA1 Presence:** TRPA1 was found in both mouse and human heart cells, particularly in areas associated with cell-to-cell communication.
- **Cellular Response:** In isolated heart cells, exposure to acrolein (a toxic aldehyde) caused calcium overload and cell hypercontraction, which were reduced by a TRPA1 blocker.
- **Electrophysiology:** TRPA1 activation by a known agonist increased channel activity, which was inhibited by a TRPA1 antagonist.

Conclusion

The study concludes that TRPA1 channels play a significant role in myocardial I/R injury by promoting calcium overload and cell death in heart cells. Blocking these channels can reduce the extent of heart damage, making TRPA1 a potential therapeutic target for reducing I/R injury in heart diseases.

Word Count: 492