Investigation on Post Translational Modification of GSK3 Beta Upon SIRT6 Silencing in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Cell Lines

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Abstract

SIRT6 aberration has been widely reported in a variety of serious human disorders during the past few decades. This work is to analyse the SIRT6 knockdown effect on the stability of a non-small cell lung cancer cell lines expressing GSK-3 Beta. The main objectives includes Silencing of SIRT6 in A549 and H460 cell lines by using (SIRT6 siRNA 1, SIRT6 siRNA 2) and investigation on the phosphorylation status of GSK-3beta. Methods used in this work are In vitro experiments with human NSCLC cells have been performed. Western Blot was performed to explore the key events in the regulation of GSK-3 β by silencing SIRT6 in NSCLC. The findings of this study suggest that silencing of SIRT6 significantly promotes the phosphorylation status of GSK-3 β and destabilizes it.

Keywords: SIRT6, Lung Cancer, GSK3 Beta

Introduction

The accumulation of genetic and epigenetic alterations in two genes results in cancer tumor suppressor genes (TSGs) and proto-oncogenes (Wang, L. H., et al., 2018). Cancer is a terrible disease that affects both men and women at all times, from newborn to adults (Selvarathinam, K., et al., 2021). Cancer results from a series of successive mutations in genes, and these mutations change the way cells functions. Chemical compound plays a clear role in the development of genetic mutations and cancer cells. Interestingly, carcinogenic environmental chemicals directly or indirectly affect the cytoplasm and nucleus, resulting in gene mutation and genetic diseases. Typically, cancer disrupts cellular communication and cause dysfunction of vital genes. This disruption affects the cell cycle and cause abnormal proliferation (Hassanpour, S. H., & Dehghani, M. 2017). Proto-oncogenes are responsible for cell division and growth under normal condition, but oncogenes with genetic mutations that are most dangerous for the existence of the cell. Moreover, the absence of tumor suppressor genes leads to uncontrolled cell division (Hassanpour, S. H., & Dehghani, M. 2017).

As the name suggests, glycogen synthase kinase 3 (GSK3) was first identified as the protein kinase that phosphorylates and inhibits glycogen synthase (1). It was then quickly discovered that this widely expressed serine/threonine kinase could link different extracellular stimuli to intracellular signals to maintain appropriate homeostasis

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.34293/ sijash.v12i1.8020 and phosphorylate more than a hundred protein substrates. Consequently, a wide range of illnesses, such as mental illnesses, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and several malignancies, have been linked to GSK3 dysregulation. Two isoforms of GSK3, called GSK3 α (51 kDa) and GSK3 β (47 kDa), are expressed and are encoded by separate genes found in all mammalian cells. These isoforms exhibit an overall homology of more than 67%, with the catalytic domain showing a sequence similarity of more than 98%.

The downstream targets and the kinases and phosphatases that control GSK-3 activity are listed in Several signaling molecules have the ability to control GSK-3 activity. Akt is a well-researched GSK-3 regulator that is part of the PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTORC1 pathway. According to Laurent et al. (2014), Akt is a serine/threonine kinase that also phosphorylates a number of important proteins that are involved in the control of cell development and death. Growth factor (GF) receptor ligand activation activates several pathways, including PI3K/PTEN/Akt/mTORC1, Ras/Raf/MEK/ ERK, and others. GSK-3 can be phosphorylated by Akt activation, which in turn causes GSK-3 to become inactivated. TSC2 can be phosphorylated by GSK-3, increasing its activity and inhibiting mTORC1 activity (Inoki, K., et al., 2006).

GSK-3beta has the ability to phosphorylate Rictor at serine-1235 during cell stress, which prevents Akt from binding to mTORC2. Akt is not completely activated when mTORC2 is not functioning. Although Akt has the ability to adversely affect GSK-3 activity, GSK-3 occasionally has the ability to reciprocate by suppressing Akt activation.

The conserved 250 amino acid catalytic core of the SIRT family proteins is surrounded by varying lengths of N- and C-terminal extensions (NTE and CTE, respectively). With NTE residues 1–42, enzymatic core domain residues 43–276, and CTE residues 277–355, SIRT6 is 355 amino acids long overall. Not only is the NTE domain essential to SIRT6's intrinsic catalytic activity

Materials and Methods Maintenance of Cells Cell lines

- A549- Lung adenocarcinoma cell line
- NCI-H460- lung cancer cell line with large cells

Culture of Cells

The National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), located in Pune, India, is where the lung cancer cell lines A549 and NCI-H460 were acquired. The cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM), which was enhanced with 10 % Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) and 1 % antibiotics (penicillin, streptomycin, and amphotericin B). Every cell was grown in a CO2 incubator with 5 % CO2 at 37°C in a humid environment. Stock cultures were sub-cultured until all the cells reached 80 % confluency washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and harvesting the cells using trypsin-EDTA and then seeding them in tissue culture flask to maintain them in exponential phase.

Cell Culture Reagents Incomplete Medium

DMEM medium with HEPES (4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid) buffer, glucose, glutamine, sodium bicarbonate and sodium pyruvate were purchased from Himedia Laboratories, Mumbai, India.

Serum

10 % Fetal bovine serum (FBS) were purchased from Himedia Laboratories, Mumbai, India.

Antibiotics

Penicillin, streptomycin and amphotericin B were purchased from Himedia Laboratories, Mumbai, India.

Complete Medium (DMEM with 10 % FBS)

100 ml of growth medium/complete medium was prepared by adding 10 ml FBS in 90 ml DMEM and 1ml antibiotics. It was stored in a sterile container.

Chemicals

Trypsin, EDTA, disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium chloride, potassium chloride and potassium dihydrogen phosphates were purchased from Hi- Media Laboratories, Mumbai, India. All other chemicals used in the present investigation were of cell culture and the analytical grade was purchased from Hi-Media Laboratories, Mumbai, India and SRL, Mumbai, India.

0.1% Trypsin-EDTA

0.1 g trypsin and 0.1 g EDTA were dissolved in 100 ml 1xPBS.

1X Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) pH 7.4

500 milliliters of sterile double-distilled water were used to dissolve 0.74 g of disodium hydrogen phosphate (Na₂HPO₄), 4 g of sodium chloride (NaCl), 0.1 g of potassium chloride (KCl), and 0.12 g of potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH₂PO₄). After using 0.1 N NaOH to get the pH down to 7.4, the mixture was sterile filtered (0.22 μ m), and it was refrigerated.

Plastic-Wares

Tissue culture flasks, tissue culture plates, centrifuge tubes, serological pipettes, tips, etc., were purchased from Tarsons products, Kolkata, India.

Passaging the Cells

The cells were grown in culture flasks, upon reaching confluence; the cells were detached using the trypsin-EDTA solution as follows:

The cultural medium was aspired to. After swiftly aspirating again, the flask was cleaned with two milliliters of 1X PBS. After adding 1 ml of trypsin-EDTA solution, the mixture was incubated at 37°C for three to five minutes, or until the cells began to separate from the surface. As soon as the cells were loose, using a serological pipette the trypsinated medium containing cells were centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 3 minutes. With caution, the medium was aspirated. The pipette tip was carefully removed from the tube where the cells were pelleted.

The cells were gently suspended in fresh DMEM medium with 10% FBS by retro pipetting. A drop was applied to the edge of the Neuberger hemocytometer coverslip from the cell suspension. By capillary action, the drop was allowed to run under the coverslip. It was careful not to "force" the liquid and to prevent air bubbles from forming. Next, using a microscope, the cells from the E1, E2, E3, E4 and E5 squares were counted. After that, the cells were carefully resuspended in brand-new growth medium and put into sterile T-25 flasks. The medium's volume was then increased to 5 ml using the growth medium/flask combination.

Transfection Efficiency of siRNA Oligonucleotides and Optimization of Transfection

One day before transfection, NSCLC cell lines were seeded in 1X106 per well of 6 well plates without antibiotics after reached 60 % of confluence. On the day of transfection, 25nM of negative control siRNA and SIRT6 siRNA oligos were used. In separate tubes, dilute siRNA (Tube A) and Lipofectamine 3000 (transfection reagent) (Tube B) were prepared in a serum- free medium. Tube A: 2 μ l of 25nM of siRNA oligonucleotides diluted into 150 μ l of OPTI- MEM serum-reduced medium. Tube B: 6 μ l of Lipofectamine 3000 into 150 μ l of OPTI-MEM serum- reduced medium. After 5 mins incubation of each tube, combined the diluted siRNA oligonucleotide with diluted Lipofectamine 3000 mixed gently and incubated for 25 mins at RT. After incubation, siRNA and Lipofectamine 3000 complexes were added drop-wise into 6 well plate containing cells and antibiotic-free medium. Incubated cells with the transfection complex under 5 % O2 at 37°C and 48 hours were spent maintaining the cells following transfection.

Transfection of SIRT6 siRNA and Negative Control

Lung cancer cells were seeded into six-well plate (1 X 106) after reaching 60 % confluency. For siRNA transfection, SIRT6 siRNA (sense: 5'-GAAUGUGCCAAGUGUAAGAtt-3', antisense: 5'-UCUUACACUUGGCACAUUCtt-3') and their negative control siRNA (AM4611) was purchased from Invitrogen, USA. The cells were transfected at a concentration of 25nM using Lipofectamine 3000 reagent (Invitrogen, USA) as per the manufacturer's instruction. Lipofectamine reagent alone is served as mock control and cells are maintained for 48hrs after transfection. Transfection efficiency was analyzed by RTPCR and western blotting.

Reverse Transcription PCR Analysis

Total RNA Isolation

Total RNA was isolated by using Takara RNAiso Plus reagent (Takara Bio Inc, Japan). Briefly, unsilenced A549 and NCI-H460 cells are silenced using siRNA transfected A549 and NCI-H460 cells washed with ice-cold PBS twice. 1 ml of TRIzol reagent was added into 6-well plates lysed the cells directly in a culture plate after lysed the cells collected into 2 ml centrifuge tubes and added 0.2 ml of chloroform then vortex vigorously for 5 mins and incubated 20 mins at RT. After incubation, The samples were centrifuged for 15 minutes at 4°C at 12,000 rpm. and carefully removed the upper aqueous phase which contains total RNA in a new 1.5 ml centrifuge tubes. Total RNA was precipitated from the aqueous phase by using isopropyl alcohol, 0.5 ml of isopropyl alcohol were added into the aqueous phase, mixed gently by inverting the tubes and incubated 10 mins at RT. After incubation, the samples were centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 10 mins at 4°C and after centrifugation, removed the supernatant carefully and washed the RNA pellet by adding 1 ml of 75 % ethanol, mixed gently by inverting the tubes again, centrifuged the tubes at 12,000 rpm 5 mins at 4°C after centrifugation, eliminated all leftover ethanol and invert the tubes allowed air dry RNA pellet for 10 mins. 50 µl of nuclease-free water was added to dissolve the RNA pellet, which was then kept in a freezer at -20°C for later research.

RNA Quantification cDNA Construction

Total RNA was quantified in the Eppendorf bio spectrophotometer. The samples A260/A280 ratio < 1.80 and the A260/A230 ratio < 0.5 only taken for cDNA synthesis. 2 μ g of RNA was used for cDNA construction. cDNA was constructed by using prime script TM RT reagent kit (Catalog number: RR037A-Takara Bio Inc, Japan). For 20 μ l of cDNA, 5X PrimeScript buffer - 4.0 μ l; PrimeScript RT Enzyme- 1 μ l; 1.0 μ l of 50 μ M Oligo dT primer; Random 6 mers- 1 μ l; RNA- 2 μ g and Nuclease-free water up to 13 μ l added all the reagents into 0.2 μ l PCR tube vortex gently.

Incubated the RNA-primer mix under the following conditions: 15 minutes at 37°C, 5 seconds at 85°C and final hold in 4°C in Takara PCR thermal cycler dice (Takara Bio Inc, Japan). Synthesized cDNA was stored at -20°C for further experiments.

RT-PCR

The mRNA expression levels were quantified through RT-PCR using the Emerald Amp RT PCR master mix (Catalog number: RR310A - Takara Bio Inc, Japan) on the Takara PCR thermal cycler dice (Takara Bio Inc, Japan). For 10 μ l RT-PCR reaction, 2X PCR master mix- 5 μ l; cDNA - 1 μ l; Forward Primer - 1 μ l; Reverse Primer - 1 μ l; Nuclease-free-water - 2 μ l) were added to PCR tubes, and the mixture was gently mixed before the following conditions were met during incubation: 35 cycles of 30 seconds at 95°C, 60°C, and 72°C. Using 2 % agarose gel electrophoresis and Gelstan 1012 (Medicare Scientific), gene expression was measured for each gene of interest and normalized to a housekeeping gene (β -ACTIN)

The intensities of the bands were quantified utilizing the National Institutes of Health's ImageJ program (Bethesda, MD, USA).

Western Blotting

Total Protein Isolation

Unsilenced A549 and NCI-H460 cells and silenced using siRNA and their negative controls transfected in A549 and NCI-H460 1 ml was used to lyse the cells. of RIPA (Radio Immunoprecipitation Assay) lysis buffer (pH 7.4+ 0.1) containing 10 μ l of (200 mM) PMSF, 10 μ l of (100 mM) Sodium orthovanadate and 10 μ l of protease inhibitor cocktail (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA). The cells were collected from the plates by using cell scraper and added into micro centrifuge tubes, then kept in ice for 15 mins and vortexed for 5 mins. After incubation, the cells were centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 20 mins at 4°C. The cleared supernatant was collected in a new tube and again centrifuged 12,000 rpm for 10 mins at 4°C. The cleared supernatant was collected and aliquoted for further use. Isolated protein samples were stored at -20°C freezer until further experiments.

Protein Estimation

Total protein concentration was measured by using Lowry's method (Lowry et al., 1951). BSA (Bovine Serum Albumin) was used as a standard and measured the absorbance of standards and samples at 660 nm.Separation of protein by SDS-Gel electrophoresis and detection

The quantified protein (50µg per lane) was resuspended in 6 X protein loading buffer and separated by using 12 % SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (100V, 2.30h) and then were transferred onto a nitrocellulose membrane (150 V for a 1.30h) (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) by using Towbin buffer (25mM Tris base, 20 % methanol, 190 mM glycine, and a pH of 8.3). The membranes were incubated at room temperature for 1 h with blocking buffer (freshly prepared To prevent nonspecific antibody binding, 5% skimmed milk powder in TBS-T (20 mM Tris, 136 mM NaCl, 0.1% Tween 20, pH 7.6) is added. Primary monoclonal antibodies against mice and rabbits were diluted 1:10,000 and incubated for an entire night at 4°C. Membranes were cleaned three times in five minutes using TBS-T and TBS. Following a further hour of incubation at room temperature, the membranes were rinsed three times for five minutes using TBS-T and TBS after being treated with a goat anti-rabbit or anti-mouse secondary antibody (Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA, USA). The 200 µl BCIP/NBT solution (Merck Millipore, Bedford, MD, USA) was used to identify bands. Bio-Rad Gel doc XR plus (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) was used to observe the bands, and ImageJ software (NIH) was used to quantify the band intensities.

Results and Discussion

Silencing of SIRT6 Increase Phosphorylation

SIRT6 was found to be overexpressed in NSCLC. Further, we intend to investigate whether the depletion of SIRT6 possesses an impact on the control of GSK3 BETA phosphorylation in NSCLC. Our results show that after the knockdown of SIRT6 the phospho- GSK3 BETA level was increased. This result indicates that SIRT6 alters GSK3 expression by posttranslational modification.

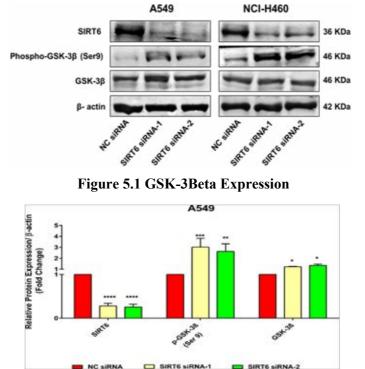


Figure 5.2 Effect of SIRT6 Knockdown by siRNA on GSK-3Beta in A549 Cell Line

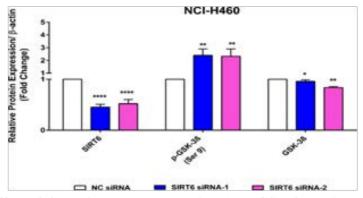


Figure 5.3 Effect of SIRT6 Knockdown by siRNA on GSK-3Beta in H460 Cell Line

Serine/threonine (S/T) protein kinase, GSK-3, is a kind of kinase. While the first identification of GSK-3's actions involved glycogen synthase control, more research revealed that GSK-3 is involved in numerous normal biochemical processes as well as a variety of pathological disorders.

Given its ability to regulate so many different substrates and processes, GSK-3 is sometimes referred to as a "moonlighting" protein. GSK-3 phosphorylates proteins, which often results in their destruction. Since AKT commonly phosphorylates GSK-3 and controls its inactivation, GSK-3 is frequently thought of as a part of the PI3K/PTEN/AKT/GSK-3/mTORC1 pathway. GSK-3 is frequently inactivated in human cancer because AKT is frequently active.

Furthermore, GSK-3 targets β -catenin and other proteins in the WNT/ β -catenin signaling pathway and interacts with them. NF- κ B activity, which is frequently expressed at high levels in cancer cells, can be altered by GSK-3. To reduce GSK-3 activity, several pharmaceutical companies created small molecule inhibitors. Furthermore, different natural compounds will alter the action of GSK-3. The impact of natural products and small chemical inhibitors on GSK-3 activity will be the main topic of this review, along with instances of how these substances have successfully stopped the spread of cancer.

According to recent research, SIRT6 overexpression inhibits the AKT/GSK3β/CRMP2 signaling pathway, which may lead to behaviors resembling depression. Conversely, in mice, downregulating hippocampus SIRT6 has an antidepressant-like effect.

According to our exact findings, $GSK3\beta$ is phosphorylated more at the ser-09 location and is less active in NSCLC cell lines when SIRT6 is silenced.

Conclusions

The removal of the acetyl group from histone proteins is the primary function of the seven sirtuin proteins, which are class III histone deacetylase enzymes (HDAC) and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD)-dependent deacetylases and ADP-ribosyl transferases. One of the sirtuins, SIRT6, is involved in the development of cancer in a variety of cancer types. As a result, suppressing SIRT6 in NSCLC cell lines causes apoptosis and reduces cell proliferation, as we recently revealed that SIRT6 functions as an oncogene in NSCLC. It has been observed that WNT signaling controls cell differentiation and proliferation in addition to being involved in cell survival. GSK-3, a serine/threonine protein kinase, is widely expressed and phosphorylates glycogen synthase, thereby rendering it inactive.

GSK-3 is an essential downstream component of the PI3K/Akt pathway that is phosphorylated at Ser9 of GSK-3 β and Ser21 of GSK-3 α by Akt, which inhibits GSK-3's function. GSK-3 is a part of the Wnt signaling pathway that is necessary for the development of Drosophila, Xenopus, and mammals. It has been linked to the control of cell destiny in Dictyostelium. The purpose of this work is to investigate the precise mechanism by which SIRT6 controls the posttranslational alteration GSK-3 β in non-small cell lung cancer and how it is correlated with WNT signaling.

Main methods: Human NSCLC cells have been used in in vitro studies. By suppressing SIRT6 in NSCLC, Western blot was used to investigate the pivotal moments in the regulation of GSK-3β.

Key findings: The results of this investigation indicate that GSK-3 β is markedly phosphorylated and destabilized when SIRT6 is silenced.

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