

Oxidative injury induced by hypochlorous acid to Ca-ATPase from sarcoplasmic reticulum of skeletal muscle and protective effect of trolox

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Abstract. Hypochlorous acid (HOCl) concentration-dependently decreased ATPase activity and SH groups of pure Ca-ATPase from sarcoplasmic reticulum (SERCA) of rabbit skeletal muscle with IC₅₀ of 150 μmol/l and 6.6 μmol/l, respectively. This indicates that SH groups were not critical for impairment of Ca-ATPase activity. Pure Ca-ATPase activity was analysed individually with respect to both substrates, Ca²⁺ and ATP. Concerning dependence of ATPase activity on HOCl (150 μmol/l) as a function of free Ca²⁺ and ATP, V_{max} of both dependences decreased significantly, while the affinities to individual substrates were not influenced, with the exception of the regulatory binding site of ATP.

On increasing HOCl concentration, fluorescence of fluorescein-5-isothiocyanate (FITC) decreased, indicating binding of HOCl to nucleotide binding site of SERCA. A new fragment appeared at 75 kDa after HOCl oxidation of SR, indicating fragmentation of SERCA. Fragmentation may be associated with protein carbonyl formation. The density of protein carbonyl bands at 75 and 110 kDa increased concentration- and time-dependently.

Trolox (250 μmol/l) recovered the Ca-ATPase activity decrease induced by HOCl, probably by changing conformational properties of the Ca-ATPase protein. Trolox inhibited FITC binding to SERCA.

Key words: Ca-ATPase — HOCl oxidative stress — Trolox

Abbreviations: BSA, bovine serum albumin; Ca²⁺_{free}, free calcium ions; DNPH, dinitrophenylhydrazine; FITC, fluorescein-5-isothiocyanate; *h*, Hill coefficient – an indicator of steepness of the curve; I, intensity; IC₅₀, half maximal inhibitory concentration; PAPC, palmitoyl-arachidonoyl phosphatidylcholine; PCs, phosphatidylcholines; PEs, phosphatidylethanolamines; PLPC, palmitoyl-linoleoyl phosphatidylcholine; POPC, palmitoyl-oleoyl phosphatidylcholine; SERCA, skeletal muscle sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca-ATPase; ER/SR, endoplasmic/sarcoplasmic reticulum.

Introduction

Stimulated polymorphonuclear neutrophilic granulocytes cells, present under inflammatory conditions, produce highly reactive species such as superoxide anion and hydrogen

peroxide (H₂O₂), and also release the enzyme myeloperoxidase (Jesaitis and Dratz 1992; Schaur et al. 1998). The highly reactive biological oxidant hypochlorous acid (HOCl) is generated *via* the myeloperoxidase-catalysed oxidation of the physiological concentrations of chloride (Cl⁻) by H₂O₂ (Zavodnik et al. 2001; Winterbourn 2002). HOCl plays an important role in both microbial killing and inflammatory tissue injury by neutrophils (Soszyński et al. 2002) and has been implicated also in the diseases or pathological states like ischemia/reperfusion, atherosclerosis, skeletal muscle

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dysfunction, rheumatoid arthritis and in inflammatory conditions (Pullar et al. 1999; Soszyński et al. 2002), and is believed to participate in the development of atherosclerotic lesions (Zabe et al. 1999).

The toxicity of HOCl is based on its ability to react with biological target molecules including lipids, proteins and DNA, forming long-lived chloramines on reaction with amine group (Vissers and Winterbourn 1995; Carr and Winterbourn 1997; Hawkins and Davies 1998; Winterbourn 2002; Robaszkiewicz et al. 2008a,b). Lysine residues appear to be a major site of reaction of HOCl with many proteins (Zavodnik et al. 2001). The result of this process is chloramine species, which subsequently decompose to give nitrogen-centred protein radicals. These radicals are key species in HOCl-induced protein backbone fragmentation and dimerisation (Hawkins and Davies 1998).

Low sublethal doses of HOCl react with cellular thiols (glutathione and protein thiols) and could modulate specific cell processes, e.g. initiate apoptosis (Pullar et al. 1999; Vissers et al. 1999). HOCl induces caspase activity and can modify cellular responses that are dependent on various signal transduction pathways. Higher concentrations of HOCl cause rapid necrosis (Vissers et al. 1999). Oxidation of SH groups, tryptophan (Trp) residues, chloramine formation, changes of membrane fluidity, etc. are events included in injury of ion transport ATPases in erythrocytes induced by HOCl, preceding cell lysis (Zavodnik et al. 2001).

Previously we found that trolox, a water soluble derivative of a tocopherol, was able to prevent skeletal muscle sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) Ca-ATPase activity decrease after oxidation of SR vesicles by HOCl (Strosova et al. 2005a). In this work we analysed the protective effect of trolox on pure Ca-ATPase from the same source, with the aim to attempt to explain the mechanisms of this prevention. Possible structural changes of skeletal muscle sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca-ATPase (SERCA) involved in HOCl-induced injury, as well as in the trolox protective effect, were investigated in SR vesicles.

Materials and Methods

Isolation of SR and pure Ca-ATPase

SR vesicles and pure Ca-ATPase (EC 3.6.1.38) were isolated from skeletal muscles of New Zealand rabbits according to Warren et al. (1974a,b), as modified by Karlovska et al. (2005).

Oxidation of SR vesicles

For determination of enzyme activity, SR vesicles or pure Ca-ATPase (0.1 mg protein/ml) from rabbit skeletal muscles were oxidised by HOCl (50–200 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) for 3 min at 25°C,

pH 7.2. The oxidation was stopped by the addition of cysteine (1 mmol/l). Description of SR or pure SERCA oxidation for determination individual markers of oxidative injury is specified in the figure legends.

Ca-ATPase activity

Enzyme activity of Ca-ATPase from SR (SERCA) of rabbit skeletal muscles was measured by NADH-coupled enzyme assay outlined by Warren et al. (1974a,b) and modified by Karlovska et al. (2006). The SR vesicles (final concentration 12.5 μg protein/cuvette) were added to the assay mixture (40 mmol/l Hepes (pH 7.2), 0.1 mol/l KCl, 5.1 mmol/l MgSO_4 , 2.1 mmol/l ATP, 0.52 mmol/l phosphoenolpyruvate, 1 mmol/l EGTA, 0.15 mmol/l NADH, 7.5 IU of pyruvate kinase, 18 IU of lactate dehydrogenase), and incubated at 37°C for 15 min. The reaction was started by the addition of CaCl_2 (final concentration 1 mmol/l). The reaction rate was determined by measuring the decrease in NADH absorbance at 340 nm, at 37°C.

ATPase activity was also studied as a function of free Ca^{2+} concentrations and ATP. Concentrations of free Ca^{2+} were calculated by the computer program Maxchelator (Patton 2004) using the binding affinities described by Gould et al. (1986). The dependence of ATPase activity on free Ca^{2+} concentration was fitted to the Hill equation:

$$A = \frac{V_{max} [Ca_{free}^{2+}]^h}{K^h + [Ca_{free}^{2+}]^h}$$

where V_{max} is the activity of Ca-ATPase at saturated concentration of the substrate, K is the concentration of Ca^{2+}_{free} corresponding to one-half of V_{max} , and h is the Hill coefficient, an indicator of steepness of the curve, describes the cooperativity of binding sites of the enzyme studied.

The dependence of ATPase activity on ATP concentration was fitted to the bi-Michaelis-Menten equation according to Kosk-Kosicka (1983) and Michelangeli et al. (1991):

$$[EP] = \frac{V'_{max} [Mg.ATP]}{K'_m + [Mg.ATP]} + \frac{V''_{max} [Mg.ATP]}{K''_m + [Mg.ATP]}$$

where V^i_{max} is the activity at saturated concentrations of the substrate and K^i_m is the Michaelis constant. The indices I = I and II mean high- and low-affinity binding sites, respectively.

SH group determination

The content of SH groups in pure Ca-ATPase was determined spectrophotometrically by measuring of absorbance at 412 nm after reaction with DTNB (5,5'-dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid) (Favero et al. 1998). Pure Ca-ATPase (200 μg protein/ml) was incubated for 10 min at 25°C in 50 mmol/l Tris with HOCl.

SDS-PAGE

SR proteins (1 mg/ml) were separated according to Laemmli (1970) by denaturing sodium dodecyl sulphate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) using a mini-PROTEAN II electrophoresis cell (Bio-Rad, Munich, Germany). Aliquots of the samples in Laemmli-buffer (pH 6.8) containing 25 mmol/l Tris, 1% SDS, 0.192 mol/l glycine, 1% bromophenol blue, and 5% mercaptoethanol added freshly to the buffer each time, were incubated for 10 min at 95°C and then loaded onto a SDS-PAGE (7.5% separating- and 4% stacking-gel). The separation was performed for 0.5 h at 50 V and afterwards for approximately 2 h at 150 V until the first marker reached the end of the gel. Visualisation was performed by Coomassie Brilliant Blue staining.

ELISA

A sensitive enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) as described by Buss et al. (1997) was used for the quantitative determination of protein carbonyls in SR vesicles. Protein samples were derivatised with dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) and adsorbed in multiwell-plates (Nunc Immunosorp Plates, Roskilde, Denmark). A biotin-conjugated anti-dinitrophenyl-rabbit-IgG-antiserum (Sigma, USA) was used as primary antibody and a monoclonal anti-rabbit-IgG-antibody peroxidase conjugate (Sigma, USA) as secondary antibody. The development was performed with o-phenyldiamine. Absorbance was determined at 492 nm. The method was calibrated using oxidised bovine serum albumin (BSA). Oxidised and reduced BSA were prepared according to the method of Buss et al. (1997).

Western-blot for protein carbonyl determination

The protein-bound carbonyls in the SR vesicles were derivatised with DNPH, separated by SDS-PAGE, and transferred to nitrocellulose membrane (Hybond-P; Amersham Biosciences, Munich, Germany) by semidry immunoblotting. The detection was performed by enzymatic chemiluminescent system (Amersham Biosciences, Munich, Germany) after incubation with a primary antibody (biotinylated anti-DNP-rabbit-IgG-antibody) against DNP-adducts and a peroxidase-labelled secondary anti-rabbit-IgG antibody against the first one. Densitometric quantification of the protein-bound carbonyls was done by FluorChem 8900 software, version 3.2.3. (Alpha Innotech Corporation).

Trp fluorescence

The fluorescence intensity of Trp residues in water is low with the emission maximum at 358 nm, and in dioxane (nonpolar environment) it is high, with the emission maximum at

336 nm (Restall et al. 1986). The intensity ratio $I_{358\text{nm}}/I_{336\text{nm}}$ corresponds to fluorescence of Trp residues in polar (cytosol) and nonpolar (membrane) environment and can be a marker of SERCA conformational changes. Trp fluorescence in membrane proteins of SR was measured on a Perkin Elmer LS45 spectrofluorometer (Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) at 25°C. Trp emission spectra were collected by exciting at 290 nm and the emission spectra were recorded in the range of 300–450 nm (Carney et al. 2007).

Labelling of Ca-ATPase by FITC

ATPase from SR was labelled with fluorescein-5-isothiocyanate (FITC) according to the method described by Froud and Lee (1986). FITC 'Isomer I' was obtained from Invitrogen™ (Carlsbad, USA). When FITC : ATPase labelling ratios are below 1 : 1, at pH 8, reaction of binding FITC to ATPase is complete, so that separation of bound and free FITC became unnecessary (Froud and Lee 1986).

We used FITC : ATPase labelling ratio of approx. 0.5 : 1. SR (0.6 mg) in 1 mol/l KCl, 0.25 mol/l sucrose and 50 mmol/l Hepes (pH 8), in the volume 35 µl was incubated with 2.5 nmol of FITC. Stock solution of FITC (6 mmol/l) was prepared in dry dimethylformamide. The reaction mixture was left to stand at room temperature in dark for 1 h and then diluted with 250 µl of 0.2 mol/l sucrose and 50 mmol/l Tris-HCl (pH 7). Labelled samples were stabilised 30 min at room temperature and stored on ice until use.

Fluorescence spectra were measured on a Perkin Elmer LS45 spectrofluorometer (Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) at 25°C. Labelled protein (15 µg) was added to 1 ml of 5 mmol/l MgSO₄, 100 mmol/l KCl and 50 mmol/l Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7) at 25°C. EGTA and CaCl₂ were added from stock solutions to give total concentrations of 25 µmol/l and 0.8 mmol/l, respectively. Fluorescence spectra were collected by exciting at 485 nm and the emission spectra were recorded in the range of 500–600 nm.

ES-MS and LC-MS

Electrospray mass spectrometry (ES-MS) was performed in positive-ion mode on a LCQ Duo circular ion trap mass spectrometer (Thermo-Finnigan, Hemel Hempstead, UK). For direct infusion of samples, the solvent system was 9 : 1 methanol/water (v/v), with a flow rate of 5 µl/min. The capillary temperature was set to 200°C, with a nebulising gas flow of 20 l/h and a drying gas flow of 400 l/h. Data were collected between 400 and 1000 m/z. Rat SR vesicles were reconstituted in 9 : 1 methanol/water (v/v) (usually 1 µl in 100 µl) and diluted 10-fold in this solvent.

Reverse phase liquid chromatography-MS (LC-MS) was carried out essentially as described previously

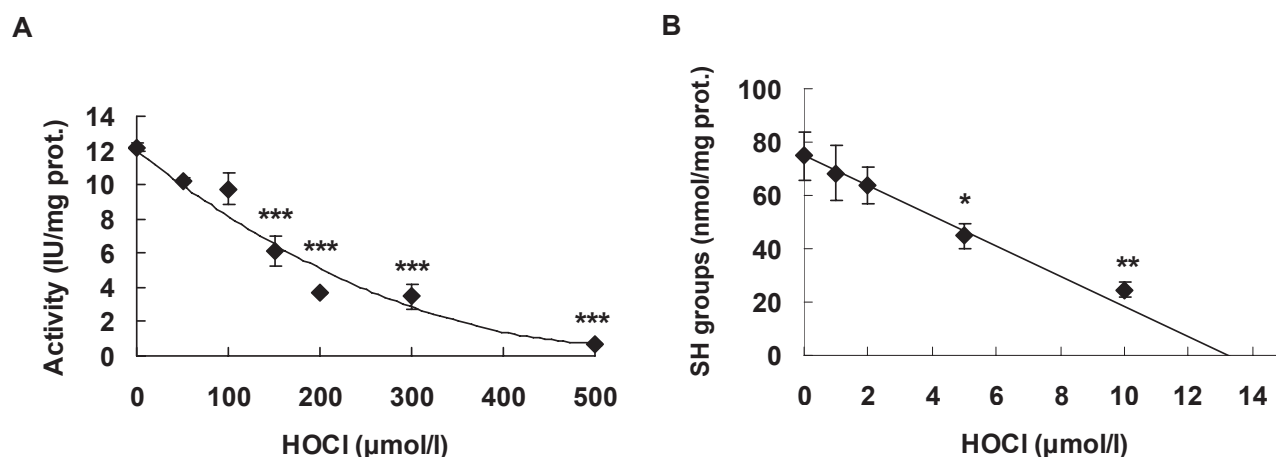


Figure 1. HOCl concentration-dependence of purified Ca-ATPase activity (A) and SH group content in purified enzyme (B). Purified Ca-ATPase (0.1 mg prot./ml (A), 0.2 mg prot./ml (B)) was exposed to various concentrations of HOCl for 3 min (A) or for 10 min (B) at 25°C and pH 7.2. Values are means \pm SEM of 3 independent measurements with at least 3 parallels. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ are significant differences between control and by HOCl oxidised samples.

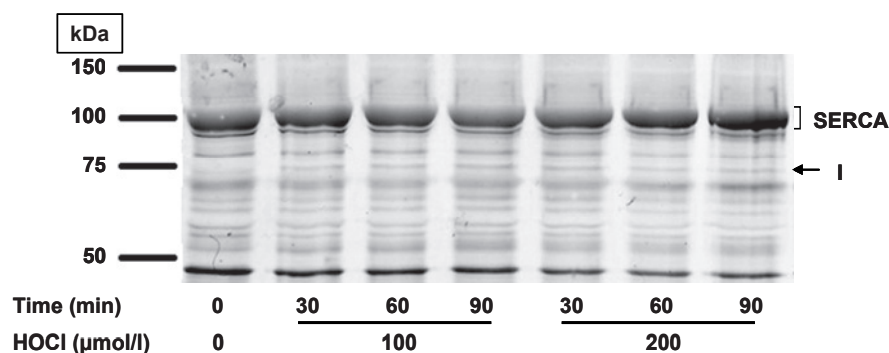


Figure 2. SDS-PAGE of SERCA oxidised by HOCl. SR (1 mg prot./ml) was exposed to HOCl (100 and 200 μmol/l) at pH 7.2 and 37°C, for 30, 60 and 90 min. Proteins were separated on SDS-PAGE and visualised by Coomassie Brilliant Blue. The arrow marked band around 75 kDa represents fragment I. The gel shows 1 representative of 3 independent experiments.

(Spickett et al. 2001), but using a Thermo-Finnigan Surveyor system and a Luna C8 column (5 μm RP-Sct, 1 mm inner diameter \times 150 mm; Phenomenex, UK). This column was operated at a flow rate of 100 μl/min with an isocratic solvent system of 71 : 4 : 8 (by vol.) methanol/hexane/0.1 mol/l aq. ammonium acetate. Rat SR vesicles were reconstituted in 9 : 1 methanol/water as above and diluted 5-fold in running solvent; 20 μl of sample were injected per run.

Reconstructed ion chromatograms showing individual molecular species were generated using Excalibur software (Thermo-Finnigan), and were mean-smoothed. In all the spectra and chromatograms shown the percentage scale on the vertical axes corresponds to intensity related to that of

the largest peak in the region analysed, unless otherwise stated.

Statistical data analysis

For statistical analysis we used unpaired one-way ANOVA test with Dunnett *post hoc* comparison (nonparametric test) for mutual comparison of treated samples with control.

All procedures involving animals were performed in compliance with the Principles of Laboratory Animal Care issued by the Ethical Committee of the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, and by the State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic.

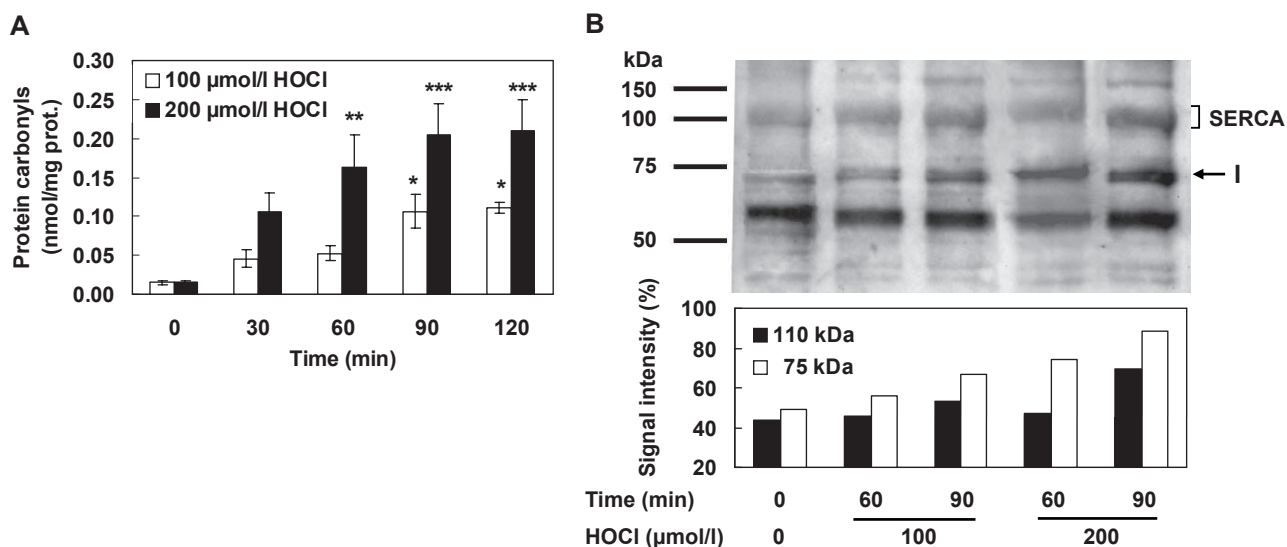


Figure 3. Protein carbonyl formation in SERCA in time course of incubation by HOCl. SR (1 mg prot./ml) was exposed to HOCl (100 and 200 µmol/l) at pH 7.2 and 37°C, for 30, 60, 90 and 120 min. Protein carbonyls were either determined by ELISA (A) or by the immunoblot detection of protein bound carbonyls after derivatisation with DNPH (B). The blot shows 1 representative of 3 independent experiments. The signal intensity of protein carbonyls of SERCA and fragment I quantified by FluorChem 8900 software (version 3.2.3. Alpha Innotech Corporation) is shown in panel B. Values of ELISA are mean \pm SEM of 3 independent measurements with at least 3 replicates. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$ are significant differences between control and HOCl-oxidised samples.

Results

Effects of HOCl and possible protective effects of trolox on pure Ca-ATPase activity from rabbit skeletal muscles were studied. We found that HOCl decreased purified Ca-ATPase activity concentration-dependently and that IC_{50} of this decrease was 150 µmol/l (Fig. 1A). Analogously, SH groups of this enzyme decreased following HOCl-treatment in a concentration-dependent manner (Fig. 1B), with IC_{50} of 6.6 µmol/l. In SR vesicles, 70–90% of protein is Ca-ATPase (Warren et al. 1974a; Castilho et al. 1996). The effect of HOCl on SR protein was tested by PAGE following treatment with two concentrations (100 and 200 µmol/l) of HOCl in time courses of 30, 60, 90 min. Incubation of SERCA with HOCl induced generation of a new band at approximately 75 kDa (Fig. 2), indicating fragmentation of the protein.

Protein carbonyls in SR were analysed by ELISA and by Western immunoblotting (Fig. 3). Analysis by ELISA was performed at HOCl concentrations of 100 and 200 µmol/l in the time course of 0–120 min. A linear increase in carbonyls (0–90 min) was observed over time when 100 or 200 µmol/l HOCl was incubated with SR, reaching a plateau at 120 min. A higher content of protein carbonyls was identified when SR was incubated with 200 µmol/l HOCl. Immunoblotting was used to analyse protein carbonyls in SR after incubation

with 100 and 200 µmol/l HOCl at two time points, 60 and 90 min. The density of bands at 110 and 75 kDa increased with increasing HOCl concentration and was time-dependent.

Structural changes of Ca-ATPase may be responsible for Ca-ATPase activity decrease, according to fluorescence studies like FITC and Trp fluorescence. The fluorescent probe FITC was used to assess structural alteration of the ATP (nucleotide) binding site of the SERCA protein, because FITC binding is localised at a specific lysine residue (Lys⁵¹⁵) comprised in this binding site. HOCl concentration-dependently decreased fluorescence of FITC (Fig. 4A). Similarly, trolox significantly decreased FITC fluorescence intensity (Fig. 4B), inhibiting the binding of FITC to the ATPase protein in nucleotide binding site. The ratio of fluorescence intensities I_{358nm}/I_{336nm} of Trp residues in polar (cytosol) and nonpolar (membrane) environment can be a marker of SERCA conformational changes. HOCl did not alter the I_{358nm}/I_{336nm} ratio (Fig. 4C).

Lipid content and possible lipid oxidation in SR was analysed by ES-MS and by high performance liquid chromatography with detection by ES-MS (LC-MS). The native SR membranes from rabbit muscles consisted mainly of phosphatidylcholines (PCs) and phosphatidylethanolamines (PEs) containing saturated and unsaturated fatty acyl chains (Table 1). The intensity of the signals corresponding to PCs was nearly 10-times higher than that of the PEs. While palmitoyl-containing PCs dominated

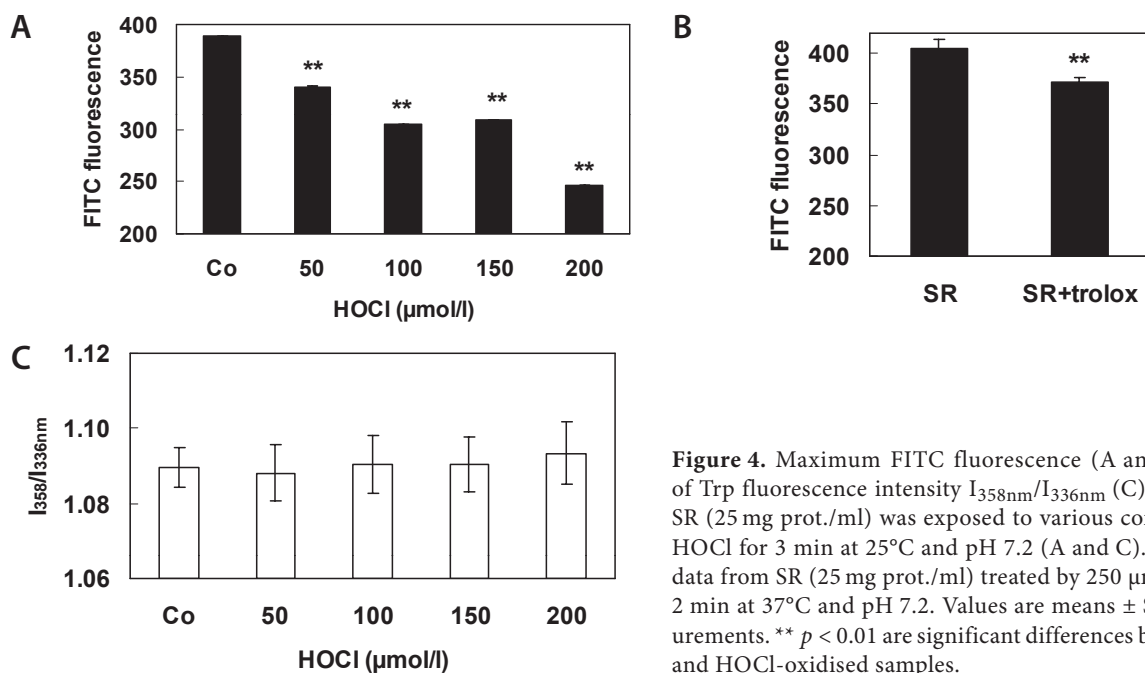


Figure 4. Maximum FITC fluorescence (A and B) and ratio of Trp fluorescence intensity I_{358nm}/I_{336nm} (C) in SR vesicles. SR (25 mg prot./ml) was exposed to various concentrations of HOCl for 3 min at 25°C and pH 7.2 (A and C). Panel B shows data from SR (25 mg prot./ml) treated by 250 μmol/l trolox for 2 min at 37°C and pH 7.2. Values are means ± SD of 10 measurements. ** $p < 0.01$ are significant differences between control and HOCl-oxidised samples.

Table 1. Phosphatidylcholines (PCs) and phosphatidylethanolamines (PEs) in native SR membranes. Spectra were recorded on a Thermo-Finnigan Surveyor system

PCs

Name	m/z		FAs	Signal
	H ⁺	Na ⁺		
DP ₁ PC (palmitoyl-palmitoleoyl)	732	754	16:0, 16:1	--
DPPC (dipalmitoyl)	734	756	16:0, 16:0	--
PLPC (palmitoyl-linoleoyl)	758	780	16:0, 18:2	+++
POPC (palmitoyl-oleoyl)	760	782	16:0, 18:1	++
PAPC (palmitoyl-arachidonoyl)	782	804	16:0, 20:4	+++
SL ₃ PC (stearoyl-linolenoyl)	784	806	18:0, 18:3	-
SLPC (stearoyl-linoleoyl)	786	808	18:0, 18:2	--
PD ₆ PC (palmitoyl-decoseahexaenoyl)	806	828	16:0, 22:6	-
PD ₅ PC (palmitoyl-decoseaheptaenoyl)	808	830	16:0, 22:5	-
SAPC (stearoyl-arachidonoyl)	810	832	18:0, 20:4	-

PEs

Name	m/z		FAs	Signal
	H ⁺	Na ⁺		
PLPE (palmitoyl-linoleoyl)	716	738	16:0, 18:2	--
PAPE (palmitoyl-arachidonoyl)	740	762	16:0, 20:4	--
SL ₃ PE (stearoyl-linolenoyl)	742	764	18:0, 18:3	--
SLPE (stearoyl-linoleoyl)	744	766	18:0, 18:2	++
PD ₆ PE (palmitoyl-decoseahexaenoyl)	764	786	16:0, 22:6	--
SAPE (stearoyl-arachidonoyl)	768	790	18:0, 20:4	++
SD ₆ PE (stearoyl-decoseahexaenoyl)	792	814	18:0, 22:6	+
SD ₅ PE (stearoyl-decoseaheptaenoyl)	794	816	18:0, 22:5	--

FAs, fatty acyl chains. Intensity of phospholipids signals are: +++ very strong, ++ strong, + medium, - weak, -- very weak.

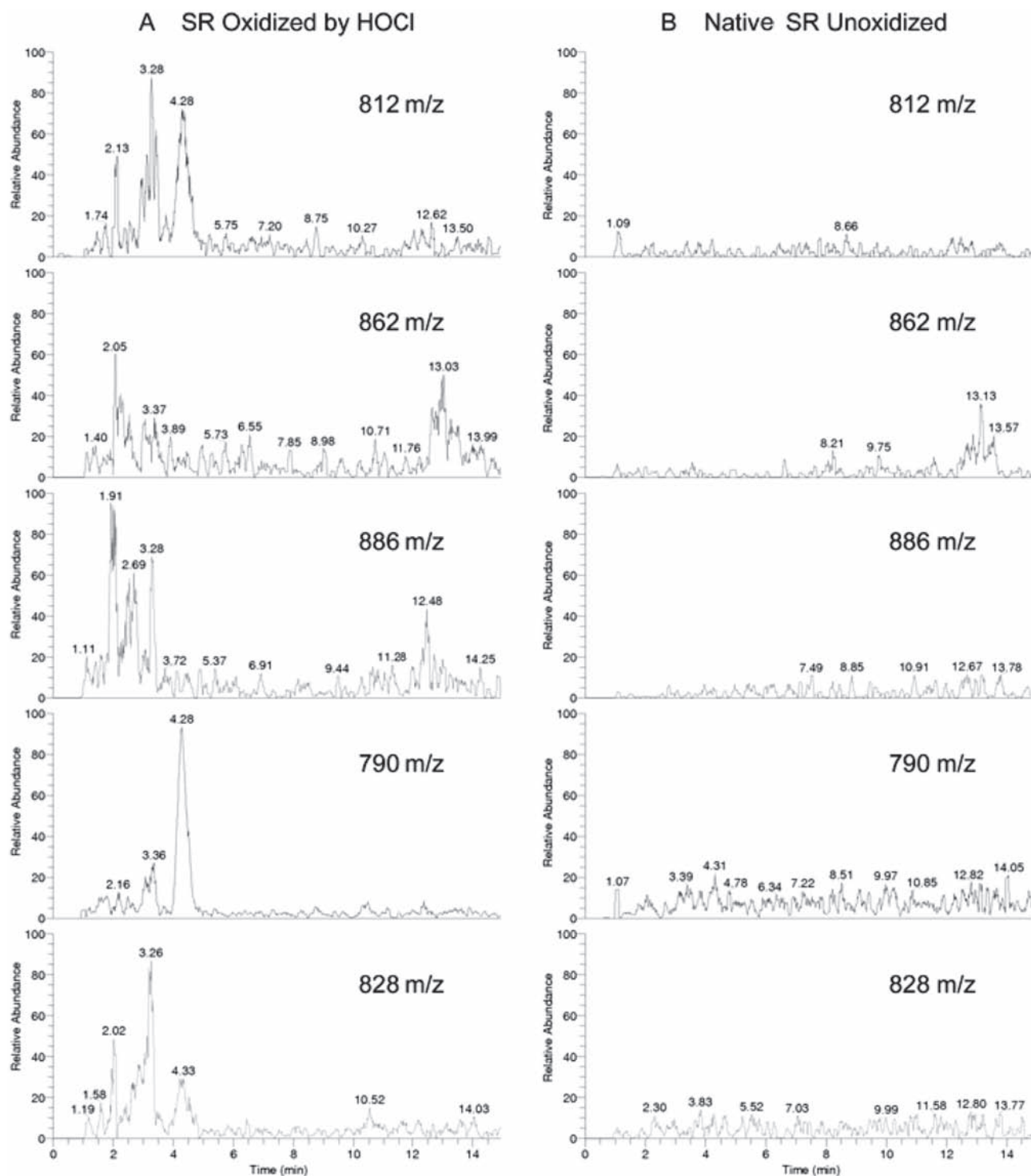


Figure 5. Reconstructed ion chromatograms of oxidised phosphatidylcholines in SR vesicles. Spectra were recorded on a Thermo-Finnigan LCQ. **A.** Data from SR (1 mg prot./ml) oxidised by 10 mmol/l HOCl for 2 h at 37°C. **B.** Data from native unoxidised SR, as indicated; 812 m/z corresponds to the mono-chlorohydrin of POPC; 862 and 886 m/z correspond to bischlorohydrins of PLPC and PAPC respectively; 790 m/z corresponds to the monoperoxide of PLPC; 828 m/z corresponds to the dehydration product of the bisperoxide of PAPC. The oxidized lipids elute early in the spectra (before 6 min); the components eluting after 10 min in the unoxidised samples are unsaturated native lipids that have the same m/z as the oxidised lipid.

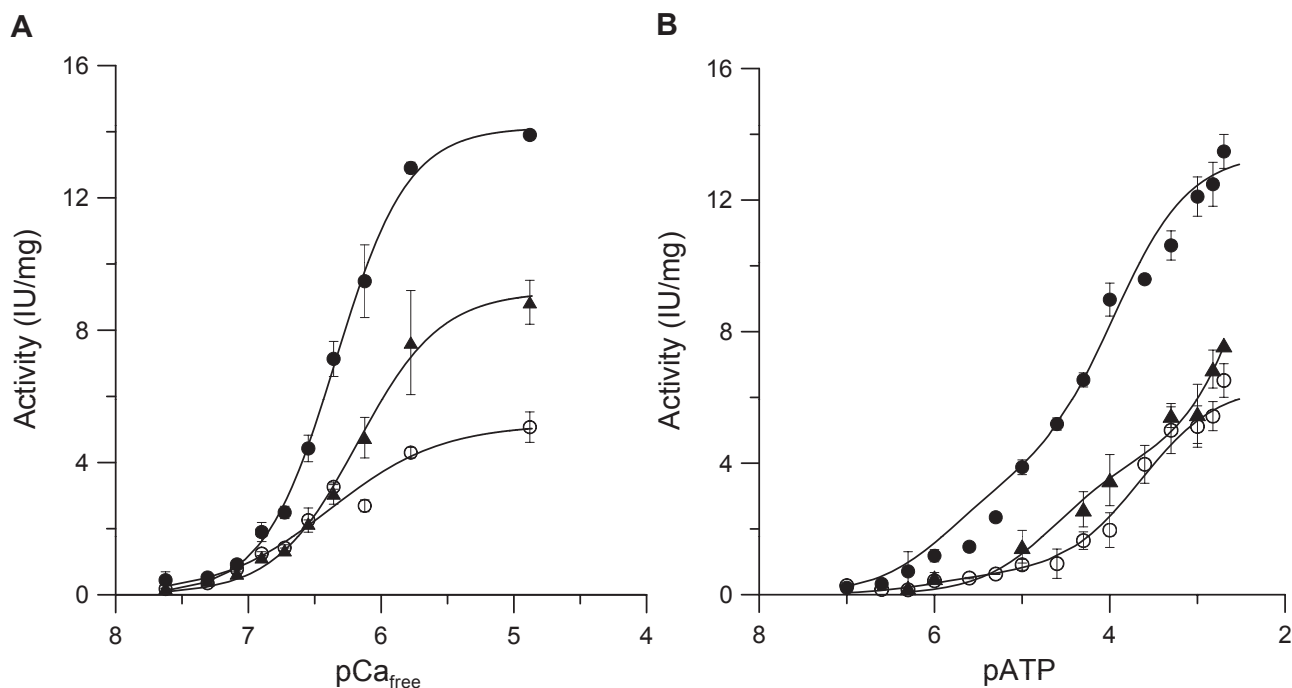


Figure 6. Activity of purified Ca-ATPase as a function of the concentrations of free Ca^{2+} (A) and ATP (B) in the absence (\bullet) and presence of HOCl (\circ) and HOCl + trolox (\blacktriangle). Ca-ATPase was incubated with HOCl (100 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) for 3 min. Trolox (250 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) was added 2 min before HOCl incubation. The kinetic parameters are given in Table 2. Each point is the mean \pm SEM of at least 3 independent experiments. $\text{pCa}_{\text{free}} = -\log[\text{Ca}^{2+}_{\text{free}}]$, $\text{pATP} = -\log[\text{ATP}]$, the concentrations of free Ca^{2+} and ATP was in mol/l (p means inverse logarithm).

(C16:0/18:2 at 758 m/z and C16:0/20:4 at 782 m/z), the PEs tended to contain stearate, such as C18:0/18:2 at 744 m/z, C18:0/20:4 at 768 m/z and C18:0/22:6 at 792 m/z. There were also fewer mono-unsaturated fatty acyl chains in PEs compared to PCs.

The presence of oxidised phospholipids in SR membranes was investigated in native unoxidised samples compared to *in vitro* oxidised samples by 10 mmol/l HOCl for 2 h at 37°C. The formation of chlorohydrins and hydroperoxides is summarised in Fig. 5. The strongest chlorination product was the monochlorohydrin of palmitoyl-oleoyl PC at 812 m/z. Bischlorohydrins of palmitoyl-linoleoyl and palmitoyl-arachidonoyl PC were also evident in the reconstructed ion chromatograms at 862 and 886 m/z, respectively. HOCl treatment of SR membranes also resulted in the formation of the monoperoxides of palmitoyl-linoleoyl PC (790 m/z) and moreover there was a small amount of peroxides from stearoyl-arachidonoyl PC. Finally, there was evidence for the formation of a bis-peroxide of stearoyl-arachidonoyl PE at 832 m/z, which is interesting, as reports concerning the observation of PE oxidation products in biological samples are rather scanty.

Effects of HOCl and trolox, added before HOCl, on the activity of Ca-ATPase were studied with respect to both free Ca^{2+} ions and ATP concentrations (Fig. 6). Kinetic param-

eters concerning Ca^{2+} dependence were calculated from the Hill equation (Gould et al. 1986) and the dependence of Ca-ATPase activity on ATP concentration was described by a modified form of the bi-Michaelis-Menten equation according to Kosk-Kosicka et al. (1983) and Michelangeli et al. (1991). These authors suggest that ATP interacts at two sites: a high-affinity (catalytic) site and a low-affinity (regulatory) site.

Kinetic parameters of purified Ca-ATPase activity as a function of free Ca^{2+} in the absence and presence of HOCl, and in samples oxidised by HOCl and pretreated by trolox, are summarised in Table 2A. Concerning the dependence of ATPase activity on HOCl (150 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) as a function of free Ca^{2+} concentration (0.024–13.5 $\mu\text{mol/l}$), parameters V_{max} and h decreased significantly, and K , characterising affinity of the enzyme to free Ca^{2+} ions, was within error margins equal to that of control samples. Trolox (250 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) recovered the decreased Ca-ATPase activity induced by HOCl, as depicted in Fig. 6A. The kinetic parameters concerning increasing free Ca^{2+} concentration, K and h , increased practically to the same values as found without being affected by HOCl, indicating that trolox decreased the affinity of the enzyme for free Ca^{2+} ions. V_{max} increased significantly compared with the value observed after HOCl injury (Table 2A).

Table 2. Kinetic parameters of purified Ca-ATPase activity as a function of free Ca²⁺ (Part A) and ATP (Part B) concentration in the absence and presence of HOCl and HOCl + trolox. Each value is the mean \pm SD of at least three independent experiments

	Part A				Part B				
	K_m ($\mu\text{mol/l}$)	V_{max} (IU/mg)	h	r^2	Catalytic		Regulatory		
	K_m ($\mu\text{mol/l}$)	V_{max} (IU/mg)	h	r^2	K_m ($\mu\text{mol/l}$)	V_{max} (IU/mg)	K_m (mmol/l)	V_{max} (IU/mg)	r^2
Control	0.46 (1)	14.13 (1)	1.59 (1)	0.998	1.4 (1)	3.57 (1)	0.11 (1)	9.87 (1)	0.985
HOCl (150 $\mu\text{mol/l}$)	0.41 (0.9)	5.16 (0.4)	1.03 (0.6)	0.963	1.0 (0.7)	0.64 (0.2)	0.23 (2.1)	5.71 (0.6)	0.970
HOCl + trolox (250 $\mu\text{mol/l}$)	0.67 (1.5)	9.16 (0.6)	1.39 (0.9)	0.994	23.6 (17)	4.11 (1.1)	7.50 (68)	16.71 (1.7)	0.984

V_{max} , the maximal reaction rate; K_m , the Michaelis constant; h , the Hill coefficient; r^2 , the correlation coefficient. The numbers in brackets are in relative units, where control samples were set as 1.

Kinetic parameters of purified Ca-ATPase activity as a function of ATP concentration in the absence and presence of HOCl, and in samples oxidised by HOCl and pretreated by trolox are summarised in Table 2B. Similarly, the affinity of Ca-ATPase to ATP (0.1–2 mmol/l) was not altered after incubation with HOCl however, the V_{max} of the catalytic binding site for ATP decreased significantly. Kinetic parameters of the regulatory binding site were within error margins equal to that of control samples. With increasing ATP concentrations, trolox decreased the affinity of Ca-ATPase to ATP (by increasing K_m), with respect to catalytic as well as to regulatory binding sites. In addition, trolox significantly increased V_{max} of both catalytic and regulatory binding sites.

Discussion

ER/SR appears to be one of the most important signal transducing organelles within the cell, activating a multitude of cell functions by releasing Ca²⁺ and shutting them down by reuptake *via* the SERCA transport. Reactive oxygen and nitrogen species may induce deranged ER/SR Ca²⁺ signalling, but they have also physiological benefits.

HOCl generated during inflammation is a strong oxidant and the membrane enzyme SERCA is extremely sensitive to oxidative stress. It is responsible for maintenance of calcium homeostasis and plays an important role in cell signalling. Therefore we focussed our study on mechanisms of HOCl-induced injury of SERCA and on analysing preventive effects of trolox.

In our recent publication, the concentration of HOCl which caused 50% decrease in SR Ca-ATPase activity from rabbit skeletal muscle was determined as 100 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ (Strosova et al. 2005a). Incubation with trolox (50–500 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) was without any effect on Ca-ATPase activity. When SR vesicles were preincubated with trolox before oxidative injury by HOCl, a concentration-dependent preventive effect of trolox was observed, with a maximum at 250 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ and IC₅₀ at 141.2 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ ($r^2 = 0.966$).

According to the dependence of pure Ca-ATPase on increasing HOCl concentration, 50% decrease in SR Ca-ATPase activity was determined as 150 $\mu\text{mol/l}$. Such a concentration of HOCl may be present in tissues under certain conditions of inflammation (Schaur et al. 1998; Winterbourn and Kettle 2000; Spaltheholz et al. 2006). One of the fastest known reactions of HOCl with cell components are reactions with thiols (Vissers and Winterbourn 1995; Winterbourn and Brennan 1997; Schaur et al. 1998; Ying et al. 2007, 2008).

In SR, more than 90% of the free protein thiols are located on SERCA (Majima et al. 1995; Viner et al. 1999). Cystein thiol groups are particularly sensitive to oxidation by reactive oxygen or nitrogen species (Squier and Bigelow 2000; Cohen and Adachi 2006; Ying et al. 2007, 2008). Modification of reactive cysteine thiols resulting in generation of disulfides not only affects protein structure but can alter the function of proteins by modulation of enzymatic activity (Cohen and Adachi 2006).

Oxidation of cysteines can modulate calcium homeostasis (Cohen and Adachi 2006; Dremina et al. 2007; Ying et al. 2007, 2008). Ion channels and pumps belong to proteins regulated by cysteine thiol groups (Adachi et al. 2005; Cohen and Adachi 2006). The redox state of specific cystein residues of SERCA is important for enzymatic function so that modification of different SERCA cystein residues may result in both inhibition and activation of the enzyme (Viner et al. 1999; Adachi et al. 2004; Li and Camacho 2004). The regulation of intracellular calcium by SERCA has an impact on vascular relaxation, cardiac and skeletal muscle relaxation, as well as cell on growth and differentiation (Babu and Periasamy 2005; Vangheluwe et al. 2005; Cohen and Adachi 2006). Reactive cysteine sites are most involved in reversible S-glutathiolation, but due to their high reactivity, they are also most susceptible to irreversible oxidation by oxidants. The highly reactive peroxynitrite as well as the less reactive H₂O₂ and HOCl participate in both physiological regulation (at low levels) and exert also pathologic effects (at chronically higher levels) (Cohen and Adachi 2006).

In the present study the concentration of 6.6 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ HOCl, reducing the level of SH groups to 50%, did not affect the enzyme activity at all. It means that low concentrations of HOCl were not critical for impairment of SR Ca-ATPase activity in our experiments. However, the ability of low HOCl concentrations (10–20 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) to oxidise plasma membrane thiols was reported by Schaur et al. (1998). On the other hand, when SR was oxidised by HOCl, the SH reducing agents glutathione and dithiothreitol protected at least partially Ca-ATPase activity in our experiments (Strosova et al. 2005a). Experiments of Favero et al. (1998), when SR was oxidised by HOCl, indicated that SH groups might be involved in HOCl-induced injury. The molecule of Ca-ATPase from SR of rabbit skeletal muscle has been shown to possess 26 SH groups containing cysteine residues, 6 of which are in the disulfide conformation, leaving 20 free SH groups (MacLennan et al. 1985; Vangheluwe et al. 2005), while only 1–2 of them (located in the transmembrane region of the enzyme molecule) are essential for enzyme catalysis (Scherer and Deamer 1986; Kawakita and Yamashita 1987). This fact may contribute to the high variability of correlation between the SH content and enzyme activity in different preparations. Thiols function not only in normal cell signalling *via* S-nitrosation, S-glutathiolation or S-sulfenation but also may be irreversibly oxidised (generating cysteine sulfonic acids) by aging and diseases, and thus interfering with protein function (Ying et al. 2007). An example may be SERCA reversibly regulated through NO-dependent S-glutathiolation of specific cysteine residues of SERCA from smooth muscle cells (Ying et al. 2007; Tong et al. 2008). The irreversible oxidation of cysteine residues could impair NO-dependent muscle relaxation (Dremina et al. 2007). In our *in vitro* experiments, where SERCA from rabbit muscles was oxidized by HOCl, we found that SERCA activity was only partially recovered by glutathione or 1,4-dithiothreitol (Strosova et al. 2005b), which may suggest generation of irreversible cysteine oxidation products or involvement of other types of oxidation.

Protein peptide bond fragmentation in the membrane was observed only at high HOCl concentrations (Vissers et al. 1994). According to SDS-PAGE of HOCl-oxidised SR, a new band was observed at 75 kDa, probably generated by increasing fragmentation due to protein carbonyl formation. This appears to be supported by immunoblotting, using antibodies against carbonyls derivatized with dinitrophenyl hydrazine, with the band appearing also around 75 kDa. The density of this band was more intense at the higher concentration of HOCl (200 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) compared with the lower one (100 $\mu\text{mol/l}$), and increased over time. Favero et al. (1998) also reported structural damage in HOCl-induced injury to Ca-ATPase, as HOCl inhibited the binding of the fluorescent probe FITC to ATPase. In our experiments, HOCl concentration-dependently decreased

fluorescence of FITC bound to the nucleotide binding site of Ca-ATPase.

The SR Ca-ATPase contains 13 Trp residues, 11 of them located in the transmembrane part of the protein and two in the cytoplasmic domain. Alteration in Trp fluorescence may be a marker of conformational changes and functional characterization of SERCA (Restall et al. 1986; Boschek et al. 2008; Montigny et al. 2008). Schoneich and Sharov (2006) identified covalent cross-linkings of Trp only on a certain peptide when subjected to hypochlorous acid. The formation of such cross-links induces a kink within the polypeptide backbone and results in a more rigid backbone structure, potentially causing inactivation of target proteins (Fu et al. 2004). We found no changes in the ratio of polar/nonpolar Trp fluorescence intensities when comparing control and HOCl-treated samples. These results indicate that HOCl-induced decrease in ATPase activity was not associated with conformational changes of the transmembrane part of SERCA. Contrary to other oxidants, H_2O_2 was reported to quench Trp fluorescence in plasma membrane Ca-ATPase, an index of conformational changes, with a rate similar to that observed for enzyme inactivation (Zaidi et al. 2003).

However, in our experiments, the decrease in SERCA activity in SR oxidised by increasing concentrations of HOCl may have been associated with FITC fluorescence decrease, supporting the notion of conformational changes in other regions of SERCA. Reactions of HOCl and chloramines with biological material include oxidations and chlorinations. Lysine residues appear to be a major site of reaction of HOCl with many proteins (Zavodnik et al. 2001). This process yields chloramine species, which subsequently decompose to give nitrogen-centred protein radicals. These radicals are key species in HOCl-induced protein backbone fragmentation and dimerisation. FITC binding is localised to a specific lysine residue (Lys⁵¹⁵) located in the adenine nucleotide binding site of Ca-ATPase (Hidalgo et al. 1982; Starling et al. 1996; Schertzer et al. 2003; Montigny et al. 2007; Winters et al. 2008). Reaction of the Ca-ATPase with FITC leads to inhibition of ATPase activity as the result of selective modification of the nucleotide binding site (Froud and Lee 1986).

The transmembrane domain of Ca-ATPase of skeletal muscle SR makes contact with about 30 lipid molecules in the membrane (East et al. 1985; Dalton et al. 1998). The major lipids of the SR membrane are PCs, PEs and phosphatidylinositols (Krainev et al. 1995; Dalton et al. 1998). The activity of ATPase is dependent on the chemical structure and physical phase of its surrounding phospholipids (Dalton et al. 1998; Lee 1998; Ahuja et al. 1999; Karlovská et al. 2006, 2007). For example, high ratios of ω -6 to ω -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids increase the activity of SERCA in the SR of the heart (Ruf and Arnold 2008). Phospholipids containing docosahexaenoic acid 22:6(ω -3) were proposed to be required

as conformational cofactors for the functional assembly of membrane proteins, such as ion pumps, including SR Ca-ATPase (Infante et al. 2001). The acidic phospholipids stimulated the Ca-ATPase activity in the following order of efficiency: phosphatidylinositol 4-monophosphate > phosphatidylserine > PC congruent with (\cong) PE congruent with (\cong) zero (Meneghelli et al. 2008). The anionic phospholipids could induce a conformational change in ATPase, resulting in modulation of the enzyme activity (Dalton et al. 1998; Lee 1998; Carney et al. 2007). Lipid oxidation may induce structural changes in the lipid bilayer, which could indirectly inhibit the activity of the pump (Filipek et al. 1993; Karlovska et al. 2007). In our experiments, the concentration of 150 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ HOCl, reducing the SERCA activity to 50%, did not affect PCs and PEs composition. This low concentration of HOCl was not critical for oxidation of SR lipids. Higher concentrations of HOCl (10 mmol/l) induced oxidation of PCs and PEs, indicating that SERCA activity was indirectly not influenced through the lipid environment of SERCA protein.

Purified Ca-ATPase activity was analysed individually with respect to both substrates, free Ca^{2+} and ATP. The typical bell-shaped dependence of ATPase activity on free Ca^{2+} concentration with a maximum at 1.7 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ free Ca^{2+} as determined in our study was comparable with the results of Brown et al. (1994). Also the parameter K (the substrate concentration of half the maximal reaction rate) of the stimulatory phase and the IC_{50} of the inhibitory phase were comparable with the results of Brown et al. (1994). The dependence of SR ATPase activity on ATP concentration was very well described in our experiments by the bi-Michaelis-Menten equation (Kosk-Kosicka et al. 1983), assuming that ATP interacts at two sites: a high affinity (catalytic) and a low affinity (regulatory) site (Kosk-Kosicka et al. 1983; Gould et al. 1986; Michelangeli et al. 1991). Using the bi-Michaelis-Menten equation, we found high affinity (catalytic) kinetic parameters $K_m = 1.4 \mu\text{mol/l}$, $V_{max} = 3.6 \text{ IU/mg}$ and low affinity (regulatory) parameters $K_m = 0.1 \text{ mmol/l}$, $V_{max} = 9.9 \text{ IU/mg}$ and $r^2 = 0.985$. These kinetic parameters were comparable with those found by Bilmen et al. (2002).

Only maximal reaction rates V_{max} (concerning Ca^{2+} as well as ATP dependence) of Ca-ATPase activity were decreased. The affinity of the enzyme either to free Ca^{2+} ions or to ATP was not influenced by HOCl. This observation is in correlation with results of Kato et al. (1998) on cardiac sarcolemmal Na^+, K^+ -ATPase activity. In the presence of different concentrations of ATP, a decrease was found in the V_{max} value, without a change in affinity for ATP on treatment of sarcolemmal membranes with 100 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ HOCl. The V_{max} value of Na^+, K^+ -ATPase, when determined in the presence of increasing concentrations of Na^+ , was also decreased.

In summary, this study found that HOCl caused a rapid loss of Ca-ATPase activity related to a decrease in

maximal reaction rate V_{max} (corresponding to decrease in maximum catalytic activity) rather than to changes in substrate binding affinities. The loss of activity could not be explained solely by loss of thiol (SH) groups as these were depleted at much lower HOCl concentrations than those required to decrease enzymatic activity. Yet there was evidence from FITC fluorescence experiments that oxidation of Lys⁵¹⁵ in the catalytic site might contribute to this effect. At least over the short timescale of enzyme inactivation studied, Trp oxidation and conformational change in the transmembrane region did not appear to be involved in the process. Although at lower concentrations we observed fragmentation of SR protein and after longer HOCl treatments, or higher concentrations also protein carbonyl formation (at extremely high HOCl concentrations also phospholipids oxidation), these processes did not contribute causatively to the loss of Ca-ATPase activity but rather reflected continuing and more extensive oxidative damage. This may, nevertheless, be involved in a different way in SR and cell dysfunction.

A protective effect of α -tocopherol on Ca-ATPase activity was reported in several animal models, like thermal ischaemia of rat kidney (Golod 1997), in hypercholesterolaemic rabbits (Kuzmina et al. 1986), after catecholamine induced changes in cardiac sarcolemmal Ca^{2+} transport (Tappia et al. 2001), streptozotocin-induced diabetic rat kidney (Pekiner et al. 2003), or acute inflammation of rat pancreas, liver and kidney tissues (Qiu et al. 2004).

Trolox, a water soluble derivative of α -tocopherol, inhibited peroxynitrite mediated oxidative stress and apoptosis in rat thymocytes (Salgo and Pryor 1996) and was able to scavenge peroxynitrite (Gutierrez-Martin et al. 2004). Trolox was more effective than ascorbic acid in preventing the degradation of Trp and Tyr residues of proteins (Yettella and Min 2008). Trolox inhibited the lipid peroxidation of unilamellar liposomes and carbonyl production in plasma proteins and BSA induced by $\text{Fe}^{2+}/\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ (Sivonova et al. 2006). Trolox-derived phenoxyl radicals were determined in the mixture of BSA, HOCl and trolox, but were not observed when HOCl was incubated with trolox alone (Hawkins and Davies 1998). The detection of trolox-derived EPR signals was ascribed to oxidation of trolox by radicals formed on HOCl-treated BSA as a result of decomposition of chloramine species, which are early products of HOCl oxidation.

A significant concentration-dependent protective effect of trolox on SR Ca-ATPase activity from rabbit muscle oxidised by HOCl was reported in our recent publication (Strosova et al. 2005a). Maximum of the protective effect was observed at trolox concentration of 250 $\mu\text{mol/l}$. Under the same conditions of HOCl oxidation, no protective effects of trolox concerning protein carbonyls or SH groups of SR were observed (Strosova et al. 2005a) and no scavenging effect of HOCl by trolox was found (Sivonova et al. 2006).

Trolox changed the kinetic parameters with respect to Ca^{2+} as well as to ATP. Using the fluorescent label FITC, specific for nucleotide binding sites, we found that trolox was able to induce conformational changes in SERCA. On the basis of these results we suggest that protective effects of trolox originate in its ability to alter structural properties of Ca-ATPase.

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