

Parathyroid Hormone Increases mac25/Insulin-Like Growth Factor-Binding Protein-Related Protein-1 Expression in Cultured Osteoblasts*

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ABSTRACT

PTH induces the synthesis of insulin-like growth factor I (IGF-I) and regulates the expression of IGF-binding proteins (IGFBP) in osteoblast cultures. IGFBP-related protein-1 (IGFBP-RP-1), the product of the mac25 gene, binds IGF-I, IGF-II, and insulin. We tested the actions of PTH on the expression of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 in cultures of osteoblast-enriched cells from 22-day-old fetal rat calvariae (Ob cells). PTH at 0.1–10 nM for 6–48 h increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 messenger RNA (mRNA) levels in Ob cells, an effect not altered by cycloheximide. PGE₂ increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels, but in-

domethacin did not modify basal or PTH-stimulated mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 expression. The decay of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA in transcriptionally arrested Ob cells was not modified by PTH, and PTH increased the rate of IGFBP-RP-1 transcription. GH, insulin, bone morphogenetic protein-2, fibroblast growth factor-2, platelet-derived growth factor BB, IGF-I, and IGF-II did not modify mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 expression, whereas transforming growth factor-β1 was modestly stimulatory. In conclusion, PTH stimulates mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 transcription in osteoblasts, an effect that could be relevant to the actions of PTH in bone. (*Endocrinology* 140: 1998–2003, 1999)

INSULIN-LIKE growth factor I (IGF-I) is an important local regulator of bone formation, and its activity can be modified at the level of synthesis, receptor binding, and IGF-binding proteins (IGFBP) (1–3). Recent studies have shown that in addition to the six characterized IGFBPs, the protein encoded by the mac25 gene shares biochemical and functional properties with the IGFBPs and has been termed IGFBP-7 or IGFBP-related protein-1 (IGFBP-RP-1) (2, 4). The protein encoded by mac25 has a molecular mass of 31,000 and has 40–45% similarity and 20–25% amino acid sequence identity with IGFBPs (2, 4–7). It is also identical to tumor adhesion factor and prostacyclin-stimulating factor (8–10). Although the protein encoded by mac25 binds IGF-I and IGF-II, it has higher affinity for insulin and inhibits insulin-stimulated phosphorylation of its receptor, suggesting that the product of mac25 acts primarily as an insulin-binding protein (11). The product of mac25 stimulates cell growth in BALB/c3T3 cells, enhancing the mitogenic effects of IGF-I, whereas in selected osteosarcoma cells it inhibits cell growth, suggesting additional and diverse biological functions (8, 12). The mac25 gene is expressed by a variety of normal and malignant cells of epithelial and mesenchymal origin, although its expression by skeletal cells has not been reported (4–6, 10). Mac25 expression is increased after exposure to retinoic acid and glucocorticoids, but it is not known whether

polypeptide hormones and growth factors regulate its expression (6) (Pereira, R. C., *et al.*, unpublished observations).

PTH has complex effects on bone formation and resorption (13). PTH has mitogenic effects on cells of the osteoblastic lineage, and when osteoblasts are continuously exposed to PTH, it inhibits collagen synthesis (13, 14). However, intermittent exposure of bone cells to PTH results in anabolic effects *in vitro* and *in vivo* (14, 15). PTH is a major inducer of IGF-I, and selected stimulatory effects in bone seem to be mediated by IGF-I (14, 16). Skeletal cells express the six classic IGFBPs, and the actions of PTH in bone could be modified by effects on IGFBP expression (17–19). For example, through its ability to stimulate cAMP, PTH is likely to induce the expression of IGFBP-5, a binding protein that can stimulate bone cell growth (18, 20). In view of the known actions of PTH on the IGF-IGFBP axis and on the possible relationship between mac25 gene expression and cell regulation, we postulated mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 gene regulation by PTH in osteoblasts.

The present studies were undertaken to examine the effects of PTH on mac25 or IGFBP-RP-1 gene expression and to compare them to the effects of other polypeptide hormones and growth factors in cultures of osteoblast-enriched cells from 22-day-old fetal rat calvariae (Ob cells).

Materials and Methods

Culture technique

The culture method used was described in detail previously (21). Parietal bones were obtained from 22-day-old fetal rats immediately after the mothers were killed by blunt trauma to the nuchal area. This project was approved by the institutional animal care and use committee of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (Hartford, CT). Cells were obtained by five sequential digestions of the parietal bone using bacterial collagenase (CLS II, Worthington Biochemical Corp., Freehold, NJ). Cell

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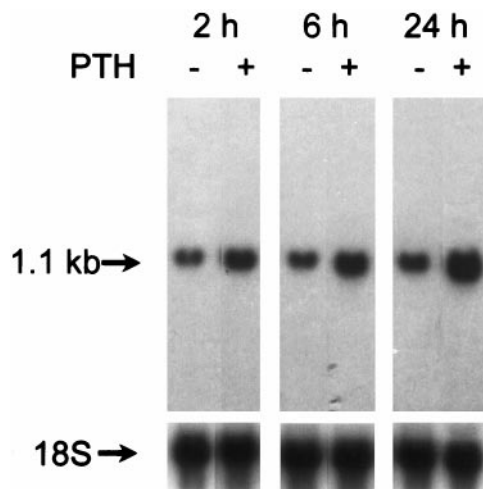


FIG. 1. Effect of PTH at 10 nM on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 2, 6, or 24 h. Total RNA from control (-) or PTH-treated (+) cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with α - 32 P-labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

populations harvested from the third to the fifth digestions were cultured as a pool and were previously shown to have osteoblastic characteristics (21). Ob cells were plated at a density of 8,000–12,000 cells/cm² and cultured in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator at 37 C until reaching confluence (~50,000 cells/cm²). Cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with nonessential amino acids and 10% FBS (both from Summit Biotechnology, Fort Collins, CO). Ob cells were grown to confluence, transferred to serum-free medium for 20–24 h, and exposed to test or control medium in the absence of serum for 2–48 h, as indicated in the text and legends. Cultures treated for 48 h were switched to fresh control and test solutions after 24 h. For nuclear run-on assays, Ob cells were grown to subconfluence, trypsinized, replated, and grown to confluence, at which time they were serum deprived and exposed to test or control solutions for 2–6 h. Rat PTH-(1–34) (Bachem, Torrance, CA) was dissolved in 0.05 N HCl containing 4 mg/ml BSA and diluted 1:10,000 or more in culture medium. Porcine insulin (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) was dissolved in 0.001 N HCl and diluted 1:1,000 in DMEM, and recombinant human GH (a gift from P. A. Kelly, Paris, France) was dissolved in distilled water and added to DMEM. Recombinant human transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF β 1) (a gift from Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, CA), bone morphogenetic protein-2 (BMP-2; a gift from Genetics Institute, Cambridge, MA), fibroblast growth factor-2, and platelet-derived growth factor BB (both from Austral, San Ramon, CA) were added directly to the medium. Recombinant human IGF-I (Austral) was dissolved in 20 mM sodium citrate and diluted 1:1,000 in DMEM, and IGF-II (a gift from Eli Lilly & Co. Research Laboratories, Indianapolis, IN) was dissolved in 0.1 M acetic acid and diluted 1:100 in DMEM. Cycloheximide, PGE₂, and indomethacin (all from Sigma Chemical Co.) were dissolved in ethanol and diluted 1:1,000 or more in DMEM, and 5,6-dichlorobenzimidazole riboside (DRB; Sigma Chemical Co.) was dissolved in absolute ethanol and diluted 1:200 in DMEM. Control and experimental cultures were exposed to equal amounts of solvent. For RNA analysis, the cell layer was extracted with guanidine thiocyanate at the end of the incubation and stored at -70 C. For nuclear run-on assays, nuclei were isolated by Dounce homogenization (Kontes Co., Vineland, NJ).

Northern blot analysis

Total cellular RNA was isolated using an RNeasy kit following manufacturer's instructions (Qiagen, Chatsworth, CA). The RNA recovered was quantitated by spectrometry, and equal amounts of RNA from control or test samples were loaded on a formaldehyde agarose gel following denaturation. The gel was stained with ethidium bromide to

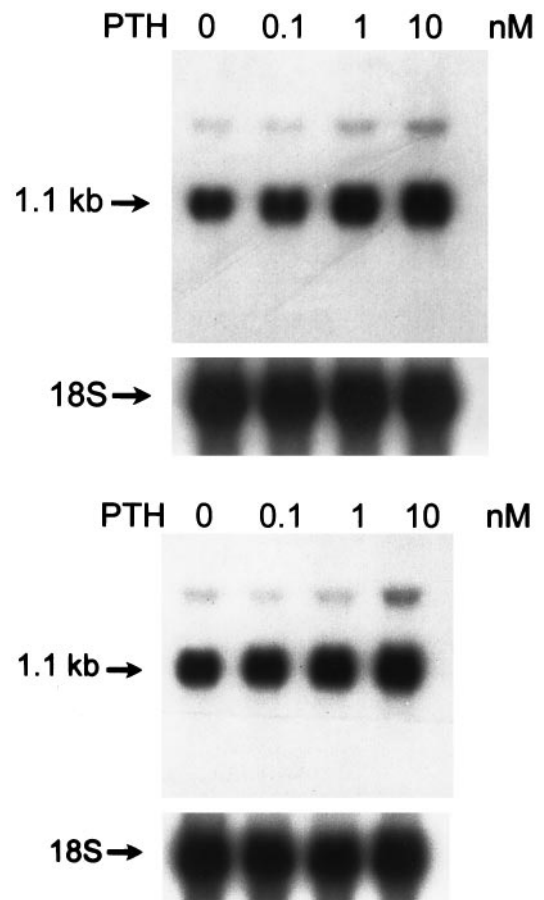


FIG. 2. Effect of PTH at 0.1–10 nM on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 6 (a) or 24 h (b). Total RNA from control or PTH-treated cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with α - 32 P-labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

visualize RNA standards and ribosomal RNA, documenting equal RNA loading of the various experimental samples. The RNA was then blotted onto GeneScreen Plus charged nylon (DuPont, Wilmington, DE), and the uniformity of transfer was documented by revisualization of ribosomal RNA. A 1.1-kb *EcoRI/XhoI* restriction fragment of the mouse mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 complementary DNA (cDNA; provided by M. Kato, Ibaraki, Japan) was purified by agarose gel electrophoresis (12). Mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA was labeled with [α - 32 P]deoxy (d)-CTP and [α - 32 P]dATP (50 μ Ci each at a SA of 3,000 Ci/mmol; DuPont) using the random hexanucleotide primed second strand synthesis method (22). Hybridizations were carried out at 42 C for 16–72 h, and posthybridization washes were performed at 65 C in 0.2 \times SSC (saline-sodium citrate) for 30 min. The blots were stripped and rehybridized with a 752-bp *BamHI/SphI* restriction fragment of the murine 18S cDNA (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA) at 42 C for 16–72 h, and posthybridization washes were performed at 65 C in 0.1 \times SSC. The bound radioactive material was visualized by autoradiography on Kodak X-AR5 film (Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, NY), employing Cronex Lightning Plus intensifying screens (DuPont). Relative hybridization levels were determined by densitometry. The Northern analyses shown are representative of three or more cultures.

Nuclear run-on assay

To examine changes in the rate of transcription, nuclei were isolated by Dounce homogenization in a Tris buffer containing 0.5% Nonidet P-40. Nascent transcripts were labeled by incubation of nuclei in a

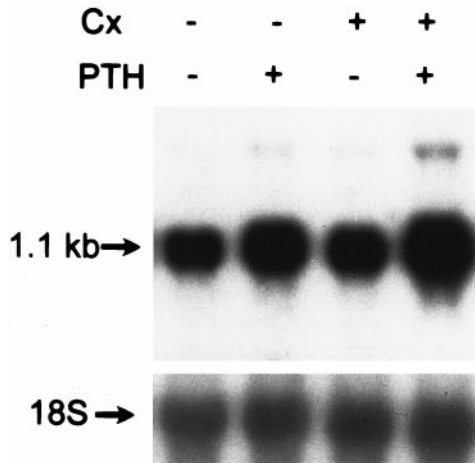


FIG. 3. Effect of PTH in the presence or absence of cycloheximide (Cx) at 3.6 μ M on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 24 h. Total RNA from control (–) or treated (+) cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with α - 32 P-labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

reaction buffer containing 500 μ M each of adenosine, cytidine, and guanosine triphosphates; 150 U RNasin (Promega Corp., Madison, WI); and 250 μ Ci [α - 32 P]UTP (3000 Ci/mM; DuPont) (23). RNA was isolated by treatment with deoxyribonuclease I and proteinase K, followed by phenol-chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation. Linearized plasmid pBluescript SK⁺ DNA containing about 1 μ g of the mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA used for Northern blotting was immobilized onto GeneScreen Plus by slot blotting according to the manufacturer's directions (DuPont). The plasmid vector pGL3-Basic (Promega Corp.) was used as a control for nonspecific hybridization, and 18S cDNA was used to estimate loading of the radiolabeled RNA. Equal counts per min of [32 P]RNA from each sample were hybridized to cDNAs at 42 C for 72 h and washed in 1 \times SSC at 65 C for 20 min. Hybridized cDNAs were visualized by autoradiography. The nuclear run-on assay was performed twice.

Statistical methods

Values are expressed as the mean \pm SEM. Statistical differences were determined by ANOVA, and *post-hoc* examination was performed using the Bonferroni method (24). Slopes to determine messenger RNA (mRNA) decay were analyzed by the method of Sokal and Rohlf (25).

Results

Northern blot analysis of total RNA extracted from confluent cultures of Ob cells revealed a predominant mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 transcript of 1.1 kb, although a secondary transcript of larger size was detected in some experiments (Fig. 1). Control mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels varied slightly, and densitometric analysis revealed a 10–20% variation in transcript levels over a 24-h period. Continuous treatment of Ob cells with PTH caused a time- and dose-dependent increase in mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 steady state mRNA levels. The effect was first observed after 2 h of exposure to PTH at 10 nM, and it was maximal and of comparable magnitude after 6, 24 (Fig. 1), and 48 h (not shown). PTH at 0.1, 1, and 10 nM after 6 h, increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels by (mean \pm SEM; n = 3–6) 1.2 \pm 0.1-fold, 1.7 \pm 0.4-fold (both P > 0.05 *vs.* control), and 2.8 \pm 0.3-fold (P < 0.05 *vs.* control and

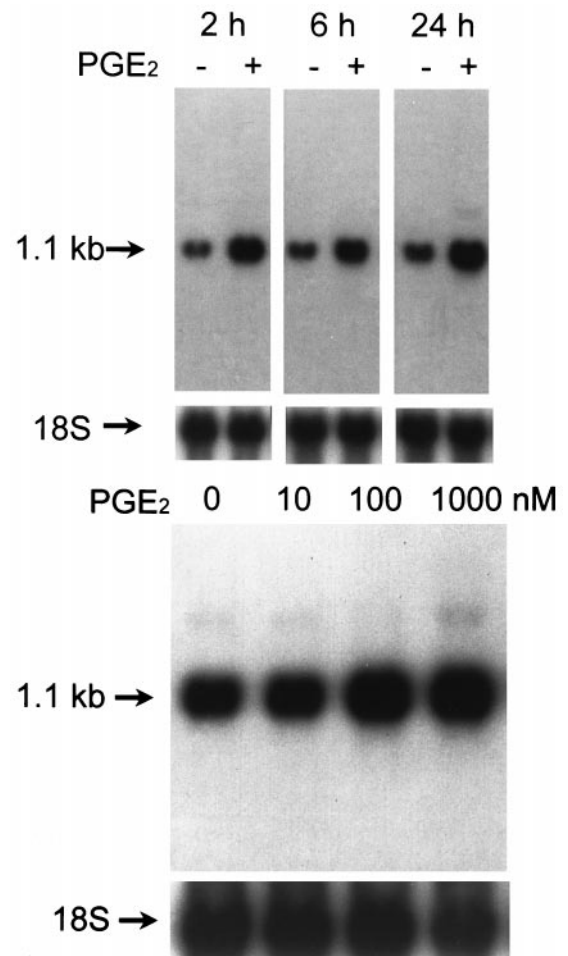


FIG. 4. Effect of PGE₂ on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 2–24 h. In a, cells were exposed to control medium (–) or PGE₂ at 1 μ M (+) for 2, 6, or 24 h. In b, cells were exposed to PGE₂ at 10–1000 nM for 24 h. Total RNA from control or PGE₂-treated cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with α - 32 P-labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

PTH at 0.1 and 1 nM), respectively. PTH at 0.1, 1, and 10 nM after 24 h increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA by 1.3 \pm 0.1-fold, 1.4 \pm 0.2-fold (both P > 0.05 *vs.* control), and 2.2 \pm 0.3-fold (P < 0.05 *vs.* control and PTH at 0.1 and 1 nM; Fig. 2), respectively. To determine whether the effects observed on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels were dependent on protein synthesis, serum-deprived confluent cultures of Ob cells were treated with PTH in the presence or absence of cycloheximide at 3.6 μ M. In earlier experiments, cycloheximide at a dose of 2 μ M or higher was found to inhibit protein synthesis in Ob cell cultures by 80–85% (26). Northern blot analysis revealed that treatment with cycloheximide for 24 h did not alter mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels and did not prevent the stimulatory effect of PTH (Fig. 3). PGE₂ also increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels in Ob cells. The effect was noted after 2 h and was sustained for 24 h (Fig. 4a), when PGE₂ at 100 nM and 1 μ M increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 levels by (mean \pm SEM; n = 3) 1.9 \pm 0.1- and 2.2 \pm

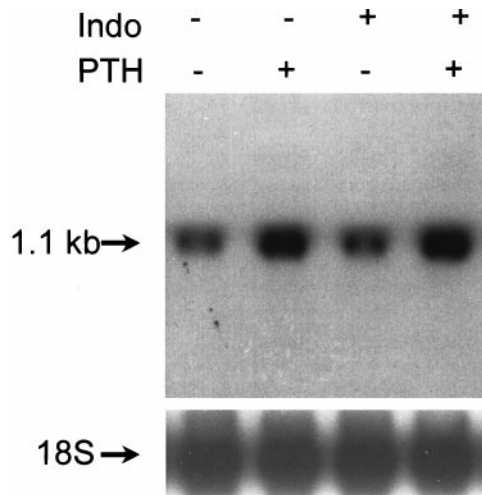


FIG. 5. Effect of PTH in the presence or absence of indomethacin (Indo) at $10 \mu\text{M}$ on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 24 h. Total RNA from control (-) or treated (+) cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with $\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}$ -labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

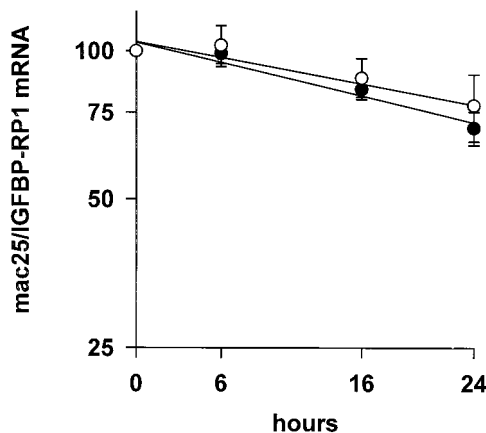


FIG. 6. Effect of PTH at 10 nM on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA decay in transcriptionally blocked Ob cells. Cultures were exposed to DMEM (●) or were treated with PTH (○) 2 h before and 6, 16, or 24 h after the addition of DRB. RNA was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with $\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}$ -labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA, visualized by autoradiography, and quantitated by densitometry. Ethidium bromide staining of ribosomal RNA was used to check uniform loading of the gels and transfer. Values are the mean \pm SEM for three cultures. Values were obtained by densitometric scanning and are presented as a percentage of the mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels relative to the time of DRB addition. Slopes were analyzed by the method of Sokal and Rohlf and were not statistically different.

0.1-fold, respectively (Fig. 4b). However, indomethacin at $10 \mu\text{M}$, a dose known to inhibit PG synthesis in skeletal and nonskeletal cells, did not modify basal or PTH-induced mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 expression (Fig. 5) (27, 28).

To examine whether the effect of PTH on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels was due to changes in transcript stability, confluent cultures of Ob cells were exposed to DMEM or PTH for 2 h, and then treated with the RNA polymerase II

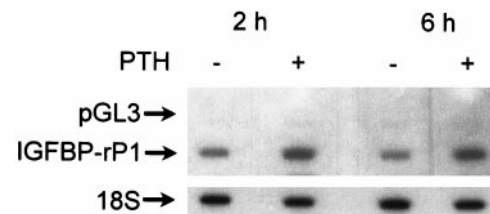


FIG. 7. Effect of PTH at 10 nM on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 transcription rates in cultures of Ob cells treated for 2 and 6 h. Nascent transcripts from control (-) or PTH-treated (+) cultures were labeled *in vitro* with [$\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}$]UTP, and the labeled RNA was hybridized to immobilized cDNA for mac25/IGFBP-RP-1. Murine 18S cDNA was used to demonstrate loading, and pGL3-Basic vector DNA was used as a control for nonspecific hybridization.

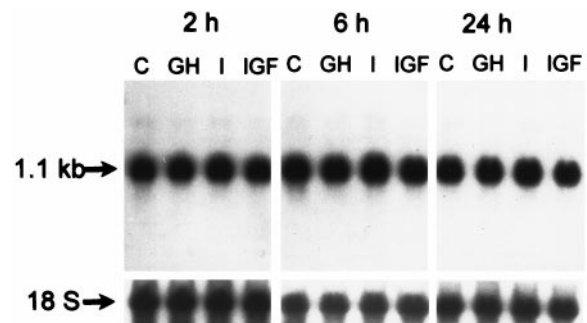


FIG. 8. Effect of GH at $1 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ($50 \mu\text{M}$), insulin at 100 nM , and IGF-I at 100 nM on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 2, 6, or 24 h. Total RNA from control (C), GH-treated, insulin-treated (I), or IGF-I-treated cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with $\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}$ -labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

inhibitor DRB in the absence or presence of PTH at 10 nM for 6, 16, or 24 h (29). About 75% of Ob cells are viable in the presence of DRB for 24 h, but cell viability is impaired after exposure to DRB for longer periods of time, as determined by trypan blue exclusion (Canalis, E., unpublished observations). After 24 h of DRB exposure, a 35% decay in mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was detected, and the change was not different in control and PTH-treated samples (Fig. 6). The half-life of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA in transcriptionally arrested Ob cells was estimated to be more than 36 h by extrapolation of the values obtained during the first 24 h. To confirm whether PTH modified the transcription of the mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 gene, a nuclear run-on assay was performed on nuclei from Ob cells treated for 2 and 6 h. This assay demonstrated that PTH increased the rate of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 transcription by 2- to 3-fold after 2 and 6 h (Fig. 7).

The induction of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 was virtually selective to PTH. Other polypeptide hormones and growth factors, such as GH, insulin, and IGF-I, tested at doses known to stimulate aspects of bone formation for 2–24 h ($n = 4\text{--}5$), did not modify the expression of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA in Ob cells (Fig. 8) (1, 16, 30). TGF β 1 at 1.2 nM for 24 h increased mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 transcripts by (mean \pm SEM; $n = 5$) 1.6 ± 0.1 -fold, whereas BMP-2, fibroblast growth factor-2, platelet-derived growth factor BB, and IGF-II, tested

at concentrations known to increase bone cell replication or alter the differentiated function of the osteoblast, for 2–24 h ($n = 3$), did not modify mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression (Fig. 9) (1, 26, 31–33).

Discussion

Recent studies have shown that PTH has significant effects on the IGF-IGFBP axis in osteoblasts, but it has not been reported to alter the expression of IGFBP-RPs (14, 16, 18). The present investigation was undertaken to determine whether PTH regulates mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 in osteoblasts. We demonstrated that PTH causes a time- and dose-dependent increase in mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA levels in Ob cells, and that the effect does not require *de novo* protein synthesis. Experiments in transcriptionally blocked Ob cells, using the RNA polymerase II inhibitor DRB, revealed that PTH did not modify mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA stability (29). This, in conjunction with an increase in the rate of transcription, indicates that PTH stimulates mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 expression at the transcriptional, but not at the posttranscriptional, level.

In our study, the effects of PTH on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 synthesis were observed at doses that modify other parameters of metabolic function in Ob cells, suggesting that the stimulation of IGFBP-RP-1 synthesis by PTH is physiologically relevant. IGF-I and IGF-II are abundant in skeletal tissue, and studies in mice with targeted IGF-I and IGF-II gene disruption and studies of transgenic mice overexpressing IGF-I and IGF-II have documented their relevance to skeletal growth (34–36). As PTH induces IGF-I and IGFBP-RP-1, and this protein has the potential to bind IGFs, its induction by PTH could be a mechanism to regulate the actions of IGFs in bone. However, IGFBP-RP-1 binds insulin with higher affinity than IGFs, suggesting that its increased expression is more likely to modify insulin actions (11).

The stimulatory effect observed on mac25 gene expression was fairly selective to PTH, and it was not detected in the presence of polypeptide hormones or growth factors, with

the exception of TGF β 1. Although PTH is known to increase TGF β levels in intact bones in culture, this is probably secondary to increased activation and release of the growth factor from the matrix and not to a change in the synthesis of TGF β 1 by the osteoblast (37). This would indicate that the effect of PTH on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 in osteoblasts is independent of its actions on TGF β .

Mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 seems to play a role in the differentiation of certain cells, and it has been found to have stimulatory and inhibitory effects on cell growth (7, 8, 12). It could, therefore, play a role mediating the modest mitogenic actions of PTH and TGF β on cells of the osteoblastic lineage (14, 38). Although PTH inhibits the differentiation of chondrocytes and bone collagen synthesis in cells continuously exposed to the hormone, it stimulates IGF-I production by osteoblasts, and as a consequence it has the potential to increase the differentiated function of this cell (1, 14, 15, 39, 40). Therefore, the induction of mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 is compatible with the effects of PTH in bone. Similarly, TGF β 1 enhances the differentiated function of the osteoblast, an effect compatible with the previously described effects of mac25 in other cells (38). It is possible that mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 simply binds IGF-I, IGF-II, and insulin in osteoblasts, and its increase by PTH may be a local mechanism to reduce the amount of biologically active IGFs in the bone microenvironment. PTH and insulin have opposing effects on signal transduction pathways in osteoblastic cells, and an increase in a binding protein that prevents insulin effects on osteoblasts may be an additional mechanism to limit the actions of insulin in bones exposed to PTH (41, 42). However, it is important to note that our studies do not address the function of IGFBP-RP-1 in osteoblasts, and additional work is needed to define the exact function of this protein in skeletal tissue.

In conclusion, the present studies demonstrate that PTH stimulates IGFBP-RP-1 transcripts in skeletal cells through mechanisms that involve increased transcription. The increased level of IGFBP-RP-1 in the bone microenvironment may bind IGFs and insulin and be relevant to the actions of PTH on bone formation.

Acknowledgments

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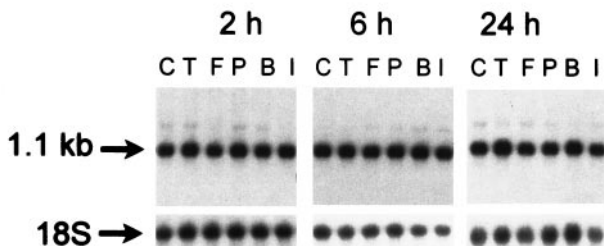


FIG. 9. Effects of growth factors on mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA expression in cultures of Ob cells treated for 2, 6, or 24 h. Cells were exposed to control medium (C), TGF β 1 (T) at 1.2 nM, fibroblast growth factor 2 (F) at 1.7 nM, platelet-derived growth factor BB (P) at 3.3 nM, BMP-2 (B) at 1 nM, or IGF-II (I) at 100 nM. Total RNA from control or treated cultures was subjected to Northern blot analysis and hybridized with α - 32 P-labeled mac25/IGFBP-RP-1 cDNA. The blot was stripped and rehybridized with labeled murine 18S cDNA. IGFBP-RP-1 mRNA was visualized by autoradiography and is shown in the upper panel; 18S mRNA is shown below.

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