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## Properties of an LH-stimulable adenylate cyclase in plasma membranes of interstitial cells from rat testis

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**Summary.** We studied the effect of guanyl nucleotides, divalent cations and luteinizing hormone (LH) on the regulation of adenylate cyclase (AC) in partially purified plasma membranes obtained from isolated interstitial cells of the rat testis. AC was activated to different degrees by guanosine triphosphate (GTP) and GMP-P(NH)P; the latter was about 10 times more active than the former. Enzyme activation by GTP was biphasic; the nucleotide was rapidly hydrolysed by membrane preparation. Activation by GMP-P(NH)P was hysteretic, requiring about 20-30 min to reach steady state; this lag-time was not dependent on nucleotide concentration. GDP $\beta$ S did not stimulate AC activity. Delayed addition of GDP $\beta$ S to a GMP-P(NH)P-stimulated enzyme at 17 min resulted in a drop of AC activity although the activity 40 min later was higher than that obtained by mixing both nucleotides at the time the reaction was initiated. This result was incompatible with the formation of a truly irreversible, active form of the enzyme in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P.

The effect of LH on AC depended on guanine nucleotides and Mg<sup>2+</sup>. LH and GMP-P(NH)P acted synergically. Dose-response curves showed that apparent LH affinity was not modified by the presence of GMP-P(NH)P. LH accelerated the slow rate of activation of GMP-P(NH)P. The stimulation of AC by LH was closely dependent on Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentrations; LH diminished the apparent Mg<sup>2+</sup> requirement.

Plasma membranes from rat testicular interstitial cells are an excellent model for the study of AC regulation by LH.

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## Introduction.

Gonadotropins act by binding to their respective receptors and stimulating adenylate cyclase (AC) on the target cell. Most experimental data concerning the effects of luteinizing hormone (LH) on AC activity have been obtained in the

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### *Abbreviations.*

GMP-P(NH)P : guanyl-5'-yl imidodiphosphate.

GDP $\beta$ S : guanosine 5'0-(2 thiodiphosphate).

EGTA : ethylene glycol bis-(3 aminoethyl ether)-N-N', tetraacetic acid.

ovary (Birnbaumer and Kirchick, 1983), and there are few on LH stimulation of this enzyme in testicular interstitial cells. Dufau *et al.* (1980) reported that the number of GMP-P(NH)P binding sites in these cell membranes was increased by LH. Levi *et al.* (1982a, b) showed that guanine nucleotide mediated desensitization of AC in cell-free preparations from a Leydig cell tumor. However, it seems that there are differences between the ovary and the testis as to structural requirements for receptor binding of LH (De La Llosa-Hermier *et al.*, 1977) and the mechanism by which LH stimulates the AC complex, *i.e.* the coupling between receptor occupancy and AC stimulation (Catt and Dufau, 1983; Abramowitz *et al.*, 1982). It must be remembered therefore that the results and conclusions obtained with the ovary are not necessarily applicable to testicular interstitial cells and that the regulation of cAMP metabolism may be different in normal and tumor cells.

Using a kinetic approach, we have explored the role of guanyl nucleotides and some divalent cations ( $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$ ) on the regulation of basal and LH-stimulated AC activities in plasma membranes obtained from a preparation of collagenase-dispersed interstitial cells from the rat testis. This work is a preliminary to further investigation of the influence of the chemical structure of LH on its regulatory action of the receptor-AC complex.

## Material and methods.

**Chemicals.** — Highly purified LH ( $2 \times$  LH NIH S1) was isolated from ovine pituitary glands in our laboratory by the method of Jutisz and Courte (1968). Collagenase was provided by Worthington and MEM (minimum essential medium salts of Eagle) by Eurobio.  $^3H$  cAMP was obtained from CEA (Saclay, France), ( $\alpha^{32}P$ ) adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and ( $\alpha^{32}P$ ) guanosine triphosphate (GTP) from Amersham (England). GMP-P(NH)P and the other nucleotides used were from Boehringer (Mannheim). The other products were purchased from Sigma.

**Preparation of dispersed interstitial cells from rat testis.** — Interstitial cells were isolated as described previously (De La Llosa-Hermier *et al.*, 1980). Briefly, the decapsulated testes of 40-day old Wistar rats were incubated for 20 min at 37 °C in MEM buffer (pH 7.4; 1 testis/3 ml) containing collagenase (0.5 mg/ml). The tubular mass was allowed to settle and the supernatant was filtered and centrifuged for 5 min at  $300 \times g$ . The cell pellet was resuspended in fresh buffer.

**Membrane preparation.** — Partially purified membranes from rat testicular interstitial cells were obtained by modification of the procedure described by Mintz *et al.* (1978). Using a glass-teflon homogenizer, the dispersed cells were broken in ice-cold 1 mM  $NaHCO_3$  medium containing dithiothreitol (1 mM), deoxyribonuclease I (1,600 U/mg) and  $Mg^{2+}$  (0.2 mM). The homogenate (15 ml), containing about  $2-4 \cdot 10^9$  cells, was adjusted to a final concentration of 36 % (W/W) with solid sucrose, introduced into a polycarbonate tube and overlaid with an equal volume of sucrose (34 %) (W/W) in the same bicarbonate medium without deoxyribonu-

clease. The tubes were centrifuged in a SW 27 Beckman rotor at  $60\,000 \times g$  for 120 min. The upper phase containing the purified membranes was diluted 10-fold with bicarbonate medium, then centrifuged at  $10\,000 \times g$  for 30 min. The pellet was resuspended in bicarbonate medium and stored in liquid nitrogen. As in the ovary, this procedure allowed 8-10-fold purification of plasma membrane interstitial cells.

*Adenylate cyclase and GTPase assay.* — The standard assay medium (60  $\mu$ l) contained 0.5 mM ATP +  $\alpha^{32}\text{P}$  ATP ( $10^6$  cpm), 2 mM  $\text{MgCl}_2$ , 1 mM cAMP, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, and an ATP regenerating system (25 mM phosphocreatine and 1 mg/ml of creatine phosphokinase). Enzymatic reaction, initiated by the addition of 10 to 20  $\mu$ g of membrane proteins, was performed in a shaking water bath at 32 °C. Reaction was stopped following the procedure of White (1974). The samples were supplemented by 0.2 ml of 0.5 N HCl, boiled for 6 min, buffered with 0.2 ml of 1.5 mM imidazole, and finally applied on alumina columns. Cyclic AMP was eluted with 3 ml of 10 mM imidazole-HCl, pH 7.6. Blank values obtained by this procedure were always less than 0.005 % of the total radioactivity applied. The yield was calculated from the previous addition of  $^3\text{H}$  cAMP.

GTPase activity was determined by the method of Nishizuka *et al.* (1968).

The protein content was determined by the method of Lowry *et al.* (1951) using bovine serum albumin as the standard.

## Results.

*Effect of guanine nucleotides on cAMP synthesis.* — Cyclic AMP accumulation for 30 min followed a simple saturation law for Mg ATP concentrations ranged between 0.05 and 1 mM in the presence of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  6 mM. GMP-P(NH)P (100  $\mu$ M) increased the V max of the enzyme without significant effect on the  $K_m$  of the catalytic site for Mg ATP (data not shown).

The addition of GTP ( $10^{-9}\text{M}$  to  $10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) resulted in a slight increase of AC activity, but further increase of the GTP concentration resulted in a decrease of enzyme activity (fig. 1A). GMP-P(NH)P increased enzyme activity in a dose-related manner. The degree of maximal stimulation obtained varied with the batch of plasma membranes used and could reach 30 times the basal activity. Guanosine 5'-diphosphate (GDP) (data not shown) or its analog, GDP $\beta$ S (fig. 1A), did not change AC activity. When GTP or GDP $\beta$ S was added simultaneously with GMP-P(NH)P, it competitively inhibited the ability of GMP-P(NH)P to activate the enzyme (fig. 1A, B). Thus, these nucleotides shared a common site of action on AC activity. In this experiment, the  $K_a$  app (concentration required to half maximally stimulate adenylate cyclase activity) for GMP-P(NH)P was 0.8  $\mu$ M and the  $K_i$  app for GDP $\beta$ S was 0.22  $\mu$ M. This competitive effect could be due to a different exchange rate as well as to a difference in thermodynamic affinity.

*Measurement of GTP hydrolysis.* — There may be several reasons for the biphasic response to GTP concentration, including desensitization of the type

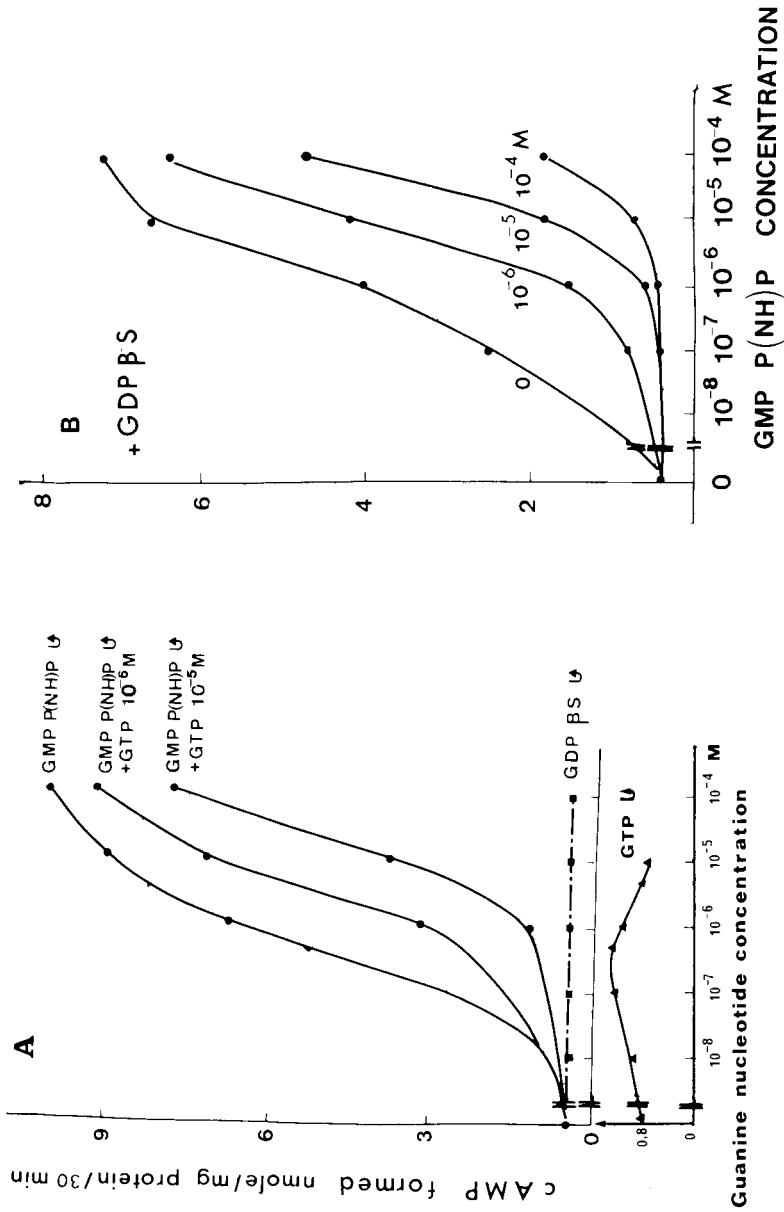


FIG. 1. — Effect of guanine nucleotides on cAMP production. A (●) as a function of GTP-P(NH)P concentration in the presence or absence of different concentrations of GTP; (▲) as a function of GTP concentration; (■) as a function of GDP $\beta$ S concentration. B) as a function of GMP-P(NH)P concentration in the presence or absence of different concentrations of GDP $\beta$ S.

proposed by Ezra and Salomon (1981), receptor-mediated GTP-dependent inhibition of AC (Cooper, 1982), or lack of effect due to GTP hydrolysis.

Figure 2 shows that under standard assay conditions of AC activity, GTP ( $0.4 \mu\text{M}$ ) was rapidly hydrolysed (70 % in 5 min) and that this hydrolysis was inhibited by ATP and its analog, AMP-P(NH)P. In the presence of AMP-P(NH)P 1 mM or ATP 5 mM, 50 % of the GTP was hydrolysed after 30 min. GTP hydrolysis was not modified by the presence of an ATP regenerating system (data not shown).

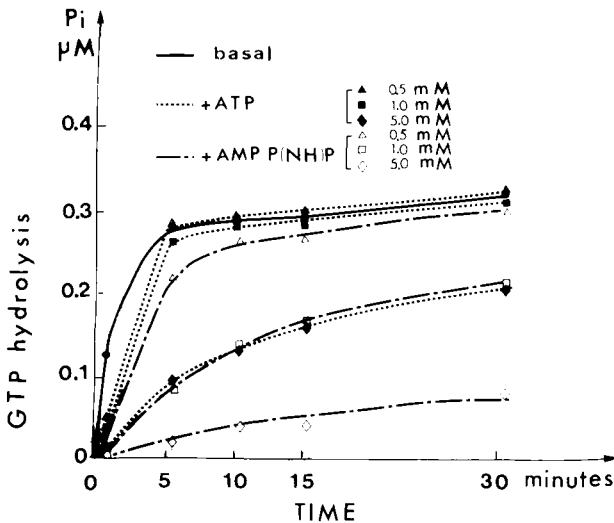


FIG. 2. — Time-course of ( $\gamma^{32}\text{P}$ ) GTP hydrolysis. ( $\bullet$ ) in the absence of adenyly nucleotides ; ( $\blacktriangle$ ,  $\blacksquare$ ,  $\blacklozenge$ ) in the presence of varying concentrations of ATP : 0.5 mM, 1 mM, 5 mM respectively ; ( $\triangle$ ,  $\square$ ,  $\diamond$ ) in the presence of varying concentrations of AMP-P(NH)P : 0.5 mM, 1 mM, 5 mM respectively.

On the basis of these findings, it appears that the lack of GTP effect on interstitial cell adenylate cyclase in the rat testis might be at least partly due to the hydrolysis of GTP to GDP.

*Kinetics of adenylate cyclase activation in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P.*

— The time-course of cAMP production in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P is depicted in figure 3. The production of cAMP was slowly stimulated and up to 20-30 min were needed to reach steady state velocity. After this lag-time, the rate of cAMP production remained constant for 40 min. The intercept of the extrapolated linear portion with the x-axis corresponded to  $1/K_{\text{obs}}$  ( $K_{\text{obs}}$  = the activation rate constant) ;  $K_{\text{obs}}$  was particularly low ( $0.06\text{-}0.05 \text{ min}^{-1}$ ). It should be noted that the membranes exhibited an identical lag-time when GMP-P(NH)P concentrations increased from  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-5}\text{M}$ . In membranes preincubated for 15 min in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P alone, the lag-time decreased but cAMP production remained steady (data not shown).

The lag-time was independent of membrane protein ( $7\text{-}36 \mu\text{g}$ ) and Mg ATP ( $200\text{-}800 \mu\text{M}$ ) concentrations. The maximal enzyme activity reached was linear with respect to the amount of membrane protein used. Cyclic AMP production at

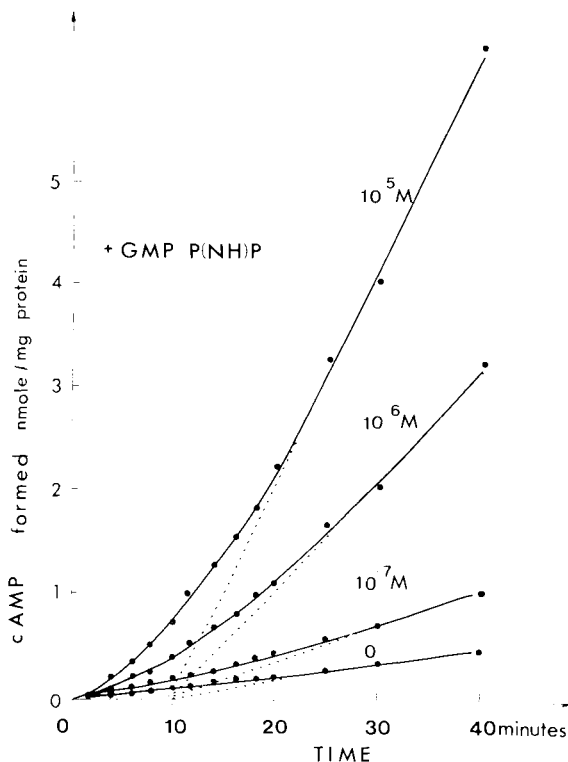


FIG. 3. — Effect of different concentrations of GMP-P(NH)P on the time-course of cAMP production.

steady state velocity increased with Mg ATP substrate concentration and was linear with respect to time for at least 40 min (data not shown).

*Effects of LH on adenylate cyclase activity.* — LH activated the AC of rat testicular interstitial cells, even without the addition of guanine nucleotide.

Figure 4 depicts the effect of increasing concentrations of LH (in the presence of different concentrations of GMP-P(NH)P) on cAMP accumulation for 40 min; GMP-P(NH)P did not significantly modify the LH concentration required to obtain half maximal AC activity. The relative stimulation obtained with LH was similar at all the GMP-P(NH)P concentrations studied. On the other hand, LH did not significantly alter the concentration of GMP-P(NH)P required to obtain half maximal enzyme activity.

LH also diminished the lag-time observed during the time-course of the stimulation of cAMP accumulation in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P (fig. 5). The value of  $K_{obs}$  and maximal specific activity increased with hormone concentration in a dose-dependent manner. After preincubation of the membranes for 15 min with LH alone ( $10 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ), the time required to reach steady state velocity was almost zero (fig. 6). This result may signify that LH binding was kinetically limiting

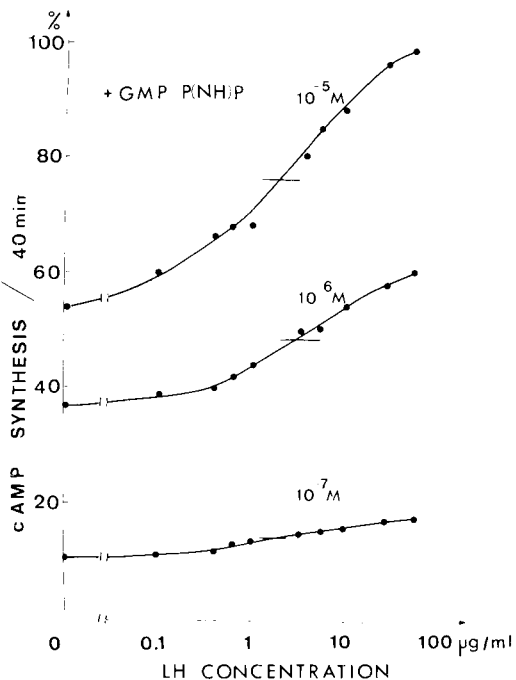


FIG. 4. — Effect of LH concentrations on GMP-P(NH)P-stimulated cAMP production. In the assay LH was added at the same time as the plasma membranes.

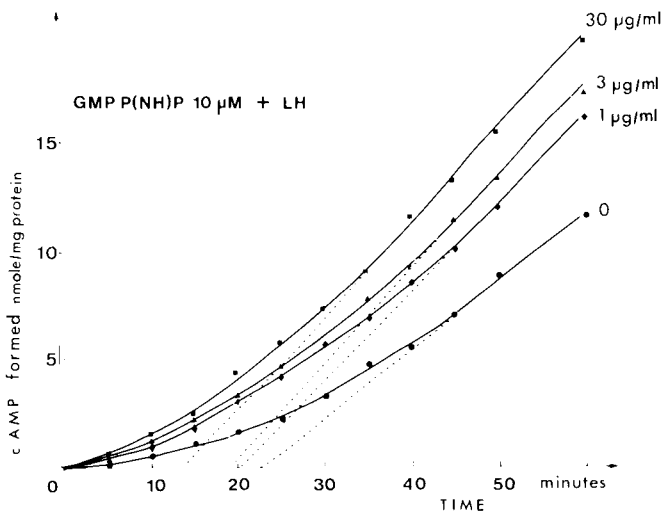


FIG. 5. — Effect of LH concentrations on the time-course of cAMP production by GMP-P(NH)P. LH was added at the same time as the plasma membranes.

and/or that, in the absence of GMP-P(NH)P, the hormone-receptor complex could promote the activation of the regulatory component which limited the rate of cAMP production. In membranes preactivated with GMP-P(NH)P alone, the hormone significantly increased maximal activity without any significant lag-time (data not shown).

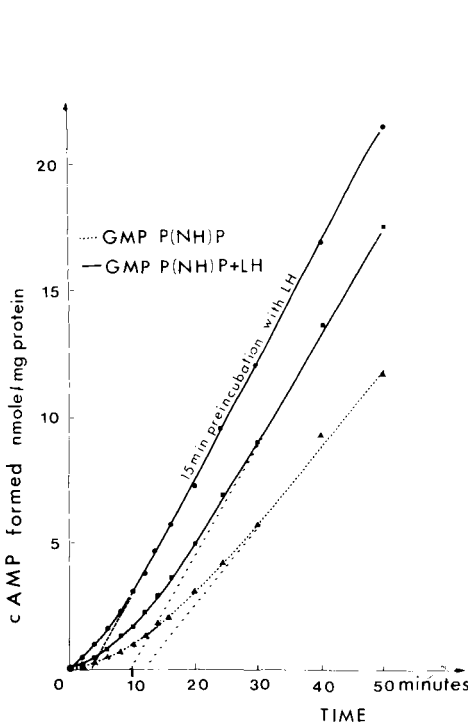


FIG. 6. — Effect of preincubating plasma membranes with or without LH (10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ), 15 min, on the time-course of cAMP production in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and LH (final concentration : 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ).

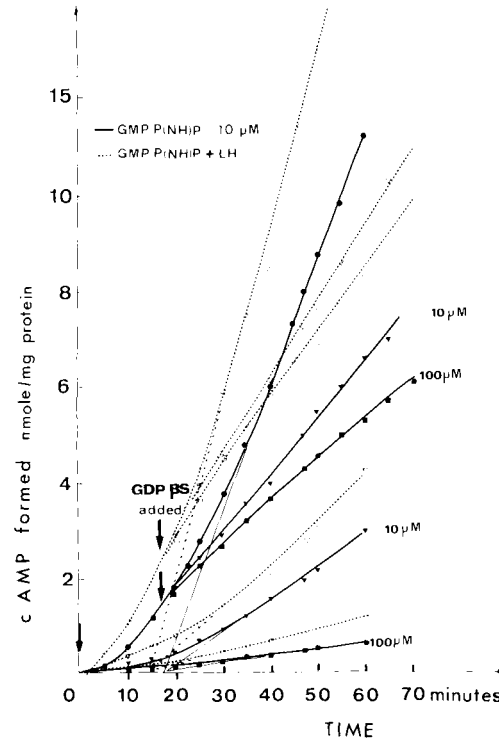


FIG. 7. — Effect of GDP $\beta$ S on the time-course of cAMP production stimulated by GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) (●) (—) GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and LH (3  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) (○) (....). GDP $\beta$ S at 10 (▼, ▽) or 100  $\mu\text{M}$  (■, □) was added together with GMP-P(NH)P or 17 min after the addition of GMP-P(NH)P.

*Kinetics of adenylate cyclase activation in the presence of combinations of GMP-P(NH)P and GDP $\beta$ S.* — In the other AC systems, GMP-P(NH)P not only stimulated AC more than GTP did but, unlike GTP, caused a persistently activated state of the enzyme (Lefkowitz and Caron, 1975 ; Schramm and Rodbell, 1975). The nucleotide at its binding site did not seem to be exchangeable after activation.

Figure 7 presents the effect of GDP $\beta$ S on the GMP-P(NH)P-stimulated AC activity of rat testicular interstitial cells ; GDP $\beta$ S at two different concentrations

(10 and 100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) was added together with GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) at either  $t = 0$  or 17 min after initiation of the stimulatory effect of GMP-P(NH)P. The same experiment was carried out in the presence of LH.

If the exchange rate was different from zero, it could be expected that the delayed addition of GDP $\beta\text{S}$  would lead to a steady state activity (time-course dependent on the rate of GMP-P(NH)P exchange and the reversal rate of GMP-P(NH)P-stimulated activity) similar to that obtained by mixing GDP $\beta\text{S}$  and GMP-P(NH)P at  $t = 0$ . In both the presence and absence of LH the addition of GDP $\beta\text{S}$  at  $t = 17$  led to a drop in the steady state rate of activation immediately, even though at the end of the experiment it did not reach the steady state obtained by mixing both nucleotides at the time the reaction was initiated.

*Stimulatory effects of divalent cations on adenylate cyclase activity.* —  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $10^{-5}$  to  $10^{-2}\text{M}$ ) significantly inhibited basal and GMP-P(NH)P-stimulated AC in interstitial cells from the rat testis. Moreover, EGTA or EDTA stimulated AC activity but the use of high EDTA concentrations (5 mM) inhibited AC activity, probably through  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  chelation (data not shown). Consequently, in standard conditions, we used EGTA 1 mM.

We examined the effect of varying concentrations of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  on AC activity assayed in a medium containing 0.5 mM ATP. As shown in figure 8, basal activity and responsiveness to GMP-P(NH)P and LH were regulated by the concentrations of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  added; however, the response to these cations varied. Basal AC activity was 10-fold higher in the presence of 1 mM  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  than in the presence of 1 mM  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , while the extent of GMP-P(NH)P activation at 1 mM  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  was only 3-fold more than that obtained with 1 mM  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ . With 5 mM  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ , enzyme activity declined markedly and the extent of activation by GMP-P(NH)P and the hormone became significantly lower than those observed with

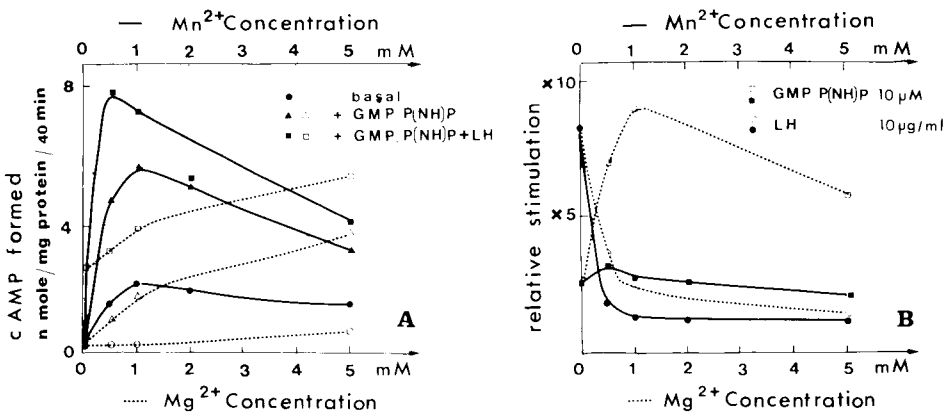


FIG. 8. — A) Effect of added  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ( $\bullet$ ,  $\blacktriangle$ ,  $\blacksquare$ ) or  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  ( $\circ$ ,  $\triangle$ ,  $\square$ ) on basal, GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) or GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) + LH (10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )-stimulated cAMP production. B) Relative GMP-P(NH)P (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) or LH (10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) stimulation of cAMP production as a function of the  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  or  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  added. Incubation was carried out in the presence of ATP 0.5 mM.

5 mM  $Mg^{2+}$ . Analysis of the data in figure 8 also indicates that maximal relative stimulation by GMP-P(NH)P was obtained at 1 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  or 0.5 mM  $Mn^{2+}$ , whereas increasing the  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration resulted in a decrease of maximal relative stimulation due to LH. As reported by Amramowitz and Birnbaumer (1982), the values of the added  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration that caused maximal relative response to LH varied from one membrane batch to another and were optimal only over a very narrow range of  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration. It should be pointed out that optimal  $Mn^{2+}$  effects appeared to be independent of  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration (0 to 5 mM, data not shown).

We also studied (fig. 9) the effects of  $Mg^{2+}$  concentrations on the dose-response curve of LH. Cyclic AMP production increased with increasing  $Mg^{2+}$  concentrations. The hormone decreased the  $Mg^{2+}$  concentrations required to half maximally stimulate AC activity from 0.75 to 0.25 mM.

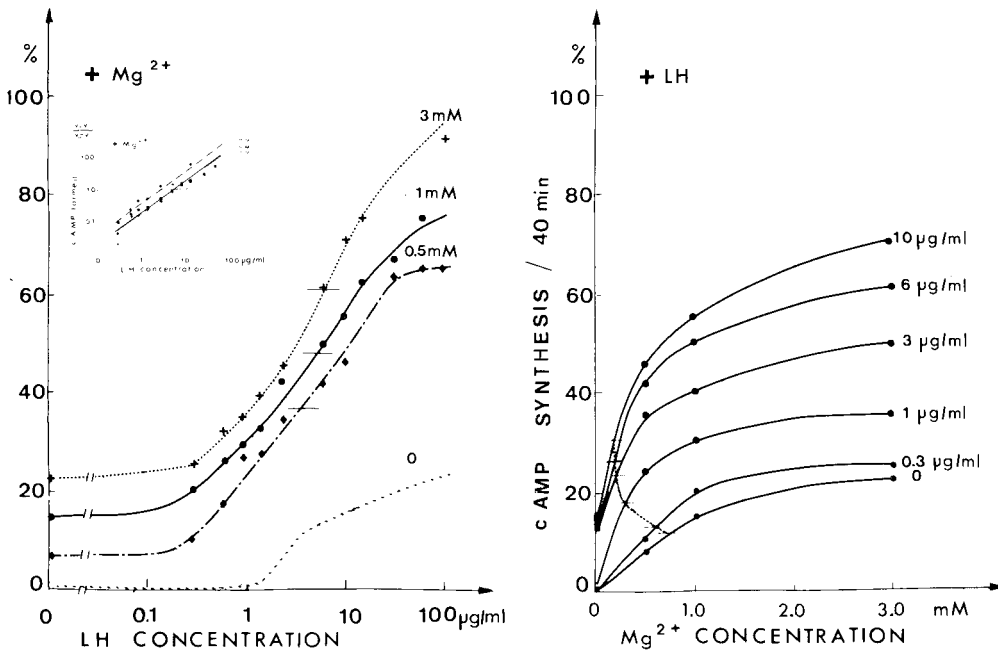


FIG. 9. — Effect of the addition of varying concentrations of LH and  $Mg^{2+}$  on cAMP production. ATP present was 0.5 mM. Inset: Hill plots of the proportional sections of the dose-response curves shown on the left panel.

Further studies were conducted to explore  $Mg^{2+}$  (0 to 5 mM) dependence of stimulated AC with increasing ATP concentrations (0.1 to 0.6 mM) in the presence or absence of LH (fig. 10). The effects of increasing ATP concentrations depended on the presence or absence of LH. The hormone seemed to diminish the apparent ATP concentration required for half maximal stimulation. With the  $Mg^{2+}$  concentrations used, relative LH stimulation decreased at increasing ATP

concentrations higher than  $300 \mu\text{M}$ . In a first approximation, our results seemed to indicate that LH in the presence of GMP-P(NH)P might give the catalytic subunit the ability to utilize Mg ATP as a substrate by increasing the apparent affinity of the catalytic site.

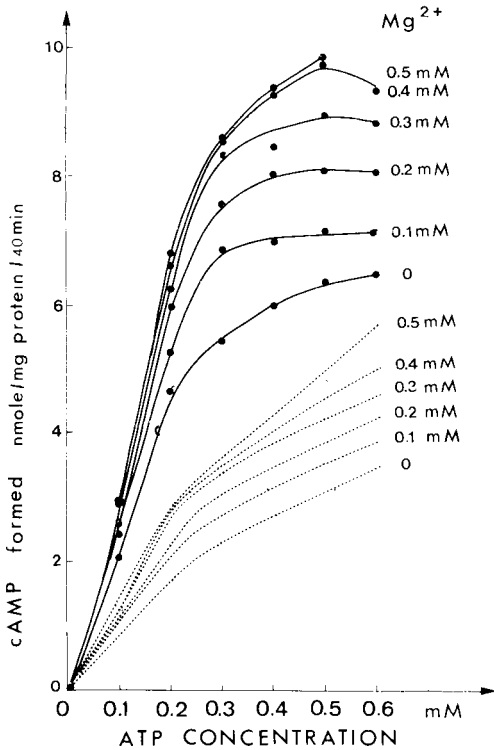


FIG. 10. — ATP dose-response curves of cAMP production stimulated by GMP-P(NH)P ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) (○) or GMP-P(NH)P ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) + LH ( $10 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ) (●) in the presence of different concentrations of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ .

## Discussion.

In the present studies we have described the properties of an LH-responsive adenylate cyclase in plasma membranes obtained from isolated interstitial cells of the rat testis. Both GTP and GMP-P(NH)P enhanced the production of cAMP when no hormone was added, as observed in rabbit corpus luteum (Abramowitz and Birnbaumer, 1982). The effects of GTP differed from those of GMP-P(NH)P; the biphasic response to GTP also observed by Dufau *et al.* (1980) might be explained by the conversion of GTP to GDP in semi-purified membranes of testicular interstitial cells; the stimulatory and inhibitory regulatory components (Ns, Ni) are GTP-degrading protein (see review of Birnbaumer *et al.*, 1985). GTP causes bimodal regulation of AC in other cell types, and this effect appears to result from an involvement of Ni (Cooper, 1982; Cooper *et al.*, 1979). The possibility that GTP inhibits cyclase activity via Ni cannot be ruled out, and further studies

will be required to investigate the existence of such a mechanism in the interstitial cell adenylate cyclase system of the rat testis.

LH and GMP-P(NH)P acted synergically. It should be pointed out that the LH concentration required to stimulate the enzyme after membrane purification was higher than that observed when the synthesis of cAMP was studied in intact cells. Similarly, Birnbaumer *et al.* (1976) observed a very low apparent LH affinity for rat ovarian plasma membranes.

GMP-P(NH)P had no significant effect on the LH concentration needed to obtain half maximal activation ( $K_a$  app) or on relative stimulation by LH. In contrast, GMP-P(NH)P in rabbit corpus luteum seems to alter the  $K_a$  app for LH (Abramowitz and Birnbaumer, 1982) ; this discrepancy may reflect a species difference.

In the absence of hormonal stimuli, the interstitial cell adenylate cyclase of the rat testis responded slowly to GMP-P(NH)P ; this finding is in contrast to reports by Dufau *et al.* (1980) but agrees with the general properties described for most adenylate cyclase systems (see review of Birnbaumer *et al.*, 1985). Our results are inconsistent with the hypothesis that activation by GMP-P(NH)P leads to the irreversible activation of testicular interstitial cell adenylate cyclase in the complete sense of the term ; similar observations were reported by Londos and Preston (1977) and Birnbaumer *et al.* (1980) using liver plasma membranes. The slow rate of activation by GMP-P(NH)P was accelerated by LH, in agreement with studies of other hormone-dependent adenylate cyclase systems ; this effect of hormonal stimulation has been explained by the enhancement of nucleotide exchange (see review of Birnbaumer *et al.*, 1985).

There is now considerable evidence indicating that, in addition to guanine nucleotides,  $Mg^{2+}$  plays a key role in Ns and Ni regulation of the activity of the catalytic component (Northup *et al.*, 1982 ; Abramowitz and Birnbaumer, 1982 ; Codina *et al.*, 1983). Evidence for the existence of  $Mg^{2+}$  binding sites on Ns and Ni has been reported (Iyengar and Birnbaumer, 1982 ; Bockaert *et al.*, 1984). In addition, a divalent cation binding site on the catalytic subunit has been shown (Somkuti *et al.*, 1982).

The experiments presented in this paper also demonstrate that divalent cations play a major role in modulating enzyme activity in interstitial cells from the rat testis. At optimal concentrations of divalent cations, adenylate cyclase activity is greater when measured in the presence of  $Mn^{2+}$  than in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$  ions. Independent lines of evidence from other adenylate cyclase systems suggest that  $Mn^{2+}$  ions may be necessary for the expression of the enzyme activity of the « bare » catalytic unit. The activation process of adenylate cyclase activity is apparent in the presence of Mg ATP if the catalytic subunit is coupled to a N protein, but requires the use of Mn ATP as a substrate in systems devoid of functional, active N proteins (Bourne *et al.*, 1975 ; Neer, 1978 ; Stengel *et al.*, 1982). From our data, the criterion of  $Mn^{2+}$  vs  $Mg^{2+}$  activity might not be simple and absolute enough to distinguish the isolated C unit from the NC complex.

As shown in the ovary (Birnbaumer *et al.*, 1976), LH stimulation of testicular interstitial cell membrane adenylate cyclase is closely dependent on the ATP and  $Mg^{2+}$  concentrations used. We have shown (1) that there is a complex relations-

hip between adenylate cyclase, ATP and Mg ions, (2) that the dependence of cAMP synthesis on ATP concentrations differs according to whether LH is present or absent, (3) that in the presence of guanine nucleotides LH lowers apparent Mg ion requirement, and that (4) an excess of  $Mg^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$  inhibits LH stimulation of cAMP production.

In *conclusion*, the semipurified interstitial cell membranes of the rat testis are an excellent model for studying the effects of LH agonists and antagonists on adenylate cyclase activity and the hormonal regulation of the adenylate cyclase system in these cells.

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**Résumé.** *Propriétés de l'adénylate cyclase de la membrane plasmique des cellules interstitielles du testicule de rat.*

La régulation par la LH, les nucléotides guanyliques et les cations divalents de l'activité adénylate cyclase (AC) de membranes plasmiques de cellules interstitielles du testicule de rat a été étudiée. L'enzyme peut être activée par le GTP et le GMP-P(NH)P ; l'activation par le GTP est faible et biphasique et ce nucléotide est rapidement hydrolysé par les membranes. L'activation par le GMP-P(NH)P est environ 10 fois supérieure à celle obtenue avec le GTP. Le  $GDP\beta S$  ne stimule pas l'AC. En présence de GMP-P(NH)P, la vitesse stationnaire de production d'AMPc n'est atteinte qu'après environ 20 min ; cette période de latence est indépendante de la concentration de nucléotide. L'addition de  $GDP\beta S$ , 17 min après l'addition de GMP-P(NH)P conduit à une diminution immédiate de la vitesse de production d'AMPc ; cependant l'activité 40 min plus tard reste supérieure à celle obtenue si on ajoute simultanément (à  $t = 0$ ) GMP-P(NH)P and  $GDP\beta S$ . L'état d'activation atteint avec le GMP-P(NH)P n'est donc pas strictement irréversible.

La LH et le GMP-P(NH)P agissent d'une manière synergique sans que le nucléotide modifie la concentration d'hormone nécessaire à l'obtention de la demi-stimulation maximale de l'enzyme ( $K_a$  app.). La LH abolit la période de latence observée dans la cinétique de stimulation par le GMP-P(NH)P. L'activation de l'adénylate cyclase par la LH est étroitement dépendante des concentrations en  $Mg^{2+}$  et en ATP. L'hormone diminue la concentration en ion Mg nécessaire à l'obtention de la demi-stimulation maximale de l'enzyme.

Les membranes plasmiques de cellules interstitielles du testicule de rat sont un excellent modèle pour l'étude de la régulation de l'AC par LH.

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