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Analysis of proteins in the secretome of the mouse developing testis

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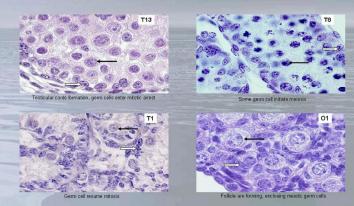
The development of the gonads is a complex process that relies on a dialogue between germ and somatic supporting cells. It has long been known that the somatic cells secretions are crucial to direct the fate and orchestrate the differentiation of the germ cells. However no study has ever investigated the composition of the secretome of the developing gonads.

In this study we set up a system to analyse the proteins secreted by the developing testis at different stages and by the neonatal ovary.

Three testicular stages were chosen:

- 13.5 days post-conception (**T13**) when the somatic cells formed cords containing germ cells that are entering mitotic arrest;
- 1 day (T1) post-partum (dpp) when germ cells resume mitosis
- 8 dpp (T8) in when the first meiotic male germ cells can be observed.

On the other hand secreted ovarian proteins were analysed using the 1 dpp ovary (**01**) in which all germ cells had initiated meiosis and when somatic supportic cells start to differentiate.



Hematoxylin/eosin stained section of the developing gonads. Black arrows point germ cells and open arrows point somatic supporting cells. Magnification X1000

Analysis strategy



 Samples:
 Testes
 - 13.5 days post conception (T13)

 - 1 day post-partum (T1)
 - 8 days post-partum (T8)

 Ovaries
 - 1 days post-partum (O1)

Organ culture and ex vivo incubations: Mouse's gonads were removed aseptically under a binocular microscope and transferred to the in vitro culture system*. Gonads or pieces of gonads were cultured on agar disks (1.5%) for 4 days in DMEM/HamF12 without serum. At the end of the culture, conditioned media were collected and centrifuged to get rid of possible floating cells.

Secretary proteins extraction: TCA-NLS / THF protocol**

1st D: 60 μg proteins; strips pl 3-10 NL; 18 cm; IEF Cell 2nd D: 12% acrylamide SDS-PAGE Dodeca Cell (silver stain)

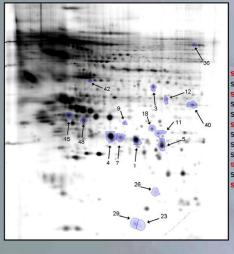
Gel analysis: mean values of triplicate gels / Progenesis Samespots software



Mass spectrometry: MALDI-TOF/TOF and nano-LC-MS/MS Laboratoire de Protéomique Fonctionnelle / INRA Montpellier

Θ

Family Lipocalin (retinol binding)



Mass spectrometry results

pot 3:	Anti-Mullerian hormone	Q5EC55	Secreted	TGF-beta family
pot 4:	Prostaglandin-D2 synthase	009114	Secreted	Lipocalin (retinol bin
pot 5:	Prostaglandin-D2 synthase	009114	Secreted	Lipocalin (retinol bin
pot 7:	Prostaglandin-D2 synthase	009114	Secreted	Lipocalin (retinol bin
pot 11:	Phosphoglycerate mutase 1	Q9DBJ1	cytoplasm	
pot 12:	Aldose reductase	P45376	cytoplasm	
pot 18:	Collagen alpha-2(IV) chain	P08122	Secreted	type IV collagen fam
pot 29:	Fatty acid binding protein	Q05816	cytoplasm	calycin
pot 34:	Galectin-1	P16045	extracellular	Lectin
pot 40:	L-lactate dehydrogenase A	P06151	cytoplasm	LDH family
pot 48:	Anti-Mullerian hormone	Q5EC55	Secreted	TGF-beta family

Proteins

Accession Location

Matching profile between meiosis and spot intensity

Findings / Perspectives

Several proteins known to be expressed by the developing testis were retrieved (Anti-mullerian hormone, Prostaglandin D2 synthase) and allowed the validation of the analysis strategy (developing period, ex-vivo culture conditions and proteins extraction/separation). This preliminary study has revealed several new proteins, unknown for being secreted by the developing testis (Galectin-1, Fatty acid binding protein, L-lactate dehydrogenase A). Their potential roles during male germ cell proliferation and differentiation will be further investigated as well as the identification of other interesting spots.

T13

Spot intensity

01