

# Biosynthesis of the D2-Cell Adhesion Molecule: Post-translational Modifications, Intracellular Transport, and Developmental Changes

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**ABSTRACT** Posttranslational modifications and intracellular transport of the D2-cell adhesion molecule (D2-CAM) were examined in cultured fetal rat neuronal cells. Developmental changes in biosynthesis were studied in rat forebrain explant cultures. Two D2-CAM polypeptides with  $M_r$  of 187,000–210,000 (A) and 131,000–158,000 (B) were synthesized using radiolabeled precursors in cultured neurons. A and B were found to contain only *N*-linked complex oligosaccharides, and both polypeptides appeared to be polysialated as determined by [ $^{14}$ C]mannosamine incorporation and precipitation with anti-polysialic acid antibody. The two polypeptides were sulfated in the *trans*-Golgi compartment and phosphorylated at the plasma membrane. D2-CAM underwent rapid intracellular transport, appearing at the cell surface within 35 min of synthesis. A and B were shown to be integral membrane proteins as seen by radioiodination by photoactivation employing a hydrophobic labeling reagent. In rat forebrain explant cultures, D2-CAM was synthesized as four polypeptides: A (195,000  $M_r$ ), B (137,000  $M_r$ ), C (115,000  $M_r$ ), and a group of polypeptides in the high molecular weight region ( $HM_r$ ) between 250,000 and 350,000. Peptide maps of the four polypeptides yielded similar patterns. Biosynthesis of C and  $HM_r$  increased with age, relative to A and B. A and B were sulfated in embryonic brain, however, sulfation was not noticeable at postnatal ages. Phosphorylation, on the other hand, of A and B was observed at all ages examined. We suggest that D2-CAM function may be modified during development by changes in the relative synthesis of the different polypeptides, as well as by changes in their glycosylation and sulfation.

The D2-cell adhesion molecule (D2-CAM)<sup>1</sup> has been shown to be synthesized in cultured neuronal cells as two polypeptides, A and B (1). Both were shown to be co-translationally glycosylated with high mannose cores that were processed into complex *N*-linked oligosaccharides, yielding two groups of glycopeptides, with  $M_r$  of 187,000–210,000 (A) and 131,000–158,000 (B). D2-CAM, neuronal CAM (N-CAM; 2), and the brain specific protein (BSP-2) (3) have been shown to

be closely related, if not identical, molecules (4, Noble, M., M. Albrechtsen, C. Mølle, J. M. Lyles, E. Bock, M. Watanabe, and U. Rutishauser, submitted for publication).

Glycosylation is an important modification of cell surface proteins (5, 6). N-CAM derived from fetal brain has been shown to contain higher levels of sialic acid than that from adult brain (7), and the developmental variation in sialation has been suggested to be an important factor in the regulation of its function (2). Hence, posttranslational modifications of D2-CAM glycosylation may be intimately connected with its functional role. After a preliminary report (1), we present additional studies concerning the glycosylation of D2-CAM. We have also examined two other posttranslational modifications of D2-CAM: sulfation and phosphorylation. Sulfation has been shown to be a widespread modification of proteins (8, 9). Sulfated glycosaminoglycans and proteoglycans have

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviations used in this paper: CAM, cell adhesion molecule; Con A, concanavalin A; DME, Dulbecco's modified essential medium; Endo H, endo- $\beta$ -*N*-acetyl-glycosaminidase H;  $HM_r$ , high-molecular-weight polypeptides; H Pomatia, Helix Pomatia; LMP, low-molecular-weight proteins; N-CAM, neural cell adhesion molecule; PMSF, phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride; PSA, polysialic acid; TID, (trifluoromethyl)-3-(*m*-iodophenyl) diazarine; WGA, wheat germ agglutinin.

been shown to be important in the organization of the extracellular matrix of many cell types (10–12). Sulfated proteoglycans have been identified in the *in vitro* substrate adhesion sites of glial cells, fibroblasts, epithelial cells, and neurons (11, 13, 14). Phosphorylation is another common protein modification known to modulate enzyme activity and to regulate neurotransmission (15). Because D2-CAM is presumably involved in cell–cell interactions, these modifications could be highly significant to its functional role.

We also established a rat forebrain explant culture system to study age-dependent alterations in D2-CAM biosynthesis. One advantage of this culture system in contrast to monolayer cultures is that biosynthesis can be examined in a complex tissue at various ages. Furthermore, in this system different cell types are preserved with their intercellular connections intact.

Although D2-CAM is presumed to function in cell adhesion its mode of action has not been explained. A homophilic type of binding has been proposed (16), which implies that the molecule interacts with itself. However, more recent studies show that two to three discrete D2-CAM polypeptides can be synthesized at all ages (1, 17). Their association and possible interaction is at present unknown.

Our data allow the following conclusions: D2-CAM is *N*-linked glycosylated, including sialination and polysialination. Furthermore, it is shown that the A and B polypeptides of D2-CAM are sulfated in the *trans*-Golgi compartment and phosphorylated at the plasma membrane. D2-CAM is rapidly transported intracellularly and appears on the cell surface 35 min after synthesis. Both the A and B polypeptide are integral membrane proteins. Biosynthesis of the A and B polypeptide decreases with age, whereas biosynthesis of a polypeptide of  $M_r$  115,000 (C) and a group of polypeptides in the high molecular weight region ( $HM_r$ ) increase. Sulfation of A and B is only observed in embryonic brain. Phosphorylation, on the other hand, is observed at all ages examined.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Materials:** Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DME), methionine-free DME, basal minimal essential medium, and mycoplasma-free horse serum were obtained from GIBCO Laboratories (Grand Island, NY). Low glucose (200  $\mu$ g/ml) and phosphate-free DME were obtained from Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen. Poly-L-lysine (type IB), putrescine, progesterone, insulin, selenium, tunicamycin, trypsin (type III, E.C.3.4.21.4), soybean trypsin inhibitor (type II S), cycloheximide, monensin, *N*- $\alpha$ -tosyl-L-lysine chloromethyl ketone, bovine serum albumin, and phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF) were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co., (St. Louis, MO). Tween-20 was obtained from Merck (Darmstadt, BRD). Purified human transferrin was a gift from Søren Blirup-Jensen, DAKO-Immunoglobulins (Copenhagen, Denmark). Aprotinin was obtained from Bayer Kemi A/S (Copenhagen, Denmark). Endo- $\beta$ -*N*-acetylglucosaminidase H (E.C.3.2.1.30; Endo H) was obtained from Miles Laboratories (Elkhart, IN). *Proteus vulgaris* chondroitinase ABC (chondroitin ABC lyase, E.C.4.2.2.4) and *Flavobacterium heparinum* heparinase (heparin lyase, E.C.4.2.2.7) were from Seikagaku (Tokyo, Japan). Swine serum was from DAKO-Immunoglobulins. Concanavalin A (Con A)-Sephacrose, wheat germ agglutinin (WGA)-Sephacrose, Helix Pomatia (H Pomatia)-Sephacrose and Protein A-Sephacrose were from Pharmacia (Uppsala, Sweden). Rabbit immunoglobulins raised against rat brain D2-CAM were purified as described (18). Horse antiserum against *E. coli* polysialic acid (PSA) residues (anti-PSA) was a generous gift from R. A. Troy (University of California) and J. Robbins (National Institutes of Health). [ $^{35}$ S]Methionine (>800 Ci/mmol), *N*-acetyl-D-[ $^3$ H]glucosamine (35 Ci/mmol), [ $^3$ H]mannose (44 Ci/mmol), [ $^3$ H]fucose (67 Ci/mmol), *N*-acetyl-D-[ $^{14}$ C]mannosamine (254 mCi/mmol), [ $^{35}$ S]sulfate ( $^{35}$ SO $_4$ , carrier-free), [ $^{32}$ P]phosphate ( $^{32}$ PO $_4$ , carrier-free), [ $^{251}$ I]-3-(trifluoromethyl)-3-(*m*-[ $^{125}$ I] iodophenyl) diazine (TID, 10 Ci/mmol), and  $^{14}$ C-labeled molecular weight markers were obtained from Amersham International Radiochemical Centre (Amersham, UK). [ $^{125}$ I]-NaI (carrier-free) was obtained from New Eng-

land Nuclear (Boston, MA). X-Omat (XLI) film was from Eastman Kodak Co. (Rochester, NY); Ultrafilm ( $^3$ H) was from LKB Produkter (Bromma, Sweden).

**Cell Culture Methods:** The procedure for the culture of day 15–16 fetal rat brain neurons has previously been described (1). Briefly, mechanically disrupted fetal brain cells were plated in DME containing 10% horse serum in poly-L-lysine-coated culture flasks. After a 24-h incubation at 37°C, media were changed to serum-free DME containing serum-substituting factors as described by Bottenstein et al. (19). Cells were radiolabeled after 6 d in culture and subsequently harvested. D2-CAM was isolated as previously described (1). Briefly, cells were harvested in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) containing 2 mM PMSF and 100 U/ml aprotinin (PBS-PMSF-aprotinin) at 4°C, pelleted by centrifugation (10,000 *g* for 10 min), and solubilized with extraction buffer (Tris-barbital buffer 0.07 M with regard to Tris, pH 8.6, containing 4% vol/vol Triton X-100, 2 mM PMSF, and 100 U/ml aprotinin). The amount of radioactivity incorporated into total protein was determined by precipitation with trichloroacetic acid, and D2-CAM was isolated by immunoprecipitation in agarose gel. Immunoprecipitates were detected visually without staining of the gel; gels were alternately rinsed in distilled water and pressed with filter paper several times. In some cases, the gel was dried under warm air after rinsing and pressing and submitted to autoradiography on Ultrafilm ( $^3$ H). This confirmed the coincidence of the radioactive peaks and the immunoprecipitate peaks detected by eye. Gels were reswollen in H $_2$ O and precipitates were excised and submitted to SDS PAGE.

**Explant Cultures:** Cerebral cortices were taken from rats of various ages and dissected by hand into cubes of  $\sim 1$  mm $^3$ . An explant culture consisted of 20 cubes, which were placed on a Falcon stainless-steel grid and transferred to a Falcon organ culture dish containing 800  $\mu$ l medium, aprotinin (100 U/ml), and radioisotope. After labeling tissue suspensions were centrifuged at 10,000 *g* for 10 min and the pellets were solubilized with extraction buffer and D2-CAM was isolated as described above.

**Isolation of Antigens Reacting with Anti-PSA:** Protein A-Sephacrose (25  $\mu$ l) was incubated with 24  $\mu$ l of anti-PSA for 20 min at 4°C, and subsequently washed in PBS, 0.05% wt/vol BSA, 0.05% vol/vol Tween 20, pH 7.4. Cell extract (20  $\mu$ l) radiolabeled with [ $^{35}$ S]methionine was incubated with the anti-PSA-Sephacrose beads for 30 min at 4°C. The unbound fraction was removed. After extensive washing of the anti-PSA-Sephacrose beads, the bound fraction was eluted with SDS PAGE sample buffer.

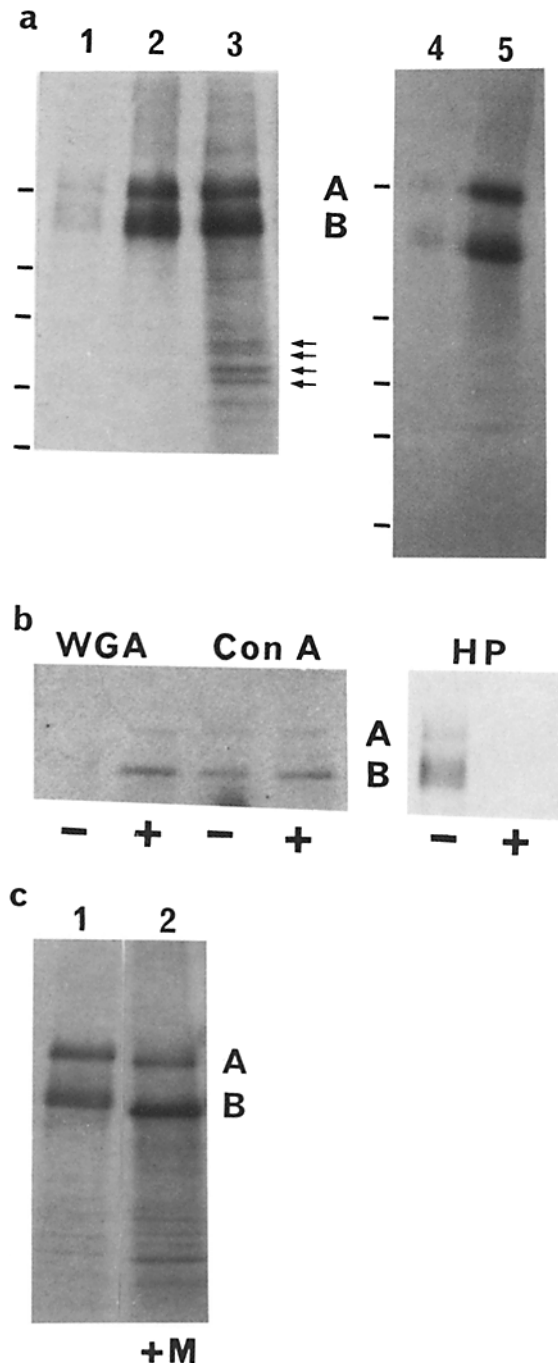
Polysialic acid antigens were also immunoprecipitated by immunoprecipitation in gel using anti-PSA as described previously for anti D2-CAM (1). Comparison between anti-PSA and anti-D2-CAM was performed using crossed immunoelectrophoresis with intermediate gel (20).

**SDS PAGE:** The excised immunoprecipitates were submitted to electrophoresis on 3.7–17% gradient polyacrylamide gels as previously described (1). Aliquots of the immunoprecipitates were assayed for radioactivity. Gels were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue in 7% acetic acid and 40% methanol, destained in 7% acetic acid and 40% methanol, and dried on dialysis membranes. Gels were submitted to autoradiography or fluorography as described (1). The activity of  $\beta$ -emitting isotopes ( $^3$ H,  $^{35}$ S,  $^{32}$ P,  $^{14}$ C) in individual SDS polyacrylamide gel bands was determined as described (1). For  $^{125}$ I, total activity was determined directly by counting excised bands.

**Biosynthetic Labeling of D2-CAM in Cultured Fetal Neuronal Cells:** Cell monolayers were rinsed once in PBS and preincubated for 30 min in the appropriate labeling medium without isotope; cultures labeled with  $^{32}$ PO $_4$  were rinsed with phosphate-free DME. Radioisotopes were added to labeling media on cell monolayers (26 cm $^2$  per flask) for times indicated in the text: [ $^{35}$ S]methionine (400  $\mu$ Ci in 1 ml methionine-free SSF-DME per flask), [ $^3$ H]glucosamine (200  $\mu$ Ci in 1 ml of low-glucose DME per flask), [ $^{14}$ C]-mannosamine (5  $\mu$ Ci in 1 ml of low-glucose DME per flask), [ $^3$ H]fucose (200  $\mu$ Ci in 2 ml low-glucose DME per flask),  $^{35}$ SO $_4$  (400  $\mu$ Ci in 1.5 ml of sulfate-free basal minimal essential medium per flask), and inorganic  $^{32}$ PO $_4$  (1 mCi in 1 ml of phosphate-free DME per flask). Cells were rinsed twice with PBS at 37°C between pulse and chase periods. Chase incubations were performed in serum-substituting factor-DME. Radiolabeling was terminated by rinsing cells with ice-cold PBS-PMSF-aprotinin. In experiments employing drugs during labeling, drug preincubations were performed: tunicamycin (10  $\mu$ g/ml, 100 min) monensin (10 $^{-6}$  M, 45–60 min), and cycloheximide (1 mg/ml, 40 min). The same drug concentrations were added to pulse and chase media.

**Biosynthetic Labeling of D2-CAM in Explant Cultures:** Isotopes used were 400  $\mu$ Ci [ $^{35}$ S]methionine, 400  $\mu$ Ci  $^{35}$ SO $_4$  or 800  $\mu$ Ci  $^{32}$ PO $_4$  per explant culture. Cultures were incubated for 5–6 h at 37°C in 5% CO $_2$ . Labeling was terminated by removing the medium and triturating the tissue in a glass syringe in 1 ml of PBS, 5 mM EDTA, 0.2 mM PMSF, 1  $\mu$ M *N*- $\alpha$ -tosyl-L-lysine chloromethyl ketone, 100 mM iodoacetamide, and 20  $\mu$ g/ml pepstatin.

**Isolation of Cell Surface Localized D2-CAM by Means of Antibodies:** After radiolabeling for various times, cell monolayers were



**FIGURE 1** Biosynthetic labeling of D2-CAM with radioactive sugars. (a) Neuronal monolayers were labeled for 18 h, except for lane 3, where [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine labeling was for 3 h before a 1-h chase. Lane 1, [<sup>3</sup>H]mannose; lane 2, [<sup>3</sup>H]glucosamine; lane 3, [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine; lane 4, [<sup>14</sup>C]mannosamine; lane 5, [<sup>3</sup>H]fucose. 200  $\mu$ Ci of each radiolabel was employed except for [<sup>14</sup>C]mannosamine, where 5  $\mu$ Ci was used. Bars indicate the positions of standard  $M_r$  markers (from top to bottom) on the SDS polyacrylamide gel fluorograms: 200,000, 93,000, 69,000, 44,000, and 31,000. The positions of D2-CAM polypeptides A and B are indicated. Lanes 1-3 and 4-5 were run on separate gels. (b) The binding of D2-CAM to lectins. The fluorogram shows the D2-CAM polypeptides that were bound (+) or not bound (-) to WGA, Con A, or H Pomatia. [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine labeled D2-CAM was incubated with lectin, as described in Materials and Methods. The H Pomatia samples were analyzed on a separate gel and a higher amount of radioactivity was employed that produced broader bands. (c) The effects of monensin on D2-CAM polypeptide synthesis. Neuronal monolayers were labeled 10

rinsed twice in PBS at 4°C. Cell monolayers of 26 cm<sup>2</sup> were incubated for 20 min on ice with 1.0 ml of chilled PBS-PMSF-aptotinin, containing 20  $\mu$ l of anti-D2-CAM antibodies and 200  $\mu$ l swine serum (carrier protein). Antibody-containing PBS was removed and monolayers were rinsed three times with PBS-PMSF-aptotinin at 4°C. Cells were harvested as described above. Cells from each flask were solubilized in 140  $\mu$ l of extraction buffer, which contained 40  $\mu$ l of perinatal forebrain extract (solubilized 1:1, wt/vol, in extraction buffer); this was done to block surplus anti-D2-CAM antibody from binding intracellular D2-CAM during solubilization. Solubilized complexes of anti-D2-CAM + surface localized D2-CAM were isolated on Protein A-Sepharose (21).

**Trypsin Treatment of Surface D2-CAM on Cultured Cells:** Cell monolayers were rinsed twice with PBS at 37°C and incubated with 1 ml of 0.5 mg/ml trypsin in PBS containing 0.2 mg/ml EDTA for 10 min at 37°C. Subsequently, cells were detached from the plastic surface of the culture flask by tapping. 1 ml of soybean trypsin inhibitor (1.0 mg/ml PBS) was added to the cells, which were subsequently pelleted (500 g for 5 min) and rinsed in PBS.

**Lectin Binding of D2-CAM:** Con A, WGA, or H Pomatia bound to Sepharose beads were equilibrated in 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.4, containing 0.05% vol/vol Tween-20 and 1% wt/vol BSA. Aliquots of cell extract (15  $\mu$ l) were incubated with 50-75  $\mu$ l of beads for 18 h at 4°C. After extensive washing in equilibration buffer, bound glycoproteins were eluted with Tris-barbital buffer (see immunoisolation subsection above) containing 5% wt/vol sugar:  $\alpha$ -D-glycopyranoside for Con A, N-acetyl-D-glucosamine for WGA, N-acetyl-D-galactosamine for H Pomatia. D2-CAM was immunoisolated from both unbound and bound fractions as described above.

**<sup>125</sup>I-Labeling by the Chloramine T Method:** Brains from rats postnatal day 4 were homogenized (1:10 wt/vol) in PBS-PMSF-aptotinin at 4°C. Membranes were centrifuged for 30 min at 10,000 g. Pellets were washed twice. Aliquots corresponding to ~10 mg wet weight tissue were labeled with 1 mCi of <sup>125</sup>I-Na by the chloramine T method (22).

**Labeling with <sup>125</sup>I-TID:** Membranes were prepared as described above, except that PBS contained only aptotinin in the first wash. Aliquots corresponding to 25 mg tissue wet weight per milliliter were suspended in sodium phosphate buffer (0.005 M, pH 7.6). Membranes were iodinated by photoactivation for 30 s in a 1-ml cuvette with constant stirring using 50  $\mu$ Ci <sup>125</sup>I-TID/ml membrane suspension (23). The light source was a mercury lamp (OSRAM, HBO), which was focused by a quartz lens in the middle of the cuvette. Samples were quenched by adding BSA (1% wt/vol) and cooling on ice.

**D2-CAM Degradation:** *Endo H:* immunoprecipitates were incubated with Endo H (6 mU/100  $\mu$ l) for 5 h at 37°C in 0.05 M, pH 5.0, acetate buffer containing 0.09 M CaCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.2% wt/vol SDS. *Chondroitinase ABC:* immunoprecipitates were incubated in 0.25 M, pH 8.0, Tris-HCl containing 0.18 M sodium acetate and 0.25 M NaCl with 20 mU/100  $\mu$ l chondroitinase ABC for 4 h at 37°C. *Heparinase:* immunoprecipitates were incubated with 0.05 M, pH 7.0, calcium acetate buffer with 20 mU/100  $\mu$ l heparinase for 4 h at 37°C.  *$\beta$ -Elimination:* this was performed by incubating immunoprecipitates in 0.5 M NaOH for 18 h at 4°C. Subsequently, the samples were neutralized. *Acid treatment:* immunoprecipitates were submitted to mild acid treatment in 1 M HCl 30 min at 60°C and subsequently neutralized.

**Peptide Mapping:** Gel slices containing individual SDS PAGE bands were excised and boiled for 5-10 min in SDS-PAGE sample buffer. Chymotrypsin (20  $\mu$ g/ml) was added and the samples were submitted to electrophoresis on a 7.5-17.5% SDS polyacrylamide gradient gel containing EDTA (1 mM) as described by Cleveland et al. (24).

## RESULTS

### D2-CAM Glycosylation in Fetal Neurons in Culture

**BIOSYNTHETIC LABELING WITH RADIOACTIVE SUGARS:** Several radiolabeled sugars were employed to characterize D2-CAM glycosylation (Fig. 1a). Both polypeptides A and B were labeled with [<sup>3</sup>H]glucosamine, [<sup>3</sup>H]fucose, [<sup>3</sup>H]mannose, and [<sup>14</sup>C]mannosamine, the latter being a metabolic precursor of sialic acid. The relative labeling of D2-CAM with the different sugars is shown in Table I as the fraction of

min with [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine and chased 50 min, as described in Materials and Methods. Lane 1, control; lane 2, with monensin (+M). See Materials and Methods for further details.

TABLE I  
Incorporation of Different Radioactive Labels into D2-CAM in Fetal Neurons in Culture

Radiolabel	Labeling period h	Incorporation into D2-CAM* %	Relative incorporation <sup>†</sup>		$\frac{B}{A}$
			A	B	
[ <sup>35</sup> S]Methionine	0.1-1	0.15 ± 0.002 (20)	40	60	1.5
[ <sup>3</sup> H]Glucosamine	18	0.46 (3)	33	67	2.0
[ <sup>3</sup> H]Fucose	18	0.87 (2)	38	62	1.6
[ <sup>14</sup> C]Mannosamine	18	1.04 (1)	37	67	1.7
[ <sup>3</sup> H]Mannose	18	<0.01 (1)	-	-	-
<sup>35</sup> SO <sub>4</sub>	2-6	3.5 ± 0.8 (5)	28	72	2.3
<sup>32</sup> PO <sub>4</sub>	2-6	0.24 ± 0.05 (4)	53	47	0.85

\* The radioactivity detected in the D2-CAM immunoprecipitate (1) is expressed as a percentage of the total trichloroacetic acid-precipitable radioactivity submitted to immunoelectrophoresis. Results are given as mean values ± SEM; number of experiments is given in parentheses.

† The radioactivity detected in the A or B bands eluted from SDS gels is expressed as the percentage of the total in (A + B). Results are given as mean values of one to three determinations.

radioactivity recovered in immunisolated D2-CAM relative to radioactivity incorporated into total protein. There was a relatively high incorporation of mannosamine and fucose, less incorporation of glucosamine, and a low incorporation of mannose. This agrees with our previous finding that both A and B polypeptides are synthesized with high-mannose cores. These are later modified during transport through the *cis*-Golgi compartment by the stepwise removal of glucose and mannose residues; complex glycosylation is completed in the *trans*-Golgi compartment by the addition of glucosamine, galactose, glucose, fucose, and sialic acid as described (25). Our data show that the characteristic sugars present in *N*-linked complex oligosaccharides are incorporated into D2-CAM A and B. The low incorporation of mannose probably indicates that neither A nor B, when fully modified, contains the high-mannose type of oligosaccharide chain. Approximately twice as much of each radiolabel was found to be incorporated into B, relative to A, which is similar to the distribution of [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine. Tunicamycin is a drug that prevents the formation of high-mannose cores and, hence, blocks complex *N*-linked glycosylation (26). No labeling of A or B with [<sup>3</sup>H]glucosamine or [<sup>14</sup>C]mannosamine was detected in the presence of tunicamycin (not shown), further indicating that the oligosaccharides on A and B are complex *N*-linked.

**AFFINITY OF D2-CAM FOR VARIOUS LECTINS:** The affinity of biosynthetically [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine labeled A and B polypeptides to Con A, WGA, and H Pomatia was determined (Fig. 1*b*). It was found that both A and B were bound to Con A and WGA, whereas no binding to H Pomatia was observed.

**β-ELIMINATION REACTION:** O-linked oligosaccharides are alkali labile. Treatment of the D2-CAM immunoprecipitate in a β-elimination reaction was without any effect on the molecular weight of the A or B polypeptide biosynthetically labeled with [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine for 18 h (not shown). This indicates the absence of O-linked oligosaccharides on A and B.

**EFFECTS OF MONENSIN ON INTRACELLULAR MATURATION OF D2-CAM:** The ionophore monensin causes vacuolization of the Golgi complex and prevents the transit of membrane proteins from the *cis*- to *trans*-Golgi compartments without interfering with other cellular events, such as protein synthesis (27). The effect of monensin on D2-CAM synthesis is shown in Fig. 1*c*. Cells were labeled by a 10-min pulse with [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine followed by a 50-min chase period. Synthesis in the presence of monensin (Fig. 1*c*, lane 2), yielded A and B polypeptides seen by SDS PAGE as narrow

bands of lower molecular weight than those of the corresponding control (Fig. 1*c*, lane 1). Hence, the increase in band width observed with increasing time of posttranslational processing probably is due to complex glycosylation in the *trans*-Golgi compartment.

**DEMONSTRATION OF POLYSIALIC ACID IN D2-CAM:** A polyspecific antiserum produced against polysialosyl chains purified from *Escherichia coli* (anti-PSA) (28) was employed to isolate polysialated glycoproteins from [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine-labeled cell extracts. A comparison between anti-PSA and anti-D2-CAM was performed by immunoprecipitation in gel, using crossed immunoelectrophoresis with intermediate gel (Fig. 2, *a* and *b*). Solubilized membranes from perinatal rat brain was the antigen tested against anti-PSA in the intermediate gel and anti-D2-CAM in the upper reference gel; a control experiment was performed in which the anti-PSA was omitted from the intermediate gel. Fig. 2*a* shows that anti-PSA was able to retract the D2-CAM precipitate from the reference gel, indicating that anti-PSA reacted with D2-CAM. To test whether anti-PSA reacted with molecules other than D2-CAM, the system was reversed, placing the anti-D2-CAM in the intermediate gel and anti-PSA in the upper reference gel (Fig. 2*b*). A small precipitate was observed with anti-PSA, in addition to the anti-D2-CAM precipitate (see arrow, Fig. 2*b*). Thus, it appears that anti-PSA reacts with D2-CAM and, also, with a population of other antigens that are unrelated to D2-CAM. Isolation of glycoproteins with polysialosyl chains was performed by immunoelectrophoresis with anti-PSA or with protein A and anti-PSA. Several polypeptide bands were detected when biosynthetically radiolabeled anti-PSA immunoprecipitates were analyzed on SDS polyacrylamide gels (Fig. 2*c*). Bands were detected in two regions with molecular weights corresponding to D2-CAM polypeptides A and B, indicating that these represent D2-CAM with polysialosyl immunoreactivity. The widths of the bands corresponded to the band patterns detected after prolonged biosynthetic labeling with [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine (cf. Fig. 1, lane 3). Anti-PSA also isolated other peptides, including four low-molecular-weight polypeptides (LMP). (Four similar [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine-labeled polypeptides with corresponding *M<sub>r</sub>* of 42,000, 46,000, 52,000, and 58,000 were routinely observed previously (1) and in this study (Fig. 1*a*, lane 3), by immunoisolation with anti-D2-CAM antibody. From these experiments it appears that D2-CAM A and B are polysialated. However, other molecules from neurons are also apparently polysialated, as revealed by the additional bands detected by

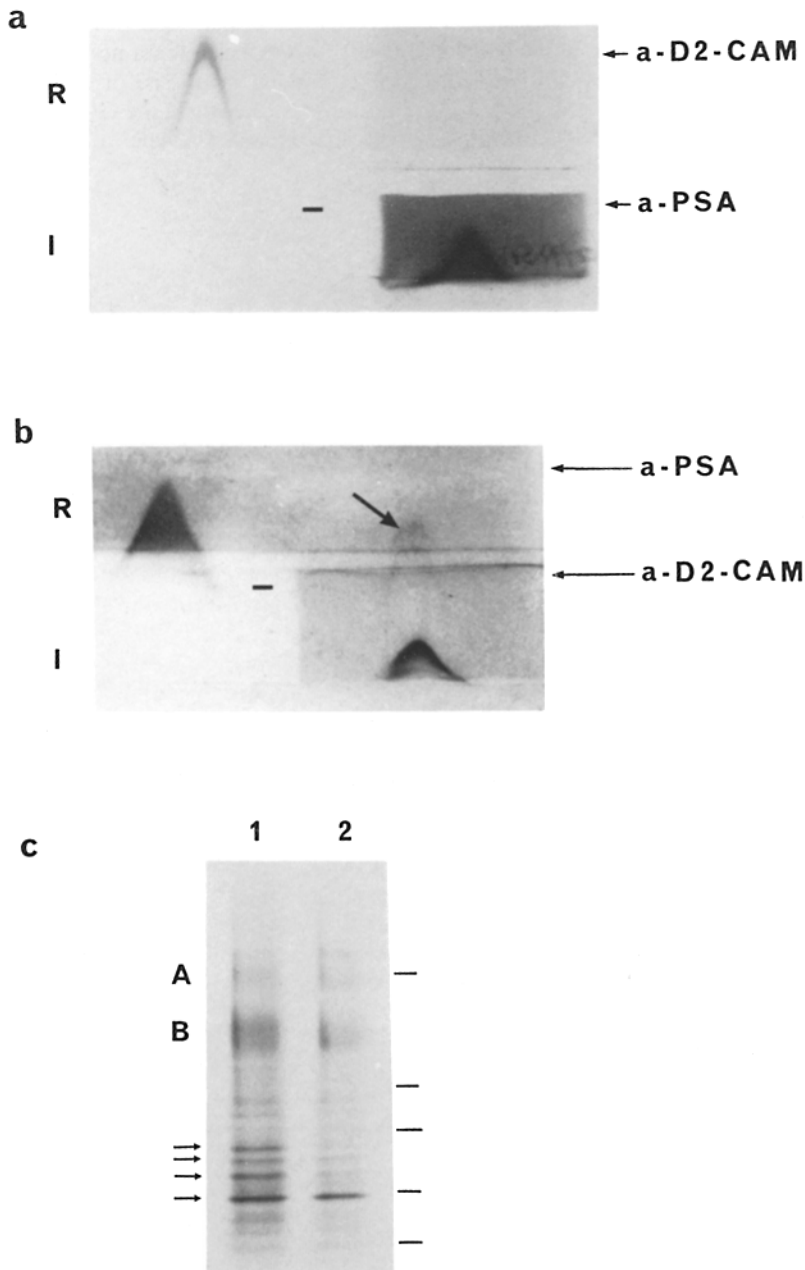


FIGURE 2 Identification of D2-CAM with an antibody against polysialic acid. (a) Comparison of anti-D2-CAM (a-D2-CAM) and anti-PSA (a-PSA) by crossed immunoelectrophoresis. The intermediate gel (I) contained no antibody (–) or anti-PSA as described in Materials and Methods. The reference gel (R) contained anti-D2-CAM. All D2-CAM-reactive species were removed from the reference gel and precipitated in the intermediate (+ a-PSA) gel. (b) Comparison of anti-D2-CAM and anti-PSA by crossed immunoelectrophoresis. In this experiment the intermediate gel (I) contained no antibody (–) or anti-D2-CAM. The reference gel (R) contained anti-PSA. Note the faint precipitate in the anti-PSA gel (arrow) indicating the presence of PSA-antigens unrelated to D2-CAM. (c) Analysis by SDS PAGE. [ $^{35}\text{S}$ ]methionine labeled D2-CAM from neuronal culture extracts was isolated by crossed immunoelectrophoresis employing anti-PSA; precipitates were submitted to SDS PAGE. Lane 1, 40 min pulse/60-min chase; lane 2, 18 h label. Bars indicate the positions of standard  $M_r$  markers as in Fig. 1. Arrows indicate low  $M_r$  polypeptides similar to those identified by anti-D2-CAM.

SDS PAGE and by the immunoprecipitation experiment shown in Fig. 2b.

#### Sulfation of D2-CAM in Fetal Neurons in Culture

$^{35}\text{SO}_4$  was incorporated into polypeptides A and B (Fig. 3a). The fraction of radioactive  $^{35}\text{SO}_4$  incorporated into D2-CAM compared with the amount incorporated into total protein was considerably higher than the incorporation of [ $^{35}\text{S}$ ]methionine into D2-CAM, Table I. The relative incorporation into B/A was 2.3. A broad band of  $^{35}\text{SO}_4$  activity was observed at the top of the gel with  $M_r$  of ca. 250,000–350,000. The amount of radioactivity detected in this high-molecular-weight component was 67% of the amount detected in A + B. This band was not observed after labeling with [ $^{35}\text{S}$ ]methionine or radioactive sugars.

To determine the subcellular site of D2-CAM sulfation, labeling was performed in the presence of monensin or tunicamycin (not shown). In the presence of monensin, hardly any  $^{35}\text{SO}_4$  labeling of A and B was detected, whereas a slight

labeling of the high molecular weight component was observed indicating that most of the sulfation of D2-CAM occurs in the *trans*-Golgi compartment. No sulfation of A or B was observed in the presence of tunicamycin, although a very slight labeling of the high molecular weight component was seen. Tunicamycin prevents the formation of complex *N*-linked oligosaccharides, suggesting that D2-CAM sulfation may occur on the oligosaccharide chains. However, tunicamycin has been reported to prevent transport of N-CAM to the cell surface (29). Hence, it may block D2-CAM sulfation by preventing transport through the Golgi apparatus.

To characterize further the sulfation of A and B, additional experiments were performed involving the digestion of  $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ -labeled D2-CAM with the proteoglycan-specific enzymes chondroitinase ABC and heparinase. Neither of the enzymes had any effect on the sulfation of A or B, indicating that they are not proteoglycans.  $^{35}\text{SO}_4$ -labeled D2-CAM was also submitted to mild acid treatment (1 M HCl for 30 min at 60°C), which has been shown to remove peptide-linked sulfate selec-

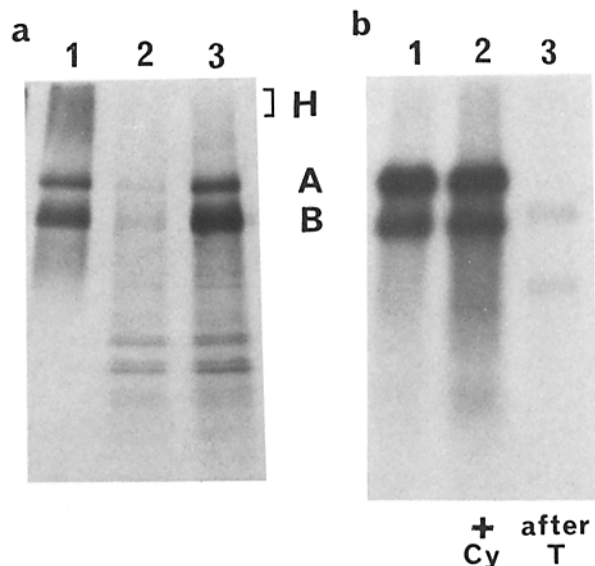


FIGURE 3 (a) Sulfation of D2-CAM. Cell monolayers were labeled with  $400 \mu\text{Ci } ^{35}\text{SO}_4$  for 4–6 h (lane 1) or with  $400 \mu\text{Ci } [^{35}\text{S}]\text{methionine}$  for a 60-min pulse/30-min chase (lanes 2 and 3). Lane 2 represents the fraction solubilized from  $[^{35}\text{S}]\text{methionine}$ -labeled cells by EGTA treatment; radiolabeled cells were incubated with shaking for 30 min with 1.0 ml, 0.5 mM EGTA in PBS at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . The cells were partially lysed after the treatment. After centrifugation ( $10,000 g$  for 10 min) unlabeled brain extract was added to the supernatant and D2-CAM was immunisolated and submitted to SDS PAGE. (b) Phosphorylation of D2-CAM. Monolayers were labeled with  $1 \text{ mCi } ^{32}\text{PO}_4$ ; lane 1, control; lane 2, labeling in the presence of cycloheximide (+Cy); lane 3, labeling of cells pretreated with trypsin (after T) to remove cell surface proteins before radiolabeling, as described in Materials and Methods. Note the lack of effect of cycloheximide on D2-CAM phosphorylation (lane 2), compared with the greatly reduced D2-CAM phosphorylation seen after cell surface D2-CAM was removed with trypsin (lane 3). The positions of A, B, and the high molecular weight component (H) are indicated.

tively, but not oligosaccharide-bound sulfate (30). This treatment removed all  $^{35}\text{SO}_4$  label from both A and B indicating that sulfation occurs on the polypeptide, rather than on the oligosaccharide, chains of A and B.

### Phosphorylation of D2-CAM in Fetal Neuronal Cultures

Inorganic  $^{32}\text{PO}_4$  was incorporated into D2-CAM A and B (see Table I and Fig. 3b). The ratio of relative radioactivity detected in B/A was 0.85, which is lower than the ratio of 1.5 obtained with  $[^{35}\text{S}]\text{methionine}$ . To determine the subcellular site of D2-CAM phosphorylation, labeling was performed in the presence of tunicamycin, monensin, or cycloheximide. (The latter reagent completely blocks protein synthesis in the concentration employed.) None of these inhibitors interfered with the overall incorporation of  $^{32}\text{PO}_4$  into D2-CAM. Neither did they alter the relative labeling of B/A. The molecular weights of A and B were identical in all experiments and correspond to those of the fully modified A and B polypeptides. If however, neuronal monolayers were pretreated with trypsin to remove surface-localized D2-CAM,  $^{32}\text{PO}_4$  incorporation was greatly diminished (Fig. 3b, lane 3). As a control to show that D2-CAM synthesis was unaffected by the trypsinization, cells were trypsinized and subsequently labeled for 2 h with  $[^{35}\text{S}]\text{methionine}$ . Total  $[^{35}\text{S}]\text{methionine}$  incorpora-

tion was found to be comparable to that seen in untreated cells, and both A and B were radiolabeled (data not shown). Thus, a complete block of protein synthesis, of N-linked glycosylation, or of intracellular transport via the Golgi complex does not interfere with phosphorylation, whereas removal of surface localized D2-CAM eliminates its phosphorylation. Thus, it appears that phosphorylation of A and B occurs at the plasma membrane.

### Intracellular Transport of D2-CAM

ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM TO GOLGI APPARATUS: D2-CAM has previously been shown to be initially synthesized with high-mannose cores, which can be detected by their sensitivity to degradation with the glycosidase, Endo H (1). This enzyme specifically degrades N-linked high-mannose cores with between 5 and 9 mannose residues; oligosaccharides with fewer or more mannose residues are not affected by Endo H. Because trimming of high-mannose cores to  $\text{Man}_3\text{GlcNAc}_2$  occurs in the *cis*-Golgi compartment, we have examined the time course of the loss of sensitivity of D2-CAM to Endo H as a gauge of its transport from the endoplasmic reticulum to the Golgi complex (Fig. 4a). Almost all of the polypeptides in the A and B SDS gel bands were sensitive to degradation with Endo H after a 10-min pulse, whereas only part of each band was susceptible to degradation after a subsequent 10-min chase (i.e., 20 min after synthesis). It can be seen that the lower molecular weight regions of A and B in the 10-min pulse/10-min chase sample were sensitive to Endo H treatment, whereas the higher molecular weight regions of the bands were unaffected. Both A and B had lost their high-mannose cores, as indicated by their complete insensitivity to Endo H treatment, 20–30 min after synthesis. Therefore, D2-CAM polypeptides are apparently transported through the *cis*-Golgi compartment within 20 min of synthesis.

APPEARANCE AT THE CELL SURFACE—ISOLATION OF PLASMA MEMBRANE D2-CAM WITH ANTIBODY: Cell monolayers were  $[^{35}\text{S}]\text{methionine}$  radiolabeled and then incubated with anti-D2-CAM antibodies, which bound D2-CAM present on the cell surface. After cell solubilization, antibody-antigen complexes were isolated with Protein A-Sepharose. Radiolabeled A and B were detected on the surface 35 min after start of synthesis (Fig. 4b). The intensity of both increased with the length of the chase period.

INSERTION OF D2-CAM IN THE PLASMA MEMBRANE: Perinatal rat brain membranes were labeled with  $^{125}\text{I}$  by the chloramine T method and by photoactivation with TID. The former method labels proteins in general, whereas photoactivation with TID selectively labels integral membrane proteins in their lipophilic domains (23). Fig. 5a shows that both A and B were similarly labeled with  $^{125}\text{I}$  by both methods. The percentage of radioactivity incorporated into the D2-CAM immunoprecipitate, relative to total radioactive protein, was found to be 0.17% with chloramine T and 0.01% with TID. The lower relative radiolabeling of D2-CAM observed with TID may indicate that hydrophobic domains of A and B comprise a relatively small portion of the polypeptides.

### Selective Extraction of LMP

The LMP may represent D2-CAM fragments or distinct polypeptides that are attached to D2-CAM. An aliquot of

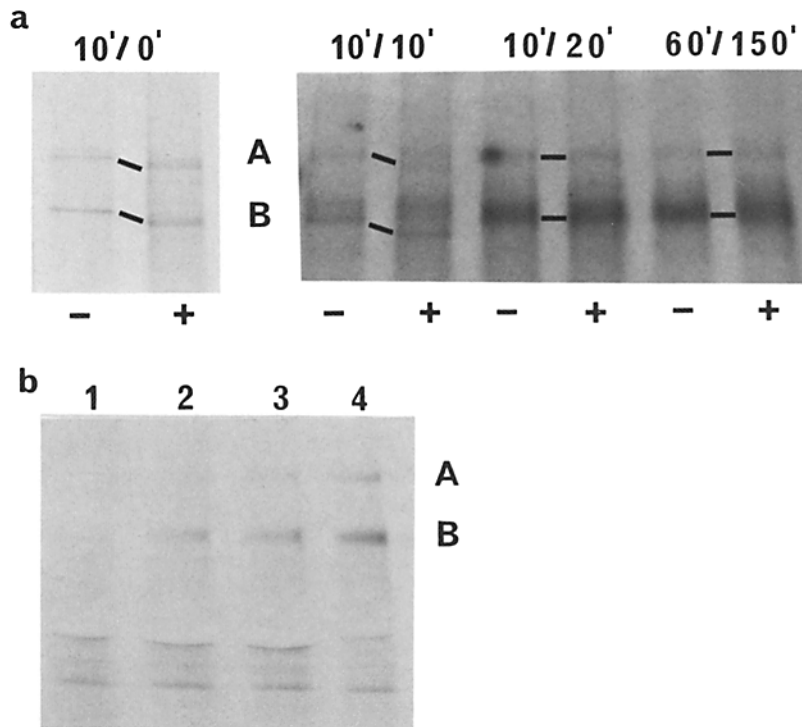


FIGURE 4 (a) The loss of sensitivity of D2-CAM to Endo H degradation. Monolayers were pulse-labeled with 400  $\mu$ Ci [ $^{35}$ S]methionine and chased for times as indicated above each pair of SDS gel lanes. D2-CAM was isolated and degraded with Endo H (+) or incubated in buffer (-); samples were then analyzed by SDS PAGE. The 10'/0' pair was run on a separate gel. Bars are drawn between the lower limits of the A and B gel bands of paired samples. (b) The appearance of D2-CAM on the cell surface. Monolayers were labeled with [ $^{35}$ S]methionine and then incubated with anti-D2-CAM; subsequent D2-CAM isolation was performed using protein A-Sepharose. The cell extracts employed in lanes 1-4 were standardized for equal amounts of initial acid-precipitable radioactivity. Lane 1, 15-min pulse; lane 2, 15-min pulse/20-min chase; lane 3, 15-min pulse/50-min chase; lane 4, 60-min pulse/120-min chase.

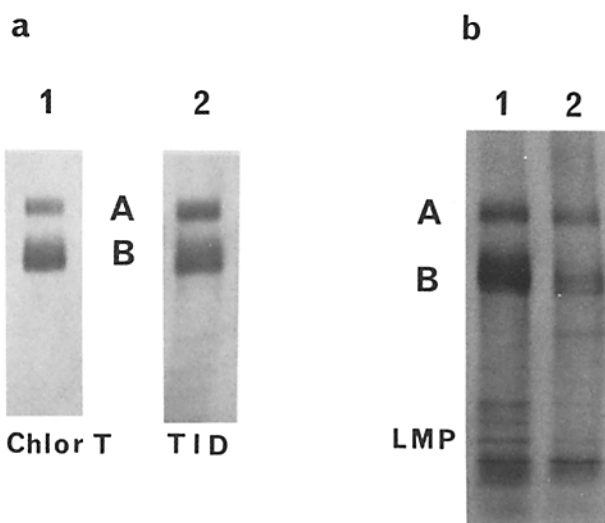


FIGURE 5 (a) Identification of D2-CAM as an integral membrane protein. Perinatal rat brain membranes were radioiodinated by chloramine T (lane 1) and by photoactivation with TID (lane 2). See Materials and Methods for labeling details. (b) Removal of LMP with SDS. Lane 1, control extract; lane 2, [ $^{35}$ S]methionine labeled cell extract was incubated with 2% SDS at 100°C for 3 min. Triton X-100 was added (final concentration 6%). Carrier protein from perinatal brain extract was added to the sample and D2-CAM was immunisolated. The positions of A, B, and LMP are indicated.

[ $^{35}$ S]methionine-labeled cell extracts was treated with SDS for 3 min at 100°C; subsequently an excess Triton X-100 was added and D2-CAM was immunisolated. The relative radioactivity in three of the four LMPs was reduced (Fig. 5b) by SDS treatment, therefore SDS treatment either detached these noncovalently linked polypeptides or, if they are D2-CAM fragments, destroyed their antigenicity. We also tried to separate the LMPs from D2-CAM under nondenaturing conditions: [ $^{35}$ S]methionine-labeled cell monolayers were treated

with 0.5 mM EGTA. The cells were partially lysed after the treatment. EGTA selectively extracted LMP, as shown in Fig. 3a, lanes 2 and 3.

#### Developmental Changes in the D2-CAM Biosynthesis

Explant cultures of forebrains from rats at embryonic day 17 and postnatal days 4, 8, 15, and 25 were biosynthetically labeled with [ $^{35}$ S]methionine (Fig. 6a). A and B were synthesized at all ages examined. In addition, a polypeptide of  $M_r$  115,000 (C) and one to three discrete polypeptide bands with  $M_r$  between 250,000 and 350,000, the high-molecular-weight polypeptides ( $HM_r$ ), were observed at all ages. Peptide mapping of the individual  $HM_r$ , A, B, and C polypeptides was performed according to Cleveland et al. (24). Similar chymotryptic degradation patterns for all four polypeptides were observed (Fig. 6b). No correlation was apparent between age and the size or number of different high-molecular-weight polypeptides. The molecular weight of polypeptides A, B, and C remained the same at all ages examined, although the widths of the A and B bands were found to decrease postnatally, which may reflect a decrease in glycosylation. The relative amounts of A and B decreased with age, while the relative proportion of C and  $HM_r$  increased with age (Fig. 7).

Explant cultures of forebrains from rats at embryonic day 17 and postnatal days 4 and 8 were labeled with [ $^{35}$ S]sulfate. Sulfation of A and B polypeptides was detected in tissue from embryonic day 17; C and  $HM_r$  polypeptides were faintly labeled. Almost no sulfation was detected at postnatal days 4 and 8.

Finally, explant cultures of forebrains from rats at embryonic day 17 and postnatal days 4, 8, and 15 were labeled with inorganic [ $^{32}$ P]phosphate. The A and B polypeptides were seen to be phosphorylated at all ages whereas no phosphorylation was detected of the C and  $HM_r$  polypeptides.

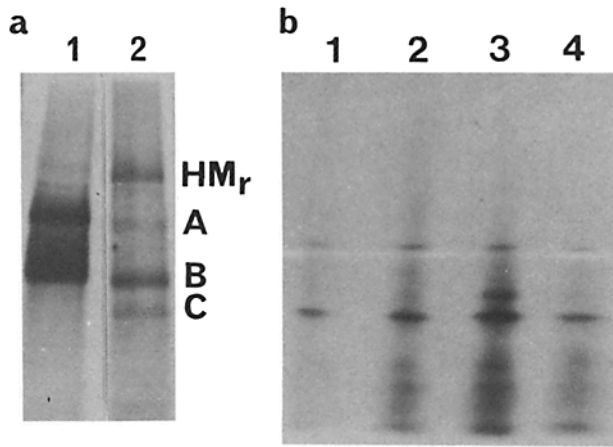


FIGURE 6 (a) Biosynthetic labeling with [ $^{35}$ S]methionine of D2-CAM in explant cultures from rat forebrains.  $HM_r$ , A, B, and C polypeptides are indicated. Lane 1, embryonic day 17; lane 2, postnatal day 8. (b) Peptide maps of the D2-CAM polypeptides after digestion with chymotrypsin (20  $\mu$ g/ml):  $HM_r$  (lane 1), A (lane 2), B (lane 3), and C (lane 4). Only low levels of radioactivity were observed in the bands from  $HM_r$  (lane 1), however the general degradation pattern detected appeared similar to the general patterns observed for polypeptides A, B, and C. The extra fragment from the B polypeptide was not reproducibly detected.

## DISCUSSION

In this report we have characterized the glycosylation of D2-CAM polypeptides A and B. In addition, we have shown that A and B undergo two other posttranslational modifications, sulfation and phosphorylation, that have not previously been reported for D2-CAM. A model illustrating D2-CAM biosynthesis and intracellular transport is shown in Fig. 8.

During D2-CAM synthesis in the endoplasmic reticulum, four to five high-mannose cores are co-translationally linked to asparagine residues on both polypeptides A and B (1). The high-mannose cores undergo a process of trimming in the *cis*-Golgi compartment. The loss of high-mannose cores, as judged by loss of sensitivity of A and B to Endo H, reflects the transport of both polypeptides through the *cis*-Golgi compartment within 20 min of translation.

After the trimming of high-mannose cores, the complex oligosaccharide chains on A and B are built up during their passage through the *trans*-Golgi compartment. This includes the incorporation of glucosamine, fucose, and terminal sugars, especially sialic acid. All polypeptides may not receive identical complex oligosaccharide chains, resulting in a final population of molecules with heterogeneous sizes. This is observed in the synthesis of D2-CAM where broader molecular weight ranges are detected for A and B after 30 min of posttranslational processing. The partial binding of A and B to the Con A lectin may also be due to heterogeneity in glycosylation. Monensin, which inhibits the *cis*- to *trans*-Golgi transport of A and B, prevents their complex glycosylation and the resulting size heterogeneity. A novel type of oligosaccharide modification, that involves the sequential linkage of  $\sim$ 200 sialic acid residues has been described in *E. coli*. Recent evidence using an antibody raised against *E. coli* polysialic acid indicates that some proteins in rat brain contain up to four sialosyl residues in a similar polysialic  $\alpha$ -2,8 ketosidic linkage (30, 31). We have found that the A and B polypeptides from rat neuronal cultures are also immunisolated by this antibody which suggests that both polypeptides are polysialated. How-

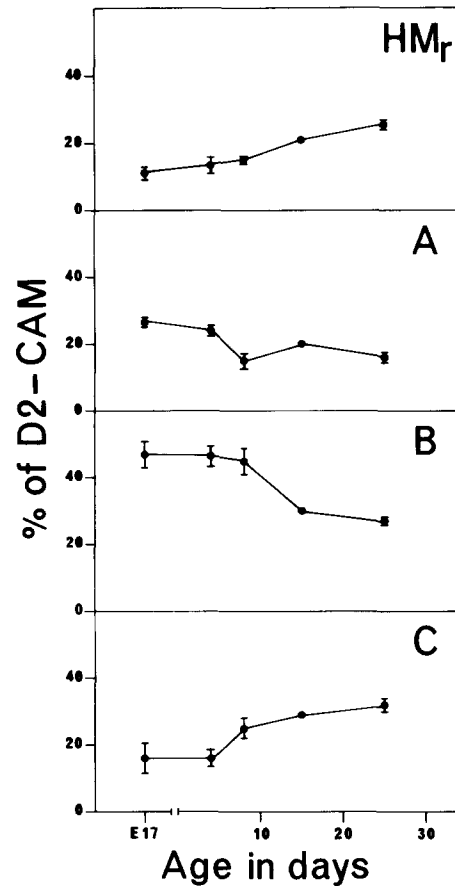


FIGURE 7 Developmental changes in the biosynthesis of D2-CAM polypeptides in rat forebrains. The abscissa represents the animal age in days; embryonic day 17 is indicated (E17). The percentages of total disintegrations per minute in D2-CAM detected in the  $HM_r$ , A, B, and C polypeptides are shown on the ordinate ( $\bar{x} \pm$  SEM;  $n = 5$  [E17],  $n = 7$  [P4],  $n = 4$  [P8 and P25],  $n = 1$  [P15]).

ever, we cannot rule out the possibility that only one of the polypeptides might be polysialated, since both would be immunisolated if they were joined by a noncovalent linkage. Additional evidence from biosynthetic labeling with mannosamine indicates that both A and B are sialated. The relative labeling of A and B with the different radiolabeled sugars was similar to that seen with [ $^{35}$ S]methionine, suggesting an equivalent level of glycosylation, including sialation, of A and B.

D2-CAM was found to be a highly sulfated protein, accounting for 2–4% of total sulfated proteins in cultured rat neurons. Sulfation occurred to A and B in the *trans*-Golgi compartment. The lability of the sulfate label under mild acid conditions (32), indicates that it is linked to the A and B peptide chains, rather than to oligosaccharides. A and B do not appear to be proteoglycans as indicated by their resistance to chondroitinase ABC and heparinase and the absence of O-linked oligosaccharides.

D2-CAM appears on the cell surface  $\sim$ 35 min after synthesis. Both A and B were shown to contain lipophilic domains with which they are inserted in the plasma membrane as integral membrane proteins. Phosphorylation occurs to both A and B when they are located at the plasma membrane. Polypeptide A was relatively more phosphorylated than B, as contrasted to amino acid or sugar incorporation. This suggests that A contains more sites for phosphorylation than B. Because phosphorylation is generally considered to occur on the



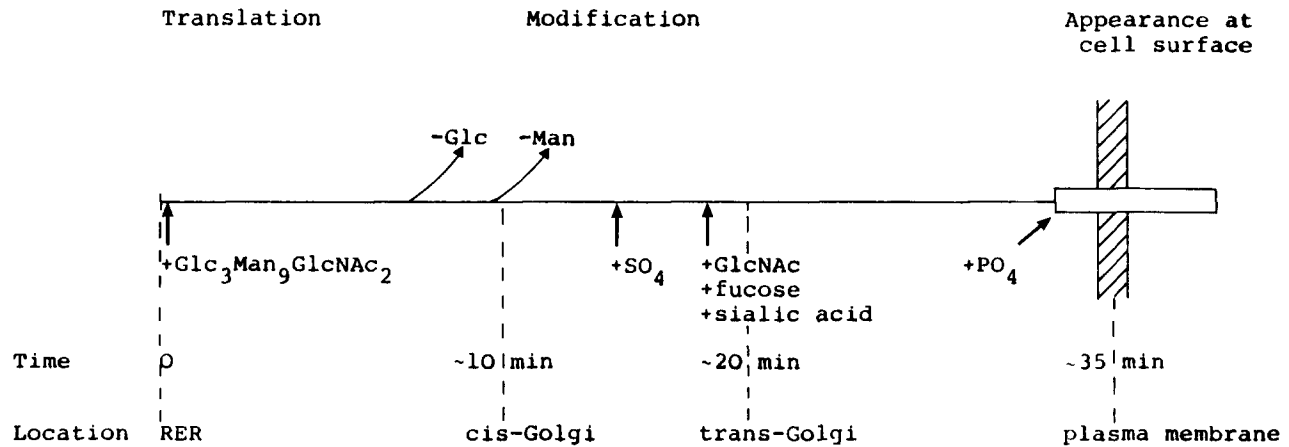


FIGURE 8 A model of the posttranslational modifications and intracellular transport of D2-CAM.

cytoplasmic side of the plasma membrane, this may reflect a larger cytoplasmic domain on polypeptide A. Because phosphorylation plays a dynamic role in the regulation of several neuronal membrane proteins (33), the relatively higher phosphorylation of A may indicate different functional roles of the two polypeptides in cell-cell interactions.

A group of four LMPs were identified as being D2-CAM-associated. These polypeptides were invariably co-isolated with D2-CAM from [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine labeled neuronal cell extracts in similar relative amounts and have  $M_r$  of 44,000, 48,000, 52,000, and 58,000. Previously these molecules were suggested as being degradation products of D2-CAM (1). However, LMP do not display several of the characteristic features of D2-CAM. They are not *N*-linked glycosylated, sulfated, or phosphorylated. They are not firmly attached to the plasma membrane, as indicated by their selective extraction with EGTA and lack of labeling with <sup>125</sup>I-TID.

Trypsinization of intact cells did not alter the detection of these polypeptides (unpublished data). SDS treatment, however, did prevent their co-isolation with D2-CAM A and B. Our findings suggest that LMP are independent polypeptides that are noncovalently associated with D2-CAM and are thereby co-immunoprecipitated. This would explain their isolation by anti-PSA even though they apparently are not glycoproteins. Proteins with similar low molecular weight have been identified in neural tumor cell substrate adhesion sites and are thought to play a role in neural cell adhesion in vitro (13). Some of these proteins have been tentatively identified as cytoskeletal elements (e.g., actin and 10-nm filament subunit proteins). Fibronectin has also been proposed to interact with extracellular matrix and cytoskeletal components, thereby playing a role in both cell adhesion and cell motility (34, 35).

An explant culture system of rat forebrain was employed to study age-dependent changes in the biosynthesis of D2-CAM in tissue with preserved structure. Here D2-CAM was synthesized as several polypeptides: A (195,000  $M_r$ ), B (137,000  $M_r$ ), C (115,000  $M_r$ ), and one to three discrete HM<sub>r</sub> polypeptides (between 250,000 and 350,000  $M_r$ ). Previous reports have indicated that a decreased sialylation of D2-CAM/N-CAM occurs with increasing age (7, 36). The reduced widths of the A and B polypeptide bands detected on SDS gels with increasing age probably reflect reduced glycosylation of these two polypeptides. The molecular weight of A synthesized in the fetal neuronal cultures was found to be 187,000 (1) which is significantly lower than the molecular weight of

A determined in the explant culture system (using the lowest limit of SDS gel bands as a measure of molecular weight): the difference probably reflects further posttranslational modifications, especially glycosylation, of A in tissue with preserved structure. The molecular weight of B was found to be identical in the two systems. The C polypeptide was present in low amounts at embryonic and early postnatal ages; the amount of this polypeptide increased with age, relative to A and B. The C polypeptide is not observed in significant amounts in the fetal neuronal cultures. Neither is C detected in embryonic membrane extracts by immunoblotting, although C is detected by immunoblotting at later postnatal ages (3); D2-CAM has been demonstrated, not only in neurons, but also in astroglial cells (3, 37, Noble, M., M. Albrechtsen, C. Mølle, J. M. Lyles, E. Bock, M. Watanabe, and U. Rutishauser, submitted for publication). Explant cultures are composed of a variety of cell types, predominantly neurons and glial cells. In that glial cells account for an increasing proportion with increasing postnatal age, the relative increase of C with age may reflect an increasing contribution of D2-CAM from glial cells. Alternatively, C may be derived also from neuronal cells and the relative increase of C could reflect an altering D2-CAM function during development.

HM<sub>r</sub> co-precipitates with the A, B, and C polypeptides during immunoprecipitation and exhibit similar peptide maps to A, B, and C, which indicates at least a partial identity of the different D2-CAM polypeptides. The relative biosynthesis of HM<sub>r</sub> was found to increase postnatally, comprising one third of immunoprecipitated D2-CAM at postnatal day 15. HM<sub>r</sub> thus accounts for a significant proportion of D2-CAM postnatally.

The sulfation of D2-CAM decreased markedly during postnatal development. Decreased sulfation may be partially responsible for the age-related decrease in net charge observed as a decreased electrophoretic mobility of D2-CAM, which was previously only attributed to a decrease in sialylation (36). Because it has been proposed (16) that the net charge of D2-CAM plays a role in its ability to function in cell adhesion, sulfation may be important for the developmental regulation of D2-CAM function.

A and B were found to be phosphorylated in explant cultures at all ages examined with no apparent age-related changes, in contrast to glycosylation and sulfation. No phosphorylation of HM<sub>r</sub> and C polypeptides was observed, even at ages where these are predominant species of D2-CAM. The difference in the phosphorylation of the different D2-CAM polypeptides may reflect differences in their functional roles.

Thus, the biosynthesis of the different D2-CAM polypeptides and their glycosylation and sulfation change with age. In contrast, phosphorylation does not appear to be altered with development indicating that this modification of D2-CAM, may be necessary for its functional role at all ages. We suggest that D2-CAM function may be regulated during development by variations in the relative amounts of the different D2-CAM polypeptides synthesized and by modifying their glycosylation and sulfation.

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