

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Nitrosopersulfide (SSNO⁻) targets soluble guanylyl cyclase and induces vasodilation in vivo

Miriam M Cortese-Krott^{1*}, Gunter GC Kuhnle², Alex Dyson³, Bernadette O Fernandez⁴, Marian Grman⁵, Mark P Barrow⁶, George McLeod⁷, Karol Ondrias⁵, Péter Nagy⁸, Mervyn Singer³, Malte Kelm¹, Anthony R Butler⁹, Martin Feelisch⁴

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Background

Recent experimental evidence suggests that nitric oxide (NO) and hydrogen sulfide signaling pathways are intimately intertwined particularly in the vasculature, with mutual attenuation or potentiation of biological responses under control of the soluble guanylyl cyclase (sGC) / phosphodiesterase (PDE) pathway. There is now compelling evidence that part of the NO/sulfide cross talk has a chemical foundation via the formation of S/N-hybrid molecules including thionitrous acid (HSNO) and nitrosopersulfide (SSNO⁻). The aim of this study was to characterize the bioactive products of the interaction between sulfide and NO metabolites targeting sGC that may potentially regulate vasodilation.

Results

We found that the chemical interaction of sulfide with NO or nitrosothiols leads to formation of S/N-hybrid metabolites including SSNO⁻ via intermediate formation of HSNO. Contrary to a recent report in the literature but consistent with the transient nature of HSNO, its formation was not detectable by high-resolution mass spectrometry under physiologically relevant conditions. SSNO⁻ is also formed in non-aqueous media by the reaction of nitrite with oxidized sulfur species including colloidal sulfur and polysulfides. SSNO⁻ is stable in the presence of high concentrations of thiols, release NO, and activates sGC in RFL-6 cells in an NO-dependent fashion. Moreover, SSNO⁻ is a potent vasodilator in aortic rings in vitro and lowers blood pressure in rats in

vivo. The presence of high concentrations of SOD or thiols does not affect SSNO⁻ mediated sGC activation, while it potentiates and inhibits the effects of the nitroxyl (HNO) donor Angeli's salt, suggesting that HNO release from SSNO⁻ is not involved in sGC activation.

Conclusion

The reaction between NO and sulfide leads to formation of S/N-hybrid molecules including SSNO⁻, releasing NO, activating sGC and inducing vasodilation. SSNO⁻ is considerably more stable than HSNO at pH 7.4 and thus a more likely biological mediator that can account for the chemical cross-talk between NO and sulfide.

Authors' details

¹Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, Department of Cardiology, Pneumology and Angiology, Medical Faculty, Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Universitätstrasse 1, 40225 Düsseldorf, Germany. ²Department of Nutrition, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AP, UK. ³Bloomsbury Institute of Intensive Care Medicine, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT, UK. ⁴Clinical & Experimental Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, Southampton General Hospital, Tremona Road, Southampton, SO16 6YD, UK. ⁵Center for Molecular Medicine, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Vlarska 7; 83101 Bratislava, Slovakia. ⁶Department of Chemistry, Warwick University, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK. ⁷Bruker UK Ltd., Banner Lane, Coventry CV4 9GH, UK. ⁸Department of Molecular Immunology and Toxicology, National Institute of Oncology, Ráth György utca 7-9, 1122, Budapest, Hungary. ⁹Medical School, University of St-Andrews, St-Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ, Scotland, UK.

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* Correspondence: miriam.cortese@uni-duesseldorf.de

¹Cardiovascular Research Laboratory, Department of Cardiology, Pneumology and Angiology, Medical Faculty, Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf, Universitätstrasse 1, 40225 Düsseldorf, Germany

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

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