

Different Forms of Vanadate on Sugar Transport in Insulin Target and Nontarget Cells

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The effects of several vanadates (ie, orthovanadate, pervanadate, and two stable peroxovanadium compounds) on basal and insulin-stimulated 2-DG transport in insulin target and nontarget cell lines are reported, herein. In nontarget cells, exposure to vanadates (5×10^{-6} to 10^{-4} mol/L) resulted in 2-DG transport stimulatory responses similar to those observed in 2-DG transport post exposure to 667 nmol/L insulin alone, or insulin in combination with vanadates. In 3T3-L1 adipocytes and L6 myotubes, exposure to a vanadate compound or 67 nmol/L insulin, stimulated 2-DG transport dramatically. Again, this effect on stimulated transport was similar to 2-DG transport post-treatment with the effective vanadates in combination with insulin. While pervanadate or stable peroxovanadates stimulated 2-DG transport at 10^{-5} to 10^{-6} mol/L, orthovanadate up to 10^{-4} mol/L was not effective in stimulating 2-DG transport in any of the cell lines tested. The data indicate that the various peroxovanadates are clearly superior insulin mimetics while a more limited insulin mimesis is observed with orthovanadate over a wide variety of cell types.

INTRODUCTION

Vanadium is an essential trace element for higher animals [1, 2], whose specific physiological role has not been elucidated. Vanadate, a phosphate analogue, has been shown to be an insulin mimetic for a number of in vivo and in vitro insulin target tissue responses [3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. Apparently, its ability to inhibit tyrosine phosphatases [9, 10, 11] results in increased protein phosphorylation leading to insulin-like effects [12, 13]. Early studies employing vanadate demonstrated the insulin-like effects which translated into amelioration of blood glucose levels in streptozotocin-treated diabetic rats [7, 14, 15]. This has led to a dramatic increase in studies on vanadium salts as potential treatments for diabetes. A number of additional studies using vanadium compounds led to the development of a class of compounds called peroxovanadates. Early developments using H_2O_2 plus vanadate resulted in insulin mimetics of short term stability [16]. These compounds were considerably more active than vanadate. This was followed by the synthesis of stable peroxovanadium compounds which were potent phosphotyrosine phosphatase inhibitors and powerful insulin mimetics [17].

In this study, we have evaluated the effects of different vanadates (eg, orthovanadate, peroxovanadate, and two stable peroxovanadium compounds), at various concentrations, (ie, 10^{-4} to 10^{-8} mol/L) on basal and insulin-stimulated glucose transport. Further, these studies were performed on a number of cell cultures including connective tissue derived human fibroblasts, L6 myoblasts, L6 myotubes, 3T3-L1 fibroblasts, and 3T3-L1 adipocytes, to further characterize the insulin mimesis of the stable peroxovanadates in these cell cultures.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cell culture

Human Fibroblasts. The human fibroblast cell strains were grown in 1X penicillin/streptomycin antibiotic solution in modified Eagle's medium (MEM) supplemented with 1 mmol/L pyruvate and 10% (vol/vol) fetal bovine serum (FBS).

The cells were grown in an atmosphere of 5% CO_2 /95% air and were harvested from appropriate culture vessels after incubation for 5 minutes with 0.02% (wt/vol) EDTA and 1–2 minutes with 0.06% (wt/vol) trypsin (Difco Laboratories, Mich, USA). In all experiments, the cell strains were employed at passages never exceeding 20 passages.

L6 myoblasts. Myoblasts were grown in Dulbeccos minimum essential medium (DMEM) containing 10% (vol/vol) FBS. At approximately 75% confluence, before any myotube differentiation was observed, myoblast studies were performed. For differentiation studies, the 10% FBS-DMEM was removed and replaced by an equal volume of fusion medium (α -MEM containing 2% FBS (vol/vol)) [18]. All experiments were done 4–5 days later when more than 85% of the cells were differentiated as assessed visually through morphology changes (ie, myotube formation). Both 10% FBS-DMEM and 2% FBS α -MEM were supplemented with a 100X penicillin/streptomycin antibiotic solution. L6 cells were subcultured every 3 days at about 75% confluence using a split ratio of 1:3. Cells were detached as described above for human fibroblasts. L6 cells were not used at greater than 14 passages.

3T3-L1 fibroblasts (pre-adipocytes). Cells were cultured routinely in DMEM with 10% FBS (vol/vol). Cells were

plated and grown to confluence prior to induction of adipocyte differentiation. In transport studies, 3T3-L1 fibroblasts were used at confluence before induction. Induction of adipocyte differentiation employed the method of Frost and Lane [19]. At the time of the experiment, greater than 85% of the cells expressed the adipocyte phenotype. This was confirmed visually by observing considerable accumulation of lipid droplets, and by demonstrating the expression of increased insulin binding and the GLUT4 insulin responsive transporter—that is by Western analysis.

Essentially, the activity of the various vanadates was elucidated in insulin target and nontarget cell cultures to determine if these cell types responded similarly. Comparative results would indicate if similar pathways were operative in both cell types.

2-DG transport procedure

For human fibroblasts, details of the experimental protocol can be found in [20]. Briefly, cells were plated at 10^4 cells/cm² on plastic Petri dishes (35 mm diameter, Falcon) and grown to confluence (usually 6–7 days). The cell monolayers were rinsed once in serum-free MEM, containing 1 μ mol/L dexamethasone [21] for human fibroblasts or serum-free DMEM for other cell types (containing 1 mg/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA)) (0% MEM; and 0% DMEM, resp) and incubated 24 hours before exposure to experimental conditions. Glucose transport was assessed by measuring the uptake of 2-(³H)-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) in PBS (pH 7.4) containing 1 mmol/L 2-DG (specific activity 5 mCi/mmol) at 37°C. Zero-time adsorption controls were subtracted. At the end of a specified time interval, the radioactive medium was removed and the monolayers were rinsed 4 times with 4°C PBS containing 5 μ mol/L cytochalasin B. Then the monolayers were dissolved in 1N NaOH, and aliquots were taken for liquid scintillation counting and protein determination [22].

For L6 cells, cells were grown to the appropriate stage of differentiation and serum deprived for 18 hours in 0% DMEM. The only other difference from the preceding protocol was that ³H 2-DG was employed at a concentration of 0.05 mmol/L (specific activity 0.023 μ Ci/ μ mol). All other conditions were as above.

For 3T3-L1 fibroblasts, whether we measured 2-DG transport in fibroblasts or adipocytes, the conditions were as described above for L6 cells except that the serum deprivation time which was only 2 hours for the 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

For all cell types, 2-DG uptake was linear and rate-limiting under the conditions stated in [20, 23, 24, 25].

Cell fractionation and membrane isolation

3T3-L1 adipocytes from 100 mm diameter plastic Petri plates (Falcon) were treated as described and plasma membranes isolated [25]. In short, after homogenization with a Dounce homogenizer, a 1000 xg spin to remove unbroken cells and nuclei was performed. This was followed by a 27 000 xg spin yielding a crude plasma membrane pellet. A 3–4 fold

increase in ouabain sensitive ATPase activity was observed in the crude membrane preparation versus the activity seen in the crude homogenate (data not shown).

Western analysis procedure

The whole cell monolayers or membrane fractions were suspended in 0.5 ml PBS with the proteinase inhibitor (phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride) at a final concentration of 1 mmol/L. Prior to electrophoresis, samples were solubilized in 2% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) (Pierce Chemical Co), 10% glycerol, 1 mmol/L EDTA, 0.002% bromophenol blue, 100 mmol/L tris-HCl (pH 6.8). Electrophoresis was performed as described previously in [24, 25, 26]. Proteins were blotted onto nitrocellulose paper (0.2 μ m, Schleicher and Schull, Ontario, Canada) that was blocked with 1% BSA (1 hour at 20°C). This was followed by incubation overnight at 4°C with specific rabbit polyclonal antibody (ie, anti GLUT1, diluted 1:1000 in blocking buffer). This antibody was induced using a purified erythrocyte glucose transporter prepared as described in [27]. Subsequently, 125-I labeled protein A (ICN), at 1.2×10^6 dpm/10 ml in blocking buffer containing 0.1% Triton X-100, was added for 1 hour at 20°C (dpm: disintegrations per minute). Autoradiography was performed using Kodak XAR film (Eastman Kodak, Rochester, NY, USA) exposed at –85°C overnight. Quantitation was determined by cutting out the exposed spots and counting in an LKB gamma counter with an appropriate matching nonlabelled portion of the blot counted and subtracted for background detection.

Preparation of vanadate and pervanadate solutions

The vanadate was prepared as previously described [5]. Pervanadate was prepared by mixing 10^{-3} mol/L orthovanadate with H₂O₂, for 15 minutes at 22°C. This was followed by the addition of catalase, 200 μ g/ml, to remove residual H₂O₂. This procedure resulted in an oxidized form of vanadate, which remained stable for 2 hours [28]. Stable peroxovanadium compounds [bpV (phen) and bpV (pic)] were synthesized as previously described in [17]. These compounds have been designated pVA and pVI, respectively.

Insulin binding

The insulin binding procedure was as described previously [21]. Briefly, the cell monolayers were washed twice with 22°C Hanks HEPES buffer containing 0.2% BSA, pH 7.4. Then the monolayers were incubated with 1 ng ¹²⁵I-insulin alone (total binding) or in the presence of 40 μ g of nonlabeled insulin (nonspecific binding). After 2 hours at 22°C, the monolayers were rinsed four times with cold Hanks HEPES buffer containing 0.2% BSA, solubilized with 1N NaOH and counted in a LKB gamma counter.

Materials

2-(³H)-DG, ¹²⁵I-protein A, and ¹²⁵I-NaI were purchased from ICN Radiochemical Division (Calif, USA). 2-DG was purchased from Calbiochem (Calif); BSA from Nutritional

Biochemicals (Ill, USA) and sodium orthovanadate and phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride from Sigma (Mo, USA).

Statistics

The level of significance chosen for any statistical analysis employed herein was 5%.

RESULTS

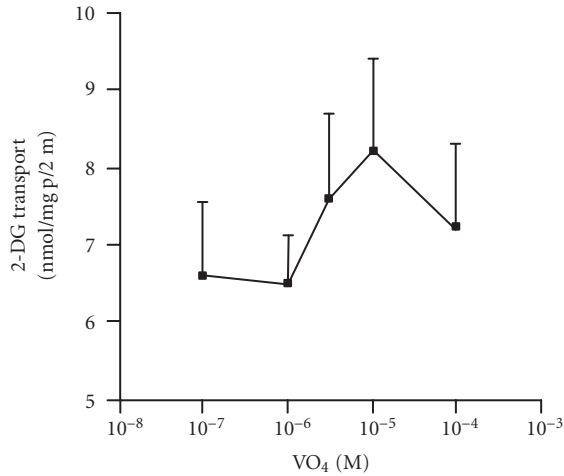
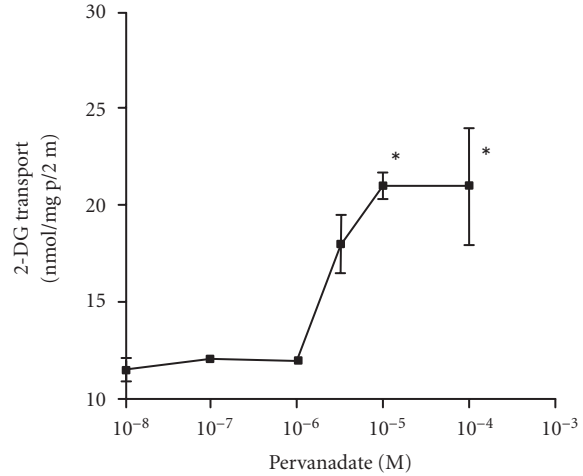
Effect of various vanadates on 2-DG transport in human fibroblasts

In [Figure 1a](#), short term exposure (ie, 60 minutes) of human fibroblasts (HF) to increasing concentrations of sodium orthovanadate resulted in increased 2-DG transport that appeared to peak at 10^{-5} mol/L. While the data indicated that 10^{-5} mol/L orthovanadate was a maximally effective concentration, statistical analysis showed that no significant differences existed between the various groups analyzed (1-way ANOVA; $F = 2.983$, $P > .05$, $n = 4$, triplicate plates in each experiment). Significant stimulation of 2-DG transport by 667 nmol/L insulin was observed (control, 6.6 ± 0.7 vs insulin, 12 ± 2 nmol 2-DG/mg protein/5 minutes; $P < .5$, 1-way ANOVA) while no significant difference ($P > .05$) was observed + 10^{-5} mol/L orthovanadate. In another series of experiments, the effects of pervanadate (prepared as described in Materials and Methods) [17] on HF were investigated over a range of concentrations ([Figure 1b](#)). The data in [Figure 1b](#) demonstrated significant increases in 2-DG transport at both 10^{-5} mol/L ($a > 60\%$ average increase over control) and 10^{-4} mol/L concentrations (1-way ANOVA, $F = 13.1$, $P < .05$, $n = 3$, triplicate plates in each experiment at various concentrations). While insulin (667 nmol/L) or 10^{-5} mol/L pervanadate both significantly stimulated 2-DG transport, no differences were observed between 10^{-5} mol/L pervanadate, or insulin alone or versus both factors in combination (667 nmol/L insulin vs 10^{-5} mol/L pervanadate vs 667 nmol/L insulin + 10^{-5} mol/L pervanadate; 21.4 ± 0.5 vs 23.7 ± 0.5 vs 24.1 ± 0.2 nmol 2-DG/mg protein/5 min; 1-way ANOVA, $P > .05$). Also, stable peroxovanadates [17] were evaluated over a similar range of concentrations. Significant stimulation of 2-DG transport was seen at 10^{-5} mol/L and 10^{-4} mol/L pVA ([Figure 1c](#)) (1-way ANOVA, $F = 157.9$, $P < .01$, $n = 3$, triplicate plates in each experiment at all concentrations). The optimal concentration for pVA was 10^{-5} mol/L, expressing an average increase ~400% increase over control ([Figure 1c](#)). For pVI, significant increases were seen from 10^{-6} to 10^{-4} mol/L (maximal at 10^{-5} mol/L) concentrations, which yielded increases of ~300% over control values ([Figure 1d](#)). Additionally, the stimulation in 2-DG transport seen at 10^{-6} mol/L pVI was not observed with any other vanadate compound in HF. In all experiments, 60 minutes exposure time were employed as no change in stimulated 2-DG transport was observed for exposure times up to 120 minutes (data not shown). For both pVA and pVI, insulin (667 nmol/L) versus either stable peroxovanadate versus a combination of either with insulin was not significantly different ($P > .05$; 1-way ANOVA, data not shown).

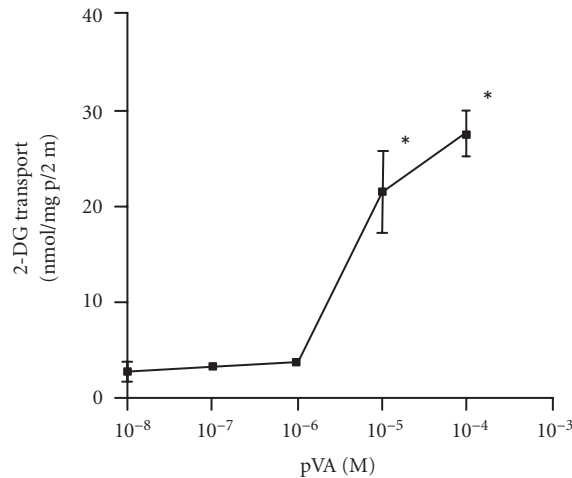
Effect of various vanadates on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 cells

We next investigated the effect of different concentrations of the stable peroxovanadate, pVA on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts. The data in [Figure 2a](#) demonstrate that pVA can increase 2-DG transport in these cells at a concentration of 5×10^{-6} mol/L or greater. The average stimulation ratio of pVA treated/control transport was between 1.4 and 1.5 fold. This ratio agreed favorably with the insulin/control transport ratio (1.58 fold). The 2-DG transport in control versus insulin-treated (ie, 667 nmol/L insulin) 3T3-L1 fibroblasts was 0.77 nmol 2-DG/mg protein/5 min versus 1.2 nmol 2-DG/mg protein/5 min, respectively ($P < .05$, $n = 9$, 1-way ANOVA). The combination of insulin + 10^{-5} mol/L pVA resulted in similar 2-DG transport values as seen with either treatment alone (eg, insulin vs insulin + 10^{-5} mol/L pVA 2-DG transport: 1.3 ± 0.5 vs 1.5 ± 0.3 nmol/mg protein/5 min; 1-way ANOVA). The peak effect of pVA was seen at 5×10^{-6} mol/L ($P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA). In a different series of experiments ([Figure 2b](#)), employing pVI in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts, 2-DG transport was increased at 10^{-5} mol/L and 10^{-4} mol/L pVI. The average increase seen in 2-DG transport induced by pVI was 125% to 143%, respectively ($P < .05$, $n = 7$, 1-way ANOVA). Again, no differences were seen in the insulin (67 nmol/L) versus insulin + pVI (10^{-5} mol/L) groups; $P > .05$ (data not shown).

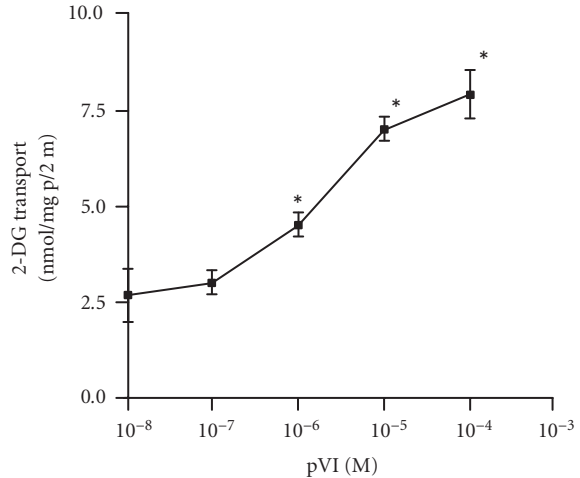
Our next series of experiments ascertained the effects of pVA and pVI on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. 3T3 cells were induced as described in [19] and over a period of 10 days, we observed increases in the cellular content of GLUT1 (~3 fold) and GLUT4 (~10 fold) (data not shown). Further, specific insulin binding was also increased over the period of induction (eg, 12 ± 4.3 fmol 125 I-insulin/mg p vs 3.5 ± 1.2 fmol 125 I-insulin/mg protein, in the 3T3-L1 adipocyte vs the 3T3-L1 fibroblast, resp) ($P < .05$, $n = 6$, 2-tailed test). In concert with these changes, insulin responsiveness increased as evidenced by the maximally effective insulin concentration for 2-DG transport stimulation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes being ~67 nmol/L versus 667 nmol/L as seen in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts (data not shown). Additionally, a comparison of specific insulin stimulation of sugar transport at 67 nmol/L for 3T3-L1 adipocytes and 667 nmol/L for 3T3-L1 fibroblasts was significantly different (ie, a 400%–600% increase for the adipocytes at 67 nmol/L insulin vs a 130% increase for the fibroblasts at 667 nmol/L insulin); ($P < .05$, $n = 6$, 2-tailed test) (data not shown). Having established the nature of changes in sugar transport and the sugar transporters in the 3T3 cells (as also demonstrated by a number of other laboratories), we examined the effect of stable peroxovanadates on 2-DG transport. The data in [Figure 3a](#) depicts the effect of different concentrations of pVA on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 adipocytes after 10 days of induction of the adipocyte phenotype. It is apparent that the maximum effect of pVA is seen at 10^{-5} mol/L. The increase in 2-DG transport over control is, on average, nearly 4-fold at 10^{-5} mol/L and 10^{-4} mol/L

(a) Effect of VO₄ on 2-DG transport in human fibroblasts.

(b) Effect of increasing concentrations of pervanadate on 2-DG transport in human fibroblasts.



(c) Effect of pVA on 2-DG transport in human fibroblasts.



(d) Effect of pVI on 2-DG transport in human fibroblasts.

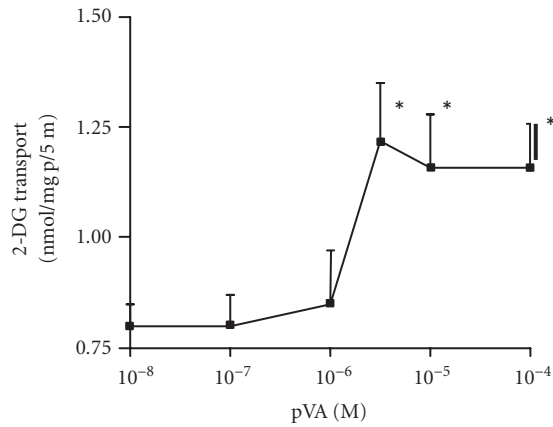
FIGURE 1. Effect of different vanadate compounds at several concentrations on basal and insulin-stimulated 2-DG transport in human fibroblasts. Panel (a) sodium orthovanadate; no significant differences were seen, $P > .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 2.983$, $n = 4$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). Panel (b) pervanadate; $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 13.1$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plate in all experiments). Panel (c) pVA; $*P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 157.9$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). Panel (d) pVI; $*P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 38.2$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). All data \pm SE. The exposure time for all the vanadate compounds employed was 60 minutes. See Materials and Methods for additional experimental details.

pVA. In the same series of experiments, the average insulin (ie, 67 nmol/L), or insulin + 10^{-5} mol/L pVA induced increase in 2-DG transport, was ~4-fold (data not shown). In another series of experiments, we employed pVI (Figure 3b) and the significantly effective concentrations of pVI were found to be 10^{-5} mol/L (~5-fold increase) and 10^{-4} mol/L (~4-fold increase). Insulin at 67 nmol/L elicited an average 4.4-fold increase in 2-DG transport. Next, we sought to demonstrate the effects of pVA on the translocation of glucose transporters to the cell plasma membrane. In Figure 4, it can be seen that exposure to 67 nmol/L insulin results in a significant translocation of the GLUT1 and GLUT4 transporters

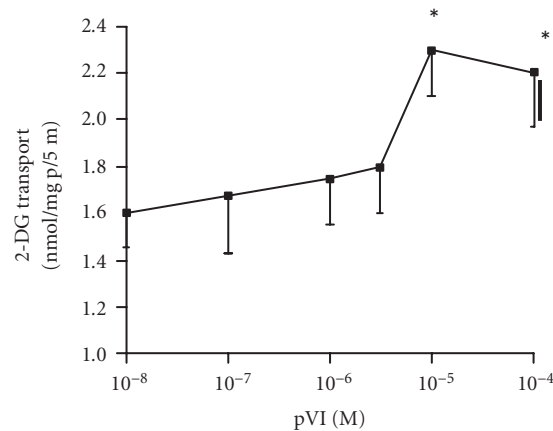
into a crude plasma membrane preparation. In the same experiments, in a parallel series of plates, the 3T3-L1 adipocytes were exposed to 10^{-5} mol/L pVA and the GLUT1 and GLUT4 content of plasma membranes were determined. Clearly, the pVA resulted in a significant translocation of these transporters in a pattern nearly identical to that observed with insulin ($P < .05$, $n = 3$; 1-way ANOVA).

Effect of various vanadates on 2-DG transport in L6 myoblasts and L6 myotubes

The effect of orthovanadate pVA or pVI (10^{-7} to 10^{-4} mol/L) on L6 myoblasts was not significantly different



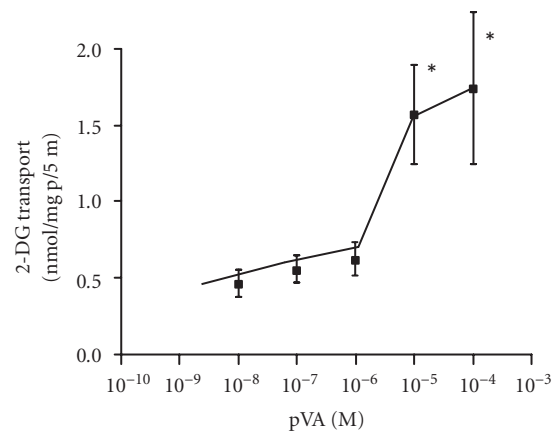
(a) Effect of increasing concentrations of pVA on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts.



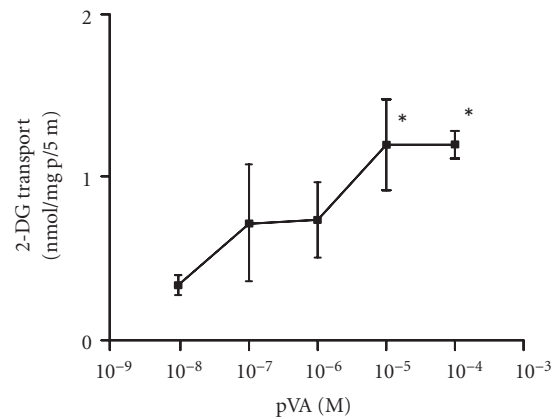
(b) Effect of increasing concentrations of pVI on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts.

FIGURE 2. Effect of different vanadate compounds at several concentrations on basal and insulin-stimulated 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts. Panel (a) pVA; * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 8.95$, $n = 9$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). Panel (b) pVI; * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 4.99$, $n = 7$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). All data \pm SE. pVA or pVI exposure time was for 60 minutes. See Materials and Methods for additional experimental details.

from control 2-DG transport (Figure 5) ($P > .05$, $n = 8$, 1-way ANOVA). The myoblasts did respond to 10^{-5} and 10^{-4} mol/L pVA (Figure 5) exhibiting a modest increase (ie, 118%–127%, resp) ($P < .05$, $n = 6$, 1-way ANOVA). Additionally, pVI exposure resulted in increased 2-DG transport at a concentration of 10^{-4} mol/L pVI (154%) ($P < .05$, $n = 6$, 1-way ANOVA) (Figure 5). The average insulin-stimulated (ie, 667 nmol/L Insulin) 2-DG transport was $121\% \pm 9\%$. Further, we investigated the effects of these vanadates on L6 myotubes which exhibited greater than 80% myotube formation and increased expression of GLUT4 ([25], data not shown). Again as observed with L6 myoblasts, there was no significant 2-DG transport increases in response to



(a) Effect of pVA on 2-DG transport in 3T3 adipocytes.



(b) Effect of pVI on 2-DG transport in 3T3 adipocytes.

FIGURE 3. Effect of different vanadate compounds at several concentrations on basal and insulin-stimulated 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Panel (a) pVA; * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 23.3$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). Panel (b) pVI; * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 7.7$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). All data \pm SE. pVA or pVI exposure time was 60 minutes. See Materials and Methods for additional experimental details.

orthovanadate (10^{-8} – 10^{-4} mol/L) (Figure 6) ($P < .05$, $n = 3$, 1-way ANOVA). Further, the myotubes exhibited increases in 2-DG transport only at a concentration of 10^{-4} mol/L pVA or pVI (Figure 6) ($P < .05$, $n = 3$, 1-way ANOVA). The observed increases were 153% for pVA, and 166% for pVI, these compared favorably with the increase seen in 67 nmol/L insulin (eg, 160%, data not shown). Combinations of any of the vanadates tested with 67 nmol/L insulin did not result in any change in 2-DG transport as seen with either treatment (data not shown).

DISCUSSION

We have done an extensive study in a number of cell lines characterizing the effects of a variety of vanadates on

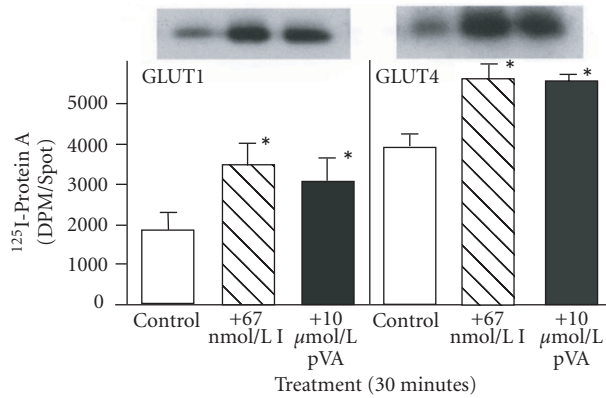


FIGURE 4. Effect of insulin and pVA on GLUT1 and GLUT4 transporter translocation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. The GLUT1 and 4 transporters content are expressed in crude plasma membrane preparations in control, insulin-treated (ie, 67 nmol/L I) and pVA treated (ie, 10^{-5} mol/L pVA) membranes. GLUT1: * $P < .05$; 1-way ANOVA, $F = 6.8$, GLUT4: * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 7.7$, $n = 3$. All data \pm SE.

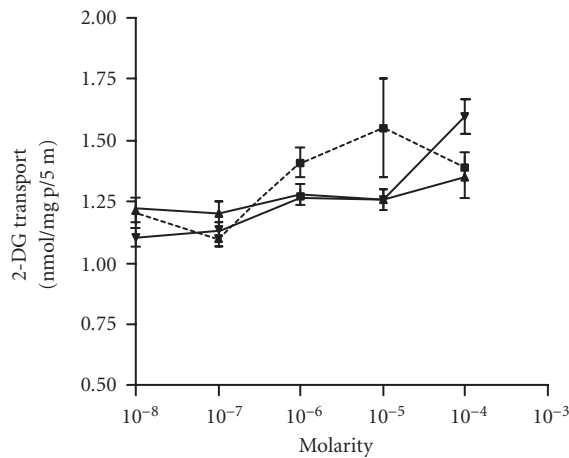


FIGURE 5. Effect of different vanadate compounds on 2-DG transport in L6 myoblasts. Sodium orthovanadate (■--■), no significant differences were seen. $P > .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 1.33$, $n = 8$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). pVA (▲—▲), * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 6.43$, $n = 6$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). pVI (▼—▼), * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 13.0$, $n = 6$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). All data \pm SE. The exposure time for all vanadate compounds was 60 minutes. See Materials and Methods for additional experimental details.

basal and insulin-stimulated 2-DG transport. Clearly, two patterns of effect have been seen: (1) sodium orthovanadate was not effective in stimulating basal 2-DG transport in the cell lines tested and (2) pervanadates were effective in all cell lines at 10^{-5} to 10^{-4} mol/L concentrations. This is similar to observations made in [12, 13]. In all of the preceding data, the increases seen in 2-DG transport at maximally effective concentrations of different vanadates were comparable to insulin-stimulated 2-DG transport, alone or in combination with a respective vanadate.

The L6 and 3T3-L1 cells were induced to differentiate into their respective insulin target (ie, the myotube and adipocyte). Dramatic increases were seen in GLUT1 and

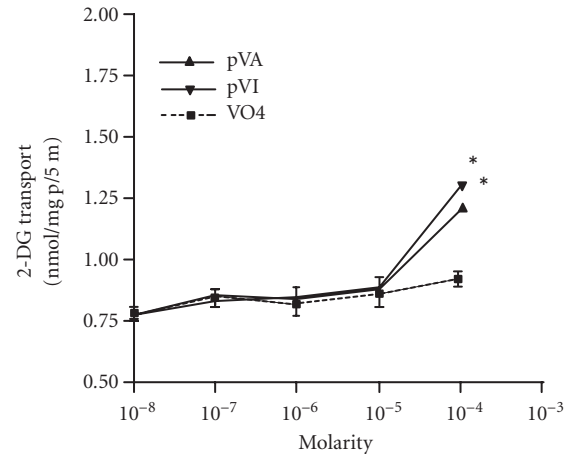


FIGURE 6. Effect of different vanadate compounds on 2-DG transport in L6 myotubes. Sodium orthovanadate (■--■): no significant differences were seen, $P > .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 0.84$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). pVA (▲—▲): * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 7.3$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). pVI (▼—▼): * $P < .05$, 1-way ANOVA, $F = 19.8$, $n = 3$ (triplicate plates in all experiments). All data \pm SE. The exposure time for all vanadate compounds employed was 60 minutes. See Materials and Methods for additional experimental details.

GLUT4 transporter content during 3T3-L1 adipocyte induction [29, 30, 31]. Additionally, increased sensitivity to insulin was observed in 3T3-L1 adipocytes with insulin (ie, 67 nmol/L) to control transport ratios of 4-fold when compared to the average 1.3 to 1.5-fold increases seen with 667 nmol/L insulin in 3T3-L1 fibroblasts. Also, we observed an increased content of GLUT1 and GLUT4 in the crude plasma membrane fraction (ie, transporter translocation) of 3T3-L1 adipocytes post exposure to insulin (67 nmol/L) or pVA (10^{-5} mol/L) (Figure 4). Further, our laboratory [25] and others [6, 18] have shown that GLUT1, 3, and 4 transporters in L6 myotubes are translocated to the plasma membrane in response to insulin. The responses seen post-exposure to pVA or pVI are at least 10-fold less effective in myotubes than adipocytes. Additionally, the myotubes do not respond to concentrations of orthovanadate up to 10^{-4} mol/L. We have not employed concentrations above 10^{-4} mol/L orthovanadate as considerable toxicity to the cells has been reported [15, 32, 33, 34, 35] and was observed (data not shown). What is intriguing is that the insulin/control 2-DG transport ratios observed, were similar to the insulin/control 2-DG transport ratios no matter which vanadate was employed. It is interesting that similar concentrations of different vanadate compounds are all maximally efficacious on 2-DG transport within an order of magnitude (eg, 10^{-5} to 10^{-4} mol/L). In other studies employing rat adipocytes, investigators have seen marginal effects of orthovanadate at 10^{-3} mol/L on insulin receptor β chain tyrosine kinase activity [28]. This concentration exhibited a greater response at similar concentrations with pervanadate (ie, more than 20-fold increase in insulin receptor β chain tyrosine kinase activity). In human fibroblasts, pervanadate exposure leads to a nearly 2-fold increase in basal 2-DG

transport at a concentration of 10^{-5} mol/L (insulin receptor β chain tyrosine kinase activity in rat adipocytes at 10^{-5} mol/L pervanadate resulted in more than 5-fold increases in enzyme activity). In another study, the peak pervanadate effect on lipogenesis in rat adipocytes was observed at 10^{-5} mol/L [16]. In the same study, the peak effect of this vanadate on protein synthesis was seen at 5×10^{-8} mol/L pervanadate, while for insulin this peak occurred at 5×10^{-7} mol/L; and for orthovanadate, the peak stimulation was seen at 5×10^{-5} mol/L [16]. This indicated that the different biological responses will be affected by different vanadate compounds at different concentrations. In the initial studies employing stable peroxovanadium compounds [17], maximal effects of pVA and pVI on lipogenesis in rat adipocytes were found at 10^{-6} mol/L and 10^{-4} mol/L, respectively. The preceding results are in general agreement with our findings on the concentration effects of different vanadates on 2-DG transport in a number of cell lines. The effects on protein synthesis exhibit greater sensitivity to pervanadate than we have seen with human fibroblasts. This is not surprising as this response requires a longer exposure period to observe an effect. With different vanadates, there may be multiple secondary effects occurring that are beyond our current state of knowledge.

Our results on 2-DG transport with the L6 myotubes indicated that the peak concentration found for the effect of pervanadate on 2-DG transport was 10^{-5} mol/L. This is similar to our results for pervanadate seen in human fibroblasts, and for pVA in L6 myoblasts. Other investigators have shown an effect of orthovanadate on 2-DG transport but the concentration employed at peak effect was 10^{-2} mol/L [36]. As our studies, did not exhibit an effect of orthovanadate, employed no concentration more than 10^{-4} mol/L orthovanadate, we may have seen an effect at higher concentrations of orthovanadate. We do feel that the use of 10^{-2} mol/L orthovanadate is unacceptable primarily regarding secondary non-specific events due to reasons cited earlier in this text.

The studies reported herein are the most extensive examination of the effects of various vanadate compounds and different cell types reported to date. Our data show considerable agreement with vanadate effects on lipogenesis, insulin receptor tyrosine kinase, and 2-DG transport regarding the peak effective concentrations and comparisons with insulin and vanadate treated transport ratios in a variety of cultured cells, rat adipocytes, and skeletal muscle cells [5, 6, 16, 17, 18, 36]. Additionally, higher concentrations of pVA and pVI were expected to show effects on 2-DG transport in 3T3-L1 adipocytes and L6 myotubes. A similar phenomenon was observed by others [5, 37, 38, 39] using orthovanadate and pervanadate to stimulate the biologic effects of insulin in adipocytes and skeletal muscle.

The effects of a wide spectrum of different vanadates on 2-DG transport in multiple cell lines exhibited similar responses in transport increases, whether the 2-DG transport was increased by 1-fold or 4-fold. Also, this was true for insulin-treated cells and for insulin plus pervanadate or peroxovanadate-treated cells but not for orthovanadate exposed cells. The suggestion is that the mechanism(s)

involved are similar. As to the mechanism(s) involved, it is generally agreed that the different vanadates act via protein tyrosine phosphatase inhibition [17, 38] and not solely by the insulin receptor [13]. Additionally, some investigators have proposed that orthovanadate and pervanadate act in subtly different ways: the former as a competitive inhibitor of protein tyrosine phosphatases and the latter as a completely irreversible oxidizer of the catalytic cysteine residues of protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B [39]. This mechanism cannot exclude effects on other tyrosine kinases such as the nonreceptor tyrosine kinases (eg, CytPTK) [40]. Additionally, membraneous nonreceptor protein tyrosine kinases are activated by vanadates [41]. The preceding however, may have some bearing on the results obtained herein. Sodium orthovanadate has demonstrated no effective ability to stimulate sugar transport at 10^{-4} mol/L or lower concentrations. Thus, its insulin mimetic ability is considerably limited when looking at sugar transport stimulation. This is readily differentiated from the insulin mimetic effects seen with the pervanadates, which are more effective stimulators of sugar transport (at least 2–3 orders of magnitude when considering 10^{-2} mol/L as the reported effective concentration [5, 6, 36] of vanadate on sugar transport). The pervanadates behave similar to insulin itself. Thus, it can be argued that the pervanadates are true insulin mimetics via the mechanism cited above [39], unlike orthovanadate which is considerably less effective in modulating sugar transport.

Finally, considerable effort has been directed at the potential of these compounds in the treatment for diabetes. The data reported herein indicate problems that have been cited and still must be addressed. These include (1) vanadium toxicity, (2) the effects on noninsulin responsive tissues (eg, HF), (3) the longterm effects on other tissues, and (4) compounds effective at lower concentrations. The solution to these problems should lead to the therapeutic use of modified vanadate compounds (ie, peroxovanadates) alone or in conjunction with insulin as an adjunct to diabetes therapy.

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