

Inhibition of Ca^{2+} Signaling by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Is Associated with Reduced Phagosome–Lysosome Fusion and Increased Survival within Human Macrophages

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Abstract

Complement receptor (CR)-mediated phagocytosis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by macrophages results in intracellular survival, suggesting that *M. tuberculosis* interferes with macrophage microbicidal mechanisms. As increases in cytosolic Ca^{2+} concentration ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$) promote phagocyte antimicrobial responses, we hypothesized that CR phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* is accompanied by altered Ca^{2+} signaling. Whereas the control complement (C)-opsonized particle zymosan (COZ) induced a 4.6-fold increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ in human macrophages, no change in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ occurred upon addition of live, C-opsonized virulent *M. tuberculosis*. Viability of *M. tuberculosis* and ingestion via CRs was required for infection of macrophages in the absence of increased $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$, as killed *M. tuberculosis* or antibody (Ab)-opsonized, live *M. tuberculosis* induced elevations in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ similar to COZ. Increased $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ induced by Ab-opsonized bacilli was associated with a 76% reduction in intracellular survival, compared with C-opsonized *M. tuberculosis*. Similarly, reversible elevation of macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ with the ionophore A23187 reduced intracellular viability by 50%. Ionophore-mediated elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ promoted the maturation of phagosomes containing live C-opsonized bacilli, as evidenced by acidification and accumulation of lysosomal protein markers. These data demonstrate that *M. tuberculosis* inhibits CR-mediated Ca^{2+} signaling and indicate that this alteration of macrophage activation contributes to inhibition of phagosome–lysosome fusion and promotion of intracellular mycobacterial survival.

Key words: calcium • macrophages • tuberculosis • bacterial pathogenesis • immunology

Introduction

Tuberculosis is a global health problem with enormous impact on human morbidity and mortality (1). Approximately one-third of the world's population is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and three million people die of active disease each year. An essential virulence characteristic of *M. tuberculosis* is its ability to successfully parasitize monocytes and macrophages, despite the presence of multiple microbicidal mechanisms within these cells (2). The molecular mechanisms responsible for the intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis* are unknown.

Multiple host–pathogen interactions may impact the fate of *M. tuberculosis* within human monocytes and macrophages and, consequently, the presence or absence of disease in infected individuals. The earliest interaction between *M. tuberculosis* and mononuclear phagocytes is the binding and uptake of the bacilli by plasma membrane phagocytic receptors

(3). Phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis*, in either the presence or absence of serum, is predominantly mediated by the complement receptor (CR)1,¹ CR3, and CR4 (4–6). In human monocytes and monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs), the β_2 -integrin CR3 is the major phagocytic receptor for *M. tuberculosis*, and anti-CR3 Abs inhibit ingestion of tubercle bacilli by ~80% (5). In serum-free conditions, the macrophage mannose receptor also mediates mycobacterial phagocytosis, although its contribution to ingestion of *M. tuberculosis* is much less in the presence of complement proteins (7).

The ability of *M. tuberculosis* to enter macrophages via the CR-mediated phagocytic pathway may contribute to its intracellular survival, as, in many cases, CR ligation does not trigger phagocyte microbicidal responses (8, 9). Studies with murine macrophages demonstrate that the class of phago-

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¹Abbreviations used in this paper: COZ, complement-opsonized zymosan; CR, complement receptor; LAMP, lysosome-associated membrane protein; MDMs, monocyte-derived macrophages; MOI, multiplicity of infection; PAF, platelet activating factor; P–L, phagosome–lysosome.

cytic receptor that mediates ingestion of *M. tuberculosis* has a strong influence on the extent of phagosomal maturation. CR-mediated phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* results in a phagosome that is unable to fuse with lysosomes (10). Conversely, if the bacillus is opsonized with *M. tuberculosis*-specific Abs, its ingestion is mediated by macrophage Fc γ R_s, and the mycobacterial phagosome undergoes full maturation to a phagolysosome (11). These results suggest that Fc γ R-mediated ingestion of *M. tuberculosis* must mobilize signaling pathways that are distinct from those that are activated by CRs, which are responsible for the difference in phagosome maturation. The relevance of these observations to human disease has been questioned, because the antimycobacterial activity of murine macrophages is much more easily demonstrated *in vitro* than that of human macrophages. Although multiple investigators have demonstrated that CR-dependent ingestion of *M. tuberculosis* by human macrophages is also followed by defective phagosomal maturation (12), to our knowledge, no data is available on the effects of Ab opsonization on survival of *M. tuberculosis* within human macrophages. Furthermore, the biochemical mechanisms responsible for incomplete maturation of *M. tuberculosis*-containing phagosomes are unknown.

Many distinct signal transduction pathways contribute to the activation of phagocyte antimicrobial defenses, but their integrative function and relative priority in the killing of specific pathogens is unknown. Stimulation-induced increases in cytosolic Ca²⁺ concentration ([Ca²⁺]_i) are essential for activation of the phagocyte respiratory burst, production of nitric oxide, secretion of microbicidal granule constituents, and synthesis of proinflammatory mediators, including TNF- α (13–17). Based on these considerations, three questions of specific relevance to the pathogenesis of tuberculosis were investigated in this study: (a) Does virulent *M. tuberculosis* alter Ca²⁺-mediated signal transduction in human macrophages? If so, (b) Do these alterations in macrophage Ca²⁺ signaling contribute to incomplete phagosomal maturation and intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*, and (c) Does the route of entry into human macrophages, i.e., via CR- versus Fc γ R-mediated phagocytosis, affect the intracellular viability of *M. tuberculosis*?

Materials and Methods

Chemicals. Hepes, zymosan, and collagen were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. RPMI 1640 medium with l-glutamine and PBS was purchased from GIBCO BRL. Middlebrook 7H9 broth was obtained from BBL Microbiology Systems, and 7H11 agar, oleic acid-albumin-dextrose-catalase enrichment medium, and auramine-rhodamine stain were from Difco Labs., Inc. Teflon wells were obtained from Savillex Corp. Tissue culture plates were purchased from Linbro Flow Labs., and Fura2 and A23187 were from Molecular Probes, Inc. Bis-(2-amino-*S*-methylphenoxy) ethane-N,N,N',N',-tetraacetic acid tetraacetoxymethyl ester (MAPTAM) was obtained from Calbiochem Corp., and dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine (DPPC) was from Avanti, Inc.

Abs. Polyclonal (A-188) and monoclonal Abs (CS-40, CS-35) to liparabinomannan (LAM) from *M. tuberculosis* were provided

by Drs. Patrick Brennan and John Belisle (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; National Institutes of Health grant AI-75320). A-188 and CS40 are specific to LAM from the virulent Erdman strain of *M. tuberculosis*, whereas CS35 recognizes an epitope common to LAMs from several strains of *M. tuberculosis*. mAbs to CD18 (H52) and lysosome-associated membrane protein (LAMP)1 were obtained from the Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank (University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA). F(ab')₂ fragments of α -CD18 were prepared by digestion with pepsin as previously described (20) and partially purified by protein G-Sepharose chromatography. Goat anti-human C3 IgG was obtained from Atlantic Antibodies, Inc.

Preparation of Macrophage Monolayers. PBMCs were isolated from healthy, purified protein derivative (PPD)-negative, adult volunteers and cultured in Teflon wells for 5 d in RPMI 1640 with 20% fresh autologous serum as previously described (21). Macrophages were purified by adherence to chromic acid-cleaned, collagen-coated glass coverslips for 2 h at 37°C in 5% CO₂. Monolayers were washed repeatedly and incubated in RPMI, 20 mM Hepes (RH), pH 7.4, 2.5% serum for use in experiments. Effects of experimental manipulations on macrophage viability were assessed by exclusion of trypan blue, and monolayer density was determined by nuclei counting with naphthol blue-black stain (22).

Bacteria. The Erdman, H37Rv, and H37Ra strains of *M. tuberculosis* were obtained from the American Tissue Type Culture Collection and were cultured and prepared for use in experiments as noted previously (5, 7, 21). In brief, aliquots of frozen *M. tuberculosis* stocks in 7H9 broth were thawed, cultured for 9 d on 7H11 agar at 37°C in 5% CO₂/95% air, scraped from agar plates, and suspended in RH by vortexing briefly in an Eppendorf tube containing two glass beads. After settling, the supernatant was transferred to a new tube and allowed to settle once again. Heat killing was accomplished by incubating this final suspension at 100°C for 10 min and confirmed by absence of CFUs (23, 24). Gamma-irradiated (killed) *M. tuberculosis* was provided by Drs. Patrick Brennan and John Belisle (Colorado State University). For experiments requiring complement-opsonized (C-op) bacilli, aliquots of *M. tuberculosis* (live, heat-killed, or gamma-irradiated) were preopsonized in 50% human serum for 30 min at 37°C and then washed three times in PBS. Ab opsonization of *M. tuberculosis* was achieved by incubating the bacilli with 10 μ g/ml CS-40 or CS-35 or 10 μ l of A-188 for 30 min, followed by washing in PBS. After opsonization, *M. tuberculosis* preparations were resuspended in HBSS using glass beads, and clumped organisms were allowed to settle, as described above. *M. tuberculosis* suspensions were counted in a Petroff-Hausser chamber, and the concentration of bacteria was adjusted for use in experiments. Final *M. tuberculosis* preparations contained >95% single bacteria, with \geq 75% viability by determination of CFUs (5, 21). The effects of various experimental manipulations on the viability of *M. tuberculosis* were also determined by analysis of CFUs.

Analysis of Phagocytosis. Phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* was determined as previously described (5, 21). In brief, macrophage monolayers adherent to glass coverslips ($\sim 2 \times 10^5$ MDMs per coverslip) in 24-well tissue culture plates were incubated with *M. tuberculosis* (multiplicity of infection [MOI] of 10:1) in RH, 2.5% autologous nonimmune serum. After incubation for various intervals, monolayers were washed repeatedly to remove nonadherent bacteria, fixed in 10% formalin, and stained with auramine-rhodamine for 20 min (5, 21). Coverslips were washed with distilled water and incubated with acid alcohol for 3 min, washed, and incubated in KMnO₄ for 2 min. Adherent bacteria were quantitated by fluorescence microscopy of triplicate cover-

slips for each experimental condition (50–200 MDMs per coverslip), and results of a set of experiments were expressed as the mean (\pm SEM) number of adherent *M. tuberculosis* per 100 macrophages (phagocytic index). Previous electron microscopic studies of this assay have indicated that all adherent mycobacteria are phagocytosed, both under control conditions and in experiments in which phagocytosis is inhibited or augmented (5, 21).

Western Blot to Detect C3 Fixation to *M. tuberculosis*. Heat-killed or live *M. tuberculosis* was incubated in 50% human serum for 30 min at 37°C. The bacteria were recovered by centrifugation at 12,000 *g* for 10 min, washed twice, and solubilized in SDS sample buffer (62.5 mM Tris/HCl, pH 6.8, 2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 75 mM β -ME, 0.0025% bromphenol blue). After SDS-PAGE on 10% gels, proteins were transferred to polyvinylidene difluoride membranes, Western blotted with goat anti-human C3 IgG, and detected by enhanced chemiluminescence as described (5, 21).

Determination of Intracellular Calcium. Calcium measurements were performed at the Cell Fluorescence Core Facility (Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Iowa City, IA). MDMs were adhered to collagen-coated glass coverslips and incubated with 10 μ M Fura2-AM in HBSS for 30 min at 37°C. $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in single MDMs, or the mean $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ of groups of 10–20 cells, was determined using a Photonics II spectrofluorometer (Photon Technology Intl.) with a Nikon microscope (Nikon, Inc.). $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was determined from the ratio of fluorescence emission intensities at 510 nm after excitation at 340 and 380 nm, respectively. Background fluorescence intensities at each excitation wavelength were subtracted from each data point. The ratios of the corrected fluorescence intensities (*R*) were then converted to the actual calcium concentration using the formula, $[Ca^{2+}] = K_d(R - R_{min}) / (R_{max} - R)$ (reference 25), where the maximum and minimum ratios, as well as the dissociation constant, were empirically derived from $[Ca^{2+}]$ curves generated with the instrument. In certain experiments, the effects of the absence of extracellular Ca^{2+} were determined by incubation of MDMs in Ca^{2+} -free HBSS with 3 mM EGTA. To chelate cytosolic Ca^{2+} , MDMs were preincubated with MAPTAM (15–25 μ M) for 30 min at 37°C (26, 27).

Analysis of CFUs. MDMs, adherent to collagen-coated glass coverslips, were infected at an MOI of 1:1 with Erdman *M. tuberculosis* (preopsonized with complement or anti-LAM Abs) in RH, 2.5% heat-inactivated autologous serum. After 1 h, the monolayers were washed and replated with buffer containing 1% heat-inactivated serum. 24, 48, and 96 h after infection, supernatants were transferred to sterile microfuge tubes, monolayers were lysed with ice cold sterile water, and SDS was added to a final concentration of 0.25%. Lysates were combined with their corresponding supernatants and resuspended in 7H9, and serial dilutions were plated in duplicate on 7H11 agar. Colonies were counted 2 wk after plating. To determine the effect of elevation of MDM intracellular $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ on mycobacterial survival, monolayers were infected at a 1:1 ratio with C-op *M. tuberculosis* in HBSS containing the Ca^{2+} ionophore A23187 (1 μ M) or an equivalent volume of ethanol solvent (0.1%). After 20 min, monolayers were washed and replated with 20 μ g/ml phosphatidylcholine vesicles, 1% autologous serum in RH, to reverse the A23187-mediated influx of extracellular Ca^{2+} (28). DPPC vesicles were prepared by evaporation of a chloroform/methanol (2:1) solution under N_2 and resuspension in HBSS by sonication for 10 min at 25°C (21). CFUs were counted as described above.

Confocal Microscopy. The acidophilic dye LysoTracker Red (Molecular Probes, Inc.) was incubated at a 1:10,000 dilution with MDM monolayers in RH, 2.5% autologous serum, for 2 h at 37°C. Unincorporated dye was removed by washing, followed

by infection with *M. tuberculosis* for 1 h. After removal of nonadherent bacilli, LysoTracker Red was added to each well at the same concentration used for initial labeling. 24 h after infection, MDMs were fixed in 3.75% paraformaldehyde for 15 min and permeabilized with ice cold methanol/acetone (1:1). The localization of *M. tuberculosis* was ascertained by incubating monolayers with auramine for 20 min at 25°C, followed by a 3-min incubation in acid alcohol. After thorough washing, monolayers were blocked with a PBS, 5% BSA, 10% goat serum for 1 h. In parallel experiments using Abs to the lysosomal protein markers LAMP-1, cathepsin D, and CD63, coverslips were incubated with the appropriate primary Abs (diluted in blocking solution) for 1 h at 25°C, washed, and then incubated with the corresponding fluorophore-conjugated secondary anti-IgG Ab for 1 h. After repeated washings, coverslips were mounted with buffered glycerol solution and sealed with nail polish. Confocal microscopy was performed on a Zeiss Laser Scan Inverted 510 microscope (Carl Zeiss, Inc.). An argon/krypton laser (excitation, 488 nm; emission, 505–530 nm) was used for detection of auramine fluorescence, and a helium/neon laser (excitation, 543 nm; emission, >585 nm) for detection of Texas Red and LysoTracker Red. The percentage of *M. tuberculosis* phagosomes colocalizing with the marker of interest was determined by counting >25 phagosomes from at least 10 different fields per condition.

Analysis of Data. Data from each experimental group were subjected to an analysis of normality and variance. Differences between experimental groups composed of normally distributed data were analyzed for statistical significance using Student's *t* test. Nonparametric evaluation of other data sets was performed with the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test (29).

Results

C-op Zymosan Induces an Increase in Cytosolic Ca^{2+} in Human Macrophages. As binding and phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* by macrophages in the presence or absence of serum is primarily mediated by CRs (4, 5, 30), we first characterized macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling induced by the model particulate CR–ligand, C-op zymosan (COZ) (31, 32). Previous studies in neutrophils have demonstrated that COZ induces a significant increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ due to stimulation of CR3 and, to a lesser extent, CR1 (33–37). In addition to CR3 and CR1, macrophages, unlike neutrophils, also express high levels of CR4 (38). Therefore, it was necessary to characterize in detail the effects of COZ on $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in human macrophages to serve as a control for subsequent experiments with *M. tuberculosis*.

MDMs were purified from PBMCs of healthy, PPD-negative adult donors after 5-d culture in RPMI, 20% autologous serum, by adherence to collagen-coated glass coverslips (21). After loading of MDMs with the Ca^{2+} -sensitive dye Fura2 (10 μ M), monolayers were washed and placed in Ca^{2+} , Mg^{+2} -containing HBSS (CHBSS). Levels of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in single MDMs were determined by fluorescence ratio imaging of Fura2 (25). The basal level of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in resting MDMs ranged from \sim 50 to 150 nM (Fig. 1 A). Incubation with COZ at a particle/cell ratio of 10:1 resulted in a rapid increase in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$, which peaked in the 300–800 nM range and gradually returned to basal levels over the next 8–10 min (Fig. 1 A; fold-increase

in $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 4.6$; range, 2.4–6.5-fold; $n = 20$). Subsequent addition of thapsigargin (1 μ M), which inhibits the Ca^{2+} /ATPase responsible for reaccumulation of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ into endoplasmic reticulum stores (39), resulted in a further increase in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$. This thapsigargin-induced increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ provided verification of the intact capacity of the intracellular Ca^{2+} storage pool and the functional integrity of the capacitative Ca^{2+} entry mechanism (40, 41).

The COZ-induced increase in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was due to both release of Ca^{2+} from intracellular stores and influx of extracellular Ca^{2+} , as the average magnitude and duration of the elevated $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was significantly attenuated, but not abolished, by incubation of MDMs in Ca^{2+} , Mg^{+2} -free HBSS containing 3 mM EGTA (data not shown). Under these conditions, the residual elevation in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ is due to release from intracellular Ca^{2+} stores in the endoplasmic reticulum, as evidenced by the increase in Fura2 fluorescence upon addition of thapsigargin. Preincubation of MDMs with the intracellular Ca^{2+} chelator MAPTAM (12.5 μ M), followed by placement in Ca^{2+} -free HBSS, 3 mM

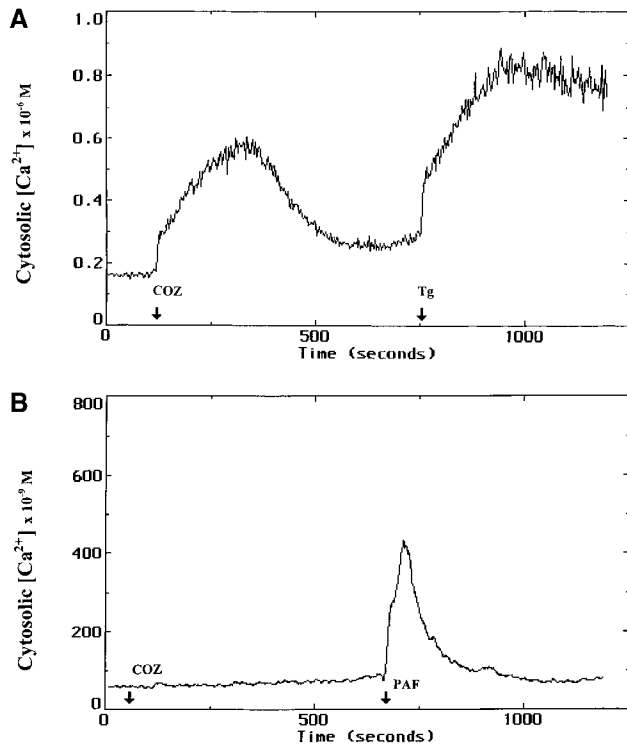


Figure 1. COZ induces an increase in cytosolic calcium in human macrophages. (A) MDMs cultured on collagen-coated glass coverslips were loaded with 10 μ M Fura2 for 30 min at 37°C, washed, and placed in CHBSS. Fluorescence intensity of Fura2 in single MDMs was determined on a Photoscan II system (excitation, 340 and 380 nm; emission, 510 nm), and $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was determined from the ratio of emission intensities at 510 nm after excitation at 340/380 nm, as described in Materials and Methods. After stabilization of the baseline signal for 90 s, COZ was added to the MDM monolayer at a particle/MDM ratio of 10:1 (first arrow). At the indicated time, 1 μ M thapsigargin (Tg) was added to evaluate the Ca^{2+} capacity of MDM intracellular stores. (B) Fura2-loaded MDMs were incubated with 10 μ g/ml of α -CD18 F(ab')₂ fragments for 30 min at 15°C, washed, and replated with CHBSS. MDMs were warmed to 37°C before addition of COZ and thapsigargin. Data are representative of 20 identical experiments for A and at least 5 experiments for B.

EGTA (EBSS), completely inhibited the increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ due to COZ (data not shown). To test the hypothesis that COZ-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ elevations were dependent on stimulation of the β_2 -integrins CR3 (CD11b/CD18) and CR4 (CD11c/CD18), MDMs were preincubated with F(ab')₂ fragments of α -CD18 mAb (H52). Subsequent addition of COZ did not cause a significant change in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 1 B). Inhibition of the increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ by α -CD18 F(ab')₂ fragments was specific for CR-dependent stimuli, as there was no effect on the $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ elevation stimulated by platelet activating factor (PAF; Fig. 1 B). These experiments demonstrate that, similar to neutrophils (35, 36, 42), CR-dependent stimulation of human macrophages with COZ results in a marked increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$, which is derived from both intracellular and extracellular Ca^{2+} pools. Furthermore, the β_2 -integrins, CR3 and CR4, are responsible for the majority of macrophage CR-stimulated Ca^{2+} signaling.

Phagocytosis of M. tuberculosis Does Not Cause a Significant Change in Macrophage Cytosolic Calcium. In the presence of serum, *M. tuberculosis* is opsonized with C3bi and, to a lesser extent, C3b via the alternative pathway of complement (5, 43, and data not shown). The effect of binding and phagocytosis of the virulent Erdman strain of *M. tuberculosis* on MDM $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ levels was determined exactly as noted above for COZ. Incubation of MDM with live, C-op *M. tuberculosis* at an MOI of 10:1 did not result in any significant change in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 2 A; fold-increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 1.01$; range, 1.0–1.25-fold; $n = 18$). To determine whether the failure of *M. tuberculosis* to elicit an increase in MDM $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was due to a defect in either intracellular Ca^{2+} stores or capacitative Ca^{2+} entry via macrophage plasma membrane Ca^{2+} channels, we analyzed the effect of thapsigargin on *M. tuberculosis*-infected MDMs. Addition of 1 μ M thapsigargin resulted in a prompt rise in MDM $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 2 A), the magnitude and duration of which were comparable to that of uninfected MDMs. This response to thapsigargin confirmed the adequacy of both intracellular Ca^{2+} stores and the capacitative coupling of store depletion to the influx of extracellular Ca^{2+} in *M. tuberculosis*-infected MDMs.

The lack of an increase in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was not due to a failure to bind or ingest *M. tuberculosis*. At an MOI of 10:1, the mean (\pm SEM) number of ingested bacilli per macrophage was 5.36 ± 0.41 , and $73 \pm 4\%$ of MDMs ingested at least one tubercle bacillus (21). To ensure that each MDM phagocytosed at least one tubercle bacillus, select single-cell $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ determinations were conducted with increased MOIs of 30:1 and 100:1. At these higher levels of infection, each MDM phagocytosed at least one bacillus, as determined by subsequent staining of cell monolayers with auramine-rhodamine (data not shown). However, even at MOIs of 30:1 (data not shown) and 100:1 (Fig. 2 B), *M. tuberculosis* did not result in any change in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$. To complement the single-cell determinations of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$, the aperture of the spectrofluorometer was adjusted to encompass a population of 15–20 MDMs per sample to determine the average $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in resting and *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages. Similar to the results of the sin-

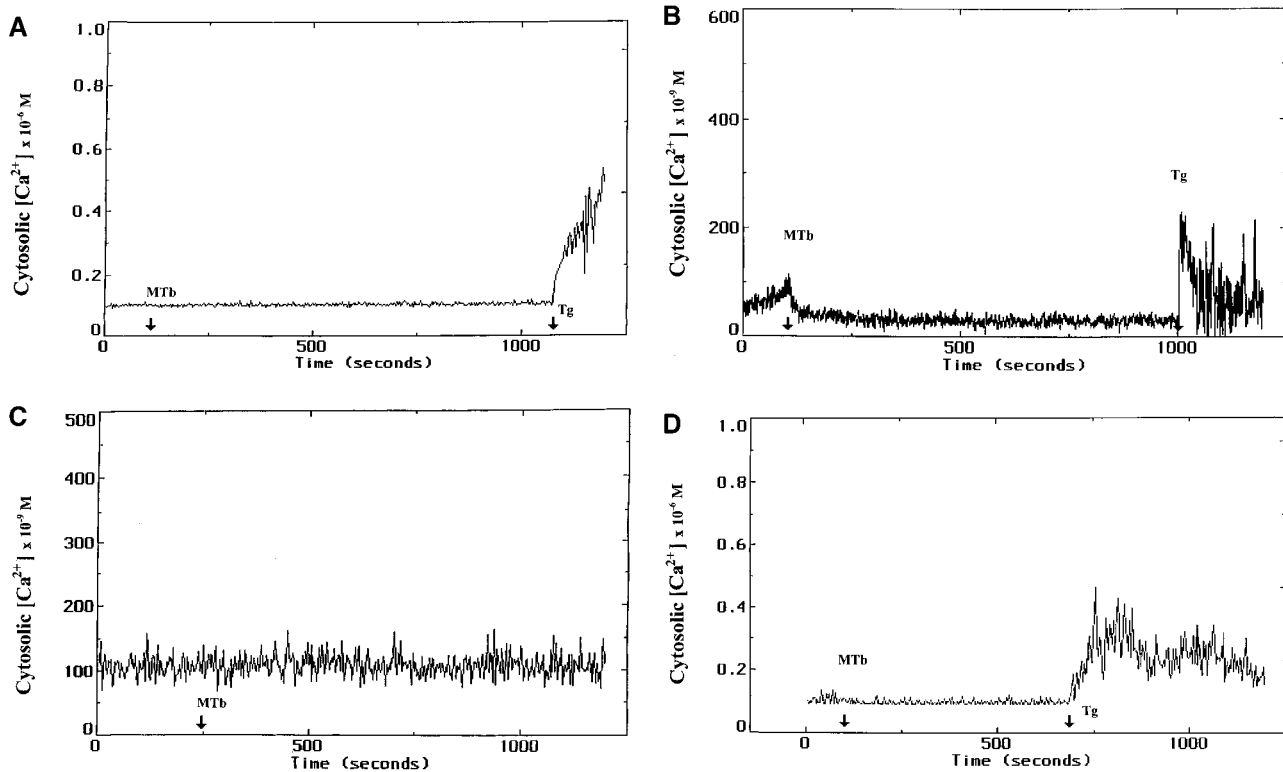


Figure 2. Macrophage phagocytosis of live *M. tuberculosis* does not induce a significant rise in cytosolic Ca^{2+} . (A) Virulent *M. tuberculosis* Erdman strain (MTb) was opsonized in 50% autologous nonimmune serum for 30 min at 37°C, washed three times, and resuspended in CHBSS. More than 95% of each *M. tuberculosis* preparation consisted of single bacilli. MTb were added to Fura2-loaded MDMs at an MOI of 10:1, and $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ of single MDMs was determined as noted in the legend to Fig. 1. At the indicated time, 1 μM thapsigargin (Tg) was added to the monolayer to evaluate intracellular Ca^{2+} stores. (B) The effect of Erdman *M. tuberculosis* on macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was determined at an MOI of 100:1. (C) The average basal level of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in a group of 20 macrophages was determined by expanding the aperture of the spectrofluorometer. Erdman *M. tuberculosis* was added at an MOI of 10:1 at the indicated time. (D) MDMs were infected with the virulent H37Rv strain of *M. tuberculosis*, and macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was determined as above. Figures are representative of 18 identical experiments for A and at least 4 experiments for B–D.

gle-cell analysis, the mean $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ of a population of macrophages did not exhibit a significant change in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ upon incubation with *M. tuberculosis* (Fig. 2 C).

The defect in macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling was not restricted to the Erdman strain of *M. tuberculosis*. Infection of MDMs with a second, well characterized virulent strain, H37Rv *M. tuberculosis*, also occurred without a significant alteration of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 2 D; fold-increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 1.0$; $n = 4$). These results suggest that the lack of initiation of Ca^{2+} signaling may be a general property of pathogenic *M. tuberculosis*. The ability to test this hypothesis is limited somewhat by the lack of an avirulent strain of *M. tuberculosis*. The attenuated H37Ra strain of *M. tuberculosis* exhibits decreased virulence in animal models of tuberculosis (44). However, its interactions with human mononuclear phagocytes in vitro have variably been reported as either highly similar (45, 46) or very distinct (47, 48) from those of virulent *M. tuberculosis* strains, both in terms of its intracellular survival and ability to modify immune responses. Incubation of Fura2-loaded human macrophages with H37Ra *M. tuberculosis* did not result in a detectable change in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (data not shown; fold-increase over basal $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 1.0$; $n = 7$). Thus, the three strains of *M. tuberculosis*, Erdman,

H37Rv, and H37Ra, were similar in terms of their lack of effect on basal levels of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in human macrophages.

Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction is characterized by a complex series of positive and negative regulatory circuits, as well as distinct temporal and spatial determinants of signal propagation (49–52). To determine whether the defect in Ca^{2+} signaling accompanying infection with *M. tuberculosis* resulted in a global depression of macrophage Ca^{2+} -dependent signal transduction, we tested the response of infected MDMs to PAF, a potent Ca^{2+} -mobilizing ligand that binds to a G protein-coupled receptor (53). 10 min after infection with Erdman *M. tuberculosis*, macrophages were incubated with 100 nM PAF, and levels of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ were determined via fluorescence of Fura2. As demonstrated in Fig. 3 A, PAF induced a rapid and significant rise in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in infected macrophages that did not differ in onset, amplitude, or duration from the response of uninfected cells to PAF (data not shown). Similarly, addition of PAF concurrent with Erdman *M. tuberculosis* also resulted in an intact $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ response (Fig. 3 B). These PAF-induced elevations in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ indicate that infection with *M. tuberculosis* does not render the macrophage refractory to Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction. To exclude a potential inhibitory

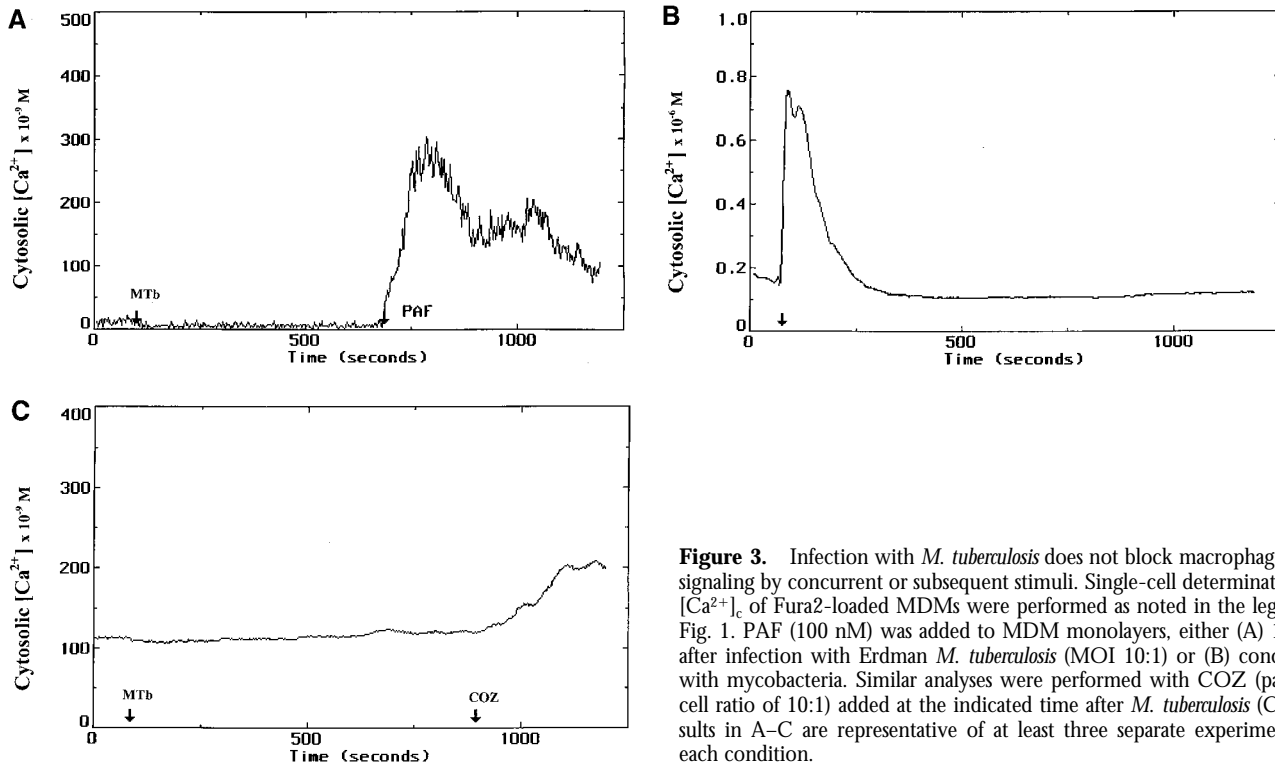


Figure 3. Infection with *M. tuberculosis* does not block macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling by concurrent or subsequent stimuli. Single-cell determinations of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ of Fura2-loaded MDMs were performed as noted in the legend to Fig. 1. PAF (100 nM) was added to MDM monolayers, either (A) 10 min after infection with Erdman *M. tuberculosis* (MOI 10:1) or (B) concurrent with mycobacteria. Similar analyses were performed with COZ (particle/cell ratio of 10:1) added at the indicated time after *M. tuberculosis* (C). Results in A–C are representative of at least three separate experiments for each condition.

effect of *M. tuberculosis* that could be specific to CR-induced elevations in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$, we determined whether infected macrophages exhibited an altered $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ response to COZ. Similar to the PAF-stimulated MDMs noted above, COZ-induced elevations in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ occurred normally in the presence of prior (Fig. 3 C) or concurrent (data not shown) infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Therefore, the lack of increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ levels during *M. tuberculosis* infection is not accompanied by alterations in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ signaling by either particulate or soluble stimuli, which utilize the same or different classes of macrophage cell-surface receptors for their initiation. Our results do not exclude the possibility that *M. tuberculosis* may alter more distal aspects of Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction by these or other stimuli.

*Inhibition of Macrophage Ca^{2+} Signaling Is Dependent on the Viability of *M. tuberculosis*.* The specific virulence determinants that enable *M. tuberculosis* to survive within the phagosomes of human macrophages are unknown. In addition, there are no avirulent strains of *M. tuberculosis* that may be used to define the molecular mechanisms that regulate essential pathogenic interactions between tubercle bacilli and mononuclear phagocytes. Despite these limitations, considerable evidence indicates that the failure of *M. tuberculosis*-containing phagosomes to mature into acidic microbicidal phagolysosomes is an important component of tuberculous pathogenesis (24, 54, 55). Clemens and Horwitz have demonstrated that this inhibition of phagosomal maturation is dependent on the viability of *M. tuberculosis*, as phagosomes containing heat-killed *M. tuberculosis* develop into mature phagolysosomes (23, 24). We tested the hypothesis that

the *M. tuberculosis*-induced inhibition of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling would demonstrate a similar requirement for bacterial viability. Erdman *M. tuberculosis* was killed by heating to 100°C for 10 min, followed by opsonization in autologous, nonimmune serum as described above for live bacilli (23, 24). Particular care was taken to ensure that the preparation of heat-killed *M. tuberculosis* consisted of >95% single bacilli, as noted in Materials and Methods. The loss of viability of heat-killed *M. tuberculosis* was verified by absence of growth on 7H11 agar. Heat-killed Erdman *M. tuberculosis* induced a rapid and significant rise in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 4 A; fold-increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 3.8$; range, 2.1–6.5-fold; $n = 16$), which closely resembled that induced by COZ. Utilization of an alternate protocol for heat killing (80°C, 60 min; reference 5) resulted in similar stimulation of increased $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ by dead, C-op *M. tuberculosis* (data not shown). The increase in levels of macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ induced by heat-killed *M. tuberculosis* was completely inhibited by preincubation of these cells with $F(ab')_2$ fragments of α -CD18 mAb (Fig. 4 B), indicating a major role for CR3 and/or CR4 in the initiation of this response. Studies with Ca^{2+} -free media (Fig. 4 C) and intracellular Ca^{2+} buffering (Fig. 4 D) indicated that the increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ stimulated by heat-killed *M. tuberculosis* resulted from both release of Ca^{2+} from intracellular stores as well as influx of extracellular Ca^{2+} .

As heat killing of *M. tuberculosis* may induce changes in mycobacterial surface structures that could alter MDM Ca^{2+} signaling by mechanisms other than the loss of bacterial viability, similar studies were conducted with *M. tuberculosis* that had been killed by gamma irradiation. Incubation of MDMs with gamma-irradiated *M. tuberculosis* resulted

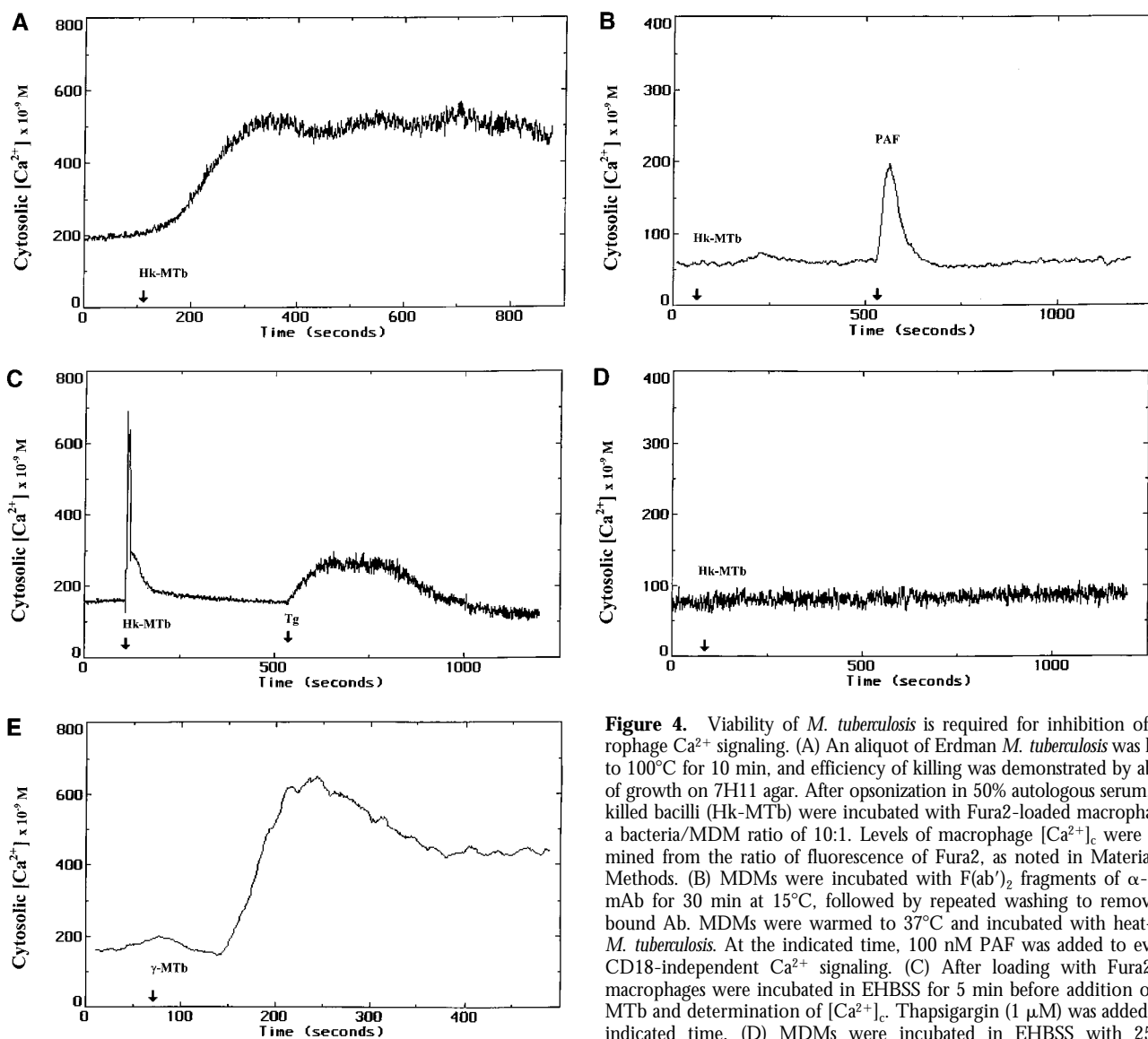


Figure 4. Viability of *M. tuberculosis* is required for inhibition of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling. (A) An aliquot of Erdman *M. tuberculosis* was heated to 100°C for 10 min, and efficiency of killing was demonstrated by absence of growth on 7H11 agar. After opsonization in 50% autologous serum, heat-killed bacilli (Hk-MTb) were incubated with Fura2-loaded macrophages at a bacteria/MDM ratio of 10:1. Levels of macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ were determined from the ratio of fluorescence of Fura2, as noted in Materials and Methods. (B) MDMs were incubated with $F(ab)_2$ fragments of α -CD18 mAb for 30 min at 15°C, followed by repeated washing to remove unbound Ab. MDMs were warmed to 37°C and incubated with heat-killed *M. tuberculosis*. At the indicated time, 100 nM PAF was added to evaluate CD18-independent Ca^{2+} signaling. (C) After loading with Fura2-AM, macrophages were incubated in EHBSS for 5 min before addition of Hk-MTb and determination of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$. Thapsigargin (1 μ M) was added at the indicated time. (D) MDMs were incubated in EHBSS with 25 μ M MAPTAM for 30 min at 37°C, followed by addition of Hk-MTb (arrow).

(E) Gamma-irradiated H37Rv, preopsonized in 50% autologous serum, was incubated with MDMs in CHBSS, and $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ levels were determined via fluorescence of Fura2. Results in A are representative of data from 16 identical experiments; at least 4 separate experiments were conducted for each of the other conditions.

in a prompt increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 4 E; fold-increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 2.9$; range, 2.6–3.4; $n = 6$) that was indistinguishable from that induced by heat-killed tubercle bacilli. These studies support the hypothesis that mycobacteria-induced inhibition of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling requires viability of *M. tuberculosis*.

Inhibition of Macrophage Ca^{2+} Signaling by *M. tuberculosis* Is Dependent on the Class of Receptor That Mediates Mycobacterial Phagocytosis. To test the hypothesis that the receptors that mediate phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* are determinants of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling, Erdman *M. tuberculosis* was incubated with polyclonal rabbit Ab to its cell wall glycolipid, LAM, to confer phagocytosis by macrophage Fc γ Rs. After opsonization with anti-LAM Ab, mycobacteria were washed in PBS, resuspended in CHBSS, and counted to ensure that

single bacilli comprised at least 95% of the preparation. Addition of Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* induced a prompt and significant increase in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (Fig. 5 A, fold-increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c = 3.3$; range, 2.1–5.0-fold; $n = 9$). In control experiments conducted with MDMs from the same donors, *M. tuberculosis* incubated with preimmune serum or irrelevant rabbit polyclonal Ab (antimyeloperoxidase Ab) did not induce a change in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ (data not shown). Opsonization of *M. tuberculosis* with either of two mAbs to LAM (CS-35 or CS-40) resulted in similar elevations in macrophage $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ when added to Fura2-loaded macrophages (Fig. 5 B and data not shown). Parallel control experiments conducted with *M. tuberculosis* that had been incubated with isotype-matched irrelevant mAb (mouse myeloma IgG₁) did not result in stimulation of MDM Ca^{2+}

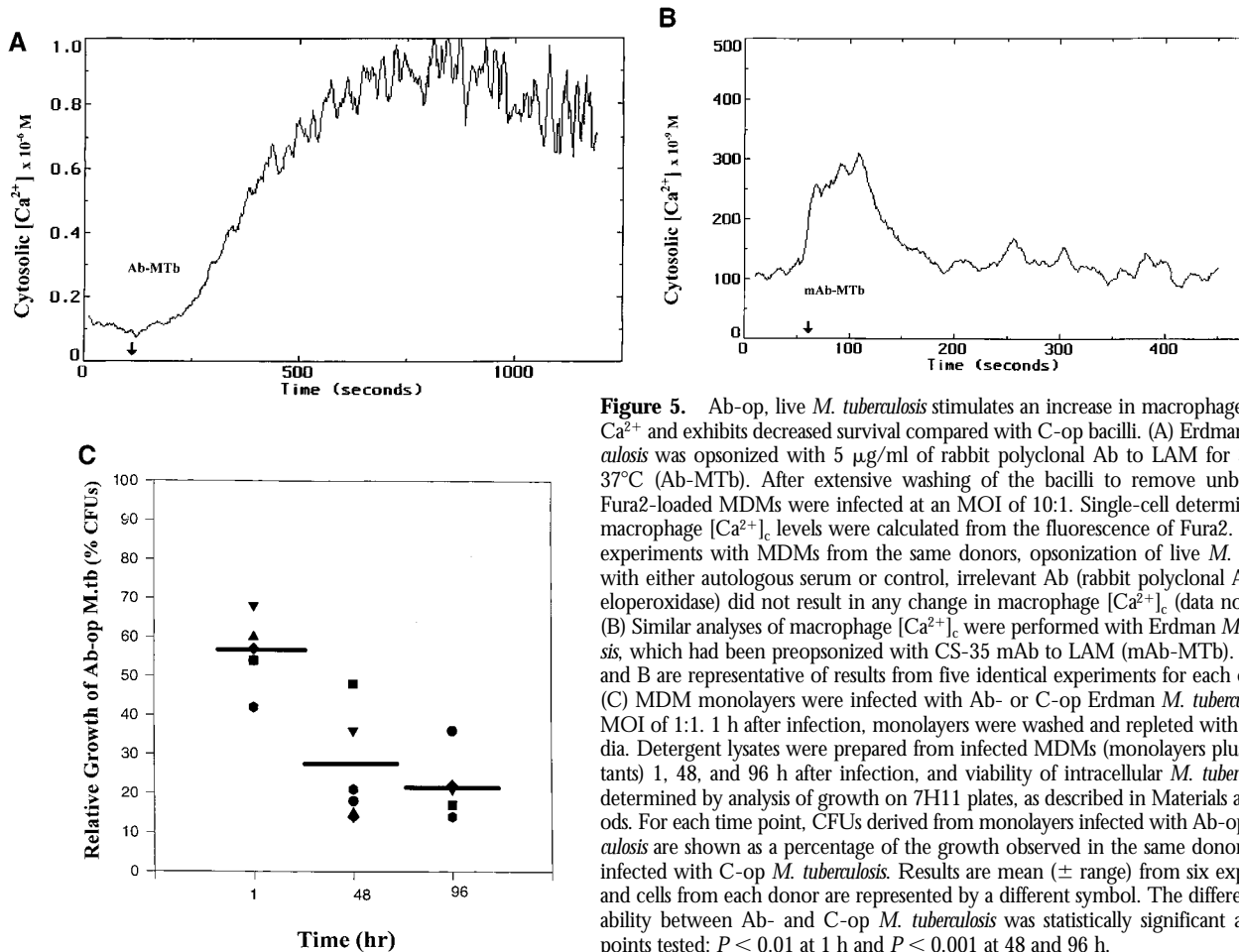


Figure 5. Ab-op, live *M. tuberculosis* stimulates an increase in macrophage cytosolic Ca^{2+} and exhibits decreased survival compared with C-op bacilli. (A) Erdman *M. tuberculosis* was opsonized with 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of rabbit polyclonal Ab to LAM for 30 min at 37°C (Ab-MTb). After extensive washing of the bacilli to remove unbound Ab, Fura2-loaded MDMs were infected at an MOI of 10:1. Single-cell determinations of macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ levels were calculated from the fluorescence of Fura2. In parallel experiments with MDMs from the same donors, opsonization of live *M. tuberculosis* with either autologous serum or control, irrelevant Ab (rabbit polyclonal Ab to myeloperoxidase) did not result in any change in macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ (data not shown). (B) Similar analyses of macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ were performed with Erdman *M. tuberculosis*, which had been preopsonized with CS-35 mAb to LAM (mAb-MTb). Data in A and B are representative of results from five identical experiments for each condition. (C) MDM monolayers were infected with Ab- or C-op Erdman *M. tuberculosis* at an MOI of 1:1. 1 h after infection, monolayers were washed and replated with fresh media. Detergent lysates were prepared from infected MDMs (monolayers plus supernatants) 1, 48, and 96 h after infection, and viability of intracellular *M. tuberculosis* was determined by analysis of growth on 7H11 plates, as described in Materials and Methods. For each time point, CFUs derived from monolayers infected with Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* are shown as a percentage of the growth observed in the same donors' MDMs infected with C-op *M. tuberculosis*. Results are mean (\pm range) from six experiments, and cells from each donor are represented by a different symbol. The difference in viability between Ab- and C-op *M. tuberculosis* was statistically significant at all time points tested: $P < 0.01$ at 1 h and $P < 0.001$ at 48 and 96 h.

signaling (data not shown). The difference in macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling induced by Ab-op versus C-op *M. tuberculosis* was not due to differences in mycobacterial adherence or phagocytosis. As all adherent bacilli were phagocytosed over the 30-min course of the experiment, the comparative interactions of different preparations of *M. tuberculosis* could be assessed with two parameters: (a) the phagocytic index (the number of bacilli phagocytosed per macrophage) and (b) the number of macrophages that ingest at least one bacillus. At an MOI of 10:1, neither of these parameters differed between the Ab- and C-op (live or dead) *M. tuberculosis*: mean phagocytic index = 5.46 ± 0.67 bacilli/MDM, and $78 \pm 5\%$ of MDMs ingested at least one tubercle bacillus.

Taken together, these results demonstrated that both the viability of *M. tuberculosis* and the receptors that mediate its phagocytosis were significant determinants of macrophage Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction. Ingestion of live *M. tuberculosis* via CRs was not accompanied by detectable changes in levels of macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$, whereas phagocytosis of either dead bacilli via CRs or live, Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* by Fc γ R was associated with significant and prolonged increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$.

*Elevation of Macrophage Cytosolic Ca^{2+} by Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* Is Associated with Decreased Intracellular Survival.* To evaluate the hypothesis that mycobacteria-induced inhibition

of CR-dependent Ca^{2+} signal transduction contributes to the intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*, we compared the viability of C- and Ab-op bacilli at serial time points after infection of human macrophages. MDMs adherent to collagen-coated coverslips were infected at an MOI of 1:1 with either C- or Ab-op Erdman *M. tuberculosis* at 37°C for 1 h. The level of phagocytosis did not differ between these two groups (data not shown). 1 h after infection, the monolayers were washed repeatedly to remove nonadherent bacilli and replated with fresh media. The viability of intracellular *M. tuberculosis* was assessed 1, 48, and 96 h after infection by determination of CFUs. As prolonged in vitro culture of MDMs is associated with detachment of a minor fraction of the cells from the monolayer, lysates of both adherent macrophages and detached cells in the supernatant were combined for each sample, as per Paul et al. (46). As early as 1 h after infection, Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* exhibited significantly decreased viability compared with C-op bacilli (reduction in CFUs of 43%; range, 31–58% reduction; $P < 0.01$; $n = 6$; Fig. 5 C and Table I). As there was wide variability between macrophages from different individuals in the absolute number of mycobacterial CFUs at all time points tested (including time = 0), the data on intracellular viability of *M. tuberculosis* have been presented both as (a) a percentage of the specific control value for C-op *M. tuberculosis* for each

Table I. Opsonization of *M. tuberculosis* with Polydonal Abs to LAM Results in Decreased Survival within Human Macrophages

Donor	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> CFUs					
	1 h		48 h		96 h	
	C-op	Ab-op	C-op	Ab-op	C-op	Ab-op
1	36,000	19,500	406,500	73,500	531,750	192,750
2	4,125	2,250	19,500	9,375	203,625	33,750
3	13,688	8,250	403,875	68,625	ND	ND
4	10,125	6,938	123,000	45,375	840,375	181,500
5	7,500	4,313	187,125	25,500	841,125	182,625
6	43,688	18,188	383,250	80,625	784,875	110,625

Erdman *M. tuberculosis* was opsonized with autologous human serum (C-op) or 5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of rabbit polyclonal Ab to LAM (Ab-op). After extensive washing of the bacilli, MDMs were infected at an MOI of 1:1. 1 h after infection, monolayers were washed and replenished with fresh media. Detergent lysates were prepared from infected MDMs (monolayers plus supernatants) 1, 48, and 96 h after infection, and viability of intracellular *M. tuberculosis* was analyzed by determination of CFUs on 7H11 plates as described in Materials and Methods.

donor ($[\text{CFU of Ab-op bacilli}/\text{CFU of C-op bacilli}] \times 100\%$; Fig. 5 C) and (b) the raw data for CFU of both *M. tuberculosis* preparations for each individual set of donor macrophages (Table I). This difference in intramacrophage survival between Ab- and C-op *M. tuberculosis* increased progressively with increasing duration of infection. 96 h after infection, there was a 78% decrease in CFUs derived from macrophages infected with Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* compared with MDMs infected with C-op bacilli (range, 64–86% reduction in CFUs; $P < 0.001$; Fig. 5 C and Table I). These results demonstrate that the lack of increase in macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ during phagocytosis of C-op *M. tuberculosis* is associated with increased intracellular survival of mycobacteria.

Elevation of Macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ Is Associated with Reduced Survival of C-op *M. tuberculosis*. The previous set of experiments demonstrated that the opsonin on *M. tuberculosis* and, consequently, the class of phagocytic receptor that primarily mediated its ingestion were major determinants of the extent of mycobacterial survival within human MDMs. Although these observations correlated with the difference in Ca^{2+} mobilization between Ab- and C-op *M. tuberculosis*, a causal relationship between $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ and intracellular mycobacterial viability cannot be inferred, as multiple differences exist between Fc γ R- and CR-mediated phagocytosis (8, 9). Therefore, to directly test our hypothesis, we used the Ca^{2+} ionophore, A23187, to modulate the cytosolic Ca^{2+} levels in human MDMs during phagocytosis of C-op *M. tuberculosis*. After loading with Fura2 and washing to remove unincorporated dye, MDMs were placed in HBSS solutions in which the concentration of extracellular free Ca^{2+} was buffered in the range of 225–700 nM with EGTA. These levels of Ca^{2+} were chosen to approximate the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ that

occurred in MDMs stimulated by COZ, C-op dead *M. tuberculosis*, and Ab-op mycobacteria. Addition of 1 μM A23187 resulted in a rapid equilibration of the intracellular and extracellular Ca^{2+} concentrations (Fig. 6 A). To mimic the temporally restricted elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ initiated by the particulate stimuli noted above, the effects of A23187 were reversed after 20 min by addition of phosphatidylcholine vesicles (20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) (28), which resulted in a rapid return of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ to a level approximating that of resting macrophages (Fig. 6 A). To examine the effects of cytosolic Ca^{2+} levels on survival of intracellular *M. tuberculosis*, parallel sets of infected MDM monolayers were lysed and viable mycobacteria quantitated 24 and 48 h after infection by analysis of CFUs. Compared with untreated, *M. tuberculosis*-infected macrophages, MDMs incubated with A23187 during infection contained $\sim 50\%$ less viable *M. tuberculosis* at the 24- and 48-h time points (Fig. 6 B and Table II). These results were not due to a direct bactericidal effect of A23187, as incubation of *M. tuberculosis* suspensions in the calcium ionophore, followed by addition of phosphatidylcholine vesicles, under the exact conditions applied to infected macrophages did not result in alteration of mycobacterial viability (data not shown). These results indicated that ionophore-induced elevation of macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ during phagocytosis of C-op *M. tuberculosis* was associated with decreased intracellular survival of the bacilli.

Elevation of Macrophage Cytosolic Ca^{2+} Correlates with Maturation of *M. tuberculosis*-containing Phagosomes to Acidic Phagolysosomes. A key aspect of tuberculous pathogenesis is the ability of *M. tuberculosis* to limit the maturation of its phagosome, thereby preventing the development of microbicidal phagolysosomes (10–12, 23, 24, 54, 55). We tested the hypothesis that mycobacterial inhibition of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling contributes to retardation of phagosomal maturation (inhibition of phagosome-lysosome [P-L] fusion) by (a) characterizing the degree of maturation of phagosomes containing either live or killed C-op *M. tuberculosis* and (b) determining the effects of modulation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ on P-L fusion. The extent of maturation of *M. tuberculosis*-containing phagosomes 24 h after infection was characterized by confocal microscopy, using three lysosomal protein markers (cathepsin D, LAMP-1, CD63), combined with the determination of phagosomal pH with the acidophilic fluorophore, LysoTracker Red. The three protein markers were used in combination, because use of a single marker can provide ambiguous results. For example, LAMP-1 localizes to both late endosomes and lysosomes (24). LysoTracker Red was employed for assessment of phagosomal acidification, as this fluorophore is stable to fixation, ensuring that biosafety conditions are maintained during confocal microscopy.

24 h after infection of human MDMs, live, C-op *M. tuberculosis* was located in immature phagosomes that exhibited low amounts of the lysosomal protein markers. The percentage of phagosomes positive for cathepsin D, LAMP-1, and CD63 were 32, 37, and 25%, respectively (Fig. 7). Additionally, only 41% of phagosomes containing live *M. tuberculosis* colocalized with LysoTracker Red. These results are

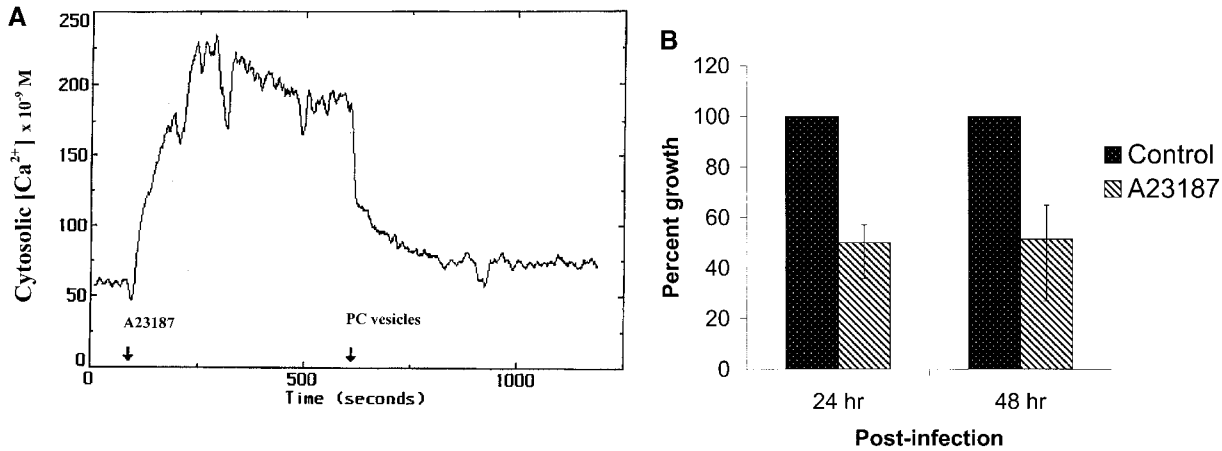


Figure 6. Elevation of macrophage cytosolic Ca^{2+} reduces intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*. (A) Fura2-loaded macrophages were incubated with 1 μM of the Ca^{2+} ionophore, A23187, and $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ was determined via Fura2 fluorescence. Addition of phosphatidylcholine vesicles (20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) resulted in restoration of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ to levels approximating that of control macrophages. (B) Macrophages were infected with C-op Erdman *M. tuberculosis* at a 1:1 ratio, in the presence or absence of 1 μM A23187 in CHBSS. 20 min later, monolayers were washed and replated with fresh media containing 2.5% autologous serum and 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ phosphatidylcholine vesicles. At 24 and 48 h, lysates of infected macrophages were plated on 7H11 plates as described in Materials and Methods. CFUs derived from A23187-treated monolayers are expressed as a percentage of *M. tuberculosis* growth measured in untreated MDMs at the same time point. Results are mean (\pm range) from five experiments, with cells from each donor represented by a different symbol. The differences in viability between control MDMs and those treated with A23187 were statistically significant ($P < 0.01$) at both 24 and 48 h.

in agreement with previous characterizations of the maturational state of *M. tuberculosis*-containing phagosomes in macrophages, as determined by epifluorescence, confocal immunofluorescence, and cryoimmunoelectron microscopy (10–12, 23, 24, 54, 55).

To further evaluate the potential causal role of macrophage cytosolic Ca^{2+} in P–L fusion, the maturation of phagosomes containing live, C-op *M. tuberculosis* was determined after transient elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ with A23187, followed by quenching with phosphatidylcholine vesicles. Ionophore-induced elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ to ~ 500 nM for 20

min during phagocytosis of live, C-op *M. tuberculosis* resulted in a striking reversal of the block in phagosomal maturation. The percentage of phagosomes positive for cathepsin D increased from 32 (control) to 92%, LAMP-1 positivity increased from 37 to 82%, and CD63 positivity increased from 25 to 83% (Fig. 7). Elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ also promoted increased phagosomal localization of LysoTracker Red, from a control value of 41 to 89% in MDMs treated with A23187. Elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ was required for the A23187-induced increase in P–L fusion, as incubation of macrophages in EHBSS during ionophore treatment resulted in a profile of phagosomal staining for the lysosomal protein markers and LysoTracker Red that was indistinguishable from values for control, untreated MDMs (Fig. 7).

In marked contrast to the intracellular compartmentation of live tubercle bacilli, phagosomes containing dead (gamma-irradiated) *M. tuberculosis* progressed to fully mature phagolysosomes, as determined by high levels of all three lysosomal protein markers (Fig. 8). 88% of phagosomes containing killed *M. tuberculosis* were positive for cathepsin D, whereas the corresponding values for LAMP-1 and CD63 were 77 and 76%, respectively. 88% of these phagosomes accumulated LysoTracker Red, consistent with their acidification. Incubation of macrophages in EHBSS or chelation of cytosolic Ca^{2+} with MAPTAM resulted in failure of phagosomes containing dead *M. tuberculosis* to accumulate lysosomal protein markers (Fig. 8). Compared with the percentage of phagosomes positive for cathepsin D, LAMP-1, and CD63 in Ca^{2+} -containing media noted above, removal of extracellular Ca^{2+} resulted in significantly less colocalization with all three lysosomal protein markers: 66, 30, and 47%, respectively. Chelation of intracellular Ca^{2+} with 12.5 μM MAPTAM resulted in even more pronounced reductions in phagosomal accumulation of lysosomal markers: cathepsin D, 37%; LAMP-1, 24%; and

Table II. Effect of Increased Cytosolic Ca^{2+} on Intracellular Growth of *M. tuberculosis*

Donor	<i>M. tuberculosis</i> CFUs			
	24 h		48 h	
	Control	A23187	Control	A23187
1	77,250	39,375	297,735	191,250
2	365,625	208,875	867,735	563,250
3	330,375	177,375	912,375	568,875
4	265,500	95,250	217,500	58,500
5	153,000	80,500	254,125	98,750

Macrophages were infected with C-op Erdman *M. tuberculosis* at an MOI of 1:1 in the presence or absence of 1 μM A23187 in CHBSS. 20 min later, MDMs were washed and replated with fresh media containing 2.5% autologous serum and 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ phosphatidylcholine vesicles. 24 and 48 h after infection, detergent lysates of infected macrophages were plated on 7H11 plates, and the viability of intracellular *M. tuberculosis* was quantitated by determination of CFUs.

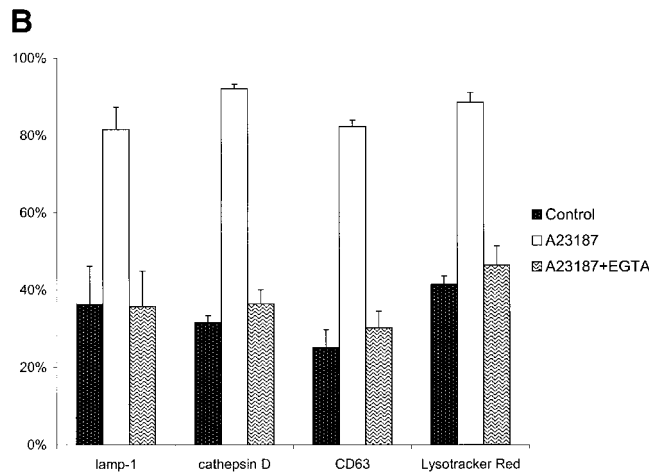
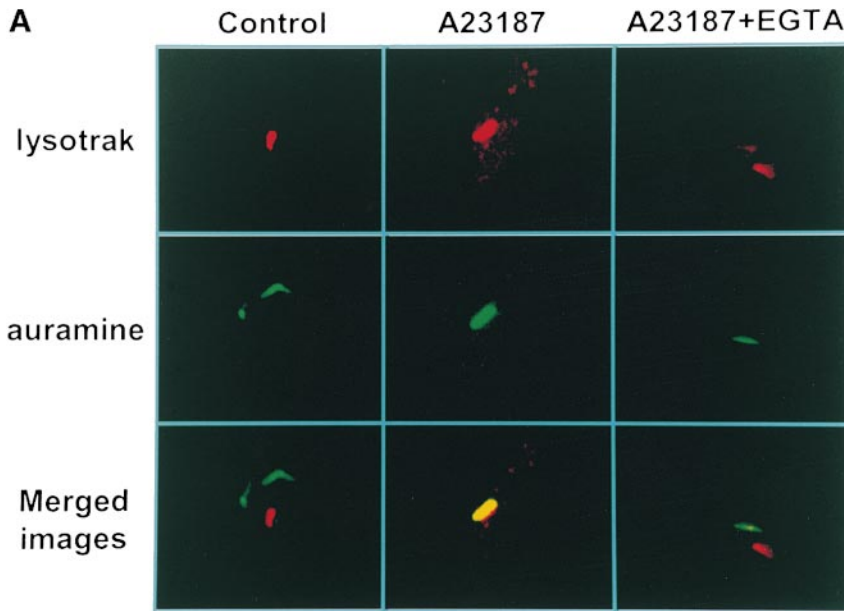


Figure 7. Elevation of macrophage cytosolic Ca^{2+} during infection with live *M. tuberculosis* results in increased phagosomal maturation. (A) MDMs were preincubated with a 1:10,000 dilution of LysoTracker Red for 2 h, after which they were infected with live, C-op *M. tuberculosis* (H37Rv strain) at a 1:1 ratio for 20 min in CH-BSS. Cells were then washed and repleted with RH, 1% serum, 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ phosphatidylcholine vesicles, and LysoTracker (left column). 24 h after infection, MDMs were fixed with paraformaldehyde and prepared for confocal microscopy as described in Materials and Methods. Where indicated, infection occurred in the presence of 1 μM A23187 (center column) or A23187 in Ca^{2+} -free EGTA buffer (right column). 24 h after infection, cells were fixed and prepared for confocal microscopy. Samples were stained with LysoTracker Red (top row, red) and auramine to detect *M. tuberculosis* (center row, green). Acquisition of both fluorescence emission maxima demonstrates colocalization of LysoTracker Red and live *M. tuberculosis* in MDMs incubated in A23187 (center column, yellow) but not in control Ca^{2+} buffer (left column) or EGTA buffer (right column). Crossover fluorescence did not contribute to the colocalization of signals, as cells labeled with either LysoTracker Red or auramine alone did not emit a detectable fluorescence signal when observed through the narrow bandpass filter appropriate for the other fluorochrome. (B) Summary of the percentage of phagosomes containing C-op, live *M. tuberculosis* that colocalize with cathepsin D, LAMP-1, CD63, or LysoTracker Red in each of the three buffer conditions. Each value is the mean percentage (\pm SEM) from at least three experiments.

CD63, 38%. As MAPTAM produces more significant reductions in basal and stimulated $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ compared with EGTA (Fig. 4), these results are fully consistent with the hypothesis that $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ regulates the maturation of phagosomes containing dead *M. tuberculosis*. Interestingly, MAPTAM but not EGTA produced significant decreases in accumulation of LysoTracker Red: untreated control, 88%; MAPTAM, 49%; and EGTA, 86% (Fig. 8). As removal of extracellular Ca^{2+} reduces but does not eliminate the increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ induced by killed *M. tuberculosis*, these results are consistent with the hypothesis that a lesser increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ is required for phagosomal acidification than for accumulation of lysosomal protein markers (especially LAMP-1 and CD63).

In summary, the results of characterization of phagosome maturation via confocal microscopy strongly support the hypothesis that levels of cytosolic Ca^{2+} regulate P-L fusion in *M. tuberculosis*-infected human macrophages. In all cases, elevation of macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ correlated with maturation of *M. tuberculosis*-containing phagosomes to phagolysosomes, and lack of elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ correlated with incomplete phago-

somal maturation. Furthermore, ionophore-induced increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ and the accompanying maturation of phagosomes containing live C-op *M. tuberculosis* correlated with decreased survival of mycobacteria within human macrophages.

Discussion

Macrophages possess multiple microbicidal mechanisms to eliminate phagocytosed microorganisms and, consequently, represent a strategic target for inactivation by potential pathogens (56). The molecular mechanisms that allow *M. tuberculosis* to successfully survive and replicate within mononuclear phagocytes are unknown. Our overall hypothesis is that Ca^{2+} -dependent signaling mechanisms are potential targets for inhibition of macrophage activation by *M. tuberculosis*, as $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ is a critical regulator of several antimicrobial responses, including generation of reactive oxygen and nitrogen intermediates, secretion of microbicidal proteins and peptides, and synthesis of antimycobacterial cytokines, such as $\text{TNF-}\alpha$ (13, 14, 57).

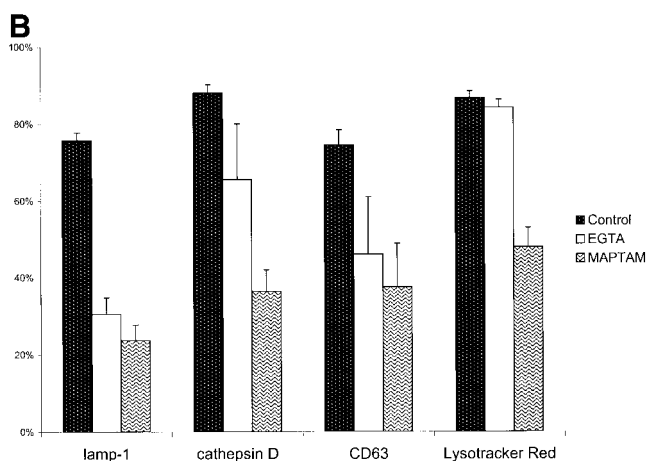
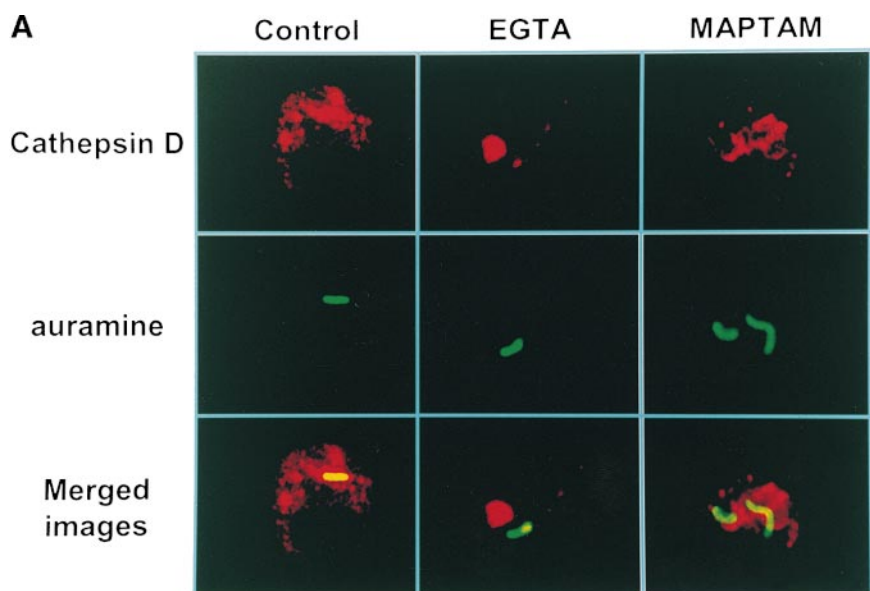


Figure 8. Maturation of phagosomes containing killed *M. tuberculosis* is reduced by inhibition of elevations in cytosolic Ca^{2+} . (A) MDMs were incubated in CHBSS (control, left column), Ca^{2+} -free HBSS containing 3 mM EGTA (center column), or 12.5 μ M MAPTAM (right column) before infection with C-op, gamma-irradiated *M. tuberculosis* (H37Rv strain) for 20 min. Monolayers were washed and replated with RH, 1% autologous serum and incubated at 37°C. Samples were stained with mAb to cathepsin D (top row, red) and auramine to detect *M. tuberculosis* (center row, green). Acquisition of both fluorescence emission maxima (bottom row) demonstrates colocalization of cathepsin D with killed *M. tuberculosis* in MDMs incubated in Ca^{2+} -containing buffer (yellow, left column), which is significantly reduced in EGTA (center column) or MAPTAM (right column). Crossover fluorescence did not contribute to the colocalization of signals, as cells labeled with either anti-cathepsin D Ab or auramine alone did not emit a detectable fluorescence signal when observed through the narrow bandpass filter appropriate for the other fluorochrome. (B) Summary of the percentage of phagosomes containing C-op, gamma-irradiated *M. tuberculosis* that colocalize with cathepsin D, LAMP-1, CD63, or Lyso Tracker Red in each of the three buffer conditions. Each value is the mean percentage (\pm SEM) from at least three experiments.

This study demonstrates that multiple strains of pathogenic *M. tuberculosis* inhibit Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction during infection of human macrophages. Inhibition of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling is tightly coupled to the failure of mycobacterial phagosomes to mature into acidic, microbicidal phagolysosomes and to successful intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*. Two determinants of mycobacteria-induced inhibition of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling have been defined. First, the bacilli must be viable, as killing of *M. tuberculosis* by heat or gamma irradiation reverses the inhibition of Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction. Although the basis of this requirement is unknown, the dependence on mycobacterial viability has previously been demonstrated for the inhibition of P-L fusion in *M. tuberculosis*-infected human macrophages (12, 23, 24). Second, infection of macrophages in the absence of increased $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ is specific for phagocytosis via CRs. Redirecting the phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* to Fc γ Rs, via opsonization with specific polyclonal or monoclonal Abs, reverses mycobacteria-induced impairment of macrophage Ca^{2+} signaling, and, more importantly, reduces the intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*

within human MDMs. The reduction in the intracellular survival of Ab-op bacilli was not due to a difference in phagocytosis, as both the phagocytic index (the number of bacilli ingested per macrophage) and the percentage of MDMs that phagocytosed at least one bacillus did not differ between the two groups.

Although mechanisms other than induction of elevated $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ may contribute to the decreased viability of Ab-op bacilli, direct evidence for a causal role of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in regulating the survival of *M. tuberculosis* within human macrophages was obtained with the calcium ionophore, A23187. Thus, in this in vitro model of primary infection of human macrophages, the lack of an increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ during CR-mediated phagocytosis correlated with inhibition of P-L fusion and increased intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*. Conversely, elevation of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ was associated with increased P-L fusion and reduced intramacrophage viability. The essential role of $[Ca^{2+}]_c$ in triggering multiple phagocyte antimicrobial defenses suggests that the inhibition of phagocytosis-initiated Ca^{2+} signaling confers a survival advantage on *M. tuberculosis* at the time of its entry into macrophages.

Immunoelectron microscopy of *M. tuberculosis*-containing phagosomes supports the hypothesis that the bacilli's protected "intracellular niche" is established at a relatively early time point during infection of macrophages (24, 54). The large number of Ca^{2+} -dependent biochemical reactions and cellular functions suggests that *M. tuberculosis*-induced inhibition of changes in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ may compromise several components of macrophage activation and antimicrobial function.

The use of the term "inhibition" to characterize the lack of increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ during phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* is meant in an operational sense, as the mechanism remains unknown. Lack of initiation of a Ca^{2+} signaling pathway or its rapid termination could both yield the observed results. As CRs, especially CR3, are the primary mediators of phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* in human MDMs (5) and because other C3b/bi-opsonized particles, including dead *M. tuberculosis*, stimulate a rise in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$, our working model is best summarized by the question, How does live *M. tuberculosis* inhibit CR-mediated increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$? Evidence in favor of this model, particularly the comparison between live and dead C-op *M. tuberculosis* as a means to understand the pathogenesis of tuberculosis, include: (a) live and dead C-op *M. tuberculosis* are phagocytosed to the same extent by human MDMs (5), (b) the extent of phagocytosis of live and dead *M. tuberculosis* is inhibited to the same extent by anti-CR3 Abs (5), (c) the level of C3 deposition does not differ between live and heat-killed bacilli (data not shown), and (d) anti-CD18 F(ab')₂ fragments eliminate the increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ stimulated by dead *M. tuberculosis* or COZ. This model encompasses the possibility that additional interactions between live *M. tuberculosis* and human MDMs other than ligation of mycobacterial surface-bound C3b/bi by CRs may contribute to the inhibition of Ca^{2+} signaling.

As the fluorescent detection of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ is highly sensitive, our hypothesis is that no Ca^{2+} signal is initiated during phagocytosis of live *M. tuberculosis*. However, the biochemical signals that normally link CRs to increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ are unknown, and, therefore, we cannot ascertain whether these intermediate steps are "not initiated" or "initiated but inhibited." These mechanistic uncertainties are an additional reason that we have used the more general phrase, "inhibition of Ca^{2+} signaling." However, we recognize that further definition of the mechanism(s) by which CR-induced phagocytosis of C-op *M. tuberculosis* occurs in the absence of a change in macrophage $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ may necessitate a revision of our current model and terminology.

Comparison of our results with those recently reported by Majeed et al. (19) illustrates both the similarities and differences in the interactions of *M. tuberculosis* with mononuclear phagocytes versus neutrophils (PMNs). Although neutrophil ingestion of the attenuated H37Ra strain of *M. tuberculosis* also occurred in the absence of a rise in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$, PMNs killed 73% of phagocytosed tubercle bacilli in 2 h (19). Whether induction of a rise in Ca^{2+} via physiologic or pharmacologic intervention would augment PMN P-L fusion or bactericidal activity toward *M. tuberculosis* was not reported, and no virulent strains of *M. tuberculosis* were used (19). Furthermore, *M. tuberculosis* does not successfully par-

asitize human neutrophils, and several studies have demonstrated that PMNs kill intracellular *M. tuberculosis* by both oxygen-dependent and -independent mechanisms (60–62). Finally, caution is required in comparing Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction of neutrophils with that of macrophages, as these two classes of phagocytes have been reported to differ in the Ca^{2+} dependence of antimicrobial functions (26, 59).

Zimmerli et al. have reported that human macrophages do not require an increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ for fusion of lysosomes with phagosomes containing COZ, coagulase-negative staphylococci, or the vaccine strain *M. bovis* BCG (27). The differences between their results and ours may be due, at least in part, to differences in both the methods of measuring phagosomal maturation and the characteristics of the phagocytosed particles. Zimmerli et al. used colocalization of the particles with LAMP-1 and endocytosed rhodamine dextran to define maturation of phagolysosomes. However, neither LAMP-1 nor dextran localize specifically to lysosomes, as both markers label late endosomes as well (24, 27). Perhaps the Ca^{2+} requirement for P-L fusion is influenced by characteristics of the particle, e.g., its virulence; *M. tuberculosis* is a highly virulent intracellular pathogen, whereas coagulase-negative staphylococci are extracellular pathogens of low virulence, BCG is nonpathogenic, and zymosan is a cell wall preparation from the nonpathogenic yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Finally, the lack of statistically significant differences in P-L fusion between control and Ca^{2+} -buffered MDMs in their study (27) may have been influenced by the small sample size, as the average decrease in P-L fusion in MAPTAM-treated MDMs compared with control MDMs was as great as 23%, and the standard deviations ranged from 30 to 100% of the mean values. Further studies will be required to clarify the variables that affect the Ca^{2+} dependence of phagosomal maturation in human macrophages.

A fascinating aspect of *M. tuberculosis*-induced inhibition of Ca^{2+} signaling is its particle specificity during concurrent or subsequent addition of a Ca^{2+} -mobilizing stimulus. Although MDMs did not generate an increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ during infection by live, C-op bacilli, these same cells maintained the capacity to respond to other phagocytosed particles (COZ, killed or Ab-op *M. tuberculosis*) or soluble stimuli (PAF) by increasing their levels of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$. Therefore, viable, C-op *M. tuberculosis* does not introduce a generalized defect in the Ca^{2+} signaling pathways of human MDMs. These results suggest that CR-induced increases in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ are spatially restricted to each specific phagocytic event, i.e., each forming phagosome, although further studies will be required to directly test this hypothesis. This proposed focal nature of phagocytosis-associated Ca^{2+} signaling or, in the case of *M. tuberculosis*, the lack thereof, is consistent with previous studies demonstrating the tightly regulated spatial constraints of Ca^{2+} -mediated signal transduction (36, 50, 51, 63). In fact, Stendahl et al. (36) have recently demonstrated that during phagocytosis of COZ, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ levels are highest in the periphagosomal region (34).

Whereas our data demonstrating increased P-L fusion after Ab opsonization of *M. tuberculosis* are in agreement with those of Armstrong and Hart (11), our studies differ with

respect to the consequences for mycobacterial survival. In this study, opsonization of *M. tuberculosis* with specific monoclonal or polyclonal Abs resulted in significant decreases in intracellular viability within human macrophages. In contrast, Armstrong and Hart demonstrated that survival within murine macrophages was similar for serum- and Ab-op *M. tuberculosis* (11). As numerous investigators have documented significant differences between the tuberculocidal capacities of human versus murine macrophages (for review see references 3, 6, 46–48), we hypothesize that this species specificity is a major factor contributing to the contrasting effects of Ab opsonization on mycobacterial survival noted in our two studies. Zimmerli et al. recently demonstrated that Ab-mediated inhibition of individual CRs or the mannose receptor did not alter the intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis* within human MDMs (58). This study differs from ours in two respects. First, the effect of Fc γ R-mediated phagocytosis on mycobacterial survival was not determined, and second, receptor-blocking reagents were used to direct phagocytosis of *M. tuberculosis* to unblocked receptor (58). However, blocking reagents may introduce confounding effects by stimulating the receptors to which they bind, and it is often difficult to block multiple receptor classes ligated by complex particles, such as *M. tuberculosis*. In contrast, opsonization of *M. tuberculosis* with specific ligands provides a direct, physiologically relevant analysis of the impact of individual receptor classes on the intracellular survival of *M. tuberculosis*.

The lack of Ca²⁺ mobilization during ingestion of *M. tuberculosis* may represent an important mechanism of immune evasion that contributes to its survival within human macrophages. As the specific mechanism(s) by which human macrophages kill intracellular *M. tuberculosis* is unknown, it is difficult at present to define the means by which inhibition of Ca²⁺ signaling promotes mycobacterial survival, although inhibition of P–L fusion is likely to contribute. Despite these challenges, characterization of the molecular mechanisms responsible for *M. tuberculosis*-induced alterations in macrophage Ca²⁺ signaling and its specific contribution to intracellular survival will provide important insights into the pathogenesis of tuberculosis and may contribute to the development of novel therapies to treat this formidable disease.

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