

MEETING ABSTRACT

Open Access

LDH-C can be differentially expressed during fermentation of CHO cells

Berthold Szperalski^{1*}, Christine Jung¹, Zhixin Shao¹, Anne Kantardjieff^{2,3}, Wei-Shou Hu²

From 22nd European Society for Animal Cell Technology (ESACT) Meeting on Cell Based Technologies Vienna, Austria. 15-18 May 2011

Abstract

Expression of CHO mRNA was measured with special microarrays from the Consortium for Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) Cell Genomics led by Prof. Wei-Shou Hu of the University of Minnesota and Prof. Miranda Yap of the Bioprocess Technology Institute of A*STAR, Singapore (http://hugroup.cems.umn.edu/CHO/cho_index.html). Cultivation experiments were performed in small scale 2L stirred tank bioreactors. During fermentation a temperature shift of -3°C was performed. This was accompanied by a reduction of the cell specific lactate production rate.

The analysis of transcriptome samples before and after the temperature shift with microarrays showed several changes in the expression of available gene markers. LDH-C expression raised about 2 fold after temperature shift. LDH-A did not change. As LDH-C is known to be a specialized isoenzyme in sperm cells for consuming lactate in a lactate containing milieu, LDH-C could be proposed as a target for genetic engineering, facilitating lactate consumption in the late phase of high cell density cultures and prolonging longevity of CHO production cultures by reducing lactate and base accumulation.

Methods

CHO-cells producing a recombinant human antibody were cultivated in a proprietary proteinfree medium and inoculated in 4 x 2L stirred tank bioreactors. Bioreactors were controlling pH, pO₂ and temperature. A fixed feeding protocol was used to overcome the limitation of consumed medium components. Temperatures of 2 cultures were shifted at day 4 from 37°C to 34°C. Daily samplings of the cultures were performed to monitor cell density and viability by using an automated **Cedex™** cell counter and the trypan blue exclusion method. The supernatant of the culture was monitored for product concentration, glucose, glutamine, lactate, ammonium. Measurement of LDH (lactate dehydrogenase) in cell culture supernatant was used as an indicator of cell lysis. Sedimented cells of cell culture samples were prepared and cRNA was processed according to **Affymetrix™** standard procedures.[1] and hybridized with custom CHO **Affymetrix™** arrays from the

Consortium for Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) Cell Genomics [2].

Results

The comparison of temperature shifted and control cultures showed significant differences in the growth curves of the experiment. Temperature shift induced an early shift to the plateau phase. It reduced the cell death. Cell specific productivity was slightly higher. Lactate consumption was higher and started earlier than in control cultures (data not shown). PCA (principal component analysis) was used to compare expression ratios at different temperatures. PC 1 showed that most expression changes are onset at day 6 and maintained throughout the rest of the culture. Transcriptome analyses showed several significant changes after the temperature shift (Table 1). One outstanding result is the upregulated RNA of LDH-C (Figure 1). LDH-A RNA expression showed no significant change after temperature shift.

* Correspondence: berthold.szperalski@roche.com

¹Pharma Biotech, Roche Diagnostics GmbH, 82377 Penzberg, Germany
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Table 1

Correlation to PC	Gene set	Number of genes in gene set	Nominal p-value
Positive to PC 1	Cell cycle	26	0
	DNA replication	24	0
	Cytoskeleton	67	0.02
	Microtubule organizing center	24	0.04
Negative to PC 1	Golgi apparatus	50	0
	Cell-cell signaling	48	0
Positive to PC 2	RNA processing	43	0.01
	Proteolysis	46	0.05
Negative to PC 2	DNA replication	32	0.04

Discussion

LDH-C is known to be present in sperm cells, testis cells and some tumors [3] but is not reported to be regulated in CHO-cell lines. In sperm cells LDH-C is known to have different kinetic properties compared to A and B isoforms of LDH preferring lactate as substrate

[4]. LDH-C is localized in cytoplasm and in specific “sperm type mitochondria” and seems to be integrated in a shuttle system for the transfer of reducing activity into the mitochondrial matrix [7][8]. An pseudogene association with mitochondrial cyclophilin D is reported in the gene bank of mouse genome [9]. The role of

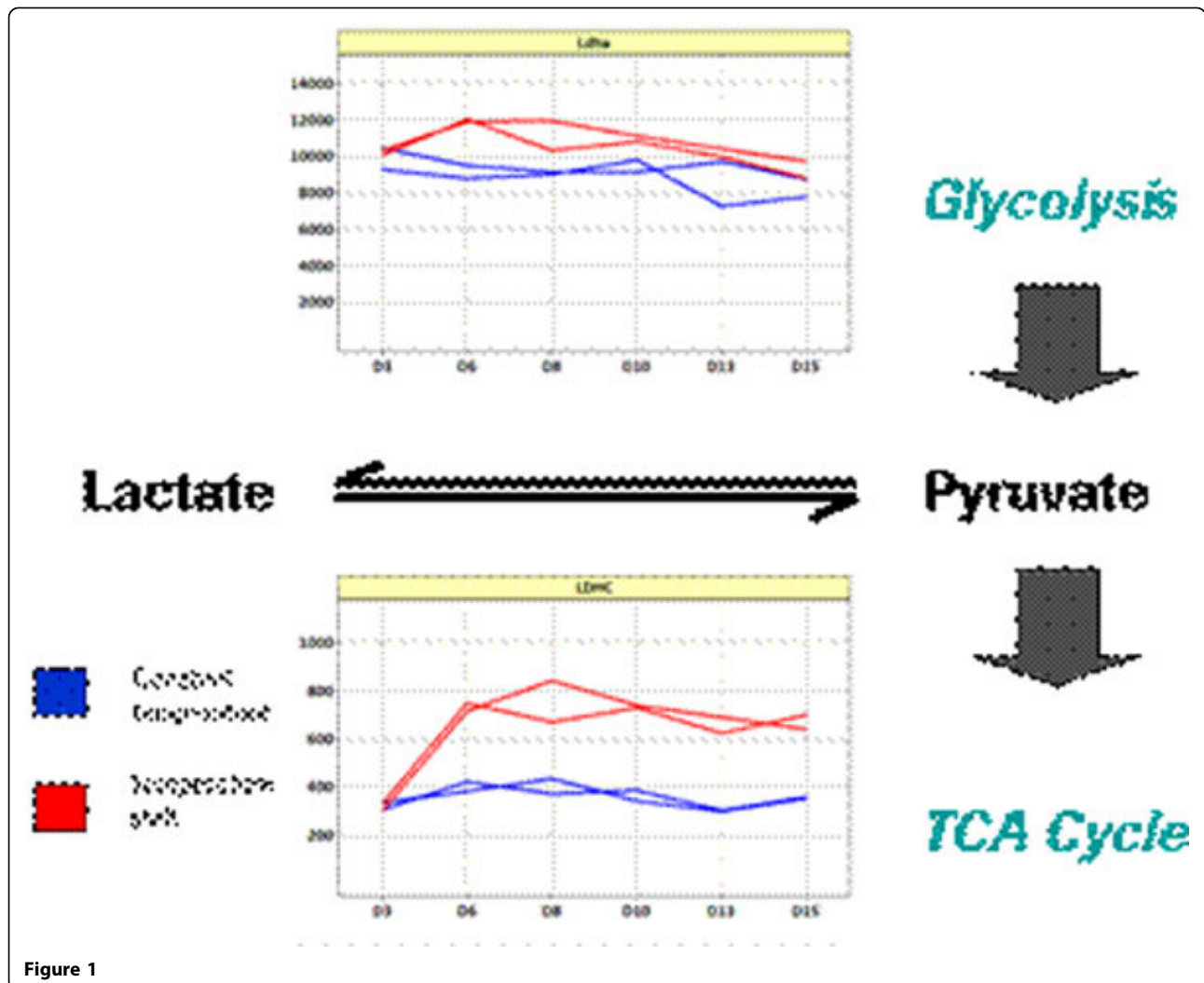


Figure 1

LDH-C in CHO-Cells is still unclear. The influence of temperature shift under normal body temperature seems to induce a special situation for sperm cell migration. LDH-C helps sperm cells to survive in lactic acid containing micro milieu of the oviduct. It allows lactic acid to be an energy source. These functions could be mimicked in a high lactate containing, temperature shifted fermentation process with CHO cells. LDH-C can also be regulated by hormonal mechanisms. They are known to have slight regulatory influence on the transcriptional expression [5]. Selective inhibitors of LDH isoforms are described [6]. Specific inhibitors for LDH -C are proposed as antifertilizing drugs [6]. Inhibitors to LDH-A and -B could help to favor LDH-C and so reduce lactate production. LDH-C is an interesting target for engineering manufacturing processes with cell lines like CHO cells for shifting these cells to aerobic lactate metabolism and improving growth performance.

Author details

¹Pharma Biotech, Roche Diagnostics GmbH, 82377 Penzberg, Germany.

²University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA. ³Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Cheshire, CT 06410, USA.

Published: 22 November 2011

References

1. Kantardjieff A, Jacob NM, Yee JC, Epstein E, Kok YJ, Philp R, Betenbaugh M, Hu WS: **Transcriptome and proteome analysis of Chinese hamster ovary cells under low temperature and butyrate treatment.** *J Biotechnol* 2010, **145**:143-159.
2. Consortium for Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) Cell Genomics. 2007 [http://hugroup.cems.umn.edu/CHO/cho_index.html].
3. Koslowski M, Tureci O, Bell C, Krause P, Lehr HA, Brunner J, Seitz G, Nestle FO, Huber C, Sahin U: **Multiple splice variants of lactate dehydrogenase C selectively expressed in human cancer.** *Cancer Res* 2002, **62**:6750-6755.
4. Blanco A, Burgos C, Gerez de Burgos NM, Montamat EE: **Properties of the testicular lactate dehydrogenase isoenzyme.** *Biochem J* 1976, **153**:165-172.
5. Ohsako S, Kubota K, Kurosawa S, Takeda K, Qing W, Ishimura R, Tohyama C: **Alterations of gene expression in adult male rat testis and pituitary shortly after subacute administration of the antiandrogen flutamide.** *J Reprod Dev* 2003, **49**:275-290.
6. Yu Y, Deck JA, Hunsaker LA, Deck LM, Royer RE, Goldberg E, Vander Jagt DL: **Selective active site inhibitors of human lactate dehydrogenases A4, B4, and C4.** *Biochem Pharmacol* 2001, **62**:81-89.
7. Burgos C, Maldonado C, Gerez de Burgos NM, Aoki A, Blanco A: **Intracellular localization of the testicular and sperm-specific lactate dehydrogenase isozyme C4 in mice.** *Biol Reprod* 1995, **53**:84-92.
8. Gladden LB: **Lactate metabolism: a new paradigm for the third millennium.** *J Physiol* 2004, **558**:5-30.
9. **Mouse DNA sequence from clone RP23-313115 on chromosome 13 Contains a peptidylprolyl isomerase D (cyclophilin D) (Ppid) pseudogene and a sperm specific lactate dehydrogenase 3C (Ldh3) pseudogene, complete sequence.** GenBank: AL606965.20; 2011 [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/AL606965.20>].

doi:10.1186/1753-6561-5-S8-P107

Cite this article as: Szperalski et al.: LDH-C can be differentially expressed during fermentation of CHO cells. *BMC Proceedings* 2011 **5** (Suppl 8):P107.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

