Structural Basis of GLUT1 Inhibition by Cytoplasmic ATP

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Cytoplasmic ATP inhibits human erythrocyte glucose transport protein (GLUT1)–mediated glucose transport in human red blood cells by reducing net glucose transport but not exchange glucose transport (Cloherty, E.K., D.L. Diamond, K.S. Heard, and A. Carruthers. 1996. Biochemistry. 35:13231–13239). We investigated the mechanism of ATP regulation of GLUT1 by identifying GLUT1 domains that undergo significant conformational change upon GLUT1–ATP interaction. ATP (but not GTP) protects GLUT1 against tryptic digestion. Immunoblot analysis indicates that ATP protection extends across multiple GLUT1 domains. Peptide-directed antibody binding to full-length GLUT1 is reduced by ATP at two specific locations: exofacial loop 7–8 and the cytoplasmic C terminus. C-terminal antibody binding to wild-type GLUT1 expressed in HEK cells is inhibited by ATP but binding of the same antibody to a GLUT1–GLUT4 chimera in which loop 6–7 of GLUT1 is substituted with loop 6–7 of GLUT4 is unaffected. ATP reduces GLUT1 lysine covalent modification by sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin by 40%. AMP is without effect on lysine accessibility but antagonizes ATP inhibition of lysine modification.

INTRODUCTION

Blood–tissue barriers, which comprise endothelial cells connected by tight junctions (Takata et al., 1997; Mann et al., 2003), protect the brain, peripheral nerve, myocardium, retina, olfactory epithelium, and the inner ear from the external environment. Metabolism in these tissues is fueled by glucose that is transported across the endothelial barrier via a transcellular mechanism mediated by the type I facilitative glucose transport protein, GLUT1 (Takata et al., 1997; Mann et al., 2003; Leybaert, 2005). GLUT1 is a prototypic member of the facilitative glucose transporter family (Joost et al., 2002) and of the wider major facilitator superfamily (MFS) of structurally and functionally related transport proteins (Saier et al., 1999; Saier, 2000).

GLUT1 is expressed at very high levels in endothelial cells and erythrocytes (Takata et al., 1997) where it displays substrate affinities, kinetic properties, and inhibitor pharmacodynamics that distinguish it from other GLUT facilitative sugar transporter members (Takakura et al., 1991). Glucose metabolism in erythrocytes and endothelial cells is not rate limited by transport because the glucose transport capacities of these cells greatly exceed their glycolytic capacities (Jacquez, 1984; Gerritsen et al., 1988). In spite of this, GLUT1-mediated sugar transport displays acute and adaptive regulation in endothelial cells (Takata et al., 1997; Loaiza et al., 2003; Mann et al., 2003) and acute regulation in erythrocytes (Jung et al., 1971; Taverna and Langdon, 1973; Jacquez, 1983; Weiser et al., 1983; Levine et al., 2005) where cellular ATP depletion enhances GLUT1-mediated sugar import capacity (Carruthers and Zottola, 1996; Heard et al., 2000; Levine et al., 2002; Levine et al., 2005; Leitch and Carruthers, 2007). Acute responses occur within seconds to minutes and involve stimulation of existing cell surface glucose transporters (Diamond and Carruthers, 1993; Shetty et al., 1993; Cloherty et al., 1996). Adaptive responses occur over several hours in response to hypoxia and hypoglycemia and involve changes in glucose transporter expression (Mann et al., 2005).

GLUT1 is a nucleotide binding protein that, when complexed with ATP, displays reduced glucose import capacity but increased affinity for sugar (Carruthers and Helgerson, 1989; Levine et al., 1998; Levine et al., 2002). ATP modulation of GLUT1-mediated transport is competitively inhibited by AMP and ADP, but does not require ATP hydrolysis (Heard et al., 2000). Peptide mapping studies of azidoATP-labeled GLUT1 demonstrate that ATP interacts with GLUT1 residues 301–364.
(Levine et al., 1998). This sequence spans transmembrane helices 8 and 9 (TM8 and TM9) and cytoplasmic loop 8–9. Residues 332–343 of this region display 50% sequence identity with a component of the adenylate kinase ATP binding pocket (Levine et al., 1998) and mutagenesis of key residues within this subdomain abolishes ATP modulation of transport (Levine et al., 2002). These observations suggest that nucleotide binding pocket minimally consists of L8–9 and a portion of TM9. Competitive antagonism of ATP regulation of transport by AMP eliminates the possibility that transport regulation is a simple consequence of nucleotide binding to GLUT1. Rather, regulation must involve nucleotide-induced GLUT1 conformational changes but the nature of these changes is unknown. Neither is it known whether the details of GLUT1 regulation are isoform specific or reflect a mechanism fundamental to all structurally related GLUT family members that extends to transport catalyzed by other structurally and functionally related MFS proteins. GLUT1 regulation appears to involve rapid changes in GLUT1 intrinsic activity while regulation of the insulin-sensitive transporter GLUT4 involves rapid redistributions of GLUT4 proteins between intracellular and cell surface membranes in addition to GLUT4 activation (Joost et al., 1986; Simpson and Cushman, 1986).

The results of the present study suggest that ATP binding to GLUT1 causes the GLUT1 carboxyl terminus to interact with GLUT1 cytoplasmic loop 6–7 in a sequence-specific fashion to inhibit transport.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials
Fresh, de-identified human blood was purchased from Biological Specialties Corporation. Protein assays, Pro Blue coomassie stain, and Supersignal chemiluminescence kits were from Pierce Chemical Co. Nitrocellulose and Immobilon-P were purchased from Fisher Scientific. Purified rabbit IgGs raised against synthetic peptides corresponding to GLUT1 subdomains were obtained from Animal Pharm Services, Inc. These are N-Ab (GLUT1 residues 1–13); L2–3-Ab (GLUT1 residues 85–95); L6–7-Ab (GLUT1 residues 217–251); L7–8-Ab (GLUT1 residues 299–311); C-Ab (GLUT1 residues 480–492). All other reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

Solutions
Saline comprises 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, and 0.5 mM EDTA, pH 7.4. Lysis medium contained 10 mM Tris-HCl and 0.2 mM EDTA, pH 7.2. Stripping solution contained 2 mM EDTA, 15.2 mM NaOH, pH 12. Triton X-100 contained 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4. Kaline consisted of 150 mM KCl, 5 mM HEPES, 4 mM EGTA, and 5 mM MgCl2. Ammonium bicarbonate was 0.5% (63 mM), pH 9.0. PBS containing Tween (PBS-T) comprised 140 mM NaCl, 10 mM Na2HPO4, 3.4 mM KCl, 1.84 mM KH2PO4, 0.1% Tween, pH 7.3. Stop solution comprises ice-cold Kaline plus cytochalasin B (CB) (10 μM) and phloretin (100 μM).

Red Cells and Red Cell Ghosts
Red cells were isolated by as described previously (Leitch and Carruthers, 2007). Red cell ghosts were formed by reversible hypotonic lysis of washed red cells (Leitch and Carruthers, 2007).

GLUT1 Purification
Glucose transporter (plus endogenous lipids) was purified from human erythrocyte membranes in the absence of detergent as described previously (Hebert and Carruthers, 1992). The resulting GLUT1 proteoliposomes contain (by protein mass) 90% GLUT1, 8% RhD protein, 2% nucleotide transporter (ENT1) and have a lipid:total protein mass ratio of 1:1 (Zottola et al., 1995). Experiments were restricted to the use of GLUT1 preparations in which the stoichiometry of proteoliposomal cytochalasin B binding is 0.48 ± 0.07 mol CB per mol nonreduced GLUT1 and 0.9 ± 0.1 mol CB per mol reduced GLUT1.

Sugar Transport Determinations
Transport in red cell ghosts was measured as described previously (Leitch and Carruthers, 2007).

Limited Proteolytic Digestion of Purified GLUT1
Purified GLUT1 (10 μg) was digested with a 20:1 (protein:enzyme) ratio of purified porcine trypsin (Princeton Separations) in 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 5 mM MgCl2, 4 mM ATP (pH 7.5). Digestions were performed at 4°C for 60 min, or the indicated time period. Reactions were immediately loaded onto 15% SDS-PAGE.

Western Blotting
After SDS-PAGE, samples were transferred to nitrocellulose and blocked overnight in 25% nonfat dry milk/PBS-T. Primary antibody (N-Ab [1:200], L2–3-Ab [1:200], L6–7-Ab [1:500], L7–8-Ab [1:200], L8–9 [1:200], C-Ab [1:15,000], δ-Ab [1:1,000]) was incubated in 3% nonfat dry milk/PBS-T for 1 h at room temperature. Blots were washed three times in PBS-T and incubated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated goat anti-rabbit secondary antibody (1:5,000 dilution) at room temperature for 1 h. Blots were washed three times in PBS-T, developed using Pierce SuperSignal West Pico Chemiluminescent substrate and visualized by autoradiography.

ELISA
Purified GLUT1 (200 ng) in PBS was adsorbed to each well of the ELISA plate for 2 h at 37°C. Plates were blocked with PBS + 3% BSA for 2 h at 37°C. Primary antibody (N-Ab [1:200], L2–3-Ab [1:200], L6–7-Ab [1:500], L7–8-Ab [1:200], L8–9 [1:100 to 1:500], C-Ab [1:15,000], δ-Ab [1:1,000]) was added to each well in PBS + 0.1% BSA ± ATP and binding was allowed to proceed for 2 h. The plate was washed five times with PBS, and then each well was incubated with HRP-conjugated goat anti-rabbit secondary antibody in PBS + 0.1% BSA (1:5,000 dilution) at room temperature for 1 h. The plate was washed five times with PBS and wells were developed using 100 μl of 1-Step ABTS solution (Pierce Chemical Co.). Primary IgG binding was quantitated as absorbance at 415 nm.

Construction of the GLUT1–L6–7–GLUT4 Chimera
This chimera substitutes the middle loop (L6–7) with that of its rat GLUT4 counterpart and was constructed using a six-step PCR protocol. In PCR 1A, a HindIII primer complimentary to the 3′ end of L6–7 and a reverse primer (containing a NotI restriction site) complimentary to the 3′ end of GLUT1 and a reverse primer (containing a NotI restriction site) complimentary to the
ATP Protects GLUT1 against Tryptic Digestion

Exposure of GLUT1 proteoliposomes to trypsin (62.5:1 by mass) at 37°C results in the rapid loss of intact GLUT1 as judged by silver stain detection of peptides resolved by 10% SDS-PAGE. The time course of GLUT1 proteolysis is characterized by a rapid burst phase of proteolysis in which ~30% of GLUT1 is hydrolyzed with a \( \tau = 4.5 \) s (Fig. 1 A). The remaining intact GLUT1 is proteolyzed with a \( \tau = 2.5 \) s (see Fig. 1 B). Addition of ATP (0.1 to 4 mM always in the presence of 5 mM MgCl\(_2\)) to the reaction reduces the size and rate of the proteolysis burst phase significantly (extent = 22%, \( \tau = 56 \) s; Fig. 1 B). AMP, ADP, GTP, and CTP do not affect the rate or extent of trypsin-catalyzed proteolysis of GLUT1 proteoliposomes and thus full access to exo- and endofacial GLUT1 domains.

Figure 1.  Kinetics of GLUT1 digestion by trypsin at 37°C. GLUT1 (10 μg) was incubated with trypsin (0.16 μg) ± 4 mM ATP (plus 5 mM MgCl\(_2\)) for 60 s (A and B) or with 0 ATP, 4 mM ATP, or 4 mM GTP for the times indicated (B). Peptides were separated by SDS-PAGE and the fraction of intact GLUT1 remaining quantitated by densitometry of silver-stained gels. The bars to the left of the gel in A indicate the mobility of molecular weight standards (113, 92, 50.1, 35.4, 29, 21.5 kD from top to bottom). The curves drawn through the data points in B assume two exponential phases of proteolysis. The fast phase accounts for 33 ± 2% of GLUT1 proteolysis and has a first order rate constant of 0.055 ± 0.008 per second (control, ○) or 0.049 ± 0.026 per second (GTP, △). The slow phase accounts for 66% of GLUT1 digestion and has a first order rate constant of 0.00027 ± 0.00007 per second (control, ◆) or 0.00026 ± 0.00022 per second (GTP, △). ATP (○) reduces the size of the fast phase to 22 ± 2% and slows the fast rate constant to 0.017 ± 0.003 per second. Insufficient data exists to analyze slow phase kinetics in the presence of ATP. Data are shown as mean ± SEM of five separate experiments. (C) ATP protection of GLUT1 during fast phase proteolysis is half-maximal at 627 ± 268 μM ATP. Data are shown as mean ± SEM of 3 separate experiments.

Modification of GLUT1 Lysine Residues by Sulfo-NHS-LC-Biotin

GLUT1 was covalently modified to access one or more accessible lysines (± ATP) using sulfo-NHS-(biotinamido) hexanoate (sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin) as described previously (unpublished data). Detection of modified residues was achieved by limited proteolysis of labeled GLUT1 followed by RP-HPLC separation of fragments and ESI-MS/MS identification of peptides as described previously (unpublished data).

RESULTS

Human GLUT1 copurifies with red cell membrane lipids and is reconstituted into unsealed proteoliposomes upon detergent removal (Baldwin et al., 1979; Appleman and Lienhard, 1985; Sultzman and Carruthers, 1999). Although sealed proteoliposomes may be formed if exogenous lipid is added before detergent dialysis (Baldwin et al., 1982; Carruthers and Melchior, 1984; Zeidel et al., 1992), we employed purified human GLUT1 in unsealed proteoliposomes to ensure that added reagent has access to both surfaces of the lipid bilayer and thus full access to exo- and endofacial GLUT1 domains.

3′ end of GLUT4 were used along with the products from PCR1A and B to generate an intermediate chimera containing sequence from nucleotides 1–620 of GLUT1 and 667–1531 of GLUT4. This intermediate chimera contained TM 1–6 of GLUT1 in frame with L6–7 and TM 7–12 of GLUT4. In PCR 3A, the HindIII primer complimentary to the 5′ end of human GLUT1 and a primer (CGCACCAGGGGCAGGCTATCCCTCATCGGTGTC) complimentary to nucleotides 844–862 of GLUT4 and 815–829 of GLUT1 were used along with the product from PCR2 to generate a fragment containing TM 1–6 of GLUT1 (nucleotides 1–619) in frame with L6–7 (nucleotides 667–862) of GLUT4. In PCR 3B, a primer (CGCACCAGGGGCAGGCTATCCCTCATCGGTGTC) complimentary to nucleotides 844–862 of GLUT4 and nucleotides 815–829 of GLUT1 were used with wild-type GLUT1 plasmid as a template to generate a fragment containing TM 7–12 (nucleotides 815–1480) of GLUT1. In the final reaction, PCR 4, HindIII primer complimentary to the 5′ end of human GLUT1 and the NotI primer complimentary to the 3′ end of GLUT1 were used with the products of PCR 3A and B as a template generating the final product, which contained TM 1–6 (nucleotides 1–619) of GLUT1, followed by L6–7 of GLUT4 (nucleotides 667–862), followed by TM 7–12 (nucleotides 815–1480) of GLUT1. This PCR product was digested with HindIII and NotI and ligated into the mammalian expression vector pcDNA 3.1, cut with the same enzymes. Sequences were confirmed by sequencing and the chimera was transiently expressed in HEK 293 cells as described previously (Levine et al., 2005).

Modification of GLUT1 Lysine Residues by Sulfo-NHS-LC-Biotin

GLUT1 was covalently modified to access one or more accessible lysines (± ATP) using sulfo-NHS-(biotinamido) hexanoate (sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin) as described previously (unpublished data). Detection of modified residues was achieved by limited proteolysis of labeled GLUT1 followed by RP-HPLC separation of fragments and ESI-MS/MS identification of peptides as described previously (unpublished data).
GLUT1 proteolysis. ATP inhibits GLUT1 digestion at 60 s by 50% at 627 ± 268 μM ATP (Fig. 1 C).

To evaluate which GLUT1 domains were most susceptible to proteolysis, we examined GLUT1 fragmentation patterns by immunoblot analysis of GLUT1 digests using a series of GLUT1 peptide-directed IgGs. These included N-Ab (directed against GLUT1 amino acids 1–13), L6–7-Ab (directed against GLUT1 residues 217–231), L7–8-Ab (GLUT1 residues 299–311), and C-Ab (residues 480–492). ATP (4 mM) reduces the efficiency of GLUT1 digestion (100:1 GLUT1:trypsin by mass, 20°C, 30 min reaction) as detected by immunoblot using IgGs specific to each of these GLUT1 subdomains (Fig. 2 A).

For example, the C-Ab panel indicates the absence of higher molecular weight C-Ab–reactive fragments when GLUT1 proteolysis proceeds in the absence of ATP. When ATP is included, however, both high and low molecular weight C-Ab–reactive fragments are visible and more abundant, suggesting a general slowing of proteolysis of both intact and partially cleaved GLUT1. To identify protected peptides, we aligned each GLUT1 peptide detected by peptide-directed IgGs to GLUT1 sequence using two criteria: (1) the fragment must contain the reactive epitope, and (2) the mass (electrophoretic mobility) of the fragment must be consistent with previously detected GLUT1 tryptic cleavage sites (unpublished data).

Figure 2. Immunoblot analysis of trypsin-digested, purified GLUT1 ± 4 mM ATP. The digest was analyzed by Western blot analysis using a panel of antibodies directed against specific GLUT1 domains: N-Ab (GLUT1 residues 1–13); L6–7-Ab (GLUT1 residues 217–231); L7–8-Ab (GLUT1 residues 299–311); and C-Ab (GLUT1 residues 480–492). (A) Immunoblot analysis of tryptic digests. The key indicates the presence (+) or absence (−) of trypsin (tryp) or ATP (4 mM). The bars to the left of each blot show the mobility of molecular weight standards (kD). The arrows to the right of each blot indicate peptides whose intensity is greater when digests are performed in the presence of ATP. (B) Linear representation of GLUT1. The open boxes show the locations of N-Ab, L6–7-Ab, L7–8-Ab, and C-Ab directed IgG binding domains. The vertical arrows indicate GLUT1 tryptic cleavage sites determined by MS/MS analysis of GLUT1 tryptic digests. The horizontal bars below indicate putative assignments of ATP-sensitive GLUT1 peptides detected by peptide-directed IgGs and their theoretical molecular weight (kD). (C) [ATP] dose response to trypsin digestion. The relative intensities of C-Ab–reactive 20 kD (●) and 25–27 kD (○) peptides increase with [ATP] during proteolysis. Peptide intensity (volume) was quantitated by densitometry of immunoblots using the Image J software package and plotted as a function of [ATP]. Curves were computed by nonlinear regression assuming that intensity increases with [ATP] in a simple, saturable fashion. 20 kD and 25–27 kD peptides are half maximally protected by ATP at (366 ± 202) and (440 ± 211) μM, respectively. This figure represents a single dose–response experiment.
The trypsin-accessible sites observed here are generally consistent with the surface accessibility maps produced by systematic cysteine scanning mutagenesis of GLUT1 (Mueckler and Makepeace, 2006).

Fig. 2 B summarizes potential alignments of protected peptides. GLUT1 is most susceptible to tryptic digestion at cytoplasmic loop 6–7 and at the C terminus. ATP protection is distributed across GLUT1 primary structure. ATP inhibition of trypsin-catalyzed GLUT1 proteolysis increases in a saturable manner with ATP concentration and is half maximal at ∼400 μM ATP (n = 1; Fig. 2 C).

ATP-dependent GLUT1 Conformational Changes

The results of the proteolysis experiments suggest that ATP promotes significant GLUT1 conformational changes.

Table 1

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Equilibrium binding</th>
<th>k per min</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ATP] mM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLUT1</td>
<td>0.65 ± 0.012</td>
<td>0.46 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBC</td>
<td>0.84 ± 0.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>wtGLUT1</td>
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<td>GLUT1–GLUT4 (L6) chimera</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GLUT1</td>
<td>0.13 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBC</td>
<td>0.10 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>wtGLUT1</td>
<td>0.11 ± 0.01</td>
<td>0.11 ± 0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>GLUT1–GLUT4 (L6) chimera</td>
<td>0.14 ± 0.05</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.01</td>
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Results from the curve fits of Fig. 3. C-Ab binding to GLUT1 is a simple exponential process characterized by a constant, B, that describes the extent of binding at equilibrium and by a rate constant k (per min). Binding was measured in the absence and presence of 4 mM ATP. Binding to GLUT1 was measured in GLUT1 proteoliposomes (GLUT1), in red cell membranes (RBC), in membranes isolated from HEK cells expressing wild-type GLUT1 (wtGLUT1), and in membranes isolated from HEK cells expressing the GLUT1–GLUT4 loop 6 chimera (GLUT1–GLUT4 (L6) chimera). P is a test of the hypothesis that binding in the absence of ATP is identical to binding in the presence of 4 mM ATP (t test of equilibrium binding obtained in three or more experiments). k is unaffected by ATP.
ATP inhibition that equilibrium binding is reduced by indicates specific binding is detectable. ND indicates that binding is not detectable. The effect of 4 mM ATP on IgG binding was measured. Inhibits indicates by ELISA analysis of binding to GLUT1 proteoliposomes (see Fig. 2). The serum dilution used in immunoblot analyses is indicated in parenthesis. Yes serum raised against GLUT1 amino acids 1–13). IgG binding was measured by immunoblot analysis of proteins resolved by SDS-PAGE (see Fig. 1) or immune sera generated against synthetic peptides corresponding to the indicated GLUT1 amino acid residues were raised in rabbits (e.g., N-Ab is immune serum raised against GLUT1 amino acids 1–13). IgG binding was measured by immunoblot analysis of proteins resolved by SDS-PAGE (see Fig. 1) or by ELISA analysis of binding to GLUT1 proteoliposomes (see Fig. 2). The serum dilution used in immunoblot analyses is indicated in parenthesis. Yes indicates specific binding is detectable. ND indicates that binding is not detectable. The effect of 4 mM ATP on IgG binding was measured. Inhibits indicates that equilibrium binding is reduced by >25% (see Fig. 2). NA indicates that the experiment is not applicable because IgG binding to proteoliposomes is undetectable. Exofacial GLUT1 domain-reactive polygonal IgGs (δ-Ab) were raised against nonreduced, native GLUT1. The reactive epitope is not known.

(Fig. 3 D). Analysis of equilibrium C-Ab binding to these membranes indicates that ATP significantly reduces C-Ab binding to purified GLUT1, red cell–resident GLUT1 and wtGLUT1 (P < 0.001) but not to the GLUT1–GLUT4 loop 6 chimera (P > 0.1). This chimera is expressed efficiently (Fig. 3 D) and reaches the cell surface where it facilitates 2-deoxy-D-glucose transport. Untransfected HEK cells are characterized by V max and K m(app) for 2-deoxy-D-glucose uptake at 30°C of 1.2 ± 0.1 pmol/μg cell protein/min and 3.6 ± 1.4 mM, respectively. HEK cells transfected with wild-type GLUT1 (1.6 μg DNA per 10 6 cells) show significantly greater 2-deoxy-D-glucose uptake and are characterized by V max and K m(app) of 29.3 ± 9.4 pmol/μg cell protein/min and 3.6 ± 1.4 mM, respectively. Cells transfected with the loop 6–7 GLUT1–GLUT4 chimera (1.6 μg DNA per 10 6 cells) are characterized by V max and K m(app) for 2-deoxy-D-glucose uptake of 21.6 ± 2.6 μmol/10 6 cells/min and 1.7 ± 0.7 mM, respectively.

To understand whether this response is restricted to the GLUT1 C terminus or more widespread, we examined the available peptide-directed IgGs for ability to bind to intact GLUT1 and for sensitivity of binding to ATP (Table I). ATP does not affect binding of δ-Ab, loop 2–3-Ab or loop 6–7-Ab to membrane-resident GLUT1 but does reduce loop 7–8-Ab and C-Ab binding to GLUT1 proteoliposomes. N-Ab and loop 8–9-Ab binding to native GLUT1 structure are undetectable, indicating that these epitopes are inaccessible in membrane-resident GLUT1.

### ATP-dependent Changes in Amino Acid Side Chain Accessibility

We assessed whether ATP-dependent conformational changes in loop 6–7 and the C terminus are reflected at the level of specific amino acid side chains by analysis of ATP modulation of sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin covalent modification of loop 6–7 and C terminus lysine residues.

GLUT1 proteoliposomes were preincubated in the presence or absence of 4 mM ATP before addition of a 20-fold molar excess of sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin to initiate GLUT1 labeling. This ratio of probe to GLUT1 produces significant labeling of GLUT1 cytoplasmic loop lysine residues without affecting the ability of GLUT1 to bind cytochalasin B (unpublished data). ATP reduces the extent of GLUT1 modification by ~40%, without slowing the reaction rate (Fig. 4 A). ATP inhibition of labeling is half maximal at 2 mM ATP (Fig. 4 B). AMP (0 to 4 mM) alters neither the rate nor the extent of GLUT1 modification but increases the amount of ATP required to inhibit GLUT1 modification. When the concentration dependence of ATP inhibition of GLUT1 modification is measured in the presence of 2 mM AMP, the effects of ATP are half maximal at 3.8 mM. Assuming AMP competitively antagonizes ATP inhibition of modification, K m(app) for AMP antagonism of ATP modulation of GLUT1 is 2.2 mM (Fig. 4 B). GLUT1 lysine residues whose accessibility to sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin is specifically affected by ATP were identified by ESI-MS/MS analysis of labeled GLUT1. After GLUT1 biotinylation in the presence of 4 mM AMP (control) and ATP and subsequent tryptic digestion/ESI-MS-MS, we identified all peptides originating from a specific GLUT1 region and quantitated each peak area. The peak areas of biotinylated peptides in a fraction or absence of 4 mM ATP before addition of a 20-fold molar excess of sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin to initiate GLUT1 labeling. This ratio of probe to GLUT1 produces significant labeling of GLUT1 cytoplasmic loop lysine residues without affecting the ability of GLUT1 to bind cytochalasin B (unpublished data). ATP reduces the extent of GLUT1 modification by ~40%, without slowing the reaction rate (Fig. 4 A). ATP inhibition of labeling is half maximal at 2 mM ATP (Fig. 4 B). AMP (0 to 4 mM) alters neither the rate nor the extent of GLUT1 modification but increases the amount of ATP required to inhibit GLUT1 modification. When the concentration dependence of ATP inhibition of GLUT1 modification is measured in the presence of 2 mM AMP, the effects of ATP are half maximal at 3.8 mM. Assuming AMP competitively antagonizes ATP inhibition of modification, K m(app) for AMP antagonism of ATP modulation of GLUT1 is 2.2 mM (Fig. 4 B).

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### TABLE II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GLUT1 IgG and domain</th>
<th>IgG binding by Western blot</th>
<th>IgG binding to proteoliposomes</th>
<th>Effect of ATP on IgG binding to proteoliposomes</th>
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<td>N-Ab; 1–13</td>
<td>Yes (1:200)</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>L2–3-Ab; 84–96</td>
<td>Yes (1:200)</td>
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<td>Yes (1:15,000)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Inhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exofacial (δ-Ab)</td>
<td>Yes (1:1,000)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No effect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immune sera generated against synthetic peptides corresponding to the indicated GLUT1 amino acid residues were raised in rabbits (e.g., N-Ab is immune serum raised against GLUT1 amino acids 1–13). IgG binding was measured by immunoblot analysis of proteins resolved by SDS-PAGE (see Fig. 1) or by ELISA analysis of binding to GLUT1 proteoliposomes (see Fig. 2). The serum dilution used in immunoblot analyses is indicated in parenthesis. Yes indicates specific binding is detectable. ND indicates that binding is not detectable. The effect of 4 mM ATP on IgG binding was measured. Inhibits indicates that equilibrium binding is reduced by >25% (see Fig. 2). NA indicates that the experiment is not applicable because IgG binding to proteoliposomes is undetectable. Exofacial GLUT1 domain-reactive polygonal IgGs (δ-Ab) were raised against nonreduced, native GLUT1. The reactive epitope is not known.
Region 1 shows no discernible change in the quantity of labeled peptide in the presence of ATP (Fig. 6). Regions 2, 3, and 4 show decreased lysine modification in the presence of ATP (Fig. 6). ATP reduces labeling of K245 of region 2 by 38% (see Fig. 5 A [AMP] and Fig. 5 B [ATP]). Similarly, region 3 displays a 24% reduction and labeling of K477 of region 4 shows a 26% decrease in the presence of ATP (Fig. 6). Overall, ATP reduces labeling of lysine residues found within the C-terminal half of L6–7 and the C terminus of GLUT1 by ~30%.

Effects of the GLUT1 C Terminus on Sugar Transport
These findings reinforce the hypothesis that the GLUT1 C terminus and loop 6–7 undergo significant conformational change in the presence of cytoplasmic ATP. We asked, therefore, how complexation of the C terminus using intracellular C-Ab might impact ATP modulation of sugar transport. ATP increases the rate of sugar transport at subsaturating 3MG because at these sugar concentrations the rate of transport, $v$, is given by:

$$v = \frac{V_{\text{max}}}{K_m^{\text{app}}}[S],$$

where $[S]$ is the sugar concentration. ATP reduces $V_{\text{max}}$ and $K_m^{\text{app}}$ for net 3MG uptake by red cell ghosts at 4°C by 8- and 18-fold, respectively (Helgerson et al., 1989), thereby increasing the ratio $V_{\text{max}}/K_m^{\text{app}}$ and the rate of subsaturating transport by 2.3-fold (Table III).

Incorporation of GLUT1 C-Ab into resealed erythrocyte ghosts severely blunts ATP stimulation of 3MG uptake at 4°C (Table III). Preimmune serum and loop 6–7-Ab are without effect on ATP action.

Exogenous, intracellular GLUT1 C-terminal peptide (EELEFPLGADSVQ), but not 1D4 peptide (ETQSVAPA, a rhodopsin peptide), mimics the ability of ATP to stimulate sugar transport and acts synergistically with ATP (Table III). In the absence of ATP, C-terminal peptide triples the rate of 3MG uptake and is half maximally active at 9 μM.

### DISCUSSION

This study examines the structural basis of GLUT1 modulation by cytoplasmic ATP and AMP. Our findings suggest that the GLUT1 cytoplasmic C terminus and the cytoplasmic loop linking TMs 6 and 7 interact in an ATP-dependent fashion to modulate transport.

**ATP-dependent GLUT1 Functional Changes**
Human GLUT1 responds acutely to cellular ATP depletion with enhanced sugar transport capacity (Jung et al., 1971; of 2 mM AMP (△), where $B_c = 0.9$, $B_s = 0.6$, and $K_s = 3.8 \pm 1.5$ mM. AMP therefore antagonizes ATP modulation of biotinylation with $K_m^{\text{app}}$ for AMP = 2.2 mM.
The effect is direct (Hebert and Carruthers, 1986; Carruthers and Helgerson, 1989), does not require ATP hydrolysis, and is antagonized by intracellular H\(^+\), AMP, and ADP (Carruthers and Helgerson, 1989; Helgerson et al., 1989). GLUT1 residues 301–364 (TM8 through TM 9) form at least one element of the nucleotide binding domain (Levine et al., 1998) and site-directed mutagenesis of loop 8–9 residues (E329A or R332A/R333A) produces an ATP-insensitive, dominant-negative transporter in HEK cells (Levine et al., 2002). The molecular mechanism of GLUT1 modulation by ATP is unknown but may involve GLUT1 C terminus conformational change (Carruthers and Helgerson, 1989).

GLUT1 Structural Changes

Our results demonstrate that ATP–GLUT1 interactions promote global changes in GLUT1 conformation. ATP-dependent GLUT1 protection against trypsin digestion, ATP inhibition of IgG binding to GLUT1 subdomains, and ATP protection of specific cytoplasmic lysine residues against modification by NHS-biotin confirm that the ATP–GLUT1 complex is conformationally distinct from its ATP-free counterpart. ATP inhibits IgG binding to the C terminus and to exofacial loop 7–8 of membrane-resident transporter. ATP does not affect the extent of covalent modification of loop 6–7 residues (E329A or R332A/R333A) produces an ATP-insensitive, dominant-negative transporter in HEK cells (Levine et al., 2002). The molecular mechanism of GLUT1 modulation by ATP is unknown but may involve GLUT1 C terminus conformational change (Carruthers and Helgerson, 1989).

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The rate constant (per min) is equivalent to Vmax/Km. Results are duplicate or triplicate.

Experiments were made using resealed human erythrocyte ghosts containing or lacking 4 mM ATP and various other additions which include GLUT1-C-terminal peptide (Ctp-GLUT1 residues 480–492 at 13 or 4 mg/ml). 3MG transport was measured at 4°C serum (immune serum obtained from rabbits immunized with GLUT1 shown as the mean ± SEM of two or four separate measurements made in duplicate or triplicate.

### TABLE III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experiment</th>
<th>Vmax/Km</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No addition</td>
<td>0.26 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATP</td>
<td>0.53 ± 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 μM Ctp</td>
<td>0.62 ± 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 μM Ctp + ATP</td>
<td>1.04 ± 0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 μM 1D4</td>
<td>0.30 ± 0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 μM 1D4 + ATP</td>
<td>0.64 ± 0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preimmune serum</td>
<td>0.23 ± 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preimmune serum + ATP</td>
<td>0.60 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Ab</td>
<td>0.25 ± 0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Ab + ATP</td>
<td>0.38 ± 0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L6-7-Ab</td>
<td>0.20 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L6-7-Ab + ATP</td>
<td>0.55 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rate constant (per min) is equivalent to Vmax/Km. Results are shown as the mean ± SEM of two or four separate measurements made in duplicate or triplicate.

The action of ATP is thus extrinsic to the membrane-spanning translocation pathway and intrinsic to cytoplasmic domains. This hypothesis is further supported by rapid quench flow studies of erythrocyte glucose transport, demonstrating that rapid translocation of sugar through the sugar translocation pathway is unaffected by ATP, but sugar release from the pathway into cytosol is regulated by ATP (Blodgett and Carruthers, 2005; Leitch and Carruthers, 2007). Loop 6–7 and the C terminus may be necessary but not sufficient for GLUT1 regulation because GLUT1 loop 8–9 mutagenesis causes the loss of GLUT1 ATP sensitivity but retention of GLUT1 ATP binding (Levine et al., 2002).

### Do Other Transporters Use a Similar Regulatory Mechanism?

The parallels between channel inactivation and inhibition of GLUT1 via cytosolic “inactivation domains” are striking. Inactivation of multisubunit, voltage-dependent K+ channels and large-conductance, Ca2+-activated K+ channels involves insertion of a cytosolic N-terminal peptide segment into the ion permeation pathway, thereby obstructing ion flux (Kobertz et al., 2000).

Less is known about the intrinsic regulation of other members of the GLUT family of proteins or whether the broader family of MFS proteins coopt a similar regulatory mechanism. MFS proteins contain loop 6–7 domains ranging from 30 to 65 amino acids (Weinglass and Kaback, 2000). The LacY and GlpT structures indicate that loop 6–7 and the C terminus cytoplasmic domains do not impede access to the substrate export site (Abramson et al., 2003; Huang et al., 2003). However, loop 6–7 and the C termini of these structures are considerably shorter than equivalent domains in the mammalian sugar porters. Progressive truncation of GLUT1 loop 6–7 results in loss of transport function followed by loss of GLUT1 expression (Monden et al., 2001). The former result may reflect the loss of residues crucial to transport. The latter may reflect impaired cotranslational insertion/folding (Weinglass and Kaback, 2000).

The available evidence suggests that the GLUT1 and GLUT4 C termini are essential for transport but contain isoform-specific subsequence that suppresses intrinsic GLUT activity. Truncation of the GLUT1 C terminus by 12 amino acids is without effect on GLUT1 activity (Lin et al., 1992), whereas removal of 37 residues abolishes GLUT1 intrinsic activity (Oka et al., 1990). Substitution of the GLUT1 C-terminal tail with the equivalent GLUT4 sequence stimulates GLUT1 intrinsic activity twofold but abolishes accelerated exchange transport.
166 ATP-dependent GLUT1 Conformational Changes

Dauterive et al., 1996). The C-terminal 20 residues of GLUT4 suppress GLUT4 intrinsic activity and deletion or replacement of this region with equivalent GLUT1 sequence increases GLUT4 activity fourfold (Dauterive et al., 1996). C-terminal truncation of the organic anion transporter OAT1 reduces OAT1 intrinsic activity (Xu et al., 2006). These observations support the hypothesis that the C-terminal domains of the GLUT sugar porter and the organo anion porter MFS subfamilies are essential for transport function and that GLUT1 and GLUT4 C termini contain isoform-specific subsequence that suppresses intrinsic GLUT activity. Insulin unmasks the GLUT1 C terminus and the C-terminal half of L6–7 respond to ATP binding by undergoing a conformational change that reduces their respective accessibility to polar reagents. This interaction restricts glucose release from the translocation pathway.

Relevance to GLUT1 Physiology
Sugar transport in astrocytes, vascular smooth muscle cells, basal cardiomyocytes, and cells of the reticuloendothelial system is mediated by GLUT1 (Hruz and Mueckler, 2001; Mann et al., 2003; Simpson et al., 2007). This may result in ATP-sensitive glucose transport in these tissues whereby cellular sugar transport capacity is increased in response to ATP depletion. What advantage is obtained by GLUT1 regulation in erythrocytes and endothelial cells where transport exceeds metabolic demand? The benefit may not be realized by the transporting cell but rather by the cells to which glucose is subsequently transferred.

Glucose transfer from blood to brain proceeds across capillary endothelial cells that form the blood–brain barrier (Takata et al., 1990). Endothelial cells constitute only 0.1% of brain mass yet almost all glucose used by cerebral neurons and astrocytes enters the brain by GLUT1-mediated, transendothelial cell transport (Hari, 1992). Cerebral endothelial cell GLUT1 content is adaptively up-regulated during long-term hypoglycemia and hypoxia to meet increased astrocytic and neuronal demand for glycolytic ATP (Mann et al., 2003). Blood–brain barrier glucose transport is acutely stimulated during seizure-induced stimulation of neuronal and astrocytic glycolysis (Cornford et al., 2000). Regulation of barrier GLUT1 is, therefore, an important physiologic adaptation and deficits in GLUT1 expression or hypoglycemia inevitably impact human cognitive function and development as observed in GLUT1-deficiency syndrome (Pascual et al., 2004) and hypoglycemia (Guettier and Gorden, 2006).

The very high GLUT1 content of higher primate and odontocete erythrocytes may contribute to glucose transfer from blood to tissue (Craik et al., 1998) by allowing human red cells to exchange upwards of 82–98% of intracellular glucose with serum in the 2–4 s required for an erythrocyte to transit the capillary bed of peripheral tissues (Honig et al., 1977; Regittnig et al., 2003). Regulation of erythrocyte glucose transport therefore may permit controlled expansion/contraction of the blood glucose space available for exchange with the interstitium of glycolytically active tissues.

Conclusions
GLUT1–ATP interaction restructures GLUT1 cytoplasmic loop 6–7 and C-terminal domains, resulting in their interaction and selective inhibition of sugar release from the transmembrane sugar translocation pathway into cytosol. This enables GLUT1 to respond to cytoplasmic energy charge with low or high capacity glucose transport. Interactions between cytoplasmic domains may be important in the regulation of other mammalian MFS transport proteins.

Figure 7. Model for ATP regulation of GLUT1. GLUT1 putative membrane-spanning topography (Salas-Burgos et al., 2004) is illustrated. The leftmost topography summarizes findings in the presence of AMP. Trypsin cleavage sites (K, ○; R, gray circle), sites of antibody recognition (gray rectangles), and sites where IgG binding is not detected (white rectangles) are indicated. In the presence of ATP (rightmost topography), ATP-sensitive (crosshatched rectangles) and insensitive (gray rectangles) IgG binding domains are indicated. The circles show ATP-insensitive tryptic cleavage sites (○), ATP-protected tryptic cleavage sites (gray circle), and ATP-protected sites of covalent modification by sulfo-NHS-LC-biotin (●). We propose that the GLUT1 C terminus and the C-terminal half of L6–7 respond to ATP binding by undergoing a conformational change that reduces their respective accessibility to polar reagents. This interaction restricts glucose release from the translocation pathway.


Mueckler, M., and C. Makepeace. 2006. Transmembrane segment 12 of the glucose transporter is an outer helix and is not directly involved in the transport mechanism. J. Biol. Chem. 281:36993–36998.


