

characterized by retraction of apical dendrites, reduction in axonogenesis and decreased neurogenesis. The close relationship between cytoskeleton and neuroplasticity controlling system suggests the possibility cytoskeletal proteins such as Microtubular (MT) proteins alterations in high stressful conditions. It's been observed that structural modifications to tubulin monomers and MAPs occur during stressful conditions. Acute stress results in increased hippocampal expression of acetyl-Tub (a marker of stable MT) and decreased expression of Tyr-Tub (a marker of dynamic MT). However, there has been no report about the effect of stress on MT kinetics and dynamicity. In our work, we have studied the effect of social instability (as a well-known model of social stress) on the kinetic and dynamicity of male rat brains MTs. Activity of microtubules was tested in two conditions: semi-purified (without adding exogenous GTP) and purified. MT kinetics of the stress-treated and control group shows difference. Our initial results indicate that in semi-purified conditions, MTs of the stress-treated groups reach steady state quicker than the control group, but maximum polymerization of the two groups shows no difference. Significant dynamicity differences have not yet been observed. More work on structural and protein stability differences are to be done as well.

Keywords: Social Stress, Social Instability Model, Microtubular Proteins, Microtubule Polymerization Dynamicity, Microtubule Polymerization Kinetics.

Abstract No.163

Homocysteine Thiolactone Induces Insulin Fibrillation and Enhances Cytotoxic Properties of Insulin Fibrils

*Reza Yousefi*¹, Parnian Alavi¹, Shima Jalili¹,
Mohammad Khabaz Shirazi², Ali Akbar Moosavi-Movahedi³*

1. Protein Chemistry Laboratory (PCL), Department of Biology, College of Sciences, Shiraz University, Shiraz, IR
2. Department of Internal Medicine, Namazi Hospital, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Shiraz, IR
3. Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (IBB), the University of Tehran, Tehran, IR
(E-mail: ryousefi@shirazu.ac.ir)

While circulating level of homocysteine (Hcy) significantly increases in type-II diabetes, inhibition of insulin signaling by homocysteine thiolactone (HCTL) leading to insulin resistance. HCTL is a cyclic thioester of homocysteine, showing high reactivity toward lysine residues, causing protein damages and induces immune responses.

Since insulin has no free sulfhydryl group and possesses only one lysine residue on its β -chain (Lys29), this residue is considered as a potential target site for modification by HCTL. In this study the aim was to establish a relationship between insulin structural alteration and its propensity for fibrillation/aggregation in the presence of HCTL, using different spectroscopic techniques. The results revealed that HCTL increases rate of insulin unfolding, giving rise to the appearance of solvent-exposed hydrophobic regions and induces a transition from α -helix into predominantly β -sheet structures. Also thioflavin-T (ThT) fluorescence studies revealed that HCTL markedly enhanced the quantity of insulin fibril formation in both agitating and non-agitating systems. Furthermore insulin fibrils obtained in the presence of HCTL, or collected earlier in the pathway of insulin fibrillation displayed enhanced cytotoxicity against cancer cells. This study may suggest HCTL as a possible contributing factor to the pathology of insulin fibrils.

Keywords: Insulin, Fibrillation, Structure, Cytotoxicity.

Abstract No.164

Characterization Study of Human Serum Albumin Under Sodium Benzoate Incubation as an Oxidative Stress Agent

*Fereshteh Taghavi*¹, Mousa Bohloli¹, Mehran Habibi-Rezaei²,
Ali Akbar Saboury¹, Zainab Moosavi-Movahedi¹,
Ali Akbar Moosavi-Movahedi¹*

1. Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran , IR
2. School of Biology, University of Tehran, Tehran, IR
(E-mail: taghavif@ibb.ut.ac.ir)

Several parameters are involved in protein physicochemical properties alteration and abnormalities formation. Protein carbonillation under nonenzymatic modification, as "glycation", is one of the most important parameter which bring diabetic condition with itself. According to researches, oxidative stress and reactive oxygen species can produced oxidized proteins which have carbonyl contents in it's structure. By this attitude, sodium benzoate, as an oxidative agent, can alter protein structure and function and interfere with diabetic complexity. This compound has food industrial usage in a broadly manner. In this study, the effect of sodium benzoate on human serum albumin (HSA) was studied under the presence and absence of glucose by incubating protein solution during 14, 35 and 60 days. In the presence of glucose, the results of UV and fluorescence spectroscopy indicate: HSA conformational change at 285 and 290 nm, free lysine contents reduction, raising in AGE formation compared with fresh HSA.