

Publication

Adenylate cyclase toxin translocates across target cell membrane without forming a pore

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Author(s) Osickova, Adriana; Masin, Jiri; Fayolle, Catherine; Krusek, Jan; Basler, Marek; Pospisilova, Eva; Leclerc, Claude; Osicka, Radim; Sebo, Peter

Author(s) at UniBasel Basler, Marek ;

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The adenylate cyclase toxin-haemolysin of *Bordetella* (*CyaA*) targets CD11b(+) myeloid phagocytes and translocates across their cytoplasmic membrane an adenylate cyclase (AC) enzyme that catalyses conversion of cytosolic ATP into cAMP. In parallel, *CyaA* acts as a cytolytic forming cation-selective pores, which permeabilize cell membrane and eventually provoke cell lysis. Using cytolytic activity, potassium efflux and patch-clamp assays, we show that a combination of substitutions within the pore-forming (E570Q) and acylation-bearing domain (K860R) ablates selectively the cell-permeabilizing activity of *CyaA*. At the same time, however, the capacity of such mutant *CyaA* to translocate the AC domain across cytoplasmic membrane into cytosol of macrophage cells and to elevate cellular cAMP concentrations remained intact. Moreover, the combination of E570Q+K860R substitutions suppressed the residual cytolytic activity of the enzymatically inactive *CyaA/OVA/AC(-)* toxoid on CD11b-expressing monocytes, while leaving unaffected the capacity of the mutant toxoid to deliver in vitro a reporter CD8(+) T cell epitope from ovalbumin (OVA) to the cytosolic pathway of dendritic cells for MHC class I-restricted presentation and induce in vivo an OVA-specific cytotoxic T cell response. *CyaA*, hence, employs a mechanism of AC enzyme domain translocation across cellular membrane that avoids passage across the cytolytic pore formed by toxin oligomers.

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