Important Roles of the C-Terminal Portion of HPC-1/Syntaxin 1A in Membrane Anchoring and Intracellular Localization

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Received for publication, February 16, 1998

HPC-1/syntaxin 1A (HPC-1), which plays an important role in vesicular transport to the plasma membrane, possesses a hydrophobic sequence at its C terminus. When expressed from cDNA in COS cells, wild-type HPC-1 was localized in the Golgi complex and the plasma membrane. Truncation of the hydrophobic domain resulted in the cytoplasmic localization of the mutant, thus indicating that the domain indeed functions as a membrane anchor. A fusion protein with the C-terminal glycosylation sites was glycosylated in transfected cells, providing evidence that HPC-1 has a transmembrane structure, and that the protein is first inserted into the endoplasmic reticulum and then transported to the plasma membrane. A chimeric protein consisting of Escherichia coli maltose-binding protein with the last 24 amino acids of HPC-1 was inserted into the endoplasmic reticulum in a transmembrane topology and localized along the exocytic pathway of transfected cells similar to HPC-1. These results indicate that the portion is important for intracellular localization of HPC-1.

Key words: ER-targeting sequence, HPC-1/syntaxin 1A, intracellular localization, tail-anchored protein, transmembrane topology.

In eukaryotic cells, proteins containing either a signal sequence or a signal/anchor sequence at their N termini are synthesized on the rough endoplasmic reticulum (ER) (1-3). After translocation across the ER membrane, secretory and plasma membrane proteins are transported through the Golgi complex to the cell surface. Resident proteins in the central vacuolar system are directed to and retained in their final destinations with the aid of either specific targeting (4) or retention signals (5-9).

On the other hand, proteins without a signal sequence are synthesized on free ribosomes. They remain in the cytosol, or are post-translationally localized in intracellular organelles such as mitochondria, the peroxisome, the nucleus, and the ER membrane. Therefore, the ER is a unique organelle into which membrane proteins are integrated co-translationally or post-translationally. ER-resident proteins in the latter case include microsomal aldehyde dehydrogenase (msALDH) (10, 11), microsomal cytochrome b5 (12, 13), and heme oxygenase (14). All these proteins are integrated into the ER membrane through hydrophobic sequences at their C termini, resulting in the exposure of most molecular portions to the cytoplasm. Therefore, these protein are called tail-anchored proteins. In addition to these ER enzymes, tail-anchored proteins exist along the exocytic pathway (15). For example, HPC-1/syntaxin 1A (HPC-1), a 34-kDa protein with a hydrophobic sequence at its C terminus (16, 17), has been shown to be located in synaptosome vesicles or chromaffin granules (18) in addition to the plasma membrane (19). This protein has been shown to play an important role in the docking or fusion of synaptic vesicles with the presynaptic active zone (20, 21) and of secretory vesicles with the plasma membrane (22-24). Recent studies have provided insight into the mechanisms underlying the formation, regulation, and function of the membrane protein complex composed of two tail-anchored proteins, this protein and synaptobrevin, and this protein and a lipid-anchored protein, synaptosome-associated protein of 25 kDa (SNAP-25), in transport vesicle targeting (20, 25, 26). However, little is known about the membrane topology of the C terminus or the targeting sequence of HPC-1 to the plasma membrane. Here, we show that the hydrophobic domain of HPC-1 spans the phospholipid bilayer and functions as a membrane anchor. In addition, we show that the C-terminal portion of HPC-1 is important not only for insertion into the ER membrane, but also for localization to the plasma membrane.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Materials**—Fetal bovine serum (FBS) and Dulbecco's minimal essential medium were purchased from Filtron...
(Brooklyn, Australia) and Nissui Pharmaceutical (Tokyo), respectively. Brefeldin A (BFA) and cycloheximide were obtained from Epicenter Technologies (Madison, WI, USA) and Sigma-Aldrich Chimie GmbH (Diensthofen, Germany), respectively. [35S]Methionine-cysteine was from DuPont NEN (Wilmington, DE, USA). Peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG was purchased from Tago (Burlingame, CA, USA). Rhodamine-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG and fluorescein-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG were obtained from Protos Immunoresearch (San Francisco, CA, USA) and American Qualex Antibodies & Immunochimicals (La Mirada, CA, USA), respectively. Fluorescein-conjugated wheat germ agglutinin (WGA) was purchased from E-Y Laboratories (San Mateo, CA, USA). Mouse monoclonal antibodies against human protein disulfide isomerase (PDI) and human mitochondrial 65-kDa protein were from Fuji Yukuhin Kogyo (Toyama) and Chemicon International (Temecula, CA, USA), respectively. Rabbit anti-maltose-binding protein (MBP) antiserum and pMAL-crI were purchased from New England BioLabs (Beverly, MA, USA). Rabbit antibodies and mouse monoclonal antibodies against rat HPC-1 were obtained and characterized as described (16). Endoglycosidase H (endo H) and Protein A-Sepharose 4B were purchased from Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals (Indianapolis, IN, USA) and Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology (Uppsala, Sweden), respectively. Restriction enzymes and DNA-modifying enzymes were obtained from Nippon Gene (Toyama) and Takara (Kyoto). DNA sequencing kits were obtained from United States Biochemicals (Cleveland, OH, USA). Oligonucleotide primers were synthesized with an Applied Biosystem Model 381A DNA synthesizer. All other chemicals were of the highest purity commercially available. The cDNA encoding bovine opsin in the pSP vector and a 50% suspension of Staphylococcus aureus were kindly provided by Dr. Takashi Morimoto (New York University, NY, USA) and Dr. Shigeru Takei tani (Kansai Medical University, Osaka), respectively.

**Plasmid Constructions**—All constructions were verified by the dideoxy chain termination method (28) and restriction enzyme digestion. The full-length cDNA for rat HPC-1 (16) was inserted into the EcoRV-PstI sites of the mammalian expression vector, pM1W (29), to construct pM1W-HPC-1. The gapped duplex method of oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis (30) was used for truncation or insertion of HPC-1 cDNA. Oligonucleotide nos. 1 (5' CGACGAAATGATAGCATGAT 3') and 2 (5' GGCTATGTTGACCGACTGACAGCGCTCCATTGC 3') were used to generate an artificial stop codon after amino acid residue 265 of HPC-1 and to introduce XbaI and AccI sites at its C terminus, respectively. The introduction of two restriction sites resulted in the addition of a Ser-Arg-Val-Asp (SRVD) sequence at the C terminus. The mutated cDNAs were inserted into the pM1W vector digested with EcoRV-PstI to construct pM1W/HPC-1-266-288 and pM1W/HPC-1-1XA, respectively.

A chimeric cDNA containing the N-glycosylation sites of bovine opsin (31) was created as follows. First, a DNA fragment encoding the N-terminal region of bovine opsin was amplified by PCR using oligonucleotide nos. 3 (5' CTGTCTAGAATGAACTGGAGCCGAGGG 3') and 4 (5' TTCATCTGCGGATCCCTTGTGAGAAA 3'), and pSPOpins as a template. The resultant PCR fragment was then digested with XbaI and AccI, and ligated into the XbaI-AccI sites of pM1WHPC-1-1XA to construct pM1W/HPC-1-OP3.

The full-length MBP was synthesized by PCR using oligonucleotides nos. 5 (5' GGAGGATCTAGGGAGAATGAGAAA TCGAAGAGGTTA 3') and 6 (5' ATTCGCTAACAGGC TGAAAATCTTCT 3'), and pMAL-crI as a template. The PCR fragment was digested with EcoRV and Hpal, and ligated into the EcoRV site of pMIW vector to construct pM1WMBP. Chimeric cDNAs for MBP fusion proteins were constructed by PCR. The following pairs of oligonucleotides were used: oligonucleotide nos. 7 (5' CACCAAG AAGGAATTCTGGAAATACAGCA 3') and 8 (5' GGAGGAC CCGCTCGAGATGGAC 3') to amplify HPC-1(33) and HPC-1(33)-OP3; oligonucleotides nos. 9 (5' CAAGGCAG CGAATTCAAGATCGA 3') and 10 (5' CAAGGCAGCTGAGCGTG 3') and 8 to amplify DNA fragments designated as HPC-1(24) and HPC-1(24)-OP3; oligonucleotide nos. 10 (5' CAAGGAATCTGCTGAA TCTTCTCGTC 3') and 11 (5' ATTCGCTGAACTGGT GTGGAATACATTGTG 3') to amplify ALDH(35); and oligonucleotide nos. 12 (5' CAAGGATCTAGGGAGAATGAGAAA TCGAAGAGGTTA 3') and 11 to amplify ALDH(18). The PCR fragments were digested with EcoRI and XhoI, then ligated into the EcoRI-XhoI sites of pM1WMBP. The resultant plasmids were designated as pM1WMBPHPC-1(33), pM1WMBPHPC-1(33)-OP3, pM1WMBPHPC-1(24), pM1WMBPHPC-1(24)-OP3, pM1WMBPHPC-1(24)-OP3, and pM1WMBPHPC-1(24)-OP3, respectively.

**Expression and Localization of HPC-1 in COS Cells**—The transfection of expression plasmids, subcellular fractionation, membrane extraction, and indirect immunofluorescence microscopy were performed as described previously (10). Samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE (32), followed by immunoblotting as described (10).

**Biosynthetic Labeling of COS Cells and Immunoprecipitation**—Forty-four hours after transfection, the cells were preincubated at 37°C with or without BFA (10 μg/ml) in Dulbecco’s minimal essential medium devoid of methionine and FBS, and then pulse-labeled for 30 min in the same medium containing 200 μCi/ml of [35S]methionine-cysteine. After labeling, the cells were chased with or without BFA in the complete medium containing 10% FBS for 3 h, washed three times with cold phosphate-buffered saline, then lysed in 10 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 0.15 M NaCl, 1% Nonidet P-40, 5 mM EDTA, 1% Trasyol, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, and 1 mM DTT for 15 min on ice. The lysates were centrifuged for 30 min in a microfuge, and the resulting supernatants were preincubated at 37°C with or without BFA in the complete medium containing 10% FBS for 3 h, washed three times with cold phosphate-buffered saline, then lysed in 10 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.5, 0.15 M NaCl, 1% Nonidet P-40, 5 mM EDTA, 1% Trasyol, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, and 1 mM DTT for 15 min on ice. The lysates were centrifuged for 30 min in a microfuge, and the resulting supernatants were preincubated with a S. aureus suspension for 30 min on a rotating device at 4°C. Then HPC-1/OP3 was immunoprecipitated from the pre-cleared medium by the addition of rabbit anti-HPC-1 antibodies, followed by incubation with Protein A-Sepharose 4B for 2 h. The immunoprecipitates were washed four times with 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.15 M NaCl, 0.3% 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio]-1-propanesulfonate, and 2 mM EDTA. The proteins were eluted by heating at 100°C for 2 min in 1% SDS and 1% β-mercaptoethanol. For endo H treatment, the eluate was adjusted to 50 mM sodium citrate, pH 5.5, 1% Nonidet P-40, and 1% β-mercaptoethanol, then incubated with or without 1 μl endo H overnight at 37°C. The samples were separated by SDS-PAGE, followed by fluorography. Similar procedures were
used for the immunoprecipitation and endo H treatment of MBP fusion proteins.

RESULTS

Intracellular Localization of Wild-Type and Truncated Forms of HPC-1 in COS Cells—HPC-1 has no signal sequence at the N terminus, but instead it possesses a characteristic hydrophobic domain (amino acids 266-288) at its C terminus (16, 17) (Fig. 1A). To determine the role of the hydrophobic domain in membrane anchoring, wild-type and truncated forms of HPC-1 were expressed transiently in COS cells under the control of the β-actin promoter and Rous sarcoma enhancer in the pMIW expression vector (29). We first confirmed that wild-type HPC-1 was expressed in the total homogenate of the transfected cells with an apparent molecular mass of 34 kDa by immunoblotting using anti-HPC-1 antibodies. On the other hand, no cross-reactive protein with the apparent size of 34 kDa was detected in untransfected COS cells (data not shown), indicating the absence of endogenous HPC-1. We then analyzed subcellular localization of the expressed proteins. In this case, the postnuclear supernatant was centrifuged at 88,000×g for 80 min to separate

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Fig. 1. Immunoblot analysis of wild-type and truncated forms of HPC-1. (A) The single amino acid code is used to represent the C-terminal sequences of HPC-1 and HPC-1Δ266-288, and the amino acid numbers are shown on top of HPC-1 sequence. The hydrophobic domain is underlined. (B) COS cells were transfected with cDNAs encoding wild-type or truncated forms of HPC-1 in the pMIW expression vector, and then harvested 44 h after transfection. Membrane (P) and soluble (S) fractions were prepared by centrifugation of the postnuclear fraction at 88,000×g for 80 min. The membrane fraction of HPC-1 was treated with 100 mM Na2CO3 at 0°C for 30 min, then centrifuged at 88,000×g for 80 min to separate the pellet (NP) from the supernatant (NS). Each fraction was assayed by immunoblotting using anti-HPC-1 antibodies. Lane 1, HPC-1 (P); lane 2, HPC-1 (S); lane 3, HPC-1 (NP); lane 4, HPC-1 (NS); lane 5, HPC-1Δ266-288 (P); lane 6, HPC-1Δ266-288 (S).

Fig. 2. Localization of wild-type and truncated forms of HPC-1 by double indirect immunofluorescence microscopy. COS cells were transfected with pMIWHPC-1 (A-F) or pMIWHPC-1Δ266-288 (I and J), fixed 44 h after transfection, then permeabilized. Wild-type HPC-1 (A, C, and E) and HPC-1Δ266-288 (I) were detected by incubation with rabbit anti-HPC-1 antibodies and rhodamine-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG. The Golgi complex was localized by staining with fluorescein-conjugated WGA (B). Endogenous PDI (D and J) and a mitochondrial 65-kDa protein (F) were labeled with the corresponding mouse monoclonal antibodies and fluorescein-conjugated antimouse IgG. For detection of cell-surface and internal HPC-1 antigens, COS cells transfected with pMIWHPC-1 (G and H) were fixed 44 h after transfection. To detect cell-surface HPC-1 antigens (G), the cells were labeled with mouse monoclonal antibodies to HPC-1 and fluorescein-conjugated anti-mouse IgG. After permeabilization with a detergent, the internal HPC-1 (H) was stained with rabbit anti-HPC-1 antibodies and rhodamine-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG.
the membrane fraction from the cytosol fraction. Immunoblotting revealed that wild-type HPC-1 was recovered exclusively in the membrane fraction (Fig. 1B, lanes 1 and 2). Additionally, HPC-1 in the membrane fraction was resistant to alkali extraction (lanes 3 and 4), indicating that the protein is an integral membrane protein. In contrast, a truncated mutant, HPC-1Δ266-288, was found in the soluble fraction (lanes 5 and 6).

Intracellular localization of the expressed proteins was further determined by double indirect immunofluorescence microscopy. In the transfected cells, HPC-1 was detected in the Golgi complex in addition to the plasma membrane (Fig. 2, A and B). The distribution of HPC-1 was different from that of endogenous PDI (Fig. 2, C and D), an ER marker protein, or that of a mitochondrial 65-kDa protein (Fig. 2, E and F). We also found that HPC-1 reacted with the corresponding antibodies not before but after permeabilization, indicating the intracellular localization of HPC-1 epitopes (Fig. 2, G and H). As expected, HPC-1Δ266-288 was distributed diffusely throughout the cytoplasm (Fig. 2, I and J). These biochemical and immunolocalization data indicate that the hydrophobic domain of HPC-1 is necessary for insertion into intracellular membranes and that HPC-1 is a tail-anchored protein distributed along the exocytic pathway.

**Membrane Topology and Intracellular Transport Route of HPC-1**—To demonstrate that HPC-1 localized in the Golgi complex is in transit to the plasma membrane, COS cells transfected with HPC-1 were treated with cycloheximide. After a 5-h chase in the presence of cycloheximide, the Golgi staining of HPC-1 (Fig. 3B) became extremely weak as compared with that before the chase (Fig. 3A). After a 10-h chase, the Golgi labeling disappeared and HPC-1 was concentrated at the plasma membrane (Fig. 3C). These results support the above idea that HPC-1 is transported to its final destination via the Golgi complex. Next, we attempted to define the membrane topology and the membrane integration site of HPC-1. For these purposes, we fused the N-terminal region of bovine opsin (the OP3 extension), which contains two N-glycosylation sites,

![Fig. 3. Immunofluorescence localization of HPC-1 in the presence of cycloheximide. COS cells were transfected with pMIWHPC-1. After 44 h of transfection, the cells were fixed (A) or treated with cycloheximide (150 μg/ml). After 5 h (B) or 10 h (C) of incubation with cycloheximide, the cells were fixed and then permeabilized. HPC-1 was detected by incubation with rabbit anti-HPC-1 antibodies and rhodamine-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG.](image)

![Fig. 4. Processing of newly synthesized HPC-1/OP3 in control and BFA-treated COS cells. (A) The single amino acid code is used to represent the N-terminal sequence of bovine opsin and the C-terminal sequence of HPC-1/OP3, and the amino acid numbers are shown on top of each sequence. The N-glycosylation sites of bovine opsin and HPC-1/OP3 are shown by dotted underlines, and the hydrophobic sequence of HPC-1/OP3 is underlined. (B) COS cells were transfected with HPC-1/OP3 in the pMIW expression vector. Forty-four hours later, the cells were pulse-labeled for 30 min and subsequently chased for 3 h in the complete medium. After immunoprecipitation, the protein was analyzed directly by SDS-PAGE (lane 1) or after incubation overnight with endo H (lane 2). When the effect of BFA was investigated, cells treated with BFA (10 μg/ml) were pulse-labeled for 30 min and subsequently chased for 3 h in the complete medium containing BFA. After immunoprecipitation, the protein was analyzed directly by SDS-PAGE (lane 3) or after incubation overnight with endo H (lane 4).](image)
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Fig. 5. Immunoblot analysis of MBP and various MBP chimeras. (A) The solid bar shows amino acids 1–385 of MBP. The single amino acid code is used to represent the C-terminal sequences of MBP and various MBP chimeras, and the amino acid numbers are shown on top. Each hydrophobic domain and the ER-targeting sequences of msALDH are underlined and double underlined, respectively. (B) COS cells were harvested 44 h after transfection with plasmids. Membrane (P) and soluble (S) fractions were prepared by centrifugation of the postnuclear fraction at 88,000×g for 80 min. Each fraction was assayed by immunoblotting using anti-MBP antibodies. Lane 1, MBP (P); lane 2, MBP (S); lane 3, MBPHPC-1(33) (P); lane 4, MBPHPC-1(24) (P); lane 5, MBPHPC-1(24) (S); lane 6, MBPHPC-1(33) (S); lane 7, MBPALDH(35) (P); lane 8, MBPALDH(35) (S); lane 9, MBPALDH(18) (P); lane 10, MBPALDH(18) (S).

Fig. 6. Immunofluorescence localization of MBP and various MBP chimeras. COS cells were transfected with cDNA encoding MBP (A), MBPHPC-1(33) (B), MBPHPC-1(24) (C), MBPALDH(35) (D), or MBPALDH(18) (E) in the pMIW expression vector, fixed 44 h after transfection, permeabilized, and stained with anti-MBP antibodies, then with rhodamine-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG.

extremely slow transport from the ER. To check these possibilities, metabolic labeling was performed in the presence of BFA, which effectively blocks membrane transport out of the ER (33) and also causes redistribution of Golgi enzymes into the ER (34). Upon treatment of the transfected cells with BFA, the chimera remained sensitive to endo H (Fig. 4B, lanes 3 and 4). Therefore, it is suggested that the carbohydrate structure of HPC-1/OP3 is not processed to the endo H-resistant form in spite of its transport from the ER to the plasma membrane.

Roles of the C-Terminal Portion of HPC-1 in Intracellular Localization—Since the ER-targeting sequences of msALDH, a tail-anchored ER protein, are located in the last 35 amino acids (10), we investigated the role of the
intracellular membranes, in contrast to MBP and MBPAL-
results show that the three chimeras are integrated into
resistant to alkali extraction (data not shown). These
fraction. However, these proteins in the membrane frac-
tion were recovered in the soluble fraction upon alkali
extraction (data not shown). On the contrary, MBPHPC-
chimeras have a transmembrane topology and suggest that
sequence of HPC-1 for intracellular localization is different from that of msALDH.
Membrane Topology and Intracellular Transport Route of MBPHPC-1 Chimeras—To confirm the membrane
topology and intracellular transport route of MBPHPC-1 chimeras, we constructed MBPHPC-1(33)OP3 and MBPH-
PC-1(24)OP3, which contain the OP3 extension at their C
terminal (Fig. 7A). These chimeras were recovered in the
membrane fraction upon subcellular fractionation and
detected in the Golgi complex and the plasma membrane of
transfected COS cells on indirect immunofluorescence
microscopy (data not shown). The transfected cells were
pulse-labeled for 30 min and chased for 3 h, then two
chimeras were immunoprecipitated. As shown in Fig. 7B,
both MBPHPC-1(33)OP3 and MBPHPC-1(24)OP3 were
glycosylated to an endo H–sensitive form similar to HPC-
1/OP3. Taken together, these results show that the two
chimeras have a transmembrane topology and suggest that
they are transported to the plasma membrane from the ER.

DISCUSSION
Our immunostaining data demonstrate that HPC-1 is
localized along the exocytic pathway when expressed from
cDNA in COS cells, as is endogenous HPC-1 in rat cerebel-
lum (19). Additionally, we have shown that HPC-1 is
indeed anchored to intracellular membranes by the hydro-
phobic domain at its C terminus and that most of the
molecular portion is exposed to the cytoplasm, as has been
postulated (19-21). Thus, these results allow us to use this
expression system to investigate the intracellular transport
route and membrane topology of HPC-1.
To investigate these subjects, we used HPC-1/OP3
chimera, which contains the N-glycosylation sites of bovine
opsin (the OP3 extension) at the C terminus. In the

Next, intracellular localization of wild-type and chimeric
forms of MBP was determined by indirect immunofluores-
cence microscopy. MBP and MBPALDH(18) were distrib-
uted throughout the cytoplasm, consistent with the results of
immunoblot analysis (Fig. 6, A and E). As expected,
MBPALDH(35) exhibited a typical ER-staining pattern
(data not shown). However, attachment of the last 33 or 24 amino
acids of HPC-1 to MBP resulted in a similar staining
pattern to that of wild-type HPC-1 (Fig. 6, B and C). These
results indicate that the C-terminal 24 amino acids of
HPC-1 are sufficient for localization of E. coli MBP to the
plasma membrane. As for MBPALDH chimeras, we have
confirmed that the ER-targeting sequences in addition to
the transmembrane domain of msALDH are necessary for
localization of MBP to the ER. Taken together, our results
suggest that the sequence of HPC-1 for intracellular
localization is different from that of msALDH.

C-terminal portion of HPC-1 in its intracellular localization.
For this purpose, we constructed various expression plasmids that encode E. coli MBP or MBP fusion proteins
(Fig. 5A). A reporter protein, MBP, was supposed to
remain in the cytoplasm when expressed in COS cells. In
MBPHPC-1(33) and MBPHPC-1(24), the C-terminal se-
quence (amino acids 386-456) of MBP are replaced by the
last 33 (amino acids 256-288) and 24 (amino acids 265-
288) amino acids of HPC-1, respectively. Thus, MBPHPC-
1(33) and MBPHPC-1(24) possess the positively charged
region and one lysine residue in addition to the
transmembrane domain of HPC-1, respectively. Furthermore,
we constructed two MBPALDH chimeras for comparison.
MBPALDH(35) and MBPALDH(18) contain the last 35
amino acids and amino acids 463-480 of msALDH, respec-
tively. The former chimera possesses both the ER-target-
ing sequences and the membrane-spanning domain of
msALDH (10, 11), while MBPALDH(18) lacks the ER-
targeting sequences (Fig. 5A).

These chimeras as well as wild-type MBP were expres-
sed in COS cells, and their subcellular localization was
determined by immunoblotting using antibodies against
MBP. As shown in Fig. 5B, wild-type MBP and MBPAL-
DH(18) were detected in both membrane and soluble
fractions. However, these proteins in the membrane frac-
tion were recovered in the soluble fraction upon alkali
extraction (data not shown). On the contrary, MBPHPC-
1(33), MBPHPC-1(24) and MBPALDH(35) were detected
exclusively in the membrane fraction (Fig. 5B) and were
resistant to alkali extraction (data not shown). These
results show that the three chimeras are integrated into
intracellular membranes, in contrast to MBP and MBPAL-
DH(18).
previous study, we revealed the transmembrane topology of msALDH, a tail-anchored ER protein, using the same strategy, or the N-glycosylation of ALDH/OP3 containing the same OP3 extension at the C terminus of msALDH (11). Additionally, ALDH/OP3 was localized to the ER and formed the crystalloid ER in transfected COS cells similar to msALDH (11), indicating that the OP3 extension has no effect on intracellular localization of the chimera. By taking advantage of the N-glycosylation of HPC-1/OP3, we have shown that the hydrophobic domain of HPC-1 spans the ER membrane. This result is consistent with a three-dimensional model of HPC-1 recently obtained by Sato and Akagawa. They constructed the model based on the deduced amino acid and the known biochemical information by utilizing a special software (Discover, Homology, Molecular Simulation) and an INDIGO 2 work station. The calculating system has shown that the C terminus of HPC-1 could transverse the phospholipid bilayer (Sato, C. and Akagawa, K., manuscript in preparation). Thus, our result together with this model supports the transmembrane topology of HPC-1. These results as well as those reported for microsomal cytochrome b₅ (13) and synaptobrevin (35) suggest that the C termini of most tail-anchored proteins exhibit a luminal orientation regardless of their intracellular localization.

The N-glycosylation of HPC-1/OP3 has additionally clarified that the protein is first inserted into the ER membrane. The experiments with cycloheximide demonstrated that HPC-1 localized in the Golgi complex can be chased away. In addition, we have recently shown using an in vitro system that HPC-1/OP3 is post-translationally integrated into rough microsomes from dog pancreas and glycosylated (Masaki, R. et al., unpublished observation). Taken together, it is suggested that HPC-1 is post-translationally inserted into the ER and then transported to the plasma membrane via the exocytic pathway. However, the carbohydrate structure of HPC-1/OP3 remained endo H-sensitive, which is inconsistent with its intracellular localization. To find the cause of this discrepancy, we treated transfected COS cells with BFA, which effectively blocks membrane transport out of the ER (33) and also causes redistribution of Golgi enzymes into the ER (34). BFA did not change the endo H sensitivity of HPC-1/OP3. On the contrary, the carbohydrate chain of ALDH/OP3 was processed to an endo H-resistant form as a result of BFA treatment (11). This result indicates that the carbohydrate structure of the OP3 extension can be further processed by Golgi processing enzymes. Therefore, it seems that conformational changes in the glycosylation site of HPC-1/OP3 after N-glycosylation would result in inhibition of further processing with Golgi enzymes. There are several examples of glycoproteins which contain high mannose oligosaccharides in spite of passage through the Golgi complex. It has been shown that the cell surface transferrin receptor contains both complex and high mannose oligosaccharides (36). HSP47, a collagen-specific molecular chaperone, is retained in the ER via the C-terminal Arg-Asp-Glu-Leu (RDEL) sequence and has a high mannose oligosaccharide. Although mutated HSP47, which is devoid of the RDEL sequence, is secreted by transfected cells, the secreted mutant possesses an endo H-sensitive carbohydrate structure (37).

The intracellular transport route of HPC-1 is consistent with the current idea that tail-anchored proteins localized along the exocytic pathway are first inserted into the ER membrane in a post-translational manner and transported to their final destinations. For example, synaptobrevin in neuroendocrine cells is transported through the Golgi complex to synaptic vesicles after insertion into the ER membrane in a signal recognition particle- and Sec61p-independent fashion (35). Similarly, tail-anchored ER proteins such as msALDH (10, 11) and microsomal cytochrome b₅ (12, 13) are inserted into the ER post-translationally and retained in the ER. In the previous study, we showed that two hydrophilic sequences on both sides of the transmembrane domain of msALDH (see Fig. 5A) play an important role in ER targeting (10) and that the protein is retained in the ER by blocking exit from the ER (11). As for microsomal cytochrome b₅, the last 10 amino acids, which include the hydrophilic tail of this protein, are important for its targeting to the ER (12). In addition, the membrane-spanning domain of microsomal cytochrome b₅ functions as an ER-retention signal (38). Therefore, there must be targeting or retention sequences in tail-anchored proteins to ensure their correct intracellular localization.

In this study, we have demonstrated that the last 24 amino acids of HPC-1 are sufficient for localization of cytosolic MBP to the plasma membrane in addition to membrane anchoring. Since HPC-1 is first inserted into the ER membrane, this may indicate that the portion contains the ER-targeting sequence. As for MBPALDH chimeras, we have confirmed here that the ER-targeting sequences on both sides of the membrane-anchoring domain are necessary for targeting of MBP to the ER. Thus, it appears that HPC-1 belongs to a different class than msALDH with respect to the ER-targeting sequence. Two MBP chimeras behaved totally differently after integration into the ER. MBPALDH(35) was retained in the ER, while MBPHPC-1(24) exited from the ER to the plasma membrane. Recently, Pedrazzini et al. reported that the short transmembrane domain (17 amino acids) of microsomal cytochrome b₅ plays an important role in its ER retention by demonstrating the relocation of a mutant cytochrome b₅ with a lengthened membrane anchor (22 amino acids) to the plasma membrane (38). This would be the case for the two MBP chimeras, since the transmembrane domains of MBPALDH(35) and MBPHPC-1(24) are composed of 17 and 23 amino acids, respectively. The short transmembrane domain of MBPALDH(35) seems to be important for its ER residency, while the longer transmembrane domain of MBPHPC-1(24) would result in the escape of the chimera from the ER. These may indicate that the transmembrane domains of tail-anchored proteins possess targeting and/or retention sequences similar to membrane proteins synthesized in the signal recognition particle-dependent manner (2, 7–9).

In summary, HPC-1 is transported to the plasma membrane after insertion into the ER membrane in a transmembrane topology. Our results indicate the important role of the C-terminal portion of HPC-1 in intracellular localization in addition to membrane anchoring. Elucidation of the mechanisms of integration of HPC-1 into the ER should provide valuable clues for understanding post-translational intracellular localization of tail-anchored proteins.
We thank Ma. Kimie Masaki for her valuable technical assistance, and Dr. Shigeru Taketani, Kansai Medical University, and Dr. Takeshi Morimoto, New York University, for the generous gifts of S. aureus and pSPOpain, respectively.

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