

CHARACTERISATION OF GENE EXPRESSION PATTERNS IN 22RV-1 CELLS FOR DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANDROGENIC/ANTIANDROGENIC COMPOUNDS



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Introduction

Impairment of androgen receptor function due to endocrine disrupting compounds in the environment may be responsible for impaired function and male development in livestock. Based on human prostate carcinoma 22RV-1 cells, a cell culture expression system was established to test androgenic/antiandrogenic function. Androgen dependent expression patterns of six different marker genes (PSA, PSM, AR, NKX3.1, TMPRSS2, PMEPA1) were measured by highly sensitive Real-Time RT-PCR after treatment with three different compounds (fentacinacetate, difeniconazole, tetramethrin) using DHT and R1881 as control substances. Final goal of the work is a sensitive screening method for the determination of androgenic gene expression caused by androgenic/antiandrogenic substances. Due to different effects on gene expression, samples of unknown constitution may be characterised further physicochemical analysis by means of GC-MS or HPLC may be facilitated.

Materials and Methods

Culture conditions

22RV1 cell line was obtained from DSMZ, Braunschweig (ACC 438) and cultured routinely in 40% RPMI medium (Gibco), 40% Dulbecco's MEM supplemented with 20% heat-inactivated FBS (Gibco) plus 100 units/ml penicillin and 100 mg/l streptomycin.

Treatment

Cells were seeded in medium containing 20% charcoal-stripped FBS for 72h before treatment with steroids and allowed to form a confluent monolayer. Synthetic androgen R1881 (1nM) was added and cells were harvested at 0h, 6h, 24h after stimulation for RNA extraction. Same procedure was carried out with other ligands: fentacinacetate (100nM), fentacinacetate (100nM), tetramethrin (50nM) and DHT (1nM). Control cultures were continuously grown in steroid-depleted untreated medium during the same time period.

Extraction and Real-Time RT-PCR quantification

Total RNA was isolated using peqGOLD TriFast™ according to the manufactures instructions. Synthesis of first strand cDNA was performed with MMLV-RT (Promega) and random hexamer primers. Quantification of genes of interest was carried out in LightCycler® (Roche Diagnostic, Germany) using LightCycler® DNA Master SYBR® Green I technology. Fluorescence data reports were computed directly with LightCycler software 3.3 (Roche Diagnostics, Germany). Data analysis was performed using Roche LC relative quantification software; Pfaffl, M.W. (2001). Primers for all six androgen regulated genes (Table 1) were designed with HUSAR-software (DKFZ, Heidelberg) and synthesised by MWG Biotech (Germany).

Statistics

Data were statistically processed in SigmaPlot® 2000 (SPSS Inc, Chicago, USA) and SigmaStat® 2.0 (Jandel Corporation, San Rafael, USA).

Table 1. Primer characteristics and product length.

	PSA	PSM	AR	NKX3.1	TMPRSS2	PMEPA1
Forward primer (bp)	29-46	1195-1214	252-272	568-586	1104-1123	895-918
Reverse primer (bp)	170-187	1345-1364	558-578	740-761	1235-1254	1017-1040
Product length (bp)	159	170	326	261	151	146
Melting temp. (°C)	90.80	83.37	86.33	88.49	89.20	89.20

Results

1. Using Real-Time RT-PCR 22RV1 cells showed expression of androgen receptor only. Neither mRNA of estrogen receptor (ER) α and β nor mRNA of progesterin receptor (PR) could be detected.

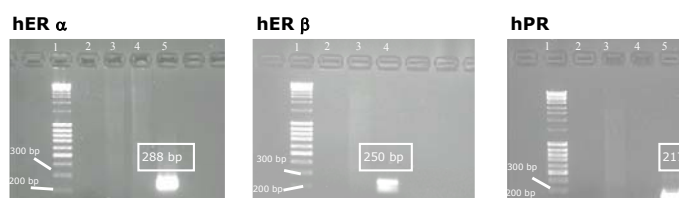


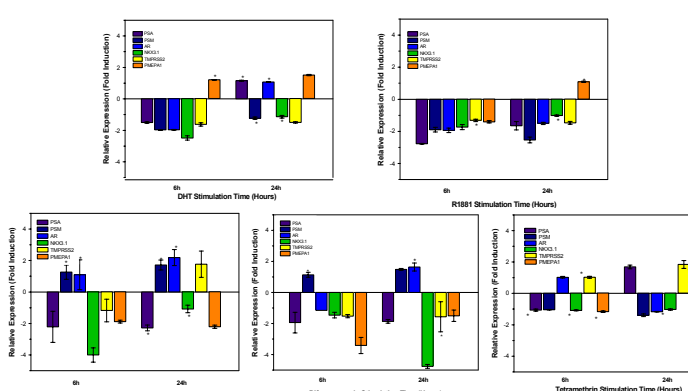
Figure 1. Expression of hER α (lane 1 MassRle™ DNA Ladder Mix; lanes 2-4 RNA extracted from 22RV1; lane 5 standard – human cord blood), hER β (lane 1 MassRle™ DNA Ladder Mix; lanes 2,3 RNA extracted from 22RV1; lane 4 standard – human cord blood) and hPR (lane 1 MassRle™ DNA Ladder Mix; lanes 2-4 RNA extracted from 22RV1; lanes 5,6 standard – human cord blood) receptor in 22RV1 cell line.

2. Primer specificity, Real-Time PCR efficiency and intra- and interassay variation (Table 2) could be analysed using LightCycler® (Roche Diagnostic, Germany).

Table 2. Characterisation and validation of androgen regulated genes with Real-Time RT-PCR

	PSA	PSM	AR	NKX3.1	TMPRSS2	PMEPA1	Ubiquitin
PCR efficiency	2.07	2.13	1.99	1.90	1.98	1.92	1.95
Quantification range	25-0.2ng	25-0.04ng	25-0.04ng	25-0.2ng	25-0.04ng	25-0.04ng	25-0.04ng
Test linearity Correlation	total RNA (r = 0.98)	total RNA (r = 0.99)	total RNA (r = 0.92)	total RNA (r = 1.00)	total RNA (r = 0.98)	total RNA (r = 1.00)	total RNA (r = 0.99)
Intraassay variation (n = 3)	0.3%	0.8%	1.6%	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%	0.7%
Interassay variation (n = 3)	2.6%	3.2%	4.9%	2.6%	42.3%	3.5%	1.8%

3. Gene expression showed different patterns depending on the compound under study



(*) indicates non significant differences between treatment groups (P<0,05)

Figure 2. Time- and substance dependent effects on marker gene expression (n = 6).

Discussion and Future Prospects

22RV1 cells are highly suitable for bio-response linked analysis of androgenic/antiandrogenic compounds.

Proving that described cell line does only express hAR, is important to ensure selective binding and gene activation via this receptor.

Due to potential expression of estrogen or progesterin receptor, interpretation of gene expression pattern is not possible in a system including all types of receptors such as laboratory animals.

Stimulation of cells for 6h seemed to be sufficient to obtain substance-specific transcription patterns.

Main advantage in comparison to reporter-gene assays is that six genes can be analysed in parallel.

Using an endogenous gene expression system provides a model which is therefore closer to complex *in vivo* condition.

To simplify the test system for higher sample throughput, RNA isolation will be performed only once after stimulation of 22RV1 cells.

➤ Expression patterns are substance-specific

➤ A broader spectrum of compounds will be analysed

➤ Additive/subtractive effects in mixed samples have to be determined

➤ System will be adapted for analysis of putative androgenic ingredients in e.g. surface- or drinking water