Modulating the ribosome function by small molecules

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Traditionally, all ribosomal antibiotics were viewed as global inhibitors of translation



Most antibiotics that target large ribosomal subunit arrest the ribosome at specific mRNA sites



What are the molecular mechanisms of context specificity of antibiotic action?

Ribosome profiling as a tool for revealing context-specificity of antibiotic action



Ingolia et al. (2009) Science, 324, 218

Peptidyl transferase center (PTC)







Linezolid LZD

Carter et al. (1948) Science; Zurenko et al. (1996) Antimicrob Agents Chemother



CHL and LZD should inhibit formation of **every** peptide bond because they should compete with **any** aminoacyl-tRNA





Chloramphenicol

Linezolid

Leach et al. (2007) Mol Cell, 26, 393; Wilson et al (1998) PNAS, 105, 13339; Dunkle et al. (2010) PNAS,107, 17152



What are the sites where CHL and LZD arrest translation?



calculate difference ('fold change') in the ribosome density codon-by-codon



Linezolid and chloramphenicol predominantly inhibit translation when Ala appears in the penultimate position of the nascent protein







The penultimate amino acid of the nascent protein participates in creating a T. thermophilus high-affinity antibiotic site

P site: Met-Ala-Ile-ACCA A site: CACCA CHL

A-site



Syroegin et al., NSMB in press





Tsai et al., NSMB in press

nascent protein chain affects the rRNA structure

23S rRNA forms the drug binding site

penultimate alanine participate in creating the high-affinity site



Tsai et al., NSMB in press

Context-specific mode of action of chloramphenicol and oxazolidinones



Principles of context specificity of PTC-binding phenicol and oxazolidinone antibiotics

> Nascent peptide participates in formation of the antibiotic binding site

Context-specificity of phenicol and oxazolidinones relies on a direct interaction of the nascent peptide with the PTC-bound antibiotic

EVERNIMICIN (EVN)

Arenz et al., (2016) PNAS; Krupkin et al. (2016) PNAS

EVERNIMICIN (EVN)

Evernimicin arrests translation at specific sites

toeprinting

Orelle et al. (2013) Antimicrob Agents Chemother; Mangano et al. (2022) in preparation

Specific A-site codons (or the incoming amino acids) are conducive to EVN action

Mangano et al. (2022) in preparation

Mangano et al. (2022) in preparation

Tri-peptide motifs define the sites of evernimicin action

Mangano et al. (2022) in preparation

How can the nascent peptide and incoming amino acid define the site of EVN action?

EVN likely allows aa-tRNA to briefly enter the PTC active site

Arenz et al., (2016) PNAS; Morse et al. (2020) PNAS

Model of site-specific action of orthosomycins

context which is conducive to the drug action

Principle of context specificity of the accommodation corridor-binding orthosomycin antibiotics

Nascent peptide and acceptor amino acid affect the efficiency of peptide bond formation brief visit in the aa-tRNA into the PTC active site

Why should we care?

Antibiotic resistance mechanisms exploit context specificity of antibiotic action

Ribosome-protection proteins confer resistance by dislodging the antibiotic from the ribosome

PoxtA renders cells resistant to CHL and LZD, but does not interact with the drug

Many antibiotic resistance genes are inducible

Programmed translation arrest is required for induction of resistance

cmlA is an inducible chloramphenicol resistance gene

emtA is an rRNA methyltransferase that confers resistance to evernimicin

Mann et al. (2001) Mol Microbiol; Mangano et al. (2022) in preparation

Conclusions

- Many (possibly most and maybe all) ribosomal antibiotics act in a contextspecific manner.
- Determinants of specificity often reside in the sequence of the nascent protein chain
- The incoming acceptor amino acid may critically affect the extent of translation arrest imposed by antibiotic
- Unraveling context specificity of ribosome-targeting antibiotics is critical for understanding their mode of action and operation of the resistance mechanisms

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