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Lung tissue removed from neonatal calves with acute Mannheimia haemolytica pneumonia showed that rapid up-regulation of the basal mRNA expression of tracheal antimicrobial peptide (TAP), NF-κB, and intercellular adhesion molecule 1 occurred after infection; TAP and interleukin 8 expression were highly correlated. This work suggests that the coordinated expression of β-defensin and inflammatory elements occurs during bacterial pneumonia.

Innate immunity is important for preventing microbial infections of the respiratory tract shortly after birth, when the mucosa is initially exposed to a variety of microbes. Antimicrobial peptides (AMP) are increasingly being recognized as an evolutionarily ancient, and important, component of innate immunity (23). Experiments with cultured bovine tracheal epithelial cells have demonstrated that NF-κB up-regulates TAP expression in response to lipopolysaccharide (13). Members of the NF-κB family induce expression of the β-defensin 2 gene in humans (27) and AMP in insects (7, 20, 26), which indicates that there is a conserved signal transduction pathway for AMP induction of genes involved in immune and inflammatory responses (23). Experiments with cultured bovine tracheal epithelial cells have demonstrated that NF-κB up-regulates TAP expression in response to lipopolysaccharide (13). Members of the NF-κB family induce expression of the β-defensin 2 gene in humans (27) and AMP in insects (7, 20, 26), which indicates that there is a conserved signal transduction pathway for AMP up-regulation among varied species. In addition, NF-κB induces the expression of interleukin 1β (IL-1β), tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α), and IL-8 in bovine alveolar macrophages exposed to Mannheimia haemolytica leukotoxin and endotoxin (18). To our knowledge, the in vivo nuclear translocation of NF-κB during acute inflammation has not been assessed in bovine respiratory epithelia.

M. haemolytica is an important respiratory pathogen of ruminants and a known inducer of a bovine β-defensin, lingual antimicrobial peptide (LAP), in cattle older than 3 weeks of age (38). M. haemolytica incites a severe inflammatory response in the lungs of ruminants, characterized by dense infiltrates of neutrophils (3, 41, 42). Neutrophil-mediated damage can be severe and can destroy the protective barrier and innate immunity provided by the respiratory mucosa (8, 9, 36, 40). Inhibition of neutrophil transmigration reduces the severity of the lesions characteristic of this disease (11) and may also preserve the activity of the innate immune system.

One potent inflammatory mediator of M. haemolytica pneumonia in ruminants is the cytokine IL-8 (4). IL-8 is produced by endothelial cells, epithelial cells, activated macrophages, and neutrophils and causes the activation and chemotaxis of neutrophils (4). IL-8 production is induced by other cytokines, IL-1 and TNF being two of the most potent (24). Neutrophils also release elastase, which induces IL-8 synthesis in human bronchial epithelial cells in vitro (5, 28), and α-defensins, which have been shown to stimulate the synthesis of IL-8 by human airway epithelial cells (39).

Adhesion molecules, including selectins (L-, E-, and P-selectin) and intercellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1), are also integral to the inflammatory response during M. haemolytica pneumonia. Selectins mediate a transient, tethering-like adherence of neutrophils to vascular endothelial cells, whereas the ICAM-1—β-integrin interaction mediates a more stable type of adherence (2, 6, 17, 32, 35, 37). Neutrophil transmigration into lung tissue can be reduced in neonatal calves during M. haemolytica pneumonia with the selectin adhesion molecule inhibitor TBC1269 (11, 30). TBC1269 also decreases neutrophil-mediated pulmonary damage (11, 23, 31). TBC1269 is a nonoligosaccharide selectin antagonist which provides competitive inhibition of sialyl-Lewis x binding, in vitro, to selectins (21, 22). This mimetic analog has also been used in vivo in cattle (30), in an ovine model of asthma (1), and in clinical studies for human allergic asthma.

The purposes of this study were to test the hypotheses that...
TABLE 1. Abundance of epithelial-cell nuclear staining for NF-κB within the bronchi and bronchioles examined in neonatal calves by immunohistochemistry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calf</th>
<th>Inoculum</th>
<th>Time postinoculation (h)</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>M. haemolytica</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>M. haemolytica + TBC1269</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>M. haemolytica + TBC1269</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>M. haemolytica + TBC1269</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>M. haemolytica + TBC1269</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a Scores: 0, no nuclear staining; 1, minimally detectable staining (two to four nuclei of bronchi or bronchioles stained); 2, up to 5% of nuclei stained positively. In cases where bronchi or bronchioles stained variously on the same slide, a half score was given. Significantly more nuclear staining was seen in the calves inoculated with M. haemolytica than in those inoculated with saline (controls) (P = 0.06).
systems, version 1.7; Perkin-Elmer Corp.; and Excel, version 9.0; Microsoft). For each animal, the mRNA level of each substance was normalized to the level of the endogenous reference gene and expressed relative to the level of the corresponding substance from the calibrator animal, calf 1, the calf with the lowest message levels of all three substances being assessed.

Statistical analysis was performed using the means of the results from three replicate tubes for each calf to test the amount of the target normalized to that of the reference (TAP and IL-8) and the change in the 
\[ CT \]

A \[ P \] value of \( <0.1 \) was considered significant. To determine significant treatment or time effects, a two-factor analysis of variance (SAS, version 8.1; SAS Institute, Cary, N.C.) was used to analyze the values from those calves that did not receive TBC1269. There was no significant interaction between time and treatment in the factorial analysis, so only the main effects of time and treatment were further examined. To determine if the selectin inhibitor had a significant effect, a test was performed on the data from the calves tested 6 h after inoculation with \( M. \) haemolytica who did or did not receive TBC1269. To compare the results from all five groups to each other, a one-way analysis of variance including data from all of the calves was used initially to determine significant differences among the results for the five neonatal groups. As overall differences were detected only for ICAM-1, pairwise comparisons of data for this group were performed. A correlation procedure was used to compare individual relative mRNA expression levels of TAP, IL-8, and ICAM-1 to each other for evidence of a correlation of expression.

Pulmonary TAP mRNA was expressed at a basal level in neonatal calves (Fig. 1). TAP expression was 25-fold higher in the calves inoculated with \( M. \) haemolytica than in the controls. Although this increase is not significant (\( P = 0.14 \)), it suggests that the lung is capable of induced expression at birth. Group mean TAP mRNA levels are higher at 6 h after inoculation with \( M. \) haemolytica than at 2 h. However, the levels of pulmonary TAP mRNA expression vary widely between individuals within each treatment group, which indicates that some individuals may have robust TAP expression but that others may have limited induction. This variation may be due to one or more factors. First, as TAP is not expressed in the fetus (12), its expression in the neonate may be less consistent than in a mature animal and in neonates that had long gestation times. However, even in mature ruminants, \( \beta \)-defensin expression varies between individuals (19). Finally, subtle differences in levels of TAP expression may be present due to sampling, as bronchi and bronchioles have higher levels of TAP expression than alveolar epithelia (12). In any case, the variability of TAP expression might explain differences in neonatal susceptibilities to pneumonia. In addition, we have shown that bronchoalveolar lavage fluid that contains the AMP anionic peptide from neonatal calves infected with \( M. \) haemolytica has little or no anti-\( M. \) haemolytica activity in vitro, compared to the significant anti-\( M. \) haemolytica activity of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid containing anionic peptide from adult cattle (11). It is unknown if TAP from neonates has full antimicrobial activity compared to that of TAP from adults.

Although IL-8 mRNA was expressed at a 12-fold-higher level in the calves inoculated with \( M. \) haemolytica than in the controls, these differences are not significant (\( P = 0.25 \)) (Fig. 2). As with TAP, levels of pulmonary IL-8 mRNA expression vary between the individuals within each treatment group and group mean IL-8 mRNA levels are higher at 6 h after inocu-
lation with *M. haemolytica* than at 2 h. The graphs for the relative levels of TAP, IL-8, and ICAM-1 mRNA expression have similar shapes (Fig. 1 to 3). Individual relative levels of TAP and IL-8 mRNA are positively correlated with each other, with a correlation coefficient of 0.89 (*P* < 0.0001). This coordinate expression is similar to that found in previous studies of TAP and LAP genes (34), and it is unknown whether these substances affect the expression of each other. Although α-defensins released by human neutrophils simulate IL-8 synthesis by human airway epithelial cells (39), further studies are needed to assess the effects on IL-8 mRNA expression of β-defensins released by bovine neutrophils and those released by the epithelium (TAP and LAP) in bovine airways. Between IL-8 and ICAM-1, the correlation is 0.41 (*P* = 0.09), and between TAP and ICAM-1, it is 0.27 (*P* = 0.28), which is not statistically significant. For each substance (TAP, IL-8, and

**FIG. 2.** Individual relative levels of IL-8 mRNA (means ± standard deviations). See the legend to Fig. 1 for a description of treatments and bar identifications.

**FIG. 3.** Individual levels of ICAM-1 mRNA (means plus ranges). See Fig. 1 for a description of treatments and bar identifications. Pulmonary ICAM-1 mRNA expression was significantly higher in the calves inoculated with *M. haemolytica* than in the controls inoculated with saline (*P* = 0.01).
ICAM-1), mRNA expression is stimulated by some similar cytokines, including IL-1 and TNF (6, 13, 24–26, 33, 34).

Pulmonary ICAM-1 mRNA expression was threefold higher in calves inoculated with M. haemolytica than in the controls (P = 0.01) (Fig. 3), a finding similar to that for older calves inoculated with M. haemolytica (32). In contrast to those of TAP and IL-8, ICAM-1 mRNA levels are higher at 2 h after inoculation with M. haemolytica than at 6 h (P < 0.1), which likely reflects the importance of ICAM-1 in mediating the migration of neutrophils from the blood to the tissue site of inflammation in the immediate host response to infection.

Because M. haemolytica pneumonia is characterized by dense infiltrates of neutrophils and by necrosis (9, 36), it is reasonable to assume that treatment with an adhesion molecular inhibitor may spare epithelial cells, allowing increased TAP mRNA expression. However, TBC1269 did not increase TAP expression. For TAP, IL-8, and ICAM-1, there were no significant differences between mRNA expression levels in calves 6 h after inoculation with M. haemolytica and treatment with TBC1269 and in calves not treated (P values were 0.45, 0.47, and 0.74, respectively); however, for TAP and IL-8, the expression levels in TBC1269-treated calves are between those in calves tested and 6 h after inoculation and not treated, thereby resembling levels earlier in the progression of the disease. For ICAM-1, the expression levels were very similar in treated and untreated calves 6 h after inoculation. Moreover, the expression levels were higher at 2 h after inoculation with M. haemolytica than at 6 h in the treated calves (P = 0.10).

NF-κB mediates the expression of TAP and other inflammatory mediators. NF-κB nuclear translocation, a marker of activation, was determined by immunohistochemistry of lung tissue sections (2, 3). Briefly, formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded sections were treated with pronase E (0.1 g of protease XIV [Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo.] and CaCl2) and incubated with 20% normal swine serum (Invitrogen, Grand Island, N.Y.) in PBS containing 0.1% Tween 20 and then for 48 h with the primary antibody (polyclonal rabbit anti-human NF-κB, which binds to bovine NF-κB; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., Santa Cruz, Calif.) at a dilution of 1:5,000 or the control immunoglobulin G (normal rabbit immunoglobulin G, at 1 mg/ml; Upstate Biotechnology Inc., Lake Placid, N.Y.) at a dilution of 1:5,000 in common reagent diluent (BioGenex, San Ramon, Calif.) containing added 5% normal swine serum and 5% normal goat serum. Peroxidase activity was blocked with 2% H2O2, and the secondary antibody was applied (a 1:30 dilution of biotinylated goat anti-rabbit antibody; Kirkegaard & Perry Laboratories, Inc., Gaithersburg, Md.), followed by treatment with supersensitive streptavidin-conjugated horseradish peroxidase reagent (BioGenex) and the chromogen Nova Red (Vector, Burlingame, Calif.). Slides were read by one pathologist (J. M. Caverly) in random order (treatment groups were not identified). Epithelial cells from at least two bronchi and five bronchioles were examined on each slide, and the abundance of nuclear staining for NF-κB was scored (0, no nuclear staining; 1, minimally detectable staining, 2 to 4 nuclei of bronchi or bronchioles were stained; 2, <5% of the nuclei were stained; 3, 5 to 15% of the nuclei were stained; 4, >15% of the nuclei were stained). In cases where bronchi or bronchioles stained variably on the same slide, a half score was given.

Significantly more epithelial-cell nuclear translocation of NF-κB was present in tissue from the calves inoculated with M. haemolytica than in that from the calves inoculated with saline (P = 0.06) (Table 1), which is consistent with mRNA expression in cultured bovine tracheal epithelial cells (13). There were no significant differences over time (P = 0.5) or upon TBC1269 treatment (P = 0.13).

Based on this in vivo study, we concluded that TAP and ICAM-1 mRNA expression occurs in neonatal calves and rapidly increases during acute M. haemolytica pneumonia relative to the basal expression levels seen in control calves. However, between individual animals there is considerable variation in the mRNA expression of TAP, IL-8, and ICAM-1. Additionally, the reduction of pulmonary neutrophil transmigration and neutrophil-mediated damage through use of the selectin inhibitor TBC1269 results in TAP and IL-8 mRNA expression levels that are lower than the corresponding levels in untreated calves, although these results are not statistically significant. Within an individual, TAP and IL-8 mRNA expression correlate positively with each other. Finally, increased translocation of NF-κB to the nuclei of epithelial cells in calves with M. haemolytica pneumonia is associated with these findings in gene expression.

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