Services Offered

Cultured Skin Fibroblasts

1) Integrated Mitochondrial Function Oxidative Phosphorylation

2) Analysis of the Electron Transport Chain (ETC)

3) Acylcarnitine analysis during fatty acid oxidation

CULTURED SKIN FIBROBLASTS OXIDATIVE PHOSPHORYLATION: DISEASES UNCOVERED

- Complex I Defect
- Complex II Defect
- Complex III Defect
- Complex IV Defect
- Complex III or Complex IV Defect
 - * OXPHOS defect BUT velocity of ETC in the control range

Substrate Utilization

- Pyruvate oxidation selective defect normal PDH activity, work-up toward pyruvate transporter
- Defect in fatty acid oxidation exploring FAO pathway
- Phosphorylation system—
- * Adenine Nucleotide Tranlocase
- * Phosphate Transporter
- * Complex V—ATPase

Team Members

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Electron micrograph of a cultured skin fibroblast M = mitochondrion; L = lipid.



Courtesy of Dr. Hisashi Fujioka

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Mitochondrial Diseases Skin Fibroblasts



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ELECTRON TRANSPORT CHAIN ANALYSIS

- NADH-cytochrome c Reductase (rotenone sensitive I-III)
- Succinate Cytochrome c Reductase
 (antimycin A sensitive II-III)
- Decylubiquinol Cytochrome c Reductase (antimycin A sensitive)
- Cytochrome c Oxidase (cyanide sensitive)
- Citrate Synthatase
- Lactate Dehydrogenase
- Phosphorylation

REFERENCE INTERVALS





Protocol 1: Complex I, II and IV respiration

- Oxygen consumption was monitored starting with pyruvate and malate as substrates.
- ADP-stimulated rate was recorded after the cell membrane was permeabilized by digitonin (Dig).
- Glutamate and succinate were sequentially added to obtain the rates with all substrates present.
- An uncoupler, FCCP, was added to provide maximum oxidative rate.
- The addition of rotenone (Complex I inhibitor) allowed us to measure the Complex II dependent rate.
- Antimycin A inhibits Complex III and yielded the non-mitochondrial oxygen consumption.
- Finally, the addition of TMPD + ascorbate reduces cytochrome c and provided assessment of the uncoupled Complex IV respiration, calculated as the azide–sensitive rate.

ETC Complex I Complex III Complex IV Complex II Complex III Complex IV

Phosphorylation System



Data shown are mean \pm SD (box) and minimum and maximum (whiskers) of different normal human skin fibroblast lines used for reference intervals.



Diagnostic Results



Protocol 2: Fatty Acid Oxidation and Complex III OXPHOS with DHQ

- Fatty acid oxidation was assayed using palmitoylcarnitine plus malate.
- Cells were permeabilized and stimulated by ADP.
- Following rotenone, Complex III OXPHOS rate was measured using duroquinol
- Maximum CIII capacity with FCCP.
- Last, the Antimycin A-insensitive rate was measured.

References:

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- Wanders RJ, Ruiter JP, Wijburg FA. Studies on mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation in permeabilized human skin fibroblasts: application to mitochondrial encephalomyopathies. Biochim Biophys Acta. 1993 Jun 19;1181(3):219-22.
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