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Regulation of Growth Hormone

Inhibitory Control of Growth Hormone Secretion by Somatostatin in Rat Pituitary GC Cells: sst₂ but Not sst₁ Receptors Are Coupled to Inhibition of Single-Cell Intracellular Free Calcium Concentrations

Davide Cervia^a, Cristina Petrucci^a, Marie Thérèse Bluet-Pajot^b, Jacques Epelbaum^b, Paola Bagnoli^a

^aDepartment of Physiology and Biochemistry 'G. Moruzzi', University of Pisa, Italy, and

^bU549 INSERM, Paris, France

[Address of Corresponding Author](#)

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 **Abstract**

Rat pituitary tumor cells (GC cells) exhibit spontaneous oscillations of intracellular free calcium concentration ($[Ca^{2+}]_i$) that allow continuous release of growth hormone (GH). Of the somatostatin (SRIH) receptor subtypes (sst receptors) mediating SRIH action, sst₁ and sst₂ receptors are highly expressed by GC cell membranes. In the present study, the effects of sst₁ or sst₂ receptor activation on single-cell $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ were investigated in GC cells by confocal fluorescence microscopy. In addition, the effects of sst₁ or sst₂ receptor activation on GH secretion were also studied. Our results demonstrate that SRIH decreases $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ baseline and almost completely blocks Ca^{2+} transients through activation of sst₂ but not of sst₁ receptors. In contrast, SRIH effectively inhibits GH secretion through activation of both sst₁ and sst₂ receptors. Blocking Ca^{2+} transients is less efficient than SRIH to inhibit GH release. The cyclic octapeptide, CYN-154806, antagonizes sst₂ receptors at $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ since it abolishes the sst₂ receptor-mediated inhibition of $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ without affecting single-cell Ca^{2+} signals. On the other hand, CYN-154806 alone potently inhibits GH secretion through the involvement of pertussis toxin-sensitive G proteins. In conclusion, the present results demonstrate that SRIH inhibition of GH release in GC cells involves mechanisms either dependent or independent on SRIH modulation of $[Ca^{2+}]_i$. The implications of CYN-154806 inhibition of GH secretion are discussed.

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Author Contacts

Paola Bagnoli

Department of Physiology and Biochemistry 'G. Moruzzi'

University of Pisa, via S. Zeno 31

I-56127 Pisa (Italy)

Tel. +39 050 554074/553517, Fax +39 050 552183, E-Mail [pbagnoli@comat;](mailto:pbagnoli@comat.dfb.unipi.it)

dfb.unipi.it



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