Man2C1, an *α***-mannosidase, is involved in the trimming of free oligosaccharides in the cytosol**

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The endoplasmic-reticulum-associated degradation of misfolded (glyco)proteins ensures that only functional, correctly folded proteins exit from the endoplasmic reticulum and that misfolded ones are degraded by the ubiquitin–proteasome system. During the degradation of misfolded glycoproteins, they are deglycosylated by the PNGase (peptide:N-glycanase). The free oligosaccharides released by PNGase are known to be further catabolized by a cytosolic α -mannosidase, although the gene encoding this enzyme has not been identified unequivocally. The findings in the present study demonstrate that an α -mannosidase, Man2C1, is involved in the processing of free oligosaccharides that are formed in the cytosol. When the human Man2C1 orthologue was expressed in HEK-293 cells, most of the enzyme was localized in the cytosol. Its activity was enhanced by $Co²⁺$, typical of other known cytosolic α -mannosidases so far characterized from

INTRODUCTION

N-Glycosylation is recognized as one of the most common coand post-translational modification reactions in eukaryotic cells [1]. The N*-*glycans on proteins contribute to their proper folding, assembly, trafficking and stability. Recent evidence has shown that N*-*glycans play pivotal roles in the quality control of proteins that are synthesized in the ER (endoplasmic reticulum) [2]. In this system, the N*-*glycan serves as a 'tag' for the carrier-proteins to be recognized by molecular chaperones, or otherwise targeted for degradation by a machinery referred to as ERAD (ER-associated degradation) [3].

Cytoplasmic PNGase (peptide:N-glycanase) is involved in deglycosylation of misfolded glycoproteins and releasing free oligosaccharides and deglycosylated proteins into the cytosol [4–8]. Since the discovery of the ERAD process, extensive studies of the proteolytic process of the misfolded proteins have been reported. In contrast, little is known concerning the fate of oligosaccharides formed by the action of cytoplasmic PNGase. Free oligosaccharides derived from dolichol-linked oligosaccharides are also generated in the lumen of the ER. The ER oligosaccharides are transported into the cytosol by a putative oligosaccharide transporter on the ER membrane [9–11]. The molecular mechanism for the generation of the free oligosaccharides

animal cells. The down-regulation of Man2C1 activity by a small interfering RNA drastically changed the amount and structure of oligosaccharides accumulating in the cytosol, demonstrating that Man2C1 indeed is involved in free oligosaccharide processing in the cytosol. The oligosaccharide processing in the cytosol by PNGase, endo-β-*N*-acetylglucosaminidase and α-mannosidase may represent the common 'non-lysosomal' catabolic pathway for N-glycans in animal cells, although the molecular mechanism as well as the functional importance of such processes remains to be determined.

Key words: α-mannosidase, cytosol, free oligosaccharide, non-lysosomal degradation, N-glycan, peptide:N-glycanase (PNGase).

from lipid-linked oligosaccharides remains unclear [12–14]. Irrespective of the sources, the oligosaccharides in the cytosol are processed before being taken up by lysosomes, where further degradation into monomeric sugars takes place [15,16].

Although biochemical studies suggest that free oligosaccharides in the cytosol are catabolized in a highly-organized manner [9,10,12–15,17–23], the molecular nature of enzymes involved in the processing/catabolism of oligosaccharides is poorly understood, except for one enzyme, cytosolic ENGase (endoβ-*N*-acetylglucosaminidase), whose gene has recently been identified [24,25]. In animal cells, cytoplasmic α -mannosidase has been identified in various animal sources [26–34]. One of the characteristics of this enzyme is that it is activated by the presence of Co^{2+} [30–33,35].

Man2C1 mannosidase, also known as ER-mannosidase II [35] or neutral/cytosol mannosidase [36], was first cloned from rat liver [37]. Although it is generally believed that the Co^{2+} activated enzyme is somehow involved in the processing of N*-*glycan chains in the ER, possibly by being translocated from the cytosol [35,38–40], a catabolic role of this enzyme for free N*-*glycans in the cytosol has also been proposed [26,30,34,41]. It should be noted that the relationship between the ER/cytosol mannosidase [Man2C1 according to the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) database] that has been cloned

Abbreviations used: 2-AA, 2-aminobenzoic acid; DMM, deoxymannojirimycin; EGFP, enhanced green fluorescent protein; ENGase, endo-*β*-Nacetylglucosaminidase; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; ERAD, ER-associated degradation; GAPDH, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; KIF, kifunensine; MALDI–TOF MS, matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization–time-of-flight MS; PA, pyridylamino; PDI, protein disulfide-isomerase; PNGase, peptide:N-glycanase; pNP-*α*-Man, p-nitrophenyl-*α*-D-mannoside; RNAi, RNA interference; RNase B, ribonuclease B; siRNA, small interfering RNA; SW, swainsonine; TFA, trifluoroacetic acid.

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[37] and the Co²⁺-activated cytoplasmic α -mannosidase has not been rigorously investigated in any system.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plasmids

Sequence searching using the NCBI sequence database (http:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) led to the identification of the human cDNA orthologue of rat Man2C1 α -mannosidase (BC080191). A cDNA clone (IMAGE clone no. 6149811) was obtained from Invitrogen and sequenced using PCR-based dideoxy-termination methods using BigDye ver. 3.1 and the 3100 DNA sequencer (ABI). The mutation observed was corrected by site-directed mutagenesis (QuikChange, Stratagene). The coding region of Man2C1 cDNA was amplified by PCR, and the fragment was cloned into the pCMV-Tag2B vector (Stratagene) using HindIII/ XhoI for N-terminal FLAG tagging. For C-terminal EGFP (enhanced green fluorescent protein)-tagging, the coding region was cloned into the pEGFP-N1 vector (Clontech) HindIII/XhoI site using PCR. In both cases, DNA sequences of the resulting plasmids obtained were confirmed by direct sequencing.

Cell cultures and transfection

HEK-293 cells were cultured in DMEM (Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium; Sigma) supplemented with 10% FBS (foetal bovine serum) and antibiotics (100 units/ml penicillin G and 100 ng/ml streptomycin; Nacalai Tesque Co.) in humidified air containing 5% CO₂ at 37 °C. The plasmids used were purified with a plasmid Midi or Maxi kit (Qiagen) and transfected with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's recommended protocol.

Western blotting

Western blotting of FLAG–Man2C1 was performed using a mouse anti-FLAG monoclonal antibody (M2; Sigma) as described previously [42] and was visualized using a LAS-3000 mini (Fujifilm). When required, the bands detected were quantified using Multi Gauge ver 2.2.

Immunohistochemistry

Cells were plated on a cover glass coated with type I collagen (Sigma), placed in a 6-well dish for approximately 24 h prior to transfection (around 10% confluency). Forty-eight hours after transfection, the cells were fixed by adding a 1/10 volume of 37% formaldehyde solution to the medium followed by a further incubation for 10 min at room temperature (25 *◦* C). The fixed cells were treated with 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS for 3 min at room temperature, and then blocked with 1% FBS-PBS (Gemini Bio-Products) for 1 h at room temperature. Cells were incubated with a mouse anti-FLAG antibody diluted 1/500 with blocking buffer for 1 h, Alexa488-labelled anti-mouse IgG antibody (Molecular Probe) diluted 1/200 with blocking buffer for 1 h. The resulting samples were examined by confocal microscopy (FV500/BX-61; Olympus).

Isolation, labelling and purification of oligosaccharides

For the isolation of $Man₅GlcNAc$ (where Man is mannose and GlcNAc is *N*-acetylglucosamine), 1 mg of RNase B (ribonuclease B; Sigma) was treated first with 10 m-units of Endo H (Glyko) in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.0) at 37 *◦*C overnight. The oligosaccharides were concentrated to dryness and pyridylaminated using Palstation (Takara Bio) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The Man_{5→9}GlcNAc-PA (pyridylamino) thus obtained was purified with a Shodex NH2P-50 4E column (see below), and the PA-oligosaccharides were collected separately and were used as standard Man_{5−9}GlcNAc-PA.

Purification of FLAG–Man2C1

The cytosol fraction used for assaying α -mannosidase activity was prepared essentially as described previously [43], except that the homogenization solution contained 10 mM Hepes/NaOH (pH 7.4), 5 mM $MgCl₂$, 150 mM potassium acetate and 0.25 M sorbitol containing $1 \times$ complete protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche) and 1 mM Pefabloc (Roche). For the cell wet weight an equal volume (w/v) of buffer was added for homogenization. The FLAG–Man2C1 was purified from the cytosolic fraction of HEK-293 cells expressing this protein. To the 400 μ l of cytosolic fraction, $20 \mu l$ of anti-FLAG M2 affinity gel (Sigma, A2220) was added. Following incubation at 4 *◦*C overnight, the resin was washed four times with 500 μ l of 50 mM Tris/HCl (pH 7.5) and 150 mM NaCl. The FLAG–Man2C1 was then eluted in 100 μ l of the same buffer containing 150 μ g/ml of 3× FLAG peptide (Sigma). The fraction was analysed by silver staining (2D-silver stain II 'Daiichi'; Daiichi Pure Chemicals Co.).

Subcellular fractionation of FLAG–Man2C1

FLAG–Man2C1 was expressed in HEK-293 cells and the protein extract was obtained. From 200 μ l of the extract, the cytosolic fraction (the supernatant from centrifugation at 100000 *g*) and membrane fraction (the pellet from centrifugation at 100000 *g*) were obtained as described above. The membrane fraction was washed further with $200 \mu l$ of extraction buffer $[10 \text{ mM}]$ Hepes/NaOH (pH 7.4), 5 mM $MgCl₂$, 150 mM potassium acetate and 0.25 M sorbitol] and centrifuged at 100000 *g* for 1 h. The final pellet fraction was suspended with $40 \mu l$ of the same buffer and Western blotting analysis for FLAG–Man2C1 and PDI (protein disulfide-isomerase; antibody from BD Biosciences) was performed for each fraction.

Enzyme assay for cytoplasmic *α***-mannosidase**

For a 40 μ l enzyme reaction, 20 μ l of 200 mM Mes/NaOH buffer (pH 6.7), 10 µl of 4 mM *p*NP-α-Man (*p*-nitrophenyl-α-Dmannoside) and $1-10 \mu l$ of enzyme fraction (cytosol or purified FLAG–Man2C1) were added. Incubation was carried out at 37 *◦*C and, at the indicated times, the reaction was stopped by adding 900 μ 1 of 0.2 M Na₂CO₃ (pH 11.4). The amount of liberated *p*-nitrophenol was determined spectrophotometrically at 410 nm. One unit of enzyme was defined as the amount required to catalyse the release of 1 μ mol of *p*-nitrophenol from pNP- α -Man per min at 37 °C under the conditions described above. Protein concentrations were determined by the BCA (bicinchonic acid) method (Pierce) according to the manufacturer's instructions using BSA as a standard.

Effect of Co2⁺ ions on FLAG–Man2C1 activity

To examine the effect of Co^{2+} ions on enzyme activity, 0, 0.5, 1 or 2 mM of $CoCl₂$ was added to the purified FLAG–Man2C1 fraction and the solution was pre-incubated at 37 °C for 30 min before the enzyme assay. When Man₅GlcNAc-PA was used as a substrate in the enzyme assay, 25 pmol (per 100 μ l reaction) of Man5GlcNAc-PA was used instead of *p*NP-α-Man. After a reaction at 37 *◦* C for 1 h, the sample was boiled for 5 min, and centrifuged at 17000 *g* for 2 min. The resulting supernatant was used in HPLC analysis.

Effect of various mannosidase inhibitors for FLAG–Man2C1 activity

To examine the effect of various inhibitors on purified FLAG– Man2C1, various concentrations of inhibitors, KIF (kifunensine; Toronto Research Chemicals), SW (swainsonine; Seikagaku Kogyo Co.) or DMM (deoxymannojirimycin; Toronto Research Chemicals) were added to the enzyme reaction. For the enzyme fraction, purified FLAG–Man2C1 containing $2 \text{ mM } CoCl₂$ was used.

siRNA (small interfering RNA)

The inhibition of Man2C1 expression by siRNA was performed using the double-stranded siRNA of the human *Man2C1* gene. The design and synthesis of siRNA were carried out by Nippon EGT Co. (Toyama, Japan). The following three sets of sequences were used: first set (small letters indicate the sequence matched to the *Man2C1* gene); 5'-ccacagugccuuccucuuuTT-3', 5 -aaagaggaaggcacuguggTT-3 ; second set; 5 ccaguuugugcuauuugauTT-3 , 5 -aucaaauagcacaaacuggTT-3 ; third set; 5 -ucagauggugaacguguguTT-3', 5'-acacacguucaccaucugaTT-3'. Three sets of double-stranded siRNAs (20 μ M each, 50 μ l per 10-cm dish) were transfected into HEK-293 cells using Lipofectamine 2000. Following 48 h of transfection, the cells were either collected and RNA was isolated using Trizol (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's recommendation or cytosol was prepared as described above for the α -mannosidase activity assay.

Quantitative gene expression analyses by real-time PCR

Real-time PCR analyses were performed using a Smart Cycler II System (Cephid). The cDNA synthesis was performed using the SYBR Green Real-Time PCR Core Kit (Takara Bio) according to the manufacturer's recommendation. Each reaction was performed in a $25 \mu l$ volume with a final concentration of $1 \times$ SYBR premix Ex Taq, 200 nM primers and $2 \mu l$ of cDNA. The thermal cycling conditions for the real-time PCR were 10 s at 95 °C to activate SYBR Ex Taq, followed by 40 cycles of denaturation for 5 s at 95 *◦*C and an annealing extension for 20 s at 60 °C. The mean number of cycles to the threshold of fluorescence detection was calculated for each sample. GAPDH (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase) expression was also quantified to normalize the amount of cDNA in each sample. For quantification of GAPDH expression, 1/10 diluted cDNA with RNase- free water was used for the PCR reaction. The specificity of the amplified products was monitored by its melting curve. The primer sets used for real-time PCR was as follows: Man2A1: 5'-ggcctatatccaggatgccaaac-3'; 5'ttgctcaaggccacgattatca-3 ; Man2B1: 5 -cgggcaacgtttgatcctg-3 ; 5 -aggcctggtcactttcgttgtc-3 ; Man2C1: 5 -cagggcactgccacattgatac-3 l; 5 -gaactcagggttccgctcca-3 ; GAPDH: 5 -attgccctcaacgaccactt-3'; 5'-aggtccaccaccctgttgct-3'.

Preparation of cytosolic oligosaccharides

For the preparation of free oligosaccharides from the cytosolic fraction, four dishes (10-cm diameter) containing HEK-293 cells from siRNA-treated cells and control cells were harvested and lysed in 300 μ l of 10 mM Hepes/NaOH buffer (pH 7.4) containing 5 mM dithiothreitol, 250 mM mannitol and 1 mM EDTA, containing $1 \times$ complete protease inhibitor cocktail and 1 mM Pefabloc. The cells were homogenized and resulting homogenates were cleared first by centrifugation at 1000 *g* for 3 min at 4 *◦*C, followed by 100000 *g* for 1 h. The membrane fraction (pellet) was used for the analysis of N*-*glycans on the membrane proteins (see below). To the cytosolic fraction (supernatant) 1.5 vol. of ethanol were added to precipitate the proteins, and the solution was cleared by centrifugation at 17 000 *g* for 20 min at 4 *◦*C. The supernatant fraction was desalted using PD-10 columns (Amersham) according to the manufacturer's procedure. The resulting fraction was concentrated and pyridylaminated using Palstation. Excess reagent, as well as non-carbohydrate materials, were removed using a Cellulose Cartridge Glycan preparation kit (Takara Bio). The PA-sugar fraction was evaporated to dryness and used in HPLC analysis.

For the analysis of total oligosaccharides on membranous/lumenal glycoproteins, samples were digested with PNGase to release the oligosaccharides from the glycoproteins. Briefly, to the membrane fraction (the pellet following ultracentrifugation), $10 \mu l$ of denaturing solution (1% SDS and 1% 2-mercaptoethanol) was added and the solution heated at 99 *◦*C for 5 min. To the solution, buffer was added up to $100 \mu l$ [final solution: 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 1% Nonidet P40, 1% 2-mercaptoethanol and 0.1% SDS]. To the solution, 5 μ l of PNGase F (Roche, 5 units) was added followed by overnight incubation at 37 *◦* C with occasional gentle shaking. The solution was directly applied for 2-AA (2-aminobenzoic acid) labelling, based on a previously described method [44,45]. Purification of 2-AA-labelled oligosaccharides was also performed using a Sephadex LH-20 column as described [45].

HPLC analysis

For the analysis of free oligosaccharides obtained from the cytosol fraction, we utilized a Shodex NH2P-50 4E column, in conjunction with a GL Sciences HPLC system (PU611 double pumps/CO630 column oven) with a fluorescence detector (LaChrom; Hitachi High-Technologies Co). The elution was performed using two solvent gradients as follows: solvent A: 93% acetonitrile in 0.3% acetate (pH adjusted to 7.0 with ammonia); solvent B: 20% acetonitrile in 0.3% acetate (pH adjusted to 7.0 with ammonia). The gradient programme (expressed as the percentage of solvent A): 0–5 min isocratic 97%; 5–8 min, 97– 67%; 8–40 min, 67–29%. Eluted compounds were detected by fluorescence with $\lambda_{\rm ex} = 310$ nm and $\lambda_{\rm em} = 380$ nm. The authentic elution position for Man_{5−9}GlcNAc-PA was determined using PAsugars prepared from Endo H digests of RNase B, as described above.

For the analysis of 2-AA-labelled glycans prepared from the cell membrane fraction, HPLC analysis was performed essentially as described previously [45].

MALDI–TOF (matrix-assisted laser-desorption ionization–time-of-flight) MS analysis

For structural determinations, the Man₅GlcNAc-PA fraction obtained from control cells was analysed by MALDI–TOF MS. α 1,2-Mannosidase digestion was performed to determine the isomeric structure of Man₅GlcNAc-PA. About 10 pmol of Man5GlcNAc-PA was digested with 0.5 m-units of *Aspergillus saitoi* α1,2-mannosidase (Seikagaku Kogyo Co) in 20 µl of 20 mM sodium citrate buffer (pH 5.0) at 37 *◦*C overnight. The mixture was desalted using $C18 +$ Carbon NuTip (Hypercarb; Glygen Co., Columbia MD). The tip was initially activated by treatment with 80% acetonitrile containing 0.05% TFA (trifluoroacetic acid) (10 μ l, five times) and then equilibrated with 0.05% TFA (10 μ 1, three times). The sample solution (10 μ 1) was aspirated/expelled 50 times to allow the protein and PA-sugar to adsorb to the tip material. The tip was washed with 0.05% TFA (10 μ l, ten times) to desalt, and the compounds were eluted with 10% acetonitrile containing 0.05% TFA (10 μ l, ten times). The eluate (0.5 μ l) was applied to an 800 μ m anchorchip target (Bruker Daltonics), to which was added an aqueous solution

Figure 1 Expression of human mannosidase in mammalian cells

(**A**) Western blotting analysis of the cytosolic fraction. Lane 1, HEK-293 cells with mock plasmid; lane 2, HEK-293 cells with FLAG–Man2C1 expression plasmid. Stained with anti-FLAG antibody. (B and C) FLAG–Man2C1 was immunostained (green) with an anti-FLAG antibody. In (C), nuclei were stained with DAPI (blue). Bar = 10 μ m. (D) Subcellular fractionation of FLAG–Man2C1. Lane 1, cytosolic fraction; lanes 2–4, first, second and third wash of the membrane fraction; lane 5, membrane fraction. PDI is a marker for ER luminal protein. (**E**) Distribution of FLAG–Man2C1. The results were obtained by quantitation of results in (**D**).

 $(0.5 \mu l)$ of 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (5 mg/ml). The mixture was dried in the atmosphere by keeping it at room temperature for several minutes. MALDI–TOF MS of the PA sugars were obtained on an Ultraflex TOF/TOF mass spectrometer equipped with a reflector (Bruker Daltonics GmbsH, Bremen, Germany). In the MALDI–TOF MS reflector mode using positive polarity, ions were generated by a pulsed UV laser beam (nitrogen laser, $\lambda = 337$ nm, 5 Hz) and accelerated to a kinetic energy of 20 kV.

RESULTS

Characterization of the human Man2C1 orthologues

To characterize the Man2C1 protein, we used the rat liver ER-mannosidase orthologue in an NCBI DNA sequence database search, and identified a human cDNA of the *Man2C1* gene. This protein was previously identified as Man6A8 α -mannosidase [46], although the function of this protein remained unknown. An expression profile based on the EST (expressed sequence tag) ProfileViewer (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/UniGene/ ESTProfileViewer.cgi?uglist = $Hs.26232$) showed that the cDNA of this gene is present in almost all tissues, including the brain, eye, heart, kidney, liver, lung, muscle, ovary, pancreas, spleen, stomach and testis. These data suggest that Man2C1, as is the case with peptide:N-glycanase [4] or ENGase [24], is widely distributed among cells and tissues. Apparent orthologues can also be found in various vertebrates (see Supplementary Figure 1 at http://www.BiochemJ.org/bj/400/bj4000033add.htm), but not in non-vertebrates such as *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Caenorhabditis elegans* and plant species.

Man2C1 is mainly localized in the cytosolic fraction

To examine the subcellular localization of Man2C1, the protein was FLAG-tagged at the N-terminus for detection. The expressed

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protein in HEK-293 could be detected as a single band on SDS/PAGE in the cytosol fraction (Figure 1A). Using immunostaining, most of the localization was also found to be in the cytosol (Figures 1B and 1C). A similar result was obtained using C-terminal EGFP-tagged protein as well, suggesting that the localization is independent of the tag and the location of the tag (results not shown). Consistent with this finding, by subcellular fractionation most of the FLAG–Man2C1 was recovered from the cytosolic fraction, whereas approx. 10% of the protein was found to be associated with the membrane fraction (Figures 1D and 1E). For comparison, the ER-lumenal protein PDI was also examined for the fractionation, and was found to be exclusively localized in the membrane fraction, suggesting that the ER is intact during the fractionation process (Figures 1D and 1E).

Purification and characterization of Man2C1

To date, cytoplasmic α -mannosidase has been purified and characterized from various animal origins [27–34,38]. To examine if the Man2C1 has the same characteristics as the cytosolic α-mannosidases so far characterized, the FLAG–Man2C1 protein was isolated using anti-FLAG antibody resin. As shown in Figure 2(A), the protein was purified to homogeneity, allowing us to characterize the biochemical properties of this enzyme.

One of the characteristics of the soluble α -mannosidase obtained from various animal origins is that the enzyme was activated by Co^{2+} [28,30–33,35]. To determine whether Man2C1 could be activated by Co^{2+} , the purified FLAG-tagged Man2C1 was pre-incubated with various concentrations of $Co²⁺$, and the activation was assessed using *p*NP-α-Man as a substrate. Indeed, a 5-fold increase in enzyme activity in the presence of 2 mM $Co²⁺$ was observed, suggesting that FLAG–Man2C1 was also activated by Co^{2+} . It has also been demonstrated that Co^{2+} can change the substrate specificity of α -mannosidase [27,32].

Figure 2 Purification and characterization of FLAG–Man2C1

(**A**) Silver staining pattern of purified FLAG–Man2C1. Samples, 5 µl (lane 1) or 10 µl (lanes 2–7) were analysed using 7.5 % PAGE. Lane M: molecular mass marker; lane 1, cell extract; lane 2, cytosolic fraction; lanes 3–6, first–fourth wash fractions of anti-FLAG antibody beads; lane 7, eluted fraction. (B) Structure of Man₅GlcNAc-PA prepared from RNase B. Man residues with circles are reported to be cleaved by cytoplasmic α-mannosidase only in the presence of Co2+. (**C**) Effect of various mannosidase inhibitors on the activity of purified FLAG–Man2C1.

According to these studies, the α -mannosidase in the absence of $Co²⁺$ only converts Man₉GlcNAc into Man₈GlcNAc, whereas in the presence of Co^{2+} , the α -mannosidase yields Man₅GlcNAc. This oligosaccharide structure has the same isomeric structure as the $Man₅GlcNAc₂$ -dolicholpyrophosphatidyl intermediate. Accordingly, it is predicted that without the addition of exogenous $Co²⁺$, no hydrolysis would occur when Man₅GlcNAc-PA prepared from RNase B was used as a substrate (Figure 2B for the structure of $Man₅GlcNAc-PA$). On the other hand, the cleavage of outer mannose residues should occur in the presence of $Co²⁺$ (Figure 2B). To confirm this substrate specificity, the purified FLAG–Man2C1 was incubated with Man₅GlcNAc-PA in the presence and the absence of $Co²⁺$. As expected, the occurrence of $Man_4GlcNAc-PA$ (32%) and $Man_3GlcNAc-PA$ (8.1%) was observed only in the presence of $Co²⁺$. These results concur with the properties of cytoplasmic α -mannosidase previously characterized.

With respect to the effect of various inhibitors, there are conflicting reports on cytoplasmic α -mannosidase. Therefore we examined the inhibitor profile of the purified FLAG–Man2C1. SW has previously been reported to be an inhibitor for cytoplasmic α-mannosidase [26,28,33,35]. SW at 100 µM strongly inhibited the activity of FLAG–Man2C1 (Figure 2C), consistent with the previously reported observations. On the other hand, the effect of DMM is somewhat controversial, and whilst some studies have observed inhibitory effects [33,35], others have not [28]. In the present study FLAG–Man2C1 was also inhibited by DMM but in a less effective manner compared with SW (Figure 2C). Finally, the cytoplasmic α -mannosidase has been reported to be resistant to KIF [35], and consistent with this finding, little inhibitory effect was observed for KIF (Figure 2C). All of the data are mostly consistent with the previous characterization of inhibition profile for cytoplasmic α -mannosidase, further supporting the link between Man2C1 and cytoplasmic α -mannosidase biochemically characterized previously.

Figure 3 Suppression of Man2C1 expression by siRNA

(**A**) Quantitation of mRNA by real-time PCR. Expression levels of Man2A1, Man2B1 and Man2C1 were normalized by the expression of GAPDH. The expression for each gene without siRNA treatment was set to 1 (left column). (**B**) Mannosidase activity in the cytosolic fraction was assayed using HEK-293 cells with (left-hand column) or without (right-hand column) siRNA treatment.

Knock-down of Man2C1 in HEK-293 cells

To assess the function of Man2C1 in cells, siRNA was designed to specifically inhibit *Man2C1* gene expression. Three siRNAs were designed and transfected into cells. To confirm the specificity of the inhibitory effect, real-time PCR analysis was performed. As shown in Figure 3(A), siRNA treatment resulted in a marked decrease in expression of the *Man2C1* gene. To evaluate the specificity, the expression of other type 2 α -mannosidases (*Man2A1*, *Man2B1*) was examined, but no significant change in mRNA expression levels was observed for these genes, confirming the specificity of the treatment. The suppression of *Man2C1* expression by RNAi (RNA interference) was also

Table 1 Comparison of oligosaccharides obtained from normal cells and siRNA-treated cells

nd, not detected.

Figure 4 Structural characterization of Man₅GlcNAc-PA obtained from the **cytosol of HEK-293 cells**

MALDI–TOF MS analysis of Man5GlcNAc-PA before (**A**) and after (**B**) α1,2-mannosidase treatment. Man, ○; GlcNAc, □.

apparent as, when an expression plasmid for Man2C1–EGFP was co-transfected, a significant decrease in EGFP fluorescence was observed following siRNA treatment (results not shown). Furthermore, the α -mannosidase activity was also found to be compromised in siRNA-treated cells (Figure 3B). Taken together these results demonstrate a suppressive effect of the siRNA that was designed.

The structure of free oligosaccharides in the cytosol, but not on the membrane glycoproteins, was significantly affected by inhibition of Man2C1 expression

To confirm that the inhibition of Man2C1 was in fact affecting the processing of the free cytosolic glycans, free oligosaccharides were isolated from the cytosol and their structures were examined. After isolation of the cytosolic fraction, the free oligosaccharides were labelled with 2-aminopyridine, and the PA-oligosaccharides were purified using a cellulose column and the size of the oligosaccharides was examined by HPLC. As shown in Table 1, most of the oligosaccharides recovered from control cells were Man₅GlcNAc-PA. The isomeric structure was determined as Manα1-6(Manα1-2Manα1-2Manα1-3)Manβ1-4GlcNAc-PA as it is susceptible to the action of α 1,2-mannosidase, giving rise to $Man_3GlcNAc-PA$ (Figures 4A and 4B). This structure is commonly found in the cytosol of mammalian cells [9,17,21,23] and of hen oviduct [20]. On the other hand, when the cells were treated with siRNA, an increase of $Man₈GlcNAc-PA$ (5.3fold) and Man₉GlcNAc-PA (21-fold) was observed (Table 1). The total amount of free oligosaccharides per cell was also increased by about 4-fold as the result of the siRNA treatment,

suggesting that free oligosaccharides accumulated in the cytosol upon the inhibition of Man2C1. These results strongly suggest that Man2C1 is involved in the processing of cytosolic free oligosaccharides.

To determine whether the overall glycan structures on glycoproteins were altered by the siRNA treatment, the glycans recovered from membrane glycoproteins were also fluorescencelabelled and analysed by HPLC. We used the HPLC conditions for the separation of N*-*glycan bases on the number of negatively charged residues, namely sialic acid [45]. The elution patterns of oligosaccharides from both sources were strikingly similar, indicating that the formation of complex-type oligosaccharides was not impaired by the inhibition of Man2C1 (results not shown). This result indicates that even if a portion of the Man2C1 is translocated in the ER, it does not have a significant impact on the overall processing of N*-*glycans on glycoproteins that travel through the secretory pathway. Collectively, it can be concluded that the major role of Man2C1 is the catabolism of oligosaccharides in the cytosol.

DISCUSSION

In the present study we established that Man2C1 is involved in the trimming of free oligosaccharides in the cytosol. When either N-terminus-tagged or C-terminus-tagged Man2C1 was expressed, most of the protein (approx. 90% based on Western blotting) could be recovered in the cytosolic fraction, indicating that majority of the Man2C1 was localized in the cytosol.

Mammalian cells produce five mannosidases that belong to glycosyl hydrolase family 38, also referred to as class 2 mannosidases [36,47] (Table 2). These mannosidases have a relatively broad specificity and can utilize aryl glycosides (such as *p*NP-α-Man) as substrates, and are inhibited to some degree by SW [47]. Man2C1 was found to be strongly inhibited by SW, moderately by DMM but not by KIF. These results largely match the inhibition profile of the cytoplasmic $α$ -mannosidase previously characterized. DMM and KIF, both pyranose analogues, are normally not known to inhibit class 2α -mannosidase [36,47]. Since DMM is a reasonably smaller molecule than KIF, the moderate effect of DMM may be explained by the accessibility of these compounds to the catalytic centre of Man2C1.

The inhibition of Man2C1 by RNAi resulted in the accumulation, as well as a change in the structure, of the free oligosaccharides in the cytosol. This result strongly suggests that Man2C1 is involved in the processing of free oligosaccharides in the cytosol, establishing the molecular mechanism of the major pathway for the oligosaccharide processing/catabolism in

Figure 5 Proposed processing of oligosaccharides in the cytosol

There are two main sources of oligosaccharides that are known to date; one is derived from cytosolic misfolded glycoproteins (by the action of PNGase), whereas the other is from dolichol-linked oligosaccharides, most likely located on the lumenal side [14]. The lumenal oligosaccharides are translocated from the lumen into the cytosol by a putative transporter [9–11]. For glycoprotein degradation, oligosaccharides were believed to be Man8 and shorter [2,3]. Once in the cytosol, ENGase [24,25] or chitobiase [18] forms free oligosaccharides with a single GlcNAc at each reducing terminus (Gn1). Free oligosaccharides with a single GlcNAc are now susceptible to the action of a cytosolic α -mannosidase, giving rise to the Man₅ GlcNAc structure. This structure is identical with the last dolichol intermediate present on the cytosolic face. The $Man₅GlcNAc$ is transported into the lysosomes by a specific transporter [15,16]. Man, \bigcirc ; GlcNAc, \Box ; Glc, \bullet .

mammalian cells (Figure 5). It is noteworthy that the apparent orthologue of Man2C1 is only seen in the vertebrates, not in other species. This is in contrast with the case of PNGase that generates free oligosaccharides in the cytosol. The latter enzyme is ubiquitously distributed among eukaryotes [4]. This difference indicates that the processing of oligosaccharides that are generated may be unique between species. In this connection it is interesting to note that the major structure of the free oligosaccharide observed in the cytosol of plant cells is distinct from that of mammalian cells, i.e. Manα1-6(Manα1-3)Manα1-6(Manα1- 3)Man β 1-4GlcNAc [48]. Indeed the Co²⁺-activated enzyme has been isolated in Gingko seeds, and the substrate specificity of this enzyme is quite different from that of cytoplasmic α -mannosidase from animal cells [49,50]. Moreover, in budding yeast, the free oligosaccharide degradation after the release by PNGase was mainly carried out by a cytosol/vacuole α -mannosidase, termed Ams1p [51]. These results suggest that quite distinct degradation pathways for cytosolic free N-glycans have been developed depending on species.

The consequence of down-regulation of Man2C1 in HEK-293 cells resulted in a drastic change in the structure of the free oligosaccharides in the cytosol, although little change was observed in the structure of oligosaccharides on glycoproteins in the membrane fraction. This suggests that, whilst Man2C1 is apparently involved in the catabolism of free oligosaccharides in the cytosol, it has little, if any, effect on the processing of glycan chains on glycoproteins. In this regard, a recent report that the α mannosidase II/ α -mannosidase IIx double knockout mouse dies soon after the birth is of great interest [52]. This result indicates that even if Man2C1 could reach the lumenal side to act as an ER mannosidase II or another 'processing' enzyme, this enzyme cannot complement the deficiency of Golgi α -mannosidase II/IIx despite the fact that they both act on the same α 1,3-linked and α 1,6-linked mannose.

It is noteworthy that the suppression of $6A8 \alpha$ -mannosidase (the same as Man2C1) by antisense-DNA transfection resulted in a pronounced growth inhibition in nasopharyngeal carcinoma [40]. A similar effect was observed in HEK-293 cells upon siRNA treatment (I. Hara and T. Suzuki, unpublished work). Although it was previously assumed that this enzyme should function as a glycan-processing enzyme in the ER [40,46], the present study strongly suggests that the major effect exerted by Man2C1 is in the cytosolic catabolism of oligosaccharides. At this moment the issue of how growth inhibition is achieved by Man2C1 down-regulation remains to be determined. Nevertheless, it is certain from the present study that the processing/catabolism of free oligosaccharides should be compromised. Because the putative lysosomal oligosaccharide transporter, which takes up Man₅GlcNAc into the lysosomes, appears to have a strict specificity towards an oligosaccharide structure [15,16], the inhibition of Man2C1 would most likely result in the accumulation of oligosaccharides in the cytosol. This accumulation could somehow result in the slow growth and/or a reduced viability of cultured cells, suggesting the functional importance of the cytosolic processing of free oligosaccharides for normal growth/viability of cells. It has long been thought that an impairment in metabolism of glycans, either on lipids or proteins, has significant consequences and there are many lysosomal storage diseases known to be caused by a defect in lysosomal glycosidases [53]. Given the potential problem on cell growth/viability by Man2C1 suppression, the genetic mutation of this enzyme could represent the new type of genetic disorder resulting from the impairment of the 'non-lysosomal' catabolism of N*-*glycans, although to our knowledge, a mutation on the *Man2C1* gene has not been identified in human genetic diseases.

Finally it should be noted that precautions should be taken with regard to the effect of SW for animal cells, since not only the Golgi mannosidase II but also Man2C1 can be inhibited by this compound [23,26,34]. In particular, when SW was administered to a pig, one of the most marked effects in tissues was the vast increase in soluble oligosaccharide materials [54]. It has also been shown that SW causes a drastic change in free oligosaccharide structures in the cytosolic fraction of HepG2 cells [23], most likely due to the inhibition of Man2C1. SW has been reported to reduce tumour metastasis and/or the growth of cells [55]; however this effect, at least in part, could be due to the suppression of catabolism of free oligosaccharides by Man2C1 in the cytosol, and this possibility should be re-evaluated.

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