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Dynamic Regulation of Ryanodine Receptor Type 1 (RyR1) Channel Activity by Homer 1*

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Abstract

Homer, a family of scaffolding proteins originally identified in neurons, is also expressed in skeletal muscle. Previous studies showed that splice variants of Homer 1 (H1) amplify the gain of the ryanodine receptor type 1 (RyR1) channel complex. Using [³H]ryanodine ([³H]Ry) to probe the conformational state of RyR1, the actions of long- and short-forms of H1 are examined singly and in combination. At ≤ 200 nM, H1 long-forms (H1b or H1c possessing coiled-coil (CC) domains) and short-forms (H1a or H1EVH1 lacking CC domains) enhance specific [³H]Ry-binding to RyR1. However, at a concentration >200 nM, either H1 form completely inhibited [³H]Ry-binding. Importantly, the combinations of H1c + H1EVH1, or H1b + H1a acted in an additive manner to enhance or inhibit [³H]Ry-binding activity. H1a and H1c individually or in combination produced the same dynamic pattern in regulating purified RyR1 channels reconstituted in planar lipid bilayers. In combination, their net action on RyR1 channels depends on total concentrations H1. These data provide a mechanism by which constitutively and transiently expressed H1 forms can tightly regulate RyR1 channel activity in response to changing levels of expression and degradation of H1 proteins.

1. Introduction

The Homer family of proteins was originally identified in neurons where it was shown to confer important regulation of signal transduction, synaptogenesis, and receptor trafficking [1,2]. All Homer proteins possess a conserved amino-terminal EVH1 domain, which recognizes and binds to a proline-rich sequence identified in Group 1 metabotropic glutamate receptors (mGluRs) [3], inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors (IP₃R) [3,4], ryanodine receptors (RyRs) [5,6], transient receptor potential canonical-1 (TRPC1) ion channels [7] and the NMDA and

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metabotropic glutamate receptor scaffolding protein Shank [8,9]. Most Homer proteins possess a carboxy-terminal coiled-coil (CC) structure followed by leucine zipper motifs that mediate Homer–Homer multimerization [1,10,11]. Homer proteins with CC-domains are recognized as “long-forms”. Homer 1a (H1a) and ania-3 which lack the CC-domain and are thus called “short-forms” [1]. Long-forms of Homer are constitutively expressed. Homer short-forms, on the other hand, can be constitutively expressed [12–14], but are also rapidly up-regulated in an immediate early gene-like fashion in response to heightened cellular activity [4]. H1a has been proposed as a natural dominant-negative that, upon up-regulation, competes with long-form Homer on target proteins thereby disrupting postsynaptic complexes and attenuating the signal gain [1].

Since the report that Homer mRNAs and their protein products are present in skeletal muscle [15,16], Homer has been regarded as potential activity-dependent regulators of Ca^{2+} signaling in skeletal muscle [14]. Several studies have shown Homer proteins are capable of interacting with the RyR1 channel complex [5,6,17–19]. These studies have examined the actions of long-forms H1c and H1b and have consistently shown their ability to enhance Ca^{2+} release from junctional SR through a direct interaction with RyR1 that enhances the open probability of the channel. However among these studies there appears to be a discrepancy about the activity of short-form H1a/H1EVH1 toward the RyR1 channel function [5,17,18]. In one study, H1a was shown to dose-dependently attenuate the H1c-activated RyR1 channel [18]. In contrast to this observation, another study showed that functionally active H1a/H1EVH1 acted dose-dependently and additively to enhance H1c-activated spark activity mediated by RyR1 channel activity [17], suggesting a lack of competitive antagonism between short- and long-forms of Homer towards RyR1 activity, in contrast to the activity reported from neurons.

The present work addresses the gap in our understanding of how long- and short-form Homers interact with RyR1 to regulate its conformation. It shows here for the first time that both the long- and short-forms of Homer are capable of regulating RyR1 in a biphasic manner by interacting directly with the channel. The combination of H1 short and long forms act in a purely additive manner to enhance or inhibit [^3H]ryanodine (^3H Ry)-binding activity and the open probability of purified RyR1 channels reconstituted in bilayer lipid membranes (BLM), and their net effect is dependent on their combined total concentration at the receptor site. These data provide a mechanism by which constitutively and transiently expressed H1 forms could tightly regulate RyR1 channel activity in response to changing levels of expression and degradation of Homer proteins.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Preparation of SR Membranes and purified RyR1

Junctional SR membrane enriched in RyR1 were prepared from skeletal muscle of New Zealand White rabbits according to the method of Saito *et al.* [20]. The preparations were stored in 10% sucrose, 10mM HEPES, pH 7.4, at -80°C until needed. RyR1 was solubilized in CHAPS detergent as previously described [21]. RyR1 was then purified from the CHAPS-solubilized proteins by column chromatography through Sepharacyl S-300 HR (Amersham Biosciences) and the RyR1 peak further purified on a 5–20% (W/V) linear sucrose gradient [22]. The $\sim 30\text{S}$ fraction containing enriched RyR1 was then concentrated on a HiTrap Heparin HP column (Amersham Biosciences) [22]. Purity of RyR1 was assessed by SDS-PAGE and silver stain. For preparation of the RyR1–FKBP12 complex, purified RyR1 was supplemented with an eightfold molar excess of recombinant FKBP12 (Sigma-Aldrich) immediately before channel reconstitution experiments.

2.2 Expression and Purification of Homer Construct

GST fusion constructs were made by PCR amplifying the H1c open reading frame and the N-terminal 360-bp fragment with in frame primers with *SalI* and *NotI* sites and inserting the PCR products into pGEX4T-2 (Pharmacia Corp). H1b (Stratagene® GeneConnection™ clone) was expressed as a fusion protein (with C-myc and 6His tags) using supplier's instructions. Fusion proteins were purified as described previously [23]. H1EVH1 mutant, W24A was made with the Quik-Change™ site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). Mena-EVH1 GST was a gift from Dr. Leahy (Johns Hopkins and Howard Hughes Medical Institute). GST fusion plasmids of H1c, H1EVH1 W24A, and Mena were transformed into BL21 cells, and positive clones were expanded. The cells were lysed by sonication, and the lysate was added to glutathione-agarose and sequentially washed [8,9]. The slurry of glutathione-agarose beads loaded with fusion protein was then incubated with biotinylated thrombin (Novagen). Purified Homer proteins were dialyzed against PBS at 4°C overnight. Before being used for functional studies, the purity and the protein compositions of the preparations were analyzed by quantitative densitometry of silver stained SDS-PAGE; high-resolution MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry for accurate mass, and/or tandem mass spectrometry protein sequencing of in-solution digests.

2.3 Measurement of [³H]Ry Binding

Equilibrium measurement of specific high affinity [³H]Ry binding was determined according to the method of Pessah *et al.* [24]. SR vesicles (50µg protein/ml) were incubated with or without Homer in buffer containing 20mM PIPES or HEPES, pH7.1 or pH7.4, 140 or 250mM KCl, 15mM NaCl, 1–50µM CaCl₂, and 1–5nM [³H]Ry for 3h at 37°C. The reactions were quenched by filtration through GF/B glass fiber filters and washed twice with ice-cold harvest buffer (20mM Tris-HCl, or 20mM Hepes, 250mM KCl, 15mM NaCl, 50µM CaCl₂, pH 7.1 or pH7.4). Nonspecific binding was determined by incubating SR vesicles with 1000-fold excess unlabelled ryanodine.

2.4 Measurement and analysis of purified RyR1 single channel reconstituted in planar lipid bilayer

Bilayers were composed of phosphatidyl- ethanolamine: phosphatidylserine: phosphatidylcholine (5:3:2 w/w, Avanti Polar Lipids, Inc, AL) dissolved in decane at a final concentration of 30mg/ml across a 200µm aperture on a polysulfone cup (Warner Instrument Corp. CT). The bilayer partitioned two chambers (*cis* and *trans*) with buffer solution (in mM) 500 CsCl, 7mM free Ca²⁺, and 20 Hepes-Tris (pH 7.4) on *cis*, 50 CsCl and 20 Hepes-Tris (pH 7.4) on *trans*. The addition of protein was made to the *cis* solution that was held at the virtual ground, whereas the *trans* solution was connected to the head stage input of an amplifier (Bilayer Clamp BC 525C, Warner Instrument, CT). After supplementation of purified RyR1 with a molar excess of FKBP12, single channels were reconstituted by introducing the FKBP12- RyR1 protein preparation in the *cis* chamber. Immediately after incorporation of a single RyR1 channel into BLM, the *cis* chamber was perfused with *cis* solution to prevent incorporation of additional channels into bilayer. Single channel gating was monitored and recorded at a holding potential of -40mV (applied to the *trans* side). The sidedness (cytosolic) of the channel was verified by the positive response to addition of micromolar Ca²⁺ or responding to 2µM ryanodine (at the end of the experiment). The amplified current signals, filtered at 1 kHz (Low-Pass Bessel Filter 8 Pole, Warner Instrument, CT) were digitized and acquired at a sampling rate of 10 kHz (Digidata 1320A, Axon-Molecular Devices, Union City, CA). All the recordings were made for at least 40sec to 6min under each experimental condition. The channel open probability (P_o), mean open-, and mean closed-dwell times (t_o and t_c) were obtained by using Clampfit, pClamp software 9.0 without further filtration (Axon-Molecular Devices, Union City, CA).

3. Results

3.1. H1 long- and short-forms have biphasic actions on RyR1

Previous reports have shown that the H1 short-forms (H1a/H1EVH1) [5,17] and its long-forms H1c and H1b could potentially enhance the activity (gain) of RyR1 channel complexes [5,17–19]. In addition, H1c and H1-EVH1 in combination were observed to have additive actions in enhancing the binding of [³H]Ry and the frequency of Ca²⁺ spark in permeabilized myotubes [17]. To further understand how H1 forms modulate RyR1 channel activity, we performed an extended dose-response analysis. Figure 1 shows that both short- and long-forms of H1 dose-dependently activated RyR1 with the same maximum efficacy of [³H]ryanodine binding reaching from the control of 1.03pmole/mg to ~2.75pmole/mg. The extended dose-response curve shows that both H1 forms are capable of producing biphasic actions on RyR1. H1C is a significantly more potent activator (EC₅₀= 9.8nM) and inhibitor (IC₅₀= 55.5nM) than H1EVH1 (EC₅₀= 26.2nM; IC₅₀= 242nM). As expected, the EVH1 domain is important for the potent functional activity of H1, as demonstrated by the significantly lower potency of the H1EVH1 mutant W24A toward inhibiting RyR1 compared to H1EVH1 (EC₅₀=26.8 nM; IC₅₀>400nM) (Fig.1). The murine homolog of Ena (Mena) possesses an EVH1 domain that is structurally similar to Homer but binds a distinctly different proline-rich sequence [25]. Mena serves as a negative control to test the specificity of H1 activation of RyR1 [5]. Here we extended the concentration of Mena to the inhibitory range for H1 and found that Mena is inactive toward inhibiting RyR1 at a concentration of 400nM (Fig. 1).

3.2. H1 long- and short-forms regulate RyR1 in a purely additive manner

Figure 2 demonstrates that RyR1 is not only modulated in a biphasic manner by individual H1 forms, but that regulation is additive. At lower concentrations both long- (H1c at 24 and 48nM, Columns B and C) and short-forms (H1EVH1 at 74 and 148nM, Columns E and F) significantly enhance [³H]Ry binding activity in a dose-dependent manner. By contrast, higher concentrations of either H1c (96nM, Column D) or H1EVH1 (296nM, Column G) fully inhibit RyR1 function. These results serve as internal experimental controls. A combination of sub-optimal activating concentrations of H1c (24nM) + H1EVH1 (74nM) is tested and clearly shows that these long- and short-forms act in an additive manner to enhance RyR1 function (Column H). However, a combination of 48nM H1c + 148nM H1EVH1, concentrations which individually activated RyR1 optimally, fully inhibit RyR1 (Column I).

3.3. Long-form H1b and short-form H1a dynamically regulate RyR1

Recently H1b was reported to act as a potent agonist of the RyR1 channel [19]. Like other H1 proteins, H1b is a potent enhancer (Fig. 3) as well as an inhibitor of [³H]Ry binding to RyR1 (data not shown). At a concentration of 100nM, H1b increases [³H]Ry binding approximately 3-fold (Fig. 3A: bar labeled 100). In the presence of 100nM H1b, [³H]Ry binding levels are further enhanced by titration of H1a (between 50 and 300nM), but are inhibited by titration with higher concentrations of H1a (between 300 and 800nM), and inhibition is complete with 100nM H1b + 800nM H1a (Fig. 3A; Curve). Figure 3B shows that increasing H1b in the reaction mixture from 100nM to 150nM by itself further enhances RyR1 activity and this concentration is near its maximum efficacy for activation. However in the presence of 150nM H1b, titration of H1a within the same dose-range (50–800nM) that causes biphasic regulation of RyR1 (i.e., Fig. 3A) inhibits RyR1 activity dose-dependently (Fig. 3A; Curve).

3.4. Short-form H1a and long-form H1c regulate RyR1 channels in a biphasic and additive manner

To further examine the action of the short-form Homer in the absence or presence of long-form we study the gating behavior of purified RyR1 channels reconstituted in BLM. H1a alone and

H1a in combination with H1c are used at concentrations predicted to activate or inhibit purified RyR1 channel activities based on results from [³H]Ry -binding analysis (presented above). Consistent with our previous findings, low concentrations H1a introduced to the cytoplasmic face of the reconstituted channel is found to significantly enhance RyR1 channel activity. Figure 4A shows one minute of continuous recording representing the current traces of a RyR1 single channel before and after introducing 50nM H1a. Single channel kinetics analysis revealed that 50nM H1a increased the open probability (Po) ~13-fold (from Po=0.003 to 0.040), decreased the mean closed dwell time (τ_c) ~12-fold (from 142.66±210.33ms to 11.24 ±11.76ms).

Consistent with the [³H]Ry binding results, single channel studies further revealed that short-form H1a can enhance and diminish RyR1 channel activity in a dose-dependent manner as shown in figures 4B and 4C. Figure 4B shows that in the presence of 100nM short-form H1a, channel activity is enhanced; at a higher concentration of 200nM H1a is inhibitory to the channel. Figure 4C shows that once RyR1 channel activity is enhanced by an optimal concentration of H1a (100nM), subsequent addition of 15nM H1C inhibits the channel's activity.

4. Discussion

Previous studies have implicated RyR1 AAs F1777 and F1782 as being important in recognizing the conserved EVH1 domain of Homer proteins. Mutation of these residues reduces the Ca²⁺ amplitude attained with caffeine challenges [5,6]. Substantial evidence from biochemical, electrophysiological and cellular studies have confirmed that nanomolar H1 physically interacts with RyR1 to enhance its Ca²⁺ channel activity [5,17–19,26]. These independent results obtained from several different research groups have indicated that both long- and short-forms of H1 are capable of enhancing RyR1 channel activity (or gain).

Important new findings identified in the present study are (1) H1 forms can individually function to enhance or diminish RyR1 activity in a graded manner; (2) the EVH1 domain is essential for both agonist and antagonist activities toward RyR1, whereas the CC domain, although not essential, strongly influences the relative potencies for both of these activities; (3) when present in combination, long- and short-forms of H1 act in an additive manner to enhance or inhibit [³H]Ry-binding activity, and their net effect is dependent on their total concentration at the receptor site.

Based on previous reports [5,17] and the present findings, it is clear that Homer EVH1 is the essential domain necessary to mediate the physical interactions with RyR1 and modulate its conformation and channel function. This conclusion is supported by the observation that H1-EVH1 is as effective as H1a in regulating RyR1 channel activity in a biphasic manner, albeit that its potency is ~3-fold lower than long form H1c. Additional support for this conclusion comes from the fact that mutation of W24 within the EVH1 domain to "A" significantly weakens these activities towards RyR1, and the total inactivity of Mena toward RyR1. Homer has potent activity in regulating RyR1 as a ligand that is independent of the CC-domain and multimerization. Thus the adapter role of Homer is not necessary for this function. However the CC-domain does increase the potency for enhancing channel gain, and is especially important for sharply inhibiting the channel as its concentrations rise. Thus the CC-domain contributes towards stabilizing both open and closed conformations of RyR1. The enhanced potency of H1C could be the result of more productive or coordinated ligand binding between the Homer ligand sites on adjacent subunits facilitated by Homer multimers.

The current data is consistent with most previous reports, although there is one published study indicating that the lack of a CC-domain renders a Homer short-form inactive towards RyR1

by itself, while retaining its ability to inhibit the activation of RyR1 by a Homer long-form [18]. Although the study by Hwang et al. (18) did not examine the dose-response relationship of Homer long- and short-forms, examination of their single channel analysis indicates subtle dynamic aspects to Homer regulation of RyR1 channel function that we describe here. For example RyR1 single channel was highly active in the presence of 100nM H1c + 50nM H1a, but channel activity was significantly inhibited when H1a was further increased to 100nM (Fig. 3 in reference 18). In the present study we examined the possibility that the inhibitory effects of H1a were not the consequence of competition with H1c, but rather an additive mechanism whose net effect on RyR1 channel activity (activation or inhibition) depends the total Homer concentration at the cytoplasmic face (*cis*) of the channel. This mechanism was addressed by first enhancing channel activity with H1a followed by subsequent addition of long-form H1c. As shown in Fig. 4B, the open probability (P_o) of RyR1 channels was significantly enhanced by increasing *cis* H1a from 50 to 100nM. As predicted from results obtained from [3 H]Ry binding analysis, the channel's P_o was reduced upon subsequent addition of H1c (15nM). Importantly this concentration (15nM) of H1c alone consistently enhanced RyR1 channel activity (Fig. 1 and [5,17]). In other single channel experiments, RyR1 channels initially activated by the addition of 50nM H1a responded to addition of 30nM H1c with a rapid decrease in open probability (not shown). Collectively the present results show that H1a and H1c can interact with purified RyR1 in an additive concentration-dependent manner to tightly regulate channel open probability.

Originally identified as an immediate-early gene product [4], H1a use-dependent induction of expression in neurons is believed to disrupt long-form Homer cross-linked protein complexes and thus H1a is regarded as a natural dominant-negative form [3]. The original observations of transient expression of H1a have implied that H1a expression may correlate with the dysfunction of intracellular Ca^{2+} stores [27–30]. In an attempt to see if experimental manipulation of the level of ER Ca^{2+} stores could be used to control H1a expression and hence to modify calcium signaling, Paschen & Mengesdorf, (2003) investigated the effect of changes in the functional state of the ER compartment on H1a expression [31]. They found a close relationship between H1a expression and alteration of stored Ca^{2+} , whereby ER Ca^{2+} store depletion elicited by 1mM EGTA, or by blocking the SERCA pump with thapsigargin, or by exposing cells to a proteasome inhibitor known to induce ER dysfunction (MG132), resulted in significant up-regulation of H1a expression [31]. Given the fact that activity-dependent expression of H1a can act in concert with constitutively expressed Homer proteins, our results provide a novel mechanism by which Homer forms can tightly regulate the absolute activity of RyR1-sensitive Ca^{2+} stores in a manner dependent of the level of expression of H1 forms that rely only on the EVH1 domain for RyR1 activity, and whose CC domain defines their relative potencies (Figs. 2,3 and 4C). The net effect of expression of H1a on the magnitude of Ca^{2+} release by RyR1 would be expected to depend not only on a cell's recent history of activity but also on the cadre of other Homer proteins being expressed and bound to RyR1. The current data provides evidence that Homer proteins are dynamic regulators of long-term homeostatic maintenance and contribute an element of hysteresis to Ca^{2+} homeostasis and signaling. In this regard, H1a could be implicated in a variety of cellular functions that require activity-dependent regulation. In support for this hypothesis, the transient expression of H1a was recently reported to be involved in myoblast differentiation and muscle regeneration [14]. In one experimental model of short-term adaptation of skeletal muscle H1a was not found to be significantly up-regulated [14]. However, the question of whether other forms of agonist-mediated activity in skeletal muscle can influence levels of H1a needs further investigation. In a recent study, H1a was found to be significantly up-regulated in cardiac myocytes by several agonists, including endothelin-1, phenylephrine, isoproterenol or angiotensin-II [32]. In addition to the dynamic regulation of RyR1 activity conferred by Homer proteins, long- and short-forms could contribute to other two distinct cellular processes. Constitutively expressed Homers are likely to influence the gain of Ca^{2+} release during E-C Coupling and reflect their steady-state level

of expression over a longer time frame and more generalized aspects of the cell's context. On the other hand, immediate early and transient expression of H1a provides a means to alter RyR1 gain in response to recent activity; for example to prevent Ca^{2+} store depletion during bouts of intense activity. In this model, instead of competing with Homer already bound to RyR1, H1a can directly and additively bind to unoccupied EVH1 ligand sites on RyR1 and confer either positive or negative regulation to release of Ca^{2+} depending on the current context of Homer-RyR1 interactions. It is known that all members of Homer family contain PEST sequences that are thought to be ubiquitin-proteasome-dependent degradation signals [33]. However, evidence of rapid ubiquitination and degradation has been reported for H1a, whereas evidence ubiquitin-dependent processing of Homer long-forms is lacking [34]. Therefore, the use-dependent expression and rapid degradation of H1a could provide a metabolic means by which the concentration of Homer protein near the surface of RyR1 is regulated.

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Glossary

The abbreviations used are

SR	sarcoplasmic reticulum
JSR	junctional SR
Ry	ryanodine
RyR1	skeletal-type ryanodine receptor
EVH1	Enabled/VASP homology 1
Mena	murine homolog of Ena
H1a	Homer 1a protein
H1b	Homer 1b protein
H1c	Homer 1c protein
P_o	open probability
τ_o	mean open dwell time
τ_c	mean closed dwell time

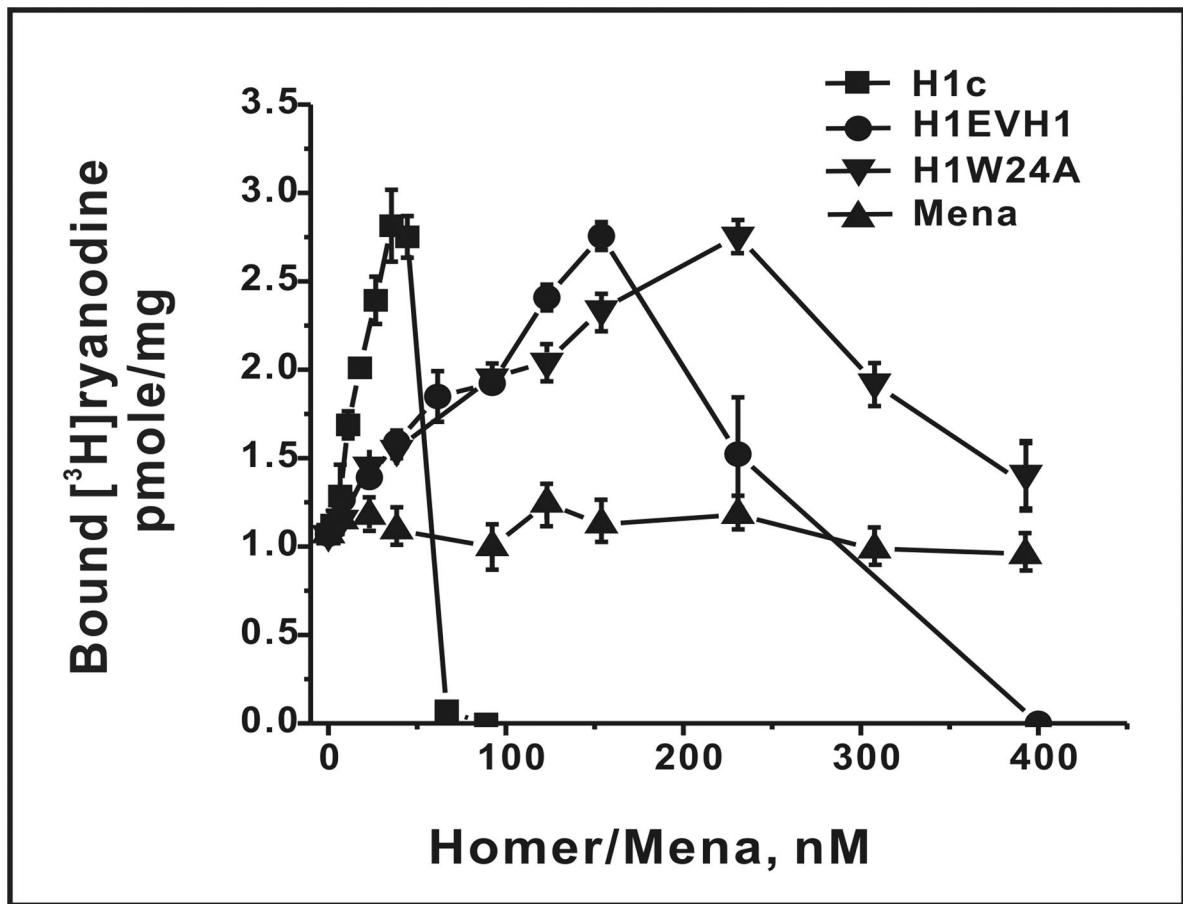


Fig. 1. Biphasic influences of H1 short- and long-forms (H1EVH1 and H1c) on [^3H]Ry binding activity of RyR1 channel complex. JSR membrane-bound RyR1 proteins (50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) were incubated in the binding buffer consisted of 250mM KCl, 15mM NaCl, 50 μM CaCl $_2$, 1nM [^3H]Ry, 20mM PIPES, pH 7.4 at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 3hr, with indicated concentrations of H1c, H1EVH1, H1W24A or Mena. Each point represents mean \pm SD of n=5 samples. There were at least three independent measurements with similar results under varied experimental conditions (with 140mM KCl, 1, 5 or 50 μM CaCl $_2$ and/or 1 or 5nM [^3H]Ry).

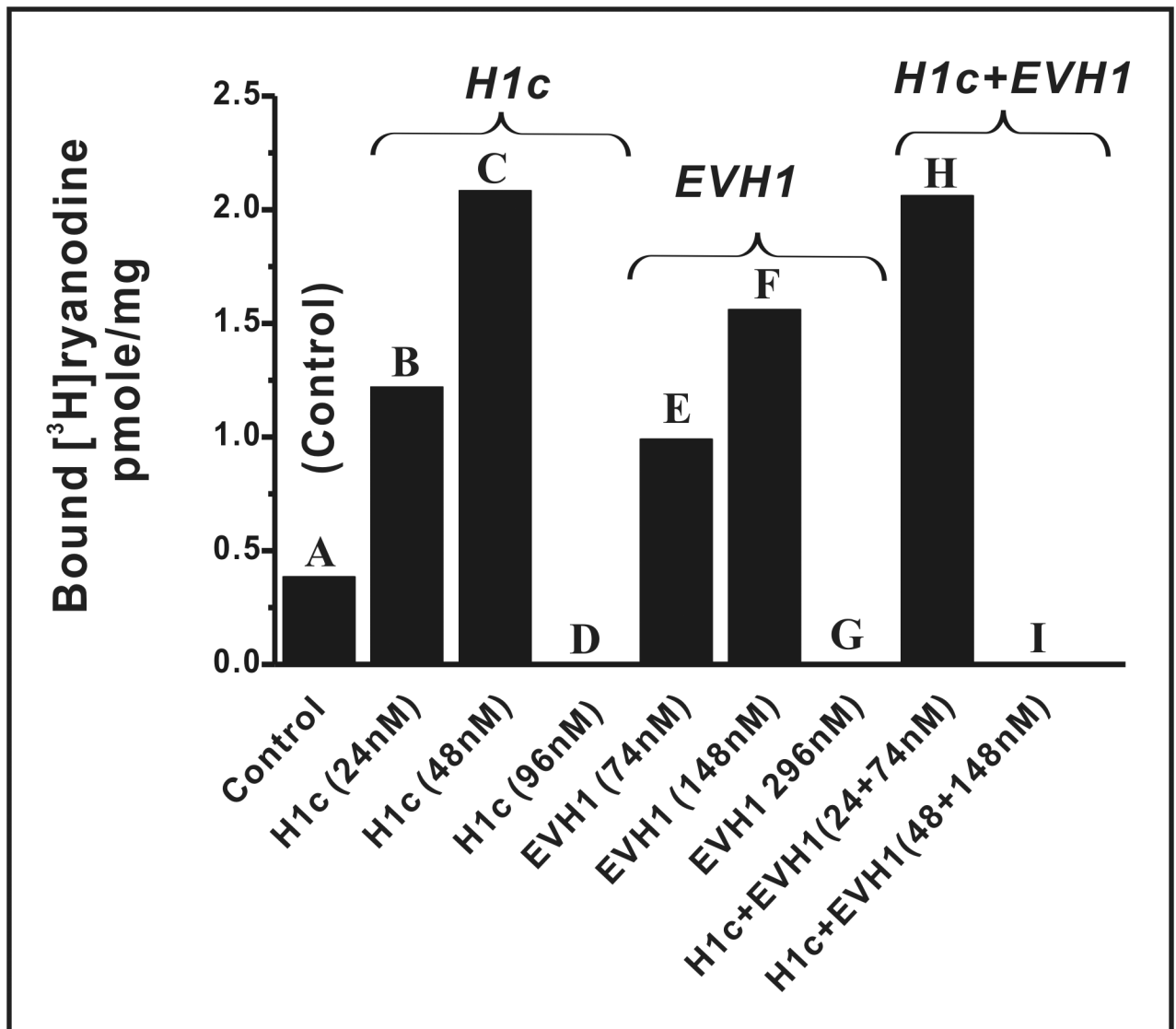


Fig. 2. H1EVH1 and H1c enhance or inhibit RyR1 in a dose-dependent and additive manner. In the presence of 250mM KCl, 15mM NaCl, 1 μ M free Ca²⁺, buffered by EGTA (calculated according software “Bound and Determined” [35]), 1nM [³H]Ry, 20mM PIPES, pH 7.4, JSR membrane-bound RyR1 proteins (50 μ g/ml) were incubated without or with indicated concentration(s) of H1c and/or H1EVH1 at 37°C for 3hr. This is a representative result performed in triplicate and is representative of four independent experiments under varied conditions (with 140mM KCl, 1, 5 or 50 μ M CaCl₂ and/or 1 or 5nM[³H]Ry).

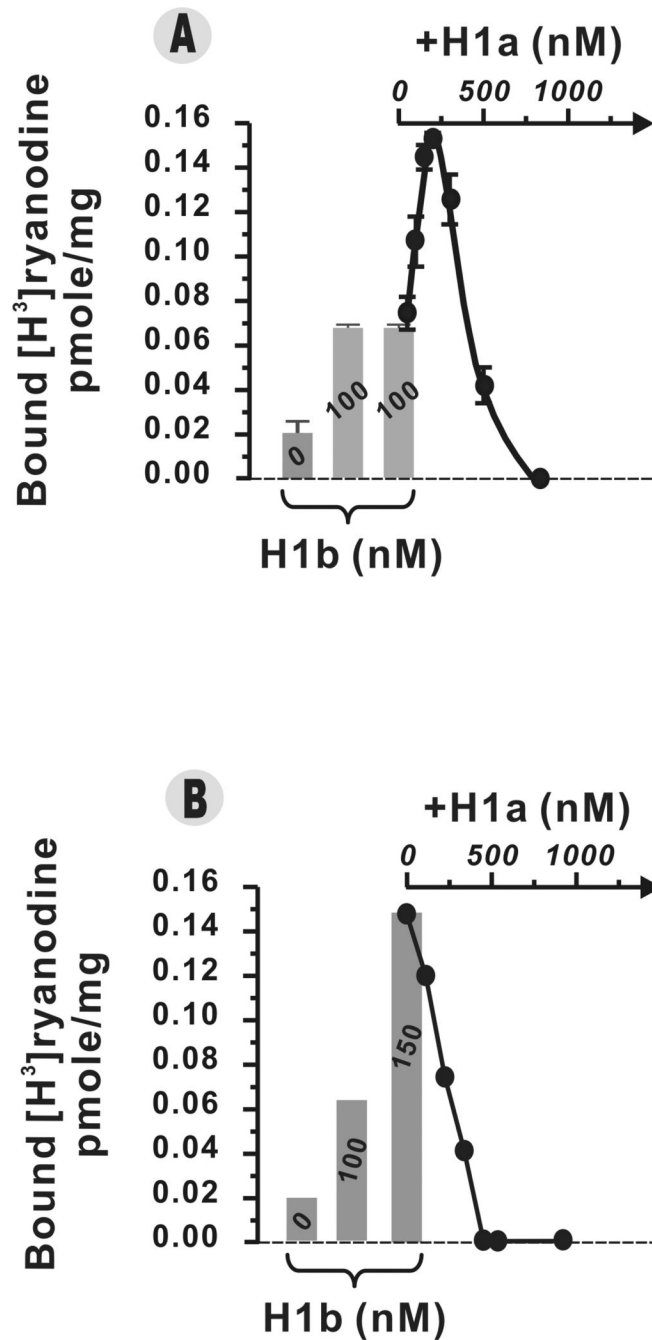
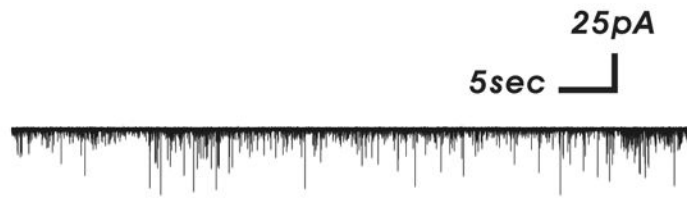


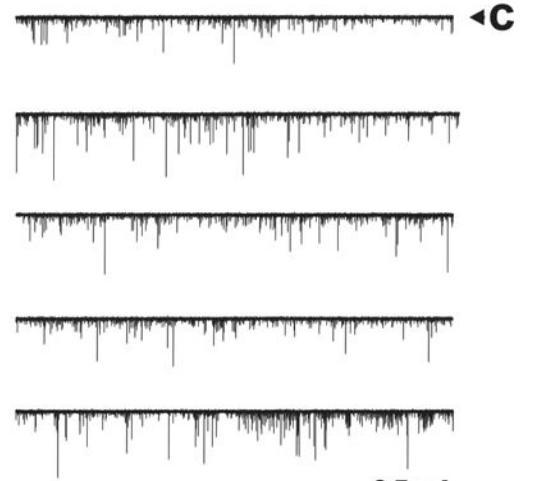
Fig. 3. Dynamic regulation of RyR1 conformation by the combination of long-form H1b and short-form H1a. [^3H]Ry binding conditions were similar as described for Fig. 2. JSR membrane-bound RyR1 proteins (50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) were incubated without Homer protein, or with 100nM H1b plus 0–800nM H1a (Fig. 3A), or with 150nM H1b plus 0–500nM H1a (Fig. 3B) in the presence of 140mM KCl, 15mM NaCl, 1 μM free Ca^{2+} , 1nM [^3H]Ry, 20mM Hepes, pH 7.1. The results were obtained from triplicate samples.

A

I Control RyR1



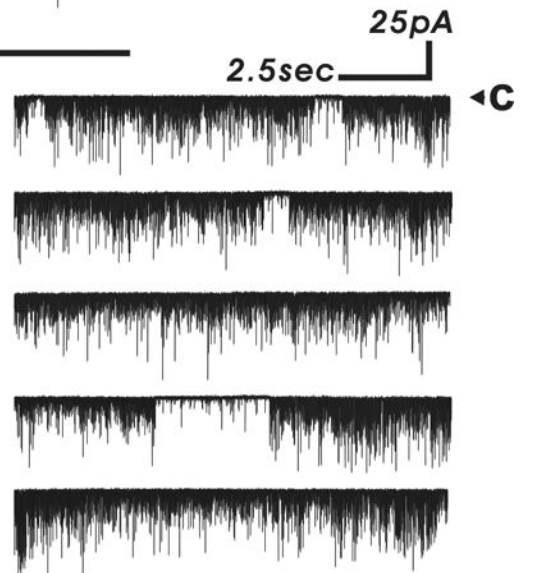
$P_o = 0.003$ $\tau_o = 0.41 \pm 0.39 \text{ ms}$
 $\tau_c = 142.66 \pm 210.33 \text{ ms}$



II + 50nM H1a (cis)



$P_o = 0.040$ $\tau_o = 0.47 \pm 0.39 \text{ ms}$
 $\tau_c = 11.24 \pm 11.76 \text{ ms}$



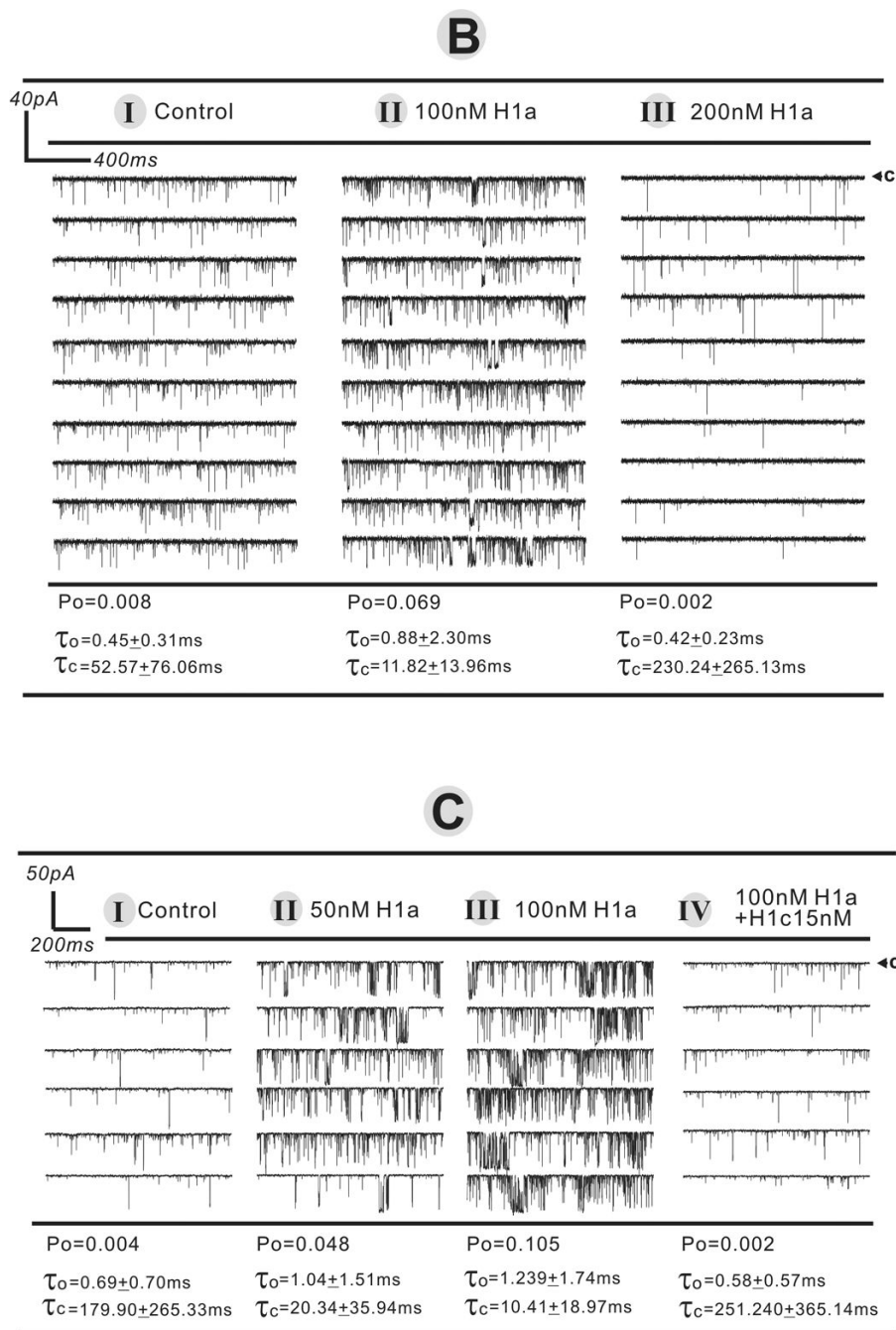


Fig. 4. H1 short- and long-form act additively to regulate RyR1 single channel activity in a biphasic manner. The purified FKBP12/RyR1 channel activity was recorded in $7\mu\text{M}$ *cis* (cytoplasmic) free Ca^{2+} at a holding potential of -40mV applied on *trans* side. Under each defined condition, the single channel recordings were made for at least 40s to 5min in the total six independent bilayer experiments. The arrow and “c” indicate the current level of zero pA while the channel was in complete closed state. Panel A displays the representative current traces before and after addition of 50nM H1a in *cis* solution. The current trace of one minute continuous recording was expanded into 5 segments displaying on the right panels. In Panels B and C, H1a and/or

H1a+H1c were sequentially introduced into the *cis* solution to a final concentration denoted in the figure.