

Secretion of adenylate kinase 1 is required for extracellular ATP synthesis in C2C12 myotubes

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Abbreviations: AK1, adenylate kinase 1; Ap₅A, P¹,P⁵-di(adenosine-5')penaphosphate; exATP, extracellular ATP

Abstract

Extracellular ATP (exATP) has been known to be a critical ligand regulating skeletal muscle differentiation and contractibility. ExATP synthesis was greatly increased with the high level of adenylate kinase 1 (AK1) and ATP synthase β during C2C12 myogenesis. The exATP synthesis was abolished by the knock-down of AK1 but not by that of ATP synthase β in C2C12 myotubes, suggesting that AK1 is required for exATP synthesis in myotubes. However, membrane-bound AK1 β was not involved in exATP synthesis because its expression level was decreased during myogenesis in spite of its localization in the lipid rafts that contain various kinds of receptors and mediate cell signal transduction, cell migration, and differentiation. Interestingly, cytoplasmic AK1 was secreted from C2C12 myotubes but not from C2C12 myoblasts. Taken together all these data, we can conclude that AK1 secretion is required for the exATP generation in myotubes.

Keywords: adenosine triphosphate; adenylate kinase 1; ATP synthase; membrane microdomains; muscle development

Introduction

Adenylate kinase (AK) is an enzyme that regulates

adenine nucleotide metabolism by catalyzing the reaction: $ATP + AMP \leftrightarrow 2ADP$ (Zeleznikar *et al.*, 1990). In mammals, there are several AK isoforms with tissue-specific distributions and distinct subcellular localization (Van Rompay *et al.*, 2000). Among these AK isoforms, AK1 is known to be a major AK isoform in the cytoplasm of skeletal muscle (Tanabe *et al.*, 1993). AK1-null mice show delayed skeletal muscle relaxation due to abnormal accumulation of ADP in spite of normal muscle formation (Hancock *et al.*, 2005). In addition, AK1 phosphotransfer might be necessary for communicating a signal between mitochondria and K_{ATP} channels at the plasma membrane (Carrasco *et al.*, 2001). A membrane-associated AK1 isoform, referred to as AK1 β , has recently been characterized (Collavin *et al.*, 1999; Janssen *et al.*, 2004). AK1 β could be targeted to the plasma membrane because it contains a plausible myristoylation site at its N-terminus. AK1 β might work as a membrane metabolic sensor because it mediates ATP-induced activation of K_{ATP} channels (Janssen *et al.*, 2004).

Extracellular ATP (exATP) is a crucial mediator of chemosensory transduction in the central nervous system (Gourine *et al.*, 2005), of asthmatic airway inflammation through the activation of dendrite cells (Idzko *et al.*, 2007), and of skeletal muscle contractibility (Sandona *et al.*, 2005). There are three enzyme candidates for exATP generation; ectopic AK, ATP synthase, and nucleoside diphosphokinase. Indeed, ectopic AK is a major enzyme that maintains exATP levels in endothelial cells (Quillen *et al.*, 2006; Yegutkin *et al.*, 2001), epithelial cells (Donaldson *et al.*, 2002; Picher and Boucher 2003), and keratinocytes (Burrell *et al.*, 2005). In addition, ATP synthase, an enzyme that catalyzes the reaction, $ADP + P_i \rightarrow ATP$, has been unambiguously localized to the cell surface of various cells (Arakaki *et al.*, 2003; Martinez *et al.*, 2003; Bae *et al.*, 2004; Kim *et al.*, 2004; Kim *et al.*, 2006), which implies its involvement in exATP synthesis. However, the role of ATP synthase in exATP synthesis has been challenged because treatment with oligomycin, an ATP synthase inhibitor, does not change exATP synthesis in primary hepatocytes and HepG2 cells (Fabre *et al.*, 2006). Here, we demonstrated that exATP synthesis was highly increased with high expression of AK1 and ATP synthase β during C2C12 myogenesis. The exATP synthesis was reduced by the down-regulation of AK1 but not by that of ATP synthase β , sug-

gesting that AK1 is a major enzyme responsible for exATP synthesis in myotubes. Moreover, we show that cytoplasmic AK1 in myotubes was secreted to provide ectopic AK1 that is required for exATP synthesis.

Materials and Methods

Materials

Ap₅A and oligomycin were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, Mo). Anti-AK1 antibody was obtained from Novus Biologicals (Littleton, CO), anti-ATP synthase β antibody from Molecular Probes (Eugene, OR), anti-insulin receptor β , flotillin-1, and caveolin-1 antibodies from BD Biosciences (North Ryde, Australia), anti- β -actin, GAPDH, and caveolin-3 antibodies from Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA), and anti-Myosin Heavy Chain antibody from Sigma. Amicon Ultra-15 (Ultracel-10K) was purchased from Millipore (Billerica, MA).

C2C12 muscle differentiation

C2C12 cells were purchased from ATCC, and were grown in DMEM supplemented with 1% penicillin/streptomycin and 10% FBS (Welgene, Republic of Korea) in a 5% CO₂ incubator at 37°C. One-day post-confluent C2C12 cells were differentiated into myotubes by incubating with DMEM supplemented with 2% horse serum and re-fed every 48 h.

Lipid raft isolation, immunoblotting, and immunofluorescence

Lipid rafts were isolated from C2C12 myoblasts and myotubes according to the method described by Kim *et al.* (2006). Immunoblotting and immunofluorescence were performed as described by Kim *et al.* (2004). Immunofluorescent signals were observed under an LSM 510 META confocal microscope (Carl ZEISS, Germany).

Subcellular fractionation

The plasma membrane was isolated according to Hubbard *et al.* (1983), with minor modifications. C2C12 myoblasts and myotubes were scraped after washing twice with TES buffer (20 mM Tris HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 8.7% sucrose; pH 7.4), and were then homogenized in a TES buffer. The homogenized cells were centrifuged at 12,000 rpm in an SW55Ti rotor (Beckman) for 30 min. The pellet was resuspended with TES buffer, loaded on a 38.5% sucrose cushion, and centrifuged at 100,000 *g* in an SW55Ti rotor for 60 min at 4°C. The plasma membrane was collected

from the top of the sucrose cushion, resuspended in TES buffer, and repelleted by centrifugation at 31,000 *g* for 60 min at 4°C.

Quantification of ATP by bioluminescent luciferase assay

Extracellular ATP was measured as described previously (Arakaki *et al.*, 2003). C2C12 myoblasts and myotubes were washed three times with HEPES buffer (10 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl), and were then incubated with 0.2 ml of HEPES buffer with 200 μ M ADP, 20 mM P_i, and 2 mM MgCl₂ at room temperature. After incubation, the extracellular media were collected and used for the determination of extracellular ATP content. ATP levels were measured by the bioluminescence assay according to the protocol provided with an ATP determination kit (Molecular Probes).

Down-regulation of ATP synthase and adenylate kinase

Control Si-RNA, Si-ATP synthase β , and Si-AK1 were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. Si-RNAs were transfected by electroporation according to the protocol of the electroporator MP-100 (Digital Bio, Republic of Korea).

Results

AK1 is required for exATP synthesis in myotubes

Because exATP is known to be required for C2C12 myogenesis (Ryten *et al.*, 2002), it is tempting to speculate that exATP synthesis could be increased during skeletal muscle differentiation. In order to address the issue, exATP content was determined by bioluminescent luciferase assay after ADP, P_i, and MgCl₂ had been administered in C2C12 myoblasts and myotubes. In both cells, exATP content was highly increased and reached a plateau level at 1 min that was continuously maintained for longer time (Figure 1A). However, myotubes produced about four times more exATP than did myoblasts, indicating that myotubes have stronger exATP-synthesizing activity than myoblasts do. Since ectopic AK1 and ATP synthase are enzymes that are capable of synthesizing exATP from ADP and P_i, intracellular level of AK1 and ATP synthase might be increased during myogenesis. We investigated the expression level of AK1 and ATP synthase β by immunoblotting during C2C12 myogenesis. As shown in Figure 1B, the expression level of AK1 and ATP synthase β was strongly increased with myogenesis marker proteins such as caveolin-3 (Cav-3) (Ha and Pak, 2005) and

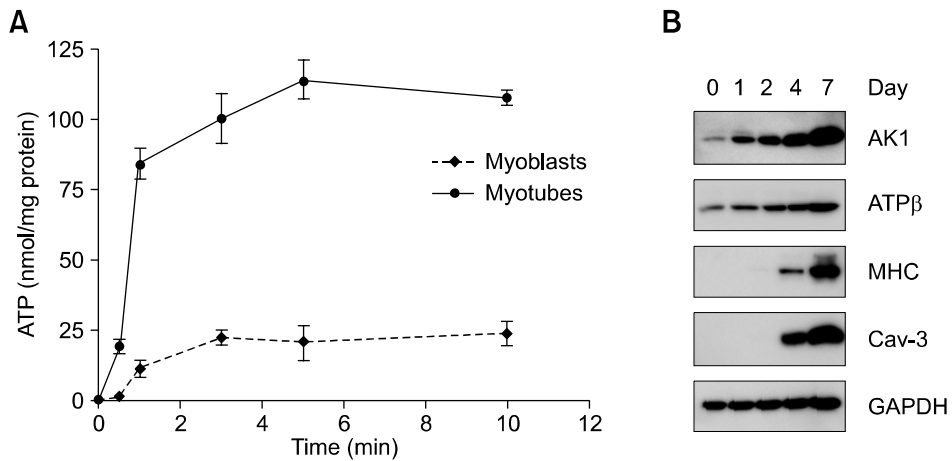


Figure 1. The increase of exATP synthesis is accompanied by high expression level of AK1 and ATP synthase β during myogenesis. (A) C2C12 myotubes were differentiated to myotubes for 3 days. After incubating myoblasts and myotubes with ADP (200 μ M), P_i (20 mM), and $MgCl_2$ (2 mM) for the indicated amounts of time, the ATP content was determined by bioluminescent luciferase assay. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration. (B) C2C12 myoblasts were differentiated to myotubes for the indicated amounts of time. The whole cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-AK1, ATP synthase β (ATP β), caveolin-3 (Cav-3), myosin heavy chain (MHC), and GAPDH antibodies.

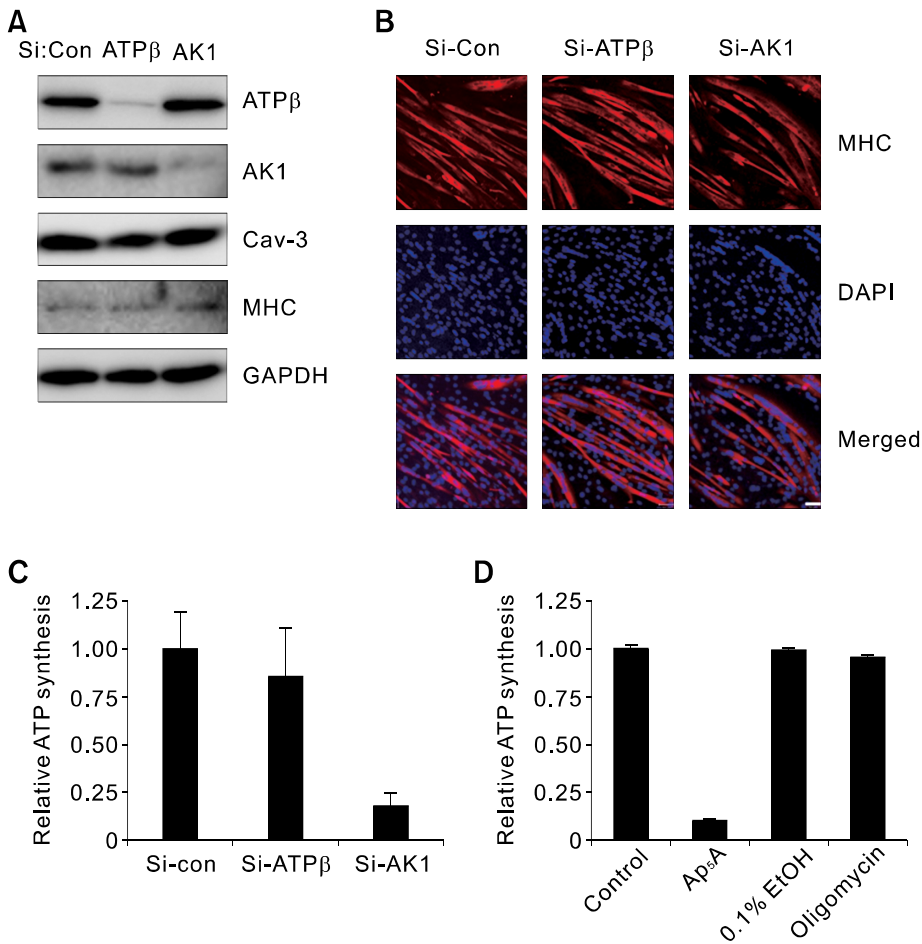


Figure 2. AK1 is required for exATP synthesis in myotubes. (A) Si-Control (Si-Con), Si-AK1, or Si-ATP synthase β (Si-ATP β) was treated in myoblasts that were further differentiated for 3 days. The whole cell lysates were analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-ATP synthase β , AK1, Cav-3, and MHC antibodies. (B) Si-Con-, Si-ATP β -, or Si-AK1-treated myotubes were analyzed by immunofluorescence with anti-MHC antibody. The myotubes were also stained with DAPI. The white bar indicates a length of 50 μ m. (C) The exATP content was measured in the myotubes down-regulating AK1 or ATP synthase β after the cells were incubated with ADP (200 μ M), P_i (20 mM), and $MgCl_2$ (2 mM) for 1 min. ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration. (D) Myotubes that had been differentiated for three days were pretreated with 100 μ M Ap₅A or 20 μ g/ml oligomycin for 30 min, and the exATP content was measured after the cells had been incubated with ADP (200 μ M), P_i (20 mM), and $MgCl_2$ (2 mM) for 1 min. Ethanol was used as a vehicle for oligomycin. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration.

myosin heavy chain (MHC) during C2C12 myogenesis, which indicates that these two enzymes could be involved in exATP synthesis.

To determine the enzyme required for exATP synthesis in myotubes, small interference RNA (SiRNA) for AK1 or ATP synthase β was treated into C2C12 myoblasts that were further differentiated to myotubes for 3 days. In myotubes treated with SiRNA for AK1 or ATP synthase β , AK1 or ATP synthase β was down-regulated (Figure 2A). However, the expression level of myogenic marker proteins such as caveolin-3 (Cav-3) and myosin heavy chain (MHC) (Figure 2A) and the formation of multinuclear my-

otubes (Figure 2B) were not changed by the down-regulation of AK1 or ATP synthase β during myogenesis, indicating that C2C12 myogenesis is not affected by the knock-down of AK1 or ATP synthase β . When exATP was measured after adding ADP, P_i , and $MgCl_2$ in myotubes down-regulating AK1 or ATP synthase β , exATP content was greatly reduced by the down-regulation of AK1 but not by that of ATP synthase β (Figure 2C). In addition, exATP synthesis was abolished by AK1-specific inhibitor, $A_{p_5}A$, but not by ATP synthase inhibitor, oligomycin (Figure 2D). Taken together, these data allow us to conclude that AK1 is responsible for exATP synthesis in

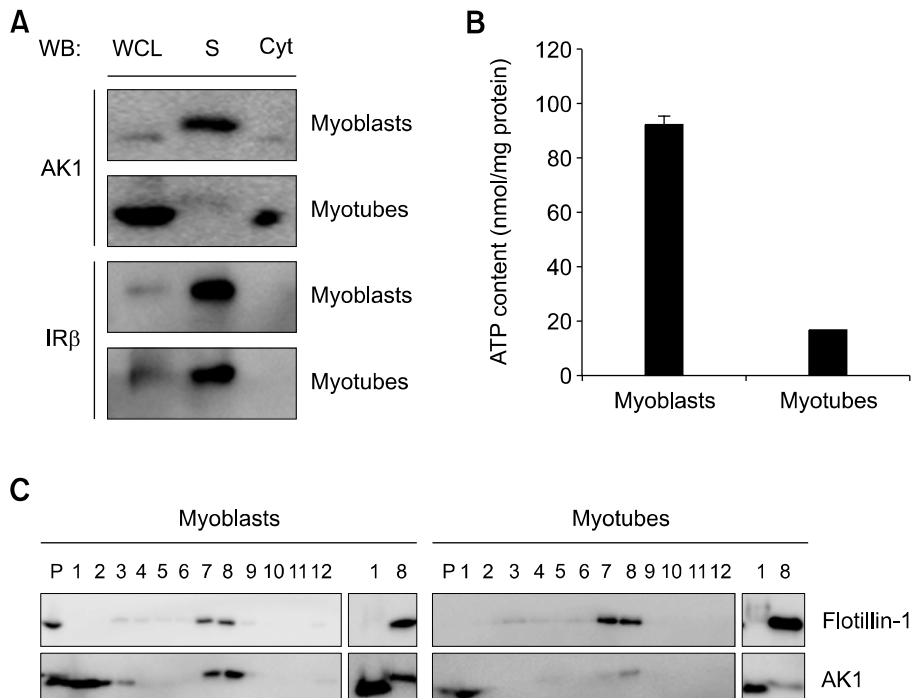


Figure 3. AK1 β was localized in the lipid rafts of myoblasts and diminished during myogenesis. (A) Myoblasts and 3-days-differentiated myotubes were fractionated into cytoplasm and sarcolemma (= plasma membrane of skeletal muscle). AK1 and insulin receptor β (IR β) were analyzed by immunoblotting. WCL, whole cell lysates; S, sarcolemma Cyt, cytoplasm. (B) ATP content was measured after incubating sarcolemma with ADP (200 μ M), P_i (20 mM), and $MgCl_2$ (2 mM) for 1 min. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration of sarcolemma. (C) Lipid rafts were isolated from myoblasts and myotubes, based on detergent insolubility and low density (Brown *et al.*, 1992). After sucrose gradient ultracentrifugation, each fraction was analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-flotillin-1 and AK1 antibodies. Fraction number 1, and 2 represent non-raft fractions whereas fraction number 7, and 8 do raft fractions. P indicates pellet. Non-raft fraction (fraction number 1) and raft fraction (fraction number 8) were also analyzed by immunoblotting for side-by-side comparison of AK1 and AK1 β with different molecular weights. (D) Co-localization of AK1 and Caveolin-1 in myoblasts and AK1 and Caveolin-3 in 3-days-differentiated myotubes was determined by immunofluorescence. The cells were also stained with DAPI. The white bar indicates a length of 10 μ m. (E) ATP content was measured after incubating the lipid rafts of myoblasts or myotubes with ADP (200 μ M), P_i (20 mM), and $MgCl_2$ (2 mM) for the indicated amounts of time. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration of the lipid rafts. (F) The lipid rafts from myoblasts or 3-days-differentiated myotubes were preincubated with $A_{p_5}A$ (100 μ M) for 30 min, and were then incubated with ADP (200 μ M), P_i (20 mM), and $MgCl_2$ (2 mM) for 1 min before the measurement of ATP content. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration of the lipid rafts.

C2C12 myotubes.

AK1 β is localized in sarcolemma lipid rafts in myoblasts

AK1-induced exATP synthesis could be explained by the presence of membrane-associated AK1 β in myotubes. In order to identify the membrane-bound AK1 β , we monitored AK1 β from the plasma membrane (= sarcolemma) of myoblasts and myotubes by immunoblotting with anti-AK1 antibody. AK1 β with higher molecular weight appeared in the sarcolemma fraction of myoblasts, but not in that of myotubes (Figure 3A). In order to further confirm AK1 β localization in the sarcolemma, we assayed ATP-synthesizing activity in the sarcolemma isolated from myoblasts and myotubes by measuring ATP content after incubating the purified sarcolemma with ADP, P_i, and MgCl₂. Figure 3B shows that ATP-synthesizing activity was four times higher in the sarcolemma of myoblasts than in those of myotubes, coincident with the reduced level of AK1 β in the sarcolemma of

the myotubes (Figure 3A).

Lipid-modified proteins with fatty acids have been known to be concentrated in the lipid rafts that mediate different cellular events such as cell signal transduction, cell migration, and differentiation. Thus, AK1 β with a plausible myristoylation site might be localized in lipid rafts that have distinct biochemical properties of detergent insolubility and low density due to their cholesterol (Brown and Rose 1992). In order to address this issue, we isolated detergent-resistant lipid rafts from myoblasts and myotubes. As shown in Figure 3C, AK1 β with higher molecular weight was predominantly found in the lipid raft fractions of myoblasts, but not in those of myotubes, which indicates that AK1 β is a lipid raft protein of myoblasts. Furthermore, AK1 localization in the lipid rafts was re-confirmed by immunofluorescence. In myoblasts, sarcolemma-bound AK1 β was co-localized with caveolin-1, a lipid raft marker protein in myoblasts. In myotubes, however, AK1 was not co-localized with caveolin-3, a myotube-specific lipid raft protein (Figure 3D).

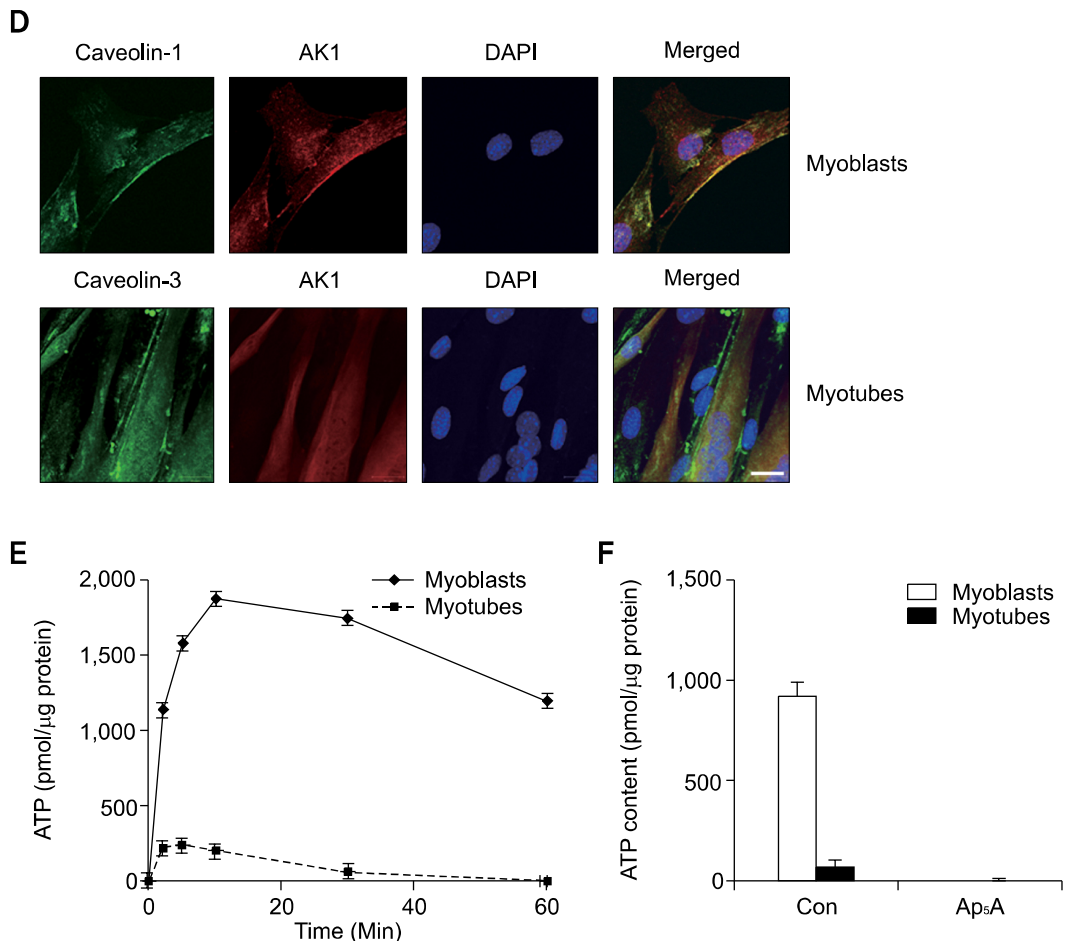


Figure 3. Continued.

Next, we assayed the ATP-synthesizing activities from lipid rafts of myoblasts and myotubes by measuring ATP content after incubating lipid rafts with ADP, P_i and MgCl₂. Figure 3E shows that lipid rafts from myoblasts had eight times higher ATP synthesizing activity than did those of myotubes. Since ATP synthesis in myoblast lipid rafts was completely abolished by Ap₅A, an AK1-specific inhibitor (Figure 3F), the ATP synthesis reflects AK1 enzymatic activity.

AK1 is secreted for the synthesis of exATP in myotubes

Because AK1β was not found in the sarcolemma of myotubes (Figure 3A), exATP synthesis in myotubes might require the secretion of cytoplasmic AK1. In order to identify the secreted AK1, we measured ATP-synthesizing activity in extracellular fluids from myoblasts and myotubes. Figure 4A shows that strong ATP-synthesizing activity was observed in extracellular fluid of myotubes, but not in that of myoblasts. Interestingly, ATP-synthesizing activity was decreased from extracellular fluid of myotubes down-regulating AK1 or treated with Ap₅A (Figure 4B and C), which suggests that AK1 is an ATP-

synthesizing enzyme that is present in extracellular fluid of myotubes. Next, we confirmed the presence of AK1 from extracellular fluid of myotubes by immunoblotting. Figure 4D shows that AK1 was secreted into extracellular fluid as fast as 1 min after the incubation of myotubes with serum-free media, but was not secreted into extracellular fluid of myoblasts. The AK1 secretion was very specific, because there was no β-actin from medium at any time points, indicating that the cells were not damaged by incubating with serum-free media. All these data suggest that exATP synthesis requires the secretion of AK1 in myotubes.

Discussion

Since exATP was found to be an extracellular messenger in 1972, the concept of purinergic signaling has been proposed with “purinergic nerves” (Burnstock 1972). Since exATP has a function in neurotransmission, it has been known to be a mediator of mechanosensory transduction, vasodilation, and cell proliferation, differentiation, and death (Burnstock 2006). ExATP binds two types of purinergic receptors,

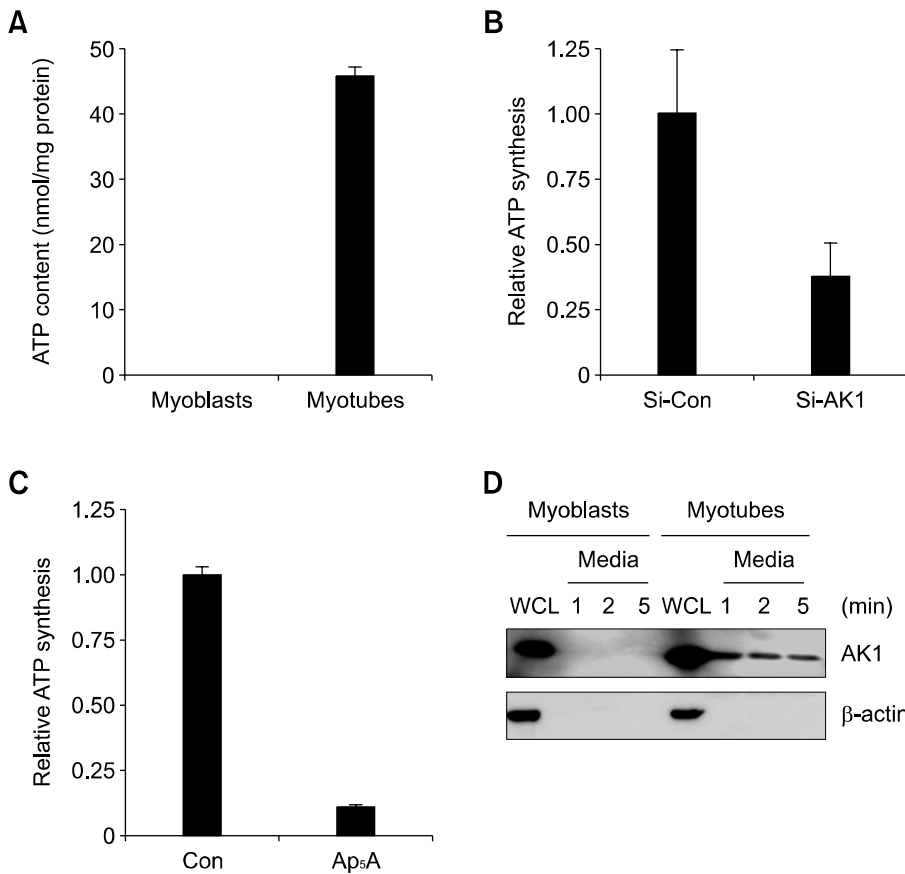


Figure 4. The extracellular fluid of myotubes has a strong AK1 activity and contains the secreted form of AK1. (A) Myoblasts and 3-days-differentiated myotubes were incubated with HEPES buffer for 1 min. The buffer was collected and incubated with ADP (200 μM) and MgCl₂ (2 mM) for 1 min before the measurement of ATP content. It should be noted that only ADP was added into extracellular fluid in order to measure just the activity of AK1 that reacts 2ADP ↔ ATP + AMP. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration of the whole cell lysates. (B, C). Myotubes that had been differentiated for three days were down-regulated by Si-AK1 (B) or pretreated with Ap₅A (100 μM) for 30 min (C), and were then incubated with HEPES buffer for 1 min. The buffer was collected and reacted with ADP (200 μM) and MgCl₂ (2 mM) for 1 min before the ATP content was measured. The ATP content was normalized by the protein concentration of whole cell lysates. (D) Myoblasts and 3-days-differentiated myotubes were incubated with serum-free media for the indicated amounts of time. The media were collected, and then concentrated by using Amicon Ultra. Whole cell lysates (WCL) and media were analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-AK1 and β-actin antibodies.

P2X and P2Y. P2X receptors are ligand-gated ion channels and have 7 subtypes. P2Y receptors are G protein-coupled receptors with 8 subtypes (Abbracchio *et al.*, 2003). In skeletal muscle, exATP acts as an autocrine or paracrine via P2X(4) to induce Ca^{2+} entry for subsequent contraction after released during muscle contraction (Sandona *et al.*, 2005). P2X(5) receptor activation by exATP was required for muscle differentiation. When C2C12 cells are treated with apyrase, an exATP-degrading enzyme or a P2X receptor inhibitor, periodate-oxidized adenosine 5'-triphosphate, their differentiation is blocked (Araya *et al.*, 2004). It suggests that calcium signaling by purinergic receptor is required for myogenesis. In addition, exATP stimulates glucose uptake through both P2X and P2Y receptor to provide energy in skeletal muscle cells (Kim *et al.*, 2002).

ExATP has several roles on muscle development and functions. However, the source of exATP in skeletal muscle is still not clear. It is generally accepted that exATP might be released from cells exposed to different stimuli such as shear stress (Yamamoto *et al.*, 2003) and hypoxia (Buttigieg and Nurse 2004). ATP has been known to be released from contracting skeletal muscle (Sandona *et al.*, 2005). Its release mechanisms from intact cell include exocytosis, transporters, and stretch-activated channels (Bodin and Burnstock 2001; Lazarowski *et al.*, 2003). In addition, ATP can be released into extracellular space from damaged cells and during tissue injury. In addition to ATP release, exATP might be generated from extracellular ADP. Since platelets might release ADP (Gordon, 1986), exATP could be synthesized by AK reaction with extracellular ADP as a substrate. However, the mechanisms of ATP or ADP release have never been investigated in skeletal muscle.

When endogenous exATP concentration was measured from 3-days differentiated myotubes in the absence of ADP and P_i , the exATP content was reached to about 350 pmole/mg protein at 2 min (data not shown), indicating that small amount of ATP is secreted from myotubes. However, exATP concentration was reached to more than 110 nmole/mg protein in the presence of ADP and P_i (Figure 1A), demonstrating that cell surface or media of C2C12 myotubes contain some enzymes synthesizing exATP from ADP or ADP + P_i . Thus, we can distinguish the newly-synthesized exATP from the secreted ATP by incubating cells with ADP and P_i . Several research groups have demonstrated that exATP regulates skeletal muscle differentiation via activation of a P2X(5) receptor on satellite cells (Araya *et al.*, 2004; Ryten *et al.*, 2002). ExATP-induced myogenesis is prevented by the treatment of P2X(5) receptor inhibitor, periodate-oxidized adenosine 5'-triphosphate as well as apyrase, ATP-de-

grading enzyme, showing that exATP is a critical inducer of myogenesis (Araya *et al.*, 2004; Ryten *et al.*, 2002). Endogenous secreted exATP concentration was not dramatically reduced after AK1 down-regulation that did not affect myogenesis (Figure 2A and B). ExATP concentration was about 320 pmole/mg protein in Si-Con-treated myotubes, and about 170 pmole/mg protein in Si-AK1-treated myotubes (data not shown), indicating that AK1 down-regulation does not affect ATP secretion. Thus, AK1-dependent exATP generation might not be necessary for skeletal muscle differentiation because AK1-independent ATP secretion might supply enough amount of exATP to induce skeletal muscle differentiation.

ATP synthase is expressed on the surfaces of mammalian cells (Arakaki *et al.*, 2003; Bae *et al.*, 2004; Kim *et al.*, 2004; Kim *et al.*, 2006; Martinez *et al.*, 2003), and treatment with ATP synthase inhibitors (oligomycin and efrapetin) and anti-ATP synthase antibody decreases exATP generation in HUVECs (Arakaki *et al.*, 2003; Moser *et al.*, 2001; Quillen *et al.*, 2006), which indicates that the surface ATP synthase might be required for exATP synthesis. In contrast, oligomycin treatment does not affect exATP synthesis in primary hepatocytes and HepG2 (Fabre *et al.*, 2006). The discrepancy in ectopic ATP synthase-mediated exATP production could be unambiguously resolved by an experiment using RNA silencing of ATP synthase. Here, we demonstrated that exATP synthesis was largely decreased by the down-regulation of AK1, but not by that of ATP synthase in C2C12 myotubes. Thus, we can conclude that exATP synthesis requires AK1 but not ATP synthase (Figure 2C).

AK1 has two isoforms; cytoplasmic AK1 and membrane-bound AK1 β in various mammalian cells (Collavin *et al.*, 1999; Janssen *et al.*, 2004; Notari *et al.*, 2003; Van Rompay *et al.*, 2000). During C2C12 myogenesis, the cytoplasmic AK1 was highly increased and secreted to extracellular fluid, whereas membrane-bound AK1 β disappeared (Figure 3A and 4D). The disappearance of AK1 β could explain the decreased activity of K_{ATP} channels in myotubes (Kubo, 1991) because AMP-induced activation of K_{ATP} channels is mediated by AK1 β in the presence of ATP (Janssen *et al.*, 2004). Since AK1-dependent exATP synthesis is highly increased in myotubes, it is tempting to speculate that the exATP might be required for myogenesis, which has been reported to be strongly induced by exposure to exATP (Ryten *et al.*, 2002). However, the RNA silencing of AK1 did not change myogenesis, which indicates that the exATP generated by AK1 could be necessary for other muscular functions such as muscle contraction and relaxation, as AK1-disrupted mice show delayed muscle relaxation (Hancock *et al.*, 2005). In addition, AK1, which is

secreted to extracellular fluid, might regulate the extracellular adenine nucleotide pool to control cell signaling through purinergic receptors in skeletal muscle.

AK activity is detected in nasal submucosal gland secretions but its presence and its secretion mechanism has never been challenged (Donaldson *et al.*, 2002). AK1 might be localized in cytoplasm due to the lack of secretory signal sequence. Many cellular proteins have been reported to be secreted from various kinds of cells without a consensus secretory signal sequence. For example, the leaderless proteins such as heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70) (Mambula and Calderwood 2006) and IL-1 β (Andrei *et al.*, 1999) are secreted into extracellular fluid by a nonclassical pathway involving lysosomal endosomes and ABC transporter after cellular exposure to heat shock. An aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase-interacting multifunctional protein-1, also called p43, is constitutively secreted without signal peptide sequence via an unknown mechanism (Ko *et al.*, 2001). As like Hsp70, IL-1 β , and p43, another leaderless AK1 might be secreted from myotubes by a nonclassical pathway or an unknown mechanism.

Acknowledgements

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