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Glycolytic activation at the onset of contractions in isolated single myofibers

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Abstract

Intracellular pH (pH_i) was measured in isolated *Xenopus* single myofibers at the onset of contractions, with and without glycolytic blockade, to investigate the time course of glycolytic activation. Single myofibers ($n=8$; CON) were incubated in BCECF-AM ($10 \mu\text{M}$; for fluorescence measurement of pH_i) and stimulated for 15 sec at 0.67 Hz in anoxia in the absence (control condition; CON) and presence of a glycolytic inhibitor (1 mM iodoacetic acid; IAA). Intracellular pH_i and tension were continuously recorded and the differences in pH_i between conditions were used to estimate the activation time of glycolysis. An immediate and steady increase in pH_i (initial alkalosis) at the onset of contractions was similar between CON and IAA trials for the first 9 seconds of the contractile bout. However, from 6 contractions (~ 10 sec) through the remainder of the bout, IAA demonstrated a continued rise in pH_i in contrast to a progressive decrease in pH_i in CON ($p < 0.05$). These results demonstrate, with high temporal resolution, that glycolysis is activated within 6 contractions (10 sec at 0.67 Hz) in single *Xenopus* skeletal muscle fibers.

Keywords

metabolism; glycolysis; skeletal muscle

Introduction

During a step increase in work rate, energetic demand increases instantly. However, it can take 45–90 seconds for oxidative phosphorylation to achieve the new steady state required by the increased rate of work. Therefore, the increased demand for ATP initially is met through substrate level phosphorylation (PCr breakdown and anaerobic glycolysis). It is well accepted that PCr breakdown occurs immediately following the onset of an increased rate of work to buffer [ATP]. Indeed, our laboratory and others have shown that blocking PCr breakdown (creatine kinase inhibition; CK_i) significantly impairs contractile function of a single contracting muscle fiber immediately after the initial contraction (Dahlstedt *et al.*, 2000; Kindig *et al.*, 2005), demonstrating the importance of PCr splitting at the onset of contractions. Given the relatively limited reserve of PCr, it has been thought (Hultman & Sjoholm, 1983; Henriksson *et al.*, 1986; Sahlin, 2005) that glycolysis also needs to be rapidly activated in order to supplement anaerobic ATP rephosphorylation (anaerobic glycolysis) as well as to supply substrate for oxidative phosphorylation. However, while the time course of glycolytic activation will certainly depend on contractile intensity, with higher work rates leading to more rapid PCr depletion and accumulation of the factors that activate glycolysis, the time course of activation of glycolysis has been a subject of debate.

This assertion of rapid glycolytic activation is supported by biochemical measures of lactate in muscle following brief periods (5 – 10 seconds) of exercise (Jacobs *et al.*, 1983; Connett, 1987a, b; Howlett *et al.*, 1999). Although biochemical analysis of muscle samples have provided a wealth of information regarding muscle metabolism, they require the disruption of the muscle fibers, thus allowing only one sample time to be measured in a sample typically composed of numerous fibers. In contrast, magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) imaging of skeletal muscle offers a noninvasive alternative to study muscle metabolism over multiple sampling times, and has been used to study muscle glycolytic activation during a variety of contraction regimens. Using MRS, Crowther *et al.* (Crowther *et al.*, 2002) estimated that during moderate intensity voluntary contractions glycolysis was not activated for 27 contractions, regardless of the time required to complete these 27 contractions. Although these data, and others (Yamada & Sugi, 1987; Yamada *et al.*, 1993), support the idea that glycolysis is activated in response to both overall metabolite accumulation and contraction number, they also imply that glycolytic flux is not required to maintain contractile function for a considerable period of time (e.g., 27 seconds at 1 Hz voluntary contractions (Crowther *et al.*, 2002)) during moderate intensity exercise.

MRS measurements of glycolytic activation often rely on indirect estimates of muscle pH. The rationale for these measurements is based on differences in cellular pH resulting from PCr- vs. anaerobic glycolysis-supported ATP resphosphorylation. Although the acid-base balance in the cell during contractile activity is dependent on a number of factors (see (Hultman & Sahlin, 1980; Robergs *et al.*, 2004; Lindinger *et al.*, 2005)), it is accepted that PCr splitting results in a net increase in pH, while ATP turnover supported by anaerobic glycolysis results in a net decrease in pH. While whole muscle MRS estimates of pH (Conley *et al.*, 1997) appear to be quite accurate at rest (Constantin-Teodosiu *et al.*, 1997), there are concerns about the validity of these measurements during high rates of work (Sahlin, 1992; Constantin-Teodosiu *et al.*, 1997). In addition, MRS measurements of pH are derived from multiple acquisitions, thus reducing the temporal resolution of the measurements. Finally, both MRS and biochemical estimates of muscle pH require a relatively large sample of muscle fibers and are susceptible to fiber type recruitment/heterogeneity uncertainties. Thus, MRS and biochemical measurements of whole muscle are unable to accurately discern, with high temporal resolution, the time course and magnitude of changes in intracellular pH at the onset of contractions at the level of the single muscle fiber.

The purpose of the present study was twofold: 1) to use internally calibrated fluorescence measurements of intracellular pH (pH_i) in intact single skeletal muscle fibers to ascertain the time course of changes in muscle pH at the onset of contractile activity; and 2) test the hypothesis that glycolysis is activated rapidly at the onset of contractions (i.e., during the initial few contractions). The use of isolated muscle fibers removes confounding influences of other cells and allows the extracellular environment to be precisely controlled. Furthermore, the use of a fluorescent probe (BCECF) allows for internal calibration for accurate measurement of pH_i in each intact muscle fiber with high temporal resolution. Measurements of pH_i during contractions were performed in the presence and absence of an inhibitor of glycolysis. Due to the nature of $[\text{H}^+]$ changes between PCr splitting and anaerobic glycolysis, differences in pH_i were used to identify the time course of glycolytic activation at the onset of contractions.

Methods

Female adult *Xenopus laevis* were used in this investigation. Skeletal muscle fibers from *Xenopus laevis* have previously been used to study muscle energetics in our laboratory (Howlett & Hogan, 2003; Kindig *et al.*, 2005; Stary & Hogan, 2005; Walsh *et al.*, 2006) and

others (Lannergren & Westerblad, 1988; Nagesser *et al.*, 1993; Westerblad & Lannergren, 1995), and have been demonstrated to behave in a similar manner to mammalian fibers (Nagesser *et al.*, 1992). All procedures were approved by the University of California-San Diego animal care and use committee and conform to National Institutes of Health standards.

We did not attempt to distinguish the fiber type that was isolated, although the common fiber type isolated from the frog muscle is similar to the mammalian type IIa. Biochemically and metabolically, there are no differences between these vertebrate frog fibers and mammalian muscle types (Edman, 2005). They operate at different temperatures *in vivo* and the frog fibers do not have myoglobin, but otherwise the fiber types are very similar in most respects between amphibians and mammals. In fact, the frog fibers have at least the same mitochondrial content as mammalian fibers (see (Stary *et al.*, 2004)) and the maximal oxygen uptake in the different fiber types are similar (van der Laarse *et al.*, 1989) between frog muscle and mammalian muscle.

Single Skeletal Muscle Fiber Preparation

Single muscle cells (n=15) were isolated and prepared as described previously (Hogan, 1999). Briefly, frogs were doubly pithed and the lumbrical muscles (II–IV) were removed from the hind feet. Single myocytes were dissected with tendons intact in a chamber of physiological Ringer's solution consisting of (in mM) 116.5 NaCl, 2.0 KCl, 1.9 CaCl₂, 2.0 Na₂HPO₄, 0.1 EGTA, pH = 7.0. Following isolation, the fibers were incubated in Ringer's solution containing BCECF-AM (10 μM) for 1 hour to allow fluorescence measurement of intracellular pH (pH_i).

Experimental Protocol

Platinum clips were attached to the tendons of each myocyte to facilitate fiber positioning within the Ringer's solution-filled chamber. One tendon was fixed, whereas the contralateral was attached to an adjustable force transducer (model 400A, Aurora Scientific, Aurora, Ontario, Canada), allowing the muscle to be set at optimum muscle length (i.e., length at which maximal tetanic force was produced). The analog signal from the force transducer was recorded via a data acquisition system (AcqKnowledge, Biopac Systems, Santa Barbara, CA, USA) for subsequent analysis. Fibers were superfused in Ringer's solution at 22°C throughout the experiment. Immediately prior to each contractile bout fibers were superfused with anoxic Ringer's solution (equilibrated with 3% CO₂ and 0% O₂ in N₂ balance; verified with an O₂ electrode immediately prior to the contractile protocol) to avoid the influence of oxidative phosphorylation on muscle pH (i.e., oxidation of pyruvate instead of forming lactate). Constant superfusion was maintained throughout the protocol to reduce the occurrence of an unstirred layer surrounding the cell. Tetanic contractions were elicited using direct (9 V) stimulation of the muscle from end to end (model S48, Grass Instruments, Warwick, RI, USA). The stimulation protocol consisted of ~250 ms trains of 70-Hz impulses of 1-ms duration. Myocytes were subjected to trials of 15 s at a stimulation frequency of 0.67 Hz with a 60 min rest period between trials.

One group of fibers (experimental group; n=8) was subjected to a 15 s contraction protocol (0.67 Hz) in anoxia (CON). Following an hour of rest in normoxia, fibers were subjected to an identical contraction protocol in the presence of anoxia and 1 mM iodoacetic acid (IAA; inhibitor of glycolysis at glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase). Peak tension and intracellular pH were monitored throughout the bouts. Because of the irreversible nature of IAA, a blocked order design was not possible. Therefore, in order to determine whether an order effect occurred, a second group of fibers (n=7) performed two identical bouts of contraction (i.e., no IAA) at 0.67 Hz in the presence of anoxia with 1 hour of rest between

bouts (CONa and CONb), and data were analyzed in the same manner as the CON vs. IAA trials.

pH_i fluorescence

Relative changes in pH_i were obtained by use of pH_i-dependent fluorescence spectroscopy. Fibers were incubated for 15 minutes with 10 μM of the membrane-permeant acetoxymethyl ester form of the [H⁺] indicator 2',7'-bis-(2-carboxyethyl)-5(6)-carboxyfluorescein (BCECF; Molecular Probes). Following the incubation period, fibers were rinsed with normal Ringer's solution (the acetoxymethyl ester form of BCECF is cleaved by intracellular esterases and becomes trapped inside of the cell and fluoresces). Incubated fibers were illuminated with two rapidly alternating (20 Hz) excitation wavelengths of 440 and 490 nm, and the resulting fluorescence emission intensities at 535 nm were divided (490 nm/440 nm) to obtain the pH_i-dependent signal (Westerblad & Allen, 1992). Following the contraction protocol, absolute pH_i was determined by superperfusing the fiber with 10 μM of the K⁺/H⁺ ionophore nigericin in KCl-buffered (140 mM) Ringer and calibrating with three pH-standardized solutions in series: pH 6.5, 7.0, and 7.5 (Westerblad & Allen, 1992). Fluorescence was measured with a Photon Technology International illumination and detection system (DeltaScan model), integrated with a Nikon inverted microscope with a ×40 Fluor objective. Previously, our lab (Stary & Hogan, 2005) determined, by monitoring fluorescence in noncontracting cells, that relative changes in the BCECF fluorescence ratio were physiological and not due to a spectroscopic artifact such as photobleaching. This method for measuring pH_i in intact single fibers has previously been used by our laboratory (Stary & Hogan, 2005) and others (Westerblad & Allen, 1992; Westerblad *et al.*, 1997). Figure 1 demonstrates a representative trace of BCECF fluorescence in a single fiber contracting at 0.67 Hz in normoxia for 90 seconds. Similar to our previous study (Stary & Hogan, 2005), pH_i (BCECF fluorescence) demonstrates a transient alkalization at the onset of contractions, followed by acidification.

Statistical Analysis

Data were normalized to the average starting pH (7.02 ±0.02; not significantly different between the 4 groups) in order to compare the change in pH between groups during contractions. Data are presented as mean pH ± SE. Differences between trials were tested via a repeated measures 1-way ANOVA. When significant F-values were present, the Tukey post-hoc test was employed for determination of between-group differences. Statistical significance was accepted at p < 0.05.

Results

Initial pH_i, prior to contractions, averaged 7.02 (±0.02) for all fibers and did not differ among any of the four trials. In one group of fibers (n=7), the contraction protocol was performed twice in the absence of IAA (CONa and CONb; two control trials separated by 60 min) to determine the existence of an order effect. The results demonstrated no order effect in either tension development or pH_i (Figures 2 A & B) during contractions.

Peak Tension

Absolute tension development was not significantly different between CON and IAA for the entire contraction bout (Figure 3A), demonstrating that during 15 seconds of contraction in anoxia at 0.67 Hz exposure to IAA had no significant influence on contractile function or the rate of ATP hydrolysis (assuming a constant efficiency). However, it should be noted that if the contraction protocol was continued, some of the fibers in IAA demonstrated rigor at ~25 seconds (data not shown). Since this was not observed in the control condition, it

suggests significant energetic depletion in the cell (PCr stores exhausted) and indicates that glycolysis was indeed inhibited in the cell.

pH_i and Glycolytic Activation

In control conditions, fibers demonstrated an initial increase in pH_i followed by a leveling off or decrease as the contractile bout progressed (Fig. 3B), similar to that described in normoxic conditions (Figure 1) as well as previous biochemical, MRS, and fluorescence estimates of pH_i (Connett, 1987a; Haseler *et al.*, 1998; Hogan *et al.*, 1999; Stary & Hogan, 2005) in whole muscle. In contrast, fibers exposed to IAA continued to exhibit an increase in pH_i throughout the experiment. A significant difference in pH_i between conditions was achieved after 6 contractions (10 sec), and this difference was sustained for the remainder of the contraction bout ($P < 0.05$; Fig. 3B).

Discussion

The results of the present study demonstrate a rapid increase in pH_i in single muscle fibers immediately following the onset of contractions, irrespective of whether glycolysis was inhibited (see Figure 3B). The identical pH_i and tension development in CON and IAA during the first 5 contractions suggest that PCr splitting at the onset of contractions was not accelerated when glycolysis was inhibited and thereby demonstrates that high energy phosphates (ATP and PCr) are the predominant source of energy for the first few seconds of high intensity contractions. However, after 6 contractions pH_i was significantly more acidic in the condition in which glycolysis was not inhibited, demonstrating in these single myofibers a relatively rapid activation (< 10 seconds; 6 contractions) of glycolysis in the anoxic conditions of this study.

Energetics at the Onset of Contractile Activity

At the onset of an elevated rate of work, the rate of ATP hydrolysis can increase several hundred fold (Hultman & Sjöholm, 1983). A substantial fall in [ATP] can lead to severe energetic problems within the cell and cell death. However, cellular [ATP] is remarkably maintained over a broad range of metabolic rates, such that situations in which severe ATP depletion occur are rare. This maintenance of [ATP] is achieved by the integration of a number of metabolic pathways to rephosphorylate ADP.

One of the initial pathways activated to maintain [ATP] at the onset of increased rates of work involves the breakdown of another high energy phosphate group in the form of PCr. This reversible reaction, catalyzed by creatine kinase, rephosphorylates ADP and consumes a hydrogen ion (equation 1).



Under most conditions, a relatively large net change in [PCr] occurs at the onset of contractions in order to maintain [ATP] and results in an immediate net intracellular alkalinization (Hultman & Sahlin, 1980; Haseler *et al.*, 1998; Hogan *et al.*, 1999; Stary & Hogan, 2005; Chance *et al.*, 2006), as seen in the present study. Given the relatively low concentration of PCr present in the cell (~ 15–23 mmol kg w.wt.⁻¹; depending on fiber type (Greenhaff *et al.*, 1994; Brault *et al.*, 2003)) to buffer the ATP hydrolysis (up to ~ 3 mmol ATP kg w.wt.⁻¹ s⁻¹ (Hultman & Sjöholm, 1983)), PCr will not be sufficient to rephosphorylate ADP for more than a few seconds of high intensity work.

In addition to providing substrate for oxidative phosphorylation, glycolysis also directly rephosphorylates ADP. Although the ATP produced per glucose/glycogen molecule is

relatively small compared to the subsequent pathways of oxidative phosphorylation, this ATP generating pathway can occur in the absence of oxidative phosphorylation and may be critical during moderate to high rates of work. Anaerobic glycolysis results in net decrease in pH (Hultman & Sahlin, 1980; Meyer & Foley, 1996) and will therefore have an opposing effect on intracellular pH to that of PCr breakdown during transitions between workloads. Although creatine kinase inhibition results in near immediate impairment of contractile function (e.g., tension development is severely impaired within 2 contractions; (Kindig *et al.*, 2005)), this does not necessarily exclude the contribution of anaerobic glycolysis during the initial seconds of contraction (i.e., it is possible that both pathways were activated, but anaerobic glycolysis could not compensate for the absence of PCr breakdown). Therefore, while there is little doubt that net PCr breakdown occurs almost immediately at the onset of contractions, it is less clear how quickly anaerobic glycolysis is activated to supplement the maintenance of [ATP] by PCr splitting.

Time course of glycolytic activation at the onset of contractions

Data collected using MRS during muscle contractions have supported the theory that glycolysis is activated by a “dual control” model (Yamada & Sugi, 1987; Crowther *et al.*, 2002). According to this model, glycolysis is activated by both a signal related directly to contraction (e.g., Ca^{2+} at the site of glycogen phosphorylase) and a signal related to metabolic demand / metabolite accumulation (e.g., ADP, AMP, and Pi at the level of phosphofructokinase as well as AMP and Pi at glycogen phosphorylase) (Connett & Sahlin, 1996). It has been suggested that a threshold of metabolite accumulation must be achieved before contraction-related signals can increase glycolytic flux (Yamada & Sugi, 1987; Yamada *et al.*, 1993; Crowther *et al.*, 2002). Therefore, the rate of glycolytic activation will partly be a function of the rate of work (i.e., metabolite accumulation). However, there has been discrepancy among measurements attempting to ascertain the extent of metabolic activation required to activate glycolysis. Several studies using biochemical methods have suggested that glycolysis is rapidly activated after the onset of increased rates of work (Hultman & Sjöholm, 1983; Jacobs *et al.*, 1983; Henriksson *et al.*, 1986; Connett, 1987a, b; Howlett *et al.*, 1999; Sahlin, 2005). Indeed, Howlett *et al.* have demonstrated a 10-fold increase in muscle lactate after only 10 seconds of maximal exercise (Howlett *et al.*, 1999). In contrast to muscle biopsy studies, MRS has generally demonstrated a slower glycolytic activation time course during a variety of contraction types ranging from a prolonged tetanus to individual twitch contractions (Yamada & Sugi, 1988; Sugi & Yamada, 1989; Conley *et al.*, 1997; Conley *et al.*, 1998). Using a more physiologically relevant contraction paradigm of voluntary ballistic exercise in humans, Crowther *et al.* have shown that ~27 contractions at 1 Hz in anoxia (i.e., 27 seconds) are required prior to glycolytic activation (Crowther *et al.*, 2002). Although MRS data have provided important information regarding the control of glycolysis, they rely on indirect measurements of pH (calculated from the Pi and PCr peaks in MRS spectra) and there are concerns about the validity of these measurements during high rates of work (Sahlin, 1992; Constantin-Teodosiu *et al.*, 1997); although not all studies have agreed with this contention (Sullivan *et al.*, 1994). In addition, MRS measurements require averaging of acquisitions, which reduces the temporal sensitivity of the measurements, and both MRS and muscle biopsy data are potentially susceptible to fiber type recruitment/heterogeneity uncertainties.

In the present study, an alternative technique (fluorescence microscopy) was used to measure real time changes in pH_i . Because of the difference in proton handling between ATP resynthesis from PCr (decrease in proton concentration) and anaerobic glycolysis (increase in proton concentration), measurements of pH_i can be used to estimate glycolytic activity in contracting intact single muscle fibers. To allow comparison with previous studies (Yamada *et al.*, 1993; Crowther *et al.*, 2002), and to remove the confounding influences of oxidative

phosphorylation activation, experiments were performed in anoxia. Thus, it should be noted that, similar to previous studies in anoxia, the rate of activation of glycolysis may be more rapid than that which occurs in a system in which oxidative phosphorylation is allowed to occur. However, comparison of normoxic measurements of pH_i from the current study (Figure 1), as well as a previous study in our laboratory (Stary & Hogan, 2005), suggests that the time course of the pH_i response appears to be quite similar between these anoxic conditions and normoxic conditions (i.e., pH_i reached a peak value at ~6 contractions in both conditions). Thus, it appears that differences in glycolytic activation between anoxic and normoxic conditions are minimal during the initial 15 seconds of contractions, as would be expected from the relatively slow activation of mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation.

Tension development was identical between CON and IAA conditions, which suggests that the metabolic rate was not different between the conditions. Therefore, the identical pH_i response during the initial 5 contractions in CON and IAA indicates that the rate of PCr breakdown was unaffected by the inhibition of glycolysis during this time period. However, after 6 contractions, pH_i was significantly different when glycolysis was allowed to occur compared to conditions in the absence of glycolysis (IAA), suggesting energetic supplementation with anaerobic glycolysis. In the absence of glycolysis, pH_i continued to increase and tension development was maintained, implying that PCr was not exhausted at the onset of anaerobic glycolysis. However, the development of rigor in some fibers in which the contraction protocol was extended (~25 seconds) demonstrates that further exclusive reliance on PCr as a sole source of energy is not sustainable and results in severe metabolic perturbations.

These data suggest a considerably more rapid activation of glycolysis than that observed using MRS. However, the wide range of contraction protocols and techniques used in previous investigations, ranging from electrically stimulated twitch and tetanic contractions to voluntary contractions, make direct comparisons with the present study difficult. Nevertheless, our results appear to be in line with those obtained from muscle biopsy data, including the greater than 10 fold increase in muscle lactate within 10 seconds of initiation of maximal voluntary exercise (Howlett *et al.*, 1999) and glycolytic activation within 5 seconds of 4 Hz stimulation in whole muscle even under aerobic conditions (Connett, 1987b).

As with any technique that estimates glycolytic activity through measurement of pH_i , assumptions should be made with caution. Although Adams *et al.* (Adams *et al.*, 1990) have demonstrated that the alkalization at the start of exercise can be entirely accounted for by PCr hydrolysis, changes in muscle pH do not always coincide with rates of substrate level phosphorylation because intracellular pH ultimately depends on a number of additional factors such as buffering capacity (Roussel *et al.*, 2003). However, both control and experimental conditions were performed in the same fiber in the present study. As such, complications arising from inherent differences between fibers were avoided, suggesting the predominant cause of differences in pH_i between experimental conditions were factors related to glycolytic activation. Finally, it is possible that glycolysis was activated earlier in the contractile period than the time in which a difference in pH was detectable (i.e., 6th contraction), and the present estimate of glycolytic activation may be considered a conservative estimate.

In conclusion, our data demonstrate with high temporal resolution that pH_i increases in single myocytes immediately at the onset of contractions and is unaffected by inhibition of anaerobic glycolysis for the first 5 contractions. This suggests that initial PCr breakdown was not altered between the two conditions of the study and that anaerobic glycolysis is not significantly activated during this time period. However, after 6 contractions pH_i deviated

significantly between CON and IAA conditions. Although these data can not discern the extent to which the glycolysis-related alterations in pH_i that occurred after 6 contractions were the result of a slowing of PCr breakdown and/or increase in the rate of anaerobic glycolysis, they nevertheless demonstrate a relatively rapid activation of glycolysis during contractions in these isolated muscle fibers.

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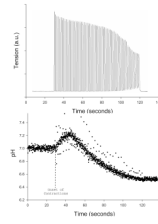
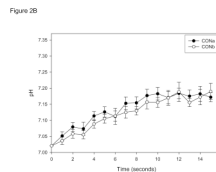
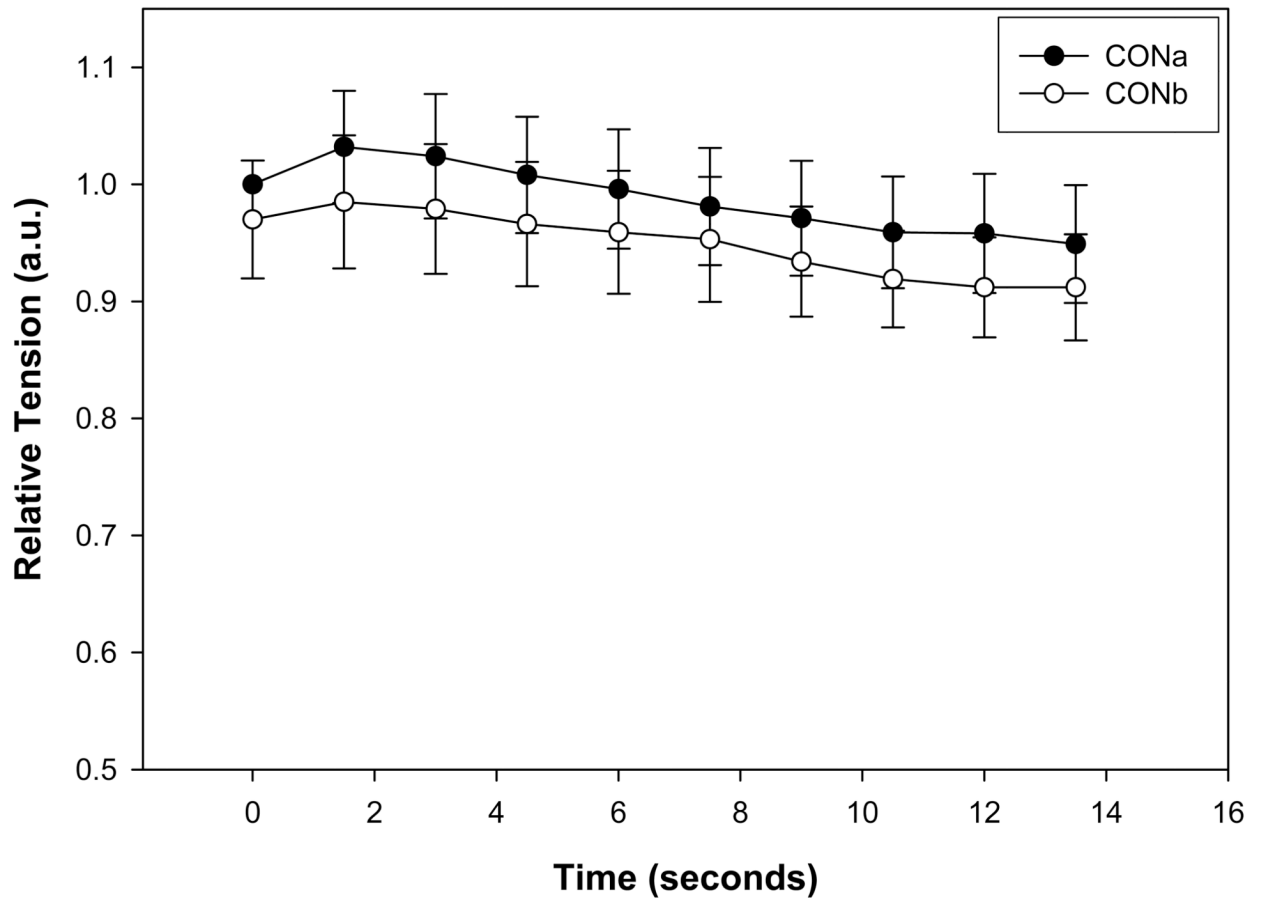


Figure 1.

Representative traces of tension development and pH_i in a single muscle fiber during 90 seconds of contractions at 0.67 Hz in normoxia. Tension is presented in arbitrary units, while pH_i was assessed via fluorescence microscopy (BCECF fluorescence; each point on the graph represents 1 measurement) and internally calibrated after the contractile bout. Due to the prolonged time course of this representative contractile bout (90 seconds), these data are presented for descriptive purposes only and were not included in the experimental cohort of muscle fibers.

Figure 2A

**Figure 2.**

A: Tension development (mean \pm SE) measured in single muscle fibers ($n=7$) during 15 seconds of contractions at 0.67 Hz in control conditions (CONa) and repeated after 1 hour of recovery (CONb). Absolute tension development was not different at any sample time between conditions. Tension is presented relative to the initial contraction of the CONa bout.

B: Intracellular pH (mean \pm SE) measured in the same single muscle fibers. pH_i was not significantly different between CONa and CONb at any sample time during the contractile bout.

Figure 3A

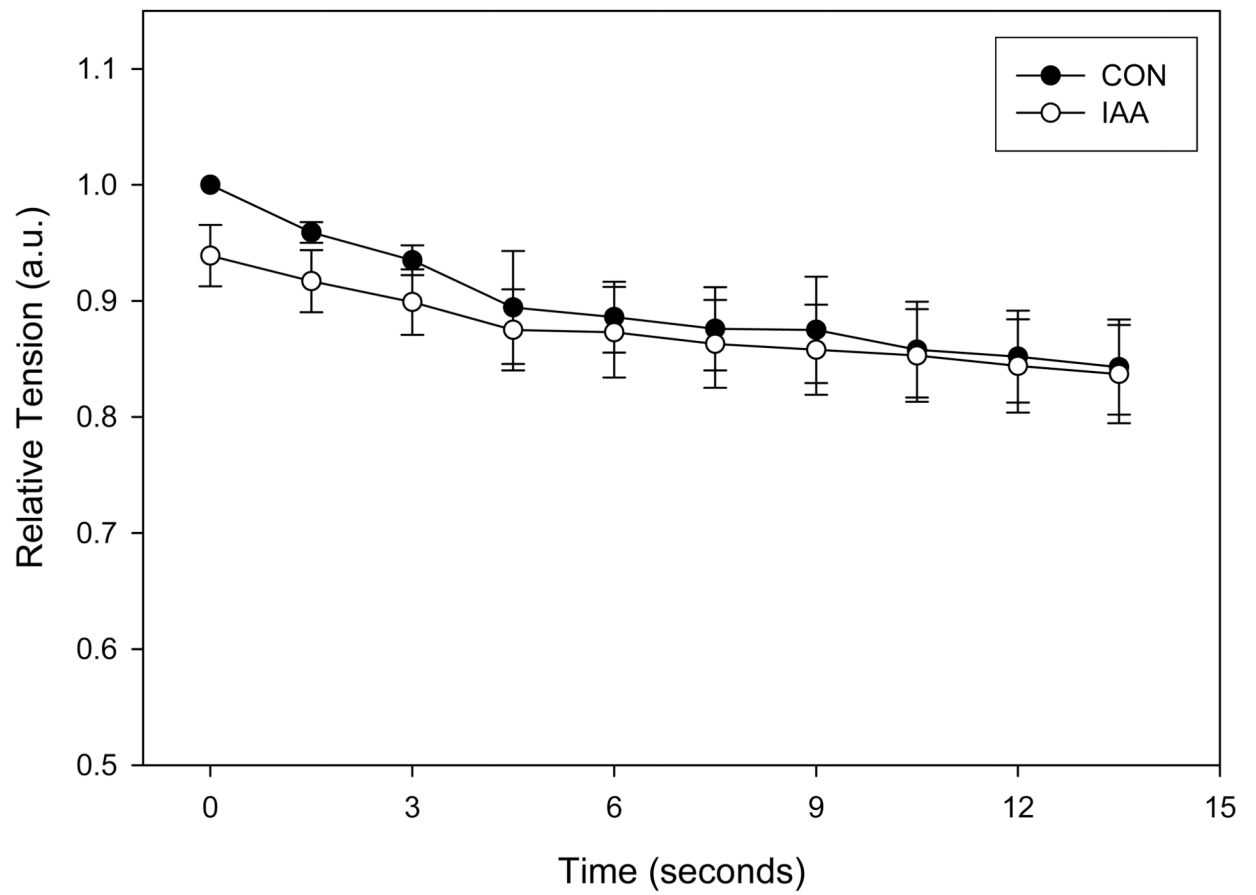
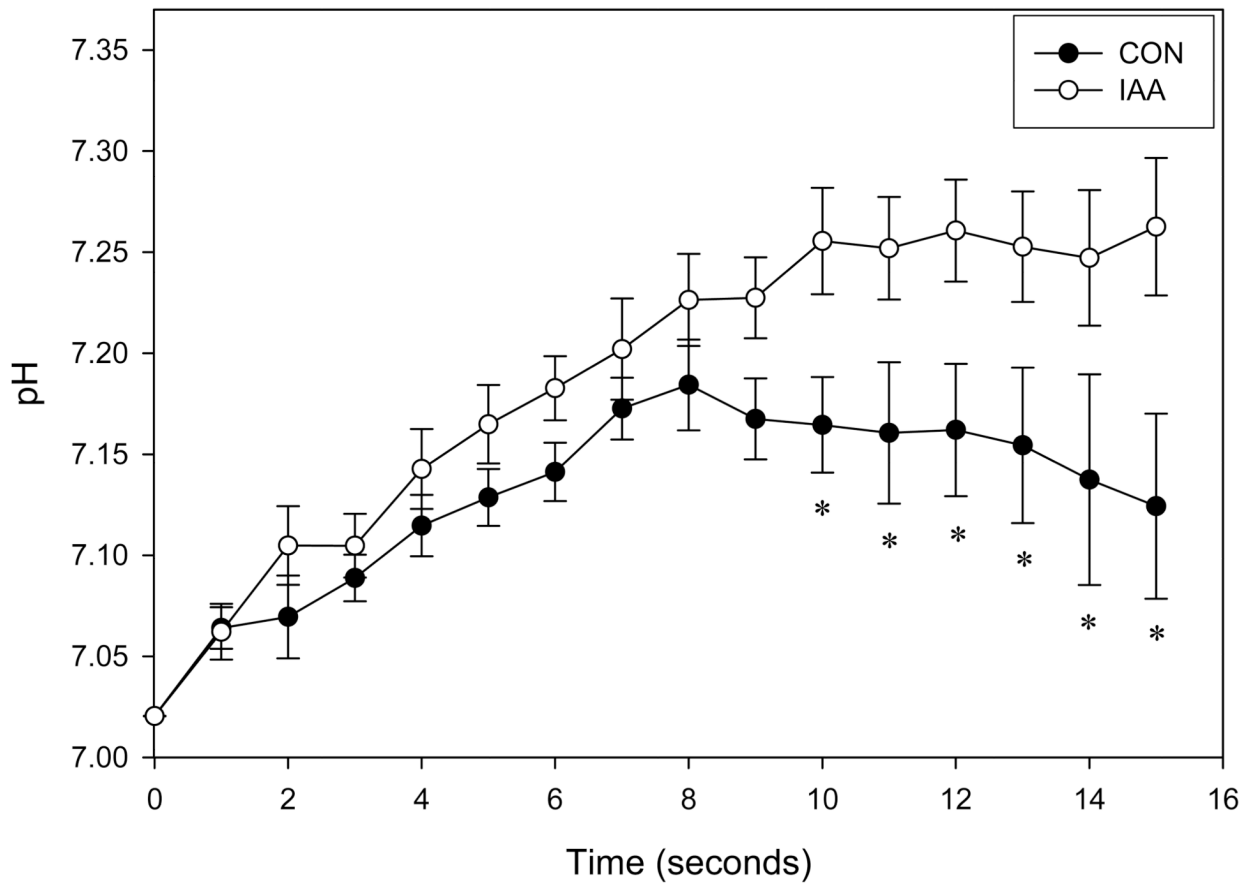


Figure 3B

**Figure 3.**

A: Tension development (mean \pm SE) measured in single muscle fibers (n=8) during 15 seconds of contractions at 0.67 Hz in control conditions (anoxia; CON) and conditions in which glycolysis was inhibited (anoxia + iodoacetic acid; IAA). Absolute tension development was not different at any sample time between conditions. Tension is presented relative to the initial contraction of the CON bout for each fiber. **B:** Intracellular pH (mean \pm SE) measured in same single muscle fibers. * = $P < 0.05$ vs.CON.