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Suppressed Microglial E Prostanoid Receptor 1 Signaling Selectively Reduces TNF α and IL-6 Secretion from Toll-like Receptor 3 Activation

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Abstract

Activation of innate immunity via Toll-like receptors (TLRs) is associated with neurodegenerative diseases, and some effectors, like tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF α) and interleukin 6 (IL-6), directly contribute to neurodegeneration. We tested the hypothesis that prostaglandin (PG) E₂ receptor subtype 1 (EP1) was necessary for induction of microglial cytokines following activation of innate immunity. Primary murine microglia had cytokine secretion by activators of TLR3 > TLR9 > TLR4 > TLR2. TLR3 activation induced early expression of cyclooxygenase 2 (COX2) and delayed expression of membranous PGE synthase and secretion of PGE₂. Non-selective and COX2-selective inhibitors blocked TLR3 induction of TNF α and IL-6. Moreover, of the eight out of twenty cytokines and chemokines induced by TLR3 activation, only TNF α and IL-6 were significantly dependent on EP1 signaling as determined using microglia from mice homozygous deficient for EP1 gene or wild type (WT) microglia co-incubated with an EP1 antagonist. These results were confirmed by blocking intracellular Ca²⁺ release with 2-aminoethoxy-diphenyl borate (2-APB) or Xestospongion C (XC), inhibitors of IP3 receptors. Our results show that suppression of microglial EP1 signaling achieves much of the desired effect of COX inhibitors by selectively blocking TLR3-induced microglial secretion of two major effectors of paracrine neuron damage. In combination with the ability of EP1 suppression to ameliorate excitotoxicity, these data point to blockade of EP1 as an attractive candidate therapeutic for neurodegenerative diseases.

Keywords

E Prostanoid Receptor 1 (EP1); TLR3; microglia; innate immunity; cytokine; calcium

INTRODUCTION

Toll-like receptors (TLRs) include a family of membrane glycoproteins that recognize exogenous structures in microorganisms and endogenous structures produced from tissue injury or disease (Takeuchi and Akira 2010). Activated TLRs coordinate gene transcription to initiate innate immune responses that, depending on the complement of receptors, intensity, duration, and repetition, may have beneficial or deleterious effects (reviewed in Rivest 2009). Microglia express functional TLR2, TLR3, TLR4, and TLR9. Models of brain inflammation, ischemia, or Alzheimer's disease (AD) demonstrate neuron damage following activation of microglial TLR2, TLR3, and TLR4 (Abe et al. 2010; Babcock et al. 2006; Farez et al. 2009; Field et al. 2010; Jana et al. 2008; Jin et al. 2007; Jin et al. 2008;

Koedel et al. 2007; Qin et al. 2007; Reed-Geaghan et al. 2009; Sloane et al. 2010; Stewart et al. 2010), while some data support a protective role for microglial TLR9 activation (Scholtzova et al. 2009). Intriguingly, since mRNA is an endogenous ligand for TLR3 (Kariko et al. 2004), ischemia, traumatic injury, and neurodegenerative diseases including AD, Parkinson's disease (PD), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) that accumulate RNA in pathologic lesions (Ginsberg et al. 1998), have the potential to activate this receptor.

Modulation of TLR-initiated innate immune responses is a potential therapeutic target for several neurologic diseases. Signaling following TLR 2-, 3-, or 4-initiated innate immune responses involves the prostaglandin (PG) pathway (Chang et al. 2004; Kalvegren et al. 2010; Pindado et al. 2007). Cyclooxygenase (COX) isozymes catalyze the first step in production of PGs and thromboxane A₂. Large epidemiologic studies have repeatedly observed that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which act primarily *in vivo* by blocking activity of COX isozymes, may be effective in preventing AD [reviewed in (Szekely et al. 2007) and more recently (Vlad et al. 2008) where ibuprofen was most effective] or PD (Chen et al. 2003). Moreover, non-selective COX inhibitors, COX2-selective inhibitors, or genetic ablation of COX2 are fully or partially neuroprotective in animal models of AD (Lim et al. 2000; Lim et al. 2001; Morihara et al. 2005), PD (Aubin et al. 1998; Feng et al. 2002; Kurkowska-Jastrzebska et al. 2002; Reksidler et al. 2007; Teismann and Ferger 2001; Teismann et al. 2003), or ALS (Drachman et al. 2002; Drachman and Rothstein 2000). Disappointingly, clinical trials aimed at treating patients with AD or ALS with NSAIDs have largely failed (Aisen et al. 2003; Cudkowicz et al. 2006; Thal et al. 2005); we are unaware of a trial for PD. In contrast, a trial aimed at preventing AD in older volunteers was prematurely suspended because of unexpected increase in "thrombotic" events in treatment groups (ADAPT Research Group 2007), likely because of altered balance of PGI₂ and TxA₂ production (Montine et al. 2010).

Despite this setback, NSAID toxicity does not negate experimental, clinical, and epidemiologic data that underscore suppression of the PG pathway as a potential means to *prevent* common neurodegenerative diseases. Indeed, several groups are focused on specific PG receptors in the hope of maintaining therapeutic effect while averting toxicity. Since PGE₂ levels are increased in AD, PD, ALS, and their animal models (Combrinck et al. 2006; Hoshino et al. 2007; Liang et al. 2005; Mattammal et al. 1995; Montine et al. 1999; Teismann et al. 2003), we and others have focused on PGE₂ receptor subtypes, called E prostanoic (EP) receptors 1 through 4, which are linked to functionally antagonistic second messenger systems (Hata and Breyer 2004). EP1, EP2, and EP3 are expressed by microglia and most neurons (Cimino et al. 2008). Recently, genetic ablation of EP1 (EP1^{-/-}) rescued mouse brain in a model of transient focal ischemia, at least in part from amelioration of excitotoxicity (Kawano et al. 2006). We have observed that EP1^{-/-} microglia have altered response to LPS activation (Keene et al. 2009). Here we tested the hypothesis that microglial EP1 may be a target for modulating TLR-induced innate immune response in brain.

METHODS

Reagents and materials

DMEM/F12 medium and heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) were purchased from Hyclone Laboratories (Logan, UT). G5 supplement was from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA). Ibuprofen, SC-51089 and NS-398 were from Cayman Chemical Company (Ann Arbor, MI). 2-aminoethoxy-diphenyl borate (2-APB) was from Tocris Bioscience (Ellisville, MO). Xestospingonin C (XC) was from Tocris Bioscience (Ellisville, MO). Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) was from Calbiochem (La Jolla, CA). Double-stranded polyinosinic-polycytidylic acid (PIC) was from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Pam₃ CSK₄ (Pam3) and CpG were

from Invivogen (San Diego, CA). Papain and DNase I were from Worthington Biochemical (Lakewood, NJ).

Animals

C57BL/6 mice were from Jackson Laboratories (Bar Harbor, ME). EP1^{-/-} mice on the C57BL/6 background were generated as described previously (Guan et al. 2007). The University of Washington IACUC approved all procedures. The animals were maintained in a specific pathogen-free environment.

Cell culture

Primary microglia were prepared as described previously (Keene et al. 2009; Shie et al. 2005) and used at a density of 78,125 cells/cm² (25,000 cells/well of 96-well plate). Cerebral cortex was obtained from postnatal(P1–3) C57BL/6 mice and remaining meninges were removed in ice-cold Dulbecco's Phosphate Buffered Saline. Cortex was incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C in DMEM/F12 medium containing 15U/ml papain, 0.5 mmol/L EDTA, 0.2 mg/ml L-cysteine, and 200 µg/ml DNase I, sedimented at 1500 rpm for 5 min, and the pellet was triturated with warm culture medium(DMEM/F12, 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin). Cell suspension was plated on poly-ornithine coated flasks in culture medium. At 11–15 days, microglia were harvested from the underlying astrocytic monolayer by gentle agitation. Purity of microglia was determined by CD11b staining and was greater than 98%.

Reverse transcription PCR (RT-PCR) and quantitative real-time PCR

Total RNA was isolated from cells using RNeasy kit from Qiagen (Chatsworth, CA). Contaminating genomic DNA was digested by RNase-free DNase I (Qiagen). 1 µg of total RNA was used for cDNA synthesis by using Omniscript Reverse Transcriptase from Qiagen. Expression levels of COX1, COX2, membranous PGE synthase (mPGEs) and cytosolic PGE synthase (cPGEs) were determined by RT-PCR with thirty cycles. GAPDH expression levels were used as loading controls. Primer sequences for RT-PCR are listed in Table 1. Expression levels of IL-6 and TNF α were determined by quantitative real-time PCR using ABI 7900 HT with TaqMan Gene Expression Assays (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA). Primers and probes (Mm00446190_m1 for IL-6 and Mm00443258_m1 for TNF α) were from Applied Biosystems. Quantification of gene expression was calculated by the standard curve method and normalized to 18S rRNA.

Cytokine assays

Microglia were seeded in 96-well plates. One day later, cells were exposed to reagents in serum-free medium with G5 supplement. In some experiments, microglia were co-incubated with SC 51089 (60 µM), 2-APB (20 µM), or XC (20 µM) for 18 hs. There was no toxicity to primary microglia under any of these conditions as determined by cell count or protein levels. Conditioned media were collected and stored at -80°C for cytokine measurements. Protein concentrations of IL-6 and TNF α were determined by ELISA kits (R & D Systems, Minneapolis, MN). Protein concentrations of 20 mice cytokines/chemokines were measured by using Mouse Cytokine 20-Plex Panel kit (Invitrogen). All assays were performed according to the manufacturers' instructions.

PGE₂ assay

One day following initial seeding, microglia were treated with 20 µg/ml PIC in the presence or absence of 500 µM Ibuprofen for various times. Conditioned media were collected for PGE₂ measurement by using ELISA kit provided by Cayman Chemical Company.

Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism 5 (San Diego, CA).

RESULTS

TLR-specific activation in wt murine primary microglia

Our first series of experiments explored the activation of the TLRs known to be expressed functionally by microglia (Block et al. 2007) by ligands that have relative specificity at the concentrations used (Iliev et al. 2004; Jack et al. 2005; Olson and Miller 2004; Park et al. 2006; Ribes et al. 2009; Shah et al. 2009). These included Pam3 for TLR2 (0.1 and 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) PIC for TLR3 (2 and 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$), LPS for TLR4 (0.1 and 1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$), and CpG for TLR9 (0.1 and 1 μM). We assessed microglial activation by quantifying secreted IL-6 (Figure 1A) and TNF α (Figure 1B) after 18 hr incubation. All TLR activators significantly increased IL-6 and TNF α medium concentrations, and all showed a significant concentration-response relationship for TNF α while only PIC and LPS had a significant concentration-response for IL-6 secretion. Activation of TLR3 by PIC yielded the greatest increase in both analytes, followed by LPS, and then Pam3 and CpG. It is important not to over-interpret these data since we are using usual but limited concentrations of TLR activators; however, higher levels might compromise specificity of TLR activation. Thus, under these conditions of commonly used concentrations of relatively specific activators of TLR2, TLR3, TLR4, or TLR9, activation of TLR3 by PIC yielded the greatest increase in IL-6 and TNF α secretion by murine primary microglia.

We focused further study on TLR3 activation by 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ PIC. Figure 2 presents the time courses for IL-6 and TNF α secretion by wt murine primary microglia and demonstrates their logarithmic rise from 2 to 18 hr in the presence of PIC. We next sought to determine the extent of wt primary microglial activation by PIC by assaying medium using a cytokine/chemokine multiplex assay. We analyzed medium from wt microglia cultures using a mouse 20-plex Luminex array (FGF-basic, GM-CSF, IFN- γ , IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, IL-17, IP-10, KC, MCP-1, MIG, MIP-1 α , TNF α and VEGF) and determined that eight cytokines or chemokines were significantly induced by PIC at 6 hr or 18 hr (Table 2). In aggregate, these results demonstrated concentration- and time-dependent effects of TLR3 activation on a subset of cytokines and chemokines in wt murine primary microglia and confirmed our time course for IL-6 and TNF α secretion following incubation with PIC with a different set of reagents.

Induction of the prostaglandin pathway by PIC

We are aware of only one report that describes PG signaling following TLR3 activation and this was in an immortalized cell line (Pindado et al. 2007). Therefore, we next tested the hypothesis that PIC activation of wt murine primary microglia required participation of the PG pathway, specifically PGE $_2$. We first examined transcription of COX2 and mPGEs by PCR. As shown in Figure 3A, COX2 mRNA was detected at very low levels and mPGEs mRNA was undetectable in primary microglia cultures in the absence of PIC. COX2 mRNA increased dramatically following 2 hr incubation with PIC and reached its maximum by 6 hr. In contrast, mPGEs mRNA expression was delayed with detectable induction at 6 hr that continued to rise to 18 hr incubation with PIC. As expected, the levels of mRNA of COX1 and cPGEs were not increased by 18 hr incubation with PIC (Figure 3B). We also measured the concentration of PGE $_2$ in medium under similar conditions (Figure 4). Incubation with PIC yielded a delayed, significant increase in medium PGE $_2$ at 6 ($P < 0.05$), 12 ($P < 0.01$), and 18 ($P < 0.01$) hr.

Incubation of wt murine primary microglia with ibuprofen reduced medium concentrations to near background levels and reduced medium concentrations in cultures co-incubated with

PIC to similar levels from 2 to 18 hr (Figure 4); the former likely through inhibition of COX1 and in the latter likely through inhibition of COX1 and COX2. These results show that PIC induced early expression of COX2 and delayed expression of mPGEs and production of PGE₂ over a time course that raises the possibility that products of COX2, and perhaps PGE₂, might be necessary for PIC-induced secretion of IL-6 and TNF α by murine primary microglia.

We tested this possibility by determining whether ibuprofen (non-selective COX inhibitor) or NS-398 (COX2-selective inhibitor) suppressed PIC-induced secretion of IL-6 or TNF α . Figure 5 presents the results of this experiment. We present data as % control to plot results for both analytes on the same axis; control levels were similar to our other experiments (average + SEM): IL-6 = 2847 \pm 270 pg/ml, TNF α = 373 \pm 28 pg/ml and statistical analyses were performed on concentration data. Results of these experiments are consistent with the PG pathway being necessary for two-thirds to three-quarters of PIC-induced IL-6 and TNF α secretion by murine primary microglia. Moreover, there was no further significant suppression by ibuprofen over NS-398, suggesting a central role for COX2 in PIC-induced secretion of IL-6 and TNF α . However, although we have used PGE₂ as a marker for PG biosynthesis, these results do not prove that PGE₂, as opposed to some other eicosanoid product of COX, is necessary for PIC-induced microglial secretion of IL-6 or TNF α .

EP1 activation is necessary for approximately half of PIC-induced IL-6 and TNF α secretion

We repeated our 20-plex assay for cytokines and chemokines following 18 hr PIC incubation but now with either wt primary murine microglia co-incubated with an antagonist of EP1 (SC-51089) or with EP1^{-/-} primary murine microglia. Our results with Luminex reagents showed that of the 8 analytes significantly induced by PIC (Table 2), only IL-6 (P < 0.01) and TNF α (P < 0.01) were significantly suppressed in wt cultures co-incubated with SC-51089 or in EP1^{-/-} cultures (not shown). We confirmed these findings with ELISAs for IL-6 and TNF α (Figures 6 and 7). Indeed, PIC-induced secretion of IL-6 and TNF α were each reduced by about half of wt cultures when co-incubated with SC-51089 or when EP1^{-/-} microglia were substituted for wt. Since expression of IL-6 and TNF α is transcriptionally regulated, we sought to confirm these findings with quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR). Using results from wt murine primary microglia incubated with PIC for 6 hr to define normal, identically exposed EP1^{-/-} murine primary microglia had levels of IL-6 mRNA that averaged (\pm SEM) 42 \pm 3% of wt (n=6; P < 0.001) and TNF α mRNA that averaged (\pm SEM) 73 \pm 5% of wt (n=6; P < 0.001) of control. These genetic and pharmacologic approaches show that PIC-induced murine primary microglia expression and secretion of IL-6 and TNF α are significantly dependent on EP1 activation.

2-APB and XC replicate effects of EP1 suppression in PIC-stimulated microglia

EP1 is a G protein-coupled receptor that activates intracellular signaling by releasing Ca²⁺ from intracellular stores via the inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor (IP3R). We tested the hypothesis that an inhibitor of this second messenger system would replicate the effects of suppressing EP1 activation (Figure 7). 2-APB and XC, IP3R antagonists, significantly inhibited PIC-induced wt microglial secretion of IL-6 and TNF α ; the extent of suppression of IL-6 secretion by 2-APB or XC was not significantly different from SC-51089; however, 2-APB was more effective than XC in suppressing TNF α secretion, perhaps reflecting greater specificity of XC over 2-APB. 2-APB also significantly suppressed PIC-induced levels of COX-2 and mPGEs mRNA by 50% or more (P < 0.01 for each). These data confirm that intracellular Ca²⁺ signaling is necessary for most of PIC-induced microglial secretion of IL-6 and TNF α and suggest it is mediated largely by EP1 activation.

DISCUSSION

A clear therapeutic imperative exists for AD, PD, and ALS. While there are ample experimental, epidemiologic, and clinical data to support a contribution from innate immune activation in these diseases, treatment with NSAIDs failed to show efficacy in symptomatic stages of AD or ALS (Aisen et al. 2003; Cudkowicz et al. 2006; Thal et al. 2005) and was suspended because of toxicity in a prevention trial (ADAPT Research Group 2007). Despite these setbacks, the underlying experimental and epidemiologic data still strongly support suppression of the PG pathway as a means to prevent or delay symptom onset from AD and PD and perhaps ALS. It is for this reason that several laboratories pursue therapeutic targets in the PG pathway that will retain therapeutic benefit but avert toxicity by focusing on specific PG receptors rather than suppression of the entire PG pathway as with NSAIDs.

Our experiments focused on EP1, one of four PGE₂ receptor subtypes, that is expressed widely in the central nervous system on neurons and microglia, and perhaps other cells (Cimino et al. 2008). Indeed, this promiscuity represents a serious complication to the interpretation of *in vivo* experiments or *ex vivo* models that include multiple cell types. Given our focus on suppressing paracrine damage to neurons from innate immune activation, we restricted our experiments to microglia, the major immune effectors in the central nervous system. Our results showed that TLR3 activation stimulated primary microglial secretion of eight (out of twenty) cytokines and chemokines, and that among these eight secreted factors only two, TNF α and IL-6, were partially dependent on EP1 signaling as determined with either pharmacologic or genetic tools, apparently through EP1's known second messenger system of increasing intracellular Ca²⁺. Indeed, PIC-induced microglial secretion of TNF α and IL-6 were reduced by approximately one-half when EP1 signaling was suppressed. Comparison with our experiments using NSAIDs indicated that suppression of EP1 signaling achieved most of the effect of these drugs on TLR3-induced microglial secretion of TNF α and IL-6 (one-third to three-quarters reduction) but also suggests the possibility of a smaller PG-independent pathway.

Most of our experiments used the TLR3 activator, PIC. This approach was based on results from our initial experiments that showed that activators of TLR2, TLR3, TLR4, and TLR9, used at concentrations that maintain receptor specificity, yielded different degrees of activation of primary microglia with PIC yielding the greatest. Microglial TLR3 is the least studied of the TLRs from the perspective of neurodegenerative disease, yet mRNA is an endogenous activator of TLR3 and others have shown already that RNA accumulates in pathologic structures of AD, PD, and ALS (Ginsberg et al. 1998). We further demonstrated that activation of TLR3 in primary murine microglia led to induction of COX2 and delayed induction of mPGEs transcription, accompanied by increased production of PGE₂. We are aware of only one other report that links the PG pathway with TLR3 activation, and this work used an immortalized macrophage-like cell line (Pindado et al. 2007).

The roles of TNF α and IL-6 in the CNS are complex and areas of intense investigation in neurodegenerative diseases. In broad strokes, increased TNF α , alone or sometimes in concert with other inflammatory effectors like IL-6, can lead to neuronal dysfunction or death through several mechanisms including altered ion conductance, altered synaptic plasticity, and activation of pro-apoptotic pathways (Park and Bowers 2010). Many clinical-based studies have associated increased levels of TNF α and IL-6 in diseased regions of brain or cerebrospinal fluid from patients with AD or PD (reviewed in (Nagatsu and Sawada 2005; Rosenberg 2005)). Several experiments have demonstrated that suppression of TNF α or IL-6 signaling partially or fully protects from neurodegeneration in models of AD (Billings et al. 2005; Blasko et al. 1999; Garcao et al. 2006; Janelsins et al. 2008; Liao et al. 2004; McAlpine et al. 2009; Mehlhorn et al. 2000) or PD (Austin et al. 2006; Ferger et al.

2004; Gao et al. 2008; McCoy et al. 2006; Sriram et al. 2002; Sriram et al. 2006; Su et al. 2008), and pilot clinical investigations raise the possibility that specific inhibition of TNF α signaling may bring therapeutic benefit to patients with AD (Tobinick 2009). While the ultimate outcome of modulating microglial innate immune response on nearby neurons, either trophic or toxic, is a complex topic that is difficult to address accurately in cell culture, our data raise the possibility that suppression of microglial EP1 signaling may be beneficial to neurons under some circumstances of innate immune activation in brain.

Our results show that suppression of microglial EP1 signaling may achieve much of the desired effect of NSAIDs by selectively blocking the induced secretion of two major effectors of paracrine immune damage to neurons following TLR3 activation. In combination with the already demonstrated ability of EP1 suppression to ameliorate neuronal excitotoxicity (Kawano et al. 2006), these data point to blockade of EP1 as an attractive candidate therapeutic for neurodegenerative diseases.

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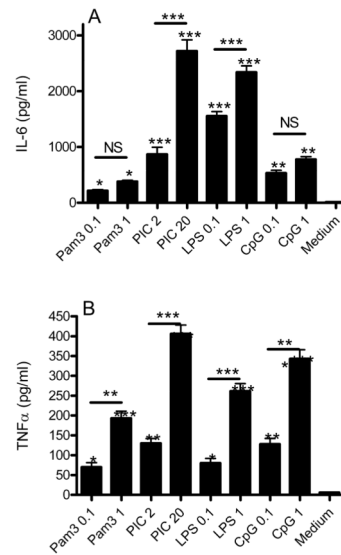


Figure 1.

WT murine primary microglia were incubated with medium or with two different concentrations of activators specific for TLR2 (Pam3), TLR3 (PIC), TLR4 (LPS), or TLR9 (CpG) for 18 hr and then medium concentrations (pg/ml) of IL-6 (**A**) and TNF α (**B**) quantified. Data are average concentration \pm SEM (n=3). ANOVA for both analytes had $P < 0.0001$ and Bonferroni-corrected paired comparisons for each condition with medium only noted above the column. Horizontal lines indicate Bonferroni-corrected paired comparisons between the two concentrations of each TLR activator (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$)

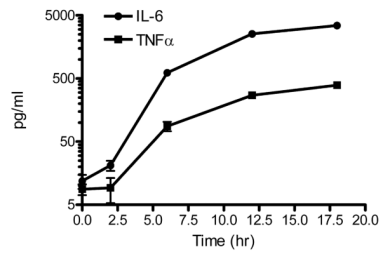


Figure 2.

WT murine primary microglia were incubated with 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ PIC and medium concentrations of IL-6 and TNF α were determined at the times indicated. Data are the average concentration \pm SEM ($n=3$, error bars are smaller than most symbols). ANOVA for each analyte vs. time had $P < 0.0001$ with Bonferroni-corrected paired comparisons had $P < 0.01$ for each time point with all others for that analyte except for 0 vs. 2 hr for IL-6 and TNF α .

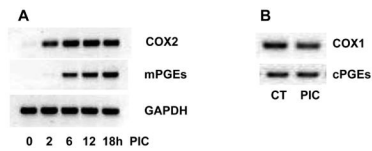


Figure 3.

(A) WT murine primary microglia were incubated with 20 µg/ml PIC for indicated times. RNA was isolated and PCR was performed for COX2 and mPGEs expression. GAPDH was shown as loading control. (B) RNA was harvested from WT murine primary microglia treated with 20 µg/ml PIC for 18 hrs and analyzed for COX1 and cPGEs expression by PCR.

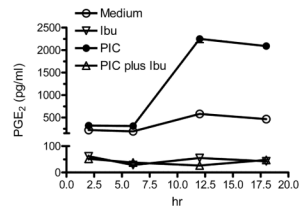


Figure 4.

WT murine primary microglia were incubated with 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ PIC starting at time 0 and medium concentrations of PGE_2 were determined at the times indicated. Exposure to ibuprofen (Ibu; 500 μM) began at time = -0.5 hr and continued throughout the experiment. Data are the average concentration \pm SEM ($n=3$, error bars are smaller than symbols). Two-way ANOVA for the four exposure groups vs. time had $P < 0.0001$ for exposure group, time, and interaction. Bonferroni corrected post tests had $P < 0.01$ for all times points for Medium vs. Ibu, Medium vs. PIC plus Ibu, Ibu vs. PIC, and PIC vs. PIC plus Ibu; for Medium vs. PIC had $P > 0.05$ at 2 hr, $P < 0.05$ at 6 hr, and $P < 0.001$ at 12 and 18 hr; and $P > 0.05$ at all time points for Ibu vs. PIC plus Ibu.

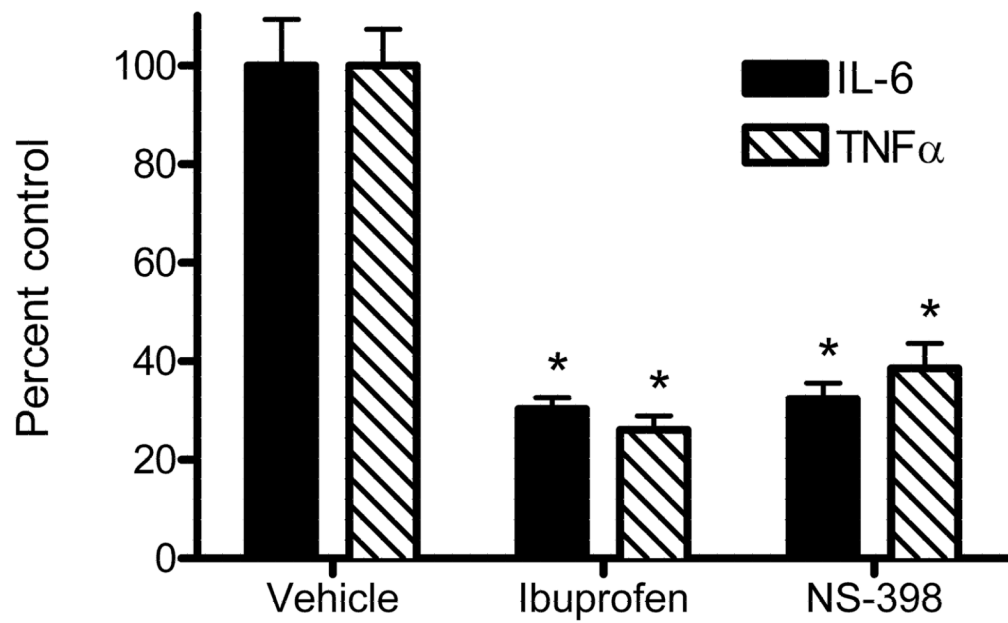


Figure 5.

WT murine primary microglia were incubated with 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ PIC starting at time 0 and medium concentrations of IL-6 and TNF α were determined at 18 hr. Exposure to ibuprofen (500 μM), NS-398 (50 μM), or DMSO vehicle began at time = -0.5 hr and continued throughout the experiment. Shown are average percent \pm SEM (n=3) of vehicle treated controls. One-way ANOVA was performed on concentration data for each analyte. ANOVA for IL-6 had $P < 0.0005$ and TNF α had $P < 0.001$ for the three groups. Bonferroni-corrected post tests had $*P < 0.001$ compared to vehicle. Results for each analyte were not significantly different ($P > 0.05$) between Ibuprofen and NS-398 groups.

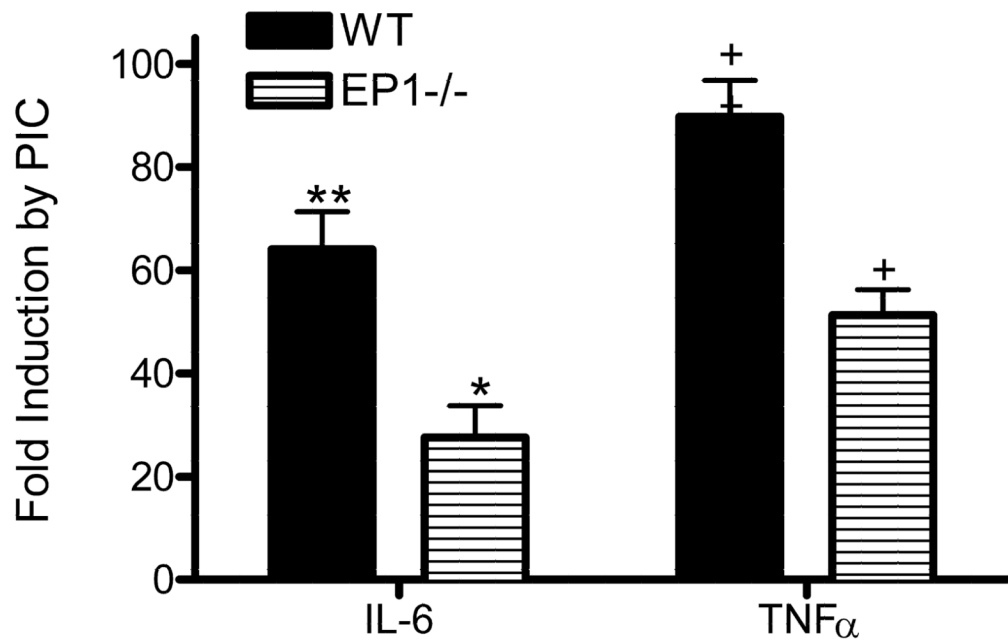


Figure 6.

WT or EP1^{-/-} murine primary microglia were incubated with vehicle or 20 μ g/ml PIC starting for 18 hr when medium concentrations of IL-6 and TNF α were quantified. Shown are average fold induction \pm SEM (n=3) by PIC over vehicle control for both analytes and genotypes. Two-way ANOVA was performed on concentrations of each analyte: Medium vs. PIC and WT vs. EP1^{-/-}. Results of two-way ANOVA for IL-6 concentration had *P < 0.01 for genotype, **P < 0.001 for exposure group, and P < 0.01 for interaction between these two terms. Results of two-way ANOVA for TNF α concentration had +P < 0.01 for genotype, ++P < 0.001 for exposure group, and P < 0.01 for interaction between these two terms.

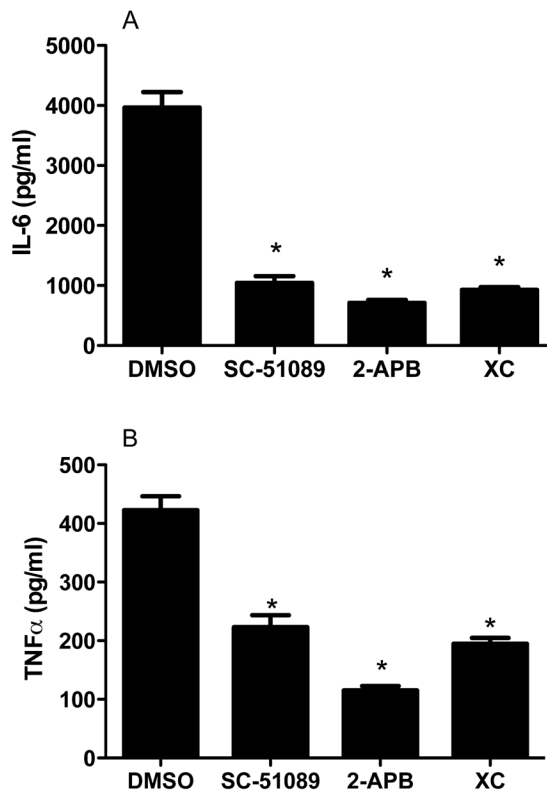


Figure 7.

WT murine primary microglia were incubated with 20 μ g/ml PIC starting at time 0 and medium cytokine concentrations were determined at 18 hr. Exposure to SC-51089 (60 μ g/ml), 2-APB (20 μ M), XC (20 μ M), or DMSO vehicle began at time = -0.5 hr and continued throughout the experiment. Data are average concentration \pm SEM (n=4). **(A) IL-6:** ANOVA had $P < 0.0001$ with Bonferroni corrected paired comparisons showing $*P < 0.001$ for DMSO vs. SC-51089, 2-APB, or XC but $P > 0.05$ for SC-51089 vs. 2-APB or XC, or 2-APB vs. XC **(B) TNF α :** ANOVA had $P < 0.0001$ with Bonferroni-corrected paired comparisons showing $*P < 0.001$ for DMSO vs. SC-51089, 2-APB, or XC, $P < 0.05$ for SC-51089 or XC vs. 2-APB but $P > 0.05$ for SC-51089 or XC.

Table 1

Sequences of primers used for RT-PCR.

Gene	Sense primer (5'-3')	Antisense primer (5'-3')
COX1	CCTCACCAGTCAATCCCTGT	CCCAGAGCCAGTATCCATGT
COX2	GCTGTACAAGCAGTGGCAAA	CCCCAAAGATAGCATCTGGA
mPGEs	GGCCTTTCTGCTCTGCAGCA	GGAGAACTGGGCCAGGACAT
cPGEs	TTGAAAGACTGGGAGGATG	AAAATCCAGGCGATGACAAC
GAPDH	GACAAAATGGTGAAGGTCGGTG	TGATGTTAGTGGGGTCTCGCTC

Table 2

WT murine primary microglia were incubated with 20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ PIC and medium analyzed at 6 and 18 hr using a 20-plex array for FGF basic, GM-CSF, IFN- γ , IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12, IL-13, IL-17, IP-10, KC, MCP-1, MIG, MIP-1 α , TNF α and VEGF. Of these, only the eight listed were significantly ($P < 0.05$) induced by PIC. Data are average \pm SEM pg/ml for three duplicate determinations. Average coefficient of variance (CV) for these eight analytes were FGF basic (12.1%), IL-1 α (15.7%), IL-5 (14.8%), IL-6 (17.9%), IL-12 (10.1%), IP-10 (13.9%), MCP-1 (11.3%), MIP-1 α (8.4%), TNF α (14.2%).

	pg/ml at 6 hr		pg/ml at 18 hr	
	<i>Medium</i>	<i>20 mg/ml PIC</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>20 mg/ml PIC</i>
FGF basic	323 \pm 50	428 \pm 15	261 \pm 49	250 \pm 7
IL-1 α	19 \pm 5	56 \pm 5	23 \pm 3	58 \pm 7
IL-5	17 \pm 6	81 \pm 13	38 \pm 9	207 \pm 6
IL-6	73 \pm 13	387 \pm 61	48 \pm 3	1242 \pm 168
IL-12	15 \pm 3	46 \pm 7	17 \pm 2	134 \pm 16
IP-10	26 \pm 9	1634 \pm 153	33 \pm 15	1624 \pm 195
MCP-1	25 \pm 8	497 \pm 88	92 \pm 24	1670 \pm 126
MIP-1 α	295 \pm 16	5567 \pm 1027	285 \pm 21	27246 \pm 1214
TNF α	49 \pm 12	1599 \pm 256	67 \pm 12	2463 \pm 409