

Consensus Substrate Sequence for Protein-tyrosine Phosphatase Receptor Type Z^{*S}

Received for publication, June 8, 2011, and in revised form, August 17, 2011. Published, JBC Papers in Press, September 2, 2011, DOI 10.1074/jbc.M111.270140

Akihiro Fujikawa[‡], Masahide Fukada[‡], Yoshikazu Makioka[§], Ryoko Suzuki[‡], Jeremy Pak Hong Chow^{*¶}, Masahito Matsumoto[‡], and Masaharu Noda^{*¶1}

From the [‡]Division of Molecular Neurobiology, National Institute for Basic Biology, and the [¶]School of Life Science, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, 5-1 Higashiyama, Myodaiji-cho, Okazaki, Aichi 444-8787, Japan, and the [§]Synthetic Organic Division, Chemical Resources Laboratory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 4259 Nagatsuta-cho, Midori-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 226-8503, Japan

Protein-tyrosine phosphatase receptor type Z (Ptpz) has multiple substrate proteins, including G protein-coupled receptor kinase-interactor 1 (Git1), membrane-associated guanylate kinase, WW and PDZ domain-containing 1 (Magi1), and GTPase-activating protein for Rho GTPase (p190RhoGAP). We have identified a dephosphorylation site at Tyr-1105 of p190RhoGAP; however, the structural determinants employed for substrate recognition of Ptpz have not been fully defined. In the present study, we revealed that Ptpz selectively dephosphorylates Git1 at Tyr-554, and Magi1 at Tyr-373 and Tyr-858 by *in vitro* and cell-based assays. Of note, the dephosphorylation of the Magi1 Tyr-858 site required PDZ domain-mediated interaction between Magi1 and Ptpz in the cellular context. Alignment of the primary sequences surrounding the target phosphotyrosine residue in these three substrates showed considerable similarity, suggesting a consensus motif for recognition by Ptpz. We then estimated the contribution of surrounding individual amino acid side chains to the catalytic efficiency by using fluorescent peptides based on the Git1 Tyr-554 sequence *in vitro*. The typical substrate motif for the catalytic domain of Ptpz was deduced to be Glu/Asp-Glu/Asp-Glu/Asp-Xaa-Ile/Val-Tyr(P)-Xaa (Xaa is not an acidic residue). Intriguingly, a G854D substitution of the Magi1 Tyr-858 site matching better to the motif sequence turned this site to be susceptible to dephosphorylation by Ptpz independent of the PDZ domain-mediated interaction in cells. Furthermore, we found by database screening that the substrate motif is present in several proteins, including paxillin at Tyr-118, its major phosphorylation site. Expectedly, we verified that Ptpz efficiently dephosphorylates paxillin at this site in cells. Our study thus provides key insights into the molecular basis for the substrate recognition of Ptpz.

Protein-tyrosine phosphorylation is a dynamic process governed by the balanced actions of protein-tyrosine kinases (PTKs),² and protein-tyrosine phosphatases (PTPs), and criti-

cal to the regulation of numerous physiological processes (for review, see Ref. 1). The specificity of the signal transduction depends on the ability of each PTK or PTP to phosphorylate or dephosphorylate precisely particular sites on specific substrates, respectively. Elucidation of the specificity for individual PTPs has been an important subject of investigation; however, even the identification of PTP substrates is still methodologically difficult. To our knowledge, substrate specificity of PTPs has been characterized only for PTP1B (2).

Receptor-like PTPs (RPTPs) are a structurally and functionally diverse family of enzymes comprised of eight subfamilies. PTP receptor type Z (Ptpz, also called PTP ζ or RPTP β) is a RPTP classified in the R5 subfamily together with Ptprg (PTP γ). Three isoforms of Ptpz are generated by alternative splicing from a single *Ptpz* gene: the two transmembrane isoforms Ptpz-A and Ptpz-B and the secretory isoform Ptpz-S (also known as phosphacan or 6B4 proteoglycan), all of which are expressed as chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans in the brain (3, 4 and references cited therein). The physiological importance of these gene products has been demonstrated through studies with *Ptpz*-deficient mice (5–8), which display impairments in hippocampal functions in a maturation-dependent manner (6, 7). In peripheral tissues, gastric mucosal cells also express a nonproteoglycan form of Ptpz-B, though at lower levels. *Ptpz*-deficient mice are resistant to gastric ulceration caused by VacA, a cytotoxin secreted by *Helicobacter pylori*, indicating that Ptpz functions as the receptor of VacA for gastric mucosal damage (8).

We previously reported a genetic method to screen for PTP substrates named the “yeast substrate-trapping system” based on the yeast two-hybrid system with two modifications (9, 10): the conditional expression of a PTK to tyrosine-phosphorylate the prey protein, and screening using a substrate-trap PTP mutant as bait. Using this method, we have successfully identified several substrates for Ptpz, including G protein-coupled receptor kinase-interactor 1 (Git1), GTPase-activating protein for Rho GTPase (p190RhoGAP), membrane-associated guany-

* This work was supported by grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, and Culture of Japan (MEXT).

[§] The on-line version of this article (available at <http://www.jbc.org>) contains supplemental Fig. S1.

¹ To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel.: 81-564-59-5846; Fax: 81-564-59-5845; E-mail: madon@nibb.ac.jp.

² The abbreviations used are: PTK, protein-tyrosine kinase; bis-tris, bis(2-hy-

droxyethyl)iminotris(hydroxymethyl)methane; GAP, GTPase-activating protein; Git1, G protein-coupled receptor kinase-interactor 1; ICR, Intracellular region; Magi1, membrane-associated guanylate kinase, WW and PDZ domain containing 1; p190RhoGAP, GAP for Rho GTPase; pCAP, phosphocoumaryl-aminopropionic acid; PDZ, PSD95/Disc large/zona occludens 1; PTP, protein-tyrosine phosphatase; Ptpz, PTP receptor type Z; RPTP, receptor-like PTP; S-SCAM, synaptic scaffolding molecule.

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late kinase, WW and PDZ domain-containing 1 (Magi1), and PDZ and coiled-coil motif containing (Gopc, also called PIST) (9–11). However, only Tyr-1105 in p190RhoGAP has been identified so far as a site of dephosphorylation by Ptpz (7). Thus, our understanding of the molecular basis for the physiological function of Ptpz including its substrate specificity is still limited.

In this study, we revealed Ptpz dephosphorylation sites in Git1 and Magi1, in addition to that in p190RhoGAP. A high degree of similarity in the primary sequence surrounding the target phosphotyrosine residues indicated the presence of a substrate motif in the physiological substrates of Ptpz. We successfully revealed a new Ptpz substrate by using the substrate motif sequence. Our finding thus provides the molecular basis for the substrate recognition of Ptpz.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Antibodies—Rabbit polyclonal antibodies against pY554 on Git1 were prepared as follows. A phosphorylated peptide corresponding to the 547–561 region in rat Git1 (Cys-Glu-Leu-Glu-Asp-Asp-Ala-Ile-Tyr(P)-Ser-Val-His-Val-Pro-Ala-Gly) and a nonphosphorylated form of the peptide were synthesized. The amino (N)-terminal cysteine was added to facilitate linkage to keyhole limpet hemocyanin or activated thiol-Sepharose 4B (GE Healthcare). Rabbits were immunized with the tyrosine-phosphorylated peptide coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin and Freund's complete adjuvant. Antibodies were purified from the antisera using phosphorylated peptide-Sepharose. We removed nonspecific antibodies from the purified antibody fraction by passage through a Sepharose column conjugated with the nonphosphorylated peptide and then a column conjugated with a peptide mixture, Cys-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser-Tyr(P)-Xaa-Ser (Xaa is natural amino acids except cysteine).

Anti-Ptpz-S is a rabbit polyclonal antibody against the extracellular region of Ptpz (4). Rabbit anti-pY118 paxillin was kindly provided by Dr. Hisataka Sabe, Hokkaido University, Hokkaido, Japan (12). We also used commercially available antibodies against phosphotyrosine (PY20; GE Healthcare), the FLAG epitope (mouse monoclonal M2, F3165, and rabbit anti-FLAG, F7425; Sigma), paxillin (rabbit anti-paxillin, sc-5574; Santa Cruz Biotechnology), and the intracellular region of Ptpz (anti-RPTP β ; BD Biosciences).

Mammalian Expression Plasmids—The expression construct for rat Ptpz-B (pZeo-PTP ζ) and its substrate trapping mutant (pZeo-PTP ζ -DA) were reported previously (9). The phosphatase-inactive mutant of Ptpz-B (pZeo-PTP ζ -CS) with Cys-1934 (numbering in rat Ptpz-A) replaced by Ser and the PDZ-binding motif mutant (pZeo-PTP ζ -SA) with Ser-2314 replaced by Ala were generated from pZeo-PTP ζ using the QuikChange Mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). The construction of FLAG-tagged-Git1 (pFLAG-Git1) and FLAG-tagged Magi1 (pFLAG-Magi1) was described previously (10). The expression constructs for the Git1 and Magi1 mutant proteins were generated from their respective parent plasmids using a QuikChange Multisite-directed Mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). The construct for FLAG-tagged paxillin (pFLAG-paxillin) was generated by inserting the full-length cDNA of mouse paxillin α (GenBank accession no. AF293882) into the pcDNA-FLAG vector (10),

which was obtained by RT-PCR from mouse brain total RNA, at the EcoRI and XhoI sites.

Cell Culture and DNA Transfection—HEK293T cells (human embryonic kidney epithelial cells) were grown and maintained on dishes coated with rat tail collagen in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum (FBS) in a humidified incubator at 37 °C with 5% (v/v) CO₂. DNA transfection was performed by the standard calcium phosphate technique as described (13). Transfected cells were replated once on 3.5-cm dishes, cultured for 24 h, and then used for the experiments. v-Src-HEK293T cells with the stable expression of v-Src were obtained by transfecting HEK293T cells with pBaBePurov-src (14) and selection with puromycin (2 μ g/ml). In v-src-HEK293T cells, cellular proteins undergo constitutive tyrosine phosphorylation.

Immunoprecipitation and Western Blotting—Cells starved in serum-free DMEM for specific periods were lysed with 300 μ l (for 3.5-cm culture dishes) of 1% (v/v) Triton X-100 or 1% (v/v) Nonidet P-40 in TBS (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl) containing 1 mM vanadate, 10 mM NaF, and protease inhibitors (complete EDTA-free; Roche Applied Science) for 30 min on ice, and the supernatant was collected by centrifugation at 10,000 \times g for 15 min. Cell extracts (250 μ l) thus obtained were preincubated with 1 μ g of anti-FLAG M2 antibody for 1 h. The immunocomplexes were precipitated using 10 μ l of protein G-Sepharose 4FF (GE Healthcare), washed with the lysis buffer, and subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by Western blotting with an ECL Western blotting system (GE Healthcare).

In Vitro Dephosphorylation of Immunoprecipitated Proteins—The tyrosine-phosphorylated FLAG-tagged Git1 and FLAG-tagged Magi1 proteins were obtained from pervanadate-treated cells (100 μ M for 15 min) by immunoprecipitation and used for *in vitro* dephosphorylation assays as described (10). Briefly, the beads carrying the immunocomplexes were washed with 25 mM HEPES, pH 6.8, 5 mM EDTA, 50 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, and 50 μ g/ml bovine serum albumin (BSA). The reaction was then started by adding 1 μ g of glutathione S-transferase (GST)-PtpzICR or GST at 37 °C. Subsequently, the tyrosine phosphorylation levels of substrate proteins were analyzed by Western blotting as above. Dephosphorylation by a nonselective phosphatase control was also examined with 1 milliunit of bacterial alkaline phosphatase (Toyobo) in 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9.5, 100 mM NaCl, 50 mM MgCl₂, and 50 μ g/ml BSA.

Recombinant Proteins—GST-fused proteins with the entire intracellular region of Ptpz (GST-PtpzICR) or the second PTP domain and the carboxyl (C)-terminal tail of Ptpz (GST-Ptpz-D2) were expressed in *Escherichia coli* strain BL21 and purified by glutathione affinity chromatography as described (13). Expression plasmids for Magi1 fragments, Magi1-PDZ1 (amino acid residues 470–640 of mouse Magi1a, GenBank accession no. AB194411), Magi1-PDZ2 (641–838), Magi1-PDZ3 (839–996), Magi1-PDZ4 (997–1137), and Magi1-PDZ45 (1138–1247) were generated by subcloning respective cDNAs prepared from pFLAG-Magi1 (10) into pET28a (Novagen) at the NheI and EcoRI sites to produce the fusion proteins with N-terminal His₆ tags. These histidine-tagged proteins were expressed in BL21 and purified using a HisTrap FF column

attached to a chromatography apparatus (AKTA prime plus; GE Healthcare).

GST Pulldown Experiments—Pull-down experiments using GST-Ptpzr-D2 beads were performed as described (13). Briefly, GST-Ptpzr-D2 beads (10 μ l of beads, \sim 30 pmol of proteins) were incubated with histidine-tagged Magi1 proteins (40 pmol) in 100 μ l of 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl containing 1% (v/v) Triton X-100 for 30 min. After washing the beads, the bound proteins were eluted by boiling in a SDS-PAGE sample buffer. The proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250.

In Vitro Dephosphorylation Assays Using pCAP-Peptides—Phosphocoumaryl-aminopropionic acid (pCAP, a fluorogenic mimic of phosphotyrosine) residue and pCAP-containing peptides were synthesized as described (15). The N-terminal amino group of the synthetic peptides was acetylated, and the C-terminal carboxyl group was amidated. Purification of the peptides was performed by reverse phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to $>$ 90% purity. The pCAP-peptide substrates (50 μ M) were preincubated in a three-component buffer of pH 6.5 (0.1 M acetate, 0.05 M Tris, and 0.05 M bis-tris) containing 5 mM DTT and 0.01% (v/v) Brij35 for 10 min at 30 $^{\circ}$ C, and the reaction was initiated by adding purified GST-PtpzrICR (5 nM). The time course of the hydrolysis of pCAP-peptide substrates was recorded continuously by monitoring the increase in fluorescence at 460 nm (excitation at 334 nm) (FI-4500 spectrofluorometer; Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan). The reaction rates were determined from the slope during the initial linear stage (100 s).

RESULTS

Dephosphorylation of Git1 at Tyr-554 by Ptpzr—We previously isolated a positive clone encoding the central region of Git1 (see Fig. 1A) in the yeast substrate screening for Ptpzr (9). The recombinant protein derived from this clone was phosphorylated by p60^{c-Src} and efficiently dephosphorylated by the whole intracellular catalytic region of Ptpzr (PtpzrICR) *in vitro* (9), indicating the presence of a substrate site(s) in the six tyrosine residues. In addition to these residues, four tyrosine residues outside the central region were predicted as potential phosphorylation sites by NetPhos2.0 with scores higher than 0.40. So, we examined 10 tyrosine residues in total as potential phosphorylation sites as follows.

We first prepared an expression plasmid for Git1_{Y10F} (see Fig. 1A) by replacing all 10 tyrosine residues of Git1 with phenylalanine residues and transfected it into HEK293T cells. When the tyrosine phosphorylation of Git1_{Y10F} was examined by Western blotting following immunoprecipitation, we verified that this replacement resulted in the almost total disappearance of tyrosine phosphorylation in cells in the presence of pervanadate, a membrane-permeable nonspecific PTP inhibitor (compare lane 12 with lane 1 for wild-type Git1 in Fig. 1B).

We next constructed a series of Git1_{Y9F} mutants in which individual phenylalanine residues among the 10 were reconverted to tyrosine (see Fig. 1A). The tyrosine phosphorylation analysis of these mutants revealed that phosphorylation occurs predominantly at Tyr-554, moderately at Tyr-392 and Tyr-607, and faintly at Tyr-519 of Git1 in cells treated with pervanadate

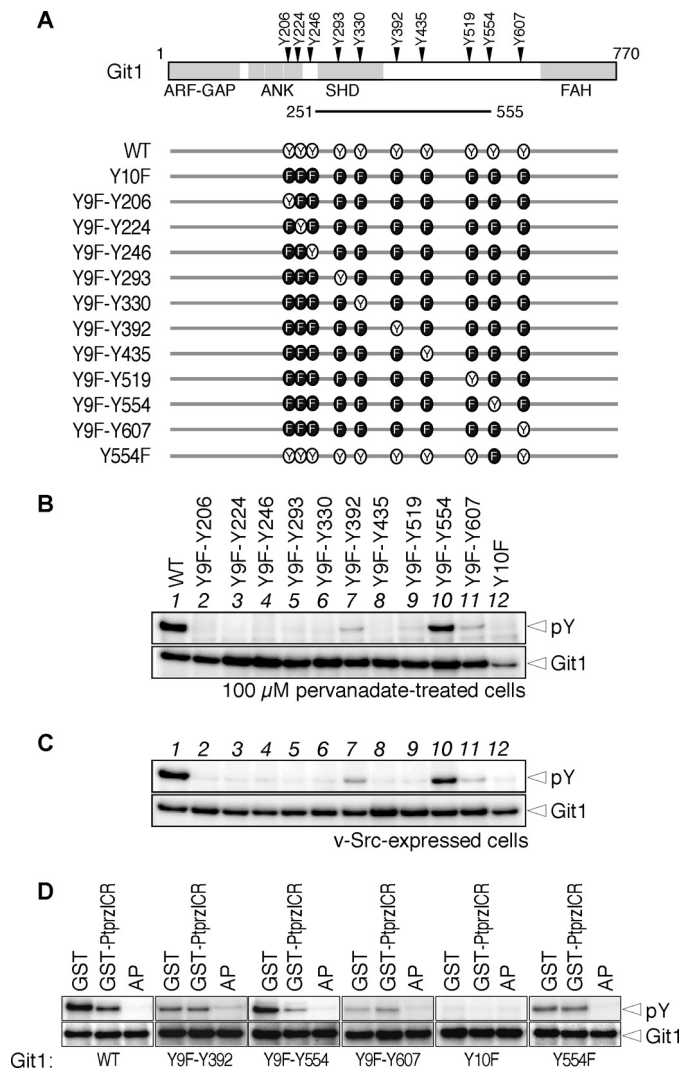


FIGURE 1. Identification of tyrosine phosphorylation sites in Git1 and their dephosphorylation by Ptpzr. A, schematic representation of Git1 and the mutant constructs used in this study. Numbers correspond to amino acid residues of rat Git1. ARF-GAP, ADP-ribosylation factor GAP; Ank, ankyrin repeat; SHD, spa2 homology domain; FAH, FAT-homology domain. The region encoded by the positive clone isolated in the yeast substrate screening (9) is shown by a solid line underneath. B, tyrosine phosphorylation of Git1 mutants induced in cells by pervanadate treatment. Cells transfected with the expression construct for FLAG-tagged Git1 or its mutants shown in A were treated with 100 μ M pervanadate for 15 min. Git1 proteins were immunoprecipitated using a mouse anti-FLAG M2 monoclonal antibody from the cell extracts and analyzed by Western blotting with a mouse anti-phosphotyrosine PY20 monoclonal antibody and rabbit anti-FLAG polyclonal antibodies. C, tyrosine phosphorylation of Git1 in cells expressing v-Src. The immunoprecipitation and Western blotting were performed as above. The lane order is the same as in B. D, dephosphorylation of Git1 by PtpzrICR *in vitro*. The immunoprecipitants of the tyrosine-phosphorylated wild-type and mutant Git1 proteins were incubated with GST (as a negative control), GST-PtpzrICR (the entire intracellular region of Ptpzr fused to GST), or alkaline phosphatase (AP; as a positive control) for 37 $^{\circ}$ C for 20 min and then analyzed by Western blotting as above.

(Fig. 1B). When the tyrosine phosphorylation of cellular proteins was enhanced by co-expression of v-Src (a constitutively active PTK), a similar pattern of Git1 phosphorylation was observed, except for further negligible phosphorylation at Tyr-519 (Fig. 1C), indicating that the tyrosine phosphorylation profile of Git1 is almost the same under PTP-inactivated and PTK-activated conditions.

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When individual Git1 mutant proteins immunoprecipitated from pervanadate-treated cells were incubated with PtpzrICR *in vitro*, PtpzrICR markedly dephosphorylated wild-type Git1 and Git1_{Y9F-Y554} (in which only Tyr-554 is potentially phosphorylated), but not Git1_{Y9F-Y392}, or -Y607 (Fig. 1D), indicating that PtpzrICR has selectivity for Tyr(P)-554 in Git1. This notion was also supported by the finding that the Git1-Y554F mutant, in which only Tyr-554 is replaced by phenylalanine, was no longer dephosphorylated (Fig. 1D). We verified that all samples were completely dephosphorylated by alkaline phosphatase.

To directly assess the phosphorylation status of wild-type Git1 at Tyr-554 and its dephosphorylation by Ptpzr, we generated a specific antibody against Tyr(P)-554 of Git1 (anti-pY554 Git1). When Git1 proteins were expressed in cells together with the wild-type Ptpzr-B (Zwt) or PTP-inactive CS mutant of Ptpzr-B (Zcs), overall tyrosine phosphorylation patterns of the total cellular proteins were seemingly identical among samples by Western blotting (Fig. 2A). However, immunoblotting with anti-pY554 Git1 revealed the phosphorylation at Tyr-554 to be decreased in cells expressing wild-type Ptpzr-B, but not the CS mutant (Fig. 2B). Our previous results with a pan-anti-phosphotyrosine antibody, PY20, showed that the tyrosine phosphorylation of Git1 is markedly suppressed by Ptpzr-B (11). Taken together, these results indicate that wild-type Git1 is preferentially phosphorylated at Tyr-554 and it is efficiently dephosphorylated by Ptpzr. In contrast, the Git1-Y554F mutant showed no detectable signals with anti-pY554, also demonstrating the specificity of the antibody (Fig. 2B).

Dephosphorylation of Magi1 at Tyr-373 and Tyr-858 by Ptpzr—As was the case for Git1, the first isolated clone of Magi1 (encoding amino acid residues 824–1247, see Fig. 3A) showed an increase in its binding ability to a Ptpzr substrate-trapping mutant by tyrosine phosphorylation (10), indicating that the encoded region contains a dephosphorylation site(s) of Ptpzr. To narrow the candidate substrate region, we first performed *in vitro* dephosphorylation assays using C-terminal deletion mutants of Magi1. Wild-type Magi1 and two C-terminal deletion derivatives (Δ C1, Δ 1193–1247; and Δ C2, Δ 984–1247), were efficiently dephosphorylated by PtpzrICR, whereas a further C-terminal deletion mutant (Δ C3, Δ 789–1247) showed partial resistance to the catalysis (Fig. 3B), suggesting that one of the potential substrate sites is present within the 789–983 region. In this region, only one phosphorylation site at Tyr-858 has been registered in public databases, such as PhosphoSite-Plus and PHOSPHONET. So, we focused on Tyr-858 as a potential substrate site by using a mutant in which this tyrosine is replaced with phenylalanine (Magi1-Y858F). As was the case for Magi1- Δ C3, the Magi1-Y858F mutant was less dephosphorylated than wild-type Magi1 (Fig. 3C), indicating that the Tyr-858 site of Magi1 is most likely dephosphorylated by Ptpzr. However, dephosphorylation of Magi1-Y858F was certainly detected with PtpzrICR at a higher enzyme dosage, and this was completely inhibited with vanadate, suggesting the presence of another substrate site for Ptpzr outside the C-terminal region.

In the cellular context, tyrosine phosphorylation of Magi1 was decreased when Ptpzr-B was co-expressed (compare *first lane* with *third lane* in Fig. 4A) as described previously (11).

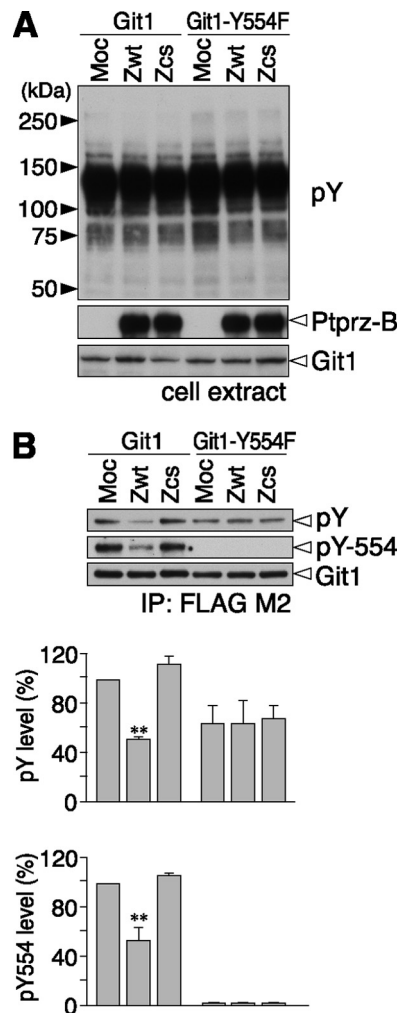


FIGURE 2. Dephosphorylation of the Git1 Tyr-554 site by Ptpzr. *A*, expression construct for FLAG-tagged wild-type Git1 or its Y554F mutant was transfected into v-Src-HEK293T (a stable HEK293T cell line expressing v-Src) cells, together with the wild-type Ptpzr-B (Zwt), PTP-inactive C1934S mutant of Ptpzr-B (Zcs), or control vector (Moc). Cells were scraped and lysed after starvation in the serum-free medium for 3 h. The tyrosine phosphorylation of cellular proteins was examined by Western blotting using PY20, and protein expression was verified with rabbit anti-Ptpzr-S and anti-FLAG antibodies. *B*, tyrosine phosphorylation of Git1 and Git1-Y554F was analyzed as above with PY20, rabbit anti-pY554-Git1, and anti-FLAG antibodies. The data are presented as the mean \pm S.E. (error bars; $n = 3$). **, $p < 0.01$ compared with control Moc cells.

Because Ptpzr associates with PDZ domains of Magi1 through its C-terminal PDZ-binding motif (10), we further evaluated the effect of this binding by using a C-terminal PDZ-binding motif mutant of Ptpzr (Zwt-SA). Notably, the dephosphorylation of the PDZ-binding motif Magi1 was partially suppressed by mutation of wild-type Magi1 (compare *second* and *third lanes* in Fig. 4A). Magi1-Y858F was dephosphorylated by Ptpzr-B in cells (compare *first* and *third lanes* in Fig. 4B), but the decrease in the tyrosine phosphorylation was reduced compared with wild-type Magi1, consistent with the results of the *in vitro* assay (see Fig. 3C). Intriguingly, unlike Magi1 WT, the level of dephosphorylation of Magi1 Y858F by the Ptpzr-B SA mutant was almost equal to that by wild-type Ptpzr-B (compare *second* and *third lanes* in Fig. 4B), suggesting that the dephosphorylation of Magi1 at Tyr-858 by Ptpzr requires PDZ domain-me-

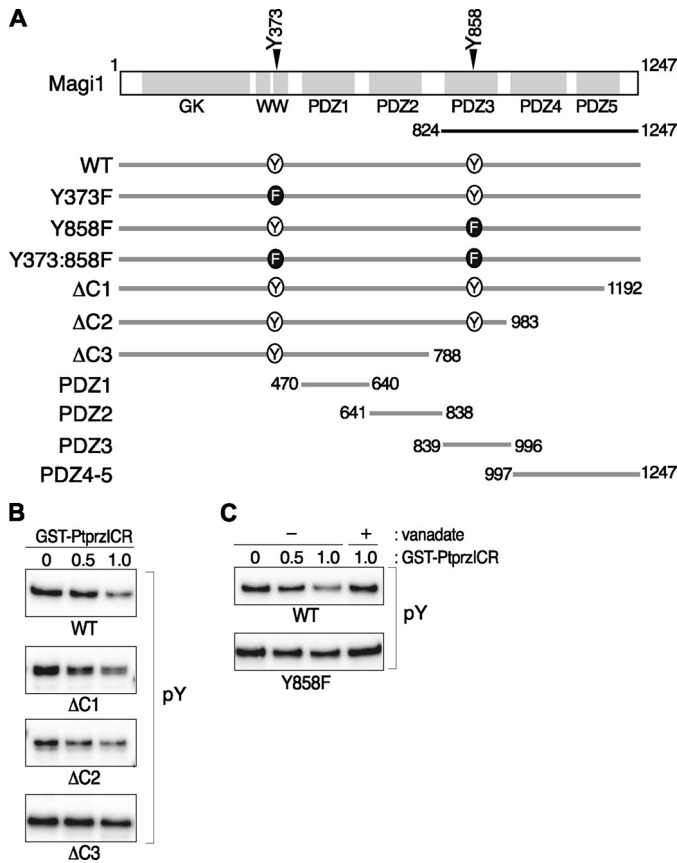


FIGURE 3. Dephosphorylation of Magi1 by Ptpz. *A*, schematic representation of wild-type Magi1 and its mutant constructs. *GK*, guanylate kinase; *WW*, a protein module with two highly conserved tryptophans. The region encoded by the positive clone isolated in the yeast substrate screening (10) is shown by the *solid line* underneath. *B* and *C*, dephosphorylation of Magi1 by PtpzICR. The immunoprecipitants of the tyrosine-phosphorylated Magi1 proteins shown in *A* were incubated *in vitro* with GST-PtpzICR for 20 min at 37 °C and analyzed by Western blotting as described in the Fig. 1 legend. The enzymatic reaction by PTP was verified by complete inhibition with vanadate (*rightmost lanes* in *C*).

diated binding between Magi1 and Ptpz. Here, pulldown experiments using the C-terminal Ptpz fragment indicated that the second PDZ domain of Magi1 is responsible for the PDZ domain-mediated binding with Ptpz, along with a weak interaction with the fourth/fifth PDZ domains (Fig. 5).

Our preliminary mass spectrometric studies detected that two tyrosine residues at positions 373 and 858 in FLAG-tagged Magi1 were phosphorylated in cells when v-Src was co-expressed (data not shown). So, we asked whether Tyr-373 is another potential substrate site of Magi1. We constructed a single point mutant Y373F and a double mutant Y373:858F (see Fig. 3A): Unfortunately, significant tyrosine phosphorylation of Y373:858F was still observed in cells stably expressing v-Src, indicating the existence of other phosphorylation sites in this cellular context (Fig. 4D). We verified that the tyrosine phosphorylation of Magi1-Y373F was decreased by Ptpz-B (compare *first* and *third lanes* in Fig. 4C), as well as Magi1-Y858F (Fig. 4B). However, that of the double mutant was no longer decreased (compare *first* and *third lanes* in Fig. 4D), indicating that the Tyr-373 and Tyr-858 residues in Magi1 are primary substrate sites for Ptpz. Although Ptpz-B dephosphorylated both Magi1-Y373F and -Y858F, the dephosphorylation activity

for the Y373F mutant was selectively abolished by mutation of its PDZ-binding motif (compare *first* and *second lanes* in Fig. 4C). The dephosphorylation at Tyr-858 by Ptpz thus occurs dependent on the PDZ binding, in contrast to that for the Tyr-373 site.

Identification of the Substrate Site Motif for Ptpz—Alignment of the primary sequences surrounding the target Tyr(P) residues in Git1 and Magi1 identified here, and p190RhoGAP previously (7), demonstrated a marked similarity (Fig. 6A). To understand the substrate specificity of Ptpz in more detail, we performed an *in vitro* assay using fluorogenic peptide-based PTP substrates. Peptides containing pCAP are highly sensitive fluorogenic probes for PTPase assays, and the PTPase-catalyzed hydrolysis of pCAP-peptide substrates can be monitored by the increase in fluorescence (15).

We first selected the Git1_{550–556} sequence as the template (P1 in Fig. 6B), and examined the contribution of individual amino acid side chains (from position –4 to +1) to catalytic affinity by replacing each amino acid residue with other residues. The largest effect was observed when the acidic Asp at –4 or –3 was replaced with the nonpolar Ala: the hydrolysis was drastically reduced by 60~70% compared with that of the wild-type Git1_{550–556} peptide (P2 and P3). Substitution of the hydrophobic Ile at –1 with hydrophilic Asp had a moderate inhibitory effect (P5). Because phosphorylation of Ser-555 in Git1 was reported (16), we examined its potential effect on the hydrolysis. Substitution of the Ser at +1 with Ser(P) or acidic Asp significantly reduced the efficiency by 30~40% (P6 and P7), indicating that the substrate property of Tyr(P)-554 is partly impaired by simultaneous phosphorylation of Ser at +1. Replacement of Ala at –2 with an acid residue had only a slight effect (P4).

Based on the findings that PtpzICR shows a strong preference for acidic residues at –4 and –3, we further examined the contribution of the acidic Glu residue at –5 to the catalysis, which is conserved in the Git1 Tyr-554 and p190RhoGAP Tyr-1105 sites. The addition of Glu on the N-terminal side of the Git1_{550–556} peptide (P1), namely Git1_{549–556} (P8), did increase the hydrolysis by ~40% compared with that of the parental P1 peptide, whereas the addition of Leu at position –6 (P9) did not result in any further improvement. Substitution of the acidic Glu at –5 with the nonpolar Ala (P10) exerted an inhibitory effect on the parental P8 peptide, returning to the same level as the P1 peptide. Thus, acidic residues at positions –5 to –3 and hydrophobic or nonpolar residues at positions –1 and +1 were revealed to be important for the substrate recognition by the *in vitro* assay (Fig. 6C).

As mentioned above, the Magi1 Tyr-858 site has only one acidic residue at –3 position, and its dephosphorylation by Ptpz required the PDZ binding activity. To confirm the validity of the sequence preference for the conserved acidic residues located on the N-terminal side in a cellular context, we generated an additional construct by replacement of Gly residue at position –4 of Tyr-858 with Asp from Magi1 Y373F. We tested the possibility that this site can be dephosphorylated by the PDZ-binding motif mutant of Ptpz-B. Intriguingly, the introduction of Asp at position –4 changed the Tyr-858 site to be susceptible to dephosphorylation by Ptpz-B without the PDZ

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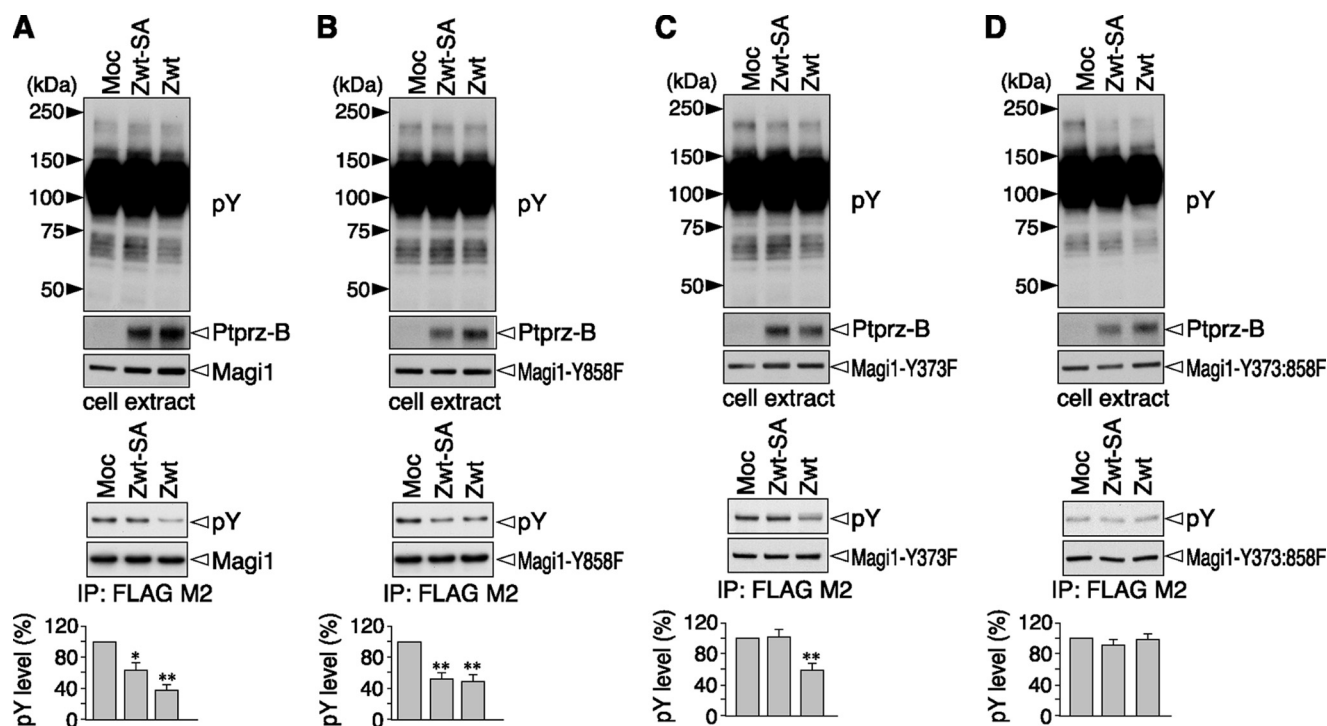


FIGURE 4. Dephosphorylation of the Magi1 Tyr-373 and Tyr-858 site by Ptpzr. The expression construct for FLAG-tagged wild-type Magi1 (A), or its mutant Y858F (B), Y373F (C), or Y373:858F (D) was transfected into v-Src-HEK293T cells, together with wild-type Ptpzr-B (Zwt), a Ptpzr-B mutant in its C-terminal PDZ-binding motif (Zwt-SA), or control vector (Moc). Cell extracts were prepared after starvation in the serum-free medium for 3 h. The tyrosine phosphorylation of cellular proteins and protein expression were analyzed with anti-phosphotyrosine, anti-RPTP β , and anti-FLAG antibodies. The tyrosine phosphorylation of Magi1 proteins was analyzed as above with PY20 and anti-FLAG antibodies, and the data are presented as the mean \pm S.E. (error bars; $n = 4$). *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$ compared with control Moc cells.

binding in the cell-based assay (Fig. 7). Thus, the sequence motif surrounding a phosphotyrosine residue is crucial for the direct substrate recognition by the catalytic PTP domain of Ptpzr also in the cellular context, as in the *in vitro* context.

Dephosphorylation of Paxillin at Tyr-118 by Ptpzr—The substrate specificity profile provided us with a rational basis for the prediction of other candidate substrate proteins. A search of the PhosphoSitePlus database with the consensus sequence shown in Fig. 6C produced five hits: the sequences surrounding Tyr-118 of mouse paxillin, Tyr-56 of mouse actin filament-associated protein 1-like 2 (AFAP1L2), Tyr-277 of mouse KIAA1486, Tyr-1284 of mouse ubiquitin protein ligase E3 component *n*-recognin 3 (UBR3), and Tyr-486 of mouse tight junction protein 2 (TJP2/ZO-2) (see Fig. 6A, *lower five proteins*; the five sites are conserved in mouse, rat, and human). Among them, we focused on paxillin because midkine, a ligand for Ptpzr, induces haptotactic migration of UMR-106, osteoblast-like cells that express Ptpzr (17). Upon midkine application, the tyrosine phosphorylation of paxillin is stimulated (17).

Paxillin is a substrate for the focal adhesion kinase-Src complex that functions as an adaptor for various signaling molecules and structural proteins in adhesions, in which paxillin interacts with several molecules including Git1 (for review, see Ref. 18). The phosphorylation of Tyr-118 in paxillin has been well characterized, and a specific antibody against Tyr(P)-118 paxillin is available. To clarify whether paxillin Tyr-118 is indeed a substrate site for Ptpzr, we expressed FLAG-tagged paxillin in cells together with Ptpzr-B and analyzed the phosphorylation of the target site of paxillin. Immunoblotting with

the specific antibody against Tyr(P)-118 paxillin revealed that the phosphorylation at Tyr-118 of paxillin is clearly decreased by co-expression of the wild-type Ptpzr-B, but not of the PTP-inactive CS mutant of Ptpzr-B compared with that in mock-transfected cells (Fig. 8). This strongly suggests that paxillin is a physiological substrate of Ptpzr.

DISCUSSION

In this study, we found that there is considerable similarity in the dephosphorylation sites in the substrates of Ptpzr, such as p190RhoGAP (7), Git1, and Magi1. We next determined the motif for the specificity of Ptpzr by examining the contribution of respective amino acid side chains. The consensus motif for Ptpzr thus identified is Glu/Asp-Glu/Asp-Glu/Asp-Xaa-Ile/Val-Tyr(P)-Xaa (Xaa is not an acidic residue): This sequence is quite different from Glu/Asp-Tyr(P)-Tyr(P)-Arg/Lys identified for the substrate site of PTP1B (2). Furthermore, we successfully discovered new substrates of Ptpzr based on this motif. Although initially viewed as broad specificity “housekeeping” enzymes, PTPs are actually highly selective enzymes.

Consensus Substrate Motif for Ptpzr—We used v-Src to phosphorylate the prey in the yeast substrate-trapping screening and isolated several proteins as substrates of Ptpzr (9, 10). We have found in this screening that v-Src phosphorylated a variety of cellular proteins, but only a few clones were identified as substrates of Ptpzr (10). As such, the substrate recognition site in physiological proteins appeared to be highly specific to the catalytic PTP domain of Ptpzr.

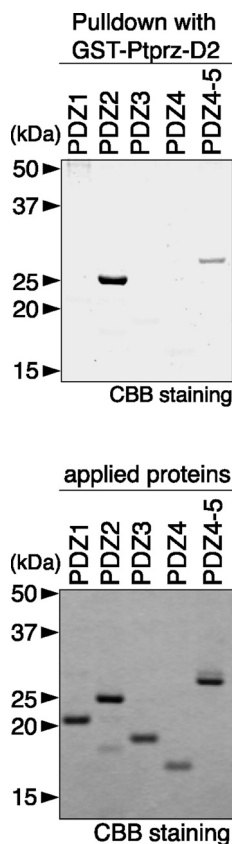


FIGURE 5. Binding between the C terminus of Ptpz and PDZ domains of Magi1. Purified His-tagged Magi1-PDZ domains shown in Fig. 3A were incubated with GST-Ptpz-D2 (the second PTP domain and the C-terminal tail of Ptpz)-immobilized beads. Bound proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, followed by Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250 (CBB) staining (upper panel). The lower panel shows the result of CBB staining of the applied Magi1 proteins.

The Git1 Tyr-554 and p190RhoGAP Tyr-1105 sites contain three, and the Magi1 Tyr-373 site two consecutive acidic residues at positions -5 to -3 on the N-terminal side. The peptide dephosphorylation assays *in vitro* revealed that additional replacement of the acidic residues at -5 , -4 , or -3 with non-polar Ala residues proportionally reduced the hydrolysis by PtpzICR (Fig. 6B). In addition, the Magi1 Tyr-858 site that has only one acidic residue on the N-terminal side (Glu at -3) required the PDZ-mediated interaction for the dephosphorylation by Ptpz (Fig. 4C). However, the introduction of Asp at position -4 changed the Tyr-858 site to be susceptible to dephosphorylation by Ptpz without the PDZ-mediated interaction in the cellular context (Fig. 7). It thus seems that the number of acidic residues from -5 to -3 is an important factor, and at least two acidic residues are required for direct substrate recognition by the catalytic PTP domain of Ptpz.

Git1 Tyr-554, p190RhoGAP Tyr-1105, and paxillin Tyr-118 have a serine residue at $+1$ on the C-terminal side (Fig. 6A). When Ser-555 at position $+1$ in the Git1 sequence was replaced with a phosphoserine or acidic Asp, PtpzICR showed significantly less catalytic activity in the *in vitro* peptide assays (P6 and P7 in Fig. 6B). Interestingly, the phosphorylation of Ser-555 in Git1 (16) and the simultaneous phosphorylation of Tyr-118 and Ser-119 in paxillin (19) have been identified by mass spectrometry. It is thus likely that the phosphorylation of these serine

residues at $+1$ serves a specific regulatory function in some physiological context by preventing Ptpz-mediated dephosphorylation.

Another Factor for Recognition of Substrates by Ptpz: Assisted Recognition—In addition to the sequence preference of substrates, other factors such as substrate localization, accessibility, and protein associations are also crucial for the substrate recognition. It should be noted that some groups including ours have already reported several proteins as Ptpz substrates, in which the typical consensus substrate motif proposed here is not found. We found several PDZ proteins among Ptpz substrates and Ptpz-interacting proteins in our screening (10). In the RPTP family, only the R5 subfamily members (Ptpz and Ptprg) have a canonical PDZ-binding tail that interacts with various PDZ proteins (9, 10, 20). It is conceivable that some PDZ proteins can provide substrates to Ptpz by setting them in close vicinity to the catalytic domain. Consistent with this view, the PDZ-binding activity of Ptpz is required for the dephosphorylation of the Magi1 Tyr-858 site (Fig. 4), also suggesting that the sequence surrounding Tyr-858 is not fully favorable for the catalytic PTP domain of Ptpz to recognize it as substrate directly (Fig. 7).

In addition, we reported that ErbB4 is a substrate for Ptpz (13). Ptpz pulled down ErbB4 together with PSD95 from rat brain lysate (13). ErbB4 is a member of the ErbB family of tyrosine kinases known as neuregulin receptors. Both Ptpz and ErbB4 bind to PSD95 in the second and the first/second PDZ domains, respectively. Of note is that expression of PSD95 is required for dephosphorylation of ErbB4 by Ptpz in HEK293T cells (13).

Furthermore, we recently found that TrkA is efficiently dephosphorylated by Ptpz at Tyr-674, Tyr-675, or both in the kinase domain (21). TrkA is a member of the Trk family of receptor tyrosine kinases and reportedly bound to the PDZ domain of GIPC (GAIP-interacting protein, C terminus) (22). The sequence of the substrate site in TrkA, Tyr-Ser-Thr-Asp-Tyr(674)-Tyr(675)-Arg, does not match the substrate motif demonstrated here well; however, several tyrosine residues including Tyr-670, Tyr-674, and Tyr-675 in TrkA are auto-phosphorylated upon NGF binding (23). It is tempting to speculate that a critical acidic residue is regularly provided by the phosphorylation at Tyr-670 located on the N-terminal side of the target Tyr(P) (674, 675, or both).

Other groups have reported that β -catenin (24) and the sodium channel (Na_v1.2) α subunit (25) are substrates for Ptpz. Because β -catenin reportedly binds to the fifth PDZ domain of Magi1 (26), Ptpz and β -catenin may exhibit an enzyme-substrate relation on the Magi1 scaffold. Likewise, the interaction between the sodium channel and Ptpz is presumably mediated by syntrophin because sodium channels reportedly bind to the first pleckstrin homology domain or the syntrophin-unique domain of syntrophin (27), and Ptpz also binds to the PDZ domain of syntrophin (10). PDZ-mediated interaction is a general mechanism by which membrane-associated proteins are recruited to specific subcellular regions to form signaling complexes. Some proteins associated with PDZ proteins together with Ptpz are thus likely dephosphorylated by Ptpz without a strict substrate recognition structure.

Consensus Substrate Sequence for Ptpz

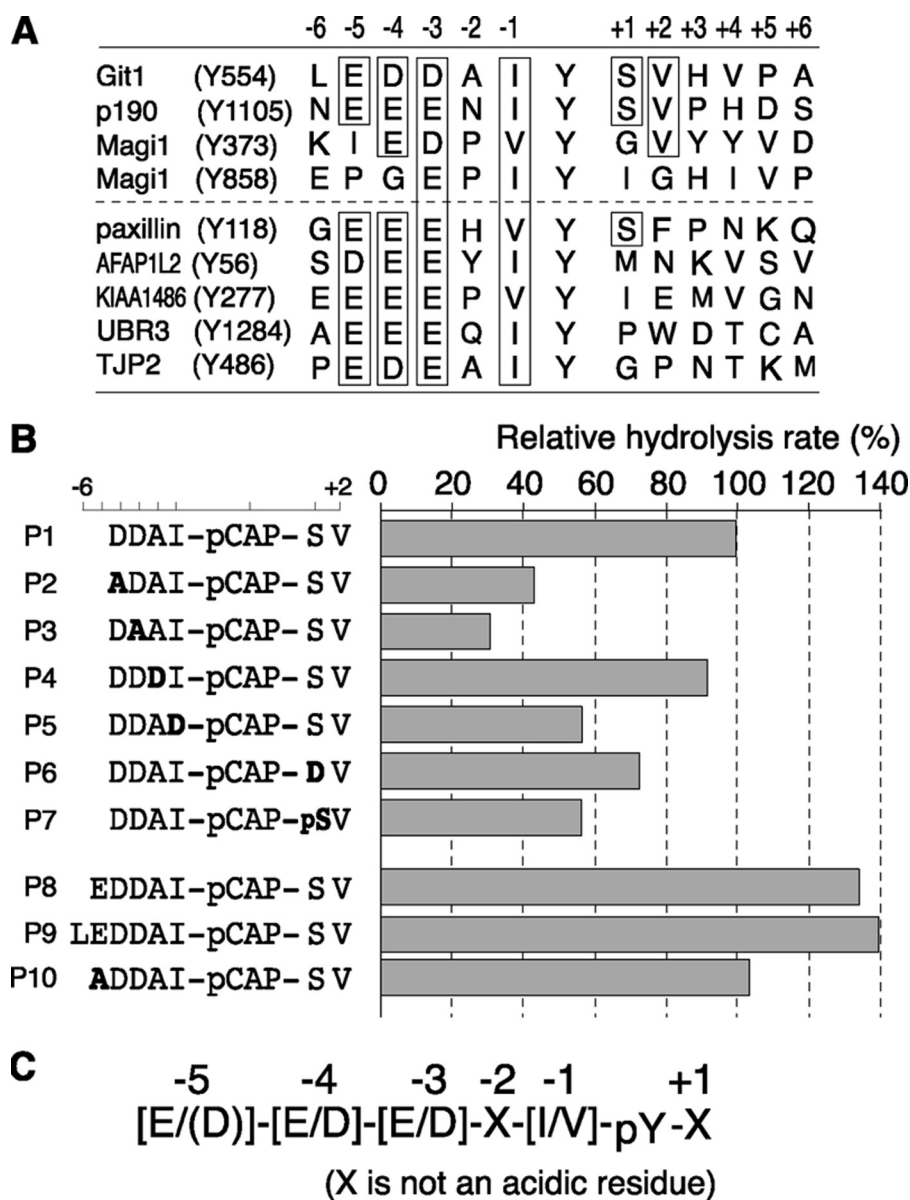


FIGURE 6. Identification of the substrate motif for Ptpz. *A*, primary sequences surrounding the target phosphotyrosine residues located in Git1 (Tyr-554), p190RhoGAP (Tyr-1105), Magi1 (Tyr-373 and Tyr-858), and paxillin (Tyr-118) aligned, together with four substrate candidates, AFAP1L2 (Tyr-56), KIAA1486 (Tyr-277), UBR3 (Tyr-1284), and TJP2/ZO-2 (Tyr-486). *Boxed* residues are conserved in at least three substrate sequences. *B*, kinetic analysis for the hydrolysis of Git1-derived peptide substrates by PtpzICR *in vitro*. The amino acid sequences of the substrate peptides (P1–10) used in this study are shown on the *left* of the figure. P1, P8, and P9 peptides correspond to Git1_{550–556}, Git1_{549–556}, and Git1_{548–556}, respectively, except that the Tyr residue at 554 is replaced with a phosphotyrosine mimic, pCAP. P1–P7 and P10 peptides are Git1 peptide derivatives, in which the substituted amino acid residues are shown in *bold*. The assay was performed as described under “Experimental Procedures.” *C*, proposed consensus substrate-site motif for the PTP catalytic domain of Ptpz.

Functional Regulation of Ptpz Substrates by Dephosphorylation—p190RhoGAP, Git1, and paxillin are key regulators of the actin cytoarchitecture important for eukaryotic cell migration and adhesion, acting through the regulation of cellular protrusive activity by targeting multiprotein signaling complexes. The phosphorylated Tyr-1105 in p190RhoGAP and the phosphorylated Tyr-118 in paxillin constitute binding sites for a SH2 domain of p120 RasGAP (28). In mammary gland epithelial cells, it was reported that the Tyr-31/Tyr-118-phosphorylated paxillin competes with p190RhoGAP for binding to p120RasGAP and that p190RhoGAP freed from p120RasGAP efficiently suppresses RhoA activity in cell detachment and migration (28). Git1 forms a stable complex with the p21-acti-

ated kinases interacting exchange factor (PIX) family, Rho guanine nucleotide exchange factors. One important function of Git1 is to link a complex of p21-activated kinase and p21-activated kinases interacting exchange factor to remodeling focal adhesions by interacting with paxillin or its homolog Hic-5 (29). By enhancing focal adhesion turnover, Git1 might facilitate cell migration and spreading (30). One should note that the phosphorylation of the Git1 Tyr-554 site attenuates the association with Hic-5.³

Magi1 constitutes the Magi family together with Magi2 and Magi3. Although the functional consequences of the phospho-

³ A. Fujikawa and M. Noda, unpublished observation.

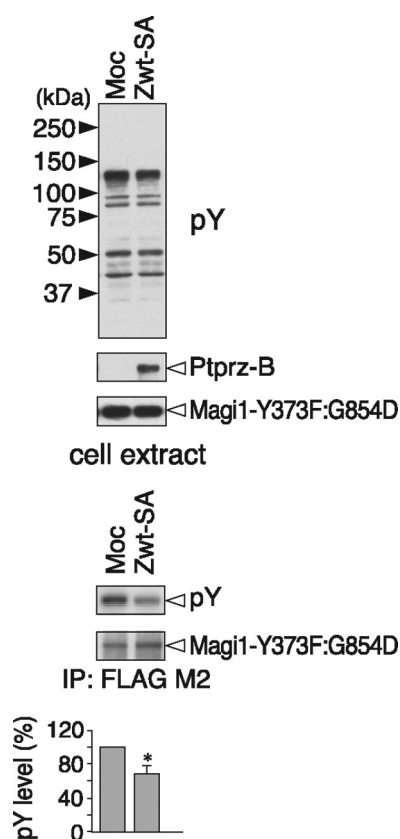


FIGURE 7. Relevance of the sequence motif for the substrate recognition of Ptpz in cells. The expression construct for FLAG-tagged Magi1-Y373F:G854D mutant was transfected into v-Src-HEK293T cells, together with the C-terminal PDZ-binding motif mutant of Ptpz-B (Zwt-SA), or control vector (Moc). The tyrosine phosphorylation and protein expression were analyzed as above. The data are presented as the mean \pm S.E. (error bars; $n = 3$). *, $p < 0.05$ compared with control Moc cells.

rylation at the Tyr-373 site in the second WW domain and at the Tyr-858 site in the third PDZ domain remain to be explored, the binding properties of each domain of Magi1 are probably affected. Magi2 is known as a synaptic scaffolding molecule (S-SCAM) interacting with a wide variety of molecules at excitatory and inhibitory synapses (31 and references cited therein). Interestingly, the sequence surrounding Tyr-361 of Magi2 is completely identical to the Magi1-Tyr-373 substrate site, and the sequence of Gly-Asp-Glu-Leu-Val-Tyr(826)-Val of Magi2 is better matched to the substrate motif than the Magi1-Tyr-858 site: The Magi2-Tyr-826 site contains two acidic residues at positions -4 and -3 , whereas the Magi1-Tyr-858 site contains one acidic residue at position -3 . The phosphorylation of Tyr-361 and Tyr-826 in Magi2 has been registered in the public databases mentioned above, suggesting that the two are substrate sites for Ptpz. Indeed, the tyrosine phosphorylation of Magi2 was equally decreased by co-expression of the wild-type Ptpz-B and its PDZ-binding motif mutant (supplemental Fig. S1). On the other hand, the sequences surrounding the corresponding tyrosine residues in Magi3 differ from those of Magi1 and Magi2, and there is no evidence of their phosphorylation.

Potential Physiological Roles of Ptpz Signaling—The physiological importance of Ptpz has been demonstrated through studies with knock-out mice (5–8). Adult *Ptpz*-deficient mice

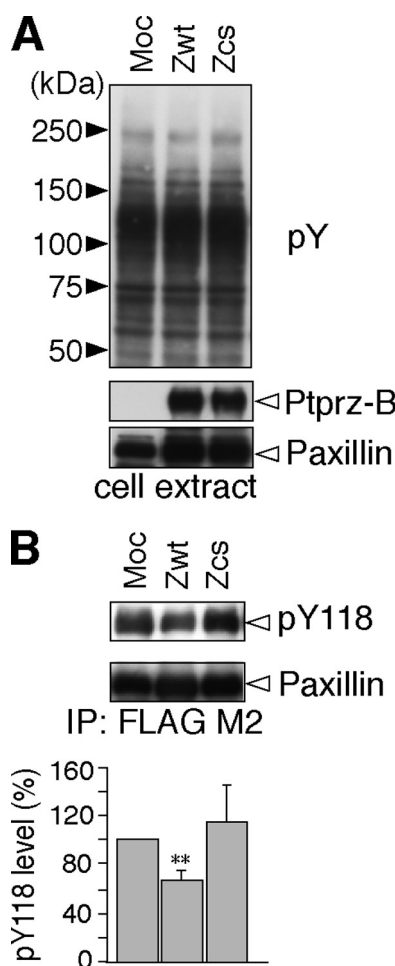


FIGURE 8. Dephosphorylation of the paxillin Tyr-118 site by Ptpz. A, expression construct for FLAG-tagged paxillin was transfected into v-Src-HEK293T cells with Ptpz-B (Zwt), Ptpz-B-CS mutant (Zcs), or control vector (Moc). After 3-h serum starvation, the tyrosine phosphorylation of cellular proteins and protein expression of Ptpz and paxillin were verified with PY20, anti-RPTP β , and anti-FLAG, respectively. B, tyrosine phosphorylation of paxillin was analyzed as above with anti-pY118-paxillin. The amount of immunoprecipitated paxillin proteins was evaluated with anti-FLAG. The data are presented as the mean \pm S.E. (error bars; $n = 4$). **, $p < 0.01$ compared with control Moc cells.

exhibit an enhancement of long term potentiation in the CA1 region of the hippocampus along with learning deficits (6, 7). We found that phosphorylation of the p190RhoGAP Tyr-1105 site is decreased by contextual fear conditioning in the hippocampus of wild-type mice, and the phosphorylation of Tyr-1105 positively regulates its GAP activity (7). *Git1* is also expressed in hippocampal neurons (32). Very recently, two independent groups reported that *Git1* knock-out mice showed deficits in conditioned fear (33) and impaired formation of dendritic spines in the hippocampus (34). As described above, Magi2 (S-SCAM) is also probable as a physiological substrate for Ptpz at central synapses. Primary cultured hippocampal neurons from mutant mice lacking S-SCAM α , the longest isoform of S-SCAM, harbor abnormally elongated dendritic spines (31). Thus, we consider Ptpz signaling mediated by these substrates to be the molecular basis of synaptic plasticity through actin-dependent morphological changes on the post-synaptic side (for review, see Ref. 35). In line with this view, we reported that Ptpz in the stomach functions as the receptor of

Consensus Substrate Sequence for Ptpz

VacA, a cytotoxin secreted by *H. pylori*, which induces gastric ulcers (8). The binding of VacA to Ptpz induces erroneous signaling in gastric epithelial cells, which likely impairs the actin cytoskeleton network and focal adhesion complex, leading to detachment from the basement membrane (8).

In conclusion, the present study provides key insights into the molecular basis by which Ptpz recognizes substrates. Our knowledge of substrates for Ptpz suggests that Ptpz dephosphorylates multiple proteins associated with actin remodeling, which plays important roles in synaptic plasticity in the adult brain and cell adhesion/migration of epithelial cells.

Acknowledgments—We thank HiPep laboratories (Kyoto, Japan) for preparing the peptides used in this study, N. Nakanishi for technical assistance, and A. Kodama for secretarial assistance. A F-4500 spectrofluorometer was used at the National Institute for Basic Biology Center for Analytical Instruments.

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