

Comprehensive Mass Spectrometric Mapping of the Hydroxylated Amino Acid residues of the $\alpha 1(V)$ Collagen Chain^{*S}

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Background: $\alpha 1(V)$ is an extensively modified collagen chain important in disease.

Results: Comprehensive mapping of $\alpha 1(V)$ post-translational modifications reveals unexpectedly large numbers of X-position hydroxyprolines in Gly-X-Y amino acid triplets.

Conclusion: The unexpected abundance of X-position hydroxyprolines suggests a mechanism for differential modification of collagen properties.

Significance: Positions, numbers, and occupancy of modified sites can provide insights into $\alpha 1(V)$ biological properties.

Aberrant expression of the type V collagen $\alpha 1(V)$ chain can underlie the connective tissue disorder classic Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, and autoimmune responses against the $\alpha 1(V)$ chain are linked to lung transplant rejection and atherosclerosis. The $\alpha 1(V)$ collagenous COL1 domain is thought to contain greater numbers of post-translational modifications (PTMs) than do similar domains of other fibrillar collagen chains, PTMs consisting of hydroxylated prolines and lysines, the latter of which can be glycosylated. These types of PTMs can contribute to epitopes that underlie immune responses against collagens, and the high level of PTMs may contribute to the unique biological properties of the $\alpha 1(V)$ chain. Here we use high resolution mass spectrometry to map such PTMs in bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ and human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ procollagen chains. Findings include the locations of those PTMs that vary and those PTMs that are invariant between these $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from widely divergent sources. Notably, an unexpectedly large number of hydroxyproline residues were mapped to the X-positions of Gly-X-Y triplets, contrary to expectations based on previous amino acid analyses of hydrolyzed $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from various tissues. We attribute this difference to the ability of tandem mass spectrometry coupled to nanoflow chromatographic separations to detect lower-level PTM combinations with superior sensitivity and specificity. The data are consistent with the presence of a relatively large number of 3-hydroxyproline sites with less than 100% occupancy, suggesting a previously unknown mechanism for the differential modification of $\alpha 1(V)$ chain and type V collagen properties.

Collagen type V (col(V))² is a low abundance fibrillar collagen that is widely distributed in vertebrate tissues as an $\alpha 1(V)_2\alpha 2(V)$ heterotrimer (1). It is also found with a more limited tissue distribution as an $\alpha 1(V)\alpha 2(V)\alpha 3(V)$ heterotrimer and as rare $\alpha 1(V)_3$ homotrimers (1, 2). Thus, all forms of col(V) contain the $\alpha 1(V)$ chain. Additionally, the closely related collagen type XI, first described as an $\alpha 1(XI)\alpha 2(XI)\alpha 3(XI)$ heterotrimer in fetal cartilage (3), incorporates $\alpha 1(V)$ chains into heterotypic $\alpha 1(XI)\alpha 1(V)\alpha 3(XI)$ trimers as cartilage matures (4), implying additional roles for the $\alpha 1(V)$ chain.

It is generally accepted that $\alpha 1(V)_2\alpha 2(V)$ heterotrimers are incorporated into growing fibrils of the more abundant collagen type I and are involved in regulating the geometry and properties of the resulting type I/V heterotypic fibrils (5, 6). Thus, mutations in the genes encoding either $\alpha 1(V)$ or $\alpha 2(V)$ chains result in the human connective tissue disorder classic Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, characterized by collagen I fibrils of abnormal shapes and diameters and deficient tensile strength (7, 8). More recently, it has been demonstrated that anti-col(V) autoimmune responses can underlie chronic lung transplant rejection in both humans (9) and animal models (10) and that pre-transplant col(V)-specific autoimmunity is also a significant risk factor for primary graft dysfunction, the leading cause of early morbidity and mortality after lung transplantation (11, 12). Col(V) autoimmunity has also been identified as a consistent feature in both late stage human coronary artery disease and a mouse model of atherosclerosis (13). In both human lung transplant rejection and coronary artery disease, immune

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^S This article contains supplemental Experimental Procedures, Tables S1 and S2, and Spectra S1 and S2.

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² The abbreviations used are: col(V), collagen type V; PTM, post-translational modification; Hyp, hydroxyproline; Hyl, hydroxylysine; COL1, the major collagenous domain of fibrillar collagen chains; MS², (MS/MS) a precursor measurement followed by precursor fragmentation to produce product ions; MS₃, (MS/MS/MS) a product ion from MS² re-isolated and fragmented; MSⁿ, tandem mass spectrometry ($n > 1$); ETD, electron-transfer dissociation; HCD, higher energy collisional dissociation; CRTAP, (cartilage-associated protein). P3H, prolyl 3-hydroxylase.

responses have been shown to be specific to the $\alpha 1(V)$ chain, with an absence of such responses to the $\alpha 2(V)$ chain (9, 13).

The $\alpha 1(V)$ chain contains extensive post-translational modifications (PTMs) relative to other fibrillar collagen chains consisting of 4-hydroxyproline (4-Hyp) and 3-hydroxyproline (3-Hyp) residues and of hydroxylysine (Hyl) residues, most of which are decorated with di- and monosaccharides (14, 15). Functionally, 4-Hyp residues have well characterized effects in stabilizing triple helices (16), whereas Hyl residues are important to the formation of stable covalent cross-links between collagen chains (17), and Hyl glycosylation may be important in assembly and secretion of at least some collagens (18). The function of 3-Hyp residues is unclear, with conflicting reports on small stabilizing (19) or destabilizing (20) effects on triple helix stability. However, loss of 3-Hyp residues in collagens can have catastrophic phenotypic consequences (21), implying an important biological function(s). In addition to functional roles, previous studies show various PTMs are capable of affecting immune responses against collagenous antigens (22–29). For example, Pro hydroxylation can contribute to the antigenicity of collagen IV (22), whereas lysine hydroxylation and glycosylation are important to epitopes that affect the antigenic roles of collagen II in rheumatoid and experimentally induced arthritis (23–29).

Recent studies investigating PTMs on collagenous proteins have utilized tandem mass spectrometry (MS^n) on low resolution, low mass accuracy ion trap mass spectrometers or mass measurements of large peptides using matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) MS (14, 30–32). However, performing MS^n on instruments with low mass accuracy or relying on MS measurements of peptides that have not been subjected to MS^n makes confident peptide identification and unambiguous PTM site localization challenging. The analysis of collagenous proteins by MS is complicated by the high degree of modification and the large number of proline residues. The former leads to generation of isobaric, but differentially modified, peptides that often co-elute, producing chimeric spectra difficult to interpret without the aid of high mass accuracy and abundant product ions from MS^n . The latter hampers MS^n sequencing efforts due the propensity of Pro/Hyp to preferentially cleave during collisional activation (the “proline effect”) (33, 34). This can limit the generation of a ladder of b- and y-type product ions most commonly used by database search algorithms for peptide identification and PTM localization of spectra generated by collision-activated dissociation (33, 35–37).

In the current study we used state-of-the-art proteomics workflow centered on the use of high resolution MS and nanoflow chromatographic separations to precisely map hydroxylation and glycosylation modifications in bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ and human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ procollagen chains. Instead of relying on a single enzyme or chemical treatment to produce peptides amenable to MS, we used five different proteases (individually or sequentially) to maximize protein sequence coverage and facilitate PTM discovery. Peptides were subsequently separated by nanoflow liquid chromatography and introduced into an electron transfer dissociation (ETD-enabled) hybrid dual cell linear ion trap-orbitrap mass spec-

trometer by electrospray ionization. The orbitrap recorded the masses of eluting peptides with low ppm mass accuracy (<5 ppm) affording confident peptide identification and localization of PTMs. The hybrid orbitrap mass spectrometer permitted the use of several dissociation techniques; resonant excitation collision-activated dissociation, beam-type collision-activated dissociation (higher energy collisional dissociation (HCD)), and ETD (38, 39). The availability of multiple dissociation techniques and the use of MS^2 and MS^3 for peptide interrogation often allowed us to pinpoint the exact residue(s) carrying the individual PTMs. Such comprehensive, experiment-based PTM localization has not previously been achieved for collagenous proteins. Recent analyses of collagenous proteins by MS relied heavily on *a priori* biological knowledge to assess prolyl hydroxylation (*i.e.* PTM assignment based upon hydroxylation motifs) (30, 32) rather than PTM assignment based upon localizing fragments from MS^n spectra.

We report comprehensive mapping of all PTMs involving hydroxylated residues on bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ and human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains and provide manually verified mass spectral evidence for each modified site. Our analyses reveal PTMs that vary or are invariant between the bovine tissue $\alpha 1(V)$ and human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains and also reveal all hydroxylated residue PTMs in pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences NH_2 -terminal to the COL1 major collagenous domain. We also identify an unexpectedly large number of Hyp residues in the X-position of Gly-X-Y triplets, attributed to our ability to identify modified peptides present in low stoichiometric amounts that go undetected by classic amino acid analyses or Edman sequencing. Another unexpected, and striking finding was X-position Hyp residues discovered in the unusual contexts of Gly-Hyp-Val and Gly-Hyp-Ala triplets in the bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain. Findings presented herein may aid in characterizing and locating $\alpha 1(V)$ autoimmune epitopes and may provide further insights into col(V) function.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Preparation of Human Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ Procollagen and Bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ Collagen Chains—Human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ homotrimers were produced via expression from a modified pCEP-Pu vector in 293-EBNA human embryonic kidney cells (Invitrogen) followed by dialysis of conditioned media against 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.6, buffer containing 0.1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 1 mM *N*-ethylmaleimide, 0.1 mM *p*-aminobenzoic acid, and 5 mM EDTA for low salt precipitation of collagen chains as previously described (40). Bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ chains were prepared essentially as previously described (41). Briefly, minced and washed amnion stripped off placenta from the area close to attachment of the umbilicus was suspended in 0.5 M acetic acid, 0.2 M NaCl and digested with pepsin at 4 °C. Col(V), which is soluble in 0.7 M NaCl and precipitates in 1.2 M NaCl, was purified from supernatants via differential NaCl precipitation (42). $\alpha 1(V)$ chains were separated from $\alpha 2(V)$ chains via chromatography on diethylaminoethyl cellulose.

Prolyl 3-Hydroxylase Expression—Breast carcinoma cell line MB 436 (ATCC catalogue no. HTB-130) and HEK293 T-REx cells were maintained in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s media (Cellgro, Manassas, VA) supplemented with 10% FBS and pen-

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icillin/streptomycin in 5% CO₂. Total RNA was extracted from cell lines using TRIzol (Invitrogen). cDNA was synthesized from 1 μ g of RNA using the SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase kit (Invitrogen) with random hexamers. Subsequently, PCR was performed for 35 cycles with primer sets for human prolyl 3-hydroxylase 1 (P3H1), P3H2, P3H3, cartilage-associated protein (CRTAP), and PPIB previously described by Fernandes *et al.* (31) and for GAPDH previously described by Shah *et al.* (43).

Amino Acid Analysis—Bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains were hydrolyzed in 6 N HCl, 1% phenol at 110 °C for 48 h and analyzed by means of a Hitachi L 8800 A amino acid analyzer at the University of California-Davis Molecular Structure Facility.

Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ Sequences for Comparison to MS Data—For human pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences, MS data were compared with sequences available in the databases. For bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences, a BLAST search of bovine genome databases using human pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences (44) identified mRNA sequence XM_002691720.1, predicted by automated analysis of genomic sequences, which encodes the pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ C-propeptide and ~38% of the $\alpha 1(V)$ major triple helical (COL1) domain interspersed with gaps and insertions of non- $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences probably due to annotative misidentification of intron/exon junctions. Toward obtaining complete bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 sequences, first strand cDNA was synthesized from bovine placenta total RNA (Zyagen, San Diego, CA) using oligo(dT)₂₀ primers. Primers 5'-AGGCCCCCCAGGCGAGGTC-3' (forward) and 5'-ATTCTGGCCCTTCAGACTT-3' (reverse), based on XM_002691720.1 COL1 sequences, were then used to amplify an ~1.8-kb fragment of COL1 sequences that was directly sequenced using the same forward primer. Another predicted mRNA sequence (XM_617549.3), identified via subsequent BLAST search, encodes partial pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ NH₂-terminal globular sequences and some inserted intronic sequences. To obtain the remaining bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 sequences, forward primer 5'-GTGGCACAGAATTGCTCTCA-3', based on XM_617549.3 sequences, was used with primer 5'-GCC-TTCACTGCCTTTCAGTC-3' (reverse primer A) based on XM_002691720.1 sequences to amplify a ~2.7-kb fragment. The ~2.7-kb fragment could not be amplified from first strand cDNA synthesized using oligo(dT)₂₀ primers as above and was instead amplified from first strand cDNA obtained using reverse primer A. The ~2.7-kb PCR fragment was directly sequenced sequentially using reverse primers 5'-GTGGCACAGAATTGCTCTCA-3', 5'-CTCCAAGTTTGCCCTTCTCC-3', and 5'-GCCCTTCTCCGTCTTC-3'. The full-length bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 sequences have been submitted to the GenBank™/EMBL Data Bank with accession number JQ611730.

Digestion of Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ and $\alpha 1(V)$ Samples for Mass Spectrometry—Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ and $\alpha 1(V)$ samples were desalted using 50 mg tC18 SepPak cartridges (Waters Corp., Milford, MA). Eluates were dried down and resuspended in digestion buffer (see below) optimized for each protease. Cysteine residues were reduced and alkylated by incubation in 5 mM dithiothreitol for 45 min at 37 °C followed by a 30-min incubation at room temperature in 15 mM iodoacetamide in the dark. Alky-

lation was quenched by a 15-min incubation in 5 mM dithiothreitol at room temperature. This was followed by a multiple protease approach, utilized to maximize protein sequence coverage (45), and involved addition of five different proteases (individually or sequentially) (see the details in the supplemental Experimental Procedures).

Liquid Chromatography Electrospray Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)—A Waters nanoACQUITY UPLC and autosampler (Waters Corp.) were used to load samples onto a fused-silica capillary precolumn (75- μ m inner diameter \times 360- μ m outer diameter). Precolumns with cast chemical frits were slurry-packed to 5 cm in length with a stationary phase consisting of a 5- μ m diameter, 100 Å pore size, C18 particles (Magic C18AQ, Michrom Bioresources, Inc., Auburn CA) (46). Reversed-phase LC separation was achieved across a 13-cm-long, 50- μ m inner diameter \times 360- μ m outer diameter fused-silica analytical column packed with the same C18 stationary phase. An electrospray ionization emitter was integrated into the analytical column by use of a laser puller (Sutter Instrument Co., P-2000, Novato, CA). An estimated 1–4 μ g of protein digest was loaded onto the precolumn and chromatographed over a 60-min linear gradient at 300 nl/min (2 to 30% B, buffer A (0.2% formic acid in water); buffer B (0.2% formic acid in acetonitrile)). Eluate was introduced into the mass spectrometer via electrospray ionization (+2.0 kV), and peptide cations were subjected to tandem mass spectrometry using an LTQ Orbitrap Velos mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen, Germany) enabled for ETD (39, 47, 48). Typical experiments consisted of MS¹ analysis in the Orbitrap mass analyzer using a resolving power of 60,000 followed by 10 data-dependent HCD MS² events. Product ion mass analysis was also conducted in the Orbitrap using resolving powers of 7,500–15,000. Precursor and product ion mass error was typically <10 ppm. Similar experiments were conducted using ETD, where charge state-dependent ETD activation times were utilized. To obtain additional sequence information of glycosylated peptides, an additional set of LC analyses were conducted using an MS³ mass spectrometry method. For MS³ analyses, three data-dependent collision-induced dissociation or ETD MS² events were executed followed by data-dependent HCD MS³ events, where the most intense peak in each MS² spectrum was dissociated. For all experiments, an automatic gain control target value of 1,000,000 charges was used for MS¹. An automatic gain control target of 50,000 charges was used for both MS² and MS³. Precursors were dynamically excluded from data-dependent MS² for 30–60 s. A precursor isolation width of 2–3 *m/z* was typically used.

Proteomic Data Analysis—Spectral reduction from raw data was performed by DTA Generator, a program available in the COMPASS software suite (freely available online) (49). The ETD preprocessing option was used to remove known neutral loss peaks from ETD spectra (50, 51). The OMSSA (Open Mass Spectrometry Search Algorithm) search algorithm was used for database correlation (52). Spectra were searched against a concatenated target-decoy version of human Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ or bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ sequence databases (53). Several variable PTMs were considered: hydroxylation of proline and lysine residues (+15.9949 Da, monoisotopic mass), glycosylation of lysine

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GPAGPMGLTGRPGPMGPPGSSGGLKGE^oPGDMGPQGPRGVQGP^oPPGAGK^oPGR^oRGRAGS^oDGAR 60
 GMPGQTGPKGDRGFDGLAGL^oPGE^oKGHRGD^oPGSPG^oPP^oGEDGERGDDGEVGRPL^oPGEP 120
 GPR^oGLL^oGPK^oGPP^oPGPP^oGV^oTGMDGQ^oPGP^oK^oGNVGPQGE^oPGP^o*PGQ^oGN^oPGAQGL^oPGPQGA^oI 180
 GP^oPGEK^oGPLK^oPGL^oPGMPGADGPP^oGH^oPGKEG^oP^oGE^oKGGQ^oGG^oPP^oGPQGP^oIGY^oPGPRGV^oKGAD 240
 GIRGL^oKGT^oKGE^oKGEDGF^oPGF^oKGDMGI^oKGDRGE^oIG^oPP^oGRGEDGPE^oGP^oKGRGGPN^oDFG^oPL 300
 GP^o*PGE^oKGKL^oGV^oPGL^oPGY^oPGRQGP^oKSG^oIGF^oPGF^oPGANGE^oKGGRGT^oPGK^o*PGRGQRGPTGPR 360
 GERGPRGITGK^oPGPK^oNSGGDGPAG^oPP^oGERGPN^oGPQ^oGPTGF^oPP^oPKG^oPP^oPKDGL^oPGHP 420
 GQRGETGFQKGT^oPP^oGG^oGVVGPQ^oGPTGET^oGPMGERGH^oPP^oPP^oGG^oEQGL^oPGLAGKEGT^oK 480
 GD^oPGPAGL^oPGKDGP^oPGLR^oGF^oPGDRGL^oPG^oV^oGALGL^oKG^oSE^oGG^oPP^oGG^oPAGS^oPGERGPAGAA 540
 GP^oIGI^oPGR^oPGQ^oGP^oPGPAGE^oKGA^oPGE^oKGPQ^oGPAGRDGLQ^oGPVGL^oPG^oPAGPVGP^oPGEDGDK 600
 GEIGE^oPGQ^oKSG^oKGD^oKGEQ^oGP^oGPTGPQ^oGP^oIGQ^oPGPSGADGEPGPRGQ^oGLFGQ^oKGDEGPR 660
 GF^oPP^oGG^oPPVGLQGL^oPGP^oPGE^oKGETGDVGMG^oPP^oGG^oPP^oGPRG^oPSGA^oPGADGPPQ^oGGIGN^oP 720
 GAVGEG^oKGE^oPGEAGE^oPGL^o*P^oGEGGP^oPGPK^oGERGE^oKGESG^oPSGAAGP^oPGPKGP^o*P^oGDDG^oPKGSP 780
 GPVGF^oPGD^oPGP^oPGEP^oGPAGQ^oDGP^oPGDK^oGDDGE^o*PGQTGS^oPGTGE^oPGPSGP^oPKRGP^oPGPA 840
 GPEGRQGE^oKGA^oKGEAGLEGP^oPKTGP^oIGPQGA^oPGK^oPGPDGLRGI^o*P^oGPVGEQGL^oPGAP^o*GGPD 900
 GPPGMPGPPGL^oPGL^oKGDSGPK^oKE^oKGH^oPLI^oGLI^oGP^oGEQGE^oKGDRG^oVP^oGPQGS^oSGPK^oKEQ 960
 GITG^oPSGPI^oGG^oPP^oGL^oPG^oPP^oPKGAK^oGSSGPT^oGP^oKGE^oAG^oQ^oPP^oPP^oPP^oPPGEV 1014

FIGURE 1. Hydroxylated amino acid residues and saccharide attachments of the bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chain. Sequence coverage was 94%, with identification and mapping of 106 Y-position Hyp, 22 Gly-Hyp-Hyp X-position Hyp, 1 Gly-Hyp-Ala, 1 Gly-Hyp-Val, 3 Hyl, and 34 Glc-Gal-Hyl residues. *Red*, hydroxylated, non-glycosylated residues; *green*, Glc-Gal-Hyl residues; *underlined*, hydroxylated/glycosylated residues mapped in previous studies (4, 32). Sequences not identified in the course of MS analysis are in *light blue*. The seven COL1 amino acid residues that differ between human and bovine are *orange*. *, 12 Y-position Pro residues hydroxylated in human or bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain but not the other. [^], Lys residue hydroxylated in human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ but not in bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$. #, Hyl residues identified by Wu *et al.* (4) as being involved in interchain covalent cross-links. !, Hyp residues detected in the X-position of Gly-X-Y triplets lacking a Y-position Hyp. Amino acid residues are numbered from 1 to 1014, with residue number 1 being the first amino acid and residue number 1014 being the final amino acid residue of the COL1 triple helical domain.

(monosaccharide, +178.0473 Da, disaccharide, +340.0995), and glycosylation-associated neutral losses upon activation. Finally, oxidation of methionine (+15.9949 Da) residues was specified as a variable modification, and carbamidomethylation of cysteine (+57.0215 Da) residues was searched as a fixed modification. A mass tolerance of ± 5 Da from the average mass was used for precursors, whereas a mass tolerance of ± 0.01 Da from the monoisotopic mass was used for product ions (38). Spectra for all the modified sites were manually validated (see details in the supplemental Experimental Procedures) and are provided in supplemental Spectra S1 for bovine and supplemental Spectra S2 for human.

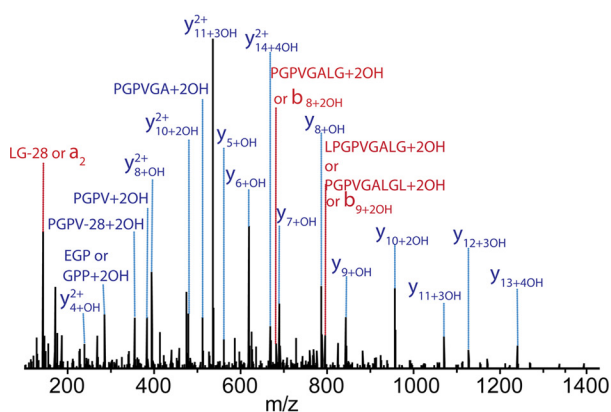
RESULTS

PTMs of Bovine Placental $\alpha 1(V)$ Chains—Chromatographically purified $\alpha 1(V)$ chains extracted with acetic acid and pepsin from bovine placenta were subjected to tandem mass spectrometry (MSⁿ) to map the positions of hydroxylated residues and of galactosylhydroxylsyl (Gal-Hyl) and glucosylgalactosylhydroxylsyl (Glc-Gal-Hyl) residues. Treatment of fibrillar collagens with pepsin removes NH₂- and COOH-terminal non-triple helical sequences, leaving only the pepsin-resistant major triple helical COL1 domain. At the time this study began, bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ cDNA sequences were unavailable, and only a small portion (C-propeptide sequences and about the COOH-terminal third of COL1 sequences) of bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ coding sequences were available from annotated bovine genome databases. Thus, full-length bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ cDNA sequences were

generated as described under “Experimental Procedures,” for comparison to MS data. At the time of submission of this study, database annotated genomic sequences were mostly complete but still had 29 amino acid differences compared with the cDNA sequences reported here (GenBankTM accession number JQ611730). The cDNA sequences reported here have been validated via comparison of MS analyses of bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ protein.

MSⁿ of AspN, GluC, chymotrypsin, ArgC, and trypsin-generated peptides of bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ chains produced 94% sequence coverage and identified the positions of 106 Hyp residues in the Y-position of Gly-X-Y triplet repeats and 22 Hyp residues in the X-position of Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplet repeats (Fig. 1). Y-position Pro residues in Gly-X-Y triplets are hydroxylated to 4-Hyp residues by the enzyme prolyl 4-hydroxylase, for which the minimum substrate appears to be the tripeptide X-Pro-Gly (54). Thus, the 106 Y-position Hyp residues reported here are likely 4-Hyp. Gly-Pro-Hyp triplets are thought to constitute the substrate sequence for P3Hs, of which there are three (55, 56). We conclude the 22 Hyp residues in the X-position of Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplet repeats in the COL1 domain of bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ chain are likely to be 3-Hyp residues. Unexpectedly, Hyp residues were detected in the X-positions of a Gly-X-Val triplet and a Gly-X-Ala triplet (residues 509 and 587, respectively) (Figs. 1 and 2). As prolyl 4-hydroxylase is thought to hydroxylate only Y-position Pro residues and as P3H is thought to hydroxylate only Pro residues within Gly-Pro-Hyp

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	Theoretical m/z	Experimental m/z	Mass error (ppm)
[M+4H] ⁴⁺ +7OH+Gal.Glc	775.3717	775.3749	4.1
LG-28 OR a ₂	143.1179	143.1181	1.4
y ₄ ²⁺ +OH	237.619	237.6194	1.7
EGP or GPP+2OH	284.1241	284.1244	1.1
PGPV-28+2OH	355.1976	355.1976	0.0
PGPV+2OH	383.1925	383.1924	-0.3
y ₅ ²⁺ +OH	393.6907	393.6912	1.3
y ₁₀ ²⁺ +2OH	478.7252	478.7258	1.3
PGPVGA+2OH	511.2511	511.2491	-3.9
y ₁₁ ²⁺ +3OH	535.2491	535.2492	0.2
y ₅ +OH	561.2627	561.262	-1.2
y ₆ +OH	618.2842	618.284	-0.3
y ₁₄ ²⁺ +4OH	668.81	668.8109	1.3
b ₈ +2OH or PGPVGA+2OH	681.3566	681.3574	1.1
y ₇ +OH	689.3213	689.3212	-0.1
y ₈ +OH	786.3741	786.3737	-0.5
b ₈ +2OH or LPGPVGA+2OH or PGPVGA+2OH	794.4407	794.444	4.2
y ₉ +OH	843.3955	843.3959	0.5
y ₁₀ +2OH	956.4432	956.4438	0.6
y ₁₁ +3OH	1069.491	1069.492	1.4
y ₁₂ +3OH	1126.512	1126.513	0.8
y ₁₃ +4OH	1239.56	1239.562	1.5

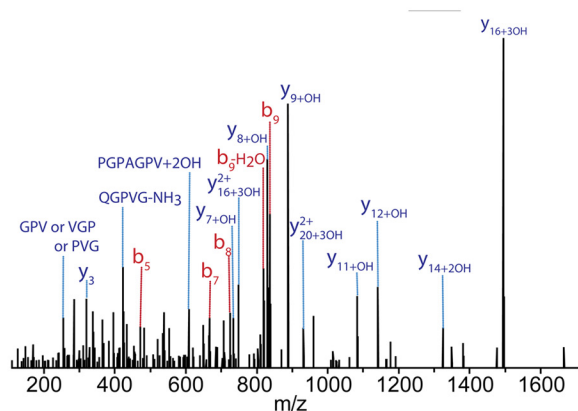
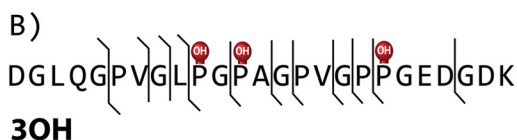


FIGURE 2. X-position Hyp residues in Gly-X-Val and Gly-X-Ala triplets. Peptides were prepared by trypsin digestion of bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains. Mass error from the expected product ion monoisotopic mass is typically less than 5 ppm. $y_{14}+4OH$ fragment ion and internal fragment ions (PGPV-28 + 2OH, PGPV+2OH, and PGPVGA + 2OH) confirm that one Hyp is in the Gly-X-Val triplet in the upper spectrum (A). $y_{11}+OH$, $y_{12}+OH$, and

triplets, it is not clear which enzyme has hydroxylated these sites or whether these hydroxylated prolines are 3-Hyp or 4-Hyp residues. Our analysis also identified the positions of 3 Hyl residues and 34 Glc-Gal-Hyl residues (Fig. 1), Hyl residues linked to the disaccharide glucosylgalactose.

Hydroxylated Residues and Glycosylated Hyl Residues of Human Recombinant Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ Chains—A number of previous studies on the biology of pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains have been performed on human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains produced in 293-HEK (human embryonic kidney) cells (40, 57–62). As previous partial characterizations of fibrillar collagen chain PTMs have shown tissue- and cell type-specific variations in distributions of 3-Hyp residues (30–32), we mapped the hydroxylated residues and saccharide-bound Hyl residues of the experimentally important human recombinant full-length pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains produced in 293-HEK cells. This study of procollagen chains also allowed characterization of hydroxylated amino acid residues in sequences NH_2 -terminal to the COL1 domain and in COOH-propeptide sequences, both of which are lost in pepsin extraction of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from tissues.

MSⁿ of AspN, GluC, chymotrypsin, ArgC, and trypsin-generated peptides of human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains produced 90% sequence coverage of the entire protein minus signal peptide sequences and 96% of the COL1 domain and identified the positions of 98 Hyp residues in the Y-position of Gly-X-Y triplet repeats and 9 Hyp residues in the X-position of Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplet repeats in the COL1 domain (Fig. 3). As described above, Hyp residues in the Y-position of Gly-X-Y repeats or in the X-position of Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplet repeats are likely 4- and 3-Hyp residues, respectively. Interestingly, within pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences NH_2 -terminal to the COL1 domain, MS analysis mapped six Hyp residues in the Y-position of Gly-X-Y triplets, 1 Hyp residue in the X-position of a Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplet, one Hyl, and two Glc-Gal-Hyl residues. Five of the Y-position Hyp residues exist within a hypothetical (44) short, interrupted collagenous (COL2) subdomain (Fig. 3), consistent with the likelihood that this subdomain actually forms a triple helix, as the latter would be stabilized by these five 4-Hyp residues. Possible functional significance of the sixth 4-Hyp, which lies upstream of this hypothetical collagenous domain, is unclear. All NH_2 -terminal domain Glc-Gal-Hyl, Hyl, and X-position Hyp residues lie within the COL2 subdomain, suggestive of functional roles for these residues within this subdomain as well. Supportive of our findings, the single COL2 domain Hyl mapped here was previously identified by MS analysis as an “ NH_2 telopeptide” Hyl residue involved in covalent cross-linking of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains to $\alpha 1(XI)$ chains in bovine cartilage (4). MSⁿ analysis here of the human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chain also localized the positions of 6 Hyl, 1 Gal-Hyl, and 22 Glc-Gal-Hyl residues and 1 residue found as both Gal-Hyl and Glc-Gal-Hyl within the COL1 domain. It seems unlikely that species-specific differences in $\alpha 1(V)$ sequences contributed much to differences in numbers and placement of Y-position Hyp residues, as bovine and human $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain sequences are 99.3%

$y_{14}+2OH$ fragment ions confirm that one Hyp is in the Gly-X-Ala triplet in the lower spectrum (B). OH, one hydroxylation.

Mapping of Hydroxylated Amino Acids of $\alpha 1(V)$ Collagen



FIGURE 3. Hydroxylated amino acid residues and glycosylated Hyl residues of recombinant human pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ collagen chains produced in 293-EBNA human embryonic kidney cells. Sequence coverage was 90% of the entire pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chain and 96% of the COL1 domain. Within the COL1 domain 98 Y-position Hyp, 9 Gly-Hyp-Hyp X-position Hyp, 1 Gly-Hyp-Val, 1 Gly-Hyp-Ala, 1 Gly-Hyp-Thr, 7-Hyl, and 23 Glc-Gal-Hyl residues were identified. Red, hydroxylated, non-glycosylated residues; green, Glc-Gal-Hyl residues; dark blue, Gal-Hyl residue; purple, residue found as both Glc-Gal-Hyl and Gal-Hyl. Underlined, hydroxylated/glycosylated residues mapped in previous studies (4, 32). Sequences not identified in the course of MS analysis are in light blue. The seven COL1 amino acid residues that differ between human and bovine are orange. *, 12 Y-position Pro residues hydroxylated in human or bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain but not the other. #, Hyl residues identified by Wu *et al.* (4) as being involved in interchain covalent cross-links. ^, Lys residues hydroxylated in bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ but not in human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$. A vertical arrow marks the site of proteolytic removal of the signal peptide, as previously determined by Edman degradation NH₂-terminal amino acid sequencing (40) and as confirmed by MS analysis in the present study. The brackets indicates limits of the small COL2 hypothetical triple helical domain, in which interruptions of Gly-X-Y repeats are underlined. Amino acid residues NH₂-terminal to the COL1 domain are numbered 1 to 558, starting with the initial Met residue of the signal peptide. Amino acid residues of the COL1 domain are numbered 1 to 1014, for easy comparison to the similarly numbered residues of the bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain in Fig. 1. Amino acids of the COOH-propeptide are shown for the sake of completeness, but are not numbered, due to lack of identified hydroxylated residues.

identical, differing by only 7 primary amino acids, none of which is a Pro (Figs. 1 and 3, orange residues). Modifications could not be localized for Y-position Pro residues 642, 714, 903, or 909 in either human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ or bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains.

Expression of Prolyl 3-Hydroxylases in 293-HEK Cells—Differential 3 hydroxylation of prolines at some, but not other sites in clade A fibrillar collagen chain COL1 domains can be due to differential expression of the enzyme prolyl 3-hydroxylase 2

(P3H2) in different cell types and tissues (31). To test whether the absence of 3-Hyp residues at some sites in human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains that had been 3-hydroxylated in $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from bovine placenta might be due to deficiency in levels of P3H2, we tested for P3H2 expression in 293-HEK cells. We also tested for expression of the other two prolyl 3-hydroxylases, P3H1 and P3H3, and for CRTAP and PPIB (peptidyl prolyl *cis-trans* isomerase B), which are components of the prolyl 3-hydroxylation complex (63). As can be seen (Fig. 4), all

Mapping of Hydroxylated Amino Acids of $\alpha 1(V)$ Collagen

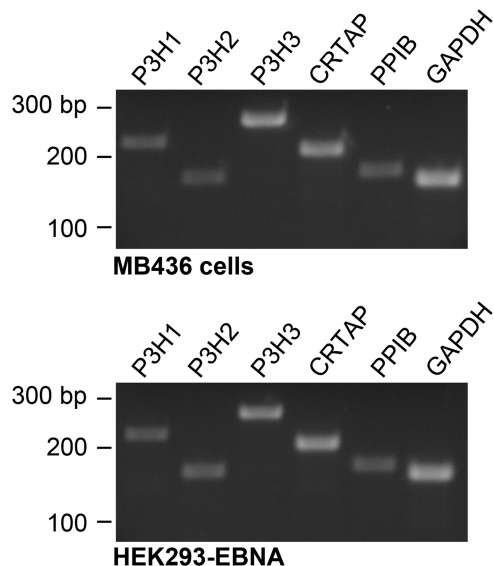


FIGURE 4. Expression of P3H1, P3H2, P3H3, and prolyl 3-hydroxylation complex components CRTAP and peptidyl prolyl *cis-trans* isomerase B (PPIB) in 293-HEK cells. Expression of P3H1, P3H2, P3H3, CRTAP, and GAPDH expression was ascertained by RT-PCR analysis of RNA from MB436 cells (*top panel*), a cell line previously shown to be positive for expression of all three P3Hs (43), and from 293-HEK cells (*bottom panel*). Positions of size markers, given in base pairs (bp), are shown to the left of each panel.

P3Hs are clearly expressed in 293-HEK cells at levels similar to those of a cell line previously shown positive for expression of all three enzymes (43). CRTAP and peptidyl prolyl *cis-trans* isomerase B expression levels were readily detectable as well. These findings are thus consistent with the likelihood that the decreased numbers of 3-Hyp residues in human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains, as compared with the tissue form of $\alpha 1(V)$ chain obtained from bovine placenta, is unlikely due to decreased levels of P3Hs or other prolyl 3-hydroxylation complex components in 293-HEK cells. Rather, the reduction in 3-Hyp residues in the recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains is likely due to some other variable(s). It is possible that even normal levels of endogenous enzymes are insufficient to fully modify the overexpressed pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains produced in 293-HEK cells, perhaps contributing to some of the differences in PTM levels noted between the human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ and bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains. However, the distribution of X-position Hyp residues in the recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains suggests that reduced numbers of such residues in these chains may involve the changed kinetics with which pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains are incorporated into pro- $\alpha 1(V)_3$ homotrimers, the form in which they were produced in HEK-293 cells for this study, compared with the kinetics of incorporation of pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains into pro- $\alpha 1(V)_2$ pro- $\alpha 2(V)$ heterotrimers, the predominant form in which they are found in tissues (see “Discussion”).

DISCUSSION

A High Mass Accuracy, High Resolution Tandem Mass Spectrometric Approach for Analysis of Collagenous Proteins—Study of the PTMs of collagens has primarily involved traditional amino acid analysis, a methodology that determines amino acid compositions by hydrolysis of purified proteins/peptides followed by measurement of their individual amino

acid constituents. Ordinarily, such analyses yield quantitative measurements of amino acid abundance, but not sequence information or the location of PTMs. More recently, MS has been employed to investigate PTMs in collagens (14, 30–32). Henkel and Dreisewerd (14) utilized ultraviolet MALDI MS to analyze fetal calfskin collagens I, III, and V, chemically cleaved by cyanogen bromide (CNBr) to generate a limited number of peptides with distinct masses. PTMs were deduced for each CNBr peptide by comparing the difference between experimental and theoretical masses, the mass difference representing the mass of the modification(s). However, MSⁿ was not performed to confirm sequence identity or to locate the positions of PTMs. This approach provided valuable information on the total PTM state, but without the use of MSⁿ, specific residues carrying the PTMs remained unknown. Eyre and co-workers have characterized collagen peptides by performing MS² using a low resolution, low mass accuracy ion trap mass spectrometer (30–32). They identified several novel sites of prolyl 3-hydroxylation and proposed a biological function for these PTMs in collagen. However, many of the modifications were not experimentally localized by MS². Because the acquired tandem mass spectra lacked the requisite information for localization, assignment of Pro hydroxylation was often inferred from known collagen motifs. Because of the highly modified nature of collagenous proteins, we contend that PTM mapping via MS should require spectral evidence in the form of localizing fragments to have the highest confidence in the validity of sequence-specific modifications.

Our strategy, founded on a high resolution MS platform, allowed characterization of the $\alpha 1(V)$ chain with unparalleled sensitivity and PTM localization precision. The enabling technology was an ETD-enabled LTQ Orbitrap Velos hybrid mass spectrometer exhibiting low ppm mass accuracy, high resolution MS, and MSⁿ capabilities combined with multiple options for performing peptide dissociation (47). We began by using multiple proteases to generate a diverse pool of peptides amenable to MSⁿ (45). The combination of mass accuracy and a capability to perform multistage activation using three different dissociation techniques often allowed us to pinpoint the exact residue(s) carrying individual PTMs. However, we were not always able to unambiguously define the site of localization. Thus, we classified PTM assignments into 1 of 3 categories, 1) localized (MSⁿ product ions support PTM assignment to a specific residue), 2) unlocalized (insufficient product ions to unambiguously assign a PTM to a specific residue), or 3) pseudolocalized (insufficient product ions to unambiguously assign a PTM to a specific residue), but localization can be inferred from known collagen modification motifs (supplemental Tables S1 and S2). Note that hydroxylation modification was only considered for Pro and Lys residues and that glycosylation (mono- and disaccharide) modifications were only considered for Hyl residues (15). The numbers of PTMs reported under the “Results” and “Discussion” are exclusively for localized sites.

$\alpha 1(V)$ and pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains were cleaved using five different individual proteases or by applying two proteases sequentially. Trypsin, the most common protease used for MS experiments, has substantially reduced cleavage rates for Lys and Arg residues COOH-terminal to Pro, thus posing a problem for colla-

DVGQMGPPGPPGPRGPSGAPGA

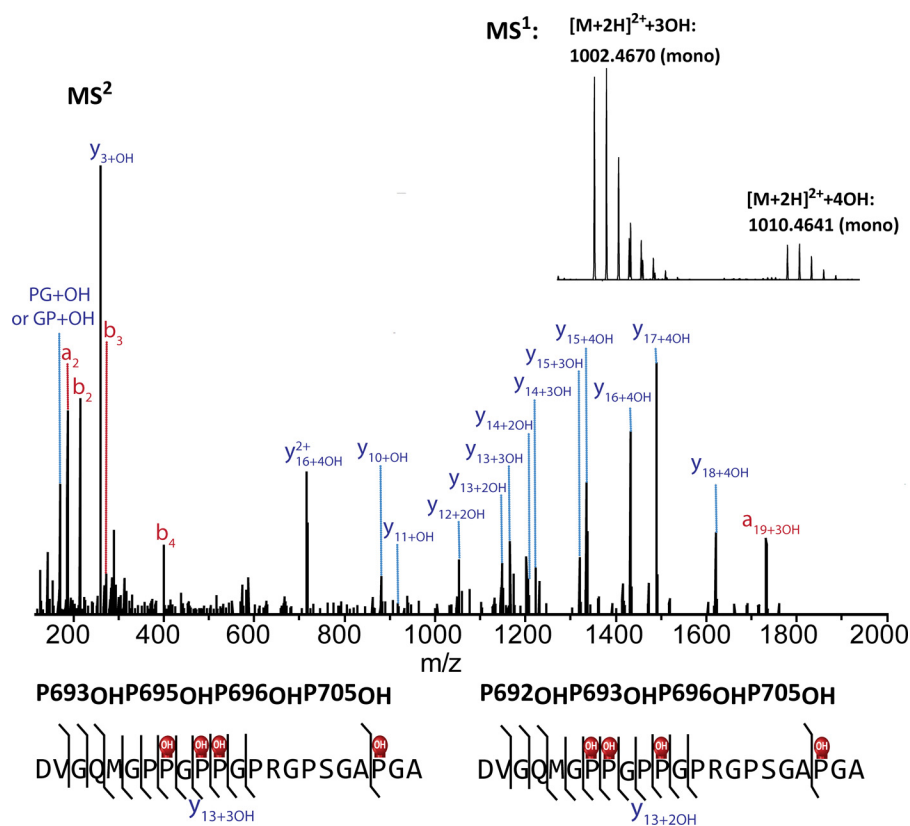


FIGURE 5. **A chimeric MS² spectrum revealing a pair of isomeric differently modified $\alpha 1(V)$ chain peptides that co-eluted and co-fragmented.** Peptides were generated by AspN cleavage of bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains. MS¹ in the insert was obtained by averaging MS¹ across the elution window. MS² revealed that the two separate cluster peaks in MS¹ belong to peptides with identical primary sequence but to differing degrees of hydroxylation. Peptides with a total of three hydroxylations contain Hyp⁶⁹³, Hyp⁶⁹⁶, and Hyp⁷⁰⁵ (MS² for peptides with a total of 3 hydroxylation in the MS¹ of the inset is not shown here). MS² for peptides with a total of four hydroxylations (shown here) reveals that the extra Hyp can be either Hyp⁶⁹² or Hyp⁶⁹⁵.

gens, which have high Pro/Hyp content (64, 65). Such is also the case with chymotrypsin and Glu-C. However, Arg-C will cleave at Arg residues (also at Lys, but at lower rates) adjacent to Pro residues. Peptides were separated by on-line nanoflow reversed-phase liquid chromatography, where peptides with identical primary sequences differing only in degree of hydroxylation eluted across a wide elution window, whereas peptide isomers differing only in the position of hydroxylation typically coeluted and were cofragmented to produce chimeric MSⁿ spectra (Fig. 5). Glycopeptides and short (<~7 residues), highly modified peptides often eluted early during the chromatographic gradient, demonstrating poor and inconsistent retention. A direct injection style of sample loading was employed to enable analysis of highly polar and poorly retained peptides rather than the vented-style trapping normally used for rapid sample loading/concentrating (66).

Because of high $\alpha 1(V)$ Pro content and decreased efficacy of ETD-induced cleavage of Pro N-C_α bonds, ETD MS² analyses occasionally did not provide sufficient numbers of sequence-informative product ions to permit PTM localization (67). To complement ETD data, data were also acquired utilizing HCD collected at different collision energies. Low HCD energies favor the generation of moderate mass fragment ions, whereas high HCD energies favor the production of low *m/z* fragments.

Low mass fragments enabled screening of y_1 - y_3 , b_1 - b_3 , and immonium ions, improving the ability to localize PTMs residing on peptide termini. The high $\alpha 1(V)$ Pro content also resulted in an unusually large number of internal fragments (multiple peptide backbone cleavages of a single ion) in spectra collected at moderate and high HCD energies (35). Many of these internal fragments were useful for PTM localization in the absence of localizing product ions produced by a single backbone cleavage event (supplemental Spectra 1 and 2). Despite our best efforts using multiple dissociation techniques and MS³, neutral loss of glycosylation was still common. In these cases neutral loss product ions were used to aid in localization, as reported for phosphorylation localization (supplemental Spectra S1 and S2) (68).

Comparison of the Col1 PTMs of Bovine Placental $\alpha 1(V)$ and Human Recombinant Pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ Chains to Each Other and to Previous Findings—Previous amino acid analyses of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from human skin (15) or placenta (69) or produced in 293-HEK cells (61) produced estimates of 4-Hyp content of from ~106 to ~111 per 1000 amino acids. The 106 and 98 Y-position Hyp residues directly localized here by MSⁿ for the COL1 domains of bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ and human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains, respectively, are in the same range as these numbers, consistent with identification of the Y-position

Mapping of Hydroxylated Amino Acids of $\alpha 1(V)$ Collagen

Hyp residues mapped here as 4-Hyp residues. Additional Y-position Hyp residues were either not directly localized or are likely located on COL1 proteolytic fragments not recovered here by MSⁿ, as such fragments contain five additional Y-position Pro residues for both the bovine and human. Eighty-six Y-position Hyp residues mapped to identical positions in the bovine and recombinant human COL1 domains (Figs. 1 and 2), suggesting that these Hyp residues may be relatively invariant in $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from various sources. Of the 12 Y-position Hyp residues that differ between the bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ and human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ samples, only 2 are found in the latter but not the bovine. Thus, Y-position Hyp residues found in the human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain are for the most part a subset of those found in the bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ chain. Differences in Y-position Hyp residues between the two COL1 domains may be due to tissue-/cell type-specific differences in modifying enzymes, although the pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains studied here were synthesized as overexpressed pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ ₃ homotrimers rather than as the endogenous pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ ₂pro- $\alpha 2(V)$ heterotrimers commonly found in tissues, which might also affect levels and placement of Hyp residues.

Previous estimates of the amino acid composition of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from human skin (15) suggested $\alpha 1(V)$ to be more similar to nonfibrillar basement membrane collagen IV chains than to other fibrillar collagen chains in possessing a high content of Hyl residues, the majority of which are glycosylated. Specifically, human skin $\alpha 1(V)$ chains (15) were estimated to comprise ~39 hydroxylysines, 29 in the form of Glc-Gal-Hyl residues and 5 in the form of Gal-Hyl residues, suggesting Glc-Gal and Gal to be frequently and infrequently occurring PTMs, respectively. Henkel and Dreisewerd (14), employing MALDI MS analysis of fetal calf skin $\alpha 1(V)$ chains, estimated that most, if not all, Hyl residues are likely glycosylated, with ~87% predicted to be Glc-Gal-Hyl. However, they lacked MSⁿ sequence data to support their assignments of PTMs, making it difficult to confidently determine the nature of saccharide species (e.g. two residues with monosaccharide modifications and one residue with a disaccharide modification share the same mass such that these PTMs cannot be distinguished based solely on analysis of intact peptide masses). Rhodes and Miller (69) employed amino acid analysis to estimate human placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains to contain 35 Hyls but did not analyze glycosylation. Here, we directly localized 37 hydroxylysines in bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains, similar in number to the 34–39 hydroxylysines previously detected by amino acid analysis in $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from bovine placenta and uterus (70). Furthermore, we identified 34 of the hydroxylysines mapped here as Glc-Gal-Hyl residues. Thus, overall numbers of Hyl and Glc-Gal-Hyl residues mapped here in bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ chains accord well with previous estimates of amino acid content. Our estimates of Gal-Hyl modification of bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ may differ from those of previous reports because 1) extremely low levels of Gal-Hyl modifications were beyond our limit of detection, 2) we exclusively reported localized modifications, disregarding peptides with multiple potential glycosylation sites that could not be localized to a specific residue, and/or 3) previous reports did not attempt to localize modifications and may have overestimated Gal-Hyl numbers.

We found the COL1 domain of human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains produced in 293-HEK cells to contain 30 hydroxylysines: 22 as Glc-Gal-Hyl residues, 1 as Gal-Hyl, and 1 as both Glc-Gal-Hyl and Gal-Hyl. These hydroxylated Lys residues are a subset of those found in bovine $\alpha 1(V)$, except for Hyl¹⁵⁰, which is not hydroxylated in the bovine chain (Figs. 1 and 3). Thus, 29 hydroxylated Lys residues found in $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domains from two very different sources may be relatively invariant in $\alpha 1(V)$ chains. The reduced numbers of Hyl and Glc-Gal-Hyl residues in the human recombinant protein suggests that 293-HEK cells, which produce little or no endogenous extracellular matrix proteins (61), may possess reduced levels of the multifunctional enzyme lysyl hydroxylase 3, which has lysyl hydroxylase activity, and collagen galactosyltransferase and glycosyltransferase activities that allow it to glycosylate Hyl residues hydroxylated by itself and by other lysyl hydroxylase isoforms (18), although even normal levels of enzymes might be insufficient to fully modify the overexpressed recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains. Interestingly, COL1 residue 84 was detected here as both a Glc-Gal-Hyl and a Gal-Hyl residue, showing glycosylation at this site to be dynamic, with partial occupancy by both Glc-Gal and Gal saccharides. Our direct localization of 30 COL1 Hyl residues within the human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ supersedes a previous amino acid analysis estimate of 6 COL1 Hyl residues for human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains produced in 293-HEK cells (61) and is more congruent with the observed efficient secretion of recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ ₃ homotrimers from 293-HEK cells (40, 61), as threshold levels of glycosylated Hyl residues are necessary for efficient secretion of at least some collagenous molecules (18).

Previous amino acid analysis of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from human placenta (69) or human skin (15) estimated 3-Hyp content at four or ten 3-Hyp residues, respectively, per 1000 amino acids, levels higher than those detected by similar analyses of the major fibrillar collagen chains (71–74). The nine Hyp residues mapped here to the X-positions of Gly-Hyp-Hyp repeats in the COL1 domain of human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains falls within this range (15, 69). However, the 22 X-position Hyp residues mapped here within the bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chain lies beyond this range and is instead reminiscent of the range of 10 to 20 3-Hyp residues previously estimated by amino acid analysis to lie within the collagen IV chains of some tissues (75, 76).

Using low resolution MS² and assignments based on known collagen motifs (see above), Eyre and co-workers (32) recently mapped three X-position Hyp residues in $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from human bone to positions 434 and 665 and to a site variously identified by them as 692 or 695 of the COL1 domain. They also predicted the tissue-specific occurrence of 3-Hyp residues within Gly-Pro-Pro repeats at the COOH termini of the COL1 domains of $\alpha 1(V)$ and other fibrillar collagen chains, based on mapping of such residues to Gly-Pro-Pro repeats at the COL1 COOH termini of $\alpha 1(I)$ and $\alpha 2(I)$ chains from tendon but not from skin or bone (30). Here, we confirm the presence of X-position Hyp residues at sites 434, 665, and 695 and in all three COL1 COOH-terminal Gly-Pro-Pro repeats (sites 1004, 1007, and 1010) in bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains (supplemental Spectra 1), whereas human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains contained an X-position Hyp residue only at site 434. Thus, we have

confirmed the positions previously identified or predicted for six $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 X-position Hyp residues and found one of these (residue 434) to be, thus far, invariable. In addition, we identified the positions of 15 additional X-position Hyp residues in bovine placental $\alpha 1(V)$ chains. The nine human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 X-position Hyp sites are also found in the bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ chain and provide confirmatory evidence for Hyp occupancy of these nine X-position sites. Interestingly, COL1 X-position Hyp sites in human recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains are limited to the NH₂-terminal half of the domain. Although the reason for this is unknown, it may relate to the COOH to NH₂ terminus direction of triple helix formation and to the ability of prolyl 3-hydroxylases to modify unfolded but not triple helical procollagen chains. Thus, because the recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ chains are produced as pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ ₃ homotrimers, which form triple helices with apparently increased kinetics than do pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ ₂pro- $\alpha 2(V)$ heterotrimers (77), prolyl 3-hydroxylases may be particularly limited in the ability to hydroxylate residues in the COOH-terminal portions of these recombinant chains. In fact, the NH₂-terminal COL1 distribution of X-position Hyp residues in recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ ₃ homotrimers is consistent with the suggestion that 3-Hyp content may be related to the speed of triple helix formation (55) but may be inconsistent with the suggestion (31) that 3-hydroxylation of fibrillar collagens begins at the COOH terminus and diminishes in the more NH₂-terminal portion of the COL1 domain. Other PTMs were not limited to the NH₂-terminal portion of recombinant pro- $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domains, perhaps reflecting differences in the kinetics of prolyl 3-, prolyl 4-, and lysyl hydroxylases.

We report here the unexpected finding of X-position Hyp residues in the context of a Gly-X-Val and a Gly-X-Ala triplet in the bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ COL1 domain. It is unclear at this time whether these Hyp residues might be 3-Hyp or 4-Hyp or whether their appearance represents a lapse in fidelity of at least one of these enzymes or whether such sites represent previously unknown substrates at which hydroxylation serves specific functions. Supportive of our findings, Pro hydroxylation in an Gly-Pro-Ala motif has previously been reported for bovine-derived collagen I (78). It should be noted that although X-position 4-Hyp residues are thought to destabilize triple helices when in the context of Gly-Hyp-Pro triplets (79), X-position 4-Hyp residues do not necessarily destabilize the triple helix when in the context of triplets that lack Pro or Hyp in the Y-position (80). Thus, the significance of the unexpected finding of X-position Hyp in these non-canonical sites remains to be determined.

Numbers of Hyl, Glc-Gal-Hyl, and Y-position Hyp residues mapped here by MSⁿ in the bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chain are consistent with numbers of 4-Hyp, Hyl, and Glc-Gal-Hyl residues in estimates of the amino acid compositions of hydrolyzed $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from various tissues. In contrast, the number of X-position Hyp and likely 3-Hyp residues detected here by tandem MS in Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplets in bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains is markedly higher than numbers of 3-Hyp residues previously estimated by amino acid analyses. Importantly, the numbers of PTMs predicted by early amino acid analyses were based on a presumption of 100% occupancy at a fixed number of

TABLE 1
Amino acid composition of bovine placenta $\alpha 1(V)$ chains

Data are estimated by amino acid analysis of acid-hydrolyzed protein and are consistent within the error rate for amino acid analysis, with previous results of Abedin *et al.* (70).

Amino acid	No. detected/1000 residues
Hyp	106
Asx	47
Thr	22
Ser	22
Glx	113
Pro	113
Gly	337
Ala	44
Val	22
Ile	22
Leu	49
Tyr	
Phe	14
Hyl	32
Lys	17
His	10
Arg	41

sites. Thus, although congruence in numbers of PTMs predicted by previous amino acid analyses and the MSⁿ localization results presented here suggests that this presumption holds true for most $\alpha 1(V)$ PTMs, this does not appear to be the case for 3-Hyp residues. Rather, the large difference between the numbers of 3-Hyp predicted by previous amino acid analyses and the number of X-position Hyp residues in Gly-Hyp-Hyp triplets mapped here by high resolution MS is best explained by the concept of a relatively large number of 3-Hyp sites that have less than 100% occupancy in a population of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains from a given tissue. This conclusion is supported by amino acid analysis performed on bovine $\alpha 1(V)$ chain samples used in this study (Table 1), which estimated overall Hyp levels of these samples to be similar to, and not higher than, Hyp levels estimated for $\alpha 1(V)$ chains in earlier amino acid analysis studies (70). It is not surprising that with the improved sensitivity and specificity afforded by our MS-driven proteomics workflow that we have identified numerous PTMs previously undiscovered, including those present at relatively low stoichiometric abundances. Interestingly, 3-Hyp residues point away from the triple helix (81), implying roles in protein-protein interactions as the bases of biological function for these residues. The presence of numbers of sites that can be differentially modified by P3Hs in a given tissue suggests a previously unknown mechanism for dynamic modification of the functions and intermolecular interactions of $\alpha 1(V)$ chains and col(V) and perhaps other collagen types as well.

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