

Effects of Parathyroid Hormone on Skeletal Muscle Protein and Amino Acid Metabolism in the Rat

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ABSTRACT Because prominent skeletal muscle dysfunction and muscle wasting are seen in both chronic uremia and in primary hyperparathyroidism, and because markedly elevated parathyroid hormone levels occur in both disorders, potential effects of parathyroid hormone on skeletal muscle protein, amino acid, and cyclic nucleotide metabolism were studied in vitro using isolated intact rat epitrochlearis skeletal muscle preparations. Intact bovine parathyroid hormone and the synthetic 1-34 fragment of this hormone stimulated the release of alanine and glutamine from muscle of control but not from chronically uremic animals. This stimulation was dependent upon the concentration of parathyroid hormone added: At 10^5 ng/ml parathyroid hormone increased alanine release 84% and glutamine release 75%. Intracellular levels of alanine and glutamine were not altered by parathyroid hormone. Increasing concentrations of the 1-34 polypeptide decreased [3 H]leucine incorporation into protein of muscles from both control and uremic animals. Using muscles from animals given a pulse-chase label of [guanido- 14 C]arginine in vivo, parathyroid hormone increased the rate of loss of 14 C label from acid-precipitable protein during incubation and correspondingly increased the rate of appearance of this label in the incubation media. Parathyroid hormone increased muscle cAMP levels by 140% and cGMP levels by 185%, but had no effect on skeletal muscle cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase activities as assayed in vitro. Adenylyl cyclase activity in membrane preparations from control but not uremic rats was stimulated by parathyroid hormone in a concentration-dependent fashion. However, no stimulation of guanylyl cyclase activity was noted by parathyroid hormone, although stimulation by sodium azide was present. Incubation of muscles with added parathyroid hormone produced a diminished responsiveness towards epinephrine or

serotonin regulation of amino acid release and cAMP formation in the presence compared to the absence of parathyroid hormone. In the absence of parathyroid hormone, detectable inhibition of alanine and glutamine release was produced by 10^{-9} M epinephrine, whereas in the presence of parathyroid hormone (1,000 ng/ml) inhibition of alanine and glutamine release required 10^{-6} M or greater epinephrine. Resistance to cyclic AMP action as well as inhibition of cyclic AMP formation by parathyroid hormone was found. Preincubation of rat sarcolemma with 1-34 parathyroid hormone produced a decreased activity of the isoproterenol-stimulable adenylyl cyclase activity but there was no apparent change in the concentration of isoproterenol required for one-half maximal and maximal stimulation of the enzyme.

These findings suggest that high levels of parathyroid hormone have direct effects on skeletal muscle protein, amino acid, and cyclic nucleotide metabolism in muscle of normal but not uremic animals. Treatment with these high levels of parathyroid hormone in vitro appears to reproduce in normal muscle, the metabolic deficits and loss of hormone responsiveness observed in muscle of chronically uremic animals. It is therefore possible that direct effects of parathyroid hormone on skeletal muscle may account in part for the muscle dysfunction and wasting of primary hyperparathyroidism and chronic uremia.

INTRODUCTION

Chronic renal failure is accompanied by skeletal muscle dysfunction, muscle wasting, and a spectrum of disorders of carbohydrate metabolism ranging from carbohydrate intolerance and even fasting hyperglycemia to the occasional occurrence of spontaneous hypoglycemia (1-5). Markedly elevated levels of parathyroid hormone and profound secondary hyperparathyroidism are early concomitants of advancing renal insufficiency (6). Primary hyperparathyroidism is also associated with a diffuse neuromuscular defect and

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prominent muscle dysfunction (7-9). Skeletal muscle preparations from rats made chronically uremic by surgery release large quantities of alanine and glutamine *in vitro*. This appears to result, in part, from an increased rate of protein degradation in muscles from uremic animals (10, 11). Since both chronic renal insufficiency and hyperparathyroidism are associated with substantial elevations in the circulating levels of parathyroid hormone, and since both disease states have a significant muscle dysfunction and wasting disorder associated with them, a relationship between the elevated levels of parathyroid hormone and the disordered skeletal muscle metabolism of both disease complexes seems possible. For these reasons, we have investigated the effects of parathyroid hormone and its synthetic 1-34 fragment on protein, amino acid, and cyclic nucleotide metabolism in skeletal muscle preparations of the rat. The potential contributions of these effects of parathyroid hormone to the disordered metabolism found in muscle of chronically uremic rats are discussed.

METHODS

Alanine aminotransferase (EC 2.6.1.2), glutamate dehydrogenase (EC 1.4.1.3), glutaminase (EC 3.5.1.2), lactate dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.27), carbamylcholine, epinephrine (HCl), and other biochemical reagents were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO). [α - 32 P]GTP (14.2 Ci/mmol sp act), [3 H]cAMP (21 Ci/mmol sp act), and [3 H]cGMP (16.2 Ci/mmol sp act), were purchased from Amersham Corp. (Arlington Heights, IL); and [α - 32 P]ATP (25 Ci/mmol sp act), from International Nuclear and Chemical Corp. (Irvine, CA). [125 I]2'-O-succinyl cAMP and cGMP tyrosine methyl esters were from Collaborative Research, Inc. (Waltham, MA). The synthetic 1-34 fragment of bovine parathyroid hormone was from Beckman Instruments, Inc. (Palo Alto, CA), and highly purified, intact 1-84 parathyroid hormone was purchased from Wilson Laboratories (Park Forest South, IL). Crystalline glucagon-free insulin was a gift of Dr. J. Galloway (Eli Lilly Co., Indianapolis, IN).

As described previously (10), epitrochlearis preparations were obtained from chronically uremic and control Sprague-Dawley rats (TIMCO, Houston, TX). Animals were made chronically uremic by unilateral nephrectomy and ligation of two branches of the renal artery of the contralateral kidney. Animals were maintained on a high protein diet and were sacrificed 7 d after surgery. Intact epitrochlearis muscles were visualized, rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and placed in incubation flasks containing 0.5 ml of a modified Krebs-Henseleit buffer (pH 7.4). Other additions such as amino acids, parathyroid hormone, insulin, and epinephrine were made as indicated. The flasks were gassed with 95% O₂-5% CO₂, stoppered, and incubated for 5-60 min at 37°C. These preparations remained viable *in vitro* as judged by phosphocreatine and ATP levels that were not different from levels *in vivo*. Muscles were then removed from the medium, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Muscle samples and incubation media were stored at -80°C. Frozen muscle preparations were weighed, then homogenized in 1.0 ml ice-cold 3 M perchloric acid and centrifuged at 4,500 *g* for 15 min. The supernatant was neutralized with 3 M potassium

hydroxide, 0.4 M imidazole, and 0.7 M potassium chloride, and the potassium perchlorate precipitate was removed by further centrifugation. Semimicro- and microfluorometric enzymatic techniques were used to determine levels of alanine, glutamine, and glutamate in perchlorate extracts of skeletal muscle and in the incubation media as previously described (12, 13). In studies measuring the incorporation of amino acids into protein, 17 essential and nonessential amino acids (most at 2.5 mM final concentration) and 1.0 μ Ci [4,5- 3 H]leucine were added to the incubation medium. The muscles were incubated for 4 h using continuous gassing by 95% O₂-5% CO₂, removed, and frozen as described above. Incorporation of radiolabeled amino acid into skeletal muscle protein was assayed by the appearance of 3 H label in the acid-insoluble pellet of the trichloroacetic acid extract of the muscle (10). The frozen incubated muscle was homogenized in 12% trichloroacetic acid, centrifuged, and the pellet washed twice with 5% trichloroacetic acid. The acid-insoluble pellet was extracted with ether, air dried, and solubilized with NCS tissue solubilizer (Amersham Corp., Arlington Heights, IL). The latter was counted in a liquid scintillation counter using ACS scintillant (Amersham Corp.).

cAMP and cGMP were determined in trichloroacetic acid extracts of skeletal muscle by double antibody radioimmunoassays using 125 I-labeled tyrosine methyl esters of succinylated cyclic nucleotides (14). Partial purification of cyclic nucleotides from trichloroacetic acid extracts was obtained by double chromatography over Dowex 50 and aluminum oxide columns (Dow Chemical Co., Midland, MI) as described by Birnbaumer (15) for simultaneous separations of cGMP and cAMP. Tritiated cyclic nucleotides were added to each muscle homogenate to quantitate sample recovery. Although cyclic nucleotide levels were determined after 2, 5, 10, and 20 min of incubation with each agonist, only the data for 2-min incubations with epinephrine, 5 min with parathyroid hormone, and 10 min with serotonin are presented because these periods produced the greatest observed increments in cyclic nucleotide levels. Estimations of adenylyl and guanylyl cyclase activities in skeletal muscle homogenates were based on the determination of the rate of production of [32 P]cAMP and [32 P]cGMP from [α - 32 P]ATP and [α - 32 P]GTP, respectively, as described (10). The cAMP formed was isolated by a minor modification (16) of the method of Salomon (17). Both isolation methods consist of an initial chromatography over Dowex 50 (AG-X4, 100-200 mesh, H⁺ form) followed by chromatography of the cyclic nucleotide containing eluate from the Dowex 50 column over neutral aluminum oxide. Yields of cyclic nucleotides (as assessed by recovery of tritium-labeled cyclic nucleotides added to each individual sample) were between 60 and 75% for cAMP and 40 and 50% for cGMP. Reaction blanks were between 2 and 4 cpm of added labeled substrate.

For estimations of hormone-stimulable adenylyl or guanylyl cyclase activity hind limb skeletal muscle was removed from 150-g Sprague-Dawley female control or chronically uremic rats, minced, and homogenized by Polytron homogenization (Brinkmann Instruments, Inc., Westbury, NY) using 10 vol of 27% sucrose containing 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 1 mM EDTA, 1.32×10^{-4} M *N*- α -tosyl-L-lysyl chloromethane and 1.42×10^{-5} M tosyl-L-phenylalanyl chloromethane at a setting of 45% maximum Polytron rheostat setting for 60 s while being cooled in an ice slurry. The homogenate was filtered through four layers of cheesecloth and centrifuged at 800 *g*. The supernatant of this fraction was centrifuged at 17,000 *g*. The resultant pellet contained the membrane-bound adenylyl cyclase. For determination of adenylyl cyclase activities, 17,000-*g* membrane particles

were incubated in a final vol of 50 μ l containing 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM [3 H]cAMP, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.1 mM [α - 32 P]ATP, and a regenerating system consisting of 0.2 mg/ml creatine phosphokinase, 20 mM creatine phosphate, 0.02 mg/ml myokinase, and the indicated agonists. The reaction was started with the addition of 10 μ l of the membrane preparation (30–50 μ g), and was continued at 30°C for 10 min and stopped by the addition of 100 μ l of a solution containing 40 mM ATP, 10 mM cAMP, and 1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS). Guanylyl cyclase activity was determined in both the supernatant and pellet of a 40,000-g muscle homogenate. Hind limb skeletal muscle was removed from 150-g Sprague-Dawley control and chronically uremic rats, minced, and homogenized in 10 vol of 0.25 M sucrose, 1 mM EDTA, and 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) using a Polytron PT-10 at setting 5.5 for 15-, 25-, then 15-s bursts, with cooling for 30 s between each burst. The homogenate was centrifuged at 600 g for 15 min, the pellet discarded, and the supernatant centrifuged for 30 min at 10,000 g. The supernatant fraction was then centrifuged at 40,000 g for 45 min. Guanylyl cyclase activity was determined in both the supernatant and pellet of the 40,000 g fraction. 10 μ l (30–50 μ g) of the membrane particles or 20 μ l of the supernatant were incubated in a total incubation volume containing 25 mM *bis*-Tris propane (pH 7.5), 1 mM [3 H]cGMP, 1 mM EDTA, 2.5 mM MnCl₂, 5 mM dithiothreitol, 0.4 mM [α - 32 P]GTP, the regenerating system, and the agonist indicated. The reaction was started with the addition of membranes and was continued for 10 min in a 37°C water bath and stopped by the addition of 100 μ l of a solution containing 40 mM GTP, 10 mM cGMP, and 1% SDS. Protein in the homogenate and membrane preparations was determined using the method of Lowry (18). Statistical assessments of the data were made using Student's *t* test or analysis of variance as appropriate (19).

RESULTS

To determine whether or not parathyroid hormone might have direct effects *in vitro* on skeletal muscle

protein and amino acid metabolism, epitrochlearis preparations of rat skeletal muscle were incubated with purified bovine 1-84 parathyroid hormone and with the synthetic 1-34 fragment of bovine parathyroid hormone. As shown in Table I, both the native hormone and the 1-34 fragment of parathyroid hormone increased the release of alanine and glutamine from these skeletal muscle preparations. Alanine release was increased 67% by native parathyroid hormone and 57% by the 1-34 fragment; glutamine release was increased 60% by intact parathyroid hormone and 63% by the 1-34 fragment ($P < 0.01$ for all). Epitrochlearis preparations were also obtained from rats made chronically uremic by unilateral nephrectomy and subtotal ligation of the branches of the contralateral renal artery as described in detail in Methods. These muscle preparations had an increased rate of alanine and glutamine release in the absence of added parathyroid hormone, as has been described previously (10). In contrast to the effect of parathyroid hormone on control muscle preparations, amino acid release from epitrochlearis preparations obtained from uremic rats was not altered by either intact 1-84 parathyroid hormone or the 1-34 fragment. This effect was not the result of the single concentration of parathyroid hormone or the 1-34 fragment studied. As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, added 1-34 parathyroid hormone produced a concentration-dependent increase in the release of both alanine and glutamine from muscle of control rats. At the highest concentration of parathyroid hormone studied (10^5 ng/ml), alanine release was increased by 84%, and glutamine release was increased by 75% ($P < 0.01$ each). The stimulatory effect of para-

TABLE I
Effect of Bovine Parathyroid Hormone (1-84) and the Synthetic (1-34) Fragment on Amino Acid Release from Skeletal Muscle of Control and Uremic Rats

Addition	Concentration U/ml	Release			
		Alanine		Glutamine	
		Control	Uremia	Control	Uremia
		nmol/min/g muscle			
Control	—	19.8±2.6	29.7±1.3	29.4±2.5	39.9±2.6
Parathyroid hormone (1-84)	50	33.1±2.4	29.2±2.0	46.9±6.4	40.2±2.1
Synthetic 1-34 peptide	57	31.1±3.3	29.5±1.6	48.0±5.0	41.0±3.0

Epitrochlearis preparations from control and chronically uremic rats were obtained and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM) and highly purified intact bovine parathyroid hormone or synthetic 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone at the concentrations indicated. Following conclusion of the 1-h incubation, muscles were rapidly removed from the media, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Alanine and glutamine released to the media were determined enzymatically using microfluorometric techniques. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least eight experiments and are expressed as nanomoles of amino acids released per minute per gram muscle, wet weight.

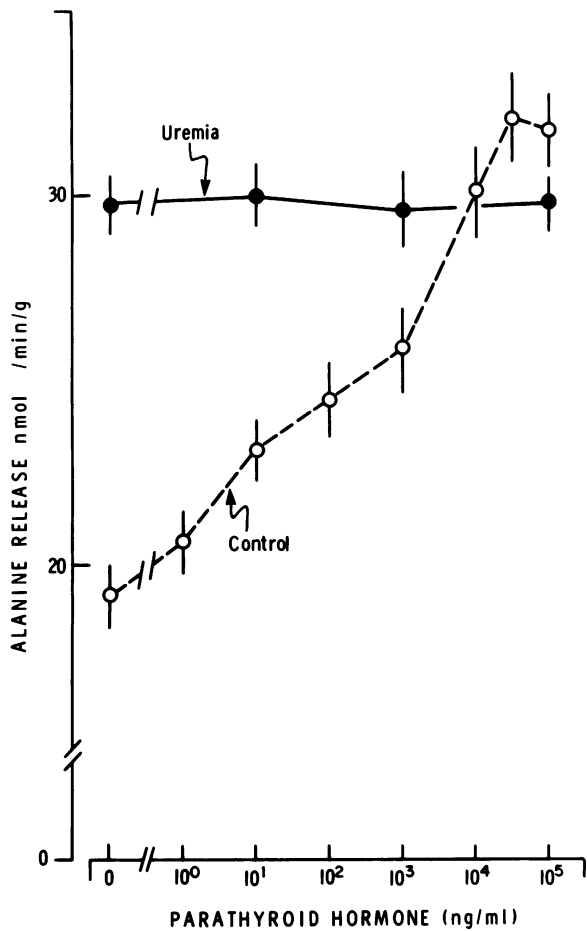


FIGURE 1 Effect of parathyroid hormone on alanine release from epitrochlearis preparations of rat skeletal muscle. Epitrochlearis preparations were obtained from control (○) and chronically uremic (●) rats and incubated at 37°C for 1 h in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM) and varying concentrations of synthetic 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone as indicated. After incubation, the muscles were rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Alanine released to the media was determined enzymatically using microfluorometric techniques. Values shown are the means±SEM for at least eight experiments and are expressed as nanomoles of alanine released per minute per gram muscle, wet weight.

thyroid hormone on amino acid release appeared to be ultimately saturable at concentrations of parathyroid hormone of 10⁴ ng/ml or greater. In contrast, the release of alanine and glutamine from muscle of uremic rats was unaltered by parathyroid hormone at any concentration studied, suggesting a complete insensitivity to parathyroid hormone of amino acid release from these muscle preparations.

The metabolic basis for the increased alanine and glutamine release from muscle of normal but not

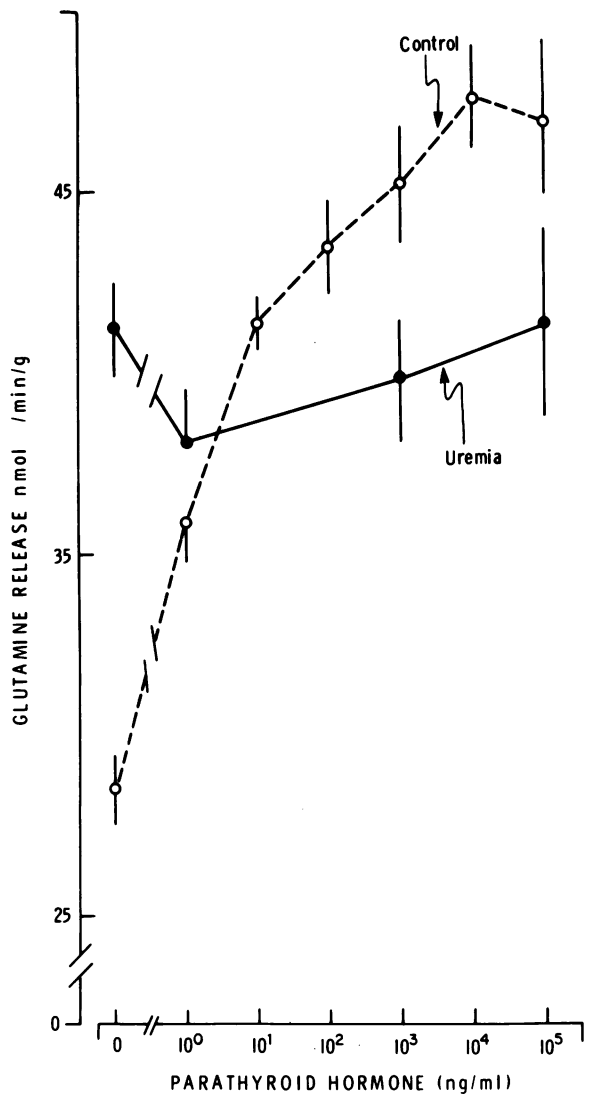


FIGURE 2 Effect of parathyroid hormone on glutamine release from skeletal muscle. Epitrochlearis preparations were obtained from control (○) and chronically uremic (●) rats and incubated at 37°C for 1 h in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM) and varying concentrations of synthetic 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone as indicated. After incubation, the muscles were rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Glutamine released to the media was determined enzymatically using microfluorometric techniques. Values shown are the means±SEM for at least eight experiments and are expressed as nanomoles of alanine released per minute per gram muscle, wet weight.

uremic rats was next investigated. Since skeletal muscle contains substantial intracellular pools of both alanine and glutamine, it seemed possible that the increased release of amino acids produced by parathy-

roid hormone might derive from a redistribution of these intracellular pools into the incubation media. However, as shown in Table II, no effect of parathyroid hormone on tissue levels of alanine or glutamine could be observed at any hormone concentration studied. Similarly, no effect on alanine reutilization by way of oxidation to CO₂ or reincorporation into protein in these skeletal muscle preparations could be detected (data not shown). Since these findings suggest that an increased net formation of alanine and glutamine was induced by parathyroid hormone addition *in vitro*, the effect of this hormone on insulin-stimulated protein synthesis was next investigated. As seen in Fig. 3, increasing concentrations of parathyroid hormone caused a decrease in insulin-stimulated [³H]leucine incorporation into muscle protein in preparations from control as well as uremic animals. At 10⁵ ng/ml of parathyroid hormone, leucine incorporation was reduced ~40% in both control and uremic muscle. In these studies intracellular levels of [³H]leucine and leucine specific activities were the same in both normal and uremic muscle, as has been noted previously (10).

Since the foregoing data suggest that parathyroid hormone produces an increased formation and release of alanine and glutamine in muscle from control rats, potential effects of this hormone on protein degradation were qualitatively assessed *in vitro* using epitrochlearis preparations obtained from rats given a pulse-chase label of [guanido-¹⁴C]arginine as described previously (10). As shown in Table III, incubation *in vitro* of muscle preparations obtained from rats labeled in

TABLE II
Effect of Synthetic Parathyroid Hormone (1-34) on Amino Acid Tissue Levels in Rat Skeletal Muscle

Parathyroid hormone concentration ng/ml	Levels	
	Alanine	Glutamine
	<i>μmol/g muscle</i>	
0	1.24±0.16	3.21±0.31
10	1.39±0.11	2.94±0.28
100	1.19±0.08	3.96±0.60
1000	1.20±0.09	3.03±0.57

Epitrochlearis preparations of rat skeletal muscle were obtained and incubated in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer for 1 h at 37°C. To the incubation media, varying concentrations of 1-34 synthetic bovine parathyroid hormone were added as indicated. At the conclusion of the incubation, muscles were rapidly removed from the media, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Alanine and glutamine levels in each muscle preparation were assessed enzymatically using perchloric acid extracts of the muscles. Values shown are the means (±SEM) for at least six experiments and expressed as micromoles of amino acid per gram muscle, wet weight.

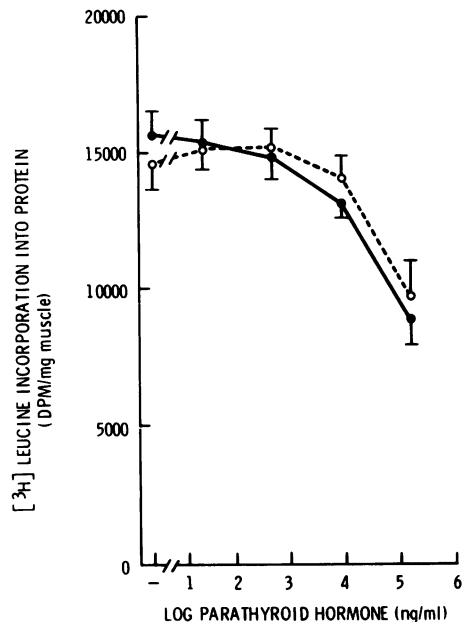


FIGURE 3 Effect of parathyroid hormone on leucine incorporation into skeletal muscle protein. Epitrochlearis preparations from control (●) and chronically uremic (○) rats were obtained and incubated for 4 h at 37°C under 95% O₂-5% CO₂ in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing a mixture of 17 essential and nonessential amino acids, insulin (100 mU/ml), and glucose (5 mM). To this media, [4,5-³H]leucine (1 μCi/ml) was added. At the conclusion of incubation, the muscles were rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Incorporation of leucine into trichloroacetic acid-precipitable protein was determined using liquid scintillation spectrometry as described under Methods. Values shown are the means (±SEM) for at least six experiments and are given as disintegrations per minute [³H]leucine incorporated/milligram muscle.

vivo resulted in a measurable decline in trichloroacetic acid-insoluble ¹⁴C-label (*P* < 0.05). Incubation of contralateral epitrochlearis preparations in the presence of synthetic 1-34 parathyroid hormone produced a greater decline in acid insoluble ¹⁴C-label (*P* < 0.01). The decrements in acid-precipitable label after incubation were matched by appropriate increments in acid-soluble label for both control and parathyroid hormone incubated muscle preparations. Parallel experiments performed in the presence of cycloheximide to inhibit protein resynthesis and hence recycling of label were not different compared to these experiments performed in the absence of cycloheximide (data not shown). Thus, it seems likely that incubation of these muscle preparations *in vitro* is associated with a measurable rate of loss of labeled amino acid from the acid insoluble to the acid soluble and extracellular pools during incubation. Incubation in the presence of parathyroid hormone accentuated this decline in acid-in-

TABLE III
Effect of Incubation in the Presence and Absence of Synthetic Parathyroid Hormone on the Distribution of [guanido-¹⁴C]Arginine in Skeletal Muscle from Rats Previously Labeled In Vivo

Treatment	Muscle		Released to media	Total nonprecipitable label	Increment in nonprecipitable label after incubation	Decrement in precipitable label after incubation
	TCA insoluble	TCA soluble				
				DPM/mg muscle		
Frozen in situ	169.9±1.3	63.8±1.9	—	63.8±1.9	—	—
Control incubation	160.1±2.8	27.8±3.0	45.2±2.2	73.2±2.8	9.4±1.7	9.8±1.4
Incubated parathyroid hormone, 10 ng/ml	153.5±1.8	26.7±0.9	56.8±3.3	83.6±3.2	19.8±2.1	16.4±1.6

Rats were injected with [guanido-¹⁴C]arginine as described in Methods. Epitrochlearis preparations from these animals were subsequently obtained and incubated for 2 h in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM) in the presence and absence of 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone. Preparations from the contralateral extremity of each animal were immediately freeze-clamped in situ. After incubation, muscles were removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen, subsequently homogenized in 12% trichloroacetic acid and the acid-insoluble pellets washed and subsequently solubilized. Samples of the incubation media, the acid-soluble extract of skeletal muscle, and the acid-insoluble pellet were counted in a liquid scintillation spectrometer. Values shown are the means (±SEM) for at least eight experiments and are expressed as disintegrations per minute/gram muscle, wet weight.

soluble label and facilitated the appearance of labeled amino acid in the incubation media and acid-soluble pool of muscle by nearly 100%.

Potential mechanisms by which parathyroid hormone altered protein and amino acid metabolism in skeletal muscle were next investigated. Since the metabolic effects of parathyroid hormone on other tissues such as kidney and bone are thought to be mediated, at least in part, by increased tissue levels of cAMP, the effects of synthetic 1-34 parathyroid hormone on skeletal muscle cAMP and cGMP levels were determined (Figs. 4 and 5). In epitrochlearis preparations obtained from control animals, parathyroid hormone produced a concentration-dependent increase in muscle cAMP levels. At the highest concentrations of hormone studied (1,000 ng/ml), cAMP levels were increased by 140% ($P < 0.01$). In contrast, no concentration of parathyroid hormone studied significantly increased cAMP levels in muscles of uremic animals. These same concentrations of parathyroid hormone also produced a concentration-dependent increase in levels of cGMP in muscles obtained from control animals (Fig. 5). The magnitude of the increases in muscle cGMP levels was comparable to the increase in muscle cAMP levels. Levels of cGMP in muscles of uremic animals were slightly higher under basal circumstances in the absence of parathyroid hormone than in muscles of control animals, and parathyroid hormone addition in vitro produced no additional increment in cGMP levels in muscle from uremic as compared to control animals. In order to assess whether these effects of parathyroid hormone on muscle cAMP and cGMP levels resulted from an increased rate of cyclic nucleotide formation or from a diminished rate of cyclic nucleotide disposal,

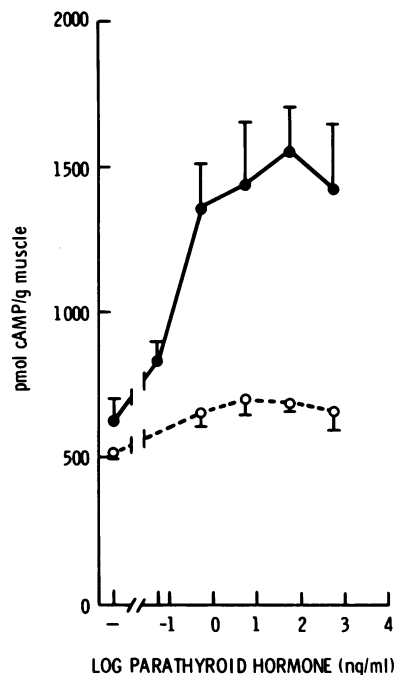


FIGURE 4 Effect of parathyroid hormone on cAMP levels in skeletal muscle of control and uremic rats. Epitrochlearis preparations from control (●) and chronically uremic (○) rats were obtained and incubated with varying concentrations of parathyroid hormone in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM). After the conclusion of the incubation, each muscle was rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Levels of cAMP in trichloroacetic extracts of each skeletal muscle preparation were then determined by double antibody radioimmunoassay. Values shown are the means (±SEM) for at least 10 experiments and are given as picomoles of cAMP per gram muscle, wet weight.

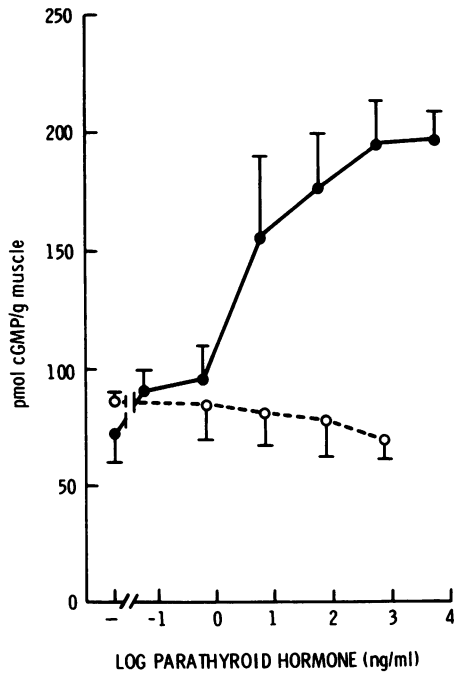


FIGURE 5 Effect of parathyroid hormone on cGMP levels and skeletal muscle of control and uremic rats. Epitrochlearis preparations from control (●) and chronically uremic (○) rats were obtained and incubated with varying concentrations of parathyroid hormone in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM). After the conclusion of the incubation, each muscle was rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Levels of cGMP in trichloroacetic extracts of each skeletal muscle preparation were then determined by double antibody radioimmunoassay. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least 10 experiments and are given as picomoles of cGMP per gram muscle, wet weight.

the effects of parathyroid hormone and 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine on cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase activity in vitro were assessed (Table IV). Muscle homogenates incubated with 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine in vitro clearly had reduced activities of both the AMP and GMP phosphodiesterase when assayed in subcellular fractions of homogenates. On the other hand, muscle homogenates incubated in the presence of synthetic 1-34 parathyroid hormone had no alteration in AMP or GMP phosphodiesterase activities in homogenates of control muscles. These findings suggest that the effects of synthetic 1-34 parathyroid hormone on rat skeletal muscle cyclic nucleotide levels may not derive from a primary inhibition of cyclic nucleotide degradation.

The effect of parathyroid hormone on skeletal muscle adenylyl cyclase activity was next assessed (Fig. 6). The synthetic 1-34 fragment of bovine parathyroid hormone produced a concentration-dependent stimulation of adenylyl cyclase activity in membrane preparations from muscles of control rats. Those concentrations of parathyroid hormone that stimulated adenylyl cyclase activity were similar to those concentrations that increased muscle cAMP levels (Fig. 4) and altered muscle amino acid release (Figs. 1 and 2). Aged or oxidized preparations of the synthetic 1-34 fragment of bovine parathyroid hormone did not alter adenylyl cyclase activity in this assay system. Potential effects of parathyroid hormone on muscle guanylyl cyclase activities were also studied (Table V). Neither supernatant nor particulate activities of guanylyl cyclase were stimulated by parathyroid hormone using muscle from control and uremic animals. Sodium azide stimulation of supernatant

TABLE IV
Effect of Parathyroid Hormone and 3-Isobutyl-1-Methylxanthine on Phosphodiesterase Activity in Rat Skeletal Muscle

Incubation media	Concentration	Phosphodiesterase activity					
		Homogenate	cAMP		cGMP		
			600-g supernatant	40,000-g supernatant	Homogenate	600-g supernatant	40,000-g supernatant
		pmol cAMP hydrolyzed/mg protein/h			pmol cGMP hydrolyzed/mg protein/h		
Control	—	378.6 \pm 8.8	577.8 \pm 21.7	661.9 \pm 26.6	158.3 \pm 14.3	285.5 \pm 12.8	378.4 \pm 18.6
Parathyroid hormone	588 ng/ml	407.7 \pm 25.6	617.7 \pm 19.6	709.1 \pm 16.1	171.4 \pm 12.1	327.4 \pm 13.6	390.8 \pm 24.9
3-Isobutyl-1-methylxanthine	0.2 mM	91.1 \pm 0.4	115.2 \pm 14.3	181.0 \pm 15.3	15.1 \pm 3.6	33.1 \pm 6.3	38.8 \pm 4.4

Epitrochlearis preparations from control animals were obtained and incubated in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM) and parathyroid hormone or methylisobutyl xanthine as indicated. Following a 1-h incubation, muscles were rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted and homogenized and subjected to differential centrifugation. cAMP and cGMP phosphodiesterase activities were assessed in the whole homogenates, the 600-g supernatants and the 40,000-g supernatants of each muscle preparation as described in Methods. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least five separate experiments and are expressed as picomoles of cyclic nucleotide hydrolyzed per milligram protein/hour.

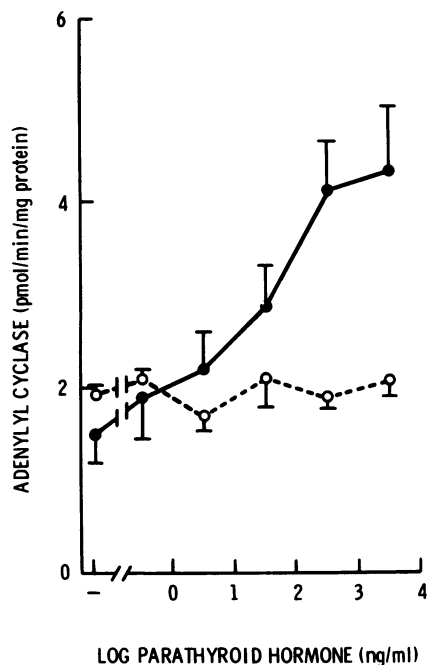


FIGURE 6 Effect of parathyroid hormone on adenylyl cyclase activity from rat sarcolemma. Skeletal muscle from control (●) and chronically uremic (○) rats was obtained and crude sarcolemmal preparations prepared. Adenylyl cyclase activity in the presence of varying concentrations of parathyroid hormone added as indicated was determined radiometrically as the appearance of [³²P]cAMP using [α -³²P]ATP as substrate. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least five experiments and are given as picomoles of cAMP formed per minute per milligram protein.

guanylyl cyclase activity was reduced in muscle from uremic animals. Furthermore, both supernatant and particulate basal guanylyl cyclase activities were reduced 40–50% in uremic as compared to control muscle.

In previous studies with muscle of uremic animals we found a diminished responsiveness toward epinephrine and serotonin inhibition of amino acid release. This derived from a desensitization of the epinephrine- and serotonin-stimulable adenylyl cyclase activities in muscle of uremic rats (20). As a consequence, there were diminished increases by these hormones in muscle AMP levels as a function of the epinephrine or serotonin concentration added. In view of the effects of parathyroid hormone on cyclic nucleotide metabolism in skeletal muscle, potential interactions between epinephrine, serotonin, and parathyroid hormone on amino acid release from skeletal muscle were next examined. As shown in Table VI, epinephrine (10^{-5} M) decreased alanine and glutamine release from muscle by 36 and 49%, respectively, ($P < 0.01$). Similarly, serotonin (10^{-5} M) decreased alanine and glutamine release by 31 and 39%, respectively ($P < 0.01$). Parathyroid hormone alone increased alanine and glutamine release as noted earlier. In the presence of parathyroid hormone, neither epinephrine nor serotonin produced significant inhibition of either alanine or glutamine release from muscle. This result was not the consequence of the single epinephrine or serotonin concentration reported. As shown in Fig. 7, epinephrine produced a concentration-dependent decrease in alanine release from muscles of control an-

TABLE V
Effect of Parathyroid Hormone and Sodium Azide on Guanylyl Cyclase Activity in Skeletal Muscle of Control and Uremic Rats

Additions	Concentration	Guanylyl cyclase activity			
		Supernatant		Particulate	
	ng/ml	Control	Uremic	Control	Uremic
Control	—	20.1 \pm 0.47	12.1 \pm 0.47	8.28 \pm 0.10	3.98 \pm 0.21
Parathyroid hormone	0.59	20.8 \pm 0.71	12.1 \pm 0.38	8.29 \pm 0.65	3.16 \pm 0.27
	5.88	20.1 \pm 0.62	11.7 \pm 0.32	8.29 \pm 0.13	4.14 \pm 0.36
	58.8	21.1 \pm 0.71	11.2 \pm 0.41	8.06 \pm 0.55	3.25 \pm 0.23
	588	21.4 \pm 0.79	10.3 \pm 0.35	7.16 \pm 0.65	2.93 \pm 0.45
	5,880	19.9 \pm 0.88	10.7 \pm 0.45	7.16 \pm 0.71	3.40 \pm 0.12
Sodium azide, 5 mM	—	27.9 \pm 0.27	13.3 \pm 0.45	11.9 \pm 1.07	6.32 \pm 0.80

Epitrochlearis preparations of control and chronically uremic rats were obtained, homogenized, and separated into a 40,000-g supernatant and 40,000-g pellet fractions. Guanylyl cyclase activity was assayed as outlined in Methods using [α -³²P]GTP as substrate. Values shown for guanylyl cyclase activity are the means (\pm SEM) for at least 12 experiments and are expressed as picomoles/minute/milligram protein.

TABLE VI
Effect of Synthetic Parathyroid Hormone on the Action of
Epinephrine and Serotonin on Amino Acid
Release in Rat Skeletal Muscle

Addition	Concentration	Alanine release	Glutamine release
<i>nmol/mtn/g muscle</i>			
Control	—	19.97±1.69	29.54±3.49
Parathyroid hormone	1,000 ng/ml	27.53±0.76	38.80±2.81
Epinephrine	10 ⁻⁵ M	12.87±0.53	15.21±2.04
Serotonin	10 ⁻⁵ M	13.79±2.13	17.93±1.46
Parathyroid hormone + epinephrine	1,000 ng/ml 10 ⁻⁵ M	20.42±2.45	27.91±3.74
Parathyroid hormone + serotonin	1,000 ng/ml 10 ⁻⁵ M	21.26±2.52	25.56±3.74

Epitrochlearis preparations from control rats were obtained and incubated for 1 h at 37°C in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM) and epinephrine (10⁻⁵ M), serotonin (10⁻⁵ M) and parathyroid hormone as indicated below. At the conclusion of the 1-h incubation, muscles were rapidly removed from the media, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Alanine and glutamine released to the incubation media were subsequently determined using microfluorometric enzymatic techniques. Values shown are the means (±SEM) for at least six experiments and are expressed as nanomoles of amino acid released per minute/gram muscle, wet weight.

imals. In contrast, basal alanine release in the presence of parathyroid hormone was increased and the inhibition by epinephrine was markedly reduced. Indeed, no inhibitory effect of epinephrine on alanine release in the presence of parathyroid hormone was observed with epinephrine concentrations < 10⁻⁶ M. This is in contrast to the effects of epinephrine in the absence of parathyroid hormone in which concentrations of epinephrine as low as 10⁻⁹ M produced detectable inhibition of alanine release from muscle. A similar loss of responsiveness to epinephrine action was observed in studies of glutamine release (Fig. 8). In absence of added parathyroid hormone, concentrations of epinephrine as low as 10⁻⁹ M produced detectable inhibition of glutamine release. However, in the presence of added synthetic 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone, epinephrine levels of 10⁻⁶ M or greater were required to produce observable inhibition of glutamine release.

Since the mechanism of epinephrine inhibition of amino acid release from skeletal muscle is linked through alterations in cAMP levels in skeletal muscle, levels of this cyclic nucleotide in these same muscle preparations were examined. As shown in Fig. 9 basal cAMP levels were ~100% higher in those preparations

incubated in the presence of parathyroid hormone as compared with preparations incubated in the absence of parathyroid hormone. In the absence of added parathyroid hormone, epinephrine produced a concentration-dependent increase in cAMP levels similar to that described (20). At 10⁻⁵ M epinephrine, cAMP levels were increased by 1,670 pmol/g muscle over levels in the absence of epinephrine. In contrast, increasing concentrations of epinephrine in the presence of parathyroid hormone did not further increase cAMP levels at epinephrine concentrations < 10⁻⁵ M. At 10⁻⁵ M epinephrine, cAMP levels were increased only 620 pmol/g muscle compared with cAMP levels measured in the absence of added epinephrine. Furthermore, cAMP levels in the presence of 10⁻⁵ M epinephrine plus parathyroid hormone were somewhat less than those levels produced by epinephrine (10⁻⁵ M) in the absence of added parathyroid hormone. Levels of cGMP were also determined (Fig. 10). Epinephrine did not alter cGMP levels in control muscles, nor did it reduce the elevated cGMP levels resulting from 1-34 parathyroid hormone addition.

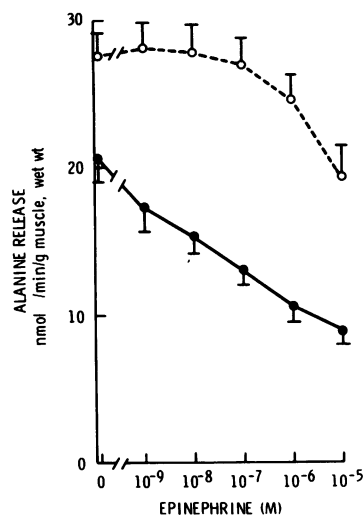


FIGURE 7 Effect of parathyroid hormone on the epinephrine-induced inhibition of alanine release from skeletal muscle. Epitrochlearis preparations were obtained from normal rats and were incubated for 1 h at 37°C under 95% O₂-5% CO₂ in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing varying concentrations of epinephrine as indicated either in the presence (O) or the absence (●) of added bovine 1-34 parathyroid hormone (1,000 ng/ml). At the conclusion of the 1-h incubation, muscles were removed and rapidly rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Alanine released to the media was determined enzymatically using microfluorometric techniques. Values shown are the means (±SEM) for at least six experiments and are expressed as nanomoles of alanine released per minute per gram muscle, wet weight.

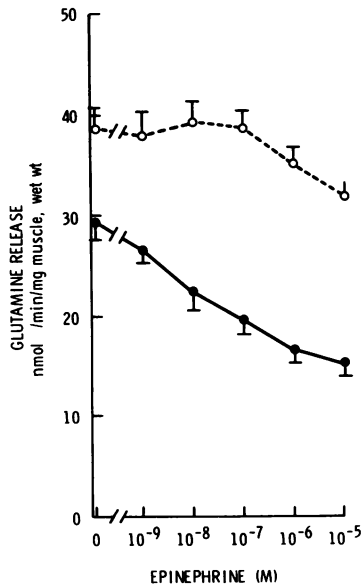


FIGURE 8 Effect of parathyroid hormone on the epinephrine-induced inhibition of glutamine release from skeletal muscle. Epitrochlearis preparations were obtained from normal rats and were incubated for 1 h at 37°C under 95% O₂-5% CO₂ in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing varying concentrations of epinephrine as indicated either in the presence (○) or the absence (●) of added 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone (1,000 ng/ml). At the conclusion of the 1-h incubation, muscles were removed and rapidly rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Glutamine released to the media was determined enzymatically using microfluorometric techniques. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least six experiments and are expressed as nanomoles of glutamine released per minute per gram muscle, wet weight.

The effects of parathyroid hormone on the catecholamine stimuable adenylyl cyclase were next investigated. Rat sarcolemmal preparations were preincubated under adenylyl cyclase assay conditions without added [α -³²P]ATP but in the presence or absence of 1-34 parathyroid hormone. Following a 10-min preincubation, membranes were transferred to adenylyl cyclase assay media containing increasing concentrations of isoproterenol (Fig. 11). Membranes preincubated with parathyroid hormone showed a maximal activity of the isoproterenol-stimulable adenylyl cyclase, which was decreased 25% compared to membranes preincubated in the absence of the 1-34 polypeptide. This decrease was dependent upon the concentration of parathyroid hormone added to the preincubation media. Preincubation with isoproterenol (10⁻⁷ M) had no effect on the subsequent stimulation of adenylyl cyclase activity by isoproterenol (data not shown).

DISCUSSION

The results of the present study show clearly that bovine parathyroid hormone as well as the synthetic 1-34 fragment of bovine parathyroid hormone increase the release of alanine and glutamine from rat skeletal muscle. This increased amino acid release does not derive from a primary alteration in rates of amino acid transport or a nonspecific toxic effect of parathyroid hormone on the skeletal muscle membrane since tissue levels of both alanine and glutamine were unchanged at any parathyroid hormone concentration studied (Table II). Instead, this increased release of alanine and glutamine reflects an increased net synthesis of these two amino acids in skeletal muscle. This conclusion is based on the observation that parathyroid hormone does not alter alanine reutilization via oxidation to [¹⁴C]CO₂ or its incorporation into protein via protein synthesis. Furthermore, in other studies, we have shown that reutilization of alanine and glutamine by skeletal muscle preparations under these conditions of incubation is quantitatively insignificant compared to

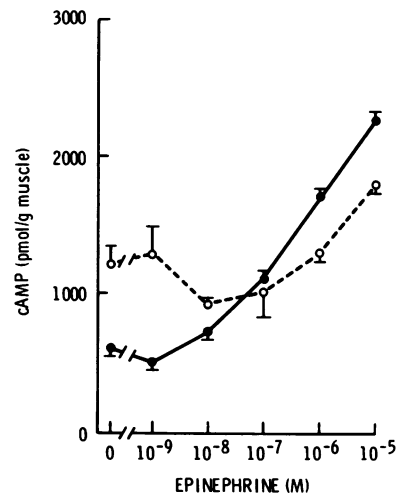


FIGURE 9 Effect of parathyroid hormone on the epinephrine stimulation of cAMP levels in skeletal muscle. Epitrochlearis preparations of rat skeletal muscle were obtained and incubated in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM), varying concentrations of epinephrine as indicated either in the presence (○) or in the absence (●) of added 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone (1,000 ng/ml). At the conclusion of the incubation, muscles were rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Levels of cAMP in each skeletal muscle preparation were determined by double antibody radioimmunoassay in the trichloroacetic extracts of each skeletal muscle preparation. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least five experiments and are expressed as picomoles of cAMP/gram muscle, wet weight.

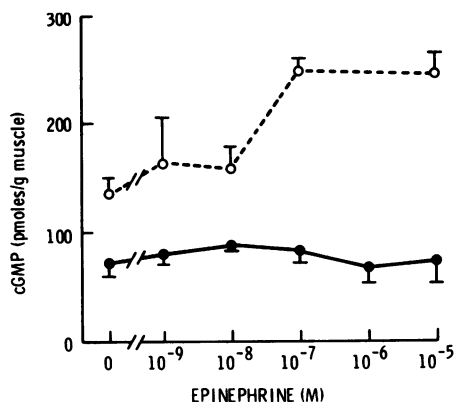


FIGURE 10 Effect of parathyroid hormone on the epinephrine stimulation of cGMP levels in skeletal muscle. Epitrochlearis preparations of rat skeletal muscle were obtained and incubated for 5 min at 37°C in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer (pH 7.4) containing glucose (5 mM), varying concentrations of epinephrine as indicated in the presence (○) and the absence (●) of added 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone (1,000 ng/ml). At the conclusion of the incubation, muscles were rapidly removed, rinsed, blotted, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Levels of cGMP in each skeletal muscle preparation were determined by double antibody radioimmunoassay in the trichloroacetic extracts of each skeletal muscle preparation. Values shown are the means (\pm SEM) for at least five experiments and are expressed as picomoles of cGMP per gram muscle, wet weight.

the amounts of these amino acids released (21, 22). Thus, a primary inhibition of alanine reutilization could not account for the data shown in Table I and Figs. 1 and 2. Instead, it seems more reasonable to conclude that parathyroid hormone and the synthetic 1-34 fragment increase directly the formation of alanine and glutamine in skeletal muscle.

Skeletal muscle releases alanine and glutamine to an extent far greater than the release of all other amino acids combined (23-25). In part this preferential release reflects a unique net formation of alanine and glutamine in skeletal muscle. The amino groups required for alanine and glutamine synthesis in muscle are supplied by the catabolism of other amino acids (26-28). Similarly, the carbon requirement for ongoing glutamine and alanine synthesis appears to be met, in part, by the metabolism of other amino acids to form the carbon as well as nitrogen precursors required for continuing alanine and glutamine synthesis in muscle (29). The degradation of endogenous skeletal muscle proteins is the primary process maintaining the ongoing availability of these precursor amino acids (30). Although the increased muscle alanine formation in diabetes mellitus has been attributed to diminished reutilization of amino acids for protein synthesis (31),

this may not be the primary mechanism accounting for the increased alanine and glutamine formation produced by parathyroid hormone since the increased amino acid formation (Figs. 1 and 2) was observed at parathyroid hormone concentrations that are four to five orders of magnitude lower than those required for inhibition of protein synthesis (Fig. 3). On the other hand, experiments using labeled amino acid incorporation to assess protein synthesis were necessarily performed in the presence of insulin, whereas experiments on amino acid release were performed in the absence of insulin. It is possible that exogenous insulin may overcome inhibitory effects on protein synthesis of

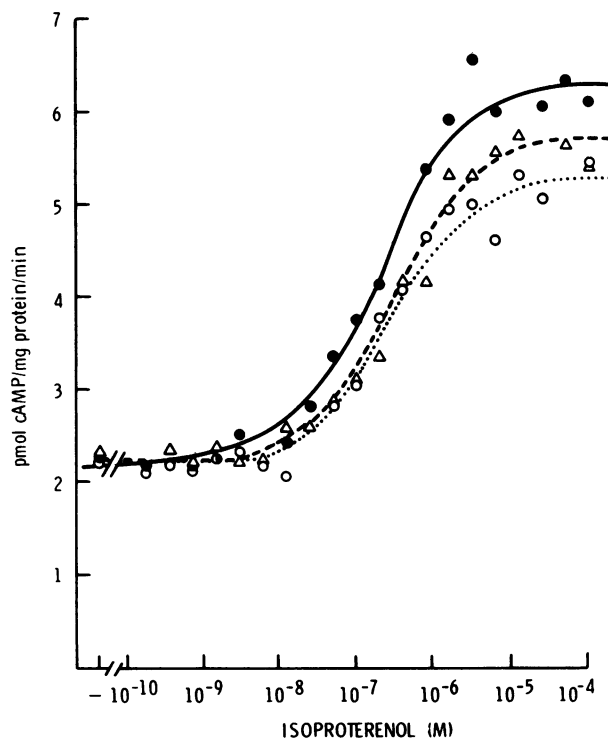


FIGURE 11 Effect of preincubation with parathyroid hormone on isoproterenol stimuable adenylyl cyclase activity in rat sarcolemma. Skeletal muscle preparations were obtained from control rats and crude preparations of sarcolemma prepared by differential centrifugation. These sarcolemmal preparations were incubated for 10 min in adenylyl cyclase assay media omitting [α -³²P]ATP but containing either no added 1-34 bovine parathyroid hormone (●), 1,000 ng/ml parathyroid hormone (Δ), or 10,000 ng/ml of 1-34 parathyroid hormone (○). After conclusion of the preincubation period, the sarcolemma was used in an adenylyl cyclase activity assay containing varying concentrations of isoproterenol as indicated. Values for adenylyl cyclase activity are the means (\pm SEM) for at least three experiments and are expressed as picomoles of cAMP formed per minute per milligram protein.

parathyroid hormone at lower concentrations. However, prior studies with insulin alone have shown only a slight effect of insulin even at high concentrations on amino acid release during the 1-h incubation period used (23). Furthermore, protein synthesis in muscle from control and uremic animals was inhibited equally, although no effect of parathyroid hormone could be observed on the synthesis and release of alanine and glutamine from uremic muscle. Thus, it seems more reasonable to conclude that a diminished reutilization of amino acids via protein synthesis may not account primarily for the increased rates of alanine and glutamine synthesis produced by parathyroid hormone in this study. Instead, it seems possible that a direct effect of parathyroid hormone on muscle protein degradation may produce the augmentation of alanine and glutamine synthesis and release. Support for this concept is provided by the data in Table III in which muscles from rats given a pulse-chase administration of [*guanido*-¹⁴C]arginine *in vivo* were subsequently incubated *in vitro* with and without exogenous parathyroid hormone. Although this experiment provides primarily a qualitative assessment of net muscle proteolysis *in vitro* and potential effects on protein resynthesis cannot be entirely excluded, the data suggest that parathyroid hormone may increase substantially the degradation of endogenously labeled muscle proteins. Since the initial rate of net protein degradation in these studies using labeled arginine (3.06%/h) agrees well with initial rates determined by Fulks et al. (32) using labeled phenylalanine release (2.87%/h), and since parallel studies performed with cycloheximide yielded similar results as noted previously (33), it seems reasonable to conclude that parathyroid hormone may act on skeletal muscle primarily by increasing muscle proteolysis, thereby increasing the availability of amino acid precursors, which in turn causes an acceleration in the synthesis and release of alanine and glutamine.

The precise mechanisms by which parathyroid hormone alters protein and amino acid metabolism in skeletal muscle are not entirely clear. In previous studies, we have shown that cyclic nucleotide associated agonists regulate muscle protein degradation and alanine and glutamine synthesis and release. For example, β_2 -adrenergic agonists, acting through a specific hormone stimutable adenylyl cyclase and increased intracellular levels of cyclic AMP retard muscle protein degradation and thereby inhibit alanine and glutamine synthesis and release (34, 35). Similarly, serotonin acting through a specific sarcolemmal D-serotonergic receptor and a hormone stimutable adenylyl cyclase also increases muscle cAMP levels and thereby inhibits protein degradation and alanine and glutamine syn-

thesis and release (21, 35). On the other hand, cholinergic agonists acting through a nicotinic cholinergic receptor increase muscle cGMP levels and as a result increase muscle protein degradation and the formation and release of alanine and glutamine (22, 36). The results of the present study show clearly that those concentrations of parathyroid hormone that affect protein and amino acid metabolism also increase cAMP and cGMP levels in muscle. Studies of parathyroid hormone action have described specific hormone stimutable adenylyl cyclases for parathyroid hormone in kidney as well as in bone calvaria cells (37-39). A similar parathyroid hormone-stimutable adenylyl cyclase also appears to be present in skeletal muscle (Fig. 6). Concentrations of parathyroid hormone that alter protein and amino acid metabolism in skeletal muscle and increase cyclic AMP levels also stimulate muscle adenylyl cyclase activity in crude sarcolemmal preparations.

If the metabolic effects of parathyroid hormone on skeletal muscle protein and amino acid metabolism were mediated solely by the increased cAMP levels, then one would expect inhibition of protein degradation and amino acid release in these muscle preparations, analogous to the metabolic actions of adrenergic and serotonergic agonists. To the contrary, parathyroid hormone produced an opposite metabolic effect, increasing rather than decreasing muscle proteolysis and amino acid release. Such an effect is entirely consistent with the elevated cGMP levels produced by parathyroid hormone addition in these *in vitro* muscle incubation systems, and is analogous to the effect of nicotinic cholinergic agonists that also increase muscle cGMP levels and accelerate proteolysis and amino acid release (36). Parathyroid hormone action is not classically associated with increased cGMP levels in other tissues and no measurable stimulation of skeletal muscle guanylyl cyclase by parathyroid hormone could be demonstrated. However, traditional mechanisms of hormone receptor-adenylyl cyclase coupling do not appear to apply to the regulation of guanylyl cyclase since specific receptor-mediated stimulations of guanylyl cyclase have not been described, and since this cyclase may be regulated primarily by other factors such as the oxidation-reduction potential (40), or by calcium flux (41). Taken as a whole, the data of the present study suggest that the accelerated protein degradation and amino acid release produced by parathyroid hormone in skeletal muscle may be the result of an increased cGMP level rather than the effect of the increased cAMP level produced by parathyroid hormone. Nevertheless, the precise mechanism by which parathyroid hormone might increase cGMP levels remains unclear.

In this study, parathyroid hormone concentrations of 1–10 ng/ml were found to cause significant alterations of skeletal muscle protein, amino acid, and cyclic nucleotide metabolism (Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 5) in vitro and 30–300 ng/ml significantly stimulated muscle adenylyl cyclase activity (Fig. 6). These levels compare favorably with concentrations of parathyroid hormone used in other studies on bone and kidney adenylyl cyclase activation that used levels of 10,000 and 85,000 ng/ml, respectively (39, 37), and with other in vitro studies of parathyroid hormone action on kidney and bone metabolism (42, 43). The quantities of parathyroid hormone producing significant metabolic effects in this study in vitro are approximately one to two orders of magnitude greater than circulating levels of parathyroid hormone in normal man (0.50 ng/ml; 44, 45). Parathyroid hormone levels may be 30- to 100-fold greater in primary hyperparathyroidism and in chronic uremia, respectively (44–47). Thus, effective concentrations of parathyroid hormone in this study in vitro are not greatly dissimilar from concentrations of hormone observed in vivo (44–47). In other systems, supraphysiologic levels of hormones have also been used for demonstrations of hormonal actions in vitro. For example, in studies on insulin regulation of glucose and protein metabolism in skeletal muscle in vitro insulin concentrations of 1,000 to 25,000 μ U/ml, which are 20- to 500-fold greater than insulin levels noted in vivo have been used (31, 48). Studies of glucagon stimulation of liver and heart adenylyl cyclase activity and of hepatic glucose production and lipolysis in vitro have used glucagon concentrations that are 350- to 10,000-fold greater than circulating glucagon concentrations in vivo (49–52). The precise mechanisms that might account for the discrepancies between levels of hormone required for in vitro demonstrations of hormone action as compared with levels of these same hormones found in vivo are unknown.

In contrast to the metabolic effects of parathyroid hormone on muscle obtained from control animals, no action of either intact 1-84 bovine parathyroid hormone or the synthetic 1-34 fragment of bovine parathyroid hormone on muscle amino acid release, cAMP and cGMP levels, or on adenylyl cyclase activity could be observed in skeletal muscle from uremic animals. Although these findings may be interpreted as being consistent with prior saturation of parathyroid hormone receptors in muscle by the high levels of circulating parathyroid hormone in chronic uremia (46, 47), alternative interpretations are also possible such as a complete desensitization or loss of hormone responsiveness or potentially altered cation pools and channels owing to the hypocalcemia and hyperphosphatemia also associated with chronic uremia (53, 54).

In previous studies we observed a desensitization of muscles from uremic animals to epinephrine and serotonin action on skeletal muscle amino acid and cyclic nucleotide metabolism (10, 20). The mechanism for such a desensitization or diminution of hormone responsiveness was not apparent at that time. However, it is particularly noteworthy that incubation of muscles with either epinephrine or serotonin in the presence of added parathyroid hormone reproduced in vitro this same desensitization and diminished responsiveness with respect to amino acid release in muscle of normal animals compared with the previously observed desensitization in muscles obtained from uremic animals (10). Thus a 1,000 to 10,000-fold excess of epinephrine was required to produce an equal decrease in alanine and glutamine release in the presence of added parathyroid hormone as compared with incubations in the absence of parathyroid hormone (Figs. 7 and 8). This same degree of altered responsiveness was previously reported in muscles from uremic animals (10).

In the present study, basal cAMP levels in the presence of added parathyroid hormone (Fig. 9) were \sim 100% higher in normal preparations than cAMP levels in the absence of added parathyroid hormone. Despite this, amino acid release was greater in those preparations incubated in the presence of parathyroid hormone, suggesting the presence of an additional factor producing resistance to cAMP action such as perhaps the increase in cGMP levels observed in the presence of parathyroid hormone. This resistance to cAMP action was also noted previously in uremic muscle. However, cAMP resistance alone cannot be the sole explanation for the diminished responsiveness to epinephrine observed in the presence of parathyroid hormone since the increment above basal cAMP levels produced by increasing concentrations of epinephrine was less in muscle incubated with parathyroid hormone than in muscle incubated in the absence of parathyroid hormone. This suggests that an acquired impairment to catecholamine-stimulated cAMP formation was also produced by simultaneous co-incubation with parathyroid hormone. As a consequence of this impairment in cAMP generation, there was also a diminished responsiveness of amino acid release to epinephrine and serotonin. The basis for these effects of parathyroid hormone is not entirely clear. It is possible that added parathyroid hormone produces a heterologous desensitization of muscle adenylyl cyclase, which would account for the diminished increments in cAMP levels produced by incubation with parathyroid hormone and either epinephrine or serotonin. Evidence for such a desensitization is presented in Fig. 11 in which preincubation with parathyroid hormone rendered rat sarcolemma less sensitive to isoproterenol. Although the

concentration of isoproterenol producing one-half maximal stimulation of adenylyl cyclase was not changed by preincubation with parathyroid hormone, the maximal cyclase activity was reduced in amounts proportional to the concentration of parathyroid hormone in the preincubation media. No such effect for isoproterenol, epinephrine, or serotonin preincubation or co-incubation were noted (data not shown). These findings are quite similar to heterologous desensitizations observed in other systems (55, 56). It is also possible that the increased cGMP levels produced by parathyroid addition may have modified the formation of cAMP by epinephrine or serotonin. Precedence for such a mechanism is suggested by studies with cardiac muscle in which muscarinic cholinergic stimulation was found to produce a reduced adrenergic receptor affinity and reduced hormone stimuable adenylyl cyclase activity as well as reduced levels of cAMP in those preparations (57-59). Muscarinic cholinergic stimulation is also associated with cGMP elevation in some experiments (59). Irrespective of the precise mechanism, the results of the present study show clearly that incubation of skeletal muscle in vitro with parathyroid hormone can produce a diminished responsiveness to epinephrine and serotonin regulation of protein, amino acid, and cyclic nucleotide metabolism in vitro and that this phenomenon is remarkably similar to the desensitization in muscle obtained from chronically uremic animals towards epinephrine and serotonin modulation of protein, amino acid, and cyclic nucleotide metabolism. Taken as a whole, the data of the present study suggest that high levels of parathyroid hormone may have direct effects on skeletal muscle metabolism and that these effects may account in part for the abnormalities of skeletal muscle noted in chronic uremia and primary hyperparathyroidism.

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