

# Generation of Hydroxyl Radical by Enzymes, Chemicals, and Human Phagocytes In Vitro

## DETECTION WITH THE ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENT, DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE

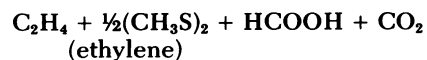
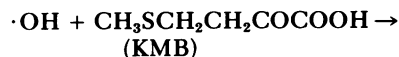
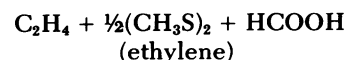
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**ABSTRACT** Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) production from the anti-inflammatory agent, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), was used to measure ·OH from chemical reactions or human phagocytes. Reactions producing ·OH (xanthine/xanthine oxidase or Fe<sup>++</sup>/EDTA/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) generated CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO, whereas reactions yielding primarily O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> failed to produce CH<sub>4</sub>. Neutrophils (PMN), monocytes, and alveolar macrophages also produced CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO. Mass spectroscopy using d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO showed formation of d<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> indicating that CH<sub>4</sub> was derived from DMSO. Methane generation by normal but not chronic granulomatous disease or heat-killed phagocytes increased after stimulation with opsonized zymosan particles or the chemical, phorbol myristate acetate. Methane production from DMSO increased as the number of stimulated PMN was increased and the kinetics of CH<sub>4</sub> production approximated other metabolic activities of stimulated PMN. Methane production from stimulated phagocytes and DMSO was markedly decreased by purportedly potent ·OH scavengers (thiourea or tryptophane) and diminished to lesser degrees by weaker ·OH scavengers (mannitol, ethanol, or sodium benzoate). Superoxide dismutase or catalase also decreased CH<sub>4</sub> production but urea, albumin, inactivated superoxide dismutase, or boiled catalase had no appreciable effect. The results suggest that the production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO

may reflect release of ·OH from both chemical systems and phagocytic cells. Interaction of the nontoxic, highly permeable DMSO with ·OH may explain the anti-inflammatory actions of DMSO and provide a useful measurement of ·OH in vitro and in vivo.

### INTRODUCTION

Stimulated phagocytes use oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) and produce highly reactive O<sub>2</sub> metabolites (1, 2). Several O<sub>2</sub> metabolites, including superoxide anion (O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>), hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), hydroxyl radical (·OH), and perhaps, singlet oxygen (<sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>), are made by phagocytes and appear to be involved in their bactericidal and/or cytotoxic capabilities (1, 3). Because O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> may form ·OH in the presence of trace metals (4, 5), recent investigations have focused on determining the importance of ·OH by measuring the production of ethylene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) by stimulated phagocytes in the presence of thioethers, such as β-methyl-propionaldehyde (methional) or 2-keto-4-thiomethyl-butyric acid (KMB)<sup>1</sup> (6-10):



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Received for publication 5 April 1979 and in revised form 15 August 1979.

<sup>1</sup> Abbreviations used in this paper: AM, alveolar monocytes; CGD, chronic granulomatous disease; DMSO, dimethyl

Indeed, stimulated neutrophils (PMN), monocytes (MN) or alveolar macrophages (AM) do produce  $C_2H_4$  from methional or KMB (6–10). However, the strict dependence of  $C_2H_4$  production upon  $\cdot OH$  is in doubt (8, 10–14). Methional spontaneously forms  $C_2H_4$ , especially during prolonged incubations with tissues (8), and can also react with  $H_2O_2$  to form  $C_2H_4$  (10). The specificity of KMB as a detector of  $\cdot OH$  is also in question because  $C_2H_4$  production from KMB may reflect, at least in part, reactions with  $^1O_2$  or hypochlorous acid (10).

In the course of comparing the generation of  $C_2H_4$  from KMB in the presence of opsonized zymosan particles or phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) stimulated PMN, we observed that the latter samples also synthesized methane ( $CH_4$ ). Additional experiments indicated that the  $CH_4$  arose from the dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) used as a solvent for PMA (15). Because others have used DMSO as a scavenger of  $\cdot OH$  (16–25), and because  $CH_4$  might be produced as a result of this reaction (20–22), the present investigations were designed to examine the validity of using DMSO as a detector of  $\cdot OH$ .

## METHODS

**Reagents.** Xanthine oxidase (grade I, buttermilk), KMB, catalase (bovine liver, crystallized twice), superoxide dismutase (SOD, type 1, 3,000 U/mg protein), thiourea (grade I), urea, scopoletin (7-OH-6-methoxycoumarin), zymosan A, DMSO (Grade I), sodium azide, L-tryptophane, mannitol, xanthine, horse-heart ferricytochrome *c*, and DL-histidine were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo. Ferrous sulfate (Baker Adamson, Morriston, N. J.), EDTA (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Mo.),  $H_2O_2$  (Mallinckrodt, Inc., St. Louis, Mo.), sodium benzoate (J. T. Baker Chemical Co., Phillipsburg, N. J.), PMA (12-O-tetradecanoyl-phorbol-13-acetate, Consolidated Midland Corp., Brewster, N. Y.), and human serum albumin (25%, Cutter Laboratories, Inc., Berkeley, Calif.) were used as purchased.

**Recovery and preparation of human PMN, MN, and AM.** This investigation was approved by the Human Volunteers Committee of the University of Minnesota. Blood was collected from healthy volunteers not taking medications and from two patients with proven X-linked chronic granulomatous disease (CGD) in good health at the time of venipuncture. Blood (30 ml) was drawn into a plastic syringe that contained 1,000 U of sodium heparin and allowed to sediment with 5 ml of 6% dextran in saline (Dextran 75, Travenol Laboratories, Inc., Morton Grove, Ill.) for 90 min (26). PMN or MN were separated by differential centrifugation on Ficoll (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Inc., Piscataway, N. J.)-Hypaque (Winthrop Laboratories, New York), washed once and resuspended in Hanks' balanced salt solution (HBSS) without  $Ca^{++}$  and  $Mg^{++}$  (26). Contaminating erythrocytes were lysed by adding 6 ml of ice-cold sterile distilled water and mixing gently for 35 s. Tonicity was rapidly restored with 2 ml of hypertonic

sulfoxide; HBSS, Hanks' balanced salt solution; KMB, 2-keto-4-thiomethylbutyric acid; m/e, mass/charge; MN, monocytes; PMA, phorbol myristate acetate; PMN, neutrophils; SOD, superoxide dismutase.

(4 $\times$ )  $Ca^{++}$  and  $Mg^{++}$  free HBSS. The mixture was then centrifuged at 170 g for 10 min. Cells in the pellet were then washed once more, resuspended in HBSS with  $Ca^{++}$  and  $Mg^{++}$ , counted, and used immediately. PMN preparations contained >98% PMN with only a few lymphocytes and rare erythrocytes, platelets or MN. Suspensions of MN were similarly prepared. The percentages of MN were determined by differential counting of 600 cells on Wright's stained smears and cytochemically confirmed by esterase stain. MN preparations contained ~30% MN, <1% PMN, and the remainder lymphocytes. AM were obtained by bronchoscopic sterile saline lavage of the unaffected subsegments of the lungs of patients undergoing evaluations for localized pulmonary disease or from healthy volunteers (9). AM were recovered from lavage fluids, washed once, and counted. The final preparations contained >90% AM and <2% PMN. More than 85% of the AM excluded trypan blue. Concentrations of lymphocytes or platelets that were comparable to those remaining in phagocyte preparations did not produce significant amounts of  $CH_4$  from DMSO.

**Preparation of pooled human serum, opsonized zymosan, or PMA.** Pooled human serum was prepared from clotted blood from five or more control subjects, pooled, and frozen in aliquots at  $-70^\circ C$  for less than 2 wk before use (27). Zymosan A, 50 mg, was washed with HBSS, opsonized with 1 ml pooled human serum at  $37^\circ C$  for 30 min, centrifuged at 700 g for 5 min, and resuspended in HBSS. PMA was dissolved in DMSO and stored in the dark at  $4^\circ C$  (15).

**Measurement of  $CH_4$  or  $C_2H_4$  production.** For studies of phagocytic cell function, siliconized (3 ml) glass tubes were prepared by sequentially adding DMSO or KMB, PMN, MN, or AM in HBSS, and then HBSS, opsonized zymosan or PMA in HBSS (final volume 1 ml). These concentrations of zymosan or PMA produced maximal rates of  $O_2$  uptake,  $O_2^-$  formation, and chemiluminescence by PMN. The tubes were then rapidly sealed with rubber stoppers and incubated at  $37^\circ C$  in a shaking water bath.

For studies with chemical reactions, tubes were prepared by successive additions of DMSO, KMB, phosphate-buffered HBSS, pH 7.8, EDTA, and/or xanthine. The tubes were then capped and either  $H_2O_2$  or xanthine oxidase was injected through the rubber stopper. Subsequently, the reactions were mixed, incubated at  $30^\circ C$  in a water bath for 20 min, and placed on ice.

Samples of the headspace gas in each tube were introduced into a gas chromatograph (series 1400, flame ionization detector, Varian Associates, Palo Alto, Calif.) via a 0.25-ml gas sampling loop (10, 28). A  $\frac{1}{8}$  in.  $\times$  6 ft stainless steel column packed with Carbosieve B 60/80 mesh (Supelco, Inc., Bellefonte, Pa.) was used. The injector, detector, and column temperatures were  $200^\circ$ ,  $200^\circ$ , and  $120^\circ C$ , respectively. The retention time for  $CH_4$  was 0.5 min and for  $C_2H_4$  was 2.5 min. Analyses of  $CH_4$  or  $C_2H_4$  standards (100 ppm, Scott Specialty Gases, division of Scott Environmental Technology, Inc., Plumsteadville, Pa.) were included with each experiment. The  $CH_4$  or  $C_2H_4$  contents of each test sample were determined by comparing the peak heights of experimental samples with those of standards. The  $CH_4$  present in lab air was subtracted from each reading. The concentration of the gas in the headspace (2 ml) was initially measured in parts per million and was expressed as picomoles of  $CH_4$  or  $C_2H_4$ .

**Measurement of  $d_3$ - $CH_4$  by gas chromatography/mass spectroscopy.**  $d_3$ - $CH_4$  produced from  $d_6$ -DMSO (99.5% atom % Merck Chemical Div., Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N. J.) was identified using a Finnigan model 1015 gas chromatography/mass spectroscopy (Finnigan Corp., Sunnyvale, Calif.) equipped with a 5 ft  $\times$  2 mm i.d. glass column packed with Carbosieve-B 60/80 mesh (Supelco, Inc.) maintained at  $160^\circ C$

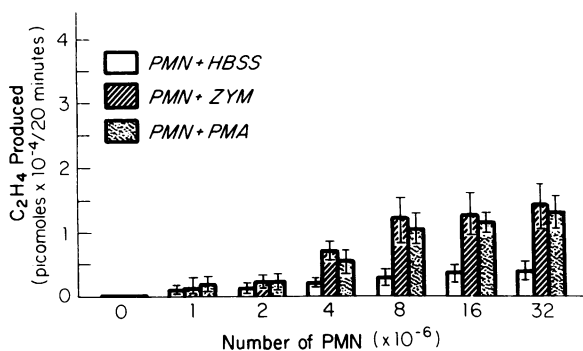


FIGURE 1 Generation of  $C_2H_4$  by human PMN as a function of the number of PMN.  $C_2H_4$  production progressively increased as the number of PMN was increased from 1 to  $8 \times 10^6$ , but did not increase as the number of PMN was increased from 8 to  $32 \times 10^6$ .

(29, 30). The mass spectrometer operating parameters were adjusted to yield maximal signal and resolution. Samples were introduced via a gas sampling valve equipped with a 0.7 ml sampling loop. Spectra were recorded over the range mass/charge ( $m/e$ ) 15–19 before and during elution of the  $CH_4$  peak. The relative abundance of ions at  $m/e$  16–19 were calculated using  $m/e$  19 ( $d_3-CH_4$ ) as the base peak and the background values subtracted from those recorded during elution of the  $CH_4$  peak to yield the mass spectrum of  $d_3-CH_4$ . Ions at  $m/e$  18 were not included because of the large background contribution of water.

**Measurement of  $O_2^-$ .** Production of  $O_2^-$  was determined by measuring  $O_2^-$ -dependent reduction of horse heart ferricytochrome *c* spectrophotometrically (31).

**Measurement of  $H_2O_2$ .**  $H_2O_2$  was measured using the standard fluorometric scopoletin assay (32).

**Measurement of  $O_2$  consumption.**  $O_2$  uptake by PMN was performed using a biologic  $O_2$  probe attached to an oxygen analyzer and Beckman recorder (15).

**Measurement of  $[1-^{14}C]$ glucose oxidation.**  $[1-^{14}C]$ glucose oxidation was determined by measuring the amount of

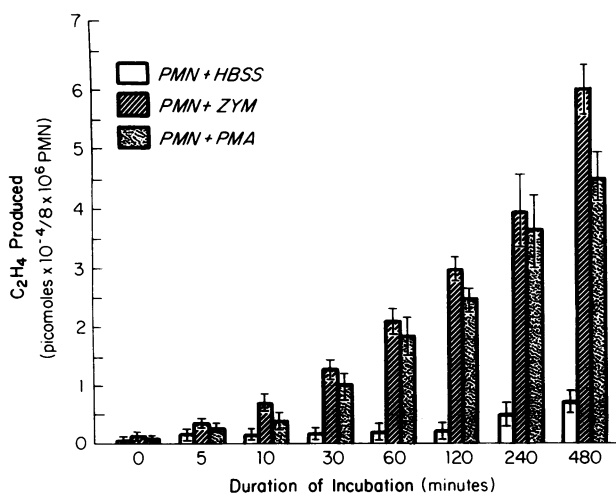


FIGURE 2 Generation of  $C_2H_4$  by human PMN as a function of the duration of incubation.  $C_2H_4$  production by stimulated human PMN continues for as long as 480 min.

$^{14}CO_2$  produced from incubations of PMN and opsonized zymosan (15).

## RESULTS

Our initial goal was to compare the production of  $C_2H_4$  from KMB by PMN stimulated with opsonized zymosan or PMA. Treatment of PMN with zymosan or PMA stimulated production of  $C_2H_4$  from KMB. But doubling the number of PMN did not proportionately increase  $C_2H_4$  generation (Fig. 1). This was not caused by a limitation of substrate because doubling the amount of KMB, zymosan, or PMA did not increase production of  $C_2H_4$  (data not shown). Furthermore, prolonged incubation of stimulated PMN led to increased production of  $C_2H_4$  from KMB, a process which continued for at least 8 h (Fig. 2). This differs from the patterns of  $O_2$  consumption,  $[1-^{14}C]$ glucose oxidation,  $H_2O_2$  generation and chemiluminescence at  $37^\circ C$  by stimulated PMN, all of which usually cease within 30 min (data not shown, 15, 33–35). These findings suggested that  $C_2H_4$  arising from KMB and stimulated PMN might reflect processes in addition to the active cellular generation of  $\cdot OH$ .

During the above investigations, we observed that PMN in the presence of PMA, but not zymosan, also produced  $CH_4$  (Table I). PMA preparations contained DMSO, which was used as a solvent for PMA (15). After addition of pure DMSO, zymosan-stimulated PMN also synthesized  $CH_4$  in a dose-dependent manner. Maximal  $CH_4$  production occurred over the range of 13–130 mM DMSO.  $CH_4$  production from mixtures of zymosan- or PMA-treated PMN and DMSO

TABLE I  
Effect of DMSO on the Production of  $CH_4$  by Human PMN Stimulated by Opsonized Zymosan or PMA

Test conditions*	$CH_4$ produced pmol/20 min
PMN + PMA (dissolved in 2.6 mM DMSO)	$320 \pm 41$ (5)†
PMN + zymosan	0 (11)
PMN + zymosan + DMSO (1.3 mM)	$120 \pm 110$ (8)
PMN + zymosan + DMSO (13 mM)	$990 \pm 180$ (8)
PMN + zymosan + DMSO (26 mM)	$1,080 \pm 175$ (16)
PMN + zymosan + DMSO (130 mM)	$1,190 \pm 210$ (19)
PMN + PMA + DMSO (13 mM)	$1,020 \pm 240$ (8)
PMN + PMA + DMSO (130 mM)	$1,040 \pm 119$ (15)
PMN + DMSO (13 mM)	$240 \pm 42$ (12)
PMN + HBSS	0 (15)
Zymosan + DMSO (13 mM)	$4.1 \pm 0.9$ (6)
PMA + DMSO (13 mM)	$2.6 \pm 1.3$ (8)

\* Each 3-ml tube contained in a final vol of 1 ml,  $8 \times 10^6$  PMN, 15 mg opsonized Zymosan or  $0.5 \mu g$  PMA, and HBSS with or without DMSO and was incubated at  $37^\circ C$ .

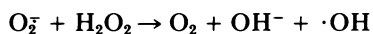
† Mean  $\pm$  SE (number of determinations).

was approximately four times greater than from untreated PMN and DMSO. In addition, and in striking contrast to C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> production from KMB, increasing the number of zymosan- or PMA-stimulated PMN incubated with DMSO progressively increased CH<sub>4</sub> production (Fig. 3). Moreover, CH<sub>4</sub> generation by mixtures of stimulated PMN and DMSO plateaued in about 30 min (Fig. 4), a pattern in accord with the other metabolic responses of stimulated PMN.

### Reactions of DMSO or KMB with chemically or enzymatically generated forms of activated O<sub>2</sub>

Because our goal was to determine the nature of the production of CH<sub>4</sub> in systems containing phagocytes, we investigated CH<sub>4</sub> production from chemical reactions known to produce activated forms of O<sub>2</sub>. These studies were performed in complete HBSS, at or near physiologic pH and using previously identified scavengers in concentrations that did not decrease cell viability or phagocytosis (6–10, 36–39). Additional studies showed that DMSO, thiourea and urea did not inhibit phagocytosis of radiolabeled bacteria by PMN (40) or decrease the ability of phagocytes to exclude trypan blue.

**Xanthine/xanthine oxidase.** It has been assumed that ·OH is generated by xanthine and xanthine oxidase through reaction of O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and that this reaction is catalyzed by contaminating or enzyme-associated trace metals (4, 5, 28):



In the presence of DMSO, the complete xanthine oxidase system produced large quantities of CH<sub>4</sub> (Table II). CH<sub>4</sub> production was decreased by SOD and nearly eliminated by catalase. Thiourea, a potent

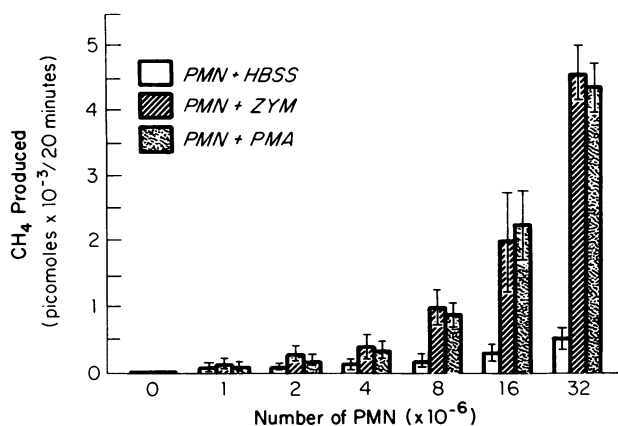


FIGURE 3 Generation of CH<sub>4</sub> from 13 mM DMSO by human PMN as a function of the number of PMN. CH<sub>4</sub> production progressively increases as the number of PMN are increased from 1 to 32 × 10<sup>6</sup>.

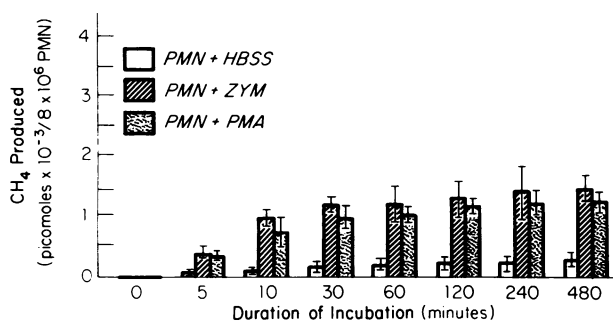


FIGURE 4 Generation of CH<sub>4</sub> from 13 mM DMSO by human PMN as a function of the duration of incubation. CH<sub>4</sub> production by stimulated PMN reaches maximal levels after 30–60 min of incubation.

scavenger of ·OH, also decreased CH<sub>4</sub> generation, whereas urea, an ineffective scavenger, had no effect. C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> was also formed from KMB by the xanthine/

TABLE II  
Production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB during Reaction of Xanthine with Xanthine Oxidase

Test conditions*	CH <sub>4</sub> produced from DMSO (13 mM)	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> produced from KMB (20 mM)
	pmol/20 min	
Xanthine + XO	2,029 ± 182 (21) ‡	1,877 ± 250 (17)
Xanthine + XO + SOD	1,389 ± 65 (8) §	702 ± 100 (9) §
Xanthine + XO + catalase	108 ± 20 (8) §	72 ± 44 (7) §
Xanthine + XO + thiourea	648 ± 87 (9) §	12 ± 15 (8) §
Xanthine + XO + urea	2,196 ± 200 (9)	1,710 ± 52 (9)
Xanthine + XO + DMSO	ND <sup>  </sup>	24 (3) §
Xanthine + XO KMB	1676 (3)	ND
Xanthine	12 ± 14 (9)	18 ± 21 (9) §
XO	24 ± 19 (6)	9 ± 5.2 (9) §
HBSS	1.4 ± 18 (32)	2.2 ± 0.4 (21)

XO, xanthine oxidase.

\* For assay of CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> production, each 3-ml tube contained in a final vol of 1 ml; 4 mM xanthine, 0.1 mM EDTA, 0.025 U xanthine oxidase, 100 μg SOD/ml, 500 μg catalase/ml, 150 mM thiourea, 150 mM urea, 13 mM DMSO, 20 mM KMB and/or phosphate-buffered HBSS, pH 7.8. In the absence of DMSO or KMB, xanthine, EDTA and xanthine oxidase did not make appreciable amounts of CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>. Acetaldehyde and xanthine oxidase produced CH<sub>4</sub> in the absence of DMSO and was not used. Heat-inactivated, dialyzed SOD or heat-inactivated catalase did not significantly inhibit CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>.

‡ Mean ± SE (number of determinations).

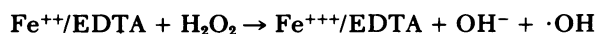
§ Value significantly (*P* < 0.05) different from value with no inhibitor added.

<sup>||</sup> ND, not done.

xanthine oxidase system and the above inhibitors had similar effects. When both DMSO and KMB were added, considerable CH<sub>4</sub> was produced but only negligible amounts of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> appeared. Thus, reactions with DMSO which produce CH<sub>4</sub> take precedence over reactions with KMB which generate C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>.

Because O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are also produced by the xanthine/xanthine oxidase system, additional experiments were performed to determine if O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> reacted directly with DMSO or KMB to cause liberation of CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>. First, neither DMSO (13–130 mM) nor KMB (2–20 mM) inhibited O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>-dependent reduction of cytochrome *c* by the complete xanthine oxidase system (41), whereas SOD nearly blocked this reaction (data not shown). Second, in the presence of DMSO or KMB, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (0.003–30 μM) failed to generate detectable amounts of CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> (Table III). Thus, neither O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> nor H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> reacts directly with DMSO or KMB to form CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>.

*Fe/EDTA/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>*. Another system which generates ·OH involves the reaction of ferrous (Fe<sup>2+</sup>) sulfate/EDTA with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (42):



This reaction produced large quantities of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO (Table III). CH<sub>4</sub> production was not diminished by SOD but was greatly decreased by catalase, implicating an involvement of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. However, as

TABLE III  
Production of CH<sub>4</sub> during Reaction of Fe<sup>2+</sup> with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Test conditions*	CH <sub>4</sub> produced pmol/20 min
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	11 ± 1.3 (38) †
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + DMSO	36,101 ± 1,885 (35)
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + SOD	ND <sup>‡</sup>
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + SOD + DMSO	38,528 ± 2,540 (12)
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + catalase	ND
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + catalase + DMSO	12,428 ± 1,286 (12) §
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + KMB	ND
Fe <sup>2+</sup> + DMSO	18 ± 9 (24)
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> + DMSO	1.4 ± 1.8 (32)
HBSS + DMSO	1.8 ± 1.3 (26)

\* For assay of CH<sub>4</sub> production, each 3-ml tube contained in a final vol of 1 ml; 11 mM ferrous sulfate, 1 mM EDTA, 30 μM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 100 μg SOD/ml, 500 μg catalase/ml 13 mM DMSO, 20 mM KMB and/or phosphate-buffered HBSS, pH 7.8. FeSO<sub>4</sub> reacted directly with KMB to form C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, so studies of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> production were not performed. Autoclaved, dialyzed SOD or heat-inactivated catalase did not significantly inhibit CH<sub>4</sub> production.

† Mean ± SE (number of determinations).

§ Value significantly (*P* < 0.05) different from value with no inhibitor.

<sup>‡</sup> ND, not done.

previously shown, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and DMSO alone did not produce CH<sub>4</sub>.

### Generation of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB by stimulated phagocytes

CH<sub>4</sub> produced by the above chemical reactions was almost certainly derived from DMSO. To determine that this was also true for complex cellular systems, we performed preliminary studies with stimulated PMN using d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO. These studies confirmed that the CH<sub>4</sub> produced did indeed come from DMSO. The mass spectrum of the CH<sub>4</sub> formed showed a mol wt of 19, which corresponds to d<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub>. This agrees with the published mass spectrum of d<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> (base peak = m/e 19, m/e 17 = 51.1% [29]).

We also performed studies that indicated that intact PMN with normal oxidative metabolic activities were needed for the generation of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO. These studies showed that appreciable amounts of CH<sub>4</sub> were not produced from mixtures of DMSO and zymosan- or PMA-stimulated, heat-killed or CGD PMN (data not shown).

Studies with scavengers of O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> confirmed that both species contributed to the production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB by stimulated PMN (Table IV). Furthermore, thiourea, a purported ·OH scavenger, but not urea, practically abolished CH<sub>4</sub> generation, while decreasing C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> production ~70–80%. Another presumed scavenger of ·OH, tryptophane, also eliminated CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> production. Other suspected scavengers of ·OH, sodium benzoate, mannitol, or ethanol, although not as effective as thiourea or tryptophane, were more efficient in systems containing DMSO (50–60% inhibition) than KMB (20–35%). Azide or histidine also decreased CH<sub>4</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> production by stimulated PMN.

Zymosan- or PMA-treated human MN also produced CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO (Table V). SOD or catalase inhibited CH<sub>4</sub> production by ~25–45%. The production of CH<sub>4</sub> by zymosan- or PMA-stimulated MN was approximately one-half as much per cell as the CH<sub>4</sub> generation by stimulated PMN. As expected, stimulated MN from patients with CGD did not produce increased amounts of CH<sub>4</sub>.

Zymosan- or PMA-treated human AM also generated CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO, a process inhibited by SOD, catalase, or thiourea (Table V). Generation of CH<sub>4</sub> by AM was approximately one-sixth as great per cell as PMN and about one-third that of peripheral blood MN.

## DISCUSSION

Considerable interest has focused on ·OH production by phagocytes because this may be important in their bactericidal or cytotoxic activities (43, 44). However, the techniques for measurement of ·OH production

**TABLE IV**  
*Effect of Scavengers on the Production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB by PMN Stimulated by Opsonized Zymosan or PMA*

Test conditions: inhibitor added*	CH <sub>4</sub> production		C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> production	
	Zymosan-stimulated PMN	PMA-stimulated PMN	Zymosan-stimulated PMN	PMA-stimulated PMN
	% inhibition			
SOD, 100 µg/ml	84±12 (8)†	91±9.1 (8)	ND <sup>  </sup>	ND
SOD, 10 µg/ml	82±9.6 (8)	88±12 (8)	92±8.4 (6)	90±6.4 (6)
SOD, 1.0 µg/ml	79±13 (8)	78±10 (8)	ND	ND
SOD, 10 µg/ml, inactivated	12±0.9 (6)	21±2.1 (8)	ND	ND
Catalase, 1000 µg/ml	51±19 (8)	52±8.2 (8)	ND	ND
Catalase, 250 µg/ml	48±9.2 (8)	57±16 (8)	74±11 (6)	71±9.3 (6)
Catalase, 100 µg/ml	36±12 (8)	42±19 (8)	ND	ND
Catalase, 500 µg/ml, heat inactivated	0 (8)	4.2±3.8 (8)	ND	ND
Albumin 1%	2.6±0.8 (8)	3.9±1.4 (4)	1.4±0.9 (5)	2.9±1.6 (4)
Thiourea, 15 mM	102±4.1 (5)	96±5.8 (7)	72±15 (6)	81±11 (5)
Thiourea, 1.5 mM	90±9.8 (5)	92±9.8 (5)	ND	ND
Urea, 15 mM	4.2±3.6 (7)	3.1±2.6 (4)	9.1±3.1 (6)	3.6±1.8 (5)
Urea, 1.5 mM	0.4±0.6 (5)	6.4±10 (4)	ND	ND
Tryptophane, 1.0 mM	108±14 (4)	100±12 (6)	94±14 (8)	98±26 (4)
Tryptophane, 0.5 mM	52±11 (5)	42±9.1 (6)	ND	ND
Sodium benzoate, 20 mM	46±9.1 (5)	42±11 (5)	26±9.2 (5)	34±16 (5)
Sodium benzoate, 2 mM	36±16 (5)	42±11 (5)	ND	ND
Mannitol, 50 mM	74±14 (5)	59±12 (5)	34±6.8 (5)	26±9.4 (7)
Mannitol, 5 mM	52±6.4 (5)	47±11 (4)	ND	ND
Ethanol, 40 mM	64±14 (5)	59±14 (5)	ND	ND
Ethanol, 20 mM	46±11 (5)	ND	34±15 (5)	35±11 (6)
Histidine, 0.1 mM	84±26 (4)	84±15 (4)	94±15 (6)	ND
Azide, 1.0 mM	89±15 (6)	66±14 (5)	94±14 (6)	92±14 (7)
Azide, 0.1 mM	78±11 (4)	ND	ND	ND

\* Each 3-ml tube contained in a final vol of 1 ml; 8 × 10<sup>6</sup> PMN with 15 mg Zymosan or 0.5 µg PMA, the inhibitors and/or HBSS with 13 mM DMSO or 2 mM KMB. Base line gas production in the absence of inhibitors was ~1,000 pmol CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO/20 min or ~10,000 pmol C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB/20 min for Zymosan or PMA-stimulated PMN.

† Mean ± SE (number of determinations).

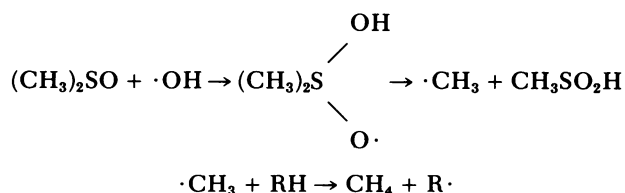
§ Results of mean inhibition calculated from % inhibition = (CH<sub>4</sub> without inhibitor - CH<sub>4</sub> with inhibitor/CH<sub>4</sub> without inhibitor) × 100.

<sup>||</sup> ND, not done.

by phagocytes have not been totally satisfactory because of vagaries in specificity or incompatibilities with biological substances. We are reporting a new approach for the measurement of ·OH generation by phagocytes, namely the generation of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO.

Previous investigations suggested that DMSO might be a potent scavenger of ·OH (16–24), that reaction of DMSO with titanium chloride and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> produces methyl radical (22), and that CH<sub>4</sub> might be produced by reaction of ·OH with DMSO (20, 21, 25). However, the specificity of the reaction of ·OH with DMSO to produce CH<sub>4</sub> and its potential as a detection system for ·OH have not previously been determined. The rate constant for reaction of ·OH with DMSO (5.8 × 10<sup>9</sup> M<sup>-1</sup>

s<sup>-1</sup>) indicates rapid reaction of the two compounds (16, 45).



This reaction is consistent with the observation that ·OH attacks dialkyl sulfoxides at sulfur rather than by hydrogen abstraction (46). Furthermore, our mass spectral studies of the CH<sub>4</sub> formed by stimulated

TABLE V  
Production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO by Normal or CGD MN and Normal AM  
Stimulated by Opsonized Zymosan or PMA

Test conditions*	CH <sub>4</sub> produced from DMSO		
	Normal MN	CGD MN	Normal AM
	<i>pmol/20 min</i>		
Cells + HBSS	150±43 (12)‡	88±28 (6)	120±28 (8)‡
Cells + zymosan	1,080±290 (8)§	120±42 (6)	320±85 (6)§
Cells + SOD + zymosan	420 (3)—61%¶	ND <sup>#</sup>	110 (3)—66%¶
Cells + catalase + zymosan	510 (3)—53%	ND	180 (3)—44%
Cells + thiourea + zymosan	150 (3)—86%	ND	135 (3)—58%
Cells + tryptophan + zymosan	160 (3)—85%	ND	ND
Cells + sodium benzoate + zymosan	540 (3)—50%	ND	ND
Cells + ethanol + zymosan	560 (3)—48%	ND	ND
Cells + PMA	920±106 (8)§	125±38 (6)	280±60 (6)
Cells + SOD + PMA	440 (3)—52%	ND	120 (3)—57%
Cells + catalase + PMA	385 (3)—58%	ND	160 (3)—43%
Cells + thiourea + PMA	190 (3)—79%	ND	100 (2)—64%
Cells + tryptophane + PMA	180 (3)—80%	ND	ND
Cells + sodium benzoate + PMA	410 (3)—55%	ND	ND
Cells + ethanol + PMA	490 (3)—47%	ND	ND

\* Each 3-ml tube contained a final vol of 1 ml, which included 20 × 10<sup>6</sup> MN, 15 mg zymosan or 0.5 μg PMA, and 100 μg SOD, 500 μg catalase, 15 mM thiourea, 1 mM tryptophan, 20 mM sodium benzoate, 40 mM ethanol and/or HBSS with 13 mM DMSO.

‡ Mean±SE (number of determinations).

§ Value significantly different (*P* < 0.05) from value with HBSS alone.

<sup>#</sup> ND, not done.

¶ % inhibition from value without inhibitor.

phagocytes (and by Fe<sup>++</sup>/EDTA/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, data not presented) showed that d<sub>3</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> was produced from d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO. This is the expected finding because it is known that methyl radicals do not abstract hydrogen from DMSO in solution (47); abstraction of hydrogen from d<sub>6</sub>-DMSO would yield d<sub>4</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub>. This was not observed.

The results of the present investigation indicate that generation of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO is a relatively specific result of reaction with ·OH and that this approach may prove useful for evaluation of the production of ·OH in biological systems. DMSO does not spontaneously form CH<sub>4</sub> (Table I) and chemical systems (xanthine and xanthine oxidase or Fe<sup>++</sup>/EDTA and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) known to give rise to ·OH produced large amounts of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO (Tables II and III). Whereas production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO by xanthine oxidase is decreased by SOD or catalase (implicating participation of O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> alone do not appear to produce CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO. If O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> reacted directly with DMSO to make CH<sub>4</sub>, catalase would not inhibit the generation of CH<sub>4</sub> by xanthine and xanthine oxidase (28). In addition, DMSO does not inhibit xanthine/xanthine oxidase-mediated reduction of ferricytochrome *c*, a reaction that is dependent on O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> (41). Furthermore, multiple

concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and DMSO do not form CH<sub>4</sub>. Thus, whereas large quantities of CH<sub>4</sub> are produced from DMSO by ·OH generating systems, there is probably little or no production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO in the presence of O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> alone. Although technical difficulties with the generation and measurement of pure <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> make it very difficult to determine if reaction of <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> with DMSO to produce CH<sub>4</sub> or with KMB to generate C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, preliminary studies addressing this question (employing several <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> generators including rose bengal) indicate that DMSO is unreactive with <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>. Thus, the evidence presented favors the proposition that CH<sub>4</sub> production arises predominantly from reaction of ·OH with DMSO.

Comparison of the production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO or C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB further supports the possibility that reaction of ·OH with DMSO might be a more effective approach for evaluation of the generation of ·OH. First, DMSO appears to be a more effective scavenger of ·OH than KMB. In mixtures containing the complete xanthine oxidase system with both DMSO and KMB the production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO was nearly normal, while there was no appreciable generation of C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> from KMB. Second, production of CH<sub>4</sub> from DMSO by stimulated phagocytic cells

increases according to the number of PMN added and the kinetics of  $\text{CH}_4$  production reflect those of other  $\text{O}_2$ -dependent metabolic events. In contrast, the generation of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  from KMB does not increase with the number of PMN present or follow expected patterns, producing considerable amounts of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  for as much as 8 h, long after other metabolic activities of the cells have ceased. A self-propagating event, known to occur between certain oxygen intermediates ( $^1\text{O}_2$ ) and lipids might account for this prolonged production of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  from KMB by metabolically exhausted PMN. KMB may also react with cell-associated Fe to produce  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$ . We find that large amounts of  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$  are generated from KMB by the EDTA chelate of  $\text{Fe}^{++}$  (data not presented). Third, the results show that intact cells or cells with normal oxidative metabolic capabilities are necessary for  $\text{CH}_4$  generation from DMSO. Heat-killed cells and PMN or MN from patients with CGD did not make appreciable amounts of  $\text{CH}_4$  from DMSO. Fourth, DMSO was not toxic to the cells and did not inhibit uptake of bacteria by PMN. In addition, the results of investigations with purported scavengers of various  $\text{O}_2$  metabolites support the relative specificity of the reaction of DMSO with  $\cdot\text{OH}$ . However, it should be noted that, as with most inhibitor studies, the specificity of these agents is not absolute and, the mechanism of their action is open to question in many cases.

Hydroxyl radical is considered a part of the mechanism which phagocytic cells use to kill ingested microorganisms (2). The assumed role of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  in the microbicidal processes of phagocytes is supported by the decreased bactericidal activities of PMN that have been treated with sodium benzoate, a scavenger of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  (3), and the amelioration by  $\cdot\text{OH}$  scavengers of the bactericidal actions of chemical systems that generate activated forms of  $\text{O}_2$  (48–50). Hydroxyl radical may also participate in phagocyte-mediated cytotoxicity.

In addition to its presumed role in the bactericidal and cytotoxic activities of phagocytes,  $\cdot\text{OH}$  may participate in many other important biological reactions (43, 44). The basis for implicating  $\cdot\text{OH}$  in these diverse processes has often been that DMSO, as well as other scavengers of  $\cdot\text{OH}$ , alter expected responses. For example, DMSO decreases radiation injury (23), alloxan-induced diabetes (19), arthritis (51), contact dermatitis (52), and noninfectious or neoplastic inflammation of the bladder (53). DMSO has also been used frequently as a solvent (15, 52), and as a cryopreservative for leukocytes (54), platelets (55), erythrocytes (56), and other mammalian cells (57). Whereas the precise mechanism underlying these and many other actions of DMSO are unknown, many may involve the scavenging  $\cdot\text{OH}$  by DMSO. This is a particularly appealing possibility in the case of the anti-inflammatory effects of DMSO.

Although most organisms have very active enzymes for the catabolism of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2^-$  (precursors of  $\cdot\text{OH}$ ), there are no direct enzymatic mechanisms for clearance of highly reactive  $\cdot\text{OH}$ . Thus, the reaction of DMSO with  $\cdot\text{OH}$  may explain the potent anti-inflammatory action of DMSO. DMSO has an extremely low toxicity, can be easily administered by oral, topical, and other routes, is rapidly distributed throughout the body, and readily penetrates cells (58–61). Thus, the generation of  $\text{CH}_4$  by reaction of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  with DMSO should be useful for detecting and measuring the production of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  both in vitro and in vivo and determining its biological effects.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are indebted to Ms. Jonalyn Kunce, Ms. Betsy Nelson, and Ms. Elaine Berger for excellent technical assistance. We were greatly aided by discussions with Dr. Gerald Cohen.

This work was supported in part by grants from the Minnesota and American Heart Associations, the National Foundation of the March of Dimes, and National Institutes of Health HL 16833, N01-AM-6-2214 and R01-HL-24248.

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