

The LIMP-2/SCARB2 Binding Motif on Acid β -Glucosidase

BASIC AND APPLIED IMPLICATIONS FOR GAUCHER DISEASE AND ASSOCIATED NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES*

Received for publication, July 14, 2014, and in revised form, September 4, 2014. Published, JBC Papers in Press, September 8, 2014, DOI 10.1074/jbc.M114.593616

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Background: Acid β -glucosidase is trafficked to the lysosome by LIMP-2.

Results: A unique 11-amino acid sequence on acid β -glucosidase was critical for its LIMP-2-dependent targeting to the lysosome.

Conclusion: This sequence is essential for oligosaccharide-independent targeting of synthesized acid β -glucosidase to the lysosome.

Significance: Modification of this sequence has basic/therapeutic implications for Gaucher disease and its comorbidities (e.g. Parkinson disease).

The acid β -glucosidase (glucocerebrosidase (GCase)) binding sequence to LIMP-2 (lysosomal integral membrane protein 2), the receptor for intracellular GCase trafficking to the lysosome, has been identified. Heterologous expression of deletion constructs, the available GCase crystal structures, and binding and co-localization of identified peptides or mutant GCases were used to identify and characterize a highly conserved 11-amino acid sequence, DSPIIVDITKD, within human GCase. The binding to LIMP-2 is not dependent upon a single amino acid, but the interactions of GCase with LIMP-2 are heavily influenced by Asp³⁹⁹ and the di-isoleucines, Ile⁴⁰² and Ile⁴⁰³. A single alanine substitution at any of these decreases GCase binding to LIMP-2 and alters its pH-dependent binding as well as diminishing the trafficking of GCase to the lysosome and significantly increasing GCase secretion. Enterovirus 71 also binds to LIMP-2 (also known as SCARB2) on the external surface of the plasma membrane. However, the LIMP-2/SCARB2 binding sequences for enterovirus 71 and GCase are not similar, indicating that LIMP-2/SCARB2 may have multiple or overlapping binding sites with differing specificities. These findings have therapeutic implications for the production of GCase and the distribution of this enzyme that is delivered to various organs.

Acid β -glucosidase (D-glucosyl-N-acyl-sphingosine glucohydrolase, glucocerebrosidase (GCase)²; EC 3.2.1.45) is a lysosomal exoglycosidase for β -glucose-terminated sphingolipids

* This work was supported, in whole or in part, by National Institutes of Health Grant DK 36729 (to G. A. G.).

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² The abbreviations used are: GCase, glucocerebrosidase; CI-M6PR, cation-independent mannose 6-phosphate receptor; AMRF, action myoclonus-renal failure syndromes; IdLIMP-2, luminal domain LIMP-2; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; BisTris, 2-[bis(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]-2-(hydroxymethyl)propane-1,3-diol; PI, Pearson index; CRIM, cross-reacting immunological material; δ MP, change in fluorescence polarization.

(1, 2). Insufficient activity of GCase is causal to the variants of Gaucher disease, a common lysosomal storage disease (3). The human and mouse genes, *GBA1* and *Gba1*, respectively, are about 7.5 kb and contain 11 exons, which encode highly (~86% identical/92% similar) conserved amino acid sequences (data not shown). Over 300 mutations of various types have been found in association with the variants of Gaucher disease, and some have clear prognostic value for affected patients (4). The resultant different single amino acid substitutions lead to GCases with defects in catalytic or stability properties or both (e.g. see Ref. 5). GCase is translated from mRNAs into a protein that contains two functional, in tandem, leader sequences that differ in length, either 39 or 19 amino acids (6). The preferred initiation codon is not known.

Mature human GCase is a glycoprotein of 497 amino acids that is produced by co-translational glycosylation of four of the five N-glycosylation sequences (Asn⁴⁶³ is not occupied), of which only Asn¹⁹ is essential for the formation of a catalytically active conformer (7). The enzyme also has properties of a membrane-associated, but not trans-membrane, protein. Unlike most soluble lysosomal proteins that are trafficked to the lysosome by the cation-independent mannose 6-phosphate receptor (CI-M6PR) system (8, 9), GCase contains little if any mannose 6-phosphate (10). Newly synthesized, unglycosylated GCase is retained in and not secreted out of mammalian cells (11). Also, GCase is not secreted from I-cell fibroblasts, which are deficient in the enzyme needed for mannose 6-phosphorylation, the targeting signal for most soluble lysosomal enzymes (8). Thus, the targeting of newly synthesized, intracellular, GCase to the lysosome is not oligosaccharide-dependent (11).

LIMP-2 (lysosomal integral membrane protein 2) has been identified as a trafficking receptor for GCase (10, 12, 13). LIMP-2 is a 478-amino acid, 85-kDa glycoprotein, which is also known as SCARB-2/CD36L2. This protein is present in the ER, Golgi, endosomal, lysosomal, and plasma membrane compartments of cells (13, 14). As the name indicates, LIMP-2 is an

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integral membrane protein with NH₂- and COOH-terminal transmembrane domains and a luminal domain (LdLIMP-2) that binds GCCase (10) and potentially other proteins. LIMP-2 binds to GCCase in the ER (pH ~6.8), and the enzyme remains bound to LIMP-2 during its transport through the Golgi, *trans*-Golgi network, and endosomal compartments. LIMP-2 delivers GCCase to the lysosomes after an acidic pH-modulated dissociation of the receptor and ligand in the late endosomal compartment with liberation of GCCase. This dissociation was thought to be mediated by LIMP-2 histidine 171 (15). During revision of this manuscript, a detailed crystallographic study of LIMP-2 proposed a model of a heterotrimeric GCCase·LIMP-2·CI-M6PR complex. His¹⁵⁰ was shown to act as a pH sensor for GCCase binding rather than the previously proposed His¹⁷¹. Additionally, the glycosylated sugar on Asn³²⁵ of LdLIMP-2 purified from conditioned medium of HEK293S cells contained P-Man₉GlcNAc₂ (15, 44), suggesting a potential role for CI-M6PR in LIMP-2/GCCase trafficking. However, GCCase is not secreted from I-cells that have defective mannose 6-phosphorylation systems.

LIMP-2/SCARB-2 is also a scavenger receptor on the plasma membrane that binds peptide sequences of viruses, in particular enteroviruses (*e.g.* enterovirus 71), for internalization, lysosomal delivery, and degradation (16–19). The ligand amino acid sequence of enterovirus 71 (FY) for human LIMP-2 has been identified within VP1 between residues 152 and 178 (17) and has no homology to GCCase sequences (data not shown). The corresponding receptor sequence on LIMP-2 is between amino acids 144 and 151 (15). Other LIMP-2/SCARB-2 protein ligands that bind at the plasma membrane include KCNQ1, KCNE2, and megalin (20).

Humans and mice with mutations in the LIMP-2-encoding genes (SCARB2 and *Scarb2*, respectively) develop characteristic neurologic and renal diseases but do not exhibit gross findings of Gaucher disease (*i.e.* GC storage or Gaucher cells) (20, 21). The human diseases associated with SCARB2 mutations are termed the action myoclonus-renal failure syndromes (AMRF) (21). LIMP-2-deficient cells in humans and mice exhibit excess secretion of GCCase out of the cells and into plasma or culture medium but little GC accumulation in tissues (10, 21). LIMP-2 variants have also been implicated as potential modifiers in the development of Parkinson/Alzheimer diseases (20, 22, 23), as have *GBA1* mutations (23–26). Disruption of appropriate trafficking of GCCase to lysosomes may provide a mechanistic basis for the impact of *GBA1/Gba1* mutations in the modification of α -synuclein metabolism and its role in Parkinson disease (24, 25, 27). The impacts of LIMP-2 trafficking of GCCase on the expression of Gaucher disease and the impacts of GCCase and LIMP-2 variants as modifiers of synucleinopathies highlight the importance of understanding the interactions of GCCase and LIMP-2 and the localization of synthesized GCCase to the lysosome. Here, the peptide sequence on mature human GCCase that is a motif for binding to LIMP-2 has been identified, and mutations at specific amino acids are shown to alter the localization within and secretion of GCCase from cells.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Materials

The following were from commercial sources: 4-methylumbelliferyl- β -D-glucopyranoside (Biosynth AG, Staad, Switzerland); sodium taurocholate (Calbiochem); rabbit anti-LIMP-2 polyclonal antibody, rabbit anti-LAMP1 antibody, and goat anti-actin antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., Dallas, TX); goat or rabbit anti-calreticulin and -calnexin antibodies (Abcam, Cambridge, UK); NuPAGE 4–12% BisTris gel, NuPAGE MES SDS running buffer, DMEM, pBluescript vector, Dynabeads protein G immunoprecipitation kits, and BS3 chemical cross-linker (Invitrogen); BCA protein assay reagent (Pierce); pCMV-AC-GFP/YFP/cMyc expression vectors (Origene, Rockville, MD); PVDF membranes and ECL detection reagent (Amersham Biosciences); ABC Vectastain and Alkaline Phosphatase Kit II (black) (Vector Laboratory, Burlingame, CA); restriction enzymes (New England Biolabs Inc.); site-directed mutagenesis kits (Clontech or QuikChange (Stratagene)). Purified LdLIMP-2 was custom-made (Sino Biological Inc.) ImigluceraseTM was a gift from Genzyme Corp., a Sanofi company (Cambridge, MA). Rabbit anti-GCCase polyclonal antibody was produced in this laboratory (28).

Methods

Deletion Constructs of GCases—The full-length human GCCase cDNA in pBluescript was used as a backbone for deletion constructs. Four single cut restriction enzymes (*ScaI*, *BstAPI*, *BalI*, or *BamHI*) were used to digest the full-length cDNA to create the deletion constructs (GCCase-225, GCCase-150, GCCase-75, and GCCase-23) (Fig. 1). These were individually cloned into the pCMV6-AC-GFP vector for mammalian cell expression to provide GCCase-XX in frame with GFP. All constructs were resequenced for verification.

GCCase Expression Constructs for Point Mutations—Using site-directed mutagenesis kits and designed primers, all single amino acid mutation constructs were created using the full-length pCMV-GCCase-GFP or YFP vectors. All constructs were sequenced for verification, and no additional mutations were found.

Immunoprecipitation of GCases with Mutations in the TKD Sequence—For immunoblots, *Gba1* knock-out (*Gba1*^{-/-} (*i.e.* null/null)) mouse fibroblasts were transfected with the *GBA1* cDNA constructs (WT or mutants) and expressed for 5 days. The GCases from harvested cell lysates were purified using a GCCase antibody affinity column (Dynabeads protein G cross-linked (BS3) with rabbit anti-human GCCase antibody). The purified GCases were then mixed with LdLIMP-2 (1:1, mol/mol), incubated (30 min), and applied to another affinity column (Dynabeads protein G cross-linked (BS3) with rabbit anti-LIMP-2 antibody). Aliquots of each step (loading, wash, and eluent) were collected and analyzed on 12.5% SDS gels. Immunoblots were developed using anti-human GCCase antibody and alkaline phosphatase-conjugated color development kits. Mock experiments with either non-LIMP-2 proteins added or no GCases added were used as controls. The immunoprecipitation data were quantified by densitometry measurements of the gels. The *no-LdLIMP-2 bars* represent the controls for comparison

because GCCase was processed through all steps without LIMP-2 to account for any losses of GCCase; about 50% of the GCCase was lost during processing.

Fluorescence Polarization Binding Studies—The DSPIIV and DDRQLL peptides and their mutants (FITC-labeled or non-labeled) were synthesized (American Peptide Co., Vista, CA). Lyophilized peptides were solubilized in acetonitrile and then diluted at least 10,000-fold into the reactions for fluorescence polarization assessments. The reactions were done at least in duplicate at various peptide and LIMP-2 concentrations (SpectraMax M5, Molecular Devices). Fluorescence polarization data were collected and analyzed with SoftMax Pro version 5.0 software. Reaction mixtures contained 100 mM phosphate, pH 6.8, and 1 mM DTT.

Immunofluorescence Studies—Mouse *Gba1*^{-/-} cultured fibroblasts were used for the host cells for all transfection experiments. The pCMV-AC-GFP mammalian cell expression vector was used for expression of various GCCases that included the TKD (amino acids 407, 408, and 409, respectively) or the DSPIIV (amino acids 399–404) sequence. Directly labeled first antibodies were applied for immunofluorescence detection, including anti-human GCCase, -calreticulin, -calnexin, -LIMP-2, and -Lamp1. LysoTracker and ER-Tracker (Invitrogen) were also used as indicated. Analyses were done with a Zeiss AxioVert 200 M microscope with ApoTome. Co-localization analyses to obtain Pearson indices (PIs) were conducted using a module in the Axiovision version 4.8 software.

Enzyme Assays—Cell pellets were homogenized in 0.25% sodium taurocholate and 0.25% Triton X-100. GCCase activities were determined fluorometrically with 4 mM 4-methylumbelliferyl- β -D-glucopyranoside in 0.2 M/0.1 M citrate/phosphate, pH 5.6 (5, 29).

Although presented as “data not shown,” protein sequence homologies were derived using MUSCLE (30, 31). For GCCase, this included 60 species representing mammals, rodents, reptiles, fish, worms, flies, and mosquitos.

RESULTS

Initial studies to localize the targeting peptide were conducted with GCCase-GFP fusion constructs that had COOH-terminal deletions of GCCase (Fig. 1). The constructs are designated as GCCase-XX or -XXX where the Xs represent the number of GCCase amino acids deleted from the COOH terminus. These constructs were transfected into and expressed in *Gba1*^{-/-} mouse fibroblasts. Immunofluorescence analyses using anti-human GCCase IgG (green) and LysoTracker (red) were used for co-localization of GCCase to the lysosome (red) or GCCase (green) and calreticulin or calnexin (red) for co-localization to the ER or Golgi, respectively (Fig. 2). The Pearson indices for these immunofluorescence studies indicated that GCCase-23 and GCCase-75 had similar co-localization to the lysosome as the full-length WT GCCase. In comparison, GCCase-150 and GCCase-225 were more localized to the ER and Golgi and much less to the lysosome and had Pearson indices similar to that of the GFP control without GCCase sequences (N-GFP). These studies showed that the critical GCCase amino acids for targeting to the lysosome were between amino acids 347 and 422 (*i.e.* in the fragment between GCCase-75 and GCCase-150).

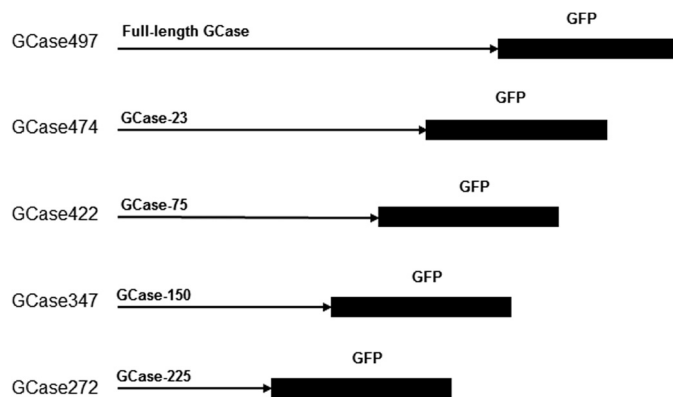


FIGURE 1. **GCCase-GFP transfection constructs for *Gba1* null/null cells.** On the left are the resultant GCCases following the various deletions, indicated as GCCaseZZZ to show the encoded mature amino acid contents of the expressed enzymes. The constructs are labeled GCCase-XX or -XXX to designate the number of amino acids that were deleted from the -COOH end of the mature 497-amino acid sequence of the WT GCCase. GFP was cloned in frame with the WT or GCCase-XX or -XXX. These constructs were subsequently transfected into *Gba1*^{-/-} fibroblasts.

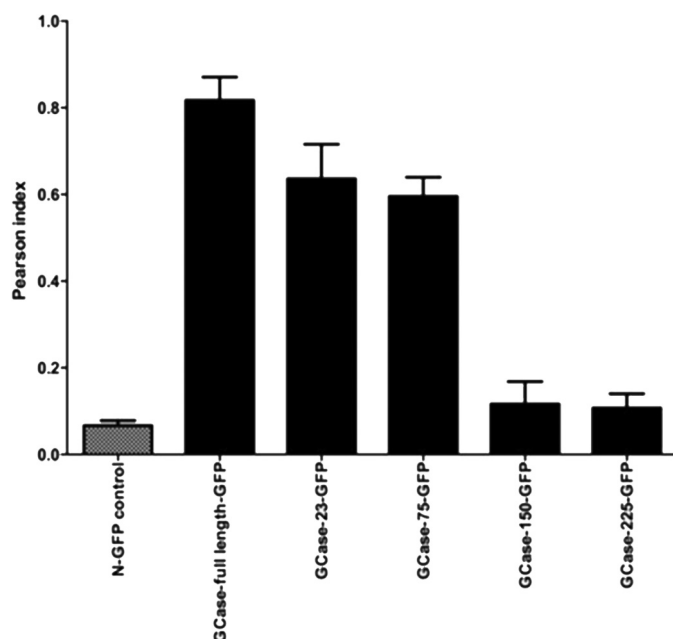


FIGURE 2. **Co-localization of GCCase-XX- or GCCase-XXX-GFP with LysoTracker.** Pearson indices were obtained (see “Methods”) for co-localization of the WT or truncated GCCases using LysoTracker to label the lysosomes. The construct containing only GFP (N-GFP) showed no co-localization. Compared with the WT sequence, GCCase-23 and -75 showed only small decreases in lysosomal localization. GCCase-150 and -225 showed decreases in co-localization with LysoTracker to nearly background (N-GFP) levels. GCCase-150 and -225 showed much more extensive retention in the ER and Golgi compared with WT, GCCase-23, or GCCase-75 (data not shown). Error bars, S.E.

Because LIMP-2 is the receptor for targeting of GCCase to the lysosome, our working hypothesis was that the peptide sequence for binding of GCCase to LIMP-2 was located within amino acids 347–422.

The location of this GCCase amino acid sequence is shown in a linear form in Fig. 3 (bracketed and in orange highlight). This amino acid sequence is located in Domain I of the GCCase crystal structure. Analysis of this region shows that the amino acids between Asn³⁹⁹ and Asp⁴⁰⁹ are surface-exposed and form a loop structure that would be accessible for ligand binding to

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10      20      30      40      50      60
ARPCPKSFG YSSVVCVNA TYCDSFDPT FPALGTFSTRY ESTRSGRME LSMGPQANH
70      80      90      100     110     120
TGTGLLLTLQ PEQKFQKVKG FGGAMTDAAA LNILALSPPA QNLLLSYFS EEGIGYNIIR
130     140     150     160     170     180
VPMASCDFSI RTTYADTPD DFQLHNFSLP EEDTKLKIPL IHRALQLAQR PVSLLASPWT
190     200     210     220     230     240
SPTWLKINGA VNGKGSGLKQ PGDIYHQTWA RYFVKFLDAY AEHLQFVAV TAENEPSAGL
250     260     270     280     290     300
LSGYPFQCLG FTPEHQDFI ARDLGPTLAN STHHNVRLLM DDQRLLLPH WAKVVLTDPD
310     320     330     340     350     360
AAKYVHGIAV HWYLDLFLAPA KATLGETHRL FPNTMLFASE ACVGSKFEWQ SVRLGSDWRG
370     380     390     400     410     420
MQYSHSIITN LLYHVVGWTD WNLALNPEGG PNWVRNFVDS PIIVDITKDT FYKQPMFYHL
75     430     440     450     460     470     480
GHFSKFIPEG SQRVGLVASQ KNDLDAVALM HPDGSAAVVV LNRSSKDVPL TIKDEAVGFL
490
ETISPGYSIH TYLWHRQ

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FIGURE 3. Mature WT GCCase amino acid sequence highlighting the regions targeted for mutagenesis, expression, and binding analyses. The amino acid sequence of GCCase is marked with various dark red arrows indicating the number of amino acids deleted from the COOH-terminal end of the enzyme for the GFP reporter. Shown in orange is a typical dileucine sequence for indirect targeting of membrane-bound lysosomal proteins. Underlined in red are the amino acids for targeted mutagenesis and binding studies to IdLIMP-2. These sequences have very high conservation across species (data not shown).

LIMP-2 (Fig. 4). However, amino acids Phe³⁴⁷–Asp³⁹⁸ and Phe⁴¹¹–His⁴²² are more internal to the structure and less likely to be able to interact with LIMP-2. The likely exposed residues include the sequence DSPIIVDITKD (Fig. 4, yellow). Searches of the databases for lysosomal glucocerebrosidases from multiple species show that this sequence is highly conserved and nearly invariant in mammals and other vertebrates (data not shown); the consensus sequence is DSPIIVDIAKD. Based on these analyses, efforts were focused on the amino acid sequence between Asp³⁹⁹ and Asp⁴⁰⁹ (Fig. 4). Although GCCase is a membrane-associated and not a transmembrane lysosomal protein, the mature GCCase sequence does contain a dileucine structure that has been previously identified as important in the indirect targeting of transmembrane proteins to the lysosome (32–34). This sequence spans amino acids Asp²⁸²–Leu²⁸⁸ (Fig. 3). DDQRLLL (Fig. 4) is located in Domain III of GCCase and was also analyzed for interactions/binding to LIMP-2 as a potential ligand sequence.

LIMP-2 is a transmembrane protein whose IdLIMP-2 binds to and traffics GCCase to the lysosome (10). A series of alanine-swapped mutant GCCase proteins and peptides were made for cellular localization, immunoprecipitation, and secretion analyses. For the expression studies, *Gba1*^{-/-} fibroblasts were used, and the GCCase variants were localized to cellular compartments. A 3-amino acid (TKD) and a 6- (DSPIIV) or 11-amino acid sequence of interest (Fig. 3) were targeted for alanine mutagenesis. The various mutant GCCases for the TKD sequence showed immunofluorescence lysosomal localization with wild type (TKD (PI ~0.988)), AKA (PI < 0.2), and TAD (PI ~0.5) to varying degrees. AAA (PI > 0.1) lacked this property (i.e. the AAA mutant showed no lysosomal localization but abundant co-localization to the ER by using anti-calreticulin) (Fig. 5). Thus, AAA was expressed in the cell but was not trafficked to the lysosome. The WT (TKD) and TAD mutant had similar ER (Fig. 5). The AKA mutant showed less lysosomal localization compared with WT or the TAD mutant (Fig. 5).

To demonstrate a correlation between the co-localization results and LIMP-2 binding, the WT and TAD variant GCCases

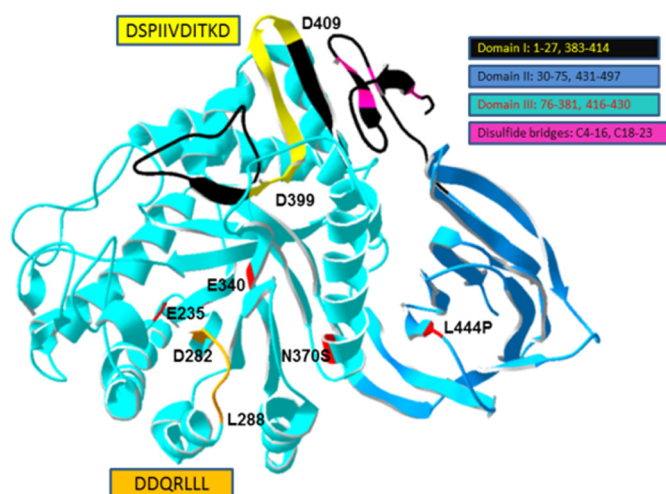


FIGURE 4. Structure of WT GCCase highlighting the potential IdLIMP2 binding sequence localization. The two amino acid sequences from Fig. 3 were mapped to the crystal structure of WT human GCCase. The orientation of the sequences is indicated by the amino acid numbers in the highlighted (yellow or orange) regions. The domains of GCCase are shown in various indicated colors as are the disulfides. The potential IdLIMP-2 binding (yellow, Asp³⁹⁹–Asp⁴⁰⁹) sequence forms a surface-accessible loop in domain I (black, with the motif in yellow). The DSPIIVDITKD sequence and the DDQRLLL (orange, Asp²⁸²–Leu²⁸⁸ in Domain III) sequence are highly conserved in GCCases from insects to humans (data not shown). The acid-base (Glu²³⁵) and nucleophile (Glu³⁴⁰) in catalysis and the N370S and L444P common mutations causal to Gaucher disease are shown in red (5).

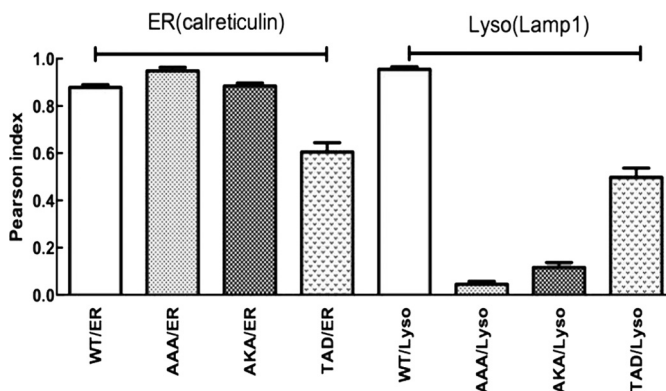


FIGURE 5. Co-localization (Pearson) indices of GCCases with specific alanine substitutions in the WT TKD sequence. GCCase/mutant constructs were transfected into *Gba1*^{-/-} fibroblasts, and co-localization was evaluated with directly labeled anti-mouse calreticulin (rhodamine; red) antibody for ER/Golgi, directly labeled Lamp1 (rhodamine; red) for lysosome (Lyso), and directly labeled anti-human GCCase (FITC; green) for GCCase. The alanine (A) substitutions are as altered from the WT TKD sequence. For the AAA and AKA GCCases, the majority of the intracellular enzymes co-localized to the ER/Golgi (ER), whereas the TAD GCCase showed about 50% of the total intracellular enzyme localized to the lysosome (Lyso). Co-localization indices (Pearson) were calculated ($n = 5$) and presented as the mean \pm S.E. (error bars)

were expressed and purified by anti-GCCase affinity chromatography and used to conduct *in vitro* immunoprecipitation studies with IdLIMP-2 (Fig. 6). These results show that WT and the TAD GCCases (Fig. 6, A and D) were bound similarly by IdLIMP-2, whereas the AKA mutant (Fig. 6C) was much less bound, and the AAA GCCase did not bind to IdLIMP-2 (Fig. 6B). Quantitative densitometry results are shown in Fig. 6E. These results for IdLIMP-2 binding correlated well with the co-localization analyses, which followed a similar pattern for the WT, intermediate, or absent lysosomal localization.

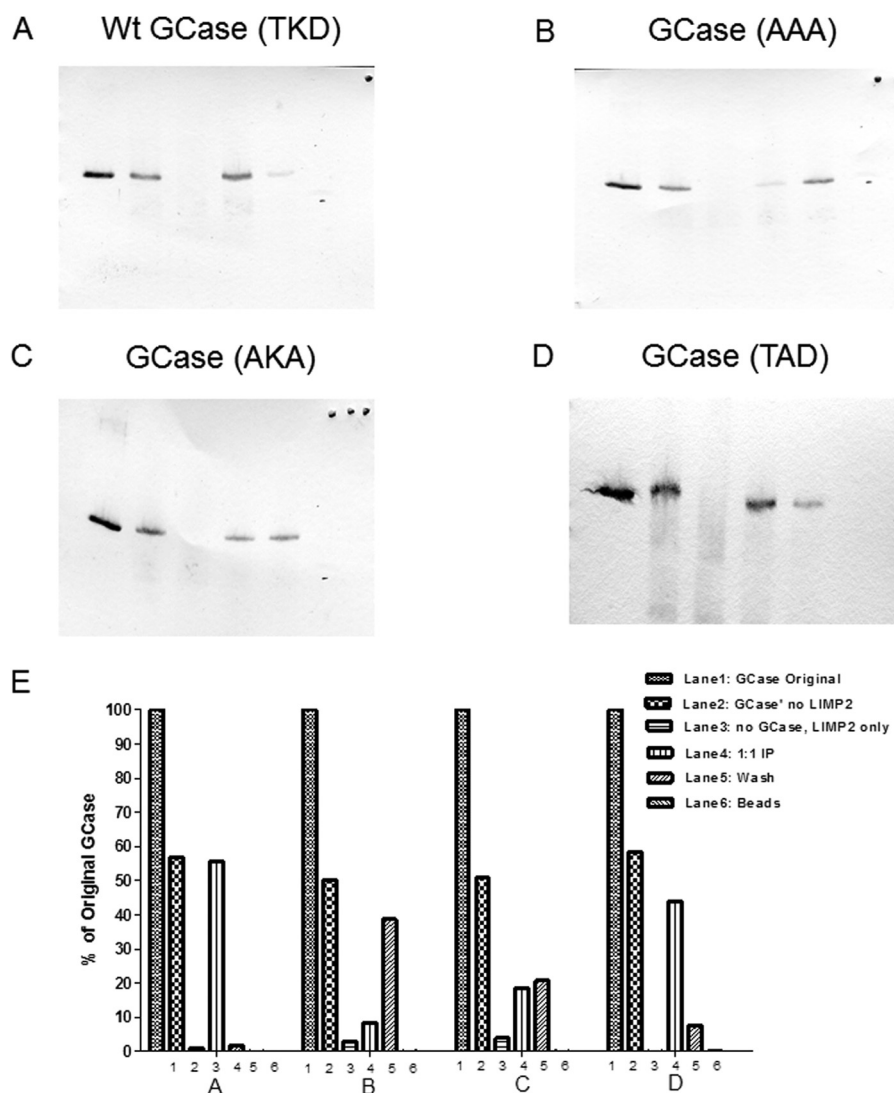


FIGURE 6. **Immunoprecipitation of the alanine-substituted GCases in the TKD sequence with IdLIMP-2.** In *A–D*, lanes 1–6 correspond to the band densities indicated by the bars in *E*. The panels show that the WT sequence (*A*) had nearly complete binding with IdLIMP-2 (*i.e.* retention on the beads to which IdLIMP-2 was bound (*lane 4*) and no GCCase in the wash (*lane 5*)). In comparison, the triple alanine mutant (*B*) shows essentially no binding to IdLIMP-2 (*i.e.* all of the GCCase is in the wash (*lane 5*)). The AKA GCCase mutant (*C*) showed about equal amounts of GCCase in lanes 4 and 5, or about 50% binding to IdLIMP-2. The AKD GCCase mutant (*D*) had a binding pattern that was similar to the WT sequence but with more GCCase in the wash (*lane 5*) (*i.e.* somewhat less binding). The quantitative results are shown in *E*, in which 1, 2, 3, and 4 correspond to WT, AAA, AKA, and AKD, respectively. The results are typical of multiple experiments.

Several additional peptides were used to explore the DSPHVDITKD region by alanine scanning mutagenesis, and a peptide from another region of GCCase was used as a random control (Table 1). These peptides were synthesized with and without a fluorescent probe (FITC) covalently linked to the COOH-terminal end to assess direct binding to IdLIMP-2 by changes in fluorescence polarization (δmP).

The interactions/binding of the GCCase peptides, DSPHIV variants, to IdLIMP-2 were analyzed by δmP with increasing WT or mutant peptide concentration in the presence of a fixed amount of IdLIMP-2 (Fig. 7A). The substitution of an alanine for either of the isoleucines decreased binding to IdLIMP-2 by about 50%, whereas alanine substitution for the NH₂-terminal aspartate nearly eliminated the binding to IdLIMP-2. Substitution of alanines for Asp³⁹⁹, Ile⁴⁰², and Ile⁴⁰³ obliterated the binding.

To ensure that the fluorescent label was not interfering with or promoting binding to IdLIMP-2, a similar experiment was

conducted using unlabeled peptide to compete with the corresponding labeled peptide. The data show direct competition of the corresponding labeled and unlabeled peptides (Fig. 7B). Similarly, a direct comparison was conducted to assess the competition of either the labeled or unlabeled WT peptide for binding to IdLIMP-2 (Fig. 7C). The data show symmetry of the changes in δmP that are nearly mirror images with either the labeled or unlabeled WT peptide in competition for IdLIMP-2. These data show that the fluorescent label did not alter the binding properties to IdLIMP-2. Using the WT labeled peptide, the peptide binding to IdLIMP-2 was shown to have 1:1 stoichiometry and was tight (*i.e.* the molar concentrations of the peptide and IdLIMP-2 needed for 50% binding were in a 1:1 ratio) (Fig. 7C, inset).

In other binding experiments, the DDQRLLL labeled and unlabeled peptides were synthesized and tested. These peptides had little or no binding to IdLIMP-2 above background. Thus,

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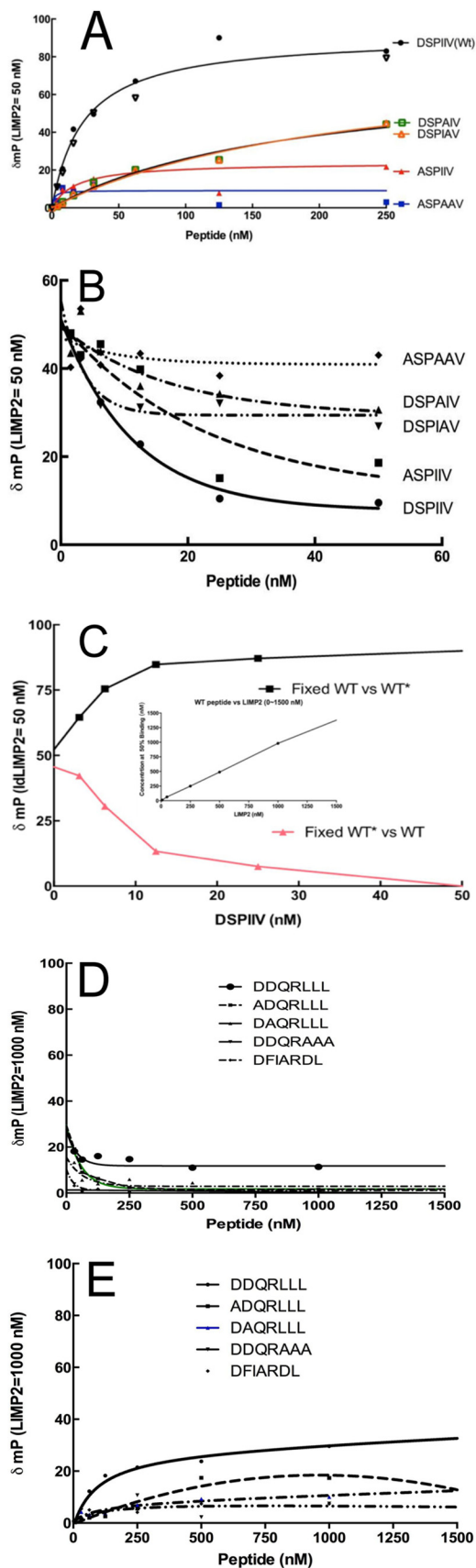


FIGURE 7. Binding and competition of fluorescence-labeled or unlabeled DSPIIV GCCase peptides to IdLIMP-2. The change (δmP) in fluorescence polarization is plotted on the *ordinate*, and the increasing concentrations of the various peptides are shown on the *abscissa*. *A*, the concentration of

TABLE 1

Synthetic peptide characteristics

Peptides were custom-synthesized by American Peptide Co. The boldface letters indicate the differences from the WT sequences of DSPIIV or DDQRLLL. The final peptide in each group is an unrelated peptide in GCCase.

Sequence	GCCase amino acids	M_r (FITC) ^a	M_r (non-labeled)	Purity ^a
DSPIIV	399–404	1032.2	642.8	95.3/98.0
ASPIIV	399–404	998.1	578.8	95.0/98.1
DSPAIV	399–404	990.1	600.7	96.5/98.2
DSPIAV	399–404	990.1	600.7	95.3/97.7
DSPAIV	399–404	948.1	514.6	95.4/95.1
SKDVPL	465–470	1047.2	657.8	96.6/98.0
DDQRLLL	282–288	1261.4	872	95.3/97.1
ADQRLLL	282–288	1226.4	828	96.1/97.6
DAQRLLL	282–288	1226.4	828	95.7/97.1
DDQRAAA	282–288	1144.2	745.8	95.9/98.0
DFIARDL	258–264	1247.4	849	95.1/97.5

^a Quality control: HPLC grade, purity: 95.1–98.8%, MS analysis/desalted/lyophilized into powder.

the DDQRLLL had essentially no interaction with IdLIMP-2 (Fig. 7, *D* and *E*).

Immunoprecipitation and Competition Studies—To further evaluate the interaction of IdLIMP-2, WT GCCase, and the DSPIIV peptide, competitive immunoprecipitation experiments were conducted using increasing concentrations of the WT peptide in competition with GCCase for IdLIMP-2 binding (Fig. 8*A*). Increasing WT peptide, DSPIIV, concentrations from 0 to 5 \times molar excess over GCCase showed that this peptide competed off GCCase binding to IdLIMP-2 when GCCase was first incubated with IdLIMP-2 and then the WT peptide was added. A similar experiment was conducted in which the WT peptide was preincubated with IdLIMP-2 prior to adding purified GCCase (Fig. 8*B*); almost all GCCase binding to IdLIMP-2 was prevented at 1–5 \times molar peptide ratios. The combined results (Fig. 8, *A* and *B*) show that the WT peptide can compete or prevent GCCase binding to IdLIMP-2.

The DDQRLLL peptide from GCCase was tested as a control. Although this sequence was contained in the GCCase fragment (GCCase-225) that did not localize to the lysosome, it does have a known motif for lysosomal targeting of transmembrane lysosomal proteins, which GCCase is not. In addition, this sequence is highly conserved throughout phylogeny (data not shown). Up

IdLIMP-2 (50 nM) was fixed. With the WT (DSPIIV) peptide (\bullet and ∇ , duplicate experiments), saturation kinetics with about half-maximal binding to IdLIMP-2 was observed at 50 nM. The DSPAIV and DSPIAV mutants did not show saturation up to 250 nM, indicating their poor interaction with IdLIMP-2. The ASPAAV peptide showed background changes. The ASPIIV peptide showed δmP values slightly above background, indicating little binding to IdLIMP-2. *B*, to ensure that the label did not interfere/promote binding, similar studies were conducted using fluorescently labeled peptides as binders and their respective unlabeled peptides as competitors. Each of the unlabeled peptides “competed” with the labeled peptides in the expected ratios. *C*, labeled (*WT**) and unlabeled (*WT*) peptides were used in complementary competition studies. Either the labeled or unlabeled WT peptides equally competed for binding to IdLIMP-2, showing that both were equally effective in binding and that the label did not change the properties of the peptide-IdLIMP-2 interaction. The *inset* indicates 1:1 stoichiometry and tight binding properties of DSPIIV and IdLIMP-2. *D*, the δmP of the WT (DDQRLLL) or various alanine-substituted labeled peptides were plotted against the corresponding unlabeled peptide competitors. Note that the fixed IdLIMP-2 concentration was 1000 nM, or 20 times that used in Fig. 7, *A* and *B*. For all peptides, the δmP values were near or at background levels. *E*, binding δmP for the various peptides as in *D*. The signals were near background levels for all peptides using concentrations 5–10 times that for DSPIIV and with a 20 times greater LIMP-2 fixed concentration.

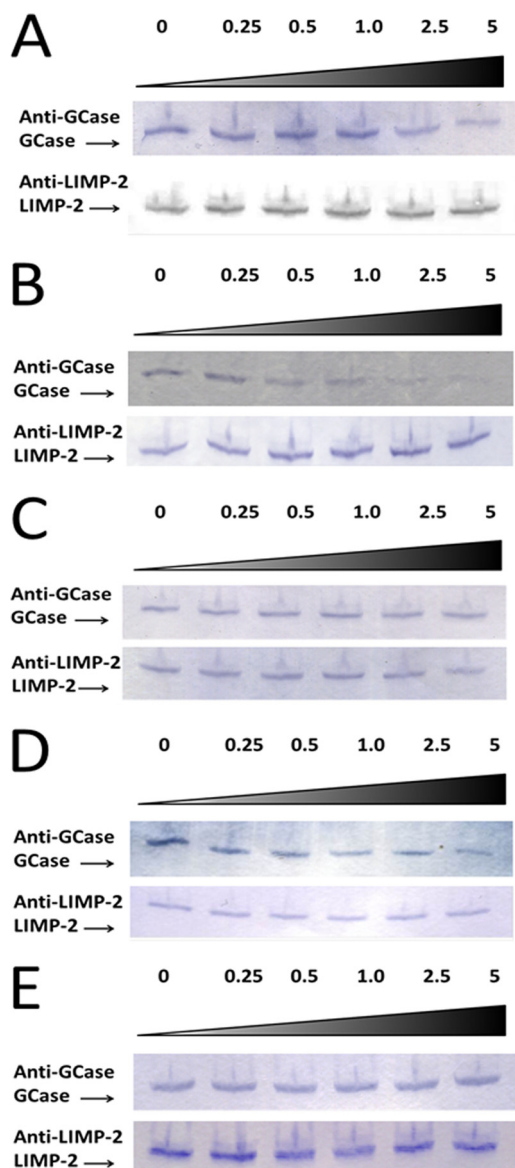


FIGURE 8. Immunoprecipitation of GCCase in the presence of IdLIMP-2 and increasing molar ratios of the WT (DSPIIV) peptide. *A*, purified WT GCCase was preincubated with purified IdLIMP-2 in a molar ratio of 1:1. Then unlabeled DSPIIV was added in varying molar excesses (0–5 \times ; top) over GCCase, incubated, and then immunoprecipitated with protein G-coupled anti-LIMP-2 antibody beads. The beads were then eluted, and the eluants were analyzed for GCCase and IdLIMP-2 on Western blots using the specified antibodies. The results show decreasing amounts of bound GCCase with increasing peptide molar ratios (*i.e.* peptide DSPIIV competed bound GCCase off of IdLIMP-2). In the *bottom panel*, IdLIMP-2 recovery was the same at all peptide ratios. *B*, purified IdLIMP-2 was preincubated with unlabeled WT peptide at various molar ratios. Then, purified WT GCCase was added in a 1:1 molar ratio with IdLIMP-2, incubated, and then immunoprecipitated and processed as in *A*. The results show that the peptide prevents the binding of IdLIMP-2 and WT GCCase. *C*, purified WT GCCase was preincubated with purified IdLIMP-2 in a molar ratio of 1:1. Then peptide DDQRLLL, a potential candidate for the GCCase ligand for IdLIMP-2, was added in varying molar excesses over WT GCCase, incubated, and then immunoprecipitated and processed as in *A*. The results show that peptide DDQRLLL did not compete GCCase off of IdLIMP-2, thereby showing that this peptide did not have specificity for the GCCase binding site on IdLIMP-2. DDQRLLL is a dileucine peptide outside of the localized targeting region of DSPIIVDITKD (see Fig. 3). *D* and *E* show the immunoprecipitation of GCCase in the presence of IdLIMP-2 and increasing molar ratios of the WT (DDQRLLL) peptide. In *D* and *E*, IdLIMP-2 and DDQRLLL were incubated before (*D*) or together with (*E*) GCCase and analyzed as in *A–C*. Under either condition, the peptide did not compete with GCCase for IdLIMP-2 binding.

to a 5 \times molar excess of this peptide did not compete with GCCase for IdLIMP-2 binding when the peptide was added after GCCase and IdLIMP-2 were preincubated (Fig. 8C). In addition, when the peptide was preincubated with LIMP-2 before GCCase was added or when LIMP-2, the peptide, and GCCase were incubated together, there was no effect on GCCase·LIMP-2 binding (Fig. 8, *D* and *E*).

pH Dependence of IdLIMP-2·GCCase Binding—LIMP-2 binding to GCCase is dependent upon pH in that greater binding is obtained at more neutral pH, and dissociation obtains at pH 5.6 (10, 15, 44). The WT and various mutants of the DSPIIV peptide have differential pH dependence. Substitution of either isoleucine with alanine decreases the binding at pH 6.8 by 40–50%. The ASPIIV peptide binding was decreased by about 30–40%, whereas the ASPAAV peptide was decreased by ~90%. There is little effect on the binding at pH 5.8 of any of the substituted peptides compared with the WT peptide (Fig. 9).

Effects of Mutations of DSPIIVDITKD on Cellular Co-localization and/or Secretion of GCCase—The effects on cellular localization of GCCase from *Gba1*^{-/-} cells transfected with WT or various GCases with mutations in the target region are shown in Fig. 10A. Representative examples show that the WT or D399E GCases are directed to the lysosomes, indicating that the charge on amino acid 399 is important for this targeting. In comparison, neither the DSPAIV (I402A) nor DSPIAV (I403A) significantly localizes to the lysosome. Essentially identical results were obtained with the ASPIIV (D399A) or I402A/I403A (DSPAAV, double mutant) GCases. Confirmatory quantification by Pearson indices of co-localization to the ER/Golgi or lysosome of all of these expressed WT and mutant GCases is shown in Fig. 10B.

Corresponding effects on the secretion from the cells of GCases containing various mutations in DSPIIVDITKD were found by assessing the GCases in the medium and cell lysate (Fig. 11, *A–C*). Compared with the WT sequence (TDK), the amount of GCCase activity in medium progressively increased from the AAA to AKA to TAD mutants to an ~8-fold increase (Fig. 11A, *left*). The lower GCCase activity in medium of the AAA mutant seemed at odds with the lack of binding of this mutant to IdLIMP-2. Immunoblots of the various mutations in the TKD sequence provided assessments of the GCCase activity/amount of CRIM (*i.e.* CRIM-specific activity, an estimate of the catalytic rate constant relative to WT enzyme). Using this assessment, the ratios of CRIM-specific activities relative to WT (assigned 100%) for AAA, TAD, and AKA were 11, 19, and 25%, respectively (Fig. 11A, *right*) (*i.e.* 9, 5.2, and 4 times more GCCase proteins were required from the respective mutants to achieve the same enzyme activity as the WT). These results imply that the levels of GCCase protein secreted from the *Gba1*^{-/-} fibroblasts were 4–9-fold greater than suggested by the enzyme activity measures and correspond well with the binding data (Fig. 6). Similarly for the DSPIIV sequence, all of the alanine mutant GCases showed large increases (~25-fold) in medium activity compared with WT (*i.e.* increased secretion of active GCCase) (Fig. 11B, *left*). When assessed for CRIM-specific activity, the alanine mutants had 14–29% of WT activity, implying that 7.1 (for the double mutant) to 3.4 (I403A) more GCCase enzyme protein was secreted than suggested by

Acid β -Glucosidase Lysosomal Targeting

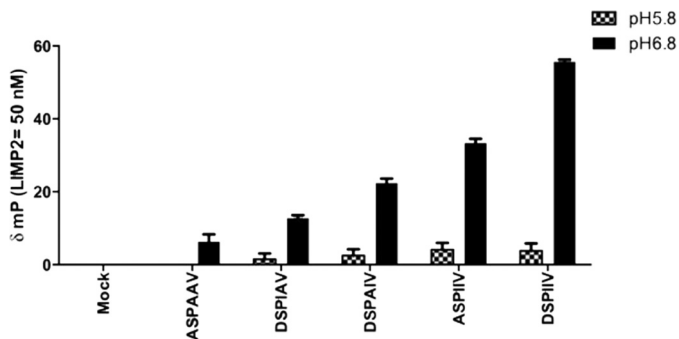


FIGURE 9. Effect of pH on binding WT and alanine-substituted DSPAIV peptides to IdLIMP-2. The binding of the different peptides to IdLIMP-2 showed little effect of alanine substitutions at pH 5.8. In comparison, incremental decreases were evident in IdLIMP-2 binding at pH 6.8, the approximate pH of the ER/*cis*-Golgi, as follows: the triple mutant (ASPAAV) having the lowest binding (<10% of WT), the DSPAIV (I402A) and DSPAIV (I403A) mutants being intermediate (~40–50% of WT), and ASPAIV (D399A) having the least change (~50–60% of WT), relative to WT. Error bars, S.E.

the raw activity measures. The *Gba1*^{-/-} cells transfected with the charge-conserved substituted GCCase, D399E, showed no medium activity above background (*i.e.* zero) and a minor change in CRIM-specific activity. Using the CRIM-specific activity assessments and the total activities in lysates and medium, the percentage of secreted GCCase (ng) showed that ~83% of the I402A/I403A mutant was secreted from transfected cells (Table 2). For the other mutants, this ranged from 22 to 36%. This compares to ~0% for the WT or D399E GCases. Immunoaffinity anti-GCCase column purification of the various GCases from medium confirmed the excesses of these mutant GCases and the inability to detect WT or D399E GCases in medium (data not shown). Complementary data for the retention of GCases in cell lysates showed ~15–20% of WT or ESPIIV (D399E) activities with the single alanine mutants (ASPIIV (D399A), DSPAIV (I402A), and DSPAIV (I403A)) and <5% with the double DSPAAV (I402A/I403A) (Fig. 11C). Thus, all of the alanine-mutated GCases that were shown to diminish IdLIMP-2 binding and poor lysosomal localization showed large increases in GCCase in the medium (*i.e.* excess secretion).

DISCUSSION

The GCCase binding sequence to IdLIMP-2 has been identified using heterologous expression of deletion constructs, the available GCCase crystal structures, and binding and co-localization of identified peptides or mutant GCases. These studies show a complex interaction of IdLIMP-2 with the highly conserved 11-amino acid sequence, DSPAIVDITKD, within human GCCase. The binding is not dependent upon a single amino acid, but its interactions with IdLIMP-2 are heavily influenced by Asp³⁹⁹ and the di-isoleucines, Ile⁴⁰² and Ile⁴⁰³. Single alanine substitutions at any of these decreases binding to IdLIMP-2 and alters their pH-dependent IdLIMP-2 binding as well as diminishing the trafficking of GCCase to the lysosome while significantly increasing GCCase secretion. Replacement of the di-isoleucines and Asp³⁹⁹ with alanines obliterated binding to IdLIMP-2 and lysosomal localization. However, the retention of the charge at Asp³⁹⁹ (*i.e.* Glu³⁹⁹) did not alter the cellular localization or secretion of GCCase. In comparison, alanine replacements in the TKD sequence showed less profound effects on

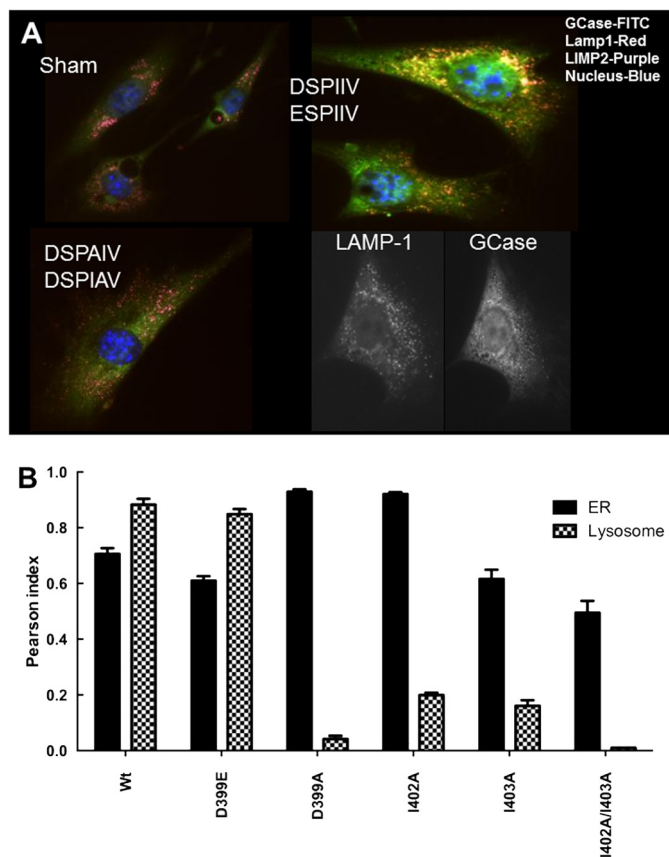


FIGURE 10. Intracellular localization of GCCase DSPAIV variants in *Gba1*^{-/-} cells. A, typical examples of immunofluorescence localization of DSPAIV-substituted GCCase variants following transient transfections. The DSPAIV (WT) and ESPIIV show co-localization of GCCase (FITC) with either Lamp1 (red) or LIMP-2 (purple) (top right), indicating that the retention of charge by Glu³⁹⁹ does not impact localization. The cells are typical for either Asp³⁹⁹ (DSPAIV) or Glu³⁹⁹ (ESPIIV). The DSPAIV (I402A) or DSPAIV (I403A) mutant shows no co-localization with IdLIMP-2 or Lamp1 (bottom left) (*i.e.* no binding to IdLIMP-2 in the cell and no localization to the lysosome (Lamp1/IdLIMP2)). The black and white images in the bottom right indicate the relative localization of LAMP-1 (lysosomes) and WT GCCase (ER/Golgi and lysosomes) in *Gba1*^{-/-} fibroblasts for comparison. Sham control is shown in the top left. B, Pearson indices for co-localization of the various mutants in the ER/Golgi (black) or lysosome (hatched). The substitution of Glu for Asp (WT) at 399 (ESPIIV) did not alter the co-localization compared with WT. In comparison, ASPAIV (D399A) and the double mutant, DSPAAV (I402A/I403A) showed little co-localization to the lysosome but significant retention in the ER/Golgi. The single mutants, DSPAIV (I402A) and DSPAIV (I403A), showed partial co-localization to the lysosome but greater retention in the ER/Golgi. Error bars, S.E.

IdLIMP-2 binding as single substitutions (*i.e.* TAD) compared with double (AKA) or triple (AAA) substituted GCases. Finally, the lack of trafficking to the lysosome of the deletion construct GCCase-150, which contains the DDQRLLL sequence, and the lack of binding of DDQRLLL peptides to IdLIMP-2 eliminate this known indirect lysosomal trafficking signal from participation in GCCase targeting.

The GCCase 11-amino acid ligand for LIMP-2 is highly conserved throughout phylogeny with near identity at 10 of the amino acids. Thr⁴⁰⁷ of the human GCCase has an alanine substituted in several mammalian GCases so that the consensus sequence across 60 species, including some insects and worms, is DSPAIVDIAKD. Also, only in mosquitoes does the Glu³⁹⁹ equivalent occur. The IIV motif is identical across most of the species, but in the few variants, the branched chain amino acid

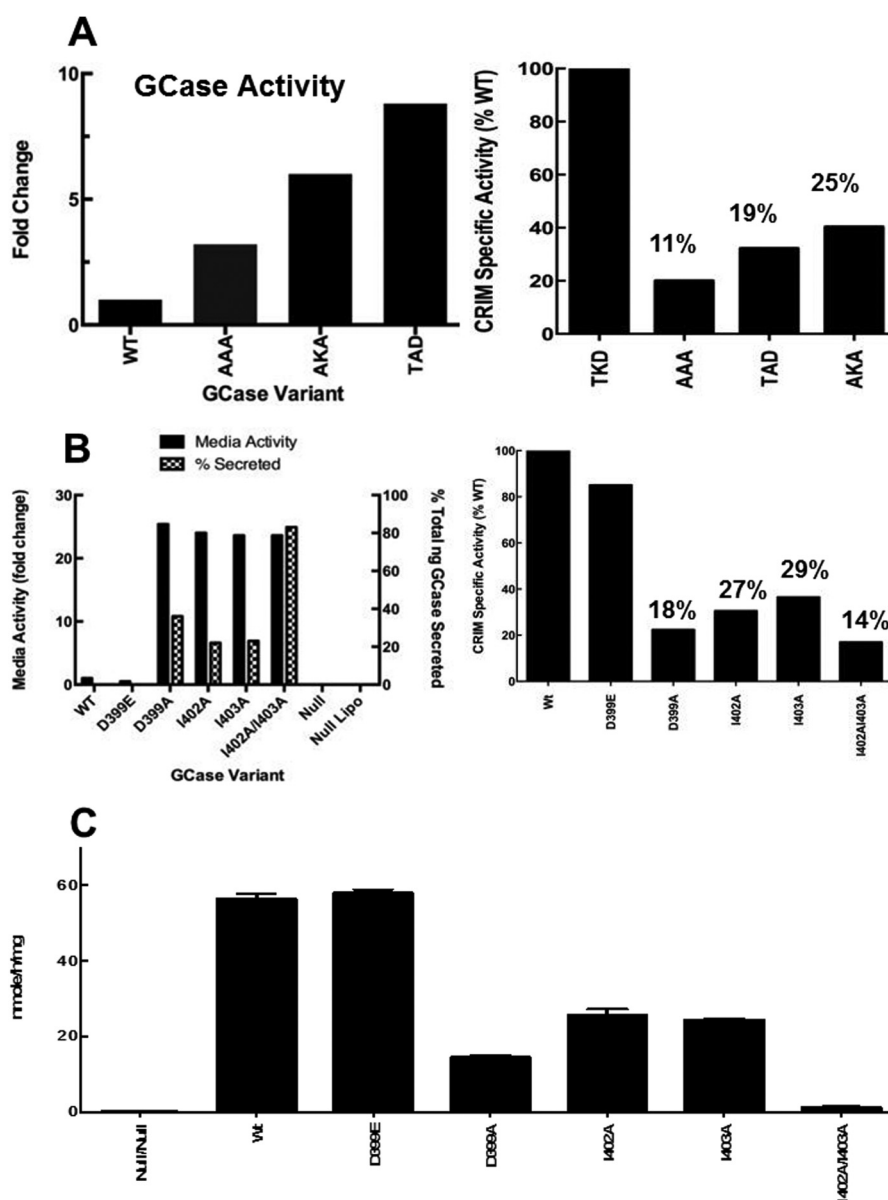


FIGURE 11. Secretion and retention of GCase with alanine variants in the TDK (A) or DSPIIV (B and C) sequences. *A, left*, activities in the medium of *Gba1*^{-/-} fibroblasts following transient transfections of each of the specified WT or alanine-substituted GCases in the TDK region. Increases of 4–8-fold in GCase activities were found in the medium, with AKD showing the greatest increases and AAA the least. *Right*, CRIM-specific activity of WT and these same mutant GCases, demonstrating that the mutations decreased this activity relative to WT as indicated *above* the bars. *B, left*, activities in the medium following transient transfections of various DSPIIV alanine-substituted GCases and the percentage of GCase secreted. This was calculated as (ng of GCase (in medium) / (ng of GCase (in medium) + ng of GCase (in lysates))) \times 100. The DSPIIV GCase did not alter secretion (*i.e.* little enzyme in the medium). All of the alanine substitutions in the DSPIIV sequence resulted in an \sim 20–25-fold increase in GCase activity in the medium (*solid bars*). The transfections alone (*Null Lipo*) had no effect. In comparison, the amount of secreted GCase protein varied between 22 and 83% (*hatched bars*). *Right*, CRIM-specific activity of WT and these same mutant GCases, demonstrating that the mutations decreased this activity relative to WT as indicated *above* the bars. *C*, cellular lysate GCase activities from the various alanine-substituted GCases in the DSPIIV sequence as indicated. The WT and DSPIIV had equal intracellular activities of GCase, whereas the singly alanine-substituted GCases had \sim 30% of WT levels. The doubly alanine-substituted GCase had little intracellular activity (*i.e.* nearly all of the GCase was secreted into the medium). All results are from $n = 3$ determinations. *Error bars*, S.E.

valine is substituted for either of the isoleucines, usually the Ile⁴⁰² equivalent.

Enterovirus 71 causes foot and mouth disease by gaining access to cells after binding to LIMP-2/SCARB2 (17–19). The binding sequence on enterovirus 71 for LIMP-2/SCARB2 has been localized to VP1 amino acids 152–178 (17), but BLAST searches with the entire virus revealed no significant similarity to GCase, specifically in the 11-amino acid region (data not shown). Several other proteins (*e.g.* KCNQ1, KCNE2, and megalin) interact with LIMP-2/SCARB2 at the plasma mem-

brane (20), but these do not share any homology with GCase. Other intracellular proteins that bind to LIMP-2 have not been identified. Because the LIMP-2/SCARB2 binding sequences for enterovirus 71 and GCase are not similar, LIMP-2/SCARB2 may have a structure that contains multiple binding sites with differing specificities. Such structures are present in some receptors for carbohydrates (*i.e.* the macrophage mannose receptor that contains multiple carbohydrate binding domains with differing affinities/specificities for mannosyloligosaccharides) (35, 36). Also, the cation-independent mannose 6-phos-

TABLE 2

Proportion of GCCase protein in cells and media

Human WT and variant GCases were transfected into *Gba1*^{-/-} cells with resultant transfection efficiencies of 20.5 \pm 3%. The calculations were based on the specific activities of GCCase relative to a standard curve of cross-reacting immunological material (CRIM) densities on immunoblots of purified human GCCase, which has a specific activity of 1.1 nmol/h/ng of GCCase. Cellular and medium GCCase represent total ng from each source. Results are expressed as the mean \pm S.D., *n* = 3.

GCCase variant	Cellular GCCase	Medium GCCase	Total GCCase	Percentage secreted
	ng	ng	ng	%
Human WT	23 \pm 4	0	23 \pm 4	0
D399A	32 \pm 4	18 \pm 2	50 \pm 4	36
I402A	38 \pm 6	11 \pm 4	49 \pm 5	22
I403A	34 \pm 2	10 \pm 2	44 \pm 3	23
I402A/I403A	4 \pm 1	20 \pm 3	24 \pm 4	83
Mouse WT	64 \pm 7	0	64 \pm 7	0

phate receptor/insulin-like growth factor receptor 2 has differing specificities for mannose 6-phosphate-containing glycoproteins, IGF-2, and prorenin (8, 37). Indeed, the residues on LIMP-2/SCARB2 that are critical to GCCase binding are within the same large segment of the receptor (residues 142–204) that may interact with a “canyon” for the virus and potentially the sequence of GCCase binding. LIMP-2/SCARB2 residue His¹⁵⁰ in this region appears critical to GCCase binding, whereas amino acids 144–151 are essential for enterovirus 71 binding and infectivity (17, 44). Consequently, the domains of binding for these two disparate proteins with different ligand sequences occur in a region with overlapping but apparently distinct critical residues.

For understanding the biology of LIMP-2, such specificities are important as are the other intracellular proteins that may bind to LIMP-2/SCARB2. For example, mutations in LIMP-2 are causal to a human and mouse disease, termed AMRF (21). To understand the biochemical bases of this disease, it will be critical to understand which proteins interact with LIMP-2/SCARB2 and cause AMRF rather than Gaucher disease-like manifestations. However, being a heterozygote for a pathogenic LIMP-2/SCARB2 mutation potentiates the phenotype in Gaucher disease homozygotes (38). Additionally, disruptive mutations of *GBA1* in the sequence critical to LIMP-2/SCARB2 may have more profound effects on the Gaucher disease phenotype than might be anticipated by the *in vitro* levels of residual activity because the mutant protein may never reach the lysosome. The biology of LIMP-2/SCARB2 also may facilitate the understanding of the clear relationships between GCCase mutations and Parkinson disease and Lewy body dementia. Indeed, the role of GCCase binding to LIMP-2/SCARB2 in the ER may be important to the proposed feed-forward mechanism of GCCase/ α -synuclein interaction (27) in the development and treatment of Parkinson disease and other α -synucleinopathies.

The precise role of LIMP-2 in trafficking GCCase remains unexplored, but the studies here and in LIMP-2-deficient patients and mice offer some insights. GCCase activity does not depend on whether it binds to LIMP-2. The poor or deficient binding of GCCase variants to LIMP-2 in these studies does not appear to alter the enzyme activity or stability of GCCase. Also, the LIMP-2 knock-out mouse cells produce active GCCase, albeit at lower intracellular levels than WT (10) because of secretion from the cells. These findings suggest that, like the mannose 6-phosphate receptor, LIMP-2 does not have a chap-

erone/protective function. LIMP-2/GCCase binding also is not needed for GCCase stability vis-à-vis the stabilization by saposin C of GCCase against proteolysis (39). The exact structure and role of the LIMP-2-GCCase complex, potentially with the CI-M6PR as a heterotrimeric complex in GCCase trafficking (44), remains to be elucidated, particularly in view of the lack of secretion of GCCase in I-cell disease. Irrespective of the structure, the function of LIMP-2/SCARB2 appears to be as a delivery vehicle for intracellularly synthesized GCases to the lysosomes.

The identification of a critical sequence for GCCase binding to its receptor, LIMP-2/SCARB2, may have significant therapeutic implications. These studies indicate that GCases with specific mutations that disrupt binding to its receptor, but not its activity, could provide for enhanced secretion of GCCase from cells for bulk production. Selected conservative mutations could greatly enhance the secretion of normally active enzyme, suggesting the potential for enhanced production from mammalian or other systems that contain LIMP-2/SCARB2 analogues/homologues. Similarly, transplantation of specific cell types specifically expressing mutated GCases that interact poorly with LIMP-2 could supply a large amount of secreted enzyme for therapeutic effects both in local and distant parts of the body. For example, for an enzyme that is normally not secreted (*i.e.* GCCase), such secretion, attained by cellular replacement and/or gene therapy approaches with controllable expression elements, could provide a reservoir for the supply of secreted, active enzyme for cross-correction in other cells. Such an approach would be particularly helpful in the CNS variants of Gaucher or Parkinson diseases, which are caused by or potentiated by GCCase defects (26, 40) or the consequences of α -synucleinopathies (25, 41–43) because generalized distribution of the enzyme throughout the brain is currently not possible.

Acknowledgment—We thank Joyce Life-Ishmael for clerical expertise.

Note Added in Proof—In the original version of the manuscript that was published as a JBC Paper in Press, the data shown in Fig. 8C were not correct. The correct Fig. 8C is now provided. This correction does not change the interpretation of the results or the conclusions.

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