

## Activation of pp70/85 S6 Kinases in Interleukin-2-Responsive Lymphoid Cells Is Mediated by Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinase and Inhibited by Cyclic AMP

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**Activation of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) and activation of the 70/85-kDa S6 protein kinases ( $\alpha$ I and  $\alpha$ II isoforms, referred to collectively as pp70<sup>S6k</sup>) have been independently linked to the regulation of cell proliferation. We demonstrate that these kinases lie on the same signalling pathway and that PI3K mediates the activation of pp70 by the cytokine interleukin-2 (IL-2). We also show that the activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> can be blocked at different points along the signalling pathway by using specific inhibitors of T-cell proliferation. Inhibition of PI3K activity with structurally unrelated but highly specific PI3K inhibitors (wortmannin or LY294002) results in inhibition of IL-2-dependent but not phorbol ester (conventional protein kinase C [cPKC])-dependent pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation. The T-cell immunosuppressant rapamycin potently antagonizes IL-2-(PI3K)- and phorbol ester (cPKC)-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Thus, wortmannin and rapamycin antagonize IL-2-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> at distinct points along the PI3K-regulated signalling pathway, or rapamycin antagonizes another pathway required for pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity. Agents that raise the concentration of intracellular cyclic AMP (cAMP) and activate cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA) also inhibit IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. In this case, inhibition appears to occur at least two points in this signalling path. Like rapamycin, PKA appears to act downstream of cPKC-mediated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation, and like wortmannin, PKA antagonizes IL-2-dependent activation of PI3K. The results with rapamycin and wortmannin are of added interest since the yeast and mammalian rapamycin targets resemble PI3K in the catalytic domain.**

T cells are activated, representing G<sub>0</sub>-to-G<sub>1</sub> transition, by antigen presentation to the multimeric T-cell receptor. This results in the transcription, production, and secretion of the 15-kDa glycoprotein lymphokine, interleukin-2 (IL-2). Antigen stimulation also induces expression of the IL-2 receptor (IL-2R)  $\alpha$  subunit (p55) and increases the level of IL-2R  $\beta$  subunit (p75). Together with the  $\gamma$  subunit, they form the high-affinity IL-2R (reviewed in references 75 and 103). IL-2 then stimulates activated T cells in an autocrine/paracrine fashion, driving G<sub>1</sub>-S transition and cell proliferation. The IL-2R has no intrinsic kinase activity, yet ligand binding increases tyrosine phosphorylation of many proteins, including the IL-2R  $\beta$  chain. IL-2-dependent signalling also results in activation of c-Ras and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) and increased serine/threonine protein phosphorylation. Although much is known about Ras-regulated signal transduction (see references 12, 39, and 68 for reviews), the identities of the signalling proteins lying downstream of PI3K remain to be established.

PI3K is a novel signal transducer composed of an 85-kDa SH2- and SH3-domain-containing regulatory subunit and a 110-kDa catalytic subunit with specificity toward the D3 hydroxyl in the inositol ring of phosphatidylinositol (37, 54, 81, 98). Numerous studies provide evidence that PI3K, in association with various mitogenically active receptor and nonrecep-

tor protein tyrosine kinases, mediates the transmission of growth-regulatory information within cells (reviewed in references 18, 21, and 82). These studies suggest that the activation of PI3K contributes a positive, but undefined, cell proliferation signal.

The activity of the 70/85-kDa S6 protein kinases ( $\alpha$ I and  $\alpha$ II isoforms, referred to collectively as pp70<sup>S6k</sup>) is also stimulated by IL-2 in IL-2-responsive cells (16, 63, 106) as well as in other cell types by many growth factors and oncogenes (reviewed in reference 36). However, the cytosolic mediators involved in its signal cascade have been previously unknown. pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was identified on the basis of its ability to phosphorylate the 40S ribosomal protein S6 in vitro. A number of other kinases, including the growth-regulated 90-kDa ribosomal S6 kinases (RSKs), can also phosphorylate S6 in vitro, but evidence indicates that in vivo, this function is performed by pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (28). Recent data suggest that the pathways leading to pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation and the subsequent phosphorylation of S6 are important for growth factor-modulated G<sub>1</sub> transition in fibroblasts, hepatoma cells, and T lymphocytes (16, 28, 63, 65, 85, 86, 106). Activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is associated with phosphorylation of several clustered Ser/Thr-Pro residues in its putative pseudo-inhibitory domain (5, 40). Identification of the kinase and/or phosphatase activities responsible for regulating the phosphorylation status of these residues has been unsuccessful (77). Additionally, several studies suggest that the signalling system regulating pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is distinct from another well-characterized signal transduction system which includes c-Ras, c-Raf, MEK, mitogen-activated kinase kinase (MAPK), and RSK (reviewed in references 9, 30, 31, and 68).

We have recently found that PI3K participates in platelet-

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derived growth factor (PDGF)- and insulin-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (23, 27). Activation of PI3K by PDGF or insulin is mediated by receptor-tyrosine kinase activation and phosphorylation of the receptor (for PDGF) or IRS-1 (for insulin). These tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins act as docking structures for the recruitment and activation of PI3K through its regulatory subunit SH2 domains (83). IL-2 has been shown to activate PI3K (4, 71, 87), although the extent (fold) of activation is small in comparison with what is observed with PDGF or insulin in other cell systems (18, 45). The mechanism for PI3K activation by IL-2 is unclear, but the available evidence indicates that it is different from that described above. Unlike the PDGF and the insulin receptors, the IL-2R lacks any intrinsic protein tyrosine kinase activity. Still, IL-2-dependent stimulation of PI3K is accompanied by association of PI3K activity with the IL-2R  $\beta$  chain and tyrosine phosphorylation of the 85-kDa regulatory subunit of PI3K (71, 87). Both activation of PI3K and association with the IL-2R appear to be dependent on tyrosine kinase activity (71) as well as on the serine-rich domain of the IL-2R  $\beta$  chain (72), which has been shown to be required for IL-2-dependent proliferation (50, 51). The Src family nonreceptor tyrosine kinases p56<sup>lck</sup> and p59<sup>lyn</sup> have been proposed as potential mediators of the IL-2-dependent activation of PI3K (59, 102).

While the immunosuppressant rapamycin potently and specifically inactivates pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in all cell types and in response to all activating agents tested so far (16, 28, 42, 63, 85, 106, 110), its inhibitory effects in the cell cycle ( $G_1$ -S transition) are particularly marked in IL-2-dependent cells. This finding suggests that pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity is particularly important for T-cell proliferation and of particular significance with regard to immunosuppression and immune system disorders. Interestingly, a *Drosophila melanogaster* S6 knockout results in the overgrowth of lymph glands, abnormal blood cell differentiation, and melanotic tumor formation, consistent with a role for the regulation of the pp70<sup>S6k</sup> pathway in proper hematopoietic system growth and differentiation (100, 113). This finding, together with the role of PI3K as a pp70<sup>S6k</sup> upstream regulator in other systems, prompted us to determine if IL-2-dependent signalling to the pp70<sup>S6k</sup> phosphorylation cascade is mediated by PI3K in lymphoid cells.

Inhibition of IL-2-dependent  $G_1$ -S transition is also observed in response to elevation of intracellular cyclic AMP (cAMP) levels (26, 34). cAMP is a ubiquitous second messenger implicated in positive and negative modulation of cell growth. Early data suggested that increased intracellular cAMP levels inhibited T-cell activation (reviewed in reference 27). More recent work, however, indicates that this inhibition is mediated through blocking IL-2-dependent  $G_1$ -S transition (56, 66). It is well established that elevated cAMP directly results in the activation of cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA), a broad-specificity serine/threonine protein kinase. While the mechanism of PKA activation by cAMP is well characterized (reviewed in references 104 and 105), the mechanism by which PKA then mediates signal transduction is poorly understood. Because of the biological effects of raising cAMP in lymphoid cells, we were also interested in determining if PKA signalling might antagonize IL-2-dependent pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation.

Here we demonstrate that IL-2-dependent activation of PI3K regulates the serine/threonine phosphorylation cascade within which pp70<sup>S6k</sup> functions, thus establishing PI3K as the first functional component described so far between the IL-2R and pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. This signalling process is independent of conventional protein kinase C (cPKC) isoforms. Activation of PKA inhibits pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation by interfering at distinct points in

this signalling system. Activated PKA antagonizes IL-2-dependent PI3K activation and inhibits downstream of cPKC, possibly after a point of convergence of the PI3K- and cPKC-regulated paths to pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Further, we report that rapamycin, which presumably interferes with an upstream modulator of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>, acts downstream of PI3K and, like cAMP, at or after a point where the PI3K- and cPKC-regulated pathways converge. Alternatively, it acts on a pathway involved in the regulation of pp70 that is independent of PI3K and cPKC. These possibilities are of interest since a putative target of rapamycin (TOR) which has homology with PI3K has recently been identified (15, 52, 62). However, TOR lipid or protein kinase activity has not yet been described. Although we do not define the mechanism of TOR action, we have ruled out PKA activation. Surprisingly, activation of PKA has no effect on IL-2-dependent activation of MAPK or RSK.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Materials.** Tissue culture media, sera, and additives were purchased from GIBCO (Grand Island, N.Y.). Forskolin, 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX), phorbol myristate acetate (PMA), wortmannin, Kemptide, protein kinase inhibitor, Nonidet P-40,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, pepstatin, leupeptin, penicillin-streptomycin solution, and bovine serum albumin (BSA) were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, Mo.). PMA was from LC Laboratories (Woburn, Mass.). Enhanced chemiluminescence reagents were obtained from Amersham (Amersham, England). Recombinant IL-2 and rapamycin were kindly provided by M. K. Gately (Hoffman-La Roche, Nutley, N.J.) and S. N. Sehgal (Wyeth-Ayerst), respectively. LY294002 was provided by Eli Lilly.

**Cell culture.** Two murine IL-3-dependent pro-B-cell lines ectopically expressing the high-affinity wild-type human IL-2R (Baf  $\alpha/\beta$ ) or a deletion mutant of the human IL-2R  $\beta$  chain lacking the serine-rich domain, amino acids 267 to 322 (Baf  $\alpha/\beta_{SD-1}$ ), were kindly provided by W. C. Greene (University of California, San Francisco). They were cultured in RPMI 1640–10% fetal bovine serum–10 mM *N*-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-*N'*-2-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES; pH 7.2)–2 mM glutamine–50  $\mu$ M  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol–20 U of penicillin per ml–20  $\mu$ g of streptomycin per ml supplemented with 10% WEHI.3B-conditioned medium as described previously (72). The murine IL-2-dependent CTLL-20 cell line was cultured in Dulbecco modified Eagle medium supplemented with L-arginine HCl, L-asparagine–H<sub>2</sub>O, folic acid, essential vitamins, nonessential amino acids, 10% (vol/vol) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.2), 2 mM glutamine, 50  $\mu$ M  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 20 U of penicillin per ml, 20  $\mu$ g of streptomycin per ml, and 10 U of recombinant human IL-2 (referred to as IL-2) per ml. Cells were starved of IL-3 or IL-2 for 14 to 18 h before treatment with drugs and/or stimulation with IL-2 (100 U/ml) or PMA (100 ng/ml).

**Antibodies.** Previously generated antibodies to the predicted amino acids 20 to 39 and 502 to 525 of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> were used for immune complex kinase assays. Only the anti-C-terminal antibody was used for immunoblot analysis (28, 47). Antibodies against RSK have been previously described (25). Antiphosphotyrosine antibodies were kindly provided by B. Druker and T. M. Roberts.

**Protein kinase assays.** Cells were stimulated for 30 or 45 min to determine pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity or for 10 min to determine RSK and MAPK activities. Ribosomal 40S subunits used for pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (78) or RSK assays were purified from rat liver as described previously (107). Cells were lysed in cold cell lysis buffer (11), and the lysates were cleared by centrifugation for 10 min at 13,000  $\times$  g. The immune complex kinase assays were performed as described previously (24). Phosphotransferase activities were quantified with a PhosphorImager apparatus or by liquid scintillation counting.

A PKA in vitro assay was modified from those described previously (88, 114). Lysate (5  $\mu$ l) was added to 20  $\mu$ l of assay cocktail (50  $\mu$ M ATP, 10  $\mu$ M [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P]ATP, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 20 mM HEPES [pH 7.2], 0.1 mg of BSA per ml, 3 mM  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 3  $\mu$ g of Kemptide per assay) with or without 31.25  $\mu$ M cAMP or 2.25  $\mu$ M protein kinase inhibitor, and the reaction was allowed to continue for 10 min at 30°C before addition of perchloric acid (3 ml). Samples were then spotted on P81 phosphocellulose paper, washed four times with 75 mM phosphoric acid and once each with water and ethanol, then dried for 30 min at 50 to 60°C, and counted in a liquid scintillation counter. Results are shown for each condition as a percentage of the maximal PKA activity obtained when excess cAMP (31.25  $\mu$ M) was added to in vitro assay minus the basal phosphate incorporation into Kemptide as determined by the addition of excess protein kinase inhibitor (2.25  $\mu$ M) to the in vitro assay cocktail.

**PI3K assay.** PI3K assays were performed as described previously (115), with minor modifications. Cells stimulated with IL-2 (1,000 U/ml) for 7.5 min were lysed, and PI3K activities were immunoprecipitated with antiphosphotyrosine antibody 4G10. The phosphotransferase assays were performed for 15 min at 30°C and terminated by addition of 200 ml of 1 N HCl. Phosphorylated phosphoinositides were separated by thin-layer chromatography on a Silica Gel 60 plate (Whatman) that was impregnated with 1% potassium oxalate. CHCl<sub>3</sub>–

methanol-4 M  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  (9:7:2) or *n*-propanol-2 M acetic acid (1.8:1) solution was used as a developing solvent for thin-layer chromatography analysis. Phosphotransferase activity was quantified with a PhosphorImager apparatus.

**Immunoblot analyses.** Immunoblot analyses were performed as described previously (28). Aliquots of the cleared lysates containing 20 to 50  $\mu\text{g}$  of cellular proteins were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE; 7.5% polyacrylamide gel) and electrically transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane. pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was detected by the enhanced chemiluminescence method, using rabbit polyclonal anti-pp70<sup>S6k</sup> antiserum as the primary antibody (1:2,000 dilution).

**Cell proliferation.** CTLL-20 cells were plated on 60-mm-diameter dishes and grown for 34 h in complete medium plus IL-2 and then starved of IL-2 for 14 h prior to IL-2 (100 U/ml) stimulation with or without treatment with forskolin-IBMX or rapamycin. Cells were pulsed with [<sup>3</sup>H]thymidine (1  $\mu\text{Ci}$  per plate) for 2 h and then prepared as described previously (28).

## RESULTS

**Differential IL-2-dependent stimulation of mitogen-activated Ser/Thr kinases; pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation is independent of cPKCs in T cells.** The IL-2R signalling cascade utilizes many of the same cytosolic components as other cytokine and growth factor receptors, including many members of the MAPK signalling cascade such as c-Ras, c-Raf, MEK, and RSK. pp70<sup>S6k</sup>, which can be regulated by Ras-independent signalling pathways (8), is also activated upon IL-2 stimulation. However, the signalling molecules that lie between the IL-2R and downstream signal transducers such as pp70<sup>S6k</sup> remain undefined. In other signalling systems, phospholipase C $\gamma$ , which regulates cPKCs, may function between growth factor receptors and signalling kinases such as MAPK and pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. However, it has been shown that IL-2R-mediated signalling and proliferation is independent of phospholipase C $\gamma$  and cPKCs (61, 73, 74, 91, 109, 111; reviewed in reference 19). IL-2-dependent T-cell lines such as CTLL-20 cells contain functional cPKCs which can be activated by phorbol esters such as PMA. Interestingly, both PMA and IL-2 stimulated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> to approximately the same extent in CTLL-20 cells, whereas there was a dramatic difference in the activation of MAPKs and RSK by PMA and IL-2 (Fig. 1). IL-2 is a weak agonist for MAPK and RSK in comparison with PMA. Analogous results were observed in several other murine and human IL-2-responsive lymphoid cell lines, including Baf  $\alpha/\beta$ , CTLL-2, and Kit225 (not shown). Importantly, inhibition of cPKC by downregulation through PMA pretreatment had no effect on the extent of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation by IL-2 (Fig. 2). We conclude that IL-2 activates pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in a cPKC-independent manner. Since IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is not dependent on cPKC or the Ras-regulated protein kinase pathway, we examined whether PI3K might mediate the IL-2-dependent signal transduction to pp70<sup>S6k</sup>.

**An IL-2R defective in PI3K activation does not regulate pp70<sup>S6k</sup>.** To investigate the possibility that PI3K is an upstream regulator of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>, we first used two IL-3-dependent murine pro-B-cell lines expressing wild-type IL-2R (Baf  $\alpha/\beta$ ; expressing normal  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  subunits) and a mutant IL-2R (Baf  $\alpha/\beta_{\text{SD-1}}$ ; wild-type  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  subunits with a mutant  $\beta$  subunit). The mutant receptor  $\beta$  subunit is missing its serine-rich domain, which renders it unable to activate PI3K in response to agonist (72). Although this type of mutant receptor can still bind to the cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase Lck (50), it is not able to support IL-2-dependent cell proliferation (51, 72). Addition of IL-2 to cells expressing the wild-type IL-2R resulted in a severalfold activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (Fig. 3), as previously observed in this (Fig. 1 and 2) and other IL-2-responsive cell culture systems (16, 63, 106). As expected, activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was accompanied by its phosphorylation at several sites, as determined by its reduced mobility on SDS-gels (not shown). In contrast, IL-2 did not activate pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in cells

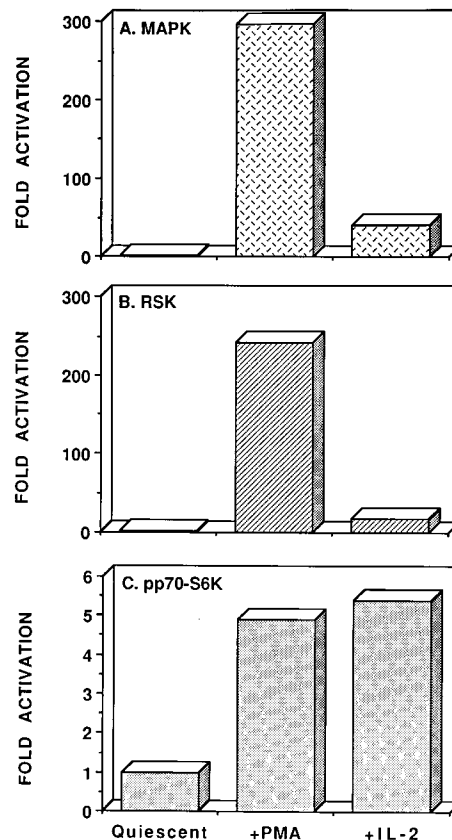


FIG. 1. Differential stimulation of MAPK, RSK, and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by IL-2 and PMA in T cells. Quiescent CTLL-20 cells were either left untreated or stimulated with PMA or IL-2 for 10 min (for analysis of MAPK and RSK activities) or 45 min (for pp70<sup>S6k</sup>) before being lysed. Immune complex kinase assays were carried out and enzymatic activities were measured with a PhosphorImager after SDS-PAGE. The results are presented for each enzyme as fold stimulation relative to the activity levels in quiescent cells.

expressing the mutant IL-2R (Fig. 3). Phorbol ester-mediated activation of cPKC (Fig. 3) or stimulation of the cells with IL-3 (not shown) resulted in the stimulation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in both cell lines. These results provide a correlation between the activity of PI3K and that of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> and suggest that the enzymes may be functionally coupled.

**PI3K inhibitors block IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>.** It is possible that signal transduction molecules other than PI3K could be affected by the deletion of the serine-rich region in the IL-2R  $\beta$  chain. Therefore, we used an independent approach to address the putative relationship between PI3K and pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. The steroid-like compound wortmannin has recently been shown to be a highly specific and potent inhibitor of PI3K, inhibiting PI3K in vitro and in vivo and preventing production of phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-P<sub>3</sub> in vivo with a 50% inhibitory concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) of 1 to 10 nM (2, 58, 117). Although wortmannin did not inhibit pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity in vitro (not shown), it potently blocked IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in CTLL-20 cells with an IC<sub>50</sub> of 1 to 10 nM (Fig. 4A). As previously shown with rapamycin, wortmannin blocked phosphorylation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (Fig. 5). A structurally unrelated compound, LY294002 (a bioflavonoid related to quercetin), has also been shown to be a highly specific inhibitor of PI3K, with an IC<sub>50</sub> of 1 to 10  $\mu\text{M}$  (112). Like wortmannin, LY294002 does not inhibit any protein kinase tested to date, nor does it inhibit PI4K at concentrations inhibiting PI3K (112, 117).

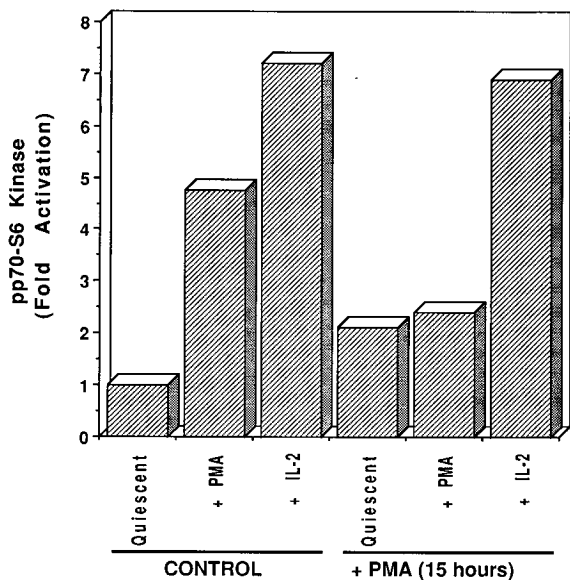


FIG. 2. IL-2-dependent pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation is independent of cPKCs. CTLL-20 cells were incubated overnight in medium minus IL-2 with or without PMA (100 ng/ml). Quiescent (control) and quiescent, down-regulated (+ PMA) cells were stimulated with IL-2 or PMA for 45 min or left untreated. pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity was measured by immune complex assays of the cleared lysates and quantified with a PhosphorImager after SDS-PAGE. The results are presented as fold stimulation relative to the activity levels in the quiescent, not PMA-down-regulated controls.

LY294002 blocked IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> with the same IC<sub>50</sub> as shown for inhibition of PI3K (Fig. 4B). Because of the structural differences between these drugs, it is most likely that inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation is due to their common property of inactivating PI3K rather than to a shared nonspecific effect.

**Phorbol ester-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is independent of PI3K.** Although IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is independent of cPKC (Fig. 2), we have shown that pp70<sup>S6k</sup> can

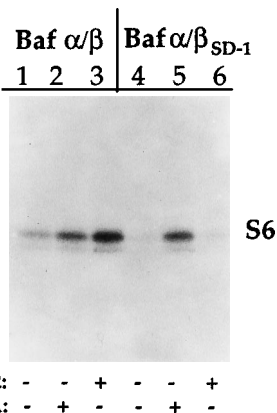


FIG. 3. IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> requires an IL-2R β-chain region necessary for PI3K activation. Baf cells expressing either wild-type IL-2R β chain (lanes 1 to 3) or a deletion mutant of IL-2R β chain at the serine-rich domain (lanes 4 to 6) were starved of IL-3 and stimulated with IL-2 (lanes 3 and 6) or PMA (lanes 2 and 5) for 45 min. Cell lysates were prepared from the same number of cells (2 × 10<sup>6</sup>), and the S6 phosphotransferase activity of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was assessed by immune complex kinase assays. Immunoblot analysis showed that the lysates from both cell lines contained equivalent amounts of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (not shown).

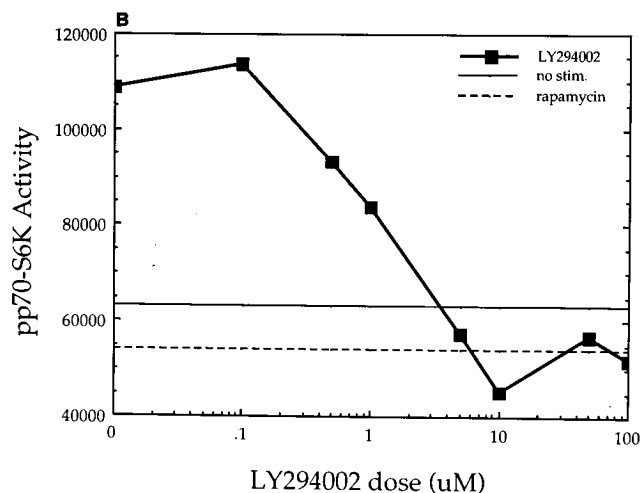
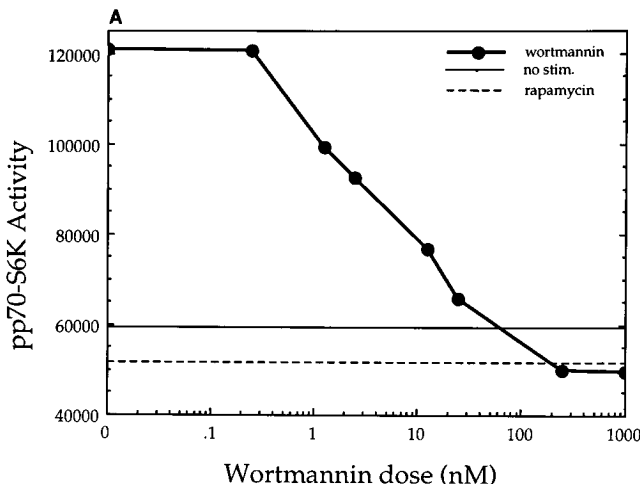


FIG. 4. Two PI3K inhibitors, wortmannin and LY294002, inhibit IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in vivo. CTLL-20 cells starved of IL-2 were treated with the vehicle dimethyl sulfoxide (zero drug concentration) or various concentrations of either wortmannin for 5 min (A) or LY294002 for 10 min (B) and then stimulated with IL-2 for 45 min before lysis. The S6 phosphotransferase activity of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was measured by immune complex assays. <sup>32</sup>P incorporation into the S6 substrate was quantified following SDS-PAGE and presented in PhosphorImager arbitrary units as a dose-response curve. Stimulation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by IL-2 was also inhibited by a 5-min pretreatment with rapamycin (20 ng/ml), as indicated by the dashed line. Activity levels in quiescent cells are indicated.

be activated by phorbol esters in lymphoid cells (Fig. 1C). We then tested whether cPKC-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in lymphoid cells required PI3K. To do so, we incubated Baf α/β and CTLL-20 cells with or without wortmannin before stimulating them with IL-2 or PMA. Although wortmannin completely inhibited IL-2-dependent phosphorylation and activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>, it was without effect on PMA-dependent phosphorylation and activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in these cells (Fig. 5). In contrast, rapamycin potently blocked activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by both agonists (Fig. 5B). These results are consistent with wortmannin and rapamycin blocking distinct points in the signalling pathway regulating pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity.

**Phosphorylation/dephosphorylation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is under dynamic regulation.** Previous experiments with rapamycin have shown that its addition to stimulated cultured cells in which pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is already maximally activated results in its rapid dephosphorylation and inactivation (28, 41, 63). Although we

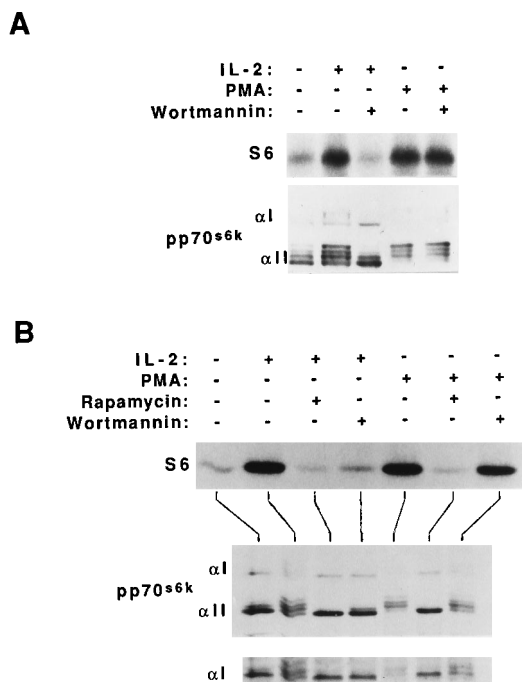


FIG. 5. Wortmannin inhibits IL-2-stimulated but not PMA-stimulated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity. (A) Baf  $\alpha/\beta$  cells expressing the wild-type IL-2R were starved and then treated for 5 min with either wortmannin (50 nM) or the vehicle dimethyl sulfoxide. (B) CTLL-20 cells were starved and treated for 5 min with wortmannin (100 nM) or rapamycin (20 ng/ml). In both assays, cells were then stimulated with either IL-2 or PMA for 45 min before lysis. Gels labeled S6 are autoradiographs of the S6 substrate after immune complex assay of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> phosphotransferase activities. Gels labeled pp70<sup>S6k</sup> ( $\alpha$ I and  $\alpha$ II) show the pp70/85<sup>S6k</sup> immunoblot analysis performed on the lysates. In panel B, the lower gel is a longer exposure of the upper gel, which clearly demonstrates that the extent of  $\alpha$ I phosphorylation parallels that of  $\alpha$ II phosphorylation in these experiments.

have provided data that this is not the result of activating PP1C or PP2A (28), it is possible that another, highly specific phosphatase is activated. Alternatively, if there is dynamic regulation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by both active kinases and phosphatases, then inactivation of upstream kinases may also result in the rapid dephosphorylation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> that is observed. From the experiments presented in Fig. 5, it appears that PI3K is further upstream in the pp70<sup>S6k</sup> signalling pathway than is the rapamycin target. We then examined how pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity would be affected after inhibiting PI3K in IL-2-stimulated cells. As shown in Fig. 6, addition of wortmannin resulted in the rapid inactivation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Inactivation back to basal-activity levels was measured within 5 min with rapamycin and 15 min with wortmannin. The differences in the rates of inactivation support the evidence provided above that these reagents target different points along this signalling pathway. These results also support the notion that phosphorylation of both pp70<sup>S6k</sup> and pp85<sup>S6k</sup> is carefully modulated by regulated upstream kinases and highly active phosphatases. Indeed, all enzymes involved in the coupling of PI3K to pp70<sup>S6k</sup> would appear to be under similar dynamic regulation. Since pp85<sup>S6k</sup> is nuclear and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is cytoplasmic and nuclear (86), the putative pp70/85<sup>S6k</sup> phosphatases must be similarly localized. Additionally, our data indicate that PI3K activity is needed to maintain pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in an activated state throughout this time course.

**Increased cAMP antagonizes IL-2-mediated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> regulation.** Treating IL-2-dependent T cells with agents to raise intracellular cAMP level at the time of or prior to stimulation with IL-2 blocks IL-2-dependent phosphorylation and activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 7A to D). Rapamycin also inhibits IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (16, 63, 106) (Fig. 7A, B, and E). Either raising the cAMP level or treating cells with rapamycin antagonizes IL-2-dependent T-cell proliferation, as measured by reduced [<sup>3</sup>H]thymidine uptake, a marker of G<sub>1</sub>-S phase transition (Fig. 7E) (28, 56). Our data for increased cAMP present yet another example that inhibition of IL-2-dependent G<sub>1</sub> pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation correlates with a block in the G<sub>1</sub>-S transition in T cells.

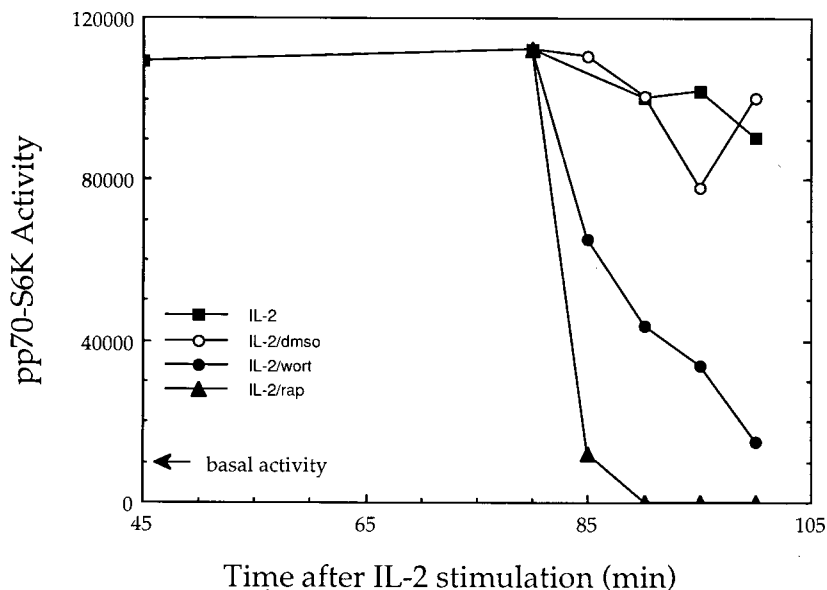


FIG. 6. Rates of inactivation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by wortmannin and rapamycin. CTLL-20 cells in which pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was maximally activated by IL-2 stimulation were treated for different periods of time, starting 80 min after IL-2 addition, with wortmannin (wort; 100 nM), rapamycin (rap; 20 ng/ml), or dimethyl sulfoxide (dmsso; vehicle) before being lysed. The S6 phosphotransferase activity of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was measured by immune complex assays. <sup>32</sup>P incorporation into the S6 substrate was quantified following SDS-PAGE and presented in PhosphorImager arbitrary units.

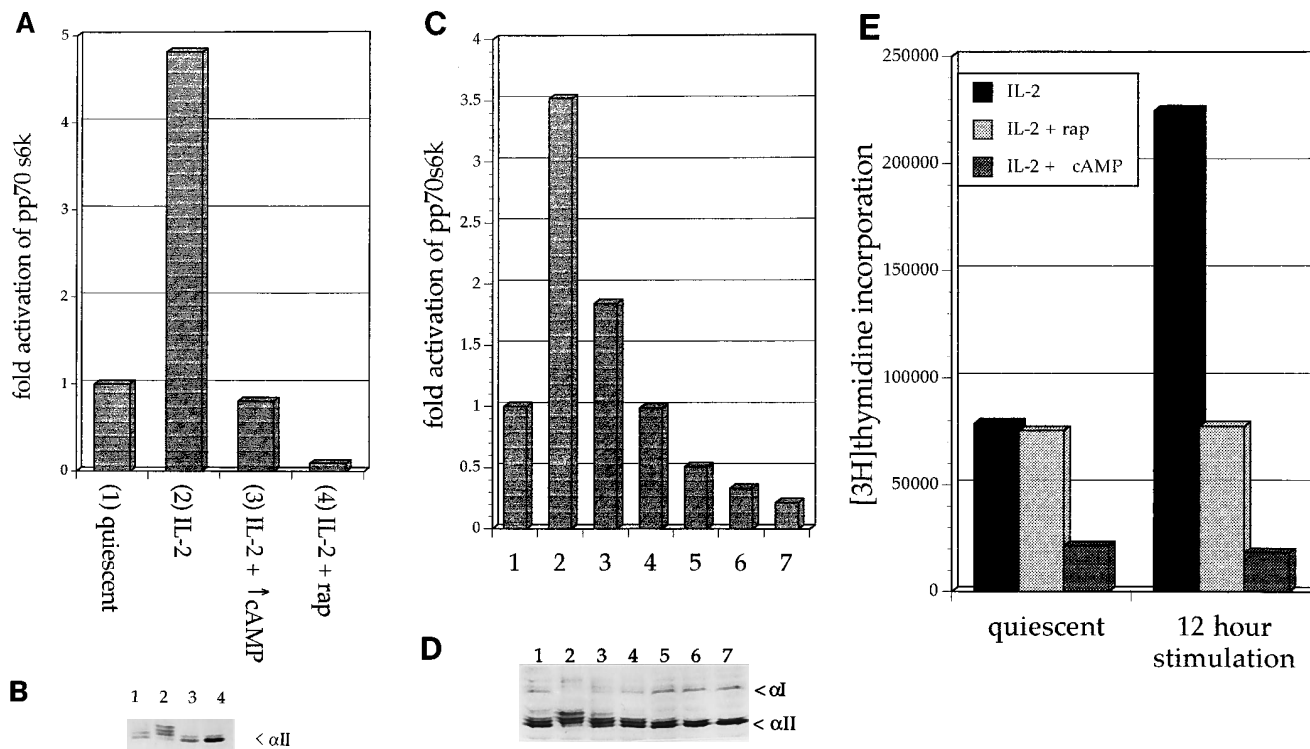


FIG. 7. Agents that increase intracellular cAMP inhibit IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> and block the G<sub>1</sub>-S transition in CTLL-20 cells. (A) Inhibition of IL-2-activated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in CTLL-20 cells by agents that increase intracellular cAMP. CTLL-20 cells were starved for 14 to 18 h in complete medium minus IL-2 and then treated for 45 min prior to lysis with IL-2 (100 U/ml), IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (25  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (500  $\mu$ M) (IL-2 +  $\uparrow$ cAMP), or IL-2 (100 U/ml) plus rapamycin (rap; 20 ng/ml) as indicated. pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity was assayed with an in vitro immune complex kinase assay. Activity is expressed as fold activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in relation to quiescent levels. (B) Dephosphorylation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by agents that increase intracellular cAMP. In an immunoblot analysis of the lysates from panel A, the more slowly migrating form of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> correlates with the phosphorylated, activated enzyme. Only the  $\alpha$ II form (pp70<sup>S6k</sup>) is shown. Similar results were observed with the  $\alpha$ I (p85<sup>S6k</sup>) form. (C) Dose-dependent inactivation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by forskolin and IBMX. CTLL-20 cells were starved of IL-2 for 17 h. Treatment: 1, none (quiescent); 2, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (6.25  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (125  $\mu$ M); 3, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (12.5  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (250  $\mu$ M); 4, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (18.75  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (375  $\mu$ M); 5, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (25  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (500  $\mu$ M); 6, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (50  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (1 mM). (D) Dose-dependent dephosphorylation and mobility shift of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by forskolin and IBMX. An anti-pp70<sup>S6k</sup> immunoblot of lysates from the forskolin-IBMX dose response in panel C is shown. Both  $\alpha$ II and  $\alpha$ I forms are indicated. (E) Elevation of intracellular cAMP blocks IL-2-dependent G<sub>1</sub>-S transition in CTLL-20 cells. Cyclic AMP blocks incorporation of [<sup>3</sup>H]thymidine in IL-2-stimulated CTLL-20 cells. Cells were starved and then stimulated with IL-2 with or without forskolin-IBMX or rapamycin (rap) as described above. Ten hours after stimulation, cells were treated with 1  $\mu$ Ci of [<sup>3</sup>H]thymidine until 12 h poststimulation, when they were lysed. Following trichloroacetic acid precipitation and washes, lysates were counted in a scintillation counter.

Cotreatment with forskolin, a diterpene that activates adenylyl cyclase, and IBMX, an inhibitor of the cAMP phosphodiesterase, of cells which had been stimulated for 45 min with IL-2 (resulting in maximal pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity) led to a rapid inactivation and dephosphorylation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (Fig. 8). Within 5 to 10 min of raising the intracellular cAMP level, pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity was back to levels in quiescent cells. This result was reminiscent of the rate of inactivation observed with rapamycin and wortmannin (28).

While rapamycin is an exogenous agent, raising the intracellular cAMP levels is a potential physiologic route for regulating IL-2-dependent T-cell responses. As the mechanism has not been established for either rapamycin- or cAMP-induced inhibition, we examined whether rapamycin activated PKA or whether increased cAMP effects were mediated by the rapamycin receptor, FKBP.

**Increased cAMP, but not rapamycin, activates PKA.** It has been shown that IL-2 stimulation does not activate PKA in T cells (Fig. 9 and reference 91). Incubation of cells with forskolin and IBMX leads to the activation of PKA (Fig. 9), consistent with stimulation seen in a prior study of peripheral blood lymphocytes with cell-permeable analogs of cAMP (66). Importantly, rapamycin treatment did not activate PKA (Fig. 9). Presumably PKA's downstream effects are involved in

blocking the phosphorylation and activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>; however, these events are poorly characterized. Whether rapamycin modulates events downstream of PKA is not known. We next examined whether cAMP affected the initial intracellular target of rapamycin, FKBP.

**Inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by cAMP is not reversed by FK506.** Rapamycin requires binding to its ubiquitous intracellular receptor FKBP, a *cis-trans* peptidyl-prolyl isomerase, to cause immunosuppression (49, 97; reviewed in references 92 and 94). At present, no endogenous ligand for the rapamycin-binding site on FKBP has been identified. The immunosuppressant FK506, which inhibits T-cell G<sub>0</sub>-G<sub>1</sub> transition, also requires binding to FKBP at the same site as rapamycin (reviewed in references 92 to 94). FK506 alone has no effect on pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity. The FK506-FKBP complex binds to and inhibits the calcium/calmodulin-dependent phosphatase calcineurin, thus preventing dephosphorylation and nuclear translocation of the NF-AT cytoplasmic subunit, a necessary step in IL-2 gene transcription (43, 67). However, when added in 500- to 2,000-fold molar excess, FK506 functions as a competitive antagonist for rapamycin's physiologic actions, including reversing rapamycin's inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (7, 28, 35). We speculated that if increasing intracellular cAMP and activating PKA generated or activated an endogenous rapamycin homolog, then excess

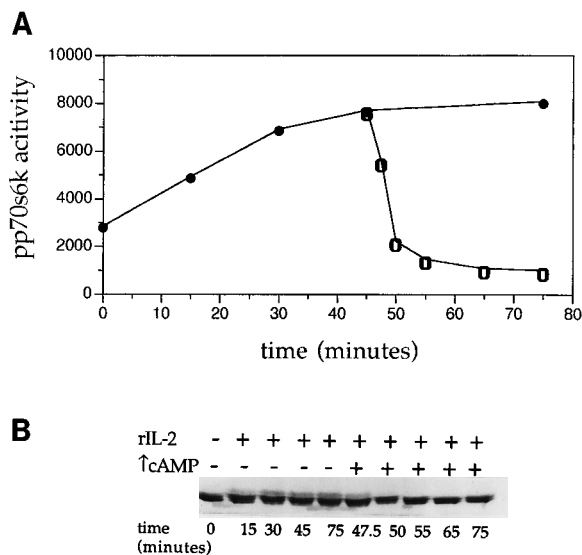


FIG. 8. Effect of cAMP-raising agents on fully activated pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. (A) Increasing cAMP rapidly inactivates pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Cells were starved of IL-2 for 16 h. They were treated with IL-2 (100 U/ml) for 0, 15, 30, 45, and 75 min prior to lysis (●) or with IL-2 for 45 min, after which forskolin (25  $\mu$ M)-IBMX (500  $\mu$ M) was added for 2.5, 5, 10, 20, or 30 additional min prior to lysis (○). Fully activated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> was inactivated to quiescent levels within 5 min of drug treatment. (B) Increasing cAMP rapidly dephosphorylates pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Aliquots of the lysates described for panel A were analyzed by immunoblotting with pp70<sup>S6k</sup> antiserum. A rapid reversal of the phosphorylation-dependent change in mobility of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> on an SDS-7.5% gel was detected. Only the  $\alpha$ II form is shown.

FK506 might reverse the cAMP-induced inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> by competitive binding to FKBP. This is not the case: FK506 has no effect on the ability of increased intracellular cAMP to quell pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity, whereas it fully reverses rapamycin's effect (Fig. 10).

One explanation for the inability of excess FK506 to reverse cAMP-induced pp70<sup>S6k</sup> inhibition is that there may be no endogenous ligand for the FKBP-binding site. If, however, we assume the existence of an endogenous ligand which binds to FKBP and acts as a rapamycin homolog, then explanations for the above result include the following: (i) the endogenous homolog is not affected by heightened cAMP; (ii) it binds to a separate site on FKBP; or (iii) it binds to the same site as rapamycin or FK506 but cannot be competitively antagonized by FK506. At this time, we are not able to test these hypotheses. Having established that no apparent cross-talk between cAMP and rapamycin occurs at the level of their respective primary targets, we next compared the effects of each on known mechanisms of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> regulation.

**Increased cAMP inhibits cPKC-dependent and -independent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>.** There are at least two signal transduction networks capable of activating pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. One pathway is dependent on cPKC isoforms and sensitive to down-regulation by chronic treatment of cells with phorbol ester, while the other is independent of cPKCs and cannot be down-regulated by phorbol ester treatment (11, 25, 84, 101; PKC reviewed in reference 80). Observations from other groups suggest that the activation of PKA antagonizes PKC-dependent signalling pathways (79). On the basis of this information, we asked whether increasing intracellular cAMP would also inhibit cPKC-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Addition of phorbol ester to cells resulted in activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>, and this was antagonized by forskolin-IBMX treatment (Fig. 11A). Note that increased cAMP did not affect the cPKC-dependent acti-

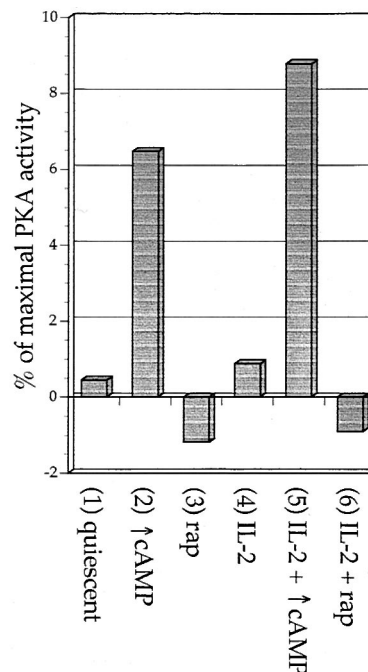


FIG. 9. Raising the intracellular cAMP level activates PKA. CTLL-20 cells were starved for 16 h in complete medium minus IL-2 and then not treated (quiescent) or treated for 45 min prior to lysis with the following: 2, forskolin (25  $\mu$ M) plus IBMX (500  $\mu$ M); 3, rapamycin (20 ng/ml); 4, IL-2 (100 U/ml); 5, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (25  $\mu$ M), and IBMX (500  $\mu$ M); or 6, IL-2 (100 U/ml) plus rapamycin (20 ng/ml). Results were calculated as percentage of maximal PKA activity when excess cAMP was added to the in vitro assay minus background phosphate incorporation into Kemptide as determined by adding excess PKA to the in vitro assay.

vation of the 90-kDa RSK (1, 10, 24, 25), showing that the PKA inhibitory effects are not global (Fig. 11B and C). Previous studies have shown that cPKC down-regulation does not affect the ability of activated T cells to respond to IL-2 (61, 73, 74, 91, 111). Likewise, IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is insensitive to phorbol ester-mediated cPKC down-regulation (not shown). We conclude from our studies that agents which increase cAMP, thus activating PKA, antagonize both cPKC-dependent and -independent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>.

**Activation of PKA inhibits IL-2-dependent activation of PI3K and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> but not MAP kinase or RSK.** Since we have provided evidence that IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is mediated by PI3K and since both the yeast and mammalian TORs resemble a lipid kinase similar to PI3K (15, 62), we examined whether cAMP or rapamycin blocked IL-2-dependent activation of PI3K. Under conditions in which IL-2 induced a severalfold activation of PI3K, activation of PKA resulted in inhibition of both PI3K (Fig. 12) and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (Fig. 11A and C). Under these conditions, rapamycin did not have a significant effect on PI3K (Fig. 12). Additionally, rapamycin in complex with FKBP-12 did not abolish PI3K activity measured in vitro (not shown). To determine if the IL-2R was no longer responsive to IL-2 in forskolin-IBMX-treated cells, we examined the IL-2-dependent activation of MAPK and RSK. IL-2 is a weak agonist of these signaling kinases, activating in the range of 2- to 10-fold (Fig. 11B and C and reference 38). For comparison, PMA activates these enzymes 30- to 100-fold in CTLL-20 cells, whereas IL-2 and PMA activate pp70<sup>S6k</sup> approximately equally (Fig. 11). Activation of PKA had no effect on IL-2-mediated activation of MAPKs or RSK (Fig. 11B and

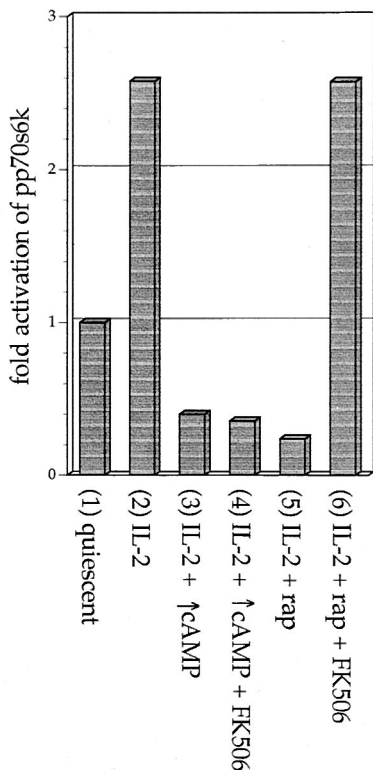


FIG. 10. Excess FK506 does not reverse cAMP-mediated inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Cells were starved of IL-2 for 16 h then not treated (quiescent) or treated as follows prior to lysis: 2, IL-2 (100 U/ml); 3, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (25 μM), and IBMX (500 μM); 4, IL-2 (100 U/ml), forskolin (25 μM), IBMX (500 μM), and FK506 (8 μg/ml); 5, IL-2 (100 U/ml) plus rapamycin (rap; 4 ng/ml); and 6, IL-2 (100 U/ml), rapamycin (4 ng/ml), and FK506 (8 μg/ml). The 2,000-fold molar excess of FK506 reversed rapamycin's inhibition of IL-2-stimulated pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity, whereas it had no effect on cAMP-induced inhibition.

C). Thus, the IL-2R is still capable of activating specific signal transduction pathways following forskolin treatment.

DISCUSSION

We provide evidence that the IL-2R-activated PI3K is coupled to the serine/threonine protein phosphorylation cascade involving the cytoplasmic and nuclear 70/85-kDa S6 kinases and the 40S ribosomal protein S6. In addition, we show that a complex negative cross-talk exists between cAMP-regulated signal transduction and this IL-2-stimulated path.

**A complex signalling network couples PI3K to pp70<sup>S6k</sup>.** Using genetic and biochemical approaches, we show that PI3K is an important modulator of IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Similar experiments have suggested that the PDGF and insulin receptors can also regulate pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity via PI3K (23, 27). However, the mechanism for activation of PI3K by IL-2 must be different from those used by these receptor tyrosine kinases, since the IL-2R has no intrinsic tyrosine kinase activity. Consistent with this notion is the observation that the activation of PKA antagonizes IL-2-dependent activation of PI3K and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> but has little effect on PDGF-stimulated activation of both of these enzymes in HepG2 cells ectopically expressing the PDGF receptor (45). Activation of PKA has also been shown by others not to affect PI3K activation by insulin, epidermal growth factor, or PDGF (14). Furthermore, in light of recent evidence that PKA antagonizes MAPK activation and cell growth in several cell culture systems (14, 29,

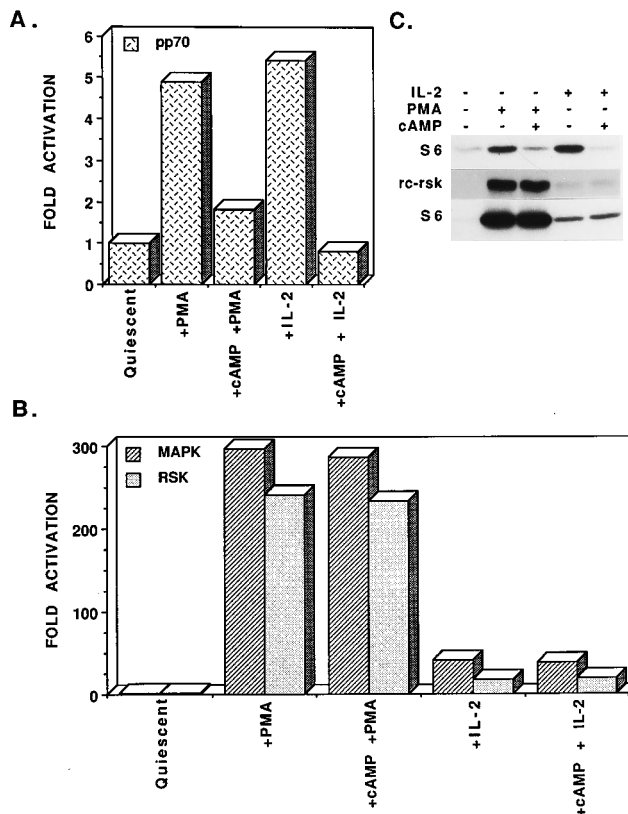


FIG. 11. Increased cAMP inhibits PKC- and IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> but has no effect on RSK or MAPK. CTLL-20 cells which had been starved of IL-2 for 16 h were (i) left untreated (quiescent) or (ii) pretreated or not with forskolin (25 μM)-IBMX (500 μM) for 10 min and stimulated with PMA (100 ng/ml) or IL-2 (100 U/ml) for either 45 min (pp70<sup>S6k</sup> immune complex assay) or 7.5 min (RSK and MAPK immune complex assays) prior to lysis. Activities of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (A) and of MAPK and RSK (B) are expressed as fold activation relative to quiescent cells. (C) Autoradiographs corresponding to the immune complex assays quantified in panels A and B, showing the phosphorylation of S6 substrate by pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (top) and RSK (bottom) and of recombinant RSK protein (rc-rsk) by MAPK (middle).

46, 96, 116), it is of interest that in the lymphoid cells used, the activation of MAPK or RSK by phorbol esters as well as the small activation induced by IL-2 are both unaffected by PKA activation. The different effects of PKA activation on the MAPK pathway may be due to the differential use of certain signalling molecules like cAMP in different cell types, a notion

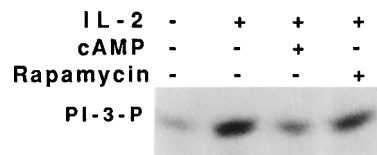


FIG. 12. Activation of PKA does, but rapamycin does not, inhibit IL-2-stimulated PI3K activity. PI3K activity from unstimulated and IL-2-stimulated CTLL-20 cells was immunoprecipitated from cell extracts with antiphosphotyrosine antibodies and measured as described in Materials and Methods. CTLL-20 cells were deprived of IL-2 for 12 h prior to treatment with cAMP-raising agents (forskolin [25 μM]-IBMX [500 μM]) or rapamycin (20 ng/ml) and/or stimulation with IL-2 (100 U/ml) for 7.5 min. Shown is a representative experiment. The means ± standard errors of the means (n = 4) of the fold PI3K activation relative to untreated controls were 2.65 ± 0.29 (+IL-2), 1.35 ± 0.10 (+cAMP +IL-2, a significant decrease at P < 0.05), and 2.08 ± 0.19 (+rapamycin +IL-2, not significant).



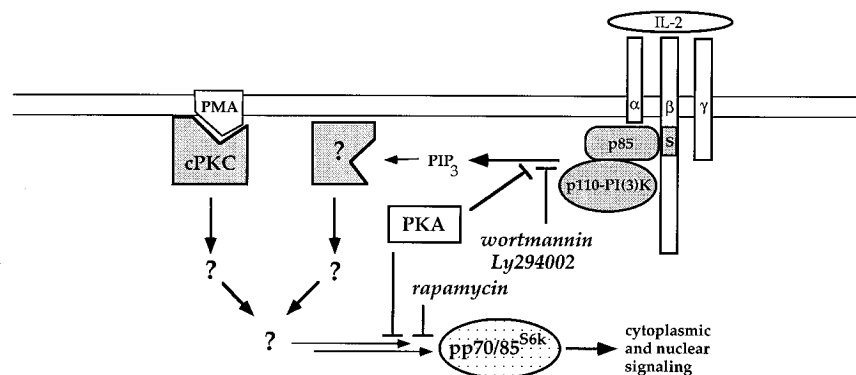


FIG. 13. Schematic representation of PI3K-dependent, cPKC-independent activation of pp70-S6 protein kinases. IL-2 binding to its receptor triggers the activation of PI3K and pp70/85<sup>S6k</sup> in lymphoid cells. The serine-rich region of the IL-2R  $\beta$  chain (S) is necessary for these activations to take place. The results presented in this study indicate that PI3K is an upstream regulator of pp70/85<sup>S6k</sup> and that the two proteins are linked through a cPKC-independent pathway. The question mark downstream of PIP<sub>3</sub> represents a possible mediator of signalling from PI3K to its downstream targets such as pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Such a mediator might be PKC $\zeta$  (78). Also as a result of the experiments described, it is established that the target of rapamycin is not PI3K. PIP<sub>3</sub>, phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-P<sub>3</sub>.

supported by the recent description of MAPK activation by cAMP in PC12 cells (44).

There are now several lines of experimental evidence linking inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in early G<sub>1</sub> with the failure of T cells to progress normally through G<sub>1</sub> and into S phase. In addition to published work with rapamycin (16, 28, 63), we show here that elevated cAMP-mediated inhibition of G<sub>1</sub> progression in IL-2-dependent T cells (56, 66) correlates with inhibition of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. Mutant T-cell lines in which cell proliferation is no longer sensitive to rapamycin have also been isolated. In these cells, pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is no longer inhibited by rapamycin (34). Further, incubation of T cells with dexamethasone inhibits IL-2-dependent T-cell proliferation and also blocks pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation via a transcriptional mechanism (76). Consistent with the data obtained for lymphoid cells, addition of rapamycin to 3T3 fibroblasts prolongs G<sub>1</sub> transit (28), and microinjection of anti-pp70<sup>S6k</sup> antibodies into rat fibroblasts also interferes with G<sub>1</sub> progression (65, 86). In spite of its potential relevance with regard to IL-2-dependent cell proliferation and T-cell immunosuppression, how pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity is regulated by IL-2 is not well understood.

Our data implicate PI3K and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> as participating in the regulation of lymphoid IL-2-dependent G<sub>1</sub> cell cycle progression in a cPKC-independent manner. This finding is consistent with reports that IL-2 does not activate or at least does not require phospholipase C $\gamma$  and its downstream signalling events, including mobilization of intracellular calcium and activation of diacylglycerol-dependent cPKCs, to promote cell proliferation (19, 61, 65, 73, 74, 86, 91, 109, 111). Our results should now make it possible to design experiments aimed at identifying the intermediates in this signalling pathway and to determine how they interact as occurred after the demonstration that c-Ras is upstream of the MAPK phosphorylation cascade (9, 31, 68).

**Wortmannin and rapamycin antagonize signal transduction to pp70<sup>S6k</sup> at distinct points.** In addition to the IL-2-dependent, PI3K-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>, we present evidence derived from the experiments with wortmannin that in two lymphoid cell types, cPKC-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is independent of PI3K (Fig. 13). Rapamycin, however, blocks pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation by either phorbol esters or IL-2 and does not interfere with PI3K activity. These results suggest that the two pathways leading to pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation converge downstream of cPKC and PI3K but upstream of the target for the rapamycin-and-FKBP complex (Fig. 13).

In addition to cPKC, it is possible that Vav, a Ras guanine nucleotide exchange factor, participates in phorbol ester signalling to pp70 in hematopoietic cells (48). In such a case, wortmannin would not, but rapamycin would, antagonize this pathway, and Vav would also have to be sensitive to phorbol ester-mediated down-regulation.

**cAMP-dependent protein kinase also interferes with IL-2 signalling to pp70<sup>S6k</sup> at multiple points without affecting MAPK or RSK activation.** Increasing intracellular cAMP levels has been described to strongly inhibit IL-2-mediated T-cell proliferation (56), and our data are consistent with the possibility that PKA activation antagonizes PI3K-mediated signalling in IL-2-responsive cells at at least two points. This multi-level cross-talk of PKA with a growth factor-activated pathway is reminiscent of the inhibitory effects of PKA activation on *Xenopus* oocyte maturation, which also occurs at multiple points (69).

Like rapamycin, PKA inhibits both the PI3K-dependent pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation in response to IL-2 and the cPKC-dependent pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation in response to phorbol ester. Unlike rapamycin, PKA is unlikely to act through the ubiquitous rapamycin receptors, the *cis-trans* peptidyl-prolyl isomerases referred to as FKBP, nor is the mechanism of rapamycin inhibition through PKA activation. Inhibition is also not via direct inhibition of cPKC, since phorbol ester is still capable of activating the MAPK pathway in forskolin-treated cells. Thus, PKA activation appears to target a downstream effector common to both PI3K- and cPKC-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (this is illustrated in Fig. 13).

We also provide evidence that PKA-mediated inhibition of IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> is, at least in part, the result of inhibition of PI3K. Although we have found that PI3K also participates in PDGF-mediated activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (27), increasing intracellular cAMP does not dramatically inhibit activation of PI3K by PDGF (45) and under similar conditions has only a small effect on pp70<sup>S6k</sup> (26). Thus, the exact mechanism of how elevated cAMP inhibits IL-2-regulated PI3K remains to be elucidated. Interestingly, the fact that PKA activation antagonizes IL-2-mediated activation of PI3K and has little effect on PDGF-, epidermal growth factor-, or insulin receptor-mediated activation of PI3K (14) may be a reflection of the different mechanisms of PI3K activation by these distinct receptor systems.

The characterization of the cAMP effect is important not only to enrich our knowledge of intracellular signal transduc-

tion but also because endogenous ligands, such as prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>, which elevate cAMP may play a role in the physiologic inhibitory modulation of the immune response (57). Elevated cAMP levels are also linked to thymocyte apoptosis and may serve in induction of anergy (33, 70). With regard to IL-2-dependent T-cell proliferation, the eventual definition of the steps necessary for progression through G<sub>1</sub>, and committal to cell division, should offer the potential to develop the means to therapeutically modulate immune responses.

**Do distinct lipid kinases participate in the regulation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>?** Recently, putative yeast and mammalian TORs have been isolated (13, 15, 52, 89, 90). On the basis of protein sequence data, these have been suggested to be related to mammalian and a second yeast PI3K, Vps34. However, a knockout of Vps34 completely abolishes yeast PI3K activity and production of phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate, whereas there is no biochemical or genetic or biological evidence that the TORs are indeed PI3Ks (15, 52, 53, 62, 95). To determine if mammalian, cytokine-activated PI3K was inhibited by the T-cell immunosuppressant rapamycin, we measured PI3K activity in T cells incubated with IL-2, in the absence or presence of rapamycin, in antiphosphotyrosine immune complexes. Under these conditions, pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activity was completely inhibited whereas PI3K activity was not inhibited either in rapamycin-treated cells or when rapamycin and FKBP12 were added to the in vitro assay. These results are consistent with our evidence that PI3K mediates IL-2-dependent activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> and that the PI3K-specific inhibitor wortmannin and rapamycin block IL-2-dependent signal transduction to pp70<sup>S6k</sup> at distinct points within this signalling system (Fig. 13).

**Roles of PI3K and pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in cell growth and metabolism.** In addition to many reports linking PI3K activity with cell proliferation and transformation (21, 82), there is growing evidence that this enzyme is involved in multiple cellular functions. There is also ample evidence supporting a role for pp70<sup>S6k</sup> in cell growth (16, 28, 34, 63, 65, 86). How these signalling enzymes are coupled is currently unclear. One of the PI3K cellular products, phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-P<sub>3</sub>, is proposed to be a good candidate for a second messenger with the potential to regulate signal transduction (3, 55, 99, 108). It has recently been shown to activate the phorbol ester-insensitive PKC  $\zeta$  isoform (PKC $\zeta$ ) in vitro (80). Thus, it is possible that PKC $\zeta$  mediates signalling from PI3K to pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. This possibility is particularly intriguing since PKC $\zeta$  is insensitive to phorbol ester-mediated down-regulation (reviewed in reference 80) and participates in the regulation of cell proliferation and *Xenopus* oocyte maturation (6, 32). The suggested role of PKC $\zeta$  as an upstream regulator of pp70<sup>S6k</sup> remains to be investigated. In addition, there are other phorbol ester-independent PKC isoforms that may be candidates for PI3K-regulated signal transducers (17). It is also conceivable that the protein kinase activity associated with PI3K (as opposed to its lipid kinase activity) (20, 64) may mediate activation of the pp70<sup>S6k</sup> signalling cascade. Since wortmannin effectively inhibits both the lipid and protein kinase activity of PI3K (22, 64), we cannot presently hypothesize by which mechanism signal transmission occurs. Yet another possibility is that other signalling molecules bind to PI3K that has been recruited to the membrane by receptor binding and that this molecule(s) in turn is responsible for pp70<sup>S6k</sup> activation. In this model, one would need to propose that binding of either wortmannin or LY294002 to the p110 catalytic subunit of PI3K would also antagonize its ability to interact with these other potential signal transducers. Now that we have established the basis for a direct molecular assay, these and other possibilities can be tested.

A role for PI3K in intracellular vesicular transport has been

suggested (18, 60). In *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, Vps34P, a putative homolog of the PI3K p110 catalytic subunit which possesses PI3K activity (95), is involved in the regulation of protein sorting through vesicular transport (53). Also, recent studies in mammalian cells using wortmannin indicate that PI3K participates in the regulation of histamine release in response to immunoglobulin E (117) and GLUT4 translocation to the plasma membrane in response to insulin (23, 58). Previous experiments indicate that rapamycin does not block either protein-sorting events (42, 110), thus excluding pp70<sup>S6k</sup> from their regulation. These and our results are consistent with the pathway regulated by PI3K bifurcating at some point between the PI3K and the TOR. Alternatively, instead of participating in a linear pathway, PI3K and mammalian TOR may reside in parallel pathways that are both required for activation of pp70<sup>S6k</sup>. It is clear that continued characterization of this signalling system will provide important information regarding the IL-2R signal transduction as well as the regulation of the T-cell cycle.

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