Biochemical and Immunochemical Analysis of Rat Brain Dynamin Interaction with Microtubules and Organelles In Vivo and In Vitro

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Abstract. We have purified a 100-kD rat brain protein that has microtubule cross-linking activity in vitro, and have determined that it is dynamin, a putative microtubule-associated motility protein. We find that dynamin appears to be specific to neuronal tissue where it is present in both soluble and particulate tissue fractions. In the cytosol it is abundant, representing as much as 1.5% of the total extractable protein. Dynamin appears to be in particulate material due to association with a distinct subcellular membrane fraction. Surprisingly, by immunofluorescence analysis of PC12 cells we find that dynamin is distributed uniformly throughout the cytoplasm with no apparent microtubule association in either interphase, mitotic, or taxol-treated cells. Upon nerve growth factor (NGF) induction of PC12 cell differentiation into neurons, dynamin levels increase approximately twofold. In the cell body, the distribution of dynamin again remains clearly distinct from that of tubulin, and in axons, where microtubules are numerous and ordered into bundles, dynamin staining is sparse and punctate. On the other hand, in the most distal domain of growth cones, where there are relatively few microtubules, dynamin is particularly abundant. The dynamin staining of neurites is abolished by extraction of the cells with detergent under conditions that preserve microtubules, suggesting that dynamin in neurites is associated with membranes. We conclude that dynamin is a neuronal protein that is specifically associated with as yet unidentified vesicles. It is possible, but unproved, that it may link vesicles to microtubules for transport in differentiated axons.

Microtubules frequently perform functions that require their coalescence into ordered arrays, and their specific association with a variety of subcellular organelles. These linkages most likely result from the specific association of the polymer with proteins of specialized function.

Among the brain-derived microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs), some have been reported to induce linkage between microtubules and intermediate filaments (Bloom and Vallee, 1983) or with F-actin (Griffith and Pollard, 1978). The well-characterized MAPs, tau and MAP2, induce microtubule bundles after cDNA overexpression or microinjection in cultured cells (Kanai et al., 1989; Lewis et al., 1989), and, for MAP2, a putative carboxy terminal domain that could function in dimerization has been suggested as the cause of this bundling effect (Lewis and Cowan, 1990). Other MAPs have also been reported to cross-link between microtubules in vitro (Aamodt et al., 1989; Campbell et al., 1989; Hollenbeck and Chapman, 1986; Turner and Margolis, 1984).

In addition to those MAPs that apparently play structural roles on microtubules by stabilizing and organizing the polymers in the cell, others like kinesin and dynein appear to be involved in microtubule-directed organelle movement (Schroer et al., 1988; Paschal and Vallee, 1987). Biochemical and immunofluorescence studies have identified kinesin as an important mechanochemical enzyme involved in microtubule-directed organelle movement (Vale et al., 1985; Hollenbeck, 1989; Pfister et al., 1989). Additionally, several proteins have been identified in a number of lower eukaryotes, and Drosophila, with presumed motility functions and substantial domain homologies to kinesin (Enos and Morris, 1990; Meluh and Rose, 1990; Endow et al., 1990; McDonald and Goldstein, 1990). Cytoplasmic dynein is also a likely candidate for a variety of intracellular microtubule-based motility events, ranging from axonal vesicular transport to mitotic chromosome segregation (Paschal and Vallee, 1987; Pfarr et al., 1990; Steuer et al., 1990). Recently, Shpetner and Vallee (1989) have isolated a microtubule bundling protein dynamin, which they characterized as a third type of putative microtubule-based motor protein.

Several proteins form cross-links between microtubules and appear to induce ATP driven interpolymer sliding in vitro. Both dynein, the motor protein of axonemes, and dynamin have the capacity to link between microtubule polymers in vitro (Goodeough and Heuser, 1984; Shpetner and Vallee, 1989) and to cause one polymer to slide relative to another (Sale and Satir, 1977; Shpetner and Vallee, 1989).
It is thus evident that microtubule cross-linking may be generated by proteins with other than purely structural roles. In the case of dynamin, it is clear that both microtubule cross-linking and motor behavior are interdependent processes with physiological meaning for flagellar motility. Cross-linking by associated proteins can involve apparently specific interactions with microtubules. Both the cytoplasmic homologue of dynein, MAP1C (Paschal et al., 1987), and dynamin (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989) appear to generate ordered microtubule bundles (Amos, 1989; Shpetner and Vallee, 1989).

We have previously demonstrated extensive bundling of rat brain-derived microtubules in the presence of the microtubule stabilizing drug taxol, and we have shown that the activity was ATP sensitive and correlated with the presence of a 100-kD doublet protein (Turner and Margolis, 1984). It is evident that the characteristics of this protein and those of the recently described dynamin are strikingly similar. We have examined this possibility and now confirm that the 100-kD protein we described is a rat brain homologue of dynamin.

In this report, we show that rat brain dynamin may be purified by a rapid procedure, incorporating an N-6-linked ATP affinity column that binds dynamin with substantial discrimination. We confirm the previous report (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989) that dynamin cross-links microtubules in an ATP sensitive manner, and copurifies with microtubules through in vitro assembly cycles.

Additionally, we have generated a specific polyclonal antiserum against rat brain dynamin. We use the antibody to demonstrate that dynamin is a major neuronal protein and is substantially membrane associated. By immunofluorescence assay, it is shown that dynamin has no apparent association with microtubules in the cell body or in mitotic spindles. It further shows no close association with microtubules in axons but rather is present as detergent sensitive foci in axons and accumulates in growth cones. These data together might suggest a neurite specific function for dynamin in the motility of as yet unidentified vesicles upon microtubules in axons but evidence for specific association with microtubules is weak at best. The role of dynamin as a motor protein is still unresolved. Dynamin does not induce ATP dependent sliding of microtubules on coverslips (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989), nor does it exhibit ATPase activity in the absence of crude extract factors (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989). The possibility therefore exists that the in vitro association of dynamin with microtubules may be irrelevant to its true intracellular function.

**Materials and Methods**

**Microtubule Protein Preparation**

Fresh rat brains were homogenized in MME buffer (100 mM Mes, 1 mM MgSO₄, 1 mM EGTA, 0.02% sodium azide, pH 6.8) at 2 ml/g of tissue. After centrifugation at 4°C for 30 min at 150,000 g, microtubule assembly was induced in the clarified supernatant by adding 10% (vol/vol) DMSO and warming to 30°C. The resulting microtubules were collected by centrifugation through 1 ml of MME containing 20% glycerol (vol/vol) for 30 min at 150,000 g (30°C).

Pure tubulin was prepared from beef brain microtubule protein that was recycled according to previously published procedures (Margolis et al., 1986). Tubulin was prepared from three cycle-purified microtubule protein by passage through a phosphocellulose chromatography column (Williams and Detrich, 1979) and a subsequent cycle of assembly (in MME buffer plus 20% DMSO and 0.25 mM GTP) at 30°C.

**Dynamin Purification**

Dynamin was purified by first assembling rat brain microtubules from the crude extract in MME buffer. Pelleted microtubules were disassembled by shearing with a 25 gauge needle and exposure to 4°C for 30 min, and the resulting solution was centrifuged at 12,000 g for 10 min. The supernatant was loaded onto a DEAE-cellulose (Whatman Inc., Clifton, NJ) column and the resulting flow-through fraction was then loaded onto an ATP-agarose column with N-6 linkage (No. A9264; Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO). Dynamin was eluted with 0.2 M NaCl in MME. Peak fractions were drop frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −70°C.

**Immunofluorescence Microscopy of Individual Microtubules**

Samples containing taxol-stabilized pure tubulin microtubules and dynamin on samples of the rat brain crude extract (lanes 1), and of dynamin purified as described above (lanes 4). (B) Western blot using a rabbit antiserum to the 100-kD protein produced in our laboratory and, (C), a Western blot of the same protein samples probed with antiserum to dynamin produced in Dr. Vallee's laboratory. The gel positions of tubulin (T), HMW-MAPs (M), and dynamin (D) are indicated.
Figure 2. Immunofluorescence assay of microtubule cross-linking by ATP-agarose-purified dynamin. Microtubules were assembled from purified tubulin (0.8 mg/ml) with GTP (0.1 mM) in MME buffer plus 10% DMSO for 20 min at 30°C. After adding taxol (20 μM) to stabilize the microtubules, 1 μl aliquots were incubated for 15 min at 30°C with 9 μl of ATP-agarose-purified dynamin (0.015 mg/ml final concentration) and with or without Mg2+-ATP (5 mM). Samples were fixed at 30°C in MME buffer containing 20% glycerol and 1% glutaraldehyde. After dilution, fixed microtubules were spun onto glass coverslips and processed for immunofluorescence microscopy with anti-β tubulin serum as described in Materials and Methods. Samples without Mg2+-ATP are shown in A; with Mg2+-ATP in B. Bar, 2 μm.

Cell Culture and Immunofluorescence Microscopy

Rat neuronal PCI2 cells were grown on a collagen-treated substrate in DME medium plus 5% FCS and 1% heat-treated horse serum. Cells were induced to differentiate with 100 ng/ml nerve growth factor (NGF) (Sigma Chemical Co.), and after 3–7 d in NGF they were either lysed in SDS containing buffer and immediately heated to 100°C (for subsequent electrophoretic analysis) or prepared for immunofluorescence microscopy by fixation at 37°C for 15 min in MME buffer containing 2.5% paraformaldehyde, 0.1% glutaraldehyde. Taxol (obtained from Dr. Saffness, National Institutes of Health) treatment of cells was at 10 μM for 18 h before fixation. After permeabilization with 0.2% Triton X-100 for 15 min, coverslips were immersed in PBS containing 0.5 mg/ml sodium borohydride, rinsed in PBS containing 0.05% Tween 20, and blocked with 2% PBS before incubation with antibodies. The anti-α and anti-β tubulin sera (diluted 1:250 in PBS plus 1 mg/ml BSA) used were mouse ascites fluids from Amersham Corp. (Arlington Heights, IL). The antidynamin serum was an affinity-purified rabbit serum. Polyclonal antidynamin sera were produced by injection of electrophoretically purified 100-kD antigen as previously described (Margolis et al., 1986) and affinity-purified antiserum to dynamin was obtained by exposure of nitrocellulose strips from blots containing electrophoretically separated dynamin (first purified by DEAE cellulose and ATP-agarose chromatography), to dynamin antiserum, and removal of the dynamin-specific antibodies with 50 mM glycine-HCl, pH 2.2. Control affinity-purified antiserum was obtained from nitrocellulose blots by washing strips that did not contain dynamin. Coverslips were then incubated with 1:250 diluted rhodamine-conjugated goat anti-rabbit (TAGO, Inc.) and then in sequence, rhodamine-conjugated swine anti–goat sera, followed by 2% normal goat serum and 1:250 diluted fluorescein-conjugated goat anti–mouse serum (TAGO, Inc.). Coverslips were mounted on glass slides with PBS containing 90% glycerol and 50 mg/ml N-propylgallate, and viewed with a Nikon microscope equipped for confocal microscopy (MRC-500; Bio-Rad Laboratories, Cambridge, MA).

Fractionation and Analysis of Synaptosomal Lysate

Synaptosomal material was obtained from rat brain (Huttner et al., 1983), and after hypo-osmotic lysis, was fractionated by sucrose density gradient
Figure 3. Determination of tissue-specific dynamin distribution by immunoblotting. Crude tissue extracts were obtained from brain (lane 1), spinal cord (lane 2), liver (lane 3), kidney (lane 4), lung (lane 5), heart (lane 6), and muscle (lane 7) of adult rats and subjected to SDS-PAGE (A) and immunoblotted with antiserum to dynamin (B). Positions of molecular mass markers (210, 116, 97, 66, 45, and 30 kD) are indicated at the side of the gel and the position of dynamin on the blot is indicated with the letter D.

We have now devised a simple three step purification procedure that incorporates the ATP affinity column, and that yields a nearly homogeneous 100-kD protein doublet (Fig. 1A). In the first step, soluble 100-kD protein associates and copellets with microtubules assembled from a rat brain crude extract (Fig. 1A, lanes 1 and 2). The resolubilized pellet is then applied to a DEAE ion exchange column, from which we recover the 100-kD doublet, but no other major MAPs (i.e., MAP1 and MAP2), in the flow-through eluate (Fig. 1A, lane 3). This eluate is then applied to an N-6 linkage ATP affinity column, and the 100-kD doublet is recovered from this column as a near homogeneous preparation at 0.2 M salt (Fig. 1A, lane 4). As predicted from the previous study (Turner and Margolis, 1984), the three step purified 100-kD protein cross-links pure tubulin microtubules in vitro in an ATP sensitive manner (Fig. 2, A and B).

We have developed a rabbit polyclonal antiserum against electrophoretically purified 100-kD protein. On Western blots, this serum recognizes a single doublet antigen in crude rat brain extract (Fig. 1B, lane 1), of the same apparent molecular mass as the three step purified antigen (Fig. 1B, lane 4).

The similarity of mass and cross-linking properties of this 100-kD protein to the recently described beef brain microtubule motor protein, dynamin (Shpetner and Vale, 1989), suggested that the 100-kD protein might be rat dynamin. We have used antisera to probe the relationship between these proteins. For this purpose, a blot of crude rat brain extract (Fig. 1C, lane 1) and three step purified antigen (Fig. 1C, lane 4) was sent to the laboratory of Dr. Vale where it was probed with antiserum raised against dynamin.

Results

Purification of a 100-kD Rat Brain Antigen and Its Identification as Dynamin

This laboratory has reported that a protein doublet of 100 kD is highly enriched on microtubules assembled in vitro from rat brain tissue in the presence of taxol (Turner and Margolis, 1984). Further, the presence of the 100-kD protein correlates with ATP sensitive bundling of isolated microtubules (Turner and Margolis, 1984). The ATP sensitive bundling led us to suspect the 100-kD protein might bind with high affinity to ATP. We therefore have made use of ATP affinity matrices for the purification of this 100-kD species.
Figure 4. Analysis of dynamin distribution in rat brain soluble, particulate and microtubule fractions. Rat brain homogenate (lane 1) was centrifuged at low speed (3,000 g) for 10 min at 4°C. The resulting pellet was extracted with 2 vol of cold MME buffer before electrophoresis (lane 3). The low speed supernatant fraction (lane 2) was centrifuged at medium speed (18,000 g) for 20 min at 4°C. The resulting pellet was resuspended in MME buffer and subjected to electrophoresis (lane 5). The medium speed supernatant (lane 4) was centrifuged at high speed (150,000 g) for 30 min at 4°C. The resulting pellet was resuspended in MME buffer and subjected to electrophoresis (lane 7). The high speed supernatant (lane 6) was incubated at 30°C for 30 min with 10% DMSO to assemble microtubules and centrifuged again at high speed for 30 min at 30°C. The resulting supernatant and pellet fractions were subjected to electrophoresis (lanes 8 and 9, respectively). The Coomassie-stained gel is shown in A, and a duplicate immunoblot, probed with our rabbit polyclonal antiserum to dynamin is shown in B. Positions of molecular mass markers (210, 116, 97, 66, 45, and 30 kD) are indicated at the side of the gel and the position of dynamin on the blot is indicated with the letter D is shown in B. In C, microtubules were assembled from purified tubulin (0.8 mg/ml) in MME buffer containing 0.1 mM GTP and 10% DMSO, for 20 min at 30°C. After adding 20 μM taxol to stabilize microtubules, 17.5 μl microtubule aliquots were added to 82.5 μl of purified dynamin (~0.015 mg/ml final concentration). Samples were incubated for 20 min at 30°C with or without 5 mM Mg2+-ATP, and centrifuged at 150,000 g for 30 min. Supernatants (lanes 1 and 3) and pellets (lanes 2 and 4) were subjected to PAGE and stained with Coomassie blue. Lanes 1 and 2, minus ATP; lanes 3 and 4, plus ATP. Positions of α and β tubulin (T) and dynamin (D) are indicated.

distribution of rat brain dynamin activity

To determine the tissue distribution of dynamin, we have analyzed extracts from seven different rat tissues by Western blot assay using the polyclonal serum (Fig. 3). Assaying whole cell extracts that were loaded on an equal protein basis (Fig. 3 A), we found high levels of dynamin in both brain and spinal cord, while all other tissues tested negative for the presence of dynamin (Fig. 3 B). A ∼60-kD antigen is also present in these samples. This antigen is probably human keratin, since its detection is dependent on the presence of mercaptoethanol in the sample buffer (Shapiro, 1987). Affinity-purified dynamin antibody, used below for immuno-fluorescence assays, does not recognize this 60-kD band. The dynamin epitope(s) recognized by this polyclonal antibody are clearly neuron specific, but it cannot be ruled out that other isotypes of the protein exist in other tissues.

Our polyclonal serum has further allowed us to determine...
the distribution of dynamin upon subcellular fractionation of rat brain tissue. By performing sequential centrifugation of whole rat brain tissue homogenate at low, medium, and high speed we have found, surprisingly, that dynamin is relatively abundant in all three particulate fractions (Fig. 4). After a low speed (3,000 g) centrifugation of the homogenate, ~70% of the dynamin was recovered in the particulate fraction (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 3). The low speed supernatant (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 2) was centrifuged at medium speed (18,000 g). A substantial proportion of the dynamin was again recovered in the particulate fraction (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 5). The medium speed supernatant (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 4) was centrifuged at high speed (150,000 g). Again, dynamin was recovered in the particulate fraction (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 7). The high speed supernatant (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 6) was incubated at 30°C for 30 min with 10% DMSO, to assemble microtubules, and centrifuged again at high speed. Nearly all the supernatant dynamin was then recovered along with the microtubules in the pelleted fraction (Fig. 4, A and B, lane 9). This soluble dynamin associates quantitatively with microtubules through successive in vitro assembly–disassembly cycles (data not shown). We have also observed quantitative retention of soluble purified dynamin on microtubules in the presence of millimolar ATP (Fig. 4 C), in accord with results of Shpetner and Vallee (1989), despite the relaxation of dynamin dependent microtubule bundling at this ATP concentration (Fig. 2 B; Shpetner and Vallee, 1989).

A substantial proportion of rat brain dynamin is thus in a particulate form. As dynamin is suggested to be a putative microtubule motor protein (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989), it was of interest to assay for its potential membrane association. We began analysis by isolation of rat brain synaptosomes, which contain high levels of dynamin. Upon hypoosmotic lysis of a synaptosome preparation, we recovered synaptosome associated dynamin in a high speed particulate fraction (data not shown). This material was fractionated further by sucrose density gradient centrifugation (data not shown), and finally by controlled pore glass bead chromatography (Fig. 5). Western blot analysis of the column fraction demonstrates that dynamin is specifically associated with a subfraction of membranous material distinct from the synaptic vesicle peak (Fig. 5 B). This conclusion is drawn both on the basis of the absence of synapsin from the dynamin rich fraction (Fig. 5 B) and the finding that the dynamin rich fraction consists primarily of large membranous material (Fig. 5 C), in contrast to the small vesicles comprising the synapsin rich fraction (Fig. 5 D).
buffer containing 0.5% SDS and, after sonication, aliquots were
analyzed by SDS-PAGE (A) and immunoblotting with affinity-purified antidynamin serum (B). Lane 1, 35 μg cell lysate, minus
NGF; lane 2, 43 μg cell lysate, plus NGF. The position of dynamin
on the blot is indicated by the letter D.

**Immufluorescent Localization of Dynamin in PC12 Cells**

By Western blot analysis, we have determined that dynamin
is expressed in PC12 cells and is present in whole lysates of
cells grown both in the presence and absence of NGF (Fig.
6), and that dynamin is the only antigen detectable upon
probing the nitrocellulose blot with affinity-purified antiserum
to dynamin. Exposure of the cells to NGF induces neu-
rine outgrowth (Greene and Tischler, 1976) and increases the
dynamin level approximately twofold (Fig. 6 B).

We have applied the antidynamin antibody, affinity
purified from nitrocellulose blots, for immunofluorescence
analysis of intracellular dynamin distribution (Figs. 7-10). At
the earliest stages of neurite extension dynamin was detect-
able as a nearly uniform punctate stain throughout the
cytosol (Fig. 7 A) in contrast to the distinctly filamentous
tubulin staining (Fig. 7 B). The staining with antidynamin
antibody is, however, specific since substitution with a nega-
tive control antiserum (see Materials and Methods) yielded
no signal (Fig. 7 E). The difference between dynamin and
tubulin staining was particularly apparent in the leading
ruffles of growth cones where dynamin was very abundant
relative to tubulin (Fig. 7, A and B, arrows). We have neither
dynamin staining, on the other hand, remained uni-
formly punctate and was clearly not influenced by the dra-
matic taxol-induced microtubule rearrangements (Fig. 8 A).

The punctate nature of the dynamin stain in PC12 cells and
the detection of dynamin in particulate fractions from PC12
cells (data not shown) suggest an association of PC12 cell
dynamin with cellular membranes. Further, the punctate
staining of PC12 growth cones by dynamin antibody (Fig.
7) correlates with evidence that dynamin is present in
synaptosome-derived membrane fractions (Fig. 5), suggest-
ing that dynamin is present in synaptosomes as a membrane-
associated antigen.

To distinguish whether the bulk of the dynamin staining
in axons is associated with membrane surfaces, we have
detergent-extracted cells before fixation. Detergent treat-
ment of cells before fixation generally results in the extrac-
tion of membrane-associated antigens and concomitant loss
of immunofluorescent staining (Brown et al., 1976; Hollen-
beck, 1989; Pfister et al., 1989), whereas detergent extrac-
tion, performed in a microtubule stabilizing buffer (Osborn
and Weber, 1982), has no effect on microtubules or its as-
associated antitubulin staining. Extraction of PC12 cells, after
4 d (Fig. 9, A and B) or 7 d (data not shown) in NGF, with
0.2% Triton had no significant effect on antibody staining of
microtubules (Fig. 9 B), but substantially attenuated the dy-
namin stain (Fig. 9 A). After extraction, neuritic extensions
were not stained at all (Fig. 9 A, arrows) while, curiously,
cell bodies retained much of their uniform dynamin distri-
bution.

In view of its ability to cross-link and slide on microtu-
bules, dynamin would seem to be an attractive candidate for
an anaphase B mitotic motor protein. Since the epitopes rec-
ognized by our polyclonal antibodies are restricted to neu-
ronal tissue (Fig. 3), we probed for dynamin in the mitotic
spindles of PC12 cells in culture. After release from nocoda-
zole block, PC12 cells in mitosis were fixed and stained with
antidynamin (Fig. 10 A) and antitubulin (Fig. 10 B) antisera.
While mitotic spindles are clearly visible with the antitubu-
lin antibody, staining of spindles with antidynamin antisem-
rum was not apparent. Instead, dynamin appears as a uni-
form punctate background characteristic of its appearance in
the cell bodies of interphase cells. Although a dynamin homologue may function in these cells in the mitotic spindle,
it is clear that the neuronal dynamin is not spindle as-
associated.
Figure 7. Immunofluorescence analysis of dynamin distribution in PC12 cells. Cells were cultured on coverslips with NGF for 4 d and processed for immunofluorescence microscopy as described in Materials and Methods. All coverslips were stained with anti-α and anti-β tubulin sera (B, D, and F). Staining with affinity-purified antisera to dynamin is shown in A and C, while staining with negative control affinity purified antisera (see Materials and Methods) is shown in E. In A and B, the arrows indicate growth cones of budding neurites. In C and D, the open arrow indicates a growth cone, the solid arrow indicates a neurite. Bar, 5 μm. The inserts in A and B represent higher magnification images of the portion of the cell labeled by the solid arrow.

Discussion

We have purified and characterized a rat brain 100-kD doublet protein that associates with microtubules in vitro and induces polymer bundling. This confirms the postulate in our previous work (Turner and Margolis, 1984) that microtubule bundling in vitro is associated with and probably a consequence of the specific presence of a 100-kD protein. We have determined that this protein is dynamin, a 100-kD MAP first isolated from beef brain, which has been reported to induce microtubule cross-linking in vitro (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989). The 100-kD protein described here is dynamin as determined by cross-identification on Western blots and microtubule binding properties. Dynamin is very abundant in neuronal tissue (as much as 1.5% of the total soluble protein content), but it is not apparent as an antigen in non-neuronal tissue. This suggests that dynamin plays a role in processes specific for neuronal cells.

We have developed a simple purification protocol to obtain dynamin from rat brain. As one step in the procedure,
Figure 8. Immunofluorescence analysis of dynamin distribution in taxol-treated PC12 cells. Cells were cultured on coverslips with NGF for 4 d and processed for immunofluorescence microscopy following taxol treatment for 18 h, as described in Materials and Methods. The staining with affinity-purified antiserum to dynamin is shown in A, while staining with anti-α and anti-β tubulin sera is shown in B. The arrow indicates an area of extensive microtubule bundling. Bar, 5 μm.

Figure 9. Loss of dynamin immunofluorescence staining by detergent extraction of PC12 cells. After culture in NGF for 4 d, cells were extracted with MME buffer containing 4% PEG and 0.2% Triton X-100 for 3 min at 37°C, and then processed for immunofluorescence microscopy as described in Materials and Methods. The staining with affinity-purified antiserum to dynamin is shown in A, while staining with anti-α and anti-β tubulin sera is shown in B. Arrows indicate neurites. Bar, 5 μm.

Figure 10. Dynamin and tubulin immunofluorescence staining of mitotic PC12 cells. Cells were grown in media without NGF and incubated overnight with 40 ng/ml nocodazole. Cells were fixed and processed for immunofluorescence microscopy, as described in Materials and Methods following mitotic recovery 45 min after removal of the nocodazole. Staining with the affinity-purified antiserum to dynamin is shown in A, while staining with anti-α and anti-β tubulin sera is shown in B. Arrows indicate mitotic spindles. Bar, 5 μm.
we use an N-6 linked ATP affinity column that is impressively discriminative for dynamin. On applying a brain crude extract to this column (not shown), we have found that dynamin is by far the most abundant protein eluting in the column specific fraction.

We have also developed a polyclonal antisera against dynamin and have used it both to study the association of dynamin with subcellular fractions in vitro and to determine the distribution of dynamin in cultured cells by immunofluorescence analysis. Dynamin is abundant in the particulate fraction of neuronal tissue and is apparently associated with membranous material. Immunocytochemistry shows dynamin present in punctate arrays in cells, presumably associated with organelles. The possibility that dynamin may act as a motor protein in mitosis (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989) is not supported by immunofluorescence evidence, which shows that dynamin, like kinesin (Hollenbeck, 1989; Pfister et al., 1989) but unlike cytoplasmic dynein (Pfarr et al., 1990; Steuer et al., 1990) or STOP (Margolis et al., 1990), remains dispersed in the cytoplasm during mitosis. This observation does not of course preclude the possibility that a motor protein substantially homologous to dynamin might perform such a function, but, if so, it does not share epitopes with the neuronal dynamin that we have purified and used for polyclonal antibody production.

Dynamin levels increase approximately twofold after NGF treatment of PC12 cells, in contrast to MAPs such as MAP2 and tau, which increase ~10-12-fold upon NGF treatment (Drubin et al., 1985). These MAPs appear to be structural components of neuronal microtubules, since they are uniformly distributed on polymers (Bloom and Vallee, 1983). These MAPs appear capable of inducing microtubule bundles (Lewis et al., 1989; Kanai et al., 1989), apparently through dimerization (Lewis and Cowan, 1990). This capacity for bundling has been proposed to play a role in the observed bundling of microtubules in axons and dendrites (Lewis et al., 1989; Kanai et al., 1989). Purified dynamin also induces microtubule bundling in vitro, forming bundles that are ATP sensitive. However, it appears unlikely that dynamin is responsible for microtubule bundling in the axon, since it is sparsely represented among the bundled axonal microtubules.

Dynamin appears punctate and randomly dispersed in the cytoplasm, and displays no discernible interaction with the microtubule array of the cell body. Similarly, another presumptive microtubule motor protein, kinesin, appears to be distributed in a dispersed and punctate pattern in the cytoplasm, but kinesin also shows some apparent association along microtubules (Pfister et al., 1989; Hollenbeck, 1989). Similarly, in some instances (particularly in axonal branch points near growth cones), immunofluorescence suggests sporadic colocalization of dynamin with microtubules. Therefore, if dynamin can specifically associate with microtubules in the cell, it would appear to result from a specific activation during PC12 cell differentiation. Even in the most favorable cases, however, colocalization of dynamin with microtubules is very limited and most of the protein is dispersed in a punctate in distribution throughout the cell. Any association of dynamin with microtubules must be transitory, since, upon taxol-induced rearrangement and bundling of the microtubules, the dynamin remains uniformly dispersed and punctate. This contrasts with MAP1A, which remains superimposed with the microtubules upon taxol treatment of PC12 cells (Bloom et al., 1984). In view of the in vitro bundling of microtubules by dynamin, our finding that the neuritic microtubule bundles contain only very little dynamin, if any, is surprising. Of this dynamin only a small fraction can be meaningfully associated with microtubules, since the punctate dynamin evident on neurites is entirely detergent extractable whereas, under these conditions, microtubules and many of their associated proteins remain. Our finding that dynamin is present in rat brain particulate fractions is in agreement with the apparent preferential association of dynamin with membranes in axons.

In distal portions of neurites dynamin is relatively abundant, and it appears in growth cones beyond the region containing microtubules. The abundance of dynamin at these sites may be due to an accumulation of dynamin containing vesicles after their transport along the neurite microtubules. We have not yet determined if dynamin is directly involved in transport of these vesicles. As dynamin does not copurify with classical synaptic vesicles, the nature of the dynamin-rich organelles visualized in the cell remains to be determined.

In summary, despite strong evidence for association of dynamin containing vesicles with microtubules in axons, the quantitative association of soluble dynamin with microtubules in vitro and the reported in vitro capacity of dynamin to act as a motor protein on microtubules in the presence of other soluble factors (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989) would argue that it could operate as a motor protein for the transport of specific as yet unidentified vesicles on microtubules toward the axonal synapse where these dynamin containing vesicles seem to accumulate. Any apparent motor function would appear to be specific to neuronal cells and to overlap with kinesin function (Vale et al., 1985; Schroer et al., 1988). It is possible that dynamin and kinesin move different sets of vesicles toward synapses, or that they are distinct for reasons of physiological regulation of vesicle traffic. We would caution against premature judgement, however, with respect to dynamin motor function on microtubules. Unlike dynein or kinesin, dynamin does not move microtubules on glass substrates (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989), nor does it exhibit ATPase activity in the absence of crude factors (Shpetner and Vallee, 1989). Our failure to find it convincingly associated with microtubules in vivo leaves us that much more skeptical as to its potential role in microtubule-based motility, or in microtubule bundling in vivo.

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