Retention of Glucose Units Added by the UDP-GLC:Glycoprotein Glucosyltransferase Delays Exit of Glycoproteins from the Endoplasmic Reticulum

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Abstract. It has been proposed that the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase, an endoplasmic reticulum enzyme that only glucosylates improperly folded glycoproteins forming protein-linked Glc\(_1\)Man\(_{6,9}\)GlcNAc\(_2\) from the corresponding unglycosylated species, participates together with lectin-like chaperones that recognize monoglucosylated oligosaccharides in the control mechanism by which cells only allow passage of properly folded glycoproteins to the Golgi apparatus. Trypanosoma cruzi cells were used to test this model as in trypanosomatids addition of glucosidase inhibitors leads to the accumulation of only monoglucosylated oligosaccharides, their formation being catalyzed by the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase. In all other eukaryotic cells the inhibitors produce underglycosylation of proteins and/or accumulation of oligosaccharides containing two or three glucose units. Cruzipain, a lysosomal proteinase having three potential N-glycosylation sites, two at the catalytic domain and one at the COOH-terminal domain, was isolated in a glucosylated form from cells grown in the presence of the glucosidase II inhibitor 1-deoxynojirimycin. The oligosaccharides present at the single glycosylation site of the COOH-terminal domain were glucosylated in some cruzipain molecules but not in others, this result being consistent with an asynchronous folding of glycoproteins in the endoplasmic reticulum. In spite of not affecting cell growth rate or the cellular general metabolism in short and long term incubations, 1-deoxynojirimycin caused a marked delay in the arrival of cruzipain to lysosomes. These results are compatible with the model proposed by which monoglucosylated glycoproteins may be transiently retained in the endoplasmic reticulum by lectin-like anchors recognizing monoglucosylated oligosaccharides.

Transfer of the oligosaccharide Glc\(_1\)Man\(_6\)GlcNAc\(_2\) from a dolichol-P-P derivative to nascent polypeptide chains is followed by the immediate removal of the glucose units. Two glucoisidases have been described to be involved in this process: glucosidase I, an \(\alpha(1,2)\) glucosidase that removes the more external residues and glucosidase II, an \(\alpha(1,3)\)glucosidase responsible for removal of the other two units. All reactions mentioned above have been described to occur in the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum. One or two mannose units may be cleaved in the same subcellular location (Fig. 1 a) (21).

An additional processing reaction also occurring in the endoplasmic reticulum is the transient glucosylation of high mannose-type, protein-linked oligosaccharides: as described to occur in mammalian cells Glc\(_1\)Man\(_\alpha\)GlcNAc\(_2\), Glc\(_1\)Man\(_\alpha\)GlcNAc\(_2\) and Glc\(_1\)Man\(_\alpha\)GlcNAc\(_2\) are formed from the corresponding unglycosylated compounds (Fig. 1 a) (32, 33). The newly added glucose units are immediately removed by glucosidase II, as the glucose are linked to the same mannose and with the same bond as in Glc\(_1\)Man\(_\alpha\)GlcNAc\(_2\)-P-P-dolichol. The glucosylating enzyme (UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase) has been detected in mammalian, plant, fungal, and protozoan cells (38). The enzyme appeared to be a soluble protein of the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum and to have a remarkable property: it glucosylated in cell-free assays denatured glycoproteins whereas native species or glycopeptides were not glucosylated (12, 36, 38-40). Recognition by the glucosyltransferase of a protein domain only exposed in denatured conformations was required for the transfer reaction (36). The glucosyltransferase behaved, therefore, as a sensor of unfolded, partially folded and misfolded conformations.

Proteins entering the secretory pathway acquire their final tertiary and in some cases also quaternary structures in the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum. Species that fail to fold properly are retained in that subcellular location where they are proteolytically degraded (24). A very stringent quality control is therefore required to prevent passage of misfolded proteins to the Golgi cisternae. A model for such quality control applicable to glycoproteins has been recently proposed (16, 18). According to it, high mannose-type oligosaccharides in the endoplasmic reticu-
is responsible for removal of both (1,3)-linked glucose occurring in them (28). Initial glycoprotein processing reactions occurring in mammalian cells are depicted in Fig. 1b (31). The main drawback encountered with trypanosomatids is that they are almost no known glycoproteins that fulfill two basic requisites for this study, that is, to be synthesized in sufficient amounts to allow checking if in vivo they are indeed glucosylated, and to be soluble secreted or lysosomal glycoproteins to allow testing the effect of retention of glucose units on the time required for arrival to their final destinations.

In this paper, we describe the effect of inhibiting removal of glucose units exclusively added by the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase on the time required by newly synthesized cruzipain, a cysteine proteinase having high mannose-type oligosaccharides, to reach the lysosomes (2, 8). This is practically the only known trypanosomatid glycoprotein that fulfills the above mentioned requisites. It is currently accepted that differences in the time required for arrival to their final destination among glycoproteins having the same localization (external milieu, plasma membrane, lysosomes, etc.) reflect differences in the time required for leaving the endoplasmic reticulum (24).

**Materials and Methods**

**Materials**

Jack bean α-mannosidase, 1-deoxynojirimycin (DNJ), monosaccharide standards, bovine thyroglobulin, p-nitrophenyl-α,β-mannoside, endo-β-N-acetylglucosaminidase H (Endo H), trans-epoxysuccinyl-l-leucylamido (4-guanidino) butane (E-64) and Streptomyces griseus protease type XIV (Pronase) were from Sigma Chem. Co. (St. Louis, MO). Ham’s F-12 medium (methionine, proline, and glycine free) was purchased from Biochrom KG (Berlin, Germany). [32C]Glucose (320 Ci/mol) was from ARC (St. Louis, MO) and [35S]methionine was from New England Nuclear (Wilmington, DE). Con A-Sepharose and Sephadex G-25 prepainted (NAP 10) columns were from Pharmacia (Uppsala, Sweden).

**Standards**

[3H]Manα,GlcNAc standards from hen oviduct and [glucose-14C]Glc-Manα2,GlcNAc from rat liver microsomes were prepared as described previously (30, 38). Treatment of [3H]Manα,GlcNAc with α-mannosidase produced ManGlcNAc and that of GlcManα2,GlcNAc with the same enzyme yielded GlcManα2,GlcNAc.

**Cells**

*T. cruzi* cells of the Tulahuen strain (Tul 2 stock) were grown as described before (7). For the purification of cruzipain, cells from a 20-ml culture containing 1–2 mCi of [3H]glucose and where indicated also 6 mM DNJ were harvested at a density of 4–6 × 10⁷ cells/ml and mixed with those obtained from an unlabeled culture.

**Purification and Self-Proteolysis of Cruzipain**

The proteinase was purified to homogeneity from the mixture of labeled and unlabeled cells as previously described (6). It was submitted to self-proteolysis as before (19).

**Preparation of the COOH-Terminal Domain and of Glycopeptides from the Catalytic Domain**

The autolysis mixture was dialyzed against 5 mM triethylamine-acetate buffer, pH 7.2. The dialysate was lyophilized and the glycopeptides arising from the catalytic domain were separated from amino acids and small peptides by gel filtration chromatography through a 57 × 1.2 cm Sephadex G-10 column equilibrated with 7% 2-propanol. The COOH-terminall domain of cruzipain was separated from the degraded enzyme by gel filtration through a Superose 12 column in a FPLC system as described before (9).

**Preparation of Endo H–sensitive Oligosaccharides from the COOH-Terminal Domain**

The COOH-terminal domain was incubated overnight at 37°C in 1 ml of 0.15 M Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0, 5 mM CaCl₂, and 15.0 mg of S. griseus protease (Pronase). The solution was desalted through a 1.2 × 57 cm Sephadex G-10 column equilibrated with 7% 2-propanol. Material in the void volume was submitted to paper electrophoresis in 10% formic acid for 3 h.

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1. Abbreviations used in this paper: DNJ, 1-deoxynojirimycin; Endo H, endo-β-N-acetylglucosaminidase H.
at 26 V/cm. Positively charged substances that migrated 8–20 cm to the cathode were eluted and treated with Endo H (0.01 U in 0.3 ml of 75 mM triethylamine-acetate buffer, pH 5.5, for 16 h at 37°C). The samples were then submitted to paper electrophoresis as above. Neutral substances represented the sensitive compounds.

**Preparation of Endo H–sensitive Oligosaccharides from the Catalytic Domain**

The glycopeptides from the catalytic domain obtained as described above were treated with Endo H and the sensitive oligosaccharides isolated as performed for the oligosaccharides from the COOH-terminal domain.

**Preparation of Oligosaccharides from the Whole Enzyme**

Endo H–sensitive oligosaccharides from pure cruzipain were prepared as described above for those obtained from the COOH-terminal domain.

**Subcellular Fractionation and Cell Disruption by Freezing and Thawing**

Cells were ground in a mortar with silicon carbide and submitted to differential centrifugation as described before (2). For cell disruption, by freezing and thawing, cells were twice washed with 0.25 M sucrose, 5 mM KCl and the pellet obtained upon a low speed centrifugation was kept frozen at −20°C for 48 h, after which cells were thawed and resuspended in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.1, 0.15 M NaCl. The suspension was centrifuged for 10 min at 15,000 g. The supernatant was removed and the pellet was resuspended in phosphate-buffered saline and sonicated. The suspension was centrifuged as above.

**Pulse Labeling of Cells with [14C]Glucose**

*T. cruzi* cells (1 g) from the late exponential phase were washed three times with 30 ml of the labeling solution described previously (11) and resuspended in 80 ml of the same solution. Each tube in the assay contained 1 ml of the suspension, 2.5 mCi of [14C]glucose (0.01 mM final concentration) and the amounts of DNJ required to obtain molar ratios of DNJ/glucose of 0–25. Total volume was 1.2 ml. The inhibitor was added 5 min before the glucose. After 2 min at 28°C, incubations were stopped with 0.2 ml of 50% trichloroacetic acid. The tubes were then heated for 2 min at 100°C and the precipitates washed twice with 10% trichloroacetic acid and counted.

**Pulse-chase Labeling of *T. cruzi* Cells with [35S]Methionine**

Cells in the exponential phase (4.0 × 10⁸ cells/ml) were harvested and 2.5 g of them were twice washed with Ham’s F-12 (methionine, proline, and glycine free) medium (10.65 g per liter) supplemented with 34.5 mg per liter of proline and 7.5 mg per liter of glycine and 1.2 g per liter of NaHCO₃. The parasites were resuspended in 9 ml of the above indicated medium. The suspension was divided in halves. DNJ was added to one of them up to 6 mM final concentration. After 20 min at 28°C, 2 mCi of [35S]methionine were added and both aliquots were incubated for 15 min at 28°C. The suspensions were submitted to low speed centrifugations and the pellets were washed with 5 ml of *T. cruzi* normal growth medium (7) supplemented with 3 mM methionine. DNJ (6 mM) was added to the medium used for washing cells incubated with the drug. Pellets were resuspended in 5 ml of the respective washing media and aliquots of 0.25 ml were withdrawn after 0.5, 10, 20, 30, 50, 100, 150, 200, and 300 min at 28°C. The suspensions were centrifuged and the pellets were frozen for 48 h at −20°C. The pellets were resuspended in 1 ml of 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.6, 0.15 M NaCl, 2 mM CaCl₂, 2 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM MnCl₂ and 0.1 mM trans-epoxysuccinyl-L-leucylamido (4-guanidino) butane (E-64), the suspensions were then centrifuged for 10 min at 15,000 g and the supernatants applied to 0.8 ml Con A-Sepharose columns. The columns were washed with the same buffer until no labeled substances were eluted. Cruzipain was eluted with 1 ml of the same buffer containing 0.5 M α-methylmannoside. The samples were desalted with Sephadex G-25 prepacked columns and concentrated in a Speed-Vac equipment. Samples were then submitted to SDS-containing 10% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and to autoradiography. Cruzipain-containing portions of the gels were sliced and counted. In the case of experiment shown in Fig. 4.c, freeze-thawed cells were resuspended in buffer and centrifuged. The supernatants were withdrawn and the pellets were resuspended in buffer, sonicated, and centrifuged again. The first and second supernatants were processed as above.

**Enzymatic Assays**

Cruzipain, α-mannosidase, glucosidase II, and UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glycosyltransferase were assayed as previously described (5, 23, 38, 41). For glucosidase II [glucose-14C]Glc, Man₄GlcNAc was used as substrate whereas for the glycosyltransferase UDP-[14C]Glc and 8 M urea-denatured thyroglobulin were employed.

**Methods**

Strong acid hydrolysis was performed in 1 M HCl at 100°C for 4 h. The samples were applied to a Dowex 1 (acetate form) Pasteur pipette column after hydrolysis. Chromatography was performed on Whatman 1 papers. The following solvents were used: A, 1-propanol/nitromethane/water (5:2:4); B, 1-butanol/pyridine/water (4:3:4); and C, 1-butanol/pyridine/water (10:3:3). Degradation with α-mannosidase was as described before (11).

**Results**

**Cruzipain Is Glucosylated In Vivo by the UDP-Glc: Glycoprotein Glucosyltransferase**

*T. cruzi* cells were grown in the presence or absence of 6 mM DNJ in a medium containing [14C]glucose. Labeled cells were mixed with unlabeled ones and cruzipain was purified to homogeneity. The cysteine proteinase was then degraded with an unspecific proteinase ( Pronase) and resulting glycopeptides were treated with Endo H. Oligosaccharides thus liberated were run on paper chromatography. The sample isolated from cells grown in the presence of the glucosidase II inhibitor showed peaks or shoulders in the position of Glc₅Man₄GlcNAc, Man₅GlcNAc, Glc₅-Man₄GlcNAc, Man₄GlcNAc, Glc₅-Man₃GlcNAc, Man₃GlcNAc, Man₄GlcNAc and Man₅GlcNAc standards (Fig. 2 a) whereas cruzipain purified from cells grown in the absence of DNJ only showed peaks in the position of the unglucosylated standards (Fig. 2 b).

**Oligosaccharides Linked to the Same Asparagine Residue Are Glucosylated in Some Cruzipan Molecules but Not in Others**

Cruzipain has three potential N-glycosylation sites, two in the catalytic domain and one in the COOH-terminal domain (4). Of both sites in the catalytic domain, that closer to the NH₂ terminus is glucosylated whereas it is unknown whether the middle one is indeed occupied (unpublished results). On the other hand, it has been already established that the site at the COOH-terminal domain is glucosylated (9).

As shown in Fig. 2 a, both glucosylated and unglucosylated oligosaccharides were present in cruzipain molecules isolated from cells grown in the presence of DNJ. Two possibilities may be envisaged: either only oligosaccharides at some glucosylation sites were glucosylated or, alternatively, oligosaccharides at the same glucosylation site were glucosylated in some cruzipain molecules but not in others. Oligosaccharides present at the COOH-terminal and catalytic domains can be easily separated because on self proteolysis cruzipain produces a COOH-terminal domain with an apparent molecular weight of 25 kD. The COOH-terminal domain can be separated from glycopep-
Figure 2. Cruzipain oligosaccharides. The endo H-sensitive oligosaccharides were isolated from cruzipain purified from cells grown in the presence of [14C]glucose and DNJ (a), or in the absence of the inhibitor (b) and run on paper chromatography in solvent A. For further details see Materials and Methods. Standards: 1, GlcManGlcNAc; 2, GlcManGlcNAc; 3, GlcManGlcNAc; 4, GlcManGlcNAc; 5, GlcManGlcNAc; 6, ManGlcNAc; and 7, ManGlcNAc.

The oligosaccharides at the single COOH-terminal domain glycosylation site were isolated as described above for the whole cruzipain molecule. They were degraded with α-mannosidase and run on paper chromatography. As shown in Fig. 3 a, substances migrating as mannose, ManGlcNAc, GlcManGlcNAc, and GlcManGlcNAc standards appeared as degradation products. The oligosaccharides at the NH2-terminal domain gave a similar pattern (Fig. 3 b). Chromatography of substances migrating as mannose and ManGlcNAc standards in Fig. 3 a in a different solvent system confirmed the presence of mannose and ManGlcNAc among the degradation products (Fig. 3 c). On the other hand, strong acid hydrolysis of the substance migrating as the GlcManGlcNAc standard in Fig. 3 a confirmed that it was composed of N-acetylglucosamine, glucose, and mannose residues (Fig. 3 d). Treatment of oligosaccharides isolated from cruzipain purified from cells grown in the absence of DNJ (Fig. 2 b) with α-mannosidase only produced mannose and ManGlcNAc (not shown).

The presence of both the disaccharide ManGlcNAc and the hexasaccharide GlcManGlcNAc among the α-mannosidase degradation products of the oligosaccharides located at the COOH-terminal domain indicated that both glucosylated and unglucosylated species were present at that site: the disaccharide (with a β-bond not cleaved by α-mannosidase) is indicative of the presence of unglucosylated oligosaccharides whereas the presence of GlcManGlcNAc indicates the presence of glucosylated compounds (the presence of the glucose unit precludes further α-mannosidase degradation, as this is an exoglycosidase).

The proportion of glucosylated species at the COOH-terminal domain oligosaccharides was found to be 64%. The same procedure employed previously for calculating the proportion of glucosylated and unglucosylated oligosaccharides in whole cell glycoproteins was used now (13).

The UDP-Glc:glycoprotein Glucosyltransferase and Cruzipain Are Located in Different Subcellular Locations

Although it has been firmly established that in mammalian cells the UDP-Glcglycoprotein glucosyltransferase is located in the endoplasmic reticulum (39), it was necessary to establish the subcellular localization of the enzyme in T. cruzi cells. For this purpose parasite cells were ground with silicon carbide in a mortar and subsequently submit-
ity chromatography and material eluted with 0.5 M α-methylmannoside run on 10% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Respond to the first and second supernatants of the pulse sample and both UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase and glucosidase II appeared in the following fractions: 1, nuclear; 2, large granules; 3, small granules; 4, microsomes; and 5, soluble. The supernatants were withdrawn and the pellets were resuspended in buffer, sonicated, and centrifuged again. Cruzipain (C), α-mannosidase (M), glucosidase II (G), and UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase (GT) were assayed in the first and second supernatants. (c) T. cruzi cells were pulsed with [35S]methionine for 15 min and chased with the unlabeled amino acid for 300 min. Pulse and chase samples were freeze-thawed and processed as in b. The four supernatants were submitted to Con A affinity chromatography and material eluted with 0.5 M α-methylmannoside run on 10% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. FP and SP correspond to the first and second supernatants of the pulse sample and FC and SC to those of the chase one, respectively.

Another procedure employed for assessing the differential localization of transient glucosylation of glycoproteins and cruzipain was to freeze and thaw intact T. cruzi cells and to assay two lysosomal enzymes, cruzipain and α-mannosidase, and both enzymes responsible for transient glucosylation of glycoproteins, the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase and glucosidase II in the supernatant of a 15,000 g for 10 min centrifugation as well as in a second supernatant obtained after resuspension, sonication, and centrifugation of the resulting pellet. As depicted in Fig. 4 b, the majority of cruzipain and α-mannosidase appeared in the first supernatant whereas the glucosyltransferase and glucosidase II appeared mainly in the second one. This method afforded, therefore, a rapid procedure for separating the soluble content of the endoplasmic reticulum from that of lysosomes and was used below for assessing arrival of newly synthesized cruzipain to lysosomes.

To confirm the reliability of the method, T. cruzi cells were pulsed with [35S]methionine for 15 min and chased for 300 min with the unlabeled amino acid. Cells were freeze-thawed and processed as above. The four supernatants (first and second from the pulse and chase samples) were submitted to affinity chromatography in Con A–Sepharose columns. Material eluting with α-methylmannoside was run on polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under denaturing conditions. Loss of cruzipain in the affinity chromatography was almost nil under the experimental conditions employed. Moreover, preliminary experiments had shown that cruzipain (that constitutes ~5% of all soluble cellular proteins) is by far the main soluble protein having high mannose-type oligosaccharides. As shown in Fig. 4 c, whereas after a 15-min pulse cruzipain appeared in the second supernatant, after a 300-min chase the cysteine proteinase appeared mainly in the first one. In this case cruzipain was present as a double band, as described before for the mature enzyme (8). Results shown in Fig. 4 c confirm, therefore, the reliability of the method employed for separation of soluble proteins of the endoplasmic reticulum from those present in lysosomes and indicate that the double band is the consequence of a posttranslational modification occurring in the Golgi apparatus or in lysosomes.

DNJ Does Not Affect T. cruzi Cell Growth Rate or the Parasite General Metabolism but Partially Affects Cruzipain Synthesis and the Cruzipain Content of Lysosomes

DNJ did not noticeably affect T. cruzi cell growth rate when added at a concentration ~1,200-fold higher than that required for a 50% inhibition of glucosidase II (Fig. 5 a). Samples of parasites were withdrawn from cultures having different cell densities and submitted to freezing and thawing to liberate cytosolic plus lysosomal proteins. The same protein concentrations were found in the supernatants of 15,000 g for 10 min centrifugations of inhibitor-containing and inhibitor-devoid samples, thus confirming the lack of effect of DNJ on cellular general metabolism. The glucosidase II inhibitor (a glucose analog) not only
did not affect the cellular general metabolism in long term incubations but also in short term ones: as depicted in Fig. 5 b, incubation of *T. cruzi* cells with DNJ concentrations up to 23-fold higher than those of $[^{14}C]$glucose for 2 min did not affect incorporation of label into hot 10% trichloroacetic acid insoluble material (mainly amino acids in proteins). This last result also strongly suggested that the inhibitors entered *T. cruzi* cells by facilitated diffusion and not through an hexose transporter, the same as has been reported to occur for the mammalian analog 1-deoxymannojirimycin in mammalian cells (27).

Nevertheless, the cruzipain total content of lysosomes was partially affected by the drug: as shown in Fig. 5 a, inset, only 64%–75% of the proteinase was found in cells harvested from the DNJ-containing medium. This diminution in cruzipain content reflected an inhibition of the synthesis of the proteinase: *T. cruzi* cells were pulsed for 15 min with $[^{35}S]$methionine and chased with the unlabeled amino acid for 300 min in the presence or absence of DNJ. Label in cruzipain was quantitated in both the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum and in lysosomes after the analytical procedure employed in Fig. 4 c. Results similar to those shown in that figure were obtained: whereas in the pulse samples of cells incubated with or without DNJ cruzipain appeared in the second supernatant (lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum), in the chase ones the proteinase mainly appeared in the first supernatants (lysosomes). Label in cruzipain in both the pulse and chase samples isolated from cells incubated with DNJ was ~30% lower than that obtained from cells incubated without the drug.

**DNJ Causes a Delay in the Arrival of Cruzipain to Lysosomes**

*T. cruzi* cells were pulse chased with $[^{35}S]$methionine in the presence or absence of DNJ, submitted to freezing and thawing and the supernatants of 15,000 g for 10-min centrifugations applied to Con A–Sepharose columns as described above for the experiment shown in Fig. 4 c. Material eluting with α-methylmannoside was run on polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under denaturing conditions. As shown in Fig. 6 a, cruzipain always appeared as a double band thus indicating that the lysosomal form of the enzyme was being analyzed. Label in the sample devoid of DNJ reached a plateau after ~100 min of chase, whereas that containing the drug did not reach it even after 300 min (Fig. 6 a). Quantitation of label in the bands confirmed this conclusion (Fig. 6 b).

**Discussion**

We have previously established that *T. cruzi* cells have a glucosidase II activity with characteristics similar to those of the mammalian enzyme, as (a) both had the same neutral optimum pH value, (b) both were more active on Glc$_3$Man$_2$GlcNAc than on Glc$_2$Man$_2$GlcNAc, and (c) similar amounts of the glucose analogs DNJ and castanospermine (5 μM and 8 μM, respectively) were required for attaining a 50% inhibition of both enzymes in cell free assays (3, 13).

Parasite cells grown in the presence of $[^{14}C]$glucose and 6 mM DNJ, or 2.6 mM castanospermine or of both inhibitors at the same concentrations appeared to have a single glucose unit in ~52–53% of whole cell N-linked oligosaccharides (13). The fact that not all the oligosaccharides appeared glucosylated could not be ascribed to the action of unspecific glucosidases not inhibited by the above mentioned compounds and slowly acting during storage of glycoproteins in their final destinations as the same percentage of glucosylated oligosaccharides was obtained in glycoproteins isolated from cells grown in the presence of the drugs or in those incubated with them and $[^{14}C]$glucose for only 60 min (13) (the doubling time for *T. cruzi* epimastigote cells is ~36 h). Moreover, a crude microsomal *T. cruzi* fraction did not degrade Glc$_3$Man$_2$GlcNAc in the
Figure 6. The effect of DNJ on the arrival of cruzipain to lysosomes. T. cruzi cells were incubated with [35S]methionine in the absence (6 a, upper row) or presence (6 a, lower row) of 6 mM DNJ for 15 min after which they were centrifuged and incubated with the unlabeled amino acid. Aliquots were withdrawn after indicated chase periods, centrifuged, and submitted to freezing and thawing. The supernatants of 15,000 g for 10-min centrifugations were applied to Con A-Sepharose columns and material eluting with α-methylmannoside was run on 10% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis under denaturing conditions. (b) Portions of gels in a containing cruzipain were excised and counted: ○—○, with DNJ and ●—● without the drug. Values obtained after 300 min chase (9,260 cpm without DNJ and 5,743 cpm with DNJ) were arbitrarily taken as 100%.

The oligosaccharides present at the single N-glycosylation site of the COOH-terminal domain of cruzipain were shown here to be glucosylated in some enzyme molecules and not in others. Therefore, the fact that only 52–53% of whole cell N-linked oligosaccharides were glucosylated was not apparently due to glucosylation being restricted to oligosaccharides linked to particular asparagine residues but to the fact that oligosaccharides linked to the same asparagine residue in a glycoprotein may be glucosylated in some glycoprotein molecules and not in others. This result is consistent with the known glucosylation requirement of the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyl-transferase for not properly folded protein moieties and the fact that folding of proteins in the endoplasmic reticulum is an asynchronous process. It is known that time required for attaining the final tertiary structure may differ among molecules of the same species and may be related to which chaperones the individual glycoproteins bind during folding (10). It may be assumed that rapidly folding cruzipain molecules would be glucosylated to lower extents than slower ones.

DNJ did not affect T. cruzi cell growth rate or the total content of soluble proteins. These results demonstrate that the inhibitor did not interfere with the parasite general metabolism in long term incubations. The same conclusion could be drawn from short term ones as no effect on the incorporation of label into 10% trichloroacetic acid insoluble material (mainly amino acids in proteins) was observed when [14C]glucose was added for 2 min to T. cruzi cultures containing up to 23-fold higher concentrations of DNJ than those of the added monosaccharide.

Notwithstanding the lack of effect of DNJ on cell growth rate and on the parasite general metabolism, the inhibitor produced a 30% inhibition of cruzipain synthesis, a diminution in the same percentage in the lysosomal content of the enzyme and at least a threefold increase in the time required for arrival of half cruzipain molecules to lysosomes. As mentioned above, it is assumed that this delay reflects an increased permanence of cruzipain in the endoplasmic reticulum of inhibitor-containing cells. Inhibition of the synthesis of certain glycoproteins by DNJ has been observed before in mammalian cells (14, 22). The fact that synthesis and lysosomal content of cruzipain were diminished to the same extent strongly suggests that components essential for folding, processing, and transport of the lysosomal enzyme precursor were not significantly affected in DNJ-treated cells and that the much more significant increase in the time required to reach lysosomes was unrelated to the inhibition of synthesis.

It is worth mentioning that it has been reported several years ago that addition of DNJ to mammalian cells produced a delay in the secretion of glycoproteins or in their arrival to lysosomes (14, 22, 25). On the other hand, secretion of proteins as albumin was not affected by the drug, this result being consistent with the lack of effect on cellular general metabolism observed in this report (25). The delay in glycoprotein transport cannot be ascribed in mammalian cells to an interaction of calnexin with glucose-containing glycoproteins because, as mentioned above, in
mammalian and yeast cells glucosidase inhibitors produce an accumulation of protein-linked oligosaccharides containing two or three glucose residues that are not recognized by calnexin (16, 17, 20). The delay in glycoprotein transport observed was probably due to a deficient glycosylation of proteins: DNJ inhibits the formation of glucosylated dolichol-P-P derivatives and produces an accumulation of lipid-linked Man9GlcNAc2 (34). Mammalian and fungal oligosaccharyltransferases require the presence of glucose units in the oligosaccharide in order to catalyze an efficient transfer reaction (21). In fact, in one of the reports mentioned above it was found that lysosomal enzymes arriving to lysosomes in DNJ-treated cells had less oligosaccharide chains than under normal conditions (22). The inhibitory effect of DNJ on protein N-glycosylation was confirmed in other reports (14, 15). Folding of glycoproteins in the endoplasmic reticulum is heavily dependent on the presence of oligosaccharides (18). On the other hand, several Saccharomyces cerevisiae mutants that are unable to synthesize glucosylated dolichol-P-P derivatives have been described (1, 35). The mutants accumulated and transferred to proteins Man9GlcNAc2, the same as T. cruzi. Those yeast cells cannot be used for studies similar to those described here, however, as glycoproteins formed in them were found to be, as expected, heavily underglycosylated (1). Moreover, S. cerevisiae are the only cells described so far to be apparently devoid of the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase (12).

Drawbacks encountered with mammalian and yeast cells were obviated in the present study because: (a) no glucosylated dolichol-P-P derivatives are formed in this parasite (29), (b) the T. cruzi oligosaccharyltransferase does not require the presence of glucose residues in the oligosaccharide in order to catalyze an efficient transfer reaction (3), and (c) protein-linked oligosaccharides formed in T. cruzi in the presence of DNJ only contain a single glucose residue (13).

The results reported here are compatible with the model proposed for quality control of glycoprotein folding in the endoplasmic reticulum. It should be stressed, however, that not only an interaction of calnexin with cruzipain but also the existence in trypanosomatids of calnexin or other lectin-like proteins that recognize monoglucosylated oligosaccharides have not been demonstrated. Results presented only show that retention of the single glucose residue added by the UDP-Glc:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase to high mannose-type oligosaccharides causes a delay in the exit of glycoproteins from the endoplasmic reticulum. If such lectin-like molecules occur in trypanosomatids, their interaction with the monoglucosylated oligosaccharides should be loose enough to allow glycosidase II to remove the glucose unit and to allow passage of properly folded but still glucosylated glycoproteins (as in DNJ-treated cells) to the Golgi apparatus.

This work was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (GM-44500), from the United Nations Development Program/World Bank/World Health Organization Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, from the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), and from the University of Buenos Aires. J. J. Cazzulo and A. J. Parodi are Career Investigators of the National Research Council (Argentina) and C. Labriola holds a fellowship from the Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social (Argentina).


