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Feodor Lynen (1911–1979)



Nur wenige Wochen nach seiner Wahl zum Präsidenten der International Union of Biochemistry, am 6. August 1979, verschied Feodor Lynen an den Komplikationen eines operativen Eingriffs. Es war ihm nicht vergönnt, die Pläne zu verwirklichen, die ihm seine ungebrochene wissenschaftliche Dynamik und seine jugendliche Lebensfreude für die Zeit nach seiner

Emeritierung vorgaben. Am 29. Februar 1980 versammelten sich weit über tausend Schüler, Freunde und Kollegen aus aller Welt im Münchener Herkulesaal, um in Anwesenheit des Bundespräsidenten in einer Akademischen Feier von diesem großen Forscher, begeisternden Lehrer und liebenswerten Freund Abschied zu nehmen. Mit ihnen betrauerte die internationale biochemische Gemeinde den Verlust eines ihrer bedeutendsten und produktivsten Mitglieder. In einem kleinen Friedhof, auf einem Hügel nahe des Starnberger Sees gelegen, der an schönen Tagen einen eindrucksvollen Blick auf die von ihm so sehr geliebten Alpen bietet, liegt Feodor Lynen zur letzten Ruhe gebettet.

Feodor Lynen entstammt einem seit Jahrhunderten im Raum Stolberg (Rheinland) ansässigen, erfolgreichen Fabrikantengeschlecht, in dem das Streben nach Pflichterfüllung und Leistung ein beherrschender Zug war. Sein Vater, Wilhelm Lynen, wurde im Jahr 1901 als Ordinarius für Maschinenbau an die Technische Hochschule München berufen und lebte dort bis zu seinem Tod im Jahre 1920. Seine Frau Frieda, geb. Prym, schenkte ihm neun Kinder, von denen Feodor als siebentes am 6.4.1911 zur Welt kam. Die Stadt München und ihr oberbayerisches Umland wurden ihm zur echten Heimat, die er nie für längere Zeit verlassen sollte. Sie hat mit ihrem lebensfrohen, barocken Wesen nachhaltig seinen Lebensstil geprägt. Seine Liebe zu den Bergen und dem Skisport bescherte Feodor nicht nur viele, in vollen Zügen genossene Stunden der Entspannung und Erholung; sie hat auch den Verlauf seines Lebens nachhaltig beeinflusst. Denn eine schwere Knieverletzung, die er sich bei einem Skirennen in Kitzbühel zuzog, und die ihn kurz nach Studienbeginn für mehrere Monate ans Bett fesselte, bewahrte ihn vor militärischer Ausbildung und dem Dienst in einer NS-Organisation und ließ ihn den 2. Weltkrieg in der Heimat überstehen. Selbst ein erneuter Skiunfall im Jahr 1952, der das bereits angeschlagene Knie vollends versteifte, hinderte ihn nicht daran, auf Kurzskiern seinen Mitarbeitern bei hochalpinen Skitouren rasant voranzufahren. Die unnachgiebige Beharrlichkeit, die er in der Ausführung seines geliebten Skisports zeigte, spiegelte sich auch in seinem wissenschaftlichen Arbeitsstil wider.

Feodor Lynen war, in den Worten Konrad Blochs, einer der großen Architekten der klassischen Biochemie. Er vereinigte das Gefühl des Chemikers für die Substanz und ihre Reaktionsweisen mit dem Verständnis des Biologen für die besonderen Bedingungen und Möglichkeiten des zellulären Stoffwechsel. In dieser glücklichen Verbindung erwies er sich als würdiger Schüler seines akademischen Lehrers Heinrich Wieland und des von ihm hochverehrten Altmeisters der Biochemie, Otto Warburg. Das wissenschaftliche Werk Feodor Lynens, seine Zielsetzungen und sein methodisches Vorgehen spiegeln deutlich die Einflüsse seiner Lehrzeit als Student und Doktorand wider. Er hatte das Glück, in einer Zeit an der Universität München Chemie zu studieren, in der die Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät

mit hervorragenden Wissenschaftlern besetzt war. So gehörten der Physiker Walter Gerlach, der Physikochemiker Kasimir Fajans, der Botaniker Karl von Goebel, der Anorganiker Otto Hönigsmid und der Organiker Heinrich Wieland zu seinen Lehrern. Bei Geheimrat H. Wieland, dem Nobelpreisträger für Chemie des Jahres 1927, fertigte er eine Dissertation „Über die toxischen Inhaltsstoffe des Knollenblätterpilzes“ an und kam so mit einem stark biochemisch orientierten Arbeitskreis in engste Berührung. Nach seiner Promotion im Jahr 1937 heiratete er Eva, die Tochter seines Doktorvaters.

Frau Eva Lynen hat das Forscherleben ihres Mannes tatkräftig unterstützt. Sehr oft unter Zurückstellung eigener Interessen und Pläne wußte sie sich ganz auf ihren „Fitz“ einzustellen. In den schwierigen Kriegs- und Nachkriegsjahren, in denen ihre fünf Kinder der Betreuung bedurften, hielt sie ihm den Rücken frei für den vollen Einsatz in seiner Wissenschaft. Durch ihre offene und humorvolle Art trug sie wesentlich zur Festigung vieler Freundschaften mit in- und ausländischen Kollegen bei und vermochte ihr Haus in Starnberg zu einer vielgerühmten Stätte entspannter Geselligkeit zu gestalten.

Lynens Wirken als Forscher fiel in die Periode, in der die Biochemie aus dem deskriptiven Stadium heraustrat und in die Phase der exponentiellen Zunahme von Erkenntnissen und Methoden über den Zellstoffwechsel übergang. Sein Hauptinteresse galt zeit seines Lebens den enzymatischen Reaktionsmechanismen. Als er Ende der dreißiger Jahre seine wissenschaftliche Laufbahn mit den Studien über die Pasteur-Reaktion in Hefezellen begann, entwickelte F. Lipmann das äußerst fruchtbare Konzept der „energiereichen Verbindungen“ und stellte die von K. Lohmann 10 Jahre zuvor entdeckte Adenosintriphosphorsäure in den Mittelpunkt des zellulären Energiestoffwechsels. O. Warburg hatte, nach der Entdeckung des sauerstoffaktivierenden Atmungsferments (Zytochromoxidase), in den Pyridinnukleotiden die primären Wasserstoff- und Elektronenüberträger gefunden und damit die Voraussetzung dafür geschaffen, daß die von H. Wieland und T. Thunberg entwickelte Dehydrierungstheorie mit der Sauerstoffaktivierung zu einem einheitlichen Konzept der Zellatmung verschmolzen werden konnte. Die oxidative Phosphorylierung begann durch die Arbeiten von V. Belitzer, A. Lehninger und H. Kalckar Gestalt anzunehmen; H.A. Krebs erkannte, daß der Vorgang der biologischen Endoxidation der Nahrungsstoffe in einer zyklischen Reaktionsfolge (Zitratzyklus) abläuft.

Als Stipendiat der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (1937–1942) wandte sich F. Lynen dem Problem des Energiestoffwechsels von Tumorzellen und, beeinflusst von den Arbeiten Warburgs über die aerobe Glykolyse der Tumoren, der Pasteur-Reaktion zu. Diese besagt, daß Zellen unter aeroben Bedingungen weniger Zucker verbrauchen als in Abwesenheit von Sauerstoff. Die Arbeiten, die bereits unter den erschwerten Bedingungen

des Kriegszustands durchgeführt wurden, bescherten Lynen einen ersten großen Erfolg, den Nachweis der regulatorischen Rolle des anorganischen Phosphats für den Zuckerabbau und die Formulierung unterschiedlicher Phosphatkreisläufe in atmenden und gärenden Zellen. In einem 1969 verfaßten Rückblick auf sein wissenschaftliches Leben bekannte sich Lynen mit Stolz zu diesen Frühwerken, die auch der Gegenstand seiner Habilitationsschrift (1941) waren. Daß sie ihm zunächst nicht die gebührende internationale Anerkennung brachten und im Jahr 1944 vollends für mehrere Jahre unterbrochen werden mußten, ist eine unmittelbare Folge des 2. Weltkriegs. Nach der Zerstörung des Chemischen Staatslaboratoriums in München (Frühjahr 1944) versuchte Lynen in einem Behelfslabor in Schondorf am Ammersee und, nach dem Kriegsende, als Gast im Botanischen Institut, seine Forschungen fortzusetzen. Jeder, der die damaligen Schwierigkeiten der Materialbeschaffung, des Verkehrs innerhalb einer weitgehend zerstörten Großstadt und die Vielfalt der Sorgen um das tägliche Leben kennenlernte, kann die Probleme ermessen, vor die der junge Chemiedozent gestellt war. Immerhin erhielt er, dank seiner unzweideutigen Haltung während des Dritten Reichs, sehr bald die Erlaubnis der amerikanischen Militärregierung, als Dozent für Biochemie an der Naturwissenschaftlich-Mathematischen Fakultät tätig zu sein; 1947 erfolgte seine Ernennung zum apl. Professor. Im Jahre 1949 konnte er im 5. Stock des Zoologischen Instituts in der Luisenstraße 14 einige leidlich hergestellte Laborräume beziehen. Einem Biochemiker von heute würde es allerdings schwerfallen, die dort vorhandene Einrichtung als die eines Biochemischen Laboratoriums zu erkennen.

Die Entdeckung des Kofaktors für ATP-abhängige Azetylierungsreaktionen (Coenzym A) durch F. Lipmann und D. Nachmansohn sowie die Arbeiten von E. Stadtman, A. Lehninger und F. Hunter über den Fettsäurestoffwechsel bestärkten Lynen in der Existenz einer von ihm schon 1942 postulierten „aktivierten Essigsäure“. Er berichtete, daß ihm der entscheidende Gedanke über die chemische Natur dieser Verbindung bei einem nächtlichen Nachhauseweg von einer angeregten Diskussion mit seinem Schwager Theodor Wieland gekommen sei; er vermutete in der noch nicht einmal mit Sicherheit identifizierten Thiolgruppe das mechanistische Zentrum des Coenzym A und sah die aktivierte Essigsäure als Thiolester des Coenzym mit Essigsäure (Acetyl-S-CoA). Innerhalb kurzer Zeit gelang es ihm, diese Verbindung aus Hefezellen anzureichern und ihre chemische Natur sowie ihre enzymatische Wirksamkeit sicherzustellen. Diese Entdeckung, Anfang 1951 in einer Kurzmitteilung an die Angewandte Chemie veröffentlicht, verfehlte ihre Wirkung auf die internationale Biochemie nicht und begründete Lynens Weltruf.

Von diesem Zeitpunkt an konzentrierten sich die Forschungen seines Labors ganz auf die Ergründung Coenzym-A-abhängiger Prozesse. Mit S.

Ochoa zusammen bewies er den Mechanismus der Zitratsynthese aus Oxalazetat und Acetyl-CoA, des noch fehlenden Gliedes in dem von H.A. Krebs formulierten Zitratzyklus. Die ATP-abhängige Bildung von Acetyl-CoA aus Essigsäure und Coenzym A untersuchte er gemeinsam mit dem Labor F. Lipmanns. Die Aufklärung der bereits 1907 von F. Knoop in ihren Grundzügen erkannten β -Oxidation der Fettsäuren gelang durch die Isolierung der daran beteiligten Enzyme und Zwischenprodukte. An diesem, gegen eine starke amerikanische Konkurrenz erzielten Erfolg stand wiederum die Denkweise des Chemikers in Lynen Pate. Da es zu dieser Zeit nicht möglich war, ausreichende Mengen des Coenzym A in der nötigen Reinheit herzustellen, versuchte Lynen es mit sehr einfach gebauten Analogen, den S-Acylderivaten des N-Acetylcysteamins. Entgegen allgemeiner Erwartung erwiesen sich diese leicht darstellbaren Modellsubstanzen als reaktionsfähige Substrate; dadurch konnte im Münchener Laboratorium der kritische Engpaß im Fortschritt der Forschungen durchbrochen werden.

Es war charakteristisch für Lynens Arbeits- und Denkweise und nicht zuletzt ein Schlüssel zu seinem Erfolg, daß er seine experimentellen Beobachtungen und Erfahrungen, negative wie positive, bewußt zu registrieren und intellektuell zu verarbeiten verstand. Hatte ihn ein Mißerfolg bei seiner Doktorarbeit bereits gelehrt, Ausdauer und Zähigkeit bei der Verfolgung schwieriger wissenschaftlicher Fragestellungen zum Leitmotiv zu machen, so zog er aus dem erfolgreichen Einsatz der N-Acetylcysteaminderivate in den Studien über die Teilreaktionen der β -Oxidation der Fettsäuren eine für ihn typische Schlußfolgerung: „Dabei erhielt ich als Wissenschaftler eine neue Lektion: Sei naiv und versuche ein Experiment, selbst wenn die Aussichten auf Erfolg gering sind. Ich habe den Eindruck, daß viele meiner biochemischen Kollegen – und das mag auch für andere Wissenschaften gelten – mehr Zeit damit verbringen, das Für und Wider eines Experiments zu diskutieren als nötig ist, um es durchzuführen. Ich glaube, daß viele Gelegenheiten für neue Entdeckungen auf diese Weise versäumt werden. Die Natur ist immer unvorhersehbar und die einzige Methode, ein biochemisches Problem aufzugreifen ist, Experimente zu machen”.

Es gibt keine Patentlösung für das Angehen eines wissenschaftlichen Problems. Die Art der Bearbeitung hängt nicht nur von der jeweiligen Fragestellung und den methodischen Lösungsmöglichkeiten, sondern auch von der intellektuellen Struktur des Forschers selbst ab. Aus manchen seiner Äußerungen konnte man den Eindruck gewinnen, als ob Lynen den rein experimentellen Ansatz nach dem Prinzip “trial and error” als die ihm gemäße Methode ansah. Sicher ist richtig, daß er dem Experiment die letztlich entscheidende Funktion zuerkannte und daß er mehr als mancher andere dazu neigte, lange theoretische Überlegungen, Diskussionen und Literaturrecherchen durch den Versuchsansatz kurzzuschließen. Dennoch wird schon aus der Art und Weise, wie er zu den gezielten Versuchen über

die Natur der „aktivierten Essigsäure“ gelangte, klar, daß seinen Experimenten eine beträchtliche geistige Vorarbeit voranging und daß seine Arbeitshypothesen auf dem Boden eines umfangreichen Wissens und einer besonderen Fähigkeit zur Kombinatorik standen. Wenn dieser intellektuelle Prozeß seiner Umgebung nicht immer deutlich wurde, so mag dies an seiner besonderen Fähigkeit liegen, sehr schnell aus einer Fülle von Tatsachen die entscheidenden, weiterführenden Inhalte herauszufiltern und sie mit scheinbar nicht im Zusammenhang stehenden Informationen zu kombinieren. Auch von seinen Mitarbeitern erwartete er, daß sie überlegt handelten und experimentierten; nicht unbedingt, daß sie ihn mit langatmigen Spekulationen aufhielten.

Durch seine Studien über den Abbau der Fettsäuren wurde Lynen fast zwangsläufig auch mit dem physiologisch so wichtigen Problem der Ketonkörperbildung konfrontiert. Die von anderer Seite vertretene Ansicht, daß Acetessigsäure durch Hydrolyse von Acetacetyl-CoA entstehe, konnte den Chemiker Lynen nicht befriedigen. Durch eine sehr sorgfältige Analyse dieses Vorgangs entdeckte er, daß an der Überführung von Acetacetyl-CoA in freie Acetessigsäure zwei Enzyme beteiligt sind und dieser Prozeß über β -Hydroxy- β -methyl-glutaryl-CoA als Zwischenprodukt verläuft (HMG-CoA-Zyklus).

Mit den Steroiden war Lynen bereits im Institut seines Lehrers H. Wieland bestens vertraut geworden und er hatte die Arbeiten H. Sonderhoffs miterlebt, in denen dieser ihren Aufbau aus Essigsäureeinheiten wahrscheinlich machte. Die von L. Ruzicka formulierte „Isoprenregel“ und die Entdeckung der Mevalonsäure durch K. Folkers wiesen Lynen den Weg, auf dem er die Biosynthese der Terpene in Angriff nehmen wollte. Die Entdeckung des Isopentenylpyrophosphats und des Dimethylallylpyrophosphats als den biologisch wirksamen Formen des Isoprenengerüsts sowie die Aufklärung des Mechanismus der Kondensationen, die zu der großen Zahl der Terpene und der Sterine führen, waren die brillanten Ergebnisse einer ungeheuer intensiven und fruchtbaren Forschungstätigkeit in der zweiten Hälfte der Fünfzigerjahre. Auch das Zytocin, die zentrale Komponente des von O. Warburg entdeckten Atmungsferments (Zytochromoxidase) erwies sich als Isoprenabkömmling, ein Farnesylderivat des Protohämins. Es bereitete Lynen eine große Freude und Genugtuung, die Strukturaufklärung seinem verehrten Mentor zum 80. Geburtstag auf den Gabentisch legen zu können. Die Ergebnisse des Lynen-Arbeitskreises zusammen mit den Entdeckungen K. Blochs, führten in kurzer Zeit zum Verständnis des Weges, auf dem die Zellen Cholesterin aus Acetyl-CoA synthetisieren. Diese großartige wissenschaftliche Leistung wurde 1964 durch die Verleihung des Nobelpreises für Physiologie oder Medizin an Feodor Lynen und Konrad Bloch in gebührender Weise gewürdigt.

Parallel zu den Untersuchungen der Terpenbiosynthese befaßte sich Lynen mit dem Mechanismus der Karboxylierung der β -Methylcrotonsäure, in der zunächst eine Zwischenstufe auf dem Weg zum biologisch aktiven Isopren vermutet worden war. Dieser Prozeß erwies sich als ATP-abhängig und wurde durch ein biotinhaltiges Enzym katalysiert. An diesem Enzym konnte in überzeugenden Experimenten erstmals die Rolle des Vitamins Biotin bei der biologischen Karboxylierung im Detail aufgeklärt und die N-1-Karboxybiotinylgruppe als die „aktivierte Kohlensäure“ identifiziert werden. Diese Versuche, die sich durch große experimentelle Eleganz auszeichneten, wurden auch durch das Glück des Tüchtigen unterstützt: Als bisher einziges bekanntes Biotinenzym ist die Methylcrotonyl-CoA-Karboxylase in der Lage, freies Biotin zu karboxylieren. Der an diesem Enzym entdeckte Mechanismus erwies sich als allgemein gültig für die zahlreichen biotinabhängigen CO_2 -Assimilationsprozesse der Zellen; er ordnete das von Fritz Kögl 1934 entdeckte Vitamin in die Reihe der Coenzymvorstufen ein.

Nachdem der Vorgang der β -Oxidation der Fettsäuren in seinen wesentlichen Zügen aufgeklärt war, wurde Lynens Interesse naturgemäß auf die Frage gelenkt, wie die Fettsäuren in der Zelle synthetisiert werden. Seine eigenen Untersuchungen und zahlreiche Beobachtungen anderer Arbeitskreise, vor allem über die andersartige subzelluläre Lokalisation sowie über den ATP-, Biotin- und Bikarbonatbedarf, zwangen dazu, die Vorstellung von der physiologischen Umkehrbarkeit der β -Oxidation aufzugeben. Ähnlich wie bei der Entdeckung der aktivierten Essigsäure kam der entscheidende Gedanke im Gefolge einer Diskussion: Im Anschluß an einen Vortrag anläßlich einer Gordon Conference über Lipide im Jahre 1958, in dem über die CO_2 -Abhängigkeit der Fettsäuresynthese berichtet wurde, entwickelte Lynen die Vorstellung, daß der Prozeß der Fettsäuresynthese durch eine biotinabhängige Karboxylierung von Acetyl-CoA zu Malonyl-CoA eingeleitet werden und dieses, unter Abspaltung von CO_2 , die Kettenverlängerung der Fettsäuren bewerkstelligen könne. Sicherlich stand Lynens einschlägige Erfahrung mit der Karboxylierung des Methylcrotonyl-CoA bei dieser Idee Pate. Sie erwies sich, wie S. Wakil und R. Brady an tierischen Zellen und sein eigener Arbeitskreis an Hefezellen zeigen konnten, als die richtige. Nach diesem Durchbruch gelang es innerhalb weniger Jahre, den Vorgang der an einem komplizierten Multienzymkomplex ablaufenden Synthese langkettiger Fettsäuren aus Acetyl- und Malonyl-CoA in seinen Einzelheiten zu eruieren und die Architektur und den Funktionszyklus der Fettsäuresynthetase in allen Einzelheiten zu beschreiben. Die Kristallisation des Multienzymkomplexes mit einer Molmasse von 2,3 Mill. Daltons, die Entdeckung ihres Aufbaus aus zwei Arten von Untereinheiten und damit der erstmalige Nachweis eines multifunktionellen Polypeptids

sind die Höhepunkte dieser Arbeitsrichtung, die ihn bis zu seinem Tode intensiv beschäftigte.

Mit diesen Untersuchungen in engstem Zusammenhang stehen die Arbeiten über die Methylsalizylsäuresynthese durch einen Multienzymkomplex aus *Penicillium patulum*. Sie lieferten einen Einblick in den Vorgang der biologischen Bildung von Polyketoverbindungen und eine glänzende experimentelle Bestätigung der von A. Birch aufgestellten Polyacetatregel.

Bereits diese gedrängte Darstellung seiner wichtigsten Entdeckungen macht verständlich, daß Feodor Lynen als einer der größten und brillantesten Biochemiker seiner Zeit angesehen wird. Er gab dieser Wissenschaft entscheidende Impulse und war an ihrer spektakulären Entwicklung maßgebend beteiligt. Ca. 350 Publikationen tragen seinen Namen und zeugen von der Produktivität seines Forscherlebens. Die Bedeutung seiner Ergebnisse war unmittelbar und in ihrer vollen Tragweite erkannt worden; es fehlte deshalb auch nicht an äußeren Anerkennungen seiner Leistung, die in der Verleihung des Nobelpreises gipfelten. Schon 1953 wurde ihm das erste Ordinariat für Biochemie an einer deutschen naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät übertragen. Berufungen an die Universitäten Bern, Zürich, Harvard und Frankfurt konnten durch die Schaffung eines Max-Planck-Instituts für Zellchemie in München abgewendet werden. Der Ehrendoktorwürde der Medizinischen Fakultät Freiburg im Jahr 1960 folgten noch sechs weitere, ferner die Verleihung der ersten Warburg-Medaille durch die Gesellschaft für Biologische Chemie (1963) und zahlreiche Ehrenmitgliedschaften bei Akademien sowie in- und ausländischen wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaften. Von zahlreichen öffentlichen Ehrungen sollen die Verleihung des Großen Verdienstkreuzes mit Stern und Schulterband des Verdienstordens der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (1965) und die Mitgliedschaft des Ordens *Pour le Mérite* (1971) erwähnt werden. Als Präsident der Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker (1971–1973), der Alexander-von-Humboldt-Stiftung (1975–1979) und als auswärtiger Vizepräsident der Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina (1971–1979) stellte Lynen seine Fähigkeiten auch in den Dienst der deutschen Wissenschaft und ihrer Belange.

Es ist ein bleibendes Verdienst Lynens, nach dem Zusammenbruch, den das Dritte Reich und der Zweite Weltkrieg für die deutsche Biochemie bedeutet hatten, in München einen der ersten Kristallisationskeime für die Entwicklung einer modernen Biochemie in Deutschland geschaffen zu haben. Dank seines Ansehens als Forscher und seines integren, offenen Wesens gelang es ihm, zerrissene Bande zu den Fachkollegen im Ausland und besonders zu den zahlreichen deutschen Emigranten wieder herzustellen und neue zu knüpfen. Er erfüllte in den schwierigen Jahren des Wiederaufbaus mit großem Erfolg die Aufgabe eines Botschafters der Wissenschaft und des guten Willens.

Man wird vielleicht einmal feststellen, daß die nachhaltigste Wirkung, die von Lynens Lebensarbeit ausging, diejenige auf seine Schüler war. Es war nicht so sehr sein wissenschaftlicher Status, sondern vor allem die glückliche Paarung von wissenschaftlicher Dynamik mit menschlicher Wärme und einem ausgeprägten Sinn für Fröhlichkeit und Lebensfreude, die stets hochmotivierte junge Leute aus dem In- und Ausland um ihn versammelte. Durch die Ausstrahlungskraft seiner Persönlichkeit und durch die unerbittliche Leistungsforderung und kritische Sachlichkeit, die er selbst vorlebte und auf seine Mitarbeiter zu übertragen verstand, spornte er seine Schüler zur vollen Entfaltung ihrer Fähigkeiten an. In den 37 Jahren seiner akademischen Lehrtätigkeit arbeiteten 88 Diplomanden und Doktoranden unter seiner Leitung, daneben suchten 25 deutsche und 80 ausländische, meist amerikanische und japanische Gastprofessoren und Postdoktoranden den Weg nach München, um sich in Lynens Arbeitskreis einer starken intellektuellen Herausforderung zu stellen und gleichzeitig auch eine anregende, entspannte und an Geselligkeit reiche Atmosphäre zu erleben. In einer Festschrift zu Lynens 65. Geburtstag, in der die ehemaligen Mitarbeiter ihre Eindrücke und Erlebnisse im Münchener Laboratorium schilderten, setzten seine Schüler und Kollegen dem wissenschaftlichen Lehrmeister ein sprechendes Denkmal.

Seine Funktion als Direktor eines Max-Planck-Instituts, sein intensives Interesse an der Forschung im Labor und seine weltweite Anerkennung, die ihn während eines erheblichen Teils seiner Zeit auf Reisen sah, hinderten Lynen nicht, seiner Verantwortung als akademischer Lehrer gerecht zu werden. Seine Vorlesungen und Praktika waren von höchster Aktualität und Anschaulichkeit; er verstand es, auf seine Studenten die Faszination der biochemischen Wissenschaft zu übertragen.

Die Entwicklung der Biochemie geht mit ungebrochener Dynamik weiter; die Schwerpunkte und die Methoden der Forschung ändern sich rasch und schon zu Lynens Lebenszeiten war „seine“ Biochemie der Intermediärprodukte des Stoffwechsels und der Mechanismen der Enzymreaktionen gegenüber dem Interesse an Regulationsphänomenen, der Biochemie der Zellstrukturen und der Molekularbiologie scheinbar in den Hintergrund getreten. Vielleicht werden in 50 Jahren nur noch wenige Biochemiker mit der aktivierten Essigsäure, der aktivierten Kohlensäure und dem biologisch-reaktiven Isopren automatisch den Namen Lynen verbinden. (Wieviele der heutigen jüngeren Forscher könnten wohl auf Anhieb den Entdecker des ATP nennen?) Die großen Entdeckungen der Vorfahren werden zu den Selbstverständlichkeiten der Nachkommen. Bleiben aber wird Lynens Ruhm, zu den großen Baumeistern der modernen Biochemie zu gehören, ein Vorbild an experimenteller Präzision und an Originalität des Denkens gewesen zu sein. Bleiben wird vor allem sein Stil und seine Haltung als

inspirierender Lehrer und als lebensfroher Freund seiner Schüler und Kollegen. Dieses Erbe eines großen Forschers weiterzugeben gebietet die Dankbarkeit und die Hochachtung, die wir Feodor Lynen schulden.

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Control, Modulation, and Regulation of Cell Calcium

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Abbreviations

Ca _o	extracellular ionized calcium concentration
Ca _i	intracellular (cytosolic) ionized calcium concentration
CN	cyanide
CCCP	carbonyl-cyanide, <i>m</i> -chlorophenylhydrazone
Cyclic AMP (GMP)	adenosine (guanosine) 3'-5'-monophosphate
Dibutyryl cyclic AMP	dibutyryl adenosine 3'-5'-monophosphate
DNP	dinitrophenol
EDTA	ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid
EGTA	ethyleneglycol-bis-(β -aminoethyl ether)- <i>N,N'</i> -tetraacetic acid
ER	endoplasmic reticulum
FCCP	carbonyl cyanide, <i>p</i> -trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone
f/cs	femtomoles cm ⁻² s ⁻¹
Hepes	<i>N</i> -2-hydroxyethylpiperazine- <i>N'</i> -2-ethanesulfonic acid
IAA	iodoacetic acid
Na _o	extracellular sodium concentration
Na _i	intracellular (cystolic) sodium concentration
p/cs	picomoles cm ⁻² s ⁻¹
SER	smooth endoplasmic reticulum
SR	sacroplasmic reticulum
Tris	tris (hydroxymethyl)aminomethane
TTX	tetrodotoxin

1 Introduction

The first encounter was inauspicious. But the serendipity of the artifact did not escape Ringer's attention. He wrote (*Ringer* 1883): "After the publication of a paper in the *Journal of Physiology*, Vol. III, no. 5, entitled 'Concerning the Influence exerted by each of the Constituents of the Blood on the Contraction of the Ventricles', I discovered that the saline solution which I had used had not been prepared with distilled water, but with pipe water supplied by the New River Water Company. As this water contains minute traces of various inorganic substances, I at once tested the action of saline solution made with distilled water and I found that I did not get the effects described in the paper referred to. It is obvious therefore that the effects I had obtained are due to some inorganic constituents of the pipe water . . . Calcium chloride solution added to the saline, sodium bicarbonate and potassium chloride solution, after the ventricle has lost contractility, restores good spontaneous beats which will continue for a long time. . . I conclude therefore that a lime salt is necessary for the maintenance of muscular contractility." Later, *Locke* (1894) and *Overton* (1904) showed that the excitation of a frog skeletal muscle by stimulation of the motor nerve was blocked if the medium calcium concentration was too high or too low, suggesting that calcium must be maintained within a narrow range for proper cell function.

The importance of calcium in maintaining membrane stability and integrity was demonstrated by *Heilbrun* (1943), who reported that *Arbacia* egg membranes disrupted by needle puncture were repaired only when calcium was present in the suspending medium. *Heilbrun* and *Wiercinski* (1947) also discovered that intracellular calcium is the trigger for muscle contraction. Since then, the list of cellular functions triggered or regulated by intracellular calcium has expanded and is becoming longer.

Since the concentration of ionized calcium in various cell compartments plays an important role in regulating many functions, intracellular calcium must in turn be controlled and regulated. Its concentration must be kept at appropriately low levels, presumably between 10^{-7} and 10^{-6} M, because higher concentrations of free calcium are known to inhibit many important physiologic processes. In addition, cell calcium must be regulated and allowed to rise and to fall in order to play its role as an intracellular signal and to trigger or modulate specific functions of the cell. There are thus two distinct aspects to cell calcium metabolism that can be represented as shown in Fig. 1: (a) the control, modulation, and regulation of cytosolic free calcium and (b) the regulation of cell functions by cytosolic free calcium. In the scheme shown in Fig. 1, a controller is a mechanism that, alone or in concert with others, maintains the intracellular free calcium

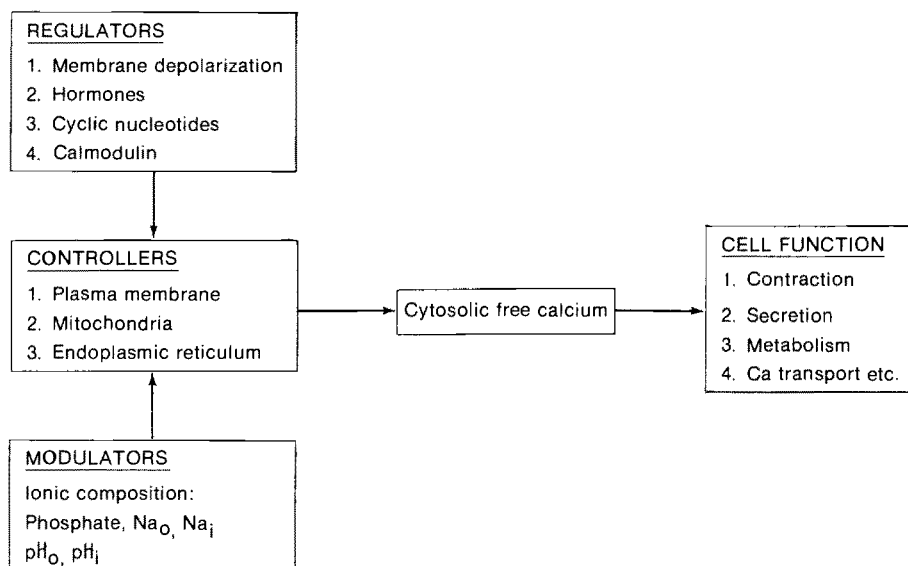


Fig. 1. Control, modulation, and regulation of cytosolic free calcium

far from its thermodynamic equilibrium; the controller determines the *set point*. A regulator, on the other hand, is any agent, electrophysiologic, endocrine or intracellular, that alters the set point, increasing or decreasing the intracellular free calcium above or below its resting or unstimulated level. Finally, a modulator is an agent that influences the level of the set point without being a part of the stimulus–signal–response system or of a negative feedback loop; it has a nonspecific influence on the level of free calcium in either the resting or the stimulated state, and may potentiate or inhibit the effects of the regulators.

This review will address itself primarily to the control, regulation, and modulation of cell calcium. Although our understanding of cellular calcium metabolism is still fragmented, we know enough to state that no single scheme can be applied to all types of cells comprising the mammalian organism. It is evident, for instance, that an erythrocyte, being devoid of a nucleus, of mitochondria, and of endoplasmic reticulum, has to rely exclusively on calcium transport across its plasma membrane to control and regulate its intracellular calcium. On the other hand, a skeletal muscle fiber that can contract and relax in the total absence of extracellular calcium must rely entirely on an intracellular redistribution of calcium between sarcoplasmic reticulum and sarcoplasm to alter its free calcium concentration. In other cells, the control of cytosolic free calcium must lie between these two extremes. But the relative importance of the various transport systems in the control and regulation of cytosolic calcium in any given cell

is still very difficult to assess. From the outset, it must be recognized that no single scheme of cellular calcium metabolism will be valid for all possible tissues.

2 Technical Considerations

Because cellular calcium metabolism is complex, no single method can provide a comprehensive picture of all its aspects. There are many methods of studying cell calcium, and each has its flaws. Obviously, our understanding of the literature must rest on a good grasp of the difficulties and the limitations of the methods used.

Chemical measurement of stable calcium poses no great problem. Atomic absorption spectrophotometry or fluorometric methods (*Borle* and *Briggs* 1968) are sufficiently sensitive, specific, and free from interference to provide reliable data. However, the measurements of total calcium in tissues or isolated cells are not good indicators of cellular calcium metabolism because 90%–95% of the cell calcium is bound to extracellular ligands (*Borle* 1968a, c, 1969a, 1975b; *Van Breemen* and *McNaughton* 1970; *Van Breemen* et al. 1977). Furthermore, measurements of stable calcium in subcellular fractions after homogenization of the tissue and ultracentrifugation may suffer from the fact that calcium redistribution among the various fractions may occur during their preparation. Recently, several quenching methods using ruthenium red and EGTA have reduced that possibility (*Reed* and *Bygrave* 1975a; *McDonald* et al. 1976b).

To eliminate the extracellular calcium bound to the cells, two methods have been used: the incubation of cells with trypsin EDTA (*Borle* 1968) and the *lanthanum method* (*Weiss* and *Goodman* 1969; *Van Breemen* and *McNaughton* 1970). The latter, used by many investigators, involves incubation of cells or tissues with ^{45}Ca ; at the end of the ^{45}Ca uptake period, the tracer is displaced and washed out by lanthanum from the extracellular binding sites. The membrane-bound lanthanum is assumed to block calcium entry and the loss of ^{45}Ca from the cell. The method suffers, however, from several limitations (*Daniel* and *Janis* 1975; *Van Breemen* et al. 1977). It precludes the use of physiologic buffers containing bicarbonate and phosphate. These two ions precipitate with lanthanum, which may result in variable calcium trapping (*Van Breemen* et al. 1977), and even if amine buffers are used, there may be some leaching of phosphate from the cells. Also, since the extracellular phosphate concentration greatly influences the intracellular calcium content (*Borle* 1971a, 1972a) the data obtained by the lanthanum method will always be biased by the absence of phosphate in the incubating medium. In some cases, lanthanum does not com-

pletely inhibit calcium efflux (Katzung et al. 1973; Deth 1978; Batra and Bengtsson 1978) and may allow a 36% loss of intracellular calcium in 1 h and a 50% loss in 1–3 h (Freeman and Daniel 1973; Van Breemen et al. 1977). Lanthanum may even enter certain cells and mitochondria (Hodgson et al. 1972; Reed and Bygrave 1974c). In any case, the ^{45}Ca uptake measured by this method can only measure a pool of exchangeable calcium, and then only if isotopic steady state is reached. It does not provide any information on calcium influx, as is often claimed, unless some kind of kinetic analysis is performed.

Another method of circumventing the presence of the large extracellular calcium pool is the *kinetic analysis* of ^{45}Ca uptake or desaturation curves (Borle 1969a, 1972a, 1975b; Uchikawa and Borle 1978a, b; Borle and Uchikawa 1979). Since the exchange rate of ^{45}Ca with extracellular ligands is more than one order of magnitude faster than calcium transport across the plasma membrane, this extracellular pool can be kinetically determined. In addition, two distinct kinetic pools of intracellular calcium can be distinguished. However, the tracer method also has several limitations. Like most methods, it does not provide any information on a physiologically important quantity: the concentration of free calcium in any compartment. It only measures exchangeable pools. Each compartment may comprise several subpools that behave identically. The identification of the pools with anatomically distinct cellular compartments is difficult and is only supported by very indirect evidence. With three kinetic phases several possible models can be chosen, mammillary, mammillocatenary, and purely catenary. This choice is sometimes arbitrary but it can influence the absolute values of the calculated data. Finally, kinetic studies must be performed at steady state; the sequence of events leading from one steady state to another cannot always be determined.

The effects of various stimuli on cell calcium can be studied by measuring the *fractional efflux* of ^{45}Ca from prelabeled cells or tissues. While this technique can detect qualitative changes, such as gross stimulations or inhibitions of ^{45}Ca efflux, it is normally impossible to quantify the results, because the specific activity of the cells is usually unknown and decreases constantly. The interpretation derived from these experiments is often unwarranted. For instance, a sharp stimulation followed by an immediate return of fractional ^{45}Ca efflux toward baseline (spike pattern) is sometimes interpreted as a transient stimulation. This is not necessarily so because the specific activity of the compartment from which the ^{45}Ca originates may fall rapidly. Since the fractional efflux is a function of both calcium efflux and of the cell-specific activity, the fall in ^{45}Ca flux of the spike pattern may be due to a sharp drop in specific activity of the cell and not to transient nature of the stimulation of efflux. On the other hand, a progressive rise in fractional efflux produced by a stimulus and eventually

reaching a plateau does not necessarily represent a delayed or slow stimulation of calcium efflux. Such a pattern would be expected from an immediate release of calcium from an internal cell compartment slowly raising the specific activity of a cellular pool interposed between it and the external medium.

Until recently, the intracellular concentration of ionized calcium could not be measured directly. Several methods are being developed in various laboratories to measure the cellular free calcium with aequorin, with metallochromic dyes or with pCa-sensitive microelectrodes. For the moment, these techniques are still restricted to giant cells that allow micropunctures and intracellular microinjection of the dyes and they all present serious problems of calibration. Nevertheless, useful information has already been obtained.

3 Total Calcium

The total calcium of cells or tissues can be measured by atomic absorption flame photometry or by fluorometric titrations. Considering the differences in isolation techniques and in analytic methods the range of the total cell calcium as published in the literature is fairly narrow (Table 1). It is slightly but consistently higher than 1.3 mmol/kg cell water, the physiologic concentration of calcium in mammalian interstitial fluids¹. The total calcium of liver, muscle, and nerve is about 2.2 mmol/kg wet weight; it is slightly higher in kidney, 2.4 mmol/kg wet weight. Other tissues may have higher total calcium content (Table 1), but more measurements are needed to firmly establish this point.

In tumor cells, however, it seems that the total calcium is consistently greater; the average of 5.5 mmol/kg wet weight is more than twice that of normal liver, kidney, muscle or nerve. The major fraction of the total cell calcium is extracellular, presumably bound to the glycoprotein coat called glycocalyx or to other extracellular binding sites on the lipid plasma membrane. This fraction can be displaced by lanthanum or removed with EDTA, EGTA or trypsin. In HeLa cells and in monkey kidney and pituitary cells, 90% of this extracellularly bound calcium can be removed with

¹ The calcium concentration of mammalian plasma is around 2.5 mM; however, almost half is bound to plasma proteins and, therefore, nondiffusible. Consequently the concentration of calcium in the interstitial fluids bathing the cells is close to 1.3 mM. It is unfortunate that the classic reference for the preparation of suspending media to be used for the incubation of tissues in vitro (*Umbreit et al. 1964*) gives a calcium concentration of 2.5 mM. Many published experiments have been performed in buffers containing 2.5 mM calcium, which is twice the physiologic concentration.

Table 1. Total calcium of cells and tissues^a

Cells or tissue conditions	Total calcium			Reference
	nmol/mg prot	μmol/g dry wt	mmol/kg wet wt	
Liver (rat)				
Fresh	(12)	4.1	1.8	Van Rossum 1970
Incubated	(10.8)	8.1	(3.6)	Dawkins et al. 1959
Perfused	(8.3)	(6.3)	1.25	Dawkins et al. 1959
Fresh slices	(10.6)	(7.9)	1.3–1.9	Wallach et al. 1966
Slices, incubated	(18.3)	(13.8)	2.0–3.5	Wallach et al. 1966
Fresh slices	(2.4)	1.7	0.34	Judah and Ahmed 1963
Slices, incubated	(5.4)	4.05	0.81	Judah and Ahmed 1963
Slices	18.0	(13.5)	3.26	Borle and Studer 1978
Slices	(11.6)	8.7	(1.74)	Cittadini and Van Rossum 1978
Perfused	(11.3)	(8.5)	1.70	Claret-Berthon et al. 1977
Hepatocytes	11.3	7.9	2.0	Foden and Randle 1978
Hepatocytes	15.5	11.7	2.33	Assimakopoulos-Jeannet et al. 1977
Mean	11.3	8.0	2.2	
Kidney				
Rabbit, slices	(14.6)	5–17	(2.2)	Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a
Rabbit, slices	20	(15)	3.0	Janda 1969
Monkey, cells	17.8	(8.2)	1.63	Borle 1968b
Rabbit, tubules	(14.0)	10.5	(2.10)	Rorive and Kleinzeller 1972
Rat, tubules	15.2	(11.4)	1.17	Borle and Studer 1978
Rat, tubules	21.1	(15.9)	(3.2)	Studer 1978
Rat, slices	13.5	(10.1)	2.25	Borle and Studer 1978
Monkey, cells	20.3	(15.2)	(3.0)	Borle 1975
Mean	17.1	12.2	2.3	
Muscle				
Frog, skeletal	(16.1)	(11.2)	2.41	Gibert and Fenn 1957
Frog, skeletal	(16.9)	(12.7)	2.54	Isaacson 1969
Frog, skeletal	(13.8)	(10.4)	2.07	Isaacson and Sandow 1967
Frog, skeletal	(9.7)	(7.3)	1.45	Cosmos and Harris 1961
Guinea pig, atrium	(11.3)	(8.5)	1.69	Winegrad and Shanes 1962
Guinea pig, atrium	(20.1)	(15.1)	3.02	Morgenstern et al. 1972
Turtle, atrium	(18.2)	(13.2)	2.73	Govier and Holland 1964
Turtle, ventricle	(18.1)	(13.6)	2.71	Govier and Holland 1964
Human, heart	(7.6)	(5.7)	1.14	Wester 1965
Calf, heart	(8.8)	(6.6)	1.32	Wester 1965
Guinea pig, smooth	(12)	(9)	1.8	Grosse and Lullmann 1972
Rat, uterus	(15)	(11.3)	2.25	Van Breemen and Daniel 1966
Mean	13.1	10.4	2.1	
Neural Tissues				
Rat brain, slices	(10)	(7.5)	2.87	Cooke and Robinson 1971
Guinea pig cortex, slice	(16.3)	(12.3)	2.45	Tower 1968
Guinea pig cortex, slice	(23.4)	(17.5)	3.5)	Stahl and Swanson 1971

Table 1 (continued)

Cells or tissue conditions	Total calcium			Reference
	nmol/mg prot	μmol/g dry wt	mmol/kg wet wt	
Guinea pig cortex, slice	(14.5)	(10.9)	2.17	<i>Lolley 1963</i>
Rabbit vagus nerve	(19.1)	(14.4)	2.87	<i>Kalix 1971</i>
Crab nerve	(10.3)	(7.7)	1.54	<i>Bianchi and Lakshminarayanaiah 1978</i>
Neuroblasts, culture	28.7	(21.5)	3.22	<i>Borg et al. 1979</i>
Astroblasts, culture	22.2	(16.7)	3.33	<i>Borg et al. 1979</i>
Mean	18.1	13.6	2.7	
Tumors				
Ehrlich ascites, cells	35	(26)	5.0	<i>Levinson 1967</i>
Ehrlich ascites, cells	(21.3)	16	(3.2)	<i>Levinson and Blumenson 1970</i>
Ehrlich ascites, cells	37.1	(27.8)	(5.6)	<i>Cittadini et al. 1977</i>
HeLa cells	43.5	(25.2)	5.04	<i>Borle 1968a</i>
Hepatoma slices	(31)	23.3	(4.7)	<i>Van Rossum et al. 1971</i>
Mammary tumor, slices	(47.4)	35.6	(7.1)	<i>Van Rossum et al. 1971</i>
Glioma cells	43	(32)	(6.5)	<i>Lazarewicz et al. 1977</i>
Neuroblastoma	43	(32)	(6.5)	<i>Lazarewicz et al. 1977</i>
Mean	37.7	27.2	5.5	
Miscellaneous cells				
Rabbit pancreas, cells	14	(10.5)	(2.1)	<i>Renckens et al. 1978</i>
Rat pancreas, islets	61	(46)	9.4	<i>Kondo and Schulz 1976a</i>
Rat parotid, cells	23	(17.3)	3.45	<i>Miller and Nelson 1977</i>
Rat pituitary, cells	60	(45)	9.00	<i>Moriarty 1977</i>
Frog aorta	(26)	(19)	3.89	<i>Godfraind and Kaba 1972</i>
Frog skin	(16.7)	(12.5)	2.5	<i>Zadunaisky and Lande 1972</i>
Rat bone, cells	(112)	(84)	16.8	<i>Dziak and Brand 1974a</i>
Rabbit, blastocyst	(16.3)	(12.3)	2.45	<i>Lutwak-Mann and McIntosh 1971</i>
'Naked' cells				
HeLa cells				
(trypsin-EDTA)	5.74	(2.4)	0.48	<i>Borle 1968a</i>
Kidney cells				
(trypsin-EDTA)	3.0	(2.3)	0.45	<i>Borle 1968c</i>
Fibroblasts (trypsinized)	6.0	(4.5)	(0.90)	<i>Perdue 1971</i>
Pituitary cells				
(trypsin-EDTA)	3.7	(2.8)	(0.55)	<i>Moriarty 1977</i>
Rat brain				
(trypsin-EDTA)	3.6	(2.7)	(0.54)	<i>Moriarty 1977</i>
Mouse 3T3 cells (EGTA)	5.14	(3.8)	(0.92)	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
Mouse SV40-3T3 (EGTA)	3.03	(2.3)	(0.45)	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
Mean	4.3	3.0	0.6	

Table 1 (continued)

Cells or tissue conditions	Total calcium			Reference
	nmol/mg prot	μ mol/g dry wt	mmol/kg wet wt	
Extruded axoplasm				
Squid	(0.3)	(0.3)	0.05	<i>Requena et al. 1977</i>
Squid	(0.42)	(0.32)	0.063	<i>Requena et al. 1977</i>
Mean	0.36	0.31	0.06	

^a Chemical measurements of ^{40}Ca at physiologic extracellular calcium concentrations (1.0–1.5 mM, except for squid axon). Numbers in parentheses are recalculated assuming ratios of wet weight/dry weight/protein concentration = 100/20/15.

trypsin–EDTA (*Borle 1968a, c; Moriarty 1977*). In liver, EGTA or EDTA can remove 60%–70% of the total calcium (*Van Rossum 1970; Claret-Berthon et al. 1977*), while in mouse 3T3 cells, EGTA reduces it by 50% (*Tupper and Zorngiotti 1977*). Displacement of this extracellular calcium by lanthanum is the basis of the lanthanum method (*Weiss and Goodman 1969; Van Breemen and McNaughton 1970*). In pancreatic islets for instance lanthanum can displace 90% of total calcium of the tissue (*Hellman et al. 1976a*). The calcium concentration of ‘naked’ cells, stripped of their glycocalyx by trypsin or by EDTA, ranges from 0.45 mmol/kg cell water for HeLa and kidney cells (*Borle 1968a, c*) and 0.55 mmol/kg cell water for pituitary cells and brain cortex (*Moriarty 1977*) to 0.9 mmol/kg wet weight for fibroblasts (*Perdue 1971*). Axoplasm extruded from fresh squid axon contains still less calcium, about 0.05 mmol/kg wet weight (*Requena et al. 1977*).

Evidently, the chemical measurements of total tissue calcium can only provide a gross estimate of the changes in calcium content occurring in the cells. However, since cellular calcium is markedly affected by numerous factors in the extracellular milieu, total tissue calcium is a good index of the cells’ viability and of the normal or steady state of the tissue.

Raising the extracellular calcium concentration above physiological levels increases total cell calcium in liver (*Wallach et al. 1966*), HeLa cells (*Borle 1968a, 1971a, b*), kidney cells (*Borle 1970a, 1972a*), squid axons (*Requena et al. 1977, 1979*), and muscle (*Gilbert and Fenn 1957*). Raising the extracellular concentration of phosphate also increases the total cell calcium or its ^{45}Ca uptake. This has been observed in kidney, liver, pancreas, HeLa, bone, and ascites cells, and in adipocytes (*Janda 1969; Van Rossum 1970; Borle 1971a, b, 1972; Dziak and Brand 1974b; Martin et al. 1975; Hines and Wenner 1977; Charlton and Wenner 1978; Hellman and*

Anderson 1978). There is an interaction between the calcium and the phosphate concentrations of the external milieu: the higher the phosphate concentration, the greater the gain in cell calcium with increasing extracellular calcium concentration (*Borle* 1971).

The temperature and the method of tissue preparation have important effects on tissue calcium. In Fig. 2 it is shown that incubating kidney cells at 0°C in calcium-free media rapidly depletes them of calcium. These cells may lose more than 50% of their calcium in 30 min and 95% after 2 h. Kidney slices lose 33% of their calcium (*Höfer* and *Kleinzeller* 1963a) and

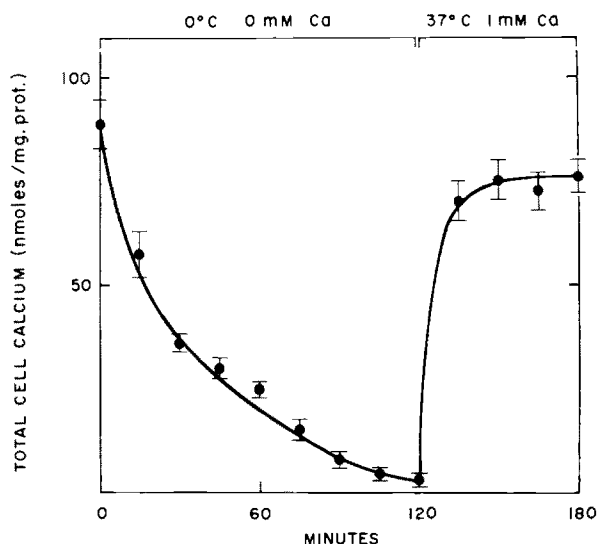


Fig. 2. Temporal relationship of the total calcium loss in calcium-free medium of 0°C and of the reaccumulation of calcium in 1 mM external calcium at 37°C. Experiments performed with cultured monkey kidney cells (LLC-MK₂) in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer. Reproduced from *Borle* (1981), with permission from *Cell Calcium*

rat uterus 75% (*Van Breemen* et al. 1966) at 0°C in the absence of extracellular calcium. These observations may be relevant to the role of extracellular calcium and calcium influx in cell activation. Indeed, one cannot be absolutely certain that the lack of effect of a stimulus in the absence of extracellular calcium can be attributed to the lack of calcium entry into the cells, since it might be due as well to a depletion of intracellular calcium (*Borle* 1978). On the other hand, when the extracellular calcium is normal (1.3 mM) or higher, tissue calcium may increase from two- to fourfold at low temperature. This has been shown in kidney slices (*Höfer* and *Kleinzeller* 1963b), liver (*Van Rossum* 1970), hepatomas, mammary tumors (*Van Rossum* et al. 1971), and in Ehrlich ascites cells (*Cittadini* et al. 1977).

The pH of the incubating medium also affects the cell calcium: a low pH decreases while a high pH increases the total cell calcium in liver and in

kidney (Wallach et al. 1966; Studer and Borle 1979). The metabolic state of the cell or tissue influences the total calcium of the preparations. Prolonged incubation tends to increase the tissue calcium content in muscle, in liver, and in nerve (Gilbert and Fenn 1957; Dawkins et al. 1959; Cosmos and Harris 1961; Requena et al. 1977). This may be related to a decline in oxidative phosphorylation (Dawkins et al. 1959; Wallach et al. 1966); anaerobiosis also induces a net entry of calcium in the tissue (Cittadini and Van Rossum 1978).

In certain tissues, nerve, muscle, and pancreas, substitution of extracellular Na with choline or lithium results in a net gain of tissue calcium (Judah and Ahmed 1963; Reuter 1973; Gardner and Hahne 1977; Requena et al. 1977). Other tissues, such as kidney, do not gain calcium in Na-free media (Borle 1979). In the endocrine pancreas, a rise in glucose concentration of the incubating medium from 3 to 20 mM increases the tissue calcium 20%–50% (Hellman et al. 1976a, b; Hellman and Anderson 1978). Amine buffers, on the other hand, cause a lower total cell calcium than physiologic bicarbonate buffers, at least in kidney cells (Borle and Uchikawa 1978). Finally, in cell cultures, the total cell calcium may be different at different stages of growth (Tupper and Zorziotti 1977). It is important to recognize that the total cell or tissue calcium is very labile and depends to a great extent on the conditions of tissue preparation and of incubation. The interpretation of many experimental results rests on the recognition of this fact.

4 Exchangeable Calcium (^{45}Ca Uptake)

Incubation of cells or tissues in the presence of a radiotracer, usually ^{45}Ca or ^{47}Ca , can give an estimate of their exchangeable calcium fraction. For a ^{45}Ca uptake value to be meaningful, the cells must be at steady state, i.e., they should not gain or lose calcium during the isotope uptake, and in theory the measurement must be made at isotopic equilibrium when the specific activity of the exchangeable fraction is maximal and equal to the specific activity of the incubating medium. In practice, it is assumed that in most tissues an incubation of 2–3 h is sufficient to reach 90% of the isotopic equilibrium, although the radioactivity of the cells may continue to increase very slowly for many hours. The exchangeable calcium fraction of various tissues slices and cells is shown in Table 2. It is severalfold higher in slices or islets than in isolated cells or in cultured cells. The average for liver, kidney, brain slices, and pancreatic islets is 17.5 ± 3.7 nmol/mg tissue protein. In freshly isolated or cultured cells there is an average of 5.0 ± 0.7 nmol exchangeable calcium/mg cell protein. Clearly, most of the dif-

Table 2. Exchangeable calcium measured by ^{45}Ca uptake at isotopic equilibrium

Tissue	Uptake time (min)	Ca_0 (mM)	Exchangeable Ca (nmol/mg cell prot)	Reference
Kidney				
Kidney slices ^a	120	2.5	17 ^c	<i>Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a</i>
Kidney slices ^a	60	2.5	22.6 ^c	<i>Janda 1969</i>
Kidney slice	120	1.3	16.5	<i>Borle and Studer 1978</i>
Kidney tubules	180	1.3	7.24	<i>Borle and Studer 1978</i>
Kidney cells	120	1.3	5.11	<i>Borle 1970a</i>
Kidney cells	120	1.3	5.01	<i>Borle 1975a</i>
Kidney cells	180	1.3	4.50	<i>Borle and Uchikawa 1979</i>
Liver				
Liver slices	120	1.3	18.0	<i>Borle and Studer 1978</i>
Liver perfused	180	2.16	8.2 ^c	<i>Claret-Berthon et al. 1977</i>
Liver cells	100	1.0	2.6	<i>Chen et al. 1978</i>
Pancreas				
Pancreas islets	75	2.5	40 ^c	<i>Hellman et al. 1971</i>
Pancreas islets	—	2.5	7.6	<i>Hellman et al. 1976</i>
Pancreas cells	120	1.25	3.16	<i>Kondo and Schulz 1976</i>
Pancreas cells	120	1.30	3.00	<i>Gardner and Hahne 1977</i>
Pancreas cells	90	1.50	2.50 ^c	<i>Renkens et al. 1978</i>
Miscellaneous				
Brain slices	30	0.75	10.1 ^c	<i>Stahl and Swanson 1971</i>
Aorta ^b	30	1.5	6.67 ^c	<i>Deth 1978</i>
Intestinal cells	120	1.3	9.34	<i>Borle 1974a</i>
Heart cells	30	2.5	4.7 ^c	<i>Lamb and McCall 1972</i>
Uterus ^b	180	2.5	2.0 ^c	<i>Batra and Bengtsson 1978</i>
Bone cells	60	1.3	8.0 ^c	<i>Dziak and Brand 1974a</i>
Crab nerve	200	1.0	4.2 ^c	<i>Bianchi and Lakshminarayanaiah 1978</i>
3T3 cells (growth phase)	50	2.0	0.70	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
3T3 cells (quiescent)	50	2.0	3.38	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
SV40-3T3 cells (low density)	50	2.0	2.20	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
SV40-3T3 cells (high density)	50	2.0	3.08	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>

a 25°C.

b La^{+++} method.

c Recalculated on a protein basis; see footnote to Table 1.

ference comes from a much larger extracellular or interstitial calcium pool in the slices. Various methods have been used to eliminate this extracellular pool after an uptake of ^{45}Ca : the cells can be washed with a medium containing lanthanum (*Weiss and Goodman 1969; Van Breemen and*

McNaughton 1970), the cells can be exposed to trypsin (*Borle* 1968a; *Moriarty* 1977) or the ^{45}Ca uptake curve can be divided into several components by kinetic analysis, an operation that can be viewed as a kinetic 'peeling' of the extracellular fraction (*Borle* 1969a; *Borle* and *Uchikawa* 1979). When the equilibrium ^{45}Ca uptake and the total calcium content of the tissues are measured simultaneously, the nonexchangeable fraction of the cell calcium can be calculated. Table 3 shows that in most tissues in

Table 3. Nonexchangeable fraction of cell calcium

Tissue	Equilibrium ^{45}Ca uptake nmol/mg cell protein	Total ^{40}Ca protein	Nonexchange- able fraction	% Exchange- able	Reference
Liver perfused	8.2 ^a	14.7 ^a	6.5	56	<i>Claret-Berthon et al.</i> 1977
Liver slices	18.6	24.1	5.5	77	<i>Borle</i> (unpublished)
Kidney slices	11.6	16.5	4.9	70	<i>Borle and Studer</i> 1978
Kidney tubules	7.24	15.2	8.0	48	<i>Borle and Studer</i> 1978
Kidney cells	4.5	8.0	3.5	56	<i>Borle and Uchikawa</i> 1979
Kidney cells	5.1	9.8	4.7	52	<i>Borle</i> 1970a
HeLa cells	3.75	5.75	2.0	65	<i>Borle</i> 1969a
Aorta	17 ^a	26 ^a	9.0	65	<i>Godfraind and Kaba</i> 1972
Skeletal muscle	5.9 ^a	11.9 ^a	6.0	50	<i>Isaacson and Sandow</i> 1967
Uterus	11.1 ^a	14.7 ^a	3.6	76	<i>Van Breemen and Daniel</i> 1966
Cerebral cortex	8.9 ^a	21.3 ^a	12.4	40	<i>Stahl and Swanson</i> 1971
Pancreas cells	2.5	14	11.5	18	<i>Renckens et al.</i> 1978
Erythrocytes	(0.013)	9.62	(9.6)	(0.02)	<i>Borle and Studer</i> 1978
3T3 cells (growth phase)	0.70	5.27	4.57	13	<i>Hazelton and Tupper</i> 1979
3T3 cells (quiescent)	3.38	5.14	1.32	66	<i>Hazelton and Tupper</i> 1979
SV40-3T3 cells (low density)	2.20	2.03	—	100	<i>Hazelton and Tupper</i> 1979
SV40-3T3 cells (high density)	3.08	3.03	—	100	<i>Hazelton and Tupper</i> 1979

^a Recalculated on a protein basis; see footnote to Table 1.

which this information is available, the nonexchangeable fraction averages 6.5 ± 0.9 nmol/mg cell protein. Since it is not significantly larger in slices than in isolated cells it is probable that this nonexchangeable fraction is mostly intracellular. The exchangeable calcium fraction expressed as a percentage of the total tissue calcium is slightly larger in slices and whole tissues than in isolated cells. On average the exchangeable cell calcium measured by ^{45}Ca uptake is about 60%. The only notable exception is

found in erythrocytes, which are known to have an extremely low permeability to calcium.

The measurement of ^{45}Ca uptake is easy and is used extensively. However, the interpretation of such data is not as simple as it appears. A ^{45}Ca uptake value obtained before the isotopic equilibrium is reached does not represent the exchangeable cell calcium or an influx of calcium, as often stated. It merely reflects the fraction of the total tissue calcium that has exchanged with the extracellular fluid calcium at that particular time. It is often claimed that an increased ^{45}Ca uptake indicates a higher rate of calcium exchange or an increased calcium transport. Conversely, a depressed ^{45}Ca uptake is sometimes interpreted as a decreased calcium influx. Although these conclusions may be correct in some cases, the fact is that, in steady-state conditions, the uptake of an isotope by a tissue is a function of two independent variables: (a) the size of the compartments with which the isotope exchanges, and (b) the rate of exchange. Consequently it is possible to observe an increased ^{45}Ca uptake when calcium transport, exchange or influx is actually depressed (Borle 1975a). Conversely, it is also possible to obtain a depressed ^{45}Ca uptake when calcium exchange or

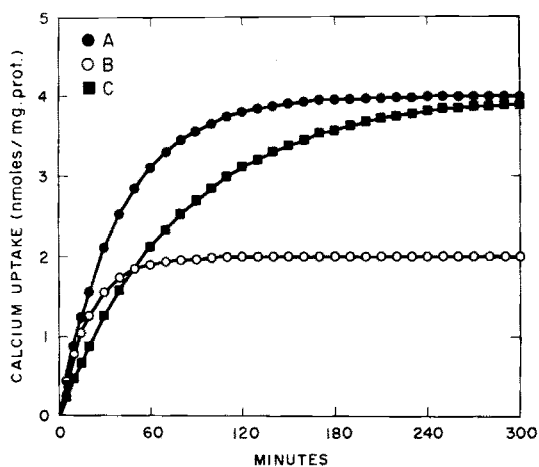


Fig. 3. Theoretical ^{45}Ca uptake curves in a two-compartment system generated by computer. Reproduced from Borle (1981), with permission from *Cell Calcium*

- Curve A: $(dR_2/dt) = 0.1 \exp(-0.025)t$
 $\rho_{12} = 100 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$
 $S_2 = 4 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1}$;
 Curve B: $(dR_2/dt) = 0.1 \exp(-0.05)t$
 $\rho_{12} = 100 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$
 $S_2 = 2 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1}$;
 Curve C: $(dR_2/dt) = 0.05 \exp(-0.0125)t$
 $\rho_{12} = 50 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$
 $S_2 = 4 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1}$.

transport is stimulated. Therefore, any interpretation simply based on an increase or decrease in ^{45}Ca uptake or on the visual interpretation of an uptake curve should not be accepted without reservation, unless the data are kinetically analyzed.

To illustrate this crucial point, Fig. 3 shows three theoretical uptake curves generated by computer, representing tracer exchange between two compartments (an incubation medium in which the tracer is added and one cellular compartment). In curve A the cellular exchangeable pool is 4 nmol/mg protein and the exchange rate is $100 \text{ pmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$. In curve B the exchangeable pool is reduced by half, 2 nmol/mg protein, but the exchange rate is the same, $100 \text{ pmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$. In curve C, on the other hand, the cellular exchangeable pool is the same as in curve A, 4 nmol/mg protein, but the exchange rate is reduced in half, $50 \text{ pmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$. A comparison of curve B and curve C illustrates the difficulty of interpreting ^{45}Ca uptake curves by visual observation alone without kinetic analysis. If B were a control and C an experimental curve, one could easily conclude that since calcium uptake is increased in C compared with B, the experimental curve C reflects a stimulation of calcium transport into the cellular compartment. The fact is that calcium influx and exchange in C is only half that of curve B. The increased uptake is due exclusively to an enlarged exchangeable pool.

Another pitfall is the unrecognized nonsteady state. Very often, tissues or cells are prepared or isolated in buffers and in conditions that will lower the calcium content of the cells, for instance at 0°C and in a calcium-free medium. When the cells are placed again in a physiologic environment, in an incubating medium containing 1.3 mM calcium at 37°C , there is a net shift of calcium into the cell (Fig. 2). If a ^{45}Ca uptake experiment is performed in these conditions, one obtains spurious results which may lead to an erroneous interpretation of the data: the initial isotope uptake will be 4–5 times larger than that observed at steady state, then the radioactivity will drop as the cells unload some of the accumulated calcium. Indeed, in a ^{45}Ca uptake experiment, a drop in the cell or tissue radioactivity can only reflect a net shift of total calcium (^{40}Ca and ^{45}Ca) out of the cells. This proves that the system is not at steady state. As an example, Fig. 4 shows two uptake curves obtained with the same cell preparation: one was performed at steady state, the other when the cells were reaccumulating calcium after an incubation in a Ca-free medium at 0°C . At 20 min, calcium uptake is 5 times greater in a nonsteady state than at steady state. The drop in cellular ^{45}Ca observed in the upper curve after 20 min is the best evidence that the system is not at steady state. The cells initially depleted of calcium reaccumulate it in large excess when incubated later in a calcium-containing buffer, and they cannot be considered normal; they may require much more than 3 h to unload the calcium they accumulated. If

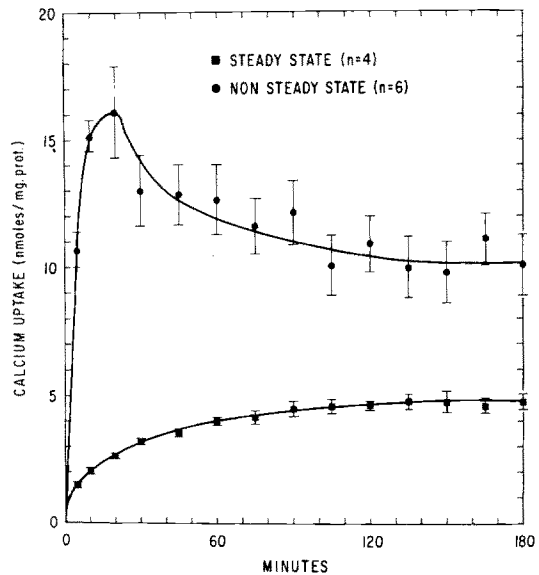


Fig. 4. ^{45}Ca uptake curves obtained at steady state and at nonsteady state. Experiments performed with cultured monkey kidney cells (LLC-MK₂) in 1 mM Ca Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffer at 37°C. Nonsteady state conditions were obtained by preincubating the cells at 0°C in a calcium-free medium before the uptake incubation performed at 37°C, with 1 mM Ca and ^{45}Ca . Steady-state uptake was performed by preincubating the cells in 1 mM Ca at 37°C for 1 h before introduction of ^{45}Ca . Reproduced from *Borle* (1981), with permission from *Cell Calcium*

the 10 min uptake point was taken as representing calcium influx [$15 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1} 10 \text{ min}^{-1}$] one would conclude that its magnitude is $1.5 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$. This is 20 times greater than the calcium exchange measured between intra- and extracellular pools in steady-state conditions [$0.08 \text{ nmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$]. The interpretation of all published results showing these deviations from steady state is thus exceedingly difficult, if not impossible.

5 Cellular Distribution of Calcium

Cellular calcium is distributed among several extracellular and intracellular compartments. Most cells are surrounded by an extracellular coat of proteins and mucopolysaccharides called the glycocalyx, which can bind large amounts of calcium (*Chambers* 1940; *Burgos* 1960; *Brandt* 1962; *Gasic* and *Gasic* 1962; *Bennet* 1963; *Cook et al.* 1965; *Rambourg* and *Leblond* 1967; *Borle* 1968a; *Howell* and *Tyhurst* 1976). Calcium is also bound to the phospholipids and to the structural proteins of the cell plasma membrane (*Tobias et al.* 1962; *Carvalho et al.* 1963; *Koketsu et al.* 1964; *Palmer et al.* 1970; *Quinn* and *Dawson* 1972; *Duffy* and *Schwarz* 1973). As stated pre-

viously, from 50% to 90% of the cell calcium is bound extracellularly, depending on the tissue (Borle 1968a, c; Van Rossum 1970; Claret-Berthon et al. 1977; Moriarty 1977; Tupper and Zorgniotti 1977). Within the cells, four main compartments contain widely different amounts of calcium: the cytosol, the nucleus, the mitochondria, and the endoplasmic reticulum. Table 4 presents the distribution of calcium in these various cell fractions.

Table 4. Percent distribution of calcium among various cell fractions isolated by ultracentrifugation

Tissue	Nucleus and Debris	Mitochondria	Microsomes	Supernatant	Reference
Liver					
(^{40}Ca)	15.5	47.7	23.7	13.1	Griswold and Pace 1956
(^{40}Ca)	45	28.2	11.9	10.7	Thiers and Vallee 1957
(^{40}Ca)	14	48.0	20.0	17.0	Thiers et al. 1960
(^{45}Ca)	23	46.7	15.5	14.2	Hohman and Schraer 1966
(^{40}Ca)	23.9	30.9	26.7	11.2	Carafoli 1967
(^{45}Ca)	22.6	44.4	15.3	2.5	Carafoli 1967
Mean (liver)	24 ± 4.5	42.8 ± 4.4	18.8 ± 2.3	11.5 ± 2.0	
Other cells					
Kidney (^{40}Ca) 40		42	4	3	Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a
Kidney (^{40}Ca) 55		30	10	5	Borle (unpublished)
Muscle (^{45}Ca) 26		65	7	2	Cosmos 1964
Ascites cells					
(^{45}Ca)	30.1	43.9	12.8	13.8	Anghileri 1972
Shell gland (^{45}Ca)	49	34	9.7	6.9	Hohman and Schraer 1966
Chorio- allantois (^{45}Ca)	31	16	3	50	Crooks et al. 1976
Mean (liver and other cells)	31.3 ± 4.2	43 ± 3.5	14.2 ± 2.1	9.0 ± 1.6	

In liver, the largest calcium compartment is found in mitochondria (42.8%); the nucleus and heavy cell membrane debris contain 24%, the microsomes 18.8%, and only 11.5% is left in the cytosol (supernatant). In other tissues, the calcium distribution appears to be qualitatively the same as in liver. Thus the distribution of calcium measured by cell fractionation and ultracentrifugation reveals that the mitochondria contain 3 times as much calcium as the microsomes derived from endoplasmic reticulum. About 60% of the intracellular calcium is sequestered in these two sub-cellular organelles while only 10% is left in the supernatant or cytosolic fraction.

If the calcium present in the 100 000 *g* supernatant after cell homogenization and ultracentrifugation (10% of total homogenate calcium) is an indication of the bound and free calcium of the cytosol it should amount to 0.220 mmol/kg wet weight, since the average cell calcium is about 2.2 nmol/kg wet tissue. This is 4 times higher than the calcium concentration of 50–60 μ mol/kg wet weight measured in axoplasm extruded from the squid giant axon, which contains very few mitochondria and little endoplasmic reticulum (Brinley et al. 1977; Requena et al. 1979) (Table 1). This suggests that cell fractionation techniques overestimate this fraction or that the calcium in the squid axoplasm is unusually low. On the other hand, in kidney, liver, pancreas, muscle, and pituitary cells, the exchangeable cytosolic calcium pool measured by kinetic analysis of ^{45}Ca desaturation curves averages 0.36 mmol/kg wet tissue (Table 5), which fits in well with the value calculated from cell fractionation.

Table 5. Cytosolic and mitochondrial exchangeable calcium pools measured by kinetic analysis of ^{45}Ca desaturation curves [extracellular (Ca^{++}) = 1 mM]

Tissue	Cytosolic pool	Mitochondrial pool	Reference
	(mmol/kg wet weight)		
Kidney			
Cultured cells (LLC-MK ₂)	0.27	0.38	Borle 1972a
Cultured cells (LLC-MK ₂)	0.30	0.38	Borle 1972b
Cultured cells (LLC-MK ₂)	0.20	0.35	Uchikawa and Borle 1978a
Cultured cells (LLC-MK ₂)	0.33	0.23	Borle and Uchikawa 1979
Slices (rat)	0.57	0.50	Uchikawa and Borle 1978b
Tubules (rat)	0.56	0.38	Studer and Borle 1979
Liver			
Perfused (rat)	0.39	0.12	Claret-Berthon et al. 1977
Slices (rat)	0.43	0.14	Borle (unpublished)
Pancreas			
Cells	0.20	0.17	Kondo and Schulz 1967b
Cells	0.20	0.17	Schulz et al. 1977
Muscle			
Cells	0.31	0.32	Schudt et al. 1976
Heart	0.56	0.30	Klaus and Krebs 1974
Pituitary			
Slices	0.43	0.41	Moriarty 1980
Slices	0.26	0.30	Borle and Zahnd (unpublished)
Mean	0.36 ± 0.04	0.30 ± 0.03	

Table 6. Chemical measurements of ^{40}Ca in isolated mitochondria

Tissue	Mitochondrial Ca ($\mu\text{mol/kg}$ wet weight)	Reference
Liver		
Rat	500–700 ^a	<i>Carafoli and Lehninger 1971</i>
Perfused (rat)	655	<i>Claret-Berthon et al. 1977</i>
—	400–720	<i>Carafoli et al. 1977</i>
Slices (rat)	750	<i>Borle and Studer 1978</i>
Rat	865	<i>Hughes and Barritt 1978</i>
Rat	1080	<i>Nicholls 1978b</i>
Mean	750 $\pm$ 79	
Kidney		
Cultured cells (LLC-MK ₂)	280	<i>Borle and Uchikawa 1978</i>
Isolated tubules (rat)	640	<i>Borle and Studer 1978</i>
Slices (rat, Sprague Dawley)	1430	<i>Borle and Studer 1978</i>
Slices (rat, Holzman)	720	<i>Borle and Clark (unpublished)</i>
Mean	768 $\pm$ 240	
Muscle		
Heart	1600–2500	<i>Carafoli et al. 1977</i>
Myometrium	800–2600	<i>Carafoli et al. 1977</i>
Myometrium	1400	<i>Malmström and Carafoli 1977</i>
Mean	1750 $\pm$ 190	

^a Recalculated, assuming 50 mg mitochondrial protein/g liver (*Carafoli and Crompton 1977*).

From the percentage of calcium present in the mitochondrial fraction after ultracentrifugation (43%) one can calculate that the amount of calcium in mitochondria should be around 0.95 mmol/kg wet tissue. The chemical measurements of the ^{40}Ca content of mitochondria isolated from three tissues are shown in Table 6. Kidney mitochondria contain 0.77 and liver mitochondria 0.75 mmol/kg wet tissue, both in the right order of magnitude. In muscle with 65% of the calcium in the mitochondrial fraction, the calculated value of 1.37 (65% of 2.1 mmol/kg wet weight, Tables 1 and 4) fits in well with the average chemical measurement of 1.75 mmol/kg wet tissue. From the kinetic measurements shown in Table 5, the exchangeable mitochondrial pool ranges between 0.12 for liver to an average of 0.37 mmol/kg wet tissue for kidney. This indicates that 50% or less of the mitochondrial calcium is exchangeable. The unexchangeable fraction could possibly reflect the sequestration of calcium in mitochondria as calcium phosphate precipitates (*Peachey 1964; Greenawalt et al. 1964; Weinbach and Von Brand 1968; Zadunaisky et al. 1968; Lehninger 1970;*

Matthews et al. 1970; *Martin and Matthews* 1970; *Sutfin et al.* 1971; *Ruigrok and Elbers* 1972; *Sayegh et al.* 1974) or as organic–inorganic complexes (*Barnard and Afzelius* 1972; *Bonucci et al.* 1973).

There are few data available on the calcium content of endoplasmic reticulum isolated from intact cells. The microsomal fraction obtained from the fractionation of various tissues is about 14% of the total homogenate calcium (Table 4). One can calculate that for most tissues with total calcium ranging between 2.1 and 2.5 mmol/kg wet weight the endoplasmic reticulum may contain between 0.29 and 0.35 mmol/kg wet tissue.

6 Cytosolic Ionized Calcium

The cytosolic calcium activity is the most important quantity in the metabolism of cellular calcium. It is the ionized calcium that regulates the cell functions sensitive to calcium. It is also one of the parameters that determine the thermodynamic calcium gradient between the extracellular fluids and the cytosol and between the cytosol and the mitochondrial matrix or the endoplasmic reticulum. Despite its importance, the magnitude of the cytosolic ionized calcium cannot yet be determined in mammalian cells. However, several attempts have been made in giant cells from invertebrates and estimates have been made by indirect methods in various other cells (Table 7). The best estimates have been obtained with the photoprotein aequorin or with the metallochromic indicators arsenazo III or antipyrilazo III. The advantages or disadvantages of these chemical probes with regard to selectivity, sensitivity, and possible artifacts have been reviewed elsewhere (*DiPolo et al.* 1976; *Blinks et al.* 1976; *Scarpa et al.* 1978a, b; *Blinks* 1978). In the squid axon, estimates of the axoplasmic ionized calcium made with the aid of aequorin ranges between 20 nM (*DiPolo et al.* 1976) and 350 nM (*Baker et al.* 1971). With arsenazo III, *DiPolo et al.* (1976) obtained a value of 130 nM, but assuming a free magnesium concentration of 3 mM (*Brinley and Scarpa* 1975) they estimate that the free calcium concentration may be as low as 50 nM. *Katz and Miledi* (1967) estimated the ionized calcium of the squid axon synapse from null point potential measurements: they measured the membrane potential at which no inward movement of calcium occurred. They found an $E_{Ca^{++}}$ of +130 mV with an extracellular calcium concentration of 11 mM, and calculated the intracellular ionized calcium to be 400 nM. With similar voltage clamp techniques, *Meech and Standen* (1975) estimated the cytosolic free calcium of snail neurons to range between 50 and 200 nM. Using a pCa micro-electrode, *Christoffersen and Simonsen* (1977) found a calcium activity of 450 nM in snail neurons.

Table 7. Estimates of cytosolic ionized calcium in various cells

Cell	Method	Ca ⁺⁺ (μ M)	Reference
Muscle fibers			
<i>Maia squinado</i>	Ca-EGTA, contraction threshold	0.3–1.6	<i>Portzehl et al.</i> 1964
<i>Balanus nubilus</i>	Ca-EGTA, contraction threshold	0.4–0.8	<i>Hagiwara and Nakajima</i> 1966
<i>Maia squinado</i>	Ca efflux, aequorin	0.05–0.12	<i>Caldwell</i> 1971
Neurons			
Squid axon	Aequorin	0.35	<i>Baker et al.</i> 1971
Squid axon	Aequorin	0.1–0.35	<i>Baker</i> 1972
Squid axon	Aequorin	0.02	<i>DiPolo et al.</i> 1976
Squid axon	Arsenazo III	0.05–0.13	<i>DiPolo et al.</i> 1976
Squid synapse	Suppression potential	0.4	<i>Katz and Miledi</i> 1967
<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Ca-EGTA, membrane resistance	0.9	<i>Meech</i> 1974
<i>Helix aspersa</i>	Ca-EGTA, null point potential	0.05–0.2	<i>Meech and Standen</i> 1975
<i>Helix pomatia</i>	pCa electrode	0.45	<i>Christoffersen and Simonsen</i> 1977
<i>Helix pomatia</i>	pCa electrode at 2 μ M Ca _o	0.1	<i>Simonsen and Christoffersen</i> 1979
<i>Helix pomatia</i>	pCa electrode at 21 mM Ca _o	0.4	<i>Simonsen and Christoffersen</i> 1979
<i>Aplysia neuron</i>	Suppression potential	0.1	<i>Stinnakre and Tauc</i> 1973
<i>Aplysia neuron</i>	pCa electrode	0.7	<i>Owen et al.</i> 1977
Oocytes			
<i>Lytechinus pictus</i>	Aequorin	2.5–4.5	<i>Steinhardt et al.</i> 1977
<i>Asterias amurensis</i>	Aequorin	1.7	<i>Hamaguchi and Mabuchi</i> 1978
<i>Asterina pectinifera</i>	Aequorin	0.25	<i>Hamaguchi and Mabuchi</i> 1978

In the giant muscle fiber of the barnacle, the resting level of cytosolic free calcium has been estimated by injecting Ca-EDTA buffers and measuring the contraction threshold. Values ranging between 0.3 and 0.7 μ M (*Portzehl et al.* 1964) or between 0.4 and 0.8 μ M (*Hagiwara and Nakajima* 1966) were obtained, and these investigators estimated that the resting free calcium concentration of the sarcoplasm may be as low as 80–100 nM.

In sea urchin or starfish eggs the intracellular free calcium has also been estimated with aequorin. Values as low as 0.25 and as high as 1.7 μ M were found (*Steinhardt et al.* 1977; *Hamaguchi and Mabuchi* 1978), and during fertilization the cytosolic ionized calcium may rise to higher levels, 2.5–4.5 μ M (*Steinhardt et al.* 1977). In cultured kidney cells, calcium fluxes were measured at different intracellular free calcium concentrations, when reversible hypo-osmotic shock was used to introduce Ca-EGTA buffers

(*Borle and Anderson 1976*). When the fluxes observed are compared with those measured in normal conditions it can be estimated that the free calcium in kidney cells is around $0.3 \mu\text{M}$.

From these observations one can conclude that the resting level of ionized calcium in most cells lies between 50 and 300 nM. It may even be lower (20 nM) in the axoplasm of invertebrates. The question of the absolute level of free cytosolic calcium is not academic. It will eventually establish the relative importance of the various calcium transport processes across the plasma membrane, the mitochondrial membrane or the endoplasmic reticulum membrane, and of calcium binding to specific ligands in the control and regulation of the cytosolic calcium activity. It will also determine whether the enzymatic processes, which have been reported to be stimulated or inhibited by calcium ion in cell-free systems, are actually modulated by cytosolic calcium in the intact cell. Only those enzymes whose K_i or K_a lie within a single order of magnitude of actual free calcium would be expected to be regulated by small fluctuations in cytosolic calcium activity.

7 Thermodynamic Conditions

The transmembrane potential difference (E_m) varies from cell to cell (Table 8). Excitable cells have membrane potentials ranging between -60 and -90 mV, while nonexcitable cells have lower potentials averaging about -45 mV (*Williams 1970*). Single cells and cultured cells have still lower potentials, -20 mV or less, probably because of their high cation permeability ratio P_{Na}/P_K (*Borle and Loveday 1968; Williams 1970*). Nevertheless, all cells exhibit an electrical potential difference across their plasma membrane, the inside of the cell being negative with reference to the extracellular fluids. With an average membrane potential of -60 mV and an extracellular free calcium concentration for mammalian cells of 1.3 mM, the Nernst equilibrium potential equation would predict intracellular ionized calcium in excess of 100 mM at 37°C . This is 5–7 orders of magnitude larger than the cytosolic free calcium measured or estimated in most cells. Since the intracellular free calcium is in the range of 10^{-7} M, and the extracellular calcium 1.3 mM, the Nernst equilibrium potential for Ca, E_{Ca} can be calculated to be around $+126$ mV².

This is in good agreement with the null point potential of $+130$ mV measured in invertebrate neurons (*Katz and Miledi 1967*), taking into ac-

2 $E_{Ca} = -(RT/zF) \ln Ca_i/Ca_o$; R = gas constant, 83 116 volt-coulomb/degree-mole; T = absolute temperature, 310° (37°C); F = Faraday, 95 520 coulomb/equivalent; z = valence (2 for calcium ion).

Table 8. Transmembrane potential of excitable and nonexcitable cells

Cell type	P.D. (mV)	Reference
Excitable cells		
Nerves		
Squid axon in vivo	-77	<i>Moore and Cole 1960</i>
Squid axon in vitro	-66	<i>Frankenhauser and Hodgkin 1956</i>
Frog myelinated nerve	-68	<i>Huxley and Stämpfli 1951</i>
Muscles		
Frog sartorius	-92	<i>Adrian 1956</i>
Rat skeletal muscle	-72	<i>Li et al. 1957</i>
Rabbit atrium	-82	<i>Vaughan-Williams 1959</i>
Rat myometrium (nonpregnant)	-39	<i>Casteels and Kuriyama 1965</i>
Rat myometrium (pregnant)	-58	<i>Casteels and Kuriyama 1965</i>
Nonexcitable cells		
Liver	-40 to -50	<i>Coraboeuf et al. 1964; Schanne and Coraboeuf 1966; Biederman 1968; Williams 1970</i>
Renal tubule	-70 to -75	<i>Giebisch 1958, 1961; Whittembury and Windhager 1961; Wright 1971; Sullivan 1968</i>
Adrenal cortex	-66 to -71	<i>Matthews 1967</i>
Adrenal medulla	-20 to -32	<i>Matthews 1967; Douglas et al. 1967</i>
Salivary duct cells	-35 to -80	<i>Lundberg 1958; Schneyer and Schneyer 1965</i>
Salivary acinar cells	-20 to -40	<i>Lundberg 1958; Schneyer and Schneyer 1965</i>
Thyroid gland	-40 to -50	<i>Woodbury and Woodbury 1963; Williams 1966</i>
Adipose tissue	-20 to -70	<i>Beigelman and Hollander 1962; Girardier et al. 1968</i>
Osteoclasts	-10 to -23	<i>Mears 1971</i>
Single cells		
Red blood cells	- 6 to -10	<i>Lassen and Sten-Knudsen 1968; Jay and Burton 1969</i>
Leukocytes	- 5	<i>Beckmann et al. 1970</i>
Ehrlich ascites cells	-11 to -23	<i>Sekiya 1962; Bernhardt and Pauly 1967; Aull 1967; Smith et al. 1972; Lassen et al. 1971</i>
Cultured cells		
Fibroblasts	-22 to -75	<i>Swift and Todaro 1968; Redman 1971</i>
Kidney cells	-12	<i>Redman 1971</i>
HeLa cells	-16 to -48	<i>Borle and Loveday 1968; Okada et al. 1973</i>
KB cells	-13	<i>Redman et al. 1967</i>
FL cells	-14	<i>Redman 1971</i>

count the slight differences in temperature and in extra- and intracellular calcium of the preparation. Evidently, calcium is not distributed passively across the cell membrane and a large chemical and electrical potential gradient exists between the exterior and interior of the cell. This gradient favors the entry of calcium into the cell and one has to postulate an active, energy-dependent transport mechanism to account for any efflux of calcium out of the cell. The driving force E , allowing the passive penetration of calcium into the cell, can be calculated from the electric field equation: $E = E_m - E_{Ca}$. E will depend on the particular transmembrane potential difference and the cytosolic calcium of each cell. It will range from a low 140 mV for nonexcitable cells with an E_m of -20 mV and a cytosolic calcium of 10^{-7} M to a high 240 mV for excitable cells with an E_m of -90 mV and a cytosolic free calcium of 10^{-8} M. The work required to maintain the cell in steady state has been calculated for skeletal muscle by *Bianchi* (1968). It was found to be only 0.6% of the total resting energy output of muscle. In rat kidney, assuming a cytosolic free calcium of $3 \cdot 10^{-7}$ M and a E_m of -70 mV (*Wright* 1971) the electric field would be 180 mV. The steady-state calcium efflux from rat kidney cells has been found to be $112 \text{ pmol (mg prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ or $1.0 \text{ mmol kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ (*Uchikawa* and *Borle* 1978a; *Studer* and *Borle* 1979). The work necessary to drive calcium transport out of kidney cells can be calculated to be $16 \text{ cal kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$. This is only 0.24% of a total basal energy output ΔH based on the resting oxygen consumption of kidney of $6720 \text{ cal kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ (*Cohen* and *Barac-Nieto* 1973). Compared with a free energy expenditure $\Delta F'$ based on basal ATP utilization of $3600 \text{ cal kg}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ (*Cohen* and *Barac-Nieto* 1973), it would represent only 0.44%. Even if one assumes only 50% efficiency in energy utilization, active calcium transport in kidney cells would require less than 1% of the energy available in basal conditions.

In conclusion, despite uncertainties concerning the absolute levels of free calcium in most cells, calcium is not distributed passively across the plasma membrane. There is a large electrochemical gradient between the exterior and interior of the cell. An active transport mechanism must be postulated to account for the efflux of calcium out of the cells. On the other hand, calcium influx can be assumed to be passive on purely thermodynamic grounds. The energy necessary to maintain the cell in the steady state is 0.5%–1% of the total cellular energy output.

3 $\Delta w = (ZEF) \cdot (\text{steady-state calcium efflux})$; z = valence, 2; electric field, $E = E_m - E_{Ca}$ [$-70 \text{ mV} - (+110 \text{ mV}) = 0.180 \text{ V}$]; $F = 95\,520 \text{ coulomb/equivalent}$; $4.2 \text{ volt-coulomb/calorie}$; $\text{Ca efflux} = 0.001 \text{ mol/kg wet weight/h}$.

8 Calcium Transport Across the Plasma Membrane

8.1 Magnitude of Calcium Fluxes

The published rates of calcium transport across the plasma membrane of various cells are listed in Tables 9–11. The overall magnitude of these fluxes is remarkably similar, when one takes into account the differences in tissues, in species, and in extra- or intracellular calcium concentration. In mammalian cells calcium influx ranges between 15 and 90 fmol cm⁻² s⁻¹ (f/cs), while in squid axon it varies between 60 and 150 f/cs. Since it has been shown that the calcium concentration of squid hemolymph is 7 mM, of which only about 4 mM is ionized (*Blaustein* 1974), the actual calcium influx in a normal fiber should be about 28 f/cs (*DiPolo* 1979). Thus the three- to fourfold difference in influx observed between mammalian cells and the squid axon may be due only to the high extracellular calcium concentration used in most experiments. In frog muscle calcium influx is 94 f/cs, but this value would be around 16 f/cs if corrected for

Table 9. Calcium influx in invertebrate and vertebrate cells

Tissue	Ca _o (mM)	Ca influx (f/cs)	Reference
Nerves			
Squid axon	10.4	76	<i>Hodgkin and Keynes</i> 1957
Squid axon	11	150	<i>Baker et al.</i> 1969
Squid axon	10	16	<i>Rojas and Taylor</i> 1975
Squid axon	10	64	<i>Requena et al.</i> 1977
Squid axon	10	40–100	<i>DiPolo</i> 1979
Muscles			
Barnacle	25	250	<i>DiPolo</i> 1973b
Lobster	0.1	190	<i>Gainer</i> 1968
Lobster	4.0	1740	<i>Gainer</i> 1968
Lobster	24	8550	<i>Gainer</i> 1968
Frog skeletal muscle	2.0	94	<i>Bianchi and Shanes</i> 1959
Cat smooth muscle	1.8	89	<i>Sperelakis</i> 1962
Mammalian cells			
Rabbit vagus nerve	2.3	25	<i>Kalix</i> 1971
Guinea pig atrium	1.25	16	<i>Winegrad and Shanes</i> 1962
Guinea pig atrium	2.50	29	<i>Winegrad and Shanes</i> 1962
Guinea pig atrium	3.75	48	<i>Winegrad and Shanes</i> 1962
Human HeLa	1.3	30	<i>Borle</i> 1969a
Monkey kidney	1.3	43	<i>Borle</i> 1970a
Mouse Ehrlich ascites	0.5	14	<i>Levinson and Blumenson</i> 1970
Rat anterior pituitary	1.0	77	<i>Moriarty</i> (pers. communication)
Mean ^a		35 ± 7.3	

^a Omitting lobster muscle.

Table 10. Calcium efflux in invertebrate and vertebrate cells

Tissue	Ca _i (nM)	Ca efflux (f/cs)	Reference
Nerves			
Squid axon ^a	—	80–310	<i>Blaustein and Hodgkin 1969</i>
Squid axon	300	260	<i>DiPolo 1973a</i>
Squid axon	300	240	<i>DiPolo 1974</i>
Squid axon	100	100	<i>Blaustein 1977a</i>
Squid axon	60	20–50	<i>DiPolo 1977</i>
Squid axon	150	100	<i>DiPolo 1977</i>
Squid axon	230	320	<i>DiPolo 1977</i>
Squid axon	10–50	10–110	<i>Mullins and Brinley 1975</i>
Squid axon	100	22–38	<i>Requena 1978</i>
Muscles			
Crab	20	1000–2000	<i>Ashley et al. 1972</i>
Barnacle	20	400	<i>Ashley et al. 1972</i>
Barnacle	500	1000–2000	<i>Russell and Blaustein 1974</i>
Mammalian cells			
Monkey kidney	—	47	<i>Borle 1972</i>
Rat anterior pituitary	—	77	<i>Moriarty (pers. communication)</i>

^a All values for calcium efflux from squid axon listed were obtained in artificial seawater with normal extracellular concentration of calcium and sodium and in the presence of ATP.

the surface area of the transverse tubular system. On the other hand, calcium influx in invertebrate muscle is much higher and this may not be due exclusively to the very high extracellular calcium used in some experiments (24 mM); even at 0.1 mM Ca_o calcium influx in lobster muscle can be as high as 190 f/cs.

The magnitude of calcium efflux in perfused squid axons and in kidney cells is the same as their calcium influx (Table 10). Indeed, since the ionized calcium of the squid axoplasm has been shown to lie between 20 and 100 nM (*DiPolo et al. 1976*), the values for calcium efflux obtained at these intracellular free calcium concentrations range between 10 and 100 f/cs. Calcium efflux from invertebrate muscle is again much higher, 400–2000 f/cs even at low Ca_i.

Several attempts have been made to measure calcium transport across mammalian cell plasma membrane by kinetic analyses of ⁴⁵Ca uptake or desaturation curves. The validity of these studies rests on the assumption that the initial, very fast exchange of tracer represents calcium binding to an extracellular calcium compartment and that the second, slower kinetic phase represents calcium transport across the plasma membrane (*Borle 1969a, 1970a, 1972a, 1975b; Uchikawa and Borle 1978a, b*). The values

Table 11. Calcium influx and efflux in vertebrate cells measured by kinetic analysis of ^{45}Ca movements

Cells	Ca fluxes (pmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1})	Reference
Calcium influx		
HeLa cells	60	<i>Borle 1969a</i>
Monkey kidney cells	96	<i>Borle 1970a</i>
Monkey kidney cells	85	<i>Borle 1975a</i>
Monkey kidney cells	41	<i>Borle and Uchikawa 1979</i>
Dog kidney cells	118	<i>Borle 1971b</i>
Human intestinal cells	82	<i>Borle 1971b</i>
Chicken intestinal cells	144	<i>Borle 1974a</i>
Rat pancreatic cells	70	<i>Kondo and Schulz 1976a</i>
Mouse 3T3 cells (growth phase)	40	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
Mouse 3T3 cells (quiescent)	130	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
SV-40 3T3 (low and high density)	120	<i>Hazelton and Tupper 1979</i>
Mean	90 ± 11	
Calcium efflux		
Monkey kidney cells	83	<i>Borle 1972a</i>
Monkey kidney cells	53.2	<i>Uchikawa and Borle 1978a</i>
Monkey kidney cells	67.4	<i>Borle and Uchikawa 1978</i>
Monkey kidney cells	39.3	<i>Borle and Uchikawa 1979</i>
Rat kidney cells	135	<i>Studer and Borle 1979</i>
Rat kidney slices	112	<i>Uchikawa and Borle 1978b</i>
Chicken intestinal cells	177	<i>Borle 1974</i>
Perfused liver	187	<i>Claret-Berthon et al. 1976</i>
Pancreatic cells	81	<i>Kondo and Schulz 1976b</i>
Chick embryonic muscle	117	<i>Schudt et al. 1976</i>
Pituitary cells	163	<i>Moriarty (pers. communication)</i>
Mean	110 ± 15	

obtained with this method are listed in Table 11. They range between 40 and 140 pmoles $(\text{mg protein})^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ for calcium influx and between 40 and 190 pmoles $(\text{mg protein})^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$ for calcium efflux. In most cases, the surface area of these cells has not been determined. However, in two cell types, HeLa cells and monkey kidney cells (LLC-MK₂), the surface area has been reported to be 36.7 and 33.5 $\text{cm}^2/\text{mg protein}$, respectively (*Borle 1969, 1970*), so that the calcium fluxes can be converted to f/cs. If one assumes that the surface area of the mammalian cells listed in Table 11 is approximately in the same order of magnitude, their calcium influx and efflux would range between 20 and 80 f/cs, which is identical with the fluxes of cells shown in Tables 9 and 10.

8.2 Mechanisms of Calcium Transport

Several mechanisms for the active transport of calcium out of the cell, across the plasma membrane, have been described: (a) an ATP-dependent calcium efflux mediated by a calcium-sensitive, magnesium-dependent ATPase (CaMgATPase) that derives its energy from the hydrolysis of ATP; (b) an efflux of calcium in exchange for extracellular sodium ions (Na—Ca exchange) that derives its energy from the sodium electrochemical gradient established across the plasma membrane by the enzyme Na-K-ATPase; (c) an efflux of calcium in exchange for an extracellular calcium ion (Ca—Ca exchange) that derives its energy from the calcium electrochemical gradient. Calcium influx, on the other hand, may be (a) a facilitated diffusion, on a uniporter or on an antiporter; or (b) a voltage-dependent influx through a calcium channel.

8.3 Calcium Efflux

8.3.1 ATP-Dependent Calcium Efflux and CaMgATPase

ATP-dependent calcium efflux and its relation to the enzyme CaMgATPase (EC 3.6, 1.3) have been extensively studied in erythrocytes. However, most other cells or tissues, kidney (*Parkinson and Radde 1971; Kinne-Saffran and Kinne 1974; Moore et al. 1974; Gmaj et al. 1979*), intestine (*Kurebe 1978, 1979; Ghijsen and Van Os 1979*), brain (*Ohashi et al. 1970; Blitz et al. 1977; Rahamimoff and Abramovitz 1978*), nerves (*DiPolo 1976, 1977; Baker 1976*), skeletal muscle (*Sulakhe et al. 1973; Casteels et al. 1973*), smooth muscle (*Thorens 1979*), fibroblasts (*Lamb and Lindsay 1971*), and lymphocytes (*Pau et al. 1976*), exhibit some kind of ATP-dependent calcium transport across their plasma membrane or some CaMgATPase activity. In addition, evidence for an energy-dependent calcium efflux has been offered in liver (*Wallach 1966; Van Rossum 1970; Cittadini and Van Rossum 1978*) and HeLa cells (*Borle 1969b*), although one group of investigators failed to detect any CaMgATPase activity in the plasma membrane of rat liver (*Chambaut et al. 1974*).

In erythrocytes, the CaMgATPase has a high affinity for calcium with a K_{Ca} of about 2 μM (Tables 12 and 13) and a V_m of 10 nmol (mg protein) $^{-1}$ min $^{-1}$ (*Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Scharf and Foder 1978*). The K_m for ATP is 40 μM but if free ATP instead of Mg-ATP is assumed to be the substrate, the K_{ATP} can be calculated to be 1–2 μM (*Schatzmann 1977*). The reaction has a Q_{10} ranging between 3.0 and 3.5 (*Lee and Shin 1969; Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Schatzmann 1970; Vincenzi 1971*), an energy of activation of 13–15 kcal/mol (*Lee and Shin 1969; Schatzmann 1973; Quist and Roufogalis 1975; Sarkadi et al. 1977*), and a

Table 12. Kinetic parameters of Ca-ATPases in different cells or tissues

Cells	High-affinity	Low-affinity		Reference
	K _{Ca} (μ M)	K _{Ca} (μ M)	K _{ATP} (μ M)	
Erythrocytes	2.7	—	40	<i>Wolf</i> 1970
	4.1	100	—	<i>Schatzmann</i> and <i>Ross</i> 1971
	6	—	—	<i>Davis</i> and <i>Vincenzi</i> 1971
	—	30	—	<i>Bond</i> and <i>Green</i> 1971
	0.92	—	—	<i>Wolf</i> 1972
	1–4	—	—	<i>Schatzmann</i> 1973, 1975
	1.6	400	—	<i>Quist</i> and <i>Roufogalis</i> 1975
	1–4	—	—	<i>Scharf</i> 1976
	—	—	1–2	<i>Schatzmann</i> 1977
	1.8	17	—	<i>Gopinath</i> and <i>Vincenzi</i> 1977
	0.45	100	—	<i>Quist</i> and <i>Roufogalis</i> 1977
	0.9	—	—	<i>Hanahan</i> et al. 1978
	1.0	30	—	<i>Scharf</i> and <i>Foder</i> 1978
Kidney	—	1500	—	<i>Parkinson</i> and <i>Radde</i> 1971
	—	1000–2000	—	<i>Kinne-Saffran</i> and <i>Kinne</i> 1974
	< 20	—	—	<i>Moore</i> et al. 1974
Intestine	—	92	—	<i>Kurebe</i> 1979
	0.5	50	—	<i>Ghijsen</i> and <i>Van Os</i> 1979
Lymphocytes	22	—	—	<i>Pau</i> et al. 1976

stoichiometry of 1 Ca/ATP according to some workers (*Schatzmann* and *Vincenzi* 1969; *Schatzmann* 1970; *Vincenzi* 1971; *Schatzmann* 1975) or 2 Ca/ATP according to others (*Quist* and *Roufogalis* 1975, 1977; *Ferreira* and *Lew* 1976; *Sarkadi* et al. 1977; *Scharf* and *Foder* 1978). The enzyme is inhibited by lanthanum, ethacrynic acid, mersalyl, chlorpromazine, and ruthenium red; it is not inhibited by ouabain, oligomycin, sodium azide, fluoride or caffeine (see refs., Table 13). Like other enzymes, CaMgATPase of erythrocytes requires the presence of phospholipids. The enzyme activity is reduced or lost after treatment with phospholipase A and C (*Cha* et al. 1971; *Quist* and *Roufogalis* 1975; *Luthra* et al. 1976a, b; *Ronner* et al. 1977). The enzyme can be reactivated by addition of phosphatidyl serine or oleate (*Ronner* et al. 1977). Phospholipase D, however, does not reduce the ATPase activity (*Cha* et al. 1971). The enzyme is presumed to be embedded in a ring of phospholipids whose fluidity influences ATPase activity (*Galo* et al. 1975; *Ronner* et al. 1977; *Strittmatter* et al. 1979).

Finally, many investigators have found that an activator protein calmodulin stimulates the CaMgATPase activity from two- to fourfold. The

Table 13. Properties of erythrocyte CaMgATPase

Parameter		Reference
High-affinity site K_{Ca}	2.0 μM	See Table 12
Low-affinity site K_{Ca}	$\sim 100 \mu M$	See Table 12
V_m	10 nmol(mg prot) $^{-1}$ min $^{-1}$	<i>Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Scharf and Foder 1978</i>
Affinity of ATP K_{ATP}	40 μM	<i>Wolf 1970; Schatzmann 1975</i>
Q_{10}	3.0–3.5	<i>Lee and Shin 1969; Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Schatzmann 1970; Vincenzi 1971</i>
Energy of activation	13–15 kcal/mol	<i>Lee and Shin 1969; Schatzmann 1973; Quist and Roufogalis 1975; Sarkadi 1977</i>
Stoichiometry	a) 1 Ca/ATP	<i>Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Schatzmann 1970; Vincenzi 1971; Schatzmann 1975</i>
	b) 2 Ca/ATP	<i>Quist and Roufogalis 1975, 1977; Ferreira and Lew 1976; Sarkadi 1977; Scharf and Foder 1978</i>
Inhibitors	Lanthanum, ethacrynic acid, mersalyl, chlorpromazine, ruthenium red, tetracaine, dibucaine	<i>Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Vincenzi 1971; Weiner and Lee 1972; Schatzmann 1975; Quist and Roufogalis 1975; Hinds et al. 1978</i>
Not inhibited by	Ouabain, oligomycin, NaN_3 , fluoride, caffeine	<i>Lee and Shin 1969; Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Schatzmann 1970, 1975; Sarkadi 1977</i>
Depends on phospholipids		<i>Cha et al. 1971; Quist and Roufogalis 1975; Luthra et al. 1976a, b; Ronner et al. 1977</i>
Stimulated by calmodulin		<i>Bond and Clough 1973; Vincenzi and Farrance 1977; Jarrett and Penniston 1977; Quist and Roufogalis 1977; Gopinath and Vincenzi 1977; Hanahan et al. 1978; Hinds et al. 1978; Sarkadi 1978</i>

concentration of this activator in intact erythrocytes is about 8 times that necessary to saturate the enzyme (*Luthra et al. 1976a*). It is nondialyzable and it is destroyed by trypsin although it is not degraded when intact erythrocytes are exposed to trypsin (*Bond and Clough 1973; Vincenzi and Farrance 1977*). This suggests that the activator is located in the cell and acts by binding to the inner membrane surface (*Vincenzi and Farrance 1977*). It is closely related to other activator proteins such as the calcium-dependent regulator of cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase and skeletal muscle troponin-C (*Jarrett and Penniston 1977; Gopinath and Vincenzi 1977; Hinds et al. 1978; Schulman and Greengard 1978*). These other modulator proteins also activate the CaMgATPase activity of erythrocytes (*Gopinath and Vincenzi 1977*) and the ATP-dependent calcium transport (*Hinds et al. 1978*).

The ATP-dependent calcium transport and CaMgATPase of erythrocytes share many characteristics: (a) they have similar dissociation constants for calcium; (b) both require magnesium; (c) both are insensitive to ouabain; (d) both accept strontium instead of calcium; (e) both are inhibited by the same concentration of lanthanides; (f) they have the same optimal temperature; and (g) their nucleotide requirements are the same (*Cha et al. 1971; Weiner and Lee 1972; Porzig 1972; Quist and Roufogalis 1977; Scharf and Foder 1978*). For instance, phospholipase A and C inhibit both calcium transport and ATPase activity, while phospholipase D affects neither (*Cha et al. 1971*). Sodium and potassium stimulate a fraction of CaMgATPase in the presence of ouabain (*Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Bond and Green 1971; Bond and Clough 1973*); however, calcium transport is not affected by the presence or absence of sodium or the sodium concentration ratio across the plasma membrane (*Schatzmann 1966, 1970; Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Lee and Shin 1969; Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Vincenzi 1971; Porzig 1972*). There appears to be no Na–Ca exchange in erythrocytes and the stimulation of CaATPase by sodium affects probably another enzyme that does not pertain to calcium transport (*Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Schatzmann 1975*). Calcium transport in erythrocyte membrane vesicles has a K_{Ca} of $0.18 \mu\text{M}$, a V_m of $0.9 \text{ nmol (mg protein)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$, and a K_{ATP} of $30\text{--}60 \mu\text{M}$, and reconstituted vesicles require the incorporation of lipids (*Ting et al. 1979; Yeung et al. 1979*).

Several investigators detected a low- and a high-affinity site of the CaMgATPase for calcium (*Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Quist and Roufogalis 1975, 1977; Gopinath and Vincenzi 1977; Scharf and Foder 1978*). *Scharf and Foder (1978)* presented evidence that the enzyme exists in two different and reversible states: (a) a resting state with low affinity for calcium ($K_{Ca} = 30 \mu\text{M}$), a Hill coefficient of 1, a low maximum velocity, and (b) an active state with high affinity for calcium ($K_{Ca} = 1 \mu\text{M}$), a Hill coefficient greater than 1, suggesting a positive cooperativity of calcium activa-

tion, and a high maximum velocity. The resting state corresponds to the enzyme free of the activator protein calmodulin, whereas the activator would be bound to the enzyme in the active state. *Scharf and Foder (1978)* also showed that the shift from resting to active state occurs when the enzyme is exposed to increasing calcium concentrations in the presence of the activator and the shift reaches 50% at 30 μM calcium. Conversely, the shift from active to resting state occurs at low calcium concentrations (50% shift at 0.5 μM calcium) when the activator is released from the membrane. They propose that these two states of the enzyme represent a resting and an active state of the calcium pump actively extruding calcium from the interior of the erythrocyte. A similar model has also been proposed by *Lynch and Cheung (1979)*.

In other tissues, information concerning CaMgATPase—as related to ATP-supported calcium transport—is much more fragmentary (Table 14).

Table 14. Kinetic parameters of ATP-dependent calcium transport in cells and tissues

	K _{Ca} (μM)	V_m nmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹	Reference
Erythrocytes	2–3 1 10 0.18	— — — 0.9	<i>Schatzmann 1973</i> <i>Ferreira and Lew 1976</i> <i>Sarkadi 1978</i> <i>Ting et al. 1979; Yeung et al. 1979</i>
Kidney	19.4 0.5	1.2 1.0	<i>Moore et al. 1974</i> <i>Gmaj et al. 1979</i>
Intestine	38	2.7	<i>Kurebe 1978</i>
Skeletal muscle	20	—	<i>Sulakhe et al. 1973</i>

Several Ca-activated ATPases described in kidney and intestine may be enzymes different from the Ca-activated Mg-dependent ATPase of erythrocytes that is characterized by its requirement for magnesium as well as for calcium. For instance *Parkinson and Radde (1971)* and *Kinne-Saffran and Kinne (1974)* described a CaATPase in kidney with a K_{Ca} greater than 1 mM that is inhibited by magnesium or depressed by high concentrations of magnesium. *Schatzmann (1975)* has suggested that such CaATPases could be identical with the protein spectrin adhering to the inner surface of some membranes and would not be related to calcium transport. Nevertheless, several investigators have described enzymes or transport processes consistent with a CaMgATPase-driven calcium pump in kidney (*Moore et*

al. 1974; *Gmaj et al.* 1979), intestine (*Kurebe* 1978; *Ghijsen* and *Van Os* 1979), brain or nervous tissues (*Ohashi et al.* 1970; *Blitz et al.* 1977; *Rahamimoff* and *Abramovitz* 1978), and lymphocytes (*Pau et al.* 1976). In brain and kidney they are not inhibited by ouabain and oligomycin (*Blitz et al.* 1977; *Gmaj et al.* 1979); in muscle and kidney they are inhibited by lanthanum and butacaine (*Sulakhe et al.* 1973; *Gmaj et al.* 1979); in kidney, muscle, and lymphocytes they have a K_{Ca} ranging between 0.5 and 20 μM (*Sulakhe* 1973; *Moore et al.* 1974; *Pau et al.* 1976; *Gmaj et al.* 1979); in intestine, delipidation decreases their activity (*Kurebe* 1979) and in synaptosomes there is a parallelism between calcium transport and the enzyme activity (*Rahamimoff* and *Abramovitz* 1977, 1978). In vesicles prepared from renal plasma membrane, sodium inhibits the ATP-dependent calcium uptake (*Moore et al.* 1974; *Gmaj et al.* 1979). *Gmaj et al.* (1979) have proposed that sodium increases the backleak of calcium from the vesicles through a Na–Ca exchange system, rather than inhibiting the ATP-dependent calcium transport directly. However, more evidence will be required to firmly establish the existence of a calcium pump dependent on a CaMgATPase similar to that of erythrocytes in most of these tissues.

8.3.2 Na_o -Activated Calcium Efflux in Squid Axons

In 1958, *Lüttgau* and *Niedergerke* (1958) reported that frog hearts depolarized in high-KCl media can be made to contract or to relax, respectively, by reducing or increasing the proportion of Na in the surrounding fluids. In 1968, *Reuter* and *Seitz* (1968) observed that calcium efflux from heart muscle decreases 30% in Ca_o -free solutions, 35% in Na_o -free solutions, and 80% in the absence of Ca and Na in the incubation medium. Moreover, the calcium content of heart muscle increases in Na_o -poor solutions and decreases again when Na is reintroduced in the extracellular fluids. *Reuter* and *Seitz* (1968) were the first to suggest a modified exchange diffusion countertransport by which calcium could be transported out of the cells in exchange for Na_o against a large electrochemical gradient without direct metabolic energy coupling.

Similar observations were made in squid axons (*Blaustein* and *Hodgkin* 1969). The giant axon of the squid has been used extensively to study Na–Ca countertransport, and several reviews on the subject have been published (*Baker* 1972, 1978; *Blaustein* 1974; *Brinley* 1976; *McNaughton* 1978; *Requena* and *Mullins* 1979). These investigations have been performed in a wide variety of experimental conditions: (a) in intact axons and in axons poisoned with CN or other metabolic inhibitors; (b) in axons into which ^{45}Ca has been injected or in internally perfused axons; (c) with very high ($> 1 \mu M$), intermediate (0.1–1.0 μM) or low intracellular free calcium concentrations ($< 0.1 \mu M$). The results obtained differ both quantita-

tively and qualitatively, depending on these conditions. The early investigations were usually done at very high Ca_i and in axons poisoned with cyanide (Blaustein and Hodgkin 1969; Blaustein 1974, 1976a, b; Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975; DiPolo 1973a; Mullins and Brinley 1975). In these conditions, calcium efflux is extremely high and may exceed the physiologic rates by one to two orders of magnitude. In most conditions, however, three components of calcium efflux can be detected: (a) a Na_o -activated calcium efflux, (b) a Ca_o -activated calcium efflux, and (c) a residual calcium efflux insensitive to the presence or the absence of calcium or sodium in the extracellular fluids.

The Na_o -activated calcium efflux has several characteristics, which are summarized in Table 15. At very high Ca_i ($> 1 \mu M$) calcium efflux is very high, up to 6 p/cs, and 60%–80% is Na_o -dependent (Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Blaustein 1977). The high rates observed are also due to the abnormally low concentrations of Na_i (5 mM) used in these experiments. At intermediate Ca_i (0.1–1.0 μM) and with physiologic Na_i of 60–90 mM (Hinke 1961; Deffner 1961; Brinley and Mullins 1967), calcium efflux is much lower (< 1 p/cs) and much less dependent on Na_o (DiPolo 1974, 1977, 1979; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Brinley et al. 1975; Requena 1978). At physiologically low Ca_i ($< 0.1 \mu M$), calcium efflux is practically insensitive to changes in Na_o (Brinley et al. 1975; Mullins and Brinley 1975; DiPolo 1976, 1977, 1979). ATP increases the sensitivity of the transport system to Na_o ; it decreases the apparent activation constant K_{Na_o} from 150–300 mM (without ATP) to 40–80 mM (with ATP) (see Table 15 for references). In addition, ATP changes the shape of the curve relating the Na_o -dependent calcium efflux to the concentration of extracellular sodium: without ATP the activation curve is sigmoid with a Hill coefficient of 2–3, while in the presence of ATP it approximates a section of a rectangular hyperbola (Blaustein 1974, 1977; DiPolo 1974; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; Baker 1978).

Calcium efflux is also dependent on the concentration of free calcium in the axon. At low and intermediate Ca_i , calcium efflux is directly proportional to the Ca_i concentration and the slope of the curve relating efflux and Ca_i is about 1 on a double logarithmic scale (DiPolo 1973a; Brinley et al. 1975). This relation and the absolute rates are the same whether ATP is present (DiPolo 1973a) or absent (Brinley et al. 1975). Calcium efflux ranges from 5 f/cs at 5 nM Ca_i to about 1 p/cs at Ca_i concentrations close to 1 μM . At high internal calcium concentrations, the slope relating calcium efflux and Ca_i is less than 1, and suggests the initial portion of a saturation curve (DiPolo 1973a; Brinley et al. 1975). And indeed, at high Ca_i , calcium efflux appears to plateau to a maximal velocity of about 2 p/cs (Blaustein 1977a). The K_{Ca_i} in these conditions depends

Table 15. Na_o-dependent calcium efflux in squid axon

		Reference
Range of Ca efflux	0.005–5.0 p/cs	<i>DiPolo 1973; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Brinley et al. 1975; Blaustein 1977a</i>
Activated by Na _o KNa _o (with ATP)	40–80 mM	<i>DiPolo 1974; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; Blaustein 1977; Baker 1978; Requena 1978</i>
KNa _o (no ATP)	150–300 mM	<i>Blaustein 1974; DiPolo 1974; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; Blaustein 1977; Baker 1978</i>
Stoichiometry (no ATP)	3 Na _o /1 Ca _i	<i>Blaustein 1974, 1976; Requena 1978</i>
Activated by Ca _i		
At high Ca _i KCa _i (with ATP)	0.75 μM	<i>Blaustein 1976, 1977</i>
KCa _i (no ATP)	8 μM	<i>Blaustein and Russell 1975; Blaustein 1976, 1977</i>
At intermediate and low Ca _i	Linear relationship	<i>DiPolo 1973; Brinley et al. 1975</i>
Inhibited by Na _i KI Na _i (with or without ATP)	30 mM	<i>Blaustein and Russell 1975; Blaustein 1977; Requena 1978</i>
ATP relieves Na _i inhibition		<i>Requena 1978</i>
Activated by ATP		<i>Baker and Glitch 1973; DiPolo 1974, 1976, 1977; Mullins and Brinley 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; Blaustein 1977a; Requena 1978</i>
KATP _i	0.3–0.5 mM	<i>DiPolo 1974, 1976, 1977</i>
Sensitive to the membrane PD (without ATP)		<i>Brinley and Mullins 1974; Blaustein et al. 1974; Mullins and Brinley 1975; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1976a, b; Blaustein 1976</i>
Q ₁₀	2.3–3	<i>Luxoro and Yanez 1968; Blaustein and Hodgkin 1969; Baker 1972</i>
Inhibited by lanthanum		<i>Baker 1972; Brinley et al. 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1978</i>
Not inhibited by ouabain		<i>Blaustein and Hodgkin 1969; Baker 1972; Blaustein 1974</i>

on ATP. Without ATP, K_{Ca_i} is about $8 \mu M$ (Blaustein and Russell 1975; Blaustein 1976, 1977) while in the presence of ATP it drops to $0.75 \mu M$ (Blaustein 1976, 1977). These two values should be regarded with caution, however, since all rates exceeding 2 p/cs have been ignored in the calculations. Indeed, calcium efflux as high as 3–6 p/cs has been frequently reported, but discarded in the determination of the kinetic parameters (Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Blaustein 1977a).

Calcium efflux is inhibited by internal sodium. At very high Ca_i , the inhibition by Na_i is not affected by ATP: the $K_I Na_i$ is 30 mM with ATP (Blaustein 1977) or without ATP (Blaustein and Russell 1975). Blaustein (1977) proposed a competitive inhibition of 2 Na_i and 1 Ca_i for a carrier site with two negative charges. However, at intermediate and low Ca_i , ATP relieves the inhibition produced by Na_i (Requena 1978). Furthermore, there is no significant difference between the extent of the inhibition produced by Na_i at high or low concentrations of intracellular ionized calcium (Requena 1978; Brinley et al. 1975). The fact that Ca_i does not affect $K_I Na_i$ suggests a noncompetitive interaction in which a specific site on the carrier binds exclusively internal sodium, resulting in an inhibition of calcium efflux (Requena 1978). Since the K of activation by Na_o is practically equal to the K of inhibition by Na_i , it appears that the postulated carrier has the same affinity for Na on either side of the membrane, and Requena (1978) proposed that if one assumes a single carrier for calcium translocation, Na will activate calcium transport when bound to the opposite side of the membrane, while Na inhibits calcium transport when bound to the same side.

ATP stimulates the Na_o -activated calcium efflux (Baker and Glitch 1973; DiPolo 1974, 1976, 1977; Mullins and Brinley 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; Blaustein 1977; Baker 1978; Requena 1978). However, if the intracellular sodium concentration is very low, ATP has no effect on the activation produced by Na_o (Blaustein 1974; Requena 1978). As mentioned before, ATP shifts the curve relating the Na_o -activated calcium efflux to Na_o from a sigmoid shape to a simple Michaelis-Menten relationship (DiPolo 1974; Baker and McNaughton 1976a). The apparent activation constant of ATP, K_{ATP_i} , lies between 0.3 and 0.5 mM (DiPolo 1974, 1976, 1977). At physiologically low Ca_i ($< 0.1 \mu M$) more than 95% of the calcium efflux depends on ATP, while at high Ca_i only 50%–60% of the calcium efflux depends on ATP (DiPolo 1977). The ATP-dependent stimulation has an absolute requirement for intracellular Mg. Other high-energy phosphate compounds (UTP, GTP, CTP, UDP, ADP, AMP, cyclic AMP, and acetyl phosphate) are ineffective in supporting calcium efflux (Baker and McNaughton 1976a; DiPolo 1977). The compounds 2'-deoxy-ATP and the hydrolyzable analog, α, β -methylene ATP are able to activate

calcium efflux, while the nonhydrolyzable analog β -methylene ATP competes with ATP for the activating site but is unable to activate calcium efflux (*DiPolo* 1977). From these data, one may conclude that ATP hydrolysis could be involved in calcium transport or at least that a phosphorylating step in the activation of calcium efflux by ATP cannot be ruled out (*Baker and McNaughton* 1976a; *Baker* 1976, 1978; *DiPolo* 1977).

The Na_o -activated calcium efflux is sensitive to the membrane potential difference (*Brinley and Mullins* 1974; *Blaustein et al.* 1974; *Mullins and Brinley* 1975; *Blaustein and Russell* 1975; *Baker and McNaughton* 1976a,b; *Blaustein* 1976). This could be expected in poisoned axons where the observed stoichiometry suggests an exchange of 3 Na_o for 1 Ca_i , leaving one negative charge. Na_o -activated calcium efflux should therefore be electrogenic (*Brinley and Mullins* 1974; *Mullins and Brinley* 1975; *Baker and McNaughton* 1976a, b). And indeed, a membrane depolarization inhibits while a hyperpolarization stimulates calcium efflux in poisoned axons. The maximum sensitivity of calcium efflux to membrane potential is in the order of an e -fold increase in efflux for a 25 mV increase in membrane potential (*Mullins and Brinley* 1975). In the presence of ATP, however, the stoichiometry is not 3/1 as indicated previously, and alterations in membrane potential have little effect on the Na_o -dependent calcium efflux (*Baker and McNaughton* 1976a, b; *Baker* 1976).

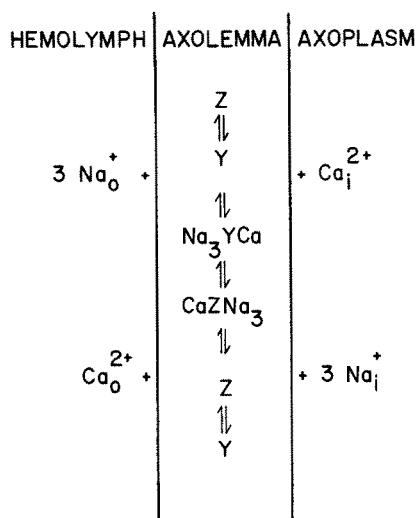
Finally, calcium efflux from squid axons has been shown to have a Q_{10} ranging from 2.3 to 3 (*Luxoro and Yanez* 1978; *Blaustein and Hodgkin* 1969; *Baker* 1972). It is not inhibited by ouabain (*Blaustein and Hodgkin* 1969; *Baker* 1972; *Blaustein* 1974) but it is inhibited by high concentrations of lanthanum (*Blaustein and Hodgkin* 1969; *Baker* 1972, 1976; *Brinley* 1975; *Baker and McNaughton* 1978).

The idea that the Na_o -dependent calcium efflux was only one aspect of a more general scheme of a Na–Ca exchange is supported by the following observations reported in squid axons: (a) there is a Na_o -dependent calcium influx since calcium influx is increased when the extracellular sodium concentration is reduced (*Baker et al.* 1969; *DiPolo* 1979); (b) calcium influx also depends on the intracellular concentration of sodium since a rise in Na_i stimulates calcium influx (*Baker et al.* 1969; *DiPolo* 1979); (c) there is a Ca_o -dependent sodium efflux since a fraction of sodium efflux is ouabain-insensitive and increases when Na_o is replaced by lithium but only in the presence of extracellular calcium (*Baker et al.* 1979). This led to the proposal already considered by *Reuter and Seitz* (1968), that there is a common carrier for sodium and calcium ions and that calcium can be transported out of the axon against a large electrochemical gradient by a mechanism in which external sodium exchanges for internal calcium. In such a system, sodium ions would be moving downhill and would provide the

energy needed to extrude calcium (*Baker et al. 1969; Blaustein and Hodgkin 1979*).

Several models of Na–Ca exchange have been offered. *Blaustein (1976)* proposed the model shown in Fig. 5. A carrier in the *Y* conformation is oriented with its Na-binding sites facing externally and Ca-binding site facing the axoplasm. In the *Z* form, the orientation of the sites is reversed.

Fig. 5. Calcium–sodium exchange model proposed by Blaustein for the squid axon (*Blaustein 1976*). *Y* is the carrier oriented with its Na-binding sites facing externally and Ca-binding sites facing the axoplasm. The *Z* form represents the carrier with the sites reversed. Both unloaded and fully loaded carriers (but not partially loaded ones) may be capable of undergoing site translocation. Reprinted with permission from *Federation Proceedings* 35:2574–2578 (1976)



Both unloaded and fully loaded carriers (but not the partially loaded ones) are capable of undergoing site translocation. This model fits the 3 Na^+ for 1 Ca^{++} stoichiometry reported by Blaustein. Theoretically, if the calcium and sodium fluxes were tightly coupled, and assuming 100% efficiency the energy dissipated in moving sodium into the cell could maintain the intracellular ionized calcium at around 300 nM. The exchange would be electrogenic and sensitive to the membrane potential. ATP would increase the affinity of the carrier to Ca_i^{++} , without affecting the maximal rate of calcium efflux, and would catalyze rather than energize the transport mechanism (*Blaustein 1976*). It should be noted that the model proposed by Blaustein demands 100% efficiency for the energy exchange process and that it is based on data obtained almost exclusively from perfused poisoned axons with extremely high Ca_i and very low Na_i .

Mullins (1977) proposed another model based on more recent observations obtained at intermediate or low intracellular free calcium concentrations, normal concentrations of intracellular sodium, and with or without ATP (*DiPollo 1974, 1976, 1977; Requena et al. 1977; Brinley et al. 1975*). The model shown in Fig. 6 also provides a coupling of the electrochemical sodium gradient that energizes the efflux of calcium. The carrier is assumed

to bind and to move simultaneously 4 Na^+ inward and 1 Ca^{++} outward. The binding of 4 Na to the carrier induces a calcium binding site on the opposite side of the membrane. The high affinity of the induced site for calcium would disappear upon dissociation of Na from the carrier. Translocation requires that both sodium and calcium binding sites be fully occupied. The exchange of 4 Na^+ for 1 Ca^{++} would of course be electrogenic and sensitive to the membrane potential, as observed by several investigators (Blaustein 1974; Brinley and Mullins 1974; Mullins and Brinley 1975). ATP would increase the affinity of the carrier to sodium, reducing the K_{Na_0} from 140 to 30 mM, as suggested by others (Blaustein 1977; Baker and McNaughton 1976a). At equilibrium, the intracellular free calcium Ca_i could be brought as low as 1.5 nM. In these conditions the rate of calcium efflux would be 1/20th that of calcium influx, 1.5 vs 40 f/cs. Thus Ca_i would increase to achieve the steady-state value of 30–50 nM, at which concentration calcium efflux would be equal to influx at a rate of about 30–40 f/cs (Mullins 1977).

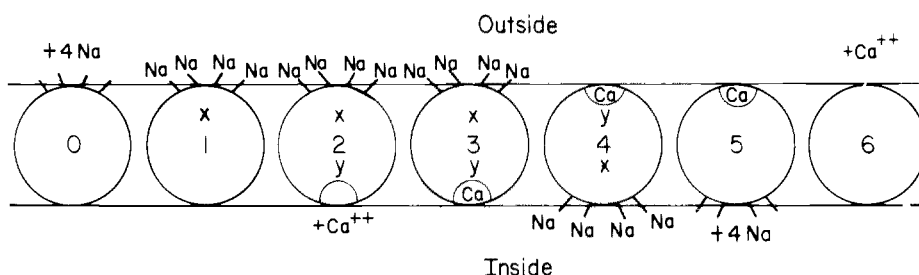


Fig. 6. Calcium–sodium exchange model proposed by Mullins for the squid axon (Mullins 1977), showing the sequence of Na binding to the carrier, the induction of a Ca-binding site (2), the translocation (4), and the dissociation of Ca (6). As drawn, the scheme represents Ca efflux; on interchange of the labels ‘outside’ and ‘inside,’ it represents Ca influx. Reprinted with permission from the *Journal of General Physiology* 70:687 (1977)

In these two models the sodium electrochemical gradient provides the energy for calcium efflux, while ATP is assumed to catalyze the transport process by increasing the affinity of the carrier to sodium. However, the data are not unequivocal. Baker and his collaborators have reported that in intact, nonperfused, and unpoisoned axons calcium efflux was only reduced 25%–30% in calcium- and sodium-free seawater, whereas in a poisoned axon the residual efflux is a very much smaller percentage of the total efflux, and in absolute terms is usually smaller than the residual efflux from unpoisoned axons (Baker 1976; Baker and McNaughton 1976a). The residual efflux does not seem to be coupled to the movement of another ion but can be stimulated by ATP or inhibited by lanthanum and by

metabolic poisons (*Baker and McNaughton* 1978). Furthermore, in unpoisoned axons, alterations in membrane potential have little effect on the Na_o -dependent calcium efflux (*Baker and McNaughton* 1976b). The potential sensitivity of both the Na_o -dependent Ca efflux and the Ca_o -dependent Na efflux are found to be much too small to fit the 4 Na^+ to 1 Ca^{++} exchange model (*McNaughton* 1978). Similar results have been obtained in perfused axons in which the intracellular free calcium concentration is maintained at physiologic levels ($< 100 \text{ nM}$). Even at intermediate Ca_i ($\cong 230 \text{ nM}$), Na_o -dependent calcium efflux is only 6% of the control flux and in calcium- and sodium-free water, calcium efflux drops by only 37% (*Blaustein and Russell* 1975). *Mullins and Brinley* (1975) also reported that in poisoned axons with internal ionized calcium of 10–70 nM, the removal of sodium or of both sodium and calcium from the extracellular fluids hardly affects calcium efflux. In these axons perfused with Ca–EGTA, part of the calcium efflux could be due to leakage of the Ca–EGTA complex. However, when the values are corrected for leakage, calcium efflux is not depressed by Na-free or Na- and Ca-free external solutions, at physiologically low intracellular free calcium; in many cases, calcium efflux may even be higher, especially when lithium is substituted for Na (*Mullins and Brinley* 1975; *Brinley et al.* 1975). Comparable results were obtained by *DiPolo* (1977).

Furthermore, in intact axons, ATP enhances calcium efflux four- to fivefold in sodium- and calcium-free seawater (*Baker and McNaughton* 1976a), and in axons perfused with physiologically low free calcium solutions (60 nM) more than 95% of the calcium efflux depends on ATP (*DiPolo* 1977). ATP is able to stimulate calcium efflux only in the presence of internal magnesium and only hydrolyzable analogs of ATP can support it; nonhydrolyzable analogs cannot activate calcium efflux (*Baker and McNaughton* 1976a; *DiPolo* 1977).

On this basis, *Baker et al.* proposed that in intact unpoisoned axons, 50%–90% of calcium efflux can proceed in the absence of external calcium, sodium, and magnesium and may reflect an uncoupled extrusion of calcium (*Baker* 1976, 1978; *Baker and McNaughton* 1976a, 1978; *McNaughton* 1978). The remaining efflux is dependent on extracellular sodium. Whether ATP is metabolized is not established and there is no conclusive evidence yet that would permit us to decide whether in physiologic conditions calcium efflux from squid axons derives its energy from ATP hydrolysis or from the sodium electrochemical gradient. The choice still exists between a model where the uphill transport of calcium is fueled by ATP and activated by Na binding to the carrier or a model where calcium transport is energized by the sodium gradient and activated by ATP. It should be pointed out also that the Q_{10} of the process has been found to be high, between 2 and 3 (*Luxora and Yanez* 1968; *Blaustein and Hodgkin*

1969; *Baker* 1972; *Blaustein* and *Oborn* 1975), and that the metabolic energy necessary to maintain a very low intracellular free calcium is less than 1% of the total energy output of the cell (see Sect. 7). Finally, *DiPolo* reported the possible existence of a sodium-stimulated, ouabain-insensitive, magnesium-dependent ATPase, activated by calcium ions in the micromolar range in a highly purified membrane fraction of lobster nerves (*DiPolo* 1976, 1977).

8.3.3 Ca_o -Activated Calcium Efflux in Squid Axons

A Ca_o -dependent calcium efflux has been reported by many investigators (*Blaustein* and *Hodgkin* 1969; *DiPolo* 1974; *Blaustein* 1974, 1977a; *Blaustein* et al. 1974; *Blaustein* and *Russell* 1975; *Baker* and *McNaughton* 1976a, 1978; *Baker* 1978). In poisoned axons it represents about half the total calcium efflux (*Blaustein* and *Hodgkin* 1969; *Blaustein* and *Russell* 1975; *Baker* and *McNaughton* 1976a). In the presence of ATP, however, it is less than 10% of the total efflux (*Baker* and *McNaughton* 1978). Since calcium influx is also stimulated by raising intracellular calcium (*Blaustein* and *Russell* 1975; *DiPolo* 1979), *Blaustein* proposed that this represents a $\text{Ca}-\text{Ca}$ exchange mediated by the same carrier as the Na_o -dependent calcium efflux, sodium and calcium competing for the same carrier site: both have the same K_{Ca_i} of 3–8 μM , both are stimulated by ATP, and both are inhibited by intracellular sodium or extracellular magnesium and strontium (*Blaustein* 1977).

But this hypothesis is open to question, because *Requena* (1978) has conclusively shown that there is no significant difference between the degree of inhibition produced by internal sodium at high or low concentrations of intracellular free calcium. This suggests a noncompetitive interaction in which a specific site on the carrier binds exclusively to internal sodium and leads to an inhibition of calcium efflux. Furthermore, *DiPolo* (1979) showed that in the absence of intracellular sodium there is no Ca_i -dependent calcium influx but there is a Ca_o -dependent calcium efflux, thus making a $\text{Ca}-\text{Ca}$ exchange quite improbable. Finally, *Baker* and *McNaughton* (1978) showed that a large fraction of the Ca_o -dependent calcium efflux in unpoisoned axons is transient and probably does not reflect calcium transport out of the cell but rather a release of calcium from binding sites external to the plasma membrane. The transient nature of this efflux and the fact that EGTA added to calcium-free media also produces a transient rise in calcium efflux were already noticed by *Blaustein* (1977a). *Baker* and *McNaughton* (1978) conclude that three components of calcium efflux exist in squid axons: (a) an uncoupled extrusion of calcium, (b) an Na_o -activated calcium efflux, and (c) a Ca_o -activated calcium efflux. In unpoisoned axons uncoupled extrusion of calcium may predom-

inate and there is very little Ca_o -activated calcium efflux. In fully poisoned axons, uncoupled extrusion disappears and calcium efflux is activated either by external sodium or external calcium.

8.3.4 Na_o -Activated Calcium Efflux in Other Excitable Tissues

Evidence for a Na_o -activated calcium efflux is found in many other excitable tissues (Table 16). The principal observation is that calcium efflux is depressed when extracellular sodium is replaced by substituting ions such as lithium or choline. But even in the total absence of extracellular sodium and calcium, there is still a significant residual calcium efflux, which may vary from 20% of the total efflux in cardiac muscle (Reuter and Seitz 1968; Reuter 1974a), through 30%–60% in barnacle and in frog striated muscle (Russell and Blaustein 1974; Caputo and Bolaños 1978), to 70% in rabbit vagus nerve (Kalix 1971). Incubation in sodium-free media leads to an increased tissue calcium or an increased uptake of ^{45}Ca by brain tissue (Stahl and Swanson 1969, 1971, 1972; Cooke and Robinson 1971; Swanson et al. 1974) or by cardiac muscle (Reuter et al. 1973; Reuter 1974a; Wendt and Langer 1977). In pinched-off presynaptic nerve terminals (synaptosomes) calcium influx is stimulated by reducing Na_o and by increasing intracellular sodium (Na_i); however, in the absence of Na_i there is no stimulation of calcium influx by reducing Na_o (Blaustein and Oborn 1975). These results suggest a competitive inhibition between Na_o and Ca_o and the possible existence of a Ca – Na exchange. The relation between calcium efflux and Na_o is sigmoid and may have a stoichiometry of 3 Na^+ for 1 Ca^{++} (Blaustein and Oborn 1975; Blaustein et al. 1977). A stimulation of calcium influx by a reduction in Na_o or a rise in Na_i is also observed in barnacle muscle (DiPolo 1973b) and in cardiac muscle (Reuter 1970; Glitsch et al. 1970).

Furthermore, ouabain, which increases Na_i , has been shown to increase cellular calcium in brain tissue (Stahl and Swanson 1969, 1971) and in cardiac muscle (Govier and Holland 1964; Reuter 1974a; Wood and Schwartz 1978). Na_o -activated calcium efflux may be important to maintain a low cytosolic free calcium in cardiac muscle when calcium is released from intracellular stores. In this tissue, contraction is a good indication of a rise in calcium activity, and both caffeine and cyanide increase calcium efflux without inducing contraction in the presence of a normal concentration of Na_o . Without Na_o , however, calcium efflux is not increased and a contraction occurs (Jundt et al. 1975). In cardiac muscle contraction may be a function of $\text{Ca}_o/[\text{Na}_o]^2$ (Lüttgau and Niedergerke 1958; Niedergerke 1963; Reuter and Seitz 1968; Reuter 1970; Reuter et al. 1973). However, Miller and Moiescu (1976) showed that the relation does not hold true at very low Na_o concentrations when contraction is simply a

Table 16. Na_o-dependent calcium efflux reported in excitable tissues

Tissues	Reference
Neural tissues	
Squid axons	See Table 15
Crab nerve	<i>Baker and Blaustein</i> 1968
Rabbit vagus nerve	<i>Kalix</i> 1969, 1971
Brain slices	<i>Stahl and Swanson</i> 1961, 1971, 1972; <i>Tower</i> 1968; <i>Cooke and Robinson</i> 1971
Nerve cells	<i>Stallcup</i> 1979
Synaptosomes	<i>Blaustein and Weismann</i> 1970; <i>Swanson et al.</i> 1974; <i>Blaustein and Oborn</i> 1975; <i>Blaustein and Ector</i> 1976; <i>Blaustein et al.</i> 1977
Muscles	
Barnacle muscle	<i>Ashley et al.</i> 1972; <i>DiPolo</i> 1973b; <i>Russell and Blaustein</i> 1974, 1975; <i>DiPolo and Caputo</i> 1977; <i>Ashley and Lea</i> 1978
Skeletal muscle	<i>Cosmos and Harris</i> 1961; <i>Caputo and Bolanos</i> 1978
Cardiac muscle	<i>Lüttgau and Niedgerke</i> 1958; <i>Niedgerke</i> 1963; <i>Reuter and Seitz</i> 1968; <i>Glitsch et al.</i> 1970; <i>Reuter</i> 1970, 1974; <i>Kutzing et al.</i> 1973; <i>Reuter et al.</i> 1973; <i>Fundt et al.</i> 1975; <i>Miller and Moiescu</i> 1976; <i>Fundt and Reuter</i> 1977; <i>Wendt and Langer</i> 1977; <i>Wood and Schwartz</i> 1978
Arterial smooth muscle	<i>Reuter et al.</i> 1973; <i>Brading</i> 1973; <i>Raeymaekers et al.</i> 1973; <i>Van Breemen et al.</i> 1973, 1978; <i>Burton and Godfraind</i> 1974; <i>Droogmans and Casteels</i> 1979
Uterine muscle	<i>Van Breemen et al.</i> 1966, 1978

function of Ca_o, and they propose a competition between 4 Na_o⁺ and 2 Ca_o⁺⁺ to account for those results. There is also some evidence for a Na_o-activated calcium efflux in smooth muscle (*Brading* 1973; *Reuter et al.* 1973; *Van Breemen et al.* 1973; *Burton and Godfraind* 1974): in sodium-free media, tissue calcium increases, calcium influx rises while calcium efflux falls (*Reuter et al.* 1973). When intracellular sodium is raised, tissue calcium also increases. These changes are not observed, however, if the lanthanum method is used to displace extracellular bound calcium (*Van Breemen et al.* 1973; *Burton and Godfraind* 1974). And indeed, *Raeymaekers et al.* (1973) showed that much, if not all, of the Na-Ca exchange could be explained by an exchange with extracellular binding sites of smooth muscle. Furthermore, in aorta smooth muscle the calcium gained by the tissue is not extruded when the sodium gradient is restored (*Van Breemen et al.* 1973). *Van Breemen et al.* (1973, 1978) conclude that in

this tissue at least the calcium gradient does not depend on the sodium gradient.

Droogmans and *Casteels* (1979) also dispute the existence of a Na–Ca exchange in the rabbit ear artery smooth muscle. Their data indicate that: (a) the contraction induced by Na_o-free solution is due to an increased calcium influx that is not mediated by a carrier mechanism exchanging internal sodium for external calcium; (b) the relaxation observed when extracellular calcium is reduced cannot be powered by the sodium gradient since it occurs in Na_o-free media; (c) reducing Na_o to zero during ⁴⁵Ca efflux in Ca_o-free, EGTA-containing solutions does not affect the rate of calcium efflux; (d) if calcium is present in the extracellular fluids, lowering Na_o increases calcium efflux; (e) calcium efflux is not sensitive to large changes in the membrane potential difference; and (f) the extrusion of ⁴⁵Ca after its release from intracellular stores by histamine or FCCP is not inhibited in tissues in which the Na gradient is reduced or eliminated by exposure to Na_o-free solutions (*Droogmans* and *Casteels* 1979). In uterine muscle, tissue calcium is not increased by ouabain or by decreasing external sodium to 10 mM, and there is no evidence that sodium competes with calcium for inward transport (*Van Breemen* et al. 1966, 1978). However, since metabolic inhibitors significantly increase uterine muscle calcium, *Van Breemen* et al. (1966) conclude that calcium efflux is probably a metabolically dependent, active transport process. *Simonsen* and *Christoffersen* (1979) report also that in *Helix pomatia* neurons there is no significant Na–Ca exchange: substitution of sodium by lithium, choline or Tris causes no change in intracellular free calcium as measured by a pCa electrode; furthermore, the rate of rise in cytosolic free calcium induced by a mitochondrial inhibitor such as azide is not affected by the external sodium concentration. Finally, it has been shown that, as in squid axon, ATP stimulates calcium efflux in sodium- and calcium-free media both in barnacle muscle (*DiPolo* and *Caputo* 1977) and in cardiac muscle (*Jundt* and *Reuter* 1977). Whether ATP increases the affinity of the postulated carrier to calcium or to Na_o or whether it provides energy to the system is unknown.

8.3.5 Na_o-Activated Calcium Efflux in Nonexcitable Tissues

Early investigations on liver had shown that slices incubated in choline chloride have a higher calcium content and that calcium extrusion is inhibited in low sodium media (*Judah* and *Ahmed* 1963, 1964; *Wallach* 1966). However, *Van Rossum* (1970) showed that net extrusion of calcium from liver is not inhibited by high intracellular sodium and is not affected by the sodium gradient. Furthermore, ouabain has no effect on liver calcium content or fluxes (*Van Rossum* 1970; *Van Rossum* et al. 1971). The uni-

directional efflux of ^{45}Ca and the net extrusion of calcium from liver cells are not prevented by ouabain or by a sodium-free medium but they are reversibly inhibited by anaerobiosis and by respiratory inhibitors, and they depend on external magnesium, suggesting that calcium extrusion is metabolically driven and independent of sodium (*Cittadini and Van Rossum* 1978).

Similarly, in kidney slices, early results from *Höfer and Kleinzeller* (1963c) indicated that the tissue calcium barely rises in sodium-free media. Later work showed that decreasing extracellular sodium from 145 mM to 100, 50 or 0 mM (with the substituting ions being either choline or TEA) does not affect at all the total slice calcium, the total exchangeable calcium or the calcium content of isolated renal mitochondria, and ouabain is also without effect (*Borle* 1979). However, the steady-state exchange of calcium across the plasma membrane is depressed in low- Na_o or in sodium-free media (*Borle* 1979); these results suggest a possible activation of the calcium carrier by sodium but do not indicate the presence of a Na—Ca exchange. In Ehrlich ascites tumor cells, there is no increase in calcium uptake if extracellular sodium is replaced by lithium, and calcium loaded cells can extrude all their accumulated calcium in sodium-free media (*Cittadini et al.* 1973, 1977). In fibroblasts, variations in extracellular or intracellular sodium do not affect the calcium fluxes and the calcium concentrations of the cells (*Lamb and Lindsay* 1971). In the adrenal medulla calcium efflux drops 80% on sodium- and calcium-free media, but in the presence of extracellular calcium the substitution of Na_o by lithium, choline or sucrose actually stimulates calcium efflux (*Rink* 1977; *Aguirre et al.* 1977). There is an increased ^{45}Ca uptake in Na_o -free media, but only at extracellular calcium concentration 3 times the normal (3.6 mM Ca_o) and the actual net gain of tissue calcium is very small; ouabain is without effect (*Rink* 1977). Thus, in adrenal medulla there may be a Ca—Ca exchange but the Na_o -activated calcium efflux is not dependent on the sodium gradient; it is presumably fueled by ATP (*Rink* 1977). In the pancreas, ^{45}Ca uptake is stimulated in sodium-free media (*Hellman et al.* 1971; *Case and Clausen* 1973; *Schulz et al.* 1977). Nevertheless, calcium efflux increases rather than decreases in the absence of extracellular sodium, even at very low extracellular calcium (*Case and Clausen* 1973). Similarly in the salivary gland, acetylcholine can stimulate calcium efflux to its full extent, even in sodium- and calcium-free media (*Pors Nielsen and Petersen* 1972). These results preclude the existence of a Na—Ca exchange mechanism in this tissue. In mammary tumor cells, ouabain has no effect on their calcium content (*Van Rossum et al.* 1971) and in platelets there is no increase in ^{45}Ca uptake if extracellular sodium is reduced from 150 to 15 mM (*Steiner and Tateishi* 1974). Finally, it is well documented that there is no Na—Ca

exchange in erythrocytes (*Schatzmann* 1966, 1970; *Lee and Shin* 1969; *Schatzmann and Vincenzi* 1969; *Schatzmann and Rossi* 1971).

In conclusion, a Na_o -dependent calcium efflux is observed in many different tissues. A broad distinction can perhaps be made between excitable (muscle and nerves) and nonexcitable tissues. In the former group a Na–Ca exchange mechanism is theoretically possible and if the stoichiometry was 4 Na_o^+ to 1 Ca_i^{++} this exchange could maintain a very low intracellular free calcium. However, such a stoichiometry has never been observed experimentally. In the squid axon the cytosolic free calcium is very low (30–50 nM) and the calcium influx and efflux are very small, in the range of 40 f/cs (*DiPollo* 1977, 1979; *Requena et al.* 1977; *Mullins* 1977; *Requena* 1978). In these conditions, calcium efflux is not depressed but sometimes increased by sodium- and calcium-free media (see above). On the other hand, when cytosolic free calcium rises by two orders of magnitude, as in muscle, a Na–Ca exchange may contribute a significant fraction of calcium efflux. In nonexcitable cells a Na_o -dependent calcium efflux is often observed, but the consensus is that it is not a Na–Ca exchange mechanism and the calcium gradient across the plasma membrane is not dependent on the sodium gradient. Calcium efflux is probably activated by extracellular sodium but energized by ATP.

8.4 Calcium Influx

8.4.1 Calcium Uptake and Metabolic Inhibitors

In all cells the thermodynamic conditions are such that calcium influx across the cell plasma membrane occurs down a steep electrochemical gradient and does not require metabolic energy. Nevertheless, in several early papers *Höfer* and *Kleinzeller* (1963a–c) and *Janda* (1969) concluded that calcium influx into kidney cells requires metabolic energy. Their conclusions were based on the facts that (a) the calcium concentration of kidney slices was higher than the incubating medium calcium concentration and (b) metabolic inhibitors such as DNP and oligomycin markedly depress the uptake of calcium or ^{45}Ca by the slices.

However, these authors ignored several facts. First, it is now clear that the measurements of cellular calcium by chemical analysis or by kinetic analysis of tracer movements do not measure the actual ionized cytosolic calcium, which is definitely not higher than the extracellular free calcium concentration. Second, in their experiments with metabolic inhibitors they were misled by their experimental design: indeed they first ‘leached’ tissue slices at 0°C and in Ca-free media, depleting the cells and their intracellular organelles (mitochondria and endoplasmic reticulum) of calcium.

Then they incubated these calcium-depleted slices at 25°C in a medium with a calcium concentration of 2.4 mM which is twice the physiologic concentration. In these conditions there is a net shift of calcium into the slices and the system is not at steady state since the cells, the endoplasmic reticulum, and the mitochondria reaccumulate calcium. In nonsteady state and with cells accumulating calcium the uptake of ^{40}Ca or ^{45}Ca reflects not only calcium influx across the plasma membrane but also calcium uptake by endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondria, which is metabolically dependent. Thus, when ^{45}Ca uptake is measured in a nonsteady state, when there is a net accumulation of calcium by the cells or by the tissues, the inhibition of calcium uptake observed with various metabolic inhibitors is most likely due to a depressed calcium accumulation in intracellular organelles that requires metabolic energy and not to an inhibition of calcium influx into the cell.

To illustrate this important point, Figs. 7 and 8 show the effects of metabolic inhibitors on ^{45}Ca uptake by kidney cells in steady state (no net gain of calcium) and nonsteady state (net gain of calcium). It is clear that in the former case metabolic inhibition does not depress calcium uptake, in fact isotopic equilibrium is reached more quickly, while in the latter

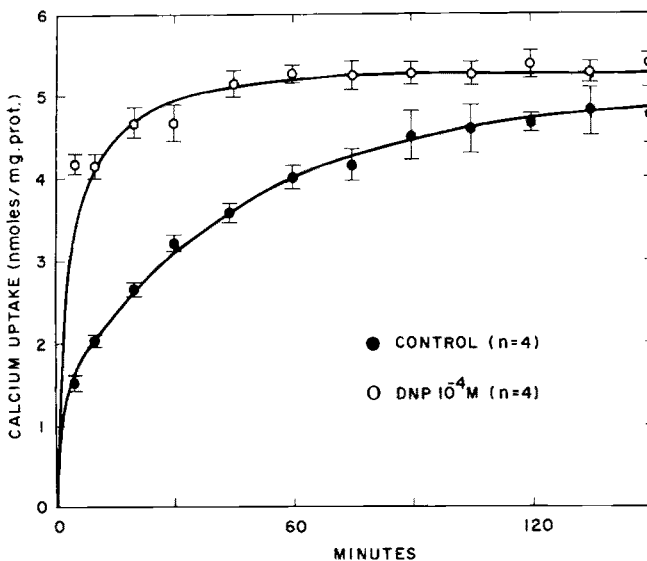


Fig. 7. Effect of a metabolic inhibitor, 10^{-4} M, DNP, on ^{45}Ca uptake in steady-state conditions. Experiments performed with cultured monkey kidney cells in conditions described in Fig. 4. Note the stimulation of calcium uptake by DNP, at steady state. Reproduced from Borle (1981), with permission from *Cell Calcium*

case there is a marked inhibition of uptake. Most of the time, when metabolic inhibitors (DNP, IAA) are reported to depress calcium uptake, the experimental design indicates that the cells were not at steady state (Table 17): they were preincubated at low temperature or in calcium-free media or uptake was measured in media containing unphysiologically high calcium or phosphate concentrations leading to a net shift of calcium into the cells (Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a–c, Janda 1969; Terepka et al. 1969; Papworth and Patrick 1970; Cittadini et al. 1971; Whitney and Sutherland 1972; Ewe 1972; Swanson et al. 1974; Dziak and Brand 1974a, b; Charlton and Wenner 1978). However, when the cells are preincubated in physiologic media before the ^{45}Ca uptake determination, or when they are at steady state, DNP, IAA or other metabolic inhibitors do not affect calcium uptake (Table 17) (Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a; Levinson 1967; Borle 1969a; Levinson and Blumenson 1970; Stahl and Swanson 1971; Lamb and Lindsay 1971; Whitney and Sutherland 1972; Miller and Nelson 1977). In some cases, metabolic inhibitors stimulate ^{45}Ca uptake (Wallach 1966; Van Rossum 1970; Hellman et al. 1971; Stahl and Swanson 1971; Swanson et al. 1974; Borle, unpublished). A possible explanation could be that in certain conditions these inhibitors increase the cytosolic free calcium by depressing the metabolically dependent transport of calcium into intracellular organelles (most likely mitochondria). Since a rise in cytosolic free calcium has been shown to stimulate calcium influx in several cell systems (see below), calcium uptake could thus be enhanced.

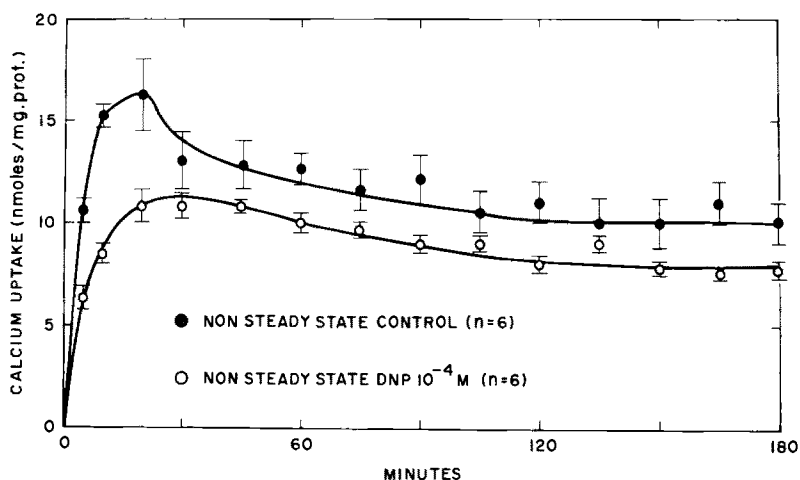


Fig. 8. Effect of a metabolic inhibitor, 10^{-4} M, DNP, on ^{45}Ca uptake in nonsteady-state conditions. Experiments performed with cultured monkey kidney cells in the conditions described in Fig. 4. Note the inhibition of calcium uptake by DNP at nonsteady state. Reproduced from Borle (1981), with permission from *Cell Calcium*

Table 17. Effects of metabolic inhibitors on ^{45}Ca uptake

Tissue	Inhibitor	Reference
Inhibition of ^{45}Ca uptake (nonsteady state)		
Kidney	DNP, oligomycin	<i>Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a, b; Janda 1969; Borle, unpublished</i>
Ehrlich ascites cells	TTFB	<i>Cittadini et al. 1971</i>
Brain synaptosomes	DNP, antimycin A	<i>Swanson et al. 1974</i>
Lymphocytes	DNP, IAA	<i>Whitney and Sutherland 1972</i>
Chorioallantoic membrane	DNP, oligomycin	<i>Terepka et al. 1969</i>
Bone cells	DNP, IAA, oligomycin, antimycin A	<i>Dziak and Brandt 1974</i>
Intestine	DNP, IAA, CN	<i>Papworth and Patrick 1970; Ewe 1972</i>
No inhibition (steady state)		
Kidney	DNP	<i>Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963a</i>
Ehrlich ascites cells	DNP	<i>Levinson and Blumenson 1970</i>
Brain slices	DNP	<i>Stahl and Swanson 1970</i>
Fibroblasts	DNP, IAA	<i>Lamb and Lindsay 1971</i>
HeLa cells	DNP	<i>Borle 1969</i>
Parotid gland	CN	<i>Miller and Nelson 1977</i>
Stimulation		
Kidney cells	DNP, oligomycin, warfarin	<i>Borle, unpublished</i>
Liver slices	CN, IAA	<i>Wallach et al. 1966; Van Rossum 1970</i>
Pancreatic islets	DNP	<i>Hellman et al. 1971</i>
Brain slices	IAA, CN	<i>Stahl and Swanson 1971</i>
Brain synaptosomes	Oligomycin	<i>Swanson et al. 1974</i>

Two main mechanisms for calcium influx into cells have been postulated (a) a voltage-independent transport and (b) voltage-dependent calcium influx through 'calcium channels.'

8.4.2 Voltage-Independent Carrier-Mediated Calcium Influx

The steady-state calcium uptake or influx is a function of the extracellular calcium concentration and in nonexcitable tissues it is a saturable process, indicating that calcium transport into the cell is a carrier-mediated mechanism. Table 18 presents the K_{Ca_0} and the V_m obtained in eight different cell types. Excluding the values published by *Janda* (1969), which are 1–2 orders of magnitude larger than all others, the average K_{Ca} is about 0.5 mM and the V_m 170 pmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1} . In squid axons, however, calcium influx is linear up to an external calcium concentration of 20 mM (*Hodgkin and Keynes 1957; Rojas and Taylor 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; DiPolo 1979*). Nevertheless, the magnitude of calcium influx

Table 18. Kinetic parameters of calcium influx in different cells

Tissue	KCa	V_m	Reference
	(mM)	[pmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹]	
Kidney slices	3.2	10–400	<i>Janda 1969</i>
Kidney slices	0.4	190	<i>Uchikawa and Borle, unpublished</i>
Kidney cells	0.37	130	<i>Borle 1970</i>
Pancreas	0.55	91	<i>Kondo and Schulz 1976b</i>
Bone cells	0.4 ^a	—	<i>Dziak and Brand 1974b</i>
Parotid gland	0.5 ^a	—	<i>Miller and Nelson 1977</i>
Intestine	1.00	—	<i>Walling and Rothman 1969</i>
Intestine	0.59	—	<i>Walling and Rothman 1970</i>
Intestine	1.15	190 ^a	<i>Papworth and Patrick 1970</i>
Fibroblasts	0.3	—	<i>Lamb and Lindsay 1971</i>
Synaptosomes	0.2	250 ^a	<i>Blaustein and Oborn 1975</i>
Synaptosomes	0.8	—	<i>Blaustein 1975</i>
Lymphocytes	0.4–1.0	—	<i>Whitney and Sutherland 1973</i>
Mean	0.8 ± 0.22	175 ± 23	

^a Estimated from published data.

in mammalian cells and in squid axons is practically identical, 30–40 f/cs, when they are incubated in their respective physiologic extracellular calcium concentrations (*Requena et al. 1977; Requena 1978; DiPolo 1979*; see also Table 9). The characteristics of calcium influx are not strikingly different in excitable and nonexcitable tissues, as shown in Table 19.

In excitable tissues calcium influx is dependent on the extracellular sodium concentration. Lowering Na_o stimulates calcium influx in squid axons (*Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972; Blaustein 1974; Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975; DiPolo 1979*). It stimulates ⁴⁵Ca uptake in synaptosomes and in other neural tissues (*Baker and Blaustein 1968; Blaustein and Wiesman 1970; Stahl and Swanson 1969, 1971, 1972; Cooke and Robinson 1971; Swanson et al. 1974; Blaustein and Oborn 1975*), barnacle, cardiac and smooth muscle (*Reuter 1970; Glitsch et al. 1970; Reuter et al. 1973; DiPolo 1973b; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Droogmans and Casteels 1979*). Low Na_o also stimulates ⁴⁵Ca uptake in adrenal medulla (*Rink 1977; Aguirre et al. 1977*) and pancreas (*Case and Clausen 1973; Schulz et al. 1977*). The stimulation of calcium influx is particularly evident when Li is substituted for Na, and Li itself may promote calcium entry into the cell (*Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Brinley 1968*). The relation between Na_o and calcium influx is not a simple one. Indeed, in squid axons, increasing Na_o from 0 to 100 mM activates calcium influx and only higher concentrations of Na_o inhibit it (*Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972*). This has also

Table 19. Characteristics of calcium influx in excitable and nonexcitable cells

	Reference
Squid axons and other excitable tissues	
Resting influx: 30–40 f/cs	<i>Requena et al. 1977; Requena 1978; DiPolo 1979</i>
Ca _o -dependent: influx linearly related to Ca _o	<i>Hodgkin and Keynes 1959; Rojas and Taylor 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1976a; DiPolo 1979</i>
Na _o -dependent: low Na _o stimulates	
In squid axon	<i>Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972; Blaustein 1974; Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975</i>
In synaptosomes and brain tissue	<i>Baker and Blaustein 1968; Blaustein and Wiesman 1970; Stahl and Swanson 1969, 1971, 1972; Cooke and Robinson 1971; Swanson et al. 1974; Blaustein and Oborn 1975</i>
In muscle	<i>Reuter 1970; Glitsch et al. 1970; Reuter et al. 1973; DiPolo 1973b; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Droogmans and Casteels 1979</i>
Li _o -dependent: Li stimulates	<i>Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Blaustein and Russell 1975; Brinley 1978</i>
K _o -dependent: high K stimulates	<i>Hodgkin and Keynes 1957; Baker 1972; Blaustein et al. 1972, 1977; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Blaustein and Ector 1975</i>
pH-dependent: low pH inhibits, high pH stimulates	<i>Morgenstern et al. 1972; Van Breemen et al. 1972, 1973; Blaustein and Oborn 1975</i>
Na _i -dependent: high Na _i stimulates KNa _i = 50–60 mM	<i>Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972; Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975; DiPolo 1973a, 1979; Blaustein and Wiesman 1970</i>
ATP _i -dependent: ATP stimulates KATP _i = 0.2 mM	<i>DiPolo 1979</i>
Ca _i -dependent: high Ca _i stimulates	<i>Blaustein and Russell 1975; DiPolo 1979</i>
Nonexcitable tissues	
Resting influx: 14–77 f/cs or 40–144 pmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹	See Table 9 See Table 11
Ca _o -dependent: Michaelis-Menten kinetics KCa _o = 0.2–1.0 mM V _m = 91–250 f/cs	See Table 17

Table 19 (continued)

		Reference
Na _o -dependent:	possible (pancreas, adrenals)	<i>Hellman et al. 1971; Case and Clausen 1973; Schulz et al. 1977; Rink 1977; Aguirre et al. 1977</i>
	doubtful (kidney, cells, platelets, erythrocytes, fibroblasts)	<i>Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963c; Schatzmann 1966, 1970; Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Lamb and Lindsay 1971; Cittadini et al. 1973, 1977; Steiner and Tateishi 1974; Borle 1979</i>
pH-dependent:	low pH inhibits high pH stimulates	<i>Wallach et al. 1966; Lamb and Lindsay 1971; Rorive and Kleinzeller 1972; Whitney and Sutherland 1973; Steiner and Tateishi 1974; Forman et al. 1977; Studer and Borle 1979</i>
Ca _i -dependent:	high Ca _i stimulates	<i>Borle and Anderson 1976</i>

been observed in kidney cells, where lowering Na_o from 140 to 0 mM decreases the steady-state exchange of calcium across the plasma membrane without increasing the calcium concentration of the tissue (*Borle 1979*).

Increasing the extracellular K concentration, which depolarizes the membrane, stimulates calcium influx in squid axons, crab nerves, synaptosomes, and smooth muscle (*Hodgkin and Keynes 1957; Baker 1972; Blaustein et al. 1972, 1977; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Blaustein and Ector 1975*). This increased calcium influx could very well occur through the calcium channels that are postulated to exist in excitable tissues (see below), although no clues are given in these published reports.

Calcium influx is also influenced by ionic composition of the intracellular phase. An increased intracellular sodium stimulates calcium influx in squid axons (*Baker et al. 1969; Baker 1972; Blaustein et al. 1974; Blaustein 1974; Blaustein and Russell 1975; DiPolo 1979*), in synaptosomes (*Blaustein and Wiesmann 1970*), and in barnacle muscles (*DiPolo 1973b*). *DiPolo (1979)* found that, in squid axons, the constant of activation K_{Na_i} is 50–60 mM, but the sensitivity of calcium influx to Na_i is greatest when Ca_i is elevated and is practically nil at very low Ca_i. Calcium influx is also dependent on the intracellular concentration of ATP (K_{ATP_i} = 0.2 mM) and on calcium K_{Ca_i} = 0.6 μM). *DiPolo (1979)* proposed that calcium influx into squid axon may consist of two separate components: one is dependent on Na_i, on ATP, and activated by Ca_i, and the other persisting in the absence of Na_i, Ca_i, and ATP_i. The former could be part of a Na–Ca exchange while the other would be an uncoupled passive pathway. *DiPolo* points out that under physiologic conditions (Ca_i = 60 nM, Na_i =

30 mM), calcium influx into squid axons occurs mostly through the uncoupled passive mechanism and not through a Na–Ca exchange. His conclusions are supported by *Droogmans* and *Casteels* (1979), who state that the results they obtained in smooth muscle, as already mentioned above, do not fit in with the Na–Ca exchange hypothesis but are consistent, nevertheless, with an effect of the Na gradient on the passive calcium influx. There is little direct evidence of the role of Na_i in nonexcitable tissues; however, the fact that ouabain does not increase calcium influx or ^{45}Ca uptake in liver (*Van Rossum* 1970), in kidney (*Borle* 1979), and in adrenal medulla (*Rink* 1977) suggests that the modulation of calcium fluxes by Na_o or Na_i does not represent a Na–Ca exchange mechanism in these tissues.

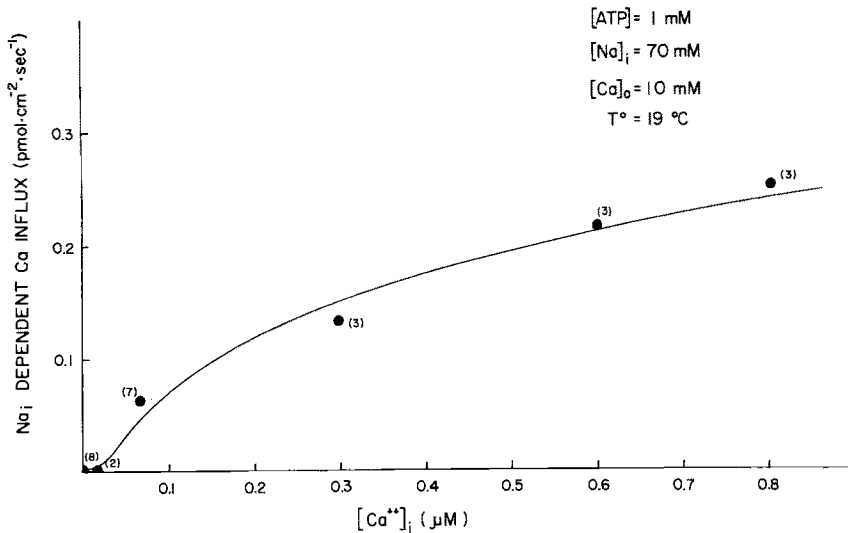


Fig. 9. Activating effect of internal calcium on the Na_i -dependent Ca influx in the squid axon. Ordinate: mean Na_i -dependent Ca influx in p/c.s. Abscissa: internal ionized calcium in micromolar. All the axons were dialyzed with an internal medium containing 1 mM ATP and 70 mM Na_i . Extracellular calcium $\text{Ca}_o = 10$ mM; total EGTA = 0.5–1 mM. Reproduced from *DiPolo* (1979), with permission from the *Journal of General Physiology*

One of the most intriguing aspects of calcium influx is its activation by intracellular calcium (Fig. 9). A Ca_i -activated calcium influx has been reported in excitable tissues such as the squid axons (*Blaustein* and *Russell* 1975; *DiPolo* 1979) and in nonexcitable tissue such as kidney (*Borle* and *Anderson* 1976). A more indirect evidence of such an activation is the increased calcium influx observed when inhibitors of calcium uptake into mitochondria or uncouplers are present in liver (*Wallach* 1966; *Van Rossum* 1970), kidney (*Borle*, unpublished), pancreas (*Hellman* et al. 1971), and neural tissues (*Stahl* and *Swanson* 1971; *Swanson* et al. 1974), where

the cytosolic free calcium can be assumed to be elevated. *DiPolo* (1979) reported that, in squid axons dialyzed without internal sodium, the Ca_i activation of calcium is abolished, whereas Ca_o -activated calcium efflux is still present; he concludes that since there is no clear correlation between the inward and outward movements of calcium this stimulation of calcium influx does not represent a $\text{Ca}-\text{Ca}$ exchange. *DiPolo* postulates that Ca_i activates the influx of calcium rather than exchanges with Ca_o .

Finally, the extracellular pH also markedly affects calcium influx, the ^{45}Ca uptake and, consequently, the calcium content of tissues. A low pH depresses calcium uptake and the total cell calcium while a high pH does the reverse. This effect has been observed in liver (*Wallach et al.* 1966), kidney (*Rorive and Kleinzeller* 1972; *Studer and Borle* 1979), fibroblasts (*Lamb and Lindsay* 1971), mast cells (*Foreman et al.* 1977), lymphocytes (*Whitney and Sutherland* 1973), platelets (*Steiner and Tateishi* 1974), cardiac muscle (*Morgenstern et al.* 1972), smooth muscle (*Van Breemen et al.* 1972, 1973), and synaptosomes (*Blaustein and Oborn* 1975). No direct measurement of a pH effect on calcium influx in squid axon has been published, but *Baker and McNaughton* (1977) reported that a low pH depresses the Ca_o -dependent Na efflux linked to calcium influx. The extracellular pH (pH_e) may not be the primary factor, but rather the shift in intracellular pH (pH_i) induced by a change in pH_e . Indeed, in kidney cells, low pH_i inhibits and high pH_i stimulates calcium influx and uptake even when the extracellular pH is maintained at the normal value of 7.4 (*Studer and Borle* 1979).

8.4.3 Calcium Channels and Calcium Currents

Calcium influx can take place through postulated channels in nerves and muscles of many invertebrates and vertebrates (Table 20). Several recent reviews have been published on the subject (*Hagiwara* 1973; *Reuter* 1973, 1979; *Trautwein* 1975; *Vassalle* 1979). This type of calcium influx through the plasma membrane has been called calcium current, calcium spike, late current, slow inward current, slow channel or calcium channel. It is voltage-dependent, and by definition electrogenic. This inward current is largely carried by calcium ions but the calcium channel is not specific and can also carry sodium and potassium ions (*Hagiwara* 1973; *Trautwein* 1975; *Sperelakis and Schneider* 1976; *Reuter* 1979; *Vassalle* 1979). However, the permeability of the calcium channel to sodium and to potassium is 100 times smaller than its permeability to calcium (*Reuter and Scholz* 1977a; *Reuter* 1979). The evidence supporting the idea that the slow inward current is carried by calcium ions is persuasive; it persists in the total absence of extracellular sodium and is not inhibited by tetrodotoxin (TTX) (*Reuter* 1967, 1979; *Geduldig and Junge* 1968; *Katz and*

Table 20. Characteristics of the slow calcium current

		Reference
Magnitude	100 fmol cm ⁻² impulse ⁻¹	<i>Reuter 1973; Matthews 1975</i>
Specificity of the calcium channel	Admits Na, K, Sr, Ba	<i>Hagiwara 1973; Trautwein 1975; Sperelakis and Schneider 1976; Reuter 1979; Vassalle 1979</i>
	P _{Ca} /P _{Na} = 1/0.01	<i>Reuter and Schulz 1977a; Reuter 1979</i>
	P _{Ca} /P _K = 1/0.01	
Voltage-dependent		All authors
Ca _o -dependent	Follows Nernst or constant field equations	<i>Hagiwara et al. 1964; Reuter 1967; Geduldig and Junge 1968; Katz and Miledi 1969; Hagiwara 1973; Reuter 1973; Reuter and Scholz 1977a</i>
Ca _i -dependent		<i>Hagiwara and Naka 1964; Hagiwara and Nakajima 1966; Kostyuk and Krishtal 1977b; Brehm and Ecker 1978</i>
Na _o -independent and TTX-independent		<i>Reuter 1967, 1979; Geduldig and Junge 1968; Katz and Miledi 1969; Reuter and Scholz 1973, 1977b; Baker and Glitsch 1975; Matthews 1975; Sperelakis and Schneider 1975; Kostyuk and Krishtal 1977a; Vassalle 1979</i>
Inhibited by	Verapamil, D-600 La, Co, Mn, Mg	<i>Katz and Miledi 1969; Kohlhart et al. 1972; Hagiwara 1973; Reuter 1973, 1979; Baker and Glitsch 1975; Matthews 1975; Sperelakis and Schneider 1976; Newrath et al. 1977; Kostyuk and Krishtal 1977a; Brehm and Ecker 1978; Vassalle 1979</i>
Inhibited by metabolic inhibitors	IAA, CN, anoxia	<i>Dean et al. 1975; Kohlhart and Kübler 1975; Sperelakis and Schneider 1976; Kohlhart et al. 1977</i>
Stimulated by	cAMP, dbcAMP, catecholamines, histamine	<i>Reuter 1967, 1973, 1974b, 1979; Vassort et al. 1969; Brown et al. 1975; Sperelakis and Schneider 1976; Reuter and Scholz 1977b; Tsien 1977</i>
Depressed by	Acetylcholine ^a	<i>Giles and Noble 1976; Ten-Eick et al. 1976</i>

^a In voltage-clamped myocardium.

Miledi 1969; *Reuter* and *Scholz* 1973, 1977b; *Baker* and *Glitsch* 1975; *Sperelakis* and *Schneider* 1976; *Kostyuk* and *Krishtal* 1977a; *Vassalle* 1979); it varies with extracellular calcium (*Reuter* 1967; *Geduldig* and *Junge* 1968; *Katz* and *Miledi* 1969); in sodium-free media, the overshoot sensitivity of the action potential of invertebrate neurons and muscles is 29 mV per tenfold change in extracellular calcium according to the Nernst relation (*Hagiwara* et al. 1964; *Geduldig* and *Junge* 1968; *Hagiwara* 1973; *Reuter* 1973); and in the vertebrate heart, the reversal potential of the slow inward current can be fitted by the constant field equation when Ca_o is varied (*Reuter* and *Scholz* 1977a) although the membrane does not behave as a perfect calcium electrode. The magnitude of the calcium influx through the calcium channels in the heart has been estimated to be about $100 \text{ fmol cm}^{-2} \text{ impulse}^{-1}$ (*Reuter* 1973).

In invertebrate nerves and muscle the calcium inward current is sensitive to the intracellular free calcium. In mollusc neurons a Ca_i concentration of $5.8 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ M}$ completely blocks the slow inward current (*Kostyuk* and *Krishtal* 1977b). Similar effects have been reported in barnacle muscle and in *Paramecium* (*Hagiwara* and *Naka* 1964; *Hagiwara* and *Nakajima* 1966; *Brehm* and *Eckert* 1978).

The calcium inward current can be blocked by verapamil, by its methoxy derivative D-600, and by many ions: lanthanum, cobalt, manganese, magnesium (*Katz* and *Miledi* 1969; *Kohlhart* et al. 1972; *Hagiwara* 1973; *Reuter* 1973, 1979; *Baker* and *Glitsch* 1975; *Sperelakis* and *Schneider* 1976; *Nawrath* et al. 1977; *Kostyuk* and *Krishtal* 1977a; *Brehm* and *Eckert* 1978; *Vassalle* 1979). In the mammalian heart, acidosis and metabolic inhibitors also depress the inward calcium current (*Kohlhart* and *Kübler* 1975; *Sperelakis* and *Schneider* 1976; *Kohlhart* et al. 1977). The specificity of verapamil, D-600, and lanthanum for inhibiting the slow inward current is not absolute, however: they also affect the fast inward sodium current and the late outward current (*Bayer* et al. 1975; *Kass* and *Tsien* 1975).

In the heart, beta-adrenergic drugs stimulate the slow inward current, by increasing the conductance of the calcium channel (*Reuter* 1967, 1973, 1974b, 1979; *Vassort* et al. 1969; *Brown* et al. 1975; *Sperelakis* and *Schneider* 1976; *Reuter* and *Scholz* 1977b). This has been interpreted as an increase in the number of functional conductance channels (*Reuter* and *Scholz* 1977b; *Reuter* 1979). The effects of catecholamines on the calcium current are probably mediated by an increase in intracellular cAMP (*Reuter* 1974b; *Brown* et al. 1975; *Sperelakis* and *Schneider* 1976; *Tsien* 1977) and indeed cAMP, db-cAMP, and agents that increase cellular cAMP, histamine, methylxantines and papaverine, also enhance the slow inward current (*Reuter* 1974b; *Sperelakis* and *Schneider* 1976; *Tsien* 1977). On the other hand, acetylcholine depresses the slow calcium current (*Giles* and

Noble 1976; *Ten-Eick et al.* 1976). *Reuter* (1979) proposed a hypothetical scheme (Fig. 10) involving cell metabolism for the regulation of the availability of calcium channels in cardiac muscle (*Kohlhart and Kübler* 1975; *Reuter and Scholz* 1977b; *Sperelakis and Schneider* 1976). In this model, the calcium channel consists of one filter determining its calcium selectivity and of two gating mechanisms: one would be the voltage-dependent gate and the other a phosphorylation-dependent gate. The latter would be regulated by catecholamines that would increase the number of available channels by a cAMP-dependent phosphorylation reaction, while acetylcholine would reduce their availability by dephosphorylation of the channel.

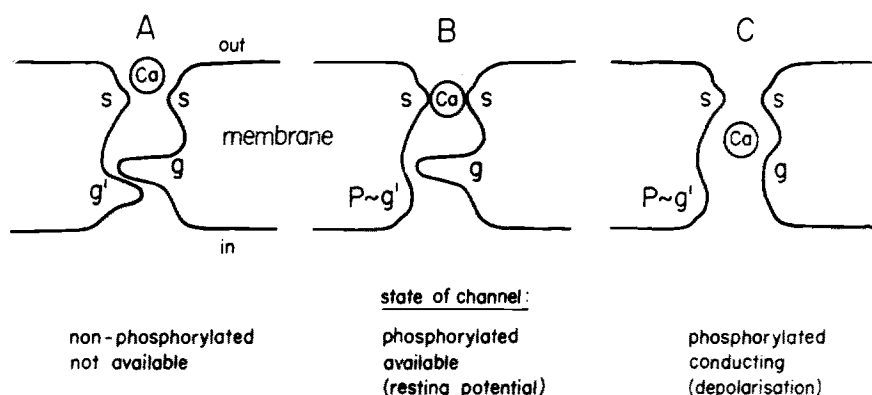


Fig. 10 A–C. Hypothetical scheme for the regulation of Ca channels in cardiac muscle proposed by *Reuter* (1979). Channel contains a filter (s) determining its Ca selectivity and two gates (g and g'). g is the voltage-dependent gate; g' is a phosphorylation-dependent, voltage-independent gate. Phosphorylation of g' may be due to a cAMP-dependent protein kinase reaction; dephosphorylation may depend on a phosphatase. **A** Without phosphorylation g' is closed and hence channels are not available; **B** channels are available but nonconducting when g' is phosphorylated ($P \sim g'$) but g is closed; **C** phosphorylated channels conduct when g opens upon depolarization of the membrane. Reproduced, with permission, from the *Annual Review of Physiology*, Vol. 41, 1979 by Annual Reviews, Inc.

Besides muscles and nerves, other cells may be electrically excitable. Secretory cells from the adrenal medulla and adrenal cortex, from the exocrine and endocrine pancreas, from salivary glands, and others can be depolarized by various agents and transmitters (*Matthews* 1967; *Matthews and Saffran* 1967; *Douglas et al.* 1967a, b; *Dean and Matthews* 1970a, b; *Matthews and Petersen* 1973; *Rubin* 1974). Except for the pancreatic islet cells, there is too little information to decide whether an inward calcium current through calcium channels exists in these secretory cells. But in pancreatic beta-cells the evidence is very compelling: action potentials can

be elicited by increasing the glucose concentration above 4 mM (*Dean and Matthews 1970a*); the spikes can be maintained even in the absence of extracellular sodium (*Dean and Matthews 1970b; Matthews 1975; Matthews and Sakamoto 1975b*); they are not blocked by TTX (*Matthews 1975*); the evoked spikes are blocked in calcium-free media, in the presence of D-600 (*Matthews 1975; Matthews and Sakamoto 1975a*) or by manganese (*Dean and Matthews 1970b*); a metabolic control of the calcium channel may exist, as in the myocardium, since anoxia and the metabolic inhibitor IAA block the glucose-induced action potential (*Dean et al. 1975*); the magnitude of the calcium influx calculated from the measured currents is in the same order of magnitude as in the heart, $100 \text{ fmol cm}^{-2} \text{ impulse}^{-1}$ (*Matthews 1975*).

Whether calcium channels exist in nonexcitable cells is unknown. The fact that D-600 does not inhibit calcium fluxes in liver cells, kidney cells, and lymphocytes argues against such channels in these tissues (*Blackmore et al. 1979c; Borle unpublished; Jan Fischer 1976, pers. communication*).

9 Mitochondrial Calcium Transport

More than 40% of the total cell calcium is sequestered in mitochondria (Table 4), constituting the largest calcium compartment of the cell. In an intact cell at steady state, a cycling of calcium in and out of mitochondria occurs by two separate influx and efflux pathways. Several recent reviews have been written on this very complex problem (*Mela 1977; Bygrave 1977, 1978; Carafoli and Crompton 1978b; Lehninger et al. 1978a*). I shall present only a broad outline of the subject.

9.1 Calcium Influx into Mitochondria

9.1.1 The Driving Force

For the last 2 decades it has been recognized that the accumulation of calcium by mitochondria can be supported by ATP hydrolysis or by the oxidation of respiratory substrates (*Lehninger 1964; Chance 1965; Rasmussen 1966*) and that the uptake of calcium by mitochondria takes precedence over ADP phosphorylation (*Rossi and Lehninger 1964; Reynafarje and Lehninger 1973; Jacobus et al. 1975*). The driving force for calcium influx was first thought to involve the formation of a high-energy intermediate of oxidative phosphorylation that could energize either calcium transport or ATP synthesis. However, *Scarpa and Azzone (1970)* showed that, in the absence of ATP and of respiratory substrate, calcium

can be accumulated against a concentration gradient in response to a membrane potential. Following the chemiosmotic theory of *Mitchell* (1966), the current view is that an outward-directed proton pump, driven either by ATP hydrolysis or by respiration, creates a proton electrochemical potential $\Delta\bar{\mu}_H$, which is composed of a membrane potential, $\Delta\psi$, and a proton concentration gradient, ΔpH : $\Delta\bar{\mu}_H = \Delta\psi - 59 \Delta\text{pH}$ (*Mitchell* and *Moyle* 1969; *Nicholls* 1974). The relative contribution of the membrane potential and of the proton gradient to $\Delta\bar{\mu}_H$ depends on the presence of dissociable anions. Indeed, driven by the proton gradient, an inward transport of weak acids anions (such as acetate, phosphate, and even CO_2 , which can donate a proton to the matrix) can convert most of the pH gradient into a membrane potential (*Elder* and *Lehninger* 1973a, b; *Lehninger* 1974a; *Gunter* and *Puskin* 1975). Ultimately, the potential difference across the mitochondria inner membrane is the driving force for calcium influx into the mitochondrial matrix that is electrically negative (*Scarpa* and *Azzone* 1970; *Rottenberg* and *Scarpa* 1974; *Scarpa* 1975; *Heaton* and *Nicholls* 1976; *Akerman* 1978b). Mitochondrial transmembrane potential differences ranging from -120 to -200 mV have been reported (*Mitchell* and *Moyle* 1969; *Rottenberg* 1973; *Nicholls* 1974; *Gunter* and *Puskin* 1975; *Azzone* et al. 1977). The relation among energy transduction, proton electrochemical potential (PMF = proton motive force in the figure), calcium transport, and the site of action of inhibitors is illustrated in Fig. 11, which is taken from *Bygrave* (1977).

Investigators still disagree about whether the influx of calcium driven by the membrane potential involves a net charge transfer of 1 or 2. Some find that calcium is transferred with 1 positive charge and propose the existence of a calcium–phosphate symporter rather than a $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{H}^+$ anti-

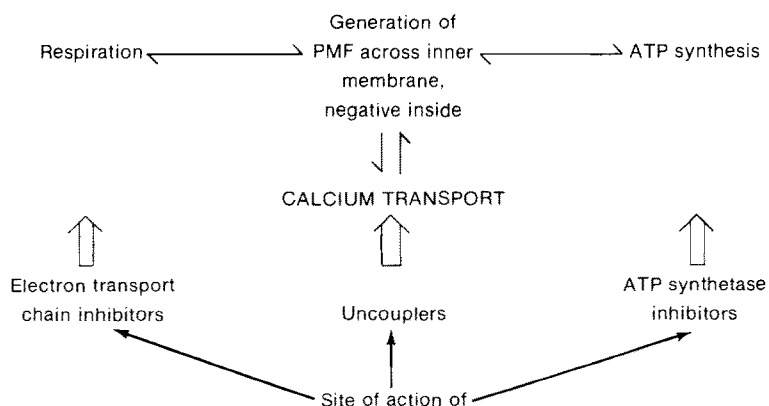


Fig. 11. Chemiosmotic model of mitochondrial energy transduction and its relation to calcium transport. PMF is the proton motive force ($\Delta\bar{\mu}_H = \Delta\psi - 59 \Delta\text{pH}$). Site of action of inhibitors is also shown. Adapted from *Bygrave* (1977)

porter (Moyle and Mitchell 1977a, b; Akerman 1978b). Others, finding a net charge transfer of 2 and a linear relation between $\Delta\psi$ and the calcium distribution ratio with a slope fitting the Nernst equation, propose the existence of a Ca^{2+} uniporter (Rottenberg and Scarpa 1974; Scarpa 1975; Brand et al. 1976; Nicholls 1978b; Lehninger et al. 1978a).

9.1.2 The Carrier

Whether symporter, antiporter or uniporter, the existence of a specific carrier for calcium transport into mitochondria seems to be well established (Mela 1977; Bygrave 1978; Lehninger et al. 1978a). First, it had been proposed that the high-affinity calcium-binding sites of mitochondria reflect the active site of the carrier molecule with an affinity constant K_{Ca} of $0.025 \mu\text{M}$ (Reynafarje and Lehninger 1969; Lehninger et al. 1978a). This has been challenged by Reed and Bygrave (1974b), who showed that the high-affinity binding is in reality the manifestation of the energy reserve of inhibited mitochondria, because the so-called bound calcium is inaccessible to EGTA chelation and thus located inside the inner membrane. In fact, the kinetic properties of the carrier are of such a kind that the measurement of the carrier specific binding properties is impossible with current techniques (Bygrave 1977). Lanthanum is a competitive inhibitor of calcium transport into mitochondria, presumably competing with calcium for the same site of the carrier molecule (Mela 1968, 1969, 1977; Mela and Chance 1969; Reed and Bygrave 1974a). From lanthanum competitive inhibition data, the number of carrier-specific binding sites has been estimated to be around 0.07 nmol/mg mitochondrial protein (Mela 1968, 1969, 1977; Mela and Chance 1969; Reed and Bygrave 1974a). Ruthenium red, a noncompetitive inhibitor of calcium transport into mitochondria, provides further evidence for the existence of a carrier and perhaps for its glycoprotein nature (Moore 1971; Vasington et al. 1972; Reed and Bygrave 1974a). And indeed several investigators have isolated from mitochondria a glycoprotein with a high affinity for calcium (Sottocasa et al. 1971, 1972; Gomez-Puyou et al. 1972; Kimura et al. 1972; Tashmukhamedov et al. 1972). The glycoprotein monomer has a molecular weight of 33 000, contains about 10% carbohydrate and up to 33% phospholipids, and has 2–3 high-affinity calcium binding sites per mole with a K_{Ca} of $0.1 \mu\text{M}$ (Carafoli 1976; Carafoli et al. 1978). Anti-Ca binding glycoprotein antibodies specifically inhibit calcium transport in mitochondria and the glycoprotein has been proposed to be part of a mobile carrier (Sandri et al. 1976; Panfili et al. 1976). However, it is currently postulated to be a recognition factor and not the carrier per se because (a) it is located in the inner and outer membrane and as well as in the intermembrane space, and (b) although the electrical conductance of phospho-

Table 21. Kinetic parameters of calcium uptake by mitochondria

KCa (μ M)	V_m [nmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹]	Hill coefficient	Substrate	[Mg] (mM)	Method ^a	Reference
Liver						
2.0	—	1.8	ATP	0	A	Bygrave et al. 1971a, b
2-3	—	—	Succ.	0	C	Carafoli and Azzi 1972
1.5	313	1.6	ATP	0	A	Spencer and Bygrave 1973
1.8	450	1.75	Succ.	0	A	Spencer and Bygrave 1973
4.0	—	1.7	Succ.	0	A	Reed and Bygrave 1975
1.4	—	—	β -OH but.	0	C	Hutson 1977
3.1	—	—	Succ.	0	C	Hutson 1977
4.7	—	—	Succ.	0	D	Heaton and Nicholls 1976
3-11	—	—	Succ.	0	A	Kimura and Rasmussen 1977
2.6	—	—	Succ.	0	C	Hutson et al. 1976
5.3	—	—	Succ.	0.25	C	Hutson et al. 1976
10	—	—	Succ.	0.5	C	Hutson et al. 1976
14.5	—	—	Succ.	0.94	C	Hutson et al. 1976
30	—	—	Succ.	2.0	C	Hutson et al. 1976
9.5	—	—	β -OH but.	1.0	C	Hutson 1977
17.8	—	—	β -OH but.	2.0	C	Hutson 1977
50	420	—	Succ.	2.0	B	Scarpa 1975
50-70	480	1.63	Succ.	5.0	B	Vinogradov and Scarpa 1973
20	—	—	Succ. ATP	2.0	A	Kimura and Rasmussen 1977
50-80	480	—	Succ. ATP	5.0	A	Kimura and Rasmussen 1977
Kidney						
18.7	415	1.63	Succ.	0	A	Studer and Borle 1979
Heart						
55-65	275	—	Succ.	0	B	Sordhal 1974
0.41	—	—	Succ.	0	C	Jacobus et al. 1975
5.6	426	1.9	ATP	0	A	Noack and Heiner 1977
18.5	90	1.26	Succ.	0	A	Williams and Barrie 1978

12-15	84	1.5	Succ.	1	D	<i>Crompton et al. 1976a</i>
85-105	660	2.06	Succ.	5	B	<i>Scarpa and Graziotti 1973 (rat)</i>
25-35	960	2.06	Succ.	5	B	<i>Scarpa and Graziotti 1973 (frog)</i>
60-85	360	2.06	Succ.	5	B	<i>Scarpa and Graziotti 1973 (pigeon)</i>
12	230	—	Succ.	5	A	<i>Solaro 1972</i>
Myometrium						
4.4	33	—	Succ.	0	A	<i>Malmstrom and Carafoli 1977</i>
25	780	Hyperbolic	Succ.	2	B	<i>Wikström et al. 1975</i>
Vascular smooth muscle						
17	720	—	Succ.	2	B	<i>Vallieres et al. 1975</i>
17	240	—	Succ.	2	B	<i>Vallieres et al. 1975</i>
Ascites cells						
8	1300	—	Succ.	1.0	C	<i>Reynafarje and Lehninger 1973</i>
Brain						
4	—	Hyperbolic	Mal. pyr.	0	D	<i>Nicholls 1978</i>

^a Methods: A: ⁴⁵Ca uptake. B: Spectrophotometry with murexide or arsenazo III. C: O₂ consumption or shift in redox state of cytochrome b. D: pCa electrode or Ca conductance measurements.

lipid bilayers is increased by the glycoprotein in the presence of calcium, it does not induce a measurable efflux of calcium from these liposomes (Carafoli et al. 1976).

9.1.3 Kinetic Parameters

The kinetic characteristics of calcium influx into mitochondria have been studied in liver, kidney, heart, smooth muscle, and brain and they are shown in Table 21. In the absence of Mg the K_{Ca} of influx lies between 2 and 4 μM , except in heart and kidney where the range reported is much wider, 0.4–6.5 μM . The relation between the free calcium outside the mitochondria and calcium influx is not hyperbolic but sigmoidal, except in myometrium and in brain. The Hill coefficient ranges from 1.3 to 2.0 with an average of 1.68, suggesting cooperativity of 2 calcium per transport site. The maximal velocity varies considerably depending on the experimental conditions, especially on the concentration of permeable anions. V_m ranges from 100 to 1000 $\text{nmol mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1}$, with an average of 470 $\text{nmol mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1}$. Magnesium is a well-recognized inhibitor of calcium influx (Table 21) with a K_{IMg} of 20 mM. And indeed, with Mg concentrations of 5 mM, the K_{Ca} of influx increases 10–20 times and ranges from 50 to 100 μM (Vinogradov and Scarpa 1973; Scarpa and Graziotti 1973; Kimura and Rasmussen 1977). However, although the total Mg in liver, kidney, and brain tissue ranges between 7 and 10 mmol/kg wet tissue, the free Mg is between 0.6 and 1.3 mmol/kg wet tissue (Velooso et al. 1973). In liver, the free Mg may be even less, between 0.55 and 0.93 mmol/kg wet tissue (Velooso et al. 1973). With these physiologic concentrations of magnesium, the K_{Ca} of influx in liver, heart and ascites cells is about 10 μM (Table 21). Other factors influence the affinity of the transport system for calcium: the temperature, the nature of the respiratory substrate, and the potassium concentration (Hutson et al. 1976; Hutson 1977; Williams and Barrie 1978). All the kinetic studies published have been conducted at 25°C or less, and Hutson (1977) has shown that increasing the temperature from 25°C to 35°C reduces the K_{Ca} of influx 40%. Furthermore, potassium antagonizes the Mg inhibition and the $K_{0.5}$ of calcium influx decreases 50% if the potassium concentration is raised to its physiologic value of 100 mM (Hutson et al. 1976; Hutson 1977). From the data available, one can conclude first, that the kinetic properties of calcium influx are very similar among all tissues studied; second, in physiologic conditions $T = 37^\circ\text{C}$, K concentration 100 mM, Mg concentration $\approx 1 \text{ mM}$ the K_{Ca} of influx, is probably significantly less than 10 μM and close to 5 μM , and the V_m is around 400 $\text{nmol mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1}$.

9.1.4 Capacity of Mitochondria to Accumulate Calcium

In the absence of permeant anions, energized mitochondria can accumulate 100 nmol calcium/mg protein and this has been called 'limited' loading (*Lehninger et al. 1967*). With permeant anions such as phosphate and acetate, up to 2–3 μmol calcium/mg protein can be accumulated (*Lehninger et al. 1967*). This 'massive' loading is accompanied by mitochondrial swelling and leads to mitochondrial disruption unless ATP and Mg are present thus leading to a precipitation of calcium and phosphate in the mitochondrial matrix (*Lehninger 1970*). Although phosphate markedly increases the maximal velocity of calcium influx, it does not change the calcium affinity K_{Ca} or the Hill coefficient of the sigmoid curve relating calcium uptake and free calcium (*Spencer and Bygrave 1973; Crompton et al. 1978*). Accordingly, *Bygrave (1977)* concludes that permeant anions do not interact with the calcium carrier, but allow the dissociation of calcium from anionic sites inside the mitochondria inner membrane. According to this scheme the rate-limiting step in calcium influx is not the energy source but the dissociation of the calcium from the carrier in the internal face of the inner membrane.

The external pH or the pH gradient also affects the capacity of mitochondria to accumulate calcium. A low pH increases the K_{Ca} of influx without affecting the Hill coefficient, decreases the V_m , induces an efflux of calcium from mitochondria, and lowers the calcium content of mitochondria (*Spencer and Bygrave 1973; Reed and Bygrave 1975b; Akerman 1978a; Studer and Borle 1979, 1980*). Conversely a high external pH decreases the K_{Ca} and increases the mitochondrial calcium content and exchange rate (*Spencer and Bygrave 1973; Studer and Borle 1980*).

9.2 Mitochondrial Calcium Efflux and Cycling

Drahota et al. (1965) recognized that at steady state (state 4), calcium transport by mitochondria is a dynamic process in which there is a continuous efflux of accumulated calcium counterbalanced by an energized influx of calcium. Whether calcium efflux is an active or a passive process is unknown. Theoretically, since the driving force for calcium influx is the potential difference $\Delta\psi$ across the mitochondrial inner membrane it should be possible to decide whether the calcium distribution ratio between the matrix and the extramitochondrial space reflects an equilibrium governed by the Nernst relation (*Gunter and Puskin 1975; Puskin et al. 1976*). Unfortunately, too many uncertainties make such calculations difficult: (a) the $\Delta\psi$ may vary from -120 to -200 mV; (b) there is no agreement about whether calcium influx occurs on a uniporter with a charge transfer

of 2 or a symporter with a charge transfer of 1; (c) the actual distribution ratio of free calcium is not known. With a $\Delta\psi$ of -120 mV and assuming a symporter, the Nernst equilibrium distribution ratio of calcium should be 10^2 , which is quite small. However, if one assumes a $\Delta\psi$ of -180 mV and a uniporter, the same distribution ratio should be 10^6 , which is highly improbable. Consequently it is too early to predict whether calcium efflux from mitochondria represents a passive leak or an active process. At steady state the calcium distribution ratio has been shown to vary between 2000 and 7000 (Drahota et al. 1965; Pozzan et al. 1977) and since it is much greater than the Mn^{2+} distribution ratio, Pozzan et al. (1977) conclude that it is doubtful that these ratios depend on $\Delta\psi$. Rather, the calcium distribution between the mitochondrial matrix and the cytosol may be determined at steady state by the difference between the rates of calcium influx and efflux or by the ratio of their rate constants (Borle 1973a; Pozzan et al. 1977; Nicholls 1978b). At steady state, rat liver and heart mitochondria in vitro can maintain an extramitochondrial free calcium concentration of 0.3 – 0.8 μM (Solaro 1972; Nicholls 1978b), while myometrium mitochondria can lower it to 0.1 μM (Batra 1973a).

Stucki and Ineichen (1974) estimated that calcium efflux from liver mitochondria in state 4 amounts to 3.5 nmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1} . Others estimated that steady-state fluxes range between 1 and 5 nmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1} with a liver mitochondrial membrane potential difference of -200 mV (Azzone et al. 1977; Pozzan et al. 1977; Nicholls 1978b). In kidney mitochondria, with an external free calcium concentration buffered at 0.7 μM , and a pH of 7.4, steady-state calcium exchange (efflux = influx) across the mitochondrial inner membrane is 1.1 nmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1} (Studer and Borle 1980).

Several physiologic factors influence calcium efflux from mitochondria. Sodium stimulates calcium efflux from mitochondria isolated from heart, cerebral cortex, adrenal cortex, parotid glands, and skeletal muscle (Carafoli et al. 1974; Crompton et al. 1976b, 1978; Nicholls 1978a). The relation between calcium efflux and the extramitochondrial sodium concentration is sigmoidal with a Hill coefficient of 3, suggesting a stoichiometry of 3 Na for 1 Ca. The half-maximal activation constant K_{Na} is 8 mM and the maximum velocity of calcium release is 14 nmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1} (Crompton et al. 1976b). These authors calculated a steady-state calcium efflux of 4 nmol mg^{-1} protein min^{-1} with a cytosolic sodium concentration of 6 mM, and they postulate the existence of a Na–Ca antiporter (Crompton et al. 1977; Crompton and Heid 1978).

Phosphoenolpyruvate also stimulates calcium efflux from heart and liver mitochondria (Chudapongse and Haugaard 1973; Peug et al. 1974; Chudapongse 1976; Roos et al. 1978). This effect of phosphoenolpyruvate requires phosphate and is antagonized by ATP; the release of calcium is

accompanied by an uptake of H^+ by the mitochondria (*Chudapongse* 1976).

Calcium efflux also depends upon the oxidation–reduction state of the mitochondrial pyridine nucleotides and the ATP/ADP ratio of the cytosol: a low cytosolic ATP/ADP ratio accompanied by an oxidized state of mitochondrial NAD favors calcium efflux, while a high ATP/ADP ratio with a reduced state of pyridine nucleotide would promote calcium influx (*Lehninger* et al. 1978b; *Fiskum* and *Lehninger* 1979). These authors postulate that this calcium efflux from liver mitochondria occurs through an electrically neutral $Ca^{2+}/2H^+$ antiporter.

Although it has been suggested that calcium efflux occurs through a reversal of the influx mechanism (*Pozzan* et al. 1977; *Roos* et al. 1978), a majority of investigators accept the idea of a separate efflux pathway (*Gunter* and *Puskin* 1975; *Puskin* et al. 1976; *Crompton* et al. 1976b, 1978; *Crompton* and *Heid* 1978; *Bygrave* 1978; *Nicholls* 1978a, b; *Caroni* et al. 1978; *Lehninger* et al. 1978b; *Fiskum* and *Lehninger* 1979).

In summary, calcium influx is believed to be an electrophoretic uniport process driven by the potential difference established across the mitochondrial inner membrane by a proton pump energized by respiration or ATP hydrolysis. Calcium efflux may utilize different pathways, either a Ca/Na antiporter or a Ca/H antiporter system. It is likely that mitochondrial calcium influx and efflux are independently regulated.

10 Calcium Transport by Endoplasmic Reticulum

10.1 Muscle

Calcium transport in reticulum has been studied in great detail in muscle using the reconstituted vesicles or microsomes from fragmented sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR), and many recent reviews on this subject have been published (*McLennan* and *Holland* 1975; *Martonosi* 1975; *Ebashi* 1976; *Martonosi* et al. 1978; *Tada* et al. 1978). In muscle microsomes, calcium transport is stoichiometrically coupled to ATP hydrolysis: for each ATP hydrolyzed, 2 calcium atoms are carried across the membrane in a process that is Mg-dependent. The active transport mechanism is the Mg-dependent Ca-activated ATPase that catalyzes the formation of a phosphoprotein intermediate. The enzyme phosphorylation dependence on calcium appears cooperative with a Hill coefficient greater than 2. The process is reversible because a calcium gradient across the microsomal membrane allows the synthesis of 1 mole of ATP from ADP and phosphate for each 2 calcium released from the SR vesicles.

The kinetic characteristics of calcium uptake by SR vesicles from skeletal and cardiac muscles are shown in Table 22. The K_{Ca} for both types of muscle varies between 0.1 and 12 μM with an average of about 2 μM . The maximal capacity ranges between 40 and 200 nmol/mg protein. Oxalate, however, which allows the precipitation of calcium inside the vesicles, enhances 100-fold the maximal capacity of microsomes, up to 2–10 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{mg}$ protein (*Harigaya and Schwartz 1969; Worsfold and Peter 1970; Repke and Katz 1972*). Phosphate, on the other hand, stimulates calcium uptake by SR only very slightly and at rather unphysiologically high concentrations (*Harigaya and Schwartz 1969; Worsfold and Peter 1970*).

Table 22. Kinetic parameters of calcium uptake by sarcoplasmic reticulum vesicles (microsomes) of skeletal and heart muscle

KCa (μ M)	V_m [μ mol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹]	Maximal capacity [μ mol (mg prot) ⁻¹]		Reference
		Without oxalate	With oxalate	
Skeletal muscle				
0.1–1.0	1–3	0.1–0.2	8–10	Weber 1966
3–5	—	0.16–0.2	—	Ogawa 1970
12 a	2.8	—	—	Worsfold and Peter 1970
3 b	0.28	—	—	Worsfold and Peter 1970
—	—	0.08–0.16	2–4.8	Harigaya and Schwartz 1969
Cardiac muscle				
2	0.04	0.04–0.08	2–3	Harigaya and Schwartz 1969
1.2–2.3	—	no uptake	2.5	Repke and Katz 1972
1.9	1.54	—	5.6	Solaro and Briggs 1974

^a Rat.

^b Human.

The maximal velocity of calcium uptake by SR vesicles varies between 0.3 and 3 $\mu\text{mol mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1}$ (Table 22). However, in the presence of oxalate, the relation between the extravesicular calcium and the rate of calcium uptake is often linear: velocities of 30–40 nmol $\text{mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1} \mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{ Ca}$ have been reported (*Repke and Katz 1972*).

10.2 Tissues Other than Muscle

In tissues other than muscle, calcium uptake by endoplasmic reticulum vesicles (ER microsomes) is very much slower and the capacity of the microsomes is very much less than that of sarcoplasmic reticulum (Table 23). The affinity of the transport system for calcium varies from tissue to tissue: in liver, fibroblasts, and adipocytes the K_{Ca} is about the same as in muscle, ranging from 1 to 5 μM ; in kidney, brain, salivary glands, and platelets the affinity is much less and the K_{Ca} ranges from 25 to 100 μM (Tables 23 and 24). In all tissues studied, the maximal velocity is about 100 times less than in muscle, even in the presence of oxalate: it varies from 1.5 to 44 $nmol\ mg^{-1}\ protein\ min^{-1}$ with an average of less than 10 $nmol\ mg^{-1}\ protein\ min^{-1}$.

Table 23. Kinetic parameters of calcium uptake by endoplasmic reticulum vesicles (microsomes) isolated from tissues other than muscle

Tissue	K_{Ca}	V_m^a	K_{ATP}	Maximal capacity ^a	Reference
	(μM)	[$nmol\ (mg\ prot)^{-1}\ min^{-1}$]	(mM)	[$nmol\ (mg\ prot)^{-1}$]	
Liver	4.6 ^b	11	1.8	400	Moore et al. 1975
	2.4 ^b	1.5	—	74	Farber et al. 1977
	1–2	—	0.5	—	Bygrave 1978
Kidney	25	5.4	0.3	10–30	Moore et al. 1974
Brain	50–100	—	—	65	De Meis et al. 1970
	67	44	—	—	Trotta and De Meis 1975
	—	—	—	78	Otsuka et al. 1965
	—	—	0.01	40–80	Ohtsuki 1969
	—	—	—	50	Robinson and Lust 1968
Fibroblasts	2.6 ^b	7	—	—	Moore and Pastan 1977a
	—	—	—	10	Moore and Pastan 1978
Salivary glands	>100	1.5	1.0	150	Alonso et al. 1971
Platelets	100	—	—	350	Robblee et al. 1973
Adipocytes	3.6 ^b	4.8	—	60	Bruns et al. 1976

^a In presence of oxalate.

^b Calculated.

Table 24. Properties of calcium uptake by microsomes (SR excluded)

Rate [nmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹]			
Ca ⁺⁺ of 20–100 μ M			
Without oxalate	< 1		<i>Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Selinger et al. 1970</i>
With oxalate	1–15		<i>Ohtsuki 1969; DeMeis et al. 1970; Selinger et al. 1970; Alonso et al. 1971; Moore et al. 1974; Baumrucker and Keenan 1975; Moore and Pastan 1977a, 1978; Farber et al. 1977; Watson and Siegel 1978</i>
Capacity [nmol (mg prot) ⁻¹]			
Without oxalate	0–10		<i>Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Moore and Pastan 1978; Alonso et al. 1971</i>
With oxalate	10–400		<i>Otsuka et al. 1965; Robinson and Lust 1968; Ohtsuki 1969; DeMeis et al. 1970; Alonso et al. 1971; Robblee et al. 1973; Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Moore and Pastan 1977a; Bruns et al. 1976; Farber et al. 1977</i>
KCa (μ M)			
Measured (total Ca)	15–100		<i>DeMeis et al. 1970; Alonso et al. 1971; Robblee et al. 1973; Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Moore and Pastan 1977a; Trotta and DeMeis 1975; Farber et al. 1977</i>
Calculated (free Ca)	2–5		<i>Moore et al. 1975; Bruns et al. 1976; Moore and Pastan 1977a; Farber et al. 1977; Bygrave 1978</i>
V_m [nmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹]			
With oxalate	1–40		<i>Alonso et al. 1971; Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Trotta and DeMeis 1971; Bruns et al. 1976; Moore and Pastan 1977a; Farber et al. 1977</i>
Stimulated by oxalate			<i>Selinger et al. 1970; Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Moore and Pastan 1977a, b, 1978; Blaustein et al. 1978c</i>
Inhibited by	Na, Li, sucrose, salyrgan, amytal, mersalyl, tetracaine, valinomycin, CCCP		<i>Robinson and Lust 1968; Selinger et al. 1970; Robblee et al. 1973; Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Blaustein et al. 1978c; Bygrave 1978</i>
Not inhibited by	DNP, CN, NaN ₃ , antimycin A, FCCP, oligomycin, ouabain, ruthenium red		<i>Otsuka et al. 1965; Ohtsuki 1969; Selinger et al. 1970; Moore et al. 1974, 1975; Trotta and DeMeis 1975; Farber et al. 1977; Ash and Bygrave 1977; Moore and Pastan 1977b; Bygrave 1978; Blaustein et al. 1978c</i>
Little or no effect of phosphate			<i>Otsuka et al. 1965; Ohtsuki 1969; DeMeis et al. 1970; Selinger et al. 1970; Alonso et al. 1971</i>

As in muscle, oxalate increases the capacity of ER vesicles to accumulate calcium, but even with oxalate the maximal capacity is very limited. In liver, kidney, brain, fibroblasts, and adipocytes the maximal capacity ranges between 10 and 80 nmol/mg protein (Tables 23 and 24.). Two re-

ports give values as high as 350–400 nmol/mg protein (*Robblee et al. 1973; Moore et al. 1975*). In liver and kidney there is no measurable microsomal calcium uptake in the absence of oxalate (*Moore et al. 1974, 1975*). Phosphate may stimulate calcium uptake slightly, but unphysiologically high concentrations, 40–80 mM, are needed for any significant effect (*Selinger et al. 1970; Alonso et al. 1971; Trotta and DeMeis 1975*). In brain microsomes, however, oxalate does not stimulate calcium uptake (*Otsuka et al. 1965; Ohtsuki 1969; Robinson and Lust 1968*).

Calcium uptake by ER vesicles has been shown to be inhibited in various tissues by salygran, amytal, mersalyl, tetracaine, valinomycin, CCCP, Na, Li, and sucrose (Table 24). On the other hand, it is not inhibited by DNP, CN, NaN_3 , antimycin A, FCCP, oligomycin, ouabain or ruthenium red (Table 24).

There is no doubt that the cells' endoplasmic reticulum is capable of accumulating calcium by an active process requiring ATP and Mg. But, except for muscle, the capacity of ER in physiologic conditions (no oxalate, presence of phosphate, $\text{Mg} \approx 1 \text{ mM}$) appears very limited and the rate of uptake is very slow. Even with extremely high extravesicular free calcium concentrations of 20–500 μM , calcium uptake is less than $1 \text{ nmol mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1}$ in the absence of oxalate; with oxalate it never exceeds $15\text{--}20 \text{ nmol mg}^{-1} \text{ protein min}^{-1}$ (Table 24).

11 Control of the Cytosolic Free Calcium Concentration

One or several energy requiring transport processes must intervene directly or indirectly to maintain the cytosolic concentration of ionized calcium several orders of magnitude below its thermodynamic equilibrium (cf. Sect. 7). Calcium-binding proteins, prosthetic groups with high affinity for calcium, and all the passive calcium-buffering systems, which are present in the cell (*Brink 1954; Nanninga 1961a, b; Kretsinger 1979; Dedman et al. 1979*), cannot determine the *level* of cytosolic calcium activity (control of the set point) since they cannot passively displace the calcium activity of the cytosol from its thermodynamic equilibrium. These passive calcium buffer systems, however, do determine the *ratio* of free calcium to bound calcium within the cell. *Mela (1977)* listed several criteria required for a cellular calcium controller to function adequately: (a) the rate of calcium transfer must be adequate for fast removal calcium from the cytosol; (b) the affinity of the transport process must be high to function at low cytosolic calcium concentration; (c) the capacity for calcium uptake and sequestration must be adequate to remove appropriate calcium loads; and (4) calcium release to the cytoplasm must be quantitatively adequate and fast enough to meet particular requirements of the cell.

Each parameter (rate, affinity, capacity) must be related to the characteristics of each particular cell: rates of calcium transfer appropriate for the slow contraction and relaxation of a smooth muscle cell may not be adequate for the fast contraction–relaxation cycle of a fast skeletal muscle fiber. The affinity for calcium of a particular controller system must also be compared to the resting level of cytosolic free calcium, which it regulates and which may vary from $5 \cdot 10^{-8}$ to 10^{-6} M, depending on the cell (cf. Table 7).

In addition, the relative role of the various transport processes as potential controllers can only be assessed when their relative mass and surface area are taken into consideration.

11.1 The Plasma Membrane as the Main Controller

In erythrocytes, the only possible controller of the intracellular free calcium concentration is the ATP-dependent calcium transport across the plasma membrane, which is catalyzed by the Mg-dependent Ca-sensitive ATPase. Erythrocytes are unique because they do not possess any other active calcium transport process and because their passive membrane permeability to calcium is much lower than that of any other cells. Calcium influx into erythrocytes is at least 2 orders of magnitude smaller than in other tissues (*Szasz et al. 1977, 1978; Borle and Studer 1978*).

Mullins (1977) has proposed on purely theoretical grounds that Na/Ca exchange across the squid axon plasma membrane could control the cytosolic free calcium and lower it below 10^{-8} M, if one assumes a stoichiometry of 4 Na for 1 Ca. However, a 4-to-1 stoichiometry has never been observed and the quantitative importance of the Na-dependent calcium efflux in unpoisoned axon is still debated (see Sect. 8.2.2).

Table 25 presents a comparison of the kinetic properties of the calcium pumps in sarcoplasmic reticulum, endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, and plasma membrane from different tissues. Although the affinities for calcium, K_{Ca} , are not very different, the velocity of the plasma membrane transport system is smaller than in microsomes and several orders of magnitude less than in mitochondria and sarcoplasmic reticulum, suggesting that calcium transport across the plasma membrane may be comparatively ill-suited to control the set point of the cytosolic calcium activity. This is supported by the results of *Simonsen and Christofferson (1979)* showing that the cytosolic free calcium of *Helix* neurons was hardly affected by changes in extracellular concentrations: an average ratio between changes of intracellular and extracellular pCa ($\Delta pCa_o / \Delta pCa_i$) of 7.1 was observed, suggesting that the stability of intracellular calcium activity cannot be determined by the transport capacity of the plasma membrane alone but

Table 25. Comparison of the kinetic parameters of calcium uptake (K_{Ca} , and V_m) by membranes in physiologic conditions ^a

	K_{Ca} (μM)	V_m [nmol (mg prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹]	Hill coefficient
Sarcoplasmic reticulum	1–12	100–3000	2
Endoplasmic reticulum	2– 5	< 1	2
Mitochondria	1–15	100–1000	2
Plasma membrane	1–20	1–3	2

^a From Tables 13, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

rather by intracellular mechanisms. Since the mitochondrial inhibitor azide causes a rapid rise in intracellular free calcium it is likely that, in these neurons, mitochondria play an important role as a controller of cytosolic calcium. Similar results were obtained in rat kidney cells (*Uchikawa* and *Borle*, unpublished). The cytosolic exchangeable calcium pool changes little when the extracellular calcium concentration is altered between 0.7 and 2.5 mM (see Fig. 12); most of the gain or loss in cell calcium is seen in the mitochondrial calcium pool.

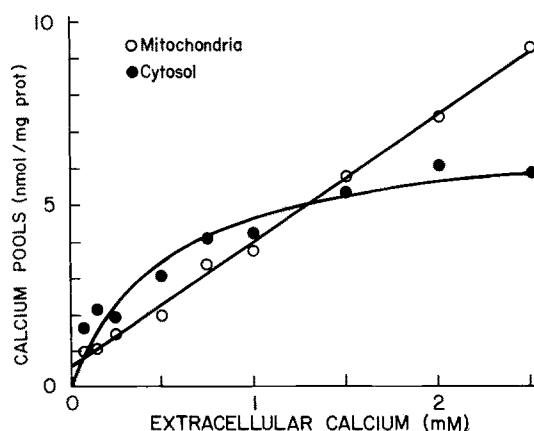


Fig. 12. Relation between the extracellular calcium concentration (Ca_o) and the size of the cytosolic and mitochondrial exchangeable calcium pools in cultured monkey kidney cells. Between a Ca_o of 0.7–2.5 mM the cytosolic pool changes relatively little compared with the loss ($Ca_o < 1.2$ mM) or the gain ($Ca_o > 1.2$ mM) in exchangeable calcium observed in the mitochondrial pool. *Uchikawa* and *Borle* (unpublished)

11.2 The Endoplasmic Reticulum as the Main Controller

In skeletal muscle, the sarcoplasmic reticulum is recognized to be the principal if not the only controller of the fiber cytosolic calcium. A detailed review of this well-known process is beyond the scope of this review. One should remember, however, that the sarcoplasmic reticulum affinity for calcium is in the same order of magnitude as the K_{Ca} of the plasma membrane, endoplasmic reticulum, and mitochondria. What distinguishes its kinetic properties is the great velocity of the transport process reflected by a V_m that may exceed $1 \mu\text{mol mg}^{-1} \text{ prot min}^{-1}$ (Table 25). Thus, it is accepted that skeletal muscle sarcoplasmic reticulum can lower the cytosolic calcium activity below 10^{-8} M.

In heart muscle, the sarcoplasmic reticulum is probably not the only controller of cytosolic calcium activity. The existence of calcium channels makes this tissue more dependent on the extracellular calcium concentration and on calcium influx through the plasma membrane (see Sect. 8.4.3). In addition, many investigators have suggested that mitochondria may play a role in the control of free calcium in heart muscle (*Chance* 1965; *Patriarca* and *Carafoli* 1968; *Harigaya* and *Schwartz* 1969; *Carafoli* and *Azzi* 1972; *Carafoli* et al. 1972; *Lehninger* 1974b; *Affolter* et al. 1976; *Carafoli* and *Crompton* 1978a; *Lentz* et al. 1978; *Nayler* et al. 1979). Others doubt it because of the mitochondrial high K_{Ca} and their slow transport velocity compared with that in sarcoplasmic reticulum (*Solaro* 1972; *Scarpa* and *Graziotti* 1973; *Scarpa* 1975, 1978b; *Tsokos* et al. 1978); however, kinetic studies have often been performed at optimal conditions for calcium uptake by sarcoplasmic reticulum (presence of oxalate and high magnesium concentrations) but not for calcium uptake by mitochondria. Further physiologic conditions (i.e., presence of phosphate, absence of oxalate, free magnesium concentration of 1 mM) would undoubtedly improve the calcium transport capacity of mitochondria compared with that of sarcoplasmic reticulum. *Tsokos* et al. (1977) suggested that, although mitochondria may not play a significant role in the rapid uptake of calcium promoting relaxation of myofibrils, the possibility still remains that they participate in regulating the steady-state calcium levels and the resting tension of the myofibrils.

In uterine smooth muscle, the rate of calcium uptake is much slower in microsomes than in mitochondria; on a protein basis, the calcium capacity of microsomes is only 17% of that of mitochondria (*Batra* and *Daniel* 1971). Furthermore, while mitochondria are capable of lowering the free calcium of their incubating medium below 10^{-7} M and even down to 10^{-8} M, microsomes can only lower it slightly below 10^{-6} M (*Batra* 1973a). *Batra* (1973b, 1974) also showed that hormones and drugs that influence muscle tension of skeletal and uterine muscle, and presumably their cyto-

solic free calcium affected mostly calcium uptake or release in mitochondria and not in microsomes.

In nerve terminals, *Blaustein et al.* (1978a, b) have described a nonmitochondrial ATP-dependent sequestration mechanism that they proposed to be the smooth endoplasmic reticulum. The calcium affinity of this intracellular calcium transport appears to be greater than that of mitochondria. However, even in these nerve terminals mitochondria have a rate of calcium uptake and a capacity to sequester calcium that is one order of magnitude larger and, after loading, most of the calcium is found in mitochondria (*Blaustein et al.* 1978a, b). It is, therefore, difficult to evaluate the respective contribution of each mechanism to the control of cytosolic calcium in nerves.

In parenchymal and epithelial cells, calcium uptake by the endoplasmic reticulum has long been overlooked. Only recently, the properties of calcium transport in microsomes have been studied in liver, kidney, brain, and a few other tissues (cf. Table 23). It is increasingly evident that drugs and hormones do influence calcium transport and its sequestration by endoplasmic reticulum vesicles. Nevertheless it is still difficult to make a convincing case for the postulate that the endoplasmic reticulum is relatively more important than mitochondria in the control of cytosolic calcium. Tables 22, 24, and 25 show that even if the affinity of endoplasmic reticulum vesicles for calcium is slightly higher than that of mitochondria the velocity of transport and the capacity for calcium sequestration are lower by 1–2 orders of magnitude. *Ash and Bygrave* (1977) used concentrations of ruthenium red, which totally inhibit calcium uptake by mitochondria without affecting calcium transport in microsomes or plasma membrane vesicles, to assess the potential of endoplasmic reticulum to control intracellular calcium in liver homogenate. They found that mitochondrial calcium uptake exceeds by severalfold, in terms of both initial rate and of capacity, the ruthenium red insensitive component reflecting microsomal transport. In rat liver, microsomal calcium sequestration is 1 order of magnitude smaller than mitochondrial uptake even in the presence of oxalate (*Farber et al.* 1977; *Ash and Bygrave* 1977; *Bygrave and Trauter* 1978). *Moore et al.* (1974) and *Bruns et al.* (1976) made the same observations in kidney and in adipocytes.

11.3 The Mitochondria as the Main Controller

Many investigators have proposed that except in erythrocytes and in skeletal and cardiac muscle fibers, mitochondria are the main controllers of the cytosolic calcium activity (*Lehninger* 1964; *Bygrave* 1967, 1978; *Borle* 1973; *Mela* 1977; *Carafoli and Crompton* 1978b). However, several others

have expressed serious doubt that mitochondria have a high enough affinity for calcium and high enough rates of calcium uptake at physiologically low cytosolic free calcium concentrations to play a significant role as controllers (Scarpa 1975; Scarpa et al. 1978b; Brinley 1978; Brinley et al. 1978).

Several lines of evidence suggest that mitochondria do play an important role in cellular calcium metabolism. First, the major part of the cell calcium is found in mitochondria (Table 4). Second, when a cell is taking up calcium (during calcium loading or in tracer experiments) the major part of the load is taken up by the mitochondria in liver (Thiers et al. 1960; Farber 1977), kidney (Borle 1972, 1978, 1979), muscle (Carafoli et al. 1969), salivary glands (Berridge et al. 1975), synaptosomes (Blaustein et al. 1978a–c), and in the squid axon (DiPolo et al. 1976; Requena et al. 1977; Brinley et al. 1977, 1978). Nevertheless, these observations only show that mitochondria can effectively buffer a net cellular uptake of calcium; they do not prove that mitochondria can significantly lower the cytosolic calcium or play a role as a calcium controller. On the other hand, other experiments do suggest such a role. Rose and Lowenstein (1975) showed that intracellular microinjections of calcium in the giant salivary gland cells of *Chironomus* were rapidly buffered by an energy-dependent process and did not increase the cytosolic ionized calcium monitored with aequorin. However, when cyanide or ruthenium red were injected before calcium, there was a large and diffuse increase in aequorin luminescence, indicating a large rise in cytosolic free calcium. Since ruthenium red inhibits mitochondrial calcium uptake without affecting calcium transport by microsomes or by the plasma membrane (Ash and Bygrave 1977; Blaustein et al. 1978c) these experiments suggest that mitochondria are the principal controllers of cytosolic free calcium in these salivary gland giant cells. In the squid axon mitochondria can accumulate great calcium loads (Brinley et al. 1977, 1978; Brinley 1978) and can rapidly release the accumulated calcium into the axoplasm if cyanide or the mitochondrial uncoupler FCCP are added (DiPolo et al. 1976; Requena et al. 1977; Brinley et al. 1977, 1978). More importantly, DiPolo et al. (1976), Requena et al. (1977), and Brinley et al. (1977) have shown that in squid axon an intracellular mechanism can rapidly lower the cytosolic free calcium to its resting levels of 30–60 nM (Figs. 13 and 14). In most of these experiments, calcium transport across the plasma membrane or into the endoplasmic reticulum is inhibited by apyrase or by a sodium-free and calcium-free external medium, leaving the substrate supported calcium uptake by mitochondria as the only explanation for the lowering of the cytosolic calcium to its resting level. Mullins and Requena (1979) also showed that after being 'primed' or initially loaded squid axon mitochondria were able to lower the cytosolic calcium below 10^{-7} M. When the calcium concen-

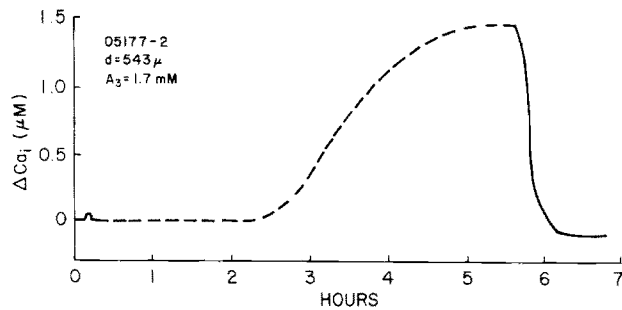


Fig. 13. Increase in cytosolic free calcium measured with arsenazo III in the squid axon, induced by cyanide and its reversal upon removal of cyanide from the solution. Fiber was initially loaded with calcium by a 10 min soak in a solution containing 10 mM Ca and 0 Na, which produced a slight rise in ionized calcium. Ionized calcium fell back to baseline after the return of the fiber to a sodium- and calcium-free solution. The fiber was maintained in 0 Ca, 0 Na solution during the entire experiment to stabilize the internal calcium content. The *dotted line* indicates the period of immersion in 2 mM CN, 0 Ca, 0 Na, artificial seawater. Approximately 2 h after the cyanide treatment there is a rise in ionized calcium to about 1.5 μM , immediately reversed back to baseline upon removal of the CN solution. *Brinley et al. (1977)*. Figure reproduced with permission from the *Journal of General Physiology*

tration of the external medium is increased from 3 mM, which is the physiologic free calcium concentration of squid hemolymph (*Blaustein 1974*), to 10 mM or 112 mM and when the axon is stimulated, it appears that the mitochondria are no longer able to lower the cytosolic calcium below 0.3–0.5 μM (*Scarpa et al. 1978b; Brinley et al. 1978*). In these extreme conditions, the plasma membrane calcium transport in the presence of external calcium and sodium or other intracellular buffer systems are equally unable to lower the cytosolic calcium. *Brinley et al. (1978)* calculated that squid axon mitochondria could buffer only 5% of an imposed calcium load; however, their conclusions should be regarded with caution since their own data suggest that they overestimated the loads by a factor of ten⁴. If one uses the corrected value for these calcium loads, squid axon

4 *Brinley et al. (1977)* measured the effects of stimulation at 100 impulses/s on calcium entry in squid axons bathed in 112 mM Ca seawater. They found a net entry of 0.014 pmol cm^{-2} impulse⁻¹ (see Fig. 5, *Brinley et al. 1977*) or 1.4 p/cs. In their calculations and in subsequent papers, however, they use the value of 14 p/cs or 140 fmol/ cm^{-2} imp (*Brinley et al. 1977; Requena and Brinley 1979*), 10 times their measured influx. One can calculate that for a axon of 500 μm diameter (see Table 28) the correct calcium load during stimulation would be at most 7 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ axoplasm/min and not 50 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ axoplasm/min as used by *Brinley* in this and subsequent papers (*Brinley et al. 1977, 1978; Scarpa et al. 1978; Brinley 1978*). Recently, *Requena et al. (1979)* found by direct analytical measurements that the net gain of calcium of a squid axon stimulated for 10 min at 100 impulses/s in 100 mM Ca_0 was 0.25 p/cs, 40 times less than the value used by *Brinley et al. (1977)*

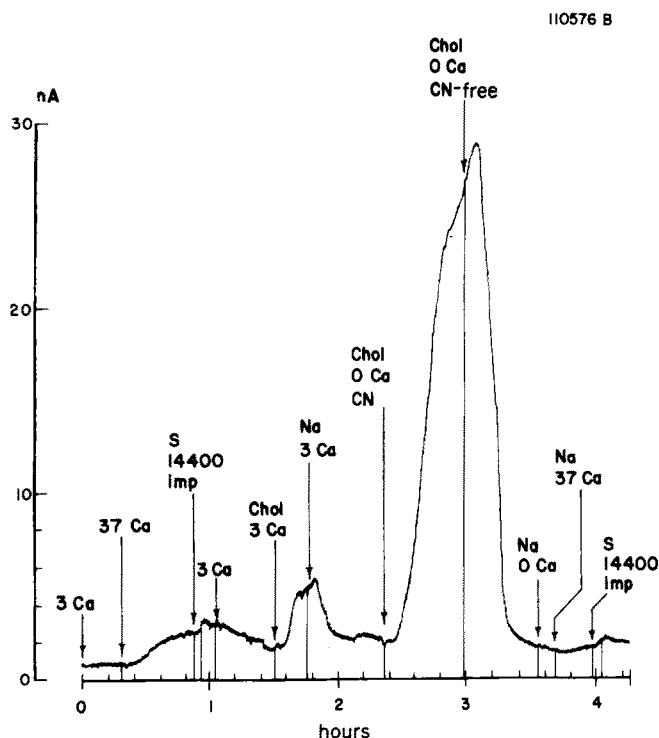


Fig. 14. Measurement of ionized calcium in the squid axon with aequorin. The axon was preinjected with apyrase and shows approximate increases in resting glow in 37 mM seawater, and recovery after its return to 3 mM Ca seawater. At about 2.2 h, when CN was applied, there was a large and virtually immediate increase in glow. The CN effect was fully reversible and the axon recovered its resting glow. *Requena et al. 1977*; reproduced with permission from the *Journal of General Physiology*

mitochondria appear to buffer 40%–50% of a calcium load, as observed in all other cell systems.

Mitochondria isolated from most tissues are capable of lowering the calcium concentration of their environment much below 10^{-6} M: mitochondria isolated from human myometrium, rat liver, and helix neurons can lower the calcium activity of their incubating media below 10^{-7} M (*Batra 1973a; Nicholls 1978b; Simonsen and Christoffersen 1979*). Finally, in liver, kidney, adipocytes, nerve terminals, and smooth muscle the rate of calcium uptake and the capacity of calcium sequestration of mitochondria exceed by at least one order of magnitude those of endoplasmic reticulum and of plasma membrane (*Carafoli and Tiozzo 1967; Batra and Daniel 1971; Batra 1973a, 1974; Moore et al. 1974; Bruns et al. 1976; Ash and Bygrave 1977; Farber et al. 1977; Bygrave and Trauter 1978*).

11.4 Theoretical Considerations

Experimental evidence suggests that, except in erythrocytes and in striated muscle, mitochondria play a major role in controlling cytosolic free calcium, but it is far from conclusive. The objections to this view are: (a) the affinity of mitochondria for calcium is simply too low ($K_{Ca} > 1 \mu M$); (b) the Hill coefficient close to 2 implies cooperativity; (c) calcium cycling across the inner mitochondrial membrane appears to be negligible at the physiologic cytosolic free calcium concentration ($0.5-3 \cdot 10^{-7} M$). It is obviously true that, compared with the rate of calcium uptake by isolated mitochondria usually measured in vitro at free calcium concentrations exceeding $1 \mu M$, calcium cycling at low calcium concentrations is very slight. However, these low rates are still faster than the calcium fluxes measured across the plasma membrane or across the endoplasmic reticulum membranes in similar physiologic conditions.

Table 25 compares the calcium affinity of various calcium-transporting systems and shows that they are all in the same order of magnitude. All have Hill coefficients close to 2. If the objections listed above were valid, one should conclude that the sarcoplasmic reticulum of skeletal muscle cannot control the free calcium of muscle fibers and cannot lower it to $10^{-8} M$, the level of ionized calcium in resting muscle. What distinguishes the sarcoplasmic reticulum and the mitochondria from the other transport systems is their high maximal velocity and their capacity to sequester calcium. In spite of a K_{Ca} that is one order of magnitude larger than the cytosolic calcium activity the rates of calcium transport of sarcoplasmic reticulum and of mitochondria are so high that even at physiologically low calcium concentrations, their transport capacity or rate of cycling is significant and predominates over the other transport systems. For instance, taking an average mitochondrial K_{Ca} of $5 \mu M$, a V_m of $400 \text{ nmol mg}^{-1} (\text{mito protein}) \text{ min}^{-1}$, a Hill coefficient of 2, and assuming a cytosolic free calcium of $10^{-7} M$, calcium cycling across the mitochondria inner membrane can be calculated (from the equation $v = V_m / (1 + (K_{Ca}/[Ca^{2+}]^2))$) to be $800 \text{ pmol mg}^{-1} (\text{mito protein}) \text{ min}^{-1}$, one order of magnitude larger than steady-state calcium transport across the plasma membrane (Table 11).

Another important consideration is the relative mass and the relative surface area of each transport system. Obviously these will differ from cell to cell. I shall consider two cell types for which much quantitative information is available: the liver cell and the squid axon.

Liver cells contain between 700 and 2500 mitochondria per cell (*Allard et al. 1952; Striebig et al. 1953; Schneider et al. 1953; Lowe et al. 1955; Lehninger 1964; Weibel et al. 1969*). They occupy 18%–22% of the cell volume (*Loud 1962; Weibel et al. 1969*) and their protein content accounts for 33% of the cell protein concentration (*Price et al. 1948, 1949*;

Table 26. Dimensions and mass of a single liver cell

Diameter ^a (μm)	Cell	17
Volume ^a (μm^3)	Cell	4 940
	Cytoplasm	4 640
	Mitochondria	1 170
	Smooth endoplasmic reticulum (SER)	467
Surface ^a (μm^2)	Cell	1 680
	Mitochondria (inner membrane)	34 800
	SER	25 100
Surface ratio	Mitochondria/cell membrane	21
	SER/cell membrane	15
Mass (ng)	Cell wet weight ($4940 \mu\text{m}^3$)	5
	Cell protein (20% wet weight) ^b	1
	Mitochondrial protein (33% cell prot) ^c	0.33
	SER protein (10% cell prot) ^d	0.1
Surface/mass ratio [$\text{cm}^2 (\text{mg prot})^{-1}$]	Mitochondria ($6 \text{ m}^2/\text{ml fresh tissue}$) ^a	900
	SER ($3.67 \text{ m}^2/\text{ml fresh tissue}$) ^a	1 800

^a *Weibel et al. 1969*^b *Mitchell 1966; Foden and Randle 1978*^c *Price et al. 1948, 1949; Schneider and Hogeboom 1951; Hogeboom et al. 1953; Lowe and Lehninger 1955; Mitchell 1966*^d *Price et al. 1948, 1949; Lowe and Lehninger 1955*

Schneider and Hogeboom 1951; Hogeboom et al. 1953; Lowe and Lehninger 1955; Mitchell 1966). Table 26, based on the work of *Weibel et al. (1969)* shows that the surface of the inner mitochondrial membrane is 21 times greater than the plasma membrane surface. The specific surface of $6 \text{ m}^2/\text{ml}$ fresh liver can be calculated to be $900 \text{ cm}^2/\text{mg}$ mitochondrial protein. This is about twice the value of $400 \text{ cm}^2/\text{mg}$ mitochondrial protein calculated by *Mitchell (1966)*.

The protein mass of the endoplasmic reticulum of liver cells is about 10% of the total cell protein (*Price et al. 1949; Lowe and Lehninger 1955*). The surface of the smooth endoplasmic reticulum (SER) is 15 times larger than the plasma membrane surface (*Weibel et al. 1969*); its specific surface ($3.67 \text{ m}^2/\text{fresh tissue}$) can be calculated to be $1800 \text{ cm}^2/\text{mg}$ SER protein. Consequently the surface ratio of plasma membrane/smooth endoplasmic reticulum/mitochondria is 1/15/21. Even if the kinetic parameters of calcium transport (K_{Ca} , V_m) among the three transport systems were identical, the plasma membrane would contribute 2.7%, the endoplasmic reticulum 40%, and mitochondria 57% to the control of cytosolic calcium. But, of course, the calcium transport velocity and capacity of both the plasma

membrane and the endoplasmic reticulum are very much smaller than those of mitochondria so that their contribution is proportionately much less.

Table 27 presents a quantitative estimate of the calcium metabolism of a single liver cell based on all the available information shown in Tables 25 and 26. With a cytosolic free calcium of 10^{-7} M, calcium cycling is 6.6 times faster in mitochondria than across the plasma membrane and 800 times greater than SER calcium transport. As one would predict, the relative importance of mitochondrial calcium cycling increases with increasing cytosolic free calcium. The relation of the rates of calcium transport of mitochondria, plasma membrane, and endoplasmic reticulum as a function of the cytosolic free calcium is shown in Fig. 15.

Table 27. Calcium metabolism of a single liver cell

<i>Calcium compartments</i> (fmol/single cell)	
Total calcium (2.2 mmol/kg wet wt) ^a	11.0
Exchangeable cytosolic Ca (0.36 mmol/kg wet wt) ^b	1.8
Ionized cytosolic Ca (10^{-7} M) ^c	0.00046
Mitochondrial Ca (10 nmol/mg mitro protein) ^d	3.3
SER Ca (21.6 nmol/mg SER prot) ^e	2.1
<i>Steady state calcium exchange</i> (10^{-18} mol min ⁻¹ cell ⁻¹)	
Plasma membrane (40 f/cs) ^f	40
Mitochondria [0.8 nmol (mg mito prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹] ^g	266
SER [3.3 pmol (mg SER prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹] ^h	0.33

a From Table 1.

b From Table 5.

c From Table 7.

d From Table 6 and *Carafoli and Lehninger* 1971.

e *Carafoli* 1967.

f From Tables 9–11.

g From Tables 21 and 25. Assumptions: Free cytosolic Ca = 10^{-7} M; $K_{Ca} = 5 \mu\text{M}$; $V_m = 400 \text{ nmol (mg mito prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$; Hill coefficient = 2; $v = V_m / (1 + (K_{Ca} / [\text{Ca}^{2+}]^2))$.

h From Tables 23–25. Assumptions: Free cytosolic Ca = 10^{-7} M; $K_{Ca} = 3 \mu\text{M}$; $V_m = 1 \text{ nmol (mg SER prot)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$; Hill coefficient 2; $v = V_m / (1 + (K_{Ca} / [\text{Ca}^{2+}]^2))$.

The giant squid axon is a cell that has been extensively studied with regard to calcium transport and metabolism. Table 28 shows the dimensions of an axon of 500 μm diameter with a plasma membrane surface area of 1 cm^2 (unit axon). Table 29 presents the calcium distribution and calcium transport in this unit axon. Several assumptions have been made here: (a) the protein mass of endoplasmic reticulum in relation to the protein mass of mitochondria is the same as in other cells; (b) the calcium content of

Table 28. Dimension of a squid axon with a membrane surface of 1 cm² (unit axon)

Diameter	500 μ m
Length	6 cm
Surface	1 cm ²
Volume	12 μ l
Wet weight (density $\approx$ 1)	12 mg
Mitochondria wet weight (10% of axoplasm) ^a	0.12 mg
Mitochondria protein (0.29% of wet weight) ^a	35 μ g
Smooth ER protein (50% mito prot) ^b	17.5 μ g

^a Brinley et al. 1977.

^b Assumption based on Price et al. 1948, 1949; Lowe and Lehninger 1955; Carafoli 1967.

Table 29. Calcium metabolism of a unit axon (1 cm²)

<i>Calcium compartments</i> (pmol/unit axon)	
Axoplasm total calcium (50 μ M) ^a	600
Ionized cytosolic Ca (50 nM) ^b	0.6
Mitochondria Ca (10 nmol/mg mito prot) ^c	84
SER Ca (20 nmol/mg SER prot) ^d	84
<i>Steady-state calcium exchange</i> [fmol (unit axon) ⁻¹ sec ⁻¹]	
Plasma membrane (40 f/cs) ^e	40
Mitochondria [0.2 nmol (mg mito prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹] ^f	120
SER [1.7 pmol (mg SER prot) ⁻¹ min ⁻¹] ^g	0.5

^a Requena et al. 1977; Brinley 1978.

^b DiPolo et al. 1976.

^c Carafoli and Lehninger 1971

^d Carafoli 1967

^e Mullins 1977; DiPolo 1978

^f Calculated assuming $K_{Ca} = 5 \mu$ M; $V_m = 400$ nmol (mg mito prot)⁻¹ min⁻¹; Hill coefficient = 2; cytosolic free $Ca^{2+} = 50$ nM; $v = V_m / (1 + (K_{Ca} / [Ca^{2+}]^2))$.

^g Calculated from Blaustein et al. 1978b; $K_{Ca} = 0.4 \mu$ M; $V_m = 275$ pmol (mg SER prot)⁻¹ min⁻¹; Hill coefficient = 2; cytosolic free $Ca^{2+} = 50$ nM; $v = V_m / (1 + (K_{Ca} / [Ca^{2+}]^2))$.

axon mitochondria and their kinetic parameters are in the same order of magnitude as in other cells; (c) the kinetic parameters of calcium transport measured in microsomes from nerve terminals are applicable for the squid axon. Table 29 shows that even in the squid axon, which has far fewer mitochondria than liver cells and a lower cytosolic free calcium ($5 \cdot 10^{-8}$ M), calcium cycling in mitochondria is 4 times greater than the steady-state calcium transport across the plasmalemma. Endoplasmic reticulum calcium transport, despite a more favorable K_{Ca} of 0.4μ M, is only 1.3% of plasma-

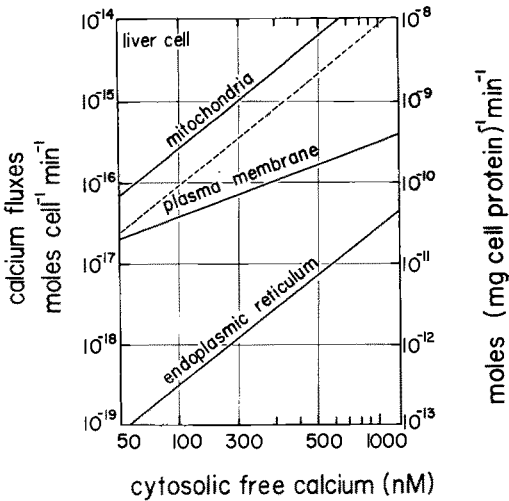


Fig. 15. Relation between the cytosolic ionized calcium and the steady-state calcium exchange across the plasmalemma, the mitochondria, and the endoplasmic reticulum membrane of a liver cell. Calculated from the parameters and equations given in Table 27. Dotted line shows the calculated mitochondrial calcium transport assuming a K_{Ca} of 15 μM instead of 5 μM (solid line)

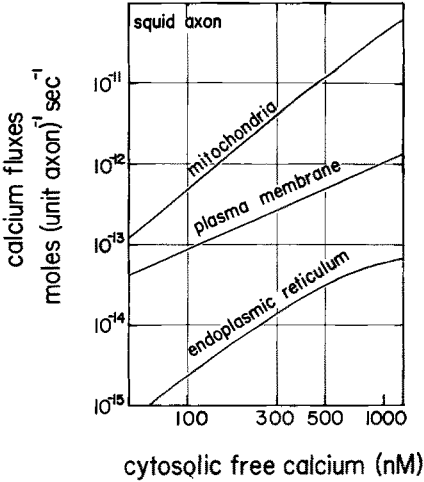


Fig. 16. Relation between the axoplasmic ionized calcium and the steady-state calcium exchange across the plasmalemma, the mitochondria, and the endoplasmic reticulum membrane of a squid axon. Calculated from the parameters and equations given in Table 29

lemmal transport and 0.5% of mitochondrial cycling. As Fig. 16 shows, at higher cytosolic free calcium concentrations, this relation remains true and mitochondrial calcium transport becomes more and more predominant.

These are, of course, theoretical considerations that cannot conclusively prove anything. They do show that mitochondrial calcium transport cannot be dismissed as unimportant controllers of cell calcium. On the contrary, they suggest that mitochondria are the best candidates for this role. However, mitochondria are not the only controllers of cell calcium and the relative importance of the three control systems, mitochondria, plasma membrane, and endoplasmic reticulum, may change under the influence of ionic or hormonal regulators. Nevertheless, when one compares the four criteria required for a cellular calcium controller with Tables 27 and 29 describing the calcium metabolism of a liver cell and of an axon, one cannot escape the conclusion that mitochondria probably play the principal role in controlling the cytosolic free calcium.

12 Modulation of the Cytosolic Free Calcium

Several ions have been shown to influence cellular calcium metabolism at the cellular and subcellular level. The effects of phosphate, sodium, and hydrogen ions are best documented. Although magnesium influences calcium uptake by endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondria, there is little information about its possible role in modulating calcium metabolism in an intact cell. Glucose, other substrates, and amine buffers have also been reported to affect cellular calcium transport but the information available is extremely fragmentary.

12.1 The Role of Phosphate

The effect of phosphate on mitochondrial calcium transport was reported early in the literature on mitochondria (*Lehninger et al. 1963, 1967; Lehninger 1974a; Brierley et al. 1964; Vasington and Greenawalt 1964*). First and foremost, inorganic phosphate increases the uptake of calcium by mitochondria (*Lehninger 1970; Izzard and Tedeschi 1973; Schuster and Olson 1974; Lehninger 1974; Reed and Bygrave 1975b; Bygrave 1976, 1976; Bygrave et al. 1977; Crompton et al. 1978*). The capacity of mitochondria to sequester calcium is also increased by phosphate (*Lehninger 1974; Crompton et al. 1978*). Phosphate does not stimulate the initial rate of calcium uptake and does not increase the K_{Ca} (*Reed and Bygrave 1975b; Thorne and Bygrave 1975; Bygrave 1976; Crompton et al. 1978*).

However, the maximal velocity of calcium transport into mitochondria (V_m) is markedly enhanced (Thorne and Bygrave 1975; Bygrave 1976, 1977, 1978). Since phosphate is not co-transported with calcium, it is likely that its effect occurs through its action on the mitochondrial transmembrane potential $\Delta\psi$. As reported above, the relative contribution of the membrane potential $\Delta\psi$ and of the proton gradient ΔpH to the proton electrochemical potential $\Delta\bar{\mu}\text{H}^+$ depends on the presence of dissociable anions, primarily phosphate. The inward transport of weak acid anions, driven by the proton gradient, can convert most of the pH gradient into a membrane potential by releasing a proton to the mitochondrial matrix and lowering its pH (Lehninger 1974; Gunter and Puskin 1975; Reed and Bygrave 1975b; Bygrave 1977, 1978; Crompton et al. 1978). The increased potential difference across the mitochondrial inner membrane could be the ultimate cause of the greater calcium uptake and sequestration. In isolated mitochondria an increased phosphate concentration produces swelling but in the presence of ATP and magnesium no mitochondrial swelling occurs and, instead, calcium and phosphate precipitate in the matrix (Lehninger 1970; Crompton et al. 1978).

Phosphate has very little effect on calcium transport or exchange in endoplasmic and sarcoplasmic reticulum (Otsuka et al. 1965; Ohtsuki 1969; DeMeis et al. 1970), although very high concentrations may stimulate transport slightly (Selinger et al. 1970; Alonso et al. 1971; Trotta and DeMeis 1975).

No information is available on the effect of phosphate on the different calcium transport processes across the cell plasma membrane (CaMgATPase-dependent transport, Na_o^- or Ca_o^- -dependent calcium transport, and calcium channels).

Phosphate has a marked influence on the calcium metabolism of intact cells. A rise in extracellular phosphate concentration increases the total cell calcium and the cellular exchangeable calcium (^{45}Ca uptake) in kidney, liver, and bone cells, in pancreatic beta-cells, adipocytes, neuroblasts, astroblasts, and in HeLa and ascites cells (Janda 1969; Borle 1970b, 1971a, 1972a, 1973a, 1975a; Van Rossum 1970; Dziak and Brand 1974b; Martin et al. 1975; Hines and Wenner 1977; Borle and Uchikawa 1978; Hellman and Andersson 1978; Charlton and Wenner 1978; Borg et al. 1979). There is an interaction between the external calcium and phosphate concentrations (shown in Fig. 17): the higher the phosphate concentration, the greater the gain in cell calcium with increasing extracellular calcium concentrations (Borle 1971a). In kidney cells, the increased calcium uptake produced by phosphate is abolished by inhibitors of mitochondrial calcium transport (Borle 1972a) and kinetic analyses of ^{45}Ca desaturation curves suggest that most of the phosphate-induced cellular uptake of calcium is found in mitochondria (Borle 1972a; Borle and Uchikawa 1978).

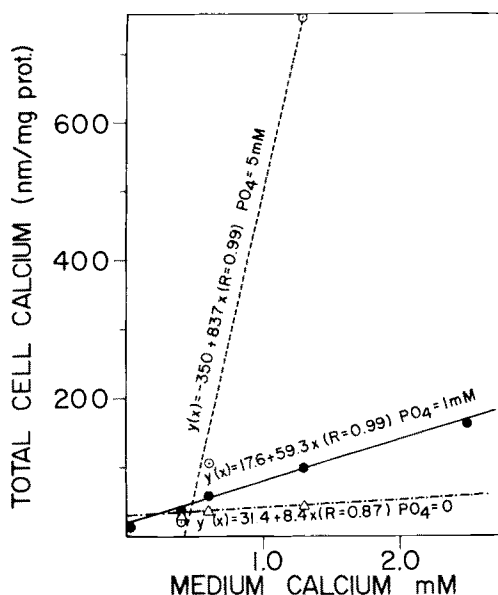


Fig. 17. Relation between the extracellular calcium concentration and the total cell calcium content at different extracellular phosphate concentrations. Data obtained with cultured monkey kidney cells incubated in Krebs-Henseleit bicarbonate buffers containing various calcium and phosphate concentrations. Adapted from *Borle 1971a*

This is supported by the finding that in Ehrlich ascites cells the uptake of calcium, which is stimulated by increasing extracellular phosphate, is sensitive to mitochondrial uncouplers (*Charlton and Wenner 1978; Hinnen et al. 1979*). The increased ^{45}Ca uptake produced by phosphate reflects an enlarged intracellular exchangeable pool and not an increased calcium influx, because at steady state the exchange of calcium across the plasma membrane is reduced by phosphate (*Borle and Uchikawa 1978*). In non-steady state ^{45}Ca desaturation experiments, increasing the extracellular phosphate concentration also reduces the efflux of ^{45}Ca in kidney, pancreatic beta-cells and Ehrlich cells (*Borle 1972a; Hellman and Andersson 1978; Charlton and Wenner 1978*). Conversely, lowering the phosphate concentration stimulates the tracer efflux (*Borle 1972a*).

The role of phosphate as a modulator of cellular calcium metabolism can best be seen in conjunction with hormones and other stimulators of calcium transport. Increasing extracellular phosphate reduces the stimulation produced by parathyroid hormone on cellular calcium transport in kidney cells and in HeLa cells (*Borle 1970b; Borle and Uchikawa 1978*). The glucose-stimulated ^{45}Ca and insulin release from beta-cells is inhibited by phosphate (*Hellman and Andersson 1978*). On the other hand, the effects of calcitonin on kidney cell calcium are enhanced by phosphate and are abolished in phosphate-free media (*Borle 1978a*). It has been proposed that the actions of parathyroid hormone on the calcium transport of kidney cells and the effects of glucose on the insulin release from beta-cells are mediated by a rise in cytosolic free calcium (*Nagata and Rasmussen*

1970; *Rasmussen* 1971; *Borle* 1972b, 1973a, 1974b, 1975c, 1976; *Malaisse* et al. 1978; *Kikuchi* et al. 1979). Therefore, the inhibition of these effects by phosphate suggests that increasing phosphate depresses the concentration of free calcium in the cytosol. Since other results suggest that calcitonin lowers the cytosolic free calcium (*MacManus* and *Whitfield* 1970; *Rasmussen* 1971; *Borle* 1974, 1975a, c), the enhancement of the effects of calcitonin by phosphate also supports this interpretation.

Based on the results obtained in isolated mitochondria and in intact cells, *Borle* (1973a, 1975c) has proposed that phosphate, by stimulating the uptake and sequestration of calcium into mitochondria, would shift calcium from the cytosol to the mitochondrial matrix, thereby increasing the total cellular calcium content while decreasing the cytosolic concentration of ionized calcium. Consequently, a rise in cellular phosphate induced by increasing its extracellular concentration will depress all cellular processes that are stimulated or triggered by a rise in cytosolic free calcium, but it will enhance the effects of regulators that tend to depress cytosolic calcium.

12.2 The Role of Sodium

The influence of sodium on cellular calcium metabolism varies greatly from tissue to tissue. Two broad categories can be distinguished: (a) tissues in which a Na–Ca exchange across the plasmalemma or across the mitochondrial membrane can be identified, such as muscle, nerve, and some secretory cells, and (b) tissues in which such exchange cannot be demonstrated, such as liver, kidney, adrenal medulla, fibroblasts, Ehrlich ascites cells, and erythrocytes. But, even in the latter group, sodium may influence some aspects of cellular calcium transport and distribution.

Sodium induces a release of calcium from mitochondria isolated from heart, skeletal muscle, brain, parotid gland, and adrenal cortex; but it has no effect on calcium released from mitochondria isolated from liver, kidney, lung, uterus, and ileum muscle (*Crompton* et al. 1978; *Nicholls* 1978a). The effects of sodium on mitochondrial calcium release have been best studied in heart mitochondria (*Carafoli* et al. 1974; *Carafoli* and *Crompton* 1976, 1978b; *Crompton* et al. 1976b, 1977, 1978; *Crompton* and *Heid* 1978; *Harris* 1977, 1979). The curve relating the efflux of calcium from heart mitochondria to the extramitochondrial sodium concentration is sigmoid with a Hill coefficient ranging between 2 and 3. This would suggest an exchange of 1 calcium for 2 or 3 sodium ions. The K_{Na} is 8 mM and the V_m of calcium release is $14 \text{ nmol (mg protein)}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$. With an assumed cytosolic sodium concentration of 6 mM, the rate of sodium-dependent calcium efflux would be in the range of $4 \text{ nmol (mg protein)}^{-1}$

min^{-1} . Sodium may not only stimulate calcium efflux from mitochondria, but it may also inhibit calcium uptake (*Carafoli and Crompton 1976; Harris 1979*). Sodium also enhances calcium release from mitochondria isolated from nerve terminals (*Silbergeld 1977*). In liver mitochondria, sodium does not stimulate calcium efflux (*Crompton et al. 1978*) but it still influences mitochondrial calcium transport by reducing the inhibition produced by magnesium since the K_{Ca} of mitochondrial uptake may be reduced 50% (*Hutson et al. 1976*).

An effect of sodium on calcium transfer across the sarcoplasmic reticulum membrane has not been conclusively documented. Sodium inhibits calcium uptake by skeletal muscle SR when acetyl phosphate or very low concentrations of ATP are used as substrate, but no inhibition occurs at ATP concentrations higher than 10^{-4} M (*DeMeis 1969a, b, 1971; DeMeis and Hasselbach 1971*). In heart muscle, in spite of the suggestion that a rise in intracellular sodium may increase the release of calcium from the sarcoplasmic reticulum (*Busselen and Carmeliet 1973*), no such effect is observed in isolated SR vesicles (*Katz et al. 1977*).

The effects of sodium on calcium transport across the plasma membrane have already been reviewed above (cf. Sect. 8.3.2–5). Two issues must be clearly distinguished: (a) whether sodium influences calcium fluxes in and out of cells, which it does in a wide variety of tissues, and (b) whether these effects represent a Na–Ca exchange mechanism responsible for the uphill transport of calcium out of the cell. It is clear that in muscle and nerve a significant fraction of calcium efflux depends on a Na–Ca exchange or at least on a Na_o -activated calcium efflux, and that changes in extracellular sodium may influence the cytosolic free calcium concentration (*Blaustein 1977b; Roulet et al. 1979*). The active calcium transport across the cell membrane, which is catalyzed by the Ca-sensitive Mg-dependent ATPase, is not influenced by sodium (*Schatzmann 1966, 1970; Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Schatzmann and Rossi 1971; Porzig 1972*). Sodium may affect other Ca-ATPases but these have different functions unrelated to calcium transport (*Schatzmann and Vincenzi 1969; Bond and Green 1971; Moore et al. 1974*). Nevertheless, sodium could still influence the actions of calmodulin on the CaMgATPase (*Au 1979*).

Sodium is also a modulator of calcium metabolism in intact cells. The extracellular sodium concentrations influence the total calcium content of tissues in which a Na–Ca exchange has been demonstrated. A low extracellular sodium increases tissue calcium in heart muscle (*Reuter and Seitz 1968; Reuter 1970, 1974a; Reuter et al. 1973; Wendt and Langer 1977*), squid axon (*Requena et al. 1977, 1979*), and brain tissue (*Stahl and Swanson 1969, 1971, 1972; Swanson et al. 1974*). Ouabain also increases tissue calcium in the myocardium (*Govier and Holland 1964; Reuter 1974a; Wood and Schwartz 1978*) and brain tissue (*Stahl and*

Swanson 1969, 1971; Cooke and Robinson 1971). In *Helix pomatia* neurons, on the other hand, changes in extracellular sodium do not affect the cytosolic free calcium and there is no evidence of a Na–Ca exchange (Christoffersen and Simonsen 1977).

In nonexcitable tissues the results are more fragmentary and sometimes conflicting. Early data show that a decrease in extracellular sodium increases the total calcium of kidney and liver slices (Höfer and Kleinzeller 1963c; Judah and Ahmed 1963). Later results show no such increases in kidney slices and Ehrlich ascites cells (Borle 1979; Cittadini et al. 1973, 1977). In fact, progressive lowering of extracellular sodium slightly lowers the total calcium mitochondrial calcium, and the exchangeable calcium pools measured by tracer kinetics (Borle 1979). Calcium efflux has been shown to be totally independent of extra- or intracellular sodium in kidney (Matsushima and Gemba 1979), adrenal medulla (Rink 1977), liver (Cittadini and Van Rossum 1978), Ehrlich ascites cells (Cittadini et al. 1973, 1977), and fibroblasts (Lamb and Lindsay 1971). In these tissues, ouabain has no effect on cell calcium or on calcium transport (Lamb and Lindsay 1971; Rink 1977; Cittadini and Van Rossum 1978; Borle 1979; Matsushima and Gemba 1979). In some instances calcium efflux from adrenal medulla is actually increased when extracellular sodium is substituted by sucrose or choline (Aguirre et al. 1977). On the other hand, in kidney slices the steady-state calcium exchange across the plasma membrane is depressed at low extracellular sodium concentrations but, since the total cell calcium and the mitochondrial calcium are also depressed in these conditions, one must conclude that both influx and efflux of calcium are inhibited (Borle 1979). Although there appears to be some cooperativity between sodium and calcium at the plasma membrane, there is no evidence of Na–Ca exchange in any of these tissues (Cittadini et al. 1977; Rink 1977; Cittadini and Van Rossum 1978; Borle 1979; Matsushima and Gemba 1979).

12.3 The Role of pH

Cellular calcium distribution and transport is markedly affected by fluctuations in pH. Even when the extracellular pH is normal, cell calcium metabolism may be altered by changes in intracellular pH (Studer and Borle 1979). Isolated subcellular organelles, mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum vesicles, and plasma membranes are also influenced by the concentration of hydrogen ions.

In isolated mitochondria calcium binding is increased at high pH (Scarpa and Azzi 1968; Rossi et al. 1967). The number of low-affinity sites appears to increase when the pH is raised, while the calcium affinity of the

high-affinity site appears to decrease when the pH is lowered (*Reynafarje and Lehninger* 1969). The stoichiometry of calcium ions accumulated per pair of electrons passing through the respiratory chain is increased at high pH, but only in the presence of impermeant anions; the stoichiometry remains 2 in the presence of permeant anions (*Carafoli et al.* 1967). Several investigators found that pH affects the K_{Ca} of calcium uptake by mitochondria isolated from liver or from kidney: K_{Ca} is increased at low pH and decreased at high pH (*Spencer and Bygrave* 1973; *Reed and Bygrave* 1975b; *Studer and Borle* 1980). V_m is not affected by pH in liver mitochondria (*Spencer and Bygrave* 1973; *Reed and Bygrave* 1975b) but it is depressed at low pH in kidney mitochondria (*Studer and Borle* 1980); pH does not affect the Hill coefficient of calcium uptake (*Spencer and Bygrave* 1973; *Studer and Borle* 1980). Calcium efflux from liver mitochondria is fast at low pH and decreases with increasing pH (*Rossi et al.* 1966). A sudden drop in pH will also trigger a release of accumulated calcium from liver mitochondria (*Akerman* 1978a). The steady-state fluxes of calcium across the inner mitochondrial membrane or calcium cycling are increased at high pH and depressed at low pH (*Studer and Borle* 1980). The total calcium content of kidney mitochondria and the exchangeable mitochondrial calcium pool are both increased at high pH and decreased at low pH (*Studer and Borle* 1980). Finally, the capacity of isolated liver mitochondria to lower the free calcium concentration of the extramitochondrial medium is enhanced at high pH (*Nicholls* 1978b). In spite of some conflicting data (*Schraer et al.* 1973; *Hutson* 1977), these results are consistent with the idea that H^+ is a competitive inhibitor of calcium uptake by mitochondria: a high pH increases the affinity of the transport system for calcium and enhances calcium transport and its sequestration while a low pH does the reverse.

In sarcoplasmic or endoplasmic reticulum vesicles, the effects of pH are exactly the opposite of those observed in mitochondria: a high pH depresses calcium binding (*Sulakhe et al.* 1973; *Huxtable and Bressler* 1974; but see conflicting results of *Carvalho and Leo* 1967) as well as calcium uptake by the vesicles isolated from skeletal and heart muscle (*Weber et al.* 1966; *Carvalho and Leo* 1967; *Streter* 1969; *Nakamura and Schwartz* 1970, 1972; *Lacourt* 1971; *Sulakhe et al.* 1973; *Huxtable and Bressler* 1974; *Sorenson and DeMeis* 1977; *Dunnet and Naylor* 1979) and from kidney, liver, and nerve (*Moore et al.* 1974, 1975; *Eroglu and Keen* 1977). The optimal pH for calcium uptake varies between 6.0 and 7.0 with an average optimal pH of 6.6 (*Carvalho and Leo* 1967; *Streter* 1969; *Lacourt* 1970; *Sulakhe et al.* 1973; *Huxtable and Bressler* 1974; *Moore et al.* 1974; *Eroglu and Keen* 1977). Finally, a rise in pH will induce a release of accumulated calcium from sarcoplasmic reticulum vesicles (*Nakamura and Schwartz* 1970, 1972; *Dunnet and Naylor* 1979).

Plasma membrane vesicles are affected by pH in the same fashion as SR or ER vesicles: calcium binding is depressed (*Sulakhe et al. 1973*) and calcium uptake is inhibited by raising pH (*Sulakhe et al. 1973; Moore et al. 1974*). In erythrocytes, on the other hand, there is no effect of pH on the active extrusion of calcium (*Romero and Whittam 1971; Plishker and Gitelman 1976*).

The calcium metabolism of intact cells is also influenced by fluctuations in extra- and intracellular pH. In liver, kidney, and smooth muscle a rise in pH increases, while a low pH decreases, the total cell calcium (*Wallach et al. 1966; Rorive and Kleinzeller 1972; Van Breemen et al. 1973; Studer and Borle 1979*). The intracellular exchangeable calcium measured by ^{45}Ca uptake is also elevated by high pH and depressed at low pH in fibroblasts, lymphocytes, mast cells, smooth muscle, kidney, and Ehrlich ascites cells (*Lamb and Lindsay 1971; Whitney and Sutherland 1973; Morgenstern 1972; Foreman et al. 1977; Studer and Borle 1979; Hinnen et al. 1979*). In kidney cells, while acidosis depresses both total calcium and exchangeable calcium proportionately, alkalosis enhances the total calcium much more than the exchangeable calcium and most of the calcium gain is found in an unexchangeable pool, presumably in mitochondria (*Studer and Borle 1979*). Calcium influx and efflux across the plasma membrane of nerve terminals, squid axons, myocardial fibers, and kidney cells are also depressed at low pH (*Blaustein and Oborn 1975; Baker and McNaughton 1977; Langer and Pool-Wilson 1977; Studer and Borle 1979*). On the other hand, high pH does not affect calcium exchange across the plasma membrane of kidney cells (*Studer and Borle 1979*). *Studer and Borle (1979)* studied the calcium transport and distribution among intracellular pools in isolated kidney cells and found that both cytosolic and mitochondrial calcium pools are depressed in acidosis as well as calcium exchange across plasma membrane and mitochondrial membrane; in alkalosis, on the other hand, only the mitochondrial pool and transport are enhanced while the cytosolic pool and plasma membrane exchange are unaffected.

The influence of pH on the cytosolic free calcium concentrations has been studied with aequorin in the squid axon and in the barnacle muscle fiber (*Baker and Honerjager 1978; Lea and Ashley 1978*). Increasing the CO_2 tension decreases the intracellular pH in both tissues but has an opposite effect on the aequorin glow in each tissue. In the squid axon, an increased CO_2 decreases the aequorin glow, suggesting a lowering of the cytosolic free calcium (*Baker and Honerjager 1978*). In contrast, a rise in CO_2 appears to increase the glow and the free calcium of barnacle muscle (*Lea and Ashley 1978*). Since changes in pH have opposite effects on calcium uptake by mitochondria and by sarcoplasmic reticulum, it may not be surprising to observe different effects in different cells, depending on

the predominant controller of their cytosolic calcium. The information available is still too fragmentary to propose a coherent model for pH action in specific cells or tissues. Nevertheless, an important conclusion supported by all these studies is that the intracellular H^+ concentration is a major modulator of intracellular calcium metabolism.

13 Regulation of Cellular Calcium

Many cellular functions are mediated by intracellular calcium. Calcium is a transducing coupler between electrical or hormonal stimuli and cellular responses. Usually, the signal is a rise in the cytosolic concentration of ionized calcium, but changes in the calcium activity of other intracellular compartments, i.e., mitochondrial matrix, may also occur and regulate intramitochondrial enzyme activity. Although this general scheme is well recognized, the steps involved in the sequence of events between the stimulus and the response and the source of the calcium involved in the coupling are still controversial. Obviously, variations of the general scheme occur from tissue to tissue and with different stimuli. For many years the evidence suggesting that calcium is implicated in a stimulus–response process was rather indirect without actual measurements of cellular or subcellular calcium concentrations and fluxes. These reports relied on methods such as comparing the responses in the presence and absence of extracellular calcium and using more or less specific calcium ionophores (A23187 and X537A) or calcium channels blockers (verapamil, D-600). These experiments provided an impressive amount of useful information. Nevertheless, the interpretation of these experiments is sometimes difficult. For instance, the specificity and the mode of action of ionophores and of verapamil, and the influence of the extracellular calcium concentration on intracellular calcium stores are not well established (*Borle and Studer 1978; Borle 1978b; Blackmore et al. 1979c; Friedmann et al. 1979*). In recent years, many investigators have studied the effects of various stimuli – mostly hormonal – on several aspects of cellular calcium metabolism (Table 30). In this review I will survey the latter, omitting a wealth of elegant but indirect studies that did not report any actual measurements of cellular calcium metabolism. Two important but highly specialized topics, excitation–contraction coupling and stimulus–secretion coupling, which have been the subject of many reviews, will not be covered here.

Table 30. Hormones and other regulators affecting cell calcium metabolism

	Tissue	Reference
Peptide hormones and cyclic nucleotides		
Cyclic AMP and dibutyryl cyclic AMP	Liver	<i>Friedmann and Park</i> 1968; <i>Friedmann and Rasmussen</i> 1970; <i>Wallach et al.</i> 1971; <i>Friedmann</i> 1972; <i>Borle</i> 1973b, 1974b, 1976; <i>Foden and Randle</i> 1978; <i>Andia-Waltenbaugh et al.</i> 1978; <i>Juzu and Holdsworth</i> 1980
	Kidney	<i>Borle</i> 1972b, 1973b, 1974b, 1975b; <i>Borle and Uchikawa</i> 1979; <i>Wrenn and Biddulph</i> 1979a,b
	Heart	<i>Entman et al.</i> 1969; <i>Kirchberger et al.</i> 1972; <i>Meinert et al.</i> 1973a, b; <i>Tada et al.</i> 1974; <i>Borle</i> 1974b; <i>Badyshstor and Seredenin</i> 1977; <i>Weller and Laing</i> 1979; <i>Hicks et al.</i> 1979
	Skeletal muscle	<i>Cheng and Chen</i> 1975; <i>Bornet et al.</i> 1977
	Smooth muscle	<i>Anderson et al.</i> 1975; <i>Webb and Bhalla</i> 1976; <i>Thorens and Haeusler</i> 1978; <i>Bhalla et al.</i> 1979
	Uterus	<i>Krall et al.</i> 1976; <i>Nishikori et al.</i> 1977; <i>Nishikori and Maero</i> 1979
	Pancreas	<i>Brisson et al.</i> 1972; <i>Brisson and Malaisse</i> 1973; <i>Howell et al.</i> 1975; <i>Sehlin</i> 1976; <i>Kondo and Schulz</i> 1976; <i>Singh</i> 1979
	Salivary glands	<i>Prince et al.</i> 1972; <i>Prince and Berridge</i> 1973; <i>Kanagasuntheram and Randle</i> 1976; <i>Miller and Nelson</i> 1977
	Bone	<i>Vaes</i> 1968; <i>Klein and Raisz</i> 1971; <i>Herrman-Erlee and v.d. Meer</i> 1974
	Adipocytes	<i>Hope-Gill et al.</i> 1975
	Adrenals	<i>Matlib and O'Brien</i> 1974
	Platelets	<i>Käser-Glanzman</i> 1977
Parathyroid hormone	Kidney	<i>Caulfield and Schrag</i> 1964; <i>Cohn et al.</i> 1967; <i>Borle</i> 1968a-c, 1970a, b, 1972b, 1973, 1975b, c; <i>Nagata and Rasmussen</i> 1968, 1970; <i>Biddulph and Wrenn</i> 1977a, b; <i>Harada et al.</i> 1978; <i>Borle and Uchikawa</i> 1978; <i>Wrenn and Biddulph</i> 1979a, b; <i>Biddulph et al.</i> 1979
	Liver	<i>Wallach et al.</i> 1971; <i>Chausmer et al.</i> 1972
	Bone	<i>Vaes</i> 1968; <i>Nichols and Rogers</i> 1971; <i>Klein and Raisz</i> 1971; <i>Herrman-Erlee and v.d. Meer</i> 1974; <i>Dziak and Stern</i> 1975
	Chondrocytes	<i>Deshmukh et al.</i> 1977
	Frog skin	<i>Watlington et al.</i> 1968

Table 30 (continued)

	Tissue	Reference
Calcitonin	Kidney	<i>Borle 1969, 1973a, 1975a, c</i>
	Liver	<i>Yamaguchi et al. 1975; Yamaguchi 1979</i>
	Bone	<i>Harrell et al. 1973, 1976; Binderman et al. 1974; Eilam et al. 1980</i>
	Chondrocytes	<i>Deshmukh et al. 1977</i>
	Heart	<i>Hakim 1973</i>
Glucagon	Liver	<i>Friedmann and Park 1968; Friedmann and Rasmussen 1970; Yamazaki 1975; Keppens et al. 1977; Assimacopoulos-Jeannet et al. 1977; Hughes and Barritt 1978, 1979; Barritt 1978; Foden and Randle 1978; Andia-Waltenbaugh et al. 1978; Andia-Waltenbaugh and Friedmann 1978; Chen et al. 1978; Bygrave and Trauter 1978; Blackmore et al. 1978, 1979a, b; Friedmann et al. 1979</i>
	Heart	<i>Entman et al. 1969; Visscher and Lee 1972</i>
Catecholamines, α -agonists	Liver	<i>Friedmann and Park 1968; Assimacopoulos-Jeannet et al. 1977; Keppens et al. 1977; Foden and Randle 1978; Chen et al. 1978 Blackmore et al. 1978, 1979a, b; Chan et al. 1979; Parker and Barritt 1979; Babcock et al. 1979; Garrison et al. 1979; Exton 1980</i>
	Heart	<i>Entman et al. 1969</i>
	Smooth muscle	<i>Deth and Van Breemen 1977</i>
	Parotid gland	<i>Miller and Nelson 1977</i>
Angiotensin, vasopressin, oxytocin	Liver	<i>DeWulf and Keppens 1976; Keppens et al. 1977; Chen et al. 1978; Chan et al. 1979; Blackmore et al. 1979b; Garrison et al. 1979</i>
	Kidney	<i>Besley and Snart 1971</i>
	Uterus	<i>Akerman and Wikström 1979; Carsten 1979</i>
Insulin	Liver	<i>Dorman et al. 1975; Andia-Waltenbaugh et al. 1978; Andia-Waltenbaugh and Friedmann 1978; Blackmore et al. 1979a; Bömmery and Dargel 1979</i>
	Muscle	<i>Clausen and Martin 1977; Schudt et al. 1976; Grinstein and Ertij 1976; Clausen 1977</i>
	Adipocytes	<i>Hope-Gill et al. 1975, 1976; Kissebah et al. 1975; McDonald et al. 1976a, b, 1978; Clausen and Martin 1977</i>
	Others	<i>Hales et al. 1977</i>

Table 30 (continued)

	Tissue	Reference
Cholecystokinin, pancreozymin, and other secretagogues	Pancreas	<i>Matthews et al. 1973; Case and Clausen 1973; Heisler and Grondin 1973; Chandler and Williams 1974; Gardner et al. 1975; Clemente and Meldolesi 1975; Christopher et al. 1976; Schreurs et al. 1976; Deschott-Lanckman et al. 1976; Kondo and Schulz 1976a, b; Schulz et al. 1977; Gardner and Hahne 1977; Mag et al. 1978; Renckens et al. 1978; Lucas et al. 1978; Peterson and Iwatsuki 1978; Berridge and Fain 1979; Fain and Berridge 1979; Singh 1979; Schulz and Stolze 1980</i>
Thyroxine	Muscle	<i>Fanburg 1968; Suko 1971; Nayler et al. 1971; Harris et al. 1979</i>
Histamine	Mast cells	<i>Foreman et al. 1977</i>
Somatostatin	Pancreas	<i>Ishibashi et al. 1979; Bent-Hansen et al. 1979</i>
	Kidney	<i>Lupianez et al. 1979</i>
	Others	<i>Johansson and Josefsson 1978; Hayasaki-Kimura and Takahashi 1979</i>
Steroid hormones		
Cholecalciferol and its metabo- lites	Intestine	<i>Haussler et al. 1970; Kimberg et al. 1971; Carre et al. 1974; Borle 1974a, 1975c; Walling et al. 1976; Krawitt et al. 1976; Freedman et al. 1977; Baski and Kenny 1978; Fuchs and Peterlik 1979; Oswald and Binswanger 1979; Petith et al. 1979; Rasmussen et al. 1979; Feher and Wasserman 1979</i>
	Bone	<i>Raisz et al. 1972; Dziak 1978</i>
Glucocorticoids	Liver	<i>Kimura and Rasmussen 1977; Hughes 1979; Hughes and Barritt 1979</i>
	Intestine	<i>Kimberg et al. 1971; Krawitt and Stubbert 1972; Carre et al. 1974; Feher and Wasserman 1979</i>
	Bone	<i>Stern 1969; Raisz et al. 1972; Yasumura 1976; Hahn and Halstead 1979</i>
Gonadal hormones	Uterus	<i>Batra and Bengtsson 1978; Carsten 1979; Calixto et al. 1979; Rubanyi and Kovach 1979</i>
	Others	<i>Caputo et al. 1976; Baski and Kenny 1978; Brachet 1978; Navickis et al. 1979; Kahn 1979</i>
Others		
Prostaglandins	Kidney	<i>Biddulph et al. 1979; Wrenn and Biddulph 1979b</i>
	Bone	<i>Dziak et al. 1979</i>

Table 30 (continued)

	Tissue	Reference
	Liver	<i>Carafoli and Crovetti 1973; Malmström and Carafoli 1975</i>
	Platelets	<i>Rodan and Rodan 1976; Gerrard et al. 1977, 1979</i>
	Others	<i>Rasmussen et al. 1975; Schrier et al. 1975; Reed 1977; Greenway and Himms-Hagen 1978; Yonaga and Morimoto 1979; Kahn and Brachet 1979; Harris et al. 1979</i>
Calmodulin	Erythrocytes, heart, intestine, etc.	<i>Gopinath and Vincenzi 1977; Katz and Remtulla 1978; LePeuch et al. 1979; Niggli et al. 1979; Sudden et al. 1979; Vincenzi 1979; Wang and Waisman 1979; Ilundain and Naftalin 1979</i>
Glucose	Pancreas	<i>Malaisse-Lagae and Malaisse 1971; Schmidt et al. 1976; Hellman et al. 1976a, b; Kikuchi et al. 1978; Frankel et al. 1978; Hellman and Anderson 1978; Wollheim et al. 1978; Gylfe et al. 1978; Tsumura et al. 1979; Hersdmetz et al. 1979, 1980; Herschnelz and Malaisse 1980</i>

13.1 Cyclic AMP

Most peptide hormones bind to specific receptors on the membrane of their target cells, stimulate the enzyme adenylate cyclase, and increase the intracellular concentration of cyclic AMP. Several other cyclic nucleotides such as cyclic GMP are also affected and there may be complex interactions among cyclic AMP, cyclic GMP, and calcium. These interactions are beyond the scope of this review and have been discussed elsewhere (*Rasmussen 1970; Rasmussen et al. 1975; Rasmussen and Goodman 1977; Berridge 1975, 1979*).

In 1970 *Rasmussen* proposed that some of the actions of the 'second messenger' cyclic AMP could be mediated by fluctuations in cytosolic calcium activity (*Rasmussen 1970*). This assertion has never been proven directly because it is still technically impossible to measure cytosolic free calcium in small mammalian cells. Nevertheless, much evidence supports the hypothesis that cyclic AMP influences cellular calcium metabolism.

13.1.1 Effects of Cyclic AMP or Dibutyryl Cyclic AMP on Subcellular Organelles

The effects of cyclic AMP have been studied in microsomes isolated from the sarcoplasmic or endoplasmic reticulum of several different tissues. In all cases cyclic AMP stimulates microsomal calcium uptake. This has been

shown in heart (*Entman et al. 1969; Kirchberger et al. 1972; Tada et al. 1974; Weller and Laing 1979; Hicks et al. 1979*), in skeletal muscle (*Bornet et al. 1977*), in uterine muscle (*Krall et al. 1976; Nishikori et al. 1977; Nishikori and Maeno 1979*), in vascular smooth muscle (*Webb and Bhalla 1976; Thorens and Haeusler 1978; Bhalla et al. 1979*), in colon smooth muscle (*Andersson et al. 1975*), and in platelets (*Käser and Glanzmann 1977*). In all these studies concentrations of cyclic AMP varying between 10^{-7} and $5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ M were used, and it has been shown that concentrations greater than 10^{-5} M could inhibit microsomal calcium uptake (*Thorens and Haeusler 1978*). This may explain one negative report showing that 10^{-5} – 10^{-4} M cyclic AMP inhibits calcium uptake in microsomes isolated from pancreatic islets (*Sehlin 1976*). In most cases the stimulation of microsomal calcium uptake by cyclic AMP requires the presence of protein kinase (*Kirchberger et al. 1972; Tada et al. 1974; Bornet et al. 1977; Käser and Glanzmann 1977; Thorens and Haeusler 1978; Bhalla et al. 1979*). However, two reports show that the presence of protein kinase is not necessary (*Bhalla et al. 1979*) or that the action of cyclic AMP does not require protein phosphorylation (*Weller and Laing 1979*). Most of these studies have been conducted with cyclic AMP, although its dibutyryl derivative is also effective (*Nishikori et al. 1977*).

The effects of cyclic AMP on mitochondrial calcium transport are more controversial. In 1973 *Borle* reported that cyclic AMP triggered a release of calcium from mitochondria isolated from liver, kidney or heart. Further studies showed that this release of mitochondrial calcium increases the concentration of ionized calcium in the extramitochondrial medium and that increasing the phosphate concentration of the medium could modulate the effects of cyclic AMP (*Borle 1974b, 1975d*). The effective range of cyclic AMP concentrations capable of releasing mitochondrial calcium was fairly narrow, from $5 \cdot 10^{-7}$ to $5 \cdot 10^{-6}$ M. These results were confirmed in mitochondria isolated from adrenal medullae (*Matlib and O'Brien 1974*). Furthermore, cyclic AMP inhibits calcium uptake by mitochondria isolated from liver, kidney, colon smooth muscle, uterus, and pancreatic islets (*Borle 1974b; Andersson et al. 1975; Howell et al. 1975; Nishikori et al. 1977*). However, a majority of investigators have been unable to reproduce these results, specifically to obtain a release of mitochondrial calcium with low concentrations of cyclic AMP (*Scarpa et al. 196; Borle 1976; Schotland and Mela 1977*). In spite of the importance of this problem, the physiologic implications of these results obtained in vitro in isolated mitochondria should be kept in abeyance until new and reproducible data are published. Recently two reports revived the issue by showing that cyclic AMP could induce a release of calcium from mitochondria isolated from heart and liver (*Badyshev and Seredenin 1977; Juzu and Holdsworth 1980*).

13.1.2 Effects of Cyclic AMP or Dibutyryl Cyclic AMP in Intact Cells

In liver, kidney, pancreas, adipocytes, barnacle muscle, bone, and salivary glands, cyclic AMP and its dibutyryl derivative stimulate the efflux of ^{45}Ca from labeled cells or tissues (Vaes 1968; Friedmann and Park 1968; Friedmann and Rasmussen 1970; Wallach et al. 1971; Klein and Raisz 1971; Borle 1972b, 1975b; Prince et al. 1972; Prince and Berridge 1973; Herrman-Erlee and v.d. Meer 1974; Cheng and Chen 1975; Hope-Gill et al. 1975; Kanagasuntheram and Randle 1976; Foden and Randle 1978; Borle and Uchikawa 1979; Wrenn and Biddulph 1979a, b; Singh 1979). More importantly, the increased efflux of ^{45}Ca induced by cyclic AMP from all these tissues occurs in the absence of extracellular calcium (Friedmann and Park 1968; Prince et al. 1972; Borle 1975b; Cheng and Chen 1975; Kanagasuntheram and Randle 1976; Singh 1979). This proves that cAMP mobilizes calcium from an intracellular compartment. In the presence of extracellular calcium, cyclic AMP and dibutyryl cAMP also stimulates the uptake of ^{45}Ca by kidney, heart, pancreatic beta-cells, and parotid glands (Meinertz et al. 1973a, b; Miller and Nelson 1977; Borle and Uchikawa 1979), indicating an increased exchangeable pool of calcium. The total calcium of kidney cells is also increased by cyclic AMP (Borle and Uchikawa 1979), although total calcium is unchanged in heart and parotid glands (Meinertz et al. 1973a, b; Miller and Nelson 1977). Kinetic analyses of ^{45}Ca desaturation curves obtained in cultered kidney cells also show that the two main intracellular exchangeable calcium pools, the cytosolic pool and the mitochondrial pool, are increased by cyclic AMP. In addition, cyclic AMP stimulates the steady-state calcium fluxes, i.e., the calcium exchange across the plasma membrane and across the mitochondrial membrane (Borle 1972b; Borle and Uchikawa 1979). In pancreatic islets dibutyryl cyclic AMP also enhances ^{45}Ca uptake while theophylline, which is assumed to increase the intracellular concentration of cyclic AMP, stimulates ^{45}Ca efflux from prelabeled cells (Brisson et al. 1972; Brisson and Malaisse 1973). The intracellular compartment from which calcium is mobilized by cyclic AMP in the absence of extracellular calcium is not firmly identified. It could be a pool of calcium bound to specific or non-specific ligands in the cell cytosol or calcium stored in the endoplasmic reticulum or calcium sequestered in mitochondria. There is no evidence that cyclic AMP alters calcium binding to nonspecific binding sites. On the other hand, cyclic AMP is known to enhance calcium uptake by microsomes isolated from endoplasmic or sarcoplasmic reticulum (Entman et al. 1969; Kirchberger et al. 1972; Tada et al. 1974; Andersson et al. 1975; Krall et al. 1976; Webb and Bhalla 1976; Bornet et al. 1977; Käser and Glanzmann 1977; Nishikori et al. 1977; Thorens and Haeusler 1978; Bhalla et al. 1979; Hicks et al. 1979; Nishikori and Maeno 1979; Weller and Laing

1979), so that this compartment is an improbable candidate. Thus, the only likely source of calcium would be the mitochondria. And indeed, in parotid glands labeled with ^{45}Ca and incubated in calcium-free media, cyclic AMP depresses the ^{45}Ca content of mitochondria isolated at the end of the experiment compared to untreated controls (*Kanagasuntheram and Randle 1976*). In addition, the several, although controversial, reports showing a release of calcium from isolated mitochondria would also favor this hypothesis (*Borle 1974b; Andersson et al. 1975; Howell et al. 1975; Nishikori et al. 1977*).

Regardless of the intracellular source of calcium mobilized by cyclic AMP, there is an apparent conflict between the results obtained in the presence and in the absence of extracellular calcium: an increased calcium uptake in the first case and an increased efflux in the second. It is of course possible that cyclic AMP acts at two different locations: at the intracellular calcium compartment and at the cell plasma membrane. Alternatively, we have proposed that the increased ^{45}Ca uptake by the cells may be secondary to an increased cytosolic free calcium concentration induced by the release of calcium from the intracellular compartment (*Borle 1975c; Borle and Anderson 1976; DiPolo 1979*). If the rise in cytosolic calcium activity stimulates the passive calcium influx more than it enhances the active efflux of calcium from the cell, the increased ^{45}Ca uptake and the enlarged exchangeable calcium pools in the presence of extracellular calcium could be explained.

13.2 Parathyroid Hormone

Parathyroid hormone (PTH) regulates calcium metabolism of bone and kidney cells, although other tissues, such as liver and cartilage, respond to PTH as well. PTH increases the cellular concentration of cyclic AMP in bone (*Chase et al. 1969; Chase and Aurbach 1970; Peck et al. 1973; Rodan and Rodan 1974; Kakuta et al. 1975; Wong et al. 1977*) and in kidney (*Melson et al. 1970; Borle 1972b; Chabardes et al. 1975; Biddulph and Wrenn 1977a, b; Wrenn and Biddulph 1979a, b; Biddulph et al. 1979*). There is, however, some doubt as to whether the effects of PTH on cell calcium metabolism are mediated by cyclic AMP. Some investigators doubt it (*Butlen and Jard 1972; Agus et al. 1973; Kuntziger et al. 1974; Dziak and Stern 1975*), but others have shown that cyclic AMP or its dibutyryl derivative mimic the effects of PTH on calcium metabolism in bone (*Vaes 1968; Klein and Raisz 1971; Hermann-Erlee and v.d. Meer 1974*) and in kidney (*Burnatowska et al. 1977; Borle and Uchikawa 1979; Wrenn and Biddulph 1979a, b*).

In kidney cells PTH increases the uptake of ^{45}Ca (Borle 1968a–c, 1970b, 1975c; Borle and Uchikawa 1978). This rise in tracer uptake reflects both an increased calcium influx and a greater exchangeable pool. The effect of PTH occurs even in the absence of extracellular phosphate (Borle 1970b). PTH also increases the total kidney cell calcium (Borle 1968b, 1970b, 1975c; Borle and Uchikawa 1978). On the other hand, PTH stimulates ^{45}Ca efflux from prelabeled cells (Borle 1972b, 1975c; Biddulph and Wrenn 1977a, b; Borle and Uchikawa 1978; Biddulph et al. 1979; Wrenn 1979a, b). This increased ^{45}Ca efflux also occurs in the absence of extracellular calcium, indicating that PTH mobilizes calcium from an intracellular compartment. Kinetic analyses of steady-state ^{45}Ca desaturation curves show that the two exchangeable calcium compartments, cytosolic and mitochondrial, are increased by PTH and that calcium exchange across the mitochondrial membrane and the plasma membrane are both enhanced (Borle 1972b; Borle and Uchikawa 1978). Furthermore, the calcium content of mitochondria is increased after the administration of PTH in vivo or after an endogenous rise in circulating hormone (Caulfield and Shrag 1964; Cohn et al. 1967; Borle and Clark 1981). One report also shows that PTH administered to a perfused kidney stimulates calcium uptake by microsomes isolated from endoplasmic reticulum or sarcolemma (Harada et al. 1978). The concentration of free calcium in the cytosol has never been measured directly, but indirect evidence suggests that it is elevated by PTH (Nagata and Rasmussen 1968, 1970). In bone cells, in cultured bone rudiments or in chondrocytes PTH has similar effects: it increases ^{45}Ca uptake (Nichols and Rogers 1971; Dziak and Stern 1975; Deshmukh et al. 1977) but it also stimulates ^{45}Ca efflux (Vaes 1968; Nichols and Rogers 1971; Klein and Raisz 1971; Hermann-Erlee and v.d. Meer 1974; Deshmukh et al. 1977). In liver PTH increases both the total calcium and the uptake of ^{45}Ca (Wallach et al. 1971; Chausmer et al. 1972). Finally, in frog skin PTH has been reported to stimulate calcium influx (Watlington et al. 1968).

Phosphate appears to enhance the sequestration of calcium induced by PTH in kidney and bone (Borle 1970b; Nichols and Rogers 1971), while it inhibits the hormone effect on calcium efflux (Nichols and Rogers 1971; Borle 1973a).

The primary site of action of PTH and the sequence of events leading to these observed changes in cellular calcium metabolism are still uncertain. It was first proposed that PTH increases the permeability of cell membranes or somehow stimulates calcium influx (Borle 1968b, c, 1970a, b). That would lead to an increased cytosolic calcium, an increased calcium efflux, and a sequestration of calcium in all cellular compartments. However, this interpretation cannot account for the mobilization and increased calcium efflux from the cell in the total absence of extracellular calcium.

Therefore, an alternative explanation was later advanced suggesting that, with a rise in cyclic AMP, PTH initially stimulates the release of calcium from an intracellular compartment, presumably the mitochondria, and increases the cytosolic free calcium. The rise in cytosolic free calcium secondarily enhances calcium efflux out of the cell by stimulating the 'calcium pump,' which depends on the CaMgATPase. In addition, the increased cytosolic calcium also stimulates calcium influx by the mechanism described earlier. Since the total calcium increases and all intracellular calcium compartments are larger, one can assume that the effect of cytosolic calcium on influx is greater than the effect on efflux. The net gain of cellular calcium would be sequestered in mitochondria (*Borle* 1973a, 1975c). Although this hypothesis is far from proven, a computer model of cellular calcium metabolism shows that the proposed sequence of events is possible and kinetically sound (*Borle* 1975c; *Borle* and *Anderson* 1976).

13.3 Calcitonin

The physiologic effects of calcitonin on bone, kidney, and plasma calcium are usually opposite to those of PTH. Nevertheless, like PTH, calcitonin increases the cellular concentration of cyclic AMP in bone and in kidney (*Chase* and *Aurbach* 1970; *Melson* et al. 1970; *Heershe* et al. 1974; *Rodan* and *Rodan* 1974; *Wong* et al. 1977). On a molar basis, calcitonin is about 100 times less active than PTH (*Rodan* and *Rodan* 1974) and the effects of calcitonin and PTH on cyclic AMP are additive (*Heershe* et al. 1974; *Rodan* and *Rodan* 1974). Whether the two hormones act on different cells (*Wong* et al. 1977) or on different cellular pools of cyclic AMP in the same cell or whether calcitonin increases cyclic AMP by the derepression of adenyl cyclase induced by a lower cytosolic calcium is unknown (*Rasmussen* and *Bordier* 1974; *Rasmussen* et al. 1975). The issue is beyond the scope of this review.

Calcitonin increases the total cellular calcium in kidney cells (*Borle* 1969, 1975a, c), in bone cells (*Eilam* et al. 1980), and in liver (*Yamaguchi* et al. 1975; *Yamaguchi* 1979). It also stimulates the uptake of ^{45}Ca in kidney cells (*Borle* 1969c, 1975a, c), bone cells (*Harell* et al. 1973, 1975; *Binderman* et al. 1974; *Eilam* 1980), and chondrocytes (*Deshmukh* et al. 1977). In kidney cells this increase in ^{45}Ca uptake reflects only an increased intracellular exchangeable calcium pool and not an increased influx because the steady-state calcium exchange across the plasma membrane is actually depressed by calcitonin (*Borle* 1975a). In agreement with this latter finding, ^{45}Ca efflux is depressed by calcitonin in kidney cells and in bone cells (*Borle* 1969c, 1975c; *Harell* et al. 1973; *Eilam* 1980). The increased cellular calcium appears to be sequestered in a cellular pool identified with mitochondria (*Borle* 1973a, 1975a; *Eilam* 1980).

Calcitonin stimulates calcium uptake in isolated mitochondria and in heart sarcoplasmic reticulum, but the physiologic significance of these results remains to be proven (*Hakim* 1973; *Borle* 1975a). On the other hand, calcitonin has been reported to depress the CaATPase activity in rat liver plasma membrane (*Yamaguchi* 1979). The effects of calcitonin are enhanced by phosphate and abolished by inhibitors of mitochondrial calcium uptake both in kidney and in bone (*Borle* 1975a; *Harell et al.* 1976; *Eilam* 1980), suggesting that the hormone may act by stimulating the transport or the sequestration of calcium by mitochondria (*Borle* 1973a, 1975a, c). Finally, although the effect of calcitonin on the cytosol ionized calcium has never been measured directly, indirect evidence suggests that the hormone lowers it (*MacManus and Whitfield* 1970; *Whitfield et al.* 1971; *Rasmussen and Bordier* 1974).

In order to explain the increased cellular sequestration of calcium, the depressed calcium efflux, and the assumed low cytosolic calcium activity induced by calcitonin, the following sequence of events has been proposed: calcitonin acting through an unknown intracellular messenger would primarily stimulate the uptake or the sequestration of calcium into mitochondria. This would lower the cytosolic concentration of free calcium and lead to a depression of calcium efflux out of the cell and of calcium transport in general (*Borle* 1973a, 1975c). Although this could explain most of the experimental results obtained in many different cells, this hypothesis has yet to be conclusively proven.

13.4 Glucagon

Glucagon increases cyclic AMP and also affects calcium metabolism in liver cells. But it is not firmly established whether the change in liver cell calcium is accidental or whether it is a necessary step in the sequence of events from adenylate cyclase activation to glucose formation. Calcium, for instance, activates phosphorylase b kinase, which catalyzes glycogen breakdown and suppresses glycogen synthetase (*Walsh et al.* 1968, 1970; *Soderling and Hickenbottom* 1970; *Exton et al.* 1972; *Exton and Park* 1972; *Hems and Whitton* 1980).

Glucagon appears to stimulate the uptake of ^{45}Ca by the liver (*Assimakopoulos-Jeannet et al.* 1977; *Keppens et al.* 1977). The total calcium, however, is unchanged (*Blackmore et al.* 1978) or slightly depressed (*Chen et al.* 1978) although high concentrations of glucagon may be required for this effect to be observed (*Blackmore et al.* 1978). The most consistent finding is the stimulation of ^{45}Ca efflux induced by the hormone (*Friedmann and Park* 1968; *Friedmann and Rasmussen* 1970; *Assimakopoulos-Jeannet et al.* 1977; *Chen et al.* 1978; *Foden and Randle* 1978; *Blackmore*

et al. 1978, 1979a, b; *Friedmann et al.* 1979). This stimulation of ^{45}Ca efflux from liver by glucagon occurs even in the absence of extracellular calcium (*Friedmann and Park* 1968; *Foden and Randle* 1978) or with the very low medium calcium concentration of $2 \cdot 10^{-5}$ M (*Chen et al.* 1978). The increased ^{45}Ca efflux induced by glucagon is inhibited by prior treatment with inhibitors of mitochondrial calcium uptake, FCCP, DNP or KCN (*Chen et al.* 1978), suggesting that the source of calcium mobilized by the hormone may be the mitochondria.

Glucagon, administered in vivo, also affects calcium transport in isolated organelles. The results are not always consistent, however. Some investigators found that glucagon stimulates mitochondrial calcium uptake (*Yamazaki* 1975; *Andia-Waltenbaugh et al.* 1978; *Friedmann et al.* 1979). The effect is observed when calcium uptake is supported by succinate oxidation with a concomitant H^+ ejection from mitochondria, but not when ATP is used as substrate (*Yamazaki* 1975). In other experiments, under somewhat unphysiologic conditions, glucagon also appears to increase the calcium retention time of mitochondria, an effect that is enhanced by phosphate (*Hughes and Barritt* 1978, 1979; *Barritt et al.* 1978). On the other hand, other investigators have reported an inhibition of mitochondrial calcium uptake induced by glucagon (*Foden and Randle* 1978) or even an increased efflux (*Blackmore et al.* 1979b).

Glucagon has been reported to stimulate calcium uptake by liver microsomal preparations (*Andia-Waltenbaugh and Friedmann* 1978) or by a ruthenium red-insensitive fraction probably derived from endoplasmic reticulum (*Bygrave and Trauter* 1978).

In heart muscle glucagon seems to have no effect on ^{45}Ca uptake or efflux. But since it increases tension without stimulating calcium influx it has been proposed that the hormone induces a redistribution of intracellular calcium (*Visser and Lee* 1972). Another report shows an increased calcium uptake by cardiac microsomes induced by glucagon (*Entman et al.* 1969).

Although all these reports suggest that glucagon influences intracellular calcium, the significance of these findings and their relationship to the elevation in cellular cyclic AMP are still unclear.

13.5 Catecholamines

The effects of catecholamines and of other α -adrenergic agonists on cell calcium have recently been reviewed by *Exton* (1980). It is likely that their action on cell intermediary metabolism is independent of cyclic AMP and is mediated by calcium (*Garrison et al.* 1979; *Exton* 1980). Catecholamines have been reported to decrease the total liver cell calcium (*Chen et*

et al. 1978; *Blackmore* et al. 1978, 1979a; *Chan* et al. 1979) although two reports claim the opposite (*Foden* and *Randle* 1978; *Exton* 1980). Catecholamines enhance the uptake of ^{45}Ca by liver cells (*Keppens* et al. 1977; *Assimacopoulos-Jeannet* et al. 1977; *Foden* and *Randle* 1978). These hormones also stimulate the efflux of ^{45}Ca from prelabeled liver cells (*Friedmann* and *Park* 1968; *Assimacopoulos-Jeannet* et al. 1977; *Blackmore* et al. 1978, 1979b) and from other tissues, aortic smooth muscle (*Deth* and *Van Breemen* 1977) and parotid gland (*Miller* and *Nelson* 1977). The rise in ^{45}Ca efflux can be observed even in the absence of extracellular calcium, suggesting a mobilization of calcium from an intracellular pool (*Friedmann* and *Park* 1968; *Deth* and *Van Breemen* 1977). The effect is blocked by inhibitors of mitochondrial calcium uptake, which indicates that the source of intracellular calcium is the mitochondria (*Chen* et al. 1978). On the other hand, two reports record a depression of ^{45}Ca efflux induced by catecholamines (*Foden* and *Randle* 1978; *Chen* et al. 1978). The reason for these conflicting results is unclear. Catecholamines stimulate the efflux of calcium from liver mitochondria and decrease their calcium content (*Babcock* et al. 1979; *Blackmore* et al. 1979a, b; *Chan* et al. 1979). Finally, catecholamines have been reported to stimulate ^{45}Ca uptake by cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum vesicles, an action mimicked by glucagon and cyclic AMP (*Entman* et al. 1969).

It has been proposed that catecholamines, through the action of an unknown intracellular messenger, mobilize calcium from the mitochondria and elevate the cytosolic free calcium; the rise in cytosolic calcium stimulates phosphorylase b kinase and other calcium-sensitive enzymes; at the same time, calcium efflux is increased (*Blackmore* et al. 1978, 1979b; *Garrison* et al. 1979). To explain the increased ^{45}Ca uptake induced by these hormones, one has to invoke again a stimulation of calcium influx induced by the rise in cytosolic calcium (see above).

13.6 Other Hormones

Table 30 lists several other peptide or steroid hormones that have been reported to affect cellular calcium in one way or another. Several hypotheses have been advanced for their mode of action but the available data are still too fragmentary to be reviewed in detail and to conclusively prove or disprove the proposed mechanisms.

In addition, metabolic substrates such as phosphoenolpyruvate or glucose and regulatory proteins such as calmodulin are likely candidates for the role of regulators of cell calcium metabolism. Much information may appear in the literature in the near future.

14 Conclusions

The importance of cellular calcium metabolism in cell function need not be emphasized. The range of cellular processes controlled, regulated or modulated by calcium is wide and still expanding. The best known are contraction, secretion, enzyme activation, and the regulation of metabolism, growth, motility, and ion transport. In most cases, calcium acts as a signal transducer.

Once the importance of cell calcium is recognized, it is imperative to understand the physiologic processes that control, modulate, and regulate the activity of calcium in all cellular compartments: cytosol, mitochondria, and endoplasmic (sarcoplasmic) reticulum.

The information gathered in this review appears to support the view that, with the exception of erythrocytes, the total cell calcium and its distribution among various subcellular compartments are fairly similar in all cells and in most species. The magnitude of the calcium fluxes across the plasmalemma are not very different from cell to cell and from species to species although the mechanisms may vary greatly. There is a greater difference in mitochondrial calcium transport; the number of mitochondria per cell and their affinity for calcium may vary but their high maximal velocity is about the same. The greatest difference exists between the calcium uptake by sarcoplasmic reticulum of skeletal muscle and calcium transport by endoplasmic reticulum of other cells; although their affinity for calcium may be similar, their maximal velocity differs by 2–3 orders of magnitude. This has important consequences when the relative role of each transport process (plasmalemmal, mitochondrial, SER) in the control of cytosolic free calcium is assessed. This is one of the most important problems that has yet to be conclusively settled. Other questions remain unanswered: what is the role and importance of calcium binding to various ligands of the cells, intracellular membranes, calcium binding proteins, calsequestrin, parvalbumin, and other intracellular calcium 'buffers'? Do voltage-sensitive calcium channels exist in nonexcitable cells? Is the Na–Ca exchange described in nerves and muscle operative in other cells? What is the role of calmodulin in the regulation of cellular calcium metabolism? What are the cellular targets of hormones that influence cell calcium metabolism? Besides the known cyclic nucleotides, what are the other intracellular messengers that may affect cell calcium?

One of the main obstacles to our full understanding of cellular calcium metabolism is the technical difficulty (until recently the technical impossibility) of measuring the concentration of free calcium in the cell cytosol. Cytosolic free calcium is the most important parameter of cell calcium metabolism that has yet to be measured with confidence, if at all. Once

pCa microelectrodes or techniques using ionized calcium-sensitive indicators are applied to the study of small mammalian cells, a large gap will be filled in our understanding of cellular calcium metabolism. Until then, the field still belongs to the realm of hypothesis and controversy.

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Calcium Transport in the Kidney

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1 Introduction

Initial studies of calcium transport utilizing clearance techniques emphasized the striking similarity between the urinary excretion of sodium and that of calcium and the effects of a variety of maneuvers on both (*Walser* 1961). Early results from micropuncture studies also suggested that calcium was reabsorbed throughout the nephron in a pattern very similar to that of sodium transport (*Lassiter* et al. 1963; *Duarte* and *Watson* 1967). Since then studies utilizing more sophisticated techniques combining papillary tip, superficial proximal, and distal micropuncture and the recent application of the techniques of isolated tubular perfusion have markedly refined our concepts of renal calcium transport. These studies have indicat-

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ed that calcium transport occurs in most segments of the nephron in a manner similar to that of sodium but can be dissociated from sodium transport in several segments beyond the proximal convoluted tubule. The principal factors influencing urinary calcium excretion that may be important in calcium homeostasis include parathyroid hormone, phosphate balance, acid–base balance, and the state of the extracellular fluid volume. With the possible exception of extracellular fluid volume contraction, all these factors affect urinary calcium excretion by altering transport in the distal portions of the nephron; thus the terminal nephron appears to be responsible for the regulation of urinary calcium excretion. In this review, we will first consider the sites of calcium transport within the nephron and then discuss those factors that alter transport with emphasis on recent advances.

2 Sites of Transport

In normal man, the filtered load of calcium is slightly greater than 500 mEq/day. As calcium excretion is normally 5–10 mEq/day during an average calcium intake of less than 50 mEq/day, the fraction of filtered calcium excreted is less than 1%. Approximately 50%–55% of the filtered load is reabsorbed in the proximal convoluted tubule, 20%–30% in the pars recta and loop of Henle, 10%–15% in the distal convoluted tubule, and 2%–8% in the terminal portions of the nephron.

2.1 Glomerular Filtration

Calcium in plasma exists both in the free ionic form, bound to protein, and complexed with various ions such as phosphate and citrate. It has generally been assumed that calcium concentration in glomerular ultrafiltrate can be estimated with laboratory methods of ultrafiltration across artificial membranes. Micropuncture studies with direct measurements of fluid from surface glomeruli have verified that about 60% of the total plasma calcium is ultrafiltered across the glomerulus. Thus *Harris et al.* (1974) found an ultrafiltration ratio of 0.63 ± 0.02 . *Le Grimmellec et al.* (1975) found similar values but with a marked scatter that they attributed to glomerular heterogeneity.

2.2 Proximal Convoluted Tubule

A number of micropuncture studies have revealed ratios of tubular fluid to ultrafilterable calcium consistently greater than 1 (recently summarized by *Suki* 1979). This is consistent with a passive transport mechanism that could be dependent upon sodium and water reabsorption and many investigators have documented a parallelism between sodium and water transport in the proximal tubule. *Ullrich* et al. (1976), however, provided evidence for active calcium transport in addition to passive diffusion. Using tubular microperfusion in combination with simultaneous perfusion of the peritubular capillaries, they demonstrated an active component of approximately 20% of the total reabsorptive rate. Removal of sodium from the perfusion solution or inhibition of sodium transport with ouabain also inhibited the active component of calcium transport. Thus both passive diffusion and active transport of calcium appear to be dependent upon sodium transport. The mechanism for the linkage of active transport with sodium transport is unclear. One possibility is via an ATPase system. Another possibility is a sodium-calcium exchange system across the basolateral plasma membrane, a phenomenon described in a variety of tissues (*Taylor* and *Windhager* 1979). According to this hypothesis, intracellular calcium activity is regulated by calcium extrusion in exchange for sodium diffusing into the cell down a concentration gradient. Inhibition of the sodium pump and removal of peritubular sodium would reduce both the gradient for sodium entry into the cell across the basolateral membrane and calcium extrusion. The resultant increase in cytosolic calcium activity would serve to inhibit calcium transport across the luminal membrane. Recent studies in vesicles isolated from rat renal cortex have in fact demonstrated both an ATP-driven calcium pump and a Na-Ca countertransport system in the basolateral plasma membrane but not in brush border membranes (*Gmaj* et al. 1979).

The original interdependence between the handling of sodium and calcium by the kidney, therefore, seems to be characteristic of the proximal tubule, and with a few exceptions, multiple studies have been unable to dissociate the transport of these ions at this site. Some exceptions to this rule include calcium infusion (*Edwards* et al. 1976; *Le Grimellec* et al. 1974) and sulfate infusion (*Le Chene* et al. 1975) and possibly acute parathyroidectomy (*Kuntziger* et al. 1974). The ratio of calcium concentration in tubular fluid to that in ultrafiltrate has been observed to increase with infusion of calcium and sulfate, probably because of an increase in the complexed fraction that may not be available for reabsorption. The changes in calcium concentration observed with acute parathyroidectomy have not been uniformly observed in other laboratories, and current data suggest that the important effect of parathyroid hormone (PTH) on urinary

calcium excretion is due to an effect in distal portions of the nephron. As a general rule, therefore, it is still reasonable to consider that, under conventional conditions, sodium and calcium transport in the proximal convoluted tubule are parallel.

2.3 Pars Recta and Descending Limb of Henle's Loop

Studies in the rat (*Jamison et al. 1974*) and *Psammomys* (*De Rouffignac et al. 1973*) have suggested that the transport of sodium and of calcium may not be parallel between the end of the proximal convoluted tubule and the ascending limb. Both groups of investigators found that the ratio of tubular fluid calcium to ultrafilterable calcium concentrations (TF/UF calcium) at the papillary tip was significantly lower than the ratio of tubular fluid sodium to plasma sodium concentrations (TF/P sodium) in contrast to the accessible proximal convoluted tubule, where the reverse is found. These data thus suggested a dissociation between calcium and sodium reabsorption in either the pars recta or the thin descending limb. *Rocha et al. (1977)*, however, found no evidence for calcium reabsorption in the latter segment with isolated perfusion. When an osmotic gradient was imposed to stimulate in vivo conditions of osmotic water extraction, the rise in concentration of the volume marker was associated with a parallel rise in ^{45}Ca concentration, indicating the absence of calcium efflux despite water loss. More recently, *Rouse et al. (1980)* have provided direct evidence that the pars recta of superficial nephrons is a site of significant net calcium efflux in excess of water reabsorption. As efflux occurred against an electrochemical gradient, they suggested that this transport was active. It was not inhibited by ouabain but was dependent upon cellular metabolism, as transport was inhibited by cooling to room temperature. The transport process was not saturated and the transport rate increased with increasing load. The exact nature of this process, its physiological role, and the factors that regulate it remain to be determined. Whether or not this transport process also occurs in the pars recta of juxtamedullary nephrons remains to be evaluated.

2.4 Ascending Limb of Henle's Loop

As in the thin descending limb, there is no evidence of net calcium transport in the thin ascending limb (*Rocha et al. 1977*). In contrast, net calcium reabsorption occurs in the isolated perfused thick ascending limb as originally demonstrated by *Rocha et al. (1977)* and confirmed in several laboratories (*Shareghi and Stoner 1978; Imai 1978; Bordeau and Burg*

1979; *Suki et al.* 1977). The mechanism of calcium transport in this segment is controversial, however. Earlier micropuncture studies revealed that furosemide inhibited calcium reabsorption in the loop of Henle, suggesting a relationship between sodium and calcium transport. While it seems that passive forces could account for net reabsorption because of the lumen-positive potential difference that occurs in this segment, data have suggested that other factors must play a role. Thus, in two studies, alteration of the potential difference (PD) by ouabain or furosemide was not associated with parallel changes in calcium transport (*Rocha et al.* 1977; *Imai* 1978) and the flux ratio was higher than that predicted by simple diffusion. In fact, *Imai* (1978) was able to demonstrate significant efflux despite reversal of the PD. *Bordeau* and *Burg* (1979) also found a flux ratio greater than that predicted by the positive potential, but were able to show that there was no net flux when the PD was zero. *Shareghi* and *Stoner* (1978) found that the observed PD more than adequately accounted for the calcium flux. It should be pointed out that deviations of flux ratios from values predicted by 'passive' forces is not necessarily an index of active transport. Thus a variety of types of flux coupling (single file diffusion, exchange diffusion, solvent drag) as well as heterogeneity in the membrane can alter the flux ratio. These explanations, however, would not account for the persistence of transport with marked alterations in the potential differences. It is not clear why these discrepancies exist. All investigators, however, agree that at least part of calcium transport in this segment may be accounted for by passive forces. Some of the discrepancies may relate to differences in experimental techniques. It is also possible that heterogeneity of function between cortical and medullary segments may account for some of these differences. Preliminary data seem to suggest that the medullary segment exhibits passive transport characteristics while persistent transport despite reduction of the PD is characteristic of the cortical segment (*Suki et al.* 1977).

2.5 Distal Convulated Tubule

The first micropuncture studies suggested that 10%–11% of the filtered load of calcium was reabsorbed in the distal tubule (*Lassiter et al.* 1963). More recent experiments utilizing measurements of distal tubule length have confirmed these data, revealing reabsorption of 9% of the filtered load or 89% of the delivered load during free-flow micropuncture (*Costanzo* and *Windhager* 1978b). The reabsorptive rate during in vivo micropuncture increased linearly with increasing load and there was virtually no detectable 'backleak' of calcium into the tubule lumen despite the imposition of large concentration gradients (*Costanzo* and *Windhager* 1978).

These data suggest the presence of active, load-dependent calcium transport in the distal convoluted tubule. Similar evidence for calcium transport in this segment, and possibly later segments as well, has been obtained in ^{45}Ca microinjection experiments (Greger et al. 1978). Under normal conditions, calcium transport in the distal tubule seems to be parallel to sodium transport, as demonstrated by most in vivo micropuncture studies. As discussed subsequently, in vivo transport can be dissociated with thiazides (Costanzo and Windhager 1978b). In vitro, Shareghi and Stoner (1978) were able to inhibit the PD and reduce sodium reabsorption with furosemide and amiloride, but these agents did not alter calcium transport. As will be discussed below, the distal convoluted tubule may consist of several morphologically distinct segments. Studies have not been performed to evaluate transport specifically in the bright segment of the distal tubule, and thus the homogeneity of the distal convoluted tubule with respect to calcium transport remains unclear.

2.6 Collecting Duct System

Comparison of the amount of calcium remaining at the end of the portion of the distal tubule accessible to micropuncture with the final urine concentration at the same time have been utilized to estimate calcium transport in the terminal portions of the nephron. These estimates have ranged from 3% to 10% of the filtered load (Agus et al. 1977; Lassiter et al. 1963). Additional evidence for transport beyond the late distal tubule, namely in the cortical collecting tubule, has been found with tracer microinjection studies (Greger et al. 1978). Recent studies utilizing in vitro micropertusion, however, have suggested heterogeneity of function in the collecting duct system with regard to calcium transport. Thus the early cortical collecting duct, which contains granular epithelium similar to that of the late distal tubule, transports calcium and responds to PTH but there is no detectable transport in the later light segment (Shareghi and Stoner 1978). As the nephrons of the mid-cortex and the deep cortex are characterized by longer granular segments (connecting tubule, arcade), these data have particular relevance to the interpretation of earlier micropuncture studies. It now seems likely that the calcium transport previously attributed to the terminal nephron as a whole may in fact be restricted to the granular segment. Careful study of the medullary collecting duct system is required to complete our understanding of calcium transport beyond the distal tubule.

3 Factors Influencing Calcium Transport

Many factors alter tubular calcium transport and thereby urinary calcium excretion. These factors can be grouped into those that primarily alter calcium transport and those that primarily alter sodium excretion and secondarily affect calcium excretion by virtue of the transport relationship between these ions in certain segments of the nephron, principally the proximal convoluted tubule and the loop of Henle (possibly only the medullary segment of the thick ascending limb – Sects. 2.2 and 2.4). Thus, acute increase in glomerular filtration rate produce only slight changes in calcium and sodium excretion (*Massry and Kleeman 1972*), presumably because of the maintenance of glomerulotubular balance, a function primarily of the proximal tubule. Infusion of renal vasodilators, saline infusion (*Agus et al. 1977*), acetazolamide (*Beck and Goldberg 1973*), parathyroid hormone (*Agus et al. 1973*), dibutyryl cyclic AMP (*Agus et al. 1973*), and mild hypercalcemia (*Edwards et al. 1974*), all of which inhibit proximal tubular sodium reabsorption, are associated with parallel changes in proximal tubular calcium reabsorption. Whether or not these events are associated with significant changes in urinary excretion depends upon their effects on sodium and calcium transport in more distal portions of the nephron where the handling of these ions may be dissociable. Thus extracellular fluid volume expansion produces natriuresis and calciuria associated with inhibition of transport beyond the late distal tubule, while parathyroid hormone reduces urinary calcium excretion despite comparable inhibition of proximal tubular reabsorption. Similarly, vasodilators increase urinary excretion of sodium and calcium, while acetazolamide produces a mild natriuresis and little change in calcium excretion (*Massry and Kleeman 1972*). While dissociation of tubular transport of sodium and calcium can be demonstrated in *in vitro* perfusion of the pars recta and the cortical thick ascending limb (see 2.4), the physiologic significance of these events has not been demonstrated. Thus inhibition of sodium transport in the loop of Henle with furosemide produces comparable changes in both TF/P sodium and calcium in the early distal tubule (*Edwards et al. 1973*). Factors that appear to selectively alter calcium transport and urinary excretion seem to exert this action in the distal convoluted tubule and early portions of the collecting duct system. These include changes in acid–base balance, phosphate balance, parathyroid hormone, and thiazides. One possible exception to this rule is the administration of calcitonin, as will be discussed below.

3.1 Parathyroid Hormone

Parathyroid hormone (PTH) stimulates the net tubular reabsorption of calcium, presumably via the production of cyclic AMP. The intrarenal sites of PTH-sensitive adenylate cyclase activity have been elegantly detailed in the last few years by the application of enzymatic analysis to anatomic subsections of isolated, collagenase-treated rabbit tubules (*Chabardes et al. 1975, 1980; Imbert et al. 1975; Morel et al. 1976*). These studies identified the proximal convoluted tubule, pars recta, cortical thick ascending limb, and granular segments of the distal nephron as the major sites of activity. The 'bright' and 'light' segments of the distal convoluted tubule were found to possess little activity, while the apparently granular epithelium of the arcade or connecting tubule segment of deeper cortical collecting tubules, as well as of late segments of the distal convoluted tubule, was highly responsive to PTH. It is also worth noting that differences in adenylate cyclase sensitivity to PTH were found in the various segments. Thus much higher concentrations of PTH were required for stimulation of adenylate cyclase in the cortical thick ascending limb than in proximal or distal tubules, a difference that may have physiologic significance, as will be discussed below.

The localization of the effects of PTH upon renal tubular calcium transport correlates very well with the sites of adenylate cyclase activity. Initial stop-flow studies suggested that the site of the hypocalciuric effect of PTH was in the distal nephron (*Widrow and Levinsky 1962*). Micropuncture studies in the dog subsequently indicated that acute administration of parathyroid hormone inhibited proximal tubular calcium reabsorption, also suggesting a distal site for the hypocalciuric effect (*Agus et al. 1973*). Subsequent studies on the rat suggested that PTH enhanced calcium reabsorption in the terminal portions of the nephron beyond the late distal puncture site (*Agus et al. 1977*). More recently, direct evidence has been obtained for an effect within the distal convoluted tubule with *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies. *Costanzo and Windhager (1978a)* found a twofold increase in distal tubule calcium transport with intravenous PTH infusion or intratubular cyclic AMP perfusion. As discussed above, however, the distal nephron is extremely heterogeneous as regards PTH-sensitive adenylate cyclase activity. *Shareghi and Stoner (1978)* demonstrated PTH-sensitive calcium transport in distal convoluted tubules containing granular-type epithelium and in cortical collecting tubules containing granular epithelium. PTH-sensitive calcium transport has also been recently found in cortical thick ascending limb segments. Absorption is stimulated, however, by high (*Bordeau and Burg 1979; Shareghi and Agus 1979*) but not by low levels of PTH *in vitro* (*Shareghi and Stoner 1978*), a finding that is compatible with the reduced sensitivity of this segment demonstrated by

histochemical techniques (*Chabardes et al. 1975*). Thus all the data taken together suggest that it is the granular segment that is the distal site of calcium transport previously demonstrated by other techniques.

3.2 Other Hormones

Remarkably inconsistent effects of calcitonin on urinary calcium excretion have been reported in a number of studies. The data suggest that if there is an effect it is principally to decrease calcium excretion, but in many studies it has not been possible to distinguish the relative roles of changes in filtered load and direct tubular effects. Recent micropuncture studies in young, parathyroidectomized rats revealed that calcitonin reduced calcium excretion, in association with increased reabsorption in the loop of Henle. The enhanced reabsorption, however, was dependent upon hypocalcemia, and when this was prevented by calcium infusion there were no changes in calcium transport (*Quamme 1980*). This observation may explain the variable results in the literature, as the serum calcium response to calcitonin is also very variable. Calcitonin-sensitive adenylate cyclase activity has been described in the medullary thick ascending limb (*Chabardes et al. 1976*). Preliminary studies in perfused rabbit tubules are consistent with this observation and reveal enhanced calcium transport in the medullary portion of the thick ascending limb (*Suki and Rouse 1980*). There are very marked species differences, however, in calcitonin-sensitive adenylate cyclase activity (*Chabardes et al. 1980*), and more definitive studies are needed to assess both the effects and physiologic importance of calcitonin.

Enhanced tubular calcium reabsorption has been shown in thyroparathyroidectomized dogs and rats with acute administration of vitamin D, 25-hydroxy-cholecalciferol and 1,25-dihydroxycholecalciferol (*Puschett et al. 1972a, b*). Chronic administration of physiologic doses of 1,25(OH)₂D to TPTX rats, however, has no effect upon intrinsic renal calcium handling as assessed during calcium infusion, despite demonstrable alterations in intestinal calcium absorption (*Hugi et al. 1979*). Thus it does not seem likely that 1,25(OH)₂D plays an important role in the homeostatic regulation of urinary calcium excretion.

Chronic administration of growth hormone, thyroid hormone, and glucocorticoids is associated with increased urinary calcium excretion. The mechanisms for these alterations include increased 1,25(OH)₂D production and/or enhanced bone resorption but there is little evidence for a direct renal tubular effect of these hormones.

The acute administration of mineralocorticoids does not alter calcium excretion. Chronic administration, however, is associated with a progres-

sive increase in urinary calcium excretion. The calciuria can be prevented by restriction of sodium intake implying that extracellular fluid (ECF) volume expansion is the mediator of the reduced tubular reabsorption of calcium (*Suki et al. 1968; Massry et al. 1968; Rastegar et al. 1972*).

Insulin infusion and oral glucose ingestion are associated with an increase in calcium excretion that cannot be accounted for by alterations in renal hemodynamics and appear to be related to changes in tubular calcium reabsorption (*Lennon and Piering 1970; De Fronzo et al. 1975*). The tubular site of action is unclear; although inhibition of proximal tubular reabsorption has been demonstrated with both insulin and glucose administration in the dog, fractional calcium excretion did not increase in those studies (*De Fronzo et al. 1976*).

3.3 Acid–Base Alterations

A number of studies utilizing clearance techniques have shown that metabolic acidosis increases and metabolic alkalosis decreases urinary calcium excretion. These effects occur in the absence of parathyroid hormone and appear to be the result of direct tubular effects. Micropuncture studies suggest a dual effect in the nephron, depending upon the duration of the acid–base disturbance. Acute metabolic acidosis in the rat inhibited proximal tubular sodium and calcium transport (*Dubb et al. 1977*) but did not alter the final urine excretion or dissociate sodium and calcium. Chronic ammonium chloride loading in the dog produced a dissociation of such a kind that, at any level of sodium excretion, acidotic dogs exhibited a significantly higher level of calcium excretion than normal dogs. Micropuncture studies revealed that the site of inhibition was not in the proximal tubule but was apparent in the distal tubule and beyond (*Sutton et al. 1979*). These changes were reversed with bicarbonate correction of the acidosis in both intact and parathyroidectomized dogs.

3.4 Diuretics

The effect of a natriuretic agent upon calcium excretion is dependent upon its principal site of action and the relationship between sodium and calcium transport at that site. Thus acetazolamide inhibits proximal reabsorption but the augmented delivery is reabsorbed distally and there is little change in urinary calcium excretion. Osmotic diuretics that seem to inhibit sodium reabsorption in the loop of Henle tend to produce parallel changes in urinary excretion of sodium and calcium (*Wesson 1962*), presumably reflecting the reabsorptive parallelism of these ions in the loop.

Loop-active diuretics such as ethacrynic acid and furosemide produce a marked calciuria that may be proportionately greater than the corresponding natriuresis. Micropuncture studies suggest that this dissociation is not apparent prior to the cortical portion of the distal tubule and reflects calcium-independent sodium reabsorption at more distal sites in the nephron (*Edwards et al. 1973*).

Acute administration of benzothiadiazides produces natriuresis and variable changes in calcium excretion. Chronic administration invariably reduces urinary calcium excretion. Part of the hypocalciuria has been attributed to ECF volume contraction and enhanced proximal tubular reabsorption of sodium and calcium. Thus the hypocalciuria can be markedly attenuated if sodium losses are replaced concurrent with drug administration (*Brickman et al. 1972*). Since the reduction in calcium excretion is less marked in patients with hypoparathyroidism it has also been suggested that thiazides potentiate the effects of parathyroid hormone in the distal nephron to enhance calcium reabsorption (*Brickman et al. 1972*). More recently, evidence has been obtained for a direct tubular effect of thiazides (*Costanzo and Windhager 1978b*). In microperfusion studies of the distal convoluted tubule, these investigators were able to demonstrate enhancement of absolute calcium reabsorption with increasing load compared with controls, despite simultaneous inhibition of sodium transport. The observation that thiazides were effective when present only in luminal perfusion fluid is consistent with a site of action on the luminal side. As the distal convoluted tubule is a heterogeneous morphological structure, however, the exact cellular site of action cannot be determined from these studies.

3.5 Phosphate Depletion

Phosphate depletion produces a rapid and marked increase in urinary calcium excretion (*Coburn and Massry 1970*). Several mechanisms have been proposed to account for this phenomenon. Dissolution of bone and enhanced intestinal absorption may tend to raise serum calcium. The combination of increased filtered load of calcium and reduced levels of PTH could combine to account for calciuria. Several laboratories, however, have shown that the hypercalciuria cannot be totally corrected with either intravenous (*Coburn and Massry 1970*) or chronically PTH administration (*Grabie et al. 1978*). Alternatively, phosphate depletion could directly alter tubular calcium transport, as suggested by *Coburn and Massry (1970)*. Recent studies have corroborated the presence of a tubular defect. Micropuncture studies in the dog demonstrated inhibition of proximal tubular calcium and sodium reabsorption (*Goldfarb et al. 1977*). Acute infusion with phosphate, however, to parathyroidectomized, phosphate-depleted

dogs reduced calcium excretion to normal levels, but the proximal tubular defect was unchanged, suggesting a more distal site of action of phosphate. Subsequent studies in the rat revealed that the site of the defect in calcium transport was beyond the late distal tubule puncture site and that this was the site where phosphate infusion acted to reduce calcium excretion (*Lau et al. 1979*). Thus the evidence currently strongly favors the presence of intrinsic renal tubular defects as the cause of hypercalciuria in phosphate depletion. While the proximal tubule is the site of reduced transport of sodium and calcium, it is the distal nephron, specifically that portion of the nephron beyond the accessible portions of the late distal tubule, that is responsible for the changes in the final urine.

3.6 Effect of Filtered Load

In contrast to increases in filtered load produced by a rise in glomerular filtration rate (GFR), calcium excretion increases markedly with calcium infusion. Recent studies in TPTX rats (*Hugi et al. 1979*) indicate that in the absence of PTH urinary calcium excretion is a linear function of filtered load with 35%–50% of the increases in filtered calcium appearing in the urine. With PTH infusion, the threshold is increased but the slope remains the same. In intact animals, a steeper slope is observed as PTH secretion falls, and both intact and TPTX animals reach a similar urinary calcium excretion at a plasma calcium of 12–13 mg%. Micropuncture studies during mild hypercalcemia reveal little change in TF/UF calcium in the proximal tubule and suggest an important role for the distal nephron. With more marked hypercalcemia, TF/UF calcium increases but this may reflect the presence of filterable but nonreabsorbable calcium complexes rather than saturation of proximal tubular reabsorption (*Edwards et al. 1974*).

4 Summary

Calcium is reabsorbed in most segments of the mammalian nephron in a pattern generally similar to that of sodium reabsorption. Of the filtered load, 50%–60% is reabsorbed in the proximal convoluted tubule, where there appears to be a strong link between sodium and calcium transport. There is now evidence for active calcium reabsorption in the pars recta but there is virtually no transport in the thin descending or ascending limb of Henle's loop. A significant fraction of the filtered load of calcium is transported in the thick ascending limb but the mechanism of transport remains controversial and the possibility of heterogeneity between cortical and

medullary segments is being actively investigated. There is active calcium transport in the distal tubule and the granular segment of the collecting duct with reabsorption of up to 10% of the filtered load.

The terminal nephron, i.e., the late distal tubule and early collecting duct, which are morphologically characterized as the granular segment, may be the major site for the final regulation of urinary calcium excretion. Current data suggest that these segments are the major site of action of parathyroid hormone and are responsible for the alterations in calcium excretion observed with metabolic acidosis, volume expansion, and chronic phosphate depletion.

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Central Chemosensitivity: A Respiratory Drive

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Dedicated to Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans H. Loeschcke
on the occasion of his 68th birthday

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1 Introduction

1.1 Central Chemosensitivity as Seen in Two Earlier Articles by Winterstein and Wyss

Two previous articles on the respiratory control system of mammals in this review series form the basis for the following one, which deals with central respiratory chemosensitivity: One emphasizes the humoral homeostatic part (*Winterstein* 1958), the other the neural reflexogenic part (*Wyss* 1964). In „Die chemische Steuerung der Atmung” *Winterstein* discussed the four forms of the “reaction theory” founded on the idea that lung ventilation is governed by the H^+ ion concentration of the body fluids. Lung ventilation should keep the pH constant by releasing more or less CO_2 . *Winterstein* believed that H^+ ions were also responsible for the respiratory drive produced by hypoxia. The mechanism he thought likely to exist was a possible influence of H^+ ions on the cholinergic system of the peripheral chemoreceptors. In addition *Winterstein* at the same time speculated that the site of H^+ ion sensitivity behind the blood-brain barrier was located within the respiratory centers. *Winterstein*’s concept of chemical regulation fundamentally influenced the research on acid-base homeostasis as controlled by the respiratory system, up to the present time.

Wyss (1964) in „Die nervöse Steuerung der Atmung” described the neural mechanism of peripheral and central reflexogenic nature. He dealt with the rhythmogenesis of breathing and stated the basic role of the vagal reflexes for the autonomy of respiration, which, however, as was shown later, in the absence of any chemosensitive input into the rhythm generator, are unable to contribute to the generation of respiration (*See* 1973). *Wyss*, in his contribution, did not discuss the chemical reflexes in detail but evaluated their component as incorporated within the “vegetative basic structure”, the chemical reflexes thus being part of the basic conditions for the autonomy of bulbar activity. *Wyss* questioned the idea of the respiratory center being sensitive to CO_2 or H^+ ions and, referring to the early experiments of *Loeschcke* and co-workers (*Loeschcke* and *Koepchen* 1958a–c; *Loeschcke* et al. 1958), he concluded that a special chemosensitive apparatus existed in the brain outside the respiratory centers, this theory being later accepted by *Winterstein* (1960).

This article is concerned with the central chemosensitive mechanism, its location, its morphological correlate, some basic functions, and some clinical aspects. The main aim is to describe the present opinions regarding central H^+ ion sensitivity as a respiratory afferent system.

Any references from the older literature may be obtained from the two quoted reviews. Previous reviews on central chemosensitivity have been published by *Loeschcke* (1974a) and *Loeschcke* and *Schlaefke* (1976). For

further reviews on the control of respiration and some special aspects see *Berger et al.* (1977a–c), *Cohen* (1979), *Cunningham* (1973), *Duffin* (1971), *Guz* (1975), *Karczewski* (1974), *Heinemann* and *Goldring* (1974), *Loeschcke* (1969, 1971, 1972, 1973a–c, 1977), and some recent symposia edited by *Paintal* and *Gill-Kumar* (1977), *v. Euler* and *Lagercrantz* (1979), *Fitzgerald et al.* (1978), *Duron* (1976), *Karczewski* and *Widdicombe* (1973), *Koepchen et al.* (1980), *Leusen* (1972), *Loeschcke* (1976), *Paintal* (1976), *Neil* (1973), *Umbach* and *Koepchen* (1974), *Siesjö* and *Sørensen* (1971), and the “Warsaw Symposium” on “CO₂ and Breathing” (1976).

1.2 Is Chemosensitivity a General Characteristic of the Respiratory Centers?

Based on the essential discoveries in respiratory physiology by *Pflüger* (1868), *Haldane* and *Priestley* (1905), and *Fredericq* (1901), *Winterstein* (1910, 1911, 1923) attributed the extent of lung ventilation to the H⁺ ion concentration within the respiratory centers. The H⁺ ion concentration would depend upon the metabolism, the pH of the surrounding fluids, and upon the permeability of components determining the pH. *Gesell* (1923, 1925) also saw the important contribution of the acidity within the fluid surrounding the respiratory centers to the regulation of respiration. In 1908 *Robertson* had already reported experiments in which he could elicit respiratory responses by injecting acids into the respiratory center of the frog. In mammals, as is quoted later, accounts concerning stimulation of the respiratory center with drugs by different workers are rather controversial. Regarding this vagueness in the field of central chemosensitivity, *Gesell* (1939) praised *Heymans* and his co-workers for their discovery of the carotid and aortic chemoreceptors (*Heymans* and *Heymans* 1927; *Heymans* and *Bouckaert* 1930, 1939; *Heymans et al.* 1931) as it gave “a new outlook on respiration for which physiology is deeply indebted . . . No one had actually demonstrated that either excess of carbon dioxide or lack of oxygen, restricted to the medulla, is capable of augmenting pulmonary ventilation”. This statement held for the effect of hypoxia, as well as for CO₂ when its action was restricted to the medullary respiratory centers.

Following *Heymans* and *Bouckaert* (1939), *Heymans* (1951), *Hesser* (1949), and *Gray* (1950) there still remains an insufficient number of scientists who have studied chemical control of ventilation after peripheral chemoreceptor denervation. Depending on the species, the experimental conditions and purpose, it was more or less clearly shown that CO₂ or H⁺ ions still influence respiration without peripheral chemoreceptors (*Adolph et al.* 1961; *Anitschkow* 1936; *Banus et al.* 1944; *Belville et al.* 1959;

Berger et al. 1971, 1973; *Berndt et al.* 1972a–c; *Bisgard and Vogel* 1971; *Borison and McCarthy* 1973; *Bouverot* 1976; *Bouverot and Bureau* 1975; *Bouverot et al.* 1961, 1963, 1965; *Dejours* 1962; *v. Euler and Liljestrand* 1940; *Florez and Borison* 1971; *Gautier* 1976a, b; *Guz et al.* 1966; *Heeringa* 1979; *Jones and Purves* 1970; *Katsaros* 1965a, b; *Kiwull et al.* 1972, 1976; *Kiwull-Schöne and Kiwull* 1979; *Kiwull-Schöne et al.* 1976; *Loeschcke* 1960; *Loeschcke et al.* 1958, 1979; *Mitchell et al.* 1964; *Neil and O'Regan* 1969; *Perkins* 1968; *Rosenstein et al.* 1974; *Rutherford et al.* 1967; *Schlaefke and Loeschcke* 1967; *Schlaefke et al.* 1970; *Schmidt and Comroe* 1940; *Sörensen and Mines* 1970; *Wiemer et al.* 1964; *Winterstein* 1950; *Winterstein and Gökhan* 1953).

The chemosensitivity of the respiratory center was questioned by investigators who had observed the selective decrease of the respiratory response to CO₂ and not to hypoxia under anesthesia (*Åström* 1952; *Benzinger et al.* 1938; *Dripps and Dumke* 1943; *Dripps and Severinghaus* 1955; *Florez and Borison* 1969; *Hesser* 1949; *Marshall and Rosenfeld* 1936; *Schmidt and Comroe* 1940) or by sleep (*Phillipson* 1977, 1978a, b; *Phillipson et al.* 1978; *Reed and Kellogg* 1958, 1960). Selective loss or lowering of CO₂ sensitivity has also been observed in patients with chronic lung emphysema (*Alexander et al.* 1955; *Comroe et al.* 1950; *Prime and Westlake* 1954; *Scott* 1920), or with local lesions (*Richter et al.* 1957), or in cases of primary alveolar hypoventilation (*Fruhmann et al.* 1961; *Chiesa et al.* 1970).

After *Pitts* (1940), *Pitts et al.* (1939a–c) and *Stella* (1938a, b) had detected the topographical location for where the respiratory rhythm should be generated and afferent input should be coordinated, *Comroe* (1943) and *Liljestrand* (1953, 1958) compared effects produced by bicarbonate injections or electrical stimulation within the respiratory centers or in the medulla oblongata respectively, and obtained diverging results. *Comroe* observed coincidence of the chemically and electrically-elicited effects, while *Liljestrand* discovered some incongruity.

Von Euler and Söderberg (1952a, b) recorded the first chemically-evoked action potentials from the “completely denervated” rhombencephalon in response to carbon dioxide. In addition they measured slow potential shifts in the medulla oblongata as a response to alterations in blood chemistry. The authors were also able to show that the neural response to CO₂ was diminished by anesthesia without impediment of other peripheral respiratory reflexes. They drew the following conclusions: (1) The bulbar chemosensitive structures could not be involved in the respiratory reflex and coordinating pathways, but should be located as a special apparatus within the respiratory centers. (2) Differing from the ideas of *Gesell* (1940) and *Pitts* (1946) who believed that CO₂ would modify a basic discharge activity of neurons due to metabolic gradients from the dendrites to the

axon hillock, *von Euler* and *Söderberg* (1952a, b) proposed a mechanism of impulse generation by CO_2 .

Another approach was made by various authors applying substances which act on the peripheral chemoreceptors, to the floor of the fourth ventricle, or by suboccipital injections, by perfusing the ventricular system, or by injection into the cisterna pontis. The observed respiratory responses to nicotine, lobeline, cyanide, cocaine, acetylcholine, acids, or cooling were equivocal (*Comroe* 1943; *Gesell* et al. 1943; *Loeschcke* and *Koepchen* 1958a–c; *Mitchell* et al. 1960; *Wiemer* 1959; *Winterstein* and *Gökhan* 1953; *Winterstein* and *Wiemer* 1959).

A new attempt to investigate central chemosensitivity was begun by *Leusen* (1954a, b). Acid solutions perfused through the ventricular spaces produced an increase in ventilation. *Leusen* showed that the relationship between H_2CO_3 and BHCO_3^- was decisive for the effect on respiration, but he could not prove that the true stimulus was provided by the H^+ ions. *Leusen* believed like *Winterstein* (1955), *Gesell* (1940), and *Comroe* (1943), that the respiratory centers underlying the fourth ventricle would respond to the changes of acidity directly.

Considering *Winterstein*'s concept regarding the predominant role of H^+ ions on one hand and the equivocal findings on the questioned central site of chemical action, *Loeschcke* started his work on central chemosensitivity and gave his first report in 1957, a paper which was later published, together with *Koepchen* and *Gertz* (1958), and which may be regarded as the first one dealing with medullary surface pH sensitivity.

2 The Structure

2.1 The Localization

The most important step in the investigation of central chemosensitivity was taken by *Loeschcke* et al. (1958) isolating the stimulus, to show whether it is CO_2 or pH. Three types of techniques were used in the series, from which decisive proposals could be made:

- 1) A catheter was advanced 2 mm through the roof to the third ventricle.
- 2) The catheter was pushed forward to the third ventricle, so that the injected solutions could run back along the catheter and reach the bulbar base through the foramina Luschkae.
- 3) The cerebellum was removed by suction and test solutions were applied to the floor of the fourth ventricle by pledgets.

The authors used $\text{BHCO}_3^-/\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$ buffers equilibrated with CO_2 in air, in which BHCO_3^- and NaCl were exchanged equivalently. All solutions had the same K^+ and Ca^{++} ion concentration and were isotonic. These were the

results: An acid shift of pH at constant PCO_2 of the perfusate was followed by an increase in tidal volume, and an alkaline shift by a decrease in tidal volume. An increase of PCO_2 at constant pH was accompanied by a gentle diminution of tidal volume. The respiratory response could only be seen when the solutions reached the lateral recessus. Application of acid to the floor of the fourth ventricle produced no effect. With these results *Winterstein's* concept was proved for the first time, as the results showed that H^+ ions, and not specifically CO_2 , influence the sensitive structure. In addition, the findings contradicted the idea of a general chemosensitivity of the respiratory centers. From the results of the experiments of *Jacobs* (1920a, b) and the theory of *Winterstein* (1910, 1911, 1923, 1955), and of *Gesell* (1923, 1925, 1940), *Loeschcke* and his co-workers considered that an increase in CO_2 at constant pH which did not stimulate breathing, indicated a very superficial location for the sensory structure. Deeper-lying sensor elements should have been reached by the easily penetrating CO_2 with the consequence of hyperpnea. This however, was not observed. The authors suspected free nerve endings within the lateral recessus and within the chorioid plexus of the fourth ventricle, as had been described by *Clark* (1934), to be possible candidates for a H^+ ion sensitive structure.

In two further experimental studies by *Loeschcke* and *Koepchen* (1958a, c), procaine was applied using *Leusen's* method (1954a), by which the whole ventricular system of the cerebrum was reached, or by perfusing only the fourth and third ventricle as described before. Procaine (2%) was also applied locally to the floor of the fourth ventricle without effect, but a decrease in respiration and blood pressure was observed following the perfusion technique as well as the local application on the lateral recessus. Apnea of the chemodenervated cat could be interrupted by electrical stimulation of the inspiratory center. From these results the authors found support for their assumption that the centers, when deprived of peripheral chemoreceptors under resting conditions, are dependent upon H^+ ion sensitive afferent impulses. They further concluded that the vasomotor center may also receive afferent impulses, and that both afferent systems may be superficially located within the region of the lateral recessus and the medullary base.

With these results *Loeschcke* joined *Mitchell's* group, which had also worked on chemically-induced effects on respiration obtained from the floor of the fourth ventricle in dogs (*Mitchell* et al. 1960). In 1963 together they were able to confirm that the increase in respiration due to H^+ ions and PCO_2 , nicotine and acetylcholine was obtained from the subarachnoid space on the ventrolateral surface of the medulla, whereas no effects or depressive ones were observed when the substances were applied to the fourth ventricle. Procaine, lobeline, NaCN, and cold CSF in the subarachnoid space on the lateral surface, depressed ventilation (*Mitchell* et al.

1963b) and in another paper (*Mitchell* 1965). Unfortunately the two drawings of the medulla oblongata published in the two papers differ from each other and from the topographical anatomy of the cat. The following description was given: The chemosensitive area is bordered rostrally by the pons, extending 6–7 mm caudal, bounded laterally by the roots of the 7th–11th cranial nerves and medially by the pyramidal tract (*Mitchell* et al. 1963b). The authors attributed the superficial location of the sensitive structure to the fast respiratory responses following local application of the chemical substances. In addition it was shown that apnea occurred with 1% procaine in the perfusate, and, using a staining method for procaine (*Grodinski* et al. 1933), it was shown not to penetrate deeper than 350 μm below the surface, after a contact time of 5 min.

Schwanghart et al. (1974) applied procaine to the ventral medullary surface and studied inspiratory and expiratory discharge as well as reticular neuronal discharge. Inspiratory discharge was abolished within a very short time, expiratory discharge became tonic, and reticular neurons were either activated or inhibited. Histochemical tests revealed that procaine had not penetrated deeper than 30–50 μm , which again provides evidence for a very superficial location of the structure mediating afferent respiratory drive.

The most intensive research conducted on central chemosensitivity during the past 20 years was done by the group led by *Loeschcke*. His co-worker *Berndt* tested a geometric localization (*Berndt* et al. 1972a–d). The authors experimentally established stationary gradients of the extracellular pH between the ventral surface and deeper parts of the medulla. They showed by calculation that ventilatory responses were correlated best with extracellular pH changes occurring at 250–300 μm below the ventral medullary surface. *Berndt* et al. (1970) also showed that the respiratory center could still be activated by electrical stimulation when the ventral surface was superfused with either procaine or solutions of high potassium concentration, although K^+ ions may rapidly diffuse through the extracellular spaces of the medulla in contrast to procaine.

Trouth et al (1973a) by systematic electrical stimulation with a unipolar electrode elicited respiratory responses from the surface, and from different points at 0.1–0.2 mm up to a depth of 1 mm and from thereon at millimeter intervals up to a depth of 6 mm below the surface. The authors observed the strongest effects from the surface medial of the hypoglossal root, still obtainable at 0.2 mm but not at about 0.6–0.8 mm below the surface. Respiratory effects could again be evoked from 2 mm below the surface and deeper. From both studies the authors, using the two different experimental approaches, saw in their results further confirmation of the hypothesis that the sensitive system was located within the ventral medullary surface layer and therefore could not be identical with the respiratory reflex and coordinating centers.

Three further studies were performed in order to obtain a more precise localization of the medullary surface area with respiratory effects, aiming at providing information for subsequent tissue withdrawals for morphological investigations (Loeschcke et al. 1970; Schlaefke and Loeschcke 1967; Schlaefke et al. 1970). The outcome was that not one but three areas on the ventral medullary surface were found to be involved in central chemosensitivity (Fig. 1). The first area was localized by cold block, cooling with

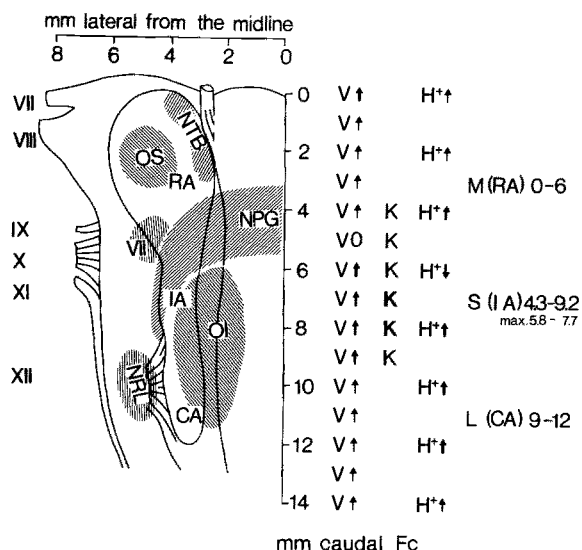


Fig. 1. *Left side:* Scheme of ventral surface of the medulla oblongata of the cat. VI–XII cranial nerve roots. *O*, Foramen caecum (Fc). Projected on the surface: *NTB*, nucleus trapezoid body; *OS*, superior olive; *NPG*, paragigantocellular nucleus; *OI*, inferior olive; *NRL*, lateral reticular nucleus; *VII*, *VIII*th nerve nucleus. *Right side:* Strongest respiratory responses were elicited from 3 mm lateral of the midline and at points in different caudal distances from the foramen caecum. *V* for electrical stimulation; *K* for cold block; *H** for local superfusion with artificial cerebrospinal fluid of varied pH. *Arrows upward*, increase; *arrows downward*, decrease of tidal volume. *0*, almost no change. Maximal responses to electrical stimulation: 0 and 11 mm caudal of Fc. *K fat*: largest effect of cold block. The rostrocaudal extension from *M*, *S*, and *L* areas is given

a thermode 1 mm in diameter to 8°–10°C or 281–283 K, respectively. The characteristic result was apnea, when the corresponding contralateral area was coagulated, and sinus nerves and vagi were cut (Schlaefke and Loeschcke 1967). Later, in different papers, the extension of this area varied. For this reason it was reinvestigated under the same conditions, the rostrocaudal boundary referring to the foramen caecum (Schlaefke et al. 1970, Fig. 6 there): The maximal effect, which was rapid apnea following the onset of cold block, was obtained from an area 5.8–7.7 mm caudal of

the foramen caecum (the border between pons and medulla, Fig. 1). Apnea, after a longer latency, was observed up to 4.3 and 9.2 mm caudal of the foramen caecum. The lateral boundary was 2.9–3.8 mm lateral from the midline. The area was at first named „Kälte-empfindliches Feld”, later it was called area S and finally intermediate area (IA). In two parallel studies electrical and chemical stimulation of the ventral medullary surface was performed with the aim of comparing respiratory effects (*Loeschcke* et al. 1970; *Schlaefke* et al. 1970). The conditions of the two series varied, however. The electrical stimulation was done in intact cats; the chemical stimulation, namely superfusing 1 mm² areas with artificial CSF of varying pH while keeping the surrounding area neutral, was performed in cats in which the contralateral intermediate area had been coagulated, and sinus nerves and vagi had been cut.

For electrical stimulation a core electrode with 0.6 mm inner and 1.6 mm outer diameter was used. The voltage used was 2/3 of that delivered to a point of maximal respiratory response medial of the hypoglossal root, for the individual cat. Electrical stimulation produced increases in tidal volume within areas 3 mm lateral to the midline, from 0–4 mm caudal, and from 6–14 mm caudal of the foramen caecum with maxima at 0 and 11 mm caudal of the reference point. Between these limits there appeared to be a steep trough with its minimum at 5 mm caudal from the foramen caecum, showing either no increase, or only small increases in tidal volume. However, higher voltages at this point caused apneusis. Local chemical stimulation elicited only small responses regarding tidal volume in areas from 0–4 mm and from 8–12 mm caudal from the foramen caecum. A trough with significant inhibition of tidal volume by acid buffer was found at 6 mm from the foramen caecum. The trough obtained by both types of stimuli projected to the intermediate area, where cold block maximally depressed ventilation. The profiles of respiratory responses over various points of stimulation on the ventral medullary surface led to a working hypothesis which suggested that the sensory sites within the rostral area M (*Mitchell* et al. 1963a), and the caudal area with positive respiratory responses, which was called area L (*Loeschcke* et al. 1970) might converge within the intermediate area S (*Schlaefke* and *Loeschcke* 1967), from where the “bundled” information should be linked with the respiratory centers.

Central chemosensitivity of respiration could be located also for the rat in an area corresponding to the area which has been described by *Mitchell* and co-workers. *Mitchell*’s as well as *Loeschcke*’s results were obtained from the cat, and the effects were seen in principle in dogs as well (*Loeschcke* et al. 1958a; *Mitchell* et al. 1963a). The evidence for central chemosensitive areas on the ventral medullary surface of the rat’s brain has been provided by *Hori* et al. (1970), *Fukuda* and *Honda* (1975), *Fukuda* and

Loeschcke (1977), and by *Fukuda* et al. (1978, 1979). *Fukuda* and co-workers observed H^+ ion sensitive neurons in brain slices of the rat in an area corresponding to the location of the intermediate area of the cat. However, nobody so far has shown that central chemosensitivity is represented by three different areas in the rat also. Since in rabbits bilateral cold block of an area corresponding to the intermediate area of the cat causes apnea, it is likely that the central chemosensitive apparatus may also be comparable to that of the cat (*Katzorke* and *Schlaefke*, unpublished data). Nothing is known so far about any H^+ ion sensitive characteristics of the ventral brainstem surface of man.

However, recent histopathological findings in cases of sudden infant death syndrome give some hints that similarities to the cat's chemosensitive apparatus may exist (*Schlaefke* et al. 1980a, b).

2.2 The Search for the Receptor – Without Success

The search for the responsible correlate of an H^+ ion sensitive receptor initiated several histological studies. A first effort by *Loeschcke* (1965), who studied the superficial tissue of the lateral recessus of the fourth ventricle and the adjacent region around the tuberculum acusticum, led to the description of superficial nerve cells surrounded by fine axons. In addition he saw cell clusters of glial nature interwoven with a network of fine axons. *Fleischhauer* and *Petrovický* (1968) within the superficial layer of the lateral recessus described the “nucleus z”, neuronal elements surrounded by subependymal glia fibers. So far no one has studied the physiology of these neuronal or glial elements, which is not surprising, since in the meantime the site of interest shifted to the ventral surface.

Petrovický (1968) was the first to compare the results of systematic histological studies on the marginal layer of the ventral brain stem with physiological data. He described, within a field corresponding to the intermediate area (*Schlaefke* and *Loeschcke* 1967) a thin and spongy layer of glia fibers with two types of nerve cells; one, small, round, and pale, with diffusely scattered Nissl substance; and the other medium-sized and multipolar, with dense clusters of Nissl substance. Both types form a small nucleus (2 mm long, 1 mm wide, 1 mm deep), known as the lateral reticular nucleus Olszewski (*Petrovický* 1968). Rostrally, the nucleus turns away from the surface into the depth and contacts the paragigantocellular nucleus (NPG; Figs. 1, 2). Rostrally, within the superficial part, one finds the small pale type of cells; caudally, the larger, dark type. Some cells of the dark type accompany the hypoglossal fibers up to the region of the nucleus interfascicularis hypoglossi.

By systematic electrical stimulation of the medulla, and electrical marking, *Trouth et al.* (1973b) identified 7–26 characteristic cells. These he described to be 40–70 μm in diameter and situated at the site of maximal respiratory responses within the caudal area, at the level of the middle of the hypoglossal root fan. They are arranged as single cells or in groups of 2–8 between the ventral surface and the ventral side of the inferior olive. Their distance from the ventral surface varies from 50–450 μm , but mostly they are found between 150 and 200 μm . A small number has been observed between 450 and 800 μm below the surface. They are easily distinguished by their long multipolar protoplasmic processes. The authors also observed some superficial and some deeper lying nerve cells, hardly distinguishable from reticular neurons, within the rostral area. The authors also missed the grouping here which is characteristic for the caudal area.

Schlaefke (1972), *Kille and Schlaefke* (1974), *Schlaefke et al.* (1974) and *Loeschcke and Schlaefke* (1976), systematically mapped neurons within the ventral medullary surface layer, extending from the surface to 300 μm depth, up to 12 mm caudal from the foramen caecum and 2–4 mm lateral to the midline. The material was obtained after fixation of the medulla in glutaraldehyde and embedding it in Epon or paraffin from which transverse sections of 2 μm or 8 μm , respectively, as well as horizontal sections, were taken and stained either by silver impregnation or methylene blue. The upper part of Fig. 2 shows the surface projection of the cells found in the different distances from the surface layer (lower part). The different symbols correspond to the different levels below the surface at which cells can be seen. Some neurons of the superficial layer form part of the nucleus reticularis lateralis (NRL, lateral to and underneath the caudal area), of the nucleus paragigantocellularis (NPG, underneath the most superficial cell layer in the intermediate area, and underneath the rostral area), and of the nucleus trapezoidalis (NTP, underneath the rostral area) (*Berman* 1968; *Taber* 1961). The cells first described by *Petrovický* (1968), and those described by *Trouth et al.* (1973b), are indicated by the author's initial. The superficial nerve cells within the intermediate area which have been described by *Petrovický* in 1968 have recently been rediscovered by *Shahar and Edery* (1976) and by *Peskov et al.* (1980). The latter found the multipolar neurons distributed within the intermediate area between 9 and 380 μm below the surface. The authors also observed that the cell clusters are located near venules and that they branch out in the immediate vicinity of the microvessels.

The blood supply to the medulla has recently been studied by *Cragg et al.* (1977), who injected indian ink into the vertebral arteries. They found the highest density of small arterioles and venules close to the hypoglossal root and on the ventrolateral surface, while the highest density of small

arterioles was found in a zone corresponding to the intermediate area. Fig. 3 shows a plasticized vessel preparation from the medullary base performed by *Kille* (1969), who used Plastogen G for the injection into the vertebral arteries. A very dense coil of vessels project onto the intermediate area. The cold block effect, by which this area is characterized, is only obtained if the thermode is placed between or caudal from the vessels, but never when actually on the vessels, as far as can be controlled using the operation microscope. For a discussion of the argument that the blood supply of deeper medullary structures from the ventral side of the medulla may mimic the ventral superficial location of central chemosensitivity see Sects. 2.5 and 3.4 (*Cragg et al.* 1977; *Lipscomb and Boyarski* 1972).

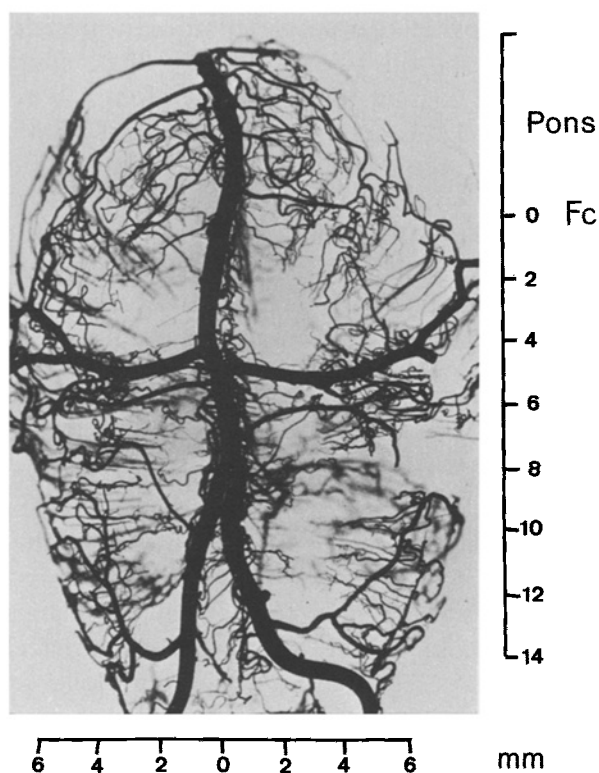


Fig. 3. Medullary base vessels filled via the aorta with Plastogen G (*Kille* 1969). Compare projections of areas M, S, L (Fig. 1). No or opposite respiratory effects elicited by chemical or electrical stimulation were obtained between 5 and 6 mm caudal from the Foramen caecum, an area with a dense coil of vessels. The thermode had to be placed caudally or between the vessels, not on the vessels. Compare *Cragg et al.* (1977)

2.3 The Ultrastructure

Electron micrograph studies (*Ullah* 1973; *Brettschneider* et al. 1974; *Dermietzel* et al. 1974, 1975; *Leibstein* et al. 1975; *Leibstein* 1979; *Luber* 1976; *Shahar* and *Edery* 1976) were combined with scanning techniques, freeze-etching methods, and the local application of horseradish peroxidase and lanthanhydroxide (*Dermietzel* 1976; *Dermietzel* et al. 1977, 1978; *Leibstein* 1979). The following description was given: The most superficial glia fibers run parallel to the surface and become vertical within the area medial and rostromedial of the hypoglossal root. Fingerlike invaginations of the brain surface with an entrance diameter of 0.2–5 μm extend to 10 μm below the surface and show a labyrinthine formation. The glia fibers with microvillilike processes, border the invaginations which are completely covered by the basal membrane. Wide intercellular spaces between the glia fibers contain unmyelinated axons and perikarya of nerve cells. The authors call this configuration the basal membrane labyrinth (*Dermietzel* 1976), in accordance with *Leonhardt* (1967, 1970) who found similar structures on the surface of the rabbit brain ventricles. The invaginations can be clearly distinguished from perivascular spaces of pial blood vessels which enter the marginal glia. Rostromedial of the hypoglossal root a dense population of perikarya as well as dendritic and axonal profiles were described, with a maximum concentration 1 mm rostral from the rostral end of the hypoglossal roots, which projects onto the intermediate area. Cells rich in mitochondria and surrounded by numerous large synaptic boutons have been described for the intermediate area by *Shahar* and *Edery* (1976). According to *Dermietzel* the number of superficially sectioned axons and dendritic profiles increases from the caudal to the rostral part of the ventral medullary surface. In the intermediate (*Shahar* and *Edery* 1976; *Peskow* and *Piatin* 1980) and rostral (*Dermietzel* 1976) area, cell groups are in close contact with capillaries and with the surrounding glia spongiosa. In the rostral area (*Dermietzel* 1976) the maximally enlarged spaces resemble lakes of intercellular cerebral fluid and are typical for this area. The dendrites of the cells form a large number of synaptic connections. The radially arranged axons form a rosette-like grouping around a central dendrite, the latter being characterized by aggregates of mitochondria. *Dermietzel* (1976) suggests that, according to *Gray's* categorization (1959), the different synapses observed on the dendrites belong to the type I as well as type II, thus probably providing for an inhibitory as well as an excitatory action on the dendrites.

Dermietzel (1976) also described wide spaces surrounding the capillaries of the chemosensitive zones. Horseradish peroxidase (HRP) administered in the subarachnoid region, accumulated in the perivascular space (Fig. 4). Freeze-etch studies revealed a high pinocytotic activity of the capillary

endothelium in contrast to typical cerebral capillaries. In general, *Dermietzel* (1976) finds morphological evidence for a free exchange between the cerebrospinal and the interstitial cerebral compartment, a feature which was required for those ions determining the pH (*Katzmann et al.* 1968; *Pappenheimer* 1967).

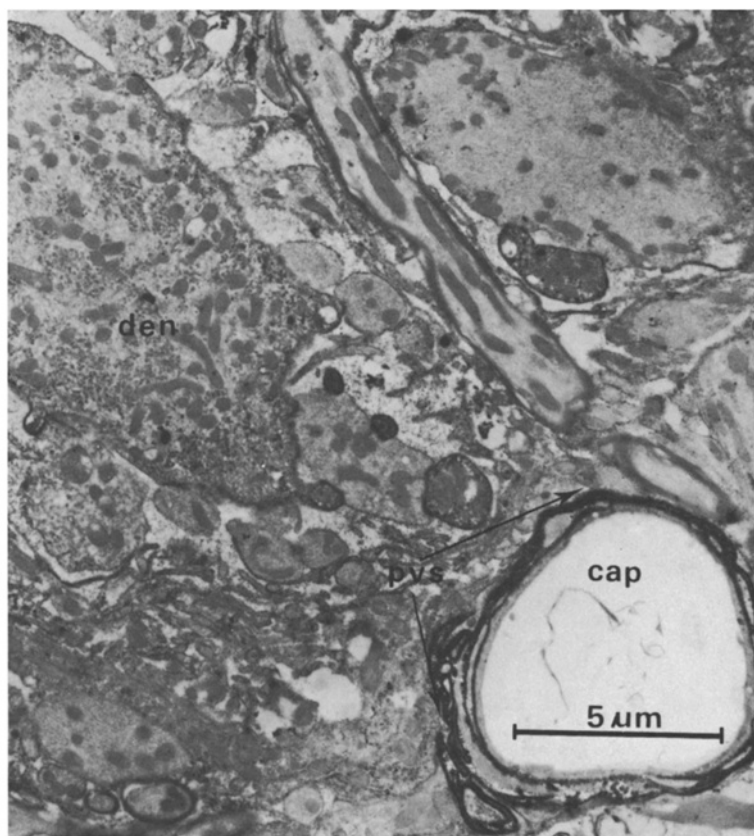


Fig. 4. Electron micrograph from M area. *pvs*, perivascular space filled with subarachnoidally applied horseradish peroxidase. *den*, dendrite, axondendritic synapses. By courtesy of *Rolf Dermietzel*

2.4 Histochemical Tracing of Neurons

By labelling neuronal elements situated within the ventral medullary surface layer with topically applied horseradish peroxidase (HRP, 2%) and incubating for 4 hours *Dermietzel et al.* (1977, 1978) were able to reconstruct the three-dimensional formation of a neuronal complex underneath

the ventral surface, which probably was identical with the nucleus paragigantocellularis (NPG). By shortening the exposure time to 30 min the authors were able to differentiate two classes of neurons. The first group is represented by small-sized cells with a high peroxidase activity. Electron microscopical investigations showed that these cells and their dendritic processes show a diffuse HRP labelling of their cytoplasm. The second group of large-sized neurons revealed a less intensive labelling. They showed a vesicular incorporation and storage of the HRP. In addition, within the intermediate area numerous superficially located processes could be observed by HRP labelling, as well as neurons 200 μm below the surface (Fig. 5a).

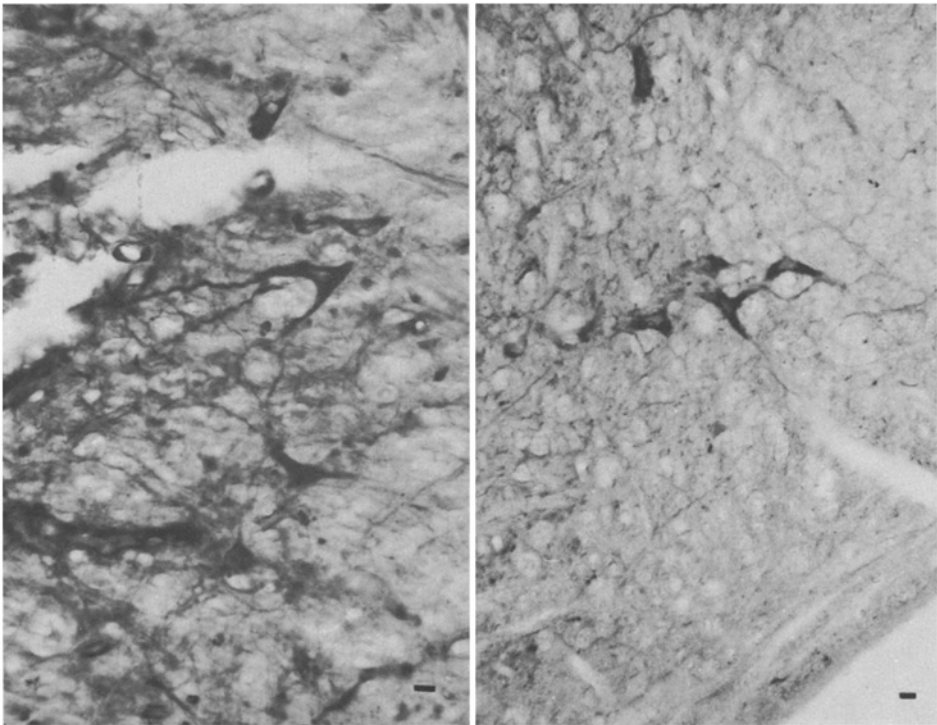


Fig. 5. **a** Nerve cell 250 μm below the intermediate area, labelled by HRP applied on the ventral medullary surface. *Bar* indicates 10 μm . **b** Acetylcholine esterase in neurons 200 μm below the intermediate area. By courtesy of *Willenberg, Leibstein and Dermietzel*

Errington and Dashwood (1979) used a 20% solution of HRP and an incubation time of 0.5–5 hours. The HRP was applied bilaterally 8.5–11.5 mm caudal of the Horsley-Clark zero which corresponds to the location of the intermediate area. The authors found numerous labelled cells

and fibers immediately below the surface. 40–400 μm below the surface multipolar neurons could be identified, some of their processes extending toward the ventral surface. In addition fibers were labelled passing dorsally from the ventral surface and originating from two groups of labelled cell bodies. One group was part of the nucleus tractus solitarii, the other group, which was less intensively stained, was situated within the dorsal nucleus of the vagus. Cell bodies were also labelled within the nucleus cochlearis.

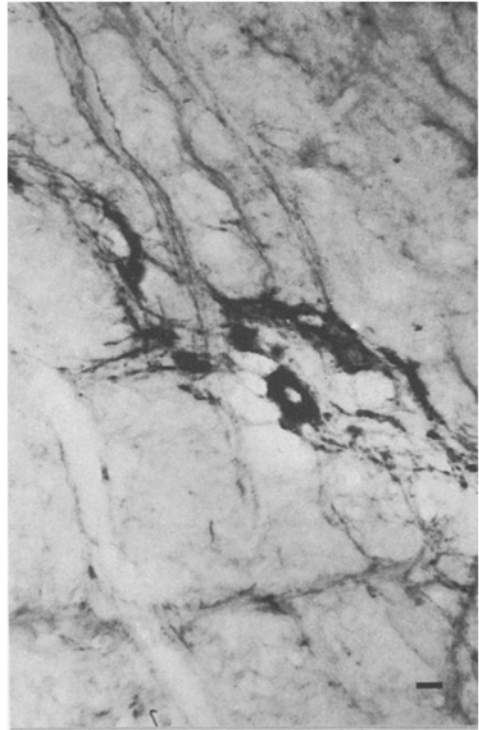


Fig. 6. Acetylcholine esterase in neurons 400 μm below the rostral area. Bar indicates 10 μm . By courtesy of Willenberg, Leibstein and Dermietzel

Some recent data of *Dermietzel* and co-workers (unpublished) were obtained by the histochemical proof of specific acetylcholine esterase within all three areas (Figs. 5b, 6, 7).

2.5 Neurophysiological Tracing

The caudal area: *Shimada, Trough* and *Loeschke* (1969) were the first to succeed in showing that neurons a little beneath the ventral surface of the caudal area (Figs. 1, 2) were able to respond to pH changes induced by superfusing the ventral surface with artificial cerebrospinal fluid of varied

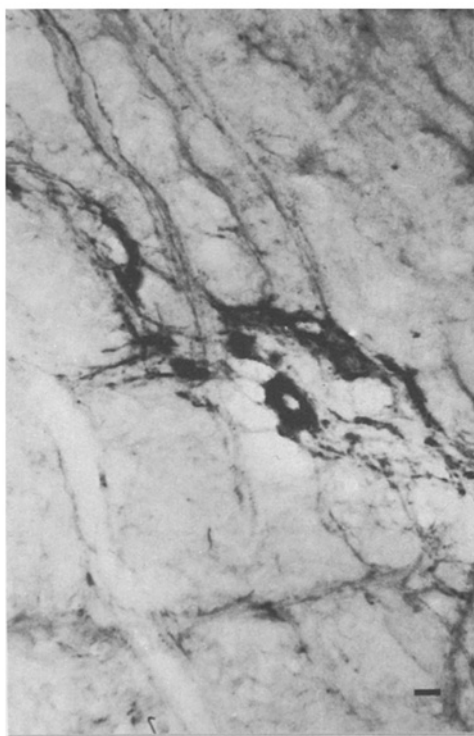


Fig. 7. Acetylcholine esterase in neurons 800 μm below the caudal area. *Bar* indicates 10 μm . By courtesy of Willenberg, Leibstein and Dermietzel

pH at constant PCO_2 . At a CSF pH of 7.8 they measured an impulse frequency of less than 1 per sec. Within 3–4 min after the perfusate was changed to pH 7.0 the authors observed a rapid and thereafter a slower increase of discharge frequency up to an average of 20 per sec. The time course of the unit's response corresponded to that of the phrenic nerve discharge. The authors regarded the discharge pattern of the pH sensitive unit as similar to that of the peripheral chemoreceptors as recorded by Biscoe and Taylor (1963) and Eyzaguirre and Koyano (1965). Prill (Prill et al. 1975; Prill 1977) recorded from 47 neurons located immediately below the surface of the caudal area, at the level of the middle of the hypoglossal root, 3.0–4.5 mm lateral to the midline. 16 of these neurons responded to changes in pH induced by intravenous injections of either 0.1 n HCl or 1 M NaHCO_3 .

Prill distinguished between three types of chemosensitive neurons, fast-responding with a frequency response similar to that which was found by Shimada et al. (1969), and regularly firing neurons with a higher frequency. The third type responded in a paradoxical way, showing an increase with bicarbonate and a decrease of discharge activity with HCl. Since Prill did not measure pH locally he left it open, whether the paradoxical effect was truly paradoxical or whether it was the consequence of a para-

doxical behaviour of the cerebral extracellular pH following metabolic disturbances in the blood as long as peripheral chemoreceptors are intact (Loeschcke and Sugioka 1969; Loeschcke and Ahmad 1980). There were two other remarkable observations on neurons underlying the caudal area. The first was the capability of the neurons to respond in an opposite manner to changes in pH and also to respond to passive movement of the contralateral foreleg. The second was a strong increase in the discharge frequency following HCl injection together with a change of the interspike interval histogram from a unimodal to a trimodal one, which has been described as characteristic for reticular neurons by Segundo and Perkel (1969) and by Segundo et al. (1967). This same neuron turned out to be located 1750 μm below the surface, namely within the lateral reticular nucleus. This is within a depth which is not thought to be the location of the chemosensitive structure (Trouth et al. 1973a, b). Prill's study demonstrated that the consideration of the change in frequency following changes in pH, as well as the discharge pattern of a neuron responding to pH changes, may be of help in deciding whether or not a neuron may belong to a specific H^+ ion sensitive apparatus. At this time however, nothing definite can be said regarding the specific sensor element lying within the surface layer. There is evidence, however, that neuronal activity can be increased by H^+ ions within the structure of the caudal area.

The rostral area: Cakar and Terzioglu (1976) located neurons which responded to breathing of CO_2 as well as to injections of CO_2 equilibrated Ringer-Locke solutions into the vertebral artery, within 400–1400 μm below the surface and most of them between 600–1000 μm below the surface of the caudal and of the rostral area. The corresponding nuclei were thought to be the nucleus preolivaris and the nucleus trapezoid body (Fig. 2). The authors are in doubt about the hypothetical superficial location of the central chemosensitive apparatus; however, they did not publish any further details regarding frequency characteristics, and also the location of the neurons was given only approximately.

Pokorski (Pokorski et al. 1975; Pokorski 1976) recorded from neurons located within the first 1 mm layer below the rostral area, most being between 100 and 500 μm beneath the surface (Fig. 2). He found 12 neurons out of 44 to be chemosensitive with an irregular tonic firing pattern, similar to that described for the neurons within the caudal area by Shimada et al. (1969) and by Prill (1977). Pokorski found that neurons with such a firing pattern developed a grouped discharge upon HCl injection. He also saw inversely reacting neurons. He could show, however, by comparison of interspike interval histograms, that in both types of neurons, in those which increased their mean discharge frequency with HCl and those which decreased it, there was an increased number of shorter interspike intervals

after HCl, which would indicate an acceleration in spike generation. The author also described neurons which responded to "touch" of the contralateral limb, which was observed within the caudal area as well. Such neurons within the rostral area showed a tendency for increased activity following intravenous injections of either HCl or NaHCO_3 . Since local pH was not measured, interpretations can only be speculative. For example *Pokorski* (1976) attributed very short "latencies" of chemosensitive neurons responding to intravenous injections of either HCl or NaHCO_3 within 5 sec, to some unknown peripheral chemoreceptors, different from those of the carotid and aortic bodies. However, very rapid changes in pH in the brain extracellular fluid have been measured during intravenous injections of the above mentioned solutions (*Ahmad* 1976), which were accompanied by changes in neuronal discharge (*Schlaefke* and *See* 1980; *Schlaefke* et al. 1979). One also has to consider the possibility that stimulation of "unspecific" nature by the injections, e.g. pain, may increase the synaptic input into the central chemosensitive apparatus (*Schlaefke* et al. 1969; *Spode* 1980). For further discussion of this concept see Sects. 3.3, 3.6 and Figs. 10 and 11, pp. 199, 201).

The intermediate area: Chemical stimulation by either the ventral surface superfusion technique or intravenous injections of HCl or NaHCO_3 caused a response of neuronal discharge also underneath the intermediate area (*Schlaefke* 1976a; *Schlaefke* et al. 1974, 1975a, b). So the neurons behave according to the concept of *Lambertsen* et al. (1961), responding to changes in acid-base parameters in the blood as well as in the CSF. As in the caudal area non-chemosensitive neurons responding to "touch" of a contralateral limb were observed. Unlike the studies on the rostral and the caudal area, no "paradoxical" responses to pH changes were recorded. In more recent experiments the authors measured the pH on the ventral medullary surface simultaneously (which, with the method of a floating flat surface pH electrode gives a pH reading between CSF and ECF pH) (*Schlaefke* 1967b; *Schlaefke* et al. 1977a, b, 1978, 1979, *Schlaefke* and *See* 1978, 1979, 1980; *See* et al. 1977, 1978; *See* and *Schlaefke* 1978, 1980). In these experiments it could be shown in a few cases that intravenous injections of HCl may cause an increase in pH on the ventral medullary surface, which was accompanied by a decrease in the firing frequency of single units. Using the same technique, further recordings revealed that only slight shifts of pH to the acid side were necessary in order to obtain a remarkable increase in the firing frequency of units. The alkaline or slight acid shifts of the surface pH following HCl injections are in accordance with observations of *Robin* et al. (1958), *Loeschcke* and *Sugioka* (1969), *Fencl* et al. (1966, 1971), *Pappenheimer* (1967), and *Mitchell* et al. (1965), who found opposite or only small pH changes in

the cerebrospinal fluid following metabolic disturbances. This is also expressed in a mathematical study of *Middendorf* and *Loeschcke*, demonstrating that in the transient phase of nonrespiratory acidosis the peripheral chemoreceptors mediate the fast respiratory feed back (*Middendorf* and *Loeschcke* 1976a, b, 1978) and may be the cause of the alkaline shift in the extracellular pH of the brain. In connection herewith and with the true pH change following HCl injections, the "paradoxical" reaction of neurons recorded by *Pokorski* (1976) within the rostral and by *Prill* (1977) within the caudal area must be regarded with caution, because the pH was not measured at the same time. There are however, criteria which would not reject the possibility of paradoxical pH responses within the chemosensitive zones (see Sect. 3.2, 33.).

Neurons of the intermediate area, the discharge frequency of which increased following a fall in the surface pH and decreased following a rise in pH, have been picked up between the surface and 1600 μm below, mostly at 200–300 μm below the surface. Of a total of 92 units tested for their reaction to pH changes, 51 behaved in the described manner (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of units recorded from the ventral layer underneath the caudal (L), intermediate (S), and rostral (M) areas in the cat. Percentage is given in addition of H^+ ion modulated neurons from the totally recorded number of neurons in the corresponding field, as well as for the non-responsive neurons in relation to the total number. The data refer to *Pokorski* (1976), *Prill* (1977) and *Schlaefke* (1976), *Schlaefke* et al. (1975, 1978).

	Caudal area (L)	Intermediate area (S)	Rostral area (M)
Total no. of units	49	92	44
H^+ -responding	23 (46.93%)	51 (55.43%)	9 (20.45%)
Nonresponsive	26 (12 touch) (53.06%)	41 (14 touch) (44.56%)	35 (12 touch) (79.54%)

The location was determined either by iontophoretic application of procion yellow through the recording electrode, or by histological verification of the position of the electrode tip. Figs. 8 and 9 give examples of cells located with both techniques. Both neurons have been identified as "chemosensitive" by superfusion of the ventral surface with artificial cerebrospinal fluid of varied pH according to the solutions used by *Loeschcke* et al. (1958). The figures also represent the two types of neurons which have been described by *Petrovický* (1968) and by *Dermietzel* et al. (1978), namely the larger one (Fig. 8) which belongs to the ventral part of the NPG, its topographical location being 8.24 mm caudal to the foramen caecum,

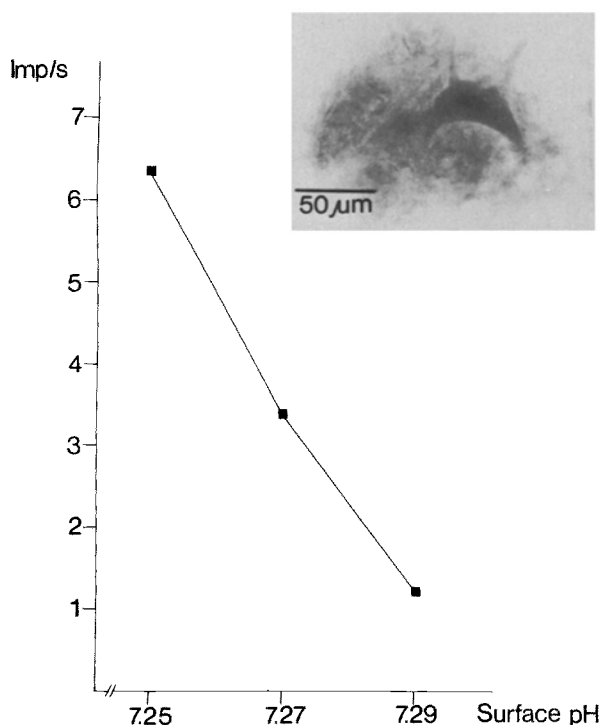
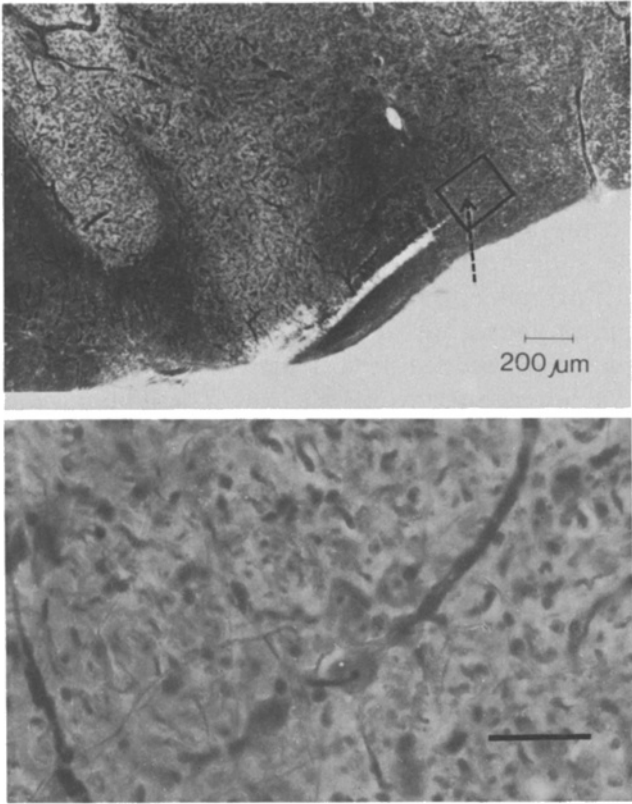
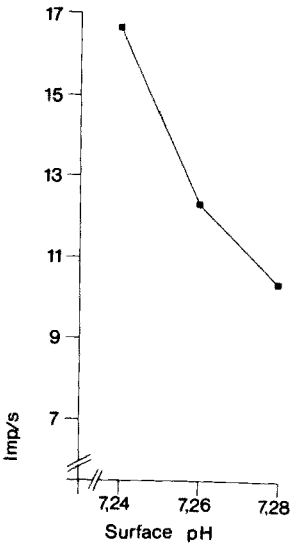


Fig. 8. Procion yellow stained neuron within the ventral pole of the NPG, 1600 μm below the intermediate area. Impulse frequency response per second to changes of pH on the surface, mean values of steady states. Compare Fig. 10

2.80 mm lateral to the midline, 1600 μm below the surface. The group of the small-sized type (Fig. 9) was found at the tip of the electrode 200 μm below the surface and is typical for the intermediate area (Schlaefke et al. 1979a). The coordinates were 6.7 mm caudal to the foramen caecum and 3.6 mm lateral to the midline (Figs. 1, 2). The mean values for impulse frequency per second refer to steady state conditions. The units recorded from the intermediate area could be classified as fiber recordings and recordings from close to the soma, using standard criteria given by Porter (1963), Nakayama and Baumgarten (1964), Bishop (1964) and Hukuhara jr. (personal communication). It turned out that neurons the discharge frequency of which followed the pH variations were picked up close to the soma, whereas the nonchemosensitive units were from fiber recordings. Regarding the latencies between variations of the pH, measured on the ventral medullary surface, and the neuronal responses, in the cases of superfusion, the neuronal discharge changed simultaneously, with the pH electrode measurements having a response time of about one second. In some cases the chemosensitive neuron responded faster than the pH elec-

Fig. 9. *Top:* Mean values of impulse frequency per second during steady state of various pH measured on the ventral medullary surface. The single unit was recorded as indicated by the electrode channel 200 μm below the surface of the intermediate area (*middle*). Typical in this region small-sized cells as here at the tip of the electrode (*bottom*). 50 μm indicated by the bar



trode, especially when pH was varied by intravenous injections. This observation however, may be due to methodical conditions and must not necessarily indicate any physiological significance. Latencies obtained by indirect criteria will be presented in connection with the discussion of the mechanism (see Sect. 3.3).

pH sensitive neurons could be recorded also from brain slices of the rat and the cat (*Fukuda and Honda 1975; Fukuda and Loeschcke 1977; Fukuda et al. 1978*). From the rat ventral medullary surface within an area corresponding to the intermediate area of the cat, namely from the rostro-medial part of the hypoglossal root to the trapezoid body (compare Fig. 1), *Fukuda and Loeschcke (1977)* recorded spontaneous unit activity. The authors compared this spontaneous unit activity with spontaneous activity recorded from slices taken from the floor of the fourth ventricle. The recording site from the ventral slice was 20–100 μm below the ventral surface, the one from the dorsal slice between 20 and 200 μm below the dorsal surface. The firing pattern was either random or regular. The mean frequency of firing in the ventral slice was 4.7 impulses per second and in the dorsal slice 13.0 impulses per second when the pH of the bathing solution was 7.4. In the tissue slice from the ventral side, the authors found 31 neurons out of a total of 56 neurons which increased their discharge frequency when the pH was lowered, however, such a correlation between pH and neuronal discharge was limited to a range of pH 7.6–7.2. Beyond this range, the response to pH was reversed, which means that a further shift to the acid side caused an inhibition. Within the given range the excited neurons increased their firing frequency by 0.99 impulses per second per 0.1 pH reduction. 23 neurons inhibited by pH reduction fired with 5.5 impulses per second at a pH of 7.4 and their rate was decreased by 1.22 impulses per second per 0.1 pH reduction. Two neurons were found which did not respond to pH changes. The units located within the dorsal slice fired with a higher frequency and reacted inversely to pH changes in 57% of the cases. Only 4 neurons out of 30 were excited by H^+ ions.

Fukuda et al. (1978) found some evidence that glia cells may be involved in the central chemosensitive mechanism. Again they compared the reaction of structures from ventral with those from dorsal slices. The authors measured a depolarization of silent cells induced by acid solutions, without significant changes in membrane resistance, in 44% of the cells from ventral slices. In the dorsal tissue they found 34% hyperpolarized under the same condition, whereas only a few were slightly depolarized. From both experimental series the authors concluded that the density of neurons and silent cells exhibiting an excitatory reaction is especially high within the ventral medullary surface layer.

Lipscomb and Boyarski (1972) were unable to record from neurons within the ventral medullary surface layer responding to changes in pH on

the surface. They postulated the nonexistence of any acid-base dependent activity in ventral medullary structures. Their interpretation was recently supported by a study by *Cragg et al.* (1977). They concluded that due to the blood supply of the whole medulla, including the respiratory neurons of the solitary tract and the nucleus retroambigualis, stemming from the ventral side, the respiratory responses to chemical stimuli from the surface would be the consequence of direct action on deeper structures. The difficulty in avoiding experimental errors due to changes in blood supply has been overcome by *Fukuda's* tissue slice techniques. Furthermore the slices did not contain the ventral respiratory nuclei, thus ruling out an effect on or from the respiratory "centers".

3 The Mechanism

3.1 Respiratory Effects of Ions, Drugs, and Putative Transmitters

Berndt et al. (1969) investigated the dependence of the respiratory response to pH changes on different concentrations of Ca^{++} and Mg^{++} ions. Since the same respiratory effects were obtained when Ca^{++} ions were partly replaced by Mg^{++} ions, the authors believed more in an unspecific neuronal response to these ions, than in an effect from a cholinergic synaptic system. The latter would require a counteraction between the two types of ions if their action was comparable to that at the neuromuscular junction (*Katz and Miledi* 1963; *Miledi and Slater* 1966; *Elmqvist and Feldman* 1965; *Hubbard et al.* 1968).

The effect of increasing respiration by local application of acetylcholine, which had been observed by *Mitchell et al.* (1963a, b) was recently further elaborated by *Dev and Loeschcke* (1979a, b) and *Loeschcke* (1978, 1979, 1980). Local application of $10^{-4} \text{ g} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$ acetylcholine on the rostral and caudal chemosensitive field either by superfusion according to the method used by *Schlaefke et al.* (1970), or by using plexiglass rings as described by *Guertzenstein* (1973), caused an increase in ventilation, mainly due to an increase in tidal volume. When atropine at a concentration of $10^{-3} \text{ g} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$ was applied 10 min before the acetylcholine was given, the hyperventilatory effect was diminished or abolished. CO_2 response curves were flattened and shifted to higher CO_2 values when atropine was allowed to act on the rostral and caudal chemosensitive fields. $10^{-5} \text{ g} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$ nicotine affected respiration like acetylcholine and was inhibited by intravenously injected hexamethonium ($10^{-3} \text{ g} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$). Physostigmine $10^{-4} \text{ g} \cdot \text{ml}^{-1}$ in the same areas enhanced resting ventilation but did not affect the slope of the respiratory response curve to CO_2 inhalation. The authors also observed that the hyperventilation caused by nico-

tine was remarkably inhibited by bilateral application of 10^{-2} g · ml⁻¹ procaine on the intermediate area. This was considered to be further support for the hypothetical convergence of chemosensitive elements from the rostral and caudal field within the intermediate area (*Loeschcke et al.* 1970). Since there was a similarity between the site from which H⁺ ions elicited positive respiratory responses and the site from which acetylcholine acted, including the inhibition by atropine, and since a clear connection between atropine and the respiratory response to CO₂ could be found, the authors concluded that the H⁺ ion sensitive reactions were dependent upon a cholinergic transmission in the surface layer.

3.2 Neuronal Effects of Ions, Drugs, and Transmitter Substances

The excitatory effect of acetylcholine and its inhibition by atropine was also shown for ventral medullary neurons in spontaneously breathing or artificially ventilated cats, when the substances were applied locally to the ventral medullary surface by superfusion (*Schlaefke et al.* 1977, 1978; *Schlaefke and See* 1978, 1980). *Folgering et al.* (1979) gave a report on the phrenic nerve activation by intravenous application, or by injection into the vertebral artery of an acetylcholine releasing drug (4-aminopyridine, 4-AP), and suggested its possible effect on central chemosensitive structures. This was examined by *See et al.* (1978) by local application of this substances to the ventral medullary surface. Indeed the authors observed a strong increase in ventral neuronal and phrenic nerve activity which was inhibited by atropine. However, it was still not possible to show that the effect of either acetylcholine or 4-AP acted by excitation of the H⁺ ion sensitive mechanism alone. The authors observed that neurons, which did not respond to CO₂ or H⁺ ions but which are probably part of a descending pathway related to the sympathetic system, were excited also (*Schlaefke and See* 1978, 1980a, b; *Schlaefke et al.* 1977; *See et al.* 1978).

In addition, reticular neurons, characterized by a change of their firing pattern from an irregular one to a grouped one when excited, did respond to both substances. Since acetylcholine seems to act also in the nucleus retroambigualis in a strong inhibitory way, cholinergic mechanisms may be involved in various systems within the ventral portion of the medulla oblongata. As a result local superfusion of the medullary surface can only serve as a method for pioneer studies and should be followed by more precise application techniques (*Jordan and Spyer* 1979; *Kirsten et al.* 1978). The involvement of a cholinergic mechanism in the role played by the ventral medullary surface for the cardiovascular system will be discussed (see Sect. 3.5). The critical arguments regarding the experimental difficulties encountered when working on the warmblooded animal, with the

intention of analyzing basic mechanisms situated within a small piece of the brain, were again overcome by *Fukuda et al.* (1978). *Fukuda et al.* incubated 400–600 μm thick slices taken from the ventral medullary surface of the rat, and picked up action potentials, observing them for periods of 60–360 min. Neurons were studied between the rostral part of the hypoglossal root and the trapezoid body within 20–100 μm from the ventral surface. The authors found that H^+ ion sensitive neurons, responding with excitation, were also always excited by acetylcholine. Cholinergic blocking agents like atropine, hexamethonium and mecamylamine depressed the H^+ ion elicited excitation of neurons. Eserine acted synergistically with H^+ ions and strengthened the effect of pH, and also the excitatory effect of acetylcholine was prolonged and augmented by H^+ ions. In most cases effects of noradrenaline and serotonin were opposite to those elicited by H^+ ions. There was another surprising observation made regarding silent cells, which to a high percentage had been depolarized by H^+ ions in slices from the ventral surface in contrast to those from the floor of the fourth ventricle. Silent cells were depolarized by acetylcholine and lost their ability to depolarize as a response to an increase in the H^+ ion concentration when, following the method described by *Del Castillo and Engbeak* (1954), *Hubbard et al.* (1968), *Hutter and Kostial* (1954), and *Richard and Sercombe* (1970), the transmitter release in the slice was depressed by a simultaneous reduction in the Ca^{++} ion concentration and an increase in the Mg^{++} ion concentration. The authors concluded at first, that on the base of previous investigations of glia cells (*Kelly and Van Essen* 1974; *Krnjević and Schwartz* 1967; *Ranson and Goldring* 1973; *Somjen* 1975), the potential shifts of silent cells were recorded from glia cells.

In contrast to the findings of *Carpenter et al.* (1974) who did not find any effect of CO_2 on the cortical neuroglia, *Fukuda et al.* (1978) directed the attention to the existence of glia cells which depolarize in the presence of H^+ ions within the dorsal side of the medulla, although there is a strikingly high density of such a cell type within the ventral surface layer. The absence of any significant change in the membrane resistance during slow depolarization by H^+ ions led the authors to reject the possibility that the silent cells may constitute the true receptor correlate or deliver the receptor potential. They suggested therefore that the general characteristics of the neuroglia as had been described by *Krnjević* (1974), *Kuffler and Nichols* (1966, 1976), *Grossman and Hampton* (1968), *Karahashi and Goldring* (1966), and *Ransom and Goldring* (1973b), namely its protective role against disturbances of the environment of the neurons by ions and transmitters, may be involved specifically in the central chemosensitive mechanism, on behalf of the dense distribution of the cell type which can be depolarized by acetylcholine and H^+ ions in the ventral surface layer. Since low Ca^{++} and high Mg^{++} ion concentrations had depressed not only

the depolarizing effect of H^+ ions on silent cells but also the H^+ ion induced stimulation of neuronal activity, the authors concluded that the effect of H^+ ions on the ventral medullary structures is related to the release of acetylcholine in the synaptic regions there. These assumptions are supported by the presence of a nonspecific cholinesterase on glial membranes (*Brightman and Albers 1959; Koelle 1954*).

3.3 Central Chemosensitivity: Unspecific—Specific

Dev and Loeschcke (1979a) found a very remarkable effect on resting ventilation when they applied either physostigmine or atropine locally to the chemosensitive areas. This led them to the assumption that the respiratory drive under resting conditions is continuously under the tonic influence of a cholinergic input. The authors, on the base of their data, those of *Fukuda and Loeschcke (1979)* and *Fukuda et al. (1978)*, as well as in the light of what is known about the action of H^+ ions on the cholinergic mechanism (*Augustinsson 1948; MacIntosh and Perry 1950; Lüllmann and Peters 1967; Cohen and Osterbaan 1963; Hubbard et al. 1968; Eyzaguirre and Zapata 1968*), concluded that an increase in the H^+ ion concentration in the extracellular fluid of the brain might contribute to an increase in sensitivity of cholinceptive neurons to acetylcholine, and/or to an augmented release of acetylcholine from presynaptic terminals due to a greater ionization of calcium, and/or to an inhibition of acetylcholine esterase activity. The possibility of the latter effect being present is strongly supported by a significant increase in the content of acetylcholine, and a decrease in acetylcholine esterase activity in the medulla oblongata of dogs during hypercapnia or acidosis (*Metz 1962, 1966*).

An involvement of cholinergic substances in the respiratory system has been discussed for a long time (*Comroe and Schmidt 1938; Dautrebande and Marechal 1933; Dikshit 1934; Eyzaguirre and Zapata 1968; Gesell 1940; Gesell and Frey 1950; Gesell and Hansen 1945; Gesell et al. 1942; Heymans et al. 1936; Landgren et al. 1952; Liljestrang and Zotterman 1954; Mitchell et al. 1963a, b; Philipot 1937; Schweitzer and Wright 1938; Trzebski et al. 1980; Winder 1937; Winterstein 1955*) and also in connection with the peripheral chemoreceptor mechanism. *Salmoiraghi and Steiner (1963)* stated that most of the respiratory neurons in the medulla oblongata could not be excited by acetylcholine; however, the cholinergic transmitter system is widely engaged in the brain and spinal cord (*Hoover et al. 1978; Kirsten et al. 1978; McLennan and Hicks 1978*) and even in the medulla oblongata as has been described recently by *Jordan and Spyer (1979)* for an expiratory population within the nucleus retroambigualis. This again raises the question why the specialization of central chemo-

sensitivity as a cholinergic apparatus is so much restricted to structures within the ventral medullary surface layer. This question is credited by further observations, e.g. that various unspecific stimuli with their effect on respiration seem to be dependent upon ventral structures (*Schlaefke et al. 1969; Schlaefke 1973; Spode and Schlaefke 1975; Spode 1980*). *Gesell* (1940), in suggesting the involvement of a cholinergic system in the neuronal mechanism of respiration, advanced the opinion that CO_2 would merely act on the interneurons of the respiratory reflex and coordinating centers, at the same time allowing for an activation by afferent impulses. In addition, *Gesell* believed that CO_2 would act by impulse discharge modulation which is evidently the hypothesis of *Loeschcke* and co-workers (*Dev and Loeschcke 1979a, b; Fukuda and Loeschcke 1979*). Some recent data (*Schlaefke and See 1978; Schlaefke et al. 1979c; See and Schlaefke 1980*) may be interpreted partly in the sense of *Gesell's* hypothesis. The authors identified superficially located chemosensitive neurons within the ventral part of the NPG by local changes in pH on the ventral medullary surface and electrically stimulated the ipsilateral tibial nerve. The same H^+ ion sensitive neurons (Figs. 8, 9) changed their discharge frequency in response to stimulation in the same course as the phrenic nerve discharge.

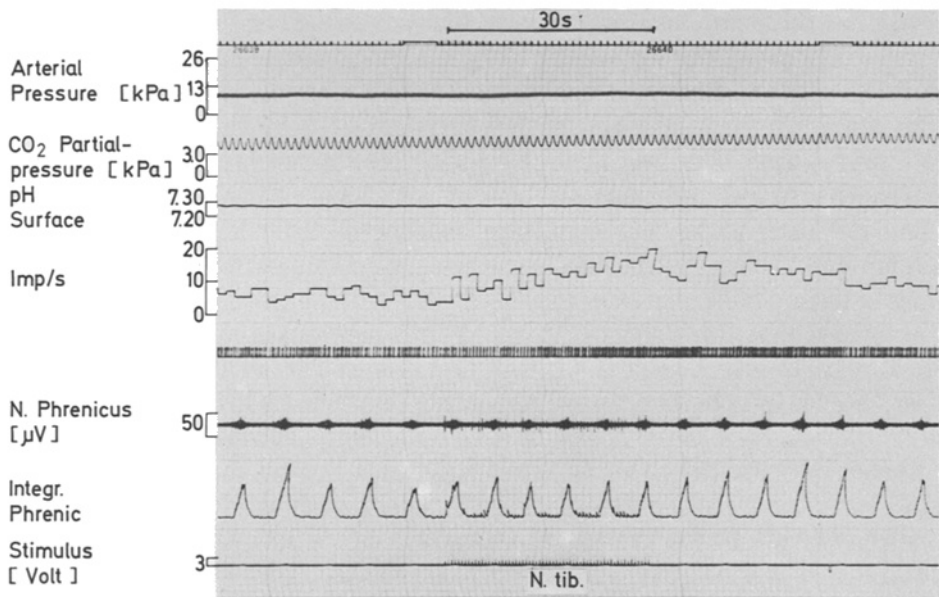


Fig. 10. Same experiment and neuron as Fig. 8. The cut central end of the ipsilateral tibial nerve was electrically stimulated. Stimulation caused increase of neuronal discharge and phrenic nerve activity. From top to bottom: Arterial pressure, CO_2 partial pressure (endtidal), pH measured on the surface, medullary neuron impulses per sec, phrenic nerve discharge, integrated phrenic nerve activity, electrical stimulus

Latencies from the onset of a single electrical stimulus were 22 ms for the ventral medullary neurons, the response of the phrenic nerve activity following after another 22 ms (Fig. 10, same neuron as Fig. 8). From these experiments *Schlaefke et al.* (1979) and *See and Schlaefke* (1980) assumed a polysynaptic connection between the chemosensitive neurons within the ventral surface layer and the phrenic motoneurons. In addition the authors interpreted their data in connection with previous findings obtained by bilateral cold block of the intermediate area in peripherally chemodenervated cats. When this is performed, any increase in ventilation induced by mechanical stimulation of the cornea, or by electrical stimulation of the femoral nerve, or by electrical stimulation of cut ventral roots (the latter producing hindlimb movements), is abolished, and apnea is the consequence of cooling even during continuous stimulation (*Schlaefke* 1973; *Schlaefke et al.* 1969; *Spode* 1980; *Spode and Schlaefke* 1975). If however, instead of the "nonspecific" afferents, the central cut end of the sinus nerve was electrically stimulated, respiration continued during cold block (*Loeschcke et al.* 1979; *Schlaefke et al.* 1969). The intactness of the function of peripheral chemoreceptors during bilateral cold block or coagulation of the intermediate area has been shown already by *Schlaefke and Loeschcke* (1967), *Schlaefke* (1972, 1973, 1976), *Schlaefke et al.* (1970, 1974, 1979a, b) and was recently confirmed by *Cherniak et al.* (1978, 1979a, b). From all these studies it seems very likely that the respiratory centers are principally intact during cold block of the intermediate area. However, the influence on ventilation of nonchemosensitive afferents is dependent upon the respiratory centers being sufficiently activated by the chemosensitive afferent system. This may include synaptic input from various "unspecific" afferent systems, and can be abolished with local cold block of the intermediate area, under the condition that peripheral chemoreceptors are eliminated. These "unspecific" systems may include afferent signals originating during muscular exercise.

In case that this concept will hold true, previous arguments of *Bisgard et al.* (1978) and *Kao et al.* (1965), that due to CSF alkalosis during exercise the central chemosensitive apparatus may not be involved in exercise hyperpnoea, have to be reexamined. The afferent activation by muscular exercise may use the chemosensitive structures, e.g. by changing its threshold, a concept which was supported by *Guenard et al.* (1976). In a recent paper, *Kao et al.* (1979) support the idea of an involvement of C-fibre afferents in the hyperpnoea of muscular exercise. The authors suggest the tractus spinothalamicus as a possible pathway. This is in accordance with the concept of the spinothalamic tract being a likely candidate for the formation of synaptic connections within the ventral medullary surface layer (Fig. 11).

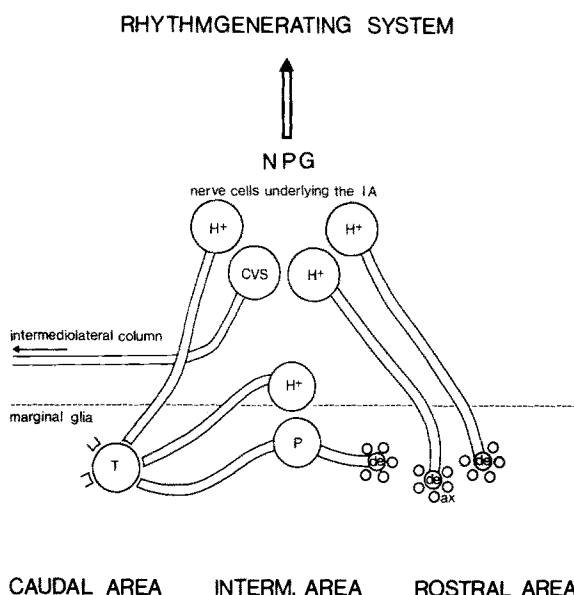


Fig. 11. H^+ ion sensitive cholinergic synapses formed by dendrites of nerve cells underlying the intermediate area (including the NPG) with superficially located neurons within the caudal and rostral area, and with afferent and efferent pathways. The NPG also contains nerve cells (CVS, cardiovascular system) which project to the intermediolateral column and are supposed to inhibit sympathetic activity (Amendt 1978; Schlaefke and See 1980). T, nerve cells described by Truth et al. (1973b). P, nerve cells described by Petrovický (1968). Dendrites (de) are surrounded by axons (ax), a typical formation within the rostral area (Dermietzel 1976)

The neurogenic component in the respiratory drive during muscular exercise is a generally accepted concept (Asmussen and Nielsen 1948; Comroe and Schmidt 1943; Comroe 1944, 1974; Cunningham and Lloyd 1963; Cunningham 1963; Dejours 1959, 1963, 1964; Dejours et al. 1955; Flandrois et al. 1974a; Kao 1965; Krogh and Lindhard 1913; McCloskey and Mitchell 1972; Rodgers 1968; Whipp 1978). In the light of the present view on central chemosensitivity and its mechanism, this neurogenic component may at least partly arise from possible synaptic connections within the superficial structure, in which acetylcholine and H^+ ions may act synergistically.

These observations on the behaviour of ventral medullary structures in connection with "nonspecific" or nonfeedback afferents lead to an understanding of the central chemosensitive apparatus in the meaning portrayed by Gesell (1940), namely that afferent impulse transmission is modulated by H^+ ions. However, the recent observations differ from the opinion of Gesell in that this chemosensitive system is not within the relais chain of the respiratory neural system. This argument has already been expressed

by *v. Euler* and *Söderberg* (1952a, b) and was substantiated by the verification of the intactness of various other respiratory drives in the case of cold block or coagulation of the superficial structure of the intermediate area, e.g. as the peripheral chemoreceptors (*Cherniak* et al. 1979; *Schlaefke* et al. 1969, 1979b; *See* 1973), the vagal reflexes (*Schlaefke* and *Loeschcke* 1967; *Cherniak* et al. 1979a; *Purves* and *Schlaefke*, unpublished; *Schlaefke* et al. 1979b), and hypothalamic drive, as produced during hyperthermia or by local hypothalamic warming (*See* 1976a, b).

The specificity of central respiratory response to CO₂ was also questioned on the grounds of previous experiments of *Dell* and *Bonvallet* (1954) who stated that CO₂ would act directly on the ascending reticular activating system in contrast to hypoxia, the latter causing arousal mediated by the peripheral chemoreceptors. In the event of their elimination only the central depressant hypoxic effect would remain. The observations of *Dell* and *Bonvallet* have been supported by *Hugelin* and *Cohen* (1963) who considered the respiratory activation to be a component of the generalized activating response. *Cozine* and *Ngai* (1967) believed the location of the central respiratory sensor of CO₂ on the ventral medullary surface area to be an artefact of anesthesia inhibiting structures sensitive to CO₂ which should be elsewhere located. In the light of these arguments, *Schlaefke* et al. (1969) performed various studies on decerebrate unanesthetized or awake cats in which the respiratory response to inhalation of CO₂ was tested when the intermediate area was inhibited by cold block or when it was coagulated bilaterally. With such manipulations the respiratory response to CO₂ would disappear completely, while in the case of additional peripheral chemodenervation, apnea ensued. In contrast to the loss of a stimulating action on respiration, CO₂ inhalation during cold block was accompanied by an arousal in the cortical EEG measured on the anterior sigmoid gyrus and the medial ectosylvian gyrus although the apnea persisted (*Hukuhara* et al. 1976). Electrical stimulation of the femoral nerve, producing an increase in ventilation together with an arousal reaction, lost its augmenting effect on respiration, apnea occurring during cold block, the cortical arousal however following stimulation (*Hukuhara* et al. 1976). These experiments demonstrated that the ability of the respiratory system to respond to CO₂ or unspecific stimuli after peripheral chemodenervation, must be dependent on the intactness of the ventral medullary surface structure. Any other CO₂ sensitive structures, or the ascending activating system, or structures responsible for the EEG arousal, exhibit no effect on respiration in the absence of peripheral chemoreceptors and the structure within the ventral medullary surface layer.

The search for actions of CO₂ on the central nervous system in a variety of studies revealed that its effect is not a generally activating one. Low concentrations of CO₂ caused desynchronisation of EEG patterns in the

cortex and thalamic areas and slow wave activity in the medulla (*Ivanov* 1963). Inhalation of 10% CO₂ decreased the responsiveness of the specific sensory projection areas to auditory and visual stimuli but increased the reactivity of the hypothalamic cortical projections (*Gellhorn* 1953). Inhalation of 6–20% CO₂ was followed by shifts in the DC potential of the brain. With high CO₂ concentrations the electrocorticographic activity was found reduced (*Woody* et al. 1970). The excitability of some cortical cells to L-glutamate was increased by CO₂, whereas in other cases it was reduced. Increases in membrane potential were found to be due to an increase in CO₂ by *Krnjević* et al. (1965). In general the excitability of neurons in the intact mammalian CNS is decreased by CO₂. Even at rather low concentrations (e.g. 5%), it may act as an anesthetic for various reflexes (*Poulsen* 1952; *Jurna* and *Söderberg* 1963) and 5%–10% CO₂ may act as an analgesic in man (*Dundee* et al. 1962). A variety of investigators could demonstrate the predominantly depressive action of CO₂ on spinal cord neurons (*Brooks* and *Eccles* 1947; *Kirsten* 1951), while in other experiments no effects at all were seen (*Krnjević* et al. 1965). *Gill* and *Kuno* (1963) found that the responsiveness of phrenic motor neurons was dramatically decreased by 6% CO₂. *Washizu* (1960) considered a hyperpolarizing effect of 15% CO₂ on the isolated toad spinal cord to be primarily a pH effect. *Speckmann* and *Caspers* (1969a, b) and *Speckmann* et al. (1970) saw 90% of spinal neurons hyperpolarized and 10% depolarized by an increase of P_ACO₂. Cortical DC reactions were comparable with the membrane potential shifts in those spinal neurons which were inhibited by CO₂.

The mechanisms of CO₂ effects on the nervous function have been comparatively studied in the giant cells of *Aplysia* which has been reviewed by *Carpenter* et al. (1974), *Chalazonitis* (1974), and *Brown* (1974). *Brown* and *Berman* (1970) found that H⁺ ions could mediate the effect of CO₂ by increasing the Cl⁻ ion conductivity of the membrane. According to differences in the internal Cl⁻ ion activity of the neurons, both could occur, excitation by CO₂ in cases of a Cl⁻ ion potential less than the resting potential, and inhibition when the Cl⁻ ion potential was more negative than the membrane potential. *Chalazonitis* (1974) and *Carpenter* et al. (1974) hesitated to ascribe all CO₂ effects merely to the action of H⁺ ions. The proof for this hypothesis is, however, still missing.

Regardless of whether central chemosensitivity is constituted by a specific or an unspecific action of H⁺ ions or whether a cholinergic mechanism or direct action on the membrane or both may be involved, the described and discussed possibilities of an excitatory action of H⁺ ions on the respiratory system, remain ineffective as long as the structure of the intermediate area is eliminated, in the absence of peripheral chemoreceptors.

3.4 The "Sense-Less" Centers

Our knowledge of the respiratory rhythm generator changed from the beginning of respiratory physiology along with the methodological improvements by which respiratory neurons became more easily detectable (*Cohen* 1979; *Mitchell* 1977; *Mitchell* and *Berger* 1975; *Wyss* 1964). Still, we seem to be far from an unanimous opinion (*v. Euler* und *Trippenbach* 1976; *Hugelin* 1977; *Koepchen* 1973, 1976; *Koepchen* et al. 1977). Regarding experimental conditions, two extremes of a distribution of active respiratory neuron populations may be drawn, by comparing the results of *Salmoiraghi* and *Burns* (1960) from the study of the completely isolated brainstem of the cat with results from the study of the intact brainstem of the cat when unanesthetized and paralyzed, as obtained by *Hukuhara* (1973) and *Hukuhara* et al. (1969, 1979). The first set of workers found a fairly reduced activity in their preparation, while the latter found a wide representation of respiratory related units. *Hukuhara* and his associates considered themselves able to recognize primary respiratory neurons or candidates for the rhythm generating population by injection of pentobarbital. The primary type shows stability in phasic discharge and is rather unaffected by anesthesia in contrast to the other type.

The classic fight of physiologists believing in the reflexogenic driven respiratory centers (*Hall* 1837; *Volkman* 1841; *Vierordt* 1944; *Schiff* 1858/59; *Rach* 1963, *Wittich* 1866) with those believing in a primary central cause of respiration (*Müller* 1837) was neither decided beyond doubt by *Salmoiraghi* and *Burns* (1960) nor by further studies of *Hukuhara* (1974, 1976) using a section technique in combination with single unit recording. As long as ventral medullary surface areas had been left intact, afferent drive was produced by acidity.

Recently, *Cohen* (1979), presented in a review a picture of the distribution of respiratory neurons and their position in the central organization of respiratory neuron populations. Areas of high density in respiratory related neurons form a ventral respiratory group, located in the ventrolateral region of the brainstem, and extending from the level of the first cervical roots to the level of the middle pons. This group includes the nucleus ambiguus and the nucleus retroambiguus. Inspiratory and expiratory neurons are intermingled in this group, but the I-type predominates. A dorsal respiratory group, mostly consisting of inspiratory neurons, is situated 1.5–2.5 mm ventrally from the dorsal medullary surface, and extends from the obex to 2 mm rostrally and 2.0–2.8 mm lateral to the midline. It includes the ventrolateral nucleus of the solitary tract. Further areas of high density in respiratory activity are located within the pons, and include the nucleus parabrachialis, the Kölliker Fuse nucleus, and areas near several cranial motor nuclei such as the nucleus ambiguus and the retrofascial

nucleus, the hypoglossal, facial, and trigeminal nuclei. According to their change in discharge pattern following a change in CO₂ from normocapnia to hypocapnia, *Cohen* (1968) classified three types of responses: Type I, comprising almost all inspiratory and inspiratory/expiratory neurons, and two thirds of the expiratory neurons, reduced its discharge frequency in all portions of the respiratory cycle or ceased firing entirely. Type II, comprising about half of the medullary expiratory neurons, most expiratory/inspiratory neurons and most expiratory motoneurons, increased its frequency in the low-frequency portion of the respiratory cycle and could become completely tonic. Type III, comprising neurons with tonic respiratory modulated activity answered with a reduction of discharge in the high-frequency portion of the respiratory cycle, with relatively little change in the low-frequency portion. The neurons could lose their respiratory modulation but continued to fire tonically. *Cohen* concluded for type III, which was observed in 70% of tonically firing inspiratory- and expiratory modulated neurons, typical for the pons, that the respiratory modulated portion may arise from other CO₂ sensitive respiratory neurons, and that the tonic portion may stem from sources outside the primary respiratory rhythm generating system. Nothing, however, could be said about the origin of the CO₂ induced changes in discharge.

A more recent major contribution to the problem of a self-exciting rhythm generator (*Salmoiraghi* and *v. Baumgarten* 1961) and to the question of whether CO₂ would act on its neurons directly or through some synaptic input (*Pappenheimer* et al. 1965; *Walker* and *Brown* 1970) has been made by *Mitchell* and *Herbert* (1974a,b) using intracellular recording techniques. The authors recorded from the ventral respiratory group, including the nucleus retroambigualis and confined their findings to the inspiratory and expiratory populations. CO₂ induced two kinds of reactions: 1. it hyperpolarized inspiratory neurons during expiration and 2. it caused an increase in the rhythmic slow depolarization potentials proportional to the level of CO₂. The authors suggested that the hyperpolarization was due to the direct effect of CO₂ on the cell, and that the increase in the slow depolarizing potential resulted from increased rhythmic excitatory synaptic input. Peripheral chemoreceptor stimulation acted on the slow depolarization potential similarly to CO₂ but did not cause hyperpolarization. No large differences in the inspiratory discharge pattern were recorded from various parts, however, differences were seen in the expiratory populations. In the nucleus ambiguus CO₂ hyperpolarized expiratory cells and low CO₂ caused continuous firing with respiratory modulation. With an increase in CO₂ the spike activity decreased and became rhythmic. High CO₂ could lead to such a degree of hyperpolarization that the neuron stopped firing at any point of the respiratory cycle. Expiratory cells recorded from the nucleus retroambigualis reacted similarly. The authors

concluded from their results that the respiratory neurons behave similarly to the cortical and spinal neurons as observed by *Speckmann* and *Caspers* (1969a, b), and *Krnjević* et al. (1965). *Mitchell* and *Herbert* (1974b) concluded from their observations on inspiratory neurons, recorded in the nucleus ambiguus, the nucleus retroambigualis, and from the ventrolateral portion of the nucleus tractus solitarii, that these neurons receive a highly synchronized excitatory input, and that synchronized potentials in the expiratory cells arise from the medullary inspiratory cells via inhibitory interneurons. The magnitude of the synchronized synaptic input was decreased by hypocapnia and anesthesia.

The studies of *Mitchell* and *Herbert* were followed by observations by *Marino* and *Lamb* (1975) made on the effect of iontophoretically applied H^+ ions on respiratory neurons of peripherally chemodenervated cats. The authors used extracellular techniques. All respiratory neurons increased their firing during CO_2 inhalation but not one responded to the extracellularly increased H^+ ion concentration. The authors also recorded from 74 neurons with nonphasic discharge patterns, 71 of these being insensitive to CO_2 inhalation as well as to locally applied H^+ ions. Only three neurons of this type were found in the depth of the medulla oblongata which responded to CO_2 inhalation and to an increase in H^+ ions. The data strongly indicate that respiratory populations being engaged in rhythmogenesis or in the coordinating function of the respiratory system are not specifically sensitive to their chemical surrounding, but are dependent on the input from some specialized mechanism mediating chemical drive. *Kim* and *Carpenter* (1961) observed respiratory neuron responses to direct chemical stimuli, and interpreted the reactions, as being not a consequence of pH changes but an unspecific response following changes of the dissociation of calcium due to higher or lower acidity.

The aforementioned studies were performed with the ventral surface structure intact. Up to the present, only two research teams cooled or blocked the intermediate area during simultaneous recording from central respiratory neurons. Such studies have been presented by *Schwanghart* et al. (1974), *Koepchen* (1976), *Koepchen* et al. (1976a,b, 1977, 1979), and by *Peskow* and *Piatin* (1976), and *Peskow* et al. (1980). *Koepchen* and co-workers showed that 1%–5% procaine applied to the ventral medullary surface caused a decrease in the neuronal activity of inspiratory, expiratory and reticular neurons. With sinus nerves intact *Schwanghart* et al. (1974) found activation of nonrespiratory neurons in some cases. *Peskow* and *Piatin* (1976) found a complete cessation of inspiratory activity, brought about by cold block of the intermediate area. They observed the strongest inhibition in the discharge of early and late inspiratory neurons. In both studies it was found that expiratory units could become silent or contin-

ued to exhibit tonic firing and reduced impulse frequency during cessation of phrenic activity.

Loeschcke et al. (1979) performed an indirect test to determine whether or not the respiratory rhythm generator is chemosensitive. The authors blocked or coagulated both intermediate areas with cut sinus and aortic nerves which produced apnea. Intermittant stimulation of the afferent sinus nerves provoked respiration. This however, was practically insensitive to an elevation of PCO_2 , on the contrary, CO_2 rather led to a reduction in ventilation. In general it can be said that circumstantial evidence from experiments in which complete chemodenervation in spontaneously breathing cats was performed, corroborate these findings. In these cats P_aCO_2 rose to values of about 9.31 kPa and pH_a was 7.08 (*See* 1976a, b) which, if the "centers" were chemosensitive, would have constituted a major drive for producing ventilation.

The data provide substantial evidence for the fact that the CO_2 induced discharge or changes in discharge of respiratory neurons is dependent upon influences mediated by the ventral medullary surface structures. However, there are only very preliminary data at hand giving evidence of neuronal connections. *Davies and Loeschcke* (1977a) compared latencies of the phrenic nerve response to electrical stimulation of either the sinus nerve or the caudal or rostral medullary surface areas. The response to sinus nerve stimulation consisted of an initial excitation followed by a period of inhibition and then a delayed excitation. Similar responses were observed when the caudal area was stimulated, although the latencies differed. The initial excitation appeared with a latency of 5 ms after sinus nerve stimulation and with only 2–5 ms after stimulation of the caudal area, the delayed excitation following with a latency of 15–30 ms. Rostral area stimulation induced an initial inhibition and delayed excitation only. The authors considered the initial fast response of the phrenic discharge to stimulation of the caudal area, to be a consequence of stimulating efferent fibers directly, whereas the later response might indicate a polysynaptic pathway from the ventral surface structures to the phrenic motoneurons. *Cohen* (1973) measured latencies between peak to peak activities from respiratory units and the phrenic nerve and found them to be 3–5 ms. Interpretation of short latencies when stimulating the chemosensitive areas should therefore be considered with caution.

Davies and Loeschcke (1977b) first reported results from recordings within the nucleus of the solitary tract, where they found responses when electrically stimulating the caudal area with latencies of 5–15 ms. When recording from a ventrolateral region, lateral to the hypoglossal root, probably the lateral reticular nucleus, latencies to stimulation of the caudal or rostral areas were found between 2–4 ms. Since the evoked potentials

could not be seen when using frequencies higher than $100 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ the authors took this as circumstantial evidence for the involvement of polysynaptic pathways.

At present no definitive neurophysiological data are available on connections between the ventral medullary surface (the tonic afferent system located here), to the various parts of the medulla involved in respiratory reflexes, coordination and rhythm generation (Cohen 1979; v. Euler 1977). The most likely candidates for such connections might be the ventrolateral portion of the nucleus tractus solitarii (Davies and Loeschcke 1977a, b), the infrasolitary nucleus (Koepchen et al. 1974), the nuclei ambiguus and retroambigualis (Mitchell and Herbert 1974a, b) and pontine nuclei (Cohen 1971; Cohen and Hugelin 1965; Cohen et al. 1976; v. Euler 1979; v. Euler et al. 1976; Hugelin 1977a, b).

3.5 Some Remarks on the Role of the Ventral Medullary Surface for the Cardiovascular and Other Efferent Systems

Contrary to Feldberg and his group who have rediscovered the ventral medullary surface areas for the purpose of cardiovascular responses (Bousquet 1974; Bousquet et al. 1975; Edery and Guertzenstein 1974; Feldberg 1976, 1980; Feldberg and Guertzenstein 1972, 1976; Feldberg and Wei 1977; Feldberg et al. 1978; Guertzenstein 1973; Guertzenstein and Silver 1974), Trzebski and his associates investigated correlations of the H^+ ion sensitive apparatus of the respiratory system with the sympathetic system as well as the ascending reticular system (Trzebski et al. 1971, 1972, 1980). Furthermore Trzebski and his co-workers and also Willshaw described an excitatory influence on efferent connections to the carotid body from the ventral medullary surface, induced by an increase in the local pH by means of superfusion or artificial hyperventilation (Majcherczyk and Willshaw 1973, 1977, 1980; Trzebski et al. 1974, 1976; Willshaw 1975, 1977). Schlaefke et al. (1980), using bilateral cold block of the intermediate area, confirmed the activating effect on efferent pathways within the sinus nerve and the cervical sympathetic nerve, whereas an inverse reaction in the splanchnic nerve activity was observed at the same time. A stimulating effect of hypercapnia on efferent pathways to the carotid body had already been established by Biscoe and Sampson (1968). These findings indicate the involvement of different systems in the efferent neuronal supply to the carotid body. Nothing can be said so far about the role of such efferent pathways in the likely interaction between peripheral and central chemoreceptive systems. In this connection some preliminary data may be mentioned, indicating that ventral medullary neurons within the intermediate area are influenced by pH changes and also by electrical

stimulation of the afferent sinus nerve (*See* and *Schlaefke* 1978). Such findings are contradicted by the data of *Biscoe* and *Sampson* (1970) and by *Lipski* et al. (1975). There is however, support from some recent data on the degeneration of a few fibers within the ventral medullary area after intracranial section of the ipsilateral glossopharyngeal nerve (*Kille* and *Schlaefke* 1978). It should be worthwhile testing whether both the chemosensitive neuron responses to electrical stimulation of the sinus nerve as well as the fiber degeneration may be due to the involvement of efferent pathways.

During investigations of the central chemosensitive mechanism of respiration, many simultaneous observations on the circulatory system led to the assumption that there also exists an influence from the ventral medullary surface structure on the cardiovascular system. There is considerable evidence, however, that the morphological correlates are not identical (*Dev* and *Loeschcke* 1979a, b; *Loeschcke* et al. 1958; *Schlaefke* and *Loeschcke* 1967; *Schlaefke* et al. 1979b; *Trouth* et al. 1973c). Some more support for this view comes from recent recordings from ventral medullary neurons underlying the intermediate area, located within the ventral region of the NPG (*Schlaefke* and *See* 1978, 1980; *Schlaefke* et al. 1977, 1980b, d). The neurons increased their firing frequency when an antihypertensive drug (imidazolidine derivative) or acetylcholine was applied locally to the intermediate area, but did not respond to either CO₂ inhalation or to local ventral medullary superfusion with solutions of varied pH. Since the simultaneously recorded splanchnic nerve and cervical sympathetic activity were depressed at the same time, the authors suggested that the statement of *Feldberg* (1976) and *Shahar* and *Ederly* (1976), namely that the superficial nerve cells within the intermediate area would be responsible for both the chemosensitive respiratory as well as the "drug-sensitive" cardiovascular reactions, should be considered with caution. One has to be aware that besides the deeper lying drug-sensitive neurons in the NPG, the ventral part of the lateral reticular nucleus is also superficially located, a nucleus which has been shown by *Coote* and *McLeod* (1974) to be related to the cardiovascular system.

Recent tracer studies with horseradish peroxidase (HRP) revealed multiple connections from the ventral medullary surface travelling in different directions. Convincing evidence for a direct connection between the ventral surface and the intermediolateral column of the thoracic spinal cord was provided by the labelling of neurons within the NPG and very close to the ventral medullary surface of the intermediate and rostral area, when HRP was injected at the level of T3 (*Amendt* et al. 1978). This pathway may be a potential candidate for a tonic inhibitory effect on the sympathetic system (*Dembowski* et al. 1980). Tracer studies of *Loewy* and *McKellar* (1980) show that central autonomic pathways with excitatory

effects on the cardiovascular system, pass through the ventral region of the medulla oblongata. They mediate interconnections from the catecholamine cell group of the A5 region lateral to the superior olivary nucleus to the intermediolateral column, and from the raphe nuclei, the Kölliker Fuse nucleus, and the hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus to the intermediolateral column. In addition the authors found multiple interconnections between the nucleus of the solitary tract, the parabrachial nucleus, the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus, the central nucleus of the amygdala, and the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis. Their course runs very close to the ventral medullary surface. Ventral to the lateral reticular nucleus a pathway was traced by ^3H labelled proteins, when injected into the hypothalamus (*Saper et al. 1976*). *Errington and Dashwood (1979)* found HRP labelled axons within the ventral medullary surface with somata in the nucleus of the solitary tract and in the dorsal motor nucleus. The latter was shown to be involved in heart contractility (*Geis and Wurster 1980*).

An example of the complexity of the neuronal network within the ventral medullary surface layer is given by the following: Cold block or procaine on the intermediate area causes a fall in blood pressure (*Berndt et al. 1970*; *Dev and Loeschcke 1979b*; *Peskow and Piatin 1976*; *Koepchen et al. 1977*; *Schlaefke and Loeschcke 1967*; *Schlaefke et al. 1969*). Recent histochemical and neurophysiological experiments (*Amendt et al. 1978*; *Schlaefke and See 1980*; *Seller et al. 1980*) as have been discussed above, suggest the existence of neurons in the ventral part of the NPG with a tonic inhibitory function on the sympathetic system. Electrical microstimulation within the same area causes a decrease in splanchnic nerve activity and a fall in arterial blood pressure (*Schlaefke et al. 1978*). Thus one would expect cold block to provoke a rise in blood pressure. Simultaneous recordings from the splanchnic and the cervical sympathetic nerves during cold block show however, that excitatory as well as inhibitory pathways acting on the sympathetic system must be influenced through structures underlying the intermediate area. This leaves us with the proposal that cold block, reaching a larger substrate than microstimulation, and besides blocking central chemosensitivity of respiration, may affect neuron populations with inhibitory and excitatory characteristics for the cardiovascular system. These may include descending pathways as described by *Loewy and McKellar (1980)*.

Another open question is the cause for the opposite effect on respiration of H^+ ions when locally applied to a small spot within the intermediate area (*Schlaefke et al. 1970*). This little spot projects to the area of highest density of small vessels (*Cragg et al. 1977*; *Schlaefke 1972*; Figs. 1, 3) which, with their accompanying sheaths could prevent the bicarbonate buffer solutions from reaching the underlying sensor elements. Instead, alkaline solutions, when only applied locally to this little spot may cause

vasoconstriction, which would mean that the sensor elements are exposed to a reduced tissue perfusion. Consequently they might increase their firing frequency. The opposite reaction would follow local superfusion with acid buffer (*Betz* 1972, 1976a, b; *Betz* and *Csornai* 1978). This interpretation of an opposite response of respiration is supported by the fact that no paradoxical response to H^+ ions recorded from neurons below the intermediate area have been found so far. On the contrary the highest density of neurons excited by pH changes, projects to this area. The neurons which responded to drugs affecting the cardiovascular system were found underneath the rostral part of the intermediate area (Fig. 1). These neurons did not show any response to either inhalation of CO_2 nor to local changes in pH by superfusion. So there is no high probability that these same neurons, which are supposed to project to the intermediolateral column, are also the substrate responsible for the inhibitory effect of H^+ ions on the sympathetic system, as far as can be seen from the few data available at present.

The findings demonstrate that the question of an interconnection between H^+ ion sensitive neurons presumed to belong to the respiratory system and neurons presumed to influence the cardiovascular system, both populations within the ventral medullary surface layer, is completely open.

3.6 A Wanted Model: Or a Model of How I Want it to be

Summarizing the symposium on "acid base homeostasis in the brain extracellular fluid" held in Bochum (1976) Dr. *Cunningham* unsuccessfully challenged some speakers to give a model of the pathways responsible for the various effects producible from the three areas on the ventral medullary surface by different experimental approaches. Considering the recent findings on the network mentioned above, one may feel even more discouraged than four years ago to continue building a model. Focusing on the neurophysiological data of *Davies* and *Loeschcke* (1977a, b), *Davies* (1980), *Pokorski* (1976), *Prill* (1977), *Schlaefke* (1976a, b), *Schlaefke* et al. (1975, 1979c), *Schlaefke* and *See* (1980), and *Shimada* et al. (1969), the morphological data of *Dermietzel* (1976), *Dermietzel* et al. (1977, 1978), *Leibstein* (1979), *Luber* (1976) the data on bicarbonate exchange mechanisms by *Ahmad* et al. (1976, 1978), *Loeschcke* and *Ahmad* (1980), and *Loeschcke* and *Sugioka* (1969), and finally the studies obtained by stimulation and elimination (*Berndt* et al. 1972a–d; *Loeschcke* et al. 1970, 1979; *Schlaefke* and *Loeschcke* 1967; *Schlaefke* et al. 1969, 1970, 1979a, b; *See* 1973, 1976a, b), one may venture to portray the following hypothetical picture:

There is the marginal glia, which contains a high internal concentration of chloride (*Reed et al. 1967*), as well as carbonic anhydrase (*Maren and Broder 1970; Wichser and Kazemi 1975*). The glia is involved in acid base balance in the following way, as described by *Ahmad et al. (1978)*: Respiratory acidosis is reflected by an increase in the PCO_2 in the brain extracellular fluid, a decrease in pH, and an increase in bicarbonate, all changing within about a minute. The increase in bicarbonate in the extracellular fluid reflects the increase in local PCO_2 according to *Ahmad (1976)*, *Ahmad et al. (1976)*, *Granhölm and Ponten (1969)*, *Loeschcke and Ahmad (1980)*, *Loeschcke and Sugioka (1969)*, and is the consequence of a quick exchange of bicarbonate between the extracellular fluid and the glia cells in analogy to the Hamburger shift in the blood. This means that there is a rapid exchange of bicarbonate and chloride between the extracellular fluid and the glia cells. In metabolic disturbances the following happens: When simulating a metabolic alkalosis by intravenous injection of NaHCO_3 at constant PCO_2 a rapid migration of bicarbonate ions occurs from the plasma to the brain extracellular fluid which was measured on the ventral medullary surface by *Ahmad et al. (1978)*. A rapid decrease in extracellular chloride follows the injection within 30–40 sec. An intravenous injection of NaCl results in a rapid increase in extracellular chloride concentration, leading the authors to conclude that the blood/extracellular fluid barrier may be permeable to HCO_3^- and Cl^- ions. In their three compartment model, *Ahmad et al. (1978)* make evident the free permeability of CO_2 through all three compartments: 1. blood, 2. extracellular fluid, and 3. the brain cell compartment and also the exchange of bicarbonate against blood chloride as well as against the glia cell chloride.

Coming back to our draft, we find within the superficial layer a large number of synapses, central dendrites surrounded by axons like a rosette, or somata surrounded by dendrites (according to the various synaptic formations described by *Dermietzel 1976; Shahar and Edery 1976; Luber 1976*). This neuronal formation is embedded in a large number of capillaries. The subarachnoid space, the extracellular spaces (which are characteristically wide within the chemosensitive areas) and the capillaries, constitute almost no diffusion barrier for CO_2 and bicarbonate. There is close contact between the cholinergic synapses in question and the glia formation. Whether or not this may be of importance for the synaptic transmission within the chemosensitive mechanism is not yet clear. Nothing can be said beyond the fact that in the brain slice preparation (which may be more an artificial than a physiological preparation), the glia in this particular area responds with a reduction of its membrane potential to acid shifts of pH (*Fukuda et al. 1978*). The somata of the dendrites forming synapses within the rostral, the caudal, and the intermediate area we tentatively allocate to the NPG, superficially underlying the intermediate area

(Fig. 11). The synaptic connections within the three areas may be of afferent and efferent nature. One potential candidate forming synaptic input might be the spinothalamic afferent system, and could account for part of an “unspecific” synaptic activity, being modified by the actual acid base conditions. According to *Saper et al.* (1976), descending hypothalamic pathways reach the ventral medullary surface layer. Their possible contribution to an inhibitory modulation of central chemosensitivity in the respiratory defense against high body temperature, as studied by *See* (1976a, b) may at least provide us with an attractive working hypothesis. This is supported by the fact that the drive mediated by the intermediate area produces mainly an increase in tidal volume but not in frequency (*Cherniak et al.* 1979a; *Loeschcke et al.* 1958; *Schlaefke and Loeschcke* 1967; *Schlaefke et al.* 1979a, b). There may exist ascending as well as descending pathways to and from pontine structures (*v. Euler et al.* 1970; *St. John and Wang* 1976, 1977), and these may be involved in the same mechanism of frequency modulation. If now the various synaptic inputs are controlled by the H^+ ion concentration, the signals will be integrated within the NPG and be relayed to the various respiratory neuron complexes, i.e. the CIA (centrally generated inspiratory activity) of *v. Euler* (1976) and *v. Euler et al.* (1976), and the inspiratory and expiratory populations, as well as other types of respiratory neurons showing a characteristic response to CO_2 (*Cohen* 1979; *Koepchen* 1976) mediated by synaptic input (*Mitchell and Herbert* 1974a, b). If this convergence of H^+ ion controlled input within the NPG, or whatever is cooled or blocked with the structure in the intermediate area, is facilitatorily linked to the process of synchronization of inspiratory neuron excitation (*Mitchell and Herbert* 1974b), this may be considered as one possible explanation for the poorly understood phenomenon that respiratory sensitivity to acids or CO_2 seems to be concentrated on “some kind of a vital point”. Since little or nothing is known about central connections of ventral medullary H^+ ion sensitive structures, the draft of a model of central chemosensitivity ends with the NPG. From here the big arrow to the rhythm generator may be taken as a symbol pointing to future research. The superficial cells within the three areas may or may not be regarded as reticular neurons, mediators in the connection with various systems which constitute a disturbance for the homeostatic apparatus. Central chemosensitivity of respiration acts as a stabilizer within the respiratory control system and through it for the brain extracellular fluid pH in the sense of *Winterstein* (1911).

4 Loss of Function – Loss of Acid Base Homeostasis

4.1 Respiratory Response to CO₂ After Elimination of Central Chemosensitivity

The superficial position of the central chemosensitive structure and the observation that cold block or the relatively small intermediate area abolishes its function, may be considered as a chance to add some more respiratory response curves to the numerous others, which were measured under various conditions with intact and cut sinus and aortic nerves. They could display the ability of peripheral chemosensors to signalize hypercapnia and hypoxia without interaction with the central chemosensitive input to the respiratory rhythm generator. This has been tried by *Cherniak* et al. (1978a, 1979a, b) using bilateral cold block of the intermediate area in the anesthetized cat and by *Schlaefke* (1972, 1976a, b) and *Schlaefke* et al. (1974, 1979a, b) in the awake cat, using coagulation techniques. The latter technique does not produce a fall in blood pressure which usually occurs during cold block, or application of procaine (*Berndt* et al. 1970; *Koepchen* et al. 1979; *Peskow* and *Piatin* 1976; *Schlaefke* and *Loeschcke* 1967; *Schlaefke* et al. 1969). Such respiratory responses to CO₂ may deviate from controls dependent upon the completeness of coagulation or the degree of cold block. In the first case the focus can be evaluated afterwards by histological techniques. For comparison of such curves, obtained from either peripherally or centrally chemodenervated preparations, one has to be aware that in the intact animal reticular neurons respond to an increase in peripheral chemoreceptor activity, as well as to central chemoreceptor stimulation (*Hukuhara* 1973, 1976; *Hukuhara* et al. 1969; *Koepchen* et al. 1979; *Schwanghart* et al. 1974). Peripheral and central chemosensitive input increases the magnitude of rhythmic depolarization and spike frequency of inspiratory neurons (*Mitchell* and *Herbert* 1974a, b). The interruption from either the peripheral or the central chemosensor changes the level of activity of the whole respiratory system (*Wiemer* et al. 1965). Furthermore, the type and stage of anesthesia produces inhibition especially of the central chemosensitive mechanism (*Mitchell* and *Herbert* 1974b). The conditions become further complicated by the central depressant action of hypoxia, or the stimulating action of hyperoxia (*Cherniak* et al. 1970/71; *Miller* and *Tenney* 1975) and the central depressant action of CO₂, namely the unspecific component, which in respiratory neurons causes hyperpolarization (*Mitchell* and *Herbert* 1974a). Data from both peripherally or centrally chemodenervated groups, under “comparable” conditions, are available from studies of respiratory response to CO₂ in hyperoxia in awake cats by *Miller* and *Tenney* (1975) and *Schlaefke* et al. (1979a, b) and are shown in Table 2. Under the condition

Table 2. Endtital PCO_2 (Torr), tidal volume (ml), ventilation (ml) and respiratory frequency ($\text{f} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$) from six awake cats before and after coagulation of areas S in hyperoxia (Schlaefke et al. 1979b). The corresponding data from six awake cats before and after peripheral chemodenervation in hyperoxia (Miller and Tenney 1975)

Chemodenerv.	PCO_2 (Torr)		V_T (ml)		V (ml)		$\text{f} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$	
	before	after	before	after	before	after	before	after
Central	27.0	43.0	26.0	18.0	847	428	36.4	24.6
Peripheral	31.4	31.1	24.0	25.1	698	547	29.3	23.1

of hyperoxia the two series seem to demonstrate a remarkably stronger loss of respiratory drive after central than after peripheral chemodenervation. However, the peripherally chemodenervated cats hyperventilate in hyperoxia. The data previously presented by Bouverot et al. (1965), Gautier (1976a,b), Miller and Tenney (1975), Mitchell (1965) and Mitchell et al. (1964) make evident that ventilation after peripheral chemodenervation decreases during air breathing. Thus cutting sinus and aortic nerves causes a loss of a drive component which is strengthened during air breathing and reduced in hyperoxia. The respiratory depression elicited during

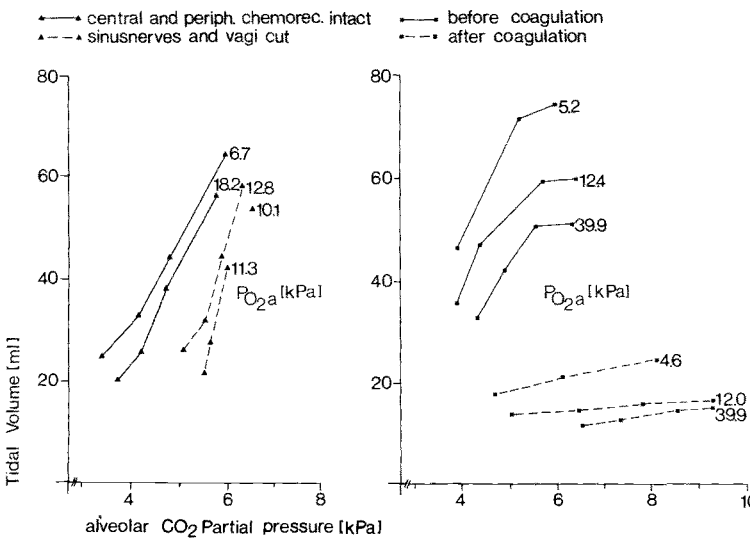


Fig. 12. Tidal volume response to hypercapnia and hypoxia before and after cutting both sinus nerves and vagi (left), and before and after bilateral coagulation of the intermediate area. Mean values of steady states. Both cats anesthetized with ketamine hydrochloride and chloralose urethane

air breathing in peripherally chemodenervated cats, in principle has an analogy in the central respiratory depression by CO_2 after central chemodenervation (Loeschcke et al. 1979; Schlaefke et al. 1979a), although the mechanisms may be quite different. The main features resulting from peripheral and central chemodenervation may be demonstrated with two examples (Fig. 12), comparing respiratory responses from peripherally and centrally chemodenervated and anesthetized cats, with controls. Both cats were anesthetized with chloralose urethane and were under similar surgical and experimental conditions. In accordance with the results from anesthetized cats or rabbits obtained by Katsaros (1965), Kiwull et al. (1972) and Borison and McCarthy (1973), respiratory response curves after peripheral chemodenervation (in the example of Fig. 12 sinus nerves and vagi had been cut) are shifted to higher CO_2 values but no change of slope could be observed. Hypoxia caused a further shift to the right, indicating depression of respiratory activity. Central chemodenervation goes along with a severe respiratory acidosis and strongly reduced or abolished response to inhalation of CO_2 (Cherniak et al. 1979a; Schlaefke 1972; Schlaefke et al. 1979a). Air breathing or hypoxia indicates an intact peripheral chemoreceptor response (Fig. 12), activation of peripheral chemoreceptor drive diminishing the respiratory acidosis. After central chemodenervation the maintained ventilation in hyperoxia is completely dependent upon the intact sinus nerves, which may include a hypothetical unspecific drive component (Katsaros 1965) as well as a CO_2 dependent part (Fitzgerald and Parks 1971). Cutting of sinus and aortic nerves causes respiratory arrest even when trying to produce respiratory drive by unspecific stimulation. However, by stimulation of both sinus nerves spontaneous breathing is induced. The respiratory response curve to CO_2 of such an evoked respiration is completely flat (Loeschcke et al. 1979).

Cherniak et al. (1979a) applied local temperature changes to the intermediate area in the artificially or spontaneously breathing cat. Focal cooling of the intermediate area to 303–305 K caused a parallel shift in the CO_2 response curves to the right, while cooling below 303 K caused a decrease in slope and further shifts to the right. Additional hypoxia increased respiration in an additive manner, irrespective of whether CO_2 was changed or the intermediate area was cooled. Loeschcke (1979), by local application of atropine found resting ventilation and the slope of the CO_2 response curve diminished.

4.2 Breathing After Loss of Central Chemosensitivity

Awake cats, surviving for days or weeks following bilateral coagulation of the intermediate area, showed the following respiratory characteristics,

which were observed during oxygen breathing: A great loss of resting respiratory drive and an ensuing severe respiratory acidosis were predominantly due to a reduction in tidal volume (Fig. 13). The reduced ability to respond to a further increase in PCO_2 has been demonstrated in Fig. 12 already.

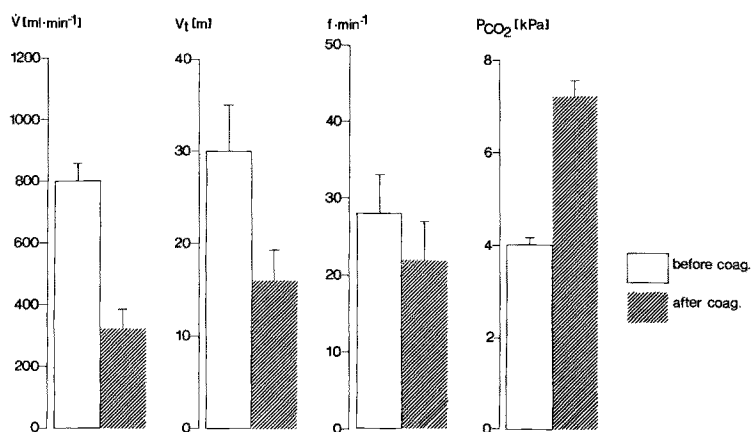


Fig. 13. Means of respiratory values from three awake cats before and after central chemodenervation by bilateral coagulation of the intermediate area

Periodic breathing occurred under the condition of hyperoxia. *Cherniak* et al. (1979b,c) found periodic breathing in anesthetized cats when graded cooling was applied to the intermediate area and when the “controller gain” was increased, e.g. by hypoxia or lung deflation. The effect of wakefulness of the animal may be interpreted in the same sense (*Schlaefke* 1972, 1976a; *Schlaefke* et al. 1979a). The awake cats breathing without central chemosensitivity generally reacted with a surprisingly strong ventilatory response to unspecific stimuli. This phenomenon may or may not reflect an increase in reticular neuronal activity similar to that seen in cats with procaine block of the ventral medullary surface as long as the peripheral chemoreceptors were intact (*Schwanghart* et al. 1974). Apneic phases could be interrupted by waking the cats. In cases of artificial ventilation, stimulation by pinching the paw produced an EEG arousal and onset of spontaneous breathing (*Schlaefke* et al. 1980a, b). *Sullivan* et al. (1978) give support to the idea that chemosensitive afferents are necessary for sufficient activation of the respiratory centers, and that in the event of them being insufficient, wakefulness is necessary for compensation. Peripheral chemoreceptors however, seem to be dependent on the cooperation with central chemosensitivity for the continuation of ventilation during sleep. The observations indicate that the stabilizing function of CO_2 ,

as considered by *Loeschcke* (1960), is closely associated with the function which can be eliminated by interference with the superficial layer of the intermediate area.

After central chemodenervation the respiratory system of neither awake nor anesthetized cats was unable to respond to an additional charge with fixed acids induced by orally administered acetazolamide or by intravenous injections of HCl. The cats stopped breathing due to a further fall in arterial pH to values of about 6.96 (*Schlaefke* 1972; *Schlaefke et al.* 1974) which had not yet affected the arterial blood pressure. The strong reduction in the respiratory response to inhaled CO₂ and the inability to compensate metabolic disturbances by respiration, may be regarded as a confirmation of former observations by *Katsaros* (1965). He described peripheral chemoreceptors as playing a minor role in the respiratory compensation of metabolic acidosis. In centrally chemodenervated cats one has to be aware however, that H⁺ ions may directly inhibit respiratory neurons (*Marino and Lamb* 1975; *Mitchell and Herbert* 1974a), so that a strong acidosis may cause respiratory arrest after the loss of the central excitatory component of H⁺ ions.

Therefore any quantitative comparison with peripheral chemoreceptor sensitivity from these studies is questionable.

In this situation the mathematical studies of *Middendorf and Loeschcke* (1976a, b; 1978) are valuable. Using the data of *Loeschcke* and *Sugioka* (1969), *Kronenberg and Cain* (1968), *Fencl* (1971) and *Mitchell* (1965), the authors calculated the quantitative contribution of the peripheral and the central chemosensitivity in nonrespiratory acidosis. They found an optimal agreement between calculated and experimental data when the central system was 25 times more sensitive than the peripheral system under steady state conditions and in normoxia. The authors attributed the reason for small deviations of ECF pH in non respiratory disturbances (*Fencl et al.* 1966; *Fencl* 1971; *Pappenheimer* 1967; *Robin et al.* 1958) to the cooperation of the two sensors in different locations, where the more sensitive one measures the controlled value (ECF pH) and the less sensitive one measures the disturbance before it reaches the sensor of the controlled value. The precise control seems to be necessary for an equally precise coordination and function of the respiratory "centers". The studies in centrally chemodenervated cats show that the intact control function of peripheral chemoreceptors can not guarantee acid base homeostasis.

4.3 Loss of Central Chemosensitivity: A Basic Model for Ondine's Curse and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

The centrally chemodenervated cats in the chronic experiment showed symptoms which are observed in patients whose disease is called Ondine's curse syndrome. Its manifestations are periodic breathing, alveolar hypoventilation, respiratory acidosis, and sleep apnea (*Chiesa et al. 1970; Comroe 1975; Deonna et al. 1974; Fishman et al. 1965, 1966; Flandrois et al. 1974b; Fruhmenn et al. 1961; Gerardy et al. 1960; Giroud et al. 1974; Granholm 1973; Grant 1968; Guilleminault et al. 1974; Kafer and Leigh 1972; Richter et al. 1957; Severinghaus and Mitchell 1962*). In combination with obesity the same symptoms are described as Pickwick syndrome (*Addington et al. 1969; Burwell et al. 1956; Doll 1968; Drachman and Gumnit, 1962; Geisler 1971; Geisler et al. 1967; Kaemmerer and Dolce 1967; Kuhlo 1968; Jung and Kuhlo 1965; Lugaresi et al. 1968, 1972; Terzian 1966; Unterberg 1971; Ward and Kelsey 1962*). Since there is a relationship between sleep phases and a higher or lower respiratory sensitivity to inhalation of CO₂ (*Bertrand et al. 1967; Birchfield et al. 1958; Bülow 1963; Duron 1972; Guazzi 1969; Guazzi and Freis 1969; Ingvar and Bülow 1963; Jung 1965; Netick et al. 1977; Orem 1978; Orem et al. 1977; Phillipson 1977, 1978a, b; Phillipson et al. 1977*), which in addition is different in the various stages of maturation (*Bolton and Herman 1974; Bryan and Bryan 1979; Bryan et al. 1976; Carrol 1974; Daily et al. 1969; Fagenholtz et al. 1976; Fenner et al. 1973; Finer et al. 1976; Frantz et al. 1976; Gabriel et al. 1976; Guthrie et al. 1980; Haddad et al. 1979; Hathorn 1974; Krauss et al. 1975; Meier and Berger 1965; Reite et al. 1974; Rigatto 1979; Rigatto et al. 1975a–c; Thach et al. 1978; Wyszogrodski et al. 1978*), the chemosensitive mechanism was considered to be an important factor involved in the sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) (sudden death of apparently healthy babies during sleep) by *Gabriel and Albani (1976), Guilleminault et al. (1974, 1975), Hasselmeyer and Hunter (1975), Hunt et al. (1978), Krauss et al. (1977), Naeye (1978, 1980), Rigatto and Brady (1972), Shannon and Kelly (1977), Shannon et al. (1977), Steinschneider (1972), and Wennergren and Wennergren (1980)*.

The causes for the pathogenesis of syndromes within the two groups (Ondine's curse and SIDS) may be apparently different for the individual, but under precisely determined conditions one should be able to discriminate patients of both groups in which a malfunction of central chemosensitivity may be causally involved.

The fault in the central chemosensitive mechanism may develop through various causes. In the adult and adolescent group, genetic factors, neurological diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, infections, neoplasms, and trauma are discussed.

Krieger (1973) described patients who suffer from respiratory failure during sleep, after high anterior spinal surgery. The respiratory response to inhaled CO_2 in these patients is flattened. From the clinical impressions an interruption of ascending pathways was suggested. *Schlaefke et al.* (1980a) studying a 12 year old girl found peripheral chemoreceptor reflexes intact as well as voluntary breathing, but a complete loss of respiratory response to CO_2 after the patient had undergone surgery for an anomaly of the first and second vertebra (os odontoideum). The girl was breathing periodically and had long apneic phases. The values of arterial PCO_2 varied between 58 to 77 Torr (7.7 to 10.2 kPa). When the girl was pushed to wake up for breathing, the EEG showed arousal before the onset of breathing. An unexpected and inexplicable death of a 37 year old man was described by *Zink et al.* (1977). The authors verified an anomaly of the first and second vertebra as the only possible cause of death. The case reports indicate a ventral position at the lower part of the medulla oblongata for the defect, the involvement of an afferent pathway, and show analogies to the symptoms observed in centrally chemodenervated cats.

Recent studies of *Folgering et al.* (1979) and *Schlaefke et al.* (1980a–c) indicate that in cases of SIDS the ventral medullary surface layer shows the absence of neurons medial to the rostral part of the hypoglossal root and rostromedial to it, which equals the topography of the intermediate area of the cat. Sleep apnea, no respiratory response to inhaled CO_2 and intact peripheral chemoreflexes could be measured in a child before the absence of ventral medullary neurons was established (the child died within 9 months) (*Folgering et al.* 1979). *Wells et al.* (1980) reported the case of a 19 months old child which showed no response to inhaled CO_2 , whose ventilation increased however, with a reduction of PO_2 . The ventilatory response curves of this child are strikingly similar to those obtained from centrally chemodenervated cats.

In some of the cases of SIDS in which the absence of ventral medullary neurons was established, macrophages were found in peripheral lung alveoli as well as an increased amount of muscles in the pulmonary arteries, both indicating chronic hypoventilation (*Naeye et al.* 1976).

These first comparative studies indicate that a relevant experimental model for Ondine's curse syndrome and SIDS can be developed by the elimination of central chemosensitivity in the animal. Further basic research depends upon a close cooperation between clinicians, pathologists, and physiologists. It could lead a step forward in the understanding of central chemosensitivity and its interconnection with various other homeostatic mechanisms such as sleep and the cardiovascular system; but it would also help in the clarification of a poorly understood and often fatal disease.

5 Conclusion

The H^+ ion concentration of the brain extracellular fluid is required to be precisely controlled in order to guarantee the basic functional conditions of the central nervous system. This control is provided by a contribution of the brain buffer system and by the cooperation between peripheral and central chemosensitive mechanisms influencing the respiratory system by more or less afferent input. There is an almost free exchange of Cl^- and HCO_3^- between the three compartments, blood/brain extracellular fluid/brain (glia) cells. CO_2 diffuses extremely rapidly through all compartments. Any change in pH, induced by metabolic or respiratory disturbances is mirrored in the brain extracellular fluid pH. In contrast, however, to respiratory acidosis, in which the release of CO_2 is limited, in metabolic acidosis the extracellular pH of the brain is maintained close to normal. This is due to the rapid response of the peripheral chemoreceptors, controlling the pH value before the disturbance reaches the central sensor. The latter measures the controlled value and is 25 times more sensitive to pH deviations than the peripheral one. It is responsible for the precision of the H^+ control mechanism. The morphological correlate is a structure, possibly involving cholinergic mechanisms, located within the ventral medullary surface layer in close contact with the marginal glia cells and a dense capillary network. The responsible structure is underlying three areas, which differ in nerve cell and synaptic formations as well as in their responses to drugs and H^+ ions. A simplified model has been proposed in order to summarize the as yet incomplete experimental results.

The neuronal elements of central chemosensitivity discharge tonically. They display a characteristic response to small changes of pH measured on the ventral medullary surface, either produced via the blood, or by superfusing the medullary surface with mock CSF of varied pH. There are only a few preliminary data indicating that the surface neurons may project to the nucleus of the solitary tract via a polysynaptic pathway.

Since the phasic respiratory neurons in deeper parts of the medulla are inhibited by acids or CO_2 , the elimination of the central chemosensitive apparatus on the ventral medullary surface is accompanied by a strong depression of respiratory drive; a loss of brain acid base homeostasis, and a loss of the normal breathing pattern.

In SIDS, ventral medullary neurons were absent in an area corresponding to the intermediate area medial to the rostral part of the hypoglossal root and rostromedial to it. Since the symptoms in awake cats after destruction of cells in the intermediate area equal those of SIDS and Ondine's curse syndrome, one feels tempted to ascribe the human central chemosensitive system of respiration to a morphological and functional correlate comparable to that described in the cat.

There is much evidence that another tonically firing system is located in the ventral medullary surface layer with an inhibitory action on the sympathetic system. However, its sensitivity to H^+ ions has not yet been convincingly demonstrated. Nevertheless the ventral medullary surface also seems to be important for the control of sympathetic outflow.

Studies on the structure and function of central chemosensitivity have shown that it is not only a morphological structure different from the respiratory neuron populations and contributes to the respiratory drive to a large extent (in the sense of Wyss 1964, as a neural input into the respiratory centers), but is also a decisive component for the precise regulation of the environment of the brain cells in the sense of Winterstein (1955).

This review does not give a complete account of all data obtained on central chemosensitivity up until now. In particular the interaction of central chemosensitivity with other respiratory drives received relatively little attention. The intention of this review was to demonstrate the problems and limitations of interpretation, using more recent results. It should serve the purpose of stimulating further research in the field of central chemosensitivity.

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