

Differential role of glycolipid-enriched membrane domains in glycoprotein VI- and integrin-mediated phospholipase C γ 2 regulation in platelets

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The platelet collagen receptor glycoprotein VI (GPVI) and the fibrinogen receptor integrin α Ib β 3 trigger intracellular signalling cascades involving the tyrosine kinase Syk, the adapter SLP-76 and phospholipase C γ 2 (PLC γ 2). Similar pathways are activated downstream of immune receptors in lymphocytes, where they have been localized in part to glycolipid-enriched membrane domains (GEMs). Here we provide several lines of evidence that GPVI-mediated tyrosine phosphorylation of PLC γ 2 in platelets is dependent on GEM-organized signalling and utilizes the GEM resident adapter protein LAT (linker for activation of T cells). In sharp contrast, although fibrinogen binding to platelets

stimulates α Ib β 3-dependent activation of Syk and tyrosine phosphorylation of SLP-76 and PLC γ 2, it does not utilize GEMs to promote these responses or to support platelet aggregation. These results establish that GPVI and α Ib β 3 trigger distinct patterns of receptor signalling in platelets, leading to tyrosine phosphorylation of PLC γ 2, and they highlight the role of GEMs in compartmentalizing signalling reactions involved in haemostasis.

Key words: immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif (ITAM), linker for activation of T cells (LAT), membrane rafts.

INTRODUCTION

Lipids and proteins in plasma membranes are unequally distributed and form distinct microdomains that are characterized by specific lipid and protein compositions. Glycolipid-enriched membrane domains [GEMs; also known as rafts, DIGs (detergent-insoluble glycosphingolipid-rich membranes) and DRMs (detergent-resistant membrane domains)] have been identified in almost all cells [1,2]. GEMs are rich in glycosphingolipids, saturated phospholipids and cholesterol [3] and are characterized by the absence of most transmembrane proteins but enrichment of glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored proteins and dually acylated intracellular proteins such as Src-family kinases [4]. The few identified transmembrane proteins present in GEMs are usually palmitoylated and include the two transmembrane adapter proteins, LAT (linker for activation of T cells) [5] and PAG/Cbp (phosphoprotein associated with glycosphingolipid-enriched microdomains/Csk-binding protein) [6,7].

There is strong circumstantial evidence for the importance of GEMs in membrane signalling, in particular for cells of the haematopoietic system. For example, signalling through the T-cell antigen receptor (TCR) [8,9], B-cell antigen receptor [10], mast-cell Fc ϵ receptor I [11,12] and monocyte Fc α receptor [13] is believed to take place in GEMs. In all these cases, cross-linking of the receptor leads to activation of an Src-family kinase and tyrosine phosphorylation of immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motifs (ITAMs) [14], thereby enabling recruitment and activation of an Syk-family tyrosine kinase [15]. Activation of the Syk-family kinase initiates a series of downstream events that involves recruitment and phosphorylation of adapter proteins,

tyrosine kinases and effectors such as phospholipase C γ (PLC γ) isoforms. In T-cells, GEMs contain LAT, which has been shown to play a critical role in the regulation of PLC γ 1 [5,16–18], and they are also enriched in the PLC γ substrate PtdInsP₂ [19]. Intriguingly, however, it is less clear whether the ITAM-coupled immune receptors themselves are localized to GEMs. It appears that the major proportion of the receptor complex may lie outside of these regions and is recruited to them upon activation, facilitated by the coalescing of GEMs into larger structures [20]. The role of GEMs therefore may be to optimize conditions for receptor signalling, while not necessarily being essential for this to occur.

We have recently provided evidence that the extracellular-matrix protein collagen activates platelets through an ITAM-coupled pathway, which shares many of the characteristics of the pathways used by immune receptors [21]. The major receptor underlying excitatory responses to collagen in platelets is a complex of the transmembrane ligand-binding molecule glycoprotein VI (GPVI; structurally belonging, like the immunoreceptors, to the immunoglobulin superfamily) and the Fc receptor γ -chain (FcR γ -chain) [22]. Cross-linking of GPVI leads to phosphorylation of the FcR γ -chain ITAM by the Src kinases Lyn and Fyn and recruitment of Syk [23–25]. Syk regulates a cascade that involves the adapters LAT, Gads and SLP-76, the Tec-family kinase Btk, and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase, culminating in activation of PLC γ 2 and other effectors [26–28]. The snake-venom toxin convulxin and collagen-related peptide (CRP) bind exclusively to GPVI, whereas collagen also binds to other receptors on the platelet surface, including the integrin α 2 β 1 [29].

Abbreviations used: GPVI, platelet collagen receptor glycoprotein VI; PLC γ 2, phospholipase C γ 2; GEMs, glycolipid-enriched membrane domains; LAT, linker for activation of T cells; GPI, glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol; TCR, T-cell antigen receptor; ITAM, immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif; FcR γ -chain, Fc receptor γ -chain; CRP, collagen-related peptide [YGKP*(GPP*)₁₀GKP*G, where P* represents hydroxyproline]; mAb, monoclonal antibody; ERK, extracellular-signal-regulated protein kinase; 5-HT, 5-hydroxytryptamine; NP-40, Nonidet P40.

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Although only GPVI and the platelet low-affinity IgG receptor Fc γ RIIA have been shown to activate platelets through an ITAM-dependent pathway, a number of other platelet receptors utilize some of the proteins involved in this signalling cascade. Of these, an 'outside-in' pathway utilized by the platelet fibrinogen receptor integrin α IIB β 3 (also known as GPIIb-IIIa), is particularly well characterized. Fibrinogen binding to, or cross-linking of, α IIB β 3 induces a level of tyrosine phosphorylation of Syk and SLP-76 comparable with that seen by GPVI. In addition, the α IIB β 3/Syk pathway has been shown to be essential for normal platelet spreading on a fibrinogen-coated surface, a reaction requiring massive rearrangements of the actin cytoskeleton [30–33].

The presence of GEMs in platelets has been described, although their functional relevance is not known [34,35]. However, given the possibility that some of the events following ligation of GPVI and α IIB β 3 may involve these specialized membrane domains, the present study was undertaken to assess their relevance to GPVI and α IIB β 3 signalling. The results indicate that glycolipid-enriched membrane domains participate in platelet activation by GPVI but are not required for signalling through α IIB β 3.

EXPERIMENTAL

Antibodies and reagents

CRP [YGKP*(GPP*)₁₀GKP*G (Tana Laboratories, Houston, TX, U.S.A.) in one-letter amino acid code, where P* represents hydroxyproline], was cross-linked via lysine residues as described previously [36]. Convulxin, purified from the venom of *Crotalus durissus terrificus* (South American rattlesnake), was kindly donated by Dr M. Leduc and Dr C. Bon (Unite des Venes, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France). Anti-phosphotyrosine monoclonal antibody (mAb) 4G10, anti-LAT polyclonal antibody and anti-(Fc γ γ -chain) mAb were from Upstate Biotechnology Inc. (TCS Biological Ltd., Botolph Claydon, Buckingham, Bucks., U.K.). The production of the polyclonal antibodies PAG and SLP-76 and the mAbs CD29, SSA6 and PAC-1 have been described elsewhere [6,37–40]. Mouse CD36 mAb (FA6-152) was from Immunotech, Marseille, France. CyTM5 (a cyanine fluorophore-conjugated secondary antibody) and the FITC-conjugated secondary antibodies were from Jackson Immunoresearch Laboratories, West Grove, PA, U.S.A. Rabbit polyclonal anti-CD59 antibody was generously provided by Dr Peter Sims (Scripps Research Institute). Anti-PLC γ 2 and anti-Syk polyclonal antibodies were from previously described sources [25], and anti-Lyn and anti-Fyn polyclonal antibodies were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc. (Santa Cruz, CA, U.S.A.); fura 2 acetoxymethyl ester was from Molecular Probes (Eugene, OR, U.S.A.). All other reagents were from Sigma (Poole, Dorset, U.K.) or previously named sources [25,26,41].

Preparation of platelets, methyl- β -cyclodextrin treatment and platelet aggregation

Human blood was taken from drug-free volunteers on the day of the experiment and drawn into acid citrate/dextrose. Platelet-rich plasma was obtained by centrifugation of the blood samples at 200 g for 20 min. For depletion of cholesterol, platelets were incubated in platelet-rich plasma with 15 mM or 20 mM methyl- β -cyclodextrin (Sigma) for 1 h at 30 °C. Alternatively, to prevent cholesterol depletion, platelets were incubated with the same concentration of methyl- β -cyclodextrin loaded with cholesterol. Cholesterol loading of methyl- β -cyclodextrin was performed as described elsewhere [42]. Platelets were isolated from platelet-rich plasma by centrifugation at 800 g for 10 min in the presence

of prostacyclin (0.1 μ g/ml). The pellet was resuspended in a modified Tyrode's/Hepes buffer (134 mM NaCl, 0.34 mM Na₂HPO₄, 2.9 mM KCl, 12 mM NaHCO₃, 20 mM Hepes, 5 mM glucose and 1 mM MgCl₂, pH 7.3, containing 0.1 μ g/ml prostacyclin). The platelets were re-centrifuged at 800 g for 10 min and resuspended at 3 \times 10⁸ cells/ml in Tyrode's/Hepes buffer. Platelet aggregation was performed at 37 °C in an aggregometer with continuous stirring at 1200 rev./min.

GEM and membrane preparations

Resting platelets (2 \times 10⁸, in 100 μ l of Tyrode's/Hepes buffer) were lysed in 200 μ l of ice-cold buffer (20 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 2 mM Na₃VO₄, 10 μ g/ml leupeptin, 10 μ g/ml aprotinin, 1 μ g/ml pepstatin A, pH 8.3) containing indicated final concentrations of the non-ionic detergents Brij 58, Triton X-100 or Nonidet P40 (NP-40; Sigma). The same buffer was used for the sucrose gradient. The lysate was mixed with an equal volume of 80% (w/v) sucrose, giving a final concentration of 40% sucrose. The lysate (600 μ l) was loaded on the bottom of an ultracentrifuge tube and overlaid with 1 ml of 25% sucrose and 500 μ l of lysis buffer, both containing the indicated detergent concentrations. For GEM signalling studies, resting or convulxin/CRP-stimulated platelets (2 \times 10⁸, in 100 μ l Tyrode's/Hepes buffer) were lysed in 200 μ l of lysis buffer (containing 3% Brij 58; final concn. 2% Brij 58). The lysate was mixed with an equal volume of 80% sucrose without detergent, giving a final concentration of 40% sucrose and 1% Brij 58 and centrifuged in a sucrose gradient containing 1% Brij 58. The samples were centrifuged at 200 000 g for 2.5 h at 4 °C. Seven fractions, each 300 μ l, were taken from the top of the gradient and an equal volume of Laemmli buffer was added [2 \times Laemmli (sample) buffer is 4% (w/v) SDS/10% (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol/20% (v/v) glycerol/50 mM Tris, pH 6.8]. The pellet was resuspended in 300 μ l of Laemmli buffer. For immunoprecipitations, the visible-light-scattering band (corresponding to fractions 2 and 3, 'the GEM fractions') was recovered in 300 μ l. An equal volume of fractions 6 and 7 was used for immunoprecipitation of 'the soluble fractions'. To both samples, 200 μ l of Tyrode's buffer was added to give a final volume of 500 μ l. Immunoprecipitations were performed as described below.

For membrane preparations cells were disrupted in lysis buffer containing a low concentration of Triton X-100 (0.01%) to platelet number (2 \times 10⁹ platelets/ml) and adjusted to 40% sucrose. The membranes were separated from the cytosol and cytoskeleton by ultracentrifugation in a 40–20%-sucrose gradient (2 h, 200 000 g) in the absence of detergent. The membrane fraction was a clearly visible floating fraction on the border of 40–20% sucrose, whereas the cytosolic proteins stayed in the 40%-sucrose fraction and the cytoskeletal proteins were pelleted. The integrity of the membrane fraction was confirmed by the presence of membrane as well as GEM marker proteins (β ₁ integrin and LAT respectively) and the absence of cytosolic proteins [extracellular-signal-regulated protein kinase (ERK)].

Adhesion assays

To study tyrosine phosphorylation events in response to ligation to α IIB β 3, platelets (5 \times 10⁸) were incubated for 45 min in dishes coated with fibrinogen or BSA in the presence of 2 units/ml apyrase [43]. Dishes coated with fibrinogen were washed twice with PBS to remove non-adherent cells. Platelets adherent to fibrinogen or in suspension over BSA were lysed in ice-cold immunoprecipitation buffer and lysates were subjected to immunoprecipitation assays or used directly for SDS/PAGE.

Immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting

Resting and convulxin-stimulated platelets (5×10^8 /ml, 500 μ l) were lysed by adding an equal volume of ice cold IP-buffer [2% (v/v) NP-40, 20 mM Tris, 300 mM NaCl, 10 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 2 mM Na₃VO₄, 10 μ g/ml leupeptin, 10 μ g/ml aprotinin and 1 μ g/ml pepstatin A, pH 7.3]. Samples obtained from the sucrose gradient centrifugation were lysed using the same buffer in the presence of 2% (w/v) n-dodecyl β -D-maltoside (a detergent with properties similar to the more familiar n-octyl glucoside) to ensure solubilization of GEMs. Samples were precleared for 1 h at 4 °C with Protein A–Sephacrose or Protein G–Sephacrose [50% (w/v) in Tris-buffered saline plus Tween 20 (TBS-T; 20 mM Tris, 137 mM NaCl and 0.1% (v/v) Tween 20, pH 7.6]. Antibodies were added and samples rotated overnight at 4 °C. Immunoprecipitation of GPVI was performed by incubation of the cell lysates with convulxin and an anti-convulxin antibody. The Sepharose pellet was washed sequentially in lysis buffer and TBS-T before addition of Laemmli sample buffer.

Proteins were separated by SDS/PAGE on 10% gels and electrically transferred on to PVDF membranes. Membranes were blocked in 10% (w/v) BSA dissolved in TBS-T. Antibodies were diluted in TBS-T containing 2% (w/v) BSA and incubated with PVDF membranes for 1 h at room temperature. Membranes were washed in TBS-T after each incubation and developed using an enhanced-chemiluminescence system (ECL[®], Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Cardiff, U.K.).

Measurement of platelet cytosolic Ca²⁺ concentration

Platelets isolated from platelet-rich plasma were resuspended in modified Tyrode's/Hepes buffer to a concentration of 3×10^8 cells/ml and incubated with fura 2 acetoxyethyl ester (3 μ M, 1 h, 30 °C). After being washed in Tyrode's/Hepes buffer, platelets were resuspended at 2×10^8 cells/ml. Stimulation with convulxin (14 nM) or CRP (10 μ g/ml) was performed in a PerkinElmer LS50B spectrofluorimeter at 37 °C with agitation in the absence of added Ca²⁺ and presence of 1 mM Arg-Gly-Asp-Ser tetrapeptide to prevent aggregation. The intracellular Ca²⁺ mobilization was calculated as the ratio of fluorescence using excitation at 340 and 380 nm, and emission at 510 nm, (FLWinLab; PerkinElmer).

Measurement of [³H]5-hydroxytryptamine ([³H]5-HT) secretion

Platelets were labelled with [³H]5-HT (0.5 μ Ci/ml; NEN Life Science Products, Boston, MA, U.S.A.) at 37 °C for 1 h. Stimulations were performed for 5 min in the presence of apyrase (5 units/ml) with continuous stirring at 1200 rev./min and were terminated by the addition of an equal volume of 6% (v/v) glutaraldehyde. Supernatants were analysed for [³H]5-HT content by liquid-scintillation spectrometry.

Confocal microscopy

Platelets (1.5×10^7 in 0.5 ml Tyrode's/Hepes buffer) were added to fibrinogen-coated coverslips and incubated for 30 min at 37 °C. Non-adherent platelets were washed away and attached platelets were stimulated with 200 nM PMA to enhance spreading. Cross-linking of platelet surface proteins was performed by incubation for 20 min at 37 °C with the indicated primary and relevant dye-labelled secondary antibodies. Platelets were then fixed, permeabilized and further stained as indicated and examined by confocal microscopy [44]. Co-localization was analysed in a single confocal plane using LaserSharp software (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, U.S.A.).

RESULTS

Detergent-sensitive localization of LAT in GEMs from unstimulated platelets

Because the recovery of associated proteins and preservation of GEM structure are dependent on the type of detergent and the detergent/protein ratio [45], several non-ionic detergents were compared for their ability to isolate GEMs and associated proteins from unstimulated platelets. Initial studies focused on the distribution of the adapter LAT and CD59 as markers of the GEM fraction [5,45]. The folate receptor CD59 is a GPI-anchored protein which has been shown to associate with GEMs in different cells [4,45,46]. The soluble fractions contain non-GEM-associated membrane proteins and cytosolic proteins and could be identified by blotting for cytosolic p42/44 ERK. These fractions also contained the integrin β_1 -subunit (CD29), which was therefore used as a non-GEM transmembrane marker protein.

In the presence of relatively low concentrations of NP-40 and Triton X-100 (0.1% in both cases), the majority of LAT was recovered in the GEM fractions, whereas higher concentrations of the detergents caused a selective depletion of the adapter from these fractions (Figure 1). LAT was completely redistributed to soluble fractions in the presence of the higher concentrations of Triton X-100. With higher concentrations of NP-40, LAT was localized to intermediate and soluble fractions, indicating a limited preservation of floating membrane fragments (Figure 1). Similar results were seen for the distribution of CD59 (results not shown). The β_1 -integrin subunit and ERK were localized to the soluble fractions at all concentrations of Triton X-100 and NP-40 (Figure 1 and results not shown).

In contrast with the results with NP-40 and Triton X-100, LAT and CD59 were preserved in the GEM fractions over a wide range of detergent concentrations (0.1–3%) of Brij 58, whereas the β_1 -integrin and the cytosolic protein p42/44 ERK were restricted to the soluble fractions. It thus appears that GEMs cannot be solubilized by high concentrations of Brij 58. Nevertheless, approx. 10% of LAT was found in the soluble fraction at all concentrations of Brij 58. This suggests either that a portion of LAT is not localized to the GEM regions (perhaps because it is not palmitoylated) or that a small proportion of the GEM fraction is susceptible to solubilization by the detergent.

Because of the ability of Brij 58 to preserve GEMs over a wide range of concentrations, it was selected as the detergent of choice for further studies. In addition, a limited number of studies were performed with Triton X-100 at a concentration that preserved GEM integrity.

Protein composition of GEMs from unstimulated platelets

The GEM fractions were characterized further by Western blotting for GEM and non-GEM markers and for proteins known to be or potentially involved in GPVI and integrin α IIb β 3 signalling. Similar results were observed with Brij 58 (Figure 2A) and Triton X-100 (results not shown). A high enrichment of CD59 and the Src-family kinases Lyn and Fyn were found in the GEM fraction along with LAT. In addition, a second transmembrane adapter, known as PAG or Cbp, was exclusively present in this fraction (Figure 2A).

A number of proteins were not detected in the GEM fraction or were present at a low level. This includes c-Src, which does not have the GEM targeting sequence found in Lyn and Fyn, and the β_1 -integrin subunit and ERK as described above (Figure 2A). We were not able to detect the presence of many of the cytosolic

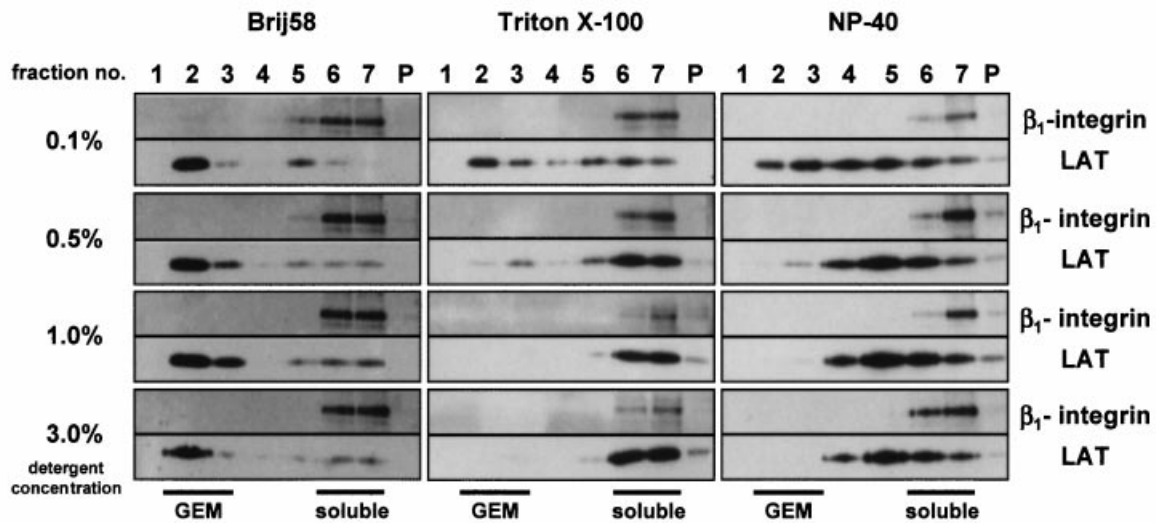


Figure 1 Influence of type and concentration of detergent on the preservation of GEMs

Platelets were lysed in the presence of the indicated concentrations of Brij 58, Triton X-100 or NP-40 and fractionated by sucrose-gradient centrifugation. Seven fractions, each of 300 μ l, were taken from the top of the gradient. The pellet (P) was resuspended in 300 μ l of Laemmli buffer. Aliquots (25 μ l) of each fraction were analysed by SDS/PAGE followed by immunoblotting for LAT and β_1 -integrin. Fractions 6 and 7 contain cytosolic and non-GEM-localized membrane proteins. The results are representative of five experiments.

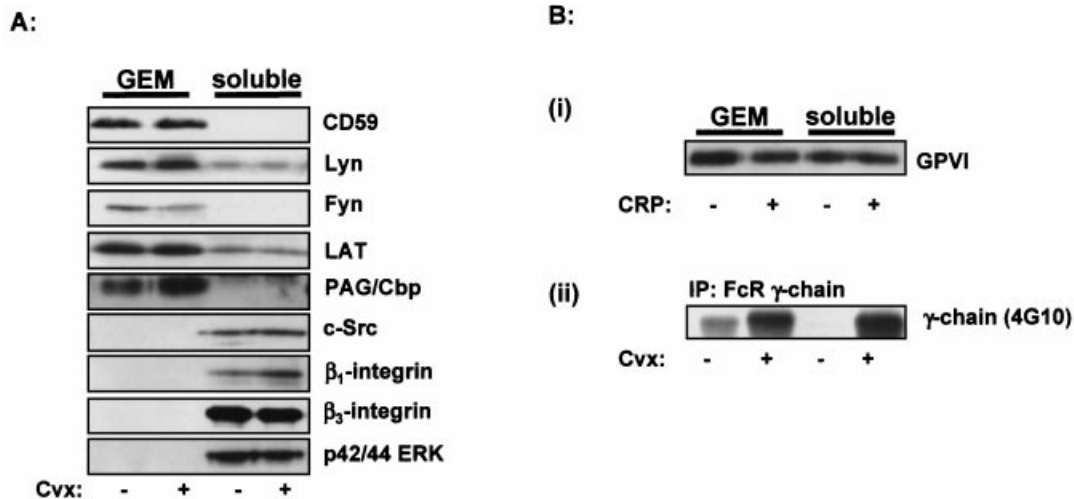


Figure 2 Protein composition of platelet GEMs

Resting and convulxin-stimulated (14 nM for 30 s) platelets were lysed in Brij 58 (2%) and subjected to sucrose-gradient centrifugation. For the detection and immunoprecipitation of GPVI by convulxin labelling, platelets were stimulated with 10 μ g/ml CRP. Aliquots (25 μ l) of combined fractions 2 and 3 (GEM) and combined fractions 6 and 7 (soluble) were analysed by SDS/PAGE followed by immunoblotting for the indicated proteins (**A** and **B**, i) or indicated proteins were immunoprecipitated (IP) and analysed for tyrosine phosphorylation (4G10) (**B**, ii). Results are representative of between five and ten experiments.

proteins involved in Syk-dependent signalling cascades within GEMs under basal conditions including Syk, Gads, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 (Figure 3B and results not shown).

Tyrosine phosphorylation and protein recruitment in GEMs following platelet stimulation through GPVI

To investigate the role of GEMs in GPVI-mediated activation of PLC γ 2, it was important to establish the localization of this collagen receptor. Under basal conditions a slightly greater amount of GPVI could be recovered from the GEM fraction

(Figure 2Bi). Stimulation of platelets via GPVI caused no major change in the distribution of the glycoprotein between GEM and soluble fraction. A tyrosine-phosphorylated doublet that is characteristic of the FcR γ -chain was immunoprecipitated from the GEM and the soluble fraction following convulxin stimulation (Figure 2Bii), indicating that GPVI is able to support phosphorylation of the FcR γ -chain in GEM and non-GEM membrane compartments.

Probing for phosphotyrosine revealed that, under basal conditions, a major tyrosine-phosphorylated region of about 50–60 kDa is present in the GEM fraction. In addition, a number

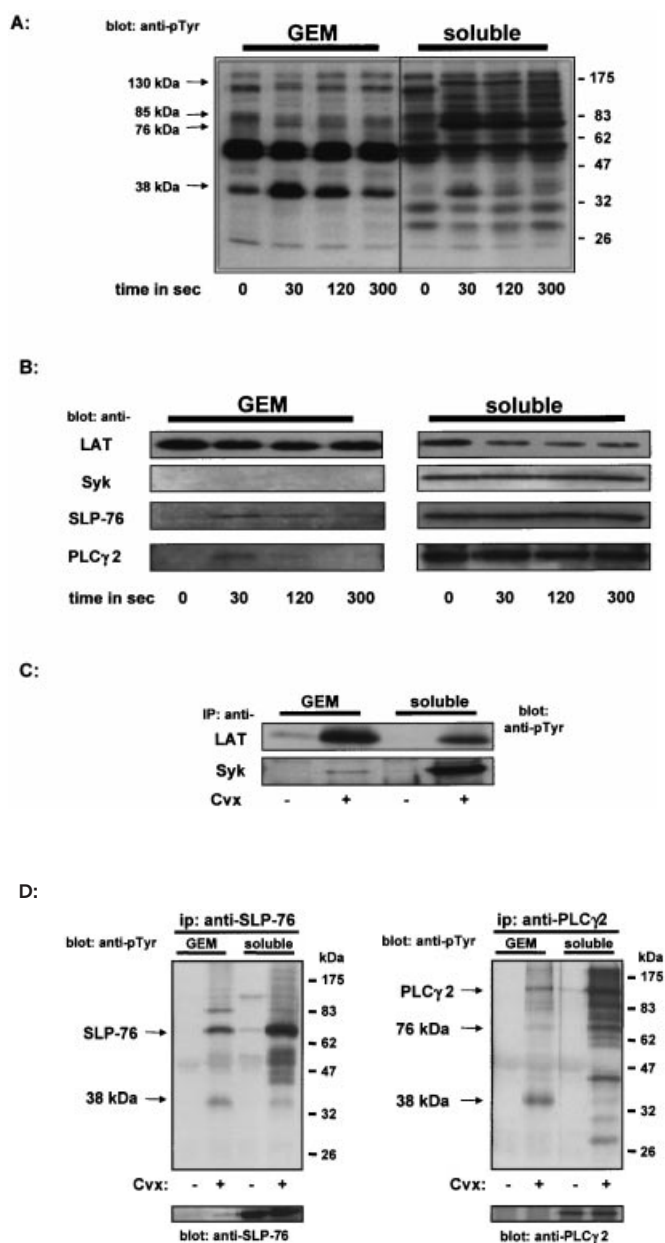


Figure 3 Tyrosine phosphorylation in platelet GEMs

Resting and convulxin-stimulated (14 nM for the indicated time points) were lysed in Brij 58 (2%) and subjected to sucrose-gradient centrifugation. Aliquots (25 μ l) of combined fractions 2 and 3 (GEM) and combined fractions 6 and 7 (soluble) were analysed by SDS/PAGE followed by immunoblotting for (A) tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins (anti-phosphotyrosine mAb 4G10) or (B) for indicated proteins by immunoblotting. (C, D) Resting and convulxin-stimulated (14 nM for 30 s) platelets were lysed in Brij 58 (2%) and subjected to sucrose-gradient centrifugation. The visible-light-scattering band (corresponding to fractions 2 and 3, GEM) was recovered. An equal volume of fractions 6 and 7, containing the soluble proteins, was used for immunoprecipitation. After adding immunoprecipitation buffer (containing 1% n-dodecyl β -maltoside and 1% NP-40 final concn.), LAT, Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 were immunoprecipitated (see the Experimental section). The samples were separated by SDS/PAGE and immunoblotted for tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins. Results are representative of five experiments.

of minor bands can be seen (Figure 3A). The 50–60 kDa region is likely to represent the Src-family kinases Fyn and Lyn, both of which are present in GEMs (Figure 2A) and are phosphorylated under basal conditions. Upon stimulation by convulxin (30–

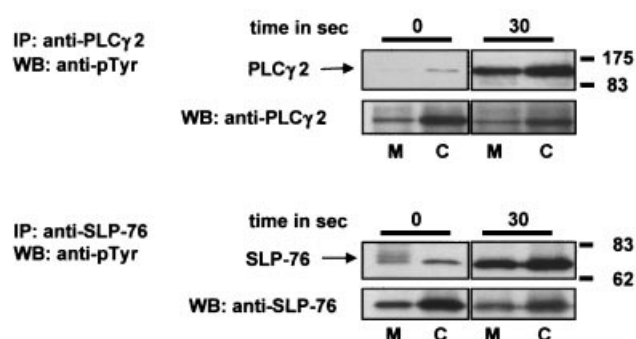


Figure 4 Membrane association of PLC γ 2

Membrane and cytosolic fractions were isolated from resting or convulxin (14 nM)-stimulated platelets and PLC γ 2 or SLP-76 was immunoprecipitated from the membrane (M) and cytosolic (C) fraction. Samples were separated by SDS/PAGE and immunoblotted for tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins and for PLC γ 2 or SLP-76. Results are representative of three experiments.

300 s), a 38 kDa band underwent a marked, but transient, increase in tyrosine phosphorylation, which returned to basal levels by 300 s (Figure 3A). Western-blotting and immunoprecipitation studies using a specific antibody identified this band as LAT (Figures 3B and 3C), which has previously been reported to undergo transient tyrosine phosphorylation in convulxin-stimulated platelets [47]. There were also small transient increases in new tyrosine-phosphorylated bands at 76 and 130 kDa in GEMs following stimulation with convulxin for 30 s (Figure 3A), which co-migrate with SLP-76 and Syk, and PLC γ 2 respectively. Immunoprecipitation studies confirmed the presence of tyrosine phosphorylated forms of SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 in GEMs and demonstrated a transient association with a tyrosine phosphorylated protein of 38 kDa that co-migrates with LAT (Figure 3D). We have previously reported that both SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 associate with LAT in convulxin-stimulated platelets [28,47]. Consistent with these observations, a small proportion (< 10%) of PLC γ 2 and SLP-76 were transiently recruited to the GEM fraction, with a time course similar to that seen for LAT phosphorylation (Figure 3B). Although we were not able to detect the presence of Syk in GEMs by direct immunoblotting, immunoprecipitation of the kinase revealed the presence of tyrosine phosphorylated Syk in the GEM fraction following convulxin stimulation (Figure 3C).

A far greater number of tyrosine-phosphorylated bands was seen under basal conditions in the soluble fraction, with a particularly prominent band at 60 kDa (Figure 3A). The 60 kDa band co-migrates with c-Src, which is exclusively localized to the soluble fraction (Figure 2A). Upon stimulation, there were increases in bands of 38, 76, 90 and 130 kDa. The band of 38 kDa co-migrates with LAT but underwent a much smaller increase in tyrosine phosphorylation than in the GEM fraction. Immunoprecipitation studies confirmed a limited presence of tyrosine-phosphorylated LAT in the soluble fraction (Figure 3B). In contrast, the majority of tyrosine-phosphorylated forms of Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 were present outside of GEMs, but exhibited a negligible degree of association with the tyrosine-phosphorylated 38 kDa band (Figures 3C and 3D). Cell fractionation revealed that the majority of tyrosine-phosphorylated SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 was present in the cytosol (Figure 4). This suggests that either a transient association of these molecules with GEMs takes place following agonist occupancy of GPVI or that the receptor complex dissociates upon cell lysis.

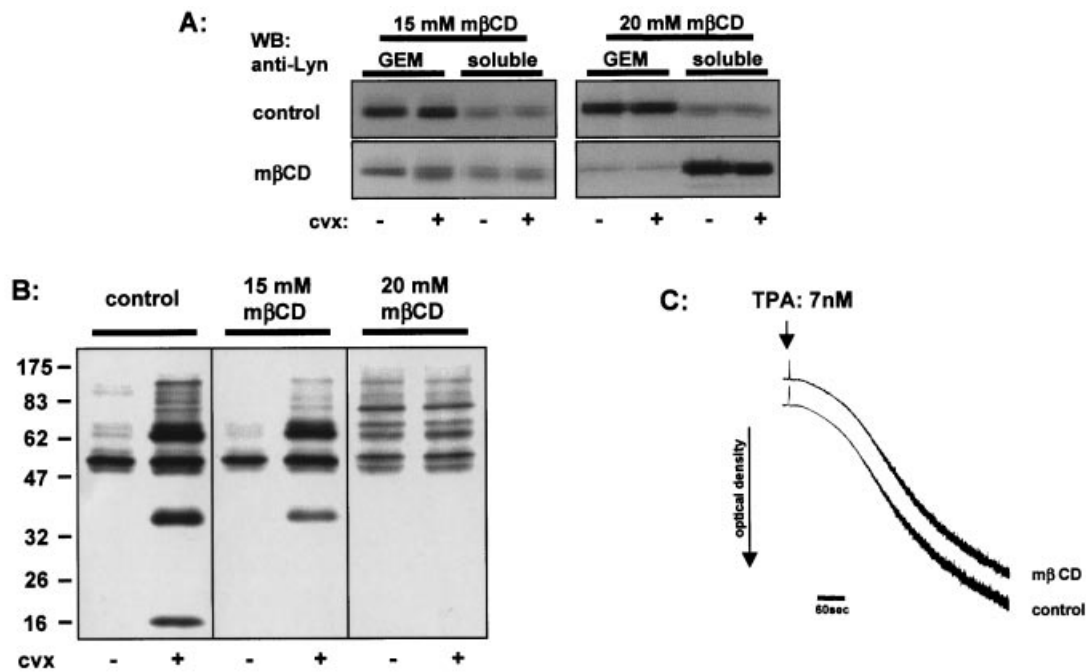


Figure 5 Effect of cholesterol depletion on GEM localization of Lyn and GPVI-induced tyrosine phosphorylation

(A) Methyl- β -cyclodextrin (m β CD)-treated or untreated platelets were lysed in Brij 58 (2%) and subjected to sucrose-gradient centrifugation. Aliquots of 25 μ l of combined fractions 2 and 3 (GEM) and 6 and 7 (soluble) were separated by SDS/PAGE followed by immunoblotting for Src kinase Lyn. Results are representative of four experiments. (B) Methyl- β -cyclodextrin-treated or untreated platelets were stimulated with 14 nM convulxin for 30 s. Lysates were analysed by SDS/PAGE followed by immunoblotting for tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins. (C) Methyl- β -cyclodextrin-treated or untreated platelets were prepared as described in the Experimental section and resuspended in modified Tyrode's/Hepes buffer at a concentration of 3×10^8 cells. Aggregation was induced in the absence of added fibrinogen by 7 nM PMA (called 'TPA' on the Figure).

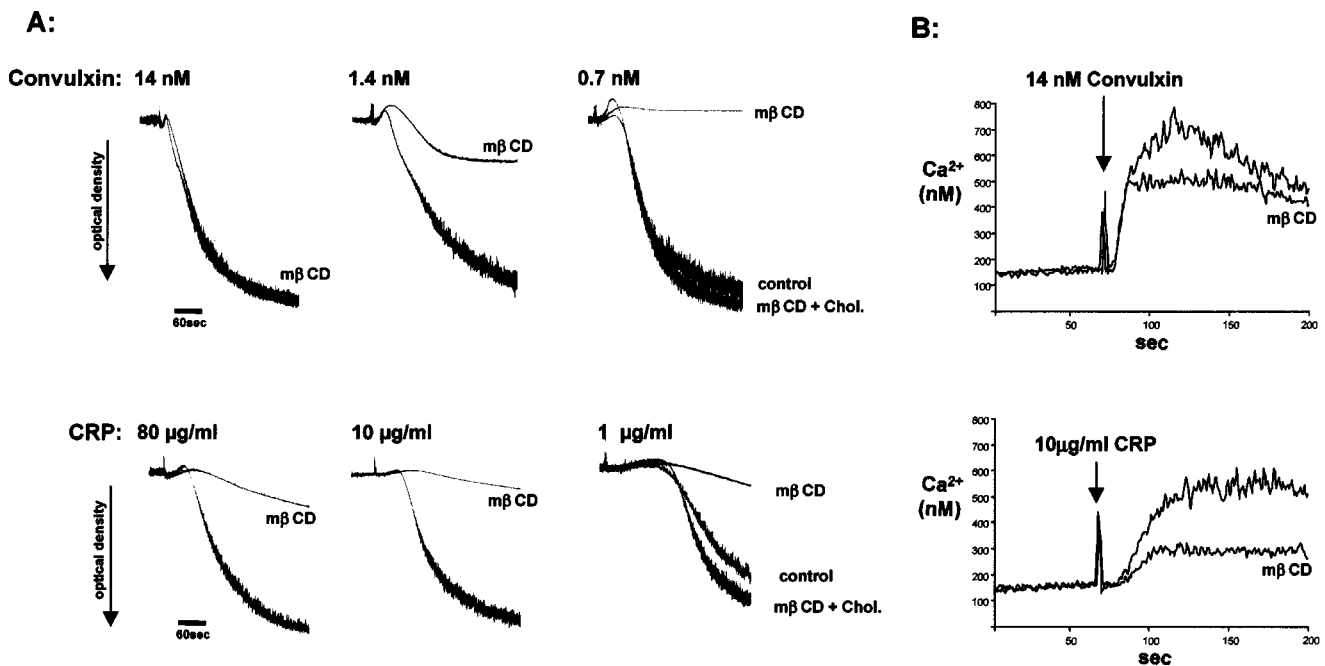


Figure 6 Effect of cholesterol depletion on platelet aggregation and calcium mobilization by GPVI agonists

(A) Methyl- β -cyclodextrin (m β CD) [with or without cholesterol (Chol.)] treated or untreated platelets were prepared as described in the Experimental section and resuspended in modified Tyrode's/Hepes buffer at a concentration of 3×10^8 cells. Aggregation was induced by convulxin or CRP at the indicated concentrations. (B) Treated or untreated platelets were loaded with the fluorescent Ca²⁺ indicator fura 2 (5 mM, 1 h, 30 °C), washed and resuspended in modified Tyrode's/Hepes buffer at a concentration of 2×10^8 cells. Ca²⁺ mobilization was measured in a spectrofluorimeter after stimulation with 14 nM convulxin or CRP in the presence of 1 mg/ml RGDS (Arg-Gly-Asp-Ser, an integrin α IIb β 3 antagonist peptide). Results are representative of four experiments.

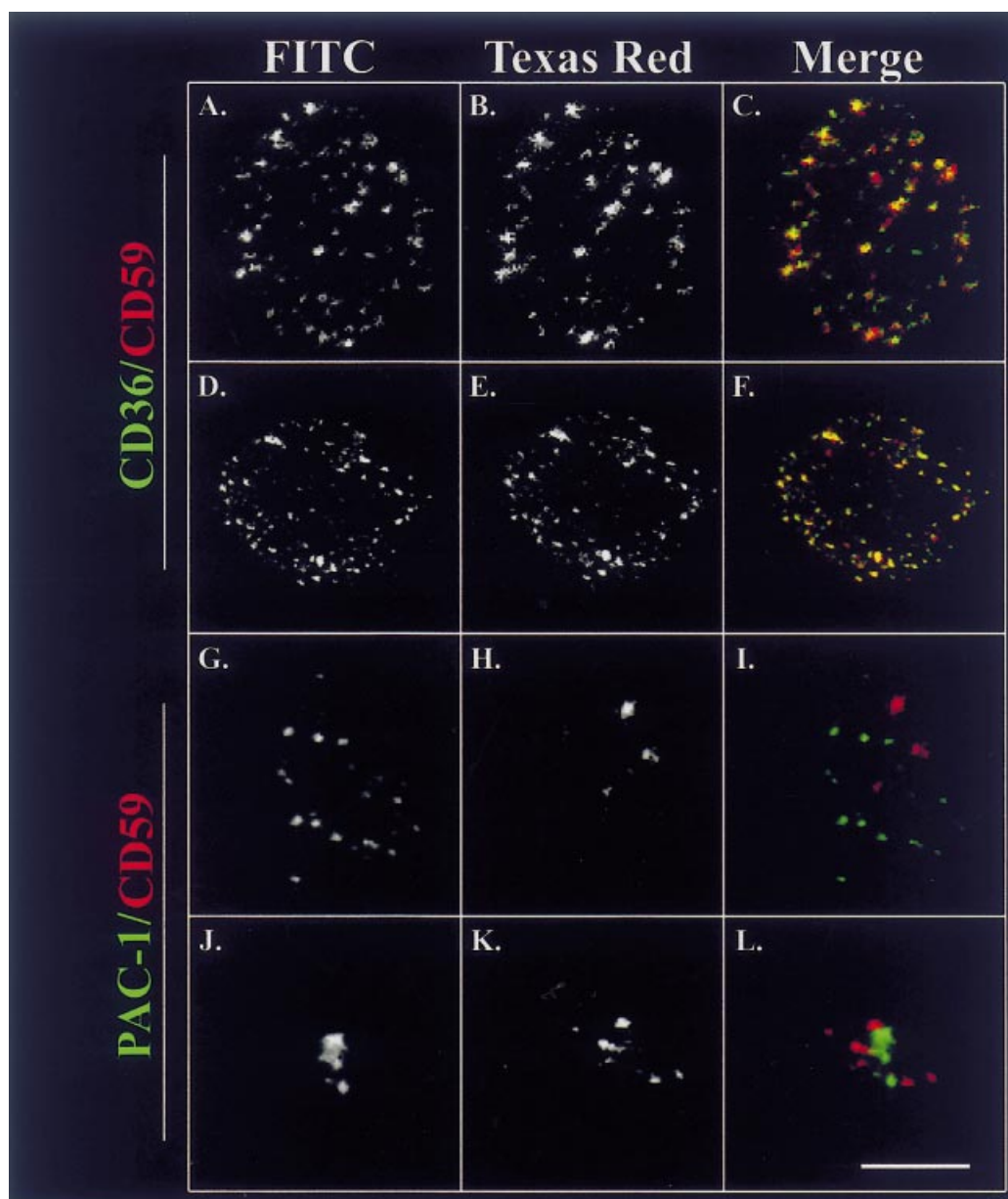


Figure 7 Co-localization of platelet surface proteins

Platelets were attached to fibrinogen-coated coverslips and stimulated with 200 nM PMA to enhance spreading. Cross-linking of platelet surface proteins was performed with primary antibodies directed against CD36 (A, D) and CD59 (B, E) or α IIb β 3 (PAC-1, G, J) and CD59 (H, K) and dye-labelled secondary antibodies. PAC-1 was used to co-cluster only the activated form of α IIb β 3. Following antibody staining, platelets were fixed, permeabilized and examined by confocal microscopy. Column 1 (FITC) shows the staining for CD36 (A, D) and PAC1 (G, J), column 2 (Texas Red) shows the staining for CD59 and column 3 represents the merge of the stainings for CD36/CD59 (C, F) and PAC1/CD59 (I, L). For each pair of stainings, two different cells are shown. These are representative pictures of from six to ten experiments. The scale bar represents 10 μ m.

To investigate the role of GEMs for GPVI signalling, the cholesterol-lowering agent methyl- β -cyclodextrin was used to disrupt the integrity of these membrane microdomains. Methyl- β -cyclodextrin (20 mM) caused a dramatic displacement of the GEM marker protein Lyn to the soluble fraction (Figure 5A). This treatment also caused an increase in tyrosine phosphorylation of a number of higher-molecular-mass bands, whereas convulxin-induced phosphorylation was completely inhibited (Figure 5B). FACS analysis of methyl- β -cyclodextrin (20 mM)-treated platelets also revealed a marked change in size and granularity (results not shown) although the aggregation re-

sponse to PMA (Figure 5C) was not altered. For these reasons, functional studies were also performed with platelets incubated with a lower concentration (15 mM) of methyl- β -cyclodextrin, which preserves platelet structure and does not cause a significant increase in tyrosine phosphorylation. Treatment with this concentration of methyl- β -cyclodextrin (15 mM) caused a smaller displacement of Lyn to the soluble fraction of the order of 20% (Figure 5A) and a strong decrease in convulxin-stimulated tyrosine phosphorylation (Figure 5B). Decreases in phosphorylation were most marked for tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins of 12–14, 38 and 130 kDa, which co-migrate with FcR γ -chain,

LAT and PLC γ 2 respectively (Figure 5B). Treatment with this mild concentration of methyl- β -cyclodextrin (15 mM) inhibited aggregation, dense-granule secretion and Ca²⁺ mobilization following activation of GPVI. Methyl- β -cyclodextrin completely inhibited platelet aggregation to concentrations of convulxin and CRP that were just sufficient to give maximal aggregation (Figure 6A). On the other hand, methyl- β -cyclodextrin had a weak or negligible effect on aggregation to supramaximal concentrations of convulxin, whereas responses to CRP were still inhibited (Figure 6A). Importantly, these effects were not seen if platelets were incubated with methyl- β -cyclodextrin loaded with cholesterol, a condition that prevents membrane cholesterol depletion and GEM disruption (Figure 6A). A greater inhibitory effect of methyl- β -cyclodextrin-treated platelets against CRP relative to convulxin was also apparent for Ca²⁺ mobilization (Figure 6B). Methyl- β -cyclodextrin completely inhibited the release of [³H]5-HT from dense granules to a submaximal concentration of convulxin (1.4 nM), which released $39.3 \pm 4.5\%$ of cellular content, and reduced the response to a ten-fold higher concentration of the toxin from 77.5 ± 3.6 to $19.7 \pm 7.2\%$ ($n = 3$).

Taken together, these results indicate that whereas only a small proportion of proteins involved in GPVI signalling are present in GEMs, agonist occupancy of GPVI induces a specific pattern of tyrosine-phosphorylation events within these membrane microdomains accompanied by recruitment of SLP-76 and PLC γ 2. Furthermore, association of the tyrosine-phosphorylated 38 kDa band with SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 is restricted to these membrane microdomains, and disruption of GEMs causes inhibition of GPVI-mediated signalling cascades, while aggregation to direct activation of protein kinase C by PMA is not affected.

α IIB β 3 integrin complex signals outside of GEMs

In contrast with the collagen receptor GPVI, the β 3-integrin subunit was detected in the soluble fraction following GEM isolation using Brij 58 or Triton-X-100. A trace amount of β 3 could be seen in long exposures, which was estimated to be less than 2% of the cellular level (results not shown). This distribution remained unchanged following adhesion of platelets to the α IIB β 3 ligand, fibrinogen. To examine α IIB β 3 localization using an independent approach, co-localization studies were performed using confocal microscopy. The localization of individual proteins was analysed by cross-linking of antibodies to GEM marker proteins and GEM-excluded proteins. Staining of platelets for CD36 or CD59, both GEM-enriched proteins (Figure 2; [34]), without antibody cross-linking showed an even distribution of both proteins within the cell membrane. Antibody cross-linking caused movement of CD36 and CD59 into clusters, which showed a high degree of co-localization (Figures 7A–7F). Quantification indicated that $63.2 \pm 6.2\%$ ($n = 6$) of CD36 and CD59 stainings were co-localized. On the other hand, despite the high density of α IIB β 3 on the platelet surface, there was little co-localization of CD59 and α IIB β 3 following antibody cross-linking, suggesting that the two proteins are distributed to distinct domains within the membrane (Figures 7G–7L). The degree of co-localization was quantified using an antibody directed against β 3-subunit, SSA6, and an antibody directed against the activated form of α IIB β 3, Pac-1. The degree of co-localization of stainings with CD59 was $13.9 \pm 2.9\%$ ($n = 10$) and $10.0 \pm 3.2\%$ ($n = 8$) for PAC-1 and SSA6 respectively. This is consistent with the biochemical studies described above, which demonstrated the presence of α IIB β 3 in non-GEM structures.

In common with GPVI, α IIB β 3 stimulates intracellular signalling cascades that include tyrosine phosphorylation of Syk and SLP-76 [30,32,33]. We now show that this signalling cascade

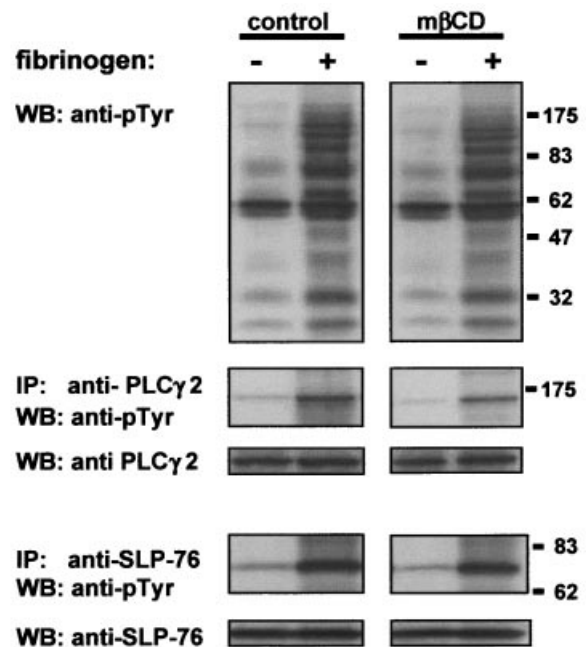


Figure 8 Fibrinogen stimulates tyrosine phosphorylation of PLC γ 2

Control and methyl- β -cyclodextrin (m β CD)-treated platelets were placed in dishes coated with fibrinogen or BSA in the presence of 2 units/ml apyrase for 45 min [43]. Dishes coated with fibrinogen were washed twice with PBS to remove non-adherent cells. Platelets adherent to fibrinogen or in suspension over BSA were lysed in ice-cold immunoprecipitation buffer and subjected to immunoprecipitation for PLC γ 2 and SLP-76 or used directly for SDS/PAGE and immunoblotted for tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins. Results are representative of three experiments.

also leads to tyrosine phosphorylation of PLC γ 2. Immunoprecipitation of the phospholipase from fibrinogen-adherent platelets revealed an increase in tyrosine phosphorylation that was similar in magnitude to that induced by convulxin (Figure 8). The observation that α IIB β 3 stimulates tyrosine phosphorylation of Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 suggests that, at least superficially, this cascade is similar to that underlying the regulation of PLC γ 2 by GPVI. However, in the case of α IIB β 3 signalling, a tyrosine-phosphorylated band in the region of LAT was not observed in whole lysates (Figure 8) or in immunoprecipitates of LAT, SLP-76 or PLC γ 2 (results not shown). Thus, unlike the GPVI pathway, the GEM-resident adapter LAT is not part of the signalling cascade downstream of α IIB β 3.

These results indicate that activation of PLC γ 2 downstream of α IIB β 3 may not be dependent on GEMs. To further address this, we investigated the effects of the mild concentration of methyl- β -cyclodextrin (15 mM) on α IIB β 3-induced tyrosine phosphorylation. In contrast with the results with GPVI signalling, whole cell tyrosine phosphorylation as well as tyrosine phosphorylation of SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 induced by adhesion to fibrinogen was not affected by methyl- β -cyclodextrin treatment (Figure 8). These data suggest that α IIB β 3-mediated regulation of PLC γ 2 is not dependent on GEMs.

DISCUSSION

This study has provided evidence that GPVI signalling is at least partially dependent on GEMs, whereas signalling by α IIB β 3 is not, despite the fact that several common proteins participate in

both cascades, including Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2. This may help to explain why the two sets of platelet receptors stimulate a similar level of tyrosine phosphorylation of these three proteins despite a much lower level of expression of GPVI compared with the integrin. Thus the role of the GEM may be to facilitate GPVI signalling through the Syk/LAT/SLP-76/PLC γ 2 pathway.

In order to define conditions for isolation of platelet GEMs, we used the adapter LAT and GPI-anchored CD59 as marker proteins. Consistent with other studies, we show that recovery of GEM-associated proteins was dependent on the nature and concentration of detergent [45,48]. Whilst GEM integrity could be preserved by low Triton-X-100/platelet or NP-40/platelet ratios, higher detergent concentrations caused complete disruption of this region. Interestingly, higher concentrations of NP-40 preserved a LAT-containing floating membrane domain, which migrated after the GEM fraction, indicating preservation of a qualitatively distinct membrane population, which requires further characterization. In contrast to the results with NP-40 and Triton-X-100, the presence of LAT in GEMs was observed over a wide range of concentrations of Brij 58. Thus the three different detergents gave rise to differing levels of GEM preservation according to their concentration. Brij 58 was the detergent of choice because of its ability to preserve the GEMs over a broad range of concentrations, although a more limited number of studies were performed with Triton X-100 for comparison.

GEMs isolated from platelets were enriched in the GPI-anchored protein CD59, the adapters LAT and PAG/Cbp, and the Src kinases Fyn and Lyn. The integrin β_1 subunit was not detected in the GEM fraction, and there was only a trace amount of the integrin β_3 -subunit. Two earlier studies have reported the partial presence of β_1 - and β_3 -integrin subunits within GEMs in platelets [34,49]. This difference appears to be related to the different conditions used for GEM isolation (type and concentration of the detergent) and serves to illustrate the limitation in relying solely on the use of detergents to define GEM composition. Our observation that β_3 -integrin is excluded from GEMs was supported by examination of its distribution in spread platelets upon antibody-mediated clustering, the absence of phosphorylation of LAT and the lack of effect of methyl- β -cyclodextrin on protein tyrosine phosphorylation triggered by ligation of α IIb β_3 . These separate observations strongly suggest a predominant localization and function of the α IIb β_3 complex outside of GEMs. However, this does not exclude a potential role for GEMs in certain aspects of integrin function, as observed in other cell types [50,51].

The present study provides evidence for a role of GEMs in signalling by the collagen receptor GPVI. The constitutive association of a proportion of GPVI within GEMs contrasts with the situation reported for most other ITAM-coupled receptors, which only become recruited to GEMs following activation [20]. The permanent co-localization of GPVI FcR γ -chain complex and Lyn and Fyn in GEMs, suggests a critical requirement for regulation of Src kinases to prevent unwanted initiation of GPVI signalling. The presence of the Csk regulatory protein PAG/Cbp in these membrane domains may provide a pathway of regulation of Src kinases and thereby initiation of the GPVI signalling cascade as reported in T cells [6,52]. Importantly, we have observed a co-association between PAG/Cbp with the Src kinase regulatory protein, Chk, which is lost upon activation of GPVI (results not shown).

In T cells, tyrosine phosphorylation of LAT has been proposed to facilitate recruitment of a number of proteins to GEMs including SLP-76, Grb2, Gads, Itk and PLC γ 1, although the net movement of protein is relatively low [8,53]. It appears that LAT

may play a similar role in platelets. Upon activation of GPVI, LAT has been shown to associate either directly or indirectly with Src-family kinases, Gads, Grb2, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 [47]. Moreover, since the majority of LAT is restricted to GEMs (Figures 2 and 3), it follows that these are the sites where these complexes form. In support of this, a small proportion of SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 (< 10%) was found in association with GEMs upon stimulation.

Further evidence for the involvement of GEMs in platelet activation by GPVI was gained using the cholesterol-binding agent methyl- β -cyclodextrin. Methyl- β -cyclodextrin causes disruption of these domains and inhibition of ITAM-regulated signalling cascades. We used a modest treatment of platelets with methyl- β -cyclodextrin as changes in morphology and protein tyrosine phosphorylation were observed with higher concentrations. Treatment with methyl- β -cyclodextrin inhibited tyrosine phosphorylation, dense-granule secretion and Ca²⁺ mobilization following stimulation of GPVI. This was associated with a reduction in platelet aggregation in response to low but not high concentrations of convulxin. The response to CRP was also inhibited throughout its dose-response curve, which may reflect a weaker stimulatory effect of the peptide. There was no effect of cholesterol-loaded methyl- β -cyclodextrin on GPVI-dependent platelet responses, consistent with an inhibitory effect being mediated through cholesterol depletion. Furthermore, PMA-induced platelet aggregation was not influenced by methyl- β -cyclodextrin, suggesting that this reagent does not have a generalized effect on cellular toxicity.

Although these data support an important role for GEMs in signalling by the collagen receptor GPVI, the presence of the major proportion of many tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins, including Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2, within the cytosol raises questions regarding the organization of GPVI signalling. In fact signalling molecules within the GPVI pathway seem to be strongly separated, with LAT, PAG/Cbp, and Fyn/Lyn localized to GEMs, and GPVI, Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 having only limited access. It is possible that this is due to the biochemical isolation procedure for GEMs, which may affect the association of these molecules with GEMs and therefore lead to an underestimation of the amount that is present in these membrane microdomains. The presence and recruitment of a low level of many critical signalling molecules is also a constant finding for immune receptor signalling pathways in other cell systems, despite the use of a variety of detergents and conditions for the analysis of these membrane structures [8,9,54,55]. Alternatively, these results might reflect the fact that many of the signalling molecules undergo only a transient association with GEMs following GPVI activation. This would suggest that recruitment of only a small but critical fraction of these molecules at a particular time may be sufficient for optimal signalling.

It is important to consider whether signalling events mediated downstream of GPVI also take place outside of GEMs. The presence of GPVI and tyrosine phosphorylated FcR γ -chain in these regions, and the presence of a high proportion of phosphorylated proteins outside of GEMs provides indirect evidence that this is the case. However, many of these tyrosine-phosphorylated proteins are localized to the cytosol, possibly having dissociated from GEM and non-GEM membrane structures. The demonstration of a significant level of tyrosine phosphorylation of PLC γ 2 in LAT-deficient mice demonstrates the presence of a LAT-independent signalling pathway to the phospholipase. It is important to establish whether this takes place outside of GEMs.

Evidence for the regulation of PLC γ 2 downstream of Syk and SLP-76 independent of GEMs is provided here by studies of

platelet signalling downstream of integrin α IIB β 3. Biochemical isolations revealed that 98% of α IIB β 3 complex was localized outside of GEMs. This was supported by confocal microscopy, which revealed only a small degree of co-localization between GEM-enriched CD59 and α IIB β 3. Additionally, although Syk, SLP-76 and PLC γ 2 lie downstream of α IIB β 3 and GPVI, the α IIB β 3 pathway did not utilize the GEM-localized adapter LAT. The absence of an association with GEMs was consistent with the observation that methyl- β -cyclodextrin had no effect on tyrosine phosphorylation, including SLP-76 and PLC γ 2, induced by α IIB β 3 in fibrinogen-adherent platelets. Together, these observations suggest a different organization of α IIB β 3-induced PLC γ 2 activation that contrasts with the situation for GPVI.

An important new observation made during the course of the present study is that α IIB β 3 signalling causes tyrosine phosphorylation of PLC γ 2. This may explain previous reports of increases in intracellular Ca²⁺ following adhesion to fibrinogen [56–58]. Importantly, the present observations demonstrate that the regulation of the phospholipase by the integrin is independent of LAT.

In conclusion, the present study has provided evidence for two distinct patterns of agonist signalling in platelets through GPVI and integrin α IIB β 3, demonstrating dependence and independence from GEMs respectively. While the results highlight the use of common signalling elements by distinct platelet surface receptors, they indicate that compartmentalization of downstream adapters and effectors may account, in part, for marked differences in platelet responses to ligation of GPVI and α IIB β 3. Thus, just as the localization of certain proteins to GEMs is involved in GPVI signalling, the recruitment of signalling molecules to α IIB β 3-based cytoskeletal structures determines platelet responses to fibrinogen.

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