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PARP1 Mediates LPS-Induced HMGB1 Release by Macrophages through Regulation of HMGB1 Acetylation

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The high-mobility group box protein 1 (HMGB1), a member of the HMGB superfamily, is abundant in the eukaryotic nucleus. HMGB1 is a highly conserved protein composed of the A box, B box, and a C-terminal acidic tail (1). In the nucleus, through nonspecific DNA binding, HMGB1 participates in the activities of the cell nucleus, such as DNA replication, cell differentiation, and regulation of gene expression (1). In 1999, Wang et al. (2) first reported that after LPS stimulation, the macrophage cell line RAW264.7 secreted TNF-α early as sepsis, hemorrhagic shock, acute lung injury, rheumatic arthritis, and disseminated intravascular coagulation (3–6).

HMGB1 accumulates in the culture supernatant after repeated freezing and thawing (9). It has been reported that DNA damage by alkylating agents activates poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP-1), accompanied by migration of HMGB1 into the cytoplasm and then into the lysosomes and eventually released into the extracellular space through exocytosis (7). Acetylation plays an important role in the active secretion of HMGB1 by monocytes and macrophages. Acetylation of lysine residues in HMGB1 is a prerequisite of its translocation to the cytoplasm (8). Stimulation by inflammatory mediators, such as LPS and TNF-α, is necessary for the migration of HMGB1 from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, whereas release into the extracellular space requires extracellular lysophosphatidylcholine (7). Except actively secreted by the immune cells, HMGB1 also can be passively released by dead cells. HMGB1 accumulates in the culture supernatant after repeated freezing and thawing (9).

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Abbreviations used in this article: AA, anacardic acid; 3-AB, 3-aminobenzamide; biotin-NAD, 6-biotin-17-NAD; BMDM, bone marrow–derived macrophage; CBP, CREB-binding protein; HAT, histone acetyltransferase; HDAC, histone deacetylase; HMGB1, high-mobility group box protein 1; HMGB1-FL, full-length HMGB1; NAC, N-acetyl-L-cysteine; p300, E1A-associated protein p300; PARP, poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase; PCAF, E1A-associated protein p300/CBP-binding protein–associated factor; ROS, reactive oxygen species; scRNA, scrambled small interfering RNA; TB, transport buffer.

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transfer of the ADP-ribose group in NAD\(^+\) to the carboxyl groups in the side chain of glutamic acid residues, resulting in O-linked poly(ADP-ribose) (14). Posttranslational modification is an important mechanism of PARP-1 action (14). Some proteins, such as PARP-1 itself, histone proteins, HMG proteins, DNA helicase, and several transcription factors, are substrates of PARP-1 (13). It has been reported that PARP-1 also participates in inflammation, because the suppression of PARP-1 activity can reduce the expression of inflammatory cytokines in animal models of endotoxemia (15).

The release of HMGB1 by LPS-challenged macrophages and mouse embryonic fibroblasts is also dependent on the activation of PARP-1 (16). However, the mechanism through which HMGB1 is released after PARP-1 activation remains unclear. In the current study, we report that LPS-induced HMGB1 release by macrophages is mediated by the reactive oxygen species (ROS)/ERK/PARP-1 signaling pathway, and the migration of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm as well as the subsequent release is accompanied by increased PARylation of HMGB1. However, the PARylation of HMGB1 is not sufficient to direct its translocation. PARP-1 regulates the translocation of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm through upregulating the acetylation of HMGB1 in two ways: PARylating HMGB1 to facilitate its acetylation and elevating the activity ratio of acetylases to deacetylases, which can catalyze acetylation and deacetylation of HMGB1.

Materials and Methods

Reagents

LPS (Escherichia coli 0111:B4), SB202190, FR180204, and SP600125 was purchased from Calbiochem. Anti-HMGB1, E1A-associated protein p300 (p300)/CREB-binding protein (CBP)-associated factor (PCAF), CBP, p300, histone deacetylase (HDAC) 1, and HDAC4 Abs were obtained from Abcam. Full-length recombinant proteins of PCAF, HDAC1, and HDAC4 were from Abcam, Cell Science, and Origene. Normal rabbit IgG, protein A+G Agarose beads, HRP-conjugated secondary Abs, FITC-conjugated secondary Abs, anti-PARP-1, and GAPDH Abs were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. \((14)\)Acetyl CoA was from AppliChem. DMEM, FBS, and heat-inactivated FBS were from Hyclone. DMEM/F12 and nonenzymatic cell dissociation solution were from Cellgro. Trypsin, penicillin, and streptomycin were from Life Technologies. Centrifugal filters (UCFS10008 and UCFS10124) were from Millipore. Rabbit anti-acetylated lysine and phospho-ERK/1/2 Ab were from Cell Signaling Technology. PARP-1 small interfering RNA (siRNA), scrambled siRNA (sc siRNA), and DHmafector 1 transfection reagent were obtained from Thermo Scientific. N-acyetyl-l-cysteine (NAC), DMSO, and digitonin were from Sigma-Aldrich. 3-Ami-nobenzamide (3-AB) was from Alexis. HRP-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG Ab (TrueBlot) was from Rockland. Rabbit anti-PAR Ab, HRP-conjugated streptavidin, 6-biotin-17-NAD (biotin-NAD\(^+\)), and TACS-Saphire were obtained from BioVision.

Isolation and culture of murine bone marrow–derived macrophages

Murine bone marrow–derived macrophages (BMDMs) were generated as described by Zhang et al. (17). Briefly, C57/BL6 mice (6–8 wk) were killed by cervical dislocation. Intact femurs were taken out and severed proximal to each joint. Bone cavity was flushed with wash medium (Dulbecco’s PBS). Wash medium was collected and then centrifuged for 5 min at 95% pure macrophages as evidenced by their expression of cell-surface markers HLA-DR, CD11b, and CD206.

PARP-1 depletion

A total of 2 × 10⁵ BMDMs were plated in six-well plates and cultured overnight. A pool of three target-specific 20–25 nt siRNA was used to knockdown PARP-1 at a concentration of 50 nmol/l. The transfection procedure followed the protocol of Dharmacon. Forty-eight hours after transfection, the depletion of PARP-1 was confirmed by Western blotting, and cells were used in subsequent experiments.

PARP activity assay

Intracellular PARP activity was measured by cell ELISA as Bakondi et al. (18) described. A total of 5 × 10⁵ BMDMs were planted in 96-well plates. After incubation in 100 μl PAR buffer (56 mM HEPES, 28 mM KCl, 28 mM NaCl, and 2 mM MgCl\(_2\)) with 0.01% digitonin and 10 μM biotin-NAD\(^+\) for 30 min at 37°C, cells were treated with 200 μl 95% ethanol precooled at −20°C for 10 min. Then, cells were washed once with PBS followed by blocking in 1% BSA for 30 min. After that, cells were incubated in 50 μl streptavidin-HRP (1:500) at 37°C for 30 min. Three washes with PBS were followed by incubation in 100 μl TACS-Saphire for 15 min at room temperature. The reaction was stopped by 1 M H\(_2\)SO\(_4\). The absorbance was detected at 450 nm with a microplate reader (Model 550; Bio-Rad).

Preparation of cytoplasmic and nuclear extracts

Cytoplasmic and nuclear extracts were prepared using the Nuclear and Cytoplasmic Protein Extraction Kit according to the manufacturer’s instructions (BeyoLife, Institute of Biotechnology). Briefly, cells were scraped off, washed in ice-cold PBS, and then resuspended in 200 μl ice-cold cytoplasmic extraction buffer A with 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM Na\(_2\)VO\(_4\), and protease inhibitor mixture. After incubation with cytoplasmic extraction buffer B for 1 min in an ice bath and following vortex for 5 s, cell lysates were centrifuged at 12,000 × g for 5 min at 4°C. Supernatants were aliquoted and stored at −70°C. Nuclear pellets were resuspended in 50 μl nuclear extraction buffer. After 15 times in vortex for 15 s every 2 min at 4°C, lysates were centrifuged at 12,000 × g for 10 min at 4°C. Nuclear extracts were aliquoted and stored at −70°C until use.

Immunoblotting and immunoprecipitation

Cells were lysed in RIPA buffer supplemented with 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM Na\(_2\)VO\(_4\), and protease inhibitor mixture. Lysates were sonicated and centrifuged at 10,000 × g for 10 min at 4°C. The serum and medium were first filtered with Centrifugal Filters (UFCS10124; Millipore) and then concentrated 30-fold with Centrifugal Filters (UCPS10008; Millipore). The concentration of proteins was measured with BCA kits. In immunoprecipitation, cell lysates were precleared with 1 μg normal rabbit IgG and 20 μl protein A+G Agarose beads for 2 h at 4°C. After centrifugation at 1000 × g for 5 min, supernatants were transferred to new tubes and incubated with 40 μl protein A+G Agarose beads and rabbit anti-HMGB1 Ab overnight at 4°C. Beads were collected for immunoblotting after centrifugation and washed three times with PBS. In immunoblotting, samples were loaded equally for PAGE and transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes. The membranes were blocked with 5% nonfat milk in TBST, probed with primary Abs for 2 h at room temperature or overnight at 4°C, and then incubated with HRP-conjugated secondary Abs at room temperature for 1 h. In certain experiments, HRP-conjugated Ab (TrueBlot) was used to recognize native rabbit IgG. The bands were determined using ECL reagent (Pierce) and quantified using ImageJ Software (National Institutes of Health) from scanned films.

ELISA

HMGB1 in culture supernatants was detected with ELISA kits (Shino test) according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Immunofluorescence

Cells plated on coverslips were fixed with 2% paraformaldehyde for 15 min and washed three times with 100 mM glycine in HBSS for 10 min followed by once with HBSS for 10 min. After permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100 in HBSS for 30 min, cells were incubated with anti-HMGB1 Abs (diluted with HBSS containing 5% horse serum and 0.2% BSA in a dilution 1:500) overnight at 4°C. Three washes with HBSS were followed by the incubation with FITC-conjugated secondary Ab (1:200) for 1 h. After another three washes, the cells were mounted on glass slides using Prolong Gold antifade reagent (Molecular Probes). Images were acquired with a confocal microscope (Zeiss LSM 510 Meta; Carl Zeiss).

Expression of recombinant proteins

The full-length HMGB1 (HMGB1-FL) was generated using forward primer 5'-TGCATCGGATACGTGGCAAAAAGGAGGATCTCC-3' and reverse primer 5'-CAGTGACACTCGAGTTTCAAATCCTACATCCATCTTC-3', whereas truncated HMGB1 (HMGB1ΔC) was generated using reverse primer 5'-CTCTTCTTTTTCTGGTTTTCAGCATGCTTTG-3'. The PCR products were
treated with the restriction enzymes EcoRI and XhoI, cloned in pET28a+ (Novagen). For the recombinant HMGBl-GFP protein, the gene encoding human HMGB1 was cloned upstream of EGFP in pEGFP-N1 (BD Clontech), and then a SacII/NotI fragment from pHMGB1-EFGP-N1 was subcloned into pET28a+. Proteins were expressed in E. coli BL21. His-tagged proteins were purified on a HIS-Select HF Nickel Affinity gel (Sigma-Aldrich). The purity of all protein preparations was confirmed by SDS-PAGE.

**PARylation and acetylation of proteins in vitro**

The PARylation was done using biotin-NAD instead of [32P]NAD (10). The final reaction was performed on 50 μl mix buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), 25 mM MgCl2, with 5 μg PARP-activated DNA (R&D Systems), 20 μM biotin-NAD (R&D Systems), and 0.3 μg each purified recombinant proteins. PARP (1 μl; R&D Systems) was added to each reaction and then incubated at room temperature for 30 min. The acetylation (19) were performed in 30 μl HAT buffer including 5 μM HA-treated HMGB1-GFP, and 5 μl protein products in TE buffer. The reaction was started by adding 1 μl recombinant PCAF, P300, or CBP catalytic domain (all from Enzo Life Sciences) and then incubated at room temperature for 30 min. For successive PARylation and acetylation, the probes of the PARylation were precipitated with 20% final concentration of TCA at −20°C for 16 h. After spin at 15,000 × g for 15 min, the pellets were washed three times with cold acetone and dissolved in 5 μl TE buffer (pH 8). Subsequent acetylation (19) were performed in 30 μl HAT buffer including and 5 μl product proteins to TE buffer. The reaction was started by adding 1 μl recombinant PCAF, P300, or CBP catalytic domain and then incubated at room temperature for 30 min. Heat-inactivated enzyme was used as control. To stop the reaction, loading buffer was added, and samples were boiled for 5 min prior to loading. The samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, stained with Coomassie R250 (Sigma-Aldrich), then the gel was dried and exposed to Kodak XAR-5 film (Kodak), and finally quantified by Gel Pro analyzer.

**Nuclear import assay**

Nuclear import assays were performed as in Cassany and Gerace (20) by minor modification. Firstly, the cytosol of BMDMs was prepared. After washing twice in ice-cold PBS and once in washing buffer [10 mM HEPES (pH 7.3), 110 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl2, and 2 mM DTT], BMDMs were homogenized with hypotonic lysis buffer [5 mM HEPES (pH 7.3), 10 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl2, 2 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF, and 1 μg/ml each leupeptin, pepstatin, and aprotinin]. After centrifugation at 1500 × g for 15 min, at 15,000 × g for 20 min, and 100,000 × g for 1 h at 4°C, the final supernatants were collected and dialyzed at 4°C against transport buffer (TB; 20 mM HEPES [pH 7.3], 110 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl2, 1 mM EGTA, 2 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF, and 1 μg/ml each leupeptin, pepstatin, and aprotinin). The cytoplasm was used for LPS stimulation and stored at −80°C. HMGB1-GFP was PARylated or acetylated in vitro as mentioned above. The reactions were precipitated with 20% final concentration of TCA at −20°C for 16 h. After spin at 15,000 × g for 15 min, the pellet was washed three times with cold acetone and dissolved in TE buffer (pH 8). For the assays, BMDMs were permeabilized for 5 min on ice in TB containing 40 μg/ml digitonin. After rinsing for 10 min with TB, cells were incubated in transport buffer (TB; 20 mM HEPES [pH 7.3], 110 mM KCl, 2 mM MgCl2, 1 mM EGTA, 2 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF, and 1 μg/ml each leupeptin, pepstatin, and aprotinin). The cytoplasm was treated in LPS solution and stored at −80°C. HMGB1-GFP was PARylated in an in vitro enzyme reaction and then subjected to SDS-PAGE. The reaction was performed on 50 μl mix buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8), 25 mM MgCl2, with 5 μg PARP-activated DNA (R&D Systems), 20 μM biotin-NAD (R&D Systems), and 0.3 μg each purified recombinant proteins. The reaction was started by adding 1 μl recombinant PCAF, P300, or CBP catalytic domain and then incubated at room temperature for 30 min. Heat-inactivated enzyme was used as control. To stop the reaction, loading buffer was added, and samples were boiled for 5 min prior to loading. The samples were analyzed by SDS-PAGE, stained with Coomassie R250 (Sigma-Aldrich), then the gel was dried and exposed to Kodak XAR-5 film (Kodak), and finally quantified by Gel Pro analyzer.

**HDAC and HAT activity assay**

HDAC and HAT activity was measured with HDAC and HAT Activity Colorimetric Assay Kits according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The absorbance was detected at 405 or 440 nm with a microplate reader (Model 550; Bio-Rad).

**Animal experiments**

C57BL/6 mice weighing 25–30 g were obtained from Experimental Animal Center of Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Wuhan, China). Mice were housed under specific pathogen-free conditions with free access to water and standard mouse chow. All animal experiments were performed with the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

**Statistical analysis**

All data are expressed as mean ± SEM. Statistical analysis was performed using the Student t test. Differences were considered significant when p < 0.05. Kaplan–Meier survival curves were compared using a log-rank test to determine significance.

**Results**

PARP-1 regulates LPS-induced HMGB1 migration from the nucleus to the cytoplasm in macrophages

PARP activity in BMDMs increased significantly, peaking at 4 h after LPS stimulation and lasting for 12 h (Fig. 1A). The HMGB1 level in the medium of the BMDMs increased at 4 h after LPS exposure (Fig. 1B), a finding that is consistent with previous research on this topic (21). To demonstrate the roles of PARP activation in LPS-induced HMGB1 release by macrophages, we used 3-AB to suppress the activity of PARP. We found that 3-AB significantly impaired the release of HMGB1 by BMDMs (Fig. 1B). Because PARP-1 is the main member of the PARP family (11), we knocked down PARP-1 to determine the influence of PARP-1 on LPS-induced HMGB1 release (Fig. 1C). We observed a sharp decline in LPS-induced HMGB1 release after PARP-1 knockdown (Fig. 1D). Therefore, we deduced that LPS-induced HMGB1 release by macrophages is dependent on PARP-1 activation. In the resting state, HMGB1 is mainly located in the nucleus, and its migration from the nucleus to the cytoplasm is a prerequisite for its release into the extracellular space. Using immunoblotting and indirect immunofluorescence labeling of HMGB1, we found that PARP-1 knockdown remarkably suppressed the LPS-induced translocation of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm in BMDMs (Fig. 1E, 1F). These results indicated that the LPS-induced migration of HMGB1 from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, and its release was dependent on the activation of PARP-1 in macrophages.

The PARylation of HMGB1 companies, but not directs, its relocalization to the cytoplasm in macrophages

PARP-1 catalyzes the PARylation of HMGB1 in vitro (10, 16). To elucidate the role of PARP-1 on intracellular PARylation of HMGB1, we knocked down PARP-1 in BMDMs and found that LPS-induced PARylation of HMGB1 was significantly suppressed (Fig. 2A). To further determine whether PARP-1 regulates the relocalization of HMGB1 through PARylation of HMGB1, we first measured the PARylation level of HMGB1 in the nucleus, cytoplasm, and cell-culture supernatant, respectively. The PARylation of HMGB1 in the cytoplasm and cell-culture supernatant was dominantly upregulated after BMDMs were exposed to LPS (Fig. 2B). It indicated that the LPS-induced PARylation of HMGB1 is catalyzed by PARP-1, and this modification is accompanied by the migration of HMGB1 from the nucleus to the cytoplasm of macrophages and subsequent release into the extracellular space. To further elucidate whether PARylation of HMGB1 directs its migration, HMGB1 was PARylated in an in vitro enzyme reaction and then subjected to an import assay. As a control, GST-GFP was located in the cytoplasm. HMGB1-GFP and PARylated HMGB1-GFP were located in the nucleus; however, acetylated HMGB1-GFP was located in the cytoplasm (Fig. 2D). In addition, anacardic acid (AA), an inhibitor of acetylation, showed no influence on LPS-induced PARP activation (Fig. 2E) and PARylation of HMGB1 (Fig. 2F), but obviously suppressed the migration of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm (Fig. 2G). These data demonstrated that PARylation, not like acetylation, is insufficient for the translocation of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm.
PARP-1 regulates LPS-induced HMGB1 acetylation in macrophages

The migration of HMGB1 into the cytoplasm is dependent on the acetylation of lysine residues in monocytes or macrophages (8). To clarify whether PARP-1 regulates the nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration of HMGB1 by influencing HMGB1 acetylation, we suppressed the activity of PARP using 3-AB and found that LPS-induced HMGB1 acetylation was remarkably reduced (Fig. 3A). A similar phenomenon was observed through the knockdown of PARP-1 by siRNA (Fig. 3B). These data demonstrate that PARP-1 may regulate the nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration of HMGB1 by influencing HMGB1 acetylation.

PARylation of HMGB1 facilitates its acetylation

PARP can catalyze the transfer of the ADP-ribosyl group from NAD⁺ to the carboxyl groups of the glutamic acid residues, resulting in O-linked PAR (14). To elucidate the relationship between PARP-1 activation and HMGB1 acetylation, we investigated the influence of HMGB1 PARylation on HMGB1 acetylation. HMGB1-FL and HMGB1ΔC were PARylated through an in vitro enzymatic reaction and subjected to acetylation by...
PCAF, CBP, or P300. PARylation reinforced the acetylation of HMGB1-FL, but not of HMGB1ΔC, by these acetylases (Fig. 4A, 4B). Glutamic acid residues are abundant in the C-terminal of HMGB1. We found that the PARylation level of HMGB1-FL was higher than that of HMGB1ΔC (data not shown), a finding that is consistent with previous research (10). It suggests the C-tail of HMGB1 may be PARylated by PARP. These data indicated that the PARylation of C-tail might influence the acetylation of HMGB1.

PARP-1 regulates the activities of HATs and HDACs in LPS-challenged macrophages

Acetylation is biregulated by HATs and HDACs. The acetylation of HMGB1 is regulated by several HATs (PCAF, CBP, and P300) and HDACs (HDAC1 and HDAC4) (8, 22). After LPS stimulation, the activity of HATs was increased, whereas that of HDACs was reduced in macrophages, resulting in an increase in the ratio of HAT to HDAC activity (Fig. 5A, 5B). Both 3-AB and PARP-1 knockdown
PARP-1 regulates LPS-induced acetylation of HMGB1 in macrophages. (A) 3-AB suppressed LPS-induced acetylation of HMGB1. BMDMs pretreated with 10 mmol/l 3-AB were exposed to 100 ng/ml LPS for 4 h. (B) Depletion of PARP-1 impaired LPS-induced acetylation of HMGB1. After PARP-1 knockdown, BMDMs were treated with 100 ng/ml LPS for 4 h. Cell lysates were subjected to immunoprecipitation (IP) with anti-HMGB1 Ab, and then the acetylation of HMGB1 was measured using specific Ab against acetylated-lysine (A and B). IB, immunoblot; IP, immunoprecipitation.

FIGURE 4. PARylation of HMGB1 promotes its acetylation. (A) PARylation of HMGB1-FL promoted its acetylation in vitro. (B) PARylation of HMGB1ΔC did not influence its acetylation in vitro. HMGB1-FL (A) and HMGB1ΔC (B) were PARylated and successively acetylated as described in Materials and Methods. The reactions were analyzed by immunoblotting or autoradiography. Quantified data are shown in the bottom panels. Data are mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *p < 0.05 compared with control group.

PARP-1 regulates LPS-induced acetylation of HMGB1 in macrophages after LPS stimulation and significantly reduced the ratio of HAT to HDAC activity as compared with that in the sc siRNA group (Fig. 5A, 5B). To further determine which of those HATs and HDACs were regulated by PARP-1, we measured the expression of PCAF, CBP, P300, HDAC1, and HDAC4 in the nucleus. We found, 4 h after LPS exposure, the expression of PCAF, CBP, and P300 was increased by ∼60, 300, and 280%, respectively, and the expression of HDAC1 and HDAC4 was decreased by 20 and 80%, respectively (Fig. 5C). PARP-1 depletion inhibited LPS-induced increasing of the expression of PCAF, CBP, and P300 by ∼50–70% and decreasing of HDAC4 expression by ∼50%, but had no effect on the expression of HDAC1 (Fig. 5C). We also detected whether PARP-1 PARylates those HATs and HDACs and found CBP, P300, and HDAC4 were PARylated by PARP-1 in the enzyme system (Fig. 5D). We may infer from these data that in macrophages stimulated by LPS, PARP-1 can boost the acetylation of HMGB1 by increasing the activity ratio of HATs to HDACs that catalyze acetylation and deacetylation of HMGB1.

LPS-induced PARP-1 activation and HMGB1 release use ROS and ERK signaling pathway

It was reported that HMGB1 release induced by liver ischemia was dependent on ROS production (23). ROS are recognized as the main signals leading to intracellular PARP-1 activation (24). Macrophages produce large amounts of ROS after LPS stimulation (25). Thus, we hypothesized that ROS might mediate LPS-induced PARP-1 activation and HMGB1 release. After treatment with NAC, a scavenger of ROS, PARP-1 activation in BMDMs was significantly suppressed (Fig. 6A). Moreover, the migration of HMGB1 to the extracellular space (Fig. 6B) and the release of HMGB1 into the extracellular space were remarkably reduced (Fig. 6B, 6C). It has been reported that PARP-1 can be activated by MAPKs (26). LPS can activate p38MAPK, JNK, as well as the ERK signaling pathway (27); however, only inhibitors of the ERK pathway inhibited the activation of PARP-1 (Fig. 6D). NAC inhibited the LPS-induced activation of ERK (Fig. 6E). Consistently, the LPS-induced release of HMGB1 was inhibited by FR180204, an ERK inhibitor (Fig. 6F). NAC suppressed LPS-induced activation of PARP-1 by >90% (Fig. 6A), although it just inhibited the activation of ERK by ∼50% at 30 min after LPS treatment (Fig. 6E). It indicated that ROS might use other signal pathways to mediate PARP-1 activation in this model. ROS/DNA injury was known as the classic and strong activator of PARP-1. It was reported that ERK activated PARP-1 through phosphorylation, and it was independent of DNA injury (28). These data indicate that LPS-induced activation of PARP-1 may use ROS/ERK pathway and ROS/DNA injury pathway.

NAC, 3-AB, and FR180204 reduces the serum HMGB1 level and mortality rate in a mouse model of endotoxemia

In a mouse model of endotoxemia, the PARP-1 inhibitor 3-AB, the ROS scavenger NAC, and the ERK inhibitor FR180204 could reduce the HMGB1 level in the serum (Fig. 7A) as well as the mortality rate (Fig. 7B).
FIGURE 5. PARP-1 regulates the activity of HATs and HDACs in LPS-challenged macrophages. 3-AB (A) and PARP-1 depletion (B) downregulated the activity ratio of HATs to HDACs in LPS-challenged BMDMs. BMDMs pretreated with 10 mmol/l 3-AB were exposed to 100 ng/ml LPS for indicated periods (A). After PARP-1 knockdown, BMDMs were exposed to 100 ng/ml LPS for indicated periods (B). Nucleus proteins were extracted, and colorimetric assay kits were used for measuring the activity of HATs and HDACs (A and B). The activity ratio of HATs to HDACs was calculated. (C) The effect of PARP-1 depletion on HAT and HDAC expression in the nucleus of LPS-challenged BMDMs. After PARP-1 knockdown, BMDMs were exposed to 100 ng/ml LPS for 4 h. Nucleus proteins were extracted, and the expression of PCAF, CBP, P300, HDAC1, and HDAC4 was measured by immunoblotting. Quantified data are shown in the right panel. (D) CBP, P300, and HDAC4 were PARylated by PARP-1. PCAF, CBP, P300, HDAC1, and HDAC4 were subjected to PARylation in PARP-1 catalytic system as described in Materials and Methods. Data are mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *p < 0.05 compared with corresponding sc siRNA group, #p < 0.05 compared with corresponding group without LPS treatment.
Discussion

The active secretion of HMGB1 can be activated by inflammatory mediators and hypoxia. This process is composed of three steps: first, migration from the nucleus to the cytoplasm; second, enter into the organelles in the cytoplasm; and third, release into the extracellular space through exocytosis (2). The passive release of HMGB1 from dead cells is due to its migration from the nucleus to the cytoplasm and subsequent release into the extracellular space owing to increased cell membrane permeability (9). The translocation of HMGB1 from the nucleus to the cytoplasm,
Acetylation has been regarded as a prerequisite for the LPS-induced migration of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm in monocytes and macrophages (8). In this study, PARP-1 was found to regulate the acetylation of HMGB1 in LPS-stimulated macrophages. Although PARylation was not sufficient for the migration of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm, PARylated HMGB1-FL showed higher levels of acetylation in an in vitro enzymatic reaction system, indicating that PARylation of HMGB1 can boost its acetylation. Furthermore, we found that PARylation had no influence on the acetylation of HMGB1. The C-terminal of HMGB1, which binds to HMG boxes, contains many glutamic acid residues. Further study is required to determine whether the PARylation of these glutamic acid residues would expose acetylation sites hidden by the C-terminal and facilitate the acetylation of lysine residues in HMG boxes.

Under inflammatory conditions, acetylases such as CBP/p300 in monocytes and macrophages are activated, whereas the activities of HDAC1 and HDAC4 are decreased (22). This result is in the acetylation of Lys27, Lys43, and Lys174–178 in HMGB1, which reduces the binding capacity of HMGB1 to DNA and leads to its subsequent migration from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, followed by secretion into the extracellular space through exocytosis (8, 22). We found that after stimulation with LPS, the activity of HATs in BMDMs increased, the activity of HDACs decreased, and acetylated HMGB1 increased significantly. Furthermore, 3-AB treatment and knockdown of PARP-1 suppressed the upregulation of HATs activity and downregulation of HDACs activity induced by LPS. It was further confirmed by measuring the expression of PCAF, CBP, P300, HDAC1, and HDAC4 in the nucleus, which can catalyze acetylation and deacetylation of HMGB1. PARP-1 may regulate the activity of HATs and HDACs through PARylating those enzymes because CBP, P300, and HDAC4 were PARylated in the PARP-1 catalytic system. Decreased ratio of HAT and HDAC activity was accompanied by a lower level of HMGB1 acetylation, implying that it played important roles in the regulation of HMGB1 acetylation. PARP-1 mediated the LPS-induced activity change of those acetylases and deacetylases and thus regulated the acetylation and nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration of HMGB1.

In addition, this study demonstrated that the ROS scavenger NAC can remarkably inhibit the LPS-induced activation of PARP-1 and nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration and release of HMGB1. Although it has been reported that HMGB1 release from monocytes and macrophages can be induced by H₂O₂ through the ERK and JNK signaling pathways (31), our data showed that among the inhibitors of the p38 MAPK, JNK, and ERK signaling pathways, only the ERK inhibitor FR180204 inhibited LPS-induced PARP-1 activation and HMGB1 release. NAC suppressed LPS-induced activation of PARP-1 by >90% despite inhibiting the activation of ERK by ~50%. ROS might use other signal pathways to activate PARP-1, such as the classic DNA injury/PARP-1 pathway. These results indicate that LPS-induced activation of PARP-1 may use the ROS/ERK pathway and ROS/DNA injury pathway. Data from animal experiments were consistent with the above conclusion, because a PARP-1 inhibitor, an ROS scavenger, and an ERK inhibitor all reduced the serum HMGB1 level and mortality rate in a mouse model of endotoxemia.

In summary, we, for the first time, to our knowledge, demonstrated that LPS induced PARP-1 activation using the ROS/ERK signaling pathway and thus elevated the activity ratio of HATs and HDACs by regulating the expression of PCAF, CBP, P300, and HDAC4 in the nucleus, resulting in the acetylation of HMGB1. In contrast, PARP-1 catalyzed PARylation of HMGB1, which facilitated acetylation of HMGB1. Increased acetylation owing to

which is regulated by the modification of HMGB1 itself, is a key step for its release into the extracellular space. The posttranslational modification of HMGB1 includes methylation, acetylation, phosphorylation, and ADP-ribosylation (8, 10, 29, 30). Methylation regulates the nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration of HMGB1 in neutrophils (29). In monocytes and macrophages, acetylation and phosphorylation regulate the nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration of HMGB1 induced by LPS and TNF-α, respectively (8, 30).

LPS and alkylating agents have been reported to be capable of inducing PARP-1 activation, PARylation, and final release of HMGB1 (10, 16); however, the relationship between PARylation and the nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration of HMGB1 is not clear. In this study, the translocation and final release of HMGB1 in LPS-stimulated BMDMs was found to be dependent on PARP-1 activation. PARylation of HMGB1 in LPS-challenged macrophages was significantly upregulated, with higher levels of PARylated HMGB1 in the cytoplasm and extracellular space than in the nucleus. This result indicates that LPS-induced nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration and release of HMGB1 is accompanied by HMGB1 PARylation. In the nuclear import assay, we found that acetylated HMGB1 is located in the cytoplasm, whereas PAR-modified HMGB1 is located in the nucleus, implying that PARylation does not direct the migration of HMGB1 to the cytoplasm solely. The acetylase inhibitor AA had no influence on LPS-induced PARP-1 activation and HMGB1 PARylation in macrophages, but still blocked the nucleus-to-cytoplasm migration and release of HMGB1, implying that when HMGB1 acetylation is inhibited, PARP-1 activation is insufficient for HMGB1 relocation.

![FIGURE 7. NAC, 3-AB, and FR180204 reduce the serum HMGB1 level and mortality rate in a mouse model of endotoxemia.](http://www.jimmunol.org/)

Mouse survival analysis and 30 for serum collection, were randomly divided into five groups (negative control, LPS+PBS, LPS+3-AB, LPS+NAC, and LPS+FR180204). Endotoxemia model was established by i.p. injection of LPS (40 mg/kg), and PBS was used for establishing negative control. Except for negative control, mice were pretreated with PBS, 3-AB (10 mg/kg), NAC (200 mg/kg), or FR180204 (2 mg/kg) for 30 min according to groups before model establishment. Sixteen hours later, mice were sacrificed, and the serum was collected for detecting HMGB1 by immunoblotting (A). (B) Kaplan-Meier survival plots for the five groups. The amount of surviving mice was recorded every 8 h. *p < 0.05 compared with LPS+PBS group.
PARP-1 activation directed the migration of HMGB1 into the cytoplasm as well as release into the extracellular space.

In recent years, a growing body of studies revealed that HMGB1 release was dependent on inflammasome assembly and caspase-1 activation (32). Also, dsRNA-dependent protein kinase played a crucial role on inflammasome activation and HMGB1 release (33). However, the downstream signal of inflammasome/caspase-1 that causes HMGB1 release is still unknown. Acetylation, which is modulated by HATs and HDACs, and phosphorylation, catalyzed by classical protein kinase C (34) and calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase IV (35), directs the relocalization and release of HMGB1. In this study, we found LPS-induced HMGB1 release was dependent on PARP-1 activation. Whether PARP-1 regulates phosphorylation of HMGB1 and how inflammasome assembly/caspase-1 activation, protein kinase C activation, calcium/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase IV activation, and PARP-1 activation are related need to be further studied.

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Disclosures
The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

References