





Receptor analogues as strategy to prevent E. coli infection



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F18⁺ Escherichia coli





In vitro villous adhesion assay





F18R positive piglets F18R neg

F18R negative piglets





The physiochemical properties of the F18R





PRO



The physiochemical properties of the F18R

Coddens et al., 2009. J. Biol. Chem.

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Isolation and characterization of F18⁺ *E. coli*-binding GSLs from blood group O and A pig intestinal epithelium





Comparison of the relative binding affinity



- => Terminal α 3-linked galactose or GalNAc contributes significantly to the interaction
- => Fuca4 on GlcNAc constitutes a sterical hindrance for interaction with F18⁺ *E. coli*
- => Internal GlcNAc contributes significantly to the interaction

Coddens et al., 2009. J. Biol. Chem.

Structural insight in binding of blood group A6-1 sugar by the F18 fimbrial adhesin FedF



1/ interaction of FedF with blood group sugars (very specific)

2/ interaction of FedF (K114/K115) with acidic lipids in membrane (less specific)



In vitro villus adhesion to study interaction of *E. coli* with the villi and inhibition by molecules





Pre-incubation of bacteria with H5-1, A6-1, B6-1 sugars

Are added to small intestinal villi of F18R+ piglets

Percent inhibition of adhesion is calculated ?





Capacity of conjugated A6 to inhibit in vitro binding of F18 E. coli

The inhibition by the conjugate is more than 10,000 times higher than for the monomer





Small intestinal segment perfusion (SISP) model

- Weaned piglets
- Inhalation anesthesia
- 6 segments in jejunum
 - Start <u>+</u>2 m from stomach
 - 20 cm long
 - Cranial inflow tube (Ø 3 mm) => sugar and F18ac⁺ STa⁺ STb⁺ E. coli
 - Caudal outflow tube (Ø 5 mm)=> Fluid collected at outlet







Colonization is essential for diarrhoea in the SISP model

F4R⁺ pig, **8h** perfusion

Compare wild type F4ac⁺LT⁺STa⁺STb⁺ E. coli

with mutant strain lacking F4 (deletion of FaeG subunit) (F4ac⁻LT⁺Sta⁺STb⁺)



F4 mediated adhesion results in severe fluid loss



Loos and Cox, UGent, 2013, unpublished results

Conjugated A6 can decrease net secretion of an F18ac+ *E. coli strain producing STa* and STb enterotoxins in a small intestinal segment perfusion assay





Inhibition shown on cryosections



Cryosections stained with

- Mab anti-FedA antibodies and antimouse FITC (green fluorescence)
- Nuclei with Hoechst (blue fluorescence).



Survival and F18ab+ Stx2e *E. coli* shedding for piglets supplemented with conjugate





twice









Field studies on the efficacy of Conjugate to prevent F18⁺ *E.coli* disease in newly weaned pigs

Farm 1 with F18ab⁺ *E. coli* STa⁺STx2e⁺

- 4 groups of 24 F18R+ pigs (12 male and 12 female): 2 control groups (C1 and C2) and 2 treated groups (P1 and P2), with C1-P1 and C2-P2 being siblings
- Supplementation in the feed for 14 days

Farm 2 with F18ac+ *E. coli* STa+LT+

- 3 groups of 22 F18R+ pigs (11 male and 11 female): 2 control groups (C3 and C4) and 1 treated group (P3), no siblings
- Supplementation in the feed from 3 days before till 14 days after weaning



Conclusions

- Receptor analogues is valuable tool in controlling F18+ *E. coli* infections on pig farms
- Their practical use will depend on
 -Cheap production of the sugar conjugate
 -F4+ *E. coli* receptor analogues are a next step
- A combination F18R and F4R analogues will have his place his place in strategies to control colibacilloses in newly weaned piglets



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