

Association between Kinin B₁ Receptor Expression and Leukocyte Trafficking across Mouse Mesenteric Postcapillary Venules

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Abstract

Using intravital microscopy, we examined the role played by B₁ receptors in leukocyte trafficking across mouse mesenteric postcapillary venules in vivo. B₁ receptor blockade attenuated interleukin (IL)-1 β -induced (5 ng intraperitoneally, 2 h) leukocyte–endothelial cell interactions and leukocyte emigration (~50% reduction). The B₁ receptor agonist des-Arg⁹bradykinin (DABK), although inactive in saline- or IL-8-treated mice, caused marked neutrophil rolling, adhesion, and emigration 24 h after challenge with IL-1 β (when the cellular response to IL-1 β had subsided). Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction and Western blot revealed a temporal association between the DABK-induced response and upregulation of mesenteric B₁ receptor mRNA and de novo protein expression after IL-1 β treatment. DABK-induced leukocyte trafficking was antagonized by the B₁ receptor antagonist des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 but not by the B₂ receptor antagonist HOE 140. Similarly, DABK effects were maintained in B₂ receptor knockout mice. The DABK-induced responses involved the release of neuropeptides from C fibers, as capsaicin treatment inhibited the responses. Treatment with the neurokinin (NK)₁ and NK₃ receptor antagonists attenuated the responses, whereas NK₂, calcitonin gene-related peptide, or platelet-activating factor receptor antagonists had no effect. Substance P caused leukocyte recruitment that, similar to DABK, was inhibited by NK₁ and NK₃ receptor blockade. Mast cell depletion using compound 48/80 reduced DABK-induced leukocyte trafficking, and DABK treatment was shown histologically to induce mast cell degranulation. DABK-induced trafficking was inhibited by histamine H₁ receptor blockade. Our findings provide clear evidence that B₁ receptors play an important role in the mediation of leukocyte–endothelial cell interactions in postcapillary venules, leading to leukocyte recruitment during an inflammatory response. This involves activation of C fibers and mast cells, release of substance P and histamine, and stimulation of NK₁, NK₃, and H₁ receptors.

Key words: kinin B₁ receptor • leukocyte–endothelial cell interaction • intravital microscopy • C fiber • mast cell

Introduction

The kinins, specifically bradykinin (BK)¹ and its biologically active metabolite des-Arg⁹bradykinin (DABK), are produced

at sites of inflammation and are important inflammatory mediators (1). The effects of these kinins are brought about by interaction with specific G protein–coupled receptors, of which there are two clearly defined and cloned types: B₁ and B₂ (2). BK produces its acute proinflammatory effects via the activation of constitutively expressed B₂ receptors. The action of BK is characterized by increased blood flow and vascular permeability (2, 3). The effects of DABK, in contrast, are mediated by B₁ receptors. B₁ receptors are not normally expressed, but are induced selectively during the host inflammatory response. Activation of B₁ receptor by its endoge-

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¹Abbreviations used in this paper: BK2r^{-/-}, B₂ receptor knockout mice; BK, bradykinin; CGRP, calcitonin gene-related peptide; DABK, des-Arg⁹bradykinin; ECL, enhanced chemiluminescence; NK, neurokinin; PAF, platelet-activating factor; PBS-T, 0.1% Tween-20 in PBS; RT, reverse transcriptase; V_{WBC}, white blood cell velocity.

nous ligand (DABK in rodents and Lys-DABK in humans) produces a proinflammatory profile similar to that of B₂ receptor activation, but is also characterized by a stimulation of inflammatory cell accumulation (4). B₁ receptors, similar to other proinflammatory proteins induced during inflammation (such as cyclooxygenase [COX]-2 and inducible nitric oxide synthase [iNOS]), are induced by certain immunostimulants, including IL-1 β (4). For this reason, the kinin B₁ receptor may be an innovative target in the development of novel antiinflammatory strategies.

Knowledge of the contribution of B₁ receptors to the regulation of the inflammatory process may be important, as B₂ receptors undergo rapid agonist-induced desensitization (5), a process possibly linked to B₁ receptor induction (6), and are unlikely to be involved in subacute and chronic inflammatory conditions (1). In contrast, B₁ receptors, once induced, do not undergo agonist-induced desensitization to any appreciable extent (5) and are better equipped to mediate the development and progression of a chronic inflammatory response. It has therefore been proposed that an integrated system develops from B₂ receptor-mediated acute inflammation to a sustained B₁ receptor-mediated chronic inflammation, the latter mainly characterized by cellular infiltration (1).

Previous studies using models of experimental inflammation have shown that B₁ receptor activation plays a role in the process of neutrophil accumulation (7–9). However, the step(s) activated by B₁ receptors in the promotion of neutrophil extravasation have not been investigated, and it is not known whether B₁ receptor activation can trigger leukocyte interactions with the endothelium of postcapillary venules.

Intravital microscopy techniques have been used over the past 10 years to elucidate the mechanisms involved in leukocyte accumulation (10). Upon application of an inflammatory stimulus, neutrophils roll on the endothelium of inflamed postcapillary venules, an action mediated by selectins CD62P, CD62E, or CD62L (11). During this phase, the neutrophil can be activated by various inflammatory mediators, such as substance P, and become firmly adherent (12). This phenomenon is mediated by integrin activation and increased avidity for their counterligands (12). After adhesion, leukocytes undergo cytoskeletal reorganization leading to the actual emigration process known as diapedesis.

This study was designed to investigate the cellular and molecular mechanism(s) by which B₁ receptor activation produces neutrophil accumulation *in vivo*. To achieve this we have used (a) a method of observation that accurately quantifies the interaction between the circulating leukocyte and the endothelium of inflamed postcapillary venules, and (b) correlated this with kinin B₁ receptor mRNA and protein expression. We have also investigated the mechanisms involved with appropriate histological techniques and via the use of selective agents to inhibit possible intermediary pathways.

Materials and Methods

Animals. Male Swiss albino mice (10–15 g) were purchased from Banton and Kingsman and maintained on a standard chow pellet diet with tap water *ad libitum*. Animals were housed in

groups of eight per cage in a room with controlled lighting (lights on 8:00–20:00) in which the temperature was maintained at 21–23°C, and the animals were used 3–4 d after their arrival. Animal work was performed according to Home Office regulations. Guidance on the operation on animals was from the Scientific Procedures Act (1986).

Intravital Microscopic Studies. Mice were anesthetized with diazepam (60 mg/kg subcutaneously) and Hypnorm® (0.7 mg/kg fentanyl citrate and 20 mg/kg fluanisone intramuscularly). Caustery incisions were made along the abdominal region, and the mesenteric vascular bed was exteriorized and placed on a viewing Plexiglas stage. The preparation was mounted on a Zeiss Axioskop FS with a water immersion objective lens (magnification: $\times 40$; Zeiss), and an eyepiece (magnification: $\times 10$; Zeiss) was used to observe the microcirculation. The preparation was transilluminated with a 12-V, 100-W halogen light source. A Hitachi charge-coupled device color camera (model KPC571) acquired images that were displayed onto a Sony Trinitron color video monitor (model PVM 1440QM) and recorded on a Sony super-VHS video cassette recorder (model SVO-9500 MDP) for subsequent offline analysis. A video time-date generator (FOR.A video timer; model VTG-33) projected the time, date, and stop-watch function onto the monitor. Mesenteries were superfused with bicarbonate-buffered solution at 37°C (g/liter: NaCl, 7.71; KCl, 0.25; MgSO₄, 0.14; NaHCO₃, 1.51; and CaCl₂, 0.22 [pH 7.4], gassed with 5% CO₂/95% N₂) at a rate of 2 ml/min. The temperature of the stage was maintained at 37°C. This procedure has no effect on rectal temperature or blood pressure (our unpublished observations). RBC velocity was measured in venules by using an optical doppler velocimeter (Microcirculation Research Institute, Texas A&M University). Venular blood flow was calculated from the product of mean RBC velocity (V_{mean} = centerline velocity/1.6) and microvascular cross-sectional area, assuming a cylindrical geometry. Wall shear rate was calculated by the Newtonian definition: shear rate = $8,000 \times (V_{\text{mean}}/\text{diameter})$ (13). One to three randomly selected postcapillary venules (diameter between 20 and 40 μm ; length of at least 100 μm) were observed for each mouse.

Analysis of the Inflammatory Response Elicited by IL-1 β . Murine recombinant IL-1 β (gift from Dr. R.C. Newton, Dupont Life Sciences Enterprise, Wilmington, DE) was used to induce neutrophil rolling, adhesion, and emigration. Adapting a protocol successfully used for the rat mesentery (14, 15), mice received either IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally in 0.25 ml of sterile saline) or vehicle alone, and the mesenteric vascular bed was prepared for microscopic observation 2 or 24 h later, as described previously (16). The extent of the inflammatory response elicited by IL-1 β was analyzed by measuring white blood cell velocity (V_{WBC}) in mm/s. Cell adhesion was quantified by counting, for each vessel, the number of adherent neutrophils in a 100- μm length (see Fig. 1). Leukocyte emigration from the microcirculation into the tissue was quantified by counting the number of cells that had emigrated up to 50 μm away from the wall of the 100- μm vessel segments (see Fig. 1).

Assessment of the Involvement of B₁ Receptors. The involvement of B₁ receptors in the cellular response to IL-1 β was evaluated using the selective B₁ receptor antagonist des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (d-Arg-[Hyp3,Thi5,d-Tic7,Oic8]-BK, 25 nmol intraperitoneally; gift from Dr. Gillian Burgess, Novartis Institute for Medical Sciences, London, UK), which was coinjected with IL-1 β . Neutrophil accumulation was quantified at the 2-h time point.

Analysis of the Inflammatory Response Elicited by DABK. To determine whether activation of B₁ receptors by itself led to neu-

trophil accumulation, the effect of DABK (Bachem) given 24 h after IL-1 β (5 ng) was also tested. In this set of experiments, mice received DABK (10–30 nmol; reference 7), and the cellular response assessed 2 or 4 h later by videomicroscopy. Two types of controls were used for each experiment: one group of animals was pretreated with sterile saline (0.25 ml) in place of IL-1 β 24 h before DABK, and another group received sterile saline (0.25 ml) instead of DABK 24 h after IL-1 β injection. The specificity of IL-1 β pretreatment was controlled for by administering the neutrophil activator human rIL-8 (0.5 μ g; from the National Institute of Biological Standards and Controls, South Mimms, UK).

Histology. Histological studies were carried out to identify general histological structures, to enable clear identification of polymorphonuclear and mononuclear cells, and to visualize mesenteric mast cells. After saline perfusion through the heart, whole mount sections of mesentery were prepared on microscope slides and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde overnight. General structures were identified by staining with hematoxylin and eosin to enable identification of polymorphonuclear and mononuclear cells. For mast cell identification, sections were fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde/2% glutaraldehyde overnight and stained with toluidine blue (which elicits a metachromatic reaction only in the granules of mast cells and basophils) as described previously (17). The number of mast cells were counted for six different fields per sample with a high powered objective (magnification: \times 40). Cells in a 100- μ m² area were counted. The proportion of mast cells that were degranulated was expressed as a percentage of the total number of mast cells.

B₁ Receptor Gene Expression in Inflamed Mesenteries. polyA⁺ mRNA was extracted (Micro-FastTrack Kit; Invitrogen) from homogenates of mesentery, stored at -70° C, from IL-1 β - (5 ng, 24 h) and saline-treated mice. polyA⁺ mRNA was resuspended in 20 μ l of Tris (pH 7.5), and 2- μ l aliquots were reverse transcribed in a 20- μ l reaction mixture containing 150 ng of random hexanucleotides, 2 mM dNTPs, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3), 75 mM KCl, 3 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM dithiothreitol, and 200 U SuperScript II RNase H⁻ reverse transcriptase (RT; Life Technologies). PCR experiments were performed with 2 μ l of the first-strand DNA in a 25- μ l reaction mixture containing 200 μ M dNTPs, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 25 pmol of specific forward and reverse primers, and 1 U of recombinant Taq DNA polymerase (Life Technologies), and were amplified for 30 cycles with a Biometra-TRIO

thermocycler at 95 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 min, 60 $^{\circ}$ C for 2 min, and 72 $^{\circ}$ C for 2 min, followed by a final extension step at 72 $^{\circ}$ C for 10 min.

Mouse B₁ receptor cDNA was amplified with the sense primer (5'-GCGGAAATCTACCTGGCTAAGTTG-3') at base position 392–415 and antisense primer (5'-CAGTCACGGGGAG-GAGGAAACC-3') at base position 806–827 of rat B₁ receptor cDNA (18), which are conserved sequences in the mouse B₁ receptor cDNA (19). The quality of RNA samples was evaluated by RT-PCR using glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH)-specific primers (sense primer, 5'-AAGGTGAAG-GTCGGAGTCAACG-3' [position 8–29] and antisense primer 5'-GGCAGAGATGATGACCCTTTTGGC-3' [position 362–339]). A plasmid containing the mouse B₁ receptor cDNA (19) was used as the template for the positive PCR control reaction. PCR products were detected by electrophoresis on 2% agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide.

In some experiments, 4 μ l of first-strand cDNA was transferred to a separate tube, and six serial 1:2 dilutions were made before PCR amplification using the above conditions. Product intensity was determined using densitometry, and log plots of starting amount of cDNA versus product intensity were constructed.

B₁ Receptor Protein Expression in Inflamed Mesenteries. Mice received either IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally) or saline alone, and 24 h later, the mesenteric vascular bed was rapidly excised and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Samples were crushed on dry ice and lysed in ice-cold lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.4], 50 mM NaCl, 50 mM NaF, 5 mM EDTA, and 20 mM Na₄P₂O₇·10H₂O). Lysates were vortexed and centrifuged for 15 min at 25,000 rpm and 4 $^{\circ}$ C. The protein concentration of the supernatant was determined using Coomassie brilliant blue with BSA as the standard. Western blot analysis was performed as follows: after addition of an equal volume of SDS-PAGE sample buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl [pH 6.8], 2% SDS [wt/vol], 20% glycerol [vol/vol], 0.025% bromophenol blue [wt/vol], and 10% 2-ME [vol/vol]), the lysates were heated for 3 min at 100 $^{\circ}$ C. Lysates containing equal amounts of protein (20 μ g) were separated on a 12% polyacrylamide gel (wt/vol) followed by electrotransfer to enhanced chemiluminescence (ECL) nitrocellulose membrane (Immobilon-P; Millipore). The membrane was blocked by incubation for 60 min in 5% nonfat dry milk and 0.1% Tween-20 in PBS (PBS-T), washed twice with PBS-T, and incubated with B₁ receptor antipeptide antibody (termed A15C [20]; dilution

Table I. Effect of IL-1 β on Leukocyte–Endothelial Interactions In Vivo: Assessment of the Role of B₁ Receptors

Treatment (time)	V _{WBC} * (mm/s)	Adherent PMNs [‡]	Emigrated PMNs [§]
Saline (2 h)	54.9 \pm 6.9 (n = 10)	1.3 \pm 0.4 (n = 10)	0.2 \pm 0.1 (n = 10)
IL-1 β (2 h)	9.1 \pm 2.1 (n = 6)	11.4 \pm 1.4 (n = 6)	6.7 \pm 0.9 (n = 6)
IL-1 β /DAH (2 h)	31.7 \pm 2.8 (n = 6) [‡]	5.5 \pm 0.7 (n = 6) [‡]	3.6 \pm 0.5 (n = 6) [‡]
IL-1 β (24 h)	49.5 \pm 4.7 (n = 6) [‡]	2.0 \pm 0.6 (n = 6) [‡]	1.4 \pm 0.3 (n = 6) [‡]

Mice received either saline (0.25 ml intraperitoneally), IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally), or IL-1 β /des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (DAH, 2.5 nmol intraperitoneally). Data are mean \pm SEM for animals.

*Rolling velocity.

[‡]No. of cells per 100 μ m vessel length.

[§]No. of cells per 100 \times 50 μ m².

^{||}P < 0.05 versus saline-treated values.

[‡]P < 0.05 versus IL-1 β -treated (2 h) values.

1:20,000) overnight at 4°C. After six washes with PBS-T, blots were incubated 2 h with a 1:5,000 dilution of a peroxidase-coupled donkey anti-rabbit antibody, followed by six washes with PBS-T. Visualization of the antibody-protein complex was achieved using an ECL detection reagent (ECL kit; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) followed by exposure to scientific imaging film (Kodak) for 1–5 min. Full-range molecular weight markers were from Amersham Pharmacia Biotech. In preadsorption experiments, the antibody was incubated with its corresponding peptide at a concentration of 10 µg/ml at 4°C overnight.

Mechanisms of the Cellular Response to DABK. To confirm that the effect of DABK was via the activation of B₁ receptors, 24 h after sensitization of the mice with IL-1β (5 ng), DABK (30 nmol) was coinjected with either the B₁ receptor antagonist des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (25 nmol intraperitoneally) or the chemically related selective B₂ receptor antagonist HOE 140 (d-Arg-[Hyp³,Thi⁵,d-Tic⁷,Oic⁸]-BK (25 nmol intraperitoneally; gift from Hoechst, Frankfurt, Germany). These doses were chosen from preliminary observations (not shown). The mesenteric vascular bed was visualized, and the neutrophil response was assessed 2 h later.

To determine whether the effects of the B₁ receptor agonist involved activation of sensory C fibers, mice were pretreated with a single subcutaneous injection of capsaicin (50 mg/kg; Sigma-Aldrich) 4 d before the administration of IL-1β. This capsaicin treatment produces >90% depletion of sensory neuropeptide content in mice (21).

To ascertain the involvement of specific neuropeptide receptors, histamine H₁ receptors, platelet activating factor (PAF), and/or mast cells, either the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) antagonist, CGRP-(8–37) (300 nmol/kg intravenously, 15 min [22]; Bachem); the neurokinin (NK)₁ receptor antagonist SR 140333, (S)-1-(2-[3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-(3-isopropoxyphenyl)acetyl]piperidin-3-yl)ethyl-4-phenyl-1-azoniabicyclo[2.2.2]octane chloride (0.1 µmol/kg intravenously, 30 min [23]); the NK₂ receptor antagonist MEN 11420, (cyclo [Asn(β-d-GlcNAc)-Asp-Trp-Phe-Dap-Leu]cyclo [2β-5β]) (0.1 µmol/kg intravenous 15-min pretreatment [24]); the NK₃ receptor antagonist SR 142801, (S)-(N)-(1-(3-(1-benzoyl-3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)piperidin-3-yl)-propyl)-4-phenylepiperidin-4-yl)-N-methylacetamide (4 µmol/kg intravenously for 15 min [25]) (all gifts from Dr. C.A. Maggi, synthesized in the Chemistry Department of Menarini Research, Florence, Italy); the H₁ receptor antagonist triprolidine (1 mg/kg intraperitoneally, 20 min [26]; Sigma-Aldrich), the PAF antagonist WEB 2086 (26), 3-[4-(2-chlorophenyl)-9-methyl-6H-thienol[3,2-f][1,2,4]triazolo-[4,3-a][1,4]-diazepine-2-yl]-1-(morpholinyl)-1-propanone (5 mg/kg intravenously, 20 min [27]; Boehringer); or the mast cell degranulating agent compound 48/80 (1.2 mg/kg intraperitoneally, 72 h [28, 29]; Sigma-Aldrich) were administered before DABK, and the neutrophil response was assessed at the 2-h time point.

In other experiments, substance P (7.5 nmol intraperitoneally), compound 48/80 (1.2 mg/kg intraperitoneally), or PAF (1 µg, intraperitoneally) were administered, and the neutrophil response assessed at the 1- or 2-h time point. In control experiments, substance P was tested against SR 140333, MEN 11420, or SR 142801, with compound 48/80 against triprolidine and PAF against WEB 2086 in the doses specified above.

Kinin B₂ Receptor Knockout Mice. B₂ receptor knockout mice (BK2r^{-/-}) were produced by homologous recombination in embryonic stem cells and generated on a mixed background of J129 × C57 as described previously (30; gift from Merck Research Laboratories, Terlings Park, UK). Wild-type mice derived from the

same background were used as controls. Animals were bred and housed in specific pathogen-free facilities and used when their weight was between 11 and 16 g. The effect of DABK (30 nmol intraperitoneally) and saline was tested in BK2r^{-/-} mice 24 h af-

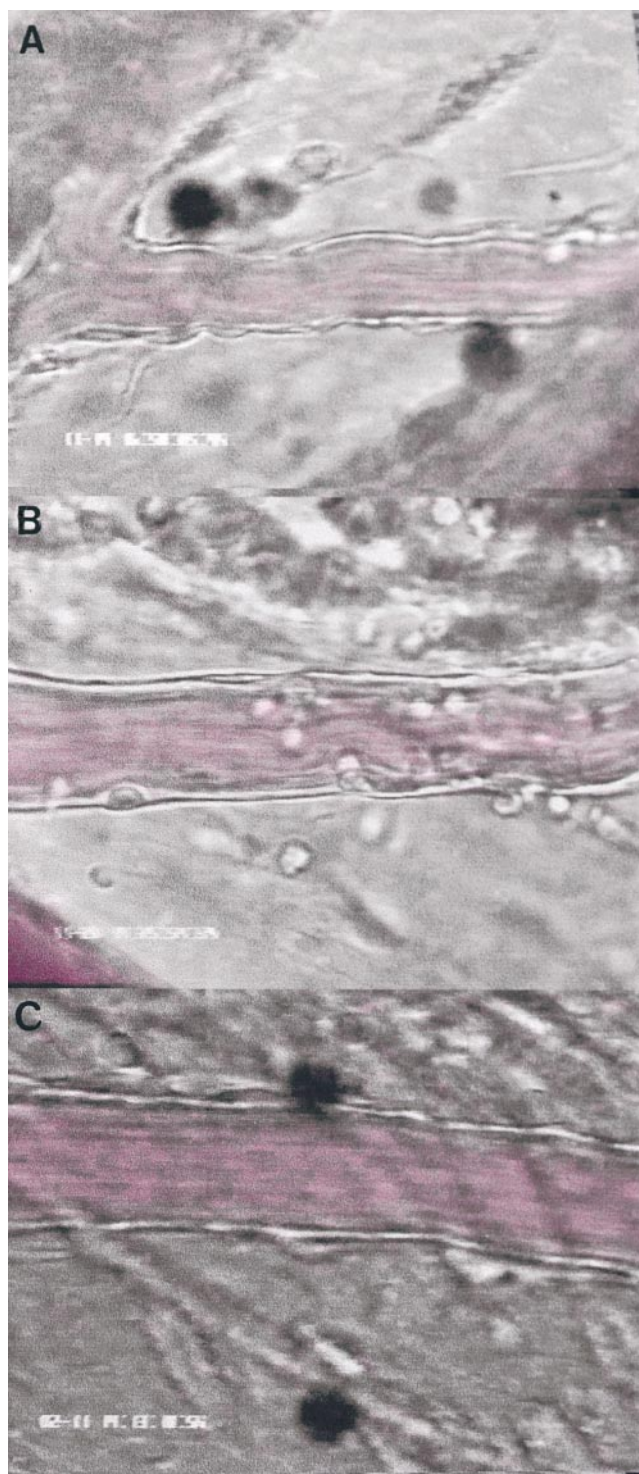


Figure 1. Videomicroscopy images of leukocyte trafficking responses in mouse mesenteric postcapillary venules in vivo in response to (A) saline (0.25 ml intraperitoneally, 2 h), (B) IL-1β (5 ng intraperitoneally, 2 h), and (C) IL-1β (5 ng intraperitoneally, 24 h).

ter IL-1 β treatment (5 ng intraperitoneally), and the cellular response compared with that observed in the wild-type BK2r^{+/+} animals, following the protocols detailed above.

Data Analysis. All values in the figures and text are expressed as mean \pm SEM of *n* observations, where *n* represents the number of animals studied. Data sets were examined by one- and two-way analysis of variance, and individual group means were compared with Student's unpaired *t* test. A *P* value <0.05 was considered significant.

Results

Leukocyte-Endothelial Cell Interactions in Postcapillary Venules of the Mouse Mesentery. In control animals injected with saline, leukocytes rolled in vivo on the endothelium at high speed ($V_{WBC} = 54.9 \pm 6.9$ mm/sec, *n* = 11). In contrast, cells moved significantly (*P* < 0.05) more slowly ($V_{WBC} = 9.1 \pm 2.1$ mm/sec, *n* = 7) 2 h after intraperitoneal administration of IL-1 β (5 ng). This reduction in V_{WBC} was accompanied by a significant increase in cell adhesion and emigration (Table I and Fig. 1). Treatment with the B₁ receptor antagonist des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (25 nmol/mouse intraperitoneally) significantly (*P* < 0.05) reduced IL-1 β -induced leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration at 2 h (Table I). By 24 h, the inflammatory response to IL-1 β , as assessed by the cellular response, had subsided (Table I and Fig. 1).

Characterization of DABK-induced Leukocyte Recruitment. To investigate the effects of B₁ receptor activation on leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions in vivo, microscopic visualization of postcapillary venules was performed after the administration of the B₁ receptor agonist DABK. 24 h after challenge with IL-1 β , DABK but not saline triggered intense leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration at 2 and 4 h (Fig. 2). These effects of DABK were only seen in animals pretreated with IL-1 β , and not in those pretreated with saline or the chemokine IL-8 (Fig. 2; see Fig. 4). The vast majority of cells infiltrating the subendothelial matrix were neutrophils, as demonstrated by histological analysis (Fig. 3). Further analysis revealed that in mesenteries from animals treated with DABK (2 h), 71.0 \pm 6.7% of mast cells had degranulated (Fig. 3; *n* = 3). In contrast, only 4.3 \pm 1.5% (*P* < 0.05) were degranulated in control (saline-

treated, 2 h) animals (*n* = 3). No significant change in total mast cell number was observed between groups (control, $2.03 \pm 0.03 \times 10^3$ cells/mm²; DABK treated, $1.77 \pm 0.12 \times 10^3$ cells/mm²; *P* > 0.05).

DABK-induced leukocyte recruitment was a time- (Fig. 2) and dose-dependent (Fig. 4) process. A maximal decrease in V_{WBC} (48% reduction from basal) was observed 2 h after DABK treatment. This led to a 200% increase in cell adhesion at 2 h, which increased further to 280% at 4 h. The number of emigrated leukocytes increased by 65% at 2 h and 171% at 4 h after DABK (Fig. 2).

There was no difference in RBC (centerline) velocity, venule diameter, and shear rate for any of the experimental groups. An apparent reduction in shear rate was seen in the IL-1 β (24 h)/DABK (4 h) group; however this did not reach statistical significance compared with the IL-1 β (24 h)/saline (4 h) group (Table II).

Molecular Expression of B₁ Receptor mRNA After IL-1 β Treatment. RT-PCR of mesenteric mRNA from saline-treated mice revealed minimal expression of B₁ receptor mRNA. In contrast, a marked increase in expression was consistently detected in mesenteries taken from mice 24 h after IL-1 β treatment (Fig. 5 A; *n* = 3). A similar pattern of B₁ receptor mRNA induction was observed in mesenteries from BK2r^{-/-} mice (Fig. 5 A; *n* = 3). GAPDH mRNA was detected in all mesenteries tested, the level of which was consistent within strains. Fig. 5 (inset) shows that the PCR analyses of both the B₁ receptor and GAPDH genes were amplified over several cycles that gave rise to a linear relationship between starting amount of cDNA and product intensity.

Induction of B₁ Receptor Protein by IL-1 β Treatment. Western blot analysis of mesenteric tissue protein collected from IL-1 β -pretreated mice showed a band with an apparent molecular mass of \sim 39 kD (Fig. 5 B; *n* = 4) corresponding to the mouse B₁ receptor (19). This band was not observed when tissue from saline-treated mice was used (*n* = 4). The specificity of the response of the A15C antibody was further demonstrated by the ability of the free A15C peptide (20) to inhibit the presence of this band (Fig. 5 B).

Receptor Specificity of DABK-induced Leukocyte Trafficking. The effects of DABK on leukocyte recruitment were significantly attenuated by the concomitant administration of

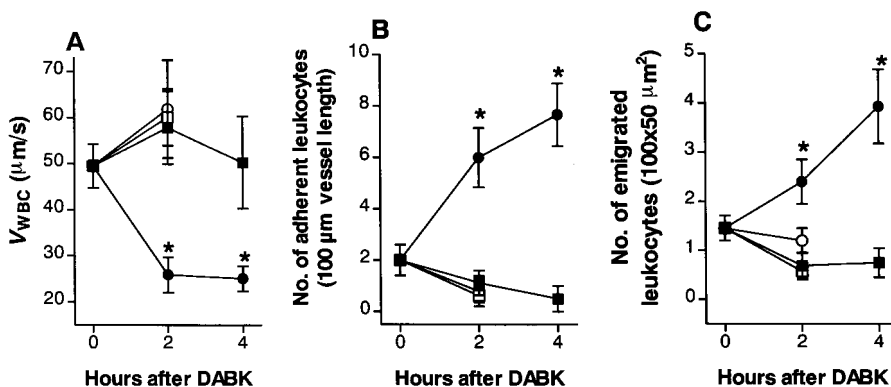


Figure 2. Leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions in mouse mesenteric postcapillary venules in vivo in response to B₁ receptor activation with DABK (30 nmol intraperitoneally). (A) Leukocyte rolling velocity, (B) leukocyte adhesion, and (C) leukocyte emigration were examined 2 and 4 h after DABK or saline administration. Mice received either DABK (●) or saline (■) 24 h after IL-1 β (time = 0). The effect of DABK in saline- (○, 24 h) or IL-8-treated (□, 24 h) mice is also shown. Data are mean \pm SEM for *n* = 5–8 animals per group. **P* < 0.05 versus saline-treated values.

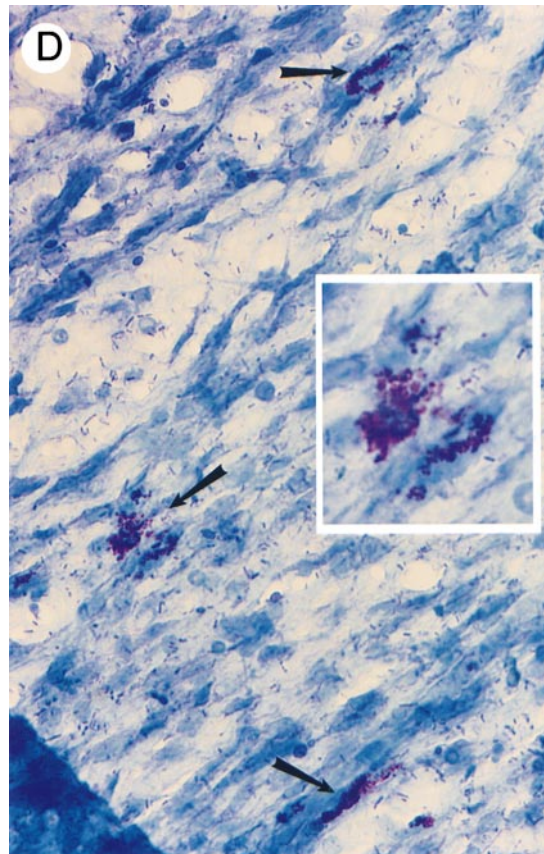
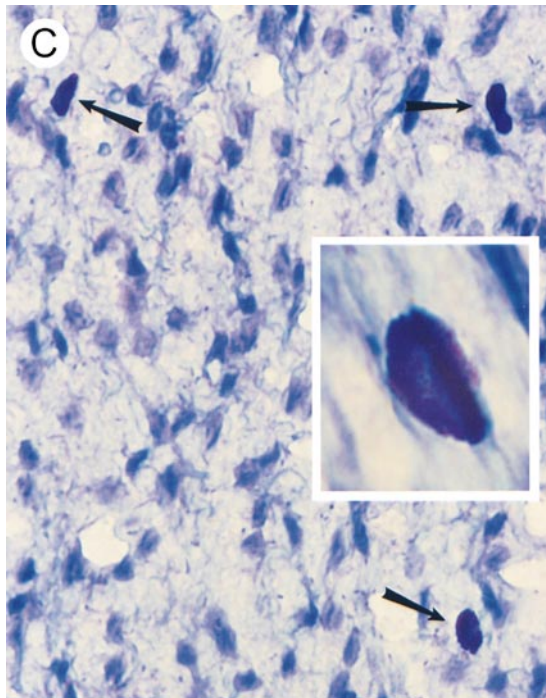
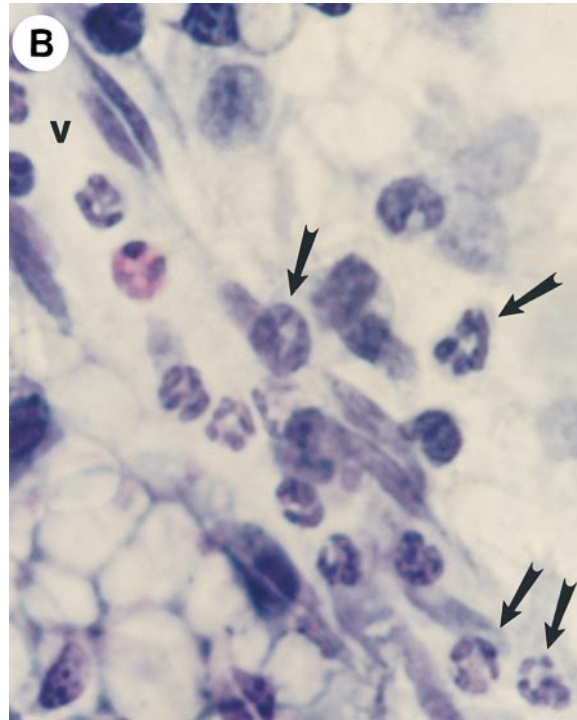
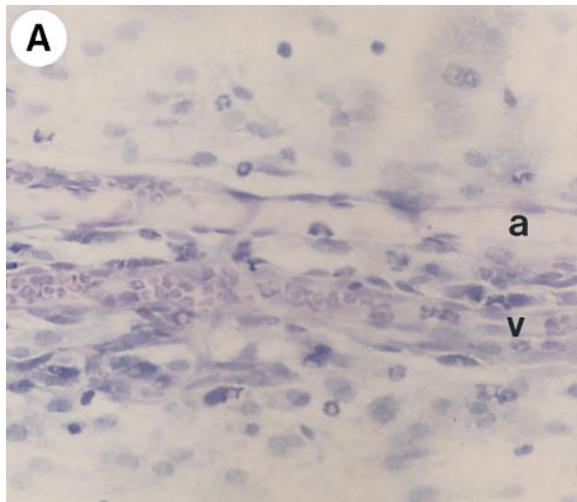


Figure 3. Identification of leukocytes by (A and B) hematoxylin and eosin staining and (C and D) mast cells by toluidine blue staining of mesenteries from mice treated with either (A, B, and D) DABK (2 h) 24 h after IL- β or (C) saline (2 h). (A) Mesenteric section showing a postcapillary venule (v) and arteriole (a); original magnification: $\times 20$. (B) Postcapillary venule (v) with a predominance of polymorphonuclear cells (arrowheads) either attached within or emigrated from the venule (original magnification: $\times 100$). (C) Nondegranulated mast cells (arrowheads) in saline-treated mice (original magnification: $\times 40$; inset original magnification: $\times 100$). (D) Degranulated mast cells (arrowheads) in DABK/IL-1-treated mice (original magnification: $\times 40$; inset original magnification: $\times 100$).

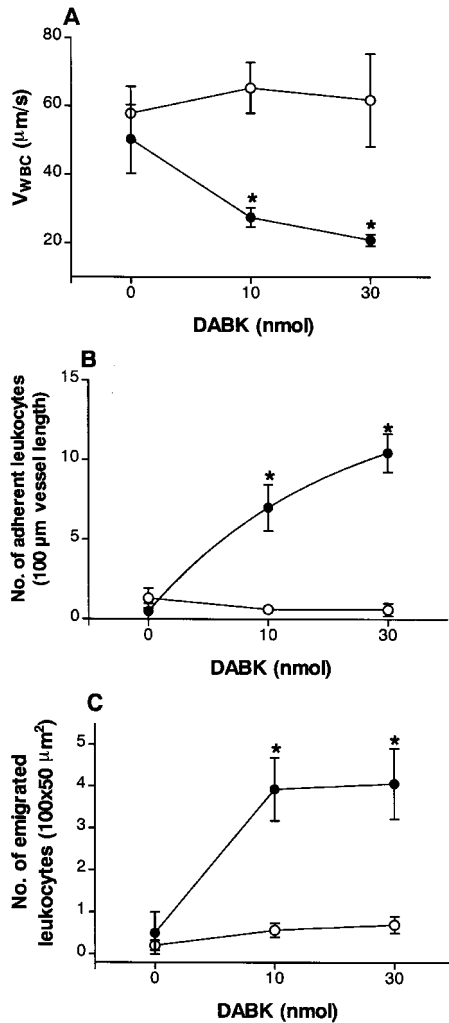


Figure 4. DABK causes dose-related changes in (A) leukocyte rolling velocity, (B) adhesion, and (C) emigration in mouse mesenteric postcapillary venules. Mice received DABK (10–30 nmol in 0.25 ml saline, intraperitoneally) 24 h after IL-1 β (●; 5 ng in 0.25 ml saline intraperitoneally) or saline alone (○; 0.25 ml intraperitoneally). Leukocyte responses were examined 2 h after DABK treatment. Data are mean \pm SEM for $n = 5$ –8 animals per group. * $P < 0.05$ versus saline-treated values.

the B₁ receptor selective antagonist des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (25 nmol, $n = 6$; Fig. 6), whereas HOE 140 (25 nmol, $n = 6$; Fig. 6) had no effect.

Mechanisms of the Enhanced Leukocyte–Endothelial Cell Interactions Induced by B₁ Receptor Activation. Systemic treatment with capsaicin ($n = 6$) significantly reduced DABK-induced effects on leukocyte accumulation, producing a similar level of inhibition on rolling, adhesion, and emigration (Fig. 7). Treatment with SR 140333 ($n = 6$) produced a similar extent of inhibition to that observed with capsaicin (Fig. 7). Neither MEN 11420 ($n = 5$), CGRP-(8–37) ($n = 5$), nor WEB 2086 ($n = 4$) had any significant effect on the response to DABK (Fig. 7). SR 142801 ($n = 4$), compound 48/80 ($n = 6$), and triprolidine ($n = 4$) significantly ($P < 0.05$) inhibited leukocyte rolling and cell adhe-

sion (Fig. 7), but to a lesser extent than was observed with SR 140333 or capsaicin (Fig. 7).

Leukocyte–Endothelial Cell Interactions in Response to Substance P. 24 h after challenge with IL-1 β , substance P (7.5 nmol) promoted leukocyte recruitment from mesenteric postcapillary venules, with V_{WBC}, cell adhesion, and emigration all being affected (Fig. 8). This response to substance P was significantly reduced by treatment with SR 140333 ($n = 4$; Fig. 8). In contrast, MEN 11420 (0.1 μ mol/kg, $n = 4$) had no significant effect on the response to substance P (Fig. 8). SR 142801 (4 μ mol/kg, $n = 4$) also inhibited substance P-induced effects; however, this inhibition was not as marked as that achieved with SR 140333 (Fig. 8).

Leukocyte–Endothelial Cell Interactions in Response to Compound 48/80 and PAF. Acute administration of compound 48/80 (1.2 mg/kg intraperitoneally, 1 h) produced an inflammatory response characterized by slow leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration (Fig. 8). These effects were significantly reduced by pretreatment with the H₁ receptor antagonist triprolidine ($n = 4$; Fig. 8). Histological assessment showed that $93 \pm 7\%$ ($n = 3$) of mesenteric mast cells had degranulated after compound 48/80 treatment.

PAF (1 μ g) promoted leukocyte recruitment from mesenteric postcapillary venules, with V_{WBC}, cell adhesion, and emigration all being affected (Fig. 8). This response to PAF was abolished by treatment with WEB 2086 ($n = 4$; Fig. 8).

Leukocyte–Endothelial Cell Interactions in BK2r^{-/-} Mice. Neither DABK (30 nmol intraperitoneally) nor saline treatment 24 h after IL-1 β treatment (5 ng intraperitoneally) revealed any significant difference in leukocyte–endothelial cell interactions between the wild-type (BK2r^{+/+}) and knockout (BK2r^{-/-}) mice (Fig. 9). An apparent 23% reduction of DABK-induced cell emigration was observed in BK2r^{-/-} relative to wild-type mice; however, this did not reach statistical significance ($P = 0.13$, $n = 6$). Neither DABK nor saline treatment 24 h after IL-1 β treatment produced any significant effect on RBC (centerline) velocity, venule diameter, or shear rate in either genotype (Table III).

Discussion

This study describes, for the first time, a functional role for the B₁ receptor in the processes regulating the initial steps of leukocyte extravasation in experimental inflammation. We have demonstrated that B₁ receptor activation with DABK, 24 h after treatment with the cytokine IL-1 β but not after treatment with saline or IL-8, triggers leukocyte rolling on and adhesion to the endothelium and emigration from mouse mesenteric postcapillary venules. Additionally, these responses were temporally associated with de novo B₁ receptor mRNA and protein expression. Furthermore, we have shown that the induction of the receptor and reactivity to DABK are not affected in BK2r^{-/-} mice.

Table II. Hemodynamic Parameters of Venules Studied

Treatment (time)	No. of venules	Venule diameter	Centerline velocity	Calculated wall shear rate
		μm	mm/s	s^{-1}
Saline (2 h)	18	27.9 \pm 2.1	1.5 \pm 0.1	287 \pm 22
IL-1 β (2 h)	10	29.2 \pm 2.2	1.3 \pm 0.1	235 \pm 24
IL-1 β /DAH (2 h)	18	26.8 \pm 0.9	1.4 \pm 0.1	269 \pm 17
IL-1 β (24 h)/saline (2 h)	11	29.6 \pm 1.7	1.5 \pm 0.1	265 \pm 21
IL-1 β (24 h)/saline (4 h)	6	25.6 \pm 1.3	1.4 \pm 0.1	270 \pm 32
IL-1 β (24 h)/DABK (2 h)	9	33.5 \pm 2.9	1.7 \pm 0.3	253 \pm 32
IL-1 β (24 h)/DABK (4 h)	9	24.0 \pm 1.4	1.5 \pm 0.1	208 \pm 13

Mice received either saline (0.25 ml), IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally), IL-1 β (5 ng)/des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (DAH; 25 nmol intraperitoneally), or IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally, 24 h) followed by DABK (2 or 4 h). Data are mean \pm SEM.

We have also characterized the mechanisms involved, identifying substance P (probably released from sensory C fibers) and mast cell degranulation as mechanisms involved in mediating the DABK-induced cellular response.

IL-1 β is a proinflammatory cytokine that plays an integral role in the initiation of leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions during an inflammatory response (14, 31). Application of IL-1 β causes leukocyte recruitment across mouse mesenteric postcapillary venules similar to that seen within the rat mesenteric microcirculation (14, 15). This response to IL-1 β involves induction and activation of B₁ receptors, as coadministration of the selective B₁ receptor antagonist des-

arg¹⁰HOE 140 reduced IL-1 β -induced leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration from postcapillary venules. The extent of inhibition obtained (\sim 50%) is in line with that observed in gross models of neutrophil extravasation (7).

The association between B₁ receptor activation and leukocyte trafficking was studied using the B₁ receptor selective agonist DABK. The 24-h time point after IL-1 β was chosen because the cellular response to the cytokine itself had subsided. DABK produced a dose- and time-dependent sequential response characterized by leukocyte rolling followed by adhesion and then emigration. Histochemical studies confirmed that >90% of the leukocytes involved in

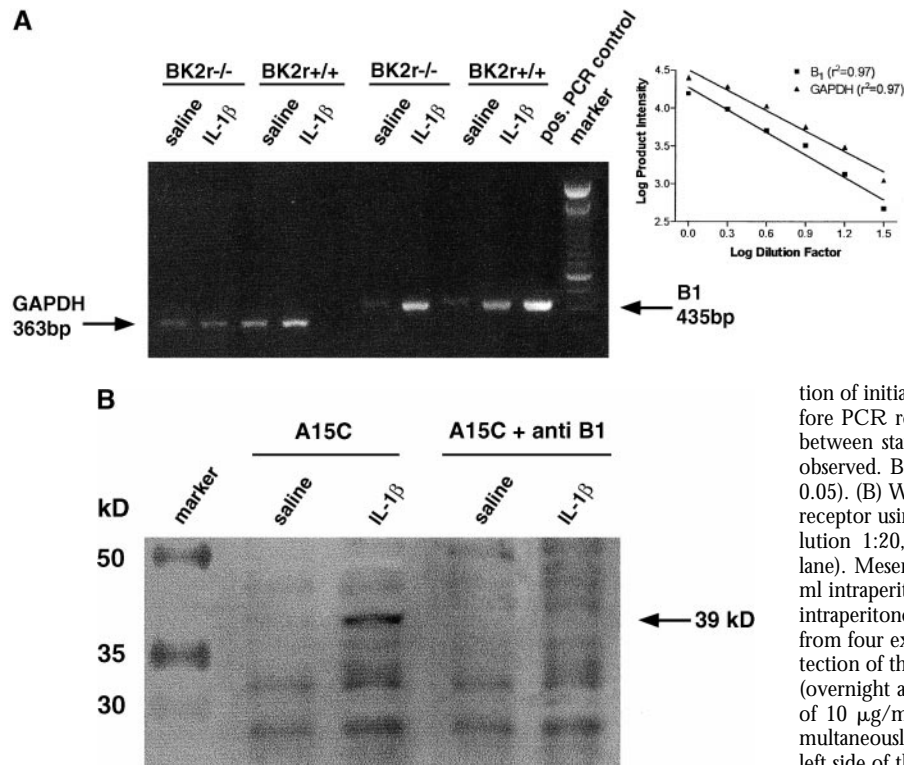


Figure 5. Upregulation of the B₁ receptor by IL-1 β in mouse mesenteric vascular bed. (A) Detection of B₁ receptor mRNA by RT-PCR. B₁ receptor (435 bp) and GAPDH (363 bp) PCR products amplified from polyA⁺ RNA extracted from mesenteric vascular beds from either saline- (0.25 ml, intraperitoneally) or IL-1 β -treated (5 ng in 0.25 ml saline, intraperitoneally) mice. Positive PCR control is a mouse B₁ receptor cDNA plasmid. Results are representative of tissue from at least three animals per group. Inset: PCR product yield as a function of initial amount of cDNA. Serial dilutions of cDNA before PCR results in a log plot in which a linear relationship between starting amount of cDNA and product intensity is observed. B₁ receptor and GAPDH curves are parallel ($P > 0.05$).

(B) Western blot analysis of the expression of mouse B₁ receptor using the IgG purified from A15C (reference 27; dilution 1:20,000) on mesenteric tissues (20 μg protein per lane). Mesenteric tissue were taken from either saline- (0.25 ml intraperitoneally) or IL-1 β -treated (5 ng in 0.25 ml saline intraperitoneally) mice. Results are representative of tissue from four experiments. + anti B₁ represents inhibition of detection of the 39-kD band when the antibody is preincubated (overnight at 4°C) with the A15C peptide at a concentration of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$. Molecular mass marker proteins were run simultaneously. Their molecular masses (kD) are shown on the left side of the figure.

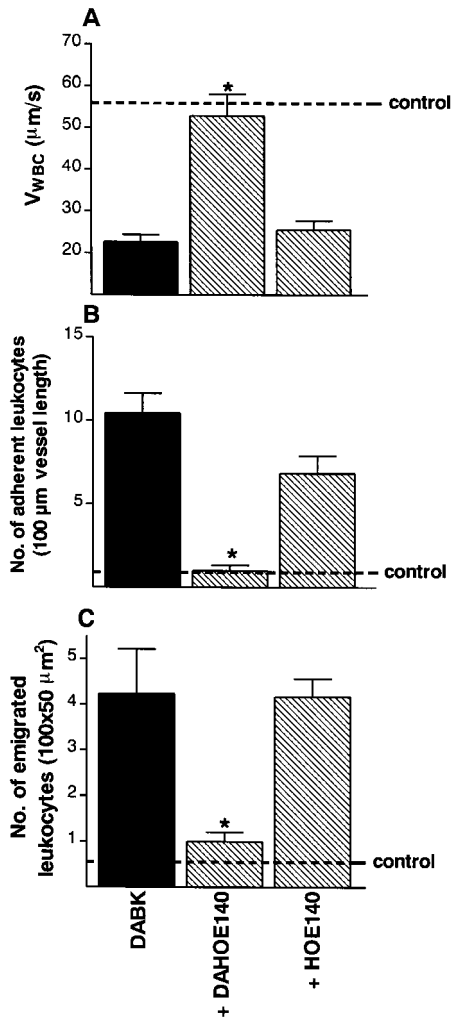


Figure 6. The effect of B_1 or B_2 receptor blockade on the changes in leukocyte kinetics induced by DABK (30 nmol). Mice were injected with IL-1 β (5 ng) 24 h before DABK together with saline, des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 (DAHOE 140; B_1 receptor antagonist, 25 nmol) or HOE 140 (B_2 receptor antagonist, 25 nmol). Leukocyte kinetics (A) rolling velocity, (B) adhesion, and (C) emigration were examined 2 h after DABK treatment. Data are mean \pm SEM for $n = 5$ –8 animals per group. * $P < 0.05$ versus saline-treated values.

this response were neutrophils. The time dependency of these phenomena suggests a sequential process in which each step is a prerequisite for the next, as observed for other inflammatory stimuli in the same vascular bed (16). Importantly, DABK had no effect in animals treated with saline or previously inflamed with the chemokine IL-8. Together, these data show that in the mouse mesenteric microcirculation, functional B_1 receptors are not constitutively expressed but are induced selectively by the cytokine IL-1 β .

The functional response to the B_1 receptor agonist correlated with induction of the receptor. IL-1 β has been shown to be an optimal inducer of B_1 receptor expression on several cell types in vitro (32, 33). This includes human embryo lung fibroblasts where IL-1 β upregulates B_1 receptor

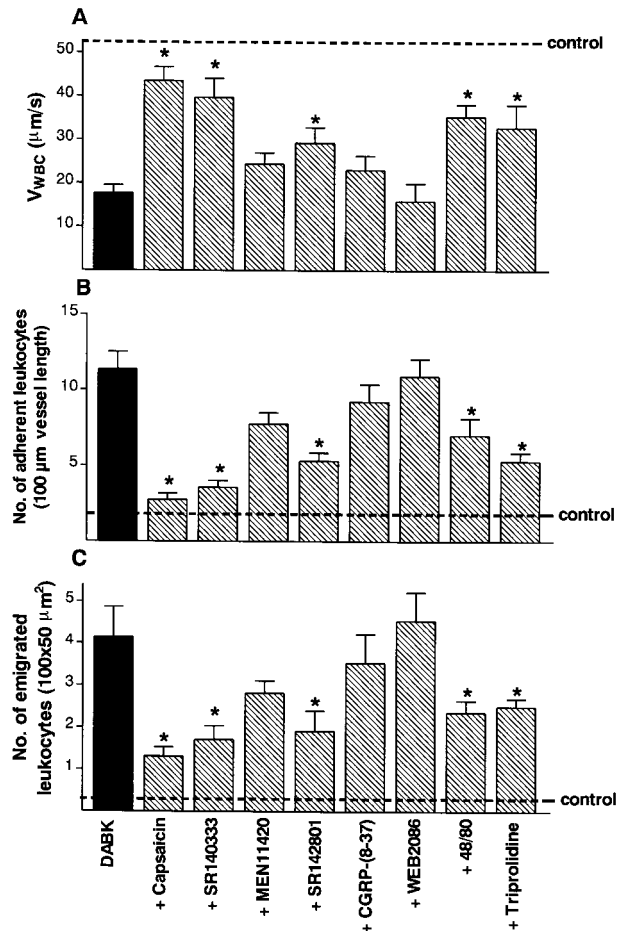


Figure 7. Effect of capsaicin, compound 48/80, and a range of selective receptor antagonists on DABK-induced (30 nmol intraperitoneally) changes in (A) leukocyte rolling velocity, (B) leukocyte adhesion, and (C) leukocyte emigration at the 2-h time point. Values from saline-treated control animals were $V_{WBC} = 52.8 \pm 6.6 \mu\text{m/s}$; adherent leukocytes = 1.9 ± 0.5 cells/100 μm ; emigrated leukocytes = 0.2 ± 0.1 cells/100 \times 50 μm^2 . The following specific treatments were used: capsaicin (50 mg/kg subcutaneously, 4 d); CGRP-(8-37) (300 nmol/kg intravenously, 15 min); SR 140333 (0.1 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ intravenously, 30 min); MEN 11420 (0.1 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ intravenously, 15 min); SR 142801 (4 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ intravenously, 15 min); WEB 2086 (5 mg/kg intravenously, 20 min); compound 48/80 (1.2 mg/kg intraperitoneally, 72 h [reference 23]); and triprolidine (1 mg/kg intraperitoneally, 20 min [reference 26]). Data are mean \pm SEM for $n = 6$ animals per group. * $P < 0.05$ versus DABK-treated values.

mRNA expression at both a transcriptional and posttranscriptional level (20, 34). However, no study to date has shown an ability of this cytokine to induce B_1 receptor mRNA and protein expression in vivo. In this study, IL-1 β treatment caused an upregulation of B_1 receptor mRNA expression, leading to de novo protein synthesis. A modest basal expression of the B_1 receptor mRNA was seen in saline-injected animals. However, this was not associated with detectable expression of the protein. These results suggest that although low-level expression of B_1 receptor mRNA is constitutively expressed in the mesenteric microvasculature, an appropriate inflammatory stimulus is required to achieve optimal transcription and translation.

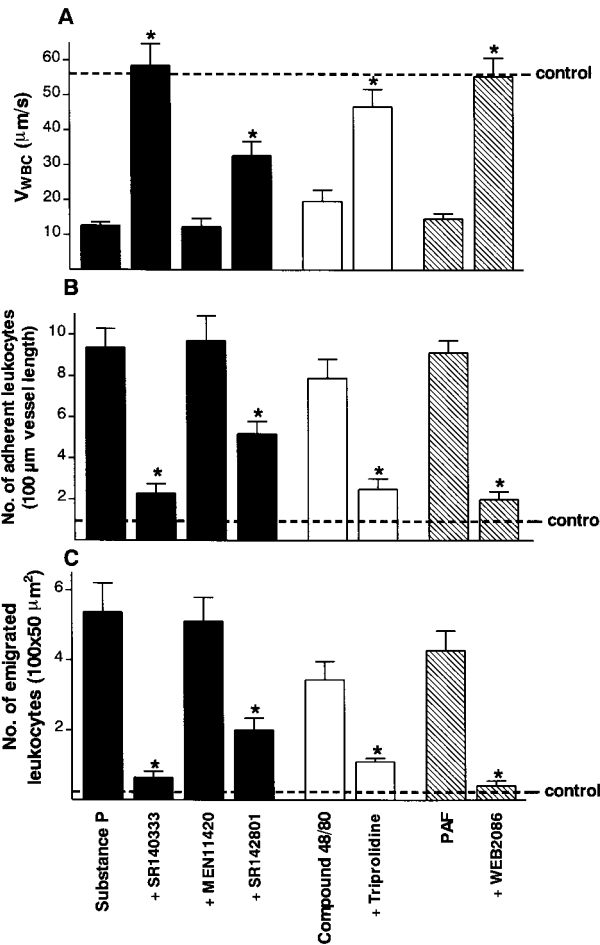


Figure 8. Effect of a range of selective receptor antagonists on substance P- (7.5 nmol intraperitoneally), compound 48/80- (1.2 mg/kg intraperitoneally), and PAF-induced (1 μg intraperitoneally) changes in (A) leukocyte rolling velocity, (B) leukocyte adhesion, and (C) leukocyte emigration at the 2-h time point. Values from saline-treated control animals are $V_{WBC} = 58.7 \pm 9.2 \mu\text{m/s}$; adherent leukocytes = $1.0 \pm 0.5 \text{ cells}/100 \mu\text{m}$; emigrated leukocytes = $0.7 \pm 0.1 \text{ cells}/100 \times 50 \mu\text{m}^2$. The following specific treatments were used: SR 140333 (0.1 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ intravenously, 30 min); MEN 11420 (0.1 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ intravenously, 15 min); SR 142801 (4 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ intravenously, 15 min); triprolidine (1 mg/kg intraperitoneally, 20 min); and WEB 2086 (5 mg/kg intravenously, 20 min). Data are mean \pm SEM for $n = 6$ animals per group. * $P < 0.05$ versus substance P-, compound 48/80-, or PAF-treated values.

The molecular studies were supported by the functional data. DABK-induced leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration was mediated by B_1 receptors, as the selective B_1 receptor antagonist des-arg¹⁰HOE 140 almost abolished the effects of the agonist (90–95% reduction), whereas the chemically related B_2 receptor selective antagonist HOE 140 was without effect. This cellular response was not due to a nonspecific alteration in local hemodynamics, as no significant change in blood flow or shear rate was observed. The lack of involvement of B_2 receptors in DABK responses was confirmed by the experiments performed with the $BK2r^{-/-}$ mice. Quantitatively equal responses to DABK were achieved in $BK2r^{+/+}$ mice and $BK2r^{-/-}$

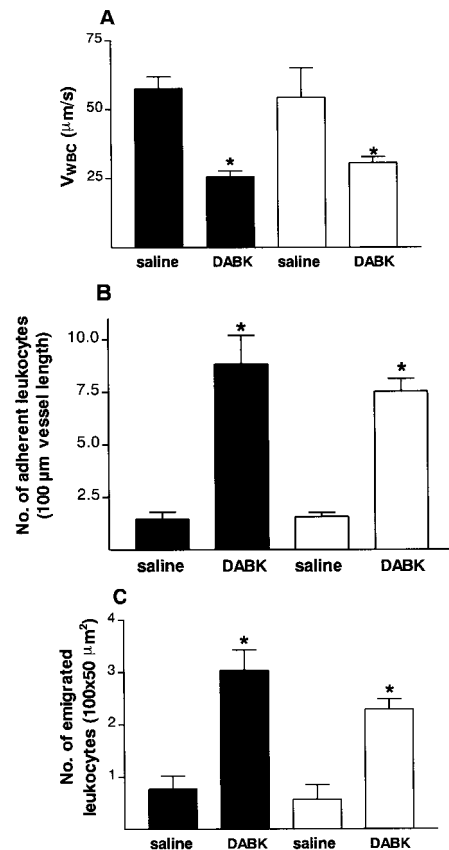


Figure 9. Leukocyte kinetics. (A) rolling velocity, (B) adhesion, and (C) emigration in the mesenteric vascular bed of $BK2r^{-/-}$ (white bars) and $BK2r^{+/+}$ (black bars) mice. Mice were injected with IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally) 24 h before DABK (30 nmol intraperitoneally). No significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in any of the parameters measured was observed in $BK2r^{-/-}$ compared with $BK2r^{+/+}$ mice 2 h after DABK treatment. Data are mean \pm SEM for $n = 5-8$ animals per group. * $P < 0.05$ versus saline-treated values within the same genetic background.

mice. Taken together, these data show that IL-1 β induces expression of functional B_1 receptors in a manner independent of B_2 receptor expression.

We next studied the mechanism(s) by which B_1 receptor activation causes leukocyte recruitment. Other studies have proposed that DABK-induced neutrophil accumulation is mediated indirectly, as DABK does not directly modify neutrophil function in vitro (7), whereas neuropeptide receptor antagonists (7) block neutrophil accumulation in gross models of experimental inflammation in vivo (8). We hypothesized that the DABK-induced rolling, adhesion, and emigration may be mediated by the release of neuropeptides from sensory C fibers. Therefore we investigated the effects of C fiber desensitization with capsaicin using a validated protocol providing $>90\%$ depletion of sensory neuropeptide content (21). Using this protocol, DABK-induced leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration were attenuated by 73, 91, and 71%, respectively. Therefore, activation of C fibers is pivotal in mediation of B_1 receptor-induced leukocyte recruitment.

Table III. Hemodynamic Parameters of Venules Studied: *BK2r^{-/-}* Mice

Mouse genotype (treatment)	No. of venules	Venule diameter	Centerline velocity	Calculated wall shear rate
		μm	mm/s	s^{-1}
Wild-type (saline)	11	28.0 \pm 2.1	1.7 \pm 0.1	318.0 \pm 47.1
<i>BK2r^{-/-}</i> (saline)	7	28.7 \pm 1.9	1.5 \pm 0.1	257.0 \pm 19.1
Wild-type (IL-1 β /DABK)	13	26.9 \pm 1.6	1.4 \pm 0.1	273.7 \pm 25.2
<i>BK2r^{-/-}</i> (IL-1 β /DABK)	25	30.0 \pm 0.8	1.4 \pm 0.1	239.1 \pm 9.5

Mice received either saline (0.25 ml intraperitoneally) or IL-1 β (5 ng intraperitoneally, 24 h) followed by DABK (2 h). Data are mean \pm SEM.

A substantial body of evidence suggests an important role of proinflammatory neuropeptides, such as substance P and CGRP, in C fiber-mediated neurogenic inflammation (35, 36). Neuropeptides produce their effects via the selective activation of G protein-coupled receptors. Three neurokinin receptors—NK₁, NK₂, and NK₃—have been characterized based on the relative order of potency of their corresponding endogenous agonists: substance P, neurokinin-A, and neurokinin-B, respectively (37). To identify the neuropeptide(s) involved in the B₁ receptor-mediated leukocyte-endothelial cell interaction, we used a range of selective antagonists with established selectivity for neuropeptide receptors (38). Blockade of NK₁ receptors with the selective antagonist SR 140333 produced an inhibition (rolling, adhesion, and emigration reduced by 60, 82, and 60%, respectively) similar to that observed with capsaicin. The dose of SR 140333 used in this study was previously validated for selectivity at NK₁ receptors (23). The order of potency for neurokinins at their receptors (39) would suggest that the B₁ receptor-mediated enhancement of leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions is mediated predominantly by substance P. This possibility is further confirmed by the lack of activity of the selective NK₂ receptor antagonist MEN 11420. A partial role for NK₃ receptors in the response may be possible, as blockade with the NK₃ receptor antagonist, SR 142801, reduced DABK-induced rolling, adhesion, and emigration by 33, 64, and 50%, respectively. NK-B, the preferred endogenous agonist for the NK₃ receptor, is not expressed to any appreciable extent in the periphery (37). However, it is of interest to note that functional NK₃ receptors have been shown to be present in mesenteric vascular venous beds (40). It is therefore possible that during inflammation, these receptors might be activated by substance P. This was confirmed by the observation that substance P-induced leukocyte rolling, adhesion, and emigration were also reduced by SR 140333 and SR 142801. The lack of activity of the selective CGRP receptor antagonist, CGRP-(8–37), precludes an involvement of this neuropeptide in the observed response.

A recent study has illustrated the ability of a relatively high dose of BK to cause B₂ receptor-mediated leukocyte recruitment in rat mesentery postcapillary venules (41).

This response was shown to be mediated by PAF release, possibly from the endothelium or macrophages (41). However, this high-dose BK treatment was accompanied by a significant reduction in shear rate, which may have been a contributory factor in the leukocyte response observed. In contrast, in this study, no change in shear rate was observed after DABK treatment. Furthermore, the PAF antagonist WEB 2086 had no effect on the response to DABK, whereas it abolished the response to PAF itself. These data imply that distinct mechanisms exist for kinin receptor-mediated leukocyte recruitment, with B₁ receptors acting predominantly via the release of neuropeptides, and B₂ receptors activating PAF release (41).

Mast cells play an important role in the initiation and progression of the inflammatory response (42). Of particular relevance is their role in cellular accumulation (42), and also their role in neurogenic inflammation via a close relationship and interaction with sensory C fibers (43). Indeed, it has been demonstrated that C fibers and mast cells are often in intimate proximity (44) and share biochemical and functional cooperativity (45, 46–49). Therefore, we investigated the involvement of mast cells in the DABK-induced leukocyte recruitment response by depleting (>80%) peritoneal mast cells with the selective serosal mast cell degranulator, compound 48/80, using a well-established protocol (28, 29). The efficacy of this protocol was confirmed histologically and by the demonstration that acute administration of compound 48/80 itself induces leukocyte recruitment. This effect of compound 48/80 is most likely due to degranulation of mast cells, as pretreatment of mice with the H₁ receptor triprolidine attenuated the response by 70–80%. Compound 48/80 is known to be inactive on neutrophil and/or endothelial cells, but it can promote leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions in vitro only when cocultured with mast cells (42). Mast cell depletion with compound 48/80 significantly attenuated the response to DABK, suggesting that mast cells play an important role in mediation of this response. Further support for an involvement of mast cells in the DABK-induced response was provided by histological studies demonstrating intense mast cell degranulation after DABK treatment. Additionally, as with the acute response to compound 48/80, the DABK-

induced response was suppressed by the H₁ receptor antagonist supporting a role for histamine. PAF is unlikely to be involved, as the response was not affected by the PAF antagonist WEB 2086 (27). Thus it is clear that both C fibers and mast cells are involved in mediating the B₁ receptor-induced leukocyte trafficking. The exact relationship and sequence of events between the C fiber- and mast cell-dependent pathways is less clear. It is possible that DABK causes substance P release, which in turn activates mast cells, as this neuropeptide is known to do (46, 47, 50, 51), thereby stimulating the process of neutrophil extravasation (49). Conversely, DABK may also activate mast cells, resulting in the release of mediators such as histamine, serotonin, or mast cell tryptase, which are known to activate the release of neuropeptides from C fibers (45, 52, 47, 53). Further studies are required to determine the precise cellular location of the kinin B₁ receptor. However the evidence presented in this study suggests that the receptor may be expressed on C fibers and/or mast cells.

The molecular mechanisms of substance P- and histamine-induced leukocyte trafficking are known to involve the specific upregulation and rapid mobilization of certain adhesion molecules for PMNs; e.g., substance P causes the upregulation and mobilization of P-selectin, intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM)-1, vascular cell adhesion molecule (VCAM)-1, and endothelial leukocyte adhesion molecule (ELAM)-1 (54–57), and histamine-induced leukocyte recruitment is known to be mediated in part by P-selectin (55–57, 58). Given our findings implicating substance P and histamine in the response to DABK, it is likely that DABK-induced leukocyte trafficking involves similar mechanisms. However, confirmation of this will be the subject of further study.

Conclusion. To summarize, we have shown that IL-1 β treatment induces the de novo expression of functional B₁ receptors in the mouse mesentery. Activation of these receptors induces interactions between circulating leukocytes and the venular endothelium, leading to leukocyte emigration from postcapillary venules. The B₁ receptor-mediated cellular response is dependent on activation of both C fibers and mast cells, the effects of which are mediated by tachykinin NK₁, NK₃, and histamine H₁ receptor activation. In conclusion, we propose that inhibition of early leukocyte-endothelial cell interactions leading to reduced neutrophil recruitment represents an important additional mechanism for the antiinflammatory effects provided by B₁ receptor antagonism. B₁ receptors may be involved in certain inflammatory pathologies such as inflammatory hyperalgesia (4, 59) and endotoxemic shock (60), and have been implicated in atheromatous disease (61) and myocardial ischemia (62). Thus, the B₁ receptor is clearly a target for the development of novel antiinflammatory drugs with a potent action on the events that lead to leukocyte recruitment.

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