

C-mannosylation of human hyaluronidase 1: Possible roles for secretion and enzymatic activity

YUKI GOTO¹, YUKI NIWA¹, TAKEHIRO SUZUKI², NAOSHI DOHMAE², KAZUO UMEZAWA³ and SIRO SIMIZU¹

¹Department of Applied Chemistry, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University, Yokohama;

²Global Research Cluster, RIKEN; ³Department of Molecular Target Medicine Screening, Aichi Medical University School of Medicine, Japan

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Abstract. Protein glycosylation, one of the post-translational modifications, is important for many protein functions, such as protein stability, folding and secretion. In the protein glycosylation, C-mannosylation was first identified in ribonuclease 2, and some proteins have been reported to be C-mannosylated; however, effects of its modifications for target proteins remain unclear. Hyaluronidase 1 (HYAL1), degrading hyaluronic acid (HA), has two predicted C-mannosylation sites at Trp¹³⁰ and Trp³²¹. In this study, we examined whether HYAL1 is C-mannosylated or not, and the effect of C-mannosylation on HYAL1. Using mass spectrometry, we first demonstrated that intracellular HYAL1 is C-mannosylated at Trp¹³⁰ but not at Trp³²¹. Surprisingly, although HYAL1 was secreted into conditioned medium and it possessed enzymatic activity, secreted HYAL1 was not C-mannosylated. Computer simulation demonstrated that C-mannosylation of HYAL1 at Trp¹³⁰ changed conformation of the catalytic active site, and faced Glu¹³¹ in the opposite direction toward its substrate, HA, indicating that C-mannosylation will negatively regulate its secretion, and will attenuate its enzymatic activity. Taken together, this is the first report that demonstrates the presence of C-mannosylation among HYAL family proteins, and our results suggest possible roles of C-mannosylation for secretion and enzymatic activity.

Introduction

C-mannosylation is a unique type of glycosylation in which α -D-mannose is directly attached to the indole C₂ carbon atom of a tryptophan residue via a C-C linkage (1,2). It is observed within the sequence motif Trp-Xaa-Xaa-Trp/Cys (Xaa represents any amino acids) in proteins, and the N-terminus tryptophan may be C-mannosylated (3,4). Some proteins have been reported to be C-mannosylated, for example, in ribonuclease 2 (5), F-spondin (6), throm-

bospondin (7), a disintegrin and metalloproteinase with thrombospondin motif (ADAMTS)-like 1/punctin-1 (8) and interleukin-21 receptor (9); however, the biological functions of C-mannosylation remain largely unknown. Recently, the responsible C-mannosyltransferase for thrombospondin type-1 repeats (TSR-1), dpy19, was identified in *C. elegans* (10). C-mannosylation is expected to affect protein polarity because the polar mannose is attached to the non-polar tryptophan. Moreover, the attachment of mannose to tryptophan is expected to induce a conformational change of the target proteins. Therefore, C-mannosylation might affect protein functions, such as protein stability, secretion, intracellular localization and even enzymatic activity. In fact, it was reported that C-mannosylation interferes with the secretion of ADAMTS-like 1/punctin-1 (8). Moreover, it is also known that C-mannosylated peptides, derived from TSR-1, enhance lipopolysaccharide-induced signaling, such as tumor necrosis factor alpha and c-jun N-terminal kinase in RAW264.7 cells (11,12). However, little is known about other functions of C-mannosylation, so further detailed investigations are required to clarify the roles of its modification.

Hyaluronic acid (HA) is a component of extracellular matrices (ECMs). Hyaluronidases (HYALs) hydrolyze the β 1-4 linkage between N-acetylglucosamine and glucuronic acid of HA polymers. ECM degradation enzymes, such as matrix metalloproteinases and heparanase, have been known to promote cancer metastasis and invasion (13-15). In the same way, upregulation of HYALs, especially HYAL1, has been reported to correlate with tumor cell proliferation, migration, invasion and angiogenesis in various cancers, including breast, prostate and ovarian cancers (16-18). Moreover, HYAL1 is known to correlate with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). Defects of HYAL1 are not only the cause of mucopolysaccharidosis but are present in JIA (19).

In this investigation, we examined the presence of C-mannosylation in human HYAL1 and its role for HYAL1 functions. As a result, we show possible roles for secretion and enzymatic activity by C-mannosylation of HYAL1.

Materials and methods

Cell culture. Human fibrosarcoma HT1080 cells, purchased from Japanese Cancer Research Resources Bank (JCRB), were

Correspondence to: Professor Siro Simizu, Keio University, 3-14-1 Hiyoshi, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama 223-8522, Japan
E-mail: simizu@applc.keio.ac.jp

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cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM; Nissui, Tokyo, Japan), supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum, 200 U/ml penicillin G, 200 mg/l kanamycin, 600 mg/l L-glutamine, and 2.25 g/l NaHCO₃ at 37°C in a humidified incubator with 5% CO₂.

Establishment of the HYAL1-overexpressing cell line. The human HYAL1-myc-his₆ gene was amplified from a human prostate cancer LNCaP cell cDNA library and subcloned into the pCI-neo vector (Promega, Madison, WI). The permanent cell line expressing HYAL1-myc-his₆ was established by transfecting the vector into HT1080 cells, followed by 400 µg/ml G418 (Roche Applied Sciences, Indianapolis, IN) selection. The clonal cells that expressed high levels of myc-his₆-tagged HYAL1 were designated HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells. The cells that were transfected with pCI-neo vector were designated HT1080-neo.

Western blot analysis. To perform western blot analysis, we used a slightly modified version of a previously described methods (20–23). Cells were lysed in a lysis buffer [50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 1% Triton X-100, 1% sodium deoxycholate and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride] at 4°C with sonication. The lysates were centrifuged at 14,000 rpm for 10 min, and the amount of protein was measured by staining with Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) G-250 (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA). Loading buffer (350 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 30% glycerol, 0.012% bromophenol blue, 6% SDS and 30% 2-mercaptoethanol) was added to each lysate, which was subsequently boiled for 3 min and electrophoresed on SDS-polyacrylamide gels. Proteins were transferred to PVDF membranes and immunoblotted with anti-c-myc (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., Santa Cruz, CA) or anti-α-tubulin (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) antibodies. Detection was performed with enhanced chemiluminescence reagent (Millipore Corporation, Billerica, MA).

Purification of recombinant protein from conditioned medium and whole-cell lysate. To purify recombinant HYAL1 from the conditioned medium, HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells were cultured in serum-free DMEM for 24 h, and the conditioned media was concentrated on an ultrafiltration membrane and incubated with Ni-NTA agarose (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) for 2 h at 4°C. The Ni-NTA agarose was washed five times with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and eluted with 500 mM imidazole.

To purify recombinant HYAL1 from the whole-cell lysate, HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells were lysed with binding buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.5 M NaCl, 8 M Urea, 20 mM imidazole), and cell lysate was incubated with Ni-NTA agarose for 2 h at 4°C. The Ni-NTA agarose was washed four times with PBS and eluted with 500 mM imidazole.

The obtained samples were electrophoresed on SDS-polyacrylamide gels and stained with CBB R-250. The purified proteins were used for mass spectrometry (24,25).

Mass spectrometry. Purified recombinant HYAL1 was subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gels. After CBB staining, the bands were excised and treated with 0.05 µg of sequencing-grade modified trypsin (Promega) at 37°C for 12 h in 0.1 M Tris-HCl, pH 8.0. The digests were desalted

using Zip TipC18µ (Millipore Corporation) and applied to matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time of flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) on a Ultraflex TOF/TOF MS (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany) in reflector mode using α-cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid as the matrix. The selected peaks were subjected to MS/MS analysis in LIFT mode.

Measurement of hyaluronidase activity. To measure HYAL1 activity by in-gel digestion assay, we carried out the experiment as previously reported (26,27). Equal numbers (2.0×10⁶ cells) of HT1080-neo and HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells were cultured in serum-free DMEM for 24 h and concentrated by using Ni-NTA agarose. Ni-NTA-bound proteins were eluted, and the samples were electrophoresed on an SDS-polyacrylamide gel containing rooster comb HA (0.2 mg/ml; Sigma) at 4°C. The gel was washed twice with SDS extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.1 M NaCl, 2.5% Triton X-100) for 1 h and incubated in assay buffer (50 mM sodium formate, pH 4.0, 150 mM NaCl) at 37°C for 24 h. After incubation, the gel was stained with 0.5% alcian blue (Sigma) containing 20% ethanol and 10% acetic acid solution for 2 h and destained with 25% methanol and 7.5% acetic acid solution. HYAL1 activity can be observed as a transparent band in the blue pigment background.

Docking model of HYAL1 and HA by computer simulation. We examined the conformational changes of HYAL1 when it was C-mannosylated and unmannosylated by using the Molecular Operating Environment (MOE; Chemical Computing Group Inc., Montreal, Canada) per previously reported methods (28,29). The Protein Data Bank sequences *Apis mellifera* HYAL-HA complex (PDB ID: 1FCV) and human HYAL1 (PDB ID: 2PE4) were loaded into MOE. Hydrogen atoms were added, and the protonation states were assigned using the Protonate 3D tool of MOE. Using AMBER12:EHT, one of the calculation methods of force field, energy was minimized. The 2PE4 sequence was aligned with 1FCV, removing the *Apis mellifera* HYAL and HA structure. Energy minimization was applied to human HYAL1 and HA. A 3D structure of the refined model was used for the Site Finder module of MOE, which can identify possible ligand-binding sites. Protein docking was performed by alpha sphere and excluded volume-based ligand-receptor docking (ASE-Dock), which is based on ligand-receptor interaction energies, and the resulting score was calculated as U_{DOCK}. U_{DOCK} is expressed by the sum of U_{refine}, the entire free energy of ligand-receptor interaction, and U_{strain}, the free energy of ligand stability. In the ASE-Dock module, ligand atoms have alpha spheres within 1 Å. Utilizing this property, models are created, and ligand atoms from many conformations that are generated by superposition with these points can be evaluated and scored by maximum overlap with alpha spheres and minimum overlap with the receptor atoms. Protein docking between human HYAL1 and dummy ligand atoms, which were created at chosen LBSs as centroids, was performed. The resulting U_{DOCK} was calculated. An α-D-mannose was properly added to Trp¹³⁰ of human HYAL1 to be C-mannosylated within MOE, and then the energy of C-mannosylated human HYAL1 was minimized. Protein docking between C-mannosylated human HYAL1 and dummy ligand atoms was performed. The resulting U_{DOCK} was calculated.

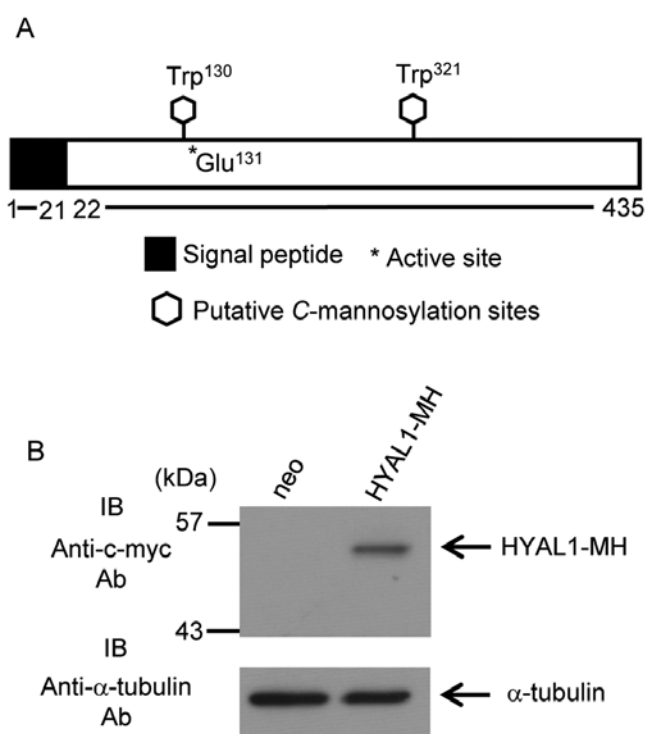


Figure 1. Establishment of HYAL1-overexpressing cell line. (A) Schematic diagram of human HYAL1. The locations of two putative C-mannosylation sites (Trp¹³⁰ and Trp³²¹) are indicated by hexagonal shapes. A black box denotes the signal peptide. The active site of HYAL1 (Glu¹³¹) is indicated by an asterisk (*). (B) Establishment of HYAL1-overexpressing cell line. Exponentially growing HT1080-neo and HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells were lysed, and each cell lysate was electrophoresed and immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies.

Results

Secreted HYAL1 has enzymatic activity, but is not C-mannosylated. Human HYAL1 contains two predicted C-mannosylation consensus sequences, Trp¹³⁰ and Trp³²¹. The active site of HYAL1 (Glu¹³¹) is located next to Trp¹³⁰ (Fig. 1A). To examine whether HYAL1 is C-mannosylated or not, we established HT1080 cells that stably expressed HYAL1 (Fig. 1B).

HYAL1 has a signal peptide at the N-terminus domain (Fig. 1A) and is predicted to secrete. We examined whether HYAL1 secretes or not and confirmed HYAL1 secretion (Fig. 2A). Furthermore, secreted HYAL1 possessed enzymatic activity (Fig. 2A; see alcian blue staining). We undertook MALDI-TOF MS analysis to determine whether secreted HYAL1 is actually C-mannosylated (30). To obtain recombinant HYAL1 protein, we purified HYAL1 from conditioned medium of HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells by using Ni-NTA agarose (data not shown). Purified HYAL1 was treated with trypsin, and the resulting mixture of the peptides was analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS (Fig. 2B and C). C-mannosylation, the attachment of one mannose to a tryptophan residue, should provoke an increase of m/z 162. The peptides containing Trp¹³⁰ were observed at m/z 3,156.0, but no peaks around at m/z 3,318, which is the mass resulting from C-mannosylation of the peptide, were detected (Fig. 2B). In the same way, we performed MS analysis of the peptides containing Trp³²¹, and the peak was observed

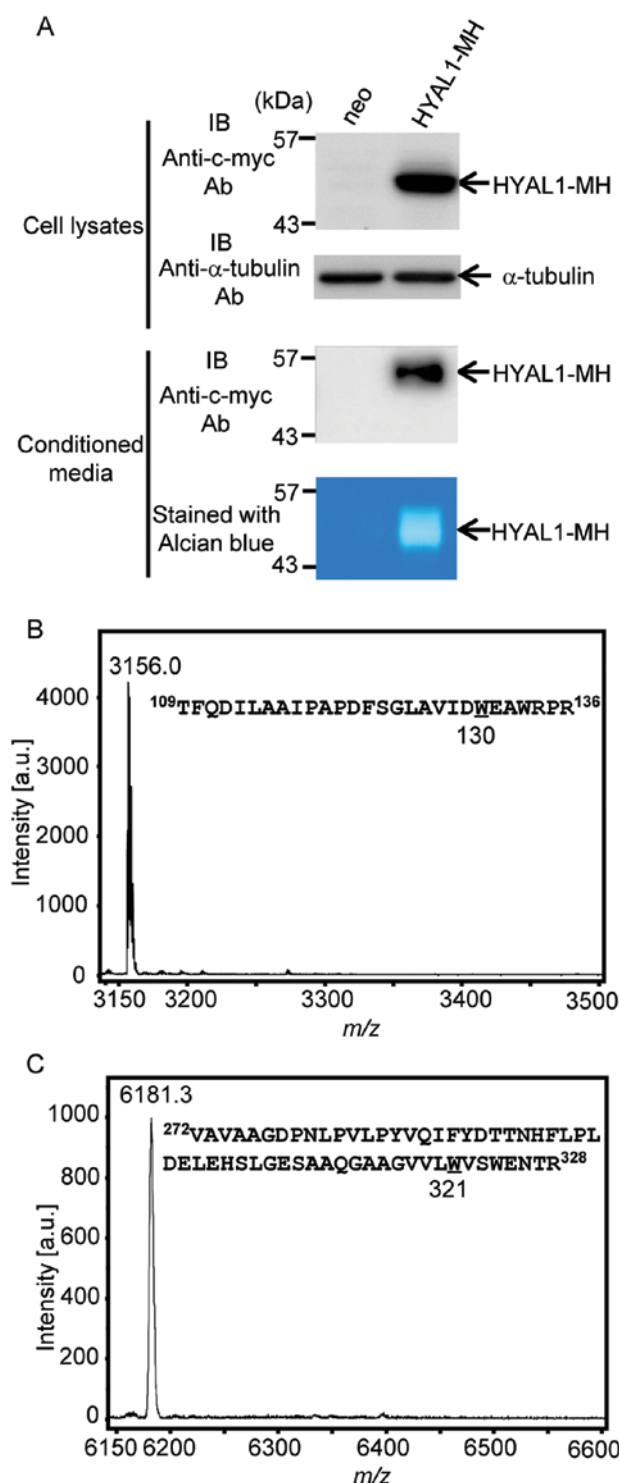


Figure 2. Secreted HYAL1 is not C-mannosylated. (A) HYAL1 was secreted into the conditioned medium. Exponentially growing HT1080-neo and HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells were cultured in serum-free DMEM for 24 h, before the conditioned media were collected. The obtained samples from conditioned media were incubated with Ni-NTA agarose. Ni-NTA-bound HYAL1 was eluted with 500 mM imidazole. Obtained samples were electrophoresed and immunoblotted with the indicated antibodies. For measurement of enzymatic activity, samples were electrophoresed on an SDS-polyacrylamide gel containing 0.2 mg/ml HA at 4°C. The gel was incubated at 37°C for 24 h after extraction of SDS and stained with alcian blue solution. (B and C) Representative MALDI-TOF MS data for peptides from the conditioned medium containing (B) Trp¹³⁰ and (C) Trp³²¹. Purified HYAL1 from the cell culture-conditioned medium was digested with trypsin, and the resulting peptides were analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS. Unmannosylated peptides containing Trp¹³⁰ and Trp³²¹ were observed at m/z (B) 3,156.0 and (C) 6,181.3, respectively.

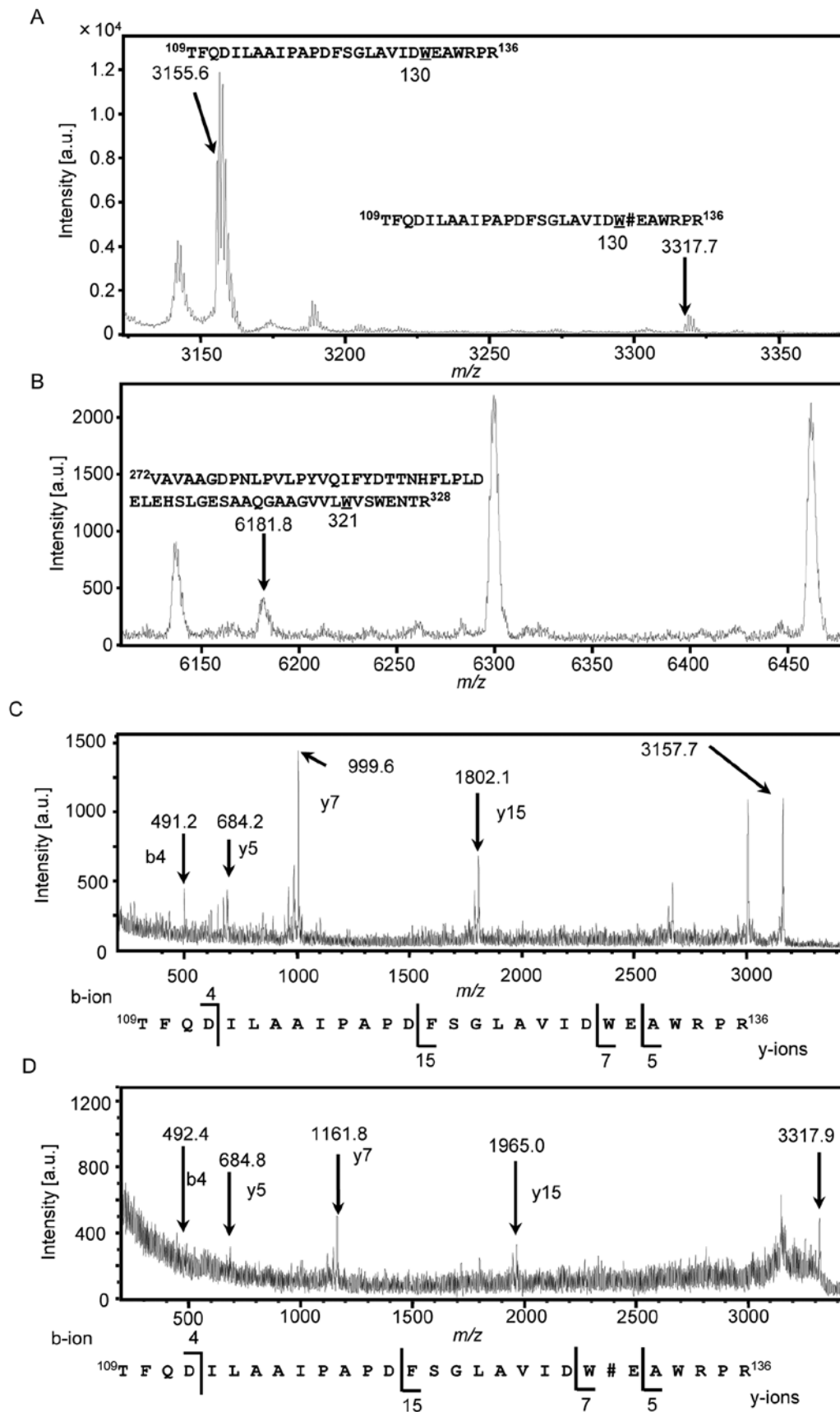


Figure 3. MALDI-TOF MS analysis reveals attachment of a mannose within intracellular HYAL1. (A) Representative MALDI-TOF MS data for the peptide from whole-cell lysates containing Trp¹³⁰. Purified HYAL1 from whole-cell lysates was digested with trypsin, and the resulting peptides were analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS. The peaks of mannosylated and unmannosylated peptides were detected at m/z 3,317.7 and 3,155.6, respectively. C-mannosyltryptophan is indicated by W#. (B) Representative MALDI-TOF MS data for the peptide from whole-cell lysates containing Trp³²¹. Purified HYAL1 from whole-cell lysates was digested with trypsin, and the resulting peptides were analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS. Only the peak of unmannosylated peptides was detected at m/z 6,181.8. (C and D) Representative MALDI-TOF MS/MS data for the peptide containing Trp¹³⁰. (C) Unmannosylated and (D) mannosylated peptides were analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS/MS. Observed peaks of these fragments are indicated as b-ion and y-ions. C-mannosylated Trp residue is indicated by W#.

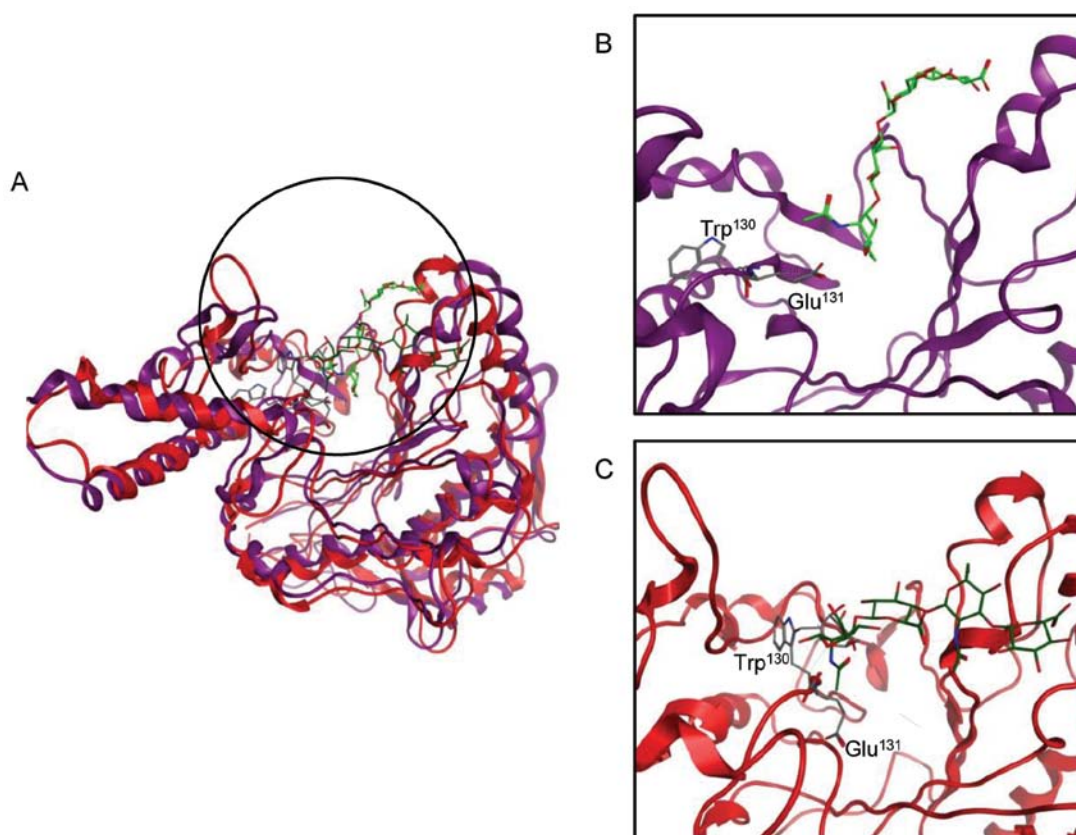


Figure 4. HYAL1 conformation is highly affected by C-mannosylation. (A) Structures of mannosylated HYAL1-HA and unmannosylated HYAL1-HA. Using the structures of *Apis mellifera* hyaluronidase-HA complex (PDB, 1FCV) and human HYAL1 (PDB, 2PE4), alignment of human hyaluronidase-HA complex was performed. Protein docking was performed between mannosylated HYAL1 and HA or unmannosylated HYAL1 and HA by MOE-ASE-Dock. The resulting free energy was also calculated. Mannosylated and unmannosylated HYAL1 are indicated with red and purple, respectively. (B and C) Close-ups of around the black circle in panel A. Unmannosylated HYAL1-HA and mannosylated HYAL1-HA complexes are indicated in panels B and C, respectively.

at m/z 6,181.3, which indicated that it was an unmannosylated peptide (Fig. 2C). However, the peak that was located at about m/z 6,343, which is the mass resulting from C-mannosylation of the peptide, was not detected (Fig. 2C). These results revealed that secreted HYAL1 was not C-mannosylated, although secreted HYAL1 possessed enzymatic activity.

Determination of the mannose attachment residue within HYAL1 by using MALDI-TOF MS. Since HYAL1 is reported to lie mainly in lysosomes (31), we tried to examine whether intracellular HYAL1 is C-mannosylated. We purified HYAL1 proteins from whole-cell lysates of HT1080-HYAL1-MH cells (data not shown), and the obtained recombinant HYAL1 was treated with trypsin. The resulting mixture of peptides that were digested by trypsin was analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS (Fig. 3A and B). The peptides containing Trp¹³⁰ were observed at m/z 3,155.6, which were unmannosylated peptides (Fig. 3A). Moreover, a peak at m/z 3,317.7, which was an increase of m/z 162, was also observed (Fig. 3A). It suggested that the peptides containing Trp¹³⁰ were C-mannosylated. We performed MS analysis on the peptides containing Trp³²¹, and a peak was observed at only m/z 6,181.8, which was predicted to be an unmannosylated peptide (Fig. 3B). These results indicated that intracellular HYAL1 was C-mannosylated at only Trp¹³⁰. We further analyzed the peptides containing Trp¹³⁰ by MALDI-TOF MS/MS to confirm the mannose attachment

residue (Fig. 3C and D). Unmannosylated peptides (Fig. 3C) and mannosylated peptides (Fig. 3D) were analyzed, and b4 and y5 ions were observed at the same position. However, y7 and y15 ions were observed at the m/z 162-increased positions in mannosylated peptides (Fig. 3D) compared with unmannosylated peptides (Fig. 3C). These results confirmed that C-mannosylation of HYAL1 occurred at Trp¹³⁰ only in the cell lysate, not the secreted HYAL1, suggesting that C-mannosylation might suppress HYAL1 secretion.

HYAL1 conformation is highly affected by C-mannosylation. Since secreted HYAL1 showed enzymatic activity (Fig. 2A), C-mannosylation may not be essential for HYAL1 activity. However, since C-mannosylated Trp¹³⁰ lies next to Glu¹³¹, the active site of HYAL1, we assumed that C-mannosylation might regulate HYAL1 enzymatic activity. In order to examine the effect of C-mannosylation on HYAL1 enzymatic activity, we employed MOE, a computer simulation software that could calculate structural changes or free energies of interacting proteins. The crystal structure of human hyaluronidase-HA has not been reported, so we used the Protein Data Bank sequences for *Apis mellifera* hyaluronidase-HA complex (PDB: 1FCV) and human HYAL1 (PDB: 2PE4) in reference to a previous report (27) and performed protein alignment by the MOE tool to construct the human HYAL1-HA complex. The position of the active pocket of the constructed model

accorded with IFCV. We performed ASE-Dock between human HYAL1 and dummy atoms in the possible active pocket. As expected, HA was stably located at the active pocket, and the active site Glu¹³¹ nearly faced the HA cleavage site (Fig. 4A and B; docking energy, -38.6 kcal/mol). We next calculated the effect of C-mannosylation of HYAL1 on conformation or free energy. The docking simulation revealed that C-mannosylation changed the conformation, especially the nearby active pocket of HYAL1 (Fig. 4A and C). Moreover, the active site Glu¹³¹ faced in the opposite direction toward its substrate, HA (Fig. 4A and C; docking energy, -2.45 kcal/mol). These results suggest that C-mannosylation may cause the instability of HYAL1 conformation, resulting in suppression of HYAL1 enzymatic activity.

Discussion

In this report, we demonstrated that intracellular HYAL1 was C-mannosylated at Trp¹³⁰ (Fig. 3), which has possible roles for secretion and enzymatic activity (Figs. 2 and 4). Some C-mannosylated proteins are found among TSR-1 superfamily proteins, such as thrombospondin, mindin, F-spondin and ADAMTS-like 1/punctin-1 (8); however, HYAL1 does not belong to the TSR-1 superfamily. This is the first report revealing the presence of C-mannosylation among the HYAL family. Although some reports demonstrated that C-mannosylation regulates secretion, other functions of C-mannosylation were scarcely reported; however, we suggest that C-mannosylation of HYAL1 might attenuate its enzymatic activity. Attachment of α -D-mannose to the tryptophan residue by C-mannosylation changes protein polarity, because the polar D-mannose is attached to the non-polar tryptophan. Moreover, conformational change is also expected. These changes are predicted to affect some sorts of functions on C-mannosylated proteins, not only secretion, but also protein stability and/or enzymatic activity. Therefore, we anticipated that HYAL1 functions, such as secretion and enzymatic activity, were regulated by C-mannosylation. Surprisingly, however, secreted HYAL1 was not C-mannosylated at all (Fig. 2), although intracellular HYAL1 was partially modified (Fig. 3). These results suggest that C-mannosylation of HYAL1 negatively regulates the secretion of HYAL1 and that there is an unidentified enzyme that detaches mannose from C-mannosylated HYAL1.

MOE has been used widely in research for many purposes, such as homology modeling or docking simulation (32,33). In this research, MOE demonstrated that C-mannosylation highly changed HYAL1 conformation and induced protein instability, so that we presumed that C-mannosylation had roles in enzymatic activity. By C-mannosylation of HYAL1, the active site Glu¹³¹ faced in the opposite direction toward HA, and Glu¹³¹ did not face the cleavage position of HA. Moreover, C-mannosylated HYAL1 could no longer recognize HA as a ligand, according to Site Finder, which can search for possible active pockets of proteins (data not shown). Therefore, C-mannosylation disables HYAL1 to degrade HA. Although mannose is very small, the attachment of mannose to a Trp¹³⁰ residue next to the active site Glu¹³¹ caused profound conformational changes. Furthermore, a previous report demonstrated that HYAL1 enzymatic activity was influenced by site-directed mutagenesis for various sites, such as the

active site, disulfide bond sites or some *N*-glycosylation sites (27). This result means that proper conformation is required for its enzymatic activity and supports our prediction that C-mannosylation, which causes conformational change, is also important for its functions.

According to MOE, secretion and enzymatic activity of HYAL1 is predicted to be inhibited by C-mannosylation, therefore, we have established C-mannosylation-defective W130A mutant HYAL1 expressing cell line to evaluate the effects of C-mannosylation for HYAL1 functions. It is predicted that secretion and enzymatic activity of W130A mutant HYAL1 will be increased compared with wild-type HYAL1 although the ratio of C-mannosylated HYAL1 is small. However, secretion of W130A mutant HYAL1 was decreased compared with wild-type HYAL1 (data not shown). Moreover, we evaluated the enzymatic activity of purified secreted wild-type and W130A mutant HYAL1 purified from conditioned media, which were both unmannosylated. As a result, enzymatic activity of W130A mutant HYAL1 was also decreased compared with wild-type HYAL1 (data not shown). These results were inconsistent with our prediction, and we had concluded that these effects were not because of C-mannosylation but substitution from Trp to Ala. Therefore, in this report, we did not evaluate the effect of C-mannosylation by using C-mannosylation-defective mutant HYAL1.

Collectively, we demonstrated that HYAL1 was C-mannosylated at Trp¹³⁰, and suggest the possible roles of C-mannosylation for secretion and enzymatic activity of HYAL1. Since HYAL1 is known to correlate with tumor malignancy, C-mannosylation of HYAL1 can be target for cancer therapeutics.

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