

**A<sub>3</sub> ADENOSINE RECEPTORS IN HUMAN NEUTROPHILS AND PROMYELOCYTIC HL60 CELLS: A PHARMACOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL STUDY.**

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This work compares the pharmacological properties of A<sub>3</sub> adenosine receptors in human polymorphonuclear granulocytes (PMNs) and promyelocytic HL60 cells.

The gene expression of A<sub>3</sub> receptors was examined by RT-PCR experiments while the amount of A<sub>3</sub> subtype on the plasma membrane was quantified by using the high affinity and selective A<sub>3</sub> antagonist [<sup>3</sup>H]5N-(4-methoxyphenyl-carbamoyl)amino-8-propyl-2-(2-furyl)pyrazolo-[4,3-e]1,2,4-triazolo[1,5-c]pyrimidine ([<sup>3</sup>H]MRE3008F20). Saturation experiments reveal a single high affinity binding site with K<sub>D</sub> of 2.3±0.3, 2.6±0.4 nM and B<sub>max</sub> of 430±35, 345±31 fmol/mg of protein, in PMNs and HL60 cells, respectively.

Competition of radioligand binding by adenosine ligands displays a rank order of potency typical of the A<sub>3</sub> subtype. EC<sub>50</sub> values of N6-(3-iodo-benzyl)-2-chloro-adenosine-5'-N-methyluronamide

(Cl-IB-MECA) for inhibition of cAMP levels via A<sub>3</sub> receptors are in good agreement with the binding data and furthermore the response is potently inhibited by MRE3008F20.

In contrast, the high micromolar concentration of Cl-IB-MECA and MRE3008F20 is stimulating and blocking, respectively, Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization are not consistent completely with the involvement of an A<sub>3</sub> receptor. Furthermore, an important finding of this work is that the inhibition of PMNs oxidative burst is predominantly A<sub>2A</sub>-mediated, even though an effect of A<sub>3</sub> subtype could not be excluded.

This conclusion is based on potent blockade of Cl-IB-MECA-mediated inhibition of oxidative burst by SCH 58261 and a minor but significant blockade by MRE3008F20.

In conclusion HL60 cells express A<sub>3</sub> receptors similar to those in PMNs, thus providing a useful model for investigation of biochemical pathways leading to A<sub>3</sub> receptors activation.