5-21-2012

RhoA/ROCK Pathway is the Major Molecular Determinant of Basal Tone in Intact Human Internal Anal Sphincter

Satish Rattan  
*Thomas Jefferson University, Satish.Rattan@jefferson.edu*

Jagmohan Singh  
*Thomas Jefferson University*

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**Recommended Citation**

Rattan, Satish and Singh, Jagmohan, "RhoA/ROCK Pathway is the Major Molecular Determinant of Basal Tone in Intact Human Internal Anal Sphincter" (2012). *Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Faculty Papers*. Paper 9.  
[http://jdc.jefferson.edu/gastro_hepfp/9](http://jdc.jefferson.edu/gastro_hepfp/9)
Backgrounds & Aims
Knowledge of molecular control mechanisms underlying the basal tone in the intact human IAS is critical for the pathophysiology and rational therapy for debilitating rectoanal molility disorders.

Methods
We determined the effects of ROCK and PKC-selective inhibitors Y 27632 and Go 6850 (10^{-10} to 10^{-5} M), respectively on the basal tone in the IAS versus the RSM. We performed Western blot analysis, confocal microscopy and enzymatic activity assay to determine the levels, membrane distribution and enzyme activity of RhoA/ROCKII, PKcs, MYPT1, CPI-17, and MLC20 before and after Y 27632 and Go 6850.

Results

Conclusions
- RhoA/ROCK are constitutively active in the IAS, and this pathway (in contrast with PKC) is the critical determinant of the basal tone in the human IAS.
- Therefore, RhoA/ROCK are novel therapeutic targets for a number of rectoanal molility disorders in humans.