

Lipopolysaccharide from *Escherichia coli* Reduces Antigen-induced Bronchoconstriction in Actively Sensitized Guinea Pigs

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Abstract

Bronchoconstriction (BC) is the main feature of anaphylaxis in the guinea pig. Since LPS induces lung inflammation and antigen-induced BC depends on the endogenous formation of histamine and arachidonate metabolites, we studied whether LPS might modulate antigen-induced BC. Guinea pigs were sensitized subcutaneously with 10 µg ovalbumin (OA) on days 0 and 14. LPS (100 µg/kg) was injected intravenously on day 21, and daily injections of LPS were continued before the antigenic challenge on day 22, 23, 24, or 25. Intratracheal injection of 100 µg OA induced an abrupt and reversible BC. Single or repetitive injections of LPS reduced BC. LPS is likely to reduce the OA-induced BC by affecting the histamine-dependent component of BC, since (a) LPS induced a partial degranulation of lung mast cells; (b) BC is reduced by mepyramine, an histamine receptor antagonist; (c) LPS did not affect BC in mepyramine-treated guinea pigs; (d) LPS reduced histamine release by OA-stimulated guinea pig lungs in vitro. Moreover, the in vitro OA-induced production of arachidonate metabolites was also reduced by LPS. The decreased formation of TXB₂ was not only secondary to a reduced release of histamine, since LPS inhibited TXB₂ formation in the presence of mepyramine. Finally, the FMLP-induced BC and mediator release were inhibited by LPS, whereas the platelet activating factor-induced pulmonary responses were not. Thus, the protective effect of LPS is not antigen-specific and does not result from a general desensitization. These studies indicate that a single dose of LPS reduces the antigen-induced BC by reducing histamine release from lung mast cells, although a decreased formation of eicosanoids may contribute to the protective effect of LPS. (*J. Clin. Invest.* 1991. 87:1936–1944.) Key words: FMLP • eicosanoids • histamine • mast cells • platelet activating factor

Introduction

Lipopolysaccharide (endotoxin), the major outer cell wall component of Gram-negative bacteria, is a potent inducer of inflam-

matory reactions (1–3). Paradoxically, LPS also displays anti-inflammatory effects. Thus, a single dose of LPS markedly reduced lethality of mice during septicemia (4) and inhibited the vascular permeability changes and neutrophil exudation induced either in rabbit skin by reverse passive Arthus reaction (5) or in rat pleural cavity by carrageenan (6, 7). Furthermore, LPS markedly, but transiently, reduced the local footpad swelling induced by injection of killed *Mycobacteria butyricum* in rabbits (8). Similarly, Meier et al. (9) reported that a single dose of bacterial polysaccharides derived from *Proteus vulgaris* protected against death from anaphylactic shock in guinea pigs. Finally, the same preparations inhibited (or suppressed) the active Arthus reaction in guinea pigs (9).

Since the anaphylactic bronchoconstriction results from an immunologically induced inflammatory reaction, we now investigate if the lipopolysaccharide from *Escherichia coli* O55:B5 modulates the antigen-induced bronchoconstriction in actively sensitized guinea pigs. To characterize further the specificity and mechanism of the protective effect of LPS on anaphylactic bronchoconstriction, lungs isolated from sensitized guinea pigs were stimulated with the antigen, ovalbumin, or with nonantigenic related inflammatory stimuli, such as FMLP and platelet-activating factor (PAF).¹ We now report that a single intravenous (i.v.) injection of LPS reduces the in vitro bronchoconstriction and mediator release induced by ovalbumin and FMLP, but does not modify the PAF-triggered pulmonary response.

Methods

Chemicals. The following reagents were purchased: FMLP, histamine, PGE₂, 6-keto-PGF_{1α}, thromboxane (TXB₂) (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO); lysine acetylsalicylate (Synthelabo Laboratories, Paris, France); mepyramine maleate (Rhône-Poulenc Santé, Vitry-sur-Seine, France); PAF (1-*O*-hexadecyl-2-acetyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine; Bachem, Bubendorf, Switzerland); pancuronium bromide (Organon, Fresnes, France); chicken ovalbumin (Miles Scientific Div., Naperville, IL). LY171883 was a gift from Dr. J.H. Fleisch (Eli Lilly Research Laboratories, Indianapolis, IN). LPS was purchased from Difco Laboratories Inc., Detroit, MI, and prepared by phenolic extraction (10) from *Escherichia coli* O55:B5.

Sensitization procedure. 30 g of aluminum ammonium sulfate (Farmitalia Carlo Erba, Milano, Italy) suspended in 360 ml distilled water was mixed with 150 ml NaOH 1N. This mixture was shaken at room temperature for 30 min until aluminum hydroxide precipitated. The precipitate was centrifuged at 1,500 g for 15 min and resuspended in distilled water. 500 µl of aluminum hydroxide gel (40 mg/ml) was mixed with 200 µl of ovalbumin solution (1 mg/ml) at room temperature for 1 h and then added to 9.3 ml of pyrogen-free saline. Male Hartley guinea pigs (300–350 g; Shamrock, Houdan, France) were in-

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1. Abbreviations used in this paper: BC, bronchoconstriction; OA, ovalbumin; PAF, platelet activating factor; PLA₂, phospholipase A₂.

jected subcutaneously (s.c.) with 0.5 ml of this solution on days 0 and 14.

Pretreatment of guinea pigs with LPS. Nonanesthetized guinea pigs were injected i.v. on day 21 with 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ of LPS. Daily injections of LPS were continued until the antigenic provocation with ovalbumin was given on one of the following days, day 22, 23, 24, or 25. In all cases, the final injection of LPS was 24 h before the antigenic provocation. This pretreatment over 1, 2, 3, or 4 d is referred to as 24, 48, 72, or 96 h. Control guinea pigs were similarly injected with pyrogen-free saline.

In vivo anaphylactic shock. Guinea pigs were anesthetized with sodium pentobarbitone (40 mg/kg, intraperitoneal (i.p.); Clin-Midy, Montpellier, France). The trachea was cannulated and ventilation then started with a Palmer miniature respiratory pump (60 strokes/min). Both carotid arteries were cannulated to record the arterial blood pressure (P23Db transducer; Gould Inc., Oxnard, CA) and to collect blood samples for the platelet and leukocyte counts (Counter-ZBI; Coulter Electronics Inc., Hialeah, FL). Drugs were injected into the jugular vein. Guinea pigs were bilaterally vagotomized when drugs were administered through the airways. Spontaneous breathing was abolished with pancuronium bromide, a neuromuscular blocking agent (4 mg/kg, i.v.) and bronchial resistance to inflation was recorded as previously described (11).

Three hours after the i.p. injection of sodium pentobarbitone, the bronchial reactivity was checked with serotonin (6 μg , i.v.; Sigma). Ovalbumin was either infused through the jugular vein at 0.75 mg/kg (in saline) for 10 min or injected intratracheally (i.t.) as a bolus of 100 μg in 100 μl saline. In the latter case, the airways resistance was not modified by the injection itself. To verify whether ovalbumin was evenly distributed in the airways, cross-sections of lungs from guinea pigs injected i.t. with Evans blue dye were performed 10 min later and were studded with numerous blue blobs throughout the parenchyma.

Bronchoconstriction is defined as the increase in the bronchial resistance to inflation and is expressed as the area (in square centimeters) above baseline bronchial resistance (i.e., the increased pen displacement over the chart paper) over the 20-min period starting with either the infusion or the i.t. injection of ovalbumin. The number of circulating platelets and leukocytes was measured before and 1, 3, 5, 10, and 30 min after starting the infusion or after the i.t. injection.

Electron microscopy. Lung blocks ($< 1 \text{ mm}^3$) were fixed for 24 h in glutaraldehyde (2.5% in 100 mM PBS, pH 7.4). After washing in PBS, specimens were postfixed in 2% osmium tetroxide, dehydrated in graded alcohols, and then embedded in Epon 812-filled gelatin capsules. Ultrathin sections were prepared using an ultramicrotome (LKB Instruments, Inc., Gaithersburg, MD) and counterstained with uranyl acetate/lead citrate.

Perfusion of isolated guinea pig lungs. Guinea pigs were anesthetized as above. The trachea was cannulated and the animal was ventilated with a Palmer miniature respiratory pump (60 strokes/min). A thoracotomy was performed and lungs were washed through the cannulated pulmonary artery for 10 min with 50 ml Krebs solution (118.0 mM NaCl, 4.7 mM KCl, 2.5 mM $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1.2 mM $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1.2 mM KH_2PO_4 , 25.0 mM NaHCO_3 , 5.6 mM glucose), containing HSA (0.25%, wt/vol). Lungs were rapidly removed, ventilated with a Palmer miniature respiratory pump (40 strokes/min) through the cannulated trachea and immediately perfused (9 ml/min, 37°C) via the pulmonary artery with a gassed Krebs-HSA solution (95% O_2 –5% CO_2). Increase in bronchial resistance to inflation were continuously recorded with a Gould P23Db transducer. After a 10-min period of equilibration, increasing doses of ovalbumin (1 ng, 100 ng, and 10 μg) in 100 μl saline were successively administered each 10-min period via the pulmonary artery. In a separate set of experiments, increasing doses of FMLP or PAF (1 and 100 ng) were first injected and followed by 10 μg of ovalbumin. Histamine, PGE_2 , TXB_2 , 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, LTB_4 , and LTC_4 were evaluated in the lung effluent collected on ice over each 10-min period.

Bronchoconstriction is expressed as the area (in square centimeters) above baseline bronchial resistance over a 10-min period starting with

each injection of stimulus as described above for the in vitro experiments. Mediator release was appreciated in every 3-min lung effluent fraction following each injection of stimulus.

Histamine assay. A 1-ml aliquot of each lung effluent fraction was mixed with 1 ml of perchloric acid 0.8 N and centrifuged at 4°C for 20 min at 3,500 rpm. Supernatants were stored at 4°C . Spectrofluorometric assays for histamine were performed according to Lebel (12).

Radioimmunoassays of TXB_2 , 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, and PGE_2 . A 1-ml aliquot of each lung effluent fraction was immediately stored at -20°C for determination of PGE_2 . Another 1-ml aliquot was kept at room temperature for 60 min, allowing the conversion of TXA_2 and PGI_2 into their products of transformation TXB_2 and 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, respectively. Every 100- μl sample of each lung effluent fraction was incubated overnight at 4°C with one of the three ^{125}I -labelled prostanoids and its respective antiserum (supplied by Prof. F. Dray, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France). Radiolabelled prostanoids (or their breakdown products) and antisera were dissolved in a phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.4) containing bovine γ -globulin fraction II (0.3%, wt/vol; Sigma). Bound and free fractions were separated by addition of polyethyleneglycol 6000 (30% in distilled water; Merck, Darmstadt, FRG) and centrifugation at 4°C for 10 min at 4,000 rpm. Radioactivity of the pellet (bound fraction) was counted for 1 min in a gamma counter. The monoclonal antibodies used were $< 0.02\%$ cross-reactive with PGD_2 , PGE_2 , $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$, 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, and arachidonic acid for the anti- TXB_2 antiserum; 10.9% cross-reactive with $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ and $< 2.2\%$ cross-reactive with PGD_2 , PGE_2 , and TXB_2 for the anti-6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$ antiserum; $< 0.11\%$ cross-reactive with PGD_2 , $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$, and TXB_2 for the anti- PGE_2 antiserum. The sensitivities of anti-sera for TXB_2 , PGE_2 , and 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$ were 12, 20, and 16 pg in a 100- μl sample, respectively.

Radioimmunoassays of LTB_4 and LTC_4 . A 1-ml aliquot of each lung effluent fraction was immediately stored at -20°C . Every 100- μl sample of each lung effluent fraction was incubated overnight at 4°C with either ^3H -labelled LTB_4 or ^3H -labelled LTC_4 (Amersham International, Amersham, UK), and its respective antiserum. Radiolabelled leukotrienes and antisera were dissolved in a phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 7.4) containing gelatin type I (0.1%, wt/vol; Sigma). Bound and free fractions were separated by addition of dextran-coated charcoal (charcoal 0.5%, dextran 0.05% in phosphate buffer; Sigma) and centrifugation at 4°C for 10 min at 4,000 rpm. Supernatants were decanted into scintillation vials and were completed with aqueous counting scintillant ACS-II (5 ml; Amersham). Vials were counted for 1 min in a β scintillation counter. The monoclonal anti- LTB_4 antibody (Amersham) was 0.4% cross-reactive with 20-OH- LTB_4 and 6-*trans*- LTB_4 , and $< 0.05\%$ with LTC_4 , LTD_4 , TXB_2 , $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$, 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, and arachidonic acid. The monoclonal anti- LTC_4 antibody (gift from Dr. U. Zor, Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel) was 10.0% cross-reactive with LTD_4 and $< 0.1\%$ with LTA_4 and LTB_4 . Since the anti- LTC_4 antiserum cross-reacts with LTD_4 , LTC_4 was reported as immunoreactive LTC_4 (iLTC₄). The sensitivities of antisera for LTB_4 and iLTC₄ were 300 and 150 pg in a 100- μl sample, respectively.

Statistical analysis. Data were expressed as mean \pm SEM of the indicated number of experiments. Differences between LPS- and saline-treated groups were analyzed for significance by Student's two-tailed *t* test for unpaired samples. The level of significance was set to 5% ($P < 0.05$).

Results

Pulmonary, hematologic, and hemodynamic effects of LPS in actively sensitized guinea pigs. A rapid and marked peripheral blood leukopenia was induced in sensitized guinea pigs by the i.v. injection of 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ LPS (Table I). Number of leukocytes already fell to 50% (of initial values) at 10 min and plateaued at 15–25% from 30 to 120 min after LPS injection. This marked decrease in leukocyte counts was followed by a slight increase at 180 min.

Table I. Hemodynamic and Hematologic Effects of LPS Injected Intravenously to Actively Sensitized Guinea Pigs

Time	Arterial pressure	Hematocrit	Platelets	Leukocytes
min	mmHg	$\times 10^3/\mu\text{l}$	$/\mu\text{l}$	$/\mu\text{l}$
0	88.0 \pm 10.7	47.3 \pm 1.3	440 \pm 25	13621 \pm 944
5	75.5 \pm 9.9	47.0 \pm 1.3	444 \pm 21	12245 \pm 985
10	79.5 \pm 10.6	47.1 \pm 1.5	412 \pm 21	7026 \pm 1155
30	87.0 \pm 9.5	47.2 \pm 1.8	395 \pm 27	3326 \pm 519
60	68.0 \pm 7.3	48.0 \pm 2.4	374 \pm 28	2050 \pm 423
120	68.0 \pm 10.1	45.2 \pm 2.3	400 \pm 41	3534 \pm 690
180	75.5 \pm 10.7	44.5 \pm 1.8	425 \pm 31	5896 \pm 1064

Arterial pressure, hematocrit values, blood platelet and leukocyte counts were determined before and 5, 10, 30, 60, 120, and 180 min after the intravenous injection of 100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LPS. Values represent mean \pm SEM of five guinea pigs at each time point.

In these conditions, LPS failed to induce any significant variations in lung resistance to inflation (not shown), arterial pressure, hematocrit values, or circulating platelet counts (Table I).

Inhibition by LPS pretreatment of bronchoconstriction induced by the infusion of ovalbumin. The infusion of ovalbumin (0.75 mg/kg) over a 10-min period induced bronchoconstriction in sensitized guinea pigs (Fig. 1 A). Lung resistance to inflation increased after a lag time of 3 min, peaked within 10 min, and slowly recovered over the following 20 min. An abrupt and marked arterial hypotension was recorded after 1 min and was followed within 3–5 min by a hypertensive phase (not shown). Numbers of circulating leukocytes and platelets fell from 1 min on, and reached their nadir at 5 min (Table II).

Pretreatment of sensitized guinea pigs with 100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LPS prevented antigen-induced bronchoconstriction (Fig. 1 B). Repetitive i.v. injections of LPS (referred to as 48, 72, or 96 h) significantly reduced ovalbumin-induced bronchoconstriction, whereas a single i.v. injection (24 h) was ineffective (Fig. 2). Single or repetitive i.v. injections of LPS failed to prevent

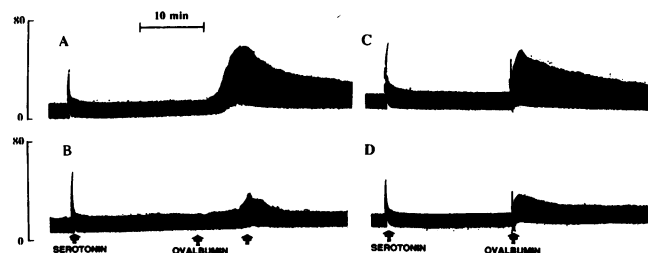


Figure 1. Representative tracings of bronchoconstriction induced by ovalbumin in actively sensitized guinea pigs; effect of i.v. pretreatment with either LPS or saline. Ovalbumin was either infused i.v. for 10 min at 0.75 mg/kg (A, B) or injected i.t. as a bolus of 100 μg (C, D). The bronchial reactivity was checked with serotonin (6 μg , i.v.). Guinea pigs were first injected i.v. with 100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ of LPS 48 h (B) or 24 h (D) before the antigenic provocation with ovalbumin. Control guinea pigs (A, C) were injected i.v. with saline (1 ml/kg) following the same protocol. Arrows indicate the 10 min infusion of ovalbumin (A, B) or its i.t. injection (C, D). Each tracing is representative of four to nine experiments. Time scale: 10 min; vertical scale: bronchoconstriction in cm H₂O.

Table II. Blood Platelets and Leukocytes of Actively Sensitized Guinea Pigs either Infused Intravenously or Injected Intratracheally with Ovalbumin

Time	Ovalbumin i.v.		Ovalbumin i.t.	
	Platelets	Leukocytes	Platelets	Leukocytes
min				
1	97.51 \pm 4.25	95.01 \pm 1.36	101.05 \pm 3.53	92.16 \pm 1.89
3	52.67 \pm 4.54	52.66 \pm 8.99	99.90 \pm 3.84	78.11 \pm 1.99
5	30.57 \pm 6.00	17.21 \pm 2.94	ND	ND
10	22.92 \pm 7.58	9.57 \pm 0.89	100.72 \pm 5.60	92.64 \pm 3.36
30	ND	ND	92.30 \pm 5.80	125.54 \pm 7.15

Counts of blood platelets and leukocytes were determined before and 1, 3, 5, 10, and 30 min after starting the infusion of ovalbumin (0.75 mg/kg for 10 min, $n = 4$) or after its intratracheal injection (100 μg , $n = 9$). Data are expressed in percentage of cell counts as compared to the 100% value determined before the administration of ovalbumin. Values represent mean \pm SEM.

hypotension, thrombocytopenia, or leukopenia triggered by ovalbumin (not shown).

Inhibition by LPS pretreatment of bronchoconstriction induced by the intratracheal injection of ovalbumin. To determine whether repetitive i.v. injections of LPS could affect pulmonary target(s) directly involved in the ovalbumin-induced bronchoconstriction, and to limit systemic anaphylaxis, sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.t. with ovalbumin (100 μg in 0.1 ml saline). An abrupt bronchoconstriction appeared within 20–30 s, plateaued at ~ 90 s, and slowly decreased back to basal values within 60 min (Fig. 1 C). A fast and severe hypotension occurred immediately after the i.t. injection of antigen and was maximal when bronchoconstriction peaked. The decreased arterial pressure slowly normalized and was not followed by the hypertensive phase observed when ovalbumin was infused i.v. (not shown). The i.t. challenge with ovalbumin induced a mild leukopenia but no thrombocytopenia (Table II).

No further change in lung resistance to inflation was recorded when a second i.t. injection of ovalbumin was delivered 60 min later. In contrast, bronchoconstriction and hypotension were still triggered by an i.v. bolus of ovalbumin (1 mg/kg in 0.1 ml saline) injected 60 min after the first i.t. antigenic challenge (not shown).

Pretreatment of sensitized guinea pigs with 100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ LPS reduced bronchoconstriction induced by i.t. injection of ovalbumin (Fig. 1 D). A single i.v. injection (24 h) of LPS reduced bronchoconstriction more markedly than repetitive injections (48, 72, or 96 h) did (Fig. 2). Single and repetitive i.v. injections of LPS failed to prevent hypotension and leukopenia induced by i.t. ovalbumin (not shown). Finally, a single dose of LPS did not modify bronchoconstriction induced by a further challenge with i.v. ovalbumin (not shown).

Pharmacological modulation of bronchoconstriction induced by the intratracheal injection of ovalbumin. Bronchoconstriction induced by i.t. injections of ovalbumin was inhibited (75%, $P < 0.01$) when sensitized guinea pigs were treated with mepyramine (0.5 mg/kg), a histamine H₁ receptor antagonist (Fig. 3). When mepyramine was given with aspirin (50 mg/kg), a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, the ovalbumin-induced broncho-

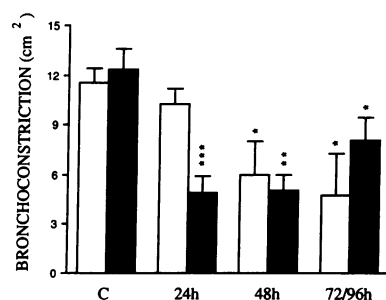


Figure 2. Time-dependent inhibition by LPS pretreatment of the ovalbumin-induced bronchoconstriction in actively sensitized guinea pigs. Ovalbumin was either infused i.v. for 10 min at 0.75 mg/kg (open columns) or injected i.t. as a bolus of 100 μ g (closed col-

umns). Daily i.v. injections of 100 μ g/kg LPS started 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, or 96 h before the antigenic provocation with ovalbumin. Control guinea pigs were similarly injected with saline (1 ml/kg) and are represented by column C. Each column represents mean \pm SEM of four to nine experiments. Vertical scale: bronchoconstriction in square centimeters (see Methods). Statistical significances (* P < 0.05; ** P < 0.01; *** P < 0.001) for differences between LPS- and saline-treated guinea pigs were determined using Student's t test for unpaired samples.

constriction was reduced to the same extent as mepyramine alone did (Fig. 3). Finally, the leukotriene D_4/E_4 receptor antagonist LY171883 (30 mg/kg) did not significantly reduce (29%, P > 0.05) the ovalbumin-induced bronchoconstriction (Fig. 3).

Although histamine is the main mediator of the antigen-induced bronchoconstriction, ovalbumin still induces bronchoconstriction in propranolol- and mepyramine-injected guinea pigs (13). To determine whether LPS modulates the histamine-independent component of antigen-induced bronchoconstriction, ovalbumin (50 μ g in 0.1 ml saline) was delivered i.t. to sensitized guinea pigs previously injected i.v. with propranolol (1 mg/kg) and mepyramine (1 mg/kg). Bronchoconstriction values of the saline-treated group (16.7 ± 7.3 cm², n = 4) and of the LPS-treated group (12.6 ± 4.0 cm², n = 4) were not statistically different. Together, these results led us to hypothesize that LPS modulates the histamine-dependent component of antigen-induced bronchoconstriction.

Ultrastructural evidence of mast cell degranulation in lungs from LPS-treated guinea pigs. Mast cells in the bronchial submucosa of saline-treated guinea pigs were filled with numerous heterogenous secretory granules (Fig. 4 A). A single i.v. injection of LPS resulted in a loss of density of mast cell granules

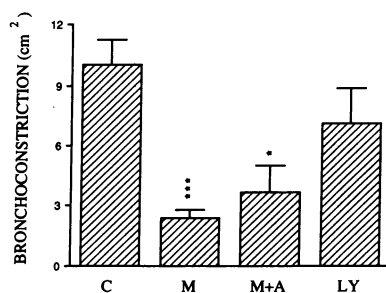


Figure 3. Involvement of histamine and peptide-leukotrienes in the ovalbumin-induced bronchoconstriction of actively sensitized guinea pigs. Mepyramine 0.5 mg/kg (M), LY171883 30 mg/kg (LY), and aspirin 50 mg/kg (A) were injected i.v. 20, 15, and 10 min,

respectively, before the i.t. injection of 100 μ g ovalbumin. Control guinea pigs were similarly injected with saline and are represented by column C. Each column represents the mean \pm SEM of three to five experiments. Vertical scale: bronchoconstriction in cubic centimeters (see Methods). Statistical significances (* P < 0.05; *** P < 0.001) for differences between drug- and saline-treated guinea pigs were determined using Student's t test for unpaired samples.

(Fig. 4 B). Their number was also reduced by LPS as shown by the open areas (arrows) indicating empty granules. Moreover, free secretory granules were observed in the extracellular matrix of the bronchial submucosa from LPS-treated guinea pig lungs (Fig. 4 C).

Effect of LPS on bronchoconstriction and mediator release by ovalbumin-stimulated guinea pig lungs. To provide additional evidence that a single i.v. injection of LPS affects a pulmonary target involved in the ovalbumin-induced bronchoconstriction, sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. on day 21 with either saline or LPS, and their lungs were exposed in vitro on day 22 to increasing doses of ovalbumin. In the saline-treated group, an intense but submaximal bronchoconstriction was already triggered by 1 ng of ovalbumin (Fig. 5, upper panel) whereas a maximal response was evoked by the two following injections of ovalbumin (100 ng and 10 μ g). In no case did the bronchial resistance to inflation recover its basal value in the 10-min period following each injection of ovalbumin. Pretreatment with 100 μ g/kg of LPS markedly reduced bronchoconstriction triggered by 1 ng (68% inhibition, P < 0.05) and 100 ng of ovalbumin (51% inhibition, P < 0.05) but failed to reduce bronchoconstriction triggered by 10 μ g of antigen (Fig. 5, upper panel).

In an attempt to explain the LPS-induced reduction in antigen-induced bronchoconstriction, we measured over time the levels of TXB₂ and histamine in lung effluents. In the saline-treated group, release of TXB₂ and histamine was already triggered by 1 ng of ovalbumin (Fig. 5, middle and lower panels). Histamine and TXB₂ were essentially released within the first 3 min, but significant amounts of TXB₂ (as compared to basal values before stimulation) were still released within the next 3 min. Nevertheless, levels of histamine and TXB₂ returned to their basal values within the last minute before the following injection of ovalbumin. No significant release of both mediator was induced by 100 ng of ovalbumin, indicating that lungs were then desensitized to ovalbumin by a previous injection of antigen (Fig. 5, middle and lower panels). Finally, TXB₂ and histamine were released by 10 μ g of ovalbumin. However, it is noteworthy that a 10,000-fold increase in the dose of ovalbumin resulted only in an approximate two- to threefold increase in amounts of each mediator released (Fig. 5, middle and lower panels). Pretreatment with 100 μ g/kg of LPS markedly inhibited the release of TXB₂ (85% inhibition, P < 0.05) and histamine (85% inhibition, P < 0.01) induced by 1 ng of ovalbumin (Fig. 5, middle and lower panels) but had no effect on mediator release when 100 ng of ovalbumin were injected. Finally, LPS pretreatment also reduced the release of TXB₂ induced by 10 μ g of ovalbumin (81% inhibition, P < 0.001), but did not significantly modify the accompanying release of histamine.

Among other eicosanoids measured in lung effluents of the saline-treated group, PGE₂ showed the same pattern as described above for histamine and TXB₂. Release of PGE₂ was triggered by 1 ng of ovalbumin (not shown) and further evoked by 10 μ g of ovalbumin (Fig. 6, upper panel). In contrast, detectable amounts of 6-keto-PGF_{1 α} , LTB₄, and iLTC₄ were released only by 10 μ g of ovalbumin (Fig. 6, upper and lower panels). Pretreatment with LPS reduced the release of PGE₂ induced by 1 ng of ovalbumin (73% inhibition, P < 0.05) as well as the release of 6-keto-PGF_{1 α} (73% inhibition, P < 0.01), PGE₂ (62% inhibition, P < 0.05), LTB₄ (68% inhibition, P < 0.01), and iLTC₄ (68% inhibition, P < 0.05) induced by 10 μ g of ovalbumin (Fig. 6, upper and lower panels).

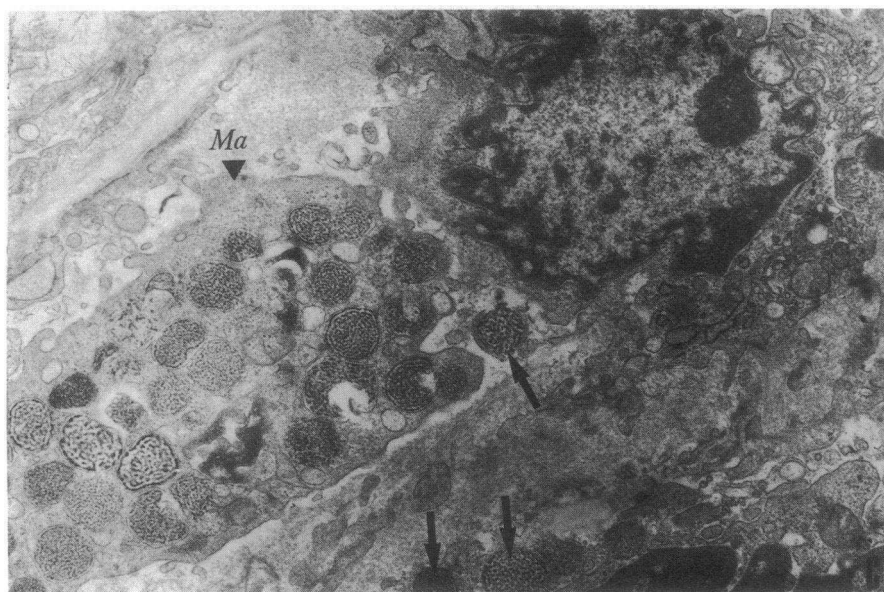
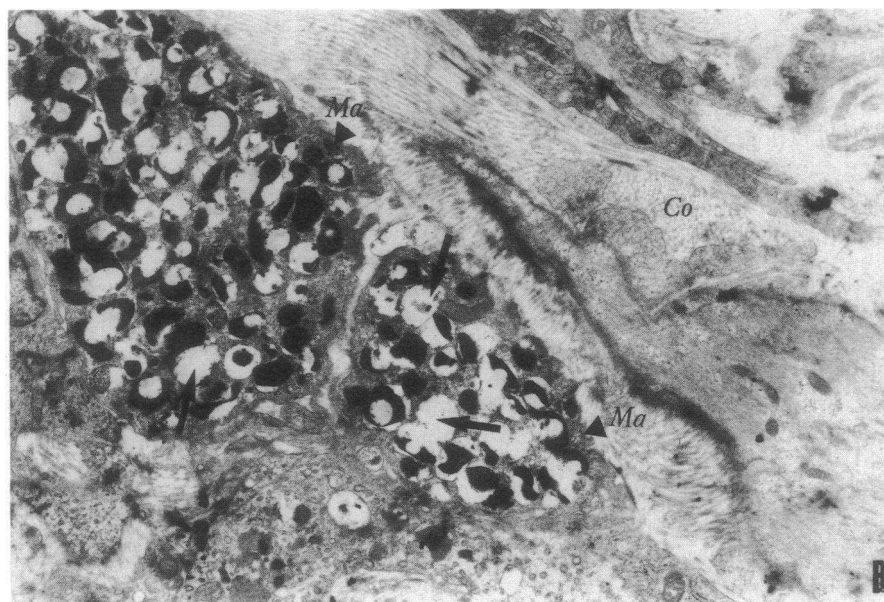
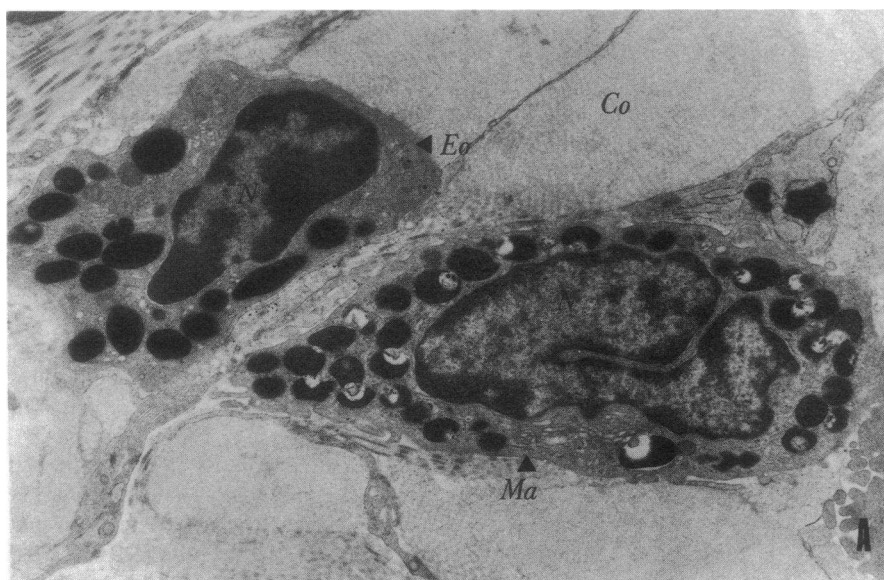


Figure 4. Ultrastructural appearance of mast cells in the bronchial submucosa of guinea pigs injected with either LPS or saline. Actively sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. with either saline (1 ml/kg, $n = 5$) or LPS (100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$, $n = 5$). Lungs were isolated 24 h later and processed as described in Methods. (A) A mast cell from saline-treated guinea pigs, in the vicinity of an eosinophil. The cytoplasm is filled with typical heterogeneous granules ($\times 10,800$). (B) A partly degranulated mast cell from LPS-treated guinea pigs. Arrows indicate empty granules ($\times 11,500$). (C) Arrows indicate free secretory granules in the vicinity of a mast cell ($\times 17,800$). *Ma*, mastocyte; *Eo*, eosinophil; *Co*, collagen; *N*, nucleus.

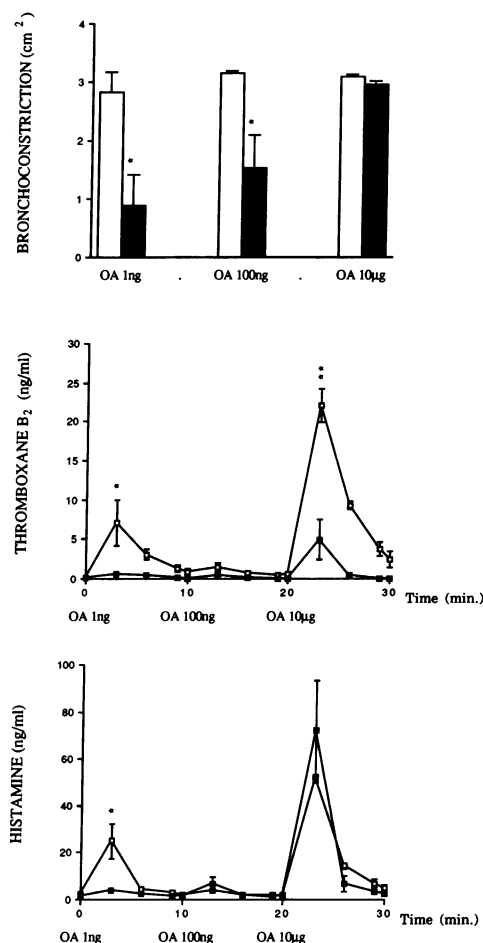


Figure 5. Effect of LPS pretreatment on bronchoconstriction and release of thromboxane B_2 and histamine by ovalbumin-stimulated guinea pig lungs. Actively sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. with either LPS (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, $n = 4$, closed columns and squares) or saline (1 ml/kg, $n = 3$, open columns and squares). Lungs were isolated 24 h later and stimulated in vitro by increasing doses of ovalbumin (OA, 1 ng, 100 ng, and 10 μg). Differences in bronchoconstriction as well as release of thromboxane B_2 and histamine between LPS-treated and saline-treated guinea pigs were statistically analyzed for significance (* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$) using Student's t test for unpaired samples.

Relationship of arachidonate metabolite production and histamine release by lungs from LPS-treated guinea pigs. Since histamine induces TXA_2 production from perfused guinea pig lungs (14, 15), the LPS-induced reduction in TXB_2 production could result from a decreased capability to release histamine. Lungs from LPS-treated guinea pigs were stimulated with histamine, and TXB_2 levels were measured in lung effluents within the first 3 min after histamine stimulation. LPS pretreatment significantly reduced (59% inhibition, $P < 0.01$) the release of TXB_2 triggered by 10 ng histamine (6.92 ± 1.05 ng/ml [saline-treated group, $n = 5$] vs. 2.84 ± 0.62 ng/ml [LPS-treated group, $n = 5$]).

To clarify further if the LPS-induced reduction in histamine release and arachidonate metabolite production are separate events, lungs from LPS-treated guinea pigs were stimulated with ovalbumin in the presence of mepyramine, a histamine H_1 receptor antagonist. LPS pretreatment still reduced the release of TXB_2 induced by 10 μg of ovalbumin (Table III).

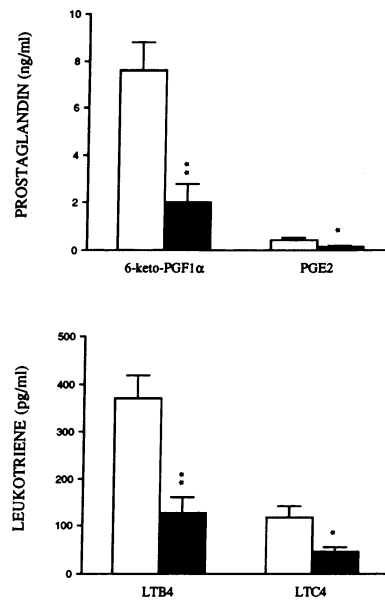


Figure 6. Effect of LPS pretreatment on release of 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, PGE_2 , LTB_4 , and iLTC_4 by ovalbumin-stimulated guinea pig lungs. Actively sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. with either LPS (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, $n = 4$, closed columns) or saline (1 ml/kg, $n = 3$, open columns). Lungs were isolated 24 h later and stimulated in vitro by increasing doses of ovalbumin (1 ng, 100 ng, and 10 μg). Detectable amounts of each mediator were only released by 10 μg of ovalbumin; mediator release within the first 3 min is only represented. Differences in release of 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$, PGE_2 , LTB_4 , and iLTC_4 between LPS-treated and saline-treated guinea pigs were statistically analyzed for significance (* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$) using Student's t test for unpaired samples.

Effect of LPS on bronchoconstriction and mediator release by PAF- or FMLP-stimulated guinea pig lungs. To determine whether a single i.v. injection of LPS reduced bronchoconstriction and mediator release evoked by the only antigen or by non-antigen-related stimuli as well, lungs from sensitized guinea pigs were exposed to FMLP, a synthetic peptide mimicking the NH_2 terminus of bacterial peptides, or to PAF, a lipid mediator released from the membrane of stimulated cells. Pretreatment with LPS failed to modify bronchoconstriction and release of TXB_2 and histamine induced by 1 ng and 100 ng of PAF (Fig. 7). In contrast, LPS pretreatment markedly inhibited bronchoconstriction induced by 1 ng (66% inhibition, $P < 0.05$) and 100 ng of FMLP (46% inhibition, $P < 0.05$) (Fig. 8, upper panel). Similarly, LPS pretreatment significantly reduced the release of TXB_2 and histamine induced by 1 ng (71% inhibition, $P < 0.05$) and 100 ng of FMLP (81% inhibition, $P < 0.05$) (Fig. 8, middle and lower panels).

Table III. Effect of LPS Pretreatment on the Release of TXB_2 by Ovalbumin-stimulated Guinea Pig Lungs in the Presence of Mepyramine

	Saline-treated		LPS-treated	
	Experiment 1	Experiment 2	Experiment 3	Experiment 4
Before OA*	0.80	4.00	0.16	0.13
After OA	63.00	33.50	2.32	8.70

Sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. with 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ LPS. Lungs were isolated 24 h later as described in Methods and were perfused with Krebs-HSA containing 3×10^{-6} M mepyramine. After a 10-min period equilibration, ovalbumin (OA, 10 μg in 100 μl saline) was administered via the pulmonary artery. * Levels of TXB_2 (in nanograms per milliliter) were measured in lung effluent fractions collected before and within the next 6 min after the antigenic stimulation.

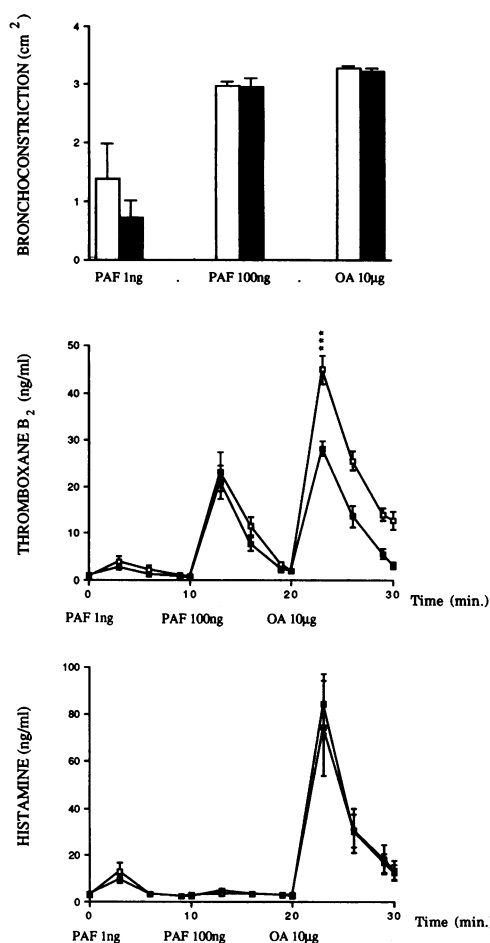


Figure 7. Effect of LPS pretreatment on bronchoconstriction and release of thromboxane B₂ and histamine by PAF-stimulated guinea pig lungs. Actively sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. with either LPS (100 μg/kg, *n* = 7, closed columns and squares) or saline (1 ml/kg, *n* = 5, open columns and squares). Lungs were isolated 24 h later and stimulated in vitro by increasing doses of PAF (1 ng and 100 ng), followed by 10 μg of ovalbumin. Differences in bronchoconstriction as well as release of thromboxane B₂ and histamine between LPS-treated and saline-treated guinea pigs were statistically analyzed for significance (****P* < 0.001) using Student's *t* test for unpaired samples.

Discussion

In these studies, we report that a low dose of LPS from *Escherichia coli* reduces antigen-induced bronchoconstriction in actively sensitized guinea pigs. Injected i.v. to the guinea pig, this single dose of LPS did not itself induce an endotoxin shock, since neither a decrease in arterial blood pressure nor vasopermeation was recorded. Nevertheless, a severe leukopenia occurred as early as 30 min after LPS injection, which was reversible within the first 3 h. Moreover, LPS did not induce itself any thrombocytopenia. In contrast to LPS, nonlethal doses of infused antigen induced bronchoconstriction, a reversible hypotension, thrombocytopenia, and leukopenia. Since the protective dose of LPS activated circulating leukocytes but did not induce hypotension or vasopermeation, it is unlikely that the LPS-mediated reduction in antigen-induced bronchoconstriction results from a refractory state due to a previous endotoxin shock.

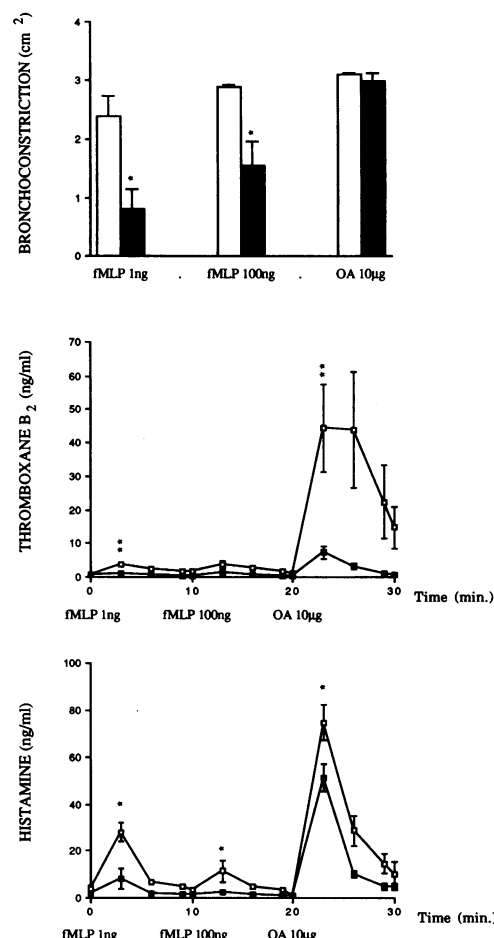


Figure 8. Effect of LPS pretreatment on bronchoconstriction and release of thromboxane B₂ and histamine by fMLP-stimulated guinea pig lungs. Actively sensitized guinea pigs were injected i.v. with either LPS (100 μg/kg, *n* = 5, closed columns and squares) or saline (1 ml/kg, *n* = 4, open columns and squares). Lungs were isolated 24 h later and stimulated in vitro by increasing doses of fMLP (1 ng and 100 ng), followed by 10 μg of ovalbumin. Differences in bronchoconstriction as well as release of thromboxane B₂ and histamine between LPS-treated and saline-treated guinea pigs were statistically analyzed for significance (**P* < 0.05; ***P* < 0.01) using Student's *t* test for unpaired samples.

In the first set of experiments, when ovalbumin was injected i.v., the protective effect of LPS was only observed for repetitive and daily injections administered over a period of 48 to 96 h before antigenic provocation. This lack of protection by a single dose of LPS and the involvement of systemic mediators in the antigen-induced bronchoconstriction led us to speculate that modulation of a pulmonary response triggered by the i.v. route might result from a decreased release of mediators produced both systemically and locally. Therefore, to limit the participation of histamine released from circulating basophils and from other tissues such as the liver, ovalbumin was delivered i.t. Bronchoconstriction and hypotension developed earlier than after the i.v. infusion of antigen and were not accompanied by significant modifications of the number of circulating platelets and leukocytes. In these conditions, anaphylactic bronchoconstriction was reduced by the LPS pretreatment earlier than when ovalbumin was administered i.v., suggesting that lungs from sensitized guinea pigs were already affected

from the first day on by LPS pretreatment, irrespective of the route of ovalbumin administration.

Mepyramine markedly antagonized bronchoconstriction induced by i.v. (not shown) or i.t. ovalbumin, under conditions where neither the LTD₄/LTE₄ receptor antagonist LY171883 (16), nor the cyclooxygenase inhibitor aspirin, or PAF antagonists (17) is effective. Histamine is thus the main mediator of the in vivo bronchopulmonary response to antigen, in agreement with previous studies (18, 19). Histamine was also released by ovalbumin-stimulated lungs isolated from actively sensitized guinea pigs. Since in vivo anaphylactic bronchoconstriction and in vitro histamine release were both inhibited by LPS, a reduced capability of lungs from LPS-treated animals to release histamine in vivo and ex vivo in response to antigen might account for the protective effect of LPS on bronchoconstriction. Furthermore, antigen-induced bronchoconstriction in propranolol- and mepyramine-injected guinea pigs was not reduced by LPS pretreatment, supporting the hypothesis that the histamine-dependent component of the anaphylactic bronchoconstriction is the main target responsible for the protective effect of LPS. Electron microscopic studies indicated that a single dose of LPS induces a partial degranulation of the pulmonary mast cells. Nevertheless, this LPS-induced release of histamine should be protracted and subeffective, since i.v. injections of LPS did not trigger any increase in bronchial resistance to inflation. Thus, a reduced capability of lungs from LPS-treated animals to release histamine due to a partial mast cell degranulation may account for the protective effect of LPS on antigen-induced bronchoconstriction.

Because it is unlikely that a single mediator, histamine, could explain all of the changes occurring in anaphylaxis, we have investigated the effect of LPS pretreatment on eicosanoid release from lungs of sensitized guinea pigs. A single dose of LPS reduced the in vitro antigen-induced production of the arachidonate metabolites TXA₂, PGE₂, PGI₂, LTB₄, and iLTC₄. Significant reduction in release of prostaglandins and leukotrienes by isolated lungs perfused free of circulating cells suggests that resident lung cells or previously elicited cells are the likely target accounting for the LPS-induced decrease in eicosanoid production. Therefore, mast cells (20, 21), alveolar macrophages, eosinophils (22), and endothelial cells (23) are both the likely source of eicosanoids and a possible target of LPS pretreatment. A decreased release of TXA₂ and LTC₄ may contribute to the protective effect of LPS since both TXA₂ and LTC₄ are potent bronchoconstrictors of the guinea pig lung (24, 25). LPS pretreatment also reduced the antigen-induced release of LTB₄, a less potent bronchoconstrictor of guinea pig lung than LTC₄ (25). Release of the bronchorelaxant PGE₂ was reduced by LPS pretreatment, ruling out a direct regulatory effect of PGE₂ on smooth muscle contraction (26) as a possible explanation for the protective effect of LPS. Finally, the production of PGI₂ was also reduced by LPS pretreatment, indicating that endothelial cells of the pulmonary vasculature were affected by LPS. The decrease in production of eicosanoids after a long-term exposure to LPS is in sharp contrast with the short-term priming effect of LPS on eicosanoid synthesis by inflammatory cells (27, 28) or perfused lungs (29).

Since histamine induces TXA₂ formation from perfused guinea pig lungs (14, 15), the release of histamine may be the rate-limiting step for a subsequent formation of arachidonate metabolites. In our studies, LPS pretreatment suppressed the release of TXB₂ triggered either by histamine itself or ovalbumin in the presence of mepyramine, a histamine H₁ receptor

antagonist. Moreover, LPS pretreatment suppressed the formation of TXA₂, PGE₂, PGI₂, LTB₄, and iLTC₄, but failed to reduce release of histamine induced by 10 µg ovalbumin. These results suggest that inhibition of histamine release and TXB₂ formation by LPS are separate events, even though the LPS-induced decrease in histamine release may contribute to the reduction in arachidonate metabolite production. Furthermore, a decreased production of both cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase products suggests that a proximal step in the cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways, such as availability of arachidonic acid, may be the limiting step affected by LPS pretreatment. Although LPS has been reported to increase phospholipase A₂ (PLA₂) activity in rat lungs (30) and rabbit peritoneum (31), a decreased PLA₂ activity is thought to be a subcellular mechanism accounting for an increase in airways hyperreactivity of guinea pig trachea 4 d after LPS injection (32). Therefore, it is possible that an early LPS-induced increase in PLA₂ activity is followed by a decrease of a stimuli-induced PLA₂ activity, explaining the reduced capability of pulmonary cells to generate prostaglandins and leukotrienes after LPS pretreatment.

The LPS-induced protection was not antigen-specific, since the FMLP-induced bronchoconstriction and release of histamine and TXB₂ were also reduced. Previous studies have shown that FMLP-induced chemotactic response and superoxide generation of rabbit PMNs are not affected by in vivo LPS pretreatment (33), although LPS induced an increase in FMLP receptor density (34). Such an uncoupling of receptors for FMLP might also explain the protective effect of LPS on the FMLP-induced pulmonary responses, in our model. The protective effect of LPS is unlikely to result from a general desensitization since PAF-induced bronchoconstriction and release of histamine and TXB₂ were not inhibited by LPS pretreatment. From these results, it could also be stressed that different pathways lead to activation of lung cells by PAF, FMLP, and ovalbumin. Moreover, the lack of protective effect of LPS on the PAF-induced histamine release reinforces the concept of a partial degranulation of pulmonary mast cells upon injection of LPS.

Our findings indicate that a single dose of LPS reduces the antigen-induced bronchoconstriction in actively sensitized guinea pigs. The histamine-dependent component appears to be the main target accounting for the protective effect of LPS. Moreover, the LPS-induced decrease in histamine release and eicosanoid production are separate events, suggesting that LPS might also be protective in inflammatory reactions where eicosanoids play a major role. Our surprising results lead us to conclude that the protective effect of LPS may counteract its well-known priming effect on inflammatory reactions. Such dual effect of LPS may modulate pulmonary allergic reactions, frequently associated with inflammation, or even bacterial infections. LPS is a potent inducer of IL-1, and a single low dose of IL-1 has been reported to inhibit inflammation in rabbit colitis (35), antigen-induced arthritis in rats (36), and contact hypersensitivity responses in mice (37). Further investigations will indicate whether IL-1, or other cytokines with histamine-releasing activities, mediates the protective effect of LPS on antigen-induced pulmonary responses.

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