# 15-Deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibits IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation in lymphocytes

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Abbreviations: 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>, 15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ<sub>2</sub>; IL-6R, IL-6 receptor; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; MNC, mononuclear cells; PKC, protein kinase C; PPAR $\gamma$ , peroxisome proliferators-activated receptor  $\gamma$ ; SOCS, suppressor of cytokine signaling

### Abstract

15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ<sub>2</sub> (15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>) is a natural ligand that activates the peroxisome proliferators-activated receptor (PPAR) y, a member of nuclear receptor family implicated in regulation of lipid metabolism and adipocyte differentiation. Recent studies have shown that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> is the potent anti-inflammatory agent functioning via PPARy-dependent and -independent mechanisms. Most postulated mechanisms for anti-inflammatory action of PPARy agonists are involved in inhibiting NF-κB signaling pathway. We examined the possibility that IL-6 signaling via the Jak-Stat pathway is modulated by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> in lymphocytes and also examined whether the inhibition of IL-6 signaling is dependent of PPAR $\gamma$ . 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> blocked IL-6 induced Stat1 and Stat3 activation in primary human lymphocytes, Jurkat cells and immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells. Inhibition of IL-6 signaling was induced rapidly within 15 min after treatment of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>. Other PPARy-agonists, such as troglitazone and ciglitazone, did not inhibit IL-6 signaling, indicating that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> affect the IL-6-induced Jak-Stat signaling pathway via PPAR $\gamma$ -independent mechanism. Although cycloheximide reversed 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-mediated inhibition of Stat3 activation, actinomycin D had no effect on 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-mediated inhibition of IL-6 signaling, indicating that inhibition of IL-6 signaling occur independent of *de novo* gene expression. These results show that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> specifically inhibit Jak-Stat signaling pathway in lymphocytes, and suggest that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> may regulate inflammatory reactions through the modulation of different signaling pathway other than NF- $\kappa$ B in lymphocytes.

**Keywords:** 15-deoxy-delta(12,14)-prostaglandin  $J_2$ ; Interleukin-6; inflammation mediators; lymphocytes; PPAR<sub>Y</sub>; Stat1 protein; Stat3 protein

### Introduction

IL-6 is a pleotropic cytokine required for immune and inflammatory responses. IL-6 has been initially considered as a pro-inflammatory cytokines, and many of its pro-inflammatory properties are mediated by driving B cell activation and autoantibody production (Muraguchi et al., 1981; Hirano et al., 1986; Kishimoto et al., 1992), inducing the expansion and activation of T cells (Le et al., 1988; Lotz et al., 1988; Okada et al., 1988), and inducing chemokine expression and augmentation of ICAM-1 in endothelial cells (Romano et al., 1997). IL-6 is a member of the IL-6 family cytokines (IL-6, IL-11, leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin M (OSM), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), cardiotrophin-1 (CT-1)) and IL-6 receptor system consists of two molecules, IL-6R $\alpha$  and gp130 (Taga and Kishimoto, 1997). IL-6 binds to its binding receptor (IL-6R $\alpha$ ) devoid of signal transducing activity, and IL-6/IL-6R $\alpha$  complex induces gp130 homodimerization, and dimerization of gp130 activates the receptor-associated protein tyrosine kinases, such as Jak1, Jak2, and Tyk2. Then, tyrosine residues in the cytoplasmic portion of gp130 are phosphorylated, and latent cytoplasmic Stat (signal transducer and activator of transcription) transcription factors are recruited to a phosphotyrosine-containing sequence in the cytoplasmic portion of gp130 and are tyrosine phosphorylated and activated. Activated Stat molecules dimerize and translocate to the nucleus, where they can activate transcription after binding to a consensus sequence in gene promoters (Darnell 1997; Taga *et al.*, 1997). In many cells, IL-6 activates predominantly Stat3, although Stat1 also can be activated. Activated Stat3 is involved in promoting T cell survival and functions (Takeda *et al.*, 1998).

15-deoxy- $\Delta^{12,14}$ -PGJ<sub>2</sub> (15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>) is a natural ligand that activates the peroxisome proliferators-activated receptor  $\gamma$  (PPAR $\gamma$ ), a member of nuclear receptor family and has been reported to exert anti-inflammatory activities in several kinds of cells such as macrophages and endotherial cells via PPARy-dependent and -independent mechanism (Jiang et al., 1998; Ricote et al., 1998; Gilroy et al., 1999; Hinz et al., 2003; Imaizumi et al., 2003). The precise mechanisms for anti-inflammatory effects of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> and other PPARy agonists are poorly understood, and most recent studies about mechanisms for antiinflammatory action of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> and other PPAR $\gamma$ agonists have been focused on inhibiting nuclear factor  $\kappa B$  (NF- $\kappa B$ ) signaling pathway (Li *et al.*, 2000; Rossi et al., 2000; Daynes and Jones, 2002). The postulated mechanisms for suppression of inflammation are transrepression of the transcription factors such as NF-kB and activation protein 1 (AP-1) through the sequestration of essential, shared coactivators (Li et al., 2000; Daynes et al., 2002) and direct inhibition of IkB kinase by 15d-PGJ2 (Rossi et al., 2000). To date, limited information is available for the interaction between the anti-inflammatory effects of PPARy and cytokine-induced Jak-STAT signaling. Two studies were recently reported that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> exerts anti-inflammatory action via inhibition of IFNy-induced Jak-STAT signaling pathway independent of  $\text{PPAR}\gamma$ (Chen et al., 2003; Park et al., 2003). In addition, Park et al. (2003) reported that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> induce the transcription of suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS) 1 and 3, which is the mechanism for 15d- $PGJ_2$  induced inhibition of IFN $\gamma$  signaling. There is no report about the modulation of cytokine-induced Jak-Stat signaling by PPARy in lymphocytes. In this study, we examined the effects of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> and other PPARy agonists on cytokine-induced Jak-Stat signaling pathway in primary human lymphocytes, immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells and Jurkat human T cell line.

### Materials and Methods

### Cell isolation and culture

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (MNC) were obtained from three healthy blood donors by density gradient centrifugation using Ficoll Paque. Primary lymphocytes were purified from MNC by negative selection, using anti-CD14 magnetic beads, as recommended by the manufacturer (Miltenyi Biotech, Auburn, CA). Lymphocytes were used fresh in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS. Jurkat human T cells and immortalized rheumatoid arthritis synovial B cells were also cultured at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> using RPMI medium with 10% FBS. Immortalized rheumatoid arthritis synovial B cells were kindly provided by Dr. J. Sohn (Korea University, Seoul, Korea). These immortalized B cell lines were generated by Ebstein-Barr virus (EBV) transformation, a subsequent fusion with Sp2/0-Ag8 mouse myeloma cells and subcloning.

### Immunoblotting

Total cellular protein was extracted from several conditioned cells using Pro-prep protein extraction solution (Intron, Seoul, Korea). Extracts corresponding to  $2 \times 10^5$  cells were separated through 7.5% SDS-polyacrylamide gels, transferred to polyvinylidene difluoride membranes by semidry electrophoretic transfer, and incubated with phospho-specific (Tyr705) antianti-Stat3 antibody, phospho-specific (Tyr701) anti-Stat1 antibody (Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA), monoclonal anti-Stat3 antibody (Transduction Laboratories, Lexington, KY), and polyclonal antibody against human PPAR- $\gamma$  (Santa Cruz, CA). ECL western blotting detection reagents (Amersham Biosciences) were used for detection.

### Analysis of mRNA levels

Total cellular RNA was isolated using TRIzol reagent (Gibco BRL) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. For real-time PCR, RNA was treated with RNase-free DNAse (Gibco BRL), and complementary DNA (cDNA) was prepared by reverse transcription (RT) with a random hexamer primer (Invitrogen) and M-MuLV reverse transcriptase (Gibco BRL). Oligonucleotide primers used are as follows: GAPDH, AAGGTGAAGGTCGGAGTCAACG and CCT-TCTCCATGGTGGTGAAGAC; SOCS3, CACTCTTCA-GCATCTCTGTCGGAAG and CATAGGAGTCCAGGT-GGCCGTTGAC; SOCS1, AGGATGGTAGCACACAAC-CAGGT and GATCTGGAAGGGGAAGGAACTCAGGTA. We performed real time PCR using the iCycler iQ thermal cycler and detection system (Bio-Rad Laboratories). mRNA levels were normalized relative to GAPDH mRNA.

### Results

### 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibits IL-6-induced Stat activation in lymphocytes

In this study, the effects of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> on IL-6 signaling and Stat activation were examined using primary human lymphocytes, immortalized rheumatoid arthritis synovial B cells and Jurkat human T cells. Phosphorylation of Stat3 and Stat1 was induced rapidly by IL-6 treatment. To determine the effects of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> on IL-6-induced Stat phosphorylation, the cells were pretreated with 10  $\mu$ M 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> for 2 h, followed by IL-6 stimulation for 10 min at  $37^{\circ}$ C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. IL-6 activates predominantly Stat3, and activated Stat3 is mainly involved in promoting T cell survival and functions (Takeda *et al.*, 1998). So, in this study, we focused primarily the modulation of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> on

IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation. Two hours' pretreatment with 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibited Stat3 and Stat1 phosphorylation in primary human lymphocytes (Figure 1A). Similar to IL-6, IL-10 activation of Stat3 was inhibited by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> at tyrosine-phosphorylation level. However, in this study, we investigated mainly about the modulation of IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>. Also we used immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells and Jurkat human T cells for studying the effects of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> on IL-6-induced signaling, and these results were compared with the results from primary lymphocytes. Jurkat cells were shown not to express IL-6R $\alpha$  (Igaz et al., 2000), so we used combination of IL-6 and soluble IL-6 receptor (sIL-6R) for examining the IL-6 signaling in Jurkat cells. 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> could inhibit Stat3 phosphorylation in immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells and Jurkat human T cells, too (Figure 1B, 1C). In unstimulated conditions, weak phosphorylation of Stat3 was seen in rheumatoid arthritis B cells, we can guess minimal production of some cytokines from rheumatoid arthritis B cells, but we did not examine this. 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> mediated-inhibition of IL-6 signaling was in a dose-dependent manner (Figure 1D, 1E). In contrast, phosphorylation of Stat1 by IFN-y was not inhibited by 10  $\mu$ M 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> (Figure 1A). This result is distinct from

those reported by Park *et al.* (2003) and Chen *et al.* (2003) who showed that 10  $\mu$ M of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> significantly suppresses IFN- $\gamma$  signaling in murine macrophages and rat astrocytes. But very high concentrations of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> can inhibit IFN- $\gamma$  signaling (Figure 1F). So, we demonstrated here that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> also can inhibit IFN- $\gamma$  signaling in a dose-dependent manner. These results indicate that IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation is more easily inhibited by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> as compared with IFN- $\gamma$ -induced Stat1 phosphorylation and also suggest that the inhibition of cytokine signaling using the Jak-Stat pathway by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> may be different in the several cell types.

Alcohol inhibits cytokine-induced Stat activation (Chen *et al.*, 1999). Since we used ethanol for dissolving 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>, we tested the effects of ethanol on IL-6 and IFN $\gamma$  signaling in lymphocytes. Low concentration of ethanol (20  $\mu$ M) which we used to dissolve 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>, as compared with the previous report (Chen *et al.*, 1999) did not inhibit IFN- $\gamma$  signaling as well as IL-6 signaling (Data not shown) in lymphocytes.

To exclude the possibility that cell death may contribute to the decreased Stat phosphorylation, trypan blue staining was used to quantify the numbers of viable cells. Treatment with 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> for 2 h resulted in a less than 10% decrease in the number of viable



**Figure 1**. IL-6 (20 ng/ml) and IL-10 (20 ng/ml) induced-Stat activation is inhibited by 10  $\mu$ M 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> in primary human lymphocytes (A), in immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells (B) and in Jurkat T cell lines (C). However, 10  $\mu$ M 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> did not inhibit IFN- $\gamma$ -induced stat activation in primary lymphocytes (A). 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibited IL-6 signaling in a dose-dependent manner in primary human lymphocytes (D) and in Jurkat T cell lines (E). High concentrations of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibit IFN- $\gamma$ -induced stat activation in primary lymphocytes (F). Stat activation was measured by immunoblotting. Extracts corresponding to 2 × 10<sup>5</sup> cells were used in each lane. The experiments are representative of three independent experiments all displaying similar results.

cells (data not shown). So we think cell death did not influence the decreased Stat activation.

## $15d-PGJ_2$ induced-inhibition of IL-6 signaling occurs rapidly and is independent of *de novo* gene expression

We investigated the mechanism about 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling. The currently known mechanisms for inhibition of Jak-Stat signaling are via de novo expression of SOCS (Yasukawa et al., 2000) and a rapid, direct inhibitory pathway that is depen-dent upon protein kinase C (PKC) or mitogenactivated protein kinases (MAPK) (Lee et al., 1999; Ahmed and Ivashkiv, 2000; Ji et al., 2003). The requirement for de novo production of IL-6 signaling inhibitors was investigated by examining the kinetics of inhibition, and by using actinomycin D and cycloheximide to inhibit de novo transcription and translation. To determine the time course of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibitory effects on IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation, primary lymphocytes were incubated with 10 µM 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> for various times. 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibited IL-6 signaling strongly when added just 15 min prior to IL-6 (Figure 2A), suggesting that  $15d-PGJ_2$  stimulates a direct, very rapid inhibitory pathways or induces a inhibitor within 15 min. Inhibition of IL-6 signaling was preserved when *de novo* gene expression was blocked using actinomycin D (Figure 2B). However, when we used cycloheximide for blocking *de novo* protein synthesis,  $15d-PGJ_2$  induced-inhibition of IL-6 signaling was partially reversed by cycloheximide (Figure 2B). Recent report shows that cycloheximide can activate p38 in monocytes (Ahmed *et al.*, 2002). Therefore, we can guess that the reversal of inhibited IL-6 signaling by cycloheximide does not occur secondary to inhibition of de novo protein synthesis, but instead we can suggest that the effect of  $15d-PGJ_2$  on IL-6 signaling may be directly inhibited by cycloheximide via other pathway, such as p38.

Inhibition of Jak-Stat signaling has been proposed to occur by rapid and direct inhibitory pathway dependent upon MAPKs, phosphatase or PKC. Recent study suggests that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> stimulates the expression of IL-8 gene in THP-1 macrophages through a MAPK signaling pathway (Fu *et al.*, 2002). The role of MAPKs, phosphatase or PKC in inhibition of IL-6 signaling was investigated using specific inhibitors of these kinases. Inhibitor of PKC (GF109203X) by itself suppressed IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation (Figure 2C). So we could not definitively rule out the possibility of PKC involvement in 15d- PGJ<sub>2</sub> induced



**Figure 2.** 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-mediated Inhibition of IL-6 signaling occurs rapidly, within 15 min in primary lymphocytes and inhibition of Stat3 activation may be independent of *de novo* protein synthesis in primary lymphocytes. (A) Time course of inhibition of IL-6 signaling. The primary lymphocytes were incubated in 10  $\mu$ M 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> for indicated times, prior to IL-6 (20 ng/ml) treatment. (B) Reversal of inhibition of IL-6 signaling by cycloheximide (15  $\mu$ g/ml), but lack of reversal by actinomycin D (5  $\mu$ g/ml). (C) Lack of reversal of inhibition of IL-6 signaling when mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs), protein kinase C (PKC), or phosphatase were blocked using inhibitors of ERKs (PD98059, 50  $\mu$ M), p38 (SB203580, 10  $\mu$ M), phosphatase (sodium orthovanadate, 5 mM) and PKC (GF109203X, 10  $\mu$ M). STAT activation was measured by immunoblotting. (D) Lack of induction of SOCS3 gene by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> in primary human lymphocytes and Jurkat cells, detected by real time PCR (\**P* < 0.05). Thew data are representatives of three independent experiments all displaying similar results.



Figure 3. (A) Expression of PPAR $\gamma$  in primary lymphocytes, immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells and Jurkat cells. (B) 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> but not other PPAR $\gamma$  agonists (40  $\mu$ M ciglitazone (C) and 30  $\mu$ M troglitazone (T)) inhibit IL-6 signaling in primary human lymphocytes. Thus 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-mediated Inhibition of IL-6 signaling may be independent of PPAR $\gamma$  in primary lymphocytes and immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells. STAT activation was measured by immunoblotting. The data are representatives of three independent experiments all displaying similar results.

inhibition of IL-6 signaling. But inhibitors of ERKs (PD98059), p38 (SB203580), and phosphatase (sodium orthovanadate) had no effect on the IL-6-induced Stat3 phosphorylation by themselves (data not shown). PD98059, SB203580, and sodium orthovanadate did not influence 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling (Figure 2C), indicating that MAPKs and phosphatase may be not involved in 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling.

Also we tested 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-induced SOCS3 expression in lymphocytes, using real time PCR. Recently, Yu *et al.* (2003) reported that SOCS3 are constitutively expressed in murine naive T cells. 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> did not induce SOCS3 expression in primary lymphocytes and Jurkat cells (Figure 2D). In contrast, 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibited SOCS3 expression in primary human lymphocytes (Figure 2D). These results indicate that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-induced-inhibition of IL-6 signaling is independent of the expression of new genes, such as SOCS3.

#### 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibits IL-6-induced Jak-Stat signaling via PPARγ-independent mechanism

Previous studies demonstrated that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> exerts anti-inflammatory action *via* PPARγ-independent mechanism (Hinz *et al.*, 2003), and inhibition of IFNγinduced Jak-Stat signaling is independent of PPARγ (Chen *et al.*, 2003; Park *et al.*, 2003). So we investigated whether PPARγ mediates the inhibitory action of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> on IL-6-induced Jak-Stat signaling. First we determined the presence of PPARγ in primary human lymphocytes, Jurkat human T cells and immortalized rheumatoid arthritis B cells. PPARγ could be detected in all three cell types (Figure 3A). Then we compared the inhibitory effects of different PPARγ agonists on IL-6 signaling. 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> but not other PPARγ agonists inhibits IL-6 signaling in primary human lymphocytes (Figure 3B). Our results suggest that inhibition of IL-6 signaling by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> in lymphocytes is mediated via PPARγ-independent mechanism.



Figure 4. Reversal of IL-6-induced inhibition of SOCS3 gene by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> in Jurkat cells, detected by real time PCR (\*P < 0.05).

### IL-6 inhibits SOCS3 expression in Jurkat cells and this inhibition is reversed by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>

We assessed the functional significance of  $15d-PGJ_2$ -induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling, by examining the effects of  $15d-PGJ_2$  on IL-6-induced change of SOCS3 expression. SOCS3 gene was expressed in Jurkat cells without any stimulation. Previous reports demonstrated that IL-6 induced SOCS3 expression in HepG2 cells and mouse liver (Starr *et al.*, 1997; Senn *et al.*, 2004). Unexpectedly, in our results, treatment of IL-6 for 3 h decreased the expression of SOCS3. IL-6 induced inhibition of SOCS3 expression was reversed by pretreatment of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> (Figure 4). Thus, this result showed that inhibition of IL-6 signaling by  $15d-PGJ_2$  resulted in suppression of IL-6 functional activity.

### Discussion

After two reports about anti-inflammatory effects of

PPARy were published (Jiang et al., 1998; Ricote et al., 1998), PPARy agonists have been focused on research fields studying inflammation. The inhibitory effect of PPARy agonists on Stat molecules was previously suggested (Ricote et al., 1998). However, most studies about anti-inflammatory action of PPARy have been focused on inhibiting NFKB signaling pathway. Thus we studied the effects of PPAR $\gamma$ agonists on Jak-Stat signaling pathway. Park et al. (2003) reported that  $15d-PGJ_2$  and rosiglitazone are potent inducers of SOCS expression in primary astrocytes, and that the inhibition of IFN-y signaling by 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> is dependent of induction of SOCS expression. But here we show that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling is independent of de novo gene expression and 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> can not induce SOCS3 in lymphocytes. Also, in our experiments, other well known mechanisms for inhibition of Jak-STAT signaling, such as MAPKs, phosphatase were not involved in 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling. Therefore, we cannot rule out the possibility that unknown rapid, direct inhibitory pathway may be involved in 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling, and further experiments about the unknown mechanisms of 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub>-induced inhibition of IL-6 signaling need to be done.

Many studies described a role of PPARy for control of inflammation in the monocyte/macrophage. However, as yet, there have been very few reports about a role for PPAR $\gamma$  in the lymphocytes. Clark et al. (2000) described the expression and function of PPAR $\gamma$  in T lymphocytes. They demonstrated that murine T cell expresses PPAR $\gamma$ . In this study, they also demonstrated 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> and ciglitazone mediate significant inhibition of proliferative responses of both the T cell clones and the freshly isolated splenocytes, but did not inhibit IL-2-induced proliferation of such clones. They suggest 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> and ciglitazone may affect signaling pathway involved in T cell receptor stimulation but not IL-2-induced signaling pathway. In our study, 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibits IL-6-induced Stat activation but not IFN- $\gamma$  induced Stat activation at the same concentration. So we can suggest that 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> modulate specifically Jak-Stat signaling of individual cytokines in lymphocytes. Yang et al. (Yang et al., 2000) showed that PPARy mRNA was expressed in human peripheral blood T lymphocytes and 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibited IL-2 production and phytohemagglutinin-inducible proliferation in human peripheral blood T-cells in a dose-dependent manner. Also they showed wildtype Jurkat cells expressed little detectable PPARy mRNA and PPARy-transfected Jurkat cells but not wild-type were inhibited in IL-2 secretion by PPARy ligands. These results indicated that in T cells, 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> and troglitazone mediate their effects only through PPARy-dependent pathways. In our study, we detected a strong PPARy expression in Jurkat cells by Western blot and 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> inhibited IL-6 signaling in wild-type Jurkat cells. Also we showed that other PPARy agonists did not inhibit IL-6 signaling in lymphocytes, so these result suggest 15d-PGJ<sub>2</sub> maybe mediate its effect through PPARy-independent

mechanism. We need further studies about PPAR $\gamma$ -dependent and independent pathway of several PPAR $\gamma$  ligands in lymphocytes

The demonstration that  $15d-PGJ_2$  specifically inhibits Jak-STAT signaling pathway in lymphocytes may expand the possible immunoregulatory role of  $15d-PGJ_2$  and other PPAR $\gamma$  agonists. Taken together with the effects of  $15d-PGJ_2$  and other PPAR $\gamma$  agonists on macrophage function, our results suggest that  $15d-PGJ_2$  may play a significant role in the lymphocyte. Also our findings demonstrated that  $15d-PGJ_2$  can regulate inflammatory reactions through the modulation of different signaling pathway other than NF- $\kappa$ B.

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