

facilitate the molecule's attachment to the cell's membrane. Thus, this mutation may accelerate amyloid deposition in the cerebral vessel walls.

Hereditary cerebral hemorrhage with amyloidosis described in Icelandic patients (HCHWA-I) is histopathologically and clinically similar to HCHWA-D (19). The brains of HCHWA-I patients demonstrate amyloid angiopathy; however, unlike HCHWA-D, the brain parenchyma is not affected, and the amyloid fibrils are derived from degradation of a variant of cystatin C, an inhibitor of cysteine proteinases (20). The variant cystatin C gene contains a point mutation that results in a single amino acid substitution (glutamine instead of leucine) (21, 22). Therefore, the amyloid precursor proteins in two inherited forms of cerebral amyloid angiopathies, HCHWA-D and HCHWA-I, are protease inhibitors that may be present in the circulation (11, 21, 23, 24) and have a substitution in their respective genes that gives rise to the same amino acid. The relation between the presence of glutamine in these proteins and the formation and deposition of amyloid fibrils in cerebral vessel walls is unknown.

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## Platelet Coagulation Factor XI<sub>a</sub>-Inhibitor, a Form of Alzheimer Amyloid Precursor Protein

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An inhibitor of coagulation factor XI<sub>a</sub> was purified from serum-free conditioned medium of HepG2 liver cells. Platelets stimulated with thrombin or calcium ionophore (A23187) secrete a protein functionally and immunologically identical to the inhibitor, implying a role for this inhibitor in hemostasis. Analysis of the amino-terminal amino acid sequence and immunologic reactivity showed the inhibitor to be a truncated form of the Alzheimer's amyloid precursor protein that contains a Kunitz-type serine protease inhibitor domain and at least a portion of the amyloid  $\beta$  protein. It inhibits factor XI<sub>a</sub> and trypsin with a  $K_i$  of  $450 \pm 50$  pM and  $20 \pm 10$  pM, respectively. Heparin (1 unit/ml) did not significantly effect inhibition of trypsin, but inhibition of XI<sub>a</sub> was 15 times greater ( $K_i = 25 \pm 15$  pM) in the presence of heparin.

**C**OAGULATION FACTOR XI CIRCULATES in plasma as the zymogen of a serine protease. Individuals deficient in factor XI suffer a mild to moderate bleeding diathesis characterized by mucosal and post-operative bleeding (1). Factor XI is activated by limited proteolytic cleavage through the action of the contact factors (factor XII<sub>a</sub>, prekallikrein, and high molecular weight kininogen). Activated factor XI (XI<sub>a</sub>) is a protease that consists of two identical disulfide-bonded subunits, each with a catalytic site, and functions in coagulation as an activator of factor IX. Platelets stimulated by thrombin or calcium ionophore (A23187) release a protein that reversibly inhibits XI<sub>a</sub> but does not form XI<sub>a</sub>-inhibitor complexes that are stable to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) (2, 3).

Lysed platelets and the supernatant of A23187-treated platelets contain a protein of ~112,000 kD that binds [<sup>125</sup>I]-XI<sub>a</sub> (Fig. 1A). The serum-free conditioned medium of human hepatoma cells (HepG2) contains the same moiety (Fig. 1A). Approximately 1.3 mg of purified inhibitor (4) was recovered from 90 liters of serum-free conditioned medium. SDS-PAGE shows a predominant band at 112 kD (120 kD when

reduced) with additional faint bands at 94, 66.5, and 55 kD (Fig. 1B). Antibodies to the purified factor XI<sub>a</sub>-inhibitor (XI<sub>a</sub>I) from HepG2 medium adsorbed the inhibitor released from platelets; thus, the HepG2 and platelet proteins are related antigenically (Fig. 2A).

The NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal amino acid sequence of the 112-kD protein is X E V P T D G N A G L L A E P Q (5), which matches exactly residues 19 through 35 of the amino acid sequence predicted from the amyloid precursor protein cDNA sequence (6-8). When trypsin (rather than anhydrotrypsin) affinity chromatography was used in the purification, the minor bands present in Fig. 1B were considerably more abundant. The NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal sequences determined from each band are identical to that of the 112-kD protein, suggesting that the smaller peptides resulted from proteolysis at the COOH-terminus, which may have occurred during the affinity chromatography.

A prominent protein found in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's disease is the amyloid  $\beta$  protein (amyloid A4 protein) (9, 10). The amyloid  $\beta$  protein represents a small part of a transmembrane amyloid precursor protein (APP) that, through alternative mRNA splicing, is produced in at least three different forms (6-8). The two longer proteins (APP<sub>751</sub> and APP<sub>770</sub>) contain a Kunitz-type serine protease inhibitor domain, whereas this domain is lacking in the shorter form containing 695 amino acids

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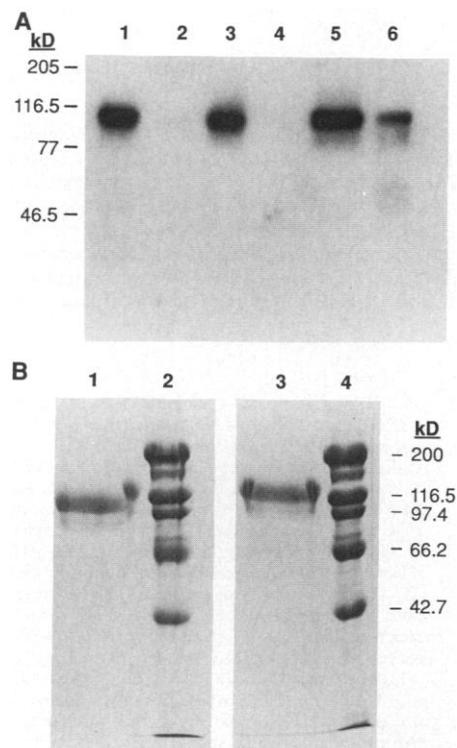
(APP<sub>695</sub>) (6–8). An mRNA encoding a putative secreted form of the precursor protein was identified that contains the Kunitz domain, but lacks the COOH-terminal amyloid, transmembrane, and cytoplasmic domains (11). Protease nexin II, a proteinase inhibitor, was also identified as a form of the APP (12, 13).

Antibodies to several synthetic peptides that represent domains of the APP (14, 15, 16, 17) recognized both the purified XI<sub>a</sub>I (Fig. 2B) and the inhibitor in the supernatant of activated platelets (Fig. 2C). Antisera to the amyloid domain but not to the

COOH-terminal domain of the APP reacted with XI<sub>a</sub>I, consistent with the hypothesis that XI<sub>a</sub>I represents a proteolytically truncated form of the transmembrane APP (17).

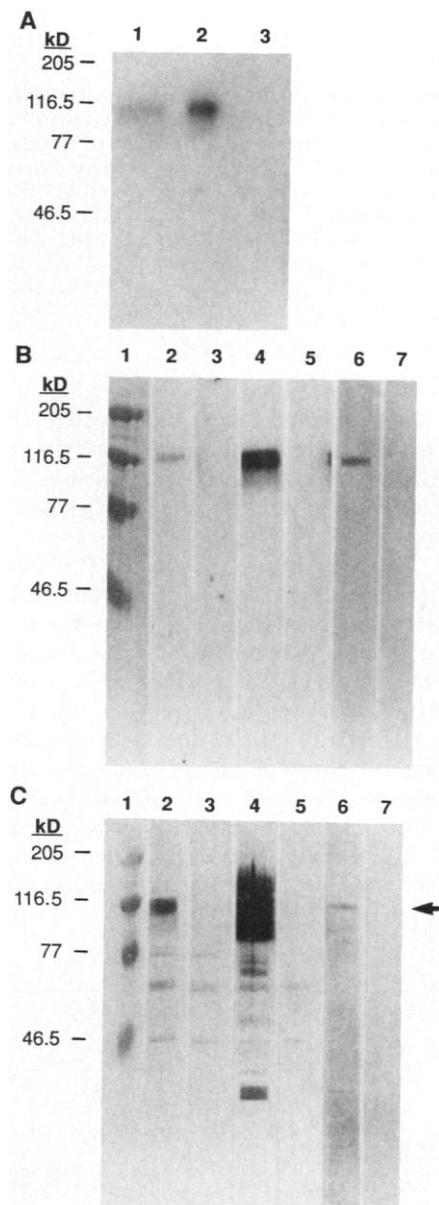
Kinetic experiments show that protease inhibition by XI<sub>a</sub>I is of the slow, tight-binding, reversible type (Fig. 3, A and B), which is typical of Kunitz-type inhibitors (18). When identifying its inhibitory spectrum with various test enzymes at 0.50 nM and an eight- to tenfold excess of inhibitor, the purified XI<sub>a</sub>I did not significantly affect the activities of thrombin, factor VII<sub>a</sub>, the VII<sub>a</sub>-tissue factor complex, factor X<sub>a</sub>, factor

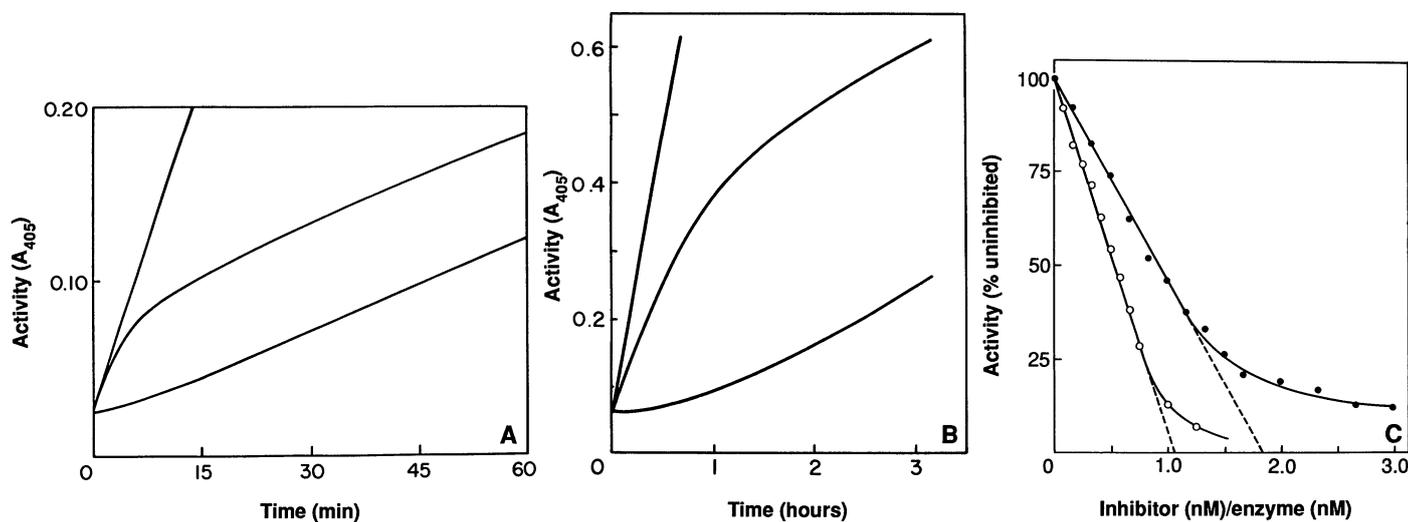
XII<sub>a</sub>, tissue plasminogen activator, urokinase, kallikrein, or leukocyte elastase. Chymotrypsin, however, was inhibited ~25%, and XI<sub>a</sub> and trypsin were inhibited more than 90%. The stoichiometry of binding of the inhibitor to XI<sub>a</sub> appeared to be 1.8:1 (0.9 molecules inhibitor per XI<sub>a</sub> active site), and 1:1 with trypsin (Fig. 3C). The *K<sub>i</sub>* of XI<sub>a</sub>I was determined to be 450 ± 50 pM for XI<sub>a</sub> and 20 ± 10 pM for trypsin (19). Whereas heparin (1 unit/ml) has little effect on the trypsin:XI<sub>a</sub>I interaction (*K<sub>i</sub>* = 20 ± 10 pM), it enhances XI<sub>a</sub>I inhibition of XI<sub>a</sub> (*K<sub>i</sub>* = 25 ± 15 pM). This effect of heparin



**Fig. 1. (A)** Ligand blot of factor XI<sub>a</sub> inhibitor. Lane 1, lysed, unstimulated platelets. Lane 2, supernatant of unstimulated platelets. Lane 3, supernatant of platelets activated with calcium ionophore A23187. Lane 4, platelet pellet after activation. Lane 5, concentrated HepG2 media. Lane 6, 125 ng of purified HepG2 XI<sub>a</sub>I. Isolated platelets (23) were suspended in TSD (0.1 M NaCl, 0.05 M tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1% dextrose) at 10<sup>9</sup> platelets per milliliter and stimulated with 1 μM A23187 for 10 min. Platelets were separated from activated supernatant by centrifugation through oil (24). Ligand blotting was performed (25) with [<sup>125</sup>I]XI<sub>a</sub> as the probe. Whole platelets were lysed with 1% SDS. HepG2 concentrated serum-free media was obtained after cadmium chloride precipitation and elution (4). Relative molecular sizes are shown on the left in kilodaltons. **(B)** SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of purified XI<sub>a</sub>I. Lanes 1 and 3, 15 μg of purified inhibitor. Lanes 2 and 4, protein standards. Samples in lanes 1 and 2 are unreduced, samples in lanes 3 and 4 were reduced with 5% β-mercaptoethanol. SDS-PAGE was performed by the method of Laemmli (26), and proteins were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250. Relative molecular sizes are shown on the left in kilodaltons.

**Fig. 2. Immunoabsorption and immunoblot analysis of purified factor XI<sub>a</sub> inhibitor and activated platelet supernatant.** Platelets (1 × 10<sup>9</sup> per milliliter) were stimulated with thrombin (1 unit/ml) in the presence of 10 mM EDTA and their releasate isolated as in Fig. 1. **(A)** Rabbits were immunized with purified XI<sub>a</sub>I from HepG2 cells (4) and protein A-purified immunoglobulin G (IgG) was then immobilized on Affigel-10 according to the manufacturer's instructions (Bio-Rad, Richmond, California) at a concentration of 5 mg/ml. Mixtures of platelet releasate (400 μl) and IgG-Affigel beads (100 μl) were rocked for 60 min at room temperature, the beads washed extensively with 0.1 M NaCl, 0.05 M tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and the immunoabsorbed proteins eluted from the beads by adding 60 μl of 3% SDS. Samples (25 μl) were subjected to SDS-PAGE and ligand blotting was performed using [<sup>125</sup>I]trypsin as the probe. Lane 1, activated platelet supernatant. Lane 2, anti-XI<sub>a</sub>I Affigel eluate. Lane 3, anti-factor VII Affigel eluate (27) (as a control for nonspecific adsorption). Relative molecular sizes are shown on the left in kilodaltons. **(B and C)** Rabbit antibodies against peptides representing specific regions of APP<sub>751</sub> were used to further characterize the XI<sub>a</sub>I. Reduced samples of purified inhibitor (B) and inhibitor partially purified from platelet releasate by heparin agarose affinity chromatography (28) (C) were subjected to SDS-PAGE and transferred to nitrocellulose paper. After blocking with 3% non-fat milk, the blots were incubated with appropriate dilutions of a specific antisera and developed using alkaline phosphatase coupled goat anti-rabbit IgG (Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri). Lane 1, prestained molecular weight standards. Lane 2, antisera to amino acids 284 to 299 (Kunitz domain) (14). Lane 3, antisera to amino acids 284 to 299 after absorption with 50 μg of the specific peptide (14). Lane 4, antisera to amino acids 45 to 62 (15). Lane 5, antisera to amino acids 732 to 751 (COOH-terminus) (16). Lane 6, antisera to amino acids 653 to 692 (amyloid β protein) (17). Lane 7, antisera to the amyloid β protein after absorption with 50 μg representing the first 28 amino acids of the amyloid β protein (amino acids 653 to 680) (Biochem, California). Relative molecular sizes are shown at the left. In (C) the arrow indicates the position of XI<sub>a</sub>I. The staining of several lower molecular weight bands by the antisera to the peptide 284-299 is apparently nonspecific since it is not affected by pre-absorption of the antisera with this peptide (compare lanes 2 and 3). The specific peptide was not available for absorption of the antisera to amino acids 45-62 (lane 4). Several of the additional bands present correlate with the nonspecific staining seen in lanes 3 and 5. Other bands could also represent nonspecific binding or conceivably additional forms of the APP or degradation products of XI<sub>a</sub>I that do not contain the Kunitz domain [due to lack of [<sup>125</sup>I]XI<sub>a</sub> binding (Fig. 1)]. Staining of two lower molecular size bands by the antisera to peptide 732-751 (COOH-terminus) (lane 5) remained following pre-absorption of the antisera with this peptide.





**Fig. 3.** Kinetics and stoichiometry of the XI<sub>a</sub>I. (A and B) Slow, tight-binding, reversible inhibition of XI<sub>a</sub> and trypsin by XI<sub>a</sub>I. In both (A) and (B) the tracings represent: top, cleavage of substrate by enzyme in absence of inhibitor; middle, cleavage of substrate by enzyme added to mixture of substrate and inhibitor; bottom, cleavage after addition of substrate to preincubated (1 hour, 21°C) mixture of enzyme and inhibitor. Substrates were the chromogens S2366 and Spectrazyme X<sub>a</sub>. Product generation was measured by absorbance at 405 nm. (A) XI<sub>a</sub> (0.25 nM), pryGlu-Pro-Arg-pNA (S2366) (0.3 mM) and XI<sub>a</sub>I (3 nM). (B) Trypsin (0.5 nM), Spectrazyme X<sub>a</sub> (1 mM), and XI<sub>a</sub>I (4.2 nM). (C) Stoichiometry of XI<sub>a</sub>I binding to

XI<sub>a</sub> or trypsin. XI<sub>a</sub> (●—●), or trypsin (○—○), each at 1 nM, were incubated without XI<sub>a</sub>I or with various concentrations of the XI<sub>a</sub>I for 1 hour at 21°C in 900 μl of TBSA. Substrates (S2366 and Spectrozyme XI<sub>a</sub>, respectively) were then added and the initial rates of product generation were measured by absorbance at 405 nm. The concentration of trypsin was determined by active site titration using *p*-nitrophenyl *p*'-guanidinobenzoate (29); concentrations of XI<sub>a</sub> and XI<sub>a</sub>I were derived from A<sub>280</sub> measurements using extinction coefficients of 13.4 and 5.7, respectively (4). Lines were drawn by inspection.

may be physiologically important, because sulfated glycosaminoglycans are prominent constituents of the plaques characteristic of Alzheimer's disease and are located at the surface of several cell types, in particular endothelial cells (20, 21).

The role, if any, of the APP Kunitz protease inhibitor domain in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease is not known. It is conceivable that inhibition of an enzyme other than XI<sub>a</sub> is of importance in this regard. However, the presence of the APP containing the Kunitz domain on the surface of a variety of cells (22) and the release of a truncated form by stimulated platelets, which are at high concentrations at the site of a developing thrombus, suggest that the APP may play a role in the regulation of coagulation.

The column was developed with a gradient from 0.15 to 1.0 M NaCl in 0.05 M tris-HCl, pH 8.0, and fractions containing XI<sub>a</sub>I activity (eluting at 22 mmho) were pooled. This sample was applied to a 10-ml column of anhydrotypsin agarose [prepared as described by S. Ishii, H. Yokosawa, T. Kumakazi, I. Nakamura, *Methods Enzymol.* **91**, 378 (1983)] and eluted with 1 M arginine, pH 5.7. After dialysis against 0.1 M NaCl, 0.05 M tris-HCl, pH 7.5, the purified protein was stored at -70°C. Its concentration was determined by measurement at A<sub>280</sub>; the extinction coefficient was assumed to be 5.7 on the basis of the predicted amino acid composition of the secreted form of the amyloid precursor protein (22) [H. Edelhoch, *Biochemistry* **6**, 1948 (1967)].

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(1 u/ml) were incubated 1 hour at 21°C in 900 μl of TBSA (0.1 M NaCl, 0.05 M tris-HCl, pH 7.5, bovine serum albumin at 1 mg/ml). Various concentrations of a chromogenic substrate (Spectrozyme X<sub>a</sub> for trypsin; pryGlu-Pro-Arg-pNA, S2366, for XI<sub>a</sub>) in 100 μl were then added and rates of generation of product were followed by absorbance at A<sub>405</sub> until they became linear. This required ~45 min for the XI<sub>a</sub>-XI<sub>a</sub>I reactions and ~4 hours for the XI<sub>a</sub>-XI<sub>a</sub>I-heparin reactions and the trypsin-XI<sub>a</sub>I reactions with or without heparin (Fig. 3). A double reciprocal plot of Δ(A<sub>405</sub>/min)<sup>-1</sup> versus (substrate concentration)<sup>-1</sup> was used to determine K<sub>apparent</sub> (K<sub>app</sub>). K<sub>i</sub> was calculated from the relationship K<sub>app</sub> = K<sub>m</sub> (1 + [I]/K<sub>i</sub>) where [I] is the concentration of XI<sub>a</sub>I and K<sub>m</sub> is the Michaelis constant of the particular chromogenic substrate for the enzyme. K<sub>m</sub> values were determined independently in the presence and absence of heparin. K<sub>i</sub> values (mean ± standard deviations) were calculated from three separate experiments.

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28. The supernatant of activated platelets was obtained as described above. Supernatant (3 ml) was passed over a heparin agarose II column (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) equilibrated in 0.05 M NaCl, 0.025 M tris-HCl, pH 7.5, and eluted with 1 M NaCl, 0.05 M tris-HCl, pH 7.5. The eluate was concentrated by centrifugation through a Centricon-30 microconcentrator (Amicon, Danvers, MA) to ~200 μl.
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4. Purification of XI<sub>a</sub>I. The serum-free conditioned medium (90L) of HepG2 cells was harvested, precipitated with CdCl<sub>2</sub>, and the supernatant passed through a bovine factor X<sub>a</sub>-Affigel affinity column to remove lipoprotein-associated coagulation inhibitor as described [G. J. Broze, Jr., L. A. Warren, J. J. Girard, J. P. Miletich, *Thromb. Res.* **48**, 253 (1987)]. The preparation was then diluted with water to a conductivity of 18 mmho (pH 8.0) and applied to a 2.5 by 30 cm column of Q-Sepharose.