

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Meeting June 3-7, 1990

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LACTATE FORMATION AND MITOCHONDRIAL DNA STRUCTURE IN MOUSE CELLS PROGRESSING TO MALIGNANCY. Durwood B. Ray, Tan M. Lam, and David H. Jones, Department of Biochemistry, Oral Roberts University School of Medicine, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74171.

One well recognized change in tumorigenic progression is a shift from respiratory metabolism towards increased glycolysis. There are several reports of mitochondrial DNA (mito-DNA) mutations in cancer cells, but how these are related to the observed respiratory changes is not known. To assess this we have undertaken a comparison of lactate production and mito-DNA structural analysis among serially derived genetically related cells that represent different stages of tumorigenic progression. The cell lines are: 1) normal NIH Swiss embryonic cells (mortal); 2) non-tumorigenic NIH/3T3 cells (immortal); 3) tumorigenic ras oncogene-transformed NIH/3T3 cells; and 4) highly tumorigenic ras oncogene-transformed T1-A cells (derived from a tumor produced in a NIH Swiss mouse injected with the ras oncogene-transformed NIH/3T3 cells). The rate of lactate formation in the T1-A cells is $19.3\% \pm 1.9$ (SEM) greater than in NIH/3T3 cells, as determined at various cell densities. This indicates a significant shift from respiratory metabolism towards glycolysis in T1-A cells compared to NIH/3T3 cells. Southern blot analysis of the mito-DNA isolate from all four cell types using 10 restriction enzymes revealed no RFLP among these DNAs. Thus despite a significant metabolic alteration, there are no large deletions or DNA rearrangements in the mito-DNAs among the cells of this tumorigenic progression model. Whether smaller mito-DNA mutations or mitochondrially related nuclear DNA mutations are responsible will require further study. These studies may help define a new class of cancer related genes that will add another piece to the cancer puzzle.

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