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JOURNAL ARTICLE

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Testosterone regulation of proto-oncogene c-myc expression in primary Sertoli cell cultures from prepubertal rats

K. Lim, J. H. Yoo, K. Y. Kim, G. R. Kweon, S. T. Kwak and B. D. Hwang Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, Chungnam National University, Daejeon, Korea.

The expression of c-myc has been associated with cell proliferation through changes of nuclear function. To evaluate the possibility that the proto-oncogene c-myc plays a role in testosterone-dependent gene regulation, the effects of testosterone on the expression of c-myc have been investigated in primary Sertoli cell cultures. Testosterone

increased c-myc mRNA levels, with maximal stimulation reached in 16 hours. The induction of c-myc mRNA was dependent on the concentration of testosterone. Testosterone-induced c-myc mRNA levels were also increased in cells after addition of cycloheximide but reduced by actinomycin-D pretreatment. Even in the absence of hormone in culture medium, c-myc mRNA was clearly detectable in Sertoli cells from 8-day-old rats but hardly detectable in cells from 14 and 28 days of age. Testosterone stimulated c-myc mRNA expression in the Sertoli cells from only 8-/and 14-day-old rats. These results suggest that testosterone induces c-myc mRNA levels in the primary Sertoli cells from prepubertal rats, and then transient expression of c-myc may be responsible for some of the regulatory roles of testosterone-dependent genes in the Sertoli cells. The biological significance of testosterone-dependent c-myc induction is not known.

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