

Stability studies of C-4',6' acetal benzylmaltosides synthesized as inhibitors of smooth muscle cell proliferation

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Abstract—In our investigations to synthesize inhibitors of smooth muscle cell (SMC) proliferation, compound **6a** displayed sub-micromolar activity in in vitro antiproliferative assays and reduced intimal thickening using a rat balloon angioplasty model via iv administration. In order to identify analogs that could be administered orally, the chemical instability of the C-4',6' acetal of compound **6a** was addressed. Several novel variants with increased acid stability and comparable in vitro activity were prepared.
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Restenosis, a complication of vascular wounding, is often caused by injuries from surgical procedures such as PTCA (balloon angioplasty).¹ Roughly 30–50% of the patients receiving PTCA undergo a re-narrowing of the affected vascular segment within 6 months of surgery and may require additional surgical intervention.² Vascular restenosis occurs when appropriate healing mechanisms become over productive and generate more than the required permanent tissue, resulting in an inadvertent re-thickening of the vascular wall. One approach³ to controlling this problem is to selectively inhibit the growth and migration of smooth muscle cells (SMC) without affecting those of endothelial cells (EC).

In the course of synthesizing a series of disaccharides that exhibit selective SMC antiproliferative activity, a tetrahydroxy carbohydrate lead (**6a**) was generated that possessed submicromolar inhibitory activity (0.020 μ M, Table 1) in vitro with no apparent cytotoxicity.⁴ Compound **6a** displayed 30-fold selectivity over EC proliferation through a mechanism, which may result from blocking production of lactosylceramide (LacCer). LacCer is a ceramide linked disaccharide that is thought to be linked to both proliferation and intercellular adhesion molecule expression by acting as a precursor signal to an obligatory superoxide production.⁵ Thus, by either preventing the production of LacCer, or by

Table 1. SAR of C-4', 6', acetal derivatives

Compound	First step for 5a–h : see below for reagents. Second step for 6a–h : acylation with BzCl	Yield, % (acetal and acylation steps)	R ⁴ (see Scheme 1 for core structure)	SMC assay ^a [IC ₅₀ (μ M)]	EC assay ^b [IC ₅₀ (μ M)]
6a	Benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal, TsOH·H ₂ O	78/80	Ph	0.020	0.923
6b	Ph-acetaldehyde dimethyl acetal, CSA	35/63	Bn	0.035	—
6c	Acetaldehyde dimethyl acetal, TsOH·H ₂ O	62/54	CH ₃	0.103	0.257
6d	Isobutyraldehyde diethyl acetal, CSA	45/49	Isopropyl	0.003	—
6e	Propionaldehyde diethyl acetal, TsOH·H ₂ O	57/47	Et	0.037	0.235
6f	4-Cl-benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal, CSA	51/50	4-Cl-Ph	0.023	0.324
6g	4-NO ₂ -benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal, CSA	42/35	4-NO ₂ -Ph	0.003	0.368
6h	4-Pyridinecarboxaldehyde, DMF, H ₂ SO ₄ , 110 °C	20/46	4-Pyridinyl	0.003	—

^aConcentration inducing 50% inhibition of smooth muscle cell proliferation.

^bConcentration inducing 50% inhibition of endothelial cell proliferation.

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✕ Deceased: 9/11/01.

When compound **6c** was tested in vivo (iv) in the intimal thickening assay, no activity was observed. Incorporating a nicotinoyl group into the acetal functionality resulted in a compound possessing excellent acid stability without loss of in vitro activity (**6h**, 0.003 μ M). Over the 18 h period at pH 1, only 3% degradation to compound **7** was detected.

In conclusion, analogs of disaccharide **6a** with improved chemical stability have been prepared. Specifically, by modifying the C-4',6' benzylidene acetal with aromatic and aliphatic variants provided more stable compounds while maintaining SMC antiproliferative activity. Incorporating a nicotinoyl acetal in this position afforded an analog (**6h**) with excellent acid stability and good in vitro activity (0.003 μ M). Addressing this chemical stability issue has provided a series of stable acetal derivatives available for future in vivo studies.

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References and notes

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4. Procedures for SMC and EC proliferation assays:
A. *Human SMC and EC culture conditions*: Human aortic smooth muscle (HASMC) and endothelial (HAEC) cells were obtained from Clonetics (San Diego, CA) and were routinely maintained in T-75 tissue culture flasks in either SMC or EC media supplied by Clonetics and supplemented with fetal bovine serum (10% for HASMC, 5% FBS for HAEC) at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO₂ atmosphere. The culture medium was changed into fresh medium every 2–3 days. Both cell types were routinely sub-cultured into 24 well plates after trypsinization for use in critical growth assays. Cells used for this study were from 3rd through 6th passage.
B. *Examination of the effects of compounds on cell proliferation using 3 H thymidine incorporation*: Cell lines were grown as described above in 24 well plates and all were assayed using an identical protocol. When cell density reached approximately 70–80% confluency, culture medium was exchanged with fresh DMEM, M199, or AIM-V (GibCo BRL) lacking any serum or growth factors, and cell growth was continued for an additional 24–48 h to induce a quiescent state. Cells were then re-stimulated with either serum or the appropriate individual growth factors for a period of 24 h in the presence of 0.5 μ Ci/mL 3 H thymidine before harvest. Although compounds were found to be more effective with longer pre-incubations, in general, experiments were initiated with the addition of compound, 3 H thymidine and serum/growth factor to serum deprived synchronized cells and results are reported in this paper accordingly. Compounds were added to each well at 50-fold dilution (20 μ L/well) and the plates were incubated for 24–36 h at 37°C in 5% CO₂. Compounds were initially dissolved in 50% ethanol and serially diluted into media. Compounds were routinely assayed at concentrations from 1 to 100 μ M. As a control, grade II porcine intestinal mucosal heparin (sodium salt) from Sigma (H-7005) was routinely assayed in all cell preparations at concentrations from 0.1 to 100 μ g/mL.
At the completion of the experiment, plates were placed on ice, washed three times with ice cold phosphate buffered saline (PBS), and incubated in ice cold 10% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) for 30 min to remove acid soluble proteins. Solution was transferred to scintillation vials containing 0.4 N HCl (500 μ L/vial to neutralize NaOH) and each well was rinsed two times with water (500 μ L) for a total volume of 2 mL/vial.
Data was obtained, in triplicate, for both control and experimental samples. Control (100%) data was obtained from maximally stimulated cells, as the result of growth factor or serum stimulation. Experimental data was obtained from cells maximally stimulated with growth factor or serum and treated with compound. Data was expressed as a percent of control from which a percent inhibition or IC₅₀ could be determined.
C. *Cytotoxicity*: Visually, all cells were found to tolerate high levels of all compounds quite well, however to insure that no toxicity was present, cytotoxicity of compounds was examined using a commercial modification of the MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) assay. Briefly, cells were again grown in 24 well plates to 70–80% confluency and, as before, serum deprived for 24–48 h prior to initiation of the experimental protocol. To insure that the MTT assay monitored toxicity rather than proliferation, cells were incubated with 100 μ g/mL of drug in fresh medium without serum for 24 h at 37°C in a humidified CO₂ incubator. Upon completion of the compound treatment, MTT indicator dye was added for 4 h at 37°C. Cells were then lysed and aliquots from each well were transferred to a 96 well plate for analysis. Absorbance at 570 nm wavelength with a reference wavelength of 630 nm was recorded using an ELISA plate reader. Results were determined as percent viable using no drug (100% viable) and pre-solubilization (0% viable) standards. All compounds (**6a–h**) exhibited no toxicity up to 100 μ g/mL.
5. Bhunia, A. K.; Han, H.; Snowden, A.; Chatterjee, S. *J. Biol. Chem.* **1997**, *272*, 15642–15649.
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7. Procedure for in vivo rat balloon injury model: Vascular injuries were produced by introducing and inflating a balloon catheter into the left common carotid artery of anesthetized male Sprague–Dawley rats (Charles River Breeding Laboratories). This type of injury generally damages roughly 25–30 mm of vascular wall. One hour prior to sacrificing, the animals were intravenously injected with 0.9% Evans Blue. At the time of sacrifice, the animals were further perfused with isotonic saline for 5 min, followed by 3.5% glutaraldehyde. Arteries were then excised and evaluated to determine intima to media (I/M) ratio (intimal thickening).
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9. Experimental: Step 1: 4-Chloro-3-nitrobenzyl hepta-O-acetyl- β -maltoside (**1**). To a stirred solution of 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzyl alcohol (6.70 g, 35.7 mmol) and HgBr₂ (14.2 g,

39.3 mmol) in freshly distilled CH_3CN (239 mL) was added in one portion $\text{Hg}(\text{CN})_2$ (9.02 g, 35.7 mmol). After 0.5 h, hepta-*O*-acetyl- α -maltosyl bromide (25.0 g, 35.7 mmol) was added, and the mixture stirred for 18 h at rt. The reaction was then quenched with a mixture of H_2O /brine (1:1, 100 mL) and extracted with 10% $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{EtOAc}$. The combined organic extracts were dried (MgSO_4) and concentrated. Purification by flash chromatography (10:90–80:20, EtOAc /petroleum ether gradient) gave 51.9 g (90%) of the title compound as a glassy oil, which was recrystallized from Et_2O /petroleum ether to afford a glassy white solid, mp 107–111 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.00 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.04 (s, 6H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.15 (s, 3H), 3.70 (ddd, $J = 2.9, 4.2, 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.94–3.98 (m, 1H), 4.01–4.07 (m, 2H), 4.20–4.28 (m, 2H), 4.54 (dd, $J = 2.9, 12.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.63–4.68 (m, 2H), 4.84–4.94 (m, 3H), 5.06 (t, $J = 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.26 (t, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.36 (dd, $J = 9.7, 10.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.42 (d, $J = 4.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.43 (dd, $J = 2.2, 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.53 (d, $J = 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.83 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H); IR (KBr) 3450, 2950, 1755, 1550, 1375, 1230, and 1050 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum [(+) ESI], m/z 823/825 ($\text{M} + \text{NH}_4^+$), 828/830 ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{40}\text{ClNO}_{20}$: C, 49.17; H, 5.00; N, 1.74. Found: C, 49.16; H, 4.88; N, 1.71.

Step 2: 3-Amino-4-chlorobenzyl hepta-*O*-acetyl- β -maltoside (2). A solution containing 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzyl hepta-*O*-acetyl- β -maltoside (19.3 g, 23.9 mmol) and tin(II) chloride dihydrate (37.7 g, 167 mmol) in EtOAc (479 mL) was refluxed for 2 h. The reaction was cooled to rt, carefully quenched with satd aq NaHCO_3 (until basic), diluted with EtOAc (250 mL), stirred for 0.5 h, and filtered. The biphasic filtrate was separated and the aqueous phase extracted with EtOAc . The combined organic extracts were dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated. Purification by flash chromatography (0–12% acetone/ CHCl_3 gradient) gave 17.8 g (96%) the title compound as a glassy solid, mp 78–79 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.00 (s, 9H), 2.026 (s, 3H), 2.032 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 3.00–5.00 (br s, 2H), 3.64–3.68 (m, 1H), 3.97 (ddd, $J = 2.4, 4.2, 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.02–4.07 (m, 2H), 4.24 (dd, $J = 2.2, 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.27 (dd, $J = 2.6, 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 4.50–4.57 (m, 3H), 4.74 (d, $J = 12.1$ Hz, 1H), 4.83–4.90 (m, 2H), 5.05 (t, $J = 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.22 (t, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.35 (dd, $J = 9.7, 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.42 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.62 (dd, $J = 2.0, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 6.76 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H); IR (KBr) 3450, 3350, 2950, 1755, 1650, 1425, 1375, 1230, and 1050 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum [(+) ESI], m/z 776/778 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$), 798/800 ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{42}\text{ClNO}_{18}$: C, 51.07; H, 5.45; N, 1.80. Found: C, 50.94; H, 5.52; N, 1.60.

Step 3: 3-Acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl hepta-*O*-acetyl- β -maltoside (3). To a stirred solution of 3-amino-4-chlorobenzyl hepta-*O*-acetyl- β -maltoside (20.6 g, 26.5 mmol) and triethylamine (8.13 mL, 58.3 mmol) in THF (265 mL) at 0 °C was added dropwise acetyl chloride (2.26 mL, 31.8 mmol). After 0.5 h at this temperature, it was warmed to rt, and stirred an additional 6 h. At this point, the reaction was concentrated and taken up in EtOAc (700 mL). This organic solution was washed with 1 N HCl (70 mL), satd aq NaHCO_3 (70 mL), and brine (70 mL) and then dried (MgSO_4). After concentration, the residue was purified by flash chromatography (20:80–100:0, EtOAc /petroleum ether gradient) to afford the product (16.2 g, 75%) as a glassy solid, mp 84–86 °C; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.00 (s, 6H), 2.020 (s, 3H), 2.027 (s, 3H), 2.03 (s, 3H), 2.11 (s, 3H), 2.16 (s, 3H), 2.24 (s, 3H), 3.66–3.69 (m, 1H), 3.94–3.98 (m, 1H), 4.00–4.06 (m, 2H), 4.22–4.28 (m, 2H), 4.50–4.61 (m, 3H), 4.80–4.91 (m, 3H), 5.05 (t, $J = 10.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.22 (t, $J = 9.2$ Hz, 1H), 5.35 (dd, $J = 9.4, 10.5$ Hz, 1H), 5.41 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 6.99 (dd, $J = 2.0, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.62 (s, 1H),

8.32 (s, 1H); IR (KBr) 3400, 2950, 1750, 1690, 1600, 1540, 1425, 1375, 1230, and 1050 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum [(+) ESI], m/z 818/820 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$), 840 ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{44}\text{ClNO}_{19}$: C, 51.38; H, 5.42; N, 1.71. Found: C, 51.03; H, 5.36; N, 1.59.

Step 4: 3-Acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl- β -maltoside (4). A solution containing 3-acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl hepta-*O*-acetyl- β -maltoside (0.945 g, 1.12 mmol) and 25 wt % NaOMe in MeOH (19.2 μL , 0.336 mmol) in MeOH (27.6 mL) was refluxed for 2.5 h. The reaction was cooled to room temperature and concentrated, and the resulting residue was triturated with Et_2O to afford the product (0.583 g, 99%) as a foam; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 2.07 (s, 3H), 3.03–3.16 (m, 2H), 3.19–3.49 (m, 7H), 3.55–3.62 (m, 2H), 3.67–3.73 (m, 1H), 4.28 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.33–5.76 (br s, 7H), 4.67 (AB_q , $J = 12.5$ Hz, $\Delta\delta = 0.22$, 2H), 5.01 (d, $J = 3.7$ Hz, 1H), 7.21 (dd, $J = 1.8, 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.64 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 9.33–9.69 (br s, 1H); IR (KBr) 3400, 2900, 1680, 1600, 1540, 1430, 1375, 1310, 1150, and 1035 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum [(+) ESI], m/z 524/526 ($\text{M} + \text{H}^+$), 546 ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{30}\text{ClNO}_{12} \cdot 1.0 \text{ MeOH}$: C, 47.53; H, 6.16; N, 2.52. Found: C, 47.94; H, 6.34; N, 2.42.

Step 5: 3-Acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl 4',6'-*O*-benzylidene- β -maltoside (5). To a stirred solution of 3-acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl β -maltoside (14.15 g, 27.0 mmol) in DMF (325 mL) at rt was added benzaldehyde dimethyl acetal (8.11 mL, 54.0 mmol) dropwise followed by $\text{TsOH} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ (2.57 g, 13.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 60 °C for 6 h and then quenched with K_2CO_3 (1.87 g, 13.5 mmol) with an additional 0.5 h heating at this temperature. At this point, the solution was filtered hot, and the solvent was distilled off using the high vac. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (80:2:1–20:2:1, $\text{EtOAc}/\text{EtOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ gradient) to afford the product (10.8 g, 65%) as a white solid, mp 143–147 °C; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 2.08 (s, 3H), 3.07–3.12 (m, 1H), 3.28–3.50 (m, 5H), 3.51–3.60 (m, 2H), 3.64–3.75 (m, 3H), 4.10–4.12 (m, 1H), 4.30 (d, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.67 (t, $J = 5.9$ Hz, 1H), 4.68 (AB_q , $J = 12.5$ Hz, $\Delta\delta = 0.22$, 2H), 5.14 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 1H), 5.25 (d, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.30 (d, $J = 5.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.51 (d, $J = 3.3$ Hz, 1H), 5.57 (s, 1H), 5.63 (d, $J = 6.8$ Hz, 1H), 7.22 (dd, $J = 1.5, 8.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.35–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.42–7.46 (m, 3H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 9.53 (s, 1H); IR (KBr) 3500, 3410, 2910, 2850, 1700, 1600, 1550, 1440, 1425, 1375, 1310, 1230, 1150, 1070, and 1030 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum [(+) FAB], m/z 634 ($\text{M} + \text{Na}^+$); Anal. Calcd for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{34}\text{ClNO}_{12} \cdot 1.0 \text{ H}_2\text{O}$: C, 53.38; H, 5.76; N, 2.22. Found: C, 53.58; H, 5.62; N, 2.25.

Step 6: 3-Acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl 6-*O*-benzoyl-4',6'-*O*-benzylidene- β -maltoside (6a). To a stirred solution of 3-acetamido-4-chlorobenzyl 4',6'-*O*-benzylidene- β -maltoside (5.00 g, 8.17 mmol) in THF (80 mL) at –40 °C was added collidine (80 mL, 605 mmol) dropwise followed by dropwise addition of BzCl (1.14 mL, 9.80 mmol). After 2 h at this temperature, it was warmed to rt and stirred an additional 48 h. At this point, the solvent was distilled off using the high vac, and the residue was diluted with EtOAc (700 mL). This layer was washed with 1 N HCl (70 mL), satd NaHCO_3 (70 mL), and brine (70 mL) and then dried (MgSO_4). After concentration, the oily residue was purified by flash chromatography (1–11%, $\text{MeOH}/\text{CHCl}_3$ gradient) and recrystallization (EtOAc /hexane) to afford the product (4.04 g, 69%) as a white solid, mp 185–187 °C; ^1H NMR ($\text{DMSO}-d_6$) δ 2.05 (s, 3H), 3.16–3.22 (m, 1H), 3.32–3.42 (m, 2H), 3.48–3.64 (m, 4H), 3.71 (dd, $J = 4.8, 9.7$ Hz, 1H), 3.74–3.79 (m, 1H), 4.05 (dd, $J = 4.8, 10.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.35 (dd, $J = 5.3, 12.3$ Hz, 1H), 4.39 (d, $J = 7.7$ Hz, 1H), 4.58–4.63 (m, 1H), 4.65 (AB_q , $J = 12.5$ Hz, $\Delta\delta = 0.14$, 2H), 5.14 (d, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 5.34 (t, $J = 5.1$ Hz, 2H), 5.52 (s, 1H), 5.57 (d,

$J = 3.1$ Hz, 1H), 5.79 (d, $J = 6.2$ Hz, 1H), 7.19 (dd, $J = 2.0$, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.32–7.38 (m, 3H), 7.38–7.45 (m, 3H), 7.51–7.55 (m, 2H), 7.63–7.68 (m, 2H), 7.98–8.01 (m, 2H), 9.49 (s, 1H); IR (KBr) 3380, 3290, 2890, 2870, 1730, 1670, 1600, 1540, 1440, 1420, 1375, 1275, 1070, 1050, 1025, 975, and 710 cm^{-1} ; mass spectrum [(+) FAB], m/z 716/718 ($M + H$)⁺, 738/740 ($M + Na$)⁺; Anal. Calcd for $C_{35}H_{38}ClNO_{13}$: C,

58.70; H, 5.35; N, 1.96. Found: C, 58.53; H, 5.36; N, 1.94. Compounds **6b–h** were prepared using similar procedures to steps 5–6 of footnote 9 with the one exception that intermediate **5h** was prepared with 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde using concentrated H_2SO_4 in DMF. All intermediates (**5b–h**) and final compounds (**6b–h**) were verified by 1H NMR, IR, MS, and CHN.