

Functional role of newly formed pore complexes in postmitotic nuclear reorganization

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Abstract. Many nuclear proteins are released into the cytoplasm at prometaphase and are transported back into the daughter nuclei at the end of mitosis. To determine the role of this reentry in nuclear remodelling during early interphase, we experimentally manipulated nuclear protein uptake in dividing cells. Recently we and others have shown that signal-dependent, pore complex-mediated uptake of nuclear protein is blocked in living cells on microinjection of the lectin wheat germ agglutinin (WGA), or of antibodies such as PI1 that are directed against WGA-binding pore complex glycoproteins. In the present study, we microinjected mitotic PtK₂ cells with WGA or antibody PI1 and followed nuclear reorganization of the daughter cells by immunofluorescence and electron microscopy. The inhibitory effect on nuclear protein uptake was monitored by co-injection of the karyophilic protein nucleoplasmin. When injected by itself early in mitosis, nucleoplasmin became sequestered into the daughter nuclei as they entered telophase. In contrast, nucleoplasmin was excluded from the daughter nuclei in the presence of WGA or antibody PI1. Although PtK₂ cells with blocked nuclear protein uptake completed cytokinesis, their nuclei showed a telophase-like organization characterized by highly condensed chromatin surrounded by a nuclear envelope containing a few pore complexes. These findings suggest that pore complexes become functional as early as telophase, in close coincidence with nuclear envelope reformation. They further indicate that the extensive structural rearrangement of the nucleus during the telophase-G1 transition is dependent on the influx of karyophilic proteins from the cytoplasm through the pore complexes, and is not due solely to chromosome-associated components.

Introduction

A wealth of evidence has firmly established that influx of proteins from the cytoplasm into the nucleus is of fundamental importance for the regulation of a number of cellular processes (e.g. Goldstein 1974; Harris 1974; Ringertz and Savage 1976; Bonner 1978; Scheer et al. 1983; Setterfield et al. 1983; Woodcock et al. 1984; Gurdon 1986), but only recently has it become feasible to modulate nucleocy-

Abbreviations: WGA wheat germ agglutinin; GlcNAc N-acetylglucosamine

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toplasmic exchange processes of macromolecules experimentally. It is now clear that wheat germ agglutinin (WGA), a lectin binding to N-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc) sugar residues, binds to nuclear pore complexes and interferes with the signal-dependent translocation of karyophilic proteins into isolated nuclei in vitro (Finlay et al. 1987; Newmeyer and Forbes 1988). Microinjection of WGA has also been shown to inhibit nuclear protein uptake in vivo while nucleocytoplasmic equilibration of "amphiphilic" proteins as well as of exogenous macromolecules such as dextran remain unaffected (Yoneda et al. 1987; Dabauvalle et al. 1988b; Wolff et al. 1988). Since WGA binds to a whole set of pore complex proteins with cytoplasmically or nucleoplasmically exposed O-linked GlcNAc moieties (Davis and Blobel 1987; Finlay et al. 1987; Hanover et al. 1987; Snow et al. 1987; Scheer et al. 1988; for review see Hart et al. 1988), these studies could not identify the particular glycoprotein(s) involved in the translocation step. Recently, however, a monoclonal antibody reacting with a single pore complex-associated glycoprotein of M_r 68000 has been shown to inhibit nuclear protein uptake after microinjection into *Xenopus* oocytes (Dabauvalle et al. 1988a). This result suggested a crucial role of this major glycoprotein, which is located in the pore channel proper, for nuclear protein transport (Dabauvalle et al. 1988a; see also Featherstone et al. 1988).

The availability of reagents interfering with nuclear protein transport in living cells now offers the possibility of studying the biological effects produced by blockade of pore-mediated protein transport. At present it is not known at which point in the assembly of the postmitotic nuclear envelope do nuclear pore complexes resume their function as gateways for nucleocytoplasmic exchange. In particular, it is unclear whether the nuclear pore complexes are necessary during such early steps in the reestablishing of interphase nuclear organization and function such as chromosome decondensation, nucleolar reconstitution, and assembly of nucleoplasmic functional domains.

In preliminary experiments, we observed that WGA or our monoclonal antibody inhibited the development of *Xenopus* embryos when microinjected at the two-cell stage and noted that the developmental arrest apparently became effective only after completion of a cell division. We therefore became interested in determining the postmitotic stage during which nuclear protein import is essential for normal development. However, the large, opaque and yolk-laden *Xenopus* embryos are not suitable to address this issue. We

therefore used somatic mammalian tissue culture cells which can be microinjected during mitosis and their fate then analyzed individually by immunofluorescence and electron microscopy (see Benavente and Krohne 1986).

Materials and methods

Biological materials. Rat kangaroo kidney epithelial cells (PtK₂) were grown on coverslips (Franke et al. 1978). Eggs obtained from *Xenopus laevis* were fertilized in vitro and freed of their jelly coat with a 2% cysteine solution prior to microinjection as previously described (Newport and Kirschner 1982).

Antibodies. Murine monoclonal antibody PI1 (IgM) was raised against a mouse lymphocyte nuclear matrix fraction and has been characterized in detail (Chaly et al. 1984, 1986). Experiments were carried out using PI1 ascites fluid purified by hydroxylapatite chromatography, concentrated and lyophilized as previously described (Stanker et al. 1985). In *Xenopus* oocytes it has been shown by protein blotting and immunogold electron microscopy that the reconstituted lyophilized PI1 column fraction recognizes specifically a major M_r 68000 glycoprotein located in the pore complex channel (Dabauvalle et al. 1988a). Guinea pig antibodies against nucleoplasmin were kindly provided by Georg Krohne (German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, FRG; see Krohne 1985).

Gel electrophoresis and immunoblotting. PtK₂ cells were scraped off from petri dishes into a buffer containing 20 mM KCl, 0.3% Triton X-100, 5 mM EDTA, 20 mM Tris, pH 7.4, and the cells were homogenized in a Dounce homogenizer. After centrifugation (3000 g; 10 min), the pellet representing a crude nuclear fraction was resuspended in sample buffer. Proteins were analyzed by SDS-polyacrylamide (10%) gel electrophoresis according to Laemmli (1970). For immunoblotting, proteins were electrophoretically transferred to a nitrocellulose filter (Towbin et al. 1979) and probed with antibody PI1 (for details see Dabauvalle et al. 1988a).

Microinjection. Mitotic PtK₂ cells were microinjected at prometaphase or metaphase using an Eppendorf Microinjector 5242 (Eppendorf, Hamburg, FRG) with glass capillaries GC150 (Clark Electromedical Instruments, Reading, UK) or Femtotips (Eppendorf) (Benavente and Krohne 1986). WGA conjugated to fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC; Medac, Hamburg, FRG) was dissolved in PBS (137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, 7 mM Na₂HPO₄, 1.5 mM KH₂PO₄) at concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 3 mg/ml. Nucleoplasmin (prepared from *Xenopus* oocytes according to Krohne and Franke 1980a) was used at 3 mg/ml and antibody PI1 at 10 mg/ml in PBS. Control cells were injected with comparable amounts of non-immune mouse IgM (Sigma, Munich, FRG) or monoclonal IgM antibodies to DNA (Benavente and Krohne 1986; Benavente et al. 1989). In some experiments nucleoplasmin was injected together with WGA or antibody PI1.

Fertilized *Xenopus* eggs were transferred into modified Ringer solution (MMR; Newport and Kirschner 1982) containing 5% Ficoll. At the two-cell stage, one blastomere of an embryo was injected into the pigmented half with 30 µl of WGA (2 mg/ml diluted in 10 mM Pipes, pH 7.2)

or with antibody PI1 (10 mg/ml in PBS). Control blastomeres received 30 µl buffer or non-specific immunoglobulins.

Immunofluorescence microscopy. Cells were fixed in PBS containing 3% formaldehyde (prepared from paraformaldehyde) and permeabilized in PBS containing 0.1% Triton X-100. The cells were then incubated with antibody PI1 for 30 min followed by anti-mouse IgG/IgM antibodies conjugated to Texas red or FITC (Dianova, Hamburg, FRG).

Microinjected cells were fixed and permeabilized as described above after different incubation times. The distribution of microinjected nucleoplasmin was visualized by incubating coverslips with antibodies directed against nucleoplasmin followed by anti-guinea pig secondary antibodies conjugated to Texas red (Dianova). The distribution of microinjected PI1 antibody was visualized by anti-mouse IgG/IgM antibodies conjugated to Texas red or FITC. Photographs were taken with a Zeiss Axiophot equipped with epifluorescence optics (Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, FRG).

Electron microscopy. Cells microinjected with WGA or PI1 antibodies were fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 15 min followed by 2% osmium tetroxide (15 min) and processed for transmission electron microscopy as previously described (Benavente and Krohne 1986).

For scanning electron microscopy *Xenopus* embryos were placed in 20% MMR containing 5% Ficoll and the vitelline membrane was mechanically removed using two fine forceps. Then the embryos were fixed overnight with 6.25% glutaraldehyde and dehydrated through an acetone series. Finally, the embryos were dried by the critical point method with CO₂ and sputter-coated with gold according to standard procedures. Micrographs were taken with a Zeiss EM 10 electron microscope and a Cambridge ISI Super IIIA scanning microscope.

Results

Microinjection into *Xenopus* embryos

In the first set of experiments, WGA or antibody PI1 was microinjected into one blastomere of *Xenopus* embryos at the two-cell stage. The blastomere injected with either of these reagents ceased to divide while the non-injected control half of the embryo developed normally (Fig. 1b). When WGA or PI1 was introduced into a blastomere toward the end of the cell cycle, the injected cell often went through the subsequent cleavage before cell cycle arrest occurred. Control injections with buffer or non-immune immunoglobulins showed no effects on embryonic development (Fig. 1a).

Characterization and localization of the antigen recognized by antibody PI1 in PtK₂ cells

Since PtK₂ cells were used in all subsequent experiments, the reactivity of antibody PI1 with antigens derived from this mammalian cell line was tested by the immunoblotting technique and by immunofluorescence microscopy. As shown in Figure 2, the antibody reacted specifically with a single polypeptide of M_r 68000 (lane 2', arrow). A poly-

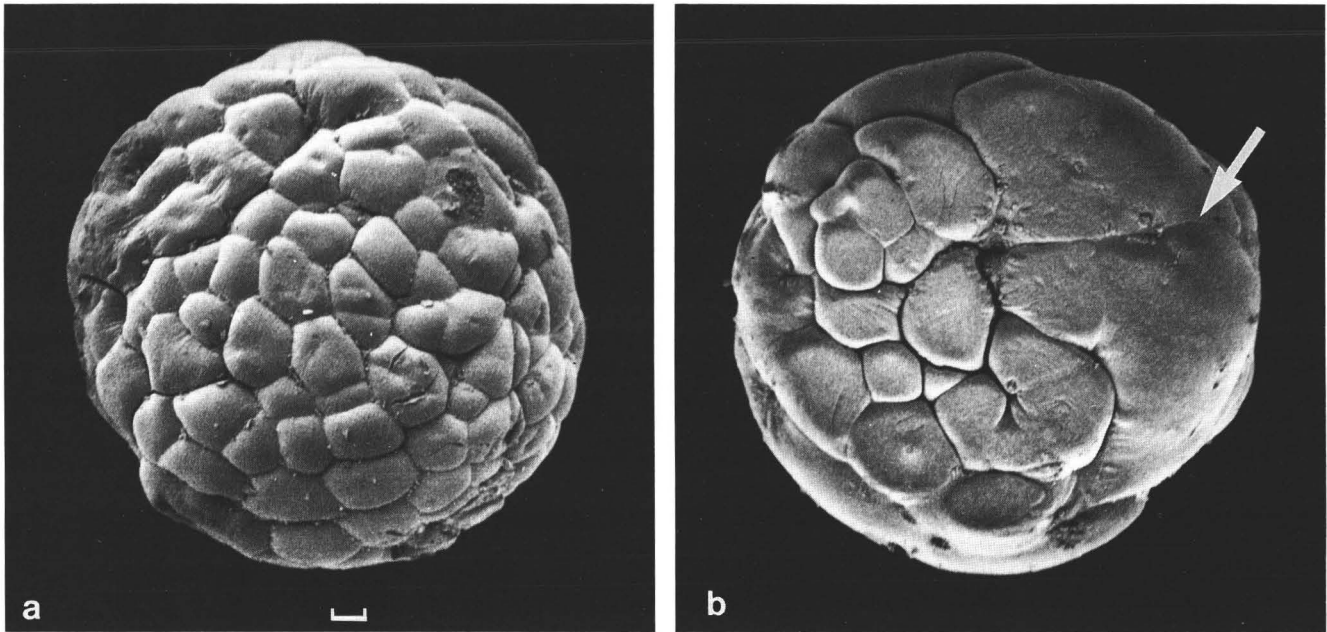


Fig. 1 a, b. Scanning electron micrographs of *Xenopus* embryos injected at the two cell-stage with wheat germ agglutinin (WGA) (**b**) or buffer alone (**a**). In both cases the blastomere on the right-hand side of the panel was injected and the embryos were allowed to develop for 4 h. Buffer injection did not affect cleavage (**a**). In contrast, in the presence of WGA, cleavage of the blastomere was inhibited (*arrow in b*; a shallow cleavage furrow is indicated) while the non-injected daughter blastomere (*on the left*) continued development. Bar represents 50 μm

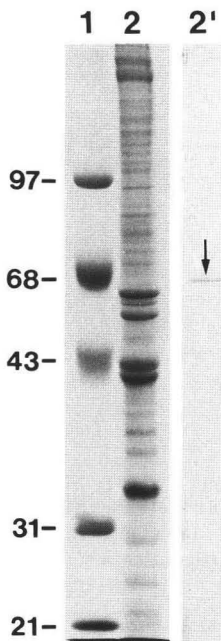


Fig. 2. Identification of rat kangaroo polypeptides reacting with antibody PI1 by one-dimensional gel electrophoresis and immunoblotting. Coomassie Blue-stained SDS-polyacrylamide gel showing polypeptides of a crude nuclear fraction from PtK₂ cells (*lane 2*). Polypeptides from a gel run in parallel were electrophoretically transferred to a nitrocellulose filter and probed with antibody PI1. The antibody reacts specifically with a single polypeptide of M_r 68000 (*arrow in lane 2'*). Reference proteins are shown in *lane 1* (M_r values $\times 10^{-3}$)

peptide band of identical M_r value has been detected with PI1 in immunoblots using isolated nuclear envelopes from *Xenopus* oocytes (Dabauvalle et al. 1988a) and of slightly higher electrophoretic mobility when bovine lymphocyte nuclear fractions were used as the antigen source (Chaly et al. 1984).

Indirect immunofluorescence microscopy employing antibody PI1 revealed a finely punctate staining of the nuclear periphery of interphase PtK₂ cells (Fig. 3a). A similar pattern of fluorescence at the nuclear periphery had been noted when other mammalian cells and insect cells were analyzed with the same antibody (Chaly et al. 1984, 1986). A number of studies have shown that such an immunofluorescence labeling pattern is produced by pore complex-specific antibodies (Davis and Blobel 1986, 1987; Hanover et al. 1987; Park et al. 1987; Snow et al. 1987). The nucleoplasmic labeled patches detected in previous work using PI1 hybridoma culture supernatant, or unpurified PI1 ascites fluid (Chaly et al. 1984, 1986) were not observed in this study. The loss of internal nuclear labeling in PI1 antibody fractionated on an hydroxylapatite column is being investigated.

Concomitant with the disintegration of the nuclear envelope at mitosis, the antigen recognized by antibody PI1 dispersed throughout the cytoplasm in the form of numerous granular entities (Fig. 3; see also Chaly et al. 1984; Davis and Blobel 1986; Park et al. 1987; Snow et al. 1987). This dotted immunofluorescence pattern might indicate that pore complexes do not completely disintegrate during mitosis but remain at least partly assembled (Fig. 3; see Snow et al. 1987).

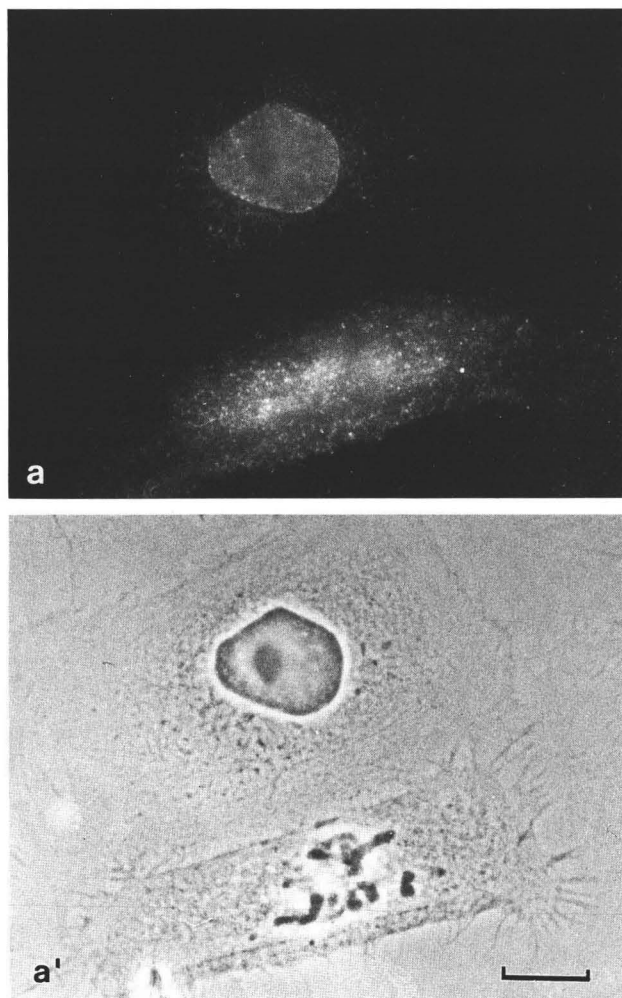


Fig. 3a, a'. Immunofluorescence microscopy of PtK₂ cells probed with antibody P11. The antibody stains the nuclear periphery of interphase cells in a characteristic punctate pattern (**a** upper cell). During mitosis, the antigen disperses in the cytoplasm (**a** lower cell). The corresponding phase contrast image is shown in (**a'**). Bar represents 10 μ m

Microinjection into PtK₂ cells

Initial experiments with PtK₂ cells were designed to determine the stage of postmitotic nuclear reassembly at which newly formed nuclear pore complexes resumed transport of proteins into the daughter nuclei.

Nucleoplasmin was injected into dividing PtK₂ cells at or before metaphase, and its intracellular distribution was followed by immunofluorescence microscopy. Nucleoplasmin is a well-characterized soluble protein abundantly present in oocyte nuclei of *Xenopus* (and other amphibians). It rapidly migrates into the nucleus of *Xenopus* oocytes or of non-amphibian cultured cells when microinjected into the cytoplasm (Dingwall and Laskey 1986; Peters 1986; Feldherr and Dworetzky 1988; Dabauvalle et al. 1988b). Furthermore, nuclear uptake of nucleoplasmin has been shown to occur exclusively via the pore complexes (Feldherr et al. 1984).

When PtK₂ cells were microinjected at metaphase and processed for immunofluorescence a few minutes later, nucleoplasmin was distributed throughout the cytoplasm and

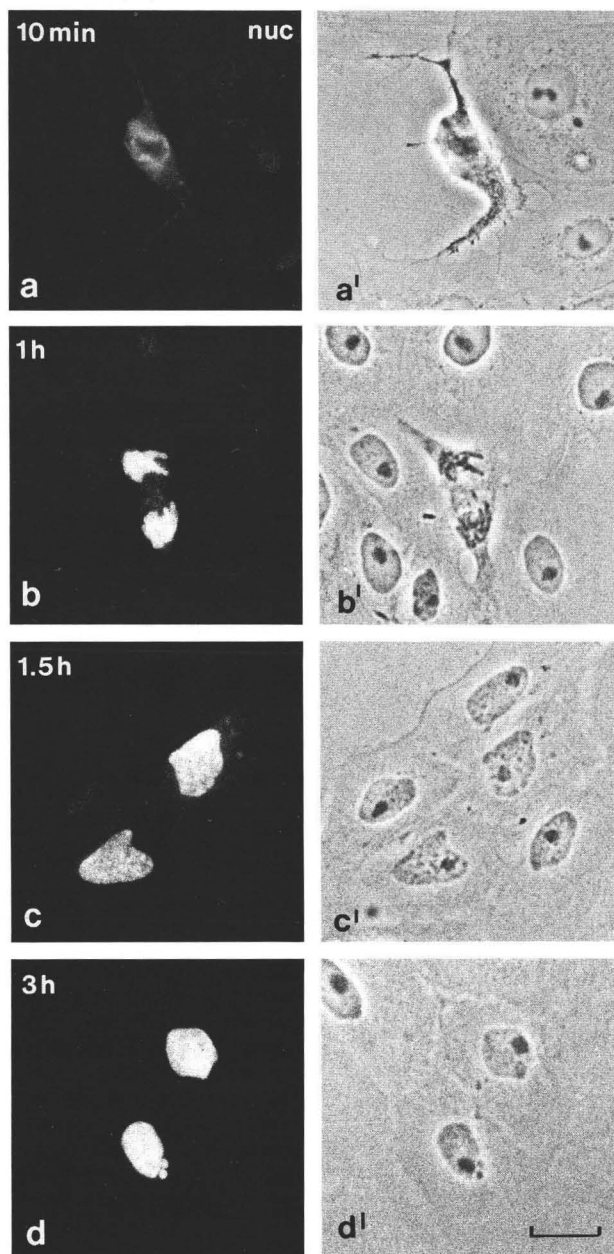


Fig. 4a-d'. Intracellular distribution of nucleoplasmin at successive time points following injection into metaphase PtK₂ cells as revealed by immunofluorescence microscopy using antibodies against nucleoplasmin (**a-d**). The corresponding phase contrast images are shown (**a'-d'**). Immediately after injection, nucleoplasmin (*nuc*) is distributed throughout the cytoplasm (**a**) but is then efficiently taken up by the reforming nuclei as early as in telophase (**b**). Cells were fixed 10 min (**a**), 1 h (**b**), 1.5 h (**c**), and 3 h (**d**) after microinjection. Completion of mitosis and transition of the daughter cells into G1 is not affected by the injection procedure. Bar represents 20 μ m

was clearly excluded from the condensed chromosomes (Fig. 4a). However, when the injected cells were permitted to reach mid-telophase before processing, nucleoplasmin was sequestered to the two daughter nuclei (Fig. 4b), and remained sequestered thereafter in the reforming interphase nuclei (Fig. 4c, d). Microinjection of nucleoplasmin apparently did not negatively affect the recipient cell, since mitosis proceeded normally and the daughter cells were fully

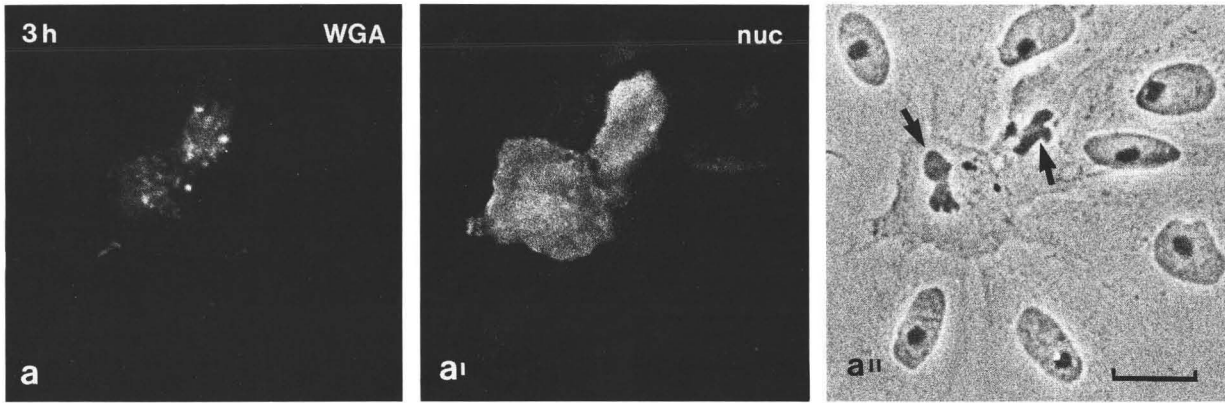


Fig. 5 a–a''. Inhibition of nuclear transport of nucleoplasmin by WGA in a PtK₂ cell. The distribution of WGA (a) and nucleoplasmin (a') is shown 3 h after injection of a 2 mg/ml WGA solution into a metaphase PtK₂ cell. The corresponding phase contrast image is shown in (a''). Nucleoplasmin (*nuc*) fills the cytoplasm of the daughter cells (a') and is largely excluded from their nuclei which remain arrested in a highly condensed telophase-like state (arrows in a''). Bar represents 20 µm

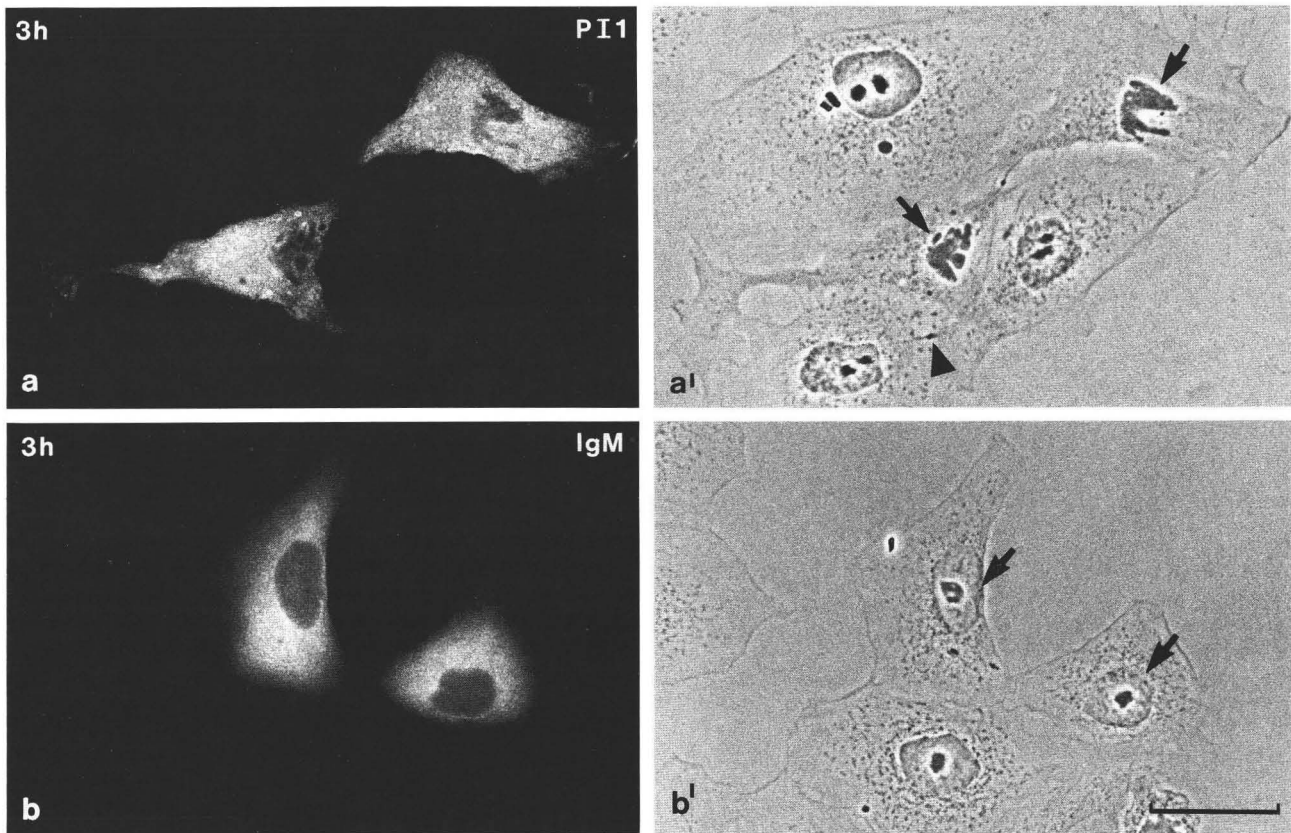


Fig. 6 a–b'. Distribution and effect of antibody PI1 and non-immune murine IgM in postmitotic daughter cells 3 h after microinjection at 10 mg/ml each into metaphase PtK₂ cells as revealed by immunofluorescence microscopy (a, b). The corresponding phase contrast images are shown in (a', b'). Note the persistence of the condensed state of chromatin of the daughter cells in the presence of the antibody (arrows in a'). Two adjacent non-injected daughter cells have already decondensed their chromatin and reformed nucleoli even though they are still connected by a cytoplasmic bridge, the midbody, indicating that the nuclei are in the early G1 phase (arrowhead in a'). Daughter cells containing non-immune IgM have entered interphase 3 h after injection as revealed by chromosome decondensation and nucleolar reformation (arrows in b'). Bar represents 20 µm

able to reorganize interphase nuclei and nucleoli (Fig. 4c', d'). On the other hand, when nucleoplasmin was injected into dividing cells together with WGA or antibody PI1, its distribution essentially remained cytoplasmic. Three hours after injection, nucleoplasmin was still located in the cytoplasm of the daughter cells and was apparently unable to enter their nuclei (Fig. 5a'; compare with Fig. 4b–d).

This observation clearly illustrates the inhibitory action of both WGA and antibody PI1 on the nuclear transport machinery in mammalian cells.

Microinjected WGA or antibody PI1 also had drastic effects on the development of the postmitotic daughter nuclei (Figs. 5, 6). While cytokinesis apparently was not affected, the daughter cell nuclei still retained a telophase-like

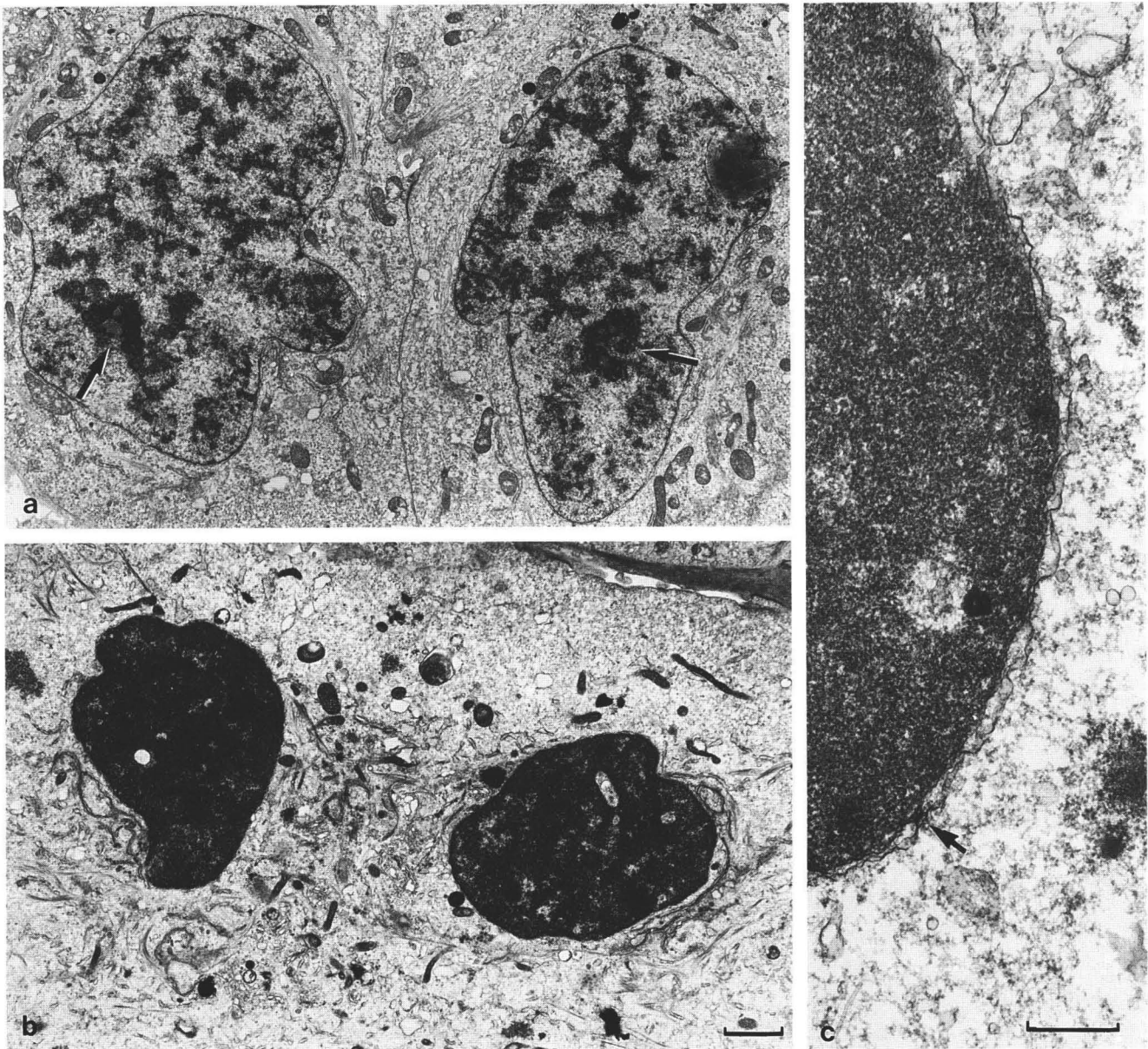


Fig. 7a–c. Electron micrographs illustrating structural features of normal daughter cells approximately 1 h after metaphase (**a**) and 3 h after microinjection of 2 mg/ml WGA into a metaphase PtK₂ cell (**b**, **c**). Chromatin of the control nuclei is already partially decondensed and nucleoli (*arrows*) have reformed (**a**). Chromatin of injected cells maintains its highly compact conformation (**b**) and is surrounded by an intimately apposed double-layered membrane with a few pore complexes (**c**; *arrow* denotes a pore complex). Bars represent 1 μm (**a**, **b**), and 0.5 μm (**c**)

configuration with highly condensed chromosomes 3 h after microinjection (Figs. 5a'', 6a'). Even 18 h after microinjection, the cells had not recovered from the arrest induced by injection of WGA or antibody PI1 (not shown).

A number of control experiments showed that the inability of the injected cells to proceed from telophase to early G1 resulted from the specific interaction of antibody PI1 with pore complex constituents. Thus, when non-immune IgM molecules were introduced into mitotic PtK₂ cells, the daughter cells entered G1-phase at the normal time and their nuclei acquired characteristic interphase features such as dispersed chromatin and prominent nucleoli (Fig. 6b'). Similar results have recently been obtained with monoclonal IgM antibodies reacting with DNA (Benavente and Krohne 1986; Benavente et al. 1989).

Electron microscopy elucidated structural differences in the nuclei of daughter cells derived from injected and control cells (Fig. 7). In controls, chromatin of the daughter nuclei started to decondense shortly after completion of mitosis and nucleoli were clearly visible at approximately 1 h after metaphase (Fig. 7a; see also Roos 1973; Benavente et al. 1987). At 3 h the cells had acquired the typical interphase appearance. In contrast, chromatin of the arrested nuclei appeared extremely condensed with a packing density comparable to that of metaphase chromosomes, even at 3 h after metaphase (Fig. 7b). The nuclei remained small, there was little or no interchromatin material, and nucleoli were not observed. The chromatin masses were invested by a double-layered membrane with a few inserted pore complexes (Fig. 7c). Although a statistical analysis

was not performed, pore complexes seemed to be less abundant in the arrested nuclei than in normal telophase nuclei. However, a considerable number of pore complexes were visible in the cytoplasm of the arrested cells, in association with flattened membrane cisternae resembling annulate lamellae (Benavente et al. 1989).

Thus, in the absence of protein influx, newly formed daughter nuclei apparently become arrested in the telophase state, i.e., are unable to enlarge, decondense the chromosomes, reform nucleoli and develop a nucleoplasm.

Discussion

The "open" mitosis of higher eukaryotes is characterized by breakdown of the nuclear envelope at prometaphase with the concomitant loss of nucleocytoplasmic compartmentalization, and the reacquisition of this compartmentalization at telophase during nuclear envelope reformation. However, the mechanisms by which nuclear components become segregated in daughter nuclei have so far been largely hypothetical.

It is clear that some nuclear proteins bind to the mitotic chromosomes at prophase and are transmitted from one cell generation to the next as part of the chromosomes, without being released into the cytoplasm during mitosis. This pathway is not necessarily restricted to integral components of chromatin such as histones, but may also be followed by other nuclear proteins that bind transiently to the chromosomes prior to nuclear envelope breakdown. Examples of nuclear proteins that are "piggy-back" on chromosomes include a number of nucleolar components, such as RNA polymerase I (Scheer and Rose 1984; Matsui and Sandberg 1985), protein C23 or nucleolin (Lischwe et al. 1981), fibrillarin (Reimer et al. 1987), NO38 or B23 (Ochs et al. 1983; Schmidt-Zachmann et al. 1987), ribocharin (Hügler et al. 1985b) and preribosomal particles (Hügler et al. 1985a) as well as DNA topoisomerases I (Guldner et al. 1986) and II (Earnshaw and Heck 1985), perichromin (McKeon et al. 1984), and peripherin (formerly P1) (Chaly et al. 1984, 1988).

However, many nuclear proteins and RNP complexes are not chromosome bound during mitosis, but are released into the cytoplasm (see Prescott and Goldstein 1968). For instance, components of the nuclear envelope, i.e., nuclear membranes, lamins and pore complexes, are released (for review see Gerace et al. 1984; Stick 1987; see also Davis and Blobel 1986; Park et al. 1987; Snow et al. 1987; Stick et al. 1988; Wilson and Newport 1988), as are nucleoplasm (Krohne and Franke 1980b), a *Xenopus* nucleolar protein of M_r 180 000 (Schmidt-Zachmann et al. 1984), SV40 large T-antigen (Gilden et al. 1965), *myc* protein (Winqvist et al. 1984), a mouse homeotic protein (Schulze et al. 1987), hnRNP complexes (Leser and Martin 1987), U-snRNP, or at least a certain subpopulation thereof (Reuter et al. 1985; Spector and Smith 1986; Verheijen et al. 1986) and some interchromatin nuclear matrix proteins (Chaly et al. 1984; Smith et al. 1985).

That some nucleocytoplasmic sorting of macromolecules functions at the end of mitosis is supported by our earlier observations on the localization of immunoglobulins of different binding specificities after microinjection into mitotic PtK₂ cells (Benavente and Krohne 1986; see also Swanson and McNeil 1987). Thus, monoclonal antibodies directed against DNA bound to mitotic chromosomes and

were therefore assembled into daughter nuclei, whereas non-immune immunoglobulins were excluded from the newly reformed nuclei (Benavente and Krohne 1986; see also Fig. 6b).

In principle, cytoplasmically dispersed nuclear proteins can be reintegrated into daughter interphase nuclei at the end of mitosis by two different pathways: by specific binding of the protein to the telophase chromosomes just prior to or during nuclear envelope formation, or alternatively, after completion of nuclear envelope formation, by transport into the nuclei through the newly assembled pore complexes.

In the present study, we have shown that the pore complexes are gateways for the postmitotic return of nuclear proteins, that resumption of nuclear protein transport is a very early postmitotic event, and, most importantly, that pore-mediated influx of endogenous proteins is essential for daughter nuclei to proceed from telophase to interphase. Furthermore, this transport must be highly efficient, since nucleoplasm injected into the cytoplasm of metaphase PtK₂ cells is almost quantitatively sequestered to daughter nuclei very early in nuclear envelope reformation, i.e. by telophase.

These conclusions are in agreement with morphological data showing the reappearance of nuclear pore complexes in early and mid-telophase of PtK₂ cells (Roos 1973; see also Robbins and Gonatas 1964; Zatschina et al. 1977) and with results obtained from cell-free nuclear reconstitution assays where pore complex formation and nuclear envelope assembly have also been shown to be intimately coupled processes (for review see Lohka 1988).

The results are also consistent with observations on nuclear reorganization in mitogen-stimulated lymphocytes, in which increases in nuclear volume, enlargement of nucleoli and the development of extensive interchromatin regions are paralleled by increases in the number and density of nuclear pores (Maul et al. 1972), the influx and quantity of non-histone nuclear proteins (Setterfield et al. 1983, 1985), and the immunofluorescence labeling pattern and intensity of antibody P11 (Setterfield et al. 1985; Chaly et al. 1988).

This work also confirms and extends our results obtained with *Xenopus* oocytes showing the participation of an M_r 68 000 pore complex protein in nuclear transport (Dabauvalle et al. 1988a). Antibody P11 detects polypeptides of similar M_r in *Xenopus* and PtK₂ cells, shows similar immunofluorescence labeling patterns in the two cell types, and, when microinjected, appears to cause similar effects on nuclear transport. These data suggest that the M_r 68 000 protein recognized by antibody P11 in the nuclear periphery of PtK₂ cells is homologous to the most abundant pore complex glycoprotein of *Xenopus* oocytes (Dabauvalle et al. 1988a). They indicate, furthermore, that the M_r 68 000 proteins of PtK₂ and *Xenopus* are probably related to, if not identical with, the p62 WGA-binding nuclear pore complex glycoprotein of the rat liver (Davis and Blobel 1986; see also D'Onofrio et al. 1988; Featherstone et al. 1988).

Our experimental approach of inhibiting specifically pore-mediated nuclear transport now offers the possibility, in conjunction with the immunolocalization studies, of defining the pathway by which a defined nuclear protein migrates back into the postmitotic daughter nuclei. In particular such studies should allow us to determine whether all nuclear proteins are integrated into telophase nuclei by a

common mechanism, or whether postmitotic nuclear targeting of some proteins occurs via transport through the nuclear pore complexes, whereas the targeting of other proteins is governed by specific interactions with telophase chromosomes prior to formation of the nuclear envelope. With this approach we hope to gain some more insights into the sequence of events leading to nuclear reformation following mitosis in the living cell (for discussion see Benavente and Krohne 1986; Lohka 1988).

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