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2008 年 2 月

博士學位論文

생쥐 소장에서 분리된  
Interstitial Cells of Cajal에 대한  
Prostaglandin  $F_{2\alpha}$ 의 작용 기전

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**Effects of Prostaglandin  $F_{2\alpha}$  on Pacemaker Activity in  
Interstitial Cells of Cajal from Murine Small Intestine**

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# 金 相 勳의 博士學位論文을 認准함

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## 국 문 초 록

### 생쥐 소장에서 분리된 Interstitial Cells of Cajal에 대한 Prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub>의 작용 기전

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위장관 운동성에 대한 prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub> (PGF<sub>2α</sub>)의 기능은 지금까지 평활근 수준으로 많이 연구가 이루어져 있지만, 위장관의 향도잡이 세포의 역할을 담당하는 Interstitial cells of Cajal (ICC)에 대한 PGF<sub>2α</sub>의 연구는 아직 까지 이루어지지 않고 있다. 따라서 본 연구는 세포막 고정법을 이용하여 ICC의 향도잡이 활동도에 대한 PGF<sub>2α</sub>의 영향에 대하여 연구하고자 하였다. 전류고정 상태에서 PGF<sub>2α</sub>는 세포막의 탈분극을 야기시키고, 전압고정 상태에서 긴장성 내향성 전류를 발생시켰다. ICC에 Flufenamic acid 또는 niflumic acid 처리시 ICC에서 발생하는 향도잡이 전류는 소멸되었고, flufenamic acid만이 PGF<sub>2α</sub>에 의해 유도되는 긴장성 내향성 전류를 억제시켰다. 또한 세포내 GDP βS 처리한 결과 역시 PGF<sub>2α</sub>에 의해 유도되는 긴장성 내향성 전류에 큰 영향을 주지 못하였다. ICC에 Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free 용액, U-73122, thapsigargin을 전처리시 향도잡이 전류가 사라지는 것을 알 수 있었고, 이 상태에 PGF<sub>2α</sub>를 동시 투여하면 PGF<sub>2α</sub>에 의해 유도되는 긴장성 내향성 전류가 억제되는 것을

보여주었다. 그러나 chelerythrine과 calphostin C는  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ 에 의해 유도되는 긴장성 내향성 전류에 큰 영향을 주지 못하였다.  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  이온 indicator인 Fluo-3를 이용한 세포내 칼슘이온에 대한 실험에서는  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ 에 의해 유도되는 긴장성 내향성 전류가 세포내의 칼슘이온의 증가와 밀접한 관계가 있는 것으로 밝혀졌다.

이러한 결과들은  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ 가 ICC에서 발생하는 향도잡이 활동도를 조절할 수 있다는 것을 제시해주며, ICC는  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ 의 작용을 위한 하나의 표적이 될 수 있다는 것을 제시해준다. 또한 ICC와  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ 의 상호작용은 장관 운동성에 영향을 미칠 수 있다는 것을 시사한다.



# I. Introduction

Prostaglandins (PGs) of the E, F, and I series are widely distributed in all over body tissues, including the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, and have been shown to affect water and electrolyte transport, mucous secretion, blood flow in GI tract (Bennett et al., 1981; Fulgratt et al., 1974; Robert, 1981; Sanders and Northrup, 1983). Also, there are many evidences that PGs may be involved in the control of the contraction of intestinal smooth muscle. Inhibition of endogenous PGs synthesis by PGs inhibitor, indomethacin, appears to enhance intestinal motility by inducing a fedlike pattern (Karim et al., 1967; Karim et al., 1968). This study suggests that endogenous prostaglandins may play a role in the modulating of intestinal motility (Bennett and Flescher, 1970; Waller, 1973). In generally, PGE<sub>2</sub> is known to contract intestinal longitudinal muscle and to relax circular muscle and PGF<sub>2α</sub> increases contractility of circular and longitudinal muscle in various animal species by studying in vitro. In addition to, vivo studies have shown that PGF<sub>2α</sub> increases contractility of the canine small intestine (Hawley and Rampton, 1985; Pierce et al., 1971).

The interstitial cells of Cajal (ICC) have functions as pacemaking

and neuromediator in the tunica muscularis of the GI tract (Sanders, 1996). The ICC generate the rhythmic oscillations in membrane potential known as slow wave potentials and this generation of slow wave potentials is due to spontaneous inward currents called pacemaker currents (Ward et al., 1994; Ward et al., 1995). Although the exact mechanisms about these events still unclear, many reports suggested that the activation of non-selective  $K^+$  channels,  $Cl^-$  channel, and spontaneous intracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  activities in ICC involve the producing of pacemaker activity (Koh et al., 1998; Thomsen et al., 1998). Morethan above, many endogenous agents such as neurotransmitters, hormones, and paracrine substances play a role in modulating GI tract motility by way of influencing ICC.

No studies have been performed to determine the effects of  $PGE_{2\alpha}$  on electricalevents in ICC. Therefore, the purpose of our study was to investigate the actions of  $PGE_{2\alpha}$  on pacemaker currents in cultured ICC.

## II. Materials and Methods

### Preparation of cells

Balb/C mice (8–13 days old) of either sex were anesthetized with ether and sacrificed by cervical dislocation. The small intestines from 1 cm below the pyloric ring to the cecum were removed and opened along the mesenteric border. Luminal contents were washed away with Krebs–Ringer bicarbonate solution. The tissues were pinned to the base of Sylgard dish and the mucosa removed by sharp dissection. Small stripes of intestinal muscle were equilibrated in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -free Hank's solution containing (in mM) KCl, 5.36; NaCl, 125; NaOH, 0.336;  $\text{Na}_2\text{HCO}_3$ , 0.44; glucose, 10; sucrose, 2.9 and HEPES, 11 adjusted to pH 7.4 with tris for 30 min and after incubation for 15 min at 37 C with an enzyme solution containing collagenase (Worthington Biochemical Co, Lakewood, NJ, USA), 1.3 mg/ml, bovine serum albumin (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO, USA), 2 mg/ml, trypsin inhibitor (Sigma), 2 mg/ml and ATP, 0.27 mg/ml, cells were dispersed. Cells were plated onto sterile glass coverslips coated with murine collagen (2.5 g/ml, Falcon/BD) in 35 mm culture dishes. The cells were then cultured at 37 C in a 95 %  $\text{O}_2$ -5 %  $\text{CO}_2$  incubator in SMGM (smooth muscle growth medium, Clonetics Corp., San Diego, CA, USA) supplemented with 2 % antibiotics/antimycotics

(Gibco, Grand Island, NY, USA) and murine stem cell factor (SCF, 5 ng/ml, Sigma). Interstitial cells of Cajal (ICC) were identified immunologically with a monoclonal antibody for Kit protein (ACK<sub>2</sub>) labelled with Alexa Fluor 488 (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR, USA).

### **Patch clamp experiments**

The whole-cell configuration of the patch-clamp technique was used to record membrane currents (voltage clamp) and membrane potentials (current clamp) from cultured ICC. Currents or potentials were amplified by Axopatch 1-D (Axon Instruments, Foster, CA, USA). Command pulse was applied using an IBM-compatible personal computer and pClamp software (version 6.1; Axon Instruments). The data were filtered at 5 kHz and displayed on an oscilloscope, a computer monitor, and a pen recorder (Gould 2200, Gould, Valley View, OH, USA). Results were analyzed using pClamp and Graph Pad Prism (version 2.01) software. All experiments were performed at 30 °C.

### **Measurement of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration**

Changes in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration ( $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ ) were monitored by using fluo-3/AM, which was initially dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide and stored at -20 °C. The cultured ICC on coverslip (25 mm) were

rinsed twice with a bath solution [in mM: KCl 5, NaCl 135, CaCl<sub>2</sub> 2, glucose 10, MgCl<sub>2</sub> 1.2 and HEPES 10, adjusted to pH 7.4 with tris], incubated in the bath solution containing 5 μM fluo-3/AM with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>-95% O<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C for 5 min, rinsed two more times with the bath solution, mounted on a perfusion chamber, and scanned every 0.4 second with a confocal microscope (200× fluoview 300, Olympus). Fluorescence was excited at 488 nm, and emitted light was observed at 515 nm. During scanning of Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging, the temperature of the perfusion chamber containing the cultured ICC was kept at 30 °C. The variations of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> fluorescence emission intensity were expressed as F1/F0 that F0 means the intensity of first imaging.

### **Solutions and drugs**

The cells were bathed in a solution containing (mM) : KCl, 5; NaCl, 135; CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2; glucose, 10; MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.2 and HEPES, 10 adjusted to pH 7.2 with tris. The pipette solution contained (mM): K-aspartate, 120; KCl, 20; MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5; K<sub>2</sub>ATP, 2.7; Na<sub>2</sub>GTP, 0.1; creatine phosphate disodium, 2.5; HEPES, 5; EGTA, 0.1 adjusted to pH 7.2 with tris.

Drugs used were: Prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub>, Guanosine 5' -[γ-thio]diphosphate trilithium salt (GDP βS), U-73122, calphostin C, chelethrine, and thapsigargin. All drugs were purchased from the

sigma chemical co. Flufenamic acid and niflumic acid were purchased from the Calbiochem.

### **Statistical analysis**

Data were expressed as means standard errors. Differences in the data were evaluated by Student's t test. A P values less than 0.05 were taken as a statistically significant difference. The n values reported in the text refer to the number of cells used in patch-clamp experiments.

### III. Results

#### **Spontaneous activity in interstitial cells of Cajal**

First, ICC cultured from the murine small intestine were identified with the Kit immunofluorescence. Because cells with Kit positive had a distinctive morphology, ICC was easily selected out of the murine cultured cells (Jun et al., 2005). Recording from cultured ICC under current clamp mode ( $I=0$ ) showed spontaneously pacemaker potentials. The resting membrane potential was  $-53 \pm 3$  mV and amplitude was  $23 \pm 5$  mV ( $n = 5$ , Fig. 1A). Converting the amplifier to voltage clamp mode at a holding potential  $-70$  mV, ICC generated spontaneous inward currents called 'pacemaker currents'. The average frequency of the currents was  $14 \pm 2$  cycles/min and the amplitude averaged  $-436 \pm 62$  pA ( $n = 8$ , Fig. 1B).

#### **Effect of $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ on pacemaker potentials and currents in ICC**

I performed the electrophysiological recording from cultured kit labelled ICC under current ( $I=0$ ) and voltage clamp mode. Under current clamp mode, ICC showed spontaneously pacemaker potentials. The resting membrane potential was  $-53 \pm 4$  mV and amplitude was  $27 \pm 2$  mV. In presence of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ), membrane potentials were depolarized to  $-29$

$\pm 3.4$  mV and the amplitude of pacemaker potentials was decreased to  $3.9 \pm 1.6$  mV ( $n=5$ , Fig. 2A, bar graph not shown). Under a voltage clamp mode at a holding potential  $-70$  mV, spontaneous pacemaker currents was generated. Adding  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) produced tonic inward currents and decreased the frequency and amplitude of pacemaker currents (Fig. 2B). These results are in agreement with the previous study that ICC have the spontaneous pacemaker activity. We could find the effect of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  have action on electrical activity of ICC. In addition, we examined the effects of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  on pacemaker currents with various concentrations of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ , and found that  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  generated the tonic inward currents in a dose dependent manner (Fig. 2B-D).

#### **Effect of non-selective cation channel blocker or $\text{Cl}^-$ channel blocker in $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced responses in cultured ICC**

For characterizing of the tonic inward currents by  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ , we used flufenamic acid, a non-selective cation channel blocker and niflumic acid, a  $\text{Cl}^-$  channel blocker. Figure 3A shows that pacemaker currents were stopped by the treatment of flufenamic acid ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) and then  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced action on pacemaker currents was disappeared by flufenamic acid. The summarized bar graph (Fig. 3C) also indicates that the resting currents produced by  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  were  $-21 \pm 9$  pA in presence



of flufenamic acid, which were significantly different when comparing with omitting flufenamic acid (n=4). In the presence of the application of niflumic acid (10  $\mu$ M), the pacemaker currents also were abolished. In this condition, PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  still produced tonic inward currents (Fig. 3B). In the presence of niflumic acid, the resting currents produced by PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  were  $-98 \pm 12$  pA, this value was not significantly different when compared with the control values obtained in the absence of niflumic acid (n=4, Fig. 3D).

#### **No involvement of G proteins in PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub> - induced tonic inward currents in cultured ICC**

The effects of GDP  $\beta$  S, a nonhydrolysable guanosine 5' -diphosphate analogue, which permanently inactivates GTP binding proteins, were examined to determine whether the G-protein is involved in the effects of PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  in ICC. When GDP  $\beta$  S (1 mM) was in the pipette, PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  (10  $\mu$ M) still showed the tonic inward currents (Fig. 4A). In the presence of GDP  $\beta$  S in the pipette, the resting currents were  $-23 \pm 9$  pA, respectively. In application of PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub> , the resting currents produced by PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  were  $-159.9 \pm 36$  pA, respectively (n = 4, Fig. 4B).

### **External Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution and Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor of endoplasmic reticulum suppress PGF<sub>2α</sub> action in cultured ICC**

To investigate the role of external Ca<sup>2+</sup> or internal Ca<sup>2+</sup>, PGF<sub>2α</sub> was tested under external Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free conditions and in the presence of thapsigargin, a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor of endoplasmic reticulum. The application of external Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution completely inhibited the pacemaker currents in voltage clamp mode at a holding potential of -70 mV and in this condition, PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM)-induced action on pacemaker currents were blocked (n = 5, Fig. 5A). The value of resting currents with PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM) in Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution was significantly different when compared in normal solution (Fig. 5C). Also, the treatment of thapsigargin (5 μM) inhibited the pacemaker currents and PGF<sub>2α</sub> action in ICC (Fig. 5B). In the presence of thapsigargin, the value of resting currents with PGF<sub>2α</sub> was significantly different when compared in the absence of thapsigargin (n=4, Fig. 5D).

### **Effects of phospholipase C inhibitor on PGF<sub>2α</sub> -induced tonic inward currents in cultured ICC**

Since the tonic inward currents by PGF<sub>2α</sub> was related with intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization, it is likely that the production of PGF<sub>2α</sub> effects on pacemaker currents require phospholipase C (PLC)

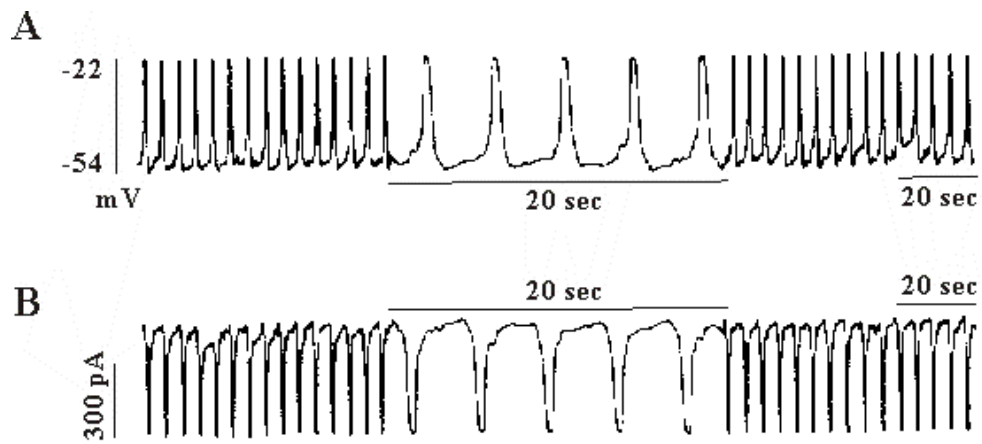
activation. To test this possibility,  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced tonic inward currents were measured in the absence and presence of the U-73122, an active PLC inhibitor. Pacemaker currents recorded at a holding potential of  $-70$  mV were completely abolished by application of U-73122 ( $5 \mu\text{M}$ ) and  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ )-induced tonic currents were suppressed ( $n=4$ , Fig. 6A). The value of resting currents by  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  was significantly different when compared with  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  in the absence of U-73122 ( $n=5$ , Fig. 6B). These results show that PLC inhibitor blocked the  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced tonic inward currents in ICC.

#### **Effects of protein kinase C inhibitor in $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced responses in cultured ICC**

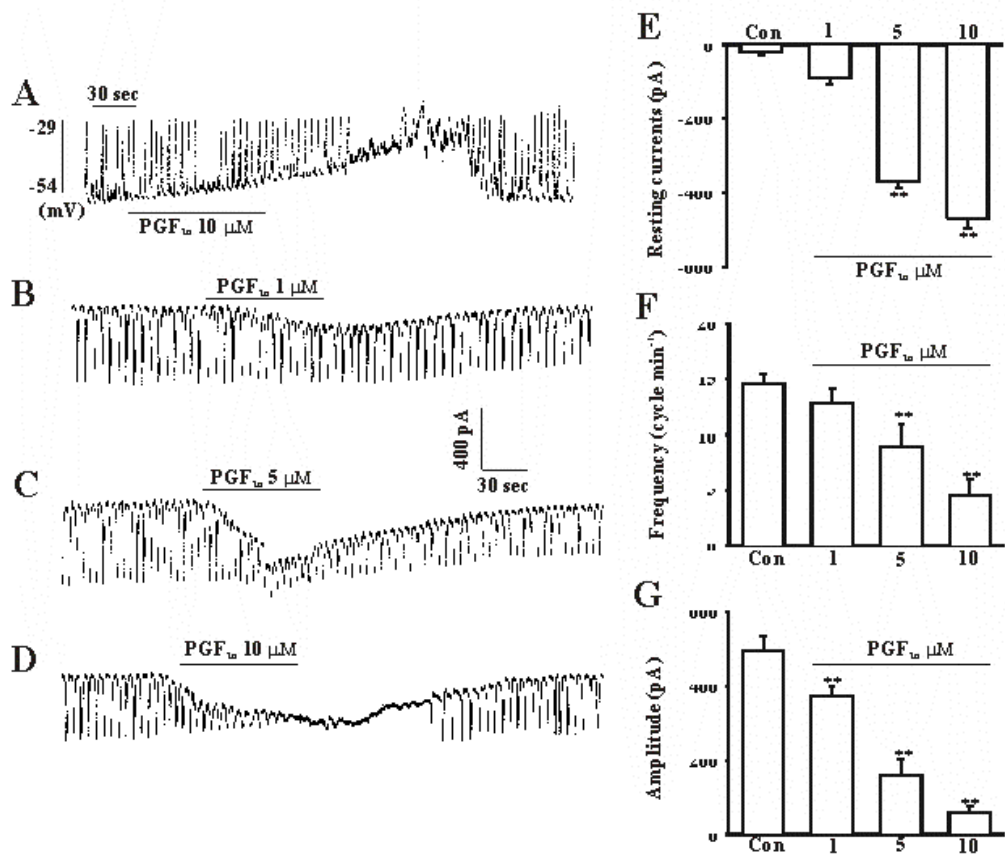
I tested the effects of chelerythrine or calphostin C, an inhibitor of protein kinase C, to investigate whether  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced pacemaker currents response are mediated by the activation of protein kinase C. Chelerythrine ( $1 \mu\text{M}$ ) or calphostin C ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ), did not have an effect on tonic inward currents by  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) (Fig. 7A and B) and the value also was not significantly different when compared with tonic inward currents by  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  obtained in the absence of chelerythrine or calphostin C ( $n=5$ , Fig. 7C and D).

### **Increasing of $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ intensity by $PGF_{2\alpha}$**

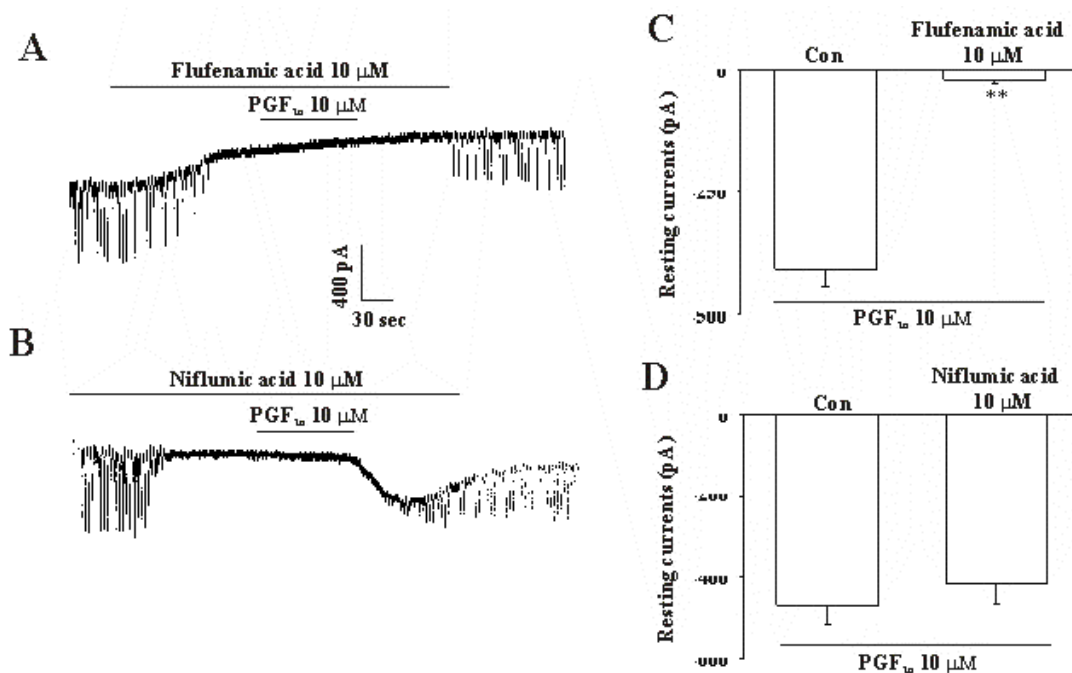
Because many reports suggested  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations in ICC are considered to be the primary mechanism for the pacemaker activity in GI activity, I examined the effect of  $PGF_{2\alpha}$  on  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations in ICC. In this study, I measured spontaneous  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations of ICC which are connected with cell clusters. Spontaneous  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations observed in many ICC (low magnification not shown) under the loading with fluo3-AM (Fig. 8A). And the data of time series are showed the spontaneous regular  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations (Fig. 8B). And in the presence of  $PGF_{2\alpha}$  (10  $\mu$ M), the basal points of  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations were increased but the peak points of  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations were slightly decreased (Fig. 9A). The data of time series are summarized in Fig. 9B. These results suggest that the action of  $PGF_{2\alpha}$  on ICC may involve the regulation of spontaneous  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  oscillations.



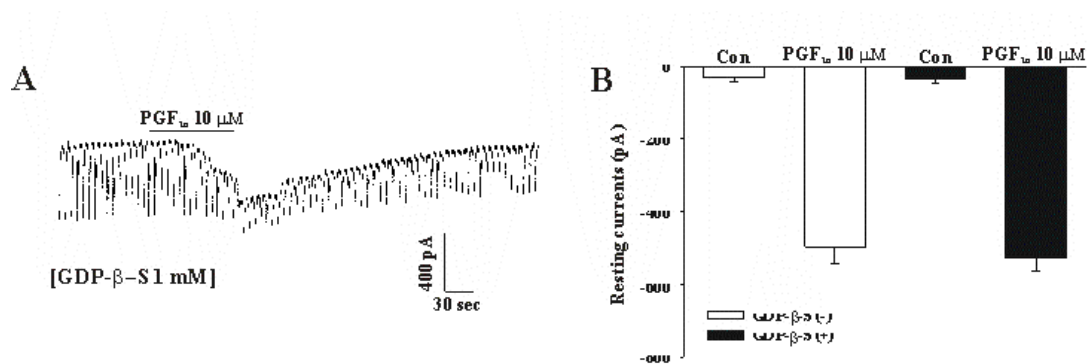
**Fig 1.** Typical trace of pacemaker potentials in current clamping mode (A) spontaneous pacemaker currents in voltage clamping mode recorded at a holding potential of  $-70$  mV (B) in cultured ICC from murine small intestine.



**Fig 2.** Effects of PGF<sub>2α</sub> on pacemaker potentials and pacemaker currents recorded of the cultured ICC from the murine small intestine. (A) shows the pacemaker potentials of ICC exposed to PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM) in the current clamping mode ( $I=0$ ). (B), (C), and (D) show the pacemaker currents of ICC recorded at a holding potential of -70 mV exposed to various concentrations of PGF<sub>2α</sub> (1, 5, and 10 μM). The responses to PGF<sub>2α</sub> are summarized in (E), (F) and (G). The bars represent mean values ± SE. \*\*( $P<0.01$ ) significantly different from the untreated control. Con: control.

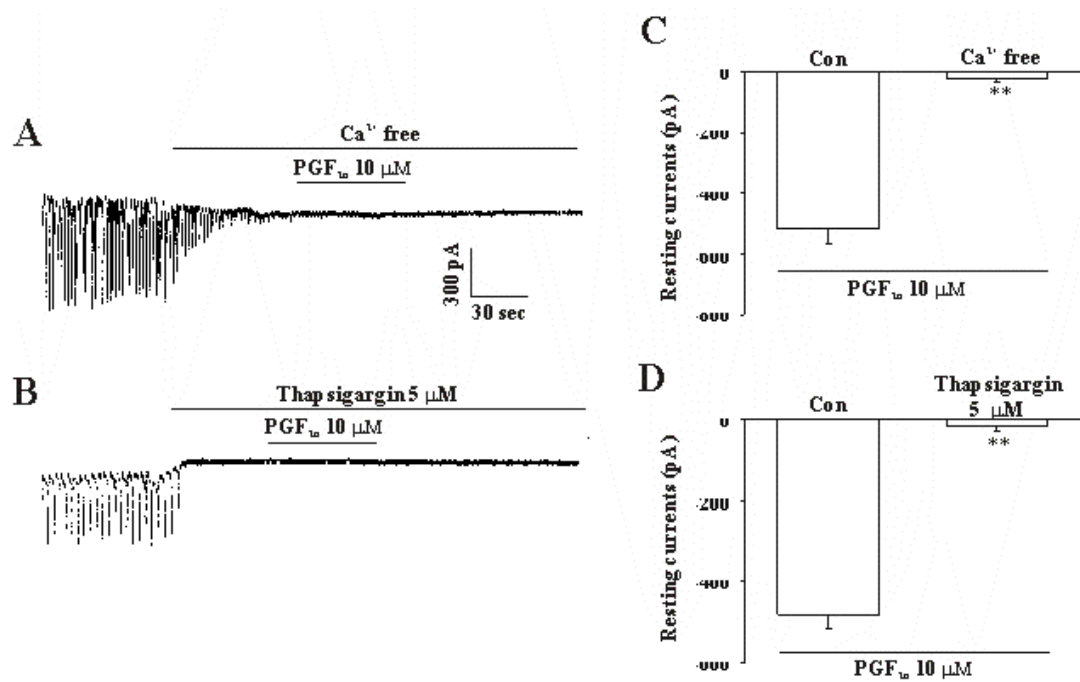


**Fig 3.** Effects of flufenamic acid, a nonselective cation channel blocker, or niflumic acid, a Cl<sup>-</sup> channel blocker, on PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub> -induced responses on pacemaker currents of the cultured ICC of the murine small intestine. (A) The application of flufenamic acid (10  $\mu$ M) abolished the generation of the pacemaker currents. Under these conditions, PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  (10  $\mu$ M) did not produce tonic inward currents. (B) Niflumic acid (10  $\mu$ M) also abolished the generation of the pacemaker currents. However, niflumic acid did not block the PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  (10  $\mu$ M)-induced tonic inward currents. Responses to PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  in the presence of flufenamic acid or niflumic acid are summarized in (C) and (D). The bars represent mean values  $\pm$  SE. \*\*( $P < 0.01$ ) significantly different from the untreated control. Con: control.

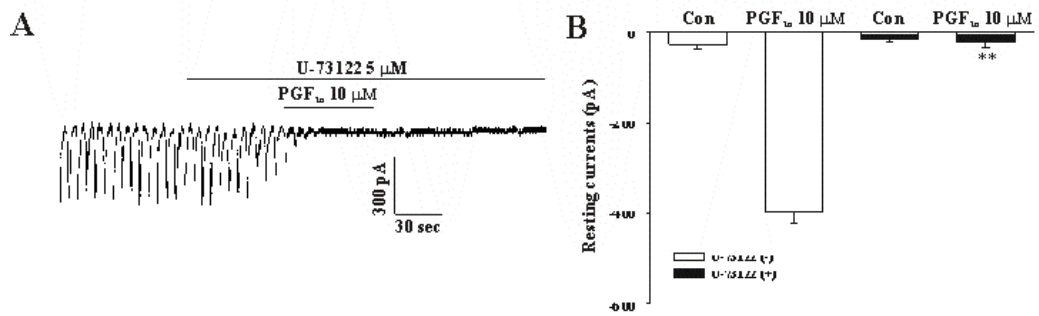


**Fig 4.** Effects of GDPβS on the response to PGF<sub>2α</sub>. (A) Pacemaker currents of ICC exposed to PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM) in presence of GDPβS (1 mM) in the pipette. The effects of PGF<sub>2α</sub> in the presence of GDPβS are summarized in (B). The bars represent mean values ± SE. \*\*(*P*<0.01) significantly different from the untreated control. Con: control.

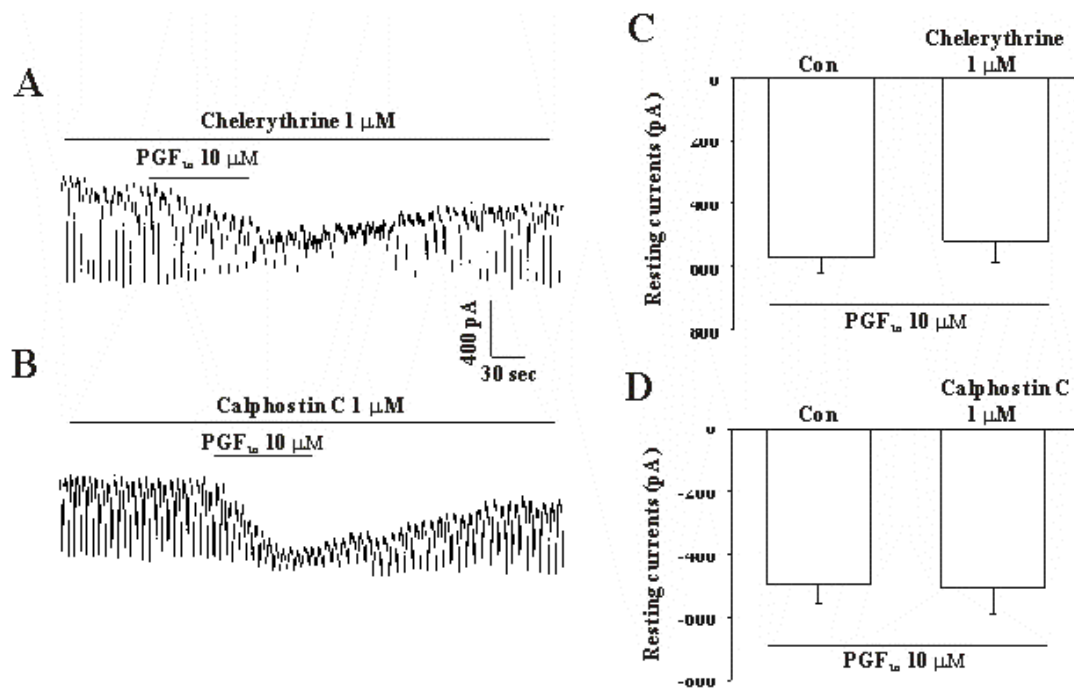




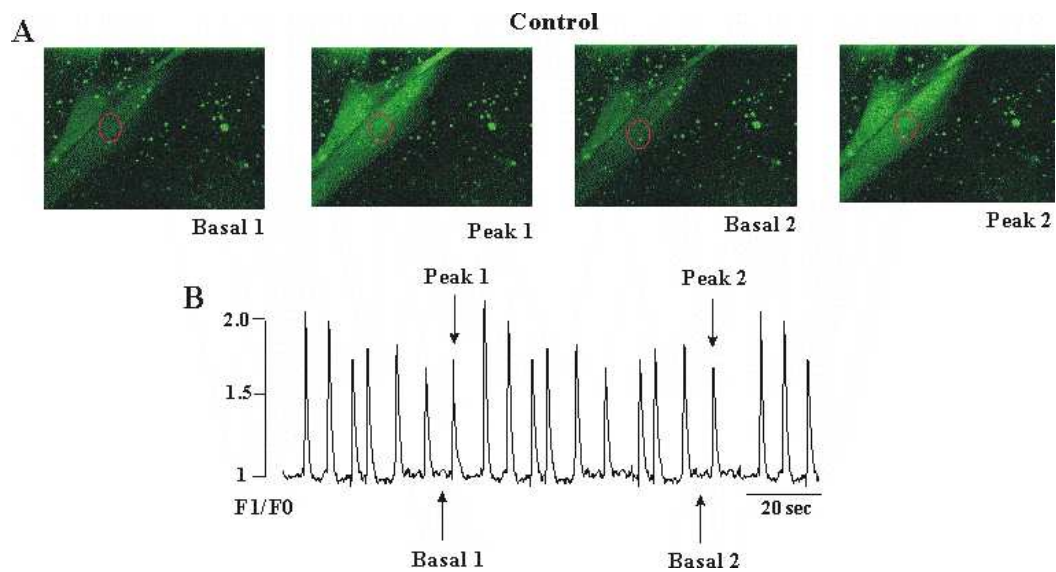
**Fig 5.** Effects of an external Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution or thapsigargin, a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor of endoplasmic reticulum, on PGF<sub>2α</sub>-induced response on pacemaker currents of the cultured ICC of the murine small intestine. (A) The external Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution abolished the generation of pacemaker currents. Under this condition, PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM)-induced tonic inward currents were blocked. (B) Thapsigargin (5 μM) abolished the generation of pacemaker currents. Thapsigargin also blocked PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM)-induced tonic inward currents. Responses to PGF<sub>2α</sub> in the external Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution and in the presence of thapsigargin are summarized in (C) and (D). The bars represent mean values ± SE. \*\* (P < 0.01) significantly different from the untreated control. Con: control.



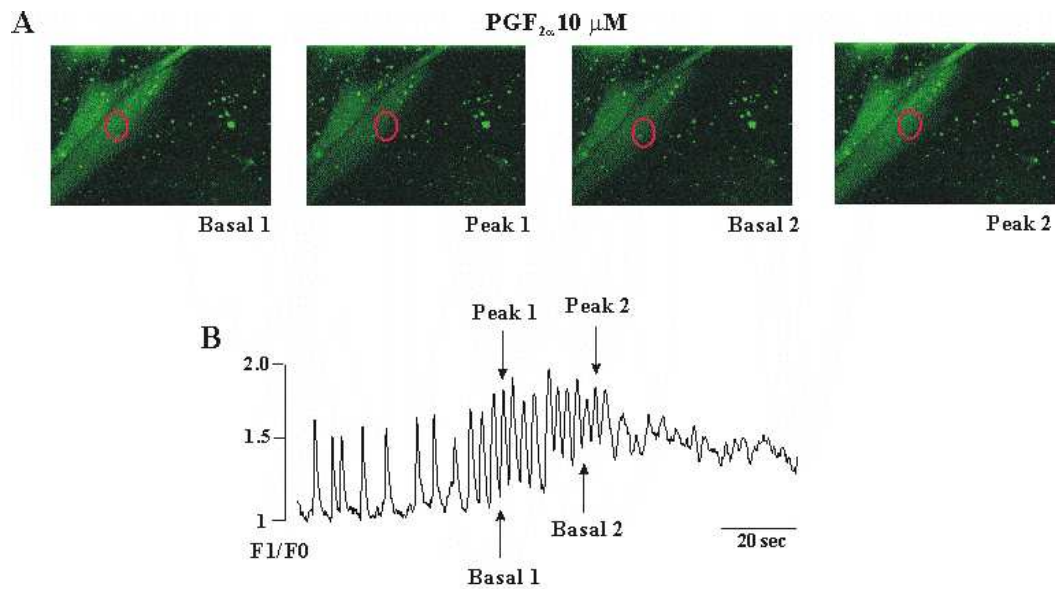
**Fig 6.** Effects of U-73122, an active phospholipase C inhibitor, on PGF<sub>2α</sub>-induced response on pacemaker currents of the cultured ICC of the murine small intestine. (A) U-73122 (5 μM) abolished the generation of pacemaker currents. U-73122 also blocked PGF<sub>2α</sub> (10 μM)-induced tonic inward currents. Responses to PGF<sub>2α</sub> in the presence of PGF<sub>2α</sub> are summarized in (B). The bars represent mean values ± SE. \*\*( $P < 0.01$ ) significantly different from the untreated control. Con: control.



**Fig 7.** Effects of chelerythrine or calphostin C, inhibitors of protein kinase C, on PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub> -induced response on pacemaker currents of the cultured ICC of the murine small intestine. (A), (B) Pacemaker currents of ICC exposed to PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  (10  $\mu$ M) in the presence of chelerythrine (1  $\mu$ M) or calphostin C (10  $\mu$ M). In this condition, PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  caused tonic inward currents. Responses to PGF<sub>2 $\alpha$</sub>  in the presence of chelerythrine or calphostin C are summarized in (C) and (D). The bars represent mean values  $\pm$  SE. \*\*( $P < 0.01$ ) significantly different from the untreated control. Con: control.



**Fig 8.** Spontaneous intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  oscillation in cultured ICC from murine small intestine. (A) Sequential fluorescence intensity images of fluo-3-loaded cultured ICC in normal condition. The images in (A) acquired at basal (1 and 2) and peak (1 and 2) points of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  oscillations in control condition. The image of basal (1 and 2) and peak (1 and 2) points in (A) acquired from indicators in (B). (B) Fluorescence intensity change plotted in (A) red marker.



**Fig 9.** The effects of PGF<sub>2α</sub> on intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> oscillation in cultured ICC from murine small intestine. (A) Sequential fluorescence intensity images of fluo-3-loaded cultured ICC in presence of PGF<sub>2α</sub>. The images in (A) acquired at basal (1 and 2) and peak (1 and 2) points of Ca<sup>2+</sup> oscillations in presence of PGF<sub>2α</sub>. The image of basal (1 and 2) and peak (1 and 2) points in (A) acquired from indicators in (B). (B) Fluorescence intensity change plotted in (A) red marker.

## IV. Discussion

Although the actions of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  has been demonstrated about the gastrointestinal (GI) motility in smooth muscle cells, this is the first study in interstitial cells of Cajal (ICC) in which an attempt has been made to determine the effects of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  on electrical activity in small intestine.

The results of the present study demonstrate that  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  regulates intestinal motility by modulating the pacemaker currents of the in ICC, and this modulation is mediated via acting on non-selective cation channels and intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobilization in a protein kinase C-independent manner.

Most regions of the GI tract generate spontaneous electrical and mechanical activity without stimulation. When electrical recordings are made from smooth muscle cells lying in the GI tract, a regular discharge of long lasting waves of depolarization, called slow waves, is detected. It has recently become apparent that slow waves are generated by a specialized population of smooth muscle cells, known as ICC (Szurszewski 1987). ICC generate spontaneous pacemaker inward currents that depolarize membrane, this spread to smooth muscle via gap junctions resulting in depolarization of membrane in smooth muscle

leads to contraction by generating action potential through voltage dependent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel activation (Farrugia, 1999). In previous studies, many reports suggested that  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  usually showed contractile actions in vivo and vitro studies (Walus et al., 1981). These reports indicate the possibility that  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  may have stimulatory functions on electrical activity of ICC. Actually, I demonstrated find that ICC produced spontaneous pacemaker inward currents under voltage clamp mode and the application of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  evoked the tonic inward currents of pacemaker currents. These results offer the new suggestion that the regulation of electrical activity in ICC may be involved in the contractile effects of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  in GI tract.

Until now, the exact mechanism of pacemaker activity generation is still not yet fully understood in ICC. Two suggestions that pacemaker currents of ICC are mediated by the activation of voltage-independent non-selective cation channels and inwardly rectifying  $\text{Cl}^-$  currents can be generated the rhythmic inward currents, are existed (Koh et al., 1998; Thomsen et al., 1998; Huizinga et al., 2002). For checking of these suggestions, we used the blockers of non-selective cation and inwardly rectifying  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels, so I could find that flufenamic acid abolished pacemaker currents generation and  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced tonic inward currents were blocked by flufenamic acid. Although niflumic acid, a  $\text{Cl}^-$

channel blocker, abolished pacemaker generation, but did not block the  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced tonic inward currents. Therefore, these data strongly provide support for the suggestion above described, and it is likely that both  $\text{Cl}^-$  channels and non-selective cation channels contribute to the generation of the spontaneous pacemaker currents in ICC but  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  only have function on regulation of pacemaker currents by regulating of nonselective cation channels in ICC.

The effects of prostaglandins are mediated by specific receptors, classified into basic types (DP, EP, FP, IP, and TP) according to the for prostaglandin ligand binding affinity (LeDuc and Needleman, 1979; Waller, 1973). They have different cell- and tissue-specific functions, as determined by selective coupling to G proteins and by the expression of splicing isoforms. In case of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ ,  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  induce inositol (1,4,5) trisphosphate ( $\text{IP}_3$ ) production and increases in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels via FP receptors, which are coupled to G proteins for functional actions in various tissue. For example,  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  induces PI turnover in isolated luteal cells and the effect of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  to induce  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobilization in murine fibroblasts occurs in conjunction with formation of  $\text{IP}_3$  and is pertussis toxin insensitive (Athari and Jungermann, 1989; Harks et al., 2003). These findings suggest that FP receptors can interact with a member of the G protein family to



activate phospholipase C, leading ultimately to an IP<sub>3</sub> mediated mobilization of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from intracellular pools. However, there also appears to be a secondary phase of Ca<sup>2+</sup> release by PGF<sub>2α</sub> treated murine fibroblasts that are likely due to extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry. In this study, when GDPβS was present in the pipette, the tonic inward currents of pacemaker currents by PGF<sub>2α</sub> still were present. This means that the effects of PGF<sub>2α</sub> on electrical activity of ICC may be not related with G proteins. Because many suggestions have been mentioned that PGF<sub>2α</sub> may have biological activity through mobilization of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> and PLC activation, we used thapsigargin, a potent endoplasmic reticulum Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase inhibitor and U-73122, an active PLC inhibitor, and found that those inhibitors suppress the PGF<sub>2α</sub>-induced tonic inward currents. These results suggest that both the release of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from internal storage and the PLC activation by PGF<sub>2α</sub> are essential to produce tonic inward currents. Also, these findings have correspondence with previous suggestions. It is well known that the generation of pacemaker currents was dependent upon intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> oscillation and the periodic release of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from endoplasmic reticulum is essential for generating pacemaker currents. Namely, we thought that our experiments using thapsigargin and U-73122 establish the fact of these suggestions.

Generally, it is well known that the binding of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  to its receptor results in the activation of PLC and activation of PLC is the initial step of the phosphoinositide cascade that generates the diacylglycerol,  $\text{IP}_3$ , and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release (Hunt et al., 1975; Ishizawa and Miyazaki, 1975). The increase in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  not only promotes translocation of some protein kinase C (PKC) isozymes to the plasma membrane, but in concert with DAG, is essential in activating the conventional isoforms of PKC. However, in present study, chelerythrine or calphostin C, protein kinase C inhibitors, did not block  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$ -induced effects, suggesting that protein kinase C is not involved on the actions of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  in ICC.

The periodic pacemaker activity of ICC is dependent on intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  oscillations. The pacemaker mechanism is initiated by release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from the endoplasmic reticulum and is followed by reuptake of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  into the mitochondria (Ward et al., 2000). In my results, I found spontaneous  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  oscillations in ICC and this means that the spontaneous pacemaker activity of ICC is closely involved with intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  oscillations in this experiment. And the treatment with  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  in ICC increased the basal point of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  oscillation and decreased the peak point. However, the intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  intensity was broadly increased like as the action of tonic inward

currents reversely. Previous report suggested that PGE<sub>2</sub> inhibited intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> oscillations by ATP-sensitive K<sup>+</sup> channels activation in cultured ICC. The observed actions of PGE<sub>2</sub> on [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> oscillations in ICC support the suggestion that [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> oscillations are important actions of pacemaker activity. Namely, PGE<sub>2</sub> and PGF<sub>2α</sub> has the reverse action on ICC. However, both PGE<sub>2</sub> and PGF<sub>2α</sub> have the same target, intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, for modulating the pacemaker activity of ICC. So, these results suggested that the spontaneous oscillation of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> is essential for pacemaker activity of ICC and the intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> can be the main target for various endogeneous agents, neurotransmitters *etc* in ICC.

In conclusion, this study describes the effects of PGF<sub>2α</sub> on ICC in the murine small intestine. PGF<sub>2α</sub> depolarized the membrane with increased tonic inward currents, which was activated by non-selective cation channels via external Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx, phospholipase C activation, and Ca<sup>2+</sup> release from internal storage in a protein kinase C-independent manner. Thus, the excitatory action of PGF<sub>2α</sub> in GI motility may be through by the regulation of electrical activity on ICC.

## V. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study describes the effects of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  on ICC in the murine small intestine.  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  depolarized the membrane with increased tonic inward currents, which was activated by non-selective cation channels via external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx, phospholipase C activation, and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from internal storage in a protein kinase C-independent manner. Thus, the excitatory action of  $\text{PGF}_{2\alpha}$  in GI motility may be through by the regulation of electrical activity on ICC.

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# 저작물 이용 허락서

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논문제 목	한글 생쥐 소장에서 분리된 Interstitial Cells of Cajal에 대한 Prostaglandin F <sub>2α</sub> 의 작용 기전				
	영문 Effects of Prostaglandin F <sub>2α</sub> on Pacemaker Activity in Interstitial Cells of Cajal from Murine Small Intestine				

본인이 저작한 위의 저작물에 대하여 다음과 같은 조건 아래 조선대학교가 저작물을 이용할 수 있도록 허락하고 동의합니다.

- 다                      음 -

1. 저작물의 DB구축 및 인터넷을 포함한 정보통신망에의 공개를 위한 저작물의 복제, 기억장치에의 저장, 전송 등을 허락함.
2. 위의 목적을 위하여 필요한 범위 내에서의 편집과 형식상의 변경을 허락함. 다만, 저작물의 내용변경은 금지함.
3. 배포·전송된 저작물의 영리적 목적을 위한 복제, 저장, 전송 등은 금지함.
4. 저작물에 대한 이용기간은 5년으로 하고, 기간종료 3개월 이내에 별도의 의사 표시가 없을 경우에는 저작물의 이용기간을 계속 연장함.
5. 해당 저작물의 저작권을 타인에게 양도하거나 출판을 허락을 하였을 경우에는 1개월 이내에 대학에 이를 통보함.
6. 조선대학교는 저작물 이용의 허락 이후 해당 저작물로 인하여 발생하는 타인에 의한 권리 침해에 대하여 일체의 법적 책임을 지지 않음.
7. 소속 대학의 협정기관에 저작물의 제공 및 인터넷 등 정보통신망을 이용한 저작물의 전송·출력을 허락함.

동의여부 : 동의( 0 )      반대(      )

2007 년    10 월    17 일

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