

Protein A001684

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Nucleotide receptor P2x4

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The P2X₄ receptor is a cation-selective channel capable of permeating Na⁺, K⁺ and Ca²⁺. Most of the data available refer to the rat P2X₄ receptor, which shares a high identity with the mouse P2X₄ receptor.

The calcium permeability is relatively high; calcium contributes 8% of the total current through the human P2X₄ receptor in the presence of 1.8 mM extracellular calcium. When the ligand ATP is present continuously (for example 50–100 s at 100 μM ATP) in the presence of a low extracellular calcium concentration, the P2X₄ receptor becomes more permeable to larger cations such as *N*-methyl-D-glucamine. P2X₄ receptors show a unitary conductance of about 9 pS. Both the current amplitude and the mean open times are reduced by Mg²⁺ ions.

Alternative names for this molecule: ATP-gated ion channel subunit P2X4; Nucleotide receptor P2x4; P2rx4; P2X purinoceptor 4; P2x purinoceptor subunit 4; P2X(4) receptor; P2X4; P2X4 receptor; Purinergic receptor P2X, ligand-gated ion channel 4



This molecule exists in **8 states**, has **7 transitions** between these states, has **3 receptor functions** and has **3 channel functions**.

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Protein Function

Channel transport function, kinetics

The P2X₄ receptor is a cation-selective channel capable of permeating Na⁺, K⁺ and Ca²⁺. Most of the data available refer to the rat P2X₄ receptor, which shares a high identity with the mouse P2X₄ receptor. The calcium permeability is relatively high; calcium contributes 8% of the total current through the human P2X₄ receptor in the presence of 1.8 mM extracellular calcium. When the ligand ATP is present continuously (for example 50–100 s at 100 μM ATP) in the presence of a low extracellular calcium concentration, the P2X₄ receptor becomes more permeable to larger cations such as *N*-methyl-D-glucamine. P2X₄ receptors show a unitary conductance of about 9 pS. Both the current amplitude and the mean open times are reduced by Mg²⁺ ions.

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
9016352	Garcia-Guzman M, Soto F, Gomez-Hernandez JM, Lund PE, Stühmer W	Characterization of recombinant human P2X4 receptor reveals pharmacological differences to the rat homologue.	Mol Pharmacol, 51, 1	Jan 1997
10204538	Khakh BS, Bao XR, Labarca C, Lester HA	Neuronal P2X transmitter-gated cation channels change their ion selectivity in seconds.	Nat Neurosci, 2, 4	Apr 1999
10688055	Negulyaev YA, Markwardt F	Block by extracellular Mg ²⁺ of single human purinergic P2X4 receptor channels expressed in human embryonic kidney cells.	Neurosci Lett, 279, 3	4 Feb 2000
10204537	Virginio C, MacKenzie A, Rassendren FA, North RA, Surprenant A	Pore dilation of neuronal P2X receptor channels.	Nat Neurosci, 2, 4	Apr 1999

Regulation of Activity

Modulation by ions such as protons, copper, zinc, Mg²⁺, or molecules such as cibacron blue and ivermectin

Decreasing the extracellular pH decreases the potency and, in some reports, the maximal ATP-activated current amplitude as well. The current–voltage relationship of the ATP-activated current is not affected by the pH. Mutagenesis of histidine 286 to alanine completely abrogates the sensitivity to pH, whereas mutagenesis of the other three histidine residues has no effect on the pH sensitivity. Zinc can enhance the ATP-activated current through the rat P2X₄ receptor with a leftward shift of the dose–response curve. This zinc-induced increase in ATP potency occurs in a voltage-independent manner. Copper ions, in contrast, inhibit the ATP-evoked current, decreasing the maximal current without altering the EC₅₀. Mutagenesis of histidine 140 to alanine abrogates the copper-induced inhibition of the P2X₄ current. Mutation of histidine 241 to alanine in both rat and human P2X₄ receptors enhances sensitivity to the antagonists suramin and pyridoxal-phosphate-6-azophenyl-2',4'-disulphonic acid (PPADS). Extracellular magnesium decreases the mean open time of the single human P2X₄ channel without affecting the mean closed time, possibly by means of an open-channel block near or at the exterior surface of the channel pore. Other ions such as cobalt, barium, and manganese do not alter the ATP-activated current through the P2X₄ receptor, although one recent report showed that cobalt can cause a long-lasting and irreversible activating effect on the P2X₄ receptor-mediated current. Ivermectin is a positive allosteric modulator of current mediated by P2X₄ receptor but not of that mediated by P2X₂, P2X₃, P2X₂/P2X₃, or P2X₇ receptors. The unique ability of ivermectin to potentiate only the P2X₄ receptor-mediated current distinguishes the P2X₄ receptor from other channels and can identify the presence or absence of this

receptor in the native tissue. Another example of a positive modulator, possibly also through an allosteric mechanism, is cibacron blue, which increases the potency with which ATP evokes the current mediated through the P2X₄ receptor. Ethanol can inhibit the P2X₄ current, providing a possible explanation for the action of ethanol in the brain, where the P2X₄ receptor is the most abundant P2X receptor.

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
10737610	Acuña-Castillo C, Morales B, Huidobro-Toro JP	Zinc and copper modulate differentially the P2X ₄ receptor.	J Neurochem, 74, 4	Apr 2000
10718748	Clarke CE, Benham CD, Bridges A, George AR, Meadows HJ	Mutation of histidine 286 of the human P2X ₄ purinoceptor removes extracellular pH sensitivity.	J Physiol, 523 Pt 3	15 Mar 2000
15629187	Coddou C, Lorca RA, Acuña-Castillo C, Grauso M, Rassendren F, Huidobro-Toro JP	Heavy metals modulate the activity of the purinergic P2X ₄ receptor.	Toxicol Appl Pharmacol, 202, 2	15 Jan 2005
12819199	Coddou C, Morales B, González J, Grauso M, Gordillo F, Bull P, Rassendren F, Huidobro-Toro JP	Histidine 140 plays a key role in the inhibitory modulation of the P2X ₄ nucleotide receptor by copper but not zinc.	J Biol Chem, 278, 38	19 Sep 2003
10688055	Negulyaev YA, Markwardt F	Block by extracellular Mg ²⁺ of single human purinergic P2X ₄ receptor channels expressed in human embryonic kidney cells.	Neurosci Lett, 279, 3	4 Feb 2000
10188989	Wildman SS, King BF, Burnstock G	Modulation of ATP-responses at recombinant rP2X ₄ receptors by extracellular pH and zinc.	Br J Pharmacol, 126, 3	Feb 1999
10903981	Xiong K, Li C, Weight FF	Inhibition by ethanol of rat P2X ₄ receptors expressed in Xenopus oocytes.	Br J Pharmacol, 130, 6	Jul 2000
10322050	Xiong K, Peoples RW, Montgomery JP, Chiang Y, Stewart RR, Weight FF, Li C	Differential modulation by copper and zinc of P2X ₂ and P2X ₄ receptor function.	J Neurophysiol, 81, 5	May 1999
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Interactions with Ligands and Other Proteins

Subunit organization

The P2X subunits seem to be arranged as a trimer that forms the basis for a functional channel. The channel may thus be a trimer or a hexamer. Each subunit has intracellular amino and carboxy termini and two transmembrane (TM) domains. Charged residues close to TM1 and TM2 have a function in ATP binding. The subunits are arranged in a head-to-tail orientation in the trimeric structure. Crosslinking of purified P2X₁ or P2X₃ receptors yields dimers and trimers, which is consistent with trimers as an essential structural element of these P2X receptors. When blue native PAGE was used, these P2X receptors migrated entirely as non-covalently linked homotrimers. With the use of an entirely different approach of injecting concatenated complementary DNAs encoding trimeric, tetrameric, or hexameric P2X₂ receptors in oocytes, a similar conclusion was drawn that not four but maximally three subunits form the P2X channel. This was based on the observation that only cDNA encoding the concatenated trimer resulted in inhibition by [2-(trimethylammonium)ethyl] methanethiosulfonate (MTSET), which was linearly correlated with the number of mutant P2X₂ subunits independently of the position of the mutant subunit in the trimer. The putative amino-acid residue Phe 230 is important in binding the adenine ring of ATP, and Lys 190, His 286, and Arg 278 residues coordinate the interaction of the negatively charged α -, β -, and γ -phosphate groups, respectively.

Ligands: agonists, antagonists, allosteric modulator

Homomeric P2X₄ receptors are activated by ATP and 2-methylthioATP but not by α , β -methylene-ATP (α , β -meATP). α , β -meATP and adenosine-5'-tetrphosphate (APA4) are partial agonists at the human and

mouse P2X₄ receptor but not at the rat receptor. P2X₄ receptor is relatively insensitive to blockade by suramin and PPADS, which makes it unique among the P2X receptor subtypes. The human and mouse P2X₄ receptors, however, are both more sensitive than the rat P2X₄ receptor to blockade by PPADS. The human P2X₄ receptor is also more sensitive than the rat or mouse P2X₄ receptor to suramin, which is accounted for by the presence of lysine (human) rather than glutamine (rat and mouse) at position 78.

Interacting proteins

Both P2X₁ and P2X₅ receptors have been shown to form heteromers with the P2X₄ receptor, whereas P2X₁ and P2X₅ receptors can interact and form a functional heteromer. The P2X₄ and P2X₆ receptors have also been shown to coimmunoprecipitate when they both expressed in either oocytes or HEK-293 cells. There is a small difference between the extent of α,β -meATP-induced stimulation of the current at the homomeric P2X₄ and that at the P2X₄/P2X₆ receptors. However, the heteromeric rat P2X₄/P2X₆ receptor is more sensitive than the homomeric rat P2X₄ receptor to blockade by suramin, PPADS and Reactive Blue-2. A limitation of the coexpression study is that both sets of homomers, in addition to the coimmunoprecipitated heteromer, are also likely to be present.

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
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10460235	Khakh BS, Proctor WR, Dunwiddie TV, Labarca C, Lester HA	Allosteric control of gating and kinetics at P2X(4) receptor channels.	J Neurosci, 19, 17	1 Sep 1999
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15686495	Nicke A, Kerschensteiner D, Soto F	Biochemical and functional evidence for heteromeric assembly of P2X1 and P2X4 subunits.	J Neurochem, 92, 4	Feb 2005
12447447	Omatsu-Kanbe M, Isono T, Matsuura H	Multiple P2 receptors contribute to a transient increase in intracellular Ca ²⁺ concentration in ATP-stimulated rat brown adipocytes.	Exp Physiol, 87, 6	Nov 2002

10531403	Stoop R, Thomas S, Rassendren F, Kawashima E, Buell G, Surprenant A, North RA	Contribution of individual subunits to the multimeric P2X(2) receptor: estimates based on methanethiosulfonate block at T336C.	Mol Pharmacol, 56, 5	Nov 1999
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Regulation of Concentration

Expression of the P2X₄ receptor has been shown to be increased after spinal cord injury. After nerve injury, the receptor expression increases strikingly in microglia but not in neurons or astrocytes. Blockade by P2X₄ receptor antagonist and P2X₄ receptor antisense oligonucleotide suppressed tactile allodynia, which is pain hypersensitivity after nerve damage. Intraspinal administration of microglia with increased P2X₄ receptor expression reproduced tactile allodynia in naive animals. Thus, blockade of P2X₄ receptors in microglia may represent a new approach to the treatment of pain caused by nerve injury.

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
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Subcellular Localization

P2X₄ receptor is located on the cell surface in the plasma membrane. Patch-clamp recording of intact murine cardiac ventricular myocytes showed that 2-methylthioATP can evoke a current with a current-voltage relationship and a reverse potential similar to those of a current in P2X₄ receptor-overexpressing mouse ventricular myocytes. That both ivermectin and zinc were able to potentiate the 2-methylthioATP-induced current in the wild-type murine myocyte provides further evidence for the concept that P2X₄ receptor is probably an important subunit of the native P2X receptor on the surface of the heart cell.

In rabbit osteoclasts, the P2X₄ receptor also seems to mediate an ATP-induced non-selective cation current. This is consistent with the functional expression of the P2X₄ receptor on the surface of osteoclasts.

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
10564660	Naemsch LN, Weidema AF, Sims SM, Underhill TM, Dixon SJ	P2X(4) purinoceptors mediate an ATP-activated, non-selective cation current in rabbit osteoclasts.	J Cell Sci, 112 (Pt 23)	Dec 1999
16449800	Shen JB, Pappano AJ, Liang BT	Extracellular ATP-stimulated current in wild-type and P2X4 receptor transgenic mouse ventricular myocytes: implications for a cardiac physiologic role of P2X4 receptors.	FASEB J, 20, 2	Feb 2006

Major Sites of Expression

Heart

ATP is released as co-transmitter from the sympathetic nerve endings and also from platelets, erythrocytes, endothelium, and possibly hypoxic myocardium within the circulatory system. The P2X receptors mediate ATP-stimulated contractility of the cardiac myocyte and intact heart. P2X₄ receptor is expressed in adult rat and mouse cardiac myocytes by immunoblotting of purified myocyte preparations and by immunohistochemistry. Intercalated discs are strongly positive for P2X₄ receptors. messenger RNA for P2X₄ receptor is also found in intact human heart. The P2X₄ receptor is probably an important subunit of the P2X receptor channel that mediates the contractility effect of ATP. This is based on the observation that the contractile effect is mimicked by 2-methylthioATP but not α,β -meATP and is relatively insensitive to blockade by suramin, features similar to those of the heterologously expressed P2X₄ receptor. In the chick embryo cardiac myocyte, the native P2X₄ receptor exists in glycosylated and nonglycosylated forms. Only the glycosylated P2X₄ receptor is expressed on the cell surface, and this is much more easily extracted by various detergents or aqueous media. Treatment of these cardiac myocytes with antisense oligonucleotides specific to the 5' region of the chick P2X₄ receptor abrogates the P2X agonist-stimulated increase in calcium influx and in myocyte contractile amplitude.

Cardiac transgenic expression of the human P2X₄ receptor results in enhanced basal contractility with no associated heart pathology. This suggests a physiological function for the P2X₄ receptor, that of stimulating cardiac contractility. Crossing the P2X₄ receptor transgenic mouse with the caldesmon (CSQ) model of hypertrophy and heart failure more than doubled the lifespan. The prolonged survival of the binary CSQ/P2X₄ receptor mouse is associated with an improved ratio of left ventricular weight to body weight and a restored β -adrenergic responsiveness. The beneficial phenotype of the binary mouse correlates with improved left ventricular developed pressure and $\pm\Delta\text{Pressure}/\Delta\text{time}$. The enhanced cardiac performance is manifested in young binary animals and persists in older animals. These data suggest that increased contractility probably underlies the survival benefit from overexpression of the P2X₄ receptor. Increased expression or activation of this receptor may represent a new approach in the therapy of heart failure.

Vasculature

The P2X₄ receptor is expressed in human endothelial cells cultured from umbilical vein, aorta, pulmonary artery, and skin microvessels. The use of competitive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) demonstrated that the expression of P2X₄ receptor mRNA is much greater than the expression of the P2X₁, P2X₃, P2X₅, and P2X₇ subunits. Antisense oligonucleotides specifically targeted against the human P2X₄ receptor decreased the P2X₄ receptor mRNA and protein, and attenuated the ATP-evoked calcium influx in human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs). The P2X₄ receptor co-localizes with VE-cadherin at the endothelial cell-cell junction exclusively and can be coimmunoprecipitated with VE-cadherin. The P2X₆ receptor is also co-localized there; together these molecules may regulate endothelial cell-cell interaction and adhesiveness. An SP1 transcription-factor-binding site on the 5' promoter region of the human P2X₄ receptor can mediate an increase in the transcription for P2X₄ receptor mRNA. Shear stress can decrease the amount of SP1 and thus results in a decreased production of P2X₄ receptor mRNA.

Both pharmacological evidence and evidence based on reverse transcriptase mediated PCR (RT-PCR) suggest the expression of P2X₄ receptor in vascular smooth muscle cells, although P2X₄ receptor is generally less abundant in vascular smooth muscle than in endothelial cells. In rat vascular smooth muscle cells from coronary arteries, RT-PCR-based mRNA expression for the P2X₄ receptor (along with that for P2X₁ and P2X₂ receptors) is found exclusively in the muscle layer adjacent to the internal elastic lamina). In rat hepatic mesentery arteries, the P2X₄ receptor participates in nerve-mediated vasoconstriction, whereas another P2X receptor, the P2X₁ receptor, is the principal subtype that mediates calcium signaling in portal vein vascular myocytes.

Neurons and glial cells

P2X₄ receptors are widely distributed in both peripheral and central nervous systems. In the peripheral nervous system, P2X₄ receptors are present in the neurons in many different ganglia, including dorsal root, superior cervical, pelvic, trigeminal, mesenteric, enteric, olfactory and retinal. In the central nervous system, P2X₄ receptors are highly expressed in Purkinje cells in the cerebellum. They are also present in hippocampus, olfactory bulb, and brainstem. Although P2X receptor-mediated responses have been observed in many different types of neuron, no specific function has been attributed to it. One reason is that no specific agonist or antagonist is available for the identification of P2X₄-receptor-mediated responses; another is the recent reports supporting the hypothesis that native P2X receptors are trimeric, and probably heteromeric. Hence, P2X₄ receptor may be a subunit in the native P2X receptor. P2X₄ receptors are also expressed on astrocytes and Muller cells. The P2X₄ receptor on hyperactive microglia in the spinal cord was reported to be responsible for tactile allodynia after peripheral nerve injury.

Immune cells

P2X₄ receptors are found in macrophages from rat and humans. In rat alveolar macrophages, P2X₄ receptors mediate the ATP-induced inward current. Similarly, P2X₄ receptors probably mediate the ATP-induced inward current and transient depolarization in human monocyte-derived macrophages. A membrane potential oscillation then results from calcium-activated potassium channels in these cells. Together with a P2Y receptor-mediated increase in interleukin-6 (IL-6) transcription, ATP released from inflamed or metabolically compromised cells may be a 'danger signal' in activating the immune system. Of the other P2X receptor subtypes, the P2X₇ receptor is found in human eosinophils, promyelocytes, and neutrophils, and has been proposed as the main functional P2X receptor in these cells.

Epithelial cells

Epithelial cells from animal and human airway express several P2 purinergic receptors, including both the P2X and P2Y receptors. Rat trachea epithelial cells expressed mRNAs for P2X₄ receptors and P2X₇ receptors. In cystic fibrosis (CF) and non-cystic fibrosis (non-CF) human epithelia, both P2X₄ and P2X₅ receptors were the predominant genes expressed. P2X receptor agonists such as 2'- and 3'-O-(4-benzoyl-benzoyl)-ATP (BzBz-ATP) or α,β -meATP were able to stimulate transepithelial Cl⁻ transport in both wild-type and cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR)-null mice. In both CF and non-CF human airway epithelial cells, the P2X₄ receptor channel is the major entry channel for calcium and is stimulated by extracellular ATP. The sustained increase in cellular calcium mediated through the P2X₄ receptors may result in Cl⁻ secretion in both CF and non-CF epithelia, suggesting a potential novel therapeutic target.

Endocrine and bone cells

Multiple P2 purinergic receptors are expressed in bone cells, where they modulate osteoblast proliferation, bone formation, osteoclast formation, and osteoclast-mediated resorption pit formation. P2X₇ receptor is expressed on the osteoclast, although the P2X₂ receptor seemed to be important in bone resorption by osteoclasts. The P2X₇ receptor is functionally expressed in a subpopulation of human osteoblasts and can mediate ATP-induced apoptosis. In cells of endocrine tissues, P2X₄ receptors are expressed in aged rat adrenal, thyroid follicular, and brown adipose cells. In anterior pituitary cells, the P2X₄ receptor is the major calcium entry pathway for prolactin secretion.

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Phenotypes

Phenotypes are specific to the functions of P2X₄ receptors in different tissues, as described in the sections on the major sites of expression.

Splice Variants

P2X₄ receptor orthologs have been cloned from rat, mouse, human, chick, *Xenopus laevis*, and zebrafish. Partial P2X₄ receptor cDNA sequences have also been identified in rabbit, guinea-pig, dog, and cow. Mouse P2X₄ receptor shares 94% identity with rat P2X₄ and 87% with human P2X₄, and all three orthologs have 388 amino acids. Chick P2X₄ receptor has 385 (384 in another clone) amino-acid residues and shares about 75% identity with the mammalian P2X₄ receptor. *Xenopus* P2X₄ receptor has 391 residues and shares 67% identity with the rat P2X₄ receptor. Zebrafish has two P2X₄ receptor paralogs (as a result of duplicated genes for the receptor). These two paralogs share only 61% identity between them. Zebrafish P2X_{4.1} has 389 residues and shares 51% identity with rat P2X₄. All the P2X₄ receptor orthologs in mammalian, bird, amphibian, and fish have the conserved ten extracellular cysteine residues and many N-glycosylation sites.

Several human P2X₄ receptor splice variants have been reported. In one of the alternatively spliced cDNAs, the 5'-untranslated region and the first 90 residues in the coding region of full-length human P2X₄ receptor are replaced by a 35-residue coding sequence that is highly homologous with a region of chaperonin proteins in the hsp-90 family. Alternatively spliced RNAs were identified in smooth muscle and brain by RT-PCR. Injection of cRNA of the alternatively spliced variant into *Xenopus* oocytes resulted in no ATP-gated currents. Two other P2X₄ receptor spliced cDNAs have been reported: P2X_{4b} is formed by the insertion of an additional 16 residues near the end of the first transmembrane domain, and P2X_{4c} is formed by deleting a cassette of 130 residues starting from the same position as P2X_{4b}. Transfection of P2X_{4c} did not form functional channels in HEK cells. In P2X_{4b}-transfected HEK cells, small, inconsistent ATP-evoked responses are detected. The mouse spliced variant has already been described.

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
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11334629	Juranka PF, Haghighi AP, Gaertner T, Cooper E, Morris CE	Molecular cloning and functional expression of <i>Xenopus laevis</i> oocyte ATP-activated P2X4 channels.	Biochim Biophys Acta, 1512, 1	2 May 2001
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Antibodies

Most of the antibodies available for the P2X₄ receptor are raised against the C terminus. A monoclonal antibody has also been raised against the ectodomain of the P2X₄ receptor (Bo *et al.* 2003).

PM ID	Authors	Title	Journal	Pub Date
12845522	Bo X, Kim M, Nori SL, Schoepfer R, Burnstock G, North RA	Tissue distribution of P2X4 receptors studied with an ectodomain antibody.	Cell Tissue Res, 313, 2	Aug 2003



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