

Structural Basis of Multi-functional lipocalin-type Prostaglandin D₂ Synthase

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Prostaglandin (PG) D₂ is a natural somnogen inducing non-rapid eye moving (NREM) sleep and an immuno-modulator. PGD synthase (PGDS) is responsible for the production of PGD₂. We determined the crystal structures of lipocalin-type PGDS (L-PGDS) as the first enzymatic lipocalin by using SeMet-MAD phasing at 2.1 Å resolution [1]. L-PGDS has a catalytic architecture similar to the phylogenetically independent PGDS, hematopoietic PGDS, which belongs to a sigma class glutathione S-transferase [2]. L-PGDS is a multi-functional protein which also acts as a hydrophobic ligand-binding protein. The structures with different conformations in two crystal forms suggest the structural basis of the multi-functionalities as well as the mode of the catalytic action [3]. These proposed mechanisms were consistent with the extended site-directed mutagenesis. We present the structural and functional basis of L-PGDS as a multi-functional protein relevant to the biological actions including NREM sleep promotion in the prostanoid cascade [4].

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