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Abstract

Effects of Cadmium on Placental Function and Reproduction in Rats

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Objectives: This study investigated the toxic effects of cadmium on placental function and reproduction in rats. For this study, the mRNA levels of the placental prolactin-growth hormone (PRL-GH) gene family, placental trophoblast cell frequency and reproductive data were analyzed.

Methods: Pregnant F344 Fisher rats (200 g ± 23 g) were intraperitoneally injected with 0, 0.5, and 5.0 mg/kg B.W/day of cadmium (CdCl₂) dissolved in saline from days 7-11 or 16-20 of pregnancy, and were sacrificed at days 11 or 20, respectively. The mRNA levels were analyzed by Northern blot hybridization and reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction. The hormone concentration was analyzed by radioimmunoassay and the frequency of the placental trophoblast cells was observed by histochemical study. Reproductive data were surveyed at day 20 of the pregnancy and after the births. Statistical analysis was carried out using the SAS program (version 8.1).

Results: The mRNA levels of the PRL-GH gene family were reduced dose dependently by cadmium. The mRNA levels of Pit-1a and -b isotype genes were also reduced by cadmium. The hormone concentration of PL-Iv and -II was decreased by cadmium. During the second half of pregnancy (days 11-21), a high dose of cadmium exposure significantly reduced the frequency of spongiotrophoblast and trophoblast giant cells that secrete the PRL-GH hormones. In the last stage of pregnancy (day 20), a high dose of cadmium exposure induced the apoptosis of spon-

< : 2004 5 27 , : 2004 7 5 >
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* 2003

giotrophoblast cells in the junctional zone of the placenta. Reproductive data such as placental and infant weight, number of live fetuses were decreased, and number of resorptions and dead fetuses, post-implantation loss were increased significantly in the cadmium exposed group compared with the control.

Conclusions: Cadmium disrupts the functions of the placenta and these effects leads to reproductive disorders in rats.

Key Words: Cadmium, Placenta, PRL-GH family gene, Pit-1, Reproduction

decidual prolactin-related protein(dPRP)(Roby , 1993)

(),

intestinal tube (Gazdzik, 1984; Tam Liu, 1985), PRL-GH (Niall , 1971; Forsyth, 1997). Pit-1 transacting factor (Ingraham , 1988; Karin , 1990) Pit-1a, b, T 3 가 isotype lac-totroph , somatotroph , thyrotroph (TSH) (Bodner Karin, 1987; Li , 1990; Haugen , 1993; Ruvkun Finney, 1991). Bamberger (1995) Lee (1996) Pit-1a, b isotype , PRL-GH (Lee , 1998; 1999).

(junctional zone) (labyrinth zone) , syncytial, spon-giotrophoblast(ST), trophoblast giant(TG) 4 placental lacto-gen(PL)-I, Iv(I variant), II(Duckworth , 1986a; Deb , 1991a; Robertson , 1994) prolactin like protein(PLP)-A, B, C, Cr Cv, D(Duckworth , 1986b; Croze , 1990; Deb , 1991b; Dai , 1996; Iwatsuki , 1996)

6가 (, 2004)

(Lafuente , 1997; 1999; 2000a; Esquifino , 2001).

PRL-GH

, apoptosis,

lothionein (MT) (Fleet, 20 (n=7x3=21).
 1990; Solis-Heredia, 2000), MT가 10
 가 ST, TG PRL-GH (n=10x3=30)
 (Goyer, Fig.1
 1992).

PRL-GH

2.

PRL-GH

1)

3M
 HNO₃/ HCL₄(6:4)

0.1 N HNO₃
 (Automatic absorption spectrometer)

1.

1)

15 F344 fisher (24 ~26) (14
 , 10) (1:1)

2) RNA

Tri-Reagent (Sigma, 1.0 ml/0.1 g tissue) 가 homogenizer (Ingenieurburo Co.)

copulatory plug (vaginal smear) 가 0

30 chloroform 15

2)

(CdCl₂, Sigma)

0.5 ml

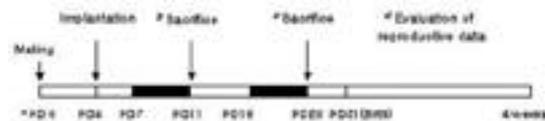


Fig. 1. Schematic representation showing the sequence of experiment. White and black bar indicate the period from mating to 4 weeks after birth. ^aPregnant day. ^bAnalysis of cadmium concentration and northern blot hybridization (PL-I). ^cAnalysis of cadmium concentration, Northern blot hybridization (PL-Iv, II, PLP-A, B, C, Cv, D, dPRP), RT-PCR, radioimmunoassay (PL-Iv, II), Histochemical study and survey of reproductive data. ^dMeasurement infant body weight. Black areas indicate the period of cadmium injection.

(Liu, 2001; Brzoska 2003), 0.5 mg/kg body weight (BW), 5.0 mg/kg BW, 7, 11, 16, 20

3)

PL-I

3 11
 (n=3x3=9),

, 4 , 13,500 rpm 15
 isopropanol 10
 4 , 13,500 rpm 10
 75% 2 10
 diethyl pyrocarbonate
 total RNA 260 nm 280 nm
 , 280 nm
 260 nm 1.6~2.0
 reverse transcription-polymerase chain reac-
 tion(RT-PCR) Northern blot hybridization

3) RT-PCR
 Pit-1a, b isotype
 Pit-1a, b isotype
 primer . Sense primer
 5'-tgtagttgccaacctttcacctcgg-3', antisense
 primer 5'-ccagcagaggttggtgcagg-3'
 total RNA (0.1 µg, 0.5 µg, 1.0 µg)
 (15 , 20 , 25 , 30)
 (0.5 µg, 25)
 total RNA 0.5 µg 200 unit Moloney
 murine leukemia virus (MMLV) reverse
 transcriptase 37 1
 complementary DNA (cDNA)
 cDNA 10 units Taq DNA polymerase
 (Perkin-Elmer Cetus) primer
 dNTP 25 (95 1 , 55
 1 , 72 1) . cDNA
 fmol PCR sequencing system (Promega)
 1% agarose gel Kodak Digital
 Camera(Eastman Kodak Co.) ID Image
 Analysis program(Eastman Kodak Co.)

4) Northern blot hybridization
 Total RNA 1% agarose/2.2 M formalde-
 hyde gel 50 V 3
 . total RNA transfer kit

(Trans Vac, Hoefer Co.) nylon
 paper (Schleicher & Schull) , vacu-
 um oven 80 2
 Total RNA가 nylon membrane
 hybridization buffer 60 2
 prehybridization cDNA probe (1x
 109 cpm/ml) 가 60 18
 hybridization . Hybridization buffer
 50% deionized formamide, 5X SSC
 (1XSSC: 0.15 M NaCl and 0.015 M sodium
 citrate), 5X Denhardt's solution (1X
 Denhardt's solution: 0.01% polyvinyl
 pyrrolidone, 0.01% Ficoll and 0.01% BSA),
 0.1% SDS, 2 mg/ml salmon sperm DNA
 . Hybridization
 nylon membrane 0.1X SSC, 0.1%
 SDS 55 3 X-ray
 film (Kodak XO Mat) 1~4
 . probe RT-PCR
 Oligolabelling Kit (Pharmacia Co.) [-32P]
 dCTP (Amersham)
 cDNA probe Nick column (Pharmacia
 Co.) , SET buffer (0.1% SDS, 1
 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris, 10 mM dithiothre-
 itol) . cDNA probe 1x
 109 cpm/µg . X-
 ray (RG , Fuji Co.)
 Kodak Digital Camera ID
 Image Analysis program .
 5) , , PL-Iv, II
 (n=30) 가
 (1200 rpm, clinical
 table-top)
 1
 , -70
 , PL-Iv PL-II
 (radioimmunoassay) .

6) 20 15 ml per-

fusion buffer (phosphate- buffered saline, 4% paraformaldehyde) 4 2 7 20 (cesarean section)

820 Histocut Rotary Microtome 6 μ (vaginal smear) 가
 m Digital Tissue Float 10
 Slide warmer 10
 Coplin jar 1 4
 methylene blue
 (1986) Ema (2000)
 litter

7) (Chromosomal DNA) 3.
 0.2 ml homogenization
 buffer (0.1 M sodium chloride, 0.01 M EDTA (pH 8.0), 0.3 M Tris-Hcl (pH 8.0), 0.2 M sucrose) 가 (U) test ,
 10% SDS 12.5 μ 가 65 Wallis test
 30 가 , 8 M potassium acetate
 35 μℓ 가 . 10
 (4 , 14000 rpm)

phenol: chloroform: isoamy- 1. , ,
 lalcohol (25:24:1, V:V:V) 가
 2.5 Vol.
 100% 가 50 11 0.031 μ
 μ 1X TE buffer (10 mM Tris-Hcl, 1 mM EDTA (pH 8.0) . 1 μ DNase free g/g, 0.001 μg/g, 0.021 μg/ml, 0.5 mg
 RNase (500 μg/ml) 가 37 60 6.32 μg/g, 0.21 μg/g, 3.28 μg/ml, 5.0 mg
 phenol: chloroform: 24.21 μg/g, 0.56 μg/g, 18.42 μg/ml 가
 isoamylalcohol (p<0.05). 20 11
 0.1 Vol. 3 M sodium acetate 2.5
 Vol. 100% 가 -70
 60 . 4 , 12,000 rpm (Table 1).

45 DNA 70% UV- 2. PRL-GH Pit-la,b isotype
 25 μ .
 spectrophotomer (260 nm)
 3 μ 2% agarose gel 60 V PL-I
 90 ethidium bromide 0.5 mg 14%, 5.0 mg
 Kodak Digital Camera . 16%가 . PL-Iv 0.5
 mg 8%, 5.0 mg 18%

8) (Reproductive data) . PL-II
 , , , 0.5 mg 5%, 5.0 mg
 , , , 48% 5 mg

(p<0.05)(Fig. 2). PLP-A mg 47% 5 mg
 (p<0.05). PLP-C
 0.5 mg 11%, 5.0 mg 0.5 mg 24 %, 5.0 mg
 15% . PLP-B 28% , PLP-Cv
 0.5 mg 8%, 5.0 0.5 mg 18%, 5.0 mg

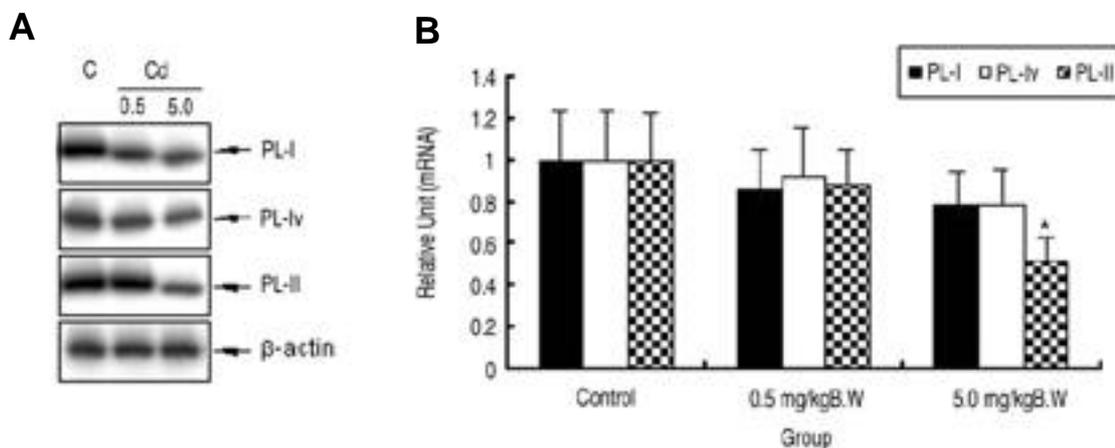


Fig. 2. Effects of cadmium on expression of PL-I, IV, II genes in the rat placenta. (A) Northern blot analysis of PL-I, IV and PL-II genes. Total RNAs (15 µg) were fractionated on an 1% formaldehyde agarose gel, transferred to nylon paper and hybridized with ³²P-labeled PL-I or IV or II cDNA probe. β-actin was hybridized to certified the equal loading of total RNA. Arabic numbers on the lanes indicate the dose of cadmium injection. C: control. (B) Northern signals were quantified by ID Image Analysis program. PL-I, IV, II signals were normalized by β-actin and expressed the relative unit of C value as 1.0. Experiments were repeated three times and individual values were expressed mean ± S.D. Star (*) on the bar indicates the significantly difference (p<0.05) compared with control.

Table 1. Mean cadmium concentration in rat placenta, fetus, maternal blood according to the cadmium exposure status mean ± S.D.

Parameter	Control		0.5 mg/kg BW		5.0 mg/kg BW	
	PD* 11	PD 19	PD 11	PD 19	PD 11	PD 19
Placenta (µg/g)	0.031 ± 0.004	0.033 ± 0.004	†6.32 ± 0.56	†9.75 ± 0.97	††24.21 ± 2.86	††67.62 ± 8.20
Fetus (µg/g)	0.001 ± 0.001	0.001 ± 0.001	†0.21 ± 0.03	†0.42 ± 0.05	††0.56 ± 0.61	††0.62 ± 0.07
Maternal blood (µg/ml)	0.021 ± 0.003	0.021 ± 0.003	†3.28 ± 0.46	†6.02 ± 0.62	††18.42 ± 2.05	††35.25 ± 4.32

* Pregnant day

The values of PD11 and PD20 originated from 3 and 7 pregnant rats in each group.

† and † indicate the significantly difference (p<0.05) compared with control and 5.0 mg exposed groups.

p value was calculated by Mann-Whitney(U) test.

19% . PLP-D 0.5 mg 7%, 5.0 mg 53% 5 mg
 8%, 5.0 mg 22%
 . dPRP 0.5 mg (p<0.05)(Fig. 3). PRL-GH

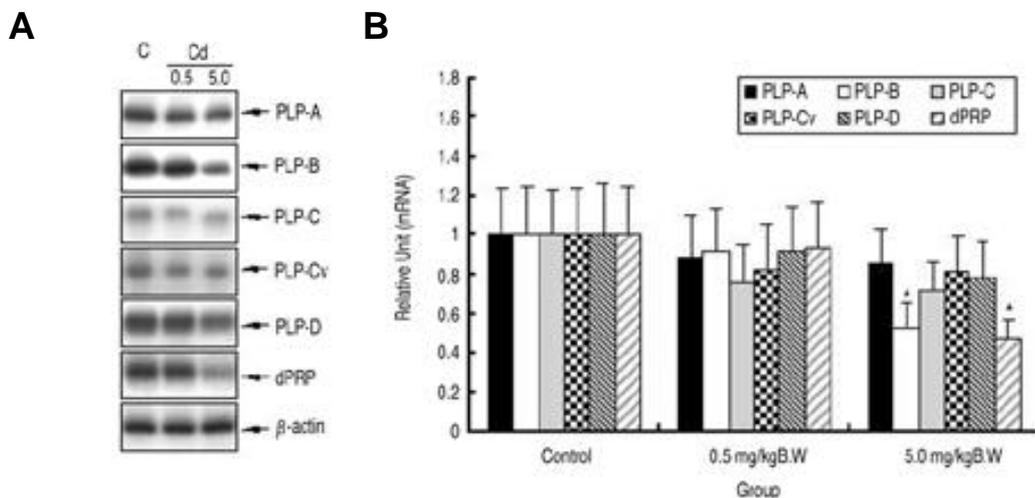


Fig. 3. Effects of cadmium on expression of PLP-A, B, C, Cv, D and dPRP genes in the rat placenta. **(A)** Northern blot analysis of PLP-A, B, C, Cv, D and dPRP genes. Total RNAs (15 µg) were fractionated on a 1% formaldehyde agarose gel, transferred to nylon paper and hybridized with ³²P-labeled PLP-A or B or C or Cv or D or dPRP probe. β-actin was hybridized to certify the equal loading of total RNA. Arabic numbers on the lanes indicate the dose of cadmium injection. C: control. **(B)** Northern signals were quantified by ID Image Analysis program. PLP-A, B, C, Cv, D, dPRP signals were normalized by β-actin and expressed the relative unit of C value as 1.0. Experiments were repeated three times and individual values were expressed mean ± S.D. Stars (*) on the bar indicate the significantly difference (p<0.05) compared with control.

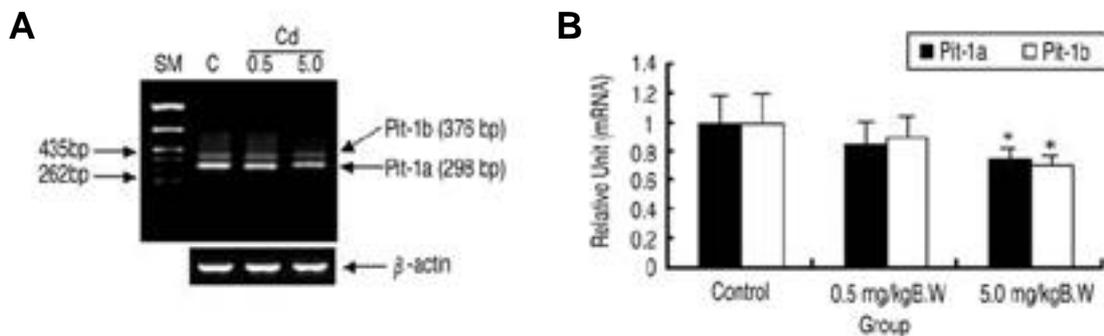


Fig. 4. Effects of cadmium on expression of Pit-1a and b isotype gene in the rat placenta. **(A)** Reverse transcribed and amplified Pit-1a, b cDNAs were fractionated on a 1% agarose gel and stained with ethidium bromide. Arabic numbers on the lanes indicate the dose of cadmium injection. C: control. **(B)** Signals were quantified by ID Image Analysis program. Pit-1a, b signals were normalized by β-actin and expressed the relative unit of C value as 1.0. Experiments were repeated three times and individual values are expressed mean ± S.D. Stars (*) on the bar indicate the significantly difference (p<0.05) compared with control.

Pit-1a, b isotype
 0.5 mg
 15% 10%,
 24% 30% 5.0 mg
 (p<0.05)(Fig. 4).

3. PL-Iv, II 0.5 mg 5.0 mg

20 PL-II 5.0 mg (p<0.05). PL-Iv 5.0 mg

PL-II (p<0.05), PL-Iv 5.0 mg

Pit-1a, b isotype PL-II PL-Iv 가 (Table 2).

4. PRL-GH ST 가 (Fig. 5A) (Fig. 5B)

TG apoptosis (Fig. 5C).

mg

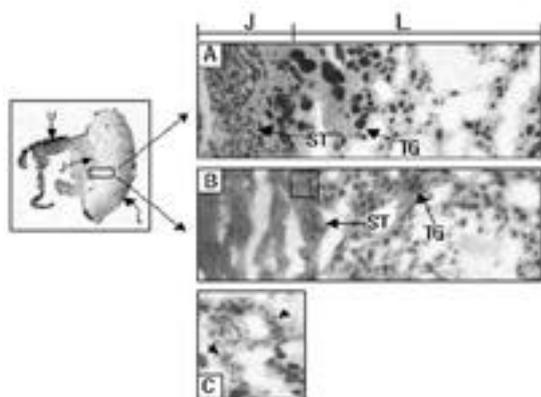


Fig. 5. Effect of cadmium on the histochemical feature of developing rat placenta. Perfused placental tissues with Bouin's fix solution were embedded in paraffin, sectioned at 6 μm and counter-stained with methyl blue. (A) Microphotographs (X 400 reproduced at 70%) of control group, (B) cadmium 5.0 mg exposed group. (C) Apoptotic cells of spongiotrophoblast cell boxed in (B) (X 1000 reproduced 95%). J: junctional zone, L: labyrinth zone, U: uterus, ST: nucleus of methyl blue stained spongiotrophoblast cell; TG: nucleus of methyl blue stained trophoblast giant cell.

Table 2. Mean serum PL-Iv and PL-II levels in rat placental, fetal and maternal blood according to the cadmium exposure status mean \pm S.D.

Parameter		Control	0.5 mg/kg BW	5.0 mg/kg BW
Placenta ($\mu\text{g/g}$)	PL-Iv	1358.8 \pm 369.4	1385.8 \pm 132.8	1198.5 \pm 226.2
	PL-II	318.6 \pm 49.1	296.2 \pm 25.6	* \dagger 202.6 \pm 27.8
Fetus	PL-Iv	33.9 \pm 4.4	29.7 \pm 3.4	*27.4 \pm 4.3
	PL-II	320.5 \pm 28.7	*287.2 \pm 25.2	* \dagger 208.5 \pm 52.3
Maternal blood ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	PL-Iv	1103.6 \pm 180.3	1024.2 \pm 124.8	989.5 \pm 82.8
	PL-II	225.8 \pm 25.2	*185.4 \pm 23.2	* \dagger 139.1 \pm 17.8

These values originated from 7 pregnant rats in each group.

* and \dagger indicate the significantly difference (p<0.05) compared with control and 5.0 mg exposed groups.

p value was calculated by Mann-Whitney (U) test.

5. 가 apoptosis (pre-implantation loss) 가 . (No. of resorptions and dead fetuses)

19 apoptosis DNA .

0.5 mg 20 kb-4.2 kb DNA . 5.0 mg apoptosis 4.0 kb DNA . apoptosis (Fig. 6).

6. 0.64 g, 0.5 mg 0.55 g, 5.0 mg 0.51 g (p<0.05). , 1 , 4 (p<0.05) 1 , 4 가 . , ,

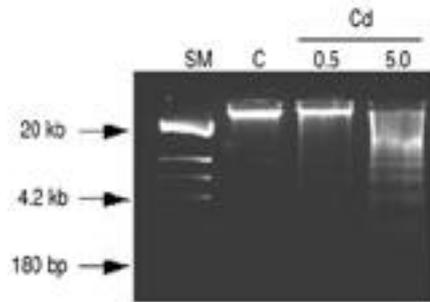


Fig 6. Effect of cadmium on the apoptotic DNA fragmentation in the rat placenta. Electrophoretic analysis showing the fragmentation pattern of genomic DNA isolated from cadmium exposed rat placenta. Arabic numbers on the lanes indicate the dose of cadmium exposure. C: control, SM: size marker.

Table 3. Reproductive data according to the cadmium exposure status mean ± S.D.

Parameter	Control	0.5 mg/kg BW	5.0 mg/kg BW
Placental weight (GD20, g)	0.64 ± 0.07 (n=94)	*0.55 ± 0.10 (n=58)	*0.51 ± 0.11 (n=36)
Afterbirth (A.B)	3.15 ± 0.34 (n=135)	*2.52 ± 0.43 (n=80)	*2.43 ± 0.42 (n=50)
Infant weight (g) 1 week A.B	8.96 ± 0.73 (n=127)	8.67 ± 0.82 (n=76)	8.45 ± 0.95 (n=44)
4 weeks A.B	86.31 ± 9.01 (n=112)	86.25 ± 11.21 (n=65)	83.88 ± 11.55 (n=37)
No. corpora lutea	14.42 ± 3.62	14.74 ± 3.70	14.61 ± 3.65
No. of implantations	14.10 ± 3.36	14.21 ± 3.32	14.17 ± 3.34
No. resorptions & dead fetuses	0.69 ± 0.24	*5.97 ± 3.03	*9.05 ± 4.17
No. of live fetuses	13.41 ± 3.31	*8.24 ± 2.62	*†5.12 ± 1.28
Pre-implantation loss (%)	2.22	3.60	3.01
Post-implantation loss (%)	4.89	*42.01	*†63.86
Pregnancy period(day)	21.05 ± 0.72	21.22 ± 0.93	21.45 ± 1.21

Statistical analysis of reproductive data was carried out by using the litter as a unit except the placental and infant weight.

Pregnancy period originated from 10 litters and other values originated from 7 litters in each group.

* and † indicate the significantly difference (p<0.05) compared with control and 5.0 mg exposed groups.

p value was calculated by Mann-Whitney (U) test.

(post-implantation loss)
가 (p<0.05), PL-II, PLP-B, dPRP
PRL-GH 가
(p<0.05). PLP-B dPRP
가
(Table 3).

(Pashen Allen, 1979; Spencer
Bazer, 2002; Henson, 1998; Albrecht ,
2000), PL-II
, litter size
(Eklund , 2001).
가, 가
PRL-GH LDL
ST LDL-
PL-II, PLP-B, dPRP
(Piasek Laskey,
1994; Jolibois , 1999). Pit-1
PL-IV II Pit-1
(Lee , 1996).
(Forsyth, 1994; Pit-1
Galosy Talamantes 1995; Thordarson , PRL-GH
1997), PTL-GH
(Telleria, 1998)
Pit-1 PRL-GH
(Galosy Talamantes 1995). PLP-B dPRP
(Ingraham , 1988; Elsholtz , 1991; Lee
, 1999)
(Cohick , 1997; Orwig , 1997).
PRL-GH 가
(Elsholtz ,
1991; Lafuente , 1997; Lafuente
Esquifino, 1999; Lafuente , 2000a; 2000b;
Esquifino , 2001).
(Kim , 1997; Kim
2001) Pit-1
(Lee , 1998; 1999)
Pit-1a, b isotype
PRL-GH

가
(MT)
(1998)
MT
Lau , 1998).

metallothionein
(Coyle , 2001). Lau
가 MT
(Goyer , 1992;

Pit-1a, b
PRL-GH placental lactogen Iv II
(5.0
mg/kg BW)
GH junctional zone PRL-
spongiotrophoblast
apoptosis

MT가
ST, TG PRL-GH
(Lau , 1998)
ST TG

apoptosis

ST TG apoptosis

PRL-GH
apoptosis

Pit-1

가
2004;37:157-65.
가
1986;19:123-9.

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15 F344 Fisher
(200±23 g) (CdCl2)
0.5 mg/kg BW 5.0
mg/kg BW 7-11 , 16-20

Northern blot
hybridization reverse transcription-poly-
merase chain reaction (RT-PCR)

20

- nonexpressing cells. *Cell* 1987;50:267-75.
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- acterization of a new member of the rat placental prolactin (PRL) family, PRL-like protein D (PLP-D). *Endocrinology* 1996;137:3849-55.
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