

Cloning and Sequence Analysis of Rabbit Interleukin-10 (*IL-10*) Gene Promoter

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Abstract: To clone the *IL-10* promoter of rabbit and analyse its sequence, this study amplified the 5 flanking region of rabbit *IL-10*, compared the genomes and used bioinformatics software to make a forecast. Then, the researchers confirmed partial promoter sequences and analysed some transcription factors of the *IL-10* gene promoter. The study showed that rabbit and human *IL-10* gene promoter had some similarities which all contained GAGA, CAAT and TATA. The transcriptional start site started from -80 bp of translation initiation codon (ATG) upstream region. The promoter also had some transcription factors such as AP-1, Myogenin, c-Ets-1, C/EBP alpha and so on. Results of this study predicted partial sequences, transcriptional start site and some transcriptional regulating factors binding sites of *IL-10* gene promoter which would lay the foundation of lucubrating the expression and regulation of rabbit *IL-10* gene.

Key words: *IL-10*, promoter, transcription factor, bioinformatics, gene, China

INTRODUCTION

IL-10 is a special cytokine which is secreted by cell Th2 and can restrain the mRNA transcription of Th1 cytokine. Therefore, it also can be called Cytokine Synthesis Inhibitory Factor (CSIF). Studies show that *IL-10* has important immunoregulatory activities (Fickenscher *et al.*, 2002) also it is closely related to the mechanism of many acute and chronic, autoimmune and parasitic diseases (Pestka *et al.*, 2004; Alba Soto *et al.*, 2010). For the past few years, scientists have made great progress at the research about disease susceptibility, severity and development process of human *IL-10* gene promoter. However, the relationship between rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter and parasitic diseases and some communicable diseases remains unknown. Thus, this experiment obtained partial sequences of rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter did some correlated bioinformation analysis which would lay the foundation for further investigating the biological functions of rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter sequences and its effect on diseases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

DNA purification kits were bought from TaKaRa (Dalian) Co., Ltd. Proteinase K, DNA marker, LA-Taq

enzyme, dNTP were supported by Sangon Biotech (Shanghai) Co., Ltd. Gene cloning vector pTA2, DH5 α competent cell came from Dingguo Biotech (Beijing) Co., Ltd. Primer synthesis and sequencing were completed by sangon Biotech (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.

Prime designing: According to contrast the genome sequence of rabbit *IL-10* gene (GenBank Accession No. DQ437508.2) and the rabbit genome, the researchers got 1000 bp before start codon (ATG) and design the primers with primer 3.0. The sequence of primers are forward: 5'-cacggacactgtgcagatt-3'; reverse: 5'-ggaagaccaggcaacatagc-3'. The product was 839 and 782 bp was located in 5'-upper stream of start codon (ATG).

Genomic DNA extraction and PCR condition: One New Zealand rabbit was randomly selected in Jinling Rabbits Farm (Nanjing, China). Approximately 5 mL blood was collected from the central artery vein of the rabbit ear into tubes containing 1 mL ACD (citric acid, sodium citrate, dextrose) as anticoagulant and was then preserved in a -20°C freezer. Genomic DNA were extracted according to the Molecular Cloning-A Laboratory Manual (Joseph and David, 2001). About 20 μ L PCR mixture contained 2 μ L of 10 \times Buffer, 0.4 μ L of 10 mmol L⁻¹ dNTP, 0.2 μ L of 5 U μ L⁻¹

Taq DNA polymerase, 1 μL of 10 pmol L^{-1} forward and reverse primers each, 1 μL of genomic DNA (about 100 ng μL^{-1}) and 14.4 μL of ddH_2O . Amplification of DNA was conducted for 40 cycles following the conditions as below; preliminary denaturation at 95°C for 5 min, denaturation at 94°C for 30 sec, annealing at 59°C for 40 sec, extension at 72°C for 60 sec followed by a final extension at 72°C for 10 min, 2 μL of 6 \times bromophenol blue buffer were added into 5 μL of PCR products which were loaded into the 1.0% agarose gel. Electrophoresis was carried out at a voltage of 150 V cm^{-1} for 20 min and the electrophoresis results were observed by the ultraviolet lamp and photographed.

Purification, connection, transformation and sequencing of product: Cloning of DNA product was conducted by the steps as below; purified the PCR product by agarose gel DNA purification kit, connected the product with PTA2 vector (5 μL of 2 \times Ligation buffer, 3 μL of DNA product, 1 μL of PTA2 vector, 1 μL of T4 DNA ligase), stored the mixture in 4°C for about 12 h, transfected the mixture into *E. coli* DH5 α , inoculated the infectious *E. coli* on the LB agarose plate and then cultivated in 37°C for 12-14 h, picked single strain and inoculated in the LB liquid medium to raise in 37°C for 12-14 h, 220 r min^{-1} . After taking 1 μL inocula to carry on the PCR appraisal, send the positive sample to sequence.

Sequence analysis and structure prediction of promoter: Forecasted the obtained sequence CpG island of 5'-upstream of rabbit *IL-10* gene with the CpGISland Searcher software of <http://www.uscnorris.com/cpgisland2/cpg.aspx> (Takai and Jones, 2002). Predicted the promoter and transcriptional start site with <http://www.fruitfly.org/seq-tools/promoter.html>. Estimated the transcription factor binding sites with TESS of <http://www.cbil.upenn.edu/cgi-bin/tess> and TFsitiescan of <http://www.ifti.org> and then chose the sites which got high score in these two software. At last, the researchers had a comparison with human and the obtained rabbit promoter sequence to select the highly conservative binding sites.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The PCR products were detected with 1.0% agarose gel. The product obtained was the same as the target fragment and the product was clear without mixed bands. Thus, the product was amplified with fine stability and specificity (Fig. 1). According to the prediction of

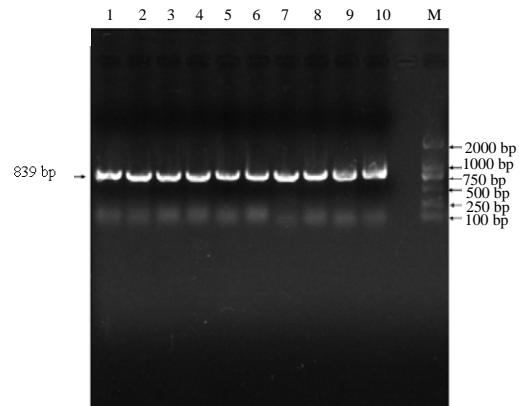


Fig. 1: PCR product of 5' upstream of rabbit *IL-10* gene; M: 2000 bp DNA ladder Marker; lanes 1-10: Individual PCR product

CpG island searcher there were no CpG island in the obtained 5' upstream of rabbit *IL-10* gene and the content of G and C was 55%.

Structure analysis of *IL-10* gene promoter: Before the translation initiation codon (ATG) of *IL-10* gene, the product was 782 bp. The researchers could get partial rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter sequence through the prediction of software and with the comparison of the 782 bp and human *IL-10* gene promoter (Fig. 2). TATA box (TATAAA) and GAGA box (GAGAGA) were both found in rabbit and human *IL-10* gene promoter however, CAAT box was only in the former. The transcription start site was the basic G which located in -80 bp of translation initiation codon (ATG) upstream region.

According to the TESS and TFsitiescan software, the researchers could get some transcription factors from the obtained sequence which were ordered by the points and the arrangement of 5'-3' are Myogenin, c-Ets-1, MEF-2B, PRB, Oct-R, C/EBP alpha, EBP40, POU1F1a and AP-1. Among these factors, PRB, EBP40, POU1F1a were only found in rabbit and Myogenin, c-Ets-1, MEF-2B, Oct-R, C/EBP alpha, AP-1 were highly conservative and in the same location of human and rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter. It could presume that the factors make certain effect to the expression and regulation of rabbit *IL-10* gene.

Importance of *IL-10* gene promoter: IL-10 can inhibit the synthesis and activity of pro-inflammatory mediator, besides, it has synergistic effects with anti-inflammatory mediator. Therefore, it has fairly strong anti-inflammatory effects. For decades, studies about *IL-10* gene promoter have made great progress but we still know little about its

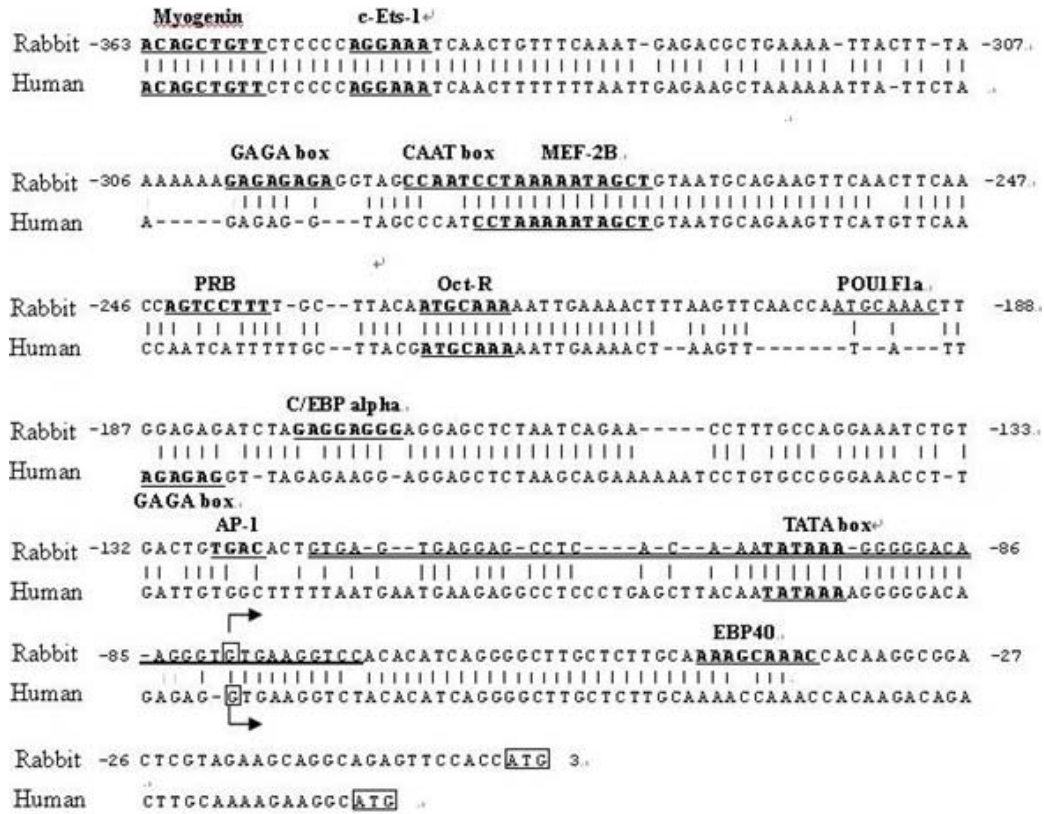


Fig. 2: Contrast of the rabbit and human *IL-10* gene promoter and some binding sites of transformation factors

transcriptional regulating factors. If the transcriptional regulation of *IL-10* gene was clearly known, the researchers could know more about the expression of *IL-10* in both healthy and unhealthy individuals and then the researchers could treat some diseases through the regulation of its expression.

Structure prediction of rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter: This study cloned partial sequences of the 5' flanking region of rabbit *IL-10* gene and compared them with the region of human *IL-10* promoter which was published in GenBank. Results showed that partial sequences had high similarities. Besides, the promoter sequences predicted by software and the location of TATA box could identify the sequences as a part of rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter. Human *IL-10* promoter sequence published in GenBank was 4018 bp, locating in upstream -29~-4047 bp of start codon.

When compared with rabbit 5' flanking region, the same region was in -29~-348 bp. So, the researchers supposed that the same gene promoter sequence in different species had some conservatism while partial sequences also had large variabilities.

Some important basic elements of rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter:

Rabbit *IL-10* promoter subsequences contained TATA box, GAGA box, CAAT box and so on which constructed mammals' promoter. TATA-box was the first identified promoter element of eukaryotes. Generally, it located in the 24~36 bp region ahead of transcriptional start site and its existence made great contributions to the efficiency of genetic transcription. Studies showed that once TATA-box had mutation, the efficiency of genetic transcription would decrease, worsely, the transcription might even be prevented. While the distance between CAAT box and transcriptional start site made little difference to its function and both the positive and negative directions had their roles. CAAT box had a great effect on determining the efficiency of promoter transcription which could strengthen the intensity of promoter. Until now, the researchers still knew little about the effect of GAGA element on gene expressional regulation of mammals.

Some reports said that GAGA element took part in the transcriptional regulation of some genes in vertebrates such as *angiotonin I* acceptor gene II, African toad *stromelysin-3* gene, serine protease *inhibitor-2.1* gene

and so on (Wyse *et al.*, 2000; Li *et al.*, 1998). While the component and structure of protein compounds which was conjugated to GAGA element were still unknown (Volpi *et al.*, 2002).

About >2000 transcription factors of mammals have been identified and many instrument software that can analyse the binding sites of transcription factors have been discovered which all lay the foundation of investigating the effect of transcription factors on gene expressional regulation by bioinformatics (Bulyk, 2003).

Analysing rabbit IL-10 promoter subsequence which was amplified through the above conditions, the researchers found some related transcriptional factors including Myogenin, c-Ets-1, MEF-2B, PRB, Oct-R, C/EBP alpha, AP-1 and so on. Some reports indicated that transcriptional factor AP-1 had transcriptional activation, moreover, AP-1 binding site existed in gene promoters of multitude inflammatory cell factors and growth factors which prompted that AP-1 might take part in the transcriptional regulation of cell factors and growth factors expression and then influenced the function of body immune system, participated in regulating the expression of inflammatory reaction genes. C/EBP alpha is one of the main members in family C/EBP which have multiple functions. C/EBP together with other Rho factors, compose complicated but subtle regulational network. They play an important role on cell multiplication and differentiation, tumorigenesis, organism immunity and stress reaction (Dan *et al.*, 2009; Hai-Zheng *et al.*, 2009; Xia *et al.*, 2009).

Besides, the existence decisively affects the expression of some genes. Until now, the comprehension of most transcription factors' molecular mass or function is still at the foundational stage, the effect of other related factors on IL-10 has to be investigated through further studies.

CONCLUSION

This study presumed rabbit *IL-10* gene promoter and partial transcription factors through related Bioinformatic software and did some correlated analysis which would provide a theoretical basis for the effects of this gene in disease process and the regulation of transcriptional level.

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