

Type IV Galactosemia's Structural and Molecular Biology

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Abstract

Type IV galactosemia is a metabolic disorder that is passed down through the family. Galactose autorotate enzyme activity decreases as a result of mutations in the GALM gene. D-galactose and a few other monosaccharides' - and -anomers are interconverted by this enzyme. The structure of human galactose autorotate is largely composed of β -sheets and is monomeric. A glutamate acting as a base and a histidine residue acting as an acid are required for the catalytic mechanism. Together, these residues break open the pyranose ring of d-galactose, allowing the monosaccharide's first two carbon atoms to freely rotate. The hydroxyl group on carbon 1 may reverse its configuration as a result of this. Early onset cataracts are a symptom of type IV galactosemia, which is similar to type II galactosemia (galactokinase deficiency). However, as a disease that was only recently discovered, its long-term effects are unknown. It is currently unknown what kind of physiological function, if any, galactose mutarotase's interactions with other monosaccharides play. The potential relationship with different proteins likewise require further examination.

Keywords: Type IV galactosemia, GALM gene, galactose autorotate enzyme, D-galactose, monosaccharides, β -sheets, monomeric, glutamate, histidine, catalytic mechanism, pyranose ring, carbon atoms, hydroxyl group, carbon 1, configuration, early onset cataracts, type II galactosemia, galactokinase deficiency, physiological function, galactose mutarotase, interactions, monosaccharides, proteins.

Introduction: Type IV galactosemia is a rare metabolic disorder characterized by a deficiency of the enzyme galactose mutarotase (GALM). This enzyme is responsible for the interconversion of D-galactose and its anomers. The disorder is inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. The primary clinical manifestation is the development of early-onset cataracts, which can significantly impair vision if not treated. The underlying molecular mechanism involves mutations in the GALM gene, leading to a reduction in the enzyme's activity. The structure of the GALM protein is primarily composed of β -sheets and is monomeric. Key residues, including a glutamate acting as a base and a histidine acting as an acid, are essential for the catalytic mechanism. These residues facilitate the opening of the pyranose ring of D-galactose, allowing the first two carbon atoms to rotate freely. This process can lead to a reversal in the configuration of the hydroxyl group on carbon 1. The long-term effects of the disease are currently unknown, and the physiological function of galactose mutarotase, as well as its interactions with other monosaccharides, remains to be determined. Further research is needed to elucidate the potential relationships with other proteins.

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