Designing Caspase-1 kinase inhibitors to control acute inflammation of Orthodontic Appliances.

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Keywords: Caspase-1, IL-1 beta, Inflammation

Orthodontics is a branch of dentistry that uses tensile force from intraoral or extraoral orthodontic appliances to resolve dental malocclusions. The use of tensile force seeks to remodel periodontal ligament and alveolar bone however this process initiates acute inflammation and necrotic conditions in the periodontium. This acute inflammation arises through multiple mechanisms including that of the inflammasome conversion of prointerleukin 1 β (IL-1 β) to the active form.^{1,2} Inhibition of one major protein found in the inflammasome, Caspase-1, has been found to block the activation of IL-1β thereby blocking the acute inflammation initiated by appliance tightening.³⁻⁵ This research sought to understand binding interaction of pharmaceuticals to the protein kinase functionality of the Caspase-1. 22 crystal structures of the kinase of the Caspase-1 protein were docked using IGEMDock to FDA, Alkaloids, Lactams, Lactones, Flavinoids, Sulfanilamide, Cyclic Imides, and NSAIDs drugs to determine structural correlation for the most effective binders. Structural similarities were determined with IGEMDock and vROCS and partition coefficient was determined using DRAGON program. This data found a cluster of approximately 10 drugs to preferentially bind to the Caspase-1 kinase for use as targeted anti-inflammatory treatments. This work will be used in the engineering of improved Caspase-1 kinase inhibitors.

Introduction

This project was designed around structural understanding and pharmaceutical engineering of the Caspase-1 inhibitors. Caspase-1 being a part of a group of proteins termed Inflammasome assists in the initiation of inflammation through the conversion of non-active Interleukin-1 β to the active form. This process can be found throughout the body however during times of periodontal tightening of appliances this process is strongly activated causing swelling and cellular damage. Through the inhibition of Caspase-1 a limitation on the amount of inflammation can be achieved thereby limiting any damage from appliance tightening.

Overall Goal

The overall goal of this research was to investigate the interaction of multiple drug candidates to find the best structural motifs for targeted inhibition of the Caspase-1 kinase moiety. Once found similarities between these drugs will allow for a better understanding of the inhibition of Caspase-1 to convert IL-1 beta to its active form.

Experimental Methodology

1. The selection of 21 isoforms of Caspase-1.

2. The screening and analysis of multiple drug candidates using IGemDock.

3. Similarity calculations were done to determine if molecular functionalities showed any preference to increased binding.

4. Selected candidates from IGemDock based on binding energy were tested using Dragon to determine structural similarities.

Methods and Materials

1172 structures were chosen which included, 715 FDA approved, 197 Alkaloids, 73 Imides, 40 Lactams, 36 Lactones, 50 NSAIDs, 25 Sulfanilamide and 37 Flavonoids pharmaceuticals were selected as ligands and computationally bound to 21 isoforms of the Caspase-1 kinase protein using IGEMDock. IGEMDock used two independent docking with the average of both binding to factor in binding selectivity. An ANOVA was done to determine if any discrepancies in binding were seen between proteins. Additionally, grouping of the molecular functionalities were determine to find differences. The best 10 drug candidates on binding energies were selected and structural data such as molecular weight and partition coefficient was collected using Dragon.



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Selected Caspase-1 Proteins

| # | PDB | Title |
|----|------|---|
| 1 | 1BMQ | Caspase-1 with (3S)-N-METHANESULFONYL-3-({1-[N-(2-NAPHTOYL)-L-VALYL]-L-PROLYL }AMINO)-4-OXOBUTANAMIDE |
| 2 | 1RWK | Caspase-1 with 3-(2-mercapto-acetylamino)-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 3 | 1RWM | Caspase-1 w 4-oxo-3-[2-(5-{[4-(quinoxalin-2-ylamino)-benzoylamino]-methyl}-thiophen-2-yl)-acetylamino]-pentanoic acid |
| 4 | 1RWN | Caspase-1 with 3-{2-ethyl-6-[4-(quinoxalin-2-ylamino)-benzoylamino]-hexanoylamino}-4-oxo-butyric acid |
| 5 | 1RWO | Caspase-1 with 4-oxo-3-{6-[4-(quinoxalin-2-ylamino)-benzoylamino]-2-thiophen-2-yl-hexanoylamino}-pentanoic acid |
| 6 | 1RWP | Caspase-1 with 3-{6-[(8-hydroxy-quinoline-2-carbonyl)-amino]-2-thiophen-2-yl-hexanoylamino}-4-oxo-butyric acid |
| 7 | 1RWV | Caspase-1 with 5-[5-(1-carboxymethyl-2-oxo-propylcarbamoyl)-5-phenyl-pentylsulfamoyl]-2-hydroxy-benzoic acid |
| 8 | 1RWW | Caspase-1 with 4-oxo-3-[(6-{[4-(quinoxalin-2-ylamino)-benzoylamino]-methyl}-pyridine-3-carbonyl)-amino]-butyric acid |
| 9 | 1RWX | Caspase-1 with 4-oxo-3-{6-[4-(quinoxalin-2-yloxy)-benzoylamino]-2-thiophen-2-yl-hexanoylamino}-butyric acid |
| 10 | 1SC3 | Caspase-1 C285A mutant with malonate |
| 11 | 2FQQ | Caspase-1 with 1-methyl-3-trifluoromethyl-1H-thieno[2,3-c]pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid (2-mercapto-ethyl)-amide |
| 12 | 2H4W | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 13 | 2H4Y | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 14 | 2H48 | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 15 | 2H51 | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 16 | 2H54 | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 17 | 2HBR | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 18 | 2HBY | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 19 | 2HBZ | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 20 | 3D6F | Caspase-1 x with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |
| 21 | 3D6H | Caspase-1 with 3-[2-(2-benzyloxycarbonylamino-3-methyl-butyrylamino)-propionylamino]-4-oxo-pentanoic acid |

| SUMMARY | | | | | |
|---------|-------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| Groups | Count | Sum | Average | Variance | |
| 1BMQ | 2344 | -170610 | -72.786 | 4710.814 | |
| 1RWK | 2344 | -165300 | -70.5204 | 5212.522 | |
| 1RWM | 2344 | -168151 | -71.7369 | 5074.381 | |
| 1RWN | 2344 | -163282 | -69.6594 | 5881.065 | |
| 1RWO | 2344 | -176777 | -75.4167 | 4672.507 | |
| 1RWP | 2344 | -164273 | -70.0821 | 5030.453 | |
| 1RWV | 2344 | -8286.67 | -3.53527 | 14924.44 | |
| 1RWW | 2344 | -81637.8 | -34.8284 | 7517.229 | |
| 1RWX | 2344 | -177409 | -75.6864 | 3595.297 | |
| 1SC3 | 2344 | -161465 | -68.8844 | 5455.578 | |
| 2FQQ | 2344 | -137377 | -58.6079 | 5833.411 | |
| 2H4W | 2344 | -165211 | -70.4826 | 4604.87 | |
| 2H4Y | 2344 | -163409 | -69.7136 | 4713.563 | |
| 2H48 | 2344 | -151345 | -64.5669 | 4813.009 | |
| 2H51 | 2344 | -164229 | -70.0637 | 4587.992 | |
| 2H54 | 2344 | -148951 | -63.5457 | 6207.469 | |
| 2HBR | 2344 | -153142 | -65.3335 | 5613.084 | |
| 2HBY | 2344 | -155863 | -66.4942 | 4167.689 | |
| 2HBZ | 2344 | -162882 | -69.4891 | 4526.049 | |
| 3D6F | 2344 | -167902 | -71.6303 | 4295.117 | |
| 3D6H | 2344 | -165191 | -70.4742 | 4064.456 | |

Summary of 1172 Caspase-1 Drug Candidates vs Proteins (IGEMDock Data)

ANOVA of 1172 Caspase-1 drug candidates (IGEMDock Data).

| ANOVA | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Source of Variation | SS | df | MS | F | P-value | F crit |
| Between Groups | 12473126 | 20 | 623656.3 | 113.3911 | 0 | 1.570736 |
| Within Groups | 2.71E+08 | 49203 | 5500.047 | | | |
| Total | 2.83E+08 | 49223 | | | | |

| Classifications | Average | St. Dev. |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|
| Alkaloids | -77.0725 | 11.9241693 |
| Flavinoids | -80.0967 | 14.52556934 |
| Imide | -78.7396 | 9.763914453 |
| Lactams | -76.3274 | 11.08283877 |
| Lactones | -74.2555 | 48.66880134 |
| NSAIDS | -80.3342 | 9.816616085 |
| Sulfanilamide | -75.4509 | 6.765993776 |

Breakdown of Caspase-1 drug candidates by types (IGEMDock Data).

Summary of Caspase-1 Control Drugs (IGEMDock Data).

| Caspase 1 Control | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|--|
| Low Value | -108.466 | | |
| High Value | -67.7796 | | |
| Average | -92.8547 | | |
| Standard Deviation | 13.7274 | | |

Caspase-1 Drug Candidates Docking Energy (IGEMDock Data).

| # of Drugs | Drug Title | Energy |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | FDA - 182-1 | -135.5908571 |
| | FDA - 182-0 | -134.312 |
| 2 | FDA - 446-1 | -131.7382762 |
| | FDA - 446-0 | -127.6165762 |
| 3 | FDA - 570-0 | -126.879 |
| | FDA - 570-1 | -126.8675238 |
| 4 | FDA - 533-0 | -120.6307286 |
| | FDA - 533-1 | -120.5906476 |
| 5 | FDA - 284-0 | -120.5439048 |
| | FDA - 284-1 | -120.3274286 |
| 6 | FDA - 99-1 | -119.2178238 |
| | FDA - 99-0 | -117.4931333 |
| 7 | FDA - 710-1 | -115.2388143 |
| | FDA - 710-0 | -115.087119 |
| 8 | FDA - 266-0 | -114.8317952 |
| | FDA - 266-1 | -114.3862286 |
| 9 | Alkaloids - 504 -0-1 | -121.2985909 |
| | Alkaloids - 504 -0-0 | -113.7325909 |
| 10 | Etoposide-1-0 | -115.2324682 |
| | Etoposide-1-1 | -94.73515909 |

| NAME | MW | MLOGP | MLOGP2 |
|-------------|---------|--------|--------|
| FDA 2 - 182 | 516.61 | 0.391 | 0.153 |
| FDA 2 - 446 | 359.04 | 0.364 | 0.133 |
| FDA 2 - 570 | 312.211 | -0.009 | 0 |
| FDA 2 - 533 | 265.13 | 3.174 | 10.076 |
| FDA 2 - 284 | 281.13 | 2.402 | 5.771 |
| FDA 2 - 99 | 504.72 | 2.029 | 4.117 |
| FDA 2 - 266 | 254.15 | 0.372 | 0.139 |

Dragon Data of Caspase-1 drug candidates.

Dragon Data of Caspase-1 Control Molecules.

| NAME | MW | MLOGP | MLOGP2 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 3NS7_3NS_B_1 | 388.25 | 1.509 | 2.278 |
| 2FQQ_F1G_B_1 | 299.27 | 2.132 | 4.544 |
| 1SC3_MLI_A_301 | 100.03 | -0.806 | 0.65 |
| 1RWX_YBH_A_501 | 532.4 | 2.724 | 7.422 |
| 1RWW_OQB_A_501 | 476.32 | 1.606 | 2.579 |
| 1RWV_5PH_A_501 | 492.33 | 1.539 | 2.368 |
| 1RWP_HQC_A_501 | 458.34 | 1.578 | 2.491 |
| 1RWO_BTH_A_501 | 542.42 | 2.917 | 8.51 |
| 1RWN_4QB_A_501 | 474.32 | 2.47 | 6.099 |
| 1RWM_Q2Y_A_501 | 494.38 | 2.397 | 5.748 |
| 1RWK_158_A_501 | 194.15 | -0.097 | 0.009 |
| 1BMQ_MNO_A_601 | 512.37 | 2.089 | 4.363 |

Discussion

Multiple compounds were identified as effective based upon their interactions with each protein. Specifically an average energy of -120.317 was found for the drug candidates compared to -92.8547 for the control molecules An ANOVA to determine differences between the 21 proteins analyzed indicated major differences. A search of the data indicates that 1RWV and 1RWW shows the greatest differences. Grouping analysis will be used to understand differences in protein active sites. 10 drugs were chosen due to their low binding energies (for both binding interactions). Structural analysis found that many of these molecules are small with similar partition coefficient (-0.009 to 0.3.72) of the top binders similar to that of the control molecules.

Conclusion

By using the computational techniques we were able to identify several molecule that show improved binding efficacy over currently used Caspase-1 inhibitors. These Caspase-1 drug candidates indicated a diverse pool of Caspase-1 binders with improved efficacy. This work can be used to engineer these motifs into novel Caspase-1 inhibitors for improved drug efficacy.

Acknowledgments

This Project was supported by The College of Natural Science and Mathematics at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

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