Inhibition of omeprazole induced hypergastrinaemia by SMS 201-995, a long acting somatostatin analogue in man


Abstract

Whether the long acting somatostatin analogue SMS 201-995 (octreotide, Sandostatin) could inhibit the basal and meal stimulated hypergastrinaemia and hyperpepsinogenemia induced by omeprazole was investigated. Eight healthy subjects were randomised to receive five day courses of SMS 201-995 (25 µg subcutaneously three times daily), omeprazole (40 mg once a day), a combination of both drugs, or placebo. Basal and meal stimulated serum gastrin and basal serum pepsinogen A and C values were measured the day before treatment, on day five of treatment, and the day after each course of treatment. Omeprazole caused significant increases in basal and meal stimulated peak and integrated serum gastrin values and pepsinogen A and C levels, which were still significantly raised the day after stopping omeprazole treatment. Giving SMS 201-995 with omeprazole significantly reduced any omeprazole induced increases in basal and meal stimulated peak and integrated serum gastrin levels; serum pepsinogen A and C values were significantly inhibited too. Serum gastrin values during combined therapy were not significantly different from those during placebo treatment, whereas pepsinogen A and C levels were still significantly raised. On the day after stopping combined therapy, basal and meal stimulated peak and integrated serum gastrin and serum pepsinogen C (but not pepsinogen A) levels were not significantly different from values obtained on the day after stopping omeprazole alone. SMS 201-995 without omeprazole significantly inhibited basal and meal stimulated peak and integrated serum gastrin levels. Pepsinogen A was also significantly inhibited by SMS 210-995, but the reduction in pepsinogen C failed to reach statistical significance. In conclusion, SMS 201-995 prevents basal and meal stimulated increases in serum gastrin during omeprazole therapy. This finding may have clinical importance in the few patients who have pronounced hypergastrinaemia because of profound long acting acid inhibition.

(Gut 1993; 34: 1186–1190)

Methods

Eight healthy volunteers (six men and two women; median age 33 years, range 27–43 years) were randomly treated with SMS 201-995 (25 µg subcutaneously three times a day), omeprazole (40 mg orally once a day), a combination of omeprazole 40 mg once daily and SMS 201-995 (25 µg three times daily), or placebo for five days. Basal and postprandial serum gastrin concentrations and basal pepsinogen A and C values were measured the day before, the last day (day five) of treatment, and on the day after the various courses of treatment. In studies on the last day of treatment, fastest subjects took their morning dose of study medication half an hour before eating the standard test meal, whereas on the day before and after the treatment courses placebo was given 30 minutes before eating the meal.
**Results**

**SERUM GASTRIN**

During placebo treatment basal, postprandial peak, and integrated serum gastrin values were similar on the three study days and on the days before each drug course.

During the placebo experiments basal serum gastrin was 10 (1) pM, meal stimulated serum gastrin values peaked at 54 (4) pM, while integrated meal stimulated serum gastrin responses were calculated to be 157 (13) pM/hour (Figs 1–3). When measured on day five of omeprazole medication, the basal serum gastrin concentration was significantly increased to 47 (14) pM (p<0.02), meal stimulated peak serum gastrin concentration to 89 (14) pM (p<0.02) and integrated meal stimulated serum gastrin responses to 300 (55) pM/hour (p<0.02) (Figs 1–3). On the day after the last ingested omeprazole dose, basal serum gastrin (26 (6) pM), meal stimulated peak serum gastrin (78 (10) pM), and integrated meal stimulated serum gastrin concentrations (255 (40) pM/hour) were still significantly (p<0.02) higher than corresponding values during placebo treatment, but the values were not significantly different from the corresponding values on day five of omeprazole treatment (Figs 1–3).

SMS 201-995 significantly inhibited basal serum gastrin levels from 10 (1) pM to 5 (1) pM (p<0.05), peak serum gastrin levels after the meal from 54 (4) pM to 41 (5) pM (p<0.02), and integrated meal stimulated serum gastrin secretion from 157 (13) pM/hour to 115 (18) pM/hour (p<0.01). On the day after the SMS 201-995
treatment, basal serum gastrin values (10 (1) pM), peak serum gastrin levels in response to the meal (53 (7) pM), and integrated meal stimulated serum gastrin responses (166 (24) pM/hour) were not significantly different from corresponding values during placebo treatment (Figs 1–3).

Omeprazole plus SMS 201-995 significantly reduced basal serum gastrin levels compared with those obtained during single omeprazole treatment from 47 (14) pM to 19 (7) pM (p<0.05), and these values were not significantly different from basal values during placebo. Peak serum gastrin values in response to the meal and integrated meal stimulated serum gastrin responses on day five of omeprazole treatment (89 (14) pM and 300 (55) pM/hour, respectively) were also significantly (p<0.01) reduced by SMS 201-995 (56 (7) pM and 169 (23) pM/hour, respectively), but values were not significantly different from the placebo experiments (53 (4) pM and 157 (13) pM/hour, respectively). One day after omeprazole plus SMS 201-995, basal (21 (3) pM) (p<0.05), peak (71 (8) pM) (p<0.02), and integrated (229 (31) pM/hour) (p<0.02) serum gastrin responses to the meal were significantly increased compared with corresponding values during placebo treatment, but the results did not differ from corresponding values on the day after omeprazole medication alone (Figs 1–3).

**SERUM PEPSONIN A AND C**

Fasting serum pepsinogen A and C levels before and after placebo and active treatment courses are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Omeprazole treatment significantly increased the fasting serum pepsinogen A level from 44 (3) μg/l to 102 (21) μg/l (p<0.01), and the serum pepsinogen C value increased significantly from 13 (1) μg/l to 37 (9) μg/l (p<0.01). One day after treatment the pepsinogen A (100 (23) μg/l) and pepsinogen C levels (34 (9) μg/l) were still significantly increased compared with the placebo values (p<0.01) SMS 201-995 treatment significantly decreased the pepsinogen A level from 43 (3) μg/l to 35 (3) μg/l (p<0.02), while the decrease in pepsinogen C values failed to reach statistical significance (from 13 (1) μg/l to 11 (2) μg/l). On the day after stopping SMS 201-995 treatment, these levels were not significantly decreased when compared with placebo. The combination of SMS 201-995 and omeprazole caused a significant fall in pepsinogen A from 102 (21) μg/l to 72 (9) μg/l (p<0.05) compared with single omeprazole treatment; one day after stopping treatment there was still a significant rise (p<0.05) in the pepsinogen A value (82 (24) μg/l). The fall in serum pepsinogen C during combined therapy (20 (3) μg/l) was also significant (p<0.01), when compared with values during omeprazole alone (37 (9) μg/l), but the result on the day after stopping failed to reach statistical significance (26 (8) vs 34 (9) μg/l). The serum pepsinogen A and C levels on the day after stopping the combination therapy were significantly higher than placebo values (p<0.02 and p<0.05 respectively).

**SIDE EFFECTS**

Omeprazole was well tolerated. Intestinal cramps, upper abdominal discomfort, and fatty stools were noticed by five of the subjects during SMS 201-995 treatment taken either alone or with omeprazole. These complaints decreased towards the end of the treatment. The side effects were, however, mild and did not lead to withdrawal from the study.

**Discussion**

This study shows that the long acting somatostatin analogue SMS 201-995 given subcutaneously in a dose of 25 mg three times daily can abolish hypergastrinaemia induced by five days’ treatment with omeprazole (40 mg once daily) in man. The possibility that the inhibition of omeprazole induced hypergastrinaemia by SMS 201-995 is a result of interference with the antisecretory effect of omeprazole is unlikely. Firstly, because SMS 201-995 is a potent inhibitor of gastric acid secretion and, secondly,
because we have found in a separate pilot experiment that 24 hour intragastric pH profiles during single omeprazole treatment and treatment combined with SMS 201-995 did not differ in two subjects studied (data not shown). The dose of 40 mg omeprazole once daily is higher than that recommended for peptic ulcer therapy, but is regularly used in reflux oesophagitis, while a duration of five days was chosen because it has been shown that the effect of omeprazole on gastric acid and serum gastrin stabilises after three days of treatment.15-18 SMS 201-995 gas- 

trum. Therefore, the gastrinaemia increase when patients with Zollinger-Ellison syndrome.5 The relatively short duration of action of SMS 201-995 compared with omeprazole on serum gastrin was also observed in our study. The day after five days’ treatment with omeprazole plus SMS 201-995, serum gastrin levels were increased because of the prolonged effects of omeprazole on gastrin release.

Several factors motivated us to study the inhibitory effects of SMS 201-995 on omeprazole induced hypergastrinaemia. Firstly, different studies have pointed to an important role for somatostatin, present in paracrine cells in the antral mucosa, in the regulation of gastrin release under physiological and pathophysiological conditions.19-20 Secondly, gastrin somatostatin concentrations have been found to be low after long term omeprazole treatment in rats,21-22 and thirdly, exogenous administration of somatostatin to hypergastrinaemic patients has been shown to inhibit significantly gastrin release.23-24

Prevention of hypergastrinaemia through potent acid inhibition may also have clinical implications, since longstanding, pronounced hypergastrinaemia in rats has been shown to stimulate EC-like cell hyperplasia and, subsequently, gastric carcinoid formation.25-26 Similarly, the increased incidence of carcinoid tumours found in patients with type A atrophic gastritis and patients with the Zollinger-Ellison syndrome has been associated with hypergastrinaemia.27-30 It has been suggested that omeprazole treatment in patients with peptic ulcer disease will not be associated with clinically relevant EC-like cell proliferation since increases in serum gastrin in these patients are modest compared with those in patients with type A atrophic gastritis.25 However, recent studies in patients on maintenance treatment with omeprazole for reflux oesophagitis have demonstrated that about 10% achieve serum gastrin values exceeding five times the upper limit of normal.31-34 Therefore, agents capable of reducing hypergastrinaemia may be of potential value in preventing the trophic effects of hypergastrinaemia on the gastric mucosa. In omeprazole induced hypergastrinaemic rats, SMS 201-995 prevents both the development of hypergastrinaemia and the increase in the gastrin mRNA levels,35 and antagonises the trophic effect of hypergastrinaemia on the fundic endocrine mucosa.36

Giving SMS 201-995 subcutaneously, although regularly used in patients with hormone producing endocrine tumours and severe dumping syndrome, is an obvious drawback of this therapy.

Our observation that short term treatment with omeprazole increases serum pepsinogen A and C levels confirms previous studies.15-18 Short term treatment with SMS 201-995 decreases both basal and omeprazole induced increases of serum pepsinogen A and C levels. This inhibition may be secondary to the inhibitory effects of SMS 201-995,17 but direct or other indirect effects of SMS 201-995 on the pepsinogen producing cells cannot be excluded.

In vitro studies of cells showed that somatostatin inhibits pepsinogen secretion by decreasing cyclic AMP in chief cells.37 Furthermore, treatment of rats with omeprazole leads to a decrease of somatostatin not only in the antrum but also in the fundic mucosa.38-40 It is therefore possible that the increased serum pepsinogen concentrations during omeprazole treatment are secondary to the somatostatin deficiency of the fundic mucosa.

In conclusion, SMS 201-995 prevents basal and meal stimulated increases in serum gastrin caused by profound antisecretory therapy. This finding may be of clinical importance in the few patients who have severe hypergastrinaemia as a result of long acting profound acid inhibition.

The authors express their thanks to Mrs L T M Niepoth and Mrs JW van Sproen for secretarial help and support in preparing this manuscript. The technical assistance of Mr J Kuipers who performed the serum gastrin assays is gratefully acknowledged.