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Review Article

To Find out the Essentiality of Rv0526 Gene in Virulence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by using *In silico* Approaches

Abstract

Tuberculosis has emerged as a major world health problem, with almost one-third of the world population today infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv (*M. tuberculosis*). This gram-positive bacterium makes so many complications in its eradication completely. We need a proper way to inhibit its pathogenesis. Rv0526 (651bp/ 216 aa) is predicted to be a thioredoxin (Trx) like protein of Rv3673 family form a single transmembrane helix and show similarity to other *M. tuberculosis* thioredoxin-like proteins Rv1470, Rv1471, Rv1677. Trx are proteins that act as antioxidants by facilitating the reduction of other proteins by cysteine thiol-disulfide exchange, and it acts by its specific motif Cys37-Cys40 (CXXC). By using several bioinformatics tools, we may predict that Rv0526 may be an important component of cytochrome c maturation complex and show interaction with different other proteins. After knowing such specific features of this gene we may predict that mutational studies in Rv0526 gene may open new way towards the drug development.

Abbreviation

M. tuberculosis: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus; MDR: Multi drug resistant; XDR: Extensively drug resistant; TDR: Total drug resistant ; bp: Base pair; aa : amino acid; kD: kilo Dalton; Trx: Thioredoxin; ROS: Reactive oxygen species ; CXXC: Cystein XX Cystein ; CCM: Cytochrome c maturation

Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) has emerged as a major world health problem, with almost one-third of the world population today infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv (*M. tuberculosis*) [1]. It is an infectious disease caused by the gram-positive bacilli *M. tuberculosis* [2]. This bacterium typically affects the lungs (pulmonary TB) but can also affect other sites (extra-pulmonary TB). The disease is spread by airborne *Mycobacterium* particles. Overall, a relatively small proportion (5–15%) of the estimated 2–3 billion people are infected with *M. tuberculosis* will develop TB disease during their lifetime. However, the probability of developing TB disease is much higher among people infected with HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) [3]. Moreover, because of coinfection with HIV, non-adherence to the prescribed regimen, improper and incomplete

treatment, and lack of proper diagnostic techniques have led to the emergence of multiple-drug-resistant strains. Years of investigation and genomic research find a collection of novel drugs which may help in the treatment of different varieties of TB such as MDR (multi drug resistant), XDR (extensively drug resistant) and TDR (total drug resistant). These new varieties of tuberculosis trigger us to move to form modern drugs [4–5]. This bacterium is an opportunistic pathogen of alveolar macrophages. Immunologically compromised person can get infected by this bacterium very sharply [6]. *M. tuberculosis* is an obligate aerobe, non-motile, slow growing (~24-hour doubling time) and nonspore forming bacteria [7]. Due to its complex nature of cell wall macrophage cannot completely eradicate the bacterium and also this bacilli inhibit fusion between phagosome and lysosome [8]. In this article, we are dealing with specific features of Rv0526 by using *in silico* approaches. It is predicted that it may act as an important gene of thioredoxin protein family.

In silico approaches of Rv0526

In this study, we focused towards a gene named Rv0526 (651bp/ 216 aa) having molecular weight of 23.218 kD (from nucleotide sequence). It is possibly work as Trx like protein (thiol-disulfide interchange protein) which is similar to other

well defined Trx like proteins of *M. tuberculosis* Rv1470, Rv1471, Rv1677 [9]. Trx proteins act as antioxidants by facilitating the reduction of other proteins by cysteine thiol-disulfide exchange. Trx is found in nearly all known organisms and is essential for life in mammals [10-11]. Trx plays a critical role in the regulation of cellular redox homeostasis. Trx is able to reduce a variety of target substrates and reactive oxygen species (ROS) through the cyclization of its active site dithiol to the oxidized disulphide Cys37-Cys40 (CXXC) [12]. Rv0526 is predicted to be secreted lipoproteins. It is located in the genomic region and predicted to be contains motif, which is required for cytochrome *c* maturation (CCM). By using bioinformatic approach, we get different findings about this gene, which may help in getting more information about this gene to predict its functionality. Tuberculist amino acid sequence shows that Rv0526 gene containing the thioredoxin motif CXXC [13]. String database server shows the interaction of this protein with *trx*B, *glt*B, *ahp*C, *ccs*A, *ccd*A, *hem*L, *dip*Z, MT0550, MT2945 and MT 0547. It reveals that Rv0526 extremely interact with *trx*B, *glt*B and *ahp*C which prefigure that it may be involved a thioredoxin reductase [14]. As shown in Figure 1. The HMMTOP transmembrane topology prediction server predicts both the localization of helical transmembrane segments and the topology of transmembrane protein. By using HMMTOP server it is identified that gene Rv0526 forming a two transmembrane helices forming between 17-33 and 158-176 amino acid sequence, which localized in the membrane [15].

PSORT (Prediction of Protein Sorting Signal and Localization Sites in Amino Acid Sequence) analysis shows that Rv 0526 gene majorly resides in mitochondria which further predict that it is essentially involved in cytochrome *C* maturation and electron transport chain as shown in Table 1 [16]. Lipo P tools which help in discriminating between lipoprotein signal peptides. Lipo P confirms that Rv0526 contains SpI: signal peptide (signal peptidase I) and SpII: lipoprotein signal peptide (signal peptidase II) as shown in Figure 2 [17]. Overall result prediction for Rv0526 in our study is summaries in Table 2.

Table 1: PSORT (Prediction of Protein Sorting Signal and Localization Sites in Amino Acid Sequence) tool.

Localization Site	Percentage of Localization
Mitochondrial	47.8 %
Cytoplasmic	17.4 %
Golgi	13.0 %
Endoplasmic Reticulum	13.0 %
Nuclear	4.3%
Vacuolar	4.3%

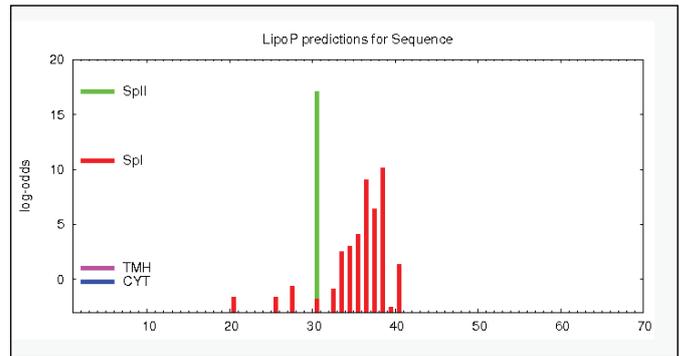


Figure 2: STRING database result which shows protein-protein interaction: A STRING database server, which is used for prediction of protein-protein interactions. The interactions include direct (physical) and indirect (functional) associations; the stem from computational prediction, from knowledge transfer between organisms, and from interactions aggregated from other (primary) databases.

Table 2: Overall result prediction for Rv0526.

S.No.	Used Tools	Function Prediction	Result
1	STRING	predicted protein-protein interactions	Rv0526 interact with <i>trx</i> B, <i>glt</i> B, <i>ahp</i> C, <i>ccs</i> A, <i>ccd</i> A, <i>hem</i> L, <i>dip</i> Z, MT0550, MT2945 and MT 0547
2	HMMTOP	Predictions of transmembrane helices and topology of proteins	2 transmembrane helices forming between 17-33 and 158-176 amino acid sequence
3	PSORT	prediction of protein localization sites	Localized in mitochondria
4	LipoP	discriminating between lipoprotein signal peptides, other signal peptides	Contain SP I and SP II

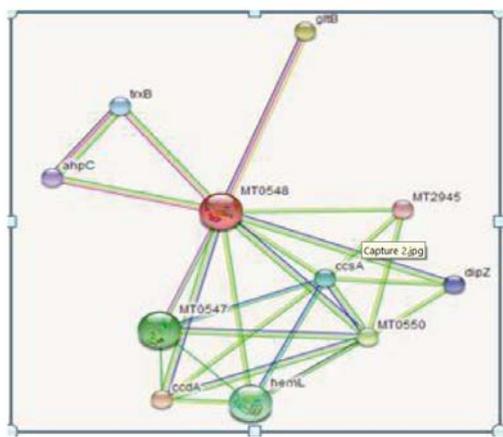


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Summary

We can summarize that Rv0526 might be a Trx like protein, which is important for CCM. CCM is the significant component of an electron transport chain of aerobic respiration. Rv0526 containing CXXC motif that is responsible for the activity of Trx like proteins. It is also shows homology with Rv3673 which is proven to be act like a thioredoxin. Understanding of these specific features of Rv0526 gene conclude that this gene may act as an essential drug target. Mutation in the Cystein of this motif which is a part of Trx motif can play a significant role in killing the pathogenesis of mycobacterium. Further study required to understand the physiological and biochemical role of this gene to may develop antituberculosis drugs.

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