

forms of the membrane-bound receptors that can bind ligand in a way similar to that of their membrane-bound counterparts. As a result, these receptors play an important role in the regulation of normal receptor activity and autoimmune disease (11). Elevated serum concentrations of a soluble Fas were found in over one-half of patients with SLE, and soluble Fas is capable of inhibiting Fas-mediated apoptosis in vitro and altering lymphocyte development and proliferation in response to self antigen in vivo. These findings suggest a critical role for this molecule in autoimmune diseases. Therapies such as plasmapheresis that may remove soluble Fas from sera of SLE patients may restore normal apoptosis and reduce autoimmune disease (12). Also, in light of the fact that Fas-mediated apoptosis has been implicated in lymphocyte apoptosis in HIV infection (3), it is of great importance to investigate a role for Fas Δ TM in immunodeficiencies and whether blockade of Fas-mediated apoptosis in vivo, with the use of recombinant Fas Δ TM molecules, is of clinical use in such disease conditions.

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16. RNA (10 μ g) isolated with the use of the guanidine isothiocyanate-acid phenol method was used for first-strand cDNA syntheses. Two oligonucleotides, 5'-CACTTCGGAGGATTGCTCAACA-3' (nt 170 to 191) and 5'-TATGTTGGCTCTTCAGC GCTA-3' (complementary to nt 1316 to 1336), were used to amplify human Fas mRNA by PCR. The PCR products were analyzed and recovered from agarose gels and subcloned into a pCR vector (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA).
17. For genomic PCR, primers were designed to flank each of the putative introns. Human genomic DNA (0.5 μ g) was used as a template in each PCR reaction. All nucleotide sequences were determined by the dideoxy chain termination method with the use of modified bacteriophage T7 DNA polymerase (United States Biochemical).
18. The full-length Fas and the Fas Δ TM cDNAs were inserted into the Eco RI cloning site of pcDNA 1 (Invitrogen). The orientations of the insert were determined with Hind III digestion. COS-7 cells were transfected with the use of DEAE-dextran. After 72 hours, single cell suspensions were stained with the mouse monoclonal antibody to human Fas [immunoglobulin M (IgM)] (Upstate Biotechnology, Lake Placid, NY). After washing, the cells were stained with fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-conjugated goat IgM to mouse (Southern Biotechnology, Birmingham, AL) for 30 min. As a control, the same cells were similarly treated, except that the primary antibody was replaced with an unrelated mouse IgM.
19. Cells were stimulated with PHA-P (10 μ g/ml) (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) for 48 hours. Approximately 5×10^5 stimulated cells were then cultured in a flat-bottom 96-well plate in RPMI 1640-10% fetal calf serum and IgM (200 ng/ml) in the presence of serial dilutions of supernatants derived from the COS-7 cells that were transfected with either Fas cDNA or Fas Δ TM expression plasmids and cultured for 3 days. After 12 hours of incubation, 2×10^5 cells were cytospun onto poly-L-lysine-pretreated slides, fixed in 10% (v/v) formalin at room temperature for 12 hours, and stained for in situ apoptosis. A minimum of 200 lymphocytes were counted in 10 randomly selected microscopic fields by an observer unaware of the cell culture condition. The apoptosis analysis of CEM-6 cells was carried out in a similar manner.
20. Sera were first diluted to a ratio of 1:5 in borate-buffered saline (BBS), and Ig complexes were absorbed with anti-human Ig beads at 4°C for 12 hours. Plates were precoated with IgM (2 μ g/ml). After blocking, the absorbed sera were added and incubated for 4 hours at room temperature. After extensive washing, the bound antibody was detected with an antibody to mouse IgG1 that is isotype-specific and reports alkaline phosphatase, and the plates were incubated with *p*-nitrophenylphosphate substrate.
21. A 530-bp extracellular Fas sequence (nt 26 to 556) (1) was PCR-amplified from a mouse Fas cDNA clone and ligated into a pSP65 vector that contained the hinge, CH2 and CH3 sequence of human IgG1 (hlgG1) [R. G. Goodwin *et al.*, *Cell* **73**, 447 (1993)]. The fusion gene was sequenced to confirm that the Fas extracellular domain was in frame with the hlgG1 fragment. The Fas-hlgG1 fusion gene was transfected into COS cells and transiently expressed as a secreted fusion protein. This protein was purified with an anti-hlgG1 agarose affinity column and could bind to the Fas ligand (5).
22. MTT (Sigma) was dissolved in BBS to make a solution (5 mg/ml). The MTT-BBS solution (10 μ l) was added to each well (containing 100 μ l of cells) and incubated for 4 hours at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ humidified incubator. 100 μ l of 0.04 M HCl in isopropanol was added to each well and was vigorously mixed by pipeting. The plates were read in a microtiter plate reader (Emax, Molecular Division, Menlo Park, CA), with the use of a 570-nm filter. Background noise was subtracted with a dual-wavelength setting of 650 nm.
23. We thank W. J. Koopman for helpful discussions, V. Prochazka for genomic DNA sequencing, T. F. Tedder for providing the hlgG1-pSP65 plasmid, J. F. Krowka for communicating results before publication, and B. K. Bunn for expert secretarial assistance in typing the manuscript. Supported in part by a Veterans Administration (VA) Merit Review Award; a VA Career Development Award; and grants P60 AR20614, P50 AI23694, P01 AR03555, and R01 AI30744 from the National Institutes of Health.

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High-Resolution Solution Structure of the β Chemokine hMIP-1 β by Multidimensional NMR

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The three-dimensional structure of a member of the β subfamily of chemokines, human macrophage inflammatory protein-1 β (hMIP-1 β), has been determined with the use of solution multidimensional heteronuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Human MIP-1 β is a symmetric homodimer with a relative molecular mass of ~16 kilodaltons. The structure of the hMIP-1 β monomer is similar to that of the related α chemokine interleukin-8 (IL-8). However, the quaternary structures of the two proteins are entirely distinct, and the dimer interface is formed by a completely different set of residues. Whereas the IL-8 dimer is globular, the hMIP-1 β dimer is elongated and cylindrical. This provides a rational explanation for the absence of cross-binding and reactivity between the α and β chemokine subfamilies. Calculation of the solvation free energies of dimerization suggests that the formation and stabilization of the two different types of dimers arise from the burial of hydrophobic residues.

Human macrophage inflammatory protein-1 β , also known as Act-2, is a member of the β chemokine (chemotactic cytokine) subfamily of proteins (1, 2). These proteins, as well as the related α chemokines, comprise a polypeptide chain of ~8 to 10 kD and contain four cysteine residues at near-identical positions. The distinction between the α and β

chemokine subfamilies was initially based on whether the first two cysteine residues are separated by one residue (α) or are adjacent (β). This division also extends to chromosomal location (chromosomes 4 and 17 for the α and β chemokines, respectively) and function. Thus, whereas the α chemokines (for example, IL-8) are potent chemoattractants

and activators of neutrophils but not monocytes, the β chemokines exhibit chemoattractant potential for monocytes and lymphocytes but not for neutrophils (2, 3). Members within each subfamily exhibit 25 to 70% sequence identity, whereas the amino acid identity between members of the two subfamilies ranges from 20 to 40% (2, 3). Here, we present the determination of the three-dimensional structure of hMIP-1 β in solution using heteronuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.

As hMIP-1 β aggregates at pH values above 3.5, all NMR experiments were carried under conditions (pH 2.5) where hMIP-1 β exists as a discrete and stable dimer with a molecular mass of 15.6 kD (4). Because of the complexity of the system, the structure determination was carried out on uniformly isotopically labeled protein (5) and involved the application of double and triple resonance NMR spectroscopy (6). The structural statistics for the final ensemble of 35 simulated annealing structures (7–9) are summarized in Tables 1 and 2, and stereo views of best-fit superpositions, illustrating both the backbone for the complete dimer and ordered side chains for a single subunit, are shown in Fig. 1. With the exception of residues 1 to 3, which are partially disordered, the structure is exceptionally well defined both at the monomer and dimer levels (Table 2).

Within each subunit, the main secondary structure elements comprise a triple-stranded antiparallel β sheet (residues 26 to 31, 39 to 44, and 48 to 52) arranged in a Greek key, on top of which lies an α helix (residues 57 to 68) (Figs. 1B and 2A). The NH_2 -terminus comprises an irregular strand and a series of non-classical turns that form a long loop extending from residues 12 to 20. This is followed by a four-residue helical turn (residues 21 to 24), which leads into strand β 1. The two disulfide bridges have a left-handed spiral conformation. There are two tightly bound water molecules that serve to bridge hydrogen bonds: one between the backbone amide of Cys¹² and the backbone carbonyls of Gln³⁷ and Pro³⁸, thereby orienting the NH_2 -terminus with regard to strand β 2, and the second between the backbone amide of Gln³⁷ and the backbone carbonyl and side chain Sy atom of Cys³⁵, thereby stabilizing the loop between strands β 1 and β 2. The positioning of the helix with regard to the underlying β

sheet is determined by numerous hydrophobic interactions (Fig. 1B). In addition to the regular backbone hydrogen bonding within the secondary structure elements, there are three hydrogen bonding interactions involving side chains that are of interest: namely, between the O_γ of Thr³¹ and the backbone amide of Ala³⁹, between the $\text{O}_\gamma(\text{H})$ atoms of Thr⁴⁴ and Ser⁴⁷; and between the aromatic

ring of Tyr¹⁵ and the carboxylate of Asp⁵³.

The structure of the hMIP-1 β monomer is very similar to that of IL-8 (10, 11). The C α atoms of 59 residues can be superimposed with a root-mean-square (rms) difference of 1.6 Å (Fig. 2). The sequence identity within this region is 20%. Buried residues that are important for maintaining the structure of the monomer are either the same or substituted

Table 1. Structural statistics. The notation of the NMR structures is as follows: SA are the final 35 simulated annealing structures; $\bar{\text{SA}}$ is the mean structure obtained by averaging the coordinates of the individual SA structures best-fitted to each other (excluding residues 1 to 3 of both subunits); and $(\bar{\text{SA}})_r$ is the restrained minimized mean structure obtained by restrained regularization of the mean structure $\bar{\text{SA}}$. The number of terms for the various restraints is given in parentheses and applies to the entire dimer.

Structural statistics	<SA>	($\bar{\text{SA}}$) _r
Rms deviations from experimental distance restraints (Å)*		
All (3264)	0.026 ± 0.001	0.030
Intrasubunit		
Interresidue sequential ($ i - j = 1$) (670)	0.034 ± 0.001	0.039
Interresidue short range ($1 < i - j \leq 5$) (462)	0.025 ± 0.002	0.032
Interresidue long range ($ i - j > 5$) (860)	0.026 ± 0.002	0.031
Intraresidue (908)*	0.019 ± 0.002	0.021
Bound water (28)†‡	0.023 ± 0.003	0.025
H bond (92)‡	0.040 ± 0.012	0.037
Intersubunit		
Interproton (228)	0.024 ± 0.005	0.018
H bond (16)‡	0.046 ± 0.015	0.043
Rms deviation from the cross-validated experimental distance test sets (Å)§	0.074 ± 0.02	
Rms deviations from $^3J_{\text{HN}\alpha}$ coupling constants (Hz) (102)*	0.54 ± 0.02	0.52
Rms deviations from experimental dihedral restraints (degrees) (220)*	0.55 ± 0.03	0.47
Deviations from idealized covalent geometry		
Bonds (Å) (2170)	0.005 ± 0.000	0.005
Angles (degrees) (3900)	0.739 ± 0.009	0.774
Impropers (degrees) (1150)	0.418 ± 0.036	0.478
$E_{\text{L-J}}$ (kcal mol ⁻¹)¶	-592 ± 16	-572

*None of the structures exhibits distance violations greater than 0.3 Å, dihedral angle violations greater than 5°, or $^3J_{\text{HN}\alpha}$ coupling constant violations greater than 2 Hz. Furthermore, there are no systematic interproton distance violations between 0.1 and 0.3 Å among the ensemble of calculated structures, and the average number of $^3J_{\text{HN}\alpha}$ coupling constant violations between 1 and 2 Hz is 5.5 ± 1.8 . In addition, all the ϕ, ψ backbone torsion angles lie within the allowed regions of the Ramachandran plot. The $^3J_{\text{HN}\alpha}$ coupling constants included directly in the refinement comprised only those that could be measured from the 3D HNHA experiment to an accuracy of 0.5 Hz or better. Thus, couplings associated with resonances that exhibit overlap of their ^{15}N and ^1H chemical shifts were not included. The torsion angle restraints comprise 122 ϕ , 10 ψ , 80 χ_1 , and 8 χ_2 angles with minimum ranges of $\pm 10^\circ$, $\pm 50^\circ$, $\pm 20^\circ$, and $\pm 20^\circ$, respectively. The narrow range for some of the ϕ restraints was made possible by the availability of highly accurate $^3J_{\text{HN}\alpha}$ coupling constant data. In all cases the angular standard deviations of the torsion angles for the ensemble of 35 SA structures were much smaller than the ranges used for the corresponding torsion angle restraints. Only structurally useful intraresidue NOEs are included in the interproton distance restraints. Thus, NOEs between protons separated by two bonds or between nonstereospecifically assigned protons separated by three bonds are not incorporated in the restraints. The values of the interproton distance, torsion angle, and $^3J_{\text{HN}\alpha}$ restraints energy terms are 67.8 ± 4.2 , 4.03 ± 0.5 , and 29.7 ± 2.0 kcal mol⁻¹, respectively, using force constants of 30 kcal mol⁻¹ Å⁻², 200 kcal mol⁻¹ rad⁻², and 1 kcal mol⁻¹ Hz⁻², respectively.

†The distance restraints involving the four bound water molecules (two per subunit) comprise four interproton distance restraints between backbone amide protons and water protons and 24 distance restraints relating to hydrogen bonds. The latter comprise the water-bridging hydrogen bonds from Cys¹²(NH) to Gln³⁷(O) and Pro³⁸(O), and from Ser³⁶(NH) to Cys³⁵(S γ) and Cys³⁵(O).

‡For each backbone hydrogen bond there are two distance restraints: $r_{\text{NH}\cdots\text{O}}$ (1.7 to 2.5 Å) and $r_{\text{N}\cdots\text{O}}$ (2.3 to 3.5 Å). These hydrogen bonding restraints account for the slowly exchanging amide protons and were included only in the final stages of refinement.

§Simulated annealing with complete cross-validation (24) was carried out on the final set of 35 SA structures. For each simulated annealing run with cross-validation, the data set was randomly partitioned into a test set comprising ~10% of the data and a reference set. Only the latter is included in the target function that is minimized. The test set for each SA structure was therefore different, and the value of the average rms deviation for all the test sets is quoted. The average number of distance violations greater than 0.5 Å in the test sets was 1.3 ± 0.9 . The low average values of the rms deviations and violations for the test sets indicate the high degree to which each distance can be predicted by the remaining ones. The atomic rms distribution about the mean coordinate positions remains essentially unchanged upon complete cross-validation, and there is no significant shift in the atomic coordinates—that is, the difference between the mean coordinate positions before and after complete cross-validation is smaller than the rms distribution of the individual structures about their mean coordinate positions. These results indicate the high degree of completeness of the experimental data and provide a reliable indication of the high accuracy of the structures (24).

||The improper torsion restraints serve to maintain planarity and chirality. ¶ $E_{\text{L-J}}$ is the Lennard-Jones van der Waals energy calculated with the CHARMM (25) empirical energy function and is not included in the target function for simulated annealing or restrained minimization.

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Table 2. Atomic rms differences. The notation of the structures is the same as that in Table 1. In addition to the low atomic rms differences, the angular rms deviations for the backbone ϕ and ψ torsion angles of residues 4 to 69, and for the χ_1 angles of the 47 residues per subunit that do not exhibit rotamer averaging, are also very low, with values of $1.4 \pm 2.0^\circ$, $2.4 \pm 2.9^\circ$, and $2.0 \pm 2.4^\circ$, respectively. This high degree of precision

is expected, given the large number of experimental NMR restraints—namely, an average of 26 per residue (26). The restrained minimized mean structure for the monomer, which would be obtained by restrained regularization of the mean monomer structure calculated by averaging the coordinates of the 35 SA structures best-fitted to only a single subunit, was not computed (blank spaces).

Comparison	Atomic rms differences (excluding residues 1 to 3) (Å)					
	Dimer			Monomer		
	Backbone atoms	All atoms	All ordered atoms*	Backbone atoms	All atoms	All ordered atoms*
<SA> versus SA	0.30 ± 0.09	0.71 ± 0.08	0.45 ± 0.09	0.20 ± 0.05	0.65 ± 0.06	0.38 ± 0.06
<SA> versus (SA)r	0.33 ± 0.12	0.79 ± 0.09	0.49 ± 0.10			
(SA)r versus SA	0.10	0.38	0.19			

*The atoms included comprise all N, C α , C, O, and C β atoms of residues 4 to 69, the complete side chains of residues Pro⁷, Pro⁸, Thr⁹, Cys¹¹, Cys¹², Phe¹³, Ser¹⁴, Tyr¹⁵, Thr¹⁶, Leu²⁰, Pro²¹, Phe²⁴, Val²⁵, Val²⁶, Tyr²⁸, Tyr²⁹, Thr³¹, Ser³³, Leu³⁴, Cys³⁵, Val⁴⁰, Val⁴¹, Phe⁴², Thr⁴⁴, Val⁵⁰, Cys⁵¹, Trp⁵⁸, Val⁵⁹, Tyr⁶², Val⁶³, Tyr⁶⁴, Leu⁶⁶, Leu⁶⁸, and the side chains of Arg¹⁸ up to C δ , Lys¹⁹ up to C ϵ , Arg²² up to C γ , Asp²⁷ up to C γ , Glu³⁰ up to C δ , Gln³⁷ up to C γ , Gln⁴³ up to C γ , Lys⁴⁵ up to C ϵ , Arg⁴⁶ up to C δ , Glu⁵⁶ up to C δ , Glu⁶¹ up to C δ , Aps⁶⁵ up to C γ , and Glu⁶⁷ up to C δ .

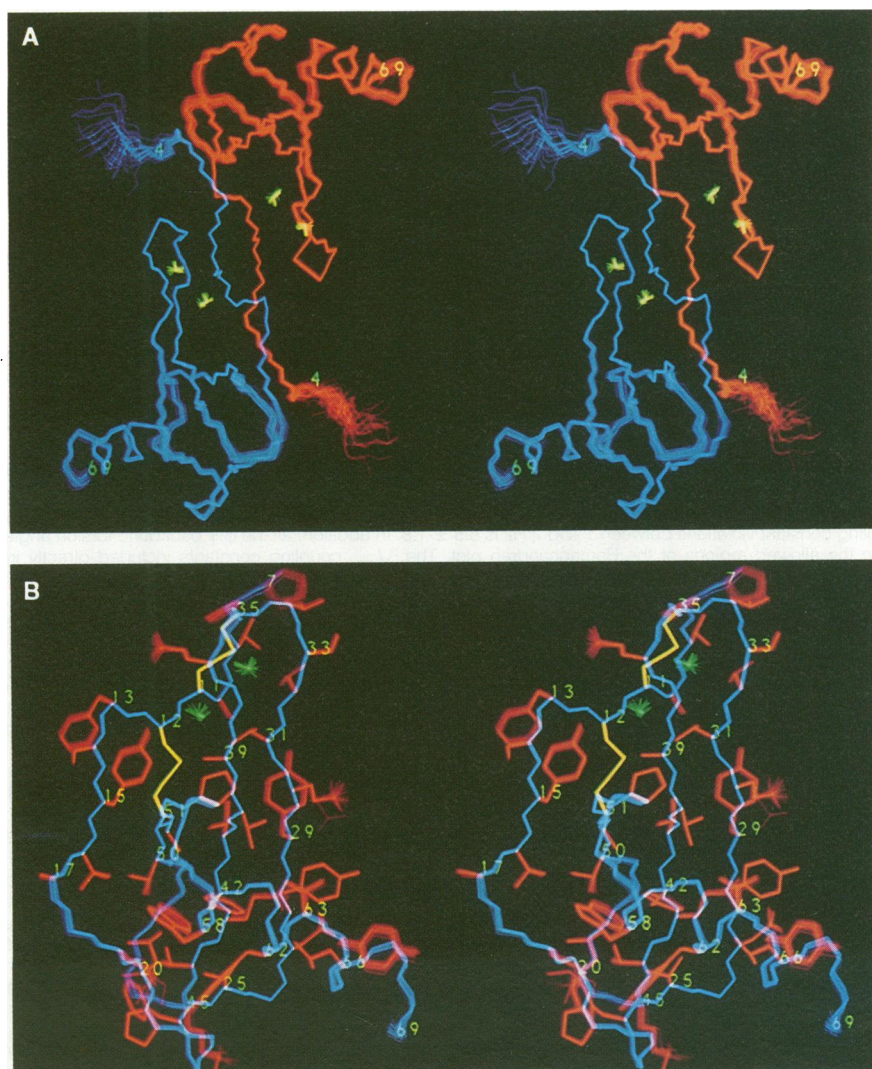


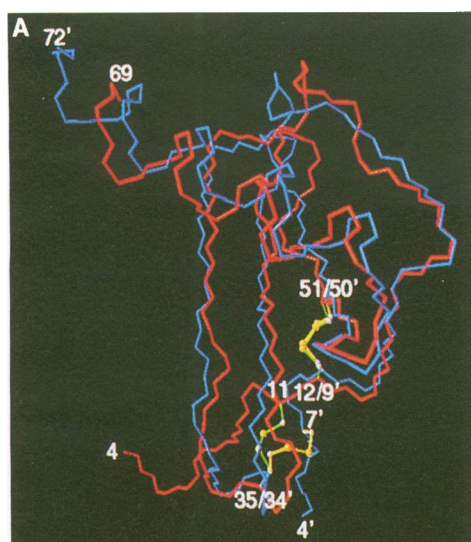
Fig. 1. Stereo views showing best-fit superpositions of the (A) backbone atoms and (B) ordered side chains of the 35 simulated annealing structures of hMIP-1 β . The hMIP-1 β dimer is shown in (A) with one subunit in blue, the other in red, and the tightly bound water molecules in yellow; a single subunit of hMIP-1 β is displayed in (B) with the backbone in blue, the side chains in red, the disulfide bridges in yellow, and the bound water molecules in green. The numbers indicate residue numbers along the sequence and are located close to the C α positions.

conservatively. Surface residues necessary for dimer formation and receptor binding, however, vary substantially between the two sub-families of chemokines.

There are four significant structural differences between hMIP-1 β and IL-8 at the monomer level. First, the conformation of the first disulfide bridge is a right-handed hook in IL-8 as opposed to a left-handed spiral in hMIP-1 β . This is associated with the insertion in IL-8 of a residue between the first two cysteines and of two residues in the turn connecting β strands 1 and 2 (Fig. 2B). Second, the helix extends five residues further at the COOH-terminus in IL-8 compared to hMIP-1 β . Third, the conformation of the turn connecting strands β 2 and β 3 differs around residues 46 and 47. Finally, the direction of the NH₂-terminal residues preceding the first cysteine is completely different. The latter three differences at the monomer level are related to the different quaternary structures of the two proteins.

The quaternary structures of hMIP-1 β and IL-8 are completely different (Fig. 3). When one subunit of hMIP-1 β is superimposed on one subunit of IL-8, the C α atomic rms displacement between the second subunit of hMIP-1 β and the second subunit of IL-8 is 34 Å (Fig. 3D). Different quaternary structures for essentially identical monomer units are clearly very rare occurrences and to our knowledge have been observed in cases with significant sequence identity (that is, greater than 15 to 20%) on only two previous occasions (12).

The IL-8 dimer is globular in shape with dimensions of 40 by 42 by 32 Å (Fig. 3C), whereas the hMIP-1 β dimer is elongated and cylindrical with dimensions of 56 by 30 by 26 Å (Fig. 3, A and B). In the case of IL-8, the C₂ axis is located between the C α H protons of Arg²⁶ and Arg^{26'} in the middle of strand β 1 (equivalent to residue 29 of hMIP-1 β). This results in a structure with a six-stranded anti-



surface accessibility is also decreased by more than a factor of 7 in the dimer. The filled-in and open circles indicate the residues of subunit A that interact with those of subunit B, respectively, and vice versa; the stars indicate the location of the C_2 symmetry axis for each dimer. The designation ht_α indicates a short helical turn. The superposition in (A) was carried out with the program O (21) and displayed with the program VISP (22). Data for the NMR structure of IL-8 are taken from (10).

parallel β sheet, on top of which lie two antiparallel α helices separated by ~ 14 Å (10, 11). In addition, the COOH-terminal end of the helix of each subunit interacts with the underlying sheet of the other subunit (Fig. 3C). In contrast, in the case of hMIP-1 β the C_2 axis is located between the C α H protons of Ala¹⁰ and Ala^{10'}; the two helices are 46 Å apart, located on opposite faces of the molecule and oriented approximately orthogonal to each other; strands $\beta 1$ and $\beta 1'$ are ~ 30 Å apart and located on the exterior of the protein; and the dimer interface is formed by the NH₂-terminus (residues 2 to 13), the loop connecting strands $\beta 1$ and $\beta 2$ (Leu³⁴ and Cys³⁵), and the loop connecting strands $\beta 2$ and $\beta 3$ as well as strand $\beta 3$ (residues 46 to 51) (Figs. 2B and 3, A and B). A comparison of the residues involved in the dimer interfaces of hMIP-1 β and IL-8 is provided in Fig. 2B, and a detailed view of the interactions at the dimer interface of hMIP-1 β is shown in Fig. 4.

The hMIP-1 β dimer is stabilized by both hydrogen bonding and hydrophobic interactions (Fig. 4). There are eight intersubunit backbone hydrogen bonds. Four of the hydrogen bonds make up a small antiparallel β sheet centered around the C_2 axis, which comprises residues 9 to 11 and 9' to 11' (strands $\beta 0$ and $\beta 0'$). In addition, Asp⁶(NH) donates a hydrogen bond to Gln⁴⁹(O), whereas Asp⁶(O) accepts a hydrogen bond from Cys⁵¹(NH). In the case of IL-8 there are only six backbone hydrogen bonds between the two subunits (10, 11). Despite the extended nature of the hMIP-1 β dimer, there is an extensive network of hydrophobic interactions between the two subunits, and eight residues per subunit (the same number as in IL-8) become buried upon dimerization (Fig.

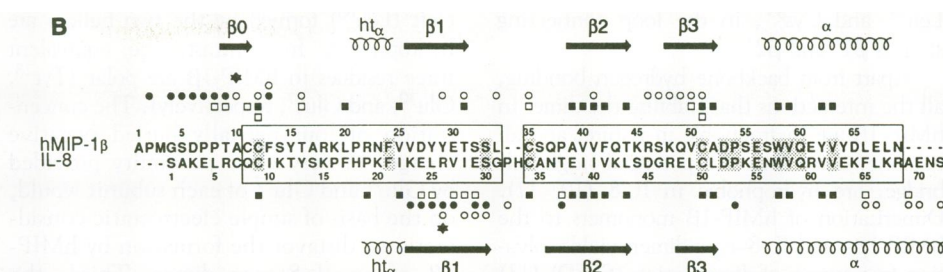


Fig. 2. (A) Best-fit superposition of the backbone atoms and disulfide bridges of a single subunit of hMIP-1 β (red with disulfides in green) and IL-8 (blue with disulfides in yellow). **(B)** Sequence alignment of hMIP-1 β and IL-8 based on the structure alignment shown in (A) together with the location of the secondary structure elements (20). The sequences that are structurally aligned in (A) with a C α atomic rms difference of 1.6 Å are boxed; residues that are identical between hMIP-1 β and IL-8 are shaded; the dashed lines indicate deletions in one sequence relative to the other; the filled-in squares above or below the sequence represent residues in each monomer with a surface accessibility of $<20\%$ of that in an isolated Gly-X-Gly extended tripeptide (where X is any amino acid); and the open squares represent residues that are buried upon dimerization and have a surface accessibility of $<20\%$ in the dimer. When both an open square and a filled-in square are shown, the surface accessibility of that particular residue is not only $<20\%$ in the monomer, but its

2B). Pro², Gly⁴, Ser⁵, Asp⁶, Pro⁷, and Pro⁸ of the NH₂-terminus of each subunit are in van der Waals contact with residues 46' to 51' comprising the turn between strands $\beta 2'$ and $\beta 3'$ and strand $\beta 3'$ of the other subunit. Ser⁵

and Asp⁶ also interact with Thr^{16'}; Pro⁷ with Val^{41'} in strand $\beta 2'$; and Pro⁸ with Ala^{10'} and Cys^{12'} in strand $\beta 0'$, Tyr^{29'} and Thr^{31'} in strand $\beta 1'$, and Val^{41'} in strand $\beta 2'$. Finally, Thr⁹ interacts with Phe^{13'}, and Phe¹³ with

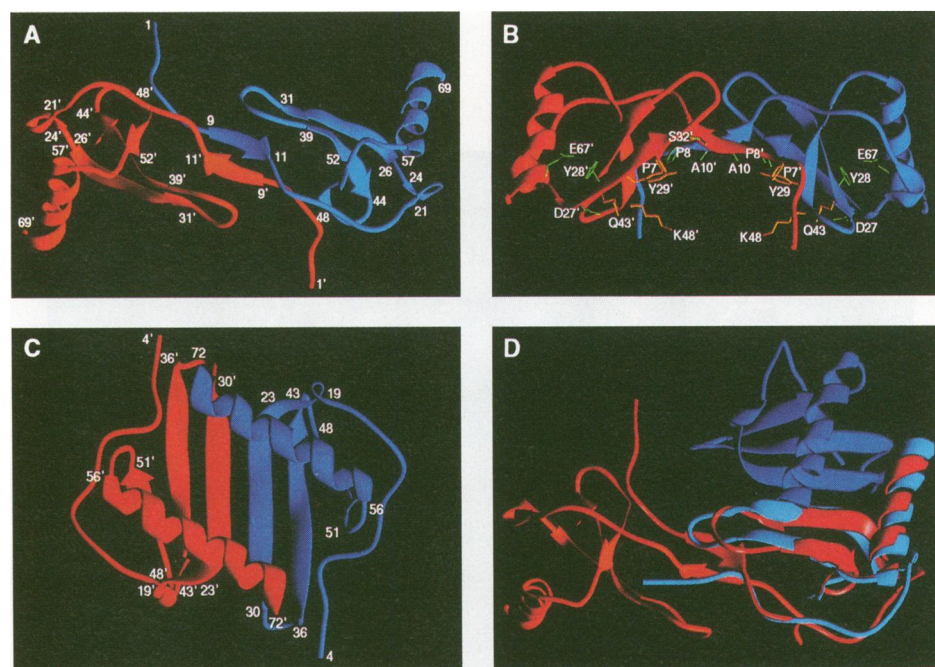


Fig. 3. Schematic ribbon drawings of the hMIP-1 β dimer (A and B), the IL-8 dimer (C), and a superposition of the hMIP-1 β and IL-8 dimers (D) (20). In (A), (B), and (C), one subunit is shown in blue and the other in red; in (D), the hMIP-1 β subunits are shown in red and orange, whereas the IL-8 subunit is shown in light blue and blue, with the red subunit of hMIP-1 β superimposed on the light blue subunit of IL-8 with the same alignment as in Fig. 2. The view of hMIP-1 β in (D) is very similar to that in (A). Also shown in (B) are side chains within the cleft of hMIP-1 β that may be involved in receptor binding; side chains shown in green are either the same or substituted conservatively in hMIP-1 β , hMIP-1 α , RANTES, and MCAF (or MCP-1), whereas side chains shown in orange are the same or similar in hMIP-1 α and RANTES but different in hMIP-1 β or MCAF (or MCP-1). The ribbon diagrams were made with the program RIBBONS (23). Data for the NMR structure of IL-8 are taken from (10).

Leu^{34'} and Cys^{35'}, in the loop connecting strands $\beta 1'$ and $\beta 2'$.

Apart from backbone hydrogen bonding, all the interactions that stabilize the dimer in hMIP-1 β are hydrophobic in nature, and all but one, consisting of a potential single salt bridge, are hydrophobic in IL-8 (10, 11). Dimerization of hMIP-1 β monomers to the hMIP-1 β - and IL-8-type dimers yields solvation free energy of dimerization (SFED) (13) values of -12.5 and -3.3 kcal mol⁻¹, respectively, so that the hMIP-1 β -type dimer is favored by -9.2 kcal mol⁻¹ over the IL-8-type dimer. In contrast, dimerization of IL-8 monomers to the hMIP-1 β - and IL-8-type dimers yields SFED values of -4.6 and -7.0 kcal mol⁻¹, respectively, so that the IL-8-type dimer is favored by -2.4 kcal mol⁻¹ over the hMIP-1 β -type dimer. These calculations support the proposition that the driving force for the formation and stabilization of the two different types of dimers lies in the burial of hydrophobic residues.

Examination of the structure-based sequence alignment of hMIP-1 β and IL-8 (Fig. 2B) yields a possible explanation for this phenomenon. First, IL-8 has an extra four residues at the COOH-terminus that permit extension of the helix onto the adjacent subunit, helping to form the IL-8 dimer. In hMIP-1 β , on the other hand, the helix cannot extend beyond the boundaries of its own subunit. Second, in the IL-8 dimer the residues that point upward between the cleft (Leu²⁵ and Val²⁷) and across the center of the

cleft (Leu⁶⁶) formed by the two helices are hydrophobic. In contrast, the equivalent three residues in hMIP-1 β are polar (Tyr²⁸, Glu³⁰, and Glu⁶⁷, respectively). The concentration of four partially buried negative charges in very close proximity provided by Glu³⁰ and Glu⁶⁷ of each subunit would, on the basis of simple electrostatic considerations, disfavor the formation by hMIP-1 β of an IL-8-type dimer. Third, the presence of three proline residues renders the NH₂-terminus of hMIP-1 β predominantly hydrophobic, whereas this region is mainly polar in IL-8. Thus, the formation of the hMIP-1 β dimer permits burial of these hydrophobic residues.

These differences can be extended to the other α and β chemokines (2). In general, the β chemokines have fewer residues at the COOH-terminus than the α chemokines. The sequences NH₂-terminal to the first cysteine residue are always more hydrophobic in the members of the β subfamily than those in the α subfamily. Finally, residues that correspond to Leu²⁵, Val²⁷, and Leu⁶⁶ in IL-8, which are crucial in the stabilization of the IL-8 dimer, are always hydrophobic in the α subfamily and polar in the β subfamily. This suggests that the hMIP-1 β and IL-8 dimer structures are most likely preserved in the β and α subfamilies, respectively. In this light, it is likely that the proposed dimeric structure of the β chemokine MCAF (or MCP-1), which we modeled on the basis of the IL-8 dimer, is incorrect (14). This only serves to

emphasize the importance of direct experimental structure determination, particularly in the case of multimeric systems.

At pH values above 3.5, hMIP-1 β aggregates to form small helical fibrils visible in the electron microscope (15). These may be of functional relevance with regard to its role in the induction of T cell adhesion (16). The pH and salt dependence of this phenomenon suggests an electrostatic basis involving the deprotonation of Asp or Glu residues. An electrostatic potential map of hMIP-1 β reveals a clear partitioning of positive and negative charge. In the view shown in Fig. 3B, the latter extends from the bottom right-hand side of the blue subunit to the underside of the molecule, and the former comprises the front surface of the red subunit and the top right-hand side of the blue one. This would easily permit the well-defined association of the positively charged surface of one molecule with the negatively charged surface of another.

The receptors for α and β chemokines fail to show any cross-binding or reactivity between the two subfamilies (2, 3, 17, 18). Although the quaternary structure for any receptor-bound chemokine is presently unknown, the different dimeric structures for the α and β chemokines provide an attractive explanation for this observation. We postulate that the large concave surface visible in Fig. 3B, which runs at an angle of approximately 60° to the long axis of the dimer, is involved in receptor binding of the β chemokines. There are two residues on the concave surface of the dimer that are identical in hMIP-1 β , MCP-1 (or MCAF), hMIP-1 α , and RANTES (Tyr²⁸ and Ser³²). Furthermore, Pro⁸, Ala¹⁰, Asp²⁷, and Glu⁶⁷ are either the same or substituted conservatively, and we suggest that they play an important role in binding specificity. Of the four β chemokines, only hMIP-1 α and RANTES induce a strong calcium flux in the cloned receptor (17). This activity may be associated with the four residues (shown in orange in Fig. 3B) in the cleft that are preserved in hMIP-1 α and RANTES but are different in hMIP-1 β and MCAF (or MCP-1).

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4. Analysis of the analytical ultracentrifugation data indicates that the association constant between monomer and dimer at pH 2.5 is 2.5×10^7 M⁻¹ (P. T. Wingfield, personal communication). Under the experimental conditions used, the concentration of

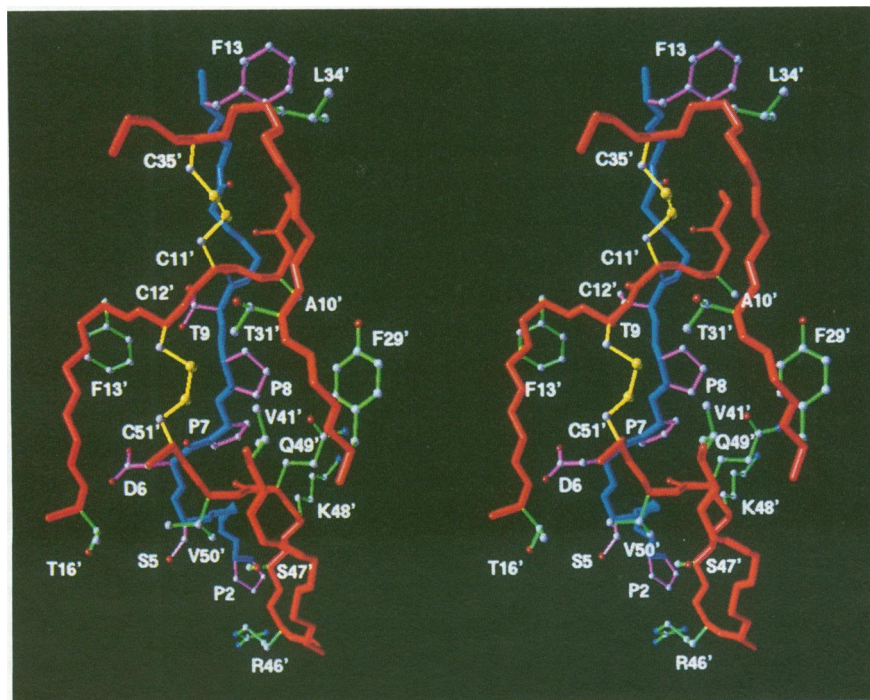


Fig. 4. Stereo view of the dimer interface of hMIP-1 β . The backbone and side chains of one subunit are shown in blue and purple, respectively, whereas those of the second subunit are shown in red and green, respectively; the disulfide bridges of the second subunit are shown in yellow. The model was generated with the program VISP (22).

High-resolution solution structure of the beta chemokine hMIP-1 beta by multidimensional NMR

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