

Investigating the Potential for Interaction between the Components of PM₁₀

Vicki STONE, Martin R. WILSON, Janet LIGHTBODY and Kenneth DONALDSON

Biomedicine Research Group, School of Life Sciences, Napier University, 10 Colinton Road, Merchiston, U.K.

Abstract

The adverse health effects of elevated exposures to PM₁₀ (particulate matter collected through a size selective inlet with an efficiency of 50% for particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 µm) in relation to morbidity and mortality, especially in susceptible individuals, are now well recognised. PM₁₀ consists of a variable cocktail of components differing in chemical composition and size. Epidemiological and toxicological data suggest that transition metals and ultrafine particles are both able to drive the cellular and molecular changes that underlie PM₁₀-induced inflammation and so worsen disease status. Toxicological evidence also suggest roles for the biological components of PM₁₀ including volatile organic compounds (VOC's), allergens and bacterial-derived endotoxin. Many of these components, in particular transition metals, ultrafine particles, endotoxin and VOC's induce a cellular oxidative stress which initiates an intracellular signaling cascade involving the activation of phosphatase and kinase enzymes as well as transcription factors such as nuclear factor kappa B. Activation of these signaling mechanisms results in an increase in the expression of pro-inflammatory mediators, and hence enhanced inflammation. Given that many of the components of PM₁₀ stimulate similar or even identical intracellular signaling pathways, it is conceivable that this will result in synergistic or additive interactions so that the biological response induced by PM₁₀ exposure is a response to the composition rather than the mass alone. A small number of studies suggest that synergistic interactions occur between ultrafine particles and transition metals, between particles and allergens, and between particles and VOC's. Elucidation of the consequences of interaction between the components of PM₁₀ in relation to their biological activity implies huge consequences for the methods used to monitor and to legislate pollution exposure in the future, and may drive a move from mass based measurements to composition.

Key words: PM₁₀, ultrafine, metal, synergism, endotoxin

Introduction

Many toxicology studies have investigated the biological effects of either whole PM₁₀ (particulate matter collected through a size selective inlet with an efficiency of 50% for particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 µm), or of individual PM₁₀ components. To date, few studies have attempted to look for interactions between the components of PM₁₀. This review aims to highlight the components of PM₁₀ suspected of being responsible for its health effects and then to suggest interactions between these components which might help to explain the adverse health effects associated with PM₁₀ exposure in susceptible individuals.

Adverse health effect of increased PM₁₀

Despite the evolution of sophisticated physiological mecha-

nisms to minimise the impact of inhaled particles by promoting their removal, a large number of epidemiological studies suggest that elevated levels of atmospheric PM₁₀ results in increased adverse health effects in susceptible individuals. For example, PM₁₀ pollution episodes have consistently been associated with increased mortality, resulting from cardiovascular and respiratory causes (Dockery and Pope 1994, Schwartz 1994). The increase in cardiovascular deaths has been suggested to result from an increase in the risk of blood clotting (Seaton et al. 1995). This hypothesis is supported by data obtained from the MONICA study in which there was a clear association between an air pollution episode in Ausburg in 1985 and an increase in plasma viscosity (Peters et al. 1997). This change was recently shown to be a result of an acute phase response (APR), as reanalysis of the same plasma samples revealed elevated C reactive protein (CRP) levels (Peters et al. 2001). The demonstration of an APR in individuals exposed to PM₁₀ is important as there is a direct relation between the plasma levels of acute phase reactants such as fibrinogen and CRP, and sudden deaths for cardiovascular causes (Dhainaut et al. 2001, Yeun et al. 2000).

Epidemiological reports of the effects of PM₁₀ on morbidity show that a number of endpoints are increased such as exacerbation of asthma (von Mutius 1998) and COPD (Brauer et al. 2001)

Received Apr. 30 2002/Accepted Aug. 20 2002

Reprint requests to: Vicki STONE

Biomedicine Research Group, School of Life Sciences, Napier University, 10 Colinton Road, Merchiston, Edinburgh EH10 5DT, U.K.

TEL: (0) 131 455 2671, FAX: (0)131 455 2291

E-mail: v.stone@napier.ac.uk

Table 1 Classification of the components of PM₁₀

Classification	Description	
Particle Size	Coarse	2.5–10 µm diameter
	Fine	less than 2.5 µm diameter
	Ultrafine	less than 100 nm diameter
Primary and Secondary	Primary	remain in the form in which they were generated, e.g. diesel soot
	Secondary	arise as a result of atmospheric chemical reactions between pollutants e.g. ammonium sulfate
Organic and inorganic	Organic	derived from living sources e.g. spores and pollen
Indoor and outdoor	Indoor particles	dominated by indoor sources such as cigarette smoke and cooking fumes

as well as increased hospital admissions (Dockery and Pope 1994).

The components of PM₁₀

PM₁₀ samples contain a wide range of particles, derived from a variety of sources and as a consequence can be classified in a number of ways (Table 1).

Particle size and ultrafine particles

Ferin et al. (1992) demonstrated that ultrafine particles made of low-toxicity materials such as titanium dioxide, were more inflammogenic in the rat lung after exposure by either instillation or inhalation, than larger, respirable particles of the same material. As a consequence of such observations Seaton et al. (1995) hypothesized that the ultrafine component of PM₁₀ might be responsible for inducing pulmonary inflammation leading to the observed adverse health effects reported by the epidemiologists.

Subsequent toxicological studies have confirmed that ultrafine particles of different chemical compositions such as carbon black (Brown et al. 2000) and polystyrene beads (Brown et al. 2001) are in fact more inflammogenic than fine particles of the same chemical composition. Furthermore, these studies suggest that the ultrafine particles act by generating reactive oxygen species, leading to the induction of oxidative stress (Stone et al. 1998, Brown et al. 2001). This oxidative stress then appears to stimulate the activation of intracellular signaling pathways, for example those including calcium (Stone et al. 2000), resulting in the increased expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines (Brown et al. in press).

Epidemiological studies also support a role for ultrafine particles in the mechanism by which elevated PM₁₀ exposure results in adverse health effects. Peters et al. (1997) counted the number of ultrafine particles in the air in Erfurt, Eastern Germany and found that 73% of the particles were in the ultrafine size range, but that 82% of the mass was attributable to larger particles in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 µm diameter. In adults with a history of asthma, both size fractions were associated with a decrease in peak expiratory flow (PEF), but the effect of the number of ultrafine particles was much stronger (Peters et al. 1997).

Particle size and surface area

More recently, Duffin et al. (2002) measured the ability of several different types of low-toxicity particle to cause a short-term inflammatory response following instillation into the rat lung. Although quite different masses of particle were instilled, there was no relation between the mass of particle instilled and neutrophil recruitment to the lung. Nevertheless, there was a straight-line

relation between the surface area dose of particles instilled and the inflammatory response. In contrast, particles with relatively toxic surfaces such as quartz or nickel, did not lie on the straight line linking surface area to number of neutrophils in bronchoalveolar lavage. Instead, these particles induced a greater inflammation than the low toxicity dusts at equivalent surface area doses. This suggests that the inflammogenic potential of these toxic particles was a function of both their surface area and their greater surface reactivity. These findings might imply that the toxicity of PM₁₀ could be related to the size distribution of the particles and hence their surface area, as well as the reactivity of the component particles. As yet there is no evidence available to allow toxicologists to untangle the relative role of surface area and surface reactivity in the toxicity of PM₁₀ samples because PM₁₀ is such a complex mixture containing soluble particles whose contribution to any surface area effect would be short-lived if present at all.

PM₁₀ composition and biological reactivity

Preliminary studies carried out in our own laboratory by Lightbody et al. (in press) have compared the inflammogenic potential of PM₁₀ samples collected onto Teflon filters using a gravimetric sampler over 24 hours at six locations of the United Kingdom (U.K.) Automatic monitoring network (<http://www.airquality.co.uk>). These six sites differ in the predominant source of particulate pollution as described in Table 2. The sites have been characterised by the U.K. Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) using a combination of modelling and screening studies. The mass of PM₁₀ collected during 24 hours at each site, was instilled into rats and a bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) carried out 18 hours later. The PM₁₀ samples studied from each site were collected on the same dates. Again the number of neutrophils in the BAL fluid was used as an indicator of inflammation. The relation between the mass of PM₁₀ collected over 24 hours and the percentage of neutrophils in BAL fluid was weak (Fig. 1). These findings suggest that variation in composition may explain variations in inflammogenicity of the PM₁₀ samples. For example, the inflammation induced by PM₁₀ collected at a roadside collection site (Marylebone Road) was frequently high regardless of the 24-hour PM₁₀ mass collected. In contrast, the inflammation induced by PM₁₀ collected at an industrial location (Port Talbot) was consistently low. Further analysis of the composition of these PM₁₀ samples may shed light on which factors make PM₁₀ samples of comparable mass dose different in their inflammogenic potential.

A small number of epidemiological studies have also investigated the impact of particulate pollution sources on the health effects of PM₁₀. For example, van Vleit et al. (1997) demonstrated

Table 2 U.K. automatic monitoring network sites used to collect PM₁₀ for analysis of biological toxicity. Values in column 3 represent the number of days on which the mean PM₁₀ concentration exceeded 50 µg/m³ in the year 2000. The values in column 4 indicate the mean concentration of PM₁₀ over the entire year 2000 at each sampling site.

PM ₁₀ collection site	Site characteristics	Number of 24h mean PM ₁₀ >50 µg/m ³ (2000)	Annual mean PM ₁₀ µg/m ³ (2000)
Belfast	Urban center with considerable fossil fuel combustion sources	8	25
Birmingham	Urban center	4	21
Harwell	Rural	Not available	Not available
Marylebone Road	Roadside London city center street canyon with >80,000 vehicles/day	48	159
North Kensington	Urban background	11	26
Port Talbot	Urban background with considerable industrial sources	61	33

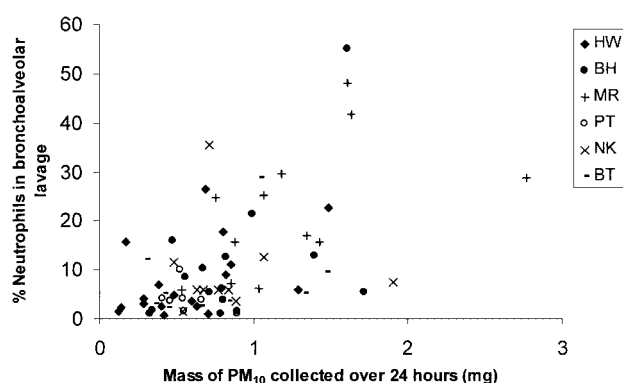


Fig. 1 Percentage neutrophils in the bronchoalveolar lavage cell population expressed as a function of PM₁₀ gravimetric mass collected onto each filter. Bronchoalveolar lavage was collected from rats 18 hours after instillation of PM₁₀ recovered from a 24-hour filter sample. HW Harwell; BH Birmingham; MR Marylebone Road; PT Port Talbot; NK North Kensington; BT Belfast.

that children attending school less than 1,000 m from major free-ways in South Holland reported a higher incidence of cough, wheeze, runny nose and doctor-diagnosed asthma. In a separate study based in England and Wales, Aylin et al. (2001) could not find any significant evidence to link adverse health effects with living in the near vicinity of an operational coke works.

Probably, one of the most widely reported of the epidemiology studies investigating the importance of PM₁₀ source, relates to Utah Valley where PM₁₀ is dominated by particles derived from the local steel industry. Pope et al. (1992) reported that during closure of the steel mill due to industrial action, there was a drop in the ambient level of PM₁₀ and its metal content and also a decrease in the severity of a number of health indicators in the local population. On reopening of the steel mill, the PM₁₀ levels increased again, as did their metal content and the associated health effects. Subsequent analysis of the PM₁₀ samples before, during and after closure revealed that the closure was indeed associated with a decrease in the transition metal content of the PM₁₀.

Transition metals and PM₁₀

The results of the Utah Valley study lead to the proposal that the metal content of PM₁₀ was primarily responsible for its adverse health effects. This hypothesis was supported by toxicological studies using PM₁₀ collected before, during and after the steel mill was closed. In early studies aqueous extracts of PM₁₀

filters showed that the ability to produce free radicals was greater when the steel mill was open (Frampton et al. 1999). When PM₁₀ was added to human epithelial cell lines, samples collected during the open periods of the steel mill stimulated greater production of the pro-inflammatory cytokines interleukin-6 (IL-6) and interleukin-8 (IL-8) and this was related to the metal content of the sample. When the PM₁₀ samples were instilled into the lungs of human volunteers (Ghio et al. 2001), those collected when the steel mill was open possessed a greater ability to produce inflammation compared with samples collected when the steel mill was closed.

The toxic effects of metals on the lung have previously been reported in relation to metal fume and metallic dust exposure as a consequence of industrial activities such as welding. Such exposures lead to a range of diseases including acute pneumonitis, pulmonary oedema, COPD, and a fever-like response comparable with the symptoms of influenza (Nemery, 1990).

Metals may induce inflammation in the lung via oxidative stress, however, this depends upon the chemical form of the metal. Metal salts such as sulfates are readily soluble (Ghio et al. 1999), allowing the metal ions to undergo Haber-Weiss and Fenton reactions leading to the generation of highly toxic hydroxyl radicals (Stohs and Bagchi 1995). In contrast, metals *per se* are insoluble, and unless the surface of the metal particle is highly reactive, e.g. ultrafine nickel (Duffin et al. in press) then such particles may exhibit a relatively low toxicity. The lack of neutrophil influx induced by PM₁₀ collected from Port Talbot (Fig. 1) may support this suggestion, since Jones et al. (2001) reported that spherical metallic particles occur in these samples.

A large number of studies into the role of transition metal salts in the biological effects of PM₁₀ have been conducted using the surrogate particle residual oil fly ash (ROFA), a by-product of oil combustion. Instillation of ROFA into rats produces an inflammation as indicated by an influx of neutrophils into the lung (Pritchard et al. 1996). This inflammation correlated with the metal content and the ability of the ROFA sample to generate free radicals *in vitro*. ROFA—induced inflammation appears to be mediated via the activation of epithelial cells rather than macrophages (Becker et al. 1996). For example, human epithelial cell lines exposed to ROFA generate increased quantities of the pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6 and IL-8 (Carter et al. 1997) as well as stimulating the activation of the oxidative stress responsive transcription factor nuclear factor kappa B (NFκB) (Quay et al. 1998). All of these responses were inhibited by the metal chelator deferoxamine, further supporting the role of metals in the induction of inflammation by ROFA. The cytotoxic and pro-inflammatory

effects of ROFA in epithelial cells can also be ameliorated with the antioxidants tetramethylthiourea and N-acetylcysteine (Dye et al. 1997).

In addition to altering the production of cytokines by epithelial cells, ROFA also enhances MUC2 mRNA expression after 4-hours of exposure, and mucin secretion after 8 hours in guinea-pig tracheal epithelial cells (Jiang et al. 2000). In this study, only vanadium, of all of the soluble transition metals in ROFA including nickel and iron, provoked mucin secretion when added as a pure metal salt. A novel pathway for the pro-inflammatory effects of transition metals was suggested by Samet et al. (1997), who demonstrated that ROFA exposure of pulmonary epithelial cells induces vanadium ion-mediated inhibition of tyrosine phosphatase activity, leading to accumulation of protein phosphotyrosines. This disruption of protein tyrosine phosphate homeostasis could lead to increased synthesis of proinflammatory proteins by airway epithelial cells.

The main disadvantage with using ROFA as a surrogate for PM₁₀ is that in terms of composition it is metal dominated and hence the biological effects are therefore likely to be metal mediated. In addition, ROFA is more than 90% soluble (Gavett et al. 1999), which means that its durability in the lung will be considerably different to the majority of particles found in most PM₁₀ samples.

Convincing evidence supporting a role for transition metals in the toxicological effects of PM₁₀ comes from experiments which have utilized metal chelators and antioxidants to block the effects of metals, as well as from studies where transition metal solutions mimicking the levels found in samples of particles have replicated the levels of inflammation produced by the particles themselves. For example, the metal chelator, deferoxamine, has been used to block free radical production by Edinburgh PM₁₀ (Donaldson et al. 1997), and to prevent PM₁₀ (Jimenez et al. 2000) and ROFA (Quay et al. 1988) induced NFκB activation and cytokine expression in epithelial cells. In the case of ROFA, vanadium appears to be a key metal in the induction of pro-inflammatory effects on epithelial cells *in vitro* (Carter et al. 1997). However, the importance of vanadium in ambient PM₁₀ is yet to be demonstrated.

Particulates can also cause oxidative stress and pro-inflammatory effects, such as TNFα production by macrophages, and these effects are inhibited by transition metal chelators and antioxidants (Goldsmith et al. 1998). In studies by Monn et al. (1999), metal chelators were also reported to protect macrophages from the cytotoxic effects of particles.

Interactions between particles and metals

From the preceding review, it is evident that both ultrafine particles and transition metals could be important mediators of the adverse health effects of PM₁₀ and that they both act via their ability to cause oxidative stress. Therefore it is possible that there are synergistic interactions between transition metals and ultrafine particles (and possibly other components of PM₁₀) leading to inflammation. This would have widespread consequences for understanding the different pathways by which PM₁₀ has its adverse effects, as well as for the measurement metric of PM₁₀.

In a study by Wilson et al. (2002) we aimed to investigate potential interactions between transition metal salts and either fine or ultrafine carbon black (CB and ufCB, respectively). In the rat lung, ufCB induced a significant neutrophil influx and this

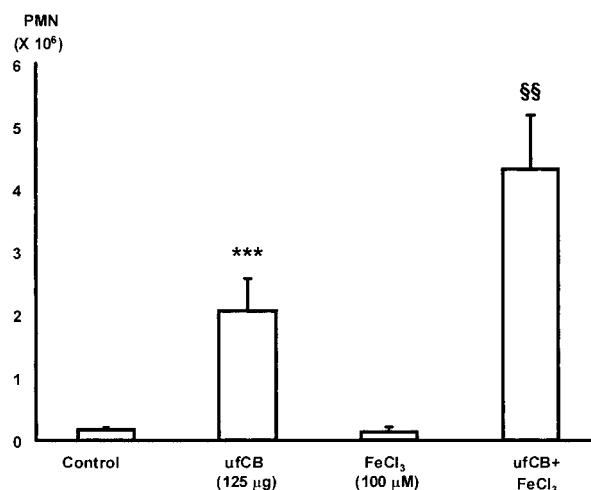


Fig. 2 The number of neutrophils collected per animal by bronchoalveolar lavage, 18 hours after an intratracheal instillation of either 125 µg of ultrafine carbon black (ufCB) and/or 0.5 ml of 100 µM ferric chloride (FeCl₃). Results represent the mean neutrophil number from three rats. *** p<0.01 comparing the number of neutrophils in the bronchoalveolar lavage fluid of control animals (saline only) versus those animals exposed to ufCB. §§ p<0.05 for synergistic interaction comparing those animals exposed to ufCB only with those exposed to ufCB and FeCl₃.

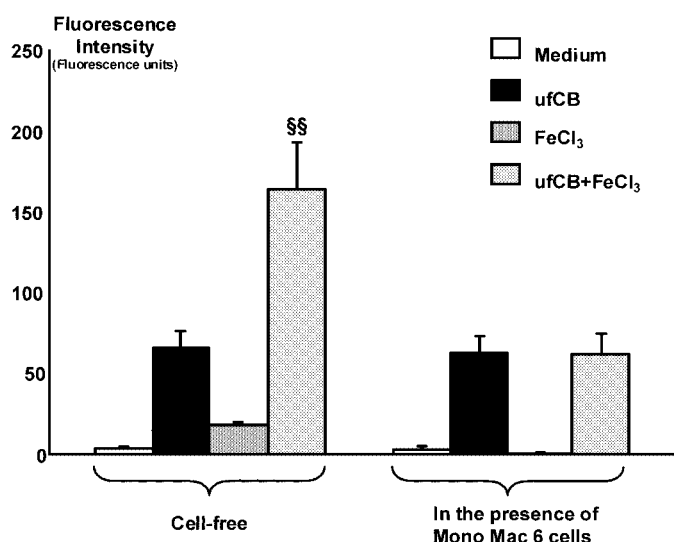


Fig. 3 The effect of adding ferric chloride (final concentration 100 µM) to ultrafine carbon black (ufCB) (final concentration 15 µg/ml) on the oxidation of 2,3-dichlorofluorescein (DCFH) to the fluorescent 2,3-dichlorofluorescein (DCF) in both a cell-free system and in the presence of Mono Mac 6 cells (4×10⁵ cells/ml). Results are expressed as a mean increase in fluorescence over 500 seconds minus corresponding control traces (+SEM) from three experiments. §§ p<0.05 for synergistic interaction when comparing the fluorescence intensity induced by ufCB alone with that induced by ufCB with the addition of the metal salts in a cell-free system.

inflammatory effect was synergistically enhanced by co-instillation of FeCl₃ (100 µM) (Fig. 2). Due to the suggestion that both ultrafine particles and transition metals induce their proinflammatory effects in the lung through the induction of oxidative stress, the ability of these treatments to generate reactive oxygen species (ROS) was assessed using the fluorescent probe dichlorofluorescein (DCFH). In both the absence and presence of macrophage cells, the ufCB particles were found to possess a greater ability to generate ROS than the same mass dose of CB particles. Addition of

either cupric sulfate (CuSO₄), ferrous sulfate (FeSO₄) or ferric chloride (FeCl₃), synergistically enhanced ROS generation by ufCB, but not CB (Wilson et al. 2002). However, this was only true in the cell-free system (Fig. 3). In the presence of a human monocytic cell line (Mono Mac 6), the ability of both ufCB and CB to generate ROS was not enhanced by the inclusion of soluble iron salts. In addition, ufCB, but not CB was observed to induce a dose-dependent increase in TNF α production by the J774 mouse macrophage cell line. Again this effect of ufCB on macrophages was not further enhanced by the addition of iron salts. The inability of metals to enhance ROS and TNF α generation in the presence of macrophages may be explained by the ability of these cells to chelate iron, a function which is vital in their capacity to degrade aged red blood cells (Emerit et al. 2001).

Endotoxin

Endotoxin instillation into human lungs results in a focal inflammatory response characterised by an early influx of neutrophils with elevated cytokines such as TNF α and IL-6, followed by increased macrophages and monocytes as well as neutrophils. This later phase is accompanied by a fall to basal levels of most mediators (O'Grady et al. 2001).

Endotoxin has been identified as the biologically active component of many dusts such as cotton dust (Keman et al. 1998), grain dust and wool dust (Brown et al. 1996), causing symptoms of bronchitis in many occupational settings.

A number of studies have suggested that the health effects of PM₁₀ may be attributed to the bacterial endotoxin content. Soukup and Becker (2001) treated human alveolar macrophages with the soluble and insoluble components of Chapel Hill PM₁₀. The insoluble components of PM₁₀ were found to be greater than 50-times more potent than the soluble PM₁₀ components at inducing the expression of IL-6 and TNF α . Addition of polymixin B resulted in a small but significant decrease in the effect of the insoluble components of PM₁₀ on IL-6 expression. These findings suggest that endotoxin may play a role in the activation of macrophages by Chapel Hill PM₁₀, but that it is not a major factor. In a previous study, Monn and Becker (1999) reported that lipopolysaccharide binding protein completely inhibited cytokine production by PM_{10-2.5}. Further investigations are required to test the disparity between these findings.

Interactions between particles and endotoxin

Few studies have investigated an interaction between the endotoxin and particulate components of PM₁₀. One study was conducted which investigated the effects of carbon black particles in the lungs of aged rats which had been pretreated with endotoxin. The results, however, were not readily interpretable and no firm conclusions can as yet be drawn from this study (Elder et al. 2000).

Organic components of PM₁₀

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are present to a variable extent in PM₁₀ samples and have been reported to be capable of contributing to oxidative stress (Li et al. 2000, Bonyallot et al. 2001). Even though VOC's are commonly found in PM₁₀ (Harrison and Yin 2000) the regulation of pro-inflammatory genes by poly-

cyclic organic hydrocarbons and other organic substances found in PM₁₀ has received little attention. However, in one study, cultured RAW 264.7 macrophages exposed to benzo[a]pyrene adsorbed onto carbon black particles exhibited a time-dependent expression and release of TNF α (Chin et al. 1998); importantly neither untreated carbon black nor benzo[a]pyrene alone induced the release of this cytokine protein. This clearly demonstrates an interaction between particles and benzo[a]pyrene that deserves further research.

Interactions between particles and allergens

Due to the widespread problem of asthma and allergens, such as house dust mite antigens in indoor air and pollen in outdoor air, there is potential for interactions between allergens and particles (Donaldson et al. 2000). Indoor air is not well characterised for particles, largely because of the individual variability of indoor environments and the dominant effect of certain sources such as cooking or smoking, and therefore this will be a difficult problem to address. Nevertheless, there have been attempts to demonstrate the 'adjuvant-like' effects of particles. Several studies have indicated that exposure of rats to diesel exhaust particulates results in enhanced eosinophil recruitment, to experimental allergens such as ovalbumin (Takano et al. 1998). Similar experiments have also been conducted using intranasal exposures of mice to carbon black particles (van Zijverden et al. 2001) and ovalbumin. Again, the particles when added in combination with or prior to ovalbumin treatment, enhanced the immune response to ovalbumin. Hence there is limited evidence to suggest that an interaction between particles and allergens warrants further investigation.

Molecular basis of interactions

Interactions between the components described above could occur at several points in the pro-inflammatory cascade. The regulation of cytokines and thereby inflammatory response involves the reduction-oxidation (redox)-sensitive NF- κ B (Sen and Packer 1996, Blackwell and Christman 1997). The activation of NF- κ B is mediated through kinase cascades that regulate the phosphorylation and subsequent degradation of inhibitory-kappa B ($\text{I}\kappa\text{B}\alpha$), the major cytosolic inhibitor of NF- κ B. The activation of NF- κ B is tightly regulated by redox equilibrium and is recognized to be a key decision point in the initiation of inflammation by particles (Schins and Donaldson 2001). Glutathione (GSH) is the major thiol antioxidant of small molecular weight involved in redox balance and activation of NF- κ B (Pineda Molina et al. 2001). The likely effect of the various components of PM₁₀ in leading to oxidative stress and NF- κ B activation are considered in Fig. 4. Ultrafine particles (Stone et al. 1998) and transition metals (Emerit et al. 2001) cause oxidative stress, which is capable of activating NF- κ B in addition to a number of kinases which are oxidative stress-responsive (Sen and Packer 1996). Ultrafine particles have been reported to induce increases in intracellular Ca²⁺ which is also an important signaling event that could synergise with other signaling pathways (Stone et al. 2000). In addition, endotoxin causes oxidative stress and kinase activation (Victor et al. 2002). We also recently reported that PM₁₀ might act on more than one target cell to amplify the inflammatory response (Jimenez et al. 2002). In this study, we demonstrated that macrophages treated with PM₁₀ released IL-1 and TNF α . The medium collected from these macrophages was used to treat epithelial cells resulting in

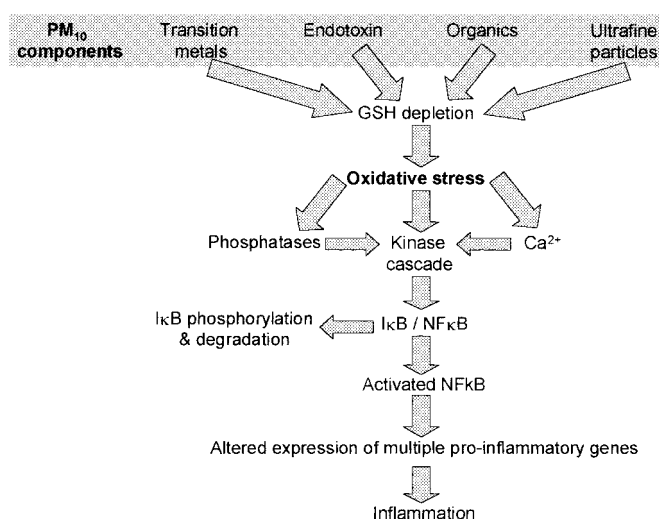


Fig. 4 Schematic diagram of the components of PM₁₀ and their biological targets. Interactions may occur at the level of oxidative stress, at the molecular signaling level, and/or between inflammatory mediators.

activation of both NF-κB and IL-8 due to the stimulatory activities of IL-1 and TNFα. Hence the potential for multiple interactions

between the components of PM₁₀, different lung cells and pro-inflammatory mediators is complex. It is possible that endotoxin might, for example, activate secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines by macrophages which then stimulate epithelial cells, while transition metals might act primarily on epithelial cells, which when activated by the macrophage cytokines, release increased amounts of chemokine (Wilson et al. 2002). The limited evidence available so far suggests that these interactions result in a synergistic response, which requires further investigation. The potential for antagonistic or simple additive interactions between the components of PM₁₀ may also be viable.

Summary/conclusion

In conclusion, the biological effects of PM₁₀ can be attributed to a number of candidate components. Common mechanisms and pathways have been identified that raise the distinct possibility that interactions between these components could occur in biological systems. However the relative importance of these interactions, which could drive the molecular events leading to heightened inflammation, remain to be elucidated. A better understanding of these factors may in future be used to regulate the emission of components of PM₁₀ rather than the overall mass.

References

- (1) Aylin P, Bottle A, Wakefield J, Jarup L, Elliott P. Proximity to coke works and hospital admissions for respiratory and cardiovascular disease in England and Wales. *Thorax* 2001; 56: 228–233.
- (2) Becker S, Soukup JM, Gilmour MI, Devlin RB. Stimulation of human and rat alveolar macrophages by urban air particulates: effects on oxidant radical generation and cytokine production. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 1996; 141: 637–648.
- (3) Blackwell TS, Christman JW. The role of nuclear factor-kappa B in cytokine gene regulation. *Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol.* 1997; 17: 3–9.
- (4) Bonvallot V, Baeza-Squiban A, Baulig A, Brulant S, Boland S, Muzeau F, Barouki R, Marano F. Organic compounds from diesel exhaust particles elicit a proinflammatory response in human airway epithelial cells and induce cytochrome p450 1A1 expression. *Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol.* 2001; 25: 515–521.
- (5) Brauer M, Ebelst ST, Fisher TV, Brumm J, Petkau AJ, Vedal S. Exposure of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients to particles: respiratory and cardiovascular health effects. *J. Expo. Anal. Environ. Epidemiol.* 2001; 11: 490–500.
- (6) Brown DM, Donaldson K. Wool and grain dusts stimulate TNF secretion by alveolar macrophages in vitro. *Occup. Environ. Med.* 1996; 53: 387–393.
- (7) Brown DM, Donaldson K, Stone V. Role of calcium in the induction of TNFα expression by macrophages on exposure to ultrafine particles. *Ann. Occup. Hyg.* 2002; In press.
- (8) Brown DM, Stone V, Findlay P, MacNee W, Donaldson K. Increased inflammation and intracellular calcium caused by ultrafine carbon black is independent of transition metals or other soluble components. *Occup. Environ. Med.* 2000; 57: 685–691.
- (9) Brown DM, Wilson MR, MacNee W, Stone V, Donaldson K. Size-dependent proinflammatory effects of ultrafine polystyrene particles: a role for surface area and oxidative stress in the enhanced activity of ultrafines. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 2001; 175: 191–199.
- (10) Carter JD, Ghio AJ, Samet JM, Devlin RB. Cytokine production by human airway epithelial cells after exposure to an air pollution particle is metal-dependent. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 1997; 146: 180–188.
- (11) Chin BY, Choi ME, Burdick MD, Strieter RM, Risby TH, Choi AM. Induction of apoptosis by particulate matter: role of TNFα and MAPK. *Am. J. Physiol.* 1998; 275: L942–L949.
- (12) Dhainaut JF, Marin N, Mignon A, Vinsonneau C. Hepatic response to sepsis: interaction between coagulation and inflammatory processes. *Crit. Care Med.* 2001; 29: S42–S47.
- (13) Dockery DW, Pope CA, III. Acute respiratory effects of particulate air pollution. *Annu. Rev. Public Health* 1994; 15: 107–132.
- (14) Donaldson K, Brown DM, Mitchell C, Dineva M, Beswick PH, Gilmour P, MacNee W. Free radical activity of PM10: iron-mediated generation of hydroxyl radicals. *Environ. Health Perspect.* 1997; 105 Suppl 5: 1285–1289.
- (15) Donaldson K, Gilmour MI, MacNee W. Asthma and PM10. *Respir. Res.* 2000; 1: 12–15.
- (16) Duffin R, Clouter A, Brown DM, Tran CL, MacNee W, Stone V, Donaldson K. The importance of surface area and specific reactivity in the acute pulmonary inflammatory response to particles. *Ann. Occup. Hyg.* 2002; 46: 242–245.
- (17) Dye JA, Adler KB, Richards JH, Dreher KL. Epithelial injury induced by exposure to residual oil fly-ash particles: role of reactive oxygen species? *Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol.* 1997; 17: 625–633.
- (18) Elder AC, Finkelstein J, Johnston C, Gelein R, Oberdorster G. Induction of adaptation to inhaled lipopolysaccharide in young and old rats and mice. *Inhal. Toxicol.* 2000; 12: 225–243.
- (19) Emerit J, Beaumont C, Trivin F. Iron metabolism, free radicals, and oxidative injury. *Biomed. Pharmacother.* 2001; 55: 333–339.
- (20) Ferin J, Oberdorster G, Penney DP. Pulmonary retention of ultrafine and fine particles in rats. *Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol.*

- 1992; 6: 535–542.
- (21) Frampton MW, Ghio AJ, Samet JM, Carson JL, Carter JD, Devlin RB. Effects of aqueous extracts of PM(10) filters from the Utah valley on human airway epithelial cells. *Am. J. Physiol.* 1999; 277: L960–L967.
 - (22) Gavett SH, Madison SL, Stevens MA, Costa DL. Residual oil fly ash amplifies allergic cytokines, airway responsiveness, and inflammation in mice. *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 1999; 160: 1897–1904.
 - (23) Ghio AJ, Devlin RB. Inflammatory lung injury after bronchial instillation of air pollution particles. *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 2001; 164: 704–708.
 - (24) Ghio AJ, Stoneheurner J, McGee JK, Kinsey JS. Sulfate content correlates with iron concentrations in ambient air pollution particles. *Inhal. Toxicol.* 1999; 11: 293–307.
 - (25) Ghio AJ, Stonehuerner J, Dailey LA, Carter JD. Metals associated with both the water-soluble and insoluble fractions of an ambient air pollution particle catalyze an oxidative stress. *Inhal. Toxicol.* 1999; 11: 37–49.
 - (26) Goldsmith CA, Imrich A, Danaee H, Ning YY, Kobzik L. Analysis of air pollution particulate-mediated oxidant stress in alveolar macrophages. *J. Toxicol. Environ. Health A.* 1998; 54: 529–545.
 - (27) Harrison RM, Yin J. Particulate matter in the atmosphere: which particle properties are important for its effects on health? *Sci. Total Environ.* 2000; 249: 85–101.
 - (28) Jiang N, Dreher KL, Dye JA, Li Y, Richards JH, Martin LD, Adler KB. Residual oil fly ash induces cytotoxicity and mucin secretion by guinea pig tracheal epithelial cells via an oxidant-mediated mechanism. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 2000; 163: 221–230.
 - (29) Jimenez LA, Thompson J, Brown DA, Rahman I, Antonicelli F, Duffin R, Drost EM, Hay RT, Donaldson K, MacNee W. Activation of NF-kappaB by PM(10) occurs via an iron-mediated mechanism in the absence of IkappaB degradation. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 2000; 166: 101–110.
 - (30) Jones TP, Williamson BJ, BeruBe KA, Richards RJ. Microscopy and chemistry of particles collected on TEOM filters: Swansea, south Wales, 1998-1999. *Atmos Environ.* 2001; 35: 3573–3583.
 - (31) Keman S, Jetten M, Douwes J, Borm PJ. Longitudinal changes in inflammatory markers in nasal lavage of cotton workers. Relation to endotoxin exposure and lung function changes. *Int. Arch. Occup. Environ. Health* 1998; 71: 131–137.
 - (32) Li N, Venkatesan MI, Miguel A, Kaplan R, Gujuluva C, Alam J, Nel A. Induction of heme oxygenase-1 expression in macrophages by diesel exhaust particle chemicals and quinones via the antioxidant-responsive element. *J. Immunol.* 2000; 165: 3393–3401.
 - (33) Lightbody JH, Donaldson K, Stone V. Inflammatory effects of PM10 collected from different environments. *Ann. Occup. Hyg.* 2002; In press.
 - (34) Monn C, Becker S. Cytotoxicity and induction of proinflammatory cytokines from human monocytes exposed to fine (PM2.5) and coarse particles (PM10-2.5) in outdoor and indoor air. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 1999; 155: 245–252.
 - (35) Nemery B. Metal toxicity and the respiratory tract. *Eur. Respir. J.* 1990; 3: 202–219.
 - (36) O'Grady NP, Preas HL, Pugin J, Fiuza C, Tropea M, Reda D, Banks SM, Suffredini AF. Local inflammatory responses following bronchial endotoxin instillation in humans. *Am. J. Respir. Crit. Care Med.* 2001; 163: 1591–1598.
 - (37) Peters A, Doring A, Wichmann HE, Koenig W. Increased plasma viscosity during an air pollution episode: a link to mortality? *Lancet* 1997; 349: 1582–1587.
 - (38) Peters A, Frohlich M, Doring A, Immervoll T, Wichmann HE, Hutchinson WL, Pepys MB, Koenig W. Particulate air pollution is associated with an acute phase response in men; results from the MONICA-Augsburg Study. *Eur. Heart J.* 2001; 22: 1198–1204.
 - (39) Pineda-Molina E, Klatt P, Vazquez J, Marina A, Garcia dL, Perez-Sala D, Lamas S. Glutathionylation of the p50 subunit of NF-kappaB: a mechanism for redox-induced inhibition of DNA binding. *Biochemistry* 2001; 40: 14134–14142.
 - (40) Pope CA, III, Schwartz J, Ransom MR. Daily mortality and PM10 pollution in Utah Valley. *Arch. Environ. Health* 1992; 47: 211–217.
 - (41) Quay JL, Reed W, Samet J, Devlin RB. Air pollution particles induce IL-6 gene expression in human airway epithelial cells via NF-kappaB activation. *Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol.* 1998; 19: 98–106.
 - (42) Samet JM, Stonehuerner J, Reed W, Devlin RB, Dailey LA, Kennedy TP, Bromberg PA, Ghio AJ. Disruption of protein tyrosine phosphate homeostasis in bronchial epithelial cells exposed to oil fly ash. *Am. J. Physiol.* 1997; 272: L426–L432.
 - (43) Schins RPF, Donaldson K. Nuclear factor kappa B activation by particles and fibres. *Inhal. Toxicol.* 2000; 12: 317–326.
 - (44) Schwartz J. Air pollution and daily mortality: a review and meta analysis. *Environ. Res.* 1994; 64: 36–52.
 - (45) Seaton A, MacNee W, Donaldson K, Godden D. Particulate air pollution and acute health effects. *Lancet* 1995; 345: 176–178.
 - (46) Sen CK, Packer L. Antioxidant and redox regulation of gene transcription. *FASEB J.* 1996; 10: 709–720.
 - (47) Soukup JM, Becker S. Human alveolar macrophage responses to air pollution particulates are associated with insoluble components of coarse material, including particulate endotoxin. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 2001; 171: 20–26.
 - (48) Stohs SJ, Bagchi D. Oxidative mechanisms in the toxicity of metal ions. *Free Radic. Biol. Med.* 1995; 18: 321–336.
 - (49) Stone V, Shaw J, Brown DM, MacNee W, Faux SP, Donaldson K. The role of oxidative stress in the prolonged inhibitory effect of ultrafine carbon black on epithelial cell function. *Toxicol. In Vitro* 1998; 12: 649–659.
 - (50) Stone V, Tuinman M, Vamvakopoulos JE, Shaw J, Brown D, Petterson S, Faux SP, Borm P, MacNee W, Michaelangeli F, Donaldson K. Increased calcium influx in a monocytic cell line on exposure to ultrafine carbon black. *Eur. Respir. J.* 2000; 15: 297–303.
 - (51) Takano H, Ichinose T, Miyabara Y, Shibuya T, Lim HB, Yoshikawa T, Sagai M. Inhalation of diesel exhaust enhances allergen-related eosinophil recruitment and airway hyperresponsiveness in mice. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 1998; 150: 328–337.
 - (52) van Vliet P, Knape M, de Hartog J, Janssen N, Harssema H, Brunekreef B. Motor vehicle exhaust and chronic respiratory symptoms in children living near freeways. *Environ. Res.* 1997; 74: 122–132.
 - (53) van Zijverden M, de Haar C, van Beelen A, van Loveren H, Peninks A, Pieters R. Coadministration of antigen and particles optimally stimulates the immune response in an intranasal administration model in mice. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 2001; 177: 174–178.
 - (54) Victor VM, Guayerbas N, De FM. Changes in the antioxidant content of mononuclear leukocytes from mice with endotoxin-induced oxidative stress. *Mol. Cell Biochem.* 2002; 229: 107–

- 111.
- (55) von Mutuis E. Determinants of childhood asthma and atopy in West and East Germany. *Eur. Respir. Rev.* 1998; 8: 145–147.
- (56) Wilson MR, Lightbody JH, Donaldson K, Sales J, Stone V. Interactions between ultrafine particles and transition metals in vivo and in vitro. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 2002.
- (57) Yeun JY, Levine RA, Mantadilok V, Kaysen GA. C-Reactive protein predicts all-cause and cardiovascular mortality in hemodialysis patients. *Am. J. Kidney Dis.* 2000; 35: 469–476.