

# PCV2 trigger apoptosis of PK-15 cells through the PLC-IP3R-Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling pathway

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## Abstract

Phospholipase C (PLC) is a key enzyme in the cell membrane. PLC hydrolyses phosphatidylinositol 4, 5-bisphosphate (PIP<sub>2</sub>) to generate inositol 1,4, 5-triphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) and diacylglycerol (DAG) that regulates a variety of cellular processes. Evidence indicates the pivotal role of PLC and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor (IP<sub>3</sub>R) in influencing Ca<sup>2+</sup> release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). At the same time, the imbalance of Ca<sup>2+</sup> will stimulate endoplasmic reticulum stress (ERS), leading to cell apoptosis. Viral infection could trigger host defense through apoptosis of the infected cells. However, it is not clear how porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) induces apoptosis by affecting Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis. We show here that PCV2 infection induces the increased cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> level and apoptosis. We also found that the ER swelling of PK-15 cells after viral infection by transmission electron microscopy. Furthermore, the activation of PLC-IP<sub>3</sub>R-Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling enhanced apoptosis in infected PK-15 cells. Taken together, our findings suggest that PCV2 infection trigger ERS of PK-15 cells via the PLC-IP<sub>3</sub>R-Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling pathway to promote the release of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, and led to cell apoptosis.

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