

synthesis through glucocorticoid receptor. Treatment of cells with RU486 reversed the inhibition of MMP-2 activity and cell invasiveness by dexamethasone. Similarly, knockdown of MKP-1 by small interfering RNA or expression of dominant negative MKP-1 reversed the inhibition of MMP-2 activity by dexamethasone. These data suggest that dexamethasone-inhibited MMP-2 activity and cell invasiveness via MKP-1. On the other hand, we found that iNOS was constitutively expressed in human malignant glioma cells. We found that NO- regulate MMP-2 expression in U87MG cells. Over-expression of wild type MKP-1 decreased iNOS expression but not in MKP-1 dominant negative. Taken together, our data revealed that dexamethasone might inhibit MMP-2 activity by suppressing iNOS induction through a MKP-1-dependent pathway. These results suggest that dexamethasone can be used as a potential therapeutic agent for treatment of metastasis of human gliomas.