

病理学部主催セミナー

(10月4日(火) 16:00-17:00 1F 共同セミナー室)

Neuroprotective function of progranulin and presenilins implicated in frontotemporal dementia and Alzheimer's disease, respectively

前頭側頭型認知症及びアルツハイマー病に関わる
プログラニューリン及びプレセニリンの神経保護的機能

Junichi Shioi, Ph.D. (塩井純一博士)

Department of Psychiatry, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA

(要旨)

プログラニューリンやプレセニリンは、各々前頭側頭型認知症及びアルツハイマー病の原因遺伝子であることが知られている。プログラニューリンは神経細胞において MEK/ERK/p90RSK や PI3K/Akt 経路をそれぞれ独立に活性化することにより、グルタミン酸による興奮毒性や酸化ストレス或いは MPP⁺の神経毒性から神経細胞を保護することを明らかにした。またプレセニリン1 がエフィリン B1 を介することによりグルタミン酸による興奮毒性に対する神経細胞の保護作用に重要な役割を持つことを示した。以上の知見は前頭側頭型認知症及びアルツハイマー病で見られるプログラニューリンやプレセニリン変異が上記経路を介した神経保護シグナルの低下をもたらすことにより、神経細胞死を亢進する可能性を示している。

Recent reports show that either null mutations in progranulin gene, or missense mutations leading to inactive progranulin, are linked to frontotemporal lobar degeneration. Here we show that extracellular progranulin stimulates phosphorylation/activation of the neuronal MEK/ERK/p90RSK and PI3K/Akt cell survival pathways and rescues cortical neurons from cell death induced by excitotoxic or oxidative stresses. Pharmacological inhibition of MEK/ERK/p90RSK signaling blocks the progranulin-dependent phosphorylation and neuroprotection against glutamate toxicity whilst inhibition of either MEK/ERK/p90RSK or PI3K/Akt blocks progranulin protection against neurotoxin MPP⁺. Inhibition of both pathways had synergistic effects on progranulin-dependent neuroprotection against MPP⁺ toxicity suggesting that both pathways contribute to the neuroprotective activities of progranulin. Our data support the hypothesis that in frontotemporal dementia, reduction of functional brain progranulin results in reduced survival signaling and decreased neuronal protection against chronic toxicities leading to accumulated/accelerated neuronal cell death in aging brains.

In familial Alzheimer's disease, near 200 mutations in presenilins 1 and 2 have been reported. Presenilins are catalytic subunits in a gamma-secretase complex which processes type 1 transmembrane proteins such as amyloid precursor protein, notch and cadherins. Interestingly, gamma-secretase-independent functions of presenilins are also reported. We hypothesized that presenilins may play a role in neuroprotective function against excitotoxic or oxidative insults. We found that ephrinB1 is neuroprotective against glutamate excitotoxicity in wild-type neuronal cultures, but not in PS1 defective neuronal cultures. It is an interesting possibility that decreased neuronal protection against chronic toxicities leading to accumulated/accelerated neuronal cell death in brains of many neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's and frontotemporal dementia.

(連絡先) 発達障害研究所 病理学部 河内 全 (内線 3528)