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Atlas of Neurosonology

眼動脈ドプラ血流検査による内頸動脈血管性病変の評価

1. はじめに

眼動脈は,内頸動脈が脳硬膜を通過した後ウイリス輪を形成する後交通動脈を分枝する直前に,内頸動脈から分岐し視神経管を通って眼窩内に入る.滑車上動脈,鼻背動脈を終枝とするまでに,網膜中心動脈や前篩骨動脈,涙腺動脈などを分枝し,外頸動脈系と豊富な吻合路をもつ.眼動脈血流は眼動脈自体の狭窄や閉塞で変化したり,内頸動脈閉塞症や狭窄症による眼動脈血流への直接の影響による変化,側副血行路としての役割,眼動脈から栄養される病変等により眼動脈血流は様々な態様を示す^{1,3-6}.眼動脈ドプラ血流検査ではこれら眼動脈血流の変化が評価可能である.

2. 眼動脈ドプラ血流検査

眼窩内で眼動脈を捕え、眼動脈血流方向と血流波形、収縮期最大流速、pulsatility index (PI)、resistance index (RI) を観察する. 眼動脈血流方向は、内頸動脈から眼球に向かう方向を順流、その逆を逆流とする. 正常の眼動脈血流波形は、立ち上がりが急峻で、peak の後のノッチを特徴とする. (Fig. 1)^{3,5)} 装置は既存のもので可能だが、出力はメーカーに問い合わせ眼窩用に設定する.

3. 診断

先ず,眼動脈血流方向を評価する.血流方向は,逆流と順流に大別され,それに to and fro pattern が加わる $^{3.5.6}$.

眼動脈血流方向が逆流の場合,内頸動脈の閉塞症や強度狭窄症で順行性の眼動脈血流が途絶し,頭蓋内血流への側副血行路としての眼動脈血流が必要な症例である.(Fig. 2A) この場合,頭蓋内からの後交通動脈や前交通動脈を介した側副血行路の発達が乏しく,血行力学的に脳循環障害の程度が比較的強い.PI 値は,眼動脈が頭蓋内への側副血行路として機能している場合低値であるので,アーチファクトの逆流所見との鑑別に有用である.眼動脈血流の逆流は,眼虚血症候群の発症の可能性が高いので注意を要する².眼動脈が内頸動脈の起始部で閉塞した場合でも逆流波形を呈する場合がある.

眼動脈血流が, to and fro pattern の場合 (Fig. 2B), 眼動脈の圧勾配が, 内頸動脈からと, 外頸動脈からとが拮抗している状態である. この場合, 内頸動脈の強度狭窄症の存在が示唆される⁶.

眼動脈血流が順流の場合,次に波形異常の有無に着目する.異常波形に,アーチ順流型,動脈硬化型, 高血流型が主に挙げられる^{3,6)}.アーチ順流型 (Fig. 2C) は,立ち上がりから peak までの時間 (acceleration time) が延長し, peak もなだらかなアーチ状の形状を示し,収縮期最大流速も低下している.アーチ順流

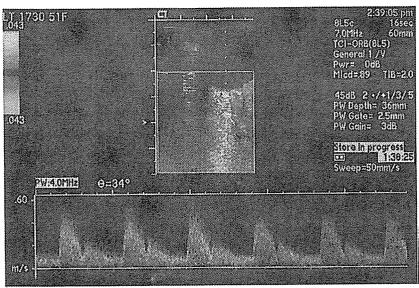


Fig. 1 止常眼動脈ドブラ血流検査所見

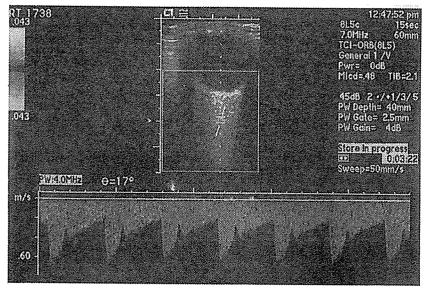


Fig. 2A 異常眼動脈ドプラ血流検査所見:逆流型波形

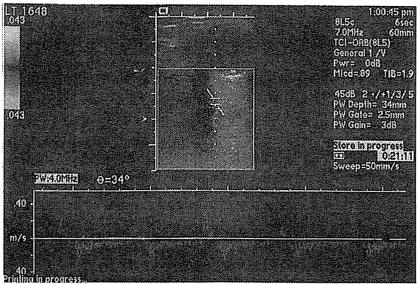


Fig. 2B 異常眼動脈ドプラ血流検査所見:to and fro 型波形

型は、内頸動脈閉塞症で頭蓋内側副 血行路が発達し眼動脈血流方向が順 行性の場合、内頸動脈の高度狭窄症 で眼動脈血流に変化が生じた場合, 眼動脈自体の狭窄の場合などに出現 する. 動脈硬化型 (Fig. 2D) は, 立 ち上がりから peak までの時間は問 題ないが、peak での先鋭な部分が途 切れた形で, 内頸動脈や眼動脈の動 脈硬化性の変化を反映すると考えら れる. 高血流型 (Fig. 2E) では, 波 形の立ち上がりが正常波形と同様急 峻で収縮期最大流速は比較的速く. 拡張期血流速度が速い. 従って. PI 値も低くなるのが特徴で内頸動脈に 近い血流波形を呈する. 高血流型 は、眼動脈からの分枝を栄養血管と する血管性病変が存在する場合(前 頭蓋窩硬膜動静脈瘻等4)やモヤモ ヤ病で前篩骨動脈からのモヤモヤ血 管が発達した場合に見られる.

4. 意義

眼動脈ドプラ血流検査所見により 内頸動脈血管性病変の血行動態と眼 循環の把握が可能である. 注意する べき所見として, 眼動脈血流の逆流 や to and fro 所見, 順流であっても アーチ順流型や高血流型の以上波形 の所見が挙げられ, これらは頭蓋 内, 眼窩内での血行動態の異常を強 く示唆する所見である¹⁻⁶.

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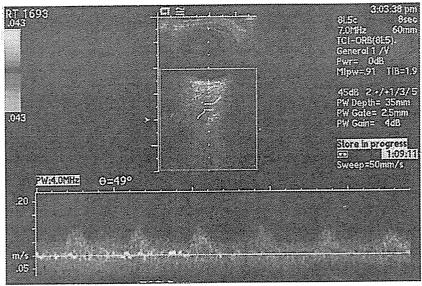


Fig. 2C 異常眼動脈ドブラ血流検査所見:アーチ順流型波形

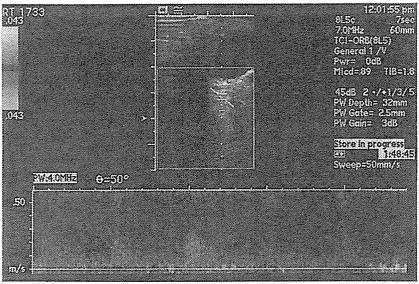


Fig. 2D 異常眼動脈ドプラ血流検査所見:動脈硬化型波形

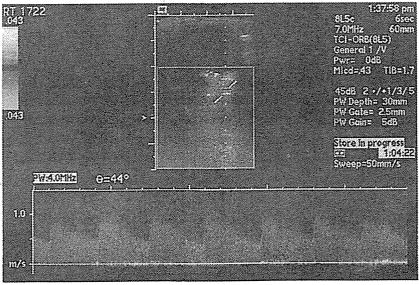


Fig. 2E 異常眼動脈ドプラ血流検査所見:高血流型波形

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原著

頸動脈狭窄性病変に対する STENT 留置術術中眼動脈ド プラ血流検査

一術中塞栓の観察ー

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Ophthalmic Artery Flow During Carotid Artery Stenting

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This paper describes the detection of microembolism in the ophthalmic artery during carotid artery stenting (CAS).

Methods: During the CAS procedure, the ophthalmic artery was examined by color Doppler flow imaging (CDFI) in 18 patients with internal carotid artery stenosis. Ophthalmic artery CDFI provided high intensity transient signals (HITS) and flow direction.

Results: Fifteen patients (83%) showed HITS, and HITS was seen in every CAS phase. During the post-dilatation phase with a distal protection system, HITS was significantly more frequent in patients who underwent saline irrigation than in patients who did not (p<0.05). The ophthalmic artery flow direction was abnormal in 10 patients before the CAS procedure. During CAS, the ophthalmic artery flow direction changed in relation to the CAS phase. After CAS, the ophthalmic artery flow direction was normalized significantly in all patients (p<0.05).

Conclusion: The presence of microemboli in the ophthalmic artery was proved during the CAS procedure as HITS, and it was clarified that the microemboli entered the intracranial or retinal circulation via the ophthalmic artery. During the post-dilatation phase, saline irrigation was a significant risk factor for embolism even with a distal protection system.

Key words: carotid artery stenting, color Doppler flow imaging, HITS, ophthalmic artery

はじめに

頸部頸動脈狭窄性病変に対する治療は NASCET¹¹⁾をはじめとする大規模試験の結果より、頸動脈血栓内膜剥離術(CEA)を中心に積極的に行われている。最近頸動脈狭窄性病変に対し CEA に代わって頸動脈ステント留置術(CAS)が、その技術的進歩とともに施行される機会が増加している¹⁵⁾. しかしながら、CAS 術中の遠位部塞栓は治療に際し重要な問題である^{3,5,10)}. CEA でも同様に術中塞栓が問題となり、そのモニターとして術中手術側中大脳動脈の transcranial Doppler (TCD) による、high intensity transient signals (HITS)の観察が行われる.

著者らは、従来内頸動脈閉塞性病変で眼動脈血流を観察してきた⁶⁾. 本研究では、CAS 術中眼動脈でドプラ血流検査を施行し、CAS 術中微小栓子の出現と、眼動脈を介した頭蓋内循環あるいは眼循環への微小栓子流入の可能性、及びその危険因子について、眼動脈血流方向、眼動脈 HITS の所

見より検討した.

対 象

頸部頸動脈狭窄症に対しCASを施行した18例を対象とした. CASの適応は、CEAに対するNASCETの適応に準じた. 男性15例、女性3例で、平均年齢69.5歳であった. 狭窄の程度は、NASCET 法で90%以上狭窄が14例、70%以上狭窄が4例で、神経症状はtransient ischemic attack (TIA) 15例、reversible ischemic neurological deficit (RIND) 3例であった. 頸部頸動脈超音波検査によるプラーク性状の評価では、安定プラーク7例、不安定プラーク11例であった. 血管撮影または頸部頸動脈超音波検査で狭窄部位に潰瘍形成を認めた症例は10例で、他の8例は潰瘍形成を認めなかった. 術後一過性の神経症状が3例で出現したが、退院時神経学的異常所見を呈した症例はなかった.

ステント留置術は、全身麻酔下に、大腿動脈より頸動脈 にシースを挿入し、前拡張の後、スマートステントを留置

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Table 1 HITS in the Ophthalmic Artery in Each Phase of Carotid Artery Stenting

	Before sheath placement	Sheath placement	Wiring	Pre- dilatation	Stent deployment	Post- dilatation	After sheath removal	Through the procedure
HITS was seen	0	4	8	11	10	11	0	15
HITS was not seen	18	14	10	7	8	7	18	3
WITC: bigh intens	itu trancio	nt oignolo					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	(cases)

HITS: high intensity transient signals

(cases)

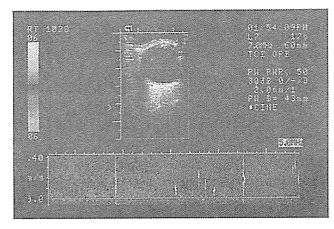


Fig. High intensity transient signals (arrows) in the ophthalmic artery revealed by ophthalmic artery color Doppler flow imaging.

し、ステント遠位部内頸動脈のバルーンによる閉塞を行い, 後拡張を行った、この際、血栓やデブリスの回収のため、初 期の9例では血液の吸引とその後生理的食塩水による洗浄 を行った. 後期の9例では洗浄を行わず, 血液の吸引のみ で回収した. 遠位部バルーンの閉塞を解除し, 血管撮影で 十分な拡張を確認しシースを抜去した.

方 法

CAS 術中に、ドプラ血流検査で術側眼動脈血流を観察し、 眼動脈の high intensity transient signals (HITS) 出現の有無, 血流方向を評価した. ドプラ血流検査は, 従来著者らが報 告してきた方法にて行なった⁶. Acuson 社製 Computed Sonography 128XP/10 により、7MHz のリニア型のプローブ で、出力 50mw/cm² で行った、プローブの保持は用手的に 行った. 眼動脈血流での HITS の診断基準は、TCD による中 大脳動脈の HITS²¹に準じたものとした. 周辺の信号より高信 号で、一方向性で、心拍と無関係に出現し持続時間は300 msec 以下で、特有の chirping sound を伴うものとした (Fig). 眼動脈の血流方向は, 眼窩先端部より眼球へ向かうものを 順流, その逆を逆流とした.

眼動脈ドプラの観察は、CAS の開始から終了時まで経時 的に行った. CASの手技に従って観察期間を, 1) ガイドシー ス挿入前, 2) ガイドシース留置時, 3) ワイヤー操作時, 4) 前拡張時、5) ステント留置時、6) 後拡張時、7) ガイドシー ス抜去後の7期に分割し、各時期でのHITS出現の有無と、 眼動脈の血流方向を観察した.

統計学的解析は, chi-square test により行い, p値が 0.05

以下のとき有意と判定した.

結 果

1. 眼動脈 HITS (Table 1)

CAS 術中いずれかの時期に HITS を認めた症例は 15 例 (83%) で、3例(17%)ではHITSを認めなかった. CAS の手技による HITS の出現頻度は、後拡張時に最も多く、次 に前拡張時での出現頻度が高かった. CAS の各手技で何れ かの症例で HITS が認められ、HITS が全く出現しない CAS の手技はなかった. 後拡張時 HITS を認めた症例は 11 例で あった、後拡張時生理的食塩水による洗浄を行なった9例 中 8 例 (89%) に HITS を認めたが, 洗浄を行なわず吸引の みで血栓等を回収した9例では3例(33%)のみでHITS を認め, 洗浄を行なった症例で有意に (p<0.05) HITS の出 現が多かった.

狭窄部のプラーク性状による HITS 出現の解析では、不安 定プラークでは11例中全例で、安定プラークでは7例中4 例(57%)と,不安定プラークで有意に(p<0.05)多く HITS を認めた. 潰瘍形成のあった症例では全例(10例)で 術中 HITS の出現を何れかの手技で認めたが、潰瘍形成のな かった症例では8例中5例(57%)でHITSを認め、潰瘍形 成のあった症例で、有意に(p<0.05)HITS の出現頻度が高 かった.

2. 眼動脈血流方向 (Table 2)

眼動脈の血流方向はガイドシース挿入前, 順流8例, 逆 流9例, to and fro 1例であった. CAS 術中眼動脈血流方向 は手技に応じて血流方向は変化し, 術前順流であった症例 でも観察中逆流となる症例やその逆の症例も存在した.ス テント留置術終了時, ガイドシース抜去時には全例, 眼動 脈血流方向は順流となった. 血流方向は, CAS 開始時に比 べ統計学的に有意に (p<0.05) 改善した.

CAS 術中微小栓子は内頸動脈より頭蓋内循環へ直接流入 する場合もあるが、CAS の手技や側副血行路の発達の程度 により眼動脈を介した頭蓋内循環への流入が考えられる". しかしながら、実際眼動脈で微小栓子が確認され、頭蓋内 または眼循環への流入を明らかにした報告は本報告を含め 著者らのもの以外ない⁷. 本報告で著者らは、CAS 中の眼動 脈で微小栓子を確認し、その流通経路としての眼動脈の存

Table 2 Ophthalmic Artery Flow Direction in Each Phase of Carotid Artery Stenting

	Before sheath placement	Sheath placement	Wiring	Pre- dilatation	Stent deployment	Post- dilatation	After sheath remova
Antegrade	. 8	8	7	4	11	1	18
To and fro	1	1	2	0	1	1	0
Reversed	9	9	9	14	6	16	0
							/

(cases)

在を明らかとした。MCAでのTCDによるHITSの観察では、 当然ながら頭蓋内MCAへ流入した微小栓子を捉えることは 可能だが、その流入経路の評価は不可能である^{6,9)}。本研究 では従来から頭蓋内への微小栓子の主な流入経路として考 えられてきた眼動脈の存在を、眼動脈ドプラ血流検査によ る HITS の観察から明らかとした。

1990年 Spencer らは CEA 術中 TCD による MCA 血流の観 察で、血流信号より明らかに異なる信号として HITS を検出 し、それが微小栓子と関連することを報告したり、また、 HITS が存在すると脳梗塞の危険が高まることや、HITS は無 症候性頸動脈狭窄症に比較し症候性頸動脈狭窄症でより多 く認められることも報告されている8,13). MCA における HITS の診断基準は装置や施設間の差もあり確固たるものはない が、一般的に、(1) 検査施行中の注意深い観察によるアー チファクトの除外、(2) 一方向性のシグナル、(3) 背景信 号と区別するデシベル閾値が 6dB 以上, (4) 短い持続時間 (300ms以下), (5) Chirp 音や snap 音を伴っている, (6) dual gate で時間差があるなどの条件²⁾が挙げられている。本報告 では眼動脈における微小栓子を HITS として観察し検討した. 眼動脈での HITS の報告はなく,MCA での TCD によるもの に準じ眼動脈 HITS について本報告では検討した、今後、眼 動脈における HITS の診断基準について臨床的意義とともに 検討を加える必要がある.

今回の研究では、眼動脈の血流方向も観察した、眼動脈の血流方向は、CAS操作の進行とともに適宜変化した、術前、眼動脈が順流であった症例でも、ワイヤー操作や、遠位部でのバルーンによる閉塞により直ちに眼動脈は逆流する。この経路を介して、CAS術中微小栓子は容易に頭蓋内循環に流入することが明らかとなった。また、順流でHITSが認められれば、微小栓子は眼循環に到達し眼虚血を来たす。従って、眼動脈血流方向はCAS術中塞栓が生じる部位の推測に重要な要素となる。後拡張時、塞栓性物質除去のために、たとえ遠位部内頸動脈のバルーンによる閉塞を行っていたとしても、塞栓物質を外頸動脈系に洗浄し流すことは逆流している眼動脈血流を介し、頭蓋内塞栓を誘発する危険性があり是非とも避けるべき手技であることが明らかとなった。

今回の検討では、狭窄部に潰瘍形成や、頸動脈エコーで 不安定プラークの性状を示す症例では HITS の出現が多かっ た点は、従来の報告と一致する^{4,12)}. しかしながら、これら 術中塞栓のリスクファクターのない症例でも、約60%の症 例で HITS を認め、これらの所見とは無関係に微小栓子が形 成される可能性があり術中常に注意する必要がある.

本研究では、限動脈血流をドプラ血流検査で行なった. 従来から、著者らは本法を用いて限動脈血流を内頸動脈閉塞性病変で観察し報告して来た⁶⁾. 本検査法は手技としては確立されており比較的容易に限動脈の血流方向、ドプラによる血流速度の評価が可能である. 注意点は超音波により生じる熱の放散の点である. 著者らは、従来から出力を十分に低下させ、眼球に対する安全性で問題ない範囲の出力で行なっている. ドプラによる限動脈血流検査は CAS の手技中経時的に行なった. しかしながら、プローブの固定の問題や、眼球及び限動脈の拍動その他により観察部位が多少ずれを生じることがあり同一部位に検査中一刻の欠落もなく持続的に観察することは不可能であった. 実際、眼動脈の観察を 20-30 秒間程度持続したら、数秒間観察は欠落せざるを得なかった.

眼動脈に対するドプラ血流検査が間欠的にならざるを得ないことは本研究における問題点でもある。それは、HITS 把握の false negative の可能性である。ドプラから眼動脈がずれた際に HITS としてとらえるべきものが、眼動脈を通過した可能性は存在する。MCA での HITS の観察は、単位時間あたりの HITS の出現頻度で論じられることが多い。しかしながら、今回の眼動脈の観察では HITS の出現頻度の評価は、上記の方法論的要因から不可能であるので、本研究では各手技における HITS の出現の有無で評価し検討した。

本研究は対象とした症例数も少なく,眼動脈ドプラ血流 検査ならではの検査上の問題もあり,結果の解釈には十分 に注意を要する.今後,眼動脈での HITS の出現頻度の検討 が可能な検査法を考案し,CAS 術中 HITS の頭蓋内への流入 経路を含めた検討を行う必要がある.また,MCA での TCD による HITS の所見との比較や,術後 MRI 所見との対比等 により,本検査法の意義を検証する必要がある.

結 語

眼動脈ドプラ血流検査により、CAS 術中術側眼動脈で81% の症例で HITS が認められた. 眼動脈血流方向は、CAS の手 技に応じて適宜変化した. HITS は眼動脈血流方向と無関係 に出現し, 眼動脈を介した頭蓋内, 眼循環塞栓の可能性が 明らかとなった. 不安定プラークや潰瘍形成, 後拡張時の 洗浄は, 術中微小栓子のリスクファクターであった.

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Elevation of plasma oxidized LDL in acute stroke patients is associated with ischemic lesions depicted by DWI and predictive of infarct enlargement

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Oxidized low-density lipoprotein (OxLDL) plays a major role in atherosclerosis. We undertook the present study to clarify the relationship between plasma OxLDL and the ischemic volume. We used ELISA to determine plasma OxLDL levels, and performed diffusion- and perfusion-weighted MRI (DWI, PWI) to measure the ischemic volume in 44 ischemic stroke patients. Based on the location of the ischemic lesion, they were divided into three groups: Group I (GI, n=21) had cortical lesions, Group II (GII, n=17) had lesions in the basal ganglia or brain stem, and Group III (GIII, n=6) had massive lesions that involved one entire hemisphere. In GI, but not GII and GIII, plasma OxLDL was significantly higher than in 19 age-matched controls (p<0.01) and was significantly correlated with the initial ischemic volume visualized on DWI (p=0.01), PWI (p<0.01), and the DWI-PWI mismatch (p<0.05). A persistent increase in plasma OxLDL was associated with enlargement of the ischemic lesion in the early phase after the insult. These findings suggest that elevated plasma OxLDL levels are associated with moderate ischemic damage in patients with cortical lesions (GI), but not those with massive hemispheric lesions (GIII), which may be irreversible. In addition, elevated plasma OxLDL may represent a predictor of enlargement of the ischemic lesion. [Neurol Res 2005; 27: 94–102]

Keywords: OxLDL; diffusion-weighted imaging; perfusion-weighted imaging; cerebral ischemia

INTRODUCTION

The treatment outcomes in patients with acute ischemic stroke remain unsatisfactory and effective new therapies are needed to improve their prognosis^{1,2}. The ability to distinguish between patients with potentially salvageable ischemic tissue and those with irreversible damage represents a crucial factor for the development of effective treatments. Oxidized low-density lipoprotein (OxLDL) plays a prominent role in the pathogenesis of atheroscrelosis^{3–5} and elevated plasma OxLDL levels were associated with coronary disease^{6,7}. In our previous study⁸, we used specific antibody against oxidized phosphatidylcholine (FOH1a/DLH3)⁹ by which OxLDL is recognized, and first demonstrated the significant association between raised plasma OxLDL and acute cerebral infarction, especially cortical infarction. We posited that plasma OxLDL

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reflects oxidative stress in stroke patients and that it is a more specific biological marker than conventional risk factors in ischemic stroke patients⁸.

While it remains to be clarified, whether plasma OxLDL elevation is linked directly to brain damage, we speculated that it is associated with large lesion volumes. If the plasma OxLDL levels were, in fact, correlated with the severity of brain damage and could predict the expansion of the ischemic lesion, then plasma OxLDL would represent a useful biomarker to determine whether an acute ischemic stroke patient retained tissue responsive to treatment of the infarction.

Diffusion- and perfusion-weighted imaging (DWI, PWI) studies are the essential elements of an integrated MR examination of acute stroke patients, and they are the most widely used methods for the diagnostic evaluation and management of patients with ischemic lesions^{10,11}. The region exhibiting PWI abnormalities in the presence of normal DWI findings is termed the DWI–PWI mismatch and appears to facilitate an approximation of the potentially salvageable ischemic area^{10–12}. If, in addition to MRI and CT findings, we had

available an easily accessible peripheral biomarker to provide information on the degree of brain damage, this would aid in assessing the diagnosis and monitoring of patients with cerebral infarction.

Based on these considerations, we set out to determine the relationship between the plasma OxLDL level, and the stroke volume and neuronal deficits, and evaluated whether a plasma marker is useful for identifying reversible brain damage in patients with acute cerebral infarction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Our study population consisted of 44 patients (25 men, 19 women) ranging in age from 35 to 84 years (mean \pm SD, 68.3 \pm 11.6 years) who had suffered an ischemic cerebral infarct. The controls were 19 agematched healthy volunteers who had no history of cerebrovascular accidents (nine men and 10 women, aged from 34 to 74 years; mean \pm SD, 61.2 \pm 9.6 years). The patients had been admitted consecutively between February 2000 and March 2002 to the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Tokushima Hospital. Prior informed consent was obtained from all study participants or their relatives. All patients underwent an MRI examination at admission; echocardiography and extracranial duplex ultrasound were also performed in all patients. A diagnosis of stroke was based on clinical findings. An NIH Stroke Scale (NIHSS)^{13,14} score was assigned at admission, and again 30 days after stroke onset or upon discharge. Baseline data (age, sex), conventional vascular risk factors (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia), previous atrial fibrillation were recorded. Patients whose pertinent data could not be evaluated at the time of stroke onset and those with hemorrhagic infarction were excluded from this study. Four authors (MU, OT, AS and SN) blinded to the results of the OxLDL level studies classified the 44 patients into three groups based on clinical manifestations. As shown in Table 1, 17 patients were in the cardioembolic, 16 in the atherothrombotic and 11 in the lacunar infarction category. The stroke subtypes were defined according to the TOAST classification system¹⁵. The atherothrombotic infarction group included patients with clinical and imaging findings of either significant stenosis or occlusion of a major artery, or a branch of the cortical artery, presumably due to atherosclerosis. The cardioembolic infarction group included patients with arterial occlusion presumably due to an embolus arising in the heart. The lacunar infarction group included patients with one of the traditional clinical lacunar syndromes and no evidence of cerebral cortical dysfunction, and patients whose MRI did not show lesions exceeding 1.5 cm in diameter. Using the results of MRI studies, patients with cerebral infarction were further subdivided into three groups according to the site of the infarction (Table 1 and Figure 1). Group I (GI, n=21) consisted of patients whose infarction was located in cortical regions in the cerebral hemisphere and involved the frontal-, parietal-, and temporal lobe,

or the occipital lobe and cerebellum. Group II (GIL n=17) contained patients whose infarcts involved basal ganglia regions in the anterior circulation (putamen, caudate head), corona radiata, or brain stem and thalamus. Patients with massive infarcts (ischemic volume >100 cm³) that involved the cortex and basal ganglia were assigned to Group III (GIII, n=6). Risk factors for each group are also shown in Table 1. MR angiography (MRA) or cerebral angiography revealed occlusion/stenosis of the internal carotid artery (ICA) or horizontal portion of the middle cerebral artery (MCA) in 14 of the 21 GI patients (66.7%). Of the 17 GII patients, two (11.8%) had ICA or MCA occlusion/ stenosis, and all GIII patients manifested ICA or MCA occlusion. All patients were scored on the modified Rankin scale (mRS) at 1 month after stroke onset or at the time of discharge.

Blood sampling

Venous blood samples for OxLDL assay and other biochemical analyses were obtained on admission (within 24 hours following stroke onset), and 3, 7, 14 and 30 days after onset. To measure plasma OxLDL levels, blood was drawn into tubes containing EDTA-2Na and centrifuged at 4°C for separation. Other routine chemical laboratory assays were performed according to protocols established by our Clinical Laboratory Department.

Isolation of LDL

LDL isolation was performed by potassium bromide stepwise density-gradient ultracentrifugation as described previously 16. Standard OxLDL was prepared by incubating LDL with 5 μM CuSO₄ at 37°C for 3hours and anti-OxLDL mAb was prepared as described previously¹⁶.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of the patients

	GI	GII	GIII
N	21	17	6
Male/female (n)	14/7	7/10	4/2
E/A/L (n)	11/10/0	1/5/11	5/1/0
Age (years)	67.8 ± 12.6	66.1 ± 11.8	76.0 ± 5.5
OxLDL (ng/µg/apoB)	0.26 ± 0.14	$0.16 \pm 0.04*$	0.22 ± 0.10
DWI (cm ³)	18.2 ± 11.0	1.8 ± 2.2	288.0 ± 174.3**
PWI (cm ³)	64.9 ± 66.4	$1.4 \pm 0.9*$	MV
DWI-PWI mismatch	48.4 ± 64.0	$-1.0 \pm 2.6*$	MV
Initial NIH stroke scale	8.2 ± 6.1	$3.8 \pm 3.1*$	$24.8 \pm 6.8**$
Modified Rankin Scale	2.5 ± 1.4	1.7 ± 0.8	5.3 ± 1.2**
Hypertension (%)	66.7	47.1	83.3
Diabetes mellitus (%)	47.6	41.2	50.0
Atrial fibrillation (%)	38.1	11.8	33.3
Hyperlipidemia (%)	38.1	52.9	16.7

Values are number (n), percentage (%) or mean ± SD. E/A/L, stroke types defined according to TOAST classification system; E, cardioembolic; A, atherothrombotic; L, lacunar infarction. *p<0.05; **p<0.01 vs GI group by ANOVA followed by Scheffe's test. OxLDL, oxidized low density lipoprotein; NIH National Institutes of Health; MV, missing value.

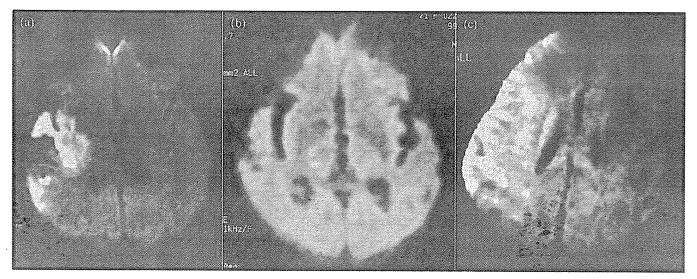


Figure 1: Diffusion-weighted images (DWI) for the three groups classified according to the location of the lesions. (a) Group I: cortical lesions. (b) Group II: lacunar lesions in the basal ganglia. (c) Group III, massive lesions involving one entire hemisphere

Determination of plasma OxLDL levels

To measure plasma OxLDL levels we used the same procedure as in our previous study⁸. Briefly, a sandwich ELISA procedure was performed with monoclonal Ab against oxidative phosphatidylcholine (FOH1a/DLH3; DLH3)⁹ and apoB IgG antibody (Boehringer, Germany). The complex was detected by phosphatase-conjugated donkey anti-sheep IgG antibody (Chemicon, USA) and visualized by incubation with a substrate solution containing 1 mg/ml disodium *p*-nitrophenyl-phosphate hexahydrate (Wako, Japan). Absorbance at 405 nm was measured for comparison with a standard curve obtained under the same assay conditions. Simultaneously, we ran a parallel set of ELISA using anti-apoB mAb (OEM, USA) to determine the amounts of apoB in the same lipoprotein fractions. The OxLDL levels were expressed as amount of OxLDL per μg of apoB protein.

Determination of ischemic lesion and size

MRI was performed with a 1.5 Tesla unit (Sigma Horizon; GE Medical System, Milwaukee, WI) with echo-planar capabilities. The acquisition parameters for DWI were as follows: 10,000 ms/95 ms (repetition time/echo time), 128 × 128 matrix, 5 mm-thick sections, 1.5 mm inter-slice gap, 12 axial sections and diffusion gradients of 15 mT/m applied in three orthogonal directions. The b value was 0 and 1000 s/mm¹⁰ PWI was performed using the flow-sensitive alternating inversion recovery (FLAIR) method¹⁰. The FLAIR technique is based on IR-prepared echo-planar imaging sequences. After the collection of slice-selective and non-slice selective IR images, two different images were subtracted to obtain blood-flow imaging. The measurement conditions for FLAIR were as follows: time of repetition (TR)=2 seconds, echo time (TE)=10 ms, inversion time (TI)=1200 ms, slice thickness=8 mm, 5 mm inter-piece gap, field of view (FOV)=24 cm, non-slice selective pulse four times thicker than the selective pulse, matrix=96 x 96 pixels and number of excitations=100. The volumes of hyperintensity on DWI and of hypointensity on PWI were determined by three experienced neuroradiologists (MH, KY, NM) blinded to the clinical status of the patients. Utilizing GE calculating software, the lesion volume on DWI, PWI and the DWI–PWI mismatch were calculated [DWI/PWI mismatch volume (cm³)=initial lesion volume on PWI minus initial lesion volume on DWI].

Statistics

Sequentially obtained data, expressed as the $mean \pm SD$, were analysed with the Mann–Whitney *U*-test for two-group comparison; ANOVA, followed by Scheffe's test was used for more than three-group comparisons. The correlation between the OxLDL level, and the stroke volume and neuronal deficits was examined by the Spearman rank correlation test. Statistical analyses were performed on a Macintosh computer running statistical software (Stat View 4.0). Statistical significance was considered as p < 0.05.

RESULTS

Plasma OxLDL level, ischemic volume, neuronal deficits and risk factors in 44 patients with ischemic stroke

The characteristics of our patients are presented in Table 1 and Figure 2. Patients with cortical lesions (GI) had significantly higher OxLDL levels than patients with lesions in the basal ganglia or brain stem (GII), and the controls (p<0.05, p<0.01, respectively). Admission DWI showed that GI patients tended to manifest a higher ischemic volume than GII patients (18.2 ± 11.0 vs 1.8 ± 2.2 cm³, mean ± SD). In patients with massive lesions that involved one entire hemisphere (GIII), the infarct volume was significantly larger than in the other two groups (>100 cm³, p<0.01). The abnormal area depicted by PWI and the DWI–PWI mismatch was significantly larger in GI than GII (p<0.05 each). Due to their bad clinical condition, only two of six GIII patients

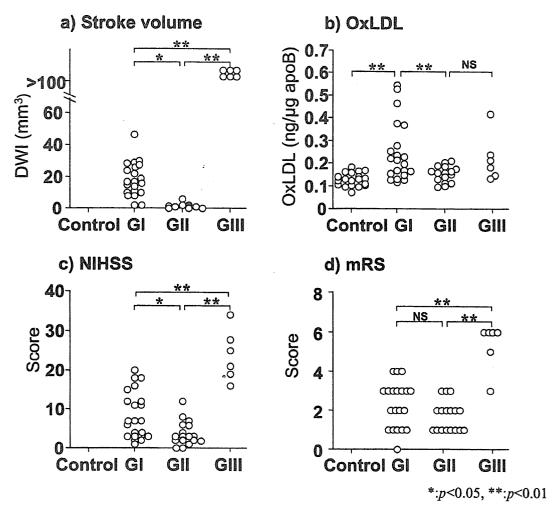


Figure 2: Stroke volume, plasma OxLDL, NIH stroke scale and modified Rankin Scale of each study group. (a) Stroke volume. (b) Plasma OxLDL level. (c) NIH stroke scale. (d) Modified Rankin Scale

were available for PWI and DWI–PWI mismatch study, a number too small for statistical analysis. The admission NIHSS was significantly higher in GI than GII (p<0.05) and the mRS score of GIII patients was significantly higher than in the other two groups (p<0.01).

Correlation between plasma OxLDL levels, and ischemic volume depicted on DWI and PWI, and DWI/PWI mismatch

As shown in Figure 3a–c, in GI, there was a significant correlation between plasma OxLDL and the infarct volume based on DWI (p=0.01), PWI (p<0.01) and DWI–PWI mismatch findings (p<0.05). In GII, plasma OxLDL was not correlated with the ischemic volume assessed by DWI (r=0.043, Figure 3d) and PWI (r=0.076, data not shown). In GIII, plasma OxLDL was not significantly elevated and there was no correlation with the ischemic volume (data not shown).

Correlation between neuronal deficits assessed by NIHSS, plasma OxLDL, and integrated ischemic volume determined by DWI and PWI in GI

As shown in *Figure 4a,b*, in GI the NIHSS score was associated with the initial stroke volume; the association

appeared to be stronger with the PWI than the DWI lesion volume. In addition, there was a significant correlation between plasma OxLDL and the initial NIHSS score, but not with the mRS score (Figure 4c,d).

Elevation of plasma OxLDL in the early phase is predictive of infarct enlargement

Figure 5 depicts changes in OxLDL and lesion volume determined by DWI that evaluated between stroke onset and 3 days after the insult, in GI and GII patients. In GI, plasma OxLDL remained significantly elevated (p<0.01) compared with the control and the elevation was associated with further enlargement of the lesion volume as determined by DWI. However, during the chronic phase after ischemic stroke, it decreased to the control level; this finding coincides with the observations we reported in our previous study⁸ (data not shown).

Illustrative case

This 81-year-old woman presented with total aphasia and was admitted to our hospital 3 hours after stroke onset. She was lethargic and her ECG showed atrial

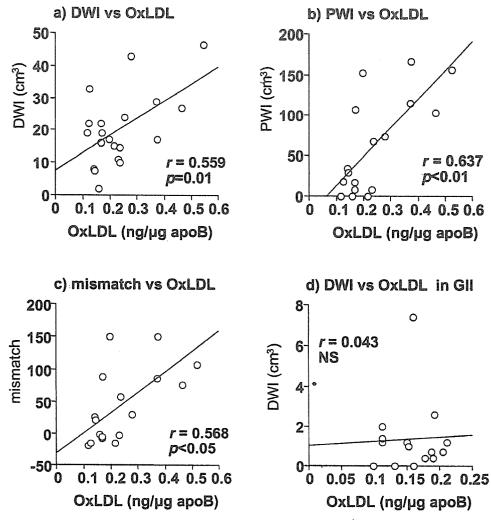


Figure 3: Relationship between plasma OxLDL level and stroke volume in Group I and II patients. (a) Group I, plasma OxLDL and stroke volume (DWI). (b) Group I, plasma OxLDL and stroke volume (PWI). (c) Group I, plasma OxLDL and mismatch volume (DWI and PWI). (d) Group II, plasma OxLDL and stroke volume (DWI)

fibrillation. Her admission NIHSS score was 11. Her initial DWI demonstrated hyperintensity in the left temporal lobe (*Figure 6a,b*); the lesion volume was 27 cm³. Her plasma OxLDL was 0.298 ng/µg apoB. MRA showed occlusion of the left ICA (*Figure 6c*). We classified this infarction as cardioembolic and assigned her to GI. Serial DWI obtained 3 days after stroke onset showed enlargement of the lesion volume to 42 cm³ (*Figure 6d,e*) and her plasma OxLDL had increased to 0.418 ng/µg apoB. She regained alertness and her aphasia improved slightly. At discharge, 17 days after the insult, her NIHSS score was 8.

DISCUSSION

The present results of DWI, PWI and DWI-PWI mismatch studies showed that in stroke patients with cortical infarcts (GI), the plasma OxLDL levels were correlated with the initial ischemic volume. Sequential studies over 3 days post-insult showed that a persistent increase in plasma OxLDL was associated with enlargement of the infarct volume. On the other hand, in

patients with severe massive infarction involving the entire hemisphere (GIII), plasma OxLDL did not increase significantly. DWI and PWI studies showed that the plasma OxLDL level in patients with small subcortical infarcts remained similar to the control and was not correlated with the infarct volume. In our previous study⁸, plasma OxLDL. increased immediately after stroke onset especially in patients with cortical infarction and continued to increase for 7 days. It returned to the baseline between 14 and 30 days after the insult. These and our current results suggest that the observed OxLDL elevation reflects progressive oxidative damage in patients with ischemic lesions and may be predictive of enlargement of the lesion during the acute phase. In contrast, in GIII patients plasma OxLDL levels did not increase significantly, although their mRS score at discharge was significantly worse than in the other two groups. Therefore, plasma OxLDL did not reflect irreversible damage to cerebral tissue in patients with massive infarction.

Elevation in free radicals may be an etiological factor in stroke¹⁶ and there is convincing evidence that in

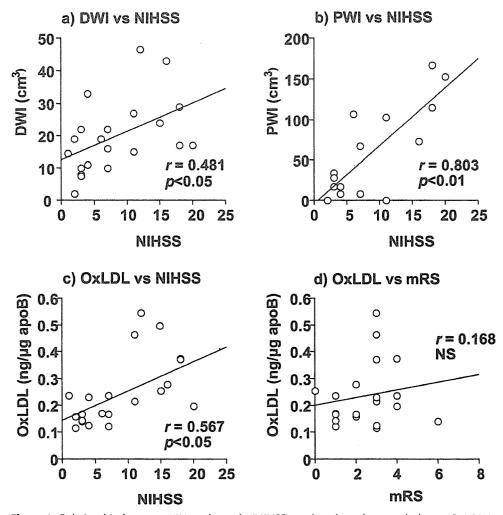


Figure 4: Relationship between NIH stroke scale (NIHSS), and stroke volume and plasma OxLDL in Group I patients. (a) NIHSS and stroke volume (DWI). (b) NIHSS and stroke volume (PWI). (c) NIHSS and plasma OxLDL level. (d) NIHSS and modified Rankin Scale

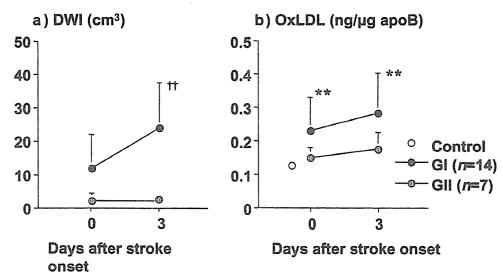


Figure 5: Group I and II patients. Plasma OxLDL level and lesion volume (DWI) at stroke onset and 3 days later. (a) Changes in the lesion volume (DWI). (b) Changes in plasma OxLDL, ††P<0.01 to Day 0. **p<0.01 to control

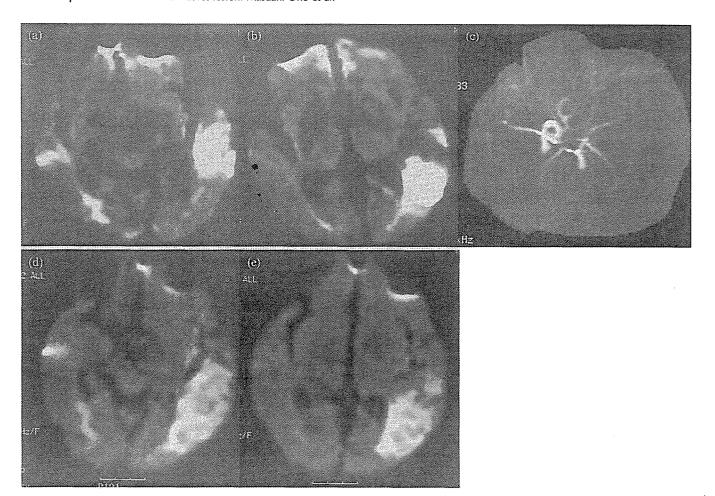


Figure 6: Illustrative case of an 81-year-old woman with a cardioembolic infarction who was assigned to Group I. (a,b) DWI obtained at onset shows a hyperintensity area in the left temporal lobe. (c) MR angiogram demonstrates occlusion of the left internal carotid artery. (d,e) DWI obtained 3 days after onset shows enlargement of the hyperintensity area in the left temporal lobe

ischemic brain injury, reactive oxygen species (ROS) are directly involved in oxidative damage to cellular macromolecules 17,18. Although brain cells are normally well protected from ROS by antioxidant defences including oxygen radical scavenger enzymes, they are overcome by the over-production of ROS and the consumption of antioxidants in ischemic brain tissue 19. The excess generation of ROS in damaged cells leads to oxidation of lipoprotein core lipids and of the cell membrane. These modified apolipoproteins and other proteins can induce macrophage activation and the generation of ROS via both the uptake of their scavenger receptors, and the interaction of macrophages and T cells²⁰, thereby promoting the oxidation of low-density lipoprotein. While, at present, we do not know to what extent extracellular oxidant stress may also directly affect the intracellular redox balance, enhanced extracellular oxidation may also participate in the weakening abrogation of intracellular antioxidant defences. Although increased plasma OxLDL may derive from both systemic and focal oxidative stress, OxLDL elevation shortly after an ischemic insult may be attributable to leakage from brain cells undergoing oxidative damage. This hypothesis is supported by our observation that patients with massive infarct volume in the early phase and patients with cortical infarction in the chronic phase did not manifest high levels of plasma OxLDL.

Chopp et al.²¹ suggested that nuclear DNA damage following cerebral ischemia involves two distinct mechanisms, oxidative injury and endonuclease-mediated nuclear DNA fragmentation. DNA fragmentation by certain activated endonucleases, including caspase-activated endonuclease, occurs at a relatively late stage of post-ischemic cell death^{21,22}. On the other hand, oxidative damage resulting from direct attacks by ROS such as hydroxyl radicals and nitric oxide derivatives in the early phase after the insult may represent an early event that is reversible by DNA repair mechanisms^{23–28}

Ren et al.²⁹ documented that in rats, the levels of cytoprotective heatshock protein 70 in the ischemic brain hemisphere were maximally increased at 24 hours post-insult and that the increase persisted for at least 7 days in the ischemic cerebral cortex. This phenomenon may also be reflective of neuroprotection and suggests that, as is the case in humans, oxidative damage in the early stage after stroke insult may be reversible in this

animal model. We posit that in patients with moderately-sized cortical lesions, elevated plasma OxLDL may indicate the survival of salvageable cells under oxidative stress and suggest that these patients should receive aggressive treatment, including the administration of antioxidant drugs.

It is likely that the DWI/PWI mismatch area is indicative of potentially salvageable tissue 10-12. In animal models, oxidative cerebral damage was present in the penumbra, as well as the ischemic core^{30,31}. The data presented here show that increased OxLDL was reflected in DWI and PWI findings, and in the DWI-PWI mismatch ratio. As PWI studies regularly over-estimate the region at risk, efforts are directed at identifying PWI parameters that will more accurately define this region³². The findings presented here show that determination of the plasma OxLDL level can be used to strengthen the diagnosis reached by image analysis.

GI and GIII, but not GII patients manifested a high NIHSS score. In GI, the NIHSS score was correlated with plasma OxLDL levels, and with DWI and PWI findings, indicating that in patients with moderate cortical infarction, the plasma OxLDL level can reflect initial neuronal deficits. However, the OxLDL level was not predictive of outcome in GIII because the mRS score in these patients was high despite the absence of significant OxLDL elevation.

CONCLUSION

Our study documents that plasma OxLDL is a useful peripheral biomarker that indicates oxidative damage in patients with moderately-sized infarcts. Studies are underway in our laboratory to evaluate the efficacy of antioxidants, including radical scavengers, to strengthen the antioxidant defences in patients with stroke by evaluating the plasma OxLDL level.

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総説

脳卒中診断の最前線

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1999年11月より当院に stroke care unit(SCU)を開設し て、24時間体制で急性期脳卒中を受け入れてきた。5年 間の急性期脳卒中患者は660名であり、その内訳は脳梗 塞370例(55.6%), 脳出血141例(21.3%), くも膜下出血 97例(14.7%)であった。入院時にくも膜下出血を疑っ た患者以外はまず stroke MRI (拡散強調画像: DWI, 灌流強調画像:PWI, T2強調画像, MRA)を施行した。 2004年3月からは臨床機3T-MRIで stroke MRIを施行 し、短時間でテンソル画像による tractography や MR spectroscopy (MRS)を撮影し、神経繊維の走行や脳代 謝についても診断した。その結果1) DWI は大脳病変 なら発症後1時間たてば小さな病巣(1mm³程度)でも 描出できた。2) 脳幹病変は発症後3時間以上たてば描 出できた。 3) DWI/PWI mismatch が50%以上ある主 幹動脈閉塞に対して血栓溶解療法が適応となり、術後の 評価も stroke MRI で可能であった。4) 脳出血急性期で も stroke MRI で診断し得た。 5) tractography や MRS が脳卒中の予後を予測できる可能性がある,ことがわ かった。また急性期脳卒中患者の血中酸化LDLを測定 すると、脳梗塞患者は発症0-3日にかけて健常者より 有意に高く, 特に皮質に病巣がある症例で酸化 LDL は 高かった。これらのことより血中酸化LDLを測定する ことで脳梗塞の重症度と治療可能域を反映できる可能性 を示した。

はじめに

脳卒中は本邦の死亡率の第3位であり、かつ寝たきりの原因の第1位である。脳卒中は特殊疾患であり、その診断と治療は高度の診断機器と専門のスタッフが必要である。それにも関わらず多くの症例は一般の救急施設に搬送され、必ずしも最先端の診断や治療を受けていない

のが実状であろう。その一つの原因として大学病院を中心とした医育機関が急性期脳卒中患者を受け入れる体制を構築してこなかったことが考えられる。脳卒中のような特殊な疾患は脳卒中専門医が超急性期から診断治療することで、その予後が大きく改善することがヨーロッパを中心に報告されている¹)。われわれは国立大学病院としては画期的なシステムとして24時間体制で脳卒中患者を受け入れ診断・治療する stroke care unit (SCU)を1999年11月から開設した²)。われわれは近年急速に発達する頭部 MRI を利用して脳卒中超急性期に stroke MRIを施行し、正確な診断を心がけてきた²・5)。また近年脳梗塞の酸化ストレスの biomarker として、急性期脳卒中症例の血中酸化 LDLを測定した6・9)。これらの結果を基にして、脳卒中診断の放射線学的、血中生化学的診断の最前線を報告する。

対象と方法

1999年より当院に stroke care unit (SCU) を開設して, 24時間体制で急性期脳卒中を受け入れてきた^{2·5)}。5年間の急性期脳卒中患者は660名であり、その内訳は脳梗塞370例 (55.6%)、脳出血141例 (21.3%)、くも膜下出血97例 (14.7%) であった。

1. SCU の体制と診断方法

脳神経外科を中心に、救急診療部、放射線科、循環器 内科、神経内科、整形外科、精神神経科、麻酔科、手術 部、放射線部の協力を得て、急性期脳卒中患者を24時間 体制で受け入れた。超急性期の患者は救急外来受診時に まず stroke MRI を施行した。Stroke MRI は放射線科医 が24時間体制でチームを組み、diffusion MRI (DWI)、 perfusion MRI (PWI)、T2-MRI、MRA を緊急で施行した。 超急性期脳出血に対しても DWI、T2-MRI で診断でき¹⁰⁾、

くも膜下出血を疑った症例のみ最初に緊急 CT を施行し た。

2. Stroke MRI による治療方針の決定

Stroke MRI により以下の条件を満たせば緊急の脳血 管撮影を行い、血栓溶解療法を行うことにしている(図 1)^{5,11-14)}。①DWI で病巣が小さく、かつ PWI で大き な血流低下領域がある。すなわち DWI/PWI mismatch が大きい (50%以上ある), ② MRA で主幹動脈 (内頸 動脈,中大脳動脈水平部,椎骨脳底動脈)に70%以上の 狭窄あるいは閉塞がある、③血流再開が発症から6時間 以内に可能である。以上の条件を満たす症例はすぐに脳 血管撮影を行った。

3.3T-MRI の導入

2004年3月からは臨床機3T-MRIでstroke MRIを施 行し、短時間でテンソル画像による tractography や MR spectroscopy (MRS)を撮影し、神経繊維の走行や脳代 謝についても診断した。

4. 血中酸化 LDL の測定

急性期脳卒中患者の血清を採取し、血清中の OxLDL を板部らが開発した酸化 LDL モノクロール抗体(DLH3)

を用い, 抗 ApoB 抗体との sandwich ELISA 法で well wash を利用して半定量的に計測した 7)。またこれらの 値と stroke MRI で得られた脳虚血体積の関連性を検討 したり。

1) 拡散強調画像による脳虚血巣の診断

DWI では大脳病変なら発症後1時間以上経過した症 例では微少な虚血巣(1mm3程度)でも描出できた(図 2)。また脳幹病変でも発症後3時間以上たてば描出可 能であったが、延髄病変では3時間以内の小梗塞では描 出されない症例があり、症状が脳幹病変を疑わせる症例 では follow-up の DWI が必要であった¹⁵⁾ (図3)。

2) Stroke MRI による治療方針の決定

DWI/PWI mismatch と入院時の NIH stroke score (NIHSS)は逆相関した¹¹⁾。また DWI/PWI mismatch が 50%以上ある主幹動脈閉塞に対して動脈内血栓溶解療法 を行ったところ, 術後出血は以前の症例と比較して激減 した。再開通した症例の梗塞を免れた領域をrescued volume

PWI

治療方針

- ✓DWIで半球に広範な hyperintensityを認めるもの
- ✓ DWI/PWI mismatchが50%以 下の症例

→ 保存的療法

✓DWI/PWI mismatchが50%以 上ある症例で発症から6時間以 内の症例

> 動脈内血栓溶解療法 急性期頸動脈内膜剥離術

PWI

DWI

図 1 stroke MRI による治療方針の決定

15 脳卒中診断の最前線

として術後の評価を行ったところ、final NIHSSと rescued ratio が逆相関した(助かった領域が多いほど NIHSS は 低いスコアー)。ゆえに術後の評価も stroke MRI で可能 であった111)。

3) Stroke MRI による急性期脳出血の診断

患者が片麻痺や意識障害で受診した場合、神経兆候だ けでは出血と梗塞との鑑別は不可能である。従来は脳卒 中患者が受診した場合, まず頭部 CT を施行し, 脳出血 があるかどうかを診断した。しかし、われわれは上記の 様な症状で脳卒中が疑われる症例に対して、まず stroke MRI を施行した。9例の発症後40分から13時間までの 脳出血患者に対してまず stroke MRI を施行した。この 段階で脳出血患者の DWI は脳虚血と比較して病巣は heterogeneous で血腫周囲には DWI では hypointensity

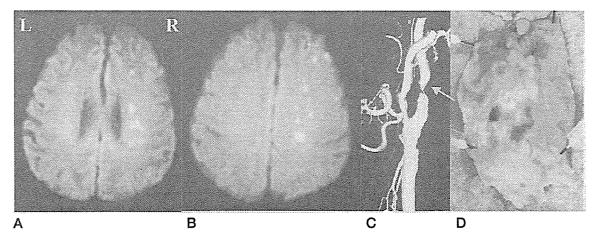


図 2 67歳 男性の入院時 stroke MRI

- A、B:入院時の DWI で左大脳白質に小さな脳梗塞が散在して存在している。この像から artery to artery によ る脳梗塞が考えられた。
- C:脳血管撮影(3D-angiography)で頸部頸動脈に重度の狭窄があることが確認できた。
- D:頸動脈内膜剥離術で頸動脈に潰瘍を伴うアテロームプラークが認められ、それを摘出した。

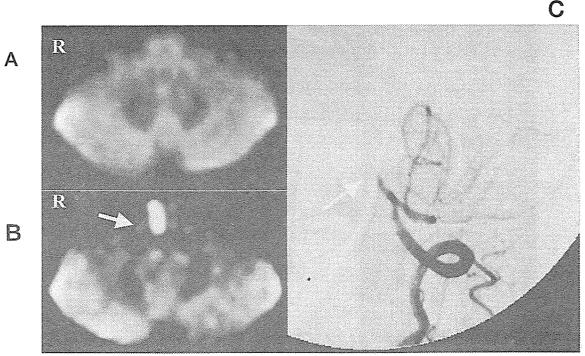


図3 51歳男性,延髄梗塞の入院時の DWI と follow-up DWI

A:発症2時間目の initial DWI. 脳幹の梗塞巣ははっきりしない。 B:発症19時間目の follow-up DWI では右延髄内側に明らかな虚血巣を示す。 C:脳血管撮影では右椎骨動脈の閉塞を認めた。

rim が認められた (図4)。これらの症例は確認のため 頭部 CT を施行したところ全例が脳出血であった。この 結果からその後すべての症例が stroke MRI で脳出血と 診断され、確認の意味での頭部 CT は省略している。

4) MRI による機能的神経診断

3T-MRI が導入されたのち, stroke MRI の測定時間 が大幅に短縮され、かつ拡散強調画像を利用し、神経繊 維の走行を描出できるようになった (tractography)。こ

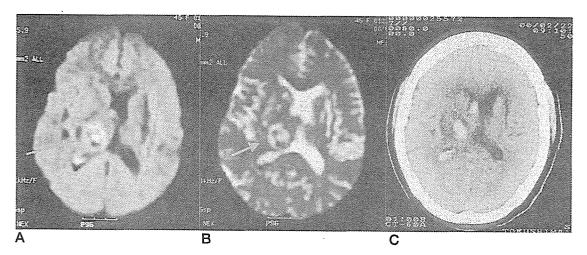
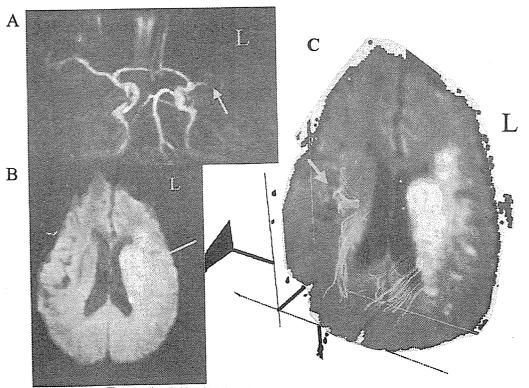


図4 49歳 女性 視床出血の DWI

A, B: 発症 1 時間20分後の initial DWI で右視床に heterogenous mass を認める。 C:引き続き行われた頭部 CT で右視床出血を確認した。



72歳 男性 左中大脳動脈閉塞症例の DWIと tractography

- A:発症12時間目の initial MRA で左中大脳動脈水平部の閉塞を認める。 B:発症12時間目の initial DWI では左放線冠に脳虚血巣を認めるが、特に前方部分の intensity が著明である。 C:同時に施行したテルソン画像による tractography では正常側で認められる前頭葉からの神経繊維(赤矢印)は病巣側 では断裂しているが,放線冠後方部の虚血巣では tract は病巣を貫いている。