

at an advanced stage of the disease, MT-III would also appear to have some counteractivity against LPO production. It should be pointed out that crossing SOD1 Tg mice with either MT-I/II or MT-III knock-out mice markedly accelerated the expression of paralysis and shortened survival (Puttapparthi et al., 2002). Different temporal induction patterns in MT isoforms could point to another property of MT-III that the MT-I/II isoform does not have. Hozumi et al. showed that MT-III isoform synthesis was induced after stab wounds in rats (Hozumi et al., 1995). In the same line of SOD1 Tg mice, we reported *MT-III* mRNA up-regulation, although not statistically significant, at an advanced stage of the disease (Ono et al., 2006). The MT-III protein seems to be induced in response to critical tissue damage in the CNS. It is reasonable and acceptable that the MT-III isoform in addition to the MT-I/II isoforms have a potential application in the modification of the disease expression and/or progression.

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