題である。

HAART中のHIV陽性者について、IGRA陽性者については、将来、結核を発病してくるのか、また陽転者で結核を発病してくるのか、今後も注意深い観察を続けていく必要がある。なお、CDC/IDSAのガイドラインではHIV感染者でIGRA陽性者はINH予防内服が推奨されており、この患者については同意が得られた場合INH予防内服を行う方針である。

E. 結論

QFT-2GはELISPOT法より検査手技において技術的により簡便であるが、免疫抑制状態の患者、特に細胞性免疫抑制者では、ELISPOT法によるIGRAが結核感染診断上、有用である可能性が示唆された。IGRA陽性または陽転化したHIV患者については、患者毎に注意深い経過観察ないし予防内服を考慮する必要がある。

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第3章

診断と症状・合併症

日和見感染症

要旨

日本では新規に HIV / AIDS と診断される患者が増加している。そのため、日和見感染症の発生数も増えており、その多くが一般の急性期医療施設で診断・治療が行われている。日本の日和見感染症は、ニューモシスチス肺炎、サイトメガロウイルス感染症、カンジダ症、結核が主要 4 疾患である。日和見感染症の発症は末梢血 CD4 陽性細胞数によって発症時期がおおむね規定されている。本稿では主要な疾患の診断治療について概説した。

日和見感染症の現状

HIV / AIDS は免疫不全の進行により日和見感染症や悪性腫瘍を繰り返し発症する予後不良の疾患であったが、強力な抗ウイルス療法 (ART) の導入により様相が一変した.しかし、日本においては新規の HIV / AIDS 患者の増加が続いているため、日和見感染症も増加している.日和見感染症の発症時に HIV 感染者であることが判明していないことが多いため、広く市中の病院において診断・治療されている点も最近の特徴である.図1はエイズ動向委員会報告にみる日和見感染症の報告数の年次推移であるが、年々増加していることが明らかである.全国 HIV 診療拠点病院の協力による厚生労働科学研究エイズ対策事業で収集された日和見感染症の頻度を図2に示した.ニューモシスチス肺炎 (PCP)、サイトメガロウイルス (CMV) 感染症、カンジダ症、結核が日本における日和見感染症の主要4疾患である.

キーワード

ニューモシスチス肺炎 サイトメガロウイルス 感染症 カンジダ症 結核 日和見感染症の発症時期は、末梢血 CD4 陽性細胞数(CD4 数)によっておおむね規定されており(図 3)、① 免疫不全の早期からみられる結核やカポジ肉腫、口腔カンジダ症、② CD4<200 $/\mu l$ からみられる PCP、食道カンジダ症、トキソプラズマ症、クリプトコックス症、③ 免疫不全が進行した CD4<50 $/\mu l$ でみられる CMV 感染症、

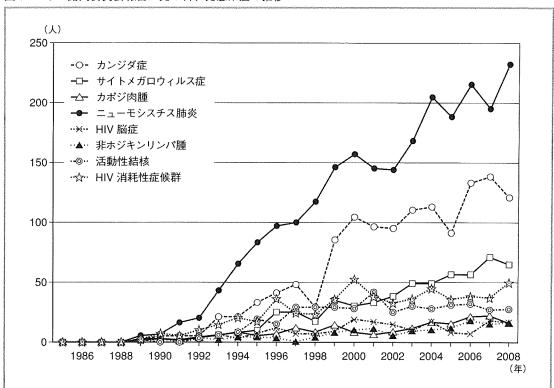


図1 エイズ動向委員会報告に見る日和見感染症の推移

非結核抗酸菌症におおむね分類できる.

ニューモシスチス肺炎 (PCP)

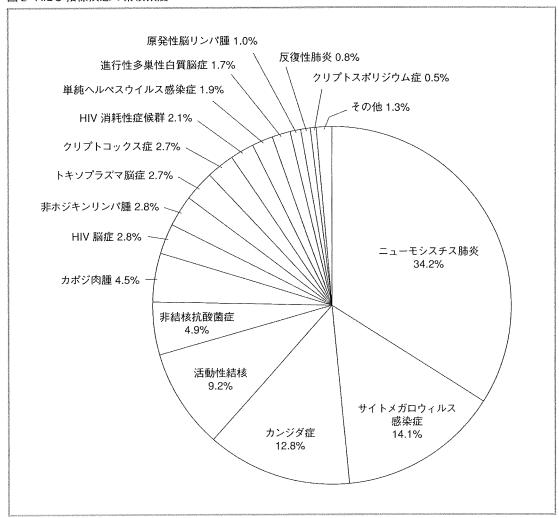
1. 病態

PCP は HIV 感染者で死亡リスクのある重篤な合併症としては最も 頻度が高い. 亜急性に進行するびまん性肺炎で, 真菌に分類される Pneumocystis jirovecii が起炎菌である. 顕性化に先行して体重減少 や発熱の出没が見られる場合がある. CD4<200/µl で発症するが, 最も多いのは CD4 数が 2 桁台での発症である.

2. 症状・身体所見

発熱,息切れ/呼吸困難と喀痰を伴わない咳(乾性咳嗽)が主症状である.初発症状は発熱で,その時点では胸部 X線で明らかな陰影を指摘できない場合も少なくない.息切れ/呼吸困難は低酸素血症の反映で,胸部 X線所見から受ける印象より強くみられる.咳は認めない場合もあり,合併感染があれば喀痰を伴うこともある.胸部の聴診で

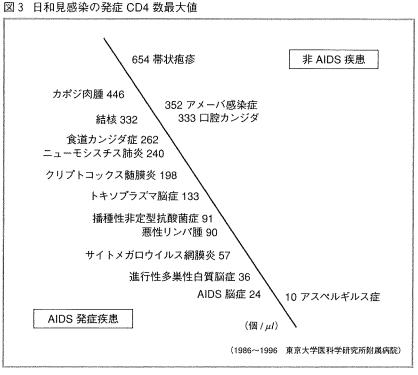
図2 AIDS 指標疾患の累積頻度



はラ音は聴取しないことが多い.

3. 検査所見

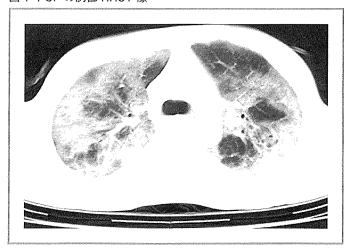
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画像所見としては胸部単純 X線で両側びまん性すりガラス陰影 (GGO) を呈し、胸部 HRCT でも肺小葉単位での GGO が認められる. 分布はびまん性にみられるが均一ではなく, モザイク (あるいは地図 状)の分布を示す(図4).

4. 診 断

図4 PCPの胸部 HRCT 像



胸部 X 線・CT 画像と血液の β -D-グルカン高値から臨床的 に疑われ, 呼吸器検体 (誘発喀 痰, 気管支洗浄液) の塗沫検鏡 所見または PCR などの遺伝子 診断(保険適応なし)で確定診 断される. HIV 感染者では, 顕性 となっていない軽度の P. jirovecii の増加で遺伝子検査が陽性とな る偽陽性がみられるので、 結果 の判断は臨床所見と併せて行う

必要がある.

5. 治療

スルファメトキサゾール・トリメトプリム(ST)合剤が第1選択の治療薬である。トリメトプリムとして $15 \, \mathrm{mg/kg/H}$ が標準量であり、体重 $60 \, \mathrm{kg}$ では ST 合剤を $1 \, \mathrm{Hz}$ 12 錠(または $12 \, \mathrm{rv}$ アンプル)を使用することになる。HIV 感染者では、ST 合剤での発熱・アレルギーの頻度が高く、骨髄機能低下や電解質異常(高K血症、低 Na 血症)、腎機能障害にも注意が必要である.

ST 合剤が使用できない場合や副作用がみられた場合は、ペンタミジンを使用する. $4 \, \mathrm{mg/kg} \sim 3 \, \mathrm{mg/kg}$ が標準量である. 腎機能障害、膵機能障害に伴う低血糖や膵荒廃による高血糖、不整脈などに注意が必要である. また、しびれ感、特に口周囲のしびれや味覚障害は頻度が高く、発見が遅れると長く患者を悩ますことになる. ほかの治療法が困難な場合や予防投与では、ペンタミジン $300 \, \mathrm{mg}$ を吸入で投与することもできる.

標準治療は 21 日間であり、副作用などにより治療困難であれば、薬剤や投与方法を変更してこの期間の治療完遂を目指す.治療終了後は再発予防投与に移行する.治療薬としては、このほかに atovaquone が厚生労働省エイズ治療薬研究班(http://labo-med.tokyo-med.ac.jp/aidsdrugmhw/)から入手できる.

治療に際しては PaO_2 の低下(>70 mmHg)が認められる場合は, 治療開始時点から副腎皮質ステロイドホルモンの併用を行うことが, 救命の要となる. プレドニゾロン量で $80 \sim 60$ mg/日から開始し, 5日ごとに半減して治療終了までには終了させる.

6. 合併症

気胸や縦隔・皮下気腫の頻度が高い. ステロイドホルモンを併用した場合, 経過中に CMV 肺炎が顕性化する場合がある.

サイトメガロウイルス (CMV) 感染症

1. 病態

ヘルペス属ウイルスである CMV の感染症で,潜伏感染状態から の再活性化により発症する. HIV 感染者では網膜炎の頻度が高く, 大腸炎,食道潰瘍,中枢神経感染症,肺炎の順である.最近の鋭敏な 検査法で CMV の活性化状態が早期に検出できるが、HIV 領域では必ずしも治療が必要とは限らないので、見極めが重要である。CD4<50/ μ l でリスクが高い。

網膜炎は片眼の周辺から出現することが多く,早期発見が難しい. CD4 数が低いことが判明したら,眼科へ紹介することが重要である.

2. 症状・身体所見

網膜炎では視野欠損・視覚障害である. 眼底所見では血管に沿って 見られる乳白色綿花様病変で, 出血を伴うこともある.

大腸炎では発熱・下痢・腹痛,食道潰瘍では嚥下痛・胸骨裏面痛,中枢神経病変では頭痛・麻痺・知覚障害や意識障害がみられる。また,初感染の場合は CMV による伝染性単核症を発症する。

3. 検査所見

血液を用いた CMV 測定法として、サイトメガロウイルス抗原血症(C7-HRP, C10/C11)と定量 PCR 法がある. HIV 感染者では陽性であったらすぐに治療が必要というわけではないが、CMV の活性化状態を知る方法として有用である. 網膜炎では、眼底検査で前述の所見が認められる. 大腸炎、食道潰瘍では内視鏡で多発性潰瘍を認め、生検により核内封入体を伴った感染細胞が検出される. 中枢神経感染では髄液でウイルス性髄膜炎所見(単球増多、タンパク増多など)を認め、髄液を用いた PCR で CMV が陽性となる.

4. 診 断

罹患臓器の病理/細胞診検体で核内封入体を認めれば、確定診断となる.網膜炎では眼底所見から診断するが、抗原血症や PCR 陽性であれば確実である.

5. 治療

ガンシクロビル, ホスカルネットと経口薬でガンシクロビルのプロドラッグであるバルガンシクロビルがある.

第1選択はガンシクロビル/バルガンシクロビルで、可能であれば点滴投与から開始し経口薬であるバルガンシクロビルにスイッチする. ガンシクロビルは $5 \, \text{mg/kg} \, \epsilon \, 1 \, \text{Hz}$ 回, バルガンシクロビルは $1,800 \, \text{mg} \, \epsilon \, \text{分} \, 2 \, \text{で投与する}$. 両剤は骨髄抑制が強く、投与開始から $1 \, \text{週間ほどで白血球減少が出現するので、頻回のモニターが欠かせない.}$

ホスカルネットはガンシクロビルが使用できなかったり効果が不十分な場合に用いる。 $9 \text{ mg/kg} \ \epsilon \ 1 \ H \ 2 \ 回投与する$ 。腎障害を起しやすく,投与に際しては水分負荷を行う。腎機能低下時には投与量を調節する必要がある。骨髄抑制もみられることがある。

いずれの薬剤も $2 \sim 3$ 週間の治療量投与によって改善がみられたら,維持量(投与回数を 1 回に減らす)に減量し,ART による免疫回復まで継続することが望ましい.CMV は免疫不全が強いと抗ウイルス薬単独では効果が望めない場合がある.この場合,免疫の回復に努めるとともに(ART 併用も考慮される),ガンシクロビルとホスカルネットの併用(1 剤の治療量 + 他剤の維持量)も考慮される.

5. 合併症

網膜炎では炎症を起した部位での視力は回復しないため、早期発見が極めて重要である.また、網膜炎の瘢痕部から網膜剥離を起しやすい.大腸炎や食道潰瘍では、穿孔や修復時の狭窄が起る場合がある. 髄膜炎では神経機能障害が残る場合がある.

カンジダ症

1. 病態

酵母様真菌である Candida による感染で、Candida albicans が多くを占めるがそのほかの Candida spp. も見られる. 口腔・食道カンジダ症が最も頻度が高く、女性では膣・外陰部カンジダ症もみられる. また、カテーテル関連などによるカンジダ血症も HIV 感染者では頻度が高い. 口腔および陰部カンジダ症は CD4 数が $200\sim300/\mu l$ 前後からみられ、HIV の発見端緒となる. 食道カンジダ症は CD4 数が 200 前後からみられ、AIDS 指標疾患である.

2. 症状·身体所見

口腔カンジダ症は口内の違和感や疼痛がある場合もあるが、多くは 偶然に口腔内所見で発見されることが多い、食道カンジダ症は嚥下時 の違和感や疼痛、胸骨裏面痛(胸部正中の持続した痛み)であるが、 上部消化管内視鏡時に偶然粘膜の白苔、発赤、浅い潰瘍などが発見される割合が高い、陰部カンジダ症は陰部の掻痒感が主症状である。

3. 検査所見/診断

肉眼的あるいは内視鏡の所見で診断可能であるが、白苔とその付着

粘膜の擦過/生検で菌糸をのばした酵母様真菌の集簇を認め、培養により Candida spp. を検出する.

4. 治療

アゾール系抗真菌薬(フルコナゾール、イトラコナゾール)の経口 投与が中心である。7日(口腔・陰部) ~ 14 日(食道)程度の期間 投与する。口腔カンジダ症はトローチやシロップ剤による治療も可能 である。

結 核

1. 病態

結核菌(Mycobacterium tuberculosis)を吸入することによる感染症であり、基本的病態は一般の結核と同じである.HIV 感染者では菌の曝露を受けた際の発症率がはるかに高いことと、進行が速く曝露から数ヵ月で排菌状態になる可能性がある点が異なっている.また、粟粒結核(結核の全身播種)や髄膜炎といった肺外結核の割合が高い.肺結核でも肺門・縦隔リンパ節腫脹や下肺野病変、肺炎様陰影など非定型的所見の割合も多くなる.

2. 症状・身体所見

一般の結核と同様である.

3. 検査所見

胸部 X 線は、前述のとおり非定型的所見がみられる頻度が高くなるが、撒布像を伴った浸潤影・結節影で空洞が見られやすいなど、結核の基本的所見は HIV 患者でも同様である。免疫的な診断法であるツベルクリン(PPD)は $CD4<200/\mu l$ では陰性化することが多く、診断的価値が低い、結核菌に対するインターフェロン γ 産生細胞の有無をみるクォンティフェロン(QFT)検査は、高度の免疫低下では判定不能となるが、PPD よりは診断的意義がある.

4. 診 断

通常の結核診断と同様である.

5. 治療

基本的には一般の結核治療と同じで、最初の2ヵ月間イソニアジド(INH),リファンピシン(RFP),エタンブトール(EB)(ストレプトマイシン:SM),ピラジナシド(PZA)の4剤で治療し、臨床効

果がみられ薬剤耐性でないことが判明したら, 4ヵ月間の INH, RFP 治療を追加する6ヵ月短期療法を行う. 菌陰性化の遅れや広範な病変などが見られれば3ヵ月程度, 中枢神経や骨・関節結核では3~6ヵ月程度の治療延長を考慮する.

6. 合併症

HIV 感染者では RFP や INH に対する薬剤の副作用/過敏症の発症率が高く、治療完遂に難渋することが少なくない。また、RFP やリファブチン(RBT)では抗 HIV 薬との相互作用が見られるため、ART を開始するタイミングと治療薬選択・投与量に注意が必要である。

非結核抗酸菌症

1. 病態

Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare complex (MAC) による播 種性菌血症が最も多く,このほか MAC のリンパ節炎,肺感染症, 一部 M. kansasii による肺感染症がみられる. 播種性菌血症は CD4< 100/μl でみられ,原因不明の発熱では最も考慮されるべき病態である.

2. 症状・身体所見

播種性菌血症は出没する発熱であり、下痢や腹痛などがみられることがある.

3. 検査所見/診断

血液を用いた抗酸菌検査が必要であり、培養で陽性となれば確診となる. 便や呼吸器検体から検出された場合、播種性病変の傍証となる. 腹部 CT やエコー検査で腹腔内のリンパ節腫脹が見られることが多い. 血液生化学検査では特徴は少ないが ALP 高値がみられることがある.

4. 治療

クラリスロマイシンと EB の 2 剤を中核薬剤とし、これに RBT、アミカシン、新キノロン(シプロフロキサシン:CPFX、レボフロキサシン:LVFX、スパルフロキサシン:SPFX など)を組み合わせた $3 \sim 4$ 剤治療が推奨される。治療期間は少なくとも $6 \sim 12$ ヵ月であり、ART による免疫の改善が治療終了の必要条件となる。

5. 合併症

免疫再構築症候群が最も起りやすい日和見感染症の1つである.

トキソプラズマ症

1. 病態

原虫である Toxoplasma gondii による中枢神経感染である. $CD4<200/\mu l$ で発症する. 既感染後の潜伏感染にある患者が多いが, 時に新規感染から発症する例もある.

2. 症状·身体所見

発熱,頭痛,麻痺や知覚異常などの神経障害,意識障害や痙攀など がみられる.

3. 検査所見/診断

既感染例では、血液のトキソプラズマ IgG 抗体が陽性である. IgM 抗体が陽性となることは少なく、診断的価値は乏しい. 頭部 CT/MRI で脳に多発性の占拠性病変(SOL)を認め、周囲に脳の浮腫を伴う. 造影で SOL はリング状に濃染される (ring enhancement). 脳悪性リンパ腫との鑑別が重要である.

4. 治療

Pyrimethamine と sulfadiadine(いずれもエイズ治療薬研究班から 供給)の併用が第1選択である. Sulfadiadine の代わりにクリンダマ イシンを用いると、副作用の発生が少ない. 2週間の治療で有効であ れば、さらに4週間以上の治療を追加継続する.

クリプトコックス症

1.病態

真菌である Cryptococcus neoformans による髄膜炎が主で、進展 すると播種性感染となる. 非 HIV 例で頻度が高い肺感染もみられる.

2. 症状・身体所見

髄膜炎では発熱,頭痛,意識障害,痙攣などがみられるが,髄膜刺激症状が比較的軽微で,局在の明らかでない発熱と全身衰弱から意識障害に至る例もあり,進行するまで診断されない例もあり注意が必要である.

3. 検査所見/診断

真菌性髄膜炎としての髄液所見は軽微であることがあり、髄液の墨 汁染色による真菌検出、髄液・血液のクリプトコックスネオフォルマ ンス抗原検査が重要である.

4. 治療

アムホテリシンB+フルシトシンによる最低 14 日間の治療に加え、フルコナゾールによる $4 \sim 8$ 週間の維持治療が標準である.

5. 合併症

進行例では全身臓器に播種し予後不良である. 髄膜炎の診断が遅れると, 意識障害や麻痺などの後遺症が残る.

進行性多巣性白質脳症

1.病態

JC ウイルス感染によって引き起される脳白質の変性症である. $CD4 < 50 / \mu l$ の高度免疫不全で起りやすい.

2. 症状・身体所見

視覚障害や麻痺, 認知障害.

3. 検査所見/診断

頭部 MRI で白質に T2 低信号域,フレア高信号域を形成する.隣接する灰白質は正常のまま残されるのが特徴である.脳浮腫などは通常見られない. 髄液や脳組織から JC ウイルスの遺伝子検出が有用である.

4. 治療

現時点では有効な特異治療はない. ART による免疫の回復で, 沈静化するのを期待するしかない.

おわりに

HIV の日和見感染症は稀用薬による的確な治療が必要であり、治療の実際においては経験のある専門家に相談することが望ましい.

安岡 彰

BRIEF REPORT

Serum (1 \rightarrow 3) β -D-Glucan as a Noninvasive Adjunct Marker for the Diagnosis of *Pneumocystis* Pneumonia in Patients with AIDS

Tamayo Watanabe, 12 Akira Yasuoka, 3 Junko Tanuma, 1 Hirohisa Yazaki, 12 Haruhito Honda, 1 Kunihisa Tsukada, 1 Miwako Honda, 1 Hiroyuki Gatanaga, 12 Katsuji Teruya, 1 Yoshimi Kikuchi, 1 and Shinichi Oka 1.2

¹AIDS Clinical Center, International Medical Center of Japan, Tokyo, ²Division of Infectious Disease, Center for AIDS Research, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, and ³Infection Control and Education Center, Nagasaki University, Nagasaki, Japan

High serum (1 \rightarrow 3) β -D-glucan levels are described in patients with *Pneumocystis* pneumonia (PCP). We evaluated the diagnostic value of β -D-glucan in 111 patients with AIDS who had PCP and confirmed its usefulness. However, it does not correlate with disease severity and is not suitable for monitoring response to treatment.

Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) is associated with significant morbidity and mortality in patients with human immnuode-ficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection [1, 2]. PCP is usually diagnosed microscopically by identifying Pneumocystis jirovecii in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) or bronchoscopically obtained lung tissue [3]. Bronchoscopy, however, is invasive, especially in patients with hypoxemia associated with PCP. Therefore, a minimally invasive method is desirable for diagnosis.

Serum (1 \rightarrow 3) β -D-glucan (hereafter, β -D-glucan) is a common component of the cell wall of most fungi and is the major component of the cyst of *P. jirovecii*. Therefore, it is measured in patients who are suspected to have PCP, as well as in those with deep-seated mycotic infections [4]. Although β -D-glucan has been used as an adjunct test for the diagnosis of PCP [5], only a few reports have evaluated its level [5–7] and its correlation with other parameters (such as lactate dehydrogenase

[LDH] level) in mixed populations that included a small number of HIV-infected patients [6]. For this purpose, we analyzed the correlation between β -p-glucan levels and other parameters among patients with AIDS who have PCP.

Methods. We evaluated data from 111 consecutive HIV-1—infected patients with PCP at the International Medical Center of Japan, an 885-bed tertiary care hospital in Tokyo, from April 1997 through July 2007. This study was approved by the Ethics Review Committee of the hospital (IMCJ-H20-569). Patients who did not undergo diagnostic bronchoscopy were excluded from the study.

Medical records were reviewed, and the following data were collected: age; sex; mode of infection; CD4⁺ cell count; serum levels of LDH, β -D-glucan, and C-reactive protein (CRP); and alveolar-arterial oxygen tension gradient (AaDO₂). Serum β -D-glucan levels were measured using the Fungitec G MK test (Seikagaku). Manipulation was performed described elsewhere [4, 5], in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Serum β -D-glucan levels in HIV-1–infected patients without PCP determined during the same period were used as a control. If serum β -D-glucan levels had been determined several times for the same patient, only the first measurement was included. Although oral and esophageal candidiasis are superficial infections, they were included as an independent factor and analyzed. In this report, the term *candidiasis* refers to oral and/or esophageal candidiasis.

The diagnosis of PCP was established by identification of P. jirovecii in BALF. Each BALF specimen (100 μ L) was centrifuged at 900 g for 2 min by means of a Shandon Cytospin III device, and a monolayer of deposited cells were stained using Diff-Quik (Dade Behring) and examined microscopically for the presence of P. jirovecii.

Data were expressed as means \pm standard deviations (SDs) or as medians. Differences in categorical variables between patients with PCP and control patients were assessed using the Mann-Whitney U test. The Mann-Whitney U test (for comparison of 2 groups) and the Kruskal-Wallis test (for comparison of 3 groups) were used for analysis of differences in serum β -D-glucan levels. A receiver-operating-characteristic (ROC) curve was constructed to illustrate the cutoff value for β -D-glucan. The relationships were analyzed by linear regression analysis. Differences were considered significant at P < .05. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS, version 17.0 (SPSS).

Results. A total of 111 patients had a definite diagnosis of PCP, and serum β -D-glucan level was measured in each. Of

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Reprints or correspondence: Dr. Shinichi Oka, AIDS Clinical Center, International Medical Center of Japan, 1-21-1, Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8655, Japan (oka@imcj.hosp.go.jpl.

these patients, 67 also had candidiasis at admission. Of the control group (425 patients who did not have PCP), 28 had candidiasis, 3 had cryptococcal infection, and 394 had neither.

The patients with PCP were older than the control patients (mean \pm SD, 42.3 \pm 11.9 vs 38.7 \pm 11.7 years; P<.01), and CD4⁺ cell counts were significantly higher in the control patients than in the patients with PCP (mean \pm SD, 178.6 \pm 155.6 vs 49.1 \pm 63.1 cells/ μ L; P<.001). Sex and mode of transmission of HIV were similar in both groups (P=.81 and P=.53, respectively). All patients with PCP received treatment, and 6 patients died of PCP.

Of the patients with PCP, 67 had candidiasis and 44 did not; of the control patients, 28 had candidiasis, 3 had cryptococcal infection, and 394 did not have any fungal infection. The median (range) serum β -D-glucan level in each group was 171.2 (14.9–2966), 209.6 (2.4–2469), 7.40 (1.0–73.0), 22.7 (9.3–69.7), and 8.25 (1.0–310) pg/mL, respectively (Figure 1). The median serum level of β -D-glucan among all patients with PCP (174.8 [2.4–2966] pg/mL) was significantly higher than that among the control patients (8.2 [1.0–310.1] pg/mL) (P<.001). The presence of candidiasis in both the PCP group and the control group and of cryptococcal infection in the control group did

not significantly influence serum levels of β -D-glucan (P = .53, P = .83, and P = .08, respectively).

With respect to the diagnostic value of β -D-glucan, the area under the ROC curve for β -D-glucan level was 0.964 (95% confidence interval, 0.945–0.984) (Figure 2). A β -D-glucan cutoff value of 23.2 pg/mL (which represented the technique's threshold of detection) had a sensitivity of 96.4% and a specificity of 87.8%.

There was no correlation between serum levels of β -D-glucan and AaDO₂ at room air (r=0.125; P=.30), LDH (r=.030; P=.76), or CRP (r=.002; P=.62). In 42 instances, serum β -D-glucan levels were measured before and after treatment. On the basis of a cutoff value of 23.2 pg/mL, normalization of serum β -D-glucan levels was noted in 7 patients. In contrast, serum β -D-glucan levels slightly increased in 9 patients despite clinical improvement being noted at week 3. This finding indicates that β -D-glucan levels reflected the clinical course in only 16.7% of patients (7 of 42) within 3 weeks of treatment.

Discussion. The present study has reported 3 major findings. The first major finding is the usefulness of quantitative measurement of serum β -D-glucan levels for the diagnosis of PCP. With a cutoff value of 23.2 pg/mL, β -D-glucan level had

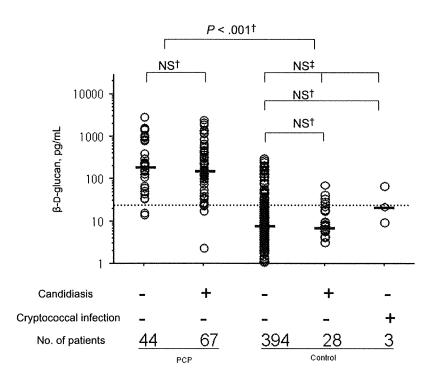


Figure 1. Serum levels of (1→3) β-D-glucan. Levels of β-D-glucan in serum were examined before treatment of *Pneumocystis* pneumonia (PCP), candidiasis, and cryptococcal infection. The Mann-Whitney U test (†) and the Kruskal-Wallis test (‡) were used for comparison of serum β-D-glucan levels. Individual values are plotted, and horizontal bars represents medians. The presence of candidiasis in both the PCP group and the control group and of cryptococcal infection in the control group did not significantly influence serum β-D-glucan levels (P = .53, P = .83, and P = .08, respectively). Serum β-D-glucan levels were significantly higher in patients with PCP than in those without PCP, despite the presence of candidiasis and cryptococcal infection (P<.001). NS, not significant.

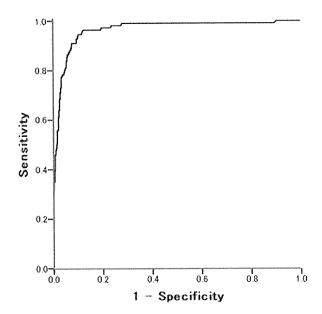


Figure 2. Receiver-operating-characteristic (ROC) curve for the (1 \rightarrow 3) β -D-glucan cutoff. The area under the ROC curve for β -D-glucan was 0.964 (95% confidence interval, 0.945-0.984). A β -D-glucan cutoff value of 23.2 pg/mL (which represented the technique's threshold of detection) had a sensitivity of 96.4% and a specificity of 87.8%.

a high sensitivity (96.4%) and specificity (87.8%) for the diagnosis of PCP. Interestingly, serum β -D-glucan levels among those with PCP were not affected by the presence of superficial fungal infection (ie, oral and/or esophageal candidiasis). Deepseated mycosis other than PCP and cryptococcal infection are quite rare in Japan, and no patients were suspected to have aspergillosis in this study. Hence, we could not analyze the effect of aspergillosis. According to our data and those of others [4], β -D-glucan level increases during cryptococcal infection, but the level is significantly lower than that observed during PCP. The number of P. jirovecii organisms in the lungs of patients with AIDS may be significantly higher than that in patients without AIDS [8]. In a meta-analysis of 7 reports in which PCP was diagnosed by staining, the average sensitivity of induced sputum was 56%, whereas that of BALF was >95% [9]. To eliminate false-positive and false-negative results, we analyzed data obtained only from patients who underwent BALF analysis and had a definite diagnosis of PCP.

The second major finding was that the serum level of β -D-glucan does not reflect the severity of PCP in patients with AIDS. Although Shimizu et al [10] reported that β -D-glucan is a negative prognostic marker for PCP in patients with connective tissue diseases, there was no significant difference in β -D-glucan level between survivors and nonsurvivors in our study. Furthermore, Tasaka et al [6] reported that serum levels of LDH correlated with those of β -D-glucan in patients with PCP,

whereas our data showed no such relationship. These differences are probably the result of differences in the patient populations studied, especially regarding whether the patients have HIV-1 infection. Considered collectively, these results emphasize the need for further studies to define the exact relationship between β -D-glucan and prognosis as well as LDH.

The third major finding of the present study was that β -D-glucan level did not reflect the effectiveness of therapy. In nearly 85% patients, serum β -D-glucan levels did not decrease to normal despite clinical improvement. Furthermore, 20% of patients had increased levels of β -D-glucan during the early phase of treatment. However, β -D-glucan levels normalized several months or years after treatment in all patients. These results mean that β -D-glucan levels increase transiently early during treatment and decrease thereafter but do not always return to normal during treatment. The transient increase in β -D-glucan level is probably due to lysis of P. jirovecii shortly after treatment.

PCP is usually suspected on the basis of chest radiographic findings, clinical symptoms, and low CD4⁺ cell counts in HIV-infected patients. In the present study, a high serum level of β -D-glucan (especially >23.2 pg/mL by the MK test) was found to be highly indicative of PCP in practically all patients with AIDS. Therefore, the β -D-glucan test is useful for the diagnosis of PCP, especially in HIV-infected patients who are unable to undergo bronchoscopy owing to severe hypoxemia. In conclusion, the present study has demonstrated that β -D-glucan is a useful, noninvasive adjunct marker for the diagnosis of PCP in patients with AIDS. However, its serum levels do not reflect the severity of the disease, and it is not suitable for monitoring response to treatment.

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Sequence-Based *spa* Typing as a Rapid Screening Method for the Areal and Nosocomial Outbreaks of MRSA

Munetoshi Narukawa, Akira Yasuoka, Ryougo Note and Hisashi Funada

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is the leading cause of nosocomial infection and MRSA outbreaks have become a major problem. Therefore, the rapid and accurate typing of MRSA isolates is important for epidemiological surveys and nosocomial infection control. Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) is considered as the gold standard technique for MRSA typing, because of its high discriminatory power, but its procedure is rather complicated and time-consuming. The spa gene encodes a cell wall component of Staphylococcus aureus protein A, and exhibits polymorphism. Sequencing the spa gene is expected superior to PFGE in speed and data interpretation. In the present study, we evaluated whether spa typing of MRSA is useful for nosocomial outbreak analysis and epidemiological investigations. We analyzed 19 nosocomial outbreak isolates from 4 separate hospitals and 26 isolates from outpatients of Toyama University Hospital. Either PFGE or spa typing revealed a single nosocomial strain that appears unique to each hospital. Indeed, spa typing confirmed the four different strains, but PFGE demonstrated only 3 strains. With the total 45 isolates, PFGE showed 16 different patterns and spa typing showed 12 patterns. Moreover, we were able to analyze the spa gene in about 2 days, from sampling to obtaining the results, whereas it took about 7 days with PFGE. In conclusion, sequence-based spa typing shows comparable sensitivities to PFGE, and is a rapid and easy handling method. The sequence-based spa typing can be used as the rapid screening test when MRSA outbreak is suspected in areas and hospitals. PFGE; MRSA outbreak; spa typing; single polymorphic locus sequence-based typing method;

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Since methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) was initially identified in the early 1960s, it has gradually spread widely, becoming a major issue in medical practice from the late 1970s (Cafferkey et al. 1985). It is now prevalent worldwide, and has become one of the most important pathogens of nosocomial infection. In Japan, MRSA became problematic in medical facilities throughout the country in the late 1980s, but the estimated isolation rate at that time was still low, about 10% (Tomizawa and Sato 1988). However, according to the data in 2006, 63% of Staphylococcus aureus strains isolated from blood samples were reported as MRSA (Japanese Nosocomial Infection Surveillance: test section data 2006). MRSA patients accounted for 91.7% of those infected with drug-resistant bacteria in 2006; MRSA remains a major pathogenic organism in nosocomial infection and causes problems (Japanese Nosocomial Infection Surveillance: all inpatient data 2006).

When an outbreak of MRSA is suspected, MRSA typing is essential to elucidate the origin of the pathogen and simplify epidemiological surveys (Macfarlane et al. 1999; Gialluly et al. 2003). Currently, pulsed-field gel electropho-

resis (PFGE) is most frequently used. Processing without DNA fragmentation facilitates highly sensitive polymorphism analysis, a very important tool for outbreak surveys in hospitals. However, its procedures are too complicated and time consuming to allow quick countermeasures, and, in many cases, the outbreaks are likely to be under control by the time the results are made available. Data analyses were previously hampered by their lack of reproducibility and data sharing among institutions (Heijne and Uhlen 1987; Brigido et al. 1991; Belkum et al. 1998) and, therefore, their availability in relatively small-scale surveys was limited (Chung et al. 2000; Cookson et al. 2007). However, at present, advances in standardized electrophoretic conditions and the development of analysis software have made them available for multicenter studies (Chung et al. 2000; Oliveira et al. 2001; Duck et al. 2003; Cookson et al. 2007).

Typing by gene sequencing has recently markedly advanced, enabling analysis within a short time. The *spa* gene encodes a cell wall component of *S. aureus*, protein A. The X region, a polymorphic region of the *spa* gene, is located immediately upstream of a region that encodes the

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Correspondence: Munetoshi Narukawa, Department of Clinical infectious diseases, University of Toyama, 2630 Sugitani, Toyama-shi, Toyama 930-0194, Japan.

e-mail: naru-tym@umin.ac.jp

¹Department of Clinical infectious diseases, University of Toyama, Toyama, Japan

²Department of Clinical Laboratory, Toyama University Hospital, Toyama, Japan

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cell wall-binding sequence at the C-terminal (Guss et al. 1984; Uhlen et al. 1984; Schneewind et al. 1992) and consists of a variable number of 21-bp to 27-bp repeats or point mutations (Guss et al. 1984; Uhlen et al. 1984; Frénay et al. 1996; Shopsin et al. 1999). Sequencing of this region is called spa typing (Frénay et al. 1996) and is superior to PFGE in terms of speed, workflow capacity, ease of interpretation, and comparison between laboratories (Wernitz et al. 2005; Ruppitsch et al. 2006; Hallin et al. 2007). An epidemiological survey using spa typing has studied, and its utility has been reported in a few papers (Shopsin et al. 1999; Tang et al. 2000; Koreen et al. 2004). We examined the following in outbreak cases of Toyama, Japan: (1) Correlation between the results of PFGE analysis and those of spa typing, (2) usefulness of spa typing as an epidemiological survey on outbreak cases, and (3) utility of spa typing as an analytical method of strain spreading in our area.

Materials and Methods

Samples

Forty-five clinical MRSA strains isolated at Toyama University Hospital (TUH) and 3 acute care hospitals in Toyama Prefecture were investigated. Twenty-six clinical strains isolated from outpatients at TUH between January 2006 and October 2007 were used. Nineteen nosocomial outbreak strains isolated at 3 acute care hospitals and TUH were used: 6 outbreak strains isolated at Hospitals A in 2000, 3 at B in 2001, 3 at C in 2002, and 7 at TUH in 2002.

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

Single colonies of MRSA strains grown on Mueller-Hinton agar medium were individually cultured in 3 ml of brain-heart infusion broth at 37°C for 12 hours. The culture fluid was centrifuged at 6,000 g for 2 min. The bacterial pellet was collected and combined with 3 μ l of proteinase K (20 mg/ml) and 100 μ l of lysis buffer, and incubated in an aluminum bath at 60°C for 60 min and then 95°C for 15 min. After cooling at room temperature, the sample was combined and mixed with 600 µl of phenol/chloroform, and centrifuged at 9,200 g for 2 min. The supernatant was transferred into a new Eppendorf tube, combined and mixed with 600 μ l of phenol, and centrifuged at 9,200 g for 2 min. The supernatant was transferred into a new Eppendorf tube, combined and gently mixed with 1/9 volumes of pH 5.2 sodium acetate and 2 volumes of 99.5% ethanol, and precipitated at -20°C overnight. After centrifugation at 18,000 g for 15 min, the supernatant was discarded. The precipitate was washed with 70% ethanol and centrifuged at 9,200 g for 2 min. After removal of the supernatant, the precipitate was completely dried, and dissolved in 50 μl of TE buffer as template DNA. Primers for the spa gene were prepared referring to Shopsin et al.'s report (1999), but the resolution was insufficient, such as multiple nonspecific bands appeared. Thus, we designed original primers based on the sequence of GeneBank No. J01786, and spa-1 (GTA ACG GCT TCA TCC AAA GC) and spa-2 (CAA GTT CTT GAC CAG GTT TGA) were used for the latter investigation (F888 → R1547).

The composition of the reaction solution was: DNA template, 50 ng; Taq polymerase, 2.5 U (TaKaRa Ex Taq^{IM}, Takara, Shiga, Japan); 10X Ex Taq Buffer, 5 μ l (20 mM Tris-HCl [pH 8.3], 500 mM KCl, 15 mM MgCl₂); dNTP Mixture (2.5 mM each), 5 μ l; Primer Spa1, 1.0 μ M (final conc.); Primer Spa2, 1.0 μ M (final conc.), and the

volume was adjusted to $50~\mu l$ with distilled water. PCR was performed using a thermal cycler (Gene Amp PCR system 9700, Applied Biosystems, CA, USA) under the following reaction conditions: predenaturation at 95°C for 5 min, followed by 30 cycles of 94°C for 30 seconds, 58°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 45 seconds, and then postextension at 72°C for 7 min. The PCR products were subjected to 3% agarose gel electrophoresis, stained with ethidium bromide, and single bands were confirmed by UV irradiation.

DNA sequence

The PCR products were purified using a QIAquick* PCR Purification Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany), and subjected to cycle sequence reaction using a BigDye® Terminator Ver. 3 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems). The reaction solution consisted of $5 \mu l$ of purified DNA, $1 \mu l$ of spa-1 or spa-2 (1.6 pmol/ μl), and 4 μ l of Ready Reaction mix, in a total volume of 10 μ l. The reaction conditions were 25 cycles of 96°C for 10 seconds, 50°C for 5 seconds, and 60°C for 4 min. For the primers, spa-1 and spa-2 used for PCR were employed for both the forward and reverse directions. After the completion of the cycle sequence reaction, the reaction solution was purified using a DyeExTM 2.0 Spin Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany), combined with 30 μ l of 95% ethanol and 5 μ l of 3 M acetic acid. stirred at room temperature for 15 min, and centrifuged at 18,000 g for 15 min. The supernatant was removed, and the precipitate was washed with 50 μ l of 80% ethanol. After removal of the supernatant by pipetting, the precipitate was dried at room temperature for 15 min. The precipitate was dissolved with 2 μ 1 of loading buffer, heated at 96°C for 5 min, and subjected to gene analysis using ABI PRISM377 (Applied Biosystems). Consistency of the sequence data in the forward and reverse directions was confirmed in each strain using gene analysis software, GENETYX* Ver. 7 (GENETYX, Tokyo, Japan), and then homology was analyzed.

PFGE

Single colonies of MRSA strains grown on Mueller-Hinton agar medium were individually cultured in 3 ml of brain-heart infusion broth at 37°C for 18 hours, and bacteria were collected by centrifugation (13,200 g). The precipitates were embedded in agarose blocks using a Gene Path Group I Reagent kit (BIO-RAD, CA, Hercules, USA) following the attached instructions, the bacteria were lysed with lysozyme/lysostphin and treated with proteinase K. The DNA was cut with 25 U of the restriction enzyme SmaI (BIO-RAD), and electrophoresed at 170 V for 20 hours at 14°C with a pulse time of 5-28 seconds using the GenePath[™] system (BIO-RAD). After electrophoresis, the agarose gel was stained with ethidium bromide. The image acquired under UV irradiation was analyzed. The PFGE patterns are often evaluated visually based on the criteria proposed by Tenover et al. (1995); however, we used Finger printing[™] II computer software (BIO-RAD) for a more accurate identification.

Results

PFGE

The results from PFGE analysis of a total of 12 outbreak strains obtained from 3 acute care hospitals, A, B, and C, demonstrated one identical type for each hospital and, therefore, they were determined as outbreak strains. The analytical results of 7 outbreak strains in TUH demonstrated one identical pattern, except for the No. 3 strain; the No. 3 strain