methods is given in the Supplementary Appendix, available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

STUDY POPULATIONS

Both trials included adult patients with confirmed HIV-1 infection. Patients with a CD4+ cell count of 50 to 299 per cubic millimeter (in the SILCAAT study) or 300 or more per cubic millimeter (in ESPRIT) were enrolled. Patients in the SILCAAT study were also required to have an HIV RNA level of less than 10,000 copies per milliliter. Protocols were approved by the institutional review board at each site. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

ASSESSMENTS

Patients were seen every 4 months for a targeted history taking and clinical evaluation and measurement of the CD4+ cell count and plasma HIV RNA level. Follow-up continued until a common closing date (November 15, 2008).

DEFINITIONS OF END POINTS

The primary end point of each study was opportunistic disease or death from any cause. Secondary end points included death from any cause and grade 4 clinical events, defined as potentially lifethreatening events (excluding opportunistic diseases) requiring medical intervention (see toxicity table at http://rcc.tech-res.com). Grade 4 events were reported irrespective of their perceived relationship to the use of interleukin-2 or antiretroviral therapy and were coded according to the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (version 12.0).

INTERIM MONITORING OF SAFETY AND EFFICACY

An independent data and safety monitoring board reviewed interim analyses from the SILCAAT study and ESPRIT. On November 27, 2007, at their final meeting, the board recommended that ESPRIT continue until its planned completion time (when 320 primary events had occurred) and that the SILCAAT study continue until ESPRIT was closed.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

In both trials, the primary analysis was based on the intention-to-treat principle. Time-to-event methods were used to compare the groups receiving interleukin-2 plus combination antiretroviral therapy and combination antiretroviral therapy

alone, with regard to major end points.¹⁷ Follow-up data were censored when patients were lost to follow-up before or on November 15, 2008.

The hazard ratios for the comparisons of interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and antiretroviral therapy alone were estimated from Cox models with a single indicator for treatment group. We tested the proportional-hazards assumption by including an interaction term between treatment group and natural-log-transformed followup time.

Data on the primary end point were summarized for prespecified subgroups defined according to baseline characteristics. A total of 12 subgroup analyses were prespecified. The heterogeneity of hazard-ratio estimates between subgroups was assessed by including an interaction term between treatment and subgroup in expanded Cox models. The results of subgroup analyses should be interpreted with caution; a significant interaction could be due to chance, because there was no adjustment made to the type 1 error for the number of subgroups examined.

Cox models were also used to obtain an estimate of the association between the time-updated follow-up CD4+ cell count (the levels last measured before the event, hereafter called the latest levels) after log₁₀ transformation and the primary end point among recipients of antiretroviral therapy alone. Estimates of parameters in Cox models and average differences in the CD4+ cell count between treatment groups during the follow-up period were used to obtain predicted hazard ratios for comparison with observed hazard ratios.

Statistical analyses were performed using SAS software (version 9.1). P values are two-sided.

RESULTS

BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

A total of 1695 patients (849 receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and 846 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone) in the SILCAAT study and 4111 patients (2071 receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and 2040 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone) in ESPRIT were enrolled and had data included in the analysis (Table 1, and Fig. Ia and Ib in the Supplementary Appendix). The two treatment groups were well balanced with respect to baseline characteristics (Tables Ia and Ib in the Supplementary Appendix).

COMPLETENESS OF FOLLOW-UP

Approximately 5700 patient-years and 14,000 patient-years of follow-up were accrued in each group in the SILCAAT study and in ESPRIT, respectively. (The median duration of follow-up was 7.6 years for the SILCAAT study and 7.0 years for ESPRIT.) In the SILCAAT study, the status of the primary end point was unknown for 91 of the 849 patients (10.7%) receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and for 100 of the 846 patients (11.8%) receiving antiretroviral therapy alone. In ESPRIT, the status of the primary end point was unknown for 118 of the 2071 patients (5.7%) receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and for 134 of the 2040 patients (6.6%) receiving antiretroviral therapy alone.

USE OF INTERLEUKIN-2

In the SILCAAT study, 72.3% of patients receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy completed six cycles of interleukin-2 therapy; 2.1% never received interleukin-2. In ESPRIT, 83.4% of the patients receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy completed at least three cycles of interleukin-2 therapy; 3.7% of patients never received interleukin-2. The median number of cycles was 7 (interquartile range, 5 to 9) in the SILCAAT study and 4 (interquartile range, 3 to 6) in ESPRIT.

CD4+ CELL COUNT

Median CD4+ cell counts are given in Figure 1. In the SILCAAT study, at 1 year, the median CD4+ cell count in the group receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy had increased from the baseline level by 131 per cubic millimeter (interquartile range, 52 to 215). For SILCAAT patients receiving antiretroviral therapy alone, the increase in the CD4+ cell count over the baseline value at 1 year was 32 per cubic millimeter (interquartile range, -11 to 78). The median difference in CD4+ cell count between the two SILCAAT groups declined from 99 per cubic millimeter at 1 year to 38 per cubic millimeter at 6 years. This decline paralleled the percentage of patients receiving interleukin-2 during each year (97.8% in year 1 and 12.0% during year 6). On average, over the follow-up period, the CD4+ cell count was higher with interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy than with antiretroviral therapy alone, by 53 per cubic millimeter (95% confidence interval [CI], 40 to 66).

In ESPRIT, the median CD4+ cell count was

Age (yr) Median Interquartile range Female sex (%) Race or ethnic group (%) ↑ Black White 79.8 Other or unknown CD4+ cell count (per mm³) Median Interquartile range 151–254 Median 202 457 Interquartile range 151–254 The proper sex (%) Median 60 197 Interquartile range 26–107 P1–306 HIV RNA ≤500 copies/ml (%) Body-mass index; Median 23.9 Interquartile range 21.8–26.1 Previous antiretroviral therapy (%) PI 85.5 72.4 NNRTI NNRTI NNRTI, PI, and NNRTI Time since first prescribed antiretroviral drugs (yr) Median 3.9 4.2 Interquartile range 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes PI Includes NNRTI 14.8 45.8 46.3 Includes NRTI, PI, and NNRTI 13.9 7.9	Characteristic	SILCAAT Study (N=1695)	ESPRIT (N = 4111)
Median 40 40 Interquartile range 36–47 34–46 Female sex (%) 16.5 18.6 Race or ethnic group (%) † Black 8.4 9.1 White 79.8 75.3 Other or unknown 11.8 15.5 CD4+ cell count (per mm³) Median 202 457 Interquartile range 151–254 372–584 CD4+ cell-count nadir (per mm³) Median 60 197 Interquartile range 26–107 91–306 HIV RNA ≤500 copies/ml (%) 31.4 79.7 AIDS event (%) 32.5 25.9 Body-mass index‡ Median 23.9 23.7 Interquartile range 21.8–26.1 21.9–25.9 Previous antiretroviral therapy (%) PI 85.5 72.4 NNRTI 57.7 57.9 NRTI, PI, and NNRTI 44.3 38.5 Time since first prescribed antiretroviral drugs (yr) 44.3 38.5 Time since first prescribed antiretroviral regimen (%) 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%)		(14 = 1055)	(14 - 4111)
Interquartile range 36–47 34–46	0 0 7	40	40
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HIV RNA ≤500 copies/ml (%) 81.4 79.7 AIDS event (%) 32.5 25.9 Body-mass index‡ Median 23.9 23.7 Interquartile range 21.8–26.1 21.9–25.9 Previous antiretroviral therapy (%) Pl 85.5 72.4 NNRTI 57.7 57.9 NRTI, Pl, and NNRTI 44.3 38.5 Time since first prescribed antiretroviral drugs (yr) Median 3.9 4.2 Interquartile range 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes Pl 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	Interquartile range		
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Previous antiretroviral therapy (%) 85.5 72.4 NNRTI 57.7 57.9 NRTI, PI, and NNRTI 44.3 38.5 Time since first prescribed antiretroviral drugs (yr) 3.9 4.2 Interquartile range 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes PI 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	Interquartile range	21.8–26.1	21.9-25.9
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Time since first prescribed antiretroviral drugs (yr) Median 3.9 4.2 Interquartile range 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes PI 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	NNRTI	57.7	57.9
drugs (yr) Median 3.9 4.2 Interquartile range 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes PI 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	NRTI, PI, and NNRTI	44.3	38.5
Interquartile range 1.8–7.2 2.2–6.4 Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes PI 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3			
Current antiretroviral regimen (%) Includes PI 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	Median	3.9	4.2
Includes PI 65.6 49.0 Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	Interquartile range	1.8-7.2	2.2-6.4
Includes NNRTI 45.8 46.3	Current antiretroviral regimen (%)		
10.5	Includes PI	65.6	49.0
Includes NRTI, PI, and NNRTI 13.9 7.9	Includes NNRTI	45.8	46.3
	Includes NRTI, PI, and NNRTI	13.9	7.9

^{*} AIDS denotes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, HIV human immunodeficiency virus, NNRTI nonnucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor, NRTI nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor, and PI protease inhibitor.

increased over the baseline value at 1 year, by 206 cells per cubic millimeter (interquartile range, 55 to 376) in the group receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy as compared with 21 cells per cubic millimeter (interquartile range, –64 to

[†] Race or ethnic group was self-reported.

[‡] The body-mass index is the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters.

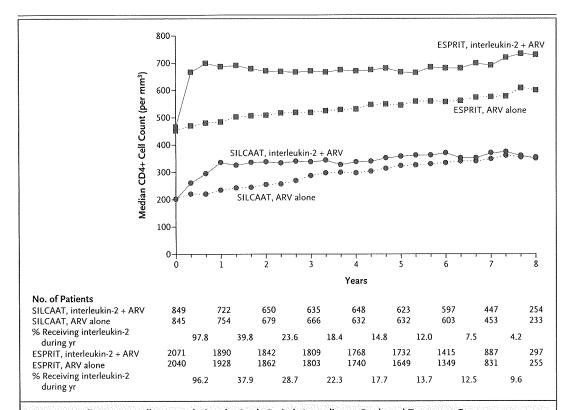


Figure 1. Median CD4+ Cell Counts during the Study Period, According to Study and Treatment Group.

The median CD4+ cell counts are shown for the groups receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy (ARV) and the groups receiving ARV alone in the SILCAAT study and ESPRIT. The counts during the first 30 days after a cycle of interleukin-2 are not stable and therefore were excluded. Also shown are the percentages of patients assigned to

114) in the group receiving antiretroviral therapy alone. This difference between the two ESPRIT groups of 185 cells per cubic millimeter at 1 year declined to 113 cells per cubic millimeter at 6 years. This decrease in the difference between the two groups paralleled the decline in receipt of interleukin-2 — from 96.2% of patients during the first year to 13.7% during the sixth year. On average, during the follow-up period, the CD4+cell count was higher with interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy, by 159 per cubic millimeter (95% CI, 145 to 174), as compared with antiretroviral therapy alone.

receive interleukin-2 who were taking the drug during each year of the study.

ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY AND HIV RNA LEVELS

During the follow-up period, the use of antiretroviral therapy and HIV RNA levels were similar for the groups receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and the groups receiving antiretroviral therapy alone (Fig. IIa and IIb in the Supplementary Appendix). More than 80% of patients

had HIV RNA levels at or below 500 copies per milliliter at each visit.

PRIMARY END POINT AND OTHER MAJOR CLINICAL OUTCOMES

Opportunistic Disease or Death from Any Cause (Primary End Point)

In the SILCAAT study, 110 patients receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and 119 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone had an opportunistic disease or died (Table 2 and Fig. 2A, and Tables IIa and IIIa in the Supplementary Appendix) (hazard ratio for this primary end point with interleukin-2, 0.91; 95% CI, 0.70 to 1.18; P=0.47). This hazard ratio did not vary significantly over the follow-up period (P=0.34).

In ESPRIT, 159 patients receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and 165 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone had an opportunistic disease or died (Table 2, and Tables IIb and IIIb in the Supplementary Appendix). The hazard ratio for

Table 2. Hazard Ratios for the Primary End Point and Major Secondary End Points in SILCAAT and ESPRIT, According to Treatment Group.

End Point*	Interleukin-2 + Antiretroviral Therapy	Antiretroviral Therapy Alone	Hazard Ratio for Interleukin-2 (95% CI)	P Value
	no. of patients (rate	e/100 person-yr)		
SILCAAT				
Primary end point: opportunistic disease or death from any cause	110 (1.94)	119 (2.13)	0.91 (0.70–1.18)	0.47
Death from any cause	81 (1.38)	77 (1.31)	1.06 (0.77–1.44)	0.73
Opportunistic disease	49 (0.86)	66 (1.18)	0.73 (0.51-1.06)	0.10
Grade 4 event	203 (3.93)	186 (3.58)	1.10 (0.90–1.34)	0.35
ESPRIT				
Primary end point: opportunistic disease or death from any cause	159 (1.14)	165 (1.21)	0.94 (0.75–1.16)	0.55
Death from any cause	107 (0.75)	116 (0.83)	0.90 (0.69–1.17)	0.42
Opportunistic disease	68 (0.49)	63 (0.46)	1.05 (0.75–1.48)	0.78
Grade 4 event	466 (3.80)	383 (3.09)	1.23 (1.07-1.41)	0.003

^{*} Grade 4 clinical events were defined as potentially life-threatening events (excluding opportunistic diseases) requiring medical intervention (see toxicity table at http://rcc.tech-res.com).

this primary end point with interleukin-2 was 0.94 (95% CI, 0.75 to 1.16; P=0.55) (P=0.40 for test of the proportional-hazards assumption).

We predicted the hazard ratios for the primary end point with interleukin-2 therapy on the basis of the overall differences in the CD4+ cell count between the two treatment groups in each study (on the log₁₀ scale, 0.065 cells per cubic millimeter for the SILCAAT study and 0.099 cells per cubic millimeter for ESPRIT) and the relationship between the latest log₁₀-transformed CD4+ cell count and the risk of opportunistic disease or death in the group receiving antiretroviral therapy alone in each study (Cox coefficient [±SE], -3.339±0.233 for the SILCAAT study and -3.049±0.187 for ESPRIT). The predicted hazard ratios for the SILCAAT study and ESPRIT were 0.80 (95% CI, 0.78 to 0.83) and 0.74 (95% CI, 0.71 to 0.77, respectively). Each of the predicted hazard ratios is smaller than the corresponding observed hazard ratio (which was 0.91 for the SILCAAT study and 0.94 for ESPRIT).

Death from Any Cause

In the SILCAAT study, 81 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 77 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone died (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 1.06; 95% CI, 0.77 to 1.44; P=0.73) (Table 2, Fig. 2B, and Table IIIa in the Supplementary Appendix). The hazard ratio for deaths

not attributable to opportunistic diseases (which occurred in 70 patients receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy and 60 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone) was 1.17 with interleukin-2 (95% CI, 0.83 to 1.66; P=0.36).

In ESPRIT, 107 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 116 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone died (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 0.90; 95% CI, 0.69 to 1.17; P=0.42) (Table 2, and Table IIIb in the Supplementary Appendix). The hazard ratio for deaths not attributable to opportunistic diseases (which occurred in 97 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 106 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone) was 0.89 (95% CI, 0.68 to 1.17; P=0.41) with interleukin-2.

Opportunistic Diseases

In the SILCAAT study, an opportunistic disease developed in 49 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 66 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 0.73; 95% CI, 0.51 to 1.06; P=0.10). In ESPRIT, an opportunistic disease developed in 68 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 63 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 1.05; 95% CI, 0.75 to 1.48; P=0.78) (Table 2, and Fig. III in the Supplementary Appendix).

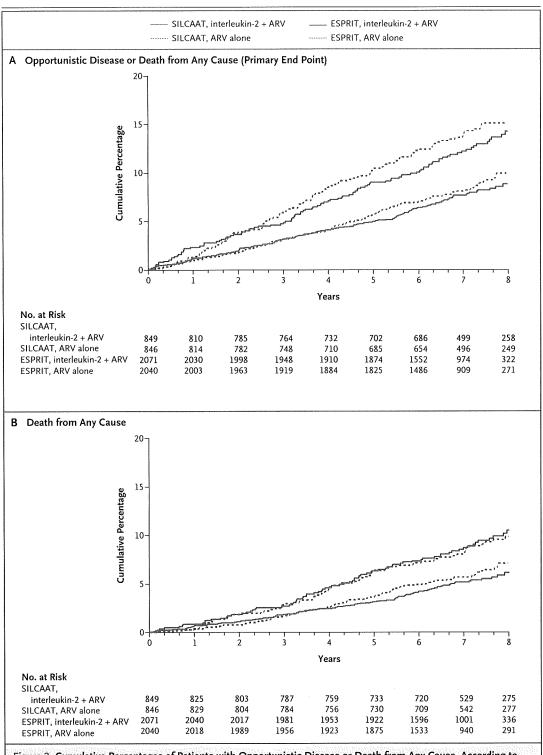


Figure 2. Cumulative Percentages of Patients with Opportunistic Disease or Death from Any Cause, According to Study and Treatment Group.

Panel A shows data for opportunistic disease or death from any cause (primary end point); and Panel B, for death from any cause. ARV denotes antiretroviral therapy.

Grade 4 Events

In the SILCAAT study, 203 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 186 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone had a grade 4 event (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 1.10; 95% CI, 0.90 to 1.34; P=0.35) (Table 2, and Fig. IV in the Supplementary Appendix). In the interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy group, the 203 patients had a total of 342 grade 4 events, 78.4% of which occurred more than 60 days after the last dose of interleukin-2 was administered. Gastrointestinal disorders and psychiatric disorders were more common in the interleukin-2 group (P=0.02 and P=0.03, respectively) (Table IVa in the Supplementary Appendix).

In ESPRIT, grade 4 adverse events occurred in 466 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 383 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 1.23; 95% CI, 1.07 to 1.41; P=0.003) (Table 2). In the interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy group, the 466 patients had a total of 711 grade 4 events, 82.4% of which occurred more than 60 days after the last dose of interleukin-2 was given. Differences between the two treatment groups were seen for the category of vascular disorders as well as the category of general disorders and administration site conditions (Table IVb in the Supplementary Appendix). Vascular events were seen in 40 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and in 14 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone (hazard ratio with interleukin-2, 2.80; 95% CI, 1.53 to 5.15; P<0.001). The most frequent type of vascular event was deep-vein thrombosis (affecting 10 patients receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and 2 receiving antiretroviral therapy alone).

SUBGROUP FINDINGS

In both studies, hazard ratios for the primary end point with interleukin-2 were similar across demographic subgroups (Fig. 3). In ESPRIT, among patients with a baseline CD4+ cell count below 450, the hazard ratio was 0.83 (95% CI, 0.62 to 1.12), whereas among those with counts of 450 or more, the hazard ratio was 1.09 (95% CI, 0.79 to 1.50) (P=0.04 for the interaction between the CD4+ cell count and treatment group) (Fig. 3B). For these two baseline CD4+ cell-count subgroups in ESPRIT, the hazard ratios for death with interleukin-2 also differed significantly (P=0.003): 0.68 (95% CI, 0.47)

to 0.98) for a count below 450 and 1.25 (95% CI, 0.85 to 1.84) for a count of 450 or more.

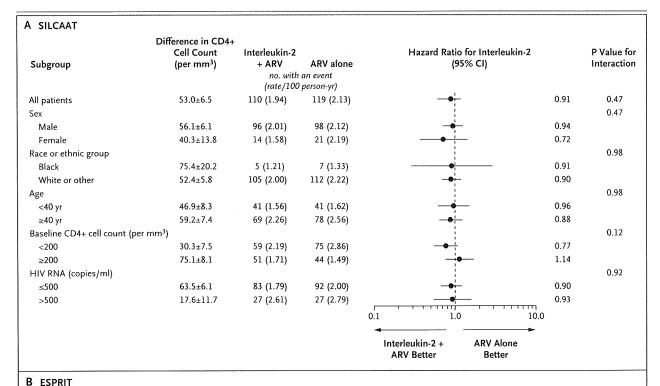
DISCUSSION

These studies confirm that intermittent use of interleukin-2 is associated with substantial, sustained increases in CD4+ cell count. However, despite the increases in the CD4+ cell count, there was no clinical benefit, as measured by the reduction in the risk of opportunistic diseases or death, with interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy as compared with antiretroviral therapy alone.

On the basis of the associations between the latest CD4+ cell count and the occurrence of opportunistic disease or death in the groups receiving antiretroviral therapy alone, the difference in the CD4+ cell count between the groups receiving interleukin-2 and antiretroviral therapy and those receiving antiretroviral therapy alone resulted in predicted hazard ratios for the primary end point with interleukin-2 of 0.80 for the SILCAAT study and 0.74 for ESPRIT. The predicted hazard ratios would be even smaller with adjustment for regression dilution bias resulting from variability in the measurement of the CD4+ cell count. It is unlikely that treatment differences of these predicted magnitudes were missed.

There are at least two hypotheses that could explain our results. The first and simplest is that the CD4+ T cells induced by interleukin-2 have no role in host defense. The second is that the cells are at least partially functional or that interleukin-2 has some modest beneficial effect not mediated through CD4+ cells but negative effects of interleukin-2 neutralize any improvements in host defense conferred by the therapy.

The value of a given CD4+ T cell to its host is the net sum of the predetermined antigenic specificity of that cell and the effector functions it expresses once activated by its antigen. T cells with receptors for irrelevant antigens or T cells that fail to exert protective effector functions on activation are of little value to the host. Interleukin-2 is known to induce a polyclonal expansion of preexisting CD4+ T cells that have predominantly naive or central-memory phenotypes. Antiretroviral therapy leads to expansions of preexisting effector memory, central memory, and naive cells. In this regard, it is possible that, despite the capacity to respond in vitro to certain antigens and



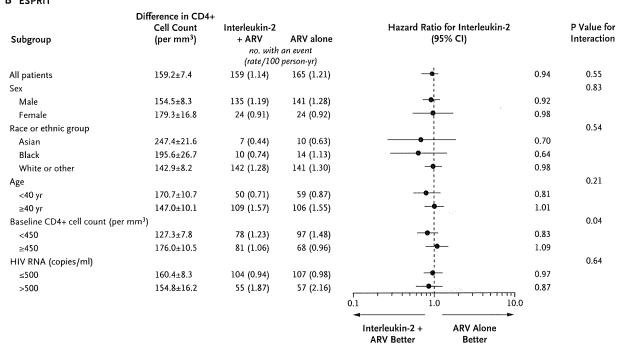


Figure 3. Between-Group Differences in the CD4+ Cell Count and Hazard Ratios for Opportunistic Disease or Death from Any Cause (Primary End Point), According to Subgroup.

Panel A shows data for the SILCAAT study; and Panel B, for ESPRIT. The differences in the CD4+ cell count were calculated by subtracting the count for the group receiving antiretroviral therapy (ARV) alone from the count for the group receiving interleukin-2 plus ARV and are expressed as means ±SE. Race or ethnic group was self-reported; the "other" category in Panel A consists of 1.2% Asians, 9.7% Hispanics, 0.8% other, and 0.1% unknown and in Panel B of 4.4% other and 0.3% unknown. The baseline CD4+ cell count is the approximate median value. In ESPRIT, one patient receiving ARV alone who had an event had missing data for baseline HIV RNA level.

mitogens¹⁰ the antigenic specificities of cells expanded with the use of interleukin-2 contribute little to the immediate needs of the host, whereas cells expanded as a result of antiretroviral therapy include those of greatest current value namely, those in the effector memory pool. In addition, the CD4+ cells expanded by means of interleukin-2 express intermediate levels of CD25+, the alpha chain of the interleukin-2 receptor, as well as moderate levels of the transcriptional regulator forkhead box P3 (FOXP3). In this regard, the CD4+ cells are similar, but not identical, to regulatory T cells — a subset of T cells associated with suppressor-cell activity. Thus, it is possible that even if correct antigenic specificities are present, effector functions exhibited by these cells could be different from those provided by CD4+ cells that are expanded in patients receiving antiretroviral therapy.

With regard to the second hypothesis, that benefits of interleukin-2 are counteracted by negative effects of interleukin-2, in both the SILCAAT study and ESPRIT, patients who were receiving interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy had more grade 4 events than those receiving antiretroviral therapy alone. Although many grade 4 events occurring in the interleukin-2 group occurred more than 60 days after the completion of an interleukin-2 cycle, they nonetheless appear to be related to receipt of interleukin-2. The association between occurrence of thromboembolic events and use of interleukin-2 found in ESPRIT, coupled with the association between elevated D-dimer levels and death from any cause in patients with HIV infection¹⁹ suggests a possible mechanism for a negative effect of interleukin-2 on clinical outcome. In ESPRIT, patients with higher baseline CD4+ cell counts had the greatest expansions of CD4+ T cells but also had a greater relative risk of having the primary end point or death from any cause. If this finding is not due to chance, it suggests that there may be clinically deleterious effects of interleukin-2 that are more pronounced in patients with higher baseline CD4+ cell counts or greater increases in CD4+ T cells after the use of interleukin-2. The mechanisms behind these deleterious effects remain unclear but could be related to the effects of T regulatory cells, greater proinflammatory effects of interleukin-2 in patients with higher numbers of CD4+ cells, or both.

Earlier randomized trials of interleukin-2 were

conducted in patients receiving mono- or dualnucleoside therapy, a different setting from that in the SILCAAT study and ESPRIT. In these earlier studies, most patients had HIV RNA levels above 10,000 copies per milliliter, and the groups receiving antiretroviral therapy alone had declining CD4+ cell counts.4,20,21 A pooled analysis of the results from these earlier studies suggested that patients treated with interleukin-2 plus antiretroviral therapy, as compared with antiretroviral therapy alone, had higher CD4+ cell counts, lower viral loads, and a trend toward fewer opportunistic infections and death.²² A more recent study in patients with advanced HIV infection also showed a trend toward fewer AIDSdefining illnesses with the use of interleukin-2.²³ One possible explanation for the differences between findings in the previous studies and our results is that interleukin-2 has some net beneficial effect in a small subgroup of patients who have ongoing viral replication and a lower CD4+ cell count. A more likely explanation is that the treatment differences in the earlier studies were chance findings. This emphasizes the importance of conducting adequately powered, randomized trials to evaluate novel therapeutic strategies.

Surrogate markers often do not accurately predict the clinical effects of a treatment. The peripheral-blood total CD4+ cell count only partially explains the beneficial effects of antiretroviral therapy.^{24,25} These studies reaffirm that effects of a novel intervention that positively perturb levels of prognostic markers need to be assessed and validated in trials with clinical end points before those markers can be deemed reliable surrogates regarding that intervention. This requirement is consistent with experiences in other diseases.²⁶

In summary, the results of the SILCAAT study and ESPRIT indicate that interleukin-2 offers no clinical benefit as compared with antiretroviral therapy alone. Whether these findings are relevant to other immunotherapies, such as interleukin-7,²⁷ is uncertain. The precise role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of HIV infection may benefit from a reevaluation as a consequence of our results. Our data indicate that all CD4+ cells may not be equal with respect to host defense and that improvement in the prognostic or surrogate value of CD4+ counts requires refinement in measurement.

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APPENDIX

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第22回日本エイズ学会シンポジウム記録

HAART & NeuroAIDS HAART and NeuroAIDS

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はじめに

HIV 感染症は、高活性抗レトロウイルス療法(HAART)により「死に至る病い」から「コントロール可能な慢性疾患」へと変貌した。HAARTによりエイズ脳症を含む HIV 感染による神経合併症(NeuroAIDS)の頻度は著明に低下したが¹⁾,免疫再構築症候群、薬剤耐性例での日和見感染、薬剤関連末梢神経障害、脳血管障害などが増加しており、その病態の解明・治療戦略が今後の重要な課題である。また、エイズ脳症の病態もいまだ未解明な点が多い²⁾。

本稿では、以上の点を踏まえて、臨床的立場から、1)神経病変を示す HIV 症例の診断の進め方、2)HAART下における神経日和見感染症、3)免疫再構築症候群とエイズ脳症に関して、診療の現場を踏まえた研究を、基礎研究の立場からは、1)エイズ脳症の小動物モデル、2)ヒト剖検例、サルエイズモデルにおける中枢神経サイトカインの動態に関して、第一線で活躍している研究者に述べて頂いた。なお、本稿の内容は、第22回日本エイズ学会学術集会(2008年11月、大阪)のシンポジウムで発表された内容をまとめたものである。

中枢神経病変のある症例の診断の進め方 (国立病院機構大阪医療センター 免疫感染症科 上平朝子)

HIV 感染症患者に合併する脳内病変は多彩で、難治性の疾患から治癒が可能な疾患まであり、適切な診断と治療が

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2009年4月20日受付

患者の予後を大きく左右する。しかし、いずれも画像所見は類似しており、確定診断が困難な場合も多い。血液、髄液、画像検査を実施しても確定診断が困難な場合では、脳生検で重要な情報が得ることができれば、適切な治療方針の選択に役立つと考えられる。当院でも、画像上は脳原発リンパ腫と思われたケースでも、脳生検で悪性リンパ腫が否定された例もあり、脳生検は非常に有用であった。しかし、脳生検を実施できない症例や、脳生検でも確定診断が難しい症例もある。そこで、脳内病変の診断に際し、血液、髄液、画像検査に加えて脳生検を施行した症例を紹介し、中枢神経病変の診断の進め方について考える。

画像検査の必要性

HIV 関連で中枢神経病変をきたす疾患の診断をすすめていくにあたり、頭痛、意識障害、認知機能低下、麻痺、不明熱など何らかの神経疾患の存在が疑われる場合や特に症状がなくても CD4 値が非常に低値(CD4 値<100~200)の症例では日和見疾患の合併を疑い、脳 MRI、CT 検査などの画像検査を行うことがすすめられる。

中枢神経病変の診断の進め方(図1)

まず、画像検査で脳に占拠性病変の有無をみる。占拠性 病変無い例の多くは髄膜炎疾患であり、髄液検査が診断に 有用である。

次に、脳占拠性病変が有る例では、腫瘤による周辺部位への Mass effect の有無を見る。Mass effect を認めない疾患では、主として進行性多巣性白質脳症(以下 PML)、脳血管病変がある。これらは、特徴的な画像所見を呈するが、PML では髄液検査で JCV が検出されることも診断に役立

81 (7)

表 1 名古屋医療センターにおける中枢神経合併症の内訳

		·
疾患	~2000年7月	2000年8月~ 2007年12月
トキソプラズマ脳炎	3 例	5 例
HIV 脳症		6例
進行性多巣性白質脳症	2 例	3 例
脳原発リンパ腫	1 例	4 例
クリプトコッカス髄膜炎	1 例	3 例
無菌性髄膜炎	7,	2例
結核性髄膜炎		1 例
HSV 髄膜炎		1例
VZV 髄膜炎		1例
CMV 脳炎		1 例
アメーバ脳炎		1 例
海綿静脈洞症候群		1例
水頭症		1 例
原因不明		1 例
計	7例	31 例
HIV 症例数 (うち AIDS)	106 (19) 例	614 (199) 例
AIDS での中枢神経合併率	36.8%	14.6%

示した。最多はトキソプラズマ脳炎 8 例,以下 HIV 脳症 6 例,進行性多巣性白質脳症 5 例,クリプトコッカス髄膜炎 4 例,悪性リンパ腫 4 例と,日和見感染症が大きな比重を占めている。これら中枢神経日和見感染症の実地臨床上の問題点について検討した。

HIV 感染による日和見感染の特徴

第一に、HIV 感染症の前提がないと診断が困難であることが挙げられる。とりわけトキソプラズマ脳炎や進行性多巣性白質脳症、HIV 脳症はいずれの疾患も HIV 感染症という情報がないと、脳腫瘍や細菌性脳膿瘍、脳梗塞、ウェルニッケ脳症、ADEM 等と鑑別が難しい。診断に難渋した結果、適切な治療開始が遅れることとなる。逆に、HIV 感染症と診断がついていれば、診断手順に従って鑑別をすすめることが可能である。

第二に NeuroAIDS をいったん発症した際の予後が不良 であることである。自施設での NeuroAIDS 36 例に対し、 その転帰について検討したところ、後遺症なく回復した症 例は4 例 (11.1%) に過ぎず、後遺症を残したものが 16 例 (44.4%), 死亡は16例(44.4%)にのぼった。生命予後について既報告と同様に不良であることはもちろん, 機能予後としても不良であるといえる。

トキソプラズマ脳炎

個々の中枢神経疾患について問題点を挙げると、トキソ プラズマ脳炎は外国人症例が多く、社会的要因により治療 継続が困難となることがあること,治療薬の副反応が挙げ られる。トキソプラズマ脳炎の8例は、日本人2例に対し、 南米出身者が6例と多数を占めた。その背景として、抗体 保有率に注目し検討を行った。当院を継続受診した HIV 感染症例連続 518 例を対象として、トキソプラズマ抗体保 有率について検討したところ、トキソプラズマ抗体を測定 した 419 症例中,日本人の抗体陽性率は 9.8% であったの に対し、ブラジル人での抗体陽性率は 56.1% と高率であっ た。抗体保有率の地域差から患者層の地域的な偏りを生じ ていると推定された。金銭的問題や帰国のタイミング、家 族との連絡手段、言語の障壁等、社会的要因から治療継続 性を困難なものとしている。後者の治療薬の副反応につい ては、骨髄抑制を3例に、輸血を必要とする貧血を1例、 腎機能障害を2例に認めた。また,副反応のため治療を中 断したものを3例認め、重度の骨髄抑制がその理由であっ た。サルファジアジンとピリメサミンの併用療法の有効性 は確立しているが、副反応のためやむを得ずクリンダマイ シンに切り替える際のタイミング、葉酸の補充方法等、検 討の余地があると思われた。また、トキソプラズマ脳炎の 症例で、転移性脳腫瘍や出血性梗塞と当初診断され、適切 な治療のタイミングを逸した症例もあり、HIV 感染症と判 明していない状況での診断の難しさが挙げられた。

進行性多巣性白質脳症(PML)

PMLは、HAART導入後に改善を示し長期生存例が存在する一方で、急速に進行する症例があること、特異的治療がないことが問題である。PMLは特異的治療法がないため、当院ではPMLを強く疑った症例に対して、他の日和見感染症を可及的速やかに除外しHAARTを導入している。HAART時代に経験したPMLは3例全例でHAART開始1ヶ月間に急激に神経症状が進行した。うち2例は死亡し、1例は剖検を行ったところ、強い炎症細胞浸潤があり、免疫再構築による増悪が示唆された。急性増悪を乗り超えて現在も在宅療養を継続している1例については、発症1年後の髄液検査でJCウイルスが検出されなかった。いかに免疫再構築による増悪をおさえるかがPML診療におりる今後の課題と考える。

HIV 感染の中枢神経合併症においては、その予後が不良

であるだけに予防に勝るものはないが、不幸にして生じた場合も HIV 感染症自体の早期診断が必要不可欠である。トキソプラズマ脳炎についてはより副反応の軽い治療法を、PML については早期 HAART の導入と免疫再構築の治療についての知見の蓄積が望まれる。HAART によりNeuroAIDS についても長期生存が可能となってきており、長期療養を支える仕組みも必要である。

神経免疫再構築症候群とエイズ脳症 (東京都立駒込病院脳神経内科 岸田修二)

HAART が HIV 感染治療に導入された後、抗レトロウ イルス剤を服用している患者の神経疾患発症は原発・日和 見疾患とも極めて少なくなり、発症者のほとんどが抗ウイ ルス剤未治療者か治療中断者である2)。HAART は HIV 感 染患者の日和見感染症発症を抑制し、生命予後を改善する 一方、これまでみられた亜急性進行性脳症に替わって慢性 脳症の発症や抗レトロウイルス剤の副作用から生じる脳血 管障害の増加、延命に伴い老化に関連した疾病などの出現 が危惧されている。その上 HAART 開始に伴い HIV が抑 制され,免疫が回復してくるとともにこれまで潜伏していた 感染症が顕症化したり、すでに治療を受けた感染症が一時 的に増悪する病態、すなわち免疫再構築症候群が新たな疾 患概念として出現してきた。治療法の進歩とともに HIV/ AIDS 患者の病像は臨床・病理学的に複雑に修飾されてき ている。1997年~2008年6月までに経験した NeuroAIDS 症例で HAART により免疫再構築症候群を発症した症例 の臨床的検討ならびに他施設で発症した免疫再構築症候群 症例の病理学的検討, そして HAART 導入中に発症した エイズ脳症3例の病態を検討した(表2)。

HAART 導入後の神経合併症

① HAART 導入後免疫再構築症候群発症例はエイズ脳 症 0/15 例, クリプトコッカス症 3/7 例, サイトメガロウイ ルス脳炎 2/5 例, トキソプラズマ脳炎 1/9 例, 進行性多巣 性白質脳症 (PML) 6/6 例であった。②神経免疫再構築症 候群は、病原体では JC ウイルス、クリプトコッカス、サイ トメガロウイルス感染によるものが多かった。③クリプト コッカス髄膜炎では免疫再構築症候群を発症した症例の HAART 導入前のクリプトコッカス抗原価は 128~1024 倍 であり、発症しなかった症例の抗原価 4~64 倍に比べ高い 傾向を認め,免疫再構築症候群発症時 HAART 中断が必 要であった。 ④ PML は HAART 導入により全例免疫再構 築症候群を発症し、免疫再構築症候群重症例にはステロイ ドパルス療法の併用が有効であった。さらに免疫再構築症 候群は延命と関係していた。⑤免疫再構築症候群を発症し た症例の髄液では発症時髄液 IL-6 が高値を示し、診断の 一助になるものと思われた。⑥免疫再構築症候群を発症し て死亡した PML2 例ならびに白質脳症 1 例の神経病理学 的検討では血管周囲性に CD8 陽性 T 細胞の顕著な浸潤が みられた。

HAART治療中エイズ脳症発症者 3 例を経験した。 2 例は末梢での HIV 抑制が不十分でうち 1 例は髄液 HIV > 血漿 HIV 負荷量であり、1 例は CD4 が 300 台、末梢 HIV 負荷量は検出限界以下でありながら髄液 HIV は不十分に抑制された状態で発症した。臨床症状は軽症から中等症であるが、髄液中での HIV 抑制不十分例は抑制例に比べ認知障害が高度であった。また画像上白質脳症、髄液検査異常を示すものがあり、慢性脳症を示唆する例があった。中枢神経移行性の高い HAART 処方に変更し、臨床症状の改善をみた。

表 2	1997	年~2008	年6月までの	D主な自験 NeuroAIDS 症例(都立	駒込病院)	
=to		ch Filth	HAART	免疫再構築症候群発症数	五元十十十分	

vita sta	症例数	HAART	免疫再構築症候群発症数			死亡数	HAART 導入
疾患	业判数	導入数	顕性化	逆説性	計	グレニー女人	例の死亡数
クリプトコッカス髄膜炎	15	8	0	3	3 (40%)	4 不明 4	1 (13%)
サイトメガロ脳炎	11	5	1	1	2 (40%)	10	4 (80%)
トキソプラズマ脳炎	17	9	1	0	1 (11%)	6 不明 3	1 (11%)
進行性多巣性白質脳症	6	6	2	4	6 (100%)	1	1(HAART 中止)(17%)
HIV 脳症	20	15	0	0	0	9 不明 1	4 (27%) 不明 1

85 (11)

HAART 導入後の問題点

HAART は HIV/AIDS 患者にとって延命効果とともに、 様々な合併症をも来す諸刃の剣のような面を持っている。 新たな疾患概念として発症した免疫再構築症候群もその一 つである。免疫再構築症候群の定義もコンセンサスを得ら れたものは未だなく、従って免疫再構築症候群の正確な発 症頻度やどのような症例に発症する危険性があるのか充分 解明されていないし、発症したときの対策も個々の疾患に より異なっている。今回の検討では神経免疫再構築症候群 はクリプトコッカス性髄膜炎, 進行性多巣性白質脳症, サ イトメガロウイルス感染症に発症頻度が高く,クリプト コッカス髄膜炎では HAART 導入時点での高抗原価に発 症危険性が高いことが示された。免疫再構築症候群の剖検 例からは致死的免疫再構築症候群では CD8 陽性細胞傷害 性T細胞が急速に中枢神経系に浸潤することが重要な役 割を演じていると思われた。神経免疫再構築症候群重症例 ではステロイド併用が有効かもしれない。一方エイズ脳症 は HAART 導入後重篤な脳症が減少してきた。しかしなが ら米国での ACTG での ALLRT 調査にみるように HAART 服用者でも軽症の認知障害患者が相当数いること、免疫の 改善により認知機能の改善の見込みがあること、逆に軽症 認知障害が残存したり,抗ウイルス療法が成功しても新た に認知障害が発症する場合のあること、特に AIDS の既往 のある場合や、CD4陽性T細胞が回復してこない例に多 いことなどが指摘されている。今回の検討例はいずれも免 疫不全の進行した時期からの HAART 開始であり, さらに 末梢や髄液で十分HIVが抑制されていない状態であった。 薬剤選択如何により中枢神経に残存した HIV により神経 病理学的異常が進行している可能性があり、特に AIDS 発 症後の HAART 処方は中枢神経移行性を考慮する必要性 があると考えられた。

わが国では HIV 感染患者が増加、特に HIV 感染を知らないで、あるいは治療を自己中断して AIDS を発症してくる患者の割合が増加し続けている。これらの患者は原発性あるいは日和見性神経疾患を初発症状として受診するかも知れない。神経疾患の多彩さは HAART 導入前と同様である。神経障害の発症は致死的あるいは高度に機能障害を後遺症とする率が高く、また HAART 導入により臨床的・病理学的に従来より診断・治療が複雑性を増してきている。神経合併症は今後も重要な HIV 合併症であり、Neuro-AIDS の発症機構の解明と治療戦略は、延命化した HIV 感染症にとって最も重要な課題である。

エイズ脳症の小動物モデル(埼玉県総合リハビリテーションセンター神経内科 三浦義治,京都大学ウイルス研究所ウイルス病態研究領域 小柳義夫,東京医科歯科大学大学院脳神経病態学分野 水澤英洋)

エイズ脳症とはヒト免疫不全ウイルス(HIV)により引き起こされる認知運動障害であり、主にエイズ発症時期に著明となり、亜急性に進行する。しかし、HAARTによりエイズ脳症患者数は著明に減少した。そして近年ではエイズ脳症の軽症型である軽微認知運動障害(milder cognitive and motor disorder, MCMD)が深刻な問題となってきている 4 。このエイズ脳症の病態の中心は、感染して脳内に侵入した血管周囲に存在する 4 10 展染マクロファージとミクログリアである。そしてエイズ脳症患者の脳より検出されるウイルスは 4 11 CCR5 をコレセプターとして使用するR5 ウイルス、マクロファージ指向性 4 1 PIV である。ここにおいて神経細胞とオリゴデンドログリアが主に障害を受ける。このように細胞への直接の感染増殖によらない間接的細胞障害が病態の中心であると考えられている。

マウスを用いたエイズ脳症研究の歴史

HIV-1 はヒトとチンパンジーにしか感染しないことがそ の特徴である。このウイルスによる脳障害すなわちェイズ 脳症はげっ歯類などの小動物モデルで病態の再現が可能か どうかが議論となってきた。これまでマウスを用いたエイ ズ脳症研究は、①トランスジェニックマウスを用いた研 究,②重症複合型免疫不全マウスである重症複合免疫不全 (severe combined immunodeficiency) SCID マウスを用いた 研究があり,他に HIV に近縁のマウス白血病ウイルス (murine leukemia virus, MuLV) を用いた研究に分けられ る。トランスジェニックマウスを用いた研究は,ウイルス ゲノムあるいはウイルス産生タンパクを遺伝子導入した実 験系と,宿主因子であるサイトカイン等を組み込んだマウ スに大別される。前者では Tomas らが 1994 年に HIV-1 ゲ ノム全長を neurofilament protein-L をプロモーターにして 神経細胞に発現するマウスと, Toggas らが 1994 年に発表 した GFAP をプロモーターとしてアストロサイトに HIV-1X4 ウイルスの産生蛋白である gp120 を発現させたマウ スが有名である。他に Wang らが R5 ウイルスである JR-CFS 全長をT細胞と単球に発現させたマウス,gp160, Tat, Vpr のトランスジェニックが報告されている。 サイトカイ ンでは IL-6, TNF, MCP-1 のトランスジェニックマウスが 報告されている。

SCID マウスを用いた実験系は脳内移植の実験系と、腹腔内移植の2系統の実験系に大別される。1993年 Tyorらは SCID マウスにヒト末梢血単核球を脳内移植し、その後

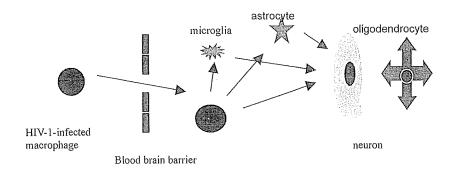


図 3 エイズ脳症の病態

エイズ脳症の病態の中心は HIV-1 に感染したマクロファージが脳血液関門を越えて脳実質内に侵入することで始まると考えられている。このマクロファージから放出される因子により、マイクログリアやアストロサイトの活性化、神経細胞やオリゴデンドロサイトの障害を引き起こす。また、活性化されたミクログリアやアストロサイトからの因子も細胞障害に関わっており、複雑な病態である。

Persidsky らはヒト単球由来マクロファージを脳内移植した。その一方で、小柳らは 1 型糖尿病モデルマウスである nonobese diabetic (NOD) マウスと SCID マウスを戻し勾配にて NOD-SCID マウスを作製し、さらにヒト末梢血単核球細胞を腹腔内に移植して、hu-PBL-NOD SCID マウスを報告し、このマウスの脳血管ではヒト T 細胞が浸潤していることを報告した。さらに、その後グラム陰性桿菌の細胞表面生理活性物質のひとつであり、かつ単球系細胞に優位に活性化を引き起こす Lipopolysaccharide の腹腔内接種を追加することにより脳解析系のモデルを開発した 5 。

また, 一方で 2002 Poluektova らはヒト単球由来マクロファージの脳内接種と, hu-PBL-NOD SCID マウスを組み合わせたマウスを報告した。

これらマウスを用いた研究の特徴は、大型の実験動物に 比べて、解析系として非常に有用であることがあげられ る。また、特に HIV の場合は、マウス細胞や臓器には直接 感染が起こらないため、感染実験系としての工夫が重要と なってくる。そして特にヒト細胞を移植した実験系である SCID マウス研究などは、マウスとヒト細胞が混在するこ とから、異種動物細胞間作用があることにも注意しなけれ ばならない。そして病態のすべてというよりもその一部を 反映していると考えられる。

LPS-i.p.injected hu-PBMC-NOD SCID マウス

我々が報告したマウスモデルである LPS-i.p.injected hu-PBMC-NOD SCID マウスでは、LPS 投与によりヒト単球由来マクロファージのマウス脳内移行が促進され、細胞レベルでの障害、および組織学的変化が検出され、ヒトエイズ脳症の変化に類似していた。そして神経細胞死と TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL) 発現マクロファー



human-PBMC

Lipopolysaccharide (100µg/mouse)

図 4 LPS-i.p.injected hu-PBMC-NOD SCID マウスの作 製法

1型糖尿病モデルマウスとして知られる NOD (Nonobese Diabetic) マウスと重症複合型免疫不全 (SCID) マウスを兄妹勾配にて NOD SCID マウスを作製する。 このマウスの腹腔内にヒト末梢血単核球細胞 (hu-PBMC), 感染性マクロファージ指向性 HIV-1, Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) を順に投与する。

ジが検出され、中和実験より両者は密接な関係があると考えられた⁵⁾。しかし一方で広範囲な組織障害は再現できず、 T-CAT など行動解析では有意な異常が検出できなかった。

マウス実験系結果の検証

次にマウスモデルを用いた解析結果をヒトエイズ脳症解 剖脳、そしてマウス脳細胞培養系を用いて検証した。ヒトエイズ脳症剖検脳でも神経細胞のアポトーシス、活性型カスパーゼ陽性の神経細胞が検出された。また血管周囲のウイルス感染マクロファージではTRAILが発現していた。また、マウス脳神経細胞培養系に、ウイルス感染マクロファージやTRAIL発現マウス細胞株を共培養すると、優位に神経細胞死が増加することが証明された6。

今後の展望

エイズ脳症マウスモデルLPS-i.p.injected hu-PBMC-NOD

SCID マウスは、病態の一部の反映であると考えられる。 従って総合的病態の解明という観点では、マウスモデルの 開発は未だ発展途上である。hu-MDM-i.c.transplanted hu-PBL-NOD SCID やhu-CD34+HPC-i.p.transplanted NOD SCID の開発、そして Tg マウスに対する LPS 投与なども 報告されてきており、これらの発展が期待される。そして これらのマウスモデルでの病態を、ヒトエイズ脳症剖検例 や、in vitro 培養系実験を合わせて総合的に検討してゆく ことが重要である。

NeuroAIDS とサイトカイン:ヒト剖検例とサルエイズモデルをもちいた免疫組織学的検討

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ェイズ脳症の病理像として多核巨細胞を伴う HIV 脳炎と大脳皮質の神経変性病態が知られているが,我々はサルエイズモデル 7,8 ,ヒト剖検脳 9 を用いた解析をすすめ,この二つの病変はそれぞれ独立して生じうることを明らかにした。どちらの病変についても,ミクログリアやアストロサイトにより産生される炎症惹起性サイトカイン IL- 1β , TNF- α が神経傷害のエフェクターとなることが想定されているが,多くは in vitro の研究結果に基づいており,脳

症病巣部で直接証明した報告は少ない。我々は大脳皮質変性病態ではアストロサイトによるグルタミン酸除去作用を担う EAAT-2 の発現低下とミクログリアの瀰漫性活性化が生じており、それらは相関していることを定量的解析により明らかにしたP0。活性化ミクログリアでは炎症惹起性サイトカイン $IL-1\beta$, $INF-\alpha$ の発現はみられず、一方で、一部のミクログリアは EAAT-2 を発現しており、アストロサイトの障害により生じた EAAT-2 発現低下を補うためにミクログリアが活性化し、アストロサイトの神経保護作用を代償していることが推察された。これらの結果を踏まえ、もう一つの病態である HIV 脳炎病変について、炎症惹起性サイトカイン $IL-1\beta$, $INF-\alpha$ の炎症病変形成への関与を免疫組織染色にて解析した。

ヒト剖検脳とサルエイズ脳の検討

マクロファージ指向性ウイルス SIV239env/MERT を感染させたサル2頭と、非感染サル3頭をコントロールとした。ヒト剖検例はウィーン大学神経病学研究所剖検例について、1983 年以後の剖検台帳を閲覧し、HIV に感染しェイズで死亡した 429 剖検例を抽出、日和見感染症・腫瘍・脳血管性病変が中枢神経の主病変として認められる症例を除外した HIV 脳炎病変群 11 例を対象に、HIV 脳炎病変部位について、CD3、CD20、CD68、IL-1β、TNF-α、SIVenvgp

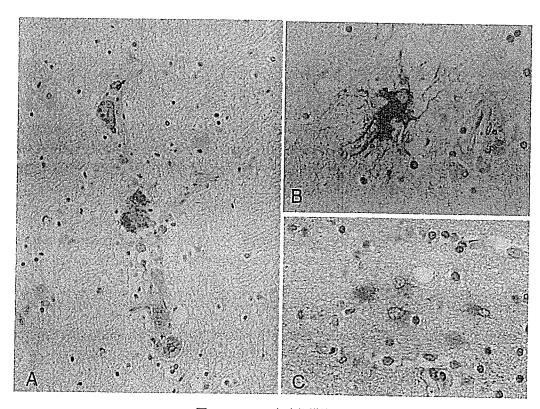


図 5 IL-1β の免疫組織染色

160/gp32 に対する抗体を用いて免疫染色し、さらにミクログリア結節病変について IL-1 β と SIVenvgp160/gp32 の二重免疫染色をおこない、光顕にて観察した。

HIV 脳炎群で IL-1 β は脳炎のミクログリア結節を形成する HIV 感染多核巨細胞で発現しており、周囲の異型アストロサイトの一部でも発現していた(図 5, 6)。また、HIV-P24 陰性の非感染細胞でも弱い発現がみられた。連続

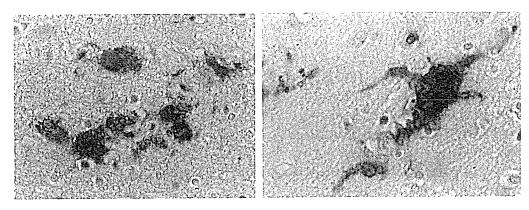


図 6 IL-1β と HIVp24 の二重免疫組織染色

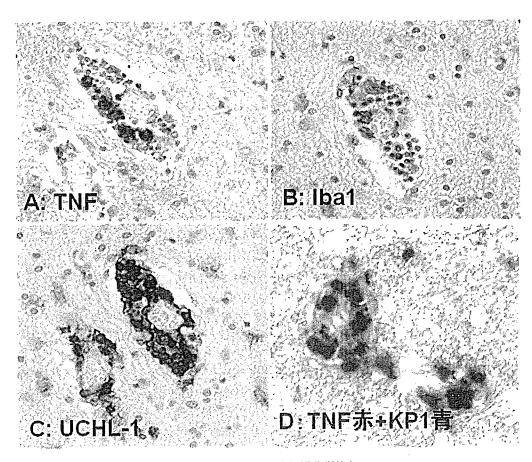


図 7 TNF-α の免疫組織化学染色

89 (15)

現していた。一方,炎症病変周囲の活性化ミクログリアは $\text{IL-1}\beta$, $\text{TNF-}\alpha$ の発現は認められなかった。サルモデルでも $\text{TNF-}\alpha$, $\text{IL-1}\beta$ は炎症性病変で観察されたが,ウイルス感染細胞とは一致しなかった $^{10,11)}$ 。

HIV 脳症の発症病態

脳症の発症病態の一つとして $TNF-\alpha$, $IL-1\beta$ などの炎症 惹起性サイトカインの関与が想定されており,その発現は HIV 脳炎病変を形成する細胞であることが報告されてい る。今回のウィーン大学剖検例の検索でも HIV 脳炎病巣に TNF- α , IL-1 β 発現細胞の存在が確認された。特に IL-1 β は病変を形成する HIV-1 感染細胞の、HIV 脳炎に特徴的 な多核巨細胞に一致して強く発現しており、HIV 脳炎の炎 症の持続、組織の変性に関与していることが想定される。 一方 TNF-α は主に浸潤マクロファージに発現しており. 発現がみられる病巣周囲の変性は軽度にとどまっており、 TNF- α は必ずしも HIV 脳症を特徴付ける因子ではないよ うに思われる。大脳皮質に瀰漫性に増勢する Ibal 陽性ミ クログリアや HIV 脳炎周囲の非感染ミクログリアに IL-1β, TNF-α の発現は認められなかった。大脳皮質の変性病変 における活性化ミクログリアの役割について我々は神経保 護作用を担っている可能性を想定しているが、HIV 脳炎に おける活性化ミクログリアの役割についても検討が必要で ある。

最後に

世界的には HIV 感染者数・AIDS 患者数ともに頭打ち傾向にある中で、わが国では HIV 感染者・AIDS 患者数は年々増加している。HAARTによって欧米でも NeuroAIDS は減少したが、米国での調査¹²⁾ やヨーロッパの CASCADEでも¹³⁾,抗ウイルス療法が奏功しても神経障害が持続すること、HAART治療後も軽症認知障害が発症すること、長期生存により認知機能障害のリスクが高まることが指摘されている。われわれが NeuroAIDS 研究班で行った調査でも、神経症状がない HIV 感染者でも比較的初期より脳血流が低下しており、今後、神経内科医、感染症科医、臨床心理士、神経病理医などとの学際的な協力のもと HIV 感染者を感染早期より長期間フォローアップする体制が必要である。

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Human Herpesvirus 8 DNA Load in the Leukocytes Correlates with the Platelet Counts in HIV Type 1-Infected Individuals

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Abstract

Human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8) is known to be reactivated in immunocompromised situations and it is associated with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) and some hematological diseases. The aim of this study was to analyze the effect of HHV-8 on HIV-1 infection, especially on thrombocytopenia complicated with HIV infection. The HHV-8 DNA load was determined by a quantitative real-time PCR, using leukocytes from 125 HIV-1-infected individuals. HHV-8 DNA was detected in 37 individuals. The increased HIV-1 load and reduced percentage of CD4-positive T cells were significantly associated with the presence of HHV-8. The prevalence and load for HHV-8 are higher in patients with KS than in patients without KS, but the difference is not significant. The increased HHV-8 DNA load was significantly correlated with thrombocytopenia, and platelet counts were significantly lower in individuals with HHV-8 than in individuals without HHV-8. We also obtained the negative correlations between changes in platelet counts and changes in HHV-8 DNA loads. The association between thrombocytopenia and HHV-8 has never been reported previously, apart from some case reports of Castleman's disease and KS. Various cytokines or chemokines are produced by HHV-8-infected cells, some of which have been reported to inhibit hematopoiesis. This may be one of the mechanisms by which HHV-8 infection induces thrombocytopenia. These results indicate that HHV-8 DNA in leukocytes may provide useful information for the assessment of the clinical appearance of HIV-1 infection.

Introduction

HV-8, A NEW MEMBER OF THE GAMMAHERPESVIRINAE, was identified as the etiologic agent of Kaposi's sarcoma (KS). The main transmission routes of human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8) seem to be sexual contact, but transmission by saliva, blood products, and organ graft, has also been proposed. The distribution of HHV-8 is related to a combination of geographic and behavioral risk factors. Serological studies have shown that HHV-8 seroprevalence is high in Africa and the Middle East and low in Europe and the United States. In Japan, it is reported that HHV-8 seroprevalence among healthy controls is 0.2–1.4% and HHV-8 seroprevalence among HIV-1-positive homosexual men is 11.6–63.6%. 5.6

HHV-8 can infect circulating B cells, monocytes, macrophages, T cells, and KS-like spindle cell progenitors,⁷⁻⁹ and usually persists in a latent state in these cells. The reactivation of this latent HHV-8 infection can be induced by a number of conditions, including superinfection by other viruses, stress, chronic illnesses, malignancies, and immunosuppressive disorders, such as HIV infection. HHV-8 contains more than

80 open reading frames, including several homologues of oncogenes, cytokine, and cytokine response genes. During latent and lytic infection, some viral genes are expressed and play a causative role in the genesis of some diseases, such as AIDS and non-AIDS-related KS, multicentric Castleman's disease, body cavity-based lymphoma, and some lymphoproliferative diseases. Our previous study reported a case of Castleman's disease with HIV-1 infection in which repeated episodes of thrombocytopenia were correlated with an increase in HHV-8 DNA loads in leukocytes. ¹⁰ The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence and loads of HHV-8 DNA in peripheral blood leukocytes in HIV-1-positive individuals and to investigate the correlation with the clinical appearance of HIV-1 infection, especially with thrombocytopenia.

Materials and Methods

Patients and samples

All consecutive HIV-1-infected patients who attended Kyushu Medical center between April 2005 and August 2006