厚生労働科学研究費補助金 難治性疾患克服事業

ヒト腸内細菌フローラ生体試料バンク確立からの 炎症性腸疾患プロバイオティクス開発への基盤的研究

総括 平成 21 年度研究報告書

研究代表者 日比 紀文 平成 22 年 (2010 年) 3 月

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総 括 研 究 報 告

厚生労働科学研究費補助金難治性疾患克服研究事業 ヒト腸内細菌フローラ生体試料バンク確立からの 炎症性腸疾患プロバイオティクス開発への基盤的研究

総括研究報告書

研究代表者 日比紀文 慶應義塾大学医学部消化器内科 教授

20世紀初頭に出現した難病;炎症性腸疾患(IBD)(潰瘍性大腸炎・クローン病)は本邦において戦後増加の一途をたどり、再燃と緩解を繰り返し生涯にわたり治療の継続を余儀なくされる難病である SPF では大腸炎を発症したが GF では発症しなかった。しかし、GF 環境化に 6 週間維持したのち、SPF 環境化へ移行すると再び大腸炎を発症した。 さらに、GF 環境化における腸炎着起性 CD4 T 細胞の維持に IL-7 が必須であることを IL-7 KO x Rag KO マウスを用いて明らかとした。このことは腸炎着起性 CD4+ T 細胞はメモリー化し、IBD における疾患永続性に免疫記憶が成立することを示唆した。

IBD 腸内細菌バンクは健常コントロールも含め今後も症例数を圧倒的に増加させることにより、潰瘍性大腸炎、クローン病における腸内細菌パターンの特性を完全に掌握することが期待される。また、得られた情報からプロバイオティクス候補菌の同定へと進むものと考えられる。現在のバンク化にはなお一層の資金を要すものと予想されるが、培養困難なプロバイオティクス探索への一歩としての成果をもたらした。

共同研究者

金井隆典(慶應大消化器内科)

A. 研究目的

20世紀初頭に出現した難病;炎症性腸疾患(IBD) (潰瘍性大腸炎・クローン病)は本邦において戦後 増加の一涂をたどり再燃と緩解を繰り返し生涯に わたり治療の継続を余儀なくされる難病である。 21 世紀に突入し、IBD に生物学的製剤の臨床応用 が開始され従来の治療法に比べ格段と進歩したが 決して根治に至るものではない。しかし、人類は 英知を結集して炎症性腸疾患もいつか必ず根治す るという信念のもとに、斬新なアイデアによるス ーパー新規治療法の開発のゴール達成まで執念す る必要がある。IBD の原因として NOD2 遺伝子など 遺伝因子の関与が注目されている。しかし、本邦 における急増する炎症性腸疾患の実態を説明する には遺伝子変異で説明することは困難である。 我々は急速に変化する環境因子、すなわち、衛生 環境の変化が最もキーとなる因子であると想定し ている。特に、我々は腸内細菌フローラに着眼し た。

ヒトは生体が構成する 1012 個の細胞をはるかに凌ぐ 1014 個の腸内細菌と共生する。しかも、400-500 種類の極めて多様な細菌で構成されている。我々はこれまでに、腸内細菌が炎症性腸疾患に重要であることを示してきた。すなわち、1)マウス慢性大腸炎は無菌化することに発症しない(投稿中)、2) 腸炎惹起性 CD4 T細胞の維持に腸内細菌が必須である(Gastroenterology 2007)、3) ある種の抗生剤は慢性大腸炎の発症を抑制する(Gastroenterology 2007)、4) 腸内細菌抗原はヒト、マウス腸管内マクロファージの活性化に重要である(J Immunol. 2005, J Clin Invest.

これまでに、ヒト腸内細菌フローラ構成の検討はなされてきたが、半数以上の腸内細菌は培養困難であること、培養条件が一定でないことにより、極めて不正解な検討と言わざる終えない状況であった。そこで、我々は、腸内細菌糞便、腸組織を用いて、ヤクルト中央研究所野本博士が開発した微量の腸内細菌特異的な16S rRNA から DNA へ転換し、PCR を行なう新規検出方法を用いて検討する。さらに、本プロジェクトの目的である、ヒト糞便、

2008)。

腸組織のバンク化を十分なインフォームドコンセントのもと確立する。さらに各種マウス大腸炎モデルの発症過程における腸内細菌の変化を追跡する基礎的検討を平行して行ないたい。

B. 研究方法

①ヒト健常人、IBD 患者腸内細菌フローラバンクの確立

腸内細菌バンクの確立

20~50 歳までの新規に診断された潰瘍性大腸炎、クローン病患者、ならびに性別、年齢をマッチさせた健常コントロールに対して慶応義塾大学医学部倫理委員会から承認された計画に基づき十分なインフォームドコンセントを取得し実施する。治療の介入を極力排除する目的で、治療前サンプルを採取する。さらに、IBD 患者群においては、治療後、5アミノサリチル酸製剤投与群、コルチコステロイド投与群、免疫抑制剤投与群と明確に区別された緩解維持患者のサンプリングも実施する。目標サンプル数は健常人 200 例、潰瘍性大腸炎 200 例、クローン病 200 例とする。

治療の介入を極力排除する目的で、治療前サンプルを採取する。さらに、IBD 患者群においては、治療後、5アミノサリチル酸製剤投与群、コルチコステロイド投与群、免疫抑制剤投与群と明確に区別された緩解維持患者のサンプリングも実施する。目標サンプル数は健常人 200 例、潰瘍性大腸炎 200 例、クローン病 200 例とする。

さらに、未治療時に実施された腸粘膜炎症部、非 炎症部粘膜組織のサンプリングを実施する。腸粘 膜のコントロールとして、大腸癌粘膜切除症例よ り非腫瘍部のサンプリングを実施する。目標サン プル数は大腸癌 100 例、潰瘍性大腸炎 100 例、ク ローン病 100 例とする。

得られたすべてのサンプルに対して、現時点で既存腸内細菌の95%をカバーされたRT-qPCR法にて菌体を同定する。コントロールとして通常の培養法による検討を実施する。

(倫理面への配慮)

②マウス IBD モデルにおける腸内細菌フローラの

分析

正常マウス脾臓から分離した CD4+CD45RBhigh T 細胞を T 細胞の欠損した免疫不全マウスに移入すると 4-6 週で慢性大腸炎を発症する。一方、

CD4+CD45RBhigh T細胞と CD4+CD45RBlow T細胞を両方を移入すると発症しない。我々はこの明確な移入開始からの変化を、経時的にサンプリングを実施し腸内細菌フローラ検討する。

さらに、腸炎発症、未発症マウスから得られた糞 便フローラを、無菌無菌マウスへ経口投与を行い、 腸炎発症の有無を検討する。

③ヒト健常人、IBD 患者腸内細菌フローラからプロバイオティクス開発

以上、上記①、②の検討で得られた情報に基づき、 IBD 病態を是正し得る候補プロバイオティクス腸 内細菌を選別し、クローン化株を樹立する。

得られたクローン株のマウス IBD モデルへの有効性を検討する。

C. 研究結果

①ヒト健常人、IBD 患者腸内細菌フローラバンクの確立

腸内細菌バンクの確立

慶應義塾大学医学部倫理委員会において、炎症性 腸疾患患者、大腸がん患者、健常ボランティア、 急性炎症性疾患コントロール(虚血性腸疾患、大 腸憩室炎)における糞便腸内細菌採取に関わる臨 床研究の承認を取得した。

現在までに、

未治療診断時症例

潰瘍性大腸炎;56例

クローン病;46例

大腸がん;22例

虚血性腸疾患:11例

大腸憩室炎;7例

健常ボランティア;44例

治療介入症例

遭瘍性大腸炎; 5-ASA 製剤単独; 48 例、AZA/6-MP 製剤単独; 19 例、5-ASA+AZA/6-MP 製剤; 20 例、 5-ASA+ステロイド製剤; 21 例、サイクロスポリ ン;8例

クローン病; 5-ASA 製剤単独; 33 例、AZA/6-MP 製剤単独; 22 例、5-ASA+AZA/6-MP 製剤; 18 例、5-ASA+ステロイド製剤; 7 例、栄養療法; 8 例、抗 TNFa 抗体療法; 15 例

の採取が行なわれた。同検体は、慶應義塾大学消 化器内科研究室において、症例情報を含め、十分 な秘密保持を行い、管理されている。

さらに、現在、RT-qPCR 法にて腸内細菌フローラの詳細検討に着手が開始された。

②マウス IBD モデルにおける腸内細菌フローラの 分析

正常マウス脾臓から分離した CD4+CD45RBhigh T 細胞を T 細胞の欠損した免疫不全マウスに移入すると 4-6 週で慢性大腸炎を発症するモデル; CD4+CD45RBhigh T 細胞移入大腸炎モデルを用いて以下の点を、本研究期間内に明らかとした。自らの研究室において、無菌下免疫不全マウスへの CD4+CD45RBhigh T 細胞移入によって腸炎が発症

SPF 下免疫不全マウスへの CD4+CD45RBhigh T 細胞 移入によって腸炎が発症した腸炎マウス大腸粘膜 から採取した CD4+ T 細胞を新たな SPF 下免疫不全 マウス移入すると再び類似大腸炎を発症し、無菌 下免疫不全マウス移入すると発症しないことを明 らかとした。

しないことを確認した。

SPF下腸炎マウス大腸粘膜から採取した CD4+ T 細胞を無菌下免疫不全マウス移入すると発症しないことを事実にも関わらず、移入 10 週後に再び、SPF環境下へ移動することによって、慢性大腸炎を発症することを明らかとした。本事実は、腸炎惹起性 CD4+ T 細胞がメモリーT 幹細胞として機能をし、さらには、メモリーT 細胞の維持因子である IL-7 依存的に、無菌環境下で生存することを証明した。 (Nemoto et al. J Imminol. 2009)。

D. 考察

ヒト腸内細菌バンクで得られたサンプルを用いた 統計解析、ならびに予想されるプロバイオティク スを用いたモデル動物を用いた研究成果は申請者 のグループから国際科学雑誌へ投稿し公表する予 定である。また、ヒト腸内細菌バンクの存在は学 会報告、申請者のグループのホームページで公表 し、広くサンプルの分与する予定である。これま でにもヒト腸内細菌フローラ構成の検討はなされ てきたが半数以上の腸内細菌は培養不可能である こと、培養条件が一定でないことにより、極めて 不正解な検討であった。我々は、腸内細菌糞便、 腸組織を用いて、ヤクルト中央研究所野本博士が 開発した微量の腸内細菌特異的な 16S rRNA から DNA へ転換し、PCR を行なう新規検出方法を用いて 検討した。研究過程で、Clostridium 細菌群がプ ロバイオティクス候補となり得ることを見出し、 亜型へと踏み込んだ PCR プライマー設計を行ない、 現在、約100種類の亜型解析を進行中である。残 念ながら、1年単年のプロジェクトであることか ら、今後の検討は、さらなる公的科学研究費の獲 得を目指し、研究の継続を検討中である。

E. 結論

炎症性腸疾患の根治を目指す腸内細菌環境の解明 のため、日本という発酵学のメッカから進展する 産業化への第1歩といえる研究プロジェクトをス タートさせた。炎症性腸疾患に限らず、他の免疫 難病、腫瘍、生活習慣病までをも視野に入れ、絶 え間ない頭脳と努力の結集を今後も推進したい。

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別冊

Homeostatic (IL-7) and effector (IL-17) cytokines as distinct but complementary target for an optimal therapeutic strategy in inflammatory bowel disease

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Current Opinion in Gastroenterology 2009, 25:306-313

Purpose of review

This review focuses on CD4⁺ T cells involved in the mediation of inflammatory tissue damage in murine models of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs). In particular, we describe the distinct roles of the homeostatic cytokine IL-7, which is essential to the maintenance of colitogenic memory CD4⁺ cells, and the newly discovered effector cytokine IL-17. We also discuss the close correlation between colitogenic Th17-type CD4⁺ T cells and inducible CD4⁺CD25⁺Foxp3⁺ regulatory T cells.

Recent findings

IBDs are characterized by wasting and chronic intestinal inflammation induced by many different cytokine-mediated pathways. It is clearly recognized that medical and surgical interventions do not cure Crohn's disease because relapse is the rule after remission. Until a few years ago, IBD was classified into Th1-dependent, that is, Crohn's disease, and Th2-dependent, that is, ulcerative colitis, phenotypes. However, in recent years, it has been shown that new T-cell subclasses, that is, Th17 and regulatory T cells (T_R), exist independently of Th1 and Th2 and that they play a central role in modulating IBD.

Summary

The persistence of IL-7-dependent colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells is critical to the maintenance of experimental colitis. On the other hand, though Th1 and Th2 colitogenic memory CD4⁺ cells exist, in recent years the central role of IL-17-producing Th17-type cells in IBD has attracted renewed interest. The development of molecularly targeted therapies aimed at a variety of different Th-dependent pathogenic mechanisms may represent a novel approach to IBD therapy.

Keywords

colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells, IL-7, inflammatory bowel disease, regulatory T cells, Th17

Curr Opin Gastroenterol 25:306-313 © 2009 Wolters Kluwer Health | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 0267-1379

Introduction

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs) are caused by an inflammatory response in the gut wall with a usually persistent course, but in some patients IBD may alternatively remit and relapse [1–5]. For example, even when the local areas of intestinal inflammation are adequately resected in Crohn's disease, inflammation relapses in another part of the digestive tract with similar features to those in the area that were resected, such as longitudinal ulcers and a 'cobblestone' appearance. Extra-intestinal complications, such as primary sclerosing cholangitis and pyoderma gangrenosum, are also known to develop in some cases of IBD after surgical resection, and ileal pouchitis may develop after total colectomy in patients with ulcerative colitis [6,7]. These findings led us

to hypothesize that CD4+ T cells that are capable of reproducing gut inflammation (memory colitogenic CD4⁺ T cells) persist in the body, actively circulate in peripheral blood, and are involved in the recurrence and resistance to therapy in IBD. These colitogenic memory CD4⁺ cells produce a variety of cytokines, and, together with activated natural immunity system cells, macrophages and dendritic cells, give rise to recurring disorder. In terms of the cytokines involved in IBD, Th1 lymphocytes, which produce IFN-y, are thought to play a major role in the pathology of IBDs, mainly Crohn's disease, and Th2 lymphocytes, which produce IL-4, IL-5 and IL-13, mainly in ulcerative colitis [2]. However, a rethinking of this concept has been forced by the discovery of Th17 cells, which produce IL-17 [8-12]. In this review, we describe the persistence of colitogenic

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DOI:10.1097/MOG.0b013e32832bc627

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memory CD4+ T cells that are able to permanently maintain colitis, the mechanism of the permanence and outline the immunological role of colitogenic Th17-type CD4⁺ T cells in the pathogenesis of IBD.

Generation of colitogenic memory CD4+ T cells in chronic colitis

When considering the basic treatment of IBD, we are confronted with the key question of whether colitogenic CD4+ T cells are simple, short-lived effector cells or long-lived memory cells [13]. If they are all effector cells, which are characteristically short lived, even if a large number of them were to cause mucosal damage, all that would be needed is a strategy that effectively attacked and destroyed such colitogenic cells. However, if some of the colitogenic cells had differentiated to the point of becoming memory cells, cure would become problematic because memory cells with the ability to reproduce diseases remain hidden for long periods, such as 'ninjas', and are capable of supplying large numbers of new effector cells in each recurrence. Thus, an immune mechanism may have developed whereby, unlike the pathway from naive cells to effector cells, memory cells that have acquired antigen specificity could be easily reactivated by cytokines and other stimuli without the need to reacquire antigen specificity. In other words, when we consider the possible reasons why IBDs are intractable and persist lifelong, we advanced the hypothesis that colitogenic T cells in IBD are actually memory CD4+ T cells.

Colitogenic CD4⁺ T cells are IL-7-dependent memory cells

We used the CD4+CD45RBhigh lymphocyte transfer model of chronic colitis developed by Powrie et al. [14,15] to test the above hypothesis. The model is created by injecting naive CD4+CD45RBhigh T lymphocytes into the peritoneal cavity of severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) mice and recombination activating gene (RAG)-deficient mice, which are immunodeficient mice lacking T cells and B cells. When housed in a germ-free-environment, the mice develop weight loss and diarrhea approximately 3-4 weeks after the transfer, and histologically they develop chronic colitis characterized by marked infiltration by CD4+ T and activated innate immune cells, including macrophages and dendritic cells. The important advantage of this model is that it is a transfer model in which no new naive CD4+ T cells are supplied and the fact that the immune responses mediated by thymus-derived naive CD4+ T cells (as it would occur in healthy mice) are eliminated making possible to track the immune response over time after the initial cell transfer. Importantly, because this model does not develop in germ-free recipients, enteric bacterial antigens appear to be those causing the colitis [3,4].

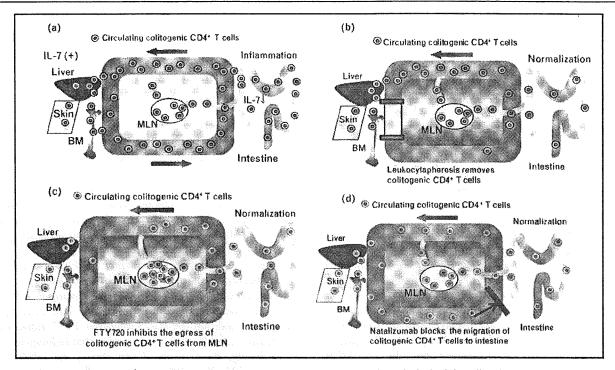
Several weeks after transfer of the CD4+CD45RBhigh cells, mucosal CD4+ T cells have markedly proliferated in the colonic mucosa of the SCID or RAG-2-deficient mice, and chronic colitis is established. Flow cytometry analysis shows that infiltrating colonic cells are CD44^{high}CD62L⁻IL-7Rα^{high} cells, so-called effectormemory-type memory cells (TEM) [16]. The definition of memory cells as CD44high is vague. Memory cells are IL-7R α^{high} and effector cells are IL-7R α^{low} , and though the mucosal CD4 cells we analyzed can be described as memory T cells because approximately 70% expressed CD69, meaning that they possess properties similar to those of effector cells, there are some uncertainties. Being long lived and IL-7 dependent appear to be more accurate criteria for identifying memory CD4 T cells [17,18]. Although the transfer model is traditionally known as the Th1-type CD4+ T-cell-mediated colitis model [19], mucosal CD4+ T cells also produce a large amount of Th17 [20,21°°,22°].

When CD4+ T cells isolated from the colonic mucosa of this murine model of colitis are transferred into SCID mice or RAG-2-deficient mice, they reproduce colitis that is similar to the colitis in the donor mice [15,23]. As T cells are known not to produce IL-7 [17,18], we investigated the IL-7 dependency of colitogenic CD4⁺ T cells by producing IL-7^{-/-} \times RAG-1^{-/-} mice and transferring colitogenic CD4+ T cells that had been isolated from the colonic mucosa of the model into IL-7^{-/-} × RAG-1^{-/-} mice and IL-7^{+/+} × RAG-1^{-/-} mice. Several weeks after the transfer, the control IL- $7^{+/+}$ × RAG-1^{-/-} mice, which are capable of producing IL-7, developed wasting disease and at the same time developed chronic colitis accompanied by marked CD4 T-cell infiltration, whereas no evidence of disease at all developed in the IL-7^{+/+} RAG-1^{-/-} mice into which colitogenic CD4+ T cells had been transferred [21°]. This demonstrates that IL-7 is essential for the development and maintenance of chronic colitis. Accordingly, it is reasonable to assume that IL-7-dependent memory T cells make up at least part of the population of colitogenic CD4+ T cells and that they contribute to the overall maintenance of the colitis in the presence of enteric bacteria (Fig. 1).

Involvement of another homeostatic cytokine besides IL-7, namely, IL-15, has recently been suggested in relation to memory CD4+ T cells [24,25]. IL-15 has been reported to be involved in the maintenance of CD4⁺ memory T cells as well as CD8+ memory T cells in a monkey simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) viral infection model [24]. However, we recently showed, using anti-IL-15 neutralizing antibodies, that IL-15 is not

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Figure 1 Distinct role of IL-7 and IL-17 in inflammatory bowel disease pathogenesis



In IBD, colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells are established at the onset of disease and persistent in the body in an IL-7-dependent manner. During the active stage of disease, including the onset and recurrences, Th17-type effector CD4⁺ T cells are generated from colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells. Thus, during periods of remission and relapse, it may be important to attack different targets, that is, homeostatic cytokine (IL-7) as well as effector cytokine (IL-17) to optimize treatment strategies for IBD. (a) Colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells continuously circulate in the body to migrate to IL-7-producing sites. (b) Leukocytapheresis may remove systemic circulating colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells from the peripheral blood. (c) FTY720 may inhibit the egress of colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells from regional lymph nodes, resulting in the blockade of their systemic circulation. (d) Administration of anti-integrin a4 mAb may suppress the migration of colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells to inflamed mucosa. BM, bone marrow; MLN, mesenteric lymph node.

involved in the development or maintenance of colitis in a colitis model in which colitogenic CD4⁺ T cells were retransferred into RAG-2^{-/-} mice (manuscript in preparation). Thus, IL-7, and not IL-15, appears to play the central role as the homeostatic cytokine in colitogenic CD4⁺ T cells.

Discovery of Th17 cells

IL-7 may play an extremely important role in the generation of colitogenic memory CD4⁺ T cells, but IL-7 is a homeostatic cytokine and it is impossible to induce inflammation with IL-7 alone. In other words, other cytokines may also be involved in inducing inflammation as effector cytokines in the reactivation of colitis. Up until just a few years ago, various chronic immune diseases were classified according to the Th1/Th2 balance paradigm put forward by Mosmann and Coffman [26] a couple of decades ago. The murine CD4⁺CD45RB^{high} T-cell transfer model described above is a Crohn's disease-like model because Th1 cytokines, primarily IFN-γ, are involved [19]. In other words, it was assumed that most colitogenic CD4⁺ T cells were IFN-γ-producing Th1 cells. However, after IL-17-

producing Th17-type lymphocytes were discovered, the immunopathogenesis of many chronic inflammatory diseases changed dramatically (Fig. 1) [8-12].

The discovery of Th17 cells started with a study conducted on a representative experimental autoimmune encephalopathy (EAE) model that up until that time was also thought to be a Th1-type immune disease [27]. IL-12, which is important to the induction of Th1 cells, is a p40 and p35 heterodimer, and the development of EAE in mice in which EAE had been induced was suppressed by administration of an anti-IL-12 (p40) antibody [28]. However, the paradox existed that the development of EAE fails in p40-deficient mice, but not in p35-deficient mice [29]. In attempting to solve this puzzle, the novel cytokine IL-23 was found to be a heterodimer of p40, a feature it shared with IL-12 and a new p19 molecule, and as suppression of the development of EAE was observed in p19-deficient mice, the same as in p40-deficient mice, IL-23, not IL-12, was shown to be the crucial cytokine needed for the development of EAE [30]. Furthermore, IL-23 induces IL-17, and IL-17 has a variety of potent pro-inflammatory

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