

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Nutritional status and risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in Japan

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Abstract

Only a few human studies have reported the relationship between dietary factors and the risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). We therefore analyzed the relationship between macronutrients (carbohydrate, protein and fat) and the risk of ALS using a case-control study in Japan. The study comprised 153 ALS patients diagnosed by the El Escorial World Federation of Neurology criteria, and 306 gender- and age- matched controls randomly selected from the general population. A self-administered food frequency questionnaire was used to estimate pre-illness intakes of food groups and nutrients. The strength of association between ALS and a potential risk factor was assessed by calculating odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). A high intake of carbohydrate was significantly associated with an increased risk of ALS (adjusted OR=2.14, 95% CI 1.05–4.36; the highest versus the lowest tertile). ORs for the second and third tertile of total fat were 0.57 and 0.41 (95% CI 0.21–0.80), respectively. ORs for the highest tertile of intake versus the lowest were 0.41 (95% CI 0.21–0.80) for total fat, 0.30 (95% CI 0.16–0.5) for saturated fatty acids (SFAs), 0.35 (95% CI 0.18–0.69) for monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) and 0.58 (95% CI 0.40–0.96) for polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs). Our findings suggest that high intakes of carbohydrate and low intakes of fat and some kinds of fatty acids may, when combined, increased the risk of ALS.

Key words: *Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, case-control study, diet, macronutrients*

Introduction

With the rapidly Westernized dietary habits and sedentary lifestyles over the past several decades in Japan, the number of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) patients has increased (1). Several epidemiological studies have examined the risk factors of ALS; most have focused on physical activity (2–4), skeletal fractures (5) and heavy metal exposure at work (6–8). Recently, a few such epidemiological studies have examined the relationship between dietary factors and the risk of ALS; most have focused on intake of calcium and magnesium (9–10) and dietary antioxidants, particularly vitamin E (11). However, those findings failed both qualitatively and quantitatively to provide any evidence on dietary factors, because so very little is known about the relationship between those factors

and the risk of ALS. To the best of our knowledge, no study has yet examined the relation of macronutrients (carbohydrate, fat, and protein) to ALS. Thus, using a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ), we focused on the pre-illness dietary risk factors for ALS and assessed them in a case-control study in a Japanese population.

Methods

Subjects and methods

Study populations. Case subjects were all definite or probable ALS patients aged 18 to 81 years who had been diagnosed based on the El Escorial World Federation of Neurology criteria (13) in medical centers in the Tokai area of Japan from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004.

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ALS was definite in 65% and probable in 35% of cases. All cases of progressive bulbar palsy (PBP) were included in this study, whereas familial progressive muscular atrophy was excluded. There was no evidence of coexisting Parkinson's disease or related disorders including multisystem atrophy.

We set up two community controls matched to each patient for age (± 2 years), gender and residence based on electoral districts. They were randomly selected from among the general population in the same district as our case subjects based on the basic register of residents. Selection was carried out by a proportional simple random sampling, with stratification by gender and age groups, using the basic resident registry.

Data collection. We asked patients to recall their lifestyle during the three years before the onset of ALS, and community controls the same before their interview. When patients were unable to provide any information on their lifestyle and exposures because of their seriously impaired conditions or early death, proxies (mainly spouses) were interviewed. Standardized in-person interviews were conducted for patients and for their individually matched control. Only when this was not possible was a proxy interview performed. To minimize information bias, when a case's proxy to a case was interviewed, the control's proxy to the control was also interviewed even if the control was competent to be interviewed.

The institutional ethics committee of the Aichi Prefectural College of Nursing and Health approved the protocol before commencement of the study. All participants provided informed consent to a verbal explanation of the study protocol including next of kin for case subjects who were severely ill, unconscious, or dead as well as proxy respondents for control subjects.

Dietary information. Dietary information was obtained by a self-administered food frequency questionnaire (FFQ), consisting of 97 commonly eaten food and beverage items. This FFQ was validated for food groups by referring to four 4-day dietary records (DRs) among 88 men and women in central Japan, from 1996 to 1997 (14-15). The energy-gender-and age-adjusted test-retest correlation coefficients between the two FFQs administered at a one-year interval ranged from 0.34 to 0.78. The de-attenuated, energy-, gender- and age-adjusted correlation coefficients between the second FFQ and the DRs were larger than 0.40 for most food groups. Estimates of nutrient intake were computed using the Standard Tables of Food Composition in Japan, Fifth revised and enlarged edition (Science and Technology Agency, 2000).

Covariates such as demographic characteristics (age at diagnosis, gender) and risk factors were collected based on the responses to a structured

questionnaire specifically designed for this case-control study. A behavior pattern was measured by a 10-item scale designed for a Japanese cohort by Maeda (16). Subjects who scored between 0 and 16 were considered to exhibit a non-type A pattern, which indicated a relaxed and easy-going individual, while those who scored 17 or greater were considered as type A, which denotes a set of characteristics that includes people who are excessively time-conscious, insecure in their status, highly competitive, hostile and aggressive, and incapable of relaxation (17). Smoking status was ascertained in relation to the number of cigarettes smoked per day during the year before the survey (onset of ALS/interview), and subjects were categorized into current smokers (at least one cigarette per day), ex-smokers (smokeless for at least one year before the survey), and never smokers, and was further classified into current smokers and non-smokers (including ex-smokers and never smokers). Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as a subject's weight (kg) divided by height (m) squared as a measure of obesity.

Statistical analysis

The differences in mean values or frequencies between ALS patients and controls were statistically examined by unpaired *t*-test, χ^2 test, or Mantel-extension test. The odds ratio (OR) and its 95% confidence interval (CI) were estimated using multiple conditional logistic regression models to assess the strength of association between ALS and potential risk factors (18). Tests for trends in logistic regression analysis were performed by the exposure variable and treating the scored variables as a continuous one.

In the analysis of estimated nutrient intakes, all the nutritional variables were natural logarithmically transformed to improve their normality. Because the intake of most nutrients is strongly correlated with total energy intake, the former was adjusted for the latter using the residuals from linear regression models. For this analysis, subjects were divided into three groups according to the tertile of energy-adjusted nutrient intakes among controls.

The latency period for ALS may be longer than a few years. To address the possibility that changes in lifestyle due to the progression of ALS might have affected the results, we asked subjects whether they had altered their lifestyle, including dietary habits, from three years before the onset of ALS to the date of the study. We also excluded participants with a change in lifestyle, extreme daily energy intakes (<800 or >4000 Kcal for men and <500 or >3500 for women) or incomplete FFQ.

Results

A total of 194 consecutive patients with ALS were identified from the study hospitals. Among them, 31

Table I. Selected background characteristics of study subjects.

	Cases (n=153)	Control (n=306)	p-value
	% or mean	% or mean	
Sex			
Men	60.3	60.3	
Women	39.7	39.7	
Age group			
-49	32.6	33.3	
50-59	36.4	34.8	
60+	31.0	31.9	
Mean age (SD)	63.7±9.2	63.4±10.6	0.05
BMI	22.2±0.2	23.3±0.3	<0.05
Type A behavior pattern	44.2	19.6	0.000
Energy intake (Kcal/day)			
<1554	32.7	24.8	
1554-1987	20.5	24.8	
1987-2418	21.6	24.8	
>2418	25.1	25.8	

were excluded because they met the above exclusion criteria, resulting in 153 ALS patients available for the present analysis. Table I shows the characteristics of cases and controls. The mean ages were around 63.0 years, accounting for about 60% of the men among ALS patients and community controls. The proportion of proxy interviews was similar between ALS patients and controls.

Table II summarizes the ORs for ALS by daily nutrient intake. Carbohydrate intake was positively associated with the risk of ALS. ORs of the former from the second to the highest tertile were 1.51 and 2.14 (95% CI 1.05-4.36; trend $p=0.04$), respectively. The risk of ALS was significantly reduced with a higher intake of total fat. ORs for the second and third tertile were 0.57 and 0.41 (95% CI 0.21-0.80; trend $p=0.008$), respectively. For fatty acids, ORs for the highest tertile of intake versus the lowest were 0.30 (95% CI 0.16-0.58; trend $p=0.04$) for

saturated fatty acids (SFAs), 0.35 (95% CI 0.18-0.69; trend $p=0.003$) for monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs), and 0.58 (95% CI 0.40-0.96; trend $p=0.044$) for polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs). The percentage of total energy to carbohydrate was significantly associated with an increased risk of ALS, while that to total fat was significantly associated with a reduced risk of ALS.

Discussion

In the case-control study of SAH, we found higher intake of carbohydrate, and lower intakes of total fat, SFAs, and MUFAs were significantly associated with an increased ALS risk. To the best of our knowledge, no epidemiological information was available about the relationship between macronutrients and the risk of ALS. This is the first epidemiological finding that a high intake of carbohydrate may be a risk factor for

Table II. Odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for ALS by tertiles (T1-T3) of daily nutrient intakes.

	Cut points (g)*		OR (95% CI)†			Trend p
	T1/T2	T2/T3	T1	T2	T3	
Protein (g)	59.1	81.7	1.00	0.97 (0.56-1.66)	0.77 (0.36-1.65)	0.50
Fat (g)	44.9	65.7	1.00	0.57 (0.34-0.95)	0.41 (0.21-0.80)	0.008
Carbohydrate (g)	230.8	295.4	1.00	1.51 (0.89-2.58)	2.14 (1.05-4.36)	0.042
SFA (g)	12.0	18.6	1.00	0.64 (0.39-1.02)	0.30 (0.16-0.58)	0.038
MUFA (g)	15.4	23.7	1.00	0.71 (0.43-1.17)	0.35 (0.18-0.69)	0.003
PUFA (g)	11.1	15.2	1.00	0.85 (0.51-1.42)	0.58 (0.40-0.96)	0.044
n-3 fatty acids (g)	2.0	2.8	1.00	0.75 (0.46-1.21)	1.14 (0.70-1.87)	0.61
n-6 fatty acids (g)	7.3	10.1	1.00	0.82 (0.51-1.31)	1.24 (0.80-1.92)	0.31
n-6/ n-3	3.5	4.1	1.00	0.75 (0.47-1.21)	1.11 (0.71-1.72)	0.24
Percent of total energy						
Carbohydrates	13.1	15.1	1.00	1.63 (0.96-2.75)	2.90 (1.77-4.76)	0.000
Fat	22.7	28.3	1.00	0.96 (0.62-1.46)	0.39 (0.24-0.66)	0.001
Protein	50.4	57.8	1.00	0.75 (0.48-1.16)	0.68 (0.39-1.05)	0.069

SFA: saturated fatty acids; MUFA: monounsaturated fatty acids; PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acids. *Adjusted to a mean energy intake of 2122 Kcal/d (8882 KJ/d). †Adjusted for age, gender, BMI, and behavior pattern.

ALS, whereas a high intake of total fat, SFA and PUFA may protect against the onset of ALS. We also observed as statistically significant an approximately 60% reduction in ALS risk in the highest category of total fat intake compared with the lowest, and that inverse relationship remained even after adjusting for confounding factors.

A methodological issue in this study was how we used FFQ to assess nutritional status. Since our FFQ used was not designed to examine the amount of selected foods intake, we did not test for the reproducibility of each frequency of consumption of selected foods. Drewnowski et al. reported that mean frequencies of food consumption were a significant predictor of dietary outcomes (19). Their findings strongly suggest that a misclassification may not be serious enough to produce a spurious positive or inverse association. In this study, we added BMI into the model. Moreover, we added BMI into the model as confounding factor. This was because BMI was significantly higher in cases than in controls, and had a positive association with several nutritional factors, but this was not significant. These findings suggest that BMI may confound for the relationship between nutritional factors and the risk of ALS.

In this study, we have no clear explanation as to the underlying mechanisms for the observation that a higher intake of carbohydrate increases the risk of ALS, while a higher intake of total fat, SFA or PUFA reduces it. For carbohydrate intake, several studies have demonstrated that high glucose promotes apoptotic cell death through the production of free radicals, oxidant stress and reactive oxygen species (20,21). Carbohydrate metabolism was impaired in patients with motor neuron disease and spinocerebellar disease (24), while low glucose affected cell growth and survival (25).

Concerning total fat intake, several experimental studies have demonstrated that total fat and fatty acid type intake such as SFA, MUFA and PUFA has a neuroprotective effect (26–32).

These experimental findings might provide an explanation as to the mechanism underlying the relationship between high carbohydrate and low fat intake and the risk of ALS. Taking these results into account, our findings speculate that the production of oxidative stress induced by a high intake of carbohydrate and the decrease in or lack of an antioxidant defense induced by a low intake of total fat and some kinds of fatty acids may, in combination, increase the risk of ALS. Moreover, our investigations also revealed that a high carbohydrate and low fat intake might play an important role in the development of ALS among humans.

There are several limitations to this study. First, we used prevalent cases where diagnosis was made within four years before the present study, which might cause them some difficulty in recalling their conditions before the onset of ALS. In this study,

information on the average habitual intake frequency was self-reported retrospectively in both ALS patients and controls. Patients may have reason to recall or learn about a lifestyle in greater detail than controls. Moreover, since our questionnaire asked for much information appertaining to three years before recruitment into the study, some may have reported dietary habits already altered by the onset of ALS. To avoid such problems, we confirmed no change in their lifestyle during the three years before the onset of symptoms. This was necessary because differential recall and misclassification seemed to be proportional to the length of the period from the onset to the interview. These findings could lead to a misclassification of their true long-term dietary exposure and a weakening of their observed associations.

Secondly, we used a self-administered questionnaire to collect information from both cases and controls. The authors have discovered no significant difference in the responses to questions related to lifestyle factors such as physical activity, general life stress and dietary habit between self- and interviewer-administered questionnaires (33). Marshall et al. reported that 90% of the estimates by spouses and by respondents to food-frequency questionnaires are within one frequency category of each other (34). In our study, associations between macronutrients and ALS occurrence still remained after excluding the data obtained from proxy respondents (data not shown). These findings suggest that the effect of our collection method on subjects' responses would be minimal.

Our current investigation had methodological strengths that were identified according to the most recent diagnostic criteria, and adjustment was made for extensive potential confounders.

In summary, the present study suggests that high intakes of carbohydrate and low intakes of fat may, when combined, increase the risk of ALS. Larger studies with more detailed information are needed to draw a firm conclusion on whether fat intake, including fatty acids, confers protection against ALS in Japan. Further investigations of Western populations are also required to assess the effects of macronutrients on ALS.

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健康状態と生活習慣の実態についてのおたずね

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紀伊半島における神経難病の原因調査グループ

愛知県立大学

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関西医療大学

紀平為子

三重大学神経内科

小久保康昌

この調査票は、お住まいの地域の住民基本台帳を元にご送付させていただきました。

調査の目的

紀伊半島南部は、神経難病である筋萎縮性側索硬化症と認知症を伴うパーキンソン症候群の多発地帯であることが、以前から知られています。筋萎縮性側索硬化症は、手足や舌の筋萎縮が徐々に進行する疾患で、イギリスの著名な理論物理学者のホーキング博士はこの病気で闘病しながら現在も世界的な研究を継続されています。また、アメリカの有名な野球選手ルー・ゲーリックがこの病気だったことからルー・ゲーリック病とも呼ばれています。筋萎縮性側索硬化症は世界中でほぼ同じ頻度で認められますが、紀伊半島では頻度が高いことが報告されました。また本地域にはパーキンソン病に似た運動障害と認知症を特徴とするパーキンソン認知症複合と呼ばれる疾患も多く見られます。これらの疾患の原因は不明で、これまでに飲み水や食べ物などの環境要因の影響を重視する仮説がありましたが、特定の物質は確認できていません。

そこで、本アンケート調査の目的は、皆様方の日頃の生活状況と食事内容の両面から多角的に解析し、統計的に処理したうえで総合評価し、紀伊半島における神経難病の原因の解明とこの病気の発症予防に役立てることにあります。

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どうぞ、以上の趣旨をご理解いただき、ご協力いただけます様よろしくお願い致します。

ご協力いただく内容

- (1) 身体的および精神的状況を含む日常生活に関する質問調査票への記入(表紙裏面から3ページ)
- (2) 現在の栄養摂取状況に関する調査票(別添のカラー用紙)への記入

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ご記入される前にお読みください

- ・当てはまるものの番号に○をつけていただくか、あるいはカッコ内への記入をお願いいたします
もし、ご本人がご記入できない状況にある場合には、ご家族の方が代わりにご記入をお願いいたします。
ご記入が本人以外の方の場合、記入された方とその理由から1つ選んで○をつけてください。

この調査は 20 歳以上の住民の方を対象としたものであります。年齢のご確認をお願いいたします。

あなたの年齢は () 歳 性別は 男 ・ 女 (必ずご記入下さい)

あなたはこの地にどれくらい長く住んでおられますか？

1. 生まれてからずっとこの地に住んでいる。
2. () 歳から () 歳まで、() 年間住んでいる。

生活習慣および生活状況について、おたずねします。

1. あなたは子供の頃、「なま水」をよく飲みましたか。
①どちらかという井戸水または井戸水からくみ上げた水道水を飲んだ
②どちらかという町水道水を飲んだ
③それ以外のなま水を飲んだ (山からのわき水など)
2. 飲料水として何を使っていますか。当てはまるもの1つに○をつけて下さい。
①井戸水または井戸水からくみ上げた水道 ②町水道 ③井戸水と町水道の兼用
3. 週何日程度、飲食店 (喫茶店、食堂、レストランなど) で食事をしますか
(食べる機会がなしなら0と、毎日なら7と記入してください)
①朝食 () 日 ②昼食 () 日 ③夕食 () 日
4. 日頃の食生活の中で、近くの販売店 (農協、雑貨屋、およびスーパー等を含む) で購入するのではなく、地元でとれた食材 (米、野菜、魚など) を使う量は平均してどのくらいですか。
①ほとんど使わない ②半分以下 ③約半分くらい ④半分以上 ⑤ほとんど全部
5. あなたのお仕事について教えてください。
(1) あなたのお仕事は次のうちどれですか(でしたか)。当てはまるものを一つ○で囲んで下さい。
①農業 ②林業 ③建設業 ④製造業 ⑤卸・小売業
⑥サービス業 ⑦公務員 ⑧運輸・交通関係
⑨その他 (農業と林業の兼業、農業と漁業の兼業、林業と漁業の兼業、その他)

(2) 仕事でどのくらい身体を動かしていますか (いましたか)。

- ①あまり動かしていない (事務作業、店員、運転手、家事など)
- ②わりと動かしている (外勤でよく歩く、配達など)
- ③かなり使っている (土木作業、農作業、車の整備など)
- ④運動・スポーツの仕事をしている (体育の先生、スポーツコーチなど)

以下の質問項目につきましては、50歳以上の方のみお答えください。

日々の生活の様子などから判断して、現在あてはまるものの欄に○印をつけて下さい

当てはまるものに	
	同じことを何回も話したり、尋ねたりする
	置き忘れやしまい忘れがある
	出来事の前後関係がわからなくなった
	服装など身の回りに無頓着になった
	水道栓やドアなどをしめ忘れたり、後かたづけがきちんとできなくなった
	同時に二つの作業を行うと、一つを忘れる
	薬を管理してきちんと内服することができなくなった
	以前はてきぱきできた家事や作業に手間取るようになった
	計画を立てられなくなった
	複雑な話を理解できない
	興味が薄れ、意欲がなくなり、趣味活動などをやめてしまった
	前よりも怒りっぽくなったり、疑い深くなった
	大切なものを盗まれたと言う

資料整理のため必要ですので、必ずご記入ください。（ご本人以外の方は理由へも○を）

記入された方	ご本人・配偶者・その他()
	↓
ご本人以外の理由:	寝たきり・認知症・意識障害・その他()

アンケートをご記入いただいた皆様へのお願い

今回皆様からいただいた結果を経時的に追跡致すことにより、筋萎縮性側索硬化症の発病予防の資料とさせていただきます。そのために皆様の個人情報（ご氏名とご住所）が必要となります。皆様から提供されました個人情報はこの筋萎縮性側索硬化症の発病予防に関する追跡調査以外には用いません。また、この情報につきましては、責任を持って厳重に管理致します。

以上の趣旨をご理解いただき、個人情報の提供に同意される方はご氏名と住所のご記入をお願い致します。

ご氏名 _____

ご住所 _____

食事調査票にもお忘れなく、ご回答ください。

食事調査のお願い

この食事調査は皆様の最近1ヶ月以内の食事内容を調査させていただくものです。

そこで、皆様にはお手数をおかけいたすため恐縮に存じますが、食事内容について同封の食事調査票へのご記入をお願い申し上げます。

質問票の作成の都合上、特に現在の食事内容につきましては、現在皆様が食べていらっしゃる内容と合わない項目もありますため、ご記入の際迷われるようなことがあると思います。その際には、おわかりになる範囲でできるだけご記入いただきますようお願い申し上げます。

本調査用紙は全部で4ページあります。

ご記入に関しましては、それぞれの調査項目には目安と説明が示されておりますので、

ご覧いただきながら、ご記入をお願いいたします。

判断に迷われた際には、ほぼ平均的に摂られておられる頻度と量でお答えください。

下記の情報を元に栄養摂取状況の計算をさせていただくため、必ずご記入下さい

あなたの身長は () cm 体重は () kg

■食物摂取状況の記入上の注意■

あなたの最近(1~2ヶ月程度の間)の食生活についておたずねします。

- ① 日ごろ食べる食品の1回の分量と、それを1週間に食べる回数を回答欄に記入して下さい。(1ヶ月に1~2回程度の食品は省いて下さい。)
- ② 質問の下にはそれぞれの食品の「ふつう」量を選択する場合の目安の例を図で示しています。「少し」は普通量の1/2。「たっぷり」は普通量の1.5倍として回答欄の番号(0, 1, 2, 3)を○で囲んで下さい。

例1 昼食に肉を普通量そしてウインナーを普通量食べた場合は1週間の回数に加算してください。

2 肉・肉加工品類 肉や肉の加工品はどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は80gです。80gとは……

普通量の肉とウインナーを昼に週3回食べるのであれば、回数を合計して1週間に6回となるようにカウントする。

質問例は昼食についてのものである。

例2 朝・昼・夕の区別のない項目では1日に2回以上食べた場合は1週間の回数に加算してください(1週間の回数は7回以上で回答してもよい)。

12 いも いも類は1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は100gです。100gとは……

朝・昼・夕の区別のない食品群は食べた時間に関係なく1週間の回数に加算する。例えば朝1週間に2回、昼1週間に3回食べた場合は分量は「2. ふつう」を選び、2回と3回を合計して5回とする。

例3 2週間に1回程度習慣的に食べる食品は0.5回と回答してください。

19-a その他 塩辛いものは1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量の目安は

毎日は食べないが、1~2週間に1回程度習慣的に食べる場合は0.5回と回答する。しかし、1ヶ月に1回程度食べる場合は「0. 食べない」を選ぶ。

回答欄



肉・肉加工品類		1回に食べる量を0, 1, 2, 3から選び○をつける			1週間に食べる回数	
朝	0 食べない	1 少	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	2 回
昼	0 食べない	1 少	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	6 回
夕	0 食べない	1 少	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	3.5 回

回答欄は全ての行で入力が必要です。

1. 「0食べない, 1少し, 2普通, 3たっぷり」から必ず1つを選択します。
2. 回答欄の右側に回数等を記入する□欄に数値を記入します。

いも

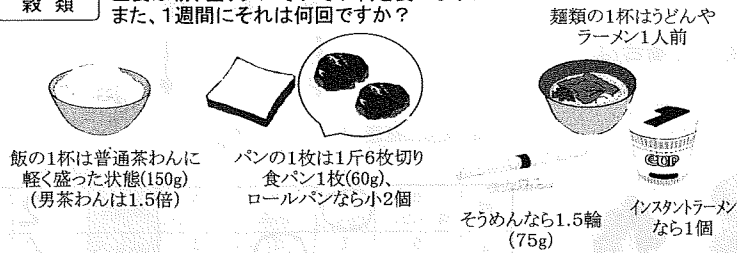
1回	0 食べない	1 少	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	5 回
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塩辛いものは

1回	0 食べない	1 少	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	0.5 回
----	--------	-----	------	--------	------	-------

食品ごとに示した図はふつう量の目安です。この分量を参考にして1回に食べる量を回答してください。
 「0. 食べない」は1週間に1度も食べない場合。「1. 少し」は普通量の1/2。「3. たっぶり」は普通量の1.5倍が目安です。

1-a 穀類 主食は朝、昼、夕にそれぞれ何を食べますか？
 また、1週間にそれは何回ですか？



-b 飯のうち、寿司や炊き込みご飯、どんぶりなど和風のご飯ものは1週間に何回食べますか？

-c 飯のうち、カレーライスやハヤシライス、グラタンなどルーを使った料理は1週間に何回食べますか？

2 肉・肉加工品類 肉や肉の加工品はどのくらい食べますか？

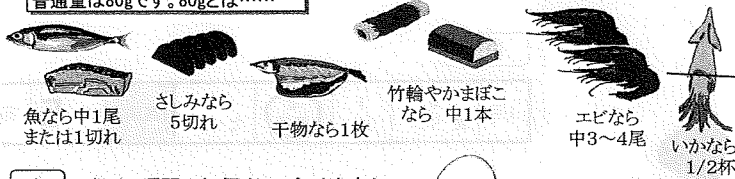
普通量は80gです。80gとは……



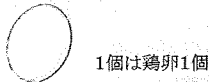
3 魚介類 魚や練り製品はどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は80gです。80gとは……

*小魚は8へ記入してください

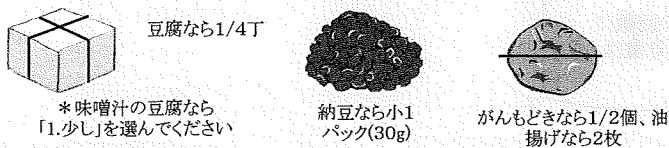


4 卵 卵は1週間に何個くらい食べますか？



5 大豆・大豆製品

大豆・大豆製品はどのくらい食べますか？(みそは除く)



6-a 牛乳・乳製品

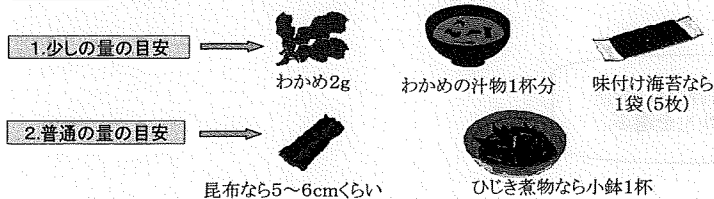
牛乳は1週間にどのくらい飲みますか？ 170ml(コップ約1杯)を1とする



-b 乳製品は1週間にどのくらい食べますか？



7 海草 ワカメやひじきなどの海草はどのくらい食べますか？



回答欄

穀類

1週間に食べる回数

		杯	枚	杯
1週間に	朝			
1週間に	昼			
1週間に	夕			

1週間に食べる回数

ご飯もの

1週間に	回
1週間に	回

カレーやハヤシライス

肉・肉加工品類

1回に食べる量を0, 1, 2, 3から選び○をつける

朝	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
昼	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
夕	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回

魚介類

朝	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
昼	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
夕	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回

卵

1週間に	個
------	---

大豆・大豆製品

朝	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
昼	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
夕	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回

牛乳

1週間に	杯
------	---

乳製品

1週間に	個
------	---

海草

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぶり	1週間に	回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	---

8 小魚

小魚はどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は20gです。20gとは……



しらす干しなら
大さじ山盛り2杯



いわし生なら
小1匹

9 緑黄色野菜

緑黄色野菜はどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は50gです。50gとは……



人参なら1/3本くらい



ほうれん草なら1/4束
(お浸し小鉢1杯)



トマトなら中1/3個



いろいろな緑黄色野菜を
合わせて片手1杯くらい



ピーマンなら中2個



かぼちゃなら2cm角5個

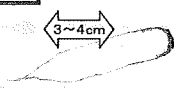
10 淡色野菜・きのこ類

淡色野菜やきのこ類はどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は80gです。80gとは……



きゅうりなら1本
酢の物なら小鉢2杯



大根なら3~4cmくらい



お浸しなら小鉢2鉢



キャベツなら大葉1枚



野菜サラダなら
サラダ鉢1杯



野菜炒めなら1/2皿

11 果物

果物はどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は150gです。150gとは……



みかん2個



りんごなら
1/2個



バナナ1.5本



スイカなら
1/8個



メロンなら
1/6個



柿なら
1/2個

*普通量の重量は正味の重量です。

12 いも

いも類は1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は100gです。100gとは……



じゃがいもなら中1個



さつまいもなら中1/2個



里いもなら中3個

13-a 砂糖

ジャムやはちみつはどのくらい食べますか？

普通量は7gです。7gとは……



ジャムなら小さじ1杯



はちみつなら小さじ1杯

13-b 砂糖やみりんを使った煮物を1回にどのくらい食べますか？

砂糖やみりんを使った料理には次のようなものがあります

煮物料理の
普通量は



筑前煮



すき焼き風煮



大根やいも
などの煮物



煮魚

酢の物や
和え物の
普通量は



酢の物



白和え



三杯酢漬け



黄身酢かけ

回答欄

小魚

1回に食べる量を
0, 1, 2, 3 から選び○をつける

1週間に食べる回数

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

緑黄色野菜

朝	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
昼	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
夕	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回

淡色野菜・きのこ類

朝	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
昼	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
夕	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回

果物

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

いも

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

ジャムやはちみつ

1回	0 食べない	1 少し (3.5g)	2 普通量 (小さじ 1=7g)	3 たっぷり (10.5g)	1週間に		回
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煮物料理は

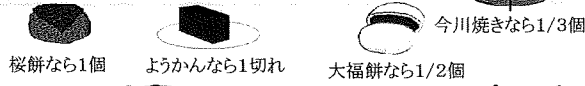
1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通 (1皿)	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	-----------------	-----------	------	--	---

酢の物や和え物は

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通 (1皿)	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	-----------------	-----------	------	--	---

14 菓子類 次のような菓子は1週間にどのくらい食べますか？
それぞれの1個の目安量を参考に答えてください。

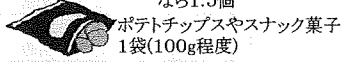
①和菓子なら



②菓子パンやケーキなら



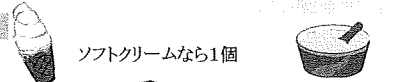
③スナック・揚げ菓子なら



④せんべい類やクッキー(1枚8~10g)なら



⑤アイスクリーム(1個100g程度)なら



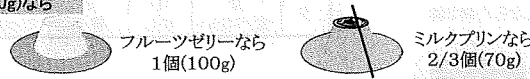
⑥チョコレート(小1枚50g)なら



⑦キャンディ・キャラメル(1個5~6g)なら

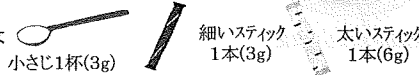


⑧ゼリーやプリン(1個100g)なら



15-a 嗜好飲料

コーヒーや紅茶に入れる砂糖の量はどのくらいですか？



-b 缶ジュースや缶コーヒーなどの清涼飲料水はどのくらい飲みますか？



-c アルコール飲料は1日にどのくらい飲みますか？

普通量の目安は



16 栄養補助食品

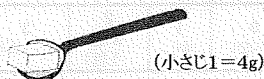
エネルギーやたんぱく質などを含む栄養補助食品は1週間にどのくらい食べますか？
* 特定の栄養素を含むサプリメント(ビタミンやミネラル等を含む錠剤など)は含まない。

1個の目安は



17-a 油脂 バターやマーガリンはどのくらい使いますか？

普通量の目安は



-b 天ぷらやフライなど揚げ物料理は1週間に何回食べますか？

1回量の目安は



回答欄

菓子類

1週間に食べる回数

和菓子なら	1週間に				個
菓子パンやケーキなら	1週間に				個
スナック・揚げ菓子なら	1週間に				袋
せんべい類やクッキー(1枚8~10g)なら	1週間に				枚
アイスクリーム(1個100g程度)なら	1週間に				個
チョコレート(小1枚50g)なら	1週間に				個
キャンディ・キャラメル(1個5~6g)なら	1週間に				個
ゼリーやプリンなら	1週間に				個

嗜好飲料 1回に食べる量を0, 1, 2, 3から選び○をつける

1回	0 入れない	1 砂糖1杯(3g)	2 砂糖2杯(6g)	3 砂糖3杯(9g)	1週間に			杯
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清涼飲料水

1回	0 飲まない	1 小1本(100~120ml)	2 1本(250ml)	3 大1本(350ml)	1週間に			本
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アルコール飲料

1回	0 飲まない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に			回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	--	---

栄養補助食品

1週間に			回
------	--	--	---

油脂

1回	0 つけない	1 少し(2g)	2 普通(4g)	3 たっぷり(6g)	1週間に			回
----	-----------	-------------	-------------	---------------	------	--	--	---

天ぷらやフライは

1週間に			回
------	--	--	---

c マヨネーズやドレッシングなどは1週間に何回食べますか？
これらを使った料理も含みます。

1回量の目安は マヨネーズやドレッシングを使った料理は…

いろいろな料理にかける場合
マヨネーズ大さじ1杯は
12g程度。ただし、ノンオイル
ドレッシングの場合は回数に
入れない。



ポテトサラダ

野菜サラダ

お好み焼き

d 炒め物など少量の油を使う料理は1週間に何回食べますか？

少量の油を使う料理には次のようなものがあります。
バターやマーガリンを使用する場合は17-aの質問に答えてください。



野菜炒め



肉のソテー



焼きそば・うどん焼き

18-a 種実 ピーナッツやアーモンドなどのナッツ類は1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量の目安は



ピーナッツ大さじ1杯(5~6粒)



アーモンド2~3粒

b ゴマは1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量の目安は



小さじ2/3杯(2g)



ゴマ和え小鉢1杯分はたっぷり

19-a その他 塩辛いものは1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量の目安は



梅干し1個



昆布つくで煮小皿1杯



塩辛 大さじ1杯



たらこ1/3腹

b 漬物は1回にどのくらい食べますか？

普通量の目安は



たくわん2~3枚



白菜やキャベツの漬物
小皿1杯



キュウリやなすの漬物
3~4切れ

c 食卓でしょうゆやソースを1回にどのくらい使いますか？

漬物や焼き魚、さしみ、冷や奴などにかけるしょうゆやソースです
(普通量は小さじ1)。



d 汁物は一週間に何杯飲みますか？

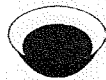
みそ汁とその他の汁物を分けて答えてください。

味噌汁



すまし汁やコンソメ、ポタージュなど

e 麺類を食べる時その汁は残しますか？また、麺類は1週間に何回くらい食べますか？



0.ほとんど残す



1.半分残す



2.ほとんど飲む

20 外食や市販弁当の味をどう感じますか？

1. 家庭の味より 外食の味を薄く感じる	2. 家庭と外食の味は ほとんど同じ	3. 家庭の味より 外食の味を濃く感じる
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回答欄

週間に食べる回数

マヨネーズやドレッシングは

1週間に		回
------	--	---

炒め物は

1週間に		回
------	--	---

種実

1回に食べる量を
0, 1, 2, 3 から選び○をつける

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通 (大さじ1)	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	-------------------	-----------	------	--	---

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

塩辛いものは

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

漬け物は

1回	0 食べない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

しょうゆやソースは

1回	0 使わない	1 少し	2 普通	3 たっぷり	1週間に		回
----	-----------	---------	---------	-----------	------	--	---

味噌汁は

1週間に		杯
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すまし汁やスープは

1週間に		杯
------	--	---

麺類の汁は

0 ほとんど 残す	1 半分 残す	2 ほとんど 飲む
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麺類を食べる回数は

1週間に		回
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麺類の摂取回数は1-aの回答とあっていますか。

外食の味は

1 外食の味 を薄く感じ る	2 ほとん ど同じ	3 外食の味 を濃く感 じる
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ご記入ありがとうございました。



長い時間にわたり、アンケートへのご協力ありがとうございました。

なお、今回の調査の中で

①認知症および②食事内容に関する調査項目に関しましては、調査結果およびそれに対するコメントをお付けいたし、お返しさせていただきます。

結果の返送をご希望の方は、希望する項目に○をつけていただき、ご返送先のご記入をお願いいたします。

希望する項目（ご希望する項目に○をつけてください）

①認知症に関する調査

②食事内容に関する調査

結果のご返送先

ご芳名 _____

ご住所 _____

（なお返送には結果処理上、若干お時間をいただきますことをご了承ください）

Original Article

Immunohistochemical expression of IGF-I and GSK in the spinal cord of Kii and Guamanian ALS patients

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Insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-I) is a potent survival factor for motor neurons in animals, and glycogen synthase kinase-3 β (GSK-3 β) is suspected to play roles in apoptosis and tau phosphorylation. Here we report the immunological expression of IGF-I, GSK-3 β , phosphorylated-GSK-3 α/β (p-GSK-3 α/β) and phosphorylated-tau in the spinal cord and hippocampus of Kii and Guam amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) patients. Sixteen ALS patients (10 Japanese sporadic, 3 Kii and 3 Guam ALS) and 14 neurological controls (10 Japanese and 4 Guamanian) were examined. The immunoreactivity for each antibody was rated by the percentages of positive neurons to total anterior horn neurons in each patient and was analyzed statistically. Many normal-looking neurons from Japanese sporadic ALS, Kii ALS and Guam ALS patients, as well as from Japanese and Guam controls, were positive for anti-IGF-I antibody. A positive correlation between IR scores for anti-IGF-I antibody and clinical durations of Japanese sporadic ALS patients was found in this study ($P < 0.0001$). This suggested that IGF-I might have a protective effect against ALS degeneration. In Japanese sporadic ALS patients, abnormal as well as normal-looking neurons showed significant high IR scores for anti-GSK-3 β antibody than those of controls. Anterior horn neurons from Guam and Kii ALS patients characteristically showed weak staining for anti-GSK-3 β antibody but were markedly positive for anti-pGSK-3 α/β antibody compared to those from both Japanese controls and Japanese sporadic ALS patients, and showed the

co-localization of IGF-I and p-GSK-3 α/β . This suggested that the IGF-I signaling pathway in Guam and Kii ALS patients might function to phosphorylate GSK-3 β to protect neurons from ALS degeneration. Neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs) in the hippocampus and spinal cord from Kii and Guam ALS patients showed the co-localization of PHF-tau and p-GSK-3 α/β by a confocal laser scanning technique. The predominant expression of p-GSK-3 α/β compared to GSK-3 β in spinal motor neurons and the co-localization of p-GSK-3 α/β and PHF-tau in NFT-laden neurons in the hippocampus and spinal cord were characteristic findings of Kii and Guam ALS patients.

Key words: GSK-3 β , Guam-ALS, IGF-I, Kii-ALS, phosphorylated GSK.

INTRODUCTION

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a neurodegenerative disease that affects upper and lower motor neuron systems. The Koza/Kozagawa area and Hobara area in the Kii Peninsula and Guam Island were high incidence areas of ALS between the 1950s and 1980s.^{1,2} Although the high incidence in Guam has disappeared,³ high incidences of ALS have continued in focus areas in the Kii Peninsula.^{4,5} ALS patients in these focus areas showed upper and lower motor neuron signs with/without parkinsonism or a long clinical duration and the characteristic appearance of NFTs, especially in the temporal cortex, hippocampus, amygdala, hypothalamus, brainstem and spinal cord.⁶ Many ALS patients from the Hobara area in Kii Peninsula and Guam Island have familial traits, but those from the Koza/Kozagawa area in Kii Peninsula are almost always sporadic cases.^{4,5} Although gene analysis, including a superoxide dismutase 1, tau, apoE and neurofilament heavy chain, has

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been performed, gene abnormalities were not found in ALS patients from the focus area in the Kii Peninsula.⁷

There are many hypotheses about the pathogenesis of sporadic and Kii ALS, including glutamate-induced excitotoxic injury, oxidative damage, exposure to toxins such as compounds in cycad seeds or minerals, disorganization of intermediate filaments and loss of neurotrophic support for motor neurons such as IGF-I, glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF), brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF).^{8,9}

IGF-I is a potent neuroprotective survival factor for motor neurons, acting as a major neurotrophic factor and promoting neuronal proliferation and differentiation during normal brain development. The biological functions of IGF-I are mediated by binding to the extra-cellular domain of IGF-I receptor (IGF-IR), which leads to phosphorylation and activation of the downstream signaling cascades for cell survival, namely the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3-K)/P-Akt pathways.¹⁰⁻¹² Glycogen synthase kinase-3 β (GSK-3 β), a serine threonine kinase, is a critical

downstream element of the PI3-K/P-Akt cell survival pathway, and its activity can be inhibited by Akt-mediated phosphorylation and down-regulated by phospho-GSK-3 α/β . GSK-3 β is suspected to play roles in inflammation, apoptosis and tau polymerization¹³⁻¹⁵; however, little information is available on changes in IGF-I and GSK-3 β series expressions in the spinal cord of ALS. In the present study we reported immunoreactivity of the IGF-I and GSK-3 β signaling pathways in the spinal cord of ALS patients, with special reference to Kii and Guam patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients

Sixteen ALS patients (10 sporadic Japanese ALS patients, 3 Kii ALS patients with long clinical duration, 3 Guam ALS patients with short clinical duration) and 14 neurological controls (10 Japanese patients, 4 Guam patients) were examined (Table 1). Controls 1–14 did not show any clinical signs or histological findings of spinal cord involvement.

Table 1 Sixteen amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) patients and 14 neurological controls were examined

	Sex	Age at death	Duration	Family history	Clinical diagnosis	Spinal cord examined	Pathological findings
J-control-1	F	78	6Y6M	–	Parkinson disease	L	–
J-control-2	M	72	6Y7M	–	Parkinson disease	L	–
J-control-3	M	61	9Y	–	Left putaminal hemorrhage	C	–
J-control-4	F	79	3Y	–	Ileus	L	–
J-control-5	F	53	6M	–	Gastric cancer	L	–
J-control-6	F	58	15Y	–	Diabetic neuropathy	L	–
J-control-7	F	58	3M	–	Pancreatic carcinoma	L	–
J-control-8	F	64	30Y	–	Limb-girdle muscular dystrophy	C	–
J-control-9	M	59	7M	–	Suprasellar lymphoma	C	–
J-control-10	F	64	1Y	–	Cholangioma	L	–
G-control-11	F	68	u.c.	–	Uremia	L	–
G-control-12	M	56	u.c.	–	Liver cirrhosis	L	–
G-control-13	F	65	u.c.	–	Cerebral hemorrhage	L	–
G-control-14	M	63	u.c.	–	Pulmonary embolism	L	–
Mean \pm S.D.		64.1	8.9	–			
MND-1	F	61	18Y	–	Kii ALS	L	+
MND-2	F	54	20Y	–	Kii ALS	L	++
MND-3	M	37	6Y5M	–	Kii ALS	L	++
MND-4	M	43	2Y5M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	+
MND-5	M	53	3Y3M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	++
MND-6	F	55	2Y2M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	++
MND-7	M	67	1Y8M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	+
MND-8	M	60	1Y9M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	++
MND-9	M	72	2Y3M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	++
MND-10	M	68	1Y10M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	++
MND-11	M	68	3M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	+
MND-12	F	65	6Y8M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	+
MND-13	M	62	1Y4M	–	J-sporadic ALS	L	+++
MND-14	F	52	2Y	–	Guam ALS	L	++
MND-15	F	54	3Y	–	Guam ALS	L	++
MND-16	M	72	2Y	–	Guam ALS	L	+
Mean \pm S.D.		58.9	10.0				

Pathological findings were shown as –: negative–minimum, +: mild, ++: moderate, +++: severe neuronal loss with gliosis.

C, cervical spinal cord; G-control, Guam-control; J-control, Japanese control; L, lumbar spinal cord; M, months; u.c., unclear; Y, years.

Table 2 The antibodies used in immunohistochemistry are shown in (a), and antibodies for triple staining by confocal laser scanning are shown in (b)

(a) Antibody	Species		Source	Dilution
IGF-I	Mouse	mAb	Chemicon International, USA	1:60
IGF-IR	Mouse	mAb	Chemicon International, USA	1:100
Phospho-Akt (Ser473)	Rabbit	mAb	Cell Signaling Technology, USA	1:50
Phospho-Akt (Thr308)	Rabbit	mAb	Cell Signaling Technology, USA	1:100
GSK-3 β	Rabbit	mAb	Cell Signaling Technology, USA	1:100
Phospho-GSK-3 α/β (Ser21/9)	Rabbit	polyclonal	Cell Signaling Technology, USA	1:100
PHF-Tau (AT-8)	Mouse	mAb	Innogenetics, Ghent, Belgium	1:500
(b) Antibodies for triple stainings by a confocal laser scanning	Species		Source	Secondary antibody
IGF-I	Mouse	mAb	R&D Systems, USA	Alexa488(anti-mouse IgG)
GSK-3 β	Rabbit	mAb	Cell Signaling Technology, USA	Alexa350(anti-rabbit IgG)
Phospho-GSK-3 α/β (Ser21/9)	Goat	polyclonal	Santa Cruz, CA	Alexa594(anti-goat IgG)
PHF-tau	Mouse	mAb	Innogenetics, Ghent, Belgium	Alexa488(anti-mouse IgG)
GSK-3 β	Rabbit	mAb	Cell Signaling Technology, USA	Alexa350(anti-rabbit IgG)
Phospho-GSK-3 α/β (Ser21/9)	Goat	polyclonal	Santa Cruz, CA	Alexa594(anti-Goat IgG)

PHF, paired helical filament; GSK, glycogen synthase kinase.

Control 7 showed metastasis on the spinal dura mater without invasion into the spinal cord.

Immunohistochemistry

The cervical and lumbar spinal cords and hippocampus were obtained at autopsy and were immersed in formalin. The duration of formalin fixation was 2 months in both ALS patients and controls. From each case, 6- μ m paraffin-embedded sections were cut and subjected to immunohistochemical, histometric, confocal laser scanning and routine histological examinations, including HE, Bodian and K-B staining. Immunohistochemical examinations were performed using the ABC system (Vectastain DAB kit, Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA, USA) and visualization with 3, 3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB). The sections were pretreated with 0.3% hydrogen peroxide in PBS for 30 min at room temperature (RT) to reduce non-specific staining by endogenous peroxidase. After rinsing twice with PBS, sections were blocked with 2.5% normal bovine serum in PBS at RT for 30 min. Primary antibodies were applied to the sections overnight at 4°C. The sections were then incubated with peroxidase-streptavidin conjugate (Elite Kit: Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA, USA), and the binding of primary antibodies was visualized by DAB (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Tokyo, Japan) and 0.02% hydrogen peroxide. The antibodies used are shown in Table 2a. For confocal laser scanning microscopy examination, rabbit anti-IGF-I antibody was mixed with either anti-GSK-3 β , anti-p-GSK-3 α/β or anti-tau antibodies, and incubated with sections overnight at 4°C. After rinsing twice with PBS, the sections were incubated with fluorescent-labeled second antibodies for tau for 2 h at RT (Table 2b). Triple immunolabeling was visualized using a Radiance 2100/K-2

Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope System (Bio-Rad Japan, Tokyo, Japan) with LaserSharp2000 software according to the manufacturer's instructions. To avoid the effects of auto-fluorescence from lipofuscin, Sudan black B pretreatment was performed.¹⁶ As a negative control, sections were treated with non-immunized IgG or the primary antibody was omitted; neither of these control methods produced marked staining.

Histometry

Immunoreactivity for anti-IGF-I, GSK-3 β and p-GSK-3 α/β antibodies was rated by the percentage of immunopositive neurons to total neurons in the anterior horn of the spinal cord which were counted in two sections (30 μ m intervals) for IGF-I and in one section for each GSK-3 β and p-GSK-3 α/β in each patient using the nucleus (> 10 μ m in diameter) as a marker. Neurons were morphologically classified as normal-looking, chromatolytic, atrophic and degenerative, as mentioned in the previous study.¹⁷ The abnormal neurons in this study were defined as chromatolytic, atrophic or degenerating. The correlation between the percentage of immunopositive neurons and clinical duration of ALS was examined.

The area used for histometrical examination was the anterior part from the line vertical to the anterior median fissure through the central canal.

Statistics

Statistical comparisons were made by Mann-Whitney *U*-test and Wilcoxon test, using *P* < 0.05 as the significance level. Pearson's correlation coefficient and the regression coefficient were calculated.

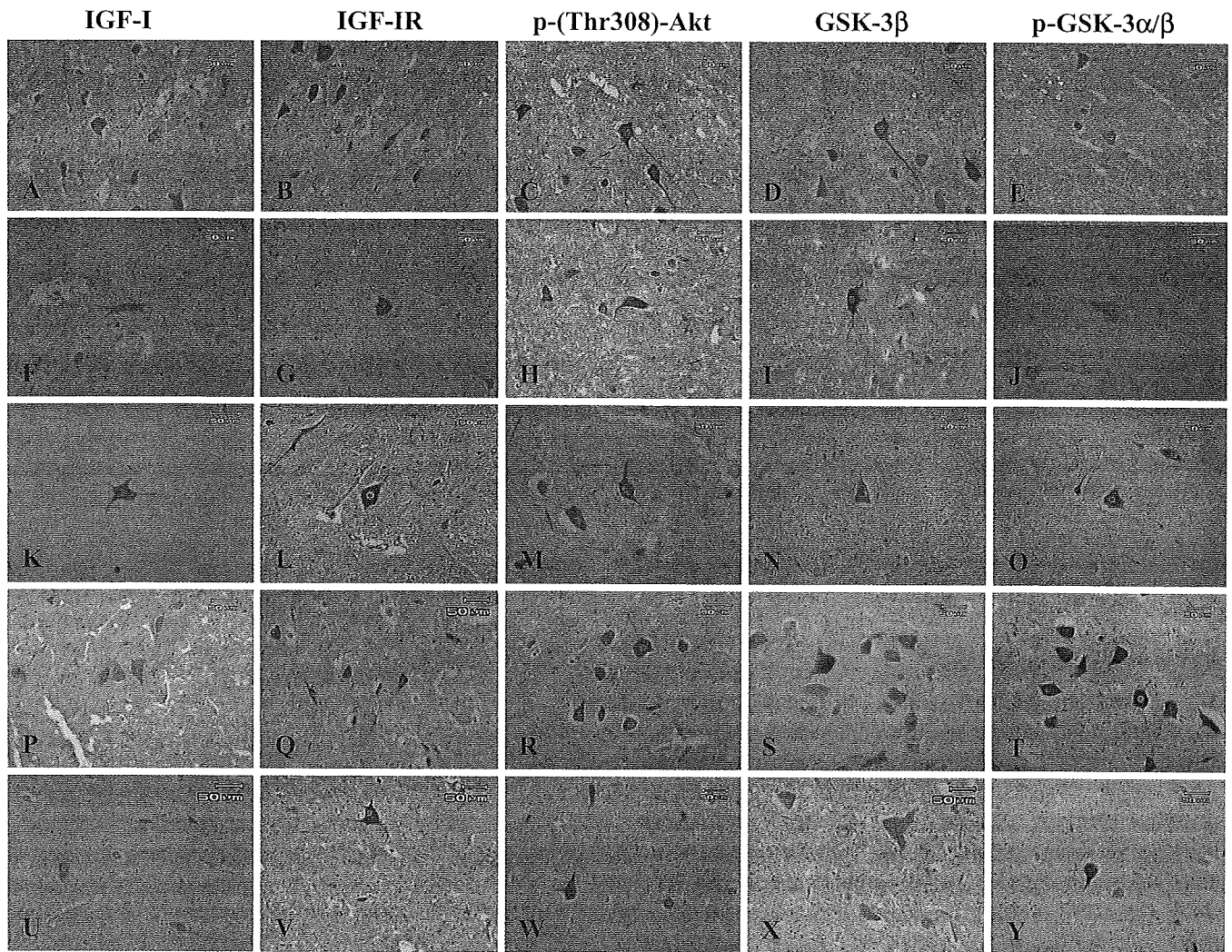


Fig. 1 Anterior horn neurons in spinal cords from a Japanese control (J-control-1, A–E) were mildly positive for anti-IGF-I antibody (A), markedly positive for anti-IGF-IR (B) and anti-p-(Thr308)-Akt antibodies (C), and positive for anti-glycogen synthase kinase-3b (anti-GSK-3 β) (D) and anti-p-GSK-3 α/β antibodies (E). Those from a Guam control (G-control-14, P–T) showed a similar staining pattern for these antibodies (P–S), except for p-GSK-3 α/β antibody, for which they showed marked positive staining (T). A sporadic Japanese amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) patient motor neuron disease (MND-4 (F–J) was mildly positive for anti-IGF-I (F), anti-IGF-IR (G), anti-p-(Thr308)-Akt antibodies (H) and weakly positive for anti-p-GSK-3 α/β antibodies (J), showing marked positive staining for anti-GSK-3 β antibodies (I). In a Kii ALS patient (MND-3, K–O), anterior horn neurons were markedly positive for anti-IGF-I (K), anti-IGF-IR (L), anti-p-Thr(308) Akt (M) and anti-p-GSK-3 α/β antibodies (O); however, they showed weak staining for anti-GSK-3 β antibody (N). Anterior horn neurons from a Guam ALS patient (MND-14, U–Y) were mildly positive for anti-IGF-I (U) and markedly positive for anti-IGF-IR (V), anti-p-(Thr308)-Akt (W) and anti-p-GSK-3 α/β antibodies (Y); however, they showed weak staining for anti-GSK-3 β antibody (X). Immunohistochemical examinations were performed using the ABC system and visualization with DAB, and were counterstained with hematoxylin. A bar indicates 50 μ m.

RESULTS

Immunostaining

The cytoplasm of normal-looking anterior horn neurons in the spinal cords of Japanese controls were mildly positive for anti-IGF-I antibody (Fig. 1A), markedly positive for anti-IGF-IR (Fig. 1B) and anti-p-(Thr308)-Akt antibodies (Fig. 1C), scattered positive for anti-GSK-3 β (Fig. 1D), and

mildly positive for anti-p-GSK-3 α/β antibodies (Fig. 1E). Staining for anti-p-(Ser478)-Akt antibody was mild in these neurons (data not shown). Guam controls also showed a similar staining pattern with these antibodies (Fig. 1P–S), except for p-GSK-3 α/β antibody, which showed marked positive staining (Fig. 1T). Sporadic Japanese ALS patients were mildly positive for anti-IGF-I (Fig. 1F), anti-IGF-IR (Fig. 1G), and anti-p-(Thr308)-Akt antibodies (Fig. 1H), and weakly positive for anti-p-GSK-