

We next investigated the gene expression in the hearts from untreated and treated *Lmna*^{+/+} and *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} female mice, because the beneficial effect of SCH00013 was prominent in female mice. In the hearts from untreated *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice, *Nppa*, *Nppb*, *Myh7*, and *Myl7* messenger ribonucleic acids were significantly increased, and the upregulation of *Nppa* and *Myl7* was significantly reduced in the treated mice (Online Fig. S6). We also found increased messenger ribonucleic acid expression of proto-oncogene *Fos* and extracellular matrix remodeling-related genes *Tgfb1*, *Tgfb2*, and *Col1a2* in the untreated *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice, whereas these changes were suppressed by the treatment (Online Fig. S6). Left ventricles from the untreated *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice showed 2.2-fold and 1.7-fold increases of *Nppa* and *Mlc2* proteins, respectively, as compared with the untreated *Lmna*^{+/+} mice, and the increased expression was suppressed by the treatment (Online Fig. S7). In addition, we investigated whether the apoptotic signal was induced by the *Lmna* mutation, because there is an association among apoptosis, cardiac myocyte drop-out, ventricular remodeling, and deterioration of systolic performance in various experimental models of heart failure. However, the number of transferase-mediated dUTP nick-end labeling-positive cells was not increased in the hearts of *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice, and western blot analyses showed no or little expression of Fas-L or Fas proteins, respectively, in the *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice (Online Fig. S8). These results demonstrated that the apoptosis was not associated with the cardiac phenotypes in *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice and suggested that loss of cardiomyocytes was caused by cell death mechanisms other than the apoptosis.

The molecular mechanisms for the beneficial effect of SCH00013 remained unclear, but it might be related to the phosphodiesterase III activity. This possibility is unlikely, however, because SCH00013 inhibited the phosphodiesterase III activity at much higher concentration ($IC_{50} = 64.9 \mu\text{mol/l}$) than the concentration at which it produced the positive inotropic effect ($IC_{50} = 9.2 \mu\text{mol/l}$) in guinea pig hearts (3); and we showed that the plasma concentration of SCH00013 in the *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice ranged from 1 to 2 $\mu\text{mol/l}$, although we did not measure the concentration in the hearts. By contrast, because the Ca^{2+} sensitivity of cardiac muscle contraction was not decreased in the *Lmna*^{H1222P/H1222P} mice at 3 months of age (Online Fig. S9), the Ca^{2+} sensitizing effect might not play a major role at the early stage, but the Ca^{2+} sensitizing effect of SCH00013 was enhanced in the stretched muscles (5), raising a possibility that the Ca^{2+} sensitivity in the failed heart might be different. Although the molecular mechanisms should be clarified, our findings implied that the Ca^{2+} sensitizer could be a plausible option for preventing disease progression of DCM.

Takuro Arimura, DVM, PhD
Rika Sato, MSc
Noboru Machida, DVM, PhD
Hidenori Bando,
Dong-Yun Zhan, PhD
Sachio Morimoto, PhD
Ryo Tanaka, DVM, PhD
Yoshihisa Yamane, DVM, PhD
Gisèle Bonne, PhD
*Akinori Kimura, MD, PhD

*Department of Molecular Pathogenesis
Medical Research Institute
Tokyo Medical and Dental University
1-5-45 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku
Tokyo 113-8510
Japan
E-mail: akitis@mri.tmd.ac.jp

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APPENDIX

For supplementary information and supplementary figure legends, please see the online version of this article.

Letters to the Editor

A Meta-Analysis of Remote Monitoring of Heart Failure Patients

Structured disease management improves the prognosis of patients with chronic heart failure and has already been included in the current treatment guidelines. Along with better medication and increased use of defibrillators, planned periodic visits have also become routine in clinical practice. Remote patient monitoring (RPM) is a different type of structured disease management. Although the RPM systems (telephone support, network care, device-assisted monitoring) and health care environments are heterogeneous, the crucial difference from usual care is that RPM enables daily contact with healthcare experts and thus facilitates regular short-term evaluation of the disease status and early intervention. The elaborate meta-analysis by Klersy et al. (1) pointed out considerable benefits to be gained from RPM in terms

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事務局 公立大学法人 奈良県立医科大学 神経内科
〒634-8521 奈良県橿原市四条町 840
TEL:0744-29-8860
印刷 吉村印刷社
〒634-0003 奈良県橿原市常盤町 214
TEL:0744-24-3737

