

Table 1 Reported cases of lung cancer in patients with Werner syndrome

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Present case
Age, sex	54, female	51, female	52, male	52, female	55, male	52, male
Consanguinity	None	None	First cousins	First cousins	First cousins	None
Other neoplasms	None	None	None	Osteosarcoma	None	Pharyngeal cancer
Histology	Squamous cell carcinoma	Well-differentiated adenocarcinoma	Well-differentiated	Bronchio-alveolar	Squamous cell carcinoma	Well-differentiated adenocarcinoma
Stage (TNM)	1b (T2N1M0)	1b (T2NXM0)	1a (T1NXM0)	1a (T1N0M0)	1a (T1N0M0)	1a (pT1N0m0)
Treatment	Irradiation	Local chemotherapy	Left lower lobectomy	Right upper lobectomy	Left lower lobectomy	Left upper lobectomy
Outcome	14 months, died	4 months, died	Unknown	44 months, survived	47 months, survived	24 months, died
Reference	8	9	10	11	12	

Postoperative wound healing is one of the major issues considered by surgeons before deciding on surgical management in the case of patients with WS. In our patient, despite the patient's present condition and the history of refractory skin ulcers in the extremities, the lung cancer was successfully resected, without any skin-related problems. The skin and soft tissue of the extremities tend to be atrophic and comified in WS, whereas the skin of the trunk is normal.²⁵ In addition, subcutaneous fat tissue in the extremities of WS patients was reported to be lipoatrophic, whereas tissue of the trunk was normal. Moreover, there are possible systemic metabolic effects of regional adiposity in a patient with WS.²⁶ It has also been reported that not only lung cancer, but also meningiomas²⁷ and pancreatic cancer²⁸ can be successfully operated on without any skin-related problems. Therefore, there might be no difference in the wound-healing ability of the skin of the trunk between patients with WS and the normal population of the same age group. It appears that skin ulceration might not be a potential problem of surgical treatment of the trunk, as in our case and previous reports.

In summary, we report a case of WS associated with primary lung cancer that was successfully resected. As the life expectancy of patients with WS is increasing, we need to pay attention not only to rare non-epithelial malignancies, but also to epithelial cancer. Furthermore, the shorter life expectancy of patients with WS than the general population, as well as the possibility of skin-related problems after surgery, should not be a deciding factor when considering whether to carry out surgery in the case of malignancy.

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The roles of transforming growth factor- β and Smad3 signaling in adipocyte differentiation and obesity

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ABSTRACT

We aimed at elucidating the roles of transforming growth factor (TGF)- β and Smad3 signaling in adipocyte differentiation (adipogenesis) and in the pathogenesis of obesity. TGF- β /Smad3 signaling in white adipose tissue (WAT) was determined in genetically obese (ob/ob) mice. The effect of TGF- β on adipogenesis was evaluated in mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) isolated both from WT controls and Smad3 KO mice by Oil red-O staining and gene expression analysis. Phenotypic analyses of high-fat diet (HFD)-induced obesity in Smad3 KO mice compared to WT controls were performed. TGF- β /Smad3 signaling was elevated in WAT from ob/ob mice compared to the controls. TGF- β significantly inhibited adipogenesis in MEF, but the inhibitory effects of TGF- β on adipogenesis were partially abolished in MEF from Smad3 KO mice. TGF- β inhibited adipogenesis independent from the Wnt and β -catenin pathway. Smad3 KO mice were protected against HFD-induced insulin resistance. The size of adipocytes from Smad3 KO mice on the HFD was significantly smaller compared to the controls. In conclusion, the TGF- β /Smad3 signaling pathway plays key roles not only in adipogenesis but also in development of insulin resistance.

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1. Introduction

Obesity, defined as an excess amount of body fat, is associated with metabolic disorders, such as type 2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, and hypertension [1], which eventually increase morbidity and mortality all over the world. Previously, the adipose tissue was considered as a storage organ for excessive energy; however, recent scientific progress has shed light on the crucial roles of adipocytes in not only whole body insulin sensitivity but also energy homeostasis [2].

White adipose tissue (WAT), a predominant type of fat distributed throughout the body, secretes a number of molecules that are now defined as adipokines [3]. In obesity, adipocytes undergo hypertrophy, which leads to dysregulation of WAT-mediated glucose and lipid disposal and an imbalanced secretion of adipokines, contributing to the development of hyperglycemia, insulin resistance, and dyslipidemia.

Adipocyte differentiation is controlled by a complex network of transcriptional factors, including members of the CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (C/EBPs) and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ (PPAR γ) family [4]. Indeed, elucidating the molecular

mechanisms underlying adipogenesis is crucial for the development of more effective therapies for obesity in order to prevent metabolic diseases.

The transforming growth factor beta (TGF- β) plays important roles in the progression of a variety of diseases such as diabetic complications [5,6], atherosclerosis [7], and cancer [8]. TGF- β exerts its biological functions mainly through its downstream signaling molecules, the Smads [9]. It has been reported that TGF- β has a broad spectrum of biological functions and actions in a variety of cell types, but its role in the process of adipogenesis has not been fully elucidated.

In the present study, we aimed to investigate the pathophysiological roles of TGF- β /Smad3 signaling in adipocyte differentiation. For this purpose, we first examined the expression of TGF- β signaling in adipose tissue of genetically obese mice (ob/ob mice). We then investigated the role of TGF- β in adipogenesis both *in vitro* and *in vivo* using Smad3 knockout (KO) mice.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Reagents, animals and tissue preparation

Reagents used are described in the expanded Materials and Methods section.

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2.2. Real-time quantitative PCR and reverse transcription PCR

Real-Time quantitative PCR (real-time PCR) and reverse transcription PCR (RT-PCR) were performed as described previously [10]. See expanded Materials and Methods section for details.

2.3. Immunohistochemistry and immunocytochemistry

See the expanded Materials and Methods section.

2.4. Nuclear extraction and immunoblotting

See expanded Materials and Methods section for details.

2.5. Cell culture

Mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEF) cells were established from E13.5 embryos. See expanded Materials and Methods section for details.

2.6. Measurement of triglyceride (TG) contents in MEF

The TG content of MEF was measured with a Triglyceride Quantification kit (BioVision, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2.7. Retroviral infection

Immortalized white pre-adipocyte HW cells were kindly provided by Prof. Masayuki Saito (Tenshi College, Sapporo, Japan) and differentiated into mature adipocytes as described previously [11]. See expanded Materials and Methods section for details.

2.8. Insulin tolerance test (ITT)

Eight-week-old male Smad3 KO and littermate controls were placed on a HFD for 8 weeks. An intraperitoneal ITT using 5 units of insulin/kg was performed in mice fasted for 16 h. Blood samples were collected at 0, 15, 30, 60, 90, and 120 min after insulin injection.

2.9. Statistical analysis

Results were presented as mean \pm SEM. Statistical analyses used a 2-tailed unpaired Student *t*-test.

3. Results

3.1. TGF- β /Smad3 signaling pathway is activated in the WAT from ob/ob mice

In order to investigate the roles of TGF- β signaling in obesity and adipogenesis, we initiated our study by analyzing the expression of TGF- β in WAT from genetically obese mice (ob/ob mice). Epididymal fat pad were dissected from 12-week-old ob/ob mice and WT control mice and subjected to real-time PCR and immunohistochemistry. As shown in Fig. 1A, the expression of TGF- β mRNA was 2.3-fold higher in ob/ob mice than in the WT controls. We could also localize the TGF- β protein to the crown-like structure seen in ob/ob mice but not in WT controls, as confirmed by immunohistochemistry (Fig. 1B). On the other hand, there was no significant difference in the mRNA expression of TGF- β type 1 receptor (Alk-5) and type 2 receptor in WAT between ob/ob mice and controls (Fig. 1C). Next, we examined the phosphorylation of Smad3 (p-Smad3) in order to evaluate the activation of TGF- β signaling

in WAT. The nuclear fractions of WAT were extracted and subjected to immunoblotting using a specific antibody against p-Smad3 protein. As shown in Fig. 1D, p-Smad3 was 8-fold higher in WAT of ob/ob mice compared to WT controls. These results indicated that activation of TGF- β /Smad3 signaling might play a role in the pathogenesis of obesity and/or adipogenesis.

3.2. TGF- β /Smad3 signaling inhibits adipogenesis in vitro

Next, we examined the effects of TGF- β signaling on adipogenesis. For this purpose, we isolated MEF both from WT and Smad3 KO mice. Adipocyte differentiation was then induced in these cells by a hormonal stimulus in the presence or absence of 1 ng/mL TGF- β . Eight days after hormonal stimulation, the adipocyte differentiation was evaluated by Oil Red-O staining. As shown in Fig. 2A, TGF- β completely inhibited the accumulation of lipids in MEF from WT, whereas the inhibitory effects of TGF- β on lipid accumulation were attenuated by the lack of Smad3 in MEF. Consistent with this observation, TGF- β profoundly decreased the amounts of TG contents in MEF from WT after the induction of adipocyte differentiation; however, the inhibitory effects of TGF- β on the accumulation of TG in MEF was significantly abolished by the lack of Smad3 as shown in Fig. 2B. These results indicated that TGF- β inhibited adipogenesis partially through the Smad3-dependent pathway. Next, we examined the expression of transcriptional factors that have been reported to regulate adipogenesis, such as C/EBP α , C/EBP β , C/EBP δ , PPAR γ and aP2 by RT-PCR. C/EBP β and C/EBP δ are expressed in earlier phases of adipogenesis and cooperate in inducing expression of C/EBP α , PPAR γ , and aP2, which are known to be involved in terminal differentiation. As shown in Fig. 2C, the expression of C/EBP α , PPAR γ and aP2 were significantly suppressed in the presence of TGF- β in WT controls, while the expression of neither C/EBP β nor C/EBP δ was changed (data not shown). In the Smad3 KO MEF, the inhibitory effects of TGF- β on the expression of C/EBP α , PPAR γ , and aP2 were attenuated significantly.

3.3. TGF- β inhibits adipogenesis independent from Wnt and β -catenin signaling

Among several pathways known to inhibit adipogenesis, we examined the functional relationship between the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway and TGF- β signaling, since the cross-talk between TGF- β /Smad3 and Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathways had been reported during chondrocyte development [12]. Wnts are a family of proteins that affect cell fate and differentiation, including myogenesis, neurogenesis, and mammary development [13]. When Wnt signaling is activated, the kinase activity of glycogen synthase kinase 3 (GSK3) is inhibited, which allows cytosolic β -catenin to accumulate and translocate to the nucleus and activate transcription of Wnt target genes.

At first, we evaluated the effects of TGF- β on the translocation of β -catenin in MEF. As shown in Fig. 3A and B, the cytoplasmic β -catenin translocated into the nucleus in the presence of 1 ng/mL TGF- β in MEF from WT controls but not from the Smad3 KO mice. Next, we examined the effects of TGF- β on adipocyte differentiation in the presence of Chibby, which has been reported to inhibit β -catenin-mediated transcriptional activation [14]. Over-expression of Chibby in HW cells was confirmed by RT-PCR (Fig. 3C). Next, Chibby-infected HW cells were induced to differentiate in the presence or absence of TGF- β , and the adipocyte differentiation was evaluated by Oil Red-O staining. TGF- β significantly inhibited HW cell differentiation regardless of the presence of Chibby (Fig. 3D). These results indicated that the TGF- β /Smad3 pathway might physically interact with β -catenin in the course of its translocation into the nucleus; however, TGF- β inhibited adipocyte differentiation independent from the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway.

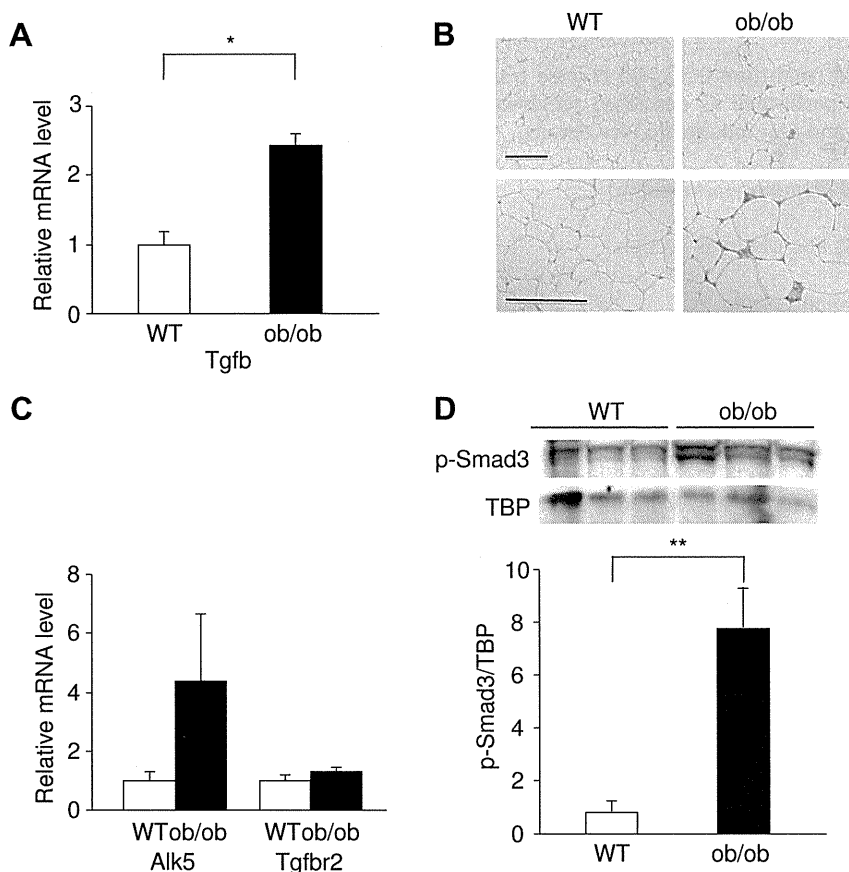


Fig. 1. TGF- β /Smad3 signaling is increased in WAT from ob/ob mice. Epididymal fat pads were dissected from 12-week-old ob/ob mice and control mice and subjected to gene expression analysis (A and C) and immunohistochemistry using an anti-TGF- β -specific antibody (B). The nuclear fractions of WAT were extracted and subjected to immunoblotting using a specific antibody against phospho-Smad3 (D). Anti TATA box binding protein (Tbp) was used as a control for estimating sample loading. Bars, 200 μ M. * $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$.

3.4. Smad3 KO mice improve insulin sensitivity on HFD and show smaller-size adipocytes compared to WT

Finally, in order to investigate the roles of TGF- β /Smad3 signaling in obesity and adipogenesis *in vivo*, 8-week-old WT and Smad3 KO mice were placed on a HFD for 8 weeks. Body weight and the amounts of food intake were measured every week. Smad3 KO mice were smaller in size than the littermate controls. As shown in Fig. 4A, the net body weight gain was significantly increased in Smad3 KO mice and caught up to the same body weights compared to the controls after 8-week-HFD, while there was no difference in the amounts of food intake between the 2 groups (data not shown).

We evaluated insulin sensitivity with an ITT and found that insulin sensitivity, especially at 30 min, was significantly better in Smad3 KO mice than in the controls (Fig. 4B). In order to investigate how Smad3 KO mice improved insulin sensitivity on HFD, we dissected WAT out from both Smad3 KO and controls, analyzed it histologically, and examined gene expression by RT-PCR. The weights of WAT were similar in Smad3 KO and WT (data not shown). Histological analysis revealed that adipocytes from Smad3 KO mice were significantly smaller in size compared to the controls (Fig. 4C and D). However, mRNA expression of adipocyte markers related to differentiation was not changed significantly in the 2 groups (data not shown).

4. Discussion

In the present study, we showed that the expression of p-Smad3 was increased in WAT from ob/ob mice. TGF- β

inhibited adipogenesis partially through the Smad3-dependent pathway and independent from the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway. Further, we showed that Smad3 KO mice were protected against HFD-induced insulin resistance and the adipocytes from Smad3 KO mice were smaller than the WT controls when they were fed HFD *in vivo*.

TGF- β is a multi-functional growth factor. We have previously reported the important roles of TGF- β /Smad3 signaling in the development of atherosclerosis [7] and diabetic nephropathy [5,6]. In this report, we further analyzed the roles of TGF- β /Smad3 signaling in adipogenesis. The expression of TGF- β mRNA and protein were significantly increased in WAT from ob/ob mice. Moreover, we showed that p-Smad3 was significantly elevated in WAT from obese mice, confirming that the elevated expression of TGF- β functionally activated Smad3 within the obese fat tissues.

Adipogenesis is a complex process dependent on the interplay between extracellular signals and transcriptional cascades. Some factors act promoting adipogenesis, while the others act anti-adipogenic. We showed that TGF- β inhibited adipogenesis partially through the Smad3-dependent pathway. It has been reported that Smad3, which is activated by TGF- β , binds to C/EBP β and C/EBP δ , inhibits their transcriptional activity. This in turn leads to decreased transcription of PPAR γ , a master regulator of adipogenesis, and resulting in inhibition of the process of adipogenesis [15,16]. Since TGF- β was still able to inhibit adipogenesis in Smad3 KO MEF, we assumed that another pathway was involved in the inhibition of adipogenesis independent from the physical interaction of Smad3 and C/EBPs. TGF- β activates not only Smad3 but also Smad2; however, it has already been confirmed that TGF- β inhibited adipogenesis independent from Smad2 [16].

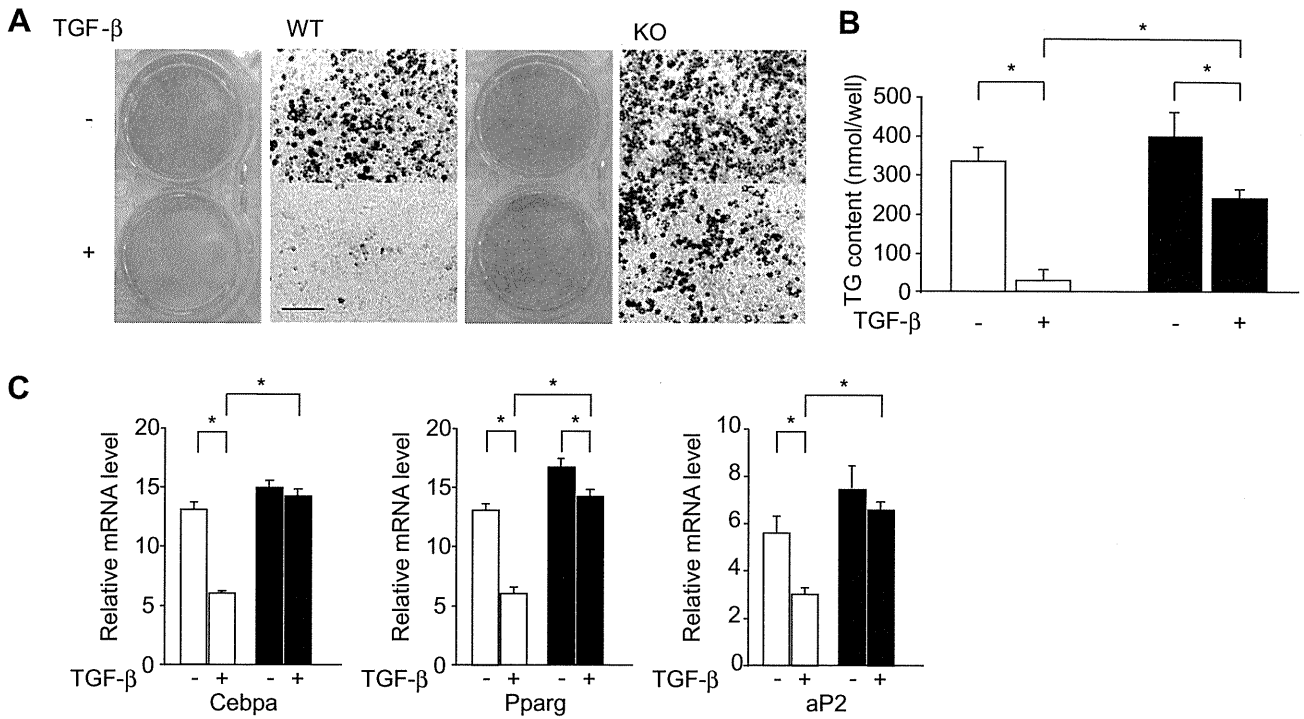


Fig. 2. TGF- β /Smad3 signaling inhibits adipocyte differentiation in MEF. Primary MEF were isolated both from Smad3 KO mice and WT controls. MEF were induced to differentiate by hormonal stimulation in the presence or absence of TGF- β . Lipid accumulation was evaluated by Oil Red-O staining (A) and the TG contents were evaluated (B) The expression of adipocyte differentiation markers was also evaluated by RT-PCR at day 8 after the initiation of adipogenesis (C). Open squares indicated MEF from WT and closed squares indicated MEF from Smad3 KO (B and C). * $p < 0.01$.

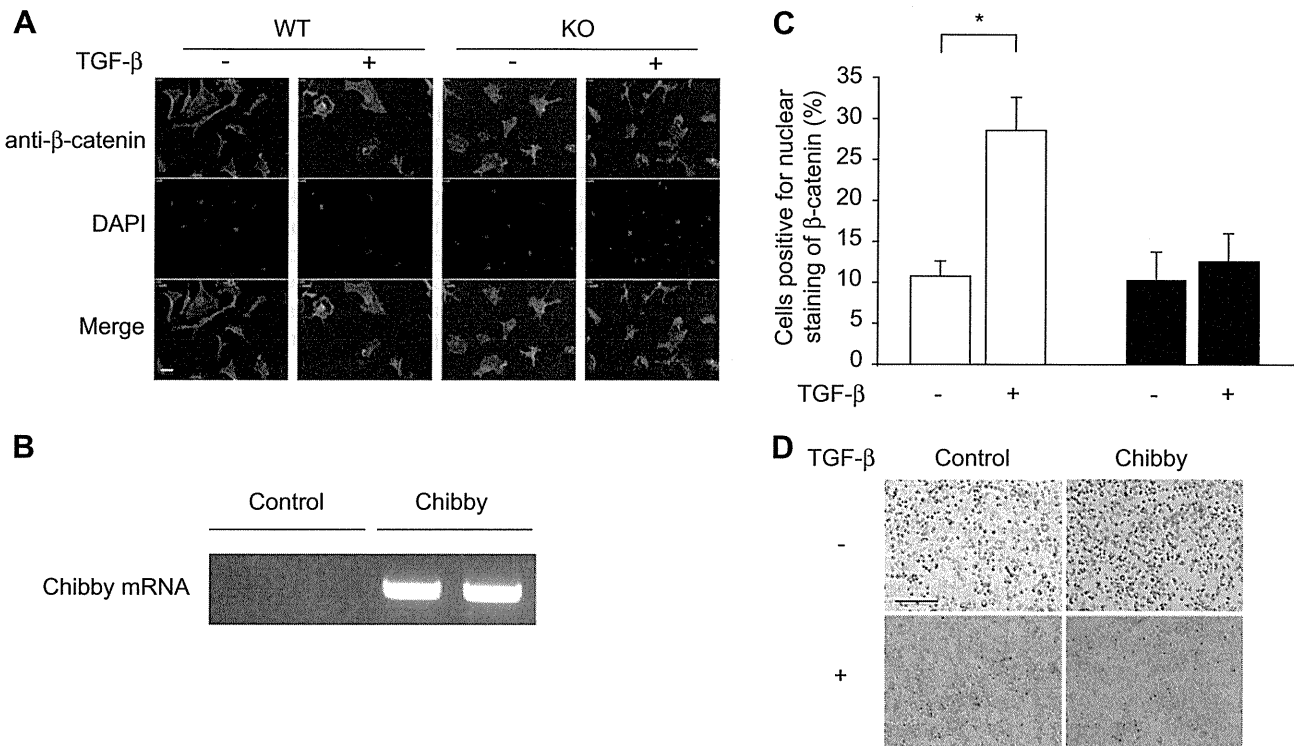


Fig. 3. TGF- β /Smad3 inhibits adipogenesis independent from the Wnt- β /catenin signaling pathway. (A) The effect of TGF- β on the translocation of β -catenin was evaluated in WT MEF and Smad3 KO MEF. The cells were stimulated with 1 ng/mL TGF- β for 1 h, fixed with ice-cold methanol, and subjected to immunocytochemistry using an anti- β -catenin-specific antibody. Cells with nuclear β -catenin were counted and compared among the groups (B). A pre-adipocyte cell line, HW cell, was transfected with Chibby, an inhibitor of β -catenin signaling (C), and differentiation was induced in the presence or absence of 1 ng/mL TGF- β for 8 days. Lipid accumulation was evaluated by Oil Red-O staining (D).

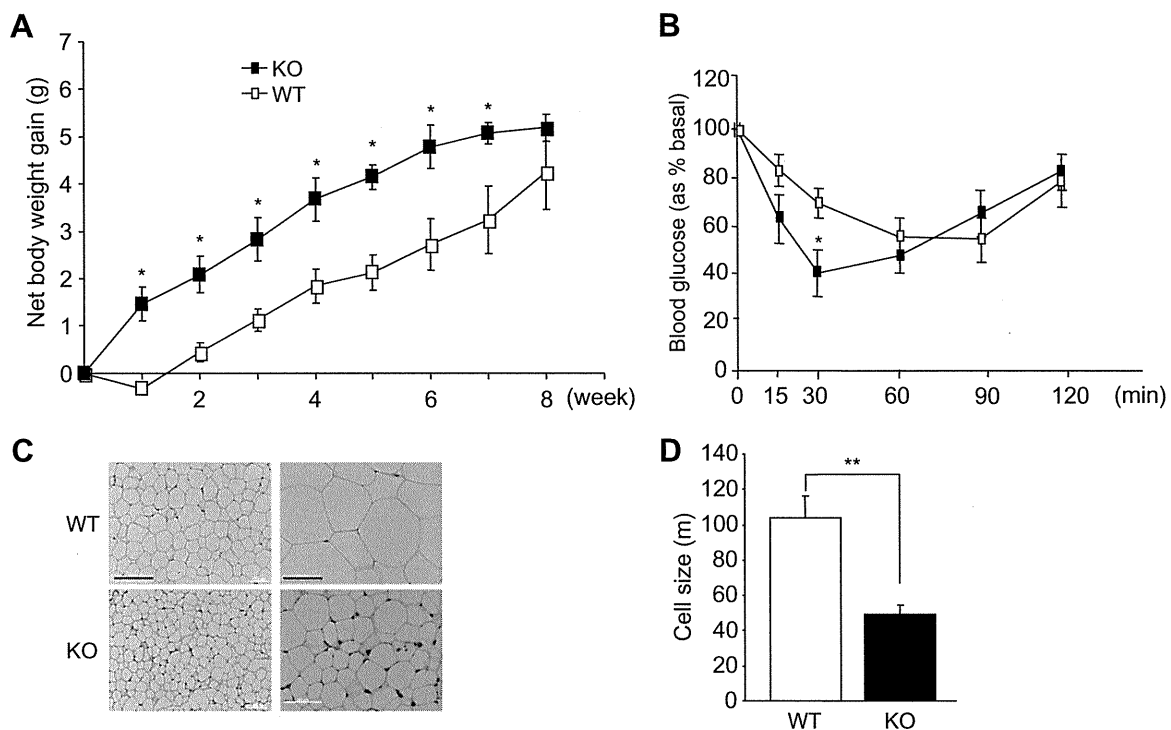


Fig. 4. Smad3 KO mice are protected against HFD-induced insulin resistance and show smaller-size adipocytes after administration of the HFD. Eight-week-old Smad3 KO mice ($n = 5$) and WT controls ($n = 5$) were placed on the HFD for 8 weeks. The body weights (A) was evaluated every week. After 8 weeks on the HFD, ITTs were performed (B). After 8 weeks on the HFD, the epididymal fat pad were dissected out and subjected to histological and gene expression analysis. C: H&E staining. The size of adipocytes was estimated under the light microscope. At least 10 high power fields were selected at random in each animal, the size was measured (D). Bar, 200 μ M (C, left) and 50 μ M (C, right). * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

Many transcriptional factors have been reported to repress adipogenesis, including GATA2, ETO/MTG8, GLIZ, DIPA, CHOP10, KLF2, and FOXO1 [4]. There are also extracellular signalings, such as Wnt [17] and sonic hedgehog [18], which inhibit adipogenesis. In human mesenchymal stem cells, TGF- β induces nuclear translocation of β -catenin, a major downstream molecule of canonical Wnt signaling, in a Smad3-dependent manner [19]. Thus, we examined the involvement of the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway in TGF- β /Smad3 signaling-dependent anti-adipogenesis. In the presence of Chibby, TGF- β was still able to inhibit adipogenesis completely. This result indicated that the Wnt/ β -catenin pathway was not involved in anti-adipogenic effects induced by the TGF- β /Smad3. It has been reported that retinoic acid, which is known as a strong inhibitory factor of adipocyte differentiation, also acts in cooperation with Smad3 in adipocytes [20]. Furthermore, a Smad3-independent TGF- β signaling pathway has also been reported [21]. Therefore, TGF- β may be able to inhibit adipogenesis independent from Smad3.

Increased expression of TGF- β in obese mice suggested that the TGF- β /Smad3 signaling contributes to insulin resistance in obesity. Therefore, we investigated the roles of TGF- β /Smad3 signaling in adipogenesis and insulin resistance *in vivo* using Smad3 KO mice. It has been reported that fasting blood glucose levels do not differ between Smad3 KO and WT [5]. However, under HFD conditions, the Smad3 KO mice tended to gain more body weight showing better insulin sensitivity compared to the controls. Histological analysis revealed that the size of the adipocytes was smaller than the control. Consistent with previous reports, small-size adipocytes are more insulin-sensitive than large-size adipocytes [22]. Moreover, it is known that administration of pioglitazone, a PPAR γ ligand, improves insulin sensitivity and weight gain in humans and rodents. It is reasonable to speculate that the lack of inhibitory cue, TGF- β /Smad3, made adipocytes differentiate further and im-

proved insulin sensitivity. Surprisingly, while the Smad3 KO mice showed higher insulin sensitivity and smaller adipocytes, there was no significant difference in adipocyte markers between the Smad3 KO and control. Because even with the lack of Smad3 some adipocytes showed inhibited differentiation in the presence of TGF- β , the HFD-induced WAT from Smad3 might be heterogeneous. This might make it difficult to detect a difference in adipocyte markers when we analyzed whole adipose tissues. It has also been reported that C/EBP β and C/EBP α double KO mice exhibited impairment of fat tissue development, whereas there were no changes in the differentiated adipocyte markers [23]. Therefore, there might be a discrepancy between the adipocyte morphology and its marker expressions. It has been reported that TGF- β increased the pre-adipocyte proliferation in many species [24,25]. However, we were not able to detect proliferation marker expression (Ki-67) in neither Smad3 KO nor WT controls under the HFD conditions (data not shown).

There are some limitations to the present study. First, we still do not know whether the elevated TGF- β signaling in obese mice causes obesity and insulin resistance as a primary or a secondary effect. Second, we do not completely understand the molecular mechanism by which TGF- β /Smad3 signaling inhibited adipogenesis.

Nonetheless, we showed that Smad3 KO mice exhibited improvement of HFD-induced insulin sensitivity when they were fed HFD *in vivo*. Taken together with the *in vitro* data, the inhibition of TGF- β /Smad3 might be a new drug target to prevent obesity and improve insulin resistance.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.bbrc.2011.02.106.

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WRN遺伝子に複合型ヘテロ接合体変異を同定した Werner症候群の1例

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要 旨

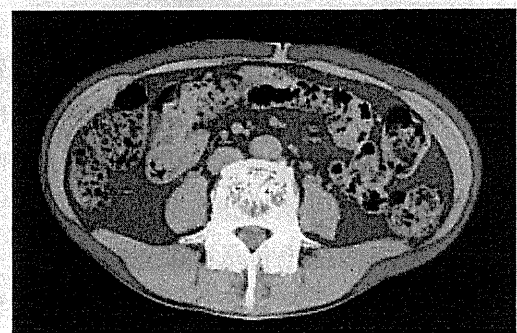
Werner症候群はRecQ型DNAヘリカーゼであるWRN遺伝子の異常に起因する遺伝性の早老症で、日本における報告例が多い。今回、我々はWRN遺伝子にMutation4 およびMutation6の複合型ヘテロ接合体変異を有するWerner症候群を見出した。合併する糖尿病に対しては、チアゾリジン薬を投与することで、血糖コントロールが改善するとともに、インスリン抵抗性や炎症状態を示す指標が軽快した。

[日内会誌 100:1642~1644, 2011]

Key words Werner症候群, 早老症, 糖尿病

症 例

患者：51歳，女性。主訴：血糖のコントロール。既往歴：特記すべきものなし。家族歴：糖尿病なし。血族結婚なし。現病歴：高校生の頃から頭髪が白髪になるとともに、同時期から足底の鶏眼や胼胝が出現しだした。30歳代には白内障で手術を受けた。月経は12歳から40歳頃まであり、女兒を1人出産している。40歳頃から肘頭部に難治性の皮膚潰瘍が出現し、皮膚移植術を受けた。また40歳頃から尿糖を指摘され、現在、経口血糖降下薬の処方を受けている。現症：身長155cm，体重29.5kg，BMI12.3。顔貌



内臓脂肪面積 (V) 皮下脂肪面積 (S)

44 cm²

24 cm²

V/S=1.83

図. 腹部CT (臍高) による内臓脂肪と皮下脂肪の面積

はやや鼻梁が突出した鳥様顔貌で全身の皮下脂

[第191回近畿地方会 (2010/10/05) 推薦][受稿2010/12/03, 採用2010/12/17]

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Case Report; A case of Werner syndrome with compound heterozygous mutations of WRN gene.

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表. 抗糖尿病薬による治療経過での各種代謝指標の変化

	グリメピリド 1 mg/day		ピオグリタゾン 30 mg/day ×16週間
空腹時血糖 (mg/dL)	102	→	98
HbA1c (JDS値) (%)	7.1	→	6.8
(HbA1c (国際標準値) (%)	7.5	→	7.2)
空腹時IRI (μU/mL)	12.7	→	4.5
空腹時CPR (ng/mL)	3.74	→	1.48
HOMA-R	3.2	→	1.1
高感度CRP (ng/mL)	1,280	→	486
IL-6 (pg/mL)	5.1	→	1.7
Adiponectin (μg/mL)	2	→	6.4
レプチン (ng/mL)	3.8	→	3.3

肪は極めて少なく四肢が非常に細い。両足底は皮膚の硬化があり、胼胝や鶏眼が多発し、右踵底部には潰瘍とピンホール瘻孔を認める。神経学的所見に異常を認めず。検査所見：尿所見、末梢血液所見、一般生化学所見に異常なし。糖尿病はグリメピリド 1 mg/day を投与され、空腹時血糖値 102 mg/dl, HbA1c 7.1% (JDS値) であった。血中CA19-9 88.3 U/ml, CEA 16.9 ng/ml と腫瘍マーカーの上昇を認めた。腹部CT検査では皮下脂肪量に比して、腹腔内脂肪量の相対的な増加が認められた (V/S比 1.83) (図)。足部X線撮影では、アキレス腱の石灰化を認めた。

臨床経過

特徴的な徴候と検査成績から臨床的にWerner症候群と診断した。遺伝子検査を行ったところ、WRN遺伝子にMutation6 (エクソン9内で1336番目の塩基がCからTへ変異することによる切断型変異蛋白の形成) とMutation4 (エクソン26の直前の塩基がGからCへ変異することによる切断型変異蛋白の形成) の複合型ヘテロ接合体変異を見だし、各種の病態がこの遺伝子異常に由来することを確認した。腫瘍マーカーが増加していたことから、悪性腫瘍の発症を疑い、全

身の検索を行ったが、現在のところ、明らかな悪性腫瘍の合併は認めていない。Werner症候群は全身の脂肪が減少し、やせ型を呈するが、インスリン抵抗性が認められる。本症例でもHOMA-Rは3.2とインスリン抵抗性があり、SU薬(グリメピリド 1 mg/day) よりもインスリン抵抗性改善薬 (ピオグリタゾン 30 mg/day) のほうが病態に適合すると考え、変更を行ったところ、血中アディポネクチン濃度が増加するとともにインスリン抵抗性が軽減し、血糖コントロールも改善傾向にある (表)。

考 察

Werner症候群は第8染色体短腕に位置するRecQ型DNAヘリカーゼ遺伝子異常のため、DNAの複製、修復、組み換え、テロメアの維持などに障害を来す結果、遺伝子の不安定化が起こり、成人期になって様々な早老化が出現する常染色体劣性遺伝疾患である¹⁾。患者はやせ型で皮下脂肪組織が少なく、鳥様顔貌、白髪、白内障、皮膚硬化、足底の鶏眼や胼胝、難治性皮膚潰瘍、糖尿病を高頻度に合併し、悪性腫瘍や心血管疾患によって50歳代で死亡することが多い。日本人ではMutation4あるいはMutation6のホモ接合

体変異による発症が多く、本症例に認められる Mutation4/6 の複合型ヘテロ接合体変異による発症は約 5% 程度である²⁾。Werner 症候群では全身の炎症病態の亢進が認められる。また皮下脂肪組織は萎縮傾向にあるものの、内臓脂肪量は保たれ相対的な内臓脂肪の増加を来すことが多い³⁾。こういった特徴的な病態が Werner 症候群に認められるインスリン抵抗性と密接に関連するものと考えられる。それ故、Werner 症候群に伴発する糖尿病の治療薬としては、インスリン抵抗性改善薬であるビグアナイド薬やチアゾリジン薬が効果的であると報告されている⁴⁻⁸⁾。全身の慢性炎症がインスリン抵抗性や動脈硬化の発症進展に関連していることや、Werner 症候群の死亡原因として心血管疾患が多いことを考慮すると、抗炎症効果も期待できるチアゾリジン薬は⁹⁾、Werner 症候群に伴う糖尿病治療に適していると考えられる。本症例においても、チアゾリジン薬を投与することによって血糖値の改善とともに血中高感度 CRP や IL-6 の低下といった炎症病態の改善が確認された (表)。

著者の COI (conflicts of interest) 開示：本論文発表内容に関連して特に申告なし

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今日の診断指針 第6版



図2 くる病のX線所見

体重減少，尿意頻繁，嘔吐，不機嫌，さらに腎臓や動脈にカルシウムが沈着して異常石灰化を起こして死亡することもある。

⑪ ビタミンE 欠乏症：歩行障害，腱反射，振動感覚消失，眼球運動麻痺，網膜症を発現する。フリーラジカル捕捉障害と考えられる溶血性貧血，乳児皮膚硬化症および血小板凝集能の異常などもある。

⑫ ビタミンK 欠乏症：肝疾患やクマリン誘導体療法，胆道閉塞，腸管疾患による吸収不全により起こり，出血傾向を示す。

検査とその所見の読みかた(表1)

① ビタミンB₁欠乏症では，血中ビタミンB₁濃度の低下，赤血球トランスフェラーゼ活性の低下，血中ピルビン酸および乳酸値の増加がみられる。

② ビタミンB₁₂欠乏症では，血中ビタミンB₁₂濃度低下，LDH増加，尿中メチルマロン酸排泄量増加，巨赤芽球の出現，白血球および血小板の形成障害がみられる。

③ 血中25-水酸化ビタミンD(25-OHD)濃度は15～40 ng/mLで，ビタミンDの栄養状態を示す。ビタミンD欠乏では血中カルシウムやリン濃度は低下し，副甲状腺ホルモン(PTH)やアルカリホスファターゼ活性は上昇する。

④ ビタミンK欠乏では，異常プロトロンビンであるPIVKA-II (proteins induced by vitamin K absence or antagonist)が血液中に増加する。

治療法ワンポイント・メモ(表1)

① イソニアジド，ペニシラミン，サイクロセリンはビタミンB₆拮抗剤が含まれているので，使用時はビタミンB₆を1日に30～100 mg投与によって予防する。

② ビタミン剤の補給により症状だけでなく，予備能

まで回復させる。

③ 発症の原因を解決しておく。

④ 生活習慣を改めるなどである。

さらに知っておくと役立つこと

① 成長・妊娠・授乳・発熱などによる必要量の増大
② 飢餓，アルコール常用者や菜食主義など食品摂取の偏りや摂取量の不足

③ 新生児の腸管，抗菌薬投与や下痢による腸内細菌叢の変化

④ 肝臓や腎臓障害によるビタミンの活性化障害

⑤ 胃腸障害，胆嚢・肝臓・膵臓障害，胃腸切除などによる吸収障害などである。

Werner 症候群**

Werner Syndrome

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診断のポイント

① 若年性両側性白内障。30歳代までに指摘されることが多い。

② 四肢末梢，特に足部の角化性皮膚変化。胼胝・鶏眼が好発。難治性潰瘍を生じやすい。

③ 毛髪変化。白毛や脱毛を認める。

④ 高調性の嗄声。

⑤ 軟部組織(特にアキレス腱)の石灰化。

症候の診かた

20歳前後より上述の諸症状がみられるようになる。このほか，低身長，鳥様顔貌(鼻や口先が尖って見え，鳥の嘴を連想させる)，体幹に比べ四肢が著しく細い，などの特徴がある。全身像を図1に示す。

検査とその所見の読みかた

① 臨床所見から本症を疑った場合，アキレス腱のX線撮影で踵骨付着部近傍に石灰化を認めれば，ほぼ本症と診断できる(図2)。

② 高インスリン血症を伴う糖尿病や脂質異常症を50%以上の症例で認める。

③ 四肢末梢の骨密度低下を示しやすい。

確定診断のポイント

原因となるWRN DNAヘリケースの変異を確認

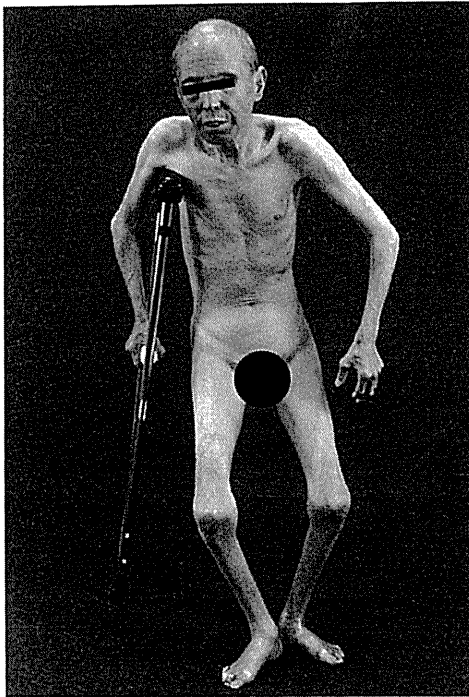


図1 全身像
(51歳男性)

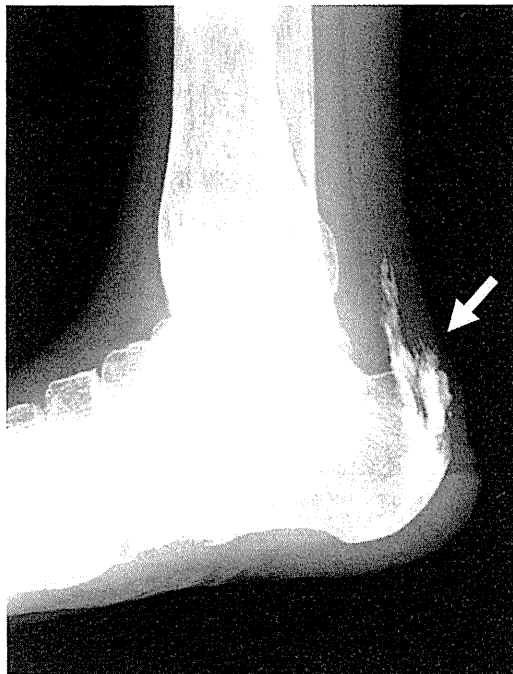


図2 アキレス腱石灰化像(右踵部側面 X線撮影, 50歳女性)

石灰化部位を矢印で示す。

する。末梢血を用いた遺伝子・蛋白の検査を、千葉大学およびジーンケア研究所(神奈川)において実施可能である。

表1 Werner 症候群の診断基準

<p>I 主要徴候(10歳以上での発症)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 白内障(両側性) 2. 特徴的な皮膚変化(硬化, 萎縮, 色素沈着, 潰瘍, 角化, 部分的な皮下組織の萎縮)と顔貌(鳥様顔貌) 3. 低身長 4. 両親の近親婚または兄弟の罹患 5. 白髪や脱毛の早期出現 6. 24時間尿中ヒアルロン酸試験陽性(実施可能な場合) <p>II そのほかの徴候</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 糖尿病 2. 性腺機能低下(二次性徴未発達, 不妊, 精巣や卵巣の萎縮) 3. 骨粗鬆症 4. 手指・足趾末節骨の硬化(X線診断) 5. 軟部組織の石灰化 6. 早発性動脈硬化(例: 心筋梗塞の既往) 7. 間葉系新生物, 希少なまたは多発性の新生物 8. 音声変化(高調のきいきいした嗄声) 9. 24時間尿中ヒアルロン酸試験陽性(実施可能な場合) 10. 扁平足 <p>III 判定</p> <p>確実例: IのすべてとIIの2つ以上 疑い例: Iの1, 2, 3とそれ以外の徴候2つ以上 可能性あり: 白内障または皮膚変化のいずれかとそれ以外の徴候2つ以上 否定的: 思春期以前の症状出現(ただし, 身長を除く)</p>

(Werner 症候群国際登録組織(International Registry of Werner syndrome), <http://www.wernersyndrome.org/registry/diagnostic.html> より引用・和訳・一部改変)

鑑別すべき疾患と鑑別のポイント

全身硬化症(強皮症)(⇒1550頁)。毛髪変化や白内障の存在などから鑑別が可能。国際的に提唱されている診断基準の一つを表1に示す。

予後判定の基準

悪性腫瘍と冠動脈疾患の合併が生命予後に影響する。一方、潰瘍を代表とする足部の皮膚病変は疼痛のほか感染を伴いやすく、車いす生活への移行や下肢切断など、患者の生活予後/QOLを左右する。

合併症・続発症の診断

①悪性黒色腫, 骨肉腫, 骨髄異形成症候群, 髄膜腫などの間葉系腫瘍, そして甲状腺癌の合併が多く, 膀胱癌や肺癌もみられる。早期発見により根治も可能である。

②内臓脂肪蓄積, 耐糖能障害, 脂質異常症など, メ

タボリックシンドロームに似た病態を呈し、その結果として動脈硬化性疾患を生じやすい。

治療法ワンポイント・メモ

❶合併する糖尿病には、通常、チアゾリジン誘導体が著効を示す。

❷冠動脈疾患のハイリスク群と考え、脂質、血糖、血圧の適切な管理を行う。高LDLコレステロール血症にはスタチンが有効である。

手術適応のポイント

❶足部や肘部の難治性皮膚潰瘍に対して、しばしば皮膚移植が奏効する。

❷四肢末梢と異なり、体幹部の皮膚は柔軟性や再生能が保たれているため、通常、胸腹部の手術実施には支障がない。

さらに知っておくと役立つこと

❶平均寿命は、従来40歳代といわれてきたが、近年50歳代半ばへと延長し、60歳を超える患者も存在する。生命予後を左右する悪性腫瘍の早期発見と治療、冠動脈疾患を予防するためのリスク管理、足部潰瘍の適切な処置が予後改善に重要である。

❷40歳頃より性腺機能低下を認めるが、通常、20～30歳代には生殖可能である。

❸“早老症”と呼ばれるものの、全身があまねく老化徴候を示すわけではなく、例えば認知症の合併は多くない。

❹日本における有病率は5～10万人に1人。常染色体劣性遺伝形式をとる。

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V. 參考資料

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2011年1月16日 福島民報
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2011年1月18日 宮崎日日新聞
2011年1月21日 高知新聞
2011年1月22日 下野新聞
2011年1月23日 千葉日報
2011年1月25日 京都新聞
2011年1月27日 山陰中央新報
2011年1月29日 岐阜新聞
2011年2月8日 佐賀新聞
2011年2月9日 岩手日報
2011年2月15日 山陽新聞
2012年3月12日 東奥日報
2012年3月13日 琉球新聞
2012年3月15日 日本海新聞
2012年3月25日 千葉日報
2012年3月30日 高知新聞
2012年3月31日 岐阜新聞
2012年4月27日 神戸新聞

