#### E. 結論

GBS と同様に BBE でも感染症が発症に関 与しているが、原因となる病原体は GBS と大き く異なっている。

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#### G. 健康危険情報

なし

#### H. 知的財産権の出願・登録状況

1. 特許取得:なし

- 2. 実用新案登録:なし
- 3. その他:なし

Ⅲ. 研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

## 研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

# 書籍

| 著者氏名 | 論文タイトル名                           | 書籍全体の  | 書籍名                      | 出版社名      | 出版地 | 出版年  | ページ     |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-----------|-----|------|---------|
|      |                                   | 編集者名   |                          |           |     |      |         |
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IV. 研究成果の刊行物・別刷

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# GBS とガングリオシド複合体抗体一最近の知見

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**key words** Guillain-Barré syndrome, Fisher syndrome, autoimmune neuropathy, ganglioside, ganglioside complex

#### 要旨

末梢神経の自己免疫疾患である Guillain-Barré 症候群 (GBS) では、抗ガングリオシド抗体が高 頻度に上昇し、診断マーカーおよび発症因子とし て注目されている。近年二つのガングリオシドの 糖鎖の相互作用で生ずるエピトープであるガング リオシド複合体に対する抗体が見出された、最初 に報告されたGD1a/GD1b複合体に対する抗体 は、人工呼吸器使用の必要な重症例に高頻度にみ られる。GM1/GalNAc-GD1a複合体抗体は純粋 運動型GBSにみられ、運動神経幹中間部に病初 期から伝導ブロックが見られるのが特徴である. またFisher症候群ではGQlb抗体が90%以上に みられるが、GQlbとGMlあるいはGDlaなど の複合体により強く反応する抗体があることもわ かった、神経障害の機序として、抗体の結合に続 く補体やマクロファージによる細胞膜の傷害の他 に、ラフトへの結合を介した細胞機能障害やアポ トーシスの可能性も考えられ、今後の詳細な検討 が必要である。

#### 動向

Guillain-Barré症候群 (GBS) は末梢神経を標的とする自己免疫疾患であり、自己抗体を中心と

する液性免疫と細胞性免疫の両面から数多くの解析が行われてきた。とくに治療として血漿交換が有効であることから、自己抗体をはじめとする液性因子の病態への関与が重要と考えられた。その中で、特異性と陽性率の高いものとして、ガングリオシドの糖鎖を認識する抗ガングリオシド抗体が見出され注目されている。ガングリオシドは糖鎖構造にもとづいて多くの分子種があり、抗体の反応するガングリオシドの種類も症例ごとにさまざまである<sup>1-3)</sup>.

高い抗体価のIgGタイプの抗ガングリオシド抗体は、GBSおよび関連疾患の患者血中にしばしばみられるが、他の自己免疫疾患や神経疾患では通常みられない。したがってIgG抗ガングリオシド抗体の上昇は、GBSに特徴的なことである。発症直後の検体で抗体価がピークとなり、経過とともに低下・消失するという経過から、抗体の上昇は神経障害の結果ではなく病態と密接に関連するものと考えられる。GBSにおける抗ガングリオシド抗体産生のメカニズムとしては、先行感染の病原因子がガングリオシド類似の糖鎖構造をもつという「分子相同性機序」が提唱されている。

GBSではさまざまな抗ガングリオシド抗体が みられ、それぞれの抗体は特有の臨床病型と対応

している。その対応は標的抗原の局在により説明 できる例が多い<sup>2,3)</sup>、したがって抗体は、標的と なるガングリオシドに結合することで、そのガン グリオシドが分布する部位を特異的に障害すると いう可能性が考えられる。その対応が最も明確な のが、GBSの亜型であるFisher症候群 (FS) の 急性期血清で90%以上の高頻度にみられる抗 GQ1b IgG抗体であり、眼球運動を支配する脳神 経である動眼神経・滑車神経・外転神経の Ranvier絞輪部周囲 (傍絞輪部) ミエリンに高濃 度に局在する GQ1b に結合して眼球運動麻痺をき たすことが示唆されている<sup>4)</sup>.

ガングリオシドは神経組織に多く含まれ、細胞 膜の構成成分であり糖鎖を細胞外に向ける形で存 在している. 上記のように多くの分子種があり、 それぞれが神経組織内で独特の分布を示す。近年、 ガングリオシドなどのスフィンゴ脂質は、リン脂 質の膜の中に集簇して存在しラフト(いかだ)を 形成すると考えられている。こうした構造はリピ ドラフトあるいは脂質マイクロドメインと呼ば れ、そこにはシグナル伝達、突起伸展、シナプス 形成、接着などの神経細胞にとって重要な過程に 関与するさまざまなタンパク分子が局在すること が明らかになってきている<sup>5,6)</sup>.

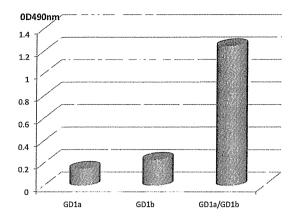
# A. GBS におけるガングリオシド複合体 に対する抗体

最近我々は2種類のガングリオシドを混合し作 製した複合抗原に対する抗体をGBSの急性期血 清に見出した<sup>7)</sup>. これは単独のガングリオシド抗 原にはほとんど反応しないが、2種のガングリオ シドを混合した抗原に強く反応するものである. この抗体は二つの抗原が形成する新たな複合エピ トープを特異的に認識していると考えられる。 我々はこの複合抗原をガングリオシド複合体 ganglioside complex (GSC) と名付け、GBSお

よびその亜型において抗GSC抗体の意義を調べ ている。

#### 1. GD1a/GD1b複合体抗体

ガングリオシド複合体に対する抗体として最初 に見出されたのは、GDIaとGDIbの複合体 (GD1a/GD1b) に対する抗体である<sup>7)</sup> ある重 症のGBS患者血清IgGが、ルーチンで行ってい る11種類の抗原に対していずれも反応を示さず、 未精製のウシ脳ガングリオシドに薄層クロマトグ ラム免疫染色で強い反応を示した。当初は未同定 の微量ガングリオシドに対する抗体と考え、その 抗原をカラム操作により精製することを試みた。 従来GalNAc-GD1aやGM1bをGBSの標的抗原 として見出したときと同様に考えたわけである。 しかし、何度か試みたがそのたびに、精製前には 非常に強かった反応は精製の最終段階に入ると弱 いものになっていった。ある時、その抗原の移動 度がGDIaとGDIbに近いものであったことか ら、その2つからなる抗原を認識しているのでは ないかと考えるに至った。そこでELISA法にて 両者をひとつのウェルに入れて反応させると非常 に強い反応を示した (図1) この反応は、薄層 クロマトグラム上の免疫染色にても確認され、 GD1a, GD1b単独をそれぞれ別のレーンに展開 して血清IgGを反応させても反応はみられない が、両者を同じレーンに展開するとGDlaの下端 と GD1b の上端のオーバーラップした部分にのみ 強い反応が認められた.異なる展開溶媒を用いて, GD1aとGD1bを完全に分離する条件で薄層クロ マトグラムを行うと、反応はみられなくなった. したがってこの抗体はGD1aとGD1bの両者によ り形成されるエピトープを認識すると考えられ た、その後、他のGBS血清でも同様の反応(GDIa と GD1b 単独には反応しないかきわめて弱い反応 しか示さないが両者の複合体に強く反応する)を 示すものがあり、重症例が多い傾向がみられた。



#### 図1 ELISA法で測定したGD1a/GD1b複合体に対 するIgG抗体

GD1aとGD1b単独に対しては反応がきわめて弱いが、GD1aとGD1bの混合抗原(GD1a/GD1b)に対しては強い反応を示す(文献7のPatient 1のデータを用いて作成).

さらにGD1a/GD1b以外の複合体, すなわち GM1/GD1a, GD1b/GT1b, GM1/GT1bなどに対 する抗体も認められることがわかった。

そこで多数例(234例)のGBS血清について、 抗原としてGM1、GD1a、GD1b、GT1bを用い、 そのうちの2つの組み合わせの混合抗原(6種類) に対する抗体活性をみたところ、39例(17%) にいずれかの複合体に対する抗体がみられた。そ のうち、GD1a/GD1b(およびGD1b/GT1b)に 対する抗体は、呼吸筋麻痺をきたす重症GBSに みられる頻度が有意に高いことがわかった<sup>8)</sup>。抗 GD1a/GD1b複合体抗体のELISA法の結果を図1 に示す。

#### 2. GM1/GalNAc-GD1a複合体抗体

GM1およびGalNAc-GD1aはいずれも軸索障 害型のGBSにおける血中抗体の標的抗原として 知られる。GM1とGalNAc-GD1aの混合抗原に 対するGBS急性期血中抗体を検討したところ, GM1やGalNAc-GD1aそれぞれについては抗体

活性がみられないかきわめて低いが、両者の混合 抗原に強い反応がみられ、GM1/GalNAcGD1a 複合体抗体陽性と判断される例が数%あること がわかった<sup>9)</sup>. 抗GM1/GalNAc-GD1a抗体陽性 GBS10例の検討では、ほとんどが純粋運動型 GBSであり、生理的圧迫部位ではなく運動神経 幹中間部に、病初期から伝導ブロックが10例中 5例に見られた。Hadden らの判定基準 10) では、 10例中4例が脱髄型で2例が軸索型. Hoらの基 準<sup>11)</sup>では4例が脱髄型で3例が軸索型であった。 ただ、この抗体陽性例の伝導ブロックは治療後早 期に回復し,経過を通じて再髄鞘化を示す所見に 乏しいことから Ranvier 絞輪部における軸索機能 障害による可逆性伝導障害の可能性が考えられ る。運動神経Ranvier絞輪部軸索膜に集簇して存 在するGM1、GalNAc-GD1aが複合体を形成し 純粋運動型GBSの標的抗原となっている可能性 がある.

CapassoらはGBSのひとつの型としてacute motor conduction block neuropathy (AMCBN) という概念を提唱し<sup>12)</sup>, GMI などのガングリオシド抗体との関連も述べているが, GMI 抗体陽性の多くは軸索障害型でAMCBNの病型を示す例は少数である. したがってGMI/GalNac-GD1a抗体はAMCBNの病型により強く関連する抗体と考えられる.

### 3. GQ1bを構成要素に含む複合体に対する抗 体

FSでは前述のようにGQ1bに対する抗体が90%以上の頻度でみられる。そしてGQ1bと同じ糖鎖末端をもつGT1aにも交差反応を示すことが多い。しかし、GBSにおけるガングリオシド複合体抗体の存在を考え、GQ1bあるいはGT1aに他のガングリオシドを混合した抗原と血清との反応を検討したところ、GQ1bあるいはGT1aを含むGSCに対する反応がGQ1bやGT1aそのも

のよりも強い(すなわちGSCに対して特異性をもつ)抗体が約半数に認められることがわかった<sup>13)</sup> そして多数例の検討からFSや眼球運動麻痺を伴うGBSにおける抗ガングリオシド抗体は

反応特異性の点から、(1) GQ1bやGT1aに特異的な抗体、(2) GQ1b/GM1あるいはそれと同様に末端糖鎖がジシアロシル基とGal-GalNAc基の組み合わせとなるGSC (GQ1b/GM1, GQ1b/GD1b, GT1a/GM1, GT1a/GD1b) 特異的抗体、(3) GQ1b/GD1aあるいはそれと同様に末端糖鎖がジシアロシル基とシアロシルGal-GalNAc基の組み合わせとなるGSC (GQ1b/GD1a, GT1a/GD1a, GQ1b/GT1b, GT1a/GT1b) 特異的抗体の3つに分類されることが明らかとなった(図2)<sup>14)</sup>. またGQ1b/GA1を認識する抗体も報告されている<sup>15)</sup>.

FSではGQ1bが重要な標的抗原であることは間違いないが、症例によっては血中抗体が細胞膜上でGQ1bとGM1あるいはGD1aが形成したGSCをより強く認識する場合があるわけである。臨床症状をみると、抗GQ1b/GM1抗体陽性例では感覚障害の少ない傾向が見られるが<sup>13,14)</sup>、抗体の反応性の違いがどのような臨床的意義をもつかは今後の検討が必要である。

#### B ガングリオシド複合体抗体の産生機序

GBSおよび関連疾患におけるガングリオシド抗体の産生機序としては、先行感染の病原因子のもつ糖鎖がガングリオシドに類似しており、先行感染因子に対する免疫反応の結果抗ガングリオシド抗体が産生されるという「分子相同性機序」が提唱されている。Kuijfらは、GMI/GD1a抗体やGQ1b/GD1a抗体が、先行感染の原因となったCampylobacter jejuniのリポオリゴ糖と交差反応したことを報告した<sup>16)</sup>。このことは、GSCに対する抗体もガングリオシド抗体と同様の機序で

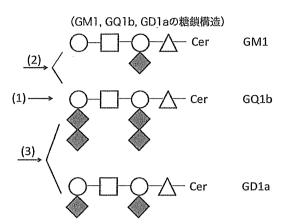


図2 Fisher症候群 (FS) の血中抗体の反応特異性 FSの血中抗体は (1) GQ1b に特異的に反応する抗体, (2) GQ1bとGM1の形成する複合体により強く反応する抗体, (3) GQ1bとGD1aの形成する複合体により強く反応する抗体, の3種類に大別される.

○: ガラクトース, □: N-アセチルガラクトサミン,△: グルコース, ◆: シアル酸, Cer: セラミド

産生されることを示唆しているが,直接的な証明 は今後の課題である。

# C. 他のニューロパチーにおけるガングリ オシド複合体抗体

Nobile-Orazioらは、慢性炎症性脱髄性多発ニューロパチー(CIDP)、多巣性運動ニューロパチー、IgMパラプロテイン血症を伴うニューロパチー(PN-IgM)、などの慢性ニューロパチーにおけるガングリオシド複合体に対する抗体を検討した。その結果、34例のCIDP中1例においてGT1b/GM1およびGT1b/GM2に対するIgM抗体を、23例のPN-IgM中1例にGM2/GD1bに対するIgM抗体をそれぞれ検出したと報告している17)、陽性率は低いが、GBS以外の免疫性ニューロパチーにおいてもガングリオシド複合体が標的となり得ることが示されたわけである。

## D. 単独のガングリオシドに特異的な抗体 と複合体の反応

異なる2つのガングリオシドが相互作用で新たなエピトープを作っていることは、あるガングリオシド特異的抗体の反応が当該ガングリオシドと他のガングリオシドが形成したGSCに対して弱くなることから支持される。

ルーチンの抗体測定でGD1bに対するIgG抗体のみがみられたGBS血清について、GD1bに他のガングリオシドを加えた混合抗原に対する反応をみたところ、GM1を加えても反応の強さは変わらなかったが、GD1a、GT1a、GalNAc-GD1aなどを加えると反応が著明に減弱した<sup>18)</sup>。したがってGD1bの糖鎖はそれらのガングリオシドの糖鎖と相互作用してコンフォメーションを変化させやすいと考えられる。

GD1b抗体は従来から運動失調との関連が報告されているが<sup>19)</sup>,同抗体陽性例全例が運動失調を伴うわけではなく、その理由は不明であった。前記のGD1b抗体の反応性の減弱の程度を、運動失調を伴う例と伴わない例で比較したところ、伴う例では有意に減弱の程度が強かった<sup>18)</sup>、運動

失調を伴うGBSでみられるGD1b抗体は、GD1bに対する特異性がきわめて高く、GD1bのわずかな三次元的コンフォメーションの変化によって反応できなくなったと考えられ、この特異性の違いが運動失調を伴うか伴わないかに関連することが示唆された。

単独のガングリオシドに対する抗体の反応が、他のガングリオシドが共存することにより減弱することは、上記のGQ1b抗体についてもみられており $^{14}$ 、またGM1抗体について他のグループからも報告されている $^{20}$ .

#### E. 今後の検討課題

GSCに対する反応性の検証を行うことにより、 ガングリオシド抗体の診断マーカーとしての有用 性は向上する。GBSでこれまでに報告された代 表的なGSCs抗体を表1に示す。GSC抗体の発見 以来,我々の研究室では重症例と関連する GD1a/GD1b抗体をGBSではルーチンに測定し、 その他のGSCに対する抗体も適宜測定している。 今後さらに新たなGSCが見出される可能性があ る。それらを含めて、GSCの神経系における局

表1 GBSおよび関連疾患における代表的ガングリオシド複合体抗体

| 抗原              | 疾患          | 頻度 (%) | 臨床病型     |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|----------|
| GD1a/GD1b       | GBS         | 7      | 重症 GBS   |
| GD1b/GT1b       | GBS         | 6      | 重症 GBS   |
| GM1/GalNAc-GD1a | GBS         | 4      | 純粋運動型GBS |
|                 |             |        | AMCBN    |
| GQ1b/GM1および     | FS          | 41     | 感覚障害が少ない |
| 関連する GSCs       | GBS with OP | 28     |          |
| GQlb/GDlaおよび    | FS          | 6      |          |
| 関連する GSCs       | GBS with OP | 19     |          |

GSC: ganglioside complex, GBS: Guillain-Barré syndrome, FS: Fisher syndrome

AMCBN: acute motor conduction block neuropathy

OP: ophthalmoplegia

GQlb/GMl および関連する GSCs: GQlb/GMl, GQlb/GDlb, GTla/GMl, GTla/GDlb GQlb/GDlaおよび関連する GSCs: GQlb/GDla, GTla/GDla, GQlb/GTlb, GTla/GTlb

在の解明やGSCs抗体による神経障害の動物モデル作成も必要であろう

また最近の研究でGSCは単独ガングリオシドよりも細胞内情報伝達に強い影響を及ぼす可能性が指摘されている<sup>21)</sup>. したがってGSC抗体による神経障害については、補体活性化を介する傷害だけではなく、神経細胞機能の直接的障害やアポトーシス<sup>22)</sup> などのメカニズムも今後検討する必要があろう

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#### ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION

# **GO1b-seronegative Fisher syndrome:** clinical features and new serological markers

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Abstract IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies are a powerful serological marker for the diagnosis of Fisher syndrome (FS), but little is known regarding serological markers in FS patients that do not have the autoantibodies. The authors analyzed IgG antibodies against gangliosides other than GQ1b, ganglioside complexes, and ganglioside-like lipo-oligosaccharide (LOS) of Campylobacter jejuni isolates from FS patients. We identified 24 (12%) patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS among 207 FS patients who had been referred to our laboratory for anti-ganglioside antibody testing. Patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS were male and had a history of antecedent gastrointestinal illness

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more frequently than FS patients with IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies. Other clinical features during the illness were not distinguishing for GQ1b-seronegative FS. Four (17%) of 24 patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS had IgG antibodies against single gangliosides such as GM1b, GD1a, or GT1a. Antibodies against GM1 and GT1a complex were detected in four GQ1b-seronegative FS patients, three of whom did not have antibodies against single gangliosides. Mass spectrometry analysis showed that C. jejuni isolates from FS patients had GD1c-, GalNAc-GM1b-, or GalNAc-GD1c-like LOS, and not GQ1b-like LOS, highlighting the utility of examining serum antibodies against these ganglioside mimics in GQ1b-seronegative FS patients. Seven (29%) had IgG antibodies against the LOS from C. jejuni strains expressing GD1c-, GalNAc-GM1b-, or GalNAc-GD1c-like LOS. These findings suggest that IgG antibodies against GM1b, GD1c, GalNAc-GM1b, and ganglioside complexes are serological markers for GQ1b-seronegative Fisher syndrome.

**Keywords** Fisher syndrome · Anti-GQ1b antibody · Campylobacter jejuni · Ganglioside complex · Lipooligosaccharide

#### Introduction

Fisher syndrome (FS) is the most common clinical variant of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) characterized by acute onset of ophthalmoplegia, ataxia, and areflexia. A landmark study identified IgG autoantibodies against GQ1b ganglioside as a serological marker in FS [1], and subsequent studies estimated the highly frequent detection of the antibodies between 83 and 100% of FS patients [2-4]. From a serological point of view, FS is much more uniform than the axonal subtype of GBS associated with IgG autoantibodies to GM1, GM1b, GD1a, or GalNAc-GD1a [5, 6]. It has been found that a mixture of two gangliosides (ganglioside complex) can generate new epitopes that differ from those of the constituents and may be targeted by serum autoantibodies from FS patients [7]. However, little effort has been made to identify novel autoantibodies in the minority of FS patients that are negative for anti-GQ1b antibodies.

Our prospective case—control study has shown that *Campylobacter jejuni* is the most frequently identified antecedent agent in FS [8]. A GQ1b-mimicking structure on the bacteria is hypothesized to be the key trigger for the generation of anti-GQ1b antibodies in *C. jejuni*-related FS. Unexpectedly, however, several *C. jejuni* isolates from FS patients did not express GQ1b-like lipo-oligosaccharide (LOS), and instead expressed GT1a-, GD3-, or GD1c-like LOS (Fig. 1) [8–11]. These findings led us to hypothesize that ganglioside-like LOS other than GQ1b-like LOS could trigger the production of unidentified pathogenic autoantibodies in GQ1b-seronegative patients and induce the development of FS.

In the present study, we retrospectively selected FS patients negative for IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies and investigated their clinical features. We analyzed IgG antibodies against other single gangliosides, ganglioside complexes, and ganglioside-like LOS of several *C. jejuni* isolates from FS patients in order to identify serological markers for anti-GQ1b antibody-negative FS patients.

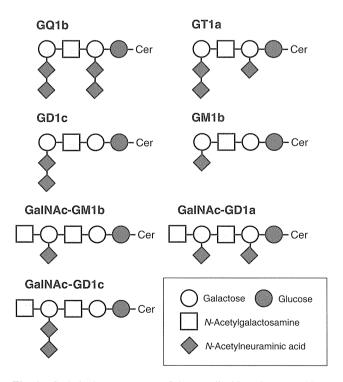


Fig. 1 Carbohydrate sequence of the gangliosides, Cer ceramide

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#### Methods

**Patients** 

We received requests to test serum anti-ganglioside antibodies from 207 patients presenting with FS from February 2000 to July 2002. All patients fulfilled the clinical criteria, which included (1) progressive, relatively symmetric ophthalmoplegia and ataxia for 4 weeks, (2) hyporeflexia or areflexia, (3) preserved limb strength (five or four on the Medical Research Council scale), and (4) features that rule out the other diagnoses such as vascular disease involving the brainstem, Wernicke encephalopathy, botulism, myasthenia gravis, brainstem tumor, pituitary apoplexy, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, multiple sclerosis, neuro-Behçet disease, vasculitis, lymphoma, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease [4]. One of the authors (M.K.) reviewed the patients' medical records to ascertain diagnoses and neurological findings. Pretreatment serum samples were obtained during the acute phase of the illness. Sera from 40 healthy individuals were used as healthy controls (HC) and sera from 34 patients with neurodegenerative, metabolic, or vertebral diseases as disease controls (DC). Informed consent was provided by all participants for serological analyses. The study protocol was approved by the local Ethic Committee at Dokkyo Medical University.

Anti-ganglioside antibody testing and infectious serology

Serum IgG antibodies against isolated gangliosides (GM2, GM1, GM1b, GD1a, GalNAc-GD1a, GD1b, GT1a, GT1b, or GQ1b; 10 pmol/well) were measured by ELISA as previously described [12]. Sera were considered positive if the optical density (OD) was 0.5 or more at a serum dilution of 1:500. IgG antibodies to GM1 and GT1a complex (GM1/GT1a) were similarly tested using a mixture of GM1 and GT1a (each 5 pmol/well) as the target antigen. Anti-GM1/GT1a antibodies were judged positive if the OD of anti-GM1/GT1a antibodies was 0.5 greater than the sum of ODs of GM1 and GT1a assayed individually. Antibodies against other combinations of gangliosides (GM1/GD1a, GM1/GQ1b, GD1a/GT1a, GD1a/GQ1b, or GT1a/GQ1b) were similarly analyzed. By these criteria, none of the sera from 40 HC and 34 DC were positive for anti-ganglioside complex antibodies. Antecedent C. jejuni and Haemophilus influenzae infections were serologically examined as described [8].

Mass spectrometry analysis of C. jejuni isolates

Four *C. jejuni* strains (GC033, GC068, GC149, and GC219) isolated from patients with FS with or without

overlapping GBS were used for LOS antibody analysis. Three patients were positive for IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies, and one (with strain GC149) was negative. These strains were used for anti-LOS antibody testing because they have defined ganglioside mimics in their LOS outer cores. All of these strains were included in our previous study [13], and the LOS outer core structures have been reported for two of them: GC149 [14-16] and GC033 [10, 17, 18]. The LOS outer core structures of GC068 and GC219 were determined in this work. Overnight growth of the strains on an agar plate was done as described [19], except that we used 60 µg/ml proteinase K, 200 µg/mL RNase A, and 100 μg/mL DNase I. The O-deacylated LOS sample was analyzed by capillary electrophoresis-electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (CE-ESI-MS), as described [20]. Classification of the LOS biosynthesis gene locus and cst-II genotype (Thr/Asn 51) were performed as described [13, 15].

#### Anti-C. jejuni LOS antibody testing

Serum IgG antibodies against C. jejuni LOS were examined by ELISA using crude LOS fractions [21]. Briefly, C. jejuni was grown at 37°C for 48 h on blood agar plates in a 5% oxygen, 10% carbon dioxide atmosphere. The bacterium then was suspended in sterile PBS and adjusted to an OD of 0.4 at 650 nm. A 1.5 ml aliquot of the suspension was centrifuged at 14,000 g for 1.5 min, and the pellets were resuspended in 300 µl of distilled water. This suspension was boiled for 10 min, cooled, 100 µg of proteinase K (Roche Diagnostics Corporation, Indianapolis, IN, USA) was added, and the suspension was incubated at 60°C for 60 min. Thereafter, 0.5 µl of this lysate was mixed with 50 µl methanol and then dried in a microtiter plate. Patient sera were diluted 1:500 with PBS containing 0.5% casein then added to the wells, after which the plate was incubated overnight at 4°C. After washing (0.05% Tween 20 in PBS), peroxidase-conjugated anti-human IgG (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark; 1:1,000) was added. Plates were kept at 20°C for 2 h prior to developing. Serum was considered positive when antibody OD was 1.0 or more.

#### Statistical analyses

Differences in frequency between the groups were analyzed using the Fisher exact test. Differences in medians were examined by the Mann–Whitney U test. Differences were considered significant for two-sided P values < 0.05. Statistical calculations were made with SPSS 19 software (IBM Japan Ltd, Tokyo, Japan).

#### Results

FS patients negative for anti-GQ1b IgG antibodies

Among the 207 FS patients, 24 (12%) were negative for IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies [GQ1b-seronegative FS; median age, 56 years (range, 6-74); male/female, 22/2] (Table 1). None of the 24 patients had IgM anti-GQ1b antibodies. Twenty-three (96%) patients reported antecedent infectious symptoms indicative of respiratory tract infection [N = 15](63%)] or gastroenteritis [N = 7 (29%)]. Serological evidence of recent C. jejuni infection was found in three (13%) GQ1b-seronegative FS patients, and none had evidence of H. influenzae infection. The most frequent initial symptom was diplopia (N = 13 [54%]), followed by gait disturbance [N = 8 (33%)]. As in typical FS with anti-GQ1b antibodies, external ophthalmoparesis was abduction-predominate [9/20 (45%)], and frequently accompanied neurological deficits seen during the acute phase of illness were objective sensory disturbance [13/23 (54%)], mydriasis [6/14 (43%)], bulbar palsy [7/23 (29%)], and facial palsy [6/24 (25%)]. CSF albuminocytological dissociation was seen in 70% (14/20) of the GQ1b-seronegative FS patients.

Due to the difficulty of retroactively obtaining data from the patients included in this study, clinical features of the patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS were compared to those of GQ1b-positive FS patients included in our previous study [22]. Statistical analysis showed that patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS more frequently were male [P=0.002, odds ratio (OR) 7.3, 95% confidence interval (CI) 2.0-27] and had a history of antecedent gastrointestinal symptoms (P=0.02, OR 3.7, 95% CI 1.3-10.3) (Table 1). A history of antecedent upper respiratory infectious symptoms (P=0.02, OR 0.26, 95% CI 0.10-0.71) and the onset of diplopia (P=0.046, OR 0.38, 95% CI 0.15-0.96) were rarer in GQ1b-seronegative FS, but the frequencies of neurological features during the illness did not differ between the groups.

#### Ganglioside mimics of FS-related C. jejuni LOS

As mentioned above, GT1a-, GD3-, or GD1c-like LOS have been indentified in *C. jejuni* isolates from FS patients (Fig. 1) [8–11], whereas GQ1b-like LOS has not been identified. We used four FS-related *C. jejuni* strains with defined LOS outer core structures for the serological analyses described below. *C. jejuni* GC033 was reported to display a GD1c mimic [10]. *C. jejuni* GC149 was shown to express a mixture of ganglioside mimics through phase variation [16], and GC149 can display mimics of GD3, GT3, GQ3, GT1a, and Gal-GM1a in its LOS outer core

Table 1 Comparison of clinical features between Fisher syndrome patients with and without IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies

|  | IgG anti-GQ1b antibod | ies                    |                          |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Negative $N = 24$     | Positive $N = 110^{a}$ | Two-sided <i>P</i> value |
| Age: median (range)                      | 56 (6–74)             | 41 (2–78)              | NS                       |
| Sex: male/female                         | 22/2                  | 66/44                  | 0.002                    |
| Prior symptoms                           |                       |                        |                          |
| Any                                      | 23/24 (96%)           | _                      |                          |
| URTI                                     | 15/24 (63%)           | 95/110 (86%)           | 0.02                     |
| GI                                       | 7/24 (29%)            | 11/110 (10%)           | 0.02                     |
| Initial symptoms                         |                       |                        |                          |
| Diplopia                                 | 13/24 (54%)           | 83/110 (75%)           | 0.046                    |
| Gait disturbance                         | 8/24 (33%)            | 36/110 (32%)           | NS                       |
| Dysarthria                               | 2/24 (8.3%)           | 4/110 (3.6%)           | NS                       |
| Blepharoptosis                           | 1/24 (4.2%)           | 3/110 (2.7%)           | NS                       |
| Neurological features during the illness |                       |                        |                          |
| Abduction-predominance of EOP            | 9/20 (45%)            | ND                     | _                        |
| IOP                                      | 6/14 (43%)            | 41/110 (37%)           | NS                       |
| Nystagmus                                | 4/10 (40%)            | 16/110 (16%)           | NS                       |
| Facial palsy                             | 6/24 (25%)            | 25/110 (23%)           | NS                       |
| Bulbar palsy                             | 7/24 (29%)            | 20/100 (20%)           | NS                       |
| Sensory disturbance                      | 13/23 (54%)           | 55/99 (56%)            | NS                       |
| Autonomic disturbance                    | 1/23 (4.3%)           | ND                     | _                        |
| Campylobacter jejuni serology            | 3/24 (13%)            | ND                     | _                        |
| Haemophilus influenzae serology          | 0/24                  | ND                     |                          |
| Albuminocytologic dissociation in CSF    | 14/20 (70%)           | 62/94 (66%)            | NS                       |

NS not significant, URTI upper respiratory tract infectious symptoms, GI gastrointestinal infectious symptoms, EOP external ophthalmoparesis, ND not described, IOP internal ophthalmoparesis, CSF cerebrospinal fluid

(Table 2). Mass spectrometric analysis of *O*-deacylated samples was used to propose LOS outer core structures for strains GC068 and GC219 (Table 2). The mass species observed for strain GC068 are consistent with mixed GD1c-, GalNAc-GM1b-, and GalNAc-GD1c-like structures in the LOS outer core (Supplemental Table 1). The mass species observed for strain GC219 are consistent with an LOS outer core displaying a GalNAc-GM1b-like structure (Supplemental Table 1). LOS from these four FS-related *C. jejuni* strains (GC033, GC068, GC149, and GC219) were used as antigens for the following serological analyses of GQ1b-seronegative FS patients and control groups.

#### Serological analyses

IgG antibodies against single gangliosides other than GQ1b were detected in 4 (17%) of the 24 patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS (Table 3). Anti-GT1a and anti-GM1b antibodies were detected in two patients, each one of whom showed isolated elevation of the antibodies (Nos. 3 and 4 in Table 4). Antibodies against ganglioside complexes were

positive in four (17%) of the GQ1b-seronegative FS patients, three of whom were negative for antibodies against all single gangliosides examined. Among antiganglioside complex antibodies, anti-GM1/GT1a antibodies were detected in all four patients positive for antiganglioside complex antibodies.

IgG antibodies against *C. jejuni* LOS from the four strains with defined structures were positive in seven (29%) of the 24 GQ1b-seronegative FS patients, and slightly above that of HC (5/40 [13%]; P = 0.11) (Table 3). Three of the seven patients with anti-LOS antibodies were negative for antibodies against all single gangliosides and ganglioside complexes. Patient IgG reacted with a variety of GalNAc-GM1b-like structures (six [25%] of 24 patients with GQ1b-seronegative FS versus 5/40 [13%] in HCs; P = 0.30), mixed GD1c- and GalNAc-GM1b-like structures (four [17%] versus two [5%]; P = 0.19), mixed GD3-, GT1a-, GT3-, GQ3-, Gal-GM1a-like structures (four [17%] versus zero [0%]; P = 0.02; OR, 17.8; 95% CI, 2.1–147), and GD1c-like structures (three [13%] versus one [2.5%]; P = 0.14). Four (12%) DC sera were scored



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Reported previously [22]

**Table 2** Lipo-polysaccharide structures of *Campylobacter jejuni* isolates from patients with Fisher syndrome with or without overlapping Guillain–Barré syndrome

| C. jejuni | Serogroup (serotype) | LOS<br>biosynthesis | cst-II<br>genotype | Ganglionside-mimic of LOS          | Patient's<br>diagnosis |        | IgG anti-gangloside Ab titers <sup>b</sup> in patients |  |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--|--|
|           |                      | class <sup>a</sup>  |                    |                                    |                        | GQ1b   | Others   |  |
| GC033     | $D^{c}$              | A                   | Asn51              | GD1c                               | FS                     | 32,000 | GT1a (32,000)  |  |
| GC219     | HS:2                 | В                   | Asn51              | GalNAc-GM1b                        | FS                     | 8,000  | GT1a (16,000)  |  |
| GC068     | HS:2                 | Unclassified        | -                  | GD1c, GalNAc-GM1b, and GalNAc-GD1c | FS/GBS                 | 32,000 | GD1a/GT1a/GT1b<br>(8,000)                              |  |
| Gc149     | HS:1                 | R                   | Asn51              | GD3, GT3, GT1a, GQ3, and Gal-GM1a  | FS                     | (-)    | (-)  |  |

LOS lipo-oligosaccharide, Ab antibody, FS Fisher syndrome; GBS Guillain-Barré syndrome; NT not tested

Table 3 Summary of serological findings

| IgG antibodies against                          | Fisher syndrome IgG anti-GQ1b antibodies |                       | DC $ N = 34$ | HC<br>N = 40 | Two-sided P value       |                         |  |
|---|--|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
|   | Negative $N = 24$                        | Positive $N = 30^{d}$ |              |              | GQ1b-seronegative vs DC | GQ1b-seronegative vs HC |  |
| Isolated ganglioside (non-GQ1b) <sup>a</sup>    | 4 (17%)                                  | 29 (97%)              | 0            | 0            | 0.03 <sup>e</sup>       | 0.02 <sup>h</sup>       |  |
| Ganglioside complex <sup>b</sup>                | 4 (17%)                                  | 15 (50%)              | 0            | 0            | $0.03^{f}$              | $0.02^{i}$              |  |
| Campylobacter lipo-oligosaccharide <sup>c</sup> | 7 (29%)                                  | 29 (97%)              | 4 (12%)      | 5 (13%)      | NS                      | NS                      |  |
| Any   | 10 (42%)                                 | 30 (100%)             | 4 (12%)      | 5 (13%)      | $0.01^{g}$              | $0.01^{j}$              |  |

DC disease control, HC healthy control, NS not significant

positive for antibodies against GC068 LOS [mixed-GD1c/GalNAc-GM1b/GalNAc-GD1c-mimics], and none of the DC sera for the other LOS.

Clinical features of FS patients negative for IgG antibodies to GQ1b, but positive for antibodies against other gangliosides and *C. jejuni* LOS

All seven GQ1b-seronegative but anti-ganglioside (single ganglioside or ganglioside complex) IgG-positive patients

were male, although other clinical features, including antecedent infectious symptoms and neurological deficits, were unremarkable (Tables 4 and 5). Similar unremarkable clinical findings were common in the GQ1b-seronegative, *C. jejuni* ganglioside-like LOS-seropositive FS patients. These findings suggest that clinical features are not helpful in identifying GQ1b-seronegative FS patients with other anti-ganglioside antibodies. It is noteworthy that histories of antecedent gastrointestinal symptoms were available for only two of seven ganglioside-like

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Classified based on the organization of gene content in LOS biosynthesis locus

b Tested antigens were GM2, GM1, GM1b, GD1a, GalNAc-GD1a, GD1b, GT1a, and GT1b gangliosides (cut-off < titer less than 500)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> HS:4, HS:13, HS:16, HS:43, HS:50

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Tested antigens were GM2, GM1, GM1b, GD1a, GalNAc-GD1a, GD1b, GT1a, and GT1b gangliosides

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Tested antigens were GM1/GD1a, GM1/GT1a, GM1/GQ1b, GD1a/GT1a, GD1a/GQ1b, and GT1a/GQ1b complexes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Tested antigens were GD1c-, GalNAc-GM1b-, mixed GD1c/GalNAc-GM1b-, and mixed GD3/GT1a/GT3/GQ3-mimicking lipo-oligosac-charides of *Campylobacter jejuni* isolates (GC033, GC219, GC068, and GC149, respectively) from patients with Fisher syndrome with or without overlapping Guillain–Barré syndrome

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Selected at random from 183 patients with GQ1b-seropositive Fisher syndrome

e Odds ratio (OR) 15.1, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.7-130.3

f OR 15.1, 95% CI 1.7-130.3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>g</sup> OR 5.4, 95% CI 1.4–20.0

h OR 17.8, 95% CI 2.1-147.7

i OR 17.8, 95% CI 2.1-147.7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>j</sup> OR 5.0, 95% CI 1.4-17.3

Table 4 Patients with GQ1b-seronegative Fisher syndrome who showed seropositive results for other antibodies

| No | Age/<br>sex | Accident          | Infectious | IgG antibodies against                   |                    |                                   |  |  |  |
|----|-------------|-------------------|------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
|    |             | symptom           | serology   | Isolated ganglioside Ganglioside complex |                    | Ganglioside-like LOS <sup>c</sup> |  |  |  |
| 1  | 19/M        | GI                | (-)        | GT1a, GM1b                               | (-)                | GC033, GC068, and GC149           |  |  |  |
| 2  | 28/M        | (-)               | C. jejuni  | GD1a, GalNAc-GD1a                        | (-)                | GC033, GC219, GC068 and GC149     |  |  |  |
| 3  | 60/M        | Fever             | (-)        | GT1a                                     | GM1/GT1a, GM1/GQ1b | GC219, and GC149                  |  |  |  |
| 4  | 63/M        | Chill             | (-)        | GM1b                                     | (-)                | (-)                               |  |  |  |
| 5  | 15/M        | GI, URTI, fever   | C. jejuni  | (-)                                      | GM1/GT1a, GM1/GQ1b | (-)                               |  |  |  |
| 6  | 24/M        | GI, URTI, fever   | (-)        | (-)                                      | GM1/GT1a, GM1/GQ1b | GC219                             |  |  |  |
| 7  | 54/M        | URTI, fever       | (-)        | (-)                                      | GM1/GT1a           | (-)                               |  |  |  |
| 8  | 22/M        | URTI, fever       | C. jejuni  | (-)                                      | (-)                | GC033, GC219, and GC149           |  |  |  |
| 9  | 48/F        | Fever, joint pain | (-)        | (-)                                      | (-)                | GC219, GC068                      |  |  |  |
| 10 | 28/M        | URTI              | (-)        | (-)                                      | (-)                | GC068                             |  |  |  |

GI gastrointestinal infection, URTI upper respiratory tract infection, LOS lipo-oligosaccharide

Table 5 Neurological features of the patients described in Table 4

| No | Initial symptom                       | symptom Ophthalmoparesis         |          | Ptosis | FP  | BP  | Sensory               | Ataxia            | Others   |
|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
|    |                                       | External                         | Internal |        |     |     | disturbance           |                   |  |
| 1  | Nasal voice                           | Only obduction disturbance       | (+)      | ND     | (-) | (+) | Vibration↓            | Truncal           | _  |
| 2  | Gait disturbance                      | Only obduction disturbance       | ND       | ND     | (-) | (-) | (-)                   | Truncal           | Good recover (without treatment)                                       |
| 3  | Double vision                         | Total                            | (-)      | (+)    | (+) | (+) | Vibration↓            | Unknown in detail | Neurological onset<br>after lung cancer<br>operation                   |
| 4  | Double vision                         | Obduction and upgaze disturbance | ND       | ND     | (-) | (-) | (-)                   | Limb, truncal     | _  |
| 5  | Double vision,<br>Gait<br>disturbance | Obduction-dominant               | (+)      | ND     | (-) | (+) | (-)                   | Limb, truncal     | Good recovery after IAT  |
| 6  | Double vision                         | Only obduction disturbance       | ND       | ND     | (-) | (-) | Distal dysesthesia    | Unknown in detail | Relapse (first onset,<br>14 years old),<br>good recovery<br>after IVIg |
| 7  | Double vision                         | Unknown in detail                | ND       | ND     | (-) | (-) | (-)                   | Truncal           | _  |
| 8  | Gait disturbance                      | Obduction-dominant               | (-).     | ND     | (-) | (+) | Distal<br>hypesthesia | Truncal           | -  |
| 9  | Ptosis, Gait disturbance              | Unknown in detail                | (+)      | (+)    | (+) | (-) | Distal<br>hypesthesia | Truncal           | Good recovery (without treatment)                                      |
| 10 | Gait disturbance                      | Obduction-dominant               | ND       | ND     | (-) | (-) | Distal paresthesia    | Truncal           | _  |

FP facial palsy, BP bulbar palsy, ND not described, IAT immunoadsorption therapy, IVIg intravenous immunoglobulin

LOS-reactive patients, and that serological evidence of recent *C. jejuni* infection was also shown in other two patients. This indicates that detecting anti-*C. jejuni* LOS

antibodies was not due to cross-reaction with *C. jejuni* protein, which was used as antigen in serological assays for this infection, and that GD1c and GalNAc-GM1b-like



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Tested antigens were GM2, GM1, GM1b, GD1a, GalNAc-GD1a, GD1b, GT1a, and GT1b gangliosides

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Tested antigens were GM1/GD1a, GM1/GT1a, GM1/GQ1b, GD1a/GT1a, GD1a/GQ1b, and GT1a/GQ1b complexes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Tested antigens were LOSs from *Campylobacter jejuni* isolates GC033 (GD1c-like), GC219(GalNAc-GM1b-like), GC068 (mixed GD1c/GalNAc-GM1b/GalNAc-GD1c-like), and GC149 (mixed GD3/GT1a/GT3/GQ3/Gal-GM1a-like) from patients with Fisher syndrome with or without overlapping Guillain–Barré syndrome