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#### REPORT

# The TRK-Fused Gene Is Mutated in Hereditary Motor and Sensory Neuropathy with Proximal Dominant Involvement

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Hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy with proximal dominant involvement (HMSN-P) is an autosomal-dominant neurodegenerative disorder characterized by widespread fasciculations, proximal-predominant muscle weakness, and atrophy followed by distal sensory involvement. To date, large families affected by HMSN-P have been reported from two different regions in Japan. Linkage and haplotype analyses of two previously reported families and two new families with the use of high-density SNP arrays further defined the minimum candidate region of 3.3 Mb in chromosomal region 3q12. Exome sequencing showed an identical c.854C>T (p.Pro285-Leu) mutation in the TRK-fused gene (*TFG*) in the four families. Detailed haplotype analysis suggested two independent origins of the mutation. Pathological studies of an autopsied patient revealed TFG- and ubiquitin-immunopositive cytoplasmic inclusions in the spinal and cortical motor neurons. Fragmentation of the Golgi apparatus, a frequent finding in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, was also observed in the motor neurons with inclusion bodies. Moreover, TAR DNA-binding protein 43 kDa (TDP-43)-positive cytoplasmic inclusions were also demonstrated. In cultured cells expressing mutant TFG, cytoplasmic aggregation of TDP-43 was demonstrated. These findings indicate that formation of TFG-containing cytoplasmic inclusions and concomitant mislocalization of TDP-43 underlie motor neuron degeneration in HMSN-P. Pathological overlap of proteinopathies involving TFG and TDP-43 highlights a new pathway leading to motor neuron degeneration.

Hereditary motor and sensory neuropathy with proximal dominant involvement (HMSN-P [MIM 604484]) is an autosomal-dominant disease characterized by predominantly proximal muscle weakness and atrophy followed by distal sensory disturbances. HMSN-P was first described in patients from the Okinawa Islands of Japan, where more than 100 people are estimated to be affected. Two Brazilian HMSN-P-affected families of Okinawan ancestry have also been reported. 3,4

The disease onset is usually in the 40s and is followed by a slowly progressive course. Painful muscle cramps and abundant fasciculations are observed, particularly in the early stage of the disease. In contrast to the clinical presentations of other hereditary motor and sensory neuropathies (HMSNs) presenting with predominantly distal motor weakness reflecting axonal-length dependence, the clinical presentation of HMSN-P is unique in that it involves proximal predominant weakness with widespread fasciculations resembling those of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).<sup>5</sup> Distal sensory loss is accompanied later

in the disease course, but the degree of the sensory involvement varies among patients. Neuropathological findings revealed severe neuronal loss and gliosis in the spinal anterior horns and mild neuronal loss and gliosis in the hypoglossal and facial nuclei of the brainstem, which indicates that the primary pathological feature of HMSN-P is a motor neuronopathy involving motor neurons, but not a motor neuropathy involving axons. <sup>1,5</sup> The posterior column, corticospinal tract, and spinocerebellar tract showed loss of myelinated fibers and gliosis. Neuronal loss and gliosis were found in Clarke's nucleus. Dorsal root ganglia showed mild to marked neuronal loss. <sup>1,5</sup> These observations suggest that HMSN-P shares neuropathological findings in part with those observed in familial ALS. <sup>6</sup>

Previous studies on Okinawan kindreds mapped the disease locus to chromosome 3q. Subsequently, we identified two large families (families 1 and 2 in Figure 1A) affected by quite a similar phenotype in the Kansai area of Japan, located in the middle of the main island of Japan and far distant from the Okinawa Islands. We mapped the

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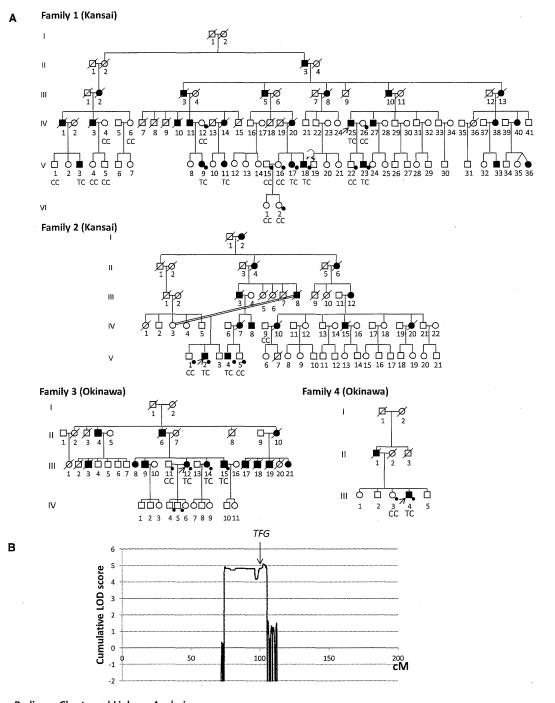


Figure 1. Pedigree Charts and Linkage Analysis (A) Pedigree charts of families 1 and 2 (Kansai kindreds) and families 3 and 4 (Okinawan kindreds) are shown. Squares and circles indicate males and females, respectively. Affected persons are designated with filled symbols. A diagonal line through a symbol represents a deceased person. A person with an arrow is an index patient. Genotypes of TFG c.854 are shown in individuals in whom genomic DNA was analyzed. Individuals genotyped with SNP arrays for linkage analysis and haplotype reconstruction are indicated by dots. (B) Cumulative parametric multipoint LOD scores on chromosome 3 of all the families are shown.

disease locus to chromosome 3q,7 overlapping with the previously defined locus, which strongly indicates that these diseases are indeed identical.

In addition to the large Kansai HMSN-P-affected families, we found two new Okinawan HMSN-P-affected families (families 3 and 4 in Figure 1A) in our study. In total, 9 affected and 15 unaffected individuals from the Kansai area and four affected and four unaffected individuals from the Okinawa Islands were enrolled in the study. Written informed consent was obtained from

		Family 3		Family 4	
	Families 1 and 2	III-12	III-14	III-15	III-4
Age at examination years)	40s-50s	54	52	50	54
Age at onset (years)	37.5 ± 8	44	40	early 20s	41
nitial symptoms	shoulder dislocation and difficulty walking	proximal leg weakness	painful cramps	painful cramps and fasciculation	painful cramps and calf atrophy
Motor				-	
Proximal muscle weakness and atrophy	+	+	mild	+	+
Painful cramps	+	+	+	+	+
Fasciculations	+	+	+	+	+
Motor ability	bedridden after 10–20 years from disease onset	unable to walk; wheelchair	only mild difficulty climbing stairs	walk with effort	unable to walk; wheelchair
Bulbar symptoms	-~+	_	_	_	_
Sensory					
Dysesthesia	+	+	mild	+	+
Decreased tactile sensation	+	+	_	mild	+
Decreased vibratory sensation	+	mild	mild	mild	+
Reflexes					
Tendon reflexes	diminished	diminished	diminished	diminished	diminished
Pathological reflexes	_		_	_	-
Laboratory Tests and El	lectrophysiological Find	ings			
Serum creatine kinase evel	270 ± 101 IU/l	761 IU/I	not measured	625 IU/I	399 IU/l
Hyperglycemia	4/13 patients	_	-	_	+
-lyperlipidemia	3/13 patients	+	_	+	+
Verve conduction study	motor and sensory axonal degeneration	motor and sensory axonal degeneration	not examined	not examined	motor and sensory axonal degeneratio
veedle electromyography	neurogenic changes with fibrillation potentials and positive sharp waves	neurogenic changes with fibrillation potentials and positive sharp waves	not examined	not examined	not examined

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all participants. This study was approved by the institutional review boards at the University of Tokyo and the Tokushima University Hospital. Genomic DNA was extracted from peripheral-blood leukocytes or an autopsied brain according to standard procedures.

The clinical presentations of the patients from the four families are summarized in Table 1 and Table S1, available online. Characteristic painful cramps and fasciculations were noted at the initial stage of the disease in all the patients from the four families. Whereas some of the patients showed painful cramps in their 20s, the ages of onset of motor weakness (41.6  $\pm$  2.9 years old) were quite uniform. These patients presented slowly progressive, predominantly proximal weakness and atrophy with dimin-

ished tendon reflexes in the lower extremities. Sensory impairment was generally mild. Indeed, one patient (III-4 in family 4) has been diagnosed with very slowly progressive ALS. Although frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is an occasionally observed clinical presentation in patients with ALS, dementia was not observed in these patients. Laboratory tests showed mildly elevated serum creatine kinase levels. Electrophysiological studies showed similar results in all the patients investigated and revealed a decreased number of motor units with abundant positive sharp waves, fibrillation, and fasciculation potentials. Sensory-nerve action potentials of the sural nerve were lost in the later stage of the disease. All these clinical findings were similar to those described in previous reports. 1,3,4

To further narrow the candidate region, we conducted detailed genotyping by employing the Genome-Wide Human SNP array 6.0 (Affymetrix). Multipoint parametric linkage analysis and haplotype reconstruction were performed with the pipeline software SNP-HiTLink8 and Allegro v.29 (Figure 1A). In addition to the SNP genotyping, we also used newly discovered polymorphic dinucleotide repeats for haplotype comparison (microsatellite marker 1 [MS1], chr3: 101,901,207–101,901,249; and MS2, chr3: 102,157,749–102,157,795 in hg18) around TFG (see Table S2 for primer sequences). The genome-wide linkage study revealed only one chromosome 3 region showing a cumulative LOD score exceeding 3.0 (Figure 1B), confirming the result of our previous study.<sup>7</sup> An obligate recombination event was observed between rs4894942 and rs1104964, thus further refining the telomeric boundary of the candidate region in Kansai families (Figure 2A). The Okinawan families (families 3 and 4) shared an extended disease haplotype spanning 3.3 Mb, consistent with a founder effect reported in the Okinawan HMSN-P-affected families, thus defining the 3.3 Mb region as the minimum candidate region.

We then performed exon capture (Sequence Capture Human Exome 2.1 M Array [NimbleGen]) of the index patient from family 3 and subsequent passively parallel sequencing by using two lanes of GAIIx (100 bp single end [Illumina]) and a one-fifth slide of SOLiD 4 (50 bp single end [Life Technologies]). GAIIx and SOLiD4 yielded 2.60 and 2.76 Gb of uniquely mapped reads, <sup>10</sup> respectively. The average coverages were 29.0× and 26.8× in GAIIx and SOLiD4, respectively (Table S3 and Figure S1). In summary, 175,236 single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and 25,987 small insertions/deletions were called. 11 The numbers of exonic and splice-site variants were 14,189 and 127, respectively. In the minimum candidate region of 3.3 Mb, only 11 exonic SNVs were found, and only one was novel (i.e., not found in dbSNP) and nonsynonymous. Direct nucleotide-sequence analysis confirmed the presence of heterozygous SNV c.854C>T (p.Pro285Leu) in TRK-fused gene (TFG [NM\_006070.5]) in all the patients from families 3 and 4 (Figure 3A and Figure S2<sup>12</sup>). Intriguingly, direct nucleotide-sequence analysis of all TFG exons (see Table S4 for primer sequences) of one patient from each of families 1 and 2 from the Kansai area revealed an identical c.854C>T (p.Pro285Leu) TFG mutation cosegregating with the disease (Figure 1A and Figure 3A). The base substitution was not observed in 482 Japanese controls (964 chromosomes), dbSNP, the 1000 Genomes Project Database, or the Exome Sequencing Project Database. Pro285 is located in the P/Q-rich domain in the C-terminal region of TFG (Figure 3B) and is evolutionally conserved (Figure 3C). PolyPhen predicts it to be "probably damaging." Because some of the exonic sequences were not sufficiently covered by exome sequencing (i.e., their read depths were no more than 10x) (Figure S1), direct nucleotide-sequence analysis was further conducted for these exonic sequences (Table S5). However, it did not reveal any other novel

nonsynonymous variants, confirming that c.854C>T (p.Pro285Leu) is the only mutation exclusively present in the candidate region of 3.3 Mb. All together, we concluded that it was the disease-causing mutation.

Because we found an identical mutation in both Kansai (families 1 and 2) and Okinawan (families 3 and 4) families, we then compared the haplotypes with the c.854C>T (p.Pro285Leu) mutation in the Kansai and Okinawan families in detail. To obtain high-resolution haplotypes, we included custom-made markers, including MS1 and MS2, and new SNVs identified by our exome analysis, in addition to the high-density SNPs used in the linkage analysis. The two Kansai families shared as long as 24.0 Mb of haplotype, and the two Okinawan families shared 3.3 Mb, strongly supporting a common ancestry in each region. When the haplotypes of the Kansai and Okinawan families were compared, it turned out that these families do not share the same haplotype because the markers nearest to TFG are discordant at markers 48.5 kb centromeric and 677 bp telomeric to the mutation within a haploblock (Figure 2B). Although the possibility of rare recombination events just distal to the mutation cannot be completely excluded, as suggested by the populationbased recombination map (Figure 2B), these findings strongly support the interpretation that the mutations have independent origins and provide further evidence that TFG contains the causative mutation for this disease.

Mutational analyses of TFG were further conducted in patients with other diseases affecting lower motor neurons (including familial ALS [n=18], axonal HMSN [n=26], and hereditary motor neuropathy [n=3]) and revealed no mutations in TFG, indicating that c.854C>T (p.Pro285-Leu) in TFG is highly specific to HMSN-P.

In this study, we identified in all four families a single variant that appears to have developed on two different haplotypes. The mutation disrupts the PXXP motif, also known as the Src homology 3 (SH3) domain, which might affect protein-protein interactions. In addition, substitution of leucine for proline is expected to markedly alter the protein's secondary structure, which might substantially compromise the physiological functions of TFG.

By employing the primers shown in Table S6, we obtained full-length cDNAs by PCR amplification of the cDNAs prepared from a cDNA library of the human fetal brain (Clontech). During this process, four species of cDNA were identified (Figure S3A). To determine the relative abundance of these cDNA species, we used the primers shown in Table S7 to conduct fragment analysis of the RT-PCR products obtained from RNAs extracted from various tissues; these primers were designed to discriminate four cDNA species on the basis of the size of the PCR products. The analysis revealed that TFG is ubiquitously expressed, including in the spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia, which are the affected sites of HMSN-P (Figure S3B).

Neuropathological studies were performed in a *TFG*-mutation-positive patient (IV-25 in family 1) who died of

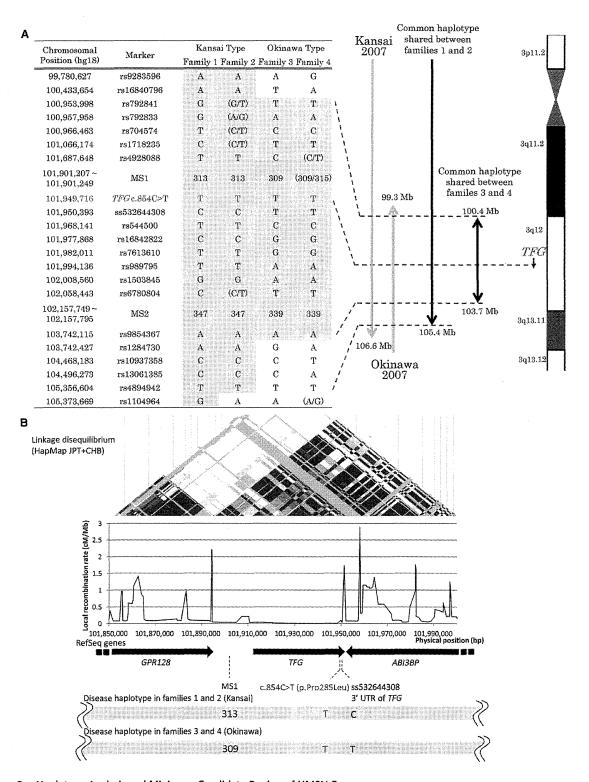


Figure 2. Haplotype Analysis and Minimum Candidate Region of HMSN-P

(A) Haplotypes were reconstructed for all the families with the use of SNP array data and microsatellite markers. Previously reported candidate regions are shown as "Kansai 2007" and "Okinawa 2007." Because families 1 and 2 are distantly related, an extended shared common haplotype was observed on chromosome 3, as indicated by a previous study. A reassessment of linkage analysis with high-density SNP markers revealed a recombination between rs4894942 and rs1104964 in family 2, thus refining the telomeric boundary of the candidate region in Kansai families (designated as "Common haplotype shared between families 1 and 2). Furthermore, a shared common haplotype (3.3 Mb with boundaries at rs16840796 and rs1284730) between families 3 and 4 was found, defining the minimum candidate region.

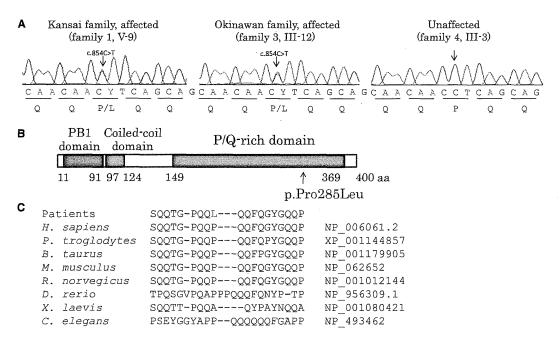


Figure 3. Identification of Causative Mutation

(A) Exome sequencing revealed that only one novel nonsynonymous variant is located within the minimum candidate region. Direct nucleotide-sequence analysis confirmed the mutation, c.854C>T (p.Pro285Leu), in TFG in both Kansai and Okinawan families. The mutation cosegregated with the disease (Figure 1A).

(B) Schematic representation of TFG isoform 1. The alteration (p.Pro285Leu) detected in this study is shown below.

(C) Cross-species homology search of the partial TFG amino acid sequence containing the p.Pro285Leu alteration revealed that Pro285 is evolutionally conserved among species.

pneumonia at 67 years of age.5 Immunohistochemical observations employing a TFG antibody (Table S8) revealed fine granular immunostaining of TFG in the cytoplasm of motor neurons in the spinal cord of neurologically normal controls (n = 3; age at death =  $58.7 \pm$ 19.6 years old) (Figure 4A). In the HMSN-P patient, in contrast, TFG-immunopositive inclusion bodies were detected in the motor neurons of the facial, hypoglossal, and abducens nuclei and the spinal cord, as well as in the sensory neurons of the dorsal root ganglia, but were not detected in glial cells (Figures 4B-4D). A small number of cortical neurons in the precentral gyrus also showed TFG-immunopositive inclusion bodies (Figure 4E). Serial sections stained with antibodies against ubiquitin or TFG (Figure 4F) and double immunofluorescence staining (Figure 4G) demonstrated that TFG-immunopositive inclusions colocalized with ubiquitin deposition. Inclusion bodies were immunopositive for optineurin in motor neurons of the brainstem nuclei and the anterior horn of the spinal cord,<sup>5</sup> as well as in sensory neurons of the dorsal root ganglia (data not shown). These data strongly indicate that HMSN-P is a proteinopathy involving TFG.

Because HMSN-P and ALS share some clinical characteristics, we then examined whether neuropathological findings of HMSN-P shared cardinal features with those of sporadic ALS. 13-16 Immunohistochemistry with a TDP-43 antibody revealed skein-like inclusions in the remaining motor neurons of the abducens nucleus and the anterior horn of the lumbar cord (Figures 4H-4I). Phosphorylated TDP-43-positive inclusions were also identified in neurons of the anterior horn of the cervical cord and Clarke's nucleus (Figures 4J-4K). In contrast, TFG immunostaining of spinal-cord specimens from four patients with sporadic ALS (their age at death was 72.3  $\pm$  7.4 years old) revealed no pathological staining in the motor neurons (data not shown). Double immunofluorescence staining revealed that many of the TFG-immunopositive round inclusions in the HSMN-P patient were negative for TDP-43 (Figure 4L), whereas a small number of inclusions were positive for both TFG and TDP-43 (Figure 4M). In addition, to investigate morphological Golgi-apparatus changes, which have recently been found in motor neurons of autopsied tissues of ALS patients, 17 we conducted immunohistochemical analysis by using

<sup>(</sup>B) Disease haplotypes in the Kansai and Okinawan kindreds are indicated below. Local recombination rates, RefSeq genes, and the linkage disequilibrium map from HapMap JPT (Japanese in Tokyo, Japan) and CHB (Han Chinese in Beijing, China) samples are shown above the disease haplotypes. When disease haplotypes of the Kansai and Okinawan kindreds are compared, the markers nearest to TFG are discordant at markers 48.5 kb centromeric and 677 bp telomeric to the mutation within a haploblock, strongly supporting the interpretation that the mutations have independent origins.

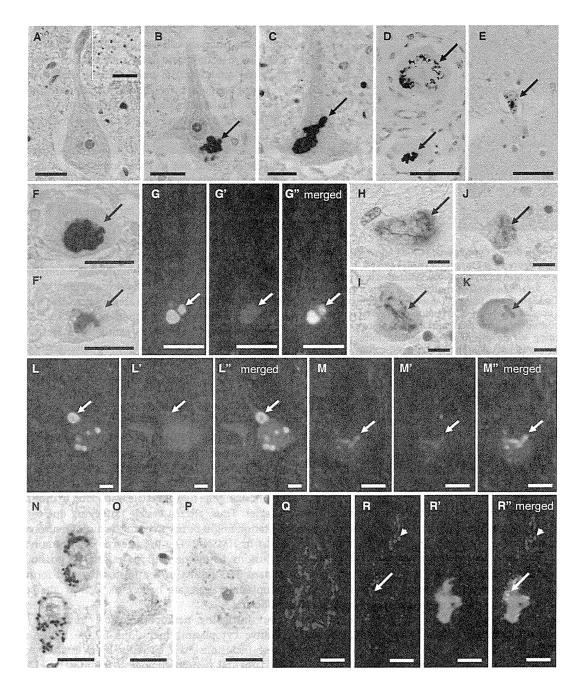


Figure 4. TFG-Related Neuropathological Findings

(A) TFG immunostaining (with hematoxylin counterstaining) of a motor neuron in the spinal cord of a neurologically normal control. A high-power magnified photomicrograph (inset) shows fine granular staining of TFG in the cytoplasm. The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m (main panel) and 10  $\mu$ m (inset).

(B–E) TFG-immunopositive inclusions of the neurons (with hematoxylin counterstaining) in the hypoglossal nucleus (B), anterior horn of the spinal cord (C), dorsal root ganglion (D, arrows), and motor cortex (E, arrow) of the patient with the *TFG* mutation. The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m (B–D) and 50  $\mu$ m (E).

(F and F') Serial section analysis of the facial nucleus motor neuron showing an inclusion body colabeled for TFG (F) and ubiquitin (F'). The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m.

(G-G'') Double immunofluorescence microscopy confirming colocalization of TFG (green) and ubiquitin (red) in an inclusion body of a motor neuron in the hypoglossal nucleus. The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m.

(H and I) TDP-43-positive skein-like inclusions in the motor neurons of the abducens nucleus (H) and anterior horn of the lumbar cord (I). The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m.

(j and K) Phosporylated TDP-43-positive inclusion bodies in the cervical anterior horn (J) and Clarke's nucleus (K). The scale bars represent 20 µm.

(L-L") Round inclusions (arrows) positive for TFG (green) but negative for TDP-43 (red). The scale bars represent 20 µm.

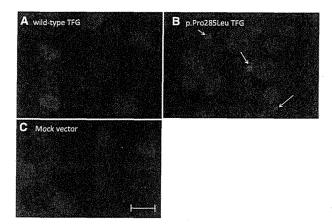


Figure 5. Formation of Cytoplasmic TDP-43 Aggregation Bodies in Cells Stably Expressing Mutant p.Pro285Leu TFG

The coding sequence of TFG cDNA was subcloned into pBluescript (Stratagene). After site-directed mutagenesis with a primer pair shown in Table S9, the mutant cDNAs were cloned into the BamHI and XhoI sites of pcDNA3 (Life Technologies). Stable cell lines were established by Lipofectamine (Life Technologies) transfection according to the manufacturer's instructions. Established cell lines were cultured under the ordinary cell-culture conditions (37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>) for 5-6 days and were subjected to immunocytochemical analyses. Neuro-2a cells stably expressing wildtype TFG (A), mutant TFG (p.Pro285Leu) (B), and a mock vector (C) are shown. TDP-43-immunopositive cytoplasmic inclusions are absent in the cells stably expressing wild-type TFG or the mock vector (A and C); however, TDP-43-immunopositive cytoplasmic inclusions were exclusively demonstrated in cells stably expressing mutant TFG (p.Pro285Leu), as indicated by arrows (B). Similar results were obtained with HEK 293 cells (not shown). Scale bars represent 10 µm.

a TGN46 antibody. It revealed that the Golgi apparatus was fragmented in approximately 70% of the remaining motor neurons in the lumbar anterior horn. The fragmentation of the Golgi apparatus was prominent near TFG-positive inclusion bodies (Figures 4N–4R). In summary, we found abnormal TDP-43-immunopositive inclusions in the cytoplasm of motor neurons, as well as fragmentation of the Golgi apparatus in HMSN-P, confirming the overlapping neuropathological features between HMSN-P and sporadic ALS.

To further investigate the effect of mutant TFG in cultured cells, stable cell lines expressing wild-type and mutant TFG (p.Pro285Leu) were established from neuro-2a and human embryonic kidney (HEK) 293 cells as previ-

ously described.<sup>18</sup> Established cell lines were cultured under the ordinary cell-culture conditions (37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>) for 5–6 days and were subjected to immunocytochemical analyses. The neuro-2a cells stably expressing wild-type or mutant TFG demonstrated no distinct difference in the distribution of endogenous TFG, FUS, or OPTN (data not shown). In contrast, cytoplasmic inclusions containing endogenous TDP-43 were exclusively observed in the neuro-2a cells stably expressing untagged mutant TFG, but not in those expressing wild-type TFG (Figure 5). Similar data were obtained from HEK 293 cells (data not shown). Thus, the expression of mutant TFG leads to mislocalization and inclusion-body formation of TDP-43 in cultured cells.

TFG was originally identified as a part of fusion oncoproteins (NTRK1-T3 in papillary thyroid carcinoma, 19 TFG-ALK in anaplastic large cell lymphoma,<sup>20</sup> and TFG/NOR1 in extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma<sup>21</sup>), where the N-terminal portions of TFG are fused to the C terminus of tyrosine kinases or a superfamily of steroid-thyroid hormone-retinoid receptors acting as a transcriptional activator leading to the formation of oncogenic products. Very recently, TFG-1, a homolog of TFG in Caenorhabditis elegans, and TFG have been discovered to localize in endoplasmic-reticulum exit sites. TFG-1 acts in a hexameric form that binds the scaffolding protein Sec16 complex assembly and plays an important role in protein secretion with COPII-coated vesicles.<sup>22</sup> It is noteworthy that mutations in genes involved in vesicle trafficking<sup>23,24</sup> (such genes include VAPB, CHMP2B, alsin, FIG4, VPS33B, PIP5K1C, and ERBB3) cause motor neuron diseases, emphasizing the role of vesicle trafficking in motor neuron diseases. Thus, altered vesicle trafficking due to the TFG mutation might be involved in the motor neuron degeneration in HMSN-P. The presence of TFG-immunopositive inclusions in motor neurons raises the possibility that mutant TFG results in the misfolding and formation of cytoplasmic aggregate bodies, as well as altered vesicle trafficking.

An intriguing neuropathological finding is TDP-43-positive cytoplasmic inclusions in the motor neurons; these inclusions have recently been established as the fundamental neuropathological findings in ALS. <sup>13,14</sup> Of note, expression of mutant, but not wild-type, TFG in cultured cells led to the formation of TDP-43-containing cytoplasmic aggregation. These observations are similar

<sup>(</sup>M-M'') An inclusion immunopositive for both TFG (green) and TDP-43 (red) is observed in a small number of neurons. The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m.

<sup>(</sup>N) Normal Golgi apparatus in the neurons of the intact thoracic intermediolateral nucleus. The scale bar represents 20 µm.

<sup>(</sup>O and P) Fragmentation of the Golgi apparatus with small, round, and disconnected profiles in the affected motor neurons of the lumbar anterior horn. The scale bars represent 20  $\mu$ m.

<sup>(</sup>Q-R") Immunohistochemical observations of the Golgi apparatus and TFG-immunopositive inclusions employing antibodies against TGN46 (red) and TFG (green), respectively. The scale bars represent 10 μm.

<sup>(</sup>Q) Normal size and distribution (red) in a motor neuron without inclusions.

<sup>(</sup>R-R") The Golgi apparatus was fragmented into various sizes and reduced in number in the lumbar anterior horn motor neuron with TFG-positive inclusions (green). The fragmentation predominates near the inclusion (arrow), whereas the Golgi apparatuses distant from the inclusion showed nearly normal patterns (arrow head).

to what has been described for ALS, where TDP-43 is mislocalized from the normally localized nucleus to the cytoplasm with concomitant cytoplasmic inclusions. Cytoplasmic TDP-43 accumulation and inclusion formation have also been observed in motor neurons in familial ALS with mutations in VAPB (MIM 608627) or CHMP2B (MIM 600795).<sup>25,26</sup> Furthermore, TDP-43 pathology has been demonstrated in transgenic mice expressing mutant VAPB.<sup>27</sup> Although the mechanisms of mislocalization of TDP-43 remain to be elucidated, these observations suggest connections between alteration of vesicle trafficking and mislocalization of TDP-43. Thus, common pathophysiologic mechanisms might underlie motor neuron degenerations involving vesicle trafficking including TFG, as well as VAPB and CHMP2B. Because TDP-43 is an RNA-binding protein, RNA dysregulation has been suggested to play important roles in the TDP43-mediated neurodegeneration.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, recent discovery of hexanucleotide repeat expansions in C9ORF72 in familial and sporadic ALS/FTD (MIM 105550)<sup>29,30</sup> emphasizes the RNA-mediated toxicities as the causal mechanisms of neurodegeneration. Observations of TDP-43-positive cytoplasmic inclusions in the motor neurons of the patient with HMSN-P raise the possibility that RNA-mediated mechanisms might also be involved in motor neuron degeneration in HMSN-P.

In summary, we have found that *TFG* mutations cause HMSN-P. The presence of TFG/ubiquitin- and/or TDP-43-immunopositive cytoplasmic inclusions in motor neurons and cytosolic aggregation composed of TDP-43 in cultured cells expressing mutant TFG indicate a novel pathway of motor neuron death.

#### Supplemental Data

Supplemental Data include three figures and nine tables and can be found with this article online at http://www.cell.com/AJHG/.

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#### Web Resources

The URLs for data presented herein are as follows.

1000 Genomes Project Database, http://www.1000genomes.org/dbSNP, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/

HapMap, http://hapmap.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/

NHLBI GO Exome Sequencing Project, https://esp.gs.washington.edu/drupal/

Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), http://www.omim.org

PolyPhen, http://genetics.bwh.harvard.edu/pph/ RefSeq, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/RefSeq/ UCSC Human Genome Browser, http://genome.ucsc.edu/

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### 第3章 各論

# Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 1. 病態·治療

## 要旨

Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病(CMT)は、最も頻度の高い遺伝性ニューロパチーであり、40 個以上の原因遺伝子が特定されている.CMT の中で最も多い CMT1A に関して、PMP22 の発現抑制化合物の研究や "network pharmacology" による治療薬の開発が注目されている.我が国を中心に、ロボットスーツ HAL®の医師主導臨床治験が計画されている.外科的治療、リハビリテーション、装具療法、日常生活上の工夫も機能維持・改善にとって重要である.

### Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 (CMT) の臨床症状とその病態

Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病(CMT)は,1886 年に JM. Charcot,P. Marie,HH. Tooth によって報告された最も頻度の高い遺伝性ニューロパチーである.CMT はすべての人種に認められ,その有病率は,欧米ではこれまで 2,500 人に 1 人と言われてきた.最近の疫学調査でも,人口 10 万人 対  $9.7 \sim 82.4$  人 とその頻度は高い<sup>11</sup>.我が国では人口 10 万人 対 10.8 人との報告があるが<sup>22</sup>,実際の有病率はより高いものと推定される.

CMT の多くは 0~20 歳頃までに発症するが、50 歳代の発症も比較的多い(図 1). 厚労省難治性疾患克服研究事業報告によれば、車いす使用患者は約 20%、寝たきり患者は 1%とされている<sup>3</sup>. CMTは正中神経の運動神経伝導速度(MNCV)38 m / 秒を基準に、脱髄型(CMT1 / CMT4)、軸索型(CMT2)、中間型(Intermediate - CMT)に大別される. CMT の原因遺伝子は 40 種類以上が特定され(http://www.molgen.ua.ac.be/CMTMutations)<sup>4</sup>、我が国においても、CMT の遺伝子診断に関しては大きな進展が見られている<sup>5</sup>. Choi らはエキソーム解析法により、通常の DNA 解析法では異常を見いだせなかっ

#### **O**キーワード

CMTの病態に基づいた治療戦略 内科的治療法 外科的治療法 リハビリテーション 日常生活上の注意

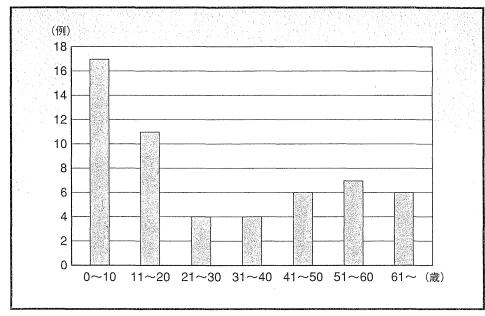


図1 Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病(CMT)自験例 55 例の発症年齢の分布

た 25 例中 8 例 (32 %) に,遺伝子異常を検出したと報告している<sup>6</sup>. 今後は,次世代シークエンサーを用いたエキソーム解析が主流になると考えられる.

CMT の基本的病態は、原因遺伝子の変異により正常な末梢神経機能の維持が障害されることである。CMT の分子異常は、遺伝子の転写制御、タンパク代謝、シュワン細胞・軸索相互作用、軸索輸送、ミトコンドリアの分裂・融合などに異常を引き起す(図2) $^{477}$ . また、PMP22、MPZ、periaxin などの CMT 原因遺伝子は、末梢神経に特異的発現しており、末梢神経特異的機能障害に関与している。一方、GARS、HSP27、GJB1(Cx32)などは多数の臓器で発現しているが、末梢神経組織で特異的な役割を担っていることが明らかとなった。

末梢神経の中でも、GARS、YARS などはタンパク合成阻害作用、HSP22、HSP27 などはストレス反応異常、アポトーシス異常、軸索輸送障害を通じて、運動神経優位な障害を惹起する。SPTLC1、DN-MT1、RAB7 などは細胞内タンパク輸送・タンパク代謝障害などにより、感覚神経優位の障害を引き起す。シュワン細胞・ミエリンと神経細胞・軸索間の分子相互関係の解明が、分子病態に基づいた治療法の開発へつながっていくと考えられる。最近、"network pharmacology(ネットワーク薬理学)"というバイオインフォマティクスに基づく新しい治療薬開発法が注目されている。後述するように、このネットワ

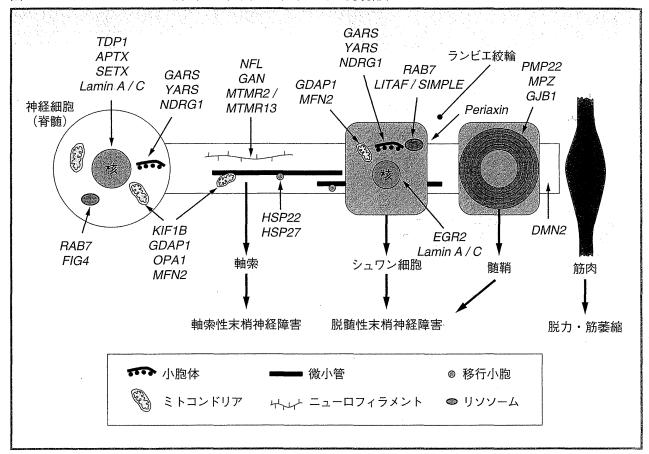


図 2 Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 (CMT) 関連遺伝子とその発現部位

ーク薬理学からデザインされた CMT1A の治療法開発が進められている. CMT の分子病態解明は、末梢神経障害にとどまらず、広く神経変性疾患全体の病態解明につながっていくと考えられる.

### Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 (CMT) に対する薬物治療

#### 1. CMT1A の薬物療法

PMP22 の重複によって引き起される CMT1A は最も頻度が高く、種々の治療法が試みられている.

#### 1) アスコルビン酸臨床試験

アスコルビン酸は、後根神経節-シュワン細胞の培養系における myelination に必須であり、アスコルビン酸欠乏が大腿神経障害を引き起すことが報告されている<sup>8</sup>. アスコルビン酸は cAMP の CREB への結合を競合的に阻害し、PMP22 mRNA 発現量を低下させる可能性がある. アスコルビン酸が CMT1A モデルマウスに有効であるとの報告があり<sup>9</sup>、国内外で臨床試験が行われた.

我が国でも「Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 1A に対するアスコルビン酸の安全性・有効性に関する臨床試験」(UMIN 試験 ID: UMIN000001535)が投与群と非投与群によるオープン試験として行われた<sup>10)</sup>. プライマリーエンドポイントである CMT ニューロパチースコア(CMTNS)に有意な改善はなく、アスコルビン酸の有効性は確認できなかった。海外でのアスコルビン酸投与試験でも、我が国の研究班の結果と同様に、アスコルビン酸の有効性は証明されなかった<sup>11)</sup>. しかし、Burns らは、アスコルビン酸臨床試験後に 12ヵ月の追加オープン試験を 20 歳未満の 5 例に行い、複合運動活動電位(CMAP)は減少したが、四肢遠位部の筋力は有意に改善したと報告している。比較的軽症の若年 CMT1A 患者には、アスコルビン酸の長期大量投与が有効である可能性が示唆された<sup>12)</sup>. 我が国のアスコルビン酸臨床試験でも、右握力は有意に改善していた。現在、Qtrac プログラム(ミユキ技研)を用いて、アスコルビン酸投与前後での軸索興奮性を検討中である。

ニュートロピン-3 (NT-3), プロゲステロン拮抗薬などが CMT1A の治療に有効である可能性が報告されているが, 十分なエビデンスはない. 最近, 培養細胞に *PMP22* を発現させ, その発現を抑制する化合物をオートマチックにスクリーニングするハイスループットな方法が開発されている<sup>10)</sup>.

#### 2) クルクミンによる CMT 治療

クルクミンは秋ウコンやカレー粉に多く含まれている自然の黄色色素である。クルクミンは変異 PMP22 タンパクを細胞膜へ解放し、変異 PMP22 発現によるアポトーシスを減少させることが報告されている。動物レベルにおいても、クルクミンは用量依存的に運動機能を改善し、坐骨神経の軸索径を増加させ、シュワン細胞のアポトーシスを減少させている。以上の検討から、クルクミンが pmp22 点変異マウスに有効であることが示された<sup>13)</sup>。Burns らは、PMP22 点変異(Ser72Leu)を有する 15 歳女性例にクルクミンカプセルを 12ヵ月間経口投与し、評価指標の改善はなかったが、幸福感、満足感に関する自覚的な改善があったと報告している<sup>14)</sup>。

#### 2. バイオマーカーの開発

患者数が少ない CMT の場合, 臨床試験デザインについても検討

する必要がある。最近の無作為化臨床試験では、皮膚生検による末梢神経の形態および mRNA 発現の評価が行われているが、今後、新しいサロゲートマーカーの開発も必要である。Fledrich らは、CMT1Aラットモデルの坐骨神経と皮膚組織の mRNA 解析や 46 例の CMT1A 患者の皮膚生検の mRNA 解析から、glutathione S-transferase theta 2 と cathepsin A の mRNA レベルが CMT1A の軸索障害のバイオマーカーになる可能性を示した<sup>15)</sup>.

#### 3. Network pharmacology

"Network pharmacology" という bioinformatics に基づく新しい治療薬開発法が注目されている. Pharnext 社が CMT1A60 例を対象に PXT3003(バクロフェン, naltrexone, ソルビトールの合剤)の治験を 2010 年から行っている. 2012 年末には治験結果が発表される予定である<sup>16)</sup>. この治験の結果によっては, ほかの CMT に対してもnetwork pharmacology に基づく新たな創薬が期待される.

#### 4. モデル動物を用いた治療法の開発

CMT のモデル動物による研究も進展しており、脱髄型 CMT では、約25種類の動物モデルが報告されている(http://www.molgen.ua.ac.be/CMT Mutations)<sup>17</sup>. TrkB/TrkC に対する作動性抗体、間葉系幹細胞、ドキシサイクリン、Colony-stimulating factor-1、histone deacetylase 6 阻害薬、バルプロ酸、MFN1 発現増加作用などが、特定の遺伝子変異による CMT 治療に有効である可能性が報告されている。CMT のモデル動物による治療法の開発研究は大きく進歩しており、その研究成果が臨床に応用される日が待たれる。

#### 5. 投与に注意したほうがよい薬物

使用される薬剤が CMT の症状を悪化させる場合がある(http://www.charcot-marie-tooth.org/med\_alert.php). 最近, 抗がん化学治療薬の投与により末梢神経障害が顕在化し, CMT の遺伝子変異が明らかとなった例が報告されている<sup>18)</sup>. CMT の臨床症状を示さない潜在的な CMT 患者がいる可能性があり, 抗腫瘍薬 (ビンクリスチンなど) 投与前の神経伝導検査の実施は,末梢神経障害の重症化を防ぐ点で可能な限り推奨される.

### 炎症性ニューロパチーと Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 (CMT)

CMT1A を代表とする遺伝性ニューロパチーと慢性炎症性脱髄性多発神経炎(CIDP)との合併例の検討から、CMT 患者 250 人に 1 人が CIDP 様の炎症性ニューロパチーを発症すると推定されている. CMT 患者で臨床症状の急性悪化を認めた場合には、CIDP などの炎症性ニューロパチーの治療法に準じた対応を考慮すべきである<sup>19)</sup>.

### 外科治療

症状の進行に伴い、筋延長術や骨切り術などの整形外科手術が適応となる場合がある. Leeuwesteijn らは、CMT 33 例(男性 14 例、女性 19 例)の術後平均 56.9 ヵ月の評価を行い、疼痛、歩行障害が有意に改善し、90 % の患者が足変形の矯正に満足していたと報告している<sup>20)</sup>. 内反尖足の外科治療は、CMT 患者により安定した歩行をもたらすと考えられるが、その手術適応や外科的治療施行時期についての基準作成が必要とされている<sup>21)</sup>.

### リハビリテーション

「運動し過ぎは良くないでしょうか?」と CMT 患者または家族から尋ねられることが多い. "過労による筋力低下(overwork weakness)" についてはこれまでも論議が多い. CMT の症状が軽症である例では、利き手の握力とピンチ力が非利き手より強い傾向があるが、重症例では、利き手のピンチ力が非利き手よりも有意に低下していると報告されている<sup>22)</sup>. CMT の関節可動域制限の予防のために、発症早期から下腿三頭筋の持続伸張訓練を行うことが勧められている. Maggi らは、CMT 8 例にトレッドミル、ストレッチ、呼吸、固有受容器刺激訓練を週2回、8 週間行ったところ、足関節角度および6 m 歩行時間の改善を認めたと報告している<sup>23)</sup>. 日々の生活に運動療法を組み込むことで、疾患の自然経過による進行以上の悪化を抑える効果が期待できる.

### 装具療法

病状に適合した装具使用は有効である. Guillebastre らは, CMT 26 例を対象に, 普通靴, プラスティック短下肢装具, エラスティックバン短下肢装具の効果を比較した. その結果, 短下肢装具の使用は歩行と姿勢の異常を部分的に改善したと報告している<sup>24</sup>.

### Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 (CMT) に対する

### ロボット技術の応用

レジーナ® (日本ロジックマシン), ロボットスーツ HAL® (筑波大学, Hybrid Assistive Limb: HAL) などのロボット技術の活用も期待される. HAL®は, 近位筋の障害もある重度障害の CMT 患者に適応があることが報告された<sup>25)</sup>. 2011 年度に厚生労働省難治性疾患克服研究事業として,「希少性難治性疾患一神経・筋難病疾患の進行抑制治療効果を得るための新たな医療機器, 生体電位などで随意コントロールされた下肢装着型補助ロボット (HAL-HN01) に関する 医師主導治験の実施研究」班(研究代表者 中島 孝先生)が組織され, 補助ロボット技術の本格的な臨床治験が始まろうとしている.

### Charcot-Marie-Tooth 病 (CMT) 患者の日常生活の工夫

CMT に対する有効な薬物療法はいまだ開発されていないが、少しでも良い健康状態を維持するために、日常的な運動習慣と食事療法が大切である。CMT 患者は消費カロリー/日が健常者より有意に少なく、メタボリックシンドロームが多い傾向が見られる。"現在の体重を維持する"こと、四肢遠位の冷感・浮腫、外傷、胼胝や潰瘍の形成に注意すること、深部静脈血栓症とそれに関連する肺塞栓症に注意すること、などが必要である<sup>26)</sup>。

### おわりに

欧米に比べると我が国では、CMT に対する医療従事者および一般 社会の認知が不十分であり、単純に「CMT の治療法はない」と考え ている医療関係者、CMT 患者が多いのではないかと思われる. 最近、 厚生労働省研究班により『シャルコー・マリー・トゥース病診療マニ