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- 1. 特許取得

なし

2. 実用新案登録

なし

3. その他

なし

平成 26 年度厚生労働科学研究費補助金 (認知症対策総合研究事業) 「BPSD の症状評価法および治療法の開発と脳内基盤解明を目指した総合的研究」 分担研究報告書

サブタイトル:運動症状及び非運動症状で初発した皮質基底核変性症における 臨床病理学的特徴の比較検討

研究分担者 横田 修 (所属名) きのこエスポアール病院

### ○研究要旨

病理学的に診断された CBD 症例のうち,運動症状で初発した症例と精神症状・行動異常で初発し中期まで運動障害の目立たなかった症例の間で,臨床病理学的特徴を比較検討した.精神症状か行動異常で初発し病理学的に診断が確定された CBD4 例と,運動症状で初発した病理学的 CBD5 例を対象とした. 脳幹諸核,基底核,大脳皮質の神経細胞脱落と夕ウ陽性神経原線維変化を半定量的に評価し,Mann-Whitney U 検定と Fisher の正確検定で 2 群比較を行った. 2 群間で性差,発症年齢(精神症状初発 CBD 症例/運動症状初発 CBD 症例:平均 59.5/56.4 歳),死亡年齢(平均 66.3/60.0 歳),罹病期間(平均 7.3/4.4 年),脳重(平均 1,241/1,198g)に有意な差はなかった.精神症状初発例では、全例でパーキンソニズムや歩行障害を中期まで認めず,非対称性のパーキンソニズムは 1 例のみで末期に認め,2 例は死亡時期近くまで歩行は自立していた.対して運動症状初発例では全例が初期からパーキンソニズムや歩行障害を呈し,末期には歩行不能で寝たきりとなっていた.神経細胞脱落の程度は、運動症状初発例のルイ体と黒質において精神症状初発例より有意に高度であった.一方,夕ウ病理はいずれの解剖学的部位でも2 群間で有意な差がなかった.精神症状や行動異常で初発し運動障害を中期まで欠いた CBD 症例では,ルイ体と黒質の変性が軽度であること,またそのような症例では経過を通じて運動障害が目立たない可能性が示唆された.

## A. 研究目的

皮質基底核変性症(CBD)の臨床像は多様で、肢節運動失行や左右差のあるパーキンソニズムといった古典的な皮質基底核症候群に限らない事が明らかにされている.しかし、早期に運動障害を欠いた場合には、生前に CBD の病理診断を予測することは難しい.本研究では病理学的に診断された CBD 症例のうち、運動症状で初発した症例と精神症状・行動異常で初発し中期まで運動障害の目立たなかった症例の間で、臨床病理学的特徴を比較検討した.

## B. 研究方法

精神症状か行動異常で初発し病理学的に診断が確定された CBD4 例と,運動症状で初発した病理学的 CBD5 例を対象とした.ホルマリン固定パラフィン包埋切片を用いて一般染色,Gallyas-Braak 銀染色,およびリン酸化タウ(AT8),A8(12B2),リン酸化 α シヌクレイン(psyn#64),リン酸化 TDP-43(ps409/410-2)の免疫染色を行った.脳幹諸核,基底核,大脳皮質の神経細胞脱落とタウ陽性神経原線維変化を半定量的に評価し,Mann-Whitney U 検定とFisher の正確検定で 2 群比較を行った.

# (倫理面への配慮)

全体症例の病理解剖は書面にて同意を得てから行われた。研究の内容は岡山大学医学部倫理委員 会から承認を受けた。

# C. 研究結果

2 群間で性差, 発症年齢 (精神症状初発 CBD 症例/運動症状初発 CBD 症例:平均 59.5/56.4 歳), 死亡年齢(平均 66.3/60.0 歳), 罹病期間(平均 7.3/4.4 年), 脳重(平均 1,241/1,198g)に有意な差はなかった. 精神症状初発例の初期症状は自発性低下 2 例(うち 1 例は幻聴を伴う),自己中心的行動 1 例,易怒性や幻視を伴うせん妄様行動 1 例で,最終臨床診断はピック病 2 例,老年期精神障害 1 例,統合失調症 1 例であった. 精神症状初発例では,全例でパーキンソニズムや歩行障害を中期まで認めず,非対称性のパーキンソニズムは 1 例のみで末期に認め, 2 例は死亡時期近くまで歩行は自立していた. 対して運動症状初発例では全例が初期からパーキンソニズムや歩行障害を呈し,末期には歩行不能で寝たきりとなっていた. 神経細胞脱落の程度は,運動症状初発例のルイ体と黒質において精神症状初発例より有意に高度であった. 一方,タウ病理はいずれの解剖学的部位でも 2 群間で有意な差がなかった.

### D. 考察

これは非運動症状で初発した CBD において病理学的にルイ体と黒質の変性が運動障害で初発した CBD よりも軽度であることを示した初めての研究である. 検討した非運動症状初発の CBD 例においては全例でパーキンソニズム, 歩行障害, 姿勢反射障害を早期には欠き, 三例では非対称性運動障害も中期までは欠如していた. 二例では末期まで拘縮を欠き, 介助なしで歩行可能であった. これらの特徴は運動障害で初発した CBD 全例において四肢に拘縮が出現し寝たきりとなったのと対照的であった. 二群間で罹病期間に有意な差はなかったので, これらの臨床像の違いは罹病期間では説明されないと考えられた. 最近の検討からは, 病理学的 CBD 症例は必ずしも非対称性の運動障害や肢節運動失行を初発症状として呈さない事, および臨床像は多様であり, 例えば古典的 PSP の臨床像 (Richardson 症候群) なども呈しうることが知られている. 我々の結果は,変性所見の分布が初発症状が運動障害かそうではないかで異なることを示唆しており, 加えて一部の病理学的 CBD 症例は経過の初期から末期まで運動障害を欠くことも示している.

今回の検討では黒質やルイ体の神経細胞脱落は非運動症状で初発した CBD より運動障害で初発した CBD の方が強く、これは初期に運動障害を欠いている場合には死亡時点、つまり末期までこれらの解剖学的部位の神経細胞数は保たれる傾向があることを示している。これらの神経核はパーキンソニズムを含む運動機能を密接に関係しており、その領域の変性が軽いことは運動障害が認められなかったことと矛盾していない。一方、我々の検討ではタウ蛋白の蓄積の程度に関しては運動障害初発群と非運動障害初発群の間で有意な差がないことを示していた。この神経細胞脱落とタウ病理に関する結果の差は、サンプルサイズの小ささや、タウ病理の天井効果(つまりある程度終章になってしまうとそれ以上は頭打ちとなって重症化しない)、タウオパチーを含む様々な異常蛋白の蓄積においては臨床症状は異常蛋白蓄積の程度よりは神経細胞脱落の程度とより密接に関係する。これは異常蛋白の蓄積が先行してのちに神経細胞脱落が起こるという病態過

程を考えると当然である.

やや意外なことは、病理学的に診断された CBD 症例における精神症状や行動異常を調べた検討が非常に少ないことである. Wenning らは CBD 症例においてアパシー、易刺激性、脱抑制のいずれかを呈していた頻度は 58%であり、抑うつは 38%であったと報告した. Yonas らは病理学的 CBD36 例中 8 例において精神症状を認め、それには行動コントロールの異常が 8.3%、うつが 8.3%、強迫的行動が 8.3%、易刺激性が 8.3%、脱抑制が 2.8%であったと報告した. Lee らは病理学的『CBDに関して最も頻度の高い行動異常は social withdrawal であったと報告した. 我々の非運動症状初発の CBD 症例や運動症状初発の CBD 症例においても、脱抑制、抑うつ、常同が頻度が高く、次いで、攻撃性、アパシー、自己中心的行動、social withdrawal、多幸が続いていた. それゆえ、CBDの 9 例中 2 例で 臨床診断は FTD であった. これらの結果は病理学的 CBD 症例の一部は FTD を呈すると報告されてきたことと一致している. Ling らは病理学的 CBD19 例中 1 例が FTD を呈していたと報告し、Lladó らは病理学的 CBD8 例中 3 例が FTD を呈していたと報告し、Lladó らは病理学的 CBD8 例中 3 例が FTD を呈していたと報告している.

#### E. 結論

精神症状や行動異常で初発し運動障害を中期まで欠いた CBD 症例では、ルイ体と黒質の変性が軽度であること、またそのような症例では経過を通じて運動障害が目立たない可能性が示唆された。今回の結果に基づくと、臨床家としては CBD は初期から中期にかけて運動症状を欠く可能性があること、精神症状や行動異常で初発し運動障害を欠いている例であってもその病理背景として CBD はありうる事を知っておくべきであると言える.

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- H. 知的財産権の出願・登録状況(予定を含む)
- 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レイアウト(参考)

# 書籍

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



RESEARCH Open Access

# Tau accumulation in the nucleus accumbens in tangle-predominant dementia

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#### **Abstract**

**Background:** Tangle-predominant dementia (TPD) is characterized neuropathologically by numerous neurofibrillary tangles in the limbic areas with no or occasional senile plaques throughout the brain. TPD is an under-recognized disease, while it is a common cause of dementia in those over 80 years of age. In the present study, we describe hyperphosphorylated tau (tau) accumulation in the nucleus accumbens (Acb) in patients with TPD.

**Results:** We investigated immunohistochemically the brain tissues from 7 patients with TPD, 22 with Alzheimer disease (AD) and 11 non-demented aged subjects. In the Acb of all 7 TPD patients, a considerable number of tau positive neurons were found together with many neuropil threads. The tau deposits in the Acb were labeled with all the anti-tau antibodies used in the present study. They included conformational change-specific, phosphorylation-specific and phosphorylation-independent antibodies. The Acb consists of the predominant medium-sized neurons with a small number of large neurons. Both the cell types were affected by tau pathology in TPD. Tau accumulation in the majority of such neurons appeared to be pretangle-like, diffuse deposits with only occasional paired helical filament formation. Tau positive neurons were also found in the Acb in some AD and non-demented aged subjects but much fewer in the majority of cases. The immunoblot analyses of fresh frozen samples of the Acb and parahippocampal cortex from 3 TPD and 3 AD patients revealed that the insoluble tau in the Acb was a mixture of the 3- and 4-repeat isoforms.

**Conclusions:** To our knowledge, this is the first report on the occurrence of tau accumulation in the Acb in TPD. The Acb receives direct and massive projections from the hippocampal CA1 and subiculum where neurofibrillary tangles are known to occur more frequently in TPD than in AD. The prevalence of abnormal tau accumulation in the Acb in TPD may support the idea that abnormal tau aggregation propagates via neural circuits. In all but one TPD cases used in this study, delusion was a consistent clinical feature. Whether the Acb tau accumulation is related to the psychiatric symptoms in TPD may be an issue for further investigation.

Keywords: Neurofibrillary tangle, Alzheimer disease, Propagation, Delusion

# Introduction

Tangle-predominant dementia (TPD), which is also referred to as neurofibrillary tangle predominant dementia, limbic neurofibrillary tangle dementia or senile dementia of the neurofibrillary tangle type, is a poorly understood and under-recognized tauopathy. TPD has been reported to comprise 0.7 to 5.8% of elderly patients with dementia [1-3]. TPD is characterized neuropathologically by numerous neurofibrillary tangles (NFT) in the limbic areas with

no or occasional senile plaques throughout the brain. The clinical features of TPD include the late-adult onset, which is over 80 years in the majority of cases, and slow progression of dementia as compared with Alzheimer's disease (AD). In patients with TPD, there is a propensity for the memory disturbance to be conspicuous with relative preservation of other cognitive functions. However, it is hard to distinguish TPD from AD on a clinical basis and, thus, diagnosis of TPD in most cases is only made postmortem.

The etiology of TPD is unknown. NFT in TPD consist of both 3-repeat (3R) and 4-repeat (4R) isoforms of hyperphosphorylated tau (tau), and the neuronal cell types

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bearing NFT in TPD are similar to those in AD. TPD seems to be a disorder that is related to AD, if it is not an atypical form of AD. TPD, as a subtype of tauopathy, is also included in the group described as neuropathologically-defined frontotemporal lobar degeneration [4,5]. In fact, cortical lesions in TPD are localized to the mediobasal temporal cortex. Thus, the situation of TPD in the groups of dementing neurodegenerative diseases remains unclear from both clinical and neuropathological points of view.

A neuropathological characteristic of TPD is the heavy accumulation of NFT in the hippocampal regions, with few or occasional NFT in neocortical areas beyond the collateral sulcus. Compared with AD patients in which a similar number of NFT occurs in the hippocampal regions, neuronal cell loss, tissue rarefaction and gliosis are less prominent in TPD, even in NFT rich areas. Changes in the neocortex are modest, with wellpreserved laminar structures and unremarkable neuronal cell loss. The cortical expansion of NFT in TPD is considered to follow in principle the hierarchical pathway described in AD by Braak and Braak [6] but to be limited to stage IV. In the hippocampal regions, the density of NFT is higher than in AD [7] and ghost tangles are very frequent [3]. Tau pathology in the subcortical structures in TPD has not been well studied. The occurrence of NFT in the amygdala, the nucleus basalis of Meynert, the substantia nigra and the locus coeruleus, regions where NFT frequently occur in AD cases, have been reported in TPD [3,8].

The nucleus accumbens (Acb) is located in the region where the caudate head and the rostral putamen meet near the septum pellucidum (Figure 1). The Acb and the olfactory tubercle form the ventral striatum in the forebrain. The Acb is a key component of the limbic striatal loop in which the Acb receives fibers from the prefrontal cortex, amygdala, hippocampus and ventral tegmental area (VTA) and projects to the ventral pallidum [9-12]. The ventral pallidum sends axonal projections to the dorsomedial thalamic nucleus, which then projects to the prefrontal cortex to close the loop [13,14]. The dopaminergic input from the VTA modulate the activity of this loop [15]. The Acb is considered to be involved in cognition, emotion and emotional behaviors such as pleasure, fear, aggression, addiction and reward [16,17]. The limbic striatal loop is, therefore, one of the major targets of studies on the pharmacological actions of anti-psychotic drugs [18,19].

In the present study, we found the frequent and consistent tau accumulation in the Acb in TPD. Tau positive neurons were also found in the Acb in some AD and ondemented aged subjects but much fewer in the majority of such cases. We speculate that the lesions in the Acb play a role in some psychiatric symptoms such as delusion, which is often conspicuous in TPD.

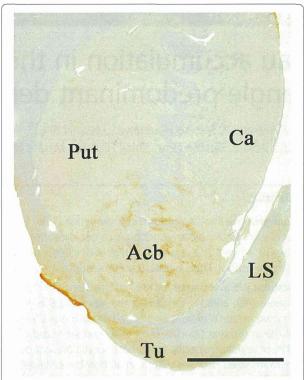


Figure 1 A semi-macro photograph of the basal ganglia from a TPD case stained with AT8. Faint immunoreaction is seen in the nucleus accumbens (Acb), lateral septal nucleus (LS) and the olfactory tubercle (Tu) even at this low power magnification.

Ca: caudate nucleus; Put: putamen. Scale bar = 1 cm.

#### Materials and methods

We used brain tissues, archived in our laboratory, from 7 patients with TPD, 22 with AD and 11 subjects without dementia or other neurological disease. The demography, Braak and Braak's NFT stages and brain weight in each patient group are summarized in Table 1. Diagnoses were initially made on a clinical basis and were confirmed in every case by neuropathological examination. Clinical and neuropathological diagnoses of TPD followed the descriptions in previous articles [3,7,20]. Diagnoses of AD were made if the CERAD plaque score was 'C' [21] and the Braak and Braak's NFT stage was IV or higher [6]. In TPD and AD cases with the NFT stage III or IV, Lewy body pathology was confirmed to be absent or mild/stage 1 [22] in the hippocampus, parahippocampal gyrus and temporal neocortex to exclude the possibility of Dementia with Lewy bodies. In all cases, the patient or, in any case where the patient had died, his/her next of kin gave the written consent for autopsy and postmortem analyses for research purposes. This study was approved by the ethics committee in the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science and was performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments.

Table 1 Summary of patient groups used in this study

	TPD		ļ	Non-demented	
Braaks' NFT stages	III or IV	IV	V	VI	1-111
Number of cases	7	10	8	4	11
Gender (male/female)	1/6	6/4	4/4	2/2	7/4
Age at death*	$88.4 \pm 7.2$	$81.5 \pm 8.5$	$86 \pm 3.5$	$81.5 \pm 8.8$	81 ± 7.0
Disease duration (y)*	$4.7 \pm 2.9$	$6.1 \pm 6.7$	$6.2 \pm 3.5$	$6.6 \pm 6.0$	n/a
Brain weight (g)*	1,137 ± 135.3	1,134 ± 174.8	1,119 ± 77.2	1,008 ± 156.5	1,146 ± 77.1

TPD, Tangle-predominant dementia; AD, Alzheimer's disease; NFT, neurofibrillary tangles.

For routine neuropathological examinations, formalinfixed, paraffin-embedded brain blocks were cut into 10  $\mu m$  thick sections and stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE), Klüver-Barrera, modified Gallyas-Braak and methenamine silver staining. Tissue sections of the mediobasal temporal cortex containing the hippocampus, entorhinal cortex and temporal neocortex were stained for tau and amyloid  $\beta$  protein (A $\beta$ ) by immunohistochemistry. Sections of the rostral striatum with the Acb and the septal nuclei were stained for tau. In TPD cases, additional tau immunohistochemistry was performed for the nucleus basalis of Meynert, amygdala and substantia nigra. The hippocampus, parahippocampal gyrus and adjacent temporal neocortex were also stained for phosphorylated  $\alpha$ -synuclein and phosphorylated TDP-43 in TPD cases

For more detailed immunohistochemical analyses, small blocks of brain the tissues were dissected at autopsy and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 2 days. The cryocut sections of 30 µm thickness were used for the high sensitive, free-floating immunhistochemical staining [23]. The antibodies used in this study are listed in Additional file 1: Table S1. The primary antibody labeling was visualized with 3,3'-diaminobenzidine as a chromogen, in combination with the Envision Pluse kit (Dako Japan, Tokyo). For enhanced thioflavin-S staining, tissue sections were pretreated with KMnO<sub>4</sub> for 20 min and, subsequently, with sodium borohydride for 4 min [24]. Sections were then stained with 0.05% thioflavin-S in 50% ethanol in the dark for 8 min, followed by differentiation in two changes of 80% ethanol for 10 sec each time and three washes in large volumes of distilled water. Following incubation in a high salt solution containing 411 mM NaCl, 8.1 mM KCl, 30 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> and 5.2 mM KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.2 at 4°C for 30 min, sections were briefly rinsed with distilled water and observed by fluorescence microscopy.

For immunoelectron microscopy, both post-embedded and pre-embedded procedures were used. For the former, the 4% PFA-fixed small tissues were embedded in LR White Resin\* (London Resin, U.K.) without further fixation. The ultra-thin sections were stained with AT8, which was followed by incubation with anti-mouse IgG

conjugated with 10 or 20 nm gold colloidal particles (BBinternational, U.K.). For the pre-embedding procedure, the 4% PFA-fixed free-floating sections were stained with AT8 in combination with Alexa Fluor 488 FluoroNanogold anti-mouse IgG (Nanoprobes, U.S.A.). Following examination by fluorescence microscopy to localize the positive labeling, the sections were postfixed with 2% glutaraldehyde and then treated with HQ Silver Enhancement Kit (Nanoprobes, U.S.A.). After the treatment with 1% osmium tetroxide, which was followed by 2% uranyl acetate, the sections were embedded in epoxy resin (Querol 812, Nissin EM, Japan). Ultrathin sections were cut and observed by a transmission electron microscope (JEM-1400, JEOL, Japan).

For immunoblot analyses, fresh frozen samples of the Acb and the parahippocampal cortex were obtained from 3 TPD cases (cases 3, 4 and 6) and 3 AD cases. The Braak and Braak's NFT stages of the AD cases were 4, 5 and 6, respectively. Brain tissue was homogenized in 2 vol of TS buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.5), with a mixture of protease inhibitors and centrifuged at 200,000 g for 20 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant was taken as the soluble fraction and the pellet was used to further extract the sarkosyl-insoluble fraction as described previously [25]. Dephosphorylation of the sarkosyl-insoluble fractions was performed by incubation of the samples with Escherichia coli alkaline phosphatase (type III, Sigma) as described previously [25]. HT7, a pan-tau monoclonal antibody (Additional file 1: Table S1), was used for immunoblotting. Primary antibody labeling on the membranes was visualized with 3,3'-diaminobenzidine as a chromogen, in combination with a Vectastain ABC kit® (Vector Lab., USA).

For semiquantitative analyses of immunohistochemically stained tissue sections, the density of AT8 positive tau accumulation was graded to be 0 for absent, 1 for low, 2 for intermediate and 3 for high, based on microscopic observations at  $\times 200$  magnification. The Acb, septal nuclei, caudate nucleus, hippocampal CA1, entorhinal cortex and temporal neocortex were assessed in TPD, AD and non-demented aged subjects. The Mann–Whitney U test was used for statistical analyses using Graph Pad Prism 4 software (Graph Pad Software, U.S.A.).

<sup>\*</sup>Data are shown as mean ± S.D.