- 47. お子さんはいままでに同じ質問をしつこくする(同じ質問を繰り返す)ことがありましたか?
 - 1. そのようなこと(同じ質問をしつこくする)はなかった。
 - 2. 多少(時々)そのようなことをした。
 - 3. よくそのようなことをした。
 - → 上記の質問で 2.または 3.と答えた方のみお答え下さい。 現在は同じ質問をしつこくすることがありますか?
 - 1. そのようなこと(同じ質問をしつこくする)はしない。
 - 2. 多少(時々)そのようなことをする。
 - 3. よくそのようなことをする。
- 48. お子さんはいままでに普段通りの状況や手順が急に変わる(予定・習慣の変更、慣れた道順の変更、行事の準備で園の日課が変わる)と混乱することがありましたか?
 - 1. そのようなこと(普段通りの状況や手順が変わると混乱する)はなかった。
 - 2. 多少(時々)そのようなことがあった。
 - 3. よくそのようなことがあった。
 - → 上記の質問で 2.または 3.と答えた方のみお答え下さい。 現在は同じ普段通りの状況や手順が急に変わると混乱することがありますか?
 - 1. そのようなこと(普段通りの状況や手順が変わると混乱する)はない。
 - 2. 多少(時々)そのようなことがある。
 - 3. よくそのようなことがある。

記入例

49. お子さんの大体の生活リズムを記入例にならってご記入ください。

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24時 起床朝食 TV 幼稚園 外遊び夕食 TV 入浴 就寝 ゲーム

お子さんのおおよその生活のリズム(平日)を上の例に習ってご記入ください 0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24時

- 50. 朝食は毎日食べますか?
 - 1. 必ず 2. 必ずではない
- 51. 睡眠は(1. ほとんど目を覚まさずに朝まで眠る。 2. 一晩に一回以上目を覚ます。)
- 52. 朝の寝起きの機嫌は(1. 良い 2. 悪い)

********以上です。ご協力ありがとうございました******

ご質問などお問い合わせ

厚生労働科学研究費補助金(化学物質リスク研究事業)研究代表者:三重大学大学院医学系研究科 成田正明〒514-8507 三重県津市江戸橋 2-174 三重大学大学院医学系研究科・発生再生医学 TEL 059-232-1111 (内線 6326) FAX 059-232-8031

厚生労働科学研究費補助金(化学物質リスク研究事業) 平成 26 年度 分担研究報告書

分担研究課題:疫学的アプローチ(子供の発達・行動異常の疫学)

研究要旨

研究目的: 発達障害として広汎性発達障害(自閉症)、高機能広汎性発達障害(アスペルガー症候群)、注意欠陥/多動性障害、および学習障害をとりあげ、住民を対象とする疫学調査を実施し、発達障害の分布とその関連要因を探索的に検討した。

研究方法:第2期疫学調査(平成26年1月~3月、三重県A町・B町)の結果を集計・解析した。対象は各町の20歳以上60歳未満の全住民である。医師により15歳までに診断された発達障害の既往歴の有無、および発達障害との関連性が考えられる人口学的特性、仕事の内容(職業・産業)などの社会経済的状況を含む自記式質問票を作成し、居住地区別に留め置き法で配布・回収した。5,018人(対象人口の34%)が回答し、解析に同意した。

研究結果: 発達障害既往歴の分布は、第2期調査で自閉症が20歳代男性千人対11.9、女性千人対0、20歳以上60歳未満男性千人対3.9、女性千人対1.6であった。同様に、アスペルガー症候群が0、0、1.3、0.55、注意欠陥/多動性障害が2.6、0、1.9、0.55、学習障害が3.0、5.2、5.2、3.8であった。発達障害との関連性は、人口学的特性、居住地区の社会経済的状況のいずれとも統計的に有意なものは認められなかった(ロジスティック回帰モデルおよび一般化線型混合モデル)。

考察:住民への質問票の回答に基づく各発達障害の生涯有病率の分布が明らかになった。しかし、これは医師の診断そのものを用いた調査ではないので今後、結果に示した分布の妥当性を検証する必要がある。発達障害と人口学的特性、居住地区別の社会経済的状況との関連性は認められなかった。今後、調査規模を拡大すること、ならびに妊婦に対する化学物質曝露等に関連しうる社会経済的状況や地理的条件の精度をさらに高めて調査する必要がある。

結論:発達障害既往歴の分布が明らかになったが、障害に関連する要因は今回の調査の範囲ではなかった。

A. 序論

本研究では、発達障害として、広汎性 発達障害(自閉症)、高機能広汎性発達障 害(アスペルガー症候群)、注意欠陥/多 動性障害、および学習障害をとりあげ、 三重県内の2つの自治体(A町およびB 町)における住民を対象とする疫学調査 を実施し、発達障害の分布とその関連要 因を検討した。調査実施にむけたフィールド環境整備とともに、発達障害の疫学的状況を把握することを目的とし、障害既往歴の有無、人口学的特性、ならびに地区別の社会経済的指標を測定する自記式調査票による第2期疫学調査によって収集したデータを集計・解析した。

B. 方法

本研究は、子どもの発達・行動異常に 関する疫学調査を、第1期(平成25年1 月~3月、A町)に引き続き、第2期(平成26年1月~3月、A町およびB町)に 実施した。調査は調査が行われた年度の1 月1日現在で20歳以上60歳未満の全住 民を対象とし、A町役場およびB町役場 の協力を得て実施した。

調査実施にあたって、調査票の文書や町の広報などを通して研究の趣旨・目的・個人情報保護に関する説明を行い、本研究の趣旨を理解し、かつ、調査に同意した方のみに自記式調査票に回答して頂いた。調査票の配布および回収は、町内の自治区長に依頼をした。自治区長には事前に区長会議を通じて町の担当者から調査実施要領について説明を受けて頂き、調査票配布から回収まで一連の手順を理解するための機会を設けた。

調査票の回収は居住地区ごとの留め置き法とし、回答率を上げるためにフォローアップとして町の広報や行政無線、区長回覧などによる啓発を行い、町の職員などの協力も得ながら実施した。回収し

た調査票は、速やかに電子化し、統計ソフトを用いて分析した。

調査票には、回答者の発達障害に関連する既往歴や、各回答者の社会経済的立場を質問することにより、回答者の勤務 先の業種(産業)、職種(職業)ならびに作業態様や生活環境を含めて障害との関連性も調査対象に含めた。

広汎性発達障害(自閉症)、高機能広汎性発達障害(アスペルガー症候群)、注意 欠陥/多動性障害、または学習障害の各障害のそれぞれについて 15 歳までの小児期に医師から診断を受けたことがあると回答した対象者(発達障害の既往者)の割合から生涯有病率を推定した。さらに既往者の人口学的特性、社会経済的状況との関連性を横断研究として検討した。

自治体(町)内における広汎性発達障害(自閉症)、高機能広汎性発達障害(アスペルガー症候群)、注意欠格/多動性障害、学習障害の分布を把握し、仕事の内容(産業、職業)も収集することにより、発達障害児を持つ家庭の健康や生活環境との関連性を評価できる体制を構築した。

対象

第2期疫学調査では、A町・B町に居住する20歳以上60歳未満の全人口14,719人(男性7,324人、女性7,395人)に自記式質問票を配布した。回収数は5,466であり(37.1%)、解析の同意が署名で確認できた5,018人(34.1%)を対象とした。

質問票

先ず、発達障害の中から、広汎性発達障害(自閉症)、高機能広汎性発達障害(アスペルガー症候群)、注意欠格/多動性障害、および学習障害のそれぞれについて、15歳時までの小児期に医師からの診断の有無を質問した。

次に、人口学的な要因として回答者の性別と年齢を得た。年齢については、質問票への記入開始時(平成26年1月1日)の年齢を20歳から10歳間隔でカテゴリー化して用いた。居住地に従って、A町では5地区に、B町では9地区からなるカテゴリーに分類した。対象となった個人の仕事が属する職業・産業について、国勢調査職業分類・産業分類に準拠して質問した。職業としては、生産工程に関わる仕事について、また、産業として関わる仕事について、また、産業として関わる仕事について、また、産業としては、第二次産業に属する仕事について、該当者の地区別の割合を求め、それぞれを「生産工程職業従事者割合」および「二次産業従事者割合」として定義した。

さらに、交絡の可能性のある心理社会的要因として、ソーシャル・キャピタル(信頼・互酬・ネットワーク)、社会経済的状況として教育歴(小学校以降の通算在学年数)、個人年収、および世帯年収を、また、健康関連生活の質(SF-8™)を質問した。

統計的解析

統計的解析は主として IBM SPSS Statistics 22 を用いて行った。マルチレベルのロジスティック回帰モデルの分析

には、一般化線型混合モデル(プロシー ジャ GENLIN MIXED)を用いた。

(倫理面への配慮)

本研究は三重大学医学部倫理委員会の 承認のもとで実施された。

C. 結果

発達障害の性別既往歴分布

15 歳までの小児期に広汎性発達障害 (自閉症)を医師に指摘されたことがあると回答したのは、20歳代では、男性 337人中 4人(千対 11.9)、女性 386人中 0人だった。20歳代から50歳代までを含めると、男性1,555人中6人(千対 3.9)、女性1,828人中3人(千対 1.6)であった。

15 歳までの小児期に高機能広汎性発達障害(アスペルガー症候群)を指摘されたことがあると回答したのは、20歳代では、男性337人中0人、女性386人中0人であった。20歳代から50歳代までを含めると、男性1,559人中2人(千対1.3)、女性1,830人中1人(千対0.55)であった。

15 歳までの小児期に注意欠陥/多動性障害を指摘されたことがある回答したのは、20歳代では、男性384人中1人(千対2.6)、女性0人だった。20歳代から50歳代までを含めると、男性1,553人中3人(千対1.9)、女性1,830人中1人(千対0.55)だった。

15 歳までの小児期に学習障害を指摘されたことがある回答したのは、20 歳代では、男性 337 人中 1 人 (千対 3.0)、女性386 人中 2 人(千対 5.2)だった。20 歳代か

ら 50 歳代までを含めると、男性 1,553 人中 8 人(千対 5.2)、女性 1,824 人中 7 人(千対 3.8)だった。

発達障害の関連要因

ロジステック回帰モデルによる粗解析 (単回帰分析)で、人口学的な因子(性別・年齢階級)と有意な関連性を示す発達障害は認められなかった。第1期調査で性別との関連性が示唆された広汎性発達障害(自閉症)については、女性に対して男性でオッズ比が2.76(95%信頼区間0.71-10.7、p<0.14、n=5,010)であり、有意な関連性は認められなかった。

第1期調査と同様に、ロジステック回帰モデルによる粗解析(単回帰分析)で、社会経済的な因子として生産工程職業や二次産業への従事と有意な関連を示す発達障害は認められなかった。また、一般化線型混合モデル(確率分布:binomial、リンク関数:logit)による解析(マルチレベル分析)でも、居住地別の生産工程職業従事者割合や二次産業従事者割合と有意な関連性を示す発達障害は認められなかった。

D. 考察

住民への質問票の回答に基づく発達障害既往歴の分布が明らかになった。しかし、これは医師の診断そのものを用いた調査ではないので今後、結果に示した分布の妥当性を検証する必要がある。発達障害と人口学的特性との関連性は示唆されたが、社会経済的状況ならびに居住地区との関連性は認められなかった。今後、

調査規模を拡大すること、ならびに妊婦に対する化学物質曝露等に関連しうる社会経済的状況や地理的条件の精度をさらに高めて調査する必要がある。

職域での化学物資の曝露の可能性のある生産工程職業や二次産業への従事と発達障害との個人レベルでの関連性は認められなかった。また、地域における生産工程職業や二次産業への従事者の割合との関連性を示す発達障害も認められなかった。今後、発達障害と関連しうる職業・産業を絞り込んだ上で、また、調査対象集団の規模を拡大した上で調査することが望ましい。

第2期調査の結果の中で、粗解析で有 意性が認められなかったので、交絡の調 整のために用意したが使用しなかった因 子について、以下の点が明らかになって いるので付記しておく。(1) 広汎性発達 障害(自閉症)の病歴がある場合、SF-8 で評価される精神的健康関連 QOL (MCS) が軽度に低下していたが、個人のソーシ ャルキャピタルに大きな変化はない。(2) 高機能広汎性発達障害(アスペルガー症 候群)の病歴がある場合、SF-8で評価さ れる精神的健康関連 QOL (MCS) が低下 していたが、個人のソーシャルキャピタ ルに変化はなかった。(3)注意欠格/多 動性障害の病歴がある場合、SF-8 で評価 される精神的健康関連 QOL (MCS) が低 下し、個人のソーシャルキャピタルとし ての人的ネットワークの低下も認められ た。(4)学習障害の病歴がある場合、SF-8 で評価される精神的健康関連 QOL (MCS) が低下し、人的ネットワークに関する個 2. 学会発表 人のソーシャルキャピタルも低下してい 島田理子、後藤由紀、中根かおる、安田 た。

E. 結論

発達障害既往歴の分布が明らかになっ たが、障害に関連する要因は人口学的特 性が示唆されるにとどまった。

F. 健康危険情報

なし

(分担研究報告書には記入せずに、総括 研究報告書にまとめて記入)

G. 研究発表

1. 論文発表

なし

智子, 中山裕一, 松本有加, 田島和雄, 笽島茂. 「職域男性における休憩時間と HRQOL の関連」, 平成 26 年度日本産業衛 生学会東海地方会学会, 2014年11月, 三

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

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
子	肝心かなめの1年 生-子育ては脳育 て-(保護者用資 料・アドバイザー 用資料)	委員会編					石川県	2014	全体監修
加藤晴康、成田 奈緒子、間宮裕子、坂詰真			のた	めの	身長		東京	2014	P43-78

論文

発表者氏名	論文タイトル名	発表誌名	巻号	ページ	出版年
Takeshi Ohkawara, Takashi Katsuyama, Michiru Ida-Eto, Naoko Narita, Masaaki Narita	Maternal viral infection during pregnancy impairs development of fetal serotonergic neurons	Brain and Development	37	88-93	2015
Oyanagi K, Negishi T., Tashiro T.	Action of thyroxine (T4) on the survivaland neurite mainte-nance of cerebellar granule neurons in culture.	J. Neurosci.Res.			2015 in press

その他

発表者氏名	タイトル名	出版年
成田正明	研究代表者は、本厚生労働 科学研究を率いつつ、小児 科の専門医として、子ども 情動・認知行動異常につい ての診療にも従事してい る。記事は厚生労働科学研 究費補助金研究の概要を一 般のひとにわかりやすく紹 介したもの	2014年10月2日 掲載 次項「IV. 研究成果の刊 行物・別刷」-2

Ⅳ. 研究成果の刊行物・別刷

研究成果の刊行物・別刷-1 (2011年のものを再掲) IV.

3 2011年(平成23年)9月17日(土曜日) **数 6** 12版

は米神経科学誌「ニュー サイエンスレター電子

明したのは初めて。論文

内の反応メカニズムを解

た。有機水銀による順見

教授)の研究で分かっ

促している。

究班(班長・成田正明) ち感情や行動をつかさら 銀が、胎児の脳神経のう 提取することで覧への 異常を起こず可能性のあ **果**大学院医学系研究科 令ことが、厚生労働省研 るセロトニン神経に発達 影響が懸念される有機水 妊婦が魚を食べ体内に

銀摂 水

注射し、六日後の胎児で 発育の違いを調べた。有 いえば妊娠一カ月のラッ 研究科助教らは、人間で トに高濃度の有機水銀を **沢銀を与えたラットの** 研究班の江藤みちる同

版 物連鎖をへて水銀濃度が 高くなった一部大型魚を 事により体内へ摂取され 其べ過ぎないよう注意を を考慮し妊婦に対し、

食 魚介類に微量含まれ、食 厚労省は胎児への悪能響 る。大人に害はないが、 有機水銀は、自然界の に掲載された。 ロトニン神経の量が一倍 胎児は脳幹で発達中のセ

や行動、精神までコント い場所にも見つかった。 の不具合が、うつ病など になり、本来は神経がな ロール。この神経の働き 全体に指示を与え、感覚 セロトニン神経は大脳 明らかになった」と指摘 影響が出る恐れがあり、 ニシ神経に異常を起こせ では影響はない。成田教 有機水銀の危険性が一層 実際には魚を食べた程度 は、生後の認知や行動に 授は一有機水銀がセロト

のぐ量を投与しており、 とも分かっている。 る有機水銀をはるかにし 実験では魚食で摂取す

の精神疾患と関連するこ している。

・枢神経に影響を及ぼすこ・立大の戸苅創(はじめ) 会理事を務める名古屋市日本周産期新生児医学 意義深い基礎資料 い。衛生行政の観点からい。衛生行政の観点からい。衛生行政の観点な意義深いの証明は意義深いの証明は意義深いのである。 も、有機水銀の摂取をめ 異常を及ぼすかなどは不児への影響やどの神経に

中日新聞

IV. 研究成果の刊行物・別刷 2



研究代表者の発達障害支援への取り組み

本厚生労働科学研究の成果に基づき、情動・認知行動の異常の早期発見法、及び基礎研究に裏付けられた取組法について紹介されたもの

(2014年10月2日 朝日新聞)

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Action of Thyroxine on the Survival and Neurite Maintenance of Cerebellar Granule Neurons in Culture

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Developmental hypothyroidism causes severe impairments in the cerebellum. To understand the role of thyroid hormones (THs) in cerebellar development, we examined the effect of three different THs, thyroxine (T4), 3,5,3'-triidothyronine (T3), and 3,3',5'-triiodothyronine (reverse T3; rT3), on the survival and morphology of cerebellar granule neurons (CGNs) in culture and found novel actions specific to T4. Rat CGNs obtained at postnatal day 6 were first cultured for 2 days in serum-containing medium with 25 mM K⁺ (K25), then switched to serum-free medium with physiological 5 mM K⁺ (K5) or with K25 and cultured for an additional 2 or 4 days. CGNs underwent apoptosis in K5 but survived in K25. Addition of T4 at concentrations of 100-200 nM but not T3 or rT3 rescued CGNs from cell death in K5 in a dose-dependent manner. Furthermore, 200 nM T4 was also effective in maintaining the neurites of CGNs in K5. In K5, T4 suppressed tau phosphorylation at two developmentally regulated sites as well as phosphorylation of c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK) necessary for its activation and localization to axons. These results suggest that, during cerebellar development, T4 exerts its activity in cell survival and neurite maintenance in a manner distinct from the other two thyroid hormones through regulating the activity and localization of JNK. © 2014 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Key words: cerebellar granule cells; thyroid hormones; cell survival; tau proteins; phosphorylation

Thyroid hormone (TH) is essential for the proper development of many organs, including the brain. Lack of sufficient TH during the perinatal period results in a syndrome termed *cretinism* in humans, which consists of severe impairment of body growth accompanied by mental retardation, ataxia, and deafness (Porterfield and Hendrich, 1993; Bernal, 2002). In the rodent models of perinatal hypothyroidism with growth retardation and neurological symptoms similar to human cretinism, characteristic morphological impairments in cell migration, dendritic arborization, and myelination are observed in the brain (Bernal and Nunez, 1995; Oppenheimer and Schwartz, 1997; Koibuchi and Chin, 2000; Thompson and Potter, 2000; Williams, 2008), leading to behavioral alterations (Negishi et al., 2005).

Structural and functional alterations resulting from perinatal hypothyroidism are most evident in the cerebellum, where major development takes place during the critical time window of TH action corresponding to the first 2 weeks after birth in rodents (Koibuchi et al., 2003; Anderson, 2008; Koibuchi, 2008). In hypothyroid animals, migration of cerebellar granule neurons (CGNs) from the external granular layer (EGL) to the internal granular layer (IGL) is severely retarded so that a thick EGL remains even at 2 weeks postnatally when the EGL has practically disappeared in euthyroid animals. Together with impaired development of Purkinje cell dendrites, synaptic connections between these dendrites and parallel fiber axons of CGNs are severely reduced in hypothyroidism. Although a limited number of genes involved in the thyroid hormone-dependent cerebellar development have been identified by global gene expression analyses (Quignodon et al., 2007; Takahashi et al., 2008; Chatonnet et al., 2012), this is still not adequate to explain the precise mechanisms underlying large physiological actions of TH. In addition, nongenomic action of TH utilizing cell surface receptors or cytoplasmic receptors has also been found in cerebellar astrocytes, Purkinje cells, and CGNs (Siegrist-Kaiser et al., 1990; Farwell et al., 1995, 2005; Kimura-Kuroda et al., 2002).

The present study investigates the effect of TH directly on rat CGNs in culture to understand how TH regulates the development of these cells. Unlike other types of neurons, CGNs obtained from the early postnatal

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rat cerebellum undergo apoptosis when cultured in serum-containing medium with a physiological concentration of K⁺ (5 mM; low K⁺), whereas they survive more than 2 weeks in serum-containing or serum-free medium with 25 mM K⁺ (high K⁺; Gallo et al., 1987; Yamagishi et al., 2001; Zhong et al., 2004). Such low-K⁺-induced death of CGNs and its rescue by high K⁺ has been studied extensively as a model of activity-dependent neuronal survival in vivo. Other than high-K⁺-induced depolarization, growth factors such as insulin-like growth factor 1 and brain-derived neurotrophic factor have also been shown to protect CGNs from low-K+-induced death (Yamagishi et al., 2003a; Bazan-Peregrino et al., 2007; D'Mello et al., 1997) through activation of the phosphoinositide 3-kinase/protein kinase B (Akt) pathway (Zhang et al., 1998; Yamagishi et al., 2003b; Zhong et al., 2004). Because TH is one of the candidate serum factors influencing survival of CGNs, this study examines the effect of three different forms of TH, thyroxine (T4), 3,5,3'-triidothyronine (T3), and 3,3',5'-triiodothyronine (reverse T3; rT3), on the survival as well as the morphology of CGNs in culture. Our results show that T4 but not T3 or rT3 was effective in promoting survival of CGNs in serum-free, low-K⁺ medium. T4 was also effective in maintaining CGN neurites in K5 by stabilizing microtubules through reduction of tau phosphorylation at least at two developmentally regulated phosphorylation sites.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

Pregnant Wistar ST rats were purchased from SLC (Shizuoka, Japan) and were maintained under controlled conditions ($24^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$) on a 12-hr light (0600-1800 hr)/12-hr dark (1800-0600 hr) cycle. Food and water were freely available. All animal treatments were approved by the Animal Experimentation Committee of Aoyama Gakuin University and were carried out under veterinary supervision in accordance with the Society for Neuroscience Guidelines for the use of animals in neuroscience research.

Primary Culture of CGNs

Cerebelli from postnatal day (P) 6 rats were transferred to ice-cold isolation medium consisting of equal volumes of Ca²⁺- and Mg²⁺-free phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM)/F-12 (1:1; Gibco, Palo Alto, CA), cut into small pieces, freed of meninges, and digested with 0.25% trypsin (Gibco) in PBS at 37°C for 30 min. Cells were dissociated gently by passages through a disposable pipette and centrifuged twice in a serumcontaining medium (DMEM/F-12 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum [FBS]) at 800 rpm for 5 min at room temperature (r.t.). The cells were resuspended in serumcontaining medium with 25 mM KCl, 1.0% insulin-transferrin-selenium (ITS-X; Gibco), 10 U/ml penicillin, and 10 μg/ ml streptomycin (Gibco) and plated onto a 96-well plate, a four-well plate, a 3.5-cm dish, or a 16-well slide chamber coated with poly-L-lysine (Gibco) at 3,000 cells/mm². All cultures were maintained at 37°C in 95% humidified air and 5% CO₂. At 24 hr after plating, 5 μM cytosine arabinoside was added and left in the medium throughout the culture period to eliminate proliferative cells. To examine the effect of thyroid hormones, the cells were further cultured for up to 4 days in serum-free high-K⁺ medium (K25; DMEM/F-12 containing 25 mM KCl, 1.0% ITS-X, penicillin, and streptomycin) or low-K⁺ medium (K5; DMEM/F-12 containing 5 mM KCl, 1.0% ITS-X, penicillin, and streptomycin) with or without thyroid hormones L-thyroxine (T4), 3,5,3'-L-triiodothyronine (T3), or 3,3',5'-triiodothyronine (reverse T3; rT3; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO).

Cerebellar Slice Cultures

After decapitation, brains of P7 rats were dissected out into isolation medium. Sagittal slices (300-µm thickness) of the cerebellum were cut with a Microslicer (Dosaka EM, Kyoto, Japan) and then placed on Millicell-CM culture inserts (Merck-Millipore, Billerica, MA) in medium containing 20% FBS and penicillin–streptomycin. After 2 days of culture in serum-containing medium, the slices were transferred to K25 or K5.

Assessment of Cell Viability

The viability of cells cultured for 48 hr in 96-well plates under various conditions was assessed by measuring mitochondrial metabolic activity with a CellTiter-Blue cell viability assay kit (Promega, Fitchburg, WI). CellTiter-Blue reagent was added directly to cells cultured in 96-well plates and incubated for 30 min at 37°C. After incubation, fluorescence ($560_{\rm Ex}/590_{\rm Em}$) was recorded with a Fluoroskan Ascent FL (Thermo Labsystems, Beverly, MA). Results are expressed as percentages of the value obtained from cells cultured in the control K25 medium without TH.

Hoechst 33258 dye (Sigma-Aldrich) was used to identify dead cells with pyknotic nuclei. After fixation with a 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA)—8% sucrose solution in PBS, cultured cells in 16-well chamber slides were permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich) solution and incubated with 0.2 $\mu g/ml$ Hoechst 33258 for 1 hr at r.t. to detect pyknotic nuclei. Cells were examined under a fluorescence microscope (Axioplan 2; Carl Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany). Microscopic images were obtained with a color CCD camera (ProgRes CFscan; Jenoptic, Jena, Germany), and the number of pyknotic nuclei was counted.

Apoptotic cells in cultured slices were detected by TUNEL assay with a DeadEnd fluorometric TUNEL system (Promega). Briefly, slices that had been cultured for 48 hr in K25 or K5 were transferred to microtubes and fixed for 1 hr at 4°C in PBS containing 4% PFA and 8% sucrose. The slices were then permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS and incubated for 1 hr at 37°C in rTdT enzyme and Nucleotide Mix solution. After termination of the enzyme reaction, slices were transferred onto glass slides, sealed with Dako fluorescent mounting medium (Dako, Carpinteria, CA), and examined under an Axioplan 2 fluorescence microscope. Microscopic images were captured with a ProgRes CFscan color CCD camera.

Western Blotting

Cell homogenate was obtained by scraping the cells off and sonicating for 10 sec in sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)

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sample buffer (50 mM Tris, 2.0% SDS, 10% glycerol, 10% 2mercaptoethanol, and bromophenol blue) containing protease and phosphatase inhibitors (Roche Applied Science, Indianapolis, IN). After having been boiled for 3 min, proteins in the homogenates were resolved by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) and transferred to polyvinylidene fluoride membrane (Immobilon P; Millipore). The blots were blocked with 2.5% nonfat dry milk or 2% BSA in Tris-buffered saline containing 0.1% Tween20 (TBS-T) and incubated at 4°C overnight with one of the following primary antibodies: antimicrotubule-associated protein (MAP) 2 (mouse monoclonal; 1:2,000), anti-β-actin (mouse monoclonal; 1:50,000; Sigma-Aldrich), anti-GABA_A receptor α -1 (rabbit polyclonal; 1:1;000; Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA); anti-human contactin-2/ TAG1 (goat polyclonal; 1:2,000; R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN); anti-tau, clone Tau-5 (mouse monoclonal; 1:5,000), anti-\(\beta\)-tubulin (mouse monoclonal; 1:1,000) from Merck-Millipore; anti-Tau pS199 phosphospecific antibody (rabbit polyclonal; 1:2,000; Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA); anti-phospho-MAPT (pSer422; rabbit polyclonal; 1:1,000; Sigma-Aldrich); anti-glycogen synthase kinase 3β (GSK-3β; mouse monoclonal; 1:10,000; BD Transduction Laboratories, San Jose, CA); anti-phospho-GSK-3B (Ser9; 5B3; rabbit monoclonal; 1:10,000), anti-stress-activated protein kinase (SAPK)/c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK; 56G8; rabbit monoclonal; 1:1,000), anti-phospho-SAPK/JNK (Thr183/Tyr185; 81E11; rabbit monoclonal; 1:1,000), anti-phospho-Akt (Ser473; 193H12; rabbit monoclonal; 1:5,000), anti-phospho-Akt (Thr308; C31E5E; rabbit monoclonal; 1:2,000) from Cell Signaling Technology (Danvers, MA), or anti-Akt1/2/3 (H-136; rabbit polyclonal; 1:500; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA). After they were rinsed in TBS-T, the blots were further incubated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated secondary antibodies (1:5,000; Jackson Immunoresearch, West Grove, PA) and visualized by exposure to Hyperfilm ECL (GE Healthcare, Piscataway, NJ) with Immobilon Western Chemiluminescent HRP substrate (Millipore). For quantification, the films were scanned, the density of each band was measured in Image I (NIH), and the results were normalized with β -actin as standard.

Immunocytochemistry

Cells in 16-well chamber slides were fixed with PBS containing 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) and 8% sucrose for 5 min at 4°C, rinsed in PBS, and postfixed for 2 min in methanol at −20°C. Fixed cells were blocked in blocking buffer (4% normal goat serum, 2% BSA, and 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS) for 30 min at r.t. and incubated with antitau antibody, clone Tau-5 (1:500; Millipore), anti-MAP2 antibody (1:500; Sigma-Aldrich), anti-SAPK/JNK (56G8; rabbit monoclonal; 1:1,000), and anti-phospho-SAPK/JNK (Thr183/Tyr185; 81E11; rabbit monoclonal; 1:1,000) overnight at 4°C. They were further incubated with Alexa 488-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (1:500; Invitrogen), Alexa 546-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG (1:500; Invitrogen), or Alexa 488-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG (1:500; Invitrogen), and Hoechst 33258 (0.1 µg/ml; Sigma-Aldrich) for 1 hr at r.t. The slides were observed under a Axioplan 2 fluorescence microscope, and the images were recorded with a ProgRes color CCD camera.

Analysis of Actin and Tubulin Polymerization

Cells cultured in \$\phi 3.5-cm dishes in serum-containing high-K⁺ medium for 2 days were transferred to K25, K25 with 200 nM T4, or K5 with 200 nM T4 and incubated for an additional 48 hr. After incubation, cells were rinsed with ice-cold PBS and homogenized in separation buffer (5 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 0.5% Triton X-100 with protease inhibitor cocktail [Sigma-Aldrich]). The homogenate was centrifugated at 100,000g for 1 hr at 4°C to yield supernatant and precipitate fractions. Ice-cold trichloroacetic acid was added to both supernatant and precipitate fractions homogenized in separation buffer to give final concentrations of 10%. After incubation for 30 min on ice, proteins in both fractions were recovered as precipitates by centrifugation at 12,000g for 5 min at 4°C. Precipitated proteins were rinsed with ice-cold ethanol three times, dissolved in SDS sample buffer by homogenization, and boiled for 5 min. The amount of β -actin and β -tubulin recovered in each supernatant or precipitate fraction was further analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting as described above.

Statistical Analysis

Values are given as mean \pm SEM. Differences between the two experimental groups were evaluated by Student's t-test. In the case of three or more groups, Tukey's test was used. For analysis of cell viability, two-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's multiple-comparisons test was used. In all cases, P < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Susceptibility of Differentiated CGNs to Low-K⁺-Induced Cell Death

Sensitivities of CGNs to low-K⁺-induced cell death were first compared among cells obtained from P1 rats (P1 cells) and P6 rats (P6 cells). P1 and P6 cells were initially cultured for 48 hr in high-K⁺ medium containing 25 mM KCl and supplemented with 10% FBS, then transferred to serum-free high-K⁺ medium containing 25 mM KCl (K25) or serum-free low-K⁺ medium containing 5 mM KCl (K5). When cells were evaluated 48 hr later by mitochondrial reducing capacity, a significant reduction was observed in viability of cells cultured in K5 compared with those cultured in K25 with P6 cells, whereas P1 cells were equally viable in either medium (Fig. 1A). Viability of P6 cells in K5 decreased to 50% of those cultured in K25 within the first 2 days after switching to serum-free K5, reaching a plateau level at 4 days (Fig. 1B).

To examine the effect of K⁺ concentration on the

survival of CGNs in a more intact system, sagittal slices were prepared from the rat cerebellum at P7. At this age, thick EGL and IGL were clearly distinguishable such that responses of both proliferative cells in the EGL and post-migratory cells in the IGL could be studied in the same slice (Fig. 1C). After 2 days of culture in serum-containing K25, slices were transferred to serum-free K5

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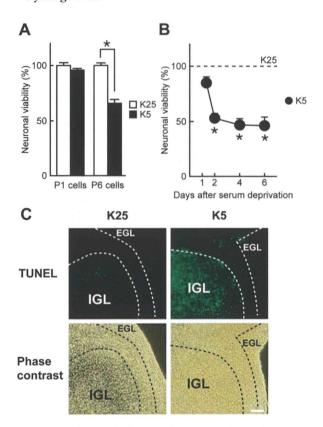


Fig. 1. Susceptibility of CGNs at different developmental stages to low-K⁺-induced death. **A:** Low-K⁺-induced death of CGNs prepared from rats at P1 (P1 cells) or P6 (P6 cells). K25, serum-free high-K⁺ medium (open columns); K5, serum-free low-K⁺ medium (solid columns). Values are mean \pm SEM (n = 8). *P < 0.05 between K5 and K25. **B:** Time dependence of low-K⁺-induced cell death in CGNs prepared from rats at P6. Neuronal viability was assessed by mitochondrial reducing capacity. Values are mean \pm SEM (n = 8). *P < 0.05 between K5 and K25. **C:** Apoptotic cell death detected by TUNEL staining in P7 rat cerebellar slices cultured in K25 or K5 for 48 hr. Scale bar = 100 μm .

or K25 and cultured for an additional 2 days, and the extent of cell death was analyzed by TUNEL staining. As shown in Figure 1C, a large amount of TUNEL-positive cells was observed in slices cultured in K5 but not in K25. TUNEL-positive cells in K5 slices were observed exclusively in the IGL. These results indicate that only postmigratory CGNs located in the IGL are susceptible to low- K^+ -induced cell death.

T4 but not T3 or rT3 Prevents the Death of CGNs Induced by Low K⁺

To test whether thyroid hormone has an effect on this low-K⁺-induced death of CGNs in primary culture, P6 cells were cultured as described above in high-K⁺ medium containing 10% FBS for 2 days, then switched to either K5 or K25 containing one of the three different forms of TH, T4, T3 or rT3, at varying concentrations (Fig. 2A–C). When cells were evaluated 48 hr after switching to K5, a dose-dependent increase in cell viability was observed with T4 concentrations of 100–200 nM (Fig. 2A) but not with

similar or higher concentrations of T3 (Fig. 2B) or rT3 (Fig. 2C). With 200 nM T4 in K5, cells were fully protected from low-K⁺-induced death. In K25, cell viability was not affected by the addition of any TH.

The effect of T4 was further confirmed by visualizing chromatin condensation of dyeing cells with Hoechst 33258 staining (Fig. 2D). Large numbers of cells with brightly stained pyknotic nuclei were observed when CGNs were cultured in K5, which was markedly reduced by the addition of T4 (200 nM) but not T3 (200 nM; Fig. 2D). In the presence of T4 in K5, the number of cells with pyknotic nuclei was comparable to that observed in K25 (Fig. 2E).

Because only postmigratory CGNs were susceptible to low-K⁺-induced cell death, we next examined whether the developmental stage of CGNs was altered by the addition of T4 by using GABA_A receptor α1 subunit (GABR α 1), which is developmentally upregulated in vivo, and transient axonal glycoprotein-1 (TAG-1), which is expressed only in the postmitotic, premigratory cells in the EGL as indicators (Fig. 2F-H). As shown in Figure 2F,G, expression of GABRα1 increased with days in culture in K25 without T4. Addition of T4 to K25 (K25 + T4) or K5 (K5 + T4) resulted in significantly larger increases in GABRα1 immunoreactivity after 2 days than K25 alone. After 4 days in culture, GABR \alpha1 expression levels were comparable among the three culture conditions. Expression of TAG-1, on the other hand, time dependently decreased under these three culture conditions (Fig. 2F,H).

The results show that maturation of CGNs proceeded normally in the presence of T4 with a slight enhancement of GABR α 1 expression. It is thus clear that T4 did not protect CGNs from low-K⁺-induced cell death by interfering with their maturation.

Effect of T4 on the Neurites of CGNs

We next examined the effect of 200 nM T4 on the neurites of CGNs by immunofluorescent staining with antibodies against the two major MAPs of neurites, MAP2 and tau. As shown in Figure 3, more neurites were visualized with anti-tau staining than with anti-MAP2 staining, indicating the axonal nature of the neurites (Takemura et al., 1991). Addition of T4 to K5 not only promoted cell survival but was also effective in maintaining a network of neurites comparable to that observed in K25. Addition of T4 to K25, on the other hand, resulted in an apparently denser network of taupositive neurites compared with cells in K25 alone or K5 + T4, which was further confirmed by Western blotting (see Fig. 5D below).

Effect of T4 on the Polymerization of Actin and Tubulin

The following experiments compared the CGNs cultured under the three different conditions that fully sustained cell survival for 48 hr, K25, K25 + T4, and K5 + T4. First, the expression as well as the

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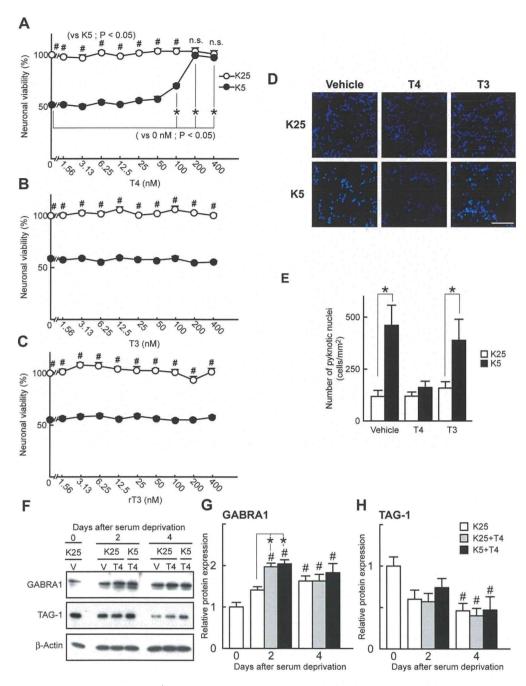


Fig. 2. Effect of thyroid hormones on low-K⁺-induced death of CGNs. **A–C:** Neuronal viability of P6 cells cultured for 48 hr in K25 (open circles) or K5 (solid circles) containing various concentrations of T4 (A), T3 (B), or rT3 (C). Values are expressed relative to that of cells cultured in K25 without each hormone. Values are mean \pm SEM (n = 12). *P< 0.05 vs. K5 without each hormone; $^{\#}P$ < 0.05 between K25 and K5 containing the same dose of each hormone; n.s. in 200 and 400 nM T4 indicates no significant effect of low-K⁺ stimulation, i.e., full protection by T4 from low-K⁺-induced cell death. **D:** Fluorescent images of pyknotic nuclei visualized by Hoechst 33258 in CGNs cultured in K25 (upper row) or K5 (lower row) with or without 200 nM T4 (middle column) or T3 (right column). **E:** Number of cells with pyknotic nuclei per unit area (mm²) in CGNs cultured in K25 (open columns) or K5

(solid columns) with or without 200 nM T4 or T3. Values are mean \pm SEM (n = 16–20). *P< 0.05 between two values indicated. F: Representative immunoblots of GABR α 1 and TAG-1 in CGNs cultured for 0, 2, or 4 days in K25 or K5 in the presence or absence of 200 nM T4. Day 0 indicates a sample just before switching to serum-free medium. G,H: Protein expression of GABR α 1 (G) and TAG-1 (H) in CGNs cultured for 0, 2, or 4 days in K25 (open columns), K25 containing 200 nM T4 (K25 + T4; gray columns), or K5 containing 200 nM T4 (K5 + T4; solid columns). β -Actin was used as loading control. Values are expressed as relative to day 0 and are mean \pm SEM (n = 4). *P< 0.05 vs. K25 alone on the same day; $^{\#}P$ < 0.05 vs. day 0. Scale bar = 100 μ m. [Color figure can be viewed in the online issue, which is available at wileyonlinelibrary.com.]

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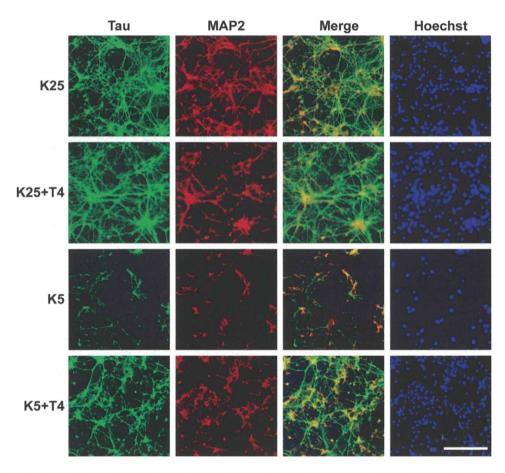


Fig. 3. Effect of T4 on neurites of cultured CGNs. Immunofluorescent images of CGNs cultured for 48 hr in K25 or K5 with or without 200 nM T4 with anti-tau (green) and anti-MAP2 (red) antibodies. Hoechst 33258 was used to stain nuclei. Scale bar = $50 \mu m$.

polymerization state of major cytoskeletal proteins, β -tubulin and β -actin, were evaluated by separating 0.5% Triton X-100 homogenate of harvested cells into supernatant and precipitate fractions containing unpolymerized and polymerized cytoskeletal proteins, respectively. Total amounts of β -tubulin or β -actin were comparable among CGNs cultured in K25, K25 + T4, and K5 + T4 (Fig. 4A,B). The proportion of polymerized tubulin was increased more than twofold by the addition of T4 in K25 (Fig. 4C), whereas the proportion of polymerized actin did not differ significantly (Fig. 4D). Tubulin polymerization seemed to increase slightly in CGNs cultured in K5 + T4.

Effect of T4 on the Expression and Phosphorylation of MAPs

MAP2 consists of high-molecular-weight isoforms, MAP2a and MAP2b, and a lower molecular weight, juvenile isoform, MAP2c, which are produced from a single gene by alternative splicing. Expression levels of these three MAP2 isoforms were comparable among CGNs cultured for 2 days in K25, K25 + T4, and K5 + T4 (Fig. 5A-C). After 4 days of culture, however, MAP2a and 2b tended to be increased in the presence of

T4 both in K25 and in K5. At the same time, a significant reduction in MAP2c was observed in K25 + T4 compared with K25 alone (Fig. 5C), suggesting that T4 enhanced maturation of MAP2 isoform composition in cultured CGNs.

In the case of tau, although six splicing isoforms can be produced from a single gene, only the lowest molecular weight, juvenile isoform (54 kDa) was observed in CGNs cultured under all three conditions (Fig. 5A). The amount of tau increased approximately twofold in CGNs cultured for 2 days in the presence of 200 nM T4 both in K25 and in K5 (Fig. 5A,D). After 4 days of culture, however, a significant increase in tau expression remained only in cells cultured in K25 + T4.

Because the ability of tau to promote microtubule assembly and stabilization is regulated by its phosphorylation, the effect of T4 on the phosphorylation of tau was further analyzed. Among the many phosphorylation sites of tau protein, two developmentally regulated sites, Ser422 and Ser199, as well as two sites known to be hyperphosphorylated in PHF tau, Ser396 and Thr231, were examined (Yu et al., 2009).

Tau phosphorylated at Ser422 (p-Tau Ser422) showed significant changes in amount by the addition of

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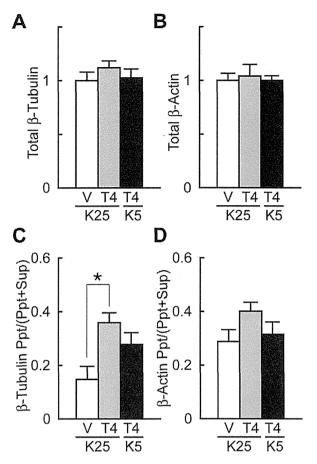


Fig. 4. Effect of T4 on the polymerization of β -tubulin and β -actin in cultured CGNs. **A,B**: Quantification of protein expression of total β -tubulin (A) and total β -actin (B) in extracts obtained from CGNs cultured for 48 hr in K25 (open columns), K25 containing 200 nM T4 (K25 + T4; gray columns), or K5 containing 200 nM T4 (K5 + T4; solid columns), in which each value is expressed relative to those of cells cultured in K25. **C,D**: Level of polymerization of β -tubulin (C) and β -actin (D) in CGNs. Sup and Ppt indicate unpolymerized supernatant and polymerized precipitate fractions of Triton X-100 extracts separated by ultracentrifugation (see Materials and Methods). Extent of polymerization was expressed as the proportion of the protein in Ppt against the sum of the protein in Ppt and Sup. Values are mean \pm SEM (n = 4). $\star P < 0.05$ vs. K25.

T4. After 2 days of culture, p-Tau Ser422 was increased 1.7-fold and 2.2-fold in K25 + T4 and K5 + T4, respectively, compared with that in K25 (Fig. 5E). Between days 2 and 4, however, p-Tau Ser422 increased more than 2.5-fold in CGNs cultured in K25, whereas it remained at the same level in K25 + T4 and decreased tenfold in K5 + T4. On the other hand, the phosphorylation level (p-Tau Ser422/total Tau) at this site was comparable under the three culture conditions after 2 days in culture but was significantly reduced after 4 days in both K25 and K5 containing T4 (Fig. 5F). In K5 + T4, a severe reduction in the amount of p-Tau Ser422 contributed to the reduction in phosphorylation level, whereas in K25 + T4 an increase in total tau (Fig. 5D) was responsible for the apparent reduction in the phosphorylation

level instead of an actual decrease in the amount of p-Tau Ser422. In contrast, there was no apparent change in tau phosphorylated at Ser199 (p-Tau Ser199) by T4 addition in either K25 or K5 (Fig. 5G), but the phosphorylation level at this site was reduced by 50% after 2 days in culture in both K25 and K5 (Fig. 5H) because of twofold increases of total tau in the presence of T4 (Fig. 5D). A significant reduction in the phosphorylation level at Ser199 remained in K25 + T4 after 4 days in culture for the same reason.

Under all three culture conditions, tau phosphorylated at Ser396 probed with one of the anti-PHF tau anti-bodies, PHF13, and tau phosphorylated at Thr231 probed with anti-Alzheimer's disease tau antibody, AT180, were not detected (data not shown).

Effect of T4 on GSK-3β and JNK

It is well known that tau is phosphorylated by a number of kinases, including GSK-3 β , JNK, and cyclindependent kinase-5. Among these, kinases reported to be responsible for the phosphorylation at Ser199 and Ser422 are GSK-3 β and JNK, respectively. Therefore, we examined the effect of T4 on the activation of these two kinases.

Kinase activity of GSK-3β is downregulated by phosphorylation at Ser9. As shown in Figure 6A, phosphorylation at this site was observed in CGNs cultured for 2 or 4 days under all three conditions. CGNs cultured for 2 days in K25 + T4 transiently exhibited a higher level of phosphorylation compared with cells in K25 or K5 + T4 (Fig. 6A). A major kinase phosphorylating GSK-3β and suppressing its activity is Akt, which is known to be activated by phosphorylation at both Ser473 and Thr308. As shown in Figure 6B, Akt phosphorylation at each of these sites was transiently enhanced by the addition of T4 to K25 after 2 days but was back to the level of K25 alone after 4 days. A similar tendency was observed in K5 + T4. Transient enhancement of Akt phosphorylation in K25 + T4 thus matched in timing with the transient phosphorylation of GSK-3β observed under the same culture condition (Fig. 6A). Each of the three subtypes of JNK, JNK1-3, or MAPK8~10 consists of several splice variants with molecular weights of 46 kDa (P46) and 54 kDa (P54), all of which are activated by simultaneous phosphorylation at Thr183 and Tyr185 (for review see Kyriakis and Avruch, 2012). In differentiating neurons, a major pool of phosphorylated, active JNK (p-JNK) localizes to neurites, where it plays a critical role in axon determination and axon guidance through regulation of microtubule stability (Oliva et al., 2006; Hirai et al., 2011; Qu et al., 2013). Under all three culture conditions, an antibody against p-JNK stained the neurites, whereas an antibody against total JNK stained mainly the cell bodies, with much weaker staining of the neurites (Fig. 7A). Immunoblotting analysis revealed that the amount of total JNK was comparable among the three culture conditions, whereas p-JNK was significantly