

高値を示した。その他のパラメーターは対照群と EE 投与群との間で有意差は認められなかった。

#### D. 考察

成熟雌動物に排卵をもたらす性腺刺激ホルモンの大量放出（サージ）は、視床下部で性腺刺激ホルモン放出ホルモンを上位から直接制御しているキスペプチン分泌ニューロンの局在の性差に起因していることが近年の研究で知られるようになった。このような性差は、視床下部の分化過程で作用する性ステロイドによって決定されるが、性ステロイドが関与し得る時期は限定的で、このような時期は性分化の臨界期と呼ばれている。生殖発生毒性試験に汎用されているラットでは出生直前から生後 5 日ころまでがこの時期に相当し、精巣由来のアンドロゲンが脳内の *aromatase* によってエストロゲンに変換され、これが、雌に固有の性腺刺激ホルモンサージを制御する AVPV におけるキスペプチンニューロンを不可逆的に消失させて、キスペプチンニューロンが ARC のみに局在する雄型の脳になると理解されている。脳の性分化における性ステロイドに対する感受性は雌にも存在し、この時期の雌にアンドロゲンが作用すると、雄と同様のメカニズムで雄型の脳へと分化する。また、胎児および新生児期の肝臓で合成され、循環血中に分泌されて母体由来のエストロゲンと特異的に結合する  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein とは結合親和性の低いエストロゲン活性物質も雄型の脳へと分化させることができる。本研究でモデル化合物として用いた EE も内因性  $E_2$  と比べて  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein との結合親和性が低いことから、脳の性分化に影響を及ぼすことができると考えられる。

今回我々は、0.4 あるいは 0.08  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  体重/日の用量の EE を、生後 1 日の雌ラットに反復経口投与し、性周期の回帰停止以前の時期における視床下部/下垂体/性腺軸の変化を検討した。この時期が性周期回帰停止前であることは、平成 25 年度までの研究で

も確認され、0.08  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  体重/日の用量では 26 週齢に至っても、不規則な性周期を回帰するものの、発情の回帰は停止しないことが確認されている。本研究において、EE 投与群では、視床下部 AVPV および ARC のいずれにおいても *kiss1* 遺伝子の発現変化が認められ、また、卵巣では、性腺刺激ホルモン受容体の発現増加、ならびにその下流に位置するステロイド合成酵素などの遺伝子発現増加が認められ、この時期に既に視床下部および性腺のいずれにも明瞭な変化が生じている事が明らかになった。

視床下部における *kiss1* 遺伝子の発現変化は、部位により異なる。すなわち、エストロゲンのポジティブフィードバックを受ける AVPV では低下が認められ、ネガティブフィードバックを受ける ARC では増加が認められた。子宮重量が減少していることから、循環血中  $E_2$  濃度が 0.4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  体重/日群では低下し、フィードバックが減弱したことが *kiss1* 遺伝子の発現増加をもたらしたとも考えられるが、卵巣摘出条件下で測定したパルス状 LH の Amplitude も 0.4  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  体重/日群で増加していた。パルス状 LH 分泌は ARC の Kndy ニューロンといわれるキスペプチン、ダイノルフィンおよびニューロキニン B を分泌する細胞で発生する刺激によって発生する LH の分泌パターンである。今回、卵巣からのフィードバックを欠く条件でも Amplitude が増加していたことから、ARC の Kndy ニューロン自身に影響を及ぼしている可能性が示唆された。

EE 投与群の卵巣における遺伝子発現は、 $E_2$  合成促進を示唆する変化となっていた。しかし、子宮重量から推測すると、 $E_2$  濃度はむしろ低下しているものと推測された。血中  $E_2$  濃度の確認が必要とされるが、昨年度の研究において EE 投与群では幼若期の血中  $E_2$  濃度は卵胞発育や卵巣における遺伝子発現動態と一致していなかった。幼若期では、卵胞発育は抑制されており、性成熟期とは全く逆の変化を示していた。時期によって卵胞発育に及ぼす影響が異なる理由は

不明である。しかが、いずれの時期も卵巣内部の変化が血中 E<sub>2</sub> 濃度に反映されていないと考えられる。

性腺刺激ホルモンによってステロイド合成系が増強されても、それが血中濃度に反映されないと、卵巣の機能的変化に一致しない刺激がさらに卵巣に加えられる結果となる。嚢胞状卵胞の形成にはこのような視床下部／下垂体／性腺軸における情報交換の異常が関与している事が推測された。

嚢胞状卵胞の形成については、10 週齢に観察した実験 2 の対照群でも 1 例に認められていることから、13 週齢での出現が EE 投与の影響かどうかは、さらに例数を追加して検討する必要がある。しかし、本研究から、性周期の回帰を停止しない用量でも卵巣に影響が認められ、性周期の回帰を停止する用量でも、回帰停止前の時期にすでに視床下部／卵巣のいずれにも変化が生じていることが明らかになり、嚢胞状卵胞は閾値の指標として有用であると考えられる。しかし、性周期を回帰している段階での嚢胞状卵胞の毒性学的意義についてはさらに検討が必要である。

以上のように、今年度の研究から、子宮重量を増加させない用量の EE でも、新生児期での経口曝露により嚢胞状卵胞を形成させ、その時期には視床下部／下垂体／性腺軸における情報交換に異常が生じていることが示唆された。

## F. 研究発表

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## G. 知的財産権の出願・登録状況 (予定を含む。)

1. 特許取得  
該当無し
2. 実用新案登録  
該当無し
3. その他  
無し

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田谷一善、渡辺元、笹本修司.  $^{125}\text{I}$  標識ホル  
モンを用いたプロジェステロン、エストラ  
ジオール  $17\beta$  のラジオイムノアッセイにつ

いて. 家畜繁殖雑誌 1985 年 31 卷 4 号  
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ターゲット	Accession No.			配列 (5'⇒3')
GDF-9	AF 099912	プライマー	F	AGCTCAAATGGGACAACCTGGAT
			R	GGGACAGTCCCCTTTACAGTACCT
		プローブ		CCCCGCACAGATAC
FSHR	NM 199237	プライマー	F	CAAATGATCCTTTTCGGGATGA
			R	CCCGGAACGCCATTGA
		プローブ		TGAGCACAAACCTC
ERβ	NM 012754	プライマー	F	CCTGCCGACTTCGCAAGT
			R	CCACACCGTTCTCTCCTGGAT
		プローブ		TTATGAAGTAGGAATGGTCAAGTG
Inhibin α	M 36453	プライマー	F	GCAGCTCTACCAGGGAGCAT
			R	ACTTGAAAGAGTAGCCTCCATCTGA
		プローブ		AGGTCCCTACGCGTCCGAACCAC
Inhibin βA	M 37482	プライマー	F	CCCAGAGGTGCCTGCTATGT
			R	CATTGCTCCCTCTGGCTATCA
		プローブ		CTTGGGCACTCACCCCTCACAATAGTTGG
Inhibin βB	NM 080771	プライマー	F	CCCTGGGCCGGTGAA
			R	CGTCATCAAAGTAGAGCATAGACATAGA
		プローブ		TTGCTGCATCCCCACCAAGCTGAG
LHR	NM 012978	プライマー	F	CCGTCAGGGTGTAGACAGAGAGT
			R	CGGTGCAGCTGGCTTCTT
				CACTGGCAAACACAG
StAR	NM 031558	プライマー	F	GGCATGGCCACACACTTTG
			R	AGTGGATGAAGCACCATGCA
		プローブ		AGATGCCTGAGCAAAG
P450 <sub>scc</sub>	J 05156	プライマー	F	TCCCAGCGGTTTCATCGA
			R	GAAATAAGTCTGGAGGCATGTTGA
		プローブ		CCGTCTACCAGATGTT
P450 <sub>c17</sub>	NM 012753	プライマー	F	TGGCTTTGGTGGTGACAATC
			R	TGAAAGTTGGTGTTCGGCTGAAG
		プローブ		ATCCAAAAGGAGATTGACCA
Aromatase	M 33986	プライマー	F	GAAACGGTCCGCCCTTTCT
			R	TGGATTCCACACAGACTTCTACCA
		プローブ		ATGAAAGCTCTGACGGGC
3β-HSD	L 17138	プライマー	F	AAGTATGCAATGTGCCACCATTT
			R	GCAAAAAGATGGCCGAGAA
		プローブ		CATTGGCTGCCAGCAC

表1 リアルタイム PCR に用いたプライマーおよびプローブ

表2 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオールの反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの13週齢における器官重量（平均±標準偏差）

EE (μg/kg/day)	0 <sup>a</sup>	0.08	0.4
N	9	10	9
Pituitary (mg)	13.8 ± 1.1	17.1 ± 1.0	21.3 ± 3.6**
Ovaries (mg)	94.4 ± 18.6	98.3 ± 14.7	57.8 ± 6.1**
Uterus (mg)	525 ± 56	493 ± 19	441 ± 93**

<sup>a</sup> corn oil 10 mL/kg/day

\*\*p<0.01

EE ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$ )	0 <sup>a</sup>	0.4	2
N	3	3	3
Mean LH	6.72 $\pm$ 1.22	7.20 $\pm$ 2.06	4.91 $\pm$ 1.88
Basal LH	5.36 $\pm$ 1.12	5.56 $\pm$ 1.88	3.64 $\pm$ 1.77
Frequency	4.0 $\pm$ 0.0	5.0 $\pm$ 1.0	3.3 $\pm$ 1.2
Amplitude	3.65 $\pm$ 0.28	5.35 $\pm$ 1.18*	4.16 $\pm$ 0.32

表 3 1 日齢から 5 日間エチニルエストラジオールの反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの 14 週齢におけるパルス状 LH 分泌のパラメーター (平均 $\pm$ 標準偏差)

動物は 10 週齢で両側卵巢を摘出し、13 週齢で装着した頸静脈カニューレから頻回採血した。

<sup>a</sup> corn oil 10 mL/kg/day

\* $p < 0.05$

図1 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオールの反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの8-9週齢における性周期

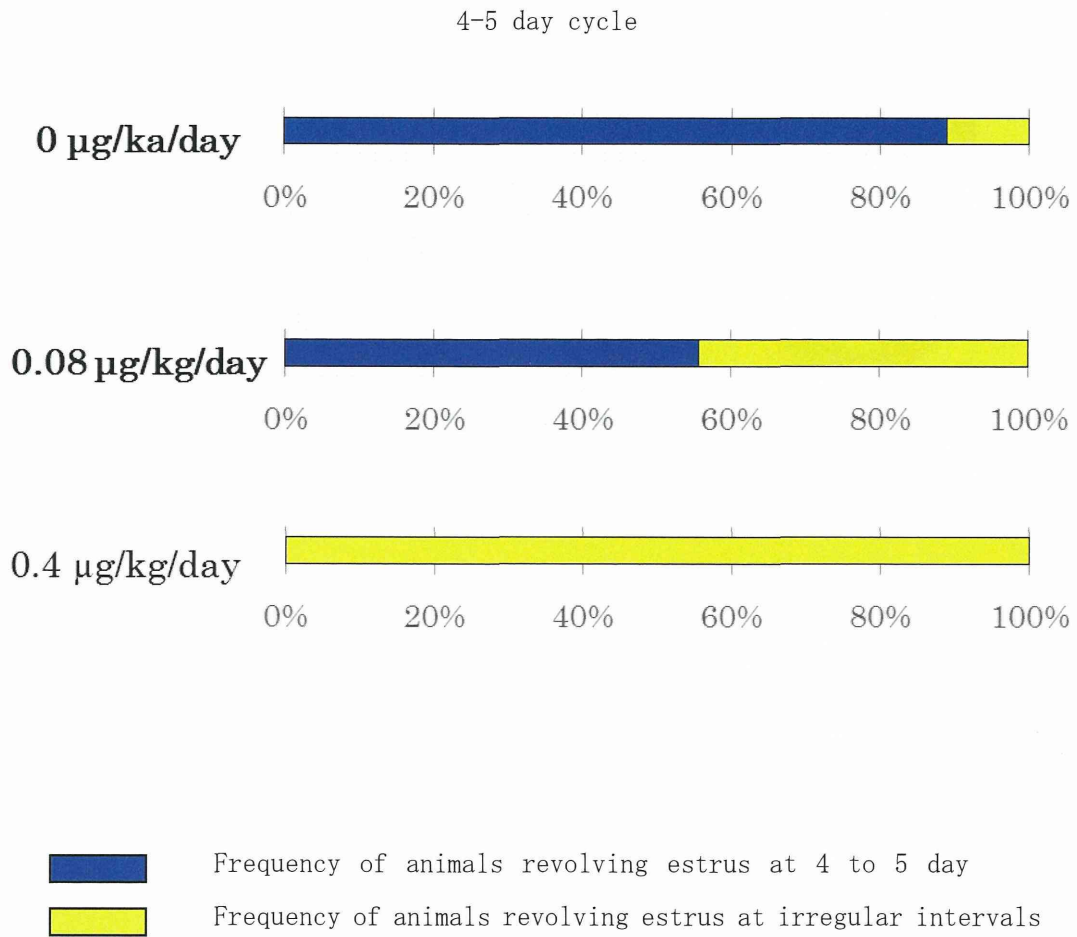


図2 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオール（EE）の反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの卵巣にみられた嚢胞状卵胞の代表的画像

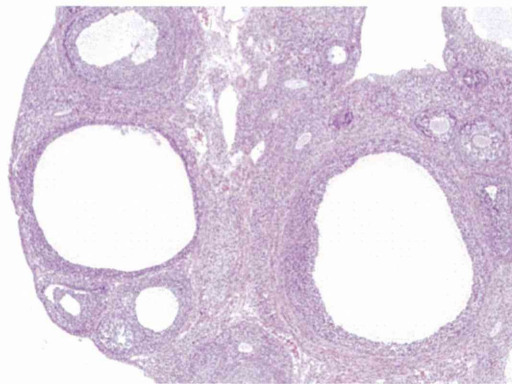
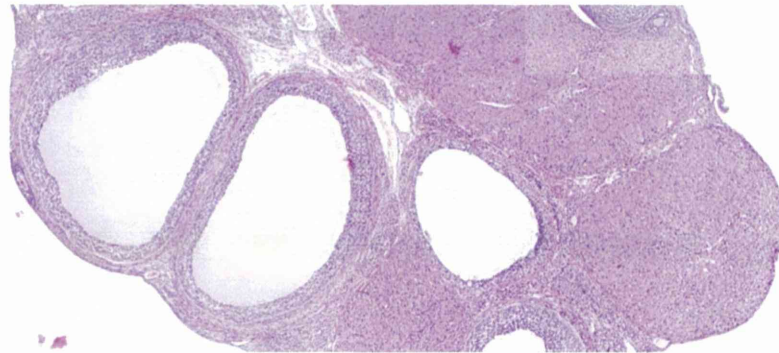
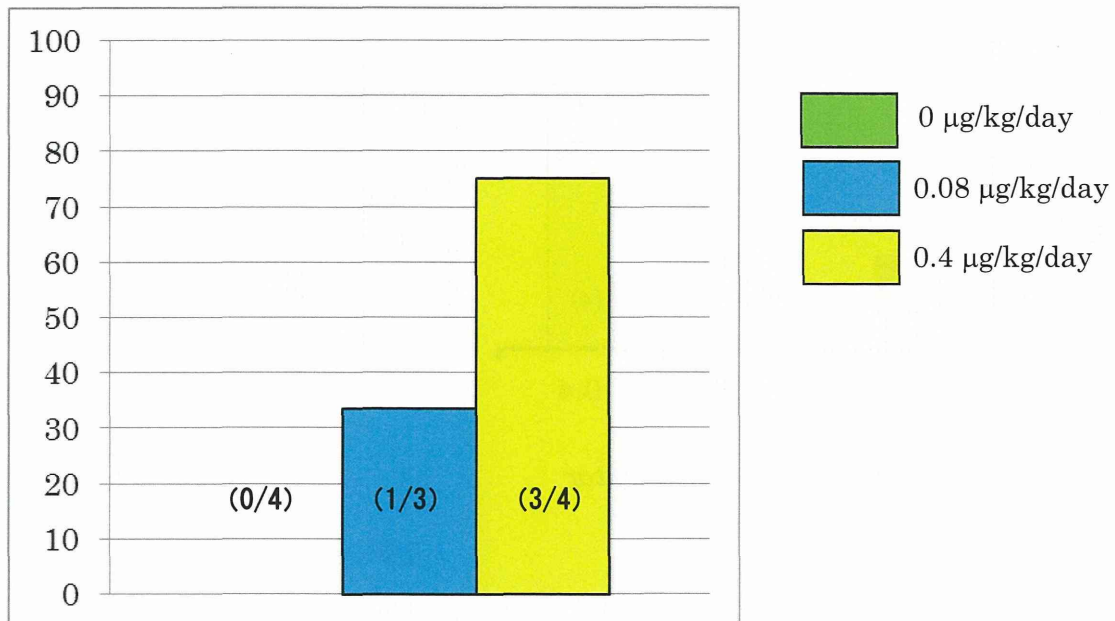




図3 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオール（EE）の反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの囊胞状卵胞の保有率

A. 13週齢における保有率（実験1）



B. 10週齢における保有率（実験2）

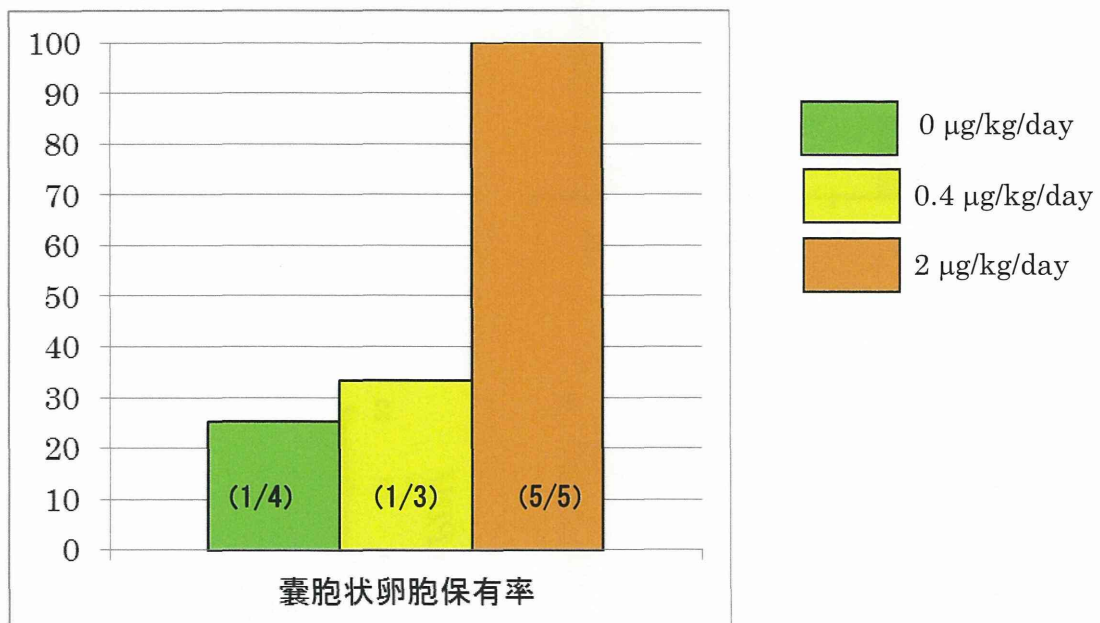


図4 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオール (EE) の反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの13週齢卵巣における卵胞発育関連遺伝子の発現 (\*  $p < 0.05$ )

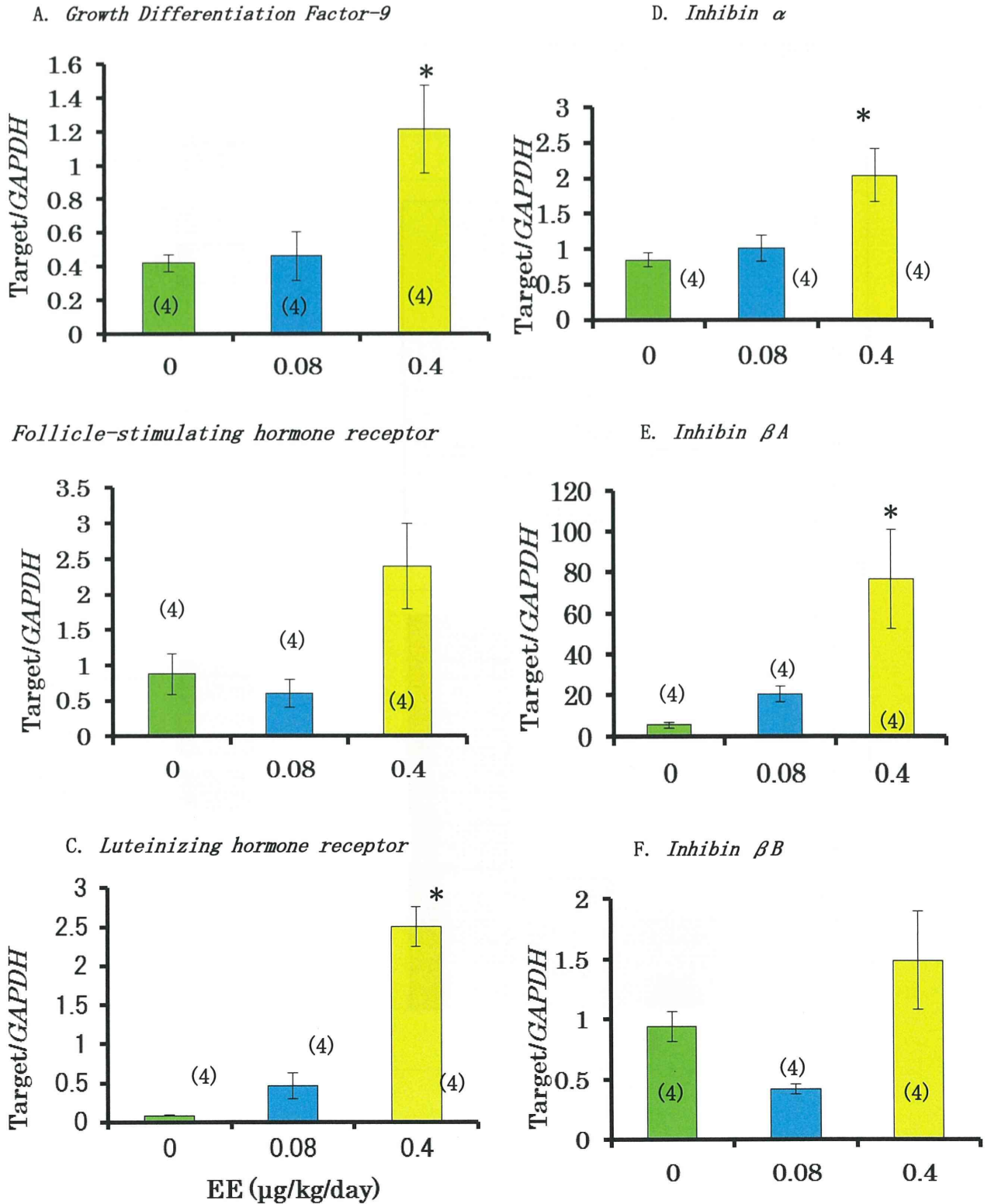
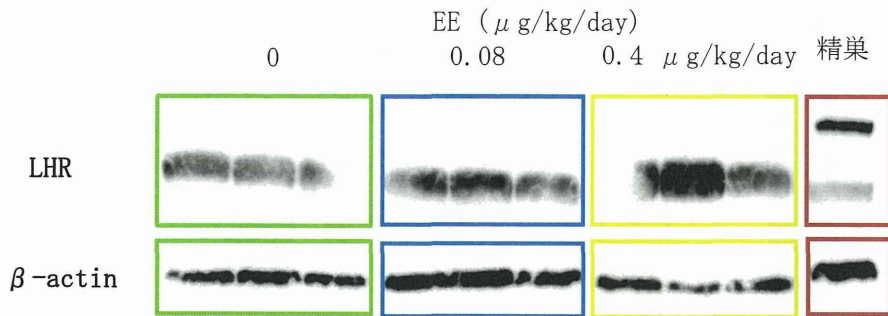


図5 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオール (EE) の反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの13週齢卵巣における luteinizing hormone 受容体(LHR)タンパク質の発現

A. Western blotting



B. LHR の $\beta$ -actin に対する相対発現量

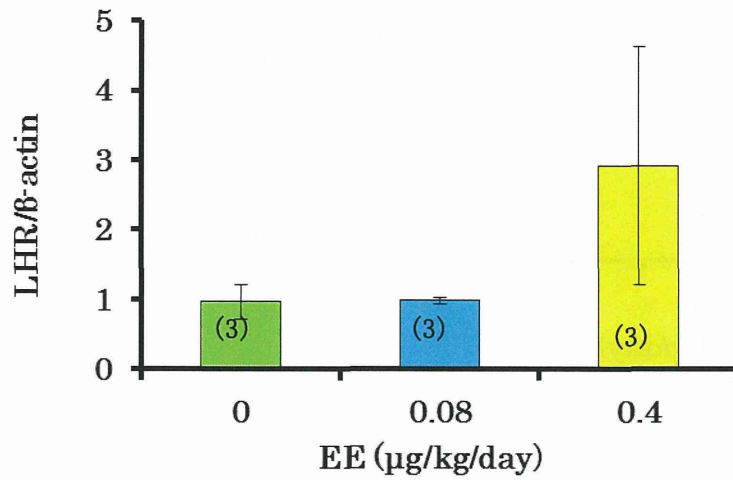


図6 1日齢から5日間エチニルエストラジオール (EE) の反復経口投与を受けた雌ラットの13週齢卵巣におけるステロイドホルモン合成関連遺伝子の発現 (\* p<0.05)

