SNP was not affected by the deletion of *HSPG2*, as shown in Figure 1B, indicating that the sensitivity of vascular smooth muscle to exogenous nitric oxide donors is well preserved, even in *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg aortas.

HSPG2 deletion decreases the expression level of eNOS in mouse aortas

We explored the mechanisms underlying the reduction of endothelium-dependent relaxation by measuring RNA expression levels of both eNOS and von Willebrand factor (vWF), an endothelial cell specific gene, using qPCR. RNA was extracted from aortic tissue from control and from *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg animals. The vWF expression level in the control and in the *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg aortas was not significantly different (Fig. 2A). However, qPCR analysis revealed that eNOS mRNA expression was significantly reduced in the *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg aortas (Fig. 2B). We also measured protein expression levels of eNOS in the control and in the *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg aortas by Western blotting. The protein level of eNOS was significantly decreased in the *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg aortas compared with that of the control aortas (Fig. 2C). These results indicated that eNOS expression was decreased in the perlecan-deficient aortas.

eNOS expression was decreased in HAECs by Perlecan siRNA treatment

We examined the relationship between eNOS expression and perlecan expression by creating perlecan knockdown HAECs in culture using Perlecan siRNA treatment. We measured the RNA expression levels by qPCR using RNA extracted from HAECs treated with control or Perlecan siRNA. We confirmed that perlecan mRNA expression levels in HAECs were significantly decreased by approximately 90% following treatment with both 20 and 40 nmol of Perlecan siRNA (Fig. 3A). The eNOS mRNA expression was significantly decreased by approximately 50% following Perlecan siRNA treatment (Fig. 3B). These results indicated that reduced perlecan expression decreases eNOS expression in HAECs.

Depletion of heparan sulfate chains does not affect the eNOS expression

We performed enzymatic depletion of the heparan sulfate chains of perlecan on HAECs to explore whether heparan sulfate chains are critical for eNOS expression. The time course of the experimental protocol is shown in Figure 4A. First, we confirmed the depletion of heparan

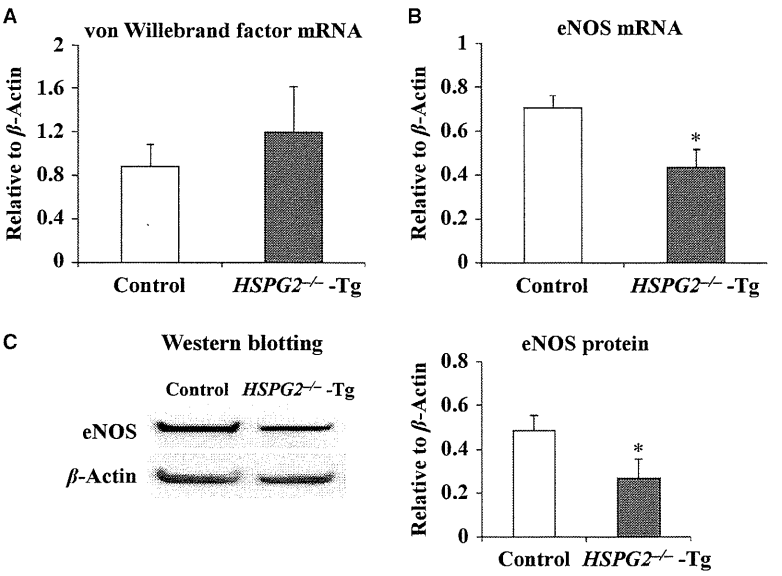

Figure 2. Expression of endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) in the *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg aorta. RNA expression levels of von Willebrand factor and eNOS in the aortic tissues of 10 week control and *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg mice were analyzed using qPCR. (A) The expression of von Willebrand factor was not significantly different, while (B) eNOS expression was significantly reduced in the *HSPG2*$^{-/-}$-Tg animals (n = 6 per genotype. The bars indicate the mean ± SEM). RNA expressions levels were normalized to that of β-actin and were indicated as relative to β-actin. (C) The protein expression levels of eNOS and β-actin in the aortic tissues were evaluated, using Western blotting. Each band was quantified using ImageJ software and is shown as relative to β-actin. The protein expression levels of eNOS were significantly decreased in the HSPG2$^{-/-}$-Tg mice compared to that in the control mice (n = 4 per genotype. The bars indicate the mean ± SEM). *P < 0.05 versus control mice.

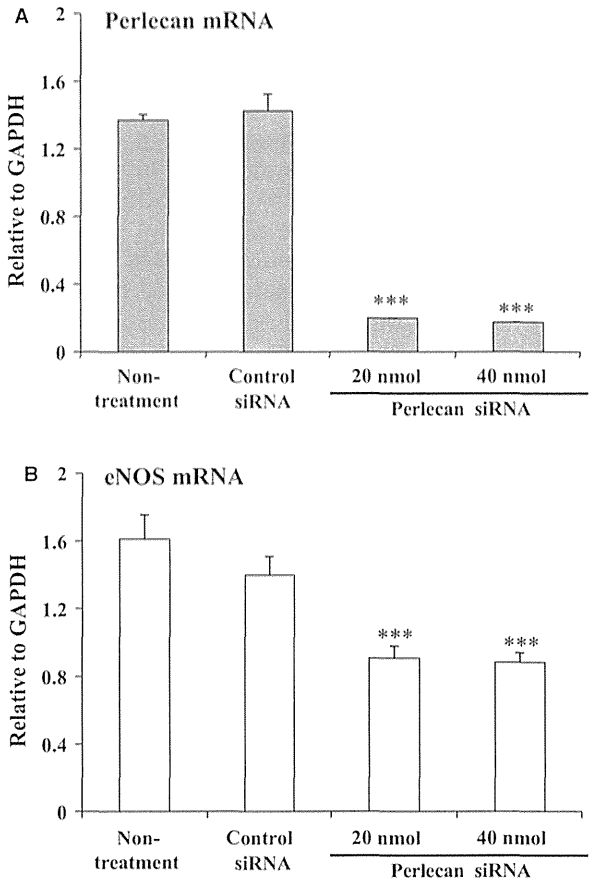

Figure 3. RNA expression of eNOS in human aortic endothelial cells (HAECs) treated with *HSPG2* siRNA. Analyses of perlecan and eNOS RNA expression levels in the HAECs treated with or without control siRNA and 20 or 40 nmol of Perlecan siRNA using qPCR. RNA expressions were normalized to that of GAPDH and are indicated as relative to GAPDH. (A) Perlecan expression in HAECs was significantly decreased by approximately 90% following Perlecan siRNA treatment. (B) eNOS expression showed a significant decrease of approximately 50% following treatment with Perlecan siRNA. The bars indicate the mean ± SEM (n = 3), ***P < 0.001 versus control cells.

sulfate chains in HAECs by immunostaining using 10E4 and 3G10 antibodies. After heparinase III treatment for 1 h (time point 0), the staining by 10E4 antbody (green), which is directed against heparan sulfate chains, was not detected (Fig. 4Ba and Bc) and the staining by 3G10 antibody (green), which is directed against heparinase-generated HS stubs, was detected in the treated but not untreated HAECs (Fig. 4Bb and Bd). Similar results were obtained after 24 h (time point 24 h) (Fig. 4Be–Bh). In these conditions, we analyzed eNOS expression by qPCR at 1, 12, and 24 h after heparinase III treatment for 1 h. The eNOS expression levels in the heparinase treated HAECs were not different compared with that of the non-treated HAECs at any time point (Fig. 4C). These results suggest that the decrease of eNOS expression in perlecan-deficient aortas is not due to the heparan sulfate chains.

Perlecan protein is necessary for eNOS expression

In order to explore whether perlecan protein is critical for eNOS expression, we performed perlecan rescue experiments using recombinant perlecan protein (rPerlecan). HAECs treated with Perlecan siRNA or Control siRNA were seeded on plates coated with or without rPerlecan. After 36 h, the eNOS expression level was analyzed by qPCR. First, we confirmed that the eNOS expression level in HAECs treated with Perlecan siRNA was significantly decreased compared with that of Control siRNA. However, the eNOS expression level in HAECs treated with Perlecan siRNA was restored to the level almost similar to that in HAECs treated with Control siRNA by rPerlecan (Fig. 5). These results suggest that perlecan is responsible for the decrease in eNOS expression in perlecan-deficient aortas.

Discussion

In the present study, we showed that a deficiency of perlecan results in the impairment of endothelium-dependent vascular relaxation in mice aorta, whereas endothelium-independent relaxation in response to the nitric oxide donor SNP remained well preserved. We investigated the mechanism(s) underlying the reduction in endothelium-dependent relaxation by examining the eNOS expression levels in aortic tissue and found that both eNOS mRNA and protein levels were decreased in the perlecan-null aortas. We further examined the relationship between perlecan deficiency and a decreased eNOS expression by treating HAECs with perlecan siRNA and found that a reduction in the perlecan gene expression induced a decrease in eNOS gene expression. This is the first report to show that perlecan deficiency results in a reduction in endothelium-dependent relaxation due, at least partly, to a decrease in eNOS expression. Although perlecan has been implicated in vascular development, the function of VSMCs with respect to relaxation is not affected by the deletion of the perlecan gene, suggesting a lesser contribution of perlecan in VSMCs than in endothelial cells.

NO is a gaseous lipophilic free radical generated by constitutively expressed eNOS in vascular endothelial cells (Braam and Verhaar 2007). The expression levels of eNOS are altered in patients with various pathophysiological

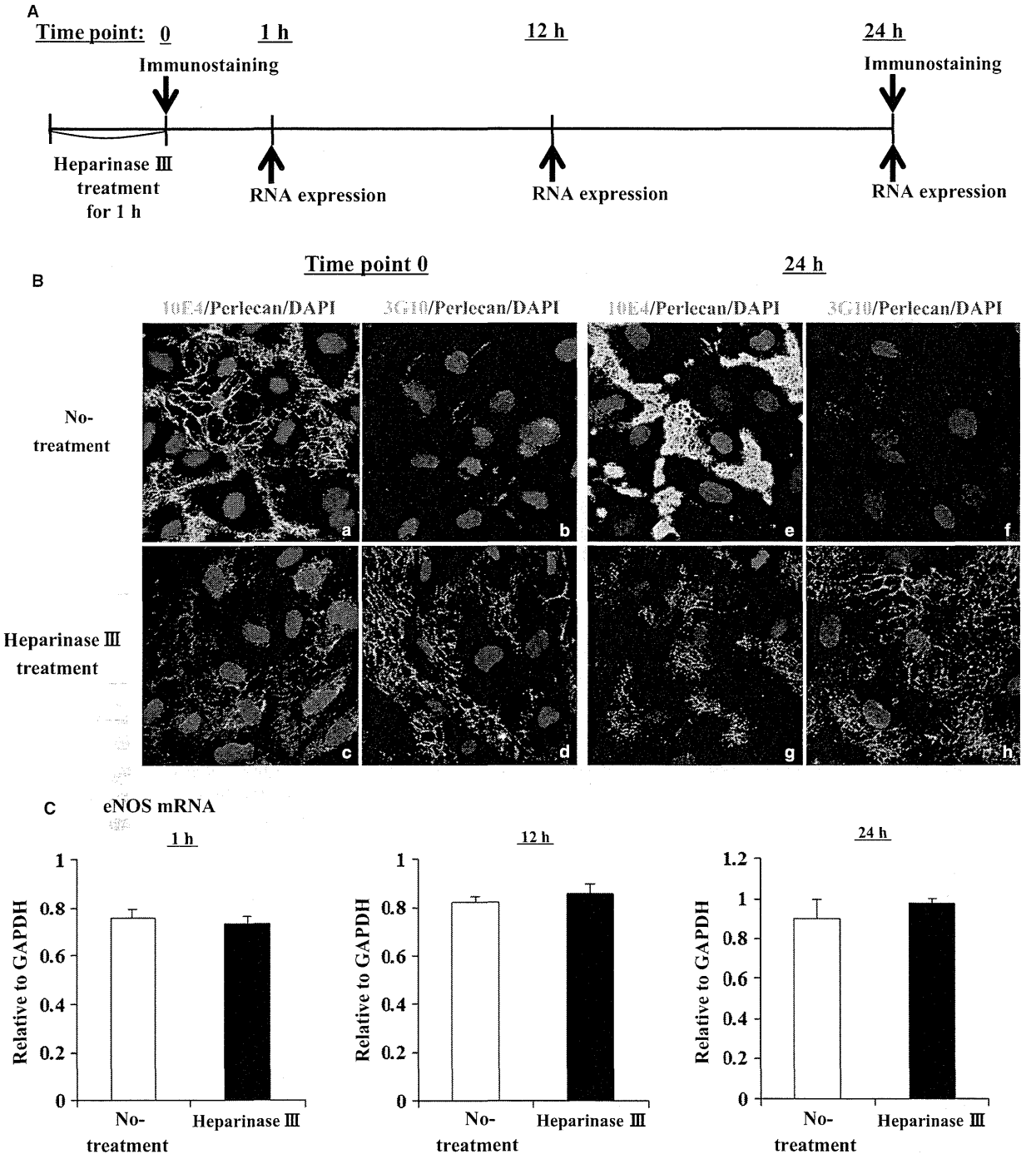

Figure 4. RNA expression levels of eNOS in HAECs treated with heparinase III. (A) A time course of experimental protcol using heparitinase III. (B) The heparan sulfate chains were removed from HAECs using heparinase III. After a 1 h treatment with or without heparinase III, the cells were fixed immediately (time point 0) or 24 h later (time point 24 h), and immunostaining was performed with 10E4 or 3G10 (Green), and perlecan (Red) antibodies. Successful heparinase III digestion is indicated by negative staining of 10E4 (c and g) and positive staining of 3G10 (d and h). At 24 h culture after heparinase III treatment, heparan sulfate chains were not detected (g and h). (C) Analysis of eNOS RNA expression levels in HAECs treated with or without heparinase III using qPCR. eNOS RNA expressions was normalized to that of GAPDH and it is indicated as relative to GAPDH. eNOS expression levels in the heparinase III treated HAECs was not significantly different compared with that of the non-treated HAECs at 1, 12, and 24 h later. The bars indicate the mean ± SEM (n = 3)

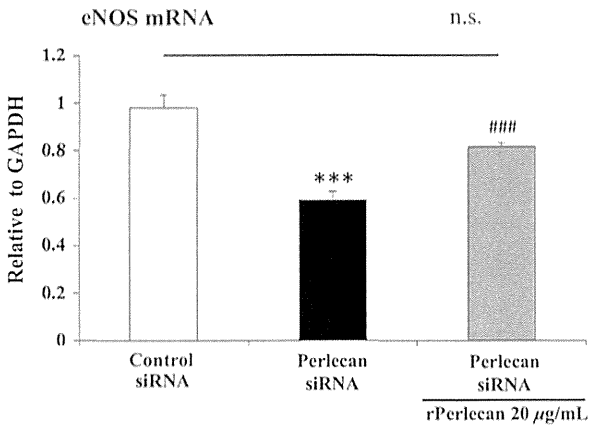

Figure 5. RNA expression level of eNOS in Perlecan knockdown HAECs on perlecan recombinant protein. qPCR analysis of eNOS RNA expression level in HAECs treated with Perlecan or Control siRNA and seeded on a plate coated with or without perlecan recombinant protein (rPerlecan). The level of the eNOS RNA expression was normalized to that of GAPDH and it is indicated as relative to GAPDH. The eNOS expression level in HAECs treated with Perlecan siRNA was significantly decreased compared to that of Control siRNA treated HAECs. HAECs treated with Perlecan siRNA and plated on rPerlecan was no significantly different compared with that of Control siRNA treated HAECs. The bars indicate the mean ± SEM (n = 4) $^{***}P < 0.001$ versus Control siRNA treated HAECs without rPerlecan, $^{\#\#\#}P < 0.001$ versus Perlecan siRNA treated HAECs without rPerlecan.

conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, atherosclerosis, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension (Chatterjee et al. 2008). The transcriptional activation of the eNOS gene is stimulated by shear stress (Papapetropoulos et al. 1999), exercise (Sessa et al. 1994), and the action of lysophosphatidylcholine (Zembowicz et al. 1995) and several growth factors, including VEGF (Bouloumie et al. 1999), bFGF, and epidermal growth factor (EGF) (Braam and Verhaar 2007). Conversely, eNOS expression is down-regulated by tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α) (Nishida et al. 1992), hypoxia (McQuillan et al. 1994), and high concentrations of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) (Laufs et al. 1998). eNOS activity at the post-translational level is regulated by several mechanisms, including interactions with other proteins, acylation, phosphorylation, and cellular localization (Braam and Verhaar 2007). In the present study, we demonstrated that perlecan plays a role in endothelium-dependent vascular relaxation, acting in part through maintenance of the eNOS expression levels.

Proliferation of endothelial cells requires multiple growth factors, including VEGF and FGF-2 (Carmeliet 2000; Iozzo and San Antonio 2001), which elicit their activities by binding to HSPGs in the vascular wall (Iozzo and San Antonio 2001). These growth factors must bind to HSPGs in the vascular wall in order to function stably (Iozzo and San Antonio 2001). These growth factors also upregulate eNOS expression (Braam and Verhaar 2007), therefore it is conceivable that perlecan deficiency results in reduced binding of growth factors to the vessel wall, thereby reducing eNOS expression. The expression of vWF, another marker of endothelial cells, was not affected by perlecan deficiency in this study, suggesting that the reduction in eNOS expression is rather specific to perlecan deficiency. Perlecan binds to several growth factors, including VEGF and FGF-2, via its HS chains (Zoeller et al. 2009). Perlecan from endothelial cells and the recombinant endorepellin protein, a C-terminal fragment of perlecan, binds to VEGFR-1 and -2, and modulate the VEGF-VEGFR signaling pathway in endothelial cells (Goyal et al. 2011; Ishijima et al. 2012). In this study, we showed that the depletion of heparan sulfate chains did not affect the eNOS expression level in HAECs. On the other hand, the eNOS expression level of HAECs treated with Perlecan siRNA was restored to the similar level of Control siRNA in the presence of recombinant perlecan protein. These results suggest that the decrease in the eNOS expression level in perlecan knockout aorta is due to the deficiency of the perlecan core protein. The precise mechanisms that underlie this reduced eNOS expression induced by perlecan deficiency remain to be elucidated. However, this study is the first, to our knowledge, to show a direct relationship between perlecan deficiency and a reduction in eNOS mRNA expression.

We previously reported that heterozygous deficiency of perlecan results in a reduced rate of atherosclerosis in apoE null mice (Vikramadithyan et al. 2004), suggesting that perlecan possesses pro-atherosclerotic properties. In addition, perlecan heparan sulfate (HS) chains promote atherosclerosis, as the depletion of endogenous perlecan HS was associated with a reduced frequency of atherosclerosis in apoE null mice (Tran-Lundmark et al. 2008), again suggesting that perlecan is pro-atherosclerotic. In contrary, our results suggest that the perlecan protein plays an atheroprotective role by activating the expression of eNOS during the normal growth process. The discrepancy in these results may be due to the differences in the animal models used and the time points of observation in each study, as the formation of atherosclerotic lesions is a chronic process that includes multiple steps of progression over several weeks. In the present study, we examined the role of perlecan in normal growth, not in animals exposed to atherosclerotic stimuli.

We previously investigated the effects of perlecan deletion on several adult organs in mice, including skeletal muscle (Xu et al. 2010), corneal epithelial tissues (Inomata

et al. 2012), endochondral bone formation (Ishijima et al. 2012), and synovial joints in the setting of knee osteoarthritis (Kaneko et al. 2013). Taken together, the results suggested that perlecan plays diverse roles in supporting tissues and homeostasis of tissue functions. In the present study, we found that the deletion of perlecan resulted in endothelial dysfunction, which is a new and rather unexpected finding, despite previous reports indicating that perlecan plays a role in the development of the cardiovascular system (Costell et al. 2002). This finding may indicate a potential cardiovascular risk in patients with Schwartz–Jampel syndrome, a disease caused by mutations in the perlecan gene in humans (Nicole et al. 2000; Arikawa-Hirasawa et al. 2002; Stum et al. 2006).

In conclusion, we showed that deficiency of perlecan led to endothelial dysfunction, as represented by a reduction in endothelium-dependent relaxation, which is thought to constitute the very early phase of atherosclerosis (Vanhoutte 2009). This dysfunction was due, at least partly, to a reduction in eNOS expression, indicating that perlecan plays a role in the activation of eNOS gene expression during normal growth.

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Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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Original Article

Phenotypic Variability in Childhood of Skeletal Muscle Sodium Channelopathies

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Mutations of the *SCN4A* gene cause several skeletal muscle channelopathies and overlapping forms of these disorders. However, the variability of the clinical presentation in childhood is confusing and not fully understood among pediatric neurologists. **PATIENTS:** We found three different mutations (p.V445M, p.I693L, and a novel mutation, p.V1149L) in *SCN4A* but not in the *CLCN1* gene. The patient with p.V445M showed the clinical phenotype of sodium channel myotonia, but her clear symptoms did not appear until 11 years of age. Her younger sister and mother, who have the same mutation, displayed marked intrafamilial phenotypic heterogeneity from mild to severe painful myotonia with persistent weakness. The patient with p.I693L exhibited various symptoms that evolved with age, including apneic episodes, tonic muscular contractions during sleep, fluctuating severe episodic myotonia, and finally episodic paralyses. The patient with the novel p.V1149L mutation exhibited episodic paralyses starting at 3 years of age, and myotonic discharges were detected at 11 years of age for the first time. **CONCLUSION:** The present cohort reveals the complexity, variability, and overlapping nature of the clinical features of skeletal muscle sodium channelopathies. These are basically treatable disorders, so it is essential to consider genetic testing before the full development of a patient's condition.

Keywords: sodium channelopathy, *SCN4A*, mutation, myotonia, periodic paralysis, electromyography, genetic testing

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Introduction

Mutations of the *SCN4A* gene, which encodes the skeletal muscle voltage-gated sodium channel $Na_V1.4$, cause various skeletal muscle disorders. Paramyotonia congenita, sodium channel myotonia (SCM), hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (hyperPP), and hypokalemic periodic paralysis are representatives of these disorders. To date, more than 60 mutations of *SCN4A* have been reported.[1,2] However, these disorders are not described adequately in the field of pediatric neurology because of phenotypic heterogeneity[3] and the complicated pathophysiology of ion channels.[1,2] Recently, electrophysiological protocols for the diagnosis of muscle channelopathies have became prevalent and prompted the application of genetic testing.[4,5]

Over the past decade, we encountered five patients with three underlying genetic bases for their skeletal muscle sodium channelopathies. They exhibited various phenotypes because of the different heterozygous point mutations. The diagnostic process for each patient was difficult because of the

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phenotypic variability in childhood. These patients provide some clues that will yield a better understanding and diagnosis of skeletal muscle sodium channelopathies.

Methods

DNA analysis

We analyzed the nucleotide sequences of *SCN4A* and the skeletal muscle chloride channel *CLCN1* genes of the patients and their parents with the Sanger method. A *CLCN1* mutation causes myotonia congenita, the phenotype that is often similar to SCM. Written informed consent was obtained from the parents for the mutation screening. This study was approved by the ethics committee of Kagoshima University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences.

Electrophysiological analysis

We performed needle electromyography to check for myotonic discharges. Then we analyzed the compound muscle action potential (CMAP) amplitude in response to a short (10-12 seconds) exercise test with/without muscle cooling and a long (5-minute) exercise test, following the protocols proposed by Fournier et al.[4,5]

Patient descriptions

Clinical and electrophysiological features of all patients are summarized in Table 1.

Patient I-1

The proband was a 13-year-old girl who visited us in 2011 with myotonic symptoms. She was delivered by Cesarean section and showed intellectual disability with speech delay at 1 year of age. By 3 years of age, she had developed walking difficulties and was diagnosed with paroxysmal kinesigenic choreoathetosis. Carbamazepine failed to relieve her symptoms. She developed grip and eyelid myotonia at 11 years of age. Then, molecular genetic analysis revealed no expansion of the repeat length at the *DM1* locus. Her symptoms were induced by exercise, but she never showed paradoxical myotonia. Her leg stiffness occurred during the initial 20 m of a 100-m run. At 12 years of age, she experienced a respiratory problem following a difficult extubation after surgery with general anesthesia and was referred to us for further examination. She was short in height, with a short neck and scoliosis. Her IQ was 57. Percussion of her tongue and palms easily elicited her myotonia. She exhibited dysarthria because of her myotonia. Her myotonia occurred not only immediately after movement initiation, but also with a delayed onset after a brief rest following long exercise. Her myotonia showed warm-up phenomenon and cold insensitivity. Cold temperature was a precipitating factor for her myotonia, along with fatigue, lack of sleep, and emotional stress. Her muscle consistency was increased, and her extremities and buttocks were hypertrophic. Serum creatine kinase and electrolytes were normal. Needle electromyography revealed myotonic discharges. CMAP amplitude did not change during short and long exercise tests. DNA sequencing revealed a c.1333G>A (p.V445M) mutation in *SCN4A* but not in the *CLCN1* gene. Her younger sister (patient I-2) and her mother (patient I-3) also showed myotonia, the severity of which was remarkably different. An identical mutation was found in both the mother and sister. All three patients in this family were diagnosed with SCM.

Patient I-2

This is the younger sister of the proband. This patient has autism, and her myotonia was the mildest of the three

TABLE 1.
Clinical and Electrophysiological Features of the Five Patients

Patient	I-1	I-2	I-3	II	III
SCN4A mutation	p.V445 M	p.V445 M	p.V445 M	p.I693 L	p.V1149 L
Diagnosis	SCM	SCM	SCM	SCM with PP	HyperPP with myotonia
Gender	F	F	F	M	M
Age at onset	3 years	2 years	3 years	7 days	3 years
Age at diagnosis	14 years	12 years	41 years	7 years	12 years
Clinical myotonia	+	+	+	+	-
Severity	Moderate	Mild	Severe	Mild to severe, fluctuating	/
Warm-up	+	-	+	-	/
Paradoxical myotonia	-	-	-	-	/
Cold sensitivity	-	-	-	-	/
Delayed myotonia	+	-	+	-	/
Painful myotonia	-	-	+	+	/
Episodic weakness	-	-	-	+	+
Persistent weakness	-	-	+	+	-
Muscle hypertrophy	+	-	+	+	-
Muscle atrophy	-	-	+	+	-
Potassium sensitivity	/	/	/	/	-
Myotonic discharge	+	/	/	+	+
Short exercise test	No change	/	/	No change	No change
Long exercise test	No change	/	/	No change	Initial increase Delayed decrease
Fournier pattern I-V	III	/	/	III	Unclassified

Abbreviations:
/ = Not examined, or not applicable
HyperPP = Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis
PP = Periodic paralysis
SCM = Sodium channel myotonia

affected family members and she sometimes would go full days without any myotonia. Electrophysiological analysis was impossible because of her intellectual disability. Myotonia occurred just after initiation of movement, and dysarthria was only observed upon speech initiation. Myotonia could be induced by percussion of tongue and thumbs. Cold and sleep deprivation were precipitating factors. Mexiletine was partially effective for her myotonia.

Patient I-3

This is the mother of proband. She suffered from severe myotonia with pain and was the most severe case in her family. External ocular muscles and swallowing muscles were involved. During her pregnancies, she used a wheelchair because of exacerbation of myotonia. She gradually developed muscle atrophy in her distal extremities. Severe pain was reported in the left hand and right soleus. Manual muscle testing revealed weakness in all tested muscles. Various drugs, including mexiletine, acetazolamide, and phenytoin, failed to ameliorate her symptoms.

Patient II

This is a 13-year-old boy harboring the SCN4A mutation c.2077A>C (p.I693L) whom we reported in 2012.[6] Seven days after birth, he experienced apneic episodes with generalized muscle stiffness while crying. He often exhibited tonic muscle contraction of the extremities during sleep starting at 11 months of age. At 2 years of age, severe episodic myotonia with daily fluctuation began. After age 7, he began to suffer from paralytic episodes several times per year. Episodic weakness lasted from hours to several days with loss of muscle consistency in both thighs. He also had several physical characteristics resembling Schwartz-Jampel syndrome.[7] But causative *HSPG2* gene analysis and immunohistochemical staining of perlecan in biopsied muscle, which is encoded by *HSPG2*, were normal. Functional analyses of p.I693L mutated Nav1.4 heterologously expressed in vitro revealed enhanced activation and disruption of slow inactivation, which were consistent with an overlapping form of SCM and periodic paralysis. Acetazolamide, mexiletine, and phenytoin had some beneficial effects on his severe episodic myotonia.

Patient III

This 14-year-old boy was 9 years old when he was referred to us for paralytic episodes. His mother had had two episodes of sudden paralysis of the extremities accompanied by elevated serum creatine kinase during her pregnancies. His perinatal and developmental history was normal. At 3 years of age, paralysis of extremities suddenly appeared on the morning of the day following a febrile episode. Then, elevated serum creatine kinase and normal potassium levels suggested normokalemic periodic paralysis. His paralytic episode resolved within a week without residual muscle weakness. At age 9, he suffered from sudden, painful muscle paralysis of the extremities after a soccer game. His creatine kinase level was transiently elevated to 3685 U/L. At a later date, physical and neurological examinations, including electrophysiological tests, glucose plus insulin or potassium loading tests, were all normal. At age 11, reexamination via needle electromyography revealed weak myotonic discharges. Therefore, we retried all the examinations. The short exercise test revealed no change in CMAP amplitude. However, during the long exercise test, an early increase (22.7%) and delayed decrease in CMAP amplitude after 5 minutes of isometric exercise were observed. DNA sequence analysis revealed a novel heterozygous mutation of c.3445G>T (p.V1149L) in *SCN4A*. This mutation was also detected in his mother. His final diagnosis was hyperPP with myotonia. His paralytic symptoms disappeared completely upon administration of carbamazepine.

Discussion

Myotonia is the cardinal symptom in paramyotonia congenita, SCM, and the overlapping forms of paramyotonia congenita and hyperPP (paramyotonia congenita/hyperPP).[8] But myotonia is limited or absent in hyperPP and essentially absent in hypokalemic periodic paralysis.[7] The overlapping forms of sodium channelopathies are not unheard of, whereas paramyotonia congenita/hyperPP is relatively common.[9,10] As for normokalemic periodic paralysis, which was initially suggested in patient III, it has been argued that normokalemic periodic paralysis is identical to hyperPP, because the underlying mutations of normokalemic periodic paralysis are the same as for hyperPP.[7,11] Moreover, hypotonia, stridor, and laryngospasm among neonates were found to be the symptoms of sodium channelopathies by genetic testing.[12-14] Skeletal muscle sodium channelopathies are basically treatable disorders, but can be fatal, as in patient II, who experienced a life-threatening episode at 7 days after birth. Thus, early diagnosis may improve the outcome of affected neonates. Clinical and electrophysiological characteristics of skeletal muscle sodium and chloride channel myotonia are summarized in Table 2.[1,2,8-10,15]

In our experience, the difficulty with the clinical diagnosis of skeletal muscle sodium channelopathy lies in the phenotypic variability during a patient's development. It took quite some time to arrive at a definitive diagnosis in patients I-1 and III because clear symptoms did not appear until 11 years of age. The grip and eyelid myotonias of patient I-1 appeared at 11 years of age, which easily suggested myotonic disorders. The subclinical myotonia of patient III was suddenly detected as myotonic discharges at age 11, which strongly suggested hyperPP.[7] Patient II was an uncommon case with resemblance to Schwartz-Jampel syndrome. We originally excluded Schwartz-Jampel syndrome by immunohistochemical and genetic analyses; thereafter, the exploration of pathogenesis was directed to sodium channel myotonias.

The electrophysiological protocols published by Fournier et al. are useful.[4,5] These authors investigated the relationship between electromyographic findings and specific channel protein mutations and identified five different electromyographic patterns that correspond to the subgroups of mutations and clinical categories of muscle channelopathy.

Electrophysiological analysis of patients I-1, II, and III, and all patients showed myotonic discharges. Flat patterns

TABLE 2.
Clinical and Electrophysiological Characteristics of Skeletal Muscle Sodium and Chloride Channel Myotonias

Disorder	RMC	DMC	SCM	PMC	HyperPP/PMC	HyperPP
Gene mutation	CLCN1	CLCN1	SCN4A	SCN4A	SCN4A	SCN4A
Age at onset (years)	<10, late	<10, early	<10	<10, early	<10	<10
Clinical myotonia	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
Severity	Moderate to severe	Mild to moderate	Mild to severe	Mild to moderate	Mild to severe	Mild
Warm up	+	+	+/-	-	-	+
Paradoxical myotonia	-	-	-	+	+	+/-
Cold sensitivity	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	+/-
Delayed myotonia	-	-	+/-	-	-	-
Painful myotonia	+/-	-	+/-	-	-	-
Episodic weakness	+/-	-	-	+	+	+
Persistent weakness	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+/-
Muscle hypertrophy	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-
Muscle atrophy	+/-	+/-	-	-	-	-
Potassium sensitivity	-	-	+	+/-	+	+
Myotonic discharge	+	+	+	+	+	+/-
Short exercise test	Initial decrease	No change or initial decrease	No change	Decrease	Increase	Increase
Long exercise test	No change or initial decrease	No change or initial decrease	No change	Decrease	Changes similar to PMC or SCM or hyperPP[i]	Initial increase Delayed decrease
Fournier pattern I-V	II	II/III	III	I	/	IV

Abbreviations:
+/− = Plus or minus
DMC = Dominant myotonia congenita (Thomsen disease)
HyperPP = Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis
HyperPP/PMC = Overlapping form of hyperkalemic periodic paralysis and paramyotonia congenita
PMC = Paramyotonia congenita
RMC = Recessive myotonia congenita (Becker disease)
SCM = Sodium channel myotonia
[h] Data from reference 14.
[i] Data from reference 15.

of CMAP amplitude in both short and long exercise tests were observed in patients I-1 and II, which corresponded to Fournier pattern III and suggested SCM for both patients. Although patient III was not classified into any Fournier patterns because of the conflict of the flat pattern in the short exercise test and the initial increase and delayed decrease pattern in the long exercise test. However, SCM or hyperPP was suggested for this patient. In addition to delayed myotonia, patient I-1 had myotonia immediately after movement initiation, which showed warm-up phenomenon and cold insensitivity. This type of myotonia is usually observed after rest in chloride channel myotonia (i.e., myotonia congenita caused by *CLCN1*). For this reason, *CLCN1* should be considered another candidate gene for mutation analysis in such a case. Nevertheless, this electrophysiological analysis can only be performed on children who are willing to be cooperative during the examination.

We also illustrated the location of the mutations associated with skeletal muscle sodium channelopathies and the three mutations of our patients on a schematic diagram of the α-subunit of $Na_v1.4$ (Figure).[1,2] From this diagram, it is clear that mutations are abundant at the inner side of the sarcoplasmic membrane, and several hotspots were observed that corresponded to the disorders.

In a previous report,[16] the patients with p.V445M exhibited severe painful myotonias, especially in the chest. The region of pain was different from that in the present cohort: patient I-3 had pain in the extremities, whereas the myotonias of patient I-1 and I-2 were painless. Patient I-3's muscle atrophy and persistent weakness are signs that are rarely observed in SCM. It is unclear whether her muscle weakness resulted from severe myotonia or age-dependent myopathy. However, the family of patient I exhibited significant intrafamilial phenotypic heterogeneity and provided a key to understand the complexity of sodium channelopathy.

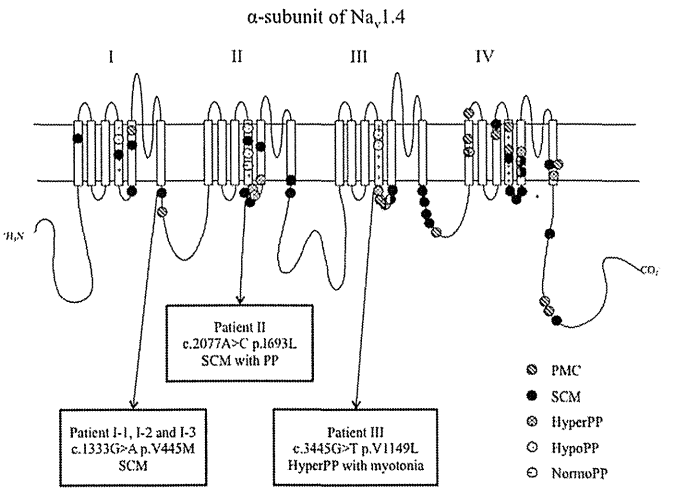

FIGURE.
Schematic representation of the α-subunit of $Na_v1.4$ showing the location of the mutations associated with paramyotonia congenita, sodium channel myotonia, hyperkalemic periodic paralysis, hypokalemic periodic paralysis, and normokalemic periodic paralysis[1,2] in addition to p.V445M, p.I693L, and p.V1149L of our patients. HyperPP = hyperkalemic periodic paralysis; hypoPP = hypokalemic periodic paralysis; normoPP = normokalemic periodic paralysis; PMC = paramyotonia congenita; PP = periodic paralysisSCM = sodium channel myotonia.

Concerning p.I693L of patient II, another substitution at the same site (p.I693T) has already been reported and could generate various phenotypes, including cold-induced weakness without stiffness,[17] muscle stiffness and episodic weakness,[4] neonatal hypotonia,[12] paramyotonia congenita,[18] and hyperPP.[11] Patient II was diagnosed with SCM with periodic paralysis.

Although p.V1149L in patient III was a novel mutation, it was located in a highly conserved mutation hotspot region. This mutation was absent in the Single Nucleotide Polymorphism database or 1000 Genomes Project database and was not found in 200 control DNA samples. Moreover, it was predicted to be possibly damaging and deleterious in PolyPhen2 and SIFT, respectively. In addition, this patient's mother, who harbors the same mutation, also experienced prolonged paralytic attacks twice during her pregnancies. Taken together, this mutation was considered to be causative in this family.

Our experience highlights the complexity, variability, and overlapping nature of the clinical features of several skeletal muscle sodium channelopathies. A definite diagnosis is necessary if physicians are to alleviate symptoms or even to save lives. A genetic study based on careful clinical examination and accurate electromyography tests is recommended. Special attention should also be paid to the evolution of clinical phenotypes. We hope our experiences will help pediatric neurologists better understand this group of disorders.

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骨格筋チャネル病の最新知見

——ミオトニー症候群と周期性四肢麻痺を中心に

Update of the skeletal muscle channelopathies——myotonic syndromes and periodic paralysis

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◎骨格筋にはさまざまなイオンチャネルが存在し，電気生理的活動を担っている．これらのチャネルの機能異常はミオトニー，麻痺，筋小胞体の障害などを主とする疾患の原因となり，骨格筋チャネル病と総称される．この骨格筋チャネル病にはチャネル遺伝子自体の変異による一次性と，他の原因によりチャネルの発現や機能が影響を受けて発症する二次性とがある．一次性のうち，ミオトニー症候群に関しては，Nav1.4 チャネルによる疾患を中心に臨床診断，遺伝子変異同定，変異チャネル機能解析を通じて理解が深まっている．また，麻痺を主症状とする疾患については，電位感受性ドメインに生じる漏洩電流(gating pore 電流)の発見により病態生理の解明に近づいている．一方，二次性については甲状腺中毒性周期性四肢麻痺の一部で Kir2.6 という新規原因チャネルが近年同定されたものの大部分は不明であり，複数の原因で構成される症候群と考えられ，さらなる研究がまたれる．

Key word　骨格筋，Naチャネル，ミオトニー，甲状腺中毒性，周期性四肢麻痺，gating pore電流

骨格筋細胞膜にはさまざまなイオンチャネルが存在し，骨格筋の電気的活動を担っている．これらのイオンチャネルの機能異常はミオトニーや麻痺といった症状を呈する疾患の原因となり，骨格筋チャネル病(以下，筋チャネル病)と総称される．

本稿ではまず筋チャネル病の広がりについて概説する．さらに，さまざまな遺伝子異常により生じる変異チャネルの機能異常がどのように筋チャネル病の病態生理へつながるか，最近の知見についてミオトニー症候群と周期性四肢麻痺を中心に述べる．

筋チャネル病の分類

筋チャネル病は“筋細胞膜の障害を主とする疾患”と“筋小胞体の障害を主とする疾患”に大別できる．“筋細胞膜の障害を主とする疾患”は臨床症状から，①ミオトニーが主症状の疾患，②麻痺症状が主症状の疾患，に大別できるが，症状が混在しはっきりと区別しがたい例も多い．また，イオンチャネル遺伝子自体の変異によるもの(一次性)と，他の原因によりイオンチャネルの発現や機能が影響を受けて発症するもの(二次性)とがある(図 1)．

ミオトニーは臨床的には，随意的または叩打により誘発された筋収縮の弛緩遅延と定義される．その生理学的本態は筋細胞膜の異常な興奮性亢進である．このミオトニーを呈する疾患群を総称し，ミオトニー症候群とよぶ[1]．一次性ミオトニー症候群は非ジストロフィー性ミオトニー症候群(non-dystrophic myotonia)ともよばれるが，実際には筋萎縮を呈する症例も散見される．一方，麻痺症状の本態は筋細胞膜が脱分極した状態が続くことで起こる脱分極性麻痺であり，筋細胞膜異常興奮性による症状という点でミオトニー症候群と共通の病態を背景にもつ．

以下，筋チャネル病を分類に沿って概説する．

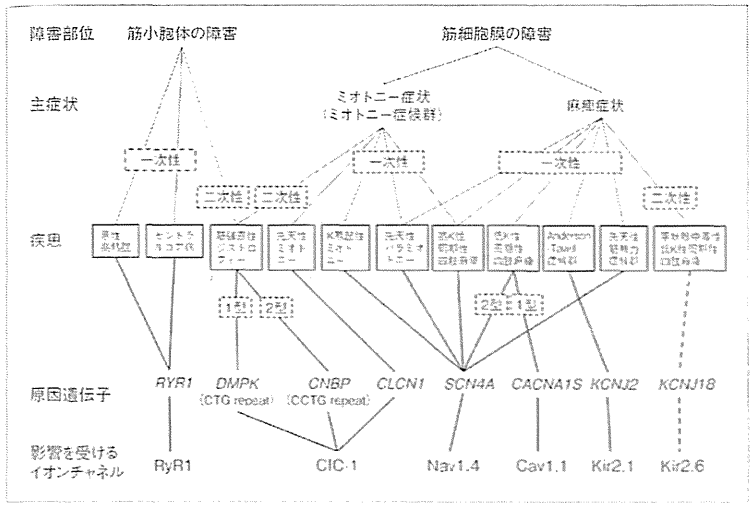


図 1　骨格筋チャネル病の分類

骨格筋チャネル病は“筋細胞膜の障害を主とするもの”と“筋小胞体の障害を主とするもの”に大別される．また前者は，ミオトニーを主症状とするもの，麻痺(筋無力症状)を主症状とするものに大別される．各疾患の原因遺伝子，原因となるチャネルを示す．破線は関連が示唆されているものを示す．

一次性筋チャネル病

1. ミオトニー症候群

①　骨格筋型Cl⁻チャネル異常によるミオトニー

骨格筋型 Cl^- チャネル(ClC-1)は 7 番染色体上にある *CLCN1* 遺伝子にコードされている．2 つのサブユニットからダイマーを形成するが，各サブユニットはプロトポアとよばれるイオン伝達経路を別々に形成し，Cl^- イオンを透過させる．

筋細胞膜には神経に比べて Cl^- チャネルが豊富に存在し，その平衡電位は静止膜電位に近い．ClC-1 は電位変化に対し比例して Cl^- イオンを通す性質をもつため，膜電位を安定化させる効果をもつ．この点で，筋細胞の興奮性において，ClC-1 は重要な役割を担う．ClC-1 異常によるミオトニーはその機能低下・発現量の低下(loss of function)による．

先天性ミオトニー(myotonia congenita：MC：Thomsen 病，Becker 病)は，外眼筋，顔面筋や舌筋を含む全身の骨格筋にみられるミオトニーと筋肥大を特徴とする．ミオトニーは筋を繰り返し収縮させることにより軽減する(warm-up 現象)．優性遺伝型を Thomsen 病，劣性遺伝型を Becker 病とよぶ．Becker 病のほうが Thomsen 病よりも重度となる傾向がある．優性遺伝形式でも発症する理由として，正常チャネルの機能に影響する優性陰性(dominant negative)変異によるとされている．

②　骨格筋型Naチャネル異常によるミオトニー

骨格筋型 Na チャネル(Nav1.4)は 17 番染色体上にある *SCN4A* 遺伝子にコードされている．Nav1.4 は 6 つの膜貫通セグメント(S1～S6)をもつドメインが 4 つ(DⅠ～DⅣ)つながって構成される(図 2-A)．各ドメインの S5 と S6 は 1 つのチャネルの穴(ポア)を形成する．S4 は 3 アミノ酸ごとに正電荷をもつアミノ酸(アルギニンまたはリジン)が規則正しく並ぶ構造をもち，これらを gating charge とよぶ．また，S1 から S4 までを総称して電位感受性ドメイン(VSD)とよぶ(図 2, 3)[2]．

カリウム(K)惹起性ミオトニー(potassium

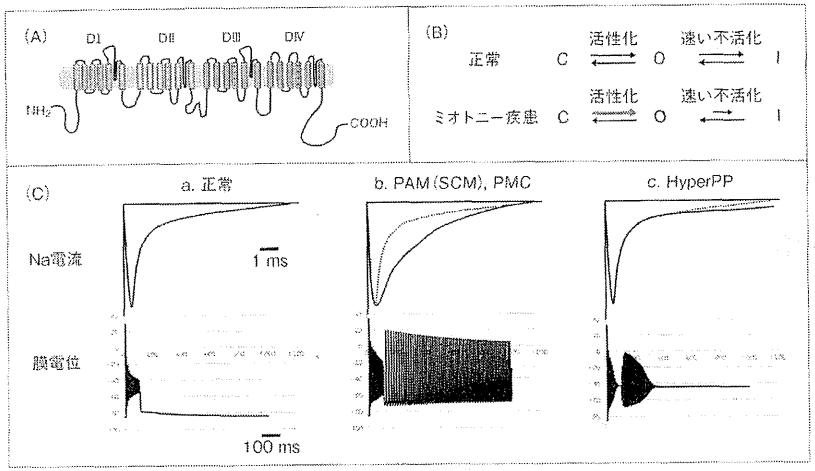


図 2　Nav1.4によるミオトニー症候群

A：Nav1.4チャネルを示す．実際にはこのNav1.4に，補完サブユニットであるβサブユニットが組み合わさって筋細胞膜上に存在すると考えられている．6回膜貫通セグメント(S1～S6)をもつ4つのドメイン(DI～DIV)で構成される．S1～S4を電位感受性ドメイン(voltage sensing domain：VSD)，S5およびS6はポアドメインとよぶ．

B：Nav1.4の活性化しチャネルが開いた状態(O)，チャネルが閉じている状態(C)，不活化している状態(I)を模式的に示す．活性化が亢進，速い不活化が障害，あるいはその両方によりNav1.4は開いた状態(O)になりやすく，興奮性が亢進した状態となり，ミオトニー放電が生じる．

C：Nav1.4異常症の各疾患とチャネル機能異常の関係を示す．上段はNa電流を，下段はその機能異常をもとに筋細胞膜の電位変化のシミュレーションを示している．正常では筋細胞に電流が流れている間のみ活動電位が発生する(a)．Nav1.4の速い不活化が障害されている場合，Na電流の減衰が遅くなる(b上段)．このとき筋細胞膜は電流が流れたあとも自発的活動電位(myotonic discharge)が発生し，これがPAMやPMCの病理にあたる(b)．Nav1.4の遅い不活化が障害されている場合，Na電流が減衰しきらずに電流が流れつづける(c上段)．このとき，筋細胞膜は電流の流れたあとも活動電位が発生し，ついには脱分極性麻痺に至る．これがHyperPPの病理にあたる(c)．

aggravated myotonia：PAM)，先天性パラミオトニー(paramyotonia congenita：PMC)，高K性周期性四肢麻痺(hyperkalemic periodic paralysis：HyperPP)は同じ*SCN4A*遺伝子の変異で生じる疾患群である．ClC-1異常によるミオトニーはClC-1のloss of functionで生じるのに対し，上記3疾患は*SCN4A*変異によりNav1.4の機能がより興奮性亢進へと変化する(gain of function)ことにより生じる．Nav1.4には，①活性化しチャネルが開いた状態(O)，②チャネルが閉じている状態(C)，③不活化している状態(I)，がある(図2-B)．不活化状態はイオンを透過しないという点では閉じている状態と同様であるが，いかに脱分極させてもイオンが透過可能にはならないという点で異なる．不活化にはその時間経過から，速い不活化と遅い不活化のすくなくとも2種類がある．速い不活化は活動電位発生後の再分極に関与する．遅い不活化については数百msecから数sec以上の長い脱分極により生じる不活化状態で，複数の状態があると考えられているが，生理的意義も含めて詳細は不明な部分が多い．これらNav1.4の状態のうち，どの機能異常が筋細胞膜全体の興奮性にどのように影響するか，実験データをもとにしたコンピュータシミュレーションを用いて検討されてきており，上記3疾患と機能異常との関連が明らかになってきている[3](図2-C)．

PAM(SCM)：運動やカリウム経口摂取後の筋のこわばりを特徴とする．現在はNaチャネルミオトニー(sodium channel myotonia：SCM)とよぶべきと提唱されている[1]．軽症(myotonia fluctuans)から重症(myotonia permanens)までスペクトラムに幅がある．

PMC：寒冷により誘発される筋のこわばりを特徴とする．ときに弛緩性筋力低下や麻痺に至る．筋のこわばりは反復活動で増悪するパラミオトニーという特徴をもつ．力強く開閉眼を繰り返すと開眼できなくなる．

HyperPP：高K血症を伴う弛緩性麻痺発作が特徴である．呼吸不全は通常生じない．麻痺間欠期には，軽いミオトニーや，筋電図検査上でミオトニー放電が認められる．カリウム経口摂取，運動後の安静，寒冷は発作の誘因・増悪因子である．患者の変異チャネルでは遅い不活化の障害も併せもつものが多い[3]．

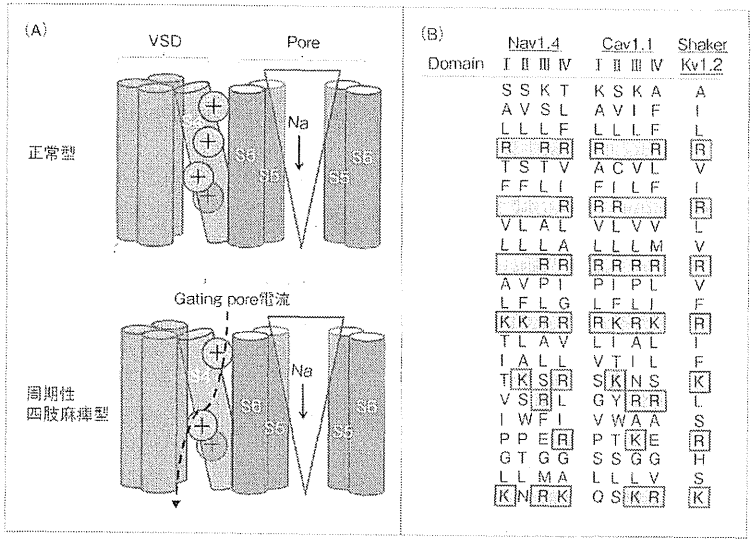


図 3　電位感受性ドメイン(VSD)とgating pore電流

A：Nav1.4の4つのドメインのうち，1つを中心に示す．Naイオンが通過するポアは他の3つのドメインのS5およびS6と組み合わさって構成される(上段：正常型)．S4に存在する正電荷に帯電したアミノ酸が変異することで，gating pore電流が生じる(下段：周期性四肢麻痺型)．

B：Nav1.4，Cav1.1，およびShaker/Kv1.2の各ドメインS4のアミノ酸配列を示す．規則正しく正電荷のアミノ酸が3アミノ酸ごとに並ぶのがわかる．一次性低K性周期性四肢麻痺の原因として報告されている変異部位を白抜き下線で示す．

2. 麻痺症状を主症状とする筋チャネル病

① 低K性周期性四肢麻痺1型，2型 (hypokalemic periodic paralysis type 1, type 2：HypoPP1，HypoPP2)

低K血症を伴う弛緩性麻痺発作を特徴とする．本症の発作はHyperPPに比べて持続時間が長い．ミオトニーは認めず，ミオパチーや永続的な筋力低下を生じることがある．

HypoPP1は骨格筋型Caチャネル(Cav1.1)をコードする*CACNA1S*遺伝子の変異，HypoPP2は*SCN4A*の変異により生じる[2,4]．これらの共通点は，VSD中のS4にあるgating chargeが他のアミノ酸に変異している点である．2つの異なるチャネル異常が同一疾患の原因となる理由として，gating pore電流とよばれる，通常のポアとは別の経路による漏洩電流が生じることが示されている[5,6](図3；「サイドメモ1」参照)．現在まで報告されているHypoPP2例は，Nav1.4のDI，D

Ⅱ，DⅢのgating chargeの変異である．DⅣのgating chargeの変異はPMCの表現型であることが知られており，HypoPP2の症例はない[2,7]．これはNav1.4における機能・構造上の差異によることが示唆されている．Nav1.4の個々のドメインは違う挙動を示すことが示されており，DⅢ，DⅡ，DⅠ，DⅣの順に活性化し，とくにDⅣのVSDの挙動は遅く，Nav1.4の速い不活化に関与することが示唆されている[8,9]．DⅣでは複数のgating chargeに変異を導入してはじめてgating pore電流が流れることが報告されており，DⅣのVSDにおけるhydrophobic plugの構成が他の3ドメインとは違うことが想像されている[8,10,11]．多くのHypoPP変異にみられるgating pore電流は膜電位が過分極状態で活性化される性質をもち，その結果，安静時でも細胞内へ陽イオンが流れつづけることとなり，細胞膜の興奮性が上昇した状態となる．

Gating pore電流については，アフリカツメガエルの卵母細胞を用いたcut-open電位固定法によるNav1.4チャネルの解析を通して理解が深まった[5-7]．近年，HypoPP変異を導入したNav1.4トランスジェニックマウス[12]およびCav1.1トランスジェニックマウス[13]を用いた解析により，両者はgating pore電流と考えられる病的な漏洩電流が原因で麻痺症状を呈することが示された．このことから，病的な漏洩電流を呈することがHypoPPに共通する病因と考えられる．

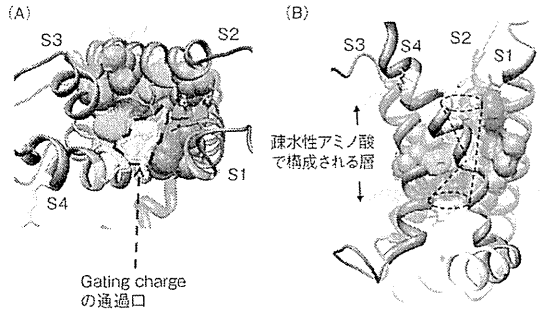
② 高K性周期性四肢麻痺(HyperPP)

前述のため略．

サイドメモ1

VSDのhydrophobic plugとgating pore電流
——Shaker Kチャネル

Gating pore電流は，歴史的にはShaker Kチャネルにおいてはじめて示された[2,3]．S4の1つ目のgating chargeであるR362をヒスチジンに置換すると，膜電位が過分極することでプロトン電流が流れることがわかった．これは電位感受性ドメイン内で細胞内外を隔てる領域が非常に狭い部分に集約されており，かつその狭い領域が膜電位を感受する電場“electric field”の集約している領域であることを示唆している．その後，この細胞内外を隔てる領域を構成するものとして，S1～S3に存在する疎水性アミノ酸残基の重要性がわかってきている[2,3,14]（下図）．これらのShaker Kチャネルの研究は，HypoPP2のNav1.4におけるgating pore電流の発見につながっている．



Kv1.2におけるhydrophobic plug/layer

Kv1.2の電位感受性ドメインのdown state(安静時)を上からみた様子(A)，横からみた様子(B)．リボンで示しているのはKv1.2のS1～S4のbackboneである．そのなかに含まれる疎水性アミノ酸を球体(フェニルアラニンを紫，その他を緑)で示し，その貫通部位を明らかにしている．S4に含まれるgating charge，およびS1，S2，S3に含まれる陰性電荷をもつアミノ酸はいずれも赤スティックで示している．こうしてみると疎水性アミノ酸で取り囲まれた狭い通路にgating charge(黄色)が並んでいることがわかる(破線内)．図はProtein Data Base ID3LUTをもとに作成．

③ 先天性筋無力症候群

(congenital myasthenic syndrome：CMS)

筋無力症，筋萎縮，軽度の顔面奇形を特徴とする．多くは骨格筋アセチルコリンレセプター(AchR)の種々のサブユニットの変異などによる(「サイドメモ2」参照)．*SCN4A*遺伝子変異による報告[11]があり，臨床病型の第4型に属する．

④ Andersen-Tawil症候群

周期性四肢麻痺，心室性不整脈やQT延長，奇形の三徴を特徴とするが，三徴がそろわない例も多い．10歳前後で，動悸や失神といった心症状か，麻痺発作で発症する．内向き整流性Kチャネル2.1(Kir2.1)をコードする*KCNJ2*遺伝子の変異が原因で，常染色体優性遺伝である[1]．詳しくは本特集，木村「アンダーセン症候群」の稿に譲る．

サイドメモ2

先天性筋無力症候群(CMS)

神経筋接合部に発現する分子の遺伝子変異により生じ，現在までに，①AchRの各サブユニット，②ラプシン，③アグリン，④骨格筋特異的受容体チロシンキナーゼ(MuSK)，⑤Dok-7，⑥プレクチン，⑦グルタミン-フルクトース6リン酸アミノ基転移酵素，⑧コラーゲンQ(ColQ)，⑨β2ラミニン，⑩コリンアセチルトランスフェラーゼ，の遺伝子異常が同定されている[15]．これらに加えて，*SCN4A*遺伝子変異による報告がある[16]．臨床型としては4病型に分類される．1型はAchR動態の異常によるもので，上記の①による．1型はさらに，イオンチャネルの開口時間が異常に延びるスローチャネル症候群と，イオンチャネルの開口時間が短縮するファーストチャネル症候群に大別される．スローチャネル症候群はCMSのなかで唯一のgain-of-functionによる優性遺伝性疾患で，成人発症の例も多くみられる．2型は終板AchR欠損症であり，重症筋無力症に似た病態で，①～③によるものが報告されている．3型は終板Achエステラーゼ(AchE)欠損症である．AchE分子はColQ分子と蛋白複合体を形成していることから，⑧により終板のAchEが欠損する．ColQ分子が組織特異的な発現をすることを利用したprotein-anchoring therapyの研究が進んでいる．4型は発作性無呼吸を伴う型で，上記⑨および*SCN4A*遺伝子異常による例がこれにあたる．

3. 筋小胞体障害を主とする筋チャネル病

筋小胞体上に発現するイオンチャネル異常による筋チャネル病も知られている．具体的にはここで紹介する悪性高熱症，セントラルコア病といったリアノジンレセプター異常による疾患以外にも，Brody病など筋小胞体カルシウムATPase(SERCA)の異常による疾患などがある．

リアノジンレセプターは最大のイオンチャネルで，ホモテトラマーの構造をとる．小胞体/筋小胞体の膜上に位置し，細胞内カルシウム(Ca^{2+})濃度の維持に関与する．哺乳類にはRyR1～3までのアイソフォームをもち，とくに骨格筋に発現しているのはRyR1である[15]．RyR2はおもに心筋に発現し，カテコラミン感受性多形性心室頻拍(CPVT)などの発症に関連するが，詳しくは本特集，住友「カテコラミン誘発多形性心室頻拍(CPVT)とその亜型」の稿に譲る．ここではRyR1に関連する悪性高熱症とセントラルコア病を中心に述べる．このほか，*RYR1*遺伝子変異は先天性ミオパチーであるマルチミニコア病やネマリンミオパチーとの関連も示唆されている．

① 悪性高熱症……*RYR1*遺伝子の変異により生じる致死性疾患である．体温の異常上昇，代謝性アシドーシス，低酸素症，頻脈，筋硬直を伴う横紋筋融解症を臨床的特徴とする．吸入麻酔薬，脱分極性筋弛緩薬，激しい運動や高温環境の曝露などが誘因で発症することが多い．誘因がなければ，*RYR1*変異の保持者であっても発症しないことも多いため，正確な疾患頻度は不明である．本症の病態生理は変異RyR1の誘因因子に対する感受性が上昇しているため，筋小胞体から細胞内へのCa^{2+}漏洩が起こり，細胞内Ca^{2+}恒常性を維持できなくなるためと考えられている．発症後，速やかなダントリウムによる治療が重要である[12]．

② セントラルコア病……先天性ミオパチーのなかで最多頻度と考えられている．*RYR1*の変異により生じ，常染色体優性および劣性遺伝形式をもつが，同一家系のなかでも重症度にばらつきがみられる．臨床的特徴は筋萎縮，精神発達の軽度の遅延に続く処女歩行の遅れ，側弯などの骨格系異常である．多くの患者が悪性高熱症を発症する

リスクをもつ．疾患名は筋病理所見で，ヒラメ筋などに代表される遅筋(Type 1線維)内に，ミトコンドリアと酸化酵素を欠いた“コア”とよばれる構造物がみられることによる．本症での変異RyR1の機能異常は，①筋小胞体から細胞内へのCa^{2+}漏洩と，②興奮収縮連関におけるCav1.1とRyR1との連関破綻とが示唆されている[15]．

二次性骨格筋チャネル病

1. 筋強直性ジストロフィー (dystrophia myotonica：DM)

成人の筋ジストロフィーのなかで最多である．筋萎縮・筋力低下，ミオトニーを主徴とする常染色体優性遺伝性疾患で，1型(DM1)と2型(DM2)が知られている．DM1は19番染色体上の*DMPK*遺伝子にあるCTG反復配列の反復回数延長(>50回)が原因であり，わが国ではほとんどがDM1である．DM1のおもな病態については，CTG反復配列伸長に起因したスプライシング因子の量的変化による種々のmRNAのスプライシング異常であることが明らかになりつつある．ミオトニーはスプライシング異常によりClC-1の発現が低下することで生じることが証明されている[16]．また，ClC-1以外の骨格筋イオンチャネルのスプライシング異常として，RyR1[17]，SERCA1型および2型[17]，Cav1.1[18]のスプライシング異常が同定され，筋萎縮・筋力低下に関連する可能性が示唆されている．

2. 甲状腺中毒性周期性四肢麻痺 (thyrotoxic periodic paralysis：TPP)

甲状腺機能亢進症患者に起こる二次性筋チャネル病で，症状は一次性HypoPPに似る．アジアとラテンアメリカの男性に多い．近年，海外のTPP患者の33%に新規遺伝子*KCNJ18*の変異が同定された[19]．*KCNJ18*はKir2.6をコードしており，プロモーター領域に甲状腺ホルモン応答配列が存在することから，上昇した甲状腺ホルモンの作用でKir2.6の発現量が増加し，機能異常を有する変異Kir2.6の作用で骨格筋細胞膜の興奮性が上昇すると考えられている[19]．

一方，この*KCNJ18*変異のみつかった人種の内訳をみると，ブラジル・フランス・アメリカの30人のTPP中5人，香港の83人中1人，シンガポールの27人中7人と，TPPの多いとされる地域のなかでも差がみられる[19]．この点について近年，香港[20]およびタイ[21]からゲノムワイド関連解析(GWAS)の報告があいついでなされたが，いずれの報告でも*KCNJ18*については検出されなかった．この2報のGWASではともに，もっとも有力な疾患関連遺伝子座位として17番染色体長腕，*KCNJ2*遺伝子の下流に位置する領域が検出された．*KCNJ2*遺伝子と物理的に近い領域であることから，機能的関連も想像されているが，詳細は不明である．

今後の展望

筋チャネル病の診断は，臨床診断を進めていき，最終的には遺伝子解析による変異同定が確定診断となる．ただし，同一の変異症例・同一家系のなかでも症状の程度や，場合によっては表現型が違うことも経験される．新規変異の場合にはチャネル機能解析まで行い，変異チャネルの機能異常が症状を説明しうることを示すことが望まれる．これらの解析を通じてミオトニー症候群については理解が深まった．一方，麻痺を主症状とする疾患群についてはHypoPP1・HypoPP2におけるgating pore電流の研究により共通する病態生理の理解は深まっている．TPPは多くの原因遺伝子が存在する症候群と考えられ，不明な点も多く，より正確な臨床診断，患者群の集積が望まれる．遺伝情報解析のテクノロジーは，次世代シークエンサーの開発など，近年めざましい進歩がみられている．これらの技術を生かすためには臨床診断による，できるかぎり詳細で正確な疾患群の集積が必要である．また，Shakerチャネルにおける研究がHypoPPのgating pore電流へつながったように，結晶解析・構造解析を含むチャネル研究は今後もイオンチャネル病解明に向けて重要な役割を担うと考えられる．

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