学位論文題名

Alteration of N-glycans related to articular cartilage deterioration after anterior cruciate ligament transection in rabbits

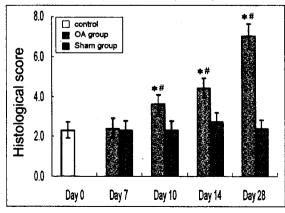
(軟骨組織における N-型糖鎖構造と軟骨変性に伴う構造変化)

学位論文内容の要旨

Objective: Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common of all joint diseases, but the molecular basis of its onset and progression is controversial. Several studies have shown that modifications of N-glycans contribute to pathogenesis. However, little attention has been paid to N-glycan modifications seen in articular cartilage. The goal of this study was to identify disease specific N-glycan expression profiles in degenerated cartilage in a rabbit OA model induced by anterior cruciate ligament transection (ACL-transection).

Methods: Cartilage samples were harvested at 7, 10, 14 and 28 days after ACL-transection and assessed for cartilage degeneration and alteration in N-glycans. N-glycans from cartilage were analyzed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and mass spectrometry.

Results: Histological analysis showed that osteoarthritic changes in cartilage occurred 10 days after ACL-transection. Mean histological scores of the tibial plateau were significantly higher in the OA group than in the sham group (Figure 1). Apparent alterations in the N-glycan peak pattern in cartilage samples by HPLC on an ODS column were observed 7 days after ACL-transection (Figure 2). Each altered peak on the ODS column was separated into three peaks on the amide column, referred to as N-glycan A (a), B (b), and C (c) in order of separation time (Figure 2-*). We then calculated each area ratio. The mean ratio of N-glycan A and C in the OA group significantly changed from day 7 to day 28 compared to the sham group (Figure 3). Overall N-glycan changes in OA reflected alterations in both sialylation and fucosylation. These changes apparently preceded histological changes in cartilage. (Figure 4).



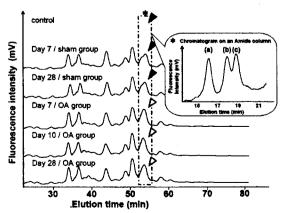
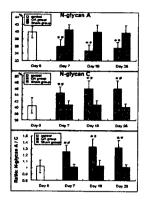


Figure 1. Histological scores of medial tibial plateau. Figure 2. Chromatograms of PA-N-glycans obtained from rabbit cartilage glycoproteins on an ODS column.



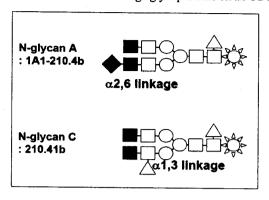


Figure 3. The ratio in the peak area of N-glycans related to OA.

Figure 4. Structure of N-glycans A and C.

Discussion: This study showed that the cartilage N-glycans significantly altered from the time before the appearance of apparent histological changes. This indicates that such alteration in cartilage N-glycans occurs from very early phase of OA aggravation. In addition, we succeeded in identifying the N-glycans, including 1A1-210.4b and 210.41b, which responded to osteoarthritic changes of cartilage. Although the functional roles of these N-glycans remain unclear, they may play a crucial role in the chondrocytes or/and ECM responses to the changes in mechanical environment of cartilage responsible for the pathogenesis of OA initiation or aggravation. To our knowledge, this is the first study to determine the structure of cartilage N-glycans and to show the alterations in this structure with OA aggravation. This novel analysis and the obtained results may be useful diagnostically and also provide an insight to OA pathogenesis. We believe that our understanding of glycobiology broadens analytical approach to various joint diseases.

Conclusion: These results indicate that changes in the expression of N-glycans are correlated with OA in an animal model. Understanding mechanisms underlying changes in N-glycans seen in OA may be of therapeutic value in treating cartilage deterioration.

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Histological scores of medial tibial plateau.

Values are means \pm SD. Shown are scores for histological parameters with comparisons between groups. Histological analysis revealed that slightly degenerative changes in cartilage occurred in all cases starting 10 days after ACLT. * denotes statistical significance (P<0.05) vs sham group. # denotes statistical significance (P<0.05) vs control.

Figure 2. Chromatograms of PA-N-glycans obtained from rabbit cartilage glycoproteins on an ODS column.

Two peaks (solid arrow) in the chart of day 0 and the sham-operated group were seen as one peak (empty arrow) from day 7 after ACLT. Those peaks included three peaks on an amide column, referred to as N-glycan A (a), B (b), and C (c), in order of separation time (*).

Figure 3. The ratio in the peak area of N-glycans related to OA.

Values are means ± SD. The mean ratio of N-glycan A decreased significantly from 7 days in the OA group. The mean ratio of N-glycan C increased significantly from 7 days in the OA group. The mean ratio of N-glycan A to N-glycan C increased significantly from 7 days in the OA group. * denotes statistical significance (P<0.05) vs sham group. # denotes statistical significance (P<0.05) vs control.

Figure 4. Structure of N-glycans A and C.

Indicated are structures of N-glycans related to OA.

Mannose, ○; Fuc, △; GalNAc, ■; GlcNAc, □; NANA, ◆; PA ❖.

学位論文審査の要旨

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(軟骨組織における N-型糖鎖構造と軟骨変性に伴う構造変化)

翻訳後修飾、なかでも、ヒトにおける 50%以上のタンパク質が修飾を受けその働きを決定している糖鎖修飾は非常に注目されている。糖鎖はタンパクや脂質に接着して細胞の表面や細胞外基質、血清中に豊富に存在し、細胞接着や細胞間のシグナル伝達に重要な働きをする。

近年の研究においてN型糖鎖と疾患との直接的な関与が示されており、本研究においても関節軟骨の変性に伴いN型糖鎖が変化すると仮定し、日本白色家兎を用いて前十字靱帯を切断し変形性関節症(OA)を誘発させ、N型糖鎖との関係を明らかにした。実験群は手術しないコントロール群、関節切開のみのsham群、前十字靱帯切断のOA群の3群に分けた。

一や進行予防のための治療ターゲットとなる可能性があると報告された。

審査にあたり、副査の藤堂省教授から OA の遺伝的な素因について検討しているかどうか、またノックアウトを作成した際に他の成分が代償的に働いてしまう可能性についての質問があった。副査の三浪明男教授から、OA と糖鎖の関係で、マーカー等の将来への展望についての質問があった。主査の安田和則教授からは、ヒトの関節軟骨の研究は行っているか、また、その結果は本研究で変化のあったものと一致するか等の質問があり、これらの質問に対して今回行った実験結果と過去の報告を引用し、適切に回答した。

この論文はウサギの関節軟骨の変性とN型糖鎖の変化について報告されたものであり、 今後、ヒト軟骨やノックアウトなどのコンディショナルモデル動物を使用し軟骨変性に関 与する糖鎖の機能解析をする必要があり、これが変形性関節症に対する新しい治療につな がると期待される。

審査員一同は、これらの成果を高く評価し、大学院課程における研鑽や取得単位なども併せ申請者が博士(医学)の学位を受けるのに十分な資格を有するものと判定した。