筋の萎縮を検出する新たな尿中バイオマーカーとしての コネクチンの役割の解明

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The Role of Connectin as a New Urinary Biomarker to Detect Muscle Atrophy

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ABSTRACT

Many studies have attempted to determine the associations between blood and urine biomarkers and muscle damage and atrophy. However, poor correlations between the changes in biomarker levels and the magnitude of muscle damage and atrophy have been reported. Recently, the N-terminal fragment (N-titin) of titin (connectin), a giant sarcomeric protein that is involved in muscular passive tension and viscoelasticity, has been reported to detect muscle damage in patients with skeletal muscle dystrophy and in healthy volunteers with endurance exercise. In the present study, we evaluated whether urinary N-titin is changed during a muscle atrophy period and whether its increase reflects muscle atrophy. C57BL/6 mice (male, 10 weeks of age) were used of this study. Urine samples were obtained after sciatic nerve removal surgery

to induce muscle atrophy. We measured the urinary levels of N-titin with a highly sensitive ELISA system. 11 days after sciatic nerve removal surgery, dissection was performed and the limb muscle was removed and weighed. Unfortunately, although skeletal muscle weights were predominantly reduced and mRNA levels of Atrogin-1 and MuRF-1 as markers of muscle atrophy, were increased, there was no significant changes in urinary titin levels. These results suggest that it is difficult to identify the muscle atrophy with urinary titin levels.

要旨

筋損傷や筋萎縮を同定する新規バイオマーカー を血中並びに尿中から同定する研究が数多く行わ れているが明らかな相関が認められたという報告 は少ない. 近年, 筋ジストロフィー患者や健常人 の持久運動において、筋肉の弾力性と伸展性に関 与する巨大サルコメアタンパク質・タイチン(コ ネクチン)が尿中で検出可能であると報告された. そこで、本研究では既報の筋損傷ではなく、筋萎 縮の際に尿中タイチンレベルが変化するかどう か、その変化が筋萎縮を反映するか否かを検討し た. 10 週齢雄 C57BL/6 マウスに対して坐骨神経 切除術を行い筋萎縮誘導後、経日的に採尿を行っ た. 我々は. 高感度の ELISA システムを用いて. タイチンの尿中濃度を測定した. 術後の11日目 に四肢筋の摘出・重量測定を行った。残念なこと に, 骨格筋重量は大きく減少し, 筋萎縮のマーカー である Atrogin-1 および MuRF-1 の mRNA レベ ルは増加したが、尿中のタイチンレベルは変化し なかった. これらの結果は、筋萎縮の程度を尿中 タイチンレベルで同定することは困難であること を示唆している.