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研究課題名(和文) Understanding the role of TCP11 and TCP11L3 in hyperactivation

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研究代表者
CASTANEDA JULIO (Castaneda, Julio)

大阪大学・微生物病研究所・特任助教(常勤)

研究者番号：00791659
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研究成果の概要(和文)：この研究では、精子の運動性に重要な1つの遺伝子(Tcp11)と、精子の動きに必要な関連遺伝子(Tcp11 Like 3)を特定しました。マウスのTcp11遺伝子を取り除くと、精子の動きが減少し、オスのマウスは不妊になります。人間にもTcp11遺伝子があり、この研究は、Tcp11が男性の精子の運動性にも重要である可能性があることを示唆しています。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

This research identified Tcp11 as important for sperm motility. The research suggests that Tcp11 is functioning through the cAMP signaling pathway. The societal benefits is in human reproduction. In infertile men whose sperm are immotile, we think Tcp11 might be the cause of this defect.

研究成果の概要(英文)：This research identified one gene (Tcp11) that is important for sperm motility, and a related gene (Tcp11 Like 3) that is not necessary for sperm movement. When we remove the Tcp11 gene in mice, sperm have decreased movement and the male mice are infertile. Humans also have the Tcp11 gene, and this research suggests that Tcp11 may also be important for sperm motility in men.

研究分野：reproduction

キーワード：sperm sperm motility infertility Tcp11 cAMP signaling

1. 研究開始当初の背景

Gamete production is essential for sexual reproduction. Mammalian males produce sperm in the testis through a process called spermatogenesis. Testicular sperm of mammals is incapable of fertilizing oocytes naturally. Their sperm must transit through the epididymis for maturation. When sperm are ejaculated into the female reproductive tract, the environment of the female reproductive tract causes pH changes in sperm, leading to an influx of calcium ions and activation of the cAMP pathway. The cAMP pathway is essential for sperm to be hyperactivated, which is characterized by an increase in motility and a straightening of sperm swimming. Failure of sperm to hyperactivate leads to decreased fertilization success and may cause infertility in males. Mouse TCP11 has been implicated in the cAMP pathway in sperm. TCP11 is a testis specific protein with unknown function. A recent study showed that TCP11 forms a complex with Protein Kinase A (PKA), which is a downstream effector of the cAMP signaling pathway. Interestingly, there is a paralog of *Tcp11* that is also expressed in the testis (*Tcp11l3*). I examined the role *Tcp11* and *Tcp11l3* in mouse spermatogenesis.

2. 研究の目的

The purpose of this research is to understand the mechanism of mammalian sperm hyperactivation that is required for sperm to successfully fertilize oocytes. Hyperactivation is characterized by increased sperm motility that is caused by calcium influx and the cAMP pathway. TCP11 is a testis specific protein that has been implicated in the cAMP pathway in previous work. TCP11L3 is a paralog of TCP11 that is also only expressed in the testis. The purpose of this research is to determine the role of both these proteins in spermatogenesis.

3. 研究の方法

TCP11 is a testis specific protein has been implicated in the cAMP signaling pathway. TCP11 has been shown to form a complex with the main effector of the cAMP pathway in sperm, Protein Kinase A. I have obtained a KO of *Tcp11* from the Knockout Mouse Project (KOMP) and have begun to characterize this mutant.

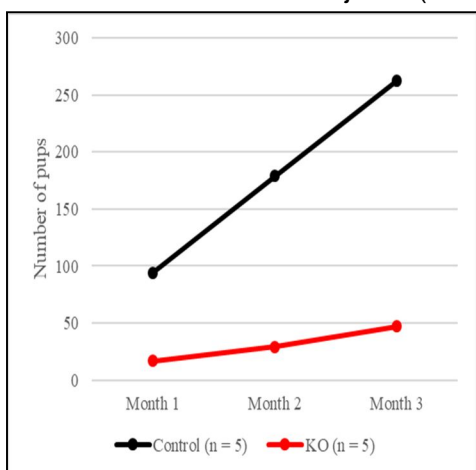


Figure 2. Breeding results of *Tcp11* KO males compared with wild-type males. The number of pups were recorded.

Knockout *Tcp11* males show decreased sperm motility, consistent with a role in hyperactivation, but are subfertile when paired with wild-type females (Figure 2). Interestingly, there is an additional *Tcp11* paralog expressed in testis, *Tcp11l3*. With the help of Dr. Masahito Ikawa, I have successfully knocked out *Tcp11l3* using CRISPR/Cas9. With these two KOs, I will perform the following experiments:

1A) Finish characterizing *Tcp11* KO males. Breeding results show that *Tcp11* KO males are subfertile. I will examine spermatogenesis in these mice to determine the cause of the subfertility. Testis histology and

immunofluorescence will help identify if there is a problem in spermatogenesis. Computer assisted sperm analysis (CASA) and *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) will help determine if the sperm are defective and incapable of fertilizing eggs.

1B) Characterize *Tcp1113* KO males. Using CRISPR/Cas9, I have successfully knocked out the entire coding region of *Tcp1113*, the *Tcp11* paralog also expressed in testis. Like *Tcp11* KO mice, I will perform breeding studies to test whether *Tcp1113* is required for male fertility. Examining spermatogenesis with testis histology and immunofluorescence will help determine if there are any defects in spermatogenesis. CASA and IVF will determine whether sperm from these KO males can fertilize eggs.

4 . 研究成果

Characterization of *Tcp11* KO males lead to a publication in *Biology of Reproduction* (DOI: 10.1093/biolre/iox226). In the publication, I showed that *Tcp11* is required for sperm motility and deletion of *Tcp11* leads to subfertility in male mice. Interestingly, I also showed that TCP11 protein is restricted to the testis and is not present in spermatozoa from the cauda epididymis. This contradicts the previous reports of TCP11 in mouse; however, I showed that Protein Kinase A signaling (a downstream target of cAMP) is reduced in the absence of TCP11, which is consistent with previous reports. Analysis of *Tcp1113* is still ongoing; however, *Tcp1113* is not required for male fertility.

5. 主な発表論文等

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2. 論文標題 Mouse t-complex protein 11 is important for progressive motility in sperm	5. 発行年 2020年
3. 雑誌名 Biology of Reproduction	6. 最初と最後の頁 852 ~ 862
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掲載論文のDOI (デジタルオブジェクト識別子) 10.1093/biolre/ioaa002	査読の有無 有
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〔学会発表〕 計0件

〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考
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7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相手国	相手方研究機関
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