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研究課題名（和文）マラリア感染免疫におけるリポカリンの役割

研究課題名（英文）Role of Lipocalin 2 during malaria infection

研究代表者

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研究成果の概要（和文）：

研究成果の概要（英文）：

Malaria is one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world, with no effective vaccine yet that many of the host immune responses against malaria parasites remain unclear. *Plasmodium* parasites feed and multiply within erythrocytes, and their egress from these cells results in various degrees of anemia. Little is known about how host iron homeostasis affects the immune system during malaria. In this research we found that Lipocalin 2, a known early innate immune response molecule, is abundantly secreted during mouse malaria infection, and is required for the clearance of parasites. Therefore, results of this research may lead to a new understanding of Lcn2-mediated anti-malarial immunity through the modulation of host iron metabolism.

交付決定額

（金額単位：円）

	直接経費	間接経費	合計
2010 年度	2,000,000	600,000	2,600,000
2011 年度	700,000	210,000	910,000
年度			
総計	2,700,000	810,000	3,510,000

研究分野：医歯薬学

科研費の分科・細目：基礎医学・寄生虫学

キーワード：マラリア，リポカン2，鉄代謝，感染症，貧血

1. 研究開始当初の背景

Our laboratory has been investigating the role of innate immune system during malaria infection that we could point-out several molecules important for host defense against malaria parasites (Coban, *C et al Int. Immunol.* 2007; Coban, *C et al Trends in Microbiology.* 2007; Coban C, *et al J Exp Med.* 2005). We have reported that MyD88/TLR9/TLR2 pathway has important

role on the pathogenesis of cerebral malaria in mice. Similarly, we have shown that malarial metabolite hemozoin is a TLR9 ligand that we've pursued extensive studies to use hemozoin as a new vaccine adjuvant (Coban et al., *Cell Host Microbe*, 2010). In our previous report we've found in a micro-array analysis that Lipocalin 2 (Lcn2) (also called neutrophil gelatinase-associated lipocalin or NGAL

or 24p3) gene was strongly up-regulated in the brains of mice with cerebral malaria (Coban, C *et al Int. Immunol.* 2007). Lcn2 has been known to mediate host defense against bacteria through sequestration of iron. Iron is very important for the growth of most of the microorganisms including malaria parasites. However, little is known how host iron homeostasis affects the immune system during malaria.

2. 研究の目的

In this project, we aimed to characterize the role of antimicrobial protein Lcn2 against malaria infection by using animal models of malaria infection in mice. We hypothesized that Lcn2 may regulate the interactions between iron homeostasis and the immune system during (blood-stage) malaria infection.

3. 研究の方法

a) *Lcn2*^{-/-} mice were generated on a 129/Ola X C57Bl/6 (B6.129) background and backcrossed to B6 and Balb/c mice (CLEA, Japan) for at least 9 generations. Age and gender matched wild type (WT) controls were purchased from CLEA, Japan.

b) Various *Plasmodium* infections in mice were performed. Parasitemia and reticulocytopenia were assessed by microscopic counts of Giemsa-stained thin blood smears every two days. Blood hemoglobin levels were analyzed using Drabkin's reagent. Total blood cells were counted by a particle counter from the fresh heparinized blood.

c) Serum Lcn2 levels were measured by ELISA. Splenocytes and BM cells were prepared and stained for flow cytometry. Total RNA was prepared from tissues for Lcn2,

d) Immunohistochemistry was performed from the tissues. Tissue iron staining was performed by using iron staining kit.

4. 研究成果

Several novel findings in this research includes;

- a) We found that Lcn2, a known anti-bacterial siderocalin and a component of the innate immune system, is abundantly secreted into serum during blood-stage *Plasmodium* infection.
- b) Lcn2 plays a critical role in controlling parasitemia.

- c) Innate immune cells are the source of Lcn2.
- d) Tissue iron levels were significantly affected in *Lcn2*^{-/-} mice indicating that iron re-cycling was affected by Lcn2 deficiency during *Plasmodium* infection.

In summary, we have found that Lcn2 functions not only as an anti-microbial, but also as anti-plasmodial defense molecule.

5. 主な発表論文等

(研究代表者、研究分担者及び連携研究者には下線)

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[その他]

ホームページ等

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6. 研究組織

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