

令和 4 年 6 月 3 日現在

機関番号：32651

研究種目：基盤研究(C)（一般）

研究期間：2019～2021

課題番号：19K07373

研究課題名（和文）Molecular mechanism of the pathogenic protein interaction at the C-terminus of amino acid transporter b0,+AT/SLC7A9 in Japanese-type cystinuria

研究課題名（英文）Molecular mechanism of the pathogenic protein interaction at the C-terminus of amino acid transporter b0,+AT/SLC7A9 in Japanese-type cystinuria

研究代表者

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交付決定額（研究期間全体）：（直接経費） 3,300,000円

研究成果の概要（和文）：アミノ酸トランスポーターb0,+ATは、糖タンパク質rBATとヘテロダイマーを形成し、腎臓でのシスチンおよび二塩基性アミノ酸の再吸収に機能する。rBATとb0,+ATのどちらかに変異が生じると、腎不全に至るシスチン尿症が引き起こされる。代表者らは低温電子顕微鏡技術と生化学的手法により、rBAT-b0,+ATの構造と輸送機能を解明し、シスチン尿症を引き起こす変異を含む、重要な構造情報を獲得した。また、b0,+ATの基質選択の鍵となるアミノ酸残基を明らかにした。この発見は、シスチン尿症の分子病態を説明する上で不可欠な手がかりとなる。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

rBAT-b0,+ATは、ヘテロ二量体アミノ酸トランスポーター（HAT）の一員として、腎臓でのアミノ酸再吸収に重要な役割を果たし、その欠損がシスチン尿症の原因となることが知られている。本研究の最大の成果は、rBAT-b0,+ATの構造および機能発現機構を明らかにしたことである。この発見により、HATの分子生理学的機構と疾患の病理学的機構との出会いが実現し、これまで長い間説明のつかなかったいくつかのシスチン尿症変異の分子病態を明らかになる。原子レベルでトランスポーターを直接標的とする治療法として、新たなトランスレーショナルリサーチが期待される。

研究成果の概要（英文）：Amino acid transporter b0,+AT form heterodimer with glycoprotein rBAT to be functional for cystine and dibasic amino acid reabsorption in the kidney. Mutations in either rBAT or b0,+AT cause cystinuria, the renal stone which lead to kidney failure. By state-of-the-art technologies in cryo-electron microscopy and biochemical strategies, we successfully solved the structure of rBAT-b0,+AT. The structure exhibits super-dimer formation of two rBAT-b0,+AT heterodimer. All residues in rBAT-b0,+AT especially the ones responsible for pathogenic mutations were revealed. Getting insight into the transport mechanism of b0,+AT, we have successfully clarified the key residues for the recognition of each type of amino acid substrates. Our finding provides important clues in explaining the molecular pathological mechanisms in cystinuria.

研究分野：生物化学、医科学

キーワード：cystinuria kidney amino acid transporter structure biogenesis calcium cryo-EM

様式 C-19、F-19-1、Z-19 (共通)

1. 研究開始当初の背景

Cystinuria is characterized by defective transepithelial transport of cystine and dibasic amino acids in renal proximal tubules. Cystinuria is caused by mutations in $b^{0,+}AT$ and/or rBAT, two proteins that reconstitute into system $b^{0,+}$. System $b^{0,+}$ is a member of heterodimeric amino acid transporters (HATs). $b^{0,+}AT$ is the cystine and dibasic amino acid transporter while rBAT (glycoprotein) is required for the translocation of the complex to plasma membranes. Pathogenic mutations of either rBAT or $b^{0,+}AT$ in cystinuria patients were found in many nations worldwide. Notably, most Japanese patients carry $b^{0,+}AT$ mutation(s) at the C-terminus. Although researchers have been attempting to explain pathological mechanisms, the physiological chapters and pathological meanings are still mysterious and unlinkable to the physiological mechanism of the transport.

2. 研究の目的

Several mutations in either rBAT or $b^{0,+}AT$ have been detected, however, little of them have been explained. A piece of missing important information is the transport mechanism of $b^{0,+}AT$. So far, the key residues responsible for $b^{0,+}AT$ substrate binding have not been clearly explained. The purposes of this study are to understand the molecular mechanism of the $b^{0,+}AT$ transport and to explain the pathological meaning of mutations. Achievement of this research will lead to the clarification of long-term mystic story of pathogenic mutations in Japanese cystinuria as well as the patients worldwide.

3. 研究の方法

(1) Identification of $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT structure by cryo-EM analysis.

With the great collaboration with Dr. Yongchan Lee and Prof. Dr. Werner Kühlbrandt from Max Planck Institute, Germany, we conduct cryo-EM analysis of $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT (Ref. 1). The genes encoding $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT from mammalian organisms were constructed and optimized for their expression and purification. The purified proteins were then reconstituted in lipid nanodisc, mimicking plasma membrane environment. Structures of $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT were solved by cryo-EM. Derived structures were then subjected to the refinement processes to optimize and improve the resolution of the structures. The high-resolution structures were selected for further analysis. All refined residues of $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT were analyzed, especially the residues reported in cystinuria patients and the $b^{0,+}AT$ C-terminal mutations in Japanese-type cystinuria.

(2) Functional characterization of $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT transport mechanism.

From the structural information, we predicted substrate binding sites in $b^{0,+}AT$. The key residues were proposed and the mutants were designed. Transport assays were examined in the wild-type $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT and the binding-site mutants. $b^{0,+}AT$ has ability to recognize broad substrates including neutral amino acids, cationic amino acids and cystine. Thus, we examined the transports of each type of amino acid substrates and classified the key residues for each substrate. In addition, transport properties were compared to other members in SLC7 (the family members of HATs). Functional relationships and protein evolution were also predicted.

4. 研究成果

(1) Identification of $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT structure by cryo-EM analysis.

The genes encoding $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT from human, mouse and ovine were selected for the optimization and expression. The results showed that ovine $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT gave a good yield of expression and purification. Thus, we focused on the structural analysis of ovine $b^{0,+}AT$ -rBAT. With further refinement processes, the high resolution of ovine $b^{0,+}AT$ -

rBAT was successfully achieved. The 2.9 Å resolution structure was selected for the detailed analysis.

Structure of $b^{0,+}$ AT-rBAT exhibits dimer-dimer, so-called super-dimer (Fig. 1). The super-dimer formation is mediated by the interaction of the interface of two rBAT molecules. Residues in rBAT which are important for glycosylation, super-dimerization, and rBAT- $b^{0,+}$ AT interactions were revealed. Notably, residues related to the pathological mutations in rBAT were also explained.

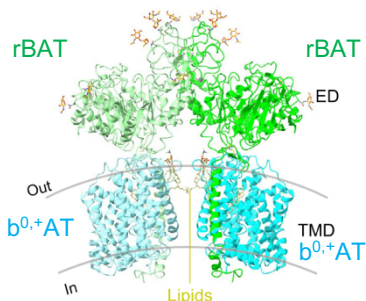


Fig. 1: structure of rBAT- $b^{0,+}$ AT. The structure exhibits super-dimer formation. All residues were well defined.

Getting insight into $b^{0,+}$ AT, all residues were well refined including the residues at C-terminus, giving the clue for the importance of the $b^{0,+}$ AT terminus. $b^{0,+}$ AT structure is highly conserved to that of LAT1, another member of HAT. The structure exhibits inward-facing conformation without a bound substrate. We then predict the substrate binding sites by alignment with LAT1 structure and the bacterial ortholog (Fig. 2).

(2) Functional characterization of $b^{0,+}$ AT-rBAT transport mechanism.

From the structural information, residues D233 and N236 of $b^{0,+}$ AT were predicted to be important for substrate selectivity (Fig. 2). Four types of amino acid substrates (cystine, ornithine, tyrosine, and alanine) were tested in D233 and N236 mutations compared to the wild-type $b^{0,+}$ AT. The results revealed that $b^{0,+}$ AT adopts different residues to bind to each type of the substrates. Residues D233 and N236 are interchangeable and important for substrate recognitions. These results gave important clues on the transport mechanism and suggest the evolutionary conservation of $b^{0,+}$ AT to y^+ LATs, the HAT members which transport both neutral and dibasic amino acids but not cystine.

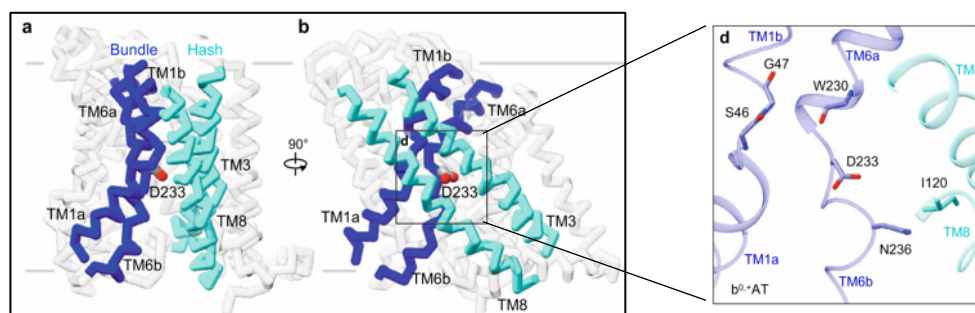


Fig. 2: structure of $b^{0,+}$ AT. D233 and N236 at TM6 of $b^{0,+}$ AT were predicted to be the key residues for substrate recognitions.

Taking all results together, we have successfully revealed the high-resolution rBAT- $b^{0,+}$ AT structure and provided important knowledge on the transport mechanism. The results provide significant clues to link to the mysterious pathological mutations in Japanese-type cystinuria patients and the patients worldwide. Notably, this study excites novel therapeutic approach targeting to the rBAT- $b^{0,+}$ AT.

Reference: Lee Y*, **Wiriyasermkul P***, Kongpracha P, Moriyama S, Mills DJ, Kuhlbrandt W, Nagamori S. Ca^{2+} -mediated higher-order assembly of heterodimers in amino acid transport system $b^{0,+}$ biogenesis and cystinuria. *Nat Commun* 2022. doi : 10.1038/s41467-022-30293-9.

[* equal contribution]

5. 主な発表論文等

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オープンアクセス オープンアクセスとしている (また、その予定である)	国際共著 該当する
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〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

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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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