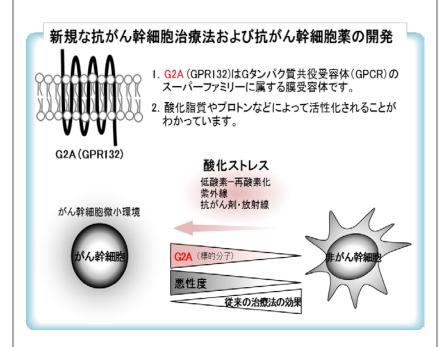


<がん幹細胞を標的にした新規治療法へのアプローチ>

[キーワード: がん幹細胞, G2A] 〈助教〉〈亀村 典生〉

〈図表>

がん幹細胞産生のメカニズムを明確にし、がんの新規治療法を目指す。



内容:

現在、がんは国民病の一つであり、社会的な問題となっておりま す。様々な研究が行われ、がんの治療法が確立されておりますが、 完全な治療に至っていないことが現状であります。私たちは酸化 ストレスに注目し、新しい観点からのがん治療を目指しております。 現在、酸化ストレスによって正常幹細胞のがん化や、分化細胞の がん幹細胞化が誘導されることが示唆されています。細胞の分 化・脱分化の過程でおこるがん化の分子的機序の解明には多大 な尽力がなされていますが、未だ不明な点が数多くのこされてい ます。さらにがん幹細胞は正常幹細胞と局在場所や性質 類似点が多く、このことも、がん幹細胞に対する治療法開 に困難にしています。私どもの研究目的は、分化・脱分化の で起こる細胞のがん化の仕組みを標的分子の機能解明を通 明らかにし、抗がん化作用を持つ治療法を見いだすことです ことを見いだしました。この分子は細胞が過剰な刺激にさらされた 際に、細胞の幹細胞化促進と選別を行っており、実際にG2Aの発 た。これらの分子が持つ性質を利用してリプログラミング化し 未分化細胞悪性化およびがんの再発・転位のリスクを低減させる 治療法、すなわち、がん幹細胞の造腫瘍活性を持続的に制御す る方法の開発と創薬を目指して研究を進めています。

近年、脂質代謝の変化が幹細胞や微小環境の制御に深く関わっていることが理解されはじめています。我共は酸化ストレスと密接な関係にある脂質代謝の観点からもがん幹細胞制御法におけるブレークスルー・イノベーションを実現したいと考えています。

分野:〈医歯薬学〉

専門:〈病態医化学〉

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BIOINDUSTRY

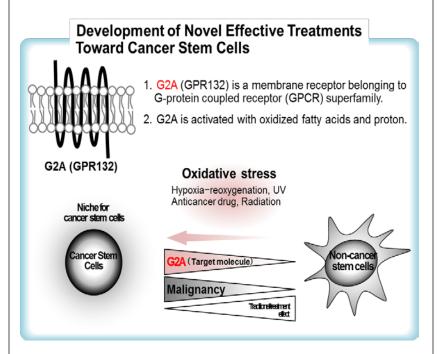
<研究題目> Establishment of Sustainable Control of

Cancer Stem Cell Tumorigenicity

<Assistant Professor> <氏名 Norio Kamemura>

<図表>

We are dedicated to the following studies, which contribute to the low risk and peace of mind associated with regenerative medicine



Content:

Regenerative medicine presents many promising opportunities, but is not without potential risks. The purposeful manipulation of unspecialized cells, such as induced pluripotent stem cells, has contributed greatly to the development of regenerative medicine. However, these manipulations may also facilitate unintended consequences, such as the accumulation of unrepaired malignant alterations. Many questions concerning both malignant alteration of unspecialized cells and malignant dedifferentiation of cells remain unanswered despite substantial research efforts. Additionally, parallels between normal stem cells and cancer stem cells further complicate the development of new medical treatments targeting cancer stem cells. Therefore, we hope to elucidate the molecular mechanisms underlying stem cell malignant transformation, with the ultimate aim of developing effective treatments and novel drugs targeted towards cancer stem cells. We also believe that our study will help develop a mechanism whereby reoccurrence and metastasis can be halted following treatment, enhancing the potential for these treatments to be successful. The 19th century German pathologist R. L. Virchow highlighted the importance of inflammatory stimulation in cancer with his chronic irritation theory: cancer is caused by severe irritation in the tissues and arises from the activation of dormant cells. We propose that this theory can be applied to better understand the pathogenesis of cancer stem cells.

With this understanding, we have identified a cell membrane receptor and a protein derived from a lipid-metabolizing enzyme that are both activated by oxidative stress to regulate the initiation and maintenance of cancer stem cells. We are now investigating the utility of this system for efforts to bring the tumorigenic capacity of cancer stem cells under control. We are also further refining our understanding of the mechanisms involved. We believe that this work will aid the development of novel treatments and drugs that will mitigate the risks of malignant alteration of unspecialized cells during reprogramming and malignant dedifferentiation of cancer cells.

Lipid metabolism in stem cells is emerging as an important mechanism of control for stem cells and the stem cell niche. Given the close associations between oxidation and lipid metabolism, we are enthusiastic about the prospects of this work to yield an innovative breakthrough in the control of cancer stem cells.

Keywords: <cancer stem cells, oxidative s E-mail: <kamemura.norio@tokushima-u.ac.jp> Tel. <電話番号 +81-88-656-5202>

