

骨髓組織特異的インテグリンである $\alpha 9 \beta 1$ の機能抑制は、  
マウス脳卒中を抑制する

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**Targeting Myeloid-Specific Integrin  $\alpha 9 \beta 1$  Improves Short- and Long-Term Stroke  
Outcomes in Murine Models with Preexisting Comorbidities  
by Limiting Thrombosis and Inflammation**

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**Abstract : Rationale:** Currently, there is no effective intervention available that can reduce brain damage following reperfusion. Clinical studies suggest a positive correlation between the increased influx of neutrophils and severity of brain injury following reperfusion. Integrin  $\alpha 9 \beta 1$  is highly expressed on activated neutrophils and contributes to stable adhesion, but its role in stroke outcome has not been demonstrated to date.

**Objective:** We sought to determine the mechanistic role of myeloid-specific  $\alpha 9 \beta 1$  in the progression of ischemic stroke in murine models with preexisting comorbidities.

**Methods and results:** We generated novel myeloid-specific  $\alpha 9$ -deficient ( $\alpha 9^{-/-}$ ) wild type ( $\alpha 9^{fl/fl}LysMCre^{+/-}$ ), hyperlipidemic ( $\alpha 9^{fl/fl}LysMCre^{+/-}Apoe^{-/-}$ ), and aged (bone marrow chimeric) mice to evaluate stroke outcome. Susceptibility to ischemia/reperfusion injury was evaluated at 1, 7, and 28 days following reperfusion in 2 models of experimental stroke: filament and embolic. We found that peripheral neutrophils displayed elevated  $\alpha 9$  expression following stroke. Irrespective of sex, genetic deletion of  $\alpha 9$  in myeloid cells improved short- and long-term stroke outcomes in the wild type, hyperlipidemic, and aged mice. Improved stroke outcome and

enhanced survival in myeloid-specific  $\alpha 9^{-/-}$  mice was because of marked decrease in cerebral thromboinflammatory response as evidenced by reduced fibrin, platelet thrombi, neutrophil, NETosis, and decreased phospho-NF- $\kappa$ B (nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B), TNF (tumor necrosis factor)- $\alpha$ , and IL (interleukin)-1 $\beta$  levels.  $\alpha 9^{-/-}$  mice were less susceptible to FeCl<sub>3</sub> injury-induced carotid artery thrombosis that was concomitant with improved regional cerebral blood flow following stroke as revealed by laser speckle imaging. Mechanistically, fibronectin containing extra domain A, a ligand for integrin  $\alpha 9$ , partially contributed to  $\alpha 9$ -mediated stroke exacerbation. Infusion of a specific anti-integrin  $\alpha 9$  inhibitor into hyperlipidemic mice following reperfusion significantly reduced infarct volume and improved short- and long-term functional outcomes up to 28 days.

**Conclusions:** We provide genetic and pharmacological evidence for the first time that targeting myeloid-specific integrin  $\alpha 9\beta 1$  improves short- and long-term functional outcomes in stroke models with preexisting comorbidities by limiting cerebral thrombosis and inflammation.

**抄録** 骨髄細胞の  $\alpha 9$  インテグリンを特異的に欠損させたマウスや中和抗体阻害により脳血栓や炎症を抑制することで短期的、長期的な脳卒中症状を抑制することができることが分かった。

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