博士論文

Busulfan のラット胎子及び新生子に対する毒性、 特に中枢神経毒性に関する病理学的研究

大平 東子

Busulfanのラット胎子及び新生子に対する毒性、特に中枢神経毒性に関する病理学的研究

大平 東子

緒言	1
第1章 BUSのラット胎子に及ぼす影響	7
第1節 胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移	
序	8
材料と方法	9
結果	12
考察	14
要約	16
付表・付図	17
第2節 胎子の脳病変の性状および発現機序	
序	25
材料と方法	26
結果	31
考察	33
要約	37
付表・付図	38
第2章 BUSのラット新生子に及ぼす影響	45
第1節 新生子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移	
序	46
材料と方法	47
結果	48
考察	51
要約	54
付表・付図	55

第2節 新生子の小脳病変の性状および発現機序

序	60
材料と方法	61
結果	64
考察	68
要約	73
付表・付図	75
総括	87
謝辞	93
引用文献	95
原著論文	113

緒言

Busulfan (BUS)は二官能性アルキル化剤で、細胞内の核酸および蛋白質と反応して2個の求核部をアルキル化することにより、DNA-DNA および DNA-蛋白分子間に架橋を形成し、DNA 傷害作用を示す(Bishop and Wassom, 1986; Iwamoto et al., 2004; Mertins et al., 2004; Probin et al., 2006; Valdez et al., 2010)。また、生体に投与された BUS は容易に吸収され、脾臓、骨髄、肝臓、腎臓および肺に分布した後、血中から速やかに消失することが報告されている(Nadkarni et al., 1959; Trams 1959; Fox et al., 1960; Edwards and Jones, 1971)。このようなことから、BUSは現在、成人および小児を対象に、慢性骨髄性白血病の治療薬および造血幹細胞移植の前治療薬として使用されている。

BUS は一方で、ヒトに毒性を示すことも指摘されている。例えば、長期間あるいは高用量のBUS を処方された成人で、気管支肺異形成症および慢性間質性肺線維症 (Güreli et al., 1963; Littler et al., 1969; Burns et al., 1970; Buggia et al., 1994)、非特異的胃腸炎 (Güreli et al., 1963)、脱毛症 (Tran et al., 2000; Tosti et al., 2005) などが報告されている。同様な肺病変は、BUS を投薬された小児でも報告されている (Oakhill et al., 1981; Fauroux et al., 1996)。また、高用量のBUSを投薬中の成人あるいは小児で、痙攣などの急性の神経症状が観察されている (Hamidieh et al., 2010)。こうした神経症状の発現については、脂溶性で血液 脳関門を通過するなどのBUSの薬物動態 (Vassal et al., 1990; Hamidieth et al., 2010)あるいはBUSの薬物代謝との関連が示唆されている (Vassal et al., 1990)。さらに、BUS を処方された骨髄性白血病の妊婦の胎児や新生児で、まれに発生異常が観察されている (Bishop and Wassom, 1986)。

BUS の安全性(毒性)評価に関する前臨床試験は、従来、ラットやマウスの成熟個体を対象に実施されている(Sternberg *et al.*, 1958; Asano *et al.*, 1963; Dunjic *et al.* 1973; Tange *et al.*, 1974; Hodel *et al.*, 1984; Kasuga *et al.*, 1986; Linder *et al.*,

1992; Udagawa *et al.*, 2001; Horn *et al.*, 2008)。一方、BUS は催奇形性を有し (Bishop and Wassom, 1986)、BUS を投与された妊娠ラットやマウスの胎子あるい は出生子で種々の奇形 (Nagai, 1972; Bishop and Wassom, 1986; Kasuga and Takahashi, 1986; Otsuji *et al.*, 2005; Naruse *et al.*, 2007) が報告されているが、BUS への暴露によってラットやマウスの胎子の全身組織に惹起される病変の性状、分布および推移について系統的に検索した報告はまれである。さらに、BUS の新生子に及ぼす影響に関する知見はきわめて乏しく、ヒトの胎児および小児における BUS の安全性 (毒性)を予測する上で大きな問題となっている。

ところで、マウスやラットの胎子の脳では、多能性の神経前駆細胞が脳室帯 (ventricular zone, VZ) 内で細胞周期と連動した特徴的な移動を繰り返しつつ、増殖・分化しており (Rao, 1999; Qian et al., 2000; Temple, 2001) (Fig. A)、この時期の胎子の脳は、DNA 傷害物質などの外来性刺激に高い感受性を示す (Doi, 2011)。この十数年来、種々の DNA 傷害物質によるラットやマウスの胎子の脳病変の発現機序に関する研究が展開されているが (ethylnitrosourea: Katayama et al., 2001; 5-azacytidine: Ueno et al., 2002a; cytosine arabinoside: Yamuchi et al., 2004; etoposide: Nam et al., 2006b; hydroxyurea: Woo et al., 2006; 6-mercaptopurine: Kanemitsu et al., 2009a; 5-fluorouracil: Yamaguchi et al., 2009)、DNA 傷害物質の一つである BUS による胎子中枢神経病変については、発現機序を含め、その詳細は未だ不明である。

さらに、ラットやマウスの脳は、出生後も離乳時期に至るまで未だ発達過程にあり、なかでも小脳の発達過程は特異的である。すなわち、小脳の構成細胞は少なくとも二つの異なった胚芽層領域、VZ および外顆粒層 (external granular layer, EGL)、から発生し、プルキンエ細胞と神経細胞は VZ から、また、顆粒細胞、星状細胞および籠細胞は EGL から、それぞれ生じる。その後、プルキンエ

細胞は VZ から小脳表面の分子層直下に移動する。一方、EGL の顆粒細胞は小脳表層から深部の小脳皮質に移動し(Fig. B)、最終的に複雑な神経回路網を形成する (Altman and Bayer, 1985; Hatten, 1999; Chizhikov and Millen, 2003)。こうしたことから、ラットやマウスの新生子の脳、特に小脳は、DNA 傷害物質などの外来性刺激に高い感受性を示すと考えられるため、新生子の脳、特に小脳病変の発現機序を明らかにすることは毒性学の重要な研究課題の一つである。しかし、この点に関する研究報告はごく少なく(-ray: Kim et al., 1998; phenytoin: Ohmori et al., 1999)、BUS による新生子の小脳病変の性状および発現機序に関する報告は全く見当たらない。

本研究は、上述した現状を踏まえ、BUS の胎子および新生子に及ぼす影響を 病理学的観点から明らかにすることを目的に、妊娠ラットおよび新生子に BUS を単回投与し、胎子および新生子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および 推移について系統的に検索するとともに、DNA 傷害物質に特に感受性の高い発 達過程にある中枢神経系における病変の性状および発現機序について検討した。

本論文は2章からなり、第1章ではBUSのラット胎子に及ぼす影響について、 胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移(第1節)ならびに胎子 の脳病変の性状および発現機序(第2節)について記述した。また、第2章で は、BUSのラット新生子に及ぼす影響について、新生子の全身組織における病 変の性状、分布および推移(第1節)ならびに新生子の小脳病変の性状および 発現機序(第2節)について記述した。

なお、本学位論文の内容については、4編を下記の学術誌に公表した。

1. Ohira T, Ando R, Andoh R, Nakazawa T, Nishihara K, Yamamoto S, Nakamura N, Tamura K. Distribution and sequence of pyknotic cells in rat fetuses exposed to

busulfan. J Toxicol Pathol 2009; 22:167-171.

- 2. Ohira T, Ando R, Okada Y, Suzuki H, Saito T, Nakazawa T, Nishihara K, Yamamoto S, Nakamura N, Tamura K. Sequence of busulfan-induced neural progenitor cell damage in the fetal rat brain. Exp Toxicol Pathol 2013;65:523-530.
- 3. Ohira T, Saito T, Ando R, Tamura K, Hoshiya T. Systemic histopathology of infant rats exposed to busulfan. J Toxicol Pathol 2014;27:25-29.
- 4. Ohira T, Ando R, Saito T, Yahata M, Oshima Y. Tamura K. Busulfan-induced pathological changes of the cerebellar development in infant rats. Exp Toxicol Pathol 2013;65:789-797.

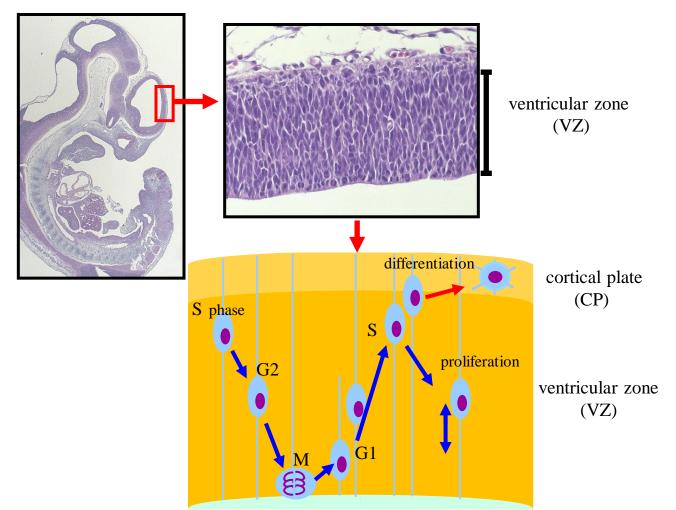


Fig. A Elevator movement of neural progenitor cells in the fetal telencephalon. S-phase nuclei located in the outer area of the VZ, migrate inward during the G2 phase and mitosis occurs at the ventricular surface. The nuclei then migrate outward during the G1 phase and enter the S phase again.

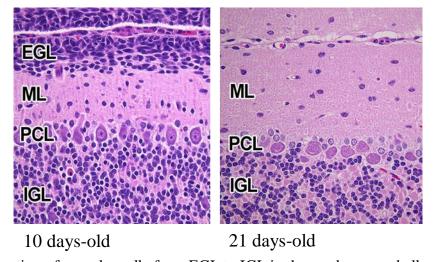


Fig. B Migration of granular cells from EGL to IGL in the newborn cerebellum. EGL: External granular layer . ML: Molecular layer . PCL: Purkinje cell layer. IGL: Internal granular layer.

第1章 BUSのラット胎子に及ぼす影響

第1節 胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移

序

緒言で述べたように、BUS は DNA 傷害物質の一種で、BUS を処方された慢性骨髄性白血病の妊婦の胎児あるいは出生児にまれに発生異常が観察されることが報告されている (Bishop and Wassom, 1986)。

BUS の催奇形性については、実験的に BUS を投与された妊娠ラットやマウスの胎子あるいは出生子で、小脳症、小眼症、小耳症、小指(趾)症、小顎症、小腹症および短指症が観察されることが報告されている(Nagai, 1972; Kasuga and Takahashi, 1986; Otsuji et al., 2005; Furukawa et al., 2007; Naruse et al., 2007)。しかし、BUS によって胎子の全身組織に惹起される病変の性状、分布および推移について系統的に検索した報告はまれで、ヒトの胎児における BUS の安全性(毒性)を推測するに足る知見に乏しいのが現状である。

そこで、本節では、BUS に曝露されたラット胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移を明らかにするため、主に病理組織学的検索を行なった。

材料と方法

動物

妊娠 10日(プラグ確認日を妊娠 0日として起算)の Sprague-Dawley (SD) 系の specific pathogen free (SPF)ラット 42 匹 (Crl:CD(SD):日本チャールス・リバー株、神奈川)を購入し、ラット胎子の中枢神経系が DNA 傷害物質に高度の感受性を示すとされている妊娠 13日 (Pfaffenroth *et al.*, 1974; Hallas and Das, 1978)に実験に供した。動物は、温度 23±3 、相対湿度 50±20%、換気回数 1 時間 10~15 回および照明サイクル 12 時間明/12 時間暗に制御した動物飼育室内で、プラスチック製エコンケージに個別に収容して飼育し、固形飼料 (CRF-1:オリエンタル酵母工業(株)、東京)および水道水を自由に摂取させた。

なお、第1章および第2章の全ての実験を通じ、動物実験計画は実験施設(ボゾリサーチセンター(株))の動物実験委員会の承認を受け、さらに、全ての動物実験操作は「動物実験の適正な実施に向けたガイドライン」(日本学術会議、平成18年6月1日)を遵守し、実験施設の標準操作手順書に準拠して実施した。

実験処置

BUS 投与群および対照群の 2 群を設け、それぞれに 21 匹の妊娠ラットを割り振った。妊娠 13 日に、BUS 投与群にはオリーブ油に懸濁・調製した 30 mg/kg (10 mL/kg body weight) の BUS (sigma, St. Louis, Mo, USA)を、また、対照群にはオリーブ油 (10 mL/kg body weight) を、それぞれ腹腔内に単回投与した。BUS の投与量は予備試験の結果に基づいて決定した。

投与 6、12、24、36、48、72 および 96 時間後 (hours after treatment, HAT) に、 対照群および BUS 投与群のそれぞれ 3 匹の母動物を、体重測定後にエーテル麻 酔下で後腹大動脈切断による放血により安楽死させ、各母動物から全ての胎子 を採取して同腹子数を記録し、胎子の体重を測定した後、剖検した。

病理組織学的検索

上記の各剖検時点で、対照群および BUS 投与群のそれぞれ 3 匹の母動物につき、母動物 1 匹から 3 ないし 4 匹の胎子を無作為に選択し、10 胎子/群となるように調整した。胎子は 10% リン酸緩衝ホルマリン液で固定した。脊柱に沿って体の長軸方向に平行な厚さ 4μm のパラフィン切片を作製し、ヘマトキシリン・エオジン (HE) 染色を施し、病理組織学的検索に供した。さらに、一部の切片は TUNEL 法による断片化 DNA の検出に用いた。

断片化 DNA の検出

胎子組織の構成細胞の断片化 DNA を検出するために、上記のパラフィン切片について市販のアポトーシス検出キット ApopTag^RPlus Peroxidase In situ Apoptosis Detection(Chemicon Inc., Gaithersbug, MD, USA)を用いて、TdT-mediated dUTP nick end labeling (TUNEL) 法で染色を行った。すなわち、組織中の断片化 DNA の 3'-OH 末端を terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase を用いて digoxigenin-dUTP (TdT)で標識し、続いてペルオキシダーゼ標識 anti-digoxigenin antibody を結合させた。その後、peroxidasediaminobenzidine (DAB) (Dojindo Laboratories, Kumamoto, Japan) 反応によりアポトーシス細胞の核を可視化し、メチルグリーンで後染色した。

電子顕微鏡学的検索

48 HAT に、BUS 投与群および対照群のそれぞれ 2 匹の母動物から、母動物 1 匹あたり無作為に選択した 2 匹の胎子の脳から終脳壁を採取した。これらの終脳壁を 0.5% glutaraldehyde・1.5% paraformaldehyde/0.1M phosphate buffer (PB)で前固定し、1% osmium tetroxide/0.2M PB で後固定した後、エポキシ樹脂に包埋した

(Nissin EM Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan)。超薄切片を作製し、uranyl acetate と lead citrate で二重染色し、JEOL 1200EX 電子顕微鏡 (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan)で観察した。

統計解析

母動物の体重、胎子の体重および母動物毎の同腹子数について、各剖検時毎に統計解析した。BUS 投与群および対照群の数値データは、F 検定により各群の分散の均一性の検定を行い(有意水準:5%、両側検定)、分散が均一な場合は Student の t-検定(有意水準:1%、両側検定)、また、分散が均一でない場合は Aspin-Welch の t-検定を用いて(有意水準:1%、両側検定)、BUS 投与群と対照群の平均値の差を検定した。

結果

母動物と胎子の一般状態および体重ならびに同腹子数

観察期間を通じ、BUS 投与群および対照群のいずれの母動物にも特記すべき 臨床症状や異常な行動は観察されず、死亡個体も認められなかった。BUS 投与 群の母動物では 24 から 96 HAT にかけて体重増加の抑制が記録されたが、対照 群との間に有意差はみられなかった (Fig. 1-1-1)。また、同腹子数については、 いずれの剖検時点においても、両群間に有意差はみられなかった (Fig. 1-1-1)。 一方、BUS 投与群の胎子では、72 および 96 HAT に、対照群と比べて有意な体 重増加の抑制が記録された (Fig. 1-1-2)。

病理組織学的および電顕的所見

対照群では、いずれの剖検時点においても、全身組織に病理組織学的変化は観察されなかった。

BUS 投与群では、脳(終脳、間脳、中脳および後脳)、脊髄、神経節、眼球 (網膜および水晶体)、肺、消化管、肝臓、膵臓、腎臓、頭蓋顔面組織、下顎 骨、肢芽および尾部に、核濃縮を呈する細胞が観察された(Table 1-1-1, Figs. 1-1-3 and -4)。核濃縮細胞の発現は、脳(特に終脳)で高度、脊髄および眼球で中等 度、その他の組織では軽度あるいは軽微であった。また、核濃縮細胞はいずれの組織においても 24 HAT から出現し、36 ないし 48 HAT にピークに達し、96 HAT には消失した(Table 1-1-1)。96 HAT には、BUS 投与群の脳の VZ、脊髄の背側層および眼球の網膜の幅の減少ならびに細胞密度の低下が認められた。

終脳 (Fig. 1-1-5) では、24 HAT に主に VZ の中間層の少数の神経前駆細胞 (neural progenitor cells, NPCs)で核濃縮が認められ、核濃縮細胞は 36 HAT には増加し、中間層から背側層にかけても観察された。48 HAT には VZ の全層で核濃

縮細胞が著しく増加し、死滅した NPCs の脱落により VZ に不規則な間隙が出現した。72 HAT には核濃縮細胞は減少したが、VZ の中間層および背側層には未だわずかに残存していた。96 HAT には核濃縮細胞は消失した。

観察期間中、BUS 投与群および対照群ともに、終脳 VZ の腹側層には核分裂像を示す NPCs がみられたが、BUS 投与群では、対照群と比較して、36 および48 HAT には核分裂像を示す細胞は減少した (Fig. 1-1-5)。

上記の核濃縮細胞の核は TUNEL 法で DNA 断片化を示した (Fig. 1-1-6)。また、電顕観察で核のクロマチンの凝集や核の断片化が確認され、その一部は隣接細胞あるいはマクロファージに貪食されてアポトーシス小体を形成していた (Fig. 1-1-7)。

考察

妊娠 13 日に BUS (30 mg/kg) を投与した母ラットから、6 から 96 HAT にかけて経時的に胎子を採材し、胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移について、主に病理組織学的に検索した。

観察期間中、母動物および胎子の死亡は認められず、また、同腹子数には対照群とBUS 投与群間に有意差はなかった。しかし、BUS 投与群では、72 および96 HAT に、対照群と比べて、胎子体重の有意な増加抑制が記録された。

病理組織学的検索では、胎子の広範な組織に構成細胞の核濃縮を特徴とする病変が観察され (Table 1-1-1)、妊娠ラットに投与された BUS が胎盤を介して胎子に移行し、速やかに全身組織に分布し、当該組織に細胞毒性を惹起したものと考えられた。胎子組織に観察された核濃縮細胞は、TUNEL 法による検索所見および電顕観察所見から、アポトーシス細胞であると判断された。

アポトーシスの強度は組織によって異なっており、BUS 曝露時の各組織の発達段階の違いを反映しているものと考えられた。アポトーシスは、いずれの組織においても 24 HAT に出現し、36 あるいは 48 HAT にピークに達し、96 HATには消失した。96 HATには、多くの組織は正常な組織像に復したが、脳の VZ、脊髄の背側層および眼球の網膜の幅の減少ならびに細胞密度の低下が観察された。また、最も高度に傷害された終脳では、36 および 48 HATに、VZ の腹側層に位置している核分裂像を示す細胞の減少が認められ、上記のアポトーシス細胞の推移と併せて、BUS 投与群の終脳では、既報の DNA 傷害物質によるラットやマウスの終脳のそれと同様(Doi, 2011)、NPCs のアポトーシストと増殖抑制が同時に起こっていることが示された。

なお、序の項で引用した、BUS を投与された妊娠ラットあるいはマウスの出

生子に観察される種々の組織奇形は、胎子のそれぞれ対応する組織においてアポトーシスによる構成細胞の過剰な細胞死が起こり、その後の正常な組織形成および器官形成が阻害されたことによって招来されたものと推察された(Inouye and Murakami, 1978; Ferrer *et al.*, 1982, 1984; Miki *et al.*, 1995; Zhang *et al.*, 1995; Sun *et al.*, 1996; Fushiki *et al.*, 1997; Katayama *et al.*, 2000a, 2000b; Kitamura *et al.*, 2001; Woo *et al.*, 2004; Furukawa *et al.*, 2007) 。また、Saito *et al.* (2008) は、胎齢13.5 日のBALB/c マウスに 1.5 Gyの -線を照射したところ、胎子の小脳原基に高度のアポトーシスが惹起され、その結果、出生子に高度の小脳虫部欠損が招来されることを報告している。

以上、本節の検索により、BUS によってラット胎子の全身組織に惹起された 病変の性状、分布および推移が明らかになった。なお、胎子脳病変の詳細と発 現機序については、次節で記述する。

要約

妊娠 13 日のラットに 30 mg/kg の BUS を腹腔内投与し、6、12、24、36、48、72 および 96 HAT に採材した胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移を、主に病理組織学的に検索した。病変は組織構成細胞の核濃縮で特徴づけられ、核濃縮を呈する細胞は TUNEL 法による断片化 DNA の検出および電顕観察の結果、アポトーシス細胞と判断された。構成細胞のアポトーシスは、脳(終脳、間脳、中脳および後脳)、脊髄、神経節、眼球、肺、消化管、肝臓、膵臓、腎、頭蓋顔面組織、下顎骨、肢芽および尾部で観察され、脳、特に終脳で高度、脊髄および眼組織で中等度、その他の組織では軽度あるいは軽微であった。アポトーシスは、いずれの組織においても、24 HAT から出現し、36 あるいは 48HAT でピークに達し、96 HAT には消失した。96 HAT には、多くの組織は正常な組織像に復したが、脳、脊髄および眼では組織の低形成が観察された。本節の検索で、ラット胎子における BUS 誘発病変の全体像が明らかになった。

Table 1-1-1. Distribution and process of pyknotic cells in rat fetal tissues exposed to busulfan

		Control 0 mg/kg						Busulfan 30 mg/kg							
Hours after treatment	6	12	24	36	48	72	96	6	12	24	36	48	72	96	
Central nervous system															
Telencephalon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+++	+++	++	-	
Diencephalon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	++	+	-	
Mesencephalon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	++	+	-	
Metencephalon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	++	\pm	-	
Spinal cord	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	++	\pm	-	
Mesenchymal tissues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	\pm	-	
Craniofacial	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	\pm	-	
Mandible	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	+	+	\pm	-	
Limb buds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	\pm	-	
Tail bud	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	+	+	\pm	-	
Spinal ganglion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	+	\pm	\pm	-	
Alimentary tract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	+	+	\pm	-	
Heart	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lungs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	+	+	\pm	-	
Kidneys	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	\pm	\pm	\pm	-	
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	\pm	\pm	-	-	
Liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	+	+	-	-	
Hematopoietic cells in the liver	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\pm	+	+	\pm	-	
Eyes															
Retina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	++	+	-	
lens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	<u>±</u>	-	

Codes: -: almost absent, ±:minimal, +:mild, ++:moderate, +++:marked

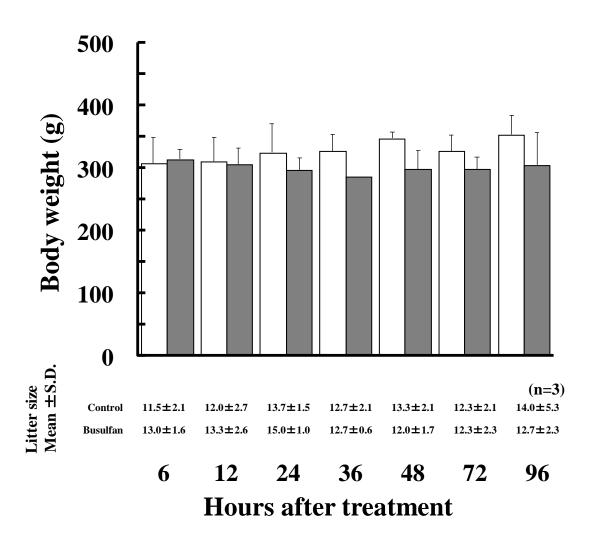


Fig. 1-1-1. Changes in the body weights of dams and litter size. \square : Control group. \square : Busulfan group. n: Number of dams. Body weight is shown as the mean \pm SD.

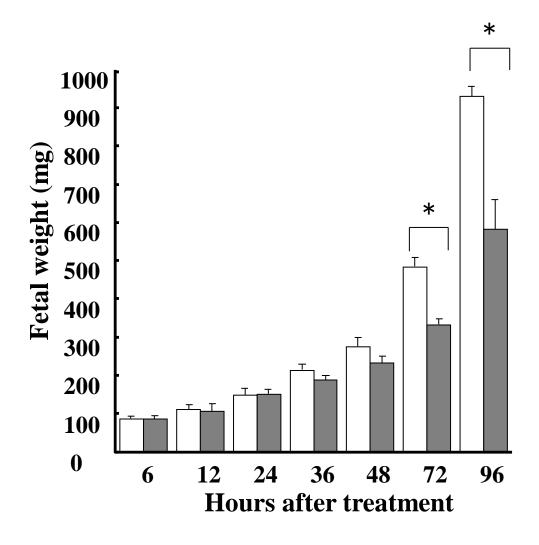


Fig. 1-1-2. Changes in fetal weights. \square : Control group. \square : Busulfan group. Fetal weight is shown as the mean \pm SD. * p<0.01: Significantly different from the control group.

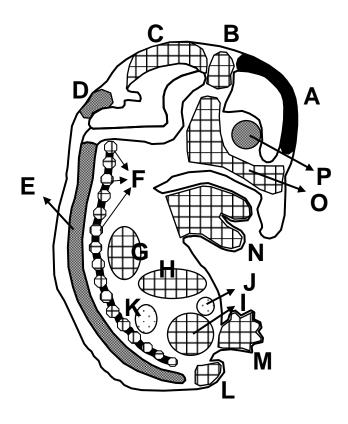


Fig. 1-1-3. Distribution and severity of pyknotic cells at 36 HAT in the fetal tissues. A: Telencephalon. B: Diencephalon. C: Mesencephalon. D: Metencephalon. E: Spinal cord. F: Ganglions. G: Lung. H: Liver. I: Alimentary tract. J: Pancreas. K: Kidney. L: Tail bud. M: Limb buds. N: Mandible. O: Craniofacial tissue. P: Eye. : Minimal. : Mild. : Moderate. : Marked.

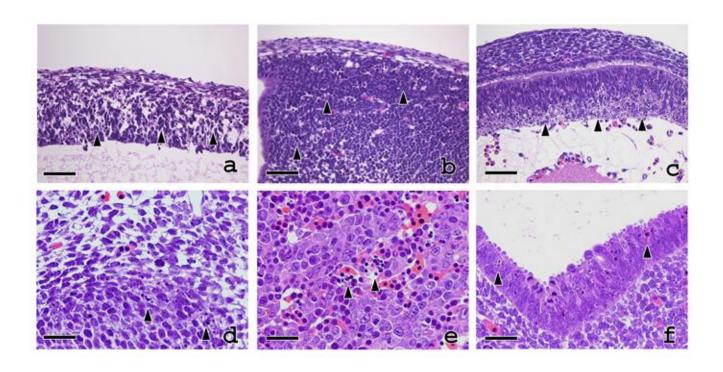


Fig. 1-1-4. Histopathology of the telencephalic wall (a), spinal cord (b), eye (c), mandible mesenchymal tissue (d), liver (e) and alimentary tract (f) in fetuses at 36 HAT. The number of pyknotic cells (arrowheads) is different among tissues affected. HE stain. (a-c) bars =50 μ m and (d-f) bars = 25 μ m

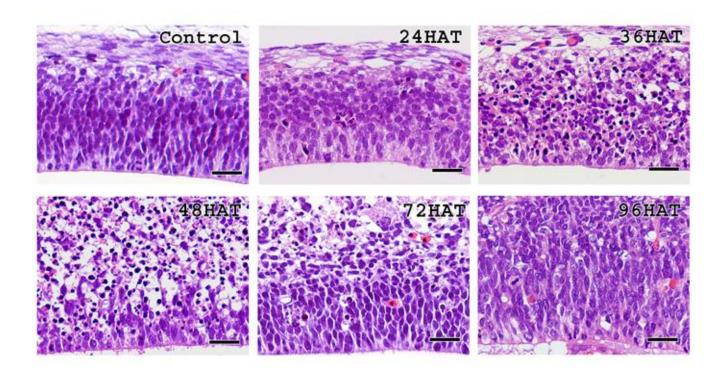


Fig. 1-1-5. Histopathological process of the telencephalon. The number of pyknotic neuroepithelial cells peaked at 36 or 48 HAT. The number of mitotic neuroepithelial cells in the ventricular layer decreased at 48 HAT as compared to control. HE stain. bars=25 μ m.

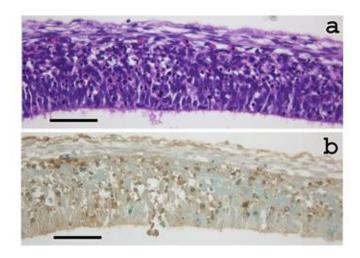


Fig. 1-1-6. Telencephalon of a busulfan-treated rat. The pyknotic cells on the HE-stained section (a) are positively stained by the TUNEL method (b). bars=50 μ m.

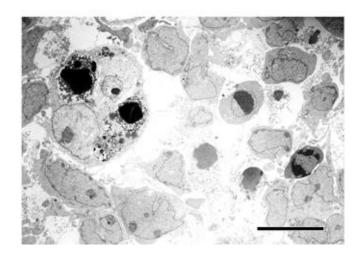


Fig. 1-1-7. Ultrastrusture of pyknotic cells in the telencephalon at 48 HAT. Condensation of the nuclear chromatin of neuroepithelial cells and phagocytosis of apoptotic bodies by macrophages are shown. bar= $10 \mu m$.

第2節 胎子の脳病変の性状および発現機序

序

緒言で述べたように、胎子の脳では、多能性の NPCs が VZ 内で細胞周期と連動した特徴的な移動を繰り返しながら増殖・分化しているため、DNA 傷害物質に対して感受性が高い。この十数年来、種々の DNA 傷害物質により誘発されたラットやマウスの胎子の脳病変の発現機序に関する研究が展開されているが(Doi, 2011)、BUS による胎子の脳病変に関する詳細な検索報告はほとんどない。前節で、BUS によってラット胎子に惹起された病変の一部として、脳病変の輪郭を明らかにし、脳の中でも終脳が最も高度に傷害されることを示した。そこで、本節では、BUS に曝露された胎子の終脳に焦点を当て、胎子の脳病変の性状の詳細と発現機序を明らかにするため、病理組織学的および免疫組織化学的検索ならびにフローサイトメトリーおよび Real-time RT-PCR 解析を行った。

材料と方法

動物

妊娠7日のSD系SPFラット36匹を(日本チャールス・リバー(株)、神奈川)から購入し、妊娠13日で実験に供した。実験期間中、第1節の実験と同様に飼育した。

実験処置

BUS 投与群および対照群の 2 群を設け、それぞれに 18 匹の母動物を振り分けた。妊娠 13 日に、BUS 投与群には BUS (30 mg/kg)を、 また、対照群にはオリーブ油を、それぞれ第 1 節の実験と同様な方法で投与した。さらに、NPCs の増殖活性を解析する目的で、安楽死の 1 時間前に BrdU (20mg/kg)を腹腔内に注射した。

病理組織学的検索

12、24、36、48、72 および 96 HAT に、各群それぞれ 3 匹の母動物を実験 1 と同様の方法で安楽死させ、剖検した。各母動物から全ての胎子を採取し、後述のフローサイトメトリー解析および Real-time RT-PCR 解析に供する胎子を除き、10% リン酸緩衝ホルマリン液で固定した。ついで、パラフィン切片を作製して HE 染色を施し、第 1 節と同様、病理組織学的検索および TUNEL 法による断片化 DNA の検出を行った。さらに、一部の切片を用いて、免疫組織化学的検索を実施した。

免疫組織化学的検索

各剖検時に、対照群および BUS 投与群のそれぞれ 3 匹の母動物から、母動物 1 匹につき 3 匹の胎子を無作為に選択し、脳を免疫組織化学的検索に供した。 p53 の免疫染色には TSA Biotin System kit (PerkinElmer, Boston, USA) を用いた。

切片は脱パラフィン後、クエン酸緩衝液(10 mM, pH 6.0)を用いて 120 で 15 分間オートクレーブ処理し、抗原の賦活化を行った。その後、切片を 0.3%過酸化水素・メタノール溶液を用いて室温で 30 分間処理して内因性ペルオキシダーゼを不活化し、TNB blocking buffer を用いて室温で 30 分間処理して非特異反応を阻止した後、抗 p53 ウサギ抗体(1:500, Santa Cruz, CA, USA)と TNB buffer 中で 4 で一晩反応させた。二次抗体としてビオチン標識抗ウサギ IgG 抗体(biotinylated antibody against rabbit IgG)(Dako Japan, Kyoto, Japan)と室温で 40 分間反応させた後、TNB buffer 中で Streptavidin-horseradish peroxidase を室温で 40 分間処理し、さらに biotinyl tyramide amplification reagent を用いて室温で 5 分間処理した。

p21、cleaved caspase 3 (CAS3) および phospho-histone H3 (PH3) の免疫染色については、切片を脱パラフィン後、クエン酸緩衝液 (10 mM, pH 6.0) を用いて120 で 15 分間オートクレーブ処理して抗原の賦活化を行った。その後、切片を 0.3% 過酸化水素・メタノール溶液を用いて室温で 30 分間処理して内因性ペルオキシダーゼの不活化を行い、プロテインブロック(Dako Japan)を用いて室温で10 分間処理して非特異反応を阻止した後、それぞれ抗 p21 WAFT/Cip1 マウス抗体 (1:100, Dako Japan)、抗 CAS3 ウサギ抗体 (1:200, Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA, USA) あるいは抗 PH3 ウサギ抗体(1:150, Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA, USA) と4 で一晩反応させた。その後、EnVision kit (Anti-Mouse/HRP あるいは Anti-Rabbit/HRP) (Dako Japan)を用いて室温で40分間反応させ、標識した。BrdU の免疫染色については、切片を脱パラフィンし、2N HCI を用いて室温で30 分間処理した後、0.05% protease (Protease type XXIV, Sigma Aldrich Japan, Tokyo, Japan)を用いて室温で5分間処理して抗原の賦活化を行った。その後、切片を 0.3% 過酸化水素・メタノール溶液を用いて室温で 30 分間処理して内因性

ペルオキシダーゼの不活化を行い、プロテインブロック(Dako Japan)を用いて室温で 10 分間処理して非特異反応を阻止した後、抗 BrdU マウス抗体(1:100, Dako Japan) と室温で 1 時間反応させた。その後、EnVision⁺ kit (Anti-Mouse/HRP) (Dako Japan) を用い室温で 40 分間反応させ、標識した。その後、DAB 反応により陽性核を可視化し、メチルグリーンで後染色した。

上記の免疫染色標本について、終脳の VZ の NPCs 500 個中の p53、p21、CAS3、PH3 あるいは BrdU 陽性細胞の比率を算出し、各剖検時点での BUS 投与群および対照群(1剖検時点につき、1免疫染色標本 / 1 胎子終脳 x3 / 1 母動物 x3 母動物)の平均値±標準偏差を算出した後、Student's t-test 法を用いて、対照群とBUS 投与群の平均値の差を検定した。P 値が 5%未満(P<0.05)および 1%未満(P<0.01)を統計学的に有意であるとみなした。

フローサイトメトリー解析

12、24、36、48、72 および 96 HAT に、BUS 投与群および対照群のそれぞれ 6 匹の胎子 (2 胎子 / 1 母動物 × 3 母動物) を無作為に採材した。実体顕微鏡を 用いて胎子の終脳領域を摘出し、摘出した終脳を Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS)で分離した。単離した細胞は PBS で洗浄し、70%エタノールで固定した後、PBS で洗浄し、RNase を含む PBS でインキュベートし、propidium iodide (PI; 50 µ g/ml, Sigma Aldrich Japan)で染色した。細胞周期の測定には BD FACSCanto フローサイトメーター(Becton-Dickinson, San Jose, CA, USA)を使用した。10,000 個の細胞を数え、各周期に属する細胞の割合は BD FACSDiva ソフトウェアを用いて解析した。

Real-time RT-PCR 解析

12、24、36、48 および 72 HAT に、BUS 投与群および対照群それぞれ 15 匹の 胎子(5 胎子 / 1 母動物 × 3 母動物)の終脳を無作為に採材した。胎子終脳は - 80 で冷凍後、RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany)を用いて total RNA を抽出した。その後、Taqman® Reverse Transcription Reagents (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA) を用い、cDNA を合成した。Real-time PCR 反応には StepOnePlus™ Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems)を使用した。試薬として SYBR® Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) を用い、95 で 10 分間処理した後、40 回サイクル(denaturation : 95 で 15 秒、annealing and amplification:60 で 60 秒)で増幅反応を行った。RT-PCR 反応に用いたプライマーのセットは下記の通りである。

Puma, sense 5'-ACCTCAACGCGCAGTACGAG-3' and antisense 5'-GGTGTCGATGTTGCTCTTCTTG-3';

Cdc20, sense 5'-AGGAGGTACCAGTGACCGACA-3' and antisense 5'-ACCAGAGGATGGAGCACACC-3';

Cyclin B1 sense -5'CAGAGGTGGAACTGGATGA-3' and antisense 5'-GGGCTTGGAGAGGGAGTATCA-3';

p21^{cip1}, sense 5'-CACGGCTCAGTGGACCAGAA-3' and antisense 5'-ACTGGAGCTGCCTGAGGTAGGA-3';

Cyclin D1, sense 5'-CTAATGTAAAGCCAGCCGCAATG-3' and antisense 5'-TGGACACAGCAGCCCTCAAG-3'; and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH), as an internal standard, sense 5'-CCTGCACCACCAACTGCTTAG-3' and antisense 5'-CATGGACTGTGGTCATGAGCC-3'.

Puma、*Cdc20*、 *p21* ^{Cip1}、 *CyclinB1* および *CyclinD1* の mRNA の発現量は、正常標準対照プライマー GAPDH に対して標準化し、各剖検時点の平均値±標準偏差を算出し、unpaired Student's *t*-test 法を用いて BUS 投与群と対照群の間の平均

値を検定した。P 値が 5% 未満 (P<0.05) 及び 1% 未満 (P<0.01) を統計学的に有意とみなした。

結果

病理組織学的所見

対照群では、終脳の VZ に核濃縮あるいは核崩壊を示す NPCs が、観察期間を通じてごく少数観察された (Fig. 1-2-1a) のに対し、BUS 投与群では多数観察された (Fig. 1-2-1b)。核濃縮細胞の多くは、TUNEL 法 (Fig. 1-2-1c) および CAS3 に対する免疫染色で陽性を示した (Fig. 1-2-1d)。このような BUS 投与群の終脳 VZ における核濃縮細胞の発現状況と経時的変化は、第 1 節の結果 (Table 1-1-1, Fig. 1-1-5) と一致した。

一方、VZの腹側に沿って NPCs の核分裂像が観察されたが、BUS 投与群では、 第 1 節の結果と同様、核濃縮を呈する細胞が増加するに伴い、核分裂像を示す 細胞は減少した (Fig. 1-2-1b)。

免疫組織化学的所見

終脳の VZ の免疫組織化学的検索結果を Table 1-2-1 および Fig. 1-2-2 に示す。 対照群の終脳 VZ では、観察期間を通じ、CAS3、p53 および p21 陽性の NPCs が、個体によって、わずかに観察されるか、あるいは、ほとんど観察されなか った (Fig. 1-2-3a to c)。

BUS 投与群の終脳 VZ では、CAS3 陽性の NPCs (Fig. 1-2-2a)が、24 HAT から出現して 36 HAT にかけて増加し (Fig. 1-2-3d)、48 HAT にピークに達した後減少し、96 HAT には消失した。p53 陽性の NPCs (Fig. 1-2-2b)は12 HAT から出現して24 HAT に増加し、36 HAT にピークに達し (Fig. 1-2-3e)、その後減少して96 HAT には対照群とほぼ同じレベルに復した。また、p21 陽性の NPCs (Fig. 1-2-2c)は24 HAT から出現して36 HAT にピークに達し (Fig. 1-2-3f)、その後減少して96 HAT には対照群とほぼ同じレベルに復した。このように、p21 陽性減少して96 HAT には対照群とほぼ同じレベルに復した。このように、p21 陽性

の NPCs は p53 陽性の NPCs とほぼ同様な経時的変化を示し、いずれも核濃縮細胞あるいは CAS3 陽性細胞のそれ($48\,\mathrm{HAT}$)よりも早い時点($36\,\mathrm{HAT}$)でピークに達した。

一方、PH3 陽性細胞(M 期細胞) および BrdU 陽性細胞(S 期細胞)の動態については、BUS 投与群では、対照群(Fig. 1-2-4a and b)と比較して、PH3 陽性(Fig. 1-2-4c) および BrdU 陽性の NPCs(Fig. 1-2-4d) はいずれも 24 HAT 以降に減少し、48 HAT に最低値を示したが、96 HAT には対照群のそれとほぼ同じレベルに復した(Figs. 1-2-2d and 2e)。

フローサイトメトリー解析所見

BUS 投与群の終脳 VZ では、Fig. 1-2-5 に示すように、対照群と比較して、24 HAT にアポトーシス細胞の比率の増加、G0/G1 期細胞の比率の増加および G2/M 期細胞の比率の減少、36 HAT にアポトーシス細胞の比率の増加、ならびに、48 および 72 HAT にアポトーシス細胞の比率の顕著な増加、G0/G1 期細胞の比率の減少、S 期細胞の比率の増加および G2/M 期細胞の比率の減少がみられ、96 HAT には両群間の差はなくなった。

Real-time RT-PCR 解析所見

BUS 投与群の終脳 VZ における puma、p21、Cyclin D1、Cdc20 および Cyclin B1 の mRNA の発現量を対照群のそれと比較したところ、36 から 72HAT にかけて puma mRNA および p21 mRNA の発現量が有意に増加した (Fig. 1-2-6)。一方、実験期間を通じ、Cyclin D1、Cdc20 および Cyclin B1 の mRNA の発現量には、対照群との間に有意差は認められなかった。

考察

本節では、BUS によってラット胎子の脳に惹起された病変の詳細な性状および発現機序を明らかにするため、前節の検索で脳の中でも特に病変が高度であった終脳を対象に、病理組織学的および免疫組織化学的検索ならびにフローサイトメトリーおよび Real-time RT-PCR 解析を行った。

その結果、BUS 投与群の終脳では、病理組織学(核濃縮あるいは核崩壊)、 TUNEL 法 (DNA 断片化) および免疫組織化学的検索 (CAS3 陽性) でアポトー シスと判断された NPCs が、前節の結果と同様、最初に VZ の中間層に出現し、 その後、数が増加するに従って中間層から背側層にかけて広がりを示し、さら には腹側層にも観察されるに至った。BUS 投与による NPCs のアポトーシスは 24 HAT から観察され、48 HAT にピークに達した後、96 HAT には消失した。NPCs のアポトーシスのピークは DNA 傷害物質によって異なっており、多くは9から 12 HAT (Ethylnitrosourea: Katayama et al., 2001; 5-azacytidine: Ueno et al., 2002a; cytosine arabinoside: Yamauchi et al., 2004; etoposide: Nam et al., 2006a; hydroxyurea: Woo et al., 2006) とされているが、 線照射では 3 から 5 HAT (Borovitskaya et al., 1996) および 6-mercaptopurine では 36 HAT (Kanemitsu et al., 2009c) と報告されている。こうした NPCs のアポトーシスのピーク到達時間の 差は、個々の DNA 傷害物質によって、DNA 傷害の機序、薬物動態、アポトー シスの誘発経路あるいは細胞周期への影響に違いがあることを反映していると 推察されている(Katayama et al., 2002; Yamauchi et al., 2004)。

一方、VZ 腹側の NPCs の核分裂像に一致して、PH3 あるいは BrdU に陽性の 所見がみられ、アポトーシス細胞の増加に伴いこれらの陽性細胞は減少した。 このように、BUS はラット胎子終脳の NPCs にアポトーシスおよび細胞増殖抑 制を誘発し、その結果、終脳の幅の減少を招来したものと考えられた。

胎子の終脳では、p53 陽性細胞は 12 HAT から有意に増加し、アポトーシスのピーク (48 HAT)に先立って、36 HAT にピークに達した。また、p53 の転写標的因子である p21 陽性細胞も 36 HAT にピークに達した。p53 は DNA 傷害応答の中心的な役割を演じ、アポトーシスの誘発、細胞周期停止および DNA 修復に重要な役割を果たすことが知られている (Ko and Prives, 1996; Brill et al., 1999; Lakin and Jackson, 1999; May and May, 1999; Taylor et al., 1999)。さらに、Real-time RT-PCR 解析の結果、BUS 投与群では、36 から 72 HAT にかけて p21 mRNA および puma mRNA の発現量の有意な増加が確認された。p21 および puma は p53 の転写標的遺伝子で、p21 は細胞周期依存性キナーゼを抑制し、細胞周期を G1/S 期で停止することが知られている (Dulic et al., 1994; Polyak et al., 1996; Meng et al., 2004; Yang et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2010)。一方、puma はミトコンドリア膜の透過性を亢進させてミトコンドリアから細胞質基質へのシトクロム c の放出を促し、これが caspase-9、続いて caspase-3 を活性化し、内因性経路(ミトコンドリア経路)によるアポトーシスを誘発すると考えられている (Vousden and Lu, 2002; Jeffers et al., 2003; Yamauchi et al., 2007; Kanemitsu et al., 2009b)。

本節の検索では、アポトーシスの外因性経路に係る Fas (Müller et al., 1998)、ならびに、p53 の転写標的因子で内因性経路に係る Bax (Selvakumaran et al., 1994) および Noxa (Oda et al., 2000) については検討していないが、上述した p53、p21 および CAS3 に関する免疫組織化学的所見ならびに p21 および puma に関する Real-time RT-PCR 解析結果から、BUS によるラット胎子終脳の NPCs のアポトーシスは、p53 依存性の内因性経路で惹起されたと考えられた。

ある種の DNA 傷害物質は、ラットやマウスの胎子終脳の NPCs に細胞周期停止あるいは細胞周期の乱れを誘発することが知られている。例えば、

ethylnitrosourea による S 期細胞の蓄積 (Katayama *et al.*, 2005)、hydroxyurea による G1/S 期および G2/M 期での細胞周期停止 (Woo *et al.*, 2006)、5-azacytidine による G2/M 期での細胞周期停止または G2/M 期における細胞周期調節異常(Ueno *et al.*, 2006)、cytosine arabinoside による S 期での細胞周期の停止 (Yamauchi *et al.*, 2004)、6-mercaptopurine による S 期での細胞蓄積および G2/M 期での細胞周期停止 (Kanemitsu *et al.*, 2009b)、etoposide による S 期での細胞蓄積および G2/M 期での細胞周期停止 (Nam *et al.*, 2010) 等が報告されている。

BUS は細胞核内でアルキル化作用を示すため、細胞周期に影響を及ぼす可能性が指摘されており(Buggia et al., 1994)、実際に in vitro の実験で、雄マウスの生殖細胞では G1 期で細胞周期を停止し(Choi et al., 2004)、また、骨髄細胞(Hassan et al., 2001; Valdez et al., 2008, 2010) および ECV304 細胞(Ritter et al., 2002)では G2 期で細胞周期を停止することが報告されている。しかし、NPCsの細胞周期に及ぼす BUS の影響については未だ報告はない。

この点について、本節の Real-time RT-PCR 解析では、 Cyclin DI (G1/S での細胞周期停止に関与)ならびに Cdc20 および Cyclin BI (G2/M 期での細胞周期停止に関与)の mRNA レベルでの発現の増加は認められなかったものの、36 から72 HAT にかけて p53 の発現が蛋白レベルで増加し、また、p21 の発現が mRNA および蛋白レベルで増加した。 さらに、フローサイトメトリーによる細胞周期解析では、48 および 72 HAT には、対照群と比較して、アポトーシス細胞の比率の顕著な増加、G0/G1 期細胞の比率の減少、S 期細胞の比率の増加および G2/M 期細胞の比率の減少が認められた。これらのことから、BUS は NPCs に S 期での細胞蓄積と G1/S 期における細胞周期停止を誘導する可能性が示唆された。

以上、本章では、第1及び2節を通じ、BUS のラット胎子に及ぼす影響を病理学的観点から検索し、胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移

ならびに脳病変の詳細な性状および発現機序を明らかにした。

要約

妊娠 13 日のラットに 30 mg/kg の BUS を腹腔内投与し、12、24、36、48、72 および 96 HAT に採材した胎子の終脳を対象に、病理組織学的および免疫組織化 学的検索ならびにフローサイトメトリーおよび Real-time RT-PCR 解析を行い、 胎子脳病変の性状および発現機序について検討した。その結果、BUS 投与群の 終脳では、アポトーシスを呈する NPCs が、最初 VZ の中間層に出現し、ついで 背側層および腹側層に拡大した。また、p53 および p21 蛋白陽性細胞は、アポト ーシスのピーク(48 HAT)に先立ち、36 HATにピークに達した。一方、BrdU 陽性および PH3 陽性細胞は、アポトーシス細胞の増加に伴い減少した。また、 フローサイトメトリーによる細胞周期解析の結果、対照群と比較して、BUS 投 与群では、48 および 72 HAT に、アポトーシス細胞の比率の顕著な増加、G0/G1 期細胞の比率の減少、S期細胞の比率の増加および G2/M 期細胞の比率の減少が 認められた。さらに、Real-time RT-PCR 解析の結果、p53 の転写標的因子の一つ でアポトーシスの内因性経路に係る puma mRNA および G1/S 期での細胞周期停 止に係る *p21* mRNA の発現が、36 から 72 HAT にかけて有意に増加した。これ らのことから、BUS はラット胎子終脳の NPCs に、細胞増殖抑制および p53 依 存性の内因性経路によるアポトーシスを惹起することが示され、また、S期での 細胞蓄積および G1/S 期での細胞周期停止を誘導する可能性が示唆された。

Table 1-2-1
Time-course-changes of the number of positive NPCs (labeling index) by immunohistochemical analysis of the fetal rat telencephalon after busulfan treatment.

	Group		Hour after treatment										
		12	24	36	48	72	96						
CAS3	Control	0.02 ± 0.06	0.05 ± 0.09	0.05 ± 0.09	0.11 ± 0.10	0.07 ± 0.10	0.03 ± 0.08						
	Busulfan	0.19 ± 0.12	12.84 ± 1.13**	46.44 ± 2.17**	58.60 ± 3.48**	20.04 ± 1.87**	$0.13 \pm 0.12*$						
p53	Control	$0.07 \ \pm 0.14$	0.04 ± 0.08	$0.02 \ \pm 0.06$	$0.02 \ \pm 0.06$	$0.07 \ \pm 0.10$	0.08 ± 0.10						
	Busulfan	$0.07 \pm 0.27*$	9.98 ±1.31**	14.18 ±1.34**	10.29 ±0.89**	$3.44 \pm 0.57**$	$0.09 \ \pm 0.10$						
p21	Control	0.06 ± 0.13	0.02 ± 0.06	$0.00\ \pm0.00$	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.02 ± 0.06						
	Busulfan	0.06 ± 0.13	7.50 ± 0.88**	21.56 ± 2.45**	7.95 ±1.43**	2.47 ± 0.25**	$0.13 \pm 0.12**$						
BrdU	Control	58.27 ± 2.37	56.89 ± 1.88	56.54 ± 1.40	52.04 ± 1.75	26.84 ± 1.58	14.62 ± 1.27						
	Busulfan	58.20 ± 2.50	43.64 ± 2.50**	19.98 ±4.15**	12.48 ±2.26**	13.96 ± 2.00**	13.29 ± 1.64						
PH3	Control	5.96 ± 0.40	5.69 ± 0.44	5.20 ± 0.37	5.04 ± 0.44	4.29 ± 0.27	2.29 ± 0.24						
	Busulfan	5.63 ± 0.43	4.25 ± 0.30**	2.85 ±0.40**	2.10 ±0.44**	2.67 ± 0.38**	2.12 ± 0.22						

Note: Values represent the mean \pm standard deviation.

^{*}p<0.05, Significantly different from control.

^{**}p<0.01, Significantly different from control.

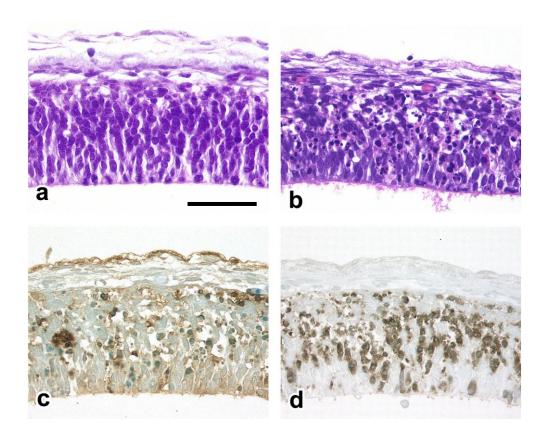


Fig. 1-2-1. Representative appearances of the telencephalic wall of rat fetuses at 36 h after busulfan treatment. (a) Many mitotic NPCs along the ventricular surface with few pyknotic NPCs in the control group. (b) A small number of mitotic NPCs along the ventricular surface with many pyknotic NPCs mainly in the medial and dorsal layers in the busulfan group. (c) TUNEL-positive NPCs in the busulfan group. (d) Cleaved caspase-3-positive NPCs in the busulfan group. (a and b) HE stain, (c and d) Immunostaining. (a-d) bar = $50 \mu m$.

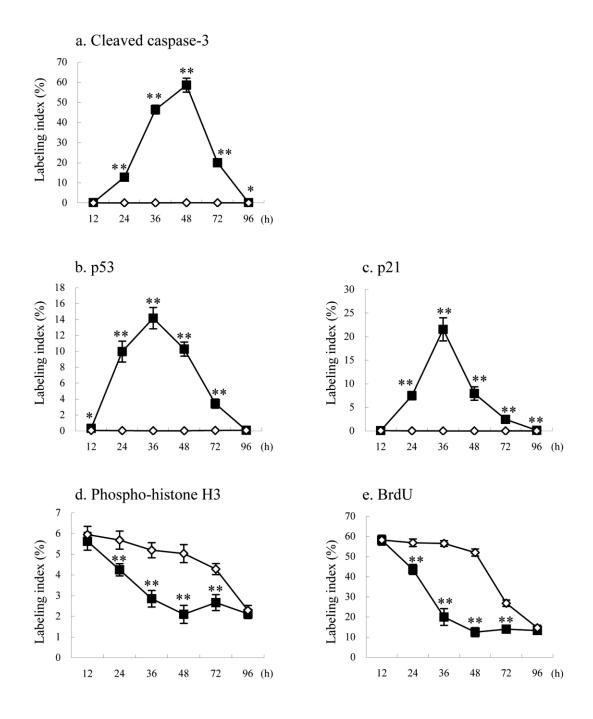


Fig. 1-2-2. Time-course changes in the immunohistochemical labeling indices (%) of cleaved caspase-3-positive NPCs (a), p53-positive NPCs (b), p21-positive NPCs (c), phosphor-histone H3-positive NPCs (d), and BrdU-positive NPCs (e) in the control group (\Diamond) and busulfan group (\blacksquare). Significantly different from the control group at p<0.05 (*) and p<0.01 (**) in Student's t-test.

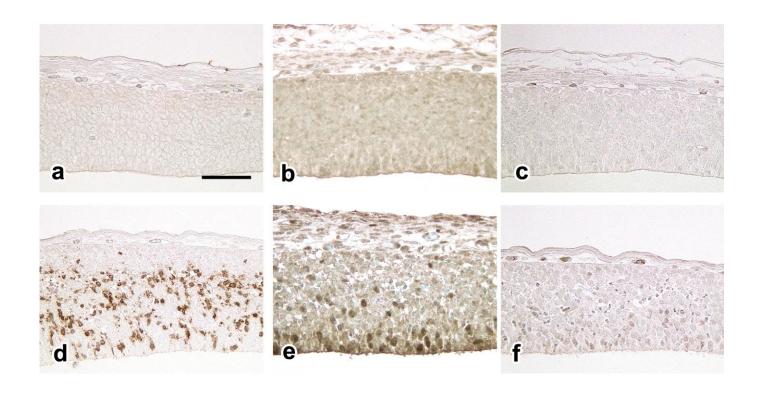


Fig. 1-2-3. Immunohistochemical findings of the telencephalic wall of rat fetuses at 36 h after busulfan treatment in the control group (a-c) and the busulfan group (d-f). (a and d) Cleaved caspase-3; (b and e) p53; (c and f) p21. Immunostaining, (a-f) bar = $50 \mu m$.

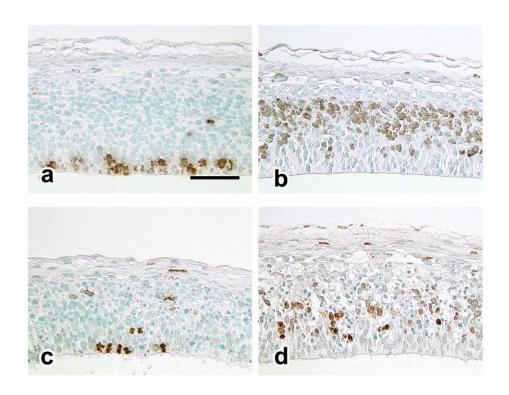
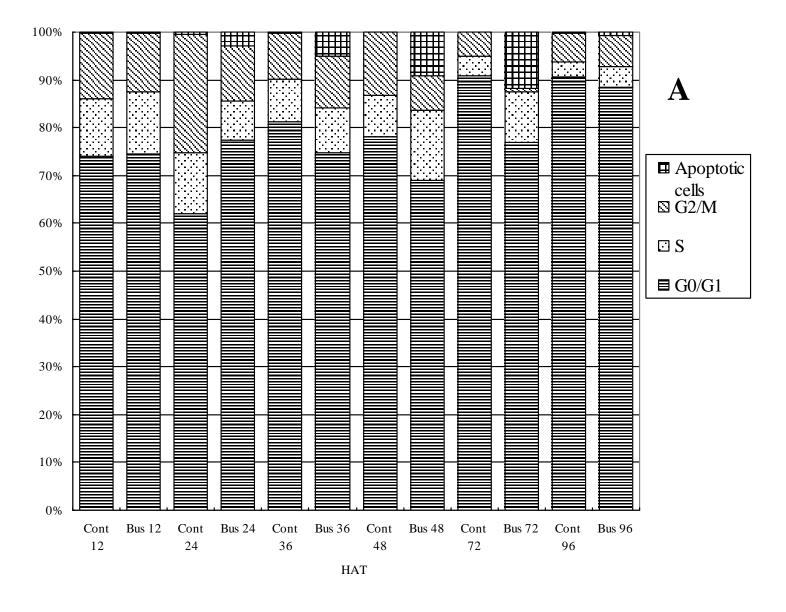


Fig. 1-2-4. Immunohistochemical findings of the telencephalic wall of rat fetuses at 36 h after busulfan treatment in the control group (a and b) and the busulfan group (c and d). (a and c) Phospho-histone H3; (b and d) BrdU. Immunostaining, (a-d) bar = $50 \mu m$.



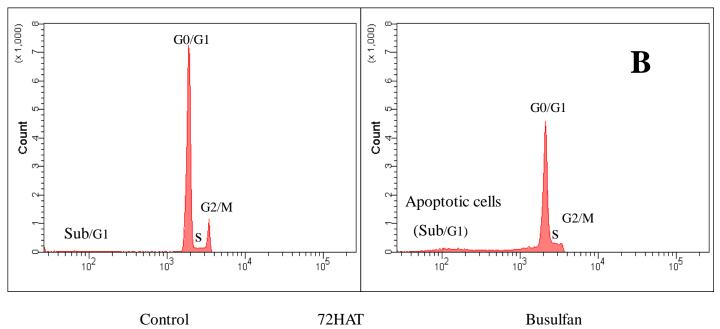
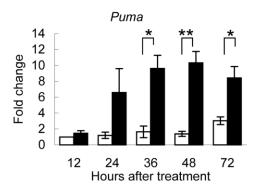


Fig.1-2- 5. Flow-cytometric analysis of cells from the BUS-treated fetal telencephalon. A: Percentage of cells in each cell cycle phase. B: Schematic figure of cell cycle analysis at 72 HAT (x axis: PI intensity, y axis: cell number). The number of apoptotic cells (Sub/G1) increased while those in the G0/G1 phase and G2/M phase decreased. An accumulation of cells in the S phase was also detected in the BUS treated group. (Cont=Control, Bus=Busulfan)



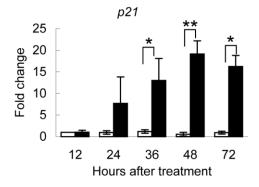


Fig.1-2- 6. Expression levels of *Puma* and $p21^{cip1}$ mRNAs measured by real-time RT-PCR in the control group (\square) and the busulfan group (\blacksquare). Significantly different from the control group at p<0.05 (*) and p<0.01 (**) in Student's *t*-test.

第2章 BUSのラット新生子に及ぼす影響

第1節 新生子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移

序

第1章ではBUSのラット胎子に及ぼす影響を病理学的観点から明らかにした。 第2章では、BUSのラット新生子に及ぼす影響について、病理学的観点から検 討する。

緒言で述べたように、BUS は臨床の現場で小児の血液疾患の治療にも使用されているが、BUS を処方された小児に肺線維症および痙攣等の急性神経症状を惹起することも報告されている (Oakhill et al., 1981; Vassal et al., 1990; Fauroux et al., 1996)。また、一方で、BUS は増殖活性の高い細胞のみならず、肺 (Güreli et al., 1963)、 消化管 (Burns et al., 1970)、リンパ組織 (Asano et al., 1963; Tange, 1974)、生殖組織 (Kasuga and Takahashi, 1986)および神経組織 (Burns et al., 1970)の増殖活性の低い細胞あるいは幹細胞にも細胞毒性を示すことが知られている。従って、ヒトの小児に対する BUS の安全性 (毒性)を予測するためには、新生子を含む幼若動物の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移について系統的に検索することが重要である。しかし、このような検索報告は見当たらない。

本章では、まず、第1節で、BUS によってラット新生子の全身組織に惹起される病変の性状、分布および推移について、主に病理組織学的に検索した。さらに、その結果を、BUS を処方されたヒトならびに BUS に曝露されたラットやマウスの胎子および成熟個体で観察された病変と比較・検討した。

材料と方法

動物

妊娠ラット(Crl:CD(SD)、日本チャールス・リバー株式会社)から得た雄のラットを、生後6日齢で実験に供した。分娩後の母動物あるいは里親1匹に8匹の新生子をつけ、床敷(ホワイトフレーク、日本チャールス・リバー(株))を入れたプラスチック製エコンケージ(W340×D450×H185 mm:日本クレア(株))に1母動物単位で収容し、第1章と同様な飼育環境で飼育した。

実験処置

生後6日の50匹の雄ラットを、対照群とBUS 投与群に均等に振り分けた。BUS 投与群には、BUS をオリーブ油に懸濁し、20 mg/kg (10mL/kg body weight)の用量で単回背部皮下に投与した。投与量は予備実験の結果を基に決定した。対照群には、オリーブ油(10mL/kg body weight)を同様の方法で投与した。投与1、2、4、7 および14日後(days after treatment, DAT)にそれぞれ5匹の新生子を、第1章・第1節と同様な方法で安楽死させ、各動物から全身臓器・組織を採取した。

病理組織学的および免疫組織化学的検索

採取した新生子ラットの全身臓器・組織(大腿骨を除く)について第1章・第1節と同様にHE染色標本を作製し、病理組織学的検索に供した。なお、大腿骨については、10%中性緩衝ホルマリン液で固定し、ギ酸液で脱灰処理した後、他の組織同様に処理した。また、一部のパラフィン切片については、第1章・第2節と同様な方法で、CAS3について免疫組織化学的検索を行った。

結果

一般状態、体重および脳重量

7 DAT までは対照群および BUS 投与群のいずれにも死亡は認められなかった。 その後、BUS 投与群では 13 DAT に 1 匹が重度の骨髄抑制を呈して死亡したが、 その他の動物には特記すべき臨床症状や異常な行動は観察されなかった。また、 BUS 投与群では、対照群と比較して、14 DAT に体重増加の有意な抑制および脳 重量の有意な低値が認められた。

病理組織学的所見

BUS 投与群の全身の組織に観察された病理組織学的変化とその推移を Table 2-1-1 から Table 2-1-3 に示す。対照群では、観察期間を通じ、いずれの組織にも 病理組織学的変化は認められなかった。

神経系では、1 DAT に小脳の EGL に顆粒細胞の核濃縮が出現し、2 DAT には著しく増加し、4 DAT には EGL の顆粒細胞は消失したが (Table 2-1-1)、7 DAT には EGL に少数の顆粒細胞が再度出現した。14 DAT には、対照群では EGL の顆粒細胞が内顆粒層(Internal granular layer, IGL)に移動して EGL が消失したが、BUS 投与群では少数の顆粒細胞が菲薄化した EGL に残存していた。

呼吸循環器系では、2 および 4DAT に、少数の心筋細胞(Fig. 2-1-1a)ならびに肺胞および終末細気管支の少数の上皮細胞に、それぞれ核濃縮が認められた (Table 2-1-1, Fig. 2-1-1b)。

消化器系では、2 DAT に肝臓の少数の造血細胞に核濃縮が、1 から 7 DAT にかけて胃の多数の腺上皮細胞に核濃縮が(Fig. 2-1-1c)、また、腸管では1 から 4 DAT にかけて少数の陰窩上皮細胞に核濃縮が、それぞれ観察された(Table 2-1-1)。上記の核濃縮に加え、肝臓では4 から 14 DAT にかけて造血細胞の軽度の減少が

(Table 2-1-2)、また、胃では 4 DAT に腺上皮細胞の空胞化が観察された(Table 2-1-2)。

泌尿生殖器系では、腎臓で 2 および 4 DAT に近位および遠位尿細管の少数の上皮細胞に核濃縮が認められた(Table 2-1-1, Fig. 2-1-1d)。精巣では、精祖細胞の核濃縮が 1 DAT に出現し、2 および 4 DAT に顕著になった(Table 2-1-1, Fig. 2-1-1e)。7 および 14 DAT には、精細胞の脱落を伴う顕著な精細管の萎縮がみられ、セルトリ細胞のみが残存している精細管も認められた(Table 2-1-2, Fig. 2-1-1f)。また、精巣上体では、2 から 7 DAT にかけて、少数の上皮細胞で核濃縮が観察された(Table 2-1-1)。

リンパ造血系では、胸腺で 1 および 2 DAT に皮質リンパ球の中等度ないし軽度の核濃縮がみられ(Table 2-1-1, Fig. 2-1-1g)、2 および 4DAT には皮質の中等度の萎縮が観察された(Table 2-1-2)。また、腸間膜リンパ節でも4 DAT に軽度のリンパ球の核濃縮がみられ(Table 2-1-1)、4 および 7 DAT に皮質の萎縮が観察された(Table 2-1-2)。脾臓では 2 から 14 DAT にかけて軽度ないし軽微な造血細胞の減少が観察された(Table 2-1-2)。骨髄では 1 から 7 DAT にかけて造血細胞の軽度ないし中等度の核濃縮が認められた(Table 2-1-1)。骨髄では 2 DATに造血細胞の減少に伴う脂肪浸潤が観察され、こうした変化は 14 DAT に向かってより顕著になった(Table 2-1-2, Fig. 2-1-1h)。

外皮および骨格系では、背部皮膚の毛包で少数の上皮細胞に核濃縮(Fig. 2-1-1i)が、また、大腿骨で2および4 DAT に骨芽細胞の核濃縮(Fig. 2-1-1j)が、それぞれ観察された(Table 2-1-1)。

眼球の病理組織学的所見を Table 2-1-3 および Fig. 2-1-2 に示した。網膜では、特にその辺縁領域に、顆粒層の顆粒細胞の核濃縮が認められた (Fig. 2-1-2b)。 核濃縮は 1 DAT に少数の顆粒細胞で認められ、2 DAT にピークに達し、4 DAT 以降には消失した。4 から 14 DAT にかけて、当該領域の外顆粒層は不整な波状あるいはロゼット様構造を呈し(Fig. 2-1-2d)、網膜の異形成が認められた。一方、水晶体では、1 から 7 DAT にかけて上皮細胞の核濃縮がみられ、核濃縮は 4 DAT にピークに達した。7 および 14 DAT には水晶体上皮細胞の部分的欠損が観察され、さらに、14 DAT には水晶体の赤道部から後極にかけて水晶体線維の膨化や空胞変性が観察された(Fig. 2-1-2f)。

上述した各組織に観察された核濃縮を呈する細胞の核は、免疫染色で CAS3 に陽性を示したことから(Fig. 2-1-1e, inset)、アポトーシスであると判断された。

考察

本節では、生後6日のラット新生子に20 mg/kgのBUSを単回腹腔内投与し、1から14DATにかけて経時的に、全身組織を病理組織学的に検索した。

臨床および肉眼観察では、14 DAT の BUS 投与群で、造血抑制に伴う全身状態の悪化に起因すると考えられる有意な体重増加の抑制、および、後述する小脳傷害に起因すると推察される脳重量の有意な低値が、それぞれ観察された。

病理組織学的検索の結果、BUS 投与群では、Table 2-1-1 から 2-1-3 に示すように、多くの組織で構成細胞のアポトーシス(核濃縮、CAS3 陽性)を特徴とする病変が観察された。全身組織における病変の分布は、緒言で述べた既報の BUS の細胞毒性の発現部位(肺、消化管、リンパ組織、生殖組織および神経組織)を中心に、より広範な組織で観察された。また、アポトーシスは、組織によって 1 から 7 DAT にかけて観察され、多くの組織では 2 および 4 DAT に顕著であった。さらに、網膜の顆粒細胞のアポトーシスは、小脳 EGL における顆粒細胞のアポトーシスと同様の経時的変化を示した。アポトーシスは 14 DAT には全ての組織で消失したが、この時点で、骨髄、精巣、眼球および小脳には後述するような高度の病変が観察された。

中枢神経系では、小脳および眼の網膜に病変が認められた。小脳では、高度のアポトーシスにより顆粒細胞が脱落して菲薄化した EGL に、14 DAT に至っても少数の顆粒細胞が残存していた。小脳病変の詳細については、本章・第2節で記述する。一方、眼球では、波状あるいはロゼット様構造の形成を伴う網膜の異形成に加え、水晶体上皮細胞の部分的欠損および水晶体の変性が観察された。ヒトの成人 (Dahlgren et al., 1972; Ravindranathan et al., 1972; Hamming et al., 1976) および幼若ラット (Solomon et al., 1955; De Beer et al., 1956; Light, 1967)

では、BUS による白内障の発症が報告されている。また、網膜顆粒層に観察されたロゼット様構造に関しては、Ueno et al., (2002b) が 5-azacytidine に曝露されたラット胎子の終脳の VZ で同様の組織像を報告している。彼らは、高度のアポトーシスによる組織破壊が神経前駆細胞の結合を断ち切った結果、正常な神経前駆細胞が新たにロゼット様の構造を形成したものと推察しており(Ueno et al., 2002b)、網膜顆粒層でもほぼ同様な機序で顆粒細胞によるロゼット様構造の形成が起ったものと考えられた。

呼吸循環器系について、BUS の投与により新生子ラットに観察された心筋細胞のアポトーシスは、ラットの胎子および成熟個体(Sternberg et al., 1958)ならびにヒトでの報告はない。また、ラット新生子の肺では、胎子の肺と同様(第1章・第1節)、肺胞および終末細気管支の上皮細胞のアポトーシスが一過性に観察されたに過ぎなかったが、ヒトでは、小児(Oakhill et al., 1981; Fauroux et al., 1996)および成人(Littler et al., 1969; Burns et al., 1970; Buggia et al., 1994)で、長期に亘るあるいは高用量のBUSを用いた治療後に、気管支肺異形成症および慢性間質性肺線維症(いわゆるBUS 肺)が報告されている。従って、高用量のBUS を長期間投与することにより、ラットの肺でもヒトの場合と同様な器質的変化が惹起される可能性がある。

消化器系については、新生子ラットでは、胎子同様、消化管の腺上皮細胞あるいは陰窩上皮細胞にアポトーシスが観察された。一方、成熟個体では、胃腺上皮の軽度の萎縮および腸管粘膜の中等度の萎縮が報告されている(Sternberg et al., 1958)。また、ヒトでは、臨床的に非特異性胃腸炎の症状が報告されているが(Güreli et al., 1963)、病理組織学的所見についての報告はない。

泌尿生殖器系では、新生子ラットの腎臓で、胎子同様、尿細管上皮細胞のアポトーシスが認められたが、成熟個体およびヒトでは類似の報告はない。また、

精巣に関しては、ラット成熟個体での報告 (Hodel *et al.*, 1984; Kasuga and Takahashi 1986; Linder *et al.*, 1992; Udagawa *et al.*, 2001; Horn *et al.*, 2008) にほぼ一致して、精細胞の高度のアポトーシスと脱落による精細管の顕著な萎縮がみられたが、ヒトでは BUS 投与による精巣病変の報告はない。

リンパ造血器系では、新生子ラットの胸腺および腸間膜リンパ節で、成熟個体での報告(Sternberg et al., 1958; Tange et al., 1974)とほぼ同様、皮質リンパ球のアポトーシスとそれに伴う皮質の萎縮がみられた。脾臓では、成熟個体で白脾髄の萎縮が報告がされている(Tange et al., 1974)が、新生子ラットではこのような変化は観察されなかった。また、ラットの脾臓は終生造血器官であり、しばしば髄外造血がみられるが、BUS 投与群の新生子ラットでは、後述の骨髄と同様、造血細胞の減少が認められた。一方、成熟個体では脾臓の造血細胞の減少に言及した報告はない(Sternberg et al., 1958; Tange et al., 1974)。新生子ラットの骨髄では、成熟個体での報告(Sternberg et al., 1958; Dunjic et al.1973; Tange et al., 1974)にほぼ一致して、アポトーシスによる造血細胞の高度の減少に伴い、脂肪浸潤が目立った。

体表および大腿骨について、新生子ラットでは背部皮膚の毛包上皮および大腿骨の骨芽細胞にアポトーシスが確認されたが、成熟ラットでの報告はない。 ヒトでは BUS 治療による脱毛症が知られており (Tosti *et al.*, 2005; Tran *et al.*, 2000)、その原因として、BUS による増殖活性の高い毛母細胞の傷害が考えられている。

上述したように、BUS によって新生子に惹起された病変は、胎子の場合と同様、構成細胞のアポトーシスを特徴とすることが明らかになった。また、アポトーシスの分布と推移は、特に新生子と成熟個体との間で異なっており、両者間でのBUS に対する構成細胞の感受性の差を反映しているものと考えられた。

要約

生後6日の雄ラットに20mg/kgのBUSを背部皮下に単回投与し、1、2、4、7 および14 DATに、全身組織を病理組織学的に検索した。その結果、小脳、心臓、肺、胃、腸管、肝臓、腎臓、精巣、精巣上体、リンパ造血組織、背部皮膚、大腿骨および眼球に、構成細胞の核濃縮が観察され、特に小脳、眼球、精巣、リンパ組織および骨髄で顕著であった。核濃縮細胞は CAS3 陽性を示したことから、胎子でみられた核濃縮細胞と同様、アポトーシス細胞と判断された。アポトーシスは、1から7DATにかけて観察され、胸腺では1DATに、また、他の組織では2ないし4DATにピークに達し、14DATには全ての組織から消失した。14DATには、小脳では菲薄化したEGLに少数の顆粒細胞が残存しており、眼球では網膜の異形成、水晶体の変性および上皮の部分的欠損が認められ、精巣では精細胞の脱落による精細管の高度の萎縮が観察され、また、骨髄では造血細胞の顕著な減少および脂肪浸潤が観察された。アポトーシスの分布と推移は、特に新生子と成熟個体の間で異なっており、両者間でのBUSに対する構成細胞の感受性の差を反映しているものと考えられた。

Table 2-1-1. Distribution and process of pyknotic cells in rat infant tissues exposed to busulfan

Dose of busulfan		0	mg/k	g		20 mg/kg					
Days after treatment	1	2	4	7	14	1	2	4	7	14	
No. of animals examined	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	
Cerebellum											
Granular cells of external granular layer	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	NA	-	-	
Heart											
Cardiomyocytes	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	-	-	
Lungs											
Epithelial cells of alveoli or terminal bronchioles	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	-	-	
Stomach											
Glandular epithelial cells		-	-	-	-	±	+	+	±	-	
Intestines											
Crypt cells	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	±	-	-	
Liver											
Hematopoietic cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	-	-	-	
Kidneys											
Tubular cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	-	-	
Testes											
Spermatogonia	-	-	-	-	-	±	++	++	±	-	
Epididymides											
Epithelial cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	±	-	
Thymus											
Lymphocytes of cortex	-	-	-	-	-	++	+	-	-	-	
Mesenteric lymph node											
Lymphocytes of cortex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	
Bone marrow											
Hematopoietic cells	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	++	+	-	
Skin (dorsal)											
Epithelial cells of hair follicles	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	-	-	
Bone (femur)											
Osteoblasts	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	-	-	

No. of pyknotic cells/No. of cells counted: -:almost absent, \pm :minimal <25%, +:mild 25% \sim 50%,

NA: not applicable due to no granular cell present.

^{++:}moderate 50% \sim 75%, +++:marked > 75%.

Table 2-1-2. Histopathological findings in rat infant tissues exposed to busulfan

Dose of busulfan		0	mg/k	g				20 m	ng/kg	
Days after treatment No. of animals examined	1 5	2 5	4 5	7 5	14 5	1 5	2 5	4 5	7 5	14 4
Stomach										
Vacuolation of glandular epithelial cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Liver										
Decreased hematopoietic cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Testes										
Atrophy with depletion of germ cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	++	+++
Thymus										
Atrophy of cortex	-	-	-	-	-	-	++	++	-	-
Mesenteric lymph node										
Atrophy of cortex	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	+	-
Spleen										
Decreased hematopoietic cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	±
Bone marrow										
Decreased hematopoietic cells with fat cells	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	++	++	+++

Lesion area/Tissue area observed: -:almost absent, \pm :minimal <25%, +:mild 25% \sim 50%, ++:moderate 50% \sim 75%, +++:marked >75%.

Table 2-1-3. Histopathological findings in rat infant tissues exposed to busulfan

Dose of busulfar	n	0 mg/kg					20 mg/kg					
Days after treatment No. of animals examined		2 5	4 5	7 5	14 5	1 5	2 5	4 5	7 5	14 4		
,												
Pyknotic cell, retina	-	-	-	-	-	±	+	-	-	-		
Dysplasia, retina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	+	+		
Pyknotic cell, lens epithelium	-	-	-	-	-	±	±	+	±	-		
Focal loss, lens epithelium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	±	+		
Degeneration, lens	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	++		

Lesion area/Tissue area observed: -:almost absent, \pm :minimal <25%, +:mild 25% \sim 50%, ++:moderate 50% \sim 75%, +++:marked >75%.

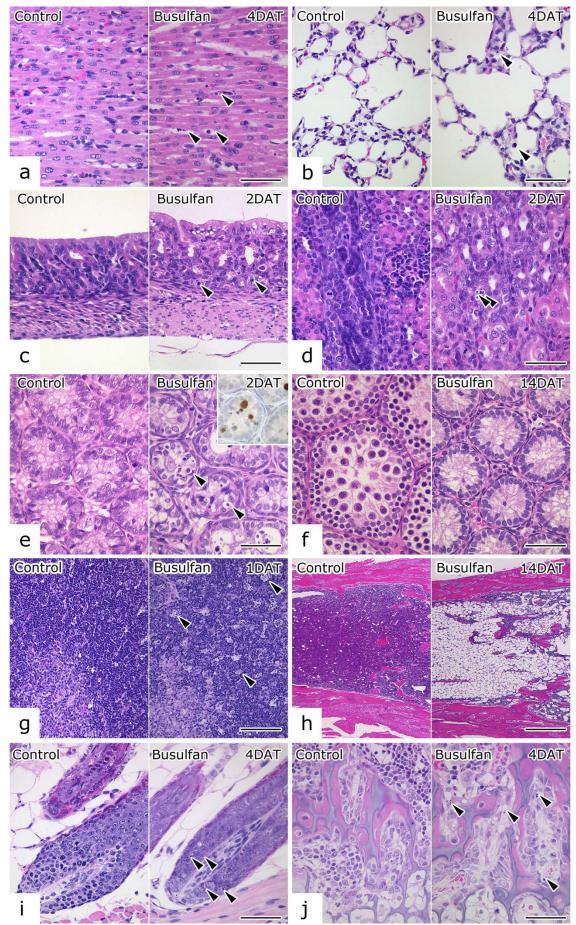


Fig. 2-1-1. Histopathological changes in infant rat tissues. In the busulfan group, pyknosis (arrowhead) was observed in cardiomyocytes (a), alveolar or bronchiolar epithelial cells (b), glandular epithelial cells in the stomach (c), uriniferous tubule epithelial cells in the kidneys (d), spermatogonia (e), lymphocytes in the thymus (g), hair follicle epithelial cells (i), and osteoblasts in the femur (j). Pyknotic nuclei were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3 (e, inset). At 14 DAT, only Sertoli cells were left in the germinal epithelium of markedly atrophied seminiferous tubules (f), and marked depletion of hematopoietic cells with prominent infiltration of fat cells was observed in the femur bone marrow (h). HE stain, inset of (e) cleaved caspase-3 immunostaining. (a-f, i and j) Bar=50 μ m. (g) Bar=100 μ m. (h) Bar=500 μ m.

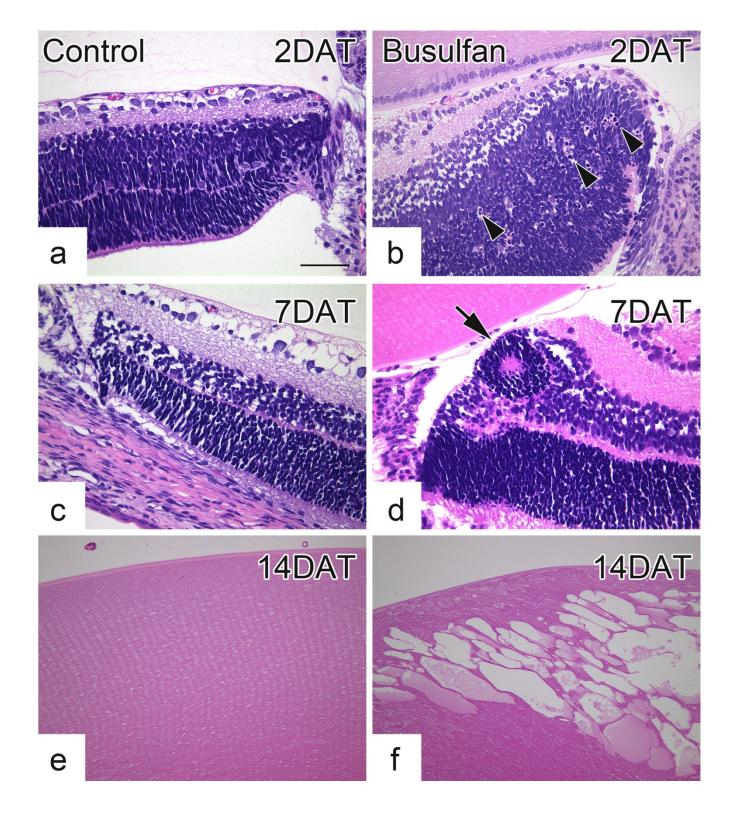


Fig. 2-1-2. Histopathological changes in the eye of an infant rat. In control (a, c and e) and busulfan (b, d and f) groups. Pyknosis (arrowhead) in the retina (b), formation of rosette-like structure (arrow) in the retina (d), and degeneration of the lens (f) in the busulfan group. HE stain. (a-f) Bar=50 μ m.

第2節 新生子の小脳病変の性状および発現機序

序

緒言で述べたように、ラットやマウスの新生子の脳、特に小脳は、出生後も離乳期にかけて未だ発達過程にあり、DNA 傷害物質をはじめ外来性刺激に感受性を有していると考えられる。前節で、新生子の全身組織における病変の一部として、小脳病変の輪郭について記載したが、本節では、BUS による新生子の小脳病変の詳細な性状と発現機序を明らかにする目的で、6日齢のラット新生子にBUS (10、20、30 あるいは 50mg/kg) を投与し、1 から 14 DAT にかけて経日的に剖検し、小脳について病理組織学的および免疫組織学的検索ならびにReal-time RT-PCR による解析を行った。

第1章・第2節の検索結果を含め、DNA 傷害物質による胎子の脳病変の発現機序に関する報告は多いが (Doi *et al.*, 2011)、新生子の脳病変、特に小脳病変に関する報告はごく少ない。

材料と方法

動物

妊娠ラット (Crl:CD(SD)、日本チャールス・リバー株式会社)から得た新生子雄ラット 155 匹を、生後 6 日で実験に供した。動物の飼育方法は第 1 節のそれと同様である。

実験処置

新生子雄ラット 125 匹を 25 匹ずつ 5 群 (対照群 1 群および BUS 投与群 4 群) に均等に割り当てた。BUS 投与群には、オリーブ油に懸濁した BUS を、10、20、30 あるいは 50 mg/kg (10mL/kg body weight) の用量で背部皮下に単回投与し(1 用量群毎に 25 匹)、対照群にはオリーブ油 (10mL/kg body weight) を同様に投与した。

1、2、4、7 および 14 DAT に、対照群および BUS 各投与量群の新生子ラットをそれぞれ 5 匹づつ、第 1 節と同様な方法で安楽死させ、体重を測定した後に脳を採取し、脳の重量(絶対重量および相対重量)を測定した。新生子の体重、脳の絶対重量および相対重量(脳重量/体重)のデータは、平均値±標準偏差で示し、第 1 章・第 1 節と同様な方法で統計解析を行なった。

また、残りの 30 匹の新生子雄ラット(6 日齢)を BUS 30 mg/kg 投与群と対照群に均等に振り分け、上記と同様な方法で投与し、6、12、24、36 および 48 HAT (i.e., 2 DAT) にそれぞれ 3 匹を安楽死させ小脳を採取し、後述の Real-time RT-PCR 解析に供した。

病理組織学的検索

上記 125 匹の新生子から採取した脳は、10%中性緩衝ホルマリン液で固定後、レベル : 視神経交叉(大脳)、レベル : 乳頭体(大脳)およびレベル :

橋(小脳) (Solleveld and Boorman, 1990) の 3 レベルの横断面を切り出し、パラフィン包埋した。厚さ $4\mu m$ のパラフィン切片に HE 染色を施し、病理組織学的検索に供した。また、一部の切片については、TUNEL 法による断片化 DNA の検出に供した。さらに、一部の切片を免疫組織化学的検索に供した。

断片化 DNA の検出

第1章第1節と同様、TUNEL 法により新生子の脳における断片化 DNA の検出を行なった。

免疫組織化学的検索

新生子の小脳について、CAS3、PH3、p53、p21、S-100、Vimentin、Neuron specific enolase (NSE)、Neurofilament、ED1、Iba1、Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)、Olig2、NG2 chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan (NG2)、Myelin CNPase、Double cortin、Nestin および C-kit について免疫組織化学的検索を行った。一次抗体とそれぞれの希釈倍率および抗原賦活化法を Table 2-2-1 に示した。

免疫染色は TSA Biotin System kit (PerkinElmer, Boston, USA) を用いたチラミドシグナル増幅法、EnVision⁺ kits (Dako Japan)を用いた Labeled polymer 法および SAB-PO (Goat) kit (Nichirei, Tokyo, Japan)を用いた Streptavidin-biotin complex peroxidase 法で実施した。組織切片の抗原賦活化法として、クエン酸緩衝液 (10 mM, pH 6.0)を用いてオートクレーブ処理 (120 ,15分)、マイクロウェ・ブ処理 (95 ,15分)あるいは 0.1%トリプシンを用いたタンパク分解酵素処理 (37 ,30分)を行った。その後、0.3%過酸化水素・メタノール溶液を用いて室温 20分間処理して内因性ペルオキシダーゼの不活化を行い、プロテインブロック(Dako Japan)を用いて室温で 10分間処理して非特異性反応を抑制した後、それぞれの一次抗体と4 で一晩反応させた。その後、上述のように、TSA法、EnVision⁺ kit (Dako Japan) あるいは SAB-PO 法を用いて室温で 40分間標識

した。さらに、DAB 反応によって陽性部位を可視化し、メチルグリーンあるいはヘマトキシリンで後染色した。

Real-time RT-PCR 解析

6日齢で BUS (30mg/kg) を投与した群および対照群につき、6、12、24、36 および 48 HAT にそれぞれ 3 匹の動物を剖検し、小脳を対象に、第 1 章・第 2 節と同様な方法で、アポトーシスおよび細胞周期に係わる因子 (*Puma, Cdc20, p21^{Cip1}, Cyclin B1* および *Cyclin D1*)について、Real-time RT-PCR 解析を実施した。

結果

一般状態、体重および脳重量

対照群および BUS 投与群ともに、7 DAT までは死亡は観察されなかった。それ以降、BUS 投与群では、重篤な骨髄抑制を伴う死亡例(20mg/kg群:1例、30mg/kg群:4 例および 50 mg/kg 群:5 例)が認められたが、生存動物には特記すべき臨床症状および異常な行動は観察されなかった。

BUS 投与群では、対照群と比べ、4 DAT には 50 mg/kg 群、7 DAT には 10、30 および 50 mg/kg 群ならびに 14 DAT には 20 および 30 mg/kg 群で、それぞれ有意な体重増加の抑制が記録された(Fig. 2-2-1)。また、4 および 7 DAT には、30 および 50 mg/kg 群ならびに 14 DAT には 20 および 30 mg/kg 群で、それぞれ脳重量の有意な低値が記録された(Fig. 2-2-2A)。さらに、14 DAT の 30mg/kg 群では、脳の相対重量の有意な増加が認められた(Fig. 2-2-2B)。

肉眼所見

1 および 2 DAT には、対照群および BUS 投与群ともに特記すべき肉眼所見は認められなかった。その後、BUS 投与群では、対照群と比較して、20 および 30 mg/kg 群では 4、7 および 14 DAT に (Fig. 2-2-3)、また、50 mg/kg 群では 4 および 7 DAT に、それぞれ小脳の萎縮が認められた。小脳の萎縮は、前者では 14 DAT に、また、後者では 7 DAT に、明瞭であった。

病理組織学的および免疫組織化学的所見

大脳には、いずれの剖検時点においても、病理組織学的変化は認められなかった。一方、小脳では、Fig. 2-2-4 に示すように、小脳皮質の EGL、深部小脳核 (deep cerebellar nuclei, DCN) および小脳の白質 (cerebellar white matter, CWM) に、以下に述べる特徴的な病理組織学的変化が認められた。

外顆粒層 (EGL):対照群の小脳の EGL では、顆粒細胞は 7 DAT (13 日齢)には減少し、14 DAT (20 日齢)には消失した (Fig. 2-2-5a to e)。また、観察期間を通じ、顆粒細胞の核濃縮はほとんど観察されなかった。

BUS 投与群では、全ての投与量群で、EGL の顆粒細胞の核濃縮が 1 DAT に出現し、2 DAT にはピークに達し、投与量依存性の顆粒細胞の減少が認められた(Fig. 2-2-5g, 1, q and v)。4 DAT には、全ての投与量群で、核濃縮細胞はほぼ消失し、同時に、20 mg/kg 以上の投与量群では顆粒細胞は消失した(Fig. 2-2-5m, r, and w)。その後、20 および 30 mg/kg 群では、7 DAT にごく少数の顆粒細胞が EGL に再度出現し(Fig. 2-2-5 n and s)、14 DAT に至っても菲薄化した EGL に残存していた(Fig. 2-2-5o and t)。また、この時点で、20 および 30 mg/kg 群では、IGL の細胞密度は軽度に低下しており、30 mg/kg 群では IGL 幅の軽度の減少を伴っていた。一方、10 mg/kg 群の顆粒細胞の動向は、4 DAT 以降は対照群のそれとほぼ同様な推移を示した(Fig. 2-2-5j)。

核濃縮を呈する顆粒細胞 (Fig. 2-2-6a) は、TUNEL 法で DNA の断片化を示し (Fig. 2-2-6b)、また、免疫染色で CAS3 に陽性を示した (Fig. 2-2-6c)ことから、 アポトーシス細胞であると判断された。

対照群では、いずれの時点においても、p53 および p21 陽性の顆粒細胞は認められなかった。一方、BUS 投与群では、全ての投与量群で、 $1\,DAT$ に少数の p53 および p21 陽性の顆粒細胞が出現し、 $2\,DAT$ に増加したが (Fig. 2-2-6d and e)、 $4\,DAT$ には消失した。

一方、1 DAT には、BUS の全ての投与量群で、対照群と同様、EGL の顆粒細胞に核分裂像が認められた (Fig. 2-2-5a, f, k, p, and u)。対照群では 7 DAT に至っても核分裂像は減少していなかったが (Fig. 2-2-5d)、BUS の 10 mg/kg 群では 7 DAT には減少していた (Fig. 2-2-5i)。また、20 mg/kg 以上の投与量群では、核

分裂像は 2 DAT には減少し、4 DAT には消失した (Fig. 2-2-5m, r and w)。核分裂像を呈する顆粒細胞の核は免疫染色で PH3 に陽性を示した (Fig. 2-2-7)。

深部小脳核 (DCN) : 対照群では、DCN に病理組織学的変化はほとんど観察されなかった。BUS 投与群では、全ての投与量群で、1 DAT にグリア細胞の核濃縮が観察され、核濃縮を呈するグリア細胞は 10、20 および 30 mg/kg 群では 2 DAT に (Fig. 2-2-8a)、また、50 mg/kg 群では 4 DAT に、それぞれ増加した。グリア細胞の核濃縮は、10 および 20 mg/kg 群では 4 DAT に、また、30 および 50 mg/kg 群では 7 DAT に、それぞれ消失した。核濃縮を呈するグリア細胞は TUNEL 法で DNA の断片化を示し (Fig. 2-2-8b)、また、免疫染色で CAS3 に陽性を示した (Fig. 2-2-8c) ことから、アポトーシス細胞であると判断された。

BUS 投与群の DCN では、4 DAT に全投与量群で、異常な核分裂像を呈する細胞が散在性に観察された(Fig. 2-2-9a)。こうした細胞は、10 および 20 mg/kg群では 7 DAT に、また、30 mg/kg群では 14 DAT に、それぞれ消失した。50 mg/kg群では、異常な核分裂像を呈する細胞は 7 DAT には増数したが、それ以降は、同群の全例が死亡したため、検索できなかった。一方、対照群では、BUS 投与群で観察されたような異常な核分裂像を呈する細胞は認められなかった。

異常な核分裂像を呈する細胞は、淡明で腫大した細胞質および核周囲に明量を有することを特徴とし、概ね神経細胞に隣接して観察された。これらの細胞は、免疫染色で PH3(Fig. 2-2-9b)、S-100(Fig. 2-2-9c)および Vimentin(Fig. 2-2-9d)に陽性を示したが、NSE、Neurofilament、ED1、Iba1、GFAP、Olig2、NG2、Myelin CNPase、Double cortin、Nestin および C-kit には陰性であった。

小脳白質 (CWM):対照群およびBUSの10 mg/kg群では、観察期間を通じて、CWM には病理組織学的変化は認められなかった (Fig. 2-2-10a and c)。一方、BUSの20、30 および50 mg/kg群では、2 から7 DAT にかけて、ほぼ傍片葉

(paraflocculus, PFL) に限局して、水腫様変化が観察された。PFL の水腫様変化は、4 DAT には顕著になったが (Fig. 2-2-10b and d)、該部の血管系には病理組織学的変化は認められなかった。また、水腫様変化の出現に先立ち、核濃縮および TUNEL 法で DNA 断片化を呈し、かつ、免疫染色で CAS3 に陽性を示すグリア細胞が、CWM の全域に散在性にみられた。さらに、水腫様変化を呈する領域では、対照群 (Fig. 2-2-10e)と異なり、4 DAT に免疫染色で ED-1 に陽性を示す細胞が観察された (Fig. 2-2-10f)。14 DAT には、20 および 30 mg/kg群で、対照群と比較して、PFL の白質の萎縮および PFL の内側層の稀突起膠細胞の密度の低下がみられた。

Real-time RT-PCR 解析所見

6日齢で BUS (30 mg/kg) 投与群および対照群の動物を、6、12、24、36 および 48 HAT (i.e., 2 DAT) に剖検し、小脳における puma、Cdc20、p21 ^{Cip1}、CyclinB1 および CyclinD1 の mRNA の発現量を調べた。その結果、BUS 投与群では、対照群と比較して、Cyclin B1 mRNA の発現量が 6 および 48 HAT に有意に増加した。また、36 および 48 HAT には puma mRNA の発現量は有意に増加し (Fig. 2-2-11)、p21 mRNA の発現量も増加傾向を示した (Fig. 2-2-11)。一方、Cyclin D1 および Cdc20 mRNA の発現量には、対照群と BUS 群との間に有意差は認められなかった。

考察

本節では、BUS による新生子ラット小脳病変の性状および発現機序を明らかにするため、6日齢でBUS (10、20、30 あるいは 50 mg/kg) を投与されたラット新生子の小脳について、1 から 14 DAT にかけて経日的に、病理組織学的および免疫組織学的検索を行なった。さらに、6日齢で 30 mg/kg の BUS を投与されたラット新生子を6から 48 HAT (i.e., 2 DAT) にかけて経時的に剖検して小脳を採材し、アポトーシスおよび細胞周期に係わる因子について Real-time RT-PCR 解析を行なった。従って、Real-time RT-PCR 解析の結果は、小脳の部位 (EGL, DCN および CWM) の中でも構成細胞のアポトーシスが最も顕著であった EGL の変化を主に反映しているものと考えられた。

本実験で BUS 投与群に観察されたほぼ投与量依存性の死亡例の出現および体重増加の抑制は、前節で述べたように、リンパ造血系組織の高度の傷害によるものと考えられた。また、剖検時には、脳重量の低値が認められ、肉眼的に小脳は萎縮していた。一般に脳重量は体重増加抑制の影響をほとんど受けないとされていることから(Bailey et al., 2004)、BUS 投与群に観察された脳重量の低値および小脳の萎縮は、BUS の小脳への直接的な傷害作用によるものと考えられた。

病理組織学的検索では、大脳には観察期間を通じ変化は認められなかったが、 小脳では、EGL、DCN および CWM にそれぞれ特徴的な病変が、ほぼ BUS の 投与量依存性に観察された。

ラット新生子の発達過程にある小脳では、軟膜直下に EGL が存在しているが、 顆粒細胞は EGL で増殖した後 IGL に移動し、EGL はおよそ 3 週齢までに消失す る (Kengaku, 2002)。本実験でも、対照群および BUS の 10 mg/kg 群では、EGL の顆粒細胞は IGL に移動し、14 DAT(20 日齢)までに EGL は消失した。一方、BUS の 20 および 30 mg/kg 群の EGL の顆粒細胞は、核濃縮を呈して 4 DAT には一旦消失したが、7 DAT にはごく少数の顆粒細胞が再度出現し、14 DAT に至っても菲薄化した EGL に残存していた。また、14 DAT の IGL では、軽度の細胞密度の低下(20 および 30mg/kg 群) および IGL 幅の減少(30 mg/kg 群)が認められた。こうした所見から、顆粒細胞の EGL から IGL への移動が阻害されたことが示唆された。なお、BUS の 50 mg/kg では 7 DAT 後 14 DAT までに全例が死亡したため、14 DAT についは検索できなかった。

BUS 投与群の小脳の EGL に観察された核濃縮を呈する顆粒細胞は、DNA の断片化(TUNEL 法)を呈し、また、CAS3 陽性(免疫染色)であることから、アポトーシス細胞であると判断された。BUS によるアポトーシスの誘導は、これまでにもヒト腫瘍細胞および実験動物の骨髄細胞を用いた *in vitro* の実験で報告されており (Hassan *et al.*, 2001; Chatterjee *et al.*, 2010; Valdez *et al.*, 2010)、また、第1章で示したように、ラット胎子組織 (*in vivo*)でも観察され、いずれも BUSの DNA 傷害作用に起因すると考えられている。

本節の検索では、新生子ラット小脳の EGL で、アポトーシス細胞の増加と p53 および p21 陽性細胞の増加がほぼ並行して観察されたこと、また、puma mRNA の発現量も同時期に有意に増加していることから判断し、BUS によるラット新生子小脳の EGL における顆粒細胞のアポトーシスは、第 1 章・第 2 節で示した胎子終脳の VZ の NPCs のアポトーシスと同様、p53 依存性の内因性経路によって惹起されると考えられた。同様なアポトーシスの発現機序については、BUS に曝露されたヒトの腫瘍細胞 (in vitro) でも報告されている(Valdez et al., 2010)。

BUS の細胞周期に及ぼす影響については、骨髄細胞 (Hassan *et al.*, 2001; Valdez *et al.*, 2008, 2010) および ECV304 細胞 (Ritter *et al.*, 2002) を用いた *in vitro* の実

験で、BUS は G2 期で細胞周期を停止することが報告がされている。本節の新生 子ラットの小脳に関する Real-time RT-PCR 解析では、Cdc20 mRNA の発現量に は有意な増加は認められなかったものの、48 HAT (i.e., 2 DAT)に Cyclin B1 mRNA の発現量が有意に増加し、また、p21 mRNA の発現量も増加傾向を示し たのに加え、48 HAT にはアポトーシス細胞の増加が認められたことから、 BUS は新生子ラット小脳の EGL の顆粒細胞に G2/M 期で細胞周期停止を誘導するも のと推察された。一方、第 1 章・第 2 節の検索では、BUS は胎子終脳の NPCs に G1/S 期で細胞周期停止を誘導することが示唆された。この点に関しては、BUS は細胞核内でアルキル化作用を示すことから、細胞周期のいずれの期にも作用 する可能性が指摘されている (Buggia et al., 1994)。 例えば、第1章・第2節の 考察の項で触れたように、雄マウスの生殖細胞では G 1 期で (Choi et al., 2004)、 また、骨髄細胞 (Hassan et al., 2001; Valdez et al., 2008, 2010) および ECV304 細 胞 (Ritter et al., 2002) では G2 期で、それぞれ細胞周期を停止することが報告さ れている。BUS の新生子小脳の EGL の顆粒細胞の細胞周期に及ぼす影響につい ては、フローサイトメトリーによる解析を含め、今後より詳細な検索が必要で ある。

緒言で述べたように、DNA 傷害物質などの外来性刺激による新生子の小脳病変に関する報告はごく少ない。Kim et al. (1998) は、出生当日のマウスに -線 (0.18 - 3.96 Gy) を照射し、照射後 2 - 24 時間後まで EGL の顆粒細胞のアポトーシスを経時的に検索した結果、アポトーシスの強度は照射量に依存し、アポトーシスのピークは照射 6-8 時間後であると報告している。また、Ohmori et al. (1999) は、出生後 2 から 4 日にかけて毎日 1 回、癲癇治療薬である phenytoin (35 mg/kg) を経口投与したマウスの小脳では、EGL の顆粒細胞の高度の細胞死により EGL から IGL への顆粒細胞の移動が阻止され、14 日齢には、対照動物と比べ

て EGL の幅が増幅すること、および、phenytoin は顆粒細胞のみならずプルキンエ細胞も傷害することを記載している。今回の 6 日齢で BUS を投与したラットの小脳では、EGL 幅の増加およびプルキンエ細胞の傷害は認められず、暴露された化学物質の細胞傷害機序の違いおよびこれらの化学物質への暴露時期の違いを反映しているものと推察された。

DCN における最も興味深い病理組織学的所見は、異常な核分裂像を示す細胞の出現であり、それらの細胞は、淡明で腫大した細胞質と核周囲に明調領域を有することを特徴としていた。免疫組織化学的検索では PH3、S-100 および Vimentin に陽性を示したが、それ以外の免疫染色ではすべて陰性であり、この細胞の起源については特定できなかった。しかし、大部分が神経細胞に隣接してみられたことから、稀突起膠細胞である可能性が推察された。

この異常な核分裂像を示す細胞は、Ueno et al. (2002b) が 5-azacytidine に曝露されたラット胎子の終脳 VZの NPCs で報告している細胞に類似していた。彼等は、5-azacytidine に曝露された後、ある NPCs は正常な DNA 修復により G2/M 期から G1 期に移行し、また別の NPCs は G1 期に移行したものの、DNA 傷害の修復が不完全なためにアポトーシスに陥り、さらに別の NPCs は G2/M 期に留まってアポトーシスに至ると記載している (Ueno et al., 2006)。また、核分裂後の G1 期での細胞死は、不完全な核分裂および DNA 修復の欠陥による "mitotic catastrophe" によるものとも推察している (Ueno et al., 2006)。さらに、Castedo et al. (2004 a, b) は、DNA 傷害後の細胞分裂への異常な移行、遺伝子の欠損、あるいは cdc20-Cycline B1 の過剰な活性化などが原因で "mitotic catastrophe"が引き起こされることを報告している。BUS 投与ラット新生子小脳の DCN に観察された"mitotic catastrophe" 類似の変化の発現機序については、今後より一層の検索が必要である。

BUS 投与群の CWM では、アポトーシス細胞および ED-1 陽性細胞の出現を伴う水腫様変化が観察された。恐らくは稀突起膠細胞と考えられるアポトーシス細胞は、CWM の全域に散在性に観察された。また、ED-1 陽性細胞は脳ではミクログリアであると考えられており、アポトーシス細胞の処理に係っているものと考えられた。なお、水腫はほぼ PFL に限局して観察されたが、今回の検索では、水腫がなぜ PFL にほぼ限局して観察されるのかを含め、水腫の発現機序を説明するに足る所見を得ることは出来なかった。

さらに、BUS の 20 および 30 mg/kg 群では、14 DAT に、PFL の白質の幅が対照群のそれと比べて減少し、また、PFL の内側層の稀突起細胞の密度が低下していた。これらの所見は、高用量のBUS への暴露によって、ラット新生子のCWMの低形成が惹起されたことを示唆している。

上述したように、本節では、BUS に暴露された新生子ラットの小脳病変の性状とその経時的変化について検索し、病変の性状が小脳の部位(EGL、DCN および CWM)によってそれぞれ特徴的であることを明らかにするとともに、小脳病変の発現機序の一部を明らかにしたが、小脳病変の発現機序の全容を解明するためは、今後一層の検索が必要である。

以上、本章では、第1および2節を通じ、BUS のラット新生子に及ぼす影響を病理学的観点から検討し、全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移ならびに小脳病変の詳細な性状を明らかにするとともに、小脳病変の発現機序の一端を明らかにした。

要約

BUS によって惹起されたラット新生子の脳病変の性状とその発現機序を明ら かにする目的で、生後6日の雄ラットにBUS(10、20、30あるいは50 mg/kg)を 背部皮下に単回投与し、1、2、4、7 および 14 DAT に剖検して脳を検索した。 その結果、BUS 投与群では、後述する BUS の小脳への直接的な傷害作用に起因 すると考えられる脳重量の低値が記録され、また、肉眼的に小脳の萎縮が観察 された。病理組織学的検索では、大脳には変化は認められなかったが、小脳で は、EGL、DCN および CWM で、それぞれ特徴的な性状と推移を示す病変が観 察された。対照群の小脳では、顆粒細胞は正常な発達過程の間に EGL で増殖し た後、14 DAT には全て EGL から IGL に移動した。一方、BUS 投与群 (20mg/kg 以上の投与群) の EGL では、2 DAT に p53 および p21 陽性細胞の増加と相俟っ てアポトーシス細胞が増加し、核分裂細胞は減少した。また、 14 DAT に至っ ても、菲薄化した EGL にごく少数の顆粒細胞が残存していた。同時に、IGL で は、軽度の細胞密度の低下や IGL 幅の減少が認められた。これらの所見から、 BUS 投与群では、小脳の EGL で顆粒細胞の p53 依存性のアポトーシスと細胞増 殖抑制が誘発され、EGL から IGL への顆粒細胞の移動が阻害されたことが示唆 された。 DCN では、2 DAT にグリア細胞のアポトーシスが増加し、4 DAT に は "mitotic catastrophe" 類似の異常な核分裂像を呈するグリア細胞が増加した が、この異常な核分裂の発現機序については不明である。CWM では、2 から 7 DAT にかけて、少数のアポトーシス細胞と ED1 陽性細胞が散在性に観察され、 また、PFL にほぼ限局して水腫様変化が観察された。さらに、生後 6 日の新生 子の雄ラットに 30 mg/kg の BUS を背部皮下に単回投与し、6、12、24、36 およ び48 HAT (i.e., 2 DAT) に採材した小脳について実施した Real-time RT-PCR 解析 では、36 および 48 HAT に puma mRNA の発現量が有意に増加し、p21 mRNA の発現量にも増加傾向が認められた。また、G2/M 期での細胞周期停止に係る Cyclin B1 の mRNA の発現量も有意に増加した。これらの Real-time RT-PCR 解析 所見と上記の免疫組織化学的検索所見から、新生子の小脳では、BUS により EGL の顆粒細胞に p53 依存性の内因性経路によりアポトーシスが惹起されることが示され、また、G2/M 期で細胞周期停止が誘導されることが示唆された。

Table 2-2-1
Antibodies used for immunohistochemical examination in the present study

Antibodies	Antigen Retrieval	Host	Dilution	Source
Cleaved caspase-3	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:200	Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA
Phospho-histone H3	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:150	Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA
p53	TSA Biotin System Kit, AC	Rabbit pAb	1:500	Santa Cruz, Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
p21	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
S-100	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:500	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
Vimentin	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
NSE	-	Rabbit pAb	Ready to use	Nichirei co., Tokyo, Japan
Neurofilament	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
ED-1	Trypsin at 37°C for 30 min	Mouse mAb	1:400	BMA Biomedicals Ltd., Augst, Switzerland
Iba1	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:200	Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd., Osaka, Japan
GFAP	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:500	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
Olig2	MW	Rabbit pAb	1:100	IBL Co., Ltd., Japan
NG2	-	Rabbit pAb	1:200	Chemicon, Inc., Temecula, CA
Myelin CNPase	AC	Mouse mAb	1:200	EMD Biosciences, Inc. San Diego, CA
Double cortin	MW	Goat pAb	1:500	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
Nestin	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
C-kit	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:100	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

NSE: neuron specific enolase. GFAP: glial fibrillary acidic protein; NG2: NG2 chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan.

ED1: CD68 (Clone ED1). AC: autoclaved at 121°C for 15 min , in pH 6.0 citrate buffer;

MW: Microwave for 15 min, in pH 6.0 citrate buffer. mAb: monoclonal antibody, pAb: polycronal antibody

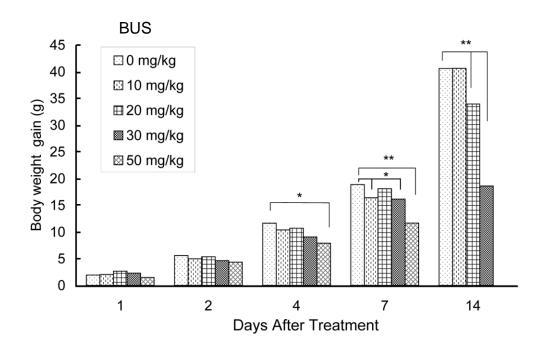


Fig. 2-2-1. Body weight gain (g) in infant rats treated with busulfan. *p<0.05 and **p<0.01: Significantly different from the control group by Dunnett's test.

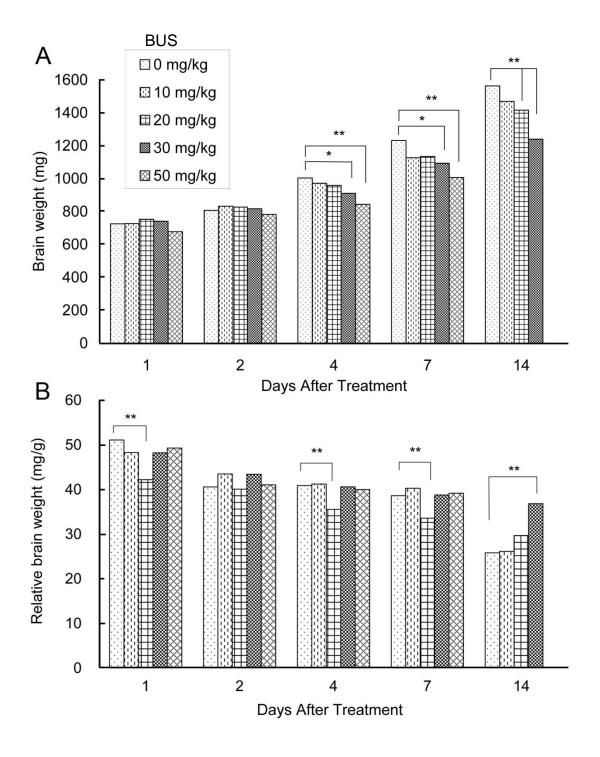


Fig. 2-2-2. Brain weight (mg) (A) and relative brain weight (mg/g) (B) in infant rats treated with busulfan. *p<0.05 and ** p<0.01: Significantly different from the control group by Dunnett's test.



Fig. 2-2- 3. Gross appearance of the infant brain of the control (a) and busulfan groups: 10 mg/kg (b), 20 mg/kg (c), and 30 mg/kg (d) at 14 DAT. Cerebellar hypoplasia is apparent in the 20 and 30 mg/kg groups.

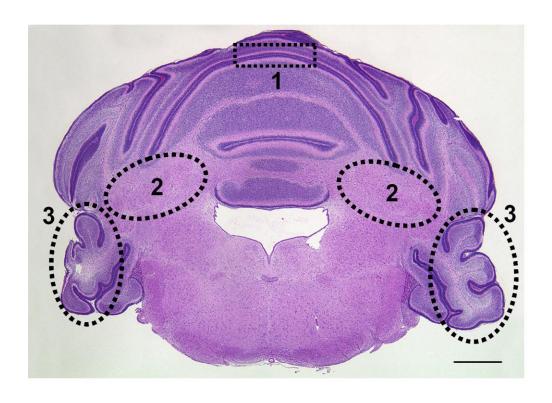


Fig. 2-2-4. Cross section of the normal cerebellum of an infant rat. 1: External granular layer (EGL), 2:Deep cerebellar nuclei (DCN), and 3: Cerebellar white matter (CWM). EGL, DCN and CWM were selectively damaged by busulfan. HE stain, bar= 1 mm.

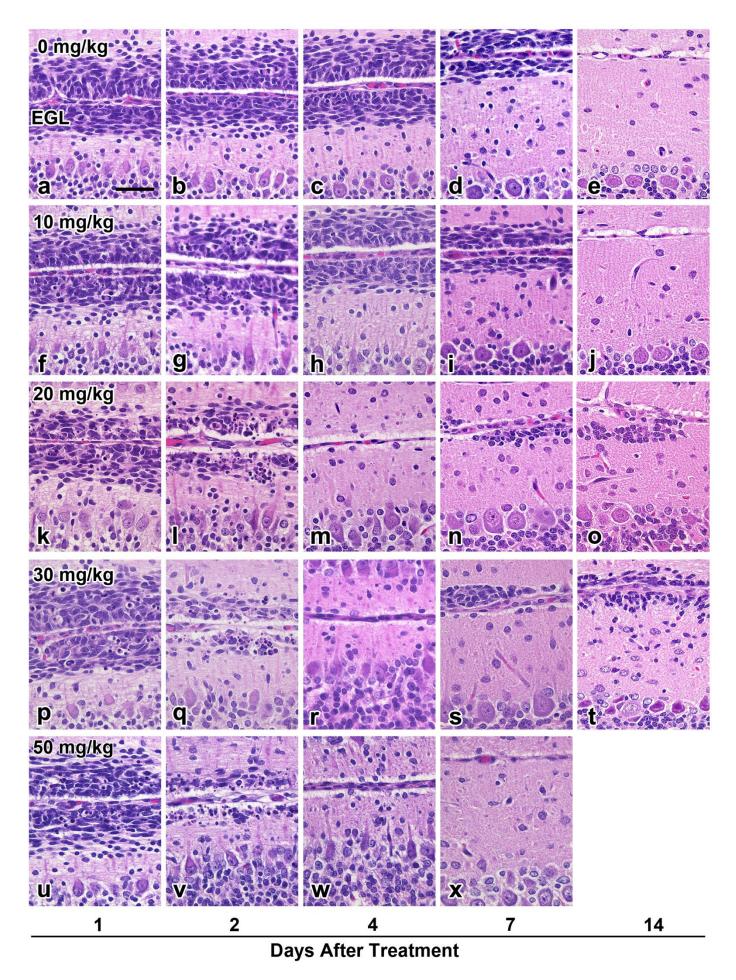


Fig. 2-2-5. Process of histopathological changes in EGL. Changes with dose-dependent severity are seen. EGL: External granular layer. HE stain, bar= $50 \mu m$.

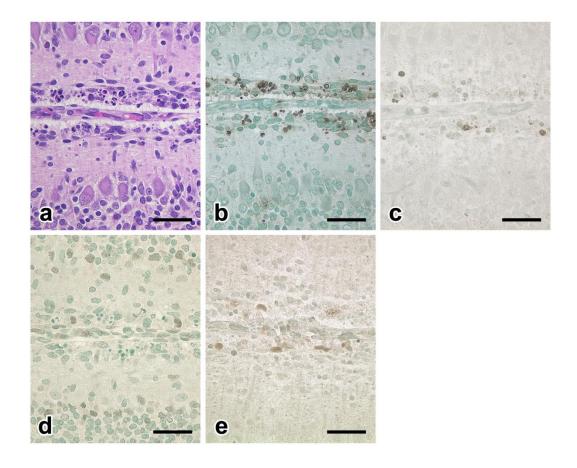


Fig. 2-2-6. Histopathological and immunohistochemical features of EGL in the 30mg/kg BUS group at 2DAT. Most of the pyknotic granular cells (a) are positive for TUNEL (b), and some of them for cleaved caspase-3 (c). A small number of p53-positive (d) or p21-positive granular cells (e) are seen. a: HE stain, b: TUNEL method, and c-e: immunostaining, bars= $50 \mu m$.

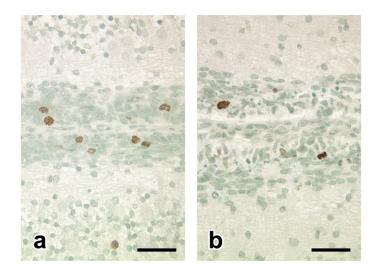


Fig. 2-2-7. Immunohistochemistry for phospho-histone H3 in EGL in the 10 mg/kg BUS group at 2 DAT. Compared with the control group (a), the number of positive cells is reduced in the busulfan group (b). Immunostaining, bars= $50 \mu m$.

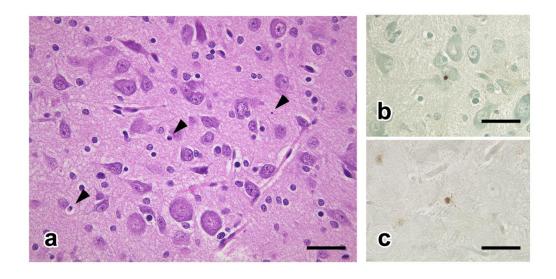


Fig. 2-2-8. Busulfan-induced changes in DCN in the 30 mg/kg group at 2DAT. Pyknotic cells (arrowheads) (a) are positive for TUNEL (b) and cleaved caspase-3 (c). (a) HE stain, (b) TUNEL method, and (c) immunostaining, bars = $50 \mu m$.

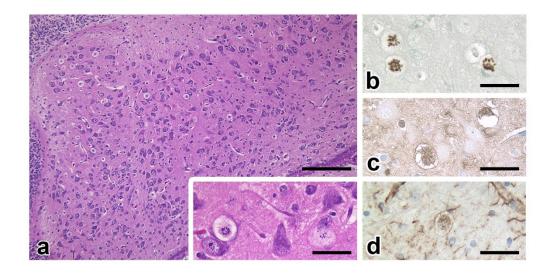


Fig. 2-2-9. Histopathological and immunohistochemical features of abnormal mitotic figures in DCN in the 50 mg/kg BUS group at 7 DAT. Cells showing abnormal mitotic figures (a and inset) are positive for phospho-histone H3 (b), S100 protein (c) and vimentin (d). (a) HE stain, bar = 200 μ m, Inset of (a), bar = 50 μ m. (b-d) Immunostaining, bar = 50 μ m.

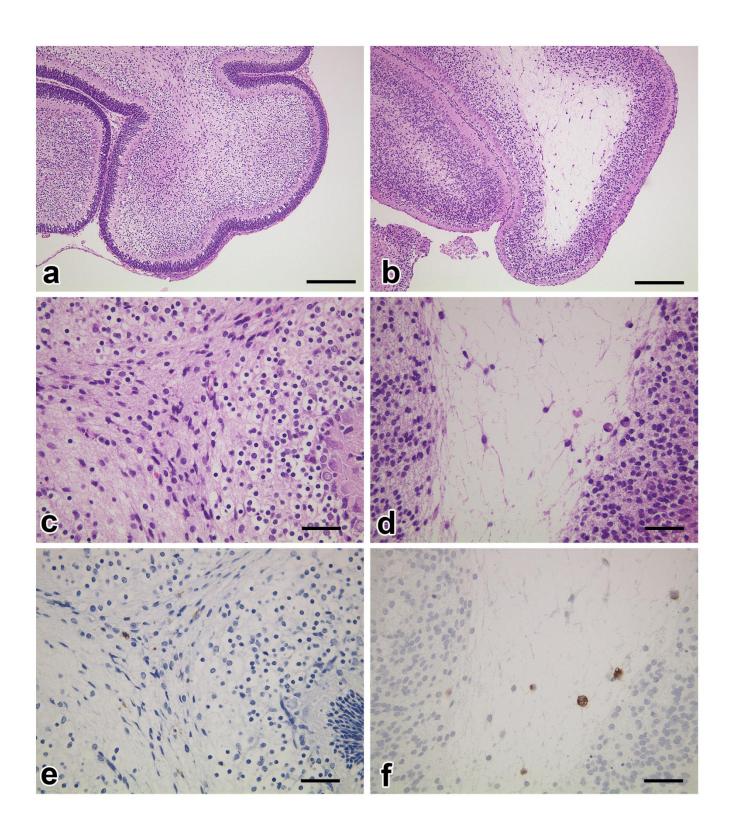
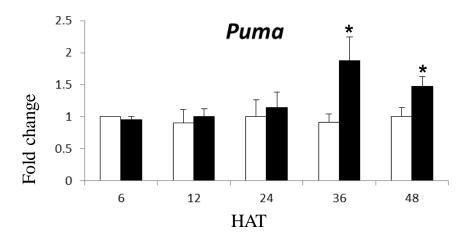
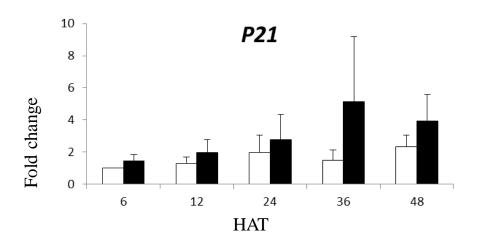


Fig. 2-2-10. Histopathological and immunohistochemical features of the cerebellar white matter at 4 DAT in the control (a and c) and the 20mg/kg BUS group (b and d). In the busulfan group, edema accompanying a few pyknotic cells (b and d) and ED1-positive cells (f) is observed in FPL. (a-d) HE stain, and (e and f) immunostainning. (a and b) bar =200 μ m, (c-f) bar = 50 μ m.





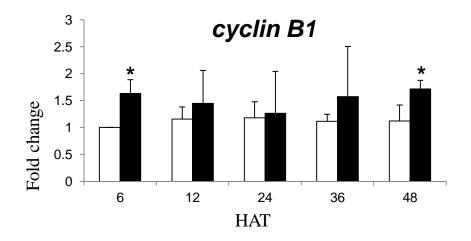


Fig. 2-2-11. Expression levels of *Puma*, $p21^{cip1}$ and *Cyclin B1*mRNAs measured by real-time RT-PCR in the control group (\square) and the busulfan group (\blacksquare). Significantly different from the control group at p<0.05 (*) in Student's *t*-test. HAT: Hours after treatment.

総 括

本研究では、二官能性アルキル化剤で、主に成人を対象に慢性骨髄性白血病の治療薬あるいは造血幹細胞移植の前治療薬として使用されている BUS について、胎児および小児に対する毒性を予測する前臨床試験の一環として、下記の検索を行なった。すなわち、BUS のラット胎子および新生子への影響を病理学的観点から明らかにする目的で、胎子および新生子に惹起される全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移を検索するとともに、DNA 傷害物質に特に感受性の高い中枢神経系(特に、胎子終脳および新生子小脳)における病変の性状とその発現機序について検索した。得られた結果は下記の通りである。

1.BUSのラット胎子に及ぼす影響

(1) 胎子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移

妊娠 13 日のラットに 30 mg/kg の BUS を腹腔に単回投与し、6 から 96 HAT にかけて経時的に胎子を採取し、主に病理組織学的検索を実施した。

その結果、広範な組織で構成細胞の核濃縮が観察され、脳、特に終脳で重度、 脊髄および眼球で中等度、その他の組織では軽度あるいは軽微であった。また、 いずれの組織においても、核濃縮は 24 HAT より出現し、36 あるいは 48HAT で ピークに達し、96 HAT には消失した。核濃縮細胞は、TUNEL 法および電顕観 察の結果から、アポトーシス細胞と判断された。マウスやラットで報告されて いる種々の BUS 誘発組織奇形は、胎子のそれぞれ対応する組織でアポトーシス により構成細胞の過剰な細胞死が惹起され、その後の正常な組織形成および器 官形成が阻害される結果招来されると考えられた。

(2)胎子脳病変の性状および発現機序

妊娠 13 日のラットに 30 mg/kg の BUS を腹腔内に単回投与し、12 から 96 HAT にかけて胎子を採取し、(1)の検索の結果、脳のなかでも特に病変が高度で

あった終脳について、病理組織学的および免疫組織化学的検索ならびにフローサイトメトリーおよび Real-time RT-PCR 解析を行った。

その結果、NPCs のアポトーシスは最初 VZ の中間層に出現し、ついで背側層 および腹側層に拡大した。NPCs のアポトーシスは 24 HAT から出現して 48 HAT にピーク達する一方、 VZ の腹側層に位置する BrdU および PH3 陽性細胞は 24 HAT から減少して 48 HAT に最低値を示した。 p53 および p21 陽性の PNCs は、アポトーシスのピーク (48 HAT) に先立ち、36 HAT にピークに達した。 また、フローサイトメトリーによる細胞周期解析の結果、48 および 72 HAT にアポトーシス細胞の比率の顕著な増加、G0/G1 期細胞の比率の減少、S 期細胞の比率の増加および G2/M 期細胞の比率の減少が認められた。 さらに、Real-time RT-PCR 解析の結果、内因性経路における p53 の転写標的因子である puma mRNA および G1/S 期での細胞周期停止に関連する p21 mRNA の発現量が、36 から 72 HAT にかけて有意に増加した。以上の結果から、BUS は NPCs にアポトーシスと同時に細胞増殖抑制を惹起すること、および、BUS による NPCs のアポトーシスは、p53 を介した内因性経路によって誘導されたことが示された。また、BUS は G1/S 期において NPCs の細胞周期を停止させることが示唆された。

BUS のラット新生子に及ぼす影響

(1)新生子の全身組織における病変の性状、分布および推移

生後6日の雄ラットに20mg/kgのBUSを背部皮下に単回投与し、1、2、4、7 および14 DATに、全身組織を病理組織学的に検索した。その結果、BUSの細胞毒性の発現部位として報告されている組織を中心に、小脳、心臓、肺、胃、腸管、肝臓、腎臓、精巣、精巣上体、リンパ造血組織、背部皮膚、大腿骨および眼球に、構成細胞の核濃縮が観察され、特に小脳、眼球、精巣、リンパ組織 および骨髄で顕著であった。核濃縮細胞は CAS3 陽性を示したことから、胎子組織でみられた核濃縮細胞と同様、アポトーシス細胞と判断された。アポトーシスは、1から7DATにかけて観察され、胸腺では1DATに、また、他の組織では2ないし4DATにピークに達し、14DATには全ての組織から消失した。14DATには、小脳でEGLに顆粒細胞の停留、眼球で網膜の異形成、水晶体の変性および上皮の部分的欠損、精巣で精細胞の脱落による精細管の高度の萎縮ならびに骨髄の造血細胞の顕著な減少および脂肪浸潤が観察された。アポトーシスの分布と推移は、特に新生子と成熟個体の間で異なっており、両者間でのBUSに対する構成細胞の感受性の差を反映しているものと考えられた。

(2)新生子の小脳病変の性状および発現機序

BUS によって惹起されるラット新生子の脳病変の性状および発現機序を明らかにする目的で、生後6日の雄ラットにBUS(10、20、30あるいは50 mg/kg)を背部皮下に単回投与し、1、2、4、7 および14 DAT に剖検して脳を検索した。

その結果、BUS 投与群では、後述する小脳への BUS の直接的な傷害作用に起因すると考えられる脳重量の低値および小脳の萎縮が、投与量依存性に観察された。病理組織学的検索では、大脳には変化は認められなかった。一方、小脳では、EGL、DCN および CWM に投与量依存性に病変が観察され、病変の性状および推移はこれらの部位によってそれぞれ特徴的であった。

対照群の小脳では、顆粒細胞は EGL で増殖した後、14 DAT (20日齢)までに EGL から IGL に移動し、EGL は消失した。一方、BUS 投与群の EGL では、2 DATにp53 およびp21 陽性細胞の増加と相俟ってアポトーシス細胞が増加し、核分裂細胞は逆に減少した。また、10 mg/kg 群を除き、対照群で EGL が消失した時点においても、菲薄化した EGL が残存しており、同時に、IGL では、軽度の細胞密度の低下や IGL 幅の減少が観察された。こうしたことから、BUS 投与

群の小脳 EGL では、顆粒細胞の細胞増殖抑制および p53 依存性のアポトーシスが誘発され、EGL から IGL への顆粒細胞の移動が阻害されたことが示唆された。

DCN では、2 DAT にグリア細胞のアポトーシスが増加し、4 DAT には "mitotic catastrophe" 類似の異常な核分裂像を呈するグリア細胞が増加したが、この異常な核分裂像の発現機序については不明である。また、CWM では、2 から 7 DAT にかけて、少数のアポトーシス細胞と ED1 陽性細胞が散在性に観察され、また、PFL にほぼ限局して水腫様変化が認められた.

さらに、生後6日の新生子の雄ラットに30 mg/kgのBUSを背部皮下に単回投与し、6、12、24、36 および48 HAT (i.e., 2 DAT) に採材した小脳について、アポトーシスおよび細胞周期に係わる因子について実施したReal-time RT-PCR 解析では、36 および48 HATに puma mRNA の発現量が優位に増加し、p21 mRNAの発現量にも増加傾向が認められた。また、48 HATに G2/M 期での細胞周期停止に係る Cyclin B1の mRNAの発現量も有意に増加した。こうした Real-time RT-PCR 解析所見と上記の免疫組織化学的所見から、新生子の小脳 EGL の顆粒細胞では、BUSにより p53 依存性の内因性経路によりアポトーシスが惹起されることが示され、また、G2/M 期で細胞周期停止が誘導されることが示唆された。

以上、今回の研究で、BUS に暴露されたラット胎子および新生子の全身組織に惹起された病変の性状、分布および推移が初めて明らかになった。その成果は、ヒト胎児および新生児に対する BUS の毒性の予測、ひいては安全性の評価に貢献するところ大である。また、本研究で明らかにされたラット胎子脳における BUS 誘発病変の性状および発現機序に関する一連の知見は、既報の知見と比較検討することにより、DNA 傷害物質による胎子脳病変の発現機序をよりよく理解する上で重要である。さらに、本研究でラット新生子の BUS 誘発小脳病

変の詳細な性状を明らかにし、その発現機序の一端を示し得たことは、従来知見に乏しかったこの領域の研究の発展に寄与するものと考えられる。

謝辞

本学位論文を纏めるに当たり懇切丁寧に御指導頂いた中山裕之博士(東京大学大学院農学生命科学研究科教授)および内田和幸博士(同准教授)ならびに本研究の遂行にあたり終始御鞭撻・御指導頂いた土井邦雄博士(東京大学名誉教授)に心から感謝の意を表します。また、実験の実施にあたり、御協力・御助言頂いた国立医薬品食品衛生研究所の鈴木穂高博士および岡田由美子博士ならびにボゾリサーチセンター(株)御殿場研究所の田村一利博士、星谷達博士、安藤亮博士をはじめ病理部の皆様および情報・臨床・研究部の皆様に心から感謝致します。最後に、実験の遂行に当たり御支援頂いたボゾリサーチセンター(株)の山内久実社長にお礼申し上げます。

引 用 文 献

- Altman J, Bayer SA. Embryonic development of the rat cerebellum. III. Regional differences in the time of origin, migration, and settle of Purkinje cells. J Comp Neurol 1985;231:42-65.
- Asano M, Odell TT jr, McDonald TP, Upton AC. Radiomimetic agents and X-rays in mice and AET protectiveness. Comparative pathological effects. Arch Pathol 1963;75:250-263.
- 3. Bailey SA, Zidell RH, Perry RW. Relationships between organ weight and body/brain weight in the rat: what is the best analytical endpoint? Toxicol Pathol 2004;32:448-466.
- 4. Bishop JB, Wassom JS. Toxicological review of busulfan (Myleran). Mutat Res 1986;168:15-45.
- Borovitskaya AE, Evtushenko VI, Sabol SL. Gamma-radiation-induced cell death in the fetal rat brain possesses molecular characteristics of apoptosis and is associated with specific messenger RNA elevations. Brain Res Mol Brain Res 1996;35:19-30.
- 6. Brill A, Torchinsky A, Carp H, Toder V. The role of apoptosis in normal and abnormal embryonic development. J Assist Reprod Genet 1999;16:512-519.
- 7. Buggia I, Locatelli F, Regazzi MB, Zecca M. Busulfan. Ann Pharmacother

- 1994;28:1055-1062.
- 8. Burns WA, McFarland W, Matthews MJ. Busulfan-induced pulmonary disease: report of a case and review of the literature. Am Rev Respir Dis 1970;101:408-413.
- Castedo M, Perfettini JL, Roumier T, Valent A, Raslova H, Yakushijin K, et al.
 Mitotic catastrophy constitutes a special case of apoptosis whose suppression
 entails aneuploidy. Oncogene 2004a;23:4362-4370.
- 10. Castedo M, Perfettini JL, Roumier T, Andreau K, Medema R, Kroemer G. Cell death by mitotic catastrophe: a molecular definition. Oncogene 2004b;23:2825-2837.
- 11. Chatterjee S, Basak P, Das P, Das M, Pereira JA, Dutta RK, et al. Primitive Sca-1 positive bone marrow HSC in mouse model of aplastic anemia: a comparative study through Flowcytometric analysis and scanning electron microscopy. Stem Cells Int 2010;10:614395-614402.
- 12. Chizhikov V, Millen K. Development and malformations of the cerebellum in mice. Mol Genet Metab 2003;80:54-65.
- 13. Choi YJ, Ok DW, Kwon DN, Chung JI, Kim HC, Yeo SM, Kim T, Seo HG, Kim JH. Murine male germ cell apoptosis induced by busulfan treatment correlates with

- loss of c-kit-expression in a Fas/FasL-and p53-independent manner. Febs Lett 2004;575:41-51.
- 14. Dahlgren S, Holm G, Svanborg N, Watz R. Clinical and morphological side-effects of busulfan (Myleran)treatment. Acta Med Scand 1972;192:129-135.
- 15. De Beer EJ, Light AE, Solomon C. Effects of dietary supplements in preventing or augmenting the production of cataracts in rats by 1, 4-dimethanesulfonoxybutane. J Nutr 1956;10:157-172.
- 16. Doi K. Mechanisms of neurotoxicity induced in the developing brain of mice and rats by DNA damaging chemicals. J Toxicol Sci 2011;36:695-712.
- 17. Dulic V, Kaufmann WK, Wilson SJ, Tlsty TD, Lees E, Harper JW, Elledge SJ, Reed SI. p53-dependent inhibition of cyclin- dependent kinase activities in human fibroblasts during radiation-induced G1 arrest. Cell 1994;76:1013-1023.
- 18. Dunjic A, and Cuvelier AM. Survival of rat bone marrow cells after treatment with myleran and endoxan. Exp Hematol 1973;1:11-21.
- 19. Edwards K, and Jones AR. Studies with alkylating esters, IV. The metabolism of propane-1, 3-dimethone-sulphonate and its relevance to the mode of action of Myleran. Biochem Pharmacol 1971;20:1781-1786.

- 20. Fauroux B, Clement A, Toumier G. Pulmonary toxicity of drugs and thoracic irradiation in children. Rev Mal Respir 1996;13:235-242.
- 21. Ferrer I, Fabregues I, Palacios G. An autoradiographic study of methyl-azoxy-methanol acetate-induced cortical malformation. Acta Neuropathol 1982;57:313-315.
- 22. Ferrer I, Xumetra A, Santamaria J. Cerebral malformation induced by prenatal X-irradiation: an autoradiographic and Golgi study. J Anat 1984;138:81-93.
- 23. Fox BW, Craig AW, Jackson H. The comparative metabolism of Myleran 35/S in the rat, mouse and rabbit. Biochem Pharmacol 1960;5:27-29.
- 24. Furukawa S, Usuda K, Abe M, Ogawa I. Microencephaly and microphthalmia in rat fetuses by busulfan. Histol Histopathol 2007;22:389-397.
- 25. Fushiki S, Hyodo-Taguchi Y, Kinoshita C, Ishikawa Y, Hirobe T. Short-and long-term effects of low-dose prenatal X-irradiation in mouse cerebral cortex, with special reference to neuronal migration. Acta Neuropathol 1997;93:443-449.
- 26. Güreli N, Denham SW, Root SW. Cytologic dysplasia related to busulfan (Myleran) therapy. Obstet Gynecol 1963;21:466-470.
- 27. Hallas BH, and Das GD. N-ethyl-N-nitrosourea-induced teratogenesis of brain in the rat. A cellular and cytoarchitectural analysis of the neocortex. J Neurol Sci

1978;39:111-122.

- 28. Hamidieh AA, Hamedani R, Hadjibabaie M, Amini M, Sadrai S, Ghavamzadeh A.
 Oral lorazepam prevents seizure during high-dose busulfan in children undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: A prospective study. Pediatr Hematol
 Oncol 2010;27:529-533.
- 29. Hamming NA, Apple DJ, Goldberg MF. Histopathology and ultrastructure of busulfan-induced cataract. Albrecht Von Graefes Arch. Klin Exp Ophthalmol 1976;200:139-147.
- 30. Hassan Z, Hassan M, Hellström-Lindberg E. The pharmacodynamic effect of busulfan in the P39 myeloid cell line in vitro. Leukemia 2001;15:1240-1247.
- 31. Hatten ME. Central nervous system neuroal migration. Annu Rev Neurosci 1999;22:511-539.
- 32. Hodel C, Ettlin RA, Zschauer A. Morphological changes produced in rat testis by anticancer drugs. Arch Toxicol Suppl 1984;7:147-150.
- 33. Horn MM, Paz AH, Duarte ME, Baldo G, Belardinelli MC, Matte U, Lima EO, Passos EP. Germinative testicular cells and bone marrow mononuclear cells transplanted to a rat model of testicular degeneration. Cloning Stem Cells 2008;10:543-546.

- 34. Inouye M, and Murakami U. Teratogenic effect of

 N-methy-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine in mice. Teratology 1978;18:263-267.
- 35. Iwamoto T, Hiraku Y, Oikawa S, Mizutani H, Kojima M, Kawanishi S. DNA intrastrand cross-link at the 5'-GA-3' sequence formed by busulfan and its role in the cytotoxic effect. Cancer Sci 2004;95:454-458.
- 36. Jeffers JR, Parganas E, Lee Y, Yang C, Wang J, Brennan J, MacLean KH, Han J, Chittenden T, Ihle JN, McKinnon PJ, Cleveland JL, Zambetti GP. Puma is an essential mediator of p53-dependent and-independent apoptotic pathways. Cancer Cell 2003;4:321-328.
- 37. Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Uchida K, Nakayama H. 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) induces p53-mediated apoptosis of neural progenitor cells in the developing fetal rodent brain. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2009a;31:198-202.
- 38. Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Uchida K, Nakayama H. 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) induces cell cycle arrest and apoptosis of neural progenitor cells in the developing fetal rat brain. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2009b;31:104-109.
- 39. Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Nakayama H.

- Time-course changes in neural cell apoptosis in the rat fetal brain from dams treated with 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP). Histol Histopathol 2009c;24:317-324.
- 40. Kasuga F, Takahashi M. The endocrine function of rat gonads with reduced number of germ cells following busulphan treatment. Endocrinol Jpn 1986;33:105-115.
- 41. Katayama K, Ishigami N, Suzuki M, Ohtsuka R, Kiatipattanasakul W, Nakayama H, Doi K. Teratologic studies on rat perinates and offspring from dams treated with ethylnitrosourea (ENU). Exp Anim 2000a;49:181-187.
- 42. Katayama K, Ishigami N, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Ethylnitrosourea (ENU)-induced apoptosis in the rat fetal tissues. Histol Histopathol 2000b;15:707-711.
- 43. Katayama K, Uetsuka K, Ishigami N, Nakayama H, Doi K. Apoptotic cell death and cell proliferative activity in the rat fetal central nervous system from dams administered with ethylnitrosourea (ENU). Histol Histopathol 2001;16:79-85.
- 44. Katayama K, Ohtsuka R, Takai H, Nakayama H, Doi K. Expression of p53 and its transcriptional target genes mRNAs in the ethylnitrosourea-induced apoptosis and cell cycle arrest in the fetal central nervous system. Histol Histopathol 2002;17:715-720

- 45. Katayama K, Ueno M, Yamauchi H, Nagata T, Nakayama H, Doi K.

 Ethylnitrosourea induces neuronal progenitor cell apoptosis after S-phase accumulation in a p53-dependent manner. Neurobiol Dis 2005;18:218-225.
- 46. Kengaku M. Molecular mechanisms underlying the triple modes of granule cell migration during laminar formation of the cerebellum. Experimental Medicine 2002;20:pp97-104.
- 47. Kim SH, Chung CY, Son CH. Cell death by apoptosis in the neonatal mouse cerebellum following gamma-irradiation. Anticancer Res 1998;18:1629-1632.
- 48. Kitamura M, Itoh K, Matsumoto A, Hayashi Y, Sasaki R, Imai Y, Itoh H. Prenatal ionizing radiation-induced apoptosis of the developing murine brain with special references to the expression of some proteins. Kobe J Med Sci 2001;47:59-76.
- 49. Ko LJ, Prives C. p53: puzzle and paradigm. Genes Dev 1996;10:1054-1072.
- 50. Lakin ND, Jackson SP. Regulation of p53 in response to DNA damage. Oncogene 1999;18:7644-7655.
- 51. Light AE. Additional observations on the effects of busulfan on cataract formation, duration of anesthesia, and reproduction in rats. Toxicol Appl Pharmacol 1967;10:459-466.
- 52. Linder RE, Strader LF, Slott VL, Suarez JD. Endpoints of spermatotoxicity in the

- rat after short duration exposures to fourteen reproductive toxicants. Reprod Toxicol 1992;6:491-505.
- 53. Littler WA, Kay JM, Hasleton PS. Busulfan lung. Thorax 1969; 24: 639-655.
- 54. May P, May E. Twenty years of p53 research: structural and functional aspects of the p53 protein. Oncogene 1999;18:7621-7636.
- 55. Meng LH, Zhang H, Hayward L, Takemura H, Shao RG, Pommier Y. Tetrandrine induces early G1 arrest in human colon carcinoma cells by down-regulating the activity and inducing the degradation of G1-S-specific cyclin-dependent kinases and by inducing p53 and p21^{cip1} Cancer Res 2004;64:9086-9092.
- 56. Mertins SD, Myers TG, Holbeck SL, Medina-Perez W, Wang E, Kohlhagen G, Pommier Y, Bates SE. In vitro evaluation of dimethane sulfonate analogues with potential alkylating activity and selective renal cell carcinoma cytotoxicity. Mol Cancer Ther 2004;3:849-860.
- 57. Miki T, Fukui Y, Takeuchi Y, Itoh M. A quantitative study of the effects of prenatal X-irradiation on the development of cerebral cortex in rats. Neurosci Res 1995;23:241-247.
- 58. Müller M, Wilder S, Bannasch D, Israeli D, Lehlbach K, Li-Weber M, Friedman SL, Galle PR, Stremmel W, Oren M, Krammer PH. p53 activates the CD95

- (APO-1/Fas) gene in response to DNA damage by anticancer drugs. J Exp Med 1998;188:2033-2045.
- 59. Nadkarni MB, Trams EG, Smith PK. Preliminary studies on the distribution and fate of TEM, TEPA and myleran in the human. Cancer Res 1959;19:713-718.
- 60. Nagai H. Effects of transplacentally injected alkylating agents upon development of embryos. Appearance of intrauterine death and mesodermal malformation. Bull Tokyo Dent Coll 1972;13:103-119.
- 61. Nam C, Doi K, Nakayama H. Etoposide induces G2/M arrest and apoptosis in neural progenitor cells via DNA damage and ATM/p53-related pathway. Histol Histopathol 2010;25:485-493.
- 62. Nam C, Woo GH, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Histopathological changes in the brain of mouse fetuses by etoposide-administration. Histol Histopathol 2006a;21: 257-263.
- 63. Nam C, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, Doi K. Etoposide induces apoptosis and cell cycle arrest of neuroepithelial cells in a p53-related manner. Neurotox Teratol 2006b;28: 664-672.
- 64. Naruse T, Takahara M, Takagi M, Oberg KC, Ogino T. Busulfan-induced central polydactyly, syndactyly and cleft hand or foot: a common mechanism of disruption

- leads to divergent phenotypes. Dev Growth Differ 2007;49:533-541.
- 65. Oakhill A, Green ID, Knowlson GT, Cameron AH, Shah KJ, Hill FG, Mann JR.

 Busulphan lung in childhood. J Clin Pathol 1981;34:495-500.
- 66. Oda E, Ohki R, Murasawa H, Nemoto J, Shibue T, Yamashita T, Tokino T, Taniguchi T, Tanaka N. Noxa, a BH3-only member of the Bcl-2 family and candidate mediator of p53-induced apoptosis. Science 2000;288:1053-1058.
- 67. Ohmori H, Ogura H, Yasuda M, Nakamura S, Hatta T, Kawano K, et al.

 Developmental neurotoxicity of phenytoin on granule cells and Purkinje cells in mouse cerebellum. J Neurochem 1999;72:1497-1506.
- 68. Otsuji M, Takahara M, Naruse T, Guan D, Harada M, Zhe P, Takagi M, Ogino T.

 Developmental abnormalities in rat embryos leading to tibial ray deficiencies induced by busulfan. Birth Defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol 2005;73:461-467.
- 69. Pfaffenroth MJ, Das GD, McAllister JP. Teratologic effects of ethylnitrosourea on brain develoment in rats. Teratology 1974;9:305-315.
- 70. Polyak K, Waldman T, He TC, Kinzler KW, Vogelstein B. Genetic determinants of p53-induced apoptosis and growth arrest. Genes Dev 1996;10:1945-1952.
- 71. Probin V, Wang Y, Bai A, Zhou D. Busulfan selectively induces cellular senescence but not apoptosis in WI38 fibroblasts via a p53-independent but

- extracellular signal-regulated kinase-p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase-dependent mechanism. J Pharmacol Exp Ther 2006;319:551-560.
- 72. Qian X, Shen Q, Goderie SK, He W, Capela A, Davis AA, Temple S. Timing of CNS cell generation: a programmed sequence of neuron and glial cell production from isolated murine cortical stem cells. Neuron 2000;28:69-80.
- 73. Rao MS. Multipotent and restricted precursors in the central nervous system. Anat Rec 1999;257:137-148.
- 74. Ravindranathan MP, Paul VJ, Kuriakose ET. Cataract after busulphan treatment.

 Br Med J 1972;22:218-219.
- 75. Ritter CA, Sperker B, Grube M, Dressel D, Kunert-keil C, Kroemer HK.

 Overexpression of glutathione S-transferase A1-1 in ECV 304 cells protects
 against busulfan mediated G2-arrest and induces tissue factor expression. Br J
 Pharmacol 2002;137:1100-1106.
- 76. Saito A, Yamauchi H, Ishida Y, Ohmachi Y, Nakayama H. Defect of the cerebellar vermis induced by prenatal γ-ray irradiation in radiosensitive BALB/c mice. Histol Histopathol 2008;23:953-964.
- 77. Selvakumaran M, Lin HK, Miyashita T, Wang HG, Krajewski S, Reed JC,
 Hoffman B, Liebermann D. Immediate early up-regulation of bax expression by

- p53 but not TGF beta 1: a paradigm for distinct apoptotic pathways. Oncogene 1994;9:1791-1798.
- 78. Solleveld HA, Boorman GA. Brain. In Pathology of the Fischer rat. Eustis SL, Elwell MR, Montgomery CA Jr, MacKenzie WF. Academic Press, Inc; San Diego, New York, Boston, London, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto. 1990;pp 155-157.
- 79. Solomon C, Light AE, De Beer EJ. Cataracts produced in rats by 1, 4-dimethanesulfonoxybutane (myleran). AMA Arch Ophthalmol 1955;54:850-852.
- 80. Sternberg SS, Philips FS, Scholler J. Pharmacological and pathological effects of alkylating agents. Ann N Y Acad Sci 1958;68:811-825.
- 81. Sun XZ, Inouye M, Takagishi Y, Hayasaka S, Yamamura H. Follow-up study on histogenesis of microencephaly associated with ectopic gray matter induced by prenatal gamma-irradiation in the mouse. J Neuropathol Exp Neurol 1996;55:357-365.
- 82. Tange T. An experimental study on the significance of the bone marrow lymphocyte in haematopoietic regeneration following acute injury due to ⁶⁰CO irradiation and cytotoxic drugs. Acta Pathol Jpn 1974;24:93-117.
- 83. Taylor WR, DePrimo SE, Agarwal A, Agarwal ML, Schönthal AH, Katula KS,

- Stark GR. Mechanisms of G2 arrest in response to overexpression of p53. Mol Biol Cell 1999;10:3607-3622.
- 84. Temple S. The development of neural stem cells. Nature 2001;414:112-117.
- 85. Tosti A, Piraccini BM, Vincenzi C, Misciali C. Permanent alopecia after busulan chemotherapy. Br J Dermatol 2005;152:1056-1058.
- 86. Trams EG, Nadkarni MV, de Quattro V, Maengwyn-Davies GD, Smith PK.

 Dimethane-sulphonoxybutane (Myleran) preliminary studies on distribution and metabolic fate in the rat. Biochem Pharmacol 1959;2:7-16.
- 87. Tran D, Sinclair RD, Schwarer AP, Chow CW. Permanent alopecia following chemotherapy and bone marrow transplantation. Australas J Dermatol. 2000;41:106-108.
- 88. Udagawa K, Ogawa T, Watanabe T, Yumura Y, Takeda M, Hosaka M. GnRH analog, leuprorelin acetate, promotes regeneration of rat spermatogenesis after severe chemical damage. Int J Urol 2001;8:615-622.
- 89. Ueno M, Katayama K, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Mechanisms of 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-induced toxicity in the rat foetal brain. Int J Exp Pathol 2002a;83:139-150.
- 90. Ueno M, Katayama K, Yasoshima A, Nakayama H, and Doi K. 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-induced histopathological changes in the central nervous system of rat

- fetuses. Exp Toxic Pathol 2002b;24:94-96.
- 91. Ueno M, Katayama K, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, Doi K. Cell cycle and cell death regulation of neural progenitor cells in the 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-treated developing fetal brain. Exp Neurol 2006;198:154-166.
- 92. Valdez BC, Murray D, Ramdas L, de Lima M, Jones R, Kornblau S, Betancourt D, Li Y, Champlin RE, Andersson BS. Altered gene expression in busulfan-resistant human myeloid leukemia. Leuk Res 2008;32:1684-1697.
- 93. Valdez BC, Li Y, Murray D, Corn P, Champlin RE, Andersson BS.
 5-Aza-2'-deoxycytidine sensitizes busulfan-resistant myeloid leukemia cells by regulating expression of genes involved in cell cycle checkpoint and apoptosis.
 Leuk Res 2010;34:364-372.
- 94. Vassal G, Deroussent A, Hartmann O, Challine D, Benhamou E, Valteau-Couanet D, et al. Dose-dependent neurotoxicity of high-dose busulfan in children: A clinical and pharmacological study. Cancer Res 1990;50:6203-6207.
- 95. Vousden KH, Lu X. Live or let die: the cell's response to p53. Nat Rev Cancer 2002;2:594-604.
- 96. Wang Z, Lee HJ, Chai Y, Hu H, Wang L, Zhang Y, Jiang C, Lü J. Persistent $p21^{Cip1}$ induction mediates G1 cell cycle arrest by methylseleninic acid in DU145

- prostate cancer cells. Curr Cancer Drug Targets 2010;10:307-318.
- 97. Woo GH, Bak EJ, Nakayama H, Doi K. Molecular mechanisms of hydroxyurea (HU)-induced apoptosis in the mouse fetal brain. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2006;28: 125-134.
- 98. Woo GH, Katayama K, Bak EJ, Ueno M, Yamauchi H, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Effects of prenatal hydroxyurea-treatment on mouse offspring. Exp Toxicol Pathol 2004;18:387-392.
- 99. Yamaguchi Y, Aoki A, Fukunaga Y, Matsushima K, Ebata T, Ikeya M, Tamura K. 5-Fluorouracil-induced histopathological changes in the central nervous system of rat fetuses. Histol Histopathol 2009;24:113-139.
- 100. Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Ueno M, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K.

 Involvement of p53 in 1-β-D-arabinofuranosylcytosine-induced rat fetal brain lesions. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2004;26:579-586.
- 101. Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Ueno M, He XJ, Mikami T, Uetsuka K, Doi K, Nakayama H. Essential role of p53 in trophoblastic apoptosis induced in the developing rodent placenta by treatment with a DNA-damaging agent. Apoptosis 2007;12:1743-1754.
- 102. Yang L, Zhang HW, Hu R, Yang Y, Qi Q, Lu N, Liu W, Chu YY, You QD,

Guo QL._Wogonin induces G1 phase arrest through inhibiting Cdk4 and cyclin D1 concomitant with an elevation in p21^{Cip1} in human cervical carcinoma HeLa cells. Biochem Cell Biol 2009;87:933-942.

103. Zhang LL, Collier PA, Ashwell KW. Mechanisms in the induction of neuronal heterotopiae following prenatal cytotoxic brain damage. Neurotoxicol Teratol 1995;17:297-311.

原 著 論 文

Original

Distribution and Sequence of Pyknotic Cells in Rat Fetuses Exposed to Busulfan

Toko Ohira¹, Ryo Ando², Rie Andoh², Tomomi Nakazawa², Kaori Nishihara², Satoshi Yamamoto³, Norihiko Nakamura³, and Kazutoshi Tamura²

Abstract: Busulfan, an antineoplastic bifunctional-alkylating agent, is known to induce developmental anomalies. In the present study, we examined the distribution and sequence of pyknotic cells in rat fetal tissues exposed to busulfan. Pregnant rats on gestation day 13 were administered intraperitoneally 30 mg/kg of busulfan, and fetal tissues were examined at 6, 12, 24, 36, 48, 72 and 96 hours after treatment (HAT). Pyknosis of component cells was observed markedly in the brain, moderately in the eyes and spinal cord and mildly in the craniofacial tissue, mandible, limb buds, tail bud, ganglions, alimentary tract, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and liver. In the brain, mitotic inhibition was also detected. Most of the pyknotic cells were considered to be apoptotic cells judging from the results of TUNEL staining and electron microscopic examination. Commonly in the above-mentioned tissues, pyknotic cells began to increase at 24 HAT, peaked at 36 or 48 HAT and disappeared at 96 HAT, which is when the histological picture returned to normal in most tissues except for the brain, spinal cord and eyes. The present study clarified the outline of busulfan-induced apoptosis in rat fetuses. (J Toxicol Pathol 2009; 22: 167–171)

Key words: busulfan, histopathology, pyknosis, fetal tissues, rat

Introduction

Busulfan is a bifunctional alkylating agent used for treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia. However, busulfan is also known to have teratogenic and cytotoxic potential¹, and it has been reported that busulfan induces microencephaly, microphthalmia, microtia, microrostellum, micrognathia, microabdomen, and brachydactylia in a number of animal species^{2–5}. Recently, Furukawa *et al.*³ examined in detail the brain and eyes of rat fetuses obtained from dams administered 10 mg/kg/day of busulfan from gestation day (GD) 12 to 14 and demonstrated that busulfan induces apoptosis and mitotic inhibition in neuroepithelial cells of the fetal brain and eyes. They suggested that such extensive apoptosis and mitotic inhibition might be related to the induction of malformations in the brain and eyes.

Received: 1 January 2009, Accepted: 22 April 2009 Mailing address: Toko Ohira, Branch of Pathology Division, BOZO Research Center Inc., 164-2 Wada-cho, Higashi-ku, Hamamatsu, Shizuoka 435-0016, Japan

TEL&FAX: 81-53-467-1002 E-mail: ohira-toko@bozo.co.jp Busulfan is easily absorbed; distributes to the spleen, bone marrow, liver, kidneys and lungs; and rapidly disappears from blood circulation in adults^{6–9}. In addition, it has been reported that the main target of the cytotoxic effects of busulfan is slowly proliferating or non-proliferating stem cell compartments in such tissues as the lungs¹⁰, gastrointestinal tissues¹¹, lymphoid tissues^{12,13}, gonadal tissues⁴ and neural tissues¹¹ in humans and animals. However, there are no available data on such stem cell compartments in fetal tissues, and the whole area of busulfan-induced fetotoxicity has not yet been fully elucidated.

In the present study, as a first step to clarify the histopathological nature of busulfan-induced fetotoxicity, histopathological examinations were carried out on fetal tissues obtained from dams exposed to busulfan on GD 13, focusing on the distribution and sequence of pyknotic cells. In addition, we attempted to compare busulfan-induced central nervous system (CNS) lesions with other DNA-damaging agents-induced lesions. In this connection, GD 13 has been reported to be the most sensitive period of the rat fetal CNS to DNA-damaging agents^{14–19}.

¹Hamamatsu Branch of Pathology Division, BOZO Research Center Inc., 164–2 Wada-cho, Higashi-ku, Hamamatsu, Shizuoka 435-0016, Japan

²Pathology Division, Gotemba Laboratories, BOZO Research Center Inc., 1284 Kamado, Gotemba, Shizuoka 412-0039, Japan

³Toxicology Division, Gotemba Laboratories, BOZO Research Center Inc., 1284 Kamado, Gotemba, Shizuoka 412-0039, Ianan

Materials and Methods

Animals

Forty-two pregnant Crl:CD (SD) rats on GD 10 were obtained from Charles River Japan Inc. (Kanagawa, Japan). The animals were housed individually in plastic cages in an environmentally controlled room (temperature: $23 \pm 3^{\circ}$ C; relative humidity: $55 \pm 20\%$; ventilation rate: 10-15 times per hour; and 12h/12h light /dark cycle) and fed a commercial diet (CRF-1; Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and tap water *ad libitum*. The protocol of this study was reviewed and approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Bozo Research Center.

Chemical and dosage

Busulfan (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) was suspended with olive oil. The dose (30 mg/kg) of busulfan used in the present study was determined based on the results of a preliminary study, in which dams were administered intraperitoneally busulfan at a single dose of 10, 30 or 50 mg/kg on GD 13.

Experimental designs

Forty-two animals were equally divided into the control and busulfan groups. The animals of the busulfan group were administered intraperitoneally 30 mg/kg of busulfan, and those of the control group were administered intraperitoneally 10 mL/kg of olive oil on GD 13. Three dams of each group were sacrificed by exsanguination from the abdominal aorta under diethyl ether anesthesia at 6, 12, 24, 36, 48, 72 and 96 hours after busulfan-treatment (HAT), respectively. At necropsy, the body weights of dams and fetuses and litter sizes were recorded.

Histopathology

All fetuses were weighed and fixed with 10% phosphate-buffered formalin (pH 7.2). A total of 10 fetuses each of the control and busulfan groups were obtained randomly from dams at each time-point (3 or 4 fetuses/dam). Four-µm paraffin sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE) and subjected to histopathological examinations.

In situ detection of fragmented DNA

DNA fragmentation was examined by the terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated dUTP end labeling (TUNEL) method, which was first proposed by Gavrieli *et al.*²⁰ and has been widely used for the detection of apoptotic cells, using a commercial apoptosis detection kit (Chemicon Inc., Gaithersburg, MD, USA). In brief, multiple fragmentation DNA3'-OH ends on the section were labeled with digoxigenin-dUTP in the presence of terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TdT). Peroxidase-conjugated anti-digoxigenin antibody was then reacted with the sections. Apoptotic nuclei were visualized by peroxidase-diaminobenzidine (DAB) reaction. The sections were then counterstained with methyl green.

Electron microscopy

Small pieces of the telencephalic wall (2 fetuses each from 2 dams of the control and busulfan groups) were obtained at 48 HAT. They were fixed in 0.5% glutaraldehyde/1.5% paraformaldehyde in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4), postfixed in 1% osmium tetroxide in the same buffer and embedded in epoxy resin (Nissin EM Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). Ultrathin sections of the selected blocks were double-stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate and observed under a JEM-100CXII electron microscope (JEOL Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

Statistical analysis

Numerical data were expressed as the Mean ± standard deviation (SD). For the numerical data, the homogeneity of variance in the control and busulfan groups were analyzed by the F test (level of significance: 5%, two-tailed), and the homogeneous data were analyzed by the Student's *t*-test (level of significance: 1%, two-tailed), while the heterogeneous data were analyzed by the Aspin-Welch *t*-test (level of significance: 1%, two-tailed) for the group mean difference between the control and busulfan groups.

Results

Mortality, bodyweights of dams and fetuses and litter size

No deaths occurred in any dams of the control and busulfan groups. The body weights of the dams in the busulfan group were reduced from 24 to 96 HAT compared with those in the control group, but there were no significant differences between the two groups (Fig. 1). There were no

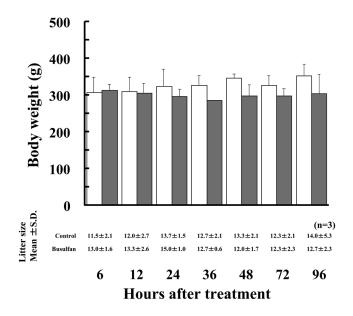


Fig. 1. Changes in the body weights of dams and litter size. ☐:

Control group. ■: Busulfan group. n: Number of dams.

Body weight is shown as the mean ± SD.

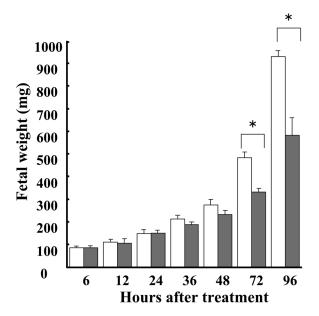


Fig. 2. Changes in fetal weights.

☐: Control group. ☐: Busulfan group. Fetal weight is shown as the mean ± SD. *p<0.01: Significantly different from the control group.</p>

differences in litter size between the control and busulfan groups (Fig 1). The fetal body weights of the busulfan group were significantly reduced at 72 and 96 HAT compared with those of the control group (Fig. 2).

Histopathological changes

In the busulfan group, pyknotic cells were observed markedly in the brain (telencephalon, diencephalon, mesencephalon and metencephalon), moderately in the eyes (retina and lens) and spinal cord (dorsal layer) and mildly in the mesenchymal cells of the craniofacial tissues, mandible, limb buds and tail bud, dorsal root ganglions, epithelial cells of the alimentary tract, lungs, kidneys and pancreas, and hepatocytes and hematopoietic progenitor cells were observed in the liver (Table 1 and Figs. 3 and 4). The sequence of pyknotic cells was similar among the tissues affected, and the pyknotic cells began to increase at 24 HAT, peaked at 36 or 48 HAT and disappeared at 96 HAT (Table 1). For example, in the telencephalic wall (Fig. 5), a few pyknotic cells appeared mainly in the medial layer of the ventricular zone (VZ) at 24 HAT. At 36 HAT, pyknotic cells drastically increased in number in all layers of the VZ except for one or two cell layers facing the ventricle and in the cortical plate (CP). At 48 HAT, the density of neuroepithelial cells was reduced due to disappearance of dead cells, leaving irregular empty space in the VZ. From 36 to 48 HAT, the number of mitotic cells in the ventricular layer of the VZ was reduced in the busulfan group compared with the control group. At 72 HAT, pyknotic cells decreased, but still remained in the medial and dorsal layers of the VZ. At 96 HAT, pyknotic cells were no longer observed.

At 96 HAT, the histological picture returned to normal in most tissues except for the brain, spinal cord and eyes. In particular, the width of the VZ of the brain and dorsal layer of the spinal cord and the retinal thickness and lenticular size

Table 1. Distribution and Sequence of Pyknotic Cells in Rat Fetal Tissues Exposed to Busulfan

	Control 0 mg/kg							Busulfan 30 mg/kg						
Hours after treatment	6	12	24	36	48	72	96	6	12	24	36	48	72	96
Central nervous system														
Telencephalon	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	-	_	+	+++	+++	++	_
Diencephalon	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	+	+	++	+	_
Mesencephalon	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	+	+	++	+	_
Metencephalon	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	+	++	++	\pm	_
Spinal cord	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	+	++	++	\pm	_
Mesenchymal tissues	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	-	_	+	+	+	±	_
Craniofacial	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	+	+	±	_
Mandible	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	±	+	+	±	_
Limb buds	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	+	+	+	\pm	_
Tail bud	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	+	+	\pm	_
Spinal ganglion	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	+	±	\pm	_
Alimentary tract	_	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	+	+	\pm	_
Heart	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_
Lungs	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	+	+	\pm	_
Kidneys	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	±	±	\pm	_
Pancreas	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	±	±	_	_
Liver	-	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	±	+	+	_	_
Hematopoietic cells in the liver	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	±	+	+	±	_
Eyes														
Retina	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	++	++	+	_
Lens	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	+	±	_

Codes: -, ±, +, ++ and +++ indicate almost absent, minimal, mild, moderate and marked, respectively.

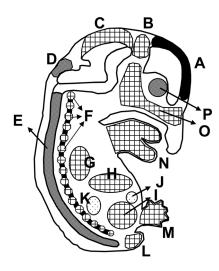


Fig. 3. Distribution and severity of pyknotic cells at 36 HAT in the fetal tissues. A: Telencephalon. B: Diencephalon. C: Mesencephalon. D: Metencephalon. E: Spinal cord. F: Ganglions. G: Lungs. H: Liver. I: Alimentary tract. J: Pancreas. K: Kidneys. L: Tail bud. M: Limb buds. N: Mandible. O: Craniofacial tissue. P: Eye. □: : Minimal. □: Mild. ■: Moderate. ■: Marked.

of the eyes were reduced in comparison with those of the controls.

The nuclei of almost all of the pyknotic cells were positively stained by the TUNEL method (Fig. 6). Moreover, in the electron microscopic examination, pyknotic cells showed shrinkage of the cell body with nuclear chromatin condensation, and some of the cells were fragmented into so-called apoptotic bodies, which were frequently ingested by adjacent cells and macrophages (Fig. 7).

Discussion

In the present study, the distribution and sequence of pyknotic cells were examined in fetal tissues obtained from dams intraperitoneally treated with 30 mg/kg of busulfan on GD 13.

No deaths occurred in any dams and fetuses, and there was no difference in litter size between the control and busulfan groups. However, compared with those of the control group, the fetal weights of the busulfan group were significantly reduced at 72 and 96 HAT.

The histopathological changes in the brain and eyes roughly corresponded to those reported by Furukawa *et al.*³ Moreover, in the present study, pyknosis was also detected in the component cells of the spinal cord, craniofacial tissue, mandible, limb buds, tail bud, ganglion, alimentary tract, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and liver. Apart from their severity, the sequence of pyknotic cells was similar among the abovementioned tissues. Namely, pyknotic cells generally began to increase at 24 HAT, peak at 36 or 48 HAT and disappeared at 96 HAT, when the histological picture returned to normal in most tissues except for the brain, spinal

cord and eyes, in which histopathological changes such as reduction in size and cell density remained. In the brain, which was most severely damaged, a decrease in the number of mitotic cells located in the ventricular layer of the VZ was also detected. This suggests that apoptosis and growth inhibition of neuroepithelial cells occurred simultaneously in the busulfan group as previous reported in rat and mouse fetal brains exposed to other DNA damaging agents^{14–19, 21}. The difference in the severity of pyknosis of component cells among the fetal tissues in the present study is considered to reflect the difference in the stage of their development on the day of busulfan exposure.

The nuclei of almost all of the above-mentioned pyknotic cells were positively stained by the TUNEL method. Moreover, these pyknotic cells showed electron microscopic characteristics of apoptotic cells. Therefore, it is reasonable to consider that these pyknotic cells were apoptotic. Thus, excessive apoptotic cell death induced in the above-mentioned fetal tissues by busulfan may result in induction of malformation in the corresponding tissues of neonates as mentioned previously.

The induction of apoptotic cell death in the CNS has also been reported for DNA-damaging agents such as 5-azacytidine 16,22 , ethylnitrosourea 14 , 1- β -D-arabinofuranosylcytosine 15 , indole-3-acetic acid 23 , etoposide 17 , 5-fluorouracil 18 , 6-mercaptopurine 21 and hydroxyurea 19 , suggesting that the fetal CNS might be highly sensitive to genotoxic agents. The histopathological findings in the fetal CNS were essentially similar between the present data on busulfan and those on the abovementioned chemicals. However, the timing of the peak apoptotic cell number was clearly delayed in the cases of busulfan and 6-mercaptopurin delayed in the cases of other chemicals, although the cause of this difference is still unknown.

The detailed mechanisms of apoptotic cell death and cell cycle arrest induced in the fetal brain are considered to be different among DNA-damaging agents^{24–27}. In addition, the exact mechanisms of busulfan-induced cytotoxicity in the fetal CNS remains unclear. The present results may provide not only fundamental information about systemic fetal tissue damage by busulfan but also a clue for elucidating the exact mechanisms of busulfan-induced cytotoxicity, especially in the fetal brain.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kunio Doi, Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo, for critical review of the manuscript.

References

- 1. Bishop JB and Wassom JS. Toxicological review of busulfan (Myleran). Mutat Res. **168**: 15–45. 1986.
- 2. Nagai H. Effects of transplacentally injected alkylating agents upon development of embryos. Appearance of

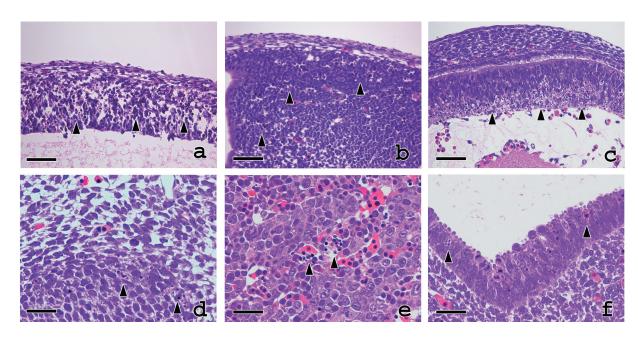


Fig. 4. Histopathology of the telencephalic wall (a), spinal cord (b), eye (c), mandible mesenchymal tissue (d), liver (e) and alimentary tract (f) in fetuses at 36 HAT. The number of pyknotic cells (arrowheads) is different among the tissues affected. HE stain. The bars are 50 μm for a to c and 25 μm for d to f.

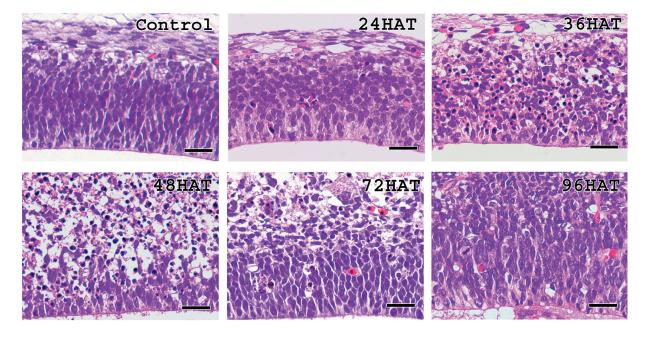


Fig. 5. Histopathological sequence of the telencephalon. The number of pyknotic neuroepithelial cells peaked at 36 or 48 HAT. As compared with the control at 48 HAT, the number of mitotic neuroepithelial cells in the ventricular layer decreased at 48 HAT. HE stain. Bar=25 μm.

- intrauterine death and mesodermal malformation. Bull Tokyo Dent Coll. **13**: 103–119. 1972.
- 3. Furukawa S, Usuda K, Abe M, and Ogawa I. Microencephaly and microphthalmia in rat fetuses by busulfan. Histol Histopathol. 22: 389–397. 2007.
- 4. Kasuga F and Takahashi M. The endocrine function of rat gonads with reduced number of germ cells following
- busulphan treatment. Endocrinol Jpn. 33: 105-115. 1986.
- 5. Otsuji M, Takahara M, Naruse T, Guan D, Harada M, Zhe P, Takagi M, and Ogino T. Developmental abnormalities in rat embryos leading to tibial ray deficiens induced by busulfan. Birth defects Res A Clin Mol Teratol. **73**: 461–467. 2005.
- 6. Trams EG, Nadkarni MV, de Quattro V, Maengwyn-Davies GD, and Smith PK. Dimethane-sulphonoxybutane

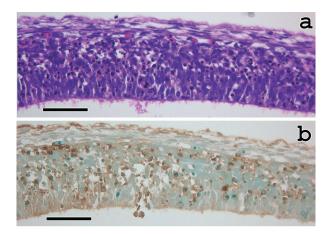
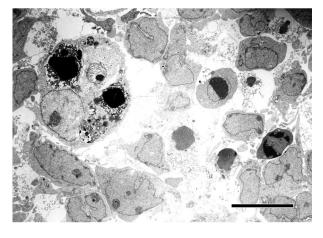


Fig. 6. Telencephalon of the busulfan group. The pyknotic cells on the HE-stained section (a) are positively stained by the TUNEL method (b). Bar=50 μm.



- (Myleran) preliminary studies on distribution and metabolic fate in the rat. Biochem Pharmacol. **2**: 7–16. 1959.
- Fox BW, Craig AW, and Jackson H. The comparative metabolism of Myleran 35/S in the rat, mouse and rabbit. Biochem Pharmacol. 5: 27–29. 1960.
- 8. Nadkarni MB, Trams EG, and Smith PK. Preliminary studies on the distribution and fate of TEM, TEPA and myleran in the human. Cancer Res. 19: 713–718. 1959.
- 9. Edwards K and Jones AR. Studies with alkylating esters, IV. The metabolism of propane-1, 3-dimethone-sulphonate and its relevance to the mode of action of Myleran. Biochem Pharmacol. **20**: 1781–1786. 1971.
- Gureli N, Denham SW, and Root SW. Cytologic dysplasia related to Busulfan (Myleran) therapy. Obstet Gynecol. 21: 466–470, 1963.
- Burns WA, MacFarland W, and Matthews MJ. Busulfaninduced pulmonary disease: report of a case and review of the literature. Am Rev Respir Dis. 101: 408–413. 1970.
- 12. Asano M, Odell TT, McDonald TP, and Upton AC. Radiomimetic agents and X-rays in mice and AET protectiveness. Arch Pathol. 75: 250–263. 1963.
- Tange T. Significance of the bone marrow lymphocyte hematopoietic regeneration following acute injury due to cobalt-60 irradiation and cytotoxic drugs. Acta Pathol Jpn. 24: 93–117. 1974.
- Katayama K, Ishigami M, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Ethylnitrosourea (ENU)-induced apoptosis in the rat fetal tissues. Histol Histopathol. 15: 707–711. 2000.
- Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Yasoshima A, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, and Doi K. 1-β-D- arabinofuranosylcytosine (Ara-C)-induced apoptosis in the fetal tissues and placenta. J Toxicol Pathol. 16: 223–229. 2003.
- Ueno M, Katayama K, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Mechanisms of 5-azacytidine (5Az-C)-induced toxicity in the rat foetal brain. Int J Exp Path. 83: 139–150. 2002.
- 17. Nam C, Woo GH, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Histopathological changes in the brain of mouse fetuses by etoposide-administration. Histol Histopathol. **21**: 257–263. 2006.

- Yamaguchi Y, Aoki A, Fukunaga Y, Matsushima K, Ebata T, Ikeya M, and Tamura K. 5-Fluorouracil-induced histopathological changes in the central nervous system of rat fetuses. Histol Histopathol. 24: 133–139. 2009.
- Woo GH, Bak EJ, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Molecular mechanisms of hydroxyurea (HU)-induced apoptosis in the mouse fetal brain. Neurotox Teratol. 28: 125–134. 2006.
- Gavrieli Y, Sherman Y, and Ben-Sasson SA. Identification of programmed cell death in situ via specific labeling of nuclear DNA fragmentation. J Cell Biol. 119: 493–501. 1992.
- Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, and Nakayama H. Time-course changes in the neural cell apoptosis in the rat fetal brain from dams treated with 6-mercaptopurine(6-MP). Histol Histopathol. 22: 317– 324, 2009.
- Lu DP, Nakayama H, Shinozuka J, Uetsuka K, Taki R, and Doi K. 5-azacytidine-induced apoptosis in the central nervous system of developing rat fetuses. J Toxicol Pathol. 11: 133–136. 1998.
- Furukawa S, Abe M, Usuda K, and Ogawa I. Indole-3-acetic acid induces microencephaly in rat fetuses. Toxicol Pathol. 32: 659–667. 2004.
- Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Ueno M, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Involvement of p53 in 1-β-D-arabinofuranosylcytosine-induced rat fetal brain lesions. Neurotox Teratol. 26: 579–586. 2004.
- Ueno M, Katayama K, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Cell cycle and cell death regulation of neural progenitor cells in the 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-treated developing fetal brain. Exp Neurol. 198: 154–166. 2006.
- Katayama K, Ueno M, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Ethylnitrosourea induces neuronal progenitor cell apoptosis after S-phase accumulation in a p53-dependent manner. Neurobiol Dis. 18: 218–225. 2005.
- Nam C, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, and Doi K. Etoposide induces apoptosis and cell cycle arrest of neuroepithelial cells in a p53-related manner. Neurotox Teratol. 28: 664– 672. 2006.

Author's personal copy

Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 523-530



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.de/etp



Sequence of busulfan-induced neural progenitor cell damage in the fetal rat brain

Toko Ohira^a, Ryo Ando^a, Yumiko Okada^b, Hodaka Suzuki^b, Tsubasa Saito^a, Tomomi Nakazawa^a, Kaori Nishihara^a, Satoshi Yamamoto^a, Norihiko Nakamura^a, Kazutoshi Tamura^{a,*}

- ^a Gotemba Laboratories, Biology and Zoology (BOZO) Research Center Inc., 1284, Kamado, Gotemba, Shizuoka 412-0039, Japan
- ^b Division of Biomedical Food Research, National Institute of Health Sciences, 1-18-1 Kamiyoga, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-8501, Japan

ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 6 October 2011 Accepted 11 March 2012

Keywords: Busulfan Fetal rat brain Neural progenitor cell damage Sequence

ABSTRACT

The sequence of neural progenitor cell (NPC) damage induced in fetal rat brain by transplacental exposure to busulfan, an antineoplastic bifunctional-alkylating agent, on gestational day 13 was examined by immunohistochemical and real-time RT-PCR analyses. Following busulfan treatment, pyknotic NPCs first appeared in the medial layer and then extended to the dorsal layer of the ventricular zone (VZ) of the telencephalon. Pyknotic NPCs that were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3, i.e. apoptotic NPCs, began to increase at 24h after treatment, peaked at 48h, and returned to the control levels at 96 h. On the other hand, the index (%) of phospho-histone H3-positive NPCs, i.e. mitotic NPCs, and that of BrdU-positive NPCs, i.e. S-phase cells, decreased in accordance with the increase in the index of apoptotic NPCs. Prior to the peak time of apoptotic NPCs, the indices of p53- and p21-positive NPCs peaked at 36 h. In addition, the expression levels of p21 and Puma (p53-target genes) mRNAs were elevated in real-time RT-PCR analysis. These findings indicated that busulfan not only induced apoptosis through the p53-mediated intrinsic pathway but also inhibited cell proliferation in NPCs, resulting in a reduction of the width of the telencephalon. On the other hand, in spite of up-regulation of p21 expression, the expression of cyclin D1, part of the cell cycle machinery of the G1/S transition, and the expression levels of Cdc20 and cyclin B1 which are involved in G2/M transition, showed no changes, giving no possible information of busulfan-induced cell cycle arrest in NPCs.

© 2012 Elsevier GmbH. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Busulfan is an alkylating agent and reacts with intracellular nucleophiles and proteins, leading to DNA-DNA and DNA-protein cross-links which cause DNA damage (Iwamoto et al., 2004; Mertins et al., 2004; Probin et al., 2006; Valdez et al., 2010). Busulfan is used for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia and for myeloablative-conditioning regimen before stem cell transplantation. On the other hand, busulfan has a teratogenic potential (Bishop and Wassom, 1986) and induces microencephaly, microphthalmia, microtia, microrostellum, micrognathia, microabdomen, brachydactylia, polydactyly, syndactyly, and cleft hand or foot (Kasuga and Takahashi, 1986; Nagai, 1972; Naruse et al., 2007; Otsuji et al., 2005). The main target of the cytotoxic effects of busulfan is not only proliferating cells but also slowly proliferating or non-proliferating stem cell compartments in the lungs (Güreli et al., 1963), gastrointestinal tissues (Burns et al., 1970), lymphoid tissues (Asano et al., 1963; Tange, 1974), gonadal tissues (Kasuga and Takahashi,

1986) and neural tissues (Burns et al., 1970) in human and animals.

The developing brain of rats and mice on gestation day (GD) 12 and 13 are highly sensitive to many DNA-damaging agents such as ethylnitrosourea (Katayama et al., 2001), 5-azacytidine (Ueno et al., 2002), cytosine arabinoside (Yamauchi et al., 2004), etoposide (Nam et al., 2006), hydroxyurea (Woo et al., 2006), 6-mercaptopurine (Kanemitsu et al., 2009a) and 5-fliorouracil (Yamaguchi et al., 2009). It is well known that such DNA-damaging agents induce excess apoptotic cell death and inhibit cell proliferation in multi-potent neural progenitor cells (NPCs) in the ventricular zone (VZ) of the developing brain. As to busulfan, Furukawa et al. (2007) reported that rat fetuses exposed to busulfan for 3 consecutive days from GD 12 developed apoptosis and inhibition of proliferation in the brain and eyes, and Ohira et al. (2009) reported that rat fetuses exposed to busulfan on GD 13 developed prominent apoptotic cell death in various tissues of the body, especially in the brain, spinal cord and eyes. However, the precise sequence of busulfan-induced damage in NPCs is still obscure.

This study was carried out to further clarify the sequence in the early phase of NPC damage in the fetal rat brain following transplacental exposure to busulfan on GD 13 mainly by immunohistochemical and real-time RT-PCR analyses.

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 550 82 9914; fax: +81 550 82 9915. E-mail address: tamura@bozo.co.jp (K. Tamura).

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Animals

Thirty-six female Sprague-Dawley strain [Crl:CD(SD)] rats were obtained from Charles River Japan Inc. (Atsugi Breeding Center, Kanagawa, Japan) on gestation day (GD) 7. Animals were housed individually in plastic Econ cages (W 340 mm × D 450 mm × H 185 mm) with bedding (White flakes: Charles River Japan, Inc., Kanagawa, Japan) in an environmentally controlled room (temperature $23\pm3\,^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$; relative humidity: $50\pm20\%$; air ventilation rate of 10-15 times per hour, and $12\,h/12\,h$ light/dark cycle), and fed a pelleted diet NMF (irradiation-sterilized, Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and tap water ad libitum. The protocol of this study was reviewed and approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Bozo Research Center Inc.

2.2. Experimental design

A total of 36 dams were equally divided into the control and busulfan groups. Animals of the busulfan group were administered intraperitoneally with 30 mg/kg of busulfan (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) on GD13. The dose of busulfan was determined as 30 mg/kg based on the results of our preliminary study. In that study, death of NPCs was slight in the 10 mg/kg group, moderate in the 30 mg/kg group and too severe, with fetal deaths, in the 50 mg/kg group. The control group received 10 mL/kg of olive oil. In addition, dams were injected with 20 mg/kg of BrdU at 1 h before sacrifice for analysis of proliferative activity of NPCs.

Three dams each of the busulfan and control groups were sacrificed by exsanguination from the abdominal aorta under diethyl ether anesthesia at 12, 24, 36, 48, 72 and 96 h after treatment, respectively, and all fetuses were dissected and weighed. For histopathological examination, the fetuses were fixed in 10% neutral-buffered formalin except for fetuses for real time RT-PCR analysis, which is described later, and 2- μ m paraffin sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE). Some of them were also subjected to immunohistochemical examination and terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated dUTP nick-end labeling (TUNEL) method as mentioned below.

2.3. Immunohistochemistry

The brains from 9 fetuses per group per each time point, which consisted of 3 fetuses randomly selected per dam per group at each time point (a total of 3 dams) were used. Immunohistochemical detection of p53 protein was performed using TSA Biotin System kit (PerkinElmer, Boston, MA, USA). Deparaffinized sections were immersed in 10 mM citrate buffer, pH 6.0, and were autoclaved at 121 °C for 15 min. Endogenous peroxidase activity was quenched by immersing the sections in $0.3\%~H_2O_2$ in methanol for $30\,\text{min}$. The sections were incubated with TNB blocking buffer at room temperature for 30 min. The sections were then exposed to rabbit anti-p53 polyclonal antibody (1:500; Santa Cruz, CA, USA) in TNB buffer at 4°C overnight. The sections were further incubated with biotinylated antibody against rabbit IgG (Dako Japan, Kyoto, Japan) for 40 min, with streptavidin-horseradish peroxidase in TNB buffer for 40 min and with biotinyl tyramide amplification reagent at room temperature for 5 min.

For immunohistochemistry of p21, cleaved caspase-3 and phospho-histone H3, sections were reacted with mouse anti-p21^{WAF1/Cip1} monoclonal antibody (1:100, Dako Japan), rabbit anti-cleaved caspase-3 polyclonal antibody (1:200, Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA, USA) and rabbit anti-phospho-histone H3 polyclonal antibody (1:150, Cell Signaling Technology), respectively, at 4 °C overnight after the above-mentioned pretreatment.

Then, the sections were reacted with Envision+kit (Dako Japan) at room temperature for 40 min. For detection of BrdU positive cells, sections were incubated with 2 N HCl at room temperature for 30 min and then with 0.05% protease (Protease type XXIV, Sigma Aldrich Japan, Tokyo, Japan) at room temperature for 5 min. Endogenous peroxidase activity was quenched by immersing the sections in 0.3% $\rm H_2O_2$ in methanol for 30 min. Thereafter, the sections were exposed to mouse anti-BrdU monoclonal antibody (1:100, Dako Japan) at room temperature for 1 h and then to Envision+kit (Dako Japan) at room temperature for 40 min. These sections were visualized by peroxidase-diaminobenzidine (DAB, Dojindo laboratories, Kumamoto, Japan) reaction and then counterstained with methylgreen.

The number of p53-positive NPCs in the VZ of the telencephalon was counted on one immunostained section per fetus in 3 randomly selected fetuses per dam, a total of 3 dams per group at each time point. A total of 500 NPCs were counted for each fetus. In addition, the number of immunopositive cells for p21, cleaved caspase-3, phospho-histone H3 or BrdU was also counted in the same way. The index (%) of the positive NPCs (immunohistochemical labeling index; IHC-index) was represented as the mean \pm standard deviation (S.D.).

Statistical analysis was carried out by Student's t-test. For all comparisons, p-values less than 5% (p < 0.05) and 1% (p < 0.01) were considered statistically significant.

2.4. TUNEL method

The brains from 3 randomly selected fetuses per dam in each group at each time point were subjected to the detection of DNA-fragmented NPCs by the TUNEL method using a commercial apoptosis detection kit (Chemicon Inc., Gaithersburg, MD, USA). The TUNEL method was first proposed by Gavrieli et al. (1992) and has been widely used for the detection of apoptotic cells. In brief, multiple fragmentations DNA 3′-OH ends on the section were labeled with digoxigenin–dUTP in the presence of terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase. Peroxidase-conjugated anti-digoxigenin antibody was then added to the sections. Apoptotic nuclei were visualized by DAB reaction. The sections were then counterstained with methylgreen.

2.5. Real-time RT-PCR analysis

For real-time RT-PCR analysis, 5 fetal telencephalons were randomly acquired from a dam at each time point (12, 24, 36, 48 and 72 h) in both the busulfan and the control groups, and stored at $-80\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ until RNA extraction. Total RNA was extracted with an RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Tokyo, Japan). First-strand cDNA was then synthesized from the total RNA by reverse transcription, using Taqman® Reverse Transcription Reagents (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA). For real-time RT-PCR, the reaction mixture containing Power SYBR® Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems), sense and antisense primers, and the cDNA samples were preheated at 95 °C for 10 min, and then underwent 40 cycles of amplification (denaturation at 95 °C for 15 s, annealing and extension at 60 °C for 60 s) by using the StepOnePlusTM Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems). Oligonucleotide primer sets used for RT-PCR were as follows:

Puma, sense 5'-ACCTCAACGCGCAGTACGAG-3' and antisense 5'-GGTGTCGATGTTGCTCTTCTTG-3';

Cdc20, sense 5'-AGGAGGTACCAGTGACCGACA-3' and antisense 5'-ACCAGAGGATGGAGCACACC-3';

Cyclin B1 sense -5'CAGAGGTGGAACTGGATGA-3' and antisense 5'-GGGCTTGGAGAGGGAGTATCA-3';

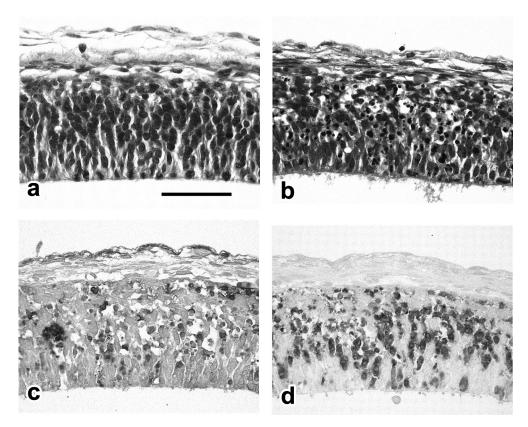


Fig. 1. Representative appearances of telencephalic wall of rat fetuses at 36 h after busulfan treatment. (a) Many mitotic NPCs along the ventricular surface with few pyknotic NPCs in the control group. (b) A small number of mitotic NPCs along the ventricular surface with many pyknotic NPCs mainly in the medial and dorsal layers in the busulfan group. (c) TUNEL-positive NPCs in the busulfan group. (d) Cleaved caspase-3-positive NPCs in the busulfan group. (a and b) HE stain, bar = 50 μm; (c and d) Immunostaining, bar = 50 μm.

p21^{cip1}, sense 5'-CACGGCTCAGTGGACCAGAA-3' and antisense 5'-ACTGGAGCTGCCTGAGGTAGGA-3';

Cyclin D1, sense 5'-CTAATGTAAAGCCAGCCGCAATG-3' and antisense 5'-TGGACACAGCAGCCCTCAAG-3'; and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (*GAPDH*), as an internal standard, sense 5'-CCTGCACCACCAACTGCTTAG-3' and antisense 5'-CATGGACTGTGGTCATGAGCC-3'.

Expression levels of Puma, Cdc20, $Cyclin\ B1$, $p21^{cip1}$ and $Cyclin\ D1$ mRNAs were normalized to the internal standard GAPDH, and the fold changes relative to the control group values at $12-72\ h$ were represented as the mean \pm S.D. of three dams. Statistical analysis was carried out by unpaired Student's t-test. For all comparisons, p-values less than 5% (p < 0.05) and 1% (p < 0.01) were considered statistically significant.

3. Results

3.1. Histopathological findings

In the control group, pyknotic NPCs with nuclear condensation or karyorrhexis were rarely observed in the VZ of the telencephalon throughout the experimental period (Fig. 1a).

In the busulfan group, pyknotic NPCs appeared in the medial layer of the VZ at 24 h, drastically increased not only in the medial layer but also in the dorsal layers at 36 h (Fig. 1b), and peaked at 48 h. At 36 and 48 h, a small number of pyknotic cells were also observed in the ventral layer. Thereafter, the number of pyknotic NPCs gradually decreased and returned to the control level at 96 h. However, the density of NPCs in the VZ decreased, resulting in the reduction of the width of the telencephalon. Most of the pyknotic NPCs were

positively stained by the TUNEL method (Fig. 1c), and also they were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3 (Fig. 1d).

On the other hand, as compared with the mitotic NPCs in the control group (Fig. 1a), the number of mitotic NPCs located along the ventral layer of the VZ decreased in accordance with the increase in the number of pyknotic NPCs (Fig. 1b).

3.2. IHC-index analysis

Results of labeling indices for various immunohistochemical analyses were shown in Table 1 and Fig. 2. Cleaved caspase-3-positive NPCs were rarely seen in the control group throughout the experimental period (Fig. 3a). In the busulfan group, as shown in Fig. 2a, the index of cleaved caspase-3-positive NPCs in the VZ began to increase at 24 h, drastically increased at 36 h (Fig. 3d), peaked at 48 h, and then decreased toward 96 h.

In the control group, a few p53-positive NPCs were detected in the VZ throughout the experimental period (Fig. 3b). On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 2b, the index of p53-positive NPCs in the VZ began to increase at 12 h, drastically increased at 24 h, peaked at 36 h (Fig. 3e) prior to the peak of pyknotic or cleaved caspase-3-postive NPCs, and then returned to the control level at 96 h in the busulfan group. In addition, as shown in Fig. 2c, the index of p21-positive NPCs (Fig. 3c and f) showed a similar time-course change to that of p53-positive NPCs.

As compared with the control group (Fig. 4a and b), the indices of phospho-histone H3-positive NPCs (Fig. 4c) and BrdU-positive NPCs (Fig. 4d) decreased at 24h and reached the lowest levels at 48 h. At 96 h following busulfan treatment, there were no differences in the indices between the busulfan and control groups (Fig. 2d and e).

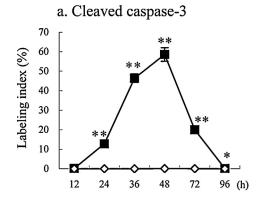
3.3. Findings of real-time RT-PCR analysis

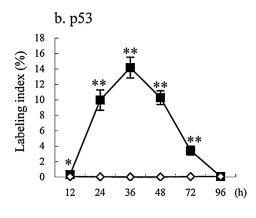
The expression levels of *Cdc20*, *Cyclin B1*, *Cyclin D1*, *Puma* and $p21^{cip1}$ mRNAs were measured by using real-time RT-PCR. Among them, the expression levels of *Puma* and p21 mRNAs (Fig. 5) significantly increased from 36 to 72 h. On the other hand, no significant differences were found between the busulfan and the control groups in the expression levels of *Cdc20*, *Cyclin B1* and *Cyclin D1* mRNAs throughout the experimental period.

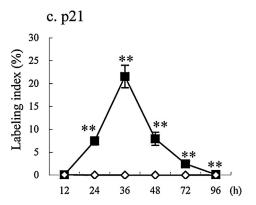
4. Discussion

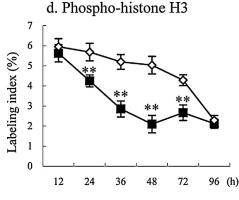
In the present study, the sequence of busulfan-induced NPC damage was examined in the fetal rat brain mainly by immuno-histochemical and real-time RT-PCR analyses.

In the busulfan group, pyknotic NPCs first appeared in the middle layer and then extended to the dorsal layer of the VZ. The number of pyknotic NPCs began to increase at 24h and peaked at 48 h. Most of the nuclei of pyknotic NPCs were stained positively by the TUNEL method. In addition, in our previous morphological study on the fetal brain obtained from dams exposed to busulfan, we showed that such pyknotic NPCs had electron microscopic characteristics of apoptotic cells (Ohira et al., 2009). Moreover, the time-course change in the index of NPCs immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3, a marker of apoptosis, corresponded well to that of the above-mentioned pyknotic cells. Therefore, pyknotic NPCs observed in this study were considered to be apoptotic cells. On the other hand, the indices of phospho-histone H3-positive NPCs, i.e. mitotic NPCs, and the BrdU-positive NPCs, i.e. S-phase cells, decreased in accordance with the increase in apoptotic NPCs, indicating that busulfan not only induced apoptosis









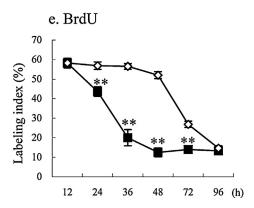


Fig. 2. Time-course changes in the immunohistochemical labeling indices (%) of cleaved caspase-3-positive NPCs (a), p53-positive NPCs (b), p21-positive NPCs (c), phosphorhistone H3-positive NPCs (d), and BrdU-positive NPCs (e) in the control group (\diamondsuit) and busulfan group (\blacksquare). Significantly different from the control group at p < 0.05 (*) and p < 0.01 (**) in Student's t-test.

 Table 1

 Time-course-changes of labeling indices for various immunohistochemical analysis of the fetal rat brain after busulfan treatment.

Group	Hours after treatme	Hours after treatment												
	12	24	36	48	72	96								
Cleaved caspas	se-3													
Control	0.02 ± 0.06	0.05 ± 0.09	0.05 ± 0.09	0.11 ± 0.10	0.07 ± 0.10	0.03 ± 0.08								
Busulfan	0.19 ± 0.12	$12.84 \pm 1.13^{**}$	$46.44 \pm 2.17^{**}$	$58.60 \pm 3.48^{**}$	$20.04 \pm 1.87^{**}$	$0.13 \pm 0.12^*$								
p53														
Control	0.07 ± 0.14	0.04 ± 0.08	0.02 ± 0.06	0.02 ± 0.06	0.07 ± 0.10	0.08 ± 0.10								
Busulfan	$0.07\pm0.27^{^*}$	$9.98 \pm 1.31^{**}$	$14.18 \pm 1.34^{**}$	$10.29 \pm 0.89^{**}$	$3.44 \pm 0.57^{**}$	0.09 ± 0.10								
p21														
Control	0.06 ± 0.13	0.02 ± 0.06	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.02 ± 0.06								
Busulfan	0.06 ± 0.13	$7.50 \pm 0.88^{**}$	$21.56 \pm 2.45^{**}$	$7.95 \pm 1.43^{**}$	$2.47 \pm 0.25^{**}$	$0.13 \pm 0.12^{**}$								
BrdU														
Control	58.27 ± 2.37	56.89 ± 1.88	56.54 ± 1.40	52.04 ± 1.75	26.84 ± 1.58	14.62 ± 1.27								
Busulfan	58.20 ± 2.50	$43.64 \pm 2.50^{**}$	$19.98 \pm 4.15^{**}$	$12.48 \pm 2.26^{**}$	$13.96 \pm 2.00^{**}$	13.29 ± 1.64								
Phospho-histo	one H3													
Control	5.96 ± 0.40	5.69 ± 0.44	5.20 ± 0.37	5.04 ± 0.44	4.29 ± 0.27	2.29 ± 0.24								
Busulfan	5.63 ± 0.43	$4.25 \pm \pm 0.30^{**}$	$2.85 \pm 0.40^{**}$	$2.10 \pm 0.44^{**}$	$2.67 \pm 0.38^{**}$	2.12 ± 0.22								

Note: values represent the mean \pm standard deviation.

but also inhibited cell proliferation in NPCs, resulting in reduction of the width of the telencephalon.

The time-course change in NPC apoptosis following busulfantreatment was similar to that following 6-mercaptopurine-treatment (Kanemitsu et al., 2009c) but different from that following the treatment with ethylnitrosourea (Katayama et al., 2001), hydroxyurea (Woo et al., 2006), 5-azacytidine (Ueno et al., 2002), cytosine arabinoside (Yamauchi et al., 2004) or etoposide (Nam et al., 2006). In these cases, the number of apoptotic NPCs peaked earlier at 9–12 h. There is also a report that the radiation brought the index level to peak level at 3–5 h following (Borovitskaya et al., 1996). Such differences in the sequence of NPC apoptosis may reflect the differences in pharmacokinetics, mechanisms of DNA damage, pathways involved in apoptosis and/or

phases of cell cycle arrest among these DNA-damaging agents (Katayama et al., 2002; Yamauchi et al., 2004).

The index of NPCs positive for p53 began to increase significantly at 12 h and peaked at 36 h, prior to the peak time of the index of apoptotic NPCs at 48 h. In this context, it is well known that p53 protein increases in response to DNA damage and plays a crucial role in DNA repair, cell cycle arrest or apoptosis (Brill et al., 1999; Ko and Prives, 1996; Lakin and Jackson, 1999; May and May, 1999; Taylor et al., 1999). Therefore, it is reasonable to consider that busulfan probably induces NPC apoptosis in a p53-related manner.

Real-time RT-PCR analysis revealed that the expression levels of $p21^{cip1}$ and Puma mRNAs significantly increased from 36 to 72 h, whereas there were no changes in the expression levels of Cdc20, $Cyclin\ B1$ and $Cyclin\ D1$ mRNAs. It is said that p21, a downstream

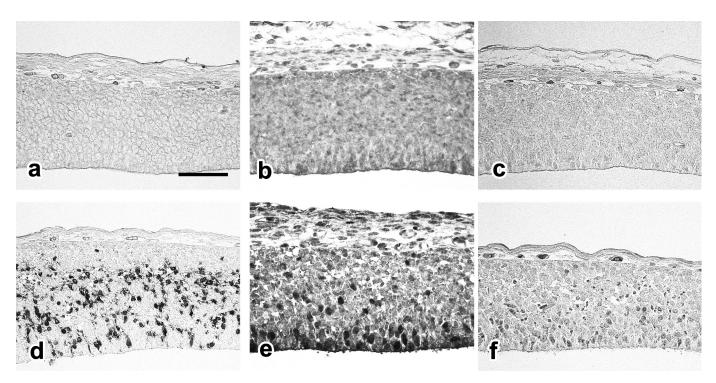


Fig. 3. Immunohistochemical findings of telencephalic wall of rat fetuses at 36 h after busulfan treatment in the control group (a–c) and the busulfan group (d–f). (a and d) Cleaved caspase-3; (b and e) p53; (c and f) p21. Immunostaining, bar = 50 μm.

^{*} p < 0.05, significantly different from control.

p < 0.01, significantly different from control.

T. Ohira et al. / Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 523-530

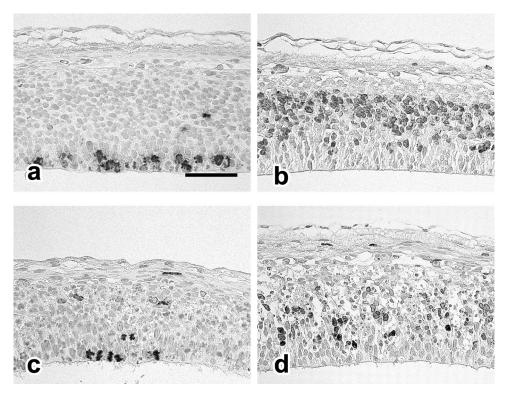


Fig. 4. Immunohistochemical findings of telencephalic wall of rat fetuses at 36 h after busulfan treatment in the control group (a and b) and the busulfan group (c and d). (a and c) Phospho-histone H3; (b and d) BrdU. Immunostaining, bar = 50 μm.

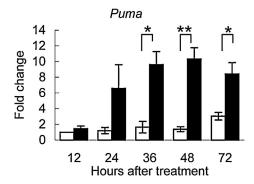
target of p53, inhibits cyclin-dependent kinases and blocks the progression of G1/S transition (Dulic et al., 1994; Polyak et al., 1996; Meng et al., 2004; Yang et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2010). *Puma*, one of the p53 targets, promotes apoptosis through the p53-dependent intrinsic pathway (Vousden and Lu, 2002; Yamauchi et al., 2007), *Cyclin D1* is involved in the regulation of G1/S transition (Sherr and Roberts, 1999), and *Cdc20* and *Cyclin B1* regulate G2/M transition (Ueno et al., 2006).

It is reported that apoptosis occurs through either intrinsic or extrinsic pathways (Danial and Korsmeyer, 2004; Matsui et al., 2000; Tsujimoto, 2003; Yamauchi et al., 2007; Yu et al., 2001). In the intrinsic pathway, pro-apoptotic bcl-2 family proteins such as Puma, which localize in the mitochondrial membrane, induce cytochrome c release, leading to the activation of caspase-9 protein and then resulting in the activation of effector caspases such as caspase-3 (Kanemitsu et al., 2009b; Yamauchi et al., 2007). In addition, p53 is said to transactivate apoptosis-related genes including *Bax* (Selvakumaran et al., 1994), *Fas* (Müller et al., 1998), *Puma* (Jeffers et al., 2003) and *Noxa* (Oda et al., 2000). Although the expression levels of *Bax*, *Noxa* and *Fas* mRNAs were not examined

in the present study, the elevation of *Puma* mRNA levels and the increase in the index of NPCs positive for caspase-3 protein were almost concomitantly observed. These findings suggest that busulfan-induced NPC apoptosis is probably be induced through the intrinsic mitochondrial pathway.

It is reported that cell cycle arrest or cell cycle perturbation is induced in the developing brain of mice and rats following treatment with DNA-damaging agents such as ethylnitrosourea (S-phase accumulation) (Katayama et al., 2005), hydroxyurea (G1/S and G2/M arrest) (Woo et al., 2006), 5-azacytidine (G2 and M arrest through abnormal G2/M regulation) (Ueno et al., 2006), cytosine arabinoside (S arrest) (Yamauchi et al., 2004), 6-mercaptopurine (S-phase accumulation and G2/M arrest) (Kanemitsu et al., 2009b) and etoposide (S-phase accumulation and G2/M arrest) (Nam et al., 2010).

As mentioned above, busulfan is considered to induce alkylation of intracellular nucleophiles, which may act on the cells at any stage of the cell cycle (Buggia et al., 1994), resulting in G1 arrest in murine male germ cells (Choi et al., 2004) and G2 arrest in various types of myeloid cells (Hassan et al., 2001; Valdez et al., 2008, 2010) and



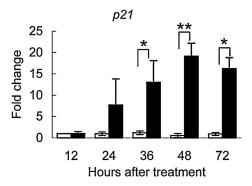


Fig. 5. Expression levels of Puma and $p21^{cip1}$ mRNAs measured by real-time RT-PCR in the control group (\square) and the busulfan group (\blacksquare). Significantly different from the control group at p < 0.05 (*) and p < 0.01 (**) in Student's t-test.

ECV 304 cells (Ritter et al., 2002). To date, there is however no reliable information of busulfan-induced cell cycle arrest in NPCs. In the present study, the expression of p21 in NPCs following busulfan treatment was significantly elevated at both protein and mRNA levels almost in accordance with the increase in p53-positive NPCs. As mentioned above, it is said that p21 blocks G1/S transition and is able to induce G2/M arrest through inactivation of cyclin B-Cdc2 complex which is involved in G2/M progression (Nam et al., 2010). However, the expression levels of mRNAs of cdc20 and cyclin B1 as well as of cyclin D1, part of the cell cycle machinery of the G1/S transition, showed no changes. Therefore, it is obscure at which phases busulfan arrests the cell cycle in the fetal rat telencephalon, and the precise role of p21 in busulfan-induced NPC damage is not clear, and the precise role of p21 in the busulfan-induced cell cycle arrest in NPCs is also not clear. Further investigations should be done to clarify the phases and mechanisms of busulfan-induced cell cycle arrest in NPCs in the fetal brain.

In conclusion, this study clarified histologically and immunohistochemically the time-course-changes in busulfan-induced damage in NPCs, i.e. drastically enhancing apoptosis and inhibition of proliferative activity, in the fetal rat brain. This study also showed by immunohistochemical and real-time RT-PCR analyses that the p53-mediated intrinsic mitochondrial pathway was involved in the busulfan-induced NPC apoptosis, but it could not give possible information of busulfan-induced cell cycle arrest in NPCs.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kunio Doi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, for critical review of the manuscript, and Mr. Pete Aughton, D.A.B.T, ITR Laboratory Canada Inc, for language editing of this paper.

References

- Asano M, Odell TT, McDonald Jr TP, Upton AC. Radiomimetic agents and X-rays in mice and AET protectiveness. Comparative pathological effects. Arch Pathol 1963;75:250–63.
- Bishop JB, Wassom JS. Toxicological review of busulfan (Myleran). Mutat Res 1986;168:15–45.
- Borovitskaya AE, Evtushenko VI, Sabol SL. Gamma-radiation-induced cell death in the fetal rat brain possesses molecular characteristics of apoptosis and is associated with specific messenger RNA elevations. Brain Res Mol Brain Res 1996;35:19–30.
- Brill A, Torchinsky A, Carp H, Toder V. The role of apoptosis in normal and abnormal embryonic development. J Assist Reprod Genet 1999;16:512–9.
- Buggia I, Locatelli F, Regazzi MB, Zecca M. Busulfan. Ann Pharmacother 1994;28:1055–62.
- Burns WA, McFarland W, Matthews MJ. Busulfan-induced pulmonary disease: report of a case and review of the literature. Am Rev Respir Dis 1970; 101:408–13.
- Choi YJ, Ok DW, Kwon DN, Chung JI, Kim HC, Yeo SM, et al. Murine male germ cell apoptosis induced by busulfan treatment correlates with loss of c-kit-expression in a Fas/FasL-and p53-independent manner. Febs Lett 2004;575:41–51.
- Danial NN, Korsmeyer SJ. Cell death: critical control points. Cell 2004;116:205–19. Dulic V, Kaufmann WK, Wilson SJ, Tlsty TD, Lees E, Harper JW, et al. p53-dependent inhibition of cyclin-dependent kinase activities in human fibroblasts during radiation-induced G1 arrest. Cell 1994;76:1013–23.
- Furukawa S, Usuda K, Abe M, Ogawa I. Microencephaly and microphthalmia in rat fetuses by busulfan. Histol Histopathol 2007;22:389–97.
- Gavrieli Y, Sherman Y, Ben-Sasson SA. Identification of programmed cell death in situ via specific labeling of nuclear DNA fragmentation. J Cell Biol 1992;119:493–501.
- Güreli N, Denham SW, Root SW. Cytologic dysplasia related to busulfan (Myleran) therapy. Obstet Gynecol 1963;21:466–70.
- Hassan Z, Hassan M, Hellström-Lindberg E. The pharmacodynamic effect of busulfan in the P39 myeloid cell line in vitro. Leukemia 2001;15:1240–7.
- Iwamoto T, Hiraku Y, Oikawa S, Mizutani H, Kojima M, Kawanishi S. DNA intrastrand cross-link at the 5'-GA-3' sequence formed by busulfan and its role in the cytotoxic effect. Cancer Sci 2004;95:454-8.
- Jeffers JR, Parganas E, Lee Y, Yang C, Wang J, Brennan J, et al. Puma is an essential mediator of p53-dependent and-independent apoptotic pathways. Cancer Cell 2003;4:321–8.
- Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Uchida K, et al. 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) induces p53-mediated apoptosis of neural progenitor cells in the developing fetal rodent brain. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2009a;31:198–202.

- Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Uchida K, et al. 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) induces cell cycle arrest and apoptosis of neural progenitor cells in the developing fetal rat brain. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2009b:31:104-9.
- Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Nakayama H. Timecourse changes in neural cell apoptosis in the rat fetal brain from dams treated with 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP). Histol Histopathol 2009c;24:317–24.
- Kasuga F, Takahashi M. The endocrine function of rat gonads with reduced number of germ cells following busulphan treatment. Endocrinol Jpn 1986;33: 105–15.
- Katayama K, Uetsuka K, Ishigami N, Nakayama H, Doi K. Apoptotic cell death and cell proliferative activity in the rat fetal central nervous system from dams administered with ethylnitrosourea (ENU). Histol Histopathol 2001;16: 79–85
- Katayama K, Ohtsuka R, Takai H, Nakayama H, Doi K. Expression of p53 and its transcriptional target genes mRNAs in the ethylnitrosourea-induced apoptosis and cell cycle arrest in the fetal central nervous system. Histol Histopathol 2002;17:715–20.
- Katayama K, Ueno M, Yamauchi H, Nagata T, Nakayama H, Doi K. Ethylnitrosourea induces neuronal progenitor cell apoptosis after S-phase accumulation in a p53-dependent manner. Neurobiol Dis 2005;18:218–25.
- Ko LJ, Prives C. p53: puzzle and paradigm. Genes Dev 1996;10:1054-72.
- Lakin ND, Jackson SP. Regulation of p53 in response to DNA damage. Oncogene 1999;18:7644–55.
- Matsui Y, Nagano R, Obinata M. Apoptosis of fetal testicular cells is regulated by both p53-dependent and independent mechanisms. Mol Reprod Dev 2000;55:399–405.
- May P, May E. Twenty years of p53 research: structural and functional aspects of the p53 protein. Oncogene 1999;18:7621–36.
- Meng LH, Zhang H, Hayward L, Takemura H, Shao RG, Pommier Y. Tetrandrine induces early G1 arrest in human colon carcinoma cells by down-regulating the activity and inducing the degradation of G1-S specific cyclin dependent kinases and by inducing p53 and p21^{cip1}. Cancer Res 2004;64:9086–92.
- Mertins SD, Myers TG, Holbeck SL, Medina-Perez W, Wang E, Kohlhagen G, et al. In vitro evaluation of dimethane sulfonate analogues with potential alkylating activity and selective renal cell carcinoma cytotoxicity. Mol Cancer Ther 2004;3:849–60.
- Müller M, Wilder S, Bannasch D, Israeli D, Lehlbach K, Li-Weber M, et al. p53 activates the CD95 (APO-1/Fas) gene in response to DNA damage by anticancer drugs. J Exp Med 1998;188:2033–45.
- Nagai H. Effects of transplacentally injected alkylating agents upon development of embryos. Appearance of intrauterine death and mesodermal malformation. Bull Tokyo Dent Coll 1972:13:103–19.
- Nam C, Doi K, Nakayama H. Etoposide induces G2/M arrest and apoptosis in neural progenitor cells via DNA damage and ATM/p53-related pathway. Histol Histopathol 2010;25:485-93.
- Nam C, Woo GH, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Histopathological changes in the brain of mouse fetuses by etoposide-administration. Histol Histopathol 2006;21:257–63.
- Naruse T, Takahara M, Takagi M, Oberg KC, Ogino T. Busulfan-induced central polydactyly, syndactyly and cleft hand or foot: a common mechanism of disruption leads to divergent phenotypes. Dev Growth Differ 2007;49:533–41.
- Oda E, Ohki R, Murasawa H, Nemoto J, Shibue T, Yamashita T, et al. Noxa, a BH3-only member of the Bcl-2 family and candidate mediator of p53-induced apoptosis. Science 2000;288:1053–8.
- Ohira T, Ando R, Andoh R, Nakazawa T, Nishihara K, Yamamoto S, et al. Distribution and sequence of pyknotic cell in rat fetuses exposed to busulfan. J Toxicol Pathol 2009:22:167–71.
- Otsuji M, Takahara M, Naruse T, Guan D, Harada M, Zhe P, et al. Developmental abnormalities in rat embryos leading to tibial ray deficiencies induced by busulfan. Birth Defects Res A: Clin Mol Teratol 2005;73:461–7.
- Probin V, Wang Y, Bai A, Zhou D. Busulfan selectively induces cellular senescence but not apoptosis in w|138 fibroblasts via a p53-independent but extracellular signal-regulated kinase-p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase-dependent mechanism. J Pharmacol Exp Ther 2006;319:551-60.
- Polyak K, Waldman T, He TC, Kinzler KW, Vogelstein B. Genetic determinants of p53-induced apoptosis and growth arrest. Genes Dev 1996;10:1945–52.
- Ritter CA, Sperker B, Grube M, Dressel D, Kunert-kei C, Kroemer HK. Overexpression of glutathione S-transferase A1-1 in ECV 304 cells protects against busulfan mediated G2-arrest and induces tissue factor expression. Br J Pharmacol 2002;137:1100–6.
- Selvakumaran M, Lin HK, Miyashita T, Wang HG, Krajewski S, Reed JC, et al. Immediate early up-regulation of bax expression by p53 but not TGF beta 1: a paradigm for distinct apoptotic pathways. Oncogene 1994;9:1791–8.
- Sherr CJ, Roberts JM. CDK inhibitors: positive and negative regulators of G1-phase progression. Genes Dev 1999;13:1501–12.
- Tange T. An experimental study on the significance of the bone marrow lymphocyte in hematopoietic regeneration following acute injury due to ⁶⁰CO irradiation and cytotoxic drugs. Acta Pathol Jpn 1974;24:93–117.
- Taylor WR, Deprimo SE, Agarwal A, Agarwal ML, Schönthal AH, Katula KS, et al. Mechanisms of G2 arrest in response to overexpression of p53. Mol Biol Cell 1999;10:3607–22.
- Tsujimoto Y. Cell death regulation by the Bcl-2 protein family in the mitochondria. J Cell Physiol 2003;195:158–67.
- Ueno M, Katayama K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Mechanisms of 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-induced toxicity in the rat foetal brain. Int J Exp Pathol 2002;83:139–50.

- Ueno M, Katayama K, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, Doi K. Cell cycle and cell death regulation of neural progenitor cells in the 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-treated developing fetal brain. Exp Neurol 2006: 198: 154–66.
- fetal brain. Exp Neurol 2006;198:154–66. Valdez BC, Murray D, Ramdas L, de Lima M, Jones R, Kornblau S, et al. Altered gene expression in busulfan-resistant human myeloid leukemia. Leuk Res 2008;32:1684–97.
- Valdez BC, Li Y, Murray D, Corn P, Champlin RE, Andersson BS. 5-Aza-2'-deoxycytidine sensitizes busulfan-resistant myeloid leukemia cells by regulating expression of genes involved in cell cycle checkpoint and apoptosis. Leuk Res 2010;34:364–72.
- Vousden KH, Lu X. Live or let die: the cell's response to p53. Nat Rev Cancer 2002;2:594-604.
- Wang Z, Lee HJ, Chai Y, Hu H, Wang L, Zhang Y, et al. Persistent p21^{Cip1} induction mediates G1 cell cycle arrest by methylseleninic acid in DU 145 prostate cancer cells. Curr Cancer Drug Targets 2010;10:307–18.
- Woo GH, Bak EJ, Nakayama H, Doi K. Molecular mechanisms of hydroxyurea (HU)-induced apoptosis in the mouse fetal brain. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2006;28:125–34.

- Yamaguchi Y, Aoki A, Fukunaga Y, Matsushima K, Ebata T, Ikeya M, et al. 5-Fluorouracil-induced histopathological changes in the central nervous system of rat fetuses. Histol Histopathol 2009;24:113–39.
- Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Ueno M, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Involvement of p53 in 1-β-D-arabinofuranosylcytosine-induced rat fetal brain lesions. Neurotoxicol Teratol 2004;26:579–86.
- Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Ueno M, He XJ, Mikami T, Uetsuka K, et al. Essential role of p53 in trophoblastic apoptosis induced in the developing rodent placenta by treatment with a DNA-damaging agent. Apoptosis 2007;12: 1743–54.
- Yang L, Zhang HW, Hu R, Yang Y, Qi Q, Lu N, et al. Wogonin induces G1 phase arrest through inhibiting Cdk4 and cyclin D1 concomitant with an elevation in p21^{Cip1} in human cervical carcinoma HeLa cells. Biochem Cell Biol 2009;87: 933–42
- Yu J, Zhang L, Hwang PM, Kinzler KW, Vogelstein B. *PUMA* induces the rapid apoptosis of colorectal cancer cells. Mol Cell 2001;7:673–82.

Original Article

Systemic Histopathology of Infant Rats Exposed to Busulfan

Toko Ohira^{1*}, Tsubasa Saito¹, Ryo Ando¹, Kazutoshi Tamura¹, and Toru Hoshiya¹

Abstract: Busulfan is an antineoplastic bifunctional alkylating agent. We previously reported the busulfan-induced systemic histopathological changes in fetal rats and the sequence of brain lesions in fetal and infant rats. In the present study, in order to clarify the nature and sequence of busulfan-induced systemic histopathological changes in infant rats, 6-day-old male infant rats were subcutaneously administered 20 mg/kg of busulfan and histopathologically examined at 1, 2, 4, 7 and 14 days after treatment (DAT). As a result, histopathological changes characterized by pyknosis of component cells were observed in the heart, lungs, stomach, intestines, liver, kidneys, testes, epididymides, hematopoietic and lymphoid tissues, dorsal skin and femur as well as in the brain and eyes (data not shown in this paper). Such pyknosis transiently appeared until 7 DAT with prominence at 2 and/or 4 DAT in each tissue, except for the thymus, in which pyknosis peaked at 1 DAT. Most of the pyknotic nuclei were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3, indicating that pyknotic cells were apoptotic. Different from the reports of fetal and adult rats, apoptosis was also found in cardiomyocytes and osteoblasts in infant rats. (DOI: 10.1293/tox.2013-0043; J Toxicol Pathol 2014; 27: 25–29)

Key words: busulfan, systemic histopathology, apoptosis, infant rat

Introduction

Busulfan, a bifunctional alkylating agent, has been used for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia and for myeloablative-conditioning regimens before stem cell transplantation. In children, there are several reports of diverse effects of busulfan treatment such as pulmonary fibrosis and acute clinical neurotoxicity (spasm)^{1–3}.

Busulfan has teratogenic and cytotoxic potentials⁴, and it is reported that rat fetuses exposed to busulfan developed microencephaly and microphthalmia⁵. Our previous studies clarified the systemic histopathological changes⁶ and the sequence of the central nervous system (CNS) lesions characterized by neural progenitor cell apoptosis⁷ in rat fetuses transplacentally exposed to busulfan on gestation day 13. It is also reported that busulfan induces histopathological changes in the lungs^{8–11} in adult humans and in gastrointestinal tissues¹², lymphoid tissues¹³ and gonadal tissues^{14–18} in adult rats. On the other hand, there are few reports of systemic histopathological changes in infant animals induced by busulfan except for our previous report of busulfan-induced CNS lesions in infant rats¹⁹.

In the present study, we examined the busulfan-induced systemic histopathological changes in infant rats mainly

from the viewpoints of the distribution and sequence of pyknosis of component cells, except for brain¹⁹ and eye lesions, which will be described elsewhere in the near future.

Materials and Methods

Animals

Male newborn rats were obtained in our laboratory by mating females with males of the same colony of specific pathogen-free rats of the Sprague-Dawley strain purchased from Charles River Laboratories Japan, Inc. (Kanagawa, Japan). One foster mother with 8 male newborns were housed together in plastic Econ cages (W 340 mm × D 450 mm × H 185 mm) with bedding (White flakes: Charles River Laboratories Japan, Inc.) in an environmentally controlled animal room (temperature, 23 ± 3 °C; relative humidity, 50 ± 20 %; air ventilation rate, 10-15 times per hour; lighting, 12 h/12 h light/dark cycle) and fed an irradiation-sterilized pelleted diet (NMF, Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and tap water ad libitum. Finally, a total of fifty 6-day-old male rats were subjected to the experiment. The protocol of this study was reviewed and approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of BoZo Research Center.

Experimental designs

Busulfan was obtained from Sigma Chemicals (St. Louis, MO, USA) and was suspended with olive oil.

Fifty 6-day-old male rats were equally divided into the control and busulfan groups. The animals of the busulfan group were subcutaneously administered 20 mg/kg (10 mL/kg body weight) of busulfan, and those of the control group

Received: 2 August 2013, Accepted: 16 September 2013
*Corresponding author: T Ohira (e-mail: ohira-toko@bozo.co.jp)
©2014 The Japanese Society of Toxicologic Pathology
This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives (by-nc-nd) License http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>.

¹ Pathology Division, Gotemba Laboratories, BoZo Research Center Inc., 1284 Kamado, Gotemba, Shizuoka 412-0039, Japan

were subcutaneously administered 10 mL/kg of olive oil, respectively. The dose of busulfan was decided based on the results of our preliminary study. Five animals each of the busulfan and control groups were euthanized at 1, 2, 4, 7 and 14 days after treatment (DAT), respectively. At necropsy, all organs and tissues were collected from each animal for histopathological examination.

Histopathology and immunohistochemistry for cleaved caspase-3

Collected organs and tissues were fixed with 10% neutral buffered formalin. After fixation, the femur was decalcified in formic acid solution. Four-µm paraffin sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE) and subjected to histopathological examination.

Some of the paraffin sections were also subjected to immunohistochemical examination for cleaved caspase-3. In brief, sections were reacted with rabbit anti-cleaved caspase-3 polyclonal antibody (1:200, Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA, USA) at 4°C overnight after pretreatment. Then, the sections were reacted with an EnVision+kit (Dako Japan) at room temperature for 40 min. These sections were visualized by peroxidase-diaminobenzidine (DAB, Dojindo Laboratories, Kumamoto, Japan) reaction and then counterstained with hematoxylin.

Histopathological examination was performed on tissues such as the heart, lungs, stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, kidneys, testes, epididymides, thymus, spleen, mesenteric lymph node, bone marrow, skin (dorsal) and bone (femur) based on the results of our preliminary study.

Results

No deaths occurred in any group until 7 DAT. Thereafter, one animal died with severe myelosuppression at 13 DAT in the busulfan group.

In the control group, there were no histopathological changes observed in any tissues. On the other hand, in the busulfan group, histopathological changes mainly characterized by pyknosis of component cells were observed in many tissues as listed in Table 1. Histopathological changes other than pyknosis are shown in Table 2. Histopathological changes were also detected in the brain and eyes, but their data were excluded from the present paper as mentioned above.

In the cardiopulmonary system, pyknosis was observed in a small number of cardiomyocytes (Fig. 1a) and alveolar and terminal bronchiolar epithelial cells at 2 and 4 DAT (Fig. 1b). In the digestive system, pyknosis was found in a small number of hematopoietic cells in the liver at 2 DAT, glandular epithelial cells in the stomach (Fig. 1c) from 1 to 7 DAT, and crypt epithelial cells in the intestines from 1 to 4 DAT. Hematopoietic cells in the liver mildly decreased from 4 to 14 DAT, and glandular epithelial cells in the stomach showed vacuolation at 4 DAT.

In the urogenital system, pyknosis was found in a small number of proximal and distal tubule epithelial cells in the kidneys (Fig. 1d) at 2 and 4 DAT. Pyknotic changes in spermatogonia started at 1 DAT and became moderate at 2 and 4 DAT in the testes (Fig. 1e). Thereafter, seminiferous tubules showed atrophy with depletion of germ cells at 7 and 14 DAT, at which point only Sertoli cells were left in the germinal epithelium of markedly atrophied seminiferous tubules (Fig. 1f). Pyknosis was also found in a small number of epithelial cells in the epididymides from 2 to 7 DAT.

In the hematopoietic and lymphoid system, the thymus showed moderate cortical atrophy at 2 and 4 DAT following moderate or mild pyknotic changes in cortical lymphocytes at 1 and 2 DAT (Fig. 1g). Similar but less severe changes were observed in mesenteric lymph nodes at 4 and 7 DAT. In the spleen, a minimal or mild decrease in the number of hematopoietic cells was detected from 2 to 14 DAT. In the bone marrow, mild or moderate pyknotic changes of hematopoietic cells were found from 1 to 7 DAT. A decrease in the number of hematopoietic cells with fat cell infiltration started at 2 DAT, progressed thereafter and became prominent at 14 DAT (Fig. 1h). In the other tissues, pyknosis was found in a small number of hair follicle epithelial cells (Fig. 1i) in the dorsal skin and osteoblasts (Fig. 1j) in the femur at 2 and 4 DAT. Most of the pyknotic nuclei were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3 (Fig. 1e, inset), indicating that pyknotic cells were apoptotic.

Discussion

In the present study, we examined the nature and sequence of systemic histopathological changes observed in infant rats exposed to busulfan (20 mg/kg) at 6 days of age. As mentioned above, those in the CNS have been previously reported¹⁹, and those in the eyes will be published elsewhere in the near future.

Pyknosis of component cells was detected in many tissues (Table 1). Among them, the thymus was moderately affected by pyknosis at 1 DAT, and the bone marrow and testes were moderately affected by pyknosis at 2 and 4 DAT. Most of the pyknotic nuclei were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3. This strongly indicates that pyknotic cells are apoptotic. In addition, moderate cortical atrophy was observed simultaneously with moderate pyknosis of cortical lymphocytes in the thymus, a moderate to marked decrease in the number of hematopoietic cells with infiltration of fat cells was found from 4 to 14 DAT in the bone marrow, and moderate or marked atrophy due to depletion of germ cells developed at 7 and 14 DAT in the testes. Thus, histopathological changes remained until 14 DAT in the bone marrow and testes, and whether or not the rats could recover from such lesions in the bone marrow and testes thereafter was not clear in the present study. On the other hand, histopathological changes observed in tissues other than the bone marrow and testes were considered to be transient in nature.

Although there were no reports of cardiac lesions in fetal⁶ or adult rats¹² following exposure to busulfan, apoptosis of cardiomyocytes was detected in infant rats in the pres-

Table 1. Distribution and Sequence of Pyknotic Cells in Rat Infant Tissues Exposed to Busulfan

Dose of busulfan	0 mg/kg						20 mg/kg					
Days after treatment	1	2	4	7	14	1	2	4	7	14		
No. of animals examined	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4		
Heart												
Cardiomyocytes	_	_	_	_	_	_	\pm	±	_	_		
Lungs												
Epithelial cells of alveoli or terminal bronchioles	_	_	_	_	_	_	\pm	\pm	_	_		
Stomach												
Glandular epithelial cells	_	_	_	_	_	±	+	+	±	_		
Intestines												
Crypt cells	_	_	_	_	_	±	\pm	\pm	_	_		
Liver												
Hematopoietic cells	_	_	-	_	-	_	\pm	_	_	_		
Kidneys												
Tubular cells	_	_	-	_	-	_	\pm	±	-	_		
Testes												
Spermatogonia	_	_	_	_	_	±	++	++	±	_		
Epididymides												
Epithelial cells	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	+	±	_		
Thymus												
Lymphocytes of the cortex	_	_	_	_	_	++	+	_	_	_		
Mesenteric lymph node												
Lymphocytes of the cortex	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	_		
Bone marrow												
Hematopoietic cells	_	_	_	_	_	+	++	++	+	_		
Skin (dorsal)												
Epithelial cells of hair follicles	_	_	_	_	_	_	±	±	_	_		
Bone (femur)												
Osteoblasts	_	_	_	_	_	_	±	±	_	_		

No. of pyknotic cells/No. of cells counted: -, almost absent; \pm , minimal <25%; +, mild 25%-50%; ++, moderate 50%-75%; +++, marked >75%.

Table 2. Summary of the Histopathological Findings for Rat Infant Tissues Exposed to Busulfan

Dose of busulfan			0 mg/kg	3		20 mg/kg				
Days after treatment	1	2	4	7	14	1	2	4	7	14
No. of animals examined	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Stomach										
Vacuolation of glandular epithelial cells	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	+	_	_
Liver										
Decreased hematopoietic cells		_	_	_	_	_	_	+	+	+
Testes										
Atrophy with depletion of germ cells		_	_	_	_	_	_	_	++	+++
Thymus										
Atrophy of the cortex		_	_	_	_	_	++	++	_	_
Mesenteric lymph node										
Atrophy of the cortex	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	\pm	+	_
Spleen										
Decreased hematopoietic cells		_	_	_	_	_	+	+	+	±
Bone marrow										
Decreased hematopoietic cells with fat cells infiltration	-	_	_	-	_	-	+	++	++	+++

Lesion area/Tissue area observed: -, almost absent; ±, minimal <25%; +, mild 25%-50%; ++, moderate 50%-75%; +++, marked >75%.

ent study, suggesting a susceptibility of the infant rat heart to busulfan. Regarding pulmonary lesions, it has been reported in humans that long-term and/or high-dose busulfan therapy brought about such pulmonary lesions as bronchopulmonary dysplasia and diffuse interstitial pulmonary fibrosis in adults⁹⁻¹¹ and children^{1,2}. These lesions are known as "busulfan lungs." In the lungs of fetal⁶ and infant rats,

only transient apoptotic changes were detected in alveolar and terminal bronchiolar epithelial cells.

With regard to histopathological changes in the gastrointestinal tissues, apoptotic changes were common in fetal⁶ and infant rats. Namely, they were milder in the intestine than in the stomach in fetal and infant rats, while they were reported to be milder in the stomach than in the intestine

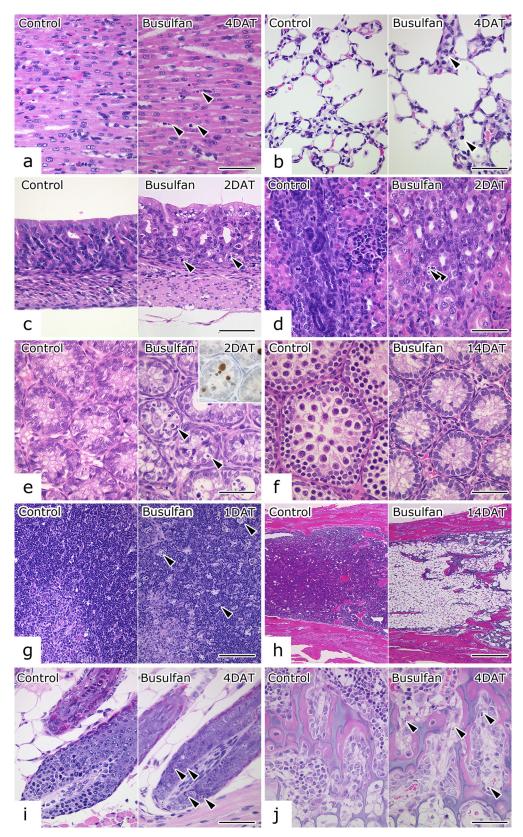


Fig. 1. Histopathological changes in infant rat tissues. In the busulfan group, pyknosis (arrowhead) was observed in cardiomyocytes (a), alveolar or bronchiolar epithelial cells (b), glandular epithelial cells in the stomach (c), uriniferous tubule epithelial cells in the kidneys (d), spermatogonia (e), lymphocytes in the thymus (g), hair follicle epithelial cells (i) and osteoblasts in the femur (j). Pyknotic nuclei were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3 (e, inset). At 14 DAT, only Sertoli cells were left in the germinal epithelium of markedly atrophied seminiferous tubules (f), and marked depletion of hematopoietic cells with prominent infiltration of fat cells was observed in the femur bone marrow (h). HE stain, inset of (e) cleaved caspase-3 immunostaining. (a–f, i and j) Bar=50 μm. (g) Bar=100 μm. (h) Bar=500 μm.

in adult rats¹². In humans⁸, although there were no reports of histopathological changes in the gastrointestinal tissues, clinical signs of nonspecific gastroenteritis were reported. In the kidneys, although there were no reports of apoptosis in tubular epithelial cells in adult rats and humans, apoptosis of tubular epithelial cells was observed in fetal⁶ and infantile rats, suggesting that tubular epithelial cells of infant rats still remain susceptible to busulfan. The outline of the testicular lesions in infant rats was similar to those in adult rats^{14–18}, while there have been no reports of testicular lesions in humans.

Histopathological changes in the thymus and mesenteric lymph nodes were similar between infant and adult rats^{12,13}. On the other hand, atrophy of the splenic white pulp, reported in adult rats¹³, was not clear in infant rats. In the bone marrow of infant rats, as mentioned above, the number of hematopoietic cells decreased with time and became marked at 14 DAT with prominent infiltration of fat cells. This corresponded well to depressed bone marrow cellularity reported in adult rats^{12,13,20}.

In our previous study on histopathological changes in fetal rats⁶, we observed apoptosis of component cells in mesenchymal tissues such as craniofacial tissues, the mandible, limb buds and the tail bud. In the present study on histopathological changes in infant rats, apoptosis was found in hair follicle epithelial cells in the dorsal skin and osteoblasts in the femur, which were not reported in adult rats.

In conclusion, the present study showed that busulfaninduced histopathological changes were characterized by apoptosis of component cells and that the distribution and sequence of apoptosis showed some differences, especially between infant and adult rats, probably reflecting the difference in susceptibility of component cells to busulfan between them.

Acknowledgements: The authors gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kunio Doi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, for critical review of the manuscript, and Mr. Pete Aughton, D.A.B.T., ITR Laboratory Canada Inc., for language editing of this paper.

References

- Oakhill A, Green ID, Knowlson GT, Cameron AH, Shah KJ, Hill FGH, and Mann JR. Busulphan lung in childhood. J Clin Pathol. 34: 495–500. 1981. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- 2. Fauroux B, Clement A, and Toumier G. Pulmonary toxicity of drugs and thoracic irradiation in children. Rev Mal Respir. 13: 235–242. 1996. [Medline]
- 3. Vassal G, Deroussent A, Hartmann O, Challine D, Benhamou E, Valteau-Couanet D, Brugieres L, Kalifa C, Gouyette A, and Lemerle J. Dose-dependent neurotoxicity of high-dose busulfan in children: A clinical and pharmacological study. Cancer Res. **50**: 6203–6207. 1990. [Medline]
- 4. Bishop JB, and Wassom JS. Toxicological review of bu-

- sulfan (Myleran). Mutat Res. **168**: 15–45. 1986. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- 5. Furukawa S, Usuda K, Abe M, and Ogawa I. Microencephaly and microphthalmia in rat fetuses by busulfan. Histol Histopathol. **22**: 389–397. 2007. [Medline]
- Ohira T, Ando R, Andoh R, Nakazawa T, Nishihara K, Yamamoto S, Nakamura N, and Tamura K. Distribution and sequence of pyknotic cell in rat fetuses exposed to busulfan. J Toxicol Pathol. 22: 167–171. 2009. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Ohira T, Ando R, Okada Y, Suzuki H, Saito T, Nakazawa T, Nishihara K, Yamamoto S, Nakamura N, and Tamura K. Sequence of busulfan-induced neural progenitor cell damage in the fetal rat brain. Exp Toxicol Pathol. 65: 523–530. 2013. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Gureli N, Denham SW, and Root SW. Cytologic dysplasia related to Busulfan (Myleran) therapy. Obstet Gynecol. 21: 466–470. 1963. [Medline]
- Littler WA, Kay JM, and Hasleton PS. Busulfan lung. Thorax. 24: 639–655. 1969. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Burns WA, MacFarland W, and Matthews MJ. Busulfaninduced pulmonary disease: report of a case and review of the literature. Am Rev Respir Dis. 101: 408–413. 1970. [Medline]
- Buggia I, Locatelli F, Regazzi MB, and Zecca M. Busulfan. Ann Pharmacother. 28: 1055–1062. 1994. [Medline]
- 12. Sternberg SS, Philips FS, and Scholler J. Pharmacological and pathological effects of alkylating agents. Ann N Y Acad Sci. **68**: 811–825. 1958. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Tange T. Significance of the bone marrow lymphocyte hematopoietic regeneration following acute injury due to cobalt-60 irradiation and cytotoxic drugs. Acta Pathol Jpn. 24: 93–117. 1974. [Medline]
- Kasuga F, and Takahashi M. The endocrine function of rat gonads with reduced number of germ cells following busulphan treatment. Endocrinol Jpn. 33: 105–115. 1986. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Udagawa K, Ogawa T, Watanabe T, Yumura Y, Takeda M, and Hosaka M. GnRH analog, leuprorelin acetate, promotes regeneration of rat spermatogenesis after severe chemical damage. Int J Urol. 8: 615–622. 2001. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Horn MM, Paz AH, Duarte ME, Baldo G, Belardinelli MC, Matte U, Lima EO, and Passos EP. Germinative testicular cells and bone marrow mononuclear cells transplanted to a rat model of testicular degeneration. Cloning Stem Cells. 10: 543–546. 2008. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- 17. Hodel C, Ettlin RA, and Zschauer A. Morphological changes produced in rat testis by anticancer drugs. Arch Toxicol Suppl. 7: 147–150. 1984. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Linder RE, Strader LF, Slott VL, and Suarez JD. Endpoints of spermatotoxicity in the rat after short duration exposures to fourteen reproductive toxicants. Reprod Toxicol. 6: 491– 505. 1992. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- Ohira T, Ando R, Saito T, Yahata M, Oshima Y, and Tamura K. Busulfan-induced pathological changes of the cerebellar development in infant rats. Exp Toxicol Pathol. 65: 789–797. 2013. [Medline] [CrossRef]
- 20. Dunjic A, and Cuvelier AM. Survival of rat bone marrow cells after treatment with myleran and endoxan. Exp Hematol. 1: 11–21. 1973. [Medline]

Author's Personal Copy

Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 789-797



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.de/etp



Busulfan-induced pathological changes of the cerebellar development in infant rats

Toko Ohira^{a,*}, Ryo Ando^a, Tsubasa Saito^a, Megumi Yahata^b, Yosuke Oshima^b, Kazutoshi Tamura^a

- ^a Gotemba Laboratories, Biology and Zoology (BOZO) Research Center Inc., 1284, Kamado, Gotemba, Shizuoka 412-0039, Japan
- b Toxicology Division, Gotemba Laboratories, Biology and Zoology (BOZO) Research Center Inc., 1284, Kamado, Gotemba, Shizuoka 412-0039, Japan

ARTICLE INFO

Article history: Received 24 July 2012 Accepted 22 November 2012

Keywords: Busulfan Cerebellum Infant rat Pathological changes Apoptosis

ABSTRACT

Busulfan, an antineoplastic bifunctional-alkylating agent, is known to induce developmental anomalies and fetal neurotoxicity. We previously reported that busulfan induced p53-dependent neural progenitor cell apoptosis in fetal rat brain (Ohira et al., 2012). The present study was carried out to clarify the characteristics and sequence of busulfan-induced pathological changes in infant rat brain. Six-day-old male infant rats were treated with 10, 20, 30 or 50 mg/kg of busulfan, and their brains were examined at 1, 2, 4, 7, and 14 days after treatment (DAT). As a result, histopathological changes were selectively detected in the external granular layer (EGL), deep cerebellar nuclei (DCN) and cerebellar white matter (CWM) in the cerebellum with dose-dependent severity but not in the cerebrum. In the normal infant rat cerebellum, granular cells in the EGL were proliferating and moving to the internal granular layer during the normal developmental process. In the EGL of the busulfan group, apoptotic granular cells increased at 2 DAT simultaneously with increased numbers of p53- and p21-positive cells while mitotic granular cells decreased, suggesting an occurrence of p53-related apoptosis and depression of proliferative activity in granular cells. In the DCN, apoptotic glial cells increased at 2 DAT and glial cells showing abnormal mitosis increased at 4 DAT. In the CWN, edematous change accompanying a few apoptotic cells was found in the CWN, especially in the parafolliculus (PFL), from 2 to 7 DAT. The present study demonstrated for the first time the characteristics and sequence of busulfan-induced pathological changes in infant rat cerebellum.

© 2012 Elsevier GmbH. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Busulfan, a bifunctional alkylating agent, has been used for the treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia and myeloablative-conditioning regimen before stem cell transplantation in children as well as in adults. Busulfan crosses easily the blood-brain barrier (Hamidieh et al., 2010; Vassal et al., 1990), and several cases of neurophysiological toxicity such as seizures during high-dose busulfan therapy have been described (Hamidieh et al., 2010). In children, it was reported that busulfan acute neurotoxicity, seizure, was dose dependent and might be due to particular pharmacokinetics and/or metabolism (Vassal et al., 1990). Busulfan therapy is usually carried out in combination with anticonvulsant prophylaxis (Hamidieh et al., 2010; Vassal et al., 1990). Moreover, especially in children, busulfan therapeutic drug monitoring, dose-adjustment and dosing strategy have been continuing to be investigated (Juenke et al., 2011; Krivoy et al., 2008; Paci et al., 2012).

E-mail address: ohira-toko@bozo.co.jp (T. Ohira).

In laboratory rodents, it is well-known that busulfan has teratogenic and cytotoxic potential (Bishop and Wassom, 1986) and induces various anomalies such as microencephaly and microphthalmia (Kasuga and Takahashi, 1986; Nagai, 1972; Naruse et al., 2007; Otsuji et al., 2005). Busulfan reacts with intracellular nucleophiles and proteins, leading to DNA-DNA and DNA-protein cross-links which cause DNA damage (Iwamoto et al., 2004; Mertins et al., 2004; Probin et al., 2006; Valdez et al., 2010). It has been reported that following DNA-damage, busulfan induced apoptosis in various fetal tissues or cultured cells (Chatterjee et al., 2010; Furukawa et al., 2007; Hassan et al., 2001; Iwamoto et al., 2004; Mertins et al., 2004; Ohira et al., 2009; Probin et al., 2006; Valdez et al., 2010). In addition, in our previous study, we clarified that busulfan induced apoptosis and inhibition of proliferation in neural progenitor cells in the fetal rat brain when given to pregnant rats on gestational day 13, and that busulfan-induced apoptosis in neural progenitor cells was induced through the p53-mediated intrinsic mitochondrial pathway (Ohira et al., 2012).

In infant mice and rats, the brain, especially the cerebellum, is still continuing to develop. Therefore, there is a good possibility that the brain, especially the cerebellum, is affected by DNA-damaging agents in infant mice and rats. The developmental system of the

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +81 53 467 1002/550 82 9914; fax: +81 53 467 1002/550 82 9915.

Table 1Antibodies used for immunohistochemical examination in the present study.

Antibodies	Antigen retrieval	Host	Dilution	Source
Cleaved caspase-3	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:200	Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA
Phospho-histone H3	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:150	Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA
p53	TSA Biotin System Kit, AC	Rabbit pAb	1:500	Santa Cruz, Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
p21	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
S-100	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:500	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
Vimentin	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
NSE	-	Rabbit pAb	Ready to use	Nichirei co., Tokyo, Japan
Neurofilament	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
ED1	Trypsin for 30 min, at 37 °C	Mouse mAb	1:400	BMA Biomedicals Ltd., Augst, Switzerland
Iba1	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:200	Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd., Osaka, Japan
GFAP	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:500	DAKO, Kyoto, Japan
Olig2	MW	Rabbit pAb	1:100	IBL Co., Ltd., Japan
NG2	=	Rabbit pAb	1:200	Chemicon, Inc., Temecula, CA
Myelin CNPase	AC	Mouse mAb	1:200	EMD Biosciences, Inc. San Diego, CA
Double cortin	MW	Goat pAb	1:500	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
Nestin	AC	Mouse mAb	1:100	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA
C-kit	AC	Rabbit pAb	1:100	Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

NSE: neuron specific enolase; GFAP: glial fibrillary acidic protein; NG2: NG2 chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan. ED1: CD68 (Clone ED1).

AC: autoclaved for 15 min at 121 °C, in pH 6.0 citrate buffer; MW: microwave for 15 min, in pH 6.0 citrate buffer; mAb: monoclonal antibody; pAb: polycronal antibody.

cerebellum is unique compared to other components of the central nervous system (CNS). Neural populations of the cerebellum arise from at least two different germinal zones; ventricular zone (VZ) and external germinal layer (EGL). Purkinje cells and neurons in the cerebellar nuclei arise from the former and granular cells, stellate cells and basket cells from the latter. Purkinje cells then migrate from the VZ to the surface of the cerebellum just beneath the molecular layer. In contrast, neural progenitor cells in EGL migrate from the surface toward the deep cerebellar cortex, finally forming a complex neuronal network (Altman and Bayer, 1985; Chizhikov and Millen, 2003; Hatten, 1999). This is a unique characteristic of the cerebellum and is quite different from the cerebrum. For this reason, a study that focuses on the effect of DNA-damaging agents on cerebellar development is particularly required (Saito et al., 2008).

However, compared with the reports of pathological changes induced in the fetal rodent brain by various DNA-damaging agents including busulfan (Doi, 2011; Kanemitsu et al., 2009; Katayama et al., 2005; Nam et al., 2010; Ohira et al., 2012; Ueno et al., 2006; Woo et al., 2006; Yamauchi et al., 2004), there are only a few reports of pathological changes induced in the infant brain, especially in the cerebellum, by DNA-damaging agents. To date, granular cell apoptosis has been reported in the postnatal rodent cerebellum induced by radiation (Kim et al., 1998; Saito et al., 2008) and phenytoin (Ohmori et al., 1999).

In the present study, we did not examine neurophysiological disorders and pharmacokinetics of busulfan, and we could not appropriately extrapolate the busulfan dose in rodent study to that in human therapeutics. Therefore, in the present study, we aimed to clarify busulfan-induced pathological changes of the cerebellar development in infant rats without making a comparison between rodent experiment and human use. Such comparison will be an important issue in future.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Animals

Male newborn rats were obtained in our laboratory by mating females with males of the same colony of specific pathogen-free rats of the Sprague-Dawley strain purchased from Charles River Laboratories Japan, Inc. (Kanagawa, Japan). One foster mother with 8 male infants were housed together in plastic Econ cages (W 340 mm × D 450 mm × H 185 mm) with bedding (White flakes:

Charles River Japan, Inc., Kanagawa, Japan) in an environmentally controlled animal room (temperature: $23\pm3\,^{\circ}\text{C}$; relative humidity: $50\pm20\%$; air ventilation rate; 10-15 times per hour; lighting: $12\,\text{h}/12\,\text{h}$ light/dark cycle), and fed an irradiation-sterilized pelleted diet (NMF: Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) and tap water ad libitum. Finally, a total of $125\,$ 6-day-old male rats were subjected to the experiment.

The protocol of this study was reviewed and approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of Bozo Research Center.

2.2. Experimental designs

Busulfan was obtained from Sigma Chemicals (St. Louis, MO, USA) and was suspended with olive oil at the concentrations of 1, 2, 3 and 5 mg/mL.

One hundred and twenty five 6-day-old male rats were equally divided into five groups including a control group. The animals of the busulfan groups were subcutaneously administered with busulfan at the dose level of 10, 20, 30 or $50 \, \text{mg/kg}$ ($10 \, \text{mL/kg}$ body weight), and those of the control group with $10 \, \text{mg/kg}$ of olive oil, respectively. The dose of busulfan was decided based on the results of our preliminary study. The animals were weighed at the start and the termination of the experiment for calculation of body weight gain. Five animals of each busulfan and control groups were killed under ether anesthesia at 1, 2, 4, 7 and 14 days after treatment (DAT), respectively. The brain was collected from each animal and weighed (brain weight, and relative brain weight (brain weight/body weight)).

2.3. Histopathology

The brain was fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin, and was trimmed transversally at the following three levels. The first cut was made at the level of the optic chiasma (cerebrum), the second at the caudal border of the mammillary body (cerebrum), and the third just caudal to the transverse fibers of the pons (cerebellum) (Solleveld and Boorman, 1990). Paraffin sections cut into 4-µm thickness were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (HE) for histopathological examination. As mentioned below, there were no histopathological changes detected in the cerebrum. Therefore, detection of fragmented DNA and immunohistochemical examination were carried out on paraffin sections of the cerebellum.

T. Ohira et al. / Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 789-797

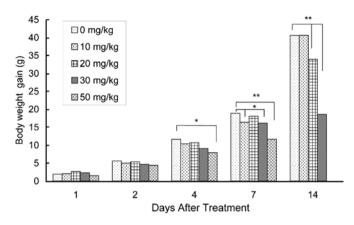


Fig. 1. Body weight gain (g) in infant rats treated with busulfan. p < 0.05 and p < 0.01: significantly different from the control group by Dunnett's test.

2.4. Detection of fragmented DNA

Fragmented DNA was detected by the terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated dUTP end labeling (TUNEL) method using a commercial apoptosis detection kit (Chemicon Inc., Gaithersburg, MD, USA). In brief, multiple fragmentation DNA3′-OH ends on the section were labeled with digoxigenin-dUTP in the presence of terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TdT). Peroxidase-conjugated anti-digoxigenin antibody was then reacted with the sections. Apoptotic nuclei were visualized by peroxidasediaminobenzidine (DAB) reaction. The sections were then counterstained with methyl green.

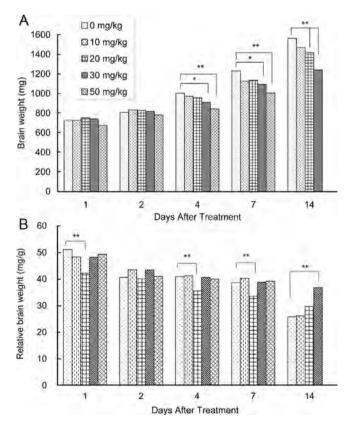


Fig. 2. Brain weight (mg) (A) and relative brain weight (mg/g) (B) in infant rats treated with busulfan. p < 0.05 and p < 0.01: see the foot note of Fig. 1.



Fig. 3. Gross appearance of infant rat brain of the control (a) and busulfan groups, (b) 10 mg/kg, (c) 20 mg/kg, and (d) 30 mg/kg at 14 DAT. Cerebellar hypoplasia is apparent in the 20 and 30 mg/kg groups.

2.5. Immunohistochemistry

Primary antibodies employed in this study are shown in Table 1. Staining methods employed included tyramide signal amplification methods using TSA Biotin System kit (PerkinElmer, Boston, USA), labeled polymer method using Envision kits (Dako Japan, Kyoto, Japan) and streptavidin-biotin complex peroxidase method using SAB-PO (Goat) kit (Nichirei, Tokyo, Japan). Antigen retrieval for some antibodies was performed by heating the sections in the autoclave (121 °C for 20 min) or microwave oven (95 °C for 15 min), and then the sections were incubated in 10 mM citrate buffer, pH6.0, or 0.1% trypsin (37 °C for 30 min). Endogenous peroxidase activity was quenched by immersing the sections in 0.3% H₂O₂ in methanol for 20 min, and each section was left at 4 °C overnight. and then reacted with Envision+ kit (Dako Japan, Kyoto, Japan) at room temperature for 40 min. The sections were visualized by peroxidase-diaminobenzidine reaction and then counterstained with methylgreen or hematoxylin.

2.6. Statistical analysis

Data on the body weight gain and the brain weight, and relative brain weight (brain weight/body weight) were expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation. Statistical analysis was done by Dunnett's t-test. For all comparisons, p-values less than 5% (p<0.05) and 1% (p<0.01) were considered statistically significant. All analyses were performed by the integrated statistical package, EXSUS version 7.6.

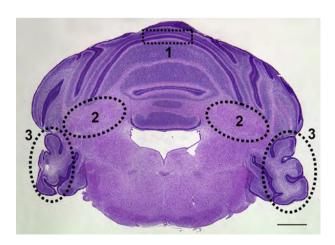


Fig. 4. Cross section of normal infant rat cerebellum. 1: external granular layer (EGL), 2: deep cerebellar nuclei (DCN), and 3: cerebellar white matter (CWM). EGL, DCN and CWM were selectively damaged by busulfan. H&E stain, bar = 1 mm.

Author's Personal Copy

T. Ohira et al. / Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 789-797

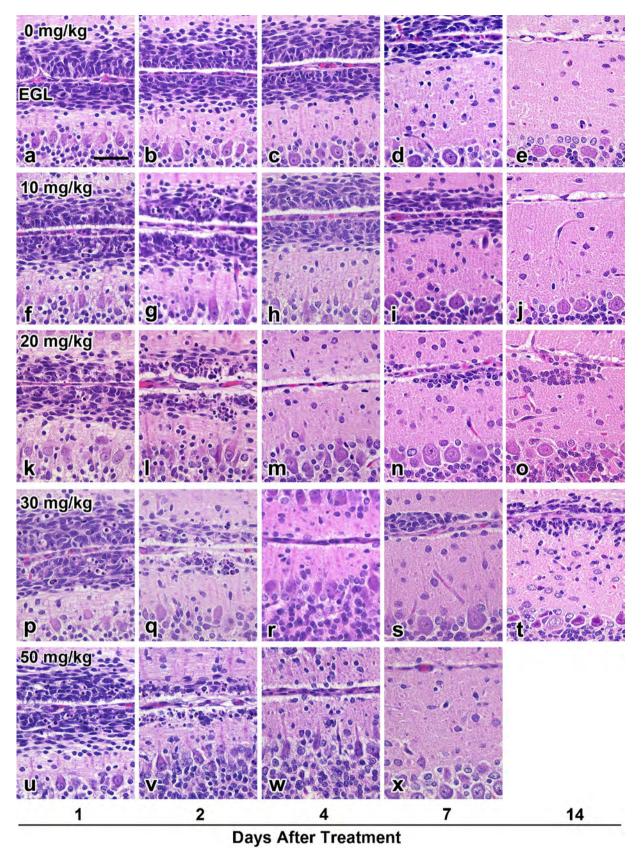


Fig. 5. Sequence of histopathological changes in EGL. Changes with dose-dependent severity are seen. EGL: external granular layer. H&E stain, bar = 50 μm.

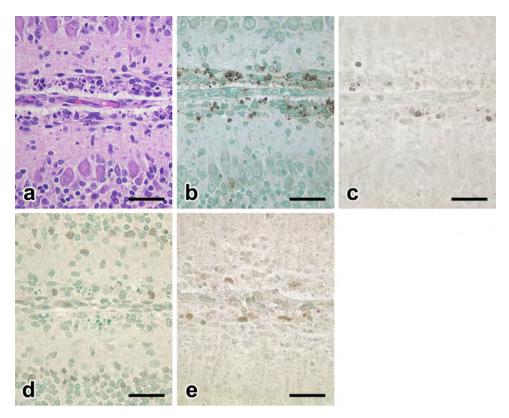


Fig. 6. Histopathological and immunohistochemical features of EGL in the 30 mg/kg group at 2 DAT. Most of the pyknotic granular cells (a) are positive for TUNEL(b), and some of them for cleaved caspase-3 (c). A small number of p53-positive (d) or p21-positive granular cells (e) are seen. (a) H&E stain, (b) TUNEL method, and (c-e): immunostaining, bar = 50 μm.

3. Results

3.1. Clinical and macroscopic findings

No deaths occurred to any group until 7 DAT. Thereafter, 1, 4 and 5 animals died with severe myelosuppression in the 20, 30 and 50 mg/kg groups, respectively. No abnormal appearance and behavior were observed in any animals except for dead ones which appeared to be depressed before death. The body weight gain and the brain weight were suppressed in the busulfan groups from 4 to 14 DAT (Figs. 1 and 2). The relative brain weight increased in the 30 mg/kg group at 14 DAT (Fig. 2 B). At necropsy, no abnormal macroscopic findings were observed in any busulfan group at 1 and 2 DAT. The size of the cerebellum appeared to be slightly smaller in the 20, and 30 mg/kg groups (at 4, 7 and 14 DAT) (Fig. 3) and the 50 mg/kg groups (at 4 and 7 DAT) than in the control group.

3.2. Histopathological and immunohistochemical findings

In the histopathological examination, changes were observed in the external granular layer (EGL), deep cerebellar nuclei (DCN) and cerebellar white matter (CWM) of the cerebellum (Fig. 4), while no abnormal changes were detected in the cerebrum.

EGL: In the control group, along the normal developmental process, granular cells in the EGL decreased in number at 7 DAT (i.e. 13 days of age) and totally disappeared at 14 DAT (i.e. 20 days of age) (Fig. 5a–e). Pyknotic granular cells were rarely observed throughout the experimental period. In the busulfan groups, pyknotic granular cells appeared at 1 DAT and peaked at 2 DAT, resulting in a dose-dependent reduction of granular cells (Fig. 5g, l, q and v). At 4 DAT, pyknotic cells almost disappeared in all the busulfan groups (Fig. 5h, m, r and w), accompanying disappearance of granular cells

in the 20, 30 and 50 mg/kg groups (Fig. 5m, r and w). Thereafter, a few granular cells reappeared at 7 DAT in the 20 and 30 mg/kg groups (Fig. 5n and s) and they were still observed at 14 DAT (Fig. 5o and t) when granular cells disappeared in the control (Fig. 5e) and 10 mg/kg groups (Fig. 5j). Most of the nuclei of pyknotic granular cells (Fig. 6a) were TUNEL-positive (Fig. 6b) and some of them were immunohistochemically positive for cleaved caspase-3 (Fig. 6c).

In the control group, neither p53-positive nor p21-positive granular cells were detected at any time point examined. On the other hand, in the busulfan groups, a small number of p53-positive or p21-positive granular cells appeared at 2 DAT (Fig. 6d and e), and they almost disappeared at 4 DAT.

At 1 DAT, mitotic granular cells were apparently detected in all the busulfan groups as well as in the control group (Fig. 5a, f, k, p and u). They were detected even at 7 DAT in the 10 mg/kg group with decrease in number (Fig. 5i) and in the control group without decrease in number (Fig. 5d). On the other hand, they disappeared at 4 DAT in the 20, 30 and 50 mg/kg groups (Fig. 5n, s and x). Mitotic cells were immunohistochemically positive for phospho-histone H3 (Fig. 7).

DCN: In the control group, pyknotic glial cells were rarely observed in the DCN throughout the experimental period. In the busulfan groups, pyknotic glial cells appeared at 1 DAT, increased at 2 DAT in the 10, 20 and 30 mg/kg groups (Fig. 8a), or at 4 DAT in the 50 mg/group, and almost disappeared at 7 DAT. Pyknotic cells were TUNEL- (Fig. 8b) and cleaved caspase-3-positive (Fig. 8c).

In the busulfan groups, a small number of cells showing abnormal mitosis were observed at 4 DAT (Fig. 9a). Thereafter, except for the 50 mg/kg group, such cells disappeared at 7 DAT in the 10 and 20 mg/kg groups and at 14 DAT in the 30 mg/kg group, respectively. In the 50 mg/kg group, such cells increased in number at 7 DAT. The cells showing abnormal mitosis had pale swollen cytoplasm

T. Ohira et al. / Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 789-797

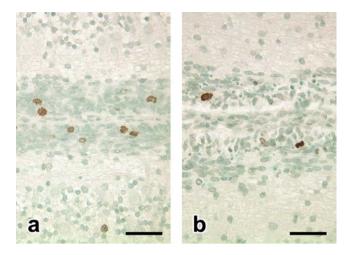


Fig. 7. Immunohistochemistry for phospho-histone H3 in EGL in the 10 mg/kg group at 2 DAT. Compared with the control group (a), positive cells are reduced in number in the busulfan group (b). Immunostaining, bar = $50 \mu m$.

with perinuclear hollow (Fig. 9a, inset). Immunohistochemically, they were positive for phospho-histone H3 (Fig. 9b), S-100 (Fig. 9c) and vimentin (Fig. 9d), but negative for the other antibodies examined.

CWM: In the control and 10 mg/kg groups, there were no histopathological changes observed throughout the experimental

period (Fig. 10a and c). On the other hand, in the other busulfan groups, edematous change was observed in the CWM, especially in paraflocculus (PFL), from 2 to 7 DAT, and its severity peaked at 4 DAT (Fig. 10b and d).

There were no histopathological changes detected in the vascular system. Prior to the occurrence of such edematous change, a few TUNEL-positive pyknotic glial cells appeared throughout the CWM. Moreover, ED1-positive cells appeared in the edematous area at 4 DAT (Fig. 10f) while they were not observed in the control group (Fig. 10e). In the 20 and 30 mg/kg groups, compared with that in the control group, the area of the white matter in the PFL was slightly reduced in size with decreased density of oligodendrocytes in the internal layer at 14 DAT.

4. Discussion

In the present study, time-course changes in busulfan-induced pathological changes in the infant rat brain were investigated. As a result, busulfan-induced pathological changes were exclusively detected in the EGL, DCN and CWM in the cerebellum in a dose-dependent manner.

Death and reduction in body weight gain observed in the busulfan groups were considered to be due to prominent damage in hematopoietic and lymphoid organs, which will be published elsewhere together with pathological changes in other organs. In addition, the reduction in brain weight in the busulfan groups was thought not to be due to the reduction in body weight gain but it was

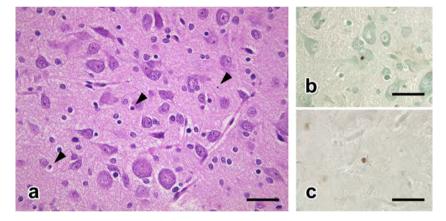


Fig. 8. Busulfan-induced changes in DCN in the 30 mg/kg group at 2 DAT. Pyknotic cells (arrowhead) (a) are positive for TUNEL (b) and cleaved caspase-3 (c). (a) H&E stain, (b) TUNEL method, and (c) immunostaining, bar = 50

µm.

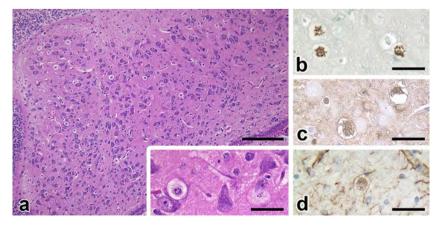


Fig. 9. Histopathological and immunohistochemical features of abnormal mitotic figures in DCN in the 50 mg/kg group at 7 DAT. Cells showing abnormal mitotic figures (a and inset) are positive for phospho-histone H3 (b), S100 protein (c) and vimentin (d). (a) H&E stain, bar = 200 μm, inset of (a), bar = 50 μm. (b–d) Immunostaining, bar = 50 μm.

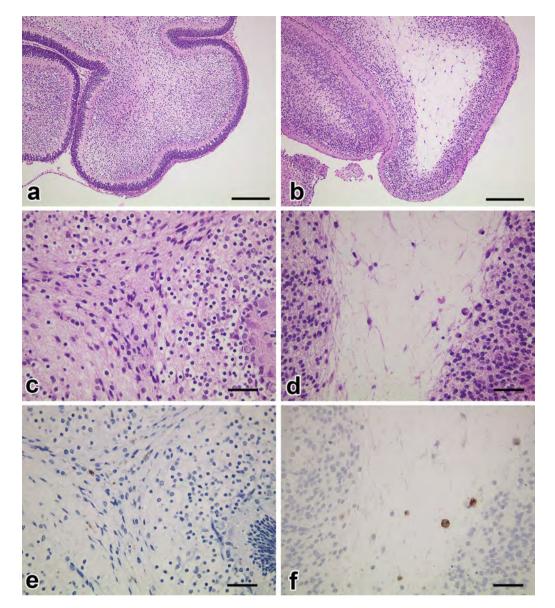


Fig. 10. Histopathological and immunohistochemical features of CWM cerebellar white matter at 4 DAT in the control (a and c) and the 20 mg/kg group (b and d). In the busulfan group, edema accompanying a few pyknotic cells (b and d) and ED1-positive cells (f) is observed in FPL (a–d) H&E stain, and (e and f) immunostainning. (a and b) Bar = 200 μm, (c–f) bar = 50 μm.

considered to be brought about by busulfan-induced direct damage in the brain, since it is generally said in the toxicity study that the brain weight is hardly influenced by the body weight loss when having no pathological damage in the brain (Bailey et al., 2004).

Most nuclei of the pyknotic granular cells observed in the EGL were TUNEL- and/or cleaved caspase-3-positive, indicating that these granular cells were apoptotic ones. In addition, probably following the above-mentioned busulfan-induced DNA damage (Iwamoto et al., 2004; Mertins et al., 2004; Probin et al., 2006; Valdez et al., 2010), the numbers of p53- and its downstream target p21-positive granular cells simultaneously increased when the number of apoptotic granular cells increased in the EGL. Following DNA damage, it is said that p53 is induced and plays a crucial role in apoptosis, cell cycle arrest and DNA repair (Brill et al., 1999; Ko and Prives, 1996; Lakin and Jackson, 1999), and that p21 inhibits cyclindependent kinases and blocks the progression of G1/S transition (Dulic et al., 1994; Polyak et al., 1996). Like in the case of busulfaninduced neural progenitor cell apoptosis in the fetal rat brain (Ohira

et al., 2012), granular cell apoptosis in the EGL observed in the infant rat cerebellum in the present study might also be caused in a p53-dependent manner. In this context, it was reported that busulfan might also induce apoptosis in human tumors and various cultured cells through the p53-dependent intrinsic mitochondrial pathway (Mertins et al., 2004; Probin et al., 2006; Valdez et al., 2010).

In the DCN, the most interesting histopathological finding in the busulfan groups was a dose-dependent occurrence of cells showing abnormal mitotic figures. Such cells appeared somewhat later than apoptotic glial cells did. The cells in abnormal mitosis had swollen pale cytoplasm with centrally located chromosomal aggregations, which were immunohistochemically positive for phospho-histone H3, S100 protein and vimentin. Although these immunohistochemical findings were not enough to specify the origin of such cells, the cells seemed to be oligodendrocytes judging from their location in the DCN.

Abnormal mitosis similar to the above-mentioned one was previously reported in neural progenitor cells in the developing fetal

Author's Personal Copy

brain after exposure to 5-azacytidine (Ueno et al., 2006). Ueno et al. (2006) described that some cells pass from G2/M to G1 phase with completion of correct DNA repair, others enter G1 but undergo apoptosis because of incomplete repair, and still others stay in G2/M to undergo apoptotic cell death, and that the cells dying at G1 phase after mitosis might have died due to mitotic catastrophe, as a result of incomplete mitosis and faulty DNA repair at G2 or S phase. Castedo et al. (2004a, b) reported that aberrant entry into mitosis after DNA damage, gene deficiencies, or excess activation of cdc2-cyclin B1 each suffices to cause mitotic catastrophe. Further studies are needed to clarify the pathogenesis of mitotic catastrophe-like changes in the DCN.

In the CWM, edematous change was observed concomitantly with apoptotic cells and ED1 positive cells in the busulfan group. Apoptotic cells, probably oligodendrocytes, were sporadically observed throughout the CWM. On the other hand, edema was preferably located in the PFL, although there were no satisfactory explanations for its special location and pathogenesis. In addition, in the 20 and 30 mg/kg group, at 14 DAT, the white matter in the PFL was reduced in size compared with that in the control group, and the density of oligodendrocytes in the internal layer of the PFL was reduced. These findings suggest that hypoplasia of the CWM could be induced when infant rats were exposed to high doses of busulfan. The pathogenesis of edematous lesion in the CWN is still unknown.

In conclusion, the present study demonstrated the characteristics and sequence of busulfan-induced pathological changes in the cerebellum of infant rats. To elucidate molecular mechanisms of such pathological changes in the cerebellum of infant rats may contribute to progress in the field of developmental toxicology.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge Dr. Kunio Doi, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, for critical review of the manuscript, and Mr. Pete Aughton, D.A.B.T., ITR Laboratory Canada Inc., for language editing of this paper.

References

- Altman J, Bayer SA. Embryonic development of the rat cerebellum. III. Regional differences in the time of origin, migration, and settle of Purkinje cells. Journal of Comparative Neurology 1985;231:42–65.
- Bailey SA, Zidell RH, Perry RW. Relationships between organ weight and body/brain weight in the rat: what is the best analytical endpoint? Toxicologic Pathology 2004:32:448–66.
- Bishop JB, Wassom JS. Toxicological review of busulfan (Myleran). Mutation Research 1986;168:15–45.
- Brill A, Torchinsky A, Carp H, Toder V. The role of apoptosis in normal and abnormal embryonic development. Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics 1999:16:512-9
- Castedo M, Perfettini JL, Roumier T, Valent A, Raslova H, Yakushijin K, et al. Mitotic catastrophy constitutes a special case of apoptosis whose suppression entails aneuploidy. Oncogene 2004a;23:4362–70.
- Castedo M, Perfettini JL, Roumier T, Andreau K, Medema R, Kroemer G. Cell death by mitotic catastrophe: a molecular definition. Oncogene 2004b;23: 2825–37.
- Chatterjee S, Basak P, Das P, Das M, Pereira JA, Dutta RK, et al. Primitive Sca-1 positive bone marrow HSC in mouse model of aplastic anemia: a comparative study through flowcytometric analysis and scanning electron microscopy. Stem Cells Intetnational 2010;10:614395–402.
- Chizhikov V, Millen K. Development and malformations of the cerebellum in mice. Molecular Genetics and Metabolism 2003;80:54–65.
- Doi K. Mechanisms of neurotoxicity induced in the developing brain of mice and rats by DNA damaging chemicals. Journal of Toxicological Sciences 2011;36:695–712.
- Dulic V, Kaufmann WK, Wilson SJ, Tlsty TD, Lees E, Harper JW, et al. p53-dependent inhibition of cyclin-dependent kinase activities in human fibroblasts during radiation-induced G1 arrest. Cell 1994;76:1013–23.
- Furukawa S, Usuda K, Abe M, Ogawa I. Microencephaly and microphthalmia in rat fetuses by busulfan. Histology and Histopathology 2007;22:389–97.

- Hamidieh AA, Hamedani R, Hadjibabaie M, Amini M, Sadrai S, Ghavamzadeh A. Oral lorazepam prevents seizure during high-dose busulfan in children undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: a prospective study. Pediatric Hematology and Oncology 2010;27:529–33.
- Hassan Z, Hassan M, Hellström-Lindberg E. The pharmacodynamic effect of busulfan in the P39 myeloid cell line in vitro. Leukemia 2001;15:1240–7.
- Hatten ME. Central nervous system neural migration. Annual Review of Neuroscience 1999;22:511–39.
- Iwamoto T, Hiraku Y, Oikawa S, Mizutani H, Kojima M, Kawanishi S. DNA intrastrand cross-link at the 5'-GA-3's equence formed by busulfan and its role in the cytotoxic effect. Cancer Science 2004;95:454-8.
- Juenke JM, Miller KA, McMillin GA, Johnson-Davis KL. An automated method for supporting busulfan therapeutic drug monitoring. Therapeutic Drug Monitoring 2011:33:315–20.
- Kanemitsu H, Yamauchi H, Komatsu M, Yamamoto S, Okazaki S, Uchida K, et al. 6-Mercaptopurine (6-MP) induces p53-mediated apoptosis of neural progenitor cells in the developing fetal rodent brain. Neurotoxicology and Teratology 2009;31:198–202.
- Kasuga F, Takahashi M. The endocrine function of rat gonads with reduced number of germ cells following busulphan treatment. Endocrinologia Japonica 1986;33:105–15.
- Katayama K, Ueno M, Yamauchi H, Nagata T, Nakayama H, Doi K. Ethylnitrosourea induces neuronal progenitor cell apoptosis after S-phase accumulation in a p53-dependent manner. Neurobiology of Disease 2005;18: 218–25
- Kim SH, Chung CY, Son CH. Cell death by apoptosis in the neonatal mouse cerebellum following gamma-irradiation. Anticancer Research 1998;18: 1629–32.
- Ko LJ, Prives C. p53: puzzle and paradigm. Genes and Development 1996;10:1054–72.
- Krivoy N, Hoffer E, Lurie Y, Bentur Y, Rowe JM. Busulfan use in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation: pharmacology, dose adjustment, safety and efficacy in adults and children. Current Drug Safety 2008;3:60–6.
- Lakin ND, Jackson SP. Regulation of p53 in response to DNA damage. Oncogene 1999;18:7644-55.
- Mertins SD, Myers TG, Holbeck SL, Medina-Perez W, Wang E, Kohlhagen G, et al. In vitro evaluation of dimethane sulfonate analogues with potential alkylating activity and selective renal cell carcinoma cytotoxicity. Molecular Cancer Therapeutics 2004;3:849–60.
- Nagai H. Effects of transplacentally injected alkylating agents upon development of embryos. Appearance of intrauterine death and mesodermal malformation. Bulletin of Tokyo Dental College 1972;13:103–19.
- Nam C, Doi K, Nakayama H. Etoposide induces G2/M arrest and apoptosis in neural progenitor cells via DNA damage and ATM/p53-related pathway. Histology and Histopathology 2010;25:485–93.
- Naruse T, Takahara M, Takagi M, Oberg KC, Ogino T. Busulfan-induced central polydactyly, syndactyly and cleft hand or foot: a common mechanism of disruption leads to divergent phenotypes. Development Growth and Differentiation 2007;49:533–41.
- Ohira T, Ando R, Andoh R, Nakazawa T, Nishihara K, Yamamoto S, et al. Distribution and sequence of pyknotic cell in rat fetuses exposed to busulfan. Journal of Toxicologic Pathology 2009;22:167–71.
- Ohira T, Ando R, Okada Y, Suzuki H, Saito T, Nakazawa T, et al. Sequence of busulfan-induced neural progenitor cell damage in the fetal rat brain. Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 2012(April), http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.etp.2012.03.001.
- Ohmori H, Ogura H, Yasuda M, Nakamura S, Hatta T, Kawano K, et al. Developmental neurotoxicity of phenytoin on granule cells and Purkinje cells in mouse cerebellum. Journal of Neurochemistry 1999;72:1497–506.
- Otsuji M, Takahara M, Naruse T, Guan D, Harada M, Zhe P, et al. Developmental abnormalities in rat embryos leading to tibial ray deficiencies induced by busulfan. Birth Defects Research Part A: Clinical and Molecular Teratology 2005;73: 461–7
- Paci A, Vassal G, Moshous D, Dalle JH, Bleyzac N, Neven B, et al. Pharmacokinetic behavior and appraisal of intravenous busulfan dosing in infants and older children: the results of a population pharmacokinetic study from a large pediatric cohort undergoing hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation. Therapeutic Drug Monitoring 2012;34:198–208.
- Probin V, Wang Y, Bai A, Zhou D. Busulfan selectively induces cellular senescence but not apoptosis in W138 fibroblasts via a p53-independent but extracellular signal-regulated kinase-p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase-dependent mechanism. Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics 2006;319: 551-60.
- Polyak K, Waldman T, He TC, Kinzler KW, Vogelstein B. Genetic deteminants of p53-induced apoptosis and growth arrest. Genes and Development 1996;10:1945–52.
- Saito A, Yamauchi H, Ishida Y, Ohmachi Y, Nakayama H. Defect of the cerebellar vermis induced by prenatal γ-ray irradiation in radiosensitive BALB/c mice. Histology and Histopathology 2008;23:953–64.
- Solleveld HA, boorman GA. Brain. In: Pathology of the Fischer Rat. Eustis SL, Elwell MR, Montgomery CA Jr, MacKenzie WF (Eds.). Academic Press Inc., San Diego, New York, London, Sydney, Tokyo, Toronto; 1990. pp 155-157.
- Ueno M, Katayama K, Yamauchi H, Nakayama H, Doi K. Cell cycle and cell death regulation of neural progenitor cells in the 5-azacytidine (5AzC)-treated developing fetal brain. Experimental Neurology 2006;198:154–66.

T. Ohira et al. / Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology 65 (2013) 789–797

Valdez BC, Li Y, Murray D, Corn P, Champlin RE, Andersson BS. 5-Aza-2'-deoxycytidine sensitizes busulfan-resistant myeloid leukemia cells by regulating expression of genes involved in cell cycle checkpoint and apoptosis. Leukemia Research 2010;34:364–72.

Vassal G, Deroussent A, Hartmann O, Challine D, Benhamou E, Valteau-Couanet D, et al. Dose-dependent neurotoxicity of high-dose busulfan in children: a clinical and pharmacological study. Cancer Research 1990;50:6203–7.

Woo GH, Bak EJ, Nakayama H, Doi K. Molecular mechanisms of hydroxyurea (HU)-induced apoptosis in the mouse fetal brain. Neurotoxicology and Teratology 2006;28:125–34.

Yamauchi H, Katayama K, Ueno M, Uetsuka K, Nakayama H, Doi K. Involvement of p53 in 1-β-D-arabinofuranosylcytosine-induced rat fetal brain lesions. Neurotoxicology and Teratology 2004;26:579–86.

797