

GENE TRANSFER IN MURINE MPS IIIA USING CANINE ADENOVIRAL VECTORS

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*A thesis submitted for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy*

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June 2007

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAV	Adeno-Associated Virus
Ad	Human Adenovirus
BBB	Blood-Brain Barrier
BME	Basal Medium Eagle
bp	Base Pair
CAR	Coxsackie Adenovirus Receptor
CAV-2	Canine Adenovirus Serotype 2
CAV-GFP	Canine Adenoviral Vector Expressing Green Fluorescent Protein
CAV-NS	Canine Adenoviral Vector Expressing Recombinant Human Sulphamidase and Green Fluorescent Protein
CHO	Chinese Hamster Ovary
CMV	Cytomegalovirus
CNS	Central Nervous System
CTL	Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte
Cy3	Indocarbocyanine
CYWHs	Children, Youth and Women's Health Service, Adelaide, Australia
DAPI	4',6-Diamidino-2-Phenylindole
DELFI	Dissociation-Enhanced Lanthanide Fluorescent ImmunoAssay
DK	Madin-Darby Canine Kidney
DMSO	Dimethylsulphoxide
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Media
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
dNTP	DeoxyNucleotide Triphosphates
Δ E1	E1-Deleted
EGFP	Enhanced Green Fluorescent Protein
ELISA	Enzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay
EM	Electron Microscopy
ERT	Enzyme Replacement Therapy
FACS	Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting
FCS	Foetal Calf Serum
FITC	Fluorescein Isothiocyanate
FISH	Fluorescent In Situ Hybridisation
<i>g</i>	Gravitational force
<i>g</i>	Grams
G	Gauge
GAG	Glycosaminoglycan(s)
GFAP	Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein
GFP	Green Fluorescent Protein
HD	Helper-Dependent
hr	Hours
HNS-UA	Hexosamine- <i>N</i> -Sulphate [α -1,4] Hexuronic Acid
IFN	Interferon
IGMM	Institut de Génétique Moléculaire de Montpellier, France

IL	Interleukin
IRES	Internal Ribosomal Entry Site
ITR	Inverted Terminal Repeat
kb	Kilobase Pair
kDa	Kilodalton
LB	Luria Bertani
LDRU	Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit, Adelaide, Australia
LSD	Lysosomal Storage Disorder(s)
M	Molar Concentration
M6P	Mannose-6-Phosphate
MCS	Multiple Cloning Site
MHC	Major Histocompatibility Complex
min	Minutes
mL	Millilitre
MPS	Mucopolysaccharidosis
MPS IIIA	Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IIIA
mRNA	Messenger RNA
MWCO	Molecular Weight Cut-Off
NDS	Normal Donkey Serum
NS	Sulphamidase
OCT	Optimal Cutting Temperature
p	Statistical p-Value
pI	polypeptide I, etc.
PBS	Phosphate Buffered Saline
PC	Physical Containment Level
pCAV-NS	Plasmid DNA Encoding the CAV-NS Viral Vector
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PFA	Paraformaldehyde
rhNS	Recombinant Human Sulphamidase
RSV	Rous Sarcoma Virus
S	Sulphate
SDS	Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate
sec	Seconds
SUMF1	Sulphatase Modifying Factor-1
SV40	Simian Virus 40
T _M	Memory T Lymphocyte
TNF	Tumour Necrosis Factor
U	Units
μL	Microlitres
VA	Viral-associated
v/v	Volume per volume
wk	Weeks
w/v	Weight per volume

THESIS ABSTRACT

Mucopolysaccharidosis type IIIA (MPS IIIA) is an autosomal-recessively inherited disorder caused by the deficiency of lysosomal sulphamidase (NS) enzyme activity, resulting in the accumulation of the glycosaminoglycan (GAG) heparan sulphate (HS). MPS IIIA patients experience progressive and severe neurological deterioration with death usually occurring in the mid-late teenage years. A naturally-occurring mouse model of MPS IIIA has been characterised and the biochemical, histological and behavioural changes closely parallel the human condition. In order to treat the neurological effects of MPS IIIA, it is anticipated that a continual supply of replacement enzyme to affected cells will be required. Consequently, this study aimed to evaluate the efficacy, longevity and safety of gene therapy as a potential treatment for MPS IIIA.

Canine adenoviral vectors (CAV-2) were selected on the basis of several important properties. They are non-integrating, are predicted to be less immunogenic in humans than human-derived viral vectors and mediate transgene expression for at least 1 year *in vivo*. An E1-deleted (Δ E1) CAV-2 vector, CAV-NS, co-expressing recombinant human NS (rhNS) and Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) was constructed and purified. *In vitro* testing revealed rhNS produced by CAV-NS significantly decreased sulphated GAG storage in human MPS IIIA fibroblasts in a mannose-6-phosphate-dependent manner.

Preliminary studies in young adult guinea pigs with CAV-GFP demonstrated widespread GFP expression in the absence of a humoral response. In contrast, minimal GFP expression was found in CAV-injected adult mice due to formation of neutralising antibodies against the CAV-2 capsid. Consequently, intraventricular delivery of CAV-NS was evaluated in newborn mice at various doses. Widespread and dose-dependent GFP expression was observed and the optimal dose for large-scale studies was determined to be 10^9 CAV-NS particles/hemisphere. Antibodies against CAV-2, rhNS or GFP were not detected.

Concurrently, the cognitive function and anxiety-related behaviours of unaffected and MPS IIIA mice were evaluated. MPS IIIA mice had significantly impaired memory and spatial learning in the Morris Water Maze (16-wks) and reduced anxiety in the Elevated Plus Maze (18-wks) when compared to unaffected animals.

In a large therapeutic assessment trial, newborn MPS IIIA or unaffected mice received 10^9 particles of CAV-NS, saline or remained uninjected. GFP expression was visualised for at

least 20-wks post-injection. Reductions in the vacuolation of ependymal and choroidal cells of the lateral ventricle and the cerebral cortex of treated MPS IIIA animals were observed in some GFP-positive (and presumably rhNS-expressing) regions. Furthermore, improvements in reactive astrogliosis, but not in the number of activated microglia, were measured in CAV-NS-treated MPS IIIA mice. However, insufficient CAV-NS-mediated rhNS expression was generated to improve functional changes as assessed by a behavioural test battery (motor function, open field activity, Elevated Plus Maze, Morris Water Maze), potentially due to chronic inflammatory responses against the CAV-2 vector.

Collectively, these data suggest that early intervention with $\Delta E1$ CAV-NS gene therapy was able to improve several components of neuropathology in MPS IIIA animals but was unable to significantly alter the clinical progression of murine MPS IIIA.

DECLARATION

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, being made available in all forms of media, now or hereafter known.

SIGNED

DATE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With such a multi-faceted project, there are so many people who have shared their expertise and knowledge during this journey and I have tried to acknowledge their contribution appropriately throughout this thesis. Firstly, I would like to recognise the guidance, support and encouragement of my supervisors Kim Hemsley and John Hopwood. I am grateful for the many opportunities that have been afforded to me that have helped shape my development as a young scientist and also as an individual. In particular, I thank John for sharing his vision and enthusiasm for developing effective therapies for *all* of the lysosomal storage disorders and Kim for her infinite supply of patience during the training of the surgical procedures, trouble-shooting unanticipated results and the endless editing I have given to her, and for our friendship.

Special thanks must go to Allison Crawley and Dyane Auclair who provided the many mice used throughout this project, assisted with the guinea pig anaesthesia and also offered their insights on numerous topics ranging from immunology to behavioural phenotyping and how best to enjoy French culture. Sophie Lazenkas has provided immense help with all things official. My gratitude also extends to Graham Ratcliff for his computer know-how, particularly during the “large-scale” Morris Water Maze when the computer hardware (and very nearly a PhD student) had a melt-down.

The NS activity assays would have been impossible without the tetrasaccharide substrate prepared by Peter Clements and Tina Rozaklis. I am indebted to Leanne Sutherland for providing all of the primary neural cell cultures and also to Barb King and Maria Fuller for their assistance with the mass spectrometry. Caroline Dean, Debbie Lang and Peter Meikle have been very generous with their reagents and time and gently guided me during the development of the DELFIA immunoquantification assay. I thank Helen Eyre and the girls in the “FISH Lab” for their help setting up and optimising the Fluorescence *In Situ* Hybridisation techniques and for making it such a friendly lab to visit. Mary Carli has been instrumental throughout the training on the cryostat, and I also appreciate the histological help and advice provided by Helen Beard and Hanan Elmassih. Thanks must also go to Amanda Luck for her help in getting me through the 20-wk perfusions and tissue collections.

The daily care of “the little critters” provided by Lynn Scarman and Leslie Jenkins-White of the Animal Care facility is greatly appreciated, particularly throughout the last study

when PC2 was at capacity. Craig Hirte is acknowledged for the statistical processing of the Morris Water Maze trials and is thanked for his patience whilst trying to make statistics understandable to me. Lyn Waterhouse is also recognised for the epoxy-resin sample embedding.

There are many people from the LDRU who have offered advice or helped in other ways and have made this a great place to work. I appreciate the discussions (and many coffees) with all of the past and present Allan Campbell Lab members, including those already mentioned, as well as Mike Bawden, Suzie Brodie, Briony Gliddon, Litsa Karageorgos, Rowani Mohd Rawi, Aaron Robinson, Dan Toop and Holly Zhao and other members of the LDRU.

I would especially like to thank Eric Kremer and Viki Kalatzis who not only introduced me to the world of viral vectorology but also opened up their home whilst I was finding my feet in Montpellier. The friendships and memories during my stint in France will be always treasured and this is largely due to the efforts of Matthieu, Harry, Claire, Nadia, Olivier, Vincent and Nicolas who invited me to “make party” and demonstrated how lunch should be (all three-courses of it).

This work was funded by a NHMRC Dora Lush Biomedical Postgraduate Scholarship. The Association Française Contre les Myopathies and the Vaincre les Maladies Lysosomales are also acknowledged for their financial support of the work conducted in Montpellier.

Finally, I would especially like to thank Phillip Bowen and my friends for keeping me balanced, and to my loving parents and sister who have encouraged and supported me at every step of the way. Without your love and belief in my abilities, this journey would not have been possible.