Post-Traumatic Cerebral Edema

Raphael A. Carandang

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Post-Traumatic Cerebral Edema
Traumatic Brain Injury Mini-Symposium

4th Annual Research Retreat
UMASS Center for Clinical and Translational Science

Raphael A. Carandang M.D
Assistant Professor
Departments of Neurology and Surgery

5/8/2013
Disclosures: Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research Grant 2011
Outline

1. Clinical Implications of brain edema
2. Brain water homeostasis
3. Pathophysiology of brain edema
4. Aquaporin 4 Channels
5. CACNA1
6. Sulfonylurea receptor 1 (SUR1)
7. NKCC1
8. Clinical management and ongoing trials
### Modified Marshall CT grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Diffuse Injury</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Diffuse Injury (with present cisterns, midline shift 0-5mm and/or small (&lt;25cc) high or mixed density lesions)</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Diffuse injury and swelling I-III + compressed or absent cisterns</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Diffuse injury and shift I-III + midline shift &gt;5mm</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Evacuated mass lesion</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Non-evacuated mass lesion (&gt;25cc)</td>
<td>VI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **I**: No visible pathology
- **2a**: No lesions
- **2b**: Only one lesion
- **2c**: ≥2 unilateral lesions
- **2d**: Bilateral lesions
- **3**: I - II + compressed or absent cisterns
- **4**: I - III + midline shift >5mm
- **5a**: Extracerebral
- **5b**: Subdural
- **5c**: Intracerebral
- **5d**: ≥2 intra + extracerebral
- **6a**: Extracerebral
- **6b**: Subdural
- **6c**: Intracerebral
- **6d**: ≥2 intra + extracerebral
Cerebral edema post-trauma

- Poor prognostic sign
- Class III (83.7%) and Class IV (93.8%) had severe disability, vegetative or dead
- >10 mm shift, Compressed basal cisterns, IVH, traumatic SAH = OR 2.0
- Absent cisterns OR 5.7 of death

Physiological Consequences

- Intracranial hypertension
- Monro-Kellie Doctrine 1820
- Compression of venous outflow and CSF
- Decreased cerebral perfusion and secondary ischemic injury
- Compression of brain structures and clinical herniation
Normal Brain Water Homeostasis

- Central osmoreception, osmolality compensation, and cell volume regulation
- Compartments: blood in vessels, CSF in ventricular and subarachnoid space, ECF, and ICF in brain parenchyma
- BBB, Blood-CSF barrier and plasma membranes of neural cells
  - ECF – interactions between BBB, BCSFB and transporters on the membranes of neural cells, particularly astrocytes
  - CSF – choroid plexus secretion and drainage into dural sinuses, some flow from ECF to CSF
  - ICF – cellular metabolic activity and active transport of ions

BBB AND BCSFB

• Anatomic barriers and dynamic tissues expressing multiple transporters, receptors and enzymes
• Prevent free paracellular diffusion of polar molecules by complex morphological features such as Tight Junctions, adherens junctions in brain capillary endothelial cells in choroid plexus epithelium
• Specific transport proteins provide transport of nutrients, ions into CNS and removal of waste products
• Ion transporters and exchangers and ion channels
• Regulatory proteins posses kinase and phosphatase activity
Cellular basis for volume distribution

- Water changes affect brain volume and intracranial pressure.
- Changes in extracellular or intracellular content of osmolytes are coupled to movements of osmotically obliged water.
- Normally, redistribution of water between ECF and ICF occurs modifying the volume of the neural cells but not the total brain volume.
- This involves modification of the expression and activity of ion channels and transporters and by metabolic changes.
NUROTRANSMITTER EFFECTS

E.g. Neural activity determines isosmotic volume changes as a consequence of ionic fluxes across cell membranes during neuronal firing – cells counteract the volume change by Regulatory Volume increase and decrease.
**Water Transport**

- Membrane-spanning transport proteins which can couple ion and substrate transport
  - K/Cl co-transporter in the choroid plexus
  - Na/K/CL in the glia
  - Na coupled glutamate
  - Na/GABA
  - GLUT1 and 2
  - ATP binding cassette transporters (Aβ, cholesterol efflux, Cs)

- Total water transported is the sum of co-transported and the osmotic components
PATHOPHYSIOLOGY: BBB/GLIOVASCULAR UNIT

Cytotoxic Edema

- Different pathologies lead to isosmotic cytotoxic swelling by different mechanisms:
  - Energy failure and dissipation of Na gradients - hypoxia/ischemia
  - Increase in intracellular K – ischemia, epilepsy, cortical spreading depression
  - Ammonium accumulation in hepatic encephalopathy
  - Dialysis dysequilibrium – changes in Urea/Osmolar gradient

- Changes in cell metabolism, pump and ion channel dysfxn

- Changes in ECF/ICF ion equilibrium alter neuronal function

- Role of Astrocytes/Glia - Astrocytes swell secondary to water fluxes across the membrane and to neighbor astrocytes through gap junctions

Marmarou A. Neurosurg Focus 2007; 22:5)E1
Chodobski A et al. Transl Stroke Res 2011;2:492-516
Edema

• Predominantly Cytotoxic edema in TBI
• MRI studies ADC decreased in perifocal and focal traumatic brain edema
• No evidence of BBB leakage at 24 hours
• Not related to CBF/ischemia
• Increased ADC in first 60 mins followed by decreased ADC from as early as 45 mins to 7 days post-injury
• Membrane depolarization activates ligand gated ion channels, triggers voltage gated channels
• Aquaporin-4 channels - water conducting protein in astrocyte foot processes adjacent to blood vessels

**Aquaporin Channels**

- Tetrameric water channels assembled at the cell membrane, or inside the cell (AQ6)
- 13 homologs in mammals, variable tissue distribution depending on physiological function and mediates movement of water and small solutes, such as glycerol across membranes according to osmotic gradient and differences in hydrostatic pressures
- 3 Functional Groups:
  - Water selective – AQP0,1, 2, 4, 5, 6 – permeable to water
  - Aquaglyceroporins - AQP3,7,8 – permeable to water, glycerol, urea
  - Neutral solute channels - AQP9 and 10 – water, glycerol, urea, purines, pyrimidines, and monocarboxylates
- CNS: AQP1,4,9 with AQP4 is the most abundant and expressed in borders between brain parenchyma and major fluid compartments
Aquaporin 4 Channels

• bidirectional high capacity water channels
• expressed at astrocyte foot processes in the CNS
• blood-brain barrier/brain-CSF barrier

• Animal studies: AQP4 deficient mice had significantly reduced cerebral edema and better survival in a water intoxication model
• Human studies identified an AQP4 polymorphism associated with increased severity of cerebral edema after MCA occlusion


Current Opinion in Structural Biology
AQP4

- Levels of expression are not constant but functionally regulated
  - Increased in brain regions where BBB is disrupted following injury, ischemia or tumor
- Regulated at level of RNA transcription and channel assembly
- Multiple phosphorylation sites and kinases have been implicated but the precise regulation of expression of these receptors remains unclear
- Brain water homeostasis – deficiency in mice reduces brain swelling in cytotoxic edema, and mediated by physiological neuronal activity
- But worsens outcome in vasogenic edema
- Likely facilitates redistribution and absorption of excessive brain fluid
- Functional Interplay between AQPs and Ion channels
Aquaporin-4 deletion in mice reduces brain edema after acute water intoxication and ischemic stroke

Geoffrey T. Manley¹, Miki Fujimura², Tonghui Ma³, Nobuo Noshita², Ferda Filiz³, Andrew W. Bollen⁴, Pak Chan² & A.S. Verkman³

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²Department of Neurosurgery, Stanford University Medical School, Stanford, California 94305, USA
³Departments of Medicine and Physiology, Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143, USA, and ⁴Department of Pathology, University of California, San Francisco, California 94143, USA

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• Human studies
• DNA analysis of 188 ethnically diverse cohort
• Identified 4 novel single nucleotide polymorphisms
  I128T, D184E, I205L and M224T
• Reduced water permeability

Sorani, Manley et al Human Molecular Genetics 2008;17: 2379-89
CACNA1 gene mutation

- Ion conducting pore forming \( \alpha 1A \) subunit of voltage dependent P/Q type neuronal calcium channels
- Involved in modulating neurotransmitter release like glutamate, monamines
- Missense mutation (C-to-T/Serine for Lysine at codon 218) in small intracellular loop between 4th and 5th transmembrane segments of first domain of \( \alpha 1A \) subunit
- S218L mutation has been found in patients with familial hemiplegic migraine, seizures and delayed cerebral edema after trivial head trauma
- Lowers threshold of cortical spreading depression, enhancing excitotoxicity

Stam AH et al. J Neurol Neurosurg Psych 2009; 8: 1125-9
Hartings JA et al. Brain 2011; (epub)
**SULFONYLUREA 1 RECEPTOR**

- SUR1 regulatory subunit involved in forming pore forming subunits of K-ATP channels
- Regulates SUR1/TRPM4 a nonselective cation channel that requires calcium and is activated by ATP depletion
- Causes cell depolarization and cell blebbing cytotoxic edema
- Glibenclamide/Glyburide is an antagonist
SUR1 is transcriptionally upregulated in white matter.

Simard J M et al. Stroke 2010;41:531-537
Glibenclamide improves 24-hour end points in a stroke model with 6-hour I/R.

Simard J M et al. Stroke 2010;41:531-537
NKCC1

• Co-transporter protein
• Expressed in the luminal surface of endothelial cells
• Modulates Cl- in neurons, glia, etc
• Upregulated in ischemia
• Mediated by Glutamate and K – that stimulate NKCC1 activity in neurons and neuroglia
Bumetanide administration attenuated traumatic brain injury through IL-1 overexpression

Figure 3: Photomicrographs showing morphology of hippocampal neurons in rats of sham control (A), TBI (B), TBI with bumetanide (15 mg/kg, i.v.) treatment (C) or TBI with IL-1β antibody (5 μl, i.c.v.) (D). As compared to the control group, rats with TBI showed neuronal swelling and shrinkage, followed by neuronal loss 24 hours after TBI. Administration of bumetanide and IL-1β significantly attenuated this TBI-induced neuronal loss.

CURRENT THERAPIES

- Maintain normovolemia or mild hypervolemia
- Maintain normotension
- Maintenance IV fluids: 0.9%, 2%, or 3% saline
- Maintain normonatremia

- Monitor serum Na⁺ q6h–q12h
- Osmotic diuretics
- Gradual taper of HS after 48–72 h with clinical and/or radiographic improvement

[Flowchart]

GCS >8

- Head CT scan (non-enhanced)
- No mass effect
- No compression of vital structures
- GCS >8

CEREBRAL EDEMA

GCS >8

- Head CT scan (non-enhanced)
- Mass effect
- Compression of vital structures or shift

No ICP monitoring

- Monitor GCS
- Maintain normovolemia/mild hypervolemia
- Maintain normotension
- Maintenance IV fluids: 2% or 3% saline

- Serum Na⁺ goals: 145–155 mEq/L
- Monitor serum Na⁺ q4h–q6h
- Loop diuretics (Furosemide)

If ICP ≤20 mm Hg

- Monitor GCS
- Maintain normovolemia or mild hypervolemia
- Maintain normotension
- Maintenance IV fluids: 2% or 3% saline
- Serum Na⁺ goals: 145–155 mEq/L
- Monitor serum Na⁺ q4h–q6h
- Loop diuretics (Furosemide)

- CSF drainage (if feasible)
- P₅CO₂ 25–30 mm Hg
- Loop diuretics
- Maintain normovolemia
- Maintain CPP ≥60 mm Hg
- Mannitol 0.5–1.0 g/kg IV bolus
- Serum osmolality goals: 300–320 mOsm/L

If ICP ≤20 mmHg or signs of clinical herniation

- Serum Na⁺ goals: 145–155 mEq/L
- 23.4% saline IV bolus for RIIH
- Maintenance IV fluids: 2% or 3% saline
- Monitor serum Na⁺ q2h–q4h
- Pharmacologic coma (pentobarbital, propofol)
- Consider early decompressive surgery
- Serum osmolality goals: 300–320 mOsm/L

ICP Monitor
Effect of osmotic agents on regional cerebral blood flow in traumatic brain injury

Michael T. Scalfani MSCI\textsuperscript{a}, Rajat Dhar MD\textsuperscript{a, b}, Allyson R. Zazulia MD\textsuperscript{a, c}, Tom O. Videen PhD\textsuperscript{a, c}, Michael N. Diringer MD, FCCM\textsuperscript{a, b, *}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO 63110, USA
\textsuperscript{b}Neurology/Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO 63110, USA
\textsuperscript{c}Department of Radiology, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO 63110, USA

Number of regions with cerebral blood flow less than baseline threshold (out of 677 regions)

- Pre therapy
- Post therapy

\(*= P < .000\)

CBF = cerebral blood flow (in ml/100/min)

Number of hypoperfused regions (CBF <25 ml/100g/min) per patient before and after treatment

Mean reduction = -44%

Patients

- Pre
- Post

Patients 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Very early hypothermia induction in patients with severe brain injury (the National Acute Brain Injury Study: Hypothermia II):

Guy L Clifton, Alex Valadka, David Zygouris, Kathy Harshman, Adam Conley, Ava Pucher, James N Scott, Howard Yonas, David O Coburn, James F Heffernan, Mary E Dutton, Stuart J, Lord, Benjamin A Alford, Marcus B Moskowitz, and John W Marshall

Summary

Table 1: Demographics and baseline characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Hypothermia (n=52)</th>
<th>Normothermia (n=45)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS score 5-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCS score 3-4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-reactive pupils*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical lesion removed in first 24 h after injury</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehospital hypotension†</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prehospital hypoxia†</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Injury severity score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviated injury severity score for head</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive blood alcohol§</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First temperature (°C)§</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are mean (SD) or number (%). GCS=Glasgow coma scale. * Data missing for three patients in the hypothermia group and one in the normothermia group. † Data missing for four patients in the hypothermia group and two in the normothermia group. § Data missing for 23 patients in the hypothermia group and 16 in the normothermia group. || Data missing for one patient in the normothermia group.

Table 2: Outcome and mortality rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>RR (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.07</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.07</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Laboratory findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Hypothermia (n=52)</th>
<th>Normothermia (n=45)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serum sodium (mmol/L)</td>
<td>143 (5)</td>
<td>143 (6)</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum potassium (mmol/L)</td>
<td>3.6 (0.3)</td>
<td>3.8 (0.2)</td>
<td>0.0005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood urea nitrogen (mmol/L)</td>
<td>4.3 (2.9)</td>
<td>3.9 (1.4)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum creatinine (µmol/L)</td>
<td>74 (36)</td>
<td>72 (18)</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prothrombin time (s)</td>
<td>15 (2)</td>
<td>14 (3)</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial thromboplastin time (s)†</td>
<td>34 (7)</td>
<td>31 (5)</td>
<td>0.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoglobin (g/L)</td>
<td>110 (10)</td>
<td>110 (10)</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platelet count (cells per µL)</td>
<td>189 (77)</td>
<td>209 (74)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum magnesium (mmol/L)§</td>
<td>0.8 (0.1)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.1)</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial pressure of brain oxygen &lt;6 mm Hg</td>
<td>19 (39%)</td>
<td>18 (45%)</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial pressure of arterial carbon dioxide (mm Hg)</td>
<td>36 (4)</td>
<td>72 (22)</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial pressure of arterial carbon dioxide &lt;30 mm Hg</td>
<td>43 (83%)</td>
<td>28 (62%)</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum glucose (mmol/L)</td>
<td>7.4 (2.0)</td>
<td>7.2 (1.0)</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data are mean (SD) or number (%). Mean values were calculated for each patient who had a value recorded from the time of admission until discharge from the intensive care unit. Mean values are not corrected for the duration of intensive care stay or the number of values collected for each patient. * Data missing for 11 patients in the hypothermia group and 12 in the normothermia group. † Data missing for two patients in the normothermia group. § Data missing for two patients in the hypothermia group. || Data missing for one patient in the hypothermia group. Not corrected for temperature (alpha stat).
Pentobarbital Coma For Refractory Intra-Cranial Hypertension After Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: Mortality Predictions and One-Year Outcomes in 55 Patients

Gary T. Marshall, MD, Robert F. James, MD, Matthew P. Landman, MD, Patrick J. O’Neill, PhD, MD, FACS, Bryan A. Cotton, MD, FACS, Erik N. Hansen, MD, John A. Morris, Jr., MD, FACS, and Addison K. May, MD, FCCM, FACS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1. Injury Severity and Mortality for All TBI Patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient Group</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean ISS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean AIS head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 2. ICP and Selected Laboratory Data for Patient with RICH Treated With PBC (n = 55)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening pressure at ICP monitor placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest ICP before pentobarbital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest CPP before pentobarbital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium before pentobarbital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osmolarity before pentobarbital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 4. Functional Outcome at 1 Year in 19 of 22 Survivors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Glasgow Outcome Score</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Patients.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Decompressive Cranietomy</th>
<th>Standard Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motor-vehicle or motorcycle accident</strong></td>
<td>45/70 (64)</td>
<td>55/81 (68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bicycle accident</strong></td>
<td>4/70 (6)</td>
<td>2/81 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pedestrian accident</strong></td>
<td>5/70 (7)</td>
<td>4/81 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>16/70 (23)</td>
<td>20/81 (25)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1. Intracranial Pressure before and after Randomization.**
Shown are the mean measurements of intracranial pressure in the two study groups during the 12 hours before and the 36 hours after randomization. The I bars indicate standard errors.
**NOVEL THERAPIES**

**Table 1** Novel targets to treat cerebral edema

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NKCC1</th>
<th>SUR1/TRPM4</th>
<th>Vasopressin-receptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Neurons, neuroglia, endothelium, choroid plexus</td>
<td>Neurons, neuroglia, endothelium</td>
<td>Basolateral membrane of the cells lining the collecting ducts of the kidneys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activation</td>
<td>ATP</td>
<td>Depletion of ATP</td>
<td>Vasopressin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific antagonist</td>
<td>Bumetanide</td>
<td>Glyburide (glibenclamide)</td>
<td>Conivaptan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Loads sodium and chloride into cells to maintain level of $[\text{Cl}^-]$</td>
<td>Conducts monovalent cations</td>
<td>Absorption of free water in collecting tubule of kidney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- NKCC1 – cotransporter inhibited by bumetanide
- SUR1/TRPM4 – nonselective cation channel causing depolarization and cell blebbing, upregulated in TBI, ischemia - NCT01268683
- Decreases absorption of water in collecting tubules – FDA approved for euvolemic hyponatremia
Genetic determinants of cerebral edema in severe traumatic brain injury: A pilot study of the role of CACNA1 and AQP4

Raphael Carandang, MD; Susanne Muehlschlegel, MD, MPH; Cynthia Ouillette, RN; Wiley Hall, MD; Robert H. Brown Jr. MD PhD

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BACKGROUND

Cerebral edema is a significant predictor of poor outcome in traumatic brain injury. The pathophysiology, cellular mechanisms and predictors of post-traumatic edema are still unelucidated. Cytotoxic mechanisms and Blood-CSF barrier dysfunction are involved and secondary ischemia, loss of ion homeostasis and neurotransmitter excitotoxicity have been implicated. Current treatments are of unproven benefit particularly for functional outcome so there is an urgent need to investigate the pathophysiology, identify predictors and develop new medical therapies. The exponential growth in genetic information has led to studies that have implicated specific genes and channels in the pathophysiology of post-traumatic injury edema.

CANDIDATE GENES

CACNA1 gene on chromosome 19p13 encodes for the main ion conducting, pore forming a1A subunit of voltage dependent P/Q type neuronal calcium channels and is involved in modulating release of neurotransmitters including monoamines and glutamate. A missense mutation (C-to-T that substitutes serine for lysine at codon 218 of the first domain of the a1A subunit) has been reported in patients with familial hemiplegic migraine, early seizures and delayed fatal cerebral edema from minor trauma (ESCEATH). Animal studies have reported it lowers the threshold for cortical spreading depression, affecting calcium homeostasis and enhancing neurotransmitter excitotoxicity.

AQP4 gene on chromosome 18q11.2-q12.1 encodes for the Aquaporin-4 protein (AQP4) water channel which is a bidirectional high capacity water channels expressed in astrocytic foot processes in the central nervous system at the blood-brain barrier and brain-cerebrospinal fluid barrier and is thought to be critical for brain water homeostasis. Experimental studies showed that AQP4 deficient mice had significantly reduced cerebral edema and better survival in a water intoxication model. Recent human studies have identified an AQP4 polymorphism associated with increased severity of cerebral edema following MCA occlusion.

METHODS

Severe TBI Patients admitted to the Neurotrauma ICU will be screened; CT scans reviewed for diffuse cerebral edema. Consent will be obtained and blood samples drawn for DNA extraction. Gene mutation analysis will be performed with full exon sequencing of AQP4 and CACNA1 genes. To validate identified mutations, we will cross-reference the 1,000 Genome Database and use Tagman primers to amplify the novel variants in a set of 200 controls. Results from cases and controls will be analyzed with the Pearson chi-square.

SUMMARY

We hypothesize that The CACNA1 gene missense mutation S218L and AQP4 polymorphisms will be over-represented in patients with post-traumatic cerebral edema. Our Specific Aim is to perform full exon sequence analysis of these two genes in 20 well-defined cases of excessive cerebral edema. Our long term goal is to systematically investigate genetic variants as determinants of risk of excessive cerebral edema. It is hoped that this will further elucidate secondary mechanisms of injury specifically in the formation of post-traumatic edema and lead to targeted therapies in the future.

REFERENCES

3. Iam A et al. Early seizures and cerebral edema after initial head trauma associated with the CACNA1A S218L mutation. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatr 2003; 7: 1125-9
Hypothesis and Specific Aims

• The CACNA1 gene missense mutation S218L and AQP4 polymorphisms will be over represented in patients with post-traumatic cerebral edema

• Perform full exon sequence analysis of these 2 genes in 20 well defined cases of excessive cerebral edema
Research Design and Methods

• Clinical Cohort and Phenotype
  – Prospective outcome study of moderate to severe TBI
  – Data points, Functional outcomes 3 & 12 months

• Blood samples
  – DNA extracted from white blood cells

• Gene Mutation analysis (Dr. Brown’s lab)
  – Full sequencing of all exons of the AQP4 and CACNA1 genes
  – Cross-reference with 1,000 genome database
  – Use Taqman primers to amplify novel variants in 200 controls
Conclusion

• Traumatic Cerebral edema has severe clinical consequences
• Highly predictive of death and poor outcome
• Normal Brain function necessitates the maintenance of a highly regulated electrical osmotic microenvironment
• BBB and BCSFB are complex barrier systems that include multiple ion channels and co-tranporters
Conclusion

• Vasogenic edema results from barrier breakdown and initiates multiple pathways of damage

• Cytotoxic edema is the major component of post-traumatic cerebral edema

• Aquaporin 4 channels modulate cytotoxic edema and may attenuate vasogenic edema

• Current treatments include Osmotherapy, Pentobarbital coma, Hypothermia and surgical therapies but trials are negative
Conclusion

• Possible therapies developed from channel modulators some are in ongoing clinical trials

• Multiple therapy trials
Future Directions

• Better outcome studies
• Surgical trials
• Channel research
• AQP4 and human genetic studies
• Imaging studies/Perfusion studies
• Microdialysis/PET/SPECT
• New Therapies
THANK YOU!

Worcester Foundation