

# flk-1

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## Delayed Up-regulation of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor and flk-1 after Global Cerebral Ischemia in Mongolian Gerbil -Possible roles in neuroangiogenesis?

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**Background** : Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is an endothelial cell-specific mitogen and a potent mediator of vascular permeability. Flk-1, one of the receptors for VEGF, is important in vascular development. Increased expression of VEGF is related with reactive astrogliosis, which stimulates the proliferation of neural progenitor cells. VEGF expression increases in the acute phase of cerebral ischemia, however the expression of VEGF together with flk-1 in subacute stage is still unknown. This study is done to demonstrate the spatial/cellular patterns of expression for VEGF/flk-1 up to subacute stages and to find out the role of VEGF in ischemia. **Methods** : Transient global ischemia was induced by a 10 min-occlusion/reperfusion of the bilateral carotid arteries in the Mongolian gerbil. Immunohistochemistry and western blot were performed to ensure the expression of VEGF and flk-1 on the day1, 3, 7, 14, and 28. **Results** : Both VEGF and flk-1 initially increased at day1, and decreased at day3. Thereafter, VEGF gradually increased again to the initial level at day7 and to the peak level after day14. Flk-1 showed a peak expression at day14, and then decreased at day28. Immunohistochemical staining for VEGF showed immunoreactivity mainly on the cytoplasm of neurons and endothelium in cortex and hippocampus at day1, and neuron, endothelium, and glial cell from day14 to 28. The distribution and chronological patterns of flk-1 expression were similar to that of VEGF expression. **Conclusions** : We suggest that global cerebral ischemia can induce a delayed up-regulation of VEGF and flk-1, which may be associated with neuroangiogenesis and repair process.

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**Key words** : Vascular endothelial growth factor, Fetal liver kinase-1, Delayed up-regulation, Neuroangiogenesis, Global ischemia

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(vascular endothelial  
growth factor, VEGF) (splicing)  
VEGF206, VEGF189,  
VEGF165 VEGF121 가 (isoen-  
zyme) , VEGF145,  
VEGF188 .<sup>1,2</sup>  
mouse rat  
(ependymal  
cell) , (neuron)

36.5±1.0°C

VEGF165 45-KDa

가

10

(astrocyte)

(granule cell)

(choroid plexus)

Folkman<sup>6</sup>

가

VEGF

VEGF

, flt-1(fms-like tyrosine kinase, VEGFR-1), flk-1(fetal liver kinase-1, VEGFR-2)

가

VEGF

가

TGF- $\beta$ ,<sup>7,8</sup> TNF- $\alpha$ ,<sup>9</sup> IL-1<sup>10</sup>, HIF(hypoxi-inducible factor)<sup>11</sup>

가

가

가

가 가

<sup>12</sup>

<sup>13,14</sup>

<sup>15</sup>

<sup>16</sup>

<sup>17</sup>

VEGF

<sup>11,13,14,18-29</sup>

VEGF

400

가

1

( , )

( , ) 0(

), 1+( ), 2+( 50% ),

3+( 50% ) 4

<sup>22</sup>

, VEGF

(28 )

VEGF

VEGF

1. Global ischemia model

50-70 g

(Mongolian gerbil,

Meriones unguiculatus, n=25) 24

xylazine hydrochloride(10 mg/kg)

ketamine(50 mg/kg)

30

가

2. Immunohistochemistry

1, 3, 7, 14, 28

4  $\mu$ m

100%, 95%, 90%

.3% 10

rabbit anti-VEGF polyclonal antibody(NeoMarkers, USA) rabbit anti-flk-1 polyclonal antibody (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc, USA) 1:800

anti-VEGF antibody 4°C

anti-flk-1 antibody 1

Tris Buffered Saline tween buffer(Lab Vision, TA-125-TT, pH 7.4) 5 3

Envision<sup>TM</sup>, peroxidase, rabbit (DAKO, K4003) 1

, Tris Buffered Saline tween buffer

5 3 , DAB 10

1

95% 30 2

rabbit

anti-VEGF polyclonal antibody

3. Histologic analysis

40

4. Western blotting

(50 mM Tris-HCl, 50 mM EDTA, 137 mM NaCl, 2% Triton X-100, 1% deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS) (40  $\mu$ g)

SDS-polyacrylamide nitrocellulose

anti-VEGF polyclonal antibody anti-flk-1

1 polyclonal antibody 4°C

- 1:10,000

1

ECL kit

band가

가, 14

(Fig. 3b).

### 1. Immunohistochemistry

VEGF

- 1

VEGF

가

flk-1 VEGF

(Fig.1, 2). , 3

VEGF

, flk-1

VEGF

가

VEGF

(ischemic core)

(penumbra)

가 가

가

(data not shown).

,<sup>13,14,21,22</sup> Marti 6

24 VEGF 가 , 48

flk-1 flt-1

,<sup>11</sup> Lennmyr

### 2. Western blotting

VEGF

western blotting

, 1 가 , 3

VEGF

(immunoreactivity)

VEGF

VEGF mRNA가 가

14 VEGF가

가 28 (Fig. 3a).

12

1 flk-1 western blotting

, 3

VEGF

가 , 3

western blot

VEGF 가 4 3

,<sup>24</sup>

7

VEGF 가가 가

(blood-brain barrier)

,<sup>26</sup> VEGF

VEGF

가

,<sup>23,25</sup>

(microglia)

,<sup>22</sup>

,<sup>21</sup>

VEGF

가

,<sup>26,27</sup>

VEGF

가

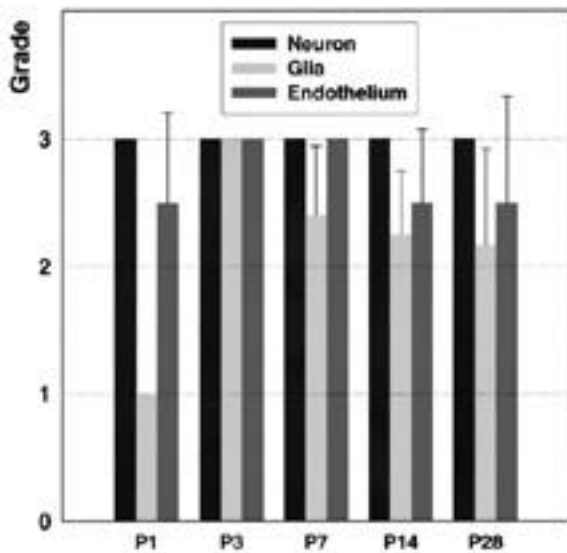
가

가

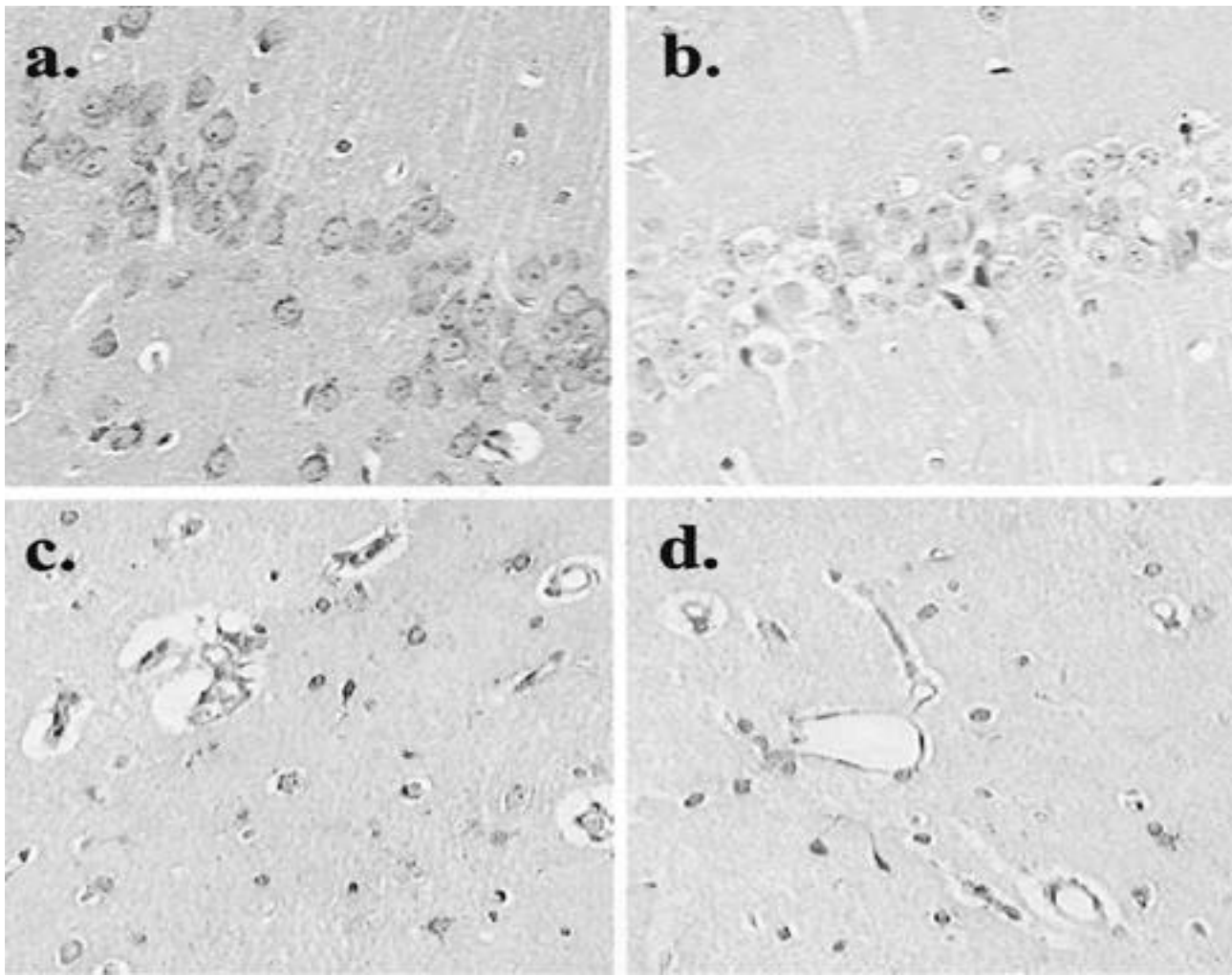
가

24 ,<sup>30</sup>

VEGF 24

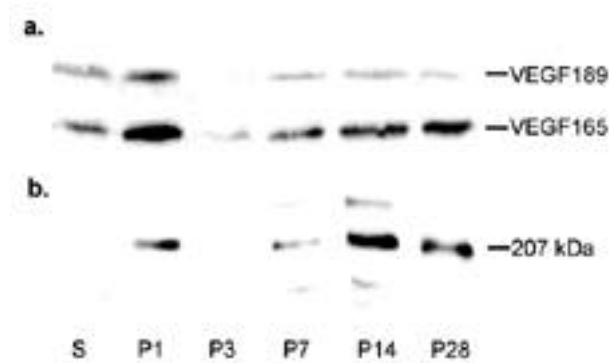


**Figure 1.** Temporal and cellular patterns of VEGF expression. Immunohistochemical staining for VEGF in hippocampal area shows frequent immunoreactivity mainly on the neuron and endothelium at day 1, and neuron, endothelium, and glial cell from day 14 to 28. The letter ' P ' below the x-axis stands for the post-operative day.



**Figure 2.** Immunohistochemical staining for VEGF in hippocampus ( $\times 400$ ). **A.** Almost all neurons show immunoreactivity for VEGF, which is graded 3. **B.** The numbers of neurons below 50% are stained for VEGF, which is graded 2. Panel **C.** and **D.** shows the immunopositive endothelial cells and glial cells for VEGF.

가 (downstream)  
 4 7 ,<sup>31</sup>  
 VEGF  
 가  
 , VEGF (meningioma)  
 ,<sup>32</sup>  
 ,<sup>33</sup>  
 ,<sup>34,35</sup>  
 (mFlt(1-3)-IgG)  
 30  
 Pluta  
 24 - ,<sup>37</sup>  
 10 1 가  
 VEGF 가 가



**Figure 3.** Western blots for VEGF and flk-1 in hippocampus of gerbil subjected to 10-min transient global ischemia. Panel **a.** demonstrates the bands corresponding to the VEGF165 and 189 respectively and Panel **b.** demonstrates the band for flk-1 sized 207 kDa.

VEGF 가 - 1  
 가 가 가

Zhang 가  
가 VEGF 20  
가 VEGF 28, 29  
가 VEGF  
Lee VEGF  
VEGF mRNA northern blot 가  
12 1 VEGF (neurogenesis)  
<sup>23</sup> Jin VEGF VEGF/flk-1  
<sup>24</sup> dentate  
gyrus (subgranular zone),  
(subventricular zone)  
(progenitor cell)가  
(proliferation) (migration)  
<sup>38-40</sup> 가 4  
가 <sup>41</sup>  
(neurogenesis) (cluster)  
(interaction) 가  
(marker) VEGF flk-1  
가 (progeni  
tor cell) (stem cell)  
, Seri  
가 가  
<sup>43</sup>  
(gliosis)  
가 VEGF 가  
(neuroangiogenesis)  
<sup>44</sup>  
, VEGF 가가  
(microenvironment)  
VEGF가  
<sup>11,18</sup>  
. Rat 가  
VEGF <sup>19</sup>

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