## 学位論文要約

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題目 Molecular Biological Studies on the Roles of UL11 Protein in the Equine Herpesvirus 1 Neurovirulent Strain Ab4p Replication (ウマヘルペスウイルス1型神経病原性株 Ab4p 増 殖における UL11 タンパク質の役割に関する分子生 物学的研究)

ウマヘルペスウイルス1型(EHV-1)感染症はウマにおける主要な疾患の一つ である。EHV-1は呼吸器疾患,神経疾患および流産などを引き起こし,直接およ び間接的な経済的被害は世界的にも大きい。EHV-1はアルファヘルペスウイルス 亜科バリセロウイルス属のウイルスである。そのウイルス粒子は直鎖状二本鎖 DNAを含むヌクレオカプシド,テグメントおよびエンベロープから構成される。 ウイルス DNA には少なくとも 76 遺伝子が存在する。テグメントタンパク質はヘ ルペスウイルスの増殖において多彩な役割を担っている。UL11は74アミノ酸か らなるテグメントタンパク質で ORF51によりコードされている。UL11はヘルペ スウイルス科で保存されているタンパク質である。ORF51は ORF50と読み枠はず れているものの部分的に重複している。以前の RacL11 および RacH 株を用いた 報告で,UL11は EHV-1の増殖において非必須であるが,UL11の欠損によりプラ ークが小さくなることが報告された。しかしながら,EHV-1増殖におけるUL11 の役割はまだ不明な点が多い。そこで、本研究では、EHV-1 UL11のウイルス増 殖における特徴ならびにどのような役割を担っているかを明らかにすることを 目的とした。

第1章では、EHV-1の神経病原性株である Ab4p を用い、UL11 完全欠損体および C 末端部分欠損体を細菌性人口染色体(bacterial artificial chromosome, BAC)システムにより構築した。UL11 完全欠失体においては、ORF50のアミノ酸配列に影響が無いようにUL11の開始コドンをロイシンに、また、4番目のコドンを終止コドンに変えた。さらに、復帰体を構築した。大腸菌内で構築した BAC DNA を細胞に導入したが、感染性ウイルスを得ることができなかった。BAC ベクター配列がコードしてる GFP を指標としたところ、導入はされているが、感染性ウイルスが構築さていないことがわかった。先行研究では UL11 は 24 アミノ酸分残存していたことから、C 末端を欠損させた変異ウイルスを構築し、細胞に

導入したが、いずれにおいても感染性ウイルスは得られなかった。ウサギ腎臓 細胞に UL11 発現プラスミドを導入し、構成的に発現する細胞株(RK13-UL11 細 胞)を樹立した。UL11 完全欠損体および部分欠損体、いずれも RK13-UL11 細胞 では感染性ウイルスが得られた。これらの結果から, EHV-1 Ab4p 株において UL11 は必須遺伝子であることが示された。

第2章では,ウイルス増殖における UL11 の役割を明らかにしようとした。UL11 は感染細胞において、核近傍および細胞質に局在していた。細胞質では GM130, Syntaxin 6 と共局在していたことから、ゴルジ装置に局在していると考 えられた。RK13-UL11 細胞においても UL11 は同様の局在を示したことから, UL11 の局在には他のウイルスタンパク質は不要であることがわかった。UL11のN末 端ないし C 末端に EGFP を融合させたところ, N 末端に EGFP が融合した場合には 細胞内での局在がみられなかった。一方, C 末端への融合では核近傍およびゴル ジ装置への局在がみられた。この結果は、UL11のN末端が細胞内局在に重要で あることを示唆する。RK13 細胞と RK13-UL11 細胞における EHV-1 Ab4p 株のプラ ーク形成能を比較したところ, RK13-UL11 細胞ではプラークが有意に大きいこと がわかった。RK13-UL11 細胞で増殖させた UL11 完全欠損体を RK13 細胞に接種し、 増殖動態を調べた。予想に反して、感染価は低いが、感染性ウイルスが検出さ れた。この結果は RK13-UL11 細胞で増殖させたことにより UL11 完全欠損体に UL11 が存在し、その持ち込まれた UL11 が RK13 細胞内で UL11 完全欠損体の増殖 時に補完的に作用したためと考えられた。UL11 完全欠損体感染 RK13 細胞の電子 顕微鏡観察では細胞質内にエンベロープを持たない不完全なヌクレオカプシド が多数観察された。これらのことから、UL11 はゴルジ装置に局在し、ウイルス のエンベロープ獲得および成熟に必須な役割を担っていると考えられた。

本論文において、UL11をコードする ORF51 は EHV-1 の培養細胞における増殖 において必須遺伝子であることが明らかにされた。UL11 は他のウイルスタンパ ク質とは独立にゴルジ装置に局在すること、また、UL11 の欠損は EHV-1 ヌクレ オカプシドのエンベロープ獲得および成熟に大きな影響を与えることがわかっ た。これらの知見は、EHV-1 感染症の制御に必要な抗ウイルス薬やワクチンデザ インに貢献すると考えられる。

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Equine herpes virus type 1 (EHV-1) infection is one of the major diseases in horses. EHV-1 causes a variety of clinical signs including respiratory manifestations, neurological disorder and abortion in pregnant mares. EHV-1 infection causes direct and indirect economic losses to the horse industry worldwide. Latency and reactivation which are frequently occurring after the primary natural infection enhance continuity and spreading of EHV-1. Moreover, Effective treatment and vaccines are still not available for EHV-1 infection. Many points in the EHV-1 replication cycle are still not well-understood. EHV-1 belongs to Varicellovirus genus of the Alphaherpesvirinae. EHV-1 consists of a nucleocapsid containing double-stranded DNA encoding for 76 genes, tegument layer and the envelope containing glycoproteins. Tegument proteins play diverse and significant roles during herpesvirus replication. UL11 is a 74 amino acids tegument protein of EHV-1 encoded by ORF51. UL11 is conserved among Herpesviridae. A part of ORF51 overlaps with the adjacent ORF50 (UL12). EHV-1 UL11 was previously reported by other researchers to be nonessential for viral replication in cultured cells using RacL22 and RacH strains. Besides, deletion of UL11 severely reduced plaque areas of the mutant viruses, in that report. However, the roles of UL11 in EHV-1 biology are still not clear. The aim of the current thesis was to characterize properties and contribution of EHV-1 UL11 in EHV-1 replication cycle.

In chapter I, the author described the construction of UL11 mutant viruses including a UL11 null mutant and three C-terminal truncated mutants using a neuropathogenic strain Ab4p based bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) technology. The pAb4p UL11 null mutant BAC was constructed by two nucleotide substitutions in ORF51. These substitutions were designed to stop ORF51 translation without affecting the amino acid sequence of the overlapping part of ORF50 encoding UL12. A pAb4p UL11 revertant BAC was also constructed. DNA of each BAC was extracted and incubated with Gateway LR Clonase enzyme mix to remove the BAC vector sequence.

Transfection was then performed to recover the null mutant and revertant viruses. However, none of the transfections using pAb4p UL11 null mutant BAC DNA were successful at generating an infectious virus either in rabbit kidney (RK13) or fetal horse kidney (FHK-Tcl3.1) cells; on the other side, all transfection experiments using pAb4p UL11 revertant BAC DNA produced infectious viruses. In order to confirm that the transfection of the null mutant BAC DNA was successful, transfection of BAC DNAs was performed without prior LR Clonase enzyme mix. In this experiment, the BAC vector sequence containing the enhanced green fluorescence protein (EGFP) gene was retained and the EGFP fluorescence could be used as a marker for the successful transfection. EGFP fluorescence was surely observed in both transfections in FHK-Tcl3.1 cells nd RK13. A Cytopathic effect (CPE) was also apparent in FHK-Tcl3.1 and RK13 cells transfected with parental and revertant BACs, as indicated by the excessive EGFP expression and widespread cell destruction. On the other hand, null mutant BAC DNAs transfected cells showed EGFP fluorescence by single cells overtime and no CPE, indicating that no infectious virus was generated by transfection with null mutant BAC DNA. These results suggested that ORF51 is essential for generating infectious EHV-1 in cultured cells. UL11 of the RacL22 and RacH strains of EHV-1 was reported to be nonessential by other researchers, who constructed a UL11 deletion mutant virus by inserting a LacZ cassette into ORF51, leaving only the sequence encoding amino acids 1 to 24 of UL11. Therefore, the author examined the possibility that a mutant DNA possessing the sequence encoding the 24 amino acids of Ab4p UL11 would yield progeny virus. The author constructed Ab4p UL11-truncated mutant BACs which kept sequences encoding for the first 10, 17, and 24 amino acids of UL11 by changing the 11th, 18th and 25th codons, respectively, to stop codons. Each of the BAC DNAs was introduced into FHK-Tcl3.1 and RK13 cells by transfection. Successful transfection was confirmed. No CPE appeared in each of truncated mutant DNA transfected cells. Furthermore, neither CPE nor EGFP fluorescence was observed after inoculation of the transfected cells and its supernatant into fresh cells. These data indicated that the first 10, 17 or 24 amino acids of UL11 are not enough to express its function in viral replication. In order to generate the mutant viruses, RK13 cell line constitutively expressing EHV1 UL11 was established (RK13-UL11 cells). Transfection of UL11 null and truncation mutant BAC DNAs into these cells produced CPE and generated mutant viruses. These viruses were propagated and titrated in the constitutively expressing cells. In conclusion, the present results imply that UL11 plays an essential role in the virus replication cycle.

In Chapter II, the author performed experiments to understand the role of UL11 in viral replication. At first, several indirect immunofluorescence antibody assays were performed to localize UL11 in cultured cells. UL11 was always localized in the cytoplasm, concentrated close to the nucleus, in sites revealed to be the Golgi apparatus, as inferred from the co-localization between UL11 and the Golgi proteins, GM130 and Syntaxin 6 in Ab4p infected RK13 and FHK Tcl3.1 cells. The same localization of UL11 was observed in non-infected RK13-UL11 cells, indicating that UL11 alone could be targeted and localized to Golgi apparatus without other viral proteins. Transient expression of ORF 51 encoding UL11 fused to either EGFP-N1 or EGFP-C1 plasmids indicated that exposed N-terminus glycine of UL11 is required for its localization. Second, the author compared the plaque sizes formed by the UL11 null mutant, parent and revertant viruses using both RK13 and RK13-UL11 cells. Results showed that null mutant virus-induced plaques were not visible in RK13 cells, while they were very clear in RK13-UL11 cells. In addition, plaques formed by parent and revertant viruses were considerably larger in RK13-UL11 cells compared to RK13 cells, implying a possible role of UL11 in the cell to cell spreading ability of the virus. Third, the author examined the replication kinetics of the UL11 null mutant virus in RK13 cells. Unexpectedly, progeny viruses were detected. As the null mutant virus was, by necessity, prepared using RK13-UL11 cells, then, compensation for UL11 is proposed to be mediated through the tegument associated UL11 which was acquired by the mutant virus from the complementary cells. Finally, electron microscopy showed gathering of tegument associated nucleocapsids in the cytoplasm without gaining the viral envelope in UL11 null mutant virus infected RK13 cells. In conclusion, UL11 constantly localize to Golgi, at which it plays essential role in virion envelopment and maturation.

In the present thesis, the author showed evidences that ORF51 encoding UL11 is essential for EHV-1 replication in cultured cells, demonstrated that UL11 is localized to Golgi apparatus in cells without other viral proteins, and that the he lack of UL11 drastically affects cytoplasmic envelopment and maturation of EHV-1 nucleocapsids. These findings could provide new insights for identifying novel antiviral targets and/or different vaccine design strategies that can be used to improve the current approaches for the control of EHV-1 infection.