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Teràpia Gènica amb Vectors Adenoassociats

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Some limitations of current therapies

- Drugs usually administered systemically may cause long-term side effects.
- In some cases the drug does not reach the target organ efficiently, as often happens in the brain and the blood brain barrier.



ATMPs (Advanced-Therapy-Medicinal-Products)



- The patient's own cells produce the drug.
- One single dose may be enough for whole life treatment
- Introduce the therapeutic gene in the affected patient cells (gene therapy)
- Use of cells of corrected or healthy cells (cell therapy) or tissues.

- Gene therapy
- Somatic cell therapy
- Tissue engineered product



Successful gene therapy trials in humans

Some Gene Therapy Successes

Disorder	Disease type	Patients benefiting	First publication
X-SCID	Immunodeficiency	17/20	2000
ADA-SCID	Immunodeficiency	26/37	2002
Adrenoleukodystrophy	Neurologic	2/4*	2009
Leber's congenital amaurosis	Blindness	28/30	2008
Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome	Immunodeficiency	8/10	2010
β-thalassemia	Hemoglobinopathy	1/1	2010
Hemophilia	Coagulation	6/6	2011?

*Includes a patient treated too recently to see benefit

What is geGene Therapy ?



The use of genetic material (DNA, RNA) therapeutically

• It does not exist an ideal vector for all the diseases



- Biosafety level 1
- Do not contain viral genes
- Easily to produce at large scale and GMP conditions



Ex vivo and in vivo Gene Transfer with AAV vectors: Advantages

- AAV vectors are classified as BLS-1
- Generation of AAVs vectors is very flexible and in high titers.
- For non-dividing cells as neurons or muscle fibres AAV vectors are highly recommended.
- Gene editing or integrative systems are currently used in combination with these vectors to achieve long-term expression in dividing cells (both ex vivo and in vivo approaches).
- Relatively low induction of immune response
- Currently used in human trials

Vectors with tropism to specific cell types



Characteristics of CNS important for gene transfer

- Nowadays, there is not a specific cure for many diseases affecting the Nervous System.
- Among them are neurodegenerative diseases such as mucopolysaccharidosis type VII or Alzheimer disease, immune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, and disorders associated with aging as dementia.
- CNS is protected by the Blood Brain Barrier
- Neurons are completely differentiated, quiescent, thus not all gene transfer vectors will be able to infect them

Different AAV Serotipes transduced different types of cells in the CNS



One single dose = long-term expression



Days post injection

- One single dose treatment: one single administration, years of treatment.
- Possibility to deal with chronic diseases.

AAV stability in the Central Nervous System



Persistent Expression of Dopamine-Synthesizing Enzymes 15 Years after Gene Transfer in a Primate Model of Parkinson's Disease

Yoshihide Sehara¹, Ken-ichi Fujimoto², Kunihiko Ikeguchi², Yuko Katakai³, Fumiko Ono⁴, Naomi Takino⁵, Mika Ito⁵, Keiya Ozawa⁶, and Shin-ichi Muramatsu^{1,5,6*}

HUMAN GENE THERAPY CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT, DOI: 10.1089/humc.2017.010

Cognitive decline and aging

Many animal species, with a significative shorter half-life than humans, show similar cognitive decline at the end of life, indicating that <u>specific biological processes</u> rather than the <u>length of lifetime</u> are the main responsibles for brain aging.



Factors that may increase longevity

- Rapamicin, immunosupressor drug that increases lifetime in mice
- <u>Caloric restriction</u>, increases resistance to stress and reduces oxidative damage and inflammation in mice. May increase half-life up to 50%.



 <u>Genetic background and healthy</u> <u>diets</u> are more important for longevity than caloric restriction.

- <u>Telomerases</u>, protects chromosomal integrity
- <u>Stem cells</u>, participate in tissue regeneration.
- Pro-longevity factors as sirtuins or Klotho

Klotho: Antiaging protein



- Protein associated with longevity. Produced in kidney and brain.
- Discovered in mutant mice with a severe aging phenotype at muscular, vascular and mental levels.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Suppression of Aging in Mice by the Hormone Klotho

Hiroshi Kurosu,¹ Masaya Yamamoto,¹ Jeremy D. Clark,¹ Johanne V. Pastor,¹ Animesh Nandi,¹ Prem Gurnani,¹ Owen P. McGuinness,³ Hirotaka Chikuda,⁴ Masayuki Yamaguchi,⁴ Hiroshi Kawaguchi,⁴ lichiro Shimomura,⁵ Yoshiharu Takayama,² Joachim Herz,² C. Ronald Kahn,⁶ Kevin P. Rosenblatt,¹ Makoto Kuro-o^{1*} but then began to manifest multiple age-related disorders observed in humans, including ectopic calcification, skin atrophy, muscle atrophy, osteoporosis, arteriosclerosis, and pulmonary emphysema. $KL^{-/-}$ mice suffered premature death around two months of age.

The Klotho gene encodes a single-pass transmembrane protein that is detectable in limited tissues, particularly the distal convoluted tubules in the kichey and the choroid plexus in the brain. Because a defect in the Klotho gene leads to systemic age-dependent

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Plasma Klotho and Mortality Risk in Older Community-Dwelling Adults

Richard D. Semba,¹ Anne R. Cappola,² Kai Sun,¹ Stefania Bandinelli,³ Mansi Dalal,¹ Candace Crasto,¹ Jack M. Guralnik,⁴ and Luigi Ferrucci⁵ REJUVENATION RESEARCH Volume 17, Number 2, 2014 © Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. DOI: 10.1089/rej.2013.1523

> Association of Klotho Polymorphisms with Healthy Aging: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Danilo Di Bona,^{1,2} Giulia Accardi,¹ Claudia Virruso,¹ Giuseppina Candore,^{1,2} and Calogero Caruso^{1,2}

Functions of Klotho in the CNS



In CNS the KO Klotho mice have memory deficits, alterations in axonal transport, less synapsis in hippocampus, hippocampal degeneration, and deficit in myelin production.

- Neuroprotector factor against oxidative stress
- Neuromodulation of the synapsis
- Myelinating factor
- Axonal transport
- Cognitive enhancer



Cellular/Molecular

The Antiaging Protein Klotho Enhances Oligodendrocyte Maturation and Myelination of the CNS

Ci-Di Chen,¹ Jacob A. Sloane,^{2*} Hu Li,^{2*} Nurgul Aytan,^{4*} Eustathia L. Giannaris,^{2*} Ella Zeldich,¹ Jason D. Hinman,⁶ Alpaslan Dedeoglu,⁴ Douglas L. Rosene,⁵ Rashmi Bansal,⁷ Jennifer I. Luebke,⁵ Makoto Kuro-o,⁶ and Carmela R. Abraham¹



The Journal of Neuroscience, January 30, 2013 • 33(5):1927–1939 • 1927

Klotho as a diagnostic tool

Table 1 Characteristics of participants in the three study groups.				
Characteristic ^a	Alzheimer's disease (n=20)	Normal older adults $(n = 20)$	Normal younger adults $(n = 20)$)) P ^b
Age, years	76.9 (73.8, 80.1)	76.8 (74.2, 79.4)	30.1 (27.0, 33.2)	<0.0001
Sex				
Male	10	10	10	1.00
Female	10	10	10	
MMSE score	22.1 (21.1, 23.1)	28.6 (28.2, 29.1)	Not measured	< 0.0001
CSF klotho (pg/mL)	664 (603,725)	776 (705,828)	922 (844, 1100)	0.001
^a Mean (95% CI) shown fo	or continuous variables			Semba et al, 2014

• En humanos, los niveles de klotho levels se reducen con la edad, y esta reducción es más evidente en pacientes de Alzheimer

^b For continuous variables, by ANOVA.

Klotho isoforms



Secreted Klotho isoform

 Our group reported recently that the secreted Klotho isoform is produced and stable. It is expressed in the CNS, and could be considered the specific brain isoform of klotho.



Secreted Klotho in CNS

- We analyzed the levels of sKL in different mice models of aging
- We analyzed HC, Cx, CxPf y CB





- 1. sKL levels decay during aging
- sKL levels decay rapidly in AD, and this reduction is statiscally significant BEFORE tha apparition of beta-amyloide plaques and cognitive deficits

Cause or consequence?

- It has been demosntrated a significant correlationship between Klotho and connitive performance.
- The question is: Is Klotho the cause or the consequence of it?

We have long experience in manipulating genetically the levels of a specific protein in vivo



- ✓ Murine model of natural aging. Treatment at 12m of age and evaluation at 18m.
- Disponibility of an efficient AAV vector to transduce neurons, without scondary effects.
- ✓ We have a candidate gene(Klotho, sKL). Pleiotropic. Secreted isoform.
- ✓ Administration of a single dose

T-maze: increase in CNS s-KL expression can significantly improve the score compared to control group, as checked by less errors to choice the non-visited arm of the maze (p = 0,0018)





Water-maze: To assess long-term memory retention. s-KL group prioritize much more efficiently the Plat quadrant compared to control group (*p*<0.01), indicating that increased levels of s-KL in the CNS have a significant effect on long-term memory, improving its performance.



1) Long-term expression of AAV-secreted Klotho vectors specifically in the CNS enhances cognitive performance in aged naive animals

2) No secondary effects observed



Secreted-Klotho isoform protects against agedependent memory deficits in aged animals



Summary and perspectives

 Long-term expression of secreted Klotho specifically in the CNS enhances cognitive performance in aged naive animals

- Determine if other parameters such as mielination, synapsis, neuronal viability, etc, are also improved
- Test the effect of klotho as a therapeutic protein in animal models of AD.



AAV and Blood Brain Barrier





Mucopolysaccharidosis VII



Incidence: 1:250,000 births

Wide range of clinical severity and disease onset







Experimental Design



• Biochemical and histopathological correction in peripheral tissues (liver and heart)



HTZ

- Biochemical and histopathological correction in peripheral tissues (liver and heart)
- Hepatomegaly correction and skeletal partial recovery



- Biochemical and histopathological correction in peripheral tissues (liver and heart)
- Hepatomegaly correction and skeletal partial recovery
- CNS biochemical correction

8

7

5

3

2

1

OB

PfCx

Cx

Th+BG

Ht

Hc

0.5

β-gluc activity relative to WT



• Biochemical and histopathological correction in peripheral tissues (liver and heart)

dorsal

- Hepatomegaly correction and skeletal partial recovery
- CNS biochemical correction
- Spinal cord: biochemical correction



- Biochemical and histopathological correction in peripheral tissues (liver and heart)
- Hepatomegaly correction and skeletal partial recovery
- CNS biochemical correction
- Spinal cord: biochemical correction
- Lysosomal distension (LAMP-1 accumulation)



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Perspectives:

- Test AAV vectors able to cross the BBB
- Check the effect of the immune response when overexpressing proteins in patients with absence of target protein

Gene therapy in PNS



Figures kindly provided by Assumpcio Bosch

AAV vectors for peripheral nerve



Gene Therapy (2011) 18, 622-630

Targeting the PNS by viral gene therapy vectors

Diabetic polyneuropathy







Homs et al, Gene Ther. 2011 Homs et al. J Peripher Nerv Syst. 2011 Ariza et al, Neuroscience. 2014

AAVrh10-IGF-I improves regeneration and myelination in injured sciatic nerve



Tractament Paràmetre	AAVrh10-GFP (n=7)		AAVrh10-IGF-I (n=15)		
Setmana p.i	3	4	3	4	
Múscul plantar					
CMAP (mV)	6.6 ± 0.9	6.3 ± 0.6	6.3 ± 0.3	5.5 ± 0.3	
MNCV (m/s)	34.7 ± 2.1	36.7 ± 3.2	41.3 ± 2.2	42.3 ± 2.6	
Nervi digital					
$CNAP(\mu V)$	29.2 ± 3.0	19.0 ± 3.1	36.3 ± 3.0	31.2 ± 2.6^{a}	
SNCVp (m/s)	40.2 ± 1.7	44.6 ± 2.8	44.1 ± 2.8	46.7 ± 2.4	
SNCVd (m/s)	28.1 ± 1.4	24.8 ± 0.9	28.6 ± 0.9	25.6 ± 0.6	

AAVrh10

Increased motor nerve conduction velocity and sensory compound nerve action potentials

AAV vectors for peripheral nerve regeneration





Table 1 Electrophysiological tests for animals injected with AAV8-GFP or AAV-CNTF intrasciatically

Target/parameter	17	17 dpi		24 dpi		30 dpi	
	+GFP	+CNTF	+GFP	+CNTF	+GFP	+CNTF	
Ant tibialis muscle							
Latency (ms)	4.1 ± 0.3	4.1±0.6	2.6 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.2	1.9 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.2	
CMAP (mV)	3.8 ± 1.9	4.3±1.6	7.6±1.7	12.4 ± 1.6	14.7±1.3	20.5±1.7*	
Plantar muscle							
Latency (ms)	11.2 ± 1.0	11.3 ± 0.9	5.3 ± 0.6	5.0 ± 0.4	3.9 ± 0.3	3.8 ± 0.2	
CMAP (mV)	0.06 ± 0.06	0.07±0.05	0.56 ± 0.17	0.89 ± 0.37	1.3 ± 0.4	1.9 ± 0.5	
Nociception							
Pinprick score	0.5 ± 0.5	0.7±0.5	2.2 ± 0.3	2.5 ± 0.5	4.5 ± 1.5	5.5 ± 0.5	

Abbreviations: Ant, anterior; CMAP, compound muscle action potential; dpi, days after injury. *P<0.05 vs +GFP n=4 per group. Data are expressed as mean ± s.e.m.

AAV for diseases affecting muscle



2 weeks



5 months





AAVs for diseases affecting eye



Scotopic: Visió baixa lluminositat Achromatopsia: bastons bé. Veuen amb poca llum cons afectats: no color, no veuen amb molta llum





FDA News Release

FDA approves novel gene therapy to treat patients with a rare form of inherited vision loss

Luxturna is the first gene therapy approved in the U.S. to target a disease caused by mutations in a specific gene

Luxturna is approved for the treatment of patients with confirmed biallelic RPE65 mutation-associated retinal dystrophy that leads to vision loss and may cause complete blindness in certain patients.

- Pfizer has dosed the first patient in a trial of a DMD gene therapy acquired as part of its \$700 million takeover of Bamboo Therapeutics in 2016.
- Roche has just acquired Sparks Therapeutics for \$4.300 million

Teràpia Gènica amb Vectors Adenoassociats

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- Gene therapy allows specific and efficent control of the expression of specific gene(s)
- Gene therapy allows basic research as well as preclinical/clinical research for monogenic or monogenic diseases, but also to other diseases
- AAV vectors allows long-term safe gene expression with just one single administration
- Several diseases have been cured and more clinical trials are currently in progress



Viral Vector Production Unit (UPV)

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UPV produces recombinant adenoviruses: human and canine





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IPV 🕸

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The Viral Vector Production Unit (UPV) currently produces several adenovirus (human and canine) and adeno-associated virus (AAV) serotypes.

Viral vectors are widely used tools for gene transfer and gene expression. Their use is an attractive choice given their high transduction efficiency, and the ease and flexibility to genetically express or inhibit one gene or a combination of genes in specific areas and periods of time, while avoiding compensation phenomena or other drawbacks associated with animal models. Despite the availability of standardized procedures for their application in both in vitro and in vivo, and their low risk level when used in a controlled setting, the production of viral vectors requires the application of specialized techniques, access to expensive equipment and biological safety laboratories.

UPV is a technological platform at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. It has Biological Safety Level 2 and 3 facilities and it is staffed by experienced and highly qualified personnel. Since its opening in 2003 it has been dedicated to the design, development, production and purification of more than 400 viral vectors for basic research and gene therapy pre-clinical studies for both public and private research laboratories.

Apperienced and highly dicated to the n 400 viral vectors for public and private

