

In the male rat, only fibrosis of the bladder is found by the castration, however decrease of bladder blood flow and progress of fibrosis are found when complications are added.

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Introduction

Some reports have investigated the relationship between androgens and bladder function, and an evaluation of the effect of androgens on blood vessels has indicated that vascular endothelial cell growth is suppressed due to low testosterone along with enhanced calcification of the blood vessel wall. However, there are few studies that examined the association between male hormone and histological changes. SHR rat has hypertension that is one of the vascular risk factors. Therefore, in this study, we examined the effect of androgen on BBF and histological changes after androgen deprivation. We compared the model complicated with various condition with the castration alone model.

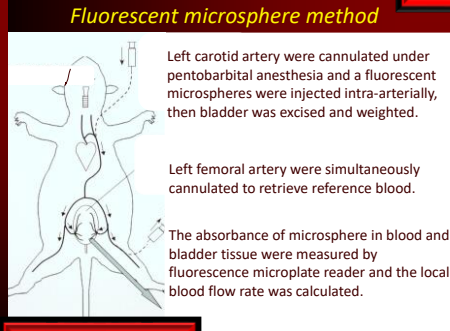
Materials and methods 1

1. Differences in BBF caused by androgen changes: Fluorescent microsphere method

We used nine-week-old adult male SHR and Wistar rat. We utilized following groups to our experiment (eight rats per group).

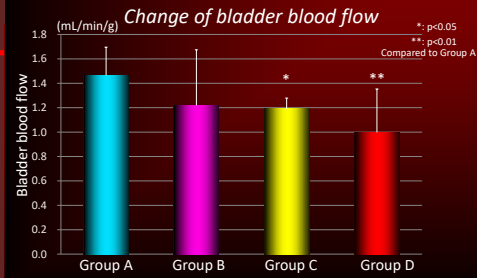
Group A : Wistar rat no operation group
Group B : Wistar rat 12-weeks post castration group
Group C : SHR rat no operation group
Group D : SHR rat 12-weeks post castration group

BBF was measured by following method.



Results 1

Differences in BBF caused by androgen changes: Fluorescent microsphere method



The mean BBF for the experimental rats were 1.47 ± 0.23 , 1.22 ± 0.46 , 1.19 ± 0.09 and 1.00 ± 0.36 [mL/min/g] for Group A, B, C and D, respectively. Compared to Group A, the mean BBF were significantly decreased in Group C ($p < 0.05$), and in Group D ($p < 0.01$).

Materials and methods 2

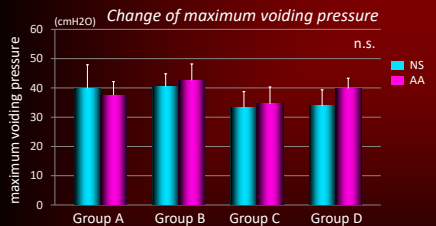
2. Relationship between androgen changes and bladder function: Examination of bladder irritability

Examination of bladder irritability

Bladder cystostomy was created using a polyethylene tube. One week later, the rats were placed in metabolic cages, and cystometry was performed without anesthesia or restraint. The bladder was irrigated with normal saline (NS) at room temperature, and 0.25% acetic acid (AA) liquid solution was then injected for 1 h at a speed of 5 mL/h. The parameters examined included maximum voiding pressure (cmH₂O) and voiding interval (sec).

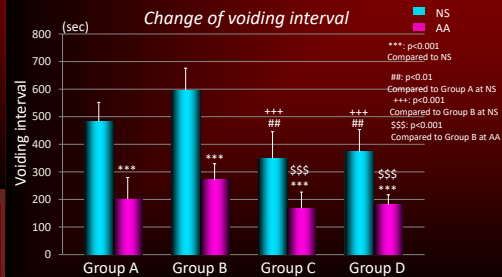
Results 2

Maximum voiding pressure (NS and AA)



No significant difference was noted in the maximum voiding pressure between NS irrigation and AA irrigation among Group A, B, C and D (39.9 ± 8.1 to 37.5 ± 4.6 , 40.5 ± 4.4 to 42.6 ± 5.6 , 33.4 ± 5.4 to 34.6 ± 5.7 , and 33.9 ± 5.5 to 39.8 ± 3.5 [cmH₂O], respectively).

Voiding Interval (NS and AA)



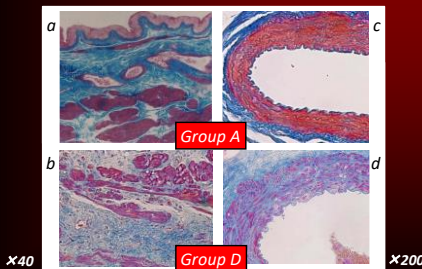
Voiding intervals in each group were significantly shortened ($p < 0.001$) following AA irrigation (482.7 ± 69.2 to 201.3 ± 78.4 , 596.5 ± 79.3 to 270.9 ± 58.7 , 349.7 ± 95.9 to 168.2 ± 58.6 , and 373.0 ± 80.8 to 180.0 ± 37.0 [sec] for Group A, B, C and D, respectively). Further, compared to Group A, the voiding intervals were significantly shorter in Group C and D ($p < 0.01$), and compared to Group B, the voiding intervals were significantly shorter in Group C and D following NS irrigation ($p < 0.001$), and compared to Group B, the voiding intervals were significantly shorter in Group C and D following AA irrigation ($p < 0.001$).

Materials and methods 3

3. Examination of androgen-related histological changes in bladder and blood vessels

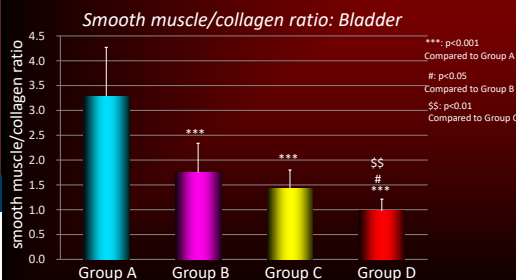
We used Mallory-stained specimen for the examination of histological change such as denaturation or fibrosis. Sections of stained tissues were observed under light microscope. The images were analyzed using Photograb-2500 and Macintosh PowerMac G4, and quantified using Image J 1.46 software. The components of smooth muscles and connective tissues were calculated from at least 10 fields from each tissue section.

Histological examination of bladder and iliac artery by Mallory methods



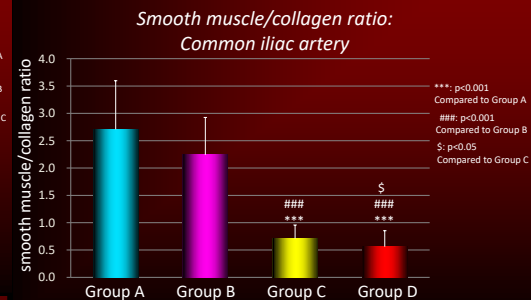
Results 3

Examination of androgen-related histological changes in bladder and blood vessels



The mean bladder smooth muscle/collagen ratio (m/c ratio) were 3.28 ± 0.99 , 1.75 ± 0.59 , 1.42 ± 0.38 , and 0.97 ± 0.24 for Group A, B, C, and D, respectively. Compared to Group A, m/c ratio was significantly lower in Group B, C, and D ($p < 0.001$), and compared to Group B, m/c ratio was significantly lower in Group C ($p < 0.05$), and D ($p < 0.01$), and compared to Group C, m/c ratio was significantly lower in Group D ($p < 0.01$).

Examination of androgen-related histological changes in bladder and blood vessels



The mean m/c ratio at the iliac artery were 2.71 ± 0.89 , 2.24 ± 0.69 , 0.71 ± 0.25 , and 0.56 ± 0.29 for Group A, B, C and D, respectively. Compared to Group A, m/c ratio was significantly lower in Group C and D ($p < 0.001$), and compared to Group B, m/c ratio was significantly lower in Group C and D ($p < 0.001$), and compared to Group C, m/c ratio was significantly lower in Group D ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions

- ✓ In male rat, the significant change was not found in castration alone, however decrease of BBF and progress of fibrosis are found when complications are added.
- ✓ We considered it could be possible for both BBF and histological change to influence on bladder function.
- ✓ We consider the results at this time would be important results that clarify a relation between androgen and blood vessel, bladder function.