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Peroxisomes are Essential Organelles Involved in Various Cellular Processes

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Introduction

Peroxisomes are essential organelles involved in various cellular processes, including lipid metabolism, detoxification, and redox homeostasis. Dysfunction of peroxisomes has been implicated in the pathogenesis of several neurological diseases. Additionally, the process of pexophagy, the selective degradation of peroxisomes by autophagy, plays a critical role in maintaining peroxisome homeostasis and preventing the accumulation of damaged or dysfunctional peroxisomes. This article aims to explore the involvement of peroxisomes and pexophagy in neurological diseases and their potential as therapeutic targets. Zellweger spectrum disorders are a group of rare genetic disorders characterized by defective peroxisome biogenesis. Patients with ZSDs exhibit impaired peroxisomal functions, resulting in severe neurological abnormalities, including developmental delay, hypotonia, seizures and sensorineural hearing loss. The accumulation of toxic metabolites due to peroxisomal dysfunction contributes to neurodegeneration and neuronal death in ZSDs. X-ALD is an inherited peroxisomal disorder caused by mutations in the ABCD1 gene, leading to impaired transport of very-long-chain fatty acids into peroxisomes. The accumulation of VLCFAs in various tissues, including the central nervous system, results in neuroinflammation, demyelination, and progressive neurologic dysfunction. Dysregulation of peroxisomal beta-oxidation and oxidative stress contribute to the pathogenesis of X-ALD.

Description

Emerging evidence suggests a role for peroxisomal dysfunction in the pathogenesis of PD. Peroxisomal abnormalities, including reduced peroxisome number and impaired peroxisomal lipid metabolism, have been observed in PD patients and animal models. Dysfunction of peroxisomes may contribute to oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, and inflammation, which are characteristic features of PD pathology. Altered peroxisomal function has also been implicated in AD. Peroxisome-related genes, including PEX5 and PEX14, have been found to be dysregulated in AD patients. Impaired peroxisomal lipid metabolism and reduced peroxisomal antioxidant defense mechanisms may contribute to oxidative stress, neuroinflammation, and the accumulation of amyloid-beta plaques and neurofibrillary tangles the selective autophagic degradation of peroxisomes, is crucial for maintaining peroxisome homeostasis and preventing the accumulation of damaged or dysfunctional peroxisomes. Dysregulation of pexophagy has been implicated in the pathogenesis of several neurological diseases, Impaired pexophagy has been observed in PD models and patients. Dysfunctional peroxisomes and impaired removal of damaged peroxisomes through pexophagy may contribute to the accumulation of toxic metabolites, mitochondrial dysfunction, and the formation of Lewy bodies, a pathological hallmark of PD [1].

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Defective pexophagy has been implicated in HD, an inherited neurodegenerative disorder. Mutant huntingtin protein, which is implicated in HD pathology, has been shown to impair peroxisomal dynamics and pexophagy. The accumulation of dysfunctional peroxisomes and impaired removal through pexophagy may contribute to neuronal dysfunction and degeneration in HD. Emerging evidence suggests a link between impaired pexophagy and ALS. Dysregulation of pexophagy-related genes, such as PINK1 and Parkin, which are associated with familial forms of ALS, may lead to defective peroxisome clearance. The accumulation of dysfunctional peroxisomes and impaired pexophagy may contribute to oxidative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction, and motor neuron degeneration in ALS. Understanding the role of peroxisomes and pexophagy in neurological diseases opens up potential therapeutic avenues. Targeting peroxisomal dysfunction and enhancing pexophagy may help restore peroxisome homeostasis, reduce neuroinflammation, and alleviate neuronal dysfunction in these disorders [2].

Peroxisomes and pexophagy play essential roles in maintaining neuronal health and function. Dysregulation of peroxisomal function and impaired pexophagy have been implicated in various neurological diseases, including ZSDs, X-ALD, PD and AD. Understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying peroxisomal dysfunction and pexophagy impairment may lead to the development of novel therapeutic approaches for these challenging neurological conditions. Future research efforts focusing on the modulation of peroxisomal function and pexophagy could offer promising avenues for targeted interventions to mitigate the progression of these diseases and improve patient outcomes. Peroxisomes are membrane-bound organelles involved in a variety of essential cellular processes, including lipid metabolism, detoxification, and reactive oxygen species regulation. Dysfunction of peroxisomes has been implicated in the pathogenesis of various neurological diseases. Additionally, the process of pexophagy, the selective degradation of peroxisomes by autophagy, plays a critical role in maintaining peroxisome homeostasis. This article explores the involvement of peroxisomes and pexophagy in neurological diseases, shedding light on their potential implications for disease progression and therapeutic interventions [3].

X-ALD is an inherited disorder characterized by impaired peroxisomal βoxidation of very-long-chain fatty acids. Accumulation of VLCFAs in the nervous system leads to demyelination and progressive neurodegeneration. Mutations in the ABCD1 gene, which encodes the peroxisomal membrane protein responsible for VLCFA transport, are primarily responsible for X-ALD. Therapeutic strategies targeting peroxisome dysfunction, such as Lorenzo's oil and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, aim to restore peroxisomal VLCFA metabolism. ZSDs are a group of severe peroxisome biogenesis disorders caused by defects in peroxisomal assembly. These disorders include Zellweger syndrome, neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy, and infantile Refsum disease. Impaired peroxisome function in ZSDs leads to abnormal lipid metabolism, neuronal migration defects, and oxidative stress, resulting in profound neurodevelopmental abnormalities. Currently, there are no disease-modifying therapies for ZSDs, highlighting the need for further research in this area. Growing evidence suggests that peroxisome dysfunction contributes to AD pathogenesis. Reduced peroxisome numbers and impaired peroxisomal function have been observed in AD brains. Peroxisomes play a crucial role in lipid metabolism. Dysregulated peroxisomal metabolism may contribute to Aβ accumulation, neuroinflammation, and oxidative stress, promoting neurodegeneration in AD. Modulating peroxisome function may represent a potential therapeutic approach for AD [4].

Pexophagy, the selective degradation of peroxisomes through autophagy,

is a critical process for maintaining peroxisome homeostasis and preventing the accumulation of damaged or dysfunctional peroxisomes. Impaired pexophagy has been observed in PD, a progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the accumulation of protein aggregates and mitochondrial dysfunction. Dysfunction of the PINK1/Parkin pathway, a key regulator of mitophagy can also affect pexophagy. Dysregulated pexophagy may contribute to peroxisomal and mitochondrial dysfunction, oxidative stress, and neuronal cell death in PD. ALS is a devastating neurodegenerative disease characterized by the progressive degeneration of motor neurons. Emerging evidence suggests that impaired autophagy, including defective pexophagy, plays a role in ALS pathogenesis. Dysfunctional pexophagy may contribute to peroxisomal abnormalities, oxidative stress, and impaired lipid metabolism observed in ALS. HD is an inherited neurodegenerative disorder caused by the expansion of a CAG repeat in the huntingtin gene. Dysregulation of autophagy, including defective pexophagy, has been implicated in HD pathogenesis. Impaired pexophagy may lead to the accumulation of damaged peroxisomes, disrupted lipid metabolism, and increased oxidative stress in HD [5].

Conclusion

Efforts are underway to develop therapies aimed at restoring peroxisomal function, such as enhancing peroxisomal biogenesis or promoting the clearance of dysfunctional peroxisomes. These approaches involve pharmacological interventions, gene therapies, or stem cell-based strategies. Promoting efficient autophagy and pexophagy may enhance the clearance of damaged peroxisomes and alleviate disease-associated pathology. Approaches targeting key regulators of autophagy, such as mTOR inhibitors or activators of the PINK1/Parkin pathway, may hold promise in this regard. Peroxisomes and pexophagy play crucial roles in maintaining cellular homeostasis, particularly in the context of neurological diseases. Dysfunction of peroxisomes and impaired pexophagy contribute to disease pathogenesis in various conditions. Further understanding of the underlying mechanisms and the development of therapeutic strategies targeting peroxisomes and pexophagy may offer novel approaches for the treatment of these devastating neurological disorders. Continued research in this area is essential for elucidating the precise roles of peroxisomes and pexophagy in disease progression and for identifying potential therapeutic interventions. However, further research is needed to unravel the underlying mechanisms and develop specific therapeutic strategies. Potential interventions may include small molecules targeting peroxisomal function, modulators of autophagy, or gene therapy approaches to enhance pexophagy.

Acknowledgement

None.

Conflict of Interest

None.

References

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