

Youth serum for real

(白血病)骨髓移植与并生有什么区别？

并生会产生免疫排斥吗？

提高健康生存期(health span)

Work of GDF11

In 2013, Wagers, Lee, and their colleagues reported in *Cell* that injection of GDF11 alone has the same effect on the hearts of old mice as an infusion of young blood: It significantly **reversed cardiac enlargement**(心脏肿大) (hypertrophy), which often causes the kind of heart failure commonly seen in older people.

And this spring(2014), in two papers in *Science*, **Wagers Lee**, and their colleagues showed that raising GDF11 to youthful levels rejuvenated muscle stem cells, reversing age-related impairments and producing greater strength and endurance in older mice.

Working with **Rubin**, they also reported that GDF11 bolstered circulation in older mouse brains, which promoted the formation of new neurons and ultimately improved brain function.

Points for other scientists of GDF11

“It’s obviously a fascinating idea that something in the blood can potentially reverse aging,” says **Toren Finkel**, who heads the Center for Molecular Medicine at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. “That’s sort of the **holy grail** for aging research.... But you’d like to know how these things work, what the mechanism is.”

Other researchers caution that the work still needs to be reproduced and note that growth factors have the potential to initiate or accelerate cancers.

Wagers suspects injecting GDF11 directly into patients would be “not ideal,”

because such an approach would bypass the tight biological regulation governing the molecule and perhaps increase the risk of side effects. “Minimally, we could use it as a biomarker for predicting outcome” and monitoring other treatments for age-related conditions. Citing unpublished data on nearly 2000 elderly heart patients followed for roughly 9 years, for example, Peter Ganz of UC San Francisco and colleagues have reported at meetings that lower levels of GDF11 in the blood predicted higher rates of heart attack, stroke, congestive heart failure, and overall mortality.

Other Factors

There is a complicated and robust system of regulation, so there’s likely multiple signals.” Indeed, Rando’s lab at Stanford has been pursuing blood-borne factors in older mice that seem to suppress stem cell activity and blunt their regenerative capacity. Conboy’s lab at UC Berkeley has recently reported that levels of the hormone oxytocin in the blood decline with age, and increased amounts of oxytocin (催产素) seem to play a major role in activating adult muscle stem cells and improving muscle regeneration. And Wyss-Coray and colleagues reported this past May in *Nature Medicine* that infusions of “young blood plasma” reversed the neural and cognitive impairments of old mice—largely by rejuvenating the function of synapses. “Interestingly, none of us ended up with the same pathway of this”

Application

Stanford doctors plan to begin transfusing plasma from young blood donors into patients with Alzheimer’s disease, and Conboy says clinical testing of oxytocin, already a Food and Drug Administration-approved drug, and other blood-borne factors are under discussion by UC Berkeley scientists.

“You want to be enthusiastic about the potential, the real potential of the science,” she continues. “On the other hand, you have to turn around and say, ‘But not yet.’ It’s just a really hard message—to be clear that the hope is real, but that it will take time, and we can’t tell you the path to get there.”

Reference

- *Science* 2014 VOL345 p1234~1237
- [Restoring Systemic GDF11 Levels Reverses Age-Related Dysfunction in Mouse Skeletal Muscle](#)
- [Vascular and Neurogenic Rejuvenation of the Aging Mouse Brain by Young Systemic Factors](#)