

White Matters: MLD., ASA, and Saposin B

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Poster Created by Emily Adams and Dylan Sebo

Our Task... To tell the molecular story behind two important molecules involved in metachromatic leukodystrophy.. Arylsulfatase A and Saposin B

Reading Material: Primary and Popular Sources

Overview of the X-ray Crystallographic Method

The Protein Data Bank has a large collection of three-dimensional instructions for molecules mapped by x-ray crystallography

Jmol allows us to use the instructions from the Protein Data Bank to create a 3D model that we can manipulate and examine closer to find the active site

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Overview and Myelination

- MLD is a lysosomal storage disorder
- Can be an autosomal recessive disorder
- MLD is a demyelinating disease that stems from a build up of sulfatides in the brain

The lysosome is the digestive system of the cell

- Myelin is an insulating layer/sheath around nerves in brain and spinal cord
- Enables nerve cells to transmit information faster

Normal nerve

- Sulfatides vital in myelin function
 - Build up as a result of MLD
 - Excess sulfatides cause demyelination

- The lysosome with the mutation in its enzymes causes molecules to build up in the lysosome leading to cellular dysfunction.

- Demyelination
 - Damage to myelin sheath
 - Nerve impulses slowed and/or stopped
 - Build up of sulfatides causes deterioration of white matter
 - Without myelin, brain would be 2-3 times larger due to need of larger axons

- Sulfatides in MLD
 - Specifics for demyelination is unknown, hypothesized the polarity of blood changes

Gray carbon are non-polar

Arylsulfatase A (ASA) Protein

- ASA protein encoded by DNA in 22nd Chromosome
- Protein found within lysosome
- Active site (shown in purple) attaches to sulfatide head
- One of many possible active sites

- ASA cleaves off sulfate head of a sulfatide renders them non-functional
- Without cleaving, sulfatides will build up in cell wall
 - Sulfatides break down myelin cell wall
- MLD mutates genes encoding for ASA rendering them non-functional
- Sulfate head of the sulfatide

Saposin B

- Saposin B gathers a sulfatide and transports molecule to ASA active site for cleaving
- Saposin B extracts lipids from membranes forming protein-lipid complexes that are recognized by ASA
- Hydrophobic interior of cavity (yellow) attracts and pulls hydrophobic section of lipid (orange) into cavity
- Polar residues (teal) attract to polar sections of lipid (blue)
- Saposin B holds sulfatide, allowing for its interaction with ASA

- Saposin B Molecule holding sulfatide within hydrophobic core

Sources used

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- <http://www.herapocura.com/asp/section.asp?section=campbells>
- http://www.emedicinehealth.com/myelin_and_the_central_nervous_system/page2_em.htm (Page 21)
- http://www.plantcellbiology.masters.gtraj.org/html/Plant_Cellular_Structure&Lysosomes.htm (Page 17)
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- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sulfatide>
- <http://www.newluxuryfeed.com/bone-marrow-transplant/> (Page 39)
- http://www.merckmanuals.com/home/brain_spinal_cord_and_nerve_disorders/multiple_sclerosis_ms_and_rela_ted_disorders/overview_of_demyelinating_disorders.htm

Treatment Options

- No cure for MLD, but there are treatment options
- Enzyme therapy
- Gene therapy
- Bone marrow transplants
 - Slows deterioration of marrow
- Stem cell treatment

- Stem Cell & Bone Marrow Transplants**
- Patient with mutated DNA is given donor bone marrow
 - New bone marrow produces previously mutated enzyme

- Campbell's Treatment**
- The Campbell's used bone marrow transplants to treat MLD
 - Out of the three children affected, two survived



- Gene Therapy**
- Replace faulty genes with non-mutated genes
 - Gene introduced as a vector (virus) to diseased cells
 - Uses new genetic information to rebuild RNA and proteins

- Enzyme Therapy**
- Cells are created containing human DNA
 - These cells produce functioning ASA
 - Recombinant human Arylsulfatase A
 - Trouble with passing the blood-brain barrier