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Project Satoshi Koike Neurovirology Project

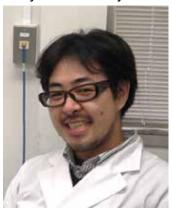
Protect the Central Nervous System from infectious Diseases

"The development of vaccine and anti-viral drugs and that of experimental models for the evaluation of these agents are important for controlling emerging and re-emerging viral infections. We will study the basic principles of neurotropic enterovirus infection and provide knowledge and technologies to control infectious diseases."

Enterovirus 71 (EV71) is a human enterovirus species A of the genus *Enterovirus* within the *Picornaviridae* family, and it is known to be one of the causative agents of hand-foot-and-mouth disease (HFMD). HFMD is considered to be a mild and self-limiting disease in general. However, in some infants and young children, HFMD caused predominantly by EV71 can be complicated by neurological manifestations. Thus, EV71 infection is a serious public health concern. Unfortunately, there is still very little information concerning EV71 pathogenesis, and vaccines or anti-EV71 drugs have yet to be developed.

Members

Kyosuke Kobayashi



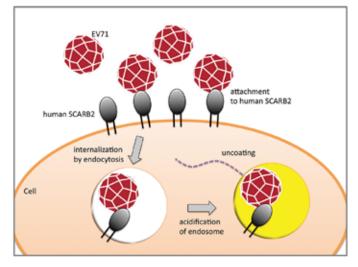
Neurovirology

Research Topics

Mechanism of Enterovirus 71 infection

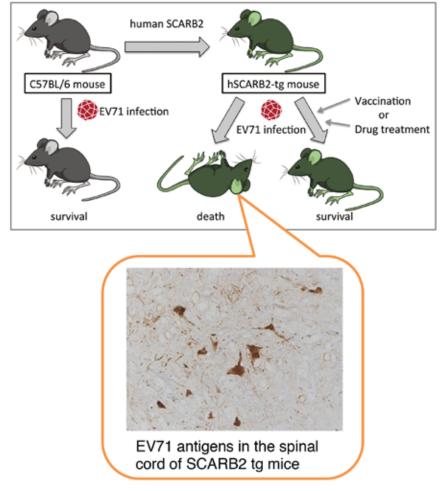
We recently found that Scavenger receptor B2 (SCARB2) is a receptor for EV71. SCARB2 plays a central role in early stages of EV71 infection. SCARB2 is able to mediate binding of the virus at the cell surface, internalization of the virus and

initiation of uncoating.



Development of an animal model for Enterovirus 71 infection

The transgenic mouse expressing human SCARB2 is susceptible to EV71. It is a useful model for the study of EV71 pathogenesis and vaccine efficacy test.



Neurovirology