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Improvement of motor conduction velocity in hereditary neuropathy of LAMA2-CMD dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mouse model by glatiramer acetate.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: Glatiramer acetate (GA), an agent modulating the immune system, has been shown to cause significantly improved mobility and hind limb muscle strength in the dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mouse model for LAMA2-congenital muscular dystrophy (LAMA2-CMD). In view of these findings and the prominent peripheral nervous system involvement in this laminin- α 2 disorder we evaluated GA's effect on dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} motor nerve conduction electrophysiologically.

METHODS: Left sciatic-tibial motor nerve conduction studies were performed on wild type (WT) mice (n=10), control dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mice (n=11), and GA treated dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mice (n=10) at 18 weeks of age.

RESULTS: Control dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mice average velocities (34.49 $\pm$ 2.15m/s) were significantly slower than WT (62.57 $\pm$ 2.23m/s; p<0.0005), confirming the clinical observation of hindlimb paresis in dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mice attributed to peripheral neuropathy. GA treated dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mice showed significantly

improved average sciatic-tibial motor nerve conduction velocity versus control dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} (50.35±2.9m/s; p<0.0005).

CONCLUSION: In this study we show for the first time improvement in motor nerve conduction velocity of LAMA2-CMD dy^{2J}/dy^{2J} mouse model's hereditary peripheral neuropathy following GA treatment.

SIGNIFICANCE: This study suggests a possible therapeutic effect of glatiramer acetate on hereditary peripheral neuropathy in this laminin-α2 disorder.

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KEYWORDS: Glatiramer acetate; LAMA2-congenital muscular dystrophy; Nerve conduction; Peripheral neuropathy; dy(2J)/dy(2J) mice

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