

Abnormal Electron Microscopic Findings of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis and Related Factors

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Background/Aims: In spite of increasing interests about nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), there are few reports about the ultrastructure of hepatocyte in this disease. The aim of this study was to clarify abnormal electron microscopic (EM) findings and related factors in NASH. **Methods:** Total of fourteen patients who underwent liver biopsy due to steatohepatitis were included. Precise personal history was taken and variable blood tests such as liver function test, lipid profile, and serum iron study were done. Pathologic examination with light and electron microscopy was done by single pathologist. **Results:** Eleven men and three women were included and mean age was 33.7 ± 12.8 years. Nine patients drinking less than 40 g/week was grouped as "NASH group" and other 5 patients drinking more than 40 g/week and body mass index less than 25 was grouped as "ASH (Alcoholic Steatohepatitis) group". Polymorphism of mitochondria such as megamitochondria or loss of cristae was major abnormal EM findings and was more common in "NASH group" than "ASH group" ($p=0.027$). There was no significant clinical or pathological factors related with the presence of these abnormal EM findings. **Conclusions:** Polymorphism of mitochondria is major abnormal EM finding of steatohepatitis and is more common in NASH than ASH. And there is no significant clinical or pathological factors which could predict the presence of these abnormal EM findings. (Korean J Gastroenterol 2005;45:417-424)

Key Words: Fatty liver; Microscopy, Electron; Ultrastructure; Mitochondria

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(nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD) 가 (nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, NASH) 가 NASH , (alcoholic steatohepatitis, ASH) ASH 가 6,7 NAFLD 8-11 가 , , 3,4,12-15 AST/ALT 가, NASH 가 NASH 가 ASH .

1. 2003 3 1 2003 8 31 가 14 . , 가 , , 가 , 40 g 가 9 NASH , 40 g 가 25 5 ASH . , methotrexate, tetracycline, amio-

darone

2. 1) ACN1610 16 G (MDTECH Inc., Gainesville, FL, USA) Pro-Mag 2.2 (MDTECH Inc., Gainesville, FL, USA) 8 9 3-4 . 2) 가 1 mm 1 mm 2.5% glutaraldehyde 0-4°C 0.1 M 1% OsO₄ 2 propylene oxide epon 37°C 12 , 45°C 12 , 60°C 48 .¹⁶ 0.5µm uranyl acetate lead citrate ^{17,18} H-7100 (Hitachi - High Technologies Co., Shimbashi, Tokyo, Japan) . 3)

10% 3-4µm hematoxylin-eosin , Mas-son's trichrome . NASH 가 Brunt ¹⁹ 33% 가 (grade 1), 33-66% 가 (grade 2), 67% 가 (grade 3) , (ballooning) , , (grade 1), (grade 2), (grade 3) sinusoid 1 , 2 , 3 , 4

2.

NASH 1 0 , 2 6 , 3
 3 ASH 1 2 , 2 1 , 3 2
 (Table 2).

NASH 1 4 , 2 5 , 3 0
 ASH 1 3 , 2 2 , 3 0
 (Table 2).

NASH 1 2 , 2 5 , 3
 2 , 4 0 ASH 1 1 , 2 4 ,
 3 4 0 (Table 2).

3.

가 , cristae ,
 가

(Fig. 1).
 cristae NASH (100%)
 ASH 2 (40%) NASH
 (p=0.027)(Fig. 2A). 가
 NASH 8 (88.9%) ASH
 cristae 2 (40%)
 NASH (p=0.095)
 (Fig. 2B).

4.

NASH 9
 ASH 2 , ASH
 3

(Table 3).

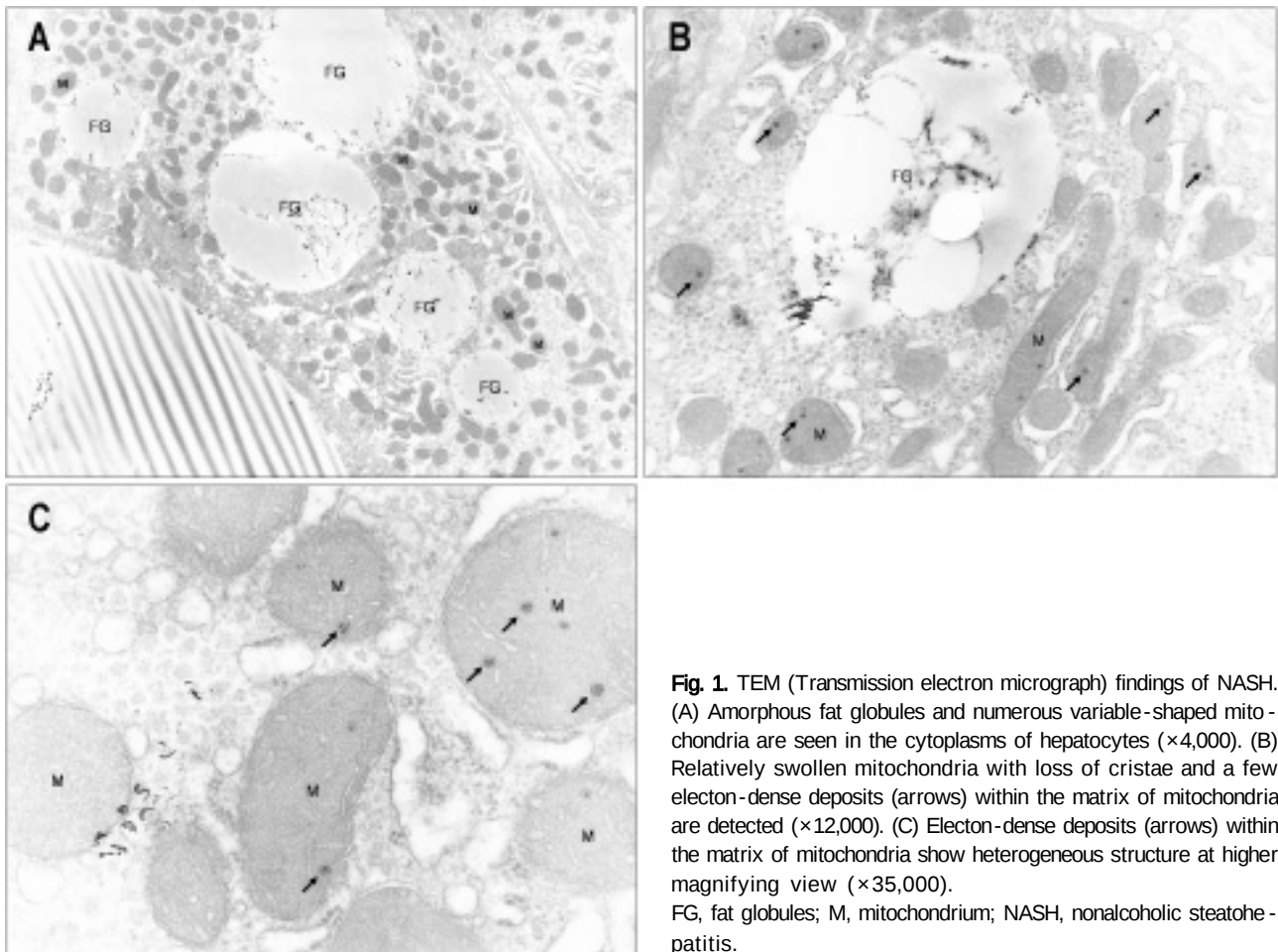


Fig. 1. TEM (Transmission electron micrograph) findings of NASH. (A) Amorphous fat globules and numerous variable-shaped mitochondria are seen in the cytoplasm of hepatocytes ($\times 4,000$). (B) Relatively swollen mitochondria with loss of cristae and a few electron-dense deposits (arrows) within the matrix of mitochondria are detected ($\times 12,000$). (C) Electron-dense deposits (arrows) within the matrix of mitochondria show heterogeneous structure at higher magnifying view ($\times 35,000$). FG, fat globules; M, mitochondrium; NASH, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis.

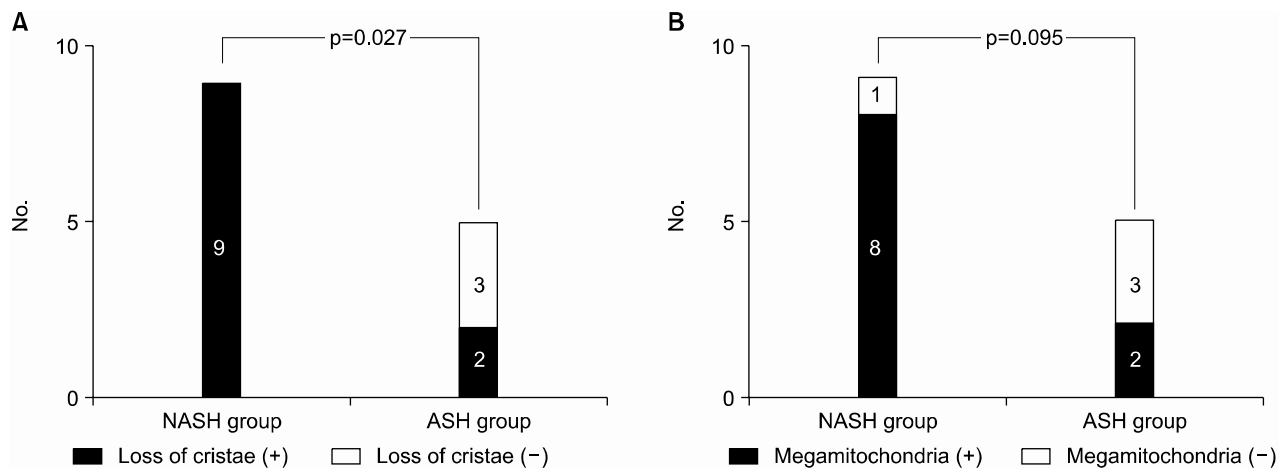


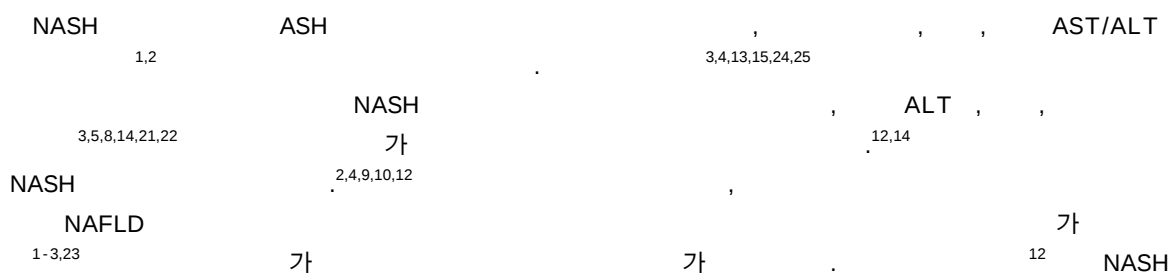
Fig. 2. Pathologic data by electron microscopy. (A) Loss of cristae is noted at all patients of NASH group and 2 of ASH group, respectively. (B) Megamitochondria with electron-dense deposits are noted at 8 patients of NASH group and 2 of ASH group, respectively.

No., numbers; NASH, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis; ASH, alcoholic steatohepatitis.

Table 3. Comparison by Presence of Mitochondrial Abnormality

	Abnormal mitochondria (n=11)	Normal mitochondria (n=3)	p value
No. of male (%)	8 (72.7%)	3 (100%)	NS
Age (years)	35 (17-60)	20 (19-30)	NS
No. of Hypt (%)	1 (9.1%)	0 (0%)	NS
BMI (kg/m ²)	28.7 (23.1-37.0)	23.3 (22.5-24.3)	0.022
No. of DM (%)	3 (27.3%)	0 (0%)	NS
AST (IU/L)	60 (35-184)	50 (31-195)	NS
ALT (IU/L)	93 (33-269)	97 (56-250)	NS
TG (mg/dL)	188 (103-695)	150 (99-267)	NS
Cholesterol (mg/dL)	190 (153-383)	156 (151-254)	NS
HOMA BF	143 (57-244)	235 (142-374)	NS
HOMA IR	4.1 (2.0-6.1)	4.2 (3.5-5.5)	NS
No. of steatosis grade (1:2:3)	1:7:3	1:0:2	NS
No. of inflammation grade (1:2:3)	5:6:0	2:1:0	NS
No. of fibrosis stage (1:2:3:4)	2:7:2:0	1:2:0:0	NS

No., number; NS, not significant; Hypt, hypertension; BMI, body mass index; DM, diabetes mellitus; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; TG, triglyceride; HOMA BF, homeostasis model assessment β cell function; HOMA IR, homeostasis model assessment insulin resistance.



34 9 43 가
 cytochrome C가
 34,35 hy-
 drazine, chloramphenicol, troglitazone
 36,37 가
 NASH
 33 ASH
 NASH
 NASH ASH
 33,38,39
 (reactive oxygen spe-
 cies, ROS) ROS
 cytochrome P-450
 NASH
 29,33
 ROS가
 가 ROS가 가
 13,23-28 NASH
 insulin
 가 ROS
 DNA malondial-
 dehyde (MDA), 4-hydroxynonenal (HNE)
 23-27 ROS interleukin-8, transforming
 growth factor- β (TGF- β), Fas ligand, tumor necrosing factor- α (TNF- α) cytokine
 가,
 Mallory
 26 ASH
 가 26,28
 가 가 Kupffer
 ROS TNF- α 가
 cytochrome P2E1 ROS
 2-hydroxyethyl radical
 NADH (reduced nicotinamide-adenine dinucleotide) 가 ASH
 ROS 가
 NASH
 26,28-33
 ROS가 가
 cristae
 (electron-dense deposit)
 33-35 ROS 가 가
 가
 ROS가 가
 11 3 33.7
 ± 12.8
 NASH , 40 g/week 5 ASH

, cristae 가

NASH 9 cristae , 8

가 ASH 5 2

cristae 가

($p=0.027$).

: , cristae

가 NASH

가 가

: ; ; ;

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