

ネフローゼ症候群の診断、病態鑑別のための新規マーカー

【キーワード】

蛋白尿

ネフローゼ症候群

ポドサイト

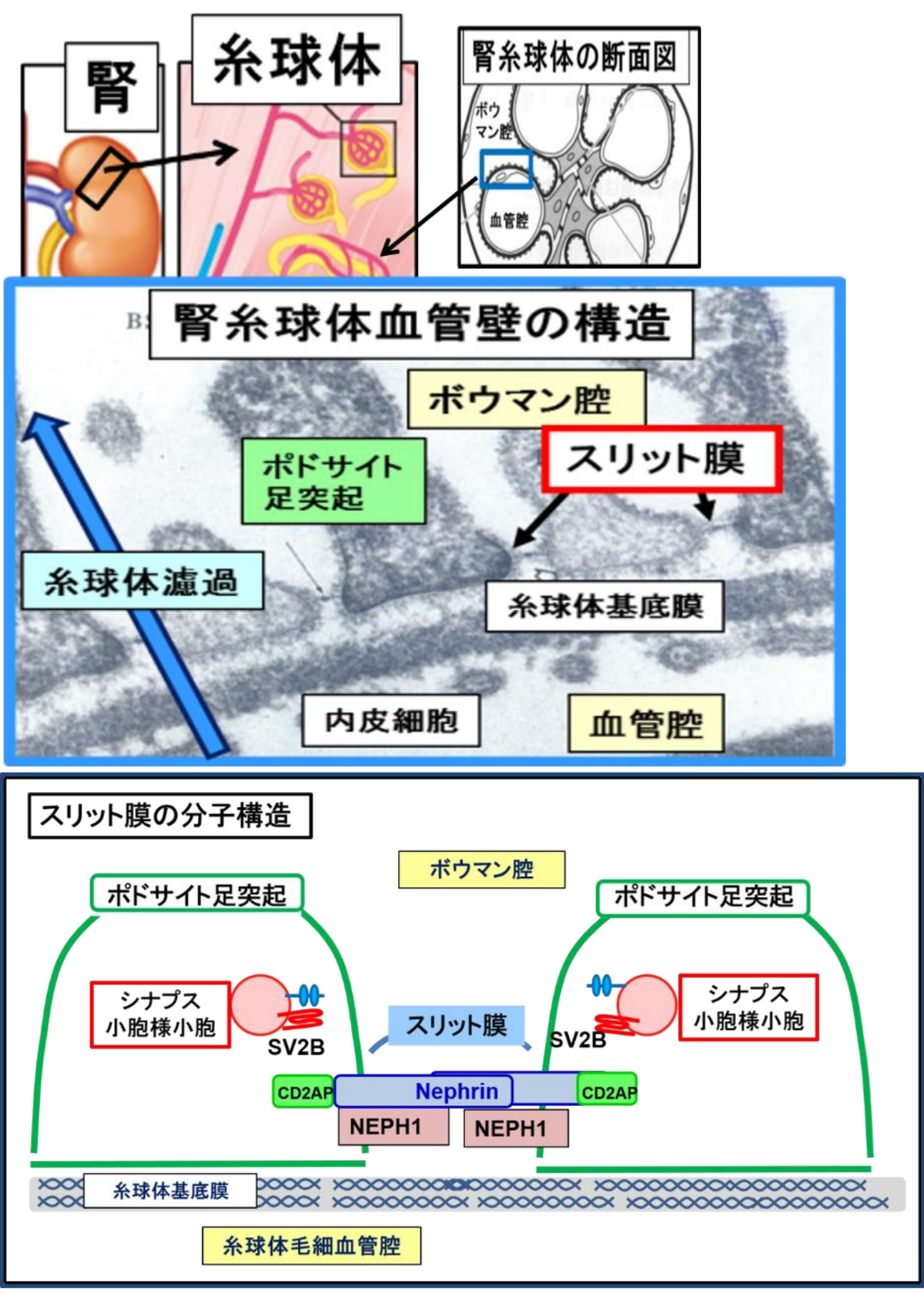
スリット膜

シナプス分子

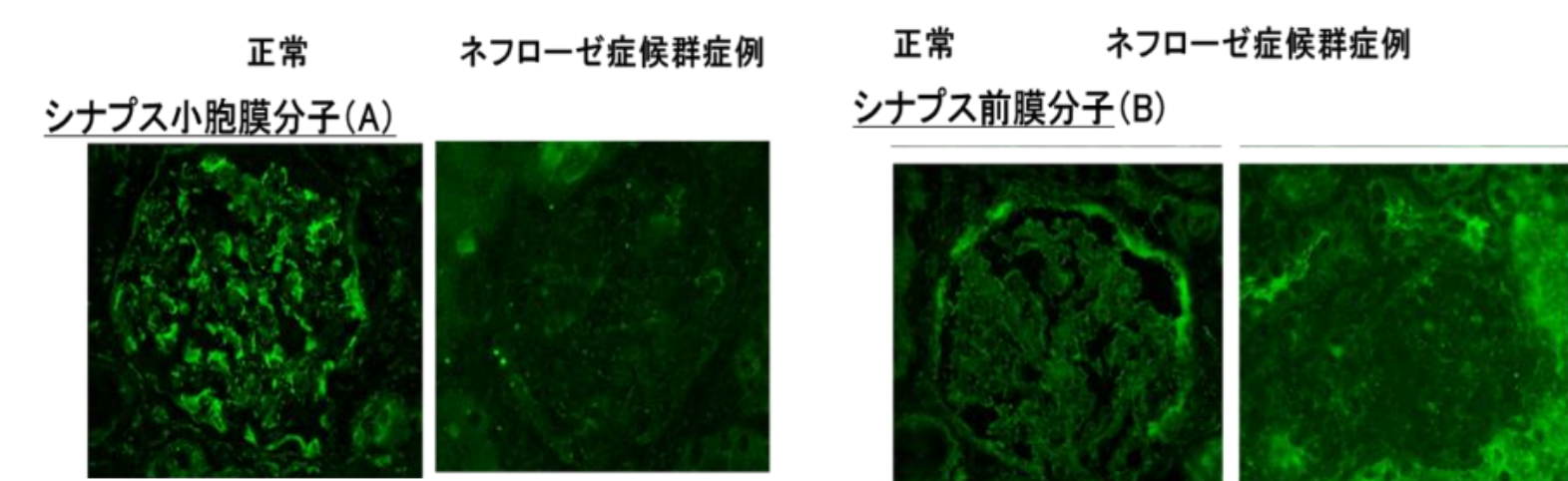
■概要

腎系球体上皮細胞(ポドサイト)の細胞間接着装置であるスリット膜が蛋白尿発症を防ぐ主要バリアであることを世界に先駆けて証明し、スリット膜の分子構造、蛋白尿発症メカニズムの解明に向けた研究を進めてきた。シナプス小胞並びに前シナプス細胞膜関連分子群がスリット膜に発現しており、病態発症時尿中に漏出し、その分子機能の低下がネフローゼ症候群の発症に関与していることを明らかにした。これらの分子群の腎組織、尿中での発現定量は、ネフローゼ症候群の病態、予後鑑別に有効であることを示した。また、これら分子群は新規治療法開発の標的となると想定される。

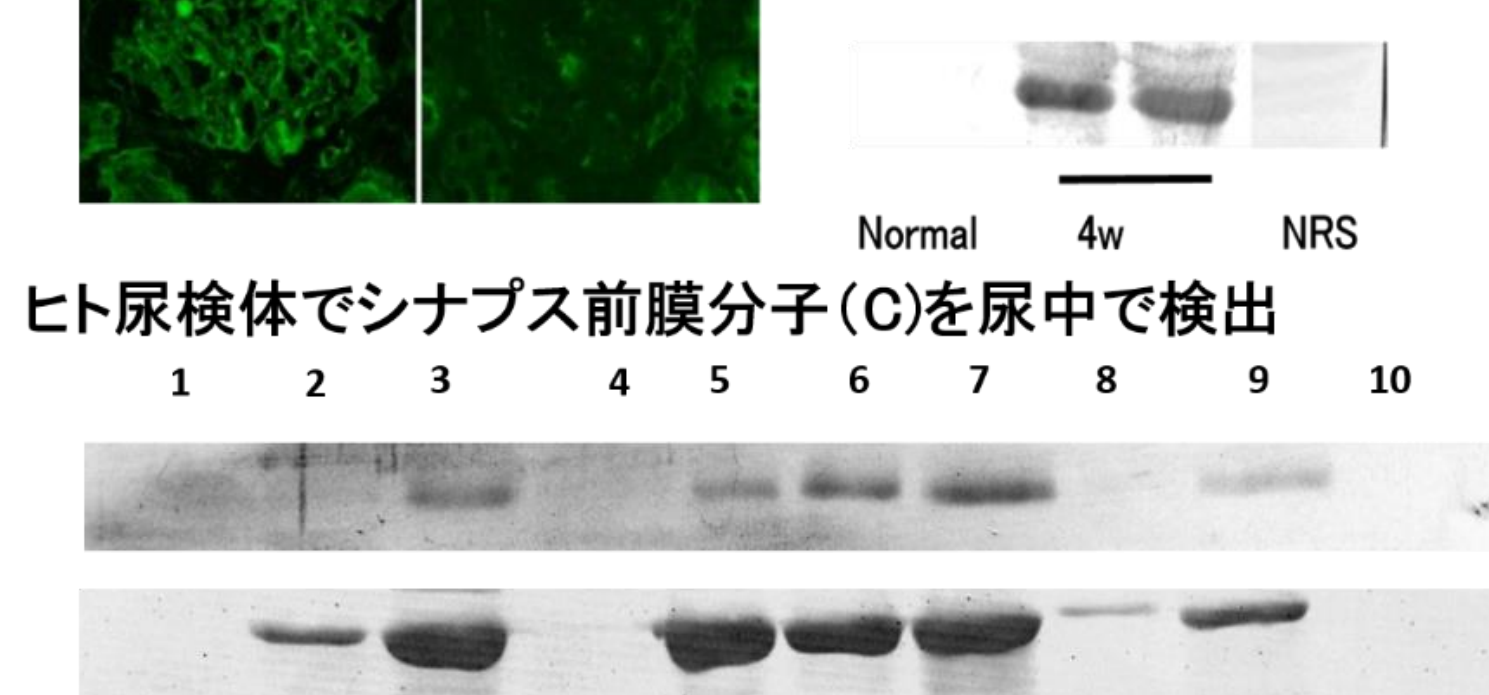
■詳細/トピック



シナプス関連分子A, B, Cはネフローゼ症候群症例で発現が低下している



シナプス前膜分子(C)を尿中で検出(ネフローゼ症候群モデルラット尿)



■応用を期待する分野

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Novel Markers for Differential Diagnosis of Nephrotic Syndrome

Proteinuria

Nephrotic Syndrome

Podocyte

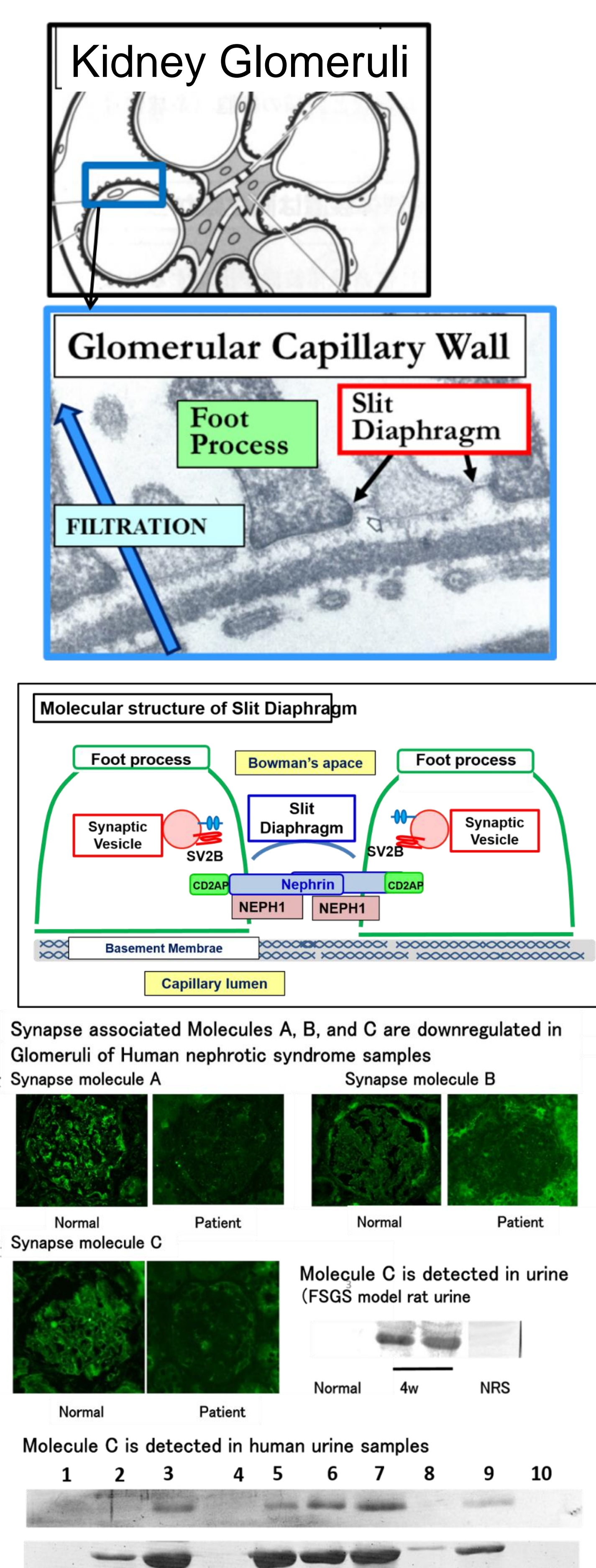
Slit Diaphragm

Synapse

Summary

Establishments of a novel therapy for proteinuria and a novel diagnostic method for nephrotic syndrome are keenly awaited. Slit diaphragm, a cell-cell junction of glomerular epithelial cells, functions as a final barrier to prevent the leak of plasma protein into urine. We found that several synaptic vesicle-associated molecules and presynaptic membrane proteins are expressed at slit diaphragm, and that some of the molecules are downregulated and excreted into urine in proteinuric states. Evaluation of the expression of these molecules in glomeruli and in urine will be helpful for differential diagnosis of nephrotic syndrome. It is also assumed that these molecules could be targets of a novel therapy of proteinuria.

Subject Details/Topic



- The number of the patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) is estimated to be more than 13 Millions in Japan. Proteinuria enhances the progression of kidney diseases. The recent epidemiological study showed that the CKD patients with proteinuria have about 3 times higher risk of cardiovascular diseases and cerebral vascular diseases. **Establishment of a novel therapy for proteinuria, and novel diagnostic tool for nephrotic syndrome are very necessary.**
- **Slit Diaphragm** bridging neighboring foot processes of kidney glomerular epithelial cell (**Podocyte**) is a highly differentiated **cell-cell junction**, since neighboring foot processes derived from different cell bodies. Our group has reported the slit diaphragm functions as a final barrier to prevent the leak of plasma protein into urine. It is now accepted that dysfunction of the slit diaphragm causes proteinuria in several types of glomerular diseases.
- Our group has reported that some functional molecules in synapse, a cell-cell junction of neural cells, are expressed in podocyte and that the downregulation of these molecules causes proteinuria.
- Here, we showed that synaptic vesicle molecule (A), presynaptic membrane molecules (B, C) are downregulation in proteinuric state and the downregulation of these molecules causes proteinuria. We also showed that presynaptic membrane molecules (C) is excreted into urine from early phase of nephrotic models.
- Evaluation of presynaptic membrane molecules (C) in urine could be useful diagnostic tool of nephritic syndrome. The molecules A, B and C could be targets of a novel therapy of proteinuria.

■ We hope to collaborate with...

Pharmaceutical Companies to develop new drug and a novel diagnostic tool for nephritic syndrome.

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