

Altered expression of mitochondria-related genes in postmortem brains of patients with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, as revealed by large-scale DNA microarray analysis

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Accumulating evidence suggests that mitochondrial dysfunction underlies the pathophysiology of bipolar disorder (BD) and schizophrenia (SZ). We performed large-scale DNA microarray analysis of postmortem brains of patients with BD or SZ, and examined expression patterns of mitochondria-related genes. We found a global down-regulation of mitochondrial genes, such as those encoding respiratory chain components, in BD and SZ samples, even after the effect of sample pH was controlled. However, this was likely due to the effects of medication. Medication-free patients with BD showed tendency of up-regulation of subset of mitochondrial genes. Our findings support the mitochondrial dysfunction hypothesis of BD and SZ pathologies. However, it may be the expression changes of a small fraction of mitochondrial genes rather than the global down-regulation of mitochondrial genes. Our findings warrant further study of the molecular mechanisms underlying mitochondrial dysfunction in BD and SZ.

INTRODUCTION

Bipolar disorder (BD) and schizophrenia (SZ) are the two major psychiatric disorders, each affecting ~1% of the population worldwide. Despite decades of extensive genetic and pharmacological studies, the etiology or pathophysiology of these disorders remains unclear. Twin, adoption, family and linkage studies suggest that they are complex genetic diseases (1). Although the two disorders are typically distinct in that BD is a disorder of emotion whereas SZ is a disorder of thought or cognition, they have common pathophysiological profiles such as a chronic and relapsing course of illness and some psychotic symptoms. They also have overlapping genetic profiles, such as common susceptibility loci, as suggested by linkage studies (2). Recently, DNA microarray analysis using postmortem brains of patients has revealed many differences and commonalities between BD and SZ at the molecular level, such as altered expression of genes encoding receptors, channels, transcription factors and molecular chaperones (3), as well as altered expression of oligodendrocyte genes (4,5) and mitochondrial genes (6,7).

In BD, we have previously proposed the mitochondrial dysfunction hypothesis (8) based on the following evidence: (i) altered energy metabolism in brains of patients with BD, as detected by phosphorus-31 magnetic resonance spectroscopy (9), (ii) increased ratio of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) deletion in postmortem brains of patients with BD (10) and (iii) genetic association between mtDNA polymorphisms and BD (11). Importantly, an *in vivo* study has revealed elevated gray matter lactate levels in medication-free patients with BD, supporting the mitochondrial dysfunction hypothesis in BD (12). A number of studies have also suggested that mitochondrial dysfunction underlies the pathophysiology of SZ (13,14). Altered activity and expression of mitochondrial respiratory chain components in lymphocyte and postmortem brains of patients with SZ have been reported (15–19). An electron micrograph study reported a decreased number of mitochondria per axon in the striatum of medication-free SZ patients (20).

Among the available genomewide techniques, DNA microarray is the most suitable tool to survey the expression levels of almost all known mitochondrial genes in a given sample.

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Several DNA microarray studies of postmortem brains of patients with BD or SZ have already been reported. These studies have differed in subjects, sample size, brain region and type of array, and their results seem to differ widely with regard to the expression profiles of mitochondrial genes. Konradi *et al.* (6) reported a global down-regulation of mitochondrial genes, such as those encoding the respiratory chain components, in BD, and they did not find such down-regulation in SZ. In our previous study, in contrast, we did not find such alterations in patients with BD, SZ or major depression (3). Other DNA microarray studies also reported no global down-regulation of mitochondrial genes in BD (21) or SZ (4,22–24), whereas some DNA microarray, proteomics and metabolomics approaches have revealed the global alterations of mitochondrial function in SZ (7,25).

There are several issues of concern about interpreting data from clinical samples, as it is difficult to control the experimental conditions, especially in studies using postmortem brains. Among the confounding factors in postmortem brain studies, sample pH and terminal condition of the subject (referred to as the agonal state) have been extensively addressed (26–30). The subjects who had prolonged agonal states, such as death by respiratory failure, or coma, tended to show effects of hypoxia or acidosis in the brain, both of which typically decrease brain pH. Although the mechanism by which a decrease in brain pH affects gene expression remains unclear, the subjects with low-pH brain tissue exhibited a distinct gene expression pattern from that seen in high-pH samples. Li *et al.* (29) found that brain pH affects gene expression systematically, according to functional categories of genes. One of the largest effects was the global down-regulation of mitochondrial genes, which was strikingly similar to the expression changes previously reported in BD and SZ (6,7). This raises a serious question that the down-regulation of mitochondrial genes observed in BD and SZ could be an artifact of sample pH rather than indicative of disease characteristics, because patients tend to show more complex causes of death than controls do, and many of these complications also lead to low-pH brain. The other concern is the effect of medication, because most drugs that are used to treat psychiatric disorders have mitochondrial toxicity (31–41).

Here, we performed large-scale DNA microarray analysis of postmortem brains of patients with BD or SZ, as well as controls, and we focused our analysis on the expression profiles of mitochondria-related genes. The goal of this study was to reveal whether mitochondrial dysfunction in BD or SZ can be detected from a gene-expression standpoint, after the effects of pH and medication are taken into consideration.

RESULTS

Overall expression changes of mitochondria-related genes

From a total of 105 RNA samples, we obtained expression profiles from 102 samples (Table 1). No difference in the percentage of presence call, which indicates the proportion of probe sets that were reliably detected in a sample, was found in BD (0.50 ± 0.06 , $n = 33$, $P = 0.34$) or in SZ

(0.52 ± 0.03 , $n = 35$, $P = 0.86$) brain samples, when compared with controls (0.51 ± 0.01 , $n = 34$).

Among the 676 mitochondria-related probe sets (mt-probe sets) analyzed, only those differentially expressed in BD or SZ compared with controls were selected by Student's *t*-test. In BD, 15.1% of mt-probe sets were significantly altered, whereas 11.2% were altered in SZ (Table 2). To examine whether these changes occurred in a diagnosis-specific manner, we used the case information concerning suicide status. We found that only 3.6% of mt-probe sets were different between suicide and non-suicide subjects (patients and controls). There was an extensive deviation toward down-regulation in both BD (94.1% of differentially expressed mt-probe sets, chi-square test for goodness-of-fit, $\chi^2 = 79.4$, $P = 5.65 \times 10^{-22}$) and SZ (81.6%, $\chi^2 = 30.3$, $P = 2.32 \times 10^{-8}$). In contrast, there was no significant deviation in the direction of expression changes corresponding with suicide status. Similar results were obtained when we performed the same analysis using the data normalized by robust multiarray average (RMA) method, although the number of differentially expressed mt-probe sets was slightly decreased in SZ (Table 2). Because of the suitability to the purpose of handling the different sets of samples, we used the data normalized by MAS5 for further analyses.

False discovery rate (FDR) analysis using the QVALUE software revealed that among the differentially expressed mt-probe sets, 24 showed significant changes with a *q*-value of 12.3% in BD ($\pi_0 = 0.588$) and 15 showed significant changes with a *q*-value of 15.3% in SZ ($\pi_0 = 0.730$); no significant changes were detected in relation to suicide status ($\pi_0 = 1$). FDR analysis using the significance analysis of microarrays (SAM) software also yielded similar results (data not shown). Although these results supported our initial findings, they clearly yielded conservative results, which prevented us from testing mitochondrial gene expressions further. We thus used standard statistical analyses to explore the relationships between mental disorders and expression of mt-probe sets.

Effect of pH

Expression levels of mt-probe sets showing down-regulation in BD or SZ compared with controls (139 probe sets) were remarkably correlated with sample pH (Table 3). In addition, the average sample pH values of BD and SZ were slightly but significantly decreased compared with controls in our sample sets (Table 4). To deal with this, we first performed non-biased hierarchical clustering analysis, based on the expression levels of 676 mt-probe sets (Fig. 1). This clustering analysis yielded two major groups: one group showed up-regulation and the other group, which mainly consisted of low-pH samples, showed global down-regulation of mt-probe sets. In agreement with the observation of 'critical pH threshold' (29), below which point transcriptional changes of mt-probe sets occurs, there seemed to be a pH boundary between 6.4 and 6.5 that separated groups in our sample set. Other variables, such as diagnosis, side of brain, gender and suicide status, could not account well for the clustering results. Although Li *et al.* (29) also pointed out that the agonal state affects the expression of mitochondrial genes, this did not help to explain the clustering results (see Discussion). Clustering

Table 1. Characteristics of the subjects

| DSM-IV diagnosis | Age/gender | Cause of death | PMI | Brain pH | Side | Brain weight | Age of onset | Medication |
|------------------|------------|-------------------|-----|----------|------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Bipolar disorder | | | | | | | | |
| 297 | 29/M | Suicide: jumped | 48 | 6.39 | L | 1570 | 22 | Risperidone, lithium |
| 297 | 29/M | Suicide: CO | 60 | 6.70 | L | 1430 | 17 | |
| 296 | 45/M | Cardiac | 28 | 6.35 | R | 1480 | 35 | Thioridazine, risperidone, lithium, valproate and benzotropine |
| 296 | 29/F | OD | 62 | 6.74 | L | 1330 | 18 | Trazodone |
| 297 | 44/M | Suicide: hanging | 19 | 6.74 | R | 1660 | 33 | Valproate |
| 296 | 49/F | Suicide: MVA | 19 | 5.87 | R | 1380 | 22 | Perphenazine, lithium |
| 297 | 48/F | Cardiac | 18 | 6.50 | L | 1205 | 33 | Fluoxetine, trazodone, doxepin |
| 297 | 42/M | Drowning | 32 | 6.65 | R | 1470 | 18 | |
| 297 | 35/M | Cardiac | 35 | 6.30 | L | 1490 | 19 | Haloperidol, lithium |
| 297 | 59/F | Suicide: OD | 53 | 6.20 | R | 1410 | 48 | Valproate, paroxetine, trazodone |
| 297 | 54/M | Suicide: OD | 44 | 6.50 | L | 1510 | 45 | Valproate, paroxetine |
| 297 | 35/F | Suicide: CO | 17 | 6.10 | R | 1250 | 21 | Olanzapine, amitriptyline |
| 296 | 45/M | Ketoacidosis | 35 | 6.03 | L | 1300 | 16 | Thioridazine, olanzapine, gabapentin |
| 296 | 42/F | OD | 49 | 6.65 | L | 1335 | 20 | Risperidone, trazodone |
| 297 | 58/F | Suicide: GSW | 35 | 6.50 | L | 1440 | 27 | Haloperidol, lithium |
| 297 | 41/M | OD | 39 | 6.60 | L | 1375 | 21 | |
| 296 | 64/M | Pneumonia | 16 | 6.10 | R | 1340 | 19 | Clozapine, valproate |
| 297 | 59/M | Sleep apnea | 84 | 6.65 | R | 1300 | 25 | Valproate, gabapentin, trazodone, zolpidem |
| 296 | 55/F | Cardiac | 41 | 5.76 | R | 1270 | 40 | Thiothixene |
| 297 | 51/F | Suicide: bleeding | 77 | 6.42 | L | 1120 | 35 | Risperidone, valproate, paroxetine |
| 296 | 51/M | Cardiac | 23 | 6.67 | R | 1590 | 23 | Lithium, carbamazepine, valproate |
| 297 | 63/F | Cardiac | 32 | 6.97 | L | 1290 | 43 | Mirtazapine |
| 297 | 44/F | Myocarditis | 37 | 6.37 | R | 1200 | 26 | Quetiapine, olanzapine, valproate, venlafaxine |
| 297 | 56/F | Drowning | 26 | 6.58 | L | 1170 | 14 | Valproate, gabapentin, trazodone, sertraline |
| 297 | 43/F | Suicide: OD | 39 | 6.74 | L | 1505 | 25 | Quetiapine, carbamazepine, gabapentin, venlafaxine |
| 296 | 35/M | Drowning | 22 | 6.58 | R | 1390 | 14 | |
| 297 | 50/F | Suicide: OD | 62 | 6.51 | L | 1400 | 25 | Amitriptyline |
| 297 | 49/F | OD | 38 | 6.39 | R | 1190 | 20 | Amitriptyline, venlafaxine |
| 297 | 33/F | Suicide: hanging | 24 | 6.51 | L | 1450 | 15 | Risperidone, lithium, fluoxetine |
| 296 | 41/F | Cardiac | 28 | 6.44 | L | 1360 | 14 | Risperidone, valproate, trazodone |
| 296 | 56/M | Suicide: OD | 23 | 6.07 | R | 1670 | 28 | Olanzapine, carbamazepine, fluoxetine, doxepin |
| 296 | 48/M | Suicide: hanging | 23 | 6.90 | L | 1466 | 31 | Lithium, fluoxetine |
| 296 | 19/M | OD | 12 | 5.97 | R | 1484 | 17 | Quetiapine, topiramate |
| Controls | | | | | | | | |
| | 44/F | Cardiac | 28 | 6.59 | R | 1330 | | |
| | 49/M | Cardiac | 46 | 6.50 | R | 1605 | | |
| | 53/M | Cardiac | 9 | 6.40 | L | 1500 | | |
| | 37/M | Cardiac | 13 | 6.50 | L | 1600 | | |
| | 51/M | Cardiac | 31 | 6.70 | R | 1400 | | |
| | 53/M | Cardiac | 28 | 6.00 | L | 1340 | | |
| | 38/F | Cardiac | 33 | 6.00 | R | 1120 | | |
| | 38/F | Cardiac | 28 | 6.70 | R | 1350 | | |
| | 60/M | Cardiac | 47 | 6.80 | R | 1460 | | |
| | 35/M | Myocarditis | 52 | 6.70 | R | 1700 | | |
| | 34/M | Cardiac | 22 | 6.48 | R | 1480 | | |
| | 45/M | Cardiac | 29 | 6.94 | R | 1405 | | |
| | 34/F | Cardiac | 24 | 6.87 | R | 1255 | | |
| | 42/M | Cardiac | 37 | 6.91 | L | 1340 | | |
| | 44/F | Cardiac | 10 | 6.20 | R | 1305 | | |
| | 57/M | Cancer | 26 | 6.40 | R | 1470 | | |
| | 45/M | Cardiac | 18 | 6.81 | L | 1585 | | |
| | 49/M | Cardiac | 23 | 6.93 | L | 1390 | | |
| | 35/M | Cardiac | 24 | 7.03 | L | 1415 | | |
| | 55/M | Cardiac | 31 | 6.70 | L | 1515 | | |
| | 49/F | Cardiac | 45 | 6.72 | L | 1435 | | |
| | 33/F | Asthma | 29 | 6.52 | L | 1360 | | |
| | 48/M | Cardiac | 31 | 6.86 | R | 1580 | | |
| | 50/M | Cardiac | 49 | 6.75 | R | 1645 | | |
| | 32/M | Cardiac | 13 | 6.57 | R | 1410 | | |
| | 47/M | Cardiac | 11 | 6.60 | L | 1495 | | |

Continued

Table 1. Continued

| DSM-IV diagnosis | Age/gender | Cause of death | PMI | Brain pH | Side | Brain weight | Age of onset | Medication |
|------------------|------------|------------------|-----|----------|------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | 46/M | Cardiac | 31 | 6.67 | L | 1360 | | |
| | 40/M | Cardiac | 38 | 6.67 | L | 1498 | | |
| | 51/M | Cardiac | 22 | 6.71 | L | 1900 | | |
| | 31/M | Pulm embol | 11 | 6.13 | R | 1335 | | |
| | 48/M | Cardiac | 24 | 6.91 | R | 1321 | | |
| | 39/F | Cardiac | 58 | 6.46 | R | 1260 | | |
| | 47/M | Cardiac | 36 | 6.57 | L | 1535 | | |
| | 41/F | Cardiac | 50 | 6.17 | R | 1290 | | |
| Schizophrenia | | | | | | | | |
| 296 | 43/M | Pneumonia | 26 | 6.42 | L | 1620 | 21 | Fluphenazine, valproate, benztrapine |
| 295 | 31/M | Cardiac | 33 | 6.20 | R | 1480 | 22 | Clozapine, benztrapine |
| 295 | 45/F | Suicide: jumped | 52 | 6.51 | R | 1510 | 34 | |
| 296 | 40/M | Pneumonia | 34 | 6.18 | R | 1480 | 21 | Thiothixene, clozapine, valproate, benztrapine |
| 296 | 51/M | Cardiac | 43 | 6.63 | L | 1390 | 23 | Fluphenazine |
| 296 | 19/M | OD | 28 | 6.73 | L | 1465 | 18 | Thioridazine, olanzapine, valproate |
| 296 | 53/F | Cardiac | 13 | 6.49 | L | 1345 | 29 | Haloperidol, lithium |
| 296 | 37/M | Cardiac | 30 | 6.80 | R | 1550 | 13 | Thioridazine, thiothixene, fluoxetine |
| 295 | 52/M | Cardiac | 10 | 6.10 | R | 1450 | 28 | Haloperidol, benztrapine, diphenhydramine |
| 296 | 24/M | Suicide: OD | 15 | 6.20 | R | 1505 | 20 | Olanzapine, valproate |
| 296 | 44/M | Exhaustive mania | 9 | 5.90 | L | 1415 | 19 | Haloperidol |
| 295 | 39/M | MVA | 80 | 6.60 | L | 1355 | 17 | Fluphenazine, benztrapine |
| 296 | 33/M | Cardiac | 29 | 6.50 | L | 1470 | 19 | Haloperidol, lithium |
| 295 | 50/M | Cardiac | 9 | 6.20 | R | 1400 | 31 | Thiothixene |
| 296 | 43/M | Cirrhosis | 18 | 6.30 | R | 1520 | 18 | Haloperidol, benztrapine |
| 296 | 32/F | Suicide: jumped | 36 | 6.80 | L | 1340 | 29 | Risperidone |
| 295 | 35/M | Cardiac | 47 | 6.40 | R | 1370 | 14 | Fluphenazine, trihexyphenidyl |
| 295 | 44/M | Cardiac | 32 | 6.67 | L | 1560 | 9 | Risperidone, fluvoxamine |
| 296 | 47/M | Acute pancreat | 13 | 6.30 | L | 1310 | 20 | Haloperidol, olanzapine, valproate |
| 296 | 45/M | Cardiac | 35 | 6.66 | L | 1390 | 15 | |
| 296 | 36/F | Suicide: hanging | 27 | 6.49 | L | 1480 | 33 | Risperidone, paroxetine, trihexyphenidyl |
| 296 | 53/M | Cardiac | 38 | 6.17 | R | 1400 | 23 | Risperidone |
| 296 | 54/F | Pneumonia | 42 | 6.65 | R | 1170 | 17 | Haloperidol, chlorpromazine, benztrapine |
| 296 | 44/F | Poss pulm thromb | 26 | 6.58 | L | 1490 | 16 | Thiothixene |
| 296 | 47/F | OD | 30 | 6.47 | R | 1430 | 23 | Quetiapine, valproate, mirtazapine, bupropion, amitriptyline |
| 296 | 39/M | Suicide: hanging | 26 | 6.80 | R | 1470 | 34 | Ziprasidone, risperidone, olanzapine, haloperidol |
| 296 | 38/M | OD | 35 | 6.68 | L | 1210 | 17 | Quetiapine, haloperidol, gabapentin, trazodone |
| 296 | 41/M | Cardiac | 54 | 6.18 | L | 1629 | 20 | risperidone, quetiapine, lithium, procyclidine |
| 296 | 43/M | Suicide: hanging | 65 | 6.67 | R | 1490 | 25 | Haloperidol |
| 296 | 42/M | Suicide: jumped | 26 | 6.19 | R | 1410 | 24 | Olanzapine, paroxetine, buspirone, clonazepam |
| 295 | 47/F | Cardiac | 35 | 6.50 | L | 1575 | 20 | Risperidone, haloperidol |
| 295 | 42/M | Cardiac | 19 | 6.48 | R | 1310 | 18 | Fluphenazine |
| 296 | 46/M | Pneumonia | 30 | 6.72 | L | 1630 | 22 | Haloperidol, risperidone, carbamazepine |
| 296 | 59/F | Cardiac | 38 | 6.93 | R | 1515 | 14 | Risperidone, trazodone |
| 296 | 52/M | Pneumonia | 16 | 6.52 | R | 1340 | 19 | Thiothixene, fluoxetine, benztrapine |

CO, carbon monoxide poisoning; OD, overdose; GSW, gun shot wound; MVA, motor vehicle accident; PMI, postmortem interval (h).

Table 2. Differential expression of mt-probe sets in BD, SZ or suicide status

| | BD | | SZ | | Suicide status ^c | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| | MAS5 | RMA | MAS5 | RMA | MAS5 | RMA |
| Differentially expressed ^a | 102 (15.1%) | 95 (14.1%) | 76 (11.2%) | 49 (7.2%) | 24 (3.6%) | 18 (2.7%) |
| Down-regulated ^b | 96 (94.1%) | 77 (81.1%) | 62 (81.6%) | 32 (65.3%) | 15 (62.5%) | 9 (50.0%) |
| Up-regulated ^b | 6 (5.9%) | 18 (18.9%) | 14 (18.4%) | 17 (34.7%) | 9 (37.5%) | 9 (50.0%) |

^aThe number of differentially expressed probe sets and its percentage of the 676 mt-probe sets are given.

^bThe number of up- or down-regulated probe sets and their percentage of the total number of differentially expressed probe sets are given.

^cAll samples were divided into two groups by their cause of death (suicide or non-suicide).

Table 3. Correlation between expression levels of 139 down-regulated mt-probe sets and sample pH

| | Number of samples | Average <i>R</i> | Average <i>P</i> |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| All samples | 102 | 0.345 ± 0.145 | 0.060 ± 0.167 |
| pH ≥ 6.4 | 73 | 0.211 ± 0.112 | 0.168 ± 0.234 |
| pH ≥ 6.5 | 61 | 0.080 ± 0.113 | 0.465 ± 0.286 |

analysis by different calculations (based on Pearson's correlation and the measurement of Euclidean distance) using GeneSpring software yielded similar results that indicated the presence of pH thresholds between 6.4 and 6.5 (data not shown). To ensure the robustness of our analyses, we used two pH points (6.4 and 6.5) as the critical pH thresholds.

To confirm further the presence of pH thresholds, we performed same clustering analysis using only control subjects ($n = 34$). The results also showed the presence of pH thresholds between 6.4 and 6.5 (Supplementary Material, Fig. S1). We next divided control subjects into two groups: low-pH (pH < 6.4) and high-pH (pH ≥ 6.4) groups. Statistical analysis revealed that a total of 219 probe sets showed significantly altered expressions among 676 mt-probe sets (Supplementary Material, Table S1). As expected from the clustering analysis, large part of probe sets (75.8%) showed down-regulations in the low-pH group.

We next assessed the effect of pH by omitting the low-pH samples sequentially from the statistical analyses (Fig. 2; Supplementary Material, Table S2). The total number of differentially expressed mt-probe sets in BD or SZ progressively decreased as the selection pH level was increased. Additionally, several new differentially expressed mt-probe sets appeared. At the critical pH thresholds, correlations between expression levels of mt-probe sets and sample pH were almost lost, and the average sample pH did not show statistical differences (Tables 3 and 4).

At these pH levels, we found that 52 probe sets (51.0% of the initially identified mt-probe sets in BD) were still differentially expressed and 24 probe sets were newly identified in BD, whereas 58 probes (76.3%) were still differentially expressed and 24 probe sets were newly found in SZ (Fig. 2; Supplementary Material, Table S3). Although a few exceptions were observed, there was a clear tendency for down-regulation in these mt-probe sets. They included genes responsible for a wide range of mitochondrial functions such as cell respiration, tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, membrane function and transport, mitochondrial transcription and translation and metabolism and catabolism of various substrates. Among the differentially expressed mt-probe sets in BD or SZ at the critical pH thresholds, 57 were shared in both diseases. Although the rest of the probe sets showed differential expression in either BD or SZ, but not both, there was an apparent tendency for the same expression changes in the two diseases (Supplementary Material, Table S3), suggesting that the overall pattern of differential gene expression was very similar in BD and SZ.

We found that about half of differentially expressed mt-probe sets in BD or SZ at critical pH thresholds were commonly altered in the low-pH control group compared

with the high-pH control group (Supplementary Material, Table S1). In addition, when we performed similar pH-shift analysis using the samples that showed lower pH than the selection pH level, we could not find any trends in the altered expression of mt-probe sets in BD or SZ (Fig. 2). In these analyses, the average sample pH in each diagnostic group did not show significant differences compared with control (Table 5). These findings demonstrate the importance of sample pH matching at the high pH levels when analyzing mitochondrial gene expression profiles. We next selected control subjects and subjects with BD such that the average pH was ~6.6 and 6.8, respectively (Supplementary Material, Table S4). Statistical analysis between these two groups (low-pH control and high-pH BD groups) showed the significant altered expressions of 51 probe sets among 676 mt-probe sets. About 80.4% of these probe sets showed down-regulation in the high-pH BD group. A total of 16 probe sets (15 down-regulation and 1 up-regulation) out of 51 probe sets were shared with the altered expressed mt-probes sets in BD at the thresholds of pH 6.4 and 6.5. None of these probe sets reversed their directions of expression changes (Supplementary Material, Table S5). Taken together, these results suggest that expression of mt-probe sets were critically influenced by sample pH, but the global down-regulation of mt-probe sets still existed in BD and SZ, even after the effect of sample pH was controlled.

To confirm the relationship between pH and expression levels of mitochondrial genes, we measured the expression levels of *CASQ1* by quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR). *CASQ1* showed positive correlation with sample pH when all samples were used for calculation. Progressive decrease of correlation at the critical pH thresholds was observed, whereas significant correlation between expression levels of *CASQ1* measured by qRT-PCR and microarray was maintained (Table 6). In accordance with our previous study, correlation between the two methods was modest (3). We also confirmed the inverse relationship between sample pH and expression level by measuring the expression level of *AK2*. Progressive decrease of correlation at the critical pH thresholds was also observed (Table 6).

Effects of drugs in BD

To assess the gene expression effects of drugs in BD, we analyzed samples from four medication-free patients with BD. As the number of medication-free patients ($n = 4$) was too small to directly apply statistical analysis at this stage, we assessed the effects of drugs in an indirect way using robust statistical approaches. We first performed statistical analysis between control subjects and all BD samples or only medicated patients with BD. If the expression changes were considerably influenced by the medication, then the *P*-value in the statistical test using only medicated patients with BD should be lower or unchanged when compared with the test using all BD samples. The obtained *P*-value was further evaluated by a permutation test performing the repeated *t*-test using the BD samples, which were selected by random deletion of four samples from all BD samples, and all control subjects. When decrease of *P*-value by deletion of medication-free patients was statistically significant by the permutation test,

Table 4. The average sample pH and sample size in the selected samples through the pH-shift analysis

| | All | pH ≥ 6.0 | pH ≥ 6.1 | pH ≥ 6.2 | pH ≥ 6.3 | pH ≥ 6.4 | pH ≥ 6.5 |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Average pH (SD) | | | | | | | |
| Control | 6.60 (0.27) | 6.60 (0.27) | 6.64 (0.23) | 6.67 (0.19) | 6.69 (0.16) | 6.69 (0.17) | 6.73 (0.15) |
| BD | 6.44 (0.29) ^a | 6.50 (0.24) | 6.53 (0.21) | 6.56 (0.18) ^a | 6.57 (0.17) ^a | 6.63 (0.14) | 6.65 (0.14) |
| SZ | 6.47 (0.24) ^a | 6.49 (0.22) | 6.49 (0.22) ^a | 6.55 (0.19) ^a | 6.59 (0.16) ^a | 6.61 (0.14) | 6.66 (0.12) |
| Sample number | | | | | | | |
| Control | 34 | 34 | 32 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 25 |
| BP | 33 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 25 | 20 | 18 |
| SZ | 35 | 34 | 34 | 29 | 26 | 24 | 18 |

^aIndicates that the average sample pH is significantly different ($P < 0.05$ in the t -test) from that in controls.

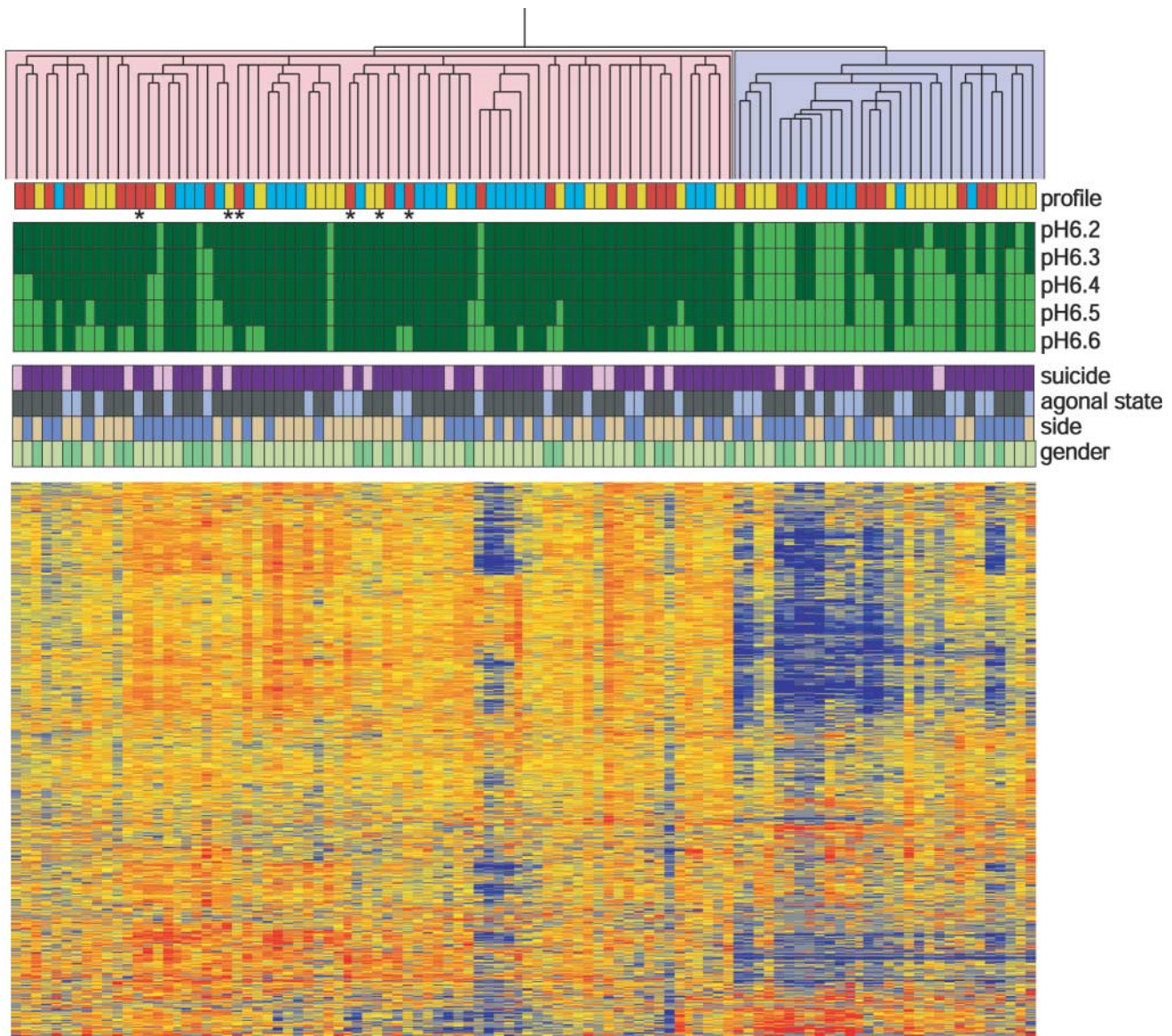


Figure 1. Two-way hierarchical clustering based on the expression levels of 676 mt-probe sets. Each column represents expression levels in individuals, and each row represents the individual probe sets. The expression value of the individual probe sets is normalized by its median value. Blue and red indicate that values are less than and greater than the median (yellow), respectively. The demographic variables of each individual are colored as follows. Diagnosis: yellow, SZ; red, BD; blue, control. Suicide: dark purple, death by non-suicide; light purple, death by suicide. Agonal state: dark gray, type-I sample; light gray, type-II sample. Side: dark blue, left hemisphere; yellow, right hemisphere. Gender: greenish yellow, male; green, female. Samples whose pH level are colored in dark green. Asterisks indicate medication-free patients.

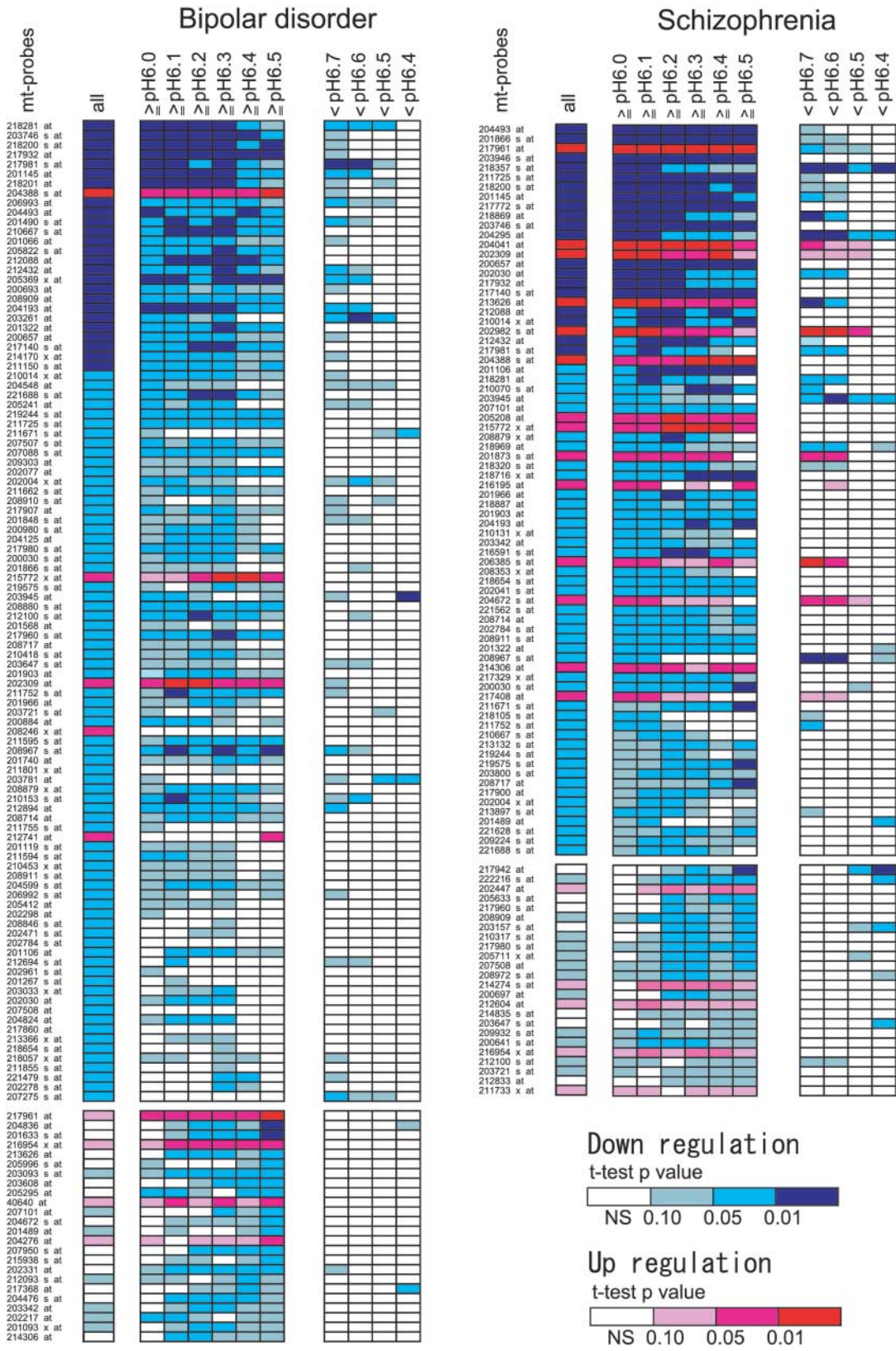


Figure 2. pH-shift analysis in BD and SZ. Each column represents the P -value in the t -test at the given selection pH level, and each row represents the individual probe sets. The probe sets were chosen ($P < 0.05$) and sorted by their P -values in the t -test using all samples. Newly appeared differentially expressed mt-probe sets through pH-shift analysis were also listed. Blue and red indicate the significant differential expression changes of down- and up-regulations, respectively. White indicates that the expression level is not statistically significant between two groups.

Table 5. The average sample pH and sample size in the omitted samples through the pH-shift analysis

| | pH < 6.7 | pH < 6.6 | pH < 6.5 | pH < 6.4 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Average pH (SD) | | | | |
| Control | 6.41 (0.22) | 6.37 (0.21) | 6.25 (0.19) | 6.10 (0.09) |
| BD | 6.36 (0.26) | 6.29 (0.24) | 6.18 (0.22) | 6.15 (0.21) |
| SZ | 6.41 (0.21) | 6.33 (0.18) | 6.27 (0.16) | 6.17 (0.11) |
| Sample number | | | | |
| Control | 18 | 15 | 9 | 5 |
| BP | 27 | 22 | 15 | 13 |
| SZ | 29 | 22 | 17 | 11 |

All the average sample pH in BD and SZ are not significantly different from those in controls.

this was regarded as reflecting an effect of drugs on the expression of that gene. This analysis was independently performed at the critical pH thresholds 6.4 and 6.5. The average sample pH did not show statistical differences at these pH thresholds (Table 7). Among the 76 probe sets differentially expressed in BD at the critical pH thresholds, 15 probe sets were apparently influenced by medication (Supplementary Material, Table S3). Most of them were down-regulated probe sets for respiratory chain components or mitochondrial transcription/translation genes, and none of the up-regulated probe sets appeared in this analysis, suggesting the general repressive effects of medication on the expression of mitochondria-related genes in the brain.

These results prompted us to examine the effect of medication on the expression of all of the 676 mt-probe sets. We divided the BD samples into medicated and non-medicated groups with regard to each of the three classes of drugs, antidepressants, valproate and antipsychotics, and then we compared their average expression levels with control samples as the selection pH level of 6.4. Among the 676 mt-probe sets tested, lower expression levels in the medicated groups were observed in 65.5% (antidepressant group), 75.7% (valproate group) and 81.0% (antipsychotic group) of mt-probe sets when compared with control subjects (Fig. 3). These observations imply that these drugs have similar and global repressive effects on the expression of mitochondria-related genes. Statistical analyses [one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dunnett's test] confirmed the repressive effects in each drug-treated group, especially in the antipsychotics-treated group. Among the 76 mt-probe sets identified in BD at the critical pH thresholds, expressions of 49 (64.5%) probe sets were influenced by at least one of the drug classes (Supplementary Material, Table S3). Notably, all probe sets identified by the permutation test appeared again in this analysis, suggesting the appropriateness of our analytical approaches.

We then directly compared the expression levels of mt-probe sets between medication-free patients with BD and control subjects. Among the 676 mt-probe sets, 27 showed significantly altered expressions at the critical pH thresholds (Table 8). Only three mt-probe sets (*GLDC*, *AK2* and *MRPL48*) were common to the two gene lists; 76 probe sets altered in all BD patients (Supplementary Material, Table S3) and 27 probe sets altered in medication-free BD patients (Table 8), suggesting the dissimilar altered mitochondrial gene expressions between medicated and medication-free

patients with BD. In contrast to the global down-regulation of mt-probe sets found in all BD patients, most of the mt-probe sets (85.2%) showed up-regulations in samples from medication-free patients with BD, when compared with controls. The number of up-regulated genes was significantly larger than that expected by random variation ($\chi^2 = 13.4$, $P = 0.03 \times 10^{-2}$). By qRT-PCR analysis, we were able to confirm the up-regulation of *CASQ1* in medication-free patients with BD when compared with controls at the critical pH thresholds (Table 9).

DISCUSSION

Effect of pH and medication on mitochondrial gene expression

A global down-regulation of mitochondria-related genes in BD and SZ was found when all samples were used for analysis without the consideration of sample pH. The results obtained at this stage were very similar to those reported previously by others (7,29). This finding was confirmed even after the effect of sample pH was controlled. The resultant probe sets contained those genes responsible for a wide range of mitochondrial proteins such as respiratory chain components and various enzymes. We thus demonstrated the presence of mitochondrial dysfunction in postmortem brains of BD and SZ patients.

Non-biased clustering analysis revealed that there is a critical pH threshold between 6.4 and 6.5 in our sample set. These pH values are apparently lower than those reported by Li *et al.* (pH 6.8). This is most likely due to the different method of measuring pH, because the average sample pH differed in different brain collections (29). This suggests that critical pH threshold should be independently determined for each set of brain samples. In addition to sample pH, the agonal state of subjects, which may be closely linked to sample pH, has also been shown to influence mitochondrial gene expression profiles (30). However, in our case, the agonal state did not seem to affect the results of clustering analysis. This is partly accounted for by the difficulty of evaluating the exact agonal state from the given information of cause of death (Table 1). More detailed information about the course of death in each subject would be needed to assess the exact agonal state. Tomita *et al.* (30) proposed the average correlation index (ACI) to evaluate the pH and agonal state in post-mortem brains. The ACI has the advantage in that this index could be calculated without the knowledge of sample pH and agonal state of subjects. In our case, the ACI analysis did identify the low-pH samples. However, this also identified samples without low-pH but with atypically down-regulated mitochondrial gene expressions (data not shown). We think that ACI would be a better index for the detection of outliers within a given sample set.

The global down-regulation of mitochondria-related genes identified by DNA microarray in postmortem samples may be largely influenced by the effect of medication. It is well known that antidepressants, valproate and antipsychotics have inhibitory effects on mitochondrial functions, especially on the activity of respiratory chain components. For example, valproate is a well-known mitochondrial toxin, inhibiting

Table 6. Correlation between qRT-PCR data and sample pH or microarray data

| | All (<i>n</i> = 101) | | pH \geq 6.4 (<i>n</i> = 72) | | pH \geq 6.5 (<i>n</i> = 60) | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| | <i>R</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>R</i> | <i>P</i> | <i>R</i> | <i>P</i> |
| Correlation with sample pH | | | | | | |
| <i>CASQ1</i> (<i>CFL1</i> -normalized) | 0.350 | <0.001 | 0.017 | 0.884 | -0.001 | 0.992 |
| <i>CASQ1</i> (<i>GAPDH</i> -normalized) | 0.394 | <0.001 | 0.007 | 0.956 | -0.014 | 0.917 |
| <i>AK2</i> (<i>CFL1</i> -normalized) | -0.445 | <0.001 | -0.322 | 0.006 | -0.168 | 0.199 |
| <i>AK2</i> (<i>GAPDH</i> -normalized) | -0.478 | <0.001 | -0.316 | 0.007 | -0.173 | 0.185 |
| Correlation with microarray data | | | | | | |
| <i>CASQ1</i> (<i>CFL1</i> -normalized) | 0.589 | <0.001 | 0.473 | <0.001 | 0.336 | 0.012 |
| <i>CASQ1</i> (<i>GAPDH</i> -normalized) | 0.599 | <0.002 | 0.474 | <0.001 | 0.350 | 0.008 |
| <i>AK2</i> (<i>CFL1</i> -normalized) | 0.295 | 0.003 | 0.525 | <0.001 | 0.586 | <0.001 |
| <i>AK2</i> (<i>GAPDH</i> -normalized) | 0.485 | <0.001 | 0.534 | <0.001 | 0.547 | <0.001 |

Table 7. The average sample pH and sample size in medicated and non-medicated BD groups at the critical pH thresholds

| | All | pH \geq 6.4 | pH \geq 6.5 |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Average pH (SD) | | | |
| Control | 6.60 (0.27) | 6.69 (0.17) | 6.73 (0.15) |
| Medicated BD | 6.40 (0.30) | 6.63 (0.16) | 6.65 (0.15) |
| Non-medicated BD | 6.63 (0.05) | 6.63 (0.05) | 6.63 (0.05) |
| Sample number | | | |
| Control | 34 | 29 | 25 |
| Medicated BD | 29 | 16 | 14 |
| Non-medicated BD | 4 | 4 | 4 |

All the average sample pH are not statistically different from those in controls.

mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation (31–33). Antidepressants, both tricyclic antidepressants such as imipramine (34) and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) such as fluoxetine (35), have roles in inhibiting oxidative phosphorylation and mitochondrial ATPase activity. Most antipsychotics, including both typical ones such as chlorpromazine and haloperidol, and atypical ones such as risperidone and quetiapine, are strong inhibitors of electron transfer activity at complex I of the respiratory chain (36–41). The relationship between the inhibitory effects of drugs on the respiratory chain and down-regulation of expression of its components at the mRNA or protein levels has not often been addressed, but Barrientos *et al.* (38) have reported that chronic haloperidol treatment in rats leads to the inhibition of the respiratory chain, which is associated with decreased protein synthesis in mitochondria.

As most medicated patients were treated with more than two classes of drugs, it was difficult to examine the effects of each class of drugs separately in our samples. It is also unclear whether the inhibitory effects of the drugs on mitochondria reflects their side effects or some efficacies. Considering the up-regulated nature of mitochondrial gene expression in medication-free patients with BD, as reported here, the inhibitory effects of the drugs may have a partially normalizing effect in these patients.

Inconsistent results among several DNA microarray studies with regard to mitochondrial gene expression may thus be attributable to differences in sample pH and/or differences in drug treatment profiles of the patients. Importantly, it is not enough to match the average pH among groups, but it

is necessary to match the pH using a critical pH threshold. Other possible sources of discrepancy are the different methods of data analysis and the different selection criteria used in microarray for detecting differentially expressed genes. However, we did not observe any signature of the global down-regulation of the mt-probe sets when we re-analyzed a previously reported data set (3) ($P < 0.05$, Student's *t*-test, Welch's *t*-test or Mann–Whitney *U*-test, with no fold change (FC) selection using MAS4, MAS5 or RMA normalized data on 466 mt-probes of the Affymetrix HU95A chip) (data not shown). Thus, in our case, the difference in data analysis method and definition of the differentially expressed genes were not the major causes for inconsistency with other studies.

Mitochondrial dysfunction in BD

We found that brain samples from medication-free BD patients showed dissimilar altered expression patterns of mitochondria-related genes when compared with those of medicated BD patients. Interestingly, they did not show concerted down-regulations. Rather, they showed the altered expression of a small subset of mitochondria-related genes, such as those encoding respiratory chain components, with a tendency toward up-regulation. According to the mitochondrial dysfunction hypothesis in BD (8), altered expression patterns of mitochondria-related genes in BD were caused by the mutations/polymorphisms of mtDNA or chromosomal loci responsible for mitochondrial functions. We recently found that the expression level of *NDUFV2*, a complex I subunit gene, was altered in the lymphoblastoid cells derived from patients with BD (42). In this case, we found that the altered expression level of *NDUFV2* was due to the promoter polymorphism associated with BD. Although our preliminary analysis could not identify the evidence of accumulation of multiple deletions of mtDNA in BD or SZ patients used in this study (Kakiuchi *et al.*, in preparation), it would be interesting to explore whether other SNPs or mutations in nuclear genes or mtDNA are involved in the altered expressions of mitochondrial genes.

Although we were unable to assess the effect of medication in SZ due to the limited number ($n = 2$) of medication-free patients with SZ, these two patients showed the tendency of high levels of expression of mt-probe sets (Fig. 1). Considering the fact that similar mt-probe sets showed down-regulation in both BD and SZ, down-regulation of mitochondrial genes in SZ may also be a result of drug treatment.

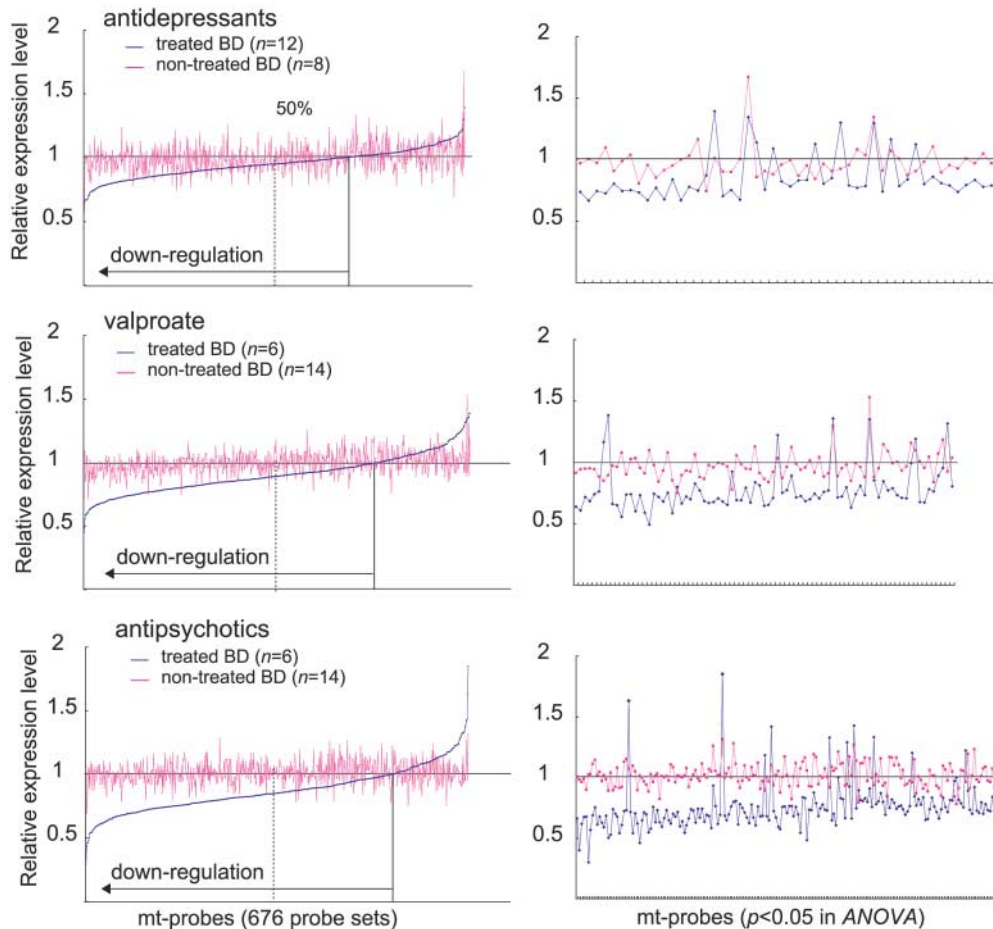


Figure 3. Effect of medication on mitochondrial gene expression in BD at the critical pH threshold. (Left panels) Expression levels of the 676 mt-probe sets were plotted. In each probe set, average expression level of medicated or non-medicated groups was normalized by dividing by those of controls. The probe sets are sorted from left to right by their normalized expression levels of drug-treated groups. For all three drugs, down-regulated probe sets were $>50\%$ of all probe sets indicated by dotted lines. (Right panels) Expression levels of the mt-probe sets whose expression was altered in drug-treated patients with BD compared with controls ($P < 0.05$ in ANOVA and Dunnett's test with the controls as a reference group). The probe sets are sorted from left to right by their ANOVA P -values.

CONCLUSION

Mitochondrial dysfunction in BD and SZ was observed even after the effect of pH was controlled. However, we conclude that this apparent dysfunction was due to the patients' medication, especially antipsychotics. Dissimilar altered expressions of mitochondria-related genes in medication-free patients with BD compared with medicated patients suggest that a small fraction of the mitochondria-related genes were differentially expressed in BD. Our findings warrant further study of the molecular mechanisms underlying mitochondrial dysfunction in BD and SZ.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Subjects and RNA samples

RNA samples extracted from the prefrontal cortices (Brodmann's Area 46) were donated by the Stanley Array Collection (Bethesda, MD, USA). They contain total RNA samples from 35 individuals in each of the three diagnostic groups (BD, SZ and controls). Diagnoses had been made according to the Diagnostic and Statistical

Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV; American Psychiatric Association). Detailed information about the diagnosis and selection criteria for sample collection, and summary of demographic variables of each diagnostic group, can be found in Table 1 and at the Stanley web site (http://www.stanleyresearch.org/programs/brain_collection.asp). The method for estimation of RNA quality can also be found at this same web site. Briefly, brain pH was determined with a Sentron pH-meter (Topac Inc., Hingham, MA, USA) using homogenized occipital cortex, and RNA integrity and purity were determined with an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). We found that among 105 samples, three samples did not pass the Test2Chip analysis as described subsequently. Thus, a total of 102 subjects were examined (Table 1). Agonal state of these subjects was predicted using information about the cause of death as stated in the previous reports (29,30).

DNA microarray

DNA microarray experiments using an Affymetrix HU133A chip (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA, USA), which contains

Table 8. Altered expression of mt-probe sets in medication-free patients with BD at the critical pH thresholds

| Probe set ID | Accession no. | Symbol | Product | Functional category | FC |
|--------------|---------------|----------|---|-----------------------------|------|
| 212568_s_at | BF978872 | DLAT | Dihydrolipoamide S-acetyltransferase | Pyruvate metabolism | 1.51 |
| 205045_at | NM_007202 | AKAP10 | A kinase (PRKA) anchor protein 10 | Others | 1.40 |
| 205851_at | BC001808 | NME6 | Non-metastatic cells 6 (nucleoside-diphosphate kinase) | Others | 1.39 |
| 221550_at | BC002382 | COX15 | COX15 homolog, cytochrome <i>c</i> oxidase assembly protein (yeast) | Respiratory chain | 1.33 |
| 218273_s_at | NM_018444 | PPM2C | Protein phosphatase 2C, magnesium dependent, catalytic subunit | Others | 1.33 |
| 203328_x_at | NM_004969 | IDE | Insulin-degrading enzyme | Others | 1.31 |
| 219645_at | NM_001231 | CASQ1 | Calsequestrin 1 | Others | 1.31 |
| 204041_at | NM_000898 | MAOB | Monoamine oxidase B | Neurotransmitter catabolism | 1.28 |
| 221865_at | BF969986 | — | DKFZp547P234 protein | Others | 1.27 |
| 213396_s_at | AA456929 | AKAP10 | A kinase (PRKA) anchor protein 10 | Others | 1.27 |
| 204836_at | NM_000170 | GLDC | Glycine dehydrogenase | Glycine catabolism | 1.26 |
| 200979_at | BF739979 | — | cDNA FLJ16053 fis | Others | 1.25 |
| 204059_s_at | NM_002395 | ME1 | Malic enzyme 1, NADP(+) dependent, cytosolic | TCA cycle | 1.25 |
| 201036_s_at | NM_005327 | HADHSC | L-3-Hydroxyacyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, short chain | Others | 1.25 |
| 204672_s_at | NM_014942 | ANKRD6 | Ankyrin repeat domain 6 | Others | 1.25 |
| 200883_at | NM_003366 | UQCRC2 | Ubiquinol-cytochrome <i>c</i> reductase core protein II | Respiratory chain | 1.25 |
| 208773_s_at | AL136943 | FLJ20288 | FLJ20288 protein | Others | 1.24 |
| 208787_at | BC003375 | MRPL3 | Mitochondrial ribosomal protein L3 | Transcription/translation | 1.24 |
| 218558_s_at | NM_017446 | MRPL39 | Mitochondrial ribosomal protein L39 | Transcription/translation | 1.24 |
| 222014_x_at | A1249752 | MTO1 | Mitochondrial translation optimization 1 homolog (yeast) | Transcription/translation | 1.23 |
| 205530_at | NM_004453 | ETFDH | Electron-transferring flavoprotein dehydrogenase | Respiratory chain | 1.22 |
| 203039_s_at | NM_005006 | NDUFS1 | NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 1, 75 kDa | Respiratory chain | 1.19 |
| 219220_x_at | NM_020191 | MRPS22 | Mitochondrial ribosomal protein S22 | Transcription/translation | 1.15 |
| 218281_at | NM_016055 | MRPL48 | Mitochondrial ribosomal protein L48 | Transcription/translation | 0.85 |
| 205760_s_at | NM_016821 | OGG1 | 8-Oxoguanine DNA glycosylase | Carbohydrate metabolism | 0.81 |
| 208967_s_at | U39945 | AK2 | Adenylate kinase 2 | Others | 0.71 |
| 219184_x_at | NM_013337 | TIMM22 | Translocase of inner mitochondrial membrane 22 homolog (yeast) | Membrane protein | 0.58 |

Probe sets were selected by the *t*-test ($P < 0.05$ at the selection pH levels of 6.4 and 6.5 in BD) and sorted by their FC expressions.

22 284 probe sets, were performed as described previously (3). In brief, 8–10 μ g of total RNA of each brain sample was used for reverse-transcription into cDNA. Biotinylated cRNA was synthesized from cDNA by *in vitro* transcription. Fragmented cRNA was first applied to the Test2Chip (Affymetrix), and then applied to the HU133A chip. The hybridization signal on the chip was scanned using an HP GeneArray scanner (Hewlett-Packard, Palo Alto, CA, USA) and was processed by GeneSuite software (Affymetrix).

Data analysis

The microarray raw data were processed by MAS5 (Affymetrix) and imported into GeneSpring 6.1 software (Silicon-Genetics, Redwood, CA, USA). Data normalization was then performed by dividing each microarray data set by its median value, using GeneSpring 6.1 software. Alternatively, the normalization was performed by the RMA method, which was implemented in the module Affy (43) of the Bioconductor microarray analysis software (<http://www.bioconductor.org/>). The probe sets for mitochondria-related genes were selected either by the NetAffx database (44) with the keywords, 'mitochondria' or 'mitochondrion', or by

Table 9. Up-regulation of *CASQ1* in the medication-free patients with BD at the critical pH thresholds

| | pH \geq 6.4 | | pH \geq 6.5 | |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| | FC | <i>t</i> -Test <i>P</i> | FC | <i>t</i> -Test <i>P</i> |
| <i>CASQ1</i> (<i>CFL1</i> -normalized) | 1.48 | 0.021 | 1.45 | 0.026 |
| <i>CASQ1</i> (<i>GAPDH</i> -normalized) | 1.47 | 0.020 | 1.45 | 0.022 |

the gene list of 'mitochondria' in the GeneSpring software, which classifies probe sets based on the information from GeneOntology (<http://www.geneontology.org/>). Only the probe sets that were called as present in more than half of the samples were analyzed. A total of 966 probe sets were selected as mt-probe sets, and 676 of these mt-probe sets were called as present in more than half of the samples. The list of mt-probe sets used in this study is available upon request.

Differentially expressed probe sets were selected by two-tailed Student's *t*-test ($P < 0.05$). FDR analysis was performed using QVALUE software (45) and SAM software (46). For estimating *q*-values by QVALUE software, π_0

(an estimate of the total proportion of true null hypotheses) was determined based on the distribution of 676 *P*-values using a smoothing method (45). Pearson's correlations between expression level and sample pH or between expression level of RT-PCR and microarray data were calculated. For pH-shift analysis, we omitted the samples whose pH was lower than a threshold pH level, and performed *t*-tests using either the remaining samples or the omitted samples. We used a *P*-value of <0.10 with threshold values of pH 6.4 and 6.5 to test for statistical significance.

The permutation test was performed by a script written in Microsoft Excel Visual Basic. In this test, repeated two-sample *t*-test was performed using the randomly resampled BD samples and all control subjects. Random resampling was done by four-delete jackknife method (47). After the 1000 times repetition, the rank of *P*-values derived from the analysis with the medicated patients with BD and control subjects was examined. This test was independently performed at the selection thresholds pH 6.4 and 6.5. The script is available upon request. ANOVA was applied to the three groups (medicated patients, non-medicated patients and controls), and Dunnett's test with the controls as a reference group was used to estimate the effect of medication. When the ANOVA revealed a significant difference among the three groups (*P* < 0.05), and Dunnett's test showed statistical differences between controls and medicated patients (*P* < 0.05), it was considered to be the evidence of a significant effect of medication. Statistical analyses were performed using GeneSpring or SPSS10.0J software (SPSS Japan, Tokyo, Japan).

Real-time quantitative RT-PCR

For qRT-PCR, 3–5 µg of total RNA was used for cDNA synthesis by oligo (dT) and SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen). qRT-PCR using SYBER/GREEN I dye (Applied Biosystems, Foster city, CA, USA) was performed with ABI PRISM 7900HT (Applied Biosystems). The comparative Ct method was employed for quantification of transcripts according to the manufacture's protocol (Applied Biosystems). Measurement of delta Ct was performed at least in triplicate. Amplification of the single product was confirmed by monitoring the dissociation curve and by gel electrophoresis. We used two control genes (*GAPDH* and *CFL1*) for normalization to control for possible fluctuations in quantitative values of the target transcripts. The validity of the use of *CFL1* as an internal control gene in postmortem brain samples has been shown previously (3,48). Among the mt-probe sets, expression levels of *AK2* and *CASQ1* were examined because they showed inverse and positive correlations, respectively, with sample pH in microarray data. Primer pairs used in this study were as follows: *AK2*, 5'-CAGCCTTCTCCAAAGCCACAT-3' and 5'-CCTATCATCCACCCATTGC-3'; *CASQ1*, 5'-AGCCCAATAGCGAAGAGGAGA-3' and 5'-TCTGCGAAGGCCACAATGT-3'. Primer pairs for *GAPDH* and *CFL1* were as described in a previous report (3). Among the 102 samples tested, one healthy control sample showing the improper amplification curves in both *CASQ1* and *AK2* measurements was omitted from data analyses.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary Material is available at HMG Online.

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