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Integrated analysis of proteome and transcriptome changes in the mucopolysaccharidosis type VII mouse hippocampus

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Abstract

Mucopolysaccharidosis type VII (MPS VII) is a lysosomal storage disease caused by the deficiency of β-glucuronidase. In this study, we compared the changes relative to normal littermates in the proteome and transcriptome of the hippocampus in the C57Bl/6 mouse model of MPS VII, which has well-documented histopathological and neurodegenerative changes. A completely different set of significant changes between normal and MPS VII littermates were found in each assay. Nevertheless, the functional annotation terms generated by the two methods showed agreement in many of the processes, which also corresponded to known pathology associated with the disease. Additionally, assay-specific changes were found, which in the proteomic analysis included mitochondria, energy generation, and cytoskeletal differences in the mutant, while the transcriptome differences included immune, vesicular, and extracellular matrix changes. In addition, the transcriptomic changes in the mutant hippocampus were concordant with those in a MPS VII mouse caused by the same mutation but on a different background inbred strain.

Keywords

mucopolysaccharidosis type VII; MPS VII; lysosomal storage disease; transcriptome; proteomic analysis; mitochondria; β-glucuronidase; GUSB; neurodegeneration; hippocampus

1. Introduction

Mucopolysaccharidosis VII (MPS VII) is a monogenic disease caused by the lack of the enzyme β-glucuronidase (GUSB) and is known to affect intellectual abilities [1, 2].

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Lysosomal storage lesions, the hallmark of the disease, and neurodegeneration are present in the hippocampus, which has been implicated in the disease [3-6]. However, the mechanisms by which these lesions lead to neurodegeneration are not known. Proteomics and transcriptomics have both been used to analyze molecular changes associated with disease. Proteome and transcriptome analyses have also been shown to complement each other in areas of overlap and extend the range of findings because of differences in methodology [7].

Transcriptomic analysis of MPS VII versus normal littermate mice on a C3H background has shown changes in pathways and processes common to all regions of the brain, as well as some region-specific alterations [8]. To further assess the changes associated with the MPS VII brain, the present study directly compared proteomics and transcriptomic analyses in the hippocampus from the MPS VII mouse on the C57Bl/6 (B6) strain background in which neurodegeneration has been studied [3, 9, 10]. The combined results of the proteome and transcriptome changes were in functional categories consistent with many of the known histopathology findings [3, 9, 10]. The analyses extended findings of pathological alterations in some non-overlapping areas and provided information on the molecular manifestation of MPS VII disease between strains of mice.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Animals

All animal procedures were performed according to protocols approved by the IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). MPS VII mice and normal controls were generated from the carrier strain B6.C-H2-Kbm1 /ByBir-Gusb mps/+/J [9] and were maintained in our breeding colony through carrier-carrier brother-sister mating. Identification of the MPS VII-affected mice was verified by PCR genotyping, as described previously [10]. Carriers were used for the normal animals and they have been shown to be equivalent to the wild type [8]. Four normal and four MPS VII animals 6 months of age were used for the transcriptomics assay. For the proteomics analysis, three normal and three MPS VII mice age matched to those used for the transcriptome assay were used.

2.2 Micro-dissection of brains

The mice were anesthetized with ketamine/xylazine and the brains were removed and placed immediately on ice. The hemispheres were separated along the medial longitudinal fissure and the hippocampi were dissected out separately from each hemisphere based on anatomical boundaries, as described in [8]. The pieces were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 C until used for RNA or protein isolation.

2.3 Protein isolation and analysis

2.3.1Protein extraction and trypsin hydrolysis—Frozen mouse hippocampi of 3 normal and 3 MPS VII mice were thawed in 0.3% SDS, 50mM Tris.HCl, pH 7.8, 0.5 mM MgCl2 (1 mL/50mg wet tissue) and disrupted in a small Dounce homogenizer. The mixture was heated for 5 min at 95C, cooled to room temperature and treated with benzonase to reduce viscosity by hydrolyzing nucleic acids. After centrifugation, a small aliquot of the

clear supernatant was reserved for protein assay and the proteins were precipitated from the remainder by adding 20 ug linear polyacrylamide and 5 volumes of acetone and storing at -20C for two hours to overnight. The protein pellet was dissolved in $1\times$ LDS sample buffer (Invitrogen), and resolved on NuPAGE 10% Bis-Tris gels (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) by electrophoresis in MOPS running buffer until the dye front reached ∼3 cm. Proteins were visualized by staining for 10 min with colloidal Coomassie blue and each lane was cut into uniform (2 mm) slices using a MEF-1.5 Gel Cutter (The Gel Company, San Francisco, CA). Individual gel slices were cut into 1 mm cubes, destained, reduced with dithiothreitol, alkylated with iodoacetamide and hydrolyzed with trypsin as previously described [11].

2.3.2 LC-MS/MS analysis—Peptide digests were loaded directly onto a C₁₈ capillary column (75 um \times 100 mm; New Objective Proteoprep 2) isocratically in 2% Acetonitrile/ 0.1%FA at a flow rate of 1 uL per minute using an Eksigent 2D LC system. A linear gradient was then initiated at a flow rate of 300 nL per minute (3% - 40%B over 42 minutes; 40% - 100%B over 3 minutes; then 5 minutes at 100% B). Buffer A was 0.1% FA and Buffer B was 80% Acetonitrile/0.1%FA. Mass spectrometry was performed on a Thermo-Finnegan LTQ mass spectrometer in a data-dependent fashion as peptides were eluted off of the capillary column. A top 5 method was performed in which one survey scan was followed by MS/MS analysis of the 5 most intense ions. MS and MSn thresholds were set to 1500 and 500, respectively. A mass range of 300 – 1800 was implemented for all runs. A repeat count of 3 was selected such that after 3 MS/MS repeats this ion was placed onto an exclusion list for 0.5 minutes. An exclusion window was set to 0.5 below and 1.5 above the target m/z. MS/MS experiments were performed with an isolation width of 2, collision energy of 35, activation $Q = 0.25$, and an activation time of 30 msec.

2.3.3 Analysis of MS/MS data and database searching—Raw files were searched against the mouse-specific component of the Swiss-Prot database (fasta file created 24 March, 2009) using SEQUEST (Sorcerer2 platform, SageN) search engine to identify peptide MS2 spectral matches. Two missed cleavages were allowed. A fixed modification of S-carbamidomethylation for cysteine, and variable modification for methionine oxidation were used. A precursor mass window of 1.2 and a fragment tolerance of 0.7 Da were utilized for all ion trap–based searches. False discovery rate at the peptide and protein level was controlled using the Peptide Prophet and Protein Prophet algorithms [12, 13] as implemented in the Trans Proteomic Pipeline (TPP v4.0 JETSTREAM rev 2, Build 200902031524, Linux).

2.3.4 APEX quantification of LC-MS/MS datasets—APEX quantification of mouse brain proteins was performed using the APEX Quantitative Proteomics Tool [14] v.1.1 as described previously [15]. Using the interact.prot.xml file from TPP analysis, a training dataset ARFF file was constructed from the 100 most frequently identified proteins. The random forest classifier algorithm was applied to the training set and then to all the in silicogenerated tryptic peptides from the mouse fasta file to allow calculation of the complete set of mouse protein observability index (Oi) values. Apex abundances for all the observed mouse brain proteins were finally calculated using the intertact.prot.xml files generated for each experiment by the TPP analysis of the SEQUEST search results.

2.4 RNA isolation and microarray analysis

2.4.1 RNA isolation—Total RNA was isolated from the right hippocampus. Frozen tissue was placed into TRIzol (Invitrogen) at 1 ml per sample and homogenized (Pellet Pestle Motor - Kontes, VWR) at maximum speed for 20-40 Sec. The RNA was further purified using the RNeasy Lipid Tissue mini kit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA quality was assessed by measuring the $A_{260/280}$ ratio on a NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific). RNA integrity was verified by visualization of the 28S and 18S ribosomal rRNA bands, with no presence of smear, using a denaturing TAEagarose gel.

2.4.2 Microarrays—1 μg RNA was used to prepare biotinylated aRNA samples using the MessageAMP II-biotin Enhanced Signal Round aRNA Amplification Kit (Ambion). Reverse transcription, in vitro transcription and fragmentation were performed according to manufacturer's instructions (Ambion). Samples of 10 μg aRNA were hybridized on Affymetrix mouse genome 430A 2.0 Gene Chips containing 22,690 oligonucleotide probe sets (www.affymetrix.com). Hybridization, staining and washing were performed on an Affymetrix Fluidics Station 400 at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Nucleic Acid Core facility according to Affymetrix protocols. Scanning was performed using the Affymetrix Gene Chip Scanner 3000 controlled by a GeneChip Operating software 1.4 (GCOS, Affymetrix).

2.4.3 Data normalization and analysis—Raw microarray image files were processed using the Affymetrix GCOS 1.4 software to calculate individual probe cell intensity data and generate CEL data files. The CEL files were imported into Partek Genomics Suite (v6.5, Partek Inc., St. Louis, MO) where RMA normalization was applied.

2.5 Statistics

2.5.1 Proteomics—Partek Genomics Suite (v6.5, Partek, Inc., St. Louis, MO) was used for statistical analysis. Proteins were considered significantly different at the non-corrected level of p<0.05. The software calculates p-values when one group has a protein detected in only one animal and the other group has that protein detected in multiple animals by assuming the variance of the more complete group. Statistical analysis of proteins undetected in one group but detected in all three animals of the other group and the issue of non-detected proteins is discussed in the results section.

2.5.2 Transcriptomics—Significant Analysis of Microarray (SAM) was used for the transcriptomics significance calculation because its false discovery rate calculation is optimized for microarray analysis [16]. Gene transcription was considered significantly different at the level of $q<0.05$ with a >1.5 fold change.

2.5.3 Statistics abbreviations—p-value (small p), probability test value for significance; P-value (large P), strength of association in Spearman's Rank Correlation [17] or enrichment value in DAVID analysis [18]; q-value, probability test with false discovery rate calculation [19].

2.5.4 Proteomic/transcriptomic comparison—UniProt protein accession numbers [\(www.uniprot.org](http://www.uniprot.org)) and Affymetrix probe IDs were converted to DAVID IDs [\(http://](http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/) david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/) for comparison.

2.5.5 Spearman rank order—Two-tailed Spearman rank order was calculated using the online calculator provided by <http://www.vassarstats.net> [17].

2.5.6 Functional annotation analysis—The significantly changed proteins (p<0.05) and gene transcription changes $(q<0.05)$ were analyzed using Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery v6.7 (DAVID) [\(http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov\)](http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov) [20] for Gene Ontology (GO) terms [21] using the mus musculis background, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) [22] and other database enrichment and functional clustering, or from literature-search generated gene lists as described in the results section. The Euler diagram of proportionality was generated by EulerAPE from [http://](http://www.eulerdiagrams.org/eulerAPE/#Downloads) www.eulerdiagrams.org/eulerAPE/#Downloads [23]. The functional groups used terms that defined cell processes or pathways and did not include terms that were broadly representative of all cells, such as cell membrane, cytoplasm or nucleus.

3. Results

3.1 Proteomic detection

We chose to analyze a subregion of the brain for proteomic analysis since a previous transcriptome study showed there were significant differences between brain regions in the alterations caused by the disease [8]. The hippocampus was selected because it has been studied in this model both for histopathology [3, 9, 10, 24] and behavioral abnormalities [4-6, 25]. The B6 strain of MPS VII mouse was chosen due to the severity of disease in order to maximize the differences between normal and MPS VII hippocampi [24]. The disease features in the C3H strain are essentially the same as the B6 background at the endstage, but C3H has a significantly longer lifespan [24].

A total of 3268 independent proteins were detected in the hippocampus among all of the mice (Supplemental Data 1.xls), but not all proteins were detected in every animal, which is a common finding in gel based mass spectrometry analyses [26-28]. A total of 2989 unique proteins were detected among the normal mice and 2686 among the MPS VII mice. Significant differences between genotypes were found in 189 proteins ($p \le 0.05$).

A second group of protein changes were those detected in all mice of one genotype but in none of the other genotype, but a p-value and fold change could not be calculated because the actual level of the undetected group was unknown. The level of a protein that was not detected in one genotype was hypothesized to be less than the level in the genotype where the same protein was detected in all animals, and thus likely to represent a meaningful biological difference. To evaluate this assumption and determine if those protein changes could be included in the analysis, we used a "likelihood" approach that has been applied to non-detected proteins in proteomic analysis [28]. The average level for all the proteins detected in all three animals was compared to the average of those detected in any two animals and to the average of those detected in just one animal within the phenotype groups.

The average level for all of the proteins detected in all three animals was 5-fold greater than the average level for those detected in just two animals $(p<0.001)$ and was 10 fold greater than the average of all the proteins detected in any one animal $(p<0.0001)$ (Supplemental Data 2.xlsx). This is consistent with the finding that proteomics favors the detection of the more abundant proteins [26, 27] and conversely, that non-detected proteins are likely to be associated with lower protein levels.

On the basis of this, it was concluded that the level of a protein not detected in any animal of one genotype was likely lower than when it was detected in all 3 of the other genotype. This group included 68 proteins, with 59 in the normal animals and 9 in the mutants. and were included in the analysis of mutant vs normal with only a direction of change (arrows in tables) assigned without p-value or fold change. This likelihood basis was also used to remove 12 outliers (6 increases, 6 decreases) where proteins detected in only one animal of a genotype had a higher level than the average for the other genotype with multiple detections. Thus the total number of proteins included in the analysis of changes in the MPS VII hippocampus was 245 (7% of the detected proteins) (Table 1). Of these, 174 proteins were decreased (71%) and 71 were increased (29%) in the MPS VII brain. These were then analyzed for changes in functional annotation terms, which require multiple changes per term, rather than individual gene products.

3.2 Proteomic annotation enrichment analysis

The functional annotation terms were generated for the protein changes with DAVID enrichment analysis ([http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/\)](http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/) using the same analytical approach as our previous transcriptome analysis [8]. A minimum of 3 significantly changed proteins were required per annotation term. A total of 743 unique terms were generated (Supplemental Data 3.pdf) and related terms were consolidated into larger functional categories representing related biological processes (Table 2).

The largest percentage of total detected proteins (14%) was the mitochondrial functional category, which included 42% of the mitochondrial-related genes in the MitoCarta database [\(http://www.broadinstitute.org/pubs/MitoCarta/\)](http://www.broadinstitute.org/pubs/MitoCarta/) (Table 3). Among all the significantly changed proteins in the MPS VII brain, 80 (about 1/3) belonged to the mitochondrial category. Since mitochondrial protein alterations implicate the cellular energy generating system, a comparison to Palmfeldt's mitochondrial sub-categories list [29] (Table 4) showed: 1) the proteins associated with the canonical citric acid cycle enzymes were all increased (2 significantly), except alpha-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase (Oghd) which was significantly reduced; and 2) all 11 significant changes in the mitochondria localized respiratory chain were decreased (complex 2 is a component of the citric acid cycle and was grouped with the citric acid cycle proteins [30]). In addition, although cytosolic, 87% of the energy generating glycolytic enzymes were also increased, two significantly (Gpi and Aldoc) (Table 5). The increases in the citric acid cycle and glycolytic enzymes were disproportionate to the decreases in the overall proteome (60%), the mitochondrial proteins (65%), and the respiratory chain associated proteins (78%), which suggests an alteration in energy generation.

The greatest number of functional terms (62) were in the cytoskeleton category, which were generated from 66 significantly changed proteins (Table 6). Most of these were decreased in the mutant (74%), with all classes of motor proteins (kinesins, dyneins, and myosins) showing significant reductions in MPS VII. Also of interest are several protein changes associated with the cytoskeletal-membrane linking ankyrin proteins such as: Shank3 whose superfamily Shank proteins play a role in synapse formation and dendritic spine maturation [31] and Asap1, Asap2, Agap2, and Ankfy1, which are all involved with endocytosis.

3.3 Transcriptomic annotation enrichment analysis

A transcriptome analysis of BL6 MPS VII versus normal hippocampus was performed to compare to the proteomic results (Supplemental Data 4.xlsx). The number of mice was chosen to be in the same range as the proteome cohort, which was limited due to the nature of the assay. This experiment was also designed to focus on the most prominent differences between the normal and diseased brains. The transcriptomic data was analyzed using the Significance Analysis of Microarrays (SAM) [16] program. Significant differences (q< 0.05 and fold >1.5) were found in the expression of 81 probe sets accounting for 69 genes, of which 66 were up-regulated and 3 were down-regulated (Table 7).

DAVID functional annotation terms were generated from the list of significantly altered gene transcript changes in the same manner as the proteome. This generated 229 unique annotation terms which grouped into 29 clusters (Supplemental Data 5.pdf). As with the proteome, the gene expression changes and terms were compared to the functional categories previously assigned in the analysis of the C3H mouse [8]. Of the significant gene expression changes in the BL6 mouse in the present study, 40 of the changes (58%) were the same as in the C3H mouse and 100% of the shared changes were in the same direction (Figure 1). Furthermore, 94% of the annotation terms generated from this BL6 mouse study were present in the terms generated in the C3H mouse hippocampus [8]. Thus the overall pattern of altered processes between strains was highly consistent, which also correlates with clinical and pathological findings [3]. Functional categories were assigned similarly to the proteomic assignments (Table 2). Four of the categories generated by the proteome (protein modification, neural disease, ubiquitin and cell cycle) were not represented in the BL6 transcriptome (Table 2).

3.4 Comparison of Proteomic and Transcriptomic analyses

The results of the two assays were first compared using the UniProt tissue annotation enrichment tool [32], which ascertains if a list of genes or proteins is statistically overrepresented (enriched) for specific tissue annotations, as a method of validating the detected proteins. There was a high degree of enrichment for the tissue annotation terms "brain" $(P \approx 10^{-187})$, "hippocampus" $(P \approx 10^{-174})$, and "brain cortex" $(P \approx 10^{-114})$ (Supplemental Data 6.pdf). To ascertain that systematic database bias [29] was not responsible for this result, and since mitochondrial proteins were the largest category of proteins detected, the entire MitoCarta list was submitted and the enrichment score for "hippocampus" and "brain" were much lower ($P \approx 10^{-23}$, $P \approx 10^{-2}$ respectively).

Tissue annotation of the transcriptome was accomplished by analyzing the 3200 highest expressing probe sets which was about 12% of the probes on the chipset and about the number of proteins detected. This also showed that "brain," "hippocampus," and "brain cortex" were enriched at $P \approx 10^{-100}$ (Supplemental Data 6.pdf). To test for systematic bias, 2 random sets of 3200 probes were analyzed which showed that the top tissue annotations were non-neural (Supplemental Data 6.pdf) and the top neural tissue, "hippocampus," was enriched only to $P \approx 10^{-9}$. The proteomic and transcriptomic tissue annotations were compared by Spearman rank order correlation and there was greater correlation to each other than to the random probe sets.

Since we did not find an analysis of this type in the literature, we explored what would happen using an iterative analysis of varying numbers of top expressing probes. With up to 200 probes, "hippocampus" was the top annotation, with "brain" second. Between 200-3200 probes, the term "brain" was the top annotation followed by "hippocampus." At more than 3200 terms, the annotation for "hippocampus" began to decrease, the annotation for "brain" began to level off, and miscellaneous other annotations began to rapidly rise (Figure 2).

One of the problems with integrated proteomic and transcriptomic analysis using the methods here is that many probes present on the microarray are not detected in the proteome and not all of the detected proteins have corresponding probes on the microarray. To compare the results of the two methods we converted the Uniprot Identifiers and the Affymetrix probe set IDs to DAVID ID numbers using the DAVID program. Of the detected proteins, 86% had a matching probeset in the microarray (cognate pairs of transcripts and proteins), which represented about one-fifth of all the microarray probes. Of the 245 proteins that were significantly different in the MPS VII brain, 82% had a cognate mRNA transcript represented on the microarray and 43 of the changed proteins were not represented in the microarray. However, the annotation terms they generated were largely redundant with the terms already found, thus their absence had little effect on the characterization of the pathologic changes. Conversely, only 10 (14%) of the 69 significant gene transcription changes had cognates among the detected proteins and none of them were changed between normal and diseased brains.

Overall, the changes in the proteome and transcriptome were in opposite directions, with 71% of the significant proteomic changes being decreases and 96% of the significant transcriptomic changes being increases. While it is known that mRNA and protein levels correlate poorly, this discrepancy was explored by examining cognate pairs from the two assays for their direction of change. When the cognate changes were filtered for successively smaller p- and q-values, they became increasingly more likely to be in the same direction (Supplemental Data 7.pdf). This is consistent with studies that have shown: 1) as noise is reduced, the direction of change is more consistent between proteins and transcripts [33]; and 2) that gross proteome and transcriptome changes can be in the opposite directions in an integrated analysis [34]. Thus, the difference in the overall directions-of-change was consistent with what others have seen.

Despite the fact that there were no mutually significant cognate changes between the two assays, 110 of the 229 transcriptomic annotation terms (48%) were among the 773

annotation terms generated in the proteomic analysis (Figure 1). The shared terms were grouped by their assigned functional categories (Table 8). Although fewer in number, the transcriptomic terms generated in the BL6 strain in the present study were very similar to those identified for the hippocampus in the C3H strain, which carries the same mutation in GUSB [8, 24]. Additionally, the proportion of transcriptome terms that were shared with the proteome was similar for both strains (Figure 1).

4. Discussion

The present study was undertaken to assess the changes associated with diseased brain tissue in a widely studied model of lysosomal storage disease, MPS VII, which is a genetic model of mental retardation. We focused the analysis on a single region because transcriptomic analysis in this model showed not only numerous changes between normal and diseased brains, but also significant differences in the changes between brain regions [8]. We chose the hippocampus because of the extensive histopathology associated with this region [3, 9, 10].

Proteomic and transcriptomic analytical methods each provide meaningful insights into the study of normal and diseased states [7]. Global changes in mRNA levels have been found to not correlate well with the translated cognate proteins [35, 36] due to post-transcriptional regulatory processes, mRNA stability, and protein stability [37-39]. Proteomic and transcriptomic analysis both give rise to noisy data, use very different experimental methodologies, which complicates comparisons [40], and can even show an overall opposite directions of change by the two assay systems [34], as we observed. Nevertheless, they are complementary in their findings [7] as we also observed.

Our long-term goal is to obtain understanding of the complex pathological processes that arise in this single gene disease affecting the CNS. However, the changes in either protein abundance or transcript expression from individual genes give an incomplete picture of the pathogenic mechanisms. In contrast, analyzing the changes for functional annotation terms and broader categories, which require multiple changes, provides a common set of descriptors for the disease-associated alterations that can occur even in the absence of cognate changes.

None of the statistically significant changes in either protein or mRNA levels between normal and MPS VII hippocampus involved the same gene product. Limited studies of noninherited diseases have also found few overlapping changes between the two assays [41-43]. Despite this discordance, the annotation analysis of the changes implicated many of the same pathologic processes, with about a third of the functional annotation terms from the two assays being the same. A number of these terms were for processes involved in known pathology in the MPS VII brain, such as those involving the hallmark lysosome/vesicular system, neuronal functions, and inflammatory/immune processes [3, 9, 10]. Thus, functional annotation analysis implicated many of the same areas of pathology even though the specific gene products had no overlap.

While "omic" assays are unbiased for comparison within each assay system, comparisons between assay systems have biases for technological and biological reasons. For example, both assays showed changes in complement cascade components, with significantly changed mRNA levels where no protein was detected, and protein changes where no corresponding mRNA probe was available on the microarray. The complement changes are interesting in light of the fact that complement component C1q has been found to bind to and be spatially associated with chondroitin sulfate proteoglycans in another lysosomal storage disease, Niemann-Pick C [44], and chondroitin sulfate is the main storage product of MPS VII. Furthermore, complement components have a role in brain development and are altered in a number of neurodegenerative diseases [45].

Comparison of the disease changes between the two assays was constrained by the limits of the proteomic assay since most of the altered proteins had probes on the microarray chip, but only a sixth of the significantly altered mRNAs had their cognate proteins detected. For example, CD68, a prominent marker of microglia activation, was one of the most significant gene expression changes in both the Bl6 and C3H mouse, yet was not detected in the proteomic assay. Nevertheless, the protein increase is readily detectable by immunohistochemistry in the MPS VII diseased brain and is a good indicator of early neuropathology and therapeutic correction [9]. This indicates that the amount of protein needed for immunofluorescence detection of a difference is below the level needed to for detection in the proteomic assay.

Proteomic analysis is also constrained due to its detection of the more abundant proteins, such as mitochondrial and cytoskeletal proteins, which resulted in those being the majority of protein differences between the MPS VII and normal brains. Mitochondrial abnormalities have been identified in several MPS diseases [46], including accumulation of defective mitochondria through the impairment of autophagy [47] and may be responsible for the energy imbalances seen in MPS VII [48].

The proteomic changes in the major energy generating pathways are consistent with Warburg's finding of an increase in aerobic glycolysis in tumors [49], which can also occur in inflammatory conditions [50]. Evidence of this alteration in the MPS VII brain is that most of the glycolytic and citric acid cycle enzymes were increased. Furthermore, the two glycolytic enzymes that were decreased (Hk1 and Pfkp) are involved in the ATP investment phase of glycolysis and have been shown in tumor cells to consistently decrease when the other glycolytic enzymes are increased [51]. In the citric acid cycle, the only decrease was in α-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase (Ogdh), which is believed to be a regulator of flux through the citric acid cycle [52]. An impaired function of this enzyme is characteristic of several neurodegenerative diseases, where it is decreased [52]. In contrast, in the respiratory chain, all 11 of the significantly changed proteins were decreases, which have been associated with neurodegeneration [53]. Thus, the alterations in mitochondrial and other energy system proteins in the brain are consistent with altered energy balance, and thus are likely to have a role in neurodegeneration.

Despite the differences between the two assays, the overlapping annotation terms were consistent with known histopathologic alterations such as the classic lysosomal alterations,

while others suggest new directions to investigate such as the role of complement and energy generation in this monogenic disease.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Figure 1.

Proportional Euler diagram of shared DAVID functional terms from diseased versus normal mice between Bl6 proteomic and Bl6 and C3H transcriptomic analyses.

Figure 2.

Transcriptomic tissue annotation profile from increasing numbers of top expressing probes showing the ranking of tissue annotation for the top expressing probes at increasing depth.

Table 1 Proteomic changes sorted by fold change in the MPS VII hippocampus

Up and down arrows indicate direction of change when fold-change could not be calculated as discussed in the results section.

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Functional categories of terms from the proteomic and transcriptomic significant changes **Functional categories of terms from the proteomic and transcriptomic significant changes**

Functional categories are ranked by the % of the total proteomic terms. Functional categories are ranked by the % of the total proteomic terms.

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Table 5

Proteomic changes associated with energy generating categories **Proteomic changes associated with energy generating categories**

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Changes in bold detected at p<0.05 or exclusively in one group; 2 Complex 2 (Sdh) proteins included with the citric acid cycle proteins Changes in bold detected at p<0.05 or exclusively in one group; 2 Complex 2 (Sdh) proteins included with the citric acid cycle proteins

Table 6

Significant cytoskeletal protein changes (p<0.05 or exclusively in one group).

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Table 7

Significant transcriptomic changes in the Bl6 hippocampus (q< 0.05 and fold >1.5).

Table 8

Shared transcriptomic and proteomic terms grouped by assigned functional category

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