

UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE CAMPINAS
INSTITUTO DE BIOLOGIA



RENATO FERRETTI

**MÚSCULOS LARÍNGEOS DISTRÓFICOS: PROTEÇÃO À
MIONECROSE, EXPRESSÃO DE SERCA1 E CALSEQUESTRINA**

Este exemplar corresponde à redação final
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Tese apresentada ao Instituto de Biologia
para obtenção do Título de Mestre em
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Orientador: Prof. Dr. Humberto Santo Neto

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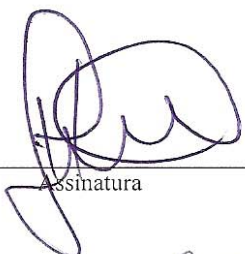
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Dedico...

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“A maior realização da vida é a conquista feita com inteligência e coração”

(Autor desconhecido)

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Lista de abreviaturas

AO – Músculo aritenóideo oblíquo;
BSA – Soro albumina bovina;
CaM – Calmodulina;
 Ca^{2+} - Íons cálcio;
 $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_s$ – Concentração sarcoplasmática de íons cálcio;
CDG – Complexo Distrofina-Glicoproteínas;
CSQ – Calsequestrina;
CT – Músculo cricotireóideo;
Ctrl – Controle;
DABCO - 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane;
DHPRs – Canais voltagem-dependentes dihidropiridina;
DMD – Distrofia muscular de Duchenne;
EBD – Azul de Evans;
EOM – Músculos extraoculares;
HE – Hematoxilina e Eosina;
ILMs – Músculos intrínsecos da laringe;
LCA – Músculo cricoaritenóideo lateral;
LTA – Músculo tiroaritenóideo lateral;
Mdx - Murine dystrophin X-linked;
MTA – Músculo tiroaritenóideo medial;
MyHC – Cadeia pesada de miosina;
PCA – Músculo cricoaritenóideo posterior;
PBS – Tampão fosfato salina;
PV – Parvalbumina;
RS – Retículo sarcoplasmático;
RyR – Receptores rianodina;
SAC – Canal ativado pelo alongamento;
SERCA1 - Ca^{2+} -ATPase do retículo sarcoplasmático;
TBS-T – Tampão tris salina- Tween.

Resumo

A Distrofia Muscular de Duchenne (DMD) e o camundongo *mdx*, modelo experimental da doença, caracterizam-se pela ausência de distrofina e pela necrose das fibras musculares. Alguns músculos são protegidos da mionecrose e admite-se que nestes a expressão das proteínas reguladoras de cálcio está aumentada. Os músculos intrínsecos da laringe (ILMs) apresentam características anatômicas e fisiológicas semelhantes aos músculos extra-oculares (EOMs), que são protegidos da mionecrose em pacientes portadores de DMD e camundongos *mdx*. Assim levantamos a hipótese de que os ILMs são protegidos da necrose de suas fibras e apresentam expressão diferenciada de proteínas reguladoras do cálcio. Foram avaliados os ILMs e músculos apendiculares de camundongos C57Bl/10 (controles) e *mdx*, adultos e idosos. Foi analisado a porcentagem de núcleos centrais, como um sinal de fibras lesionadas e em reparação e foi utilizado o azul de Evans, como marcador de lesão miofibrilar. Após a caracterização desses músculos, foi estudado por imunohistoquímica e imunoblotting, o nível da expressão de proteínas reguladoras do cálcio, calsequestrina e Ca^{2+} -ATPase do retículo sarcoplasmático (SERCA1). Observou-se que, exceto o músculo cricotireóideo (CT), nenhum ILMs dos camundongos *mdx* adultos ou idosos apresentaram sinais de miopatia, entretanto núcleos centrais foram visíveis no músculo tibial anterior do mesmo animal. Houve aumento significativo da porcentagem de núcleos centrais no músculo CT comparado com outros ILMs, o qual piorou com envelhecimento. A expressão de SERCA1 e calsequestrina está aumentada nos ILMs distróficos em relação aos controles, distintamente do que ocorre nos músculos apendiculares. Assim, conclui-se que os ILMs dos camundongos *mdx* são protegidos da mionecrose e mostram níveis elevados de SERCA1 e calsequestrina, sugerindo que a manutenção da homeostase do cálcio pode estar envolvida na proteção desses músculos.

Abstract

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) and *mdx* mice, a model for DMD, is characterized by the lack of dystrophin expression and muscle fiber necrosis. Some muscle are enigmatically protected and admitted that an elevated expression of calcium-binding proteins. The intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs) share many anatomical and physiological properties with extra-ocular muscles, which are unaffected in both Duchenne muscular dystrophy and *mdx* mice. We hypothesized that ILMs are spared from myonecrosis in the *mdx* and investigated whether this possible protection is related to an increased expression of calcium-binding proteins, SERCA1 and calsequestrin, which may be protective against the elevated calcium levels seen in dystrophic fibers. ILMs and limb muscles of adult and aged control C57Bl/10 and *mdx* mice were used. The percentage of central nucleated fibers, as a sign of muscle fibers that had experienced injury and regeneration, and myofibers labeling with Evans blue dye, as a marker of myofiber damage, were studied. After this characterization, the expression of Sarco-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} -ATPase (SERCA1) and calsequestrin was examined using immunofluorescence and immunoblotting. Except for the cricothyroid muscle (CT), none of the ILMs from adult and old *mdx* mice showed signs of myofiber damage. Central nucleation was readily visible in tibialis anterior of the same *mdx* mice. A significant increase in the percentage of central nucleated fibers was observed in adult CT compared to the other ILMs, which was worsened by age. Dystrophic ILMs presented a significant increase in the proteins studied, in comparison to controls. These proteins were reduced in the non-spared *mdx* muscles. Thus we show that the ILMs are spared from the lack of dystrophin and the increase of SERCA1 and calsequestrin may permit a better maintenance of calcium homeostasis with the consequent absence of myonecrosis.

Estrutura da tese

Em pacientes com DMD e em camundongos mdx alguns músculos crânios-faciais, como os músculos extraoculares (EOMs) não são comprometidos pela ausência de distrofina. Considerando-se que a necrose de suas fibras musculares é o fator determinante na evolução da doença, entender o mecanismo pelo qual esses músculos são protegidos é de interesse para a melhor compreensão da patogênese da mionecrose. Os músculos intrínsecos da laringe (ILMs) apresentam propriedades anatômicas e fisiológicas que os torna semelhante aos EOMs. Considerando-se que o aumento intracelular de cálcio tem papel na gênese da mionecrose e que a expressão de algumas proteínas reguladoras do cálcio, como por exemplo calsequestrina e SERCA1 está aumentado nos músculos protegidos, admite-se que essas proteínas estejam envolvidas com o mecanismo de proteção.

Examinamos através de técnicas histopatológicas a ocorrência de aspectos distróficos (necrose de fibras musculares e índice de fibras com núcleo central) nos ILMs em mdx. Os resultados foram apresentados no **capítulo 1 (p. 21)** pelo artigo publicado na revista *Muscle and Nerve* 35(3): 349-353, 2007. Concluindo que os ILMs são protegidos da mionecrose, não obstante a ausência da distrofina, fornecendo um modelo interessante para estudo dos mecanismos de proteção na DMD.

Investigamos também os níveis das proteínas calsequestrina e Ca^{2+} -ATPase do retículo sarcoplasmático (SERCA1), reguladoras do cálcio intracelular, associando-os a possíveis mecanismos de proteção dos ILMs em camundongos mdx. Os resultados foram apresentados no **capítulo 2 (p. 27)** pelo artigo submetido à publicação na revista *Muscle and Nerve* (MUS- 07-0520), onde demonstramos que os níveis de calsequestrina e SERCA1 estão aumentados nos músculos ILMs de camundongos mdx, sugerindo que a manutenção dos níveis de cálcio intracelular contribui para a proteção da fibra muscular.

1. ASPECTOS GERAIS

1. Aspectos Gerais

A distrofia muscular de Duchenne (DMD) é uma doença hereditária caracterizada por mutação no cromossomo X, que resulta na ausência da transcrição da proteína distrofina nos músculos esqueléticos e cardíacos (Engel et al., 1994). Histologicamente os músculos estriados caracterizam-se pela extensa necrose das fibras musculares. Camundongos *mdx* são utilizados como modelo animal da DMD pela ausência na expressão da distrofina e necrose das fibras musculares (Hoffman et al.; Torres e Duken, 1987).

Os músculos extraoculares (EOMs), tanto de portadores da DMD como dos camundongos *mdx*, apresentam-se enigmaticamente protegidos da mionecrose durante o curso da doença (Porter et al., 1998; 2000; 2006). Os músculos intrínsecos da laringe (ILMs) apresentam características anatômicas, fisiológicas e bioquímicas semelhantes àsquelas dos músculos extraoculares (Hoh et al., 2005; McLoon et al., 2002; 2004; 2007). Assim, por exemplo, os ILMs são inervados por nervo craniano, expressam cadeia pesada de miosina (MyHC) do tipo extraocular, apresentam tempo de contração-relaxamento curto e remodelação contínua de suas fibras (Goding et al., 2005).

O exato mecanismo da necrose das fibras musculares não está totalmente esclarecido, mas o aumento do cálcio intracelular pode ser um fator importante (Spencer et al., 1995; Han et al.; Whitehead et al., 2006). Postula-se que a ausência da distrofina torna a membrana plasmática susceptível à ruptura (Petrof et al., 1993), altera o funcionamento dos canais de cálcio (Alderton e Steinhardt, 2000; Vandebrouck et al., 2007), o que aumenta o influxo do cálcio para a fibra muscular (Tidball e Spencer, 2000; Whitehead et al., 2006).

Associada aos níveis aumentados de cálcio citosólico, os músculos distróficos apresentam reduzida capacidade de manter a homeostase do cálcio (Khurana et al., 1995). Como consequência aos níveis elevados de cálcio, ocorre ativação de proteínas cálcio dependentes que levam a fibra muscular à proteólise (Tidball e Spencer, 2000).

O retículo sarcoplasmático (RS) tem papel importante no controle da liberação e captura do cálcio para contração e relaxamento muscular, sendo a principal organela de estoque do cálcio nas fibras musculares estriadas (MacLennan et al., 1986; Ross e Dirksen, 2006). A mais importante proteína para a captura e armazenamento do cálcio no RS é a calsequestrina (MacLennan et al., 1998). Nos músculos distróficos, as proteínas do RS que regulam o cálcio parecem estar alteradas, levando à eventos intracelulares que culminam na mionecrose (Berchtold et al., 2000).

Considerando as semelhanças anatômicas, fisiológicas e bioquímicas dos ILMs com os músculos extraoculares, estabelecemos a hipótese que os ILMs são protegidos da mionecrose nos camundongos *mdx* e que a expressão de proteínas reguladoras do cálcio poderiam estar envolvidas nesse processo.

2. INTRODUÇÃO

2. Introdução

2.1 Distrofia Muscular de Duchenne

A distrofia muscular de Duchenne (DMD) é a mais comum entre as distrofinopatias, afetando uma em cada 3500 crianças do sexo masculino. Trata-se de doença recessiva ligada ao cromossomo X, caracterizada pela falta da distrofina, proteína estrutural que se localiza no lado citosólico do sarcolema, a membrana da fibra muscular (Engel et al., 1994).

Os primeiros sinais surgem entre três e cinco anos de vida e caracterizam-se por fraqueza muscular nos membros inferiores, dificuldade em subir escadas e correr. Quedas frequentes são também observadas. Ao exame histopatológico, as fibras musculares apresentam extensa necrose. A perda da função muscular progride e os pacientes tornam-se dependentes de cadeira de rodas e ventilação pulmonar mecânica e, por volta da 2º ou 3º década de vida, o indivíduo vai a óbito, normalmente por falência do músculo diafragma (Engel et al., 1994; Biggar et al., 2006).

A DMD ocorre em função da mutação no gene responsável pela expressão da distrofina (Hoffman et al., 1987; Bonilla et al., 1988). A distrofina é um membro das proteínas spectrinas, com peso molecular de 427kDa. Em músculos esqueléticos normais, a distrofina localiza-se na superfície citoplasmática do sarcolema e se associa com glicoproteínas formando um complexo distrofina-glicoproteínas (CDG) (Hoffman et al., 1987; Bonilla et al., 1988).

No CDG, a distrofina conecta a F-actina à laminina-2, componente da matriz extracelular (Ervasti e Campbell, 1993). Admite-se que o CDG atue como estabilizador mecânico do sarcolema durante a contração muscular (Petrof et al., 1993). Particularmente, a distrofina parece ter relação com a atividade de canais de cálcio independentes de voltagem sensíveis ao estiramento e, na ausência da distrofina, aumentaria o influxo de cálcio (Backer et al., 2002).

Admite-se que a falta da distrofina levaria à desorganização e instabilidade mecânica do sarcolema durante a contração excêntrica (Petrof et al., 1993) e aumentaria a atividade de canais de Ca^{2+} ativados pelo estiramento da fibra muscular (Stretch-Activated Channels – SACs). Os SACs são canais mecanossensíveis permeáveis ao Ca^{2+} que aumentam a concentração sarcoplasmática deste íon ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_s$) (Yeung et al., 2005), o que levaria a ativação exagerada de proteases endógenas, como a calpaina, resultando finalmente na necrose da fibra muscular. Assim sendo, é possível que o cálcio desempenhe papel central na gênese da mionecrose (Mariol e Ségalat, 2001; Gailly, 2002).

2.2 Camundongo *mdx* como modelo para DMD

Diversas espécies animais, como cães e gatos, podem apresentar ausência da expressão da distrofina, tornando-as modelos para estudos da patogênese e tratamento da DMD (Gaschen et al., 2001). Contudo, por diversas razões como, por exemplo, facilidade de manutenção e baixo custo financeiro, o camundongo *mdx* representa o modelo animal mais utilizado (Engel et al., 1994).

O camundongo C57Bl/10*mdx* (murine dystrophin X-linked - *mdx*) foi descrito inicialmente por Bulfield e colaboradores (1984). Estudos mostram mutação do gene da distrofina semelhante àquela ocorrida na distrofia muscular de Duchenne (Hoffman et al., 1987; Engel et al., 1994; Collins e Morgan, 2003). Histologicamente apresentam acometimento dos músculos esqueléticos semelhante aos dos pacientes portadores de DMD: fibras musculares em degeneração, fibras regeneradas com núcleo em posição central e fibrose intersticial (Bulfield et al., 1984; Collins e Morgan, 2003).

Entretanto, a evolução da doença nos camundongos *mdx* não é a mesma dos portadores de DMD. A necrose é, em boa parte da vida, seguida de intensa regeneração, fazendo com que a deposição de tecido fibroso intersticial e tecido gorduroso seja menos extensa que na DMD (Torres e Duchen, 1987; Coulton et. al.; Cullen e Jaros, 1988).

Nos camundongos *mdx*, os primeiros indícios de mionecrose ocorrem a partir do 21º dia pós-natal e atingem o ápice ao redor do primeiro mês de vida, diminuindo progressivamente até o 18º mês. Subseqüente a isto, o processo de degeneração volta a ocorrer e permanece pelo resto da vida do animal. Interessante é que nessa fase da vida (18 meses em diante) a capacidade de regeneração diminui acentuadamente, com comprometimento do músculo cardíaco (Engel et al., 1994; Pastoret e Sebillé, 1995).

O camundongo *mdx* é utilizado na maioria dos estudos para compreensão dos aspectos da biologia dos músculos esqueléticos distróficos e dos mecanismos das distrofinopatias (Straub et al., 1997; Yoshida et al., 2006).

2.3 Proteínas reguladoras de cálcio em músculos normais e distróficos

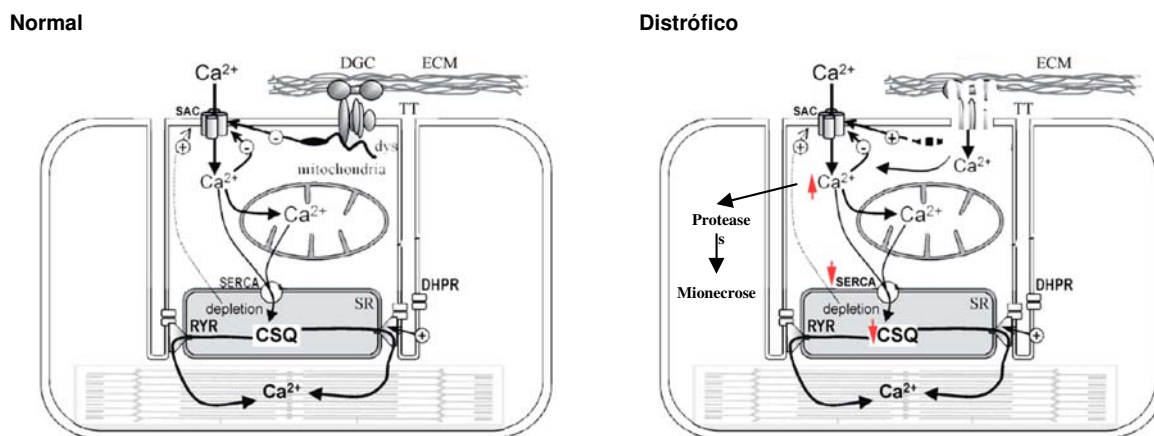
Alterações da concentração de cálcio sarcoplasmático ($[Ca^{2+}]_s$) são essenciais para o mecanismo de contração-relaxamento da fibra muscular esquelética (Berridge et al., 1998). A entrada do cálcio se faz através dos canais voltagem-dependentes dihidropiridina (DHPRs) e tipo-L (L-type Ca^{2+} channel), localizados nos túbulos transversos. O cálcio será primeiramente armazenado no retículo sarcoplasmático e sua liberação para o sarcoplasma se dá pelo receptor rianodina (RyRs) em resposta à despolarização do sarcolema (para revisão vide Berchtold et al., 2000).

A concentração intracelular de cálcio é regulada por diversas proteínas, como a calmodulina (CaM) e a parvalbumina (PV). A calmodulina (CaM) liga-se ao cálcio sarcoplasmático ativando proteínas kinases responsáveis pela fosforilação da miosina, no processo de contração-relaxamento muscular (Berchtold et al., 2000). Além disto, a calmodulina regula a interação de componentes do CDG, incluindo a distrofina-actina (Jarrett e Foster, 1995) e parece estar envolvida no processo de fosforilação da distrofina (Luise et al., 1993).

O cálcio usado na contração muscular poderá ser levado para fora da fibra muscular pelas bombas Ca^{2+} -ATPase da membrana plasmática (PMCA) e $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase (Berchtold et al., 2000; Rungg et al., 2002) ou retornar para dentro do retículo sarcoplasmático pela bomba Ca^{2+} -ATPase do Retículo Sarcoplasmático (SERCA). Isto impede o aumento da $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_s$ resultando no relaxamento da fibra muscular (MacLennan et al., 1998).

O Ca^{2+} bombeado pela SERCA para o lúmen do retículo sarcoplasmático será sequestrado pela calsequestrina (CSQ). A calsequestrina é a maior proteína transportadora de Ca^{2+} do lúmen do retículo sarcoplasmático. Apresenta alta capacidade de armazenamento do Ca^{2+} , sendo componente chave para regulação do Ca^{2+} na cisterna terminal do retículo sarcoplasmático das fibras musculares esqueléticas (MacLennan, 2000a). Além disto, a calsequestrina parece regular a liberação do cálcio para fora do retículo sarcoplasmático através dos receptores rianodina (RyRs), permitindo níveis normais de cálcio no citosol (Ohkura et al., 1998; Beard et al., 2002).

Anormalidades nas proteínas relacionadas ao Ca^{2+} são pontos importantes na fisiopatologia de determinadas doenças (MacLennan et al., 2000b; Gommas et al., 2002). Eventos que levam ao aumento da $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_s$ promovem efeitos deletérios sobre a célula por ativação de proteínas Ca^{2+} dependente, como a calpaina (Spencer et al., 1995; Tidbaal e Spencer, 2000; Spencer e Mellgren, 2002), levando à necrose da fibra muscular.



Modificado de Vanderbrouck et al., 2005

Há indícios de que a expressão de algumas das proteínas reguladoras do cálcio está alterada nos músculos esqueléticos de paciente portadores de DMD (Niebroj-dobosz et al., 1989), o que sugere que estas proteínas estejam envolvidas na gênese da necrose das fibras musculares (Berchtold et al., 2000; Culligan e Ohlendieck, 2002).

2.4 Na DMD e nos camundongos *mdx* existem músculos que não sofrem necrose

Na DMD e nos camundongos *mdx*, tanto a musculatura do tronco quanto a apendicular apresentam-se comprometidas pela necrose das fibras musculares. Entretanto, alguns músculos da região crânio-facial, em especial os músculos extra-oculares (EOMs), apresentam-se protegidos da mionecrose (Porter et al., 1998; 1999; 2000; 2001). O conhecimento dos mecanismos moleculares que fazem com que esses músculos sejam protegidos é de grande valia para melhor compreensão do mecanismo de necrose.

Os EOMs apresentam diferenças anatômicas e fisiológicas em relação aos demais músculos esqueléticos, como tempo de contração-relaxamento rápido, cadeia pesada de miosina do tipo extra-ocular (Porter et al., 1998; 2000), adição contínua de mionúcleos (McLoon et al., 2004) e expressão diferenciada de proteínas do CDG (Pertille et al., 2007 *Submetido*).

Aspectos moleculares, bioquímicos e morfológicos dos músculos extra-oculares, tanto na DMD quanto em camundongos *mdx*, vêm sendo extensivamente estudados. Um mecanismo provável para explicar a proteção relaciona-se às proteínas reguladoras do cálcio (Khurana et al., 1995). Postula-se que os níveis destas proteínas estariam aumentados em relação aos músculos não protegidos (Culligan e Ohlendieck, 2002; Doran et al., 2004). Esta hipótese baseia-se no fato de que a manutenção da homeostase do cálcio impediria a ativação de proteases Ca^{2+} -dependentes (Berchtold et al., 2000; Spencer e Mellgren, 2002).

Entretanto, resultados referentes às alterações na expressão das proteínas reguladoras de cálcio em músculos esqueléticos são contraditórios. Alguns trabalhos demonstram redução da expressão de calsequestrina e manutenção dos níveis de SERCA1 (Doran et al., 2004; Dowling et al., 2004), enquanto outros trabalhos não retrataram diferenças destas proteínas (Culligan et al., 2002a). Estudos recentes realizados em nosso laboratório verificaram que os EOMs têm níveis aumentados das proteínas calmodulina, SERCA1 e calsequestrina (Pertille et al., 2007 *submetido*).

O melhor entendimento dos mecanismos que levam à proteção dos músculos distróficos permitirá o desenvolvimento de novas terapias farmacológicas, celulares e genéticas para as distrofinopatias.

2.5 Músculos intrínsecos da laringe

Músculos intrínsecos da laringe são aqueles cuja origem e inserção é feita em estruturas da própria laringe, em particular nas cartilagens laríngeas e apresentam função de proteção das vias aéreas, respiração e fonação (Pretterklieber, 2003). Eles incluem: cricoaritenóideo posterior (PCA), cricoaritenóideo lateral (LCA), cricotireóideo (CT), tiroaritenóideo porção lateral (LTA) e

medial (vocal - MTA), aritenóideos transverso (Ta) e oblíquo (OA). Baseado em sua função os músculos são divididos em abdutores (PCA e CT), adutores (LCA, Ta e OA) e tensor da corda vocal (CT) (Hinrichsen e Dulhunty 1982; Pretterklieber et al., 2003).

O músculo cricotireóideo (CT) tem funções mais complexas e diferenças estruturais e anatômicas em relação aos demais músculos intrínsecos da laringe, como inervação pelo nervo laríngeo inferior, tempo de contração-relaxamento e conteúdo do retículo sarcoplasmático reduzido, em relação ao PCA (Hinrichsen e Dulhunty 1982; Hoh et al., 2005).

Os ILMs, similarmente aos músculos extraoculares, compreendem um grupo especial de músculos, pois apresentam características importantes em relação aos demais músculos esqueléticos. São inervados por nervo craniano, têm múltipla inervação, expressam cadeia pesada de miosina do tipo extraocular (MyHC EO - Myosin Heavy Chain Extraocular), possuem tempo rápido de contração e relaxamento (ver revisão Hoh et al., 2005), remodelação contínua das fibras musculares (Goding et al., 2005; McLoon et al., 2007) e pequeno diâmetro de suas fibras.

No presente trabalho, levantamos a hipótese que os ILMs são protegidos da mionecrose e que, caso assim o sejam, as proteínas reguladoras do cálcio poderiam estar envolvidas no mecanismo de proteção através da regulação da homeostase do cálcio na fibra muscular.

3. OBJETIVO

3. Objetivo

Verificar, através de parâmetros histopatológicos, se os músculos intrínsecos da laringe de camundongos distróficos da linhagem *mdx* são protegidos da mionecrose.

Investigar, através das técnicas de imunohistoquímica e imunoblotting, se a expressão das proteínas reguladoras do cálcio, calsequestrina e Ca^{2+} -ATPase do retículo sarcoplasmático (SERCA1), está alterada nos músculos intrínsecos da laringe de camundongos distróficos da linhagem *mdx*.

4. MATERIAIS E MÉTODOS

4. Materiais e Métodos

4.1 Animais

Foram usados camundongos machos das linhagens *C57Bl/10* (controle) e *C57Bl/10/mdx* (mdx) adquiridos do Centro Multidisciplinar para Investigação Biológica (CEMIB) da UNICAMP. Os animais foram mantidos sob condições ambientais controladas (ciclo claro/escuro 12 horas) e ração e água *ad libitum*.

Para análise histopatológica foram utilizados camundongos adultos (4 meses de idade) *mdx* (n=5) e *C57Bl/10* (n=5) e idosos (18 meses de idade) *mdx* (n=5) e *C57Bl/10* (n=5). Para quantificação da expressão de proteínas reguladoras do Ca^{2+} foram utilizados animais *C57Bl/10* (n=20) e *mdx* (n=20) com 2 meses de idade.

Todos os experimentos foram realizados em acordo com as diretrizes para experimentação animal de nossa Instituição, sob o protocolo da Comissão de Ética na Experimentação Animal (CEEAA-IB-UNICAMP) n°: 1096-2 (Anexo 1).

4.2 Preparo dos músculos para análise histopatológica

Os animais foram anestesiados por via intraperitoneal com hidrato de cloral (600µg/kg). Após sinais de anestesia injetou-se por via intraperitoneal uma solução de azul de Evans a 1% (tetrasodium diazo salt Evans blue dye; Sigma) na dose de 100 µl a cada 10g de peso corporal. O azul de Evans é um marcador *in vivo* de fibras musculares em necrose (Matsuda et al., 1995).

Após 24 horas da injeção do azul de Evans, os animais foram sacrificados com excesso da solução anestésica. A pele da face ântero-lateral do membro posterior direito foi aberta para exposição e retirada do músculo tibial anterior. A seguir, através de uma incisão na linha mediana

da região ventral do pescoço, as glândulas submandibulares foram rebatidas lateralmente para exposição, dissecação e retirada da laringe.

O músculo tibial anterior e a laringe foram posicionados em suporte de madeira através de *tragacam gum* (SIGMA), imersos em isopentano e congelados em nitrogênio líquido. Em seguida, o material foi armazenado em biofreezer a -80°C . Cortes transversais de 7 μm do músculo e da laringe foram obtidos em criostato (Microm-HS505E). Parte das lâminas foi corada com Hematoxilina e Eosina (HE) e parte foi usada para identificação do azul de Evans.

4.3 Análise histopatológica (avaliação dos parâmetros distróficos)

As lâminas coradas em HE foram examinadas em microscópio de luz transmitida (Nikon® Eclipse E 400). A caracterização das fibras musculares distróficas foi feita pelo critério da porcentagem de fibras musculares em regeneração e pelo índice de núcleos centrais (Torres e Duchon, 1987; Coulton et al., 1988).

A contagem de fibras musculares com núcleo central e com núcleo periférico foi feita com auxílio de contador manual, utilizando-se um retículo de cem pontos acoplado à ocular do microscópio, na objetiva de 40X. Esta quantificação foi realizada de forma cega. O índice de núcleo central foi obtido pela divisão do número total de fibras contidas em uma secção transversa do músculo pelo número de fibras com núcleos centrais (fibras musculares regeneradas; Marques et al., 2005).

As fibras musculares marcadas com azul de Evans foram observadas sob microscópio de fluorescência (Nikon® EFD 3) em objetiva de 40X, sendo avaliadas seis cortes por lâminas para cada músculo e idade dos animais estudados.

4.4 Imunohistoquímica

4.4.1 Expressão da distrofina

Alguns cortes transversais obtidos dos músculos da laringe e do músculo tibial anterior de ambas as linhagens de camundongos (*mdx* e *C57Bl/10*) foram hidratados com PBS (0.1 M) por 30 minutos e imersos em Triton X-100 (0.3% - Sigma) por 10 minutos. Após lavadas durante 30 minutos em PBS, os cortes foram imersos por 3 horas em solução bloqueadora (15% glicina, 3% soro albumina bovina e 0.6% Triton X-100 em PBS 0.1M) e incubados por 12 horas com anticorpo primário para detecção da distrofina (Dys; 1:500) à 4°C em câmara úmida.

A seguir, os cortes foram lavados por 30 minutos com PBS e incubados com anticorpo secundário anti-mouse IgG-FITC (1:500), durante 1 hora à temperatura de 20°C. Após lavagens com PBS durante 30 minutos, os cortes foram montados em meio de montagem para fluorescência DABCO (1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; Sigma) e recobertos com lamínulas de vidro.

As lâminas foram analisadas em sistema confocal BioRad (MRC 1024UV; BioRad Laboratories, Hercules, California), montado em microscópio invertido (Zeiss Axiovert 100) e equipado com laser Ar-Kr.

4.4.2 Expressão das proteínas reguladoras do cálcio (SERCA1 e calsequestrina)

Alguns cortes transversais dos músculos acima citados de ambas as linhagens (*mdx* e *C57Bl/10*) foram hidratados com PBS por 30 minutos e imersos em Triton X-100 (0.3% - Sigma) por 10 minutos. Após lavadas durante 30 minutos com PBS, os cortes foram imersos por 3 horas

em solução para bloquear marcação inespecífica (1% Glicina, 3% BSA e 0.6% Triton X-100 em PBS; Sigma) e incubados por 12 horas com anticorpo primário à 4°C em câmara úmida.

A seguir, os cortes foram lavados por 30 minutos com PBS e incubados com anticorpo secundário IgG-FITC (Sigma) durante 1 hora, à temperatura de 20°C. Após lavagens com PBS durante 30 minutos, os cortes foram montados em meio de montagem para fluorescência DABCO (1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane; Sigma) e recobertos com lamínulas de vidro. As lâminas foram analisadas em microscópio Nikon acoplado a vídeo-câmera Hamamatsu.

4.5 Immunoblotting

4.5.1 Preparação de extrato total

Outro grupo de camundongos *mdx* e *C57Bl/10* foi anestesiado da mesma forma descrita. Após sinais de anestesia, foram perfundidos com PBS e a laringe e o músculo tibial anterior foram dissecados e removidos.

O músculo tibial anterior e a laringe foram seccionados em pequenos fragmentos e homogeneizados em tampão com inibidores de proteases (Triton X-100 1%, tris-HCl 100mM [pH 7,4], pirofosfato de sódio 100mM, fluoreto de sódio 100mM, EDTA 10mM, ortovanadato de sódio 10 mM, PMSF 2 mM e 10 µg/ml de aprotinina) a 4°C em homogeneizador Polytron PTA 20S (modelo PT 10/35; Brinkmann Instruments, Westbury, NY, EUA), operado em velocidade máxima por 30 segundos.

Os extratos foram centrifugados a 11000 rpm a 4°C por 30 minutos e o sobrenadante utilizado para análise por extrato total. A determinação da proteína foi realizada pelo método de Bradford (1976).

4.5.2 Quantificação das proteínas totais

As amostras de extrato protéico foram tratadas com tampão Laemmli (Tris 10mM, β -MercaptoEthanol 20mM, glicerol 20%, SDS 2% e azul de bromofenol 0,1%), aquecidas em banho seco por 5 minutos. Em seguida, 30 μ g de proteína foi pipetado em gel SDS-poliacrilamida em aparelho para eletroforese da Bio-Rad (mini-Protean, Bio-Rad Laboratories, Richmond, CA, EUA). A eletrotransferência do gel para a membrana de nitrocelulose (Hybond, Amersham Biosciences) foi realizada em 90 minutos a 120 V em aparelho de transferência da Bio-Rad. As membranas foram incubadas com TBS-T (Tris base 10mM, cloreto de sódio 150mM e Tween-20 0,05%) contendo 5% de leite desnatado, por 2 horas em temperatura ambiente para reduzir a ligação não específica de proteínas. Posteriormente, foram incubadas com anticorpo primário (1:1000) diluído em 10ml de TBS-T contendo 3% de leite desnatado a 4°C, durante 12 horas em agitador mecânico (ROCKER II, Boekel Scientific). As membranas foram lavadas 3 vezes por 10 minutos com TBS-T e incubadas em 10ml de solução basal contendo 3% de leite em pó desnatado e os anticorpos secundários (1: 2.500) por 2 horas, em temperatura ambiente. Posteriormente, as membranas foram novamente lavadas com TBS-T.

Para detectar as bandas imunorreativas, as membranas foram expostas à solução de quimioluminescência (Super Signal West Pico Chemiluminescent, Pierce) por 5 minutos, seguida pela exposição a um filme Kodak XAR (Eastman Kodak, Rochester, USA). As densidades das bandas das amostras sobre o filme foram escaneadas e posteriormente realizada a quantificação da densitometria em pixels usando o programa Image J 1.37v (National Institute of Health, EUA).

4.5.3 Anticorpos Primários

Anticorpos primários utilizados para imunofluorescência e/ou imunoblotting: (i) distrofina, monoclonal NCL-DYS1, Novocastra; (ii) calsequestrina monoclonal, mAb VIIID12, Affinity BioReagents; (iii) Ca^{2+} -ATPase do retículo sarcoplasmático (SERCA1), monoclonal, Affinity BioReagents.

4.5.4 Anticorpos Secundários

Foi utilizado anticorpo secundário anti-mouse (IgG FITC; F-0257; Sigma) para imunohistoquímica e anticorpo secundário affinity purified antibody peroxidase labeled goat anti-mouse IgG (H+L); Kirkegaard & Perry Laboratories (KPL) para a técnica de imunoblotting.

4.6 Análise Estatística

Os dados do índice de nucleação central foram analisados utilizando-se o modelo linear geral (ProcGLM) através do programa estatístico SAS (Instituto SAS, Cary, North Carolina). Para a análise dos resultados obtidos com o imunoblotting foi utilizado o programa estatístico Biostat 3.0 (MCT - CNPq). O nível de significância utilizado foi de 5%.

5. CAPÍTULO 1

TRABALHO PUBLICADO (*Muscle and Nerve*. Mar; 35(3): 349-353, 2007)

ABSTRACT: Intrinsic laryngeal muscles share many anatomical and physiological properties with extraocular muscles, which are unaffected in both Duchenne muscular dystrophy and *mdx* mice. We hypothesized that intrinsic laryngeal muscles are spared from myonecrosis in *mdx* mice and may serve as an additional tool to understand the mechanisms of muscle sparing in dystrophinopathy. Intrinsic laryngeal muscles and tibialis anterior (TA) muscle of adult and aged *mdx* and control C57Bl/10 mice were investigated. The percentage of central nucleated fibers, as a sign of muscle fibers that had undergone injury and regeneration, and myofiber labeling with Evans blue dye, as a marker of myofiber damage, were studied. Except for the cricothyroid muscle, none of the intrinsic laryngeal muscles from adult and old *mdx* mice showed signs of myofiber damage or Evans blue dye labeling, and all appeared to be normal. Central nucleation was readily visible in the TA of the same *mdx* mice. A significant increase in the percentage of central nucleated fibers was observed in adult cricothyroid muscle compared to the other intrinsic laryngeal muscles, which worsened with age. Thus, we have shown that the intrinsic laryngeal muscles are spared from the lack of dystrophin and may serve as a useful model to study the mechanisms of muscle sparing in dystrophinopathy.

Muscle Nerve 35: 349–353, 2007

INTRINSIC LARYNGEAL MUSCLES ARE SPARED FROM MYONECROSIS IN THE *mdx* MOUSE MODEL OF DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

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Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a severe X-linked recessive disorder characterized by progressive loss of muscular strength that affects 1 in 3500 live male births.^{9,10} DMD is caused by a lack of dystrophin, a cytoskeletal protein localized on the inner surface of the muscle cell membrane. Lack of dystrophin predisposes the cell membrane to breakdown, leading to muscle-fiber necrosis.¹³ In the *mdx* mouse, an experimental model for DMD, skeletal muscle fibers exhibit a drastic reduction in the expression of dystrophin, which results in myonecrosis.^{6,26}

The extraocular muscles (EOMs) of both DMD patients and *mdx* mice remain unaffected during the course of the disease. Because necrosis of muscle

fibers is central in the pathophysiology of DMD, understanding the mechanisms that allow EOMs to escape from myonecrosis is of interest and has been examined extensively in *mdx* mice.^{1,3,5,16,20,22–24,27}

The intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs) share many anatomical and physiological properties with the EOMs.^{2,7,11,14} The ILMs are innervated by cranial nerves, express extraocular myosin heavy chain, and present short contraction times and continuous muscle-fiber remodeling.^{11,14,25} Hence, we hypothesized that the ILMs are spared from myonecrosis in the *mdx* mouse model of DMD and may serve as an additional tool to study the mechanisms of muscle sparing in dystrophinopathy. The present study was undertaken to investigate this hypothesis.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Male *mdx* and C57Bl/10 mice obtained from the mouse breeding colony at our institution were housed under controlled conditions of 12/12-h light/dark cycle and temperature, with free access to food and water. All experiments were performed in

Abbreviations: CT, cricothyroid; DMD, Duchenne muscular dystrophy; EBD, Evans blue dye; EOMs, extraocular muscles; ILMs, intrinsic laryngeal muscles; PBS, phosphate-buffered saline; TA, tibialis anterior

Key words: aging; dystrophin; intrinsic laryngeal muscles; *mdx* mouse; muscle regeneration

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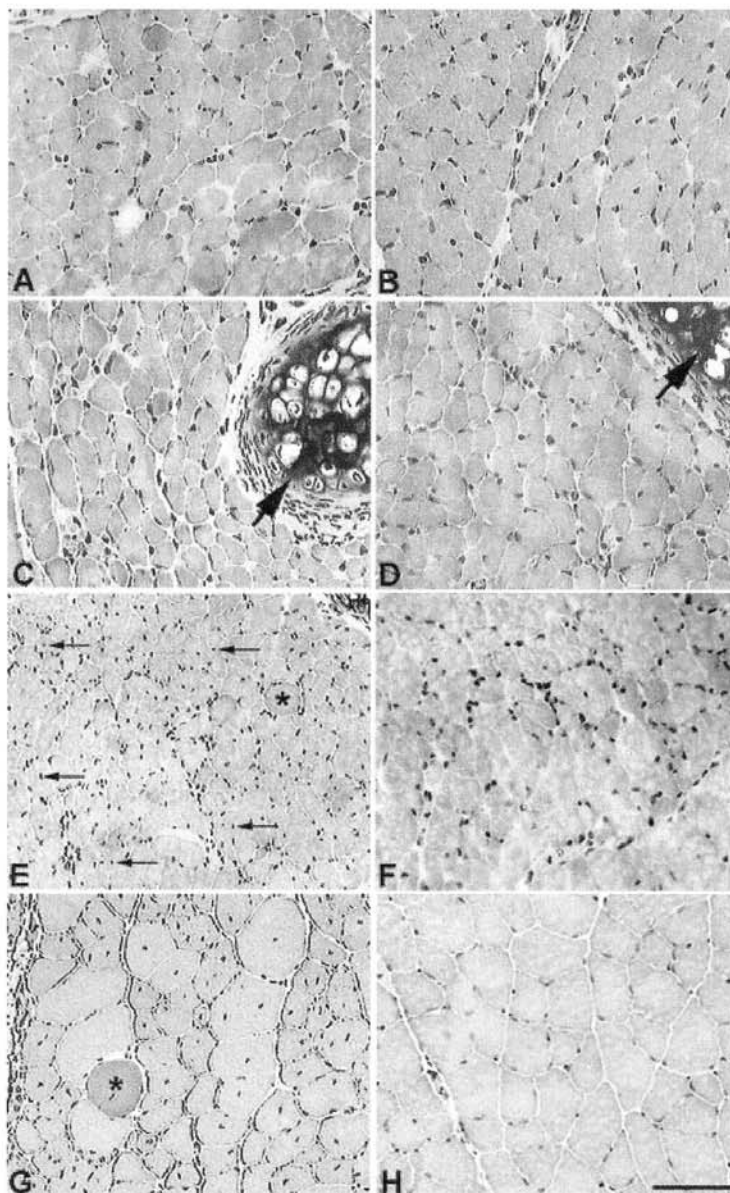


FIGURE 1. Transverse sections of intrinsic laryngeal muscles stained with hematoxylin-eosin. Left column: *mdx* muscles. Right column: counterpart controls; note the presence of peripheral cell nuclei. No differences were observed between old *mdx* lateral thyroarytenoid (A), adult control lateral thyroarytenoid (B), adult *mdx* lateral cricoarytenoid (C), and adult control lateral cricoarytenoid (D) muscles. Central nucleated fibers were present in old *mdx* cricothyroid (E) (arrows) muscle. (F) Old control cricothyroid muscle. Tibialis anterior muscle from *mdx* (G) and control (H) mice. Asterisk in E and G: hypercontracted fibers. Arrow in C and D: cartilage. Scale bar, 140 μ m.

accordance with the guidelines for the use of animals set forth by our institution.

For visualization of muscle-fiber damage, adult (4 months of age) *mdx* ($n = 5$) and C57Bl/10 (control; $n = 5$) and old (18 months of age) *mdx* ($n = 5$) and C57Bl/10 ($n = 5$) mice were injected with Evans blue dye (EBD; Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri), a marker of sarcolemmal lesions.¹² The animals received an intra-

peritoneal injection of 1% EBD in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) at a dose of 100 μ l per 10 g body weight. Twenty-four hours later, the mice were killed with an overdose of chloral hydrate and the larynx and right tibialis anterior (TA) muscle were dissected out and snap frozen in isopentane cooled in liquid nitrogen.

Cryostat cross-sections of the larynx (transverse and longitudinal 7- μ m-thick sections) and TA (trans-

Table 1. Percentage of central nucleated fibers in lateral cricoarytenoid (LCA), posterior cricoarytenoid (PCA), lateral thyroarytenoid (LTA), medial thyroarytenoid (MTA), cricothyroid (CT) and tibialis anterior muscles from adult (4-month-old) and aged (18-month-old) C57B1/10 (control) and *mdx* mice.

	LCA		PCA		LTA		MTA		CT		Tibialis anterior	
	Adult	Aged	Adult	Aged	Adult	Aged	Adult	Aged	Adult	Aged	Adult	Aged
Control	2.0 ± 1.3 (n = 7)	2.2 ± 0.4 (n = 3)	0.8 ± 0.6 (n = 6)	1.1 ± 0.2 (n = 3)	1.1 ± 0.7 (n = 7)	1.2 ± 0.8 (n = 3)	1.2 ± 0.7 (n = 6)	1.4 ± 0.9 (n = 3)	4.8 ± 1.1* (n = 7)	5.3 ± 1.1* (n = 3)	1.0 ± 0.1 (n = 5)	0.9 ± 0.1 (n = 5)
<i>mdx</i>	2.4 ± 1.1 (n = 10)	2.5 ± 0.3 (n = 6)	1.0 ± 0.5 (n = 10)	1.1 ± 0.3 (n = 5)	1.3 ± 0.6 (n = 10)	1.4 ± 0.6 (n = 5)	1.2 ± 0.6 (n = 5)	1.3 ± 0.5 (n = 6)	9.3 ± 4.0* (n = 8)	18.0 ± 1.5*† (n = 5)	50.0 ± 1.0* (n = 5)	96 ± 2.0 (n = 5)

Values represent the mean ± standard deviation; n = number of muscles examined.

* $P < 0.05$; significantly different from all groups (Duncan's multiple comparisons of means).

† $P < 0.05$; significantly different from adult animals of the same strain (Duncan's multiple comparisons of means).

verse 7- μ m-thick sections) were stained with hematoxylin–eosin (H&E) for quantification of the total number of fibers and the number of fibers with central nucleation, indicative of muscle regeneration. The number of fibers and of central nucleated fibers was counted by a blinded observer. The ILMs studied were the lateral thyroarytenoid, medial thyroarytenoid (vocalis muscle), lateral cricoarytenoid, posterior cricoarytenoid, and cricothyroid (CT).

Some sections were labeled for dystrophin. Sections were air dried, hydrated for 30 min with PBS, incubated with 0.3% Triton X-100 for 10 min, and then blocked with blocking solution (15% glycine, 3% bovine serum albumin, and 0.6% Triton X-100 in PBS; Sigma) for 3 h. The sections were incubated with dystrophin antibody (NCL-DYS1 mouse monoclonal, Novacastra, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK) at 1:500 overnight at 4°C, washed with PBS, and incubated with secondary anti-mouse immunoglobulin G–fluorescein isothiocyanate (IgG-FITC; Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri) at 1:500 for 1 h at room temperature. Sections were washed again in PBS, coverslipped with 1,4-diazabicyclo [2.2.2]octane (DABCO; Sigma) mounting medium, and observed under a

confocal microscope (MRC 1024; BioRad Laboratories, Hercules, California).

EBD staining appears as a bright red emission under a fluorescence microscope. Fiber counts of EBD-positive muscle fibers and H&E observation were done for all sections and photographed under a Nikon fluorescence microscope connected to a Hamamatsu video camera. Statistical analysis was performed using the ProcGLM (general linear models) of the SAS statistical program; mean comparisons were done using the average multiple comparison test (SAS Institute, Cary, North Carolina).

RESULTS

In adult and old *mdx* mice, no signs of myofiber damage were observed in any of the ILMs (Fig. 1A, C), except for the CT muscle (Fig. 1E). The lateral thyroarytenoid, medial thyroarytenoid (vocalis muscle), lateral CT, and posterior CT appeared to be normal, with muscle fibers round or roughly polygonal with rounded angles. In cross-sections, their nuclei were randomly placed, always found in a peripheral location directly under the sarcolemma,

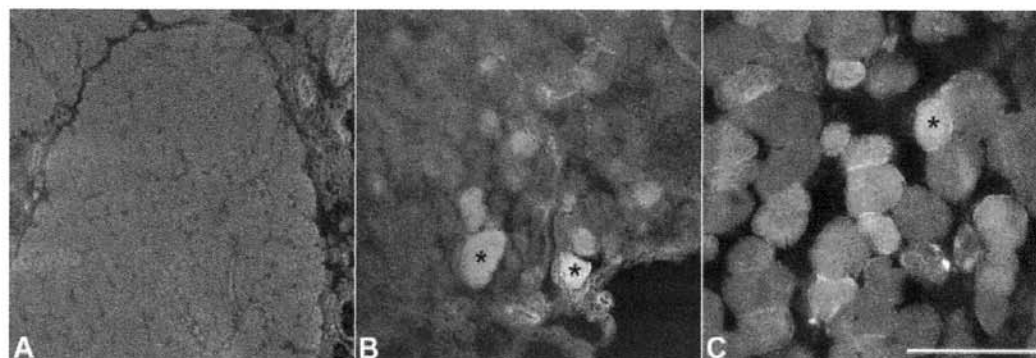


FIGURE 2. Transverse sections of Evans blue dye (EBD)-labeled muscles. Adult *mdx* lateral thyroarytenoid muscle (A) showing no EBD-positive fibers. EBD-positive fibers were observed in adult *mdx* cricothyroid (B) (asterisk) and tibialis anterior (C) (asterisk) muscles. Scale bar, (A) 166 μ m; (B) 144 μ m; (C) 183 μ m.

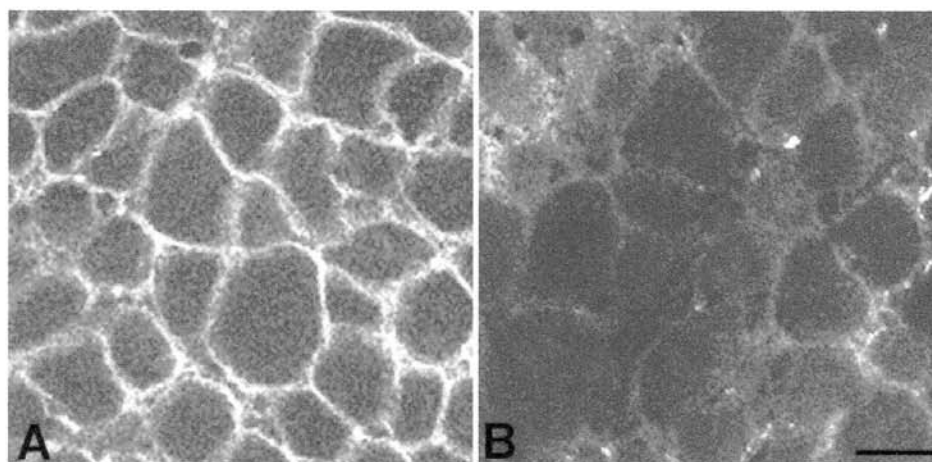


FIGURE 3. Transverse sections of dystrophin-labeled posterior cricoarytenoid muscles. In controls (**A**), dystrophin was seen in the sarcolemma as a bright outline of each fiber. In *mdx* mice (**B**), the lack of dystrophin was evident. Scale bar, 75 μ m.

similar to control muscles (Fig. 1B, D). Muscle fibers had a relatively uniform diameter, and no degenerating myofibers or extensive areas of inflammatory reaction were observed (Fig. 1A, C). In these muscles, the percentage of central nucleated fibers, the morphological indicator of fibers having undergone damage, did not differ from control (Table 1). No myofibers containing EBD, an earlier marker of sarcolemmal disruption, were seen (Fig. 2A).

The adult *mdx* CT muscle displayed evidence of myopathy, represented by an increased percentage of central nucleated fibers when compared to the other ILMs (Fig. 1E). Compared to the TA muscle, this increase was not significant. The dystrophic phenotype of the CT was more evident in aged mice, which showed a twofold increase in the percentage of central nucleated fibers (Table 1). Both inflammatory reaction and fiber injury, as demonstrated by EBD-positive fibers, were observed more frequently (Fig. 2B). In the TA of adult and old *mdx* mice, EBD-positive fibers were present (Fig. 2C) and central nucleated fibers were readily visible (Fig. 1G and Table 1).

Control posterior CT muscles exhibited a normal pattern of dystrophin distribution, with dystrophin labeling associated with the sarcolemma (Fig. 3A). In *mdx* mice, posterior CT muscles were negative for dystrophin (Fig. 3B). This shows that, despite the lack of dystrophin, there was no muscle-fiber degeneration in ILMs.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, we evaluated whether ILMs from *mdx* mice show signs of muscle-fiber degeneration. Usually, myonecrosis in *mdx* mice starts at about 3–4

weeks of age, with degeneration of limb muscles having occurred by 10 weeks of age.^{8,26} Except for the CT muscles, we did not observe any signs of muscle-fiber damage in the ILMs of adult or aged *mdx* mice. Central nucleation was significantly lower in ILMs than in the TA muscles, as is described also for the EOMs, where myonecrosis is not observed.^{1,3,16,22–24,27} Therefore, the ILMs do not exhibit the pattern of muscle necrosis and regeneration seen in most *mdx* skeletal muscles, demonstrating that these muscles are protected from the lack of dystrophin.

Loss of calcium homeostasis has been suggested to play a role in the mechanism of muscle necrosis in DMD and *mdx* mice.¹⁶ In the EOMs, proteins involved in calcium reuptake, such as parvalbumin and sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase, are increased, and this may explain their escape from myonecrosis.⁷ Preliminary observations have shown that calcium reuptake and release systems are both amplified in laryngeal muscles,⁴ suggesting that, similar to the EOMs, dystrophic laryngeal muscles may be spared from myonecrosis by a better capacity to maintain calcium homeostasis.

Continuous myofiber remodeling has been reported in non-dystrophic EOMs as a result of fusion of satellite cells into existing myofibers, and this may account for the sparing of dystrophic EOMs in Duchenne dystrophy.²⁰ Continuous remodeling of muscle fibers has also been reported for non-dystrophic ILMs,¹¹ and this may explain the lack of muscle degeneration in these muscles.

We found that the CT muscle in *mdx* mice is affected significantly compared to the other laryngeal muscles. The EOMs also show non-spared mus-

cles, such as the retractor bulbi,²⁴ for unclear reasons. Possibly, the lack of dystrophin itself associated with lower levels of calcium-handling proteins may explain this finding, but further studies are needed on this topic. The CT muscles also showed muscle regeneration over time, similar to that in human thyroarytenoid muscles.^{15,19} Alternatively, the CT muscles may be more susceptible to damage over time than the other ILMs, possibly in response to eccentric contractions or oxidative stress.¹⁴

The CT myosin heavy chain shows components typical of limb muscles,²⁵ and CT contraction times are closer to values of fast limb muscles.¹⁴ Conversely, the other ILMs share myosin heavy chain components with the EOMs^{11,18} and their contraction times are in the range of those observed for EOMs,¹¹ which are protected from dystrophy. Although the CT muscles were less affected than *mdx* TA, the biochemical and structural properties of CT muscles might explain why they were affected while the other ILMs were spared. In agreement with this suggestion is the fact that aging worsens the CT myopathy, the same being observed in limb muscles.^{17,21}

In conclusion, we have shown that ILMs are protected from the lack of dystrophin in adult and old *mdx* mice, whereas no sparing occurs of the CT muscle. Further studies of dystrophic laryngeal muscles will be needed to better understand the mechanisms of sparing and its relation to aging, and also to develop new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of dystrophinopathies.

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6. CAPÍTULO 2

TRABALHO SUBMETIDO (*Muscle and Nerve*; MUS-07-0525)

Sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} -ATPase and calsequestrin are overexpressed in spared intrinsic laryngeal muscles of dystrophin-deficient *mdx* mice

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Running title: calcium proteins and intrinsic laryngeal muscles

Sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} -ATPase and calsequestrin are overexpressed in spared intrinsic laryngeal muscles of dystrophin-deficient *mdx* mice.

Abstract

In the *mdx* mouse model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the lack of dystrophin is associated with increased calcium levels and skeletal muscle myonecrosis. The intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs) are protected and do not undergo myonecrosis. We investigated whether this protection is related to an increased expression of calcium-binding proteins, which may protect against the elevated calcium levels seen in dystrophic fibers. The expression of sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} -ATPase and calsequestrin was examined in ILMs and in non-spared limb muscles of control and *mdx* mice using immunofluorescence and immunoblotting. Dystrophic ILMs presented a significant increase in the proteins studied when compared to controls. These proteins were reduced in non-spared *mdx* muscles. The increase of Ca^{2+} -handling proteins in dystrophic ILMs may permit a better maintenance of calcium homeostasis, with the consequent absence of myonecrosis. The results further support the concept that abnormal Ca^{2+} -handling is involved in dystrophinopathies.

Key words: calsequestrin; Duchenne muscular dystrophy; intrinsic laryngeal muscles; *mdx* mice; SERCA1.

INTRODUCTION

Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) is a hereditary disease characterized by a mutation in the X chromosome that leads to a lack of dystrophin in skeletal and cardiac muscles.^{16,21} In the *mdx* mouse model of DMD, the animals are unable to express dystrophin due to a point mutation in the X chromosome^{8,33} and exhibit skeletal muscle necrosis followed by muscle regeneration.^{25,35}

Among other mechanisms,^{20,39} a rise in intracellular calcium is believed to be an important event in dystrophic muscle pathogenesis. The lack of dystrophin renders the sarcolemma more susceptible to rupture²⁹ or affects the normal functioning of calcium channels^{1,37} that ultimately leads to an increased calcium entry into the muscle fiber with consequent myonecrosis.^{34,39} In addition to altered cytosolic calcium levels, the calcium-buffering capacity of dystrophic muscles also seems to be impaired.^{10,12} As a consequence, free cytosolic calcium levels are elevated, thereby accelerating the calcium-dependent proteolysis of muscle proteins.¹

We have demonstrated that intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs) are protected against myonecrosis in *mdx* mice.²⁶ Dystrophic extraocular muscles (EOM) also show a mild dystrophic phenotype,^{2,24,27,30} possibly because of their better ability to maintain calcium homeostasis compared to other striated muscles,²⁴ although other factors seem to be involved in EOM protection.^{15,31} In the present study, we showed that the levels of the calcium-binding proteins sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} -ATPase (SERCA1) and calsequestrin were significantly increased in dystrophic ILMs, suggesting that their mildly dystrophic phenotype is possibly associated with a better maintenance of calcium homeostasis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Animals

Male *mdx* and C57Bl/10 mice obtained from the mouse breeding colony of the State University of Campinas were housed under controlled conditions of temperature under a 12/12-h light/dark cycle, with free access to food and water. All experiments were performed in accordance with the guidelines for the use of animals set forth by our institution. The calcium-binding proteins calsequestrin and SERCA1 were studied.

Immunofluorescence

Adult (2 months old) *mdx* (n = 5) and C57Bl/10 (control; n = 5) mice were used to study the pattern of distribution of SERCA1 and calsequestrin. The animals were anesthetized by intraperitoneal injection of chloral hydrate (600 µg/kg). The larynx with intact ILMs, tibialis anterior (TA), soleus (SOL) and extensor digitorum longus (EDL) muscles were dissected out, snap frozen with isopentane cooled in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. The frozen larynx were cross-sectioned (8µm thick cryostat sections) transverse to the longitudinal axis. Sections from the larynx and other muscles were collected and mounted on coated microscope slides.

The other sections were air dried, hydrated for 30 min in PBS (0.15 M NaCl, 10 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4), incubated with 0.3% Triton X-100 for 10 min, and then blocked with blocking solution (1% glycine, 3% BSA and 0.6% Triton X-100 in PBS; Sigma) for 3 h. The sections were incubated with one of the calcium-binding protein antibodies described below and dystrophin antibodies overnight at 4°C. The sections were washed with PBS and incubated with fluorescein-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (Sigma; 1:500) for 1 h at room temperature. Sections were washed with PBS and coverslipped with DABCO (Sigma) mounting medium for

fluorescence microscopy and observed under a Nikon fluorescence microscope equipped with a Hamamatsu video camera.

Control slides for the primary antibody were incubated with fluorescein-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (Sigma; 1:100) in blocking solution instead of the primary antibody. No stained structures were seen in these controls.

Immunoblotting

Adult (2 months old) *mdx* (n = 20) and C57Bl/10 (control; n = 20) mice were used for the quantification of calcium-binding proteins.

Muscles were lysed in assay lysis buffer containing freshly added protease and phosphatase inhibitors (1% Triton X-100, 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 100 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 100 mM NaF, 10 mM sodium ortho-vanadium, 10 mM EDTA, 2 mM PMSF, and 10 µg/ml aprotinin). The samples were centrifuged for 20 min at 11,000 rpm and the soluble fraction was resuspended in 50 µl Laemmli loading buffer (2% SDS, 20% glycerol, 0.04 mg/ml bromphenol blue, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, and 20 mM β-mercaptoethanol) before separation on 8%-10% SDS-polyacrylamide gels. Proteins were transferred from the gels to a nitrocellulose membrane using a submersion electrotransfer apparatus (Bio-Rad Laboratories). Membranes were blocked for 2 h at room temperature with 5% skim milk-Tris-HCl buffer saline-Tween buffer (TBS-T; 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 150 mM NaCl and 0.05% Tween 20). The membranes were incubated with the primary antibodies overnight at 4°C, washed in TBS-T, incubated with the peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies for 2 h at room temperature, and developed using the SuperSignal West Pico Chemiluminescent Substrate kit (Pierce Biotechnology). Band intensities were quantified using ImageJ 1.37v (National Institute of Health, USA) software.

Antibodies used for immunofluorescence and/or immunoblotting

The following primary antibodies were used for immunofluorescence and immunoblotting: 1) dystrophin (monoclonal NCL-DYS1, Novocastra), 2) SERCA1 (monoclonal SERCA 1ATPase IIH11, Affinity BioReagents), 3) calsequestrin (monoclonal VIID12, Affinity BioReagents).

Anti-mouse IgG-FITC (Sigma) was used as the corresponding secondary antibody for immunofluorescence. The corresponding secondary antibody used for immunoblotting was peroxidase-labeled affinity purified antibody to mouse IgG (H+L) (KPL).

Statistical analysis

ANOVA was used for multiple comparisons of mean values. For all comparisons, $P < 0.05$ was considered to be significant.

RESULTS

Immunofluorescence

Immunofluorescence analysis of dystrophin revealed sarcolemma staining in control ILMs. As expected, dystrophic ILMs clearly exhibited a lack of dystrophin (Figure 1A, B).

The pattern of distribution of key calcium-binding proteins is shown in Figure 1C-H. SERCA1 exhibited a similar cytoplasmic pattern of distribution in control and dystrophic ILMs (Figure 1C, D). The staining pattern was characterized by bright spots and strands, which were detected in almost all of the ILMs fibers. The same pattern of distribution was seen in SOL. However, SERCA1 staining was only detected in some SOL fibers (Figure 1E, F), possibly corresponding to the fast-twitch fibers of this muscle.⁷ The pattern of distribution of calsequestrin (Figure 1G, H) was cytoplasmic and similar in normal and dystrophic ILMs.

Immunoblotting: calcium-binding proteins

Comparative immunoblotting data of the calcium-binding proteins are shown in Figures 2 and 3. A significant increase in the relative expression of SERCA1 (Figure 2) and calsequestrin (Figure 3) was observed in dystrophic ILMs compared to control ILMs.

In limb muscles, SERCA1 was significantly decreased in dystrophic SOL and EDL muscles and similar to control levels in dystrophic TA (Figure 2). The content of calsequestrin in dystrophic TA and EDL was comparable to controls and was significantly decreased in dystrophic SOL (Figure 3).

DISCUSSION

It is generally accepted that the skeletal muscles of DMD patients⁶ and *mdx* mice³⁶ show abnormally high levels of intracellular calcium and changes in calcium homeostasis have been related to muscle fiber degeneration.^{17,39} We have previously reported that the ILMs of *mdx* mice are spared from the lack of dystrophin.²⁶ In the present study, we observed that the expression of the key calcium-regulatory proteins SERCA1 and calsequestrin is increased in dystrophic ILMs, supporting previous suggestion that these muscles may have a better ability to maintain calcium homeostasis which is correlated with muscle sparing.⁵

The sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) plays a central role in the control of calcium release and reuptake during muscle contraction and is the primary calcium-storage organelle in striated muscles.³² The most important protein for calcium buffering and storage in the SR is calsequestrin,⁴ whose synthesis is controlled by myogenin.³ Myogenin is a myogenic growth factor which is overexpressed during muscle regeneration.⁹ Unlike limb muscles, craniofacial muscles, including EOM and ILMs, maintain increased expression of a number of myogenic

factors and their receptors,²⁸ retain a population of activated satellite cells and undergo continuous remodeling,¹⁸ a fact that renders these muscles more suitable than limb muscles to survive insults such as aging, injury and disease.²⁸ The present results suggest that the lack of dystrophin seems not to interfere with this innate capacity of ILMs to survive insults. An attractive speculation is that this capacity of continuous remodeling is more pronounced in dystrophic ILMs and may be correlated with increased myogenin expression or an increase in other mechanisms related to fiber protection, including the upregulation of calcium-binding proteins.

SERCA is involved in calcium reuptake into the SR following calcium release during excitation-contraction coupling. SERCA1 is the isoform found in fast-twitch skeletal muscle and its function seems to be regulated by the luminal calcium-binding protein, sarcalumenin, which interacts with SERCA1 reducing its degradation.³⁸ Sarcalumenin vesicles isolated from skeletal muscles of sarcalumenin-deficient mice exhibited decreased calcium reuptake due to a reduction in SERCA expression.³⁸ Sarcalumenin is decreased in dystrophic limb muscles,¹⁴ a fact that might explain the present observation that SERCA 1 is decreased in TA and SOL muscles. Conversely, increased expression of SERCA1 might be related to increased expression of sarcalumenin in ILMs, and future studies may provide important information concerning the levels of sarcalumenin and its relationship with the sparing of dystrophic muscles.

The present observation that spared ILMs present an increased expression of SR calcium-buffering proteins, suggesting a better ability to maintain calcium homeostasis than other striated muscle groups, is consistent with the findings reported for the spared EOM of *mdx* mice, which are also mildly affected by the lack of dystrophin.^{2,24,26,30} EOM have been shown to be more resistant to necrosis caused by pharmacologically elevated calcium levels.²⁴ ILMs share many anatomical and biochemical characteristics with EOM²² and other factors are suggested to be

involved in dystrophic EOM protection, such as the small size of their fibers²³ and upregulation of utrophin³¹ and β -dystroglycan.¹⁵ Experiments are under way to determine whether ILMs also show changes in the pattern of distribution and expression of these components of the dystrophin-glycoprotein complex.

The present study also showed a decrease of SERCA1 and calsequestrin in affected dystrophic leg muscles compared to wild-type fibers, which is in agreement with other reports.^{10,13,15} This finding is in line with the hypothesis that abnormal calcium handling by the SR is involved in *mdx* fiber degeneration.¹¹ In vitro studies have shown that adult *mdx* myofibers are able to normally maintain subsarcolemmal Ca^{2+} homeostasis.¹⁹ On the other hand, cytosolic calcium handling is compromised in *mdx* myotubes¹⁹ and one possibility raised was a decrease in SR function.

In conclusion, the present study supports the concept that the ability to better remove cytosolic calcium ions explains, at least in part, the sparing of ILMs in *mdx* mice. The results suggest that the lack of dystrophin per se does not affect the intrinsic mechanisms of dystrophic ILMs to react against diseases, and the use of their precursor cells, as well as cells from other craniofacial muscles, may provide additional advantages in myoblast therapy for DMD and related dystrophies.

Abbreviations

CSQ, calsequestrin

DMD, Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Dys, dystrophin

EDL, extensor digitorum longus

EOM, extraocular muscles

ILMs, intrinsic laryngeal muscles

Mdx, murine *x*-linked dystrophy

SERCA1, fast-type sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} -ATPase

SOL, soleus muscle

SR, sarcoplasmic reticulum

TA, tibialis anterior muscle

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Legends

Figure 1. Dystrophin (Dys), SERCA1 and calsequestrin (CSQ) immunofluorescence in control (CTRL) and dystrophic (*mdx*) intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs) and soleus muscle (SOL). While normal sarcolemmal staining using DYS antibody is visible in control ILMs (A), there is no detectable staining in *mdx* ILMs (B). SERCA1 showed a similar pattern of distribution in control (C) and *mdx* (D) ILMs. In soleus muscle, only some muscle fibers were positive for SERCA1 (asterisk in E and F). CSQ showed a cytoplasmic pattern of distribution in control (G) and dystrophic (H) ILMs. Scale bar (shown only in H), 210 μm (A-D; G-H), 100 μm (E, F).

Figure 2. Immunoblot analysis of SERCA1 expression in crude extracts of intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs), tibialis anterior (TA), soleus (SOL) and extensor digitorum longus (EDL) muscles from control (Ctrl) and dystrophic (*mdx*) mice. Immunoblots (upper panel; molecular mass standards, in kDa, are indicated on the left) and graphic representations (in relation to normal control - 100%) are shown. *, means significantly different compared to control (ANOVA). Error bars, SD.

Figure 3. Immunoblot analysis of calsequestrin (CSQ) expression in crude extracts of intrinsic laryngeal muscles (ILMs), tibialis anterior (TA), soleus (SOL) and extensor digitorum longus (EDL) muscles from control (Ctrl) and dystrophic (*mdx*) mice. Immunoblots (upper panel; molecular mass standards, in kDa, are indicated on the left) and graphic representations (in relation to normal control - 100%) are shown. *, means significantly different compared to control (ANOVA). Error bars, SD.

Figures

Figure 1

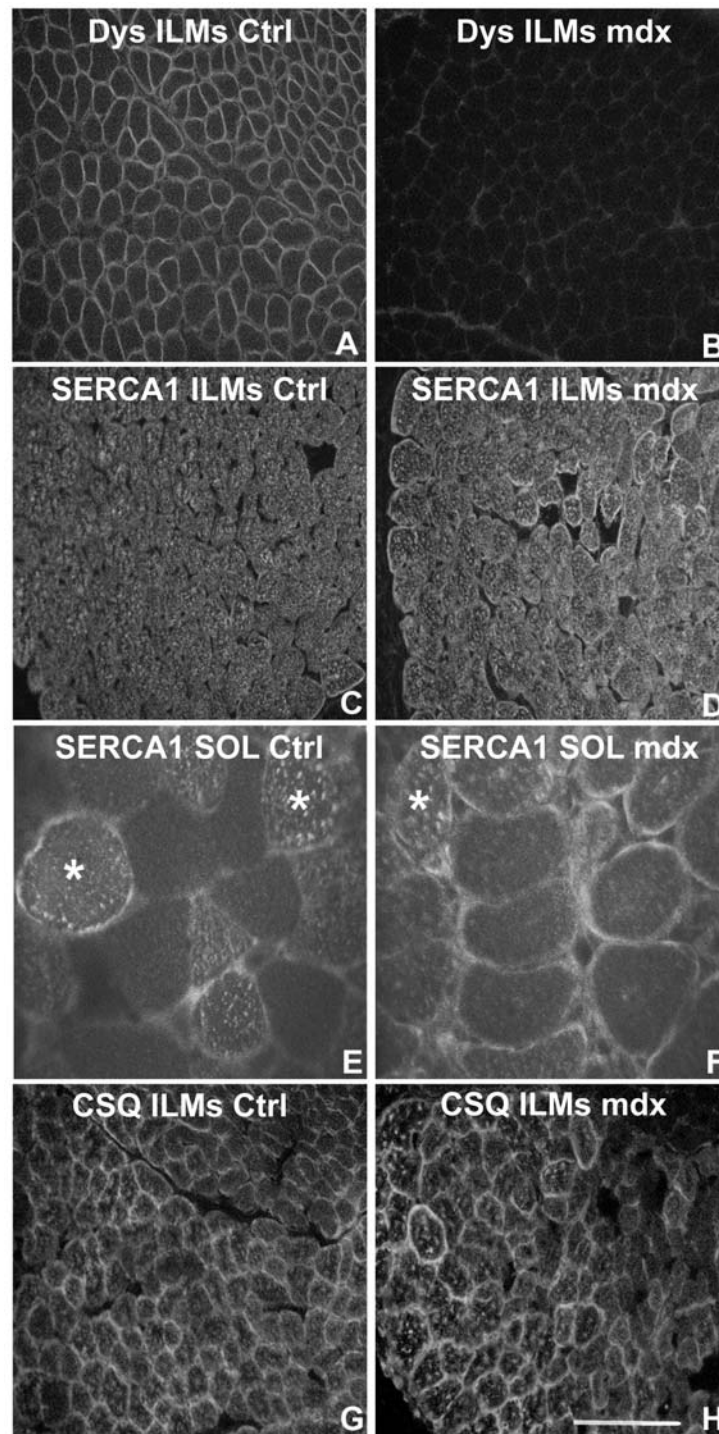


Figure 2

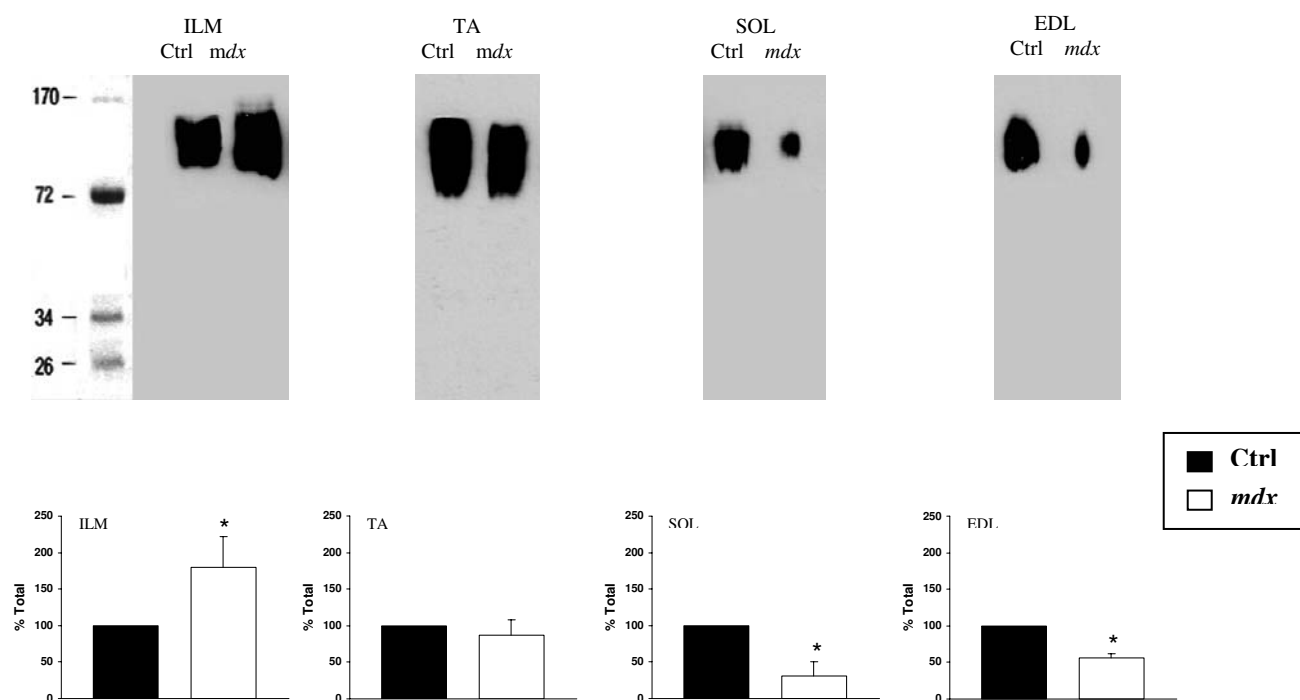
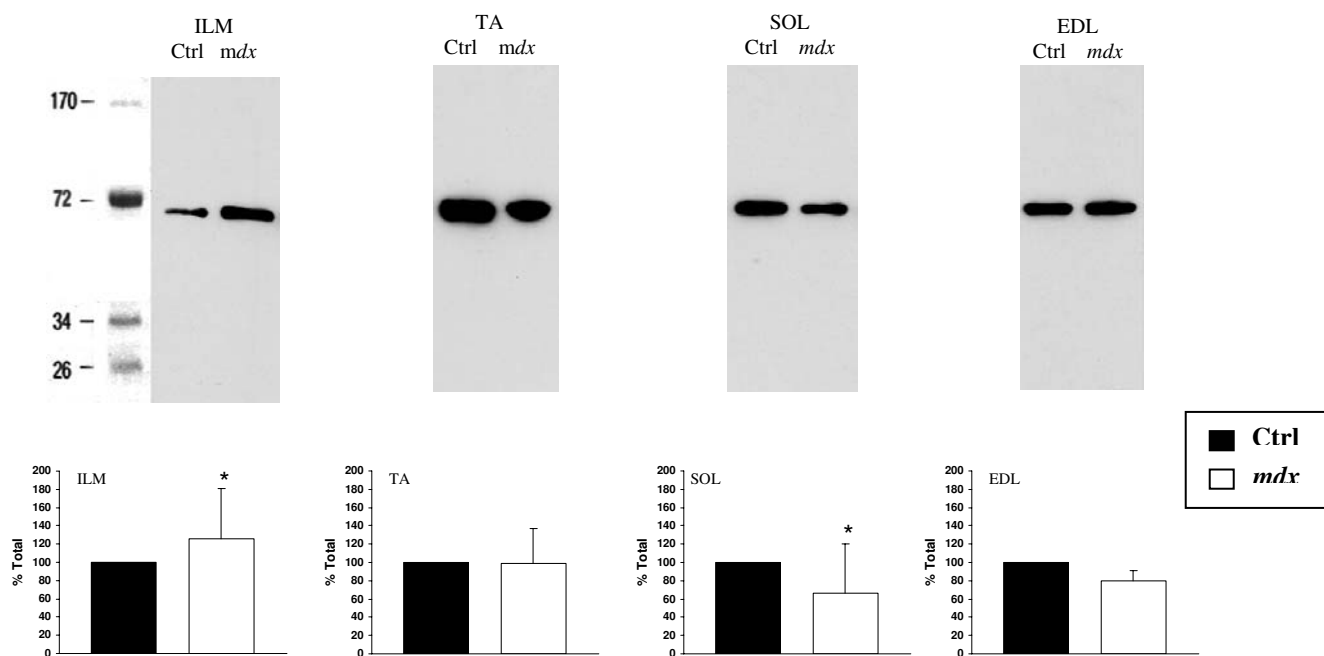


Figure 3



7. CONSIDERAÇÕES FINAIS

7. Considerações Finais

Neste trabalho demonstramos que com exceção do músculo cricotireóideo (CT) os músculos intrínsecos da laringe (ILMs) de camundongos *mdx* não apresentam sinais típicos da miopatia, quais sejam: necrose de fibras musculares, processo inflamatório e aumento da fibrose intersticial. Mesmo o CT quando comparado aos músculos dos membros apresenta-se apenas levemente comprometido. Disto conclui-se que mesmo com ausência da distrofina, os ILMs são protegidos da mionecrose.

As observações dos animais adultos (4 meses) demonstraram de forma inequívoca que os ILMs eram protegidos. Entretanto, só esses achados não permitiriam que concluíssemos que de fato os ILMs permaneciam protegidos pelo resto da vida. Isto porque, nesse período da vida nos camundongos os ciclos de necrose-regeneração praticamente estabilizam-se e só retornam com maior intensidade a partir dos 18 meses. Por isto a conclusão só foi possível após termos examinados os ILMs de animais com 18 meses.

Um fato interessante foi que o fenótipo distrófico do músculo CT acentuou-se com o avanço da idade, embora menos acometido que o músculo tibial anterior. Não sabemos por qual razão o CT comporta-se dessa maneira. É possível que contrações excêntricas e/ou estresse oxidativo imposto por sua função (Hoh et al., 2005), bem como particularidades bioquímicas e estruturais podem contribuir para acometimento do CT.

Uma hipótese provável para explicar a razão pela qual os ILMs são protegidos refere-se a uma melhor capacidade de regular a concentração sarcoplasmática de cálcio, em relação aos músculos dos membros. Essa hipótese baseia-se no fato de que os níveis de proteínas reguladoras de cálcio estão aumentados nos músculos extra-oculares de camundongos *mdx* os quais são também protegidos da necrose.

Para testar essa hipótese passamos a estudar a expressão de algumas dessas proteínas nos ILMs e compará-las com aquelas dos animais normais. Observamos que os ILMs dos camundongos *mdx* mostram níveis aumentados de proteínas reguladoras do cálcio intracelular, como a bomba Ca^{2+} -ATPase do retículo sarcoplasmático (SERCA1) e calsequestrina. Esses resultados sustentam o conceito que a manutenção da homeostase do cálcio intracelular tem papel no mecanismo de proteção das fibras musculares (Blank e Schachat, 1999; Marques et al., 2007a).

O retículo sarcoplasmático (RS) como sendo o primeiro local de estocagem e armazenamento do cálcio, tem grande importância no processo de regulação do cálcio sarcoplasmático (Ross e Dirksen, 2006). A calsequestrina é a mais importante proteína reguladora do cálcio no lúmen do RS e sua síntese está sob controle da miogenina (Arai et al., 1992). A miogenina é um importante fator regulador miogênico, expresso pela fibra muscular durante o processo de regeneração (Kablar et al., 1997). Devido ao fato dos ILMs apresentarem intensa e contínua remodelação de suas fibras musculares (Goding et al., 2005) e expressão aumentada de fatores reguladores de miogênese (McLoon et al., 2007), sugerimos que a proteção dos ILMs de camundongos *mdx* seja dada pelo aumento da expressão de miogenina e aumento na expressão de proteínas reguladoras do cálcio.

SERCA1 que está envolvido na captura do cálcio para dentro do RS após o relaxamento da fibra muscular, apresenta interação com uma proteína reguladora do cálcio do lúmen do RS, chamada sarcalumenina. Animais deficientes em sarcalumenina apresentam redução na expressão de SERCA1 (Yoshida et al., 2005). Devido ao fato das fibras musculares distróficas apresentarem redução drástica de sarcalumenina (Dowling et al., 2004; Doran et al., 2006), pode-se explicar a redução na expressão de SERCA1 no músculo tibial anterior e sóleus (Fig. 3). Inversamente, os ILMs apresentam aumento significativo na expressão de SERCA1, o qual pode ser explicado pelo

aumento da expressão de sarcalumenina. Estudos futuros são interessantes para identificar a expressão da sarcalumenina e sua relação com a proteção dos ILMs distróficos.

Portanto este trabalho demonstrou que os músculos intrínsecos da laringe de camundongos *mdx* não obstante a ausência da distrofina, são protegidos da necrose e que nos mesmos a expressão das proteínas calsequestrina e SERCA1 está aumentada. Estes últimos achados sugerem que a manutenção dos níveis de cálcio intracelular contribui para a proteção dos ILMs.

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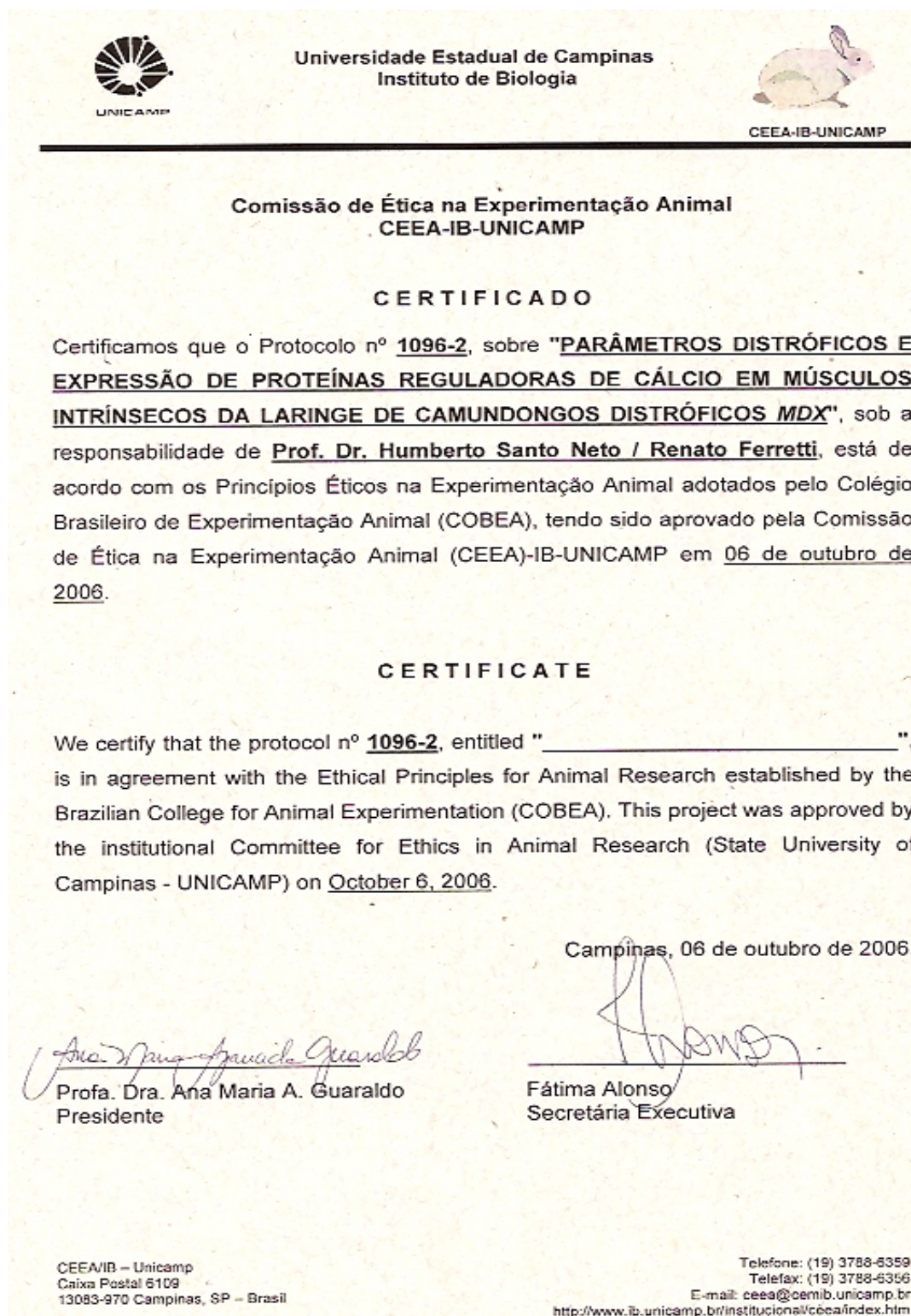
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9. Anexos

ANEXO 1: Certificado da Comissão de ética em experimentação animal, Instituto de Biologia-UNICAMP.



ANEXO 2: Confirmação da submissão para revista *Muscle and Nerve* do trabalho intitulado “Sarcoplasmic-endoplasmic-reticulum Ca²⁺-ATPase and calsequestrin are overexpressed in spared intrinsic laryngeal muscle of dystrophin-deficient mdx mice”.



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DECLARAÇÃO

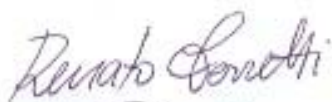
Declaro para os devidos fins que o conteúdo de minha **TESE DE MESTRADO** intitulada **“MÚSCULOS LARÍNGEOS DISTRÓFICOS: PROTEÇÃO À MIONECROSE, EXPRESSÃO DE SERCA1 E CALSEQUESTRINA”**:

() não se enquadra no Artigo 1º, § 3º da Informação CCPG 002/06, referente a bioética e biossegurança.

() está inserido no Projeto CIBio (Protocolo nº _____), intitulado _____

(X) tem autorização da Comissão de Ética em Experimentação Animal (**Protocolo nº 1096-2**).

() tem autorização do Comitê de Ética para Pesquisa com Seres Humanos (?) (Protocolo nº _____).



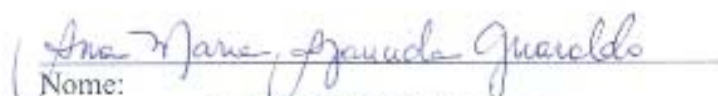
Renato Ferretti
- Aluno -



Prof. Dr. Humberto Santo Neto
- Orientador -

Para uso da Comissão ou Comitê pertinente:

(X) Deferido () Indeferido



Nome:

Função:

Profa. Dra. ANAMARIA A. GUARALDO

Presidente

Comissão de Ética na Experimentação Animal

CEEa/IB - UNICAMP