Molecular Cloning of Fyn-associated Molecules in the Mouse Central Nervous System

Nobuyuki Kai

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Department of Physiological Sciences
School of life science
The Graduate University for Advanced Studies

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Introduction

Intracellular signal transduction pathways are implicated in cell differentiation, migration, axonal projection and synaptic connection of neural cells. In the genetic analysis of Drosophila melanogaster mutants, several genes which, when altered, affect behavioral responses are implicated in intracellular signal transduction pathways of neural machineries; dunce and rutabaga gene products are directly involved in cAMP metabolism and their mutations result in defects in associative learning (Han et al., 1992; Levin et al., 1992; Nighorn et al., 1991), scalloped (sd) gene product encodes a transcription factor and its mutants show defects in response to a number of taste stimuli (Inamdar et al., 1993). In mouse, a gene-targeting technique shows that inactivation of a certain intracellular signal molecule causes neurological defects or behavioral abnormalities. For example, null mutation of c-fos gene causes defects in a series of male sexual behaviors (Baum et al., 1994). Reduced hippocampal long-term potentiation (LTP) and impaired learning are also produced by disruption of each of the following signal-transduction molecules: metabotropic glutamate receptor 1 (mGluR1) (Aiba et al., 1994), alpha-calcium-calmodulin kinase II (α-CaMK2) (Silva et al., 1992), PKC gamma (Abeliovich et al., 1993), cyclic AMP responsible element binding protein (CREB) (Bourc'his et al., 1994), and Fyn (Grant et al., 1992). These results indicate that the intracellular signaling pathway in the nervous system plays significant roles in the production of behavioral responses.

Fyn is a member of the Src-family kinases, a non receptor-type tyrosine kinase. In addition to the deficiencies of spatial learning in Fyn-lacking mice, gene disruption of Fyn causes several other behavioral abnormalities (Yagi et al., 1993; Yagi et al., 1993; Miyakawa et al., 1994; Miyakawa et al., 1995). The homozygous Fyn mutants are not lethal but the homozygous neonates from homozygous parents die because of a sucking problem. They also exhibited stronger light aversion in the light-dark choice test, higher fear-response scores in the novelty preference and passive avoidance tests, and were
hyper responsive to fear-inducing environments and to acoustically primed audiogenic seizures. Anatomical defects in the neural cell layer of the hippocampal formation and in the glomeruli of the olfactory bulb were also observed in the mutants. The Fyn signaling pathway thus should offer insights into the morphological, electrophysiological and behavioral events in the mammalian nervous system.

Biochemical studies have indicated that Fyn phosphorylates N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor subunits NR2A (epsilon 1) and NR2B (epsilon 2) in rat (Suzuki and Okumura-Noji, 1995), and nicotinic acetylcholine receptor (AChR) in Torpedo electric organ (Swope et al., 1995). Furthermore, the Fyn-mediated signaling pathway regulates the NCAM-dependent neurite outgrowth of cerebellar and dorsal root ganglion neurons in vitro (Beggs et al., 1994), as well as myelin formation together with a large myelin associated glycoprotein (L-MAG) (Umemori et al., 1994). These findings demonstrate that Fyn is involved in a variety of signal transduction pathways in the nervous system. However, it is likely that many unknown targets of Fyn interaction in this system remain, and a complete understanding of Fyn function requires their identification.

To gain further insight into Fyn signaling pathways in the brain, I performed an in vivo analysis to isolate molecules which directly associate with Fyn non-catalytic domains. The yeast two-hybrid system provides an assay of protein-protein interaction in a physiological condition. Here, I identified five clones from the expression cDNA library of the mouse neonatal brain. Expression pattern of each of these genes varied in various tissues and during brain development, respectively. Two of them in particular encode novel proteins which contain the motifs, presumably to associate with Src homology 2 or 3 (SH2 or SH3).
Materials and Methods

Strains and Media.

*Escherichia coli* JM109 [recA1, endA1, gyrA96, thi, supE44, relA1, Δ(lacproAB) F’[traD36, proAB, lacI97ΔM15], mcrA-, mcrB+] was used for plasmid construction. HB101 [supE44, ara-14, hsdS20( rB-mB-), recA13, ara14, proA2, leuB6, lacY1, galK2, rpsL20, xyl-5mut-l] was used to recover cDNA carrying plasmids from yeast. The yeast strains and the shuttle vectors (pGAD424, pGBT9 and their derivatives) were provided from CLONTECH Laboratories, Inc. (Palo Alto, CA). The genotype of the Saccharomyces cerevisiae reporter strain HF7c is MATa, ura3-52, his3-200, lys2-801, ade2-101, trp1901, leu2-3, 112, gal4-542, gal80538, LYS2:: GALT/HIS3, URA3::(GAL417mers)3-CYC1-lacZ). The genotype of SFY526 is MATa, ura3-52, his3-200, lys2801, ade2-101, trp1901, leu2-3, 112, gal4-542, gal80-538, URA3::GAL1-lacZ. For drug selections of *E. coli* transformants, Luria broth (LB) was supplemented with ampicillin (50 µg/ml). Minimal media (M9) plates (47.8 mM Na2HPO4, 22 mM KH2PO4, 9 mM NaCl, 18.6 mM NH4Cl, 0.4% glucose) containing 50 µg/ml ampicillin, 40 µg/ml proline and 1 mM thiamine-HCl were used to isolate cDNA clones. Yeast strains were grown in YPD (2% peptone, 1% yeast extract, 2% glucose) or SD synthetic minimal medium (6.7 g/l yeast nitrogen base without amino acids (Difeo), 2% glucose with appropriate supplements according to the manufacturer’s instructions).

Construction of Fyn-GAL4 Binding Domain Plasmid

pBD-Fyn was created as follows: Human fyn cDNA coding sequence lacking kinase domain was obtained by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using pSN-MluI (Semba et al., 1986) as a template followed by restriction endonuclease digestion. The primer 5’-TGGATCCGACTAATGGGCTGTGCAATGT contains a SalI site 5’ to the initiating ATG codon, and the primer 5’-GTTTCAATGGCTACTTGTGTGTTTCCATT was complementary to nucleotide 1450-1472 of fyn cDNA (Genbank
The amplified DNA was digested with SalI and XhoI and cloned into the SalI site of pGBT9. The orientation and the junction of reading frames between the Gal4 DNA-binding domain and the fyn cDNA was confirmed by sequencing analysis. The expression of the fusion protein in yeast was verified by immunoblotting. Yeast cells were lysed by sonication with acid-washed glass beads (Sigma) in a buffer containing 150 mM NaCl, 1% NP-40, 0.5% sodium deoxycholate, 0.1% SDS, 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 1 µg/ml leupeptin, and 0.5% aprotinin. Supernatants of cell lysates were separated by SDS/PAGE and electroblotted on a PVDF filter (Millipore). Blots were incubated with anti-human Fyn monoclonal antibody γC3 (Yasuda et al, in preparation). The primary antibody was detected with biotinylated rabbit anti-rat IgG and streptavidin alkaline phosphatase conjugate (Amershamb). The alkaline phosphatase activity was visualized with 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolylphosphate toluidinium and nitro blue tetrazolium (BICIP and NBT, Sigma).

cDNA-Activation Domain Fusion Library

To construct the cDNA library, I used a plasmid expression vector (pGAD424) with the Time Saver cDNA Synthesis kit (Pharmacia). Total RNA was isolated from newborn mouse (ICR, Charles River) brains by the method of Chomczynski and Sacchi (Chomczynski, 1987), and poly A+ RNA was isolated by absorption to oligo-dT cellulose (GIBCO-BRL). For first strand synthesis, 5 µg of poly A+ RNA as a template was primed with 0.74 µg of random hexamers, according to the manufacturer's instructions; this resulted in double-stranded cDNA with an EcoRI-NcoI adapter on each end with an average size of ~1.0 kb. About 80 ng of cDNA was ligated to 800 ng of EcoRI digested and calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase (CIP)-treated vector pGAD424. Following ligation, the library was desalted using micro concentrators (Microcon-100, GRACE Japan), and electroporated into E. coli DH10B (GIBCO-BRL). The library contained ~1.7x10^6 primary transformants. Library DNA was obtained by plating primary transformants on LB with ampicillin plates. Colonies were scraped into LB
media, and DNA was prepared by alkali lysis and CsCl method. The yield of DNA was ~ 1.5 mg.

**Two-Hybrid Screens**

The bait plasmid (pBD-Fyn, TRPI marker) and the cDNA library (LEU2 marker) were introduced sequentially into HF7c. Double-transformants were plated on SD media lacking leucine, tryptophan, and histidine but containing 5 mM 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole (3-AT), a chemical inhibitor of His3 which restores histidine auxotrophy. Approximately 3 X 10^6 transformants were analyzed from the titration of a small portion of the transformants on the SD media lacking Leu and Trp but containing His, without 3-AT. The plates were incubated for 2 months at 30°C. Colonies grown on the His- plates were successively picked up and transferred to other SD(Leu-, Trp-, His+) plates (stock plates) and incubated to determine β-galactosidase activity. Patches of the yeast colonies on the stock plates were directly lifted from the plates onto Whatman #1 papers, quickly frozen in liquid nitrogen (~10 sec), and immediately overlaid onto Whatman filters that had been soaked in β-galactosidase buffer [0.1 M phosphate buffer pH7.0, 10 mM KCl, 1 mM MgSO4, 40 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 0.33% Bluo-gal (GIBCO-BRL)]. Filter sandwiches were placed in petri dishes and incubated for 2 weeks at 30°C. Positive colonies which showed a blue color were selected from the stock plates and were grown in SD liquid media without Leu. Plasmids were recovered from the yeast cultures, and were used to transform into E. coli HB101 by electroporation. The cDNA plasmids were cloned from bacterial colonies grown on M9 minimal media due to complementation of leuB mutation by leu2 gene in cDNA plasmids.

Cloned cDNA plasmids were introduced into S. cerevisiae strain SFY526 and tested for β-galactosidase activity. Colonies were incubated for 6 days on SD (Leu-, Trp-) plates at 30°C, and scored for the β-galactosidase activity for 24 hours. Verifications of target specificity were performed with pVA3 (containing murine p53 oligomerization domain in pGBT9) and pLAM5' [human lamin C(66-230) in pGBT9] using two yeast strains, HF7c and SFY526.
Sequence analysis and screening of the Full-length cDNA clones

The cDNA inserts were excised from pGAD424 and cloned into pBluescript SK(-) (STRATAGENE) plasmids. The sequences of both strands were determined by an automated sequencer (LI-COR). Homology search of the five cDNA clones by known nucleotide and protein sequences was performed with the BLAST program on the NCBI blast network server. The full-length cDNAs of the clone 34 (termed Fap-1) and 82 (Fap-2) were obtained by screening a λZAPII (STRATAGENE)-based mouse newborn brain cDNA library using each cloned cDNAs as probes under standard hybridization conditions. Sequencing were performed, mainly by the subcloning of small restriction fragments into pBluescript vectors, and partial primer walking.

Northern Blot Analysis

Total RNA extraction and poly A+ RNA purification have been described above. Equal amounts of total RNA (20 μg per lane) or polyadenylated RNA (4 μg per lane) from mouse tissues was electrophoresed through a 1% agarose gel containing 2.2M formaldehyde and transferred to nylon membranes (Gene Screen, Du Pont), using a downward capillary blotting system (Chomiczynski and Mackey, 1994). Cloned cDNAs and Fyn cDNA fragment from translation initiation site to internal SpII site were labeled by [32P]d-CTP(Amersham) with a Random Priming kit (TaKaRa) and used as probes. Membranes were hybridized with each probe at 42°C for 18 hr in 5X SSPE, 5X Denhardt's solution, 1% SDS, 100 μg/ml sperm DNA, and 50% formamide, then washed in 2X SSPE, 2% SDS at 62°C. Filters were exposed to Fuji RX X-ray film for autoradiography.

RT-PCR assay of Fap-1

Total RNA isolation from each tissue was performed as above, and 5 μg was used in first strand synthesis reactions with 1μg of oligo-d(T) as a primer for the reverse transcriptase (Superscript, GIBCO) reactions. One tenth volume of each product was
used as template for PCR amplifications using 25 pmol of the following primers in a reaction volume of 50 µl: 5’-CAGGGATGGATTTAGAT-3’ and 5’-TTACAGAAAGCCACCAG-3’. These oligonucleotides correspond to the 3’ non-coding region of Fap-1 cDNA (nucleotide positions 4744-4760 and 5523-5539). The reaction was cycled with a "hot start" reaction of 96°C (10 min.), 75°C (10 min.), 50°C (5 min.), and 72°C (15 min.), followed by 35 rounds of 95°C (45 sec), 53°C (25 sec), and 72°C (3 min.). Ten µl of the reaction product was electrophoresed in a 1% agarose gel.
Results

Cloning of Fyn-associated proteins by the yeast two-hybrid system

I constructed an expression vector (pBD-Fyn) which produces a Gal4 DNA-binding domain-Fyn fusion protein containing Src homology motifs (SH2 and SH3) and the amino terminal region unique to Fyn, but lacking its kinase domain (amino acid 1-269). The fusion protein is described as 'tagged Fyn' in Figure 1A. To prevent the possibility of growth inhibitory effects of yeast by its kinase activity (Florio et al., 1994), I eliminated the kinase domain of Fyn. When the pBD-Fyn plasmid DNA was introduced into a yeast reporter strain HF7c, the fusion protein of expected molecular size was observed by immunoblotting with anti-Fyn antibody. I also confirmed that the transformants could not colonize on His-minus plate and did not express β-galactosidase activity. To screen cDNA-encoding proteins capable of interacting with the fusion protein, I introduced a second expression plasmid which contains sequences for the Gal4 activation domain fused to a cDNA library from mouse neonatal brain into HF7c strain expressing the 'tagged Fyn'. The general scheme is outlined in Figure 1B. If the second fusion protein interacts with the first fusion protein, the binding complex will regain the ability to activate transcription of the reporter genes; HIS3 (imidazole glycerol phosphatase dehydratase) and E.coli lacZ (β-galactosidase). Each reporter gene is controlled by a different promoter but commonly contains Gal4 binding sites [GAL1 upstream activating sequence (GAL1 UAS)] (Bartel, 1993).

A total of approximately 3X10^6 transformants of HF7c were placed on His minus plates, 367 colonies appeared within two months under selection and 169 of them displayed blue colored β-galactosidase activity. The time needed for colonies producing β-galactosidase to turn blue, however, varied from several hours to one week. The plasmid cDNAs were recovered from these 169 His^+ LacZ^+ colonies. Partial sequencing analysis of all of the plasmid cDNAs revealed that at least 15 colonies had a duplicated plasmid cDNA. To eliminate putative false positives, I reintroduced the remaining 154 plasmid cDNAs into another pBD-Fyn transformant of yeast from SFY526 strain,
whose β-galactosidase reporter gene expression is under control of different promoter sequences from that of HF7c except for the presence of GAL1 UAS. Most of the transformants also showed enzymatic activity which turned colonies blue. The time needed to develop color varied among colonies and some showed only faint levels. Therefore, to select those showing reliable enzymatic activity, I performed a β-galactosidase assay in a short time period (within 24 hours) using three independent transformations for each plasmid. Five cDNA clones, clones 27, 34, 40, 48 and 82, showed strong and reproducible β-galactosidase activity in the presence of pBD-Fyn as shown in Fig. 1C, though all five failed to interact with several other GAL4 binding domain-fusions, including murine p53 oligomerization domain (pVA3 of Figure 1C).

Sequence analysis of obtained clones

The cDNA inserts of clones 27, 34, 40, 48 and 82 were subjected to sequencing and homology search analyses to estimate functions of the encoded proteins (Fig. 2).

The predicted amino acid sequence of clone 27 cDNA contained a remarkable number of short tandem repeats (Fig. 2). A repeat composed of ten amino acids (-LASNTMDSSQM-) was especially highly conserved in the proximal 190 amino acids to the Gal4 activator sequence. Another type of repeat containing leucine every 7 residues followed but was less conserved (dotted leucine residues in Fig. 2). These stretches of leucine in every 6 residues form a coiled-coil protein dimerization motif, the leucine zipper. The most distal region of the deduced sequence was rich in tyrosine and proline residues, and two possible sites for the direct association with Fyn were found. One was composed of three repeats of -SYT(D/E)-, which was similar to tyrosine phosphorylation and the SH2 association site for Src family kinases observed in the mouse PDGF receptor β subunit (Mori et al., 1993). The other was the -PPLPPEEPP-, which displayed good agreement with the consensus sequence of SH3 binding motif (-PXXP-) (Yu et al., 1994).

The sequence of clone 34 contained clustered polar and hydrophilic residues in the region proximal to the Gal4 activation domain showing similarity to the protease-
sensitive domain called PEST sequence (Rogers et al., 1986); this sequence was enriched in serine/threonine, glutamate/aspartate, and proline residues, with flanking positively charged amino acids. A consensus PXXP motif capable of binding to SH3 domain also existed in this region (-PPPEEP-).

Clone 40 cDNA encoded a small (121 amino acids) protein which had no motifs predictable of nuclear localization, membrane spanning, or binding to other proteins.

The polypeptide sequence which was encoded in clone 48 had a similar motif to the SH2 recognition site (Marengere et al., 1994; Zhou et al., 1995) and two poly-proline stretches capable of association with SH3 domain.

Clone 82 cDNA encoded polypeptides 163 amino acids long and had an internal stop codon. The sequence was rich in hydrophobic residues, especially alanine and glycine. Two consensus motifs could possibly interact with Fyn: one was the -PXXP- motif for SH3 binding (Yu et al., 1994), and the other was the binding motif for SH2 domain predicted using an oriented peptide library.

Presence of SH2 or 3 binding motifs in 4 of 5 positive clones indicated that our two-hybrid system was operating well to isolate the molecule binding to the non-catalytic domain of Fyn. As will be mentioned later, the peptide encoded in clone 48 cDNA had in fact been reported to associate with SH3 domain of Fyn.

Homology to obtained clones

The homology search analysis revealed that the predicted amino acid sequence of clone 27 cDNA showed a high degree of similarity to the large transcript of human SON DNA binding protein coding sequences (Bliskovskii et al., 1992) (Fig. 3). Therefore, this clone was thought to be a mouse homologue or a protein closely related to the human protein. In the distal end of our cloned region, the sequence homology to the human gene had a gap of nearly 100 amino acids long.

Clone 40 was identical to the predicted product of the tctex-1 gene that maps to the sterile locus of the mouse t-complex (Lader et al., 1989) (Fig. 4). This gene had been isolated from differential screening of testicular cell RNA obtained from wild type and
sterile $t/t$ males, and showed 8-fold overexpression in testis of $t/t$ homozygous mice relative to wild type.

Homology search analysis revealed that clone 48 encoded the central and carboxyl-terminal portion of a mouse pre-messenger RNA binding protein, heteronuclear ribonucleoprotein K (hnRNP K) (Matunis et al., 1992) (Fig. 5). Fyn SH3 domain binds strongly to the protein via its proline-rich stretches under solution-binding conditions (Weng et al., 1994). The carboxyl terminus of clone 48 was alternatively spliced, which generated the difference in 4 amino acid residues to the previously reported sequences of mouse (Fig. 5B). The same pattern of splicing is known in human (Dejgaard et al., 1994).

Clones 34 and 82 encoded novel sequences. In clone 34 no similar protein or DNA sequence was found in the available data base; in clone 82, there was a weak homology to an extracellular matrix protein, elastin, by virtue of these hydrophobic residues.

**Tissue-distribution of the five clones at adulthood**

I performed Northern blot analysis using obtained sequences as probes to examine the expression of these genes. At mRNA level, all five cDNAs were detected in neonatal brain from which the cDNA library was generated (P0 of Fig. 7). To predict the functional roles of the five genes, I first examined their expression patterns and relative amounts in various adult mouse tissues and compared them with those of Fyn. Radiolabeled probes for each of these clones were hybridized to a set of Northern blots containing RNA isolated from forebrain, cerebellum, skeletal muscle, heart, thymus, spleen, liver, and kidney. Three of the 5 cloned genes (clones 27, 40, and 48) were widely expressed among these tissues (Fig. 6A to 6E). Clone 27, a putative homologue of human SON gene, strongly hybridized with a band at $\sim 7$ kb in forebrain, cerebellum, and thymus RNA (Fig. 6A). Relatively modest signals were also detected in muscle, heart, kidney, and liver. The expression of the gene was very faint in spleen. Several lower bands ($\sim 2.8$ kb) were also detected. These might be due to cross-hybridization or
signals from some related products. Clones 40 and 48 were expressed almost ubiquitously in each tissue. The single hybridization signal at 0.9kb of clone 40, almost identical to mouse tctex-1 gene, was found in each tissue (Fig. 6C). Size of the transcript matched well with that of the tctex-1 gene. Clone 48, identical to hnRNP K, also exhibited an ubiquitous hybridization signal as two bands (1.8 kb and 2.8 kb, Fig. 6D) except for spleen. Two forms of hnRNP K, the size of each transcript being 1975 and 2719 bp, were generated by alternative splicing with different sizes of 3'UTR (Ostrowski et al., 1994).

Two putative novel genes (clones 34 and 82), in contrast, showed remarkable features in distribution and relative amount of mRNA in each tissue. Clone 34 mRNAs, ~6.2 kb in size, were faintly detectable in forebrain and cerebellum (Fig. 6B). Using poly(A)^+ RNA derived from brain, two transcripts around the size of 6.2 kb were clearly detected (Fig. 8A). To analyze the expression pattern of clone 34 in more detail, I assayed its mRNA level by RT-PCR method with a set of primers corresponding to the 3' portion of the gene. Figure 8B shows the products amplified in various adult tissues. Although one of the highest levels was again found in brain, clone 34 mRNAs were also detected in heart, thymus, lung, ovary, and testis. Very low levels were found in liver, spleen, intestine, kidney, and muscle. This suggested that clone 34 was expressed fairly widely in adult tissues, albeit at low levels.

Clone 82 mRNA, ~6.2kb in size, was predominantly expressed in forebrain and cerebellum, and at lower levels in muscle and heart (Fig. 6E). No signal was detected in thymus, spleen, liver, or kidney. Very faint signals of smaller size (~3 kb) were detected in forebrain, cerebellum and heart. The expression of Fyn was high in forebrain and cerebellum, and was detectable in thymus and heart (Fig. 6F). This pattern of expression was similar to that of clone 82 in adult tissues. These results indicated that each gene had a different expression pattern in various tissues. In brain, where Fyn was extensively expressed, mRNA of all the clones were clearly detected.
Developmental expression of five clones in mouse brain

To study the developmental profile of the genes, I probed a set of Northern blots containing RNA isolated from the brains of mice ranging in age from embryonic day 15 (E15) to adult (P60). For each clone except clone 34, expression was observed from E15 to P60 in the developing and mature central nervous systems (Fig. 7A to 7E). Expression of clones 27 and 48 was relatively constant throughout neural development similar to that of Fyn (Fig. 7A, D and F). In contrast, clones 40 and 82 showed a pronounced decrease in expression during maturation (Fig. 7C and 7E). The product of clone 40 held at maximum level between E15 and P10, rapidly decreased between P10 and P30, and held at low level until P60. The mRNA of clone 82 was most abundantly expressed at E15, gradually fell until P30 and was relatively constant thereafter.

The expression of clone 34 was faintly detected between E15 to P60 using total RNA blots (Fig. 7B). The RT-PCR analyses described above were performed using seven different stages of whole embryonic bodies, heads or brains (Fig. 8C). The products were undetectable in whole embryo at F13.5, levels were weak in E17.5 head, P0 and P4 brains, and most abundant in P7 brain. Thereafter, their level remained steady or slightly lower. This alteration of each product divided into three types: the first was constant throughout life, the second was down-regulated during post-neonatal development and the third was up-regulated from middle-embryonic to postnatal stages. The roles of these types in brain are discussed below. Since these analysis of expression revealed that the two novel cloned genes, clone 34 and 82, were surely expressed in mice, I termed these two genes Fap-1 (clone 34) for Fyn associated protein 1, and Fap-2 (clone 82), and performed screening of full-length cDNAs.

cDNA sequences of Fap-1 and Fap-2

To isolate full-length cDNAs, a neonatal mouse brain cDNA library was screened by hybridization using Fap-1 and Fap-2 inserts as probes. First, Fap-1 was isolated from 4 different library plasmids that contained cDNAs overlapping each other. Sequence analysis revealed that the longest cDNA had two adjacent ATG initiation codon near the
5' end of it (Fig 9A a.a 1 and 3) in a good match to the canonical eukaryotic translation initiation consensus (Kozak, 1987), and encompassed complete coding sequence of Fap-1 encoded by 4296 nucleotides. Multiple stop codons in all three reading frames lay upstream of the distal ATG, suggesting that this may be the start site for translation of the normal mRNA. The 3'-untranslated region of the cDNA contains two polyadenylation signals they are trailed by poly (A). Thus calculated size of Fap-1 transcripts were 5625 and 6887 nucleotides and it matched well to a result obtained from Northern blot analysis. The sequence predicts the protein of 1432 amino acid residues, with a molecular mass of 156,604 daltons. The predicted amino acid sequence of Fap-1 is shown in Figure 9A.

The sequence analysis of Fap-1 cDNA revealed that the Fyn-binding region which was primary isolated in two-hybrid system was placed in the carboxyl terminal portion of the protein (Fig. 9A). Hydrophobicity analysis did not detect typical signal sequence at the N-terminal or any stretches of residues of sufficient length and hydrophobicity to constitute a membrane-spanning domain. Two striking stretches of hydrophilic, charged residues were found. One consisted of the glutamate repeating 18 times (755-772 a.a), and the other was the lysine / arginine / histidine rich domain which spanned over 50 residues (577-639 a.a). This extremely positive charged domain (calculated pI- 11.46) included multiple nuclear localization signal (NLS) consensus sequences which appears to be sufficient for nuclear translocation of proteins. In the amino-terminal region of Fap-1, a zinc finger motif and a potential tyrosine phosphorilation site were found.

To obtain the full-length cDNA of Fap-2, a neonatal mouse brain cDNA library was screened with clone 82 insert as a probe. I isolated two clones, which initiated from the same position but differed in size. Both the longer (6408 bp) and the shorter (1582 bp) cDNA clone had a potential initiator ATG codon in the 5' end of the inserts which obeys Kozak's rule, and contained an open reading frame encoding a 394 amino acid residues, with a molecular mass of 41,970 daltons (Fig.10A). However, the frame was open all the way to the 5'end of the clones, and thus I could not rule out the possibility that additional coding sequences lay farther upstream. The 3'-UTR of the longer cDNA
contained an ideal polyadenylation signal at the 3' end of the clone. The shorter cDNA had no typical polyadenylation signal, but the corresponding region of the longer cDNA to the 3' end of the shorter clone had an internal poly-A stretch, long enough to hybridize to oligo dT primer.

The Fyn binding region, which was initially isolated as clone 82, was the carboxyl-terminal portion of the protein and occupied roughly one third of the entire sequence (157 a.a). No hydrophobic stretch or nuclear localization signals was found throughout of the protein.

Comparison of the deduced amino acid sequence databanks demonstrated that Fap-2 belonged to a family of RNA-binding proteins RBPs (Burd and Dreyfuss, 1994). The most significant similarity (33% identity at the amino acid level) was shown with a RBP identified previously in *Caenorhabditis elegans*, termed fox-1 (Hodgkin et al., 1994). Many RBPs contain a conserved sequence of 80-90 amino acids, termed an RNA-binding domain (RBD), that include two short highly conserved motifs called RNP-1 and RNP-2. FAP-2 contained one RBD, in which RNP-1 and RNP-2 sequences were well conserved (Fig.10B). Interestingly, the similarity between Fap-2 and fox-1 was prominent at the middle portion of Fap-2 protein which include RBD. Nevertheless the amino- and carboxyl-portion of the protein shared no homology to fox-1 or other RBPs.
Discussion

Isolation of two novel molecules

I identified five cDNAs that interact directly with N-terminal sequence of Fyn tyrosine kinase using the two-hybrid system from mouse brain. Here, I isolated two novel cDNAs (Fap-1 and Fap-2) for positive binding to Fyn. Northern hybridization analysis showed that the mRNA of Fap-1 and Fap-2 were more extensively expressed in brain than other clones isolated. The mRNA of Fap-2 was predominantly expressed in brain and weakly in muscle and heart. Fap-1 mRNA was undetectable except in brain using Northern hybridization analysis (Figs. 6B and 8A), but by RT-PCR analysis it existed in all adult tissues examined. These findings imply the possibility of conserved functions of these genes in nonneural tissues and brains. Notably, these two molecules showed different expression patterns during brain development; Fap-2 had a down-regulated expression while Fap-1 was up-regulated. Although I hardly detected developmental alteration of the fyn mRNA level (Fig. 7F), subcellular localization of Fyn protein is shown to alter during brain development: throughout late fetal brain it is localized in the developing axonal tracts, but in adult brain it was not observed in most axon-rich regions except olfactory and vomeronasal systems, and was restricted to cell bodies and nuclei of neuronal and glial cell subpopulations (Bare et al., 1993). Fyn-deficient mice had two-phase abnormalities in brain: morphological abnormalities and reduction of axonal growth during the developmental stage and decrease of long-term potentiation at the mature stage. These observations suggest that these two novel molecules were independently implicated in Fyn-signalling pathways at early and mature stages.

The Fyn-associated region of Fap-1 was rich in proline residues (15% in all residues of which primary isolated as clone 34) and polar residues that constitute PEST regions, and potential binding sites for SH3 domain-containing proteins. Abi-2, an Abl tyrosine kinase interacting protein (Dai and Pendergast, 1995), partly shows similar
compositions of amino acid residues to those of Fap-1 but their functions in Abi-2 protein is not clear. The PEST region was originally found in each of ten short-lived proteins examined (half-lives less than 2h), and is detectable in various proteins including nuclear factors, enzymes, cytoskeletal/structural and other proteins. This region is considered to correlate better with rapid degradation than with specific compartmentation or functional activity. To date, PEST regions have not been found in any previously reported molecules which can associate with Fyn. The PEST region is also known to exist in a subset of calmodulin-binding proteins and calpain substrates, and is suspected to bind calcium ion (Ca\(^{2+}\)) and/or mediate Ca\(^{2+}\) dependent proteolysis (Wang et al., 1989). Fap-1 may also bind Ca\(^{2+}\) to exert its function.

Many molecules which can bind to the non receptor-type tyrosine kinases (NTKs) are known to date, and some of them are relatively well characterized about their molecular nature for signaling functions. They are the receptors (Timson Gauen et al., 1992), linker proteins between the NTKs and other signalling molecules (McPherson et al., 1994), and cytoskeletal proteins (Cobb et al., 1994). These binding molecules to the NTKs are shown to be implicated in common and well distributed signalling pathways for cell proliferation and differentiation. In recent years, another type of the binding molecules to NTKs, like p130Cas (Sakai et al., 1994), HS-1 (Kitamura et al., 1995), Efs (Ishino et al., 1995), Abi-1 (Shi et al., 1995) and Abi-2 (Dai and Pendergast, 1995), are detected and their functions are argued. Fap-1 protein shows some similarities of protein structures to them, although it scarcely shows homology to any of these proteins in amino acid sequence. They are rich in hydrophilic amino acids and commonly have binding motifs to SH2 and/or SH3 domains. They are all thought to be cytoplasmic or nuclear prteins and some of them have motifs for transcription factors or nuclear localization signals. Among them, HS-1 and Efs are expressed in restricted tissues and others are widely expressed. Because the Fap-1 protein does not have any domains for enzymatic activity known to date, it strongly suggests a new signalling cascade of Fyn. The structural similarities of Fap-1 and other NTKs-binding proteins described above may imply that they have overlapped functions to some extent.
Data base analysis of clone 82 revealed weak homology to human and bovine elastin at the amino acids level. However, nucleotide sequences for clone 82 cDNA were not conserved in elastin cDNAs. This implies clone 82 is evolutionarily unrelated to elastin. Full-length cDNA of clone 82 (Fap-2) has a motif for RNA binding domain and is suspected to be a member of RNA-binding proteins (RBPs). The neural-enriched putative RBPs have been described in both vertebrates and invertebrates. In Drosophila, some RBPs express specifically in neuronal nuclei. Musashi, one of the fly RBPs, is expressed in sensory organ precursor cells and P element insertion in msi locus brings aberrant differentiation of mechanosensory bristles (Nakamura et al., 1994). Another RBP of Drosophila, couch potato(cpo), is highly expressed in neuronal nuclei in the embryo, and cpo mutants exhibit several altered adult behaviors (Bellen et al., 1992). In addition to homology with other RBPs, both msi and cpo proteins have a long stretch of alanine/glutamine-rich regions. The functional significance of this domain is unclear, however, Fap-2 protein was also rich in alanine and glutamine, especially in the region shown to interact with Fyn. Although these RBPs of fly has no nuclear localization signal, they are localized to the nucleus and suggests that they may have roles in RNA processing rather than mRNA stability or nuclear-cytoplasmic transport. Two vertebrate neuronal RBPs have been reported to date. The FuD gene was isolated by screening an expression library with sera from patients with antibody-associated paraneoplastic encephalomyelitis (Sekido et al., 1994). The other vertebrate RBP, NRP-1, was isolated from Xenopus laevis nervous system (Richter et al., 1990). The identification of these neuronal RBPs suggests that the regulation of gene expression at the posttranscriptional level may play a significant role in the development and function of both vertebrate and invertebrate nervous systems. Details of expression profiles and subcellular localization of Fap-2 products will provide new insights into their cellular and neural function.

Other genes isolated

Three of the five cDNAs isolated here encoded previously reported sequences, SON, tctex-1 and hnRNP K (clones 27, 40 and 48, respectively). Two of them ( SON
and hnRNP K) are the nucleic acid binding proteins. Unexpectedly, an immunocytochemistry report stated that Fyn is present in nucleus of neurons and glial cells at significant levels (Bare et al., 1993). I also confirmed nuclear staining in the pyramidal neurons of the hippocampal formation by the monoclonal antibody to Fyn which I developed. This enabled us to speculate that these nucleic proteins are colocalized with Fyn in the nucleus or implicated in nuclear transporting of Fyn.

Human SON gene is originally cloned by hybridization to GC-rich genomic DNA sequences (Bliskovskii et al., 1992), or HLA-DRA promoter pyrimidine rich sequences (Mattoni et al., 1992). Transcripts of the gene have at least two alternative forms which hold a putative nuclear localization signal, a basic region extending over 200 amino acids, and a proline-rich acidic domain in common. Immunofluorescence analysis confirmed its localization in the nucleus (Mattoni et al., 1992). Functions of the SON protein are not clear but overexpression of the recombinant protein can alter cell morphology. This protein has homologous regions to the DNA binding site of the high mobility group Y (HMG-Y) protein, a family of relatively low molecular weight non-histone components in chromatin in its carboxyl terminus, and represents DNA binding activity. This suggests that SON protein participates in morphological dynamics of structures in nucleus.

hnRNP K is originally isolated by association of cysteine rich RNA sequences. Since it is a member of hnRNP particle, this molecule is regarded to function in the processing and transport of nuclear pre-mRNA (Matunis et al., 1992). In addition to binding of hnRNA, hnRNP K also binds tenaciously to the pyrimidine-rich stretch of DNA sequences like kappa B enhancer (Gaillard et al., 1994), and binding to the CT-rich element in c-myc promoter region represents transcription factor activity (Tomonaga and Levens, 1995). Recently, it was reported that Fyn shows transcriptional activity via induction of NF kappa B-like DNA-binding proteins (Hohashi et al., 1995), and this suggests Fyn and kappa B-binding proteins may work synergistically in transcriptional regulations.

Nucleotide sequence of clone 40 was homologous to the transcript of the tctex-1 gene family which is highly expressed in homozygous mice of t-haplotype. Since it lacks
signal sequences and hydrophobic stretches in the predicted amino acid sequences, tctex-1 gene product appears to be cytoplasmic proteins but its function has been elusive. Lader et al. (1989) showed that the transcript level in adult testis is 200-fold higher than other tissues (liver, brain, heart, spleen, and kidney) in mice. I did not examine the mRNA level in testis, but it showed ubiquitous expression in various tissues (Fig. 2C). This study is the first to show that tctex-1 is down-regulated during brain development at the mRNA level, perhaps indicating that tctex-1 functions in premature cells of neuron or glia during brain formation.

All three cDNAs described above were broadly expressed in various adult tissues including brain. This suggests the existence of conserved functions of Fyn in nervous systems in common with nonneural tissues.

Putative binding sequence of isolated clones to Fyn

In the five cDNAs isolated here, all but clone 40 contained Pro-Xaa-Xaa-Pro (PXXP) motif which is considered to be the SH3 domain recognition site. It is probable that isolation of these four molecules is based on interactions with Fyn SH3 domain. The minimal sequence requirement for SH3 domain recognition contains a conserved PXXP motif, and flanking residues which determine binding conformation and specificity for SH3 domain targets (Yu et al., 1994; Rickles et al., 1995). Among the clones isolated here, the PXXP motifs were observed at the Pro330 in clone 27, Pro68 and Pro95 in clone 34, Pro87 and Pro107 in clone 48, Pro34 and Pro73 in clone 82, respectively (Figure. 9).

SH3 domains are widely found in proteins of eukaryotic cells which mediate various cellular functions by interactions with their ligands. For example, SH3 domain of Ash/Grb-2 adapter molecule binds Sos, a guanine nucleotide exchange factor, and cause Ras activation (Buday and Downward, 1993; Li et al., 1993; Simon et al., 1993). GTPase dynamin, a possible mediator of neurotransmitter endocytosis, binds to and is activated by a subset of SH3 domains (Gout et al., 1993). In addition to enzymatic activation, some transcription factor-like proteins contain potential SH3 domain binding sites (Buyse
et al., 1995; Subramaniam et al., 1995). In the case of alpha epithelial amiloride sensitive Na\(^+\) channel, interaction with \(\alpha\)-spectrin SH3 domain mediates localization of the channel to apical membranes of Na\(^+\) transporting epithelia, which is necessary for proper channel function (Rotin et al., 1994). Thus the profiles of expression and cellular localization among SH3 domain binding proteins imply their functional diversity. In our study, the four molecules containing PXXP motif showed distinct expression patterns. These various complexes with Fyn might be generated by alteration of physiological condition during the developmental stages and in different brain regions, and might have different molecular functions.

Possible recognition sites for SH2 domain existed in clones 27, 48, and 82. SH2 domain are conserved among a series of membrane and cytoplasmic signaling molecules which associate with phosphotyrosine in a specific sequence context (Pawson and Gish, 1992; Zhou et al., 1995). These clones may have a potential for phosphorylation and association with SH2 domain in vivo.

I isolated a protein (hnRNP K), which was previously reported to associate with Fyn in this study; other molecules known to associate with Fyn, however, were not isolated. There are three possible reasons for this. First, some reported molecules might be indirectly associating with Fyn, because they were detected as an immune complex including Fyn, for example, Thy-1, a glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored plasma membranous protein, associates with Fyn and other tyrosine kinases via 100kDa transmembrane protein (1995) (Lehuen et al., 1995). Second, there may be some requirements for posttranslational modifications for binding to Fyn which do not occur in yeast. Finally, the library I used might lack the Fyn-binding molecules as fusion protein with the Gal4 activator. Nevertheless, isolation of hnRNP K, known to be a Fyn-binding protein in vitro, confirmed that our detection system for protein-protein interaction in yeast operated accurately to screen Fyn-binding molecules.

Conclusion
This study suggested that Fyn interacted directly with multiple proteins: nuclear, RNA-binding, cytoplasmic and novel proteins in mammalian brain. These indicated that Fyn mediated multiple signaling pathways from the cytoplasm to the nucleus. Fyn-deficiency causes broad alteration in suckling, emotional, and spatial learning behaviors. One or more of five isolated molecules might mediate the signaling pathway to regulate these mammalian behaviors.

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Figure 1
Figure 1. Strategy for isolating cDNAs encoding Fyn-associated proteins. A: Schematic domain structure of Fyn and tagged Fyn. Fyn protein contains the N-terminal unique region, and SH2, SH3 and tyrosine kinase domains characteristic of Src family members (upper). A fusion protein (tagged Fyn) was generated by connecting Fyn sequence except the kinase domain with Gal4 DNA-binding domain. In molecular cloning of the Fyn-association proteins, I used the tagged Fyn. B: The yeast cells (HF7c and SFY526) are initially transformed with a tagged-Fyn expression vector. These transformants are His⁻ (HF7c) and white (HF7c and SFY526) owing to lack of trans-activating sequence in tagged Fyn. Subsequent transformation with an activation-domain tagged cDNA of the expression library allows formation of an active transcription complex, when its expressed protein can interact with the tagged Fyn. This active complex induces expression of the reporter genes resulting in His⁺ and blue. Clones displaying these phenotypes are picked up and further analyzed. C: Demonstration of the blue selection on β-galactosidase activity from isolated plasmids encoding interacting tagged-Fyn. Each transformant of SFY526 by activator containing plasmids of clones 27, 34, 40, 48 and 82 was transformed again with pBDFyn (upper) or pVA3 (lower) containing the Gal4 DNA-binding domain. All turned blue only with pBDFyn, but not with pVA3. This indicated that the five cloned sequences could specifically interact with the sequence of tagged Fyn. Yeast strains were cultured for 6 days at 30°C and the replicated filters were incubated for 20 hr with Bluo-gal staining filter.
Figure 2
Figure 2. Deduced amino acid sequences of isolated tagged Fyn-binding cDNAs. The amino acid sequences between Gal4-activation domain and each 5' end of cDNAs containing an adapter are displayed in *italics* at the top left of each clone. Asterisks show the internal stop codons. The single-underlined sequences represent putative SH2-binding motifs including tyrosine residues that can be phosphorylated. Potential SH3-binding sequences are double-underlined. The two PEST-like structures of clone 34 are shaded. The leucine zipper-like repeats of clone 27 are pointed out.
Figure 3
Figure 3. Sequence comparison between clone 27 cDNA and human SON gene. A: A schematic diagram represents homologous and gapped region of clone 27 to SON gene. Numbers are positions of nucleotides. B: An alignment of nucleic acid sequences between SON (upper) and clone 27 (lower). Adapter sequences of clone 27 cDNA are underlined. Asterisks show identical nucleotides of clone 27 to SON gene. There are 928 nucleotides (92.6%) identical to each other except for a gapped region of clone 27 (dashed line).
Figure 4
Figure 4. Sequence homology of tctex-1 gene to clone 40. Underlined sequences of clone 40 are adapters. Putative initiation ATG codon and stop codon (TGA) of tctex-1 gene are shaded. Asterisks of clone 40 indicate identical nucleotides to tctex-1.
Figure 5
Figure 5. Sequence comparison between clone 48 and two isoforms of mouse hnRNP K cDNAs previously reported. A: Alignment of nucleotide sequences. Designations of reported isoforms used are Genbank accession numbers. Underlined sequences of clone 48 are adapters and identical nucleotides among the three sequences are asterisked. Termination codons (TAA) are shaded. Note that clone 48 has a gapped region (dashed line) to the other two sequences, which results in an alternative amino acid sequence in the carboxyl terminus of the clone as shown in B.
Figure 6. Northern blot analysis of the five cDNA clones and Fyn in adult tissues. Total RNAs from the indicated mouse tissues were hybridized to the radiolabeled clone 27 in (A), clone 34 (B), clone 40 (C), clone 48 (D), clone 82 (E), and Fyn cDNA (F), respectively. Exposure times are as follows: 24 hr (D), 40 hr (A, C, E, and F) and 72 hr (B). Each membrane was reprobed with GAPDH cDNA fragment and uniformity of RNA quantities in each lane was verified (data not shown). The RNA makers are indicated at left of each membrane.
Figure 7. Developmental expression profile of the five cDNA clones and Fyn in brain. Total RNAs from the indicated ages (E15 to 8 weeks postnatal) were hybridized to the radiolabeled clone 27 in (A), clone 34 (B), clone 40 (C), clone 48 (D), clone 82 (E), and Fyn (F) cDNA, respectively. Exposure times are: 24 hr (D), 40 hr (A, C, E, and F) and 72 hr in (B). Each membrane was reprobed with GAPDH cDNA fragment and the uniformity of RNA quantities in each lane was verified (data not shown). The RNA markers are indicated at left of each membrane.
Figure 8. The expression profiles of Fap-1 mRNA. A: Comparison of the relative levels of expression between adult brain and liver by Northern analysis. The poly(A) RNA on nylon membrane was hybridized with clone 34 cDNA probe as those in Fig. 6 and 7. Exposure time was 40 hr. Molecular weight markers are indicated at right. RT-PCR analyses were performed on various adult tissues (B) and developmental stages of brain (C). Amplified products were separated on agarose gels with HaeIII digested \( \phi X174 \) DNA as a molecular weight marker (left). The predicted size of the amplified products was 795 base pairs long. No amplification was observed with 1 \( \mu g \) of genomic DNA as a template (data not shown).
Figure 9
Figure 9. cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence of Fap-1 A: Sequence of the 6.9kb Fap-1 cDNA and the deduced amino acid sequence of the 1432 amino acid protein. The nucleotide and amino acid numbers are shown on the right. Two polyadenylation signals are underlined. The sequences which was obtained initially as two-hybrid clone 34 (predictable Fyn binding region) are shaded. Two potential SH3 binding sites (amino acid 1074-1077, -ProValLeuPro- and amino acid 1164-1167, -ProGlyAspPro-) are double-underlined. The two PEST sequences-like structures (a.a 1099-1114 and a.a 1122-1141) are shown in boxes. The two charged amino acids clusters, the Glu-repeat and the Lys/Arg/His rich domain are each underlined with dashed lines. A zinc finer motif (a.a 60-82) and potential tyrosine phosphorylation site (a.a 5-12) in the N-terminus of the protein are double underlined. B: Diagram of structural features of Fap-1.
Figure 10
Figure 10. cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence of Fap-2  A: Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of Fap-2. A polyadenylation signal and an internal poly-A stretch are underlined. Sequences in the carboxyl terminus corresponding to the Fyn binding region which was isolated initially as two hybrid clone 82 are shaded. The potential SH3 binding site (-ProAlaTyrPro-) and SH2 binding site (-TyrAlaGlnPro-) are double-underlined. The RBD sequence is boxed. B: An alignment between two RBDs of Fap-2 with C. elegans fox-1 and the comparison of Fap-2 corresponding region with the RNP consensus, taken from Burd and Drefuss (1994). The conserved amino acids between the two proteins are shaded. The identical residues in Fap-2 with the RNP consensus are indicated by asterisks. Spacing between RNP2 and RNP1 is variable at several points among members of the RNP family.
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**Figure 11**
Figure 11. Alignment of SH3 binding motifs. Proline core sequences of the isolated cDNA clones and the reported binding sites for Fyn SH3 are presented in single-letter code with the amino acid position numbers. The bacteriophage library displayed consensus binding sequence from the Src, Fyn, Lyn, and phosphatidilinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) SH3 domains. Screening of bead-bound peptide library for Src and PI3K SH3 ligands revealed two classes of consensus sequences differing from the position of an arginine residue. Positions of the dashed line indicate a preference for valine, leucine, and isoleucine residues. Completely conserved Pro residues are shaded. In the case of 3BP1, the amino acid position numbers count from the beginning of the partial cDNA sequence given by Cicchetti et al. (1992). PI3Kp85; human phosphatidylinositol-3' kinase p85 subunit. dynamin; rat GTPase dynamin. mSos1; mouse homologue of drosophila Son of sevenless, the guanine nucleotide exchange factor. Sam68; mouse tyrosine-phosphorylated protein, a mitotic substrate of Src.