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Abstract

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is associated with amyloid β -protein 1-42 (A β 42) accumulation in the brain. AB42 and AB40 are the major two species generated from amyloid precursor protein. We previously reported that angiotensinconverting enzyme (ACE) converts toxic Aβ42 to neuroprotective Aβ40 and reduces the A\u00df42/40. Inhibition of ACE or heterozygous ACE deletion significantly enhances Aβ42 deposition and increases Aβ42/ Aβ40 ratio in the brain of AD model mice. Most PSEN1 mutations found in FAD induce an increase in the A β 42/40 ratio, but the underlying mechanism is unclear. Here we found that ACE protein purified from PS1-knockout (PS1-KO) fibroblasts angiotensin-converting activities. Transfection of wild-type (WT) PS1 restored these activities in PS1-KO cells; however, some PS mutants could not restore the Aβ42-to-Aβ40-converting activity of ACE in PS1-KO cells. We also found that the glycosylation of ACE in adult mouse brain differed from that of embryonic brain and that the Aβ42-to-Aβ40–converting activity in adult mouse brain was lower than that in embryonic brain. Our data indicate that deletion of activity and angiotensin-converting activity of ACE. Moreover, some FAD-linked PS1 mutations were shown to impair the Aβ42-to-Aβ40-converting activity of ACE. Our findings suggest that PS mutations increase the $A\beta 42/A\beta 40$ ratio by reducing the A β 42-to-A β 40–converting activity of ACE.