



US006896872B2

(12) United States Patent
Dambinova**(10) Patent No.: US 6,896,872 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: May 24, 2005**(54) RAPID MULTIPLE PANEL OF BIOMARKERS
IN LABORATORY BLOOD TESTS FOR TIA/
STROKE****(76) Inventor:** Svetlana A. Dambinova, 3016 Oak
Park Cir., Atlanta, GA (US) 30324**(*) Notice:** Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.**(21) Appl. No.:** 09/922,011**(22) Filed:** Aug. 2, 2001**(65) Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0096331 A1 May 22, 2003

Related U.S. Application Data**(60)** Provisional application No. 60/301,297, filed on Jun. 27,
2001.**(51) Int. Cl.⁷** G01N 33/48; G01N 33/53;
G01N 33/567; C07K 16/28; C07K 14/00**(52) U.S. Cl.** 424/9.1; 435/7.1; 530/350;
530/387.1**(58) Field of Search** 424/9.1; 435/7.1;
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Primary Examiner—Janet Andres*Assistant Examiner*—Rachel K. Hunnicutt**(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm**—Clark G. Sullivan; King &
Spalding**(57)****ABSTRACT**A methods, kits and compositions for diagnosing a central
nervous system disorder, particularly transient ischemic
attack or stroke, comprising measuring the level of NR2A
and/or NR2B NMDA receptor or fragment thereof, in a
biological sample from a human subject, and optionally
measuring other biomarkers such as homocysteine and
glutamate. The method is particularly useful for identifying
individuals that are at risk for stroke, and for diagnosing
stroke in an emergency room setting.**9 Claims, No Drawings**

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RAPID MULTIPLE PANEL OF BIOMARKERS IN LABORATORY BLOOD TESTS FOR TIA/ STROKE

RELATION TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/301,297, filed Jun. 27, 2001, and under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Utility application Ser. No. 09/632,749, filed Aug. 4, 2000 (currently pending), of which this application is a continuation-in-part

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to the diagnosis, management and therapy of central nervous system disorders such as stroke, transient ischemic attack, and traumatic brain injury. In particular, the invention relates to methods and kits for evaluating these central nervous system disorders, in order to better respond to episodes of focal cerebral ischemia, and to best manage the risk associated with future acute incidences.

2. Background Information

Stroke or "brain attack" is clinically defined as a rapidly developing syndrome of vascular origin that manifests itself in focal loss of cerebral function. In more severe situations, the loss of cerebral function is global. A stroke occurs when the blood supply to the part of the brain is suddenly interrupted (ischemic) or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding the brain cells (hemorrhagic). The symptoms of stroke are easy to spot: sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking; dizziness; or loss of balance or coordination. (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, 2001). Stroke is the most common devastating neurologic disease in the world, and the third leading cause of death in world after heart disease and cancer. Despite recent progress understanding stroke mechanisms, stroke management is still not optimal for a number of reasons.

The importance of promptly diagnosing a stroke after symptoms appear cannot be overstated. Delays in diagnosis and medical intervention beyond 3 hours after stroke onset may contribute to clinical deterioration and disability. An early diagnosis enables doctors to more effectively choose the emergency intervention such as anti-platelet or/and neuroprotective therapy, and also to make better prognoses of disease outcome. Successful treatment of stroke requires rapid state diagnosis. The delay in achieving an accurate and certain diagnosis wastes the limited amount of time available in which the brain can respond to reperfusion, and significantly increases the risk of hemorrhage after most of the permanent injury has occurred (Marler J. R. *Ann. Emergency Med.* 1999, 33: 450-451).

Unfortunately, however, many people who have a stroke either do not seek immediate medical care or suffer from delays in medical care even in countries where stroke care is advanced, such as the United States and Europe (Alberts M J, Hademenos G, Latchaw R E, et al. *JAMA* 2000; 283:3102-3109). Several clinical criteria can be employed to diagnose whether a patient is having a stroke, but even all these criteria do not always allow one to differentiate the episode from other disorders, such as epilepsy, syncope, and migraine (Toole J F. *Cerebrovascular Disorders*. 1999.

Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, New York, 5th Ed., 542 p). Moreover, progressing stroke is only partially predictable based on clinical and neuroimaging data that is currently available to neurologists.

Transient ischemic attack (TIA) is a short-lived episode of focal neurologic deficit which often precedes the cerebral infarction of a stroke. It occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is briefly interrupted, and is typically accompanied by permanent brain damage (albeit less severe damage than normally results from a stroke). TIA symptoms, which usually occur suddenly, are similar to those of stroke but do not last as long. Most symptoms of a TIA disappear within an hour, although they may persist for up to 24 hours. Symptoms can include: numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body; confusion or difficulty in talking or understanding speech; trouble seeing in one or both eyes; and difficulty with walking, dizziness, or loss of balance and coordination. (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, 2001). Patients who have suffered a TIA have 9.5 times greater risk of having a future stroke than those who have not had a TIA, and about one third of patients who suffer a TIA will have an acute stroke in the future. (American Stroke Association, 2001). However, because the symptoms of TIA are short term, many patients do not recognize the event as a TIA or perceive the event as a warning of a potentially impending stroke.

Standard treatments to reduce the risk of future stroke include the use of antiplatelet agents, particularly aspirin. People with atrial fibrillation (irregular beating of the heart) may be prescribed anticoagulants. The most important treatable factors linked to TIAs and stroke are high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, heart disease, carotid artery disease, diabetes, and heavy use of alcohol. Lifestyle changes can often be implemented to reduce these factors. However, it is necessary to diagnose the TIA as a warning sign of impending stroke before such treatments can be administered. Therefore, a laboratory blood test to detect TIA or stroke, or the risk of suffering a TIA or stroke in the future, would be of tremendous benefit.

During the past 5 years a number of molecular and immunochemical assays have been evaluated for clinical use in neurology. (Schenone A. et. al. *Current Opinion in Neurology*. 1999, 12: 603-604; Honnorat J. J. *Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry*. 1996, 61:270-278). At present, the Thrombogene V and two Thrombx tests are available for diagnosing stroke/thrombosis from Athena Diagnostic. These tests evaluate the frequent deep vein thrombosis and hypercoagulation states of patients to evaluate the need for intravenous anticoagulant therapy. The Thrombogene V test detects the Factor V Leiden mutation by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) in the blood of patients. The other two tests monitor changes of different blood coagulation markers: antithrombin m protein C, factor IX, and anticardiolipin antibodies (IgG, IgM, IgA) by use of ELISA technique. These tests thus reveal the hypercoagulation state as a result of a thrombotic events, such as stroke stroke.

Stroke can be related to different types of venous thromboembolisms, which are common disorders with considerable morbidity and potential for mortality (Anderson, D.; Wells, P. *Cur. Opinion in Hemat.* 2000, 7: 296-301). The biochemical marker: D-dimer, a breakdown product of a cross-linked fibrin blood clot that indicates the occurrence of plasmin mediated lysis of cross-linked fibrin, has been extensively evaluated for use in diagnostic tests for indicating acute venous thromboembolism. Indeed, a fully automated, semi-quantative latex agglutination assays that

uses turbimetric or agglutination endpoints has been developed that provides results within 20 minutes with sensitivity between 89% and 95% (Roussi J.; Bentolila L.; Contribution of D-dimer determination in the exclusion of deep vein thrombosis in spinal cord injury patients. *Spinal Cord*, 1999; v.37: p.548-552). Unfortunately, however, the presence of D-dimer may also be increased in other settings that result in fibrin generation, including recent surgery, hemorrhage, trauma, cancer, and pregnancy (Anderson D R., Wells P S.; *Thromb. Haemost.*; 1999; 82:878-886).

However, the foregoing tests do not elucidate upon the TIA/stroke mechanisms that are actually responsible for the damage associated with neurotoxic molecular events. It is necessary to find out specific and sensitive biomarkers which could be helpful to recognize initial brain damage and which could help to choose not only the appropriate anticoagulant treatment, but also emergency or regular neuroprotective therapy.

It is well known that two of the three leading causes of death, namely cardiovascular diseases and stroke, are the end result of atherosclerosis. Thus, it is not surprising that several biochemical markers implicated in thromboembolic processes are also reported to be associated with stroke and stroke risk. Among these are homocysteine, cholesterol and LDL (Cerebrovascular Disorders ed. by J. E. Toole. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. 1999, pp.34-35), which are also classified as risk factors to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. (Hankey G J., and Eikelboom J W. *Lancet*. 354: 407-413 (1999). Approximately one fourth of patients with symptomatic atherosclerosis have elevated plasma homocysteine levels caused by various factors. High levels of homocysteine may run in families with increased susceptibility to heart attack and stroke (Graham I. J. Jr. *Call. Phys. Surg.* 1995; 24: 25-30). Elevated plasma homocysteine may be a causal and modifiable risk-factor for ischemic stroke, but the results of previous studies have been conflicting (Deulofeu V N R, Chamorro A, Piera C. *Med Clin (Barc)*. 1998; 110: 605-608; Yamamoto T, Rossi S, Stiefel M E, Doppenberg E, Zauner A, Bullock R, Marmarou A. *Acta Neurochir. Suppl. (Wien)* 1999; 75:17-19).

The neurotoxic effect of excitatory amino acids (glutamate, aspartate) in the brain has also been well documented. The results of this work show a correlation between glutamate content in the blood and the severity of acute ischemia (Castillo J, Dávalos A, Naveiro J, Noya M. *Stroke* 1996, 27:1060-1065; Castillo J, Dávalos A, Noya M. *Lancet*. 1997; 349:79-83). Cerebral damage and its association with progressing stroke has been attributed to increased glutamate release, or low glutamate reuptake, both in animals and in humans (Dávalos A, Castillo J, Serena J, Noya M. *Stroke* 1997; 28:708-710).

However, only 56% of patients with progressing stroke are reported to have high glutamate content in their blood serum (Dávalos A., Toni D., Iweins F., et al., 1999, 30: 2631-2636). Moreover, even though glutamate is considered the strongest biochemical predictor of progressing stroke (Dávalos A, and Castillo J. In Book: *Cerebrovascular Disease*. Current Med. Inc.: Philadelphia. 2000 Chapter 16, pp.169-181), this marker remains non-specific for TIA. Glutamate changes have also been observed in the blood of patients with epilepsy and other nervous system disorders (Meldrum B S. J. *Nutrition*. 2000, 130:1007S-1015S).

Over the last three decades substantial progress has been made in elucidating the mechanisms by which cerebral ischemia leads to brain damage. The cellular and molecular mechanisms of cerebral ischemia abnormalities have been

better defined through the role of glutamate and glutamate receptors, one of the most distributed excitatory neuroreceptors in brain, in regulating of initial stages of brain damage. Indeed, numerous molecular investigators consider glutamate receptors to be one of the key biological receptors involved in the molecular mechanisms of TIA and stroke (Meldrum B S. J. *Nutrition*. 2000, 130:1007S-1015S). According to a leading hypothesis, ischemia-induced glutamate release activates these glutamate receptors. It has been shown that glutamate and homocysteine (the sulfonic analog of aspartate) activate the glutamate binding site of NMDA receptors and participate in neurotoxic processes (Lipton S. A., Kim W. K., Choi Y. B., Kumar S., et al. *PNAS*. 1997, 94: 5923-5928).

Glutamate receptors are divided into two main groups: ionotropic and metabotropic. The ionotropic neuroreceptors are ligand-gated ion channels that are subdivided into NMDA, AMPA and kainate receptor subtypes. There are four NR2 subunits: NR2A, NR2B, NR2C and NR2D, which is responsible for Ca^{2+} -permeability regulation. NMDA receptors can be modified by ischemia, resulting in changes of ion permeability and/or ion selectivity.

Recent research findings indicate that the blood of patients with CNS disorders other than TIA or stroke exhibit properties of autoimmunization to products of nerve cell degradation (Vincent A., Oliver L., Pallace J. *J Neuroimmun.* 1999; 100: 169-180). For example, a correlation between AMPA GluR1 autoantibodies and common epilepsy has been shown (Dambinova et al. *J. Neurol. Sci.* 1997; 152: 93-97; Dambinova et al. *J. Neurochem.* 1998; 71: 2088-2093), as has a correlation between AMPA GluR 3 autoantibodies and Rasmussen's encephalitis (Rogers S W, Andrews P I, Gahring L C, et al. *Science*. 1995; 265:648-651; Twyman R E, Gahring L C, Spiess J, Rogers S W. *Neuron*. 1995; 14:755-762; Gahring L C, Twyman R I, Greenlee J E, Rogers S W. *Mol. Med.* 1995; 1:245-253).

In a similar vein, several researchers have reported an increase in NMDA receptor synthesis, the appearance of high levels of receptor antigen, and the generation of autoantibodies to the receptors during the initial stages of cerebral ischemia (Gusev et al., *J. Neurol. & Psych.* 1996, 5:68-72; Dambinova et al. *J. Neurol. Sci.* 1997, 152:93-97; Dambinova et al. *J. Neurochem.* 1998, 71: 2088-2093). Acting on this research, one company developed a laboratory kit (cerebral ischemia (CIS)-test) that detects autoantibodies to the N-terminus domain of the NR2A subunit in the blood of patients with TIA or stroke (Gusev E. L., Skvortsova V I, Alekseev A A, Izykenova G A, Dambinova S A. S Korsakov's *J. Neurol. & Psych.* 1996; 5:68-72). The N-terminus domain of the NR2A subunit of NMDA receptors was selected as the immunoreactive epitope on the basis of molecular biological and experimental studies showing that this epitope is the most immunoreactive region of the receptor (Dambinova S A, Izykenova G A. *J. High Nervous Activity*. 1997; 47:439-446).

More recently, researchers have reported a correlation between the effectiveness of a stroke treatment regimen and the levels of autoantibodies to the NR2A and NR2B subunits of NMDA. In particular, these researchers have reported increased titers of autoantibodies to the NR2A and NR2B subunits of NMDA in the blood of patients severely affected by stroke, and a reduction of the autoantibodies, accompanied by an improvement in neurological function, during therapy by glycine—a non-specific agonist of NMDA receptors (Gusev et. al. *Cerebrovascular Diseases*. 2000, 10: 49-60). Patients that responded positively to glycine had

lower autoantibody titers than patients who were not treated, and had levels of autoantibodies that were close to the levels of autoantibodies in control subjects.

Unfortunately, the use of NR2A and NR2B autoantibodies in the diagnosis of stroke or TIA does not provide a real-time assessment of the damage being done by a stroke or TIA. Rather, because of the time the immune system requires to mount an immune response, and to generate NR2A and NR2B autoantibodies, methods that test for these antibodies at best provide a delayed assessment of the extent and severity of stroke or TIA.

Investigators from Canada (Hill M. D., Jackowski G., Bayer N., Lawrence M., Jaeschke R. Can. Med. Assoc. J. 2000, 163: 1139-1140) have proposed a new diagnostic laboratory assay for differentiating stroke subtype. They designed a preliminary prospective cohort study to test a panel of biochemical markers (neuron-specific enolase [NSE], myelin basic protein [MBP], S-100 [beta] protein and thrombomodulin [Tm]) in blood samples from patients with acute ischemic stroke. These markers were chosen because they cover important cellular components of the brain that might be damaged in acute stroke. The 4 biochemical markers were assayed using a standard ELISA technique.

The results of this investigation demonstrated elevated levels of NSE in 89% of the patients admitted in hospitals, Tm in 43%, MBP in 39% and S-100 [beta] in 32%. At least one of the markers was elevated on admission in 93% of the acute stroke patients. By stroke type, 100% of the patients with lacunar stroke, 100% of those with posterior circulation stroke and 90% of those with partial anterior circulation stroke had elevated NSE levels on admission. Conversely, none of the patients with lacunar stroke had an elevated S-100[beta] level initially or subsequently. Peak levels of NSE, S-100 [beta] and MBP, but not of Tm, were significantly correlated with admission NIHSS scores ($p < 0.05$).

For stroke, 3 hours is an outside limit for administering appropriate therapies. The focus must change from extensive evaluation before any action to a well-planned acute emergency therapy developed using an appropriate diagnostic strategy. Every future advance to improve the outcome after TIA/stroke will depend on a fast initial response-within minutes and not hours (Marler J. R. Annl. Emergency Med. 1999, 33: 450-451). Therefore, it is especially important to develop a fast and simple method (within one hour) of detecting brain and blood biomarkers capable of recognizing the initial processes of TIA/stroke before irreparable ischemic damage ensues.

OBJECTS OF INVENTION

Therefore, it is an object of the invention to provide biochemical methods and kits for diagnosing central nervous system disorders such as TIA and stroke.

It is another object of the present invention to improve upon the accuracy of currently available methods for diagnosing TIA and stroke, and to more accurately diagnose TIA and stroke to the exclusion of other nervous system disorders or traumatic brain injury.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide methods of diagnosing stroke using biochemical markers that distinguish between hemorrhagic and ischemic stroke.

Still another object of the invention is to provide biochemical analyses of the extent and progression of TIA or stroke, or the infarction resulting from the TIA or stroke.

It is another object of the present invention to provide rapid biochemical methods and kits for diagnosing TIA and

stroke, to provide real-time assessments of TIA or stroke, within a window of time that permits effective therapeutic intervention.

It is another object of the present invention to provide rapid and inexpensive biochemical methods and kits for diagnosing TIA and stroke, which can be performed at frequent intervals to monitor the progression of a TIA or stroke, or the effectiveness of therapy administered against TIA or stroke.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide diagnostic methods and kits for assessing the risk of incurring a TIA or stroke, and for monitoring the remission of risk factors for TIA or stroke.

Still another object of the invention is to provide a panel of rapid multiple panel of biomarkers for assessing the nature, severity and progression of TIA or stroke, and thereby to enable a more effective selection of intervention therapy.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has unexpectedly been discovered that levels of circulating NMDA receptor proteins or fragments thereof can be assessed using diagnostic kits and processes, and that levels of these proteins or fragments can be used to clinically evaluate patients suffering from ischemic central nervous system disorders such as stroke or TIA. When analyzed in combination with other biomarkers for stroke and TIA, such as the thromboembolic marker homocysteine, or the excitatory amino acid glutamate, these proteins can diagnose the existence of a stroke with remarkable accuracy (generally greater than 89%). In contrast, the efficacy of single parameters for early diagnosis of stroke is 58% for glutamate, 66% for homocysteine, and 79% for NMDA receptors. The rapid evaluation of these neural ischemic biomarkers in an emergency room setting will greatly enhance the confidence of physicians when diagnosing stroke or TIA, and significantly improve the speed at which therapy against the stroke or TIA can be administered.

The biomarkers also yield extensive evidence about the nature of the stroke or TIA and the type therapy which should be administered. For example, the respective levels of biomarkers can be evaluated to determine whether the patient is suffering an ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke, or whether the patient is suffering from a traumatic brain injury. The data from the biomarkers can also be used to monitor or evaluate the progression of the ischemic episode, as well as the damage that has resulted as a consequence of the ischemia. High levels of all parameters reflect the neurological deficit and may be also used for prognosis of disease outcome. Moreover, a relationship has been observed between the respective levels of the biomarkers and the degree of thromboembolic and neurotoxicity in brain processes under the stroke. Once again, these relationships can be put to extensive use when evaluating the choice of emergency therapy in short time frames, such as anti-platelet and neuroprotective therapy. The data can be used independently of other diagnostic strategies, but preferably forms an integral part of a comprehensive diagnostic strategy employing conventional diagnostic techniques.

The data obtained from the NMDA biomarkers, especially when combined with data from other biomarkers such as glutamate and homocysteine, can also be used to monitor the efficacy of a treatment regime. It has surprisingly been found that the NMDA biomarkers provide real time evidence of neurotoxicity, and that reductions in levels of circulating NR1A or NR2A NMDA receptors or fragments thereof

correspond well with reductions in neurotoxic mechanisms. By obtaining data at appropriate intervals using rapid laboratory techniques such as latex agglutination, one is able to monitor the progression of the episode in response to the therapeutic regime.

A latex agglutination technique has also been developed which dramatically increases the speed of diagnosis obtained by the methods of this invention, and thereby improves the effectiveness of the methods in emergency-room settings. The technique can be adapted for use in the detection of NMDA receptors, homocysteine, glutamate, or any other suitable biomarker against central nervous system disorders. Using the latex agglutination technique, one is able to provide real-time biochemical diagnosis and monitoring of TIA/stroke patients (within about 30 minutes), and thereby dramatically improve the effectiveness of response to TIA/stroke. This is surprising because these biomarkers are naturally occurring and, in contrast to viruses for which latex agglutination methods were originally developed, show much lower strengths of association with their corresponding antibodies.

This semi-quantitative method gives reliable data quickly in a format that is simple for interpretation. Surprisingly, the technique shows greater accuracy than even well established methods based upon HPLC and ELISA. The application of the latex agglutination technique to the analysis of brain biomarkers for stroke will decrease the cost of analysis, provide the opportunity to monitor real-time progress of a treatment procedure, and allow physicians to determine the efficacy of medication administered in the treatment of TIA or stroke.

The methods of the present invention also can be employed in a non-emergency setting, when evaluating the risk that an individual will suffer a stroke or TIA. In addition, based upon results showing an increased risk of suffering TIA or stroke, prevention therapy can be administered, and the effectiveness of the therapy monitored using the methods of the present invention.

The invention also relates to indirect methods for measuring levels of NR2A and NR2B NMDA receptor proteins or fragments thereof. Thus, analytical techniques can be used to evaluate indirect measures of NR2A and NR2B NMDA receptor proteins or fragments thereof, such as autoantibodies specific for the proteins, or cDNA that encodes for the proteins.

Additional advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention may be understood more readily by reference to the following detailed description of preferred embodiments of the invention and the Examples included therein. Before the present methods and techniques are disclosed and described, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to specific analytical or synthetic methods as such may, of course, vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the

purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting.

Definitions and Use of Terms

As used in this specification and in the claims which follow, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to "a fragment" includes mixtures of fragments, reference to "an cDNA oligonucleotide" includes more than one oligonucleotide, and the like.

An analogue of a protein, peptide, or polypeptide means a protein, peptide, or polypeptide that contains one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions, additions, or rearrangements. For example, it is well known in the art of protein biochemistry that an amino acid belonging to a grouping of amino acids having a particular size or characteristic (such as charge, hydrophobicity, and hydrophilicity) can often be substituted for another amino acid without altering the activity of the protein, particularly in regions of the protein that are not directly associated with biological activity. Thus, an analogue of an NMDA receptor or fragment thereof is useful in the present invention if it includes amino acid substitutions, deletions, additions or rearrangements at sites such that antibodies raised against the analogue are still specific against the NMDA receptor or fragment.

Preferably, an NMDA analogue has at least 80%, 85%, 90%, or 95% amino acid identity with naturally occurring NMDA. Amino acid identity is defined by an analogy comparison between the analogue and naturally occurring NMDA. The two amino acid sequences are aligned in such a way that maximizes the number of amino acids in common along the length of their sequences; gaps in either or both sequences are permitted in making the alignment in order to maximize the number of common amino acids. The percentage amino acid identity is the higher of the following two numbers: (1) the number of amino acids that the two polypeptides have in common with the alignment, divided by the number of amino acids in the NMDA analogue or fragment thereof, multiplied by 100, or (2) the number of amino acids that the two polypeptides have in common with the alignment, divided by the number of amino acids in naturally occurring NMDA or fragment thereof, multiplied by 100.

NMDA derivatives, and derivatives of NMDA fragments, include naturally occurring NMDA and NMDA analogues and fragments thereof that are chemically or enzymatically derivatized at one or more constituent amino acids, including side chain modifications, backbone modifications, and N- and C-terminal modifications, by for example acetylation, hydroxylation, methylation, amidation, phosphorylation or glycosylation. The term also includes NMDA salts such as zinc NMDA and ammonium NMDA.

A protein or peptide is measured "directly" in the sense that the protein or peptide is itself measured in the biological sample, as opposed to some other indirect measure of the protein or peptide such as autoantibodies to the protein or peptide, or cDNA associated with the expression of the protein or peptide.

The term "antibody" is intended to be synonymous with "immunoglobulin." As used herein, the term "antibody" is meant to include both the native antibody, and biologically active derivatives of antibodies, such as, for example, Fab', F(ab')₂ or Fv as well as single-domain and single-chain antibodies. A biologically active derivative of an antibody retains the ability to bind antigen.

General Discussion

The present disclosure describes diagnostic and therapeutic applications that result from the realization that genetic or

accidental increase of NMDA receptors synthesis in the brain reflects a neurological ischemic deficit, and may be used for early diagnoses of stroke or TIA. NMDA receptors that are abnormally expressed in the brain are quickly metabolized and, following penetration of the blood brain barrier, these metabolic destruction products enter the circulatory system. The immune system recognizes these peptides and protein fragments as foreign antigens and responds by generating autoantibodies to them.

In one aspect of the present invention, the correlation between increased NMDA receptor synthesis, and the appearance of high levels of the receptors in blood sera of individuals during the initial stages of cerebral ischemia, is used for diagnostic and therapeutic applications. Experiments in rats with focal ischemia have demonstrated that NR2A mRNA expression in the cortex and hippocampus can be measured within two hours of the onset of the ischemic episode, and thus provide an opportunity for real time measurement of ischemic processes and damage resulting therefrom. At the same time, meaningful expression of NR2C and NR2D mRNA is not observed in brain structures that showed no changes in NR1 mRNA expression in rat ischemic brain. These changes in NR2-receptor mRNA expression in the early stages of ischemia are observed prior to a morphological evidence of neuronal damage or appearance of autoantibodies to them in blood serum specimens.

Thus, in one aspect the present invention provides a method for diagnosing a central nervous system disorder comprising measuring the level of NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor or fragment thereof in a biological sample. Elevated levels of NR2A and NR2B NMDA receptors are specific to brain injury, and are expressed in ischemic brain tissue at higher rates than other NMDA receptors, and thus are uniquely suited for assessing ischemic brain episodes such as TIA or stroke. Baseline levels for determining whether the measured levels are elevated, and hence indicative of a central nervous system disorder, can be obtained from population norms or, preferably, from a patient's own test history.

The biological sample tested for the receptor or fragment can be derived from blood, urine, blood plasma, blood serum, cerebrospinal fluid, saliva, perspiration, or brain tissue. In a preferred embodiment, the biological sample is a blood sample. In an even more preferred embodiment the biological sample is a blood sample diluted to a ratio of from about 1:2 to about 1:32 (v:v).

Immunoassay techniques are generally preferred for measuring the proteins or peptides of the present invention, as discussed in greater detail herein, although other analytical techniques are also available as known to those skilled in the art, such as HPLC. The amino acid sequences of the NR2A and NR2B subunits, and antigenic fragments thereof, are recited in SEQ ID NOS. 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12, and any fragment of these sequences can be employed in methods for directly detecting the receptors as long as sufficient antigenicity is maintained. However, when using immunoassays it has been found that the antigenic determinants are concentrated in the N-terminal domain of the NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor, and that antibodies raised against the N-terminal domains and fragments thereof should be employed for optimal test results. The inventors have sequenced the amino acid chain of the N-terminal domains for these receptors, and set forth the sequences as SEQ ID NOS. 2 and 11, respectively, at the end of this document.

In a preferred embodiment, other biomarkers of central nervous system disorders are also measured to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis, and to provide further information

about the nature, severity, or progression of the disorder. Particularly useful markers are directly implicated in the NMDA receptor pathway, and include naturally occurring agonists and antagonists of the NMDA receptors. An exemplary antagonist is glycine. Exemplary agonists include glutamate, polyglutamate, aspartate, polyaspartate, homocysteine, and polyhomocysteine. A particularly preferred agonist for measuring the activity of the receptors is glutamate or polyglutamate.

In another embodiment, thromboembolic biomarkers are measured to obtain a simultaneous reading of the likelihood for clotting in the brain. Exemplary thromboembolic biomarkers include homocysteine or polyhomocysteine.

Titers of higher than 2.63 for combined levels of NR2A and NR2B, especially when combined with titers higher than 3.34 for glutamate and/or 2.23 for homocysteine, are remarkably predictive of the occurrence of stroke and typically justify immediate therapeutic intervention for the TIA or stroke or risk of stroke. These titers can be translated into absolute concentrations by reference to the examples hereof.

The methods of the present invention are preferably performed by directly measuring the levels of NR2A and/or NR2B biomarkers in a selected biological sample, using immunoassay techniques employing antibodies raised against the biomarkers, or through quantitative techniques such as HPLC. However, it is also possible to measure the presence of the NR2A and/or NR2B biomarkers indirectly. This can be done by directly measuring autoantibodies of the biomarkers, or by directly measuring the cDNA nucleic acid intermediates involved in expression of these biomarkers. If autoantibodies are measured, they are preferably measured using one or more antigenic fragments of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptors as the target of the antibody, as opposed to a whole NR2A and/or NR2B protein. Healthy persons generally have NR2A autoantibodies in an amount of about 1.0–2.0 ng/ml. Healthy persons generally have NR2A cDNA levels of about 1.0–1.5 pg/ml.

Latex Agglutination and Other Diagnostic Techniques

A number of immunoassays can be employed in accordance with the principles of the present invention. Examples include radioimmunoassays, enzyme immunoassays (e.g. ELISA), immunofluorescence, immunoprecipitation, latex agglutination, hemagglutination, and histochemical tests. A particularly preferred method, however, because of its speed and ease of use, is latex agglutination.

Latex agglutination assays have been described in Beltz, G. A. et al., in *Molecular Probes: Techniques and Medical Applications*, A. Albertini et al., eds., Raven Press, New York, 1989, incorporated herein by reference. In the latex agglutination assay, antibody raised against a particular biomarker is immobilized on latex particles. A drop of the latex particles is added to an appropriate dilution of the serum to be tested and mixed by gentle rocking of the card. With samples lacking sufficient levels of the biomarkers, the latex particles remain in suspension and retain a smooth, milky appearance. However, if biomarkers reactive with the antibody are present, the latex particles clump into visibly detectable aggregates.

An agglutination assay can also be used to detect biomarkers wherein the corresponding antibody is immobilized on a suitable particle other than latex beads, for example, on gelatin, red blood cells, nylon, liposomes, gold particles, etc. The presence of antibodies in the assay causes agglutination, similar to that of a precipitation reaction, which can then be detected by such techniques as nephelometry, turbidity, infrared spectrometry, visual inspection, colorimetry, and the like.

The term latex agglutination is employed generically herein to refer to any method based upon the formation of detectable agglutination, and is not limited to the use of latex as the immunosorbent substrate. While preferred substrates for the agglutination are latex based, such as polystyrene and polypropylene, particularly polystyrene, other well-known substrates include beads formed from glass, paper, dextran, and nylon. The immobilized antibodies may be covalently, ionically, or physically bound to the solid-phase immunoadsorbent, by techniques such as covalent bonding via an amide or ester linkage, ionic attraction, or by adsorption. Those skilled in the art will know many other suitable carriers for binding antibodies, or will be able to ascertain such, using routine experimentation.

Thus, in one embodiment, the method of measuring the NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor, fragment thereof, or other biomarker is by latex agglutination comprising:

- (i) contacting the biological sample with poly- or monoclonal antibodies bound on an agglutinating carrier to target biomarkers for a sufficient time period and under conditions to promote agglutination; and
- (ii) reading a signal generated from the agglutination; wherein the amount of signal detected correlates to the titer of biomarkers present in the sample.

The reaction is preferably read macroscopically against a dark background for a sufficient time period. The method preferably yields a clinically useful reading within about 30 minutes or less.

It has been experimentally found that latex beads having a mean diameter of from about 0.25 to about 0.4 μm are particularly preferred in the practice of this invention. The poly- or monoclonal antibodies are preferably present in a ratio with the latex beads of about 1:1.

Latex beads having the foregoing characteristics can be prepared generally by adding antibodies to the target biomarker to a carrier solution that contains a 1% concentration (by weight) of latex beads, until the concentration of the antibodies in the carrier solution reaches about 2 mg/ml, and allowing the ingredients a sufficient time to covalently link, typically about 1 hour, in the presence of a linking agent such as glutaraldehyde.

Conventional methods can be used to prepare the antibodies. For example, by using a peptide of a NMDA protein, polyclonal antisera or monoclonal antibodies can be made using standard methods. A mammal, (e.g., a mouse, hamster, or rabbit) can be immunized with an immunogenic form of the peptide (preferably the NR2A and/or NR2B receptor, an antigenic determinant of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptor, or an analogue or derivative thereof) which elicits an antibody response in the mammal. Techniques for conferring immunogenicity on a peptide include conjugation to carriers or other techniques well known in the art. For example, the peptide can be administered in the presence of adjuvant. The progress of immunization can be monitored by detection of antibody titers in plasma or serum. Standard ELISA or other immunoassay procedures can be used with the immunogen as antigen to assess the levels of antibodies. Following immunization, antisera can be administered and, if desired, polyclonal antibodies isolated from the sera.

To produce monoclonal antibodies, antibody producing cells (lymphocytes) can be harvested from an immunized animal and fused with myeloma cells by standard somatic cell fusion procedures thus immortalizing these cells and yielding hybridoma cells. Such techniques are well known in the art, (e.g., the hybridoma technique originally developed by Kohler and Milstein (Nature 256, 495-497 (1975))) as well as other techniques such as the human B-cell

hybridoma technique (Kozbor et al., Immunol. Today 4, 72 (1983)), the EBV-hybridoma technique to produce human monoclonal antibodies (Cole et al. Monoclonal Antibodies in Cancer Therapy (1985) Allen R. Bliss, Inc., pages 77-96), and screening of combinatorial antibody libraries (Huse et al., Science 246, 1275 (1989)). Hybridoma cells can be screened immunochemically for production of antibodies specifically reactive with the peptide and the monoclonal antibodies can be isolated. Therefore, the invention also contemplates hybridoma cells secreting monoclonal antibodies with specificity for NR2A or NR2B NMDA proteins or fragments thereof as described herein.

When the NR2A and/or NR2B receptors are detected indirectly, by measuring the cDNA expression of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptors, the measuring step in the present invention may be carried out by traditional PCR assays such as cDNA hybridization, Northern blots, or Southern blots. These methods can be carried out using oligonucleotides encoding the polypeptide antigens of the invention. Therefore, in one embodiment the methods are performed employing oligonucleotides that encode the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, which is preferably represented by nucleotides 371-1978 of SEQ ID NO: 6. More preferably, the nucleic acid construct comprises a oligonucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, which is preferably represented by oligonucleotides 1790-1852 of SEQ ID NO: 7.

Thus, in one embodiment the methods of this invention include measuring an increase of NR2A and/or NR2B cDNA expression by contacting the total DNA isolated from a biological sample with oligonucleotide primers attached to a solid phase, for a sufficient time period. In another preferred embodiment, NR2A and/or NR2B cDNA expression is measured by contacting an array of total DNA bound to a solid matrix with a ready-to-use reagent mixture containing oligonucleotide primers for a sufficient time period. Expressed NR2A cDNA is revealed by the complexation of the cDNA with an indicator reagent that comprises a counterpart oligonucleotide to the cDNA attached to a signal-generating compound. The signal-generating compound is preferably selected from the group consisting of horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, urinase and non-enzyme reagents. The signal-generating compound is most preferably a non-enzyme reagent.

In a preferred embodiment, the solid phase is a polymer matrix. More preferably, the polymer matrix is polyacrylate, polystyrene, or polypropylene. In one preferred embodiment the solid phase is a microplate. In another preferred embodiment, the solid phase is a nitrocellulose membrane or a charged nylon membrane.

As mentioned above, the methods of performing the present invention also may be performed by measuring the levels of autoantibodies specific for the NR2A and/or NR2B subunits. These autoantibodies may be measured by any suitable immunoassay such as, for example, a radioimmunoassay, an immunofluorescence assay, an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), an immunocytochemical assay, and immunoblotting. In a preferred embodiment, the antigen to which the anti-NR2A and/or NR2B autoantibodies bind is a polypeptide or protein fragment of the N-terminal domain of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptor. More preferably, the antigen comprises a polypeptide or protein fragment of amino acid SEQ ID NO: 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, or 13, or a suitable analogue or derivative thereof.

Thus, in yet another embodiment the methods of the present invention are performed by measuring the levels of

anti-NR2A and/or anti-NR2B autoantibodies, by contacting a biological sample with a polypeptide or protein fragment of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptor (preferably the N-terminal domain) (or an analogue or derivative thereof) attached to a solid phase, for a sufficient time period and under conditions to allow a complex to form between any NR2A and/or NR2B autoantibodies which may be present in the sample and the polypeptide or protein fragment, contacting the complex with an indicator reagent comprising a secondary antibody specific for the species of the mammal attached to a signal-generating compound (or for the polypeptide or protein fragment); and measuring the signal generated. The peptide can be obtained directly from biological samples, by recombinant DNA techniques, or by direct chemical synthesis. The signal-generating compound is preferably selected from horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, and urinase. More preferably, the signal-generating compound is horseradish peroxidase. Most preferably, the indicator reagent is rabbit anti-human IgG attached to horseradish peroxidase. The amount of signal detected is correlated to the amount of anti-NR2A and/or NR2B autoantibodies present in the biological sample.

In this method it is preferred that the solid phase be a polymer matrix. More preferably, the polymer matrix is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylate, polystyrene, and polypropylene. In one preferred embodiment the solid phase is a microplate. In another preferred embodiment, the solid phase is a nitrocellulose membrane or a charged nylon membrane.

The immunosorbent of the present invention for measuring levels of autoantibody can be produced as follows. A fragment of the receptor protein is fixed, preferably by covalent bond or an ionic bond, on a suitable carrier such as polystyrene or nitrocellulose. If the standard polystyrene plate for immunological examinations is employed, it is first subjected to the nitration procedure, whereby free nitro-groups are formed on the plate surface, which are reduced to amino groups and activated with glutaric dialdehyde serving as a linker. Next the thus-activated plate is incubated with about 2 to 50 nM of the target peptide for the purpose of chemically fixing the respective immunogenic fragment of the receptor protein for a time and at a temperature sufficient to assure fixation (i.e. for about 16 hours at 4° C.).

The amount of protein below 2 nM affects adversely the reliability of the findings, whereas its amount exceeding 50 nM is inexpedient due to an increase in the nonspecific binding of autoantibodies with the immunosorbents. The plate is then washed with an aqueous solution of sodium boron hydride and an aqueous solution of sodium chloride, vacuum-dried, enclosed in a hermetically sealed package, and put under storage at 4° C.

It is also practicable to produce the immunosorbent by fixing the respective fragment of the receptor protein on nitrocellulose strips by virtue of ionic interaction. The respective fragment of the receptor protein isolated from the mammals' brain is applied to nitrocellulose and incubated for 15 min at 37° C. Then nitrocellulose is washed with a 0.5% solution of TWEEN-20™ (polysorbate 20), and the resultant immunosorbent is dried at room temperature and stored in dry place for one year period.

Emergency Room Diagnosis and Prognosis

As mentioned above, the methods of the present invention are especially well suited for use in emergency room settings. There are two reasons for this. First, the method is extremely useful in an emergency room setting because NR2A and NR2B NMDA receptor levels are elevated at a very early stage of ischemic insult, and thus provide a real

time indication of neurotoxic events. This is in contrast to autoantibodies which require that an immune response first be mounted by the insulted organism.

The second reason the method is useful in an emergency room setting is the speed and ease with which the latex agglutination procedure can be employed. Using the latex agglutination processes described herein, one is able to turn laboratory results around often in less than 30 or even 20 minutes. Thus, using the methods of the present invention real-time data can be obtained that permits a therapeutic response within the window for an effective response to stroke.

Therefore, in one embodiment the invention provides a method for diagnosing the existence of a central nervous system disorder such as TIA or stroke, further comprising withdrawing the biological sample from a human subject, wherein the biological sample is withdrawn within three hours of the onset of symptoms of the central nervous system disorder. In still another embodiment of the invention, the amount of time elapsed between withdrawing the biological sample from the subject, and detecting or measuring the presence or quantity of the NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor, is less than about one hour, 45 minutes, or 30 minutes.

One of the principal advantages of the present invention is the ability to distinguish ischemic episodes such as stroke from other brain injuries such as traumatic brain injury. Thus, in another embodiment, the invention provides a method for diagnosing the existence of TIA or stroke further comprising evaluating from the level of NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor whether the brain injury is a traumatic brain injury or stroke/TIA, and administering traumatic brain injury or stroke/TIA therapy as appropriate.

Another advantage of the methods of the present invention which is extremely useful in an emergency room setting, is the ability to determine from the test data the type of stroke involved. In particular, if a stroke is suspected, the method will help diagnose whether the stroke is an ischemic or hemorrhagic insult. Thus, in another embodiment the invention provides a method for diagnosing the existence of TIA or stroke further comprising, when the diagnosis confirms a stroke, evaluating from the level of NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor whether the stroke is ischemic or hemorrhagic and administering ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke therapy as appropriate.

Another advantage of the present invention is the ability to evaluate infarction volume and extent of neurotoxicity from NMDA expression data. NMDA receptor expression research in an animal model of middle carotid artery occlusion has been employed to demonstrate such correlation. Thus, in still another embodiment the invention provides a method for diagnosing the existence of TIA or stroke further comprising, if TIA and/or stroke is confirmed, evaluating from the level of NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor cranial infarct volume, and administering therapy appropriate to the infarct volume.

Moreover, one can periodically repeat the procedure, to provide continuous monitoring of a patient's state as interventional therapy is administered, to monitor the effectiveness of a particular therapeutic regime. In this embodiment, it is preferable for the mammal to be concurrently undergoing treatment for the disorder. More preferably, the samples are collected at intervals from about 20 min to about 1 month. Even more preferably, the interval is from about 20 min. to about 2 hours. Most preferably the samples are collected at an interval of about 30 minutes. Thus, in still another embodiment the invention provides a method for

diagnosing the progression of TIA or stroke further comprising detecting or measuring the presence or quantity of a NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor in a biological sample one or more additional times, at a frequency of less than about 6 hours.

Primary Care Physician Setting

In another application the method is used in a clinical setting to determine an individual's risk of stroke, or to monitor the effectiveness of risk reduction therapies. As mentioned above, a number of therapies can be employed to reduce the risk of stroke in an individual. The use of antiplatelet agents, particularly aspirin, is a standard treatment for patients at risk for stroke. People with atrial fibrillation (irregular beating of the heart) may be prescribed anticoagulants. The most important treatable factors linked to TIAs and stroke are high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, heart disease, carotid artery disease, diabetes, and heavy use of alcohol. Medical help is available to reduce and eliminate these factors. Lifestyle changes such as eating a balanced diet, maintaining healthy weight, exercising, and enrolling in smoking and alcohol cessation programs can also reduce these factors. When these therapies are administered it is desirable to determine the effectiveness of the therapy.

Therefore, in one embodiment the invention provides a method for evaluating an individual's risk for TIA or stroke comprising measuring levels of NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptors or fragments thereof in a biological sample from the individual, and comparing the levels to a baseline level. In one embodiment the baseline levels are derived from population averages. In another embodiment the baseline levels are derived from the individual's own medical history.

In another embodiment the method is performed more than once to monitor the reduction or increase in risk for stroke or TIA, optionally in conjunction with the administration of risk reduction therapy. In one embodiment the method is performed at a frequency of from about one week to about six months. In another embodiment the method is performed at a frequency of from about one month to about three months.

In a particularly preferred embodiment other biomarkers are also measured to assess the risk for stroke or TIA. Particularly preferred biomarkers for risk of stroke or TIA are glutamate and homocysteine.

Novel Kits of the Present Invention

In another embodiment the invention provides kits for diagnosing central nervous system disorders such as TIA, stroke, and traumatic brain injury. NR2A and/or NR2B antibodies or antigens may be incorporated into immunoassay diagnostic kits depending upon whether autoantibodies or NMDA receptors are being measured. A first container may include a composition comprising an antigen or antibody preparation. Both antibody and antigen preparations should preferably be provided in a suitable titrated form, with antigen concentrations and/or antibody titers given for easy reference in quantitative applications.

The kits may also include an immunodetection reagent or label for the detection of specific immunoreaction between the provided antigen and/or antibody, as the case may be, and the diagnostic sample. Suitable detection reagents are well known in the art as exemplified by radioactive, enzymatic or otherwise chromogenic ligands, which are typically employed in association with the antigen and/or antibody, or in association with a second antibody having specificity for first antibody. Thus, the reaction is detected or quantified by means of detecting or quantifying the label. Immunodetection reagents and processes suitable for application in con-

nection with the novel methods of the present invention are generally well known in the art.

The reagents may also include ancillary agents such as buffering agents and protein stabilizing agents, e.g., polysaccharides and the like. The diagnostic kit may further include where necessary agents for reducing background interference in a test, agents for increasing signal, apparatus for conducting a test, calibration curves and charts, standardization curves and charts, and the like.

In a more particular aspect the invention relates to a rapid multiple panel containing antibodies to the thromboembolic and neurotoxicity biomarkers glutamate, homocysteine and NMDA receptors that employs latex agglutination. Thus, in one embodiment the invention provides a kit for diagnosing central nervous system disorders comprising: (1) an agglutinating immunosorbent for NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptors or fragments thereof, and (2) a control such as saline or a known concentration of NR2A and/or NR2B receptor or fragment thereof. In a more preferred embodiment the kit further comprises an agglutinating immunosorbent for another biomarker for TIA/stroke, such as an agonist or antagonist of NR2A and/or NR2B, a thromboembolic marker, or more particularly glutamate or polyglutamate, and/or an agglutinating homocysteine or polyhomocysteine. The agglutinating immunosorbent is preferably of the type discussed in greater detail above.

In another embodiment the invention relates to a kit for detecting NR2A and/or NR2B receptors or fragments thereof that does not employ latex agglutination. Thus, in another embodiment the invention provides a kit for diagnosing central nervous system disorders comprising: (1) an immunosorbent for NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptors or fragments thereof, and (2) an indicator reagent comprising secondary antibodies attached to a signal generating compound. The secondary antibodies can be specific for the receptor or fragment, or for the primary antibodies in the immunosorbent. In a preferred embodiment the kits further comprise an immunosorbent for glutamate or polyglutamate, and/or an immunosorbent for homocysteine or polyhomocysteine, and secondary antibodies against the glutamate and/or homocysteine, or to the primary antibodies on the immunosorbents against the glutamate or homocysteine. The immunosorbent preferably comprises anti-antibodies for the biomarkers bound to a solid support.

In another aspect the present invention relates to a test-kit that relies upon PCR amplification for measuring NR2A and/or NR2B levels. Thus, in another embodiment the invention provides a kit comprising: (a) one or more oligonucleotide primers (preferably of SEQ ID NO: 8) attached to a solid phase, (b) indicator reagent attached to a signal-generating compound capable of generating a detectable signal from oligonucleotides, and (c) a control sample (i.e. template cDNA). The reagents may also include ancillary agents such as buffering agents, polymerase agents, and the like. The diagnostic kit may further include, where necessary, other members of the signal-producing system of which system the detectable group is a member (e.g., enzyme and non-enzyme substrates), agents for reducing background interference in a test, agents for increasing the signal, apparatus for conducting a test, and the like.

In another embodiment of test-kit comprises (a) a solid phase to which biological fluids for receiving total DNA including NR2A cDNA could be attached, (b) oligonucleotide primers, preferably in a ready-to-use PCR buffer, and (c) a control sample (i.e. template cDNA). Ancillary agents as described above may similarly be included.

In another embodiment the invention provides a diagnostic kit for detecting NR2A and/or NR2B autoantibodies

comprising (a) a polypeptide of the N-terminal domain of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptor, fragment thereof, or analog or derivative thereof, (b) an indicator reagent comprising a secondary antibody specific for the autoantibody or the polypeptide attached to a signal-generating compound; and (c) a control sample, such as a known concentration of NR2A and/or NR2B polyclonal antibodies. The reagents may also include ancillary agents such as buffering agents and protein stabilizing agents, e.g., polysaccharides and the like. The diagnostic kit may further include, where necessary, other members of the signal-producing system of which system the detectable group is a member (e.g., enzyme and non-enzyme substrates), agents for reducing background interference in a test, agents to increase the signal, apparatus for conducting a test, calibration and standardization information or instructions, and the like.

Novel Compositions of the Invention

The methods of the present invention rely upon a series of novel compositions which themselves form a part of the invention. Thus, in one series of embodiments the invention provides an isolated polypeptide fragment of the NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor, comprising:

1. An antigenic determinant of the NR2A NMDA receptor,
2. An antigenic determinant of the NR2B NMDA receptor,
3. The N-terminal domain of the NR2A NMDA receptor,
4. The N-terminal domain of the NR2B NMDA receptor,
5. SEQ ID NO. 2,
6. SEQ ID NO. 3,
7. SEQ ID NO. 4,
8. SEQ ID NO. 11,
9. SEQ ID NO. 12, and
10. SEQ ID NO. 13,

or an antigenic fragment, analog, or derivative thereof. In another series of embodiments the invention provides any of the foregoing polypeptides linked covalently to a distinct antigenic determinant, such as human serum albumin. In still another series of embodiments the invention provides any of the foregoing polypeptides linked to any of the immunosorbent materials discussed above. The immunosorbent can be in the form of a bead for latex agglutination, in the size ranges discussed above, or in the form of a synthetic plate for conventional immunoassay analysis. The polypeptide

can be linked to the immunosorbent using any conventional means of linkage, including covalent linkage, ionic linkage, and adsorption.

In another series of embodiments the present invention relates to the novel monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies specific for and/or raised against the foregoing polypeptides, including the foregoing polypeptides linked to distinct antigenic determinants. Thus, in one embodiment the invention provides non-human antibodies against any of the foregoing peptides or polypeptides or antigenic fragment, analog, or derivative thereof. In another embodiment the invention provides immunosorbents to which such antibodies are linked.

In another series of embodiments the present invention provides oligonucleotides that encode the foregoing peptides and polypeptides and fragments, analogs, and derivatives thereof, and to recombinant expression vectors that include such oligonucleotides. Such oligonucleotides include, without limitation, the oligonucleotides defined by SEQ ID NO:6, 7, 14, and 15, and fragments thereof which encode antigenic determinants.

In still another embodiment the present invention relates to isolated oligonucleotide sequences that are useful in the cDNA PCR analytical techniques of the present invention. Thus, the invention further provides oligonucleotides comprising the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS:7, 8, 9, 15, 16, and 17.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCE LISTINGS

The features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following sequence listings where, in the sequence the recited amino acid position numbering reflects that used throughout this document.

SEQ ID NO:1. shows the full-length amino acid sequence of the mature NR2A receptor subunit, as follows:

SEQUENCE LISTING PEPTIDE

Homo sapiens glutamate receptor. ionotropic, N-methyl D-aspartate 2A
Science 256:1217-1221(1992)
NCBI/NM 000833.2.

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      1      11      21      31      41      51
1  MGRLGYWTL  VLPALLVWRD PAQNAAAEKG PPALNIAVLL GHSHDVTERE LRNLWGPEQA  60

61  TGLPLDVNVV ALLMNRTDPK SLITHVCDLM SGARIHGLVF GDDTDQEAVA QMLDFISSQT  120

121 FIPILGIHGG ASMIMADKDP TSTFFQFGAS IQQQATVMLK IMQDYDWHVF SLVTTFPGY  180

181 RDFISFIKTT VDNSFVGWDM QNVITLDTSF EDAKTQVQLK KIHSSVILLY CSKDEAVLIL  240

241 SEARSLGLTG YDFFWIVPSL VSGNTELPK EFPSGLISVS YDDWDYSLEA RVRDGLGILT  300

301 TAASSMLEKF SYIPEAKASC YGQAEKPETP LHTLHQFMVN VTWDGKDLSE TEEGYQVHPR  360

361 LVVIVLNKDR EWEKVGKVEN QTLSLRHAVW PRYKSFSDCE PDDNHLISVT LEEAPFVIVE  420

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-continued

421 DIDPLTETCV RNTVPCRKFV KINNSTNEGM NVKKCKGFC IDILKKLSRT VKFTYDLYLV 480
 481 TNGKHGKKVN NVWNGMIGEV VYQRAVMAVG SLTINEERSE VVDFSVPFVE TGISVMVSRS 540
 541 NGTVSPSAFL EPFSASVWM MFVMLLIVSA IAVFVFEYFS PVGYNRNLAK GKAPHGPSFT 600
 601 IGKAIWLLWG LVFNNSVPVQ NPKGTTSKIM VSVWAFFAVI FLASYTANLA AFMIQEEFVD 660
 661 QVTGLSDKKF QRPDYSPPF RFGTVPNGST ERNIRNNYPY MHQYMRFNQ RGVEDALVSL 720
 721 KTGKLDAFIY DAAVLNYKAG RDEGCKLVTI GSGYIFASTG YGIALQKGSP WKRQIDLALL 780
 781 QFVGDEEMEE LETLWLTGIC HNEKNEVMSS QLDIDNMAGV FYMLAAAMAL SLITFIWEHL 840
 841 FYWKLRFCTF GVCSDRPGLL FSISRGIYSC IHGVHIEKK KSPDFNLTS QSNMLKLLRS 900
 901 AKNISNMSNM NSSRMDSPKR ATDFIQRGS LVDMSVDKGN LIYSDNRSFQ GKDSIFGDNM 960
 961 NELQTFVANR HKDNLNRYVF QGQHPLTLNE SNPNTVEVAV STESKGNRQ RQLWKKSMES 1020
 1021 LRQDSLNLQNP VSQRDEKTAE NRTHSLKSPR YLPEEVAHSD ISETSSRATC HREPDNNKNH 1080
 1081 KTKDNFKRSM ASKYPKDCSD VDRTYMKTKA SSPRDKIYTI DGEKEPSFHL DPPQFVENIT 1140
 1141 LPENVGFPTD YQDHENFRK GDSTLPMNRN PLHNEDGLPN NDQYKLYAKH FTLKDKGSPH 1200
 1201 SEGSDRYRQN STHCRSCLSN LPTYSGHFTM RSPFKCDACL RMGNLYDIDE DQMLQETGNP 1260
 1261 ATREEVYQQD WSQNNALQFQ KNKLRLNRQH SYDNILDKPR EIDLSRPSRS ISLKDRERLL 1320
 1321 EGNLYGSLFS VPSSKLLGNK SSLFPQGLE DSKRSKLLPD HASDNPLFHT YGDDQRLVIG 1380
 1381 RCPSPDPYKHS LPSQAVNDSY LRSSLRSTAS YCSRDSRGHS DVISEHVMP YAANKNTMYS 1440
 1441 TPRVLNSCSN RRVYKKMP SI ESDV

SEQ ID NO:2. shows the amino acid sequence of the auto-antigenic region of the N-terminal domain of the NR2A subunit, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:2

Homo sapiens

Artificial Sequence

CNGMIGEVVYQRAVMAVGSLLTI

35 FULL

BASE COUNT ORIGIN

PAQNAAAEKG PPALNIAVLL GHSHDVTRE LRNLWGPEQA 60
 61 TGLPLDVNVV ALLMNRDPK SLITHVCDLM SGARIHGLVF GDDTDQEA VA QMLDFISSQT 120
 121 FIPILGIHGG ASMIMADKP TSTFFQFGAS IQQQATVMLK IMQDYDWHVF SLVTTIFPGY 180
 181 RDFSIFIKTT VDNSFVGWDM QNVITLDTSF EDAKTQVQLK KIHSSVILLY CSKDEAVLIL 240
 241 SEARSLGLTG YDFFWIVPSL VSGNTELPK EFPSGLISVS YDDWDYSLEA RVRDGLGILT 300
 301 TAASSMLEKF SYIPEAKASC YGQAEKPETP LHTLHQFMVN VTWDGKDLF TEEGYQVHPR 360
 361 LVVIVLNKDR EWEKVGKVEN QTLRLRHAVW PRYKSFSDCE PPDNHLISIVT LEEAPFVIVE 420
 421 DIDPLTETCV RNTVPCRKFV KINNSTNEGM NVKKCKGFC IDILKKLSRT VKFTYDLYLV 480
 481 TNGKHGKKVN NVWNGMIGEV VYQRAVMAVG SLTINEERSE VVDFSVPFVE TGISVMVSRS 540
 541 NGTVSPSAFL EPFSAS

55

SEQ ID NO:3; shows a 21 amino acid antigenic peptide, corresponding to a fragment of the NR2A N-terminal domain. another such peptide (21 amino acids derived from the NR2A sequence and an N-terminal Cys for attachment to a carrier protein), as follows:

SEQ ID NO:3

Homo sapiens

NGMIGEVVYQRAVMAVGSLLTI.

SEQ ID NO:4. shows a 22 amino acid antigenic peptide, corresponding to a fragment of the NR2A N-terminal domain. another such peptide, modified by an N-terminal Cys for attachment to a carrier protein):

Homo sapiens glutamate receptor, ionotropic, N-methyl D-aspartate 2A (GRIN 2A) mRNA.

60 SEQ ID NO:5. shows the Oligonucleotide position numbering used throughout in reference to NR2A oligonucleotide sequences, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:5

Science 256:1217-1221 (1992)

65 May 22, 1992

NIGB/NM_000833.

1atcatgggac cgggtgagcg ctgagaatcg cggccgcagc catcagccct ggagatgacc
61aggagcggcc actgctgaga actatgtgga gagaggctgc gagccctgct gcagagcctc
121cggctgggat agccgcccc cgtggggcg atgcggacag cgcgggacag ccaggggagc
181gcgctgggac cgcagcatgc gggaacccgc taaacccggt ggctgctgag gcggccgaga
241tgctcgtgag cgcagcgcgc cccactgcat cctcgacctt ctcgggttac agggaccgtc
301agtggcgact atgggcagag tgggctattg gaccctgctg gtgctgccgg ccttctgtgt
361ctggcgcggt ccggcgccga gcgcggcggc ggagaagggt cccccgcgc taaatattgc
421gggtgatgctg ggtcacagcc acgcagtgc agagcgcgaa cttcgaacac tgtggggccc
481cgagcaggcg gcggggctgc ccctggacgt gaacgtggta gctctgctga tgaaccgcac
541cgaccccaag agcctcatca cgcacgtgtg cgacctcatg tccggggcac gcattccacgg
601cctcgtgttt ggggacgaca cggaccagga ggccgtagcc cagatgctgg attttatctc
661ctcccacacc ttcgtcccca tcttgggcat tcatgggggc gcattctatga tcatggctga
721caaggatccg acgtctacct tcttccagtt tggagcgtcc atccagcagc aagccacggt
781catgctgaag atcatgcagg attatgactg gcattgtctt cccctgggta ccactatctt
841ccctggctac agggaattca tcagcttctg caagaccaca gtggacaaca gctttgtggg
901ctggcacatg cagaatgtga tcacactgga cacttccctt gaggatgcaa agacacaagt
961ccagctgaag aagatccact cttctgtcat cttgctctac tgttccaaag acgaggctgt
1021tctcattctg agtgaggccc gctcccttgg cctcaccggg tatgatttct tctggattgt
1081ccccagcttg gtctctggga acacggagct catcccaaaa gagtttccat cgggactcat
1141ttctgtctcc tacgatgact gggactacag cctggaggcg agagtggagg acggcattgg
1201catcctaacc accgctgcat cttctatgct ggagaagtcc tcctacatcc ccgaggccaa
1261ggccagctgc tacgggcaga tggagaggcc agagggtccc atgcacacct tgcaccatt
1321tatgtgcaat gttacatggg atggcaaaga cttatccttc actgagggaag gctaccaggt
1381gcacccacag ctggtggtga ttgtgctgaa caaagaccgg gaatgggaaa aggtgggcaa
1441gtgggagaac catacgtga gcctgagga cgcggtgtgg ccaggtaca agtccttctc
1501cgactgtgag ccgcatgaca accatctcag catcgtcacc ctggaggagg ccccatctgt
1561catcgtggaa gacatagacc cctgaccga gacgtgtgtg aggaacaccg tgccatgtcg
1621gaagtctgctc aaaatcaaca attcaaccaa tgaggggatg aatgtgaaga aatgctgcaa
1681ggggttctgc attgatattc tgaagaagct ttccagaact gtgaagtta cttacgacct
1741ctatctggtg accaatggga agcatggcaa gaaagttaac aatgtgtgga atggaatgat
1801cgggtgaagt gtctatcaac gggcagtcac ggcagttggc tcgctcacca tcaatgagga
1861acgttctgaa gtggtggact tctctgtgcc ctttgtggaa acgggaatca gtgtcatggt
1921ttcaagaagt aatggcaccg tctcaccttc tgcttttcta gaaccattca gcgcctctgt
1981ctgggtgatg atgtttgtga tgctgctcat tgtttctgcc atagctgttt ttgtctttga
2041atacttcagc cctgttgatg acaacagaaa cttagccaaa gggaaagcac cccatggggc
2101ttctttttaca attggaagg ctatatggct tctttggggc ctggtgttca ataactccgt
2161gcctgtccag aatcctaagg ggaccaccag caagatcatg gtatctgtat gggccttctt
2221cgctgtcata ttcctggcta gctacacagc caatctggct gccttcata tccaagagga
2281atttgtggac caagtgaccg gcctcagtga caaaaagttt cagagacctc atgactattc
2341cccacctttt cgatttggga cagtgcctaa tggaagcacg gagagaaaca ttcggaataa

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2401ctatccctac atgcatcagt acatgaccaa atttaatcag aaaggagtag aggacgcctt
2461ggtcagcctg aaacgggga agctggacgc tttcatctac gatgccgcag tcttgaatta
2521caaggctggg agggatgaag gctgcaagct ggtgaccatc gggagtgggt acatccttgc
2581caccaccggt tatggaattg cccttcagaa aggtctctct tggaagaggc agatcgacct
2641ggccttgctt cagtttggtg gtgatggtga gatggaggag ctggagagccc tgtggctcac
2701tgggatctgc cacaacgaga agaacgaggt gatgagcagc cagctggaca ttgacaacat
2761ggcgggcgta ttctacatgc tggctgccgc catggccctt agcctcatca ccttcatctg
2821gggagcacctc ttctactgga agctgcgctt ctgtttcacg ggcgtgtgct ccgaccggcc
2881tgggttgctc ttctccatca gcaggggcat ctacagctgc attcatggag tgcacattga
2941agaaaagaag aagtctccag acttcaatct gacgggatcc cagagcaaca tgttaaaact
3001cctccggtca gccaaaaaca tttccagcat gtccaacatg aactcctcaa gaatggactc
3061accctaaaaga gctgctgact tcatccaaag aggttccttc atcatggaca tggtttcaga
3121taaggggaat ttgatgtact cagacaacag gtcttttcag gggaaagaga gcatttttgg
3181agacaacatg aacgaactcc aaacatttgt ggccaaccgg cagaaggata acctcaataa
3241ctatgtattc cagggacaac atcctcttac tctcaatgag tccaacccta acacggtgga
3301ggtgccctg agcacagaat ccaaagcgaa ctctagacct cggcagctgt ggaagaaatc
3361cgtggattcc atacgccagg attcactatc ccagaatcca gtctcccaga gggatgaggc
3421aacagcagag aataggacct actccctaaa gagccctagg tatcttccag aagagatggc
3481ccactctgac atttcagaaa cgtcaaatcg ggccacgtgc cacagggaac ctgacaacag
3541taagaaccac aaaccaaagg acaactttaa aaggtcagtg gcctccaaat accccaagga
3601ctgtagttag gtcgagcgca cctacctgaa aaccaaatac agctccccta gagacaagat
3661ctacactata gatggtgaga aggagcctgg tttccactta gatccacccc agtttgttga
3721aaatgtgacc ctgcccagaga agctggactt cccggacccc taccaggatc ccagtgaata
3781cttccgcaag ggggactcca cgtgccaat gaaccggaac cccttgcata atgaagaggg
3841gctttccaac aacgaccagt ataaactcta ctccaagcac ttcacctga aagacaaggg
3901ttccccgcac agtgagacca gcgagcgata ccggcagaac tccacgcact gcagaagctg
3961cctttccaac atgcccacct attcaggcca cttcaccatg aggtcccct tcaagtgcga
4021tgctgctgct cggtgggga acctctatga catcgatgaa gaccagatgc ttcaggagac
4081aggttaacca gccaccgggg agcaggtcta ccagcaggac tgggcacaga acaatgccct
4141tcaattacaa aagaacaagc taaggattag ccgtcagcat tcctacgata acattgtcga
4201caaacctagg gagctagacc ttagcaggcc ctcccggagc attagcctca aggacaggga
4261acggcttctg gagggaaatt tttacggcag cctgtttagt gtcccctcaa gcaaaacttc
4321ggggaaaaaa agctcccttt tccccaaagg tctggaggac agcaagagga gcaagtctct
4381cttgccagac cacacctccg ataacccttt cctccactcc cacagggatg accaacgctt
4441ggttattggg agatgccctc cggaccctta caaacactcg ttgccatccc aggcggtgaa
4501tgacagctat cttcggtcgt ccttgaggtc aacggcatcg tactgttcca gggacagtcg
4561gggcccacaat gatgtgtata tttcgagca tgttatgcct tatgtgcaa ataagaataa
4621tatgtactct acccccaggg ttttaaattc ctgcagcaat agacgcgtgt acaagaaaat
4681gcctagtatc gaatctgatg tttaaaaatc ttccattaat gttttatcta tagggaaata
4741cacgtaattg ccaatgttct ggagggtaaa tgttgatgt ccaatagtgc cctgctaaga

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4801ggaagaagat gtagggaggt attttggtgt tgttggtgtt ggctcttttg cacacggctt
 4861catgccataa tcttccactc aaggaatctt gtgagggtgtg tgctgagcat ggcagacacc
 4921agataggtga gtccttaacc aaaaataact aactacataa gggcaagtct cggggacatg
 4981cctactgggt atgttgcaa taatgatgca ttggatgcca atggatgtgt tatgatttcc
 5041tatattccaa attccattaa ggtcagccca ccatgtaatt ttctcatcag aaatgcctaa
 5101tgggtttctct aatacagaat aagcaatatg gtgtgcatgt aaacctgaca cagacaaaat
 5161aaaaacagtt aagaatgcat ctgcactgta gtcggatttg aacatgtgca agagattagg
 5221aagtttggct cgtaacagtt tcagctttct tgttatgcct tccatcacag ccagggctca
 5281ccccagaac tccaggctcc cctaaagaat agcaaatcag tgtgttcgtg atgactgtgc
 5341taccttcatt atagttcatt tccaagacac atctggagcc aaaggccga gggacctca
 5401ggtggggaga gctacaggaa tctctttgga tgttgatgtg tgtttctctc taccctcggc
 5461ttcgatggtc ttgttcagag ctgcataaac taacacattt atgtctccga gatctaagt
 5521tggatcttct gtctgtgaca cagtggccat tatagtttat ccgaagacg cctatgtacg
 5581taagtttgca tttctccct tctggtgatg actcagggtt gtatagtatc tgttaccct
 5641tccctcccag agtaaccata actcgttccg tttccaaaca gccatggtgg tgtccaatta
 5701gctgtgtatc gctcttccca gagttgtaa tgtggtgaca tgcaccaaca gccgtatgtg
 5761tactgtgatc tgtaagaagt acaatgccat ctgtatgccg aaggctagca tggttttagg
 5821tttatcttcc ttcacatcca gaaattctgt tggacactca cttccacccc aaactcctca
 5881aatcaaaaagc cttcaaaaca cgaggcactc ttggatctac cctgagtatc ctccaaactg
 5941tggatagagt ttagtgagac aagcaatttc tcccttctga gttattctct ctgttggtgg
 6001caaacaccatt catagacca acagagatgt aggaaaaatt cctcaaagta tttgtcattt
 6061ctgagtcgcc tgcattatcc cattcttatt ctctcaaac ctgtgcata atgacatgaa
 6121atgatatcca tttttttttt aagttagaaa cagagagggg aatacttatg catggggagc
 6181ctgtagcac agtgcctgcc acaaaaacaa gtgccccga caagatagtt gctatgttat
 6241gacactttct cagatcagga ttttctagtt taaaataa atatcataaa acg

SEQ ID NO:6. shows the oligonucleotide sequence of the
 auto-antigenic region of the N-terminal domain of the NR2A₄₅
 subunit, as follows:
 SEQ ID NO:6.

371ccggcgccga gcgcggcggc ggagaagggt cccccgcgc taaatattgc
 421ggtgatgtg ggtcacagcc acgacgtgac agagcgcgaa cttcgaacac tgtggggccc
 481cgagcaggcg gcggggctgc ccctggacgt gaacgtggta gctctgctga tgaaccgcac
 541cgaccccaag agcctcatca cgcacgtgtg cgacctcatg tccggggcac gcatccacgg
 601cctcgtgttt ggggacgaca cggaccagga ggccgtagcc cagatgctgg attttatctc
 661ctcccacacc ttcgtcccga tcttgggcat tcatgggggc gcatctatga tcatggctga
 721caaggatccg acgtctacct tcttccagtt tggagcgtcc atccagcagc aagccacggt
 781catgctgaag atcatgcagg attatgactg gcatgtcttc tccctggtga ccactatctt
 841ccctggctac aggggaattca tcagcttcgt caagaccaca gtggacaaca gctttgtggg
 901ctgggacatg cagaatgtga tcacactgga cacttccttt gaggatgcaa agacacaagt
 961ccagctgaag aagatccact cttctgtcat cttgctctac tgttccaaag acgaggctgt

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1021tctcattctg agtgaggccc gctcccttgg cctcaccggg tatgatttct tctggattgt
 1081ccccagcttg gtctctggga acacggagct catcccaaaa gagtttccat cgggactcat
 1141ttctgtctcc tacgatgact gggactacag cctggaggcg agagtgaggg acggcattgg
 1201catcctaacc accgctgcat cttctatgct ggagaagttc tcctacatcc ccgaggccaa
 1261ggccagctgc tacgggcaga tggagaggcc agagggtccc atgcacacct tgcacccatt
 1321tatgggtcaat gttacatggg atggcaaaga cttatccttc actgaggaag gctaccaggt
 1381gcacccagg ctggtgtgta ttgtgtgaa caaagaccaa gaatgggaaa aggtgggcaa
 1441gtgggagaac catacgtga gcctgaggca cgccgtgtgg ccaggtaca agtccttctc
 1501cgactgtgag ccggtatgaca accatctcag catcgtcacc ctggaggagg cccattcgt
 1561catcgtggaa gacatagacc cctgaccga gacgtgtgtg aggaacaccg tgccatgtcg
 1621gaagtctgctc aaaatcaaca attcaaccaa tgaggggatg aatgtgaaga aatgctgcaa
 1681gggggttctgc attgatattc tgaagaagct ttccagaact gtgaagtta cttacgacct
 1741ctatctgttg accaatggga agcatggcaa gaaagttaac aatgtgtgga atggaatgat
 1801cgggtgaagtg gtctatcaac gggcagtcac ggcagttggc tcgctcacca tc aatgagga
 1861acgtttctgaa gtggtggact tctctgtgcc ctttgtggaa acgggaatca gtgtcatggt
 1921ttcaagaagt aatggcaccg tctcaccttc tgcttttcta gaaccattca gcgcctct

SEQ ID NO:7 shows a 62 oligonucleotide fragment target, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:7

atggaatgatcggtaagtgggtctatcaacgggcagtcatggcagttg-
 gctcgtcaccatc.

SEQ ID NO:8 shows one oligonucleotide primer, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:8

agcatggcaagaagtaaca.

SEQ ID NO:9 shows a second oligonucleotide primer, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:9

acgttctgaagtgggtgactt.

SEQ ID NO:10. shows the full-length amino acid sequence of the mature NR2B receptor subunit, as follows:

PEPTIDE

Homo sapiens glutamate receptor, ionotropic, N-methyl
 D-aspartate 2B

Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1260:105-108 (1995)
 sequence NME2 HUMAN (Q13224).

1	11	21	31	41	51	
1	MKPRAECCSP	KFWLVLA	VSGSRARSOK	SPPSIGIAVI	LVGTSDEVAI	KDAHEKDDFH 60
61	HLSVVPVEL	VAMNETDPKS	IITRICDLS	DRKIOGVVFA	DDTDQEAIAQ	ILDFISAOTL 120
121	TPILGIHGG	SMIMADKDES	SMFFOFGPSI	EQQASVMLNI	MEEYDWYIFS	IVTTYFPGYO 180
181	DFVNKIRSTI	ENSFVGWELE	EVLLDMSLD	DGDSKIQNQL	KKLQSPIILL	YCTKEEATYI 240
241	FEVANSVGLT	GYGYTWIVPS	LVAGDTDTPV	AEFPTGLISV	SYDEWDYGLP	ARVRDGIATL 300
301	TTAASDMLSE	HSFIPEPKSS	CYNTEHKRIY	QSNMLNRYLI	NVTFEGRNLS	FSEDGYQMHP 360
361	KLVIILLNKE	RKWERVGKWK	DKSLQMKYYV	WPRMCPETEE	OEDDHLSIVT	LEEAPFVIVE 420
421	SVDPLSGTCM	RNTVPCQKRI	VTEKNTDEEP	GYIKKCKGF	CIDILKKISK	SVKFTYDLYL 480
481	VTNGKHGKKI	NGTWNMIGE	VVMKRAYMAV	GSLTINEERS	EVVDFSVPFI	ETGISVMVSR 540
541	SNGTVSPSAF	LEPFSADVWV	MMFVMLLIVS	AVAVVFVEYF	SPVGYNRCLA	DGREPGGPSF 600
601	TIGKAIWLLW	GLVFNNVFPV	QNPKGTTSKI	MVSVWAFFAV	IFLASYTANL	AAFMIQEYV 660
661	DQVSGLSDDK	FQRPNDFSPP	FRFGTVPNGS	TERNIRNRYA	EMHAYMGKFN	QRGVDDALLS 720
721	LKTGKLDAFI	YDAAVLNMYA	GRDEGCKLVT	IGSGKVFAST	GYGIAIQKDS	GWKRQVDLAI 780
781	LQLFGDGEME	ELEALWLTGI	CHNEKNEVMS	SQLDIDNMAG	VFYMLGAAMA	LSLITFICEH 840

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841	LFYWQFRHCF	MGVCSGKPGM	VFSISRGIYS	CIHGVAIEER	QSVMSPTAT	MNTHSNILR	900
901	LLRTAKNMAN	LSGVNGSPQS	ALDFIRRESS	VYDISEHRRS	FTHSDCKSYN	NPPCEENLFS	960
961	DYISEVERTF	GNLQLKDSNV	YQDHYHHHR	PHSIGSASSI	DGLYDCDNPP	FTTQSRISIK	1020
1021	KPLDIGLPSS	KHSQLSDLYG	KFSFKSDRYS	GHDDLIRSDV	SDISTHTVTY	GNIEGNAAKR	1080
1081	RKQQYKDSLK	KRPASAKSRR	EFDEIELAYR	RRPPRSPDHK	RYFRDKEGLR	DFYLDQFRTK	1140
1141	ENSPHWEHVD	LTDIYKERSD	DFKRDVSGG	GPCTNRSHIK	HGTGDKHGVV	SGVPAPWEKN	1200
1201	LTNVEWEDRS	GGNFCRSCPS	KLHNYSTTVT	GQNSGRQACI	RCEACKKAGN	LYDISEDNSL	1260
1261	QELDQPAAPV	AVTSNASTTK	YPQSPTNSKA	QKKNRNKLRR	QHSYDTFVDL	QKEEAALAPR	1320
1321	SVSLKDKGRF	MDGSPYAHMF	EMSAGESTFA	NNKSSVPTAG	HHHHNNPGGG	YMLSKSLYPD	1380
1381	RVTQNPFIFT	FGDDQCCLHG	SKSYFFRQPT	VAGASKARPD	FRALVTNKPV	VSALHGAVPA	1440
1441	RFQKDCICGN	QSNPCVPNNK	NPRAFNGSSN	GHVYEKLSSI			

SEQ ID NO: 11. shows the amino acid sequence of the auto-antigenic region of the N-terminal domain of the NR2B subunit, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:11

Homo sapiens.

	RSQK	SPPSIGIAVI	LVGTSDEVAI	KDAHEKDDFH	60
61	HLSVVPRVEL	VAMNETDPKS	IITRICDLMS	DRKIQGVVFA	DDTDQEAIQ ILDFISAQTL 120
121	TPILGIHGG	SMIMADKDES	SMFFQFGPSI	EQQASVMLNI	MEEYDWIIFS IVTTYFPGYQ 180
181	DFVNKIRSTI	ENSPVGWELE	EVLILLDMSLD	DGDSKIQNQL	KKLQSPIILL YCTKEEATYI 240
241	FEVANSVGLT	GYGYTWIVPS	LVAGDITDTP	AEFPTGLISV	SYDEWDYGLP ARVRDGIALL 300
301	TTAASDMLSE	HSFIPEPKSS	CYNTEHKRIY	QSNMLNRYLI	NVTFEGRNLS FSEDGYQMHP 360
361	KLVIILLNKE	RKWERVGKWK	DKSLQMKYYV	WPRMCPETEE	QEDDHLISIVT LEEAPFVIVE 420
421	SVDPLSGTCM	RNTVPCQKRI	VTENKTDEEP	<u>GYIKKCKCKGF</u>	<u>CIDILKKISK</u> SVKFTYDLYL 480
481	VTNGKHGKKI	NGTWNMIGE	VVMKRAYMAV	GSLTINEERS	EVVDFSVVPI ETGISVMVSR 540
541	SNGTYSPPSAF	LEPFSD			

SEQ ID NO: 12; shows a 20 amino acid antigenic peptide fragment of the NR2B subunit, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:12

Homo sapiens

GYIKKCKCKGF CIDILKKISK.

SEQ ID NO:13 shows a 21 amino acid sequence of an antigenic fragment of the NR2B subunit modified by an N-terminal Cys for attachment to a carrier protein, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:13.

Artificial Sequence (21 aminoacids)

CGYIKKCKCKGF CIDILKKISK

FULL

BASE COUNT ORIGIN.

SEQ ID NO: 14 shows the oligonucleotide position numbering used throughout in reference to NR2B oligonucleotide sequences, as follows:

SEQ. NO. 14

Homo sapiens glutamate receptor, ionotropic, N-methyl D-aspartate 2B mRNA

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1  ttgaatttgc atctcttcaa gacacaagat taaaacaaaa ttacgctaa attggatttt
61  aaattatctt ccgttcattt atccttcgtc tttcttatgt ggatatgcaa gcgagaagaa
121  gggactggac attcccaaca tgctcactcc cttaatctgt ccgtctagag gtttggttc
181  tacaaaccaa gggagtcgac gagttgaaga tgaagcccag agcggagtgc tgttctccca
241  agttctgggt ggtgttggtc gtctggccg tgtcaggcag cagagctcgt tctcagaaga
301  gccccccag cattggcatt gctgtcatcc tcgtgggcac ttccgacgag gtggccatca
361  aggatgcccc cgagaaagat gatttccacc atctctccgt ggtaccccg gtggaactgg
421  tagccatgaa tgagaccgac ccaaagagca tcatacccg catctgtgat ctcatgtctg
481  accggaagat ccagggggtg gtgtttgtg atgacacaga ccaggaagcc atcgccaga
541  tcctcgattt catttcagca cagactctca ccccgatcct ggcatccac gggggctcct
601  ctatgataat ggcagataag gatgaatcct ccattgttct ccagtttggc ccataaattg
661  aacagcaagc ttccgtaatg ctcaacatca tggaagaata tgactggtac atcttttcta
721  tcgtcaccac ctatttcctt ggctaccagg accttgtaaa caagatccgc agcaccattg
781  agaatagett tgtgggcttg gagctagagg aggtcctcct actggacatg tccctggacg
841  atggagattc taagatccag aatcagctca agaaacttca aagccccatc attcttcttt
901  actgtaccaa ggaagaagcc acctacatct ttgaagtggc caactcagta gggctgactg
961  gctatggcta cacgtggatc gtgccagtc tgggtggcagg ggatacagac acagtgcctg
1021  cggagttccc cactgggctc atctctgtat catatgatga atgggactat ggcctccccg
1081  ccagagttag agatggaatt gccataatca ccactgtgc ttctgacatg ctgtctgagc
1141  acagcttcat cctgagccc aaaagcagtt gttacaacac ccacgagaag agaattctacc
1201  agtccaatat gctaaatagg tatctgatca atgtcacttt tgaggggagg aatttgcctt
1261  tcagtgaaga tggctaccag atgcaccga aactggtgat aattcttctg aacaaggaga
1321  ggaagtggga aaggtggggg aagtggaaag acaagtccct gcagatgaag tactatgtgt
1381  ggccccgaat gtgtccagag actgaagagc aggaggatga ccactgtgagc attgtgacc
1441  tggaggaggc accatttctc attgtggaaa gtgtggacc tctgagtgga acctgcatga
1501  ggaacacagt cccctgcca aaacgcatag tcactgagaa taaaacagac gaggagccgg
1561  gttacatcaa aaaatgctgc aaggggttct gtattgacat ccttaagaaa atttctaatt
1621  ctgtgaagtt cacctatgac ctttacctgg ttaccaatgg caagcatggg aagaaaatca
1681  atggaacctg gaatggtag attggagagg tggcatgaa gagggcctac atggcagtgg
1741  gctcactcac catcaatgag gaacgacgg aggtggtcga cttctctgtg ccttcatag
1801  agacaggcat cagtgtcatg gtgtcacgca gcaatgggac tgtctacac tctgccttct
1861  tagagccatt cagcgtgac gtatgggtga tgatgtttgt gatgtgtc atcgtctcag
1921  ccgtggctgt ctttgtcttt gactacttca gccctgtggg ttataacagg tgcctcgtg
1981  atggcagaga gcctgggtga cctctttca ccatcgcaa agctatttgg ttgctctggg
2041  gtctggtgtt taacaactcc gtacctgtgc agaaccacaa ggggaccacc tccaagatca
2101  tgggtgcagt gtgggccttc tttgtgtca tcttctggc cagctacact gccaaactag
2161  ctgccttcat gatccaagag gaatatgtgg accaggttcc tggcctgagc gacaaaaagt
2221  tccagagacc taatgacttc tcacccctt tccgcttgg gaccgtgcc aacggcagca

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-continued

SEQ. NO. 14

Homo sapiens glutamate receptor, ionotropic, N-methyl D-aspartate 2B mRNA

2281 cagagagaaa tattcgcaat aactatgcag aaatgcatgc ctacatggga aagttcaacc
 2341 agaggggtgt agatgatgca ttgctctccc tgaaaacagg gaaactggat gccttcattct
 2401 atgatgcagc agtgctgaac tatatggcag gcagagatga aggctgcaag ctggtgacca
 2461 ttggcagtgg gaaggtcttt gcttccactg gctatggcat tgccatccaa aaagattctg
 2521 ggtggaagcg ccagggtggac cttgctatcc tgcagctctt ttgagatggg gagatggaag
 2581 aactggaagc tctctggctc actggcattt gtcacaatga gaagaatgag gtcattgagca
 2641 gccagctgga cattgacaac atggcagggg tcttctacat gttgggggcg gccatggctc
 2701 tcagcctcat caccttcacg tcggaacacc ttttctattg gcagtccga cattgcttta
 2761 tgggtgtctg ttctggcaag cctggcatgg tcttctccat cagcagaggt atctacagct
 2821 gcatccatgg ggtggcgatc gaggagcgcc agtctgtaat gaactcccc accgcaacca
 2881 tgaacaacac aactccaac atcctgcgcc tgctgcgcac ggccaagaac atggctaacc
 2941 tgtctggtgt gaatggctca ccgcagagcg cctggactt catccgacgg gagtcatccg
 3001 tctatgacat ctacagagcag cgcgcgagct tcacgcattc tgactgcaaa tcctacaaca
 3061 acccgccctg tgaggagaac ctcttcagtg actacatcag tgaggtagag agaactgttcg
 3121 ggaacctgca gctgaaggac agcaacgtgt accaagatca ctaccacat caccaccggc
 3181 cccatagtat tggcagtgcc agtcccatcg atgggtctta cgactgtgac aaccaccctt
 3241 tcaccacca gtccaggctc atcagcaaga agccctgga catcgccctc cctcctcca
 3301 agcacagcca gctcagtgc ctgtacggca aattctcctt caagagcgac cgctacagtg
 3361 gccacgacga cttgatccgc tccgatgtct ctgacatctc aaccacacc gtcacctatg
 3421 ggaacatcga gggcaatgcc gccaaaggcg gtaagcagca atataaggac agcctgaaga
 3481 agcggcctgc ctccggcaag tcccgaggg agtttgacga gatcgagctg gctaccctc
 3541 gccgaccgcc ccgctccctt gaccacaagc gctacttcag ggacaaggaa gggctacggg
 3601 acttctacct ggaccagttc cgaacaaagg agaactcacc ccactgggag cactgtagac
 3661 tgaccgacat ctacaaggag cggagtgatg actttaagcg cgactccatc agcggaggag
 3721 ggccctgtac caacaggtct cacatcaagc acgggacggg cgacaaacac ggcgtggtca
 3781 gcggggtacc tgcaccttgg gagaagaacc tgaccaacgt ggagtgggag gaccggtccg
 3841 ggggcaactt ctgccgcagc tgtccctcca agctgcacaa ctactccagc acggtgacgg
 3901 gtcagaactc gggcaggcag gcgtgcatcc ggtgtgaggg ttgcaagaaa gcaggcaacc
 3961 tgtatgacat cagtgaggac aactccctgc aggaactgga ccagccggct gcccagtg
 4021 cggtagcgtc aaacgcctcc accactaagt accctcagag cccgactaat tccaaggccc
 4081 agaagaagaa ccggaacaaa ctgcgccggc agcactccta cgacacctc gtggacctgc
 4141 agaaggaaga agccgccctg gccccgcga gcgtaagcct gaaagacaag ggccgattca
 4201 tggatgggag cccctacgcc cacatgtttg agatgtcagc ttggcagagc acctttgcca
 4261 acaacaagtc ctcaagtccc actgccggac atcaccacca caacaacccc ggcggcgggt
 4321 acatgctcag caagtgcctc taccctgacc gggtcacgca aaacccttct atccccactt
 4381 ttggggacga ccagtgttg ctccatggca gcaaatccta cttcttcagg cagcccacgg
 4441 tggcgggggc gtcgaaagcc aggccggact tccgggccct tgtcaccaac aagccggtgg
 4501 tctcgccctt tcattggggc gtgccagccc gtttccagaa ggacatctgt atagggaacc

-continued

SEQ. NO. 14

Homo sapiens glutamate receptor, ionotropic, N-methyl D-aspartate 2B mRNA

4561 agtccaaccc ctgtgtgcct aacaacaaaa accccagggc tttcaatggc tccagcaatg
 4621 ggcatgttta tgagaaactt tctagtattg agtctgatgt ctgagtggg gaacagagag
 4681 gttaagggtg gtacgggagg gtaaggctgt gggtcgcgtg atgcgcatgt cacggagggg
 4741 gacgggggtg aacttggttc ccatttgctc ctttcttggt ttaatttatt tatgggatcc
 4801 tggagtctct gttcctactg ggggcaaccc tggtgaccag caccatctct cctccttttc
 4861 acagttctct ccttcttccc ccgctgtca gccattcctg tcccatgag atgatgccat
 4921 gggccctctc agcaggggag ggtagagcgg agaaaggag ggctgcatgc gggcttcctc
 4981 ctggtgtgga agagctcctt gatatcctct ttgagtgaag ctgggagaac caaaaagagg
 5041 ctatgtgagc acaaaagtag cttttcccaa actgatcttt tcatttaggt gaggaagcaa
 5101 aagcatctat gtgagacat ttagcacact gcttggtgaa ggaaagaggc tctggctaaa
 5161 ttcattgctc ttagatgaca tctgtctagg aatcatgtgc caagcagagg ttgggaggcc
 5221 atttggtttt atatataagc ccaaaaatgc ttgcttcaac cccatgagac tcgatagtgg
 5281 tggtagaacg aacccaaggt cattggtggc agagtggatt cttgaacaaa ctggaaagta
 5341 cgttatgata gtgtcccccgt gtccttggg gacaagagca ggtggattgt gcgtgcatgt
 5401 gtgttcatgc acacttgac ccatgtgtag tcagggtgcct caagagaagg caacctgac
 5461 tctttctatt gtttcttca atatcccaa gcagtgtgat tgtttggctt atatacagac
 5521 agagtggcc atgtattacc tgaattttgg ctgtgtctcc ctccatcctt ctggaataag
 5581 gagaatgaaa attcttgata aagaagattc tgtggtctaa acaaaaaaag gcggtgagca
 5641 atcctgcaag aacaaggtac ataaacaagt cctcagtggt tgccaattgt ttcaaccagt
 5701 ttgaaccaag aactttccag gaaggctaaa gggaaaccga attttcacag ccatgattct
 5761 ttgcccaca cttgggagca aaagattcta caaagctctt ttgagcattt agactctcga
 5821 ctggccaagg tttggggaag aacgaagcca cctttgaaga agtaaggagt cgtgtatggt
 5881 agggtaagt agagaggggg atgtttocaa tgctttgatc ccttcttact taacctgaag
 5941 ctagacgagc aggccttctc ccccaaaaac tgattacaac tgctacagag cagacagtta
 6001 agagaaatga gcttgacett taagagaaat gagctgact ccatgagtgc agctctggag
 6061 gtacgaaaag aggggaagag acttggaat gggagacggg ggcagagagg gaccctccac
 6121 cactctttg ggctggctc cctgggaatg tgacttgagc ccagagtga cactcttggt
 6181 agaagccct ctaccttctt gcaacacctt gtttccctct cagattgtac cattgag

SEQ ID NO:15 shows a 60 oligonucleotide fragment target, as follows:

SEQ ID NO:15

g gttacatcaa aaaatgctgc aaggggttct gtattgacat ccttaagaaa
 atttctaaa.

SEQ ID NO:16 shows one oligonucleotide primers (21 nucleotides), as follows:

SEQ ID NO:16

tcactgagaa taaaacagac g.

SEQ ID NO:17 shows one oligonucleotide primers (21 nucleotides), as follows:

SEQ ID NO:17

t cacctatgac ctttacctgg.

EXAMPLES

The following examples are put forth so as to provide those of ordinary skill in the art with a complete disclosure

and description of how the compounds claimed herein are made and evaluated, and are intended to be purely exemplary of the invention and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers (e.g., amounts, temperature, etc.) but some errors and deviations should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise, parts are parts by weight, temperature is in ° C. or is at room temperature, and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

Example 1

Preparation of Polyclonal Antibodies (IgG) to Glutamate and Homocysteine

Glutamate (polyglutamate, 10 aminoacids) or homocysteine (polyhomocysteine, 10 aminoacids) alone will not

generate antibodies when injected into an animal. Therefore, polyglutamate and polyhomocysteine were conjugated with human serum albumin for the immunization to obtain polyclonal antibodies. For glutaraldehyde conjugation, polyglutamate or homocysteine (10 mg) and 40 mg bovine serum albumin (BSA, Sigma, St. Louis, Mo.) were incubated for 2 hr at room temperature in 4 ml of PBS containing 5% glutaraldehyde. The reaction was stopped by adding glycine to a final concentration of 0.2 M, and the conjugate was dialyzed against PBS.

Rabbits were given initial injections of 1 mg of conjugated glutamate (polyglutamate) or homocysteine (polyhomocysteine) in complete Freund's and subsequent increased doses of injections (2 mg) in incomplete Freund's adjuvant at successive 2 week intervals. All injections were given subcutaneously. The immunization period lasted for 110 days. Antibodies (IgG) were affinity purified according to standard procedures (Warr, G. W., Purification of antibodies, In: Antibody as a Tool, Eds., Marchalonis, J. J., and G. W. Warr, J. Wiley, UK, pp. 59-96 (1982)) and were shown to be selective for glutamate or homocysteine by ELISA assay.

Example 2

Preparation of Polyclonal Antibodies (IgG) to NR2A Receptor Peptide

Using computer analysis of the hydrophobicity profile of human NR2A and NR2B NMDA receptors to predict the antigenic determinants in the protein structure, we selected fragments corresponding to the N-terminal sequence of human NR2A and NR2B receptor peptides for synthesis. The fragments corresponded to the N-terminal sequence of the NR2A and NR2B receptors, represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2 for the NR2A and NR2B receptors, respectively. The peptide fragments were reproduced using solid-phase synthesis, and had a purity ranging from 90% to 98%. The peptide sequences were verified by amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis. A mixture of NR2A and NR2B peptides (1:1) was conjugated with human serum albumin for the immunization to obtain polyclonal antibodies. For glutaraldehyde conjugation, 10 mg of the mixture of peptides and 40 mg human serum albumin (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo.) were incubated for 1.45 hr at room temperature in 4 ml of PBS containing 5% glutaraldehyde. The reaction was stopped by adding glycine to a final concentration of 0.2 M, and the conjugate was dialyzed against PBS.

Rabbit polyclonal antibodies were raised against the NR2A-B peptides. Rabbits were given initial injections of 1 mg of conjugated peptides in complete Freund's adjuvant and subsequent injections (0.5 mg) in incomplete Freund's adjuvant at successive 2 week intervals. Antibodies were affinity purified according to standard procedures (Warr, G. W., Purification of antibodies, In: Antibody as a Tool, Eds., Marchalonis, J. J., and G. W. Warr, J. Wiley, UK, pp. 59-96 (1982)) and were shown to be selective for NR2A and NR2B NMDA receptors using an ELISA assay.

Example 3

Preparation of Latex Beads Containing Biomarker Antibodies

Three different sensitized latex beads containing IgG against glutamate, C3 homocysteine and NR2A-B receptor peptides were prepared using two types of blue polystyrene latex beads (diameter, 0.25 and 0.4 μ M; Sigma, St. Louis,

Mo.) as follows. A 1% suspension of latex beads in 50 mM PBS (1 ml, pH 7.0) was mixed with an equal volume of corresponding IgG (2 mg/ml) and incubated on a shaker at room temperature for 2 hours. The mixture was then washed twice with PBS by centrifugation at 9,500 g for 5 min. The pellet was suspended in PBS containing 1% BSA overnight at 4° C. After being washed twice with PBS, the sensitized latex beads were resuspended in latex diluent (50 mM PBS with 1% BSA) at a concentration of 0.4% and stored at 4° C. until used.

Preliminary experiments with latex agglutination (LA) alone were performed to identify problems and to select the most desirable latex particle size. Two types of commercial latex beads were coated with antibodies at various concentrations. Tests were initially performed with the corresponding amino acid or NR2A and NR2B receptor peptides as controls. Particle size and IgG concentration were found to be the primary factors affect the sensitivity of the test. The most desirable particle size was found to be 0.25 μ m (blue latex) because particles of this size agglutinated each amino acid and peptide specifically. Higher IgG concentrations showed higher sensitivities. Using blue latex bead coated with 2 mg of IgG per ml, agglutination could be observed within 30 min.

Example 4

Latex Agglutination Analysis of Blood Serum Specimens

Blood samples (5 ml) were collected using standard venipuncture clinical protocol, from patients with TIA, stroke and brain injury (n=30) and examined at the laboratory of CIS Biotech, Inc. in Atlanta (GA, USA). None of the patients had been treated with anticoagulants, and serum samples were obtained from the clotted blood. All specimens were free of visible lipids, white blood cells, platelets, fibrin, mucus or other contaminants that could cause "false positive" reactions. Platelets, white blood cells, mucus and fibrin were removed by centrifugation. Lipids were removed by filtration.

Specimens to be tested within 72 hours after collection were stored at 2-8° C. For longer storage periods, -20° C. or colder is recommended.

The semi-quantitative analysis of glutamate, homocysteine and NR2A-B receptor peptides in the serum samples is basically a three step process: serum sample dilution, reaction of latex beads with serum samples, and product analysis.

In previous experiments serial dilutions of the serum samples from 1:4 to 1:64 in saline containing 4% glycerol for better agglutination were performed. The highest dilution in which agglutination was observed corresponded to the sample titer.

Two 25 μ l aliquots of coated latex beads containing the corresponding IgG were layered on a double-concave slide (Fisher Sci., Norcross, Ga.), one with 25 μ l of the serum sample in serial dilution to be tested and one with 25 μ l of PBS as a negative control. After gentle mixing with vortex, agglutination was judged macroscopically against a dark background. A negative reaction corresponded to a homogeneous lactescent background with no agglutination; a positive reaction corresponded to a clearly visible agglutination against the black background and weakly visible agglutination on a slightly lactescent background.

The highest dilution at which agglutination occurs gives the titer of the sample. To obtain the approximate titer in $\mu\text{g/ml}$ we used the following calculation:

$$\text{Titer } \mu\text{g/ml} = A \times D$$

where A is the test sensitivity, and D is the highest dilution at which agglutination occurs.

Example 5

Description of Patients

Patients observed in trials (n=68) included 9 with pre-stroke, 9 with TIA (mean age 52.0 ± 3.0), 31 with acute ischemic stroke (mean age 54.7 ± 1.4) and 11 with mild brain injury (mean age 53.0 ± 4.4). Clinical evaluation of patients by neuroimaging (CT, MRI, arteriography, Doppler ultrasonography, EEG), detailed physical and neurologic examination and laboratory tests was performed. Patients with TIA were characterized by contra lateral weakness, dysphasia, transient blurring of vision or blindness, abnormal pulsation of the common carotid arteries, microemboli confined to the ipsilateral retina. Untreated patients with pre-stroke demonstrated altered state of consciousness, severe headache, nausea and vomiting, visual disturbances, and focal neurological deficit, with some patients experiencing seizures.

The N-Score rating scale reported in "MCA Infarction" (Orgogozo, 1986) was used for evaluating the neurologic deficit in patients with acute cerebral stroke. The total score of acute cerebral stroke clinical manifestation differentiated severe patients (n=9, 11–35 scores) from patients with mild (n=12, 36–55 scores) and moderate patients (n=10, 60–90 scores). Most patients with acute cerebral ischaemia (61.3%) suffered ischemia in the carotid artery of left hemisphere. Arterial hypertension and cerebral atherosclerosis etiologically corresponded in all patients.

The patients with ischemia were divided into groups based on the differences between TIA, pre-stroke and acute ischemic pathogenic mechanisms. The clinical diagnosis was established on the basis of routine observations which included detailed neurological examination and neuroimaging. Groups of TIA (n=9) and pre-stroke patients with chronic cerebral blood insufficiency (n=9) were identified by neurophysiological investigations.

Example 6

Detection of Glutamate and Homocysteine in the Blood of Patients

Glutamate and homocysteine content were measured by standard high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) according to methods described (Perry I. J., Refsum H., Morris R. W., Ebrahim S. B., Ueland P. M., Shaper A. G. Lancet. 1995, 346:1395–1398; Yamamoto T., Rossi S., Stiefel M., Doppenberg E., Zauner A., Bullock R., Marmarou A. Acta Neurochir. Suppl. 1999, 75: 17–19). The limits of the normal range were $165.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$ for glutamate (Table 1) and $8.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$ for homocysteine (Table 2). Elevated glutamate and homocysteine amounts were detected in the blood of patients with acute stroke. However, approximately 66% of these patients had additional risk factors indicative of atherosclerotic processes such as high cholesterol and LDL levels (Denisenko T. V., Skuliabin D., Gromov I., Cherkas Yi., Iluchina A., Dambinova S. A., 1998. Vopr. Med. Khimii. 44, 584–590, in Russian).

Abnormal glutamate and homocysteine plasma concentrations were observed more frequently in patients with TIA

than in patients with acute stroke. The positive predictive efficiency of plasma glutamate for TIA patients was 56%. The positive predictive efficiency of plasma homocysteine for TIA patients was 66%. Baseline concentrations for glutamate and homocysteine are 160 mmol/L and 10 mmol/L , respectively. Routine treatment for TIA was found to consistently decrease the glutamate and homocysteine levels in the blood of patients (data not shown).

In patients with pre-stroke, slightly elevated levels homocysteine were observed; levels of glutamate were unchanged (Tables 1, 2). In patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI), glutamate levels were observed that were nearly twice the glutamate levels in healthy individuals; levels of homocysteine were up to 57% higher.

TABLE 1

Glutamate concentration in the blood of patients detected by HPLC						
Group	Total	Glutamate	HPLC predictive value			
			Negative		Positive	
	N	$\mu\text{mol/L}$	N	%	N	%
Healthy individuals	28	165.0 ± 28.2	19	67.8	9	32.2
TIA	9	200.0 ± 11.7	4	44.4	5	55.6
Pre-stroke	9	163.7 ± 10.4	5	55.6	4	44.4
Acute stroke	31	172.1 ± 20.6	13	41.9	18	58.1
TBI	11	305.0 ± 28.8	4	36.4	7	63.6

We also compared homocysteine concentrations in the blood of patients with TIA and pre-stroke to homocysteine concentrations in the blood of patients who have had stroke onsets. We observed that homocysteine content in the blood of patients depended on stage of the stroke, but that homocysteine concentration did not correlate with the severity of the cerebral ischemia. A significant decrease in homocysteine levels in patients with acute stroke was observed after emergency therapy (data not shown).

Latex agglutination was also employed to detect TIA/stroke biomarkers in the blood serum of patients. The titer of plasma glutamate determined by latex agglutination was 3.34 ± 0.25 in the group of healthy volunteers. Homocysteine and glutamate trends observed using HPLC were similarly observed for different groups of patients observed by using the LA technique (Tables 3, 4). Thus, increased levels of glutamate and homocysteine were similarly observed in the blood of patients with TIA and acute stroke using LA.

With respect to predictive efficiency, however, LA showed a surprising improvement over HPLC. For example, the LA method improved the positive predictive efficiency of patients with TIA and acute stroke on the basis of glutamate content to more than 63% (Tables 1, 3). The negative predictive value for healthy patients was similarly improved when using the LA technique (Tables 3, 4). The predictive value of the LA technique in the group of patients with TBI was identical to the predictive value using HPLC.

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TABLE 2

Homocysteine concentration in the blood of patients detected by HPLC						
Group	Total	Homocysteine $\mu\text{mol/L}$	HPLC predictive value			
			Negative		Positive	
			N	%	N	%
Healthy individuals	28	8.0 ± 1.7	20	71.4	8	28.6
TIA	9	10.8 ± 1.3	3	33.3	6	66.4
Pre-stroke	9	9.0 ± 1.2	4	44.4	5	55.6
Acute stroke	31	11.5 ± 1.1	11	35.5	20	64.5
TBI	11	12.6 ± 2.1	4	36.4	7	63.6

TABLE 3

Detection of glutamate in the blood of patients by latex agglutination						
Group	Total	Glutamate Titer	LA predictive value			
			Negative		Positive	
			N	%	N	%
Healthy individuals	28	3.34 ± 0.25	22	78.6	6	21.4
TIA	9	4.52 ± 0.38	3	33.3	6	66.4
Pre-stroke	9	3.57 ± 0.32	4	44.4	5	55.6
Acute stroke	31	4.34 ± 0.47	11	35.5	20	64.5
TBI	11	5.12 ± 0.62	4	36.4	7	63.6

TABLE 4

Detection of homocysteine the blood of patients by latex agglutination						
Group	Total	Homocysteine Titer	LA predictive value			
			Negative		Positive	
			N	%	N	%
Healthy individuals	28	2.23 ± 0.21	21	75.0	7	25.0
TIA	9	3.95 ± 0.37	3	33.3	6	66.4
Pre-stroke	9	2.89 ± 0.12	4	44.4	5	55.6
Acute stroke	31	4.01 ± 0.41	10	32.3	21	67.7
TBI	11	4.74 ± 0.38	4	36.4	7	63.6

Example 7

The Detection of NR2A-B in the Blood of Patients

The excessive activation and damage of NMDA receptors is the result of glutamate, aspartate and homocysteine neurotoxicity. Autoantibodies to have been detected in previous work in the blood of patients with TIA and pre-stroke, supporting our hypothesis that cerebral ischemia causes neuronal damage and the appearance of autoantibodies to NMDA receptor subunits (Gusev E. I., Skvortsova V. I., Alekseev A. A., Izykenova G. A., Dambinova S. A. S. S Korsakov's J. Neurol. & Psych. 1996, 5:68-72; Dambinova S. A., Izykenova G. A. J. High Nervous Activity. 1997, 47: 439-446).

The titer of NR2A-B receptor peptides in the blood of healthy volunteers determined by LA was 2.63 ± 0.92 . Using the LA technique, we observed an increase in the test

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efficiency in the group of healthy persons up to 89% (Table 5). We also observed an improvement in the sensitivity of the LA test over ELISA. For example, patients with pre-stroke had slightly increased levels of NR2A-B receptor peptides over healthy volunteers when tested by ELISA, but had nearly double the level of NR2A-B receptor peptides when measured by LA (Table 5, 6). We detected high levels of NR2A-B receptor peptides using both ELISA and LA in the blood of patients with TIA and acute stroke, and observed comparable levels of predictive efficiency for each test.

Patients with TIA received routine treatment to improve brain circulation. Upon receiving treatment, NR2A-B levels decreased to levels corresponding to those observed for the healthy individuals as the patient's state normalized. As mentioned earlier, glutamate and homocysteine contents also decreased during treatment, but it never reached the levels observed in healthy individuals.

TABLE 5

Detection of NR2A-B receptor peptides in the blood of patients by latex agglutination						
Group	Total	NR2A-B Titer	LA predictive value			
			Negative		Positive	
			N	%	N	%
Healthy individuals	28	2.63 ± 0.92	25	89.3	3	10.7
TIA	9	7.34 ± 0.43	2	22.2	7	77.8
Pre-stroke	9	4.21 ± 0.26	2	22.2	7	77.8
Acute stroke	31	5.20 ± 1.71	4	9.7	27	87.1
TBI	11	3.99 ± 0.44	2	18.8	9	81.8

Completely different profiles of NR2A-B were revealed in the blood of patients with acute ischemic stroke. In the blood of patients (n=8) with severe cerebral ischaemia (30.4 ± 3.2 Orgogozo scores) NR2A-B receptor peptides titer was 4 times higher than that for control group of healthy individuals. The peptides titer for patients with mild to moderate ischemic stroke (n=22, 49-62 Orgogozo scores) was slightly elevated in comparison with those with TIA. The tendency of slight decreases in NR2A-B receptor peptide levels was observed to the end of 30 days of patients' routine treatment, correlating with improvement in the neurological state.

TABLE 6

Detection of NR2A-B receptor peptides in the blood of patients by ELISA						
Group	Total	NR2A-B Ng/ml	ELISA assay results			
			Negative		Positive	
			N	%	N	%
Healthy individuals	28	18.2 ± 2.1	20	71.4	8	28.6
TIA	9	66.6 ± 4.1	2	22.2	7	77.8
Pre-stroke	9	23.7 ± 1.9	3	33.3	6	66.7
Acute stroke	31	73.4 ± 6.5	5	16.1	26	83.9
TBI	11	54.3 ± 4.9	3	27.3	8	72.7

It is necessary notice that efficiency of both laboratory assays to detect the NR2A-B receptor peptides in the blood of patients with TIA/stroke and traumatic brain injury have been determined as 78 and 82% correspondingly.

The simultaneous detection of all brain damage biomarkers: glutamate, homocysteine and NR2A–B receptor peptides in the blood patients by latex agglutination allowed to diagnose rapidly TIA/stroke with efficiency up to 85–89%. The simultaneously increased levels of all biomarkers in the blood reflect the neurological deficit and may be used also for prognosis of diseases outcome. The relation between these biomarkers is showing the degree of thromboembolic and neurotoxicity involvement in brain processes underlying the ischemia. That fact is very important for choosing the strategy of emergency therapy in short time.

Using the latex agglutination technique allowed us significantly cut off the time of blood analysis from 3–8 hours in ELISA or HPLC to 30 min in LA. This RMP semi-quantitative test demonstrated the fast, simple for interpretation and reliable data.

Example 8

Identification of cDNA Sequence Encoding Antigenic Determinants of NMDA Receptors

It was necessary to first determine the cDNA sequence coding the immunological fragment of NMDA receptors responsible for the appearance of autoantibodies appearance. To find the most active peptide fragment of NMDA receptors a standard molecular biology procedure was used. Immunopositive phage GT11 containing cDNA coding NMDA receptors was isolated from a human cDNA library using autoantibodies to NMDA receptors isolated from blood samples of patients with severe cerebral ischemia or polyclonal antibodies to the NR2A receptor. An *E. Coli* bacterial system was employed to express the phage GT11 cDNA (600 bp). The expression product was transferred to a MBmp11 vector and a restriction map was constructed by use of a standard restriction kit. Three unique sites of the cDNA fragment (PstI, BamHI, and PsaI) were revealed, and the 5'-3' oligonucleotide sequence orientation using KpnI, BamHI and EcoRI was deduced. The oligonucleotide (target cDNA) obtained was sequenced and compared to the sequence of the NR2A glutamate receptor (SEQ ID NO: 5) from the NCBI library. The target cDNA corresponded to the N-terminal domain of the NR2A receptor (620 bp) of SEQ ID NO: 6, namely SEQ ID NO: 7. Primers for this target nucleotide were designed. All the oligonucleotides were prepared by the phosphoramidite method on an Applied Biosystem 394 synthesizer and were purified by reverse-phase high-pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC). The oligonucleotides used for detection and capture were synthesized with an amine arm at the 5' end.

Example 9

PCR Analysis of Blood Serum Specimens

Blood samples (5 ml collected by venipuncture) from patients with TIA and pre-stroke (n=30) were collected according to standard clinical protocol and examined at the Department of Neurology of Human Brain Institute, St. Petersburg Russia. The blood specimens were used for total DNA isolation or applied on FTA paper circles.

The quantitative analysis of NR2A cDNA expression in the serum samples is basically a three step process: Total DNA isolation and purification from sera of individuals; specific cDNA coding NR2A receptor amplification; and product analysis.

The total DNA isolated by DNAZOL™ (Mol. Res. Center, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio) or bound on FTA blood

staining collection cards (Life Technologies, Inc., Gaithersburg, Md.) serves as a template for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). In the first variant, the PCR assay uses a set of specially designed primers (50 pmol), immobilized on solid matrix of microplates and amplifies a specific cDNA sequence (620 bp) coding the NR2A glutamate receptor. In a second variant, the PCR assay uses a master ready-to-use buffer and amplifies cDNA bond on FTA paper. Following amplification, the quantity of a product is determined by enzyme or non-enzyme color reaction with a substrate.

Using the DNAZOL™ reagent for DNA isolation, the whole blood of each individual (0.5 ml) was combined with 1 ml DNAZOL™ (Mol. Res. Center, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio) for 5 min at room temperature and lysed (Mackey K. et al. Mol. Biotechnol. 9: 1–5 (1997)). The organic phase (0.4 ml) of each sample was transferred to a clean tube and 0.4 ml isopropanol was added. The mixture was incubated for 5 min at room temperature and centrifuged at 6,000 g for 6 minutes. The pellet was washed in 0.5 ml DNAZOL™ and centrifuged at the same conditions. The total DNA pellet was mixed with 1 ml of 75% ethanol and centrifuged at 6,000 g for 5 minutes. Then the DNA pellet was diluted in 200 l of 8 mM NaOH and incubated at room temperature for 5 min followed by vortexing. Alkaline DNA solution was then neutralized with 160 l of 0.1 M HEPES, pH 7.4.

Immobilization of oligonucleotide probes (primers, SEQ ID NO:8) was performed as follows. A total of 100 l of 3xPBS buffer containing the primers (150 nM) was dropped into each well of a 96-well microtiter plate (Fisher Sci., Suwanee, Ga.). After incubation for 2 h at 37° C. or overnight at room temperature, the plate was washed three times with 1xPBS buffer containing 0.05% (w/vol) TWEEN-20™ (polysorbate 20). The oligonucleotide-coated plates were stable for 2 months at 4° C.

Direct PCR reactions were performed in a final volume of 50 l (Sisk R. B. in book: Molecular diagnostics: for the clinical laboratorian. Ed. by Coleman W. B., and Tsongalis G. J. Humana Press Inc., Totowa, N. J. 1997, pp.103–121). The total DNA (5 l), isolated from blood samples of individuals, to oligonucleotide-coated plate in duplicates and 45 l of master ready-to-use buffer containing 1 l TaKaRa Z-Taq DNA polymerase (TaKaRa Biomedicals, Otsu, Shiga, Japan) 10 l AMV/Tfl 5x reaction buffer, 1 l dNTP mix (Promega, Madison, Wis.) 2 l of 25 mM MgSO₄ were added and sealed. The 30-thermal cycles (98° C.—5 s, 66° C.—2 sec) amplification using programmable Gene Cyclor thermocycler (Bio-Rad Lab., Hemphstead, UK) for 20 minutes was performed. Then 50 l of PicoGreen reagent (Mol. Probes, Inc., Eugene, Oreg.) were added to each PCR products and mixed on a shaker (BioTechniques 20:676 (1996)). Samples were incubated 5 min at room temperature, protected from light. After incubation the fluorescence of the samples was measured using a fluorescence microplate reader (Mol. Device, Sunnyvale, Calif.) and standard fluorescein wavelengths (excitation 480 nm, emission 520 nm). The fluorescence value of the reagent blank was subtracted from that of each of the samples, and the data was employed to generate five-point standardization curves of fluorescence versus DNA concentration, from 25 pg/ml to 25 ng/ml reaction of control target cDNA (50 ng/ml stock) with the same Pico Green reagent.

The other method of total DNA isolation is follows. Whole blood was spotted onto ETA paper and lysed, and samples of DNA immobilized within the matrix of the stain card were punched into a 3 mm (1/8") diameter paper (1 mm or 2 mm Harris Micro-Punch™) and amplified directly by the amplification mix (Mackey K. et al. Mol. Biotechnol. 9: 1–5 (1997)).

The FTA Bloodstain Card is divided into 4 circles for at least 4 different 120 l samples of EDTA collected whole blood. Samples of blood were dried at room temperature for at least 1 hour. A circle was drawn with a #2 pencil around each blood to visualize where the blood had been spotted after the FTA paper processing. The PTA Bloodstain Card was then placed in a small plastic tray and 50 ml of PTA Purification Reagent was added and incubated on a shaker for 5 minutes. FTA Purification Reagent was replace 3 times with 25–50 ml of the fresh solution and shaken for an additional 5 minutes. Then 25–50 ml of TEA (10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0; 0.1 mM EDTA pH 8.0) was added and the mixture incubated twice on a shaker for 5 minutes. The FTA Bloodstain Card was allowed to air dry completely during 2 hours at room temperature. The samples were then punched from the cards using a 3 mm diameter punch or the Harris Micro-Punch (1.2 mm or 2.0 mm), and transferred into corresponding microplate wells. PCR was then performed using the above-described procedure using regular PCR microplates and a ready-to-use buffer containing primers.

Patients (n=30, the age of 44–77) were divided into two groups. The first group of patients (n=12) were diagnosed with TIA in the carotid circulatory system, according to the following neurological criteria. Neural dysfunction was localized to a specific vascular distribution; the duration of the attack was usually less than 15 minutes and never exceeded 24 hours; and the patients did not have abnormal neurologic signs between attacks. The second pre-stroke group (n=18) were diagnosed with TIA in the vertebral-basilar circulatory system. The second group of patients was subdivided on the basis of compensation or non-compensation of neurological deficit. The third group (n=12) included patients with migraine and epilepsy.

The control group of healthy individuals (n=20) showed a level of NR2A cDNA expression of 1.2–0.11 pg/ml. The first group demonstrated slightly elevated levels of NR2A cDNA expression of 1.7–0.13 pg/ml. The patients with compensation of neurological deficit from the second group showed a level of NR2A cDNA expression of 1.8–1.4 pg/ml. At the same time, the patients without compensation of neurological deficit that possessed more severe symptoms of TIA showed levels of NR2A cDNA expression of 3 times the levels seen in healthy individuals. Patients suffering migraine and epilepsy did not show any increase of NR2A cDNA expression when compared with the control group.

Example 10

Immunological Analysis of Blood Serum Specimens

Blood samples (10 ml, collected by venipuncture) from patients with cerebral ischemia (n=70), and healthy individuals (n=200), collected according to standard clinical protocols, were examined at the Neurology Hospital of Russian Medical Academy (Moscow, Russia). The blood specimens were centrifugated (4000 g, 5 min, +4° C.) and the collected serum stored at –70° C. for further analysis.

Computer analysis was employed to predict the antigenic determinants in the NR2A receptor protein structure based on hydrophobicity profile (Hopp, T. P. and K. R. Woods, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 6:3824–3828 (1981)) and antigenicity (Welling, G. W., et al., *FEBS Lett.* 188:215–218 (1985)). Based upon this analysis, the N-terminal sequence of the NR2A NMDA receptor was synthesized. This synthetic peptide, which corresponded to amino acid sequence (494–514) (Grandy, D. K., et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*

U.S.A. 86:9762–9766(1989) (SEQ ID NO:3) of human NR2A NMDA, was produced by solid-phase synthesis in a NPS-400 semi-automated synthesizer (Neosystem Lab, France) on MBHA resin using the BOC/Bzl strategy for the first two amino acids. The peptides were purified by preparative HPLC on a DELTAPAC™C18 column (Waters Chromatography, Milford, Mass.) in a H₂O/acetonitrile/0.015 TFA system. The purity of the peptides was determined by analytical HPLC and ranged from 90% to 98%. The peptide sequence was verified by amino acid analysis after acid hydrolysis. This peptide was used in immunoassays of blood serum from patients and healthy individuals.

A quantitative analysis of the level of NR2A autoantibodies in serum samples was performed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (Ngo, T. T. and H. M. Lenhoff, *FEBS Lett.* 116:285–288 (1980)). The diluted blood sera (1:50) and polyclonal antibodies to the NR2A peptide as a standard (0.01 ng/ml–400 ng/ml) were applied to the immunosorbent. The plate was incubated for 1 h at 25° C. and then washed by 0.05 M phosphate buffer, pH 7.4, containing 0.05% of TWEEN-20™ (polysorbate 20). Rabbit antibodies to the human immunoglobulin labeled with horseradish peroxidase were added (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo.; 1:1000), and the plate was incubated for 1 h at 25° C. After incubation the wells were washed twice in the same buffer. The reaction was revealed by o-phenylenediamine in 0.05 M citrate buffer, pH 4.3 monitored at 490 nm on a microplate reader (BioRad, UK). The titer of NR2A autoantibodies in blood serum was determined by ELISA using a standard curve of the absorbance units of NR2A autoantibodies versus their concentration in a microtiter well plate.

The synthetic peptide corresponding to the NR2A NMDA glutamate receptors (3 µg) were immobilized on a nitrocellulose membrane (0.45 µm, Schleicher-Schuell, Germany) in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.4, then washed 2–3 times in the same buffer. Membranes with immobilized peptide were incubated with the diluted serum (1:50) of cerebral ischemia patients and other subjects for 1 h at 25° C., and then rinsed 4 times with the PBS buffer. Secondary rabbit anti-human immunoglobulins conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo.; 1:1000) were incubated with the membrane for 1 h at 25° C., then washed 4 times with PBS. The development of brown color was registered and then quantitated by densitometry.

To provide a positive control or standard, rabbit polyclonal antibodies were raised against NR2A synthetic peptide corresponding to amino acid sequence predicted from the cloned human NR2A protein (Science 256:1217–1221 (1992); SEQ ID NO:1). For glutaraldehyde conjugation, 10 mg of peptide and 40 mg of human serum albumin (Sigma, St Louis, Mo.) were incubated for 1.45 h at room temperature in 4 ml of PBS containing 5% glutaraldehyde. The reaction was stopped by adding glycine to a final concentration of 0.2 M, and the conjugate was dialyzed against PBS. Rabbits were given initial injections of 1 mg of conjugated peptide in complete Freund's and subsequent injections of 0.5 mg of peptide in incomplete Freund's adjuvant at successive 2 week intervals. Antibodies were affinity purified according standard procedure (Warr, G. W., *Purification of antibodies, In: Antibody as a Tool*, Eds., Marchalonis, J. J., and G. W. Warr, J. Wiley, UK, pp. 59–96 (1982)) and were shown to be selective for the NR2A NMDA glutamate receptor using Western blot analysis.

The patients (men, n=30; women, n=40; age of 40–75) were admitted in the hospital within no more than six hours after the onset of an ischemic episode. All patients were divided into three groups according to the severity of the

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stroke: The first group had moderate ischemic stroke (n=25), manifested by moderate focal deficit (>60-Orgogozo scale). The second group had severe stroke (n=30), manifested by mild disorders of consciousness, severe headache, meningeal sings, and pronounced focal deficit (30-60-Orgogozo scale). The third group had extremely severe stroke (n=15), accompanied by stupor-coma, signs of brain edema, autonomic dysfunction, and severe focal deficit (<30-Orgogozo scale).

The level of NR2A autoantibodies was measured in the blood serum of healthy persons (n=200, age 35-75) as a control, and ranged from 0.3-1.5 ng/ml. The NR2A autoantibody level in the 55 patients of the first and second groups was significantly greater than that in the control group (p<0.01). Levels of NR2A autoantibodies were monitored every three hours during the first day, and then up to 5th day after stroke. The level of NR2A autoantibodies in the blood serum of patients with severe stroke was significantly higher than that in the blood serum of patients with moderate stroke, especially in the 9-12 hours after the onset of a stroke (p<0.05). The tendency for NR2A autoantibodies level to decrease to the control level on the first day of stroke was registered in group of patients with good neurological recovery (90,50,5 units on Orgogozo scale). It can be concluded that the dynamic changes in NR2A autoantibodies level may predict a recovery period of patients after ischemic stroke.

Example 11

SPRIA Assay of Autoantibodies

The solid-phase radioimmunoassay (SPRIA) of autoantibodies is performed as follows: a 10% acetic acid solution is added for one minute to the Cooker microtiter microplates (available from Dynatech Co., USA) for activation, whereupon 0.1 ml of the blood serum under analysis (diluted 1:40) is applied to the microplates and subjected to incubation for four hours at 25° C. Then the microplate are washed with a

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0.14 M sodium chloride solution and 0.1 ml of a mixture of the respective fragment of the mammal's brain protein labeled by ¹²⁵I in the presence of nonlabelled one. The plates are incubated for 20 hours at 4° C. On completion of incubation, the microplates are washed with a 0.14M sodium chloride solution, after which each of the wells of the microplates is cut off and placed in gamma-counting vials.

Example 12

ELISA Assay of Autoantibodies

The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) of autoantibodies is carried out as follows: the samples of the blood serum diluted 1:40 or 1:50 are applied to the respective immunosorbent. Then the plate carrying the immunosorbent is incubated for 30 min at 37° C., whereupon the wells of the plate are washed with a 0.05 M phosphate buffer, containing 0.05% of: TWEEN-20™ (polysorbate 20). Rabbit antibodies to human immunoglobulin labeled with horseradish peroxidase (conjugate) are added thereto, and the plate is reincubated for 35 min at 37° C., then washed by the aforementioned buffer and distilled water. The reaction with conjugate is determined by adding chromogen, i.e., orthophenylenediamine in the presence of 30% hydrogen peroxide. The intensity of color development is evaluated by using the rider (available Multiskan microplate rider) at the 492 nm wavelength.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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Arg Glu Leu Arg Asn Leu Trp Gly Pro Glu Gln Ala Thr Gly Leu Pro
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Leu Asp Val Asn Val Val Ala Leu Leu Met Asn Arg Thr Asp Pro Lys
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-continued

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-continued

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1265						1270						1275			
Phe	Gln	Lys	Asn	Lys	Leu	Arg	Ile	Asn	Arg	Gln	His	Ser	Tyr	Asp	
1280						1285						1290			
Asn	Ile	Leu	Asp	Lys	Pro	Arg	Glu	Ile	Asp	Leu	Ser	Arg	Pro	Ser	
1295						1300						1305			
Arg	Ser	Ile	Ser	Leu	Lys	Asp	Arg	Glu	Arg	Leu	Leu	Glu	Gly	Asn	
1310						1315						1320			
Leu	Tyr	Gly	Ser	Leu	Phe	Ser	Val	Pro	Ser	Ser	Lys	Leu	Leu	Gly	
1325						1330						1335			
Asn	Lys	Ser	Ser	Leu	Phe	Pro	Gln	Gly	Leu	Glu	Asp	Ser	Lys	Arg	

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1340	1345	1350
Ser Lys Ser Leu Leu Pro Asp His Ala Ser Asp Asn Pro Phe Leu		
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His Thr Tyr Gly Asp Asp Gln Arg Leu Val Ile Gly Arg Cys Pro		
1370	1375	1380
Ser Asp Pro Tyr Lys His Ser Leu Pro Ser Gln Ala Val Asn Asp		
1385	1390	1395
Ser Tyr Leu Arg Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Thr Ala Ser Tyr Cys Ser		
1400	1405	1410
Arg Asp Ser Arg Gly His Ser Asp Val Tyr Ile Ser Glu His Val		
1415	1420	1425
Met Pro Tyr Ala Ala Asn Lys Asn Thr Met Tyr Ser Thr Pro Arg		
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Val Leu Asn Ser Cys Ser Asn Arg Arg Val Tyr Lys Lys Met Pro		
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Ser Ile Glu Ser Asp Val		
1460		

<210> SEQ ID NO 2
 <211> LENGTH: 536
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 2

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Asn Leu Trp Gly Pro Glu Gln Ala Thr Gly Leu Pro Leu Asp Val Asn		
	35	40 45
Val Val Ala Leu Leu Met Asn Arg Thr Asp Pro Lys Ser Leu Ile Thr		
	50	55 60
His Val Cys Asp Leu Met Ser Gly Ala Arg Ile His Gly Leu Val Phe		
	65	70 75 80
Gly Asp Asp Thr Asp Gln Glu Ala Val Ala Gln Met Leu Asp Phe Ile		
	85	90 95
Ser Ser Gln Thr Phe Ile Pro Ile Leu Gly Ile His Gly Gly Ala Ser		
	100	105 110
Met Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Asp Pro Thr Ser Thr Phe Phe Gln Phe Gly		
	115	120 125
Ala Ser Ile Gln Gln Gln Ala Thr Val Met Leu Lys Ile Met Gln Asp		
	130	135 140
Tyr Asp Trp His Val Phe Ser Leu Val Thr Thr Ile Phe Pro Gly Tyr		
	145	150 155 160
Arg Asp Phe Ile Ser Phe Ile Lys Thr Thr Val Asp Asn Ser Phe Val		
	165	170 175
Gly Trp Asp Met Gln Asn Val Ile Thr Leu Asp Thr Ser Phe Glu Asp		
	180	185 190
Ala Lys Thr Gln Val Gln Leu Lys Lys Ile His Ser Ser Val Ile Leu		
	195	200 205
Leu Tyr Cys Ser Lys Asp Glu Ala Val Leu Ile Leu Ser Glu Ala Arg		
	210	215 220
Ser Leu Gly Leu Thr Gly Tyr Asp Phe Phe Trp Ile Val Pro Ser Leu		
	225	230 235 240

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<400> SEQUENCE: 4

Cys Asn Gly Met Ile Gly Glu Val Val Tyr Gln Arg Ala Val Met Ala
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Val Gly Ser Leu Thr Ile
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<210> SEQ ID NO 5

<211> LENGTH: 6293

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 5

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cggctgggat agccgcccc cgctggggcg atgcggacag cgcgggacag ccaggggagc    180
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cggtgaaagt gtctatcaac gggcagtcac ggcagttggc tcgctacca tcaatgagga    1860
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<210> SEQ ID NO 6

<211> LENGTH: 1608

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 6

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gtggtggact tctctgtgcc ctttgggaa acgggaatca gtgtcatggt ttcaagaagt 1560
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<210> SEQ ID NO 7
<211> LENGTH: 62
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: homo sapiens

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<400> SEQUENCE: 7

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tc 62

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<210> SEQ ID NO 8
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: artificial sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: oligonucleotide primer

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<400> SEQUENCE: 8

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<210> SEQ ID NO 9
<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA

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<213> ORGANISM: artificial sequence

<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: oligonucleotide primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 9

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21

<210> SEQ ID NO 10

<211> LENGTH: 1480

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 10

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35 40 45Ala Ile Lys Asp Ala His Glu Lys Asp Asp Phe His His Leu Ser Val
50 55 60Val Pro Arg Val Glu Leu Val Ala Met Asn Glu Thr Asp Pro Lys Ser
65 70 75 80Ile Ile Thr Arg Ile Cys Asp Leu Met Ser Asp Arg Lys Ile Gln Gly
85 90 95Val Val Phe Ala Asp Asp Thr Asp Gln Glu Ala Ile Ala Gln Ile Leu
100 105 110Asp Phe Ile Ser Ala Gln Thr Leu Thr Pro Ile Leu Gly Ile His Gly
115 120 125Gly Ser Ser Met Ile Met Ala Asp Lys Asp Glu Ser Ser Met Phe Phe
130 135 140Gln Phe Gly Pro Ser Ile Glu Gln Gln Ala Ser Val Met Leu Asn Ile
145 150 155 160Met Glu Glu Tyr Asp Trp Tyr Ile Phe Ser Ile Val Thr Thr Tyr Phe
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195 200 205Leu Asp Asp Gly Asp Ser Lys Ile Gln Asn Gln Leu Lys Lys Leu Gln
210 215 220Ser Pro Ile Ile Leu Leu Tyr Cys Thr Lys Glu Glu Ala Thr Tyr Ile
225 230 235 240Phe Glu Val Ala Asn Ser Val Gly Leu Thr Gly Tyr Gly Tyr Thr Trp
245 250 255Ile Val Pro Ser Leu Val Ala Gly Asp Thr Asp Thr Val Pro Ala Glu
260 265 270Phe Pro Thr Gly Leu Ile Ser Val Ser Tyr Asp Glu Trp Asp Tyr Gly
275 280 285Leu Pro Ala Arg Val Arg Asp Gly Ile Ala Ile Ile Thr Thr Ala Ala
290 295 300Ser Asp Met Leu Ser Glu His Ser Phe Ile Pro Glu Pro Lys Ser Ser
305 310 315 320Cys Tyr Asn Thr His Glu Lys Arg Ile Tyr Gln Ser Asn Met Leu Asn
325 330 335

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Arg	Tyr	Leu	Ile	Asn	Val	Thr	Phe	Glu	Gly	Arg	Asn	Leu	Ser	Phe	Ser	340	345	350	
Glu	Asp	Gly	Tyr	Gln	Met	His	Pro	Lys	Leu	Val	Ile	Ile	Leu	Leu	Asn	355	360	365	
Lys	Glu	Arg	Lys	Trp	Glu	Arg	Val	Gly	Lys	Trp	Lys	Asp	Lys	Ser	Leu	370	375	380	
Gln	Met	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Val	Trp	Pro	Arg	Met	Cys	Pro	Glu	Thr	Glu	Glu	385	390	395	400
Gln	Glu	Asp	Asp	His	Leu	Ser	Ile	Val	Thr	Leu	Glu	Glu	Ala	Pro	Phe	405	410	415	
Val	Ile	Val	Glu	Ser	Val	Asp	Pro	Leu	Ser	Gly	Thr	Cys	Met	Arg	Asn	420	425	430	
Thr	Val	Pro	Cys	Gln	Lys	Arg	Ile	Val	Thr	Glu	Asn	Lys	Thr	Asp	Glu	435	440	445	
Glu	Pro	Gly	Tyr	Ile	Lys	Lys	Cys	Cys	Lys	Gly	Phe	Cys	Ile	Asp	Ile	450	455	460	
Leu	Lys	Lys	Ile	Ser	Lys	Ser	Val	Lys	Phe	Thr	Tyr	Asp	Leu	Tyr	Leu	465	470	475	480
Val	Thr	Asn	Gly	Lys	His	Gly	Lys	Lys	Ile	Asn	Gly	Thr	Trp	Asn	Gly	485	490	495	
Met	Ile	Gly	Glu	Val	Val	Met	Lys	Arg	Ala	Tyr	Met	Ala	Val	Gly	Ser	500	505	510	
Leu	Thr	Ile	Asn	Glu	Glu	Arg	Ser	Glu	Val	Val	Asp	Phe	Ser	Val	Pro	515	520	525	
Phe	Ile	Glu	Thr	Gly	Ile	Ser	Val	Met	Val	Ser	Arg	Ser	Asn	Gly	Thr	530	535	540	
Val	Ser	Pro	Ser	Ala	Phe	Leu	Glu	Pro	Phe	Ser	Ala	Asp	Val	Trp	Val	545	550	555	560
Met	Met	Phe	Val	Met	Leu	Leu	Ile	Val	Ser	Ala	Val	Ala	Val	Phe	Val	565	570	575	
Phe	Glu	Tyr	Phe	Ser	Pro	Val	Gly	Tyr	Asn	Arg	Cys	Leu	Ala	Asp	Gly	580	585	590	
Arg	Glu	Pro	Gly	Gly	Pro	Ser	Phe	Thr	Ile	Gly	Lys	Ala	Ile	Trp	Leu	595	600	605	
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Gly	Thr	Thr	Ser	Lys	Ile	Met	Val	Ser	Val	Trp	Ala	Phe	Phe	Ala	Val	625	630	635	640
Ile	Phe	Leu	Ala	Ser	Tyr	Thr	Ala	Asn	Leu	Ala	Ala	Phe	Met	Ile	Gln	645	650	655	
Glu	Glu	Tyr	Val	Asp	Gln	Val	Ser	Gly	Leu	Ser	Asp	Lys	Lys	Phe	Gln	660	665	670	
Arg	Pro	Asn	Asp	Phe	Ser	Pro	Pro	Phe	Arg	Phe	Gly	Thr	Val	Pro	Asn	675	680	685	
Gly	Ser	Thr	Glu	Arg	Asn	Ile	Arg	Asn	Asn	Tyr	Ala	Glu	Met	His	Ala	690	695	700	
Tyr	Met	Gly	Lys	Phe	Asn	Gln	Arg	Gly	Val	Asp	Asp	Ala	Leu	Leu	Ser	705	710	715	720
Leu	Lys	Thr	Gly	Lys	Leu	Asp	Ala	Phe	Ile	Tyr	Asp	Ala	Ala	Val	Leu	725	730	735	
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Tyr Met Ala Val Gly Ser Leu Thr Ile Asn Glu Glu Arg Ser Glu Val
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: homo sapiens

<400> SEQUENCE: 12

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Lys Ile Ser Lys
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<210> SEQ ID NO 13
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<212> TYPE: PRT
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<220> FEATURE:
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<400> SEQUENCE: 13

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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<213> ORGANISM: artificial sequence
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<400> SEQUENCE: 16

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<400> SEQUENCE: 17

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What is claimed is:

1. A method for diagnosis of a stroke in a patient comprising directly or indirectly measuring via latex agglutination, within three hours after stroke onset:

- a) the level of NR2A and/or NR2B NMDA receptor or fragment thereof in a subject; and
 - b) the level of one or more agonists or antagonists of the NR2A and/or NR2B receptor; and
- determining whether the stroke is ischemic.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more agonists or antagonists comprise glutamate, polyglutamate, homocysteine and/or polyhomocysteine.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering ischemic stroke therapy as appropriate.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of NR2A receptor of fragment thereof is measured substantially to the exclusion of the NR2B receptor or fragment thereof.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of NR2B receptor or fragment thereof is measured substantially to the exclusion of the NR2A receptor or fragment thereof.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of glutamate is measured.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of polyglutamate is measured.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of homocysteine is measured.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the level of polyhomocysteine is measured.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	在TIA /中风的实验室血液测试中快速多组生物标记物		
公开(公告)号	US6896872	公开(公告)日	2005-05-24
申请号	US09/922011	申请日	2001-08-02
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	DAMBINOVA SVETLANA一个		
申请(专利权)人(译)	DAMBINOVA SVETLANA A.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	DAMBINOVA SVETLANA A.		
[标]发明人	DAMBINOVA SVETLANA A		
发明人	DAMBINOVA, SVETLANA A.		
IPC分类号	G01N33/68 G01N33/94 G01N33/48 G01N33/53 G01N33/567 C07K16/28 C07K14/00		
CPC分类号	G01N33/6893 G01N33/9406 G01N2800/52 G01N2800/2871 G01N2333/70571		
其他公开文献	US20030096331A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种用于诊断中枢神经系统疾病，特别是短暂性脑缺血发作或中风的方法，试剂盒和组合物，包括测量来自人受试者的生物样品中的NR2A和/或NR2B NMDA受体或其片段的水平，并任选地测量其他生物标志物如同型半胱氨酸和谷氨酸。该方法对于识别有中风风险的个体以及在急诊室环境中诊断中风特别有用。