SIX MONTHS LENTIVIRAL CORRECTION OF THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS TRANSMEMBRANE CONDUCTANCE REGULATOR GENE DEFECT IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS MICE

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Introduction

The assessment of functional genetic correction of the bioelectrical defect in cystic fibrosis (CF) mice nasal airway via transepithelial potential difference (TPD) measurements is technically challenging and can show high variability.

We examined the effects of our lentiviral (LV) gene therapy protocol over 6 months using a repeated-measures experimental design in CF mice.

Methods

Male and female CF*tm1unc* mice were instilled nasally with either PBS (control) or lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC) one hour prior to delivery of an LV vector containing the CFTR cDNA (LPC/LV-CFTR). A group of CF mice received LPC and an empty vector (LPC/LV-MT).

Nasal TPD measurements were performed under domitor/ketamine anaesthesia at 1 week, and at 1, 3, and 6 months after treatment, using standard basal, basal+amiloride (amil:10-4M) level and low-chloride+amiloride Krebs solutions (Fig 1).

ΔPD was calculated as the low-chloride TPD minus the basal TPD.

Results

In mice that received LPC/LV-CFTR a significant correction of ΔPD towards normal values was seen at 1 week. The correction has persisted for at least 6 months to date (*p<0.05, RM ANOVA, n =6-12/group) (Fig. 2). There was no correction produced by LPC/LV-MT and no difference between the two control groups PBS/LV-CFTR and LPC/LV-MT at all time points. There was no gender difference in TPD measures (data not shown).

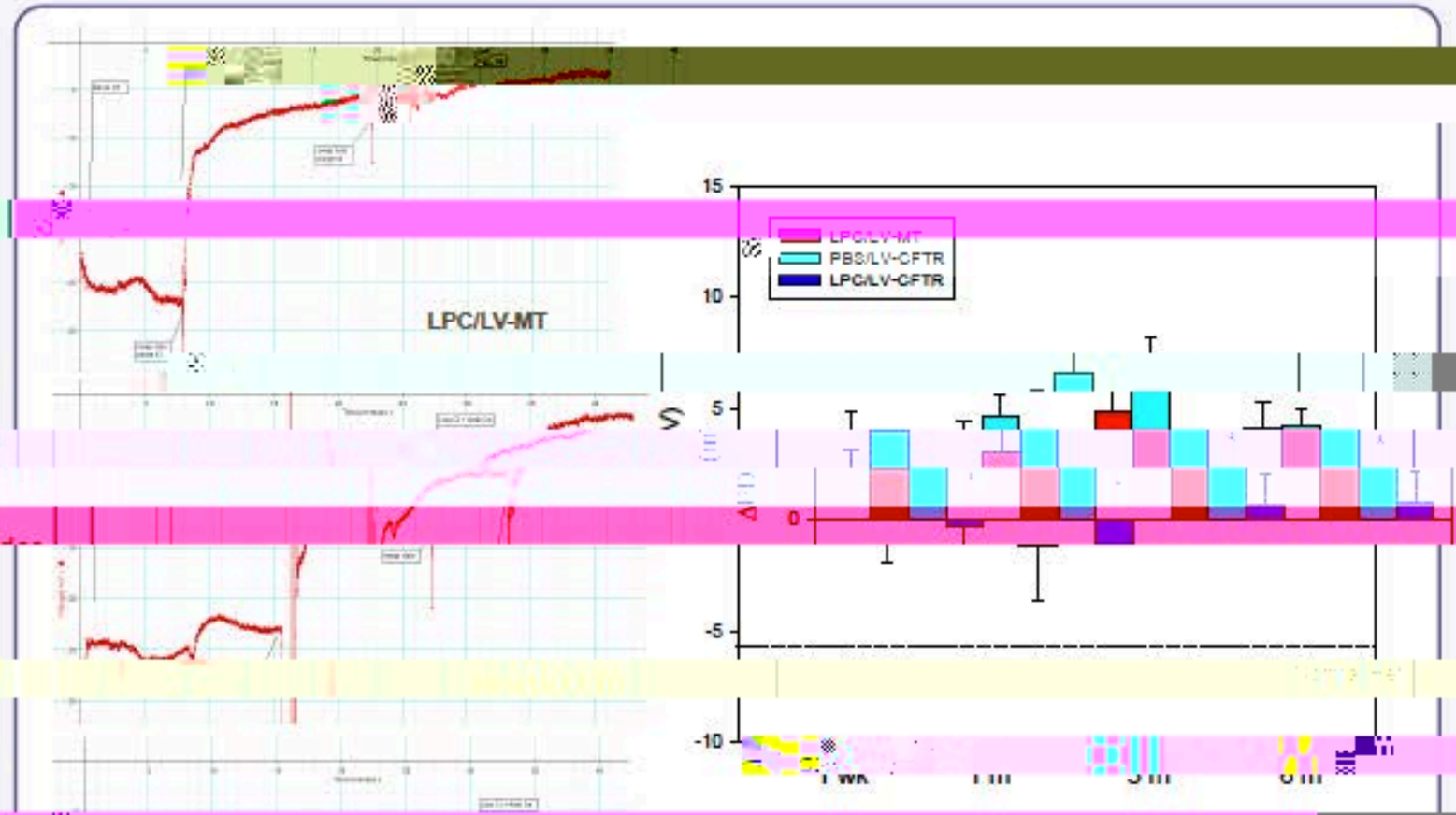

Fig. 1. Nasal TPD trace

Fig. 2. ΔPD over time

Conclusion

Partial (~40%) sustained correction of the CF defect was achieved with treatment, with the duration of correction yet to be determined. Repeated-measure study designs can be successfully applied to CF transgenic mice using these anaesthesia and dosing protocols over at least 6 months without mortality associated with anaesthesia or TPD procedures.

Acknowledgements