

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG	I
ABSTRACT	II
FIGURES	VI
SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES	VII
TABLES	VIII
ABBREVIATIONS	IX
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Etiology of botulism	1
1.2. Genetic organization of BoNT and BoNT complex proteins	2
1.3. Uptake and action on motoneurons	4
1.4. Components and structure of BoNT complexes	7
1.5. Uptake of BoNT via the gastrointestinal tract	11
1.5.1. Oral toxicities of BoNTs depend on their complex size	11
1.5.2. Structure and function of intestinal tissues	11
1.5.3. Disruption of the intestinal cell barrier by HA proteins	15
1.6. Aim of the study	19
2. MATERIALS AND METHODS	20
2.1. Materials	20
2.1.1. Animals	20
2.1.2. Antibodies	21
2.1.3. Antigens	22
2.1.4. Chemicals and reagents	23
2.1.5. Cell culture additives and media	26
2.1.6. Consumables	27
2.1.7. Devices	28
2.1.8. Kits	28
2.1.9. Software	29
2.2. Cell cultivation	29
2.2.1. Cultivation of myeloma and hybridoma cells	29
2.2.2. Freezing and thawing of cells	29
2.3. Generation of monoclonal antibodies	30
2.3.1. Immunization and titer testing	30
2.3.2. Preparation of myeloma cells	30
2.3.3. Preparation of thymocytes	30
2.3.4. Preparation of splenocytes	31
2.3.5. Hybridoma fusion and seeding	31
2.3.6. Screening of hybridoma clones	32
2.3.7. Subcloning of hybridoma clones	32
2.3.8. Intracellular fluorescent staining and flow cytometry analyses	32
2.3.9. Antibody production and purification	33

Content

2.4. Coupling of monoclonal antibodies	33
2.4.1. Biotinylation of antibodies	33
2.4.2. Coupling of antibodies to paramagnetic Dynabeads®	34
2.4.3. Coupling of antibodies to magnetic xMAP™ microspheres	34
2.5. Immunological Assays	35
2.5.1. Indirect ELISA	35
2.5.2. Sandwich ELISA	35
2.5.3. Bead-based suspension array	36
2.5.4. Enzyme-linked lectin binding assay	36
2.5.5. SDS-PAGE	37
2.5.6. Protein staining in SDS-polyacrylamide gels	38
2.5.7. Western Blotting	38
2.5.8. Immunoprecipitation	39
2.6. Label-free interaction analysis / SPR measurements	39
2.6.1. Ligand immobilization to CM5 sensorchip surface	39
2.6.2. Measurement of binding kinetics	39
2.6.3. Determination of distinct epitope recognition /"Epitope binning"	40
2.7. Isotype determination	40
2.8. Animal experiments	41
2.8.1. Intravenous and oral application	41
2.8.2. Preparation of organs, blood, urine and feces	41
3. RESULTS	42
3.1. Antigen characterization	42
3.2. Immunization of mice and hybridoma generation	44
3.2.1. Immunization and titer tests	44
3.2.2. Hybridoma generation	45
3.3. Isolation of high affinity antibodies recognizing distinct epitopes	46
3.3.1. Preselection of NTNH-specific antibodies by ELISA	46
3.3.2. Preselection of HA-specific antibodies in ELISA	48
3.3.3. Kinetic screening by application of the SPR technique	50
3.3.4. Epitope binning using SPR technique	54
3.4. Characterization of purified monoclonal antibodies	56
3.4.1. Antigen specificities	56
3.4.2. Antigen recognition in Western Blotting	58
3.4.3. Epitope determination of anti-NTNH mAbs	60
3.4.4. Detection of NTNH/A by sandwich ELISA	60
3.4.5. Detection of HA proteins in sandwich ELISAs	62
3.4.6. From individual sandwich ELISAs to a bead-based suspension array	66
3.4.7. Multiplex detection by a bead-based suspension array	67
3.5. <i>In vitro</i> translocation	70
3.5.1. Sandwich ELISAs applied in evaluation of transwell experiments	72
3.5.2. Hemagglutinins affect BoNT/A and NTNH/A translocation	73

Content

3.5.3.	Influence of BoNT/A receptor binding on intestinal translocation	74
3.5.4.	The antigen passage rate depends on the molecule size	76
3.6.	Carbohydrate-binding	79
3.6.1.	<i>In vitro</i> blockage of HA protein sugar binding through mAbs	79
3.6.2.	Modulation of transcytosis of L-PTC/A by anti-HA mAbs	82
3.7.	Stability of L-PTC/A	87
3.7.1.	Stability upon changes in pH value	87
3.7.2.	Stability of BoNT/A complex components in mouse serum	92
3.8.	<i>In vivo</i> intestinal translocation	94
3.8.1.	A sample preparation buffer for complex organ samples	94
3.8.2.	Oral application, sample preparation and evaluation	95
3.8.3.	Recovery of BoNT/A complex proteins from complex mouse samples	97
3.8.4.	Pharmacokinetics of BoNT/A complexes and the NAPs	99
4.	DISCUSSION	104
4.1.	Immunization, serum reactivity and hybridoma cell numbers	104
4.2.	High-affinity mAbs with distinct epitopes on NAPs of BoNT/A	105
4.3.	Serotype specificities	109
4.4.	Application of the antibodies in immunoassays	110
4.5.	Stability of L-PTC/A	111
4.6.	<i>In vitro</i> translocation of BoNT/A and its NAPs	113
4.7.	Contribution of the different HA proteins to carbohydrate binding	118
4.8.	Carbohydrate-binding of HA proteins of BoNT/A	119
4.9.	<i>In vivo</i> investigations on pharmacokinetics of BoNT/A NAPs	121
4.10.	Conclusions and outlook	126
5.	LITERATURE	128
6.	SUPPLEMENT	144
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	157