

# **Neuroprotective effect of minocycline & estrogen after Spinal Cord Injury**

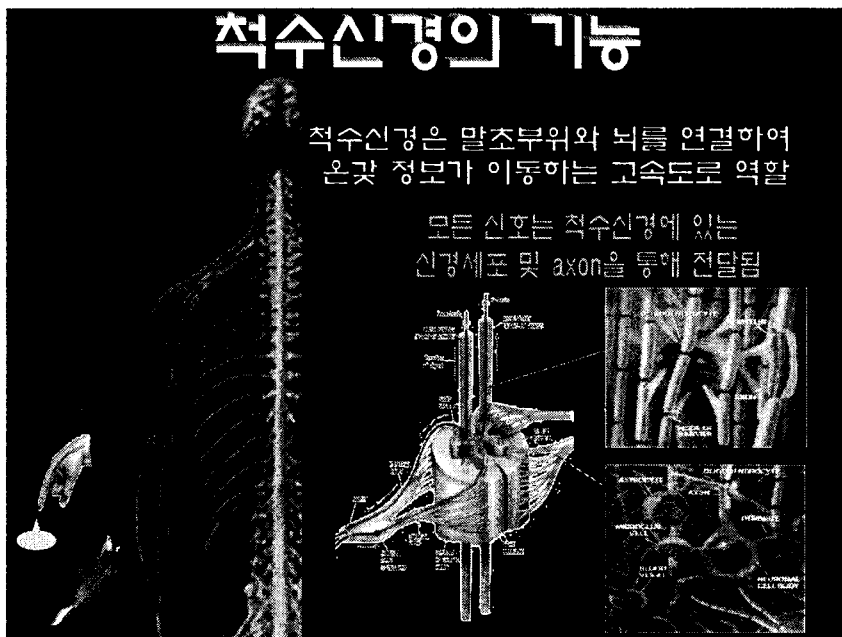
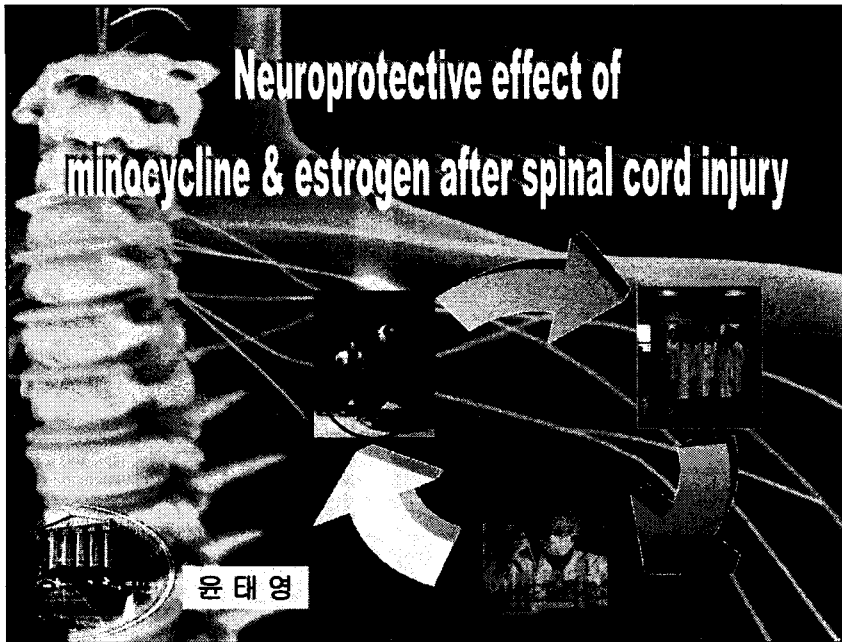
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Traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI) initiates a complex series of cellular and molecular events that induce massive apoptotic cell death leading to permanent neurological deficits in human. However, the external apoptotic death signal(s) generated after SCI has not been identified. Furthermore, there is still no therapeutic agent effective for recovering motor functions after SCI in humans. Only one agent, methylprednisolone (MP), is currently being applied clinically to treat SCI. However, the clinical significance of recovery after MP treatment is unclear and must be considered in the light of potential adverse effects of its high-dose treatment. Although a number of potential pharmacological treatments have been investigated, other therapeutic agents designed to reduce cell death after SCI must be investigated.

Previously we reported that TNF- $\alpha$  is served as an external signal initiating apoptosis in neurons and oligodendrocytes after SCI and the apoptotic cascade initiated by TNF- $\alpha$  may be mediated in part by NO via up-regulation of iNOS induced in response to TNF- $\alpha$ . We also found that anti-inflammatory drug, minocycline and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol was neuroprotective after SCI. Recently we also found that minocycline improves functional recovery after SCI in part by reducing apoptosis of oligodendrocytes via inhibition of proNGF production in microglia. Especially, p38MAPK was only activated in microglia, and minocycline treatment inhibited proNGF production by inhibition p38MAPK activation after SCI. Furthermore, minocycline treatment significantly inhibited p75<sup>NTR</sup> expression and p75<sup>NTR</sup>-mediated apoptosis of oligodendrocytes, leading to inhibition of demyelination and axon degeneration as compared with vehicle control. We also found that 17 $\beta$ -estradiol significantly inhibits oligodendrocyte cell death after SCI. In addition, 17 $\beta$ -estradiol treatment attenuated JNK3 activation at delayed time after injury, which is involved in apoptosis of oligodendrocytes, leading to functional improvement. These data suggest that after SCI, minocycline and/or 17 $\beta$ -

estradiol treatment improved functional recovery in injured rat in part by regulating expression of proNGF, p75NTR or by inhibiting Rho-GTPase, JNK3 activation, which might be involved in apoptotic cell death of oligodendrocytes after SCI. The significance of the proposed research is that it could lead us to therapeutic interventions for preventing cell death thereby improving functional recovery after SCI. This research was supported in part by grants from the Korea MOST Neurobiology Research Program and Seoul City Research Fund (Creation of Geriatric Natural-MediCluster).



# 척수신경의 손상

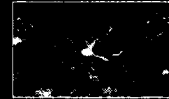
외상에 의한 척수신경 손상



외상



Necrotic cell death

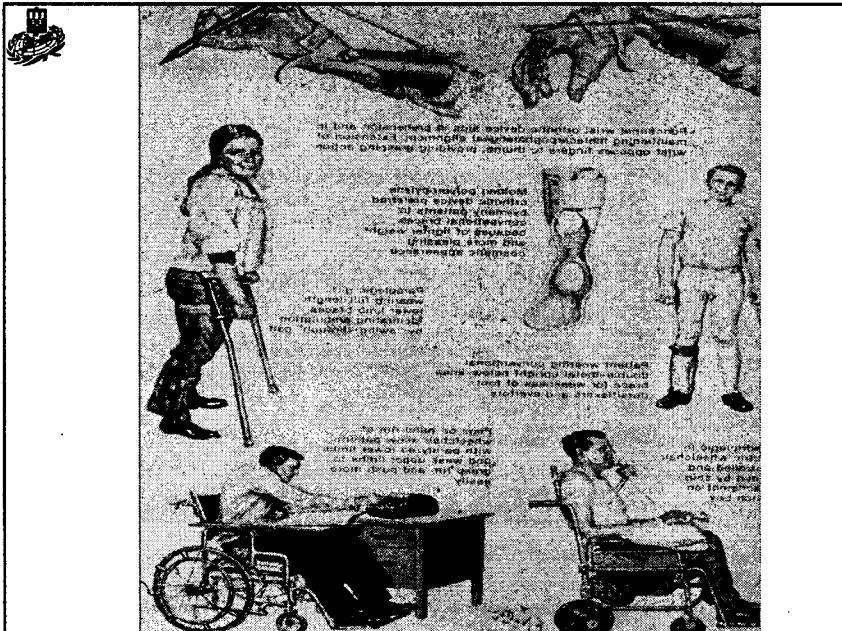


Reactive gliosis



신경세포 및 oligodendrocyte의  
계속적인 세포사멸

영구적인 운동기능 장애



# Pathophysiology of SCI

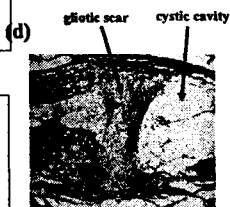
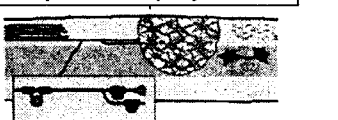
Acute phase : from the impact to the first few days after SCI



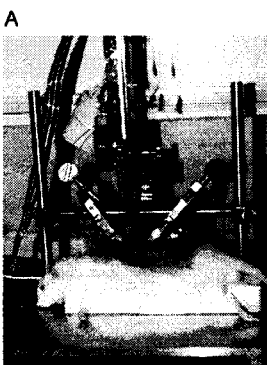
Secondary phase : within minutes to weeks after SCI



(c) Chronic phase : within days to years after SCI



## NYU impactor



Normal

Crushed

# Minocycline

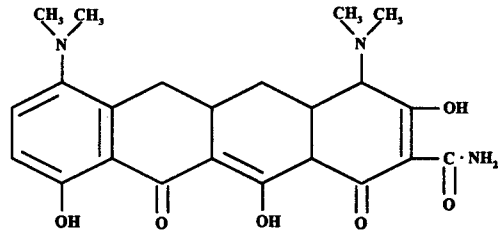


FIG. 2

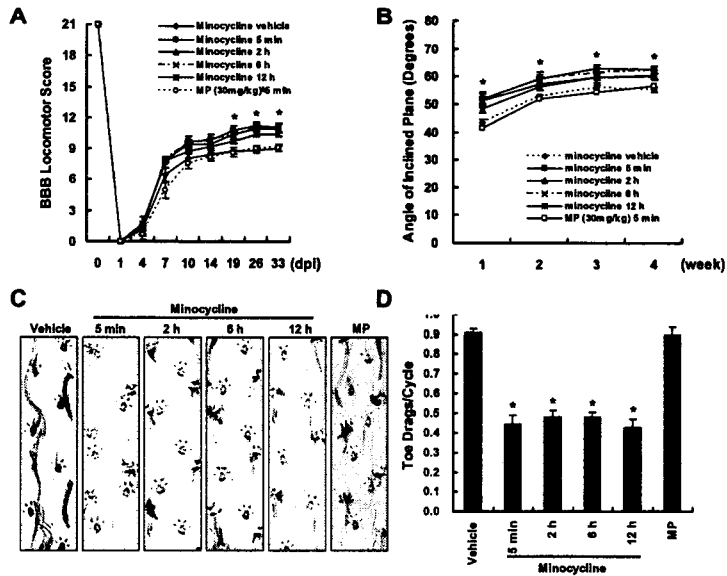
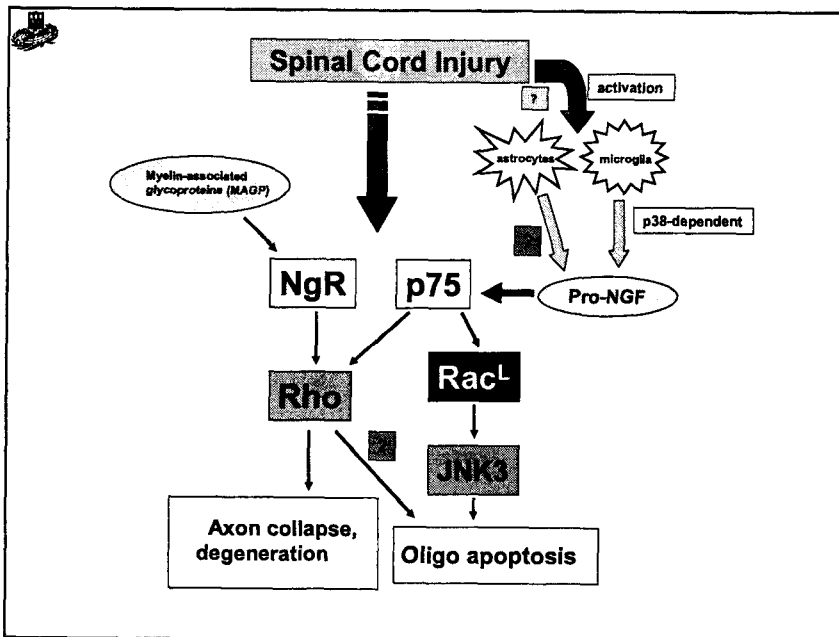
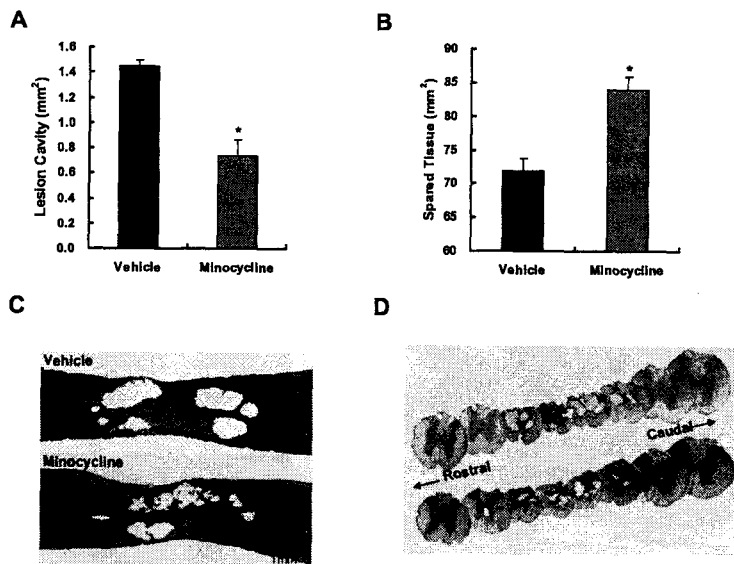
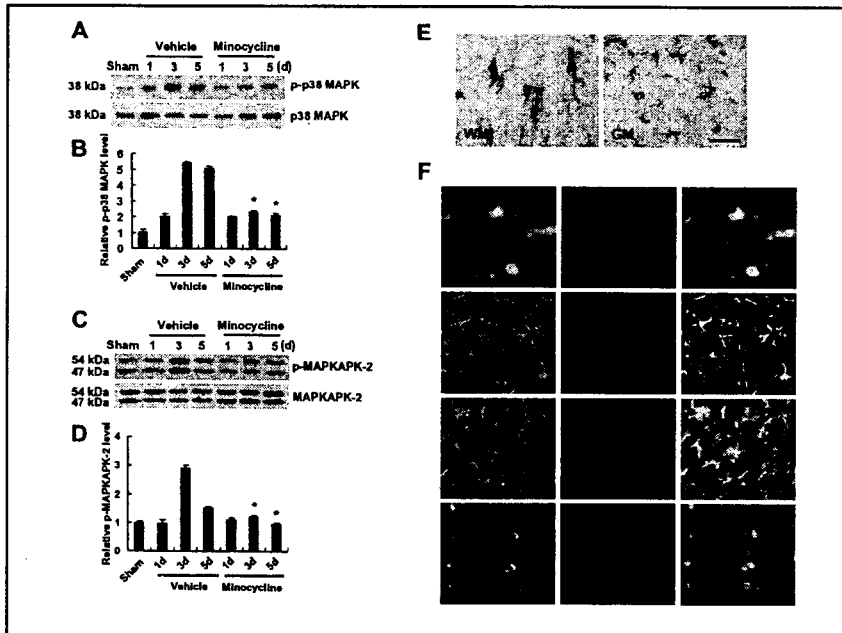
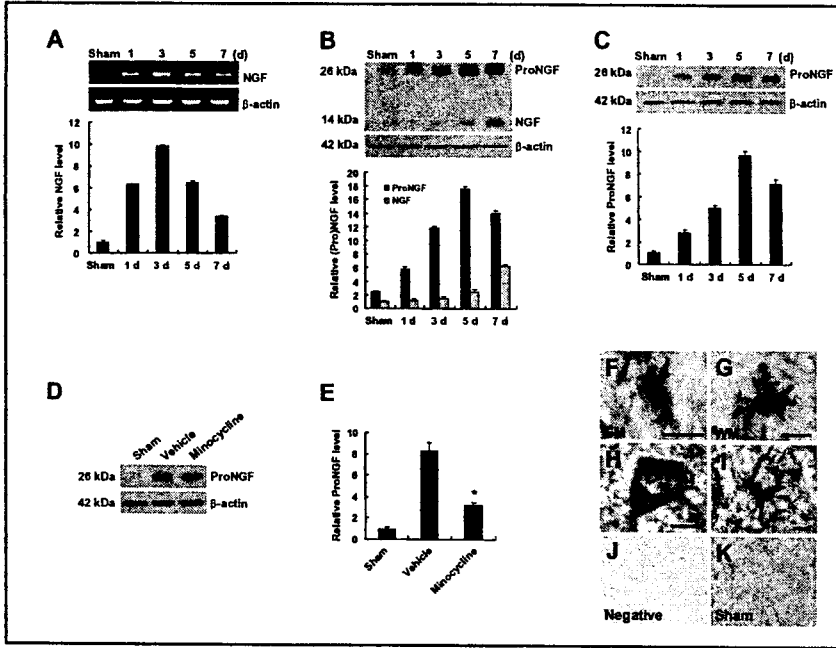
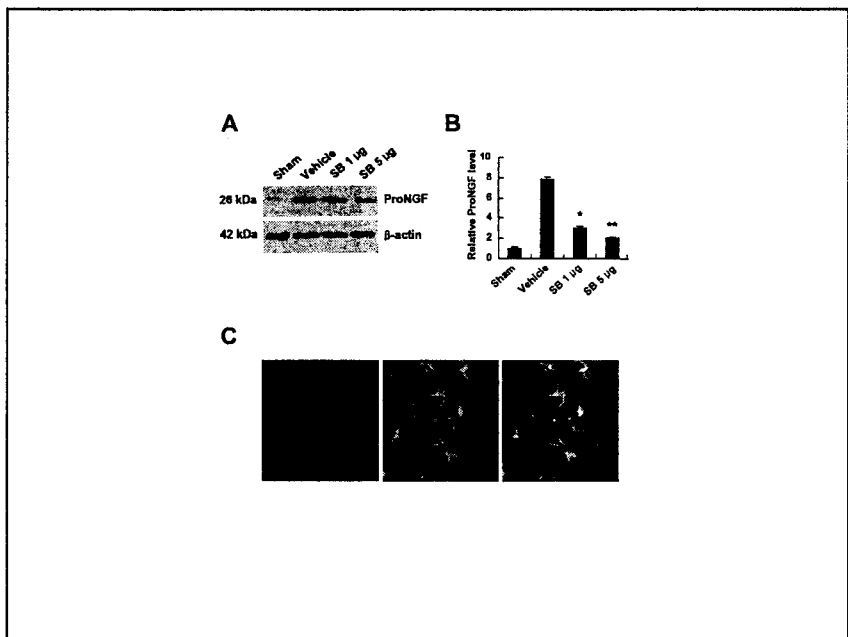
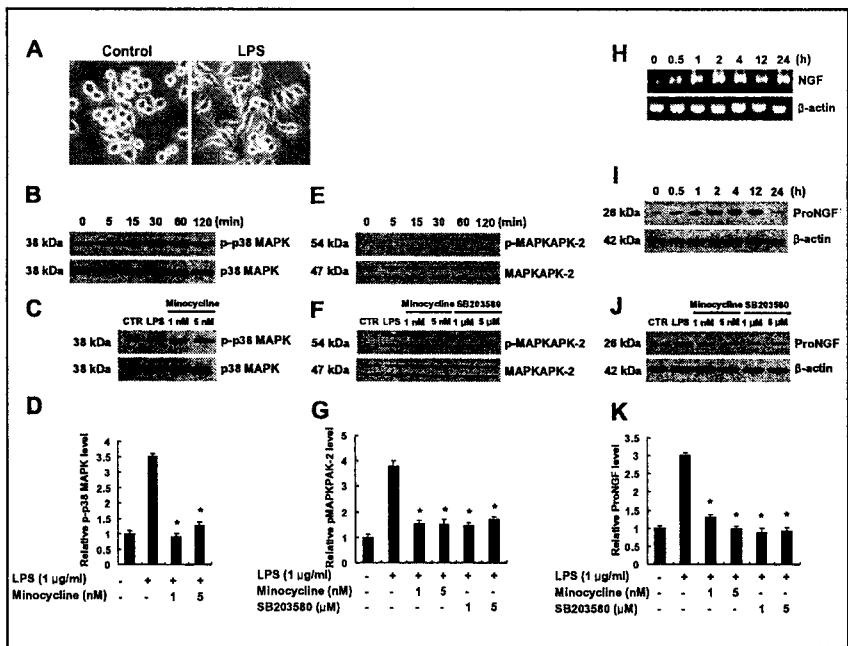


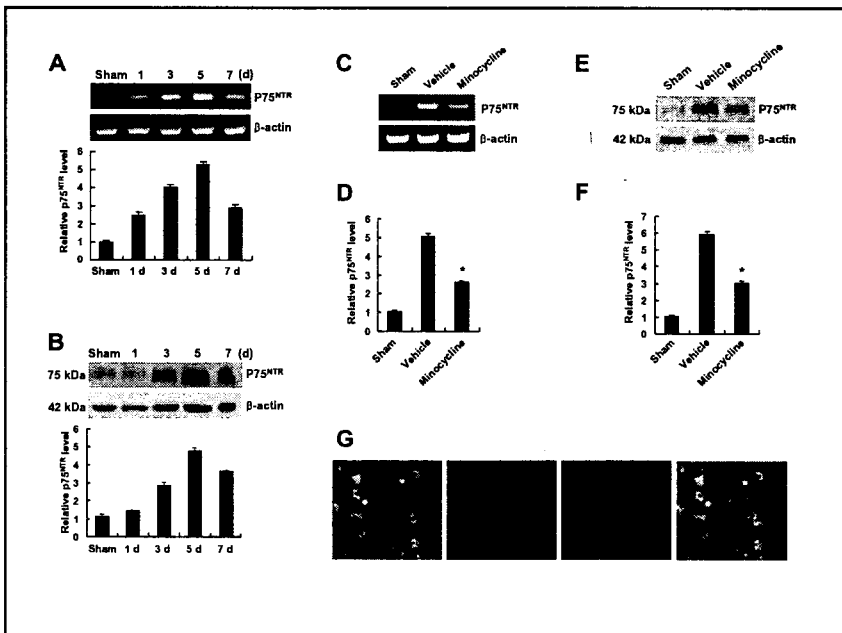
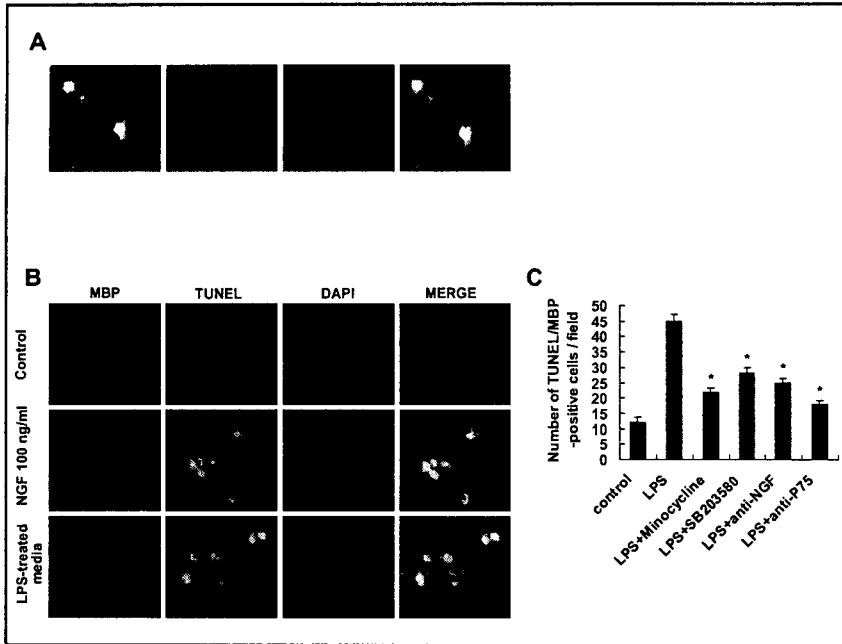
FIG. 3

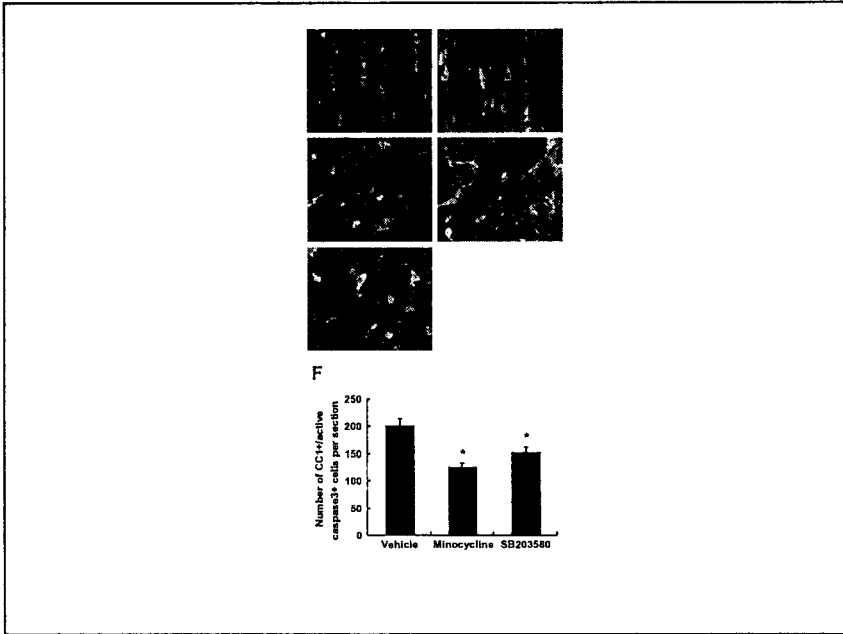
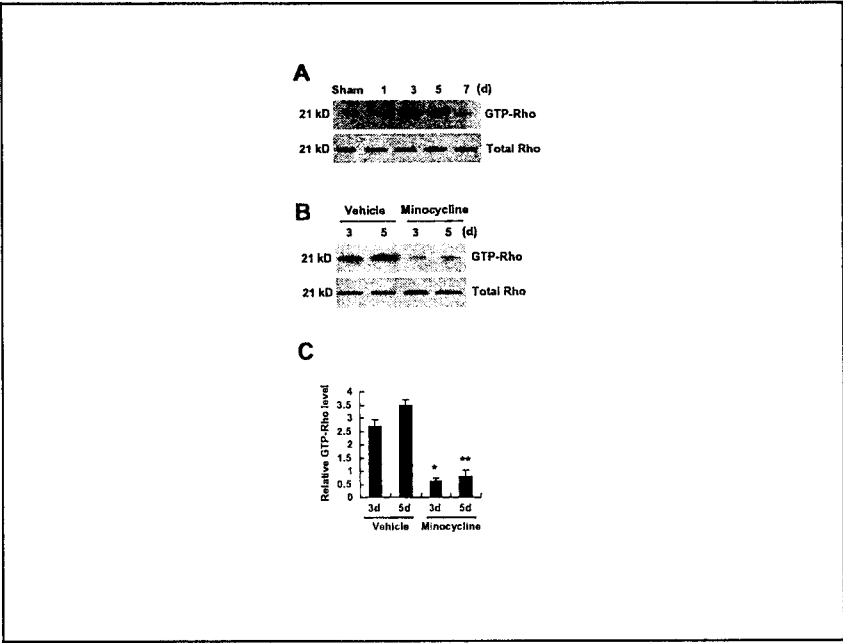


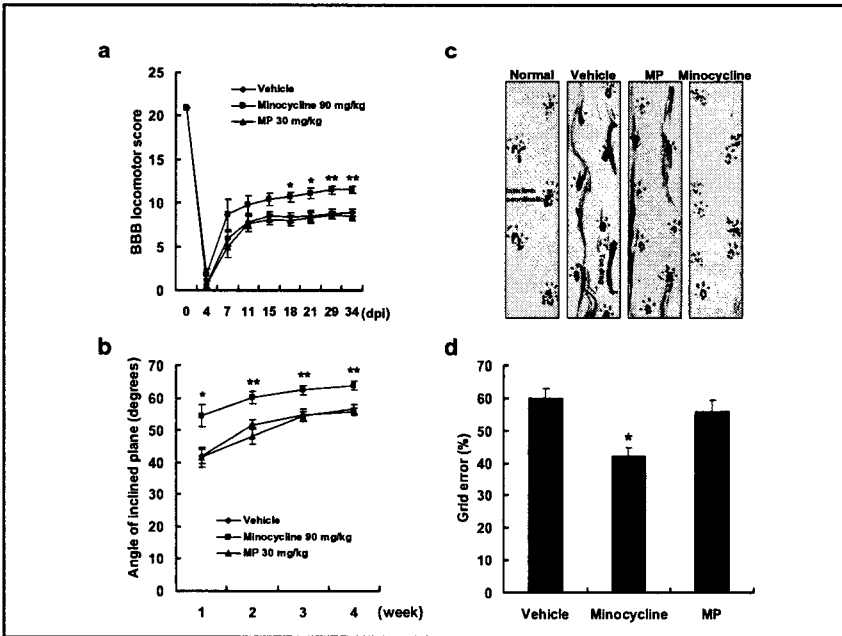
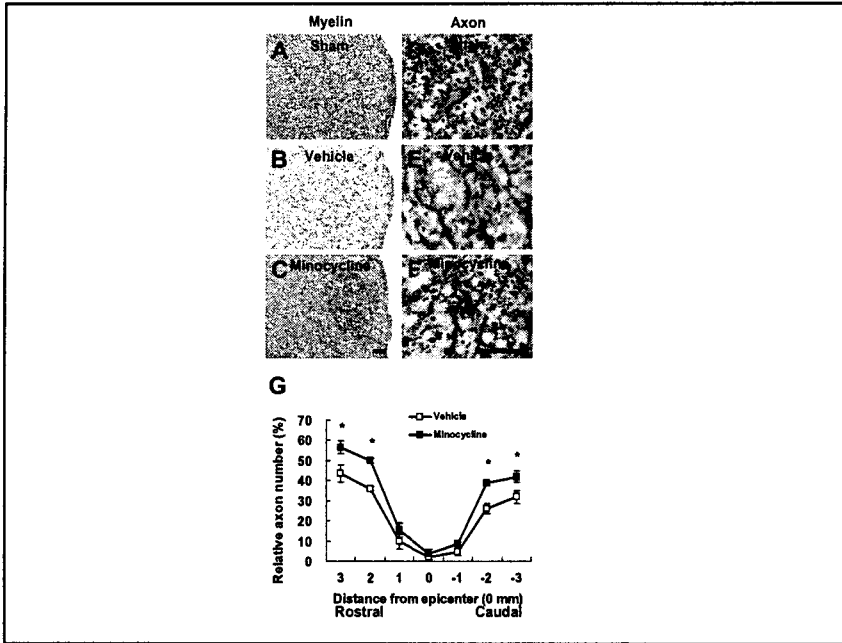




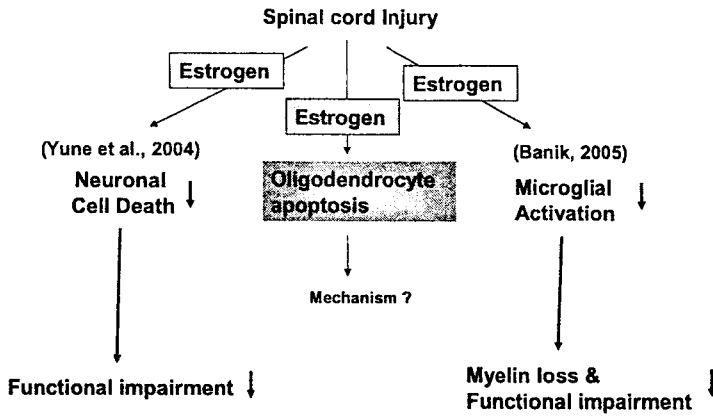




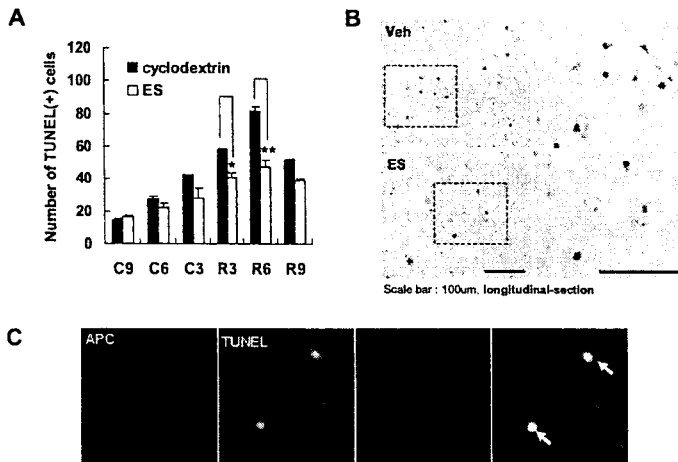




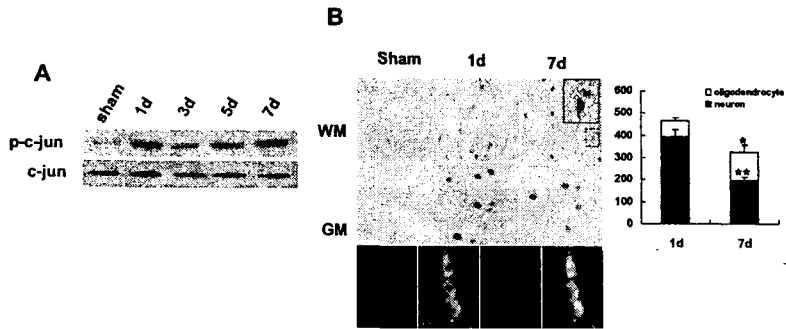
### Estrogen effect on functional recovery after SCI



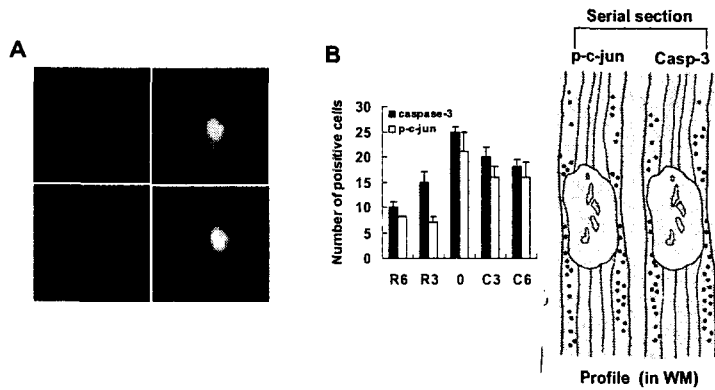
### Estrogen reduces oligodendrocyte apoptosis at 7d after SCI

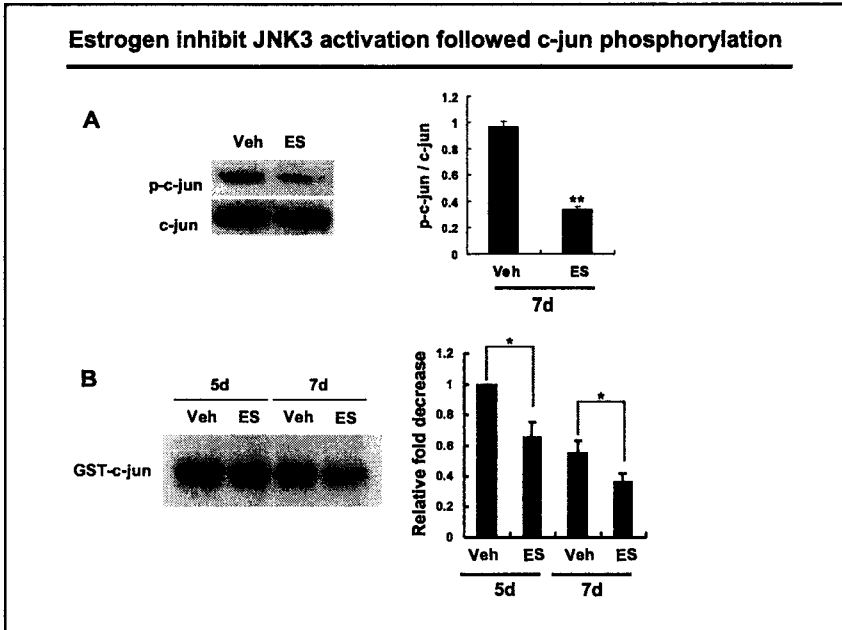
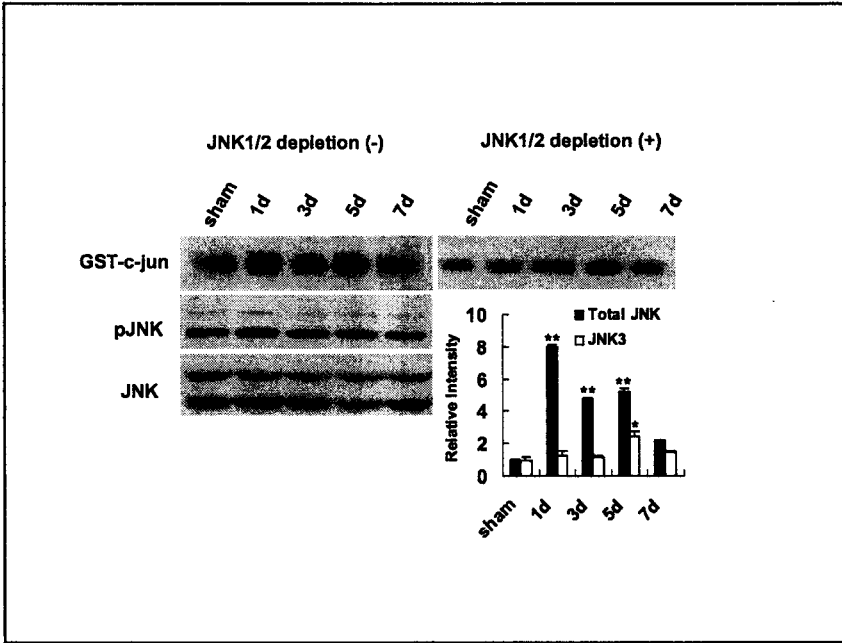


### Delayed increase of c-jun phosphorylation in oligodendrocyte after SCI



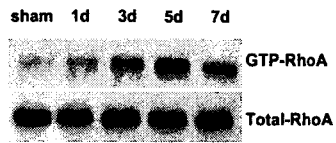
### Phosphorylated c-jun may involved in oligodendrocyte apoptosis



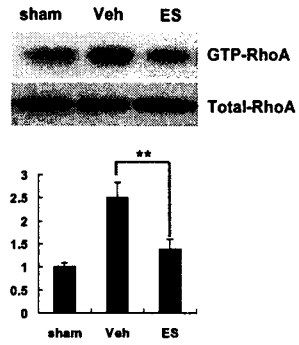


### Estrogen inhibit rhoA activation

**A**



**B**



### Estrogen receptor dependent protection

