

Brain Endothelial Cell Glycocalyx in Enlarged Perivascular Spaces

Subjects: **Cell Biology**

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The brain endothelial cell (BEC) glycocalyx (ecGCx) is a BEC surface coating consisting of a complex interwoven polysaccharide (sweet husk) mesh-like network of membrane-bound proteoglycans, glycoproteins, and glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) covering the apical luminal layer of the brain endothelial cells. The ecGCx may be considered as the first barrier of a tripartite blood–brain barrier (BBB) consisting of (1) ecGCx; (2) BECs; and (3) an extravascular compartment of pericytes, the extracellular matrix, and perivascular astrocytes. Perturbations of this barrier allow for increased permeability in the postcapillary venule that will be permissive to both fluids, solutes, and proinflammatory peripherally derived leukocytes into the perivascular spaces (PVS) which result in enlargement as well as increased neuroinflammation. The ecGCx is known to have multiple functions, which include its physical and charge barrier, mechanical transduction, regulation of vascular permeability, modulation of inflammatory response, and anticoagulation functions.

blood–brain barrier

blood–cerebrospinal fluid barrier

blood–arachnoid barrier

endothelial glycocalyx

enlarged perivascular spaces

metabolic syndrome

neuroinflammation

1. Introduction and Background

The brain endothelial cell (BEC) glycocalyx (ecGCx) is a BEC surface apical coating consisting of a complex polysaccharide (sweet husk) gel, a mesh-like network of membrane-bound proteoglycans, glycoproteins, and glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) covering the apical luminal surface of the BECs. Importantly, the ecGCx may be considered as a gatekeeper of BECs since it is important in maintaining physiological and homeostasis functions, which include the prevention of vascular permeability, inflammation, blood coagulation, and promoting the synthesis of the vasculoprotective nitric oxide (NO) via its mechano-sensing and transduction capabilities [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#).

The brain endothelial cells have been examined as central players in the development of EPVS and as a result, this also places the ecGCx at a critical point in the development of EPVS [\[4\]](#). The ecGCx is known to have multiple actions/functions including its physical and charge barrier, mechanical transduction, regulation of vascular permeability, modulation of inflammatory response, and anticoagulation functions [\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#). The ecGCx plays a critical role and is also a critical component of the extended neurovascular unit that not only influences the structure and function of the BBB but also performs multiple physiological functions including maintaining normal neuronal homeostasis [\[7\]](#). The first line of defense or barrier property against BEC injury is the ecGCx which performs a vital and critical role in maintaining brain homeostasis against BEC injury. When there is an attenuation, loss, or a

discontinuous ecGCx of the NVU, the BBB will undergo disruption and allow increased NVU permeability. Interruption of the first barrier of the tripartite barrier (consisting of (1) ecGCx; (2) BECs; (3) extravascular compartment will allow for increased permeability in the postcapillary venule that will be permissive to both fluids and proinflammatory peripherally derived leukocytes in the perivascular space (PVS), resulting in enlargement as well as increased neuroinflammation (Figure 1) [7][8][9][10].

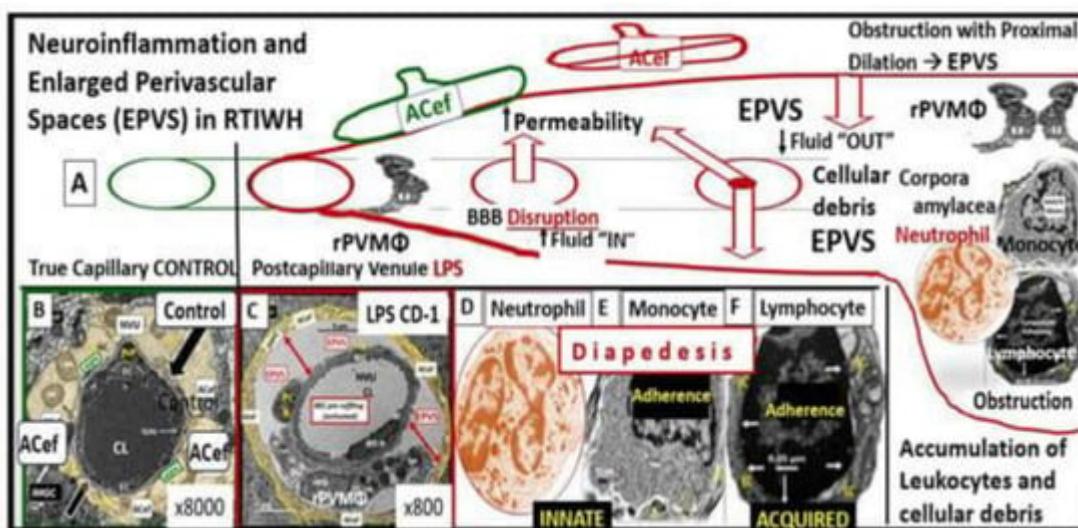
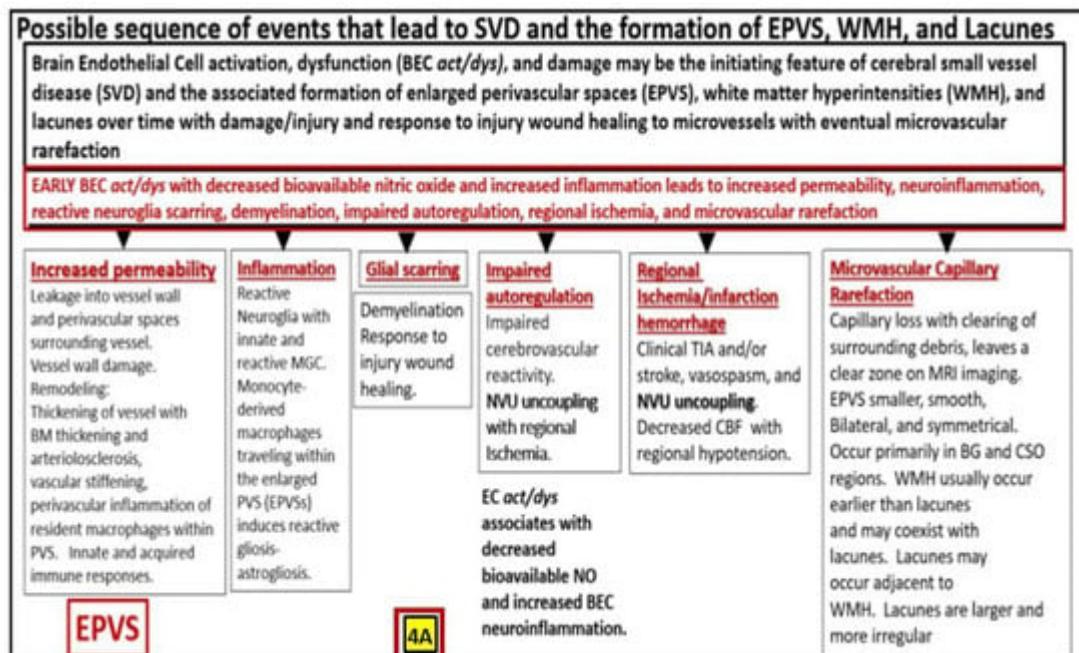


Figure 1. Perturbation of the endothelial glycocalyx results in brain injury to the brain endothelial cells (BECs) with activation of the response to injury wound healing mechanism that results in remodeling, neuroinflammation, and enlarged perivascular spaces (EPVSs). Panel (A) depicts the natural progression of the perivascular space (PVS) as it undergoes transformation or remodeling to an EPVS (outlined in red) in a linear fashion from the left- to right-hand side of this image (outlined in red). Panel (B) depicts transmission electron microscopic (TEM) images of a true capillary without a pia mater lining or PVS in a healthy control 20-week-old female model. Panel (C) depicts an EPVS that contains a resident, reactive, and migratory perivascular macrophage (rPVMΦ) obtained from a 7-week-old female lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-treated model. Panels (D–F) depict labeled leukocytes that undergo diapedesis across the disrupted BBB neurovascular unit (NVU) brain endothelial cells (BECs), which enter the newly remodeled EPVSs that interact with the rPVMΦs. These leukocytes that have entered the PVSs are capable of generating excessive phagocytic cellular debris due to reactive oxygen species and proteases generated by reactive leukocytes. Further, this increase in reactive leukocytes and rPVMΦs along with their excessive cellular debris result in obstruction of the PVS, which result in the dilation of the PVS proximal to the obstruction, creating the EPVS as observed on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), such as those that occur in the basal ganglia and centrum semiovale structures in the white matter, and post-capillary venules that are important in the efflux of waste materials to the cerebrospinal fluid in cerebral small vessel disease and neurodegenerative diseases. Panels (A–F) depict the two-step process to neuroinflammation, while panel (A) only depicts step one comprised of leukocyte transmigration from the disrupted blood–brain barrier (BBB) into the PVS of a two-step process. Step two is known to allow for the incorporation of the generated reactive oxygen species and matrix metalloproteinases (MMP2, MMP9) from reactive leukocytes, which are capable of digesting the glia limitans basement membrane barrier of the outermost boundary of the EPVS created by the lining perivascular astrocytes. Subsequently this will

allow for the transmigration of leukocytes from the EPVS to enter the interstitial spaces of the parenchymal neurons to complete the neuroinflammation remodeling mechanism that is present in obesity, metabolic syndrome, and type 2 diabetes mellitus. This image has been modified with permission from CC 4.0 [10]. ACef = astrocyte endfeet; CL = capillary lumen; EPVS = enlarged perivascular space; rPVMΦ = resident perivascular macrophage.

EPVS are thought to have numerous causes from multiple mechanisms including: (1) Increased fluid and neurotoxic proteins that enter the PVS due to BBB dysfunction/disruption as a result of increased permeability. (2) Increased fluid inflow into the PVS due to increased BBB permeability as a result of BBB disruption and concurrent astrocyte endfeet (ACef) dysfunction, detachment, separation, and aquaporin-4 dysfunction with decreased water uptake allowing for the accumulation of water in the PVS. (3) The stalling or obstruction of impaired glymphatic efflux of the PVS conduit due to inflammation as a result of the accumulation of excess leukocytes with phagocytosis and the accumulation of excessive phagocytic debris and oxidative stress, in addition to the activation of increased matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) that result in stagnation, stalling, and/or varying degrees of PVS conduit glymphatic system obstruction of the waste removal mechanisms. (4) Microvascular arteriole or venule vascular stiffening and/or aberrant spiraling of arterioles that are associated with decreased vascular pulsatility, which result in decreased fluid flow within the PVS, which contributes to PVS enlargement (mechanisms [1][2][3][11] that were discussed in **Figure 1** and its legend previously). Or (5) neuronal atrophy or apoptosis surrounding neurons or their axons [10][12][13][14][15][16][17][18][19][20]. Notably, EPVS do not develop all at once, but are thought to be associated with a sequence of events and exist as in an evolutionary spectrum, such that they develop gradually to result in SVD, neuroinflammation, impaired cognition, and neurodegeneration (**Figure 2A,B**) [10][12][20].



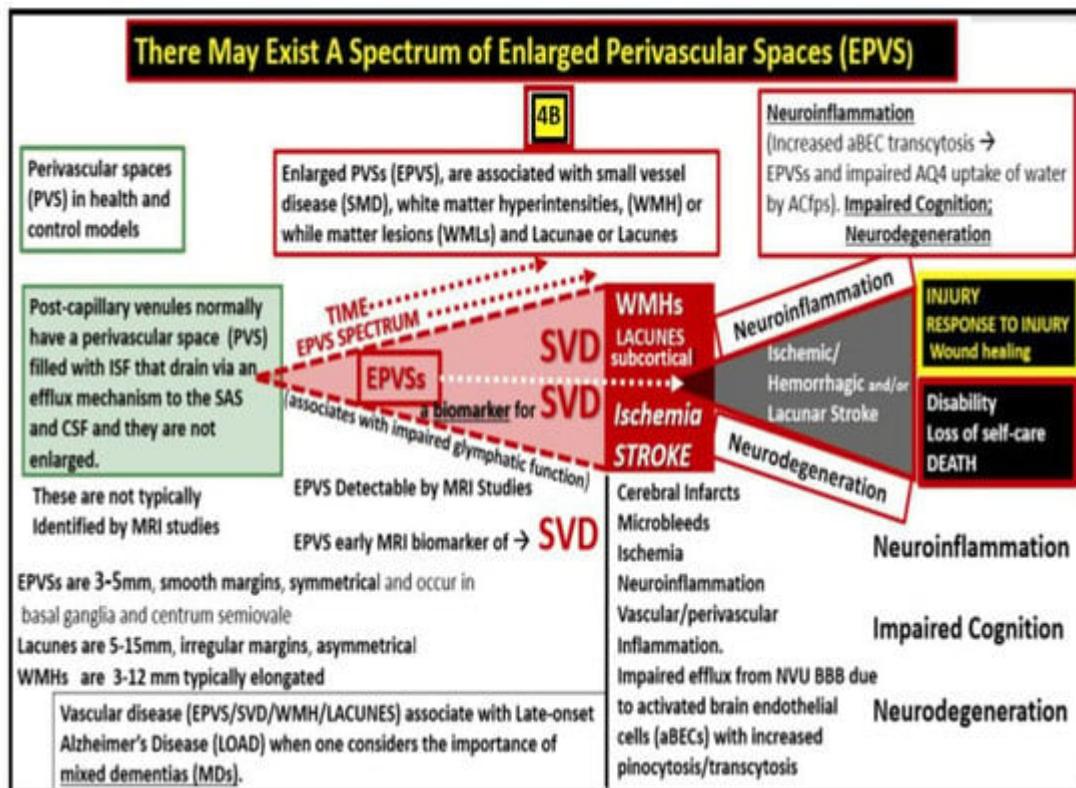


Figure 2. A likely sequence of events and an ongoing spectrum of development for enlarged perivascular spaces (EPVS). Brain endothelial cell activation, dysfunction, and damage may be the initiating factor in this sequence of events in figure four, while attenuation and/or loss of the endothelial glycocalyx may be concurrent or even precede it. Also, there exists a sequence of remodeling changes and events in figure four crucial in the development of EPVS, white matter hyperintensities, lacunes and small vessel disease. Images provided with permission from CC 4.0 [10][12][20]. ACfp = astrocyte endfeet; BBB = blood–brain barrier; BEC = brain endothelial cell; BEC act/dys = brain endothelial cell activation and dysfunction; BG = basal ganglia; BM = basement membrane; CBF = cerebral blood flow; CSF = cerebrospinal fluid; CSO = centrum semiovale; ISF = interstitial fluid; LOAD = late-onset Alzheimer's disease; MGC = microglia cell; mm = micrometer; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging; NO = nitric oxide; NVU = neurovascular unit; PVS = perivascular spaces; spaces; SAS = subarachnoid space; TIA = transient ischemic attack. WMH = white matter hyperintensities.

EPVS are recognized as important aberrant structural remodeling changes in various neuropathologies and are currently known as biomarkers for cerebral small vessel disease (SVD) in addition to vascular dementia (VaD). Additionally, SVD and VAD are known to be associated with lacunar stroke and white matter hyperintensities (WMH) [12][14][15][16][17][18][21]. Notably, EPVS are associated with hypertension, advancing age, intracerebral hemorrhages, microbleeds, lacunes, cerebrocardiovascular diseases, transient ischemic episodes and stroke, SVD, cerebral autosomal dominant arteriopathy with subcortical infarcts and leukoencephalopathy (CADISIL), cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), metabolic syndrome (MetS), obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), WMH, sporadic Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, and non-age-related multiple sclerosis [12][13][14][15][16][18][19][21][22][23][24][25][26][27].

2. The Endothelial Glycocalyx (ecGCx) Structure

The ecGCx is a nanosized structure making it difficult to study with light microscopy. Only recently has lanthanum nitrate become more widely available to allow for TEM studies to supplement Lufts' earlier work with ruthenium red to stain the ecGCx utilizing TEM in 1966 [11]. Most recently, the author and Ando et al. [8][28][29] have shown that LAN staining and studies are both reliable and reproducible due to their strong electrostatic attraction as in **Figure 3**. Notably, the obese, insulin-resistant, and diabetic DTBR *ob/ob* female mouse model at 20 weeks of age revealed that the NVU BECs had an attenuation, loss, and/or became discontinuous with LAN perfusion fixation and staining (**Figure 4**) [8].

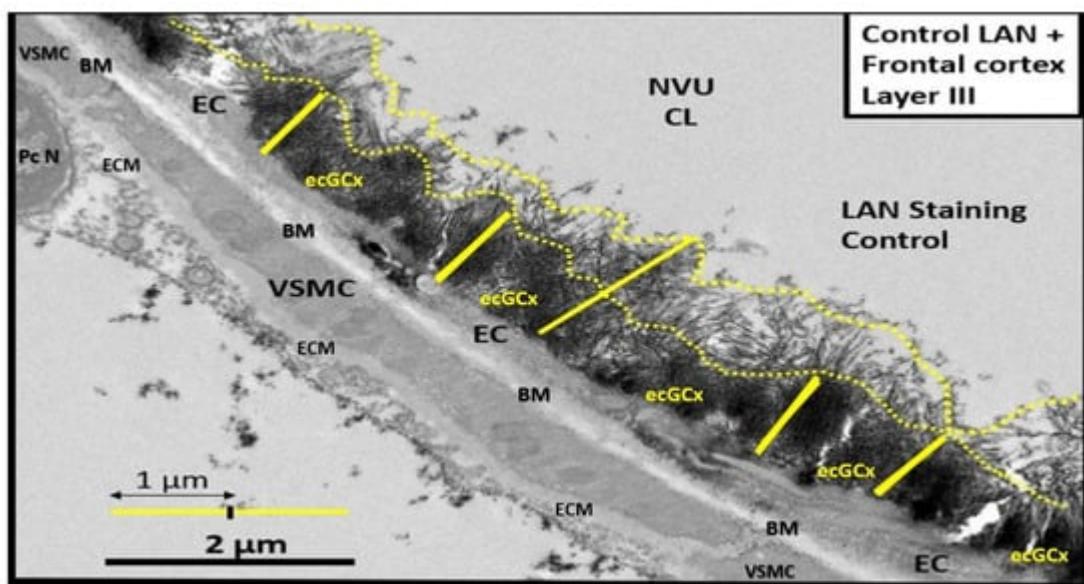


Figure 3. Transmission electron microscope (TEM) image of the brain endothelial cell glycocalyx (ecGCx) from a lanthanum nitrate (LAN)-stained postcapillary venule cortical layer, compared to the more dense staining of the ecGCx base core. The image displays how these apical projections can readily interact with proteins of the circulating plasma, proteins such as albumin, fibrinogen, and soluble PGNs that are capable of contributing to the repair of the ecGCx should it be damaged along with EC-synthesized reparative molecules. Also, note the unique brain endothelial cell (EC), which contains the tight and adherens junctions of the neurovascular unit (NVU). The blood–brain barrier (BBB) is covered by both an apical extracellular matrix (ECM) glycocalyx and basal ECM that forms the basement membrane–basal laminae (BM). Image obtained from previously published male CD-1, LPS treated, and LAN-perfused experiment [28]. Scale bar = 2 μm. CL = capillary lumen; EC = brain endothelial cell; P_cN = pericyte nucleus; VSMC = vascular smooth muscle cell.

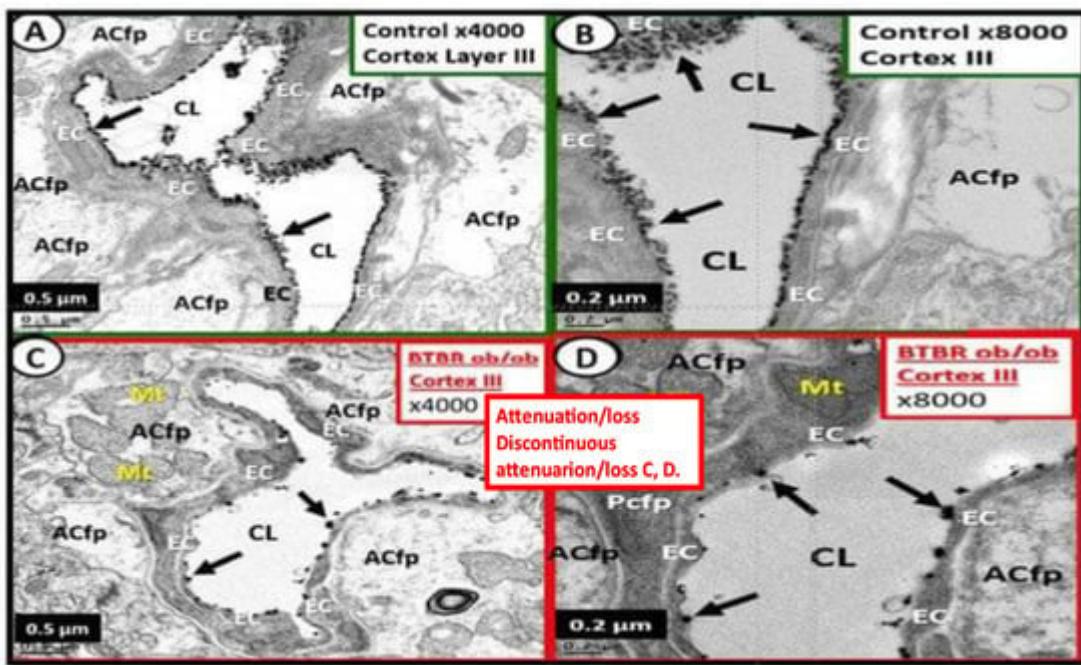


Figure 4. These electron micrographs depict the attenuation, loss, or discontinuous brain endothelial cell glycocalyx (ecGCx) in lanthanum nitrate-stained, obese, insulin-resistant, diabetic BTBR *ob/ob* at 20 weeks of age in female mouse models. Panels (A,B) are from the normal control model (heterozygous BTBR *ob/ob*) and demonstrated the normal lanthanum staining of the ecGCx and note the continuous electron-dense nature of this surface coating layer with lanthanum. Panels (C,D) depict the small black discontinuous dots (clumping) and attenuation in contrast to the continuous ecGCx in control models. These remodeling changes would contribute to increased permeability at the NVU BBB to allow the passage of fluid and inflammatory leukocytes into the perivascular spaces to result in enlargement. Thus, these findings rendered the BBB disrupted due to perturbations of its ecGCx. Reproduction of this modified image is permitted by CC 4.0 [28].

Additionally, the following representative image is from a male LPS-treated male CD-1 mouse model at seven weeks of age (**Figure 5**) [28].

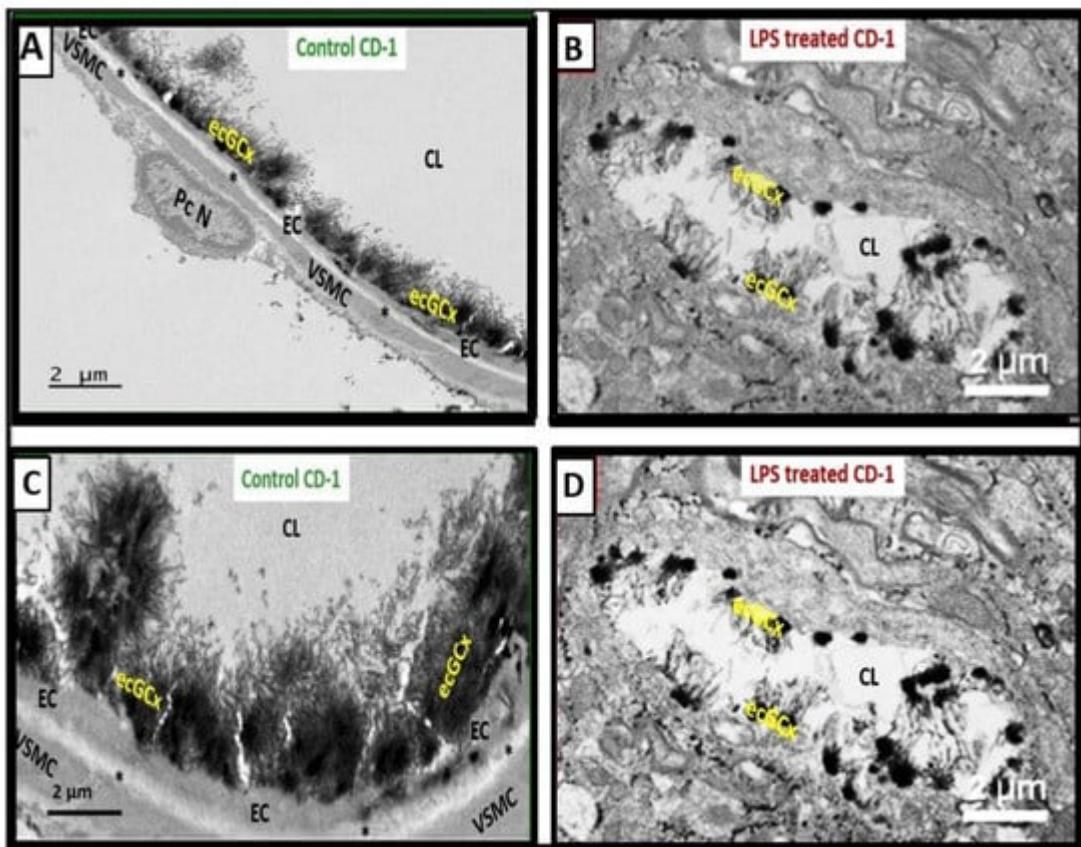


Figure 5. Attenuation, loss, or discontinuous brain endothelial cell glycocalyx (ecGCx) in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-treated non-diabetic male CD-1 model at seven weeks of age with lanthanum nitrite (LAN) staining. Panels (A,C) demonstrate the normal electron-dense LAN staining of the ecGCx in control non-LPS treated, LAN-perfused mice. Panels (B,D) treated with LPS depict the attenuation, loss, or discontinuous ecGCx, which would allow for neurovascular unit (NVU) blood–brain barrier (BBB) disruption with increased permeability to fluids, cytokines and chemokines, cells, and in particular inflammatory leukocytes. These could then pass into the postcapillary venular perivascular spaces (PVS) in obese, insulin-resistant, diabetic BTBR ob/ob mice at 20 weeks of age. Notably the increased fluid and proinflammatory cellular entry could enlarge the PVS to the point of enlargement and sustain this enlargement. Note that LAN staining interferes with normal staining of the surrounding membranes in some images. These representative images have not been previously published but were from the experimental study [28]. Scale bars = 2 μ m. Asterisk = basement membrane of brain endothelial cell; CL = capillary lumen; EC = brain endothelial cell; PCN = pericyte nucleus; VSMC = vascular smooth muscle cell.

3. ecGCx Acts as a Physical Barrier

The ecGCx is a molecular sieve with extensive interlacing of its constituent molecules (Figure 6), which limits the exposure of multiple proteins including adhesion molecules such as intercellular adhesion molecule-1/vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1/VCAM-1), von Willebrand factor, antithrombin, tissue factor pathway inhibitors, NO synthase, and extracellular superoxide dismutase [30]. In addition, the ecGCx excludes leukocytes, erythrocytes,

plasma cells and platelets such that they cannot easily penetrate the ecGCx [5][6][30]. Subsequently, a complete and stable ecGCx inhibits the interaction not only between molecules but also cells.

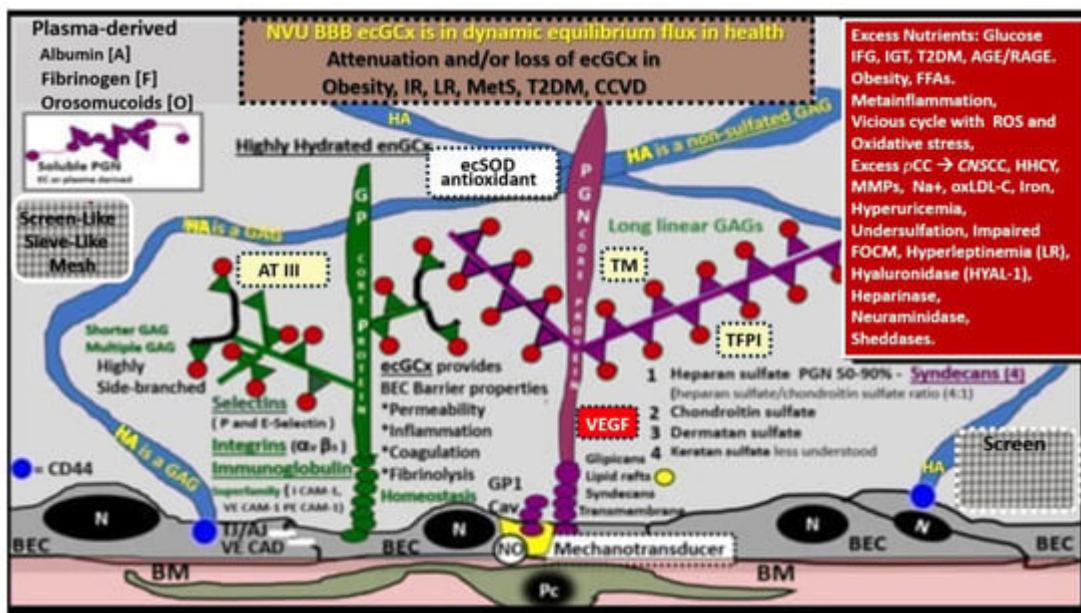


Figure 6. Structural components of the brain endothelial cell (BEC) glycocalyx (ecGCx) of the neurovascular unit (NVU) blood–brain barrier (BBB). This image depicts the individual components of the ecGCx, which is a unique apical BEC extracellular matrix. The ecGCx contains two classes of proteins that are primarily anchored, proteoglycan(s) (PGN) (of purple coloration) and glycoprotein(s) (GP) (of green coloration), and the glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) of hyaluronic acid (HA) hyaluronan (exceedingly long polymers up to micrometers in length and up to 40–60,000 kDa that are composed of uronic acid and hexosamine disaccharides (blue coloration). HA may be either free-floating (unattached), or attached to the CD44 cell BEC basilar plasma membrane, or form complexes of HA-HA. Non-sulfated HAs that are not anchored to the BECs may also reversibly interact at the lumen with plasma-derived albumin, fibrinogen, orosomucoids, and soluble PGNs [30][31]. The PGNs and GPs' side chains consist of glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) covalently bound to core proteins that are highly sulfated (red dots) that contribute heavily to the net negative electrostatic charge of the ecGCx [30][32]. The two primary PGNs are syndecans and glypicans (purple). Glycoproteins (green) consist primarily of selectins (P and E), integrins (beta 3 and alpha v), and the immunoglobulin superfamily of ICAM-1, VE-CAM, and PE CAM. The BEC plasma membrane is where caveolar lipid rafts are located and contains CD44, which anchors hyaluronic acid (HA), and glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI), that anchors glyican-1. Importantly, the GPI/glycan-1 interaction is thought to be responsible for mechanotransduction, which allows activation of endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) to synthesize vasculoprotective bioavailable nitric oxide (NO) via the calcium-calmodulin-dependent Caveolin-1 (Cav-1) protein. The soluble components of the ecGCx that are also important in the preservation of the important net negative electrostatic charge selectivity (orosomucoids and albumin) are derived from the bloodstream [30][32][33]. Note the upper right red box, which contains multiple factors that are known to be responsible for the perturbation of the ecGCx. Also, orosomucoids and the highly sulfated residues (red dots) are primarily responsible for the net negative charge of the ecGCx [30][33]. Importantly, note the insertion of the mesh-like screen images, which give the ecGCx its sieving-like properties, that are placed to the left- and right-hand side of HA (blue). This illustration is not

to scale. Images are modified with permission from CC 4.0 [8][9]. AGE/RAGE = advanced glycation end-products and its receptor; aMt = aberrant mitochondria; ATIII = antithrombin III; CD44 = cluster of differentiation 44; CNS CC = central nervous system cytokines/chemokines; ecSOD = extracellular superoxide dismutase; FFAs = saturated free fatty acids; FOCM = folate-mediated one-carbon metabolism; HHCY = hyperhomocysteinemia; IFG = impaired fasting glucose; IGT = impaired glucose tolerance; IR = insulin resistance; LR = leptin resistance; ox-LDL-C = oxidized low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol; MMPs = matrix metalloproteinases; mtROS = mitochondrial reactive oxygen species; Na⁺ = sodium; N = nucleus; PCC = peripheral cytokine/chemokines; RAGE = receptor for AGE; RONSS = reactive oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur species; ROS = reactive oxygen species; RSI = reactive species interactome; T2DM = type 2 diabetes mellitus; TFPI = tissue factor pathway inhibitor; TJ/AJ = tight and adherens junctions; TM = thrombomodulin;; VE CAD = vascular endothelial cadherin.

4. The ecGCx Acts as an Electrostatic Charge Barrier

The high sulfation of the GAGs within the ecGCx, orosomucoids, and albumin interact to create a net negative electrostatic charge and allow for the electrostatic repulsion of negatively charged molecules, while promoting the facilitation of positively charged molecules due to electrostatic charge repulsion and absorption (Figure 3 and Figure 6) [30][34][35][36].

5. The ecGCx as a Mechanosensor

Blood pressure and shear stress affect the ecGCx and are capable of inducing changes within the BECs to affect its cytoskeleton and result in increased eNOS and bioavailable NO synthesis to cause vasodilation and increase flow corresponding to increased pressure and shear stress [37]. This is thought to be largely due the interaction with glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI), which anchors glypcan-1 to allow for the activation of endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) to synthesize bioavailable NO via the calcium-calmodulin-dependent caveolin-1(CAV-1) protein [5][8][9][35][37]. Notably, vascular permeability is modified by the molecular size, structure, and especially the electrostatic charge of the ecGCx [5][35][37][38].

6. The ecGCx as a Regulator of Permeability

Paracellular tight and adherens junctions (TJ/AJs) remain the main proteins involved in the control of NVU BEC permeability; however, in the past decade the ecGCx has also been recognized as a key regulator of permeability [7]. Previous observations have suggested that the main osmotic pressure gradient opposite to fluid filtration begins with ecGCx, but the effect of the interstitial protein concentration was small [39]. Importantly, the ecGCx is now considered to be the first barrier of a three-part BBB with the BEC as the second barrier and the abluminal BEC BM and ACef (considered the extravascular compartment) as its third barrier [7]. Thus, the ecGCx is a major permeability barrier of BECs [38][39][40].

7. The ecGCx as a Regulator of Inflammation

The ecGCx heparan sulfate proteoglycans (HSPGs) are known to serve as a ligand for certain selectins and chemokines and play an important role in the turnover of leukocytes at the postcapillary venules [41]. Chronically excessive peripherally derived cytokines and chemokines and their dysregulation are a central feature in the development of neuroinflammation, neurodegeneration, and impaired cognition [8]. Since excessive cytokines/chemokines eventually result in ecGCx attenuation and/or shedding this protective effect will be lost such that inflammation begets inflammation and a vicious cycle will ensue and herein lies the problem in obesity, MetS, and T2DM. Additionally, the ecGCx is able to (1) shield BECs from integrins and other molecules that stimulate the binding of proinflammatory leukocytes to the endothelial plasma membrane surface coat as well as interfering with antigen presentation and T cell activation; (2) create a regional chemokine gradient that favors leukocyte activation; (3) regulate the activity of chemokines, cytokines, and growth factors by protecting them from enzymatic degradation [5].

8. The ecGCx as an Anticoagulant

The ecGCx physical barrier prevents the blood cells and endothelium from coming into direct contact and thus avoids coagulation [30]. The ecGCx is a significant physiological binding site for anticoagulant factors, the tissue factor pathway inhibitor (TFPI), and antithrombin III (AT III) [30][42]. Furthermore, antithrombin III combines with HSPGs to enhance its anticoagulant effect and thrombomodulin can bind to chondroitin sulfate that converts thrombin into an activator of the protein C pathway to strengthen the anticoagulant pathway [30]. The tissue pathway inhibits FVIIa (Hageman factor) and FXa (xabans) and interacts with HSPGs and the ecGCx [30][43]. Additionally, TFPI is a Kunitz-type protease inhibitor that inhibits the initial reactions of blood coagulation which resides in the ecGCx and forms a major pool of TFPI [44].

9. The Importance of the Brain Barriers/Interfaces

In addition to the BBB there are two other important barriers that should be discussed, namely the blood–cerebrospinal fluid barrier (B-CSFB) and the meningeal arachnoid barrier, which is also a B-CSFB barrier (Figure 7) [45][46][47][48].

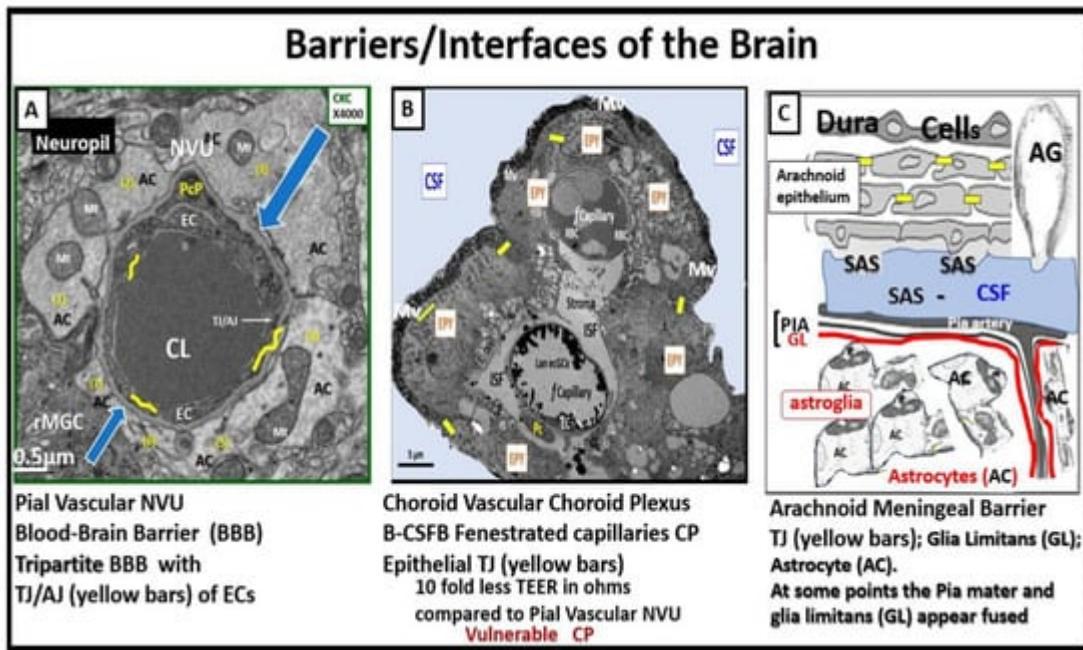


Figure 7. Three barriers/interfaces of the brain. Panel (A) demonstrates a transmission electron microscopic (TEM) image of a control healthy pia artery-derived blood–brain barrier (BBB) from the female C57B6 J model at 20 weeks of age. Note that tight and adherens junctions (TJ/AJ) are pseudo-colored with yellow lines, and blue open arrows point to the basement membrane. Panel (B) depicts a choroid artery-derived TEM image of a lanthanum nitrite (LAN)-perfused fixed staining of an LPS-treated male CD-1 model of the blood-cerebrospinal fluid barrier (B-CSFB) at 7 weeks of age and note the positive intense electron negative staining of the lower fenestrated capillary with LAN-stained endothelial glycocalyx (ecGCx) without microthrombi. Also, it is necessary to point out that in the upper capillary without LAN-positive staining the ecGCx contains microthrombi. Additionally, note that only vascular stromal cells and not astrocytes surround the fenestrated capillaries of B-CSFB. Panel (C) presents a hand-drawn illustration of a normal healthy arachnoid barrier of the meninges (not to scale). Panels (A,B) are provided with permission from CC 4.0 [8]. AC = astrocyte(s); AG = arachnoid granulations; CKC = control model; CL = capillary lumen; CP = choroid plexus; CSF = cerebrospinal fluid; EC(s) = brain endothelial cell(s); EPY = epithelial ependyma cells; fCapillary = fenestrated capillary; ISF = interstitial fluid; Mv = microvilli of the ependymal cells; Mt = mitochondria; NVU = neurovascular unit; PCP = pericyte process; rMGC = reactive microglial cell; SAS = subarachnoid space; TEER = trans-epithelial electrical resistance; TJ = tight junction(s); TJ/AJ = tight and adherens junction.

10. Possible Mechanisms of Action Regarding How Attenuation and/or Loss of ecGCx Contributes to the Development of Enlarged Perivascular Spaces

When the ecGCx becomes attenuated and/or lost the NVU BBB is known to become disrupted and develops increased permeability with the leakage of water, solutes, plasma proteins, and proinflammatory leukocytes, peripheral cytokines/chemokines, ROS, and MMPs [49]. The loss of the ecGCx also leads to a destabilization of the adjacent BEC actin cortical web, which in turn is known disrupt junctional (tight and adherens junctional) protein

alignment and prevent intercellular communication between adjacent ECs. Upon this destabilization of the tight and adherens junctions this paracellular junction will develop increased permeability to proinflammatory leukocytes, plasma, and plasma proteins and other neurotoxicities [50].

PVS are critical conduits for interstitial fluid and metabolic waste into the CSF [51], and EPVS efflux could be negatively affected by compromised BBB integrity and associated BEC inflammation [52].

11. Conclusions

The ecGCx is a key and critical regulator of permeability, cerebral blood flow, capillary perfusion, and cell adhesion, all of which are necessary for maintenance of CNS homeostasis. Therefore, we should do all we can to maintain the integrity of the ecGCx to decrease the development of EPVS as a result of NVU BBB disruption with increased permeability due to the attenuation and/or loss of the ecGCx. For this reason, the possible mechanisms of how ecGCx perturbations with attenuation and/or loss might result in EPVS are shared (Figure 8).

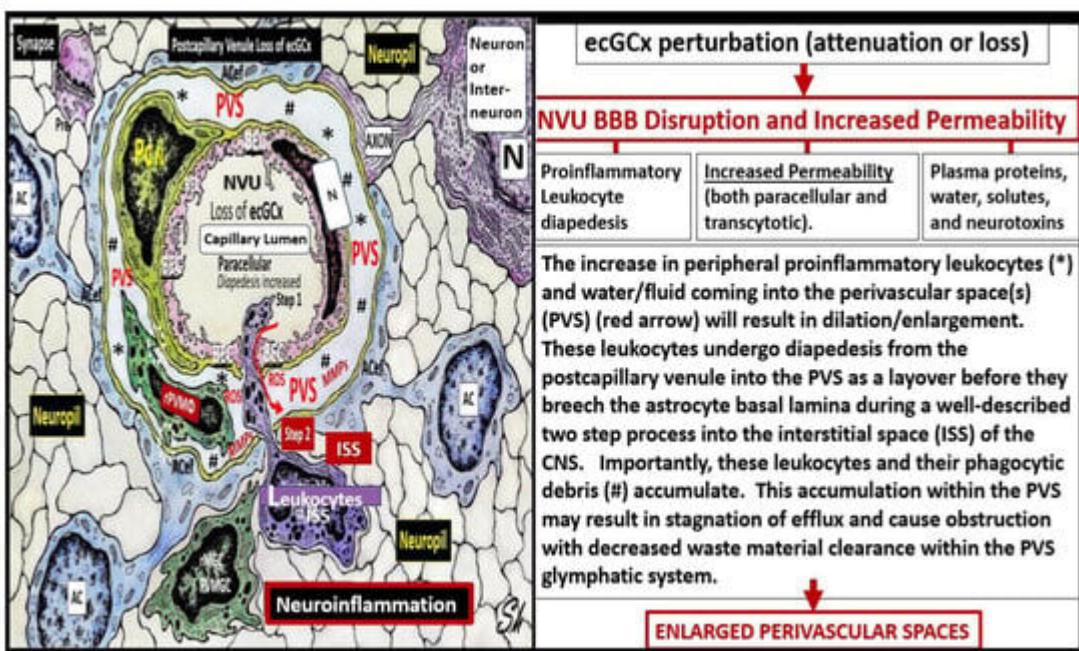


Figure 8. Possible mechanism of action indicating how the loss of the brain endothelial glycocalyx (ecGCx) results in enlarged perivascular spaces (EPVS). This illustration demonstrates that when there is an attenuation and/or loss of the ecGCx there is not only disruption of the NVU BBB with paracellular leakage of inflammatory cells but also increased pinocytosis/transcytosis with increased permeability. The PVS/EPVS act as a temporary holding station and checkpoint until the glia limitans is digested or becomes dysfunctional and allows entry into the interstitial spaces of the neuronal parenchyma. AC(s) = astrocytes; ACef = astrocyte endfeet; ISS = interstitial space(s); MMPs = matrix metalloproteinases; PVS = perivascular spaces; rMGC(s) = reactive microglia cells; rPVMΦ(s) = resident, reactive perivascular macrophages; ROS = reactive oxygen species.

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