

[NAME OF DOCUMENT] SPECIFICATION
[TITLE OF THE INVENTION] THERAPEUTIC AGENT OR
PROPHYLACTIC AGENT FOR DEMENTIA
[Technical field]

5 **[0001]**

 The present invention relates to a therapeutic agent
or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders. More
specifically, the invention relates to a novel anti-
phosphorylated protein or peptide antibody having an
10 excellent effect for improving cognitive function, and to
a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive
disorders comprising anti-phosphorylated tau antibody, or
antigen that elicits anti-phosphorylated tau antibody.

[Background Art]

15 **[0002]**

 A cognitive disorder is a state in which developed
intelligence deteriorates due to some acquired cause,
constituting a hindrance to social adaptation. Cognitive
disorders are classified as neurodegenerative diseases,
20 vascular cognitive disorders, prion diseases, infectious
diseases, metabolic/endocrine disorders, trauma and
cerebral disorders, and toxic disorders (NPL 1). As of
2010, there are currently about 2.1 million cognitive
disorder patients in Japan, with a morbidity prevalence
25 rate of about 8-10%, or even more than 10%, among the
elderly over age 65, and this has been recognized as a
serious problem in the worldwide aging society (NPL 2).
The data on the underlying diseases of cognitive
disorders indicate that the majority are
30 neurodegenerative diseases such as AD and FTLD, with
approximately 35% Alzheimer's disease (AD), approximately
15% a combination of AD and cerebrovascular disease, and
5% neurodegenerative diseases such as FrontoTemporal
Lobar Degeneration (FTLD) (NPL 2). Cognitive disorder
35 due to neurodegenerative disease is characterized by
insidious onset of memory impairment and/or personality
changes which progresses over a period of at least 6

months or more. A consistent factor in neurodegenerative processes exhibiting a high degree of correlation with the degree of impairment of cognitive function is the presence of neurofibrillary tangles (NFT) (NPL 3).

5 [0003]

10 Tau (protein) is a protein encoded by the MAPT gene located on chromosome 17 (17q21) in humans, and it is one of the microtubule-binding proteins abundantly expressed in the central nervous system. Tau has been found to be a major constituent protein in the paired helical filaments and straight filaments forming NFT in AD, one of the most prominent neurodegenerative diseases, and its intracellular accumulation has been demonstrated in a variety of neuropathological conditions. The diseases
15 caused by intracellular accumulation of tau are collectively referred to as "tauopathies" (NPL 4). The neurodegenerative diseases included among tauopathies are Alzheimer's disease (AD), cortical-basal ganglia degeneration (CBD or CBS), progressive supranuclear palsy, Pick's disease, (argyrophilic grain dementia (argyrophilic grain disease), Multiple system tauopathy with dementia (MSTD), chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17), neurofibrillary tangle dementia, diffuse neurofibrillary tangles with
20 calcification (DNCT), white matter tauopathy with globular glial inclusions (WMT-GGI) and frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau-positive inclusions (FTLD-tau), but non-neurodegenerative diseases, including infectious diseases such as von Economo's
25 postencephalitic Parkinson's disease and subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, and trauma-induced conditions such as boxer's encephalopathy, are also included among tauopathies (NPL 4).

[0004]

35 The structure of the MAPT gene on the genome is found to be a protein consisting of 13 exons, with multiple isoforms due to alternative splicing (NPL 4). A

feature of the structure of tau is that it comprises an N-terminal acidic domain containing 0-2 repetitive sequences (N) of 29 amino acids depended on alternative splicing of exon 2 and exon 3 (N0-N2), an intermediate domain rich in proline, and a C-terminal microtubule-binding domain (encoded by exons 9 to 12) containing 3 (3R) or 4 (4R) repetitive sequences (R) that contribute to microtubule binding (NPL 3 and 4). Therefore, tau has 6 representative isoforms, 3R0N (352 amino acids) · 3R1N (381 amino acids) · 3R2N (410 amino acids) · 4R0N (383 amino acids) · 4R1N (412 amino acids) and 4R2N (441 amino acids), depending on the number of 29 amino acid repetitive sequences (N) and microtubule-binding repetitive sequences (R) that it contains. Of these isotypes, only 3R0N is present in the embryonic brain, whereas all 6 isotypes are present in the adult human brain, with the 4R type being most abundant (NPL 3). The difference between the 3R and 4R isotypes is whether exon 10 is removed by alternative splicing (3R) or present (4R). Several isoforms of tau exist, therefore, but the amino acid numbers (1-441) of the longest isoform 4R2N (SEQ ID NO: 1) are represented for identification of the amino acid numbers at corresponding positions. For example, the designation "Ser413" indicates the serine which is the 413th amino acid residue in 4R2N (SEQ ID NO: 1), although this serine is the 384th amino acid residue in 4R1N (SEQ ID NO: 2), the 355th in 4R0N (SEQ ID NO: 3), the 382nd in 3R2N (SEQ ID NO: 4), the 353rd in 3R1N (SEQ ID NO: 5), and the 324th in 3R0N (SEQ ID NO: 6).

[0005]

Regarding the role of tau in neurodegenerative diseases, it was first discovered that a relationship exists between mutation of the MAPT gene and accumulation of tau in chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17), with more than 40 different gene mutations in the MAPT gene having been reported in FTDP-17 (NPL 4). It has been suggested that such gene

mutations may lead to alterations in the proportion of tau isoforms and change the interaction of mutant tau to microtubules, thus contributing to establishment of pathology. However, unlike familial neurodegenerative diseases, mutations in MAPT are usually not found in sporadic neurodegenerative diseases such as AD. Furthermore, one of the features of accumulating tau in neurodegenerative diseases is a high degree of modification by phosphorylation. Moreover, in patients exhibiting mild cognitive function impairment (MCI), a correlation is seen between levels of phosphorylated tau in the spinal fluid and pituitary atrophy, suggesting phosphorylated tau as a highly reliable biomarker for neurodegeneration in patients with tauopathies (NPL 5). For this reason, it has been attempted to use enzyme inhibitors against kinases, and particularly GSK-3 beta, as enzymes involved in phosphorylation, in order to inhibit excessive phosphorylation of tau, and development has progressed in this area (NPL 5). However, because kinases such as GSK-3 beta are enzymes that are implicated not only in disease but also in function control in normal physiological processes, side-effects have been a source of concern. In fact, since some of the sites where tau is phosphorylated by GSK-3 beta coincide with the sites of tau phosphorylation seen in fetal and normal human brains (NPL 3), there are possibilities to affect normal tau function.

[0006]

The conventional wisdom has been that extracellular tau leaks out of the cell as a consequence of cell death of degenerated neurons, but recent research has suggested that following excessive intracellular phosphorylation, tau is processed and is actively secreted out of the cell. Phosphorylated tau secreted out of the cell is thought to be dephosphorylated at certain phosphorylation sites, subsequently acting on muscarine receptors M1 and M3 of surrounding cells, and thus promoting intracellular

tau phosphorylation and contributing to eliciting cell death (NPL 6, NPL 7). As consensus is building that tau functions as a factor with extracellular activity, there is increasing focus on its possibilities in therapeutic agents, using drug components that are macromolecules such as antibodies which cannot be easily caused to exhibit intracellular activity. However, as mentioned above, extracellularly secreted tau may be partially processed and may become dephosphorylated, potentially undergoing further modification beyond the structural information for excessively phosphorylated tau that has been targeted in the past. It has also been suggested that drugs that act on portions of dephosphorylated tau may affect the function of normal tau. When pathology-associated tau is to be targeted with antibodies or the like, it is even more important to select the entity that will act on a given pathology-specific site, i.e. tau phosphorylation epitope, and selection of the epitope becomes even more difficult due to the complexity of this information.

[0007]

Inventions relating to immunotherapy for tauopathies with tau protein as the target have been reported, being aimed at executing specific action against tau (NPL 5, PTL 1, PTL 2, PTL 3). Immunotherapy is conducted with the purpose of eliciting production of specific antibodies by administration of peptide vaccines and the like, and it is expected to have reduced side-effects due to its high specificity to target proteins or peptides. It has been reported that motor function is improved in animal models expressing mutant tau, by immunization of the model animals by vaccination using partial peptides of phosphorylated tau (having the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser396 and Ser404 phosphorylated, and having the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser262 phosphorylated). However, these reports are studies using transgenic mice (Tg mice) with induced gene

mutations such as P301L (a mutation from proline to leucine at the 301st amino acid residue of tau), and although such Tg mice serve as gene mutation models for FTDP-17, a type of familial neurodegenerative disease, they do not represent most neurodegenerative diseases among tauopathies that are not accompanied by tau gene mutations, and particularly sporadic neurodegenerative diseases. In addition, since P301Ltg mice are models of motor function impairment and are not models representing cognitive function impairment, which is the problem with human cognitive disorders (NPL 8), it is difficult to know whether the results in these animal models can be applied to treatment of human cognitive disorders. In PTL 4, the effect of tauopathy treatment is examined, administering an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau peptide having Ser409 phosphorylated. However, peptide vaccines are costly, require high total dosages and require long periods to exhibit their effects. Furthermore, the effects of peptide vaccines and the reactivity of the immune response in administered humans and animals differ according to genetic background, and effective antibody production cannot always be elicited in every individual. Therefore, while immunotherapy by passive immunization with antibodies has potential, a very large number of sites are phosphorylated in tau, and virtually no information exists regarding which antibodies for which phosphorylation sites are effective to use. In addition, the currently available antibodies cannot at all be considered to have sufficient function for use in therapy, based on their effects in animal models.

[0008]

Furthermore, when an antibody is to be used as a base compound for a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent it is necessary to also consider the amount of antibody used for treatment, in order to avoid side-effects and minimize problems of medical cost, and this

is especially important in relation to doses for chronic diseases or genetic diseases. For example, the dose for treatment with Actemra^R (tocilizumab), which is human anti-IL-6R antibody, is 8 mg per 1 kg of body weight for 1 to 4 weeks, and the dose for treatment with Soliris^R (eculizumab), which is humanized anti-complement C5 antibody, is 600-900 mg per adult per administration, for 2 to 4 weeks. These are superior antibodies developed by selection from among a large number of antibodies, but their dosages are relatively large compared to the currently used antibody drugs. Thus, an effect must be exhibited with dosages equal to or less than these, for antibody drugs that will be developed in the future. In addition, while the brain is the organ to be treated in cognitive disorders such as AD, systemic administration by intravenous or subcutaneous routes is generally thought to result in a low migration rate of antibody from the blood to the brain, due to the presence of the blood-brain barrier, and therefore antibodies used for treatment of cognitive disorders are expected to have lower pharmacological effects compared to treatment for diseases involving other organs, and this has constituted a major problem.

[0009]

The major symptoms in human cognitive disorders are memory impairment and cognitive function impairment, and since cognitive function is especially important for exhibiting memory-based judgment, communication and performance, the symptoms of cognitive disorders are of major importance. Motor function, on the other hand, while being a symptom found in chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17) and end-stage Alzheimer's disease, is not necessarily a major symptom exhibited in cognitive disorders. Consequently, the main issue to be considered for treating cognitive disorders is improvement of cognitive function. At the current time, however, there is no means of obtaining a

therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders that exhibits a superior improvement on cognitive function, using suitable animal models for taupathy-associated cognitive function impairment which are necessary to solve the problem outlined above, nor does any therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders exist that exhibits a specific and superior effect against cognitive disorders.

In light of these circumstances, therefore, a demand exists for a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent with a powerful effect for improving cognitive function.

Citation List

Patent Literature

[0010]

[PTL 1] US8012936

[PTL 2] WO2010/142423

[PTL 3] WO2010/144711

[Non-patent literature]

[0011]

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[NPL 2] Asada, T., Igaku no Ayumi, supplementary volume, "Cognitive disorders", p.5-10, Ishiyaku Publishing, 2011

[NPL 3] Alistair Burns, John O'Brien and David Ames, Dementia. 3rd Edition, P.408-464, 2005

[NPL 4] Arai, T., Shinkei Naika, Vol.72, special number, (Suppl.6), P.46-51, 2010

[NPL 5] Wendy Noble et al., Expert Opin. Drug Discov., Vol.6, No.8, P.797-810, 2011

[NPL 6] Miguel Diaz-Hernandes et al., Journal of Biological Chemistry Vol.285, p.32539-32548, 2010

[NPL 7] Venessa Plouffe et al., PLoS ONE Vol.7, p36873, 2012

[NPL 8] Alistair Burns, John O'Brien and David Ames, Dementia. 3rd Edition, P.459, 2005

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

[0012]

It is an object of the present invention to provide a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders, focusing on tau phosphorylation in tauopathies.

It is another object of the invention to provide a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders comprising as an active ingredient an antibody that participates in specific antigen-antibody reaction for tau phosphorylated on an amino acid residue corresponding to the vicinity of Ser413, or a peptide having the amino acid sequence in the vicinity of Ser413 and phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a monoclonal antibody having a high cognitive function-improving effect, and a method of preparing an antibody that is even more suitable for treatment of cognitive disorder, such as a humanized antibody, based on analysis of the structure of the monoclonal antibody.

Means for Solving the Problems

[0013]

The present invention is as described below. The tau protein of the invention includes not only 4R2N, but all 6 types of isoforms. For convenience, the positions of the amino acid residues according to the invention are identified based on SEQ ID NO: 1, and for example, if the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is mentioned, this refers to the 413th serine of SEQ ID NO: 1 (4R2N), or the serine which is the 384th amino acid residue of SEQ ID NO: 2 (4R1N), the 355th of SEQ ID NO: 3 (4R0N), the 382nd of SEQ ID NO: 4 (3R2N), the 353rd of SEQ ID NO: 5 (3R1N) or the 324th of SEQ ID NO: 6 (3R0N).

[0014]

(1) A therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders comprising, as an active ingredient, an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody

reaction with tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1.

5 (2) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to (1), wherein the antibody is an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with phosphorylated tau protein characteristic of cognitive disorders.

10 (3) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to (1) or (2), wherein the antibody participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau protein that is phosphorylated on one or more sites selected from among Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416.

15 (4) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (3), wherein the antibody is an antibody which, in binding with tau protein, binds in competition with an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

20 (5) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (3), wherein the antibody is an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

25 (6) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (4), wherein the antibody is an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau protein that is phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to the Ser413 site.

30 (7) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (6), wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising a CDR sequence on the H chain represented by SEQ ID NOs: 7 to

13, a CDR sequence on the H chain represented by at least one of SEQ ID NOs: 7 to 13 or a CDR sequence on the H chain having at least 85% homology with at least one CDR sequence on the H chain represented by SEQ ID NOs: 7 to 13, and/or a CDR sequence on the L chain represented by SEQ ID NOs: 14 to 17, a CDR sequence on the L chain represented by at least one of SEQ ID NOs: 14 to 17 or a CDR sequence on the L chain having at least 85% homology with at least one CDR sequence on the L chain represented by SEQ ID NOs: 14 to 17.

(8) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (7), wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising an H chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24 or an H chain variable region containing a sequence having at least 85% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, and/or an L chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30 or an L chain variable region containing a sequence having at least 85% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30.

(9) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (8), wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody or chimeric antibody.

(10) A therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders containing, as an active ingredient, a peptide that includes a sequence of at least 8 contiguous amino acids from the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least one of the amino acid residues in the peptide being phosphorylated.

(11) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to (10), wherein at least one of the phosphorylated amino acid residues in the peptide corresponds to amino acid residue Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 or Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

(12) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to (10) or (11), wherein the phosphorylated amino acid residues in the peptide include at least the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

(13) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to any one of (1) to (12), wherein the cognitive disorder is a tauopathy.

(14) The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to (13), wherein the tauopathy is Alzheimer's disease, cortical-basal ganglia degeneration, progressive supranuclear palsy, Pick's disease, argyrophilic grain dementia (argyrophilic grain disease), Multiple system tauopathy with dementia (MSTD), chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17), neurofibrillary tangle dementia, diffuse neurofibrillary tangles with calcification (DNFC), white matter tauopathy with globular glial inclusions (WMT-GGI) or frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau-positive inclusions (FTLD-tau).

(15) A monoclonal antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with a peptide comprising a sequence of at least 8 contiguous amino acids from the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1 in the peptide being phosphorylated.

(16) An antibody for phosphorylated tau protein, the antibody being one whose binding to antigen is competitive against an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

(17) An antibody for phosphorylated tau protein, the antibody being one including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

(18) A monoclonal antibody having a CDR sequence on the H chain represented by SEQ ID NOS: 7 to 13, a CDR sequence on the H chain represented by at least one of SEQ ID NOS: 7 to 13, or an H chain including in the CDR sequence having at least 85% homology with at least one CDR sequence on the H chain represented by SEQ ID NOS: 7 to 13, and/or a CDR sequence on the L chain represented by SEQ ID NOS: 14 to 17, a CDR sequence on the L chain represented by at least one of SEQ ID NOS: 14 to 17; or an L chain including in the CDR sequence having at least 85% homology with at least one CDR sequence on the L chain represented by SEQ ID NOS: 14 to 17.

(19) A monoclonal antibody comprising an H chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOS: 18 to 24 or an H chain variable region having at least 85% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOS: 18 to 24, and/or an L chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOS: 25 to 30 or an L chain variable region having at least 85% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOS: 25 to 30.

(20) The monoclonal antibody according to any one of (15) to (19), wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody or chimeric antibody.

(21) A peptide consisting of a sequence of at least 8 contiguous amino acids from among the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least one of the amino acid residues in the peptide being phosphorylated.

(22) The peptide according to (21), wherein at least one of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acids Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is phosphorylated.

(23) The peptide according to (21) or (22), wherein the phosphorylated amino acid residue is the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

(24) Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid

residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that is not phosphorylated at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy.

(25) Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region having three complementary determining regions (CDRs), and a light chain variable region having three CDRs,

wherein the heavy chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (a)-(e) below:

(a) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(b) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(c) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 10, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(d) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 12, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, and

(e) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 11, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13; and

wherein the light chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (f)-(g) below:

(f) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17, and

(g) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 15, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17;

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

(26) Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,

wherein the antibody comprises:

a CDR-H1 sequence selected from a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, and a CDR-H1

sequence in which Leu at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8 has been replaced with Met,

5 a CDR-H2 sequence selected from a CDR-H2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H2 sequence having one or more substitutions: Thr at the sixth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Ser or Ala, Asn at the eighth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with His, Ala at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Val, and Asp at the 19th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Gly,

15 a CDR-H3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, a CDR-L1 sequence selected from a CDR-L1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, and a CDR-L1 sequence in which Ser at the ninth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14 has been replaced with Thr,

20 a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, as well as

a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17, wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

(27) Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that is not phosphorylated at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,

35 wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising an H

chain variable region selected from an H chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, and an H chain variable region having at least 90% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, as well as
5 an L chain variable region selected from an L chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30, and an L chain variable region having at least 90% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30

wherein the antibody has affinity represented
10 by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

(28) Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein
15 represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,
wherein the antibody comprises:

an H chain variable region represented by SEQ
20 ID NO: 20, or

an H chain variable region having one or more substitutions: Val at the second position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Gln at the third position from
25 the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with His, Gly at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Glu, Asn at the 30th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented
30 by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ser, Leu at the 34th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Met, Ala at the 40th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced
35 with Thr, Ser at the 44th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Gly, Glu at the 46th position from

the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:
20 has been replaced with Asn or Asp, Val at the 48th
position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented
by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Val at the
5 49th position from the N-terminus of the sequence
represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala,
Thr at the 55th position from the N-terminus of the
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced
with Ala or Ser, Asn at the 57th position from the N-
10 terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has
been replaced with His, Ala at the 59th position from the
N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20
has been replaced with Val, Asp at the 68th position from
the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:
15 20 has been replaced with Gly, Thr at the 71th position
from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID
NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Val at the 72th
position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented
by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Ser at the
20 79th position from the N-terminus of the sequence
represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn,
Val at the 81th position from the N-terminus of the
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced
with Ile or Leu, Lys at the 89th position from the N-
25 terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has
been replaced with Gln, and Thr at the 93th position from
the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:
20 has been replaced with Ser; as well as
an L chain variable region represented by SEQ
30 ID NO: 26, or
an L chain variable region having one or more
substitutions: Asp at the first position from the N-
terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has
been replaced with Gly or Val, Ile at the second position
35 from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID
NO: 26 has been replaced with Val, Met at the fourth
position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented

by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Leu, Thr at the seventh position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Gln at the 18th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with His, and Ser at the 32th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Thr,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

(29) Use of a peptide that includes the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 403-423 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 in the peptide being phosphorylated, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy.

(30) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 403-423 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1 in the peptide being phosphorylated, with greater affinity than to a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 403-423 of SEQ ID NO:1 that is not phosphorylated at the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO:1.

(31) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that is not phosphorylated at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1, the antibody being one whose binding to antigen is competitive against an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

(32) A monoclonal antibody for phosphorylated tau

protein, the antibody being one including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

5 (33) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has the amino acid residue present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of the tau protein
10 represented by SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region having three complementary determining regions (CDRs), and a light chain variable region having three CDRs,

15 wherein the heavy chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (a)-(e) below:

(a) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by
20 SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(b) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by
25 SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(c) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by
30 SEQ ID NO: 10, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

35 (d) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by

SEQ ID NO: 12, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, and

5 (e) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 11, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13; and

10 wherein the light chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (f)-(g) below:

(f) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17, and

(g) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 15, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17;

20 wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

(34) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has the amino acid residue present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1,

30 wherein the antibody comprises:

a CDR-H1 sequence selected from a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, and a CDR-H1 sequence in which Leu at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8 has been replaced with Met,

35 a CDR-H2 sequence selected from a CDR-H2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H2

sequence having one or more substitutions: Thr at the sixth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Ser or Ala, Asn at the eighth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with His, Ala at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Val, and Asp at the 19th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Gly,

a CDR-H3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, a CDR-L1 sequence selected from a CDR-L1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, and a CDR-L1 sequence in which Ser at the ninth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14 has been replaced with Thr,

a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, as well as

a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17, wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

(35) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has the amino acid residue present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 and has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that has the amino acid residues present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1 that is not phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1,

wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising an H chain variable region selected from an H chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, and an H chain variable region having at least 90%

homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, as well as
an L chain variable region selected from an L chain
variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25
to 30, and an L chain variable region having at least 90%
5 homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented
by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M
or less.

(36) A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds
10 tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino
acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein
represented by SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein the antibody comprises:

an H chain variable region represented by SEQ
15 ID NO: 20, or

an H chain variable region having one or more
substitutions: Val at the second position from the N-
terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has
been replaced with Ile, Gln at the third position from
20 the N-terminus of the
sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced
with His, Gly at the tenth position from the N-terminus
of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been
replaced with Glu, Asn at the 30th position from the N-
25 terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has
been replaced with Ser, Leu at the 34th position from the
N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20
has been replaced with Met, Ala at the 40th position from
the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:
30 20 has been replaced with Thr, Ser at the 44th position
from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID
NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Gly, Glu at the 46th
position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented
by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn or Asp, Val
35 at the 48th position from the N-terminus of the sequence
represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile,
Val at the 49th position from the N-terminus of the

sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala, Thr at the 55th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Ser, Asn at the 57th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with His, Ala at the 59th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Val, Asp at the 68th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Gly, Thr at the 71th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Val at the 72th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Ser at the 79th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn, Val at the 81th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Leu, Lys at the 89th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Gln, and Thr at the 93th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ser; as well as

an L chain variable region represented by SEQ ID NO: 26, or

an L chain variable region having one or more substitutions: Asp at the first position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Gly or Val, Ile at the second position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Val, Met at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Leu, Thr at the seventh position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Gln at the 18th position from the N-terminus of

the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with His, and Ser at the 32th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Thr,

5 wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

 (37) An isolated peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 403-423 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to
10 Ser413 in the peptide being phosphorylated.

Effect of the Invention

[0015]

15

The present invention can provide a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders, by containing as an active ingredient, an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with phosphorylated tau in the vicinity of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a peptide including an amino acid sequence in the vicinity of Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, at least one of the amino acid residues being phosphorylated. The invention can also provide a monoclonal antibody having a high cognitive function-improving effect, and a method of preparing an antibody that is even more suitable for treatment of cognitive disorder, such as a humanized antibody, based on analysis of the structure of the monoclonal antibody.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0016]

Fig. 1 is a listing of the initial portions of amino acid sequences of isoforms of human tau protein, aligned using ClustalW.

Fig. 2 is a listing of the latter portions of amino acid sequences of isoforms of human tau protein, aligned using ClustalW.

Fig. 3 is a graph showing specificity of rabbit polyclonal antibody for pSer413 peptide.

Fig. 4 is a graph showing the results of a Trial test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing rabbit polyclonal antibody.

Fig. 5 is a graph showing the results of a Probe test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing rabbit polyclonal antibody.

Fig. 6 is a line graph showing the results of an Open Field test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing rabbit polyclonal antibody.

Fig. 7 is a bar graph showing the results of an Open Field test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing rabbit polyclonal antibody.

Fig. 8 is a graph showing the results of a Trial

test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta1505).

Fig. 9 is a graph showing the results of a Probe test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta1505).

Fig. 10 is a line graph showing the results of an Open Field test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta1505).

Fig. 11 is a bar graph showing the results of an Open Field test in model mice administered pSer413-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta1505).

Fig. 12 is a graph showing the results of a Trial test in model mice administered pSer396-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta9).

Fig. 13 is a graph showing the results of a Probe test in model mice administered pSer396-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta9).

Fig. 14 is a line graph showing the results of an Open Field test in model mice administered pSer396-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta9).

Fig. 15 is a bar graph showing the results of an Open Field test in model mice administered pSer396-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta9).

Fig. 16 is a bar graph showing hippocampal synaptophysin levels in model mice administered Ta1505 antibody.

Fig. 17 is a diagram representing a gene fragment containing the tau gene.

Fig. 18 is a graph showing the results of a Water Maze Trial test in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta1505 antibody.

Fig. 19 is a graph showing the results of a Water Maze Probe test in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta1505 antibody.

Fig. 20 is a graph showing the results of a Water Maze Trial test in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta9 antibody.

Fig. 21 is a graph showing the results of a Water Maze Probe test in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta9 antibody.

5 Fig. 22 is a photograph showing immunohistostaining of hippocampus CA3 region and CA23 region with Ta1505 antibody in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered control IgG (1mg/head) or Ta1505 antibody (1mg/head).

10 Fig. 23 is a photograph showing immunohistostaining of parahippocampal gyrus region with Ta1505 in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered control IgG (1mg/head).

15 Fig. 24 is a photograph showing immunohistostaining of parahippocampal gyrus region with Ta1505 antibody in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta1505 antibody (1mg/head).

20 Fig. 25 is a photograph showing immunohistostaining of hippocampus CA3 region and CA23 region with AT8 in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered control IgG (1mg/head) or Ta1505 antibody (1mg/head).

Fig. 26 is a photograph showing immunohistostaining of parahippocampal gyrus region with AT8 in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered control IgG (1mg/head).

25 Fig. 27 is a photograph showing immunohistostaining of parahippocampal gyrus region with AT8 in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta1505 (1mg/head).

30 Fig. 28 is a graph showing quantity of G2, AT8, PHF1, and Ta1505 reactive tau in TBS soluble fraction of brain in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta1505 (1mg/head).

35 Fig. 29 is a graph showing quantity of G2, AT8, PHF1, and Ta1505 reactive tau in sarkosyl soluble fraction of brain in memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) administered Ta1505 (1mg/head).

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

[0017]

The present inventors have prepared antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with tau that has been phosphorylated at the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, which is the site specifically phosphorylated in AD, have administered it to Tg mice exhibiting maturation-associated cognitive function impairment, and have found that cognitive function can be recovered to approximately the same level as a control group. On the other hand, adequate amelioration of cognitive function was not seen using, for comparison, a comparable concentration of antibody for tau that has been phosphorylated at the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser396 of SEQ ID NO: 1, which has higher affinity for equivalent antigen than the antibody of the invention. The portion in the vicinity of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is a region for which no particular information is known in terms of the relationship between tau structure and function, and it was a completely unexpected result to find that an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with this portion has such a powerful improving effect on cognitive function. Thus, the site in the vicinity of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, which has not hitherto been a focus of interest, has first been elucidated by the present invention as an important site for onset of cognitive function impairment in tauopathies, and the invention has thereupon been completed.

[0018]

[Anti-phosphorylated tau antibody]

Tau (protein), for the purpose of the invention, includes not only human tau protein as represented by SEQ ID NO: 1-6, but also genetic mutants thereof. As explained above under Background Art, more than 40 mutations are known in FTDP-17, a familial

neurodegenerative disease associated with cognitive disorder, but the mutation sites are not necessarily limited thereto. Furthermore, proteins with mutations at amino acids in 1 to 50 locations, preferably 1 to 30 locations and more preferably 1 to 10 locations, as the number of mutations in SEQ ID NOs: 1-6, are also treated as tau for the purpose of the invention. In addition, proteins exhibiting at least 80% homology (Identity) with the human tau protein listed as SEQ ID NO: 1 according to the BLAST method (default conditions for NCBI PBLAST), and their isoforms, are also included. Such proteins also include tau of species other than humans, such as chimpanzee, rhesus monkey, horse, pig, dog, mouse, rabbit and rat, and can be used to prepare therapeutic agents or prophylactic agent targeting those tau proteins, for the purpose of ameliorating cognitive function in those animals.

[0019]

The amino acid numbers according to the invention, i.e. the positions of the amino acid residues, are designated based on the sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 1, for convenience. Thus, for example, if the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is mentioned, this refers to the serine which is the 413th amino acid residue of SEQ ID NO: 1 (4R2N), the 384th of SEQ ID NO: 2 (4R1N), the 355th of SEQ ID NO: 3 (4R0N), the 382nd of SEQ ID NO: 4 (3R2N), the 353rd of SEQ ID NO: 5 (3R1N) or the 324th of SEQ ID NO: 6 (3R0N). Table 1 shows the positions of the amino acid residues that are in the same mutual positions, for each isoform. In Table 1, the positions of the amino acid residues for each isoform are shown corresponding to 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and the mutual positional relationships of the amino acid residues at other positions will be easily understood based on Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, for example.

[0020]

[Table 1]

Isoform	4R2N	4R1N	4R0N	3R2N	3R1N	3R0N
Seq.ID	Seq. ID:No.1	Seq. ID:No.2	Seq. ID:No.3	Seq. ID:No.4	Seq. ID:No.5	Seq. ID:No.6
Amino Acid Residue	Position of Amino Acid Residue					
Asn	410	381	352	379	350	321
Val	411	382	353	380	351	322
Ser	412	383	354	381	352	323
Ser	413	384	355	382	353	324
Thr	414	385	356	383	354	325
Gly	415	386	357	384	355	326
Ser	416	387	358	385	356	327
Ile	417	388	359	386	357	328
Asp	418	389	360	387	358	329
Met	419	390	361	388	359	330
Val	420	391	362	389	360	331
Asp	421	392	363	390	361	332

[0021]

The term "anti-phosphorylated tau antibody" refers to an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau that has been phosphorylated on an amino acid residue at one or more locations of the amino acid sequence of tau referred to above. The phosphorylated amino acid residues may be serine (Ser), threonine (Thr), tyrosine (Tyr), or the like. Also, the site on phosphorylated tau in which the anti-phosphorylated tau antibody of the invention participates in antigen-antibody reaction is preferably the site that is specifically phosphorylated in neurodegenerative diseases such as AD. In addition, as another preferred mode for the site of phosphorylated tau where the anti-phosphorylated tau antibody of the invention participates in antigen-antibody reaction, it is preferably an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, it is more preferably an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau that has been phosphorylated at an amino acid residue corresponding to Ser412 or Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or

both sites, and it is even more preferably an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau that has been phosphorylated at the site of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5 Here, an amino acid residue corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 or Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1 refers to the site corresponding to the amino acid number in human 4R2N tau (SEQ ID NO: 1), and as explained under Background Art, the corresponding site in isoforms, or the

10 corresponding site in non-human homologs, is treated in the same manner regardless of the amino acid number assigned from that amino acid sequence. The corresponding sites in isoforms or homologs can be determined by a person skilled in the art through

15 appropriate analysis by a Pairwise Sequence Alignment method such as the Needleman-Wunsch method or Smith-Waterman method, or by Multiple Sequence Alignment such as the ClustalW method or PRRP method. An example of an analysis method of a corresponding site is shown in Fig.

20 1 and Fig. 2, with the amino acid sequences (single-letter representation) of 6 different isoforms in humans aligned using ClustalW. As seen here, the structure in the vicinity of the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is

25 conserved in the 6 isoforms, and it can be easily discerned which are the corresponding amino acids.

[0022]

An anti-phosphorylated tau antibody that can be used in a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent according to

30 the invention is an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue present from position 410 to position 421 of the tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably it is an antibody

35 that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among

the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, more preferably it is an antibody that binds competitively against an antibody whose VH amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 20 and whose VL amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 26 (hereunder referred to as "1505 antibody"), and even more preferably it is an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the Ser413 site. Tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the site of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, is tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the corresponding site including isotypes of human or other species, as mentioned above, but more preferably it is human tau protein, and even more preferably it is any of the 6 isoforms in humans.

[0023]

In regard to Tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of SEQ ID NO: 1 of the invention, tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the site of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, these phosphorylated tau proteins include peptides which have complete homology with portions of the amino acid sequences of the amino acid residues corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of tau protein, or homology with at least 80% of the sequences, and are phosphorylated at these amino acid residues, and an antibody that

participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with such a peptide is also an anti-phosphorylated tau antibody according to the invention.

[0024]

5 According to the invention, "participates in antigen-antibody reaction" means binding with tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or
10 more sites selected from among the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and/or tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the site of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, with affinity represented by an
15 equilibrium dissociation constant (KD) of at least 1×10^{-6} M, preferably binding with affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of at least 1×10^{-7} M, and even more preferably binding with affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of at
20 least 1×10^{-8} M.

[0025]

 The term "specifically" means that the binding with tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421
25 of SEQ ID NO: 1, tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among the amino acid residues corresponding to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and/or tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the site of the amino acid residue
30 corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, is in a state which is at least 10 times stronger, more preferably at least 30 times stronger and even more preferably at least 100 times stronger, than binding with the tau protein that has not been phosphorylated at that site (including
35 peptides having complete homology with a portion of the amino acid sequence of the tau protein, or having

homology with at least 80% of the sequence).

[0026]

In addition, "binds competitively" with an antibody whose VH amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 20 and whose
5 VL amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 26 (1505 antibody) means a phenomenon in which, when another antibody is copresent with the monoclonal antibody during binding to antigen, binding of the monoclonal antibody is inhibited, and generally speaking, this can be measured by measuring
10 the amount of addition (concentration) at which the binding amount of the monoclonal antibody to antigen is reduced when a different antibody is added in varying amount (concentration) with respect to a fixed amount (concentration) of the monoclonal antibody, the degree of
15 inhibition being expressed as the value IC_{50} or K_i . An antibody that binds competitively with an antibody whose VH amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 20 and whose VL sequence is SEQ ID NO: 26 (1505 antibody) according to the invention is one that has an IC_{50} value of lower than
20 1 μM , more preferably lower than 100 nM and even more preferably lower than 10 nM, when antigen-antibody binding has been detected using 10 nM of the monoclonal antibody.

[0027]

25 The antibody-antigen binding of such an antibody with phosphorylated tau protein can be determined by appropriate binding measurement by a person skilled in the art using a solid phase or liquid phase system, with a method such as ELISA, EIA, surface plasmon resonance,
30 FRET, LRET or the like, although there is no limitation to these. When measuring such antigen-antibody binding, the antibody and/or antigen (phosphorylated tau protein or tau protein) is labeled with an enzyme, fluorescent substance, luminescent substance, radioactive isotope or
35 the like, and a measuring method suitable for the physical and/or chemical properties of the labeled substance is used to allow detection of the antigen-

antibody reaction.

[0028]

The anti-phosphorylated tau antibody of the invention also includes an antibody wherein the H chain variable region contains the amino acid sequences CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3, consisting of a combination of SEQ ID NO: 7 or 8 as the CDR-H1 amino acid sequence, any selected from among SEQ ID NOs: 9, 10, 11 and 12 as the CDRH-H2 amino acid sequence and SEQ ID NO: 13 as the CDRH-H3 amino acid sequence, and the L chain variable region contains the amino acid sequences CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3, consisting of a combination of SEQ ID NO: 14 or 15 as the CDR-L1 amino acid sequence, SEQ ID NO: 16 as the CDR-L2 amino acid sequence and SEQ ID NO: 17 as the CDR-L3 amino acid sequence. Preferably, it is an antibody wherein the set of CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 in the H chain variable region is any selected from among the combinations: SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 13; SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 13; SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10 and SEQ ID NO: 13; SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13; and SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 11 and SEQ ID NO: 13, the set of CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 in the L chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17; or SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17, and more preferably it is an antibody wherein the combination of the set of CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 in the H chain variable region and the set of CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 in the L chain variable region is selected from among the combinations: SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17; SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17; SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17; SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID NO: 17; and SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16 and SEQ ID

NO: 17. The antibody of the invention also includes those wherein at least one of the corresponding CDR sequences among the amino acid sequences of CDR-H1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 is a sequence exhibiting at least 85% homology (identity) and preferably at least 90% homology, with any of SEQ ID NO: 7 to 17, according to the BLAST method (default conditions for NCBI PBLAST).

[0029]

The method for identifying the sequence of CDR-H1, CDR-H2, CDR-H3, CDR-L1, CDR-L2 or CDR-L3 in the antibody may be, for example, the method of Kabat or the method of Chothia, and a person skilled in the art can identify the sequence of the portion corresponding to each CDR, the methods of Kabat (Kabat, E.A. and Wu, T.T., J. Immunol., 147, 1709-1719, 1991) and Chothia (Al-Lazikani, B., Lesk, A.M. and Chothia, C., J. Mol. Biol., 273, 927-948, 1997) being common technical knowledge for those skilled in the relevant field, and their summaries may be found on the web site of Dr. Andrew C.R. Martin's Group (<http://www.bioinf.org.uk/abs/>), for example.

[0030]

As a different form of the antibody of the invention, it may be an antibody wherein the H chain variable region (VH) amino acid sequence is one selected from among SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24 and the L chain variable region (VL) amino acid sequence is one selected from among SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30, and preferably an antibody wherein the combination of VH and VL amino acid sequences is one selected from among the combinations: SEQ ID NO: 18 and SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 19 and SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 20 and SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 21 and SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 22 and SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 23 and SEQ ID NO: 29, and SEQ ID NO: 24 and SEQ ID NO: 30. The antibody of the invention includes those wherein at least one from the VH and VL amino acid sequences is any VH amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24 or

any VL amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30, and sequences exhibiting at least 85% homology (identity) and preferably at least 90% homology with SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 30 based on the BLAST method (default conditions for NCBI PBLAST).

[0031]

The amino acid sequences of the constant regions in such antibodies are selected from among the mammalian subtypes IgG, IgA, IgM, IgE and IgD, or their variants.

A person skilled in the art can design recombinant antibodies suitable for administration toward treatment of the species of interest, such as humanized antibodies, based on information for the amino acid sequences of CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 and/or the nucleotide sequences of genes coding for them, or the amino acid sequences of CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 and/or the nucleotide sequences of genes coding for them, and a person skilled in the art can also design chimeric antibodies according to the purpose, based on information for the amino acid sequence of the H chain variable region and/or the nucleotide sequence of a gene coding for it, or the amino acid sequence of the L chain variable region and/or the nucleotide sequence of a gene coding for it.

Furthermore, a person skilled in the art can appropriately use known technology for creation of low-molecular antibodies or scaffold antibodies, based on information for the amino acid sequences of CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 and/or the nucleotide sequences of genes coding for them, or the amino acid sequences of CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 and/or the nucleotide sequences of genes coding for them, or based on information for the amino acid sequence of the H chain variable region and/or the nucleotide sequence of a gene coding for it, or the amino acid sequence of the L chain variable region and/or the nucleotide sequence of a gene coding for it.

[0032]

The antibody of the invention may be an antibody

composed of two H chains and two L chains, or it may be an antibody composed of only two H chains. Also, the antibody of the invention may be an antibody fragment, examples of antibody fragments including F(ab')₂, Fab and Fv structures.

[0033]

The antibody of the invention can be obtained using techniques known to those skilled in the art. The antibody of the invention may be a polyclonal antibody or monoclonal antibody (Milstein et al., Nature (England), October 6, 1983, Vol.305, No. 55934, p.537-540). For example, polyclonal antibody can be obtained using as antigen tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the Ser413 site of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a peptide having complete homology with at least a portion of the amino acid sequence from positions 410 to 421 of tau protein of SEQ ID NO: 1, or homology with at least 80% of the sequence, and that has been phosphorylated at these amino acid residues, to sensitize a mammal, and the antibody recovered from the serum of the animal. When the peptide is to be used as antigen, the antigen may be used in a form conjugated with a carrier protein such as BSA or KLH, or with polylysine. Specific examples of peptides to be used as antigens include the peptides of SEQ ID NO: 31 or 32 that have been phosphorylated at the site corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1, as described in Examples 1 and 2, but there is no limitation to these. For a monoclonal antibody according to the invention, a hybridoma established by using immunocytes from a mammal sensitized with the antigen and fusing them with myeloma cells or the like, may be cloned and the antibody recovered from the culture. A method for obtaining such monoclonal

antibodies is described in Example 2, and the monoclonal antibodies obtained thereby may be monoclonal antibodies containing the VH amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 18 to 24 and the VL sequences of SEQ ID NO: 25 to 30 (Ta1501, 1502, 1505-1509), but there is no limitation thereto.

[0034]

For the obtained monoclonal antibody, it is possible to obtain a nucleic acid molecule having a gene sequence coding for the amino acids of the antibody protein, and it is possible to prepare the antibody by genetic engineering techniques using such a nucleic acid molecule. Introducing modifications to increase the bindability or specificity of an antibody, using genetic information of the antibody, such as information for the H chain, L chain or their variable regions or CDR sequences, and preparing antibodies having a structure suitable for use in treatment by modifying an antibody of an animal such as a mouse to a human-type antibody, are techniques that are well known to those skilled in the art. Furthermore, by using non-human transgenic animals in which a human antibody gene has been transferred, as the animals for sensitization with antigen, it is possible to obtain human-type monoclonal antibodies. In addition, techniques in which a phage library expressing the antigen-binding region of a human antibody or a portion thereof (human antibody phage display) is used to obtain antibody specifically binding with the corresponding antigen, or a phage clone comprising a specific amino acid sequence, human antibodies are prepared from that information, can be appropriately carried out by a person skilled in the art, as a method that does not require sensitization of animals. (See Taketo Tanaka et al., Keio J. Med., Vol.60, p.37-46, for example).

[0035]

Moreover, as the aforementioned method of producing

monoclonal antibodies, a hybridoma producing the antibody to be obtained may be cultured and the antibody purified and obtained by common methods from the resulting culture supernatant. As a different production method, a gene
5 coding for an antibody, and more specifically a gene coding for the immunoglobulin heavy chain and/or light chain, may be obtained from a hybridoma that produces the antibody of interest, or from a phage clone or the like obtained by a human antibody phage display, and a vector
10 for expression of the gene prepared and transferred into host cells (mammalian cells, insect cells, microbes or the like) to produce the antibody. During this procedure, a person skilled in the art may carry out publicly known techniques for gene modification of the
15 gene coding for the immunoglobulin heavy chain and/or light chain, for introduction of desired traits, or may create a human-type antibody, antibody chimera protein, low-molecular antibody or scaffold antibody, using structural information for the variable region or CDR of
20 the immunoglobulin heavy chain and/or light chain. In addition, in order to improve the antibody performance or avoid side-effects, techniques well known to those skilled in the art may be appropriately employed for introducing modifications into the structure of the
25 constant region of the antibody, or modifying its sugar chain portions.

[0036]

[Phosphorylated peptide with tau-derived amino acid sequence]

30 The invention encompasses peptides that contain portions of the amino acid sequence of tau and that have been phosphorylated at one or more amino acid residues. A "phosphorylated" amino acid residue is one that is ester bonded to a phosphate group on a side chain of the
35 amino acid residue, typical phosphorylated amino acid residues being serine, threonine and tyrosine. The phosphorylated peptide is a peptide with a length of at

least 8 amino acids containing at least 3 contiguous amino acids among the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably a peptide with a length of at least 8 amino acids containing at least 5 contiguous amino acids, and more preferably a peptide with a length of at least 8 amino acids containing at least 8 contiguous amino acids. Also, the phosphorylated amino acid residues in the phosphorylated peptides may be any of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably any of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acids Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and more preferably the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1. A typical example of such a phosphorylated peptide is the phosphorylated peptide used for antibody preparation in Example 1 (SEQ ID NO: 31), but there is no limitation to this one.

[0037]

A phosphorylated peptide having a tau-derived amino acid sequence according to the invention may be used in a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders that comprises antigen for preparation of anti-phosphorylated tau antibody according to the invention, or the peptide itself. The phosphorylated peptide may also be modified with substances providing other functions, according to the purpose, at the N-terminus and/or C terminus of the sequence. For example, it may have a methionine residue, acetyl or pyroglutamic acid added to the N-terminus of the phosphorylated peptide, or it may be modified with a fluorescent substance or the like. Substances used to modify the N-terminus and/or C-terminus of the phosphorylated peptide may also be peptides or proteins, examples of which include peptides with amino acid sequences of appropriate tag sequences (typically histidine tag or FLAG tag), recognition

sequence of T cell receptors (TCR) or major histocompatibility antigens (MHC), and viral or bacterial proteins, or peptides with sequences derived therefrom, added to the N-terminus or C-terminus. The
5 phosphorylated peptide of the invention also includes those modified with compounds or peptides at one or more amino acid residues other than at the N-terminus or C-terminus. Such phosphorylated peptide modification can be accomplished using methods known to those skilled in
10 the art, such as the method described by Hermanson et al. (Bioconjugate techniques, USA, 1996, Academic Press).

[0038]

The phosphorylated peptide of the invention can be produced by a person skilled in the art using appropriate
15 synthesis or genetic engineering methods. Examples of methods for producing phosphorylated peptides by synthesis include Boc methods (Wakamiya T. et al., Chemistry Letters, Vol.22 P.1401, 1993), Fmoc methods (PERICH, J. W., International Journal of Peptide and
20 Protein Research, vol.40, P.134-140, 1992), and the method described in Japanese Patent No. 3587390, although other appropriate methods may be implemented by a person skilled in the art. Also, production methods by genetic engineering may involve preparation of genetic material
25 (DNA, RNA) having a nucleotide sequence coding for the peptide to be produced or its precursor, and insert into an appropriate expression vector with addition of a promoter sequence and the like, for introduction into a suitable host for expression, or production using a cell-free protein synthesis system. In this case, the
30 phosphorylated peptide that has been phosphorylated at the site of interest can be produced by appropriate phosphorylation reaction in a host by a kinase that is in the host or induced by genetically engineered expression, or the peptide of interest may be collected first and
35 then reacted with kinase or the like *in vitro* for phosphorylation reaction. For such *in vitro*

phosphorylation reaction, the enzyme used may be one whose function in tau phosphorylation reaction for peptides of interest is known, such as GSK3 or CDK5. In order to obtain peptides with the amino acid residues of interest phosphorylated, among the phosphorylated peptides that have been phosphorylated in this manner in a host or *in vitro*, there may be used methods for recovery of phosphorylated peptides specifically bound to antibody in antibody-antigen reaction using the anti-phosphorylated tau antibodies mentioned above.

[0039]

[Therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders comprising anti-phosphorylated tau antibody or phosphorylated tau peptide]

The term "cognitive disorders" for humans means a condition of impairment in intellectual function that has been developed or acquired, and it is considered a type of intellectual disturbance (Kamijima, K., Niwa, S., Nankodo's Essential Well - Advanced Series, New Seishin Igaku, p.69-70, 2008), and in a wider sense they are considered diseases exhibiting intellectual disturbance and/or memory impairment. In neurodegenerative diseases such as AD, "neurodegeneration" can be ascertained by confirming the presence of neurofibrillary tangles (NFT) by postmortem histological analysis, but a physician may conduct diagnosis of neurodegenerative disease by the Hasegawa Dementia Scale - Revised (HDS-R) or Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), based on interrogation as part of neuropsychological examination, by Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) or Functional Assessment Staging (FAST) based on observation, by increase in the abundance of tau or phosphorylated tau or increase in the abundance of A β in cerebrospinal fluid, as biochemical examination, or based on information obtained from cranial CT, cranial MRI, SPECT or PET, as imaging examination, to diagnose cognitive disorder and specifically neurodegenerative disease. Thus, the therapeutic agent or prophylactic

agent for cognitive disorders of the invention is administered to a patient diagnosed with cognitive disorder by a physician, and it has an improving effect in comparison to before administration, for at least one item of diagnosis of neurodegenerative disease, or an effect of inhibiting progression of symptoms or maintaining or recovering the state before administration.

[0040]

10 Patents to be administered the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention are patients with cognitive disorders, and especially patients with tauopathies, which include patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD), cortical-basal ganglia degeneration (CBD or CBS), progressive
15 supranuclear palsy, Pick's disease, argyrophilic grain dementia (argyrophilic grain disease), Multiple system tauopathy with dementia (MSTD), chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17),
20 neurofibrillary tangle dementia, diffuse neurofibrillary tangles with calcification (DNCT), white matter tauopathy with globular glial inclusions (WMT-GGI), frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau-positive inclusions (FTLD-tau), Economo's postencephalitic Parkinson's disease,
25 subacute sclerosing panencephalitis or boxer's encephalopathy. Therefore, the therapeutic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention is a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for tauopathies, and from a different viewpoint, it may be considered to be a
30 therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for Alzheimer's disease (AD), cortical-basal ganglia degeneration (CBD or CBS), progressive supranuclear palsy, Pick's disease, argyrophilic grain dementia (argyrophilic grain disease), Multiple system tauopathy with dementia (MSTD),
35 chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17), neurofibrillary tangle dementia, diffuse neurofibrillary tangles with calcification

(DNTEC), white matter tauopathy with globular glial inclusions (WMT-GGI), frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau-positive inclusions (FTLD-tau), Economo's postencephalitic Parkinson's disease, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis or boxer's encephalopathy.

[0041]

The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention may also be considered to have an effect of improving cognitive function or inhibiting loss of or maintaining cognitive function in non-human animals. Such non-human animals include animals such as chimpanzees, rhesus monkeys, horses, pigs, dogs, mice, rabbits, rats, cats and the like expressing tau with high homology for human tau, with no limitation to these.

[0042]

[Animal models for cognitive disorder]

Animals for research on the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention include animal models for cognitive disorders, among which animal models of tauopathies may be mentioned in particular. Animal models for tauopathies are animals expressing normal-type or gene mutant tau in the brain, and particularly animal models exhibiting impairment in cognitive function. Such animals expressing normal-type or gene mutant tau in the brain can be prepared by genetic engineering, a typical example being transgenic mice (Tg mice). Animal models such as Tg mice that express gene mutant tau are useful as models of genetic familial tauopathies, but for examination of the effect of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for sporadic tauopathies that constitute the majority of cases among humans, preferably an effect is exhibited in Tg mice expressing normal-type tau. Most suitable as Tg mice expressing normal-type tau are mice prepared in the production examples of the present invention, but there may also be used the Tg mice reported by Kambe et al.

(Neurobiology of Disease, Vol.42, P.404-414, 2011) and Kimura et al. (The EMBO J. vol.26. P.5143-5152, 2007). However, although cognitive function impairment is seen in the mice of Kambe et al. and Kimura et al., it appears after 14 months of age and 20 months of age, respectively, and therefore the onset is well into senescence and aging effects may also be contributing factors, while the effects and labor of long-term breeding are also issues. In contrast, the mice prepared in the production examples of the present invention express human normal-type tau and exhibit onset of cognitive function impairment at the relatively early stage of about 6 months of age, and they are therefore most suitable as cognitive disorder models for which factors such as aging can be excluded, and using such models allows more accurate evaluation of therapeutic agents or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders that have improving effects on cognitive function.

[0043]

The preferred method of examining the effect of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to the invention in an animal model is a method of testing cognitive function, such as a memory learning test. Such a method may be a Morris water maze test, a step-through learning test or a novel object recognition test, but preferably it is a combination of behavioral measurement tests such as an Open Field Test, in order to take into account the conditions of behavior quantity and animal anxiety.

[0044]

As methods for examining the effect of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to the invention, it is possible to use methods of examining the levels of tau protein or phosphorylated tau in brain tissue, during administration to an animal model of the cognitive disorder. In AD and other neurodegenerative diseases, expression levels of tau

protein or increased abnormal phosphorylated tau are associated with pathology (Khalid Iqbal et al., Curr. Alzheimer Res., Vol.7, p.654-664, 2010). It is also well known that reducing tau expression and abnormal phosphorylated tau levels in some pathological model animals produces improvement in cognitive function and motor function (K. Santa Cruz et al., Science, 30, Vol.9, p.476-481, 2005; Sylvie Le Corre et al., Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA, 10, Vol.3, p.9673-9678, 2006). As a method of examining changes in tau protein or phosphorylated tau, this can be accomplished by a method such as Western blotting using a brain tissue homogenate, as described in the examples, but a person skilled in the art can select another appropriate method such as ELISA (Xiyun Chai et al., J. Biol. Chem., Vol.286, p.34457-34467, 2011) or an immunohistochemical method (David J. Irwin et al., BRAIN, Vol.135, p.807-818, 2012).

[0045]

The effect of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention in an animal model may be used as pharmacological effect data for development of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent in humans.

[0046]

[Therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders]

One form of the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention is one comprising anti-phosphorylated tau antibody, and preferably an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with tau protein that has been phosphorylated on at least one amino acid residue corresponding to positions 410 to 421 of SEQ ID NO: 1 in tau protein, more preferably an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau protein that has been phosphorylated at one or more sites selected from among the amino acid residues corresponding

to Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, more preferably an antibody that binds competitively against an antibody whose VH amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 20 and whose VL amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 26 (1505), and even more preferably an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction with tau protein that has been phosphorylated at the site of the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Such antibodies were explained above under the heading [Anti-phosphorylated tau antibody].

[0047]

Another form of the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders of the invention is one containing a peptide that includes a portion of the tau sequence and has been phosphorylated at one or more amino acid residues, the peptide being a phosphorylated peptide which is a peptide with a length of at least 8 amino acids containing at least 3 contiguous amino acids among the amino acid sequence consisting of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably a peptide with a length of at least 8 amino acids containing at least 5 contiguous amino acids, and more preferably a peptide with a length of at least 8 amino acids containing at least 8 contiguous amino acids. Also, the phosphorylated amino acid residues in the phosphorylated peptides may be any of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acid numbers 410-421 of SEQ ID NO: 1, preferably any of the amino acid residues corresponding to amino acids Ser412, Ser413, Thr414 and Ser416 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and more preferably the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1. Such peptides were explained above under the heading [Phosphorylated peptide with tau-derived amino acid sequence].

[0048]

The therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent for

cognitive disorders of the invention may also contain pharmaceutically acceptable additives. Formulations using pharmaceutically acceptable additives can be prepared by the method described in "Remington: The
5 Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 20th Edition, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Williams & Wilkins, December 15, 2000". One form for such a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent is a liquid drug prepared by dissolution, suspension or emulsification in
10 an aseptic aqueous solution or oily solution. Solvents for this include distilled water for injection and physiological saline, for aqueous solutions, with addition of an osmoregulating agent (for example, D-glucose, D-sorbitol, D-mannitol, sodium chloride and the
15 like), often used in combination with a suitable dissolving aid such as an alcohol (for example, ethanol), a polyalcohol (for example, propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol), or a nonionic surfactant (for example, polysorbate 80 or polyoxyethylene hydrogenated
20 castor oil 50). Oily solutions are also sometimes used as solvents, examples of such oily solutions including sesame oil and soybean oil, which are often used in combination with benzyl benzoate, benzyl alcohol or the like as dissolving aids. In such liquid drugs, there are
25 often used appropriate additives such as buffering agents (for example, phosphate buffering agents and acetate buffering agents), soothing agents (for example, benzalkonium chloride and procaine hydrochloride), stabilizers (for example, human serum albumin and
30 polyethylene glycol), preservatives (for example, ascorbic acid, erythorbic acid, and their salts), coloring agents (for example, copper chlorophyll β -carotene, Red #2 and Blue #1), antiseptic agents (for example, paraoxybenzoic acid esters, phenol, benzethonium
35 chloride and benzalkonium chloride), thickeners (for example, hydroxypropyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, and their salts), stabilizers (for example,

human serum albumin mannitol and sorbitol), and odor correctives (for example, menthol and citrus aromas). Different forms of therapeutic agents or prophylactic agent include solid formulations such as powders, 5 tablets, granules, capsules, pills, suppositories, lozenges and the like. For a solid formulation to be administered in oral form, there may be used additives such as excipients (for example, crystalline cellulose, lactose and starch), lubricants (for example, magnesium 10 stearate and talc), binders (hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, macrogol and the like), and disintegrators (for example, starch and carboxymethyl cellulose calcium). If necessary, additives such as antiseptic agents (for example, benzyl alcohol, 15 chlorobutanol, methyl paraoxybenzoate and propyl paraoxybenzoate), antioxidants, coloring agents, sweeteners and the like may be used. Other alternative forms include therapeutic agents or prophylactic agent for application onto mucous membranes, such formulations 20 often containing additives such as pressure-sensitive adhesives, pressure-sensitive enhancers, viscosity regulators, thickening agents and the like (for example, mucin, agar, gelatin, pectin, carrageenan, sodium alginate, locust bean gum, xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, 25 gum arabic, chitosan, pullulan, waxy starch, sucralfate, cellulose and its derivatives (such as hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose), polyglycerol fatty acid esters, acrylic acid-alkyl (meth)acrylate copolymers, or their salts and polyglycerol fatty acid esters), primarily for 30 the purpose of imparting mucosal adsorption or retention properties. However, the form, solvent and additives for the therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent to be administered to the body are not limited to these, and appropriately selection may be made by a person skilled 35 in the art.

[0049]

The therapeutic or prophylactic agent for cognitive

disorders according to the invention also encompasses the concept of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent comprising existing substances with effects of inhibiting development of cognitive disorder, in addition to the
5 aforementioned anti-phosphorylated tau antibody or phosphorylated peptide. Also, the therapeutic or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according to the invention encompasses a kit for combined use of a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent containing the
10 anti-phosphorylation antibody or phosphorylated peptide and a therapeutic agent or prophylactic agent containing an existing substance with effects of inhibiting development of cognitive disorder. Examples of
15 substances that inhibit development of cognitive disorder include, but are not limited to, donepezil, galantamine, memantine and rivastigmine. The dosage of the substance with an effect of inhibiting development of cognitive disorder that is to be added, or the therapeutic agent or
20 prophylactic agent containing the substance with an effect of inhibiting development of cognitive disorder, may be a commonly employed dosage for treatment, which may be varied according to the conditions.

[0050]

Also, while the results of the examples demonstrate
25 that the antibody to be used for carrying out the invention exhibits a drug effect by acting on the brain through the blood-brain barrier even when administered peripherally by intraperitoneal administration, it is possible to prepare a formulation that efficiently
30 supplies an anti-phosphorylated tau antibody, which can also be used as a cognitive disorder therapeutic or prophylactic agent of the invention, to brain tissue, and such formulations are also encompassed by the therapeutic or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders according
35 to the invention. Methods for efficiently supplying antibodies or peptides to brain tissue through the blood-brain barrier are known, such as methods of adding

targeting substances or methods of encapsulating in liposomes or nanoparticles. Substances to be used for targeting include those that undergo total or partial change in charge characteristics by binding with
5 antibody, or peptides, proteins or other compounds having a property of binding with a specific receptor or transporter. Examples of peptides, proteins or other compounds having a property of binding with a specific receptor or membrane protein include ligands that bind to
10 receptor ligands or membrane proteins, and their analogs, and antibodies, agonist compounds/antagonist compounds/allosteric modulators that bind to receptor ligands or membrane proteins, and their analog compounds. Examples of receptor ligands or membrane proteins as
15 targets for a peptide, protein or other compound having the property of binding to a specific receptor or transporter include transferrin receptor (TfR), insulin receptor (IR), insulin-like growth factor receptor (IGFR), LDL receptor-related protein (LRP) and diphtheria
20 toxin receptor (HB-EGF), with no particular limitation to these (Angela R. Jones et al., Pharm. Res., Vol.24, p.1759-1771, 2007). A substance for targeting may be chemically added to the antibody to be used for the therapeutic or prophylactic agent for cognitive disorders
25 according to the invention, the method being one that can be appropriately carried out by a person skilled in the art with reference to a known method such as described in, for example, Hermanson et al., Bioconjugate techniques, USA 1996, Academic Press. The substance for
30 targeting may also be bound to liposomes or nanoparticles encapsulating the antibody or peptide (Sonu Bhaskar et al., Particle and Fibre Toxicology, Vol.7, No.3, 2010). In addition, when the substance for targeting is a peptide or protein, it can be produced as an appropriate
35 fusion protein by a person skilled in the art using genetic engineering techniques, either by producing a fusion peptide by peptide chemical synthesis, or by

combining a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence of a peptide or protein with a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence for the antibody or peptide to be used.

[0051]

An agent for treatment or prevention according to the invention may be administered orally or parenterally, for the purpose of improving symptoms. For oral administration, a dosage form such as granules, powder, tablets, capsules, liquid drug, syrup, emulsion, suspending agent or elixir may be selected. For parenteral administration, a transnasal agent may be prepared, and a liquid drug, suspension or solid formulation may be selected. An injection may be prepared as a different form of parenteral administration, the injection being selected as hypodermic injection, intravenous injection, dropping injection, intramuscular injection, intracerebroventricular injection or intraperitoneal injection. Other formulations used for parenteral administration include suppositories, sublingual agents, percutaneous agents and transmucosal administration agents other than transnasal agents. In addition, intravascular local administration is possible by a mode of addition or coating onto a stent or intravascular obturator.

[0052]

The dose for an agent for treatment or prevention according to the invention will differ depending on the patient age, gender, body weight and symptoms, the therapeutic effect, the method of administration, the treatment time, or the types of active ingredients in the medical composition, but normally it may be administered in the range of 0.1 mg to 1 g and preferably in the range of 0.5 mg to 200 mg of active compound per administration for adults. However, since the dose will vary depending

on a variety of conditions, lower doses than those mentioned above may be sufficient, or doses exceeding these ranges may be necessary.

5 The agent for treatment or prevention according to the invention can exhibit an effect within a short administration period.

[Examples]

[0053]

10 The present invention will now be explained in greater detail by examples, with the understanding that the examples are not limitative on the invention in any way. The experiments were conducted with the approval of the Animal Experiment Committee at Osaka City University, Abeno Campus.

15 **[0054]**

[Example 1] Preparation of rabbit polyclonal antibody for pSer413 peptide

20 The antigen used to prepare antibody for pSer413 peptide was a synthetic peptide (SEQ ID NO: 31, synthesized by Medical & Biological Laboratories Co., Ltd. [MBL]) having Cys attached at the C-terminal site of the amino acid sequence corresponding to the region from the 410th Asn to the 416th Ser of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 for human tau protein, phosphorylated at Ser corresponding to position 413 (this peptide will hereunder be referred to as pSer413(S) peptide).

[0055]

pSer413(S) peptide: N-AsnValSer(pSer)ThrGlySerCys-C (SEQ ID NO: 31)

30 **[0056]**

Following synthesis, the pSer413(S) peptide was purified with HPLC and covalently bonded with KLH (Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin). The obtained conjugate was used for immunization with 0.1 mg per dose per rabbit. 35 For the first immunization, 0.2 mL of conjugate solution (conjugate concentration: 0.5 mg/mL) was mixed with an equal amount of Freund's complete adjuvant, and the

dorsal area of a shaved Japanese white rabbit was intradermally injected at 8 locations with 50 μ L each. For the second and subsequent immunizations, Freund's incomplete adjuvant was used for two more similar immunizations every 2 weeks. At 2 weeks after the final immunization, a blood sample was taken and the antibody titer of the serum was confirmed by ELISA using immunized peptide conjugate, and the animal was sacrificed after 1 week and the whole blood was taken. Serum was prepared from the obtained blood, and antibodies were purified from the serum using an affinity column of pSer413(Af) peptide (SEQ ID NO: 32).

[0057]

The serum titer was confirmed by the following method. The pSer413(S) peptide was diluted to 5 μ g/mL with PBS, and then dispensed in a plate at 100 μ L/well and allowed to stand overnight at 4°C. After removing the solution, blocking buffer (MBL Co.) was dispensed at 250 μ L/well, and the plate was allowed to stand overnight at 4°C. The dilution series for the pre-immunization rabbit serum and post-immunization rabbit serum was 100, 500, 2,500, 12,500 and 62,500 folds, with a PBS-diluted sample added at 100 μ L/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 60 minutes. After rinsing, anti-rabbit IgG-peroxidase labeling (product of MBL) diluted 8,000-fold with Buffer (MBL) was added at 100 μ L/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 60 minutes. After rinsing, coloring solution (MBL) was added at 100 μ L/well for coloration for 3 to 10 minutes, and then 2N sulfuric acid was added at 100 μ L/well to terminate the reaction. After the reaction was terminated, the absorbance was measured at a measuring wavelength of 450 nm and a reference wavelength of 620 nm.

[0058]

The antibody reactivity of the purified antibody was

confirmed by the following method. The pSer413(L) peptide [pSer413(S) peptide (underlined) further extended in the N-terminal and C-terminal directions (SEQ ID NO: 33, synthesized by Biosynthesis Co.): N-
5 ProArgHisLeuSerAsnValSer(pSer)ThrGlySerIleAspMetValAsp-C] or NonP(L) peptide having the same amino acid sequence but not phosphorylated at the site corresponding to Ser413 (SEQ ID NO: 34, synthesized by Biosynthesis Co.) was diluted to 1 µg/mL with PBS and then dispensed into a
10 plate at 50 µL/well, and allowed to stand overnight at 4°C. After removing the solution, blocking buffer (3% BSA-PBS) was dispensed at 250 µL/well, and the mixture was allowed to further stand at 37°C for 1 hour or longer. The purified antibody diluted with PBS and serialized was
15 added at 50 µL/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 90 minutes. After rinsing, goat anti-rabbit IgG-alkaline phosphatase labeling (Bioscience) was diluted 2,000-fold with dilution buffer (3% BSA-PBS) and added at 50 µL/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 60
20 minutes. After rinsing, coloring solution (2.5 mM MgCl₂-containing 0.1 M diethanolamine buffer solution, with 1 mg/mL PNPP [para-nitrophenyl phosphate] added to pH 9.8) was added at 100 µL/well for coloration for 30 minutes, and the absorbance was measured at a measuring wavelength
25 of 405 nm and a reference wavelength of 550 nm.

[0059]

<Results>

As shown in Fig. 3, the purified antibody had high specificity for pSer413(L) peptide, while virtually no
30 reaction was observed with nonP(L) peptide. Therefore, the antibody is an antibody that participates in antigen-antibody reaction specifically with pSer413(L) (throughout the present specification, this may also be referred to as "pSer413-labeled rabbit polyclonal
35 antibody" or "pS413AB").

[0060]

[Example 2] Preparation of monoclonal antibody for pSer413 peptide (Ta15 Series)

The antigen used was synthetic peptide pSer413(Im) (SEQ ID NO: 35), having GlyCysSerGly attached at the N-terminus of the sequence corresponding to the region from the 403rd Thr to the 423rd Pro, phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser at position 413 of the amino acid sequence of human tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1. Following synthesis, the pSer413(Im) peptide was purified with HPLC and covalently bonded with KLH (Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin). The obtained conjugate was used for immunization with 0.04 mg per dose per mouse. The immunization was conducted by intraperitoneal injection into 10 mice at 200 μ L each of a mixture of 0.4 mL of conjugate solution (1.1 mg/mL in terms of peptide), 0.7 mL of saline and 1.1 mL of Freund's complete adjuvant. Three more similar immunizations (with the same immunization location and antigen dose, using Freund's incomplete adjuvant) were conducted every 2 weeks. One month after the final immunization, 100 μ L of a 0.5 mg/mL antigen solution (dissolved in saline) in terms of peptide was injected into the caudal vein of the one mouse among the ten that had increased serum antibody titer for the antigen, and on the third day the animals were sacrificed and the spleens recovered. Two 18G injection needles were used to break up the spleens, and then the broken-up spleens were gently mashed with a rubber stopper surface. The mashed splenocytes were suspended in approximately 10 mL of cold RPMI 1640 medium, the supernatant was filtered with a 40 μ m cell strainer, and the filtrate was collected in a 50 mL tube. The spleen cell debris was further mashed with a rubber stopper surface, and similarly suspended in cold RPMI 1640 medium, filtered, and the filtrate collected. Cold RPMI 1640 medium (or cold PBS) was added to a final volume of 40 mL for the

spleen cell suspension. The lymphocyte concentration in the suspension was measured with a hemacytometer, and lymphocytes in a final amount corresponding to 2×10^7 cells were transferred to a 50 mL tube. To this there
5 was added an equivalent of 4×10^7 cells of the mouse myeloma cell line P3X63Ag8·U1 (P3·U1) in the logarithmic growth stage, that had been cultured in culture solution B (RPMI 1640 + 10% fetal bovine serum + 2 mM glutamine + 100 µg/mL streptomycin + 100 unit/mL penicillin), and
10 after centrifugation at 1500 rpm for 5 minutes, the supernatant was discarded. The cell pellet was thoroughly dispersed by tapping the tube. To this there was added 0.5 mL of a polyethylene glycol solution (composed of RPMI 1640 (2.3 mL) + polyethylene glycol
15 2000 (1.4 mL) + dimethyl sulfoxide (0.3 mL), hereunder abbreviated as "PEG solution"), and the cells were gently suspended. After 1 minute, 0.5 mL of PEG solution was slowly added dropwise over a period of 1 minute, 1.0 mL of RPMI 1640 was slowly added dropwise over a period of 1
20 minute, and then 2 mL of RPMI 1640 was slowly added dropwise over a period of 2 minutes. Next, 4 mL of HAT/GIT culture solution (GIT medium [Nihon Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.] + 5% fetal bovine serum + 100 µg/mL streptomycin + 100 unit/mL penicillin + 95 µM
25 hypoxanthine + 0.4 µM aminopterin + 16 µM thymidine) was added dropwise over a period of 2 minutes, and then 4 mL of HAT/GIT culture solution was added dropwise over a period of 2 minutes. Finally, HAT/GIT culture solution was added to obtain 40 to 50 mL of cell suspension.
30 After incubation in a thermostatic bath at 37°C for 30 minutes, the suspension was seeded onto 7 culture plates (96 wells). The culture plates used were 96-well plates (feeder plates) on which mouse (ICR) abdominal cavity macrophages (feeder cells) had been cultured for several
35 days ($> 1 \times 10^5$ /well). The plates were then cultured for 7 to 10 days at 37°C, 5% CO₂.

[0061]

Half of the culture solution was replaced with fresh HT culture solution (HAT/GIT culture solution without aminopterin) once every week, and hybridomas were
5 obtained.

Antibody screening was carried out by the following method. The pSer413(L) peptide was diluted to 1 µg/mL with PBS, and then dispensed in a 96-well plate at 50 µL/well and allowed to stand overnight at 4°C. After
10 removing the solution, blocking buffer (3% BSA-PBS) was dispensed at 250 µL/well, and the mixture was left to stand at room temperature for 1 hour or longer. The blocking buffer (3% BSA-PBS) was aspirated, the hybridoma supernatant was added at 30-50 µL/well, and reaction was
15 conducted at 25°C for 60 minutes. After rinsing with phosphate-buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween20 (PBS-Tween), secondary antibody (a solution containing alkaline phosphatase-labeled goat anti-mouse IgG-Fc antibody [SouthernBiotech], diluted 2000-fold with
20 blocking buffer) was added at 100 µL/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 60 minutes. After rinsing, substrate solution (2.5 mM MgCl₂-containing 0.1 M diethanolamine buffer, with 0.7 to 1.2 mg/mL PNPP [para-nitrophenyl phosphate] added to pH 9.8) was added at 100
25 µL/well for coloration at 25°C for 60 minutes, after which the absorbance was measured at a measuring wavelength of 405 nm.

[0062]

In this screening, cells were recovered from the
30 positive wells and counted with a hemacytometer, and then seeded onto a 96-well plate (the previous feeder plate) at 1-3 cells/well, for cloning by the limiting dilution method (Ta1501, Ta1502, Ta1505-1509). For subsequent analysis, the clones were mass cultured and the antibody
35 was purified with a protein G column. Ta1505 is the same as Ta1505-2. The isotypes were determined using a kit by

AbD Serotec.

[0063]

The purified antibody was reacted with an ELISA plate coated with partial peptide corresponding to the different phosphorylation sites of tau, to determine the phosphate group specificity. The method was as follows.

A 10% DMSO solution of each tau peptide (pS46 [SEQ ID NO: 36], pS199 [SEQ ID NO: 37], pS202 [SEQ ID NO: 38], pT212 [SEQ ID NO: 39], pS214 [SEQ ID NO: 40], pT212/pS214 [SEQ ID NO: 41], pT217 [SEQ ID NO: 42], pS413 [SEQ ID NO: 33], non pS413 [SEQ ID NO: 34]), or a PBS solution of BSA-conjugated peptide (pS400 [SEQ ID NO: 43]-BSA, pS412 [SEQ ID NO: 44]-BSA) was diluted to 1 µg/mL with PBS (pH 7) and added to a 96-well plate (MaxiSorp: Nunc) at 50 µL/well, and then incubated overnight at 4°C for immobilization. Next, the peptide solution was removed and rinsed 3 times with TBS containing 0.05% Tween20, after which 3% BSA/PBS was added at 280 µL/well and blocking was performed at 37°C for 1 hour.

[0064]

The blocking solution was aspirated off, rinsing was performed 3 times with TBS containing 0.05% Tween20, and then 1 µg/mL of each Ta15 Series monoclonal antibody solution in 3% BSA-PBS was added at 50 µL/well, and reaction was conducted at room temperature for 1 hour. After rinsing 3 times with TBS containing 0.05% Tween 20, 50 µL of alkaline phosphatase-labeled goat anti-mouse IgG antibody (ThermoScience) diluted 2000-fold with PBS containing 3% BSA was added, and reaction was conducted at room temperature for 1 hour. After rinsing 3 times with TBS containing 0.05% Tween 20, 100 µL of a 1 mg/mL PNPP (para-nitrophenyl phosphate) solution dissolved in 0.1 M diethanolamine (pH 10) was added, reaction was conducted at room temperature for 1 hour, and the absorbance at 405 nm was measured. The reactivity evaluation results of each antibody for each peptide are

shown in Table 2. The reactivity was evaluated on a 3-level scale.

+: Reactivity, -: No reactivity, ±: Slight but very weak reactivity

5

[0065]

[Table 2]

Reaction specificity of the respective phosphate groups of tau to the obtained antibody

MAb	1501	1502	1505	1506	1507	1508	1509
pTau							
pS46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pS199	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pS202	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pT212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pS214	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pT212/pS214	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pT217	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pS400-BSA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pS412-BSA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
pS413	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Non pS413	—	±	±	—	±	±	—

[0066]

10 These antibodies (hereunder referred to as "Ta15 Series") were reacted only with pSer413 among the examined peptides, and the phosphate group specificity was extremely high.

[0067]

15 [Example 3] Measurement of Ta15 Series antibody binding affinity

In order to evaluate the binding affinity between the Ta15 Series antibodies and antigen peptide (pSer413 peptide (Im): see Example 2), a Biacore Surface Plasmon

Resonance (SPR) system (Biacore3000, code# BR-1100-45, by GE Healthcare, Japan) and each Biacore product were used for measurement according to the manufacturer's manual. One method of measurement used was a method of
5 immobilizing (code# BR-1006-33) anti-mouse antibody (code# BR-1008-38) on a CM5 chip (carboxymethyl dextran layer-formed chip, code# BR-1100-14) by covalent bonding through amine coupling reaction, binding the Ta15 Series antibody to the immobilized anti-mouse antibody, and
10 measuring the binding behavior of the antigen peptide to the bound Ta15 Series antibody.

[0068]

The specifically-binding reaction mixture was used with HBS-EP buffer (code# BR-T-1001-88), and the CM5 chip
15 was activated by a mixed solution of N-ethyl-N'-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-carbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) and N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS). A solution of anti-mouse antibody diluted to 0.001 mg/mL with 10 mM sodium acetate buffer at pH 5.0 was reacted with 4 flow cells on the
20 chip, and after covalently bonding the anti-mouse antibody to the CM5 chip, it was subjected to blocking with ethanolamine. Of the 4 flow cells immobilizing anti-mouse antibody, one trapped negative antibody (mouse IgG2a isotype control, code# MAB003, by R&D Systems)
25 while the other flow cells trapped Ta15 Series antibody, at a density of about 1000 RU each. HBS-EP buffer (0.01 M HEPES pH 7.4, 0.15 M NaCl, 3 mM EDTA, 0.005% v/v Surfactant P20) with added 1 M NaCl was reacted for 3 minutes and the nonspecific adsorbed antibody was
30 removed, and then HBS-EP buffer was reacted for 10 minutes at a flow rate of 50 μ L/min to stabilize the baseline. The peptide was serially diluted with HBS-EP buffer from a concentration of 100 pM to 5 mM (near the estimated binding dissociation constant [KD]), the
35 obtained peptide solutions (5 concentrations) were reacted for between 4 minutes and 6 minutes (uniform) at intervals of 6 minutes each continuously from the low

concentration end, and the binding behaviors were measured.

[0069]

As the specific binding behavior data for the antigen peptide, the binding behavior data was obtained for a non-phosphorylated peptide (non pSer413 peptide) as a negative peptide, and this was subtracted from the binding behavior data for the antigen peptide, in order to eliminate the effects of noise produced by the procedure. No binding of non-phosphorylated peptide to antibody was observed at the measuring concentrations. The specific binding behavior data was fitted with Single Cycle Kinetics 1:1, Binding with drift model, using Biacore analysis software (BIA evaluation: Single Cycle Kinetics Analysis, code# AP-4000-01), and the kinetic association rate (K_a) and dissociation rate (K_d) were simultaneously obtained (Karlsson, R., Katsamba, P. S., Nordin, H., Pol, E. and Myszka, D. G. (2006). "Analyzing a kinetic titration series using affinity biosensors." Anal.Biochem. 349(1): 136-47). The equilibrium dissociation constant (K_D) value, as the affinity measurement for the Ta15 Series antibodies, was calculated as K_d/K_a .

<Results>

[0070]

[Table 3]

	K_a ($M s^{-1}$)	K_d (s^{-1})	K_D (M)
1 5 0 1	5.64×10^4	1.05×10^{-3}	1.86×10^{-8}
1 5 0 2	1.12×10^5	4.70×10^{-4}	4.20×10^{-9}
1 5 0 5	1.29×10^5	4.99×10^{-4}	3.87×10^{-9}
1 5 0 6	1.99×10^5	1.94×10^{-3}	9.75×10^{-9}
1 5 0 7	1.27×10^5	5.33×10^{-4}	4.20×10^{-9}
1 5 0 8	1.45×10^5	9.80×10^{-4}	6.76×10^{-9}
1 5 0 9	8.71×10^4	1.25×10^{-3}	1.44×10^{-8}

[0071]

Of the Ta15 Series antibodies, the Ta1505 antibody with the strongest affinity for the antigen peptide was

used in a behavioral test using memory impaired mice.

[0072]

[Example 4] Preparation of monoclonal antibody
recognizing pSer396 and/or pSer404 peptide

5 As antigen there was used a synthetic peptide (SEQ
ID NO: 47, synthesized by Biosynthesis Co.) having GlyCys
attached to the N-terminal site of the sequence from the
379th Arg to the 408th Leu and phosphorylated on the
10 amino acid residues corresponding to Ser at positions 396
and 404 of the amino acid sequence of human tau protein
represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 (hereunder, this peptide will
be referred to have "pSer396/pSer404 peptide").

[0073]

pSer396/pSer404 peptide: N-GlyCys-
15 ArgGluAsnAlaLysAlaLysThrAspHisGlyAlaGluIleValTyrLys(pSer)
ProValValSerGlyAspThr(pSer)ProArgHisLeu-C (SEQ ID NO: 47)

[0074]

After synthesis of the pSer396/pSer404 peptide, it
was purified by HPLC and covalently bonded to maleimide
20 activated KLH (Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin) (Thermo
Scientific). The obtained conjugate was used for
immunization of Balb/c mice with approximately 0.04 mg
per dose per mouse. The immunization was conducted by
intraperitoneal injection into 4 mice at 100 µL each of a
25 mixture of 0.3 ml of conjugate solution (0.77 mg/ml in
terms of peptide) and 0.3 mL of Freund's complete
adjuvant. Two of the mice were immunized by
intraperitoneal immunization (with the same antigen
amount, using Freund's incomplete adjuvant) and foot sole
30 immunization (antigen + Titer Max adjuvant), while the
other two were immunized only by intraperitoneal
immunization, and this was repeated twice at 2 week
intervals. The mice immunized by intraperitoneal
immunization and foot sole immunization, which had
35 increased serum antibody titers for antigen, were
injected with antigen solution (dissolved in saline)
through the caudal vein 15 days after the final

immunization, and after 3 days the animals were sacrificed and the spleens extracted. Two 18G injection needles were used to break up the spleens, and then the broken-up spleens were gently mashed with a rubber stopper surface. The mashed splenocytes were suspended in approximately 10 mL of cold RPMI 1640 medium, the supernatant was filtered with a 40 μ m cell strainer, and the filtrate was collected in a 50 mL tube. The spleen cell debris was further mashed with a rubber stopper surface, and similarly suspended in cold RPMI 1640 medium, filtered, and the filtrate collected. Cold RPMI 1640 medium (or cold PBS) was added to a final volume of 40 mL for the spleen cell suspension. The lymphocyte concentration in the suspension was measured with a hemacytometer, and lymphocytes in a final amount corresponding to 2×10^7 cells were transferred to a 50 mL tube. To this there was added an equivalent of 4×10^7 cells of mouse myeloma cell line P3·U1 in the logarithmic growth stage, that had been cultured in culture solution B (RPMI 1640 + 10% fetal bovine serum + 2 mM glutamine + 100 μ g/mL streptomycin + 100 unit/mL penicillin), and after centrifugation at 1500 rpm for 5 minutes, the supernatant was discarded. The cell pellet was thoroughly dispersed by tapping the test tube. A 0.5 mL PEG solution was added thereto and the cells were gently suspended. After 1 minute, 0.5 mL of PEG solution was slowly added dropwise over a period of 1 minute, 1.0 mL of RPMI 1640 was slowly added dropwise over a period of 1 minute, and then 2 mL of RPMI 1640 was slowly added dropwise over a period of 2 minutes. Next, 4 mL of HAT/GIT culture solution (GIT medium [Nihon Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.] + 5% fetal bovine serum + 100 μ g/mL streptomycin + 100 unit/mL penicillin + 95 μ M hypoxanthine + 0.4 μ M aminopterin + 16 μ M thymidine) was added dropwise over a period of 2 minutes, and then 4 mL of HAT/GIT culture solution was added dropwise over a

period of 2 minutes. Finally, HAT/GIT culture solution was added to obtain 40 to 50 mL of cell suspension. After incubation in a thermostatic bath at 37°C for 30 minutes, the suspension was seeded onto 7 culture plates (96-well). The culture plates used were 96-well plates (feeder plates) on which mouse (ICR) abdominal cavity macrophages (feeder cells) had been cultured for several days ($> 1 \times 10^5$ /well). The plates were then cultured for 7 to 10 days at 37°C, 5% CO₂.

Half of the culture solution was replaced with fresh HT culture solution (HAT/GIT culture solution without aminopterin) once every week, and hybridomas were obtained.

[0075]

Monoclonal antibody screening was carried out in the following manner. The screening antigens used were pSer396/pSer404 peptide-BSA, having BSA conjugated to the N-terminal Cys of pSer396/pSer404 peptide (N-GlyCys-ArgGluAsnAlaLysAlaLysThrAspHisGlyAlaGluIleValTyrLys(pSer)ProValValSerGlyAspThr(pSer)ProArgHisLeu-C) (SEQ ID NO: 47), and non-phosphorylated peptide-BSA, having BSA conjugated to the N-terminal Cys of a non-phosphorylated peptide (N-GlyCys-ArgGluAsnAlaLysAlaLysThrAspHisGlyAlaGluIleValTyrLysSerProValValSerGlyAspThrSerProArgHisLeu-C) (SEQ ID NO: 48). The non-phosphorylated peptide-BSA or pSer396/pSer404 peptide-BSA was diluted to 1 µg/mL with PBS, and then dispensed in a 96-well plate at 50 µL/well and allowed to stand overnight at 4°C. After removing the solution, blocking buffer (3% BSA-PBS) was dispensed at 250 µL/well, and the mixture was left to stand at room temperature for 1 hour or longer. The blocking buffer (3% BSA-PBS) was aspirated, the hybridoma supernatant was added at 30-50 µL/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 60 minutes. After rinsing with phosphate-buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween20 (PBS-Tween), a detection

reagent (a solution containing added alkaline phosphatase-labeled Protein A, diluted 2000-fold with blocking buffer) was added at 100 μ L/well, and reaction was conducted at 25°C for 60 minutes. After rinsing, substrate solution (2.5 mM $MgCl_2$ -containing 0.1 M diethanolamine buffer, with 0.7 to 1.2 mg/mL PNPP [para-nitrophenyl phosphate] added to pH 9.8) was added at 100 μ L/well for coloration at 25°C for 60 minutes, after which the absorbance was measured at a measuring wavelength of 405 nm.

[0076]

The cells were recovered from the wells that had low reactivity with non-phosphorylated peptide-BSA and high reactivity with pSer396/pSer404 peptide-BSA, and were seeded in a 96-well plate (the previous feeder plate) at 1-3 cells/well, for cloning by the limiting dilution method. Clones producing Ta9 antibody (IgG3/ κ) were selected from among these. For subsequent analysis, the clones were mass cultured and the antibody was purified with a protein G column.

Upon measuring the KD value of Ta9 antibody for pSer396/pSer404 peptide by the method described in Example 3, it was found to be 1.08×10^{-10} , with affinity for peptide that was higher than the Ta15 Series antibodies.

[0077]

[Example 5] Behavioral test: Effect of obtained antibodies on memory learning-impaired mice

The effects of administering the following three antibodies on memory learning-impaired mice (Tau-Tg) were examined.

(1) pSer413-recognizing rabbit polyclonal antibody: Tau-Tg (line 609) mice or non-Tg mice (normal control), 9-11 months of age, $n = 9-10$ /group

(2) Ta1505 (pSer413-recognizing monoclonal antibody): Tau-Tg (line 784) mice or non-Tg mice, 14

months of age, n = 9-10/group

(3) Ta9 (pSer396-recognizing monoclonal antibody):
Tau-Tg (line 609) mice or non-Tg mice, 14 months of age,
n = 9-10/group

5 [0078]

For the experiment there were used male hetero
mutant Tau-Tg mice (line 609 or line 784), and non-Tg
littermates, 9-14 months of age. The groups were divided
so that there was no difference in average weight between
10 the groups. The hetero mutant Tau-Tg mice were
administered antibody diluted with PBS or citrate buffer
(pH 5), once per week, for a total of 5 times, into the
abdominal cavity at 1 mg per mouse per administration.
As a negative control group, the buffer used to prepare
15 the antibody, or mouse IgG monoclonal antibody with no
reactivity for tau, was administered into the abdominal
cavity at the same dosage. As a positive control, non-Tg
littermates were administered the buffer used to prepare
the antibody, into the abdominal cavity at the same
20 dosage.

[0079]

The structures for groups (1) to (3) are shown
below.

(1) <Mice used>: Mutant Tau-Tg (line 609), 9 to 11 months
25 of age.

<Group structure>

Evaluation antibody group: 1.6 mg/mL of anti-tau
pSer413 rabbit polyclonal antibody in PBS (n = 10)

Control antibody group: PBS (n = 9)

30 Non-Tg group: PBS (n = 9)

(2) <Mice used>: Mutant Tau-Tg (line 784), 14 months of
age.

<Group structure>

Evaluation antibody group: 3.84 mg/ml of anti-tau
35 pSer413 mouse monoclonal antibody Ta1505 in 0.1 M citrate
buffer (pH 5) (n = 10)

Control antibody group: 4.28 mg/ml of anti-

Pseudomonas aeruginosa mouse monoclonal antibody 4C10F4 in 0.1 M citrate buffer (pH 5) (n = 9)

Non-Tg group: 0.1 M citrate buffer (pH 5) (n = 9)
(3) <Mice used>: Mutant Tau-Tg (line 609), 14 months of age.

<Group structure>

Evaluation antibody group: 2.66 mg/ml of anti-tau pSer396 mouse monoclonal antibody Ta9 in 0.02 M citrate buffer (pH 6) (n = 10)

10 Control antibody group: 4.50 mg/ml of anti-*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* monoclonal antibody 6F11 in 0.02 M citrate buffer (pH 6) (n = 9)

Non-Tg group: 0.02 M citrate buffer (pH 6) (n = 9)

15 From Monday of the week following the final administration, a spatial reference memory test was conducted using a Morris water maze (water maze test). On the day following completion of the water maze test, an Open Field apparatus was used to measure the active movement quantity of the mice (Open Field test).

20 **[0080]**

<Water maze test: Same for groups (1) to (3)>

Preparation: A black pool with an inner diameter of 100 cm and a height of 45 cm was filled with water to a depth of 16 cm. The water temperature was adjusted to 21-23 degrees, maintaining colorless transparency without coloration with titanium oxide or the like. No chlorine was added, and after every trial day the feces were removed and approximately 10 L of water was replaced.

25 Trial (Acquisition) test: A 15 cm-high transparent platform was immersed at a position 20 cm from the wall (30 cm from the center). With partitioning into 4 quadrants including the location where the platform was submersed, the mice were introduced randomly from one of the 3 quadrants without the platform. The limit for each test was 60 seconds, with 5 tests being conducted per day. The interval between tests was approximately 5 minutes. The "escape time" to reaching the platform was

recorded as data. Mice that did not escape within 60 seconds were directed to the platform by the operator's hand, and the escape time was treated as 60 seconds. The mouse on the platform was removed from the pool after 10
5 seconds and allowed to behave freely until the next test, drying the body. The results for each mouse on each day were recorded as the average number of seconds for the escape times of the 5 tests.

The acquisition test was completed when the results
10 for the control group (nonTg) stabilized, and a probe test was conducted on the following day.

Probe test: On the day following the last day, the platform was removed from the pool and the free swimming was photographed with a video camera for 60 seconds. The
15 photographed video was observed, and the time during which the freely swimming mice swam in the quadrant that had contained the platform (target quadrant) among the 4 quadrants, was measured and expressed as a percentage of the 60 seconds. During this time, the swimming up to 30
20 seconds after introduction into the pool was also analyzed.

The significant test for the trial (acquisition) test was done by repeated measure and Fisher's PLSD, and significant test for the probe test was done by Fisher's
25 PLSD.

[0081]

<Open Field test: Same for groups (1) to (3)>

Apparatus: A 5 mm-thick transparent acrylic board was used to create a 30 x 30 x 30 cm square box, and it
30 was stored in a soundproof environment. A 40W incandescent lamp was placed over the storage environment and the floor face was irradiated with an illuminance of 110 lux.

Behavior quantity: (i) Infrared beams were set on
35 the outside of the sides of the acrylic box at locations 1.5 cm from the floor surface, at a spacing of 10 cm. When the mouse continuously blocked 2 beams the

locomotion was detected, and was counted.

(ii) Infrared beam surfaces were provided on locations of two opposite sides, 3.5 cm from the floor surface. When the mouse blocked a portion of the beam surface, rearing was detected and counted.

Test: Each mouse was subjected to a single 20-minute session. The mouse was introduced into the center section of the acrylic box and, upon rapidly closing the door to create a soundproof environment, the session was initiated.

The first 10 minutes of the session were free activity under light conditions, while for the last 10 minutes, illumination was ceased for free activity under dark conditions.

Analysis: The behavior quantity of each mouse each minute was indicated on a line graph, for locomotion and rearing.

Normal visual perception was defined as reaction to the change in environment to dark conditions 10 minutes after the start of the session, whereby the mouse exhibited a change in behavior quantity.

The each behavior quantity under light and dark conditions, and the total behavior quantity during 20 minutes, were represented in a bar graph.

A significant test was conducted between the groups, for total behavior quantity of locomotion and rearing.

Locomotion is a major spontaneous behavior quantity while rearing is a major exploratory behavior, but in fact both indicators are mutually influential (example: even when locomotion appears to be reduced, if rearing is increased during that time then the behavior quantity cannot be said to be reduced).

[0082]

<Immunohistochemistry test: only for group (2)>

Upon completion of the behavioral test, 5 mice were selected from each group and were perfusion-fixed with formalin. After embedding in paraffin, a thin slice was

prepared from the brain using a microtome and treated 4 times with xylene and ethanol every 10 minutes, as deparaffinization treatment. It was then boiled for 30 minutes in citric acid buffer (pH 6) (antigen activating treatment) and returned to room temperature, after which it was rinsed twice with Tris buffer-physiological saline (TS) for 10 minutes. After blocking for 60 minutes at room temperature with TS containing 20% bovine serum, mouse anti-human synaptophysin antibody (SVP-38 diluted 200-fold with TS containing 10% bovine serum, by Sigma) was mounted and treatment was conducted overnight at 4°C. After rinsing twice with TS for 10 minutes, FITC-labeled anti-mouse IgG antibody (the antibody diluted 20-fold with TS containing 10% bovine serum, by Vector) was mounted, and treatment was conducted at room temperature for 60 minutes. After rinsing twice with TS for 10 minutes, VECTASHIELD (Vector) was mounted, and observation was made with a microscope. The fluorescence intensity was quantified and digitized with NIH imageJ, and expressed in arbitrary units.

[0083]

<Results>

1. Effects of each antibody administration on memory impairment

(1) pSer413 rabbit polyclonal antibody

The results for (1-1) to (1-3) are shown in Fig. 4 to Fig. 7. To summarize, passive immunization with anti-pSer413 polyclonal antibody notably improved memory impairment in the model mice (Tau-Tg) to the same level as non-Tg. In (1-3), no significant difference in active movement and visual perception was seen between the groups.

(2) pSer413 mouse monoclonal antibody (1505 antibody)

The results for (2-1) to (2-3) are shown in Fig. 8 to Fig. 11. To summarize, passive immunization with anti-pSer413 monoclonal antibody notably improved memory impairment in the model mice to the same level as non-Tg.

In (2-3), no significant difference in active movement and visual perception was seen between the groups.

Based on the results of (2-1) and (2-2), the pSer413 epitope was concluded to be a satisfactory epitope as a target of passive immunization therapy, for both polyclonal antibodies and monoclonal antibodies.

(3) pSer396 mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta9 antibody)

The results for (3-1) to (3-3) are shown in Fig. 12 to Fig. 15. To summarize, Ta9 administration significantly improved memory impairment to the same level as non-Tg. In (3-3), no significant difference in active movement and visual perception was seen between the groups.

When Ta9 is compared with Ta1505, however, its drug effect was found to be weaker. Although the antigen affinity was Ta9 > Ta1505 (see Examples 2 and 3), the drug effect was Ta9 < Ta1505 (Example 5), suggesting a significant difference in drug effect due to differences in the phosphorylation epitope.

[0084]

[Example 6] Effects of Ta1505 antibody administration on neural function

The effects of Ta1505 antibody administration on levels of synaptophysin, known as a marker reflecting neural function, was examined by immunostaining of anti-synaptophysin antibody in the hippocampal CA3 region, which is a center of memory. The fluorescence intensity was quantified by NIH-Image J.

The results are shown in Fig. 16. With administration of Ta1505 antibody there was observed recovery in hippocampal synaptophysin levels, although not to a significant degree.

[0085]

[Example 7] Nucleotide sequencing of Ta15 Series monoclonal antibody cDNA

(1) Purification of hybridoma total RNA

Hybridomas producing different monoclonal antibodies

were cultured, and 1 mL of ISOGEN was used per well of a 6-well plate to lyse the cells. After adding 0.2 mL of chloroform to the lysate and mixing with a vortex, it was allowed to stand at room temperature for 2 to 3 minutes.

5 Centrifugation was performed at 12,000 rpm, 4°C for 10 minutes, and the upper layer was transferred to a new tube. After then adding 0.5 mL of isopropyl alcohol and mixing, the mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 10 minutes. It was then centrifuged at
10 15,000 rpm, 4°C for 15 minutes to precipitate the total RNA. After then adding 1 mL of 75% ethanol to the pellet and thoroughly mixing, it was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm, 4°C for 5 minutes. The pellet was air-dried, dissolved in DNase/RNase-free water, and stored at -80°C.

15 **[0086]**

(2) Obtaining of H chain and L chain cDNA by 5'-RACE and 3'-RACE and nucleotide sequencing of these cDNAs

Primers were synthesized for 5'-RACE (Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends) and 3'-RACE, based on the
20 known cDNA sequences of the constant regions of the mouse IgG2a and IgG2b H chains. Primers were similarly synthesized for 5'-RACE (Rapid Amplification of cDNA Ends) and 3'-RACE, based on the cDNA sequence of the constant region of the mouse L chain.

25 Separately, 1 µg of total RNA obtained from the hybridomas was used for synthesis of cDNA for 5'-RACE and 3'-RACE using a SMART-RACE Kit (product of Clontech), and 5'-RACE and 3'-RACE were performed. PCR reaction was conducted using Advantage 2 Polymerase Mix (Clontech),
30 according to the manufacturer's protocol. The PCR products obtained by 5'-RACE and 3'-RACE were electrophoresed on agarose gel, and the main amplified DNA fragment was cut out from the agarose gel, inserted into a TA cloning vector (Invitrogen) and used to
35 transform *E. coli*, obtaining several clones. Plasmids were prepared from the transformants by an established

method, and the nucleotide sequence of the inserted DNA fragment was determined.

[0087]

5 (3) Obtaining of full-length cDNA of H chain and L chain and nucleotide sequencing of these cDNAs

The cDNA sequences coding for the N-terminus and C-terminus of the H chain and L chain were determined based on nucleotide sequence information, and forward and reverse primers were designed for amplification of the full-length sequence. These primers were used for amplification of the full lengths of the H chain and L chain using Prime STAR MaxPCR (TaKaRa), and the PCR fragments were cloned in pEF4 vector. This was used for final determination of the full-length cDNA sequences.

15 Translation to amino acid sequences was carried out based on the obtained nucleotide sequence information, and IgBLAST (NCBI, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/igblast/>) was used to identify the CDR regions by the method of Kabat (Kabat, E.A. and Wu, T.T., J. Immunol., 147, 1709-1719, 1991).

20 The sequences of the obtained CDR regions are listed from SEQ ID NO: 14 onward.

Information relating to the CDR sequences of antibodies that specifically recognize pSer413 was obtained from homology with these sequences (Tables 4 to 6).

[0088]

[Table 4]

Monoclonal antibody CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 amino acid sequences

Monoclonal antibody clone	CDR-H1	CDR-H2	CDR-H3
Ta1501	SEQ ID NO: 7	SEQ ID NO: 9	SEQ ID NO: 13
Ta1502	SEQ ID NO: 8	SEQ ID NO: 9	SEQ ID NO: 13
Ta1505	SEQ ID NO: 8	SEQ ID NO: 9	SEQ ID NO: 13
Ta1506	SEQ ID NO: 7	SEQ ID NO: 10	SEQ ID NO: 13
Ta1507	SEQ ID NO: 8	SEQ ID NO: 12	SEQ ID NO: 13
Ta1508	SEQ ID NO: 7	SEQ ID NO: 10	SEQ ID NO: 13
Ta1509	SEQ ID NO: 7	SEQ ID NO: 11	SEQ ID NO: 13

5

[0089]

[Table 5]

Monoclonal antibody CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 amino acid sequences

Monoclonal antibody clone	CDR-L1	CDR-L2	CDR-L3
Ta1501	SEQ ID NO: 14	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17
Ta1502	SEQ ID NO: 14	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17
Ta1505	SEQ ID NO: 14	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17
Ta1506	SEQ ID NO: 14	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17
Ta1507	SEQ ID NO: 14	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17
Ta1508	SEQ ID NO: 14	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17
Ta1509	SEQ ID NO: 15	SEQ ID NO: 16	SEQ ID NO: 17

10

[0090]

[Table 6]

Monoclonal antibody VH and VL amino acid sequences

Monoclonal antibody clone	VH	VL
Ta1501	SEQ ID NO: 18	SEQ ID NO: 25
Ta1502	SEQ ID NO: 19	SEQ ID NO: 26
Ta1505	SEQ ID NO: 20	SEQ ID NO: 26
Ta1506	SEQ ID NO: 21	SEQ ID NO: 27
Ta1507	SEQ ID NO: 22	SEQ ID NO: 28
Ta1508	SEQ ID NO: 23	SEQ ID NO: 29
Ta1509	SEQ ID NO: 24	SEQ ID NO: 30

[0091]

[Example 8] Behavioral test: Effect of obtained antibodies on memory learning-impaired mice

5 The effect of administering the following two antibodies on memory learning-impaired mice was examined, with a dosage of 0.1 mg.

(4) Ta1505 (pSer413-recognizing monoclonal antibody): Tau-Tg (line 784) mice or non-Tg mice, 10 months of age, n = 9-10/group

10 (5) Ta9 (pSer396-recognizing monoclonal antibody): Tau-Tg (line 784) mice or non-Tg mice, 11 months of age, n = 8-10/group

For the experiment there were used male hetero mutant Tau-Tg mice (line 784), and their non-Tg littermates, 10-11 months of age. The groups were
15 divided so that there was no difference in average weight between the groups. The hetero mutant Tau-Tg mice were administered antibody diluted with PBS, once per week, for a total of 5 times, into the abdominal cavity at 0.1 mg per mouse per administration. As a negative control
20 group, the PBS used to prepare the antibody, or mouse IgG monoclonal antibody with no reactivity for tau, was administered into the abdominal cavity at the same dosage. As a positive control, non-Tg littermates were administered the PBS used to prepare the antibody, into
25 the abdominal cavity at the same dosage.

[0092]

The structures for groups (4) to (5) are shown below.

30 (4) <Mice used>: Mutant Tau-Tg (line 784), 10 months of age.

<Group structure>

Evaluation antibody group: 0.25 mg/ml of anti-tau pSer413 mouse monoclonal antibody Ta1505 in PBS (n = 10)

35 Control antibody group: 0.25 mg/ml of anti-*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* mouse monoclonal antibody 4C10F4 in PBS (n = 10)

Non-Tg group: PBS (n = 9)

(5) <Mice used>: Mutant Tau-Tg (line 784), 11 months of age.

<Group structure>

Evaluation antibody group: 0.25 mg/ml of anti-tau
5 pSer396 mouse monoclonal antibody Ta9 in PBS (n = 10)

Control antibody group: 0.25 mg/ml of anti-
Pseudomonas aeruginosa monoclonal antibody 6F11 in PBS (n
= 8)

Non-Tg group: PBS (n = 8)

10 From Monday of the week following the final
administration, a spatial reference memory test was
conducted using a Morris water maze (water maze test). The
water maze test was conducted in the same manner as
Example 5.

15 **[0093]**

<Results>

1. Effects of each antibody administration on memory
impairment

16 (4) pSer413 mouse monoclonal antibody (1505 antibody)

20 The results for the Trial test (4-1) and Probe test
(4-2) are shown in Fig. 18 and Fig. 19. To summarize,
passive immunization with anti-pSer413 monoclonal
antibody improved memory impairment in the model mice to
a level of 50% or greater compared to non-Tg.

25 The results of (4-1) and (4-2) confirmed a drug
effect for pSer413 epitope monoclonal antibody even at a
dose of 0.1 mg.

(5) pSer396 mouse monoclonal antibody (Ta9 antibody)

30 The results for the Trial test (5-1) and Probe test
(5-2) are shown in Fig. 20 and Fig. 21. To summarize,
memory impairment was not improved with Ta9
administration at a dosage of 0.1 mg.

35 These tests even more clearly suggest a difference
in drug effect at a dosage of 0.1 mg, due to differences
in the phosphorylation epitope.

Administration of antibody at 0.1 mg per mouse
corresponds to administration at a dose of approximately

2.5 mg/kg.

[0094]

[Example 9] Change in level of phosphorylated Tau in brain by Tal505 antibody administration

5 The effect of Tal505 antibody administration on the levels of phosphorylated Tau in the brains of Tau-Tg mice was examined by immunohistostaining with pSer413-recognizing Tal505 antibody and AT8 antibody (PHF-recognizing pSer202/pThr205 epitope), in the hippocampal
10 region, which are centers of memory.

 Upon completion of the behavioral test, 5 mice were selected from each group and perfusion-fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde/PBS. The brains were removed and
15 embedded in paraffin, and 5 μ m thin slices were prepared with a microtome. After treatment 4 times with xylene and ethanol for 10 minutes each time, deparaffinization treatment was performed and the slices were subjected to
20 boiling treatment (antigen activating treatment) for 10 minutes at pH 2, room temperature. After restoration to room temperature, there were rinsed twice with Tris-HCl physiological saline (TS) for 10 minutes. Blocking was then performed for 60 minutes at room temperature using
25 20% bovine serum-containing TS.

 Anti-tau antibodies (Tal505, AT8) diluted to 1 μ g/mL
25 with 10% bovine serum-containing TS were mounted, for treatment overnight at 4°C. After rinsing twice with TS for 10 minutes, biotin-labeled anti-mouse antibody (Vector Co.) diluted 500-fold with TS containing 10% bovine serum was mounted, for treatment at room
30 temperature for 60 minutes.

 After rinsing twice with TS for 10 minutes, HRP-labeled ABC solution (Vector Co.) was mounted for
35 reaction at room temperature for 30 minutes, and after additional rinsing, coloring was performed with diaminobenzidine (DAB). This was encapsulated with Entellan (Merck) and observed and photographed.

[0095]

The results of immunohistostaining with Tal505 are shown in Fig. 22 to Fig. 24.

As seen in Fig. 22, Tal505-positive Tau staining was
5 observed in the hippocampus CA3 region (first column from
left) and the hippocampus CA23 region (second column from
left) in 5 individuals of the control IgG-administered
group, but the staining levels in the hippocampus CA3
region (third column from left) and hippocampus CA23
10 region (fourth column from left) in 5 individuals of the
Tal505-administered group were clearly lower than the
control IgG-administered group. This confirmed that
Tal505 administration reduced Tal505-positive Tau, i.e.
Ser413-phosphorylated Tau, in the hippocampus CA3 region
15 and hippocampus CA23 region. More specifically, the
control IgG group showed accumulated fine brown points,
staining in a thick line from left to right in CA3. With
CA23, a thick curve stained from the top right toward the
left side. The Tal505-administered group had very fine
20 thin brown points, with a thick staining line from the
top left toward the bottom right in CA3. With CA23, a
thick curve stained from the top right toward the left
side. Virtually no staining was seen in four CA3 regions
and three CA23 regions.

25 In Fig. 23 and Fig. 24, AT8-positive Tau staining
was seen in the cortex regions (Perirhinal Cortex (first
column from left in Fig. 23), Lateral Entorhinal Cortex
(second column from left in Fig. 23), and Medial
Entorhinal Cortex (third column from left in Fig. 23)),
30 for five individuals in the control IgG-administered
group. (Staining as brown spots in Fig. 23.)

The staining levels in the cortex regions
(Perirhinal Cortex (first column from left in Fig. 24),
Lateral Entorhinal Cortex (second column from left in
35 Fig. 24) and Medial Entorhinal Cortex (third column from
left in Fig. 24)), were clearly reduced below the control
IgG-administered group, for five individuals in the

Tal505-administered group, to a level which exhibited no staining.

This confirmed that Tal505 administration reduced Tal505-positive Tau, i.e. Ser413 phosphorylated Tau, in the cortex regions (Perirhinal Cortex, Lateral Entorhinal Cortex, Medial Entorhinal Cortex).

Brown spot staining is present in Fig. 23, but virtually no brown spot staining can be seen in Fig. 24.

Tal505 antibody administration was confirmed to reduce Ser413 phosphorylated Tau levels in the brain (= hippocampus CA3 region, hippocampus CA23 region, PRh, Ent (Lateral, Medial)).

PRh = Perirhinal Cortex

Ent = Entorhinal Cortex

The results of immunohistostaining with AT8 are shown in Fig. 25 to Fig. 27.

As seen in Fig. 25, AT8-positive Tau staining was observed in the hippocampus CA3 region (first column from left) and the hippocampus CA23 region (second column from left) in 5 individuals of the control IgG-administered group, but the staining levels in the hippocampus CA3 region (third column from left) and hippocampus CA23 region (fourth column from left) in 5 individuals of the Tal505-administered group were clearly lower than the control IgG-administered group. This confirmed that Tal505 administration reduced AT8-positive Tau, i.e. Ser202/Thr205-phosphorylated Tau, in the hippocampus CA3 region and hippocampus CA23 region. More specifically, in Fig. 25, the control IgG group shows accumulated fine brown points, staining in a thick line from the top left to bottom right, with CA3. With CA23, a thick curve stained from the top right toward the left side. The Tal505-administered group had very fine thin brown points, with a thick staining line from the top left toward the bottom right with CA3. With CA23, a thick curve stained from the top right toward the left side.

In Fig. 26, AT8-positive Tau staining is seen in the

cortex regions (Perirhinal Cortex (first column from left in Fig. 26), Lateral Entorhinal Cortex (second column from left in Fig. 26), and Medial Entorhinal Cortex (third column from left in Fig. 26)), for five individuals in the control IgG-administered group. (Staining as brown spots in Fig. 26.)

In Fig. 27, the staining levels in the cortex regions (Perirhinal Cortex (first column from left in Fig. 27), Lateral Entorhinal Cortex (second column from left in Fig. 27) and Medial Entorhinal Cortex (third column from left in Fig. 27)) are clearly reduced below the control IgG-administered group, for five individuals in the Ta1505-administered group. (Staining as thin brown spots in Fig. 27.)

This confirmed that Ta1505 administration reduced AT8-positive Tau, i.e. Ser202/Thr205 phosphorylated Tau, in the cortex regions (Perirhinal Cortex, Lateral Entorhinal Cortex, Medial Entorhinal Cortex).

Ta1505 antibody administration was confirmed to tend to reduce AT8-recognizing Ser202/Thr205 phosphorylated Tau levels in the brain (= hippocampus CA3 region, hippocampus CA23 region, PRh, Ent (Lateral, Medial)).

This result provides support that antibody administration ameliorates pathology in the brain and has an improving effect for memory impairment. The results indicate that intraperitoneally administered antibody acts in the brain.

[0096]

[Example 10] Effect of Ta1505 antibody administration on Tau levels in the brain

Using AT8 antibody, which is thought to recognize hyperphosphorylated Tau present in PHF (pSer202/pThr205-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody, Innax Co.), G2 (anti-human specific N-terminal region-recognizing antibody: rabbit polyclonal antibody), PHF1 (pSer396/pSer404-recognizing mouse monoclonal antibody, thought to recognize hyperphosphorylated Tau present in

PHF) and Tal505, the effect of 1505 antibody administration on Tau and hyperphosphorylated Tau levels in brain homogenates was examined by Western blotting using antibody-administered Tau-Tg mice brain homogenates.

Sonication was performed on 100 to 200 mg of mouse cerebral hemisphere in a 5-fold amount of TBS (containing protease inhibitor cocktail and phosphatase inhibitor cocktail). This was centrifuged at 100,000 g for 15 minutes at 4°C, and the supernatant was collected as the TBS soluble fraction.

The precipitate was suspended in 1% sarkosyl/TBS (containing protease inhibitor cocktail and phosphatase inhibitor cocktail), and incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. This was centrifuged at 100,000 g for 15 minutes at room temperature, and the supernatant was used as the sarkosyl soluble fraction.

The TBS soluble fraction and sarkosyl soluble fraction were electrophoresed with 7% Tris-Acetate Gel and separated, transferred to a PVDF membrane, and subjected to blocking overnight at room temperature with 1% BSA/3% SkimMilk/0.05% Tween20/TBS. Next, the antibody solution was reacted using HRP conjugate antibody as the secondary antibody, reaction was conducted by the ECL method, and analysis was performed with an LAS3000 image analyzer for quantification.

[0097]

The results are shown in Fig. 28 and Fig. 29.

For the TBS soluble fraction, it was confirmed that Tal505 antibody administration significantly reduced human Tau (recognized by G2 antibody), hyperphosphorylated Tau (recognized by AT8 (pS202/pT205 epitope) and PHF1 (pS396/pS404 epitope)) and pS413Tau (recognized by Tal505) in Tau-Tg mice brain.

For the sarkosyl soluble fraction, it was confirmed that Tal505 antibody administration significantly reduced hyperphosphorylated Tau (recognized by AT8) in Tau-Tg

mice brain.

This result provides support that antibody administration ameliorates pathology in the brain and has an improving effect for memory impairment. The results also indicate that intraperitoneally administered antibody acts in the brain.

[0098]

[Production Example 1] Tg mice expressing human normal type tau (Tau-Tg mice), as cognitive function impairment model

The pharmacological effect of antibodies of the invention on improving cognitive function was examined using Tg mice having the characteristic of expressing human normal type tau, and particularly the same expression pattern as in ontogenesis in humans, which is expression of only type 3R tau during the embryonic stage and both types 3R and 4R tau with continuing growth, and exhibiting onset of cognitive function impairment at about 6 months after birth. The Tg mice were prepared by the following method.

[0099]

The gene structure used for preparation of the Tg mice was tau gene-conferring nucleic acid having the structure shown in Fig. 17, comprising the Simian virus 40 (SV40) 5'-intron (0.3 kb), tau gene (Tau; 7.3 kb), SV40 3'-intron (0.8 kb) and SV40 polyA signal (0.3 kb) in that order, downstream from the α -calmodulin kinase II α (CaMKII) promoter (8.5 kb). The tau gene used was obtained by the same method described by Yamashita T. et al. (FEBS Letters, Vol.579, P.241-244, 2005), as a 7.3 kb-length gene comprising the nucleotide sequence of the portion corresponding to exons 1 to 9 from cDNA coding for human tau, a nucleotide sequence including the portion of the first 18 nucleotides and the last 3 kb of intron 9, the nucleotide sequence of exon 10, the portion of the first 3 kb and the last 38 nucleotides of intron 10 (with cytosine substituting for thymine at base number

16 from the 5'-end of intron 10) and the nucleotide
sequence of cDNA corresponding to exons 11 to 13. The
tau gene was cloned at the restriction enzyme EcoRV site
of pNN265, a vector including the SV40 5'-intron and 3'-
5 intron and poly(A) signal sequence (Choi T et al., Mol.
Cell. Biol. vol.11, pp.3070-3074, 1991). A DNA fragment
containing the SV40 5'-intron, the tau gene, the SV40 3'-
intron and the poly(A) signal sequence was cut out from
the obtained plasmids with restriction enzymes XhoI and
10 NotI, and the DNA fragment was cloned in pMM403 vector
including CaMKII promoter (Mayford M et al., Cell vol.81
pp.891-904, 1995). Also, a gene fragment having the
structure shown in Fig. 17, containing the tau gene, was
cut out from the obtained plasmids with restriction
15 enzyme SfiI (17.2 kb), isolated by agarose
electrophoresis, and purified from the corresponding gel
region using QIAGEN (R) QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (Cat.
No.28704). The obtained gene (DNA) fragment was
incubated with pronuclear-stage embryos obtained by
20 breeding male/female C57BL/6 mice, according to a known
method [Hogan, B et al., "Manipulating the mouse embryo.
A Laboratory Manual," Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
(1986)]. These were implanted into the uterine tubes of
female C57BL mice rendered pseudopregnant by injection.
25 Portions of the tails of the born mice were amputated,
PCR was conducted to confirm whether the introduced gene
had been transferred, and the female or male mice with
the transferred gene were bred with normal female or male
mice to establish Tg mice hetero for the transferred tau
30 gene, which were used for experimentation. The Tau-Tg
mice mentioned in line 609 and line 784 of the examples
are mice produced by the same method and exhibiting
equivalent traits (possibly delete reference to lines in
examples).

What is claimed is:

1. Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that is not phosphorylated at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is an antibody which, in binding with tau protein, binds in competition with an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

3. Use according to claim 1, wherein the antibody is an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

4. Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,

wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region having three complementary determining regions (CDRs), and a light chain variable region having three CDRs,

wherein the heavy chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (a)-(e) below:

(a) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(b) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(c) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence

represented by SEQ ID NO: 10, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(d) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 12, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, and

(e) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 11, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13; and wherein the light chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (f)-(g)

below:

(f) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17, and

(g) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 15, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17;

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

5. Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,

wherein the antibody comprises:

a CDR-H1 sequence selected from a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, and a CDR-H1 sequence in which Leu at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8 has been replaced with Met,

a CDR-H2 sequence selected from a CDR-H2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H2 sequence having one or more substitutions: Thr at the sixth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Ser or Ala, Asn at the eighth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with His, Ala at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Val,

and Asp at the 19th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Gly,

a CDR-H3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

a CDR-L1 sequence selected from a CDR-L1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, and a CDR-L1 sequence in which Ser at the ninth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14 has been replaced with Thr,

a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, as well as

a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

6. Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that is not phosphorylated at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,

wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising an H chain variable region selected from an H chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, and an H chain variable region having at least 90% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, as well as an L chain variable region selected from an L chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30, and an L chain variable region having at least 90% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

7. Use of an antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy,

wherein the antibody comprises:

an H chain variable region represented by SEQ ID NO: 20, or

an H chain variable region having one or more substitutions: Val at the second position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Gln at the third position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with His, Gly at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with

Glu, Asn at the 30th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ser, Leu at the 34th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Met, Ala at the 40th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Thr, Ser at the 44th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Gly, Glu at the 46th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn or Asp, Val at the 48th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Val at the 49th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala, Thr at the 55th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Ser, Asn at the 57th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with His, Ala at the 59th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Val, Asp at the 68th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Gly, Thr at the 71th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Val at the 72th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Ser at the 79th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn, Val at the 81th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Leu, Lys at the 89th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Gln, and Thr at the 93th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ser; as well as

an L chain variable region represented by SEQ ID NO: 26, or

an L chain variable region having one or more substitutions: Asp at the first position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Gly or Val, Ile at the second position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Val, Met at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Leu, Thr at the seventh position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Gln at the 18th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with His, and Ser at the 32th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Thr,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

8. Use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody or chimeric antibody.
9. Use of a peptide that includes the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 403-423 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 in the peptide being phosphorylated, as an active ingredient, in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating tauopathy.
10. Use according to any one claims 1-9, wherein the tauopathy is Alzheimer's disease, cortical-basal ganglia degeneration, progressive supranuclear palsy, Pick's disease, argyrophilic grain dementia (argyrophilic grain disease), Multiple system tauopathy with dementia (MSTD), chromosome 17-linked frontotemporal dementia with Parkinsonism (FTDP-17), neurofibrillary tangle dementia, diffuse neurofibrillary tangles with calcification (DNFC), white matter tauopathy with globular glial inclusions (WMT-GGI) or frontotemporal lobar degeneration with tau-positive inclusions (FTLD-tau).
11. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 403-423 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO: 1 in the peptide being phosphorylated, with greater affinity than to a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acids 403-423 of SEQ ID NO:1 that is not phosphorylated at the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of SEQ ID NO:1.
12. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that is not phosphorylated at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1, the antibody being one whose binding to antigen is competitive against an antibody including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.
13. A monoclonal antibody for phosphorylated tau protein, the antibody being

one including VH consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 20 and VL consisting of the amino acid sequence listed as SEQ ID NO: 26.

14. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has the amino acid residue present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region having three complementary determining regions (CDRs), and a light chain variable region having three CDRs,

wherein the heavy chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (a)-(e) below:

(a) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(b) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(c) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 10, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

(d) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 12, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13, and

(e) a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 7, a CDR-H2 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 11, and a CDR-H3 sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13; and wherein the light chain variable region has the CDRs set forth in one of (f)-(g)

below:

(f) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17, and

(g) a CDR-L1 having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 15, a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, and a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17;

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

15. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has the amino acid residue present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein the antibody comprises:

a CDR-H1 sequence selected from a CDR-H1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8, and a CDR-H1 sequence in which Leu at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 8 has been replaced with Met,

a CDR-H2 sequence selected from a CDR-H2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9, and a CDR-H2 sequence having one or more substitutions: Thr at the sixth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Ser or Ala, Asn at the eighth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with His, Ala at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Val, and Asp at the 19th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 9 has been replaced with Gly,

a CDR-H3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 13,

a CDR-L1 sequence selected from a CDR-L1 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14, and a CDR-L1 sequence in which Ser at the ninth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 14 has been replaced with Thr,

a CDR-L2 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 16, as well as

a CDR-L3 sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 17,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

16. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has the amino acid residue present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ

ID NO: 1 and has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 with greater affinity than to tau protein that has the amino acid residues present at positions 403 to 423 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1 that is not phosphorylated on the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO:1,

wherein the antibody is an antibody comprising an H chain variable region selected from an H chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, and an H chain variable region having at least 90% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 18 to 24, as well as an L chain variable region selected from an L chain variable region represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30, and an L chain variable region having at least 90% homology with any one of SEQ ID NOs: 25 to 30,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

17. A monoclonal antibody that specifically binds tau protein that has been phosphorylated on the amino acid residue present at position 413 of the tau protein represented by SEQ ID NO: 1,

wherein the antibody comprises:

an H chain variable region represented by SEQ ID NO: 20, or

an H chain variable region having one or more substitutions: Val at the second position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Gln at the third position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with His, Gly at the tenth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Glu, Asn at the 30th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ser, Leu at the 34th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Met, Ala at the 40th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Thr, Ser at the 44th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Gly, Glu at the 46th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn or Asp, Val at the 48th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Val at the 49th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala, Thr at the 55th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ala or Ser, Asn at the 57th position

from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with His, Ala at the 59th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Val, Asp at the 68th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Gly, Thr at the 71th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Val at the 72th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile, Ser at the 79th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Asn, Val at the 81th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ile or Leu, Lys at the 89th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Gln, and Thr at the 93th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 has been replaced with Ser; as well as

an L chain variable region represented by SEQ ID NO: 26, or

an L chain variable region having one or more substitutions: Asp at the first position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Gly or Val, Ile at the second position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Val, Met at the fourth position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Leu, Thr at the seventh position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Ile or Ser, Gln at the 18th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with His, and Ser at the 32th position from the N-terminus of the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 26 has been replaced with Thr,

wherein the antibody has affinity represented by an equilibrium dissociation constant of 1.86×10^{-8} M or less.

18. The monoclonal antibody according to any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody or chimeric antibody.

19. An isolated peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence consisting of amino acid numbers 403-423 of SEQ ID NO: 1, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser413 in the peptide being phosphorylated.