中國醫藥大學中國醫學研究所博士論文

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論文題目

黃連素抑制人類舌癌細胞株 SCC-4 生長 的活體外和活體內的分子作用機轉之研究 Molecular mechanisms of growth inhibition on human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells by berberine : in vitro and in vivo

研究生:何永鑽

中華民國九十八年五月二十七日

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黃連素抑制人類舌癌細胞株 SCC-4 生長的活體外和活體內的分子作用機轉之研究

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本論文分為三個部份,第一部份先從黃連素可透過 caspase-8,-9和 -3 經由 AIF 與 EndoG 路徑誘發人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株凋亡的分子作用 機轉之研究,研究證實黃連素調控 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞凋亡是被活性氧 產物 (ROS)、粒線體、Caspase-8,-9和-3 路徑所調控。第二部份是黃連 素可透過 FAK, IKK, NF-KB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9 路徑抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的轉移與侵入作用機轉之研究,結果顯示黃連素在人類鱗 狀上皮舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株能向下調控 uPA, MMP-2 和 -9 的表達,透 過 NF-KB 和 MAPK 的調控路徑和黃連素的一個新的功能,可抑制惡 性腫瘤細胞的侵入能力。第三部份進一步以黃連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細 胞株在裸鼠活體內的分子作用機轉之研究,發現黃連素在異種皮移殖動 物模型能抑制腫瘤的生長,黃連素也許可作為舌癌的預防藥物,或者進 一步成為臨床的抗癌治療藥物。 本實驗的分子作用機轉敘述如下:

1. 黃連素可透過caspase-8, -9和-3 經由AIF與EndoG路徑誘發人類舌癌 細胞株SCC-4細胞凋亡的分子作用機轉之研究

植物化學已經確認在癌症治療方面擁有潛在化學預防或化學治療 的功效,本實驗假設黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株將有抗癌活性, 結果指出黃連素減少 SCC-4 細胞株的存活率,那是開始於活性氧產物 (ROS)的產生和經由細胞內鈣離子(Ca²⁺)的增加,黃連素誘發細胞 凋亡是和粒線體細胞膜電位(MMP)的減少有關,也和Bax/Bcl-2 比率 改變有關,細胞色素C會從粒線體中釋放而活化下游的caspase-3。Realtime PCR 顯示黃連素刺激 caspase-8,9 和 3 細胞凋亡誘發因子(AIF) 和 Endo G 的基因表達,目前的研究證實黃連素調控 SCC-4 細胞株的 細胞凋亡是被活性氧產物(ROS)、粒線體、caspase-3 路徑所調控。建 議黃連素也許可考慮為未來研究治療舌癌並成為有希望的治療候選用 藥。

黃連素可透過FAK, IKK, NF-κB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9路徑抑制 人類舌癌SCC-4細胞株的轉移與侵入作用機轉之研究

尿激酶型纖維蛋白溶酶原催化劑(uPA)和基質金屬蛋白酵素 (MMPs)在癌症轉移和血管新生扮演很重要的角色。抑制 uPA 和 MMPs 也能夠抑制癌細胞的轉移和侵入。黃連素是黃連主要的結構,是 一種異奎啉類生物鹼的型式,報告指出在不同的人類癌細胞有抗癌作 用。然而並沒有報告黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的轉移和侵入作 用。本論文的報告結果顯示黃連素在人類鱗狀上皮舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株能 抑制轉移和侵入作用。這個作用在人類鱗狀上皮舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株是被 p-JNK, p-ERK, p-38, IκK 和 NF-κB 信息路徑發生在抑制 MMP-2 和 -9 所調控。這些結果顯示黃連素在人類鱗狀上皮舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株 可向下調控 uPA, MMP-2 和 -9 的表達,透過 NF-κB 和 MAPK 的調 控路徑和黃連素的一個新的功能將可抑制惡性腫瘤細胞的轉移及侵入 能力。

3. 黃連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株在裸鼠活體內的分子作用機轉之研 究

許多證據顯示飲食中的水果和蔬菜對惡性癌和致癌物質扮演防護 角色。黃連素是天然植物的組成,例如小藥。許多研究顯示黃連素在許 多癌症細胞株誘發細胞週期停滯和細胞凋亡。本論文主要的研究也顯示 黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株誘發細胞凋亡。有關黃連素抑制人類 舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的裸鼠活體內異種皮移殖動物模型仍尚未有報告。 SCC-4 腫瘤細胞被移殖入裸鼠活體內,把裸鼠分組並經藥物處理,黃連 素 (10 毫克/公斤/裸鼠),Doxorubicin (4 毫克/公斤/裸鼠)。這些實驗藥 物是經腹腔內每四天注射一次,用 4 毫克/公斤的 Doxorubicin 或 10 毫克/公斤的黃連素處理,結果顯示能降低腫瘤影響,腫瘤的大小,在異 種皮移殖裸鼠用 10 毫克/公斤黃連素處理是明顯小於控制組,結果發現 黃連素在異種皮移殖動物模型能抑制腫瘤的生長,黃連素在未來也許不 僅將可作為舌癌的預防藥物,甚至可能成為臨床治療的有效藥物。

關鍵字:人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株(Human tongue SCC-4 cancer cells); 黄 連素 (Berberine); 細胞凋亡 (Apoptosis); 細胞週期(Cell cycle); Caspases 的傳遞鏈(Caspase cascade); 粒線體(Mitochondria); 尿激酶型纖維蛋白 溶酶原催化劑 (uPA: Urokinase-type plasminogen activator); 轉移與侵入 (Migration and invasion); 基質金屬蛋白酶 (MMPs : Matrix metalloproteinases); 核轉錄因子(Nuclear factor κB: NF-κB); 核轉錄 抑制因子(Inhibitory κB: IκB)

第一章 前言

台灣地區主要的死亡原因,依據衛生署資料統計,民國九十五年公 佈的台灣地區人口主要死亡原因中以惡性腫瘤高居第一位。台灣地區主 要的癌症死亡原因,口腔癌排名十大癌症死因第六位,而其中男性口腔 癌已躍居十大癌症死因第四位¹,台灣男性罹患口腔癌的個案數顯示出 有逐年增加的趨勢。再加上現今社會年齡結構逐漸快速老化,儘管醫療 儀器日漸新潁以及醫療技術日益提高,仍然無法避免癌症的威脅,反見 罹癌率不降反升。另外經化學療法或是放射療法後,癌細胞易產生抗藥 性以及耐受性,更增加了癌症治療的困難度。因此,研究中藥對抗腫瘤 的抗藥性及轉移,採取科學的實驗數據,取其副作用較小的優點,利用 其有效成分以及作用機轉,開發癌症預防藥物,將有助於癌症的預防及 治療,並可提升病人的生活品質。

由於目前國內外並沒有任何有關黃連素抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞 株的文獻報告,因此選擇黃連素為本論文的研究目的,首先以黃連素進 行活體外癌細胞研究,探討黃連素作用於人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株是否 能誘發細胞凋亡的分子作用機轉。進一步探討黃連素作用於人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株是否具有生長抑制及轉移抑制的作用,並探討其機轉。更 進一步再探討裸鼠活體內的舌癌細胞是否受到黃連素生長抑制的用,產 生抑制腫瘤大小的影響,並探討其分子作用機轉。

口腔和口咽癌在全世界每年罹患人數超過三十萬人,且男性高於女 性³⁰。口腔癌的罹患和個人的易染病特質相關,例如特殊的基因特性以 及不良的生活方式因素,例如抽煙^{31,32}、檳榔³³、酗酒³⁴,飲食中缺少蔬 菜和水果³⁵、缺乏胡蘿蔔素和維生素A³⁶、微量營養素不足^{37,38},人類乳 頭瘤病毒感染³⁹不、不良的口腔衛生和室內空氣污染^{40,41}等因素都扮演 重要的角色,若同時具有二個或更多的這些因素便會增加罹患舌癌的危 險性^{42,43}。報告中指出抽煙和喝酒是罹患口腔癌最主要原因^{44,45}。根據 行政院衛生署報告指出在台灣咀嚼檳榔是罹患口腔癌的一個重要的原 因,每年大約每一百萬人口中有 9.6 個人死亡。口腔癌的典型治療包括 手術、放射線治療、和化學療法;然治癒率卻不是那麼另人滿意,因此 許多研究者將焦點放在治療口腔癌的新藥發現和新藥物標靶開發是目 前重要的課題。

流行病學和實驗研究顯示某些植物化學因子在人類癌症能夠扮演 如同化學預防或化學治療作用⁴⁶。有121 個大多數的處方用使用於癌症 的處置,其來源是由植物取得⁴⁷。黃連素是天然的生物驗,證實是刺檗 (*Berberis vulgaris*、barberry)、冬青葉小蘖(*Berberis aquifolium*、Oregon grape)、芒刺小檗(*Berberis aristata*、tree turmeric)、寬筋藤(*Tinospora cordifolia*)等植物均屬於黃連素的根莖幹且具有活性組成⁴⁸。黃連素證實 在皮膚有抗菌⁴⁹,抗氧化⁵⁰,抗發炎⁵¹,抗致癌等活性⁵²。黃連素證實 在活體內具有抗發炎的活性 53。在人類結腸癌細胞能抑制 cvclooxygenase-2 的轉譯活性 ⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶。在非小葉性肺癌具有抗轉移特性 ⁵⁷。 黃連素也被發現在發炎和致癌的人類細胞能抑制 AP-1 的重要轉譯因 素和抑制 DNA 拓樸異構脢 II (DNA topoisomerase II)58。另外有報告 指出黄連素在人類白血病 U937 細胞株和老鼠黑色素細胞瘤 B16 細胞 株顯出具有細胞毒素活性⁵⁹。在人類表皮樣癌 A431 細胞株⁶⁰和前列腺 癌細胞株⁶¹能抑制其生長是與 caspases 活化有關。在我們的實驗室已 報告過黃連素在結腸癌細胞株能抑制 N-acetyltransferase 的活性 62。黃 連素在人類口咽癌 HSC-3 細胞株誘發細胞週期停滯與細胞凋亡的報導 63。抑制鼠血管平滑肌細胞的活體外增殖和轉移 63。但還未有關於黃連 素在人類舌癌細胞誘發細胞凋亡與抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的轉移 和侵入及在舌癌細胞的活體系統內化學療法的作用機轉之研究的報 告。這個研究的目的是要了解黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株誘發細 胞凋亡的分子作用機轉與黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株誘發轉移和 侵入的分子作用機轉及第一次企圖研究在舌癌細胞的活體系統內化學 療法的分子作用機轉之研究。

本論文研究結果顯示黃連素可透過 caspase-8, -9 和-3 經由 AIF 與 EndoG 路徑誘發人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞週期停滯並可導致細胞 凋亡⁶⁴與黃連素可透過 FAK, IKK, NF-кB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9 路徑

抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞轉移和侵入⁶⁵及黃連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株在裸鼠活體系統內抑制腫瘤的生長⁶⁶。



第二章 文獻探討

1.傳統中醫對於舌癌的看法探討

我國最早有關腫瘤的記載始於春秋戰國時期的黃帝內經靈樞,其 中就有石瘕、骨疽,及腸瘤、筋瘤的描述²。古代巖、岩、癌通用。 其臨床特點是局部腫塊堅硬,高低不平,皮色不變,推之不移,潰爛 後如翻花石榴子,色紫惡臭,疼痛劇烈,不易治癒,故有絕症之說。 在歷代文獻中瘤與岩是分開的,瘍科心得集中將舌菌、失榮、乳岩、 腎岩翻花稱為四大絕症,岩是惡性的,瘤多數是良性的³。

根據本病的臨床特點,類似於中醫學之「牙岩」、「舌菌」、「舌疳」, 屬現代醫學的舌癌。在清·高秉鈞之《瘍科心得集》,可見到「牙岩」 的有關記載,對本病的症狀作了敘述。在清《醫宗金鑑》中,則對其 病因、症狀、治療均有較詳盡的記載,並明確指出「舌菌」性惡,晚 期累及頸、領而出現硬塊及預後不良等特徵。古代醫籍對舌癌的描述 都用牙岩或舌菌與舌疳的名稱,分述如下:

(1).《瘍科心得集》⁴ 說:"焮腫突如泛蓮,或狀如雞冠,舌本短縮, 不能伸舒,言語時漏臭涎。再因怒氣上衝,忽然崩裂出血不止,久久 爛延牙齦,即名牙岩,甚則領腫結核,堅硬時痛,皮色如常,頂軟一 點,色暗不紅,破後時流臭水,腐如軟綿,其症雖破,堅硬仍前不退, 此爲綿潰,甚至透舌芽腮,湯水漏出,是以又名翻花岩也。" (2).《醫宗金鑑》⁵,稱舌疳,對其臨床表現、病程、預後進行了細緻的描述,謂:"舌疳其證最惡,初如豆,次如菌,頭大蒂小,又名舌菌,疼痛紅爛無皮,朝輕暮重。若失於調治,以致焮腫,突如泛蓮,或有狀如雞冠,舌本短縮,不能伸舒,妨礙飲食言語,時漏臭涎。再因怒氣上沖,忽然崩裂,血出不止,久之延及項領,腫如結核,堅硬而痛,皮色如常,......甚者透舌穿腮,湯水漏出,......因舌不能轉動, 叠送飲食,故每食不能充足,致胃中空虛,而症情增重,日漸衰敗, 百不一生。"這與現代醫學所見舌癌非常接近。至於其發病原因,多 責之心脾火毒所致。"

(3).《尤氏喉科秘書》⁶ 說:"舌菌屬心經,多因氣鬱而生。舌止如菌狀,或如木耳,其色紅紫。"

(4).《圖註喉科指掌》⁷說:"舌疳之證惡非常,心脾火毒積中央,初 如豆大漸如菌,暮重朝輕飲食妨,怒則崩破透腮舌,串延項領核滋昌, 名為瘰癘風難治,百人患此百消亡。"

(5).《瘍醫大全》⁸:"舌疳心脾毒火成,如豆如菌痛爛紅,漸若泛蓮 難飲食,綿潰久變瘰癘風。"

中醫認爲舌爲心之苗,心開竅於舌,舌本屬心,心脈系於舌根。 外感六淫,入裏化火,內傷七情,鬱而化火,致心火熾盛,循經上灼 於舌。舌邊屬脾,脾脈絡於舌旁,憂思傷脾,脾氣鬱結可以化火或過 食辛熱炙煿之品,中焦積熱,心脾鬱火循經上灼於舌。腎之津液出於 舌下,腎虛不足,陰虛火旺,虛火內熾,舌失其養。無論心、脾火毒, 還是虛火內灼,皆可致舌上常生潰瘍,加之煙毒熏烤,或牙之殘根殘 冠長期刺激,導致火毒痰瘀互結於舌,經絡阻塞,氣血瘀滯而發爲本 病。可見本病與心脾腎三經密切相關,尤其是心脾,故《醫宗金鑒》 ⁵云"此證由心、脾火毒所致"。臨證以實證或虛中挾實多見。

在中醫辨證論治方面,可分為內服與外敷藥二類,分述如下:

(1) 內服藥:

早期心火氣鬱,初服導赤散加**黃連**瀉心清火,化瘀解毒。虛者服歸脾 湯,中期火毒熾盛,熱甚者服清涼甘露飲合歸脾湯,便溏者服歸芍異 功湯⁵。晚期氣血虛衰型,選用補氣養血,解毒散結的藥物⁹。

(2) 外用藥:

a.古籍多載舌癌初起用"北庭丹點之",可消縮而愈,清溪秘傳北庭丹: 番硇砂、人中白各 1.5g,瓦上青苔、瓦松、溏雞矢各 3g。制法: 用傾銀罐子兩個,藥裝於罐內,將口封嚴,外用鹽泥封固,以炭火煆 紅約 1 小時,等待冷開罐,將藥取出,入麝香、冰片各 1.3g,研細 末,用磁鍼刺破舌菌,以丹少許點上。

b.六神丸或梅花點舌丹,以適量置病變部位或含化後開水或黃酒送服,用量根據常規用量。漱口水方:苦參30g,五倍子30g,山豆根

30g, 龍葵 30g, 草河車 30g, 入冰片少許煎湯, 代水含漱, 一日數次。

領下有腫物者:外敷化毒散膏或芙蓉膏或錦地羅醋磨濃汁敷之,或《醫 宗金鑒》水澄膏:水飛朱砂、白芨、白蘞、五倍子、鬱金、雄黃、乳 香,米醋調濃,攤貼之。

c.獨角蓮外敷¹⁰。

2.現代醫學對於舌癌的看法探討

口腔癌是頭頸部較常見的惡性腫瘤之一,而舌癌在口腔癌中最為 多見,現代醫學對舌癌的病因證實與長期過度吸煙、喝酒、嚼食檳榔, 口腔衛生差,異物長期刺激,舌粘膜重度白斑與紅斑,生物致癌因素, 及其他因素如遺傳,營養代謝障礙,放射線等有關¹¹。

在台灣嚼食檳榔導致口腔癌的發生率大幅增加,尤其是在二十 前,台灣經濟起步到現在,二十年前大量嚼食檳榔者,二十年後有很 多人幾乎到了中年就得到口腔癌了,這是很不幸的,跟其他國家比 較,其他國家的口腔癌的發生年齡是 60-70 歲,而台灣的好發生年 齡是 40-45 歲。

舌癌絕大多數爲鱗狀細胞癌,一般分化程度較高,舌前 2/3 舌 部位多爲鱗狀細胞癌,後 1/3 多爲分化不良癌,少數為腺癌、淋巴 上皮癌及不分化癌、肉瘤罕見。舌癌多發生在舌中 1/3 側緣最爲常 見,其次爲舌根、舌腹及舌背,舌尖最爲少見。漫延至口底及頷骨、 舌顎弓、扁桃體。舌癌轉移極高,常發生在早期頸淋巴結轉移,轉移 率爲 60~80%,常在一側,如病變累及舌背或越過舌體中線,可以 向對側頸淋巴結轉移。

舌癌被歸屬爲口腔癌,惡性程度較高,早期為突出舌體的腫物, 形如豆粒而質硬,潰爛後形成堅硬而高低不平的潰瘍。常發生早期頸 部淋巴結轉移,晚期可漫延口底及領骨,如有繼發感染,常發生劇痛。 本病浸潤性強,癌瘤可廣泛累及舌肌,使舌的運動受限,影響說話、 進食及吞咽,並有多量流涎,臭穢逼人。侵犯口底或超越中線累及全 舌時,舌處於完全固定狀態,產生張口及吞咽困難¹²。

舌癌病程短,發展快。初期可見舌部生一小硬結,形如豆粒,逐 漸形成明顯腫塊,並在腫塊中心區出現邊緣微微隆起的小潰瘍。開始 硬而不痛,或可長大如菌,頭大蒂小,可發生疼痛、糜爛,朝輕暮重, 病變逐漸向深部及周圍組織擴展,合併感染時産生較劇烈的疼痛,可 向同側顏面部和耳部放射。本病浸潤性強,癌瘤可廣泛累及舌肌,使 舌的運動受限,影響說話、進食及吞咽,並有多量流涎,臭穢逼人。 侵犯口底或超越中線累及全舌時,舌處於完全固定狀態,産生張口及 吞咽困難。癌瘤潰瘍可發生出血,並可侵犯牙龈,甚至頸領腫大堅硬 潰瘍。侵犯口底及領骨,可透舌穿腮,湯水流出。晩期常並發組織壞 死、出血、營養障礙及吸入性肺炎。本病約2/3的患者併發頸淋巴結 腫大,轉移淋巴結的部位以二腹肌下頸深上淋巴結最多,其次是肩胛 舌骨肌以上的頸深中淋巴結和領下、頦下淋巴結,隨著病情進展,轉 移淋巴結增多,可蔓延到同側鎖骨上或對側頸部,晚期可發生血行轉 移,多轉移至肺部¹³。

舌癌是口腔中惡性度最高,轉移率最大的一種惡性腫瘤,因此大 多數癌症專科醫師都主張綜合治療。包括外科手術切除和放射治療與 化學治療及免疫抗癌藥物療法。二十一世紀對於全世界的癌症病人與 家屬而言,應該可以算是一個重建希望的年代。在這段時間裡,有許 多新藥成功的研發上市,這幾年當中,台灣的衛生署也核准了許多新 的抗癌藥,代表性的藥品包括較早期即通過美國藥物食品管理局 (FDA)核准的太平洋紫衫醇 paclitaxel (Taxol)⁶⁷及美國藥物食品管 理局(FDA)在最近通過的澳洲紫衫醇 Docetaxel 癌症治療新藥,用於 肺癌、乳癌、子宮頸癌均報告有相當療效⁶⁸。

3. 黃連的相關文獻探討

黃連爲毛茛科植物黃連 Coptis chinensis Franch、三角葉黃連 Coptis deltoidea C·Y·Cheng et Hsiao 或雲連 Coptis teeta Wall 的乾燥 根莖。 (1).黃連:生於海拔1000~2000 米山地密林中或山谷陰涼處。野生或栽培,分佈於陝西、湖北、湖南、四川、貴州等地。在四川東部、湖北西部有較大量栽培。

(2).三角葉黃連:栽培於四川峨嵋及洪雅一帶海拔1600~2200 米之間的 山地林下。

(3).雲連:生於海拔 1500~2300 米之間的高山寒濕的林蔭下,野生或栽培。分佈于雲南西北部及西藏東南部。

【拼音名】Huanglian

【英文名/拉丁名】RHIZOMA COPTIDIS

【別名】味連、雅連、雲連、川連。

【來源】

藥材基源:毛茛科植物黃連(味連、川連 Coptis chinensis Franch)、三角葉黃連(Coptis deltoidea C·Y·Cheng et Hsiao)或雲連(Coptis teeta Wall)的乾燥根莖。及其他同屬近緣植物的乾燥根及根莖,以四川所產的味連(川連)品質最佳。

【藥材特性】

(1)·黃連:根莖多簇狀分枝,彎曲互抱,形似倒雞爪狀,習稱"雞爪 黃連",單枝類圓柱形,長3~6 釐米,直徑2~8 毫米。表面灰黃色 或黃棕色,外皮剝落處顯紅棕色,粗糙,有不規則結節狀隆起,鬚根 及鬚根殘基,有的節間表面平滑如莖稈,習稱"過橋",上部多殘留褐 色鱗葉,頂端常留有殘餘的莖或葉柄。質堅硬,折斷面不整齊,皮部 橙紅色或暗棕色,其厚度約爲半徑的 1/3,木部鮮黃色或橙黃色, 可見放射狀紋理,髓部紅棕色,有時中空。氣微,味極苦。

(2)·三角葉黃連:分枝少,多爲單枝,略呈圓柱形,微彎曲,4~8<
釐米。直徑 5~10 毫米。過橋較長。頂端有少許殘莖。質輕而硬。
(3)·雲連:略呈連珠狀圓柱形,多爲單枝,彎曲呈鈎狀,較細小,長2~5 釐米,直徑2~4 毫米。質輕而脆。

【採收和儲藏】秋季採挖,除去鬚根及泥沙,乾燥,撞去殘留鬚根。 【化學成份】生物鹼類:小檗鹼,黃連鹼,藥根鹼,甲基黃連鹼,巴 馬亭等;其他:鋁、鎂、鉀、汞、鉛等無機元素。

【性味歸經】苦,寒。歸心、脾、胃、肝、膽、大腸經¹⁵。

【本草彙言】

(1)《神農本草經》¹⁶:味苦寒。主治熱氣,目痛,眥傷,泣出,
 明目,腸澼,腹痛,下痢,婦人陰中腫痛。久服令人不忘。

(2)《名醫別錄》¹⁷:微寒,無毒。主治五藏冷熱,久下泄澼、膿血,止消渴、大驚,除水,利骨,調胃,厚腸,益膽,治口瘡。
(3)《本草圖經》¹⁸:黃連治目方多,而羊肝丸尤奇異。蓋眼目之病,皆血脈凝滯使然,故以行血藥合黃連治之。血得熱則行,故

乘熱洗也。

(4)《本草衍義》¹⁹:今人多用治痢,蓋執以苦燥之義。下裏但見 腸虛滲泄,微似有血便,即用之,更不知止。又不顧寒熱多少, 但以盡劑爲度,由是多致危困。若氣實初病,熱多血痢,服之便 止,仍不必盡劑也。或虛而冷,則不須服。

(5)《湯液本草》²⁰:氣寒,味苦。味厚氣薄,陰中陽也。升也, 無毒。

《象》云:瀉心火,除脾胃中濕熱,治煩躁噁心,鬱熱在中 焦,兀兀欲吐,心下痞滿必用藥也。仲景治九種心下痞,五等瀉 心湯皆用之。去鬚用。

《心》云:瀉心經之火,眼暴赤腫及諸瘡,須用之。苦寒者 主陽有餘,苦以除之。安蛔,通寒格,療下焦虛,堅腎。

《珍》云:酒炒上行,酒浸行上頭。

《本草》云:主熱氣,目痛眥傷泣出,明目。腸澼腹痛下痢, 婦人陰中腫痛。五臟冷熱,久下泄澼膿血,止消渴大驚,除水利 骨,調胃厚腸,益膽,療口瘡。久服令人不忘。

《液》云:入手少陰,苦燥,故入心,火就燥也。然瀉心其 實脾也,爲子能令母實,實則瀉其子。治血防風爲上使,黃連爲 中使,地榆爲下使。

海藏祖方,令終身不發斑瘡:煎黃連一口,兒生未出聲時, 灌之,大應。已出聲灌之,斑雖發,亦輕。古方以黃連爲治痢之 最。

《衍義》云:治痢有微血,不可執以黃連。爲苦燥劑,虛者 多致危困,實者宜用之。

《本草》又云:龍骨、理石、黃芩爲之使,惡菊花、芫花、 玄参、白鮮皮,畏款冬花,勝鳥頭,解巴豆毒。 (6)《本草綱目》²¹:黃連大苦大寒,用之降火燥濕,中病即當止。 豈可久服,使肅殺之氣常行,而伐其發生沖和之氣乎?歧伯言: 五味入胃,各歸所喜攻。久而增氣,物代之常也。氣增而久,天 之由也。王冰注:酸入肝爲溫,苦入心爲熱,辛入肺爲清,鹹入 腎爲寒,甘入脾爲至陰而四氣兼之,皆增其味而益其氣,故各從 本臟之氣爲用。所以久服黃連、苦參反熱,從火化也,餘味皆然。 久則臟氣偏勝,即有偏絕,則有暴天之道。是以絕粒服餌之人不 暴亡者,無五味偏助也。況眼疾本於肝熱,肝與心爲子母,心火, 肝亦火也,腎孤臟也,人患一水不勝二火,豈可久服苦藥,使心 有所偏勝,是以火救火,其可乎?

黃連,治目及痢爲要藥。古方治痢,香連九(木香、黃連)。 姜連散(乾薑伍)。變通丸(茱萸伍)。薑黃散(生薑伍)。治消渴

用酒蒸黃連。治下血,大蒜伍。治口瘡,細辛伍。皆一冷一熱, 一陰一陽,寒因熱用,熱因寒用,君臣相佐,陰陽相濟,最得利 方之妙,所以有成功而無偏勝之害也。

楊士瀛云:去心竅惡血,解服藥過劑煩悶。

(7)《景岳全書》22:味大苦,氣大寒。味厚氣薄,沈也,降也, 降中微升,陰中微陽。專治諸火,火在上,炒以酒;火在下,炒 以童便。火而嘔者炒以薑汁;火而伏者炒以鹽湯。同吳茱萸炒, 可以止火痛;同陳壁土炒,可止熱瀉。同枳實用,可消火脹;同 天花粉用,能解煩渴。同木香丸,和火滯下痢腹痛;同吴茱萸丸, 治胃熱吐吞酸水。總之,其性大寒,故惟平肝涼血,肅胃清腸涼 膽,止驚癇,瀉心除痞滿。上可治吐血衄血,下可治腸便紅。療 婦人陰戶腫痛,除小兒食積熱疳,殺蛔蟲,消惡瘡癰腫,除濕熱 鬱熱,善治火眼,亦消痔漏。解烏附之熱,殺巴豆之毒。然其善 瀉心脾實火,虛熱妄用,必致格陽,故寇宗奭曰:虛而冷者,慎 勿輕用。王海藏曰:夏月久血痢,不用黃連,陰在內也。景岳曰: 人之脾胃,所以盛載萬物,發生萬物,本象地而屬土。土暖則氣 行而燥,土寒則氣凝而濕,土燥則實,土濕則滑,此天地間不易 之至理。黃連之苦寒若此,所以過服芩連者,無不敗脾,此其濕 滑,亦自明顯易見。獨因陶弘景《別錄》中有調胃厚腸之一言,

而劉河間復證之曰:諸苦寒藥多泄,惟黃連、黃柏性冷而燥。因 致後世視爲奇見,無不謂黃連性燥而厚腸胃,凡治瀉痢者,開手 便是黃連,不知黃連、黃柏之燥,于何見之?嗚呼!一言之謬, 流染若此,難洗若此,悖理惑人,莫此爲甚。雖曰黃連治痢亦有 效者,然必其毒稟陽臟,或多縱口腹,濕熱爲痢者,乃其所宜。 且凡以縱肆不節而血氣正強者,即或誤用,未必殺人,久之邪去 亦必漸愈,而歸功黃連,何不可也?此外,則凡以元氣素弱,傷 脾患痢,或本無火邪而寒濕動脾者,其病極多,若妄用黃連,則 脾腎日敗,百無一生。凡患痢而死者,率由此來,可不寒心?餘 爲此言,而人有未必信者,多以苦燥二字有未明耳,故余於《傳 忠錄》辨河間條中,復詳言苦味之理,以俟衛生仁者再爲贊正, 庶是非得明,而民生有攸賴矣。道書言:服黃連犯豬肉,令人泄 CALUS 瀉。

(8)《本草備要》²³:瀉火燥濕。大苦大寒。入心瀉火,王海藏曰: 瀉心實瀉脾也。實則瀉其子。鎮肝涼血,凡治血,防風爲上部之 使,黃連爲中部之使,地榆爲下部之使。燥濕開鬱,解渴,單用 能治消渴。除煩,益肝膽,厚腸胃,消心瘀,能去心竅惡血。止 盜汗。涼心。治腸澼瀉痢,便血曰澼,有臟連丸。濕熱鬱而爲痢, 黃連治痢要藥。噤口者熱壅上焦,同人參煎湯呷之,但得下咽便

好。喻嘉言曰:下痢必先汗解其外,後調其內。首用辛涼以解表, 次用苦寒以攻裏。《機要》云:後重宜下,腹痛宜和,身重宜除濕, 脈弦宜去風,風邪內結宜汗,身冷自汗宜溫,膿血稠粘宜重劑以 竭之。下痢赤屬血分,白屬氣分。戴氏曰:俗謂赤熱白寒者非也, 通作濕熱處治,但有新久虛實之分。痞滿燥濕開鬱。仲景治九種 心下痞,五等瀉心湯皆用之。腹痛,清熱。心痛伏梁,心積。目 痛眥傷,人乳浸點或合歸、芍等分,煎湯熱洗,散熱活血。 癰疽 瘡疥,諸痛癢瘡,皆屬心火。明目《傳信方》:羊肝一具,黃連一 雨, 搗丸, 凡是目疾皆治, 名羊肝丸。定驚, 鎮肝。止汗解毒, 除疳同豬肝蒸爲丸。殺蛔。蛔得苦則伏。虛寒爲病者禁用。久服 黄連、苦參反熱,從火化也。昂按:炎上作苦,味苦必燥,燥則 熱矣。且苦寒沈陰肅殺,伐傷生和之氣也。韓矛曰:黃連與肉桂 同行,能交心腎於頃刻。時珍曰:治痢用香連九;薑連九用黃連、 乾薑;薑黃散用黃連、生薑;左金丸用黃連、吳茱萸。治口瘡用 黃連、細辛,止下血用黃連、大蒜。一陰一陽,寒因熱用,熱因 寒用。最得制方之妙。治心火生用,虚火醋炒,肝膽火豬膽汁炒, 上焦火酒炒,有吞酸嘈雜等證,亦有吐酸者名酢心,宜黃連、吳 茱萸降火開鬱。酢,音醋。中焦火薑汁炒;下焦水鹽水或童便炒; 食積火黃土炒;治濕熱在氣分,吳茱萸湯炒;在血分乾漆水炒;

點眼赤,人乳浸。時珍曰:諸法不獨爲之引導,蓋辛熱其寒苦, 鹹寒制其燥性,用者詳之。黃芩、龍骨爲使,惡菊花、玄参、殭 蠶、白鮮皮、畏款冬、牛膝,忌豬肉,時珍曰:方有臟連丸,黃 連豬肝丸,豈忌肉而不忌臟腑乎?殺烏頭、巴豆毒。黃連瀉心火, 佐以龍膽瀉肝膽火,白芍瀉脾火,石膏瀉胃火,知母瀉腎火,黃 柏瀉膀胱火,木通瀉小腸火,黃芩瀉肺火,梔子佐之;瀉大腸火, 黃連佐之;柴胡瀉肝膽火,黃連佐之;瀉三焦火,黃苓佐之。鄭 奠一曰:熱鬱噁心,兀兀欲吐,用黃連數分甚效。

(9)《本經逢原》²⁴:苦寒,無毒。治心臟火,生用;治肝膽實火, 豬膽汁炒;治肝膽虛火,醋炒褐色;治上焦火,酒炒;中焦火薑 汁炒;下焦火,鹽水炒;氣分鬱結肝火,煎吴茱萸湯炒;血分塊 中伏火,同乾漆末炒;食積火,黃土拌炒。解附子、巴豆、輕粉 毒,忌豬肉。

黃連性寒味苦,氣薄味厚,降多升少,入手少陰厥陰。苦入 心,寒勝熱,黃連、大黃之苦寒,以導心下之實熱,去心竅惡血, 仲景九種心下痞,五等瀉心湯皆用之。瀉心者,其實瀉脾,實則 瀉其子也。下痢胃口虛熱口噤者,黃連人參煎湯,時時呷之;如 吐再飲,但得一呷下咽便好。諸苦寒藥多瀉,惟黃連、苓、柏, 性寒而燥,能降火去濕止瀉痢,故血痢以之爲君。今人但見腸虛 滲泄,微似有血,不顧寒熱多少,便用黃連,由是多致危殆。至 於虛冷白痢,及先瀉後痢之虛寒證,誤用致死多矣。諸痛瘍瘡, 皆屬心火。眼暴赤腫,痛不可忍,亦屬心火,兼挾肝邪,俱宜黃 連、當歸,治痢及目爲要藥。故《本經》首言治熱氣目痛,及腸 游腹痛之患,取苦燥之性,以清頭目,堅腸胃,祛濕熱也。婦人 陰中腫痛,亦是濕熱爲患,尤宜以苦燥之。古方治痢,香連丸用 黄連、木香,薑連散用乾薑、黃連,左金丸用黃連、吳茱萸。治 消渴用酒蒸黄連,治口瘡用細辛、黃連,治下血用黃連、葫蒜。 皆是寒因熱用,熱因寒用,而無偏勝之害。然苦寒之劑,中病即 止,豈可使肅殺之令常行,而伐生發沖和之氣乎!醫經有久服黃 連、苦參反熱之說,此性雖寒,其味至苦,入胃則先歸於心,久 而不已,心火偏勝則熱,乃其理也。近代唐流,喜用黃連爲清劑, 殊不知黃連瀉實火,若虛火而妄投,反傷中氣,陰火愈逆上無制 矣。故陰虛煩熱,脾虛泄瀉,五更腎泄,婦人產後血虛煩熱,小 兒痘疹氣虛作瀉,及行漿後泄瀉,並皆禁用。

(10)《本草求真》²⁵:〔批〕大瀉心火實熱。

黃連專入心,兼入腸、胃、脾。大苦大寒,據書所載治功, 備極表著,且以《別錄》中有厚腸胃一語,互爲傳播,以至於今, 謬尤莫辟,貽害無窮。詎知黃連止屬瀉心之品,除濕之味。好古

曰:黃連苦燥,苦入心,心就燥,瀉心者,其實瀉脾也。實則瀉 其子也。即云腸澼能止,口乾能除,痞滿腹痛能消,癰疽瘡瘍能 愈,肝虛能鎮,與夫婦人陰蝕,小兒疳積,並火眼赤痛,吐血、 **衄血、諸毒等症,無不由此調治,亦何莫不因濕熱火退而言,豈** 於濕除火退之外,尚有治效之著哉。元素曰:黃連其用有六,瀉 心臟火,一也;去中焦濕熱,二也;諸瘡必用,三也;去風濕, 四也;赤眼暴發,五也;止中部見血,六也。朱震亨曰:下痢胃 口熱噤口者,用黃連人參煎湯,終日呷之,如吐,再強飲,但得 一呷下咽便好。劉完素曰:古方以黃連爲治痢之最,蓋治痢惟宜 辛苦寒藥,辛能發散,開通鬱結,苦能燥濕,寒能勝熱,使氣宣 平而已。諸苦寒藥多泄,惟黃連、黃柏性冷而燥,能降火去濕而 止瀉。曰:今人多用黃連治痢,蓋執以苦燥之義,下裏但見腸虛 滲泄,微似有血,便即用之,又不顧寒熱多少,惟欲盡劑,由是 多致危困。時珍曰:黃連大苦大寒之藥,用之降火燥濕,中病即 當止,豈可久服,使肅殺之令常行而伐其生發沖和之氣乎。秦觀 與喬希聖論黃連書云:聞公以眼疾餌黃連至十數兩猶不已,殆不 可也。醫經有久服黃連、苦參反熱之說,此雖大寒,其味至苦, 入胃則先歸於心,入而不已,心火偏勝則熱,乃其理也。矧有脾 陽素弱,因此一言流播,而可恃爲常服者乎。今人一見火熾,不

論是寒是熱,是虛是實,輒以取投,以致偏勝貽患,暗受夭折, 殊堪歎惜。時珍曰:黃連治目及痢爲要藥。古方治痢,香連九用 黃連、木香;薑連散用乾薑、黃連;變通散用黃連、茱萸;薑黃 散用黃連、生薑。治消渴用酒蒸黃連;治伏暑用酒煮黃連;治下 血用黃連、大蒜;治肝火用黃連、茱萸;治口瘡用黃連、細辛, 皆是一冷一熱,一陰一陽,寒熱互用之意,而無偏勝之害。汪昂 曰:黃連瀉心火,佐以龍膽瀉肝膽火,白芍瀉脾火,石膏瀉胃火, 知母瀉腎火,黃柏瀉膀胱火,木通瀉小腸火。黃芩瀉肺火,梔子 佐之;瀉大腸火,黃連佐之。柴胡瀉肝膽火,黃連佐之;瀉三焦 火,黃芩佐之。繡按:柴胡瀉火,止就肝膽邪鬱而言,若內實火 用此,愈增其害矣,不可不知。

(11)《本草經解》²⁶:黃連氣寒,秉天冬寒之水氣,入足少陰腎經; 味苦無毒,得地南方之火味,入手少陰心經。氣味俱降,陰也。

其主熱氣目痛也,心主火,火氣熱,心病舍肝,肝開竅於目 也,黃連苦寒,所以清火也。手少陰之正脈,出於面,合目內眥, 手少陰爲心火,火盛,則心系急而淚出;眥傷者,皆心火,黃連 清心,所以主之。實則瀉其子,心者,肝木之子也,清心則肝邪 瀉,所以明目也。

大腸爲庚金之腑,心火乘之,則津液化成膿血,痛而下痢矣,

其主之者,寒以清火,苦以瀉熱也。

北方黑色,入通於腎,開竅于二陰,婦人陰中,乃腎竅也, 熱盛則腫,腫痛者火盛也,黃連入腎,寒苦清火,所以主之。

其久服令人不忘者,入心清火,火清則心明,能記憶也。 (12)《神農本草經讀》²⁷:黃連氣寒,秉天冬寒之水氣,入足少陰 腎經;味苦無毒,得地南方之火味,入手少陰心經,氣水而味水, 一物同俱,故能除水火相亂,而爲濕熱之病。

其云之熱氣者,除一切氣分之熱也。目痛眥傷淚出不明,皆 濕熱在上之病;腸澼腹痛下痢,皆濕熱在中之病;婦人陰中腫痛, 爲濕熱在下之病,黃連除濕熱,所以主之。

久服令人不忘者,苦入心,即能補心也。然苦爲火之本味, 以其味之苦而補之;而寒能勝火,即以其之寒而瀉之。千古唯仲 景得《本經》之秘,《金匱》治心氣不足而吐血者,取之以補心; 傷寒寒熱互結心下,而痞滿者,取之以瀉心;厥陰之熱,氣撞心 者,合以烏梅;下痢後重者,合以白頭翁等法,真信而好古之大 聖人也。

(13)《本草分經》²⁸:大苦大寒。入心瀉火,鎮肝涼血,燥濕開鬱, 能消心竅惡血,亦瀉脾火。酒炒治上焦火,薑汁炒治中焦火,水 炒治下焦火¹⁶。 總而言之,黃連味苦性寒,歸經心、肝、膽、脾、胃、大腸等經, 屬清熱燥濕藥,本實驗嘗試利用黃連的藥物特性使用於舌癌細胞 的研究。

4. 黃連素 (Berberine) 的文獻回顧

【藥品名】黃連素 (Berberine)

【別名】小蘖鹼

【化學名】5,6-dihydro-9,10-dimethoxybenzo[g]-1,3-benzodioxolo[5,6a] quinolizinium [CAS]

【.分子式】[C20H18NO4]+

【分子量】336.37

0

OH,

【化學結構式】黃連素 (berberine) 的化學結構形狀

CH₃

0.

【物理化學性質】小蘗鹼為黃色粉末,熔點145℃,游離的小蘗鹼能 緩慢溶解於水中,對冷乙醇溶解度不大,但易溶解於熱水及熱乙醇, 難溶於苯、氯仿和丙酮⁶⁹。

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【文獻介紹】

黄連素又稱小蘗鹼,爲毛茛科黃連屬植物黃連、三角葉黃連及雲 南黃連的根莖中提取的異奎啉類生物驗,常用其鹽酸鹽。在藥理作用 上具有抗微生物及抗原蟲的作用。抗癌作用。對神經系統的作用,在 小鼠防禦運動性條件反射實驗中,黃連素小劑量能促進陽性條件反射 的形成,而大劑量則延緩其形成,並可使條件反射分化不全。對外周 神經遞質的影響,在整體運動和離體器官上,黃連素對乙醯膽鹼具有 劑量依賴性雙重作用,一般都是小劑量增加乙醯膽鹼的作用,而大劑 量減弱之。對心臟的影響,黃連素低濃度能興奮貓離體心臟,並增加 冠脈血流 20%~40%,1×10°則表現為抑制,但 1×10⁻⁴也不致停止搏 動。對血管及血壓的影響,黃連素靜脈注射於麻醉犬、貓、大鼠及不 麻醉大鼠有明確的降壓作用。對平滑肌器官的影響。對組織代謝的影 響,黃連素能降低小鼠肝、腦勻漿的氧耗,且作用強度與劑量相平行。 對血液的影響,曾發現黃連素能使紅血球縮小成顆粒狀,並抑制白血 球變形運動,減少中性及嗜酸性細胞而增加淋巴細胞及單核細胞¹⁵。 臨床上的功用屬於清熱、解毒之作用、可治療細菌性痢疾、傷寒、流 行性腦脊髓膜炎、大葉性肺炎、猩紅熱、白喉、肺膿腫、膿胸、肺白 色念珠菌病、潰瘍性結腸炎、結腸小袋纖毛蟲病、高血壓、化膿性中 耳炎、布氏桿菌病、百日咳、燒傷、化膿性感染、肛裂、骨關節結核

竇道、萎縮性鼻炎、咽峽炎、急性扁桃體炎、上領竇炎、根管疾患、 口腔領面部炎症、皮膚感染性炎症、濕疹、多型性滲出性紅斑、火燙 傷、防治痲疹等臨床作用²⁹。在生化及製藥學領域中有相當的應用。 黄連素亦被發現有抗癌作用,在子宮頸癌 HeLa 細胞株及白血病 L1210 細胞株中誘發 DNA 拓撲異構酶(DNA topoisomerase) 毒害造 成細胞的凋亡⁷⁰。它亦能藉由抑制 AP-1 的活性而抑制及調控淋巴結 癌細胞株的轉移⁷¹。黃連素表現活體內及活體外的抗發炎作用⁷²。黃 連素及其類似物有抗腫瘤作用,主要是通過抑制瘤細胞呼吸、細胞嘌 呤和核酸的生物合成誘導凋亡作用而發揮作用⁷³。黃連素處理後,具 (DNA 合成前期)S 期的腫瘤細胞比例大大減少,細胞阻滯於 G0 和 G1 期,使細胞增殖周期延長從而導致細胞增殖減慢⁷⁴。黃連素亦可 誘導腫瘤細胞凋亡,用黃連素處理人胃癌 MGC-803 細胞株後,染色 和原位末端標記法進行檢測發現 MGC-803 細胞株呈典型的凋亡特 徵⁷⁵。黃連素與抗癌藥 CPT-11 聯合用於小鼠肺癌移植瘤,其腫瘤生 長抑制效果較單獨使用 CPT-11 更明顯 ⁷⁶。黃連素能顯著抑制化學致 癌劑 NDEA 的致癌作用。注射了 NDEA 小鼠給予黃連素處理後, 腫 瘤發生率顯著降低,動物平均生存時間延長⁷⁷。

5. 細胞週期的文獻回顧

細胞週期,是指能持續分裂的真核細胞從一次有絲分裂結束後生 長,再到下一次分裂結束的循環過程。細胞週期的長短反映了細胞所 處狀態,這是一個細胞物質積累與細胞分裂的循環過程。癌變的細胞 以及特定階段的胚胎細胞常常有異常的分裂週期。各次細胞分裂之間 的間隙,包括 G₁、S、G₂、M 四期。細胞週期調控是在各期的控制點 (check points)上進行的。細胞週期中存在兩個重要的控制點:一個位 於 G₁/S 交界處,在哺乳類動物細胞中稱為限制點(restriction point), 當 G₁期內的正調節因素累積達到適當的程度而可以越過 R 點,以後 就不須依賴細胞外促生長因素而順序完成整個細胞週期;另一個位於 G₂/M 交界處,它在染色體分開和細胞分裂前保證染色體均分的精確 性 ⁷⁸。

目前人們發現的細胞週期調控因數很多,可歸納三大類:(1) 細 胞週期素(cyclins)、(2) 細胞週期素依賴性激酶(cyclin dependent kinases, CDKs)、(3) CDK 抑制蛋白(cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor proteins, CKIs)。CDKs 是細胞週期調控的重要環節,其通過使下游蛋 白 (pRb 及其相關蛋白 p107、p130) 的磷酸化來完成調節作用的; Cyclins 是 CDKs 的正調節因素,能啟動 CDK 活性; CKIs 是負調節 因素,可抑制 CDK 活性。現從 CDKs 及下游調節蛋白、Cyclins 和 CKIs 三方面闡述細胞週期調控因素在細胞週期調節中的作用⁷⁹。
(1).CDKs 及其下游蛋白

目前已發現的 CDK 至少有九種,分別命名為 CDC₂(CDK₁)、 CDK₂~CDK₉,它們在基因序列上的同源性高,超過 40%。活化的 CDK 包含催化亞單位(CDK)和一個正調亞單位(cyclin),前者還需一 個保守的 Thr 殘基上的磷酸化和 Tyr 殘基上的去磷酸化。

CDK 被啟動後,可使其下游蛋白發生磷酸化。未磷酸化的 pRb 能夠結合轉錄因素 E₂F,並抑制 E₂F 啟動 S 期相關基因的轉錄。磷酸 化的 pRb 或 pRb 能導致 E₂F 的游離。游離的 E₂F 與 DP-1 形成異源二 聚體,能夠結合到 DNA 的特定位點,啟動 S 期相關基因轉錄,使週 期越過 R 點,細胞即從 G₁期進入 S 期⁸⁰。

(2).Cyclins

目前已發現的 Cyclins 有 12 種,分別命名為 Cyclin A~H。根據 細胞週期的時相,分為 G₁、S 和 M 期以及作用尚未明確的 Cyclins。 Cyclins 的過度表達可以啟動 CDK 活性,造成細胞週期調節失控,導 致腫瘤的形成,因此 Cyclins 也被稱為癌蛋白。

 G_1 期的 Cyclins 包括 Cyclin C、D、E 等三型,其中後雨型是主要的 Cyclins。Cyclin D 至少有 D_1 、 D_2 、 D_3 等三個亞型,三型 Cyclin D 的氨基酸序列同源性達 53.1%~63.5%,它們的 C 末端有一個富含哺

氨酸(P)、谷氨酸(E)、天冬氨酸、絲氨酸(S)和蘇氨酸(T)的 殘基序列,稱之為 PEST 序列,與蛋白質的降解有關;它們的 N 末端 有一個與某些轉化蛋白如 SV40 的 T 抗原、腺病毒 E1A 蛋白、乳頭瘤 病毒 E7蛋白共同序列 Leu-X-Cys-X-Glu,此序列一樣可與 pRb 及 pRb 相關蛋白結合,隨後在 CDK4/CDK6 的作用下,使 pRb 磷酸化,從而 使細胞從 G1 期進入 S 期。一些生長因素(growth factors, GFs)可誘導它 們的表達,一旦去除 GFs, Cyclin D1的水準會迅速下降,因此,稱它 為生長因素感受器(growth factor sensors)¹⁰⁸。在 G_1 期,給正常的成纖 維細胞顯微注射抗 Cyclin D1 抗體,能夠阻止細胞進入 S 期,但在接 近 G_1/S 交界處時則注射無效,這一結果表明 Cyclin D_1 在 G_1 的中晚 期發揮著重要作用。Cyclin E 在 G₁期的表達晚於 Cyclin D, 在 G₁/S 交界處達到高峰,進入S期後逐漸下降,給細胞顯微注射抗 Cyclin E 抗體,可阻止細胞進入 S 期,因此被認為是調節 G₁/S 期轉換的必需 蛋白。細胞進入 S 期後, Cyclin E 降解, 和它結合的 CDK2 被釋放出 來和 Cyclin A 結合⁸¹。

S 期 Cyclins 包括 Cyclin A。它是 Cyclins 中最早被發現的,在 G1晚期於 Cyclin E 之後表達,但直到 S 期與 CDK2 結合後才被啟動。 給細胞顯微注射抗 Cyclin A 抗體或反義 Cyclin A 能抑制細胞 DNA 的 合成,表明 Cyclin A 在 S 期有重要作用。另外,它在 G2 期與 M 期和 CDC₂ (CDK₁) 結合,可能與有絲分裂有關,因此,Cyclin A 也被稱為 M 期 Cyclins⁸²。

(3).CKIs

1992年,Xiong 等在提煉純 Cyclin-CDK 複合物時,得到了另外 一些蛋白質,後來證明其中某些蛋白是該複合物的抑制因子即 CKIs。CKIs 在細胞週期中具有負性調節作用及多數在人類腫瘤中突 變失活的事實,提示其可能是抑癌基因。根據它們序列同源性,可分 為兩個族:第一族包括 p16、p15、p18 和 p19,它們均包含四次錨蛋 白(ankyrin)重複結構和特異的調控 Cyclin D-CDK4 或 Cyclin D-CDK6 活性;第二族包括 p21,p27 和 p57,它們抑制多種 Cyclin-CDK 活性。

p21 基因定位於染色體 6p21.2,又稱為 cip1 (CDK-interacting protein 1),wafl (wild-typep53-activated fragment 1)。哺乳動物細胞 中,p21 的功能至少有兩方面:一是 CDK 的抑制因數,另一個是能 結合和抑制增殖細胞核抗原(PCNA),從而抑制 DNA 的複製。p21 的 N 端和 C 端分別擔負起這兩方面的作用。p21 能抑制多種 Cyclin-CDK 活性,推測其突變可能是腫瘤形成的主要原因之一。然而目前除了在 膀胱癌中發現一個終止密碼子的點突變外,尚未見到關於其他腫瘤細 胞中 p21 基因突變的報導。p21 基因在轉錄水準上主要受 p53 調節和 啟動,而 p53 基因突變在人類腫瘤中卻是常見的,故現認為 p21 基因 主要失活機制與 p53 失活有關⁸³。p53 具有序列專一性,也就是它會 與基因調控位置的特殊核疳酸序列鍵結,這些基因涉及細胞週期的調 節⁸⁴。

6. 細胞凋亡的文獻回顧

細胞計劃性死亡(programmed cell death)也稱為細胞凋亡 (Apoptosis),這個名詞源自希臘文,意思為葉片或花瓣從花株掉落, 這個字創造於1972年,用於描述細胞死亡的一種型式,在複雜的生 物系統中維持發育及細胞間的恆定具有絕對的重要性。因此細胞凋亡 是一種細胞受環境刺激後,在基因調控之下所產生的自然死亡現象, 故亦稱之為細胞程式死亡。過程中由特定的蛋白質及酵素調控循序漸 進使細胞死亡。正常細胞都擁有感應系統來感應細胞內或外來的訊 息,當偵測到不利其正常生長的訊息時,就引發程式死亡。相對於細 胞壞死,細胞凋亡是細胞主動實施的。個體的發生(development)、 生長 (growth)、分化 (direntation) 過程中, 細胞凋亡有助於維持生 物體內恆定的功用⁸⁵。當細胞遭受傷害且無法修復時會被消滅以防止 更大的危害的產生,例如細胞在紫外線(UV)照射或化學藥劑作用下會 產生突變進而導致癌症的發生,但經由細胞凋亡的過程可減低其發生

機率⁸⁶。在人體內細胞凋亡時在細胞形態上和生化特徵發生改變,造 成細胞膜的皺縮(Zeiosisor rapid blebbing)和染色質濃縮及細胞核的崩 解(nuclear collapse),細胞質膜氣泡化、胞內 DNA 被降解、細胞會逐 漸皺縮(shrink)與聚集(condense)、磷脂醯絲胺酸(PS)從胞內向外翻 出,但胞器與細胞的膜仍維持完整,同時細胞分裂成個別的細胞凋亡 體(apoptotic body),並由鄰近細胞或巨噬細胞所吞噬,有別於一般因 外傷或局部缺血所造成的細胞壞死(necrosis),並可減少體內產生劇烈 的免疫反應。因無炎症反應產生,故一般認為誘發細胞進行細胞凋亡 是一種較好的抗癌機制,藉此減少藥物可能引起的副作用。於體外培 養因無巨噬細胞,凋亡細胞最終仍會走向壞死。在細胞凋亡過程中, 細胞縮小, DNA 被核酸內切酶降解成 180bp-200bp 片段, (可以通過 凝膠電泳證明),而細胞壞死時,細胞腫脹,細胞膜被破壞,通透性 改變。細胞器散落到細胞間質,需要巨噬細胞去清除,結果是該局部 組織發炎。相比起細胞壞死,細胞凋亡是更常見的細胞死亡形式⁸⁷。

7. 細胞轉移與侵入的文獻回顧

"轉移"一詞自1829年由法國Jo sesh Claude Recamcer 提出,之後 人們對腫瘤轉移機理的研究獲得很多有價值的新資訊。逐漸瞭解癌細 胞的轉移影響治療及預後,並對於癌症的復發有重要的影響。惡性腫

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瘤在診斷時出現局部淋巴結轉移的比率1/3~1/4,而腫瘤致死亡的主要原因就是腫瘤細胞的轉移。

癌細胞浸潤和轉移過程非常複雜,大致可分為以下幾個過程:(1)腫瘤血管的形成。

(2) 癌細胞從原發部位脫落。

(3) 癌細胞與細胞外基質、基底膜發生黏附並降解。

(4)脫落的癌細胞穿越血管壁進入循環並到達遠處部位。

(5)在寄發部位繼續增殖形成轉移病灶。

腫瘤侵入與轉移步驟最早是由 Liotta 所提出的粘附、降解和移動 三步驟假說,但是隨著近年來對腫瘤為血管研究的深入,發現腫瘤的 轉移與微血管的形成密切相關。一些文獻顯示,腫瘤惟有具備血管形 成表現型之後才能轉變成惡性和具備轉移的能力,說明微血管的形成 是腫瘤侵入和轉移的關鍵。

腫瘤血管形成的過程類似於正常血管生成的生理機轉,當腫瘤細胞分泌血管生成因素之後,可直接刺激附近的內皮細胞改變形狀,並 遷移到腫瘤附近,開始分化形成血管並伴隨著基質降解酶以破壞基底 膜,遷移後的內皮細胞不斷的增殖分化,在其前緣的部份持續增殖分 化,而後緣的部份逐漸形成管腔結構,最後形成新生血管⁸⁸。

許多研究顯示,促進血管形成的因素有很多,例如VEGF、BFGF、

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TGF、IL-8、MMPs及血小板生成刺激因素。其中,血管內皮生長因 子(Vascular endothelial growth factor; VEGF)是最有普遍意義的刺 激因子,VEGF是內皮細胞專一的促有絲分裂因素,主要作用於內皮 細胞上的flk、flt1、flt4等3個受體,一方面可促進微血管內皮細胞增 殖遷移,另一方面可促進微血管通透性增加。有實驗顯示,比較單位 體積腫瘤血管的表面積,VEGF表現的腫瘤是不表現者的六倍,而 VEGF表達的減少顯著降低腫瘤體積血管密度和通透性進而造成轉移 能力降低。

儘管不同腫瘤間的起因、基因型、表現型有很大差別,並且很多 新的研究顯示在轉移的過程牽涉到很多複雜的分子因素,然而腫瘤發 生浸潤轉移的過程卻有共同的分子機制,它們被非常協調一致地組織 起來以共同發揮作用,腫瘤發生浸潤轉移的過程主要是指癌細胞的粘 附降解及細胞移行進入微血管中的過程。

細胞粘附(cell adhesion)在惡性腫瘤轉移過程中具有重要作用, 細胞粘附包括同質性黏附與異質性黏附兩種,前者為癌細胞與癌細胞 間的粘附,後者為癌細胞與基質細胞間的粘附。腫瘤細胞間的附著減 弱使腫瘤細胞脫離與週遭細胞的附著,此為腫瘤浸潤即轉移的初步。 接著,腫瘤細胞粘附於基質和血管內皮細胞並進入循環系統造成轉 移。 在參與破壞細胞外基質的酶中,基質金屬蛋白酶是重要的酶類, 目前已知有 20 多種 MMPs,主要分類有(1)間質膠原酶類(2)明 膠酶類(3)基質溶素類(4) 膜類。其中明膠酶類中的 MMP-2 和 MMP-9 是研究較多的兩種。目前大量研究證實細胞外基質 ECM 的降 解在腫瘤連鎖步驟中是關鍵步驟,而 MMPs 降解 ECM 的機制是因為 MMPs 家族是一個蛋白水解酶家族,能降解各類的膠原、纖維粘連蛋 白、層粘連蛋白、彈性蛋白等這些基底膜骨架。另外, MMPs 也能提 高內皮細胞活動性及調節黏附作用。

腫瘤細胞的積極活動影響著腫瘤細胞進入或移出血管的雙向活動。癌細胞從基底膜破損處游離出的方式是以阿米巴運動的方式。最 近發現腫瘤細胞分泌的細胞激酶可影響細胞的移動,一些基質成份粘 連蛋白、纖連蛋白及某些生長因子,如胰島素樣生長因子對癌細胞的 活動具有趨化作用,幫助癌細胞穿過基底膜後,進一步溶解間質的結 締組織在間質中移動,並且在達到血管壁後可以用同樣的方式進入血 管中。

侵入(invasion)是指惡性腫瘤連續不斷地浸潤、破壞周圍組織器官 的生長狀態,即直接蔓延。轉移 (metastasis)是指惡性腫瘤細胞從原 發部位侵入淋巴管、血管或體腔,遷徙到他處而繼續生長,形成與原 發瘤同樣類型的腫瘤,這個過程稱為轉移。腫瘤細胞侵入與轉移是一 個複雜的過程,牽涉到許多的生長因子、細胞因素酶系統之間相互作 用而完成的⁸⁹。

轉移現象通常是腫瘤發展的後期表現,在人類癌症中,病人死亡 的原因超過百分之九十,是由於腫瘤細胞轉移到身體其他遙遠的部 位,原發的腫瘤很少會造成死亡。在上皮細胞的腫瘤中,癌細胞一定 要穿過正常上皮組織底層的基底膜(basement membrane)一旦腫瘤 在基底膜下面的結締組織佔得根據地之後,長出來的腫瘤細胞團會分 離出來,滲入附近的血管或者淋巴管裡,這種從周圍組織進入血管或 者淋巴管的過程,稱為內滲(intravasation)。經過循環系統或淋巴系 統,血管或淋巴管將腫瘤細胞帶到遠方部位,或許腫瘤細胞就卡在某 處,腫瘤細胞以外滲(extravasation)的方式離開血管或淋巴管後, 就在不同的組織器官成長,便形成轉移⁹⁰。

第三章 材料與方法

1. 研究設計

本研究主要是探討黃連素是否能夠抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株 的生長,及細胞凋亡路徑的分子作用機轉與抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細 胞株的轉移與侵入作用機轉之研究,並進一步研究黃連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 腫瘤在裸鼠活體內的分子作用機轉之研究,以下為本實驗的研 究設計架構(如圖 3-1)。



圖3-1 本實驗之研究設計架構

2. 細胞株來源

本實驗所使用之 SCC-4 細胞株為人類舌癌細胞株 ((human squamous cell carcinoma of tongue; 55 歲,男性),由新竹食品工業研究所 (Food Industry Research and Development Institute)購得。

- 3. 藥品試劑
- (1).5-BIS(4-HYDROXY-3METHOXYPHENYL)-1,4-HEPTADIENE-3,5 -DIONE
- (2).Berberine: 購自 Sigma Chemical Co.
- (3).Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO): 購自 Sigma Chemical Co.
- (4).DMEM medium: 購自 Gibco
- (5).Fetal bovine serum (胎牛血清, FBS): 購自 Gibco
- (6).L-Glutamin (麩 胺酸, LG): 購自 Gibco
- (7).Penicillum Streptomycin (PS): 購自 Gibco
- (8).3,3'-Dihexyloxacarbocyanine iodide (DioC6):購自 Molecular Probes
- (9).propidium iodide (PI): 購自 Sigma Chemical Co.
- (10).Trypsin-EDTA: 購自 Amersco
- (11).Trypan blue: 購自 Sigma Chemical Co.
- (12).Disodium hydrogen phosphate (Na₂HPO₄): 購自 Merck

- (13).Sodium chloride (NaCl): 購自 Merck
- (14).Potassium dihydrogen phosphate (KH₂PO₄): 購自 Merck
- (15).Potassium chloride (KCl): 購自 Merck
- (16).Propidium iodide (PI): 購自 Sigma Chemical Co.
- (17).PhiPhiLux[®]-G₁D₁kit: 購自 OncoImmunin(Gaithersburg, MD, USA)
- (18).RNase A (Ribonuclease A): 購自 Ameresco
- (19).Triton X-100 : purchase from Sigma chemical Co.
- (20).Ethanol: 購自 TEDIA
- (21).Ammonium persulfate (APS): 購自 Amersco
- (22).Acrylamide/Bis 40 % solution (ACRYL/BISTM29:1) : 購自 Amresco
- (23).Bovine serum albumin (BSA): 購自 Merck
- (24).Glycine: 購自 Amresco
- (25).Methanol: 購自 TEDIA
- (26).formaldehyde: 購自 Merck
- (27).ECL kit (Enhanced chemiluminescent kit): 購自 Amersham
- (28).Protein assay-Dye reagent concentrate : 購自 Bio-Rad
- (29).Protein marker: 購自 Femantas
- (30).10X SDS buffer (Sodium dodecyl sulfate): 購自 Amresco

- (31).TEMED (N,N,N',N'-Tetramethyl-ethylenediamine): 購自 Amresco
- (32).Tris (Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane): 購自 Amresco
- (33).Tween 20: 購自 Amresco
- (34). 顯影劑: 購自 Kodak
- (35).定影劑: 購自 Kodak
- (36).BioMax Flim: 購自 Kodak
- (37).Agaros I : 購自 Amresco
- (38).核酸純化試劑組 (DNA purification kit): 購自 Gene Mark
- (39).蛋白質萃取試劑 (protein extraction solution) (PRO-PREP): 購自

iNtRON Biotechnology, INC.

- (40).5× TBE buffer : 購自 Amresco
- (41).Primary antibody (1°抗體):
 - (a). anti-actin: 購自 Oncogen
 - (b). anti-Bcl-2: 購自 upstate
 - (c). anti-Bcl-Xl/Xs: 購自 upstate
 - (d). anti-Bax: 購自 upstate
 - (e). anti-casoase-3: 購自 upstate
 - (f). anti-caspase-7: 購自 Calbiochem
 - (g). anti-caspase-8: 購自 upstate

- (h). anti-caspase-9: 購自 upstate
- (i). anti-Cytochrome C: 購自 Oncogen
- (j). anti-cyclin E: 購自 upstate
- (k). anti-cdk2: 購自 upstate
- (l). anti-cdk4: 購自 upstate
- (m).anti-cdk6: 購自 upstate
- (n). anti-Phosporylation ERK: 購自 upstate
- (o). anti-JNK: 購自 upstate
- (p). anti-Phosporylation JNK: 購自 upstate
- (q). anti-NF kappa B Rel—a(p65): 購自 upstate
- (r). anti-p38: 購自 upstate
- (s). anti-phosporylation p38 購自 upstate
- (t). anti-p53: 購自 Oncongen
- (u). anti-PARP: 購自 upstate
- (42).Secondary antibody (2°抗體):

(a).goat anti-mouse IgG (HRP) horseradish peroxidase conjugated antibody: 購自 Chemicon; AP124P

(b).gout anti-rabbit IgG (HRP) horseradish peroxidase conjugated

antibody: 購自 Chemicon

- 4. 儀器設備、器材
- (1). Spectrolinker(UV box): 購自伯昂興業有限公司
- (2).細胞培養皿:購自 FALCON
- (3).細胞培養盤:購自 FALCON
- (4).細胞培養箱:購自 Nuaire
- (5).細胞計數器(Haemocytometer): 購自 Boeco
- (6). 倒立式位像差顯微鏡 (phase-contrast microscope) : 購自 Olympus
- (7).微量天平 (TE-200; MILLTER)
- (8).去離子水製造機:購自 Minipore
- (9)電源供應器:購自 Amersham
- (10).酸鹼值測定計(C831): 購自 Consort
- (11).PVDF membrane: 購自 Minipore
- (12).Mini-3D Shaker: 購自 Boeco
- (13).SDS-PAGE 電泳槽套組: 購自 Bio-Rad
- (14).Transfer Cell Blot 套組:購自 Bio-Rad
- (15).加熱板: 購自 Lab-Line
- (16).流式細胞計數儀 (Flow cytometry) : 購自 Becton Dickinson
- (17).高速離心機:購自 HERMLE
- (18).分光光度計: from Beckman

(19).光學顯微鏡(Olympus CH2)

(20).光學顯微鏡(Nikon LABOPHOT-2)

(21).酵素免疫分析儀(anthos 2020):購自 Anthos Labtec, Australia

(22).DNA 電泳槽: 購自 Mupid-2

5. 藥品配製

黃連素 (Berberine) 純化物, 秤取 37.18 mg, 溶於 10ml DMSO, 配製成 10 mM stock solution, 從 stock solution 分別取不同濃度配製所 需濃度, 配製濃度如下: 分子式: [C20H18NO4]⁺ Molecular Weight = 371.8 莫耳濃度 (M) = 分子量/體積 (L) 371.8×10³ mg / 1000 ml = 1000 mM

37.18 mg / 10 ml = 10 mM

第一部份在黃連素可透過caspase-8, -9和-3 經由AIF與EndoG路 徑誘發人類舌癌SCC-4細胞株細胞凋亡的分子作用機轉之研究中,將 配製好不同濃度的黃連素用來進行細胞存活率試驗(Viability assay) 並從存活率試驗結果中選取半致死濃度(IC₅₀),而IC₅₀的黃蓮素 (Berberine)濃度則為本論文完成相關實驗所用之濃度。本實驗最終 濃度分別為15 μM、25 μM、50 μM、75μM、100 μM(如表3-1)。

Concentration of Berberine	10 mM of Berberine	DMSO
15μ M	150 μl	850 µl
25μΜ	250 µl	750 µl
50 µM	500 µl	500 µl
75 μΜ	750 µl	250 µl
100 μM	1000 µl	0 µl

表 3-1 黃連素 (Berberine) 之配製

第二部份在黃連素抑制人類舌癌SCC-4細胞株透過 FAK, IKK, NF-κB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9 路徑的細胞轉移和侵入的分子作用 機轉之研究中,將配製好不同濃度的黃連素(Berberine)用來進行細 胞轉移試驗(Migration assay)細胞侵入試驗(Invasion assay)並從 存活率試驗結果中選取半致死濃度(IC₅₀),而IC₅₀的黃蓮素(Berberine) 濃度則為本論文完成相關實驗所用之濃度。本實驗最終濃度分別為 62.5μM、125 μM, 配製方法同表3-1。

第三部份在黃連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株在裸鼠活體內的分子作用機轉之研究中,將配製好不同濃度的 doxorubicin 與 Berberine 用來進行細胞 xenograft Model 試驗。本實驗最終濃度分別為 doxorubicin 為 4 mg/kg 、 Berberine 為 10 mg/kg。

6. 細胞培養

(1).培養條件

人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株以 DMEN 培養基添加 10%胎牛血清、5% L-glutamine 及 5% Penicillin Streptomycin 之培養液, 置於 5% CO₂及 95% air 及溫度 37℃的細胞培養箱(incubator)中培養,約二天更換一次培養液至細胞長至八分滿後則將細胞做繼代培養或分盤以供 實驗之用。

(2).繼代培養

待細胞長至八分滿時,在無菌操作台內將 flansk 中培養液吸出丟 棄,先以 PBS (phosphate buffer saline)清洗細胞數次,洗淨後再加 入 3 ml trypsin 進入每瓶 flansk 中,放置於 37℃培養箱中處理 5 分鐘 後取出並確認細胞漂浮情況,若細胞大部分已成漂浮狀態再加入乾淨 培養液 10 ml 進入每瓶 flansk 以中和 trypsin 之作用,將瓶中所有液體 吸至離心管中以 1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘,離心後將離心管取回無菌操 作台內並倒掉上清液,輕拍離心管將細胞打散再加入 10 ml 新鮮培養 液以電動吸量管反覆抽吸使均勻混和,取 20 µl 之細胞懸浮液加入 80 µl trypan blue 溶液,以血球計數盤 (Counting chamber)計算細胞數 目 (trypan blue 會進入細胞膜已破損的細胞內將細胞染成藍色,而完 整細胞則不被染色)。 細胞數計算: χ(為所計數的細胞數) × 10 (10 ml 培養液) × 5 (trypan blue 5 倍稀釋)× 10⁴ 依實驗目的不同,計算所需細胞液置於不同培養皿中。

(3).細胞冷凍保存

SCC-4 細胞株經培養並確認型態正常後,可利用液態氮冷凍保 存,冷凍保存之細胞應在生長旺盛且存活率高之狀態下進行。細胞冷 凍保存方法為,冷凍前應注意細胞生長情形,並在前一日更換培養 基。凍細胞前需先配製冷凍保存溶液:將DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) 加入新鮮培養基中,使其最終濃度為7%,混合均勻,置於室溫下待 用。將要收集被冷凍之細胞並用離心機離心細胞,離心後計數細胞密 度及細胞存活率。離心後倒掉上清液,加入事前配製好的冷凍保存 液,使其細胞數在2×10⁶~5×10⁶ cells/ml,混合均勻後置於以標示好名 稱、數目及冷凍日期之冷凍管中,1ml/管。

冷凍保存方法:冷凍管置於4°C,15 min→-20°C,30 min→-80
°C,16~18 小時→液態氮槽長期保存。

(4).藥物處理

繼代細胞完全貼覆瓶底後,培養至八分滿時便可以被收集至 microplate或 dish內培養以供實驗之用,若和藥物共同培養不超過24 小時則可不需置換培養液,若超過24小時則先置換成新鮮培養液再 加入藥物培養。microplate 每 well 加入培養液體積 2 ml,則加 20 μl 藥物;3 ml,則加 30 μl,則藥物濃度被稀釋成原來的 0.01 倍為最終 濃度。

7. 流式細胞儀存活率分析測定(Viability assay)

流式細胞儀廣泛的應用於癌細胞臨床樣品檢測當中,是腫瘤生物 學研究的重要工具之一,為癌細胞的早期的藥效評估提供重要資訊。 流式細胞分析技術的發展提供一快速檢測且可靠的方法定量細胞懸 浮液,若配合適當的染劑,則可以對藥物處理細胞後做不同的效果評 估,具有準確及快速的優點。

Propidium iodine (PI) 是一種核酸染劑,染劑之組成(如表 3-2), 當細胞死亡時會進行壞死或細胞凋亡的路徑,死亡的細胞膜會失去完 整性,使得 PI 可進入細胞內和核酸結合,PI 會與 DNA 雙股螺旋中 之 A=T、C=G 鍵結的氫鍵 (hydro bond) 接在一起;存活的細胞因其 細胞膜完整以致 PI 無法和細胞內的核酸結合,經 PI 染色完成的細胞 可由流式細胞儀於 488 nm 的雷射光激發,染上 PI 的死亡細胞經雷射 光激發會呈現較強紅色螢光,存活細胞則無,死活細胞依此為分辨, 而流式細胞儀內部是以 CellQuest 軟體分析細胞存活率。

實驗步驟是將細胞培養於 6 well plate 中,細胞依照 2×10⁵/well 種植於培養皿中,再將培養皿放置培養箱內,每 well medium 總量為 3 ml,經過 24 小時後靜置培養後加入不同濃度的 Berberine (15 μM、 25μ M、50 μM、75 μM、100 μM),再放置培養箱內分別持續培養 12、 24、48 及 72 小時。培養時間過後收細胞,將上層液移至離心管中, 加入 PBS 清洗細胞一次後,再將細胞以 trypsin 處理,置於 37℃培養 箱中處理 3 分鐘後,將細胞收集下來,加入 2 ml PBS 以中和 trypsin, 再將所有液體裝到離心管中,再以 1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘,離心後倒 掉上清液,再加入 2 ml PBS 清洗細胞,再以 1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘, 去除上清液後,加入 PI 染劑 500 μl (需依照實際細胞數做調整),均 勻混合後,將液體移至 FACS 管中,以流式細胞儀進行樣品分析,固 定秒數及流數,紀錄細胞存活率。

Coposition	Concentration	Volume (ml)
Propidium iodide	2 mg/dl	10
1× PBS	_	40
Total volume		50 ml

表 3-2 存活率 PI 染劑之組成

8. 流式細胞儀細胞週期的分析(Cell cycle analysis)

利用流式細胞儀分析人類舌癌SCC-4細胞株的細胞週期,本實驗 分別進行濃度差及時間差兩種實驗,濃度差實驗的分盤、加藥及收細 胞的方式如同前述細胞存活率實驗的步驟。時間差的藥物處理,只使用IC50的濃度為加藥濃度,依不同的時間點(6h、12h、24h、48h、72h) 分別收取細胞。

細胞在第二次離心後, 倒掉上清液, 稍微刮散細胞團塊, 以4℃、 70%的酒精進行細胞固定(vortex 低速震盪, 酒精一滴一滴沿著管壁 緩慢流入), 每一管約加入 2 mL 的酒精。完成後, 將固定的細胞置 於-20℃的冰箱中使細胞均匀固定完全, 一周內進行分析。

將細胞置於-20 ℃的冰箱中的固定至少 overnight,隔天將細胞從 冰箱取出離心 (1500 rpm、5 分鐘),去除上清液,加入 2 mL 的 PBS 清洗一次後,再離心一次,倒掉上清液,刮散細胞圍塊,最後在每個 離心管中加入 500µL 的 PI 染劑(可依照細胞數目作調整),細胞週期 PI 染劑之組成(如表 3-3),均勻混合後,形成細胞懸液,將細胞懸液 轉移到 FACS 專用管中,避光 30 分鐘,之後以流式細胞儀分析,每 秒鐘細胞數不超過 200 顆細胞,每個 FACS 管收集 10000 顆細胞,以 Modfit LT® 軟體進行分析,紀錄 Go/G1、S、G2/M phase 及 sub-G1 比率。

成分	濃度	體積 (ml)
Propidium iodide	20 mg/dl	1
5% Triton X-100	_	10
$1 \times PBS$	-	36.5
RNase	50 ng/25 ml	2.5
Total volume	_	50 1

表 3-3 細胞週期 PI 染劑之組成

流式細胞儀粒腺體膜電位MMP (Mitochondria membrane
 potential; ΔΨ_m) 之檢測

細胞膜電位探針,DioC6(3,3'-Dihexyloxacarbocyanine iodide) 是一種可穿透細胞膜,可專一性的結合並累積在細胞粒腺體中,DioC₆ 在細胞內外的分佈可反應出細胞膜內外的電位差,其螢光強度的改變 就可顯示細胞膜電位改變的情形,可發射出線色螢光 (green-fluorescent)之陽離子(cationic dye)親脂性染劑;在不需要 固定細胞或其他處理的情況下可以即時、快速的偵測活細胞內粒腺體 膜電位。粒腺體膜功能不良(mitochondrial dysfuction)通常伴隨早期 細胞凋亡發生,而細胞粒腺體膜電位的改變也因此當作早期凋亡偵測 上的指標。本實驗將細胞種植於6 well plate中,細胞依照3×10⁵/well 種植於培養皿中再將培養皿放置培養箱內,經過24小時後靜置培養後 (上機時細胞數目最好為5×10⁵/well)待細胞貼附後加入75 μM Berberine到6 well plate (30 µl/well) 當中,培養時間過後收細胞並將 上層液移至離心管中以,加入PBS清洗細胞一次後,再將細胞以trypsin 處理,置於37℃培養箱中處理5分鐘後,將細胞打下來,加入2 ml PBS 以中和trypsin之作用,再將所有液體裝到離心管中,1500 rpm離心5 分鐘, 倒掉上清液, 再加入2 ml PBS清洗細胞, 1500 rpm離心5分鐘, 倒掉上清液,取MMP染劑DioC₆(3,3'-Dihexyloxacarbocyanine iodide) (10 μl DioC₆/500 μl PBS) 染劑每管加入500 μl, 需有三管blank不加 藥也不加染劑,於37℃培養箱避光培養30 min後,將移至FACS管中, 以流式細胞儀進行樣品分析,每樣品收集10000顆細胞以CellQuest軟 體分析。將blank(直線的peak)把peak調在10⁰~10¹之間control(斜線 的peak) 調在10¹~10²之間, M1 gated約75% 以上sample(橫線的peak) 上機後,分析MMP(如圖3-2),peak往右或不移動為膜電位未下降, 若往左則代表粒線體受藥物影響使粒線體膜電位下降。



圖 3-2 MMP 軟體的分析圖

10.流式細胞儀活性氧化物ROS(Reactive Oxygen Species)產生之檢 測

免疫細胞進行需氧性滅菌過程中,會在細胞內啟動一連串的氧 化還原反應,因而產生一些Oxidative Metabolites,如H2O2,O2-free radical。如欲以流式細胞儀測量這些代謝物的產量,可用 Dihydrorodamine 123、 2'7'-dichlorofluorescein (for H_2O_2) 或 hydroethidine (for O₂- free radical) 等螢光染劑,對細胞進行染色, 藉由 2'7'-dichlorofluorescein diacetate (H2DCF-DA)產生螢光來測量 ROS 的產生,H2DCF-DA 是一種具有螢光性質,可滲透細胞膜特異 性的追蹤評估 ROS 的產生。H2DCF-DA 會被細胞內的乙醯酯酶 (esterases) 去乙醯化 (deacetylated) 成非螢光性的 DCFH, DCFH 會在細胞內被 H2O2 氧化成螢光性質的 DCF,並聚集在粒腺體中, 所發散螢光則可反映出細胞內 H2O2 的濃度。本實驗將細胞種植於 6 well plate 中,細胞依照 3×10^5 /well 種植於培養皿中,經過 24 小時 靜置培養後(上機時細胞數目最好為 5×10⁵/well),待細胞貼附後加 入 75 µM Berberine, 30 µl/well 到 6 well plate 當中(最終濃度為 75 μM),經不同時間培養 (0.5、1、2、4 及 6 h),加藥時間後,收細 胞,將上層液移至離心管中,加入PBS 清洗細胞一次後,再將細胞

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以 trypsin 處理,置於 37°C 培養箱中處理 2 分鐘後,將細胞打下來, 加入 1 ml PBS 以中和 trypsin 之作用,再將所有液體裝到離心管中, 1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘,倒掉上清液,再加入 1 ml PBS 清洗細胞,1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘,去除上清液,取 ROS 染劑 H₂DCF-DA 染劑 (1 µl H₂DCF-DA/500 µl PBS)每管加入 500 µl,需有一管 blank 不加藥也 不加染劑,只加入 500 µl PBS,在置於 37 °C 培養箱避光培養 30 min 後, transfer 至 FACS 管中,以流式細胞儀進行樣品分析,每樣品收 集 10000 顆細胞以 CellQuest 軟體分析。將 blank (直線的 peak) peak 調在 10^{0} ~ 10^{1} 之間, control(斜線的 peak)調在 10^{1} ~ 10^{2} 之間,M1 gated 約 75% 以上, sample (橫線的 peak)上機後,分析 ROS(如圖 3-3), peak 往右是產生 ROS,往左是清除 ROS。



圖 3-3 ROS 軟體分析圖

11. 流式細胞儀鈣離子Ca²⁺(Calcium Release)釋出之檢測

胞內鈣離子作為細胞信號傳遞的信差,是細胞激活過程中重 要的功能參數。螢光染劑(如Fura-Red、Fluo-3和Indo-1等)通過 乙醯甲酯(Acetatoxymethyl Ester; AE)導入細胞後, Indo-1會 與鈣離子特異性結合。這些螢光染劑的結構式,一般與EDTA相 似,可螯合鈣離子,螯合鈣離子之螢光染劑會有光學特性上的改 變,在(紫外光)UV 的激發下,Indo-1 放出光(emission)的 強度會隨著細胞內鈣離子濃度的改變,而發散出不同強度的螢 光,故可用比例法测得或直接测得的螢光強度得到鈣離子濃度的 相對值,實際濃度需經校對後獲得。本實驗將細胞種植於6 well plate中,細胞依照3×10⁵/well種植於培養皿中,經過24小時靜置 培養(上機時細胞數目最好為5×10⁵/well),待細胞貼附後加入75 μM Berberine, 30 μl/well到6 well plate當中(最終濃度為75 μM), 經不同時間培養(0.5、1、2、4及6 h),加藥時間後,收細胞, 將上層液移至離心管中,加入PBS清洗細胞一次後,再將細胞以 trypsin處理,置於37℃培養箱中處理2分鐘後,將細胞打下來, 加入1 ml PBS以中和trypsin之作用,再將所有液體裝到離心管 中,1500 rpm離心5分鐘,去除上清液,再加入1 ml PBS清洗細 胞,1500 rpm離心5分鐘,倒掉上清液,取Indo-1-AM染劑每管加

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入1000 µl,需有一管blank不加藥也不加染劑,只加入1000 µl PBS,在置於37°C培養箱避光培養1h,每10 min將sample上下反 轉一次,1h後加入PBS洗2次,1500 rpm離心5 min,倒掉上清液, 每管加入400 µl PBS,再transfer至FACS管中,以流式細胞儀進行 樣品分析,每樣品收集10000顆細胞以CellQuest軟體分析。將 blank(直線的peak)把peak調在 10^{0} ~ 10^{1} 之間control (斜線的peak) 調在 10^{0} ~ 10^{1} 之間,M1 gated約0%,以上sample (斜線的peak) 上機後,分析calcium release(如圖3-4), peak往右為鈣離子釋出。



圖 3-4 鈣離子軟體分析圖

12. DAPI (4'-4-diamidine-2-phenyl indole) 螢光染色

DAPI (4'-4-diamidine-2-phenyl indole) 是種核酸螢光染劑,
其會專一性的 binding 在 DNA 雙股螺旋之小溝 (minor groove)
上,當細胞凋亡時會出現染色質凝結 (chromosomes)

condensation)、DNA 斷裂(DNA fragmentation)情形發生,若細 胞凋亡越嚴重,則DNA 斷裂越多而DAPI 染劑就會染上越多, 在顯微鏡,下可觀察到白色螢光強度就越亮,(如圖 3-5)。本實驗 SCC-4 細胞分盤,種於 6 well plate 當中,每 well 種 1×10⁴/ml(通 常會種 3 ml),隔日,待細胞貼附後加入 75 μM 濃度的Berberine, 分別培養 24 和 48 小時。加藥時間後,收細胞,吸取上層液丟棄, 加入 PBS 洗 3 次,加入 3% Formaldehyde/PBS 固定 10~15 分鐘, 再加入 PBS 洗 2 次後,再加入 0.1% Triton X-100/PBS (1 ml) 15 分鐘,再用 PBS 洗 2 次,接下來步驟要避光處理,加入DAPI 染 液(1 μl/ml) 300 μl,置於 37°C 水浴槽避光 30 分鐘後,取出,用 PBS 洗 3 次後,於螢光顯微鏡(200X)照相。



圖 3-5 DAPI 染劑與 DNA 的鍵結

13. 彗星試驗(Comet assay)

單細胞電泳分析 (single cell gel electrophoresis assay) 就是所 謂的彗星試驗(Comet assay),可用來分析及定量 DNA 損傷(DNA damage)程度,是一個簡單、快速以及敏感度高的技術。利用 DNA damage 後發生斷裂,藉由電泳將斷裂的 DNA 拖出膜外,形 成彗星狀而命名之,由此可藉由拖尾的長短,觀察 DNA 的損傷 情形。本實驗將 SCC4 細胞分盤,種於 6 well plate 當中,每 well 種 1×10°/3ml,隔日,待細胞貼附後加入 75µM 濃度的 Berberine, 分別培養不同時間(12、24、36、48 h)加藥前須先置換新鮮 medium,對照組加入 $3 \mu M H_2O_2$ (加入體積為 1%),將 gel 以 微波溶解後放於 55℃水浴鍋中備用,以 0.1% trypsin 200 µl digestion 2 min, 加入 1 ml PBS 中和 trypsin 作用後將 cell 吸至 1.5 ml 離心管,以 1500 rpm 離心 5 min 去上清液,彈散 pellet 加入 1×PBS 200 µl (體積依細胞量調整), 在磨砂載玻片上以鉛 筆標上號碼,置 70 µl 0.5% Normal-melting-point argarose (NMA)+ 0.5% low-melting-point argarose(LMA)於載玻片上, 將蓋玻片以 45° 角蓋上防止氣泡產生,凝固後拿下蓋玻片,取 10 μl 細胞液加上 60 μl (80-10) 0.5% LMA 加在第一層膠上,將 蓋玻片以 45° 角蓋上防止氣泡產生,凝固後拿下蓋玻片,配置

lysis buffer, lysis buffer 的配製(如表 3-4),其主要目的是可將細 胞膜上雙層磷脂(phospholipids)結構破壞,以利斷裂的 DNA 被電 泳拖出。將做好的膠置於 lysis buffer 1 hr,置於冰上,將膠移至 alkalin buffer 中 20 min,將電泳槽置於冰上,以 alkalin buffer 為 電泳液,Alkalin buffer 之配製(如表 3-5),其主要目的是會將 DNA 雙股螺旋解開,若斷裂的 DNA 則會被拖出膜外,跑 30 min (25 V;300 mA)。將膠移至 0.4 M Tris buffer, Tris buffer 之配製(如 表 3-6),使 pH 回到中性,再將膠置於 methanol 脫水,加 PI (2.5 µg/ml) 以螢光顯微鏡觀察,數 100 顆細胞打價數。

Lysis buffer	pH=8~10
(需新鮮配置)	
5M NaCl	100 ml
1M Tris-HCl	2 ml
0.5M EDTA	40 ml
Triton	2 ml
DDW	56 ml
Total	200 ml

表 3-4 Comet assay 之 lysis buffer 配製

表 3-5 Comet assay 之 Alkalin buffer 之配製

Alkalin buffer (pH=13)	
NaOH	12 g
EDTA	0.3724 g
DDW	1000 ml

表 3-6 Comet assay 之 Tris buffer 之配製



14. 西方墨點法 (Western blot)

西方墨點法包括細胞蛋白質之萃取,蛋白質濃度測定,電泳膠片 製作與蛋白質樣本轉印和壓片。

(1) 細胞蛋白質之萃取 (Protein extraction)

細胞蛋白質之萃取,必須先進行細胞總蛋白之製備,需要.Protein Extraction Solution(lysine buffer)與 PRO-PREP,將細胞種植於 6 well plate 中,細胞依照 5×10⁵/well 種植於培養皿中,每 well medium 總量 為 3 ml,經過 24 小時靜置培養後,待細胞貼附後加入 75µM Berberine 到 6 well plate (30 µl/well),經不同時間培養(6、12、24、36 及 48h), 加藥時間後,收細胞,將上層液移至離心管中,加入 PBS 清洗細胞 一次後,再將細胞以 trypsin 處理,置於 37℃培養箱中處理 2 分鐘後, 將細胞打下來,加入 1 ml PBS 以中和 trypsin 之作用,再將所有液體 裝到離心管中,1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘,去除上清液,再加入 1 ml PBS 清洗細胞,1500 rpm 離心 5 分鐘,倒掉上清液,小心將 PBS 吸乾, 再加入 100 μ l lysine buffer,將細胞懸浮均勻,置於-20℃ overnight, 之後離心 (14000 rpm,20min)取上清液,為 lysine buffer 與細胞蛋 白混合之液體,再去進行蛋白質含量測量,蛋白質標準品之配製(如 表 3-7)。

蛋白質濃度(µg/ml)	100 mg /ml BSA (ml)	DDW (ml)
100	500	0
80	400	100
60	300	200
40	200	300
20	100	400
0	0	500

表 3-7 蛋白質標準品之配製

(2) 蛋白質濃度測定

蛋白質濃度測定,首先進行蛋白質標準品檢量線製作,以 Bradford 定量法,使用胎牛血清白蛋白(Bovine serum albumin; BSA) 當作蛋白質標準品,利用酵素免疫分析儀(ELISA reader)在 O.D. 595 nm 來測量蛋白質標準品吸光值來做檢量線 (standard curve),以蛋白 質標準品吸光值畫出標準品檢量線,並求出趨勢線方程式及 R² value。

其次先取 Bradford 染劑 2 ml 加 8 ml 二次水(5×稀釋)混合均匀 備用,取 15 µl 配製好蛋白質標準品(BSA)加 735 µl Bradford 染劑 混合均匀,置於 96 well plate 中,每 well 加入 200 µl(三重複),靜 置 5 min 後以 O.D.595 nm 測量吸光值,測得標準品之吸光平均值, 以 O.D. value (Y)對蛋白濃度 µg/mL(X),求出趨勢線方程式---y=a x+b, R^2 value 要趨近於 0.99,然後進行樣品蛋白質定量。樣品蛋白 質定量,取 15 µl sample protein 與 735 µl 的 Bradford 染劑(5 倍稀釋) 混合,反應 5 分鐘後,同蛋白質標準品一起測定吸光值,所得之吸光 值平均,帶入 y 值(y=a x+b),求出該 sample 的蛋白質濃度(µg/ml)。 (3) 電泳膠片製作與蛋白質樣本轉印

電泳膠片製作與蛋白質樣本轉印,首先將蛋白質依分子量分離利 用 SDS-PAGE,將配製好的下層膠 Separation gel 注入鑄膠台中, SDS-PAGE 下層膠 (Separation gel) 之配製及組成(如表 3-8),再以 isopropanol 去除氣泡並壓平下膠,靜置一段時間,可觀察管子當中的 剩餘下層膠是否凝固,待下層膠凝固後,將 isopropanol 倒掉,注入 上層膠並插上 comb, SDS-PAGE 上層膠 (Stacking gel) 之配製及組 成(如表 3-9),並避免氣泡產生,待上層膠凝固後,將鑄好膠體放置 於電泳槽中,加入電泳緩衝液 (running buffer),接著將萃取出的蛋 白質與 5X protein loading dye 混合並以 100℃加熱 10 min 後,冰上冷 卻後離心,依序將標示標準分子量的 Multimaker 5 µl 及各 sample 18 µl 注入膠體的孔槽中,通以電壓 80 Volts,待樣品通過 stacking gel 後, 電壓調為 110 Volt,進行以電泳,當 SDS-PAGE 染劑跑出 SDS-PAGE 後或可視其需要,即可關掉電源。

	10% Separation gel	12% Separation gel
組成	(四片量)	(四片量)
40% Acryamide/Bis (29:1)	5 ml	6 ml
Running buffer	5 ml	5 ml
10% SDS	0.2 ml	0.2 ml
10% APS	0.2 ml	0.2 ml
TEMED	20µl	12 µl

表 3-8 SDS-PAGE 下層膠 (Separation gel) 之配製及組成

表 3-9 SDS-PAGE 上層膠 (Stacking gel) 之配製及組成

組成	Stacking gel(四片量)
H ₂ O	4.06 ml
40% Acrylamide/Bis (29:1)	1.02 ml
Stacking buffer	1.66 ml

10% SDS	66 µl
10% APS	33.4 µl
TEMED	12 μl

進行電泳膠片製作蛋白質樣本轉印,轉漬步驟必須先將 PVDF membrane 裁剪好,再以 methanol 短暫濕潤後,再浸入轉印緩衝液 (transfer buffer)中,接著將裁好的濾紙先浸泡在 transfer buffer 中備 用,將轉潰夾打開後,黑色面朝下,將海綿墊片先以 transfer buffer 潤濕並鋪在黑夾上,再將 3M 濾紙鋪上,接下來裁剪下層膠(separation gel)中所要轉漬的區域後,將 SDS-PAGE gel 小心的鋪於 3M 濾紙上, 可在濾紙上加入多量的 transfer buffer,再鋪上 SDS-PAGE gel 時勿陷 入任何氣泡,再依序放上 PVDF membrane,同樣避免氣泡產生,及 3M 濾紙,最後再放上一片海綿墊片,即可把整個轉潰夾裝好,其內 部組成形成似三明治夾層狀之構造(如圖 3-6)。置入已裝有 transfer buffer 的電泳槽中將黑夾朝負極,紅夾朝正極,電泳槽外圍放置足夠 冰塊,使整各系統維持低溫狀態。以 400 mA、2 小時的條件下進行 蛋白質轉漬步驟。轉印完成後取出轉印膜裁去多餘部分,轉印膜後以 0.05% tween 20/1X PBS 清洗 10 分鐘共 3 次。緊接將轉印膜以 2% FBS (溶於 0.05 % tween 20/1X PBS 中)進行 blocking 步驟,以室溫1 小時為條件進行。取出轉印膜後於小盒中以 0.05 % tween 20/1X PBS
清洗 10 分鐘共 3 次。倒掉清洗液,加入 8 ml 的一級抗體(溶於新鮮 配製之 blocking solution 中,稀釋倍數依不同抗體有所不同),4°C隔 夜進行搖盪。隔天取出,回收一級抗體,以 0.05% tween 20/1X PBS 清 洗轉印膜 10 分鐘共 3 次。加入 8 ml 稀釋 10000 倍的 goat anti IgG (HRP) horseradish peroxidaseconjugated antibody 二級抗體(溶於 含 2% FBS 的 0.05% tween 20/1X PBS 中),於室溫下搖盪進行 1 小 時,最後取出轉印膜後以 0.05% tween 20/1X PBS 洗清洗 10 分鐘共 3

次,便可進行壓片



圖 3-6 轉漬夾的內部組成

(4) 壓片

壓片必須在暗房中進行,將轉印膜浸泡於 ECL 試劑之混合液(每 瓶各取 1.5 ml 等比例混合)中1分鐘反應。以兩張投影片黏貼固定於 cassette 內,轉印膜並正面朝上放置於壓片卡匣(cassette)兩張投影 片中間,以 Hyperfilm 軟片置於上層投影片上,對準轉印膜進行壓 片,感光時間依轉印膜上螢光亮度決定時間長短,約5 秒至1 小時 不等。感光完成後放入顯影劑進行顯影步驟(時間依實際觀察決定), 再以清水沖洗30 秒後放入定影劑中,過30 秒後再以清水沖洗30 秒,便可將軟片取出晾乾,晾乾後即可看見 signal 於感光底片上呈現。

15. Real-Time PCR(即時定量聚合酶連鎖反應分析)

在本次實驗, Real-time PCR 用於檢測五個目的基因 (AIF, caspase-3, -8 和 -9 以及 EndoG.)在不同細胞的cDNA中含量差別(即 mRNA 含量,倍數關係)。 cDNA 的製備:培養細胞,裂解細胞,Trizol 法抽提RNA,反轉錄。 然後,就用Real-time PCR 去檢測五個目的基因(AIF, caspase-3, -8 和 -9 以及 EndoG.) 的量。本實驗中黃連素用75 µM處理SCC4 細胞經 過(0、24、 48小時)後,以Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit萃取出total RNA, RNA反式轉錄樣品是用高容量的cDNA反式轉譯Kit根據標準程式處 理42°C 温度30分鐘後, Quantitative PCR緊接著執行以下的處理: 50°C的温度2分鐘,95°C的温度10分鐘,以95°C,15秒,共40個循環。, 用cDNA反式轉錄Kit 1 µl 60°C的溫度1分鐘, 2X SYBR Green PCR主 要混合螢光染料(Applied Biosystems),和200 nM的正向與反向引子 (表4-1),每一個分析是應用生物系統公司的7300 Real-Time PCR系統 可得到三倍的表達褶疊改變後可由comparative C_T method處理取得所 需的mRNA序列的資料。

16. 腫瘤轉移 (metastasis) 試驗

腫瘤轉移(metastasis)試驗包括細胞移動試驗(Migration assay) 與細胞侵入試驗(cell invasion assay),敘述如下:

(1).細胞移動試驗(Migration assay)

先將 6 well plate 中央,貼上寬 1 cm 的膠帶,以紫外光照滅菌, 待隔夜,種滿 SCC-4 細胞(約 5×10⁶ cells/well),每 well medium 總量 為 3 ml,隔夜待細胞貼附後,將膠帶小心移除,更換新鮮培養液後, 加上 berberine(62.5、125 μ M),於 37°C、5% CO₂ 的細胞培養箱培養, 經 12 h、24 h、48 h、72 h 之後,取出,於顯微鏡下觀察細胞移動的 情形,並照相。

(2).細胞侵入試驗(cell invasion assay)

在 24 well Transwells upper chamber 中 coating 一層 matrigel (以 1%細胞培養機稀釋 1 倍), loading 50 μM matrigel, 放於 37℃培養箱 中,待 matrigel 凝固。收取細胞,調整細胞密度 5×10⁵ cells/ ml,將未 含 FBS 的培養液注入 24 well Transwells 的 lower chamber 中,每 well 注入 800 μl (含有 1:1 的趨化劑 fibronetin)。將整個 upper chamber 放入已加入 medium 的 lower chamber 中,在 upper chamber 的 well 中 注入已調整密度的細胞,每 well 注入 200 μl (共 1×10⁵ cells)。分別 加入不同濃度 berberine(62.5、125 μM),將整個裝置放入 37℃培養箱 中,經 48 小時後,將 upper chamber 自裝置上取下,將面朝下的那一 面以甲醇 (methanol)固定,放置在-20℃的冰箱上。30 分鐘之後, 取出用 PBS 洗雨次。加入 homotocylin stain 染色一小時之後,用 PBS 清洗雨次。最後以棉花棒抹去 membrane 另一面未移動過去的細胞, 以顯微鏡 (100X) 記數移動過去的細胞。計算三個視野,每一個視 野二重複,平均每次的結果。

17. 實驗統計分析

相關數據資料以平均值±標準差 (mean ±SD) 方式表示,並應用 Student's t test 統計比較分析實驗組與對照組之差異。*表示p<0.05, 表示統計上具顯著差異,判定為具有統計意義。

第四章 結果

第一部份 黃連素可透過caspase-8, -9和-3 經由AIF與EndoG路徑誘 發人類舌癌SCC-4細胞株細胞株凋亡的分子作用機轉之研究

1. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株的存活率之影響

顯微鏡下觀察形態的結果,發現黃連素對細胞增生及存活有明顯 影響,再以流式細胞儀評估黃連素對細胞增抑制的毒性作。從加藥 12、24、48小時,結果顯示,黃連素毒殺細胞的效果,是隨藥物濃度 (0、15、25、50、75、100μM)增加而漸強,並可得出黃連素的IC50 大約為75μM (如圖4-1)。



⁽n=3,*表示 p<0.05;**表示 p<0.01,具有統計顯著水準)。

2. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株的細胞週期之影響

黄連素 (0、15、25、50、75、100 μM) 處理 SCC-4 細胞經過 48 小時培養後,以流式細胞儀檢測細胞週期的改變,結果顯示細胞 週期 G_0/G_1 期下降, G_2/M 上升, apoptosis 上升,由此可得到證實黃 連素誘發人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞週期停滯於 G_0/G_1 ,並誘發細 胞凋亡產生 (如圖 4-2)。



圖 4-2 流式細胞儀偵測細胞週期之結果。



3. 黃連素對SCC-4細胞株的粒線體膜電位(MMP; ΔΨ_m)之影響 黃連素在細胞凋亡過程中,粒線體的功能失調(mitochondrial dysfunction)扮演著一個重要的角色。粒線體與細胞凋亡的特徵有著 高度的相關性,包括:粒線體膜電位的下降、電子傳遞鏈的瓦解及自 由基的大量表現,導致氧化磷酸化的產生,細胞凋亡因數的釋放 (cytochrome c、AIF、Endo-G),進而促使相關 caspase 路徑活化使 得細胞凋亡。

實驗結果顯示:以黃連素(75 μM)處理在短時間中(0.5、1、3、
6、12、24、48 小時),黃連素對舌癌細胞之粒線體膜電位確實有影

(B)

響,在短時間2~6小時有明顯的下降,具有統計顯著水準,而在12 小時以後下降的程度減少,在統計學上還是有顯著性的差異,隨著時 間的增加在24小時以後,膜電位已不再下降(如圖4-3)。

(A)



圖 4-3. 黃連素對 SCC-4 細胞株的 MMP 之結果。



圖 4-3 續 (n=3,*表示 p<0.05; **表示 p<0.01,具有統計顯著水準)

4. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株的ROS之影響

研究指出,當大量的 ROS 產生時,會促使胞內的氧化壓力上升 而引起細胞凋亡機制的連鎖反應。即會造成粒腺體膜電位的改變,使 得位於膜上的 cytochrome c 釋放出來,引發下游反應,活化蛋白激酶, 進而造成 apoptosis。當 DNA 受損時,會啟動 p53 抑癌基因活化,進 而促進一連串的促凋亡反應。

實驗結果顯示:以黃連素(75μM)處理在短時間中(0.5、1、3、 6、12、24小時),細胞會產生大量的自由基,但是超過12小時後, 自由基有下降的趨勢(如圖4-4)。

(B)

(A)



圖 4-4 續 (n=3,*表示 p<0.05,具有統計顯著水準)

5. 黃連素對SCC-4細胞株的鈣離子釋放(calcium release)之影響

欲證明黃連素造成細胞凋亡與細胞內鈣離子的釋放有無關係,以 黃連素濃度75μM,培養不同的時間點(0.5、1、3、6、12、24小時) 後,收取細胞,加入鈣離子螢光染劑 Indo-1-AM。最後以流式細胞儀 偵測細胞內鈣離子釋放的情形。

其結果顯示,在短時間點(2~12小時)細胞內鈣離子濃度隨時 間的增加而上升,並在長時間(24、48、72)當中維持較高的濃度, 鈣離子的釋放,具有統計顯著水準(圖4-5)。 (A) 120 100 Control 80 12h 0.5h 1h Counts 09 3h 40 6h 20 0 [↓] 10⁰ 10² 104 10¹ 10^{3} Indo-1/AM

圖 4-5. 黃連素對 SCC-4 細胞株的鈣離子釋放之結果。



圖 4-5 續 (n=3,*表示 p<0.05,具有統計顯著水準)

6. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株利用DAPI螢光染色檢測凋亡細胞

黃連素以濃度(75μM)處理人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞,經(24、48、 72小時)之後,收集細胞,以DAPI 將細胞染色,在螢光顯微鏡下觀 察。若細胞是經由細胞凋亡路徑,DAPI 染劑會接在 DNA 雙股螺旋 小溝 (minor groove)上,呈現白色螢光。

實驗結果顯示:螢光顯微鏡下觀察,加藥組可以看見白色螢光, 隨著的濃度增加可發現螢光強度有增加的現象,而控制組沒有顯示螢 光(如圖 4-6)。



圖 4-6. DAPI 染色觀察 DNA 傷害與細胞凋亡的結果。

7. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株利用Comet assay檢測細胞DNA損傷

黄連素以濃度(50、75、100 μM)處理人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞, 經 24 小時之後,藉由電泳將斷裂的 DNA 拖出膜外,以 PI 將細胞染 色,在螢光顯微鏡下觀察斷裂 DNA,會呈現拖尾的現象,故又稱 Comet assay。

實驗結果顯示:對照組(Control)呈現完整圓形,DNA 沒有斷 裂即不會被電泳拖出膜外;加藥組隨濃度增加可發現 SCC-4 細胞拖 尾現象越嚴重,代表 DNA damage 受損更加嚴重(如圖 4-7)。



圖4-7. Comet assay檢測細胞DNA損傷的結果。

8. 西方墨點法檢測細胞週期相關蛋白活性的表現

經由流式細胞儀的檢測,我們知道 SCC-4細胞在經黃連素處理後,細胞週期停滯在G0/G1期。因此,更進一步探討與細胞週期停滯 相關蛋白質的活性是否受到影響。於是藉由西方墨點法檢測相關蛋白 的表現。

實驗結果顯示:黃連素 75 μM 處理 SCC-4 細胞經過(0、12、24、 48、72 小時)後,抗細胞凋亡蛋白 Bcl-2 和 Bcl-xL 是減少,細胞凋 亡前蛋白 Bax, Bad 和 Bak 是上升(圖 4-8A)。Cytochrome c, Apaf-1, caspase-9 和-3 也是上升(圖4-8B) 和 Fas, FADD 和 caspase-8 也上升 (圖 4-8C)最後造成細胞凋亡 (apoptosis)。

(A)



圖 4-8. 黃連素對 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞週期調控蛋白的變化之表

現。



圖 4-8 續

9. Real-Time PCR分析

證實黃連素誘發細胞凋亡和一些蛋白相關(caspase-3, -8 and -9, AIF and EndoG),最終改變這五個基因的 mRNA 的表達,實行一系列 的 Real-time PCR 偵測分析(如表 4-1),黃連素 75 µM 處理 SCC-4 細 胞經過(0、24、 48 小時)後, AIF, Caspase-3, -8 和 -9 和 EndoG 五個基因的 mRNA 的量是增加的(如圖 4-9)。

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表 4-1 利用引子表達方式評估 DNA 序列

Primer Name	Primer sequence
homo caspase3-F	CAGTGGAGGCCGACTTCTTG
homo caspase3-R	TGGCACAAAGCGACTGGAT
homo caspase8-F	GGATGGCCACTGTGAATAACTG
homo caspase8-R	TCGAGGACATCGCTCTCTCA
homo caspase9-F	TGTCCTACTCTACTTTCCCAGGTTTT
homo caspase9-R	GTGAGCCCACTGCTCAAAGAT
homo AIF-F	GGGAGGACTACGGCAAAGGT
homo AIF-R	CTTCCTTGCTATTGGCATTCG
homo EndoG-F	GTACCAGGTCATCGGCAAGAA
homo EndoG-R	CGTAGGTGCGGAGCTCAATT



第二部份 黃連素可透過 FAK, IKK, NF-κB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9 路徑抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的轉移與侵入作用機轉之研究

10. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株存活率的測定(Cell Viability assay)

顯微鏡下觀察形態的結果,發現黃連素對細胞增生及存活有明顯 影響,再以流式細胞儀評估黃連素對細胞增抑制的毒性作用。從加藥 0、24、48小時結果顯示,黃連素毒殺細胞的效果,是隨藥物濃度(0、 62.5、125 μM)增加而漸強,與劑量時間呈依賴性(dose and timedependent),本實驗黃連素對細胞增抑制的毒性作用在48小時,62.5、 125 μM濃度,細胞存活率減少40 至 52%,但在24小時,125 μM濃 度,細胞存活率明顯減少。(圖4-10)。



圖 4-10 流式細胞儀偵測細胞存活率之結果。

(n=3,*表示 p<0.05;*** p<0.001,具有統計學上的差異)。

11. 黃連素對SCC-4細胞株的轉移(migration)之影響

本實驗探討黃連素是否能抑制 SCC-4 細胞的移動。其中由細胞 移動試驗(cell motility assay)評估 SCC-4 細胞移動的能力。實驗當 中為避免因細胞的增生能力而有所誤差,故於加藥前置換不含 FBS 的培養液,進行觀察。黃連素(0、62.5、125 μM)對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株在 0、24、48 小時之移動的能力。實驗發現控制組,於 12 小 時,即有移動的現象,且隨著時間的增加,移動更明顯。而加藥組中 黃連素濃度在 125 μM,48 小時有很明顯的抑制效果。由結果顯示, 黃連素能有效抑制 SCC-4 細胞的移行(migration)(如圖 4-11)。



圖 4-11 黃連素對 SCC-4 細胞株抑制轉移的結果。

12. 黄連素對SCC-4細胞株的侵入(invasion)之影響

本實驗評估細胞侵入的能力,使用 Boyden chamber (細胞轉移分析器)系統偵察癌細胞侵入的能力,黃連素 (0、62.5、125 μM)對 人類舌癌細胞 SCC-4 細胞 48 小時之侵入的能力,並計算侵入細胞數 目。

由結果顯示,48 小時後黃連素 62.5µM 濃度的穿透抑制可降至 58%,黃連素 125µM 穿透抑制率可降至 42%。證實黃連素的確可以 抑制細胞的侵入如(圖 4-12)。 (A)



Control

62.5 µM

125 µM

圖 4-12 黃連素對 SCC-4 細胞株抑制細胞侵入(invasion)的結果。



13. 西方墨點法檢測細胞的移行(migration)和侵入(invasion)之相關蛋白活性的表現

經由細胞的轉移和侵入,黃連素125μM處理SCC-4細胞經過(0、 6、12、24、48小時)後,藉由西方墨點法檢測相關蛋白的表現。

實驗結果顯示:MMP-2 和 MMP-9(圖 4-13A), uPA(圖 4-13B), FAK, p-JNK 和 p-ERK(圖 4-13C), IKK 和 NF-κB(圖 4-13D) 都 相較於控制組減低, IκB(圖 4-13D)相較於控制組卻增加, MMP-2 和 MMP-9 細胞的轉移和侵入扮演一個很重要的角色,這些作法可能 導致 SCC-4 細胞經黃連素處理後能抑制細胞的轉移和侵入。



圖 4-13 續

(C)



圖 4-13 續

第三部份 黄連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株在裸鼠活體內的分子作 用機轉之研究

14. 異種皮移殖模型(Mouse Xenograft Model)

六週大無胸腺的雌性裸鼠,購買自全國供應實驗室研究的國家實驗動物中心(台北,台灣),裸鼠是飼養於標準的乙烯籠,最佳的空氣過濾及空氣經過濾的房間,水和食物全部經壓力鍋和隨意餵食,須一週時間適應環境,實驗設計如(圖 4-14)。



圖 4-14. 黃連素對 SCC-4 腫瘤的異種皮移殖模型的實驗設計。

每一隻動物飼養一週時間適應環境後,實施異種皮移殖,SCC-4 細胞 (1x10⁷) 溶入 PBS 皮下注射於裸鼠的脅腹,動物的分組是任意 分配的處理組別,分成三組(每組六隻),當異種皮移殖從處理開始到 第10天,腫瘤大約100mm³大小時,每四天經腹腔內注射一次(在早 晨),控制組只注射 DMSO,藥物組有二組做比較,一組注射 berberine (10mg/kg),另一組注射 doxorubicin (4mg/kg),一直到第34天,在 整個期間,每隻動物將會測量腫瘤的大小、體重,最後動物經腹腔內 注射麻醉劑,包括注射100µl ketamine (80mg/kg)和 xylazine (16 mg/kg),和接受剖腹手術,犧牲後測量腫瘤的重量,所有的動物研 究是依據中國醫藥大學動物照顧和使用委員會認可的制度與指導方 針實施。

15. 異種皮移殖鼠 (Xenograft Mouse) 經黃連素處理後的腫瘤表現 三十隻裸鼠是殖入 1x10⁷ SCC-4 細胞 10 天,然後分成三組,第 一組是只注射 30 µl DMSO,第二組注射 berberine (10 mg/kg),第三 組注射 doxorubicin (4 mg/kg),然後 34 天後,從其中每組選取六隻, 三組共十八隻,所有的動物犧牲,處理期間,每隻動物測量腫瘤的大 小和重量。

動物腫瘤大小的外觀(圖 4-15A) 二組藥物組結果顯示對動物 的體重無顯著的改變(圖 4-15 B) berberine 組比控制組對減少腫瘤 的重量較顯著(圖 4-15 C),動物實際測量的腫瘤大小,實驗結果顯 示 berberine 組比控制組能抑制腫瘤的成長(圖 4-15 D)。



圖 4-15 續



圖 4-15 續

16. doxorubicin 和berberine抗舌腫瘤的抗腫瘤活性

裸鼠是殖入 1x10⁷SCC-4 細胞後,任意分成三組(每組六隻),第 一組是控制組的裸鼠給予注射 30 μl DMSO,第二組的裸鼠給予經口 餵食 doxorubicin (4mg/kg),第三組的裸鼠給予經口餵食 berberine (10 mg/kg),從開始到第 10 天腫瘤植入後和持續至實驗完成(34 天),腫 瘤在標尺上的體積尺寸和大小 (長徑和短徑)是每週被記錄二次,測量 腫瘤的長徑 (a)和短徑 (b),根據公式 V=1/2ab² 計算腫瘤體積。抑 瘤率=(對照組腫瘤體積-治療組腫瘤體積)/對照組腫瘤體積 ×100%。計算結果顯示 doxorubicin 的腫瘤的體積明顯的比控制組能 誘發 65%的腫瘤抑制率,berberine 的腫瘤的體積明顯的比控制組能誘 發 52%的腫瘤抑制率(如圖 4-16)。 (A)



圖 4-16 異種皮移殖動物模型的腫瘤體積抑制率

第五章 討論

第一部份 黃連素可透過caspase-8, -9和-3 經由AIF與EndoG路徑誘 發人類舌癌細胞株SCC-4細胞凋亡的分子作用機轉之研究

癌症是人類主要的死亡原因,其結果來自於細胞信息傳遞逐步地 進行分裂調控細胞的增殖和存活與變異⁹¹,誘發癌症細胞產生細胞凋 亡是癌症治療的主要策略。至於其分裂進入細胞的外在路徑或經由粒 線體是無法知道的^{92.93.94}。細胞凋亡路徑包括 caspase-8,-9,-3 和 -12 和粒線體路徑是牽涉到細胞色素 C 的流出與來自於粒線體到胞密啶 形成 Apaf-1 和 caspase-9 的細胞凋亡體有關⁹⁵。實際上二條路徑又互 相牽扯而複雜難辨,有一些報告已證實植物化學物質在對抗不同的癌 症方面具有潛在的化學預防與化學療法的作用。黃連素顯示在一些類 型的癌細胞有誘發細胞毒性的作用,因此決定用黃連素對人類舌癌細 胞 SCC-4 細胞是否能誘發細胞凋亡是本實驗的研究目的。

本實驗結果顯示黃連素能減少細胞的存活率,可能由於細胞凋亡 造成細胞死亡。證實黃連素誘發人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞凋亡, 資料證實能增加 sub-G1 DNA 的數量,DAPI 螢光染色也顯示黃連素 誘發人類舌癌細胞的 DNA 傷害。

進一步研究黃連素造成有關細胞凋亡的分子機轉的有關原因,細胞凋亡相關蛋白的表達,諸如:Bcl-2、Bcl-xL、Bax、Bad、Bak、

caspase-3、-8和-9、cytochrome c、Apaf-1、Fas、FADD 和細胞膜電 位在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株被評估。Bax/Bcl-2 的減少比率的可能原 因是細胞膜電位的喪失,結果造成 cytochrome c 的釋放導致細胞凋亡 ⁹⁶。結果是從流式細胞儀的分析證實黃連素能減少細胞膜電位,西方 點墨法的結果顯示黃連素能提高 cytochrome c 的水平,提升細胞凋亡 前蛋白,諸如:Bcl-2 和 Bcl-xL。有數據指出 Bax 能分裂粒線體膜 的完整和粒線體過渡性通透孔的形成,結果會發生 cytochrome c 的釋 放 ⁹⁷。先前的工作顯示粒線體過渡性通透孔會伴隨著粒線體退極化。 呼吸抑制或刺激,基質脹大,基質密啶核疳酸耗盡和膜內蛋白釋放, 包括 cytochrome c⁹⁸。

細胞死亡接受路徑能被能活化/裂解 caspase-8 特殊地調控,是鍵 結細胞死亡接合子的特性和細胞死亡接受伴隨活化 caspase-8 和 caspase-3 發生細胞凋亡⁹⁹。研究結果指出黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞形成 caspase-8,-9 和 -3 裂解增加,並且增加 caspase-9 裂解導 致隨後在下游的 caspase-3 活化,(一個細胞凋亡的執行者)。結果顯 示黃連素能促進 Apaf-1 的表達,導致促進 caspase-3 活化引起細胞凋 亡。

進一步研究決定是那一個傳遞涉及被黃連素誘發細胞凋亡,用 caspase 抑劑前處理,然後細胞培養在有黃連素存在中,結果指出

pan-caspase inhibitor是一個阻止caspase被黃連素的誘發有很強的作用,然後會抑制caspase-3, caspase-8, 和 caspase-9。這些結果顯示黃 連素處理的人類舌癌SCC-4 細胞,誘發細胞凋亡的活化需要這些 caspase,它是Fas的重要抑制劑(抗Fas的SCC-4細胞前處理)黃連素處 理的細胞明顯的減少細胞凋亡,顯示黃連素誘發細胞凋亡在某種程度 上被細胞死亡接受路徑調控。

第二部份 黃連素可透過 FAK, IKK, NF-кB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9 路徑抑制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的轉移與侵入作用機轉之研究

黄連素的抗癌作用已經在許多不同類型的癌症充分證實 ^{50,51,54,55,57-60},結果證實黃連素能減少人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞的存活率,已在 先前的研究詳述過。然而黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞的轉移和侵 入的活性和信息路徑還未有研究報告,發現黃連素在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞能大大地減低 ERK 1/2 的磷酸和活化,ERK 1/2 被認為對 NF-κB 的佸化非常重要 ¹⁰⁰,NF-κB 對於調控腫瘤細胞的增殖、細胞凋亡和 致癌基因非常重要 ¹⁰¹,許多先前的研究顯示黃連素的抗腫瘤活性可 能有一部分與透過抑制 NF-κB 的活化的調控有關 ¹⁰²⁻¹⁰⁵,並且黃連素 在人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞雖然抑制 NF-κB 但也會誘發 IκB,因此結果 顯示黃連素的抗癌活性可能與 ERK1/2 MAPK 和 NF-κB 的信息路徑 有關。

生理學和病理組織重塑過程,例如:傷口癒合、胚胎植入術、腫 瘤侵入、轉移和血管新生是與基質金屬蛋白酶 (MMPs) 相關,構成 一個分泌家族。鋅依賴性內脏酶是需要 ECM 的降解作用¹⁰⁶⁻¹⁰⁸。 MMP-9 是 NF-κB 的下游標靶,能夠降解 ECM,改變細胞-細胞和細 胞 ECM 間的影響,和癌細胞的侵入有關¹⁰⁹。ECM 抑制劑已經證實 能阻止內皮細胞的活化,對新血管的增殖和侵入^{110、111} 是不可或缺的 要素,引起幾個 MMPs 的基膜分解,因此 MMP-2 和 MMP-9 似乎對 基膜的第 IV 型膠原的降解非常重要¹¹²⁻¹¹⁴, MMP-2 的表達跟腫瘤侵 入、血管新生、轉移和再生相關^{115、116}。

MMP-2 和 MMP-9 能辨識抗癌藥物的治療標靶,由於在明膠二 種酶的降解作用是基膜較大的成份,MMP-2 和 MMP-9 的蛋白質控 制侵犯、侵入或腫瘤轉移的表現¹¹⁷⁻¹¹⁹。顯示黃連素能減少人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞的 MMP-2 和 MMP-9 的蛋白質量,有報告指出 MMP-2 和 MMP-9的蛋白質和uPA 需要 NF-κB和 AP-1¹²⁰⁻¹²¹,黃連素在 NF-κB 蛋白質的抑制作用能夠說明抑制 MMP-2 和 MMP-9 的基因表達^{122、} ¹²³。眾所周知 ERK 活化將刺激二個順式作用調控元件,包括 AP-1 和 NF-κB 的鍵結位址,在調控 MMP-9 的基因表達伴演一個重要的角 色。

在目前的報告黃連素能減少 NF-KB 的蛋白質量,但也提高了 IKB

的蛋白質量,可能導致抑制 MMP-2 和 MMP-9 的蛋白質量。黃連素 能夠具體地抑制 NF-κB 的活化作用,被 IκB (NF-κB 的抑制次單元) 的降解作用阻止,且能夠阻止 NF-κB 向細胞核結構的轉錄¹²⁴,有報 告幾個抗轉移複合物抑制 MMP,抑制作用與幾個不同的機轉相關 ¹²⁵,這些機轉直接抑制 MMP 的活化酶,阻礙 MMP 的前活化和減少 MMP 的基因表演及蛋白質量。

第三部份 黄連素對人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株在裸鼠活體內的分子作 用機轉之研究

雖然許多證據已經顯示黃連素在許多人類癌細胞株誘發細胞週 期停滯和誘發細胞凋亡,並且在活體內的動物模型扮演抗癌作用^{52、57、} ¹²⁶⁻¹²⁹。然而還未有報告顯示黃連素在人類舌癌鱗狀細胞在活體內的異 體皮移植鼠的影響。本實驗在目前的研究是第一次提供在活體內黃連 素對人類舌癌鱗狀細胞 SCC-4 癌具有功效的證據。 SCC-4 細胞已 經被使用許多年,對於研究舌癌鱗狀細胞如同一個模型細胞株^{129、130}。

本實驗中活體內的研究發現黃連素在異體皮移植模型 10 mg/kg 能夠抑制腫瘤的生長,這些與來自於在活體內的黃連素 (30 µM)的 一個相似濃度的研究有稍微地不同,在SCC-4 細胞的細胞增殖有顯 著的細胞毒素作用 (引起超過 50% 的細胞死亡)和誘發細胞凋 亡。不幸地,在目前的研究沒有計算黃連素在腫瘤組織進一步的代謝 濃度,然而腫瘤在老鼠單獨接受黃連素是比控制組大約少52%,在執 行黃連素給藥沒有顯著地毒性作用,證明在體重和外觀習性並沒有改 變。

以此方式的黃連素在 SCC-4 活體內的異體皮移植生長抑制作 用是反映在活體內所獲得的結果,相對地,黃連素10 mg/kg 處理的 裸鼠比 4mg/kg doxorubicin又比控制組獲得更小的體積(如圖4-15)。 大約65% 的抑制。腫瘤接受黃連素處理持續生長是緩慢的,指出 SCC-4 細胞的異體皮移植的完全退化無法用單一的處理達成 (berberine 或 doxorubicin)。這也指出那種複合式的處理對達到完全 的反應可能是需要的。另外的因素也將考慮,例如:p53 ,至今 p53 是最通常的突變腫瘤的抑制基因,和缺乏機能的 p53 與增加腫瘤生 長的危險相關,子宮頸癌 Ca Ski cell 是一個 p53 的 positive cells 。 它是報告肺腺癌 H1299 cells的異體皮移植的腫脹生長比在老鼠的肺 癌A549 cells 和黃連素在化學療法的功效p53-positive-A549 tumor xenograft 比 p53-deficient-H1299 tumor xenograft 是更明顯的¹³¹。

在本研究實驗中活體內與活體外二者之間的差異,其結果可能與 在活體內比在活體外存在不同的代謝形式有關,黃連素和/或代謝物 與細胞生長也許有抑制作用,這可能反映在黃連素減少SCC-4腫瘤生 長的藥力和/或藥效互相影響相關。

第六章 結論

本論文首先討論黃連素在活體外的舌癌細胞分子傳遞路徑誘發 細胞凋亡的作用機轉,其次探討黃連素在活體外的舌癌細胞的轉移變 化與造成移動與侵入的分子作用機轉,最後進一步以黃連素在裸鼠活 體內對舌癌細胞的抑制作用機轉。本論文的結論及發現如下:

1. 黃連素可透過caspase-8, -9和-3 經由AIF與EndoG路徑誘發人類 舌癌SCC-4細胞株細胞凋亡的分子作用機轉之研究

黃連素是一種埴物化學物質的組成,在人類舌癌細胞 SCC-4 誘 誘發細胞凋亡。Fas (接合蛋白) 伴演黃連素促進啟始 caspase-8 和 caspase-9 自動裂解和活化的一個接受器,啟始 caspase 裂解和活化作 用會觸發 caspase-3。caspase-3 誘發情況的多樣性,最終導致細胞凋 亡 (如圖 6-1)。



圖 6-1 黃連素對 SCC-4 細胞株誘發細胞凋亡路徑。
2. 黃連素可透過 FAK, IKK, NF-κB, u-PA 和 MMP-2 和 -9 路徑抑 制人類舌癌 SCC-4 細胞株的轉移與侵入作用機轉之研究

這是有研究數據第一次指出黃連素抑制人類舌癌SCC-4 細胞株 的細胞轉移和侵入是透過 p-ERK 和 NF-кB的信息路徑導致MMP-2 和-9的抑制 (如圖6-2)。並且顯示黃連素抑制 FAK, p-38, p-JNK 和 p-ERK 導致AP-1 和NF-кB 發生作用,進一步抑制MMP-2 和-9.的表 達。黃連素應可考慮作為抑制舌癌的轉移和侵入之治療藥物,未來的 研究將需要評估黃連素治療癌症的潛在性。



圖 6-2 黃連素抑制 SCC-4 細胞株的細胞轉移和侵入路徑。

3. 黃連素對人類舌癌細胞株 SCC-4 在裸鼠活體內的分子作用機轉之 研究

黃連素 10 mg/kg 實施經由四天一次的腹腔注射,在舌癌異體皮 移植老鼠模型的舌 SCC-4 腫瘤減少生長是有效的,結果顯示 berberine 的腫瘤的體積明顯的比控制組能誘發 52%的腫瘤抑制率,這個發現表 示黃連素的第一次的研究實驗是有效的,在一個舌癌老鼠異體皮移植 模型中黃連素就如同一個舌癌的預防藥物。

Treatment	Tumor weight	Inhibition rate	
Dosage (mg/kg)	(g)	(%)	
Control	0.2564 ±0.066		
Berberine 10 mg/kg	0.1226 ±0.037 ***	52.18	
Doxorubicin 4 mg/kg	0.0877 ±0.035 ***	65.80	

圖 6-3 黃連素抑制裸鼠 SCC-4 腫瘤的抑制率。

(*** p<0.001,具有統計顯著水準)

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Molecular mechanisms of growth inhibition on human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells by berberine : in vitro and in vivo

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1. Berberine induced apoptosis via promoting the expression of caspase-8, -9 and -3, apoptosis inducing factor and endonuclease G in SCC-4 human tongue squamous carcinoma cancer cells

Phytochemicals have been recognized to have potential chemo-preventive or chemotherapeutic efficacy in cancer treatment. Here, we hypothesized that berberine would have anti-cancer activities in human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells. Results indicated that berberine decreased the viability of SCC-4 cells which was initiated by the generation of reactive oxygen species, *via* an increase in cytosolic Ca^{2+} . Berberine induced apoptosis was associated with a reduction of the mitochondrial membrane potential associated with changes in the Bax/Bcl-2 ratio, release of cytochrome c from mitochondria and activation of down-stream caspase-3. Real time PCR showed that berberine stimulated gene expression of caspase-8, -9 and -3, apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF) and Endo G. The present study demonstrated that berberine-mediated apoptosis of SCC-4 cells is

regulated by ROS, mitochondria, caspase-3 -dependent and -independent pathways, suggesting that berberine may be considered for future studies as a promising therapeutic candidate for human tongue cancer.

2. Berberine suppresses in vitro migration and invasion of human SCC-4 tongue squamous cancer cells through the inhibitions of FAK, IKK, NF- κ B, u-PA and MMP-2 and -9

There is increasing evidence that urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) and matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) play an important role in cancer metastasis and angiogenesis. Inhibition of uPA and MMPs could suppress migration and invasion of cancer cells. Berberine, one of the main constituents of the plant Rhizoma coptidis, is a type of isoquinoline alkaloid, reported to have anticancer effects in different human cancer cell lines. There is however, no available information on effects of berberine on migration and invasion of human tongue cancer cells. Here, we report that berberine inhibited migration and invasion of human SCC-4 tongue squamous carcinoma cells. This action was mediated by the p-JNK, p-ERK, p-38, IKK and NF-KB signaling pathways resulting in inhibition of MMP-2 and -9 in human SCC-4 tongue squamous carcinoma cells. These results suggest that berberine down-regulates uPA, MMP-2 and -9 expressions in SCC-4 cells through the NF-kB and MAPK mediated pathway and a novel function of berberine is to inhibit the invasive capacity of malignant cells.

3. Berberine Inhibits Human Tongue Squamous Carcinoma Cancer

Tumor Growth in a Murine Xenograft Model

Many evidences have been shown that dietary fruits and vegetables can act as protective for maligancies and carcinogenesis. Berberine is one of component from natural plant such as barberry. Many studies have been shown that berberine induced cell cycle arrest and apoptosis in many cancer cell lines. Our primary studies also showed that berberine induced apoptosis in human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells in vitro. But there is no report to show berberine inhibited SCC-4 cancer cells in vivo on a murine xenograft animal model. SCC-4 tumor cells were implanted into mice and groups of mice were treated with vehicle, berberine (10 mg/kg) and doxorubicin (4 mg/kg). The tested agents were injected once per four days intraperitoneally, with treatment starting 4 weeks prior to cell inoculation. Treatment with 4 mg/kg of doxorubicin or with 10 mg/kg of berberine resulted in a reduction in tumor incidence. Tumor size in xenograft mice treated with 10 mg/kg berberine was significantly smaller than that in the control group. Our findings indicate that berbeirne inhibits tumor growth in a xenograft animal model, berberine may represent a tongue cancer preventive agent.

Keywords: Human tongue SCC-4 cancer cells (SCC-4 cancer cells); Berberine ; Apoptosis ; Cell cycle ; Caspase cascade ; Mitochondria ; Migration and invasion ; uPA (Urokinase-type plasminogen activator) ; MMPs (Matrix metalloproteinases) ; Nuclear factor κB (NF- κB) ; Inhibitory κB (I κB)

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Berberine suppresses *in vitro* migration and invasion of human SCC-4 tongue squamous cancer cells through the inhibitions of FAK, IKK, NF-κB, u-PA and MMP-2 and -9

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ABSTRACT

There is increasing evidence that urokinase-type plasminogen activator (u-PA) and matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) play an important role in cancer metastasis and angiogenesis. Inhibition of u-PA and MMPs could suppress migration and invasion of cancer cells. Berberine, one of the main constituents of the plant *Rhizoma coptidis*, is a type of isoquinoline alkaloid, reported to have anti-cancer effects in different human cancer cell lines. There is however, no available information on effects of berberine on migration and invasion of human tongue cancer cells. Here, we report that berberine inhibited migration and invasion of human SCC-4 tongue squamous carcinoma cells. This action was mediated by the p-JNK, p-ERK, p-p38, 1ĸK and NF-κB signaling pathways resulting in inhibition of MMP-2 and -9 in human SCC-4 tongue squamous carcinoma cells. Our Western blowing analysis also showed that berberine inhibited the levels of urokinase-plasminogen activator (u-PA). These results suggest that berberine down-regulates u-PA, MMP-2 and -9 expressions in SCC-4 cells through the FAK, IKK and NF-κB mediated pathways and a novel function of berberine is to inhibit the invasive capacity of malignant cells.

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1. Introduction

It was reported that over 300,000 cases of oral and oropharyngeal cancer occur per year and occurrence is higher in males than in females [1]. Oral cancer cases and deaths

Abbreviations: ECM, extracellular matrix; FAK, focal adhesion kinase; IKK, IκB kinase; MMPs, matrix metalloproteinases; NF-κB, nuclear factorkappaB; u-PA, urokinase-type plasminogen activator. are associated with individual predisposition such as specific genetic characteristics but lifestyle factors such as tobacco/bidi smoking, [2,3] betel quid, [4] heavy alcohol drinking, [5] micronutrient deficiency [6] and human papillomavirus infection [7] play a role. Two or more of these factors can increase the risk of oral cancer [8,9]. The betel quid chewing for example has a strong association with the occurrence of oral cancer in Taiwan. Based on reports from the People Health Bureau of Taiwan, approximately 6 per 100,000 die annually of oral cancer in Taiwan and oral cancer has been elevated to be the fourth most frequent cause of cancer death among males in Taiwan.

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Treatment options for oral cancer such as surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy have not been satisfactory. Therefore, it is important to identify new agents and novel targets for the treatment of oral cancer.

Berberine, a natural alkaloid found in natural plants, is anti-bacterial, [10] anti-oxidative, [11] anti-inflammatory, [12] anti-carcinogenic activity [13] and exerts anti-metastatic properties in non-small lung cancer cells [14]. It was reported that berberine suppressed cyclooxygenase-2 transcriptional and activator protein-1 activity in human colon cancer cells [15,16] and DNA topoisomerase II [17]. Berberine induced cytotoxic activity in human leukemia U937 and murine melanoma B16 cells, [18] human prostate cancer cells [10] and human epidermoid carcinoma A431 cells [19].

In our laboratory, we have reported that berberine inhibited N-acetyltransferase activity in human colon tumor cells [20] and induced apoptosis in human oropharyngeal cancer HSC-3 cells [21] and inhibited rat vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation and migration *in vitro* [22]. Inhibition of berberine on the induction of migration and invasion in human tongue cancer cells has not been reported. The purpose of this study was to investigate effects of berberine on the induction of migration and invasion in human SCC-4 tongue squamous carcinoma cells. We show that berberine inhibited the migration and invasion of SCC-4 cells through the inhibition of MMP-2 and -9.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Materials and chemicals

Berberine, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), trypan blue and triton X-100, pyruvate, penicillin G and streptomycin were obtained from Sigma Chemical. (St. Louis, MO, USA). Anti-MMP-2, anti-MMP-9, anti-FAK, anti-u-PA, anti-p-p38, antip-JNK, anti-p-ERK, anti-IKK, anti-NF-κB and anti-IκB were purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. Materials and chemicals for electrophoresis were obtained from BioRad.

2.2. Cell culture

The human SCC-4 tongue squamous carcinoma cell line was purchased from the Food Industry Research and Development Institute (Hsinchu, Taiwan). Cells were plated onto RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 Units/ml penicillin, 100 ng/ml streptomycin and 1% glutamine at 75 cm² cell culture flasks and grown under a humidified 5% CO₂, 95% air at 37 °C.

2.3. Viable cells determination

Total viable cells were counted on a Neubauer chamber using a microscope. SCC-4 cells (2×10^5 cells/well) were placed in 12-well plate were then treated with 0, 62.5 and 125 μ M berberine and or control cells treated only with vehicle (DMSO, 0.2% in media). Control and berberine-treated cells were incubated for 0, 24 and 48 h. Cell viability was determined using trypan blue exclusion and flow cytometry as previously described [23,24].

2.4. Migration determination

Cells were plated in 6-well plates for 24 h before cells in the individual wells were wounded by scratching with a pipette tip and incubated with RPMI-1640 medium containing no FBS and treated with or without berberine (62.5 or 125 μ M) for 0, 24 and 48 h. Cells were photographed under phase-contrast microscopy (×100) as previously described [23].

2.5. Invasion determination

The in vitro invasion assay of agent affect cells was performed as the method of Huang et al. [25] and Hsu et al. [23]. Initially, 24-well Transwell inserts with 8 µm porosity polycarbonate filters (Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA) were re-coated with 30 µg Englebreth-Holm-Swarm sarcoma tumor extract (EHS Matrigel Basement Membrane Matrix) at 25 °C for 1 h to form a genuine reconstituted basement membrane. Second, the SCC-4 cells $(1 \times 10^4 \text{ cells}/0.4 \text{ ml})$ RPMI-1640) were placed onto the upper compartment and incubated with vehicle or berberine (0, 62.5 or 125 μ M). Then the plates were incubated at 37 °C for 48 h in a humidified atmosphere with 95% air and 5% CO₂. Third, cells were then fixed with 4% formaldehyde in phosphate-buffered-saline (PBS) and stained with 2% crystal violet. Finally, cells on the upper surface of the filter were removed by wiping with a cotton swab, and the cells in the lower surface of the filter which penetrated through the matrigel were counted under a light microscope at ×200 [23]. Each treatment of cells was assaved in duplicate, and three independent experiments were carried out [23].

2.6. Western blotting

Cells were plated onto 6-well plates then treated with 62.5 μ M berberine for 0, 6, 12, 24 and 48 h. Following each time point, cells from each well were isolated for determining proteins associated with invasion and migration, u-PA, MMP-2, MMP-9, FAK, p-p38, p-JNK, p-ERK, IKK NF- κ B, I κ B (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA, USA). Isolated cells with or without berberine treatment were lysed and the protein levels quantified. All samples were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE), as described previously [23,24].

2.7. Statistical analysis

Student's *t*-test was used to analyze differences between the berberine-treated and control group.

3. Results

3.1. Berberine decreased the percentages of viable SCC-4 cells

Effects of berberine on the percentage of viable SCC-4 cells were examined and quantified by trypan blue exclusion and flow cytometric analysis. It can be seen in Fig. 1 that berberine induced cytotoxicity and decreased the percentage of viable cells from 40% to 52% (P < 0.001) of



Concentration of berberine (µM)

Fig. 1. Berberine decreased the percentages of viable SCC-4 cells *in vitro*. SCC-4 cells (2×10^5 cells/well; 12-well plates) were treated with 0, 62.5 and 125 μ M berberine for 0, 24 and 48 h. The cells were collected and the viable cells were determined by trypan blue exclusion and flow cytometry as described in Materials and methods. Each point is mean ± SD of three experiments. Significantly different from the control at ${}^{*}P < 0.05$, ${}^{**}P < 0.001$.

62.5 and 125 μ M berberine at 48 h treatment but at 24 h treatment of berberin, only 125 μ M induced a significant decrease of viable cells.

3.2. Berberine inhibited the migration of SCC-4 cells in vitro

Effects of berberine on cell migration were investigated using a wound-healing assay and results are shown in Fig. 2. Higher berberine concentrations (125 μM) and longer incubation time period (48 h) led to greater inhibition of cell migration in SCC-4 cells. These effects were dose-and time-dependent.

3.3. Berberine inhibited the invasion of SCC-4 cells in vitro

Data of Fig. 3A shows that SCC-4 cells migrated from the upper to the lower chamber in the control group (absence of berberine) but the penetration of the EHS-coated filter by SCC-4 cells was inhibited in the presence of berberine. This inhibitory effect was higher at a berberine concentration of 125 μ M than 62.5 μ M. The quantification of cells in the lower chamber from Fig. 3B indicated that berberine significantly inhibited SCC-4 cell invasion, and the percentage of inhibition ratio is 42–58% and this effect was dose-dependent.



Fig. 2. Berberine inhibited the migration of SCC-4 cells *in vitro*. SCC-4 cells $(2 \times 10^5 \text{ cells/well}; 12\text{-well plates})$ were treated with 0, 62.5 and 125 μ M berberine for 24 and 48 h. Cells were wounded by scratching with a pipette tip and the cells were incubated with RPMI-1640 medium containing no FBS and incubation with or without berberine for 48 h. Cells were photographed under phase-contrast microscopy (×100).



Fig. 3. Berberine inhibited the invasion of SCC-4 cells *in vitro*. SCC4 cells (10^4 cells/0.4 ml RPMI-1640) were placed and cells that penetrated through the matrigel to the lower surface of the filter were stained with crystal violet and were photographed under a light microscope at $\times 200$ (panel A). Quantification of cells in the lower chamber, was performed by counting cells at $\times 200$ (panel B). ^{***}*P* < 0.001, significant difference between berberine-treated groups and the control.

3.4. Berberine inhibited levels of MMP-2, MMP-9, u-PA, FAK, p-p38, p-JNK, p-ERK, IKK and NF- κ B in SCC-4 cells

Levels of invasion- and migration-associated proteins during treatment with berberine were examined by Western blotting. Data shown in Fig. 4A–D indicate that the levels of MMP-2 and MMP-9 (Fig. 4A), u-PA (Fig. 4B), FAK, p-JNK and p-ERK (Fig. 4C), IKK and NF- κ B (Fig. 4D) were lower then the corresponding control. However, I κ B (Fig. 4D) was higher than that of control. MMP-2, MMP-9 and u-PA play an important role of cell invasion and migration. These effects may have led to the inhibition of invasion and migration from SCC-4 cells after exposure to berberine.

4. Discussion

The anti-cancer effect of berberine has been well documented in many different types of human cancers [11,12,14–19,26]. In this study, our results demonstrated that berberine decreased the percentage of human SCC-4 tongue cancer viable cells in a dose-dependent manner, which is in agreement with our previous studies. However, actions of berberine on migration and invasion of SCC-4 cells and the associated signaling pathways have not been reported. In this study, our results indicated that berberine inhibited the migration and invasion in human SCC-4 tongue cancer viable cells and these effects are dose-and time-dependent manners. The results from Western blotting assay also showed that berberine greatly reduced the phosphorylation of JNK, p38, ERK1/2 and decreased the levels of u-PA, MMP-2 and -9 in SCC-4 cells. Also, berberine suppressed NF- κ B levels but inducible I κ B levels in SCC-4 cells. ERK1/2 was reported to be important for the activation of NF- κ B [27]. NF- κ B is critically involved in the regulation of tumor cell proliferation, apoptosis and oncogenesis [28]. Many previous studies had shown that anti-tumor activities of berberine may be mediated in part through the suppression of NF- κ B activation [29–32]. Therefore, these results suggested that anti-cancer activity of berberine may be involved in both ERK1/2 MAPK and NF- κ B signaling pathways.

Physiological and pathological tissue remodeling processes such as wound healing, embryo implantation, tumor invasion, metastasis and angiogenesis are associated with matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) which constitute a family of secreted, zinc-dependent endopeptidases that are required for ECM degradation [33–35]. MMP-9 is a downstream target of NF-κB, which can degrade the ECM, altering cell–cell and cell-ECM interactions, and it is



Fig. 4. Representative Western blot showing changes in the levels of associated proteins in migration and invasion of SCC-4 cells after exposure to berberine. The SCC-4 cells (5×10^6 cells/well) were treated with berberine at 62.5 μ M for 0, 6, 12, 24 and 48 h then the total protein was prepared and determined, as described in Materials and methods. The levels of MMP-2 and -9 (panel A), u-PA (panel B), FAK, p-p38, p-JNK, p-ERK (panel C) and IKK, NF- κ B and IkB (panel D) expressions were estimated by Western blotting, as described in Materials and methods.

associated with invasion of cancer cells [36]. MMP-2 expression is associated with tumor invasion, angiogenesis, metastasis and recurrence [37,38]. MMP-2 and MMP-9 appear to be most important for basement membrane type IV collagen degradation [39–41]. Both proteins are correlated with an aggressive, invasive or metastatic tumor phenotype [42–44].

MMP inhibitors have been demonstrated to block endothelial cell activities which are essential for new vessel development leading to proliferation and invasion [45,46]. Therefore, MMP-2 and MMP-9 are recognized to be therapeutic targets of anti-cancer drugs due to degrading action of both enzymes on gelatins which are major components of the basement membrane Our results (Fig. 4) showed that berberine decreased MMP-2 and -9 protein levels in SCC-4 cells. It has been reported that the proteins of MMP-2, MMP-9 and u-PA require NF-KB and AP-1 [47,48]. Therefore, the inhibitory effect of berberine on NF-kB protein might be able to explain suppression of MMP-2 and MMP-9 gene expressions [49,50]. It is well known that the activation of ERK will stimulate two cisacting regulatory elements including the binding sites of AP-1 and NF-κB which play an important role in controlling MMP-9 gene expression. Migration and invasion of cells are the important factors for cancer cell metastasis. It was reported that enhanced production of MMPs and u-PA is correlated with invasion, metastasis and angiogenesis of the tumors [51–53].

Our result also showed that berberine inhibited the levels of u-PA, an upstream activating enzyme of MMPs involved in the invasion and metastasis in examined SCC-4 cells that is in agreement with the reports from Peng et al. (2006) demonstrated that berberine inhibited the invasion of human lung cancer cells (A549) via decreased productions of urokinase-plasminogen activator (u-PA) and MMP-2 [14]. However, there is no available information to address berberine affecting the migration and invasion of human oral tongue cancer SCC-4 cells. Here, we are the first to show that berberine inhibited the invasion and migration of human oral tongue cancer SCC-4 cells through the FAK and IKK pathways for leading to the inhibition of NF-κB following the inhibition of MMP-2 and -9. Our findings offer more details of signal pathways from berberine inhibited migration and invasion. Actually we also see the inhibition of u-PA levels based on Western blotting analysis and those findings are also shown in the results and Fig. 4. Peng et al. 2006 which described the inhibitory effect of berberine on the invasion of human lung cancer A549 cells via decreased productions of urokinase-plasminogen activator and matrix metalloproteinase-2 [14] and it also reduced phosphorylation of c-jun, c-fos and NF- κ B. However, our findings showed that the similarities with Peng's is the inhibition of MMP-2 and u-PA and the difference with Peng's et al. 2006 is that berberine inhibited the migration and invasion of human lung cancer A549 cells through the reduction of phosphorylation of cjun, c-fos and NF-kB. Yet our findings point out that it is conducted through the inhibition of FAK and IKK before leading to reduce phosphorylation of JNK, ERK and p38, IkB, respectively which is shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

NF- κ B and AP-1 control the expression of u-PA.[54] High expression of u-PA correlates with invasive oral cancer cell [55]. Furthermore, Baker et al. (2007) used ELISA assays to calculate the tissue concentrations of u-PA, tPA, uPAR, PAI-1, and PAI-2 in paired specimens of tumor and normal tissue from 38 patients with oral squamous cell carcinoma, and the results indicated that concentrations of u-PA, uPAR, PAI-1, and PAI-2 were significantly higher



Fig. 5. Molecular signaling pathways for berberine-inhibited invasion and migration in human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells.

in tumor than in normal oral tissue [56]. In this study, our new findings also showed that berberine inhibited the migration and invasion of SCC-4 cells through the inhibition of FAK and IKK signal pathways (Figs. 4 and 5).

The inhibition of NF- κ B and MAPK (JNK, ERK and p38) signaling suppressed the secretion of u-PA, resulting in the inhibition of motility of highly invasive cancer cells [57]. We showed that berberine decreased u-PA protein levels in SCC-4 cells (Fig. 4B) and also decreased the levels of NF- κ B that suggest berberine may act as a therapeutic agent to inhibit cell invasion and metastasis in human tongue squamous cancer patients.

Our results clearly demonstrated that berberine decreased the protein levels of NF- κ B but promoted the protein levels of I κ B which may lead to inhibit MMP-2 and MMP-9 protein levels. It was reported that berberine can specifically inhibit the activation of NF- κ B by preventing the degradation of I κ B (NF- κ B inhibitory subunit) which can block the translocation of NF- κ B into the nuclear compartment [58]. The anti-metastatic compounds inhibited MMPs through different mechanism [59] such as direct inhibition of the enzymatic activity of MMPs, interference in the activation of pro-MMPs and reduced expression of MMP genes and protein levels.

Taken together, our data for the first time indicated that berberine could inhibit migration and invasion of human SCC-4 tongue cancer cells through MAPK and NF- κ B signaling pathways resulting in the inhibition of MMP-2 and -9 as summarized in Fig. 5. This figure also showed that berberine inhibited the levels of FAK, p-p38, p-JNK and p-ERK led to affect AP-1 and NF- κ B which led to suppress the expression of MMP-2 and -9. Berberine should be considered as a possible therapeutic agent for inhibiting the metastasis and invasion of tongue cancer. Further investigations will be required to assess the potential of berberine in the treatment of cancer.

5. Conflict of Interest Statement

None declared.

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Berberine inhibits human tongue squamous carcinoma cancer tumor growth in a murine xenograft model

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Abstract

Our primary studies showed that berberine induced apoptosis in human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells *in vitro*. But there is no report to show berberine inhibited SCC-4 cancer cells *in vivo* on a murine xenograft animal model. SCC-4 tumor cells were implanted into mice and groups of mice were treated with vehicle, berberine (10 mg/kg of body weight) and doxorubicin (4 mg/kg of body weight). The tested agents were injected once per four days intraperitoneally (*i.p.*), with treatment starting 4 weeks prior to cells inoculation. Treatment with 4 mg/kg of doxorubicin or with 10 mg/kg berberine was significantly smaller than that in the control group. Our findings indicated that berbeirne inhibits tumor growth in a xenograft animal model. Therefore, berberine may represent a tongue cancer preventive agent and can be used in clinic.

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Keywords: Berberine; Human tongue SCC-4 cancer cells; Xenograft transplantation; In vivo

Introduction

Oral and oropharyngeal cancers are one of cancer related deaths in men worldwide and are over 300,000

cases annually throughout the world (Parkin et al., 1999). In Taiwan, 9.6 persons per 100 thousand die annually from oral cancer based on reports from the Peoples Health Bureau of Taiwan. As surgery, radiotherapy and current chemotherapeutic options with oral cancer seem to be inadequate in curing or controlling oral cancer, therefore, many investigators are focused on identifying new agents and novel targets for treating oral cancer.

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Berberine is identified as an active component in the roots, rhizome, and stem bark of Berberis vulgaris (barberry), Berberis aquifolium (Oregon grape). Berberis aristata (tree turmeric), and Tinospora cordifolia (Craig, 1999). Berberine has been demonstrated to determine its anti-carcinogenic activity in skin (Nishino et al., 1986), to inhibit activator protein 1 in human cell lines (Peng et al., 2006) and to possess anti-tumor properties in human colon cancer cells (Yount et al., 2004; Sack and Froehlich, 1982). Many reports and studies have been shown that berberine induced apoptosis through cell cycle arrest and apoptosis (Choi et al., 2006) and it also inhibited migration and invasion of human tongue cancer SCC-4 cells (Lin et al., 2008). For the first time, we attempted to examine the chemotherapeutic effect of berberine on tongue cancer cells in vivo.

Materials and methods

Chemicals

Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), trypan blue and Triton X-100 were obtained from Sigma Chemical (St. Louis, MO, USA).

Cell culture

Human tongue squamous carcinoma SCC-4 cells were obtained from the Food Industry Research and Development Institute (Hsinchu, Taiwan) and were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS (Hyclone Laboratories, Logan, UT, USA), 1% penicillin-streptomycin and 1% glutamine. Cells were maintained at 37 °C in a humidified 5% CO₂ and 95% air (Lin et al., 2007).

In vivo tumor xenograft model

Six-week-old female BALB/ $c^{nu/nu}$ nude mice were purchased from Laboratory Animal Center of National Applied Research Laboratories (Taipei, Taiwan). The experimental design is showing in Fig. 1. Each mouse was anaesthetized by intraperitoneal (*i.p.*) injection of 30 µl of berberine (10 mg/kg) and doxorubicin (4 mg/kg), and underwent a laparotomy. SCC-4 cells (1 × 10⁷) in culture medium were subcutaneously injected into the flanks of mice. Animalsbearing tumors were randomly assigned to treatment groups (6 mice per group) and treatment initiated when xenografts reached volumes of about 100 mm³ and injected *i.p.* every 4 day with 30 µl of DMSO control vehicle, berberine (10 mg/kg) and doxorubicin (4 mg/kg). All animal studies were conducted according to institutional guidelines approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of China Medical University (Taichung, Taiwan).

Mice exhibiting tumors were monitored, counted, and the tumor sizes were measured initially after 10 days, with the final measurement taken 4 weeks after tumor cell inoculation. After xenograft tumor transplantation, tumor size was measured once per four days using calipers and tumor volume was estimated according to the following formula: tumor volume $(mm^3) = L \times W^2/2$ (L: length and W: width). Body weight was measured once per 4 days but more frequently measured during the first 3 weeks to monitor potential drug-related toxicity. At the end of the study, animals were sacrificed. Tumors were removed, measured and weighted individually (Kuo et al., 2006; Yang et al., 2008).

Statistical analysis

Each value represents mean \pm SD, between the animal groups were compared by Student's *t*-test. ***p < 0.001 was considered significant.

Results

Representative tumors on the xenograft mice were treated with or without berberine treatments. Groups of mice were treated with berberine (10 mg/kg), doxorubicin (4 mg/kg) and control with DMSO, the representative animal with tumor are showing in Fig. 2A, the treatments of both compounds did not alter body weight significantly (Fig. 2B). Berberine also decreased significantly the tumor weight compared to control (Fig. 2C) and the representative tumor and percentages of inhibition of tumor are showing in Fig. 2D. The results indicated that berberine induced 52% inhibition of tumor compared to control. Comparisons of tumors volumes between the control and berberine or doxorubicin treatment groups showed that 10 mg/kg berberine significantly reduce the tumor incidence compared with control mice (52%). With regard to tumor mass, tumor growth seemed to decrease in the berberine groups compared to control. In Fig. 2E, Doxorubicin (4 mg/kg) significantly induced tumor inhibition $\sim 65\%$. It also shows the effects of 10 mg/kg berberine, 4 mg/kg doxorubicin, on tumor volume in mice. Tumors in the treatment groups were significantly smaller than that in the control group. The final tumor size from mice treated with 10 mg/kg berberine, were smaller than the tumor size of control mice after cell inoculation with berberine.



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Fig. 1. Experimental design of berberine affect SCC-4 tumor in xenograft animal model. The animal will be *s.c.* implanted with SCC-4 cells for 10 days until tumor volume around 100 mm³ then randomly divided into 3 groups. Group 1 was treated with DMSO *i.p.* only. Group 2 were treated with 10 mg/kg berberine *i.p.* and Group 3 was treated with 4 mg/kg doxorubicin *i.p.* for 34 days. During the treatment, each animal will be measure tumor size and weight as described in materials and methods.



Fig. 2. Representative tumor on the xenograft animal model. Eighteen nude mice were *s.c.* implanted with 1×10^7 SCC-4 cells for 10 days then randomly divided into 3 groups. Group 1 was treated with DMSO only. Group 2 were treated with 10 mg/kg berberine and Group 3 was treated with 4 mg/kg doxorubicin then 34 days all animal were sacrificed. During the treatment, each animal will be measure tumor size and weight as described in materials and methods. (A): representative animal with solid tumor; (B) body weight; (C) tumor weight; (D) representative tumor and % inhibition. ***p < 0.001 (D) Tumor volume. Tumor volume was calculated as the half the product of longest diameter and the square of the shortest diameter. Data presented was mean ± SEM at 10–34 days post-tumor implantation, the tumor volumes observed in DMSO, doxorubicin and berberine group were compared as analyzed by Student's *t*-test. ***p < 0.001.

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Discussion

Although many evidences have been shown that berberine caused cell cycle arrest and induced apoptosis in many cancer cell lines (Kim et al., 2008), but no reports to show berberine affect human tongue squamous cancer SCC-4 cells in xenograft mouse in vivo. In the present study, we provide the first in vivo evidence for the efficacy of berberine on human tongue squamous cancer SCC-4 tumors in mice. There are several interesting findings from our in vivo study. First, berberine, at 10 mg/kg could inhibit tumor growth in a xenograft mice model. These findings are slightly different from in vitro studies where a similar concentration of berberine $(30 \,\mu\text{M})$ had significant cytotoxic effects (caused over 50% cell death) on the cellular proliferation of SCC-4 cells and induced apoptosis (Ho et al., 2008). However, tumors in mice that received berberine alone were about 52% smaller than those of the control group (Fig. 2D). We did not observe toxic effects at the doses administered of berberine, as evidenced by no changes in body weight or grooming habits.

Hence the growth inhibitory effect of berberine on SCC-4 xenografts in vivo was reflective of the results obtained in vitro. Ten mg/kg of berberine treatment compared to 4 mg/kg doxorubicin, the inhibition about 65% less volume than those in the control group (Fig. 2D). Tumors that received berberine treatment continued to grow slowly, indicating that complete regression of SCC-4 cells xenografts was not achieved using a single treatment. This indicated that multiple treatments may be necessary to achieve complete responses. A second reason for the discrepancy between the in vivo and in vitro results could be related to the presence of different metabolites formed in vivo than that is in vitro: berberine and/or its metabolites may have an inhibitory effect of cell growth. This may reflect pharmacokinetic and/or pharmacodynamic interactions involved in berberine decrease the growth of SCC-4 cells tumors.

In conclusion, berberine administered once per 4 day *i.p.* at 10 mg/kg, were effective in reducing the growth of tongue SCC-4 tumors in a tongue cancer xenograft mouse model. This finding represents the first study examining the effect of berberine as a tongue cancer preventive agent in a tongue cancer murine xenograft model.

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