
Inhibition of Lipid Oxidation

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General Considerations

Oxidative modification of the low-density lipoproteins (LDL) has been shown to cause accelerated degradation of LDL via the scavenger receptor pathway. Under conditions of high serum LDL levels, LDL particles can migrate into the subendothelial space where oxidation of LDL can occur (Heinecke 1998; Jiang et al. 2011). The actual oxidation process is believed to begin with lipid peroxidation, followed by fragmentation to result in short-chain aldehydes. These aldehydes can form adducts with the lysine residues of apo B, creating a new epitope which is recognized by the scavenger receptor of macrophages.

During the same process, lecithin is converted to lysolecithin, which is a selective chemotactic agent for monocytes. The monocytes adhere to the arterial wall and penetrate through to the subendothelium. Once there, the monocyte changes to a tissue macrophage which takes up the oxidized LDL via the scavenger receptor. The uptake of oxidized LDL continues until the macrophage is engorged with cholesteryl esters ultimately forming a foam cell. Groups of these foam cells constitute a fatty streak. By inhibiting the oxidation of LDL, it is hoped that the modification of apo B and the production of chemotactic lysolecithin can be prevented.

The family of receptors for mammalian low-density proteins has been reviewed by Hussain et al. (1999).

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Inhibition of Lipid Peroxidation of Isolated Plasma Low-Density Lipoproteins

Purpose and Rationale

Hypercholesterolemic Watanabe rabbits are considered to be a suitable model to study the effect of antioxidants as antiatherosclerotic agents (Carew et al. 1987; Kita et al. 1987; Steinberg et al. 1988; Dresel et al. 1990). Plasma of Watanabe heritable hyperlipidemic (WHHL) rabbits is used to test the inhibition of Cu^{2+} -induced lipid peroxidation of isolated low-density lipoproteins (LDL).

Procedure

Animals of a modified Watanabe heritable hyperlipidemic rabbit strain (Gallagher et al. 1988) are used. The animals are fed over a period of 12 weeks with Purina rabbit chow diet with or without 1 % of test compound or standard (probuco). Plasma samples are collected in Na_2EDTA (0.1 % final concentration). LDLs are isolated from each rabbit plasma using a sequential ultracentrifugation technique at $d = 1.019\text{--}1.063$ g/ml (Mao et al. 1983). LDLs are then dialyzed against phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, 0.01 M sodium phosphate, 0.12 M NaCl, pH 7.4) at 4 °C for 24 h.

For determination of LDL lipid peroxidation induced by Cu^{2+} , 100 μg of each LDL sample is adjusted to a volume of 1.5 ml with distilled water. Lipid peroxidation is initiated by addition of CuSO_4 to a final concentration of 5 μM followed

by an incubation at 37 °C for 3 h. The reaction is stopped by adding 100 µl of 50 mM Na₂EDTA. Fifty micrograms of LDL from the reaction mixture are added to 1.5 ml of 20 % trichloroacetic acid and vortexed. Finally, 1.5 ml of 0.67 % thiobarbituric acid (TBA) in 0.05 N NaOH is added, and the mixture is incubated at 90 °C for 30 min. Samples are centrifuged at 1,500 rpm for 10 min. The absorbance of the supernatant fractions is determined at 532 nm to estimate the content of lipid peroxides (thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances). A standard curve (0–5 nmol) of malondialdehyde is generated using malondialdehyde bis(dimethyl acetal) as reference to determine the lipid peroxidation content in Cu²⁺-treated LDL.

Evaluation

The content of lipid peroxide in LDL is plotted against the drug concentration in LDL fractions. The extent of Cu²⁺-induced peroxidation decreases with increasing drug concentrations. The effects of test compounds are compared to the standard.

Modifications of the Method

Inhibition of iron-dependent lipid peroxidation by test compounds was measured by Braughler et al. (1987) and Yoshioka et al. (1989).

Yamamoto et al. (1986) studied the effects of probucol on lipid storage in macrophages in vitro in the presence of acetylated low-density lipoprotein using macrophage-like cells (UE-12) established from a human histiocytic lymphoma cell line.

Barnhart et al. (1989) used LDL from human plasma to study the concentration-dependent antioxidant activity of probucol.

Parthasarathy et al. (1986) incubated LDL from human plasma samples with rabbit aortic endothelial cells and measured the increase in

electrophoretic mobility, the increase in peroxides, and the increase in subsequent susceptibility to macrophage degradation.

Mansuy et al. (1986) studied the inhibition of lipid peroxidation induced in liver microsomes either chemically by FeSO₄ and reducing agents (cysteine or ascorbate) or enzymatically by NADPH and CCl₄.

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