IL-01 Significance of double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical studies on herbal (Kampo) medicines

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To elucidate the efficacy of Choto-san (Diao-Teng-San) in comparison with a placebo, a double-blind study was carried out in 139 patients suffering from vascular dementia. Choto-san extract granules (7.5 g/d) and a placebo, were given 3 times a day for 12 weeks, respectively. Informed consent was obtained from the patients and/or their families. Choto-san was statistically superior to the placebo in global improvement rating, utility rating, and global improvement ratings of subjective symptoms, psychiatric symptoms and disturbance in daily living activities. Such items as spontaneity of conversation, lack of facial expression, decline in simple mathematical ability, nocturnal delirium, sleep disturbance, hallucination or delusion, and putting on and taking off clothes were significantly improved at one or more evaluation points in those taking Choto-san compared to those taking the placebo. However, no significant difference between the Choto-san and placebo groups was observed in the global improvement rating of neurological symptoms at any of the evaluation points. There was no significant difference between the two groups in terms of the overall safety rating. These results suggest that Choto-san has a favorable effect on vascular dementia and can be recommended as a treatment for this condition. Double-blind, placebo-controlled studies are significant to evaluate the efficacy and safety of herbal medicines.

IL-02 Molecular physiology of volume-regulated chloride channels in heart

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Changes in cell volume are known to regulate chloride (Cl-) channels in many cell types. To date at least two types of volume-regulated chloride channels have been described in cardiovascular system: the outward rectifier Cl- channel (ORCC or Clvol) and the Cl- inward rectifier (Clir). Clvol in the heart is characterized by activation by hypotonic cell swelling (Clswell), outward rectification, greater permeability to iodide than chloride, slow inactivation at positive potentials, and an intermediate (about 50 pS) unitary conductance. Basally active Cl- channels (Clb), which share many properties of Clvol, have also been observed under isotonic conditions in cardiac and endothelial cells. The single channel underlying both Clb and Clswell is the same ORCC. The gene encoding Clvol in these cells may be ClC-3. However, the differences in pharmacology and modulation of Clvol in various cell types and species also point to the possibility of a heterogeneous family of multiple volume-regulated Cl- channels. Clir has been recently discovered in mammalian cardiac cells in our laboratory. Clir may be encoded by CIC-2, another member of the CIC family. In hypertrophied heart Clvol is persistently activated. The molecular expression and functional distribution of volume-regulated Cl- channels (CIC-2 and CIC-3) in cardiac cells, vascular smooth
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AIM: Nitric oxide produced through eNOS, nNOS and iNOS must reflect the internal body activities, and therefore we may be able to guess the occasional pathological situations.

METHODS: From this concept, we measured the concentrations of nitric oxide metabolites (NOX) in the serum of 456 patients aged 14 to 96 years consulting doctors at a hospital and 80 healthy hospital workers at rest with each permission. The values were analyzed in relation to diseases, complications, genders, and ages.

RESULTS: 1) NOX levels in serum increased with age in female with a positive correlation, but not in male. 2) Although, overall, there was no relationship between NOX and blood pressure levels, a positive correlation was found only in 60-70 years old male. 3) Higher levels of NOX were found in diabetes, renal dysfunction, hyperlipemia, myocardial infarction, acute enteritis, helicobacter pylori-positive gastritis, type C hepatitis, rheumatoid arthritis, and cancers groups than in a healthy group. 4) Apoplexy, hyperuricemia, osteoporosis, respiratory diseases, and thyroiditis did not show a higher NOX level.

CONCLUSION: 1) NOX levels in serum increase with age. 2) Progress of atherosclerosis will stimulate the production of NO, since NOX levels were higher in elder and male patients with lifestyle diseases. 3) Several cytokines stimulating NO production through iNOS will relate to the diseases such as acute enteritis, gastritis caused by Helicobacter pylori, rheumatoid arthritis, and cancers. 4) A measurement of NOX in the patients will be useful for understanding of causes, status, and prognosis.

S-02 Restoration of impaired arterial baroreflex: a new strategy for cardiovascular diseases
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Arterial baroreflex (ABR) is an important regulatory mechanism in cardiovascular activities. It was reported that ABR function related to the sudden death after acute myocardial infarction. The present lecture summarizes the works completed in our department in the past 10 years.

ABR function predicted end organ damage in hypertension
It was found that both ABR-BP and ABR-HP very closely related to end organ damage in SHR. ABR dysfunction was not the cause of hypertension but it predicted the end organ damage in hypertension. Interruption of ABR induced severe organ damages
Interruption of ABR was completed by sinoaortic denervation (SAD). It was found that there were severe organ damages in SAD rats, such as vascular remodeling, myocardial remodeling, renal damages, etc.

Mechanisms underlying for organ damage in SAD rats
A series of observations were done in SAD rats. BPV is increased in SAD rats, irregular tissue perfusion may contribute to organ damage. The activations of tissue renin angiotensin system and inflammatory cellular factors and myocardial apoptosis may play also an important role in this procession. These were evidenced by the works with RT-PCR and microsatellite DNA-PCR, etc.

Ketanserin improved the impaired ABR function in SHR
Ketanserin enhanced both ABR-HP and ABR-BP in SHR. Compared with prazosin and ritanserin, it was found that the effect of ketanserin on ABR function was centrally and mediated by 5-HT2A receptors.

Perspective
The possibility to develop a strain of rats possessing spontaneous ABR deficiency will be mentioned.

S-03 Pharmacokinetics of ibudilast sustained release capsules in healthy volunteers
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AIM: To study the pharmacokinetics of ibudilast sustained release capsules in Chinese healthy volunteers.

METHODS: Thirty-two male volunteers, age 18-24 (21±2) a, body weight 55-81 (65±7.3) kg, height 168-184 (171±5) cm were recruited. They were divided into two groups randomly. 1) Single dosage groups: 5, 10, or 20 mg ibudilast sustained release capsules given orally to the fasted volunteers. 2) Multiple dosage groups: 10 mg capsule Q12 h, for 8 consecutive days.
The drug was provided by Tianjin Zhongwei Pharmaceutical Company Ltd. Blood samples for pharmacokinetic analyses were collected pre-dose and then at 0.17, 0.33, 0.67, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 24, 30, 36, and 48 h after dosing for single dosage groups. For multiple dosage group, on d 5, d 6, and d 7 pre-dose and at 4 h after dosing and on d 8 the times for blood collection were the same as that of single dosage groups. HPLC was used to determine the blood concentration of ibudilast. RESULTS: The pharmacokinetic parameters of 5 mg and 10 mg groups were: $T_{max}$ (1.6±1.2) h and (1.6±0.8) h, $C_{max}$ (17±5) µg/L and (25±7) µg/L, AUC (103±24) µg·L⁻¹·h and (14±6±5) µg·L⁻¹·h, $T_{1/2}$ (5.4±2.1) h and (4.4±2.2) h, respectively. For 20 mg group: $T_{max}$ (3.3±1.6) h, $C_{max}$ (56±22) µg/L, AUC (623±185) µg·L⁻¹·h, $T_{1/2}$ (31±15) h. Following multiple dosing of 10 mg, steady state $C_{max}$ was (45±18) µg/L and steady state $C_{max}$ was (19±9) µg/L, the peak to trough fluctuation index (DF) was 85 %±9 %, and AUC (768±340) µg·L⁻¹·h. Following the last dosing of 10 mg, the pharmacokinetic parameters were: $T_{max}$ (2.7±1.6) h, $C_{max}$ (48±21) µg/L, AUC (658±278) µg·L⁻¹·h, and $T_{1/2}$ (33±13) h. CONCLUSION: After multiple dosing of 10 mg ibudilast sustained release capsule, the peak to trough blood concentration fluctuation keeps stable, and the recommended dosage is 10 mg twice daily.

S-04 Gastric oxidative stress and hemorrhagic ulcer in Salmonella typhimurium-infected rats

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AIM: The infection of Salmonella typhimurium (S typhimurium) may lead to various organ diseases. This research was to propose that the infection of S typhimurium caused gastric oxidative stress and disruption of gastric mucosal barriers, and thus resulted in gastric hemorrhagic ulcer in rats. METHODS: Male pathogen-free Wistar rats were deprived of food for 24 h. Single injection of live culture of S typhimurium (1×10⁶-1×10⁸ CFU/rat in 1.0 mL of sterilized phosphate buffer saline (PBS) was challenged iv to rat 5 h after withdrawal of food. Age-matched control rats received PBS only. After gastric surgery and vagotomy, rat stomachs were irrigated for 3 h with either normal saline or a simulated rat gastric juice containing HCl 100 mmol/L, pepsin 600 mg/L, and NaCl 54 mmol/L. Gastric parameters, including mucosal glutathione and lipid peroxide generation as well as luminal hemoglobin content and mucosal damage were determined. RESULTS: The production of gastric hemorrhagic ulcer and various gastric parameters was dependent on the concentration of S typhimurium injected. The maximal response was obtained at the concentration of 1×10⁹ CFU/rat. The presence of luminal gastric juice produced gastric hemorrhagic damage. High relation of ulcer formation to mucosal lipid peroxide generation and glutathione levels was also observed in those S typhimurium-infected rats. This exacerbation of ulcerogenic parameters was dose-dependently inhibited by pretreatment of ofloxacin. Pretreatment of antioxidants, such as reduced glutathione, allopurinol and dimethylsulfoxide, also caused amelioration of gastric hemorrhagic damage in S typhimurium-infected rats. CONCLUSION: Infection of S typhimurium may produce gastric hemorrhage and mucosal ulceration via aggravation of gastric oxidative stress that can be effectively ameliorated by antioxidants or antibiotics.

S-05 Effects of prousion on scavenging free radicals

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AIM: To detect the effects of prousion on hydroxyl free radicals and superoxied free radicals in vitro. METHODS: Prousion, natural porous ore material with some biological functions found in Japan, Japan Patent Application Number: BFC04j (B2002-52397). Prouson-A, B, C (P-A, P-B, P-C), offered by Dr M Hashimoto, were the powders mixed of these porous ore in different proportions (grey powder, d ≤3 µm). The effects of prousion on hydroxyl free radical and superoxide free radicals were determined by the assays of deoxyribose and xanthine oxidase, respectively. Their direct effects on these free radicals were also performed with the Electron spin resonance (ESR).

RESULTS: 1) $IC_{50}$ for P-A, P-B, and P-C on scaveng-
ing hydroxyl free radicals by the assay of deoxyribose was 0.2209, 0.2962, and 0.2183 g/L, respectively, the order for their actions was C>A>B. The 95% confidence limit was 0.0909-0.5367, 0.1302-0.6741 g/L, and 0.0895-0.5322 g/L, respectively. 2) The inhibition produced by P-A, P-B, and P-C at the concentration of 1.4 mg/L on hydroxide free radicals detected by ESR was 35.24%, 36.92%, and 55.14%, respectively. This action was in a dose-dependent manner and the order for their actions was C>B≈A, confirming the results obtained by the assay of deoxyribose. 3) IC\textsubscript{50} for P-A, P-B, and P-C on scavenging superoxide free radicals by the assay of xanthine oxidase was 0.4025, 0.3854, and 0.3626 g/L, respectively, the order was C>B>A. The 95% confidence limit was 0.2065-0.7847, 0.2041-0.7276, and 0.1823-0.7213 g/L, respectively. 4) The inhibition by P-A, P-B, and P-C at the concentration of 0.34 mg/L on superoxide free radicals detected by ESR was 5.99%, 9.15%, and 9.15%, respectively, also confirming the results of xanthine oxidase assay.

**CONCLUSION:** Prousion has the properties scavenging hydroxide and superoxide free radicals.

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**S-06 Steroids modulate placental CRH gene transcriptional activity through cAMP regulatory element**

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**AIM:** To explore the regulation of corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) gene expression by steroid hormones in placenta and its molecular mechanism.

**METHODS:** Human primary cultured placental trophoblasts were transfected with CRH-luciferase reporter genes and treated with estrogen, progesterone, and their antagonists.

**RESULTS:** Estradiol (E2) inhibited basal and cAMP-stimulated CRH promoter activity. A pure estrogen antagonist ICI182, 780 not only blocked repression of CRH gene expression by E2, but up-regulated CRH promoter activity. This effect appeared to occur specifically through ER\(\alpha\)-mediated mechanism, as similar effects were found in the ER\(\alpha\) over-expression trophoblasts. Through deletion and mutagenesis analyses we found that estradiol inhibition of the CRH gene required cAMP regulatory element (CRE). Progesterone (P4) treatment resulted in a decrease in CRH promoter activity. Addition of Ru486 or inhibition of endogenous P4 production by placental cells, led to an increase of promoter activity. It was also found that the repression of CRH gene expression by P4 also required CRE. This CRE sequence conferred E2 and P4 inhibitions upon a heterologous promoter (rabbit \(\beta\)-globin).

**CONCLUSION:** Estrogen and progesterone play inhibitory roles in the regulation of CRH gene transcription in human placental trophoblasts. These effects occurred through CRE of CRH gene.

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**S-07 Soluble protein of a novel costimulatory molecule, Dectin-2, breaks ultraviolet B-induced immune tolerance in contact hypersensitivity in mice**

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**AIM:** One of hazardous adverse effects of ultraviolet B light (UV) exposure to skin may be best exemplified with its immunosuppressive property on contact hypersensitivity (CHS) and the subsequent induction of tolerance. Bearing in mind thoughts that artificial break of impaired cutaneous immune response may lead to regain host’s immune competence, we focused on a novel costimulatory molecule, Dectin (Dec)-2, shown to be selectively expressed on antigen presenting cells, such as epidermal Langerhans cells (LC).

**METHODS & RESULTS:** Mice exposed to low doses of UV and sensitized thereafter with hapten, dinitrofluorobenzene (DNFB) through the exposed skin area showed markedly ameliorated CHS upon resensitization and rechallenge to the same animals. When soluble Dec-2 (sol-Dec2), an inhibitor of cognate Dec-2, was injected iv before resensitization, following rechallenge led to full occurrence of CHS, indicating that sol-Dec2 breaks UV-induced tolerance. This is the first demonstration that functional neutralization of costimulatory molecule restores impaired cutaneous immune response. To fur-
ther exploit mechanisms underlying this phenomenon, T-cells obtained from the UV-tolerized animals were cocultured in vitro with epidermal cell suspension (consisting of 5%-10% LC) derived from naive animals in the presence of water soluble DNFB analogue, DNBS, resulting in apoptosis of LC as demonstrated by FACS analysis using an antibody directed against murine major histocompatibility antigen class II (Ia) and annexin V. Interestingly, sol-Dec2 suppressed apoptosis of LC by those T-cells, indicating that sol-Dec2 blocks LC apoptosis via interference with Dec-2-mediated signals transduced from the T-cells to LC.

CONCLUSION: The present study demonstrates for the first time that sol-Dec2 prevents apoptosis of LC by hapten specific T-cells, thereby leading to break of UV-induced immune tolerance.

S-08  Carrageenan inflammation increases sensitivity of vanilloid receptor-1 without changes in its expression level in periphery

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AIM: Vanilloid receptor-1 (VR1) is a ligand-gated non-selective cation channel expressed predominantly by primary sensory neurons. It functions as a transducer of painful thermal and chemical stimuli in vivo. Carrageenan treatment has been shown to induce axonal flow of VR1 mRNA from the dorsal root ganglia to the dorsal horn and to increase the sensitivity of VR1 in the latter region. The present study was conducted to determine whether changes in VR1 expression in the periphery would be involved in the carrageenan-induced thermal hyperalgesia.

METHODS: Carrageenan (1 mg/site) was unilaterally injected into the plantar region of the hind paw of rats. The activity of the saphenous nerve and VR1 expression were examined 6 h after carrageenan, when thermal hyperalgesia peaked.

RESULTS: Intraplantar pretreatment with the VR1 antagonist capsazepine (0.3 and 0.6 mg/site) attenuated thermal hyperalgesia induced by carrageenan. The saphenous nerve in the inflamed paw displayed sensitization to capsaicin (1-10 µg/site) and this enhanced responsiveness was significantly inhibited by pretreatment with capazepine (10 µg/site). There was a significant increase in VR1 mRNA in the inflamed skin and a decreased trend in the ipsilateral dorsal root ganglia (L4-L6). There were no significant increases in VR1 protein and the distribution of VR1-positive fibers in the inflamed skin.

CONCLUSION: The results support the idea that VR1 receptors are involved in inflammation-induced thermal hyperalgesia. Increase in VR1 sensitivity rather than in VR1 translation in the periphery may chiefly contribute to this hyperalgesia.

S-09  Dectin-2 works as a costimulatory molecule

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AIM: Using subtractive cDNA cloning technology, we currently isolated dectin-2 (Dec-2) that selectively is expressed on bone marrow-derived epidermal residents, Langerhans cells (LC). LC, with their capacity to potently operate antigen presentation, may maintain host’s homeostasis by eliminating invasion of bacteria, viruses or industrial and environmental compounds. Keeping in mind costimulatory function of its homologue Dec-1, we were interested to explore whether Dec-2 also serves as a costimulatory molecule.

METHODS: To first assess co-stimulatory function of Dec-2, naïve splenic T-cells were obtained from mice, which were cultured in vitro on plastic dishes coated with serial amounts of a monoclonal antibody directed against CD3 (αCD3) (0, 0.1, 0.3, 1, or 3 mg/L) for 48 h and T-cell growth monitored by an MTT assay.

RESULTS: Consequently, it was found that T-cells significantly proliferated on plate-bound αCD3 in a concentration higher than 1 mg/L, while those less than 0.3 mg/L turned out to be suboptimal. Intriguingly, when plates were coated with both graded amounts of αCD3 and soluble Dec-2 10 mg/L, significantly augmented proliferation of T-cells were detected even with suboptimal concentrations of αCD3, indicating that Dec-2 works as a costimulatory molecule. To further exploit impacts of Dec-2 on T-cells, the supernatants of the above