

Molecular and Cellular Biomedical Sciences

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Prodia Tower 8th Floor, Jl. Kramat Raya No.150, Jakarta Pusat 10430
Email: mcbs_office@cellbiopharm.com

SUPPORT CONTACT

Nurrani Mustika Dewi
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Abstract

DDC 616.398

Nauli F, Nurhasanah, Mahati E, Bahrudin U (Postgraduate Program in Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, Indonesia)

Body Fat Percentage, Waist Circumference and Body Mass Index are Correlated with Nitric Oxide Levels in Young Adults with Central Obesity

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 1-7

Abstract (English)

Background: Central obesity stands for the corner-stone of cardio-metabolic health, while nitric oxide (NO) is a major regulator of cardiovascular function. To day, the correlation between serum NO metabolites nitrate/nitrite and the obesity components in young adults remains elusive. Thus, this current study was conducted to know the correlation between serum NO metabolites levels and body fat percentage, waist circumference (WC) as well as body mass index (BMI) in young adults with central obesity.

Materials and Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in Riau, Indonesia, involving 79 young adults aged 18-25 years, composing of 39 and 40 subjects with and without central obesity, respectively. Anthropometric measurements were performed to assess WC and BMI. Body fat percentage was measured using bioelectrical impedance analysis and serum NO metabolites levels were assessed using Griess methods.

Results: Levels of serum NO metabolites were significant higher in the subjects with central obesity ($168.41 \pm 12.64 \mu\text{mol/L}$) than that of normal subjects ($70.57 \pm 44.99 \mu\text{mol/L}$, $p < 0.001$), but the levels were no significant different between male and female subjects. Serum NO metabolites levels were strongly correlated with total body fat ($r = 0.618$, $p < 0.001$), visceral fat ($r = 0.733$, $p < 0.001$), subcutaneous fat ($r = 0.547$, $p < 0.001$), WC ($r = 0.717$, $p < 0.001$) and BMI ($r = 0.788$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: For young adults in Riau, Indonesia, levels of serum NO metabolites are higher in the central obesity group than that of the normal. In this population, body fat percentage, waist circumference and body mass index are correlated with serum nitric oxide metabolites levels.

Keywords: nitric oxide, body fat percentage, young adults, central obesity

DDC 615.321

Wahdaningsih S, Wahyuono S, Riyanto S, Murwanti R (Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Tanjungpura, Pontianak, Indonesia)

Lymphocyte Proliferation and Nitric Oxide-Producing Activities of Lupeol Isolated From Red Dragon Fruit (*Hylocereus polyrhizus*) Extract

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 8-12

Abstract (English)

Background: *Hylocereus polyrhizus* has activities as antimicrobial agent, anti-hypercholesterolemia, anti-diabetic (diabetes mellitus), cardiovascular risk reduction, health supplement, and melanoma cell suppression. The extracts from the peels of *H. polyrhizus* were able to increase phagocytic ability, cell numbers and leukocytes and to influence relative spleen weights in the formation of body immune system in male rats. The fruit peels contained phenolics, flavonoids, carotenoids, and anthocyanins. This study investigated the active compounds of *H. polyrhizus* peels, which are able to increase immune system of human body.

Materials and method: *In vitro* assay was applied to examine the active compounds, identified as lupeol, obtained from isolated extract of red dragon fruit for their lymphocyte proliferation and nitric oxide (NO)-producing activities. Lymphocyte proliferation assay was performed with 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) method. The cell control was lymphocyte cell suspension in RPMI medium added with phytohaemagglutinine (PHA). The NO measurement was conducted with nitric solvent and Griess reagent.

Results: The ANOVA analysis of the average optical density (OD) of lymphocyte proliferation showed that the addition of isolated lupeol at the concentrations of 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ were able to improve lymphocyte proliferation and activate the NO production in the rats with treatment of positive control.

Conclusion: Isolated lupeol at concentrations of 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ revealed significant difference with medium control and cell control. It was able to increase effects on lymphocyte proliferation and NO production. Therefore, the lupeol which was isolated might have high potential to be an immunostimulant.

Keywords: *Hylocereus polyrhizus*, lupeol, lymphocyte proliferation, nitric oxide production

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DDC 612.665

Jusup I, Batubara L, Ngestiningsih D, Fulyani F, Paveta DA, Bancin PTLA (Department of Medical Biology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, Indonesia)

Association between Malondialdehyde, GSH/GSSG Ratio and Bone Mineral Density in Postmenopausal Women

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 13-7

Abstract (English)

Background: Osteoporosis is one of chronic degenerative diseases especially in postmenopausal women, characterized by a decreased bone mass due to imbalance activity between osteoblasts and osteoclasts. Recently, oxidative stress is believed to play an important role in osteoporosis pathogenesis. Oxidative stress is commonly considered as the consequence of an imbalance between pro and antioxidants species, which results in damage in the affected tissue. Malondialdehyde (MDA) is frequently used as a biomarker of oxidative stress in many health problems since MDA is produced at high levels during lipid peroxidation. Meanwhile, glutathione is well known as one of antioxidant which against oxidative stress by preserving its homeostasis in the reduced form of glutathione sulfhydryl (GSH) and the oxidized form of glutathione disulphide (GSSG). This study was aimed to determine the association between MDA, GSH/GSSG ratio and bone mineral density (BMD) in postmenopausal women.

Materials and method: We conducted a cross-sectional study in 40 postmenopausal women. MDA and GSH/GSSG ratio were assessed by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Bone mineral density (BMD) was obtained from secondary data. The statistical analysis was conducted using Spearman rho's correlation test.

Results: Based on the test, we didn't found significant correlation between MDA and BMD ($r=-0.054$, $p=0.741$), but we found significant moderate correlation between GSH/GSSG ratio ($r=0.436$, $p=0.005$) and BMD in postmenopausal women.

Conclusion: There was no correlation between MDA and BMD in postmenopausal women. However, there was significant moderate correlation between GSH/GSSG ratio and BMD in postmenopausal women.

Keywords: MDA, GSH/GSSG ratio, BMD, osteoporosis

DDC 616.853

Sidiartha IGL, Suwarba IGNM, Wati DK, Subanada IB (ediatric Nutrition and Metabolic Disease Division, Department of Child Health, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Udayana/Sanglah General Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia)

The Effect of Carnitine Supplementation on Blood Ammonia Level in Epilepsy Children Treated with Valproic Acid:

A Randomized Controlled Trial

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 18-21

Abstract (English)

Background: Long-term use of valproic acid is associated with a high level of blood ammonia related to carnitine deficiency. This study investigates the effect of carnitine supplementation on blood ammonia levels in children with epilepsy who have been treated with valproic acid for more than six months.

Materials and Methods: This was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial study where children with epilepsy who were treated with valproic acid were randomly allocated to the carnitine supplementation and control group. All children were followed for month, and then measured for blood ammonia level. Blood ammonia levels of both groups were compared using an Independent t-test with a significant of $p<0.05$.

Results: Total of 32 children with epilepsy were enrolled as subjects in this study, with 16 children in carnitine group, and 16 children in control group. Among the subjects, 50% were male and 50% were female, with a mean age of 6.5 years old. The average duration of epilepsy in the carnitine and control group were 41.7 months and 36.9 months, respectively ($p=0.419$). The duration of valproic acid therapy in the carnitine and control group were 33.1 months and 27.6 months, respectively ($p=0.483$). The level of blood ammonia in carnitine and control group were 44.6 mg/dL and 81.4 mg/dL, respectively ($p=0.007$).

Conclusion: The level of blood ammonia in a carnitine group was significantly lower than in a control group. It is recommended to give carnitine supplementation in epileptic children treating with long-term valproic acid.

Keywords: ammonia, carnitine, epilepsy, seizure, valproic acid

DDC 616.81

Pinzon R, Wijaya VO, Paramitha D (Faculty of Medicine, Duta Wacana Christian University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

Vitamin D Status and Cognitive Performance of Post Stroke Patients

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 22-6

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Abstract (English)

Background: The prevalence of post-stroke cognitive impairment (PSCI) ranges from 20-80%. Some studies found that vitamin D deficiency was common in stroke patients, yet the relationship with cognitive performance remains unclear. The study aimed to investigate the relationship between levels of vitamin D and cognitive performance in post-stroke patients.

Materials and Methods: This was a cross-sectional study with 20 post-ischemic stroke patients. Vitamin D levels were measured using enzyme-linked fluorescent assay (ELFA). The cognitive performance was assessed by computerized mini-mental state examination (MMSE) and clock drawing test (CDT). The relationship between vitamin D levels and cognitive tests were performed using paired T-test.

Results: Vitamin D insufficiency (<30 ng/mL) was experienced by all of the study subjects (100%), with the mean $\pm$ SD of vitamin D level was 13.75 ± 4.06 ng/mL. More than 70% subjects had cognitive impairment. Based on MMSE, patients with cognitive impairment had lower vitamin D levels, compared with those patients with normal cognition (13 ± 4.38 vs. 16 ± 2.44 ng/mL, $p<0.001$). In CDT examination, patients with cognitive impairment had slightly higher vitamin D levels, compared with those patients with normal cognition (13.93 ± 4.25 vs. 13.33 ± 3.93 ng/mL, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion: The insufficiency of vitamin D on post-ischemic stroke patients appears to generate a bigger chance of PSCI occurrence. Physicians should be aware of vitamin D status of post-stroke patients, especially in the older population.

Keywords: vitamin D levels, post-stroke cognitive impairment, risk factors

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Abiola TS, David OO, Olatunde FE (Department of Biochemistry, Bowen University of Iwo, Nigeria)

Effect of Tannin-Rich Extract of *Chasmanthera dependens* on Piroxicam-induced Liver Damage in Male Wistar Rats

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 27-36

Abstract (English)

Background: Piroxicam is one of the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs used as antipyretic, analgesic and anti-inflammatory drug often used for the relief of nonspecific fever condition and in arthritis. This study investigated the protective potential of tannin-rich extract of *Chasmanthera dependens* (TRECDS) against piroxicam-induced hepatotoxicity in male Wistar rats.

Materials and Methods: Thirty two rats were divided into four groups. Group 1 received normal saline and served as the control group, group 2 were given 20 mg/kg piroxicam only, while groups 3 and 4 were given 20 mg/kg piroxicam with the addition of 200 and 400 mg/kg of tannin-rich extract of *Chasmanthera dependens*, respectively. All rats were treated orally once daily for ten days.

Results: Administration of piroxicam caused liver atrophy demonstrated by significant rise in serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT), glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDH) levels of albumin (ALB), bilirubin (BIL), total cholesterol (TCHOL), triglyceride (TRIGS) and low-density lipoprotein (LDL). Piroxicam also decreased high-density lipoprotein (HDL) level, enzymatic and nonenzymatic antioxidant levels significantly ($p>0.05$) with attendant increase in oxidative stress indices in the liver of rats compared with control group. Histological assessment revealed severe damaged to the liver of rats. However, co-administration with TRECDS reversed these observations as evidenced in the histological results.

Conclusion: The findings of this study showed that exposure of rats to piroxicam provoked damage to the liver via oxidative damage and TRECDS has the potential of ameliorating the damage.

Keywords: hepatotoxicity, piroxicam, *Chasmanthera dependens*, oxidative stress

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Serudji J, Irawati N, Mose JC, Ali H, Yusrawati (Fetomaternal Division, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Andalas, Padang, Indonesia)

Elevated Serum Reactive Oxygen Species Level Predicts Early Abortion

Mol Cell Biomed Sci. 2021; 5(1): 37-40

Abstract (English)

Background: Impaired trophoblast invasion is associated with early abortion. The calorie needed for the trophoblast cell (TC) invasion is mainly met by adenosine triphosphate (ATP) produced in the mitochondria. Reactive oxygen species (ROS), byproduct of ATP synthesis, plays an important role in cellular physiology, but a high level of ROS may result in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) damage or cell dysfunction, thereby impaired TC invasion leading to early abortion. The study aims to determine elevated serum ROS level to predicts early abortion.

Materials and method: This was an observational study with a cross-sectional design. Fifty subjects with gestational age less than 12 weeks, consist of 25 early abortions and 25 normal pregnancies subjects, were included in this study. Clinical examination and diagnosis

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are carried out in 2 Hospitals and 5 Public Health Centers in Padang. Examination of ROS levels was carried out by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in the Biomedical Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Andalas. The Mann-Whitney test was used to analyze the difference of serum ROS levels, with a significance level of 0.05.

Results: The subjects of the two study groups were equivalent in terms of age, gestational age, and gravidity ($p=0.051$, $p=0.453$, and $p=1.000$). The median ROS levels were found to be 1.36 (1.02-26.30) ng/mL in the early abortion and 1.20 (0.43-2.75) ng/mL in the normal pregnancy ($p=0.003$).

Conclusion: There is a significant difference between ROS levels in early abortion and normal pregnancy.

Keywords: ROS, early abortion, normal pregnancy

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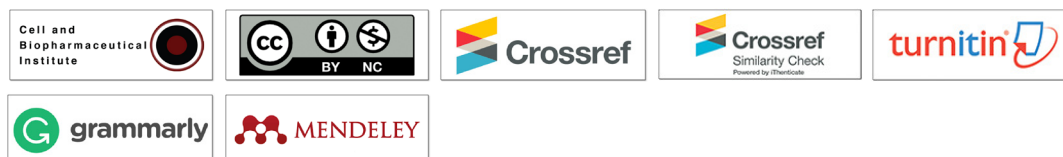
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