

A REVIEW ON ROLE OF ANTIOXIDANT PROPERTY OF HERBS IN HYPERTENSION

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Abstract

Hypertension is the most common factor for cardiovascular disease and a major public health. Herbal medicines may protect against cardiovascular diseases by contributing to the total antioxidant defense system of the human body. Antioxidants are compounds that protect cells against the damaging effects of reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as superoxide, hydrogen peroxide, singlet oxygen, peroxy radicals, hydroxyl and peroxy nitrite radicals. The natural products should be considered as the best in primary healthcare because of better cultural acceptability, safety, potent, inexpensive and lesser side effect. This review describes the role of antioxidant property of herbs used in hypertension. Several herbal medicines and supplements have been studied as potential therapeutic agents in the management of hypertension and its complications. Available data suggests that the extracts of most of these herbs or compounds derived from them may provide a safe and effective adjunctive therapeutic approach for the treatment of hypertension.

Keywords:

Hypertension, herbs, antioxidants

Introduction

Hypertension becomes a major public health challenge around the world because of its high prevalence and association with other cardiovascular diseases.^{1,2}Current data suggests that oxygen free radicals are mainly involved in the pathogenesis of hypertension and a variety of antioxidant therapies are used for the treatment of hypertension. Hypertensive effects of oxidative stress are mostly due to endothelial dysfunction resulting from disturbances of vasodilator systems, particularly degradation of nitric oxide (NO) by oxygen-free radicals.³Moreover, the antioxidant enzymes, which dispose, scavenge and suppress the formation of free radicals, have been noted to produce an important defense mechanism against oxidative stress.⁴⁻⁶The present review article discuss the potential role of herbal antioxidant in hypertension.

Pathogenesis of Hypertension

Blood pressure is defined as the force exerted against the walls of arteries as it flows. There are different mechanisms for the development of hypertension. The rise in peripheral resistance leads structural narrowing of small arteries and arterioles, decrease in the number and density of capillaries results in hypertension.^{7,8,9}Apart from this, HT has been linked with reduced peripheral venous compliance, enhancing the venous return and cardiac preload, ultimately causing diastolic dysfunction.¹⁰increased peripheral resistance leads disturbances in renal salt and water management, particularly abnormalities in the intra-renal renin-angiotensin system and dysfunctioning of the sympathetic nervous system.^{11,12}

There is no evidence showing the exact relationship between oxidative stress with hypertension. But oxidative stress may play a role in the pathophysiology of hypertension. Human and animal studies have demonstrated that HT is accompanied by increase in oxidative stress.¹³

Excessive reactive oxygen species (ROS) have emerged as a central common pathway by which disparate influences may induce and exacerbate hypertension. Potential sources of excessive ROS in hypertension include nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) oxidase, mitochondria, xanthine oxidase, endothelium-derived NO synthase, cyclooxygenase 1 and 2, cytochrome P450 epoxygenase, and transition metals.

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) producing enzymes involved in increased oxidative stress within vascular tissue include NADPH oxidase, xanthine oxidase, and mitochondrial superoxide producing enzymes. Superoxide produced by the NADPH oxidase may react with NO, thereby stimulating the production of the NO/superoxide reaction.³

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Antioxidants

Oxidation is a chemical reaction that transfers electron from a substance to an oxidizing agent. Oxidation reactions can produce free radicals, which start chain reactions that damage cells.¹⁷

Antioxidants compounds are exogenous or endogenous in nature which either prevents the generation of toxic oxidants, intercept any that are generated and inactivate them and thereby block the chain propagation reaction produced by this oxidants.^{18,19}

Classification of anti-oxidants

It is of two types

1. Based on solubility

- (a) Hydrophilic antioxidants- They are soluble in water.
Water soluble antioxidants react with oxidants in the cell cytoplasm and blood plasma.
- (b) Hydrophobic antioxidants- They are soluble in membranes from lipid peroxidation

2. Based on line of defence

- (a) First line defence (preventive antioxidant)^{21,22}
These are enzymes like superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), glutathione peroxidase (GTX), glutathione reductase and some minerals like Se, Mn, Cu etc. SOD mainly acts by quenching of superoxide (O₂), catalase by catalyzing the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) to water and oxygen.
- (b) Second line defence (Radical scavenging antioxidant)^{21,23}
These are glutathione, Vitamin C, uric acid, albumin, bilirubin, vit E, carotenoids, flavonoid etc. carotene is an excellent scavenger of singlet oxygen. Vit C interacts directly with radicals like O₂, OH. GSH is a good scavenger of many free radicals like O₂, OH and various lipid hydroperoxides and may help to detoxify many inhaled oxidizing air pollutants like ozone.
- (c) Third line defence (Repair and de-novo enzymes)^{21,24}
These are a complex group of enzymes for repair of damaged DNA, protein, oxidized lipids and peroxides and also to stop chain propagation of peroxy lipid radical. These enzymes repair the damage to biomolecules and reconstitute the damaged cell membrane. Some common herbal antioxidants found used in beverages, food, and cosmetics, herbal antioxidants have quickly become very popular among consumers for their strong rejuvenating abilities.²⁵

Types of the antioxidants based on their supplementation source are as follows²⁶

- a) Antioxidants minerals:-These are co factor of antioxidants enzymes. Their absence will definitely affect metabolism of many macromolecules such as carbohydrates. Examples include selenium, copper, iron, zinc and manganese.
- b) Antioxidants vitamins: - It is needed for most body metabolic functions. They include-vitamin C, vitamin E and vitamin B
- c) Phytochemicals -These are phenolic compounds that are neither vitamins nor minerals.
 - Flavonoids are phenolic compounds that give vegetables fruits, grains, seeds leaves and flowers
 - Carotenoids are fat soluble colour in fruits and vegetables.
 - Beta carotene which is rich in carrot and converted to vitamin A when the body lacks enough of the vitamin.
 - Lycopene has high in tomatoes
 - Zeaxanthin high in spinach and other dark greens.

Mechanism of antioxidant property of herbs in hypertension

The exact mechanism of herbal antioxidant property in hypertension is unknown. Some clinical trials shows the relationships are given below in table 1.

Table (1): Mechanism of antioxidant property of herbs in hypertension

Plant name	Common name	Parts used	Mechanism of antioxidant property of herbs in hypertension	Reference No.
Ginkgo biloba	Ginkgo	Leaves	ACE inhibition and maintenance of cellular antioxidant capacity as well as preserving vascular reactivity towards endothelium dependent and independent vasodilators while inhibiting responses to vasoconstrictors.	27
Passiflora edulis	Yellow Passion	Leaves	Reduces the oxidative stress related to a hyperproduction of reactive oxygen species such as O ₂ ⁻ , OH ⁻ , and H ₂ O ₂ or deficiency in the antioxidant defense system.	28,29
Crataegus	Hawthorn	Leaves, buds flower	Relaxation of coronary arteries, which directly increases blood flow or through an increase in contraction and relaxation velocities, which increases the diastolic interval. Decreased PE-induced vasoconstriction by increased the synthesis and release of nitric oxide, glutathione peroxidase (GPX-Sc) and oxidized glutathione reductase (GR) and increased glutathione levels.	30,31
Vaccinium corymbosum	Blueberries	Berries	An efficient terminator of fatty acid free radical chain reactions by hydrogen molecules which in terms terminate free radical chain reactions by forming stable compounds. To neutralize free radicals which are unstable molecules	32

Carica papaya	Papaya	Leaves	Increases the concentrations of phytochemicals, non enzymatic antioxidants (carotenes, ascorbic acid and α -tocopherol) and the activities of enzymatic antioxidants (glutathione peroxidase, catalase and catalase)	33
Clerodendrum inerme	Indian privet, glory bower	Leaves	Reducing ability free radical scavenging activity.	34,35
Mangifera Indica	Mango	Leaves	Limits the oxidative stress and cellular damage due to nutritional deficiency of antioxidants.	35,36
<i>Panax ginseng</i>	Ginseng	Root	Stimulates NO release phosphorylation of GR, PI3K, Akt/PKB, and eNOS.	37
Cymbopogon Citrate	Lemongrass tea	Leaves	Inhibition of lipoperoxidation	38
Curcuma longa	Turmeric	Rhizomes	React directly with reactive species and to induce an up-regulation of various cytoprotective and antioxidant proteins. Increases the synthesis and concentration of reduced glutathione (GSH) in astrocytes and neurons by induction of GCL	39

Conclusion

Oxidative stress involved in the pathogenesis of hypertension is the imbalance between oxidants and antioxidants. Antioxidant works through inhibiting lipid peroxidation, increasing the concentrations of phytochemicals, non enzymatic antioxidants (carotenes, ascorbic acid and α -tocopherol) and the activities of enzymatic antioxidants (glutathione peroxidase, catalase and catalase).

Current researches reveal that many herbs having antioxidant property are involved in antihypertensive action. Daily consumption of food rich in antioxidants helps in the prevention of cardiovascular disease, aging, diabetes mellitus and maintains good health. Further studies have to be conducted to determine the complete benefits of antioxidants in cardiovascular diseases.

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