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王永利,何瑞荣1 (河北医学院药理教研室, 脑内兴奋性与抑制性氨基酸释放失调,为其抗缺 血性脑损伤作用提供了进一步的实验证据.

BIBLID: ISSN 0253-9756

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Acta Pharmacologica Sinica 中国药理学机

1996 Jan, 17 (1): 44-48

Influences of ginsenosides Rb₁ and Rg₁ on reversible focal brain ischemia in rats¹

ZHANG Ying-Ge², LIU Tian-Pei

(Department of Pharmacology, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210029, China)

KEY WORDS ginseng; saponins; cerebral ischemia; cerebral infarction; calcium; potassium

AIM; To study the influences of ginsenosides Rb₁ and Rg₁ (active components of the total saponins of Panax ginseng) on the brains against ischemia-reperfusion injury. METHODS; Rat focal cerebral ischemia was induced by reversible middle cerebral artery occlusion (MCAO) without craniectomy. The influences of ginsenoside Rb_1 and Rg_1 on infarct size (IS), neurologic deficit (ND) and the contents of calcium and potassium in the infarct were observed. RE-SULTS: In a 2-h ischemia, $Rb_1 10 - 40 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ iv 30 min before MCAO decreased IS by 20 1/4

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-49 % and ND score from 5.1 to 4.1-2.3, and inhibited Ca accumulation and K loss by 22 % -50 % and 18-37 %, respectively; Rb, 10-40 mg · kg⁻¹ iv immediately after MCA was recanalized decreased IS by 12 % - 35 % and ND score from 5.2 to 4.3-3.3. and inhibited Ca accumulation and K loss by 10 % - 40 % and 17 %-30 %, respectively. In permanent ischemia, $Rb_1 40 \text{ mg} \cdot kg^{-1}$ iv reduced IS, ND, Ca accumulation and K loss. However, Rg₁ 40 mg · kg⁻¹ iv did not show effect on both permanent and 2-h MCAO. CONCLUSIONS: Rb₁ protected brain from ischemic and reperfusion injuries.

Ginsenosides could protect the brains against ischemia and decrease the infarct size (IS) produced by middle cerebral artery occlusion $(MCAO)^{(1-2)}$. Ginsenosides are composed of many different monoginsenosidic saponins. That

¹ Project supported by the National Natural Science Fundation of China, № 39170857.

² Now in Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Academy of Military Medical Science, Beijing 100850. China. Received 1992-10-09 Accepted 1995-04-25

which saponin is active remains to be elucidated. Rb_1 , one of the panaxadiols, may be beneficial to the ischemic brain in 2 aspects: Rb_1 could reduce intracellular calcium⁽³⁻⁴⁾ while the calcium entry into cells is the final common pathway leading to cell death⁻⁶⁰; Rb_1 inhibited the Na⁺-K⁺-exchanging ATPase in normal brain⁽⁵⁾, which may be capable of reducing the calcium sequestered in the microsomes. In this study we intended to find out if Rb_1 and Rg_1 , were effective in protecting ischemic brain.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

Drugs and chemicals Rb₁ and Rg₁ were extracted and purified by Kunming Institute of Botany. Chinese Academy of Science, purity >98 %. 0.05 % Nimodipine (Nim) injection (batch Nº 910429) was made by the Fourth Hospital of Wu-han. Glass fiber was Astron $3^{\text{#}}$ fishing line made in Japan, which could be obtained from the market.

Rat model Sprague-Dawley rats, n = 150, weighing $400 \pm s$ 46 g of either sex were used. For permanent MCAO, 48 rats were equally divided into 6 groups: Nim 20 $\mu g \cdot kg^{-1}$, Rb₁ 10, 20, 40 mg $\cdot kg^{-1}$, Rg₁ 40 mg kg^{-1} , and the control groups. For transient MCAO, 96 rats were divided into 6 groups as those in permanent MCAO, but each group was further divided into 2 subgroups; the drugs were injected iv before or after MCAO. The rats were anesthetized by sodium pentobarbital 60 mg ·kg⁻¹ ip. Blood pressure was monitored through cannulation of right femoral artery. Rectal temperature was kept at 38 C by an infrared lamp. MCAO was performed according to the method of Longs et al⁽¹⁾, save that the nylon suture was replaced by a piece of glass fiber which was pretreated with nitric acid 10 mol·L⁻¹ for 3 s to obtain satisfactory flexibility and rigidity for advancement in the arterial lumen while not perforating the wall. For reperfusion, the fiber was pulled out after 2-b MCAO and the external carotid artery stump was ligated with 0^{\pm} silk suture. Drugs were injected through right femoral vein. One group (6 rats) were subjected to sham operation; the fiber was in the internal carotid artery without MCAO. In permanent MCAO, drugs were given before operation; In 2-b MCAO, drugs were given before ischemia or immediately after the MCA was recanalized. The control was given equal volume of saline.

EEG EEG was recorded percutaneously through 2 silver pin electrodes by an LMS-2B polygraph. Recording electrode was percutaneously placed on the surface of parietal scalp 3 mm lateral to the sagittal line and the reference one was placed to the nasion. Band pass filter, 100 Hz₄ time constant, 0.2 s; sensitivity, 2 mV·m⁻¹, standard voltage, 50 μ V. The amplitude⁽⁶⁾ before MCAO was taken as 100 %. The period of EEG falling to lowest value was measured from MCAO to the beginning of the constant lowest value.

Neurologic deficits (ND) At 24 h after the onset of MCAO, the severity of ND was scaled in 8 levels⁽²⁾; 0 - no recognizable impairment in activity; 1 - upon hunging upside down, the left forepaw could not fully extend; 2 - the left forelimb could nor straightly downwards accompanied by the adduction of the left shoulder; 3 — the left forelimb stuck to the thoracic wall upon hunging upside down; 4 - circling to the left without obvious pulling back of the left forepaw; 5 - circling to the left accompanied by the pulling back of the forepaw; 6 rotating to the left and could not go ahead effectively; 7 the left limbs were completely paralysed and could only lie on the left. ND scores were evaluated by a paramedical attendant who did not know the treatment drugs. A close correlation was found between ND scores and IS (r =0.906, P<0.01).

IS and water content At 24 h after the onset of MCAO, rats were decapitated. The brains were stained and the necrotic tissues were pooled out^{12} . The necrotic tissues and the non-necrotic tissues were dried at 110 C. The relative IS was expressed in a dry weight % of the necrotic tissue to the entire bemisphere. The water content=[wet weight-dry weight]/[wet weight] × 100 %.

Calcium accumulation and potassium loss The dried tissues were digested in 1 mL nitric acid $(10 \text{ mol} \cdot L^{-1})$ and 0.1 mL perchloric acid at 90 C for 2-b. Ca and K contents were determined by an AA-1475 atomic absorption spectrometer (Varian, USA). Ca accumulation and K loss were the differences between the contents in the necrotic tissue and that in contralateral hemisphere.

RESULTS

ND All the rats with MCAO showed ND while the control rats suffered more 24 h after

• 45 •

MCAO. Recirculation for 22 h did not significantly affect the ND despite of a trend of alleviation. Nim 20 μ g·kg⁻¹ iv improved the movement function of the rats with permanent or 2-h MCAO. In 2-h MCAO. Rb₁ 10-40 mg·kg⁻¹ iv before ischemia and immediately after ischemia showed decreases of ND scores of 1-2.8 and 0.9 -1.9. respectively. In permanent MCAO, Rb₁ 40 mg·kg⁻¹ reduced ND but 10-20 mg·kg⁻¹ had no significant effects on ND. Rg₁ 40 mg •kg⁻¹ iv had no significant effect on ND in permanent or 2-h MCAO(Tab 1).

IS At 24 h after the onset of MCAO, all the rats developed obvious infarction in the hemisphere. Recirculation tended to reduce IS but there was no statistically significant difference vsthe control (P > 0.05). In permanant MCAO, Rb₁ 40 mg·kg⁻¹ reduced IS by 14 % (P < 0.05). In 2-h MCAO, Rb₁ 10-40 mg·kg⁻¹ iv before and after ischemia reduced the IS by 20 % -49 % and 12 -35 % respectively. Rb₁ 20-40 mg·kg⁻¹ iv before ischemia was more effective than after ischemia, Rg₁ was ineffective on IS. Nim 20 µg ·kg⁻¹ reduced the IS in both permanent and 2-h MCAO (Tab 1).

Ca accumulation, K loss, and water content At 24 h after the onset of MCAO, there was a large Ca accumulation and K loss in the infarcted site which swelled greatly. In permanent MCAO, Rb, 40 mg·kg⁻¹ decreased the Ca accumulation by 14 %, the K loss by 23 %, and the water content by 3.1 %, $Rb_1 10 + 20 \text{ mg} \cdot kg^{-1}$ exhibited a mild tendency of reduction. In 2-h MCAO, $Rb_1 10 - 40 \text{ mg} \cdot kg^{-1}$ before ischemia reduced the Ca accumulation. K loss and water content by 22 % + 50 %. 18 % + 37 %, and 1.8 % - 4.2 %, respectively $Rb_1 10 + 40 \text{ mg}$ $\cdot kg^{-1}$ iv after ischemia reduced the Ca accumulation. K loss and water content by 10 % + 40 %, 17 % + 30 %, and 2.5 % + 5.8 %, respectively. $Rg_1 40 \text{ mg} \cdot kg^{-1}$ iv decreased only the water content. while Nim 20 $\mu g \cdot kg^{-1}$ reduced only the Ca accumulation and K loss (Tab 2).

EEG Within $10 \pm s$ 2 min after MCAO, EEG amplitude fell to a lowest level. 33 $\% \pm 4$ % of that before MCAO. Rb₁ 10-40 mg·kg⁻¹ improved the EEG amplitude and prolonged the period of EEG falling from normal to the lowest level. Nim 20 μ g·kg⁻¹ iv had the same effect as that of Rb₁. Rg₁ 40 mg·kg⁻¹ did not influence the EEG amplitude significantly (Tab 3). The EEG of the rats with sham operation showed no changes before and after operation.

DISCUSSION

 Rb_1 effectively reduced the IS and ND, and improved the EEG amplitude, which implied that Rb_1 was one of the active components of the total saponing of *Panax ginseng* in protecting the

Tab 1. Effects of Rb_1 , Rg_1 , nimodipine (Nim), and normal saline on neurologic deficits and infarct size produced by permanent and 2-h middle cerebral artery occlusion (MCAO) in rats. n=8 (NS n=10), $\overline{x}\pm s$. ivB; lv before MCAO; ivA; iv immediately after the MCA was recanalized.

P>0.05. P<0.05.	'P<0.01 vs Sallne.	*P>0.05, *P<0.05,	'P<0. 01 vs ivB.
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_		Infarct size/%		Neurologic deficit scores	
	Drugs	ivB	ivA	ivB	ivA
Per	manent MCAO				
Saline	$1 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	36 ± 3	—	5.4 \pm 0.9	_
Nim	20 μ g • kg ⁻¹	30±3°	—	4.4±0.5 ^b	_
Rb	10 mg •kg ⁻¹	$34\pm2^{*}$	—	5.3 \pm 0.9°	—
	20 mg·kg ⁻¹	$33\pm3^{*}$	—	4.8±0.8*	_
	40 mg kg ⁻¹	$31\pm3^{ m b}$	_	4.4 \pm 0.7 ^b	—
Rg_1	40 mg •kg ⁻¹	34±2*	_	4.9±0.7°	—
2-h	MCAO				
Saline	1 mL•kg⁻¹	32 ± 2	33 ± 4	5.1 \pm 0.8	5.2 \pm 0.8
Nim	20 μg·kg ⁻¹	$20\pm1^\circ$	$24 \pm 3^{\circ}$	4.3±0.7 [▶]	$3.8 \pm 0.8^{\circ}$
\mathbf{Rb}_1	10 mg•kg ⁻¹	$25\pm2^{\circ}$	28 ± 2^{cd}	4.1±0.7 ^b	4.3±0.6 ^{bd}
	20 mg·kg ⁻¹	20±1°	24 ± 2^{ct}	$3.0 \pm 0.8^{\circ}$	4.0 \pm 0.9 ^{be}
	40 mg • kg ⁻¹	$16\pm1^{\circ}$	21 ± 2^{c1}	2.3 \pm 0.7°	3.3 \pm 0.9°
Rg_1	40 mg•kg ⁻¹	28±2"	$27\pm3^{*4}$	$4.9 \pm 0.6^{\circ}$	4.5 $\pm 0.8^{st}$

Tab 2. Influence of ginsenosides Rb_1 , Rg_1 , nimodipine (Nim) and normal saline on the calcium accumulation, potassium loss and the water contents in the infarcted area determined at 24 h after the onset of the middle cerebral artery occlusion (MCAO) in rats. n=8 (control n=10), $\bar{x}\pm s$. ivB; iv before MCAO; ivA; iv immediately after the MCA was recanalized. Dw: dry weight. "P>0.05, "P<0.05, "P<0.01 vs Saline." $^{4}P>0.05$, "P<0.01 vs Saline."

-	CA/mmol·kg ⁻¹ Dw		$PL/mmol \cdot kg^{-1}$ Dw		H ₂ O/%		
	Drugs	ivB	ivA	ivB	ivA	ivB	ívA
P	ermanent MCAO)			<u> </u>		
Saline	1 mL·kg ⁻¹	25.2 ± 2.3	_	124 ± 21	_	84.2±0.9	_
Nim	20 µg•kg ⁻¹	21.8±2.1°	_	$75 \pm 15^{\circ}$	_	83.1 \pm 1.0	—
Rbı	$10 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	23.9 \pm 1.9	—	112±23*	_	83.2±1.0	_
	$20 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	22.9 \pm 2.1	—	104±19*	_	82.9±1.3⁵	_
	$40 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	$21.7 \pm 1.8^{\circ}$	—	$95 \pm 15^{\circ}$	_	81.1±1.3	—
Rg_1	40 mg • kg ⁻¹	24.8±2.2*	—	108±14	_	81.8±1.2°	-
2	-h MCAO						
Saline	$1 \text{ mL} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	22.2 ± 2.2	21.9 ± 2.3	104 ± 20	106 ± 18	83.2±0.8	84.9±1. 0
Nim	20 µg•kg ⁻¹	$13.9 \pm 1.1^{\circ}$	18.3±1.4°	47 ±10 ⁴	70±11'	82.0 ± 0.8	82.3±0.8
$\mathbf{R}\mathbf{b}_1$	$10 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	17.4±1.3	20.0 \pm 1.8 ^{bd}	$86 \pm 13^{\circ}$	87 ± 11^{b}	81.4±0.9°	82.4±0.8⁵
	20 mg • kg ⁻¹	$13.6 \pm 1.1^{\circ}$	17.2±1.0 ^e	76±11⁴	$83\pm14^{\circ}$	80.1±1.1°	81.3±1.3
	40 mg • kg ⁻¹	11.3±1.0°	13.5±1.1ª	66±7°	$73 \pm 10^{\circ}$	79.0±1.1°	79.1±1.1°
\mathbf{Rg}_{2}	40 mg·kg ⁻¹	20.9±2.1	19.9±2.0	92±15	98 ± 13	80.2 ±1.2 [°]	79.9±1.4°

Tab 3. Effects of Rb₁, Rg₁, nimodipine (Nim) and normal saline on EEG after MCAO in rats. $\pi = 8$, $\bar{x} \pm s$. The EEG value before MCAO (pre-MCAO) was taken as 100 %. post-MCAO; the EEG value after MCAO. Pn-1; the period of EEG falling from pre-MCAO value to the lowest post-MCAO value. "P > 0.05, "P < 0.05," P < 0.01 rs Saline.

Drugs	pre-MCAO	Amplitude/µV post-MCAO	% of pre-MCAO	Pn-1/ min
Saline 1 mL · kg ⁻¹	36±4	12±2	33 ± 4	10±2
Nim 20 µg•kg ⁻¹	34±5	15 ± 3	4 5±5 [°]	13±1°
Rb ₁ 10 mg·kg ⁻¹	38±3	15 ± 4	37±3°	12±2 ^e
$20 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	37±4	16 ± 2	44±4 [•]	$14 \pm 2^{\circ}$
$40 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	37 ± 5	21 ± 3	56±6°	14±3°
$Rg_1 = 40 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$	38 ± 4	13 ± 3	35±5*	11±3°

ischemic brain. In 2-h MCAO, Rb, administered even after ischemia exhibited significant effects, which indicated that Rb₁ might protect the brain against reperfusion injury or/and the delayed ischemic neuronal damage. Rb1 decreased the Ca accumulation in the infarcted area as well as the IS, and the reduction rate of Ca accumulation was fairly close to that of IS. This suggested that the inhibition of Ca accumulation was a possible mechanism of Rb₁ in protecting ischemic and reperfused brain. Because Ca accumulation in the tissues is attributed to the calcium sequestered in the ischemic cells⁽⁹⁾, we assumed that the reduction of Ca accumulation might be the result of Rb, blocking of the calcium entry into the cells, which suggested that Rb₁ might possess some calcium antagonist action.

We once expected that Rg₁ might have some

effect on cerebral ischemia though it was weak, but it was found that $10-20 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ had no effect in the pre-experiment. Therefore, we selected 40 mg $\cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$, equivalent to the largest dose of Rb₁, as the dose in formal experiment but even at this dosage Rg₁ still showed no effect on IS, ND, CA and K loss though it ameliorated brain edema. This suggests that Rg₁ be less beneficial than Rb₁ to the ischemic brain.

Reversible MCAO without craniectomy⁽⁷⁾ is a newly developed focal ischemia model, which was modified in our experiment. A piece of nylon suture was used to the occlusion of MCA⁽⁷⁾ but we found it was too soft to introduce to the origin of MCA. Therefore, a piece of acid-treated glass fiber was used to the occlusion of MCA in our experiment, which provided a higher success rate than the nylon suture because of its satisfactory

• 47 •

rigidity and flexibility allowing smooth advancement in the artery lumen while not perforating the artery wall. We once used the nylon suture. only 5 out of 10 rats were successful. When we used acid-treated glass fiber. a 95 % success rate was obtained. It was considered that in the operation of this model. a kind of ideal material was the key to success.

44-48

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人参皂苷 Rb_1 和 Rg_1 对大鼠可逆性局灶性脑缺血的 影响 $D 2 \Omega \langle 2 \rangle$

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<u>张英鸽,刘天培</u> (南京医科大学药理教研室,南京210029,中国)

关键词 人参;皂苷类;脑缺血;脑梗死;钙;钾

更にたわめ 目的:研究人参皂苷 Rbi和 Rgi对脑缺血和再灌损 方法:用可逆性不开颅大鼠大脑中动 伤的影响. 脉梗塞(MCAO)模型观察人参皂苷 Rb₁和 Rg₁对 梗塞范围(IS),运动障碍(ND)及钙,钾含量的影 响. 结果: 在2-h 缺血、Rb,10-40 mg·kg⁻¹ iv 于 MCAO 前给药减小 IS 20 %-49 %, 使 ND 由5.1 减至4.1-2.3,抑制钙积累22 %-50 %,减少钾 丢失18 %-37 %. MCA 再通后给药减小 IS 12 %-35 %, 使 ND 由5.2减至4.3-3.3, 抑制钙 积累10-40,减少钾丢失17 %-30 %. 在永久 缺血, Rb,40 mg·kg⁻¹ iv 可减少 IS, ND, 钙积累 和钾丢失. Rg1对永久和2-h 缺血均无效. 结论: Rb₁是保护缺血脑的活性成份,对缺血和再灌损伤 均有效.

中国药理学报基金会热忱感谢 以下单位和个人给予的大力支持:

香港百草堂有限公司	周文轩 董事长	郭次仪 总经理
上海大众医药科技服务公司	苏定冯 总经理	
成都地奥制药公司	李伯刚 总经理	
广州奇星药业有限公司		
中国台湾中国医药学院	林昭庚 教授	
重庆第三军医大学	胡友梅 教授	