The effect of Rhizoma Panacis Japonici ethanol extracts on protein caspase 3 and Drp-1 in MCAO rats.

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Abstract

Objective: The effect of Rhizoma Panacis Japonici ethanol extracts on protein caspase 3 and Drp-1 in MCAO rats.

Methods: Sixty male SD rats were randomly divided into 4 groups, the sham operation group (s group), ischemia and reperfusion group (I/R group), Rhizoma Panacis Japonici Ethanol extracts low dose group (10 mg/kg/d, RPJEL) and Rhizoma Panacis Japonici Ethanol extracts high dose group (30 mg/kg/d, RPJEH) with 15 rats in each group. After intragastric administration of 1 W, the middle cerebral artery occlusion method preparation of focal cerebral ischemia model, ischemia 2 hrs and reperfusion for 24 hrs, postoperative 24 hrs monitoring the brain ischemic area middle cerebral artery blood flow changes, the Triphenyltetrazolium Chloride (TTC) method to measure the volume of cerebral infarction was used to detect the apoptosis of brain cells level, immunohistochemistry and Western blt Drp-1, Caspase 3 protein expression.

Results: Compared with I/R group, both of RPJEL and RPJEH groups could significantly decrease the Drp-1 and Caspase 3 protein level, and also minimize the infarct volume. Two hours after the infarct model established, the blood flow of I/R group were changed to 30.26% ± 1.58%, and the blood flow of the RPJEL and RPJEH groups were decreased to 52.1% ± 2.94%57.3% ± 4.21%.

Conclusions: RPJE could effectively inhibit the nerve cell apoptosis and mitochondria. The action mechanism may be related to the decreased levels of Drp-1 and Caspase 3.

Keywords: Rhizoma Panacis Japonici ethanol extracts; Ischemia reperfusion; Drp-1; Caspase 3.

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the model successfully, 0 score and 4 score, random added in the experiments, ensure that each group of animal number remains the same. Loss score in 1-3 is divided into the model successfully, 0 and 4, randomly added in the experiments, the guarantee animal number remains the same in each group.

The observation of blood flow of MCA [5]
This experiment detected using laser Doppler blood flow of right middle cerebral artery blood supply area changes. Rats prone position and fixed on the operating table, to the top of the head, cut along the line begins at the top of the skin until the skull, used as a starting point to the right anterior fontanelle 5 mm, 3 mm back. Damage the cranial with dental drill plate, the optical fiber probe with biological glue vertical fixed to the skull opening. To test 24 h after surgery on the right side of the brain artery ischemia in the surrounding area (ischemia half dark band) of cerebral blood flow, reduce blood flow was calculated. After the measurement, stitches head incision.

24 h after ischemia, killed and then TTC was conducted. The percentage of the total cerebral infarction group weight equalled to the degree of cerebral infarction. Groups of rats after 24 h was killed and the brain will be put in rats section moulding, starting from the frontal pole 2 mm in, sterile operation section once upon a time for coronary serial section, each piece of 2 mm thickness. Put in brown bottle containing 2% TTC solution, 37°C avoid light incubation for 30 min, white as infarcts, rose red as normal brain tissue, 4% paraformaldehyde fixed fluid, neat order, according to the brain slices vertically, digital camera taking pictures. According to the color separation infarction group and normal tissues carefully after the surgery, weighing respectively. Cerebral infarction volume (%)= pale area weight/weight (pale area+the pale section weight) × 100%.

The Drp-1, Caspase 3 expression with immunohistochemical methods [6,7]
The protein extracted was analysed by immunohistochemistry method, and calculate the total number of positive cells of the percentage of the total number of cells, for targeted protein expression. Randomly selected from each group of rats at five areas of the frontal and parietal cortex, each sample in PBS solution instead of a fight, as the negative control group, the figure in the cytoplasm and (or) nuclei in tan granule cell meter for Drp-1 and Caspase 3 protein positive expression cells. Areas in positive cells randomly selected five non-overlapping horizons at high magnification, the calculation of Caspase 3 and Drp-1 percentage of the number of positive cells. Positive rate (%)=positive cells number/(positive cells number +negative cells number) by 100%.

Drp-1 and Caspase 3 expression by Western blot [8,9]
24 h after each surgery, respectively, 10% chloral hydrate was injected into abdominal cavity to get a quick fast anaesthesia. The rat was killed and taken right lateral cortical tissue with injury. Protein lysis fluid was added, grinded cracked for 30 min at 4°C, then transferred to the EP, 13000 g centrifugal 5 min, supernatant was taken for total protein concentration detection with BCA. The protein concentration of Drp-1 and Caspase 3 (Figures 5 and 6).

Statistical methods
SPSS17.0 statistical software analysis was used and the data was expressed with average value ± SE, multigroup comparison was analysed with single factor analysis of variance (F) test. SNK method was applied to pairwise comparison.

Results
Blood flow in the infarction area
24 h after infarction established, the blood flow was decreased to 30.26% ± 1.58% quickly, and the data were also increased to 52.1 ± 2.94%, 57.3% ± 4.21% in the both RPJEL and RPJEH. Comparison was conducted in RPJE group and I/R group, we found that there was a significant difference between them. Samely, this difference was also existed in other three time including 2 h, 8 h, 24 h after infarction onset. However, no difference was found in both RPJEL group and RPJEH group, may be we should refined the concentration of the RPJE to get an optimized concentration (Figure 1).

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**Figure 1. Blood flow in the infarction area.**

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**Figure 2. The effect of RPJE on the infarction volume of MCAO rats.** Note*, p<0.05, group I/R was compared with group sham. #, p<0.05, group RPJEL and group RPJEH was compared with group I/R.
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However, in the sham group, there was little expression, compared with sham group; the level of Drp-1 protein was higher in I/R group. In RPJEL and RPJEH group, was decreased significantly, and also the ratio was bigger in RPJEH group (Figure 4).

**The Drp-1 and Caspase 3 protein expression with western blot**

Few caspase 3 and Drp-1 protein was expressed in sham group, however, that was higher in I/R group. Samely, in the RPJEL and RPJEH group, the number of caspase 3 and Drp-1 was decreased gradually. The change was most obvious in RPJEH group (Figures 5 and 6).

**Discussion**

In this research, we could found that RPJE group could effectively decrease the volume of infarction in MCAO rats, then may improve the neurological function, at the same time, it could also decrease the cell apoptosis, this was approved by before studies. The possible action mechanism mainly related to the inflammation reaction and oxidative stress injury after the ischemic reperfusion [10,11], decreased the Ca$^{2+}$ overload [12].

In the research of effect of Drp-1 on the outer membrane of mitochondria, the over-expression Drp-1 could accelerate the mitochondria lysis [13]; after gene knockout of Drp-1, the expression of endogenous Drp-1 was inhibited, in turn, reduced the lysis of the mitochondria, that meant Drp-1 was a necessary molecules in mitochondria lysis process.

Up to now, there was no report about the Drp-1 expression in the MCAO rats. Then we made a research design to utilize the Traditional Chinese Medicine the pre-treat the SD rats, than make a MCAO model on it, we found that the expression of Drp-1 in I/R group was higher than that in sham group. Thus this result could demonstrate that Drp-1 participate the process of ischemic reperfusion process in MCAO model.
At the same time the Drp-1 content in both RPJEL and RPJEH group was decreased gradually, the reduction of infarction volume, they all illustrated that RPJE may involve in the anti-apoptosis on Drp-1. Previous studies showed that in the ischemic-reperfusion model, other related gene of apoptosis like bcl-2 could also inhibit the Caspase-3 activation to protect the stabilization of mitochondria cell membrane, and then could decrease the neuron apoptosis [14].

Currently there was no evidence about the inhibition of Drp-1 in protecting the neuron. However the studies have showed that the increased Drp-1 from the neuronal cytoplasm transit to the mitochondria, and activated caspase system, much important proteins and organelles in the mitochondria were damaged, eventually mitochondrial were broken [15]. And the result of this research was the same with above, also demonstrated that Drp-1 actually participated the process of blood flow improvement.

References

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