Effect of non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on inhibition of nitrite-induced methemoglobin formation

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Paracetamol, Diclofenac, Aceclofenac, Nimesulide, Ibuprofen and Rofecoxib belonging to the class of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID’s) were tested for inhibitory role on nitrite-induced oxidation of hemoglobin in vitro. Result indicates a promising inhibitory role of aceclofenac and significant inhibitory role of ibuprofen in a concentration range of 0.25 mM each. Pro-oxidant activity was higher for remaining test compounds viz., Diclofenac, Paracetamol, Rofecoxib and Nimesulide.

Key words: Free radical, methemoglobin, nitrite, NSAID

INTRODUCTION

Hemoglobin is subjected to severe oxidant stress. When hemoglobin binds to molecular oxygen, there is an accompanied risk of superoxide production along with the oxidation of hemoglobin to methemoglobin.[1] There are several inherent antioxidant defense mechanisms that prevent methemoglobin formation. Superoxide dismutase, catalase, ascorbic acid and glutathione peroxidase constitute a few of these endogenous antioxidants.[2] Oxidation of hemoglobin to methemoglobin occurs in response to a variety of chemical stimuli, which include drugs like primaquine, dapsone and environmental pollutants like nitrogen dioxide. The endogenous antioxidant defense system present in our body maintains the methemoglobin within one percent. Many antioxidants such as ascorbic acid, uric acid, 3-ribosyluric acid and glutathione are reported in literature.[3] Curcumin, an established free-radical scavenger, protects hemoglobin against nitrite-induced oxidation.[4]

5-amino salicylic acid (5-ASA) and analogs have been already established as scavengers of several reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as superoxide dismutase.[1] 5-ASA strongly inhibits nitrite-induced oxidation of hemoglobin in human blood-hemolysates.[5,6] The objective of the present work is to study the effect of currently used NSAID’s on inhibition of nitrite induced methemoglobin formation. Hence, paracetamol, diclofenac, aceclofenac, nimesulide, ibuprofen and rofecoxib these (NSAID’s) were tested for inhibitory role on nitrite-induced oxidation of hemoglobin in vitro.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Blood samples were collected from the Pathology Dept. of SKN Hospital, Pune and were centrifuged (2000 rpm for 10 min) to remove the plasma and Buffy coat of white cells. Erythrocytes thus obtained were suspended in phosphate buffer saline for 5 min and centrifuged again to remove the supernatant liquid containing white blood cells. The same procedure was repeated twice. The packed cell thus obtained above were suspended in 20 volumes of 0.7% sodium chloride solution for 20 min at room temperature and then centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 15 min to remove membrane and cell debris. The resulting solution (hemolysate, brilliant red color) was diluted with 0.7% sodium chloride solution to yield a final concentration of oxyhemoglobin suitable for spectrophotometric analysis. (Absorbance 0.5 at 577 nm and also scanned between 700 to 500 nm to get maximum absorbance and little or minimum peak at 631 nm)

Hemolysate prepared as shown above was incubated with different concentrations of test compounds (viz. 0.05 to 0.25 mM) for different time intervals (0 to15 min). Curcumin was used at a concentration of 20µM. Compounds were added to the reaction mixture by dissolving them in ethanol. Controls contained an equivalent amount of ethanol. Hemoglobin exhibits maximum absorption at 577 nm and 560 nm while methemoglobin absorbs at 631 nm. Formation of
methemoglobin (induced by addition of sodium nitrite at a final concentration of 300 mM) was estimated by monitoring the absorbance at 631 nm using Jasco UV 430 spectrophotometer. Day to day variation was significant and results are representative samples drawn from trials.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Preliminary investigations indicate that Aceclofenac inhibits nitrite-induced oxidation of hemoglobin. The highest concentrations of Aceclofenac were 0.25 mM, which gave good inhibition as compared to blank and other compounds tested [Table 1; Fig. 1]. The results are consistent at different time intervals tested viz. 0-15 min. However, curcumin showed a more significant activity even at lower concentration levels than Aceclofenac (The results are not included because the concentrations used were not comparative; curcumin concentration was kept low in the range of 20 µm because of solubility problems). From various compounds tested, Ibuprofen also showed the inhibitory activity but less than that of Aceclofenac. On the other hand, Diclofenac, Paracetamol, Nimesulide and Rofecoxib enhanced the formation of methemoglobin at a concentration of 0.25 mM. The present investigation requires detailed studies under different experimental conditions especially in vivo. It is also important to confirm the results in purified hemoglobin. Since Aceclofenac, Ibuprofen and its structural analogues are prescribed drugs, results have therapeutic significance.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The authors are thankful to Prof. M. K. Unnikrishnan (College of Pharmaceutical sciences, Manipal) for continuous support and encouragement in setting up the experiment.

| Source of Support: Nil, Conflict of Interest: None declared. |