Assessment of Anti-Oxidant Potency of Small Chain Glycopeptides Using DPPH Free Radical Scavenging Assay

Kandasamy Nagarajan^{1,*}, Sneha Singh¹, Taleuzzaman¹, Sadaf J. Gilani¹ and A. Mazumder²

1 Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, KIET School of Pharmacy, 13 Km. Stone, Ghaziabad Meerut Road, Ghaziabad-201206, India

2 Noida Institute of Engg. & Technology, Greater Noida, India

Abstract: 1,1-Diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH) *in-vitro* assay was employed to determine the antioxidant potency of test compounds I to VII [Arg-Thr-Starch (RTStr); Ser-Arg-Lac (SRLac); Asn-Arg-Mannose (NRMs); Arg-Asn-Lac (RNLac); Arg-Thr-Lac (RTLac); His-Asn-Mannose (HNMs); Asn-His-Lac (NHLac)] using ascorbic acid as the standard drug. The percentage scavenging activity of the test drugs were determined at different concentrations and the IC₅₀ value of the test compounds were subsequently compared with that of ascorbic acid. Among the compounds tested, compound II (SRLac) showed highest antioxidant activity with an IC₅₀ value of 14.2 µg/ml whereas compounds I (RTS), VII (NHLac) and IV (RNLac) revealed the IC₅₀ value of 14.3 μg/ml, 14.5 μg/ml and 15.7 μg/ml, respectively when compared with ascorbic acid (IC_{50} = 15.8 μ g/ml). All the synthesized glycopeptides were further characterized by TLC, Melting point, IR, NMR and Mass spectral datas. Based on the above results, Ser-Arg-Lac could be considered as a lead compound for the development of new antioxidant drug for prevention of human diseases.

Keywords: 1.1-Diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl, Antioxidant, Glycopeptides, Ascorbic acid, Potency.

INTRODUCTION

Free radicals easily react with macro-molecules of crucial biological significance (DNA, lipids, protein) and destroy their structure and function, which accelerates ageing and might lead to degenerative diseases, including cancer [1, 2].

Certain portion of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is generated during normal human metabolism and the production rate is precisely controlled by specialized system of antioxidant defense [3]. This well-balanced ROS synthesis is impaired by inflammatory events, where activated macrophages and neutrophils, upon contact with pro-inflammatory stimuli, release substantial amounts of aggressive oxygen and nitrogen-centered radicals [4].

Natural antioxidant defense system involves enzymes (superoxide dismutase, Catalase, glutathione peroxidase), other proteins (albumin, ferritin, ceruloplasmin) and numerous smaller molecules (e.g. reduced glutathione, α -tocopherol, -carotene, bilirubin, uric acid) having various modes of action. Antioxidants counteract ROS and diminish their deleterious effects [5, 6]. This protective barrier can be enhanced by the use of antioxidant micronutrient (vitamins C , E , β -carotene) and non-nutrient ingredients of edible plants, like polyphenols. Polyphenol subgroup of chemicals, flavonoids, is the extensively examined group of antioxidants [7, 8]. A new class of water soluble glycopeptide (PGY) fractionated and purified from the aqueous extracts of *Ganoderma lucidum* were evaluated with two conventional antioxidant testing systems of DPPH and superoxide radical scavenging and found to have their respective antioxidant activities in a concentrationdependent manner [9].

As part of discovery of natural antioxidant agents, a study was designed to investigate the in-vitro antioxidant activity of seven glycopeptides and in order to establish the most potent antioxidant drug having therapeutic values.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Chemicals

All chemicals were analytical grade. The chemicals required for biochemical assay were obtained from Sigma Chemicals Co., USA,

DPPH Radical Scavenging Assay

The free radical scavenging activity of the test compounds was measured *in-vitro* by 1,1-diphenyl-2 picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH) assay [10, 11]. About 0.3 mM solution of DPPH in 100% ethanol was prepared and 1ml of this solution was added to 3ml of test drug dissolved in ethanol at different concentrations (1-32

^{*}Address corresponding to this author at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, KIET School of Pharmacy, 13 Km. Stone, Ghaziabad Meerut Road, Ghaziabad-201206, India; Tel: 09997628670; Fax: 01232-262057; E-mail: nagarajan_mph@yahoo.co.in

Table 1: DPPH Radical Scavenging Activiy of the Glycopeptide Leads

*Values obtained from regression lines with 95% of confidence level. IC_{50} is defined as the concentration sufficient to obtain 50% of a maximum effect estimate in 100%. All values given are mean of triplicate experiments at S.D. (5%) for the above table.

μg/ml). The mixture was shaken and allowed to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes and the absorbance was measured at 517 nm using UV-visible double beam spectrophotometer (Shimadzu-1800). The % scavenging activity at different concentrations of test drugs were determined and the IC_{50} values were compared with that of ascorbic acid.

Physico-Chemical Characterization

All the Synthesized glycopeptides were identified by their Melting point and TLC analysis as the preliminary level characterization and further confirmation of their structures was done with IR, 1 H-NMR, 13 C-NMR and Mass spectral analysis.

Figure 1: Graphical representation of Linearity for the Standard Drug Concentration with their Corresponding Value.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Antioxidant Capacity

The results of DPPH free radical scavenging activity of the test glycopeptides are shown in Table **1**.

The graphs of IC50 Value prediction in UV-visible spectrophotometric determination of the most potent test drug and the standard with their linear regression and correlation coefficient are shown in Figures **1**, **2** and **3**.

All the test drugs I-VII demonstrated H-donor activity. The highest DPPH radical scavenging activity was detected in test drug- II (Ser-Arg-Lac; SRLac) with an IC_{50} value of 14.2 μ g/ml (Table 1), which showed that antioxidant activity was greater than that of standard ascorbic acid ($IC_{50} = 15.8 \mu g/ml$).

Similarly test drugs- I (Arg-Thr-Starch; RTStr), VII (Asn-His-Lac; NHLac) and IV (Arg-Asn-Lac; RNLac) have shown comparatively better antioxidant capacity with that of the standard drug, ascorbic acid (IC_{50} = 15.8 μ g/ml) by their IC₅₀ values as 14.3 μ g/ml, 14.5 μg/ml and 15.7μg/ml, respectively.

Physico-Chemical Characterization

The Physico-chemical characterization of the synthesized glycopeptides are explained in Table **2-9**.

ATS IC50 Graph

Figure 3: Graphical representation of Linearity for the Test Drug II (SRLac).

By this data, we conclude that compounds 2, 3, 6 & 7 gave sharp point on TLC and having 0.30, 0.40, 0.60 & 0.20 as R_f values respectively with their above mentioned melting point values from the Table **2**.

Table 3: Physico-Chemical Characterization of the O-Glycopeptide [Arg-Thr-Starch]

Table 4: Physico-Chemical Characterization of the N-Glycopeptide [Arg-Asn-Lactose]

(Table 4). Continued.

W= weak signal intensity, M= moderate signal intensity.

٦

(Table 5). Continued.

W= weak signal intensity, M= moderate signal intensity, S= strong signal intensity.

Table 6: Physico-Chemical Characterization of the N-Glycopeptide [His-Asn-Mannose]

(Table 6). Continued.

W= weak signal intensity, M= moderate signal intensity, S= strong signal intensity.

Table 7: Physico-Chemical Characterization of the N-Glycopeptide [lactose-His-Asn]

(Table 7). Continued.

W= weak signal intensity, M= moderate signal intensity, S= strong signal intensity.

Table 8: Physico-Chemical Characterization of the O-Glycopeptide [Arg-Thr-Lac]

(Table 8). Continued.

٦

W= weak signal intensity, M= moderate signal intensity, S= strong signal intensity.

Table 9: Physico-Chemical Characterization of the O-Glycopeptide [Ser-Arg-lactose]

(Table 9). Continued.

W= weak signal intensity, M= moderate signal intensity, S= strong signal intensity.

Figure 4: I.R spectra of Ser-Arg-Lac.

Figure 5: ¹H-NMR spectra of Ser-Arg-Lac.

Figure 6: Mass Spectra of Ser-Arg-Lac.

All the spectral characterization of the synthesized glycopeptides was expressed in Table **2-9** above and with their significance and the compound type after fragmentation. The I.R, 1 H-NMR, and Mass spectral scan of the most potent test compound Ser-Arg-Lac (SRLac) are shown in Figures **4** to **6**.

Antioxidants are the compounds that protect cells against the damaging effects of reactive oxygen species, such as singlet oxygen, superoxide, peroxyl radicals, hydroxyl radicals and peroxynitrite. An imbalance between antioxidants and reactive oxygen species results in oxidative stress, leading to cellular damage. Oxidative stress has been linked to cancer, ageing, atherosclerosis, ischemic injury and inflammation and neuro degenerative diseases. The above studies suggest that test drugs II, I and VII (SRLac, RTStr and NHLac) possess remarkable antioxidant property that may maintain good health by boosting the immune system and reducing inflammation and allergic reactions.

It can be concluded that test drug II (Ser-Arg-Lac; SRLac) could be considered as a possible candidate for further studies for nutraceutical preparations with potent antioxidant activities for the prevention of human diseases.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are very much thankful to Dr. S. Narendra Kumar, Director, KIET Group of Institutions, Ghaziabad, India. Also, we remain thankful to Mrs. M. Uma Maheswari, Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Sri Ramakrishna Institute of

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.6000/1927-5951.2012.02.02.10

Received on 27-08-2012 **Accepted on 20-09-2012** Accepted on 20-09-2012 **Published on 05-11-2012**

Paramedical Sciences, Coimbatore, India for her valuable technical suggestions.

REFERENCES

- [1] Ishizaki T, Kishi T, Sasaki F, *et al.* Effect of probucol, an oral hypocholesterolemic agent, on acute tobacco smoke inhalation in rats. Clin Sci 1996; 90: 517-23.
- [2] Kehrar JP. Free radicals as mediators of tissue injury and disease. Crit Rev Toxicol 1993; 23: 21-48. http://dx.doi.org/10.3109/10408449309104073
- [3] Ignatowicz E, Rybczynska M. Some biochemical and pharmacological aspects of free radical-mediated tissue damage. Pol J Pharmacol 1994; 46: 103-14.
- [4] Halliwell B. Oxygen and nitrogen are pro-carcinogens. Damage to DNA by reactive oxygen, chlorine and nitrogen species: measurement, mechanism and effects of nutrition. Mutat Res 1999; 443: 37-52. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1383-5742(99)00009-5
- [5] Halliwell B, Gutteridge JMC. The antioxidants of human extra cellular fluids. Arch Biochem Biophys 1990; 280: 1-3. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0003-9861(90)90510-6
- [6] Yu BP. Cellular defenses against damage from reactive oxygen species. Physiol Rev 1994; 74: 139-62.
- [7] Cotelle N. Role of flavonoids in oxidative stress. Curr Top Med Chem 2001; 1: 569-90. http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/1568026013394750
- [8] Rice-Evans C. Flavonoid antioxidants. Curr Med Chem 2001; 8: 797-807.
- [9] Wu Y, Wang D. A new class of natural glycopeptides with sugar moiety-dependent antioxidant activities derived from *Ganoderma lucidum* fruiting bodies. J. Proteome Res 2009; 8(2): 436-42. http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/pr800554w
- [10] Mensor LL, Menezes FS, Leitao GG, et al. Screening of Brazilian plant extracts for antioxidant activity by the use of DPPH free radical method. Phytother Res 2001; 15: 127-30. http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/ptr.687
- [11] Nagarajan K, Mazumder A, Ghosh LK. *In-vitro* antioxidant activity of alcoholic extracts of *Wrightia tomentosa*. Pharmacologyonline 2008; 1: 196-203.