

Chromosomal Aberration Assay of Taxol and 10-deacetyl baccatin III in Chinese Hamster Lung Cells *In Vitro*

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ABSTRACT : To investigate the clastogenicity of taxol and its precursor, 10-deacetyl baccatin III, we performed chromosomal aberration assay with chinese hamster lung cells *in vitro*. The IC_{50} values of taxol and 10-deacetyl baccatin III were determined as $1/16 \times 10^{-4}$ M (5.34 μ g/ml) and 1×10^{-2} M (560 μ g/ml) in MTT assay, respectively. It means that the cytotoxicity of taxol revealed 100 times more cytotoxic than 10-deacetyl baccatin III in chinese hamster lung cell line. Nevertheless the strong positive genetic toxicity of taxol in the bone marrow micronucleus assay *in vivo* which was recently reported, we observed weak positive clastogenicity of taxol only in the absence of metabolic activation system in the concentration ranges used in this experiment. Moreover, to clarify the involvement of metabolic fate of taxol because of its strong positive result *in vivo*, 10-deacetyl baccatin III which is a precursor in taxol synthesis, also subjected in chromosomal aberration assay *in vitro*. However, we observed no clastogenicity of 10-deacetyl baccatin III in this experiment. From above results, it was suggested that the esterification at C-13 appears to be relative for its genetic toxicity in chromosome aberration using chinese hamster lung cell *in vitro*.

Key Words : Taxol, 10-deacetyl baccatin III, Clastogenicity, Chromosome Aberration, Chinese Hamster Lung Cell, *In Vitro*

Introduction

Several assay systems having rapidity and reliability have been introduced for the evaluation of genetic hazard in humans, such as reversion test with bacterial gene mutation (Ames *et al.*, 1973, 1975; Maron and Ames, 1983), chromosomal aberration assay with mammalian cells (Ishidate and Odashima, 1977; Matsuoka *et al.*, 1979; Radman *et al.*, 1982; Jenderny *et al.*, 1988; OECD, 1993), and micronucleus assay with rodents (Hayashi *et al.*, 1982, 1990, 1992, 1994). These assay systems are now well used to evaluate the genotoxicity of chemicals and to predict the carcinogenicity *in vivo*, and also frequently adopted as methods for an index of genotoxicity in worldwide. Our laboratory have also been involved in these toxicological

researches, especially in genetic toxicity (MOE report, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995). In this respect, we reported no clastogenicity of major trichothecene mycotoxins such as T-2, HT-2 toxin, nivalenol, deoxynivalenol (Ryu *et al.*, 1993a) and some chemicals (Ryu *et al.*, 1994a, 1994b, 1996) using chinese hamster lung fibroblast cells *in vitro*.

In general, the majority of antineoplastic agents are also carcinogenic to human, so it is important to assess the carcinogenic potential of new antineoplastic agents. Recently, it was reported that the etoposide which is cancer chemotherapeutic human carcinogen was a potent inducer of micronucleus in male rat (Lahdetie *et al.*, 1994).

Taxol is a constituent which was isolated from the bark of *Taxus brevifolia*. It was identified as an anti-cancer agent for

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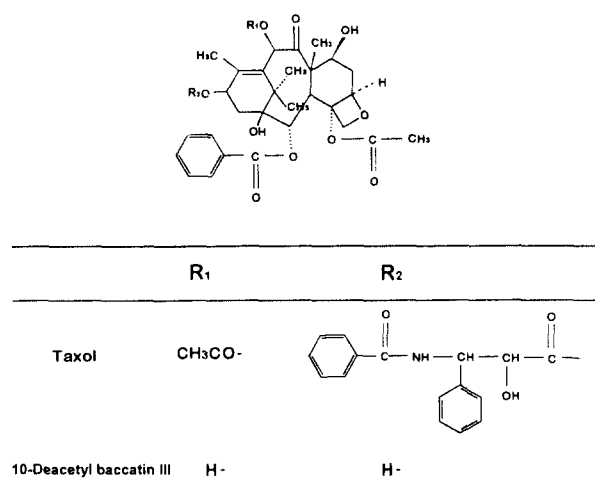


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of taxol and 10-deacetyl baccatin III.

the treatment of ovarian and breast carcinomas (Wani *et al.*, 1971; Kingston *et al.*, 1990). It is a potent inhibitor of eukaryotic cell replication, blocking cells in the late G₂-mitotic phase of the cell cycle. It has been shown to stabilize microtubules in the absence of GTP, which is normally required for assembly, and presumed to prevent cell division by inhibiting the normal functions of cellular microtubule and mitotic spindles, resulting in cell death (Burkhart *et al.*, 1994; Horwitz, 1992). These activities of taxol are in contrast to the known activities of other mitotic spindle poisons such as colchicine and vinblastine, which also inhibit microtubule assembly *in vitro* (Schiff *et al.*, 1979).

Baccatin derivatives are the starting material for the chemical synthesis of taxol-like anti-cancer agents. 10-Deacetyl baccatin III (DAB) is also natural compound similar with taxol in structure (Kingston *et al.*, 1990; Horwitz, 1992). It was deacetylated at C-10 position of baccatin III. The chemical structure of taxol and DAB is illustrated in Fig. 1. It was also reported that taxol was active in inhibiting cell growth, but DAB was inactive at the concentration of 20 μ M in macrophage-like cell line J774.2 (Parness *et al.*, 1982). Therefore, it was suggested that the esterification at C-13 appears to be essential for its activity.

Despite of the literature review (Bissett & Kaye, 1993), research in chemistry (Kingston 1991), pharmacological effects (Rowinsky & Donehower, 1991) and phase I clinical trial (Wiernik *et al.*, 1987), the genetic toxicity of taxol and baccatin derivatives has not been reported in the literature. However, recently Tinwell and Ashby (1994) reported that tax-

ol gave a strong positive response in the mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay as the first report of its genotoxicity. They reported that taxol induced micronucleus significantly, about 8 times higher than control at the dose of 50 mg/kg, ip, in mice.

So we aim to investigate the clastogenicity in mammalian cells and to identify the mutagenic moiety in taxol structure compared with DAB in the presence and absence of rat liver S-9 metabolic activation system in chinese hamster lung cells *in vitro*.

Materials and Methods

The methods used in this experiment was performed as described by OECD (1993) and Ishidate *et al.* (1977) with some minor modifications (Ryu *et al.*, 1994b, 1996) which are briefly summarized as follows.

Cell Culture

A clonal sub-line of a chinese hamster lung (CHL) fibroblast cells was obtained from the National Institute of Health Sciences, Tokyo, Japan. The karyotype of CHL cells consisted of 25 chromosomes. The cells had been maintained by 3-4 day passages and grown in a monolayer with Eagle's minimum essential medium (EMEM, Gibco, 410-1100EA) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Gibco, 26140-020). These cells were maintained at 37°C in 5% CO₂ atmosphere.

Reagents

Trypsin-EDTA and colcemid were the products of Gibco BRL Life Tech. Inc. (Gaithersburg, USA). The test chemicals, taxol and 10-deacetyl baccatin III, were purchased from the Sigma Chemical Company and Janssen Chimica, respectively. The test compounds were dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). The preparation of rat liver S-9 fraction for metabolic activation system was reported previously (Ames *et al.*, 1973; Maron and Ames, 1983). The S-9 fraction prepared stored immediately at -80°C before use.

Determination of the 50% growth inhibition concentration

Test article dose levels were determined prior to the main

study in a dose range-finding study performed both in the presence and absence of a rat liver S-9 activation system. For the growth inhibition assay, CHL cells were seeded at the densities of 1×10^4 cells/0.2 ml into 96 well plates. Twenty-four hours after seeding, several different doses of sample were separately added and incubated for 24 hours. And then the 50% inhibition concentration (IC_{50}) values were calculated by MTT assay (Mosmann, 1983).

Chromosome aberration assay

For the aberration assay, three different doses, including IC_{50} values as maximum dose, were prepared and separately added to 3-day old cultures (approximately 10^5 cells/60 mm dish). In the absence of metabolic activation, cultures were treated for 24 hours with the test article, while in the presence of metabolic activation, cells were treated for 6 hours because of its toxicity of S-9 and then maintained for 18 hours in the fresh medium i.e. to adjust a time equivalent to about 1.5 normal cell cycle lengths. Treatment was followed by addition of medium containing colcemid at a concentration of 0.2 μ g/ml. After 2 hr further incubation in the presence of colcemid, metaphase cells were harvested by centrifugation and trypsinization. The cells were swollen with hypotonic (0.075 M) KCl solution for 20 min at 37°C, and washed three times in ice-cold fixative (methanol : glacial acetic acid = 3 : 1). After centrifugation, the fixative was removed, and cell pellet suspensions were prepared by pipetting gently. A few drop of cell pellet suspension were dropped onto precleaned glass microscope slides, and air dried. Slides were stained with 5% Giemsa buffered solution at pH 6.8 for scoring of chromosome aberrations. The number of cells with chromosomal aberrations was recorded on 100 well-spread metaphases at the magnification of 1,000 with Axioscope microscope (Karl Zeiss, FRG). The types of aberration were followed by JEMS-MMS [1988] classification. Breaks less than the width of a chromatid were designated as gaps in our criteria, and not included as chromosomal aberration. The incidence of polyploid and endoreduplicated cells was also recorded when these events were observed. Solvent-treated cells served as controls in this experiment.

Evaluation

CHL cells usually have less than 3.0% cells with spon-

taneous chromosome aberrations. Aberration frequencies, defined as aberrations observed divided by number of cells counted, were analyzed using Fisher's exact test (Altman, 1993) with Dunnett's adjustment and compared with results from the solvent controls. Therefore, data from count up well-spread 100 metaphase cells were expressed as percentages, and then dose-dependent response and the statistical significance in *p*-value will be considered as positive results in our judgement.

Results and Discussion

It has been widely assumed that mutation represents at least one step in carcinogenesis. The evidence supporting this idea is that mutagens are carcinogens [McCann *et al.*, 1975] and, for at least some compounds, mutagenic potency is closely correlated with carcinogenic potency [Meselson and Russel, 1977]. Moreover, mutagens and certain non-mutagenic carcinogens have also been found to induce chromosomal rearrangement [Zimmermann, 1971] which may affect carcinogenesis by altering gene expression, perhaps by allowing the activation of cellular cancer genes [Radman *et al.*, 1982].

Cytogenetic studies on mammalian cells *in vivo* as well as *in vitro* have been introduced as a screening method for DNA attacking substances. Several short term methods have been developed (Ames *et al.*, 1973; Maron and Ames, 1983; Mersch-Sundermann *et al.*, 1991) for predicting the carcinogenicity of chemicals and also been introduced for the evaluation of genotoxicity (Ishidate and Odashima, 1977; Matsuoka *et al.*, 1979; Radman *et al.*, 1982; Hayashi *et al.*, 1982, 1990, 1992; Ryu *et al.*, 1993a, 1994a, 1994b, 1996) and of antimutagenicity (Sato *et al.*, 1991; Ryu *et al.*, 1993b).

Taxol is a well known compound for the treatment of some types of human cancer. However, there was no report concerning genetic toxicity of taxol except Tinwell and Ashby's report (1994) which was recently published. For the chromosomal aberration assay of taxol and DAB in chinese hamster lung cells, 50% cell growth inhibition concentration was determined by MTT assay. The IC_{50} values of taxol and DAB were $1/16 \times 10^{-4}$ M (5.34 μ g/ml) and 1×10^{-2} M (560 μ g/ml), respectively. It means that the cytotoxicity of taxol revealed 100 times more cytotoxic than DAB in CHL cell line. The DMSO negative control is revealed only one percent spontaneous chromatid breakage in CHL cells. And also, the positive controls,

mitomycin C (0.1 µg/ml) for without metabolic activation and benzo(a)pyrene (200 µg/ml) for with metabolic activation, induced good chromosome aberrations in CHL cells as shown in Table 1 and 2.

In the highest concentration of taxol estimated as IC₅₀ value (1/16×10⁻⁴ M), however, there was very rare metaphase cells at this concentration, so we lowered the highest concentration as 1/128×10⁻⁴ M (0.67 µg/ml) for the study without metabolic activation system. The highest concentration (0.67 µg/ml) of taxol revealed nine percent chromosomal aberration with statistical significance in the absence of metabolic activation system, however, the strong positive results were not observed at the other dose-ranges used (Table 1). No statistical significant chromosomal aberration observed in the concentration range from 1.34 µg/ml to 5.34 µg/ml in the presence of metabolic activation.

In *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay, it is usually adopted the highest concentration as the IC₅₀ value in the cell line used. However, it is not well understood why the metaphase cells were rare at the 5.34 µg/ml of taxol regardless the highest concentration as IC₅₀ value used in this experiment.

In the case of DAB, no significant clastogenicity was not observed in the concentration range from 70 µg/ml to 280 µg/ml in the presence and absence of rat liver S9 metabolic activation system as shown in Table 2. However, in the 280 µg/ml of DAB without metabolic activation, we also cannot scored chromosome aberrations because of its presence of very rare metaphase cells.

It is easily assumed that the hydrolysis at C-10 and/or C-13 of taxol will be occurred in the presence of rat liver metabolic activation system (Fig. 1). In this respect, it is observed that

Table 1. The frequency of chromosome aberrations induced by taxol in chinese hamster lung fibroblasts

Treatment	Concentration (µg/ml)	With(+) or Without(-) S9 Mix	Chromosome aberrations/100 cells				Judgement	
			chromatid		chromosome			Total aberration
			breakage	exchange	breakage	exchange		
DMSO	-	-	1			1		
Taxol	0.67	-	8			1	9*	
	0.34	-	4				4	+
	0.17	-	1				1	
MMC	0.1	-	11	20		1	32	
DMSO	-	+	1				1	
Taxol	5.34	+	1			1	2	
	2.67	+	1				1	-
	1.34	+	1				1	
B[a]P	200	+	6	14		3	23	

DMSO : Dimethylsulfoxide, MMC : Mitomycin C, B(a)P : Benzo(a)pyrene *statistical singificance

Table 2. The frequency of chromosome aberrations induced by 10-deacetyl baccatin III in chinese hamster lung fibroblasts

Treatment	Concentration (µg/ml)	With(+) or Without(-) S9 Mix	Chromosome aberrations/100 cells				Judgement	
			chromatid		chromosome			Total aberration
			breakage	exchange	breakage	exchange		
DMSO	-	-	1				1	
10-Deacetyl baccatin III	140	-	3				3	
	70	-		1			1	-
MMC	0.1	-	4	9		2	15	
DMSO	-	+	1				1	
10-Deacetyl baccatin III	280	+	1				1	
	140	+					0	-
	70	+	1				1	
B[a]P	200	+	6	14		3	23	

DMSO : Dimethylsulfoxide, MMC : Mitomycin C, B(a)P : Benzo(a)pyrene

the cytotoxicity of taxol in the presence of S-9 fraction revealed about 10 times less toxic than that of taxol in the absence of S-9 (Table 1). So it is suggested that cytotoxicity of taxol will be lowered by the influence of drug-metabolizing enzyme system *in vivo*.

Recently, several new methods for the detection of genetic damages *in vitro* and *in vivo* based on molecular biological techniques were introduced according to the rapid progress in cellular and molecular toxicology. Among these methods, the single cell gel electrophoresis (comet assay) which can be detected DNA damages in cell level (Mckelvey-Martin *et al.*, 1993; Singh *et al.*, 1994), mouse lymphoma thymidine kinase gene assay (Clive *et al.*, 1983; Sawyer *et al.*, 1985), FISH (fluorescence *in situ* hybridization) (Hayashi *et al.*, 1994), PRINS (primed *in situ* hybridization) (Abbo *et al.*, 1993) and transgenic animal and cell line model as a parameter of *lac I* (Big Blue) (Kohler *et al.*, 1991) or *lac Z* (Muta Mouse) (Suzuki *et al.*, 1993) gene mutation are newly introduced into chemical toxicity evaluation. Also, *in vivo* supravital micronucleus assay by using acridine orange fluorescent staining (Hayashi *et al.*, 1990, 1992) was introduced instead of mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay. Our laboratory is now under progress these assays to evaluate and to elucidate the mechanism of genetic toxicity and/or carcinogenesis, and will be presented in near future for the genetic toxicity of taxol and its related compounds.

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Chinese hamster lung cell을 이용한 Taxol과 10-deacetyl baccatin III의 *in vitro* 염색체 이상 시험연구

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적 요

항암제로 널리 쓰이는 Taxol에 관하여 최근에 *in vivo* 소핵실험에서 매우 강한 소핵유발능을 나타낸다는 보고 (*Carcinogenesis*, **15**, 1499-1501, 1994)에 따라 Chinese hamster lung cell을 이용하여 *in vitro*에서 염색체이상의 유발 유무를 검정하고, *in vivo*에서의 강한 소핵유발능이 Taxol 분자구조의 어느 moiety에 의한 것인가를 확인하고자 Taxol 생합성의 전구체로 널리 쓰이는 10-deacetyl baccatin III와 병행 비교하여 대사활성화의 관여 여부를 확인하고자 하였다.

그 결과 Taxol은 10-deacetyl baccatin III에 비해 약 100배 정도의 세포독성을 Chinese hamster lung cell에서 나타내었고, 염색체이상시험에서는 Taxol의 경우, 대사 활성 부재하에서는 약한 양성을 보였으나, 대사활성 존재 하에서는 염색체 이상 유발 유무를 관찰할 수 없었고, 10-deacetyl baccatin III는 대사 활성화 존재 및 부재하 모두에서 강한 염색체 이상유발능은 관찰할 수 없었다. 더불어 생체내 대사효소에 의한 Taxol의 대사가 +S-9과 -S-9에 의한 세포독성 data에서도 유추할 수 있었으나 10-deacetyl baccatin III는 대사활성 존재 및 부재 모두에서, Taxol은 대사활성 존재하에서만 염색체이상 음성의 결과를 보여 주고, 대사활성 부재하에서는 약한 양성을 보여, Taxol의 염색체 이상 유발능은 C-13의 ester결합기의 관여에 의한 유전독성으로 사료된다.