



Inducible Nitric Oxide Synthase

*, **, * . . . ** . *

Abstract

The Effect of Methylene Blue on Inducible Nitric-oxide Synthase in a Rat Model of Acute Lung Injury Induced by Paraquat

Hyun Soo Park, M.D., Chang Hyun Lee, M.D.*, Sung Goo Jung, M.D., Gil Joon Suh, M.D., Sung Eun Jung, M.D.**, and Yeo Kyu Youn, M.D.*

Department of Emergency Medicine and Surgery, Seoul National University College of Medicine
Department of Surgery, Cheju National University College of Medicine*
Department of Surgery, Seoul National University College of Medicine**

Purpose: This study was designed to determine if methylene blue inhibited the lipid peroxidation, the production of NO, and the gene expression of iNOS in acute lung injury induced by paraquat and if the inhibitory effect was dose dependent.

Methods: Female Sprague-Dawley rats were divided into four groups: the control group, the group treated with paraquat only, the group treated with paraquat and a low dose of methylene blue (2 mg/kg), and the group treated with paraquat and a high dose of methylene blue (20 mg/kg). Methylene blue was administered via the jugular vein 1 h after paraquat administration, and animals were sacrificed 6 and 24 h after paraquat administration. Malondialdehyde (MDA) as lipid peroxidation, reduced glutathione (GSH) as an antioxidant defense, the plasma NO concentration, and the expression of iNOS mRNA in the lung tissue were measured

Results: Lung MDA contents decreased, with no significant difference between the methylene-blue groups and the paraquat-only group. Lung GSH contents were significantly elevated at 24 h in the methylene-blue groups compared with the paraquat-only group. Plasma NO concen-

* Address for Correspondence : **Gil Joon Suh, M.D.**

Department of Emergency Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine
28 Yongon-dong, Chongno-gu, Seoul 110-744, Korea
Tel : 82-2-2072-2196, Fax : 82-2-3672-8871, E-mail : suhgil@snu.ac.kr

trations were significantly reduced at 6 and 24 h in the methylene-blue groups compared with the paraquat-only group. There was also a significant decrease in the plasma NO concentration at 6 h in the high-dose methylene-blue group compared with the low-dose methylene-blue group. The expression of iNOS mRNA in the lung tissue was slightly decreased in the methylene-blue groups. It was also markedly increased at 24 h in the paraquat-only group compared with the methylene-blue groups. The gene expression was relatively decreased in the high-dose methylene-blue group compared with the low-dose methylene-blue group.

Conclusion: This study suggests that methylene blue has an inhibitory effect on the plasma NO concentration and the expression of iNOS mRNA in lung injury induced by paraquat. No inhibitory effect of methylene blue on lipid peroxidation or dose-dependent inhibitory effects were clearly shown.

Key Words: Paraquat, Methylene blue, Malondialdehyde, Nitric oxide, Nitric oxide synthase

가
(5).

가 , 가 , 가
(1). (6-8)

iNOS (inducible nitric oxide synthase)
(2,3). (6,7).
superoxide radical peroxynitrite
guanylate cyclase
(7). 가 , (9).
(4). 가 (10),
(ARDS; acute respiratory distress syndrome)
가 , 가
(11).

가 NOS, 6, 24, 6, (Table 1).

가 iNOS

2) ketamine hydrochloride(75 mg/kg) xylazine(25 mg/kg) (supine position) 20 mg/kg(Sigma, St Louis, MO) 0.4 ml 1 (× 3, Olympus, Melville, NY USA) 23 guage scalp needle

1. 1) 10 (240~250 g) specific pathogen free Sprague-Dawley (Purina, Korea) 6 20 mg/kg 1 50 ml/kg 가 50 ml/kg 6 (1) ; (2) 1; + (2 mg/kg) 24 ketamine hydrochloride(50 mg/kg) heparin (4) 3; + (20 mg/kg) 4 가

Table 1. Study design

Group	Treatment	No. of sacrificed rats		Total (n)
		6 hours after treatment	24 hours after treatment	
Control	No	6	6	12
Group 1	PQ only	6	6	12
Group 2	PQ + Low dose MB	6	6	12
Group 3	PQ + High dose MB	6	6	12
Total (n)		24	24	48

PQ: paraquat; MB: methylene blue

—

-70 °C
4 °C 3,000 rpm 10
-70 °C

2.

1) MDA (malondialdehyde)

MDA
thiobarbituric acid (12).
1 g 1.15% KCl 9
ml 가 homoge
nizer (Fisher scientific, Pittsburgh, PA
USA) 7 °C 10 10
0.1 ml 8.1%
sodium dodecyl sulfate(SDS) 0.2 ml, NaOH
pH 3.5 20% acetic acid 1.5 ml,
0.8% thiobarbituric acid (TBA) 1.5 ml
4 ml 95
30 1
1 ml n-
butanol pyridine 15:1
5 ml 1~2 1,000 rpm
10 1~2 ml
(Beckman, Fullerton, CA USA)
532 nm
1 g MDA nmol (nmol/g)

2) GSH (glutathione)

GSH Griffith(13) DTNB-
GSSG Reductase Recycling Assay
(total glu-
tathione) (GSSG, glu-
tathione disulfide)
(GSH)
GSH = -½ GSSG
1 g micromole (µmol/g)

(1)

(stock buffer) 0.413 M sodium

18 1 —

phosphate 6.3 mM EDTA (Ethylenedia-
minetetraacetic acid) pH 7.5
(working buffer)
NADPH 0.248 mg/ml 4 °C

DTNB[5,5-dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid)]
6 mM
GSSG reductase 266 U/ml
4 °C GSH
100 mM GSH 10,000
10 5% SSA (sulfosalicylic
acid, Sigma, St. Louis, Mo, USA) 가
homogenizer 10,000
rpm 5 0.01 ml
0.19 ml, 0.7 ml, DTNB
0.1 ml 6 µ GSSG
reductase 가 30 °C
412 nm
1 15
GSH
GSH 1 nmol, 2 nmol, 3 nmol, 4
nmol 15

(2) GSSG

GSSG GSH
0.1 ml 가
2-vp(2-vinylpyridine) 2 µ triethanolamine
6 µ 가 60
GSSG
50 mM GSSG 5% SSA 0.1 ml, 2-vp 2
µ, triethanolamine 6 µ
0.2 nmol, 0.1 nmol, 0.05 nmol, 0.025
nmol 412 nm

3)

nitrate (NO₃⁻) nitrite (NO₂⁻)

가
 nitrate nitrite
 Greiss
 reagent kit
 nitrate nitrite
 (14). $\mu\text{mol/L}$

Madison, WI USA), 1 U/ μ ribonuclease inhibitor (Promega, USA), and Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus reverse transcriptase (GibcoBRL, USA) . cDNA
 iNOS glyceralde
 hyde-3 phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH)
 (Waltham, MA
 USA)

4) iNOS mRNA
 kit (TRI Reagent, Molecular
 Research Center, Inc, USA)
 100 mg RNA ,
 (Beckman, Fullerton, CA USA)
 260 nm RNA .
 RNA 100 ng first strand
 complementary DNA (cDNA)
 5 mM MgCl₂, 1mM
 dNTP, 2.5 mM Random Hexmer (Promega,

2 pmol of primer, 2.5 U/ μ Taq
 polymerase(Takara, Tokyo, Japan), 0.8 mM
 of dNTP, and 1.5 mM MgCl₂ .
 94 3 denatu
 ration 30 cycle , cycle 94 °C
 1 denaturation 58 1.5
 annealing 72 °C 10 elongation
 iNOS cDNA oligonu
 cleotide primer 5'-CCCTTCCGAAGTTTC
 TGGCAGCAGG-3(sense) 5'-GGCTGTCA

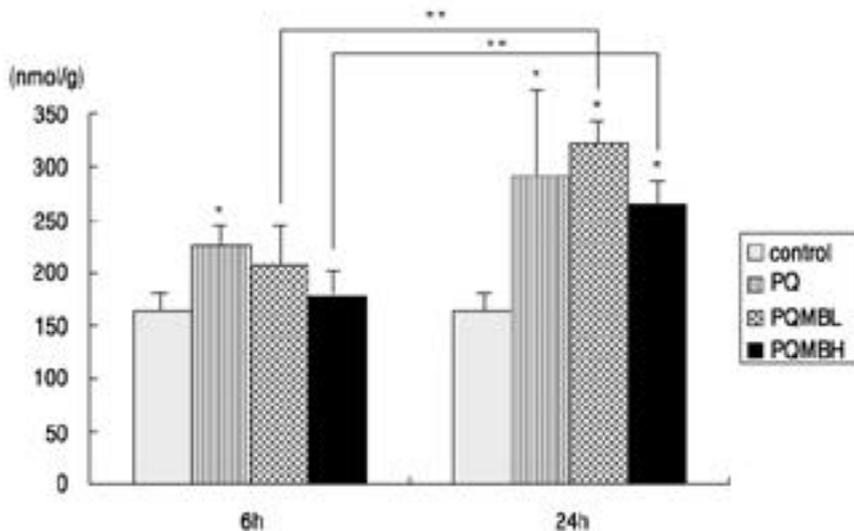


Fig. 1. The effect of methylene blue on lung MDA level.

Lung MDA levels were decreased with no significance in the methylene blue treated groups compared with the paraquat only treated group. There was no significant change in lung MDA level between the high and low dose methylene blue treated groups. Lung MDA levels were significantly elevated between at 6 h and 24 h after operation in the both high and low dose methylene blue treated groups.

PQ: paraquat only treated group; PQMBL: paraquat with low dose methylene blue treated group; PQMBH: paraquat with high dose methylene blue treated group

*: significant compared with the control group

** : significant between at 6 h and 24 h in each group

GAGCCTTGTGCCTTTGG-3(antisense) , one-way ANOVA T test
 GAPDH cDNA oligonucleotide ±
 primer 5'-TCCCTCAAGATTGTCAGCAA-3' p < 0.05
 (sense) 5'-AGATCCACAACGGATACATT-
 3'(antisense) . Housekeeping gene
 GAPDH control , GAPDH
 band가 RNA . PCR 1. MDA (Fig. 1)
 products 0.5 μg/ml ethidium bromidewere가
 1.5% agarose MDA 164.56±
 . iNOS gene GAPDH 14.04 nmol/g . 6 MDA
 gene PCR products 498bp ,
 309bp . bioimage pro- 225.17±28.94, 207.78±46.87,
 cessing system (Biomedlab, Seoul, Korea) 177.41±27.65 nmol/g
 3. : MDA 가
 (p < 0.05), MDA
 SPSS for Windows 11.0 package 가 ,

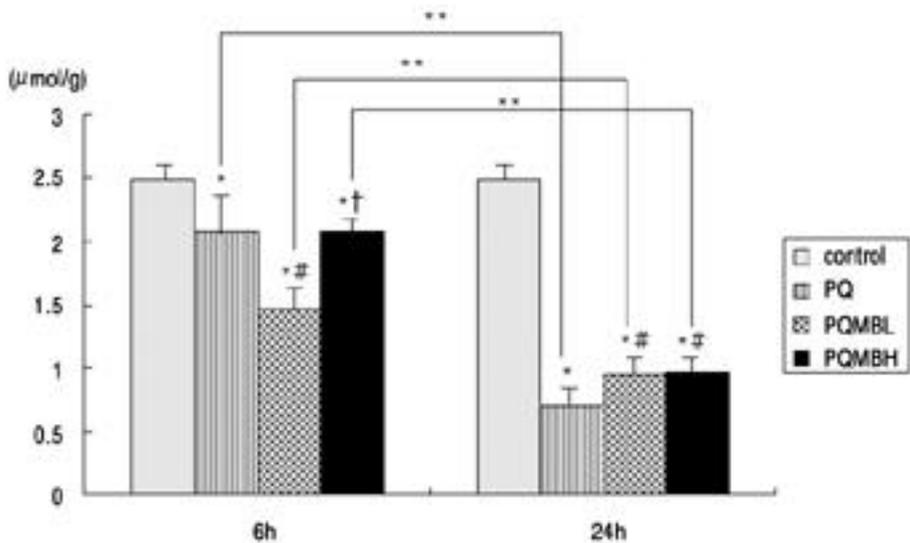


Fig. 2. The effect of methylene blue on lung GSH level.
 There was a significant increase in lung GSH content in the high dose methylene blue treated group compared with the low dose methylene blue treated group. Lung GSH contents were significantly elevated at 24 h in the methylene blue treated groups compared with the paraquat only treated group. Lung GSH levels were elevated significantly between at 6h and 24h after operation in all three paraquat treated groups.
 PQ: paraquat only treated group; PQMBL: paraquat with low dose methylene blue treated group; PQMBH: paraquat with high dose methylene blue treated group
 *: significant compared with the control group
 **: significant between at 6h and 24h in each group
 #: significant between the high and low dose paraquat treated groups

— : 가 iNOS —

. 24 GSH (p < 0.05),

MDA 290.66±86.88, 321.55±22.33, GSH (p < 0.05).

264.85±25.53 nmol/g MDA 가 (p < 0.05). 24 GSH GSH (p < 0.05).

MDA 0.70±0.12, 0.95±0.18, 0.97±0.10 μmol/g GSH (p < 0.05).

MDA 6 24 가 (p < 0.05). GSH (p < 0.05), GSH

2. GSH

GSH 2.48±0.51 μmol/g 6 24 (p < 0.05)(Fig. 2).

. 6

3.

2.08±0.28, 1.46±0.15, 2.12±0.12 μmol/g 17.19±1.85 μ

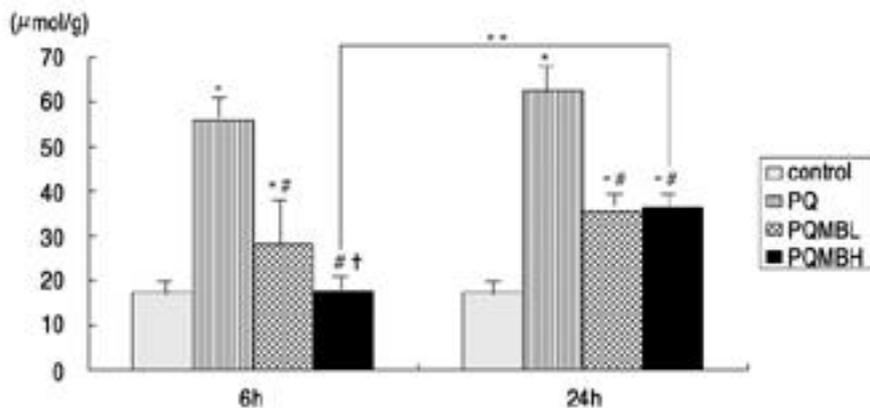


Fig. 3. The effect of methylene blue on plasma NO concentration.

Plasma NO concentrations were significantly reduced at 6 and 24 h in methylene blue treated groups compared with the paraquat only treated group. There was also a significant decrease in plasma NO concentration at 6 h in high dose methylene blue treated group compared with the low dose methylene blue treated group. Plasma NO concentration was also elevated significantly with time in the high dose methylene blue treated group.

PQ: paraquat only treated group; PQMBL: paraquat with low dose methylene blue treated group; PQMBH: paraquat with high dose methylene blue treated group

*: significant compared with the control group

**: significant between at 6h and 24h in each group

#: significant between the high and low dose paraquat treated groups

— 18 1 —

mol/L . 6 ±2.65 μmol/L .

가 가 (p < 0.05),

55.71±5.43, 28.27±10.25, 17.81±

2.20 μmol/L . (p <

가 가 , 6 24

가 (p < 0.05)(Fig. 3).

< 0.05). 4. iNOS mRNA

가 iNOS

. 24 . 6

iNOS 가

62.28±6.26, 35.39±2.27, 36.30

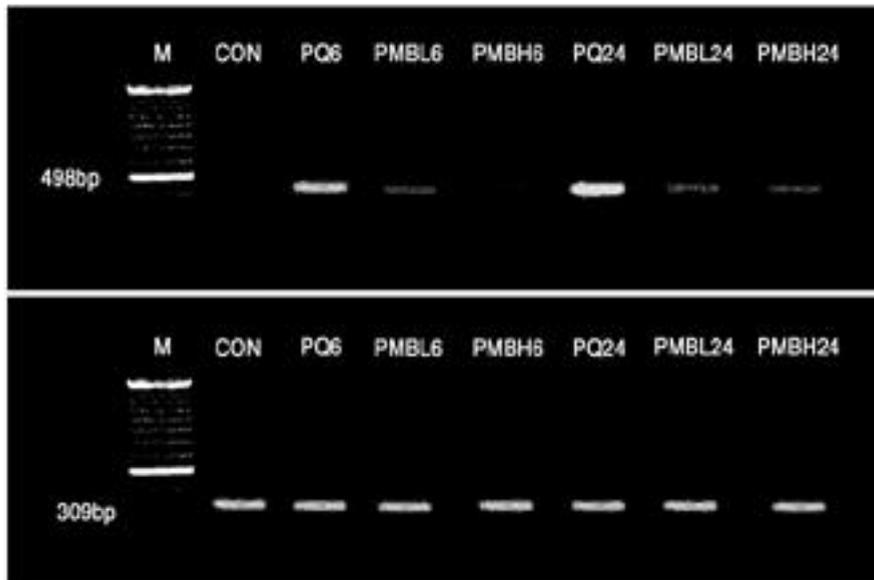


Fig. 4. The effect of methylene blue on the gene expression of iNOS mRNA in the lung.
 The expression of iNOS mRNA in the lung tissue was increased in the paraquat only treated group at 6 h, which was slightly decreased in the methylene blue treated groups. It was also markedly increased at 24 h in the paraquat only treated group compared with methylene blue treated groups. The gene expression was relatively decreased in the high dose methylene blue treated group compared with the low dose methylene blue treated group.
 CON: control; PQ6: paraquat only treatment at 6 h; PMBL6: paraquat with low dose of methylene blue at 6 h; PMBH6: paraquat with high dose of methylene blue at 6 h; PQ24: paraquat only treatment at 24 h; PMBL24: paraquat with low dose of methylene blue at 24 h; PMBH24: paraquat with high dose of methylene blue at 24 h

가 iNOS

24
iNOS 2 mg/kg 10

가
iNOS

6
iNOS 가 (Fig. 4).
가

iNOS mate (20), gluta
가

가 flavo xanthine oxi- (21, 22). 가
dase, NADH cytochrome c reductase peroxynitrite
NADPH cytochrome c reductase 100 ~ 600 NOS
가

Cytochrome c NOS
superoxide hydroxyl L-NAME
(15). (23). Berisha
Haluzik (16) 가

thi- L-NAME L-NNA NOS
azine vital dye (24). NOS가
(17), cytochrome P450 reductase
lipopolysaccharide (25), Day 가
iNOS 가 (O₂.-)
(18). NOS NOS가
가가 , 가
iNOS diaphorase (26).
(19). diaphorase NADH NADPH

6 , flavin
NADH NADPH
MDA
GSH NOS
가 가 ,
24 가
(2 mg/kg)
20 mg/kg 5 가

(27).

가

iNOS

iNOS

가

iNOS

eNOS

nNOS

가

가

가

가

iNOS

가

가

mg/kg)

(20 mg/kg)

(2

가

가

iNOS

가

가

가

REFERENCES

1) Gomez-Jimenez J, Salgado A, Mourelle M, Martin MC, Segura RM, Peracaula R, Moncada S. Nitric oxide pathway in endotoxemia and human septic shock. *Crit Care Med* 1995;23:253-7.
 2) Thiemermann C. Nitric oxide and septic shock. *Gen Pharmacol* 1997;29:159-66.

3) Ceppi ED, Smith FS, Titheradge MA. Nitric oxide, sepsis, and liver metabolism. *Biochem Soc Trans* 1997;25:929-34.
 4) Shulz R, Nava E, Moncada S. Induction and potential biological relevance of a Ca²⁺ independent nitric oxide synthase in the myocardium. *Br J Pharmacol* 1992;17:399-402.
 5) Lopez BL, Christopher TA, Griswold SK, Ma XL. Bench to Bedside: Nitric oxide in Emergency Medicine. *Acedemic Emergency Medicine* 2000;7:285-293.
 6) Andresen M, Dougnac A, Hernandez G, Espejo J, Castillo L, Bugedo G, Letelier LM, Dagineo J. Inhibition of the nitric oxide pathway in refractory septic shock. *Rev Med Chil* 1996;124:442-7.
 7) Driscoll W, Thurin S, Carrion V, Steinhorn RH, Morin FC 3rd. Effect of methylene blue on refractory neonatal hypotension. *J Pediatr* 1996;129:904-8.
 8) Andresen M, Dougnac A, Diaz O, Hernandez G, Castillo L, Bugedo G, Alvarez M, Dagineo J. Use of methylene blue in patients with refractory septic shock: impact on hemodynamics gas exchange 1998;13:164-8.
 9) Daemen-Gubbels CR, Groeneveld PH, Groeneveld AB, van Kamp GJ, Bronsveld W, Thijs LG. Methylene blue increases myocardial function in septic shock. *Crit Care Med* 1995;23:1363-70.
 10) Galili Y, Kluger Y, Mianski Z, Iaina A, Wollman Y, Marmur S, Soffer D, Chernikovskiy T, Klausner JP, Robau MY. Methylene blue - a promising treatment modality in sepsis induced by bowel perforation. *Eur Surg Res* 1997;29:390-5.
 11) Gachot B, Bedos JP, Veber B, Wolff M, Regnier B. Short-term effects of methylene blue on hemodynamic and gas exchange in humans with septic shock. *Intensive Care Med* 1995;21:1027-31.
 12) Ohkawa H, Ohishi N, Yagi K. Assay for lipid peroxides in animal tissues by thiobarbituric acid reaction. *Annal Biochem* 1979;95:351-358.
 13) Griffith OW. Determination of glutathione and glutathione sulfide using glutathione reductase and 2-vinylpyridine. *Annal Biochem* 1980;106:207-212.

- 14) Green LC, Wagner DA, Glogowski J, Skipper PL, Wishnok JS, Tannenbaum SR. Analysis of nitrate, nitrite, and [¹⁵N]nitrate in biological fluids. *Annal Biochem* 1982;126:131-138.
- 15) Kelner MJ, Bagnell R, Hale B, Alexander NM. Methylene blue competes with paraquat for reduction by flavo-enzymes resulting in decreased superoxide production in the presence of heme proteins. *Arch Biochem Biophys* 1988;262:422-6.
- 16) Haluzik M, Nedvidkova J, Skrha J. The influence of NO synthase inhibitor and free oxygen radicals scavenger--methylene blue--on streptozotocin induced diabetes in rats. *Physiol Res* 1998;47:337-41.
- 17) Geng Y, Zhou L, Thompson WJ, Lotz M. Cyclic GMP and cGMP-binding phosphodiesterase are required for interleukin-1-induced nitric oxide synthesis in human articular chondrocytes. *J Biol Chem* 1998;16:27484-91.
- 18) Lomniczi A, Cebal E, Canteros G, McCann SM, Rettori V. Methylene blue inhibits the increase of inducible nitric oxide synthase activity induced by stress and lipopolysaccharide in the medial basal hypothalamus of rats. *Neuroimmunomodulation* 2000;8:122-7.
- 19) Cohen N, Robinson D, Ben-Ezzer J, Hemo Y, Hasharoni A, Wolmann Y, Otremski I, Nevo Z. Reduced NO accumulation in arthrotic cartilage by exposure to methylene blue. *Acta Ortho Scand* 2000;71:630-6.
- 20) Dawson VL, Dawson TM, London ED, Bredt DS, Snyder SH. Nitric oxide mediates glutamate toxicity in primary control cultures. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1991;88:6368-71.
- 21) Kolb, H, Kolb-Bachofen V. Nitric Oxide: a pathogenetic factor in autoimmunity. *Immunol Today* 1992;13:157-60.
- 22) Mulligan MS, Hevel JM, Marletta MA, Ward PA. Tissue injury caused by deposition of immune complexes is L-arginine dependent. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1991;88:6338-42.
- 23) Pou S, Pou WS, Bredt DS, Snyder SH, Rosen GM. Generation of superoxide by purified brain nitric oxide synthase. *J Biol Chem* 1992;267:24173-6.
- 24) Berisha HI, Pakbaz H, Absood A, Said SI. Nitric oxide as a mediator of oxidant lung injury due to paraquat. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1994;91:7445-7449.
- 25) Bredt DS, Hwang PM, Glatt CE, Lowenstein C, Reed RR, Snyder SH. Cloned and expressed nitric oxide synthase structurally resembles cytochrome P-450 reductase. *Nature* 1991;351:714-8.
- 26) Day BJ, Patel M, Calavetta L, Chang LY, Stamler JS. A mechanism of paraquat toxicity involving nitric oxide synthase. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1999;96:12760-5.
- 27) Lowenstein CJ, Glatt CS, Bredt DS, Snyder SH. Cloned and expressed macrophase nitric oxide synthase contrasts with the brain enzyme. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1992; 89:6711-5.