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Submission date: 24-Sep-2019 12:30PM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1178898251

File name: 4577-7053-1-PB-Cytoprotective\_effect.pdf (267.54K)

Word count: 2161

Character count: 12741

# Cytoprotective effect of tangeretin in hydrogen peroxyde-inducedoxydative stress on human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs)

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#### ABSTRAK

Cekaman oksidatif diketahui merupakan pemicu terhadap kerusakan jaringan vaskuler yang kemudian mengakibatkan timbulnya penyakit hipertensi, aterosklerosis, dan gagal jantung. Senyawa polimetoksiflavon yang terkandung dalam buah sitrus seperti tangeretin dan nobiletin telah diketahui memiliki aktivitas biologik, antara lain menurunkan kadar kolesterol dan sebagai antiinflamasi. Mekanisme penting memperantarai aterosklerosis adalah terjadinya cekaman oksidatif, yang menyebabkan disfungsi sel endotel. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui efek sitoprotektif tangeretin terhadap cekaman oksidatif pada sel HUVEC yang diinduksi dengan hidrogen peroksida. Viabilitas sel ditentukan melalui metode MTT. Sel diberi perlakuan seri konsentrasi tangeretin (12,5; 100; and 200 µM) selama 24 jam sebelum diberi perlakuan 600 µM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> selama 4 jam. Analisis viabilitas sel menunjukkan bahwa tangeretin pada konsentrasi rendah, 12,5 µM, tangeretin menghambat sitotoksisitas yang diinduksi oleh H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dan bahkan menginduksi proliferasi sel. Namun demikian, pada konsentrasi tinggi, tangeretin tidak mampu menghambat sitotoksisitas H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> dan justru menginduksi sitotoksisitas yang lebih tinggi daripada H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Berdasarkan hasil ini, efek sitoprotektif tangeretin terhadap stress oksidatif memerlukan optimasi terhadap konsentrasi yang diaplikasikan

Kata kunci: Tangeretin, cekaman oksidatif, sel endotel vena umbilical manusia (HUVEC), hidrogen peroksida.

#### INTRODUCTION

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) is potent pathogenic mechanism in atherosclerosis, a major player in the initiation and progression of cardiovascular dysfunction associated with diseases such as hypertension, atherosclerosis, diabetes mellitus, and chronic heart failure (Taniyama and Griendling, 2003). Oxidative stress, defined as

#### ABSTRACT

Oxydative stress is known as a major trigger in cardiovascular dysfunction that leads to hypertension, atherosclerosis, and chronic heart failure. Polymethoxyflavone such as tangeretin and nobiletin has been reported to have biological activity including reducing cholesterol level and antiinflammation activity. The critical point that mediates atherosclerosis is the formation of stress oxidative which causes endothelial cells dysfunction. This study was conducted to explore the effect of tangeretin in prosting H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress on HUVEC. Cell viability was determined by using MTT assay. Cells were treated with different concentrations of tangeretic 11 2.5, 100; and 200  $\mu$ M) for 24h before exposed to 600  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 4h. Cells viability analyses showed that at low concentration (12.5 µM), tangeretin inhibited H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>induced cytotoxicity. Furthermore, it induced cells proliferation. However, at high concentration, it failed to protect HUVEC from H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced cytotoxicity and increased the cytotoxicity of H2O2. Based on this result, tangeretin in low concentration has a potential to reduce oxidative stress on HUVECs.

Keywords: Tangeretin, oxidative stress, human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs), hydrogen peroxide.

imbalance of pro-oxidants and antioxidants in the organism (Taniyama and Griendling, 2003). The ROS underlies redox chemistry involving reduction-oxidation reactions at formation of the univalent reduction of oxygen, i.e. superoxide (O2) (Stocker and Konney, 2004). Although superoxide itself has injury effects on vascular function, it is also play

major in producing other reactive species by several enzyme systems (Taniyama and Griendling, 2003; Stocker and Keaney, 2004). Dismutation of superoxide by superoxide dismutase enzyme (SOD) will produce the more stable ROS, i.e. hydrogen peroxide (H2O2), which is then converted enzymatically into H2O by catalase and glutathione eroxidase (GPx) (Taniyama and Griendling, 2003). Under normal circumstances the levels of ROS are low enough to be removed by the natural defense systems in the body. Several antioxidant enzymes in the cells may convert the stable OS into nonreactive form. Therefore, it inhibits the formation of more reactive ROS (Stocker and Keaney, 2004). Thus, homeostasis between production of ROS andantioxidant plays major role in the prevention of

Oxidative stress is one of potent pathogenic mechanism in atherosclerosis (Hansson, 2005) by stimulating cellular injury, mitochondrial dysfunction, and apoptosis (Madamanchi and Runge, 2007). One possible mechanism by which oxidative stress may trigger cellular toxicity in cell is by inducting the release of cytochrome c into the cytosol, which in turn triggers the mit hondria apoptotic pathway (Wen et al., 2013). Atherosclerosis is a chronic inflammatory response to high serum cholesterol levels, leading to plaque formation and the hardening of arteries. Cumulatively, these effects increase an individual risk of stroke, myocardial infarction or ditional systemic complications (Singhet al., 2002).
The progressive nature of this disease can remain undetected for many years (Hansson, 2005). therosclerosis induce endothelial dysfunction, that functions as an impermeable barrier whose integrity plays important roles in prohibiting leukocyte adhesion, reducing inflammation, and supporting the vasculature that release paracrine signaling peptides to regulate vascular tone during hemodynamic stress and oxidative stress (Davidson and Duchen, 2007). herefore, it is need to develop new compound affecting multiple target like oxidative stress and mitochondria may afford better protection against atherosclerosis

In natural source, flavonois have been known as a potent antioxidant. Epidemiological studies have reported that diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and tea might reduce risk of chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular diseases (Mulvihiland Huff, 2012). Polymethoxy-flavones (PMF) compounds in orange peel are one kind of flavonoids that was reported to have the ability in lowering-cholesterol levels (Kurowska et al., 2004). Previous report showed that water extract of sweet orange peel inhibited the cytotoxic effect of t-BHP on HepG2 cells. The phenolic bioactive compounds in the extract, including tangeretin (Fig.1), may responsible on that effect (Chen et al., 2012).

Figure 1. The molecule structure of tangeretin

To investigate whether tangeretin protected dothelial cells from oxidative stress, we used hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ) to induce oxidative stress in human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs). In previous study (Wen et al., 2013), treatment with  $H_2O_2$  in endothelial cell culture was reported to stimulate ROS concentration, decrease antioxidant enzymes, increase mitochondrial dis-function, and increase product of lipid peroxidation enzyme.

This study elucidates the potency of angeretin to protect endothelial cells against oxidative stress and endothelial dis-function. Thus, it is potential to be developed to prevent atherosclerosis.

#### MATERIALS AND METHOD

#### Isolation and Cell culture

Human umbilical vein cells (HUVECs) are isolated from the vein of the umbilical cord by 1 mg/mL collagenase (kindly given by 1 for. Hiroshi Itoh) treatment (Ethical clearance from Medical and

Health Research Ethics Committee (MHREC) Faculty of Medicine Universitas Gadjah Mada – Dr. Sardjito General Hospital No. KE/FK/619/EC). Cells seeded on gelatin coated dish and cultured in monolayers at 37°C in a 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere in Dulbecco modified Eagles medium (DMEM low glucose) (Gibco) supplemented with 10% heat inactivated 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Sigma); 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma); 0.5% fungizon (Gibco); 1 ng/mL vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) (Sigma); and 30 µg/mL endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF) (Sigma).

#### Cytotoxicity assay

Cell viability was measured by the MTT assay (Sigma), which measures the mitochondrial reduction MTT to formazan. HUVECs, 70-80% confluence, in 96-well plates were cultured in 10% FBS-DMEM containing 1% pen-strep at 37°C in 5% CO2 atmosphere for 24 h. Cells were treated a series of concentrations of tangeretin (Sigma) (12.5; 100; and 200  $\mu$ M) for 24h before exposed to 600  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Merck) for 4h. Following H2O2 treatment, 0.5 mg/mL was added to each well and cultures were incubated for 4 h at 37°C. The dark blue formazan crystals formed in intact cells were solved in 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS). The purple colour of the solution was measured by ELISA reader (BioRad)  $\lambda$  550 nm and analyzed. Cell viability was calculated as bellows:

Cell viability (%) = (absorbance of each treated group: absorbance of control) x 100%.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The bioactive compounds contained in orange peel have been suggested to contribute in the effect water extract of sweet orange peel in protecting HepG2 cells from oxidative stress induced by t-BHP (Chen et al., 2012). Tangeretin, together with nobiletin, is one of the polymethoxylated flavones that are abundant in the orange peel. This study explored the potency of tangeretin in protecting endothelial cells from oxidative stress by measuring cells viability using MTT.

We determined the effect of tangeretin in protecting endothelial cells by pre-treated the cells with different concentrations of tangeretin (12.5; 100; and 200 µM) for 24h, before exposing it to 600 µM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 4h. As shown in Fig.2, treatment of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> alone reduced cells viability much smaller than control cells. On the contrary, cells pre-treated with 12.5 µM tangeretin were not affected by H2O2 treatment and grow higher than control cells. However, high concentration of tangeretin, 100 and 200 µM, were failed to protect the cells from H2O2 treatment. These results showed that H2O2 (600 µM) was cytotoxic on HUVECs, and tangeretin had different effect depending on its concentration. Pretreatment with low concentration of tangeretin preserved endothelial cell viability, but high concentration of tangeretin did not.

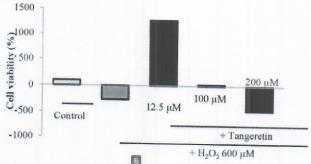


Figure 2. Profile the effect of tangeretinon Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) against hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) treatment. HUT Cs were treated with different concentrations of tangeretin (12.5; 100; and 200 µM) for 24h, then exposed to 600 µM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 4h. Following H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment, the viability of the cells were then measured using MTT solution and as described in the method.

Moreover, low concentration tangeretin may have a proliferative effect for the endothelial cells because at this concentration, cells viability were higher than control, although it has been exposed tocytotoxic agent, H2O2. From the present result (Fig.2), it is suggested that low concentration of tangeretin may protect cells from cytotoxicity caused by oxidative stress. However, high concentration induced cytotoxicity. The potential of tangeretin in reducing oxidative stress may involve several mechanisms such as reducing ROS and lipid peroxidation products, and increasing catalase enzyme activities. Tangeretin was reported to limit endogenous ROS production but it did not scavenge DPPH radical (Yoon et al., 2011). Imp et al. (2013) showed that H2S inhibited H2O2 mediated mitochondrial dysfunction in human endothelial cells by preserving antioxidant defenses.

Therefore, it is important to further examine the antioxidant system and mitochondrial integrity, including analysis of ROS and lipid peroxidation products; endogen antioxidant enzyme activities; and expression of cytochrome c. This paper demonstrates the potential of tangeretin as a cytoprotective agent.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, tangeretin in low concentration has a potential to reduce oxidative stress on HUVECs. However, high concentration of tangeretin cause cytotoxicity, therefore further experiments are needed to optimize its concentration as cytoprotective.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 1. Balitbangkes Kemenkes RI for the research grant from its program, RISBIN IPTEKDOK 2014.
- Dokter Dwi Haryadi Sp.OG, for the umbilical cord samples.
- Prof. Hiroshi Itoh from Nara Institute Science and Technology (NAIST) Japan for the collagenase.

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