

図 10. 幼児のサプリメント利用経験 (n=2,063)

図11. 年齢別、幼児のサプリメント利用率

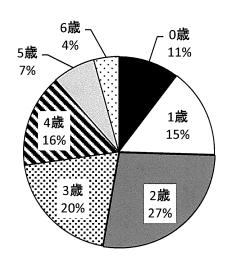


図 12. 幼児にサプリメントを与え始めた年齢 (n=165)

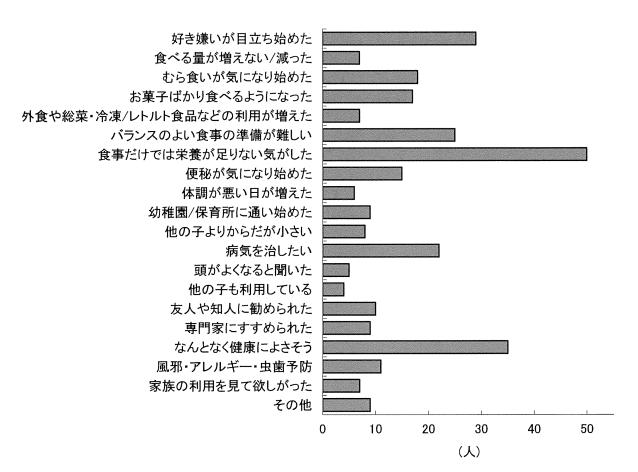


図 13. 幼児にサプリメントを与え始めたきっかけ (n=165)

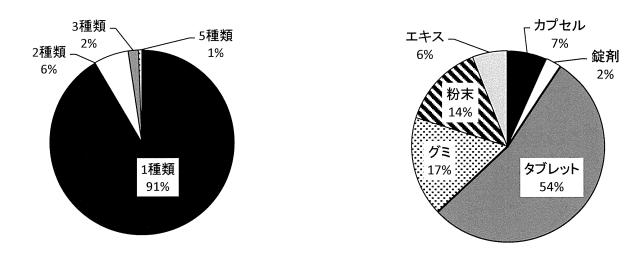


図 14. 幼児に与えたサプリメントの数 (n=165) 図 15. 幼児に与えたプリメントの形態 (n=165)

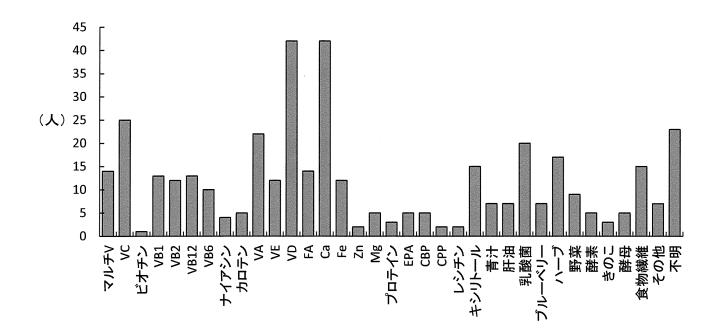


図 16. 幼児に与えたサプリメントの成分 (n=165)

マルチ V: マルチビタミン、VC: ビタミン C、VB1: ビタミン B1、VB2: ビタミン B12、VB6: ビタミン B6、VA: ビタミン A、VE: ビタミン E、VD: ビタミン D、FA: 葉酸、Ca: カルシウム、Fe: 鉄、Zn: 亜鉛、Mg: マグネシウム、EPA: エイコサペンタエン酸、CBP: Concentrated Bovine-milk whey active Protein、CPP: カゼインホスホペプチド

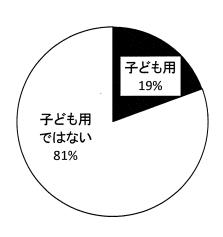


図 17. 幼児に与えたサプリメントの子ども用表示 (n=165)

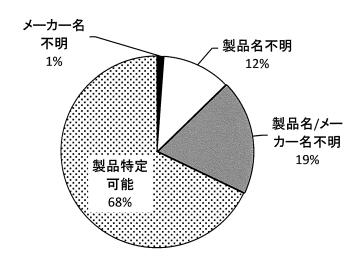


図 18. 幼児に与えた製品に対する母親の認識 (n=165)

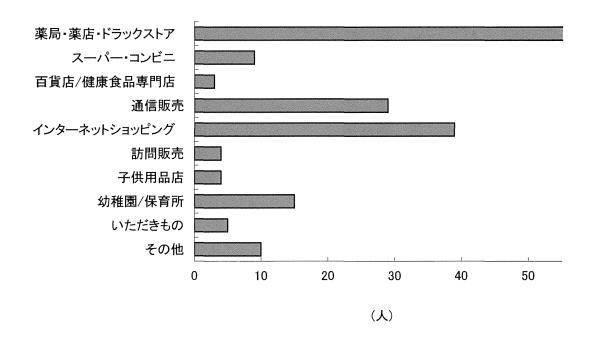
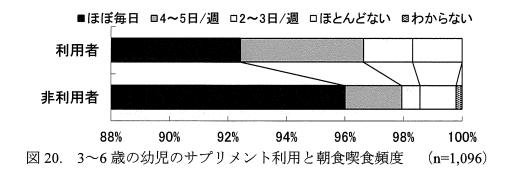


図 19. 幼児に与えたサプリメントの購入先 (n=165)



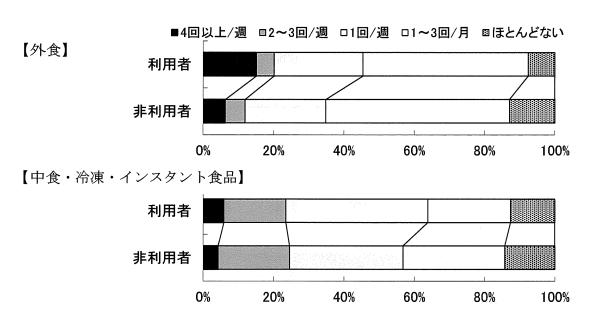


図 21. $3\sim6$ 歳の幼児のサプリメント利用と外食、中食・冷凍・インスタント食品摂取頻度 (n=1,096)

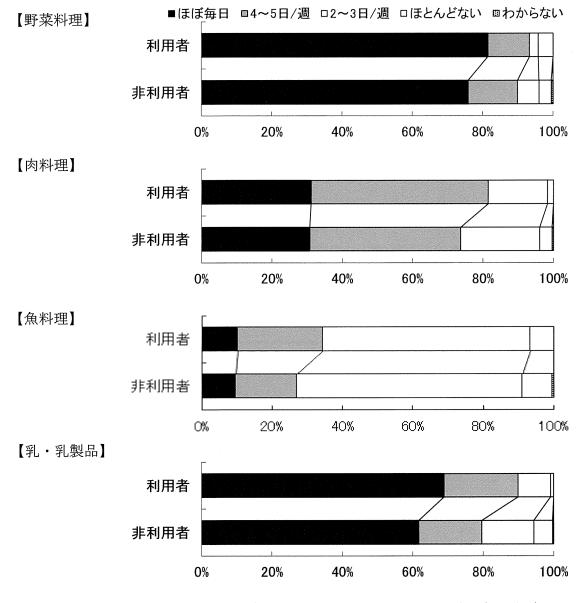


図 22. $3\sim6$ 歳の幼児のサプリメント利用と食品摂取頻度 (n=1,096)

【食事が待ち遠しそう】

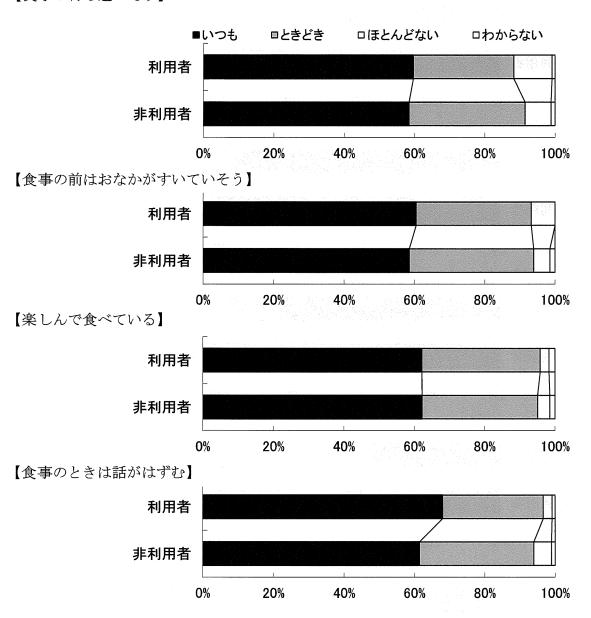
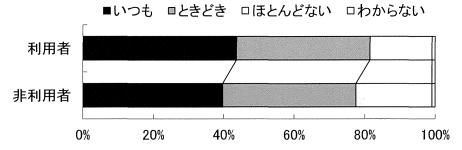
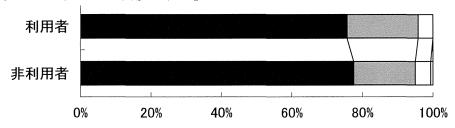


図 23. 3~6 歳の幼児のサプリメント利用と食事の楽しみに関する態度 (n=1,096)

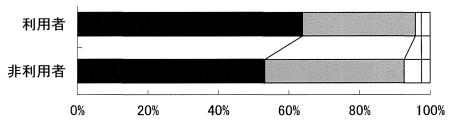
【食事の前に手を洗う】



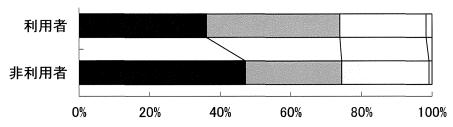
【いただきます、ごちそうさまの挨拶をする】



【よく噛んで食べている】



【食事中、テレビがついている】



【食事の準備や片付けのお手伝いをする】

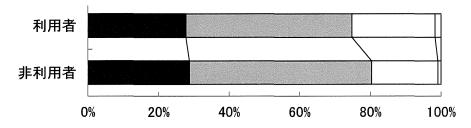


図 24. 3~6 歳の幼児のサプリメント利用と食事のマナー等に関する態度 (n=1,096)

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発表誌名

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健康食品の安全性をめぐる最近の話題

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はじめに

健康食品の機能性と安全性に関する研究および規制の動向は、1980年代に「食品の機能性研究」として始まり、1990年代に「保健機能食品制度」が創設され、2000年代の「健康食品の制度のあり方」の検討会を経て、2013年の「健康食品の表示等あり方の建議」に至るまで、約30年にわたって種々の場面で展開されてきた。しかし、保健機能食品制度を除いて、いわゆる健康食品とは何かという定義、機能性の表示や安全性において満たすべき基準などについては明確に定まっていない」。

最近,諸外国,とくに米国におけるサプリメントの機能性表示の実態,わが国における2013年6月の規制改革会議での閣議決定²⁾などから,健康食品の機能性表示に注目が集まっているが,その前提に安全性の担保があることは言をまたないところである。本稿では,本来,なによりも機能性の基盤として確保されるべき健康食品の安全性について,とくに健康被害情報収集の現状と今後の課題にポイントをしぼって整理したい。

1 健康食品による健康被害情報の収集過程

健康食品の安全性の確保については、2008年7月の厚生労働省通知3 により、①製造上の品質(原料と製造)確保、②健康被害情報の収集、③消費者への啓発の3本柱が指針として示された(表1)。これらはいずれも、健康食品の安全性確保における重要課題であるが、本稿では②を中心に述べていく。健康食品による健康被害情報の収集にあたって、まずは前提となる健康被害の「定義」がないという現状があり、情報収集上、混乱を招く原因となっている。さらには、健康被害情報が、医療機関や保健所・企業・消費者センターなどで個別に収集・評価されているという、収集・評価システム上の標準化、および医薬品とは異なり行政に対する報告義務がないといった規制上の課題がある。

2 健康食品による健康被害情報のリスク評価

健康食品による健康被害情報を入手した場合,一部の医療機関や企業では,蓄積された

●表 1 「健康食品」の安全性確保に関する検討会報告書の概要

国民の健康に対する関心の高まりなどを背景として、これまで一般に飲食に供されることのなかったものや、特殊な形態のものなど、さまざまな食品が「健康食品」として流通するなかで、より安全性の高い製品が消費者に供給されるためには、以下のような製造段階から販売段階および健康被害情報の収集・処理にわたり、幅広い取り組みが必要。

製造段階における具体的な方策

- 1) 原材料の安全性の確保(文献検索を実施、食経験が不十分なときは毒性試験を実施)。
- 2) 製造工程管理(GMP)による安全性の確保(全行程における製造管理・品質管理)。
- 3) 上記の実効性の確保 (第三者認証制度の導入)。

健康被害情報の収集および処理体制の強化

因果関係が明確でない場合なども含め、より積極的に情報を収集。医師などを対象に「健康食品」 の現状や過去の健康被害事例などについて情報提供。

消費者に対する普及啓発

- 1) 製造事業者による適切な摂取目安量や注意喚起表示。
- 2) アドバイザリースタッフの養成課程や活動のあり方について一定の水準を確保。

(文献3より作成)

健康被害情報を基に独自にリスクを評価しているが、医療機関で蓄積される健康被害情報と、企業で蓄積される情報とは、自ずと情報の量と性質が異なっている(表2)。まず、医療機関で収集された健康被害情報は、カルテ記録から症状や背景、転帰など正確に記録できるものの、その絶対数は少ない。日本医師会の「食品安全に関する情報システムモデル事業」によると、医療機関で収集された健康食品による健康被害の発生件数は、2年間で50件程度に過ぎないと報告されている4。その一方で、健康食品を製造販売する企業で収集される健康被害情報は、消費者から直接寄せられる「苦情」の集積に含まれている場合があると考えられる。そのため、その訴えによっては、「健康被害」にかかわるものであっても「製品の問合せ」に分類される場合もあり、集積件数は多いものの、情報そのものが「健康被害」とは別の側面からのみ評価されてしまう可能性がある。さらに、消費者の生の声から、具体的な症状や転帰、重篤性、併用医薬品、基礎疾患の有無やアレルギー素因などを正確に情報収集するのは困難であることも推測される。

3 健康食品による健康被害の因果関係評価

こういった情報収集上の問題点が存在するなかで、厚生労働科学研究「いわゆる健康食品による健康被害情報の因果関係解析法と報告手法に関する調査研究」(主任研究者: 独立行政法人国立健康・栄養研究所 梅垣敬三, 分担研究者: 静岡県立大学 山田ほか) では, 健

| | 独歯会ロにり | こる健康被害情報の | ハロマクシアが来 |
|----------------|---|-----------|-------------|
| ₩ ব ₹ ∠ | 10年/東 12 17 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 | | ノリスフ atriul |

| | 医療機関で収集される 健康被害情報 | 企業で収集される 健康被害情報 |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 利用者(患者)背景 | 把握できる | すべては把握できない |
| ・年齢/性別 | 0 | △~○ |
| ・身長/体重 | 0 | × |
| ・基礎疾患/合併症 | 0 | ×~△ |
| ・服薬状況 | 0 | ×∼△ |
| 発生した症状 | 詳細の把握可能 | 聞き取りが困難 |
| ・症状の詳細 | 0 | Δ |
| ・転帰 | 0 | ×~△ |
| 利用している健康食品 | 詳細は把握困難 | 自社品なら把握可能 |
| ・製品名/成分名 | Δ | 0 |
| ・飲用期間 | 0 | △~○ |

○:ほぼ完璧に把握できる。

△:一部の情報しか把握できない。

×:ほとんど把握できない。

康食品の摂取と健康被害発生の因果関係を評価するための評価法を開発してきた。その具体的な内容は、医薬品においてすでに利用されている有害事象の因果関係評価法を、健康食品に特化した評価法として改変を重ねることで、以下に示す2評価法(ポイント付け評価票による評価法および樹枝状アルゴリズムを用いた評価法)を実用化に向けて考案している50。

1) ポイント付け評価票による評価法 (表3)

ポイント付け評価票による評価法は、医薬品の有害事象評価で用いられるNaranjoらの手法を、健康食品に当てはめて再構築したものである。時間的な変化(摂取後に発生したのか、摂取をやめると消失・軽快したのか、再摂取でどうなったかなど)と摂取者の背景(医薬品や他の健康食品を飲んでいないかなど)の8項目で、はい・いいえ・不詳の判定を行い、それぞれの項目を点数化して加算し、カテゴリ分類する。Naranjoらと同様、質問項目の中で点数の重み付けを行い、合計点数によって因果関係の強さを評価する。医療機関での健康被害情報のように1件あたりの情報量が多く、質問項目に明確に回答できれば因果関係を正確に評価できる利点はあるが、一方で消費者からの問い合わせのように情報量が少ない場合、そのほとんどが「不詳」に分類され、因果関係が少ない場合と情報量が不足している場合の点数が同一となる可能性があることから、その区別を考える必要がある。

2) 樹枝状アルゴリズムを用いた評価法(図1)

樹枝状アルゴリズムは、医薬品の有害事象評価で用いられるJonesの手法を改変して構築した、フローチャートを用いた評価方法である。質問に対して、はい・いいえ・不詳で回答し、その回答によって次に来る質問を答える。これを繰り返し行い、最終的に行き着くカテゴリで因果関係の強さを示すものである。質問内容そのものはポイント付け評価票の質問内容のうち、より重要と考えられる項目を盛り込んである。この方法は、ポイント

●表3 ポイント付け評価票による評価法

| No. | 質問項目 | はい | いいえ" | わからない | | |
|-----|--|----|------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 生じた有害事象は、当該健康食品の 添付文書やラベルに記載されている ものですか? | +1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 2 | 当該健康食品を摂取した後に、有害 事象が現れましたか? | +2 | -1 | 0 | | |
| 3 | 当該健康食品を中止した際に, 有害 事象は改善されましたか? | +1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 4 | 当該健康食品を再摂取した際, 有害 事象はまた現れましたか? | +3 | -1 | 0 | | |
| 5 | その有害事象を引き起こすかもしれない(当該健康食品以外の)ほかの要因 ²⁾ はありますか? | -1 | +2 | 0 | | |
| 6 | その有害事象は摂取量を増量したと き程度は重くなり,減量したとき軽 | +1 | 0 | 0 | 合計, | 点による評価判定 |
| | くなりましたか? | | | 9≦ | Highly probable | |
| 7 | 以前に,同じかあるいは類似の健康 食品または医薬品で同様の有害事象 が現れましたか? | +1 | 0 | 0 | 5~8 | Probable |
| 1 | | | | U | 3~4 | Highly possible |
| | その有害事象は客観的証拠 ³⁾ によっ て確かめられましたか? | +2 | 0 | | 1~2 | Possible |
| 8 | | | | 0 | ≦0 | Doubtful |

- 1)「いいえ」という答えは、どのような代替案を考慮したとしても、十分な情報が存在しない場合を前提とします(不確かなとき、あるいは情報不足で評価できない場合は「わからない」としてください)。
- 2) ほかの要因としては、基礎疾患や合併症の病態、併用薬やほかの健康食品の摂取、年齢などを考慮します。
- 3) 客観的証拠とは、当該健康食品に含まれる成分に対して、DLST、パッチテストなどの特異的な検査によって確認されたものです。 (文献 5 より作成)

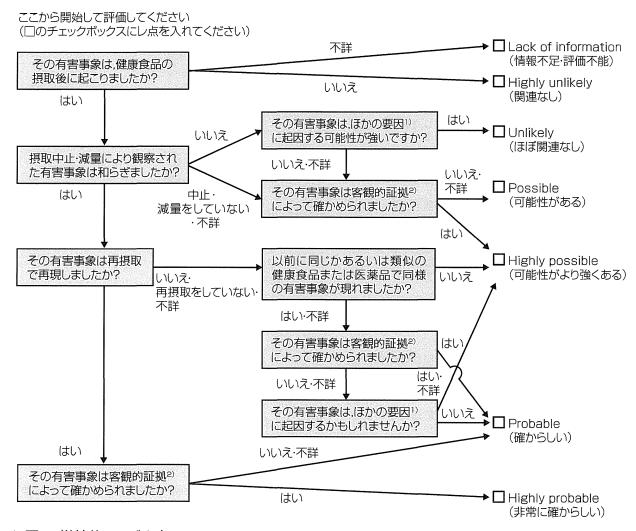
付け評価票によるものと比べて簡便性があり、かつ1件あたりの情報量が少ない健康被害情報でも因果関係の選り分けが可能である利点があるが、逆に情報量が多い時に、含まれる情報をすべて使い切れない可能性がある。

ポイント付け評価票および樹枝状アルゴリズムいずれの評価法も、評価者間の評価結果のバラつきが少なく、さらに樹枝状アルゴリズムでは評価に要する時間が短いという利点が認められた。消費者から直接収集される健康被害情報は、一般的には1件あたりの情報量は少ないため、樹枝状アルゴリズムの方が因果関係評価には適していると考えられる⁶⁾。

おわりに―今後に向けての提案

米国では、サプリメントも医薬品と同様に、報告すべき健康被害情報、報告者、報告ルートが定義付けされ、行政機関が健康被害情報を一元的に管理し、リスク対応している。

また,健康食品ではないが,2013年7月に発生した化粧品による白斑様症状発生事案(2013年11月18日現在,13,207人が確認されている)の第三者調査委員会は,当初,白斑様症



▶図1 樹枝状アルゴリズム

- 1) ほかの要因としては、基礎疾患や合併症の病態、併用薬やほかの健康食品の摂取、年齢などを考慮します。
- 2) 客観的証拠とは、当該健康食品に含まれる成分に対して DLST、パッチテストなどの特異的な検査によって確認されたものです。
- *この手引きは評価の手順を例示することを目的としたものであり、事例に対する評価として絶対的なものではありません。 (文献 6 より作成)

状が健康被害ではなく「問合せ」に分類されていたこと、白斑は消費者の問題であると現場で判断されていたことから、被害実態の把握と回収処置までに時間を要したと指摘している⁷。健康食品による健康被害についても、因果関係の評価方法と並んで、症状の分類、重症度の取扱いについては、ある程度の定義付けが必要である。

それらを踏まえ、筆者は健康食品の安全性確保のためには、以下の3点について、行政、研究(医療)機関、企業が一体となって検討すべきであると考える。

- ①収集すべき健康被害情報、報告すべき健康被害情報の定義付け
- ②企業や行政機関、医療機関で実施できる統一の評価アルゴリズムの開発、推進
- ③因果関係が強いものを精査し、類似症例を集積し、リスクが高いものにはすぐに対応 する、という評価システムそのものの構築

②のアルゴリズムについては前述のように開発と推進が進んでいるが、①③を合わせた 3点が充実することで、健康被害の拡大を抑制でき、消費者が健康食品を安全に利用でき る環境作りに繋がると思われる。

(文献)

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- 2) 規制改革実施計画. 平成25年6月14日. 閣議決定資料
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Original Paper

Coleus forskohlii Extract Attenuates the Hypoglycemic Effect of Tolbutamide in vivo via a Hepatic Cytochrome P450-Mediated Mechanism

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This in vivo study in rats evaluated whether Coleus forskohlii extract (CFE) taken orally interacted with tolbutamide, a hypoglycemic drug metabolized by CYP2C enzymes. Rats were fed 0%, 0.3%, 1% (w/w) CFE diet for 2 weeks, followed by 0% CFE diet for 1 day. They were then given 40 mg/kg tolbutamide by intragastric gavage. Blood glucose level was determined up to 6 h after tolbutamide administration. CFE treatment increased total CYP content and various CYP subtypes in the liver. In particular, increases in activity and protein expression were noted for the CYP2B, CYP2C, and CYP3A subtypes. CFE treatment dose-dependently attenuated both the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide at 6 h and the plasma concentration of tolbutamide. The activity of (S)-warfarin 7-hydroxylase, a CYP2C enzyme was negatively correlated with plasma tolbutamide level, which also showed a negative correlation with the reduction of blood glucose level. These results indicate that CFE induced hepatic CYPs in rats and attenuated the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide via a hepatic CYP2C-mediated mechanism.

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Key words: Coleus forskohlii; tolbutamide; herb-drug interaction; hepatic CYP2C; hypoglyce-mic action

Introduction

As consumers tend to believe that natural remedies are safe, herbal and dietary supplements are often used with prescribed drugs without disclosure to health care providers, even by patients with chronic conditions¹. Herb-drug interactions are well characterized for some herbs, such as St. John's wort, which induces cytochrome P450 (CYP) and the intestinal transporter p-glycoprotein, thereby attenuating the pharmacological action of various prescribed drugs². However, little is known about other herbs. To ensure the safe use of prescription drugs, it is important to elucidate whether herbal ingredients interact with the drugs.

Coleus forskohlii is native to India, where it has been used for centuries in Ayurvedic medicine to treat various diseases of the cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and central nervous systems³. It contains a diterpene, forskolin, which is well known to increase c-AMP concentration via activation of adenylate cyclase, resulting in various pharmacological actions^{4), 5)}. Therefore, Coleus forskohlii extract (CFE) standardized to 10% (w/w) forskolin is generally used as an ingredient in dietary supplements. Currently, CFE is used worldwide as

a weight loss dietary supplement, because forskolin has been shown to increase both c-AMP accumulation and lipolysis in fat cells^{61,7)}, and CFE reduces fat accumulation in ovariectomized rats⁸⁾ and decreases body fat in overweight women and obese men^{9),10)}.

In previous studies, we showed that feeding CFE to mice markedly increased the total content and activities of hepatic CYPs, and the estimated effective dose of CFE was comparable to the intake from a commercially available dietary supplement¹¹. We also reported that CFE attenuated the anticoagulant action of warfarin via induction of hepatic CYP2C, an enzyme involved in metabolism of active (S)-warfarin, and CFE dose-dependently inhibited CYP2C activity in human and mouse microsomes in vitro¹². These findings strongly suggested that CFE would interact with various prescribed drugs.

Inter-species differences in CYPs have been reported, even between mice and rats^[3]. It is unclear whether induction of hepatic CYPs by CFE occurs in rats as well as in mice, and whether interaction of CFE with prescription drugs occurs in vivo. Thus, in the present in vivo study we examined whether CFE treatment induced hepatic CYPs in rats, and whether it interacted with tolbutamide, a drug generally used to treat type 2 diabetes.

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Materials and Methods

Materials

Powdered CFE standardized to 10% (w/w) forskolin was prepared as follows. Dried roots of C. forskohlii, obtained from Bangalore in southern India, were crushed and supercritically extracted with CO2 gas. The forskolin-rich extract (20-30%) was mixed with dextrin to give a forskolin concentration of 10%. These processes were outsourced to Tokiwa Phytochemical Co., Ltd. (Chiba, Japan). The CFE comprised: water, 5.6%; protein, 0.3%; lipids, 22.7%; ash, 2.2%; and carbohydrates, 69.2%. The HPLC chromatographic profile has been reported elsewhere 12), and the analyzed contents of forskolin and 1,9-dideoxyforskolin in the CFE sample were 10.37% and 1.71%, respectively. CFE was added in the proportions described below to an AIN93G semi purified-diet14), which was purchased from Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.

Chemicals for the measurement of CYP enzyme activities (resorufin, pentoxyresorufin, (S)-warfarin, 7-hydroxywarfarin, 7-ethoxycoumarin, testosterone, 6 β -hydroxytestosterone, and corticosterone) and for the analysis of tolbutamide in plasma (tolbutamide and gliclazide) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Inc. (St Louis, MO, USA). NADPH was purchased from Oriental Yeast (Tokyo, Japan), while all other reagents were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Osaka, Japan).

Animal experiments

Male Wistar rats, aged 4 weeks (CLEA Japan, Inc., Tokyo Japan), were housed in stainless steel wire-bottomed cages at a constant temperature $(22\pm1\%)$ with a 12 h light-dark cycle. They had free access to water and diet. After acclimation for 1 week, rats were divided into three groups (6 rats per group), and fed assigned diets (0% CFE as a control, 0.3% CFE and 1% CFE) for 2 weeks. They were then switched to the control diet for 1 day to minimize CFE content in the intestinal tract, after which they were given a single dose of 40 mg/kg tolbutamide by intragastric gavage. Blood was taken from the tail vein at predetermined time points (0, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 h) for blood glucose analysis, which was performed with a Dexter Z II detector (Bayer Corp., Mishawaka, IN, USA). Immediately after the 6 h blood sampling, the rats were anaesthetized with pentobarbital and exsanguinated from the descending aorta with a heparinized syringe. The liver was removed and rinsed with 0.9% (w/v) NaCl. The plasma and liver samples were stored at -80℃ until analysis. All animal procedures were in accordance with the National Institute of Health and Nutrition guidelines for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and were approved by the ethical committee of the National Institute of Health and Nutrition (approval number and date: No. 0912, on April 14th, 2009).

Analytical Methods

Analysis of drug-metabolizing enzymes

The preparation of liver microsomes and analysis of CYP enzyme activity were performed by the methods described previously ^[5]. The specific substrates used to evaluate subtype activities were: ethoxyresorufin O-deethylase, CYP1A1; methoxyresorufin O-demethylase, CYP1A2; pentoxyresorufin O-dealkylase, CYP2B; (S)-warfarin 7-hydroxylase, CYP2C; and testosterone 6β -hydroxylase, CYP3A. Protein concentrations were determined using a BCA protein assay kit (Pierce, Rockford, IL, USA).

Western blot analysis of CYP enzymes was performed as previously described¹⁵⁾. In brief, liver microsomes were separated on a 10% sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel (c·PAGEL®; ATTO Co., Tokyo, Japan) and blotted onto a polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membrane (Clear Blot membrane-p; ATTO Co.). The membrane was blocked in 3% (w/v) non-fat milk (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) made up with Tris-HCl buffered saline with 0.1% (v/v) Tween 20. Primary and secondary antibodies were diluted with blocking buffer. As primary antibodies, CYP2B1/2B2 (sc-53242, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., Dallas, Texas, USA), CYP2C6 (C0746, Sigma-Aldrich), CYP3A (sc-25845, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.), and β -actin (as a control, sc-47778, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) were used. Horseradish peroxidase-labeled IgGs (sc-2005 and sc-2004, Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) were used as secondary antibodies. The membrane was incubated with antibodies and developed using the enhanced chemiluminescence detection system (ECL Western-Blot Kit; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech Inc., Piscateway, NJ, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Protein bands were analyzed with ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA).

$Analysis\ of\ tolbutamide\ in\ plasma$

As an internal standard, 250 μL of 1 N HCl, 100 μL of gliclazide solution (30 µmol/L), and 3 mL of hexaneethyl ether (7:3, v/v) were added to 50 µL of plasma. After extraction on a shaker for 5 min, the sample was centrifuged at $1,800 \times q$ for 3 min at 4°C. The upper layer was transferred to another test-tube and evaporated under a stream of nitrogen at 40°C. The dry residue was dissolved in $200\,\mu\text{L}$ of mobile phase (10 mM monobasic sodium phosphate, pH 2.0 in methanol (45:55, v/v)), and 50 μL of the sample was subjected to HPLC as reported by Leung et al. 16) All components of the HPLC system were manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan: these consisted of a pump (LC-10ADvp), an auto-sampler (SIL-10ADvp), and a UV detector (SPD-10Avp). Tolbutamide and the internal standard were separated with an L-column ODS, 4.6×250 mm, 5 um particle size (Chemical Inspection & Testing Institute, Tokyo, Japan) at 30°C, using a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min, and detection of tolbutamide was performed at 230 nm. Intraday and interday precision (coefficient of

Table 1. Body weight, liver weight, plasma tolbutamide concentration, and food intake in rats administered Coleus forskohlii extract (CFE) and tolbutamide

| CFE | 0% | 0.3% | 1% |
|---|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Final body weight (g) | 244.2±2.3 | 239.8±3.3 [0.98] | 246.8±6.2 [1.0] |
| Liver weight (%body weight) | 3.08 ± 0.070 | 3.22 ± 0.036 [1.0] | 3.65±0.06 [1.2] ^{n,b} |
| Plasma tolbutamide concentration (µmol/L) | 176.2 ± 6.8 | 151.2±9.6 [0.86]" | 83.4±9.3 [0.47] ^{a,b} |
| Average food intake (g/day) | 18.2 ± 0.22 | 18.2 ± 0.15 [1.0] | 18.2±0.36 [1.0] |
| Calculated CFE dose (mg/kg body weight) | 0 | 262 ± 3.6 | 860 ± 11.8 |

Male Wistar rats were fed a diet containing 0%, 0.3%, or 1% CFE for 2 weeks, and were then fed a control diet without CFE for 1 day. On the final day, the rats were administered 40 mg/kg tolbutamide (p.o.). Each value represents the mean and standard error (SE) for six rats.

variance, CV, %) were approximately 1.3% and 1.5%, respectively.

Statistical analysis

Data are presented as mean and standard error (SE) for individual groups and were statistically analyzed using one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test. Differences at p < 0.05 were considered significant. All statistical analyses were performed using Prism 5.0 (GraphPad Software Inc., La Jolla, CA, USA).

Results

Final body weight and average food intake did not differ among the three groups, but liver weight was increased significantly in the 1% CFE group (Table 1). The basal concentration of glucose did not differ among the three groups; it was 68 ± 2.6 mg/dL for the 0% CFE group (control), 75 ± 4.1 mg/dL for the 0.3% CFE group, and 76 ± 2.6 mg/dL for the 1% CFE group. After tolbutamide administration, blood glucose concentration decreased to reach a minimum at 4 h, after which it increased slightly (Fig. 1). In the 0.3% and 1% CFE groups compared with the control group, the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide was weaker, and a significant difference was detected between the control group and 1% CFE group at 6 h.

Total CYP content and various CYP activities were analyzed in the liver. CFE induced increases in total CYP content and the activities of various CYP subtypes in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 2). In particular, marked induction was noted in CYP2B, CYP3A, and CYP2C, which is responsible for tolbutamide metabolism. Western blot analysis also showed that CFE enhanced the expression of CYP2B, CYP2C, and CYP3A at the protein level (Fig. 3). The presence of two bands in CYP2B suggested that a specific subtype of CYP2B might have been induced by CFE treatment. Consistent with the attenuated hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide, the plasma concentration of tolbutamide was decreased at 6 h in the CFE treatment group (Table 1). There was a significant negative correlation between plasma tolbutamide concentration and CYP2C activity, and also between tolbutamide concentration and reduction of blood glucose level (Fig. 4).

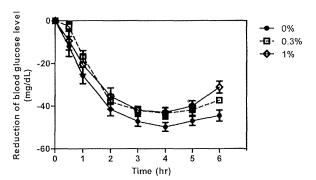


Fig. 1. Effect of *Coleus forskohlii* extract (CFE) on tolbutamide-induced hypoglycemic action in rats

Rats were fed a control diet containing 0%, 0.3% or 1% CFE diet for 2 weeks, then all were fed the control diet for 1 day, after which tolbutamide was administered (p.o. 40 mg/kg body weight) to induce hypoglycemia. Values represent mean and standard error (SE) for six rats.

": Significant difference from control diet.

Discussion

Tolbutamide is metabolized by CYP2C9 in humans and by CYP2C11 in rats¹⁷, but the activity of both enzymes can be evaluated as (S)-warfarin hydroxylase activity¹⁸. In the present study in rats, we observed an interaction of CFE with tolbutamide *in vivo*, in terms of hypoglycemia and induction of hepatic CYP2C. The present findings are similar to those concerning the interaction of warfarin and CFE in our previous study in mice¹². CFE induced hepatic CYP3A-type enzymes as well as CYP2C, and these two forms of CYP catalyze the metabolism of about 70% of prescription drugs^{191,201}. Therefore, it is reasonable to speculate that CFE could interact with various therapeutic drugs via induction of hepatic CYPs.

Induction of hepatic CYPs was clearly detected in the 0.3% CFE group. In this group the calculated dose of CFE was 262 mg/kg body weight, which corresponds to about 40 mg/kg body weight in humans when estimated by the body surface normalization method²¹. In our previous studies, we showed that the marked induction of

[&]quot;: Significant difference (p < 0.05) from the control group.

^b: Significant difference (p < 0.05) from the 0.3% CFE diet group.

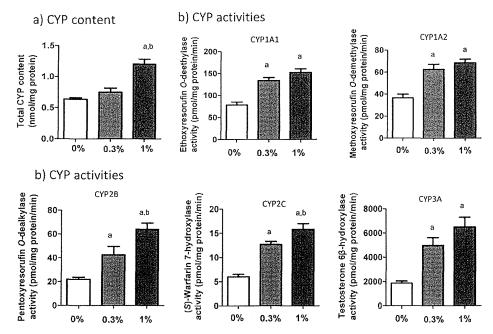


Fig. 2. Changes in hepatic total CYP content and activities in rats fed *Coleus forskohlii* extract (CFE, 0.3% or 1%) or a control diet (0% CFE)

Values represent mean and standard error (SE) for six rats.

- a: Significant difference from control diet.
- b: Significant difference from 0.3% CFE diet.

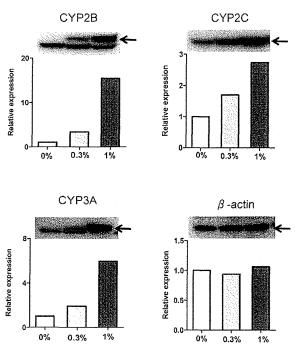


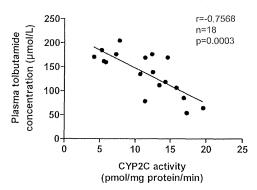
Fig. 3. Changes in hepatic CYP protein expression in rats fed *Coleus forskohlii* extract (CFE, 0.3% or 1%) or a control diet (0% CFE)

CYPs by CFE was not due to forskolin, a well-known active component of CFE, but was due to an as yet unidentified substance¹¹⁾ that was soluble in ether²²⁾. As shown in the present study in rats and our previous study in

mice, CFE induced various CYPs, suggesting a contribution of the pregnane X receptor to CYP induction. Ding and Staudinger reported that 1,9-dideoxyforskolin, which is a forskolin analog present in CFE, induced hepatic CYPs²³. At present, there is no evidence that 1,9-dideoxyforskolin is involved in the induction of CYPs observed in the present study. For the safe use of CFE-containing products, it will be important to identify the CYP-inducing substance and to remove it or reduce its concentration in CFE.

Hepatic-CYP-mediated herb-drug interaction has been examined both in vitro using microsomes and in vivo in animals and humans. However, findings of in vitro studies may not be applicable to the in vivo situation, in part because of poor intestinal absorption of CYP-inducing substances. Therefore, in vivo animal studies are considered more suitable, despite species differences. However, it is important to consider the in vivo experimental conditions. For example, we previously showed that pretreatment with Ginkgo biloba extract enhanced hepatic CYP2C activity and attenuated the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide, while simultaneous administration of Ginkgo biloba extract and tolbutamide enhanced this hypoglycemic action 18). This appears to be due to competitive inhibition between the CYP-inducing substance and tolbutamide for CYP2C, resulting in delayed metabolism and enhanced hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide. Based on these findings, CFE-treated rats in the present study were fed a control diet before tolbutamide administration to wash out CFE present in the intestinal tract. This treatment protocol should minimize the competi-

a) Plasma tolbutamide versus CYP2C activity



b) Plasma tolbutamide versus reduction of blood glucose

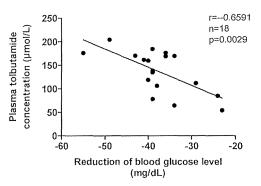


Fig. 4. Correlation between plasma tolbutamide concentration and a) CYP2C activity; b) reduction of blood glucose level in rats fed Coleus forskohlii extract (CFE, 0.3% or 1%) or a control diet (0% CFE)

Data were taken from Table 1, Figs. 1 and 2.

tive inhibition between the CYP-inducing substance and tolbutamide for CYP2C. Tolbutamide is metabolized to 4-hydoroxytolbutamide and carboxytolbutamide²⁴⁾. We could detect only tolbutamide in the plasma at 6 h after administration in the present study. This result is consistent with a previous report which showed that tolbutamide metabolites were detectable in urine but not in plasma²⁴⁾. Even though we could not detect any increase in tolbutamide metabolites, we observed a significant decrease in plasma concentration of tolbutamide, an increase in CYP2C enzyme activity, and a CFE dose-dependent decrease in hypoglycemic action. These findings indicate that pretreatment with CFE attenuated the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide via induction of hepatic CYP2C. In the present study, we focused on the CFE effect on the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide. We could not evaluate the pharmacokinetics of tolbutamide, such as C_{max} and T_{max} , because blood samples were insufficient for simultaneous analysis of tolbutamide and glucose in blood. Further study will be needed to characterize the pharmacokinetics of tolbutamide after CFE treatment.

It is well known that forskolin, an active component of CFE, directly activates adenylate cyclase and has various pharmacological effects^{4),5)}. Ahmad et al.²⁵⁾ reported that administration of 10 mg/kg body weight forskolin to rats stimulated the release of insulin and glucagon from the pancreatic islets, resulting in an increase in blood glucose in an oral glucose tolerance test. In the present study, we fed rats CFE containing 10% (w/w) forskolin: the calculated dose of forskolin was 26 mg/kg body weight in the 0.3% CFE group and 86 mg/kg in the 1% CFE group. Basal blood glucose level before tolbutamide administration did not differ among the control and the two CFE-treated groups. We also confirmed no significant effect of CFE treatment on basal blood glucose levels in a separate study (data not shown). Little absorption of forskolin is reported to occur in the intestine²⁶, and we administered tolbutamide 1 day after cessation of CFE feeding. Accordingly, any contribution of forskolin to the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide in the CFE-treated groups would be slight.

In our previous study, we showed that Ginkgo biloba extract attenuated the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide via a hepatic CYP enzyme-mediated mechanism in rats, and that the effect was more pronounced in aged rats (19 months old) than in young rats (7 weeks old)¹⁸). Therefore, if we examine aged rats, the interaction of tolbutamide with CFE might be more marked. CFE has been used to treat cardiovascular disease in Ayurvedic medicine³, and concomitant use of CFE with cardiovascular drugs could therefore be anticipated, particularly in elderly people. As CFE strongly induced CYPs, interaction of such prescribed drugs with CFE might be expected in elderly people. Health professionals should carefully monitor patients for adverse events related to CFE-containing supplements and prescribed drugs.

Conclusion

CFE induced hepatic CYPs in rats and attenuated the hypoglycemic action of tolbutamide *via* induction of hepatic CYP2C. No research has yet been done to examine the interaction of prescribed drugs and CFE-containing products in humans. Our results indicate that adverse events might occur in CFE-supplement users, taking prescription drugs. Further study seems necessary.

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