Sauchinone, a Lignan from Saururus chinensis, Suppresses iNOS Expression through the Inhibition of Transactivation Activity of RelA of NF-kB
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Sauchinone, a known lignan, was isolated from the root of Saururus chinensis as an active principle responsible for inhibiting the production of NO in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells by activity-guided fractionation. Sauchinone dose-dependently inhibited not only the production of NO, but also the expression of iNOS mRNA and protein in LPS-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells. Furthermore, sauchinone prevented LPS-induced NF-kB activation, which is known to play a critical role in iNOS expression, assessed by a reporter assay under the control of NF-kB. However, electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA) demonstrated that sauchinone did not suppress the DNA-binding activity of NF-kB or the degradation of IkBa induced by LPS. Further analysis revealed that transactivation activity of RelA subunit of NF-kB was dose-dependently suppressed in the presence of sauchinone. Taken together, our results suggested that sauchinone could inhibit production of NO in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells through the suppression of NF-kB by inhibiting transactivation activity of RelA subunit.

Gallocatechin Gallate Inhibits Platelet Aggregation by Arachidonic Acid Liberation and TxA2 Synthase Activity
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We have previously reported that green tea catechins (GTC) displayed anti-thrombotic activity, and that this might be due to anti-platelet rather than anti-coagulation effects. In the present study, we have studied the anti-platelet activity and mechanism of gallocatechin gallate (GCG), which is a component of GTC. GCG inhibited the collagen- and U46619-induced aggregation of rabbit platelets, with IC50 values of 63.0 and 48.3 μM, respectively. GCG also inhibited collagen-induced serotonin release and TxB2 formation in a similar manner of platelets aggregation. GCG potently inhibited collagen-induced arachidonic acid liberation from membrane phospholipids and diacylglycerol release in a dose-dependent manner. Whereas, GCG had little effect on the level of PGD2. TxB2 conversion from arachidonic acid and thromboxane A2 synthase activity were significantly inhibited by GCG. GCG potently decreased the rise in [Ca2+]i at a concentration of 200 μM. Taken together, these observations suggest that the anti-platelet activity of GCG may be mainly due to inhibition of arachidonic acid liberation by Ca2+-dependent cPLA2 through the inhibition of Ca2+ influx and of thromboxane A2 synthase activity.

Pharmacological activities of Dongchunghacho strains
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Dongchunghacho (Dong-Chong-Xia-Cho in Chinese) is one of entomogenous fungi that grow as parasites mainly to pupae or larvae. It includes many different genera such as Cordyceps, Paecilomyces, Torrubiella and Podonectria. The ethanolic extract of Cordyceps scarabaeicola, prepared from its fruiting bodies, showed significant inhibitory activity on angiogenesis, which was detected by chick embryo chorioallantoic membrane