Pharmacological Applications of Isorhamnetin: A Short Review

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ABSTRACT

Isorhamnetin (30-Methoxy-3, 40, 5, 7-tetrahydroxyflavone) is a flavonol, and it belongs to a group of plant secondary metabolites known as flavonoids. It is present in man’s daily diet and is known for its biological activities such as antioxidant, antiviral, anticancer, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammatory effects. Isorhamnetin has been reported for its antioxidant and antiviral applications hence it is not only used as such, but it also has various derivatized forms which has potentials for development into drugs for the treatment of diseases caused by oxidative stress and lethal viruses. The present review reflects the pharmacological importance of isorhamnetin.

KEYWORDS: Isorhamnetin, Antioxidant, Pharmacological, Anticancer, Antimicrobial, Antiviral, Hepatoprotective

I. INTRODUCTION

Flavonoids are natural polyphenolic compounds containing two benzene rings linked with heterocyclic pyrone ring, recently attention have been focused on the antioxidative activities of several plant phenolics, especially flavonoids, because they inhibit lipid peroxidation, and the significance of potential protective properties of flavonoids present in vegetables and fruits has become an important matter [1, 2]. They are a large group of secondary plant metabolites and also usual constituents of the human diet comprising in excess of six thousands identified compounds are characterized from a variety of plant sources. Until now, a huge number of biological and pharmacological effects have been ascribed to flavonoids, including anti-allergic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antitumor, antiviral, and antimicrobial activities [3-5]. Flavonoids are mainly present in tea, red wine, aromatic plants, medical herbs, fruits, and vegetables [6]. Epidemiological studies point out that use of foods rich in flavonoids may reduce the incidence of existence diseases [7, 8].

The flavonoid isorhamnetin also called as 3’-methoxy-3, 4’, 5, 7-tetrahydroxyflavone (Fig 1), is the metabolite of quercetin and it is naturally occurring O-methylated flavonol that is plentiful in apples, blackberries, cherries, and pears [9-13]. It is also present in medicinal herbs and plants, such as the sea buckthorn (Hippophaer hamnoides L.) and water dropwort (Oenanthe javanica), which are commonly used in the Greek and Danish traditional medicines for the prevention and treatment of a range of diseases [14, 15]. Therefore, this review focuses on the pharmacological importance of isorhamnetin.

II. PHARMACOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF ISORHAMNETIN

The drug isorhamnetin is a versatile molecule with lots of pharmacological properties (Figure 1) including antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticancer, neurological, cardiovascular, hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, protective of the reproductive system, and anti-obesity agent present in the natural nutrient (Figure 2). The literature available on these properties has been summarized here in this review (Table 1).

Fig 1: Pharmacological properties of isorhamnetin
The drug isorhamnetin being a bacteriostatic and it’s used in the treatment of various bacterial and fungal infections could be beneficial. These inhibitory effects are also interesting in relation to the prevention of contamination in many food products caused by micro-organisms such as Staphylococcus spp., Salmonella spp., Bacillus spp., Pseudomonas fluorescens, and Clostridium botulinum [16]. In another study it reveals the reductions in protein and carbohydrate levels following inoculation with Burkholderia cepacia extracts containing isorhamnetin and it compounds as nutrients can make bacterial cell death [17], additionally, it also reported to show anti-influenza effects in vitro and in vivo via direct Haemagglutinin(HA) and Neuraminidase(NA) inhibition, direct or indirect inhibition of the expression of viral HA and NA genes, and suppression of virus-induced autophagy, ROS generation, and ERK phosphorylation [18].

Some of the secondary metabolites including isorhamnetin isolated from M. globosumssp. Libanoticum showed a wide range of antimicrobial effect, it’s used in the treatment of various bacterial and fungal infections could be beneficial. These inhibitory effects are also interesting in relation to the prevention of contamination in many food products caused by micro-organisms such as Staphylococcus spp., Salmonella spp., Bacillus spp., Pseudomonas fluorescens, and Clostridium botulinum [16]. In another study it reveals the reductions in protein and carbohydrate levels following inoculation with Burkholderia cepacia extracts containing isorhamnetin and it compounds as nutrients can make bacterial cell death [17], additionally, it also reported to show anti-influenza effects in vitro and in vivo via direct Haemagglutinin(HA) and Neuraminidase(NA) inhibition, direct or indirect inhibition of the expression of viral HA and NA genes, and suppression of virus-induced autophagy, ROS generation, and ERK phosphorylation [18].

Some of the secondary metabolites including isorhamnetin isolated from M. globosumssp. Libanoticum showed an interesting antibacterial activity, which may explain the use of this species in folk medicine to treat skin and urinary tract infections as well as for gastrointestinal diseases [19].

### Table 1: Biological activities of isorhamnetin

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Antioxidant activity

Isorhamnetin has a potential as a natural antioxidant to alternate synthetic substances as food additives [22]. Recently, in vivo study, it has been reported that isorhamnetin has antioxidative enzyme activities on the concentrations of cholesterol and lipoperoxide in the serum and liver [23]. Likewise isorhamnetin 3 O-robinobisde from Nitrariaretusa leaves enhance antioxidant and antigenotoxic activity in human chronic myelogenous leukemia cell line K562 [29]. Moreover, isorhamnetin studied first time of antioxidant activity against Sprague dawley rats liver mitochondria lipid peroxidation induced by Fe2+ / Vc, from these experimental results demonstrate that isorhamnetin had excellent antioxidant activity [24].

A lot of plant extract studies especially Hippophae hamnoies [22], Brassica juncea [25], Acacia salicina [26], Ammi visnagaL (Apiaceae) [27], and Brassica juncea L [28] extracts also has the tremendous antioxidant activity against streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats.

Neurological effects

Isorhamnetin is a neuroprotective as well as neurotoxic compound like it has been reported to act as a neuroprotector in diet supplemented with Ginkgo biloba extract have distinguished neuromodulatory effects in vivo and illustrates the utility of genome-wide expression monitoring to investigate the biological actions of complex extracts [33]. Isorhamnetin has been reported to show beneficial effects and protection of the brain against ischemic injury in mice [34].

Anticancer activity

Cancer has been found in sixty different parts of the human body and currently requires new therapeutics for its treatment. Isorhamnetin and its precursor have been reported as a potent anticancer agent during in vitro studies in various cancer cell lines and in vivo studies in rodents especially mice [35]. Isorhamnetin has been reported to show valuable effect on cancer mainly it was suppresses colon cancer cell growth through the PI3K-Akt-mTOR pathway [37]. During an in vitro study on pure isorhamnetin glycosides or when they are mixed with other phytochemicals in an extract obtained from opuntiaificus-indica, the glycosilation pretentious antiproliferative effect [38]. However isorhamnetin has potential anticancer activity from the Hippophae hamnoiadesL extract against BEL-7402 cells [39]. The mitochondrial-cytochrome C-caspase-9 cascade mediates isorhamnetin-induced apoptosis makes it was strong candidate for cancer treatment [40].

However, during in vitro study using human Eca-109 cells, isorhamnetin has been reported to inhibit proliferation in human esophageal squamous carcinoma [41]. In a like manner it has anti-proliferation effects against lung cancer cell lines (A549 cells) in the in vivo and in vitro studies [42]. Likewise isorhamnetin augments the anti-tumor effect of Capeciatbine through the negative regulation of NF-kB signaling cascade in gastric cancer [43] and also isorhamnetin inhibits proliferation and invasion and induces apoptosis through the modulation of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ activation pathway in gastric cancer [44]. Isorhamnetin has the inhibitory effects on the invasion of human breast carcinoma cells by down regulating the expression and activity of matrix metalloproteinase-2/9 [45]. Moreover isorhamnetin might mediate inhibition of HCT-116 cell growth through the perturbation of cell cycle progression and are consistent with the notion that G2/M checkpoints could be a conserved target for flavonoids in human colon cancer cells, leading to apoptotic and necrotic death. These antiproliferative, apoptotic, necrotic, and cell cycle effects suggest that isorhamnetin may have clinically significant therapeutic and chemopreventive capabilities [46]. Furthermore studies reveal isorhamnetin 3-O-robinobisde from Nitraria retusa leaves enhance antioxidant and antigenotoxic activity in human chronic myelogenous leukemia cell line K562 [47]. It is also suppresses skin cancer through direct inhibition of MEK1 and PI3-K [48].

Cardiovascular protection

Isorhamnetin prevents endothelial dysfunction, superoxide production, and over expression of p47phox induced by angiotensin II in rat aorta1 [51]. Isorhamnetin has a tremendous protective effects on cardiomyocytes against anoxia/reoxygenation-induced injury is mediated by SIRT1 [52] likewise in vivo and in vitro studies give a sufficient report of isorhamnetin has cardiotoxicity against doxorubicin as an inducer [53] in another case isorhamnetin attenuates atherosclerosis by inhibiting macrophage apoptosis via PI3K/AKT activation and HO-1 induction [54].

Anti-inflammatory activity

Isorhamnetin attenuate proinflammatory gene expression in lipopolysaccharide -activated murine
macrophages as well the NFκB signal transduction cascade, leads to the activation of the Nrf2 pathway. Isorhamnetin may contribute to a down-regulation of inflammatory gene expression both in cultured cells and in vivo these things are clearly give an anti-inflammatory effects if isorhamnetin. Isolated isorhamnetin and their co-compounds from the Opuntia ficus-indica have tremendous anti-inflammatory effects. However, isorhamnetin-3-O-galactoside and its derivatives are clearly explaining anti-inflammatory effect against HMGB1-induced inflammatory responses in both HUVECs and CLP-induced septic mice in the same way isorhamnetin inhibit NF-κB activation along with their inhibitory effect on iNOS expression and NO production in activated macrophages.

**Hepatoprotective activity**

Isorhamnetin-3-O-galactoside attenuated the increases of NF-κB and c-Jun nuclear translocation, while it augmented the nuclear level of Nrf2 that is suggest that isorhamnetin-3-O-galactoside ameliorates CCl4-induced hepatic damage by enhancing the anti-oxidative defense system and reducing the inflammatory signaling pathways and also isorhamnetin 3,7-di-O-glucoside in Brassica campestris L leaves, suppressed increases in the plasma ALT and AST activities of mice with liver injury induced by the injection of carbon tetrachloride. However, isorhamnetin protects against the hepatotoxic effect of AA plusison, and suggest that the AMPK pathway is involved in the mechanism underlying the beneficial effect of isorhamnetin in the liver.

**Anti-diabetic effects**

Isorhamnetin-3-O-b-D-glucoside tremendous anti-diabetic effect in the crucial study, it was isolated from Salicornia herbacea inhibits rat lens aldose reductase and sorbitol accumulation in streptozotocin-induced diabetic rat tissues.

**CONCLUSION**

Most human beings are exposed to flavonoids daily, and thus, their impact on human health is of relevance. The health effects of flavonoids are, still for the most part unknown. Isorhamnetin are studied for their medicine properties within the recent years. We have mentioned a number of the medicine properties, as well as antimicrobial, antioxidant, neurological effects, anticancer, cardiovascular protection, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, and Anti-diabetic effects. However, research revealed on anti-inflammatory aspect of isorhamnetin isn’t enough for its application in humans. Isorhamnetin are versatile molecules and should be investigated more extensively for their wider applications in human health, together with their therapeutic activities.

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