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Conclusions

The n-3 PUFA-rich fish oil elicits a strain-specific action on sex hormone status and smooth muscle contractions in rat. The response to n-3 PUFA intake maybe significantly different within a given species. This might have importance both in animal feeding and human nutrition.

P0180 | Evaluation of acute toxicological profile of the selected natural clays in rats

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Introduction

Natural bentonite (NBNT) and natural halloysite (NHAL), as clay minerals, are used in animal nutrition because their absorption/adsorption properties contribute significantly to animals' health [1]. Clay minerals have also emerged special attention as potential materials for biomedical applications, due to their favorable physicochemical and functional related characteristics along with good biocompatibility. Since it has been proved natural clays have their toxicological profiles, and that any modification can change this profile, we evaluated acute toxicology on selected materials.

Method

Two natural clays NBNT and NHAL were used for the acute toxicity study. This study was performed on adult male and female Wistar rats according to the procedures published earlier in the literature [2]. Increasing doses of each clay were applied by p.o. the route, in a separate group of rats (n = 5), both genders, as presented in Table 1. All animals were sacrificed on day 14th, and their guts samples were prepared for further standard histopathological analysis, as previously described [3].

Results

The LD50 value of NBNT was higher than 2000 mg/kg in male and female rats. Also, NHAL showed somewhat lower acute toxicity in male and female rats (LD50 > 3,000 (Table 2).

In the majority of gastric tissue samples in groups treated with the lower doses of each clay, histological findings were similar to those observed in the control rats. However, a small number of tissue sections in rats treated with two higher doses of NBNT and NHAL were shown mild, focal histological changes, such as discrete desquamation of superficial epithelial cells and less intensive mucous fluid. These histological alterations were the highest in animals sacrificed two weeks after administration of 1.0LD50 NBNT (GDS was 2.63 ± 0.96) (Table 3).

Conclusions

Our results can help to predict likely acute toxic effects, establishment risk categories or dose selection for the initial repeated dose toxicity tests to be conducted for each natural clay. Project Acronym: AniNutBiomedCLAYS.

TABLE 1 The selection of dose levels for acute toxicity study of natural bentonite (NBNT) and natural halloysite (NHAL) in rats.

Natural clay	Rats (male/female) (mg/kg p.o.)
NBNT	800
	1,600
	2,400
NHAL	1,000
	2000
	3,000

Treatments	Dose (mg/kg p.o.)	Total number dead/treated		LD ₅₀ (mg/kg p.o.)
		Male	Female	Male/Female
NBNT	800	0/5	0/5	> 2,400
	1,200	0/5	0/5	
	2,400	0/5	0/5	
NHAL	1,000	0/5	0/5	> 3,000
	2,000	0/5	0/5	
	3,000	0/5	0/5	

TABLE 2 The effects of natural bentonite (NBNT) and natural halloysite (NHAL) on 24 hours of survival in rats.

TABLE 3 The influence of natural bentonite (NBNT) and natural halloysite (NHAL) in rats on the gastric injury (gut damage score, GDS) on day 14 following application.

Treatments	GDS (5 guts/group x 6 specimens/gut) ± S.D.		
	0.3LD ₅₀	0.5LD ₅₀	1.0LD ₅₀
control	0.10 ± 0.31	0.10 ± 0.31	0.10 ± 0.31
NBNT	0.17 ± 0.38	2.33 ± 0.48 *	2.63 ± 0.96 *
NHAL	0.13 ± 0.35	1.43 ± 0.97 ^{*δ}	2.00 ± 0.64 ^{*δ}

*p < .001 vs control group; ^δp < .05 vs NBNT-treated group.

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P0181 | Protocatechuic aldehyde attenuates ischaemia – induces injuries in rate models of brain ischaemia

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Introduction

Ischaemic stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. Recently, we have shown that a formulation of Danshen and Gegen (DG) has neuroprotective actions in rat brains [1]. In the present study, one of the major ingredients of DG, protocatechuic aldehyde (PA), was investigated for its efficacies and mechanisms of actions in attenuating ischaemia-induced injuries in two rat models of brain ischaemia.

Method

The actions of PA were investigated in an in vivo rat model of ischaemic stroke induced by middle cerebral artery occlusion (MCAO) and in an in vitro model induced by oxygen and glucose deprivation (OGD) in primary cultured rat embryonic cortical neurones, as described in our previous report [1].

Results

In the in vivo model, PA (0.3–1 g/kg, i.p.) produced dose-dependent reduction on MCAO-induced neurological deficit, cerebral oedema, and brain infarct ($n \geq 6$; $P < .05$). In the in vitro model, PA (1–100 μ M) inhibited the release of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) ($n \geq 8$; $P < .05$), the collapse of mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP) ($n = 8$; $P < .001$), the number of TUNEL positive cells ($n = 7$; $P < .001$), and caspase-3 activity (Table 1), and increased cell viability ($n \geq 8$; $P < .05$) in primary cultured rat cortical neuronal cells subjected to OGD. In both models, PA (1 g/kg and 100 μ M, respectively) restored the levels of anti-oxidant enzymes (superoxide dismutase; SOD, catalase; CAT, and glutathione peroxidase;