

人参皂甙 Rb₁ 对应激性性行为缺损的保护作用及机制

连晓媛 张均田

(中国医学科学院、中国协和医科大学药物研究所, 北京 100050)

摘要 用悬吊应激模型, 小鼠连续应激小鼠 10 d, 每天应激一次, 并循序增加应激强度, 每次应激前 30 min, ip 人参皂甙 Rb₁, 观察人参皂甙 Rb₁ 对应激性性行为低下的保护作用。结果表明, 应激模型组小鼠性行为明显减少, 甚至达到缺损的程度, 同时血浆睾酮水平明显降低, 而 Rb₁ 各剂量组(2.5, 5, 10 mg·kg⁻¹)对应激引起的性行为低下及血浆睾酮水平下降均有明显的对抗作用。提示人参皂甙 Rb₁ 对应激性性行为低下有保护作用, 其机制可能与 Rb₁ 抑制应激动物血浆皮质酮升高和提高睾酮水平有关。

关键词 慢性应激; 性行为; 睾酮; 人参皂甙 Rb₁

强烈应激尤其是长期慢性应激严重影响人类的身心健康, 促进机体衰老^[1~3]。临床上与应激相关的疾病屡见不鲜, 如肌病、固醇类糖尿病、高血压、免疫功能低下症、不育症等^[4]。应激对人类的危害愈来愈烈, 因此抗应激药物的研究有非常重要的意义。本世纪初苏联学者提出人参具有抗应激作用, 但未见深入研究的文献报道。随着人们对应激性损伤和抗衰老理论的认识, 重新深入研究人参抗应激损伤及机制很有必要。本文用重复悬吊应激模型, 观察人参皂甙 Rb₁ 对应激性性行为低下的保护作用及机制。

材 料 与 方 法

药品和试剂 人参皂甙 Rb₁(含量 96% 以上); 睾酮放免试剂盒(卫生部上海生物制品研究所产品)。

动物 昆明种小鼠, ♂ 体重 32~36 g, ♀ 体重 30~32 g, 中国医学科学院动物中心提供, 室温 18~22℃。光照 12 h:12 h(光:暗)使用前适应环境 3 d。

动物准备及分组 (1) 动情期 ♀ 小鼠准

备^[5]: 取性成熟昆明种 ♀ 小鼠, 去卵巢, 恢复 2 周待用, 临用前 48 h sc 苯甲酸雌二醇 100 μg·kg⁻¹, 4~6 h 前再 sc 孕酮 500 μg/只, 即得动情期 ♀ 鼠。(2) ♂ 小鼠性经验获得: 将 ♂ 小鼠与动情期 ♀ 小鼠按 3:1(♂:♀)合笼饲养 3 d, 获得性交经验。(3) 分组与给药: 将有性交经验的 ♂ 小鼠分为正常对照组, 应激组, 应激给药组(人参皂甙 Rb₁ 2.5, 5, 10 mg·kg⁻¹, ip), 单只饲养, 给药组每次应激前 30 min 给药, 其他组给等量生理盐水。

应激实验 将小鼠尾朝上头朝下悬吊于水面上, 水温 20±2℃, 悬吊高度以前肢刚接触水面为准, 每天 1 次, 连续 10 d, 并循序增加应激强度。d 1~d 3 应激 2 h, d 4~d 6 应激 3 h, d 7~d 9 应激 4 h, d 10~d 11 应激 5 h。应激时间 9:00 am~2:00 pm, d 10 7:00~9:00 pm 观察性行为。d 11 应激 5 h, 应激后 30 min 取血, 肝素抗凝, 分离血浆, -20℃ 保存备用。

性行为观察 按文献^[6]方法, 将 ♂ 小鼠放入单只饲养的动情期 ♀ 小鼠笼中, 观察 15 min, 并记录如下性行为: 舔(licking), 跨骑(mounting), 交配(mating)的潜伏期及 15 min 内发生数和发生率。

血浆睾酮水平测定 按试剂盒说明书方法稍加改进。(1) 每管加血浆 0.1 ml, 用无水乙

醚 4 ml 振旋提取 2 min。(2) 葡聚糖活性炭分离膜制备,按 G. B. S. 10 ml 中加入葡聚糖 10 mg、活性炭 100 mg 的比例配制。(3) 活性炭分离时,加入活性炭静置时间为 10 min。

结 果

1 人参皂甙 Rb₁ 对应激性性行为缺损的影响

连续悬吊 10 d 小鼠性行为明显低下。人参皂甙 Rb₁ 每次应激前 30 min 给药(2.5, 5, 10 mg·kg⁻¹, ip)对应激引起的性行为缺损均有明显的保护作用(表 1~3)。

Tab 2 Effect of ginsenoside Rb₁ on repeated stress-induced reduction of mounting behavior in male mice

Treatment (mg·kg ⁻¹ , ip)	n	Mounting latency(min)	Mounting numbers in 15 min	Mounting rate(%)
Control	15	3.8±2.4	11.3±8.5	100
Stress	12	12.3±5.2 ^{###}	1.1±2.6 ^{###}	33.3 [#]
Rb ₁ 2.5	11	8.6±5.2 [*]	5.5±5.0 [*]	81.8 [*]
Rb ₁ 5	12	4.3±2.7 ^{**}	8.3±6.3 ^{**}	91.7 [*]
Rb ₁ 10	14	3.5±1.4 ^{***}	10.2±5.3 ^{***}	92.9 [*]

$\bar{x} \pm s$. [#] $P < 0.05$, ^{###} $P < 0.001$ vs control; ^{*} $P < 0.05$, ^{**} $P < 0.01$, ^{***} $P < 0.001$ vs stress. Mounting rate was tested by exact test for 2×2 tab.

Tab 3 Effect of ginsenoside Rb₁ on repeated stress-induced reduction of mating behavior in male mice

Treatment (mg·kg ⁻¹ , ip)	n	Mating numbers in 15 min	Mating rate(%)
Control	8	5.5±5.6	87.5
Stress	6	0.5±1.2 [#]	16.7 [#]
Rb ₁ 2.5	6	1.5±3.2	33.3
Rb ₁ 5	6	3.0±2.6 [*]	83.3
Rb ₁ 10	6	6.0±4.9 [*]	83.3

$\bar{x} \pm s$. [#] $P < 0.05$ vs control; ^{*} $P < 0.05$ vs stress. Mating rate was tested by exact test for 2×2 tab.

2 Rb₁ 对应激引起血浆睾酮水平下降的影响

连续应激 11 d, 血浆睾酮水平明显降低, Rb₁(2.5, 5, 10 mg·kg⁻¹, ip)对应激引起的血浆睾酮水平的降低有明显对抗作用(表 4)。

Tab 1 Effect of ginsenoside Rb₁ on repeated stress-induced reduction of licking behavior in male mice

Treatment (mg·kg ⁻¹ , ip)	n	Licking latency(s)	Licking numbers in 15 min
Control	15	25.0±18.6	10.9±4.0
Stress	12	107.2±57.4 [#]	4.9±3.2 ^{###}
Rb ₁ 2.5	11	10.4±9.5 ^{**}	8.8±5.4 [*]
Rb ₁ 5	12	28.0±19.4 [*]	10.2±4.1 ^{**}
Rb ₁ 10	14	18.3±11.4 ^{**}	13.9±7.1 ^{***}

$\bar{x} \pm s$. [#] $P < 0.05$, ^{###} $P < 0.001$ vs control; ^{*} $P < 0.05$, ^{**} $P < 0.01$, ^{***} $P < 0.001$ vs stress.

Tab 4 Effect of ginsenoside Rb₁ on repeated stress-induced reduction of plasma testosterone level in male mice

Treatment (mg·kg ⁻¹ , ip)	n	Testosterone (fmol·ml ⁻¹)
Control	12	3535.3±1194.7
Stress	11	1150.4±364.5 [#]
Rb ₁ 2.5	9	2710.0±1700.4 [*]
Rb ₁ 5	12	1697.8±448.0 ^{***}
Rb ₁ 10	14	3021.2±1634.1 ^{***}

$\bar{x} \pm s$. [#] $P < 0.001$ vs control; ^{*} $P < 0.005$, ^{***} $P < 0.001$ vs stress.

讨 论

脑的老化和性功能低下是机体衰老的重要标志。应激参与并促进机体衰老,一方面,由于在应激状态下,下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺(HPA)轴

兴奋性提高,肾上腺皮质大量释放应激激素-糖皮质激素(鼠类以皮质酮为主),高水平的糖皮质激素累积作用机体可导致与衰老相关性疾病^[4]。此外糖皮质激素选择性作用海马引起海马损伤,表现为学习记忆功能下降,海马形态发生退行性变化^[7~12],导致脑的衰老。另一方面,由于HPA轴过度兴奋,势必影响下丘脑-垂体-性腺(HPG)轴的功能,或过度释放的糖皮质激素直接作用于HPG轴某个环节或某个相关激素。Hales等报道皮质酮可直接抑制睾丸间质细胞合成睾丸酮^[13]。若长期累积作用必将导致HPG轴功能衰退。所以,研究应激状态下HPG轴功能的改变,寻找对抗HPG轴功能退化的药物研究对防止人类衰老具有非常重要的意义。

目前,应激对HPG轴和性功能的影响及药物作用研究报道甚少。本文研究结果表明,重复悬吊应激可引起小鼠性行为低下,甚至达到缺损的程度,同时血浆睾酮水平下降。有趣的是睾酮水平与血浆皮质酮升高呈显著负线性相关(另见报道),与Hales报道一致。Bingaman等报道,雄性激素双氢睾酮和睾酮能抑制下丘脑CRH释放^[14]。可见雄性激素参与了HPA轴功能调节,有利于防止应激机体皮质酮过度释放。

从以上研究结果提示,应激、皮质酮和睾酮之间可能存在以下关系:应激→血浆皮质酮水平↑→血浆睾酮水平↓→血浆皮质酮↑↑→血浆睾酮水平↓↓,即皮质酮的升高和睾酮的下降起着互相放大的作用。众所周知,睾酮与男性性功能密切相关,文献报道阉割动物性行为明显降低,表现为:跨骑数与血浆睾酮水平呈负线性相关,射精潜伏期延长和交配数减少^[5,6]。可见,应激引起的性行为低下,很大程度上是由于皮质酮水平升高,从而使睾酮水平降低所致。

人参具有十分广泛的药理活性,以往我们的研究表明,人参皂甙为其主要活性物质,Rb₁和Rg₁的药理作用尤为突出。本文研究结果表明:Rb₁对应激性行为低下具有显著的保护

作用,并使其维持在正常水平。人参总皂甙与Rb₁作用相似,但稍弱于Rb₁。而Rg₁无作用(结果未显示)。综上所述,我们认为:(1)Rb₁为人参适应原样作用的主要活性成分。(2)其作用机制与Rb₁抑制应激动物血浆皮质酮升高和提高睾酮水平有关。(3)阻止应激动物血浆睾酮水平降低有利于防止其血浆皮质酮的升高,从而避免机体遭受损害。关于Rb₁在垂体、下丘脑和海马水平的作用还不清楚,有待进一步研究。

参 考 文 献

- 1 Pare W. The effect of chronic environmental stress on premature aging in the rat. *J Gerontol*, 1965, **20**:78
- 2 Sapolsky RM, Krey LC, McEwen BS. The neuroendocrinology of stress and aging. The glucocorticoid cascade hypothesis. *Endocr Rev*, 1986, **7**:284
- 3 Seeman TE, Robbins RJ. Aging and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal response to challenge in humans. *Endocr Rev*, 1994, **15**:233
- 4 Munck A, Guyre P, Holbrook N. Physiological functions of glucocorticoids during stress and their relation to pharmacological actions. *Endocr Rev*, 1984, **5**:25
- 5 Clark J, Smith E, Davidson J. Testosterone is not required for the enhancement of sexual motivation by yohimbine. *Physiol Behav*, 1985, **35**:517
- 6 Clark J, Smith E, Davidson J. Enhancement of sexual motivation in male rats by yohimbine. *Science*, 1984, **225**:847
- 7 Luine V, Villegas M, Martine ZC, et al. Repeated stress causes reversible impairment of spatial memory performance. *Brain Res*, 1994, **639**:167
- 8 Luine V, Spencer R, McEwen BS. Effects of chronic corticosterone ingestion on spatial memory performance and hippocampal serotonergic function. *Brain Res*, 1993, **616**:65
- 9 Bodnoff SR, Humphreys AG, Lehman JC, et al. Enduring effects of chronic corticosterone treatment on spatial learning synaptic plasticity, and hippocampal neuropathology in young and mid-aged rats. *J Neurosci*, 1995, **15**:61
- 10 Uno H, Tarara R, Else J, et al. Hippocampal damage associated with prolonged and fatal stress in

- primate. *J Neurosci*, 1989, **9**:1705
- 11 Watanabe Y, Gould E, McEwen BS. Stress induces atrophy of apical dendrites of hippocampal CA₃ Pyramidal neurons. *Brain Res*, 1992, **588**: 341
- 12 Woolley CS, Gould E, McEwen BS. Exposure to excess glucocorticoids alters dendritic morphology of adult hippocampal pyramidal neurons. *Brain Res*, 1990, **531**:225
- 13 Hales DB, Payne AH. Glucocorticoid mediated repression of P450_{sec} mRNA and *de novo* synthesis in cultured leydig cells. *Endocrinology*, 1989, **124**: 2099
- 14 Bingaman EW, Magnuson DJ, Gray TS, *et al.* Androgen inhibits the increases in hypothalamic corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH) and CRH-immunoreactivity following gonadectomy. *Neuroendocrinology*, 1994, **59**:228

EFFECT OF GINSENOSE Rb₁ ON REPEATED STRESS-INDUCED SEXUAL DEFICIENCIES IN MALE MICE

Lian Xiaoyuan(Lian XY) and Zhang Juntian(Zhang JT)

(Department of Pharmacology, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100050)

ABSTRACT The effect of ginsenoside Rb₁ has been studied on sexual deficiencies induced by repeated hanging stress. Male mice were stressed by hanging once daily(9:00 am~2:00 pm) for 10 days(1~3 day hung for 2 h, 4~6 day hung for 3 h, 7~9 day hung for 4 h, 10~11 day hung for 5 h). On day 10, they were exposed to female mice treated with estradiol and progesterone and their sexual behaviors (licking, mounting, mating) were assessed at 7:00~9:00 pm. The repeated hanging stress was found to reduce sexual behaviors and decrease plasma testosterone level in mice. Treatments with ginsenoside Rb₁(2.5, 5, 10 mg•kg⁻¹, ip) 30 min before each stress prevented the repeated stress-induced sexual deficiencies and raised plasma testosterone level. The mechanism of the protective action of ginsenoside Rb₁ may be attributed to its action in maintaining normal plasma testosterone level.

KEY WORDS Repeated stress; Sexual behaviors; Plasma testosterone; Ginsenoside Rb₁