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Judul Karya Ilmiah (Artikel)	 Effects of Clear Kefir on Biomolecular Aspects of Glycemic Status of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) Patients in Bandung, West Java [Study on Human Blood Glucose, c Peptide and Insulin] 			
Jumlah Penulis	: 7 orang			
Status Pengusul	: J Judiono, Suharyo Hadisaputro, KS Indranila, Bambang Cahyono, Meiny			
S	Suzery, Yuliati Widiastuti, Asep Iwan Purnawan			
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The Functional Foods in Health and Disease (FFHD) is a peer-reviewed, open-access international journal which serves as the journal of the Academic Society for Functional Foods and Bioactive Compounds (ASFFBC). The journal's overall focus is on Functional Food Science, which is a new and unique area of health and nutrition. Although currently a small scientific field, Functional Food Science is quickly expanding as studies show that functional food products can help manage chronic disease and promote overall wellness. This is reflected in our journal's rapidly growing citation score.

The articles we publish include cutting-edge biomedical research and development of functional foods. The goal is to provide research that can lead to the development of functional food products. The actual definition for these functional foods, as provided by the Functional Food Center (FFC) is as follows: "Natural or processed foods that contain biologically-active compounds; which, in defined, effective non-toxic amounts, provide a clinically proven and documented health benefit utilizing specific biomarkers, for the prevention, management, or treatment of chronic disease or its symptoms."

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Vol 10, No 12 (2020): December 2020

Table of Contents

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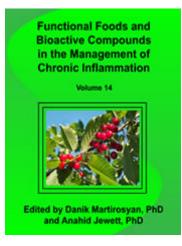
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Vol 4, No 8 (2014)

August 2014

Table of Contents

Research Articles

Effects of Clear Kefir on Biomolecular Aspects of Glycemic Status of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) Patients in Bandung, West Java [Study on Human Blood Glucose, c Peptide and Insulin] (https://www.ffhdj.com/index.php/ffhd/article/view/145)	[Abstract] (https://www.ffhdj.cc [Full Article] (https://www.ffhdj.cc
J Judiono, Suharyo Hadisaputro, <mark>K S Indranila,</mark> Bambang Cahyono, Meiny Suzery, Yuliati Widiastuti, Asep Iwan Purnawan	340-348
Evidence-based modeling of mode-of-action for functional ingredients influencing Alzheimer's disease through neurotrophin pathway (https://www.ffhdj.com/index.php/ffhd/article/view/147)	[Abstract] (https://www.ffhdj.cc [Full Article] (https://www.ffhdj.cc
Erfan Younesi	362-369
Characterization and specificity of probiotics to prevent salmonella infection in mice (https://www.ffhdj.com/index.php/ffhd/article/view/148)	[Abstract] (https://www.ffhdj.cc [Full Article] (https://www.ffhdj.cc
Ana Andino, Nan Zhang, Sandra Diaz-Sanchez, Carrie Yard, Sean Pendleton, Irene Hanning	370-380
Review Articles	
Gluten-free and casein-free diets in the treatment of autism (https://www.ffhdj.com/index.php/ffhd/article/view/146)	[Abstract] (https://www.ffhdj.cc [Full Article] (https://www.ffhdj.cc
Andreas Reissmann, Joachim Hauser, Ewelina Makulska-Gertruda, Loredana Tomsa, Klaus W. Lange	349-361

Related Publications

Research Article

Evidence-based modeling of mode-of-action for functional ingredients influencing Alzheimer's disease through neurotrophin pathway

Erfan Younesi

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ABSTRACT

Background: Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is the most widely expressed member of the neurotrophin family in the human brain and is crucially involved in the development of neural circuits, modulation of synaptic plasticity, and regulation of cognitive functions, including learning and memory. Many studies have shown the association of altered BDNF levels with neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders. However, BDNF is not able to cross the blood-brain barrier and, thus, its delivery to the nervous system is a challenge. Therefore, functional diets with the ability to induce production of BDNF in the brain may offer an alternative route. The objective of this study was three-fold: first, to find out diets that are causally linked to the agonistic activity of BDNF in the neurotrophin signaling pathway; second and mainly, to investigate mode-of-action of these functional diets through systems-based mechanistic modeling in the context of Alzheimer's disease; and third, to demonstrate the proof-of-concept application of systems biology methods, that are well established in the pharmaceutical sector, to the emerging field of functional food.

Methods: In the first step, two cause-and-effect models of BDNF signaling in two states, i.e. normal state and Alzheimer's disease state, were constructed using published knowledge in scientific literature and pathway databases. A "differential model analysis" between the two states was performed by which mechanistic mode-of-action of BDNF in neurotrophin signaling pathway could be explained with a high molecular resolution in both normal and disease states. The BDNF mode-of-action model was further validated using the "biomarker-guided validation" approach. In the second step, scientific evidence on the effect of various functional diets on BDNF levels and BDNF-related biological processes or outcomes was harvested from biomedical literature using a disease-specific semantic search. This information was then added to the mechanistic model of BDNF mode-of-action and used to substantiate the mode-of-action model.

Results: The differential model analysis resulted in a mechanistic mode-of-action model for

the effector BDNF signaling pathway through NTRK receptors (Neurotrophic tyrosine kinase receptor type 2) in neurons. The model revealed an amyloid-mediated neurotrophin switch mechanism by which the amyloid-beta protein competitively blocks BDNF-NTRK2 downstream signaling under Alzheimer's conditions, thereby "switching" the entire pathway from its normal state with neuroprotective effect to the disease state with a strong push towards neuron apoptosis. This hypothetical switch mechanism was validated by expressed biomarkers as well as empirical data obtained from experimentation of BDNF mimetics in animal models. Several functional diets were found in the literature that showed agonistic effects on the effector BDNF pathway. These effects are exerted through increased levels of BDNF and subsequently, activating the BDNF survival pathway, which leads to similar observations that have been made with BDNF mimetics in animal models.

Conclusions: To our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate mode-of-action of functional foods using systems-based modeling approaches. Moreover, such models can answer the question how functional diets can possibly act at the molecular level and interfere with the disease mechanism. Using scientific evidence supporting such models, there is a possibility to introduce new functional formulations by combining functional ingredients of these diets.

Keywords: evidence-based modeling, mode-of-action, functional ingredient, BDNF, Alzheimer's disease

BACKGROUND

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a neurodegenerative disorder that leads to cognitive dysfunction due to the loss of neurons in the human brain. This debilitating disease imposes high economic, social and emotional burden, and presently there is no definitive diagnostic or therapeutic solutions for AD.

Neurotrophins and their receptors are among therapeutic candidates that have shown promising results for the treatment of neurological diseases. The neurotrophins are an important family of growth factors that initiate a series of molecular signals on the surface of neurons and induce the survival, development, and function of neurons through "neurotrophin signaling pathway" [1]. BDNF is the most widely expressed member of the neurotrophin family in the human brain, which binds to NTRK2 receptors and activates the neurotrophin signaling. There is accumulated evidence that BDNF exerts broad neuroprotective effects in animal models of Alzheimer's disease [2]. For example, BDNF infusion in rat and mouse has shown to reverse cognitive decline and restore memory [3]. However, neurotrophin proteins cannot be directly applied as therapeutic agents for treatment. They suffer from poor stability in serum, negligible oral bioavailability, and the pleiotropic effects; most importantly, neurotrophins are not able to cross the blood-brain barrier and penetrate the brain [4]. Therefore, to take advantage of therapeutic potential of neurotrophins, there is a need for alternative strategies.

Historically, the concept of "food as medicine" was first suggested by medieval Persian practitioners such as Avicenna and Rhazes who developed scientific guidelines on the use of natural products for treatment of diseases and health problems [5]. Functional diets enriched with natural ingredients are good candidates for circumventing pharmacological problems of

Characterization and specificity of probiotics to prevent *salmonella* infection in mice

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ABSTRACT

Background: Probiotic strains of bacteria can prevent *Salmonella* from causing disease by preventing the pathogen from colonizing the intestines. Two strains of probiotics, *Lactobacillus acidophilius* and *Pediococcus spp*, that were obtained from poultry fecal samples have been shown to be efficacious in poultry. The objective of this study was to determine if these strains of probiotics could prevent salmonellosis in a mouse model.

Methods: First, both strains of probiotics were evaluated for *in vitro* efficacy to inhibit the growth of and interfere with virulence gene regulation in *Salmonella enterica*. For *in vivo* efficacy, mice was used which models Typhoid illness. Mice were divided into 2 groups: Control and treatment, *Lactobacillus* and *Pediococcus* (LP; 10^8 Log CFU). Two experiments were conducted. In the first experiment, the mice were treated with *LP* in water for the first two days of the experiment and challenged with *Salmonella* at day three. In the second experiment, the *LP* treatment was given in the water for 10 days and challenge was performed on day 11. In both experiments, at day 20 post-challenge, all mice were sacrificed, intestinal tracts and organs removed and cultured for *Salmonella*.

Results: The probiotic strains inhibited the growth of *Salmonella* and down-regulation of virulence genes was noted, but dependent on the strain of *Salmonella* being evaluated. For the *in vivo* experiment, the probiotics did not afford the mice protection from infection and increasing the length of time the probiotics were administered did not improve the efficacy of the probiotics.

Conclusions: It appears that these strains of probiotic bacteria are effective against *Salmonella in vitro*. However, these isolates did not afford protection from *Salmonella* infection to mice which may be due to host specifity as these isolates were obtained from poultry.

Keywords: Salmonella, Probiotic, Lactobacillus, Pediococcus, Mice

BACKGROUND

Bacteria, including *Salmonella*, are becoming resistant to antibiotics making treatment more difficult [1]. Furthermore, antibiotics are retroactive and cannot prevent sequelae including Reiter's syndrome and reactive arthritis. Thus, prevention of infection is key to avoiding life long illnesses. Due to the development of antibiotic resistance, alternatives are being sought which include probiotic bacteria and vaccination. With some consumers, "all natural" prevention methods including probiotics have been more popular [2].

Probiotic bacteria provide a number of benefits to the host including protection from pathogenic bacteria [3]. These bacteria protect the host through several mechanisms including competing for nutrients and niches and production of antimicrobial substances [4,5]. Furthermore, there is evidence that probiotic bacteria can interfere with the gene expression pathways of pathogenic bacteria, which could render the pathogen unable to colonize and cause disease [6].

The performance of probiotic strains may differ with usage in different animals because factors such as adherence sites vary between hosts [2]. It is understood that pathogenic bacteria can be host specific such is the case for many zoonotic bacteria including *Salmonella*. However, it has not been clarified if probiotic bacteria are also host specific. Previous research as well as our own, have demonstrated that a mixed culture of two strains of probiotics are effective at preventing *Salmonella* colonization in broiler chicks [7]. Given the proven efficacy of the probiotic strains used in this study and the source (poultry), the objective of this study was to determine their ability to inhibit *Salmonella* using a Typhoid induced mouse model.

METHODS

Bacteria strains and in vitro characterization

One strain of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and one strain of *Pediococcus spp.* originally obtained from a poultry cecal sample [7] were the two probiotic bacteria evaluated in this work, were cultured individually in De Man, Rogosa and Sharpe broth (MRS; Thermo Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA) and incubated at 37°C for 24h. After incubation, the medium was passed through a 0.45m filter to produce the sterile spent medium. The pH of the medium was adjusted to 6.2 prior to use. For growth inhibition assays, a total of 11 serovars consisting of 15 strains of *S. enterica* were utilized (Table 1).

All *Salmonella* strains were initially cultured on MRS and incubated at 37°C for 24h. After incubation, a loop of bacteria was inoculated into MRS broth and incubated in a shaking water bath at 37°C for 3h. The cultures then were split into 3 equal aliquots and centrifuged at $8000 \times g$ for 5 min. The supernatant was discarded and the pellets were resuspended in sterile MRS or