EFFECT OF QUERCETIN AND T-2 TOXIN ON ANTIOXIDANT PARAMETERS OF PORCINE BLOOD IN VITRO

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ABSTRACT

T-2 toxin, a trichothece mycotoxin, is considered to be a one of the most toxic compounds that is produced by molds, particularly the Fusarium species. Mycotoxins can contaminate a large variety of feed mixtures, and could cause serious health problems to domestic livestock and humans when consumed. The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of quercetin and T-2 toxin on some antioxidants parameters (superoxide dismutase - SOD, glutathione peroxidase - GPx) in porcine blood in vitro. Application of quercetin in different doses (1, 10, 100 mg.ml⁻¹) and T-2 toxin (1000 ng.ml⁻¹) has caused significant decrease of SOD activity. Differences among the groups in the case of GPx activity remained insignificant (P<0.05). In this study the additions of quercetin and T-2 toxin in different doses in porcine blood in vitro caused significantly (P<0.05) lower SOD activity in all experimental groups in comparison with the control group.

Keywords: T-2 toxin, quercetin, SOD, GPx, porcine blood
INTRODUCTION

Mycotoxins are natural and very stable toxins, with relatively low-molecular weight secondary metabolites of fungal origin, which can contaminate a large variety of feed mixtures (Labuda et al., 2009; Tančinová and Labuda, 2009) grains and foodstuffs worldwide, a variety of foods and beverages, including both plant-based products and animal products (Schollenberger et al., 2007; Ranzenigo et al., 2008).

Trichotecene mycotoxins are very large family of chemically related toxins produced by various species of Fusarium, Myrotrichium, Trichoderma, Cephalosporium, etc. (Wannemacher and Neufeld, 1991). T-2 toxin is some of the most important and toxic trichothecene mycotoxin occurring in various agriculture products (Iwahashi et al., 2008). Lipophilic nature of T-2 toxin suggests that they are easily absorbed through skin, gut, and pulmonary mucosa (Bunner and Morris, 1988). Trichotecene causes multiorgan effect including emesis, and diarrhea, weight loss, nervous disorders, cardiovascular alterations, immunodepression, hemostatic derangements, skin toxicity, and bone marrow damage (Wannemacher and Neufeld, 1991).

Quercetin, a member of the flavonoids family, is one of the most prominent dietary antioxidants. It is ubiquitously present in foods including vegetables, fruit, tea and wine as well as countless food supplements and is claimed to exert beneficial health effects. This includes protection against various diseases such as osteoporosis, certain forms of cancer, pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases but also against aging. Especially the ability of quercetin to scavenge highly reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as peroxynitrite and the hydroxyl radical is suggested to be involved in these possible beneficial health effects (Boots et al., 2008).

The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of quercetin and T-2 toxin on antioxidants parameters (superoxide dismutase - SOD, glutathione peroxidase – GPx), in whole blood of porcine in vitro.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The blood was obtained from sexually mature porcine Large white (APRC, Nitra). Quercetin (Q) (Sigma-Aldrich, Co, USA) was added to the blood samples at the doses: 1, 10 and 100 mg.ml⁻¹ alone or in combination with T-2 toxin (T-2) (Romer Labs Division Holding
GmbH, Tulln, Austria) at doses 1000 ng.ml\(^{-1}\) (Table 1). The blood samples without addition of quercetin or T-2 toxin served as the control group (C).

**Table 1** Application of quercetin and T-2 toxin in porcine blood *in vitro*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Quercetin (mg.ml(^{-1}))</th>
<th>T-2 toxin (ng.ml(^{-1}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
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<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E6</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend: C – control group, E1–E6 – experimental groups with various doses of quercetin alone or in combination with T-2 toxin.

The blood was incubated for 5 hours at 37 °C. Enzyme activity of SOD and GPx was assayed by spectrophotometric analysis (Genesys 10, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., USA), using commercial assay kit (Randox, Bratislava, Slovakia).

SAS software and Sigma Plot 11.0 (Jandel, Corte Madera, USA) were used to conduct statistical analyses. One-way ANOVA was used to calculate basic statistic characteristics and to determine significant differences among experimental and control groups. Data presented are given as mean and standard deviation (SD). Differences were compared for statistical significance at the level *P*<0.05.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

It is know that in general mycotoxins cause oxidative stress (Sehata *et al.*, 2005) and this leads to peroxidation of membrane lipids and β-oxidation of fatty acids (Jaeschke *et al.*, 2002). It has been shown that the administration of T-2 toxin caused a significant increase in respiratory burst of macrophages, which lead to the release of ROS into the blood stream (Cooray and Johnsson, 1990).

In this study we found significant decrease (*P*<0.05) in SOD activity after administration of quercetin and quercetin in combination with T-2 toxin in all observed
experimental groups (E1–E6) in comparison with the control group (C). The lowest activity of SOD was observed in E5 and E6 groups in comparison with the control group (C) where quercetin in combination with T-2 toxin was applied, and experimental groups where quercetin in various doses (E1-E4) was applied, but without statistical significance ($P>0.05$). It is known, that natural substances can cause changes in antioxidant status. **Seven et al. (2010)** found that vitamin C and propolis decreased the SOD activity and showed a tendency to reduce CAT (catalase) and GSH (glutathione) levels. In different study **Vilà et al. (2002)** found that α-tocopherol was significantly lower for the T-2 toxin treated mice.

On the contrary, in our previous research (**Petruška et al., 2012**) T-2 toxin in a combination with resveratrol caused significantly ($P<0.05$) higher activity of SOD in the experimental groups against the control group. This higher level of SOD activity could be affected by using different substance as antioxidant agent. In the another **in vitro** study (**Petruška and Capcarová, 2012**) T-2 toxin caused insignificant ($P>0.05$) increase of SOD in all experimental groups in comparison with the control group.

**Kolesarová et al. (2012)** found that reproductive toxicity of animals induced by a mycotoxin – deoxynivalenol (DON) can be inhibited by a protective natural substance – resveratrol.

In the another study **Medvedova et al. (2011)** found that DON has direct effect on secretion of growth factor IGF-I and steroid hormone progesterone in porcine granulosa cells.

After application of quercetin and T-2 toxin the activity of GPx was slightly lower in all experimental groups (E1–E6) in comparison with the control group (C), however without statistical significance ($P>0.05$). GPx was slightly higher in the first experimental group (E1) in comparison with the experimental groups (E2-E6), but without significant confirmation ($P>0.05$). In this paper the application of T-2 toxin and quercetin has not caused the significant differences in observed parameters in contrast with the previous study (**Petruška et al., 2012**). Natural antioxidant quercetin had probably supportive effect on antioxidant parameters and is able to maintain the antioxidant status of animal cells.
CONCLUSION

In this study the additions of quercetin and T-2 toxin in different doses in porcine blood in vitro caused some changes in antioxidant status. The activity of SOD was significantly ($P<0.05$) lower in all experimental groups in comparison with the control group. Also activity of GPx was slightly lower in the experimental groups but without significant differences ($P>0.05$). To our knowledge there are not a lot of similar studies on effect of quercetin and T-2 toxin in various doses given to the blood in vivo and its effect on antioxidant profile. Further investigation with different doses of T-2 toxin and combination with different doses of quercetin will be worthy of further investigation.
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REFERENCES


