

Effects of Hydroxysafflor Yellow a (HSYA) on UVA-Induced Damage in HaCaT Keratinocytes

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Abstract : UV radiation from sunlight cause numbers of acute and chronic skin damage which can result in inflammation, immune changes, physical changes and DNA damage that facilitates skin aging and the development of skin carcinogenesis. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are generated by excessive solar UV radiation, resulting in oxidative damage to cellular components, proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids. Thus, antioxidation plays an important role that protects skin against ROS-induced injury. Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.) is an important Chinese medicine contained abundance flavones and hydroxysafflor yellow A (HSYA) which is main active ingredient. HSYA is part of quinochalcone and has unique structures of hydroxy groups that provided the antioxidant effect. In this study, the aim was to investigate the protective role of HSYA in human keratinocytes (HaCaT) against UVA-induced oxidative damage and the possible mechanism. The HaCaT cells were UVA-irradiated and the effects of HSYA on cell viability, reactive oxygen species generation, DNA fragmentation and lipid peroxidation were measured. The mRNA expression of matrix metalloproteinase 1 (MMP 1), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) were determined by RT-PCR. In this study, UVA exposure lead to decrease in cell viability and increase in reactive oxygen species generation in HaCaT cells. HSYA could effectively increase the viability of HaCaT cells after UVA exposure and protect them from UVA-induced oxidative stress. Moreover, HSYA can reduce inflammation through inhibition the mRNA expression of MMP I and COX-2. Our results suggest that HSYA can act as a free radical scavenger while keratinocytes were photodamaged. HSYA could be a useful natural medicine for the protection of epidermal cells from UVA-induced damage and will be developed into products for skin care.

Keywords : HaCaT keratinocytes, hydroxysafflor yellow A (HSYA), MMP I, oxidative stress

Conference Title : ICFSN 2015 : International Conference on Food Science and Nutrition

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : June 28-29, 2015