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PHARMACOLOGICAL STUDY OF PROTECTIVE EFFECT OF METHYL PALMITATE IN EXPERIMENTALLY-INDUCED MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

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<u>ABSTRACT</u>

Myocardial infarction (MI) is an acute condition of sudden ischemic necrosis of the myocardium that results from the critical imbalance between the coronary blood supply and the myocardium demand. Oxidative stress is an important pathogenic event in MI, where the generated reactive oxygen species (ROS) cause cellular destruction. Moreover, apoptosis and the inflammatory cascades play major roles in the pathogenesis of MI.

The present study was designed to assess the potential cardioprotective effect of the naturally occurring fatty acid ester methyl palmitate (MP) against isoproterenol (ISO)-induced MI in rats and the possible underlying molecular mechanisms. The study was carried out in two consequent phases, the first phase screened the cardioprotective dose of MP in ISO-intoxicated rats. In the second phase, forty male Sprague dawley rats were treated with either MP (150 mg/kg, p.o) 3 times/week on alternative days for 2 weeks and/or 2 consecutive doses of ISO separated by 24 hours (85 mg/kg, s.c.) on the 13th and 14th days.

Different cardiotoxicity and oxidative stress markers were assessed. Moreover, endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) content was determined. In addition, cardiac expression of caspase 3, Bax and Bcl-2 was assessed to detect apoptosis. To assess inflammation, ELISA measurement of toll like receptor 4 (TLR-4) and tumor necrosis factoralpha (TNF- α), as well as the immunohistochemical detection of nuclear factor kappa B (NF- κ B) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) were performed as well.

Cardiotoxicity and oxidative stress markers were significantly ameliorated by pretreatment with MP. Furthermore, MP pretreatment significantly elevated eNOS levels, decreased the expression of the proapoptotic markers but increased that of Bcl-2 and mitigated TLR-4 activation and the other inflammatory markers. Additionally, histopathological examination and electrocardiogram confirmed the cardioprotective effect of MP.

Collectively, these findings indicate that MP possesses a potential cardioprotective effect against ISO-induced MI.

Keywords: Myocardial infarction; Methyl Palmitate; Oxidative stress; Apoptosis; TLR-4; Inflammation

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