

行政院國定科學委員會補助專題研究計畫成果報告

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※ 檳榔素對人類頰黏膜纖維母細胞 ※

※ 細胞骨架蛋白影響之研究 ※

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計畫主持人：張育超
共同主持人：周明勇

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一、中文摘要

嚼食檳榔是造成口腔黏膜下纖維化的主要原因，其會造成黏膜上皮萎縮與過量的膠原蛋白堆積在結締組織層中。檳榔素是檳榔中含量最多的植物鹼，其亦被認為與口腔黏膜下纖維化關係密切，以往有關此類研究多從膠原蛋白著手，鮮少有研究探討檳榔成分對細胞骨架蛋白的影響。本研究以組織培養法，培養人類頰黏膜纖維母細胞探討檳榔素對其細胞骨架蛋白的影響，結果發現檳榔素會提高 57KDa 蛋白的表現，此一現象隨著藥物計量增加而升高，在 arecoline 100 µg/ml 時約為對照組的 15 倍左右，且與從口腔黏膜下纖維化培養出的纖維母細胞有相同劑量的 57KDa 蛋白表現，經由西方墨點法發現此一 57KDa 蛋白為 Vimentin，另外從病理切片以免疫組織化學染色法亦發現 Vimentin 在纖維化較正常組織有明顯的表現。從本研究結果發現此一 57KDa 細胞骨架蛋白 Vimentin 的表現，可能與正常黏膜轉變成黏膜下纖維化關係密切。

關鍵詞：檳榔素；口腔黏膜下纖維化症；頰纖維母細胞；細胞骨架

Abstract

Areca quid chewing has a strong correlation with oral submucous fibrosis in Taiwan. The cytotoxicity of arecoline,

a major areca nut alkaloid, on human oral fibroblasts has been extensively studied. To date there has been little research into the possible effects of arecoline on cytoskeleton components. In this study, in addition to cytotoxicity assay, we especially pay attention to the effect of arecoline on vimentin, an intermediate filament, expression of human buccal mucosal fibroblasts exposure to various levels of arecoline (0 to 200 µg/ml) for 48 hour. At a concentration higher than 50 µg/ml, arecoline was cytotoxic to cultured fibroblasts and the cytotoxicity was dose-dependent ($p < 0.05$). From the result of SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, arecoline was found to elevate 57 KDa cytoskeletal protein level in a dose-dependent manner. By immunoblotting assay, evidence indicated this 57 KDa cytoskeletal protein was vimentin. The increased of vimentin with arecoline was correspondent to that obtained in fibroblasts cultured from oral submucous fibrosis (OSF) patients. Immunohistochemical assay also revealed that vimentin expression was much higher in OSF specimen than in

normal buccal mucosa. These results probably advance our understanding the possible pathogenesis how normal buccal mucosa transform to submucous fibrosis because of areca quid chewing.

Keywords : arecoline; oral submucous fibrosis; buccal fibroblasts; cytoskeleton
二、緣由與目的

Oral submucous fibrosis (OSF), which is regarded as a precancerous condition (Pindborg *et al.*, 1984), is characterized by juxta-epithelial inflammatory reaction followed by fibro-elastic change in the lamina propria and epithelial atrophy. This leads to restricted oral opening, causing trismus and inability to eat (Pindborg and Sirsat, 1966). The fibro-elastic changes are almost entirely due to abnormal accumulation of collagen fiber in the subepithelial layers (Canniff *et al.*, 1986; Van Wyk *et al.*, 1990), resulting in dense fibrous bands in the mouth.

Epidemiological studies have shown that the habit of areca quid chewing is one of the most important etiologic factors in the pathogenesis of OSF (Sinor *et al.*, 1990; Maher *et al.*, 1994). The etiology involved in the pathogenesis of OSF is believed to be multifactors, such as autoimmunity, nutritional deficiency states and even genetic susceptibility (Mutri *et al.*, 1995). Our recent study have shown that arecoline act as not only a cytotoxic agent, but also a stimulator for double stranded nucleic acid synthesis on human buccal mucosa fibroblasts

(Chang *et al.*, 1998a). Arecoline also induced cell morphology change in human oral fibroblasts (Chang *et al.*, 1998a, 1998b, and 1999). The change on cell morphology implicates the possible effects of arecoline on the disturbance of cytoskeleton, which leads to interfere the cell mitosis as well as the intracellular transport mechanism.

To further elucidate the pathobiological effects of areca quid chewing on human buccal mucosa, we treated mucosal cells with the major areca nut alkaloid, arecoline, to exam whether the cytoskeletal proteins were influenced.

三、結果與討論

Arecoline has been reported as one of the causing factors for chromosome aberrations and increasing sister chromatid exchanges in mouse bone marrow cells (Panigrahi 1982; Panigrahi 1983). Recently, it was also shown to induce unscheduled DNA synthesis in Hep 2 cells derived from human larynx carcinoma (Sharan and Wary 1992) and increase the frequency of Chinese hamster ovary cells with micronuclei *in vitro* (Lee *et al.* 1996). In this study, we found arecoline, at a concentration of 50 µg/ml or higher, was cytotoxic to buccal fibroblasts by using LDH assay (Fig. 1). Similar results were found by human buccal fibroblasts *in vitro* (Jeng *et al.* 1994; Van Wyk *et al.* 1995; Chang *et al.* 1998). They have clearly shown the cytotoxicity of arecoline.

In this study, we noted that arecoline significantly increased a 57 kDa insoluble cytoskeleton protein expression in human normal buccal mucosal fibroblasts in a dose-dependent manner. This protein, however, was highly expressed in the fibroblasts from OSF patients. Immunoblotting assay revealed that this cytoskeleton protein is vimentin, one of the intermediate filaments (Fig. 2). Vimentin is a member of type III intermediate filament and it is primarily expressed in cells of mesenchymal origin, but not in normal epithelial cells (Funchs and Weber 1994). However, it is also present in transformed cell lines and tumors (Tsarfaty *et al.*, 1994; Chen *et al.*, 1996; Atula *et al.*, 1997). In this study, we first report that vimentin expression highly elevated in normal human buccal mucosal fibroblasts effected by arecoline and correspondent to that obtained in fibroblasts cultured from OSF patients.

From immuohistochemistry, homogenous and intensive staining for vimentin was subepithelially and in the deeper layers of the connective tissue stroma from OSF specimens (Fig. 3). In addition, vimentin was found to be highly expression in OSF specimens as compared to that in normal buccal mucosa. Vimentin forms a highly insoluble network providing cell shape and integrity (Funchs and Weber 1994). It is significant that protein expression around fibrotic areas. Numerous

speculations have been put forward to explain the pathogenesis of OSF, many of which are related to the areca nut and its components. Elevated vimentin protein expression might be a new approach in the pathogenesis of OSF patients who chew the areca quid.

However, further researches are required, including detection of vimentin gene transcripts, whether OSF is caused solely by increased or altered *de novo* synthesis and deposition of vimentin by areca nut constitutes.

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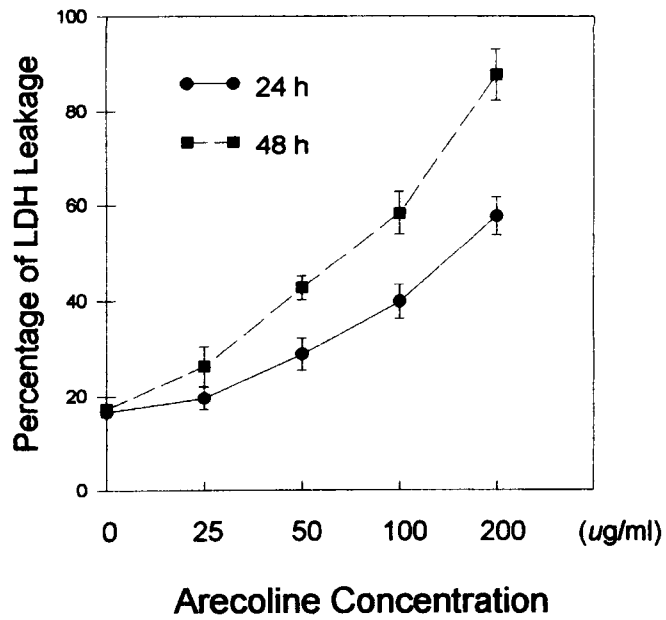


Fig.1 Cellular toxicity measured by LDH assay .

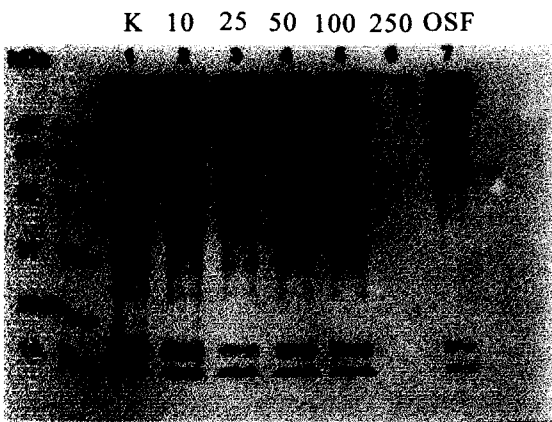


Fig.2 Cytoskeletal fraction analyzed by SDS-PAGE .

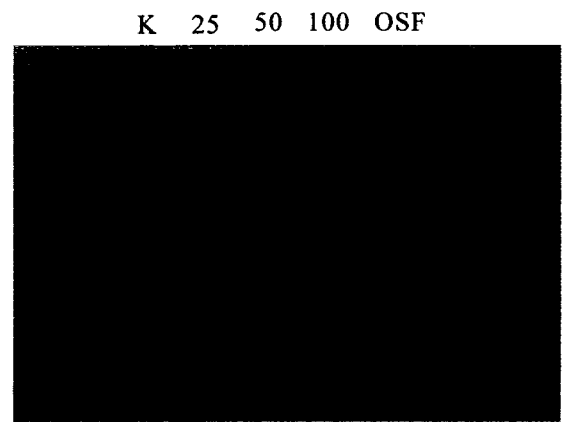


Fig.3 Immunoblotting of cytoskeletal component with anti-vimentin antibody



Fig.4a Vimentin was labeled in the collagen fiber slightly in the connective tissue within normal buccal mucosa.



Fig.4b Homogenous and intensive staining for vimentin was subepithelially and in the deeper layers of the connective tissue stroma in OSF specimens.