Salivary superoxide dismutase activity in the consumers of paan containing tobacco

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Abstract

Introduction: The habit of smokeless tobacco chewing is one of the known risk factors for oral cancer among the residents of southeast of Iran. Most likely, the antioxidant defense system in dealing with free radicals induced paan and prevention of oral cancer is important. In this study, the activity of super oxide dismutase is compared in the saliva of paan consumers and non-consumers.

Methods: In this study, Unstimulated saliva of 87 subjects (47 paan consumers and 40 non-consumers) who referred to the Oral Medicine Department of Dentistry School of Zahedan was collected. The activity of super oxide dismutase enzyme was measured by standard biochemical methods (Mc Cord and Fridovich) and the obtained data were analyzed by statistical software SPSS-15 through non-parametric Mann-Whitney test.

Results: The mean activity of super oxide dismutase was significantly higher in the paan consumers group (4.4±1.6 u/mg) compared to non-consumers (3.59±1.8 u/mg, p=0.027).

Conclusions: The results of this study demonstrate that consumption of paan leads to increased activity of salivary super oxide dismutase.

Keywords: Antioxidants, Saliva, Smokeless tobacco, Superoxide dismutase
فعالیت سوپرآکسید دسموتاز برازی در مصرف کننده‌های محتوی تنباکو

لیلا فرحادملاشاهی، علیرضا نخعی، فاطمه اربابی کلاتی، پیام قهاری

چکیده

مقدمه: جویه‌نمی تنباکوی غیر تدخینی به عنوان یکی از ریسک‌های افزایش شده سرطان دهان در ساکان جنوب شرقی ایران می‌باشد. احتمالاً سیستم دفاع آنتی‌اکسیدان در مقایسه با رادیکال‌های آزاد ناشی از مصرف پان و همچنین در جل‌گیری از ایجاد سرطان دهان مهم است. در این مطالعه فعالیت آنزیم سوپرآکسید دسموتاز در براز افراد مصرف کننده و افراد غیر مصرف کننده مقایسه شده است.

مواد و روش‌ها: در این تحقیق براز غیر تحت‌درکی 47 فرد از مصرف کننده و 40 فرد غیر از مصرف کننده به پخش بیماری های دهان دانشگاه دندان پزشکی زاهدان جمع‌آوری شد. میزان فعالیت آنزیم سوپرآکسید دسموتاز در براز از استاندارد بیوهیمنی (Mc Cord and Fridovich) آنالیز شد. آنالیز داده‌ها با استفاده از SPSS 15 و تی‌ستفانو و تی‌ستفانو وان پارامتریک Mann–Whitney انجام شد.

یافته‌ها: میزان فعالیت آنزیم سوپرآکسید دسموتاز در براز کننده‌های تنباکو بالاتر از مصرف کننده بود.

نتیجه‌گیری: نتایج این مطالعه نشان داد که مصرف پان موجب افزایش فعالیت سوپرآکسید دسموتاز برازی می‌شود.

واژگان کلیدی: آنتی‌اکسیدان، براز، تنباکوی غیر تدخینی، سوپرآکسید دسموتاز

Introduction

Paan is a combination of areca nut, slaked lime, catechu, tobacco, sweeteners, and spices (1, 2) and contains various carcinogenic compounds including reactive oxygen species, Arecoline (3), Tobacco specific nitrosamines (3, 4).

It is a risk factor for oral cancer, hypertension, dyslipidemia, miscarriage, low birth weight, diabetes, and asthma exacerbation (5, 6). Based on recent research, long-term use of smokeless tobacco can produce free radicals (7). The includes superoxide anion (O$_2^-$), hydroxyl radical (HO$^•$), peroxy radicals (ROO$^•$), and hydrogen peroxide (H$_2$O$_2$) (8).

Free radicals are also called reactive oxygen species (ROS) which form following chewing areca nut and catechu at pH>9.5 (9). Free radicals can change the structure of intracellular and extracellular components such as proteins, lipids, and DNA and interfere with cell function (10).

Antioxidants are the body's defense system that neutralizes the destructive effects of ROS and minimize damage to cells. As the first defensive line, salivahas a protective antioxidant system that fights against oxidant-induced damage (11). One of the most important antioxidant enzymes which regulate...
oxidation-reduction process of cell sinnormal and
tumorigenic conditionis superoxide dismutase (SOD)
(12). There are three types of superoxide dismutase
including Fe-SOD, Mn-SOD and Cu-Zn SOD. SOD
contains copper and zinc and is found in all body
tissues as well as in some body fluids, in particular
saliva (13).

SOD converts $O_2$ to $H_2O_2$ during its catalytic
activity. (14) So far, several studies with contradictory
results were carried out on the antioxidant enzymes
such as SOD in the saliva of smokers (13-17), while no
study was performed in this regard on smokeless
tobacco consumers.

In the present study, we intended to compare the
activity of SOD; the body’s most important antioxidant
enzyme, in the saliva of paan consumers and non-
consumers. This study could lay the ground for
research on the prevention of adverse effects of paan in
oral cavity through antioxidant defense system of
saliva.

**Methods**

**Subjects:** According to previous studies (16) the
sample size in confidence interval 95% and power of
test 80% was determined. In this cross sectional study,
47 paan consumers who used daily at least one packet
of 10 gram paan for at least one year and 40 age and sex
matched non-consumers referred to Dentistry School of
Zahedan were selected through simple sampling
method. Any factors that might lead to imbalance
oxidant/antioxidant system in the exclusion and
inclusion criteria were considered.

**Inclusion criteria:**
1. Healthy individual
2. Desire to participate in the study

**Exclusion criteria:**
1. Suffering from any systemic disease.
2. Consumption of immunosuppressive and non-
steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antioxidants and
vitamin supplement sins last three months.
3. Smoking and consumption of alcohol.
4. Oral cavity diseases such as asaphthous, leukoplaikia,
periodontitis (pocket>3mm), etc.

All participants were informed about the study and
a written consent was obtained regarding their
participation in the project. The study, was approved
by the Ethics Committee of Zahedan University of
Medical Sciences.

**Collection of saliva**

The participants were asked to avoid eating,
drinking, and brushing 2 hours before sampling. All
samples were collected between 9 am to 11 am.

During sample collection, whilst seated and
slightly bent forward, the subjects evacuated their
saliva 1-2 times per minute for at least 5 minutes in
sterile tubes (17). The test tubes were coded and sent
immediately to Biochemistry Lab of Zahedan
University of Medical Sciences. Then in the laboratory,
they were centrifuged (Clement 2000) for 10 minutes
at a speed of 2000 rpm. The super natant was separated
and maintained at -70°C.

**Assay of SOD activity**

The required materials for experimentation were
purchased from Merck, Germany. The enzyme activity
was measured according to Mc Cord and Fridovich
method (18). 50μL of sample was mixed with 2.9 ml of
the solution was prepared via mixing of 100 ml PBS 50
mM (pH 7.4) containing EDTA 0.1 mM and 2 μm
olcytochrome C, with 10 ml sodium hydroxide 0.001
Ncontaining 5 μm olnanthine, and the reaction was
started by adding of 50 μL the solution containing
xanthine oxidase 0.2U/ml and EDTA 0.1 mm.

The absorbance of each sample was measured with
aspectrophotometer (Pharmacia-Biotech) at 550 nm
wavelength. In controls, 50 ml of distilled water was
used instead of sample.

After the calculation of changes in absorbance in
each sample for four minutes, the mean of absorbance
changes were calculated for every minute. Then, the
activity of each sample (in U/mg) was calculated based
on molar absorption coefficient of cytochrome C and
the amount of protein present in each sample.

**Statistical analysis**

The data obtained from paan consumer and
non-consumer groups were analyzed by SPSS-15
statistical software through descriptive statistics for
mean and standard deviation and Mann-Whitney
non-parametric test, p≤0.05 was considered statistically
significant.

**Results**

Paan consumers included 29 males and 18 females
with a meanage of 27 years and non-consumers
included 22 males and 18 females with a mean age of
31 years. Table 1 shows that the mean SOD activity
was significantly higher in the paan consuming group
(p≤0.05). It was also found that there was not a significant difference between age and gender of two groups; this was expected regarding matching of variables of the two groups (p>0.05).

**Table 1. Superoxide dismutase activity and demographic characteristic in subjects of the study groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study groups</th>
<th>Consumers (Mean±SD)</th>
<th>Non consumers (Mean±SD)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOD activity (u/mg)</td>
<td>4.4±1.6</td>
<td>3.59±1.8</td>
<td>0.027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (year)</td>
<td>27±11</td>
<td>31±9</td>
<td>0.176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion**

The results of the present study showed that the activity of super oxide dismutase in saliva was significantly higher in paan consumers compared with non-consumers. It seems that the increase of this enzyme, as a component of the antioxidant defense system in saliva, is to reduce the damaging effects of free radicals produced by the consumption of paan. Exposing to the compounds in the paan induce microsomalcy tochrome P₄₅₀ as a source of reactive oxygen species (ROS).

Super oxide anion and hydrogen peroxide were formed especially following disruption and uncoupling of cytochrome P₄₅₀ in the catalytic cycle (19). Oxidant toxicity caused by smoking may lead to increase antioxidant enzymes such as SOD (17). Super oxide dismutase converts super oxidanion to hydrogen peroxide which then H₂O₂ is removed by glutathione peroxidase (GPX) or catalase (9).

No study was performed on enzymatic antioxidants such as SOD in saliva of paan consumers, thus, it is difficult to compare the results of this study with other studies; this issue may be considered as a limitation of our study.

The results of the present study are consistent with the research of Bahar vandand et al. who found that smoking increases the activity of salivary super oxide dismutase (13).

Several investigators also showed that the mean levels of SOD were significantly higher in the saliva of smokers than non smokers (14,17,20). Our results were inconsistent with the studies of Abdolsamadi and Agnihotri. In the study of Abdolsamadiand et al., the activity of salivary SOD was significantly lower in smokers compared with non-smokers (16). gnihotri and et al., showed that the activity of SOD in saliva and gingival crevicular fluid of smokers was reduced compared with the control group and was lower in heavy smokers than light smoker (15). The difference between these results and ours may be due to the measurement of this enzyme in subjects with periodontal disease.

Zappacosta and et al., studied the level of glutathione, uric acid, and total antioxidant activity in saliva of smokers (before and after smoking a cigarette) and non-smokers.

In this study, no statistically significant difference was seen between the two groups in terms of uric acid concentration and total antioxidant activity of saliva; however, the glutathione level was significantly higher in smokers and decreased significantly after smoking (21). Reznick and et al., studied the activity of antioxidant enzymes invivo and invitro.

In in vivo study, the activities of antioxidant enzymes decreased during the first half an hour after consumption but then returned to 90-100% of previous status due to new saliva secretion (22).

In consistenciesin the results of the studies could be due to the differences in the type of consumed tobacco, duration and consumption pattern, method of enzyme assessment, subjects’ age, research sample (saliva or blood), research method (in vitro or invitro) and type of antioxidant agent.

Shrestha and et al., compared the status of non-enzymatic antioxidants between the consumers of masala paan (containing tobacco) and control group. In this study, the levels of vitamin C, vitamin E, and albumin were significantly lower in paan consumers than incontrol group (19).

The difference between these results and ours may be due to the measurement of these antioxidants in plasma of subjects as well as studying the non-enzymatic antioxidants in the mentioned research. Karincoaglu and et al., studied antioxidant enzymes of catalase and SOD in saliva of patients with aphthous and healthy subjects. Salivary SOD and catalase levels were significantly higher in the patients group than the controls, but the serum levels of SOD and CAT were decreased in them.

They argued that the salivary defense mechanisms which act through antioxidant system cause the whole
body to send its stored antioxidants to the site of injury during aphthous occurrence, resulting in the increase of salivary antioxidant agents (18). This research corresponds to the present study since in both, the activity of salivary SOD increases, however during aphthous, the enzymatic changes precede the appearance of the lesion, while paan consumption alters the antioxidant system in consumers.

Goku and et al., showed that the antioxidant enzymes SOD and catalase were significantly reduced in tissue samples of oral squamous cell carcinoma group than the control. While, the SOD levels in the erythrocytes were higher in patients in comparison with the control group.

They emphasized that the imbalance of oxidant/antioxidant system as a risk factor in cancer may be considered (23). Finally, it can be mentioned that the periodic assessment of salivary antioxidant system in paan consumers can play an important role in the early treatment of paan damaging effects in oral cavity.

Conclusions
The results of this study showed that salivary superoxide dismutase enzyme activity in paan consumers is higher than the non-consumers.

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Conflict of interest: There was no conflict of interest.

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