Clinically approved daidzein enhances cholesterol homeostasis via ApoE to promote stroke recovery in mice





Sunghee Cho Ph.D

Burke Medical Research Institute Weill Cornell Medical College



Disclosure

Research Support NIH-NHLBI NIH NCRR NINDS Burke Foundation

Conflict of interest

none

- Stroke is the leading cause of physiological disability in the world.
- No available FDA approved drug for stroke patients to enhance functional recovery.
- Synaptic plasticity and remodeling occur weeks after stroke: -restorative responses that occurs long after injury would be clinically relevant
- Ratan lab at Burke: FDA approved drug screening (HIF, Arg, P21) Daidzein
- Daidzein is a major component of soy isoflavones.
 Structure similarity to estrogen
 Numerous health benefits
 - anti-inflammatory effect (Dang and Lowik, 2004; Ricketts et al., 2005)
 - promote mitochondrial biogenesis (Rasbach and Schnellmann 2008)
 - antidiabetic and hypolipidemic effects (Mezei et al., 2003)
 - vasodilatory effect (Cao et al., 2006).
 - promotes axon growth (Wang et al., 2008)



• In an animal model of optic nerve crush, promote regeneration of axon (Ma et al., 2010)

Effects of daidzein in acute neuroprotection and functional recovery

Middle Cerebral Artery Occlusion (MCAO)in mice





ApoE expression increases in the post-ischemic brain



- ApoE
- Cholesterol is a critical substrate for synaptic plasticity
- ApoE is the most abundant cholesterol transporter in the brain
- It controls cellular cholesterol efflux

ApoE expression in ischemic brain



Effect of daidzein on stroke-induced gene expression at 1M



Daidzein increased ApoE expression in 1M post-stroke brain





Daidzein's effect on motor function



Rotarod Test



Catwalk Gait Analysis





- 1. Overall gait -Walk Speed -Regularity index
- 2. Spatial parameters based on individual paw
 -Stride lengths
 -Swing Speed
 -Max contact area
 -Mean intensity

Daidzein's effect on overall gaits





Daidzein increase synaptophysin expression at 1M



Daidzein increased synaptophysin expression in C57 mice



Daidzein treatment following stroke in C57 mice

- no effect on reducing infarct size
- Increased <u>ApoE</u> expression at 1 m post-ischemia -predominantly in astrocytes
- attenuated stroke-induced <u>body weight</u> loss during acute period (3-5 days post)
- promoted motor/gait function during recovery phase
- increased <u>synaptophysin</u> expression

However, Daidzein treatment in ApoE KO mice reverse functional benefits and synaptophysin expression ✓ the study suggest the importance of daidzein-induced ApoE upregulation in fostering stroke recovery.

 ✓ daidzein-induced functional benefits in the absence of neuroprotection suggest the presence of non-overlapping mechanisms underlying recovery processes versus acute pathology.

 With its known safety in humans, early and chronic use of daidzein aimed at augmenting ApoE may serve as a novel, translatable strategy to stroke recovery functional recovery in stroke patients without adverse acute effect.

Special thanks..... Raj Ratan, Eunhee Kim, Moonsook Woo, Luye Qin,Thong Ma, Dale Corbett, Jason Baily, Debomoy Lahiri,