The protection effects of different dosages of ulinastatin on myocardial remodeling.

Yanbo Ling1 and Jianxin Sun2

1Army Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Key Laboratory/Beijing Key Laboratory of New Techniques of Tuberculosis Diagnosis and Treatment, Institute of Tuberculosis Research, the 309th Hospital of Chinese PLA, Beijing 100091, China
2The General Hospital of Chinese PLA, Beijing 100039, China

Abstract

The aim is to explore the protection effect of ulinastatin (UTI) on myocardial in different dosages and its mechanism. From May to August 2014, in the animal laboratory of the 309th hospital of PLA, the experiment was carried out in strict accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for the National Institutes of Health. The animal protocol was approved by the Institutional Animal Care Committee of the 309th Hospital of PLA. 120 SD rats were randomly divided into control group (treated with normal saline), UTI low-dose group (30000 IU/kg), UTI moderate-dose group (60000 IU/kg) and high-dose group (90000 IU/kg). All rats were treated with UTI for 2 weeks via vein. Then left ventricular end diastolic diameter (LVEDD), left ventricular end systolic dimension (LVESD) and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) were employed to evaluate heart function. Hyp determination with chloramine-T oxidation method was employed to detect the myocardial fibrosis degree, while brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) was used to assess heart function. By comparison among groups, the results of the high-dose group were better than that of any other group in LVEDD, LVESD, LVEF, BNP content, as well as in heart function.

It is better for myocardial protection with high-dose of ulinastatin, the possible mechanism is relevant to inhibit myocardial interstitial fibrosis and ventricular remodeling.

Introduction

As the advantages of urinary protease inhibitors, ulinastatin (UTI), such as improving organs ischemia/reperfusion, and anti-inflammatory effects, it is widely used in cardiac protection under the conditions of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, heart failure and the others [1-5]. However, clinically, the myocardial protective effect of UTI is not obvious at low dosage level. Therefore, we supposed that its therapeutic effect may be dose-related. In this study, we explored myocardial protective effect of UTI in different dosages and its mechanism.

Materials and methods

From May to August 2014, in the animal laboratory of the 309th hospital of PLA, the experiment was carried out in strict accordance with the recommendations in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for the National Institutes of Health. The animal protocol was approved by the Institutional Animal Care Committee of the 309th Hospital of PLA. We used doxorubicin-induced cardiomyopathy as the model of this study. In 11 weeks, the rats were treated every week by intraperitoneal injection with 2.8 mg/kg doxorubicin. In the 12th week, without intraperitoneal injection, the models were observed to confirm [6]. 120 SD rats were randomly divided into control group (treated with normal saline), UTI low-dose group (30000 IU/kg), UTI moderate-dose group (60000 IU/kg) and high-dose group (90000 IU/kg) [7-8]. All rats were treated with UTI for 2 weeks by tail vein injection with digoxin, by nasogastric tube with valsartan, and by vein with UTI.

Left ventricular end diastolic diameter (LVEDD), left ventricular end systolic dimension (LVESD) and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) were employed to evaluate heart function by echocardiography before the experiment and two weeks after.

The measurement of Hyp (hydroxyproline) was based on chloramine-T oxidation method. Left ventricular myocardia (30–100 mg wet tissue) were placed in tubes, then mixed with 1 ml hydrolysis liquid at 95°C for 20 mins. After cooled, sample solutions were added with indicator agent, then adjusted to pH 6–6.8, mixed with activated carbon, and centrifuged at 3500 r/min for 10 minutes. Supernatant fluid was collected with added with agent A, B, C (Hyp Elisa Kit, Puyuan Company, China) 0.5 ml each for 5 mins. The supernatant fluid was detected at 550 nm by UV-Vis spectrophotometer.

Before treatment and after two weeks, blood samples, after overnight fasting, were prepared by collecting venous blood. Plasma Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) levels were determined with rapid fluorescence immunoassay.

Results

Compared with the control group, after applied UTI, the heart function of SD rats in any group was significantly improved (LVEDD and LVESD decreased, while LVEF and FS improved), and moreover
Table 1. The results of evaluation of cardiac function.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Before treatment</th>
<th>After treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>1.29 ± 0.06</td>
<td>1.21 ± 0.02*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-dose</td>
<td>1.09 ± 0.03</td>
<td>0.98 ± 0.04*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-dose</td>
<td>1.03 ± 0.17</td>
<td>0.98 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-dose</td>
<td>1.47 ± 0.24</td>
<td>1.30 ± 0.20*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a: compared to the control group, *p < 0.05; *: compared to the other three groups, *p = 0.05

Table 2. The results of BNP before and after treatment (ng/L).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Before treatment</th>
<th>After treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>4917.51 ± 85.82</td>
<td>3783.82 ± 89.17*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-dose</td>
<td>4878.84 ± 89.21</td>
<td>3272.91 ± 73.41*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-dose</td>
<td>4893.94 ± 93.33</td>
<td>2884.62 ± 70.94*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-dose</td>
<td>4894.17 ± 99.45</td>
<td>1689.33 ± 74.86*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a: compared to the control group, *p < 0.05; *: compared to the high-dose group, *p = 0.05

Discussion

Many researchers have proved the myocardial protective effect of UTI. However, the association between the clinical efficacy and dosage of UTI has not been confirmed. Moreover, the optimal dosage is also uncertain. In this study, we explored and analyzed therapeutic effect of UTI at different dosage, and its probable mechanism.

In any group after treatment with UTI, LVEDD, LECSD, and plasma BNP decreased. However, LVEF was improved significantly. The Hyp content of the control group, low-dose, moderate-dose and high-dose group is (40.16 ± 2.31) mg/g, (34.24 ± 1.98) mg/g, (22.79 ± 1.69) mg/g, and (19.84 ± 1.47) mg/g, respectively. Compared to the control, in three applied UTI groups, the difference of Hyp before and after treatment increased with the increase of UTI.

Before treatment, plasma BNP levels of four groups were higher than normal, consistent with cardiac dysfunction characteristic. After applied UTI, the value of the four groups was significantly decreased, especially in lager-dose group (Table 2).

Myocardial lipid peroxidation damage is an important pathogenic mechanism of doxorubicin-induced dilated myocardialopathy. One of the pharmacological effects of UTI is inhibiting the inflammatory response and reducing the release of oxygen free radicals, thereby reducing the consumption of serum SOD in order to increase SOD activity. High dose of UTI can effectively reduce SOD consumption and clear superoxide anion radicals in order to protect myocardial from damage ultimately [14,15].

This study has confirmed the protective effect on myocardial cells is dose-related and there is a dose-dependent relationship between the overall effect of UTI and the dosage in a certain range. As a supplementary measure of heart failure drug therapy, it is worth being applied in clinical. Moreover, for the optimal dosage, further exploration is needed.

References

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