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Inhibition of mitochondrial proton F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase by polyphenolic phytochemicals

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1 Mitochondrial proton F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase synthesizes ATP during oxidative phosphorylation. In this study, we examined the effects of several groups of polyphenolic phytochemicals on the activity of the enzyme.

2 Resveratrol, a stilbene phytoalexin that is present in grapes and red wine, concentrationdependently inhibited the enzymatic activity of both rat brain and liver F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase (IC₅₀ of $12-28 \mu$ M).

3 Screening of other polyphenolic phytochemicals using rat brain F0F1-ATPase activity resulted in the following ranking potency (IC₅₀ in parenthesis): piceatannol (8 μ M)>resveratrol (19 μ M)= (-)epigallocatechin gallate (17 μ M)>(-)epicatechin gallate, curcumin (45 μ M)>genistein=biochanin A=quercetin=kaempferol=morin (55-65 μ M)>phloretin=apigenin=daidzein (approx. 100 μ M). Genistin, quercitrin, phloridzin, (+)catechin, (+)epicatechin, (-)epicatechin and (-)epigallocatechin had little effect at similar concentrations. Tannic acid, theaflavins (tea extract) and grape seed proanthocyanidin extract (GSPE) had IC₅₀ values of 5, 20 and 30 μ g ml⁻¹, respectively. Several monophenolic antioxidants and non-phenolic compounds were ineffective at concentrations of 210 μ M or higher.

- 4 The inhibition of F0F1-ATPase by resveratrol and genistein was non-competitive in nature.
- 5 The effects of polyphenolic phytochemicals were additive.

6 Both resveratrol and genistein had little effect on the Na^+/K^+ -ATPase activity of porcine cerebral cortex, whereas quercetin had similar inhibitory potency as for F0F1-ATPase.

7 In conclusion, the ATP synthase is a target for dietary phytochemicals. This pharmacological property of these phytochemicals should be included in the examination of their health benefits as well as potential cytotoxicity.

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- **Keywords:** Phytoestrogens; F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase; Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase; flavonoids; mitochondria; resveratrol; genistein; catechins; tea
- Abbreviations: AEBSF, 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzenesulphonyl fluoride; CHAPS, (3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio]-1propane sulphonate; c.i., confidence interval; ECG, (–)epicatechin gallate; EGCG, (–)epigallocatechin gallate; GSPE, grape seed proanthocyanidin extract; I3C, indole-3-carbinol; K_m , Michaelis constant; OPC, oligomeric proanthocyanidin complex; OSCP, oligomycin sensitivity-conferring protein; P_i, inorganic phosphate; V_{max} , maximal specific activity

Introduction

F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase (F-type ATPase, complex V) is present in the inner membrane of eukaryotic mitochondria and acts as the powerhouse of the cell by synthesizing ATP. It can also operate in the reverse direction, hydrolysing ATP and pumping protons under certain conditions. The enzyme can be separated into two major complexes: F1 and F0 (Pedersen & Amzel, 1993; Boyer, 1997). F1 is a water-soluble catalytic complex consisting of five subunits ($\alpha_3\beta_{3\gamma}\delta\varepsilon$), with the catalytic site located on the β subunit. F0 is made up of several membrane proteins (a, b, c, d, e, F6, A6L) and oligomycin sensitivity-conferring protein (OSCP), which contributes to the stalk region between F0 and F1. In addition, a native peptide is also bound to the F1 under de-energized conditions that serves to inhibit the ATPase activity of the enzyme (called F1 inhibitor protein, IF1).

Recent studies suggest that both α and β subunits of the F1-ATPase may be present on the surface of human umbilical vein endothelial cells and are binding sites for angiostatin, a proteolytic fragment of plasminogen that is both a potent antagonist of angiogenesis and an inhibitor of tumour growth (Moser *et al.*, 1999). Antibodies against α subunit labelled the cell surface and inhibited angiostatin's anti-proliferative effect on endothelial cells. Earlier, β subunit had been localized to the cell surface of three human tumour cell lines (erythroleukaemia K562 cells, lung adenocarcinoma A549 cells and Burkitt's lymphoma Raji cells), but not to that of normal human erythrocytes or lymphocytes (Das *et al.*, 1994). The surface β subunit in tumour cells induces lymphocyte-mediated cell killing, whereas antibodies against the β subunit inhibit this cytotoxicity. These studies suggest the key involvement of cell surface F-ATPase subunits in tumour growth and inhibition, which could be potential therapeutic targets for cancers.

Several inhibitors of ATP synthase have been described, including efrapeptin, oligomycin, aurovertin B and azide (Linnett & Beechey, 1979). The binding pocket for the F1-

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targeting inhibitor efrapeptin is localized in α , β and γ subunits (Abrahams et al., 1996) while that for aurovertin B is localized mainly in the β subunit (van Raajj *et al.*, 1996). Inhibition of F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase by the F0targeting inhibitor, oligomycin, has been shown to protect or postpone cell injury by preserving ATP during ischaemia (Vuorinen et al., 1995) and to induce apoptosis in tumour cells (Wolvetang et al., 1994). Oligomycin also inhibits the apoptosis induced by Bax, a pro-apoptotic protein localized on the mitochondrial outer membrane, and F0F1-ATPase is required for the killing of cells by Bax (Matsuyama et al., 1998).

We recently reported that rat brain F0F1-ATPase was retained by oestradiol affinity columns and that oestradiol and several other oestrogens inhibited its activity (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999a,b). Earlier, diethylstilbestrol, a synthetic oestrogen, was shown to inhibit rat liver F0F1-ATPase (McEnery & Pedersen, 1986; McEnery et al., 1989). Although these effects require pharmacological (micromolar) concentrations of these oestrogens, which may not be physiologically relevant, phytoestrogens and other structurally similar polyphenolic phytochemicals are present in abundance in human food (Dewick, 1997; Bravo, 1998). It is worth mentioning that one group of weak oestrogenic phytochemicals-flavones, such as quercetin-has been shown to inhibit bovine and porcine heart F0F1-ATPase (Lang & Racker, 1974; Di Pietro et al., 1975). Quercetin also inhibits a number of other ATPases, such as Na^+/K^+ -ATPase, Ca^{2+} -ATPase and more than a dozen

other enzymes (Fewtrell & Gomperts, 1977; Ferrell et al., 1979; Hirano et al., 1989; McKenna et al., 1996).

In this study, we report on the effects of several groups of polyphenolic phytochemicals that have been shown to be important in human diets on the activity of mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase, including stilbenes, isoflavones, flavones, catechins, chalcones and several others (Figure 1). In addition, we report the kinetic mechanisms of inhibition for selected compounds as well as their effect on Na^+/K^+ -ATPase. Many of these phytochemicals exhibit diverse activities such as antioxidant, cardiovascular protective, anti-osteoporotic, cancer chemopreventative, anti-mitotic and oestrogenic actions (Frankel et al., 1993; Adlercreutz, 1995; Gehm et al., 1997; Jang et al., 1997; Hsieh et al., 1998; Dashwood, 1998; Setchell, 1998; Murkies et al., 1998; Tham et al., 1998; Hollman et al., 1999; Yang et al., 1999; Ye et al., 1999). Our study, therefore, could provide a potential mechanism for the actions of phytochemicals through targeting of the F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase.

4-(2-Aminoethyl)-benzenesulphonyl fluoride (AEBSF), an

Methods

Materials

irreversible serine protease inhibitor, was from Boehringer Mannheim (Indianapolis, IN, U.S.A.). Oligomycin (mixture of OH R_2 Genistein ОН OH OH **Biochanin A** OH OH OCH, Daidzein OH OH Genistin OH O-glucose OH OH OH

	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃
Quercetin	ОН	ОН	_
Kaempferol	ОН	-	-
Morin	ОН	-	ОН
Apigenin	-	-	-
Quaraitrin	O-rhamposido		_

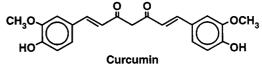
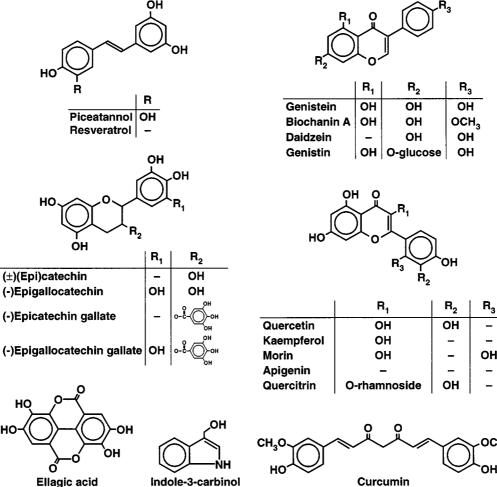


Figure 1 Structures of selected phytochemicals tested for their inhibitory effects on the rat mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase activity. Many have been shown to be phytoestrogens, such as stilbenes, isoflavones and flavones.

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A, B and C) was purchased from Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI, U.S.A.) and prepared in methanol as a stock solution $(1 \ \mu g \ \mu l^{-1})$. Efrapeptin (efrastatin, A23871) was kindly provided by Dr J. Clemens (Eli Lilly & Co., Indianapolis, IN, U.S.A.) and dissolved in sterile distilled water at a concentration of 0.1 mM. IH636 Grape seed proanthocyanidin (GSPE) was kindly provided by Dr. D. Bagchi (InterHealth Nutraceuticals, Concord, CA, U.S.A.) as a mixture of proanthocyanidins (>54% dimeric, 13% trimeric, 6.8% tetrameric and small amount of monomeric and other high molecular weight oligomeric proanthocyanidin complexes [OPC]). All other chemicals and reagents, including porcine cortex Na^+/K^+ -ATPase were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO, U.S.A.). Ouabain (stock solution of 5 μ g μ l⁻¹) was dissolved in sterile distilled water. Phytochemicals and diethylstilbestrol were usually prepared in 100% ethanol with a final concentration of 10 mM or above, except for daidzein, phloridzin and GSPE, which were prepared in 50% ethanol/50% dimethyl sulphoxide. The final solvent concentrations in the reaction solution were usually 0.7% and occasionally 1.4%. The amount of solvents had minimal effect on the responses (<5%). Nevertheless, in every experiment, control trials were performed with the same amount of vehicle included.

Animals

Adult female Sprague-Dawley rats (60-120 days old) were maintained on a 14:10 h light/dark cycle (lights on at 0700 h) with food and water available *ad libitum*. Animals were taken care of in accordance with federal and institutional guidelines and killed by rapid decapitation.

Preparation of mitochondria

Mitochondria fractions from whole brain and liver of adult Sprague-Dawley female rats (unknown oestrous cycle) were prepared in Tris buffer (mM: Tris-HCl 50, NaCl 120, KCl 5, MgSO₄ 1, CaCl₂ 1, 10% glycerol, AEBSF 0.5, bacitracin 0.1; pH 7.4 at 4°C), as described previously (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999a). Briefly, tissues were homogenized in Tris buffer (10 ml per g tissue) with a Teflon glass homogenizer (10 strokes in 1 min). Homogenates were centrifuged at $600 \times g$ for 10 min and the resulting supernatant was centrifuged again at $15,000 \times g$ for 5 min to precipitate the mitochondrial fraction. Samples were assayed for protein concentration by the method of Bradford (1976), using bovine serum albumin as the standard, and either kept at 4°C for use the same day or stored at -80° C.

Solubilization

Mitochondrial fractions were solubilized in Tris buffer containing 1% w v⁻¹ digitonin (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999a) or 1% 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethyl-ammonio]-1-propane sulphonate (CHAPS) at 4°C as described (McEnery *et al.*, 1984). Solubilization allows the exposure of F0F1-ATPase, which is not accessible to many reagents in a coupled assay (see below), in intact mitochondria.

Preparation of submitochondrial particles

Submitochondrial particles were prepared by sonication as described (Ragan *et al.*, 1987). Briefly, freshly prepared brain mitochondrial fractions were sonicated for 6×10 s and centrifuged at $15,000 \times g$ for 5 min at 4°C. The supernatant

was centrifuged again at $125,000 \times g$ for 60 min; the resulting pellet (submitochondrial particles) was resuspended in Tris buffer and used within 24 h.

Assay for ATPase activity

The mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase activity was measured spectrophotometrically at 340 nm by coupling the production of ADP to the oxidation of NADPH via the pyruvate kinase and lactate dehydrogenase reaction (coupled assay), as described (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999b). The reaction mixture (0.7 ml final volume) contained (in mM): Tris 100 (pH 8.0), Mg-ATP 4, MgCl₂ 2, KCl 50, EDTA 0.2, NADH 0.23, phosphoenol pyruvate 1, 1.4 unit pyruvate kinase, 1.4 unit lactate dehydrogenase and about $25-50 \ \mu g$ proteins, and was assayed at $30-31^{\circ}$ C. The activity of the Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase from porcine cerebral cortex was measured similarly by the coupled assay as described above except that 100 mM NaCl was included. In a few cases, the F0F1-ATPase activity was also measured directly from the release of inorganic phosphate (P_i) from ATP as described (Harris, 1987). In this case the reaction solution (0.7 ml) contained (in mM): Tris 100, (pH 8.0), Mg-ATP 4, MgCl₂ 2, KCl 50, EDTA 0.2 and $25-50 \mu g$ proteins. The specific F0F1-ATPase activity in all cases was determined in the presence of the enzyme inhibitors, oligomycin or efrapeptin (Linnett & Beechey, 1979). Ouabain was used to determine the specific Na^+/K^+ -ATPase activity.

To study possible effects of phytochemicals on the other enzymes used in the coupled assay of ATPase, i.e. pyruvate kinase and lactate dehydrogenase, ATP was omitted from the buffer and the reaction was started by adding 0.2 mM ADP.

Assay for ATP synthesis

ATP synthesis was measured by monitoring the increase in absorbance at 340 nm using an NADP+-linked, ADPregenerating system (Cross & Kohlbrenner, 1978). The reaction mixture (0.7 ml final volume) contained (mM): HEPES 10 (pH 8.0), succinate 20, glucose 20, MgCl₂ 3, AMP 11, NADP⁺ 0.75, ADP 1, P_i 10, 4 u ml⁻¹ hexokinase and 2 u ml^{-1} glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase. The reaction was assayed at $30-31^{\circ}$ C and started by adding 20 μ l of preincubated (5 min at 26°C) submitochondrial particles (about $50-61 \mu g$ protein) in 20 mM succinate. A high AMP concentration (11 mM) was used in this assay to inhibit the adenylyl kinase activity present in the submitochondrial particle preparations, which might interfere with measurement of respiration-dependent ATP synthesis by the ATP synthase. The preparations had ATP synthase activity of 0.057- $0.083 \ \mu mol \ min^{-1} \ (mg \ protein)^{-1}$.

To exclude the possible effects of resveratrol on hexokinase and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase used in the assay, the response induced by 140 μ M ATP in the absence of submitochondrial particles were tested; these were not significantly affected.

Data analysis

To obtain reaction rates, the steady-state linear range of the absorbance change with respect to time was used for both ATPase and ATP synthase activity. A molar extinction coefficient of 6.22×10^3 M cm⁻¹ was used for NAD(P)H to calculate the activity in μ mol ATP hydrolysed or synthesized per min per mg protein. The responses were very stable as judged from control trials performed before, during and after the experiments (less than 4% variations). Data from three or

more experiments were expressed as means (standard deviation (s.d.)). Statistical analysis was performed using Student's *t*-test to compare two groups and analysis of variance (ANOVA) with *post-hoc* Tukey test for comparison of three or more groups. P < 0.05 was considered significant. For concentration-dependent effects of resveratrol with an experimental number of 3, IC₅₀ values are quoted as geometric mean with 95% confidence interval (c.i., based on *t* distribution).

Results

Inhibition of rat F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase by resveratrol

Mitochondrial fractions prepared from both female rat brains and livers were solubilized with 1% digitonin or 1% CHAPS to obtain functional solubilized mitochondrial fractions containing high F0F1-ATPase activity with little Na^+/K^+ -ATPase activity in a coupled ATPase activity assay (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999b). Resveratrol, a phytoalexin present in high concentrations in red wine (usually $10-50 \ \mu M$) and grapes, rapidly (within 1-2 min) inhibited the brain mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase activity in a concentration-dependent fashion in the range $0.7-70 \ \mu\text{M}$, with IC₅₀ values of 18.5 μM (geometric mean, 95% c.i. 16.7–20.6 μ M; n=3) and 13.0 μ M (8.80– 19.3 μ M; n=3) for digitonin-solubilized and CHAPS-solubilized preparations, respectively (Figure 2A,B). With 0.7 μ M of resveratrol, the inhibition was already significant (5-7%)inhibition, P < 0.01). Similar results were obtained with both digitonin- and CHAPS-solubilized liver mitochondrial preparations (IC₅₀ of 12 and 21 μ M, respectively). The inhibitory effect of resveratrol appears to be specific to F0F1-ATPase given that this effect is blocked by oligomycin, an F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase inhibitor (Linnett & Beechey, 1979). In the presence of 7 μ g ml⁻¹ oligomycin alone, the residual ATP hydrolysis activity in the digitonin-solubilized preparation was 16.1 (0.3)% (mean(s.d.); n=3) when the control activity was assumed to be 100%. In the presence of both 7 μg ml⁻¹ oligomycin and 21 μ M resveratrol, the residual activity was 15.8 (0.4)% (n=3). Efrapeptin, a specific inhibitor of the F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase (Linnett & Beechey, 1979), completely inhibited the enzyme activity at $1-2 \mu M$ (Figure 2B). Therefore, the effect of resveratrol must be on the oligomycin and efrapeptin-sensitive ATPase (i.e. F0F1-ATPase) activity of this preparation, which corresponded to an average of 83.5 (2.2)% (n=7) of the total ATP hydrolysis activity. Resveratrol itself did not have any effect on the activity of the other enzymes, i.e. pyruvate kinase and lactate dehydrogenase, used in the ATPase activity assay because, in the absence of mitochondrial preparations, 21 μ M resveratrol did not affect the ADP-induced NADH oxidation. In the presence of 21 μ M resveratrol, the ADP-induced response was 100.2 (1.0)% (n=3) of control.

To examine the effects of resveratrol on ATP synthesis by the F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase we used a brain submitochondrial fraction. In the presence of 11 mM AMP the brain submitochondrial particles contained little adenylate kinase activity: more than 95% of the activity corresponded to ATP synthase as shown in the presence of 2 μ M efrapeptin (data not shown). Resveratrol inhibited ATP synthesis with an IC₅₀ of 27.7 μ M (22.0–34.8 μ M; Figure 2C) and had no effect on the other enzymes used in the assay. Resveratrol also inhibited the F0F1-ATPase activity of the submitochondrial particles with an IC₅₀ of 21.6 μ M (20.6–22.8 μ M; Figure 2C). Therefore, it seems that resveratrol inhibited both ATP synthesis and

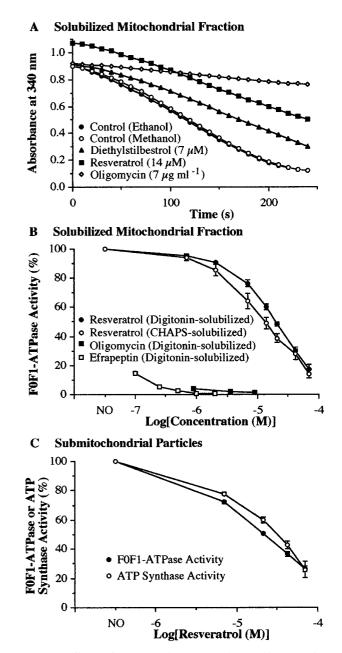


Figure 2 Effects of resveratrol on F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase activity of rat brain mitochondrial preparations. (A) Typical examples of spectrophotometric read-out showing the absorbance change at 340 nm induced by 20 μ l digitonin-solubilized brain mitochondrial preparation (51 μ g protein) in the presence of ethanol vehicle, methanol vehicle, 7 μ g ml⁻¹ oligomycin in methanol, 7 μ M diethylstilbestrol in ethanol and 14 µM resveratrol in ethanol. Resveratrol itself and, to a lesser degree, diethylstilbestrol and oligomycin, had extinction at 340 nm, so the starting point had higher absorbance. Diethylstilbestrol was included here as a comparison. Oligomycin and efrapeptin (see below and text) were included for determination of the F0F1-ATPase activity in the preparations. (B) The concentration-dependent effect of $0.7-70~\mu M$ resveratrol on digitonin- and CHAPS-solubilized rat brain mitochondrial preparations. Data are expressed as means (s.d.) from three experiments. Also shown is the concentration-dependent effect of oligomycin and efrapeptin. For studying the effect of efrapeptin on ATPase activity, efrapeptin was pre-incubated at 26°C with the solubilized preparation for 6 min to allow for binding. The F0F1-ATPase activity in 0.7% vehicle (this and following figures) was defined as 100%. (C) Effect of resveratrol on ATP synthesis and hydrolysis catalysed by rat brain submitochondrial preparations. F0F1-ATPase activity of rat brain submitochondrial preparations was determined similarly as solubilized mitochondrial preparation except that 2 μ g ml⁻¹ antimycin A was present. Data are expressed as means (s.d.) from three experiments. The F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase activity in vehicle was defined as 100%.

hydrolysis by the enzyme, but the effect on the ATP synthase activity is slightly less than on the ATPase activity.

Direct measurement of P_i release from ATP catalysed by digitonin-solubilized brain mitochondrial preparation indicated that 70 μ M resveratrol inhibited the oligomycin and efrapeptin-sensitive F0F1-ATPase activity by 84.6%, a value similar to that determined by the coupled assay.

Differential inhibition of F0F1-ATPase by polyphenolic phytochemicals

We further screened other phenolic phytochemicals for their effects on the activity of the ATPase in digitonin-solubilized rat brain mitochondrial preparation (Figure 3, Table 1). Three isoflavones, genistein, biochanin A and daidzein-phytoalexins with protein anti-tumour effects-inhibited the ATPase activity with IC₅₀ values of $55-127 \mu M$ (Figure 3A, Table 1). However, the 7-glucose derivative of genistein (genistin) was essentially without effect at concentrations up to 140 μ M. The isoflavone compounds had little effect on ADP-induced responses in the absence of the mitochondrial preparations (<10% effect at 70 μ M) and, therefore, their actions are due to effects on the ATPase. Genistein and biochanin A, like resveratrol, did not significantly affect the oligomycin-insensitive ATP hydrolysis activity. In the presence of $7 \ \mu g \ ml^{-1}$ oligomycin, 15.3%residual ATP hydrolysis activity remained. When 70 µM genistein or biochanin A was added in the presence of 7 μ g ml⁻¹ oligomycin, the residual ATP hydrolysis activity was 13.4 and 12.9%, respectively. We also tested the effects of genistein on ATP synthase activity and found that at 70 μ M it also inhibited the enzymatic activity by 62%. Therefore, like resveratrol, genistein inhibits both ATPase and ATP synthase activity of the enzyme.

Consistent with earlier findings (Lang & Racker, 1974; Di Pietro et al., 1975), aglycone flavones also inhibited the brain F0F1-ATPase activity with IC₅₀ values of $50-105 \ \mu M$, while quercitrin had little effect (Figure 3B). When several catechins were tested it was found that diphenolic catechin, epicatechin and epigallocatechin had little effect on the F0F1-ATPase activity, while the gallate esters, including (-)epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) and (-)epicatechin gallate (ECG) are potent inhibitors (Figure 3C). Other active inhibitors of F0F1-ATPase include curcumin (Figure 3D), phloretin, tea theaflavins, tannic acid and GSPE (Table 1). Ellagic acid had a modest inhibitory effect on F0F1-ATPase activity (14% at 70 μ M) (Figure 3D). Monophenolic compounds, such as caffeic acid, gallic acid and salicylic acid, and nonphenolic compounds, such as indole-3-carbinol (I3C) and tartaric acid, had little effect at similar concentrations (Table 1).

Kinetic mechanism of inhibition by resveratrol and genistein

We further examined the effects of resveratrol and genistein on the ATP-dependence of the inhibition of F0F1-ATPase. As shown in Figure 4, the control Lineweaver-Burk plot revealed

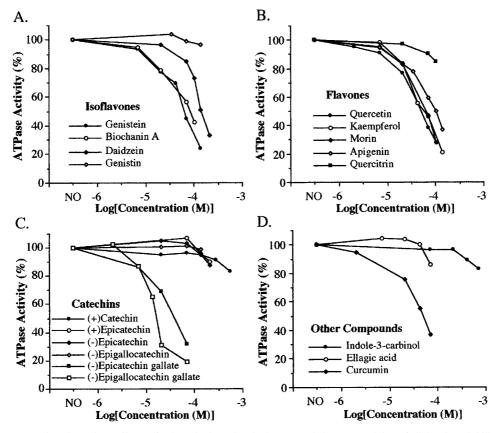


Figure 3 Concentration-dependent effects of selected phytochemicals on total ATPase activity of digitonin-solubilized rat brain mitochondrial preparations. These compounds include isoflavones (A), flavones (B), catechins (C) and several others (D). Experiments were conducted as in Figure 2. Control experiments indicated that (–)epicatechin-gallate, tannic acid and several flavonoids affected ADP-induced responses, i.e. pyruvate kinase or lactate dehydrogenase; therefore, the total ATPase activity was used here. The inhibition of ADP-induced responses was from 28 to 76% at 70 μ M with kaempferol<appendix apigenin queue (–)epicatechin gallate mailto:queue (–)epicatechin gallate queue (–)epicatechin gallate mailto:queue queue <a href="mailto:queue" <a href="mailto:queue" <a href="mailto

Compound	<i>IC</i> 50 (µм)	Compound	<i>IC</i> ₅₀ (µм)
Stilbenes		Chalcones	
Piceatannol	8	Phloretin	40% at 70 µм
Resveratrol	19	Phloridzin	<15% up to 70 μM
Isoflavones		Other polyphenolics	
Genistein	55	Tannic acid	5 $\mu g m l^{-1}$
Biochanin A	65	Theaflavins	$20 \ \mu g \ ml^{-1}$
Daidzein	127	GSPE	$30 \ \mu g \ ml^{-1}$
Genistin	$<5\%$ up to 140 μ M	Curcumin	40
		Ellagic acid	${<}15\%$ up to 70 $\mu{ m M}$
Flavones		Monophenolics	
Quercetin	50	Caffeic acid	$<15\%$ up to 280 μ M
Kaempferol	55	Gallic acid	$<15\%$ up to 280 μ M
Morin	60	Salicyclic acid	$<5\%$ up to 700 μ M
Apigenin	105	-	¥ ,
Quercitrin	${<}15\%$ up to 105 $\mu{\rm M}$		
Catechins		Non-phenolics	
EGCG	17	Indole-3-carbinol	$<15\%$ up to 420 μ M
ECG	45	Tartaric acid	$<5\%$ up to 7000 μ M
(-)Epigallocatechin	$<5\%$ up to 140 μ M		. ,
(–)Epicatechin	$<15\%$ up to 210μ M		
(+)Epicatechin	$<15\%$ up to 210 μ M		
(+)Catechin	$<15\%$ up to 280 μ M		

 Table 1
 Effect of phytochemicals on the mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase activity

The F0F1-ATPase activity of digitonin-solubilized rat brain mitochondrial preparations was determined using an NADH-linked ATP regeneration system. Control experiments were performed in the presence of same amount of vehicle and the variation between control trials was less than 4%. The effect of piceatannol (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999c) and several flavones (Lang & Racker, 1974; Di Pietro *et al.*, 1975) have been shown previously.

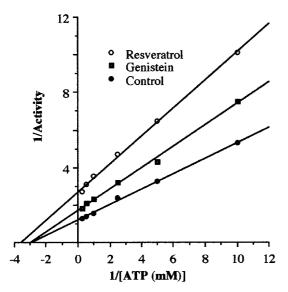


Figure 4 Inhibition of F0F1-ATPase of digitonin-solubilized brain mitochondrial preparation by resveratrol (7 μ M) and genistein (50 μ M) at several concentrations of 0.1–4 mM ATP as shown by Lineweaver–Burk plots. The linear correlation coefficients for all three groups are between 0.996 and 0.999. Note the different V_{max} among the control, resveratrol and genistein, and the change in K_{m} induced by resveratrol. The control F0F1-ATPase activity of the preparation at 4 mM ATP was 0.797 (0.007) μ mol ATP hydrolysed min⁻¹ (mg protein)⁻¹ from three trials performed before, during and after the experimental trials.

maximal specific activity (V_{max}) for this preparation of 0.834 µmol ATP hydrolysed min⁻¹ (mg protein)⁻¹ with Michaelis constant (K_{m}) of 0.344 mM. In the presence of resveratrol (7 µM), V_{max} was drastically reduced to 0.370 µmol ATP hydrolysed min⁻¹ (mg protein)⁻¹. K_{m} was also reduced by 20% (0.277 mM) in the presence of 7 µM resveratrol, suggesting that resveratrol results in mixed inhibition of F0F1-

ATPase. Genistein (50 μ M) also reduced the V_{max} to 0.580 μ mol min⁻¹ (mg protein)⁻¹, while K_{m} was relatively unchanged (0.331 mM; 3.8% decrease), suggesting that genistein behaves like a classical non-competitive inhibitor.

Additive effect of polyphenolic compounds

To determine if resveratrol and other phytochemicals additively contribute to the inhibitory effect of dietary phytochemicals on F0F1-ATPase, we examined the effect of a combination of resveratrol with other active inhibitors at suboptimal concentrations. A combination of suboptimal concentrations of resveratrol, quercetin and kaempferol, which are present in red wine, had an additive inhibitory effect resulting in 56% inhibition as compared to single compounds alone (23, 19 and 17% inhibition for 7 μ M resveratrol, 21 μ M quercetin and 21 μ M kaempferol, respectively) (P<0.001). Similar additive effects were found for resveratrol and genistein, two compounds that are usually not present in the same diet; the combination of 11 μ M resveratrol and 35 μ M genistein resulted in 58% inhibition as compared to 36% with resveratrol and 26% with genistein alone (P < 0.001). Therefore, the presence of these or other active compounds in diet could potentially act together to alter the enzymatic activity of the F0F1-ATPase in vivo with considerably lower concentrations of individual compounds.

Lack of effect of resveratrol and genistein on Na^+/K^+ -ATPase

To determine if resveratrol and genistein inhibit the activity of other ATPases, we examined their effect on Na^+/K^+ -ATPase from porcine cerebral cortex. Resveratrol and genistein had little effect on this enzyme's activity (Figure 5). Therefore, the stilbene resveratrol and the isoflavone genistein are rather specific in their actions on mitochondrial ATPase/ATP synthase, unlike flavones such as quercetin, which were shown

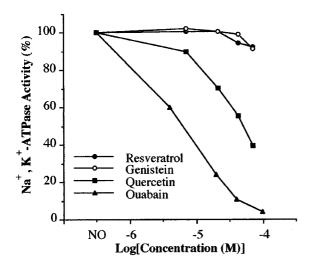


Figure 5 Effects of resveratrol, genistein and quercetin on porcine cerebral cortex Na^+/K^+ -ATPase. Each point corresponds to a single trial except for control experiments, which were conducted at least three times with variation less than 3%.

to affect many ATPases, including Na^+/K^+ -ATPase (Figure 5) and several other enzymes such as 5'-nucleotidase, phosphorylase kinase and protein kinase C, while genistein did not (Akiyama *et al.*, 1987).

Discussion

By using both rat brain and liver mitochondrial preparations, we have tested several groups of naturally occurring polyphenolic compounds on the activity of rat mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase. Our studies demonstrate that F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase is a common target site for resveratrol from red wine, aglycone isoflavones (genistein, biochanin A and daidzein) from soybean, gallate esters of catechins from many sources, and several other polyphenolic compounds at high nanomolar to low micromolar concentrations similar to those used in many biological studies (e.g. Barnes & Peterson, 1995; Jang et al., 1997; Yang et al., 1999). The effect of resveratrol is consistent with recent demonstration of its inhibitory effect on the ATPase activity of intact rat brain mitochondria (Zini et al,. 1999). Our recent studies indicate that resveratrol, like piceatannol and quercetin, inhibits the F0F1-ATPase activity by targeting F1, while genistein most likely targets F0 (Zheng & Ramirez, 1999c). Therefore, there are two potential binding sites in ATP synthase for polyphenolic phytochemicals. Interaction of phytochemicals with these binding sites could be a novel mechanism for the actions of these phytochemicals.

Comparison of several groups of polyphenolic phytochemicals indicate the importance of hydroxyl groups in particular positions. For example, three isoflavones – genistein, biochanin A and daidzein–inhibited the ATPase activity with IC₅₀ values between 55 and 127 μ M, while the 7-glucose derivative of genistein (genistin) was essentially without effect up to 140 μ M. This, together with the fact that all three active isoflavones contain a 7-OH group, suggests that the 7-OH group is essential for the inhibitory effect of isoflavones. Omission of the 5-OH group in daidzein (IC₅₀=127 μ M) resulted in lower activity in comparison with genistein (IC₅₀=55 μ M). However, modification of the 4'-OH group to 4'-OCH₃ in biochanin A (IC₅₀=65 μ M) seems to have relatively little effect. It seems that a *meta*-quinonic structure could be essential for the inhibitory activity. Similarly to genistin, the replacement of quercetin's R1-OH group by *O*-rhamnoside in quercitrin also resulted in much lower inhibitory activity. On the other hand, addition of a phenolic group in catechins converted inactive catechins to active catechins (the gallate esters, EGCG and ECG). The lack of inhibitory activity of monophenolic compounds tested suggests that the inhibition of F0F1-ATPase by phenolic phytochemicals requires two or more phenolic structures.

The levels of several phytochemicals in human body fluids have been determined. For instance, both genistein and daidzein (both free and conjugated forms) reached up to 7 μ M in human plasma after soy meals (Xu et al., 1995; Watanabe et al., 1998; King & Bursill, 1998). Administration of decaffeinated green tea could result in maximal plasma concentrations of 0.7 and 1.8 µM in human volunteers for EGCG and EGC, respectively (Yang et al., 1999). However, the levels of these compounds in saliva could reach 10-48 and $38-143 \mu M$, respectively (Yang et al., 1999). These data indicate that much higher concentrations of phytochemicals are present in the oral cavity, and likely in the oesophagus, and that they could be important for the application of tea in the prevention of oral and oesophageal cancers (Yang et al., 1999). Many of these polyphenolic phytochemicals are present in the same plant or food source or may be taken together. For example, red wine contains resveratrol, quercetin, kaempferol and catechins. Therefore, it is important to know that the effects of these compounds on ATPase are additive. This may explain why several brands of red wine and red grape juice, but not white wine, beer or ethanol, inhibit the ATPase activity with IC_{50} values of 0.7-1.4% v v⁻¹ (unpublished data). The lack of effect of white wine on F0F1-ATPase activity is consistent with several earlier studies showing that red wine and grape juice, but not white wine, have cardioprotective and tumourinhibiting actions in animal models (Demrow et al., 1995) and humans (Furhman et al., 1995; Serafini et al., 1998). Total polyphenolics, including resveratrol and proanthocyanidins, are several-fold lower in white wine than in red wine (Goldberg et al., 1995; Watkins, 1997) which may explain different effects of red and white wine.

Many of these polyphenolic phytochemicals are weak oestrogens (phytoestrogens). For example, resveratrol is a weaker oestrogen receptor α form agonist, having an effect only when its concentrations are above 3 μ M (3-30 μ M with $IC_{50} = 10 \ \mu M$) (Gehm *et al.*, 1997). The aglycone isoflavones are more potent phytoestrogens than resveratrol, with their affinity for oestrogen receptor α and β forms in the following rank order: genistein > daidzein > biochanin A (Kuiper et al., 1998). While biochanin A had a similar inhibitory effect as genistein on F0F1-ATPase activity (Table 1) and tumour growth (Barnes & Peterson, 1995), it has 400 to 8700 fold lower affinity than genistein for oestrogen receptor α and β forms (Kuiper et al., 1998). Therefore, it is likely that oestrogen receptors are not involved in anti-growth actions of these phytochemicals on cultured cancer cells and that the structureactivity relationship for F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase inhibition by these phytochemicals is different from that for affinity at oestrogen receptors.

Besides its oestrogen receptor-mediated actions, genistein also inhibits protein tyrosine kinases, while biochanin A and daidzein are at least 40 times less active than genistein (Akiyama *et al.*, 1987). However, several earlier studies indicated that the tyrosine kinase was not required for the inhibitory effect of genistein on tumour growth (Barnes & Peterson, 1995; Stevens *et al.*, 1994; Shao *et al.*, 1998), nor for biochanin A and daidzein. Other mechanisms have been suggested, including the inhibition of cyclo-oxygenase-1 (Jang *et al.*, 1997) and cytochrome P450 1A1 (Ciolino & Yeh, 1999; Chun *et al.*, 1999) by resveratrol, and inhibition of 5α -reductase by genistein and biochanin A (Evans *et al.*, 1995). However, the involvement of these and other mechanisms in both cardioprotection and tumour inhibition by diphenolic phytochemicals is unclear.

Several flavones have been shown to interact with other ATPases, such as Ca²⁺-ATPase (McKenna *et al.*, 1996) and Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase (Hirano *et al.*, 1989), in addition to their effects on F0F1-ATPase (Lang & Racker, 1974; Di Pietro *et al.*, 1975). However, resveratrol and genistein had little effect on Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase, as shown in Figure 5. On the other hand, ellagic acid has been shown to increase the activity of Ca²⁺-ATPase and Ca²⁺ uptake in cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum (EC₅₀=10 μ M) (Antipenko *et al.*, 1999). However, ellagic acid has little effect on F0F1-ATPase of rat brain solubilized mitochondrial preparation at similar concentrations.

Our findings indicate that inhibition of mitochondrial F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase could be a potential mechanism contributing to the many effects of dietary polyphenolics. It has been shown that the same ATP synthase is localized also on the plasma membranes of several tumour cell lines (Das *et al.*, 1994) and human umbilical vein endothelial cells, and that it is a binding protein for angiostatin, a potent protein inhibitor of angiogenesis and cell proliferation (Moser *et al.*, 1999). Therefore, phytoestrogens could also play a similar role

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by binding the ATP synthase on the plasma membrane. In fact, genistein has been shown to be a potent inhibitor of angiogenesis (Fotsis et al., 1993). Moreover, resveratrol and genistein also inhibit the bovine mitochondrial NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase and induce ornithine decarboxylase, a marker for cancer chemopreventive potency, with $IC_{50} = 30 \ \mu M$ (Fang & Casida, 1998). The simultaneous effects of these phytochemicals on NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase and F0F1-ATPase/ATP synthase could significantly affect mitochondrial function and alter ATP level, mitochondrial transmembrane potential and generation of reactive oxygen species, which have been implicated in many cellular processes such as cellular protection, apoptosis, O₂ sensing and ageing (Wallace, 1999). Further examinations of the effects of the phytochemicals on mitochondrial functions will, therefore, be necessary to identify precisely the mechanisms involved.

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