Influence Evaluation of *Ocimum Sanctum* Leaf Extract on Angiogenesis by using Chick Chorioallantoic Membrane (CAM) Assay

By U. H. Shah, G. R. Gonjari & A. E. Patil

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**Abstract** - *Ocimum sanctum* is a sacred herb of India known as ‘Tulsi’ or ‘Holy Basil’. There are several medicinal properties attributed to its leaf, bark, root as well as seeds of *O. sanctum*. This holy plant is used in the present investigation to study its angiogenic efficiency. The effect of methanolic extract of *O. sanctum* leaves was studied by using chick chorioallantoic membrane (CAM) assay in ovo. The angiogenesis was studied after 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 96 hrs treatment on chick CAM after day 6. The CAM was studied morphometrically and histologically. There was highly significant decrease in number of secondary and tertiary blood vessels as well as in total CAM area.

**Keywords:** *ocimum sanctum, angiogenesis, cam, cancer.*

**GJSFR-C Classification :** FOR Code: 060799

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Influence Evaluation of *Ocimum Sanctum* Leaf Extract on Angiogenesis by using Chick Chorioallantoic Membrane (CAM) Assay

U. H. Shah *, G. R. Gonjari * & A. E. Patil *

**Abstract** - *Ocimum sanctum* is a sacred herb of India is also known as ‘Tulsi’ or ‘Holy Basil’. There are several medicinal properties attributed to leaf, bark, root as well as seeds of *O. sanctum*. This holy plant is used in the present investigation to study its angiogenic efficiency. The effect of methanolic extract of *O. sanctum* leaves was studied by using chick chorioallantoic membrane (CAM) assay in ovo. The angiogenesis was studied after 48 hrs, 72 hrs and 96 hrs treatment of on chick CAM after day 6. The CAM was studied morphometrically and histologically. There was highly significant decrease in number of secondary and tertiary blood vessels as well as in total CAM area.

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I. INTRODUCTION

During development of vascular system two processes are involved- vasculogenesis and angiogenesis. Vasculogenesis is the process of blood vessel formation from angioblasts while neovascularisation from pre-existing blood vessel is angiogenesis. Angiogenesis is the rapid process up to organogenesis. In adults it is slow but plays very important physiological role during wound healing and reproduction. The process of angiogenesis is highly balanced and regulated by angiogenic and angiostatic factors- vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), transforming growth factor (TGF), angiogenin, tumor necrosis factor (TNF). These factors act as switches to control angiogenesis, if imbalanced leads to pathological conditions. Excessive angiogenesis occurs in cancer, psoriasis, arthritis, diabetic blindness, asthma and atherosclerosis. Reduced angiogenesis is observed in heart and brain ischemia, neurodegeneration, hypertension and respiratory distress [1]. For controlling all these pathological conditions, pro- and antiangiogenic therapies have been developed. There are various assays have been developed to study angiogenesis. The mostly used assay is chick chorioallantoic assay. It is easiest and cheapest angiogenesis assay.

In this present investigation we have used methanolic leaf extract of *O. sanctum* (Tulsi) to study its angiogenic or angiostatic potential. *O. sanctum*, a queen of herbs is one of the holiest and health giving herb in India and subcontinent. The medicinal use of *O. sanctum* is as old as human. In ayurveda it is known as ‘elixir of life’ and commonly used against headaches, common cold, and soared throat. Ethanoic extract of *O. sanctum* decreases glucose level and increase glycogen in streptozotocin induced diabetic rats [2] and having normal wound healing as well as dexametheson depressed wound healing by fast epithelialization and wound contraction [3].

Aqueous extract of *O. sanctum* possesses radio-protective effect by reduction in rapid peroxidation in both kidney and salivary glands of rat [4]. The extract of *O. sanctum* having different pharmacological activities like- analgesic, antiulcer, antidepressant, anti-anxiety, anti-tussive, anti-thyroidic, anti-stress, anti-spasmodic, anti-pyretic and anti-plasmodial [5]. Prashar et al have reported that *O. sanctum* leaf extract having blocking effect of chemical carcinogenesis [6].

Though there were many reports explaining different ethnomedicinal properties of *O. sanctum*, its efficiency on angiogenesis has not been studied. Hence this investigation is aimed for screening the properties of methanolic leaf extract of *O. sanctum* on angiogenesis by using chick CAM assay.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

a) Preparation of extract

The plant was properly identified and the leaves were collected from local area of Sangli district from Maharashtra (India). These were washed with distilled water, shed dried, mechanically powdered, strained through muslin cloth and extracted in methanol. The yield of methanol extract was 3.41%. The concentrated solution of known concentration was prepared and stored as stock solution. At the time of treatment was dissolved in dextrose with normal saline (DNS) was purchased from Mark-Bioscience Ltd, Goa (G21730031, Exp. Dec. 2015). DNS is the medicated saline used to prepare proper concentrations of the extract for treatment.

b) Chorioallantoic membrane assay

For screening the effect of methanolic extract of *O. sanctum* on angiogenesis chick CAM assay was

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used. The fertilized eggs of Gallus gallus was purchased from local farmers, sterilized by 50% alcohol and incubated in aseptic incubator at 37.5°C with 70-75% humidity. The eggs were grouped three groups- sham control, DNS control and treated. These are again sub grouped into three – 48, 72 and 96 hrs for treatment according to schedule in Table 1. Some eggs were incubated for normal development. All eggs were observed after 144 hrs of incubation. According to mortality and cytotoxic study the dose of extract selected was 0.4 mg/ml. The window method was used for administration of desired dose [7]. The leaf extract was administrated in DNS, sealed and incubated up to day 6.

**Table 1 :** Treatment schedule at different developmental stages of chick embryo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Exposure to treatment in hrs</th>
<th>Treatment in hrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation of CAM angiogenesis**

The morphometric evaluation was made as described by Meloknian [8]. The CAM area was calculated:

\[ \text{Area} = \frac{1}{2} A \times \frac{1}{2} B \times \pi \]

Where A is longest length, B is longest width and \( \pi = 3.14 \).

Morphometric study of number of secondary and tertiary blood vessels were counted manually on computer image by counting branching points [9]. Histological evaluation of CAM was made by processing of CAM for paraffin embedding and sectioning. The sections were cut at 5 μm thickness with the help of rotator microtome.

**Table 2 :** Morphometric evaluation of chick CAM after treatment of Ocimum sanctum leaf extract

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment (hrs)</th>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Number of blood vessels</th>
<th>CAM area(sq.cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48 (0.4mg/ml)</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>11 ±0.489</td>
<td>26.50±2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sham control</td>
<td>10±0.632</td>
<td>26.00±2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNS control</td>
<td>11±0.439</td>
<td>28.00±1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaf extract treated</td>
<td>9±0.436</td>
<td>22.93±1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72 (0.4mg/ml)</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>11±0.510</td>
<td>25.99±2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sham control</td>
<td>10±0.461</td>
<td>25.50±2.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNS control</td>
<td>12±0.616</td>
<td>29.50±2.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaf extract treated</td>
<td>9±0.439</td>
<td>20.48±1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96 (0.4mg/ml)</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>12±0.50</td>
<td>26.50±2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sham control</td>
<td>9±0.754</td>
<td>24.00±2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DNS control</td>
<td>12±0.461</td>
<td>30.50±2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leaf extract treated</td>
<td>8±0.336</td>
<td>18.32±2.016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Results expressed as mean ± S. E. of 6 embryos. a<0.05, b<0.01, c<0.001 vs. Normal embryos. p<0.05, q<0.01, r<0.001 vs. Sham control embryos x<0.05 y<0.01, z<0.001 vs. DNS control embryos)

c) **Statistical analysis**

The data was expressed in mean ± SE. The statistical analysis between the groups was made by one way ANOVA. The value of p< 0.05, p< 0.01 and p<0.001 were considered as significant.

**III. Results and Discussions**

In this present investigation we have studied effect of acetone methanol extract of O. sanctum leaf by using CAM assay. The chick CAM assay is ideal model to study angiogenesis [10]. After treatment at different developmental stages the chick embryos were evaluated morphometrically and histologically at 144 hrs of development.

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b) Histological evaluation (Plate II)

For histological evaluation T. S. of CAM was studied as described in materials and methods. Histologically CAM consisted of mesodermal cells intervening between ectodermal and endodermal layers. There is presence of capillary plexus near the ectoderm. Formation of capillary plexus was studied by Melkonian et al [13]. The undifferentiated mesenchymal cells are forming capillary plexus. The blood vessel associated with capillary plexus is considered as part of capillary plexus. Normal CAM is with numerous mesodermal blood vessels with capillary plexus by day 6. The considerable inhibition of blood vessels associated with capillary plexus in extract treated embryos by day 6. The thickness of CAM was also decreased in treated CAM. Sham controlled CAM was with slight decrease in blood vessels and capillary plexus while in DNS controlled CAM was with slight increase in number of capillary plexus with main blood vessel.

According to Melkonian number of capillary plexuses was decreased in CAM treated with cytochalasin D and suramin which inhibit angiogenesis. The same findings were observed in the present investigation. There was decrease in CAM thickness indicates that metanolic extract of O. sanctum inhibit angiogenesis.

This antiangiogenic property of O. sanctum can be used for antiangiogenic therapy against cancer. No tumor can develop without angiogenesis to meet increasing demand of food and oxygen. Due to severe side effects and non targeting killing of neoplastic cells by chemotherapy, scientists are in search of alternative medicines. For safer and effective approach of antiangiogenic drugs, the herbalists are trying to search such drugs from herbs. Morphin was the first drug isolated from plant, Papaver somniferum in 1805. According to Manikandan et al [14] there is differential sensitivities of gastric carcinoma and normal stomach tissue to growth control and apoptosis induction by ethanolic o. sanctum leaf extract. Administration of ethanolic leaf extract selectively induces apoptosis in MNNG- treated rats but not in normal rats. The O. sanctum contains phytochemicals like- eugenol, ursolic acid, carvacrol, apigenin, luteolin and carvacrol. Eugenol, ursolic acid and carvacrol have been reported to inhibit cell proliferation in vitro [15]. Eugenol, ursolic acid and apigenin were found to induce apoptosis by influencing Bcl-2/ax ratio and cytochrome C mediated caspase 3 activation [16]. Present investigation supports the above findings. This extract is having combination of different phytoconstituents which acts together to reduce sprouting angiogenesis. This antiangiogenic property of O. sanctum was also reported of acetone leaf extract [9].

Hence antiangiogenic property of O. sanctum may be aimed to halt new blood vessel growth to treat disease like cancer, diabetic blindness, rheumatoid arthritis etc. This therapy will starve the tumor for oxygen and nutrients.

IV. Conclusion

O. sanctum is used traditionally in our country and called ‘Elixir of Life’. However the leaf extract have to be screened by ethno pharmacological research. As it is promising plant for anticancer therapy, extensive investigations on the metabolism, pharmacodynamic interactions of individual metabolism as well as molecular mechanism has to be studied.

References Références Referencias


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**Plate I**

**Morphometric evaluation of chick CAM for angiogenesis**

A- Piece of normal CAM  
B- piece of sham control CAM  
C- Piece of DNS control CAM  
D- Piece of *O. sanctum* leaf extract treated CAM  
PBV- primary blood vessel  
SBV- secondary blood vessel  
TBV- tertiary blood vessel
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**Plate II**

Histological evaluation chick CAM for angiogenesis

- T. S. of chick CAM
- A-Normal CAM
- B-Sham control CAM
- C- DNS control CAM
- D- *O. sanctum* leaf extract treated CAM

- BV- blood vessel
- CPL- capillary plexus
- ECT-ectoderm
- END- endoderm
- MES- mesoderm
**Fig. 1**
Effect of *O. sanctum* leaf extract on number of blood vessels in chick CAM

- Normal
- Sham control
- DNS control
- treated

**Fig. 2**
Effect of *O. sanctum* leaf extract on number of blood vessels in chick CAM

- Normal
- Sham control
- DNS control
- treated

**Fig. 3**
Effect of *O. sanctum* leaf extract on area of chick CAM

- Normal
- Sham control
- DNS control
- treated