P04 DA-9601, a Phytomedicine Derived from *Artemisia asiatica*, Blocks the Increased Susceptibility of Portal Hypertensive Gastropathy to Ethanol Damage

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Portal hypertensive gastropathy (PHG) is part of a complex syndrome which occurs as a complication of chronic liver disease and portal hypertension. The gastric mucosa in these patients shows typical congestion of 'mosaic-like' pattern and vulnerable to various noxious agents such as NSAIDs and ethanol. We previously reported that DA-9601, a quality-controlled extract from *Artemisia asiatica*, exhibits cytoprotection against various gastritis models. In the present study we investigated the effect of DA-9601 on ethanol-induced gastric damage in PHG rats. Experimental PHG was produced by CBD ligation in SD rats. DA-9601 was orally administered at a dose of 30 mg/kg or 100 mg/kg daily for 2 weeks. Two hours after the last administration, 1.5 ml of 70% ethanol was gavaged then morphologic examinations were conducted. In the results, CBD-ligated rats showed increased susceptibility to ethanol damage. DA-9601 protected not only the increased susceptibility but ethanol damage with a dose-dependent manner. High dose of DA-9601 totally protected gastric injury induced by ethanol in PHG rats. These results clearly demonstrate the beneficial effect of DA-9601 on gastric damage regardless of the presence of PHG.