

## Effects of $\text{Cu}^{++}$ -Catalyzed Peroxidation on Collagen Gelation

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= 국문초록 =

### $\text{Cu}^{++}$ -Catalyzed Peroxidation 이 Collagen Gelation 에 미치는 영향

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reactive oxygen species 에 의해 나타나는 reactivity 에 있어서 metal ions 이 관여함이 시사되고 있다. 이미 알려진 reactive oxygen species 와 metal ions 의 상호작용 이외에 특히  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  과  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  가 강력한 peroxidative action 을 나타낸다는 사실이 알려져 있으며  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  가 biological system 에서의 조직파괴에 관여할 가능성이 저자들에 의해서 효소 및 조직의 구조 단백질의 degradation 효과를 관찰함으로써 시사되었다.

본 연구는  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  혹은  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  를 생성하는 효소계 (xanthine 과 xanthine oxidase 및 glucose 과 glucose oxidase) 에  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  을 첨가하여  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  에 의한 peroxidation 의 효과를 collagen gelation 을 통하여 확인코저 수행하였으며 다음과 같은 결과를 얻었다.

1)  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  ( $20 \mu\text{M}$ ) 과  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  에 의하여 collagen gelation 은 현저히 억제되었으며 이같은 억제효과는 양자의 농도에 비례하였다.

2)  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  reactivity 를 확인하는 다른 방법으로 glucose oxidase system 를 이용하였다. glucose oxidase ( $2.5 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ) 와 glucose ( $0.5 \text{mM}$ ) 는 collagen gelation 에 영향을 미치지 않았으나 이에  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  이 존재하면 gelation 이 억제되었다. 이때 억제정도는 glucose ( $0.125 \sim 1.25 \text{mM}$ ) 와  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  의 농도에 비례하였다.

3) 여러 reactive oxygen species 가운데  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  reactivity 를 xanthine oxidase system 을 이용하여 확인하였다.

(a) collagen gelation 은 xanthine oxidase ( $30 \text{units/ml}$ ) 와 xanthine ( $0.25 \sim 2 \text{mM}$ ) 에 의하여 억제되었다.

(b) 이때 나타나는 collagen gelation 의 억제는 superoxide dismutase 에 의하여 완전히 회복되었으나 catalase 에 의해서는 더욱 촉진되었다. 그러나 catalase 에 의한 억제효과의 촉진은 1,4-diazabicyclo(2,2,2)octane 에 의하여 완전히 소실되었다. 따라서 이 xanthine oxidase system 에서는  $\text{O}_2^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ,  $^1\text{O}_2$  이 관여함을 알 수 있었다.

(c) 그러나  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  ( $10 \mu\text{M}$ ) 이 존재하였을 때 collagen gelation 은 superoxide dismutase 에 의해 더욱 억제되었고 catalase 에 의해서는 완전히 회복되었다.

xanthine oxidase 계에서 얻어진 결과는 여러 reactive oxygen species 가운데  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  가  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  에 의하여 peroxidation 효과를 나타냄을 알 수 있었다.

이상의 결과로 미루어 볼 때 reactive oxygen species 와 metal ions 과의 상호작용 가운데  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ - $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  는 강한 반응을 나타내는 특이한 구성요소이고 현재 시사되고 있는 reactive oxygen species 의 biological effects 에 비추어  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ -catalyzed peroxidation 도 병적상태에서 생체에 유해한 작용을 나타내는 요소임을 시사하며 특히 염증시 조직파괴역할에 관하여 고찰하였다.

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## INTRODUCTION

Reactive oxygen species are highly reactive and can alter most types of cellular macromolecules. In *in vitro* experiments, they have been shown to oxidize proteins (Venkatasubramanian [and Joseph, 1977]) and unsaturated fatty acids (Kellogg and Fridovich, 1977), damage nucleic acids (Lavelle et al., 1973) and cleave polysaccharides (McCord, 1974). Among them hydroxyl radicals (OH·) and singlet oxygen (<sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>) are considered to be the most reactive, and the most likely immediate oxidants of the destructive processes. Other less reactive species, such as superoxide radical (O<sub>2</sub><sup>-·</sup>) and hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) have been postulated to be the precursors of either OH· (Fong et al., 1976) or <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> (Kellogg and Fridovich, 1977) or both (Lynch and Fridovich, 1978). Metal ions have been suggested as catalysts for the eventual production of either OH· or <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> (Fong et al., 1976; Fee, 1980; Fridovich, 1978). Alternatively, metal ion-oxygen complexes have also been proposed as proximate reactive species for oxidation of lipid, protein and nucleic acids (Brawn and Fridovich, 1981; Ingraham, 1959; Chung et al., 1981; Chan and Kesner, 1980).

Among the various metal ions, Cu<sup>++</sup> has been shown to be particularly effective in catalyzing peroxidation by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. This include NADH (Chan and Kesner, 1980), lysozyme (Chung et al., 1981) and other proteins (Phelps et al., 1961; Chung et al., 1983) and phospholipids (Chan et al., 1982). Complexes of Cu<sup>++</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> have been suggested to be the immediate oxidizing species for NADH (Chan and Kesner, 1980), phospholipids (Chan et al., 1982) and proteins (Chung et al., 1981 & 1983) without involving either OH· or <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>

as an intermediate.

In this study, Cu<sup>++</sup>-catalyzed peroxidation on collagen was confirmed in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> of various sources, added directly or generated enzymatically using glucose oxidase or xanthine oxidase by observing the inhibition of gelation of this structural protein.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Xanthine oxidase, superoxide dismutase and catalase were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co.; glucose oxidase from Worthington; 1,4-diazabicyclo(2, 2, 2) octane from Aldrich Chem. CO.; allopurinol from Samil Pharma. Co.; H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> from Shinyo Pure Chemical Co.; CuSO<sub>4</sub> from Fisher Chemical Co. Other chemicals were of analytical reagent grade. Xanthine oxidase and catalase were dialyzed before using 3 times for 12 h at 4°C against 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6.

### 1) Preparation of skin collagen

Collagen was prepared from the skin obtained from male rats weighing about 100 g according to the procedures of Oegema et al. (1975). Collagen solution in 0.1 M acetic acid was lyophilized and stored at -20°C. Collagen when used, was dissolved in 0.5 M acetic acid to approximately 2 mg/ml, dialyzed extensively against 0.005 M acetic acid at 4°C and the resulting collagen in 0.005 M acetic acid was used in the experiments.

### 2) Collagen gelation

Collagen was mixed in 4 ml of reaction medium containing 0.14 M NaCl, 10 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.4 with or without other components as described below and incubated for 12 h at 4°C. The final concentration of collagen was 0.25 mg/ml. After dissolved air was removed by vacuum, 3 ml of aliquot was

removed to a cuvette. The cuvette containing collagen was then transferred to the temperature-controlled chamber of a Unicam SP 1750 recording spectrophotometer and it was maintained at  $37^\circ\text{C}$ . Gelation was monitored by continuous absorbance recording at 400 nm.

### 3) Effects of $\text{Cu}^{++}$ -catalyzed peroxidation of collagen gelation

Collagen in 4 ml of the reaction medium described above was incubated with varying concentrations of  $\text{CuSO}_4$  in the presence of either  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  added directly or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  generating systems i. e., xanthine oxidase plus xanthine or glucose oxidase plus glucose for 12 hr at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Reaction was stopped by addition of 0.1 ml of 1 mM EDTA and  $20\ \mu\text{l}$  of 1 mg/ml catalase, but in case that xanthine oxidase and xanthine were used, 0.4 ml of 80 mM allopurinol was used together with 0.1 ml of 1 mM EDTA. The concentrations of xanthine oxidase and glucose oxidase were 30 munits/ml and  $2.5\ \mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ , respectively and those of xanthine and glucose, 0.25~2 mM and 0.125~1.25 mM, respectively. Three ml of aliquot was used to observe gelation according to the procedure described above. Xanthine oxidase was assayed according to the method of Greenwald and Moy (1979) and protein concentration was determined by the method of Lowery et al. (1951).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Inhibition of collagen gelation by $\text{Cu}^{++}$ and $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$

When collagen was incubated with  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ , its gelation initiated by warming to  $37^\circ\text{C}$  was markedly inhibited as shown in Fig. 1. The inhibition was observed only in the presence of both  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . Either

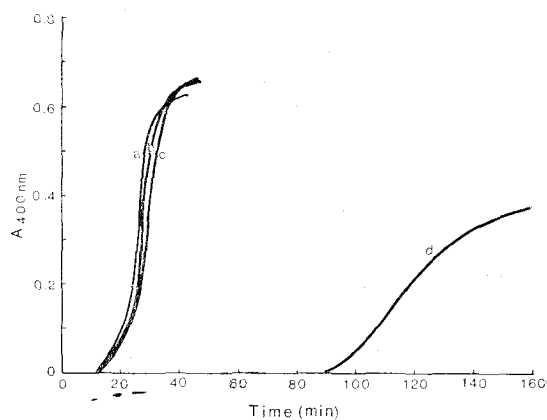


Fig. 1. Effects of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on collagen gelation. Collagen (0.25 mg/ml) was incubated in 4 ml of reaction medium containing 0.14 M NaCl, 10 mM sodium phosphate, and varying concentrations of  $\text{CuSO}_4$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  for 12 h at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ . Termination of the reaction, and gelation were done as described in Materials and Methods. a; no  $\text{CuSO}_4$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , b;  $20\ \mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuSO}_4$  only, c; 0.5 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  only and d;  $20\ \mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuSO}_4$  and 0.5 mM  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .

$\text{Cu}^{++}$  or  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  alone showed essentially no effect on the gelation. Furthermore, when collagen was incubated with  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  in the presence of either  $5\ \mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  of catalase or 0.1 mM EDTA, almost no detectable change in gelation was observed (data not shown). The results suggest that both  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  were needed for peroxidative attack to collagen resulting in inhibition of its gelation reflecting alteration of physico-chemical properties of this structural protein.

The dependency of gelation inhibition on both  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  as well as effects of their concentrations was shown in Fig. 2 where the inhibitory effects were presented as  $T_{1/2\text{max}}$ , the time required to attain half-maximum turbidity of gelation. In the absence of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  did not show any significant changes in  $T_{1/2\text{max}}$ . No change in gelation was also observed in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  alone;  $T_{1/2\text{max}}$  was

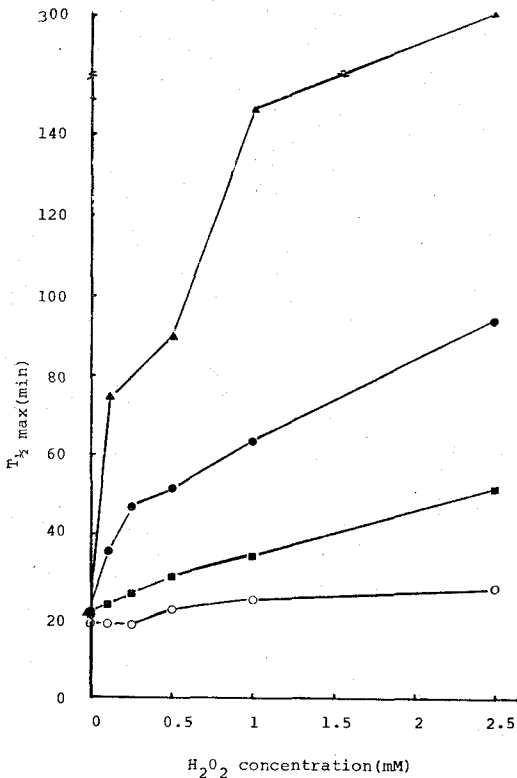


Fig. 2. Effects of concentration of Cu<sup>++</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on collagen gelation. All experimental conditions were the same as in Fig. 1. Extent of inhibition of gelation was expressed as T<sub>1/2max</sub>, the time required to attain half-maximum turbidity of gelled collagen. O; no CuSO<sub>4</sub> and ■, ● and ▲; 5, 10 and 20 μM CuSO<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

about 20 min up to 20 μM of Cu<sup>++</sup>. However, T<sub>1/2max</sub> was increased as a function of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration. Moreover, the increment of T<sub>1/2max</sub> was augmented with increasing concentration of Cu<sup>++</sup>.

### 2) Effects of glucose oxidase on collagen gelation in the presence of Cu<sup>++</sup>

As an alternative to demonstrate Cu<sup>++</sup>-catalyzed peroxidation, catalytic action of Cu<sup>++</sup> was tested on collagen gelation with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-generating system, glucose plus glucose oxidase. As shown in Fig. 3, Collagen gelation

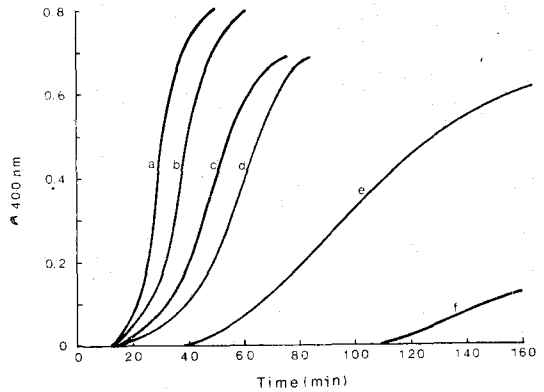
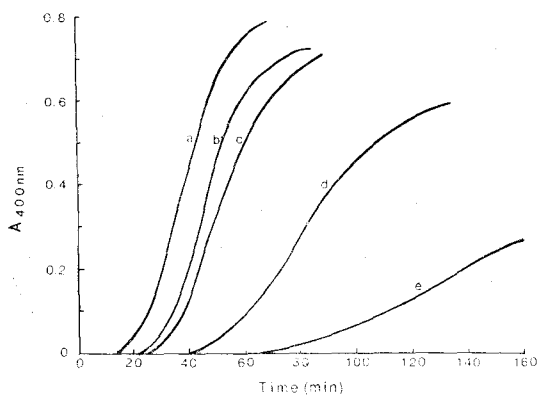
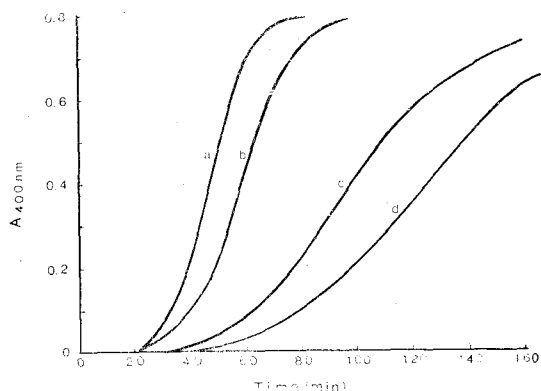


Fig. 3. Effects of glucose oxidase with varying concentration of glucose on collagen gelation in the presence of Cu<sup>++</sup>. Collagen was treated with glucose oxidase (2.5 μg/ml) and different concentrations of glucose in the presence of 20 μM CuSO<sub>4</sub>. Other conditions were the same as in Fig. 1. a; no glucose oxidase, glucose and CuSO<sub>4</sub>, b; glucose oxidase and 5 mM glucose and c, d, e and f; 0.125, 0.25, 0.5 and 1.25 mM glucose in the presence of glucose oxidase and CuSO<sub>4</sub>, respectively.

was inhibited by glucose and glucose oxidase only in the presence of Cu<sup>++</sup> (Fig. 3, Curve c, d, e and f). The observed inhibition, however, was abolished by 5 μg/ml catalase and 0.1 mM EDTA (data not shown) as in the previous experiment (Fig. 1). The extent of inhibition was proportional to the concentration (0.125~1.25 mM) of glucose used. In the absence of Cu<sup>++</sup>, slight inhibition was observed even at 5 mM of glucose (Fig. 3, Curve b), whereas in the presence of 20 μM Cu<sup>++</sup> marked inhibition was observed with much less concentration of glucose, 1.25 mM (Fig. 3, Curve f). Fig. 4 shows effect of Cu<sup>++</sup> concentration on collagen gelation in the glucose oxidase system. With constant concentration of glucose oxidase (2.5 μg/ml) and glucose (0.5 mM), the degree of inhibition was increased with increasing concentration of Cu<sup>++</sup>. From the results obtained thus far, the catalytic action of Cu<sup>++</sup>



**Fig. 4.** Effects of glucose and glucose oxidase on collagen gelation in the presence of varying concentrations of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ . Collagen was treated with 0.5 mM glucose and 2.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  in the presence of different concentrations of  $\text{CuSO}_4$ . Other conditions were the same as in Fig. 3. a; no glucose, glucose oxidase and  $\text{CuSO}_4$  and b, c, d and e; 2, 5, 10 and 20  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuSO}_4$  in the presence of glucose and glucose oxidase, respectively.



**Fig. 5.** Effects of xanthine and xanthine oxidase on collagen gelation. Collagen was treated with 30 munits/ml xanthine oxidase in the presence of varying concentrations of xanthine. Reaction was stopped [with allopurinol and EDTA as described in Materials and Methods. Other conditions were the same as in Fig. 1. a; no xanthine and xanthine oxidase and b, c and d; 0.25, 1 and 2 mM xanthine in the presence of xanthine oxidase, respectively.

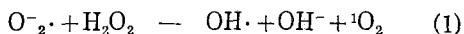
was shown clearly to be identical in two different systems supplying  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , directly or enzymatically.

### 3) Effects of xanthine oxidase and xanthine on collagen gelation in the presence of $\text{Cu}^{++}$

In contrast to the findings that glucose oxidase system was able to affect collagen gelation only in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ , xanthine oxidase system (X/XO) by itself caused inhibition of collagen gelation without  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  added (Fig. 5). The degree of inhibition was dependent on xanthine concentration (0.25~2 mM).

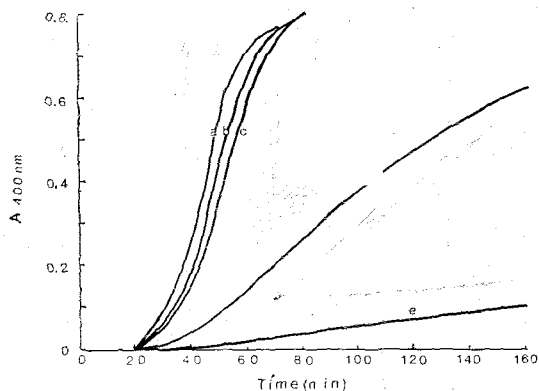
A number of reports have shown that many oxidative processes involving reactive oxygen species generated by X/XO were inhibited by superoxide, catalase and even by quenchers for  $\text{OH}\cdot$  and  $^1\text{O}_2$  (Greenwald and Moy, 1979; McCord, 1974; Lynch and Fridovich, 1978; Kellogg and Fridovich, 1977). Based upon these findings  $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  were suggested to interact to produce more reactive species,

$\text{OH}\cdot$  and/or  $^1\text{O}_2$  implicated as final mediators in the oxidative processes as shown in the following equation.



Thus, the observed inhibition of gelation by X/XO may be attributed to the attack to collagen by  $\text{OH}\cdot$  or  $^1\text{O}_2$  or both.

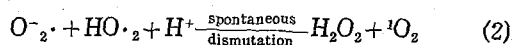
As might be expected, superoxide dismutase was effective in limiting the inhibition of collagen gelation in this experiment (Fig. 6, curve c) suggesting  $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$  was involved in the inhibition of gelation. Catalase, however, was shown to potentiate the inhibition of collagen gelation by xanthine oxidase system (Fig. 6, Curve e). The observed effect of catalase was contradictory to what have been generally observed with the enzyme in xanthine oxidase system. Moreover, the scavenger for  $\text{OH}\cdot$  including mannitol, benzoate and formate (Chan and Kesner, 1980) tested in this experiment did not exhibit preventive effect against the



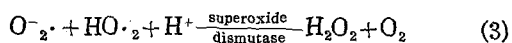
**Fig. 6.** Effects of superoxide dismutase and catalase on the inhibition of collagen gelation by xanthine and xanthine oxidase. Collagen was treated with 0.5 mM xanthine and 30 munits/ml xanthine oxidase in the presence of either superoxide dismutase or catalase. Other conditions were the same as in Fig. 5. a; 5  $\mu$ g/ml catalase without xanthine and xanthine oxidase, b; no xanthine and xanthine oxidase, d; xanthine and xanthine oxidase and c and e; 5  $\mu$ g/ml superoxide dismutase and 5  $\mu$ g/ml catalase with xanthine and xanthine oxidase, respectively.

inhibition of collagen gelation (data not shown). Interestingly, however, the inhibited collagen gelation by catalase in the xanthine oxidase system was recovered by 1,4-diazabicyclo (2, 2, 2) octane known as <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> quencher in dose-dependent manner (Fig. 7 curve b and c).

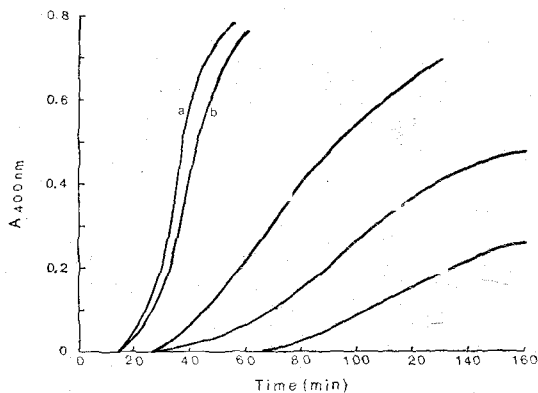
Although a satisfactory explanation for the nature of the interaction between reactive oxygen species observed in this system can not be provided, the results obtained from the quencher studies suggest one possible way of interaction,



but



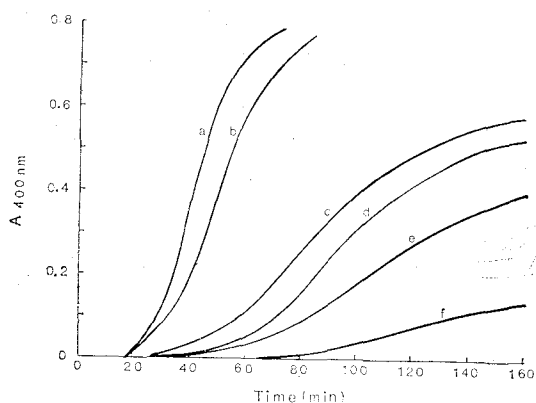
In other words, a principal mediator in this system may be <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>. But this species was pro-



**Fig. 7.** Effects of 1,4-diazabicyclo(2,2,2)octane on augmented inhibition of collagen gelation by catalase in xanthine oxidase system. Collagen was treated with 0.5 mM xanthine and 30 munits/ml xanthine oxidase in the presence of 2.5  $\mu$ g/ml catalase with or without 1,4-diazabicyclo(2,2,2) octane. Other conditions were the same as in Fig. 5. a; no xanthine and xanthine oxidase, d and e; xanthine and xanthine oxidase without and with catalase, respectively and b and c; 7.5 and 3.75 mM 1,4-diazabicyclo (2,2,2)octane in the presence of xanthine, xanthine oxidase and catalase, respectively.

duced probably only on spontaneous dismutation not on enzymatic one. The suggested interaction was in agreement with reports showing that O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> spontaneously dismutated to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> (Kahn, 1970; Mayeda and Bard, 1974).

But two questions to be answered are still remaining. The first is how catalase potentiates inhibition of collagen gelation in the situation where reaction (2) prevails. Possibly, that may be attributable to the shift of reaction (2) to right by removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> resulting in augmented production of <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub>. The second is why OH<sup>·</sup> was excluded as a mediator in the quencher studies. In author's works where effects of xanthine oxidase on brain microsomal Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase (Oh et al., 1982) and calcium binding of cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum (Kim et al., 1983) the inhibited activi-



**Fig. 8.** Effects of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  on collagen gelation in the xanthine oxidase system. Collagen was treated with 0.5 mM xanthine and 30 munits/ml xanthine oxidase in the presence of 10  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{CuSO}_4$  and effects of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  superoxide dismutase and 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  catalase were observed. Other conditions were the same as in Fig. 5. a; no xanthine oxidase, b; xanthine, xanthine oxidase,  $\text{CuSO}_4$  and catalase, c; xanthine and xanthine oxidase, d; xanthine, xanthine oxidase and  $\text{CuSO}_4$ , e; xanthine, xanthine oxidase, superoxide dismutase and  $\text{CuSO}_4$  and f; xanthine, xanthine oxidase and catalase.

ties by xanthine oxidase were not recovered by  $\text{OH}\cdot$  quenchers, mannitol and others. In spite of frequent observations of exclusion of  $\text{OH}\cdot$  as a mediator in our xanthine oxidase system, the reason for the phenomena can not be provided. Further study is necessary for elucidating the mechanism related to the observations in this experiment and the two questions above in particular.

At any rate,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was suggested to be produced in the present xanthine oxidase system regardless of its mode of action on the collagen gelation. Under these circumstances the catalytic role of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  was also clearly demonstrated in the peroxidative inhibition of collagen gelation. As shown in Fig. 8,  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  caused marked inhibition of collagen gelation by xanthine and xanthine oxidase even in the presence of superoxide dismutase (Fig. 8, Cur-

ve e) which showed complete recovery of the inhibited gelation when  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  was not present (Fig. 6, Curve c). Furthermore, the observed effect of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  in the xanthine oxidase system was prevented by catalase (Fig. 8, Curve b), which, without  $\text{Cu}^{++}$ , gave rise to potentiation of the inhibition of gelation (Fig. 8, Curve f). The result observed above seems to be consistent of the fact that  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  interacted with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  generated from spontaneous dismutation of  $\text{O}_2^-$  produced by xanthine oxidase.

One may have a question why the inhibition of collagen gelation by catalase was not observed in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  (Fig. 8, Curve b) under the condition where reaction (2) prevails as suggested previously. That may be due to superoxide dismutase like activity of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  as in reaction (3) showing that  $\text{O}_2$  is produced instead of  $^1\text{O}_2$ . This interpretation may be supported by the reports demonstrating that  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  itself (Rabani et al., 1973) as well as  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  complexes with amino acids and small peptide (Brigelius et al., 1974) exhibited to dismute  $\text{O}_2^-$  to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $^1\text{O}_2$ . The resulting  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , however, has no chance to be involved in peroxidation catalyzed by  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  since it decomposes to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{O}_2$  in the presence of catalase. Gelation was little more inhibited by xanthine and xanthine oxidase in the presence of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  alone than in its absence (Fig. 8, Curve d). At this time, the inhibition was not affected by mannitol (10 mM) (data not shown). In this case, therefore, the inhibition of gelation may be attributed to combined oxidative effects of  $^1\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{Cu}^{++}\text{-H}_2\text{O}_2$ . Although contribution of each to the inhibition cannot be quantified,  $\text{Cu}^{++}\text{-H}_2\text{O}_2$  seems to contribute more than  $^1\text{O}_2$ .

Catalytic action of  $\text{Cu}^{++}$  was confirmed with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  of various sources, and more importantly oxidizing activity by  $\text{Cu}^{++}\text{-H}_2\text{O}_2$  was demonstrated in the milieu with various

reactive oxygen species existing. Although specificity of metal ions as catalysts in peroxidation by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and involvement of OH· or <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> in the reaction by Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were not tested in the present study, studies on peroxidative effects of Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on proteins(Chung et al., 1981 and 1983), NADH(Chan and Kesner, 1980) and lipids(Chan et al., 1982) showed that among the metal ions, Cu<sup>++</sup> was uniquely able to catalyze peroxidation by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and OH· and <sup>1</sup>O<sub>2</sub> were excluded as mediators in this Cu<sup>++</sup>-catalyzed peroxidation. Thus oxidation exerted by Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> seems to be a different mechanism of interaction from others suggestion involvement of metal ions in the interaction between reactive oxygen species. Further study is still required to explore the mechanism of action of Cu<sup>++</sup>-catalyzed peroxidation although Cu<sup>+</sup>OOH, CuO<sup>+</sup> or CuO<sub>2</sub> was suggested as possible oxidants(Ingraham, 1959).

The significance of peroxidative activities by Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is not well understood. However, in view of the facts that Cu<sup>++</sup> is a commonly found metal ion in most biological fluids and tissues and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> can be formed as a product of normal oxidative respiration(Fridovich, 1979; Chance and Oshino, 1971; Loshen et al., 1971; Boveris and Chance, 1973), peroxidative activities by Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to many biological compounds may be a potential mechanism to tissue toxicity in general. But more importantly, the observed effect of Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on collagen gelation may have pathological implications in inflammatory conditions, particularly in rheumatoid arthritis. In other study(Chung et al., 1983) even articular cartilage was observed to be degraded by Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

In rheumatoid arthritis, there is a significant increase of copper concentration in the serum (Lorber et al., 1968; Sorenson, 1978) and

synovial fluid(White et al., 1978). At the same time, the infiltration of phagocytic leukocytes at the inflamed joints can cause a localized high concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>(Root et al., 1975; Nathan et al; 1979). Cu<sup>++</sup> in this pathological condition has been implicated as a destructive agent(Lorber et al., 1968; Gerber, 1974) and reactive oxygen species having degradative effects on collagen(Greenwald and Moy, 1979) and hyaluronic acid (McCord, 1974) have been suggested to have a role in the damage of joint tissue.

This hypothesis of a deleterious effect Cu<sup>++</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is also supported by the observation that catalase was the most anti-inflammatory agent in the rate of all reactive species scavengers tested(Bragt et al., 1980) and EDTA was an effective suppressor of manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis(Leipzig et al., 1970). It has been suggested that lysosomal degradative enzymes play a tissue degradation in the inflamed joint(Ignaro, 1974; Barrett, 1978; Weissmann et al; 1980). However, Cu<sup>++</sup>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> may also be a contributing factor.

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