

원저

Effects of *Cibotium Barometz* on RANKL from Collagen-induced Rheumatoid Arthritis Mice

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국문초록

류머티즘을 유발한 생쥐에서 RANKL에 대한 구척의 효과

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목적 : 콜라겐으로 관절염을 유발한 생쥐에서 RANKL발현에 대한 구척의 효과를 연구하였다.

방법 : 면역조직화학법을 이용하여 관절의 염증과 골의 손실 정도를 증명하였다. 콜라겐으로 관절염을 유발한 DBA/1J종의 생쥐에 관절염 유발 3주후부터 8주까지 구척 (300mg/kg)을 투여한 후 발의 부종과 골 손실의 변화를 Safranin O염색으로 관찰하였다.

결과 : 5주간 구척의 투여로 관절의 부종과 무릎 관절의 염증을 막았다. 파골세포 분화인자인 RANKL은 대조군에 비해 구척 투여군의 관절에서 RANKL이 감소되었다.

결론 : 구척 투여의 결과로 골손실을 보호하였고, 뼈를 만드는 동화작용에 의해 RANKL의 발현을 개선할 수 있었다.

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I. Introduction

Cibotium barometz has tonifies the liver and kidneys and strengthens the sinews and bones: used for deficient liver and kidneys with such symptoms as stiffness, soreness or weakness in the lower back, spine, and lower extremities. Expels wind and dampness used for ind damp painful obstruction ith pain, soreness, or numbness. Also used for swelling of the legs as a aftermath of illness.

Focal bone erosion is a hallmark of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a severe immune-mediated disease that progresses over time to yield irreversible skeletal destruction. Bone erosions result from enhanced production of activated osteoclasts in affected joints^{1,2)}. A fact confirmed by the marked increase in osteoclasts that occurs in experimental animal models of polyarthritis^{3,4)}. Prevention of osteoclast has therefore become an important therapeutic principle of antirheumatic drug therapy. Formation of inflamed synovial tissue is a prerequisite for induction of bone loss. Several important clues suggest that increased bone resorption precipitates inflammation-mediated bone loss. First, osteoclasts, which are absent in normal synovial tissue, are abundantly present in inflamed synovial tissue and are attached to bone surfaces both in animal models of arthritis and in human RA^{1,5)}. The inflamed synovium expresses RANKL, that stimulate osteoclastogenesis and bone resorption⁶⁾. RANKL is the primary mediator of osteoclast formation, function, and survival. RANKL is required for bone erosions in arthritic joints. The absence of osteoclasts and greatly reduced joint destruction observed in RANKL,

knockout mice with arthritis⁷⁾. Inhibition of RANKL may attenuate this negative effect on the osteoblast compartment and thus make these factors susceptible to anabolic stimuli.

The effects of RANKL inhibition on systemic bone loss have not been studied in inflammatory arthritis models. Risk factors for systemic bone loss in RA patients include immobility and persistently active disease⁸⁾. Unfortunately, there are no convenient biochemical markers that identify those RA patients at greatest risk for systemic bone loss. It was recently reported that serum RANKL levels are positively correlated with disease progression in RA patients⁹⁾. RANKL might serve as a useful biomarker for local bone loss. Serum RANKL was also reported to correlate positively with bone resorption markers and with generalized bone loss in arthritis patients¹⁰⁾. To explore these questions, we used well-characterized mice model of inflammatory arthritis (collagen-induced arthritis(CIA), to examine the bone erosions by CB in arthritic joints.

II. Material and methods

Animals and induction of arthritis. DBA/1J(80 males) weighing 25 - 32grams were received from Jung Ang company and acclimated for at least 1 week prior to use. Animals were housed in filter-capped polycarbonate cages and maintained under constant environmental conditions(22±1°C, relative humidity 50%). Mices were kept on a 12 hour - 12 hour light - dark cycle and given bottled drinking water(purified by a reverse osmosis).

System; Edstrom Industries, Waterford, WI) and

pelleted chow (Jung Aang company) *ad libitum*. CIA was induced in male mice by a single intradermal injection into the tail base. The adjuvant consisted of 0.5mg of heat-killed mycobacteria H37Ra (Difco, Detroit, MI) suspended in paraffin oil. CIA was elicited in male mice by intradermal injection of porcine type II collagen (1mg total; Chondrex, Redmond, WA), emulsified 1:1 with Freund's incomplete adjuvant (Difco), at multiple sites.

1. Preparation of CB extract

The roots of CB were from Jaseng Hospital of Oriental Medicine, Korea. The roots were air-dried avoiding sun-light and cut into small pieces for the experiment. The dried roots (500g) were soaked in 70% ethanol (4L) at room temperature for 1 day and extracted for 1 hour three times with 70% EtOH in an ultrasonic apparatus and filtered with filter paper (Advantec, Toyo Roshi Kaisha, Japan) to remove the debris. The EtOH extract was evaporated under reduced pressure by rotary evaporator (R-205, Büchi, Germany) and lyophilized with freezing dryer (Operon, Korea) to give 70% EtOH crude extract (180 g, yield 36 %). The EtOH crude extract (100g) was dissolved in distilled water (500mL).

2. Treatment

Mice were randomly assigned 4 groups (n = 20/group): CB (300 mg/kg) and Ibuprofen (50 mg/kg) were administered orally after the onset of clinical disease.

3. Assessment of paw swelling

Swelling of hind paws was assessed daily from disease onset to day 3 weeks disease onset.

In CIA, paw swelling was measured by water plethysmography as previously described¹¹.

4. Immunohistochemistry

All mice were expired at 8 weeks after CIA.

Samples were fixed, decalcified, dehydrated, and embedded in paraffin. Four-micrometer sections were stained with Safranin O–Fast Green stain. RANKL was localized through immunohistochemical staining as previously described¹². The area of the RANKL was traced using Image-Pro[®]Plus image analyzer (Media Cybernetics Inc.) at 100X magnification. The area of RANKL was expressed as the mean number of area per mm².

Statistical analysis

All results were expressed as the group mean \pm SD. Clinical (continuous) data were assessed using a student's *t*-test. A *p* value of 0.05 was used to delineate significant differences between groups.

III. Results

1. Effects of CB extract on the mice hind-paw edema

We first evaluated the anti-inflammatory activity of CB (300mg/kg) on mice paw edema (Fig. 1.) during the whole experiment (8 weeks). CB and ibuprofen (50mg/kg) inhibited swelling at 8 weeks after onset arthritis.

At 8 weeks after CIA, the edema of ankle joint (sham group; 0.197 ± 0.034 , saline group; 1.132 ± 0.083 , ibuprofen group; 0.386 ± 0.097 , and CB group; 0.475 ± 0.066) were presented (Fig. 2).

2. Effects of CB extract on the area of RANKL

After induction of arthritis, CB treated mice with CIA gain 11.6% of control mice, respectively, as measured by the area of RANKL. Inhibition of RANKL with CB significantly reduced RANKL area (Fig. 2).

At 8 weeks after CIA, the area of RANKL (sham

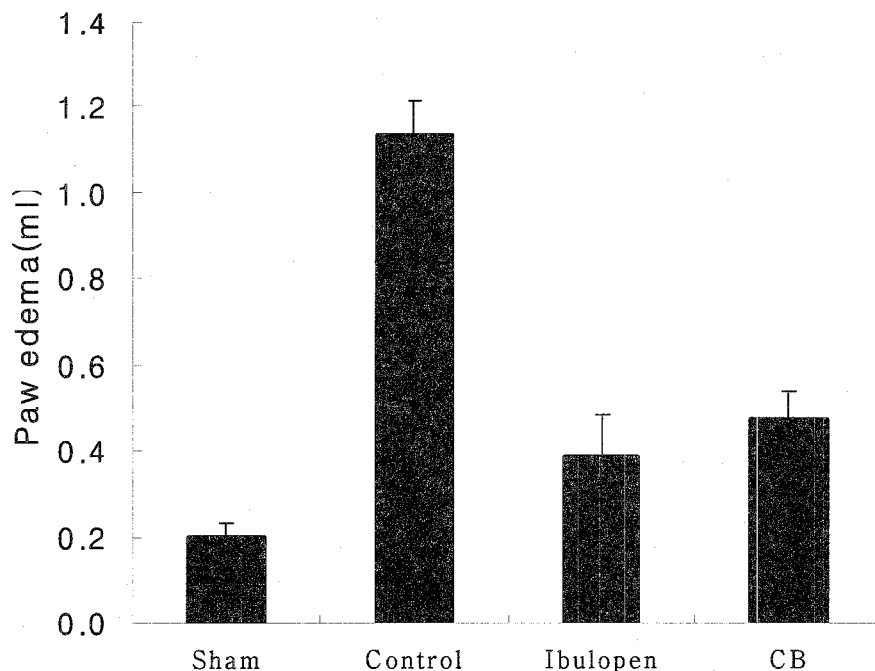


Fig. 1. Effects of 70% ethanol extract of CB on CIA mice paw edema. CB was administered during 5 after onset arthritis. The change of footpad volume was determined at 5 after onset arthritis. Each value represents the mean±SD of 20 mice per group. Sham; sham operated group, Control CIA group with saline, Ibuprofen CIA group with ibuprofen(50mg/kg), CB; CIA group with CB(300mg/kg)

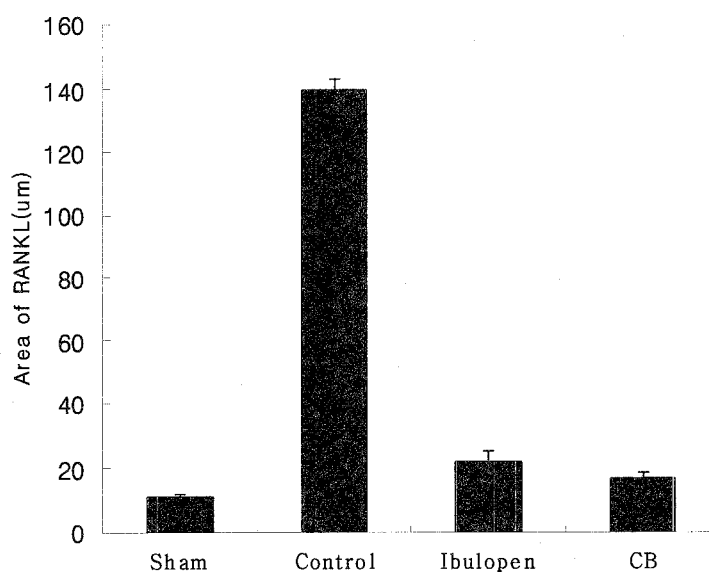


Fig. 2. Effects of 70% ethanol extract of CB on CIA mice RANKL area. CB was administered during 5 after onset arthritis. The change of RANKL area was determined at 5 weeks after onset arthritis. Each value represents the mean±SD of 20 mice per group. Sham; sham operated group, Control CIA group with saline, Ibuprofen CIA group with ibuprofen(50mg/kg), CB; CIA group with CB(300mg/kg)

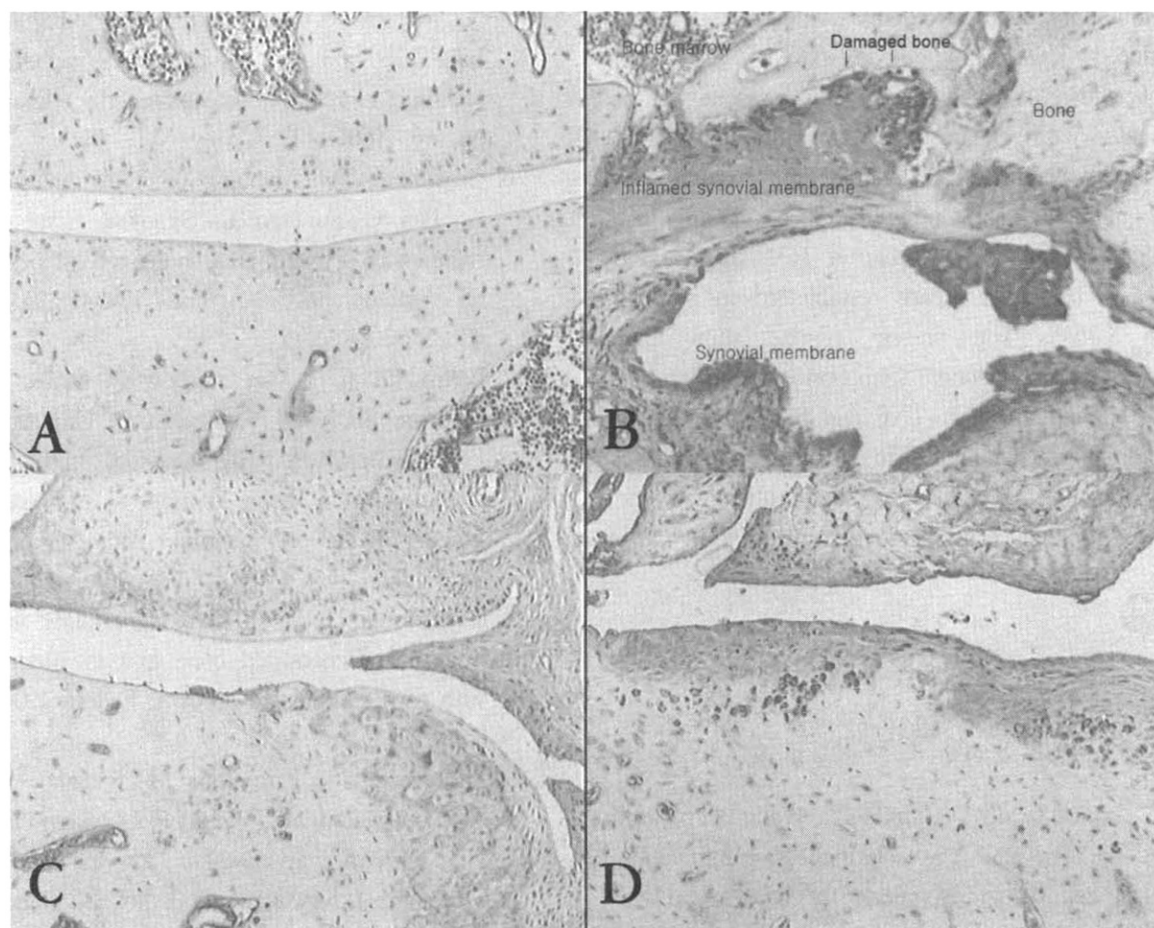


Fig. 3. Distribution of RANKL expression during disease progression in the cartilage of mice with CIA. Darkfield demonstration of RANKL. Sham (A) didn't show localization of RANKL (original magnification $\times 400$), Control (B) showed large localization of RANKL. It shows marked mononuclear cell infiltration with cartilage-bone destruction (original magnification $\times 400$), Ibuprofen (C) showed small localization of RANKL. Only limited synovial lining cell hyperplasia was detected (original magnification $\times 400$), CB (D) showed small localization of RANKL almost like panel C. Still limited synovial lining cell hyperplasia was detected (original magnification $\times 400$).

group; 10.93 ± 1.059 , saline group; 139.44 ± 3.547 , ibuprofen group; 21.182 ± 3.818 , and CB group; 16.178 ± 2.250 were presented (Fig. 2).

Upon treatment with CB, RANKL was found predominantly at sites, such as the junction between cartilage, bone, osteoclasts and invasion of inflamed tissue at sites of bone damage were most prominent (Fig. 3B). CB treated mice showed only few sites of RANKL expression (Fig. 3D), while in the untreated arthritic mice (Fig. 3A).

IV. Discussion and conclusion

Our results provide evidence that a 70% ethanol extract of *Cibotium barometz* stems possesses anti-inflammatory activity. The extract was tested with the standard models for chronic inflammation. The present study shows that the 70% ethanol extract from the stem of *Cibotium barometz*, especially at the high dose (300 orally treated), has

an inhibitory effect on edema formation in arthritis-induced mice paw model. RANKL has been implicated as a pathogenetic factor for bone loss in patients with rheumatoid¹³⁾ arthritis. In animal models of arthritis, RANKL plays a causal role in the initiation and progression of local bone erosions. The essential role of RANKL in bone erosions has been clearly established in animals with CIA¹⁴⁾. The present results show that stimulation of bone formation enhances the bone-sparing effect of TNF and RANKL blockade in immune-mediated arthritis. In consequence, CB is a promising new class of therapeutics with the potential to reduce in rheumatoid arthritis.

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