

· 综述 ·

## 小檗碱的抗菌作用

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**摘要:** 小檗碱是我国原创的抗菌药, 因具有多种生物学活性近年来广受关注, 它首先被用于治疗肠道的细菌性感染。小檗碱对多种微生物有不同程度的抑制作用, 但一般效果较弱, 最低抑菌浓度大多在  $64 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$  以上; 而效果比较好的是痢疾杆菌, 是其选择性之一。同时, 因为口服小檗碱吸收差, 绝大多数小檗碱集留在肠道中, 是其选择性之二, 构成其治疗肠道病原菌感染的基础。本文对小檗碱的抗菌作用药效、作用机制及临床应用研究进展进行综述, 以期对小檗碱类药物的进一步研发提供参考。

**关键词:** 小檗碱; 抗菌; 机制; 临床应用

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## Antibacterial activity of berberine

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**Abstract:** Berberine is an original antibacterial drug in China, and is widely used for its diverse biological functions. It is first used in clinic to treat intestinal bacterial infections. Berberine has different inhibitory effects on various microorganisms, but the effect is very weak with the minimum inhibitory concentration over  $64 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$  in most of the study bacteria. The effect is better for *Bacillus dysenteriae*, which is one aspect of its selectivity. At the same time, because of the poor absorption of berberine in oral administration, it is retained in the intestine to reach a high concentration, which provides a basis for tissue selectivity in the treatment of intestinal bacterial infections. In this paper, we reviewed the antibacterial action, mechanism, clinical application of berberine, in order to provide a clue for the future direction of berberine research.

**Key words:** berberine; antibacterial; mechanism; clinical application

小檗碱 (berberine, BBR,  $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5$ ,  $M_w$  336.37), 又称黄连素, 是从黄连 (*Coptis chinensis*) 等中草药中分离提取得到的一种异喹啉类生物碱 (图 1)<sup>[1]</sup>。临床常用的是盐酸小檗碱 (berberine hydrochloride,  $M_w$

371.81)。据报道, 小檗碱具有抗菌、降血糖、降血脂、降血压、抗肿瘤、抗氧化、抗痢疾和抗传染性原虫等药理活性<sup>[2-5]</sup>。其中小檗碱的抗菌作用是最早为人所知且用于临床的。本文将对小檗碱抗菌作用的研究进展进行综述, 以期对小檗碱的深度研发提供科学依据。

### 1 小檗碱的抗菌作用

小檗碱是黄连的主要成分之一, 临床已经运用多年, 主要用于治疗肠道细菌性感染。最初发现小檗碱具有体外抗菌活性是在 1969 年由 Amin 等<sup>[6]</sup>首次

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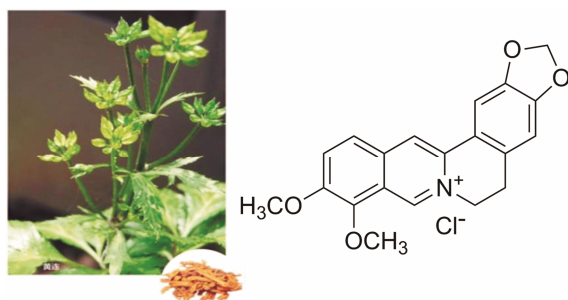


Figure 1 The herb and structure of berberine HCl<sup>[1]</sup>

报道的。报道指出小檗碱在体外对革兰阳性菌 ( $G^+$ )、革兰阴性菌 ( $G^-$ ) 和真菌都有显著的抑制活性。之后研究者对小檗碱的抗菌作用展开了深入的研究。Freile 等<sup>[7]</sup>研究发现,小檗碱在体外能够抑制金黄色葡萄球菌的生长。随后有大量实验指出,小檗碱还能够抑制耐甲氧西林金黄色葡萄球菌 (MRSA) 的生长<sup>[8,9]</sup>。同时,小檗碱对致病的肺炎链球菌<sup>[10]</sup>、无乳链球菌<sup>[11]</sup>抑菌作用也很明显。对于  $G^-$  大肠杆菌,小檗碱也有一定的抑制作用<sup>[12,13]</sup>,但是抑制作用远远低于对  $G^+$  菌的作用。小檗碱对  $G^-$  痢疾杆菌的抑制作用非常显著<sup>[14,15]</sup>,高于对  $G^+$  菌的作用,这也被认为是小檗碱发挥胃肠道感染治疗作用的特点之一。此外,小檗碱对幽门螺旋杆菌<sup>[16]</sup>、结核分枝杆菌<sup>[17]</sup>和霍乱弧菌<sup>[18]</sup>等均表现出不同程度的抑菌活性。除了对细菌的抗菌作用外,小檗碱还能够与抗真菌药物氟康唑等唑类药物联合使用,明显增强抗真菌药物对多种临床分离真菌菌株的活性<sup>[19,20]</sup>。小檗碱体外主要的抗菌活性及与临床主要抗菌药物相比较的结果如表 1<sup>[21,22]</sup>所示。

尽管小檗碱的抗菌作用弱,在不同微生物之间的抗菌活性差异较大,但与一般的抗生素相比,小檗碱不容易产生耐药性<sup>[23]</sup>。此外,有报道指出,小檗碱属的植物除了能产生小檗碱外,还能产生一种多药耐药外排泵 NorA 的抑制剂 5'-MHC,当小檗碱与 5'-MHC 联合使用时,可以增加细菌内小檗碱的浓度,减少产生对小檗碱的耐药性,增加小檗碱的抗菌作用<sup>[24]</sup>。

## 2 小檗碱的抗菌作用机制

小檗碱抗菌机制远未阐明,可能与其抗菌效果偏弱有关;此外,传统上认为小檗碱是一个多靶点化合物,可以作用于细菌代谢的多个途径及细菌产生致病性的多个过程,增加了研究的复杂性。以下专门介绍几个研究结果,说明小檗碱与细菌的相互作用,为深入探索小檗碱抗菌作用机制提供研究思路。

**2.1 小檗碱抑制菌体核酸的功能** 有研究表明,小

Table 1 *In vitro* antibacterial activity of berberine<sup>[21,22]</sup>. \*Since the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the same strain reported in different literatures are various, we select the average value here

Strain	MIC/ $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$	
	Berberine*	Levofloxacin
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	64	0.125
Methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	32	32
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	64	1
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	128	0.5
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	>1 024	<0.03
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	512	2
<i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	256	128
<i>Bacillus dysenteriae</i>	4–32	<0.03
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	128	<0.03
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	512	<0.03
<i>Bacillus paratyphosus A</i>	>128	0.06
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	1 024	1
<i>Candida albicans</i>	64	<0.03
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	32	0.5

檗碱及其衍生物能够与菌体单链/双链 DNA 结合形成复合体<sup>[25]</sup>,并且能够抑制拓扑异构酶 (TOP I/II) 的活性<sup>[26–28]</sup>,有可能是通过抑制 DNA 的功能而发挥其抗菌作用的。Das 等<sup>[29]</sup>通过热力学技术和圆二色谱法分析得出,小檗碱除了能与 DNA 结合外,还与细菌双链 RNA 相互作用,尤其是结合在 AU 碱基配对处,影响 RNA 的正常功能。

**2.2 小檗碱抑制菌体功能蛋白酶的活性** 小檗碱能够降低伤寒沙门氏菌中乙酰转移酶的活性,并且呈剂量依赖性地减少转录及蛋白水平乙酰转移酶的量<sup>[30]</sup>,使细菌中芳基胺类物质的代谢受到阻碍,导致细菌因非正常代谢而死亡。还有研究通过基因芯片分析,小檗碱能够抑制金黄色葡萄球菌中的谷氨酰胺合成酶,使得菌体中重要的氨基酸谷氨酰胺的合成受到影响<sup>[31]</sup>,推测这可能也是小檗碱的一种抗菌机制。

**2.3 小檗碱抑制菌体分裂** 细菌 FtsZ 蛋白是菌体的分裂蛋白。FtsZ 自我聚合成分裂隔板处的 Z-ring,在细菌菌体分裂过程中发挥着重要的作用。小檗碱能够抑制大肠杆菌 FtsZ 的 GTP 酶活性,从而抑制 Z-ring 的形成<sup>[32]</sup>。核磁共振及分子对接实验表明,小檗碱结合在大肠杆菌 FtsZ 的疏水 GTP 酶活性位点,使得 FtsZ 不能发挥其 GTP 酶功能<sup>[33]</sup>。除此之外,小檗碱还有可能与细菌菌体分裂蛋白 FtsA、ZipA 等相互作用影响菌体分裂<sup>[34]</sup>。

**2.4 小檗碱抑制细菌致病性的作用** Oh 等<sup>[35]</sup>发现小檗碱能够抑制金黄色葡萄球菌转肽酶 SrtA、SrtB 的活性。SrtA 和 SrtB 的主要功能是将金黄色葡萄球

菌毒力因子蛋白铆钉在细胞壁外层,小檗碱通过抑制两种不同亚型酶的活性影响金黄色葡萄球菌的致病性,从而发挥其抑菌作用。小檗碱还能抑制大肠杆菌、链球菌等鞭毛的亚基装配,影响其黏附作用<sup>[36]</sup>,达到抑菌效果。

**2.5 小檗碱对胃肠道黏膜的保护作用及抗菌机制** 在对大肠杆菌和霍乱弧菌肠毒素引起的家兔、小鼠肠功能紊乱实验中,小檗碱能够拮抗肠毒素的毒性作用<sup>[37]</sup>,减少细菌肠毒素导致的肠黏膜损伤及引起的电解质失调。还有研究表明,小檗碱能够作为细菌脂多糖(LPS)的拮抗剂,抑制机体LPS/TLR4信号通路,并且抑制炎症因子NF- $\kappa$ B、IL-6、TNF $\alpha$ 和IFN $\beta$ 的分泌,保护LPS引起的胃肠道黏膜损伤,发挥其抗菌作用<sup>[38]</sup>。

**2.6 小檗碱与肠道菌相互作用及抗菌机制** 小檗碱在肠道主要对痢疾杆菌效果较好(表1),而对其他菌抑制作用很弱(表2)<sup>[39]</sup>。Wang等<sup>[40]</sup>报道小檗碱可以减少肠道菌产生ATP和NADH,也可能是抑制细菌的机制之一。小檗碱已经在大量的人群中试用,到目前为止,即使在长期服用小檗碱的患者中,也尚未见到口服小檗碱引起肠道菌群紊乱的报道<sup>[41]</sup>。实际上小檗碱可以减少肠道的致病菌,而增加有益的细菌。Zhang等<sup>[42]</sup>报道小檗碱能够增加具有短链脂肪酸(SCFA)产生功能的*Blautia*和*Allobaculum*等菌属,而SCFA能够调节肠道pH值、抗炎、调节人体代谢与免疫等功能;同时,小檗碱还能够抑制产生内毒素的*Barnesiella*和*Butyricimonas*等菌属,而内毒素会损害肠道屏障、引起人体代谢和免疫失调等。

此外,Lv等<sup>[43]</sup>报道将小檗碱与万古霉素联用,治

疗梭状芽胞杆菌感染效果好于单独使用万古霉素,其作用机制是由于小檗碱对万古霉素治疗造成的肠道杆菌数量及种类的破坏起到重塑作用,通过小檗碱与肠道菌的相互作用增加万古霉素的抗感染治疗效果。由此可见,小檗碱非但没有引起肠道正常菌群的菌群失调,相反还能够调节肠道菌群结构,促进肠道正常菌群的稳态环境。这也与目前已有研究结果相吻合,小檗碱只对致病性肠道菌(如痢疾杆菌和幽门螺旋杆菌)有较强的抑菌活性,一般剂量的小檗碱对其他正常肠道菌抑制作用很弱。临床使用小檗碱后的菌群失调未见报告。在中医里有“黄连厚肠胃”的说法,说明其对肠道的有益之处。

由于小檗碱的结构属于季铵碱,水溶性较差,口服后难吸收,血浆中生物利用度低。有不少研究者针对小檗碱在体内的吸收、代谢、分布进行了大量的研究。口服小檗碱吸收量少,大量小檗碱聚集肠道与肠道菌相互作用。此外,小檗碱被肠道菌中的硝基还原酶转化成易于吸收的二氢小檗碱等代谢产物,这些代谢产物的抗菌作用更弱,可能代表了细菌自我保护的机制之一<sup>[39]</sup>。

**2.7 小檗碱抗菌的其他机制** 在小鼠感染大肠杆菌动物实验中,小檗碱能够上调吞噬大肠杆菌的巨噬细胞表达caspase-1p10和IL-1 $\beta$ ,从而激活AMPK通路<sup>[44]</sup>,同时,还可以激活AMPK介导的巨噬细胞自噬作用<sup>[45]</sup>,产生抑菌效果。除了激活AMPK通路,小檗碱通过抑制机体MEK/ERK MAPK通路<sup>[46]</sup>,抑制病原体的RNA和蛋白表达,从而抑制病原体感染人体。小檗碱还能够与巨噬细胞中溶菌酶的色氨酸相结合<sup>[47]</sup>,形成复合体,并且氧化色氨酸,激活巨噬细胞氧化应激反应(ROS),发挥其抑菌功效。

### 3 小檗碱抗菌作用的临床应用

小檗碱最早运用于临床,就是将其作为肠道感染的治疗药物。在成人感染大肠杆菌肠毒素引起的腹泻患者中,给予小檗碱24h后,患者腹泻症状明显减轻<sup>[18]</sup>。对小儿细菌性肠炎,小檗碱也表现出明显的治疗效果。小儿口服小檗碱治疗腹泻与成人效果相同。除此之外,在常规抗感染及补液治疗的基础上,使用盐酸小檗碱灌肠治疗小儿细菌性肠炎,治疗效果优于只进行常规治疗的对照组患者<sup>[48]</sup>。而盐酸小檗碱在临床上也一直作为非处方药物用于治疗腹泻,效果明确且无不良反应。然而,英国1985年有报告指出,小檗碱在临床对霍乱引起的水样腹泻并无效果<sup>[49]</sup>。因此,小檗碱对不同细菌引起的腹泻疗效可能有差别,值得认真研究。

**Table 2** The antibacterial activity of berberine on 14 intestinal bacteria

Strain	MIC/ $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	64
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	>1 024
<i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>	512
<i>Enterococcus faecium</i>	256
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	>1 024
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	>1 024
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	1 024
<i>Acinetobacter Baumannii</i>	>1 024
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	>1 024
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	>1 024
<i>Lactobacillus casei</i>	>1 024
<i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i>	>1 024
<i>Bifidobacterium longum</i>	>1 024
<i>Bifidobacterium breve</i>	>1 024

近年来,小檗碱的抗菌作用也被越来越广泛地运用到其他临床治疗中。将小檗碱涂抹于脓包疮患者患处表面局部给药,脓包疮感染明显好转,获得较好治疗效果<sup>[50]</sup>。小檗碱与抗真菌西药联合应用,显示出良好的协同作用,用于临床真菌感染性疾病的治疗<sup>[51]</sup>。小檗碱与奥美拉唑、阿莫西林联用,治疗幽门螺旋杆菌感染引起的胃炎中,对幽门螺旋杆菌的根除效果好于只用奥美拉唑、阿莫西林对照组患者<sup>[52]</sup>,说明了小檗碱的抗菌增效作用。目前,小檗碱的临床给药形式以口服和体表局部用药为主,尚未见静脉全身给药的报道。目前认为小檗碱的直接抗菌活性是其治疗细菌性感染的主要基础。

#### 4 小结

小檗碱对多种微生物均有不同程度的抑制效果,尤其是对革兰阴性菌中的痢疾杆菌效果明显。与一般抗生素相比,虽然小檗碱的抗菌作用相对较弱,但是由于小檗碱使用安全,相对不易产生耐药,更重要的是能聚集于肠道,所以目前主要用于胃肠道细菌感染。对小檗碱抗菌机制的深入研究,以及对肠道菌群的作用了解,将有助于小檗碱(及衍生物)的深度研发和运用。

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