



Summary

Catechins and catechin derivatives are the most abundant polyphenols in tea. They contribute to the quality of tea and have several prophylactic properties, which include antimutagenic and anticarcinogenic effects. In the tea industry it is important to quantify and control the quality of tea. Chemical analytical methods that are able to separate and quantify the catechins can assist in the Quality Control process.

It is also important to identify all possible mechanisms by which tea polyphenols exert their prophylactic properties. It was thought that one such mechanism might be the inhibition of oxygen radical producing enzymes such as xanthine oxidase. Xanthine oxidase is also important in the occurrence of gout since it forms uric acid from xanthine. Effective inhibition of xanthine oxidase with tea polyphenols may lead to new natural product drugs with less adverse effects than current gout therapy drugs such as colchicine and allopurinol.

The first aim of this research was to develop and implement an analytical method suitable for analyzing tea liquors from green and black tea as well as from fresh tea leaves. The second aim of this research was to evaluate tea catechins as xanthine oxidase inhibitors both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

Micellar electrokinetic chromatography was deemed the most suitable analytical technique for the separation and quantification of the major compounds influencing the quality of tea. A micellar electrokinetic chromatography method was developed to analyze the five major catechins, caffeine, theanine, gallic acid and ascorbic acid in green, black and bottled iced teas. The pH and the concentration of organic modifier

had the largest influence on the separation of the analytes. The optimal separation conditions used to analyze green and black tea samples were 25 mM phosphate, 100 mM sodium dodecyl sulfate, 6% (v/v) methanol at pH 7.0. For the analysis of iced tea samples the conditions were kept the same, except the methanol concentration was reduced to 5% (v/v). This allowed the added separation of ascorbic acid, which is added to bottled iced tea as fortification.

Seven different tea polyphenols were tested as *in vitro* inhibitors of xanthine oxidase. It was found that (-)-epigallocatechin gallate, the most abundant tea catechin, was one of the more potent inhibitors that were tested. The majority of the tea catechins showed mixed type inhibition. Catechin showed uncompetitive inhibition and (-)-epigallocatechin gallate showed competitive inhibition.

(-)-Epigallocatechin gallate was tested as a xanthine oxidase inhibitor in a rat model. The tests were done in normal and hyperuricemia induced Sprague-Dawley rats. The positive control was allopurinol that is currently used as gout therapeutic drug. A capillary zone electrophoresis method was implemented and used to detect and quantify changes in hypoxanthine, xanthine, uric acid, allopurinol and oxypurinol levels in the serum and urine of treated animals.

Allopurinol prevented the production of uric acid in a dose-dependent manner in both normal and hyperuricemic rats and resulted in the equimolar increase of the xanthine levels. The (-)-epigallocatechin gallate reduced the levels in normal rats slightly, but no xanthine accumulation was observed. This suggests that (-)-epigallocatechin gallate might be a weak uricosuric agent, but did not inhibit xanthine oxidase at the



levels tested. (-)-epigallocatechin gallate also did not inhibit xanthine oxidase activity in hyperuricemic rats. In hyperuricemic rats, low (-)-epigallocatechin gallate levels reduced serum uric acid levels and high (-)-epigallocatechin gallate doses increased the serum uric acid levels. These indifferent results cannot be explained.

The three dimensional molecular structures of the tested inhibitors as well as other synthetic inhibitors from the literature were created. A model is proposed where the polyphenols bind to the active center of the xanthine oxidase enzyme. The polyphenol binds to either the E_{ox} or E_{red} or both forms of the enzyme in the ping-pong catalytic cycle. Inhibitors binding solely to the E_{ox} form show competitive inhibition, while inhibitors binding solely to the E_{red} form show uncompetitive inhibition. When an inhibitor can bind to both forms of the enzyme it exhibits mixed type inhibition. Primary and secondary binding regions are identified on the polyphenol molecules. The primary binding regions mimic the xanthine oxidase substrates and products, causing them to bind to the active center of the enzyme. The secondary binding region enhances the affinity of the inhibitor for the enzyme. It also modulates the selectivity for the E_{ox} and E_{red} forms of the enzyme respectively.

The proposed enzyme inhibition model is a starting point for determining the exact inhibitory mechanism of action that the tea polyphenols have on xanthine oxidase. Molecular modeling and ligand docking studies may confirm the model and also assist in modifying polyphenols into xanthine oxidase inhibitors that are more efficacious *in vivo*.



The analytical capillary electrophoresis method development creates a firm base for future research on other important compounds in tea. capillary electrophoresis may be used to study the polymerized polyphenols (theaflavins, thearubigens and bisflavanols) found in black tea. Very little is known of these compounds' contribution to quality and prophylaxis.



Opsomming

Tee polifenole dra nie net tot die kwaliteit van die tee by nie, maar besit ook gesondheidseienskappe. Katechien verbindings (catechins) is die polifenole wat die volopste in tee voorkom. Analitiese metodes wat die verskillende derivate kan skei en kwantifiseer kan gebruik word in die kwaliteits beheer proses.

Al die meganismes waarmee polifenole hul gesondheids eienskappe manifesteer is nog nie bekend nie. Een moontlike meganisme is die inhibisie van ensieme wat suurstof-radikale vorm. Xantienoksidase is 'n voorbeeld van so 'n ensiem. Xantienoksidase is ook betrokke by die ontstaan van jig aangesien dit uriensuur produseer. Die effektiewe inhibisie van xantienoksidase met tee polifenole kan aanleiding gee tot die totstandkoming van 'n nuwe reeks natuurlike inhibitore. Die inhibitore kan minder newe-effekte hê as die huidige middels teen jig (allopurinol en kolgisien).

Die eerste doel van die navorsingsprojek was om 'n analitiese metode te ontwikkel wat gebruik kan word om groen- en swarttee ekstrakte te analiseer. Die tweede doel van die navorsing was om katechien verbindings te evalueer as inhibitore van xantienoksidase, beide *in vitro* en *in vivo*.

Misellêre elektrokinetiese chromatografie was as die mees gepaste tegniek geag vir die skeiding en kwantifisering van die verbindings in tee. 'n Misellêre elektrokinetiese chromatografie metode is ontwikkel om die skeiding van die vyf belangrikste katechien



verbindings, kaffeïen, teanien, gallussuur en askorbiensuur te bewerkstellig in groen-, swart- en gebottelde tee. Die pH van die buffer en die konsentrasie organiese oplosmiddel in die buffer het die grootste invloed op die skeiding gehad. Vir die analisering van groen- en swarttee was die optimum kondisies 25 mM fosfaat, 100 mM natrium dodekiel sulfaat, 6% (v/v) metanol by pH 7.0. Gebottelde tee is geanaliseer met dieselfde kondisies, bewalwe vir die metanol konsentrasie wat na 5% (v/v) verminder is. Die verandering verseker dat askorbiensuur ook geanaliseer kan word.

Sewe tee polifenole is *in vitro* as inhibitore van xantienoksidase getoets. Epigallokatechiegallaat was die beste inhibitor. Die meerderheid van die katechien verbindings het gemengde tipe inhibisie getoon. Katechien was 'n onkompeterende inhibitor en epigallokatechiengallaat 'n kompeterende inhibitor.

'n Rot model was gebruik om epigallokatechiengallaat *in vivo* as xantienoksidase inhibitor te toets. Dit is gedoen in normale rotte sowel as rotte waarin hiperurisemia geïnduseer is. Allopurinol is gebruik as positiewe kontrole. 'n Kapillêre sone elektroforese metode is gebruik om die konsentrasies van hipoxantien, xantien, uriensuur, allopurinol en oksipurinol in rot serum en uriene te bepaal.

Allopurinol het die produksie van uriensuur op 'n dosis afhanklike wyse verlaag in beide die normale en hiperurisemiese rot groepe. Epigallokatechiengallaat het die konsentrasie van uriensuur in normale rotte effens verlaag, maar geen xantien het gevorm nie. Epigallokatechiengallaat inhibeer nie xantienoksidase *in vivo* nie, maar mag dalk 'n swak

urikosuriese (uricosuric) middel wees. 'n Lae epigallokatechiengallaat dosis het die serum konsentrasie van uriensuur in hiperurisemiese rotte verlaag. Hoër epigallokatechiengallaat dosisse het geen effek gehad op die uriensuur konsentrasies nie. Die verskynsel kan nie verklaar word nie.

Drie-dimensionele strukture is gegenerer vir al die inhibitore wat getoets was, sowel as vir sintetiese inhibitore wat vanuit die literatuur verkry was. 'n Model is voorgestel waar die polifenole aan die aktiewe sentrum van xantienoksidase bind. Die polifenol bind aan die E_{ox} of E_{red} vorm van die ensiem in die ping-pong katalitiese siklus. Inhibitore wat aan die E_{ox} vorm bind vertoon kompeterende inhibisie. Inhibitore wat aan die E_{red} vorm bind vertoon onkompeterende inhibisie. As 'n inhibitor aan beide vorme bind vertoon dit gemengde tipe inhibisie. Primêre en sekondêre bindings gebiede is gedefinieer op die polifenol molekule. Die primêre bindings gebied simuleer die xantienoksidase substrate en produkte wat verseker dat die inhibitor aan die aktiewe sentrum bind. Die sekondêre bindings gebiede verhoog die affiniteit van die inhibitor vir die ensiem. Dit moduleer ook die selektiwiteit van die inhibitor vir die twee vorme van die ensiem.

Die voorgestelde model is 'n goeie beginpunt om die presiese meganisme van inhibisie te bepaal. Molekulêre modelering en ligandbinding simulaties kan dalk die model bevestig. Dit kan ook help om beter polifenol gebaseerde inhibitore te ontwikkel. Die analitiese kapillêre elektroforese metodes skep 'n stewige basis waarop toekomstige navorsing kan voortbou. Die gepolimeriseerde katechien verbindings wat in swart tee voorkom kan dalk met die metode geskei en gekwantifiseer word.

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