

**Inhibitory effect of *Artemisia asiatica* on osteoclast
formation induced by *Treponema socranskii***

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ABSTRACT

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(Directed by Prof. Byung-Jai Choi, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.)

Periodontal disease is an inflammatory disorder that leads to the destruction of alveolar bone. It is thought that destruction of alveolar bone is induced by inflammatory reaction to bacteria in periodontal lesion. *Artemisia asiatica* (*A. asiatica*) has been used in traditional oriental medicine as an anti-inflammatory agent, but its effect on bone tissue is not documented. To evaluate the possibility that *A. asiatica* could be used as an inhibitory agent of bone destruction in periodontitis patients, the osteoclast forming ability of *Treponema socranskii*, which is an oral spirochete isolated from periodontal lesion, and the effect of *A. asiatica* on osteoclast differentiation induced by *T. socranskii* was observed. The osteoclast differentiation was estimated by tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP; osteoclast differentiation marker)-positive multi-nucleated cell formation in a coculture system of mouse bone marrow and calvarial cells. Prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) production in coculture was measured by

enzyme immunoassay system. Effect of *A. asiatica* on cell viability was observed by MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide) assay. *T. socranskii* sonicates (10µg/ml) stimulated the formation of TRAP-positive multi-nucleated cells and the production of PGE₂ in coculture. Indomethacin, which is an inhibitor of PGE₂, partially reduced osteoclast forming activity of sonicates. Ethanol extract of *A. asiatica* (100µg/ml) inhibited osteoclast formation and PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by *T. socranskii* (10µg/ml) in coculture. But eupatilin, which is an ingredient of *A. asiatica* did not show inhibitory effect on osteoclast formation stimulated by *T. socranskii*. *A. asiatica* (100µg/ml) did not affect the viability of mouse calvarial and bone marrow cells.

These results suggest that PGE₂ dependent pathway might be involved in the formation of osteoclast induced by *T. socranskii* and that *A. asiatica* inhibits osteoclast formation by decreasing of PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by *T. socranskii*.

Key words: *Artemisia asiatica*, *Treponema socranskii*, Osteoclast

I. INTRODUCTION

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Bone remodeling is a process controlled by the action of two major bone cells - the bone matrix forming osteoblast and the bone matrix resorbing osteoclast. The process of bone remodeling requires the balanced activity of these two cells¹³. Osteoclast is tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP; osteoclast differentiation marker) positive multi-nucleated cells and the differentiation of these cells consist of multiple steps such as the differentiation of osteoclast precursors into mononuclear pre-fusion osteoclasts (pOC), the fusion of pOC to form multi-nucleated osteoclasts, and the activation of osteoclast to resorb bone¹⁹. These steps are controlled by various factors such as parathyroid hormone (PTH)², 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D₃ (1,25(OH)₂D₃)^{21,23}, interleukin-11 (IL-11)²⁴ and prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂)^{1, 6}. These factors induce osteoblast/ stromal cells to express osteoclast differentiation factor (ODF), which induce osteoclastogenesis^{12, 22, 25, 29}(Fig. 1). Osteoporosis, rheumatic arthritis

and periodontitis are bone disorders which show increased bone destruction and it is thought that bone destruction in these diseases is induced by unbalance of osteoblast and osteoclast differentiation¹³.

Periodontitis is a chronic inflammatory disease and the destruction of alveolar bone that supports the teeth is a serious aspect because it leads to the loss of teeth. It is thought that bone destruction in periodontitis is induced by bacteria in periodontal pockets. Various bacteria have been isolated from the subgingival pockets of periodontitis patients. Spirochetes are one of the most common bacteria in subgingival plaque^{4,18}. Oral spirochetes fall into the genus *Treponema* and at least 25 species have been detected. *Treponema soncranskii* is an oral spirochete which is isolated from periodontal lesions¹⁸. Although the etiologic role of *T. soncranskii* in alveolar bone destruction has been postulated to be an increased number in periodontal lesions, the effect of this bacterium on bone resorption is uncertain.

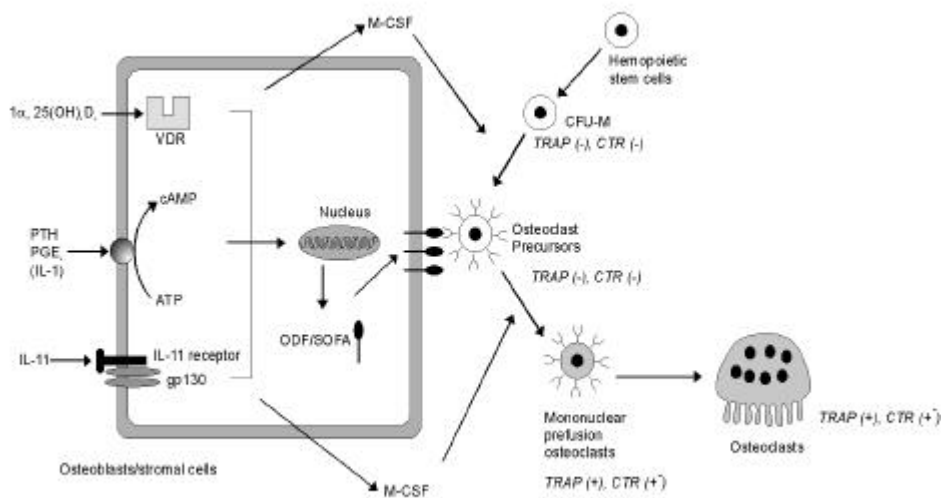


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of osteoclast differentiation.

Artemisia asiatica, wide spread in nature, has been used in traditional oriental medicine for treatment of inflammation, liver injury, blood diseases caused by disturbance of menses, hematemesis and hemorrhoids¹⁹. It is thought that alveolar bone destruction in periodontitis is induced by overinduction of osteoclast as a consequence of inflammatory reaction to bacteria in subgingival plaque¹⁹. This suggests the possibility that *A. asiatica* could inhibit osteoclast formation induced by inflammatory reaction to bacteria.

To evaluate the possibility that *A. asiatica* could be used as an anti-resorptive agent to prevent alveolar bone destruction in periodontitis, the osteoclast-forming ability of *T. socranskii* and the effect of *A. asiatica* on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii* were observed. Osteoblast plays important role in osteoclast differentiation. Therefore, osteoclastogenesis-inducing and inhibitory ability of the bacteria and *A. asiatica* were determined in a coculture system of mouse osteoblast and osteoclast precursors.

. MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. Materials and reagents

The ethanol extract of *A. asiatica* (Asteraceae) and eupatilin were obtained from Dong-A Pham. Co. Ltd. (Seoul, Korea).

Indomethacin, tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP) kit and $1\alpha, 25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). PGE₂, enzymeimmunoassay (EIA) system was purchased from Amersham Pharmacia Biotech UK Ltd. (Buckinghamshire, England). ICR mice were obtained from Bio Korea Co. (Seoul, Korea).

2. Bacterial culture and preparation of whole cell sonicates

T. socranskii subsp. *socranskii* ATCC 35536 was obtained from American Type Culture Collection, and cultured by the method of Wyss *et al.*²⁸ It was inoculated into 10ml of OMIZ-Pat broth and incubated at 37 °C for 3days in an atmosphere of 80% N₂, 10% CO₂ and 10% H₂. This culture broth (1.5ml) was then inoculated into 50ml of OMIZ-Pat broth. After 3days culture, cells were harvested by centrifugation at 5,000 × g for 10min at 4 °C and washed twice with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). The bacterial cells were then disrupted with an ultrasonic processor at 3Watts for 4minutes in ice. The sonicates were centrifuged at 15,000 × g for 5minutes at 4 °C and the supernatant was collected. A protein assay kit (Bio-Rad) was

used to determine protein concentration of sonicates with bovine serum albumin as a standard.

3. Preparation of primary calvarial and bone marrow cells

Calvarial cells were isolated from 1 2-day-old newborn mice by Suda's method with a slight modification²¹. 30 50 calvariae were subjected to digestions using 10ml of enzyme solution containing 0.2% collagenase (Wako, Japan) and 0.1% dispase (GIBCO BRL, U.S.A) for 20minutes at 37 in a shaking water bath. The supernatant was discarded and 10ml of enzyme solution was added. After shaking at 37 for 20minutes, the supernatant was then collected carefully and transferred into a new tube. This digestion of calvariae with collagenase-dispase was repeated three times. Collected supernatant (30ml) was applied to centrifuge at 1,500×g for 10minutes to collect the osteoblastic cells. Collected cells were resuspended in -MEM containing 10% fetal calf serum (FCS) and cultured in 10cm culture dishes at a concentration of 10⁵cells/ dish to confluence. Cells were then detached from culture dishes by trypsin-EDTA, suspended in -MEM with 10% FCS and used for coculture as osteoblastic cells. Femoral and tibial bone marrow cells were collected from 4-week-old mice. Tibiae and femora were removed and dissected free of adhering tissues. The bone ends were removed and the marrow cavity was flushed by slowly injecting

media in at one end using a 25-gauge needle. The collected calvarial and bone marrow cells were washed and used for the coculture.

4. *In vitro* formation of osteoclasts

Mouse calvarial cells (1×10^4 cells/well) were cocultured with bone marrow cells (1×10^5 cells/well) in α -MEM containing 10% fetal calf serum in 48-well plates (Corning Inc., Corning, NY). Culture volume was made up to 400 μ l per well with medium. All cultures were maintained at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ in air. The sonicates of bacteria, heat-treated sonicates, extract of *Artemisia asiatica*, 1,25(OH)₂D₃, eupatilin or indomethacin was added to the coculture immediately after exchanging the medium on day 3. The cocultures were then cultured for additional 4 days. Differentiation of osteoclasts was monitored using TRAP (a marker enzyme of osteoclasts) staining supplied. TRAP-positive multinucleated cells showing more than 3 nuclei were counted as osteoclast cells.

5. Prostaglandin E₂ assay

Total cellular concentration of PGE₂ was measured with PGE₂ enzymeimmunoassay (EIA) system (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech UK Ltd., England). Mouse calvarial cells and bone marrow cells were cocultured in 48 well plate. The sonicates of bacteria, and/or extract

of *A. asiatica* was added to the coculture immediately after exchanging the medium on day 3. The cocultures were then cultured for additional 24hours. Total cellular concentration of PGE₂ was measured and calculated by the method described in the manual.

6. MTT assay

After mouse calvarial cells (1 x 10⁴ cells/ well) had been cocultured with bone marrow cells (1 x 10⁵ cells/ well) in -MEM containing 10% FCS in 96-well plates for 3days, various concentrations of *A. asiatica* extract were added to each well and cultured for an additional 4days. The viability of cells were determined by MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide) assay¹⁶. After 4days of incubation, 50 μ l of MTT solution (5mg/ ml) was added to each well and continued for 4 hours at 37 . 200 μ l of DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) was added to dissolve the formazan crystals and the optical density of the formazan solution was measured at 570nm.

7. Statistical analysis

Statistical differences were determined by the Mann-Whitney U test.

. RESULTS

1. Induction of osteoclast formation by sonicates of *T. socranskii*

To demonstrate osteoclast-forming ability of *T. socranskii*, sonicated extract was used in coculture. Several concentrations of sonicate (0.1, 1.0, 10, 25 μ g/ml) were added to the coculture (Fig. 2). When 0.1 μ g/ml of the sonicate was added to the coculture, it did not induce any formation of osteoclast while 10 μ g/ml of sonicate induced osteoclast formation with similar extent as that of 1,25(OH)₂D₃ (100 μ M). The number of osteoclasts induced by sonicate of *T. socranskii* was increased in a dose-dependent manner. Osteoclasts formed by sonicates showed intense TRAP activity which is known as a marker enzyme of osteoclasts, and their morphological appearances were similar to those of osteoclasts induced by 1,25(OH)₂D₃. 1,25(OH)₂D₃ was used as a positive control to determine the differentiation of osteoclast cells. Osteoclast cells having more than 3 nuclei were detected at 10⁻⁸M of 1,25(OH)₂D₃. -MEM containing 10% fetal calf serum was used as a negative control. No TRAP-positive osteoclast was formed in a negative control.

2. Effect of heat treatment of *T. socranskii* sonicates on osteoclast formation

Several bacterial cellular components such as LPS²⁶, capsular polysaccharide¹⁷, surface-associated protein or chaperon^{9, 14} have been reported that have been involved in bone resorption. Gopalsami *et. al.*⁴ reported that a heat-stable, LPS-like material present in the outer membrane of *T. denticola* might be responsible for bone resorption. Therefore, sonicate of *T. socranskii* (10µg/ml) was treated with heating at 80 for 30minutes to demonstrate whether heat stable, LPS-like material is involved in induction of osteoclast differentiation. As shown at Fig. 3, heating the sonicates reduced the stimulatory effect of *T. socranskii* on osteoclast formation down to 42 TRAP positive cells/well while intact sonicate produced 550 TRAP positive cells/well. Therefore, It can be inferred that heat-labile, protein-like components might be involved in the induction of osteoclast formation. However, heating the sonicate did not completely inhibited the formation of osteoclast. This result implies that more than one components might be involved in osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii*.

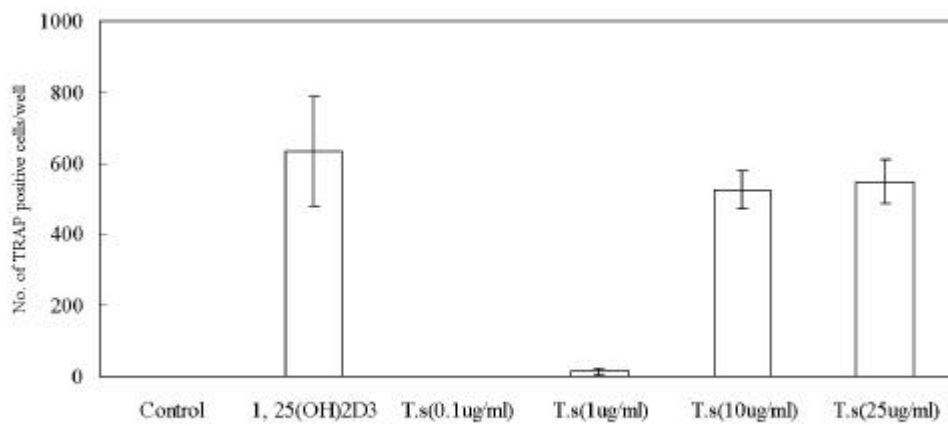


Fig. 2. Effect of *T. socranskii* sonicates on the osteoclast formation.

Concentration of 1, 25(OH)₂D₃ : 100 μ M

3. Effect of indomethacin on osteoclast formation induced by sonicates of *T. socranskii*

To elucidate the mechanism of osteoclast differentiation induced by *T. socranskii*, indomethacin was added to the coculture system with or without sonicate of *T. socranskii*. Indomethacin has been reported to inhibit PGE₂ synthesis³. On adding 0.1mM of indomethacin with sonicate of *T. socranskii*(10µg/ ml), 118 TRAP-positive cells/well were formed, whereas 784 TRAP-positive cells/well were formed by sonicate of *T. socranskii* (Fig. 4). This result implies that PGE₂ mediated pathway might be involved in the induction of osteoclast differentiation by *T. socranskii*.

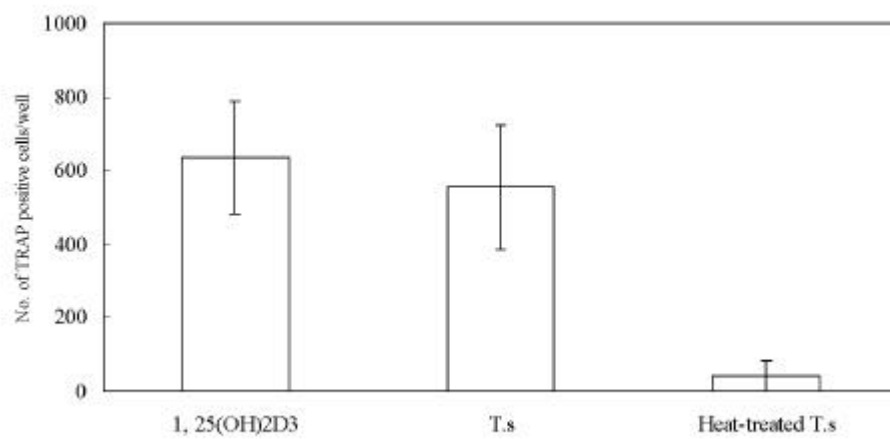


Fig. 3. Effect of heat treatment of *T. socranskii* sonicates on osteoclast formation.

Concentration of 1, 25(OH)₂D₃ : 100 μ M

Concentration of *T. socranskii* : 10 μg/ ml

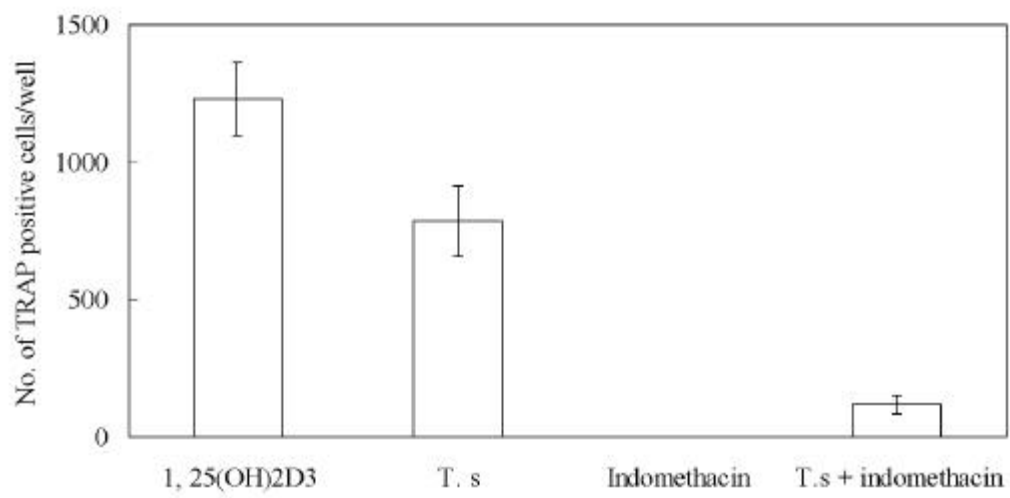


Fig. 4. Effect of indomethacin on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii* sonicates.

Concentration of 1,25(OH)₂D₃: 100 μ M

Concentration of *T. socranskii*: 10 μg/ ml

Concentration of indomethacin: 100 μ M

4. Inhibition of osteoclast formation by *Artemisia asiatica*

To evaluate the inhibitory effect of *A. asiatica* on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii*, we applied sonicate of *T. socranskii* as an inducer of osteoclast differentiation in coculture. Ethanol extract of *Artemisia asiatica* was simultaneously added to the coculture with or without *T. socranskii* sonicate (Fig. 5). When 100 μ g/ml of *A. asiatica* extract and 10 μ g/ml of *T. socranskii* sonicate were added to the coculture simultaneously, no TRAP-positive cell was detected, while 491 TRAP-positive cells were formed with sonicate of *T. socranskii* only. When several concentrations (1.0, 10, 100 μ g/ml) of *A. asiatica* extract and 10 μ g/ml of *T. socranskii* sonicate were added to the coculture simultaneously, the number of TRAP-positive multinucleated cells formed was decreased in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. 6). Morphological appearances of TRAP-positive osteoclast cells induced by sonicate of *T. socranskii* and its inhibition by extract of *A. asiatica* were shown at Fig. 7.

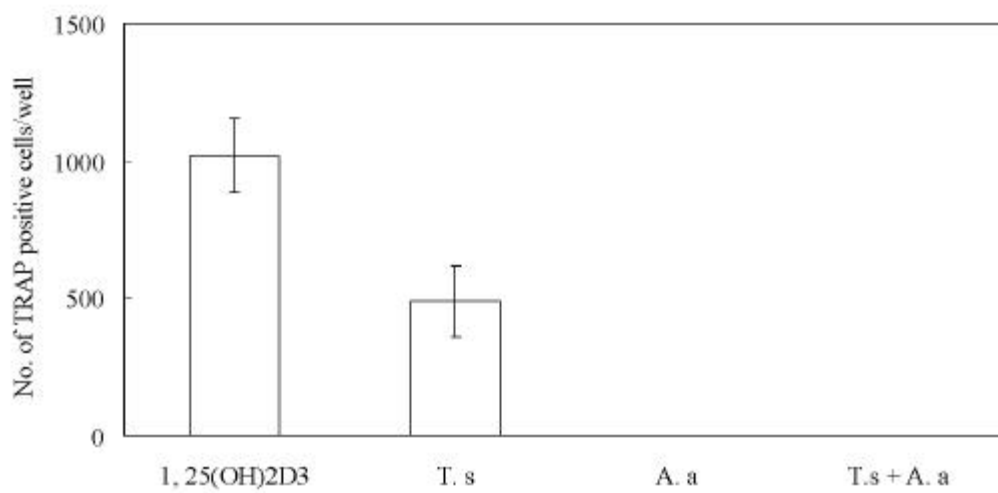


Fig. 5. Effect of *A. asiatica* extract on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii* sonicates.

Concentration of 1,25(OH)₂D₃: 100 μ M

Concentration of *T. socranskii*: 10 μg/ ml

Concentration of *A. asiatica*: 100 μg/ ml

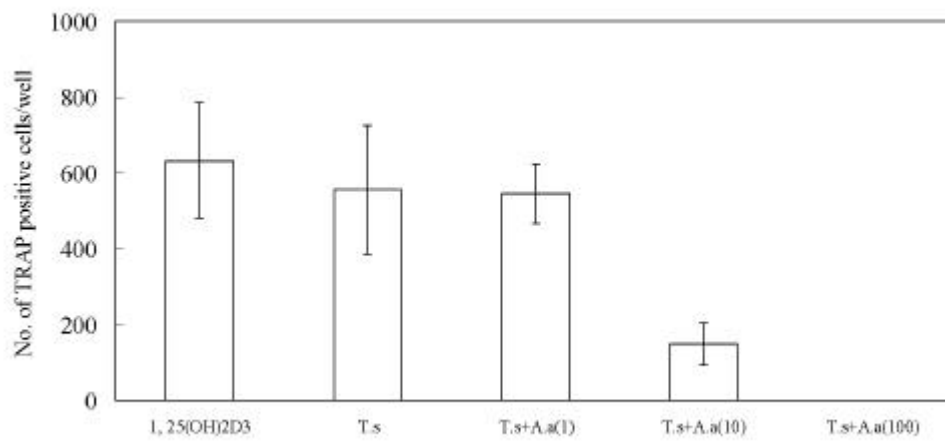


Fig. 6. Effect of *A. asiatica* on the *T. socranskii*-induced osteoclast formation at various concentrations.

Concentration of 1,25(OH)₂D₃: 100 μ M

Concentration of *T. socranskii*: 10 μg/ ml

Concentration of *A. asiatica*: 1, 10, 100 μg/ ml

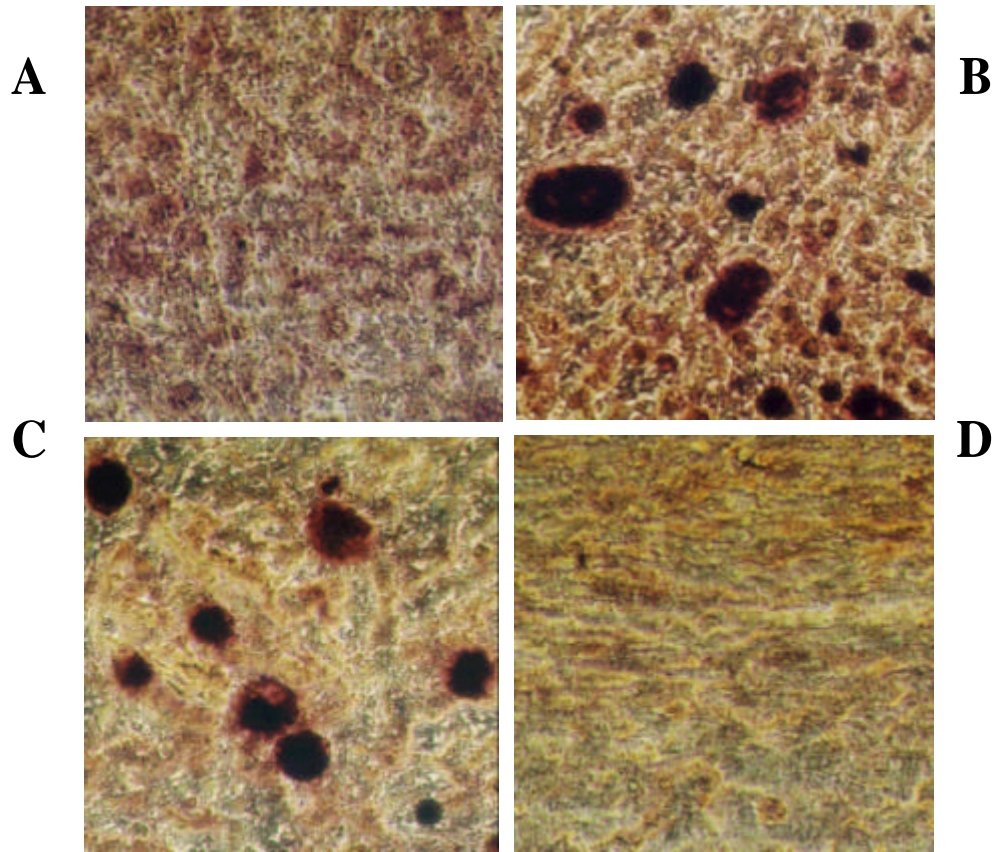


Fig. 7. Inhibition of *T. socranskii*-induced osteoclast formation by *A. asiatica*.

A, non-treated; B, 100 μ M of 1,25(OH)₂D₃; C, 10 μ g/ ml of *T. socranskii*; D, *T. socranskii* with 100 μ g/ ml of *A. asiatica*

5. Effect of *A. asiatica* on PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by sonicates of *T. socranskii*

It is known that the level of PGE₂ was increased in osteoclast differentiation caused by several periodontal pathogens^{26, 30}. At Fig. 4, indomethacin that has an inhibitory effect on PGE₂ synthesis showed partial inhibitory effect on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii*. Therefore, quantitative analysis of total cellular concentration of PGE₂ has been carried out to confirm the involvement of PGE₂ in the induction of osteoclast by *T. socranskii* and the osteoclast formation inhibitory effect of *A. asiatica*. Total cellular concentration of PGE₂ was increased when the coculture was treated with sonicate of *T. socranskii*. PGE₂ was increased to 134pg/ml whereas control was 83pg/ml. It was decreased down to 42 pg/ml when treated with *T. socranskii* and *A. asiatica* simultaneously (Fig. 8).

6. Effect of *A. asiatica* on the proliferation of osteoblast/bone marrow cell coculture

The effect of *A. asiatica* on the viability of the coculture was determined by MTT assay. Extract of *A. asiatica* showed no effect on the viability of coculture up to a concentration of 100µg/ml, as compared with non-treated cells (Fig 9), but at higher concentrations of *A. asiatica* extracts (>100µg/ml), it inhibited coculture growth.

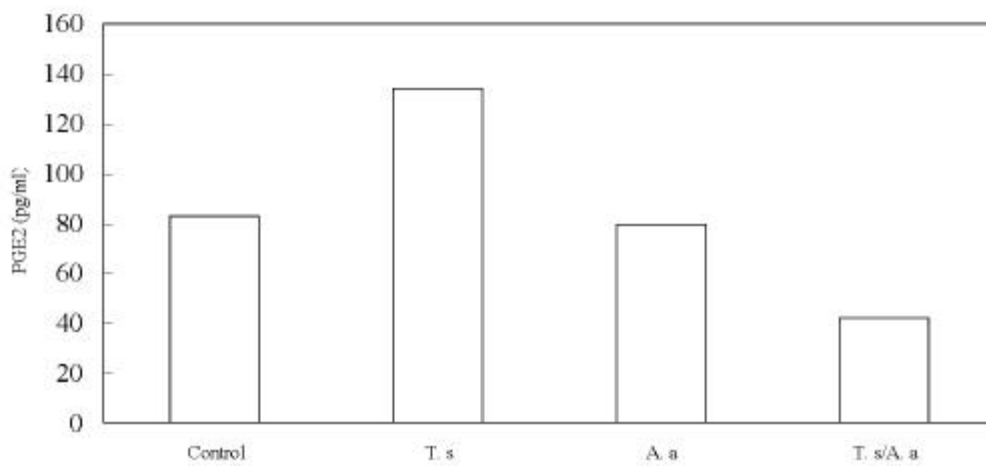


Fig. 8. Effect of *A. asiatica* on PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by *T. socranskii* sonicates.

Concentration of *T. socranskii*: 10µg/ ml

Concentration of *A. asiatica*: 100µg/ ml

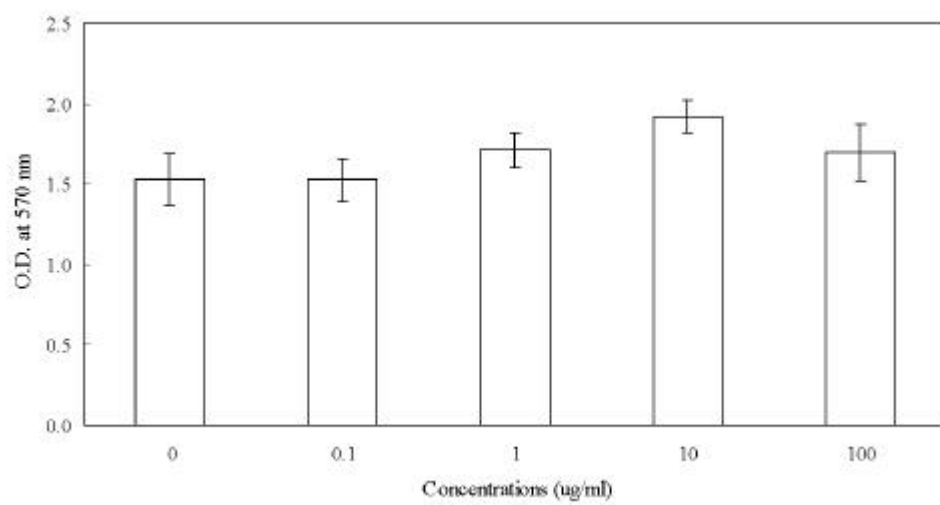


Fig. 9. Effect of *A. asiatica* on the proliferation of osteoblast/ bone marrow cell coculture.

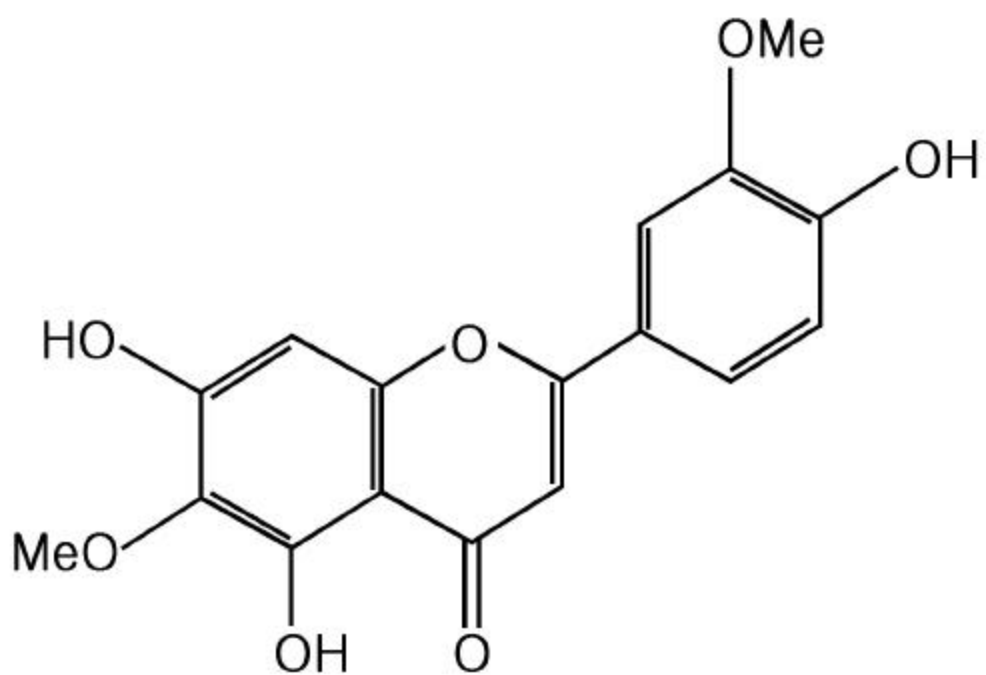


Fig.10. Structure of eupatilin (5,7-dihydroxy
3',4',6'-trimethoxy-flavone).

7. Effect of eupatilin on the proliferation of osteoblast/bone marrow cell coculture

The effect of eupatilin on the viability of the coculture was determined by MTT assay. Eupatilin showed no effect on the viability of coculture up to a concentration of 10mM, as compared with non-treated cells (Fig. 11).

8. Effect of eupatilin on osteoclast formation stimulated by sonicates of *T. socranskii*

Eupatilin has been reported to be an active compound of *A. asiatica*¹¹. Therefore, the effect of eupatilin on osteoclast formation was observed in coculture with or without sonicate of *T. socranskii*. However, eupatilin did not show any significant inhibitory effect on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii* (10µg/ml) when 100µM of eupatilin was added to the coculture (Fig. 12).

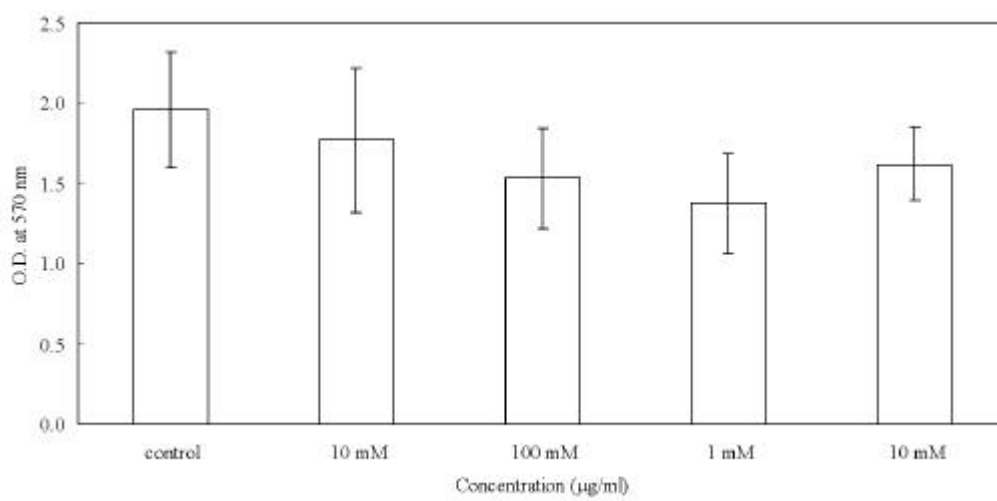


Fig.11. Effect of eupatilin on the proliferation of osteoblast/ bone marrow cell coculture.

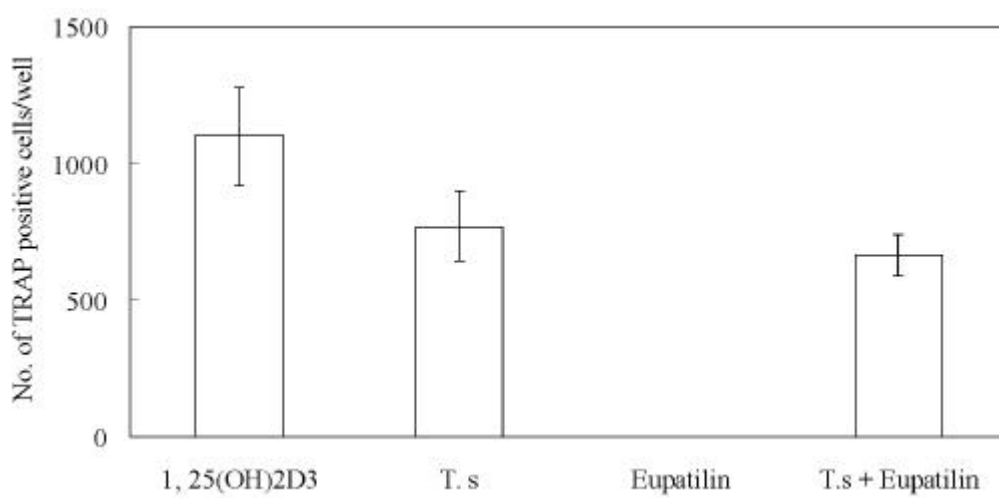


Fig.12. Effect of eupatilin on osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii* sonicates.

Concentration of *T. socranskii*: 10 μ g/ ml

Concentration of eupatilin: 100 μ M

. DISCUSSION

In this study, we demonstrated inhibitory effect of *A. asiatica* on *T. socranskii*-induced osteoclastogenesis. *T. socranskii*, which is frequently isolated from periodontal lesion, showed stimulatory effect on osteoclast differentiation. This was confirmed with TRAP staining of the coculture treated with or without *T. socranskii* extract. Several bacterial factors involved in bone resorption have been reported. In *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans*, cellular components such as LPS²⁶, capsular polysaccharide¹⁷, surface-associated protein or chaperon^{9, 14} showed bone-resorbing activity. In the case of *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, LPS¹⁵, surface-associated protein²⁷ and fimbriae⁷ are reported as stimulators of bone resorption. Gopalsami *et. al.*⁴ showed that the outer membrane of *T. denticola* induced bone resorption and heating the outer membrane preparation did not abolish the effect. They concluded that a heat-stable, LPS-like material present in the outer membrane might be responsible for bone resorption. These reports imply that several cellular components of *T. socranskii* might be involved in osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii*. To identify the components of *T. socranskii* which induces osteoclast differentiation, we treated the extract of *T. socranskii* with heat. Heating the extract at 80 for 30 minutes reduced the stimulatory effect down to 7.6%. This suggests that heat-labile substances of *T.*

socranskii might be involved in the induction of osteoclast formation.

Zubery *et al.*³⁰ reported that induction of osteoclast by *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, and *Campylobacter rectus* was partially inhibited by indomethacin, an inhibitor of PGE₂ synthesis, and suggested that there might be PGE₂ dependent pathway in osteoclast formation induced by these bacteria. Meghji *et al.* also reported that LPS of *A. actinomycetemcomitans* induced osteoclast formation through PGE₂ dependent pathway¹³. These studies imply that PGE₂ might be important mediator in the process of bacteria induced osteoclastogenesis. In this study, the addition of *T. socranskii* sonicates increased cellular production of PGE₂ and indomethacin reduced *T. socranskii*-induced osteoclast formation. These data indicate that induction of osteoclast differentiation by *T. socranskii* might be mediated by PGE₂ dependent pathway.

A. asiatica have been frequently described as an anti-inflammatory agent in traditional oriental medicine. Because osteoclast formation induced by *T. socranskii* was mediated by PGE₂, and PGE₂ was reported as a mediator of inflammatory reaction, the effects of *A. asiatica* on osteoclast differentiation and PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by *T. socranskii* were identified at the concentration which *A. asiatica* did not affect cell viability. Osteoclast differentiation by *T. socranskii* was inhibited by the extract of *A. asiatica*. Furthermore, total cellular concentration of PGE₂ was decreased to about half of

control when treated with *T. socranskii* and *A. asiatica* simultaneously. These data show that *A. asiatica* inhibit osteoclast formation through inhibition of *T. socranskii* induced PGE₂ synthesis. Eupatilin, as an active ingredient of *A. asiatica*, was also applied to osteoblast/ bone marrow cell coculture, but eupatilin did not inhibited the *T. socranskii*-induced osteoclast formation. Therefore, subsequent investigations regarding active components of *A. asiatica* will be required.

In this report, we showed inhibitory effect of *A. asiatica* on *T. socranskii*-induced osteoclast formation. Because other periodontal pathogens are also involved in alveolar bone destruction¹⁹, inhibitory effects of *A. asiatica* on osteoclastogenesis induced by these pathogens should be presented to confirm the possibility of *A. asiatica* as a candidate for the inhibitory agent of bacteria induced-bone resorption.

. CONCLUSION

To evaluate the possibility that *A. asiatica* could be used as an inhibitory agent of bone destruction in periodontitis, the osteoclast forming ability of *Treponema socranskii*, which is an oral spirochete isolated from periodontal lesion, and the effect of *A. asiatica* on osteoclast differentiation induced by *T. socranskii* was observed. The osteoclast differentiation was estimated by TRAP (osteoclast differentiation marker)-positive multi-nucleated cell formation in a coculture system of mouse bone marrow and calvarial cells. PGE₂ production in coculture was measured by enzyme immunoassay system. Effect of *A. asiatica* on cell viability was observed by MTT assay.

T. socranskii sonicates (10µg/ml) stimulated the formation of TRAP-positive multi-nucleated cells and the production of PGE₂ in coculture. Indomethacin, which is an inhibitor of PGE₂, partially reduced osteoclast formation activity of sonicates. Ethanol extract of *A. asiatica* (100µg/ml) inhibited osteoclast formation and PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by *T. socranskii* sonicates (10µg/ml) in coculture. But eupatilin, which is an ingredient of *A. asiatica* did not show inhibitory effect on osteoclast formation stimulated by *T. socranskii*. *A. asiatica* (100µg/ml) did not affect the viability of mouse calvaria cell and bone marrow cells.

These results suggest that PGE₂ dependent pathway might be involved in the formation of osteoclast induced by *T. socranskii* and that *A. asctica* inhibited osteoclast formation by decreasing of PGE₂ synthesis stimulated by *T. socranskii*.

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Treponema socranskii

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가

tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP)

PGE₂

PGE₂

enzyme immunoassay system

MTT 가 .
T. socranskii
 가 (10 μ g/ ml) 가
 PGE₂ 가 . PGE₂
 indomethacin 가 ,
 . *T. socranskii* (10 μ g/ ml)
 (100 μ g/ ml) 가
 PGE₂ .
 100 μ g/ ml .
 eupatilin
 .
T.
*socranskii*가 PGE₂ ,
 PGE₂
 가 . eupatilin
 eupatilin

: *Treponema socranskii*, ,