Design, Synthesis and Antidiabetic, Cardiomyopathy Studies of Cinnamic Acid-Amino Acid Hybrid Analogs

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Abstract

Diabetes mellitus is a chronic metabolism disorder characterized by hyperglycemia due to insulin deficiency or insulin resistance. Associated complications include Myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, retinopathy, neuropathy, nephropathy, etc.

Cinnamic acid analogs (SSPC0-SSPC20) containing different amino acids were designed and docked into crystal structure of AMPK and PPARs. Among the 20 designed compounds five compounds namely SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14, SSPC15 showed good docking scores using Glide 5.0 Maestro program and were subjected to ADME prediction by using software Quickprop version 3.1. These were then selected for synthesis, characterized and antidiabetic activity carried out using Alloxan induced diabetic rat model by measuring blood glucose levels using glucometer at 0, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24 hrs through the tail vein puncture method. SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14 showed % reduction in blood glucose of 23.02%, 37.02%, 14.04% and 15.96% as compared to standard with 33.53% reduction.

As SSPC14 had good and comparable docking scores in both AMPK and PPAR γ receptor, so it was subjected for the Diabetic as well as diabetic cardiomyopathy activity by recording the electrocardiogram of both diabetic and control rat. It was found to be very efficient at low dose and had a prolong duration of action on the heart (Up to 54 hrs). Thus this study indicated that such hybrid anti diabetic drug with dual action on hyperglycemia and cardiac function is desirable and cost effective.

Keywords: Cinnamic acid analogues; Amino acid; Designing; antidiabetics; Diabetic cardiomyopathy; ADME profile

Introduction

The epidemic of obesity and sedentary lifestyle is projected to result in over 300 million people with diabetes mellitus by 2025 [1].

Diabetes Mellitus is a syndrome of disordered metabolism usually due to a combination of hereditary and environmental causes resulting in hyperglycemia (fasting plasma glucose >7.0 mmol/lit (126 mg dl⁻¹) or plasma glucose >10 mmol/lit, two hours after a meal) due to insulin deficiency and/or insulin resistance [2].

Diabetes is associated with a number of complications both microvascular and macrovascular. Microvascular complications include diabetic nephropathy, neuropathy, and retinopathy. Macrovascular complication includes coronary artery disease, peripheral arterial disease, and stroke.

Diabetic Cardiomyopathy is responsible for 80% of deaths among diabetic patients much of which has been attributed to CAD (coronary artery disease). This was first described in 1972 on the basis of observations in four diabetic patients who presented with HF (heart failure) without evidence of hypertension, CAD, valvular or congenital heart disease [3].

Diabetic cardiomyopathy refers to a disease process which affects the myocardium in diabetic patients causing a wide range of structural abnormalities eventually leading to LVH [left ventricular (LV) hypertrophy] and diastolic and systolic dysfunction or a combination of these [4] (Figure 1).

The treatments for diabetic cardiomyopathy include Glycemic control, β-blockers, ACE Inhibitors, Angiotensin II receptor antagonists, Ca2+ channel blockers, Statins and Thiazolidinediones [5].

Cinnamic acid and its derivatives have been reported to show various pharmacological activities like hepatoprotective action [6], antidiabetics action [7], antioxidant action [8], etc. Also cinnamic acid is known to have good cardioprotective activity [9]. Earlier works have

Figure 1: Co-relation between Diabetes and Cardiomyopathy [5].

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shown peptides to have significant antidiabetics activity like Exenatide, which is an incretin mimetic [10]. Studies showed that a hexapeptide (Gly-Ala-Gly-Val-Gly-Tyr) had improved glucose transport and also exerts beneficial lipid metabolic effects [11]. Because of this a series of cinnamic acid-amino-acid hybrid series were designed, docked using Glide 5.0 and the best docked five compounds were synthesized. Antidiabetic activity of the five compounds was done on alloxanised rats and a new non-invasive animal model was developed to study the diabetic cardiomyopathy.

Material and Methods

Chemistry

Synthesis was carried out in Mini Block XT-Parallel Synthesizer (Mettler Toledo). TLC was done using (BAW) n-butanol: glacial acetic acid and water 4:1:1 solvent system and further characterized by melting point using Optimelt (Stanford Research System), FTIR using (FTIR-8400S, SHIMADZU), 1H NMR was done and data Collected on Wormhole-vnmrs 400 and Mass spectroscopy was also done.

Designing

Cinnamic acid –amino acid hybrid compounds containing different amino acid combinations of Alanine, Valine, Glycine, Leucine, Isoleucin, Proline, Phenylalanine, Cysteine, Methonine, Aspartic acid, Glutamic acid, Threonine, Asparagine, Serine, Lysine, Arginine, Histidine and Tyrosine were designed using Schrodinger, (LLC New York, 2008). Schrodinger’s computational programs: Maestro’s, MacroModel, LigPrep and Glide5.0. The designed compounds were docked into crystal structure of AMPK (PDB IDs: 2Y94) and PPARs (PDB IDs: 3ET0, 3ET1 and 3ET2). ADME properties (Table 2) of designed compounds were found out by using software Qikprop version 3.1 (Figures 2 and 3).

Synthesis

Cinnamic acid-amino acid hybrid compounds SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14 and SSPC15 were synthesized using Liquid phase peptide synthesis method. Cinnamic acid was prepared using benzaldehyde and acetic anhydride.

Biological evaluation

The antidiabetic activity of the synthesized test drugs was carried out on Alloxan induced diabetic rats by measuring the decrease in blood glucose level by ANOVA followed by Dunnett’s t-test with equal sample size. Diabetic cardiomyopathy activity was obtained by recording the electrocardiogram of both diabetic and control rat.

Experimental Section

Docking studies

The 20 designed compounds were docked into crystal structure of AMPK (PDB IDs: 2Y94) and PPARs (PDB IDs: 3ET0, 3ET1 and 3ET2) which is the most accurate structure available. The interaction energy between designed molecule and receptors were calculated and the results are presented in the Table 1. The score represented in terms of Gibbs free energy (∆G). ADME properties of designed compounds were found out by using software Qikprop version 3.1.

- **QP log Po/w:** Predicted octanol /water partition coefficient; Range, -2.0 to 6.5
- **QP log S:** Predicted aqueous solubility, log S. S in moles/liter is the concentration of the solute in a saturated solution that is in equilibrium with the crystalline solid; log S; Range, -6.5 to 0.5

| LIGAND NAME | COMPOSITION | DOCKING SCORE(In-AMPK) | PPARγ | PPARα | PPARδ |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| SSPC0       | Cinnamic acid| -11.67                 | -4.79 | -4.45 | -5.12 |
| SSPC1       | Cinn-Ala    | -12.40                 |       |       |       |
| SSPC2       | Cinn -val   | -7.91                  | -7.85 | -8.34 | -3.80 |
| SSPC3       | Cinn -Leu   | -7.91                  | -5.60 | -7.78 | -6.44 |
| SSPC4       | Cinn -Ile   | -8.98                  | -5.57 | -3.90 | -1.33 |
| SSPC5       | Cinn -Phe   | -12.89                 | -8.47 | -6.64 | -7.35 |
| SSPC6       | Cinn -Try   | -10.13                 | -7.83 | -8.25 | -6.44 |
| SSPC7       | Cinn -Met   | -10.04                 | -6.87 | -6.89 | -7.49 |
| SSPC8       | Cinn -Pro   | -10.08                 | -10.08| -8.64 | -4.06 |
| SSPC9       | Cinn -Asp   | -11.62                 | -6.56 | -3.88 | -6.86 |
| SSPC10      | Cinn -Glu   | -11.63                 | -6.60 | -4.12 | -1.93 |
| SSPC11      | Cinn -Gly   | -12.47                 | -6.29 | -5.103| -4.23 |
| SSPC12      | Cinn -Ser   | -10.19                 | -6.85 | -7.09 | -6.52 |
| SSPC13      | Cinn -Thr   | -9.72                  | -6.24 | -6.68 | -5.40 |
| SSPC14*     | Cinn –Cys*  | -8.66                  | -8.39 | -7.20 | -7.03 |
| SSPC15      | Cinn -Tyr   | -12.37                 | -7.09 | -9.97 | -6.53 |
| SSPC16      | Cinn -Asn   | -9.65                  | -7.96 | -4.27 | -5.00 |
| SSPC17      | Cinn -Gln   | -8.042                 | -7.03 | -4.43 | -8.30 |
| SSPC18      | Cinn -Lys   | -10.34                 | -5.95 | -4.55 | -4.56 |
| SSPC19      | Cinn -Arg   | -11.10                 | -4.77 | -3.90 | -2.94 |
| SSPC20      | Cinn -His   | -11.96                 | -6.87 | -7.36 | -8.36 |

Table 1: DOCKING SCORE of docked Cinnamic acid-amino acid hybrid analogs.
Synthesis

In a dry 250 ml round-bottomed flask fitted with an air condenser carrying a calcium chloride guard-tube, 21 g (20 ml, 0.2 mol) of pure Benzaldehyde, 30 g (28 ml, 0.29 mol) of acetic anhydride and 12 g (0.12 mol) of freshly fused and finely powdered potassium acetate were added (Scheme 1). The mixture was heated on a sand bath at 160°C for 1 hour and at 170-180°C for 3 hours, poured while still hot (80-100°C) into about 100ml of water contained in an I liter round-bottomed flask which has previously been fitted for steam distillation. A saturated aqueous solution of sodium carbonate was added with vigorous shaking until a drop of the liquid withdrawn on the end of a glass rod turns red litmus a distinct blue. The solution was steam distilled until all the unchanged benzaldehyde was removed and the distillate was clear. The residual solution was cooled and filtered from resinous by-products. The filtrate was acidified by adding concentrated hydrochloric acid slowly, with vigorous stirring until the evolution of carbon dioxide ceases. Cinnamic acid was recrystallized from a mixture of 3 volumes of water and 1 volume of rectified spirit. The yield of dry Cinnamic acid (colorless crystals), m.p. 133°C, is 18 g (62%).

Table 2: Predicted ADME properties of the five best docked hybrid compounds.

| Compound | Molecular weight | QPLogPo/w | QPLogS | Human oral absorption | %Oral absorption |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| SSPC5    | 295.3           | 3.742     | -3.793 | 3                     | 85.43           |
| SSPC8    | 263.2           | 2.460     | -3.188 | 3                     | 81.14           |
| SSPC11   | 235.2           | 1.807     | -2.333 | 3                     | 69.57           |
| SSPC14   | 311.2           | 2.885     | -2.939 | 3                     | 78.70           |
| SSPC15   | 262.2           | 2.989     | -2.436 | 2                     | 71.38           |

The Cardiomyopathy study of the synthesized test drug SSPC14 had been studied as it showed comparative docking scores on both PPARy and AMPK enzyme, in the Alloxan induced diabetic rats, which produced cardiomyopathy symptoms after 14 days of Alloxan treatment. Rats were tested for sufficient levels of hyperglycemia two days after injection and 4 weeks post-injection.

Cardiomyopathy studies

The Cardiomyopathy study of the synthesized test drug SSPC14 had been studied as it showed comparatively high docking scores on both PPARy and AMPK enzyme, in the Alloxan induced diabetic rats, which produced cardiomyopathy symptoms after 14 days of Alloxan treatment. Rats were tested for sufficient levels of cardiomyopathy.
using Echocardiography 7, 14 days after injection and 4 weeks post-injection. A new non-invasive method of detecting Electrocardiogram was designed and the software used for carrying out the ECG of rats was Biopac Student Lab and the analysis and power spectrum analysis was done by using Acknowledge 4.

- Values are expressed as mean ± S.E.M.; n=4;
- Pharmacological data were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dunnet’s t test with equal sample size. *: p>0.05; **:p<0.01; ***:p<0.001 (Std: Standard Glybinclamide treated group & SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14, SSPC15 treated groups of animals were compared to Diabetic control group of animals at different time intervals
- The difference was considered significant when p value <0.05.
- Comparison of Mean% Reduction of Blood Glucose Level (Table 4) after administration of Standard Drug (Glibenclamide) and Test Drug via oral Route (Figure 4).

**Cardiomyopathy activity**

The diabetic cardiomyopathy activity of the synthesized test drug SSPC14 was done on Alloxan induced diabetic rats by recording the electrocardiogram of both diabetic and control rat and are shown below.

The ECG recording for normal control and diabetic control group were done in an interval of two hour for two days.

The ECG recording for treatment group was done contentiously six hours after drug treatment and then an interval of six hour up to the 54 hours (Figures 5 and 6). The above docking studies, ADME studies, antidiabetic studies show no variation in the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems related to cardiac system.

**The HRV Analysis**

The HRV analysis was difficult. HRV spectrum analysis suggests no variation in the sympathetic and parasympathetic systems related to cardiac system.

**There is Elevation in the S-T Segment**

The ST segment represents the period when the ventricles are depolarized.

- Average S-T prolongation for normal healthy rats was 34.8 sec.
- Average S-T prolongation for diabetic rats was 44.6 sec.
- Average S-T prolongation for drug treatment rats was 32.6sec after 54 hr.

**ECG Power Spectrum Analysis**

The overall power of ECG frequency spectra was increased just after the oral dose of compound (SSPC14) and it was sustained till 1 hour, then started deteriorating.

**QRS Interval Analysis**

QRS interval of drug treated diabetic rats was longer (expanded) that is duration was increased.

- QRS interval for control (normal healthy rats) is 17.6 msec.
- QRS interval for control diabetic rat is 25.0 msec.

The above docking studies, ADME studies, antidiabetic studies show that compounds SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14 and SSPC15 show significant decrease in the blood glucose levels. The cardiomyopathic study with SSPC14 show significant activity on the heart and also brings the ECG to almost normal after 54 hrs (Figures 7-12).

**Result and Discussion**

**Designing**

Among the 20 hybrid compounds designed using GLIDE analysis and power spectrum analysis
DOCKING software using various amino acids SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14, SSPC15 having Phenylalanine, Proline, Glycine Cysteine, and Tyrosine respectively showed good docking scores of -12.89, -12.47, -8.66, -12.37 with the AMPK (PDB ID: 2Y94) and -8.47, -10.08, -6.29, -8.39, -7.39 with PPAR γ (PDB ID: 3ET0) receptor.

Good binding can be seen for the above compounds with amino-acid residues GLN286, TYR473, SER289, HIS449, LEU330SER289, TYR327, HIS449, TYR473 of PPAR γ receptor also through H-bonding.

SSPC14 showed almost similar scores of -8.66 and -8.39 in AMPK and PPAR γ receptor, respectively, so it was selected for both antidiabetic and diabetic cardiomyopathic study. ADME studies showed Human oral absorption of 3 (good) for SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14 and (medium) for SSPC15. Their % Oral Absorption being 85.34, 81.14, 69.57, 78.70 and 71.38, respectively which is also significant.

**Synthesis**

The hybrid compounds having Cinnamic acid in combination...
with the amino acids (Phenylalanine, Proline, Glycine Cysteine, and Tyrosine) were synthesized using liquid phase method with chlorophosphate ester as the condensing reagent. Yield of these were about 80% and showed good crystalline nature. The physicochemical properties like melting point, Rf value and Spectral studies like FT-IR, NMR and Mass used for characterization of all synthesized compounds and confirmation of the same.

Pharmacological screening

Anti-diabetic studies of SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14, SSPC15, and SSDM-12 on Alloxan induced rats by tail vein puncture method, showed significant decrease in the blood glucose level at 2, 4, 6, 12, and 24 hours. Cinnamic acid has a proven ant diabetic activity. SSPC5, SSPC8, SSPC11, SSPC14 showed % reduction in blood glucose of 37.02%, 12.5, 14.04, 15.96% and 2.51% as compared to standard with 33.53% reduction.

The compound SSPC14 was subjected to Diabetic cardiomyopathy activity, induced in rats after 14 days of alloxan treatment was found to be very effective at the given dose and has a prolong duration of action on the heart (Up to 54 hrs.). ECG pattern was normal for first 15 mins but a very distinct inversion was observed in the ECG pattern from 30mins to 24hrs after administration of drug which started normalizing after 30hrs till 54hrs of the study. The heart rate was normal up to 54 hr. after the drug treatment.

Conclusion

Thus we conclude that this approach is a new innovative idea to design, synthesise and screen for the antidiabetic and cardiomyopathic activities of cinnamic acid-amino acid hybrid analogues which has given a new direction for the establishment of newer compounds which would be beneficial for both diabetes and cardiomyopathy and help to retain normal cardiac function. The use of non-invasive cardiomyopathic animal screening is a new model in addition to the conventional pharmacological screening.

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