Induction of Apoptosis in Human Multiple Myeloma Cell Lines by Ebselen via Enhancing the Endogenous Reactive Oxygen Species Production

Liang Zhang, Liwei Zhou, Jia Du, Mengxia Li, Chengyuan Qian, Yi Cheng, Yang Peng, Jiayin Xie, and Dong Wang

Cancer Center, Research Institute of Surgery, Daping Hospital, Third Military Medical University, 10 Changjiang Zhi Road, Daping Yuzhong District, Chongqing 400042, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Jiayin Xie; xiejia505@sina.com and Dong Wang; dongwang64@hotmail.com

Received 26 April 2013; Revised 10 October 2013; Accepted 10 October 2013; Published 27 January 2014

Academic Editor: Xin-yuan Guan

Copyright © 2014 Liang Zhang et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Ebselen is a selenoorganic compound exhibiting glutathione peroxidase like activity and is an anti-inflammatory and antioxidative agent. Its cytoprotective activity has been investigated in recent years. However, experimental evidence also shows that ebselen causes cell death in several cancer cell types whose mechanism has not yet been elucidated. In this study, we examined the effect of ebselen on multiple myeloma (MM) cell lines in vitro. The results showed that ebselen significantly enhanced the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) accompanied by cell viability decrease and apoptosis rate increase. Further studies revealed that ebselen can induce Bax redistribution from the cytosol to mitochondria leading to mitochondrial membrane potential \( \Delta \Psi_m \) change and cytochrome C release from the mitochondria to cytosol. Further, we found that exogenous addition of N-acetyl cysteine (NAC) completely diminished the cell damage induced by ebselen. This result suggests that relatively high concentration of ebselen can induce MM cells apoptosis in culture by enhancing the production of endogenous ROS and triggering mitochondria mediated apoptotic pathway.

1. Introduction

Ebselen (2-phenyl-1,2-benzisoselenazol-3[2H]-one) is a selenoorganic compound exhibiting GSH and thioredoxin peroxidase like activity in vitro [1]. Due to its ability to scavenge reactive oxygen species (ROS), ebselen has been described as an anti-inflammatory and antioxidative agent which has potential chemopreventive effect on various diseases associated with oxidative stress. Previous studies had shown that ebselen can protect important organs or systems (cardiovascular [2], hepatic [3], gastrointestinal [4, 5], renal [2, 6], and neural systems [7–9]) from lipid peroxidation and oxidative damage. In many studies, ebselen was shown to be an excellent substrate for human TrxR and Trx which established a novel antioxidant mechanism of ebselen as a direct substrate for Trx and TrxR and favoured this mechanism over the previously known glutathione peroxidase mimic in the presence of glutathione and glutathione reductase [10, 11].

In Contrast to inorganic selenium, the toxicity of ebselen is very low as the selenium atom in it is not bioavailable and cannot enter selenium metabolism in the organism [12]. However, a series of studies had reported that ebselen can also provoke cell death in several different human tumor cell types [13–16]; it shed some light on the new usage of ebselen as an antitumor agent. Although the mechanism underlying the toxicity induced by ebselen is not completely understood, previous studies had provided some proofs which indicated that apoptosis may play an important role in this process.

Apoptosis is one of the forms of cell death that plays a fundamental role in the development of multicellular organisms and numerous physiological processes. Imbalance between cell growth and apoptosis can lead to many pathological phenomena, including cancer [17, 18]. Intervening the apoptosis pathway is considered to be an effective strategy for cancer therapy. There is growing evidence that reactive oxygen species (ROS) who act as chemical messengers in cells play
an important role in the process of apoptosis. Interestingly, ROS displays dual effect on apoptosis; that is to say, high level of ROS can induce apoptosis, while low concentration of ROS is essential for cell survival [19]. It has been widely accepted that many types of cancer cells bear more oxidative stress than normal cells, which may be critical for tumorigenesis, progress, and invasiveness [20, 21]. In view of the relationship of cancer, ROS, and apoptosis described above, we can formulate hypotheses that the antitumor activity of ebselen may due to the ROS production or elimination.

The main goals of this study is to shed light on the changing of ROS and other cellular events involved in apoptosis processes induced by ebselen. In our present work, we have examined the effect of ebselen on multiple myeloma (MM) cell lines; we found that ebselen can enhance the production of endogenous ROS, which further induce mitochondrial membrane potential lost and mitochondrial cytochrome C release by translocation of Bax protein into the mitochondria, ultimately triggered the mitochondrial-mediated apoptotic pathway.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Cell Culture and Reagents. The human multiple myeloma cell lines U266 and RPMI8226 were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA, USA). Both of the two cell lines were grown in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 U/mL penicillin, and 100 µg/mL streptomycin (HyClone, Logan, UT) and maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere in the presence of 5% CO2-95% air.

Ebselen (2-phenyl-1,2-benzisoselenazol-3(2H)-one) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St Louis, MO, USA), ROS Detection reagents Singlet ROS Probe was from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA, USA). The Cell Counting Kit-8, JC-1, and Cell Mitochondria Isolation Kit were from Beyotime.

2.2. Ebselen Treatment of MM Cells. Stock solutions of ebselen (10 mM) were prepared in DMSO. Cells were incubated in RPMI 1640 medium (with 5% FetalClone and antibiotics) containing the indicated amount of ebselen at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% CO2. An amount of DMSO equivalent to that delivered with ebselen was added to the cells incubated in the absence of ebselen. N-Acetyl-L-cysteine (NAC; 15 mM in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; 9.1 mM Na2HPO4, 1.7 Mm NaH2PO4, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.4)), was added to the cells at the same time as ebselen.

2.3. Cell Counting Kit-8 Assay. Cells (5 × 103) on 96-well plates were treated with ebselen as indicated. Cell counting kit-8 reagent was added to each well at a concentration of 1/10 volume, and the plates were incubated at 37°C for an additional 4 h. Absorbance was then measured at 450 nm as reference with a Microplate Reader 550 (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Hercules, CA). The following equation was used: cell viability (%) = OD value of treatment group/OD value of control group × 100%.

2.4. Cells Apoptosis Determination. MM cells were incubated in 60 mm plates and then treated with ebselen at various concentrations. After incubation at 37°C for the indicated time, cells were washed twice with PBS. Annexin V-propidium iodide (AV-PI) staining was then carried out using the AV-FITC Apoptosis Detection Kit (Biovision, Inc.). Briefly, the cells were resuspended in AV Binding Buffer at an appropriate density. AV and PI (2.5 mL each) were added; the samples were protected from light and incubated at room temperature for 15 min. Then analysis immediately using flow cytometry (FACScan, BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA, USA) was done.

2.5. ROS Production Measurement. The ROS production was measured following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, MM cells were incubated in 60 mm plates and then treated with ebselen at various concentrations. After incubation at 37°C for the indicated time, cells were washed twice with PBS and then incubated with 20 µM Singlet ROS Probe in 0.2% BSA-PBS at 37°C for 25 min before immediate analysis using flow cytometry (FACScan, BD Bioscience, San Jose, CA, USA). The mean fluorescent intensity of 10000 analyzed cells in each treatment group was normalized by the mean fluorescent intensity of the control group of each cell line. The cells incubated with Singlet ROS Probe were also detected under laser scanning confocal microscope.

2.6. Mitochondrial Membrane Potential (MMP) Assay. The MMP was assessed using the JC-1 mitochondria staining kit for flow cytometry, following the manufacturer's recommendations. Briefly, cells were treated with various concentrations of photoradiation for the indicated time then incubated in medium containing JC-1 probe (2.5-5 µG/mL) for 30 min at 37°C. The cells were then incubated with 10 mM of JC-1 for 30 min at 37°C. After washing with ice-cold JC-1 binding buffer twice, MMP was measured immediately using flow cytometry. Two excitation wavelengths, 527 nm (green) and 590 nm (red), were used to detect the JC-1 monomer form and the JC-1 aggregate form, respectively. The red fluorescence was predominantly detected in healthy cells with high MMP, while its level was decreased in damaged mitochondria. The cells incubated with JC-1 were also detected under laser scanning confocal microscope.

2.7. Western Blot Assay and Antibodies. MM cells were treated % with ebselen as indicated, then the cytosolic and mitochondrial extracts were obtained by the Cell Mitochondria Isolation Kit following the manufacturer's instructions. Proteins were then transferred to PVDF membranes (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). After blocking TBST (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 150 mM NaCl, and 0.1% (v/v) Tween 20) containing 5% (w/v) nonfat dry milk for 1 h at room temperature (RT), membranes were incubated with the specific primary antibody. After three washes with TBST, membranes were incubated for 1 h at RT with appropriate peroxidase conjugated secondary antibodies. Then, membranes were washed five times with TBST and the blots were reacted with chemiluminescent reagents and revealed with Biomax-Light films (Kodak, Rochester, NY). Suppliers and incubation conditions of
3.2. Ebselen Can Induce MM Cell Apoptosis. To test the effect of concentration and time of ebselen on apoptosis of MM cells, we measured apoptosis by flow cytometry using Annexin V-FITC/PI staining. It was found that ebselen was shown to be significantly toxic to MM cells. To determine whether the ebselen induced cytotoxic effects were mediated through oxidative stress, we measured the production of ROS in cell cultures challenged with ebselen in time and concentration manners. Then we found that, 4h after treatment with different concentration ebselen, U266 and RPMI8226 cells demonstrated an increased level of ROS production (Figure 3(b)). After being treated with 40 µM ebselen for 2, 4, 8, and 24 hours, respectively, the production of ROS in cells increased markedly (Figure 3(c)).

3.3. The Production of ROS Was Increased in Ebselen Treated MM Cells. The preceding data indicated that ebselen is showed to be significantly toxic to MM cells. To determine whether the ebselen induced cytotoxic effects were mediated through oxidative stress, we measured the production of ROS in cell cultures challenged with ebselen in time and concentration manners. Then we found that, 4h after treatment with different concentration ebselen, U266 and RPMI8226 cells demonstrated an increased level of ROS production (Figure 3(b)). After being treated with 40 µM ebselen for 2, 4, 8, and 24 hours, respectively, the production of ROS in cells increased markedly (Figure 3(c)).

3.4. Ebselen Can Redistribute the Location of Bax in MM Cells. Bax belongs to Bcl-2 family which is involved in apoptosis; there are some works which reported that Bax can be translocated to mitochondria after a cytotoxic stimulus [22]. So the next set of experiments were designed to find out if the Bax protein in MM cells behaved as others described after being treated with ebselen. Then we measured Bax by Western blot, including its expression and location. The result indicated that the Bax levels in the cytosol fraction were decreased after ebselen treatment in a concentration and time dependent manner (Figure 4(a)). After 40 µM ebselen treatment of MM cells for 4 hours, the Bax levels increased significantly in mitochondrial fraction and, in contrast, decreased in cytosol fraction (Figure 4(b)), which mean that ebselen can induce Bax translocation to mitochondria from cytosol.

3.5. Effect of Ebselen on Mitochondrial Membrane Potential. Mitochondrial membrane potential (ΔΨm) is a marker of mitochondrial function which is closely related with mitochondrial membrane permeability. To determine whether MM cells apoptosis induced by ebselen was associated with mitochondrial dysfunction, we measured the MMP of MM cells treated with ebselen as indicated by flow cytometry using JC-1 probe in this study. The results show the mean fluorescence intensity ratio of red fluorescence and green fluorescence (FL2-H/FL1-H) which indicated that the MMP decreased significantly after ebselen treatment in a concentration and time dependent manner (Figures 5(b) and 5(c)). Thus, we got some evidence to assume that ebselen induced MM cell apoptosis via mitochondrial pathway.

3.6. Ebselen Induced Cytochrome C Release from the Mitochondria to Cytosol. Mitochondrial cytochrome C release to the cytosol is considered to be one of the key steps in cell death pathways. In order to ascertain if this occurred in our study, levels of cytochrome C were determined by Western blot in cytosolic fractions and mitochondrial fractions, respectively, from cell culture treated with 40 µM ebselen for 4 hours.

![Figure 1: Concentration dependent changes of cell viability determined by CCK-8 assay in MM cells. Cells were treated with 0 (control), 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 100 µM ebselen for 24 h, respectively. The significance was analyzed by one-way ANOVA. Data are presented as mean ± SD (n = 3). * Significant difference compared to the control group (P < 0.05, one-way ANOVA with Scheffe's test).](image-url)
Figure 2: Ebselen induced apoptosis of MM cells analyzed by FACS, stained with annexin V-FITC/PI. (a) and (b) display the results of the cells treated with ebselen in a concentration and time dependent manner, respectively. The data is also showed in histogram (c). Data are presented as mean ± SD (n = 3). * Significant difference compared to the control group ( * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, one-way ANOVA with Scheffe's test).
The result shows that cell cultures challenged with 40 μM ebselen for 4 hours were accompanied with cytochrome C release from the mitochondria to cytosol (Figure 6).

3.7 \textit{N}-Acetyl Cysteine (NAC) Protected MM Cells from Apoptosis Induced by Ebselen. To investigate the role of ROS in ebselen-induced cell apoptosis, we pretreated MM cells with an efficient ROS scavenger, NAC, followed by concomitant 40 μM ebselen exposure for 4 hours. The presence of 15 mM NAC markedly protected MM cells against ebselen-induced series of pathological events above-mentioned. The cell viability decreasing (Figure 7(a)), enhancement of ROS production (Figures 3(a) and 7(b)), MMP losing (Figures 5(a) and 7(c)), apoptosis rate increasing (Figure 7(d)), and Bax translocation (Figure 4(c)), all of these events induced by ebselen, can be restored by NAC.

\textbf{Figure 3:} The ROS production of MM cells treated with ebselen in presence or absence of NAC was determined by Singlet ROS Probe. Fluorescence images of Singlet ROS Probe loaded cells were obtained under laser confocal microscopy ((A) DMSO, (B) ebselen 40 μM, and (C) ebselen 40 μM + NAC 15 mM). The average of fluorescence intensity obtained under FACS shows that ebselen induced ROS increasing of MM cells in a concentration (b) and time (c) manner. Each value represents the mean ± SD from three independent experiments. * Significant difference compared to the control group ( * \( p < 0.05 \), * * \( p < 0.01 \), one-way ANOVA with Scheffe's test).
4. Discussion

Multiple myeloma (MM) is a deadly plasma cell cancer that resides in the bone marrow. The key clinical features of MM include the production of a monoclonal paraprotein, amyloidosis, renal insufficiency, anemia, increased BM angiogenesis, osteolytic bone lesions, severe bone pain, spontaneous fractures, and hypercalcemia [23]. Although high-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation improved survival in younger patients, the natural history of MM has been changed with the availability of five new agents approved in last 10 years (thalidomide, bortezomib, lenalidomide, liposomal doxorubicin, and carfilzomib). Despite this significant improvement in overall outcome, MM remains incurable in the majority of patients prompting continued search for additional therapeutic options.

Ebselen is part of the National Institutes of Health Clinical Collection, a chemical library of bioavailable drugs considered clinically safe but without proven use [24]. Though Meotti and his colleagues’ study added to our understanding of the potential renal and hepatic toxicity of ebselen [25], more literatures indicated that ebselen was clinically safe for human beings [26, 27]. On the other hand, it is well established that ebselen has potent cytotoxic activity against many different human cancer cell lines, whose precise mechanism often varies depending on the cancer cell type. Yang et al. observed that ebselen induced apoptosis of HepG2 cells through a mechanism that involves intracellular thiol depletion and mitochondrial permeability transition [15]. Guérin and Gauthier reported that ebselen induced the rapid necrotic cell death of Sp2/0-Ag14 hybridoma cells [16]. Sharma et al. work indicated that ebselen sensitizes glioblastoma cells to tumor necrosis factor (TNF-α) induced apoptosis through two distinct pathways involving NF-κB downregulation and Fas mediated formation of death inducing signaling complex [28]. Recently, Maraldiy et al. revealed that ebselen has the capability of induction of apoptosis in a human acute myeloid leukemia cell line M07e via inhibition of ROS generation [29].

In current study, ebselen exhibited cytotoxicity to multiple myeloma cell lines, U266 and RPMI8226, in a concentration and time dependent manner. The production of ROS in cells increased sharply followed by Bax translocation and MMP depolarization under ebselen challenge. Meanwhile, cytochrome C was released from the mitochondria and then triggered the cell apoptosis. Previous studies have established ebselen as a potent inhibitor of the mitochondrial complexes. The complexes I and II could be considered important molecular targets of ebselen after exposure to high dosages [30–33]. In consistence with previous studies, we found that ebselen treatment induced mitochondria dysfunction and cytochrome C release which is one of the key steps in apoptosis pathways. Our study extends these findings by elucidating the manner in which ebselen activated this particular event. Our data revealed that cytochrome C release occurred indirectly, via the redistribution of Bax, rather than via mitochondrial PTP formation or direct mitochondrial damage. Because Morin et al. had shown that, at low concentrations, ebselen acts as an inducer of PTP opening, at higher concentrations, it acts as an inhibitor in isolated mitochondria [34]. Bax is a proapoptotic protein that plays an important role in apoptotic pathways. When inactivated, Bax can be found as monomers in the cytosol or loosely associated with the outer mitochondrial membrane. Once activated, Bax inserts into the mitochondrial outer membrane [35], forms pores by oligomerization with Bak which further cause the release of the contents of the mitochondrial intermembrane space, including cytochrome C, into the cytosol [36].

The question then arises as to the nature of the mechanism involved in ebselen-induced Bax activation. We consider ROS as more relevant second messengers in Bax activation. We found that ebselen induced an increase in ROS formation besides Bax activation. Further study showed that these effects were significantly blocked when the cells were pretreated with N-acetyl cysteine (NAC), a specific ROS inhibitor. So we can deduce that ROS are upstream events in ebselen induce apoptotic process of MM cells. As a traditional antioxidative agent, the mechanism of ebselen increasing intracellular ROS generation is still not clear. There are numerous reports in the literature indicating that the biological activities of ebselen are dependent on the intermediates and products from the biotransformation process. The biotransformation process of ebselen which contains many steps and different outcomes is very complicated. Thiol plays an important role in this process as its capacity can influence the outcomes. In the presence of excess thiol, ebselen showed free radical scavenger activity by consuming reduced thiol. When the concentration of the thiol is relatively low, ebselen
consumes thiol without decomposing peroxide [37–39]. The thiol is critical for cells to maintain redox balance [40]; thus the relatively high concentration of ebselen exhibits prooxidant activity by consuming thiol without decomposing peroxide. In view of that mitochondria is a major intracellular source of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which are mainly generated at complexes I and III of the respiratory chain; ebselen may increase ROS production by inducing mitochondrial dysfunction. Puntel and his colleagues had investigated the effect of ebselen on mitochondrial complexes activity and got the conclusion that ebselen can induce mitochondrial dysfunction by oxidizing critical thiol groups from mitochondrial complexes I and II [41].

Over the last decade, many reports revealed that phytochemicals targeting ROS metabolism can selectively kill cancer cells by raising the level of ROS above a toxic threshold. Since cancer cells show higher levels of endogenous ROS compared with their normal cells, the toxic threshold can be easily achieved in cancer cells [42, 43]. A series of studies had revealed that ebselen can attenuate the side effect of

Figure 5: Mitochondrial membrane potential of MM cells analyzed by laser confocal microscopy and FACS after being loaded with JC-1. (a) Fluorescence images of JC-1 Probe loaded cells were obtained under laser confocal microscopy ((A) DMSO, (B) Ebselen 40 μM, and (C) ebselen 40 μM + NAC 15 mM). The ratio of red (FL2-H) and green (FL1-H) mean fluorescence intensity obtained under FACS shows ebselen induced MMP lost of MM cells in a concentration (b) and time (c) manner. Each value represents the mean ± SD from three independent experiments. * Significant difference compared to the control group ( * P < 0.05, ** P < 0.01, one-way ANOVA with Scheffe’s test).
Figure 6: Ebselen induced mitochondrial cytochrome C release from the mitochondria to cytosol. A representative immunoblot of MM cell cultures in presence or absence of ebselen showing levels of cytochrome C in cytosolic and mitochondrial extracts. Cells were treated for 4 h with ebselen. COX-IV and β-actin protein levels were used as internal reference of mitochondrial and cytosol, respectively. The record shown is representative of three experiments.

Figure 7: The damage of MM cells induced by ebselen was attenuated by NAC. (a) The cell viability decreased by 40 μM ebselen treatment for 24 hours was recovered by 15 mM NAC. (b) The increasing of ROS in MM cells treated with 40 μM for 4 hours was significantly reduced by 15 mM NAC. (c) 15 mM NAC resumed the MMP loss induced by 40 μM ebselen. (d) The apoptosis rate increased by 40 μM ebselen was attenuated by 15 mM NAC. Each value represents the mean ± SD from three independent experiments. ∗ Significant difference compared to the control group (∗ P < 0.05, ∗∗ P < 0.01, one-way ANOVA with Scheffe’s test).
many classical antitumor agents such as cisplatin [44–50], daunorubicin [51], cyclophosphamide [52], and doxorubicin [53]. More encouragingly, Lynch et al. and Baldew et al. showed us that, combined with cisplatin or cis-diaminedichloroplatinum, ebselen cannot only reduce the side effects but also enhance the antitumor activity of these drugs [50, 54]. Thus, ebselen seemed to be promising candidate for antitumor therapy.

5. Conclusion

In this study, our data revealed that ebselen induced MM cell apoptosis, mediated by increased ROS production. These deleterious conditions resulted in the translocation of Bax and the release of cytochrome C. All of the new observations may provide further elucidation of the mechanism of pharmacological (anticancer) and toxicological effects of ebselen.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare they have no conflict of interests pending.

Acknowledgment

The research was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China, Grant Support no. 81172258 to Professor Jiayin Xie.

References

[1] A. Muller, E. Cadenas, P. Graf, and H. Sies, “A novel biologically active seleno-organic compound—I. Glutathione peroxidase-like activity in vitro and antioxidant capacity of PZ.51 (Ebselen),” Biochemical Pharmacology, vol. 33, no. 20, pp. 3235–3239, 1984.

[2] P. Chew, D. Y. C. Yuen, N. Stefanovic et al., “Antiatherosclerotic and renoprotective effects of ebselen in the diabetic apolipoprotein E/GPx1-double knockout mouse,” Diabetes, vol. 59, no. 12, pp. 3198–3207, 2010.

[3] F. Basarslan, N. Yilmaz, I. Davarci et al., “Effects of ebselen on radiocontrast media-induced hepatotoxicity in rats,” Toxicology and Industrial Health, vol. 29, no. 8, pp. 746–752, 2013.

[4] Y. Poyrazoglu, T. Yigit, A. Harlak et al., “Effects of prevention of oxidative and nitro-oxidative stress on experimental rat colon anastomosis using acetylcyesteine, ebselen and 1400w,” Acta Chirurgica Belgica, vol. 111, no. 1, pp. 26–31, 2011.

[5] T. Tunc, B. Uysal, C. Atabek et al., “Erdosteine and ebselen as useful agents in intestinal ischemia/reperfusion injury,” Journal of Surgical Research, vol. 155, no. 2, pp. 210–216, 2009.

[6] M. Kizilgun, Y. Poyrazoglu, Y. Oztas et al., “Beneficial effects of N-acetylcysteine and ebselen on renal ischemia/reperfusion injury,” Renal Failure, vol. 33, no. 5, pp. 512–517, 2011.

[7] Z. Yin, E. Lee, M. Ni et al., “Methylmercury-induced alterations in astrocyte functions are attenuated by ebselen,” NeuroToxicology, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 291–299, 2011.

[8] H. Koizumi, H. Fujisawa, E. Suehiro, S. Shirao, and M. Suzuki, “Neuroprotective effects of ebselen following forebrain ischemia: involvement of glutamate and nitric oxide,” Neurologia Medico-Chirurgica, vol. 51, no. 5, pp. 337–343, 2011.

[9] J. Y. Seo, C. H. Lee, J. H. Cho et al., “Neuroprotection of ebselen against ischemia/reperfusion injury involves GABA shunt enzymes,” Journal of the Neurological Sciences, vol. 285, no. 1-2, pp. 88–94, 2009.

[10] J. Lu, C. Berndt, and A. Holmgren, “Metabolism of selenium compounds catalyzed by the mammalian selenoprotein thioredoxin reductase,” Biochimica et Biophysica Acta, vol. 1790, no. 11, pp. 1513–1519, 2009.

[11] R. Zhao and A. Holmgren, “A novel antioxidant mechanism of ebselen involving ebselen diselenide, a substrate of mammalian thioredoxin and thioredoxin reductase,” Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol. 277, no. 42, pp. 39456–39462, 2002.

[12] A. Muller, H. Gabriel, H. Sies, R. Terlinden, H. Fischer, and A. Romer, “A novel biologically active selenoorganic compound—VII. Biotransformation of ebselen in perfused rat liver,” Biochemical Pharmacology, vol. 37, no. 6, pp. 1103–1109, 1988.

[13] H. Shi, S. Liu, M. Miyake, and K. J. Liu, “Ebselen induced C6 glioma cell death in oxygen and glucose deprivation,” Chemical Research in Toxicology, vol. 19, no. 5, pp. 655–660, 2006.

[14] L. Engman, I. Cotgreave, M. Angulo, C. W. Taylor, G. D. Painemurrieta, and G. Powis, “Diaryl chalconegens as selective inhibitors of thioredoxin reductase and potential antitumor agents,” Anticancer Research, vol. 17, no. 6, pp. 4599–4605, 1997.

[15] C.-F. Yang, H.-M. Shen, and C.-N. Ong, “Ebselen induces apoptosis in HepG2 cells through rapid depletion of intracellular thiols,” Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics, vol. 374, no. 2, pp. 142–152, 2000.

[16] P. J. Guérin and E. R. Gauthier, “Induction of cellular necrosis by the glutathione peroxidase mimetic ebselen,” Journal of Cellular Biochemistry, vol. 89, no. 1, pp. 203–211, 2003.

[17] J. K. Brunelle and A. Letai, “Control of mitochondrial apoptosis by the Bcl-2 family,” Journal of Cell Science, vol. 122, part 4, pp. 437–441, 2009.

[18] D. J. Allan, A. Howell, S. A. Roberts et al., “Reduction in apoptosis relative to mitosis in histologically normal epithelium accompanies fibrocystic change and carcinoma of the premenopausal human breast,” Journal of Pathology, vol. 167, no. 1, pp. 25–32, 1992.

[19] H.-U. Simon, A. Haj-Yehia, and F. Levi-Schaffer, “Role of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in apoptosis induction,” Apoptosis, vol. 5, no. 5, pp. 415–418, 2000.

[20] L. Behrend, G. Henderson, and R. M. Zwacka, “Reactive oxygen species in oncogenic transformation,” Biochemical Society Transactions, vol. 31, part 6, pp. 1441–1444, 2003.

[21] S. Toyokuni, “Persistent oxidative stress in cancer,” FEBS Letters, vol. 358, no. 1, pp. 1–3, 1995.

[22] M. Gomez-Lazarro, M. F. Galindo, R. M. Melero-Fernandez De Mera et al., “Reactive oxygen species and p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase activate bax to induce mitochondrial cytochrome c release and apoptosis in response to malonate,” Molecular Pharmacology, vol. 71, no. 3, pp. 736–743, 2007.

[23] A. Mahindra, T. Hideshima, and K. C. Anderson, “Multiple myeloma: biology of the disease,” Blood Reviews, vol. 24, supplement 1, pp. S5–S11, 2010.

[24] C. P. Austin, L. S. Brady, T. R. Insel, and F. S. Collins, “NIH molecular libraries initiative,” Science, vol. 306, no. 5699, pp. 1138–1139, 2004.

[25] F. C. Meotti, V. C. Borges, G. Zeni, J. B. T. Rocha, and C. W. Nogueira, “Potential renal and hepatic toxicity of diphenyl diselenide, diphenyl ditelluride and ebselen for rats and mice,” Toxiconology Letters, vol. 143, no. 1, pp. 9–16, 2003.

[26] T. Yamaguchi, K. Sano, K. Takakura et al., “Ebselen in acute ischemic stroke: a placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trial,” Stroke, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 12–17, 1998.
S. M. Deneke, “Thiol-based antioxidants,” *Renal Failure*, vol. 34, no. 8, pp. 991–997, 2012.

V. Sharma, R. Tewari, U. H. Sk, C. Joseph, and E. Sen, “Ebselen sensitizes glioblastoma cells to Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNFα)-induced apoptosis through two distinct pathways involving NF-κB downregulation and Fas-mediated formation of death inducing signaling complex,” *International Journal of Cancer*, vol. 123, no. 9, pp. 2204–2212, 2008.

T. Maraldi, C. Prata, D. Fiorentini, L. Zambonin, L. Landi, and G. Hakim, “Induction of apoptosis in a human leukemic cell line via reactive oxygen species modulation by antioxidants,” *Free Radical Biology and Medicine*, vol. 46, no. 2, pp. 244–252, 2009.

R. L. Puntel, D. H. Roos, R. L. Seeger et al., “Mitochondrial electron transfer chain complexes inhibition by different organochalcogens,” *Toxicology in Vitro*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 59–70, 2013.

R. L. Puntel, D. H. Roos, R. L. Seeger et al., “Organochalcogens inhibit mitochondrial complexes I and II in rat brain: possible implications for neurotoxicity,” *Neurotoxicity Research*, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 109–118, 2013.

R. L. Puntel, D. H. Roos, V. Folmer et al., “Mitochondrial dysfunction induced by different organochalcogens is mediated by thiol oxidation and is not dependent of the classical mitochondrial permeability transition pore opening,” *Toxicological Sciences*, vol. 117, no. 1, pp. 133–143, 2010.

R. Zhao, H. Masayasu, and A. Holmgren, “Ebselen: a substrate for human thioredoxin reductase strongly stimulating its hydroperoxide reductase activity and a superfast thioredoxin substrate for human thioredoxin reductase strongly stimulating its hydroperoxide reductase activity,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, vol. 99, no. 13, pp. 8579–8584, 2002.

D. Morin, R. Zini, H. Ligeret, W. Neckameyer, S. Labidalle, and J.-P. Tillement, “Dual effect of ebselen on mitochondrial permeability transition,” *Biochemical Pharmacology*, vol. 65, no. 10, pp. 1643–1651, 2003.

L. P. Billen, C. L. Kokoski, J. F. Lovell, B. Leber, and D. W. Andrews, “Bcl-XL inhibits membrane permeabilization by competing with Bax,” *PLoS Biology*, vol. 6, no. 6, article e147, 2008.

X. Wang, “The expanding role of mitochondria in apoptosis,” *Genes and Development*, vol. 15, no. 22, pp. 2922–2933, 2001.

S. Antony and C. A. Bayse, “Modeling the mechanism of the glutathione peroxidase mimic ebselen,” *Inorganic Chemistry*, vol. 50, no. 23, pp. 12075–12084, 2011.

B. K. Sarma and G. Mugesh, “Antioxidant activity of the anti-inflammatory compound ebselen: a reversible cyclization pathway via selenenic and seleninic acid intermediates,” *Chemistry*, vol. 14, no. 34, pp. 10603–10614, 2008.

C. W. Nogueira and J. B. T. Rocha, “Toxicology and pharmacology of selenium: emphasis on synthetic organoselenium compounds,” *Archives of Toxicology*, vol. 85, no. 11, pp. 1313–1359, 2011.

S. M. Denke, “Thiol-based antioxidants,” *Current Topics in Celluar Regulation*, vol. 36, pp. 151–180, 2001.

R. L. Puntel, D. H. Roos, R. L. Seeger, and J. B.T. Rocha, “Mitochondrial electron transfer chain complexes inhibition by different organochalcogens,” *Toxicology in Vitro*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp. 59–70, 2013.

J. P. Fruehaufer and F. L. Meyskens Jr., “Reactive oxygen species: a breath of life or death?,” *Clinical Cancer Research*, vol. 13, no. 3, pp. 789–794, 2007.

P. T. Schumacker, “Reactive oxygen species in cancer cells: live by the sword, die by the sword,” *Cancer Cell*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 175–176, 2006.

S.-J. Kim, C. Park, A. L. Han et al., “Ebselen attenuates cisplatin-induced ROS generation through Nrf2 activation in auditory cells,” *Hearing Research*, vol. 251, no. 1-2, pp. 70–82, 2009.

E. D. Lynch, R. Gu, C. Pierce, and J. Kil, “Reduction of acute cisplatin ototoxicity and nephrotoxicity in rats by oral administration of allopurinol and ebselen,” *Hearing Research*, vol. 201, no. 1-2, pp. 81–89, 2005.

D. Hardej and L. D. Trombeta, “The effects of ebselen on cisplatin and diethylthiocarbamate (DDC) cytotoxicity in rat hippocampal astrocytes,” *Toxicology Letters*, vol. 131, no. 3, pp. 215–226, 2002.

M. Yoshida, K. Iizuka, A. Terada et al., “Prevention of nephrotoxicity of cisplatin by repeated oral administration of ebselen in rats,” *Tohoku Journal of Experimental Medicine*, vol. 191, no. 4, pp. 209–220, 2000.

K. Husain, C. Morris, C. Whitworth, G. L. Trammell, L. P. Rybak, and S. M. Somani, “Protection by ebselen against cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity: antioxidant system,” *Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry*, vol. 178, no. 1-2, pp. 127–133, 1998.

G. S. Baldew, A. P. Boymans, J. G. J. Mol, and N. P. E. Vermeulen, “The influence of ebselen on the toxicity of cisplatin in LLC-PK1 cells,” *Biochemical Pharmacology*, vol. 44, no. 2, pp. 382–387, 1992.

G. S. Balde, J. G. McVie, M. A. van der Valk, G. Los, J. J. M. de Goeij, and N. P. E. Vermeulen, “Selective reduction of cis-diaminedichloroplatinum(II) nephrotoxicity by ebselen,” *Cancer Research*, vol. 50, no. 21, pp. 7031–7036, 1990.

S. Y. Saad, T. A. Najjar, and M. M. Arafa, “Cardioprotective effects of subcutaneous ebselen against daunorubicin-induced cardiomyopathy in rats,” *Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology*, vol. 99, no. 6, pp. 412–417, 2006.

D. N. Tripathi and G. B. Jena, “Ebselen attenuates cyclophosphamide-induced oxidative stress and DNA damage in mice,” *Free Radical Research*, vol. 42, no. 11-12, pp. 966–977, 2008.

S. Kotamraju, E. A. Konorev, J. Joseph, and B. Kalyanaraman, “Doxorubicin-induced apoptosis in endothelial cells and cardiomyocytes is ameliorated by nitrone spin traps and ebselen. Role of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species,” *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, vol. 275, no. 43, pp. 33585–33592, 2000.

E. D. Lynch, R. Gu, C. Pierce, and J. Kil, “Combined oral delivery of ebselen and allopurinol reduces multiple cisplatin toxicities in rat breast and ovarian cancer models while enhancing anti-tumor activity,” *Anti-Cancer Drugs*, vol. 16, no. 5, pp. 569–579, 2005.