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Catalases: oxidative stress, inflammation and carcinogenesis

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Abstract. Acute pancreatitis is a severe disease of the pancreas, the number of cases of which increases by 3.4% annually. Both acute and chronic pancreatitis can become risk factors for the development of such a malignant neoplasm of the pancreas as ductal adenocarcinoma of the pancreas, although the degree of possible danger of malignant neoplasm development in different researches varies. Search for studies was conducted using electronic databases from Google Scholar, Medline and PubMed. A total of 215 articles were reviewed and 50 articles were deemed relevant according to the inclusion criteria. Among the genes the activity of which may be modulated during the development of a malignant tumour of the pancreas is the catalase gene. Catalase is an antioxidant protection enzyme that plays a key role in ROS inactivation and prevention of oxidative stress, one of the most important pathogenetic factors in acute pancreatitis.

Key words: acute pancreatitis, catalase, oxidative stress, carcinogenesis, chronic pancreatitis, pancreas.

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Introduction

Acute pancreatitis is a severe disease of the pancreas, with an annual increase of 3.4 % [1]. After the first episode of acute pancreatitis (AP), at least 17 % of patients have a second episode of the disease, and 8 % develop chronic pancreatitis (CP) [2]. Both acute and chronic pancreatitis may be risk factors for the development of pancreatic malignancies such as pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), although the degree of the possible risk of malignant neoplasm varies among different researchers [3]. There are many hypotheses explaining the pathogenetic relationship between acute pancreatitis and the development of PDAC. One of the hypotheses is based on the fact that repeated episodes of AP increase inflammation in the pancreas, which increases the risk of oncogenic mutations in the cells of this organ [4]. There is an opinion that long-term inflammation in the pancreas leads to mutations associated with downregulation of tumour suppressors, including p16, p53 and SMAD4, and upregulation of tumour promoters, in particular, K-ras, TNF- α , NF- κ B genes [5-7]. Among the genes the activity of which may be modulated during the development of a malignant tumour of the pancreas is the catalase gene. Catalase is an antioxidant defence enzyme that plays a key role in ROS inactivation and prevention of oxidative stress, one of the most important pathogenetic factors in AP. Catalase converts two hydrogen peroxide molecules into one oxygen molecule and two water molecules in a two-step reaction. The gene encoding catalase, CAT, is located on chromosome 11 [8]. This review focuses on the relationship between oxidative stress, inflammation and carcinogenesis, as well as the role of catalase in the development of these processes.

Oxidative stress and inflammation

Oxidative stress results from an imbalance between the production and inactivation of particles with increased reactivity, which can be either free radicals, such as hydroxyl radical or superoxide radical, or non-free radicals, such as hydrogen peroxide. These particles can react with other

molecules, oxidising them or subjecting them to other modifications [9]. Free radicals are generated in the cell during such metabolic processes as the functioning of the mitochondrial respiratory chain, β -oxidation of fatty acids, cytochrome P-450-mediated reactions, and respiratory burst during phagocytosis [10]. In AP, the cause of increased production of free radicals may be the aetiological factors of the disease, such as dietary habits, xenobiotics, bad habits. In particular, the role of smoking, one of the risk factors for AP, in increasing the activity of particles with increased reactivity has been proven [11, 12]. During inflammation, neutrophils and monocytes rush to the site of damage, transforming into macrophages. In the process of phagocytosis, neutrophils and macrophages produce ROS necessary for the effective destruction of phlogogens but are also capable of damaging macromolecules [13, 14]. When cells are damaged by oxidative damage, arachidonic acid is released from the cell membrane [15], which is extremely important for the induction of an inflammatory response, since cyclooxygenases and lipoxygenase convert arachidonic acid into inflammatory mediators, prostaglandins and leukotrienes. Inflammatory mediators contribute to a further increase in migration of neutrophils and macrophages to the area of inflammation, the release of proinflammatory cytokines, including TNF- α , IL-1, IL-8, the process becomes cyclic, accompanied by an increase in the levels of cytokines and chemokines, in addition, the transcription factor NF- κ B is activated, resulting in increased transcription of pro-inflammatory and anti-apoptotic genes [16].

Thus, mediated ROS occurs, often associated with changes in the activity of NF- κ B, STAT3, hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α , kinases, growth factors, cytokines, and a number of other regulatory proteins, enzymes, up- or down-regulation of various signalling pathways, which leads to changes in cellular processes associated with inflammation [17, 18]. However, the process of inflammation itself is also accompanied by an increase in the production of molecules with increased reactivity, both

reactive oxygen species and reactive nitrogen species, which promotes oxidative stress and closes the vicious circle of pathogenesis [19, 20].

One of the factors that play an important role in the initiation of chronic inflammation is obesity. It has been shown that a decrease in catalase activity leads to lipid metabolism disorders and contributes to obesity [21]. Blockade of catalase activity, accompanied by additional effects, in particular, starvation, leads to the activation of cell death and an increase in the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines in mouse liver cells, induced by an increase in the level of ROS, which was accompanied by an increase in the levels of aspartate aminotransferase and alanine aminotransferase, markers of hepatocyte cytolysis [22].

However, Han et al. showed that upregulation of mitochondrial catalase leads to increased NF- κ B activation, more severe inflammation, and more severe lung tissue damage in a laboratory mouse model. It has been suggested that the mediation of this hyperinflammatory response is associated with lymphocytes and macrophages with altered metabolism, which is characterised by an increase in glycolysis and an increase in ATP synthesis. Increased levels of NADH in macrophages leads to up-regulation of proinflammatory factors [23]. In addition, Mu et al. found that inhibition of catalase by 3-aminotriazole leads to increased production of ROS in peroxisomes. This results in the formation of a 4HNE-I κ B α adduct that disrupts NF- κ B activation by lipopolysaccharides, which leads to blockade of the production of pro-inflammatory factors and, as a result, down-regulation of inflammation [24].

It has been established that the use of an agonist of the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor alpha (PPR α), which is a transcription factor involved in the regulation of fatty acid oxidation, in mice with alcoholic fatty liver disease, which is often combined with pancreatitis, leads to the induction of catalase activity and a decrease in the manifestations of the disease [25].

It has been shown that in severe alcoholic hepatitis there is a significant decrease in the levels of catalase and PPR α . Reactivation of the peroxisome proliferator-activated alpha receptor led to a decrease in alcohol-induced inflammation while switching the CYP2E1-dependent alcohol metabolism pathway to the CAT-dependent one. Thus, reactivation of PPR α leads to upregulation of the PPR α -CAT signalling pathway, which plays an important role in the pathogenetic correction of inflammation in alcoholic hepatitis [26].

High-mobility group box protein 1 (HMGB1) is a non-histone nuclear protein that regulates transcription and is involved in maintaining the structure of chromosomes. HMGB1 can function as a chemokine or alarmin, activating the immune system and mediating a wide range of physiological and pathophysiological processes. HMGB1 is able to interact with the glycation end products receptor and members of the Toll-like receptor family, including TLR2 and TLR4. Activation of these receptors activates the transcription factor NF- κ B, which in turn

leads to an increase in the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. Zhang et al. found that when rats are kept on a diet with a high level of lipids, there is an increase in HMGB1-positive cells and Kupffer cells in the liver, which play an important role in initiating inflammation, which is accompanied by a pronounced decrease in catalase activity and an increase in the levels of glucose and cholesterol in blood plasma [27].

An important role in the pathogenesis of inflammation initiated by the respiratory syncytial virus is played by a decrease in the activity of enzymes of the antioxidant system, catalase in particular, which is due to increased degradation of the NRF2 transcription factor that controls the expression of antioxidant enzyme genes including catalase. It has been established that the intake of exogenous catalase in respiratory syncytial virus in a laboratory mouse model leads to an improvement in the condition of animals, a decrease in inflammation and airway obstruction, and a decrease in the concentration of pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines, including IL-1, TNF- α , IL-9, CXCL1, CCL2, CCL5 in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid [28].

Chronic inflammation which plays a key role in the pathogenesis of Crohn's disease is associated with the development of oxidative stress and imbalance of antioxidant enzymes. It is known that reduced activity of catalase is one of the features of this disease. It has been established that patients with Crohn's disease have a number of catalase gene polymorphisms associated with impaired activity of this enzyme [29].

It has been shown that in sepsis, severe kidney damage is associated with activation of the pleckstrin homology domain, which modulates the JNK/ERK signalling pathway, with a decrease in the activity of the antioxidant system, a decrease in catalase activity in particular [30].

Therefore, changes in catalase activity can play one of the most important roles in diseases whose pathogenetic basis is the development of oxidative stress and inflammation.

Oxidative stress and carcinogenesis

It is known that oxidative stress can initiate both cell death through apoptosis and the appearance of senescent (aging) cells. Senescence is a state of cells in which the cell cycle is blocked, but cell death does not occur [31]. The variant implemented – whether the cell undergoes death by apoptosis, or becomes senescent – depends on the severity of damage and on the cell type. However, both variants are a way to prevent proliferation of damaged cells and reduce the likelihood of passing the mutation of genetically unstable cells to further cell generations [32].

If a cell manages to avoid apoptosis or senescence, the excess amount of ROS inherent in oxidative stress continues to damage its targets, such macromolecules as proteins, lipids, and nucleic acids [33]. Genetic instability of cells is one of the main features inherent in the process of carcinogenesis; therefore, DNA-damaging ROS are of great importance for initiating the development of malignant neoplasms [34]. It has been shown that inhibition of catalase activity in neutrophils leads to increased death of

these cells, which is based on the accumulation of ROS and modulation of the NOX2 signalling pathway [35]. It has been established that catalase can take part in the reprogramming of tumour-associated macrophages and reduce the level of hypoxia in the tumour microenvironment, which creates the prerequisites for new approaches to the therapy of malignant neoplasms [36].

A number of genetic polymorphisms of the catalase gene, the CAT C262T variant in particular, predisposes to the development of malignant neoplasms. It can be assumed that the presence of such polymorphisms is associated with less effective inactivation of molecules with increased reactivity, which leads to DNA damage and is a trigger of carcinogenesis [37].

Interestingly, according to the results of studies by a number of authors, an increase in catalase activity in tumour cells or in cells of target organs, which reduces the level of oxidative stress, may enhance the process of metastasis [38].

It has been shown that catalase expression is reduced in prostate cancer cells (PNG), which is associated with down-regulation of the FOXO signalling pathway that plays an important role in modulating a number of cellular processes, including cell cycle arrest, cell death, and DNA repair processes [39]. Oxidative stress contributes to the progression of androgen-dependent or androgen-independent PID [40].

It has been found that an increase in catalase activity in a preclinical model of metastasis of malignant neoplasms of the mammary gland to the lungs in obesity led to inhibition of the formation of metastases in the target organ. Obesity contributes to an increase in the concentration of neutrophils in the lung tissue. An increased content of neutrophils leads to increased production of ROS by these cells, which, in turn, disrupts contacts between endothelial cells and promotes metastasis to the lungs [41].

The NF- κ B/Catalase/ATF3 signalling pathway may play an important role in the regulation of cell proliferation in oesophageal malignancies. It has been shown that inhibition of neddylation, the process of post-translational modification of proteins, during which the interaction between the ubiquitin-like protein NEDD8 and the target protein occurs, leads to autophagy of malignant cells, while the activation of the transcription factor NF- κ B and the expression of catalase are blocked [42].

Gene expression profiling in acute myelogenous leukaemia cells led to the conclusion that an increase in catalase gene expression is associated with an increase in the effectiveness of treatment and a longer remission period for patients [43].

It has been established that FOXO3a, a member of the family of transcription factors involved in the induction of such cellular processes as apoptosis, proliferation, cell cycle progression, DNA damage, and carcinogenesis, is involved in the regulation of catalase activity in prostate cancer cells. Downregulation of FOXO3a in tumour cells leads to the suppression of catalase activity, which in turn promotes the progression of malignancy through the modulation of the activity of the FOXO3a-ROS signalling pathway [44].

An increase in the activity of catalase and other antioxidant enzymes can play an important role in approaches to the treatment of malignant neoplasms of the cervix associated with infection with oncogenic types of human papillomavirus, which is due to the development of chronic inflammation and an increase in the production of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species as a result of the introduction of the virus into the cell genome and expression oncoproteins, which occurs against the background of a decrease in the activity of antioxidant defence [45].

However, Bengtson et al. have shown that inhibition of catalase activity can activate proapoptotic signalling pathways triggered by reactive oxygen and nitrogen species resulting in initiation of tumour cell death [46].

Patients with colorectal malignant neoplasms showed a significant decrease in catalase activity, which reflected the severity of oxidative stress and directly correlated with the severity of the metastasis process [47].

CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein delta (BSBP) is a transcription factor that plays an ambiguous role in inflammation and carcinogenesis. There is evidence that it can act as an onco-suppressor. However, it has been found that by regulating the activity of a number of genes associated with the control of redox balance, it can contribute to the progression of glioblastoma. It has been shown that this effect is based on the modulation of catalase activity in tumour cells, which leads to blockade of apoptosis and an increase in the survival of malignant neoplasm cells [48].

It has been shown that an oestradiol analogue inhibits catalase activity by modulating the Akt/FOXO signalling pathway, which leads to accumulation of ROS in breast cancer cells resulting in cell cycle blockade in the G1 and G2/M phases and initiation of tumour cell death [49].

It has been established that the single nucleotide polymorphism rs1001179 of the catalase gene promoter is associated with an increase in the activity of this enzyme, which leads to a decrease in ROS levels in chronic lymphocytic leukaemia cells and is the cause of a more severe course and progression of the disease due to blockade of apoptosis induction [50].

Thus, oxidative stress and an increase in catalase activity during carcinogenesis can play both a procarcinogenic role and prevent the development of malignant tumours.

Conclusion

Thus, there is no doubt that one of the key antioxidant enzymes, catalase, is involved in the modulation of such important typical pathological processes as inflammation and carcinogenesis, but its role is ambiguous. Further studies are needed to understand the mechanisms of inflammation and carcinogenesis associated with changes in catalase activity better, which can help create new effective approaches to personalised treatment of diseases.

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