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Anti-proliferative Effect of Resveratrol in Human Prostate Cancer Cells

Young Ae Kim^{1,2}, Kyu Ri Kong¹, Kun Young Park², Sook Hee Rhee²
and Yung Hyun Choi¹

¹Department of Biochemistry, Dong-Eui University College of Oriental Medicine
and Research Institute of Oriental Medicine, Busan 614-052;

²Department of Food Science and Nutrition, Busan National University,
Busan 609-735 Korea

Resveratrol (*trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxystilbene) is a natural phytoalexin present in grapes, fruits, peanuts and red wine. Resveratrol has been reported cancer chemopreventive effects. The aim of the present study was to further elucidate the possible mechanisms by which resveratrol exerts its anti-proliferative action in human prostate cancer PC-3 cell line. Resveratrol treatment of PC-3 cells resulted in a dose dependent inhibition of the cell growth, which was associated with arrest of the cell cycle and induction of apoptosis as shown by DNA flow cytometry analysis. Resveratrol induces arrest in the S phase at low concentrations (12.5-25 μ M), but high concentration (50 μ M) does not induce S phase accumulation in PC-3 cells, which was associated with induction of cyclin-dependent kinase (Cdk) inhibitor p21 and Cdk inhibitor p16. The activities of both caspase-9 and caspase-3 in resveratrol-treated PC-3 cells were significantly increased and the levels of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) were decreased in a concentration-dependent manner. In addition, resveratrol down-regulated the expression of Bcl-2 without alteration of Bax levels. Taken together, these findings suggest that resveratrol may provide an potential cell cycle blocker as well as a cancer chemopreventive agent.