

## Hypoglycemic Effects of Fruits and Vegetables in Hyperglycemic Rats for Prevention of Type-2 Diabetes

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**Abstract.** An in vivo oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was performed on hyperglycemic male Sprague-Dawley rats to assess the effect of fruits and vegetables (1 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight) on blood glucose levels ( $\Delta$ BGLs) at different time intervals of 0, 5, 15, 30, 60, 90 and 120 min. The areas under glucose curve ( $\Delta$ AUCs) were calculated at 120 min of OGTT by trapezoid method. Total phenolic content (TPC) and anti-oxidant activity (AOA) of fruits and vegetables were assayed in vitro by Folin Ciocalteu and DPPH (2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) methods, respectively. At the end of the experiment the correlations among the parameters TPC, AOA and  $\Delta$ AUC was estimated by Pearson's correlations. Among fruit crops, tangerine, plum, grape and pear and among vegetables, blue leaf mustard, cabbage, chicory, broccoli and others exhibited significant hypoglycemic effects by reducing  $\Delta$ BGLs with significant  $\Delta$ AUC. The effective  $\Delta$ AUC ranged from 5548.2  $\pm$  462.1 to 3823.3  $\pm$  282.0 mg·min·dL<sup>-1</sup>. The TPC and AOA ranged from 0.063  $\pm$  0.00 to 0.913  $\pm$  0.14 mg·g<sup>-1</sup> GAE and 01.05  $\pm$  0.08 to 75.46  $\pm$  0.06%, respectively. Overall, six fruits and fifteen vegetables exhibited higher TPC and one fruit and four vegetables exhibited higher AOA. There was a better correlation among TPC, AOA and  $\Delta$ AUC of fruits and TPC & AOA of vegetables. We report that hypoglycemic fruits and vegetables investigated in this study have pharmacological importance which reduced  $\Delta$ BGLs through insulin like activity and AOA in prevention of type-2 diabetes.

**Additional key words:** anti-oxidant activity, fruits/vegetables, hypoglycemic activity, insulin agents, type-2 diabetes

### Introduction

Diabetes mellitus or type-2 diabetes is a group of metabolic disorders characterized by hyperglycemia (Prince and Kamlakkannan, 2006). The metabolic disorders include alterations in the carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism associated with absolute or relative deficiencies in insulin secretion and/or insulin action (Kuroe et al., 2003). Diabetes can be associated with serious complications and remains one of the most significant causes of morbidity and mortality in the world and its global impact is likely to accelerate over the coming decades (Pfeiffer, 2003). However, during the last two decades diet therapy has become an important aspect

of controlling type-2 diabetes (Marles and Farnsworth, 1994). Diabetes and associated complications result in disability, reduced life expectancy; genetic susceptibility to type-2 diabetes coupled with lifestyle changes is considered as a major factor for the growing incidence of diabetes in Asian countries (King et al., 1998). Many in vivo and in vitro properties such as blood glucose tolerance (Chaturvedi et al., 2004) insulin tolerance, and anti-oxidant activities (Espin et al., 2000) of the dietary materials were studied. These studies demonstrated that dietary herbal extracts might have some direct effects on increased tissue utilization of glucose by inhibiting hepatic gluconeogenesis or by the absorption of glucose into the muscles and adipose tissues (Hartman,

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2008). Few intervention studies have similarly shown that dietary supplements of fruit and vegetable origins significantly reduced blood glucose levels, especially in human subjects (Liu et al., 2004).

Consumption of fruits and vegetables decreases the incidence of type-2 diabetes by providing health benefits besides fulfilling physiological needs. Hence, fruits and vegetables have been referred as functional foods. The protective action of these food crops has been attributed to the presence of anti-oxidants such as polyphenols (Anderson et al., 2004). The anti-oxidant activities of these bioactive compounds are attributed to the flavonoid ring which plays a principal role in terms of their pharmacological effects and are also considered as the most important aspects for treatment of type 2-diabetes (Lu et al., 2007). In addition, two classic large-scale clinical studies, the Diabetes Placebo and Complications Trial (DCCT) and the UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS) have demonstrated that intensive blood-glucose placebo policies can decrease the frequency of complications associated with type-2 diabetes (King et al., 1998).

In spite of published reports on fruits, vegetables and their effect on glucose metabolism (Chaturvedi et al., 2004; Valiathan, 1998) only some of the crops have attained medicinal significance. However, most of these hypoglycemic studies relied on the effect of solitary botanical extracts. According to our knowledge there are only a few reports on the effect of phenolic compounds present in edible fruit and vegetable crops on blood glucose tolerance in maintaining type-2 diabetes.

To address the above issues we investigated the possible effect of fruits and vegetables on blood glucose levels and glucose area under curve in hyperglycemic rats (in vivo) and the total phenolic content and anti-oxidant activities in vitro.

## Materials and Methods

### Animals and diets

The present study was performed in accordance with the approved animal protocols and guidelines established by the Ethics Review Committee for Animal Experiments, School of Medicine, Ajou University, Suwon, South Korea. More than 120 male Sprague-Dawley (SD) rats of 5-7 week old and body weight (b. wt.) of 250-280 g were selected for all the experiments. Animals were purchased from Samtako, Osan, Korea. For this study rats were divided into three different groups based on the type of dietary extract administered i.e. a group for fruits and vegetables, including 21 rats for control group. For acclimatization, the rats were housed three per cage and maintained at temperature of  $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ , under a 12/12-h alternate light and dark cycles with 60% relative humidity. Animals were fed pellet diet (standard rat chow) and water *ad libitum*.

### Preparation of fruit and vegetable extracts

Selected fruits (ten) and vegetables (twenty) were purchased fresh from two different local markets, E-mart and Hanaro

**Table 1.** The glucose area under curve, total phenolic contents and anti-oxidant activities of fruit crops.

Fruit crop (Scientific name)	Common name	$\Delta\text{AUC}^z$ (mg·min·dL <sup>-1</sup> )	TPC <sup>y</sup> (GAE, mg·g <sup>-1</sup> )	AOA <sup>x</sup> (%)
Control		7405.5 ± 355.4		
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Tangerine	4242.5 ± 568.4**	0.123 ± 0.00**	05.33 ± 0.05***
<i>Prunus Americana</i>	Plum	4611.5 ± 897.7**	0.221 ± 0.01**	06.45 ± 0.05***
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Grape	4961.7 ± 383.4*	0.072 ± 0.00**	01.05 ± 0.08***
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Pear	5080.0 ± 367.8*	0.131 ± 0.01**	09.20 ± 0.03***
<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	Sweet persimmon	5625.0 ± 183.5 <sup>NS</sup>	0.091 ± 0.00**	09.15 ± 0.13***
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple	5649.4 ± 124.8 <sup>NS</sup>	0.169 ± 0.01**	12.66 ± 0.04***
<i>Rubus thyrsoides</i>	European blackberry	6340.0 ± 1302.7 <sup>NS</sup>	0.702 ± 0.05**	75.46 ± 0.06***
<i>Ananas comosus</i>	Pineapple	6367.5 ± 980.5 <sup>NS</sup>	0.321 ± 0.01**	27.65 ± 0.27***
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> L.	Apricot	7164.2 ± 800.8 <sup>NS</sup>	0.603 ± 0.03**	17.04 ± 0.01***
<i>Prunus persica</i> L.	Peach	7684.2 ± 173.0 <sup>NS</sup>	0.171 ± 0.00**	13.02 ± 0.06***

<sup>z</sup> $\Delta\text{AUC}$  (area under curve) of blood glucose levels at 120 min of OGTT in 12-h fasted rats treated with different fruit samples (g·kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight). AUC is calculated by trapezoid method. Values are means ± S.E.M, (n = 21 for control; n = 9 for treated samples).

<sup>y</sup>TPC (Total phenolic content) of the fruit samples estimated by Folin-Ciocalteu method. Values are means ± SE (n = 3).

<sup>x</sup>AOA% (anti-oxidant activity) of the fruit samples determined by DPPH free radical scavenging method. Values are means ± S.E.M (n=3).

<sup>NS</sup>, \*, \*\*, \*\*\* Non significant or significant at  $P \leq 0.05$  or 0.01 or 0.001, respectively.

**Table 2.** The glucose area under curve, total phenolic contents and anti-oxidant activities and vegetable crops.

Vegetable crop (Scientific name)	Common name	$\Delta\text{AUC}^z$ (mg·min·dL <sup>-1</sup> )	TPC <sup>y</sup> (GAE, mg·g <sup>-1</sup> )	AOA <sup>x</sup> (%)
Control		7405.5 ± 355.4		
<i>Chorispora tenella</i>	Blue leaf mustard	3823.3 ± 282.0**	0.913 ± 0.14**	56.05 ± 0.17***
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>capitata</i>	Cabbage	4710.6 ± 920.3**	0.248 ± 0.01**	44.59 ± 0.07***
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory	4739.5 ± 1094.0**	0.066 ± 0.00**	29.29 ± 0.08***
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>italica</i>	Broccoli	4969.4 ± 696.5**	0.386 ± 0.01**	25.81 ± 0.08***
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>acephala</i>	Kale	4990.6 ± 367.0*	0.442 ± 0.01**	32.53 ± 0.14***
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>capitata</i> "f.rubra"	Red cabbage	5016.7 ± 571.0*	0.369 ± 0.01**	21.75 ± 0.08***
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Celery	5080.8 ± 680.5*	0.228 ± 0.00**	05.81 ± 0.09***
<i>Allium cepa</i>	Onion	5120.9 ± 448.3**	0.146 ± 0.01**	02.97 ± 0.05***
<i>Allium tuberosum</i>	Korean leek	5142.5 ± 568.2*	0.249 ± 0.01**	10.34 ± 0.11***
<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.	Radish sprouts	5548.2 ± 462.1*	0.384 ± 0.01**	41.32 ± 0.10***
<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	Green sweet pepper	5723.3 ± 1101.0 <sup>NS</sup>	0.316 ± 0.01**	15.30 ± 0.01***
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Garden beet	5930.0 ± 754.5 <sup>NS</sup>	0.306 ± 0.01**	11.66 ± 0.06***
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Carrot	6326.3 ± 1222.4 <sup>NS</sup>	0.085 ± 0.01**	03.67 ± 0.06***
<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	Tomato	6371.7 ± 1190.0 <sup>NS</sup>	0.092 ± 0.00**	03.99 ± 0.06***
<i>Brassica campestris</i> L.	Chinese cabbage	6447.5 ± 1372.4 <sup>NS</sup>	0.178 ± 0.01**	09.50 ± 0.05***
<i>Lactuca sativa</i> var. <i>capitata</i>	Head lettuce	6515.8 ± 885.9 <sup>NS</sup>	0.296 ± 0.00**	03.66 ± 0.09***
<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>botrytis</i>	Cauliflower	7369.2 ± 157.4 <sup>NS</sup>	0.231 ± 0.01**	21.05 ± 0.06***
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	Cucumber	7490.0 ± 762.3 <sup>NS</sup>	0.063 ± 0.00**	02.96 ± 0.10***
<i>Chorispora tenella</i>	Red leaf mustard	8162.5 ± 818.5 <sup>NS</sup>	0.549 ± 0.03**	37.63 ± 0.23***
<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	Lettuce	9348.3 ± 618.0 <sup>NS</sup>	0.154 ± 0.00**	64.31 ± 0.15***

<sup>z</sup> $\Delta\text{AUC}$  (area under curve) of blood glucose levels at 120 min of OGTT in 12-h fasted rats treated with different vegetable samples (g·kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight). AUC is calculated by trapezoid method. Values are means ± S.E.M, (n = 21 for control; n = 9 for treated samples).

<sup>y</sup>TPC (total phenolic content) of the vegetable samples estimated by Folin-Ciocalteu method. Values are means ± S.E.M (n = 3).

<sup>x</sup>AOA% (anti-oxidant activity) of the vegetable samples determined by DPPH free radical scavenging method. Values are means ± S.E.M (n = 3).

<sup>NS</sup>, \*, \*\*, \*\*\* Non significant or significant at  $P \leq 0.05$  or 0.01 or 0.001, respectively.

Club Market (Seoul, Korea). The list of the crops is as mentioned in Tables 1 and 2 with their scientific names along with their corresponding common names. The edible portions of each crop were extracted following a published protocol with little modifications (Lee et al., 2003). Briefly, 100 g of each fresh sample was homogenized by using a food processor and extracted with HPLC grade methanol by stirring for 2-h on a magnetic stirrer. After incubation for 22-h the homogenates were filtered and the filtrates were concentrated to 100 mL by using a vacuum rotary evaporator (Eyela, Tokyo, Japan). This concentrate was further vacuum dried in a speed vacuum (Biotron Inc., Seoul, Korea), and then weighed.

#### Analysis of blood glucose levels and area under glucose curve

An in vivo oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) was performed after the rats were fasted for 12-h in order to determine the hypoglycemic activities of fruit and vegetable extracts.

At the beginning of the experiment, the glucose tolerance (GT) of rats was evaluated by oral administration (p.o.) of 50% dextrose 30 min prior to OGTT. Only saline solution was administered p.o to the control group of rats. The other two groups of rats were administered with individual extracts of fruits and vegetables dissolved in saline solution. The blood glucose levels ( $\Delta\text{BGLs}$ , mg/dL) were determined at different time intervals of 0, 5, 15, 30, 60, 90 and 120 min after administration of extracts using an Accu-check sensor glucometer, Roche Diagnostics Corporation, USA. The areas under glucose curve,  $\Delta\text{AUC}$  (mg·min·dL<sup>-1</sup>) was calculated subsequently for all the treatment samples at 120 min of OGTT experiment.

#### Estimation of total phenolic content

To estimate the total phenolic content (TPC) of fruits and vegetables (dried extracts dissolved in 1 mL of 80% v/v methanol) a Folin Ciocalteu (FC) reagent method (Sadasivam

and Manikan, 1992) was followed with little modifications. FC reagent, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and gallic acid were purchased from Sigma (Seoul, Korea). To 0.4 mL of each of methanolic infusions of fruit and vegetable extracts and/or solvent blank an equal ratio of water and FC reagent (1:1 v/v) was added and kept for incubation at 27°C for 5 min. To the above reaction mixture, 0.4 mL of 10% aqueous Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution was added and incubated for 1-h at room temperature. The absorbance of the reaction mixture was measured at 640 nm in a UV-spectrophotometer (Shimadzu-1201, Shimadzu Corp., Tokyo, Japan). Standard curve was obtained by using gallic acid at a concentration range of 1 to 10 mg/mL. Using this linear curve, TPC was calculated and expressed as gallic acid equivalents (GAE, mg·g<sup>-1</sup>).

### Determination of anti-oxidant activities

In order to determine the anti-oxidant activity (AOA) of fruit and vegetable extracts, a well known DPPH (2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) free radical scavenging method (Blois, 1958) was followed by calibrating the standard solution to linearize the reaction. The working DPPH stock solution of 0.1 mM was prepared in 80% methanol. The extracts were dissolved in 80% methanol (v/v) and to 0.4 mL of this methanolic infusion, 3 mL of DPPH solution was added and incubated in dark for 10 min at room temperature. After the reaction reaches a plateau the absorbance (*A*) was measured at wave length 517 nm and the AOA was calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Anti-oxidant activity, AOA (\%)} = [A_{\text{placebo}} - A_{\text{sample}}] / [A_{\text{placebo}}] \times 100$$

### Statistical analysis

The results were presented as means ± SE. Statistical method used to analyze the data was unpaired Student's *t*-test (two-tailed) by using MS-Excel Software program. Probability *P* values ≤ 0.05 or 0.01 or 0.001 were considered to be significant. The ΔAUCs were calculated using trapezoid method (Allison et al., 1995) which has been identified as a more reliable and sensitive measure of glucose tolerance. The correlations of TPC, AOA and ΔAUC parameters were estimated by Pearson's correlation method (Lu et al., 2007).

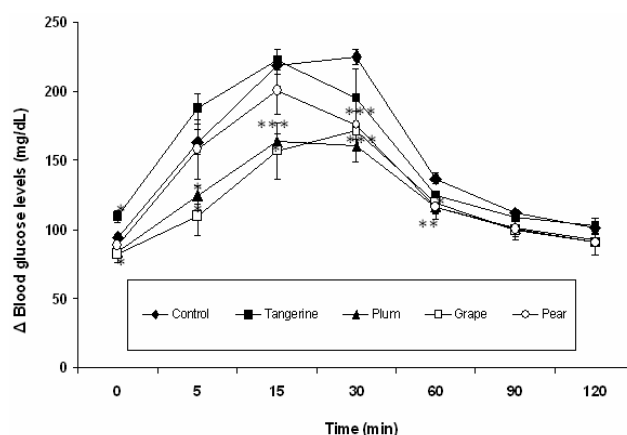
## Results

### Hypoglycemic effects of fruit and vegetable extracts among hyperglycemic rats

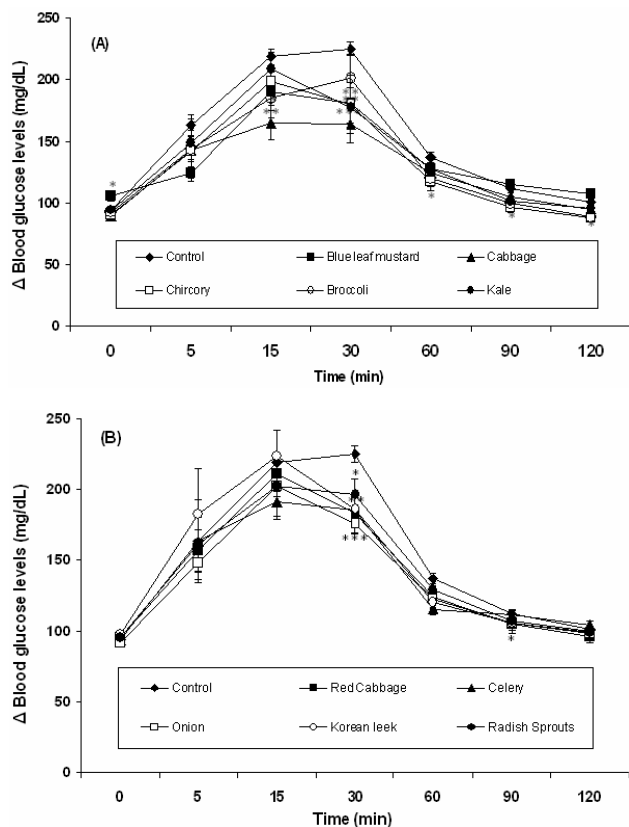
The ΔBGLs of the hyperglycemic male SD rats treated with fruit extracts during 0 to 120 min of OGTT are as shown in Fig. 1. Among ten fruit extracts tested, the highly hypoglycemic tangerine significantly reduced ΔBGL upto

14.01% (*P* ≤ 0.01) at 0 min, followed by plum 28.56% (*P* ≤ 0.001) at 30 min, grape 32.8% (*P* ≤ 0.05) at 5 min and pear upto 28.11% (*P* ≤ 0.01) at 30 min of OGTT, compared to control at that corresponding time. Overall, the glucose level at 120 min of OGTT remained stable when compared to the initial baseline in the hyperglycemic rats treated with the above fruit extracts. The ΔAUC among rats treated with these fruit crops were as summarized in Table 1. The ΔAUCs were arranged in decreasing order along the tabular column and it ranged from 5080.0 ± 367.8 to 4242.5 ± 568.4 mg·min·dL<sup>-1</sup>. Tangerine, plum, grape and pear exhibited significantly higher ΔAUC compared to control (7405.5 ± 355.4 mg·min·dL<sup>-1</sup>). The other fruit extracts could not exhibit significant hypoglycemic activities.

The ΔBGLs of vegetable extracts during 0 to 120 min of OGTT were as shown in Fig. 2 (A) and (B). Among all the vegetable extracts tested the highly hypoglycemic blue leaf mustard significantly reduced ΔBGLs upto 14.70% (*P* ≤ 0.05) at 30 min, followed by cabbage upto 27.1% (*P* ≤ 0.001), chicory 20.0% (*P* ≤ 0.01), broccoli at 15 min (15.51%, *P* ≤ 0.05), kale 26.6% (*P* ≤ 0.01), red cabbage 23.0%, (*P* ≤ 0.05), celery 17.8% (*P* ≤ 0.05), onion 21.8% (*P* ≤ 0.001), Korean leek (17.4%, *P* ≤ 0.05) and radish sprouts upto 12.5% (*P* ≤ 0.01) at 30 min of OGTT, compared to control at that corresponding time. Overall, the glucose level at 120 min of OGTT remained stable when compared to the initial baseline in the hyperglycemic rats treated with the above vegetable extracts. The ΔAUC of vegetables tested were as summarized in Table 2 and it ranged from 5548.2 ± 462.1 to 3823.3 ± 282.0 mg·min·dL<sup>-1</sup>. Among twenty vegetable crops tested, blue leaf mustard, cabbage, chicory, broccoli, kale and some of the crops



**Fig. 1.** Effect of the dietary fruits on delta blood glucose levels (ΔBGL) in hyperglycemic rats during OGTT. Data are means ± S.E.M, (n=21 for placebo; n=9 for treated samples). The anti-hyperglycemic activities during OGTT are significantly higher with fruit crops as compared to the placebo. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* significant at *P* ≤ 0.05 or 0.01 or 0.001, respectively.



**Fig. 2.** (A) and (B) Effect of the dietary vegetables on delta blood glucose levels ( $\Delta$ BGL) in hyperglycemic rats during OGTT. Data are means  $\pm$  S.E.M, (n=21 for placebo; n=9 for treated samples). The hypoglycemic activities during OGTT are significantly higher with vegetable crops as compared to the placebo. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* significant at  $P \leq 0.05$  or 0.01 or 0.001, respectively.

exhibited significantly higher  $\Delta$ AUC compared to control ( $7405.5 \pm 355.4 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{min} \cdot \text{dL}^{-1}$ ). The other vegetable extracts could not exhibit significant hypoglycemic activities. Further, no significant change in the body weight was observed among hyperglycemic rats before and after treatment with crop extracts (data not shown).

#### Total phenolic content of fruits and vegetables

The TPC of fruits and vegetables are summarized in Table 1 and 2. The TPC values ranged from  $0.072 \pm 0.00$  to  $0.702 \pm 0.05$  and  $0.063 \pm 0.00$  to  $0.913 \pm 0.14 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  GAE among fruits and vegetables, respectively. Among the fruit crops, the highest TPC was found in European blackberry, apricot, pineapple, plum, peach, and apple (Table 1). Among vegetables the highest TPC was found in blue leaf mustard, red leaf mustard, kale, broccoli, radish sprouts and others (Table 2). Overall, six fruits and fifteen vegetables exhibited higher TPC ( $> 0.15 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$  GAE) in this study.

#### Anti-oxidant activities of fruits and vegetables

The anti-oxidant activities (AOA) of fruits and vegetables are summarized in Table 1 and 2. The AOA fruits ranged between  $01.05 \pm 0.08$  to  $75.46 \pm 0.06$  and among vegetables the AOA ranged from  $2.97 \pm 0.05$  to  $64.31 \pm 0.15\%$ . Among fruit crops, the highest AOA was found in European blackberry (Table 1), whereas, among vegetables, the highest AOA was found in blue leaf mustard, lettuce, cabbage, and radish sprouts (Table 2). Overall, one fruit and four vegetables investigated in the present study exhibited higher AOA ( $> 40\%$ ).

#### Correlations

Among the Pearson correlations between TPC & AOA, AOA &  $\Delta$ AUC and TPC &  $\Delta$ AUC of fruits and vegetables, a strong and profound correlation was found between TPC & AOA. The effective correlation of these parameters among fruits was in the order TPC & AOA ( $R^2 = 0.8118$ )  $>$  TPC &  $\Delta$ AUC ( $R^2 = 0.5129$ )  $>$  AOA &  $\Delta$ AUC ( $R^2 = 0.3803$ ). The AOA &  $\Delta$ AUC and TPC &  $\Delta$ AUC exhibited negative correlation among vegetable crops.

#### Discussion

From our results it was evident that fruits and vegetables showed improvement in the glucose curve among rats by significantly reducing  $\Delta$ BGLs with significant glucose  $\Delta$ AUC compared with that without the extracts (Chaturvedi et al., 2004). This work exploits the findings of previous reports which utilizes the information contained in a 2-h OGTT to estimate insulin sensitivity (Mari et al., 2001; Stumvoll et al., 2000) and  $\beta$ -cell function (Jayaprakasam et al., 2005). Hence these findings suggest that hypoglycemic effects of significant fruit and vegetable extracts may be due to their inducing nature on pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells for insulin secretion, or the phenolic compounds such as flavanols, flavones and anthocyanins present in these crops may themselves be acting as insulin like molecules or insulin secretagogues (Jayaprakasam et al., 2005). This concept indicates the structure activity relationship of the plant bioactives in maintaining glucose levels normal. During our study most of the extracts efficiently reduced  $\Delta$ BGLs at 30 to 60 min of OGTT, and it was well known that the insulin molecules have major activity during 30 to 60 min after its secretion from  $\beta$ -cells of islets of langerhans (Yamazaki et al., 2007). The function of insulin is being clear i. e. to maintain blood glucose levels either by suppression of glucose output from liver or by the stimulation of glucose uptake and its metabolism (Ross et al., 2004). Thus the enhanced transportation of glucose due to potentiation by insulin brings the elevated glucose level back to normal.

In addition to insulin like activity, the phenolic compounds of these fruits and vegetables were also found to protect from type-2 diabetes induced oxidative damage. These protective actions of fruits and vegetables have been attributed to their anti-oxidant activity after their consumption through diet (Rizvi et al., 2005) even if their bioavailability is at micromolar range. This can lead to a concept of potential anti-oxidant activity through exogenous supplementation of natural anti-oxidants or phytochemicals. Thus our study suggested AOA of polyphenols as also a possible mechanism of action in managing type-2 diabetes (Jayaprakasam et al., 2005). The present study is the first comprehensive report on correlations of TPC, AOA with  $\Delta$ AUC. There was a strong and positive correlation between the parameters supporting their mechanism of action.

Our findings are further supported by previous reports which states that many new bioactive compounds, especially polyphenols isolated from plants found to exhibit hypoglycemic effects against type-2 diabetes equal to or better than known oral hypoglycemic agents such as daonil, tolbutamide and chlorpropamide (Allison et al., 1995). These anti-diabetic drugs adversely affect the ability of  $\beta$ -cells to secrete insulin and cause weight gain (Pfeiffer, 2003). Hence, there is a role for dietary constituents that can regulate blood glucose levels or induce insulin production by pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells. The polyphenolics are also well known as potential free radical scavengers as reported in previous findings and states that the serum antioxidant capacity was increased by the consumption of strawberries, cherries, and red wine (Tsuda et al., 2003). Our study did not focus on the triglycerides and cholesterol levels as there was no significant change in the body weight of rats. From our findings we report that consumption of fruits and vegetables high in phenolic content decreases blood glucose levels through insulin like activity and oxidize free radicals rise during type-2 diabetes. Since mammals lack the ability to generate phenolic compounds (except oestrogens), this deficiency may be substituted for, in part, by the consumption of fruits and vegetables (Spitler, 2000). Further the present study provides additional motivation among population for the proper consumption of fruits and vegetables in minimizing the incidence of type-2 diabetes. As this study did not include the effect of plasma anti-oxidants levels, further investigations can be done to elucidate their function in augmentation of endogenous anti-oxidants levels in maintaining type-2 diabetes.

In conclusion during this study, fruits such as tangerine, plum, grape, pear and vegetables such as blue leaf mustard, cabbage, chicory, broccoli, kale, red cabbage, celery, onion, Korean leek and radish sprouts effectively reduced  $\Delta$ BGL with significant  $\Delta$ AUC in hyperglycemic rats. Some of these

hypoglycemic crops showed higher TPC and efficient AOA, thus acting as anti-oxidants through structure-activity relationship. There was a better correlation among TPC, AOA and  $\Delta$ AUC of fruits and TPC & AOA of vegetables. Thus, it was proposed that the phenolics decreased the  $\Delta$ BGL with significant  $\Delta$ AUC. In addition, the  $\Delta$ BGL of the rats were lower than that of the rats in control group, exhibiting insulin like activity. Therefore, exogenous supplementation of anti-oxidants induces the improvement of blood glucose curve bringing hyperglycemia in rats to normal and preventing type-2 diabetes.

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## 고혈압쥐의 과일과 야채의 섭취에 따른 저혈당 효과

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**초 록.** 고혈당 쥐에(Sprague-Dawley rat) 각종 야채와 과일을 섭취(1g/kg body weight) 한 후 oral glucose tolerance test(OGTT)을 실시하였다. 0분, 5분, 15분, 30분, 60분, 90분, 120분 후에 blood glucose levels( $\Delta$ BGLs)을 측정하였다. Under glucose curve( $\Delta$ AUCs)은 OGGT의 120분 후 계산하였으며 과일과 야채의 Total phenolic content(TPC)과 anti-oxidant activity(AOA)는 Folin Ciocalteu and DPPH(2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl)을 통하여 측정하였다. 실험의 마지막은 Pearson's correlations을 사용하여 TPC, AOA and  $\Delta$ AUC 간의 상관관계를 분석하였으며 모든 통계수치는 unpaired Student's t-test를 실시하였다. 과일중에서는 탠저린, 자두, 배가 저혈당 효과를 보였으며 야채중에서는 푸른잎 머스타드와 양배추, 치커리, 브로콜리가 감소된  $\Delta$ BGLs와 유의한  $\Delta$ AUC수치를 보여서 저혈당 효과에 효과적이었다. 효과적인  $\Delta$ AUC의 범위는 5548.2  $\pm$  462.1에서부터 3823.3  $\pm$  282.0mg·min/dL이며, TPC와 AOA의 범위는 0.063  $\pm$  0.00에서부터 0.913  $\pm$  0.14mg/g GAE, 01.05  $\pm$  0.08에서부터 75.46  $\pm$  0.06%이다. 전체적으로 과일의 50%와 야채의 60-65%가 높은 TPC와 효과적인 AOA의 수치를 나타내었다. 우리는 이번 연구를 통하여 저혈당 효과가 있어 제2형 당뇨병을 예방할 수 있는 과일과 채소류를 선별할 수 있었다.

**추가 주요어 :** 항산화 활성, 과일/채소, 저혈당활성, 인슐린 효과, 제2형 당뇨