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Evaluation of the Efficacy of Ubisol-Q10 Treatment in a Transgenic Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease

Annie S. Kanwar

University of Windsor, kanwara@uwindsor.ca

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WHAT IS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?

Most common neurodegenerative disorder worldwide, affecting 46.8 million individuals.

https://cdn.evbuc.com/eventlogos/40265082/old.jpg
WHAT IS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?

- Most common form of dementia
- Characterized by the deterioration of neuronal synapses and widespread neuronal death in the brain
- This produces enlarged brain ventricles and cortical shrinkage

http://www.synsys.eu/general-public
WHAT IS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?

- Two hallmarks of the disease:
  1. Amyloid-β Peptide (Aβ) Plaques
  2. Neurofibrillary Tangles containing Tau Protein

  - Tau proteins, found abundantly in the CNS, stabilize axonal microtubules
  - Tangles are thought to be due to imbalance between Aβ production and clearance

https://www.alzheimer-forschung.de/alzheimer-krankheit/illustrationen_plaquesfibrillen.htm
http://healthland.time.com/2012/02/03/is-alzheimers-caused-by-contagious-proteins/
WHO ARE NEURONS & BRAIN REGIONS ARE INVOLVED?

1. Basal forebrain constellation of cholinergic neurons including basal nucleus of Meynert
2. Dorsolateral pontine tegmental constellation of cholinergic neurons

- Neocortex
- Corpus callosum
- Thalamus
- Basal ganglia
- Cingulate gyrus
- Amygdala
- Hypothalamus
- Hippocampus
- Pons
- Medulla
- Cerebellum

https://psychiatricdrugs.com/neurology/acetylcholine/
https://neuroamer.wordpress.com/page/2/
AD SYMPTOMS

- Difficulty with simple tasks
- Language problems
- Disorientation
- Memory loss
- Lost objects
- Emotional changes
- Difficulty with elaborate thoughts
- Loss of reasoning capacity
- Loss of initiative
- Behavioural changes

http://www.doc-advice.com/alzheimers-disease/
CURRENT TREATMENTS

- No cure
- Symptomatic relief only

Drug treatments include:
- Cholinesterase inhibitors – ReminylER, Exelon, Aricept
- NMDA receptor antagonists – Ebixa (Memantine Hydrochloride)

Non-pharmaceutical treatments:
- Music therapy
- Pet therapy
- Aromatherapy & massage
- Natural health products

http://www.superama.com.mx
http://www.lundbeck.com/pt/produtos/neurologia/ebixa
http://www.founduseful.com/natural-health-products-online-and-over-the-phone/
http://www.indexmundi.com/canada/age_structure.html
PERHAPS OXIDATIVE STRESS?

Oxidative stress as a possible mechanism for neurodegeneration⁶

What is oxidative stress?

- Some of the O₂ we breathe reacts to form free radicals → destabilize essential cell components
- Damage known as oxidative stress
- Young, healthy → strong compensatory/defense mechanisms to prevent oxidative damage
- Ageing weakens defenses such that ROS accumulate → apoptosis can be triggered⁷

http://www.kappit.com/tag/hydrogen-jokes/
WHAT IS CoQ10?

- CoQ10, part of the ETC, sequesters electrons and stabilizes the mitochondria. This reduces the oxidative damage taking place. CoQ10 levels decline with age. 

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/488951734528172000/
ARE ANTIOXIDANTS THE ANSWER?

- Antioxidants have been tested in the past

- **Oil-soluble formulation** of Coenzyme-Q10 was assessed – showed neuroprotection but LOW bioavailability

- Very high effective doses: 400-1600 mg/kg/day

- For 70kg human → 112g/day

http://www.drblayney.com/Medical/
Our NRC collaborators synthesized a water-soluble formulation of CoQ10, known as Ubisol-Q10 which is much more bioavailable.
PREVIOUS WORK – PARKINSON’S DISEASE

Environmental Toxin PD Rat Model – therapeutic$^{10}$

![Graph showing the percentage of TH+ neurons in different groups.](image)
Senescence: In response to stressors and damage, cells can adopt a permanent state of cell-cycle arrest.

PREVIOUS WORK – ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE\textsuperscript{12}
**PREVIOUS WORK – ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE**

- **Autophagy**: a cellular stress response in which there is sequestration and breakdown of harmful or dysfunctional cellular components
  - Engulf damaged proteins/ organelles into autophagosome
  - Autophagosome fuses with lysosome → autolysosome
  - Degradation of cellular proteins
- **RT²PCR Array analysis showing genes related to autophagy**
SO WHAT NOW?

Can the Ubisol-Q10 formulation provide neuroprotection in an *in vivo* animal model?

TRANSGENIC MOUSE MODEL OF AD

- Transgenic mice, predisposed to develop early-onset AD, were obtained.
- Mice had two **mutant** human genes inserted:
  - Human amyloid-precursor protein (APP)
  - Human presenilin-1 (PS-1)

![Diagram showing the process of PS-1 (γ-secretase complex) converting APP to Aβ.](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v425/n6958/fig_tab/425565a_F1.html)
Obtained transgenic mice, predisposed to early-onset AD

Established control & experimental groups

Monitored mice for 14 months

Obtained blood samples & sacrificed mice to extract brains

Performed biochemical analyses & immunohistochemistry

Control – regular drinking water
Experimental – Ubisol-Q10 supplemented water

EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

• ELISA
• RT²PCR

Controlled studies

http://www.pd4pic.com/test/
IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY – DECREASED AMYLOID-B PLAQUES IN BRAIN TISSUE

Control (Untreated)  Ubisol-Q<sub>10</sub> Treatment  WT

Amyloid 50x Mag

Congo Red 50x Mag
ELISA – DECREASED AMYLOID-B LEVEL IN SERUM

Serum levels of human amyloid-β (1-40)

Human amyloid-β (1-40) in pg/ml

Control

Treated

Wild type

RT²PCR analyses still underway
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Understand if autophagy can be restored in the *in vivo* model through RT²PCR analysis
- Extend to other genetic models of AD → PS-2, APP¹⁰
- Ultimately hope to develop Ubisol-Q10 as a treatment for those struggling with Alzheimer’s disease
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REFERENCES


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