
PROTECTIVE EFFECTS OF SCHIFF BASE CYCLIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES AGAINST MYCOTOXINS GENO- AND CYTOTOXICITY

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The objective of this study was to investigate the protective effects of Schiff base cyclic amino acid derivatives picolinyl-L-phenylalanine (PLP), picolinyl-L-tryptophan (PLT) and nicotinyl-L-tryptophan (NLT) against genotoxicity and cytotoxicity of mycotoxins aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) and ochratoxin A (OTA) in rat blood and bone marrow using comet assay and trypan blue exclusion test *in vivo*. Additionally molecular-cytogenetic effects of AFB1 on copy number variants (CNVs) was studied *in vitro* in human leukocytes. Oral administration of AFB1 and OTA at concentration of 25 µg/kg/day over 21 days leads to increased levels of DNA damage but does not show the cytotoxic effect. PLP, NLT and PLT (5 and 10 mg/kg/day, 10 days of administration) demonstrated weak genotoxic activity, with exception for PLT which was non-genotoxic at concentration 5 mg/kg/day. PLP, PLT and NLT had no impact on cell viability. AFB1-induced DNA damage was reduced by 50% after treatment with PLT (10 mg/kg/day). OTA-induced DNA damage was reduced by 34% after treatment with NLT (5 mg/kg/day). It was revealed that genotoxic and protective activities of substances investigated are tissue-dependent. Thus, the PLT demonstrated the lowest genotoxicity and highest protective activity and requires further surveys. Additionally the influence of AFB1 on CNVs was studied *in vitro* in human leukocytes using parental origin determination fluorescence *in situ* hybridization. The obtained results indicate that AFB1 can induce CNVs instability in 8p21.2 and 15q11.2 regions which was a consequence of deletions. This first study on influence of AFB1 on CNVs requires further systematic trials in future.