



ROLE OF CATALASE IN DIABETIC RETINOPATHY OF TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS

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Abstract: Catalase is the most significant antioxidant enzymes and act as a main regulator of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) mechanism against oxidative stress. It helps in maintaining essential biomolecules from getting damaged by oxidative stress. Catalase takes part in several biological mechanisms such as apoptosis, inflammation, tumour mutagenesis as well as endocrine system. Imbalance level of catalase enzyme, promoter polymorphism and deregulation of catalase (CAT) gene expression level is linked with diseases including diabetic retinopathy (DR) in type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). This article discusses the role of altered level of CAT gene regulation, polymorphism in promoter region and its enzyme activity is associated with DR in T2DM development.

Keywords: Catalase, Oxidative stress, Type 2 diabetes, Diabetic retinopathy, Promoter polymorphism

1. Introduction

Catalase enzyme is heme-containing and found in all aerobic tissues in human. In bacteria and humans, it has been detected in various organs [1]. Catalase is essential antioxidant enzyme which naturally reduces oxidative stress by destroying hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), produces water (H₂O) and oxygen (O₂) [2]. There are no antioxidant enzymes with a higher turnover rate than catalase; as a molecule of this enzyme is capable of decomposing more than 1 million of H₂O₂ in a second [3]. An optimal pH range for catalases ranges from 5-10. 3-Amino-1, 2, 4-Triazole inhibits these glycoproteins, which do not respond well to organic solvents [4].

In the past and still today, H₂O₂ has been considered toxic for many types of organisms [5]. The human catalase enzyme (EC.1.11.16) playing a role in controlling H₂O₂ metabolism [1]. In addition to intracellular H₂O₂ levels, catalase appears to regulate extracellular H₂O₂ levels as well in red cells and may act as a protective mechanism against oxidative stress in other tissues [6]. Oxidative stress is caused when a balance is not maintained between generating and quenching reactive substance (free radicals such as RCS, ROS, RSS, RNS) [7]. As a result, important biomolecules lose functionality and become inflexible, which are two interdependent processes involves in the many pathological condition which cause numerous diseases. Catalase like most common antioxidant enzymes are helps in protecting such biomolecules (DNA, lipids, proteins and cellular components) from oxidative damage [8].

Several studies shows catalase activity was found to be higher in liver and kidney, lower in heart and brain while intermediate in lung and pancreases tissues [9, 10]. It is always the rate at which H₂O₂ is dissociated that determines the catalase activity [9]. Catalase is implicated in biological mechanisms in inflammation, apoptosis, stimulation of variety of tumors, mutagenesis as an influencing factor [11]. Different tissues are damaged by oxidants in different ways; catalase plays a role in antioxidant defence [12]. Moreover, functional polymorphism (SNPs) in the catalase promoter gene is associated with the development and progression of many disease including hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and its complications, Alzheimer's disease, anaemia, cancer and Parkinson's disease. This review discusses about the role of catalase enzyme in the oxidative stress which cause

diabetes. Moreover, this article also highlight about role of PPAR γ in the catalase (CAT) gene regulation, its promoter polymorphism and altered level of enzyme is responsible for the generation of disease like T2DM and diabetic retinopathy (DR).

2. Structure

Numerous biochemical and molecular biology studies have focused on heme catalases because of its ubiquity and the availability of H₂O₂ and alkyl peroxides (substrates) [13]. With the aid of crystallography, several heme-containing monofunctional catalases have been solved, including those from bovine liver catalase (BLC) and animal erythrocytes (HEC), revealing that the core of this entire enzyme is highly conserved [14]. A number of crystal-growth experiments have utilized catalases due to their large molecular size. Human erythrocyte catalase (HEC) crystal structure has been determined. Three types of crystals were formed based on its purification and crystallization: hexagonal, tetragonal and orthorhombic [15]. Human catalase [EC.1.11.1.6] contains tetramers with subunits of about 60 kDa; there are 527 amino acid residues in each subunit and one heme group with Fe³⁺ [16]. Alanine (7.34%) is highly present in catalase than other amino acids and was found to play an influencing role in catalase composition [17]. In comparison with most other enzymes, tetrameric catalases are much more resistant to pH and thermal denaturation due to their rigid and stable structure [18]. Due to oxidative stress the function and structure of catalase enzyme gets deteriorate over a time in tissue and organ which cause diabetes.

3. Role of PPAR γ in CAT gene expression regulation

The CAT gene expression regulated at three levels: transcription, post-transcription and post translation level. Catalase enzyme production is controlled by gene expression [19]. CAT gene expression controlled by binding between peroxisome proliferator activated receptor γ (PPAR γ) act as a ligand-activated transcription factor and PPRE (distal PPAR γ response element) in the promoter region [20, 21]. Study shown by Girnun et al. in human CAT promoter, PPAR γ ligand with ciglitazone, pioglitazone, rosiglitazone increase mRNA level while in rat promoter this process mediated by PPRE [22]. PPAR γ regulates CAT gene expression in endothelial cells. In oxidative stress condition, endothelial cells produce more H₂O₂ and O₂ which enhance more generation of OH [23]. As a result endothelial dysfunction occur which further disturb the regulation of CAT gene expression level.

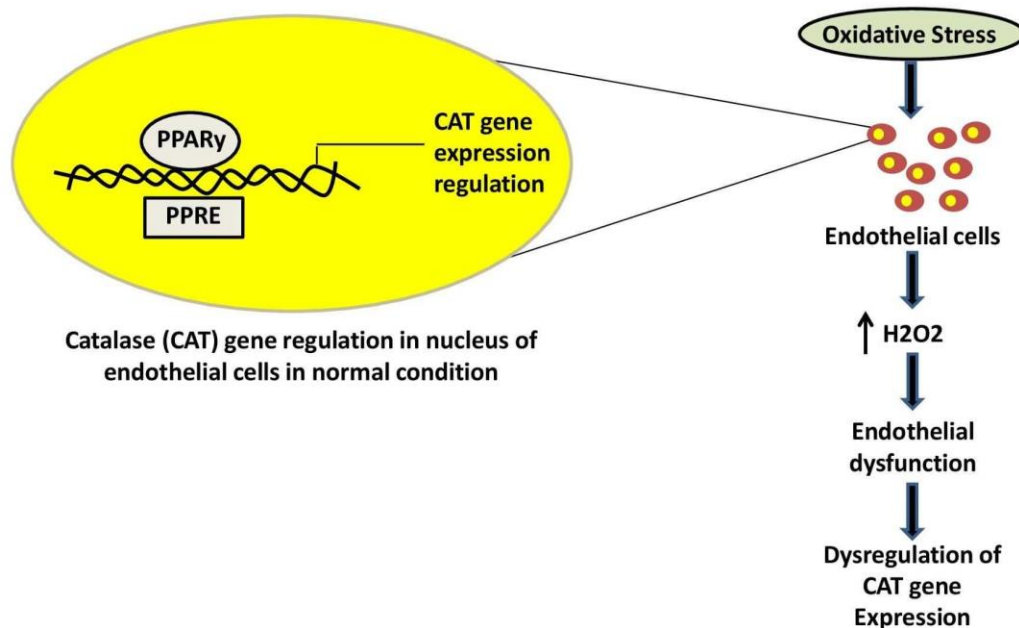


Figure 1: Oxidative stress makes endothelia cells dysfunctional and alters CAT gene expression.

4. Type 2 diabetes mellitus and complications

When glucose levels in blood are high, insulin is released and produced by β -cells of Langerhans islets. In T2DM people, β -cells are not able to produce sufficient insulin to maintain high glucose level (hyperglycemia) in blood and leads to β -cells dysfunction [23]. Progression of T2DM may be linked to a lack of proper regulation by catalase, an

antioxidant enzyme in the cells. Hence, the cells are likely to suffer oxidative damage because of this these prominent enzyme. In case of catalase deficiency, β -cells of pancreas undergo oxidative stress and produce more reactive oxygen species (ROS) that ultimate dysfunction β -cell and leads to T2DM [24]. In diabetes, especially those with poor glycemic control, reactive oxygen species are produced more frequently [25].

A significant part of diabetes related morbidity and mortality is attributable to the vascular complications. Alteration in production and elimination of H_2O_2 leads to development and progression of vascular complication in type2 diabetes [26]. A pivotal role in diabetic complications may be played by signalling pathways triggered by hyperglycemia, which produces ROS, leads to oxidative stress and cause cellular death [27]. Moreover, chronic life style and metabolic abnormality in T2DM patients also responsible for the development of various vascular complications. Microvascular conditions include neuropathy retinopathy and nephropathy while macrovascular conditions include ischemic heart disease and stroke, cerebrovascular complications. Both microvascular and macrovascular complications affects almost every part of an individual.

Moreover, Hyperglycemia is main important hallmark for microvascular disease [28]. Among all the microvascular conditions DR is the most common cause has been reported in many studies according to their prevalence in different ethnic groups. World-wide, DR remains the most common cause of blindness among working-age adults [29]. T2DM duration and severity of hyperglycemia linked with risk for the development of DR [30]. A complex mechanism governs the progression of DR. The process begins when hyperglycemia induces ischemia, some vasoactive chemicals like vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which forms new blood vessels from the retina surface, and grows along with vitreous chamber on posterior wall. Newly formed blood vessels are fragile and are immature by nature, so they are susceptible to rupture. This leads to vitreous haemorrhages when blood and fluid leak out easily [31]. Vitreous detachments can occur as a consequence of a constricting vitreous, resulting in vision loss. Angiogenesis occurs during early stages of DR known as proliferative diabetic retinopathy and another subtype in the advance stage is non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy. DR strongly associated with connection between fluctuation in levels of antioxidant enzyme and poor glycemic control. Cell loses their function and integrity due to the attack of free radicals on cells leads to oxidative damage. Because of high amount of free radicals in cells, low level of antioxidant enzymes leads to cellular oxidation [32].

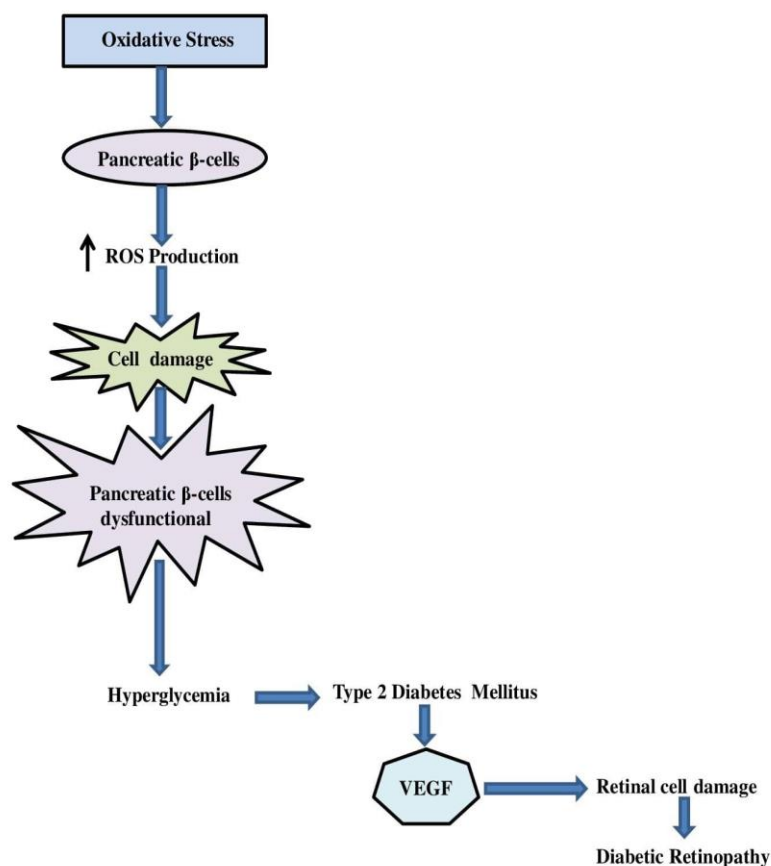


Figure 2: Excess reactive oxygen species leads to β -cells dysfunction in pancreas, and it further contributes in the development of diabetic retinopathy.

5. CAT gene and polymorphisms

In 1986, Quan et al. isolated and characterized the CAT gene from humans [33]. Human catalase (CAT, Gene ID: 847) resides on chromosome 13 at position 11 with 13 exons and 12 introns [34]. A more precise location of the CAT gene is between 34,460,471bp and 34,493,606bp on chromosome 11 [35]. Various SNPs have been identified in exons, introns, promoters, 5' and 3' untranslated regions. Several initiation points of transcription were shown for the gene, including three GC-like boxes and three CCAAT boxes, but the gene lacks an initiator consensus sequence and a TATA box in the promoter region, causing multiple transcription start points [34].

Promoter region playing a major role in the regulation of gene expression. Presence of polymorphism in the promoter region modifies binding sites of transcription factors (TFs) which alters the gene expression level. Affecting the gene expression level by functional promoter polymorphisms associated with diseases. Humans possess the most genetic polymorphism in the form of SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms) and they can affect gene function if they are located within or near a gene [36]. Polymorphisms (SNPs) in the promoter region of CAT gene are: -542 -/T (rs148068536), -533G/A (rs17883920), -330C/T (rs1001179), -254C/T (rs57470823), -21A/T or -89A/T (rs7943316), -20C/T (rs1049982) [37]. One of the most common polymorphisms, -21A/T (rs rs7943316) SNP located near a transcription start site (TSS). Study shows -21A/T is associated with DR in many ethnic groups. 21A/T polymorphism located in sensitive position and hence may alter the binding site of TFs. Misregulation of TFs deregulates the regulatory region where polymorphism resides. This ultimately disturbs to the mRNA and protein level in the disease condition.

6. Enzyme level in DR of T2DM

Numerous studies showed the link between benign polymorphisms of CAT gene in diabetic patients [38, 39] and low catalase activity leads to high H₂O₂ concentration in tissues and blood [40]. H₂O₂ at high concentration harm pancreatic β -cells (oxidative sensitive) resulting in low insulin production [41]. However it's still not clear the effect of H₂O₂ on insulin production or pancreatic function. There is a connection between high blood sugar and low antioxidant enzymes in T2DM condition. There are few papers available shows association between benign catalase polymorphism and low catalase activity. Decreased level of the catalase activity in DR of T2DM may be a result of an elevated enzymatic glycation due to high glucose level [42].

7. Conclusion

The pathogenesis of DR and T2DM is complicated because many factors are involved but studies from several laboratories have shown that catalase act as potential pathogen. Study shows eating food items that are high in antioxidants can reduce the risk T2DM and DR. A more in-depth examination of the activity and functional analysis of enzymes is warranted considering the importance of catalases. Using genetic data to make early diagnoses and develop new treatments may be possible.

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