



Proceeding Paper

The Hippocampal and Cortical Neuroprotective Effect of Silicon Reducing Proinflammatory Cytokines in a Late-Stage Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Rat Model [†]

Rocío Redondo-Castillejo ^{1,2,*} , Marina Hernández-Martín ^{1,2}, Adrián Macho-González ³ , Aránzazu Bocanegra ¹ , María Elvira López-Oliva ², Sara Bastida ³, Juana Benedí ¹, María José González-Muñoz ⁴, Francisco J. Sánchez-Muniz ³ and Alba Garcimartín ¹

¹ Department of Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy and Botany, Faculty of Pharmacy, Complutense University of Madrid, 28040 Madrid, Spain; marinh04@ucm.es (M.H.-M.); aramboca@ucm.es (A.B.); jbenedi@ucm.es (J.B.); a.garcimartin@ucm.es (A.G.)

² Departmental Section of Physiology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Complutense University of Madrid, 28040 Madrid, Spain; elopez@ucm.es

³ Department of Nutrition and Food Science (Nutrition), Faculty of Pharmacy, Complutense University of Madrid, 28040 Madrid, Spain; amacho@ucm.es (A.M.-G.); sbastida@ucm.es (S.B.); frasan@ucm.es (F.J.S.-M.)

⁴ Toxicology Teaching Unit, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Alcalá, 28801 Madrid, Spain; mariajose.gonzalez@uah.es

* Correspondence: roredond@ucm.es

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Abstract: There is a close correlation between type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and cognitive impairment leading to dementia. Lately, the incidence of T2DM-related dementia has increased with population aging. Factors such as oxidative stress and inflammatory responses may contribute to brain dysfunction in diabetes. The major inflammatory response found in diabetic rat brains occurs through the activation of nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-κB), and consequently, the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines. Silicon is a micronutrient with antidiabetic, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties; however, its effects on the inflammatory responses in the brain of T2DM rats are unclear. This study aimed to evaluate the anti-inflammatory effect of silicon in the cerebral cortex and hippocampus of late-stage T2DM rats. A late-stage diabetic model was established by injection of a low-dose streptozotocin plus nicotinamide combined with following the experimental diets. Sixteen rats were divided into two groups. The diabetic group (D) was fed a saturated-fat hypercholesterolemic diet containing a control restructured meat matrix (RM). In the treatment group, silicon was included into RM as a functional ingredient (D-Si). The NF-κB, interleukin-6 (IL-6), and tumor necrosis factor-α (TNF-α) levels were measured by immunohistochemistry in the cortex and hippocampus. Silicon down-regulated NF-κB activation, showing lower pNF-κB-labeled cells and lower immunoreactivity in both the cortex and hippocampus ($p < 0.05$). TNF-α levels decreased in both brain areas of D-Si rats ($p < 0.05$); whereas IL-6 levels were only decreased in cortex ($p < 0.05$). These results showed that silicon decreased the NF-κB pro-inflammatory pathway in cortex and hippocampus of late-stage T2DM rats. However, a further comprehension of underlying mechanisms would be interesting. It can be concluded that silicon administration as a functional ingredient may offer a novel nutritional strategy in the neuroprotection of T2DM-associated cognitive impairment.

Keywords: silicon; type 2 diabetes mellitus; neuroprotection; inflammation; functional food

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