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Effect of 7-Hydroxy-2-(4- Hydroxy -3-Methoxyphenyl)-Chroman-4-one On Level of Mangan-Superoxide Dismutase (Mn-Sod) and *Superoxide Dismutase 2* (*Sod2*) Gene Expression in Hyperlipidemia Rats

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Info Article	ABSTRACT
Info Article Submitted: 22-05-2019 Revised: 16-07-2019 Accepted: 21-08-2019 *Corresponding author Prasetyastuti Email: prasetyastuti.djati@gmail.com	ABSTRACT Hyperlipidemia is a lipid metabolism disorder characterized by an increase in serum lipid levels. Hyperlipidemia is a major risk factor for many metabolic syndrome diseases because it triggers oxidative stress. Oxidative stress can be reduced by endogenous antioxidant enzymes triggered by exogenous antioxidant compounds, such as 7-OH-2- (4-OH-3- methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one isolated from the seeds of <i>Swietenia</i> <i>macrophylla</i> King. The aims of this study were to investigate the effects of 7- OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one compounds on cholesterol level, LDL level, Mn-SOD levels and <i>SOD2</i> gene expression of hyperlipidemic rats. Thirty rats (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>) were divided into 6 groups, normal group (N), hyperlipidemia group (HL), hyperlipidemia group with simvastatin (P), hyperlipidemic group with 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3- methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one with dose 10 (F10), 30 (F30) and 90 (F90) mg/200g body weight (BW). Cholesterol and LDL were analyzed with CHOD- PAP method, Mn-SOD level was analyzed by ELISA method and <i>SOD2</i> gene expression was analyzed by qPCR method. The decrease in cholesterol and LDL levels were most prevalent in group F90 with dose 90mg/200g BW of 7- OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one, with average difference each of them was 172.43mg/dL and 36.12mg/dL. The rats fed on high- cholesterol diet exhibited a significant elevation in Mn-SOD levels (p<0.05) compared to normal group. The treated animals with 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3- methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one has the level of Mn-SOD is significantly lower (p<0.05) compared with hyperlipidemic group. Expression of <i>SOD2</i> in group F90 has value close to normal group (p>0.05). 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3- methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one with dose of 90mg/200g BW improved cholesterol levels, LDL levels, Mn-SOD levels and <i>SOD2</i> gene expression in
	hyperlipidemic rats. Keywords: Hyperlipidemia, flavonoids, Mn-SOD, <i>SOD2</i> gene.

INTRODUCTION

Hyperlipidemia is a lipid metabolism disorder characterized by abnormally elevated levels of cholesterol (hypercholesterolemia), elevated levels of triglyceride (hypertriglyceridemia) or a combination of both in the blood. Hyperlipidemia can be a risk factor for various degenerative diseases and metabolic syndrome, such as atherosclerosis, cardiovascular disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes mellitus (Kobayashi *et* *al.*, 2010; Feng *et al.*, 2011; Li *et al.*, 2013; WHO, 2015). Hyperlipidemia is associated with free radical formation (Ismail *et al.*, 2010; Sumardika and Jawi, 2012). The formation of free radicals in hyperlipidemic patients occurs through several mechanisms, including through increased NADH/NADPH oxidase. it leads the formation of more superoxide anion radicals that cause oxidative stress (Ismail *et al.*, 2010; Sumardika and Jawi, 2012; Farris *et al.*, 2005). In addition,

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oxidative stress in hyperlipidemic patients can also occur due to uncoupling mitochondrial. It also causes increased production of free radicals (Farris et al., 2005). The compensation mechanism to suppress the rate of oxidative stress is with antioxidants systems. The body has compensation mechanism to the rate of oxidative stress by synthesizing enzymes that act as antioxidants, one of them superoxide dismutase (SOD). In normal condition, the body will balance the formation of free radicals with endogenous antioxidant systems. However, continuous radical formation makes the body unable to inhibits the rate of oxidative stress, thus causing pathological conditions. Therefore, it is necessary to add certain compounds that can help increase endogenous antioxidant activity, such as flavonoid compounds (Manach et al., 2004).

Flavonoids are known to improve hyperlipidemia condition and to increase liver enzyme levels (Prasetyastuti, 2018). Compound 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one was flavanone (one of flavonoid) compound from mahogany seed isolated by Mursiti et al (2015). One study found that naringenin, a flavanone in diabetic rat model improved hyperglycemia and hyperinsulinemia condition significantly bv restoring lipid level, increasing antioxidant activities, and improving liver function markers (Prasetyastuti, 2018). Based on this background, the aim of this study was to investigate the effects of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4one compounds on cholesterol level, LDL level, Mn-SOD levels and SOD2 gene expression of hyperlipidemic rats.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Hyperlipidemia testing was designed by pretest-posttest with control group design and both Mn-SOD level and SOD2 gene expression were designed by post-test only with control group design. Thirty male Wistar rats weighing between 150 and 200g, 10 weeks old, were used in this study. The location of the research was conducted in two laboratories, Biochemistry Laboratory Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing Universitas Gadjah Mada and Laboratory of Food and Nutrition Universitas Gadjah Mada. The experiments were carried out according to the guidelines for the use of animals and approved by Ethical Committee of Research in Medical Health, Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing Universitas Gadjah Mada (No.KE/FK/08/8/EC/2017).

Animal treatments

Six experimental rat groups were established with 5 rats per group. The groups were as follows: group N (normal control group), group HL (hyperlipidemia control group), group P (hyperlipidemia with simvastatin), group F10 (hyperlipidemia with 10mg/200g BW of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl) chroman-4-one), group F30 (hyperlipidemia with 30mg/200g BW of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one) and group F90 (hyperlipidemia with 90mg/200g BW of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one). They were fed with standard AIN 93M for 5 days for adaptation. Induction of hyperlipidemia was done by feeding the animals with laboratory feed enriched with 10g/kg cholesterol and 2g/kg cholic acid for a week. Fasting blood samples were collected to characterization baseline levels of cholesterol and LDL. Group N and group HL were orally administered by infusion with the same volume of water, while the other groups were treated with flavonoid once daily for 4 weeks. At the end of the experiment, all rats were sacrificed, and liver tissues were collected and stored at -80°C for the gene expression study.

Total cholesterol and LDL analysis

Serum was separated by centrifugation at 4000rpm for 15min. Total cholesterol and lowdensity lipoprotein (LDL)-cholesterol concentrations were measured with enzymatic CHOD-PAP methods by using Cholesterol FS Diagnostic System Kit (German).

Levels of Mn-SOD analysis with Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)

Levels of Mn- SOD were detected in rat liver samples by sandwich ELISA using a ready kit Fine-Test Kit (Wuhan Fine Biotech Co., Ltd, China) according to the instructions of the manufacturer.

Quantitative PCR (qPCR) analysis of *SOD2* gene expression

Total mRNA was extracted from rat liver with Tri-RNA kits (Favorgen, Biotech Corp, Taiwan) and used to determine the expression level of *SOD2* gene. Total RNA was converted to cDNA High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kits Protocol (Applied Biosystems, USA). Quantitative PCR was performed with SoFast Evagreen Supermix (BioRad, USA) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. The primer sets used are *SOD2* forward-5'-CCCTGACCTGCCTTACGACT-3' and primer *SOD2*

Group	Mean		
	Before	After	p ^a
Ν	80.79±7.32	83.69±6.99 ^{# b}	0.087
HL	261.35±25.19	263.45±24.29 [*] ^b	0.041
Р	311.62±29.36	106.99±3.38*#	< 0.001
F10	303.87±10.15	167.87±9.70*	< 0.001
F30	274.78±33.34	135.90±7.89*#	< 0.001
F90	286.33±11.14	113.89±7.77*#	< 0.001

Table I. Mean of total serum cholesterol levels before and after administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4 b-one

Description: N: Normal, HL: Hyperlipidemia, P: HL+Simvastatin, F10, F30, F90: HL+ 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one 10, 30, 90 mg/200g BW respectively. Normality test with Saphiro Wilk; data were tested with Repeated measured ANOVA-test p <0.05, a: tested with paired sample t-test. Notation *: p <0.05 vs N; #: p <0.05 vs HL. b: p < 0.05 vs P

Table 2. Mean of LDL levels before and after administration of 7- hydroxy-2- (4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl) -chroman-4-one

Group -	Mean ± SD (mg/dL)		
	Before	After	p ^a
N	26.79±2.07	27.18±2.26 ^b	0.096
HL	75.06±4.47	76.24±5.02*b	0.028
Р	74.32±3.10	33.45±1.91 ^{*,#}	< 0.001
F10	70.49±3.39	61.46±2.11 ^{*,#b}	0.010
F30	69.13±4.09	43.20±2.03*,#	< 0.001
F90	73.33±2.52	37.21±1.68 ^{*,#}	< 0.001

Description: N: Normal, HL: Hyperlipidemia, P: HL+Simvastatin, F10, F30, F90: HL+ 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one 10, 30, 90 mg/200g BW respectively. Normality test with Saphiro Wilk; data were tested with Repeated measured ANOVA-test p<0.05, a: tested with paired sample t-test. Notation *: p <0.05 vs N; #: p <0.05 vs HL. b: p < 0.05 vs P

reverse 5'-AGCGACCTTGCTCCTTATTG-3' Beta actin was used as an internal standard, with primer beta actin forward 5'-ACGGTCAGGTCATCACTATCG-3' and beta actin reverse 5'-GGCATAGAGGTCTTTACG GATG-3'.ForPCRconditions, PCRreaction procedure was: 95°C for 5min, followed by 40 cycles of 95°C for 30s, and annealing temperature 62°C for 1min and extension 72°C for 30s. Relative expression levels were calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method (11) (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001). In the present study, beta actin was the housekeeping gene.

Statistical analysis

The data were represented by Mean ±SD. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA; P<0.05) was used to determine significant differences among the groups. The variances were homogeneous the individual comparisons were obtained by Tukey's HSD post hoc test. If not, the Games-Howell post hoc test was applied. Pretest and posttest analysis

for total cholesterol and LDL concentration used paired sample t test. Statistical significance was set at $P \le 0.05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Levels of total cholesterol in hyperlipidemia rats

The results showed that cholesterol-induced rats (HL group rats) had higher cholesterol levels compared with rats in the normal group (N group). The daily administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-onee for 4 weeks with doses of 10, 30 and 90mg/200g BW can significantly decrease cholesterol (p<0.05) (Table I).

Levels of LDL in hyperlipidemia rats

The levels of LDL increased after induced cholesterol fed in the HL group compared with the N group (p<0.05). The results showed a significant decreased after administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-

methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one at a dose of 10, 30 and 90 mg/200g BW in each group (Table II).

C. Levels of Mn-SOD proteins

The rats fed on high-cholesterol diet (HL group) exhibited a significant elevation in Mn-SOD levels compared with N group. After being induced, the administration of 7-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one for 4 weeks in hyperlipidemic rats liver showed a significant difference between hyperlipidemia group and F30, F90, and treatment group. However, there was no difference between the HL group and F10 group (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Level of Mn-SOD protein Group, Description: N: Normal, HL: Hyperlipidemia, P: HL+Simvastatin, F10, F30, F90: HL+ 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one 10, 30, 90 mg/200g BW respectively. Normality test with Saphiro Wilk; data were tested with ANOVA-test p <0.05. Notation *: p <0.05 vs N; #: p <0.05 vs HL.

Relative expression of SOD2 gene

The relative gene expression of SOD2 used beta actin for housekeeping gene (Figure 2). The results of the study based on statistics there was no significant difference between the groups. However, in F90 has relative expression value almost approaching with N group.

The results of cholesterol and LDL cholesterol levels showed a significant decrease in cholesterol levels of hyperlipidemia rats before and after administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one in all doses. However, the best decline occurred in group 6 rats, which were given 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one dose of 90 mg/200g BW. Based on the results of statistical analysis, a best dose is 90 mg/200g BW that have same effect with simvastatin 0.18 mg/200g BW to improve lipid level in blood.



Figure 2. Relative gene expression of SOD2 gene, Description: N: Normal, HL: Hyperlipidemia, P: HL+Simvastatin, F10, F30, F90: HL+ 7-OH-2- (4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one 10, 30, 90mg/200g BW respectively. Normality test with Saphiro Wilk; data were tested with ANOVA-test p >0.05.

The decreased levels of cholesterol and LDL by daily administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one compound was in accordance with some studies. Study of Gorinstein et al.(2007) showed that naringin and hesperidin, which are flavanone compound as 7-OH-2- (4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one, could decrease and preclude the plasma lipid. Jayachitra and Nalini (2011) also revealed that naringenin could hinder high plasma lipid and lipoprotein by alcohol induction. As with Prince and Kannan (2006) that the effects of flavonoid compounds Rutin can reduce cholesterol and LDL levels. The results of Feng et al. (2011) also showed that flavonoid content in Perilla Frutescens leaves can also lower cholesterol and LDL levels in the blood.

Decrease in cholesterol and LDL levels in the blood occurs through several mechanisms including what were stated by Jayachitra and Nalini (2011) that Flavonoid, such as naringenin could inhibit HMG-CoA reductase activity while HMG CoA is a rate limiting step of cholesterol biosynthesis. Choi et al. (2008) conducted that flavonoids can lower cholesterol levels by inhibition and decrease activity of Acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT), is an enzyme involved in cholesterol esterification and has a role cholesterol absorption in the intestinal. in Inhibition of HMG CoA reductase and ACAT reduce cellular hepatic cholesterol level. It induced expression and upregulated LDL Receptor for entered LDL-c as vehicle cholesterol in blood by activating SREBP-2 as transcription factor for LDLR (Duriez, 2003; Wilcox et al., 2001). This mechanisme like naringenin and hesperidine, effect of induced naringenin and hesperidine inhibited apoB secretion and upregulated expression of LDLR (Wilcox *et al.*, 2001). In addition, according to Koo and Noh (Koo and Noh, 2007) flavonoids also play a role in lowering LDL and cholesterol levels through inhibition of cholesterol absorption in the small intestine and can increase bile excretion (Gorinstein *et al.*, 2005).

The result of analysis levels Mn-SOD fproteins o hepatic tissue was highest in group 2 (hyperlipidemia group). Increased protein levels in the hyperlipidemia group compared to the normal group according to Akhgari *et al.* (2003) due to the activated mechanism of body compensation for oxidative stress caused by hyperlipidemia. High lipid level altered lipid properties in lipid raft, and activated NADPH oxidase to produce ROS. High Lipid also decrease antioxidant enzyme activity (Amiya, 2016). The ability of the body to compensate for the presence of free radicals is also influenced by several factors, such as the magnitude of oxidative stress and the dose of the stressor (Chen *et al.*, 2014).

After the administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3methoxyphenyl) -chroman-4-one for 4 weeks, in the group given 90 mg/200g BW (group 6) there was a significant decrease in Mn-SOD levels compared to the hyperlipidemia group (p<0,05), but the Mn-SOD levels in this group did not significantly different compared to the normal group and the simvastatin group (p>0.05). This is because flavonoid compounds can act as scavengers by directly donating their hydrogen atoms in order to reduce the reactivity of free radicals without passing through inducing antioxidant enzymes (Redha, 2010). The reduction of free radicals due to direct neutralization by the flavonoid compound causes a decrease in the rate of oxidative stress, so the synthesis of antioxidant enzymes will decrease (Chen et al., 2014)

The results of SOD2 gene expression analysis showed that there was no significant difference between the groups. The highest expression values were in the hyperlipidemic group. This shows that indeed in this study the body is still able to compensate by increasing the level of expression of SOD2 to respond to oxidative stress (Redha, 2010). The presence of oxidative stress signals will cause cell response that is by triggering transcription factor Nrf2 regardless of the Keap1 binding protein. The absence of Nrf2 from Keap1 causes Nrf2 transmigrated from the cytoplasm to the nucleus. Nrf2 in the nucleus will bind to the antioxidant element response (ARE) thus increasing the expression of the SOD2 gene (Khaerunnisa *et al.*, 2014; Vomhof-DeKrey and Picklo, 2012).

The analysis compared between the groups given the 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3-methoxyphenyl)chroman-4-one, the group with the dose of 90 mg/200g BW (group 6) had the lowest fold change value among the other groups, it was close to normal group values and simvastatin. The pattern was similar to its protein content. Decreased levels of gene expression that given 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one compared to hyperlipidemia group according to Feng et al. (2011) and supported by Martin et al. (2010) that flavonoid compounds in the main role as scavenger, they have the ability to eliminate directly some radicals, such as superoxide anion, hydroxyl radicals and peroxyl radicals and indirectly increase expression and activity of endogenous antioxidant for scavenger ROS (Zeka et al., 2017).

The result of Mn-SOD concentration in this study was the same as Khaerunnisa *et* al. studied (2014) using extract from reeds (*Imperata cylindrical*) in hypercholesterolemia rat. The result shows that the induction of hypercholesterol for 3 weeks increases the activity of SOD as a result of the compensation mechanism of the body, after the feeding of extract of reeds the SOD activity has decreased, due to the bioactive compounds in reeds extract play directly in neutralizing superoxide radicals (Vomhof-DeKrey and Picklo, 2012).

However, in the research of Liu and Lin (2011) used a quercetin to treat the animals. After animals were treated for 10 weeks, there was an increase in SOD levels in quercetin group compared with hyperlipidemic rats group. Miler *et al.*, (2016) conducted that naringenin increased expression both mRNA and protein of SOD2 by prooxidant activity of naringenin. Because naringenin can form flavonoid radical and stimulated secretion SOD2 enzyme.

CONCLUSION

Administration of 7-OH-2-(4-OH-3methoxyphenyl)-chroman-4-one at a effective dose of 30mg/200g BW can decrease cholesterol and LDL levels in serum hyperlipidemia and can also improve the levels of Mn-SOD in rats. But there was no significant effect on gene expression of SOD2 liver in hyperlipidemic rats.

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