

Induction of Contracture and extracellular Ca²⁺ influx in Cardiac Muscle by Sanguinarine: A Study on Cardiotoxicity of Sanguinarine

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Abstract

In this study, the toxic effect of sanguinarine (SANG) on heart was studied with isolated cardiac muscle strip isolated from Wistar rat. SANG induced positive inotropic action followed by contracture on the left ventricle and both atria strips. In addition, SANG dose-dependently inhibited spontaneous beat of the right atrium. SANG-induced contracture was completely suppressed by pretreatment with La³⁺ or in a Ca²⁺ free Tyrode solution containing 2.5 mM EGTA. Incubating isolated cardiomyocytes with SANG enhanced the ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ influx, which could be inhibited by pretreatment with La³⁺. However, the SANG-induced ⁴⁵Ca²⁺ influx could not be inhibited by pretreatment with other Ca²⁺ channel blockers, such as nifedipine, verapamil, diltiazem, nickel and manganese, and amiloride. Although antioxidants can inhibit the SANG-induced lipid peroxidation, they could not prevent the SANG-induced contracture. N-acetylcysteine and dithiothreitol, the sulfhydryl reducing agents, were shown to be effective in preventing the SANG-induced contracture. These data suggested that the SANG-induced contracture is caused by the influx of extracellular Ca²⁺ through a La³⁺-sensitive Ca²⁺ channel.