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A toxicoproteomic study on cardioprotective effects of pre-administration of docetaxel in a mouse model of adriamycin-induced cardiotoxicity

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Abstract

Studies s uggest t hat pr e-administration o f d ocetaxel (DOC) in a driamycin (ADR)-DOC combination anticancer therapy results in stronger antitumor effects and fewer ADR-induced cardiotoxic d eaths in m ouse model, yet no m echanism explaining t his effect h as b een established. The aim of this study was to identify cellular processes in mouse heart tis sue affected by different ADR/DOC dosing protocols using a toxicoproteomic approach. We applied f luorogenic-derivatization liq uid c hromatography ta ndem mass s pectrometry (FD-LC-MS/MS) - which consists of fluorogenic derivatization, separation and fluorescence detection by LC, and i dentification by LC-tandem m ass s pectrometry - to the proteomic analysis of h eart t issue from control, intermittent-dosing (DOC-ADR), and s imultaneous -dosing (ADR&DOC) groups. In DOC-ADR group, ADR was administered 12 h after DOC injection; in A DR&DOC g roup, bot h dr ugs w ere a dministered s imultaneously; in control group, saline was administered at the same timing as ADR injection of other groups. Heart samples were isolated from all mice 1 week after the treatment. The highly reproducible and sensitive method (FD-LC-MS/MS) identified nine proteins that were differentially expressed in heart tissue of control and the two treatment groups; seven of these nine proteins participate in cellular energy production pathways, including glycolysis, the tricarboxylic acid cycle, and the mit ochondrial electron t ransport c hain. Significantly higher e xpression of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) was observed in the DOC-ADR group, the group with the fewer cardiotoxic de aths, t han in the ADR&DOC group. Therefore, GAPDH may have potential as a drug target for protective intervention and a biomarker for

evaluation of the cardioprotective effects in pre-clinical studies.

Keywords: ad riamycin-induced c ardiotoxicity; docetaxel p re-administration; fluorogenic derivatization-liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry; toxicoproteomics

1. Introduction

Although adriamycin (ADR) is an anthracycline anticancer drug that has been widely applied in treating a range of cancers (e.g., lymphoma, leukemia, breast cancer, and ovarian cancer), severe c ardiotoxicity and he art failure have be en observed in ADR-treated cancer patients [1]. I n clinical trials for metastatic b reast cancer, an ADR and d ocetaxel (DOC) combination therapy is much more effective than the previous combination therapies (*i.e.*, ADR-cyclophosphamide and fluorouracil-ADR-cyclophosphamide) [2, 3]. However, severe toxicities including myelosuppression and cardiotoxicity limit the clinical use of ADR/DOC combination therapy in many patients with breast cancer [2-4].

Many attempts have been made to reduce the adverse effects induced by anticancer drugs, and on e s uch a pproach ha s be en c hronotherapy. Chronotherapy i s de fined a s t he administration o f me dications u sing biological rhythms to o ptimize therapeutic outcomes and/or control adverse effect. The chronopharmacology of many antitumor drugs have been studied in human and animals specifically to decrease adverse effects [5-16]. The individual toxicities of ADR and DOC apparently depend on dos ing time in animals and human [8-13]. Among the chronopharmacologic studies, To and colleagues reported that the DOC-pretreated group, in which ADR was administered 12 h a fter DOC injection, exhibited not only stronger inhibition of tumor growth but a lso a significant reduction in cardiotoxic d eaths compared with a ll th e o ther c o-administration groups and with the ADR-alone group in mic e [14]. This remarkable finding has been subsequently studied in detail using mouse models [15, 16], and the reduction in t oxic de ath was found to be DOC dose-dependent [16]; how ever, no

mechanism explaining the effect of DOC pre-administration has been established.

Proteomics is the la rge-scale s tudy of gene e xpression at the p rotein l evel and provides information on d ynamic c ellular performance. As an integration of proteomics, toxicology, and bioinformatics, toxicoproteomics mainly focuses on protein changes in cells or tissues with exposure to toxicants, including antitumor drugs [17, 18].

In proteomic studies, comparative expression profiling of proteins has usually been performed using two-dimensional electrophoresis (2-DE) because this has been the method of choice. However, the 2-DE method has some drawbacks with regard to the reproducibility Importantly, 2-DE often c annot r eproducibly resolve minute d ifferences i n of t he d ata. protein expression levels between samples from different treatment groups. In an effort to overcome the limitation of 2-DE. Imai and colleagues developed an easily reproducible and highly s ensitive proteomic a pproach, fluorogenic d erivatization-liquid c hromatography tandem m ass s pectrometry (FD-LC-MS/MS) method [19, 20]. This m ethod i nvolves fluorogenic derivatization of proteins, followed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) of the derivatized proteins, i solation of those proteins with differential expression between the treatment groups, enzymatic digestion of the isolated proteins, and identification of the isolated proteins utilizing LC-tandem MS with a database-searching algorithm. This method enables highly sensitive detection and high resolution of proteins at the femtomol level due to the fluorogenic derivatization which utilizes a non-fluorescent reagent to yield highly fluorescent products. The applicability of the method has been demonstrated in the analyses of extracts from Caenorhabditis elegans, mouse liver, breast cancer cell lines, mouse

brain, and thoroughbred hor se s keletal muscle, r evealing the proteins r elated to early s tage Parkinson's disease, hepatocarcinogenesis, metastatic breast cancer, aging, and training effects, respectively [21-26].

The a im o f th is study was to identify the cellular p rocesses a ffected b y t he pre-administration o f D OC in ADR/DOC combination therapies using a toxicoproteomic approach based on FD-LC-MS/MS. The present study reported the differential analysis of mouse h eart tis sues isolated f rom control, in termittent-dosing (DOC-ADR), a nd simultaneous-dosing (ADR&DOC) groups.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Preparation of dosing drugs

ADR, supplied by Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co., Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan), was dissolved in saline; the concentration was 2 mg/ml. DOC (Taxotere[®], Sanofi-aventis, Bridgewater, NJ, USA) was dissolved in ethanol; 5% glucose in water was added to obtain the ratio of ethanol and glucose solution (3:97, v/v) and the final concentration of DOC was 1.25 mg/ml

2.2 Animal treatment and tissue processing

Male ICR mice (5-weeks old) were purchased from Japan SLC (Nagasaki, Japan). Mice were housed 3-4 per cage under standardized light-dark cycle conditions (light on 7:00 to 19:00) at a room temperature of $24 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C with free access to food and water. Animal care and experimental procedures were performed in accordance with the Guide for the Care and

Use of Laboratory Animals (National Institute of Health) with approval from the Institutional Animal C are a nd U se C ommittee of Graduate S chool of B iomedical Sciences, N agasaki University. Mice were divided into the intermittent-dosing group (DOC-ADR), in which ADR w as a dministered 12 h a fter D OC i njection; the simultaneous-dosing g roup (ADR&DOC), in which both drugs were administered simultaneously; and the saline-treated group (control), in which saline was administered at the same timing as ADR injection of the other g roups. The an ticancer d rugs were intravenously a dministered o nce (20 m g/kg o f ADR and 12.5 mg/kg of DOC) (Fig. 1). The ADR dose had been shown to be cardiotoxic in mouse [27]. The DOC dose had been shown to provide the strongest cardioprotection in the intermittent-dosing mouse group [16]. Also, when dosing intervals (6, 12, 24 h) between DOC and ADR treatments were changed, 12-h interval group showed the lowest toxic death rate [16]. Heart samples were isolated from all mice 1 week after ADR was administered in the ADR&DOC and DOC-ADR groups. All heart s amples were immediately rinsed with phosphate buffer saline and frozen at -196°C. All heart samples were homogenated using the Frozen Cell Crasher (Microtec Co., Ltd., Chiba, Japan). At least four mice were used in each ex perimental group (i.e., c ontrol, D OC-ADR and ADR &DOC), and all data was subjected to statistical analysis.

2.3 Preparation of samples and determination of total proteins

Homogenated heart t issues (50 m g) w ere s uspended i n 250 µl o f 10 m M 3-[(3-cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio]propanesulfonate (CHAPS) solution (Dojindo

Laboratories, Kumamoto, Japan), and were centrifuged at 5000 g for 15 m in at 4 °C. T he supernatant was then collected and stored as a soluble fraction at -80°C until use. T he total protein content of the supernatant was determined with the Quick Start Bradford Protein assay kit (Bio-Rad Laboratory, Inc., Hercules, CA, USA) with bovine serum albumin as a standard protein by following the written in structions. After determination of total protein content, the supernatant was diluted with CHAPS solution to 2.4 m g total protein/ml and used as a starting protein sample.

2.4. FD-LC-MS/MS method

A 1 0-µl volume of s ample w as mix ed w ith 42.5 µl of a m ixture of 0.83 m M tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine h ydrochloride (Tokyo Chemical Industry, Tokyo, Japan), 3.33 mM e thylenediamine-N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic a cid (Dojindo L aboratories, Kumamoto, Japan), and 16.6 m M CHAPS i n 6 M g uanidine h ydrochloride buffer s olution (pH 8.7, T okyo Chemical Industry, Tokyo, Japan). T hen, this sample was subsequently mixed with 2.5 µl of 140 m M 7-chloro-N-[2-(dimethylamine)ethyl]-2,1,3-benzoxadiazole-4-sulfonamide (DAABD-Cl, T okyo Chemical I ndustry, T okyo, J apan), w hich i s t he f luorogenic derivatization r eagent, in a cetonitrile (Merck K GaA, D armstadt, G ermany). After t he reaction mixture was incubated in a 50°C water bath for 5 m in, 1.5 µl of 20% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, Nacalai Tesque, K yoto, Japan) was added to stop the derivatization reaction. A portion (20 µ l) of this reaction m ixture (8.7 µg pr otein) w as i njected i nto t he HPLC-fluorescence d etection s ystem at a flow rate of 0.55 ml/min. The overall s ystem

consisted of a Shimadzu Prominence series HPLC system (Kyoto, Japan) and a fluorescence detector (Shimadzu RF-10 A_xL; λ ex. 395 nm; λ em. 505 nm). The protein column (Intrada WP-RP, 250 x 4.6 m m i.d., Imtakt C o., K yoto, J apan) was u sed as a stationary phase for separation of the derivatized proteins at a column temperature of 60°C. The mobile phase consisted of 0.1 % T FA i n (A) w ater and (B) a cetonitrile. T he gradient elution was established with the following condition: 10% B held for 10 min; to 25% B in 30 min; to 28% B in 60 min; to 30% B in 80 min; to 31% B in 120 min; to 33% B in 190 min; to 34% B in 210 min; to 34.5% B in 230 min; to 39% B in 300 min; to 44.5% in 340 min. Corresponding peak heights were compared to identify differential protein profiles in the treatment groups.

Each s ubject p rotein in el uant r ecovered from t he ab ove H PLC s ystem w as concentrated to 5 μ l under reduced pressure and used for further identification process. The residue was diluted with 240 μ l of 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate solution (pH 7.8) (Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan), 5 μ l of 10 mM calcium chloride (Nacalai Tesque, Kyoto, Japan), and 5 μ l of 20 ng / μ l tr ypsin (Promega, Wisconsin, WI, US A), and t he r esultant m ixture w as incubated f or 2 h a t 37°C. This mixture was then concentrated t o 20 μ l u nder r educed pressure.

The peptide mixture (2 µl) was subjected to an LC-electrospray ionization-tandem MS (LCQ Fleet, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) equipped with the custom nanoLC s ystem consisting of a typical LC pump (Surveyor M S pump, T hermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) with LC flow splitter (Accurate, D ionex, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) and an HCT PAL autosampler (CTC Analytics, Zwingen, Switzerland). The sample

was loaded onto a nano-precolumn (300 µm i.d. x 5.0 mm, C₁₈PepMap, Dionex, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) in the injection loop and washed using 0.1% TFA in 2% acetonitrile. Peptides were s eparated and i on-sprayed i nto MS by a n ano HPLC c olumn (75 µm i.d., 3 µm C₁₈ packed 12 cm, Nikkyo Technos, Tokyo, Japan) with a spray vol tage from 1.2 t o 2.0 kV. Separation was performed, employing a gradient from 5 to 50% mobile phase B (0.1% formic acid [Kanto Kagaku, Tokyo, Japan] in 90% a cetonitrile) over a period of 30 m in (mobile phase A: 0.1% formic acid); 50 to 100% mobile phase B in 30.1 min; 100% mobile phase B held for 10 m in. The mass spectrometer was configured to optimize the duty cycle length with the quality of data acquired by progressing from a full s can of the sample to three tandem MS s cans of the three most intense precursor masses (as d etermined by X caliber[®] software [Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA] in real time). The collision energy was normalized to 35%. All the spectra were measured with an overall mass/charge ratio range of 400-1500. T he transfer capillary temperature was set at 200°C. MS/MS data were extracted u sing Bioworks v.3.3 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). S pectra were searched against a murine subdatabase from the public non-redundant protein database of t he N ational C enter f or B iotechnology Information (NCBI, Bethesda, M D,USA) (download da te: July 16, 2009) with the f ollowing s earch p arameters: ma ss t ype, monoisotopic precursor and fragments; enzyme, trypsin (KR); enzyme limits, full enzymatic cleavage allowing up to two mis sed c leavages; p eptide t olerance, 2.0 atomic mass units; fragment ion tolerance, 1.0 atomic mass unit; number of results scored, 250; ion and ion series calculated, B and Y ions; s tatic modification, C (fluorogenic d erivatization); d ifferential

modifications, M (oxidation), N and Q (deamidation). The filter criteria (single, double, and triple charge p eptides w ith a correlation f actor [XCorr] and protein probability [P]) w ere adjusted keeping the empirically determined protein false discovery rate (FDR) below 1.0%. FDR was calculated using the number of significant unique peptide in the reversed database divided by the number of those in the forward database. Proteins were identified with more than two peptides ≥ 6 amino acids long. A low probability suggests a good match in that it indicates that the match between the sequence and the spectrum could not easily happen by accident. If multiple proteins shared amino acid sequences with found peptides, the protein with the lowest probability among them was determined to be the most lik ely match, and ubiquitous keratins and trypsin were excluded as potential matches.

2.5. Statistical analysis

Results are expressed as the mean \pm standard deviation. Differences between the groups were determined by Tukey-Kramer multiple comparison test. P < 0.05 was considered to be significant.

3. Results

3.1. Analytical performance of FD-LC-MS/MS method

The total protein amount required for quantification was 8.7 μ g per HPLC injection. The precision of the method was confirmed based on the reproducibility of the peak heights using four peaks, including high, medium, and low peaks. The relative standard deviation (RSD, %) values were in the range of 6.6-11.9% for between-days (n = 5) replicates. The reproducibility of the r etention time s u sing s ame p eaks was a lso c alculated, and t he between-day RSD values were less than 0.82% (n = 5).

3.2. Differential profiling and protein identification

Typical chromatograms f rom FD-LC-MS/MS analysis o f DOC-ADR a nd ADR&DOC samples are depicted in Fig. 2. Each peak height shows the expression level of an i ndividual p rotein. Twenty-five p rotein pe aks (Table 1) appeared t o di ffer but nine proteins differed w ith s tatistical s ignificance at the *P* levels s hown in Fig. 3. Also, the differences i n t he ex pression levels of t hese proteins, g roup a coording t o t heir f unctional classification, are de picted i n F ig. 3. The pe ak num bers of t he differentially ex pressed proteins are inserted in Fig. 2. In both of the drug treatment groups, aconitase (peak no. 11) and lactate d ehydrogenase A (Ldha) protein (peak no. 2 3) w ere s ignificantly r educed an d ubiquinol-cytochrome c r eductase (peak no. 7) was significantly elevated r elative t o the control g roup. The e xpression of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate d ehydrogenase (GAPDH, peak no. 13) i n t he D OC-ADR g roup i ncreased m ore t han 7 -fold, c ompared w ith t he ADR&DOC group. Creatine ki nase (CK) w as s ignificantly i ncreased in the D OC-ADR group, compared with the control.

4. Discussion

In our pre-clinical (mouse) study [14], the DOC-ADR group showed a significantly

higher survival rate compared with the ADR&DOC group (P < 0.01), and the survival rates on da y 35 were 86.2% in the DOC-ADR group and 22.2% in the ADR&DOC group. A subsequent study r evealed t hat the t oxic d eath of m ouse was a ttributed to cardiotoxicity induced by ADR [16]. Therefore, in this study, the differential proteomic profiling of mouse heart tissues from DOC-ADR, ADR&DOC, and control groups was performed to identify the proteins that mediate the cardioprotective effect of DOC pretreatment in the DOC-ADR group. Significant QT interval prolongation of m ouse was obs erved 1 week after ADR-treatment, compared with non-treated mouse; therefore, 1 week after drug treatment was chosen for the toxicoproteomic analysis.

The RSD values s uggest t hat t he FD-LC-MS/MS method h as an ex cellent reproducibility in the proteomic analysis of heart tissue samples. With the FD-LC-MS/MS method, reproducible chromatograms were obtained from heart tissue with small amounts of protein (8.7 µg per H PLC i njection), in contrast to other proteomic methods where from dozens to hundreds of micrograms of protein samples are required [28, 29]. The fluorogenic derivatization is cystein thiol-specific. The fluorogenic reagent (DAABD-Cl) is excessivly added to the sample; therefore, all the proteins with one or more cystein residues are labeled and are able to be detected by fluorescence detector. The cystein-free proteins are excluded from the analytical targets of FD-LC-MS/MS; however, most of proteins contain one or more cystein residues [30] and other proteomic methods with labeling technologies, s uch a s isotope-coated a ffinity t ag (ICAT) targeting cystein thiol, have be en widely applied t o proteomic studies [31, 32]. For the sensitivity of FD-LC-MS/MS, the detection limit of an

actin s tandard (MW 43000, i ncluding 6 c ystein r esidues) w as 440 f emtomol pe r H PLC injection [24]. The s ensitivies o f d ifferent p roteins w ith s imilar mo lecular w eight a re considered to be partly dependent on the number of cystein included in the protein.

Based on the high s ensitivity, r esolution, and r eproducibility, ni ne pr oteins w ere found t o be differentially expressed between t he t hree groups, seven of which were t he proteins involved in e nergy pr oduction processes, the glycolytic pa thway, the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, and the electron t ransport ch ain as s hown i n F ig. 3 . Among t he differentially expressed proteins, aconitase (peak no. 1 1) was the most drastically reduced in this study and has been reported to be inactivated by ADR treatment [33, 34]. A lso, Ldha protein (peak no. 2 3) was s ignificantly de creased i n bot h drug tr eatment groups when compared w ith the control. Lactate d ehydrogenase i s k nown as an escape enzyme that reflects cytotoxicity o r cellular d amage a nd h as be en m easured i n t oxicological s tudies. Therefore, these results ensured the validity of FD-LC-MS/MS as a toxicoproteomic method.

Most of the differentially expressed proteins identified in our study are involved in the myocardial energy network. Heart muscle requires large amounts of energy to sustain its contractile performance; therefore, cellular energy deficits are recognized as an important and common f actor i n t he de velopment of cardiac m yopathies [35-37]. Adenosine 5'-triphosphate (ATP) serves as primary, immediate source of energy; however intracellular ATP pools are rather small. Moreover, ADR have been reported to diminish cardiac energy reserves by reducing ATP through several mechanisms, such as oxidative damage, damage to membrane and signaling pa thways, di sruption of m itochondria function, and inflammation [38-42]. These effects have been consistently observed in patients treated with ADR [43]. Evidence has accumulated indicating a relationship between myocardial energy metabolism and ADR-induced cardiotoxicity [44].

Among the six proteins that were differently expressed between the dosing groups, four were more highly expressed in the ADR&DOC group than in the DOC-ADR group (peak nos. 10, 11, 16, and 19). Based on their high expression levels in the ADR&DOC group, it was assumed that the activated energy production contributed to enhance cardiac contractile force and m aintain t he f unction. However, t he elevated expression obs erved i n t he ADR&DOC group did not lead to an increase in survival rate in the combination therapy. In other w ords, t he l ower expression of t he f our proteins i n the DOC-ADR g roup di d not adversely a ffect s urvival. F urthermore, although t he e xpression of T CA c ycle enzymes (peak nos. 11 and 16) in the DOC-ADR group was significantly lower than those in control group, a higher survival rate was observed in DOC-ADR group than in the ADR&DOC and ADR-only treatment groups [14, 16]. Therefore, the alteration of t hese four proteins may not be a definitive factor for cardioprotective effect of DOC-pretreatment.

GAPDH c atalyses the nicotinamide adenine di nucleotide-dependent conversion of glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate i nto 1,3 -diphosphoglycerate. It is the f irst e nergy-harvesting enzyme and a central p layer i n g lycolytic p athway, placing it at the c ore o f c ancer cel l survival [45]. Generally, GAPDH is considered a hous ekeeping e nzyme be cause i t is constitutively expressed in most tissues and cell types. However, s everal r eports r evealed that it is differentially regulated by circadian clock or in disease states [46, 47]. The highly

elevated expression of GAPDH in the DOC-ADR group may be important in maintaining cardiac function after combination therapy and result in higher survival rates. It is unclear whether all glycolysis-dependent e nergy s upply is increased by elevated ex pression of GAPDH because the expression of another glycolytic en zyme, al dolase, was lower in the DOC-ADR g roup than in the ADR&DOC group. However, it was reported that ADR induced a decrease in ATP content in endothelial cell, which was paralleled by a decrease in GAPDH activity [48]. Therefore, to some extent, the elevated expression of GAPDH in the DOC-ADR group m ight protect h eart muscle from ADR-induced c ardiotoxicity. The cardiotoxicity of ADR has been ascribed mainly to oxidative stress by ADR-induced free radicals pr edominantly accumulating i n m itochondria. It is possible that the elevated expression of G APDH is a r esult of t he c ompensatory a ctivation of e nergy supply vi a glycolytic pathway, responding to severe reductions in mitochondrial ATP production due to the accumulation of ADR-induced free radicals. Alternatively, Baek et al. proposed direct scavenging of reactive o xygen s pecies (ROS) by GAPDH ba sed on t her esult t hat over-expression o f G APDH i n yeast cel ls r esulted i n an i ncrease in o verall cel lular antioxidative capacity [49]. Because ROS are involved in Bax-induced apoptosis in yeast and pl ants [50], ROS-induced cell d eath in animals might be i nhibited b y G APDH. Moreover, a variety of r ecent studies have brought new insights into this old enzyme, and current evidence now suggests that GAPDH is a multifunctional protein that is involved in numerous cellular processes in animals [51-55]; therefore, unknown effects of GAPDH may contribute t o t he cardioprotective ef fects o f DOC pre-administration in A DR/DOC

combination therapies.

CK c atalyses t he r eversible c onversion of phos phocreatine a nd a denosine diphosphate to creatine and ATP. The elevated expression of CK may indicate a relatively high cellular energy state in the DOC-ADR group relative to the control group; although the expression was found not to be significantly different between the two dosing groups.

To date, two papers have reported proteomic studies of ADR-induced cardiotoxicity and the mechanism against it [56, 57]. On one hand, redox proteomics was performed based on the hypothesis that the cardiotoxic actions of ADR are caused by the oxidative stress [56]. However, that approach may be insufficient to reveal alterations in protein expression in important cellular processes because it focuses on identifying only the oxidatively modified proteins. Using a different approach, Kang and colleagues identified differences in global proteomic profiles of heart tissue between non-transgenic (TG) and TG mice that over-express metallothionein to understand the molecular mechanism of metallothionein protection against ADR-induced cardiotoxicity [57]. They found elevated expression of cytochrome c oxidase subunit Va, which regulates ox idative phos phorylation, in TG mouse he art in r esponse to ADR treatment. In the present study, the highly sensitive proteomic analysis of heart tissues suggests that G APDH may counteract ADR-induced c ardiotoxicity. GAPDH i s a multifunctional protein, participating in energy supply and antioxidative activity; therefore any or all of GAPDH's functions may be relevant to the cardioprotective effects observed in the DOC-ADR treatment group. However, it was not yet clear exactly what mechanism was responsible for either the cardioprotective effects or the over-expression of GAPDH observed

in the DOC -ADR group. Previous r esearch has s hown t hat the over-expression of antioxidant e nzymes (*i.e.*, superoxide d ismutase and c atalase) in TG mice protected heart from A DR-induced cardiotoxicity [58, 59]. Therefore, the s ame transgenic approach or another approach with the addition of N^6 -naphthalenemethyl-2'-methoxybenzamido- β -NAD⁺ for GAPDH inhibition [60] may be useful in validating and elucidating any cardioprotective effects associated with GAPDH. Further analysis of GAPDH is necessary to determine if it is a potential target for protective intervention against ADR-induced cardiotoxicity.

In summary, i n or der to better u nderstand t he car dioprotective effect o f pre-administration of DOC in an ADR/DOC combination anti-cancer therapy, we applied the FD-LC-MS/MS me thod to d ifferential p roteomic a nalysis o f heart tis sues from control, intermittent-dosing and simultaneous-dosing groups of mice. This highly reproducible and sensitive method identified significantly altered expression of nine proteins in mouse heart, and seven of these proteins ar e involved in the cellular energy production. Significantly elevated expression of GAPDH was observed in the DOC-ADR group, in which the survival rate was higher [14, 16], than the ADR&DOC group. Therefore, GAPDH may be developed as a pot ential t arget f or pr otective i ntervention a nd a biomarker f or e valuation of cardioprotective effect of experimental treatments in pre-clinical studies.

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Figure captions

Fig. 1 Experimental protocol and time-line for the *in vivo* studies. Abbreviations: DOC, docetaxel (12.5 mg/kg i.v.); ADR, adriamycin (20 mg/kg i.v.). Heart tissue sampling: animal sacrifice, removal heart and processing.

Fig. 2 Chromatograms of proteins derivatized with DAABD-Cl in mouse heart. The upper and l ower chromatograms w ere obt ained f rom the DOC-ADR and A DR&DOC groups, respectively. The peaks of differentially expressed proteins are numbered.

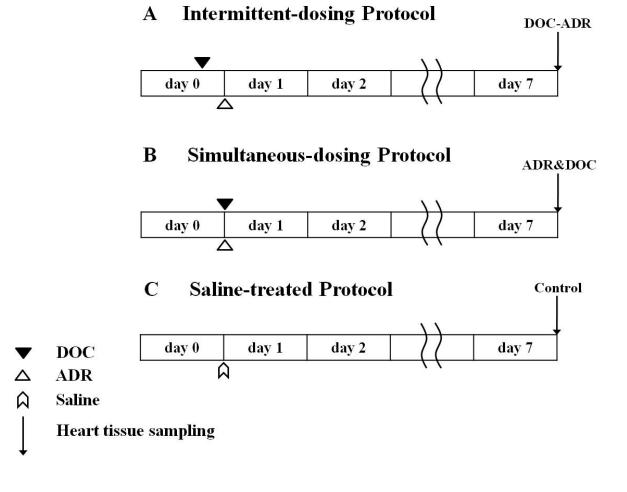
Fig. 3 Changes in peak he ights relative to c ontrol between D OC-ADR and ADR&DOC groups. P eak num bers c orrespond t o t hose i n F ig. 2. M ean values \pm SD ar e p lotted. Significant differences between control *vs* each dosing group are indicated by [†]*P* \leq 0.05 or ^{††}*P* \leq 0.01. Significant differences between DOC-ADR and ADR&DOC are indicated by **P* \leq 0.05 or ***P* \leq 0.01.

Table 1	List of proteins	s identified by FD-LC-MS/MS method
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eak number ^a	Protein name	Molecular mass (Da)	SEQUEST score	Peptide hit	Coverage by mass	GI number ^b
1	Ecotropic viral integretion site 1	115594.0	18.1	3	1.28	gi 6679705
2	Superoxide dismutase 1, soluble	15932.8	54.2	6	35.66	gi∣45597447
3	Actin, gamma, cytoplasmin 1	41765.8	18.1	2	5.30	gi 6752954
4	Diazepam binding inhibitor	9994.1	20.2	2	34.33	gi 22135646
5	Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1	35942.8	30.2	4	12.73	gi∣219519440
6	Phosphatidylethanolamine binding protein 1	20817.3	18.2	2	12.20	gi∣84794552
7	Ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase, Rieske iron-sulfur polypeptide 1	29349.2	18.2	2	8.57	gi 18044191
8	Hemoglobin alpha 1 c hain	15075.8	10.2	2	10.15	gi∣6680175
9	Albumin	68647.8	74.2	10	11.08	gi 29612571
10	Aldolase A, fructose-bisphosphate	39331.3	42.3	5	8.46	gi 58477282
11	Aconitase 2, mitochondria	85444.1	110.3	13	13.24	gi 63101587
12	Myoglobin	17059.0	112.2	15	45.66	gi 19263902
13	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	35787.2	46.2	5	14.50	gi 14887786
14	Creatine kinase, muscle	43017.8	74.2	10	17.45	gi 12437642
15	Acetyl-coenzyme A acyltransferase 2 (mitochondrial 3-oxoacyl-Coenzyme A thiolase)	41831.5	34.2	4	14.56	gi 20810027
16	Isocitrate dehydrogenase 2 (NADP+), mitochondrial	50874.0	30.2	3	7.66	gi 37748684
17	Malate de hydrogenase 2, NAD (mitochondrial)	35585.8	48.2	5	14.93	gi 19484047
18	Electron transferring flavoprotein, alpha polypeptide	34987.5	28.2	4	5.44	gi 66911229
19	Electron transferring flavoprotein, a lpha polypeptide	34987.5	30.2	3	12.44	gi 66911229
20	Enolase 3, beta muscle	46995.3	40.2	6	9.11	gi 15488630
21	Acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, long chain	47877.5	20.2	2	5.40	gi 20071667
22	Pyruvate dehydrogenase (lipoamide) beta	38912.1	30.2	4	14.78	gi 63101525
23	Ldha protein	36475.2	18.1	2	3.43	gi 11159893
24	Lactate dehydrogenase B	36549.1	54.2	6	17.00	gi 28386162
25	Malate dehydrogenase 1, NAD (soluble)	36488.1	38.2	4	15.26	gi 37589957

^aPeak num bers c orrespond t o t hose i n F ig. 2. ^bGI n umber is simply a series of d igits that a re assigned consecutively to each sequence r ecord

processed by NCBI.



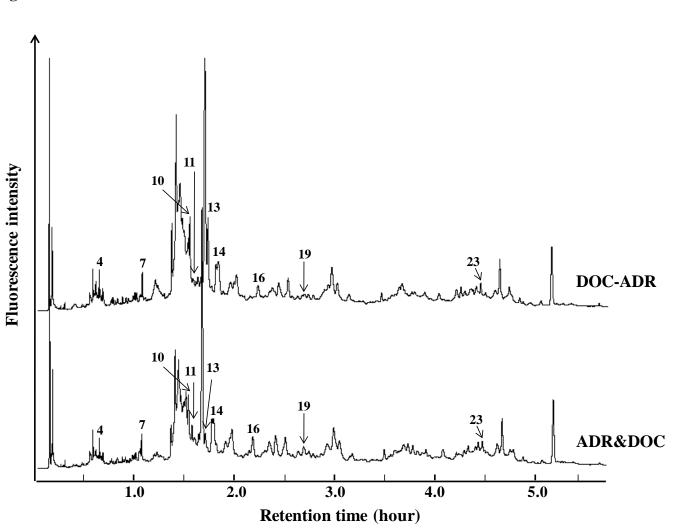
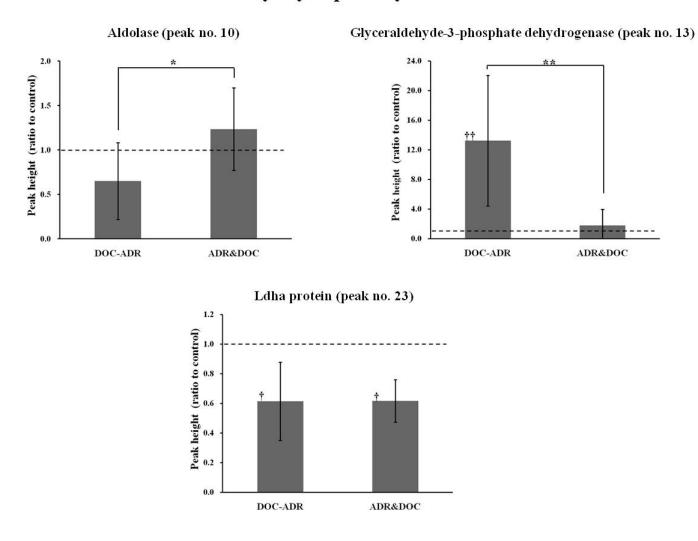
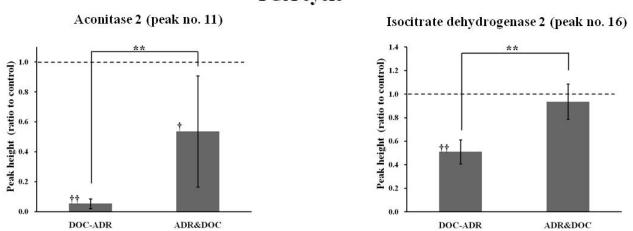


Fig. 2

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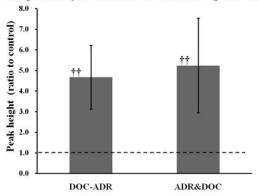


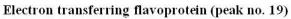
Glycolytic pathway

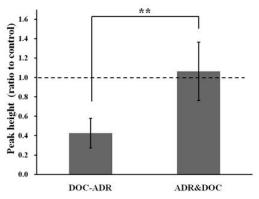


Electron transport chain

Ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase (peak no. 7)



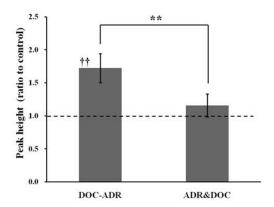




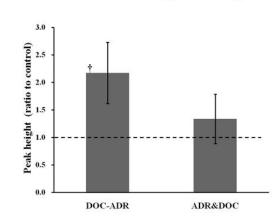
TCA cycle

Fig. 3 (continued)

Other



Diazepam binding inhibitor (peak no. 4)



Creatine kinase (peak no. 14)