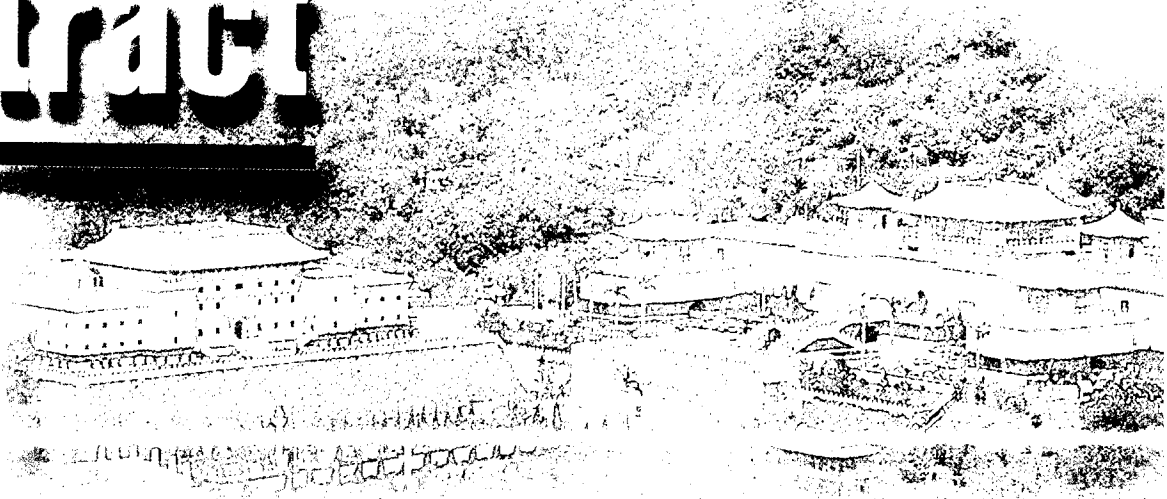


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**Abstract**



# CHARACTERIZING THE INHIBITORY EFFECTS OF YC-1 ON BALLOON INJURY-INDUCED RESTENOSIS ON RAT CAROTID ARTERIES

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Since 3-(5'-hydroxymethyl-2'-furyl)-1-benzyl indazole (YC-1) has been reported to elicit vasorelaxation by increasing intracellular cyclic GMP levels, it has therefore prompted us to study if YC-1 can be applied as a therapeutic agent to prevent balloon injury-induced restenosis. To demonstrate the antiproliferation effects, cultured smooth muscle cells treated with YC-1 were subjected to flowcytometric analysis. The *in vitro* results show that 55% of S phase stimulated by 15% serum were decreased to 7%, 10% and 13% by 100 µg/ml, 10 µg/ml and 1 µg/ml of YC-1, respectively. These data suggest the potent inhibitory effects of YC-1 on smooth muscle cell proliferation. The mRNA levels of guanylyl cyclase was also evaluated under the effects of YC-1. Similar to the antiproliferation effects, the increase in guanylyl cyclase mRNA levels by YC-1 also showed a dose-dependent manner as measured by RT-PCR. In the *in vivo* study, YC-1 was applied topically on the balloon injured rat carotid arteries and sacrificed two weeks later for histological analysis. A significant reduction with more than 40% in area ratio of neointima to media was found in YC-1 treated group as compared to controls. These results suggest that YC-1 may be a potential pharmacological reagent in preventing balloon injury-induced restenosis.

# THE NEUROPROTECTIVE EFFECT OF A FORMULA OF CHINESE MEDICINE XIAO XU MING TANG (BNG-1) ON RAT BRAIN ISCHEMIA INDUCED BY MIDDLE CEREBRAL ARTERY OCCLUSION

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This study was conducted to examine the possible therapeutic efficacy of XIAO XU MING TANG (BNG-1 was provided by Brain Genesis, Inc.) in an animal model of induced focal brain ischemia. The ischemic insult in chloral hydrate anesthetized rats was caused by permanent unilateral occlusion of a middle cerebral artery (MCAO). BNG-1, dissolved with saline, was administered at doses of 1000 mg/kg (n = 10) and 500 mg/kg (n = 10) orally (PO) daily for 7 days before and 3 days after MCAO. The vehicle-control group (n = 10) was similarly treated with saline alone. The positive control reference agent MK-801 dissolved in saline was injected at 0.3 mg/kg (n = 5) (IP) in a volume of 5 ml/kg at 0, 6, 24, 30, 48, and 54 hrs after MCAO. On the fourth day after the ischemic insult, all animals were sacrificed by decapitation. The infarcted area, indicated by 2% cresyl violet staining, was measured by computerized image analysis.

A significant reduction of  $66.30 \pm 9.01\%$  by MK-801 at  $0.3 \text{ mg/kg} \times 6 \text{ (IP)}$  and  $44.09 \pm 9.01\%$  by BNG-1 at  $1000 \text{ mg/kg} \times 10 \text{ (PO)}$  relative to the vehicle-treated control group while a non-significant reduction of  $14.17 \pm 19.43\%$  was observed after  $500 \text{ mg/kg} \times 10 \text{ (PO)}$  of this formula. Thus, BNG-1 may have potential therapeutic efficacy in the treatment of brain ischemia.