

## MASTER'S THESIS

### The role of MicroRNA in 20(R)-ginsenoside-Rg3-induced anti-angiogenesis

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**The Role of MicroRNA in 20(R)-ginsenoside-Rg<sub>3</sub>-  
induced Anti-Angiogenesis**

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for the degree of  
Master of Philosophy**

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## Abstract

The angio-suppressive effect of 20(R)-ginsenoside Rg3 (Rg<sub>3</sub>-R) has been previously demonstrated. In this study, we are interested to investigate the underlying mechanisms of Rg<sub>3</sub>-R at the RNA level. Over the last decade, study of microRNA (miRNA) has become an important issue in biomedical science. miRNA is a group of small single-stranded non-coding RNAs that function as post-transcriptional modulator of gene expression by completely or partially base pairing to the 3' untranslated region (3'-UTR) of target messenger RNA (mRNA). It takes part in many biological processes, including cell differentiation, development and pathogenesis. Recently, literature revealed that miRNAs act as regulators of both angiogenic processes and responses. Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were employed as a model to evaluate the anti-angiogenic activities. Using microRNA microarray technique, miRNA expressions were profiled after Rg<sub>3</sub>-R treatment. Among the screened 553 human miRNAs, 6 up-regulated (miR-520h, miR-487b, miR-197, miR-524\*, miR-342 and miR-219) and 3 down-regulated (miR-23a, miR-489 and miR-377) miRNAs were detected in Rg<sub>3</sub>-R treated vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)-induced HUVECs compared to VEGF alone. In addition, real time RT-PCR was performed to verify the miRNA microarray result. Among those miRNA candidates, miR-520h was found to be significantly modulated. Our result revealed that Rg<sub>3</sub>-R induced the miR-520h expression about three-fold. Transfection of miR-520h precursor mimic (Pre-520h) into HUVECs showed that elevated level of miR-520h could reduce cell proliferation, tube formation of HUVECs on matrigel and subintestinal vessels (SIVs) formation in zebrafish embryo. Besides, computational approach was used to predict the gene targets of miR-520h. Experimental

target validation showed that protein expression of Eph receptor B2 (EphB2) and Eph receptor B4 (EphB4) were down-regulated in miR-520h over-expressed endothelial cells. In short, Rg<sub>3</sub>-R induced over-expression of miR-520h will down-regulated the expression of EphB2 and EphB4 leading to anti-angiogenesis. By understanding the role of miRNAs in angiogenesis, especially the miR-520h, it may explain the mechanism of Rg<sub>3</sub>-R in anti-angiogenesis and thus may help exploiting a new path for anti-angiogenic therapy using RNAi approach.

## Table of Contents

Declaration	i
Abstract	ii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures	vii
List of Tables	viii
List of Abbreviations	ix
<b>Chapter 1. Literature review (Introduction)</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Ginseng	1
1.1.1 General information of ginseng	1
1.1.2 Ginsenosides	3
1.1.3 Structural aspect of ginsenosides	6
1.2 Cardiovascular system	7
1.2.1 Histology of blood vessels	7
1.2.2 Formation of new blood vessels	8
1.2.3 Regulation of angiogenesis	10
1.2.4 Signaling pathways in vascular development	12
1.2.5 Angiotherapy	15
1.2.6 Overviews of angiogenesis assay	16
1.2.6.1 <i>In vitro</i> angiogenesis assays	17
1.2.6.2 <i>In vivo</i> model for angiogenesis	19
1.2.7 Pharmacological actions of ginsenosides in angiogenesis	20
1.3 MicroRNA (miRNA)	22
1.3.1 Background information of miRNAs	22
1.3.2 miRNA biogenesis and mechanism	23
1.3.3 Role of miRNAs in angiogenesis	25
1.4 Project Objectives	27
<b>Chapter 2. Materials and Methods</b>	<b>29</b>
2.1 Materials	29
2.2 Chemicals	29
2.3 Cell culture	29
2.4 Isolation of small RNA	30
2.5 miRNA labeling and microarray hybridization	30
2.6 Microarray imaging and data analysis	31
2.7 Bioinformatics analysis	31
2.8 Quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)	32
2.9 Transient transfection with miRNA inhibitors or precursor mimics	32
2.10 <i>In vitro</i> proliferation assay	33

2.11	<i>In vitro</i> migration assay	33
2.12	<i>In vitro</i> tube formation assay	34
2.13	Western blot analysis	34
2.14	Zymography	35
2.15	Microinjection	36
2.16	Alkaline phosphate staining	36
2.17	Statistical analysis	37
<b>Chapter 3. Results</b>		<b>38</b>
3.1	miRNAs expression profiling in Rg <sub>3</sub> -R treated HUVECs	38
3.2	Validation of miRNA microarray using qRT-PCR	41
3.3	Role of miR-520h, miR-487b and miR-377 in angiogenesis	43
3.4	Increasing the endogenous amount of miR-520h would inhibit cell proliferation, tube formation in HUVECs and SIVs formation in zebrafish embryo	48
3.5	Bioinformatics prediction of potential gene targets of miR-520h	55
3.6	Validation of relationship between predicted gene targets and miR-520h by western blotting and zymography	60
3.7	Rg <sub>3</sub> -R down-regulates endogenous VEGFR2, EphB2 and EphB4 expression in HUVECs	62
<b>Chapter 4. Discussion</b>		<b>64</b>
4.1	miRNA expression profiling in Rg <sub>3</sub> -R treated HUVECs	64
4.2	Role of miR-520h, miR-487b and miR-377 in angiogenesis	66
4.3	Over-expression of miR-520h inhibits cell proliferation, tube formation <i>in vitro</i> and SIVs formation <i>in vivo</i>	67
4.4	Bioinformatics prediction of potential gene targets of miR-520h	68
4.5	Relationship between potential gene targets and other miRNAs	69
4.6	Validation of relationship between predicted gene targets and miR-520h by western blotting and zymography	71
4.7	Rg <sub>3</sub> -R down-regulates EphB2 and EphB4 expression through inducing the over-expression of miR-520h	72
<b>Chapter 5. Conclusion and Further Perspectives</b>		<b>78</b>
5.1.	Conclusion	78
5.2.	Further Perspectives	80
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>82</b>
<b>List of References</b>		<b>84</b>
<b>Curriculum Vitae</b>		<b>107</b>