



Comprehending the Presence and Application of Antiradicals and Antioxidants within the Human Body

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Abstract

A substance that prevents other molecules from oxidising is known as an antioxidant¹. A chemical process called oxidation can generate free radicals, which can set off a series of events that can harm cells. Ascorbic acid, an antioxidant, stops these cascades of events. Reactive-oxygen species (ROS) are produced in excess by plants and animals as a result of various abiotic stressors. ROS are extremely sensitive and toxic, damaging proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and DNA as a result, which causes oxidative stress. This oxidative-stress damages tissues and contributes to a broad range of illnesses². Antioxidants counteract the effects of ROS and aid in disease prevention by balancing their effects. Antioxidants can be naturally occurring or synthetic. Common cancer preventatives are ingested through diet because they are present in organic foods, veggies, and flavours. Additionally, several designed cancer preventative substances like BHT and BHA prevent oxidation. The search for non-toxic cancer prevention agents has gotten stronger in recent years, nonetheless, as it has been determined that these synthetic cancer prevention agents pose risks to people.

Keywords: Parkinson's disease, Parkinson's cancer, ascorbic acid, and tocopherols.

Introduction

The importance of oxygen to aerobic living things cannot be overstated. If given in larger quantities, it could become poisonous. Hydrogen peroxide, singlet oxygen, and super oxide radical anion are examples of dynamic oxygen species that can arise from dioxygen, which is somewhat dead in its ground state. This is partially caused by oxidative stress, which is basically the adverse effect of oxidants on physiological capacity. Receptive oxygen species (ROS) and antioxidant defences are out of balance, which results in oxidative stress³. These neurotic conditions include AIDS, ageing, arthritis, joint pain, asthma, immune system issues, cancer, cardiovascular disease, waterfalls, diabetes, and neurodegenerative illnesses including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, etc. This oxidative-stress downregulates a progression of cell capacities⁴⁻⁵.

DNA oxidative-damage may be a critical component of maturation, and the availability of intracellular oxygen may also be the trigger for a number of undesired events that harm the core macromolecules of the cell. These radicals put plants at great danger and induce oxidative stress⁶⁻¹⁰.

Free radicals are highly reactive atoms or molecules with an unpaired electron that are capable of performing quick chemical reactions that destabilize other particles and generate a large number of other free radicals. Antioxidant deactivates these free radicals in plants and animals. These antioxidants function as oxidation process inhibitors, even at moderately low concentrations, and have a variety of physiological effects on body. Free radicals are transported to species that are less sensitive by antioxidant components in plat materials, acting as radical hunters. Antioxidants are substances that inhibit the oxidation of proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and DNA at low quantities^{5,11}.

Three Principle Classifications

1. Superoxidedismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), glutathionereductase (GR), & minerals including selenium, copper, and zinc are examples of the first line barrier antioxidants¹².

2. Antioxidants that act as a second line of defence, including glutathione(GSH), vitamin-C, egg-whites, vitamin-E, carotenoids, flavonoids, and others¹³.

3. The 3rd line of anti-oxidants, which contain a complex assemblage of proteins for DNA damage repair, protein damage repair, oxidised lipids repair, and peroxide repair.

Examples include lipase, protease, proteins that repair DNA, transferases, and methionine sulfoxide reductase ¹⁴.

Plant Source of Antioxidants

Antioxidants are primarily found in medicinal plants. Natural antioxidants boost the plasma's antioxidant capacity and lower the risk of developing certain illnesses like cancer, heart disease, and stroke. Plant secondary metabolites with powerful free radical scavenger properties include phenolic and flavonoids. All plant parts, including leaves, fruits, seeds, roots, and bark, contain them. There are numerous naturally occurring antioxidants in nature, each with unique chemical and physical makeup, biological mechanisms, and sites of activity. There is a broad number of plants that contain antioxidants¹⁵.

There has been an increase in interest in discovering phenolic chemicals in herbs to decrease lipid oxidation in lipid-based food items due to toxicological concerns regarding synthetic antioxidants. Fruits, vegetables, spices, cereals, and herbs make up the majority of these natural antioxidants ¹⁶. It has been shown that hundreds of naturally occurring phenolic compounds have strong antioxidant capabilities. However, there are restrictions on their usage in meals, not the least of which is the need for sufficient safety justification. Only a few number of them can be used in foods commercially. Monohydric or polyhydric phenols with a variety of ring substitutions are currently the most common lipid-soluble antioxidants found in food ¹⁷.

Primary antioxidants are frequently combined together with additional phenolic antioxidants or different metal sequestering agents for best effectiveness, for example, tocopherols with citric acid and isopropyl citrate. Tocopherols (vitamin E), ascorbic acid (vitamin C), and rosemary extract are the three most significant commercially available natural antioxidants ¹⁸. Despite having a non-phenolic composition, substances like β -carotene and ascorbic acids have shown to exhibit antioxidant and additive effect ¹⁹.

Applications of Antioxidants

Food Antioxidant

Unsaturated and polyunsaturated fats are added to the food items being marketed to help people consume more nutritious food in this day and age in order to keep fit. Any product's quality is determined by a number of factors, including its size and customer approval ²⁰.

Basically, the nutritional value of food is assessed based on factors like odour, taste, and appearance. There has been a noticeable shift from the category of useful food to ready-to-eat foodstuff as a result of how the human way of life and viewpoint on food are changing. Antioxidants, which have the potential to improve health, are required for this ²¹.

Antioxidants are used extensively because they are included in fats and oils as well as in food processing facilities to stop food degradation. Some herbs and flavors are thought to be great sources of a number of potential cancer-preventive compounds. They are added to food that contains unsaturated fats in order to increase their shelf life and stop them from rotting as a result of oxidative damage ²².

Role in Food

Both food systems and the human body depend on antioxidants to slow down oxidative processes. Additionally, anticancer medications are efficient at reducing protein oxidation and the interaction of lipid-determined carbonyls with proteins, which alters the function of proteins ²³.

Ascorbic acid and tocopherols, as well as natural concentrations like rosemary, sage, and tea, have previously been offered for use in dietary supplements in contrast to synthetic cancer prevention agents. The flow of protein hydrolysates and proteins from sources such milk, soy, egg, and salmon is also visible in a number of muscle foods ²⁴.

However, as people age, their bodies' ratio of prooxidants to antioxidants changes, as do other aspects including fatigue, exposure to environmental pollutants, binge drinking, and high-fat eating habits. People's capacity to absorb supplements, including cancer prevention agents, as well as their plasma and cell cancer prevention agent potential steadily reduce as they age. Researchers have also observed a buildup of protein carbonyls as a result of free radical action on proteins throughout the maturing process in humans ²⁵.

It has been proposed that boosting the body's load of cancer preventive agents through dietary means might enhance human wellbeing. α -tocopherol, ascorbic acid, or phytochemicals derived from plants like lycopene, and grape seed extracts are some examples of cancer prevention agents found in dietary supplements and practical foods that are currently quite popular ²⁶.

Antioxidant's Role in Diabetes

Among other variables that lead to increased oxidative distress, glucose autooxidation is primarily responsible for the generation of free radicals. Uneven cell oxidation/decline characteristics and a drop in cell reinforcement guardians are just two of the contributing elements. Additionally, high levels of numerous prooxidants are monitored, including ferritin and homocysteine. Another key component is how certain cell receptors known as AGE receptors (RAGE) interact with advanced glycation outcomes (AGEs) ²⁷.

Antioxidants and Their Medical Applications

People can protect cardiovascular illnesses by regularly consuming antioxidants from natural foods like fruits and vegetables, which are recognized as good sources of cancer prevention agents. It is also being investigated if cancer prevention medications may be used to treat neurological diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Severe oxidative stress in the cells causes a variety of serious problems, such as rheumatoid arthritis, joint inflammation, cardiovascular disease, ulcerogenesis, and acquired immunodeficiency diseases. It has been proposed that cancer-preventive substances perform a specific function in the treatment of numerous ailments/diseases ²⁸.

Conclusion

A man's health and life expectancy may be negatively impacted by a variety of substances that he consumes through food, drink, inhalation, and even the impacts of outside UV rays, for example, on the skin. Every time a person's biological system produces free radicals, harm is done that eventually causes death within a short amount of time ²⁹. Lipid peroxidation eliminates free radicals when vegetable oil that has gone rancid is reused and not even properly preserved. When financial issues do develop, however, the implications on health are substantial. Smoking and persistent alcohol abuses are socio-social issues since they are harming health due to the serum's declining levels of numerous important antioxidants. According to the study, using cancer prevention drugs as directed can help quash all naturally existing free radicals in the body, enhancing general health by reducing the danger of contracting numerous diseases including growth. Cancer prevention medications also aid in protecting the body from the pain of solar exposure, the depth of wrinkles, ultraviolet-induced skin tumors, and skin oedema from

daylight. Therefore, these cancer prevention compounds are added to body lotions to protect the body from UV radiation. Introduce the requirement for a modified dietary plan that will supply the required antioxidants in order to solve these issues³⁰.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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