

## Study the Role of Antioxidants in the Controlling of Huntington's Disease

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### ABSTRACT

Huntington's disease (HD) is a neurodegenerative disorder and generally related to a mutation in a gene. The mutation leads to the increasing in the triplet CAG repeating inside the coding section of the gene. Characteristics of Huntington's disease including the presence of 2 symptoms: abnormalities in the motor nerve cells and impairment of cognition. Nearly 9% of cases symptoms may begin earlier the age twenty years, in this case the disease identified as adolescent HD. The review aimed to study the Huntington's disease signs and symptoms, learning about causes and risks, Knowing the genetics of HD and types of antioxidant therapies used in HD. We concluded from the current review that HD is a disorder which has been stubborn to the treatment. In our review, we propose the using of antioxidants in the achievement of the disease state. Free radicals generation leading to the condition of oxidative stress (OS) destruction that causing loss of nerve cells in HD. Supplementation with antioxidants from natural source may cause reducing of oxidative stress that responsible for the pathophysiology of different dangerous illness for example, neurodegenerative illnesses. Oxygen Species mostly a free radical types that responsible for cells damaging and consequent death of cells because of the oxidation to sensitive constituents of cells that makes part of lipids, proteins, DNA, RNA. Glutamic acid is the main amino acid that preventing the neurodegeneration which responsible for HD people that are at great danger, as aged and newly detected patients.

### KEYWORDS

Huntington's Disease, Anti-oxidants, Neurodegenerative Illnesses.

### Introduction

Huntington's disease (HD) is also called the Huntington's chorea which considered a neurodegenerative disease and mostly related to a mutation in a gene that responsible for a protein encoding called huntingtin (htt) (Dayalu and Albin, 2015). The mutation leads to the increasing in the triplet CAG repeating inside the coding section of the gene named IT15 that responsible for encoding of htt, and causing a sequence of multiple Q tract adjacent to the N-terminal of that protein. Characteristics of Huntington's disease including the presence of 2 main symptoms which are: abnormalities in the motor nerve cells and impairment of cognition (Ross and Tabrizi, 2011). A process of neurodegeneration is a very excited disease, while in the term of motor signs, it has a bi-phasic principle. It is also a basal ganglia disease. The initial stage of HD is described by actions that are involuntary and termed "chorea" (Roze *et al.*, 2010; Rosas *et al.*, 2008; Cowan and Raymond, 2006). Degeneration also occurs in this early stage in a type of neurons that called a cortical glutamatergic neurons which project to the striatum which explain the impairments in cognition and psychological disturbances that appearing in patients with HD (Walker, 2007). When the disease advanced and the death of neurons increased and furthermore affects additional striatal subpopulations, HD patients exhibit a symptoms similar to Parkinson's disease symptoms with bradykinesia and also rigidity episodes. In addition to the primary cause of neurons degeneration that occurs in this disease which is the toxic effect of the transformed huntington protein, there is a further several methods, many of them are common to other disorders of neurodegeneration, i.e. misfolding of proteins, abnormalities in protein lysis, accumulation and deposition of proteins, unregulated transcriptional process, loss of mitochondrial functions, processes of oxidation, stimulation of glial cells also the events of local inflammation, all the above have also involved in the death of nerve cells of HD patients. In patients with HD signs typically start between thirty to fifty years old but also may begin at any age. HD may develop at the early time in the successional generation. Nearly 9% of cases symptoms may begin earlier the age twenty years, in this case the disease identified as adolescent HD, that usually existing with the symptoms of slow

movement of Parkinson's disease rather than those of chorea (Stadtman, 2004).

HD still has no cure and patients may die in approximately ten to twenty years after the diagnosis of disease (Factor and Friedman, 1997). There were some attempts with antiepileptic agents that used for reducing the excitotoxicity effect within the damaged brain cells despite their efficacy was limited. During the latest years, different assemblies of novel complexes, as fatty acids that are unsaturated, Q10 co-enzyme, minocycline, inhibitors for histone deacetylases, have been restudied in preclinical models (Butler and Bates, 2006).

The process of oxidative tension plays an important role in the pathology of neuronal degenerative diseases as Alzheimer's and Huntington's diseases also in Parkinson's disease (Pohl *et al.*, 2018; Christensen *et al.*, 2009). Humans (CNS) is predominantly delicate to the damage by oxidation due to its extraordinary intake of  $O_2$  (nearly twenty percent of whole body consumption of  $O_2$ ) (Gaeta and Hider, 2005). Many researches stated that numerous samples related to neuronal brain disease contain low concentrations of redox enzymes, superoxide dismutase, also the enzyme catalase. Additionally, reactive oxygen species (ROS) leading to the misfolding and proteins accumulation, and to the oxidation of DNA or RNA (Desai *et al.*, 2015; Chang *et al.*, 2018). Oxidative stress also playing an important role in temporary ischemia of cerebrum, which is characterized by the disturbance of flow of blood, through this next stage,  $O_2$  actions as substrate of a succession of oxidative reactions for many enzymes that leading to an increasing in oxidant species (Chan, 1996). Thus, the pharmacologic change of damage by oxidation has been planned as a way for stroke medicines (Raza *et al.*, 2011). All of these thoughts strongly boost the using of antioxidants by means of a probable tool in the direction of avoiding ROS role in the neuronal goals: numerous studies in the preclinical stage explained the role of antioxidants in reducing the oxidative tension in addition to improving the impairments of cerebrum in patients with Alzheimer's disease. Several medicines that using in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease belonging to the antioxidants properties (Niedzielska *et al.*, 2016).

The review aimed to:

1. Study the Huntington's disease signs and symptoms.
2. Learning about causes and risks of HD.
3. Knowing the genetics of HD.
4. Types of antioxidant therapies used in HD.

## 1- Symptoms of HD

The signs of HD are greatest commonly noticed at the ages between thirty years to fifty years, while in other cases they may also initiate at every age (Jensen *et al.*, 2018). In fifty percent of many cases, the symptoms that appear first in HD patients are the psychiatric symptoms. Their development is designated in the initial, middle, and delayed periods with a previous prodromal stage. Within the initial stages of disease, many changes observed in subtle personality, physical abilities and cognition problems, irritability, and occurrence of temper swings, every one of them may be unobserved (Vale and Cardoso, 2015). The symptoms generally appear before the motorized symptoms (Arlington, 2013). Virtually every person suffering from HD finally exposed an analogous physical signs, while the beginning, symptom development, and the mental and behavioral signs extension may differ significantly among different persons (Kremer, 2002; Wagle, 2000).

The most symptoms of HD are jerky, and randomly uncontrolled movements. Many patients are not realized their involuntary movements (Dayalu and Albin, 2015). Chorea may be first exhibited as incomplete motions, loss of organization, and reduced saccadic eye movements (Walker, 2007). The common consequences involving corporeal variability, strange face expression, besides a difficult speaking, mastication, and swallowing. Disturbances in sleeping and loss of weight are also related symptoms (Dickey and Spada, 2018). Swallowing difficulties causing loss of weight and subsequently may cause malnutrition (Aziz *et al.*, 2008). HD of juvenile developed at a quicker rate combined with further declining in cognition, the slowly movement, tremors and rigidity, is more predominant in the juvenile HD (Dickey and Spada, 2018).

Cognitive ability is a progressive impairment and generally tend to decline and converted to dotting. Particularly that affected are principle occupations, that including a planning, suppleness in cognition, compendious thought, statute achievement, starting of proper activities, also damping of unsuitable actions (Montoya *et al.*, 2006). With the progression of a disease, memory insufficiencies begin to appear, including episodic deficits, procedural, and memory of working.

Described neuropsychiatric symptoms are depression, anxiety, reducing in displaying of emotions, egocentrism, dourness, and compulsive demeanor, the last one may cause addictions, as well as alcoholism, baccarat, and extrasexuality (van Duijn, 2007). Abstruseness in identification other people's – ve expressions are another observations. The presence of these indications is movable among studies, with predictable degrees for lifetime presence of psychological abnormalities among thirty three to seventy six percent. Recent behavioral changes in the results of HD including an increasing in suicide risks. Frequently, persons have less attentiveness of chorea, emotional impairments and cognition (Murray *et al.*, 2012).

Mutations in huntington disease are expressed through the patient's body and linked with peripheral tissues abnormalities which caused by the expression exterior of the brain. The abnormalities are including the atrophy in muscles, failure of the heart, impairment intolerance to glucose, losing of weight, osteoporosis, and dystrophy in testicles (van der Burg *et al.*, 2009).

## 2 - Reasons and Risks

Defective gene identification in 1993 causes approximately all of HD. Huntington gene defect includes additional specific code repeating in a unique small piece in chromosome number 4. Huntington normal gene including seventeen to twenty of this code repetitions amongst that one entire of above 3,100 codes. This is miss which causing HD including fourty or extra repeats. Hereditary tests for HD are using for measurement the amount of repeats that occur in patients that having a gene of huntington protein. Many scientists are excited to explain these mysteries in order to exist the solution of Huntington's disease. These answers furthermore may provide a significant insight to the extensive range for additional disorders associated with brain such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's and ALS or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Maiuri *et al.*, 2017 ; Sturrock A, Leavitt, 2010).

## 3 - Genetics of HD

Every person has 2 replicas of huntingtin gene (HTT), that encodes for a type of protein called huntingtin protein abbreviated as (Htt). The other name of HTT is HD gene, also the gene IT15. Portion of that gene is a repetitive segment named a trinucleotide repeat expansion – a stubby repeat, that differs among persons in length, also can modify its length among generations. These repeats if existing in healthy genes, an active mutation can surge the repeating amount and resulting in unreliable gene. If the size of the repeated segment reaching a definite threshold, its products a different formula of the protein, that called a mutant huntingtin protein (mHtt). Different functions of this protein is the cause of many pathological variations, that in turn causing the symptoms of a disease. The mutation of HD is hereditarily dominant and fully penetrant; mutation in any of an individual's HTT alleles causing that disease. The inheritance is not associated with sex, but through the distance of gene repeated section (Walker, 2007).

### Genetic Mutation

The gene of HTT is positioned on the chromosome 4 short arm at 4p16.3. HTT contains a sequencing of DNA three bases which are: cytosine-adenine-guanine (CAG) that are frequent numerous times, identified as a repeat of trinucleotide. CAG is a codon for glutamine amino acid, therefore successions of them resulting in the creation of a glutamine sequences identified as a polyglutamine tract, the frequent portion of the gene named the polyQ region (Katsuno *et al.*, 2008).

Trinucleotide repeating classification, and resulting disease status, depending on the number of CAG repeating (Walker, 2007)			
Count of repeats	Classification	Status of the disease	Offspring risks
Less than twenty- seven	Normal	not be affected	No risk
From twenty-seven to thirty-five	Intermediate	not be affected	Less than fifty percent
From thirty-six to thirty-nine	Reduced in Penetrance	Affected or not	fifty percent
More than fourty	Full in penetrance	affected	fifty percent

Usually, persons have less than thirty six frequent glutamines in the area of polyQ, producing the huntingtin protein in the cytoplasm. A sequencing of thirty six or further glutamines creating a protein with different features. The transformed shape, named the mutant huntington (mHtt) which increasing the declined degree of

definite kinds of nerve cells. Areas in human brain having different quantities and depending on nerve cells types. Commonly, the amount of repeats of CAG is associated to how much of this process is altered, and accounts for approximately sixty percent of these differences of the age of the beginning of signs. Variation remaining is imputed to environmental factors and additional genes which modify the mechanisms of HD. Nearly thirty six to thirty nine recurrences resulting in reducing in the penetrance of the disease form, with abundant later beginning and slowing the progression of signs. In certain circumstances, onset may be so late, these signs are never observed. With a very great repeating amounts (more than sixty), The beginning of HD can happen under the age of twenty (juvenile HD). Juvenile HD is characterised by slow movements, inflexibility, and shocks. This accounts for approximately seven percent of HD carriers (Squitieri *et al.*, 2006; Nance and Myers, 2001).

### Inheritance of HD

Huntington's diseases have an inheritance of autosomal dominant, which means that individual who is affected usually receives one copy of the gene with an extended repeating of a trinucleotide from the parent that affected. Then mutational penetrance is great, persons that having a copy of gene with mutation will exposing the Huntington's disease. In such inheritance design, every progeny from affected person will having about fifty percent danger of receiving the allele that mutant, so is affected by the condition. This possibility is a sex-independent type (Passarge, 2001).

Repeating of a CAG trinucleotide numbering more than 28 are not stable through replication, and this condition of instability will increasing as the numeral repeats increased. Generally this leading to different expansions with generations pass alternatively reproducing a strict copy for repeating the trinucleotide. The condition causing the numeral repeats to variation in sequential generations, like this non affected paternal with an "intermediary" repeats numbers between (twenty eight- thirty five), or " decreased penetrance" (thirty six- forty), might pass in the copy of the gene that has an increasing in repeats numbers that producing wholly penetrant HD. Such increasing in the repeats number in sequential generations is identified as hereditary anticipation (Dayalu and Albin, 2015). Variability is more in the process of spermatogenesis than oogenesis process; inherited alleles maternally are generally of a similar repeat size, while paternally inherited alleles have a greater chance of increasing in its length (Ridley *et al.*, 1988). Infrequently a new mutation may causing Huntington's disease, where neither parental has above thirty six repeats of CAG (Semaka *et al.*, 2006).

In a rare conditions where parents together having an prolonged gene of HD, the risk increasing to seventy five percent, when each parent has 2 prolonged copies, the danger will increasing to one hundred percent (the wholly offspring will suffering from HD). Persons that having both affected genes are uncommon. Sometimes, HD considered the lone disease in which possession of a 2nd transformed gene did not redound signs and development, however many scientists established that it can affect the phenotype and the level of progression (Squitieri *et al.*, 2003).

### 4 - Therapies Related to Antioxidants Used for HD

Gathering of ROS within nerve cells, besides successive oxidative stress, all of them are weakened via scavengers for free radical that classified into enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidants. The first one (enzymatic) antioxidants considered a type of the defensive mechanisms of the body for destroying free radicals. The free radicals including superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) and glutathione peroxidase (Gpx). Antioxidants of Non-enzymatic type are exemplified by retinoic acid, ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), glutathione (GSH),  $\alpha$ -tocopherol (Vitamin E), flavonoids, carotenoids, and others. The beneficial approach that experienced *in vitro* or in toxin or transgenic models of HD is given below:

#### Experiments that are Accomplished in Vitro Are

- a. Catalytic antioxidants that containing metals, Metalloporphyrin, has developed as a novel category type of possible remedial agents which remove an extensive ranged reactive oxygen species. Another agent is a manganese porphyrin can be described for reducing death of cells in the *in vitro* model of HD (Brown *et al.*, 1999).
- b. Vitamin C or Ascorbic acid considered a strong antioxidant which may be gained exogenously, that causing the oxidization of dehydroascorbic acid with the existence of reactive oxygen species. Treatment of rodent

- cortical nerve cells in culture by glutamic acid causing a significant degeneration of nerve cells, which was totally saved by co-treatment with ascorbic acid (Beal and Ferrante, 2004).
- c. Vitamin E or  $\alpha$ -tocopherol is also a strong antioxidant. Using a nerve cells-based assay, inducing of neuronal death by glutamic acid was significantly weakened in a dose-dependent mode by  $\alpha$ -tocopherol. Idebenone treatment in this in vitro model also resulted in whole protection of neurons in a dose-dependent manner (Stack *et al.*, 2008).
  - d. Melatonin hormone, which acts as a good scavenger for hydroxyl, reactive nitrogen species, carbonate, and other radicals from organic group. Melatonin significantly decreased deoxy ribonucleic acid damaging and supports neurons survival (Albin *et al.*, 1992).
  - e. Selenium, is a necessary component that required by the enzyme glutathione peroxidase for the formation of active enzyme. Selenium reduced the peroxidation of lipids and improved the morphology of nerve cells inside the rat striatum after treatment by quinolinic acid (Ferrante *et al.*, 1985).
  - f. Creatine is a type of natural compounds that acts by means of antioxidants. Another function of creatine is buffering the intracellular energy reserves during its middle, phosphocreatine (PCr); also cause the stabilizing of intracellular calcium; and inhibiting the activation of transition pore within the mitochondria. Creatine supplements reduce the volume of striatal lesion produced by malonate and the neurotoxins 3-NP.
  - g. Tacrolimus or Fujimycin (FK-506) is a drug that considered immunosuppressive and mainly used for the lowering of allograft rejection. Newly, the role of FK-506 as neuroprotective effects were described in 3-NP model of Huntingtons Disease.
  - h. The pigments of carotenoid and phytochemical (Lycopene) is found in vegetables as well as fruits naturally, cause oxidative stress markers reduction and improving the behavior in a 3-NP induced rodent model of HD.

### In the Models of HD Transgenic Mouse

- a. Lipoic acid considered to be a critical cofactor to many types of enzymes and exist as cofactor to pyruvic acid dehydrogenase enzyme and  $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid dehydrogenase in mitochondria. It is considered an actual antioxidant which used for the treatment of impaired energy metabolism associated disease. It also plays an important role in the inducing the Nrf-2/ARE pathway. Supplementation by lipoic acid in diet causing an increase in survival, as well as a loss of weight in N171-82Q transgenic rats. Pyruvic acid is important in glycolysis, and has the properties of antioxidants (Ferrante *et al.*, 1987).
- b. BN82451 is a brain-penetrable that has the effect of neuroprotection, including the lipid peroxidation inhibition. R6/2 mice that administered BN82451 resulted in an extension of survival, significant motor function improvements, with gross morphology improvements, as well as a number of ubiquitin positive aggregates in R6/2 mice was significantly decreased when compared with control mice that untreated.
- c. Creatine present within cells in the form of free creatine, also in the form of phosphocreatine (PCr), these compounds together forming the whole creatine pool. Within higher energy requirements tissues in brain and striated muscles, phosphocreatine doing a buffer action through which the phosphorylation of adenosine diphosphate (DAP) to adenosine triphosphate (ATP) occurs. The process of phosphor group transferring is accomplished by creatine kinase (CK). Supplementation with creatine in R6/2 and the N171-82Q transgenic mouse improving the motor performance, extended survival, the loss in the body mass as well as the brain weight attenuation besides neuronal atrophy reduction.
- d. Four-N-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxy-butyric acid (L-carnitine) which playing an important action in mitochondrial acyl-coenzyme A/ratio of coenzyme A controlling, fatty acids oxidation by peroxisomes, or may acting as a scavenger for free-radical. It is active in plasma membrane damage prevention that triggered by the action of reactive oxygen species. Administration excess of L-carnitine by the N171-82Q transgenic mice cause the extend in surviving, ameliorate motor performance, and also cause the intranuclear aggregates amount decreasing.
- e. Treatment with phenolic extract from grape seed in the models of fly and R6/2 mouse of HD cause extend in life extent, and reduce motor deficits in the R6/2 mice.
- f. Artificial triterpenoids that equivalent to 2-Cyano-3,12-Dioxooleana-1,9-Dien-28-Oic acid (CDDO), are of excessive attention because they have properties as anti-inflammatory and antioxidants. Triterpenoids conserved the striatal volumes of the N171-82Q mice, by stopping the degeneration of the middle spiny nerve cells (White *et al.*, 1997; Johri and Beal, 2012).

## Conclusion

HD is a disorder from a neurodegenerative type and has been stubborn to the treatment. Even though the numerous research dwelled on the disease, no benefit treatments considered to assuage the signs of HD have been advanced. This might be related to the nature complexity of this disease and to the absence of evidences on a detailed molecular goal to the therapeutic interference. We are knowing that oxygen considered an important particle for surviving of living organisms over the world besides within the body. Oxidative stress condition typically harmful to the body and happens as soon as there is an additional generation of free radicals or decreasing in the levels of antioxidant within the body. Therefore, this review suggests using of antioxidants in the achievement of the disease state. Free radicals generation leading to the condition of oxidative stress (OS) destruction that causing loss of nerve cells in HD. Supplementation with antioxidants from natural source may cause reducing of oxidative stress that responsible for the pathophysiology of different dangerous illness for example, neurodegenerative illnesses. Oxygen Species mostly a free radical type that responsible for cells damaging and consequent death of cells because of the oxidation to sensitive constituents of cells that makes part of lipids, proteins, DNA, RNA. Glutamic acid is the main amino acid that preventing the neurodegeneration which responsible for HD people that are at great danger, as aged and newly detected patients. The neurogenesis process in adults considered an important tool for the treatment of HD brains, and it is contributing to the adult brain functions. Many types of antioxidants regulate the process of neurogenesis. Natural antioxidants may provide proneurogenic as well as neurotropic, neuroprotection and supporting to the brain of HD patients.

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