

NOPPARAT BUDDHAKALA : PHYSIOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE
EFFECTS OF GINGER OIL ON RAT UTERINE CONTRACTION.

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GINGER OIL/ZINGIBERACEAE/UTERUS/CITRAL/CAMPHENE

Ginger rhizomes (*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe) have been extensively studied for their pharmacological activities, but not for their physiological activities in smooth muscle. The aim of this study was to elucidate effects of ginger oil and its pure compounds (citral and camphene) on uterine contraction and investigate the mechanisms for the best position to exert the effects. Particular, the experiments were designed to determine whether the mechanisms depend on cyclooxygenase pathways, Ca^{2+} -CaM MLCK pathways, or non- Ca^{2+} -CaM MLCK pathways. The effects of ginger oil and its pure compounds on myometrial morphological features and the inflammatory process were also examined. Ginger oil was analyzed by GC-MS and dissolved in hexane (< 0.15%). The rats were humanely killed by cervical dislocations and the myometrial tissues dissected. The strips were immediately immersed into Krebs' solution containing in the organ bath and measured by PowerLab. The results showed that IC_{50} of ginger oil, citral, and camphene were 50 $\mu\text{l}/100\text{ ml}$, 2.2 mM, and 7.5 mM, respectively. They inhibited spontaneous and PGs-induced myometrial contraction. This is probably due to the inhibition of L-type Ca^{2+} channels. The effects of ginger oil and its pure compounds were reversible upon elevation of external Ca^{2+} concentration (from 2 to 5 mM). Without external Ca^{2+} , PGs elicited a small force that was inhibited by ginger oil, citral, and camphene. The myometrial contraction may be inhibited via inhibition of Ca^{2+} -CaM MLCK pathways. In addition, in the absence of external Ca^{2+} , they can inhibit force, presumably via inhibition of

non- Ca^{2+} -CaM MLCK pathways. Whereas, AA-induced contraction was decreased by ginger oil and its pure compounds. This inhibition (of force) may be exerted via inhibition of PKC or ROK pathway. PGs synthesis was inactive by using ginger oil and its pure compounds with DMSO, but they showed the contribution with indomethacin inhibiting COX-2 process. Consequently, they blockaded L-type Ca^{2+} Channels. These effects on myometrial contraction did not mediate by cAMP as the content is lower than 10^{-6} M. The normal feature of uterus in the presence of ginger oil and its pure compounds was detected by LM and TEM.

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