

## PubMed Search

**Search: (Berberine[MeSH]) AND (Aging[MeSH] OR Anti-Aging Agents[MeSH])**

1. Berberine: Pharmacological Features in Health, Disease and Aging. (2024)
2. Curr Med Chem. 2024;31(10):1214-1234. doi: 10.2174/0929867330666230207112539.

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Berberine: Pharmacological Features in Health, Disease and Aging.

Gasmi A(1), Asghar F(2), Zafar S(3), Oliinyk P(4)(5), Khavrona O(4)(5), Lysiuk

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I(4)(5), Noor S(10), Lenchyk L(11)(12), Muhammad A(13), Vladimirova I(11)(12),

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**BACKGROUND:** Berberine is the main active compound of different herbs and is defined as an isoquinoline quaternary botanical alkaloid found in barks and roots of numerous plants. It exhibits a wide range of pharmacological effects, such as anti-obesity and antidiabetic effects. Berberine has antibacterial activity against a variety of microbiota, including many bacterial species, protozoa, plasmodia, fungi, and trypanosomes.

**OBJECTIVE:** This review describes the role of berberine and its metabolic effects. It also discusses how it plays a role in glucose metabolism, fat metabolism, weight loss, how it modulates the gut microbiota, and what are its antimicrobial properties along with its potential side effects with maximal tolerable dosage.

**METHODS:** Representative studies were considered and analyzed from different scientific databases, including PubMed and Web of Science, for the years

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1982-2022.

**RESULTS:** Literature analysis shows that berberine affects many biochemical and pharmacological pathways that theoretically yield a positive effect on health and disease. Berberine exhibits neuroprotective properties in various neurodegenerative and neuropsychological ailments. Despite its low bioavailability after oral administration, berberine is a promising tool for several disorders. A possible hypothesis would be the modulation of the gut microbiome. While the evidence concerning the aging process in humans is more limited, preliminary studies have shown positive effects in several models.

**CONCLUSION:** Berberine could serve as a potential candidate for the treatment of several diseases. Previous literature has provided a basis for scientists to establish clinical trials in humans. However, for obesity, the evidence appears to be sufficient for hands-on use.

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Senescence in astrocytes has been discovered as a crucial contributor to several age-related neurological diseases. Here, we aim to observe if astrocytes

demonstrate senescence in the process of brain aging, and whether they bring

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vitro aged astrocytes all showed manifest changes in several established markers

of cellular senescence, e.g., P53, P21, and the release of inflammatory cytokine

IL-6 and SA- $\beta$ -gal positive cells. Results also showed mitochondrial dysfunction

in the oxidative stress-induced astrocyte senescence model and treatment of

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conditioned medium could impact on neuron apoptosis in direct or indirect ways.

(4) Conclusions: Senescent astrocyte might affect neurons directly or indirectly

acting on the regulation of normal and pathological brain aging.

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Heart aging is characterized by left ventricular hypertrophy and diastolic dysfunction, which in turn induces a variety of cardiovascular diseases. There is still no therapeutic drug to ameliorate cardiac abnormalities in heart aging.

In this study we investigated the protective effects of berberine (BBR) and its derivative tetrahydroberberrubine (THBru) against heart aging process. Heart aging was induced in mice by injection of D-galactose (D-gal, 120 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>·d<sup>-1</sup>, sc.) for 12 weeks. Meanwhile the mice were orally treated with berberine (50 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>·d<sup>-1</sup>) or THBru (25, 50 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>·d<sup>-1</sup>) for 12 weeks. We showed that BBR and THBru treatment significantly mitigated diastolic dysfunction and cardiac remodeling in D-gal-induced aging mice. Furthermore,

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treatment with BBR (40??M) and THBru (20, 40??M) inhibited D-gal-induced senescence in primary neonatal mouse cardiomyocytes in vitro. Overall, THBru exhibited higher efficacy than BBR at the same dose. We found that the levels of mitophagy were significantly decreased during the aging process in vivo and in vitro, THBru and BBR promoted mitophagy with different potencies. We demonstrated that the mitophagy-inducing effects of THBru resulted from increased mRNA stability of prohibitin 2 (PHB2), a pivotal factor during mitophagy, thereby upregulating PHB2 protein expression. Knockdown of PHB2 effectively reversed the antisenescence effects of THBru in D-gal-treated cardiomyocytes. On the contrary, overexpression of PHB2 promoted mitophagy and retarded cardiomyocyte senescence, as THBru did. In conclusion, this study identifies THBru as a potent antiaging medicine that induces PHB2-mediated mitophagy and suggests its clinical application prospects.

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2022 May 23.

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Chen Q(1), Xin G(1), Li S(1), Dong Y(1), Yu X(1), Wan C(1), Wei Z(1), Zhu Y(1), Zhang K(1), Wang Y(1), Li F(1), Zhang C(1), Wen E(1), Li Y(1), Niu H(1), Huang W(2).

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**BACKGROUND:** Accumulation of age-associated senescent cells accompanied with increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) and inflammatory factors contributes to the progression of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the main cause of blindness in the elderly. Berberine (BBR) has shown efficacy in the treatment of age-related diseases including diabetes and obesity by decreasing ROS. However, the pharmacological effect of BBR on alleviating retinal aging remains largely unknown.

**PURPOSE:** Our study aimed to investigate the pharmacological effect of BBR as an anti-aging agent in retinal aging and its further molecular mechanisms.

**METHODS:** D-galactose (DG)-induced ARPE-19 cell senescence and retinal aging were employed to evaluate the anti-aging effect of BBR in vivo and in vitro. The



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siRNA transfection, Western-Blot analyses, SA- $\beta$ -Gal assay and immunofluorescence were performed to investigate the potential mechanisms of BBR on anti-aging of RPE.

**RESULTS:** In RPE-choroid of both natural aged and DG-induced accelerated aged mice, oxidative stress was increased along with the up-regulation of p21 expression, which was ameliorated by BBR treatment. BBR down-regulated the expression of REDD1 to decrease intracellular ROS content, attenuating DG-induced senescence in vitro and in vivo. Furthermore, p53 instead of HIF-1 $\alpha$  was identified as the transcriptional regulator of REDD1 in DG-induced premature senescence. Importantly, NAC and BBR reversed the expression of p53 and the content of 8-OHdG, indicating that the positive feedback loop of ROS-DNA damage response (DDR) was formed, and BBR interrupted this feedback loop to alleviate DG-induced premature senescence by reducing REDD1 expression. In addition, BBR restored DG-damaged autophagy flux by up-regulating TFEB-mediated lysosomal biosynthesis by inhibiting REDD1 expression, thereby attenuating cellular senescence.

**CONCLUSION:** BBR down-regulates REDD1 expression to interrupt the ROS-DDR positive feedback loop and restore autophagic flux, thereby reducing premature senescence of RPE. Our findings elucidate the promising effects of REDD1 on cellular senescence and the great potential of BBR as a therapeutic approach.

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1. Berberine exerts protective effects on cardiac senescence by regulating the Klotho/SIRT1 signaling path

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Berberine (BBR), an isoquinoline alkaloid, exerts protective effects on various

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cardiac injuries, and also extends the lifespan of individuals. However, the cardioprotective effect of BBR on cardiac senescence remains unknown. This study investigated the effects of BBR on cardiac senescence and its underlying mechanism. Senescent H9c2 cells induced by doxorubicin (DOX) and naturally aged rats were used to evaluate the protective effects of BBR on cardiac senescence. The results showed that BBR protected H9c2 cells against DOX-induced senescence. Exogenous Klotho (KL) exerts similar effects to those of BBR. BBR significantly increased in protein expression of KL, while transfection with KL-specific siRNA (siKL) inhibited the protective effect of BBR against senescence. Both BBR and exogenous KL decreased the levels of reactive oxygen species, inhibited apoptosis, and alleviated mitochondrial dysfunction in these cells; and transfection with siKL attenuated these effects of BBR. In naturally aged rats, BBR indeed protected the animals from cardiac aging, at least partially, through lowering the levels of cardiac hypertrophy markers, and increased the expression of KL in cardiac tissue. Additionally, BBR markedly reversed downregulation of sirtuin1 (SIRT1) in the aged heart. In vitro experiments revealed that BBR and exogenous KL also increased the expression of SIRT1, whereas siKL limited this effect of BBR in senescent H9c2 cell. In summary, BBR upregulated KL expression and prevented heart from cardiac senescence through anti-oxidative and anti-apoptotic effects, as well as alleviation of mitochondrial dysfunction. These effects may be mediated via regulation of the Klotho/SIRT1 signaling pathway.

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Berberine-mediated REDD1 down-regulation ameliorates senescence of retinal pigment epithelium by interrupting the ROS-DDR positive feedback loop.

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**BACKGROUND:** Accumulation of age-associated senescent cells accompanied with increased reactive oxygen species (ROS) and inflammatory factors contributes to the progression of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the main cause of blindness in the elderly. Berberine (BBR) has shown efficacy in the treatment of age-related diseases including diabetes and obesity by decreasing ROS. However, the pharmacological effect of BBR on alleviating retinal aging remains largely

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unknown.

**PURPOSE:** Our study aimed to investigate the pharmacological effect of BBR as an anti-aging agent in retinal aging and its further molecular mechanisms.

**METHODS:** D-galactose (DG)-induced ARPE-19 cell senescence and retinal aging were employed to evaluate the anti-aging effect of BBR in vivo and in vitro. The siRNA transfection, Western-Blot analyses, SA- $\beta$ -Gal assay and immunofluorescence were performed to investigate the potential mechanisms of BBR on anti-aging of RPE.

**RESULTS:** In RPE-choroid of both natural aged and DG-induced accelerated aged mice, oxidative stress was increased along with the up-regulation of p21 expression, which was ameliorated by BBR treatment. BBR down-regulated the expression of REDD1 to decrease intracellular ROS content, attenuating DG-induced senescence in vitro and in vivo. Furthermore, p53 instead of HIF-1 $\alpha$  was identified as the transcriptional regulator of REDD1 in DG-induced premature senescence. Importantly, NAC and BBR reversed the expression of p53 and the content of 8-OHdG, indicating that the positive feedback loop of ROS-DNA damage response (DDR) was formed, and BBR interrupted this feedback loop to alleviate DG-induced premature senescence by reducing REDD1 expression. In addition, BBR restored DG-damaged autophagy flux by up-regulating TFEB-mediated lysosomal biosynthesis by inhibiting REDD1 expression, thereby attenuating cellular senescence.

**CONCLUSION:** BBR down-regulates REDD1 expression to interrupt the ROS-DDR positive feedback loop and restore autophagic flux, thereby reducing premature senescence of RPE. Our findings elucidate the promising effects of REDD1 on cellular senescence and the great potential of BBR as a therapeutic approach.

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1. Berberine exerts protective effects on cardiac senescence by regulating the Klotho/SIRT1 signaling pathway.

2. Biomed Pharmacother. 2022 Jul;151:113097. doi: 10.1016/j.biopha.2022.113097. Epub 2022 May 24.

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Berberine exerts protective effects on cardiac senescence by regulating the Klotho/SIRT1 signaling pathway.

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Berberine (BBR), an isoquinoline alkaloid, exerts protective effects on various cardiac injuries, and also extends the lifespan of individuals. However, the cardioprotective effect of BBR on cardiac senescence remains unknown. This study investigated the effects of BBR on cardiac senescence and its underlying mechanism. Senescent H9c2 cells induced by doxorubicin (DOX) and naturally aged rats were used to evaluate the protective effects of BBR on cardiac senescence. The results showed that BBR protected H9c2 cells against DOX-induced senescence. Exogenous Klotho (KL) exerts similar effects to those of BBR. BBR significantly increased in protein expression of KL, while transfection with KL-specific siRNA (siKL) inhibited the protective effect of BBR against senescence. Both BBR and exogenous KL decreased the levels of reactive oxygen species, inhibited apoptosis, and alleviated mitochondrial dysfunction in these cells; and transfection with siKL attenuated these effects of BBR. In naturally aged rats, BBR indeed protected the animals from cardiac aging, at least partially, through lowering the levels of cardiac hypertrophy markers, and increased the expression of KL in cardiac tissue. Additionally, BBR markedly reversed downregulation of sirtuin1 (SIRT1) in the aged heart. In vitro experiments revealed that BBR and exogenous KL also increased the expression of SIRT1, whereas siKL limited this effect of BBR in senescent H9c2 cell. In summary, BBR upregulated KL expression and prevented heart from cardiac senescence through anti-oxidative and anti-apoptotic effects, as well as alleviation of mitochondrial dysfunction. These effects may be mediated via regulation of the Klotho/SIRT1 signaling pathway.

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