

The Possible Improving Effects of γ -Irradiated and/or Extruded Soy Flour on Hypercholesterolemic Rats

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Abstract

Hypercholesterolemia is serious conditions that can cause fatal complications without careful management. Among the dietary supplementation with functional food, soybeans possess variety of antioxidant compounds that may lower incidence of hypercholesterolemia and degenerative cardiovascular disease. Thus, the purpose of this study is to determine the effect of gamma-irradiated and/or extruded soy flour on hypercholesterolemic rats. Processing of soy flour by γ -irradiation and/or extrusion reduced the amount of antinutritional factors such as tannin and trypsin inhibitor and resulted in different changes in the total amino acids and fatty acid contents. The animals maintained on the HCD showed remarkable decrease in the level of HDL-C associated with significant increase in the values of serum total lipid, total cholesterol, triglyceride, LDL-C, vLDL-C and the risk ratio in addition to serum concentration of urea, creatinine and uric acid in comparison with those of the control group. However, dietary supplementation of raw and treated soy flour resulted in reduction in the bad changes induced by HCD in the above mentioned parameters. In conclusion, treated soy flour supplementation in diet of rats pointed out to its hypocholesterolemic effect and its ability to improve lipid profile and kidney function of hypercholesterolemic rats.

Keywords: extrusion, gamma-irradiation, hypercholesterolemia, soy flour

Introduction

Hypercholesterolemia is the presence of a high level of total cholesterol in the bloodstream (Barbana *et al.*, 2010) and it is closely associated with obesity, diabetes mellitus, and several other metabolic syndromes (Aleisa *et al.*, 2013). Also, it seems to be an important risk factor accounting for severe atherosclerotic diseases (Augusti *et al.*, 2012).

Several studies indicated that soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill) is an effective dietary component and contains many bioactive components such as soy protein and soy isoflavones that can improve lipid profiles and reduce risk factors for chronic diseases like hypercholesterolemia and cardiovascular disease (Llaneza *et al.*, 2011).

Moreover, soybean contains several antinutritional factors, which could limit their consumption such as trypsin inhibitors (TI) and tannin content (Gu *et al.*, 2010) and removal of undesirable components is essential to improve the nutritional quality of soy. Various conventional and simple processing methods have been used such as gamma-irradiation (Dixit *et al.*, 2011) and extrusion (Frias *et al.*, 2011) in order to inactivate or reduce the antinutritional substances.

Therefore, the objective of the present study was oriented to the use of γ -irradiation and/or extrusion for in-

activation or removal of certain antinutritional factors as well as to study the biochemical effect of γ -irradiated and/or extruded soy flour on lipid profile in hypercholesterolemic rats.

Materials and methods

Material

Freshly dried soybean seeds were obtained from the Agriculture Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Giza, Egypt. Seeds were sorted by discarding damaged and immature ones. They were stored in air-tight containers at room temperature (25 ± 1 °C) prior to further use.

Processing of soy bean seeds

a-Gamma irradiation treatment

Soybean seeds were packed in polyethylene bags, and sealed by heat. Each bag contained about 500 g for gamma irradiation treatment. They were subjected at ambient temperature to gamma irradiation from ⁶⁰Co source at the National Center for Radiation Research and Technology (NCRRT) - Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt. The facility used was the Indian Gamma Chamber 400 A, 60 Co facility. The doses applied were 5, 10 kGy, delivered at a dose rate

of 4.75 kGy/h as calibrated using small pieces of the radio chromic film (McLaughlin *et al.*, 1985), at the time of experimentation.

b- Heat processing (Extrusion)

The whole soybean seeds were cleaned, dehulled and then extruded by single screw extruder with three zones (At the soy processing unit, food Technology Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Giza, Egypt). The heat treatment rise gradually through extruder zones for short time (Wijeratne and Nelson, 1993).

c- Combination of γ -irradiation and extrusion

Soybean seeds were subjected to gamma irradiation at dose levels of (5 and 10 kGy) then followed by heat processing.

Determination of antinutritional factors

Tannins content were measured by using the vanillin-HCl method (Burns, 1971). The trypsin inhibitors were determined according to (Hamerstrand *et al.*, 1981) using benzoyl-DL-arginine-p-nitroanilide (BAPA) as substrate.

Biological study Diet

The raw and processed soy flour mixed with the other feed ingredients. Vitamin-mineral mixture was prepared by mixing analytically pure vitamin compounds with mineral salts and kept at 4 °C until used. The dietary mixture was freshly prepared every week. Control group received a basic diet (20% casein, 10% soybean oil, 5% cellulose, 4% mineral mix, 2% vitamin mix, 6% sucrose, and 53% cornstarch), hypercholesterolemic group received the same diets supplemented with 1% cholesterol, 15% sheep tail fat and 0.25 % cholic acid (Rossi, 2000), while other groups received hypercholesterolemic diet containing raw and treated soy flour obtained in Tab. 1.

Tab. 1. Composition of the experimental diets (g kg⁻¹ diet)

Ingredients (g/kg)	High Cholesterol Diet
Soy flour*	465
oil	-----
Cornstarch	231.5
Sucrose	60
Cellulose	21
Vitamin mix**	20
Mineral mix***	40
Cholic acid	2.5
Cholesterol	10
Sheep tail fat	150
Total	1000

* treated soy flour.

**The mixture provides the following: Vit. A, 2000 IU; Vit. D, 200 IU; Vit.E, 10 IU; Menadione, 0.5; Choline, 200; Aminobenzoic Acid, 10; Inositol, 10; Niacin, 4; Ca D-Pantothenate, 4; Riboflavin, 0.8; Thiamine. HCl, 0.5; Pyridoxine-HCl, 0.5; Folic acid, 0.2; Biotin, 0.04; Vit. B12, 0.003; Glucose, to make 1000g.

Animals

The experiments were conducted on male albino senile rats (130-150 g). The animals were housed under conditions of controlled temperature (30±2 °C) with natural light.

The animals were randomly divided into 8 groups, each consisted of 10 rats.

- Group I: Fed on the basal diet for 10 weeks and considered as control group.
- Group II: Fed on hypercholesterolemic diet for 10 weeks and considered as a positive control group.
- Group III: Fed on hypercholesterolemic diet containing raw soybean flour for 10 weeks and considered as a treated control group.
- Group IV: Fed on hypercholesterolemic diet with γ -irradiated soybean flour (5 kGy) for 10 weeks.
- Group V: Fed on hypercholesterolemic diet with γ -irradiated soybean flour (10 kGy) for 10 weeks.
- Group VI: Fed on hypercholesterolemic diet with extruded soybean flour for 10 weeks.
- Group VII: Fed on hypercholesterolemia diet with γ - irradiated (5 kGy) and extruded soybean flour for 10 weeks.
- Group VIII: Fed on hypercholesterolemic diet with γ -irradiated (10 kGy) and extruded soy flour for 10 weeks.

At the end of the experimental period, the rats in each group were fasted overnight, anaesthetized with diethyl ether and sacrificed. Blood samples were collected by heart puncture, allowed to coagulate and centrifuged to obtain serum for biochemical analysis.

Biochemical Analysis

Total lipids (TL), Total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides (TG) and high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-C) were determined according to the procedure described by Zollner and Krisch (1962), Richmond (1973), Fasati and Prencipe (1982) and Lopez-Virella *et al.* (1977). Low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol, very Low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol and risk ratio were evaluated according to Friedewald *et al.* (1972) formulas, respectively by the following equations: LDL-C (mg/dl) = TC - (TG/5+HDL-C), vLDL (mg/dl) = TG/5 and the risk ratio = TC/HDL. Serum uric acid determination was carried out according to Young (1990), serum creatinine determination was carried out according to Giorgio (1974) and urea was determined by Crouch and Batton (1977).

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using computer program Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS, 1998), and values compared with each other using suitable tests.

Results and discussion

A significant reduction was noticed in the values of tannin content and trypsin inhibitor (TI) by processing of raw flour and the highest reduction was observed in irradiated (10 KGy) +extruded soy flour (Fig. 1).

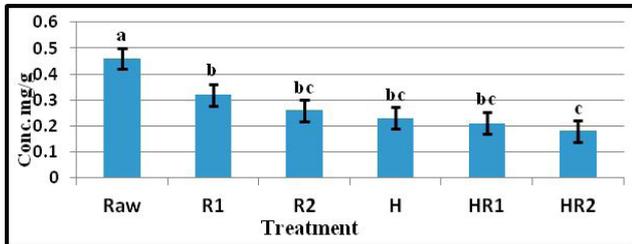


Fig. 1(a). Effects of γ -irradiation and/or extrusion on tannic acid of soy flour. a,b,c, Means within same column followed by different letters are significantly different at ($P < 0.05$), Values are means of three replicates (\pm SE). Raw \rightarrow raw soy flour, R1 \rightarrow irradiated at dose 5kGy, R2 \rightarrow irradiated at dose 10kGy, H \rightarrow extruded, HR1 \rightarrow irradiated (5KGY) + Extruded, HR2 \rightarrow irradiated (10KGY) + Extruded

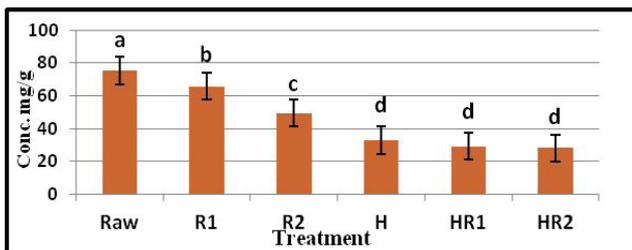


Fig. 1(b). Effects of γ -irradiation and/or extrusion on trypsin inhibitor of soy flour. a,b,c, means within same column followed by different letters are significantly different at ($P < 0.05$), Values are means of three replicates (\pm SE). Raw \rightarrow raw soy flour, R1 \rightarrow irradiated at dose 5kGy, R2 \rightarrow irradiated at dose 10kGy, H \rightarrow extruded, HR1 \rightarrow irradiated (5KGY) + Extruded, HR2 \rightarrow irradiated (10KGY) + Extruded

The animals maintained on the HCD showed significant high values of some lipid contents associated with remarkable decrease in the level of HDL-C in comparison with those of the control group. However, dietary supplementation of raw and treated soy flour resulted in reduction in the bad changes induced by HCD in the above mentioned parameters.

Rats received daily diet rich in cholesterol had an obvious increase in the serum concentration of urea, creatinine and uric acid compared to the control group. On the other hand, supplementation of HCD with raw and processed soy flour enhanced a significant reduction in the serum level of these constituents.

High dietary cholesterol intake is known risk factor for the development of steatohepatitis (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease), atherosclerosis in humans and animals

(Townsend *et al.*, 2008). Soybeans (*Glycine max*) is a species of legumes that becoming an important economic crop as a major source of protein, energy, polyunsaturated fats, fiber, vitamins, minerals, and other nutrients, for both humans and animals (Rettberg *et al.*, 2011).

In this work, γ -irradiation treatment and/or extrusion reduced the trypsin inhibitor activity (TIA) of soy bean and the maximum reduction was observed in case of irradiation (10 kGy) + extrusion. Inactivation of trypsin inhibitor in irradiated samples could be attributed to the destruction of disulphide (-S-S-) groups (Tresina and Mohan, 2012). Abu-Tarboush (1998) found reduction of 34.9% on the trypsin inhibitory activity in soybean flour radiated with 10 kGy. The author attributed this reduction to the breakage of the trypsin Inhibitory structure with the radiation treatment. Thermal treatment had been reported to be a valuable process for the inactivation of TIA. The reduction in TIA following extrusion by up to 90% was reported in the literature for other foods particularly mungbean, cowpea and blends with other crops (Alonso *et al.*, 2000a, 2000b).

Also, the results revealed a significant reduction in tannins as a result of gamma irradiation. Similar results were reported by Musa *et al.* (2010). The reduction in tannin content is very favorable since this anti-nutritional factor has the capacity for decreasing protein digestibility. The reduction is probably due to chemical degradation by the action of the hydroxyl and superoxide anion radicals generated by the irradiation (Musa *et al.*, 2010). The extrusion processing in this study resulted in decrease in tannin content. Alonso *et al.* (2000b) studied the effects of extrusion and conventional processing methods on protein and anti-nutritional factors in peas and they found varietal changes in their tannin contents, and extrusion was most effective in reducing tannins than the other processes. In addition, El-hady and Habiba (2003) have reported significant reduction in tannin content after extruding legume seeds at different moisture contents.

Derangements in cholesterol metabolism have been associated with the etiology of most human diseases. It is widely reported that high dietary cholesterol intake occasioned by a defect in cholesterol transportation, biosynthesis or catabolism is a risk factor in coronary heart disease (CHD) and atherosclerosis (30). Hence, prevention of hypercholesterolemia will be a positive step in the right direction for the management and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. The results of the present investigation show that rats fed with cholesterol rich diet developed hypercholesterolemia with a significant elevation in serum total lipid, total cholesterol (TC), triglycerides and low density lipoprotein (LDL-C) while there was a significant decrease in the HDL-C compared to control (Tab. 2). These results are in agreement with earlier reports on dietary hyperlipidemia (Abdulazeez, 2011) and hypercholesterolemia (Olorunnisola *et al.*, 2012). Moreover, prolonged administration of a high-cholesterol diet

Tab. 2. Effects of dietary supplementation by raw and treated soy flour to HC rats on lipid profile

Animal groups	TL (mg/dl)	TC (mg/dl)	TG (mg/dl)	HDL-C (mg/dl)	LDL-C (mg/dl)	LDL-C (mg/dl)	Risk ratio
Control	499.634 ±12.774 ^b	138.352 ±0.579 ^b	105.469 ±1.976 ^e	48.878 ±0.582 ^a	68.238 ±0.398 ^b	21.094 ±0.396 ^e	2.845 ±0.023 ^e
HCD	1310.75 ±5.689 ^a	295.779 ±1.867 ^a	202.128 ±2.056 ^a	27.74 ±1.004 ^f	227.614 ±1.512 ^a	40.426 ±0.4112 ^a	10.724 ±0.356 ^a
Raw	993.590 ±2.493 ^b	237.508 ±1.849 ^b	162.810 ±1.750 ^b	32.781 ±0.673 ^c	172.165 ±1.111 ^b	32.561 ±0.348 ^b	7.253 ±0.111 ^b
R1	778.121 ±3.755 ^d	200.662 ±2.738 ^d	139.291 ±2.211 ^d	35.488 ±0.885 ^d	137.317 ±2.295 ^d	27.858 ±0.443 ^d	5.662 ±0.123 ^c
R2	754.782 ±3.024 ^c	192.552 ±1.480 ^c	134.191 ±1.649 ^c	38.567 ±0.959 ^c	127.147 ±0.356 ^c	26.838 ±0.33 ^c	5.001 ±0.09 ^d
H	840.857 ±1.310 ^c	210.840 ±3.617	146.615 ±2.019 ^c	34.467 ±1.054 ^{de}	147.050 ±2.708 ^c	29.323 ±0.403 ^c	5.907 ±0.141 ^c
HR1	614.518 ±2.827 ^f	179.385 ±1.558 ^f	130.615 ±1.038 ^c	40.508 ±1.079 ^{bc}	112.754 ±0.713 ^f	26.123 ±0.207 ^e	4.440 ±0.087 ^c
HR2	563.367 ±2.253 ^e	166.256 ±1.693 ^e	121.65 ±1.108 ^f	42.374 ±0.819 ^b	99.545 ±1.429 ^e	24.337 ±0.221 ^f	3.926 ±0.072 ^f

^{a,b} Means within same column followed by different letters are significantly different at (P<0.05). Values are means of three replicates (± SE). Raw→ raw soy flour, R1→irradiated at dose 5kGy, R2→ irradiated at dose 10kGy, H→ extruded, HR1→ irradiated (5KGY) +Extruded, HR2→ irradiated (10KGY) +Extruded.

Tab. 3. Effects of dietary supplementation by raw and treated soy flour to hypercholesterolemic rats on kidney function

Animal groups	Urea (mg/dl)	Uric acid (mg/dl)	Creatinine (mg/dl)
Control	41.479 ±0.289 ^e	5.355 ±0.082 ^h	1.186 ±0.032 ^f
HCD	59.633 ±0.311 ^a	8.936 ±0.082 ^a	2.069 ±0.062 ^a
Raw	50.668 ±0.471 ^b	7.078 ±0.047 ^b	1.529 ±0.028 ^b
R1	45.810 ±0.337 ^d	6.491 ±0.023 ^d	1.331 ±0.021 ^{cd}
R2	45.115 ±0.194 ^{de}	6.22 ±0.016 ^c	1.301 ±0.018 ^{de}
H	47.904 ±0.319 ^c	6.629 ±0.021 ^c	1.40 ±0.018 ^c
HR1	44.672 ±0.383 ^c	5.720 ±0.022 ^f	1.268 ±0.015 ^{def}
HR2	43.218 ±0.305 ^f	5.5337 ±0.019 ^e	1.202 ±0.016 ^{ef}

^{a,b,c} Means within same column followed by different letters are significantly different at (P<0.05). Values are means of three replicates (± SE). Raw→ raw soy flour, R1→irradiated at dose 5kGy, R2→ irradiated at dose 10kGy, H→ extruded, HR1→ irradiated (5KGY) +Extruded, HR2→ irradiated (10KGY) +Extruded.

to animals will accelerate the synthesis of TG, inhibit the metabolism of fatty acids and diminish the secretion of TG from the liver to blood by decreasing the β -oxidation of fatty acids. It leads to the accumulation of excess TG in the liver and the content of TC in mouse serum increased significantly, compared with the normal control group rats (Feng *et al.*, 2011).

On the other hand, the present study showed that consumption of HCD containing either raw or processed soy flour have benefit effects on lipid profile which lowered the levels of total lipids, cholesterol, triglycerides and low density lipoprotein (LDL), and significantly increased HDL-C concentration compared to HCD fed rats. Moreover, results of rats fed HCD with γ -irradiated (10kGy) +extruded soy flour provided marked effect on serum lipid and lipoprotein concentrations than the other groups. That refers to the both effect of gamma irradiation and extrusion which cause increase in the contents of essential amino acids and phenolic compound as well as removal of large portion of the antinutritional contents.

The mechanism for the cholesterol lowering effects of soy protein is that peptides resulting from the digestion of soy protein up regulate hepatic LDL receptors (Manzoni *et al.*, 2003). Isoflavones may work by making the liver more efficient to remove the bad cholesterol from the blood by increasing LDL-receptor densities in the liver (Baum *et al.*, 1998). In addition, Lee *et al.* (2012) reported that soy flour decreased low density lipoprotein-cholesterol and increased high density lipoprotein-cholesterol. High density lipoprotein (HDL) may enhance the removal of cholesterol from peripheral tissue to the liver for catabolism and excretion.

As a result of HCD intake in this study, urea, creatinine and uric acid concentrations were increased in the serum of hypercholesterolemic rats (Tab. 3). The elevated urea level in hypercholesterolemic rats is likely due to increased amino acid catabolism, impaired kidney function or liver damage (Pedraza *et al.*, 2004). Yang *et al.* (2012) observed an increased serum creatinine levels and induced severe renal tubular necrosis in rats fed the high-cholesterol diet for 8 weeks but not in rats fed the normal diet or high-cholesterol diet for 2 weeks. The authors concluded that long-term hypercholesterolemia appeared to be a risk factor for contrast-induced acute kidney injury (CI-AKI), which might be associated with disorders in intrarenal prostaglandins and abnormalities in renal nitric oxide system induced by lipid peroxidation.

However, supplementation of soy flour (raw or processed) to the HCD induced reduction of urea, creatinine and uric acid levels and that could be attributed to phenolics and isoflavones scavenge properties and prevention of renal tissue damages via protecting lipids structures in renal cells from the peroxidation by ROS induced by hypercholesterolemic diet. Similarly, Khan and Sultana (2004) observed a marked reduction in the levels of blood urea nitrogen and serum creatinine, marker parameters

of kidney damage in soy isoflavones pretreatment groups shows that antioxidants of soy is effective in improving kidney function.

Conclusions

The results of our study showed that the soy flour can play a role in the prevention of risk of developing high blood cholesterol and a significant decrease in the concentration of total lipid, triglyceride, total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein, risk factor. Along with a marked increase in the concentration of high-density lipoprotein, in addition to a marked improvement in kidney function of rats fed a high cholesterol diet supplemented with raw and processed soybean flour compared to rats fed on HCD only.

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