SYNERGISTIC NEUROPROTECTIVE EFFECT FROM COMBINING GINSENG AND LINGZHI

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Sir, the use of Chinese herb for promotion of neurological system is widely used at present. Many Chinese herbs have been studied for its clinical usefulness and there are many new evidences confirming the advantages of those herbs. Of several herbs, ginseng and lingzhi are widely used. The combination of ginseng and lingzhi can be seen in some regimens. Those regimens are usually mentioned for its good property in neuroprotective effect. Although the usefulness of ginseng and lingzhi is confirmed the usefulness of the combination has never been systematically clarified. Here, the author use the standard ontology assessment on the biological actions of ginseng, lingzhi and the combination of both herbs. The method hereby used is the same as previously published papers. Briefly, ontology analysis is the assessment of molecular function and biological process of focused biochemical substances using systematic search of similar records in the database and the computational ontology analytical tool is further used for prediction of studied substances. According to the ontology analysis, it can be seen that there is a synergistic increased neuroprotective effect from combining ginseng and lingzhi, however, there is no new additional biological actions results from combination. This means the usefulness in the combination is resulted from each herb, not any new action. In fact, the neuroprotective effect of both ginseng and lingzhi is confirmed. According to basic pharmaceutical science, combining between drugs or herbs might result in new property, which has never seen in the original substrate of combination. This can be expected in the case of combined ginseng and lingzhi. Of interest, there has never been any previous report clarifying occurrence of any new property in the combination. To answer this question, the author hereby uses ontology technique to predict whether there is any new property or not. Focusing on the combination, there is an evidence that co-fermentation between the two herbs can induce increased level of ginsenoside, active ingredient found in ginseng. Nevertheless, there is no additional new property due to the combination. This means intake of a combination regimen or each herb separately give no different outcome. On the other hand, this also means that there is also no adverse effect that is generated due to combination of the two herbs. To support the present study, further systematic in vivo and in vitro studies to verify the clinical neuroprotective effect from using combined ginseng and lingzhi regiment is recommended.
REFERENCES


