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### Toxic Effect of Cryoprotectants on Embryo Development in a Murine Model

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**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to assess toxicities of cryoprotectants.

**Methods:** Toxicities of two cryoprotectants, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and 1,2-propanediol (PROH), were investigated using a murine embryo model. Female F-1 mice were stimulated with gonadotropin, induced ovulation with hCG and mated. Two cell embryos were collected and cultured after exposure to either DMSO or PROH. Embryo development was evaluated up to the blastocyst stage. Blastocysts were stained with bis-benzimide to evaluate the cell count and with terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase mediated dUTP nick labeling (TUNEL) to assess apoptosis.

**Results:** The total cell count of blastocysts that were treated with DMSO at the 2-cell stage was significantly lower than that were treated with PROH ( $75.9 \pm 27.0$ ) or the control ( $99.0 \pm 18.3$ ) ( $p < 0.001$ ). On comparison of two cryoprotectant treated groups, the DMSO treated group showed a decreased cell count compared with the PROH treated group ( $p < 0.05$ ). Both DMSO ( $14.2 \pm 1.5$ ) and PROH ( $11.2 \pm 1.4$ ) treated groups showed higher apoptosis rates of cells in the blastocyst compared with the control ( $6.2 \pm 0.9$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). In addition, the DMSO treated group showed more apoptotic cells than the PROH treated group ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusions:** The potential toxicity of cryoprotectants was uncovered by prolonged exposure of murine embryos to either DMSO or PROH at room temperature. When comparing two cryoprotective agents, PROH appeared to be less toxic than DMSO at least in a murine embryo model.

**Key Words:** Cryoprotectant, DMSO, PROH, Toxicity, Embryo, Apoptosis

가



1.5 M DMSO 1.5 M PROH

가 5.

3) 30 1.5 M DMSO 1.5 M PROH bis-benzimide 10 µg/ml

60 2- , 0.3% BSA가 PBS 3

가 slide glass mounting , TUNEL

positive (Mag×400)

3 , KSOM 2

20 µl oil 5 6.

37 , 5% CO<sub>2</sub> 5

3. Student's *t*-test <sup>2</sup> test , P

2- 60 0.05 .

24

. 96 bis- 1.

benzimide (Hoechst 33342) 92.9%가

. , DMSO A 12.3%,

B 33.8%, C 53.9% , PROH

7.7%, 29.2%, 63.1%

. Figure 1

(p<0.001) 가 .

4. TUNEL DMSO C 가

(p<0.001). 가

. 5 acid tyrode 24

, 0.3% BSA가 DMSO PROH

PBS 3 0.4% paraformaldehyde 가 (Figure 2).

가 1 , 0.3%

BSA가 PBS 3

permeability 0.5% Triton X-100 15

, 0.3% BSA가 PBS 3

. Enzyme solution label solution (In

Situ Cell Detection Kit, Fluorescent; Roche, Germany)

1:9 drop oil 2.

37 1

0.3% BSA가 PBS 3

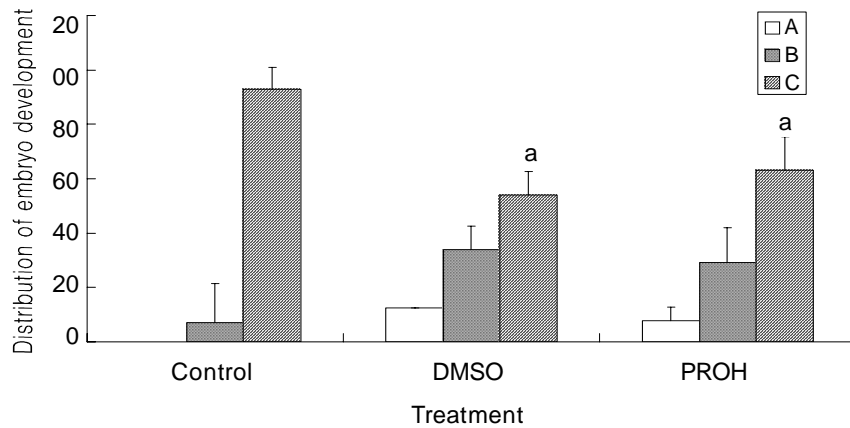
DMSO (67.4±24.9)

PROH (75.9±27.0) (99.0±18.3)

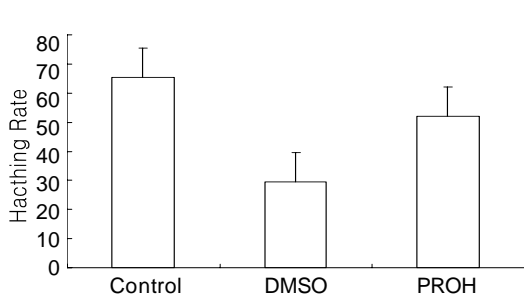
(p<0.0001).

DMSO PROH

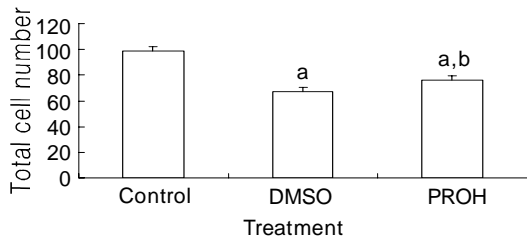
(p<0.05) (Figure 3).



**Figure 1.** Comparison of embryo development after 60 minutes exposure of 2-cell murine embryo to 1.5 M DMSO or 1.5 M PROH. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SD; a  $P < 0.001$  versus control. Cell number A: <40, B: 40~70, C: >70.



**Figure 2.** Comparison of hatching rates of embryos that were exposed to cryoprotectants at the 2-cell embryo stage. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SD; a  $P < 0.001$  versus control.



**Figure 3.** Comparison of total cell number of murine blastocysts which were treated with 1.5 M DMSO, 1.5 M PROH, and Leibovitz solution (control) at the 2-cell embryo stage. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM; <sup>a</sup>  $p < 0.001$  versus control, <sup>b</sup>  $p < 0.05$  versus DMSO.

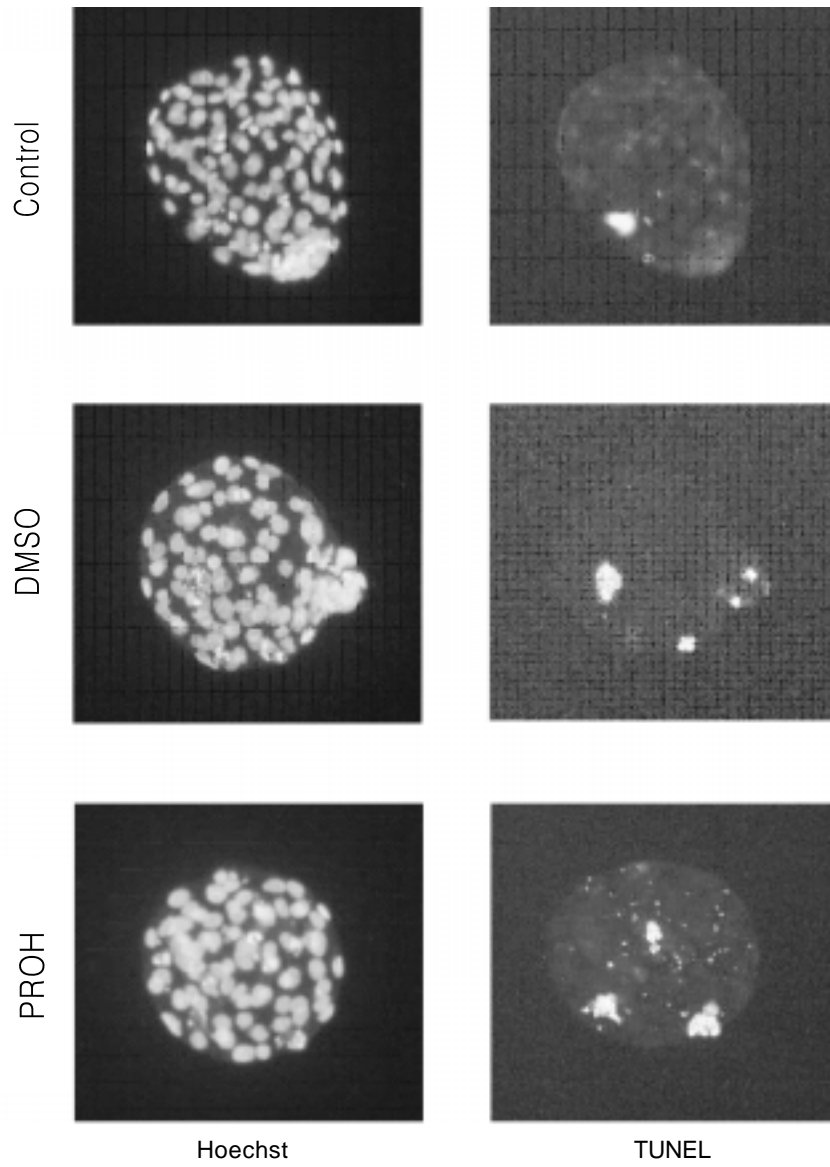
3.

DMSO  
(14.2 $\pm$ 1.5) PROH (11.2 $\pm$ 1.4)

(6.2 $\pm$ 0.9)  
( $p < 0.001$ ), DMSO PROH  
( $p < 0.001$ )  
(Figure. 4,5).

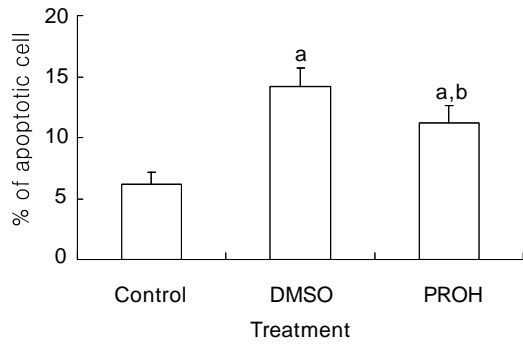
가 (colli-  
gative)  
(hydroxyl radical scavenging)

37 PROH  
, 37 5  
.<sup>9</sup> Takagi<sup>10</sup>



**Figure 4.** Murine blastocyst stained with a TUNEL method and counter- stained with Hoechst 33342.

가 . 60 30  
 EG (primordial  
 follicles) 가 60  
 11,12 . DMSO PROH  
 가 가  
 PROH DMSO



**Figure 5.** Comparison of the apoptotic rates of cells in blastocysts which were treated with 1.5 M DMSO, 1.5 M PROH for 60min at the 2-cell embryo stage. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM; a  $p < 0.001$  versus control, b  $p < 0.01$  versus DMSO.

가 DMSO  
 9,13  
 가  
 ,  
 check point  
 가 PROH DMSO  
 PROH  
 ,  
 DMSO  
 , PROH  
 .  
 DMSO  
 가  
 ,  
 가  
 가  
 .  
 (lysin)  
 'strypsin' trypsin  
 가  
 .  
 .<sup>4</sup> Schi-  
 ewe<sup>14</sup> anti-hatching

가  
 DMSO  
 DMSO PROH  
 가 가  
 ,  
 가  
 (germ)  
 가  
 가

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