

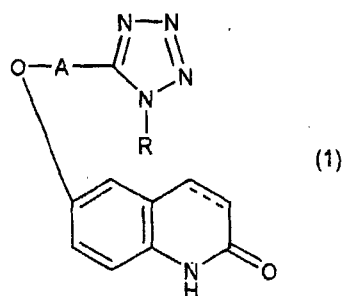


DESCRIPTION

COMBINATION DRUG CONTAINING PROBUCOL AND A TETRAZOLYLALKOXY-DIHYDROCARBOSTYRIL DERIVATIVE WITH SUPEROXIDE SUPPRESSANT EFFECTS

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

10 This invention relates to a combination drug for treating and preventing cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis, renal diseases, or diabetes. More particularly, it relates to a combination drug for treating and preventing cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis, renal diseases, or diabetes which comprises a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives of the formula:



15 wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyril nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and Probucol.

20 The combination drug of the present invention is effective on the cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis, renal diseases, or diabetes owing to the superoxide suppressing activity based on the synergistic effects by combination of the above tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivative (1) and Probucol (= 4,4'-isopropylidenedithiobis[2,6-di-tert-butylphenol]).

TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

25 Cerebral infarction including acute cerebral infarction and chronic cerebral infarction, also known as cerebrovascular accident or also as cerebromalacia, is caused by interruption of the blood supply to a part of the brain due to occlusion or coarctation of cerebral artery and/or vein to result in necrosis of the brain tissue or cells. The most important risk factors thereof are hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, and cigarette smoking. For remedy of the cerebral infarction, it is



important to inhibit the development of necrosis due to free radical and cerebral expansion, and anticoagulants, thrombolytic agents, such as urokinase, tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) have been used.

Arteriosclerosis, which term is often used interchangeably with atherosclerosis, is in the conditions that the walls of the arteries become thick and stiff and the blood flow to organs and tissues are restricted. Although the cause is unknown, it is suspected that it starts with damage or injury to the inner layer of an artery, and the damage may be caused by various factors, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, an irritant (e.g. nicotine) and certain diseases such as diabetes. For the remedy of arteriosclerosis, various drugs have been used, for example, anticholesterol agents (e.g. probucol, statins, clofibrates), anti-platelet agents (e.g. aspirin), anticoagulant agents (e.g. heparin, warfarin), blood pressure controlling agents (e.g. angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, calcium channel blockers).

Renal diseases, including diabetic nephropathy, renal failure, and nephritis, are characteristic in the functional changes such as excess glomerular filtration and albuminuria and the histological changes such as glomerular sclerosis due to increase of extracellular matrix protein. It is considered that the renal diseases are caused by sustained high blood sugar, intracellular abnormal metabolism (e.g. increase of polyol pathway and hexosamine pathway, and activation of protein kinase C (PKC)) due to hyperglycemia, accumulation of advanced glycation end-products (AGE), pressure overload due to glomerular hypertension, or increased oxidant stress, and that the most important genes of renal diseases are increased oxidant stress as well as hyperglycemia in the light of reports that active oxygen increases in the intracellular abnormal metabolism or in the process of formation of AGE (cf. Nature, 414, pp. 813-820, 2001) and that all of the increase of hexosamine pathway, the PKC activation and increase of AGEs are inhibited by inhibition of excess production of superoxide in mitochondria (cf. Nature, 404, pp. 787-790, 2000).

It is known that exacerbation of insulin resistance is important factor of diabetes onset, but the exacerbation of insulin resistance

becomes not only pathogenesis of metabolic syndrome such as diabetes but also promotes the onset and development of cardiovascular diseases and renal diseases (cf. *Arterioscler. Thromb. Vasc. Biol.*, 24, pp.816-823, 2004), and hence, it has been considered that improvement of insulin resistance is useful for treating diabetes and diabetic complication. It is also reported that increased oxidant stress may be an important factor of inducing insulin resistance (cf. *Nature*, 440, pp. 944-948, 2006) and hence an oxidant stress inhibitor may be useful for the prevention and treatment of diabetes and of onset and development of renal diseases in the light of the improving activity of insulin resistance.

Although the population of diabetic patients with renal disease is increasing year by year, there has never been found a suitable therapy for treating renal diseases.

By the way, it has been known that oxygen is essential for a living body in order to maintain life, for example, to keep normal energy production and metabolism. Oxygen may be changed into so-called active oxygen in the living body. The active oxygen includes radical oxygen and non-radical oxygen. Among the active oxygen in a broad sense including lipid-related materials, the former radical oxygen includes a hydroxyl radical ($\cdot\text{OH}$), an alkoxy radical, a peroxy radical, a hydroperoxy radical, a nitrogen monoxide, a nitrogen dioxide, superoxide ($\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$), etc. The latter non-radical oxygen group includes a singlet oxygen, ozone, hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), a lipid hydroperoxide, etc.

As an active oxygen which may be affective on tissue cells, there are radical oxygens of $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ and $\cdot\text{OH}$, and non-radical oxygen of H_2O_2 (cf. *YAKUGAKU ZASSHI* 122(3), pp.203-218 (2002)). The $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ produces oxygen and hydrogen peroxide by the action of superoxide dismutase (SOD) in the living body. Hydrogen peroxide is changed into $\cdot\text{OH}$ by catalytic action of iron ion, copper ion included in cells. The hydroxyl radical attacks directly DNA, proteins in the living body. On the other hand, the hydroxyl radical reacts with lipids and thereby is converted into lipid radical and then produce lipid hydroperoxide.

Thus, these active oxygens such as $\cdot\text{OH}$, H_2O_2 , which are relative with serious diseases, are mostly caused by $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$, and hence, it has been

demanded to find a substance being capable of suppressing $O_2^{\cdot -}$.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

5 The present inventors have intensively studied the pharmacological activities of combination of the tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) which is known to have an active oxygen suppressing activity with a known anti-hyperlipemic agent, Probucol, and have found that the combination exhibits excellent synergistic antioxidant activity as well as excellent synergistic activity
10 for suppressing the superoxide which causes cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis and renal diseases, and further exhibits significant improvement of insulin resistance and remarkably decreases the urinary excretion of glucose which is one of indexes for renal dysfunctions, and then have found that the combination of the
15 tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol is effective for the prevention and/or treatment of cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis, renal diseases (e.g. diabetic nephropathy, renal failure, nephritis), or diabetes owing to the excellent superoxide suppressing activity.

20 Thus, an object of the invention is to provide a combination drug for preventing and treating cerebral infarction comprising a tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol.

Another object of the invention is to provide a combination drug for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis comprising a
25 tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combination drug for preventing and treating renal diseases comprising a tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combination drug
30 for preventing and treating diabetes comprising a tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of a tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING

Fig. 1 is a graph showing correlation between Cilostazol concentration and NAD(P)H-dependent $O_2^{\cdot -}$ production in inhibition by Cilostazol alone or a Combination of Cilostazol and Probucol on NAD(P)H-dependent $O_2^{\cdot -}$ production.

Fig. 2 is a graph showing inhibitory effects of 0.3% Cilostazol alone, 0.1 % Probucol alone or a combination of 0.3% Cilostazol and 0.1 % Probucol on atherosclerotic lesion in low-density lipoprotein receptor-knockout mice fed high cholesterol.

Fig. 3 is a graph showing inhibitory effects of 0.3% Cilostazol alone, 0.5 % Probucol alone or a combination of 0.3% Cilostazol and 0.5 % Probucol on atherosclerotic lesion in low-density lipoprotein receptor-knockout mice fed high cholesterol.

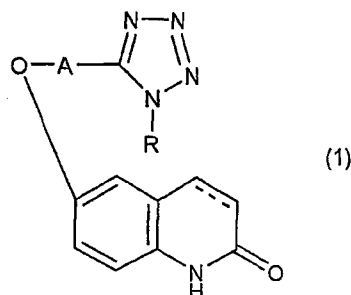
Fig. 4 is a graph showing effects of Probucol and Cilostazol alone and a combination of Probucol and Cilostazol against focal cerebral ischemic injury in rats.

Fig. 5 is a graph showing effects of Probucol and Cilostazol alone and a combination of Probucol and Cilostazol against urinary excretion of glucose in rats.

Fig. 6 is a graph showing effects of Probucol and Cilostazol alone and a combination of Probucol and Cilostazol against insulin resistance in rats.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

The carbostyryl derivative to be inclusive as one of the component of the combination drug of the present invention is tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the

bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyryl nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof.

In the above formula (1), the cycloalkyl group includes C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl groups such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, and cyclooctyl. Preferred one is cyclohexyl. The lower alkylene group includes C₁-C₆ alkylene groups such as methylene, ethylene, propylene, tetramethylene, butylene, and pentylene, among which preferred one is tetramethylene.

Preferable carbostyryl derivative is 6-[4-(1-cyclohexyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)butoxy]-3,4-dihydrocarbostyryl, which has been put on the market in the trade name of Cilostazol as an antiplatelet agent.

These carbostyryl derivatives (1) and salts thereof and a process for preparation thereof are disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,277,479. It is also disclosed in U.S. Patent 6,743,806 that the carbostyryl derivatives (1) have an active oxygen suppressing activity.

Another active ingredient, Probucol is a compound having a chemical name of 4,4'-isopropylidenedithiobis[2,6-di-tert-butylphenol], and has already been put on the market as an anti-hyperlipidemic agent. It is also known that this compound has an inhibitory activity of production of oxidized LDL (low-density lipoprotein) (cf. J. Clin. Invest., 77, p.641, 1986)

These active ingredients, a carbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol may be administered together or separately, at the same time or different time. These ingredients may usually be used in a conventional pharmaceutical formulation. Then, these ingredients may be prepared in the pharmaceutical formulation in a single dosage form or in separate dosage forms.

The dosage forms are not specified but may be any conventional pharmaceutical formulations, for example, preparations for oral administration, such as tablets, capsules, granules, various liquid preparations suitable for oral administration, or preparations for parenteral administration, such as injections, suppositories.

The dose of these active ingredients is not limited to a specific range. The carbostyryl derivatives (1) or a salt thereof may be used in an amount of 50 to 200 mg/day in adult (50 kg of body weight), which

is administered once a day or by dividing into two to several times per day. Probucol may be used in an amount of 100 to 1000 mg/day in adult (50 kg of body weight), which may be administered at one time but may preferably be administered by dividing the daily dose into two to several times per day. When these ingredients are prepared in a single dosage form, they are incorporated in a ratio of 0.25 to 10 parts by weight of Probucol per 1 part by weight of the carbostyryl derivative (1) or a salt thereof.

The preparations such as tablets, capsules, liquid for oral administration may be prepared by a conventional method. The tablets may be prepared by mixing the active ingredient(s) with conventional pharmaceutical carriers such as gelatin, starches, lactose, magnesium stearate, talc, gum arabic, and the like. The capsules may be prepared by mixing with inert pharmaceutical fillers or diluents and filled in a hard gelatin capsule or a soft capsule. The oral liquid preparations such as syrups or elixirs are prepared by mixing the active ingredient(s) and sweetening agents (e.g. sucrose), preservatives (e.g. methylparaben, propylparaben), colorants, flavors, and the like. The preparations for parenteral administration may also be prepared by a conventional method, for example, by dissolving the active ingredient(s) of the present invention in a sterilized aqueous carrier, preferably water or a saline solution. Preferred liquid preparation suitable for parenteral administration is prepared by dissolving the daily dose of the active ingredients as mentioned above in water and an organic solvent and further in a polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 300 to 5000, which is preferably incorporated with a lubricant such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and polyvinyl alcohol. The above liquid preparations may preferably be further incorporated with a disinfectant (e.g. benzyl alcohol, phenol, thimerosal), a fungicide, and further optionally with an isotonic agent (e.g. sucrose, sodium chloride), a topical anesthetic, a stabilizer, a buffer, and the like. In view of keeping stability, the preparation for parenteral administration may be filled in a capsule, followed by removing the aqueous medium by a conventional lyophilizing technique, and is recovered into a liquid preparation by dissolving in an aqueous

medium when used.

According to the present invention, by combining the carbostyryl derivative (1), particularly 6-[4-(1-cyclohexyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)butoxy]-3,4-dihydrocarbostyryl, or a salt thereof with Probucol, they are effective on cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis, renal diseases (e.g. diabetic nephropathy, renal failure, nephritis), or diabetes.

One of the mechanisms of exhibiting those effects may be owing to the excellent superoxide suppressing activity, that is they exhibit excellent synergistic antioxidant activity and synergistic superoxide suppressing effects, by which the superoxide affecting tissue cells are effectively removed. Besides, by suppressing superoxide, it results also in inhibition of production of $\cdot\text{OH}$, H_2O_2 , which are derived from the superoxide. The combination drug of the present invention can also inhibit the production of active oxygens such as $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$, $\cdot\text{OH}$, H_2O_2 , which are the main cause of serious diseases. It is known that superoxide causes cerebral infarction (e.g. acute cerebral infarction, chronic cerebral infarction), arteriosclerosis, renal diseases (e.g. diabetic nephropathy, renal failure, nephritis) (cf. Antioxidants & Redox Signaling, 5, 2003, pp.597-607, which discloses participation of $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ in cerebral infarction; Circ. Res., 86, 2000, pp. 494-501, which discloses that NAD(P)H oxidase produces $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ and participates in circulatory system diseases such as arteriosclerosis; Eur. J. Pharmacol., 450, 2002, pp. 67-76, which discloses participation of $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ in renal diseases).

Thus, by synergistic superoxide suppressant effects, the combination of the carbostyryl derivative (1) and Probucol of the present invention can exhibit the desired effects for prevention and treatment of cerebral infarction, arteriosclerosis, renal diseases (e.g. diabetic nephropathy, renal failure, nephritis), or diabetes.

EXAMPLES

The present invention is illustrated by the following preparation examples and experiments of superoxide suppressing activity of the agent of the present invention, but should not be construed to be limited thereto.

Preparation 1

Preparation of tablets:

	<u>Components</u>	<u>Amount (g)</u>
	6-[4-(1-Cyclohexyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)butoxy]-3,4-dihydrocarbostyryl	100
5	Probucol	250
	Lactose (Japanese Pharmacopeia)	40
	Cornstarch (Japanese Pharmacopeia)	40
	Crystalline cellulose (Japanese Pharmacopeia)	20
	Hydroxypropylcellulose (Japanese Pharmacopeia)	4
10	Magnesium stearate (Japanese Pharmacopeia)	2

The above active ingredients of the present invention, lactose, cornstarch and crystalline cellulose are mixed well and the mixture is granulated with 5% aqueous solution of hydroxypropylcellulose, and the granulated mixture is sieved with 200 mesh screen to dry the granules carefully, and then the granules are tabletted by a conventional method to give tablets (1000 tablets).

Pharmacological ExperimentsExperiment 1

Synergistic Inhibition by Combination of Cilostazol and Probucol on NAD(P)H-dependent $O_2^{\cdot-}$ production from Human Vascular Endothelial Cells

(1) Materials and Methods:

Cell Cultures: HCAEC (Human coronary artery endothelial cells) were cultured in the endothelial cell basal media-2 (EGM-2) Bullet kit. Cells were grown to confluence at 37°C in 5% CO₂ and used for experiments at not greater than passage 6.

Test materials were (1) Cilostazol alone (n=4), (2) Probucol alone (n=4), (3) a mixture of Cilostazol with Probucol (n=4): the final concentrations for Cilostazol were 0.3, 1.0, and 3.0 μ M and Probucol 0.01, 0.03, and 0.1 μ M, which were corresponding to the ratio of Cilostazol and Probucol between 3:1 and 300:1 by molecular weight.

(2) Measurement of Superoxide:

Cilostazol and Probucol were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide as 10 mM stock solutions. Immediately after the addition of Cilostazol and/or Probucol at the final concentrations of 0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0 μ M and 0,

0.01, 0.03, 0.1 μ M, respectively, into the culture medium, TNF- α (50 ng/ml) was added and HCAEC were incubated for 4 hours. After cells were exposed to the TNF- α , endothelial homogenates were placed into the luminometer (Microlumat LB96P, EG & G Berthold). Immediately before recording chemiluminescence, NADH and NADPH (final concentration, 100 μ M, each) were added, and dark-adapted lucigenin (bis-N-methylacridinium nitrate, 5 μ M) was added via an autodispenser. Chemiluminescence intensity was recorded every 30 seconds for 15 minutes, and the respective background was subtracted. Chemiluminescence was expressed as counts per second per milligram of protein.

The statistical analysis was done in the following manner.

1) The effects in Cilostazol alone or Probucol alone were compared with the effects of their combination by Dunnett's test.

2) In order to evaluate the synergistic effects of their combination, two-way analysis of variance (two-way ANOVA) was carried out between the Control, Cilostazol alone, Probucol alone, and the combination.

All tests were done by two-sided test with significant level of 5%, by means of SAS Software (SAS Institute Japan, R8.1).

(3) Results :

The results are shown in the accompanying Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the longitudinal axis means NAD(P)H-dependent $O_2^{\cdot-}$ production (% of Control), and the abscissa axis means Cilostazol concentration (μ M), and the line with a rhombus mark means the data of Cilostazol alone, i.e. no Probucol (P0), the line with a square mark means the data of a mixture of Cilostazol with Probucol in an amount of 0.01 μ M, the line with a triangle mark means the data of a mixture of Cilostazol with Probucol in an amount of 0.03 μ M, and the line with an "x" mark means the data of a mixture of Cilostazol with Probucol in an amount of 0.1 μ M.

As is seen from Fig. 1, when Cilostazol was used in combination with Probucol, the $O_2^{\cdot-}$ production was significantly inhibited in comparison with Cilostazol alone. Furthermore, the suppressive effect was significantly potentiated by the combination of 3 μ M Cilostazol and

0.1 μ M Probucol ($p=0.0322$ by two-way ANOVA).

Experiment 2

Effects of Cilostazol and Probucol Alone and in Combination on Atherosclerosis in Low-Density Lipoprotein Receptor-Knockout Mice Fed High Cholesterol.

(1) Materials and Methods:

Low-density lipoprotein receptor-knockout (LDLR-KO) mice (J. Clin. Invest. 1993; 92: 883-893) (male, 9 weeks old, which was prepared by and kept in Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co, Ltd.) were used. The animals were treated by grouping in the following six groups.

- 1) Control group (n=13)
- 2) 0.3% Cilostazol-administered group (n=14)
- 3) 0.1% Probucol-administered group (n=14)
- 4) 0.5% Probucol-administered group (n=14)
- 5) 0.3% Cilostazol + 0.1% Probucol administered group (n=14)
- 6) 0.3% Cilostazol + 0.5% Probucol administered group (n=14)

Prior to start the experiment, the body weight of the animals and total cholesterol were measured, and based on both data, the animals were divided into six groups in random by stratified randomization method (SAS Software, R8.1). The doses of Probucol and Cilostazol were determined based on the reports (Horm. Metab. Res. 2001; 33: 472-479, and J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther. 2005; 313: 502-509), respectively. In control group, mice were administered with a high-fat diet [i.e. a conventional feed (CRF-1, manufactured by Oriental Yeast Industries Co., LTD.) supplemented with cholesterol (1.25 %), sodium cholate (0.5 %) and cacao butter (15 %)] and in the test material-administered group, the mice were administered with the high-fat diet combined with Cilostazol (0.3 %) and/or Probucol (0.1% or 0.5 %). The high-fat diet was administered to the LDLR-KO mice (since 9 weeks old) in order to induce atherosclerosis (in control group). In the test material-administration groups, the high-fat diet mixed with test material was administered to the mice (since 9 weeks old). The mice in both groups were dissected at eighth weeks after starting the administration of the diet. The atherosclerotic lesion was evaluated by picking up whole of the aorta under ether anesthesia, exposing the

inner face of aorta and staining the fats with Sudan IV. The area of the atherosclerotic lesion (containing fats/lipids) in whole of the aorta was counted by image analysis of stained area and whole area of the aorta.

The statistical analysis was done in the following manner.

1) In order to confirm the synergistic effects of the combination of Cilostazol and Probucol, two-way ANOVA was carried out between the control group and the Cilostazol-administered group as well as between the Probucol-administered group and two agents-administered group, and thereby the interaction was observed.

2) The effects in Cilostazol- and Probucol-administered group were compared with the effects in control group by Dunnett's test. Moreover, the effects in Cilostazol- and Probucol-administered group were compared with the effects in Cilostazol+Probucol-administered group by Dunnett's test.

All tests were done by two-sided test with significant level of 5%, by means of SAS Software (SAS Institute Japan, R8.1).

(2) Results:

The area of atherosclerotic lesion was calculated as the ratio (%) of the area stained by Sudan IV to the area of whole aorta. The mean values $\pm$ standard deviation were $10.1 \pm 4.7\%$ in Control group, $6.6 \pm 2.6\%$ in Cilostazol-administered group, $6.2 \pm 2.6\%$ in 0.1% Probucol-administered group, $4.7 \pm 1.2\%$ in 0.5% Probucol-administered group, $3.8 \pm 1.2\%$ in Cilostazol+0.1% Probucol-administered group, and $2.9 \pm 1.5\%$ in Cilostazol+0.5% Probucol-administered group.

As shown in the accompanying Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, Cilostazol (0.3%) and Probucol (0.1 and 0.5%) inhibited the atherosclerotic lesion significantly in LDLR-KO mice. Besides, when combinations of two agents were administered, the arteriosclerosis was more potently inhibited in each combination with the doses of Probucol.

Experiment 3

Effects of Probucol and Cilostazol alone and in Combination against Focal Cerebral Ischemic Injury in Rats

(1) Materials and Methods

Male Sprague-Dawley rats weighing 280 - 320 g were anesthetized with pentobarbital sodium (20 mg/kg, i.p.), and placed on

a heating pad (Homeothermic Blanket System, Harvard Apparatus, South Natick, MA) to maintain a constant rectal temperature ($37 \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$). Systemic arterial blood pressure, arterial blood gas and pH were measured before, during ischemia and after 22-h reperfusion.

5 Focal cerebral ischemia was induced by transient occlusion of the left middle cerebral artery (MCA) as previously described (Stroke 1989; 20:84-91). Surgical nylon suture thread (3-0 in size) with the round tip was advanced from the external carotid artery into the lumen of the internal carotid artery until blocking the flow of the MCA. Two
10 hours after MCA occlusion, reperfusion was allowed by withdrawal of the suture thread until the tip cleared the internal carotid artery.

For analysis of cerebral infarct, at 22-h of reperfusion after 2-h left MCA occlusion, rats were given an overdose of thiopental sodium and decapitated, and then the brain was quickly removed and frozen by
15 suspension over liquid nitrogen. The brain was cut into a 2-mm-thick coronal block. The brain slices were immersed in a 2 % solution of 2, 3, 5-triphenyltetrazolium chloride (TTC) in normal saline at 37°C for 30 min and then fixed in 10 % phosphate-buffered formalin at 4°C . The TTC-stained brain slices were photographed using CCD video camera
20 and the size of an infarct was calculated with image analysis system (Image-Pro Plus, Media Cybernetics, Maryland) and expressed as the percentage of infarcted tissue in reference to the ipsilateral hemisphere.

Cilostazol and probucol were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) as a 30 mg/ml stock solution and diluted to 10 mg/ml with
25 phosphate buffered saline, respectively. In one group, rats orally received 20 mg/kg of cilostazol two times at 5 min, and 4 h after the completion of MCA occlusion, respectively. The other group of rats received 30 mg/kg probucol orally two times at 5 min, and 4 h after the completion of MCA occlusion, respectively. The combination group rats
30 were treated with 20 mg/kg cilostazol plus 30 mg/kg probucol orally two times, respectively. Vehicle group received 30% DMSO solution (300 μl) orally without cilostazol/probucol.

The statistical analysis was done in the following manner. Data were expressed as mean $\pm$ S.E.M. The comparison of the results of
35 hemispheric infarct areas between groups is analyzed by repeated

measures analysis of variance followed by Tukey's multiple comparison tests as a post hoc comparison. The differences were considered statistically significant at $P < 0.05$.

(2) Results

The cerebral ischemic zone was consistently identified in the cortex and striatum of the left cerebral hemisphere as a distinct pale-stained area in the rats subjected to 2-h ischemia/22-h reperfusion. As shown in the accompanying Fig. 4, the infarct area was marginally reduced when the animals orally received 20 mg/kg cilostazol two times at 5 min and 4 h after the completion of 2-h ischemia, whereas 30 mg/kg probucol was without effect. Treatment with cilostazol (20 mg/kg) and probucol (30 mg/kg) in combination significantly reduced the hemispheric cerebral infarct area when compared with that of vehicle, indicative of a potent synergistic effect of combination therapy.

Experiment 4

Effects of Probucol and Cilostazol alone and in Combination against Urinary Excretion of Glucose and Insulin Resistance in Rats

(1) Materials and Methods

Otsuka Long-Evans Tokushima Fatty (OLETF) male rats (6 week olds) were divided randomly into the following four groups depending on the body weights by stratified randomized method (using SAS Software, R8.1):

- | | |
|--|--------|
| i) Control group: | n = 10 |
| ii) 0.3% Cilostazol-administered group: | n = 10 |
| iii) 0.5% Probucol-administered group | n = 10 |
| iv) 0.3% Cilostazol+0.5% Probucol-administ. group: | n = 9 |

Immediately after the randomized grouping, high-fat diet (commercially available feed (CRF-1, manufactured by Oriental Yeast Industries Co., LTD.) supplemented with cholesterol (1.25%), sodium cholate (0.5%) and cacao butter (15%)) was administered to the mice in each group in order to promote the onset of renal disease. In the test-material administered groups, the high-fat diet combined with the test material was administered to each mouse immediately after grouping.

In the eleventh week after initiation of feeding, the mice were bled from the tail vein without anesthetization, and the plasma glucose and

insulin level in plasma were measured. Separately, the urine was taken, and the urinary glucose was measured. Glucose was measured by an enzymatic method using a commercially available kit for measuring glucose, and the insulin was measured by a commercially available ELISA kit.

The statistical analysis was done in the following manner.

1) In order to confirm the synergistic effects of the combination of Cilostazol and Probucol, two-way ANOVA was carried out between the control group and the Cilostazol-administered group as well as between the Probucol-administered group and two agents-administered group, and thereby the interaction was observed.

2) The effects in Cilostazol- and Probucol-administered group were compared with the effects in control group by Dunnett's test. Moreover, the effects in Cilostazol- and Probucol-administered group were compared with the effects in Cilostazol+Probucol-administered group by Dunnett's test.

All tests were done by two-sided test with significant level of 5%, by means of SAS Software (SAS Institute Japan, R8.1). The data were shown by mean $\pm$ SD (n).

(2) Results:

1) The effects of combination of two agents on urinary glucose:

The control group showed a urinary glucose level of 186 ± 171 mg/dl (n=10) which was much higher than the data in normal rats (less than 10 mg/dl). In the groups administered with Cilostazol and Probucol each alone, the urinary glucose was significantly inhibited, each data being 11 ± 2 mg/dl (n=10) and 11 ± 3 mg/dl (n=10), respectively, but in the group administered with the combination of two agents, the urinary glucose was more significantly inhibited, as 8 ± 1 mg/dl (n=9). These results are shown in the accompanying Fig. 5.

2) The effects of combination of two agents on insulin resistance:

The control group showed a normal plasma glucose level of 162 ± 16 mg/dl but showed a higher plasma insulin level of 9.9 ± 5.0 ng/ml (n=10) in comparison with the data in normal rats. While neither

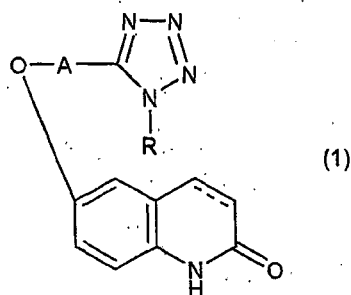
Cilostazol nor Probucol showed any effect on the plasma glucose, the combination of Cilostazol and Probucol showed significantly inhibitory effects on the plasma insulin level compared with the administration of Cilostazol or Probucol alone. The results are shown in the accompanying Fig. 6.

5

Thus, the combination drug of Cilostazol and Probucol showed excellent improving effects on insulin resistance.

CLAIMS

1. An agent for preventing and treating cerebral infarction which comprises a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyryl nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and Probucol.

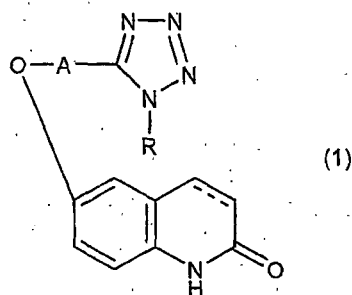
2. An agent for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis, which comprises a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 1 and Probucol.

3. An agent for preventing and treating renal diseases, which comprises a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 1 and Probucol.

4. An agent for preventing and treating diabetes, which comprises a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 1 and Probucol.

5. A superoxide suppressant, which comprises a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 1 and Probucol.

6. An agent for preventing and treating cerebral infarction which comprises a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyril nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and Probucol.

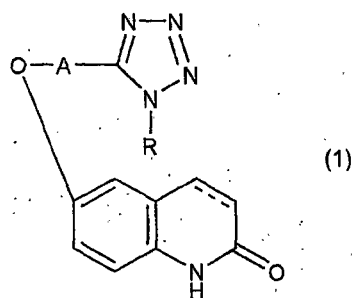
7. An agent for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis, which comprises a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 6 and Probucol.

8. An agent for preventing and treating renal diseases, which comprises a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 6 and Probucol.

9. An agent for preventing and treating diabetes, which comprises a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 6 and Probucol.

10. The agent according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivative is 6-[4-(1-cyclohexyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)butoxy]-3,4-dihydrocarbostyril or a salt thereof.

11. A method for preventing and treating cerebral infarction, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyril nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and an effective amount of Probucol to a subject in need.

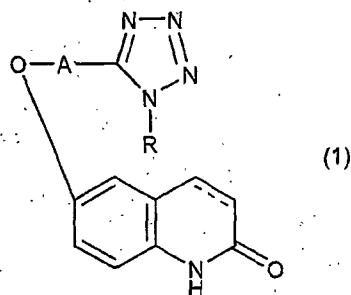
12. A method for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 11 and an effective amount of Probucol to a subject in need.

13. A method for preventing and treating renal diseases, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 11 and an effective amount of Probucol to a subject in need.

14. A method for preventing and treating diabetes, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 11 and an effective amount of Probucol to a subject in need.

15. A method for suppressing superoxide, which comprises administering a combination of an effective amount of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 11 and an effective amount of Probucol to a subject in need.

16. A method for preventing and treating cerebral infarction which comprises administering an effective amount of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyril nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and Probucol to a subject in need.

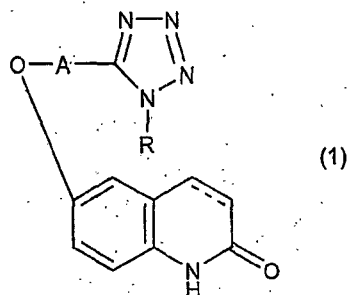
17. A method for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis, which comprises administering an effective amount of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 16 and Probucol to a subject in need.

18. A method for preventing and treating renal diseases, which comprises administering an effective amount of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 16 and Probucol to a subject in need.

19. A method for preventing and treating diabetes, which comprises administering an effective amount of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 16 and Probucol to a subject in need.

20. The method according to any one of claims 11 to 19, wherein the tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivative (1) is 6-[4-(1-cyclohexyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)butoxy]-3,4-dihydrocarbostyril or a salt thereof.

21. A use of a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyril derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyryl nucleus means a single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and Probucol for the preparation of a drug for preventing and treating cerebral infarction.

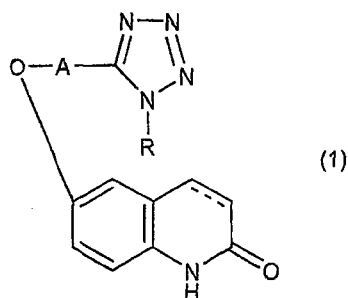
22. A use of a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 21 and Probucol for the preparation of a drug for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis.

23. A use of a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 21 and Probucol for the preparation of a drug for preventing and treating renal diseases.

24. A use of a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 21 and Probucol for the preparation of a drug for preventing and treating diabetes.

25. A use of a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 21 and Probucol for preparation of a drug for suppressing superoxide.

26. A use of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives of the formula:



wherein R is a cycloalkyl group, A is a lower alkylene group, and the bond between 3- and 4-positions of the carbostyryl nucleus means a

single bond or a double bond, or a salt thereof and Probucol in the preparation of a drug for preventing and treating cerebral infarction.

5 27. A use of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 26 and Probucol for the preparation of for preventing and treating arteriosclerosis.

10 28. A use of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 26 and Probucol for the preparation of a drug for preventing and treating renal diseases.

29. A use of a superoxide suppressant comprising a combination of at least one of tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivatives (1) as set forth in claim 26 and Probucol for the preparation of drug for preventing and treating diabetes.

15 30. The use according to any one of claims 21 to 29, wherein the tetrazolylalkoxy-dihydrocarbostyryl derivative (1) is 6-[4-(1-cyclohexyl-1H-tetrazol-5-yl)butoxy]-3,4-dihydrocarbostyryl or a salt thereof.