

Inhibitory effect of (-)-epigallocatechin gallate on titanium particle-induced TNF- α release and *in vivo* osteolysis

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Abbreviations: EGCG, (-)-epigallocatechin gallate; M-CSF, macrophage-colony stimulating factor; RANKL, receptor activator of NF- κ B ligand

Abstract

Tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) and inflammatory cytokines released from activated macrophages in response to particulate debris greatly impact periprosthetic bone loss and consequent implant failure. In the present study, we found that a major polyphenolic component of green tea, (-)-epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), inhibited Ti particle-induced TNF- α release in macrophages *in vitro* and calvarial osteolysis *in vivo*. The Ti stimulation of macrophages released TNF- α in a dose- and time-dependent manner, and EGCG substantially suppressed Ti particle-induced TNF- α release. Analysis of signaling pathway showed that EGCG inhibited the Ti-induced c-Jun N-terminus kinase (JNK) activation and inhibitory κ B (I κ B) degradation, and consequently the Ti-induced transcriptional activation of AP-1 and NF- κ B. In a mouse calvarial osteolysis model, EGCG inhibited Ti particle-induced osteolysis *in vivo* by suppressing TNF- α expression and osteoclast formation. Therefore, EGCG may be a potential candidate compound for osteolysis

prevention and treatment as well as aseptic loosening after total replacement arthroplasty.

Keywords: epigallocatechin gallate; mitogen-activated protein kinases; transcription factor AP-1; NF- κ B, titanium; tumor necrosis factor- α

Introduction

Periprosthetic osteolysis and subsequent aseptic loosening by wear debris of orthopaedic implants are the most common causes of total joint arthroplasty (TJA) failure. Particulate debris stimulates macrophages, fibroblasts, giant cells, and osteoclasts in the granulomatous tissues. The debris also induces the production of inflammatory cytokines and peptide factors such as TNF- α , interleukin (IL)-1 β , IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12p40, IL-11, macrophage chemoattractant protein-1, and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor, which are involved in osteolysis and bone loosening (Kim *et al.*, 1993; Sabokbar and Rushton 1995; Al-Saffar *et al.*, 1996; Xu *et al.*, 1998; Merkel *et al.*, 1999; Kaufman *et al.*, 2008). The particle-induced release of TNF- α and IL-6 in macrophages depends on tyrosine and serine/threonine kinase activity leading to the activation of nuclear factor- κ B (NF- κ B) and NF-interleukin-6 (NF-IL-6), which are critical for the upregulation of proinflammatory cytokines (Nakashima *et al.*, 1999). In addition, TNF- α augments the osteoblast expression of receptor activation of NF- κ B ligand (RANKL) and macrophage-colony stimulating factor (M-CSF), which are essential factors involved in the expansion, commitment, and differentiation of osteoclast precursors into mature osteoclasts (Kimble *et al.*, 1996; Hofbauer *et al.*, 1999; Crotti *et al.*, 2004; Liu *et al.*, 2009). Anti-TNF- α antibody significantly inhibits bone resorption by supernatants from particle-stimulated macrophages (Algan *et al.*, 1996). TNF receptor (TNFR) gene knockout mice show no evidence of osteolysis following exposure to polymethylmethacrylate particles (Merkel *et al.*, 1999). Therefore, controlling the synthesis of TNF- α and other inflammatory cytokines in the periprosthetic environment may be a potential target to prevent or reduce wear particle-induced osteolysis (Schwarz *et al.*, 2000).

Much effort has been made to prevent or treat osteolysis through the improvement of prosthesis

materials (Katti, 2004). Pharmacological studies have been performed to evaluate the effectiveness of drugs on osteolysis. In a canine model, bisphosphonates such as alendronate dramatically reduce osteolysis without affecting the inflammatory response (Shanbhag *et al.*, 1994a, 1994b, 1997). Zoledronate and simvastatin decrease ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene (UHMWPE) particle-induced osteolysis in a murine calvarial model (von Knoch *et al.*, 2005a). Erythromycin, a 14-membered lactone ring macrolide antibiotic, also dramatically reduces UHMWPE particle-induced tissue inflammation *in vivo* and inhibits osteoclast formation and function *in vitro* (Ren *et al.*, 2006). Exogenously-administered osteoprotegerin (OPG), a decoy receptor of RANKL, can prevent and treat polyethylene particle-induced osteolysis in a murine calvarial model (von Knoch *et al.*, 2005b). Recent reports demonstrate that VIVD (a peptide inhibitor of a nuclear factor of activated T cells) and AM630 (a cannabinoid receptor-selective antagonist) suppress Ti particle-induced inflammatory cytokines and osteoclast formation *in vitro* (Liu *et al.*, 2009). These studies suggest that drugs that inhibit osteoclast differentiation and inflammatory cytokine synthesis may have positive effects on particulate-induced osteolysis.

Many foods and beverages have received considerable attention because of their beneficial effects on human health. In particular, epidemiologic and experimental observations have confirmed a close relationship between green tea consumption and the prevention of cancer development and cardiovascular disease (Yang and Wang, 1993). These effects largely have been attributed to the most prevalent polyphenol contained in green tea, (-)-epigallocatechin (EGCG). EGCG induces the apoptotic cell death of osteoclasts and inhibits osteoclast formation and lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced TNF- α release in macrophages (Yang *et al.*, 1998; Nakagawa *et al.*, 2002; Yun *et al.*, 2004). However, it remains to be investigated whether EGCG can inhibit particulate-induced TNF- α release in macrophages and *in vivo* osteolysis. In this study, we investigated the effects of EGCG on Ti particle-induced TNF- α release and the underlying molecular mechanism *in vitro*. We further examined the effects of EGCG on Ti particle-induced osteolysis in a mouse calvarial model.

Results

Effect of EGCG on Ti particle-induced TNF- α release

To determine the effective concentration of Ti

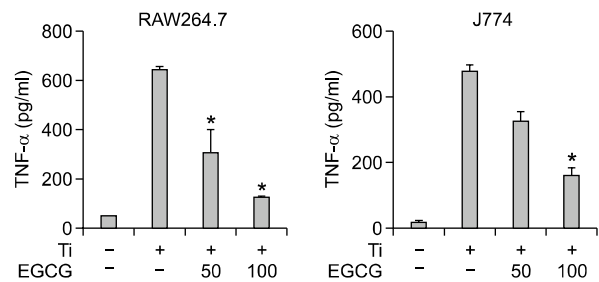


Figure 1. Inhibitory effect of EGCG on Ti particle-induced TNF- α release. RAW264.7 and J774 cells were pretreated with or without the indicated amount of EGCG for 30 min and then stimulated with 0.02% Ti for 24 h. TNF- α release was analyzed by ELISA. Results are shown as the means \pm SDs of 3 independent experiments. * $P < 0.05$.

particles that induces TNF- α release in RAW264.7 and J774 cells, 3 different concentrations of Ti particles were treated to treat both cell lines and TNF- α release was measured by ELISA. TNF- α release was substantially induced by Ti particles in a dose-dependent manner (Supplemental Data Figure S1A). TNF- α release was dependent on the time of stimulation in RAW264.7 and J774 cells (Supplemental Data Figure S1B).

To evaluate the effect of EGCG on Ti particle-induced TNF- α release, RAW264.7 and J774 cells were treated with or without EGCG (50 or 100 μ M) for 30 min prior to stimulation with 0.02% Ti for 24 h. EGCG substantially inhibited Ti particle-induced TNF- α release by 51.9% at 50 μ M (308 ± 88.6 pg/ml) and by 80.5% at 100 μ M (125.2 ± 3.3 pg/ml) compared to the control (640.8 ± 12.4 pg/ml) in RAW264.7 cells (Figure 1, upper panel). Similar results were obtained in J774 cells (Figure 1, lower panel). The results demonstrate that EGCG has a dose-dependent inhibitory effect on Ti particle-induced TNF- α release in macrophages.

Effect of EGCG on Ti particle-induced activation of JNK/AP-1 and NF- κ B pathways

To define the molecular mechanism(s) by which EGCG inhibits Ti-induced TNF- α release, we first examined signaling pathways which are important in Ti particle-induced TNF- α release using pharmacological inhibitors of signaling molecules. Ti-induced TNF- α release in RAW264.7 and J774 cells was inhibited by MG132 and SP600125, but not by PD98059 or SB203580 (Supplemental Data Figure S2). These results imply that the NF- κ B and JNK pathways are involved in Ti-induced TNF- α release in macrophages. To confirm these results, the activities of JNK were examined using antibodies specific for phosphorylated JNK. We also examined the protein level of I κ B α , whose degradation

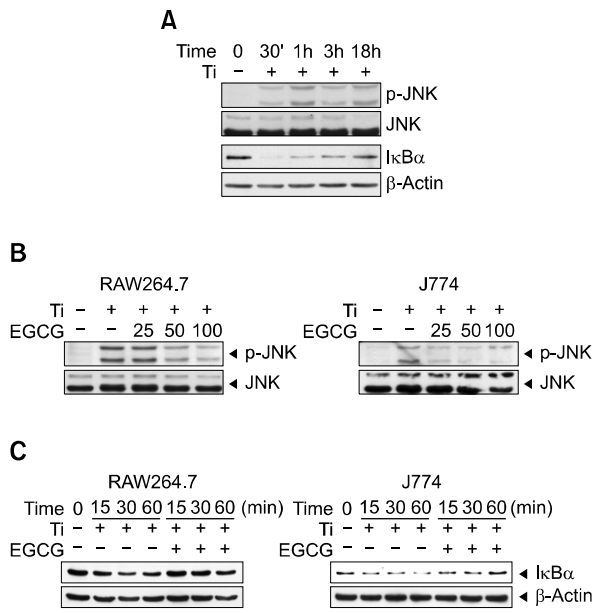


Figure 2. Effect of Ti particles on the activation of signaling molecules and their inhibition by EGCG. (A) RAW264.7 cells (2×10^6 cells/dish) were incubated with or without 0.02% Ti particles for 30 min or 1, 3, or 18 h. Cell lysates were prepared and Western blotting was performed using anti-phospho-JNK and anti-I κ B α antibodies. Results are representative of 3 independent experiments. (B and C) RAW264.7 and J774 cells (2×10^6 cells/dish) were pretreated with EGCG (25, 50, or 100 μ M) for 30 min and stimulated with 0.02% Ti particles for an additional 1 h. Equal amounts of cell lysates were separated by 10% SDS-PAGE and analyzed by Western blotting using anti-phospho-JNK (B) and anti-I κ B α antibodies (C). Results are representative of 3 independent experiments.

releases and activates NF- κ B. JNK phosphorylation was induced from 30 min after Ti stimulation, peaked at 1 h, and decreased thereafter. I κ B α degradation by Ti particle stimulation was most prominent at 30 min (Figure 2A). Treatment with EGCG dramatically inhibited JNK activation (Figure 2B) and I κ B α degradation in a dose-dependent manner (Figure 2C). These results suggest that EGCG inhibits signaling pathways leading to JNK and NF- κ B activation.

Activated JNK phosphorylates c-Jun and subsequently activates the AP-1 transcription factor (Cano and Mahadevan, 1995; David *et al.*, 2002). To determine the effects of EGCG on AP-1 and NF- κ B activations, RAW 264.7 and J774 cells were treated with Ti particles alone or with EGCG (50 μ M) for 15, 30, and 60 min. As expected, EMSA revealed strong activations of AP-1 and NF- κ B at 15 or 30 min after Ti stimulation. The activations of AP-1 and NF- κ B were inhibited substantially by pretreatment with EGCG in a dose-dependent manner (Figures 3A and 3B). Taken together, these data suggest that the inhibitory effect of EGCG on Ti-induced TNF- α release is mediated

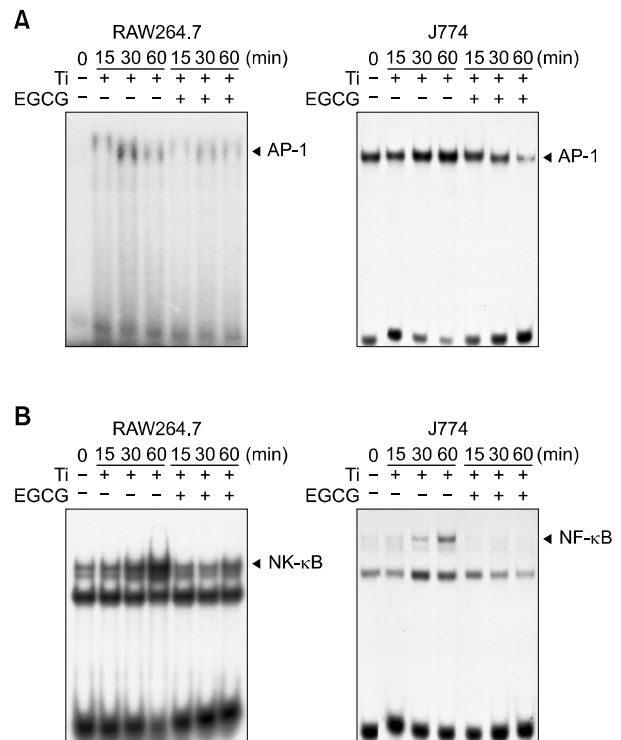


Figure 3. Effect of EGCG on the activation of AP-1 and NF- κ B in Ti particle-stimulated macrophages. RAW264.7 and J774 cells (2×10^6 cells/dish) were pretreated with or without EGCG (50 μ M) for 30 min and stimulated with 0.02% Ti particles for an additional 15, 30, or 60 min. Nuclear extracts were harvested at the indicated time points. Transcriptional activities of AP-1 (A) and NF- κ B (B) were analyzed by EMSA. Results are representatives of 3 independent experiments.

in part by the downregulation of the JNK/AP-1 and NF- κ B pathways.

Inhibitory effect of EGCG on Ti particle-induced osteolysis in a mouse calvaria model *in vivo*

Having established that EGCG inhibits Ti particle-induced TNF- α release through the downregulation of the JNK/AP-1 and NF- κ B pathways *in vitro*, we next tested whether EGCG prevents or suppresses Ti-induced osteolysis *in vivo*. Injection of Ti particles into the mouse calvaria dramatically induced osteolysis (Figure 4Ab) compared to uninjected calvaria (Figure 4Aa), while administration of EGCG at 1 mg/kg/d (Figure 4Ac) or 2 mg/kg/d (Figure 4Ad) suppressed osteolysis. Histomorphometric analysis revealed that the average bone area of Ti particle-implanted mice (0.142 mm²) was 41% less than that of sham-treated mice (0.243 mm²). The bone area of Ti-treated mice was increased by treatment with EGCG at 1 or 2 mg/kg/d to 0.207 and 0.24 mm², respectively (Figure 4B).

To examine whether Ti particles induce osteoclast

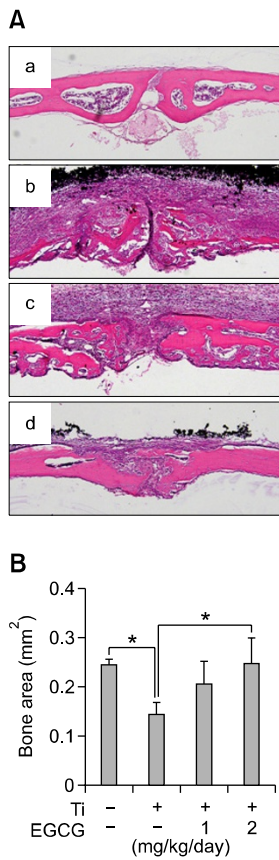


Figure 4. Representative photographs of calvarial histology stained with H&E. (A) Mouse calvaria were left untreated (a) or were implanted with Ti particles (b, c, and d). Mice injected with Ti particles were fed with 1 mg/kg/d (c) or 2 mg/kg/d (d) of EGCG. Seven days after implantation, calvaria were sectioned and stained with H&E. Photographs were taken under a light microscope at 40 \times magnification. (B) Bone area was measured using a digitalized image analyzer (IMT i-Solution; Daejeon, Korea). * $P < 0.05$.

formation in the calvaria and whether EGCG suppresses osteolysis, TRAP staining was performed. Compared to control (Figure 5Aa), a dramatic increase in osteoclasts was observed in the granulomatous tissue of Ti particle-implanted calvarium (Figure 5Ab). Treatment with EGCG at 1 mg/kg/d (Figure 5Ac) and 2 mg/kg/d (Figure 5Ad) markedly decreased osteoclasts in a dose-dependent manner, with observed reductions in osteoclast number of up to 73% (Figure 5B).

To examine whether TNF- α is also decreased by EGCG, immunohistochemical staining was performed. Intensified staining of TNF- α was found in Ti-implanted calvarium (Figure 5Cb) compared to the sham control (Figure 5Ca). EGCG significantly reduced TNF- α in a dose-dependent manner (Figures 5Cc and 5Cd). Taken together, these data demonstrate that EGCG treatment reduces Ti particle-induced TNF- α production and osteoclast forma-

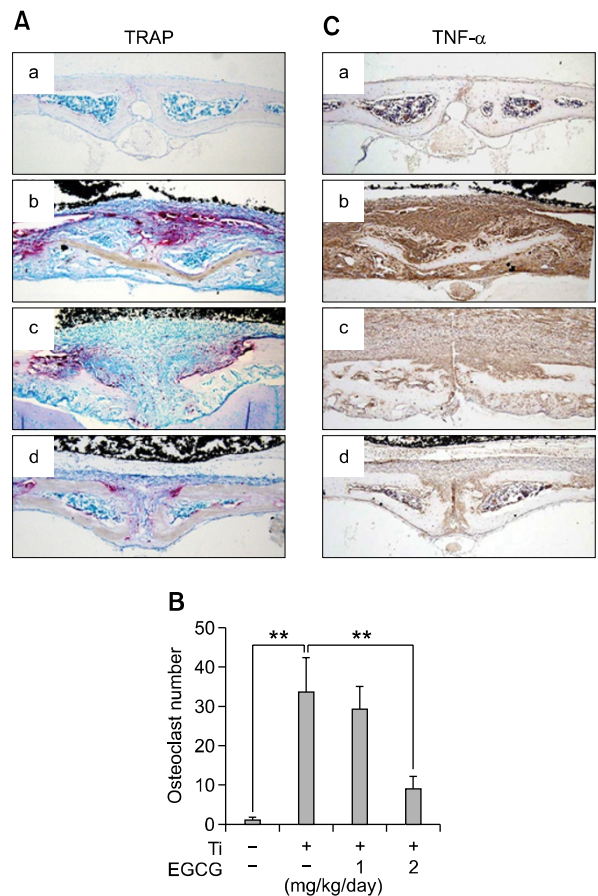


Figure 5. Representative photographs of TRAP and TNF- α staining. Mouse calvarial sections prepared as in Fig. 4 were stained with TRAP (A). TRAP-positive osteoclasts were counted using IMT i-Solution (B). Mouse calvarial sections were immunostained with anti-TNF- α antibody (C). ** $P < 0.01$.

tion, and significantly improves osteolytic responses.

Discussion

The pathogenesis of osteolysis and aseptic loosening after TJA involves the activation of macrophages by particulate debris and the release of various inflammatory cytokines (Kim *et al.*, 1993; Sabokbar and Rushton, 1995; Al-Saffar *et al.*, 1996; Xu *et al.*, 1996, 1998).

In particular, TNF- α expression has been studied extensively in response to various stimuli. Our results demonstrate that Ti particles dose- and time-dependently induce TNF- α release in RAW264.7 and J774 macrophage cell lines (Supplemental Data Figure S1). Consistent with a previous report (Schwarz *et al.*, 2000), TNF- α release was detected as early as 30 min after Ti stimulation. NF- κ B is a well-studied transcription factor mediating TNF- α

induction (Shakhov *et al.*, 1990; Kuprash *et al.*, 1999; Schwarz *et al.*, 2000). AP-1 or other transcription factors may also mediate TNF- α expression (Diaz and Lopez-Berestein, 2000; Kiemer *et al.*, 2002). Interestingly, Soloviev *et al.* (Soloviev *et al.*, 2002) showed that the Ti particle-induced stimulation of ANA-1 murine macrophages induced NF- κ B activation, which was dependent on p105 degradation but independent of classical I κ B α degradation. The DNA-binding activities of other transcription factors, including AP-1, were unchanged following exposure to Ti particles. Therefore, the authors concluded that NF- κ B activation is selective and is one of the primary events that follow the exposure of ANA-1 cells to Ti particles (Soloviev *et al.*, 2002). In this study, Ti stimulation of RAW264.7 and J774 macrophages induced the degradation of I κ B α and the activation of signaling molecules such as JNK (Figure 2A). Consistent with these results, pharmacological inhibitors for JNK and I κ B α degradation substantially reduced TNF- α release in response to Ti particles (Supplemental Data Figure S2). Although the pharmacological inhibitors are not specific for the signaling molecules, these results suggest that, the JNK/AP-1 and NF- κ B pathway also mediates Ti particle-induced TNF- α expression in macrophages. As expected, NF- κ B and AP-1 were activated rapidly by Ti particles (Figure 3), clearly demonstrating that the JNK/AP-1 and I κ B/NF- κ B pathways are activated and involved in TNF- α production in macrophages. We have no direct evidence demonstrating the differential involvement of AP-1 in the Ti-induced TNF- α production, but it may be due to the different macrophage lines used. Various macrophage populations such as alveolar macrophages, P388D and IC21 are known to respond differently to Ti particles (Glant and Jacobs, 1994). Moreover, different amounts and sizes of Ti particles also may cause varying levels of responses, such as AP-1 activation and I κ B degradation.

Since Ti particles stimulate TNF- α release through the activation of the JNK/AP-1 and I κ B/NF- κ B pathways *in vitro*, we looked for a compound that potentially could inhibit the activation of these transcription factors. Plant-derived flavonoids have attracted considerable recent attention because of their physiological and pharmacological properties such as antioxidative, antibacterial, antimutagenic, and antitumorigenic activities (Morel *et al.*, 1993; Jankun *et al.*, 1997; Harborne and Williams, 2000; Anderson *et al.*, 2001). EGCG dose-dependently inhibited Ti particle-induced TNF- α release in RAW264.7 and J774 cells (Figures 1A and 1B). The results suggest that EGCG has the potential to suppress the activation of macrophages stimulated with wear

debris, including Ti particles.

Since EGCG inhibits Ti particle-induced TNF- α release, it may also suppress Ti-induced osteolysis *in vivo*. Consistently, EGCG significantly suppressed Ti particle-induced osteolysis in the mouse calvarial model (Figure 4). Osteolytic suppression was accompanied by a decrease in TNF- α production and osteoclast numbers (Figure 5). These results strongly suggest that EGCG inhibits Ti-induced osteolysis *in vivo* through suppression of TNF- α production and osteoclast numbers.

In conclusion, we have demonstrated that EGCG inhibits Ti particle-induced TNF- α release through downregulation of the JNK/AP-1 and NF- κ B pathways *in vitro* and osteolysis *in vivo*, and therefore may be a potential candidate compound for the prevention and/or treatment of osteolysis and loosening after TJA.

Methods

Materials

Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (DMEM), L-glutamine, penicillin, streptomycin, and fetal bovine serum (FBS) were from Gibco Invitrogen (Rockville, MD). Anti-phospho-JNK and anti-I κ B α antibodies were from Cell Signaling Technology (Beverly, MA). An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) kit for murine TNF- α was obtained from BioSource International (Camarillo, CA). (-)-Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) was from Sigma (St. Louis, MO). A nitrocellulose membrane and an enhanced chemiluminescence (ECL) kit were purchased from Amersham Biosciences Corp. (Piscataway, NJ). Unless otherwise noted, all other chemicals were obtained from Sigma.

Cell culture

The RAW264.7 and J774 murine macrophage cell lines (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA) were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and 1% penicillin/streptomycin in 5% CO₂ humidified air at 37°C. RAW264.7 and J774 cells were grown to 60-70% confluency, counted, and cultured in 96-well tissue culture plates (1×10^4 cells/well) or 60-mm tissue culture dishes (2×10^6 cells/dish) (Nunc; Roskilde, Denmark). Cells were pretreated with the indicated concentrations EGCG for 30 min or 1 h and stimulated with Ti particles for the time indicated. Supernatants or cells were collected for further analysis.

Preparation of Ti particles

Commercially pure Ti particles (1-3 μ m) (Cerac, Milwaukee, WI) were sterilized by incubation in 25% nitric acid and then incubated in a mixture of 95% ethanol and 0.1 N NaOH for 18-20 h, as previously described (Ragab *et al.*, 1999). The Ti particles were stored at a concentration of 25% Ti (0.25 mg/ml).

ELISA

RAW264.7 and J774 cells at 1×10^4 cells/well were exposed to Ti particles with or without EGCG. Culture medium was collected at the indicated times. The TNF- α levels were measured by ELISA according to the manufacturer's instructions (BioSource). Briefly, serial dilutions of 100 μ l of RAW264.7 or J774 cell culture medium were added to the wells of a microtiter plate coated with mouse monoclonal antibody specific for murine TNF- α . Plates were incubated for 2 h at room temperature (RT), washed, and treated with diluted horseradish peroxidase (HP)-conjugated polyclonal rabbit antibody (100 μ l) against the specific antigen. Plates with the secondary antibody were incubated for 2 h at RT and washed. The color reaction was developed by adding 100 μ l of hydrogen peroxide and tetramethyl benzidine. The enzyme reaction was stopped by adding 1 M phosphoric acid. The absorbance (450 nm/650 nm) was measured in an ELISA plate reader (Biorad 550; Hercules, CA).

Western blotting

Cell lysates were prepared using an extraction buffer composed of 50 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 1% NP-40, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM PMSF, 1 mM Na_3VO_4 , 1 mM NaF, 1 μ g/ml pepstatin, and 1 μ g/ml aprotinin. Protein concentrations were determined by BCA protein assay (Pierce, Rockford, IL). Cell lysates (20 μ g) were electrophoresed in 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gels, transferred to nitrocellulose membranes, and blocked with 5% nonfat dried milk in Tris-buffered saline. The nitrocellulose membranes were reacted overnight at 4°C with antibodies specific for phosphorylated ERK, JNK, or $\text{I}\kappa\text{B}\alpha$ (1:1000 dilution). Blots were incubated with a HP-conjugated secondary antibody (1:5000 dilution) for 1 h. Proteins were detected by ECL.

Electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA)

Nuclear extracts were prepared as described previously (Park *et al.*, 2004). Protein concentrations were measured with a BCA kit. A gel shift assay was performed by incubating 7 μ g of the nuclear extract with 1 μ g of poly d (I-C) with 50,000-100,000 cpm of the radiolabeled AP-1 or NF- κ B oligonucleotides in 25 μ l of binding buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, and 4% glycerol) at RT for 30 min according to the manufacturer's instructions (Promega). The reaction product was subjected to 5% native polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) in $0.5 \times$ TBE buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, 50 mM borate, and 1 mM EDTA). The gel was dried in a vacuum for 60 min and exposed to X-ray film.

Mouse calvarial osteolysis model and staining

The mouse calvarial model of Ti particles was described previously (von Knoch *et al.*, 2004). Briefly, 12 healthy 8-week-old male C57BL/6 mice were equally randomized to 4 groups. Group I mice underwent sham surgery only. In groups II, III, and IV, mice were injected with Ti particles. In groups III and IV, mice were fed with a daily dose of 1 or 2 mg of EGCG per kg of body weight, respectively. EGCG was fed from the third day before the operation until

sacrifice.

To inject Ti particles, mice were anesthetized, the cranial periosteum was elevated off from the calvarium by sharp dissection, and 30 mg of Ti particles were placed directly on the bone surface as described. Seven days after the operation, mice were sacrificed and the calvaria were excised, fixed, and decalcified in EDTA. Histological sections of calvaria were stained with hematoxylin-eosin (H&E) or tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP), according to the manufacturers' instructions.

To examine TNF- α levels in calvarium, sections were blocked with 1.5% normal goat serum for 1 h and incubated with goat anti-mouse TNF- α antibodies (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA) at 48°C overnight in a humidified chamber. After washing, sections were incubated for 30 min with biotin-conjugated secondary antibody (rabbit anti-goat IgG) followed by an additional 30 min with avidin-biotin enzyme reagent. The colorimetric reaction was conducted using 3,3'-diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride. For the negative control, the primary antibody was omitted.

Statistics

Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS 11.0. Data were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). A *P*-value < 0.05 was considered significant.

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Supplemental data

Supplemental data include two figures and can be found with this article online at http://e-emm.or.kr/article/article_files/SP-43-7-05.pdf.

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