



SILENT INFORMATION REGULATOR 2 PROTEINS- SIRTUINS AND CV DISEASE

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KEYWORDS :

Medicine is ever growing and expanding. This century is about how gene controls our life and diseases. This search has become very promising in many strata. Tyrosine kinase activation by t(9,22) in CML, and search of its inhibitor (TKI) Imatinib, saved and continue to be saving many lives. It's not only holding true in oncology but in all.

Aging is always enigma to researchers and search of sirtuins "anti-aging" protein expanded this field. Story of sirtuins started nearly two decades before, in yeast when sirtuin linked to longevity.¹ Ample work done thereafter and many physiological and pathological roles of these proteins is being studied in recent years. Many functions are related to cardiovascular system and diseases.

Silent Information Regulator 2 (SIR2) proteins—Sirtuins—are family of histone deacetylases (HDACs). Their functions are to catalyse deacetylation of both histone and non-histone lysine residues. Sirtuins are nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+) dependant protein unlike other histone deacetylators. They do post-transcriptional modification of wide range of protein. Besides, deacetylase and deacylase activity, some sirtuins do have many other activities eg adenosine diphosphate (ADP)-ribosylase, demalonylase, desuccinylase, or glutarylase properties. Seven different sirtuins and their role have been searched.²⁻⁵

Basic and quick understanding of their mechanism can be learned by simple flowchart. (Figure - 1)

Calorie restriction and on exercise there is excessive NAD+, as of energy molecule NADPH₂ depletes and it activates sirtuins. Sirtuins by modification of various proteins had varsality in their function.

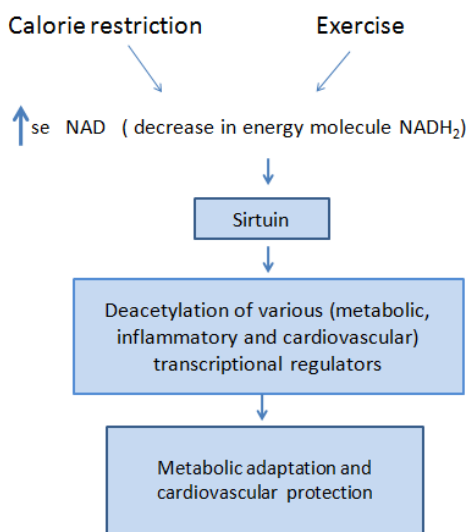


Figure 1 – Basic mechanism of sirtuins

Sirt 1, Sirt 3, Sirt 6 and Sirt 7 are chiefly studied in experimental mice and few in human being.

Initial description is from mice studies and followed by what yet

studied in human in related to cardiovascular diseases.

Neurodegenerative disorder as Alzheimer disease and cancer are other field where sirtuins are extensively studied.

Sirt 1

This protein present both in the nucleus and cytoplasm. Sirt1 studied most among all seven sirtuin isoforms.

- Sirt1 activates endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS).⁶
- It also decreases NFkB activity in endothelial cells and macrophages, NFkB major molecule of inflammation.⁷⁻⁹
- Its role as a master regulator of mitochondrial integrity.¹⁰
- Sirt1 activation lowers plasma LDL-C levels via
- proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9 (Pcsk9) secretion inhibition. this increases hepatic LDL-receptor (LDL-R) availability and lead to decrease in LDL-C.¹¹
- Its activation also suppress tissue factor and it activates cyclooxygenase-2-derived prostacyclin and PPARd that lead to decrease arterial thrombus formation.¹²

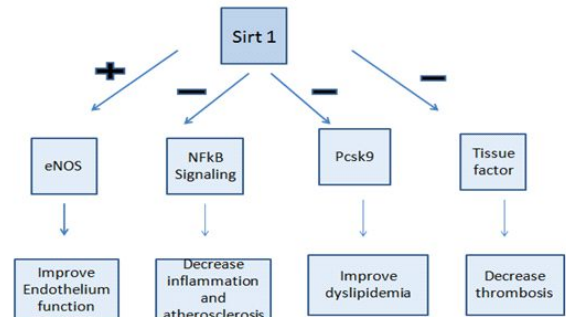


Figure 2 – Functions of Sirtuin 1

Sirt 3

- Sirt 3 is located in the mitochondria Sirt3 chiefly shown to regulate global mitochondrial lysine acetylation, that preserve mitochondrial function and enhance antioxidant defense. As its known that mitochondrial dysfunction is related to much cardiac illness.
- Activation of Sirt 3 - it decreases cellular levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), by deacetylation and activation of superoxide dismutase 2 (SOD2)¹⁴⁻¹⁶ diminishes cardiac hypertrophy, and may improve endothelial dysfunction and improve heart failure.¹⁷
- Activation of Sirt 3 activation of transcription factors (NFATc2, STAT3, and HIF1a) and prevent the development of pulmonary hypertension.¹⁸ and preventing the development of risk factors associated with the metabolic syndrome.¹⁵

Sirt 6

- It is a nuclear chromatin-associated deacylase. Akin of sirt 1 it decreases NFkB activity and also lead to decrease in LDL-C via PCSK9 inhibition.
- It also had role in telomere and genome stabilization,²¹ gene expression and DNA repair,²² glucose and fat homeostasis,²³⁻²⁵

- Sirt6 is down regulator of myocardial IGF-Akt signaling pathway, a pathway whose activation causes cardiac hypertrophy.²⁰

Sirt7

Sirt7 deacetylates distinct lysine residues located in the hetero- and homodimerization domains of GA-binding protein (GABP)b1, a master regulator of nuclear-encoded mitochondrial genes, improves mitochondrial function in numerous tissues including cardiac and skeletal muscle where it protects from cardiomyopathy, lowers lactate levels, and improves exercise performance, respectively. Moreover, Sirt7 protects from hepatic micro-vesicular steatosis.²⁷⁻²⁸

Human studies –

Most of studies being done in mice and data on sirtuins in human cardiovascular diseases are limited. Lower sirtuins expression level is reported in different cardiovascular disease compare to healthy control.

Sirt 1 level found low in insulin resistant condition as sirt 1 mRNA level linked to insulin sensitivity.¹³

Sirt1 expression levels found lower when compared between diseased carotid arteries and non disease arteries and also found lower in monocytes of patients of ACS.^{16,29}

Incretin treatment in diabetes also shown to stabilize plaque by enhanced Sirt6 expression³⁰ Mutation of Sirt1 (point mutation) was associated with human type 1 diabetes and ulcerative colitis.³¹ Sirt3 deficiency was associated with PAH and metabolic syndrome not only in mice but also in human.^{18,19} In heart failure patient also Sirt6 levels were decreased.³⁰

Yet, there are no reports about genetic variants of Sirt7 and human disease.

Pharmacological modulation of sirtuin activity: Activating Drugs

Specific Sirt1-activating compounds (STACs) applied in experimental mice and improved survival and health span. They have shown mitochondrial activation and subsequent prevention of obesity with improvement in diabetes in obese mice. STACs have shown beneficial effects in mice for atherosclerosis protection^{11,32} in healthy smokers for these molecule shown improving endothelial dysfunction and lowering LDL-C.³³ Sirt1-specific activators are beneficial as stated above, pan-sirtuin activators might be more effective.³⁴⁻³⁶

Polyphenols compound such as resveratrol and non polyphonic compound act to SIRT1 by either indirectly by other intermediate protein or by allosteric modulation of SIRT1.

Resveratrol, found in red wine and grapes, is an STACs, we still need an RCT to reach any conclusion regarding its benefit. Till now studies had shown contradictory result.³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Inconsistencies of its benefit may result from the known limitations of resveratrol in bioavailability, pharmacokinetics, and target specificity.

All sirtuins requires metabolite NAD+ is an essential co-substrate for the activity. High-fat diet, DNA damage, and aging depletes its level.³⁵

Sirtuin-dependent beneficial effects of increasing NAD+ levels on metabolic homeostasis suggest that this strategy provides a novel and promising concept for cardiovascular protection.

To conclude, these are unique class of proteins that link protein modification with various effects on physiology, aging and many pathology including cardiovascular, neurodegenerative and cancer. Development of drugs targeting sirtuins to treat these diseases is ongoing research and will continue further in future.

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