



Captopril exhibits protective effects through anti-inflammatory and anti-apoptotic pathways against hydrogen peroxide-induced oxidative stress in C6 glioma cells

Bilal Sahin¹ · Mustafa Ergul²

Received: 17 June 2021 / Accepted: 1 March 2022 / Published online: 14 March 2022

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2022

Abstract

Recent studies have shown that angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors have reduced oxidative damage in the central nervous system (CNS). Accumulating evidence have also demonstrated that captopril, an ACE inhibitor, has protective effects on the CNS. However, its effects on hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)-induced oxidative damage in glial cells and interaction with the inflammatory system are still uncertain. Therefore, this study was aimed to investigate the protective effect of captopril on glial cell damage after H₂O₂-induced oxidative stress involved in the inflammatory and apoptotic pathways. The control group was without any treatment, and the H₂O₂ group was treated with 0.5 mM H₂O₂ for 24 h. The captopril group was treated with various concentrations of captopril for 24 h. The captopril + H₂O₂ group was pre-treated with captopril for 1 h and then exposed to 0.5 mM H₂O₂ for 24 h. In the captopril + H₂O₂ group, captopril at all concentrations significantly increased the cell viability in C6 cells. It also significantly increased the TAS and decreased the TOS levels which are an indicator of oxidative stress. Moreover, captopril significantly reduced the inflammation markers including NF-κB, IL-1 β, COX-1, and COX-2 levels. Flow cytometry results also exhibited that captopril pretreatment significantly decreased the apoptosis rate. Besides, captopril significantly reduced apoptotic Bax and raised anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 protein levels. In conclusion, captopril has protective effects on C6 cells after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage by inhibiting oxidative stress, inflammation, and apoptosis. However, further studies need to be conducted to evaluate the potential of captopril as a neuroprotective agent.

Keywords Captopril · Inflammation · Hydrogen Peroxide · Oxidative Stress · Apoptosis · C6 cells

Introduction

Reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), are produced during normal cellular metabolism, and they play a vital role in the signal transmission process of the cells (Dringen et al. 1998; Forman 2007). However, increasing the H₂O₂ production damages to the cellular components and also causes genotoxic effects (Andersen 2004; Gandhi and Abramov 2012). Moreover, excessive production of ROS results in oxidative damage leading to cellular

dysfunction and cell death (Coyle and Puttfarcken 1993; Ray et al. 2012).

Due to its high metabolism and lipid composition, the brain is the most susceptible tissue to oxidative damage. Oxidative stress is also one of the fundamental causes of neurodegenerative conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) (Blesa et al. 2015). Glial cells are non-neuronal cells that maintain homeostasis as well as support and protect the neurons in the central nervous system (CNS) (Garden and Campbell 2016). Furthermore, activation of the glial cells causes neuroinflammation and oxidative stress that destroys the neuronal cells. Therefore, glial cells are essential to neurodegenerative disorders, particularly AD and PD (Verkhatsky et al. 2014).

Astrocytes are homeostatic cells that play a crucial role in maintaining physiological CNS function, such as providing nutrition to neurons, maintaining the integrity of the blood–brain barrier, regulating synaptic activity, and processing cell metabolites (Verkhatsky and Nedergaard 2018).

✉ Bilal Sahin
bilalsahin@cumhuriyet.edu.tr

¹ Departments of Physiology, School of Medicine, Sivas Cumhuriyet University, TR-58140 Sivas, Turkey

² Departments of Biochemistry, School of Pharmacy, Sivas Cumhuriyet University, TR-58140 Sivas, Turkey

It exerts a full antioxidant effect by promoting the decomposition and scavenging of free radicals produced by neurons and other cell types in the CNS and protects the CNS from oxidative stress damage (Tacconi 1998; Fernandez-Fernandez et al. 2012; Cabezas et al. 2012). On the other hand, under certain pathological conditions, astrocytes can act as one of the main sources of harmful ROS, and these excess free radicals can promote microglia activation or directly cause neural damage (Sofroniew and Vinters 2010). ROS, such as H_2O_2 , are produced during the normal metabolic functions of the brain cells and play a role in important signaling pathways (Dringen et al. 2005). However, H_2O_2 also exerts toxicological effects because it can generate new radicals and damage major cellular components (Halliwell 2006). As an astrocyte-like cell line C6, is commonly used to investigate astrocytic function, including parameters of oxidative stress (Quincozes-Santos et al. 2013). Furthermore, C6 cell line responds promptly to external stimuli, such as H_2O_2 , which can generate oxidative stress (Quincozes-Santos et al. 2010).

Renin–Angiotensin–Aldosterone System (RAAS) controls cardiovascular, renal, and adrenal functions by affecting body fluid and electrolyte balance and arterial pressure (Diehlis et al. 2005). Moreover, recent reports have demonstrated that the RAAS may play a role in various neurological diseases including AD and PD (Von Bohlen Und Halbach and Albrecht 2006). Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) converts inactive angiotensin I, which is formed from renin angiotensinogen to active angiotensin II. Although lung tissue has the highest ACE activity, there is also a significant amount of ACE activity in other tissues including the brain, basal ganglia, periventricular areas, hippocampus, hypothalamic neurosecretory nuclei, and cerebellum (Kurosaki et al. 2005). Neuronal levels of ACE are also increased in the brains of AD patients (Miners et al. 2009). In addition, Angiotensin II is known to promote neurodegeneration and brain aging; therefore, specific inhibition of ACE may be a promising strategy to prevent neuronal damage (Forrester et al. 2018).

Captopril is one of the ACE inhibitors and is primarily used to treat hypertension (Tastemur et al. 2020). On the other hand, recent studies have shown that captopril has different pharmacological effects on the organism. Some studies have demonstrated that captopril has anti-inflammatory properties and has positive effects on cardiac fibrosis and also lung function after lipopolysaccharide-induced (LPS) lung inflammation in rats (Abareshi et al. 2017; Boskabadi et al. 2018). Moreover, other studies have found that captopril improves learning and memory after pathological conditions such as dementia (Abbassi et al. 2016). It also has neuroprotective effects by regulating oxidative stress and nitrosative stress in diabetic rats (Paseban et al. 2019). Furthermore, several studies demonstrated that captopril

modulates oxidative stress and nitrosative stress (El-Ashmawy et al. 2018; Wang et al. 2018). Besides, it has been found that captopril is related to microglial activation (Asraf et al. 2018). However, its protective effects on oxidative damage in C6 glial cells and underlying mechanisms are still unclear. In the present study, it was examined that the protective effect of captopril against H_2O_2 -induced oxidative damage in C6 glial cells involved in the inflammatory and apoptotic pathways.

Materials and Methods

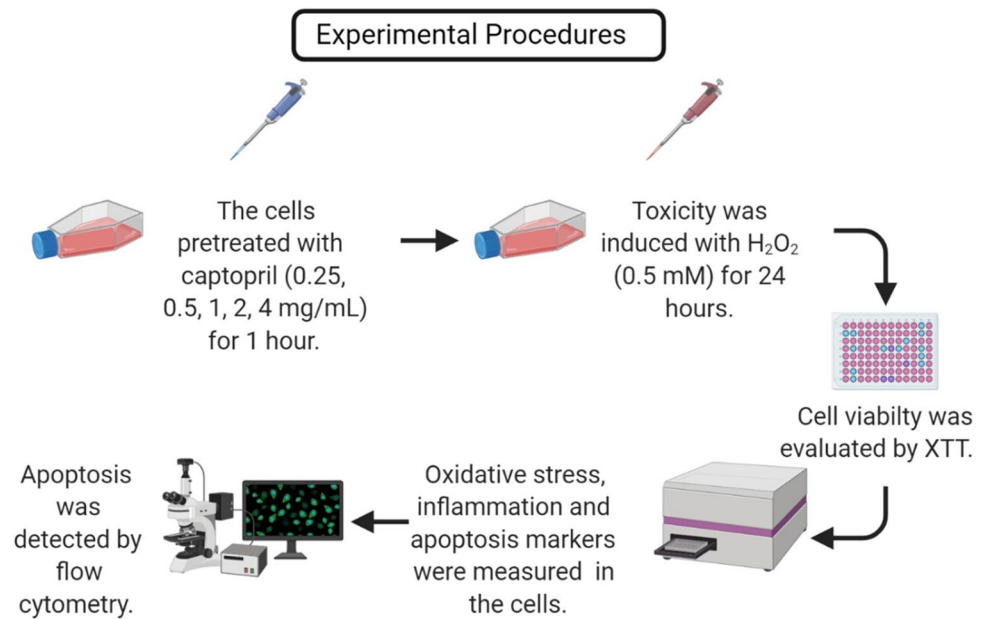
Cell Culture

C6 Glioma (CRL107) cell lines were obtained from American Type Culture Collection and cultured in DMEM (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Altrincham, UK) containing 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St Louis, MO, USA), 1% L-glutamine (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St Louis, MO, USA) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St Louis, MO, USA). The cells were maintained at 37 °C within a 5% CO_2 humidified atmosphere. Captopril and H_2O_2 (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St Louis, MO, USA) were dissolved in DMEM, and stock solutions were prepared before treatment.

Cell Viability Assay

Cell viability was assessed using the XTT assay (Roche Diagnostic, MA, USA). C6 Glioma cells were seeded in 96-well plates at a density of 1×10^4 cells per well in 100- μ L DMEM and grown overnight before captopril. The following day, four-cell groups were prepared to evaluate the neuroprotective effect of captopril. The control group was without any treatment. Cells in the H_2O_2 group were treated with 0.5 mM H_2O_2 for 24 h. Cells in the captopril group were treated with various concentrations (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4 mg/mL) of captopril for 24 h. Cells in the captopril + H_2O_2 group were pre-treated with various concentrations (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4 mg/mL) of captopril for 1 h and then exposed to 0.5 mM H_2O_2 for 24 h. After incubation, the medium was removed, and wells were washed two times with phosphate-buffered saline. In the last step, 100 μ L DMEM without phenol red and a mixture of 50 μ L XTT labeling solution were added to all the wells, and then the plates were maintained at 37°C for 4 h. The plates were shaken, and the absorbance was detected using an ELISA microplate reader (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Altrincham, UK) at 450 nm. All the experiments were performed three times, and the cell viability was measured as a viable cell amount percent compared to control, as untreated cells (Fig. 1).

Fig. 1 Experimental design of the study (created with BioRender.com)



Preparation of cells homogenates

The cells for each group were collected by sterile tubes. They were centrifuged at 2000 RPM for approximately 10 min. The supernatants were removed. The component of cells which are under the tubes, suspended by using PBS (pH: 7.4) to dilute cell suspension to the cell concentration of approximately 1 million/ml. The cells were damaged through repeated freeze–thaw cycles to let out the inside components. They were centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 10 min at a temperature of 4°C. Then, the supernatants were collected for biochemical analysis. Bradford protein assay kit (Merck Millipore, Darmstadt, Germany) was used to determination of total protein levels in samples.

Measurement of total antioxidant status (TAS) and total oxidant status (TOS)

The TAS concentrations at the cell supernatants were determined with an automated assay (Rel Assay Kit Diagnostics, Antep, Turkey) method that was previously developed by Erel (Erel 2004). The method is based on monitoring the reaction rate of free radicals by measuring the absorbance of coloured dianisidyl radicals during free radical reactions starting with the production of hydroxyl radicals in the Fenton reaction. Antioxidants in the tissue samples should suppress colouring proportionally to their concentrations (Erel 2004). The results were expressed in micromolar Trolox equivalents per milligram tissue protein ($\mu\text{mol Trolox Eq/mg protein}$).

Tissue TOS concentrations at the cell supernatants were quantified with the automated assay (Rel Assay Kit Diagnostics, Antep, Turkey) method of Erel (Erel 2005). Because

ferrous ion is oxidized to ferric ion when adequate quantities of oxidants are available in the medium, the method allows for quantifying TOS levels by measuring tissue levels of ferric ions with the use of xylenol orange. Hydrogen peroxide was used for the calibration of the assay (Erel 2005). The results of the assay were expressed in micromolar hydrogen peroxide equivalents per milligram tissue protein ($\mu\text{mol H}_2\text{O}_2 \text{ Eq/mg protein}$).

Measurement of NF- κ B, IL-1 β , COX-1, COX-2, Bax, and Bcl-2 Levels

The levels of NF- κ B (Cat no: YLA0512HU), IL-1 β (Cat no: YLA0001HU), COX-1 (Cat no: YLA1147HU), COX-2 (Cat no: YLA1148HU), Bax (Cat no: YLA1250HU), and Bcl-2 (Cat no: YLM0188HU) in the supernatants of the cells for each group were measured using the ELISA commercial kits (YL Biont, Shanghai, China). The operation protocols were according to the manufacturer's instructions. In brief, standard and tissue samples were added to the plate and incubated for 60 min at 37 °C. After the washing step, staining solutions were added and incubated for 15 min at 37 °C. The stop solution was added and read at 450 nm. There were standard curves used to calculate for all these kits. The coefficients of variation within and between plates were less than 10%.

Annexin V Binding Assay

Apoptosis was evaluated using the Muse Annexin V/Dead Cell (Merck Millipore, Darmstadt, Germany) assay. Shortly, the cells were seeded into six-well plates and were allowed to attach overnight before treatment. The cells were then treated with captopril (1 mg/mL), H₂O₂ (0.5 mM), or their

combinations and incubated for 24 h. After incubation, the Annexin V assay was performed according to the report in our previous study (Ergul and Bakar-Ates 2019).

Statistical analysis

The results were expressed as a mean \pm standard error of the mean (SEM). The data analyses were performed with SPSS Version 23.0 for Windows. The data were evaluated using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). A posthoc Tukey test was utilized to identify the differences between the experimental groups, and a value of $p < 0.05$ was accepted as statistically significant.

Results

Effect of captopril on cell survival after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage

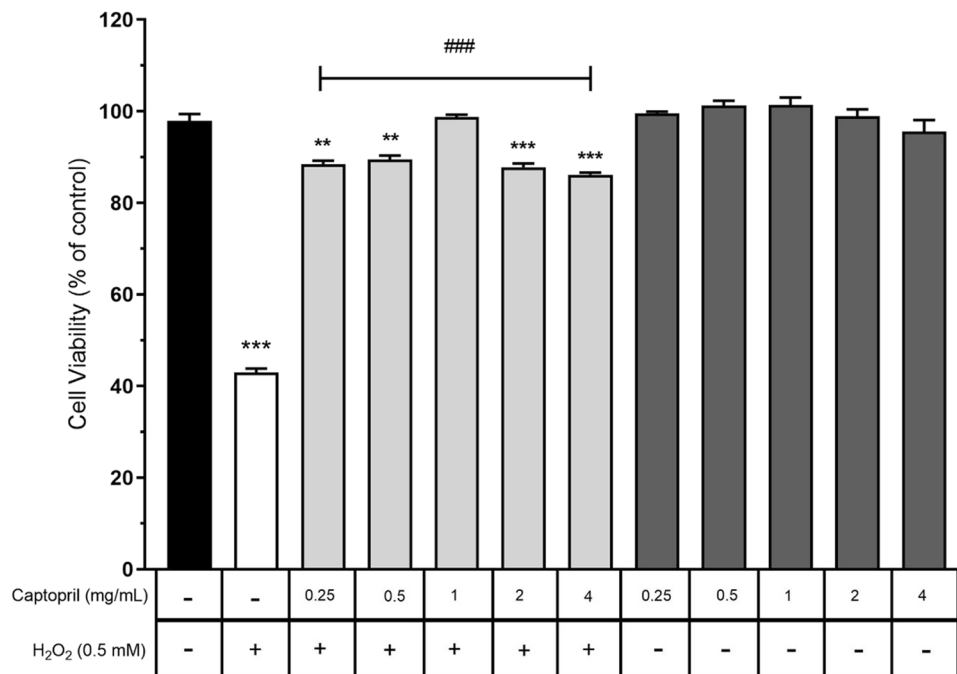
In this study, an XTT cell proliferation assay was conducted to assess the protective effects of captopril against H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage in C6 cells. Increasing doses of captopril (0.25–4 mg/mL) were tested on cell survival in both C6 control and H₂O₂-treated cells. C6 cells were firstly treated with increasing doses (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, and 4 mg/mL) of captopril for 1 h and incubated for the next 24 h with or without 0.5 mM H₂O₂. There was a statistically significant difference between the groups in terms of cell viability ($F_{(11,24)} = 169.52$, $p = 0.001$). The preincubation of C6 cells with H₂O₂ for 24 h significantly reduced cell survival

compared to untreated-control cells ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 2). Nevertheless, the measured doses of captopril enhanced cell survival in C6 cells in comparison to H₂O₂-treated C6 cells ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 2). Captopril, at all doses, did not affect C6 cells survival compared to the untreated-control cells ($p > 0.05$; Fig. 2). In addition, as can be seen in Fig. 2, the concentration of 1 mg/mL was not significant compared to the untreated control group, while other concentrations were significant compared to the untreated control group. Moreover, since 1 mg/mL captopril dose protects cells better both alone and when combined with H₂O₂, this dose was used in further mechanistic studies.

Effect of captopril on TAS and TOS levels after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage

The TAS and TOS levels in C6 cells were measured using the commercial spectrophotometric kits. The cells were pretreated with single doses (1 mg/mL) of captopril for 1 h and then incubated with or without 0.5 mM H₂O₂ for the next 24 h. There was a statistically significant difference between the groups in terms of TAS levels ($F_{(3,8)} = 185.05$, $p = 0.001$). As shown in Fig. 3, the treatment of H₂O₂ significantly decreased the TAS levels in C6 cells as compared with untreated-control cells ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 3). On the other hand, captopril significantly increased TAS in C6 cells as compared with untreated-control and H₂O₂-treated C6 cells ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 3). In terms of TOS levels, there was a significant difference between groups ($F_{(3,8)} = 136.98$, $p = 0.001$). Moreover, preincubating the C6 cells with H₂O₂ for 24 h significantly raised TOS levels as compared with the

Fig. 2 The effect of captopril on C6 cell survival after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage. The data are expressed as mean \pm SEM. ** $p < 0.01$ as compared to the control-untreated group, *** $p < 0.001$ compared to the control-untreated group; ### $p < 0.01$ compared to the H₂O₂-treated group



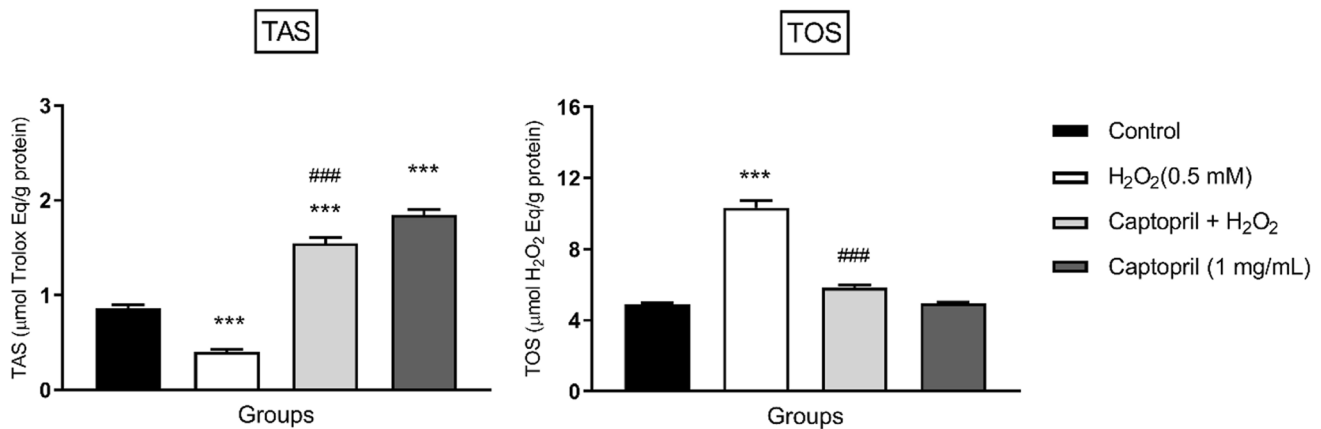


Fig. 3 Effect of captopril on TAS and TOS levels in C6 cells after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage. The data are expressed as mean ± SEM. ****p* < 0.001 as compared to the control-untreated group; ###*p* < 0.001 compared to the H₂O₂-treated group

untreated-control cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 3). Besides, captopril significantly reduced the TOS levels in C6 cells compared with the H₂O₂-treated C6 cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 3).

Effect of captopril on NF-κB, IL-1 β, COX-1, COX-2, Bax, and Bcl-2 levels after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage

The ELISA measurements were performed to assess the effects of captopril on inflammatory markers after H₂O₂-induced in C6 cells. The cells were pretreated with single doses (1 mg/mL) of captopril for 1 h and then incubated with or without 0.5 mM H₂O₂ for the next 24 h. There was a statistically significant difference between groups in terms of NF-κB ($F_{(3,8)} = 353.42$, *p* = 0.001), IL-1 β ($F_{(3,8)} = 1829.11$, *p* = 0.001), COX-1 ($F_{(3,8)} = 32.36$, *p* = 0.001), and COX-2 ($F_{(3,8)} = 41.98$, *p* = 0.001) levels. Preincubating the C6 cells with H₂O₂ for 24 h significantly increased NF-κB, IL-1 β, COX-1, and COX-2 levels as compared with untreated-control cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 4). However, captopril significantly decreased the NF-κB, IL-1 β, COX-1, and COX-2 levels in C6 cells compared with the H₂O₂-treated C6 cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 4).

The ELISA measurements were also performed to evaluate the effects of captopril on apoptosis markers after H₂O₂-induced in C6 cells. The cells were pretreated with the single doses (1 mg/mL) of captopril for 1 h and then incubated with or without 0.5 mM H₂O₂ for the next 24 h. There was a statistically significant difference between groups in terms of Bax ($F_{(3,8)} = 233.52$, *p* = 0.001) and Bcl-2 ($F_{(3,8)} = 194.44$, *p* = 0.001) levels. As shown in Fig. 5, the treatment of H₂O₂ significantly increased Bax levels in C6 cells as compared with untreated-control cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 5). Nonetheless, captopril significantly reduced Bax levels in C6 cells as compared with H₂O₂-treated C6 cells

(*p* < 0.001; Fig. 5). On the other hand, preincubating the C6 cells with H₂O₂ for 24 h significantly decreased Bcl-2 levels as compared with control-untreated cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 5). Besides, the captopril significantly increased Bcl-2 levels in C6 cells compared with H₂O₂-treated C6 cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 5).

Effect of captopril on apoptosis after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage

Flow cytometry was performed to evaluate the anti-apoptotic effects of captopril after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage in C6 cells. There was a statistically significant difference between groups behalf of live ($F_{(3,8)} = 1155.33$, *p* = 0.001), early apoptotic ($F_{(3,8)} = 208.91$, *p* = 0.001), late apoptotic ($F_{(3,8)} = 440.78$, *p* = 0.001) and dead ($F_{(3,8)} = 34.77$, *p* = 0.001). The results of flow cytometry analysis were given in Fig. 6, and it is exhibited that H₂O₂-treatment remarkably increased the proportion of apoptotic cells at IC₅₀ concentration for 24 h when compared to untreated-control C6 cells (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 6). Furthermore, captopril pretreatment at a dose of 1 mg/mL significantly reduced the apoptotic percentage of C6 cells after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage (*p* < 0.001; Fig. 6). However, pretreatment of captopril alone did not demonstrate a significant apoptotic effect in C6 cells (*p* > 0.05; Fig. 6).

Discussion

The present study, for the first time, evaluated the protective effect of captopril against H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage in C6 glial cells.

Oxidative stress refers to an imbalance between oxidants and antioxidant defense systems in the organism. This

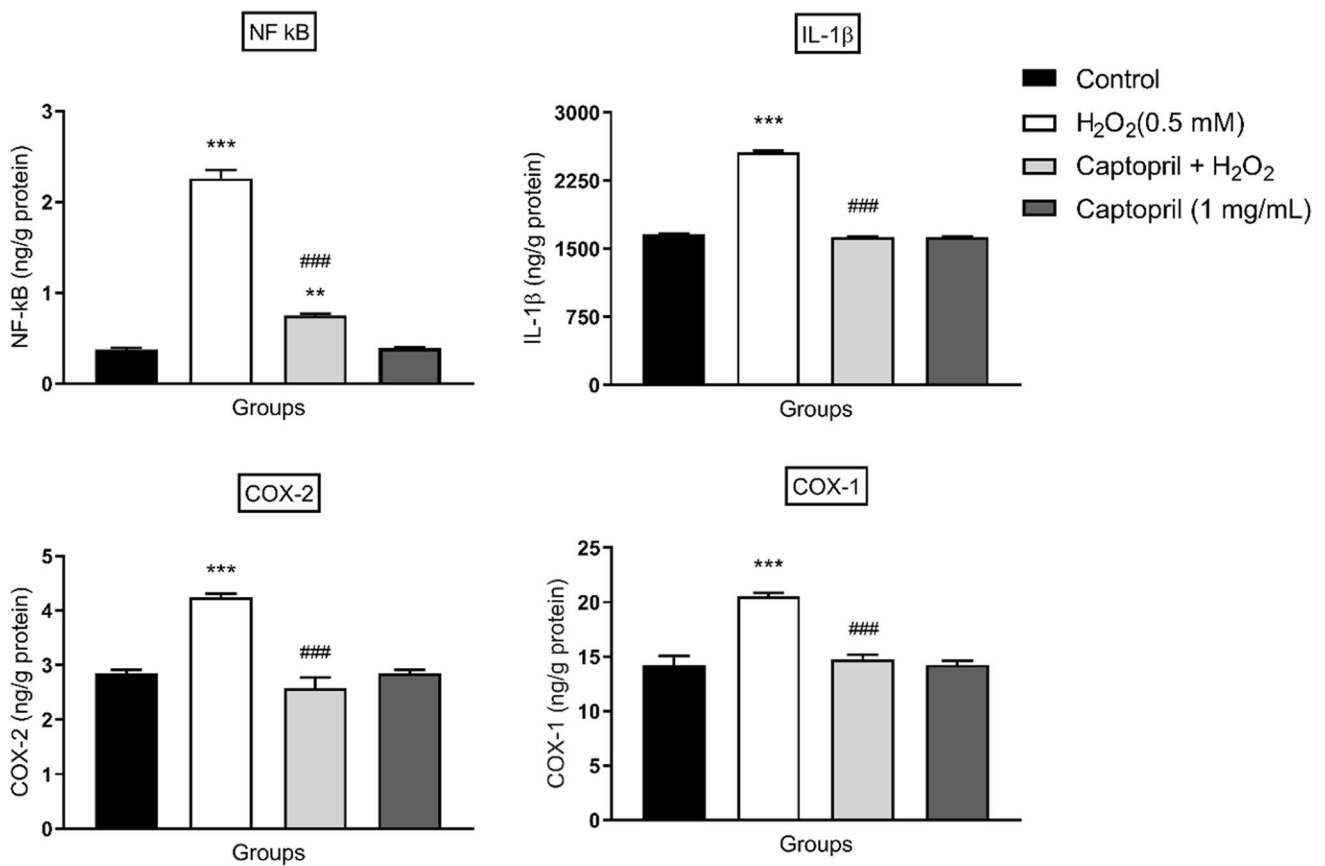


Fig. 4 Effect of captopril on NF-kB, IL-1 β, COX-1, and COX-2 levels in C6 cells after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage. The data are expressed as mean ± SEM. ****p* < 0.001 as compared to the control-untreated group; ###*p* < 0.001 compared to the H₂O₂-treated group

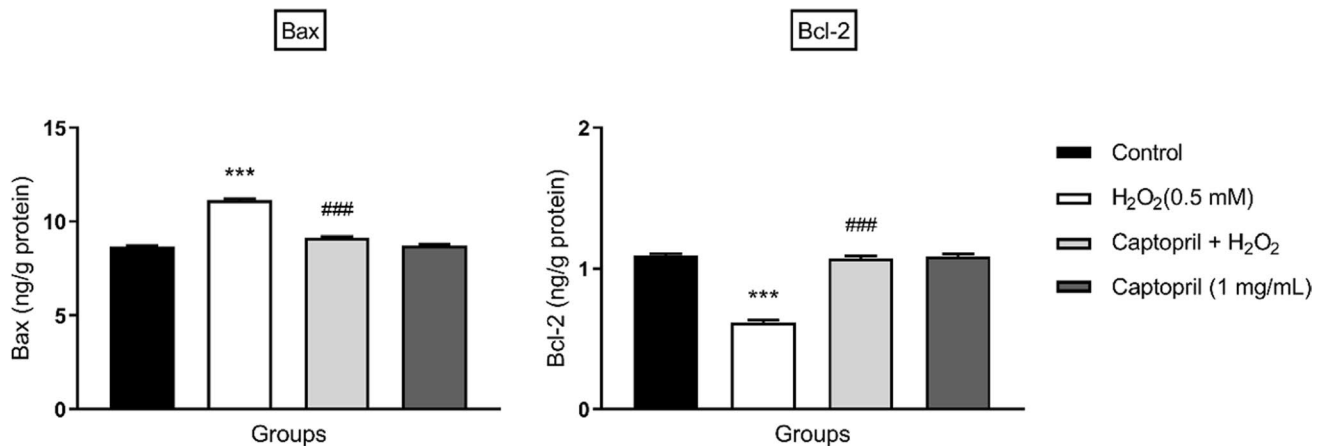


Fig. 5 Effect of captopril on Bax and Bcl-2 levels in C6 cells after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage. The data are expressed as mean ± SEM. ****p* < 0.001 as compared to the control-untreated group; ###*p* < 0.001 compared to the H₂O₂-treated group

imbalance in the oxidants and antioxidant systems causes excessive ROS production, which harms tissues and disturbs the physiological function of the organism (Ray et al. 2012). Moreover, evidence shows that oxidative stress involves the occurrence and progression of neurodegenerative diseases

and CNS disorders (Andersen 2004). Previous studies have claimed that captopril induces antioxidant enzymes such as catalase and superoxide dismutase and protects tissues from oxidative damage by decreasing lipid peroxidation (Pourahmad et al. 2011; Tastemur et al. 2020). Consistent with

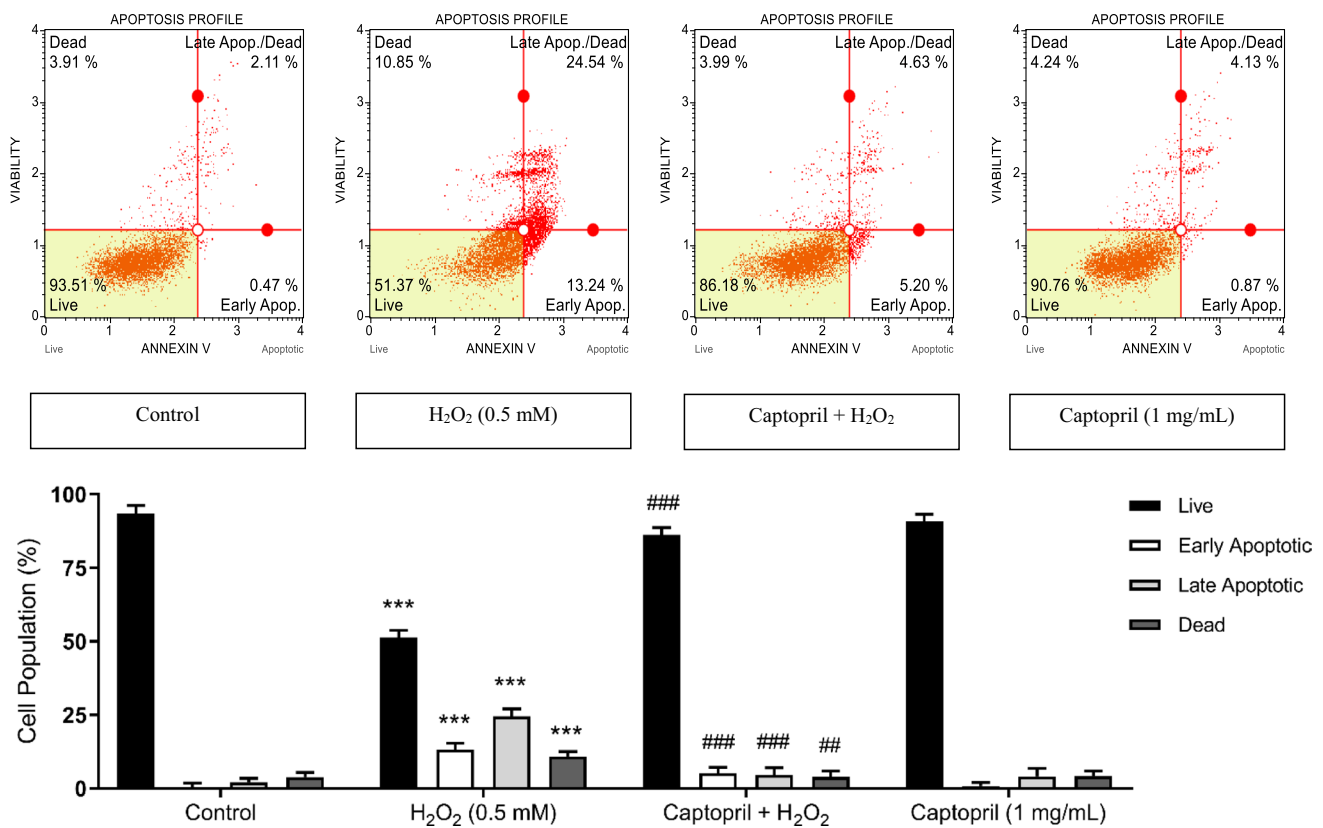


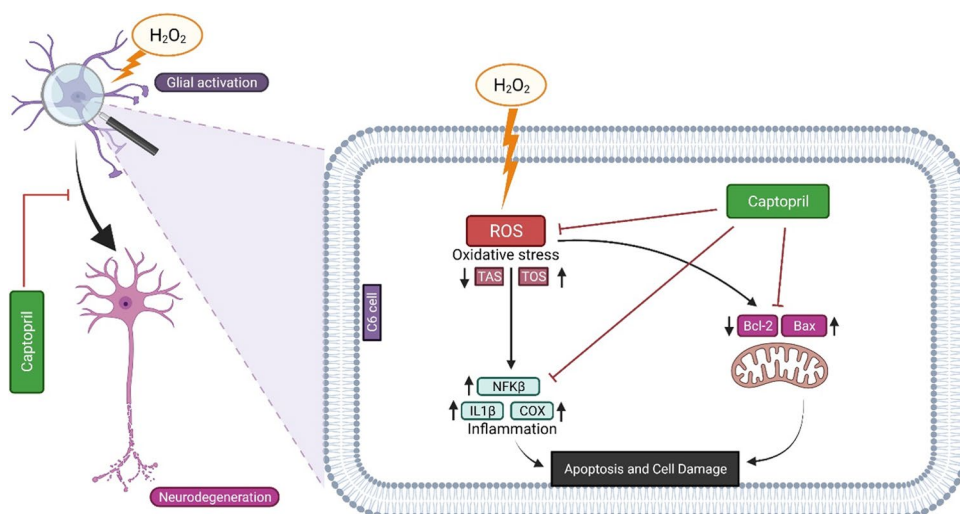
Fig. 6 Effect of captopril on apoptosis in C6 cells after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage. The data are expressed as mean ± SEM. ****p* < 0.001 as compared to the control-untreated group; ##*p* < 0.01 and ###*p* < 0.001 compared to the H₂O₂-treated group

these studies, in this study, captopril pretreatment showed antioxidant properties increasing significantly TAS levels and decreasing TOS levels which are oxidative stress markers after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage in the C6 cells. Increasing the antioxidant system and reducing the oxidative stress could be one of the possible protective mechanisms of captopril in the C6 cells. In support of these data, this study showed that captopril significantly reduced cell death after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage in the C6 cells.

It is known that astrocytes are extensively involved in the inflammatory response and innate immunity of the CNS (Jensen et al. 2013). In many CNS disorders, the pro-inflammatory type astrocyte activation persistently releases large amounts of inflammatory factors and exacerbates neuronal damage (Sofroniew 2009; Liddelov et al. 2017). Oxidative stress plays an important role in both astrocyte-associated inflammation and astroglial activation (Rizor et al. 2019). Free radicals can activate various inflammatory signaling pathways in astroglial cells and promote inflammatory factor release (Sofroniew 2009; Rizor et al. 2019). Thus, glial activation leads to inflammation that is closely related to the neurodegeneration in the nervous system (Takeuchi 2013). The nuclear factor-kappa light chain enhancer of activated B cell (NF-κB) is the main modulator of inflammation in

the organism (Lawrence 2009). Its activation gives rise to releasing of proinflammatory cytokines, such as TNF-α and IL-1 β, chemokines, COX-1, and COX-2 (Bonizzi and Karin 2004; Ulivi et al. 2008). It has been shown that proinflammatory cytokines and COX enzymes are involved in CNS disorders by rising neuroinflammation in the brain (Glass et al. 2010; Cunningham 2013). The previous findings have found that captopril has an anti-inflammatory effect by inhibiting proinflammatory cytokines production, and it inhibits microglia activation (Asraf et al. 2018). Moreover, it has been reported that captopril decreases the proinflammatory cytokine interleukin-12 in the human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (Constantinescu et al. 1998). Furthermore, it has been claimed that other ACE inhibitor, perindopril, suppresses astrocytic and glial activation by reducing the production of TNF-α and oxidative stress (Bhat et al. 2016). Besides, in our previous study, it has been found that captopril decreases inflammatory pathway markers including NF-κB, IL-1 β, and TNF-α levels in dorsal root ganglia (Taskiran and Avci 2020). In this study, captopril pretreatment significantly reduced NF-κB, IL-1 β, COX-1, and COX-2 levels after H₂O₂-induced oxidative damage in C6 cells, consistent with previous studies. Modulating the effect of captopril in the inflammatory pathway could be another

Fig. 7 A schematic diagram of the effects of captopril on C6 cells after H_2O_2 -induced oxidative damage



possible protective mechanism after H_2O_2 -induced oxidative damage in C6 cells.

Several studies have demonstrated that captopril has anti-apoptotic effects on various tissues including CNS (Odaka and Mizuochi 2000; Saglam et al. 2013). Previously, it has been claimed that captopril inhibits prion peptide-mediated neurodegeneration and neuronal apoptosis (Moon et al. 2019). In addition to the CNS, captopril has also been shown to have anti-apoptotic effects on liver tissue. Eid and El-Shitany (2021) reported that captopril significantly reduced apoptosis, inflammation, and oxidative stress in cisplatin-induced acute hepatic injury. It is well established that pro-apoptotic protein Bax promotes the induction of apoptosis, on the contrary, anti-apoptotic protein Bcl-2 suppresses apoptosis (Ergul and Bakar-Ates 2020). In this study, flow cytometry and ELISA assays were performed to evaluate whether captopril pretreatment suppressed apoptosis in C6 cells, and when compared with the H_2O_2 only group captopril inhibited the apoptosis significantly via decreasing Annexin V binding, Bax level and increasing the Bcl-2 level in C6 cells. Based on our results, captopril has a protective effect on glial cell survival after H_2O_2 -induced oxidative damage in the C6 glioma cell line. Because glial cells are vital for neurodegenerative diseases, captopril may be a supportive therapeutic agent for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. However, it has to be proven by more in-depth investigations.

Conclusion

Taken together, the results of this study demonstrated that captopril decreased glial cell death after H_2O_2 -induced oxidative damage. The main conclusions of this work are presented in Fig. 7, which exhibits that captopril strongly suppressed the TOS and increased TAS levels. It also

significantly decreased the inflammatory pathway proteins, including NF- κ B, IL-1 β , COX-1, and COX-2. Moreover, captopril treatment significantly increased expressions of Bcl-2 and the decreased expression of Bax protein levels after H_2O_2 -induced oxidative damage. In conclusion, captopril seems to have meaningful protective effects via inhibition of oxidative stress, apoptosis, and inflammation markers. However, more in-depth investigation is needed to answer the questions raised about the possible mechanisms involved.

Acknowledgements The authors would like to thank the Sivas Cumhuriyet University, School of Medicine, CUTFAM Research Center, Sivas, Turkey, for providing the necessary facilities to conduct this study.

Author contribution BS designed the study, interpreted the data, and had a major contribution in writing and revising the manuscript. ME performed the experiment, drafted the manuscript and analyzed data. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Data availability The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declarations

All authors certify that they have no affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest or non-financial interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

Ethics approval This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Conflict of interest All the authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References

- Abareshi A, Norouzi F, Asgharzadeh F et al (2017) Effect of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor on cardiac fibrosis and oxidative stress status in lipopolysaccharide-induced inflammation model in rats. *Int J Prev Med* 8:69. https://doi.org/10.4103/ijpvm.IJPVM_322_16
- Abbassi YA, Mohammadi MT, Forshani MS, Sarshoori JR (2016) Captopril and valsartan may improve cognitive function through potentiation of the brain antioxidant defense system and attenuation of oxidative/nitrosative damage in STZ-induced dementia in rat. *Adv Pharm Bull* 6:531–539. <https://doi.org/10.15171/apb.2016.067>
- Andersen JK (2004) Oxidative stress in neurodegeneration: cause or consequence? *Nat Med* 10:S18–S25. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn1434>
- Asraf K, Torika N, Apte RN, Fleisher-Berkovich S (2018) Microglial Activation Is Modulated by Captopril: in Vitro and in Vivo Studies. *Front Cell Neurosci* 12: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fncel.2018.00116>
- Bhat SA, Goel R, Shukla R, Hanif K (2016) Angiotensin Receptor Blockade Modulates NFκB and STAT3 Signaling and Inhibits Glial Activation and Neuroinflammation Better than Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibition. *Mol Neurobiol* 53:6950–6967. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12035-015-9584-5>
- Blesa J, Trigo-Damas I, Quiroga-Varela A, Jackson-Lewis VR (2015) Oxidative stress and Parkinson's disease. *Front Neuroanat* 9:91. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnana.2015.00091>
- Bonizzi G, Karin M (2004) The two NF-κB activation pathways and their role in innate and adaptive immunity. *Trends Immunol* 25:280–288. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.it.2004.03.008>
- Boskabadi J, Mokhtari-Zaer A, Abareshi A et al (2018) The effect of captopril on lipopolysaccharide-induced lung inflammation. *Exp Lung Res* 44:191–200. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01902148.2018.1473530>
- Cabezas R, El-Bachá RS, González J, Barreto GE (2012) Mitochondrial functions in astrocytes: Neuroprotective implications from oxidative damage by rotenone. *Neurosci Res* 74:80–90
- Constantinescu CS, Goodman DB, Ventura ES (1998) Captopril and lisinopril suppress production of interleukin-12 by human peripheral blood mononuclear cells. *Immunol Lett* 62:25–31. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0165-2478\(98\)00025-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0165-2478(98)00025-X)
- Coyle J, Puttfarcken P (1993) Oxidative stress, glutamate, and neurodegenerative disorders. *Science* 262(80):689–695. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.7901908>
- Cunningham C (2013) Microglia and neurodegeneration: The role of systemic inflammation. *Glia* 61:71–90. <https://doi.org/10.1002/glia.22350>
- Dielis AWJH, Smid M, Spronk HMH et al (2005) The Prothrombotic Paradox of Hypertension. *Hypertension* 46:1236–1242. <https://doi.org/10.1161/01.hyp.0000193538.20705.23>
- Dringen R, Kussmaul L, Hamprecht B (1998) Detoxification of exogenous hydrogen peroxide and organic hydroperoxides by cultured astroglial cells assessed by microtiter plate assay. *Brain Res Protoc* 2:223–228. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1385-299X\(97\)00047-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1385-299X(97)00047-0)
- Dringen R, Pawlowski PG, Hirrlinger J (2005) Peroxide detoxification by brain cells. *J Neurosci Res* 79:157–165. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jnr.20280>
- Eid BG, El-Shitany NA (2021) Captopril downregulates expression of Bax/cytochrome C/caspase-3 apoptotic pathway, reduces inflammation, and oxidative stress in cisplatin-induced acute hepatic injury. *Biomed Pharmacother* 139:111670. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopha.2021.111670>
- El-Ashmawy NE, Khedr NF, El-Bahrawy HA, Hamada OB (2018) Anti-inflammatory and Antioxidant Effects of Captopril Compared to Methylprednisolone in L-Arginine-Induced Acute Pancreatitis. *Dig Dis Sci* 63:1497–1505. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10620-018-5036-1>
- Erel O (2004) A novel automated method to measure total antioxidant response against potent free radical reactions. *Clin Biochem* 37:112–119. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinbiochem.2003.10.014>
- Erel O (2005) A new automated colorimetric method for measuring total oxidant status. *Clin Biochem* 38:1103–1111. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinbiochem.2005.08.008>
- Ergul M, Bakar-Ates F (2019) RO3280: A Novel PLK1 Inhibitor, Suppressed the Proliferation of MCF-7 Breast Cancer Cells Through the Induction of Cell Cycle Arrest at G2/M Point. *Anticancer Agents Med Chem* 19:1846–1854. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1871520619666190618162828>
- Ergul M, Bakar-Ates F (2020) A specific inhibitor of polo-like kinase 1, GSK461364A, suppresses proliferation of Raji Burkitt's lymphoma cells through mediating cell cycle arrest, DNA damage, and apoptosis. *Chem Biol Interact* 332:109288. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CBI.2020.109288>
- Fernandez-Fernandez S, Almeida A, Bolaños JP (2012) Antioxidant and bioenergetic coupling between neurons and astrocytes. *Biochem J* 443:3–12
- Forman HJ (2007) Use and abuse of exogenous H₂O₂ in studies of signal transduction. *Free Radic Biol Med* 42:926–932. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.freeradbiomed.2007.01.011>
- Forrester SJ, Booz GW, Sigmund CD et al (2018) Angiotensin II Signal Transduction: An Update on Mechanisms of Physiology and Pathophysiology. *Physiol Rev* 98:1627–1738. <https://doi.org/10.1152/PHYSREV.00038.2017>
- Gandhi S, Abramov AY (2012) Mechanism of oxidative stress in neurodegeneration. *Oxid Med Cell Longev* 2012:428010
- Garden GA, Campbell BM (2016) Glial biomarkers in human central nervous system disease. *Glia* 64:1755–1771. <https://doi.org/10.1002/glia.22998>
- Glass CK, Saijo K, Winner B et al (2010) Mechanisms Underlying Inflammation in Neurodegeneration. *Cell* 140:918–934. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2010.02.016>
- Halliwel B (2006) Oxidative stress and neurodegeneration: Where are we now? *J Neurochem* 97:1634–1658
- Jensen CJ, Massie A, De Keyser J (2013) Immune players in the CNS: The astrocyte. *J Neuroimmune Pharmacol* 8:824–839
- Kurosaki R, Muramatsu Y, Kato H et al (2005) Effect of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor perindopril on interneurons in MPTP-treated mice. *Eur Neuropsychopharmacol* 15:57–67. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroneuro.2004.05.007>
- Lawrence T (2009) The Nuclear Factor NF-κB Pathway in Inflammation. *Cold Spring Harb Perspect Biol* 1:a001651–a001651. <https://doi.org/10.1101/cshperspect.a001651>
- Liddelov SA, Guttenplan KA, Clarke LE et al (2017) Neurotoxic reactive astrocytes are induced by activated microglia. *Nature* 541:481–487. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature21029>
- Miners S, Ashby E, Baig S et al (2009) Angiotensin-converting enzyme levels and activity in Alzheimer's disease: differences in brain and CSF ACE and association with ACE1 genotypes. *Am J Transl Res* 1:163
- Moon J-H, Jeong J-K, Hong J-M et al (2019) Inhibition of Autophagy by Captopril Attenuates Prion Peptide-Mediated Neuronal Apoptosis via AMPK Activation. *Mol Neurobiol* 56:4192–4202. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12035-018-1370-8>
- Odaka C, Mizuochi T (2000) Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor captopril prevents activation-induced apoptosis by interfering with T cell activation signals. *Clin Exp Immunol* 121:515–522. <https://doi.org/10.1046/J.1365-2249.2000.01323.X>
- Paseban M, Mohebbati R, Niazmand S et al (2019) Comparison of the Neuroprotective Effects of Aspirin, Atorvastatin, Captopril and

- Metformin in Diabetes Mellitus. *Biomolecules* 9:118. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biom9040118>
- Pourahmad J, Hosseini M-J, Bakan S, Ghazi-Khansari M (2011) Hepatoprotective activity of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, captopril and enalapril, against paraquat toxicity. *Pestic Biochem Physiol* 99:105–110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pestbp.2010.11.006>
- Quincozes-Santos A, Andrezza AC, Gonçalves CA, Gottfried C (2010) Actions of redox-active compound resveratrol under hydrogen peroxide insult in C6 astroglial cells. *Toxicol Vitro* 24:916–920. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tiv.2009.11.016>
- Quincozes-Santos A, Bobermin LD, Latini A et al (2013) Resveratrol Protects C6 Astrocyte Cell Line against Hydrogen Peroxide-Induced Oxidative Stress through Heme Oxygenase 1. *PLoS ONE* 8:e64372. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0064372>
- Ray PD, Huang B-W, Tsuji Y (2012) Reactive oxygen species (ROS) homeostasis and redox regulation in cellular signaling. *Cell Signal* 24:981–990. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cellsig.2012.01.008>
- Rizor A, Pajarillo E, Johnson J et al (2019) Astrocytic oxidative/nitrosative stress contributes to Parkinson's disease pathogenesis: The dual role of reactive astrocytes. *Antioxidants (Basel, Switzerland)* 8:265. <https://doi.org/10.3390/antiox8080265>
- Saglam IY, Ozdamar EN, Demiralay E et al (2013) The effect of captopril on brain apoptosis after burn injury in rats. *Turk Neurosurg* 23:366–371. <https://doi.org/10.5137/1019-5149.JTN.7100-12.2>
- Sofroniew MV (2009) Molecular dissection of reactive astrogliosis and glial scar formation. *Trends Neurosci* 32:638–647
- Sofroniew MV, Vinters HV (2010) Astrocytes: Biology and pathology. *Acta Neuropathol* 119:7–35
- Tacconi MT (1998) Neuronal death: Is there a role for astrocytes? *Neurochem Res* 23:759–765. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1022463527474>
- Takeuchi H (2013) Roles of glial cells in neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration. *Clin Exp Neuroimmunol* 4:2–16. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cen3.12059>
- Taskiran AS, Avci O (2020) Effect of captopril, an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, on morphine analgesia and tolerance in rats, and elucidating the inflammation and endoplasmic reticulum stress pathway in this effect. *Neurosci Lett* 135504. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2020.135504>
- Tastemur Y, Gumus E, Ergul M et al (2020) Positive effects of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, captopril, on pentylenetetrazole-induced epileptic seizures in mice. *Trop J Pharm Res* 19:637–643. <https://doi.org/10.4314/tjpr.v19i3.26>
- Ullivi V, Giannoni P, Gentili C et al (2008) p38/NF- κ B-dependent expression of COX-2 during differentiation and inflammatory response of chondrocytes. *J Cell Biochem* 104:1393–1406. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcb.21717>
- Verkhatsky A, Nedergaard M (2018) Physiology of astroglia. *Physiol Rev* 98:239–389. <https://doi.org/10.1152/physrev.00042.2016>
- Verkhatsky A, Parpura V, Pekna M et al (2014) Glia in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases. *Biochem Soc Trans* 42:1291–1301. <https://doi.org/10.1042/BST20140107>
- Von Bohlen Und Halbach O, Albrecht D (2006) The CNS renin-angiotensin system. *Cell Tissue Res* 326:599–616
- Wang Y, An W, Zhang F et al (2018) Nebivolol ameliorated kidney damage in Zucker diabetic fatty rats by regulation of oxidative stress/NO pathway: Comparison with captopril. *Clin Exp Pharmacol Physiol* 45:1135–1148. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1440-1681.13001>

Publisher's note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.