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Elucidation of mechanism of growth inhibition of human colorectal stem cell by dietary polyphenol antioxidant.

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[Background]

Polyphenol compounds in foods contain antioxidants and are known to have effects of liver protection, hypoglycemic, and cholesterol-lowering. Colorectal cancer is one of the most types of cancers and the mortality rate is the second-highest in Japan. Since cancer stem cells are related to drug resistance and recurrence of colorectal cancer, a new remedy that targets cancer stem cells is needed. In the previous study, we established a novel culture method of the human colorectal air-liquid interface (ALI) organoids, which could recapitulate three-dimensional cancer microenvironment including patient-derived cancer stem cells. In this study, we investigated whether polyphenol antioxidants affect the survival rate of human colorectal ALI organoids and analyzed the inhibitory mechanisms.

[Methods and results]

Organoids were treated with polyphenol antioxidants at the dose of 3-100 μ g/ml for 72 hours. The survival rate of organoids was measured by alamarblue assay. Polyphenol antioxidants suppressed survival rate of organoids in a concentration-dependent manner. The expression of marker genes for cancer stem cells, *LGR5* and *PROM1* were drastically decreased by polyphenol antioxidants. Expression of a G₁/S transition-related gene, *CCND1* was also decreased.

[Conclusion]

These results suggest that polyphenol antioxidants inhibit proliferation of human colorectal cancer stem cells via suppression of *LGR5*, *PROM1*, and *CCND1*, which might lead to the development of dietary supplements targeting colorectal cancer stem cells.