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DEADLY EFFECTS OF SNAKE VENOM, ITS COMPONENTS AND MEDICINAL PROPERTIES

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Abstract. Snake venom is a complex mixture of proteins and peptides with various biological activities, including neurotoxic, hemotoxic, and cytotoxic effects. Understanding the lethal potential of snake venom is critical to developing effective antivenom treatments and mitigating the effects of snakebite envenomation. This review provides an overview of the composition and mechanism of action of snake venom components, as well as the factors influencing venom lethality. It also discusses current research and developments aimed at expanding our understanding of the lethality of snake venom and improving treatment strategies for snakebite victims.

Key words: snake venom, lethality, envenomation, antivenom therapy, protein composition, venom toxicity, snakebite, venomous snakes, treatment strategies

Introduction

Snake venom is a complex substance used by snakes for predation and defense. It's a highly specialized chemical cocktail that varies widely among snake species. Although the thought of poison may initially cause fear, a thorough understanding of its composition and effects is essential for medical treatment and scientific research. In fact, snake venom is dangerous not only for humans, but for the entire animal world. But when this toxin is properly applied to diseases, it has been found to cure several diseases. In particular: it is effective in thyroid diseases, oncological diseases, neurological diseases, treatment of stomach ulcers, low immunity and various colds, worms in children, complications of COVID-19 and a number of diseases.

The main part

Animal venoms are used as defense mechanisms or to immobilize and digest prey. In fact, toxins are a complex mixture of enzymatic and non-enzymatic components with specific pathophysiological functions. Peptide toxins isolated from animal venoms mainly target ion channels, membrane receptors, and components of the hemostatic system with high selectivity and affinity. This review presents the state-of-the-art research on the pharmacology of snake venom bioactive components and evaluates their therapeutic prospects for a wide range of pathophysiological conditions. Snake venoms have been used medicinally for thousands of years, especially in traditional Chinese medicine.

Consequently, snake venoms can be considered as mini-drug libraries, where each drug is pharmacologically active. However, less than 0.01% of these toxins have been identified and characterized. For example, Captopril® (Enalapril), Integrilin® (Eptifibatide), and Aggrastat® (Tirofiban) are FDA-approved snake venom-based drugs. In addition to these approved drugs, many other components of snake venom are currently in preclinical or



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clinical trials for various therapeutic applications. These examples show that snake venom can be a valuable source of new key components in drug discovery.

Analysis and results

Snake venom is a very complex substance and varies in different species of snakes. It contains a mixture of proteins, enzymes, and other bioactive molecules that can have a variety of effects on the human body, including neurotoxicity, cytotoxicity, and hemotoxicity. Analyzing snake venom typically involves identifying and quantifying the components present using techniques such as mass spectrometry, chromatography, and enzyme assays. Researchers can also study the venom's effects on cells and tissues in vitro and in animal models to understand its toxicity and potential therapeutic applications.

The results of these analyzes can provide valuable information about the composition of snake venom, its potential medicinal uses, and the development of anti-venom treatments. This research may help us understand the evolution and ecology of snakes, as well as help us develop new drugs and treatments for various human diseases.

In general, the analysis and results of snake venom studies are very important for the development of science and medicine as well as for the conservation of snake species and their ecosystems.

Composition of snake venom. Snake venom is a combination of proteins, enzymes, peptides and other molecules. These components work together in a coordinated manner to immobilize and digest prey, as well as deter potential predators. The enzymes in the venom are responsible for breaking down tissue and disrupting the victim's normal physiological processes.

It can be said about the types of snake venom that there are four main types according to its effect: neurotoxic, hemotoxic, cytotoxic and myotoxic. Neurotoxic poison affects the nervous system, causing paralysis and respiratory failure. Hemotoxic venom targets the blood and its components, causing tissue damage, clotting disorders, and organ failure. Cytotoxic poison destroys local tissues, causing swelling, pain and necrosis.

Myotoxic venom targets muscle tissue, causing muscle damage and breakdown. Medical applications. Despite its dangerous nature, components of snake venom have been used in medicine. Certain proteins and peptides from snake venom have been studied for their potential in developing drugs for conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease and chronic pain. Additionally, antivenom, which is produced by capturing and neutralizing the venom of various types of snakes, is needed to treat snakebite victims.

Research and storage. Scientific research on snake venom continues, with a focus on understanding the molecular composition and effects of venom components. This knowledge may aid in the development of new therapeutics and toxicants. In addition, the study of snake venom can contribute to the conservation of snake species, as a better understanding of their venom can help create effective strategies to resolve conflicts between humans and snakes. **Conclusion**

Snake venom is a potent and versatile substance with serious implications for human health and ecological systems. Understanding its composition and effects is critical to developing snakebite treatments, as well as harnessing its potential for medical and scientific advances. By entering the world of snake venom, we can appreciate the complexity of nature and unlock its potential for the benefit of humanity.



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