



(S)-雌马酚对肠道菌群的体外调控作用及其可代谢性研究

陈华海¹, 朱家良¹, 刘心如², 胡云霏¹, 尹业师^{1*}

- 1 湖南科技学院化学与生物工程学院, 湘南优势植物资源综合利用湖南省重点实验室, 湖南南岭地区植物资源研究开发湖南省工程研究中心, 湖南 永州 425199
- 2 上海大学转化医学研究所, 上海 200444

陈华海, 朱家良, 刘心如, 胡云霏, 尹业师. (S)-雌马酚对肠道菌群的体外调控作用及其可代谢性研究. 微生物学报, 2022, 62(9): 3597–3612.
Chen Huahai, Zhu Jialiang, Liu Xinru, Hu Yunfei, Yin Yesi. Interaction between (S)-equol and human gut microbiota *in vitro*. Acta Microbiologica Sinica, 2022, 62(9): 3597–3612.

摘要:【目的】研究(S)-雌马酚对人体肠道菌群的体外调控作用和人体肠道菌群对(S)-雌马酚的代谢衍生作用。【方法】采用人体肠道菌群体外批量发酵、细菌 16S rRNA 基因高通量测序、气相色谱、液相色谱和质谱等检测(S)-雌马酚与人体肠道菌群体外相互作用。【结果】体外添加(S)-雌马酚对总体人肠道菌群结构和短链脂肪酸产量影响不明显。添加 0.45 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚组与对照组相比, 未检测到相对丰度发生显著变化的细菌; 添加 0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚组与对照组相比, 显著增加了肠杆菌科(*Enterobacteriaceae*)等条件致病菌的相对丰度, 减少了潜在益生菌粪球菌属(*Coprococcus*)的比例。代谢分析发现, 发酵培养液中(S)-雌马酚的浓度降低了约 15%–30%, 推测可能被微生物进一步降解或衍生修饰。【结论】从体外调控肠道菌群的角度判断, 0.45 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚相对较安全, 而 0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚可能会破坏肠道菌群平衡。(S)-雌马酚可以被人体肠道菌群进一步代谢, 其特定代谢产物的结构与功能及其体内生物安全性有待进一步研究。

关键词: (S)-雌马酚; 人体肠道菌群; 大豆异黄酮

基金项目: 湖南省自然科学基金(2020JJ2016, 2019JJ40092, 2019JJ40091); 中央引导地方科技发展专项(2019XF5067)
Supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Hunan Province (2020JJ2016, 2019JJ40092, 2019JJ40091) and by the Guiding Local Science and Technology Development by the Central Government (2019XF5067)

*Corresponding author. Tel/Fax: +86-746-6381164; E-mail: yinyeshi@126.com

Received: 26 January 2022; Revised: 1 March 2022; Published online: 8 March 2022

Interaction between (S)-equol and human gut microbiota *in vitro*

CHEN Huahai¹, ZHU Jialiang¹, LIU Xinru², HU Yunfei¹, YIN Yesi^{1*}

¹ Key Laboratory of Comprehensive Utilization of Advantage Plants Resources in Hunan South, Hunan Engineering Research Center for Research and Development of Plant Resources in Nanling Area, College of Chemistry and Bioengineering, Hunan University of Science and Engineering, Yongzhou 425199, Hunan, China
² Institute of Translational Medicine, Shanghai University, Shanghai 200444, China

Abstract: [Objective] To study the regulatory effect of (S)-equol on human gut microbiota and the metabolic effect of human gut microbiota on (S)-equol. [Methods] The interaction between (S)-equol and human gut microbiota was detected by batch fermentation *in vitro*, bacterial 16S rRNA gene high-throughput sequencing, gas chromatography, high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), and mass spectrometry. [Results] (S)-equol had no significant effect on the overall structure of human gut microbiota or the concentrations of short chain fatty acids (SCFAs). No significant change in the relative abundance of bacteria was detected between the 0.45 mmol/L (S)-equol group and the control group. However, 0.90 mmol/L (S)-equol significantly increased the relative abundance of conditional pathogens such as *Enterobacteriaceae* and reduced that of potential probiotics *Coprococcus*. The concentration of (S)-equol in the fermentation broth decreased by 15%–30%, which suggested that (S)-equol may be degraded or modified by gut microbiota. [Conclusion] From the perspective of regulating gut microbiota *in vitro*, 0.45 mmol/L (S)-equol is safe, while 0.90 mmol/L (S)-equol may disturb the balance of gut microbiota. (S)-equol can be further metabolized by human gut microbiota, and the structure and function of the specific metabolites and the biological safety of (S)-equol *in vivo* remain to be studied.

Keywords: (S)-equol; human gut microbiota; soybean isoflavones

大豆类食品是亚洲主要传统食品之一，平均每人每天摄入量为 20–50 g^[1]。大豆异黄酮是传统大豆食品中非常重要的功能因子之一。由于大豆异黄酮具有改善更年期综合征、抗骨质疏松、抗动脉粥样硬化、抗脑缺血、抑菌、抗热应激、增强机体免疫力、抗肿瘤和改善学习记忆能力等药效^[1–3]，国内外已开发出多种大豆异黄酮片剂、口服液和粉剂等医药保健制品，在美国、欧洲等地广泛销售的就有近 300 种^[4]。对美国国家生物信息中心外文医学数据库(National Center for Biotechnology Information PubMed)中发表的以大豆异黄酮为主题的文献进行统计分析发

现，大豆异黄酮与肿瘤、营养代谢疾病和心脑血管疾病等密切相关，并且对这些疾病具有一定的防治作用^[5]。因此大豆异黄酮已经成为很多食品和营养研究领域的热门话题之一。对近些年国内外发表的大豆相关文献进行分析发现，约一半与大豆异黄酮研究相关^[6]。

尽管大量研究表明大豆异黄酮对人体健康有益，但大豆食品中 90%以上的大豆异黄酮以糖苷形式存在^[7]，不能被小肠直接吸收，严重制约了大豆食品的保健作用。研究发现，大豆异黄酮糖苷与肠道菌群相互作用可产生生物活性和生物可利用度更高的新型微生物转化物，

促进大豆异黄酮生理活性发挥。大豆食品摄入后被肠道细菌编码的 β -葡萄糖苷酶水解,形成具有一定生物活性的苷元(如染料木素和大豆苷元)^[8]。大豆苷元被认为是大豆异黄酮在肠道中被代谢后生成的主要中间产物之一。(S)-雌马酚和去氧甲基安哥拉紫檀素被认为是大豆苷元代谢的终产物^[9-10]。由于(S)-雌马酚具有抗癌、心脏保护、抗糖尿病、抗骨质疏松、抗衰老和神经保护等多种疾病防治功能^[11-12],被认为是一种重要的代谢产物,最近受到了广泛关注。对PubMed数据库中发表的以雌马酚为主题的文献进行统计分析发现,雌马酚和大豆异黄酮相关的疾病谱非常类似^[5],对更年期综合征、心脑血管疾病和肿瘤等也具有较好的防治功能^[13]。

2002年,Setchell等研究发现具有转化生产(S)-雌马酚能力的个体在摄入大豆食品后受益更大^[14]。这种所谓的“Equol假说”得到了许多(但不是所有)临床研究的支持^[15-18]。然而大豆异黄酮被代谢成活性更高的(S)-雌马酚需要某些特定的微生物参与^[19]。如红蜡菌科(*Coriobacteriaceae*)、伊格尔兹氏菌属(*Eggerthella*)和乳球菌属(*Lactococcus*)等已被报道具有将大豆异黄酮转化为(S)-雌马酚的功能^[13,20]。然而并不是每个人的肠道菌群都具有转化生产(S)-雌马酚的能力。调查显示只有约25%–30%西方成年人的肠道菌群能够将大豆异黄酮转化为(S)-雌马酚^[21]。在大豆类食品食用量较大的东亚地区,也只有50%–60%的个体在摄入大豆类食品后能产生(S)-雌马酚^[22-25]。Wang等基于生理学药代动力学模型对人体肠道微生物转化大豆苷元生产(S)-雌马酚的情况进行了预测,发现(S)-雌马酚的最大产量仅为大豆苷元的0.22%,这表明尽管(S)-雌马酚具有较高的雌激素活性,但在摄入大豆苷元后,(S)-雌马酚可能仅在非常有限

程度上对整体雌激素活性起作用。人类和大鼠之间的种间比较表明,大鼠体内(S)-雌马酚生成的催化效率比人类(S)-雌马酚生成者高210倍^[26]。因此,研究者试图通过直接补充(S)-雌马酚来更好地发挥豆制品重要功能因子的作用,已有“天然(S)-雌马酚”补充剂在商业上出售^[27-28],也有企业正在将(S)-雌马酚作为商业药物进行研发^[29]。

目前关于(S)-雌马酚的药效作用机制、毒性和生物安全性等还研究得非常少。有研究报道(S)-雌马酚可以抑制多种来自肠道的细菌生长或孢子形成^[30-31],但口服(S)-雌马酚是否会扰乱肠道菌群还有待进一步研究。研究认为肠道代谢产生的(S)-雌马酚为微生物代谢终产物,主要被肝脏吸收后转化为葡萄糖苷(S)-雌马酚和磺酸化(S)-雌马酚^[32-33],然后进入机体循环和代谢,但最近有研究发现(S)-雌马酚可以进一步被酪氨酸激酶氧化成醌类化合物^[34]。(S)-雌马酚在肠道中是否能进一步被肠道菌群转化代谢有待进一步研究。本文使用人体肠道菌群体外批量发酵和细菌16S rRNA基因高通量测序等对(S)-雌马酚的肠道菌群调控功能进行了分析,使用高效液相色谱(high performance liquid chromatography, HPLC)和质谱等方法对肠道菌群是否能进一步代谢衍生(S)-雌马酚进行了研究。

1 材料与方法

参照本实验室已发表的研究方法开展大豆苷和(S)-雌马酚与人体肠道菌群的体外相互作用研究^[35]。

1.1 材料

大豆苷、大豆苷元、(S)-雌马酚购自大赛璐药物手性技术(上海)有限公司,产品纯度大于98%。

1.2 志愿者粪便样品收集

共收集23名成年健康志愿者(女性11名,

男性 12 名)粪便样品。志愿者年龄介于 20–62 岁之间。所有志愿者的日常饮食均是中国传统食物,无素食主义者。采样前至少 3 个月未曾服用抗生素或有过医院治疗经历等,未出现过腹泻等胃肠不适症状。样品收集通过了湖南科技学院学术伦理与道德委员会的审批和同意(批准号: HUSE2019-A0001)。

1.3 体外发酵培养基配制

根据本实验室前期工作经验选择在体外对人体肠道菌群有较好模拟效果的 VIS 培养基^[36–37]。具体培养基配方如下(g/L): 可溶性淀粉 8.0, 胰蛋白胨 3.0, 蛋白胨 3.0, 酵母提取物 4.5, 粘液素 0.5, L-半胱氨酸盐酸盐 0.8, 3 号胆盐 0.4, 血红素 0.05, 吐温-80 1 mL, 氯化钾 2.5, 氯化钠 4.5, 六水氯化镁 4.5, 六水氯化钙 0.2, 磷酸二氢钾 0.4, 刃天青 10.0, 微量元素溶液 2 mL。微量元素包括(g/L): 七水硫酸镁 3.0, 二水氯化钙 0.1, 四水氯化锰 0.32, 七水硫酸铁 0.1, 七水硫酸钴 0.18, 七水硫酸锌 0.18, 五水硫酸铜 0.01, 六水氯化镍 0.092。将培养基 pH 值调节至 6.5, 定容后 121 °C 高压灭菌 20 min, 然后分装到 20 mL 无菌离心管中, 每管 4.5 mL。实验设计与分组如下: VIS 组(没添加任何药物的对照组)、VIS-Da (培养基中添加了终浓度 0.45 mmol/L 大豆苷)、VIS-Eq1 组(培养基中添加了终浓度 0.45 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚)、VIS-Eq2 (培养基中添加了终浓度 0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚)。

1.4 粪菌悬液制备

称取志愿者粪便样品 5 g 溶解入 50 mL 高压灭菌后的 PBS 中(0.1 mol/L, pH 7.0), 充分混匀后制成 10% (W/V)粪便匀浆。使用 4 层纱布过滤后, 将上清液转移到 20 mL 离心管中备用。

1.5 体外发酵与样品收集

将分装后的培养基放入厌氧工作站中静置 8 h。将制备好的粪菌悬液分别接种入 VIS、

VIS-Da、VIS-Eq1 和 VIS-Eq2 培养基, 每 4.5 mL 培养基中接种 500 μ L (10%)粪菌悬液, 摇匀后放置在厌氧工作站中静置培养(37 °C, 85%氮气+10%氢气+5%二氧化碳)。分别在接种后 24 h 和 48 h 各取样 1.5 mL, 10 000 r/min 离心 2 min 后, 将沉淀和上清液分别保存到-30 °C 冰箱, 其中沉淀用于细菌基因组 DNA 提取和 16S rRNA 基因高通量测序, 上清液用于短链脂肪酸(short chain fatty acids, SCFAs)、大豆苷、大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚含量测定。

1.6 细菌基因组 DNA 提取

采用 QIAamp 粪便细菌基因组 DNA 提取试剂盒, 根据试剂盒说明书对粪便样本和发酵样品进行细菌基因组 DNA 提取。

1.7 细菌 16S rRNA 基因 V3–V4 区高通量测序及分析

将提取的细菌基因组 DNA 样品送到杭州利贞生物医药科技有限公司采用 Illumina MiSeq 平台进行二代测序。扩增引物为 338F (5'-ACTCC TACGGGAGGCAGCA-3')和 806R (5'-GGACTA CHVGGGTWTCTAAT-3')。测序获得的序列首先使用 QIIME 和 Mothur 软件进行质检和操作分类单元(operational taxonomic unit, OTU)分类(以 97%相似性为分类阈值)。每个 OTU 的代表序列使用 RDP 分类器和 SILVA 数据库进行细菌分类注释。对获得的 OTU 表和细菌分类注释表, 采用上海盈飞生物科技有限公司开发的细菌多样性分析软件包(<http://amplicon.vgenomics.cn:9000/>)进行分析。分析模块主要包括 α 多样性分析、 β 多样性分析、细菌组成分析、LEfSe 分析和 PICRUST 细菌基因功能预测分析。原始序列数据已提交到 NCBI 数据库(SRP132422)。

1.8 SCFAs 含量测定

发酵液上清液采用岛津气相色谱仪 GC plus 2010 进行 SCFAs 含量分析。使用 DB-FFAP 型

气相色谱柱(0.32 mm×30 m×0.5 μm)和氢气火焰离子化检测器,以巴豆酸为内标物,以乙酸、丙酸、丁酸、异丁酸、戊酸和异戊酸为标准品进行检测。气相色谱的进样口参数为:进样量 1 μL,温度 250 °C,载气类型为 N₂,吹扫流量 3.0 mL/L,压力 54.2 kPa,分流比为 8:1。线速的控制模式:线速度 28.1 cm/s,总流量 16.1 mL/min,色谱柱流量 1.46 mL/min。

1.9 大豆苷、大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚的 HPLC 检测

根据参考文献[38]描述方法,使用 HPLC 对大豆苷、大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚浓度进行检测。简言之,1 mL 样品用 1 mL 乙酸乙酯提取 3 次,然后合并后冷冻干燥,再悬浮在 200 μL 甲醇中,并在-20 °C 下储存,直至分析。使用 Waters e2695 系统进行 HPLC 检测。使用 SunFire™ C18 5 μm 柱(4.6 mm×205 mm)注入并分离 15 μL 等分试样。温度设置为(30±2) °C。对于大豆苷检测,流速保持在 1 mL/min;使用 1%乙酸(A)和 100%甲醇(B)组成的流动相进行梯度洗脱(0–20 min: 72% A+28% B; 20–25 min: 55% A+45% B; 25–30 min: 72% A+28% B)。对于大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚的检测,流速保持在 0.8 mL/min;用 0.01%甲酸:甲醇:乙腈(50:20:30)组成的流动相进行等度洗脱。在 205 nm 处检测(S)-雌马酚;在 254 nm 处检测大豆苷和大豆苷元。使用从 Daicel 手性技术有限公司(中国上海)获得的纯标准品构建大豆苷、大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚的定量校准曲线。利用对照组(未加菌液)与实验组中大豆苷、大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚的浓度差异,计算降解修饰率。

1.10 三重四极杆质谱检测(S)-雌马酚

为了确定保留时间,使用 50 μg/mL (S)-雌马酚标准物优化检测方法。对于色谱分离,本研究使用超高效液相色谱法(UPLC, DionexUltiMate

3000, Thermo Scientific)和 Acquity HSS T3 柱(1.8 μm, 2.1 mm×100 mm)。柱温设置为 25 °C;以乙酸铵水溶液(A)和乙腈(B)为流动相;流动相流速设定为 0.3 mL/min;样品的进样量设定为 5 μL。流动相梯度设定为 0–1 min:95% A+5% B; 1.1–8.0 min: 100% B; 8.1–13.0 min: 95% A+5% B。本研究使用三重四极质谱仪(TSQ Vantage, Thermo Scientific)进行质谱检测。检测条件设置为:离子源:加热电喷雾电离;护套和辅助气体:氮气;极性:负性;喷雾电压:3 000 V;汽化器温度:350 °C;护套气体压力:40 psi;辅助气体压力:10 psi;毛细管温度:350 °C;全 Q1 质谱扫描:60–400 *m/z*; Q1 单位分辨率:0.7 半峰全宽;扫描时间:0.5 s。

1.11 统计分析

采用 IBM SPSS Statistics 20.0 软件对 PICRUSt 预测的 KEGG 和 COG 数据先采用独立样品 *t* 检验,然后再使用配对样品 *t* 检验对 *P*<0.05 的 KEGG 和 COG 数据进行进一步分析。采用 IBM SPSS Statistics 20.0 软件对不同实验组之间 SCFAs 含量进行单因素方差分析(one-way analysis of variance)。*P*<0.05 被认为具有显著差异。

2 结果与分析

2.1 大豆苷和(S)-雌马酚对肠道菌群结构的影响

为了研究大豆苷和不同浓度(S)-雌马酚对人体肠道菌群的影响,共收集了 23 名志愿者的粪便样品进行体外发酵和细菌 16S rRNA 基因高通量测序。共 115 个样品测序成功,获得 5 130 353 条 16S rRNA 基因序列,平均每个样品获得 44 611 条序列。每个样品的测序覆盖率均在 99.7%以上,可以满足分析要求。 α 多样性分析结果显示,添加大豆苷和不同浓度(S)-雌马酚并未影响用于评价细菌多样性的主要指数,如

ACE、Chao、Shannon 和 Simpson。进一步 β 多样性分析显示(图 1),大豆苷和不同浓度(S)-雌马酚对肠道菌群的整体结构无显著影响。发酵后样品的菌群结构并未按照是否添加大豆苷元或(S)-雌马酚进行聚类,而是以起始志愿者编号进行聚类。由于志愿者有 11 名年龄小于 40 岁,有 12 名在 40–60 岁之间;有 11 名是女性志愿者,12 名是男性志愿者,因此首先对志愿者原始粪便菌群进行了分析。结果发现粪便菌群并未按年龄和性别进行明显的聚类(图 2)。因此,

在进一步的分析中未再按年龄和性别进行更细的分组。

进一步对检测样品进行细菌组成分析,发现发酵样品中百分比含量大于 1%的细菌门主要有拟杆菌(*Bacteroides*)、厚壁菌(*Firmicutes*)、变形菌(*Proteobacteria*)和放线菌(*Actinobacteria*)。在细菌属的水平,大于 1%的细菌属主要有拟杆菌、双歧杆菌(*Bifidobacterium*)、大肠杆菌-志贺菌(*Escherichia-Shigella*)、普雷沃菌 9 (*Prevotella 9*)、乳酸杆菌(*Lactobacillus*)、巨单胞菌(*Megamonas*)、

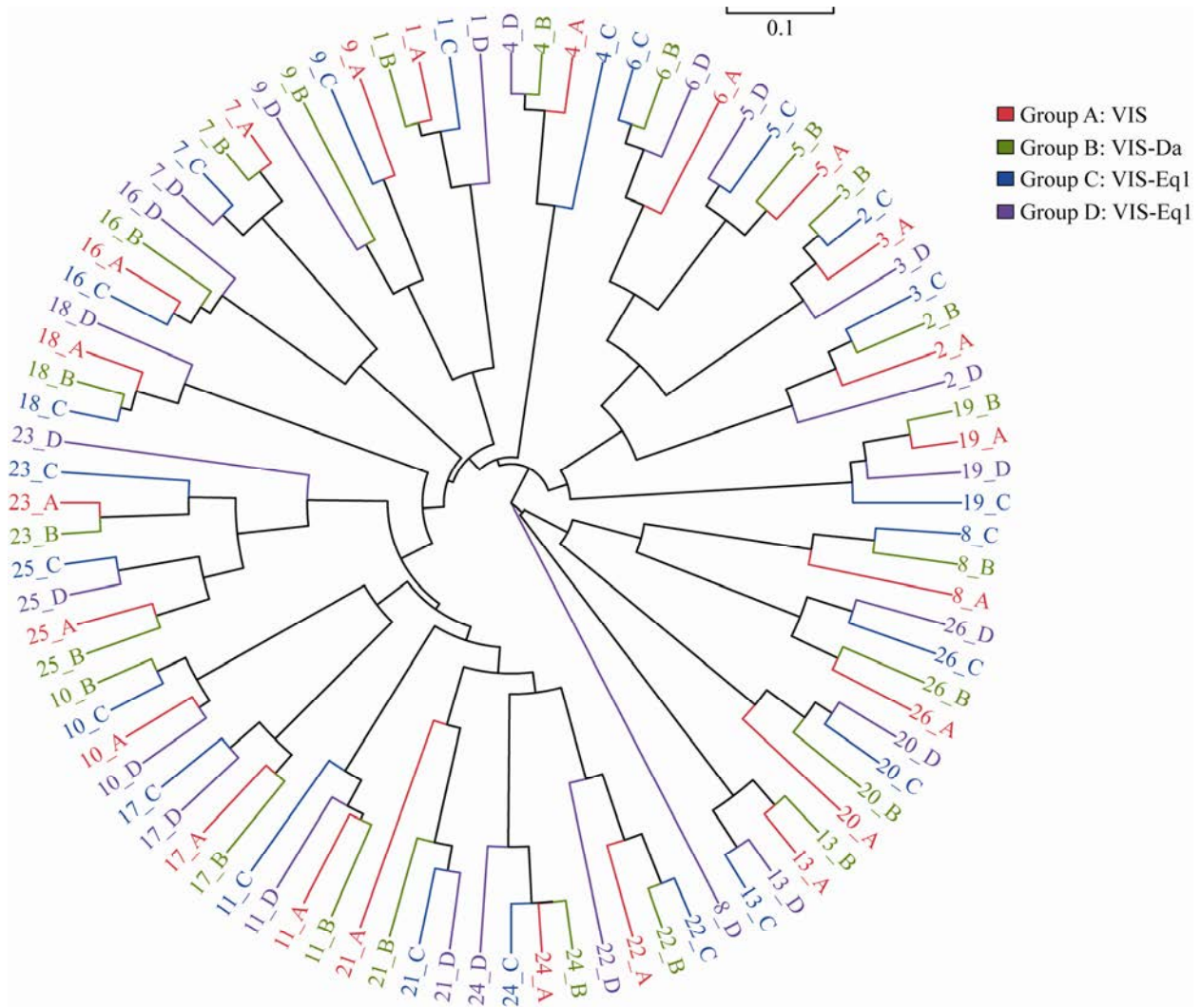


图 1 发酵样品的 β 多样性分析

Figure 1 Beta diversity analysis of the fermented samples.

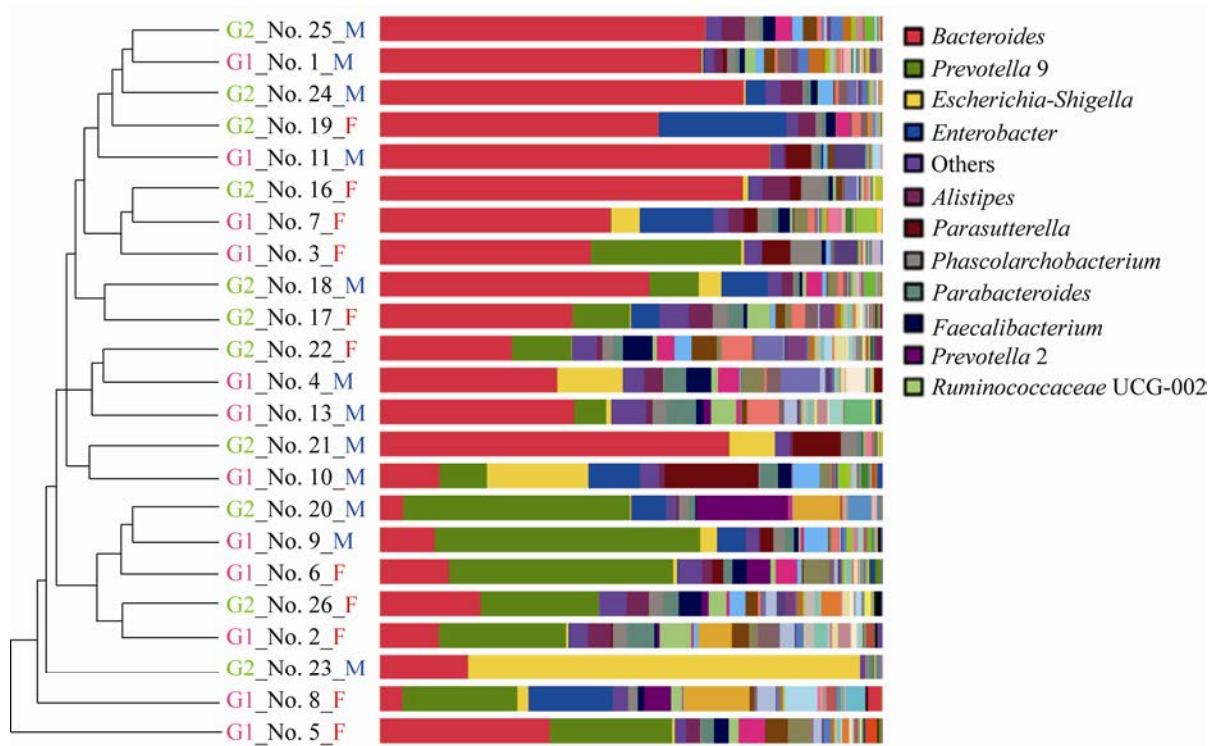


图 2 志愿者原始粪便样本的细菌组成分析

Figure 2 Bacterial community of original fecal samples of the volunteers. G1 represents samples collected from volunteers less than 40 years old. G2 represents samples collected from volunteers 40–60 years old. M and F represent the gender of these volunteers, male and female, respectively. No. 1–No. 26 represent the volunteer reference number.

肠杆菌(*Enterobacter*)、粪杆菌(*Faecalibacterium*)、光冈菌(*Mitsuokella*)、萨特氏菌(*Sutterella*)、考拉杆菌(*Phascolarctobacterium*)、巨球形菌(*Megasphaera*)、布劳特氏菌(*Blautia*)、小杆菌(*Dialister*)等 14 个属。无论是在细菌门的水平, 还是细菌属的水平, 菌群结构都未按是否添加大豆苷或(S)-雌马酚进行很好地聚类。在细菌 OTU 水平, 每组样品平均检测到了 200 个 OTU, 且每组之间 OTU 数量相近, 无显著差异。

为了进一步分析添加大豆苷或(S)-雌马酚是否对某一特定的细菌产生影响, LEfSe 组间差异细菌分析显示, 大豆苷组假单胞菌属(*Pseudomonas*)显著低于对照组(图 3A); 低浓度的(S)-雌马酚添加组与对照组相比, 未检测到显著

变化的细菌菌属; 高浓度(S)-雌马酚组, 肠杆菌目(*Enterobacteriales*)和肠杆菌科(*Enterobacteriaceae*)含量显著高于对照组, 粪球菌属(*Coprococcus*)含量显著低于对照组(图 3B)。

考虑到高浓度(S)-雌马酚组与对照组之间差异菌群较多(图 3B), 选择 PICRUST 用于进一步差异基因和代谢通路的预测和相对丰度分析。如图 4 所示, 高浓度(S)-雌马酚添加组 K00533、K01006、K03783、K06926、K07011、K07133、K07221、K12251 和 K12257 的相对百分含量显著低于对照组, 且代谢通路光合生物的固碳作用(carbon fixation in photosynthetic organisms)和谷氨酸能突触(glutamatergic synapse)的丰度也显著低于对照组。

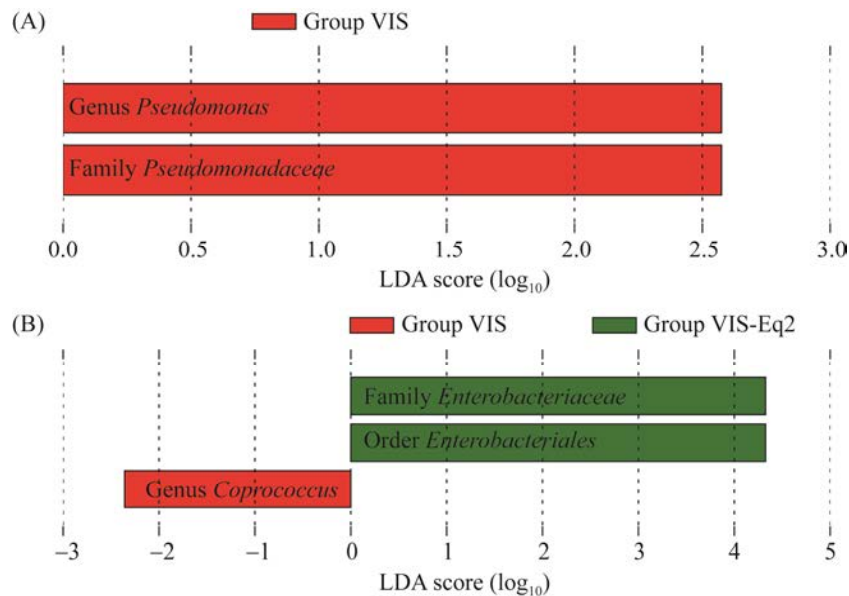


图 3 LefSe 分析差异显著细菌

Figure 3 Significant differences in bacterial taxa between treatment groups by LefSe analysis. A: VIS/VIS-Da; B: VIS/VIS-Eq2.

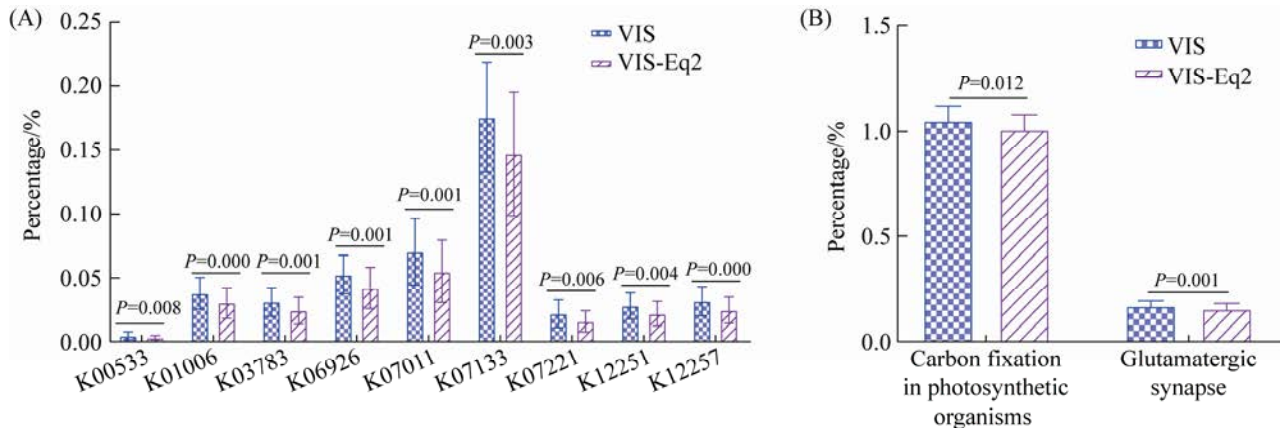


图 4 PICRUSt 预测的差异显著功能基因

Figure 4 Predicted effects of (S)-equol on genes and pathways of the gut microbiota using PICRUSt. A: significantly different genes between groups VIS and VIS-Eq2; B: significantly different KEGG pathways between groups VIS and VIS-Eq2.

2.2 大豆苷和不同浓度(S)-雌马酚对肠道菌群产 SCFAs 的影响

为了研究大豆苷和不同浓度(S)-雌马酚对细菌代谢产物的影响,本研究使用气相色谱对发酵样品中 SCFAs 的浓度进行了检测。结果如图 5 所示,尽管不同个体的粪便菌群在发酵后

产生 SCFAs 的能力存在较大差异,但添加大豆苷和不同浓度的(S)-雌马酚并未显著影响发酵后肠道菌群产生 SCFAs 的能力。

2.3 肠道菌群体外对大豆苷的代谢作用

一般认为大豆苷元是大豆苷的主要中间代谢产物,(S)-雌马酚是大豆苷的主要代谢终产物。

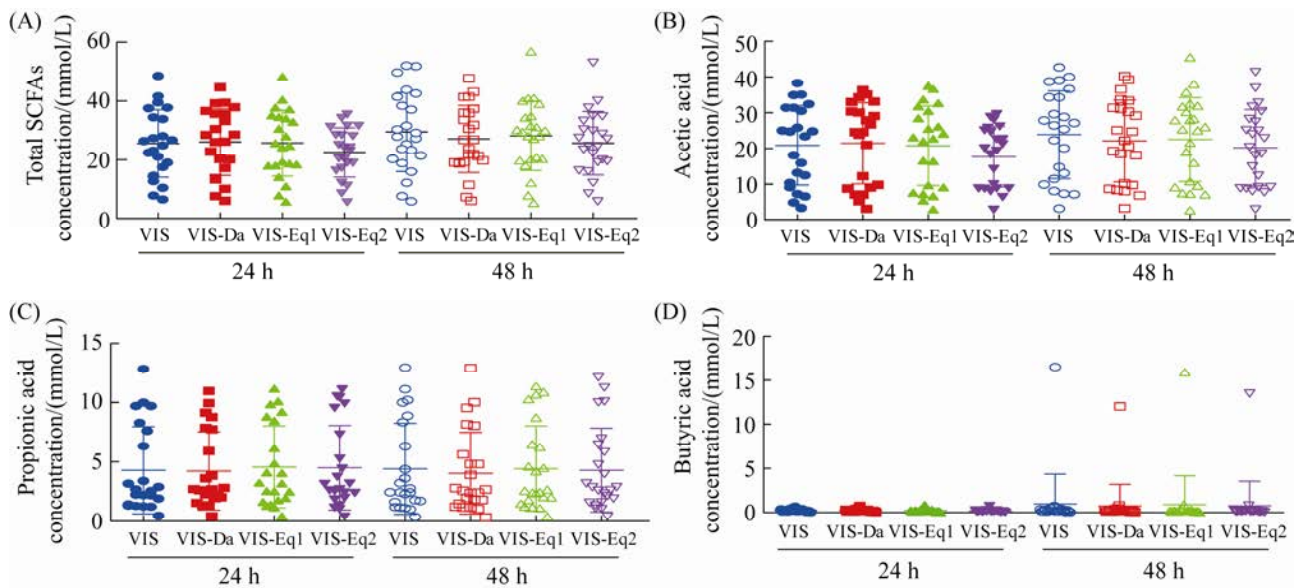


图 5 短链脂肪酸产量分析

Figure 5 SCFAs production by gut microbiota after fermentation with daidzin and (S)-equol. A: the concentration of total SCFAs; B: the concentration of acetic acid; C: the concentration of propionic acid; D: the concentration of butyric acid.

因此本研究采用 HPLC 对发酵样品中大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚的浓度进行了检测。结果如表 1 所示, 所有志愿者的粪便菌群均具有将大豆苷转化为大豆苷元的能力。然而肠道菌群代谢大豆苷元生产(S)-雌马酚的能力较低, 发酵 48 h 后, 仅 8 个样品中检测到了较低浓度的(S)-雌马酚。总体来说, 肠道菌群的这些代谢能力与发酵时间长短有关, 发酵 48 h 后, 样品中大豆苷元浓度和(S)-雌马酚浓度比发酵 24 h 样品中高, 但并未发现肠道菌群的这些代谢能力与志愿者年龄和性别有明显相关性。

2.4 肠道菌群体外对(S)-雌马酚的代谢作用

为了研究(S)-雌马酚是否能被肠道细菌进一步代谢, 本研究对发酵后的样品首先采用 HPLC 进行了初步分析。如图 6A 所示, HPLC 检测结果发现, (S)-雌马酚在体外发酵后, 发酵样品中(S)-雌马酚浓度降低, 且发酵时间越久, 浓度降低越多。低浓度(S)-雌马酚在发酵 24 h

和 48 h 后的平均代谢率分别为 16.56% 和 29.00%。高浓度组(S)-雌马酚平均代谢率分别为 15.92% 和 20.18%。为了进一步验证实验结果的可靠性, 本研究将高浓度(S)-雌马酚组(S)-雌马酚被代谢比较明显的 5 个样品进行了三重四极杆质谱检测。根据峰面积换算, 如图 6B 所示, 发酵 24 h, (S)-雌马酚最高代谢率可以达到 39.42%, 在发酵 48 h 后, (S)-雌马酚最高代谢率可以达到 71.44%。

3 讨论

肠道菌群具有非常重要的生理功能, 包括宿主免疫平衡和饮食或药物代谢^[39-40]。大量研究表明, 肠道菌群失衡与癌症、心脑血管疾病、代谢紊乱综合征和其他疾病之间存在相关性^[41]; 因此, 肠道菌群已经成为疾病防治和药物研发的新靶标^[42-46]。已经证明, 一些药物通过调节肠道微生物来预防和治疗疾病^[47-48], 如小檗碱可以富集产(S)-雌马酚肠道菌群, 从而改善卵巢

表 1 大豆苷元和(S)-雌马酚检出情况统计

Table 1 Statistics on the detection of daidzein and (S)-equol

Volunteers	Age	Gender	Equol_original	Daidzein_24 h	Daidzein_48 h	Equol_24 h	Equol_48 h
No. 1	20–40 years	Male	+	+	+	ND	ND
No. 2		Female	ND	+	+	ND	+
No. 3		Female	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 4		Male	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 5		Female	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 6		Female	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 7		Female	+	+	+	ND	ND
No. 8		Female	ND	+	+	+	+
No. 9		Male	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 10		Male	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 11		Male	ND	+	+	ND	+
No. 16	40–60 years	Female	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 17		Female	+	+	+	+	+
No. 18		Male	ND	+	+	+	+
No. 19		Female	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 20		Male	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 21		Male	+	+	+	ND	+
No. 22		Female	ND	+	+	ND	+
No. 23		Male	+	+	+	ND	ND
No. 24		Male	ND	+	+	ND	ND
No. 25		Male	+	+	+	ND	ND
No. 26		Female	ND	+	+	ND	+

Daidzein and (S)-equol concentration (mmol/L) was measured using HPLC analysis. Equol_original represent (S)-equol concentration in original 10% fecal slurry. ND: not detected; +: (S)-equol corresponding HPLC peak can be detected. Daidzein_24 h and daidzein_48 h represent the daidzein concentration after fermentation of 24 and 48 h, respectively. Equol_24 h and Equol_48 h represent the (S)-equol concentration after fermentation of 24 and 48 h, respectively.

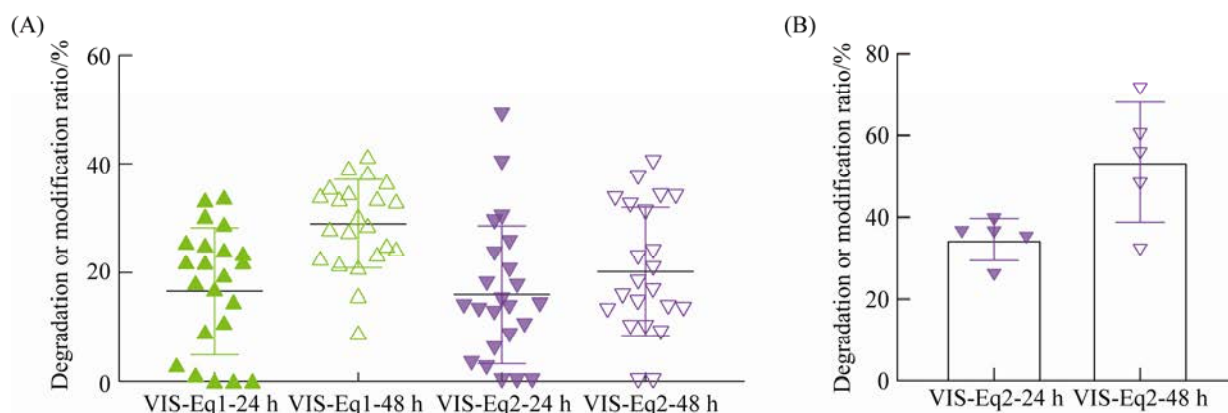


图 6 肠道菌群对(S)-雌马酚的降解修饰分析

Figure 6 Degradation or modification ratio of (S)-equol by human gut microbiota *in vitro*. A: degradation or modification ratio of (S)-equol detected by using HPLC; B: degradation or modification ratio of (S)-equol detected by using LC-MS/MS.

切除诱导的焦虑样行为^[49]。肠道微生物组编码了丰富多样的功能基因, 可以通过水解、氧化还原等方式代谢药物^[50-51], 从而影响药物疗效或毒副作用^[52-54]。尽管大量研究对高含量膳食成分(如纤维和脂肪)与肠道菌群之间的相互作用进行了深入分析^[55-57], 但对低含量膳食营养素(如大豆异黄酮)与肠道菌群之间相互作用的研究还较少^[58-61]。

体外生物反应器法已被广泛用于研究人体肠道菌群与药物或其他功能因子之间的相互作用。这种方法的优点是操作简单, 消除了宿主遗传因素的干扰, 并保证在每个样品中添加相同数量的底物。同时, 本实验室前期研究表明, 体外分批发酵法可以较好地模拟人体肠道菌群^[37,62-63]。本研究通过对志愿者粪便菌群的分批发酵, 研究了生理浓度下大豆苷与体外肠道菌群之间的相互作用。结果表明, 与未经处理的对照组相比, 在生理浓度下添加大豆苷可显著降低假单胞菌(*Pseudomonas*)的相对丰度, 而对其他肠道细菌的影响不明显。鉴于假单胞菌是一种条件致病菌, 大豆苷的抑制作用可用于改善健康。然而, 当志愿者被分为产(S)-雌马酚组和非产(S)-雌马酚组时, 未检测显著差异细菌。这可能是由于(S)-雌马酚产生者数量较少及临床样本之间的差异所致。进一步研究需要纳入更多志愿者和制定更严格的志愿者纳入标准。

一些研究表明, (S)-雌马酚产生者的年龄明显大于非(S)-雌马酚产生者^[64-65]。但本研究发现, (S)-雌马酚的产生与志愿者的性别或年龄无明显相关性。这可能是由于其他研究是直接从事人粪便样品中检测(S)-雌马酚浓度, 而本研究是在粪便菌群体外发酵后检测(S)-雌马酚浓度。实验条件的差异可能影响了结果的可比性。另外, 本研究发现, 27%的原始粪便样品可检测到(S)-雌马酚, 36%的粪便样品在体外发酵后可检测到

(S)-雌马酚。值得注意的是, 并非所有来自(S)-雌马酚产生者的粪便菌群在体外具有将大豆苷转化为(S)-雌马酚的能力。这可能是由于一些产(S)-雌马酚细菌是严格厌氧菌, 在接种或培养过程中有所丢失^[13]。另一种可能是, 一些(S)-雌马酚产生者需要长期诱导, 而本研究的体外发酵时间仅有 48 h。对于原始粪便样品中检测不到(S)-雌马酚, 而体外发酵具有转化生产(S)-雌马酚能力的原因可能是由于粪便悬液中(S)-雌马酚浓度低于可检测水平, 或该志愿者具有产(S)-雌马酚能力, 但饮食中无大豆异黄酮类底物等。

(S)-雌马酚被认为是大豆苷经人体肠道菌群代谢后的最终代谢产物之一。与其前体分子大豆苷相比, (S)-雌马酚更稳定, 更容易被吸收, 清除率更低^[66]。此外, 它还显示出比任何其他异黄酮或异黄酮衍生代谢物更强的雌激素活性^[29,67]和抗氧化活性^[68-69]。此外, (S)-雌马酚选择性地优先结合雌激素受体 ER β 而不是 ER α , 从而避免 ER α 激活引起的一般不良反应^[67]。(S)-雌马酚的抗氧化活性和选择性 ER β 激活已被用于降低更年期症状、骨质疏松症、心血管风险、前列腺癌和乳腺癌、皮肤老化, 甚至预防脱发^[29,70-71]。因此, (S)-雌马酚对人类健康的有益影响已得到较广泛认可^[13], 并已被开发为预防和治疗某些慢性疾病的膳食补充剂。

然而, (S)-雌马酚的作用机制和副作用仍有待进一步研究, 尤其是其与人类肠道菌群的相互作用。Vázquez 等^[30]和 Tanaka 等^[31]研究发现 (S)-雌马酚能够抑制艰难梭菌(*Clostridioides difficile*)、普氏栖粪杆菌(*F. prausnitzii*)、乳酸乳球菌乳酸亚种(*L. lactis* subsp. *lactis*)和脆弱拟杆菌(*B. fragilis*)的生长; 然而, 他们也发现, (S)-雌马酚在体外可以促进大肠杆菌(*E. coli*)和粘质沙雷氏菌(*Serratia marcescens*)的生长。(S)-雌马酚对人体肠道菌群的调节功能还有待进一步研究。

本研究发现,添加0.45 mmol/L或0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚对细菌多样性和 OTU 数量无显著影响,体外人体肠道菌群产生的 SCFAs 也无显著影响。然而,0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚显著增加了肠杆菌目(*Enterobacteriales*)和肠杆菌科(*Enterobacteriaceae*)的百分比含量,并抑制了粪球菌属(*Coprococcus*)的生长。肠杆菌科(*Enterobacteriaceae*)由20多个细菌属组成,包括大肠杆菌-志贺氏菌(*Escherichia-Shigella*)、沙门氏菌(*Salmonella*)、肠杆菌和克雷伯菌(*Klebsiella*)等。在某些条件下,这类菌大部分都是潜在的致病菌。相反,粪球菌属细菌产生丁酸和丙酸盐,在肺动脉高压^[72]、视神经脊髓炎谱系障碍^[73]、溃疡性结肠炎^[74]、子痫前期^[75]、帕金森病^[76-77]和精神分裂症^[78]患者的微生物群中减少,是一种潜在的益生菌。总之,0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚促进条件致病菌的生长,抑制潜在益生菌粪球菌属的生长。然而,与未添加(S)-雌马酚的对照组相比,0.45 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚不影响细菌数量或细菌群落的多样性。大豆异黄酮的浓度可能是影响异黄酮在肠道微生物群中的抗菌作用或调节功能的重要因素。井乐刚等发现,大豆异黄酮的抑菌效果随着体外浓度的增加而增加^[79]。体内研究还表明,不同浓度的大豆异黄酮(每天摄入80、100或160 mg)对人体肠道微生物群的影响是可变的^[59,61,64]。因此,从体外肠道菌群调控的角度来看,0.45 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚可能比0.90 mmol/L (S)-雌马酚更安全。然而体内实际情况,(S)-雌马酚与宿主本身和肠道微生物间的相互作用受到较多复杂因素的影响,(S)-雌马酚的生物安全性仍有待大量体内实验的进一步评估。

(S)-雌马酚被认为是肠道微生物群从大豆苷代谢而来的最终衍生物。然而,如果要将(S)-雌马酚开发为商业药物,则需要进一步评估人体

肠道微生物群对(S)-雌马酚的代谢作用。HPLC和三重四极杆质谱显示,(S)-雌马酚在体外发酵后被降解或修饰。本研究进一步鉴定了体外发酵后产生的(S)-雌马酚代谢物。与发酵前的培养基相比,从大多数测试的发酵样品中鉴定出4个增加的质谱峰。这4个峰中每个峰对应的分子量分别为158、218、227和259,5-OH-雌马酚的分子量为258.27,与观察到的259峰非常接近。然而,需要对标记的(S)-雌马酚的代谢产物进行分析,以给出更准确的结果。另外,由于本次研究采用的是肠道菌群,具体参与(S)-雌马酚代谢的菌种或菌株还有待进一步研究,分离纯化对(S)-雌马酚具有代谢功能的细菌将为研究不同细菌对(S)-雌马酚的差异代谢奠定基础。

综上所述,27.27%的志愿者被确定为(S)-雌马酚产生者;所有志愿者都能将大豆苷转化为大豆苷元,但只有36.36%的志愿者能在体外产生(S)-雌马酚。生理浓度(0.45 mmol/L)的大豆苷可显著减少假单胞菌的数量,从而促进健康。然而,高浓度(0.90 mmol/L)的(S)-雌马酚可能会通过显著抑制潜在的益生菌粪球菌属产生副作用,尤其是在不产生(S)-雌马酚的个体中。本研究发现(S)-雌马酚可以在体外被人体肠道菌群进一步代谢;然而,发酵产物的组成比预期的更复杂。标记初始(S)-雌马酚才能更好地识别其代谢衍生物。

参考文献

- [1] Abdelrazek HMA, Mahmoud MMA, Tag HM, Greish SM, Eltamany DA, Soliman MTA. Soy isoflavones ameliorate metabolic and immunological alterations of ovariectomy in female wistar rats: antioxidant and estrogen sparing potential. *Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity*, 2019, 2019: 5713606.
- [2] Chen LR, Chen KH. Utilization of isoflavones in soybeans for women with menopausal syndrome: an overview. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 2021, 22(6): 3212.

- [3] Pabich M, Materska M. Biological effect of soy isoflavones in the prevention of civilization diseases. *Nutrients*, 2019, 11(7): 1660.
- [4] 石群, 李波. 大豆异黄酮研究进展及前景展望. *大豆科技*, 2018(5): 37–39.
Shi Q, Li B. Research progress and prospect of soybean isoflavones. *Soybean Science & Technology*, 2018(5): 37–39. (in Chinese)
- [5] 陈华海, 谭力瑞, 胡云霏, 曹林艳, 尹业师. 基于CNKI和PubMed数据库的大豆异黄酮和雌马酚研究现状分析. *大豆科学*, 2019(1): 134–141.
Chen HH, Tan LR, Hu YF, Cao LY, Yin YS. Research progress of soy isoflavones and equol based on analyzing the literatures published in CNKI and PubMed database. *Soybean Science*, 2019(1): 134–141. (in Chinese)
- [6] 蔡娟, 卢建, 施寿荣, 童海兵. 大豆、大豆异黄酮研究历程. *饲料工业*, 2013, 34(3): 17–20.
Cai J, Lu J, Shi SR, Tong HB. Research progress of soy and isoflavones. *Feed Industry*, 2013, 34(3): 17–20. (in Chinese)
- [7] Guadamuro L, Jiménez-Girón AM, Delgado S, Flórez AB, Suárez A, Martín-Álvarez PJ, Bartolomé B, Moreno-Arribas MV, Mayo B. Profiling of phenolic metabolites in feces from menopausal women after long-term isoflavone supplementation. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 2016, 64(1): 210–216.
- [8] Cederroth CR, Nef S. Soy, phytoestrogens and metabolism: a review. *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*, 2009, 304(1/2): 30–42.
- [9] Axelson M, Sjövall J, Gustafsson BE, Setchell KD. Soya: a dietary source of the non-steroidal oestrogen equol in man and animals. *The Journal of Endocrinology*, 1984, 102(1): 49–56.
- [10] Setchell KDR. The history and basic science development of soy isoflavones. *Menopause: New York, NY*, 2017, 24(12): 1338–1350.
- [11] Fatima A, Khan MS, Ahmad MW. Therapeutic potential of equol: a comprehensive review. *Current Pharmaceutical Design*, 2020, 26(45): 5837–5843.
- [12] Yamashita S, Lin I, Oka C, Kumazoe M, Komatsu S, Murata M, Kamachi S, Tachibana H. Soy isoflavone metabolite equol inhibits cancer cell proliferation in a PAP associated domain containing 5-dependent and an estrogen receptor-independent manner. *The Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*, 2022, 100: 108910.
- [13] Mayo B, Vázquez L, Flórez AB. Equol: a bacterial metabolite from the daidzein isoflavone and its presumed beneficial health effects. *Nutrients*, 2019, 11(9): 2231.
- [14] Setchell KDR, Brown NM, Lydeking-Olsen E. The clinical importance of the metabolite equol: a clue to the effectiveness of soy and its isoflavones. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 2002, 132(12): 3577–3584.
- [15] Ahuja V, Miura K, Vishnu A, Fujiyoshi A, Evans R, Zaid M, Miyagawa N, Hisamatsu T, Kadota A, Okamura T, Ueshima H, Sekikawa A. Significant inverse association of equol-producer status with coronary artery calcification but not dietary isoflavones in healthy Japanese men. *The British Journal of Nutrition*, 2017, 117(2): 260–266.
- [16] Birru RL, Ahuja V, Vishnu A, Evans RW, Miyamoto Y, Miura K, Usui T, Sekikawa A. The impact of equol-producing status in modifying the effect of soya isoflavones on risk factors for CHD: a systematic review of randomised controlled trials. *Journal of Nutritional Science*, 2016, 5: e30.
- [17] Yoshikata R, Myint KZ, Ohta H. Relationship between equol producer status and metabolic parameters in 743 Japanese women: equol producer status is associated with antiatherosclerotic conditions in women around menopause and early postmenopause. *Menopause: New York, NY*, 2017, 24(2): 216–224.
- [18] Igase M, Igase K, Tabara Y, Ohayagi Y, Kohara K. Cross-sectional study of equol producer status and cognitive impairment in older adults. *Geriatrics & Gerontology International*, 2017, 17(11): 2103–2108.
- [19] Setchell KDR, Clerici C. Equol: history, chemistry, and formation. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 2010, 140(7): 1355S–1362S.
- [20] Shimada Y, Takahashi M, Miyazawa N, Abiru Y, Uchiyama S, Hishigaki H. Identification of a novel dihydrodaidzein racemase essential for biosynthesis of equol from daidzein in *Lactococcus* sp. strain 20-92. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, 2012, 78(14): 4902–4907.
- [21] Setchell KD, Borriello SP, Hulme P, Kirk DN, Axelson M. Nonsteroidal estrogens of dietary origin: possible roles in hormone-dependent disease. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 1984, 40(3): 569–578.
- [22] Setchell KDR, Cole SJ. Method of defining equol-producer status and its frequency among vegetarians. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 2006, 136(8): 2188–2193.
- [23] Rowland IR, Wiseman H, Sanders TAB, Adlercreutz H,

- Bowey EA. Interindividual variation in metabolism of soy isoflavones and lignans: influence of habitual diet on equol production by the gut microflora. *Nutrition and Cancer*, 2000, 36(1): 27–32.
- [24] Lampe JW, Karr SC, Hutchins AM, Slavin JL. Urinary equol excretion with a soy challenge: influence of habitual diet. *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine*, 1998, 217(3): 335–339.
- [25] Akaza H, Miyanaga N, Takashima N, Naito S, Hirao Y, Tsukamoto T, Fujioka T, Mori M, Kim WJ, Song JM, Pantuck AJ. Comparisons of percent equol producers between prostate cancer patients and controls: case-controlled studies of isoflavones in Japanese, Korean and American residents. *Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 2004, 34(2): 86–89.
- [26] Wang QR, Spenkeliink B, Boonpawa R, Rietjens IMCM. Use of physiologically based pharmacokinetic modeling to predict human gut microbial conversion of daidzein to S-equol. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 2022, 70(1): 343–352.
- [27] Ishiwata N, Melby MK, Mizuno S, Watanabe S. New equol supplement for relieving menopausal symptoms: randomized, placebo-controlled trial of Japanese women. *Menopause: New York, NY*, 2009, 16(1): 141–148.
- [28] Setchell KDR, Zhao XH, Shoaf SE, Ragland K. The pharmacokinetics of S-equol administered as SE5-OH tablets to healthy postmenopausal women. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 2009, 139(11): 2037–2043.
- [29] Jackson RL, Greiwe JS, Schwen RJ. Emerging evidence of the health benefits of S-equol, an estrogen receptor β agonist. *Nutrition Reviews*, 2011, 69(8): 432–448.
- [30] Vázquez L, Flórez AB, Guadamuro L, Mayo B. Effect of soy isoflavones on growth of representative bacterial species from the human gut. *Nutrients*, 2017, 9(7): 727.
- [31] Tanaka Y, Kimura S, Ishii Y, Tateda K. Equol inhibits growth and spore formation of *Clostridioides difficile*. *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, 2019, 127(3): 932–940.
- [32] Obara A, Kinoshita M, Hosoda K, Yokokawa A, Shibasaki H, Ishii K. Identification of equol-7-glucuronide-4'-sulfate, monoglucuronides and monosulfates in human plasma of 2 equol producers after administration of *kinako* by LC-ESI-MS. *Pharmacology Research & Perspectives*, 2019, 7(3): e00478.
- [33] Isobe T, Ohkawara S, Ochi S, Tanaka-Kagawa T, Hanioka N. S-equol glucuronidation in liver and intestinal microsomes of humans, monkeys, dogs, rats, and mice. *Food and Chemical Toxicology*, 2019, 131: 110542.
- [34] Tanaka H, Ito S, Ojika M, Nishimaki-Mogami T, Kondo K, Wakamatsu K. The oxidation of equol by tyrosinase produces a unique Di-ortho-Quinone: possible implications for melanocyte toxicity. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 2021, 22(17): 9145.
- [35] 陈华海, 赵昌会, 朱家良, 尹业师. 银杏双黄酮和银杏内酯 B 与人体肠道菌群体外互作研究. *微生物学报*, 2021(8): 2413–2426.
Chen HH, Zhao CH, Zhu JL, Yin YS. Study the interactions between ginkgetin and ginkgolide B with human gut microbiota *in vitro*. *Acta Microbiologica Sinica*, 2021(8): 2413–2426. (in Chinese)
- [36] Yin YS, Fan B, Liu W, Ren RR, Chen HH, Bai SF, Zhu LY, Sun G, Yang YS, Wang X. Investigation into the stability and culturability of Chinese enterotypes. *Scientific Reports*, 2017, 7(1): 7947.
- [37] Liu GY, Chen HH, Chen JK, Wang X, Gu Q, Yin YS. Effects of bifidobacteria-produced exopolysaccharides on human gut microbiota *in vitro*. *Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology*, 2019, 103(4): 1693–1702.
- [38] Decroos K, Vanhemmens S, Cattoir S, Boon N, Verstraete W. Isolation and characterisation of an equol-producing mixed microbial culture from a human faecal sample and its activity under gastrointestinal conditions. *Archives of Microbiology*, 2005, 183(1): 45–55.
- [39] Chen FD, Stappenbeck TS. Microbiome control of innate reactivity. *Current Opinion in Immunology*, 2019(56): 107–113.
- [40] Visconti A, Le Roy CI, Rosa F, Rossi N, Martin TC, Mohny RP, Li WZ, De Rinaldis E, Bell JT, Venter JC, Nelson KE, Spector TD, Falchi M. Interplay between the human gut microbiome and host metabolism. *Nature Communications*, 2019, 10(1): 4505.
- [41] Lynch SV, Pedersen O. The human intestinal microbiome in health and disease. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 2016, 375(24): 2369–2379.
- [42] Walsh J, Griffin BT, Clarke G, Hyland NP. Drug-gut microbiota interactions: implications for neuropharmacology. *British Journal of Pharmacology*, 2018, 175(24): 4415–4429.
- [43] Brunkwall L, Orho-Melander M. The gut microbiome as a target for prevention and treatment of hyperglycaemia in type 2 diabetes: from current human

- evidence to future possibilities. *Diabetologia*, 2017, 60(6): 943–951.
- [44] Harris LA, Baffy N. Modulation of the gut microbiota: a focus on treatments for irritable bowel syndrome. *Postgraduate Medicine*, 2017, 129(8): 872–888.
- [45] Suk KT, Kim DJ. Gut microbiota: novel therapeutic target for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Expert Review of Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, 2019, 13(3): 193–204.
- [46] Uchiyama K, Naito Y, Takagi T. Intestinal microbiome as a novel therapeutic target for local and systemic inflammation. *Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, 2019, 199: 164–172.
- [47] Wu H, Esteve E, Tremaroli V, Khan MT, Caesar R, Mannerås-Holm L, Ståhlman M, Olsson LM, Serino M, Planas-Fèlix M, Xifra G, Mercader JM, Torrents D, Burcelin R, Ricart W, Perkins R, Fernández-Real JM, Bäckhed F. Metformin alters the gut microbiome of individuals with treatment-naive type 2 diabetes, contributing to the therapeutic effects of the drug. *Nature Medicine*, 2017, 23(7): 850–858.
- [48] Wang XY, Sun GQ, Feng T, Zhang J, Huang X, Wang T, Xie ZQ, Chu XK, Yang J, Wang H, Chang SS, Gong YX, Ruan LF, Zhang GQ, Yan SY, Lian W, Du C, Yang DB, Zhang QL, Lin FF, Liu J, Zhang HY, Ge CR, Xiao SF, Ding J, Geng MY. Sodium oligomannate therapeutically remodels gut microbiota and suppresses gut bacterial amino acids-shaped neuroinflammation to inhibit Alzheimer's disease progression. *Cell Research*, 2019, 29(10): 787–803.
- [49] Fang Y, Zhang JD, Zhu SW, He MB, Ma SR, Jia Q, Sun QH, Song LJ, Wang Y, Duan LP. Berberine ameliorates ovariectomy-induced anxiety-like behaviors by enrichment in equol generating gut microbiota. *Pharmacological Research*, 2021, 165: 105439.
- [50] Koppel N, Rekdal VM, Balskus EP. Chemical transformation of xenobiotics by the human gut microbiota. *Science*, 2017, 356(6344): eaag2770.
- [51] Spanogiannopoulos P, Bess EN, Carmody RN, Turnbaugh PJ. The microbial pharmacists within us: a metagenomic view of xenobiotic metabolism. *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, 2016, 14(5): 273–287.
- [52] Li HK, He JJ, Jia W. The influence of gut microbiota on drug metabolism and toxicity. *Expert Opinion on Drug Metabolism & Toxicology*, 2016, 12(1): 31–40.
- [53] Wilkinson EM, Ilhan ZE, Herbst-Kralovetz MM. Microbiota-drug interactions: impact on metabolism and efficacy of therapeutics. *Maturitas*, 2018, 112: 53–63.
- [54] Alexander JL, Wilson ID, Teare J, Marchesi JR, Nicholson JK, Kinross JM. Gut microbiota modulation of chemotherapy efficacy and toxicity. *Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, 2017, 14(6): 356–365.
- [55] Graf D, Di Cagno R, Fåk F, Flint HJ, Nyman M, Saarela M, Watzl B. Contribution of diet to the composition of the human gut microbiota. *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease*, 2015, 26: 26164.
- [56] David LA, Maurice CF, Carmody RN, Gootenberg DB, Button JE, Wolfe BE, Ling AV, Devlin AS, Varma Y, Fischbach MA, Biddinger SB, Dutton RJ, Turnbaugh PJ. Diet rapidly and reproducibly alters the human gut microbiome. *Nature*, 2014, 505(7484): 559–563.
- [57] Singh RK, Chang HW, Yan D, Lee KM, Ucmak D, Wong K, Abrouk M, Farahnik B, Nakamura M, Zhu TH, Bhutani T, Liao W. Influence of diet on the gut microbiome and implications for human health. *Journal of Translational Medicine*, 2017, 15(1): 73.
- [58] Van Duynhoven J, Vaughan EE, Jacobs DM, Kemperman RA, Van Velzen EJJ, Gross G, Roger LC, Possemiers S, Smilde AK, Doré J, Westerhuis JA, De Wiele TV. Metabolic fate of polyphenols in the human superorganism. *PNAS*, 2011, 108(Suppl 1): 4531–4538.
- [59] Nakatsu CH, Armstrong A, Clavijo AP, Martin BR, Barnes S, Weaver CM. Fecal bacterial community changes associated with isoflavone metabolites in postmenopausal women after soy bar consumption. *PLoS One*, 2014, 9(10): e108924.
- [60] Bolca S, Possemiers S, Herregat A, Huybrechts I, Heyerick A, De Vriese S, Verbruggen M, Depypere H, De Keukeleire D, Bracke M, De Henauf S, Verstraete W, Van De Wiele T. Microbial and dietary factors are associated with the equol producer phenotype in healthy postmenopausal women. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 2007, 137(10): 2242–2246.
- [61] Clavel T, Fallani M, Lepage P, Levenez F, Mathey J, Rochet V, Sérézat M, Sutren M, Henderson G, Bennetau-Pelissero C, Tondou F, Blaut M, Doré J, Coxam V. Isoflavones and functional foods alter the dominant intestinal microbiota in postmenopausal women. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 2005, 135(12): 2786–2792.
- [62] Hu YF, Chen HH, Li P, Li BY, Cao LY, Zhao CH, Gu Q, Yin YS. Analysis of interactions between endobiotics and human gut microbiota using *in vitro* bath fermentation systems. *Journal of Visualized Experiments: JoVE*, 2019(150). DOI: 10.3791/59725.
- [63] Bai SF, Chen HH, Zhu LY, Liu W, Yu HD, Wang X,

- Yin YS. Comparative study on the *in vitro* effects of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and seaweed alginates on human gut microbiota. *PLoS One*, 2017, 12(2): e171576.
- [64] Iino C, Shimoyama T, Iino K, Yokoyama Y, Chinda D, Sakuraba H, Fukuda S, Nakaji S. Daidzein intake is associated with equol producing status through an increase in the intestinal bacteria responsible for equol production. *Nutrients*, 2019, 11(2): 433.
- [65] Fujimoto K, Tanaka M, Hirao Y, Nagata Y, Mori M, Miyanaga N, Akaza H, Kim WJ. Age-stratified serum levels of isoflavones and proportion of equol producers in Japanese and Korean healthy men. *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases*, 2008, 11(3): 252–257.
- [66] Setchell KD, Faughnan MS, Avades T, Zimmer-Nechemias L, Brown NM, Wolfe BE, Brashear WT, Desai P, Oldfield MF, Botting NP, Cassidy A. Comparing the pharmacokinetics of daidzein and genistein with the use of ^{13}C -labeled tracers in premenopausal women. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 2003, 77(2): 411–419.
- [67] Setchell KD, Clerici C, Lephart ED, Cole SJ, Heenan C, Castellani D, Wolfe BE, Nechemias-Zimmer L, Brown NM, Lund TD, Handa RJ, Heubi JE. S-Equol, a potent ligand for estrogen receptor β , is the exclusive enantiomeric form of the soy isoflavone metabolite produced by human intestinal bacterial flora. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 2005, 81(5): 1072–1079.
- [68] Choi EJ, Kim GH. The antioxidant activity of daidzein metabolites, O-desmethylyangolensin and equol, in HepG2 cells. *Molecular Medicine Reports*, 2014, 9(1): 328–332.
- [69] Wei XJ, Wu J, Ni YD, Lu LZ, Zhao RQ. Antioxidant effect of a phytoestrogen equol on cultured muscle cells of embryonic broilers. *In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology-Animal*, 2011, 47(10): 735–741.
- [70] Jenks BH, Iwashita S, Nakagawa Y, Ragland K, Lee J, Carson WH, Ueno T, Uchiyama S. A pilot study on the effects of S-equol compared to soy isoflavones on menopausal hot flash frequency. *Journal of Women's Health: 2002*, 2012, 21(6): 674–682.
- [71] Ahmad N, Mukhtar H. Antioxidants meet molecular targets for cancer prevention and therapeutics. *Antioxidants & Redox Signaling*, 2013, 19(2): 85–88.
- [72] Kim S, Rigatto K, Gazzana MB, Knorst MM, Richards EM, Pepine CJ, Raizada MK. Altered gut microbiome profile in patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension. *Hypertension*, 2020, 75(4): 1063–1071.
- [73] Shi ZY, Qiu YH, Wang JC, Fang YH, Zhang Y, Chen HX, Du Q, Zhao ZY, Yan C, Yang M, Zhou HY. Dysbiosis of gut microbiota in patients with neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders: a cross sectional study. *Journal of Neuroimmunology*, 2020, 339: 577126.
- [74] Salazar N, Ruas-Madiedo P, Kolida S, Collins M, Rastall R, Gibson G, De Los Reyes-Gavilán CG. Exopolysaccharides produced by *Bifidobacterium longum* IPLA E44 and *Bifidobacterium animalis* subsp. *lactis* IPLA R1 modify the composition and metabolic activity of human faecal microbiota in pH-controlled batch cultures. *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, 2009, 135(3): 260–267.
- [75] Liu J, Yang H, Yin Z, Jiang X, Zhong H, Qiu D, Zhu F, Li R. Remodeling of the gut microbiota and structural shifts in Preeclampsia patients in South China. *European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases*, 2017, 36(4): 713–719.
- [76] Gerhardt S, Mohajeri MH. Changes of colonic bacterial composition in Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases. *Nutrients*, 2018, 10(6): 708.
- [77] Petrov VA, Saltykova IV, Zhukova IA, Alifirova VM, Zhukova NG, Dorofeeva YB, Tyakht AV, Kovarsky BA, Alekseev DG, Kostryukova ES, Mironova YS, Izhboldina OP, Nikitina MA, Perevozchikova TV, Fait EA, Babenko VV, Vakhitova MT, Govorun VM, Sazonov AE. Analysis of gut microbiota in patients with Parkinson's disease. *Bulletin of Experimental Biology and Medicine*, 2017, 162(6): 734–737.
- [78] Shen Y, Xu JT, Li ZY, Huang YC, Yuan Y, Wang JX, Zhang M, Hu SN, Liang Y. Analysis of gut microbiota diversity and auxiliary diagnosis as a biomarker in patients with schizophrenia: a cross-sectional study. *Schizophrenia Research*, 2018, 197: 470–477.
- [79] 井乐刚, 张永忠, 田璐. 大豆异黄酮抑菌活性的研究. 哈尔滨师范大学自然科学学报, 2004, 20(1): 79–81.
- Jing LG, Zhang YZ, Tian L. Study on antimicrobial activity of soybean isoflavones. *Natural Science Journal of Harbin Normal University*, 2004, 20(1): 79–81. (in Chinese)