

Green Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) Extract Reduces Peptic Ulcer Induced by *Helicobacter pylori* in Sprague Dawley Rats

(Ekstrak Teh Hijau (*Camellia sinensis*) Mengurangkan Ulser Peptik yang Diaruh oleh *Helicobacter pylori* pada Tikus Sprague Dawley)

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to evaluate the anti-peptic ulcer activity of ethanol extract of *Camellia sinensis* (green tea) induced by *Helicobacter pylori* in Sprague Dawley rats. The standard regimen of anti-peptic ulcer agents, clarithromycin 30 mg/kg, amoxicillin 30 mg/kg and esomeprazole 3 mg/kg used as the positive control. The rats divided into 6 groups ($n = 6$), normal control, vehicle control (2% of tragacanth suspension), positive control for preventive and treatment groups, preventive and treatment groups were given 50 mg/kg orally of green tea extract for 14 days before and after inoculation (as prevention and treatment, respectively) with 5×10^8 CFU/mL *H. pylori* suspension orally twice daily for 7 days. Anti-peptic ulcer activity was evaluated based on the pH of gastric juice, ulcer score and body weight of rats. The results demonstrated that the use of green tea for prevention or treatment showed a significant difference ($p < 0.001$) in reducing the pH of gastric juice 3.88 ± 0.09 and 5.74 ± 0.08 , respectively, compared to vehicle control 5.85 ± 0.12 . Meanwhile, vehicle control rats had high significantly reduced body weight when compared with all groups treated. The preventive and the treatment groups showed significantly reduce in ulcer score to 0.50 ± 0.18 ($p < 0.01$) and 0.83 ± 0.10 ($p < 0.05$), respectively, compared to vehicle control 1.50 ± 0.22 . Meanwhile, it was comparable to the positive control. In conclusion, *H. pylori* suspension 5×10^8 CFU/mL given orally twice daily for seven days able to induce ulcer in Sprague Dawley rats, and the green tea extract 50 mg/kg was comparable to the standard regimen as anti-peptic ulcer agent.

Keywords: Anti-peptic ulcer; *Camellia sinensis*; green tea extract; *Helicobacter pylori*; ulcer score

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menilai aktiviti anti-ulser peptik ekstrak etanol *Camellia sinensis* (teh hijau) yang diaruhkan oleh *Helicobacter pylori* pada tikus Sprague Dawley. Regimen piawai agen anti-ulser peptik, klaritromisin 30 mg/kg, amoksisilin 30 mg/kg dan esomeprazol 3 mg/kg digunakan sebagai kawalan positif. Tikus dibahagikan kepada 6 kumpulan ($n = 6$), kawalan normal, kawalan pembawa (2% suspensi tragacanth), kawalan positif untuk kumpulan pencegahan dan rawatan, kumpulan pencegahan dan rawatan yang diberikan ekstrak teh hijau 50 mg/kg secara oral selama 14 hari sebelum atau selepas inokulasi (sebagai kumpulan pencegahan dan rawatan) berserta dengan pemberian ampaian 5×10^8 CFU/mL *H. pylori* secara oral sebanyak dua kali sehari selama 7 hari. Aktiviti anti-ulser peptik dinilai berdasarkan pH jus gastrik, skor ulser dan berat badan tikus. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa penggunaan teh hijau untuk pencegahan atau rawatan menunjukkan perbezaan yang signifikan ($p < 0.001$) dalam mengurangkan pH jus gastrik 3.88 ± 0.09 dan 5.74 ± 0.08 , setiap satu, berbanding dengan kawalan pembawa 5.85 ± 0.12 . Sementara itu, terdapat penurunan berat badan yang ketara dalam tikus kawalan pembawa apabila dibandingkan dengan semua kumpulan yang dirawat. Kumpulan pencegahan dan rawatan menunjukkan penurunan skor ulser menjadi 0.50 ± 0.18 ($p < 0.01$) dan 0.83 ± 0.10 ($p < 0.05$), berbanding kawalan pembawa 1.50 ± 0.22 . Ia adalah setanding dengan kawalan positif. Sebagai kesimpulan, pemberian ampaian *H. pylori* 5×10^8 CFU/mL diberikan secara oral dua kali setiap hari selama tujuh hari dapat menyebabkan ulser pada tikus Sprague Dawley dan ekstrak teh hijau 50 mg/kg adalah setanding dengan regimen piawai sebagai agen anti-ulser peptik.

Kata kunci: Anti-ulser peptik; *Camellia sinensis*; ekstrak teh hijau; *Helicobacter pylori*; skor ulser

INTRODUCTION

Peptic ulcer diseases comprise heterogeneous disorder which manifests as a break in the lining of the gastrointestinal mucosa bathed by acid and pepsin. Generally, this happens due to the imbalance between gastric aggressive and mucosal defensive factors. Based on the site of the attack, peptic ulcer disease embraces both gastric and duodenal ulcer. The etiology of peptic ulcer is influenced by any aggressive factor and protective factors such as acid-pepsin secretion, parietal cell, mucus secretion, mucosal barrier, cellular regeneration, and endogenous protective agent prostaglandin and epidermal growth factor (Adinortey et al. 2013). Other factors are contributing to this disease, such as bad dietary habit, excessive intake of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent, hereditary stress predisposition, and *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

Helicobacter pylori, a Gram-negative and helical rod causes chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer and essential factor in gastric cancer occurrence. Epidemiological studies showed a strong correlation between *H. pylori* infections and peptic ulcer (Elseweidy et al. 2010). *H. pylori* eradication accelerates peptic ulcer healing and reduces the recurrence of gastric ulcer. Nowadays, triple therapies consisting of two antibiotics, and a proton pump inhibitor show high eradication rates. Unfortunately, *H. pylori* rapidly acquire resistance to some antibiotic through certain gene mutation mechanism. Soon, antibiotic resistance will be the most significant obstacles in the treatment of *H. pylori*. Besides, several pharmaceutical drugs recommended for peptic ulcer management provoke many adverse effects; abdominal discomfort, diarrhoea, and nausea. Because of that, a new alternative regimen with highly effective and safe is required for the treatment of *H. pylori* infection. Recently, there have been growing interests in alternative therapies, especially from plant sources, because of easy accessibility and affordability. It had been reported that various medicinal plants extracts have antibacterial activity. Thus, this plant may contain a new antibacterial agent that has potential as a new therapeutic agent.

Tea is considered one of the most popular beverages, especially in China and Japan. Green tea (*Camellia sinensis*) is prepared from the withered leaves are steamed and then dried relatively rapid after plucking process to minimize chemical and enzyme reaction polyphenol oxidase (PPO). The green tea (GT) contains catechin included in polyphenol group which susceptible to be oxidized by PPO enzyme. The major polyphenolic compound in tea is the flavan-3-ols called catechins which include epicatechin (EC), epigallocatechin (EGC), epicatechin gallate (ECG), epigallocatechingallate (EGCG), galocatechin (GC), and galocatechin gallate

(GCG). Due to the possession of phenolic hydroxyl group attached to flavon-3-ol structure has been associated with the ability of tea to scavenge free radical, thereby attracting tremendous research interest (Amić et al. 2003). It has been reported that tea catechins have antibacterial activity against various foodborne pathogenic bacteria (Mabe et al. 1999). Ultimately, the previous study has shown that polyphenol group compound able to inhibit Vac-A, which play an essential role for *H. pylori* in its survival other than urease enzyme in the stomach (Tombola et al. 2003). Thus, it seems reasonable to explore the possibility of using GT for the eradication of *H. pylori*. It is such a benefit to use GT as an agent for therapeutic or prevention deserves consideration.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

PLANT MATERIALS

The GT leaves were purchased from a food and beverage department in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the brand Ujinotsuyu and the name of the product is Aoyanagi Green. The GT was in loose tea leaves form and the type of GT used was Bancha.

BACTERIA

H. pylori were maintained on columbia blood agar (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany) supplemented with 10% lake horse blood (Thermo Fisher Scientific USA) and *H. pylori* selective supplement (DENT) (Oxoid Limited, Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 37 °C (atmosphere: 5% CO₂ or 95% air) for up to 5 to 7 days. The bacteria were confirmed as *H. pylori* strain by gram staining, oxidase, catalase and urease positive test.

CHEMICAL AND MEDIA

The chemicals and media used in this study were ethanol 100% (Merck Germany), tragacanth powder, clarithromycin 500 mg tablet (Abott Laboratories, Malaysia), amoxycillin trihydrate 500 mg capsule (CCM, Malaysia), esomeprazole 40 mg tablet (AstraZeneca, Malaysia), laked Horse blood and *H. pylori* selective supplement (BUMI-PHARMA, Malaysia), horse blood serum (Thermo Fischer Scientific, Malaysia), mueller-hinton broth (Difco Laboratories, Dtroit, Mich) and distilled water.

APPARATUS AND INSTRUMENTS

The apparatus and instruments used in this study were oral gavages, micropipette 100 - 1000 µL (Socorex, Switzerland), CO₂ incubator (Thermo Fischer Scientific, USA), rotary evaporator (BUCHI, Switzerland), ultrasonicator (Branson USA), UV-Visible spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan),

electronic balance (Segatec, Malaysia), laminar flow cabinet class II (CLYDEC-APAC, Australia), autoclave (FC BIOS, Malaysia), freeze dryer (Thermo fisher scientific, Malaysia) and pH meter.

ANIMAL

A total of 40 adult male healthy Sprague Dawley rats weighing between 150 - 250 g were obtained and purchased from Laboratory Animal Resources Unit, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. All rats were given 7 days of acclimation period for adaptation. The rats were placed at standard controlled room (± 25 °C and cycle of 12-h light and 12-h dark). Rats were supplied with standard laboratory food pellets and water *ad libitum*. The experimental procedure used in this study was approved by the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Animal Ethics Committee (UKMAEC) with approval number FF/2015/ENDANG/20-MAY/6881-MAY-2015-JAN 2016.

METHODS

PREPARATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF GT EXTRACTS

The product was ground into coarse powder using a mechanical grinder which was then macerated by soaking it in 80% ethanol at a ratio of 1:5 w/v for three days at room temperature (30 °C) with occasional shaking. After the extraction was completed, filtration was carried out and the filtrates were concentrated using a rotatory evaporator at 40 °C to yield a crude extract of GT. Standardization of GT extract was performed using kaempferol and quercetin as standards. Chromatographic column was performed using a reverse phase HPLC (Waters, Milford, MA, USA) equipped with Water Breeze system. XBridge™ Column C50 5 μ m (4.60 \times 250 mm particle diameter, 5 μ m; Thermo Scientific, USA) (Waters, Ireland) was used for separation. The mobile phase for kaempferol and quercetin consisted of 0.05% orthophosphoric acid and acetonitrile at a ratio 50:50 (v/v) and methanol: acetonitrile: deionized water at a ratio 60:20:20 v/v/v, respectively. The flow rate of the mobile phase was set at 0.3 mL/min with 20 μ L of injection volume. Kaempferol was detected at 360 nm and quercetin at 262 nm. Validation of the HPLC method was carried out by determining the linearity, precision, limits of quantification and detection (Azmi et al. 2018).

DOSE PREPARATION OF GT AND DRUGS

Camellia sinensis, amoxicillin, clarithromycin, and esomeprazole were suspended in tragacanth 2%. The GT extract dose used was 50 mg/kg and for drugs doses such as clarithromycin, amoxicillin, and esomeprazole were 30, 30, and 3 mg/kg, respectively (Adinortey et al. 2013).

All the samples were administered through oral gavage method and weights of rat were measured throughout the experiment.

PREPARATION OF BACTERIAL INOCULUMS ON BLOOD AGAR MEDIUM

The *H. pylori* inoculums on blood agar medium was performed according to Xu et al. (2010). Briefly a number of viable isolated colonies of *H. pylori* culture were inoculated on blood agar medium incubated in CO₂ incubator with humidity tray at 37 °C and 5% CO₂ for 72 to 92 h. However, *H. pylori* was passaged every 3 to 5 days.

PREPARATION OF BACTERIAL INOCULUMS SUSPENSION

The *H. pylori* suspension were prepared from bacterial inoculums above to the universal bottles containing Mueller-hinton broth, 10% horse serum and 0.1% yeast extract liquid medium. The suspension was incubated for 24 h at 37 °C in 5% CO₂. Enumeration of *H. pylori* suspension was done using UV-Vis spectrophotometer reading at 450 nm until the final concentration of *H. pylori* was 10⁸ CFU/mL (Shahamat et al. 1991; Xia et al. 1993).

EXPERIMENTAL ANTI-PEPTIC ULCER

The rats were divided into 6 groups (n = 6) as normal control group, vehicle control group, positive control of prevention and treatment groups, prevention and treatment groups (Burkitt et al. 2017). In the prevention and treatment experiments, vehicle control rats were given 1 mL/rat of tragacanth 2% suspension, positive control groups were given clarithromycin (30 mg/kg), amoxicillin (30 mg/kg) and esomeprazole (3 mg/kg) and the prevention and treatment groups were given GT extract 50 mg/kg orally once a day for 14 days before and after, respectively, being inoculated orally with 1 mL/rat of *H. pylori* suspension (5 \times 10⁸ CFU/mL) twice daily at an interval for 4 h for 7 days. At day-1 after the last day of inoculation for the prevention group and the last day of treatment for the treatment group, the rats were all sacrificed by cervical dislocation after anaesthesia and rapidly excised the stomach. Gastric content was collected to determine pH of gastric juice. Stomach was then opened along greater curvature washed with saline to record the ulcer score.

ANTI-PEPTIC ULCER ACTIVITY EVALUATION

Macroscopic examination carried out based on grading 0-5 scale. The following scoring in Table 1 was used to evaluate the ulcer as well as the severity of gastric lesion (Mahmood et al. 2009; Sonwjaya et al. 2016).

TABLE 1. Ulcer score and its description

Ulcer score	Description
0	No lesion (normal stomach)
0.5	hyperaemia (red coloration)/hemorrhagic spot
1	1 - 5 small ulcer (< 1 mm) with/without hemorrhagic spot,
2	1 - 5 small ulcer (1 mm - 2 mm) with/without hemorrhagic spot
3	more than five small lesions or one intermediate lesion (3 mm - 4 mm) with/without hemorrhagic spot
4	2 or more intermediate lesion or one gross lesion (4 mm) with/without hemorrhagic spot
5	perforated ulcer with/without hemorrhagic spot

Data were analyzed statistically by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dunnett's post hoc test using GraphPad Prism 5. All the data were expressed as mean \pm SEM (n=6). *p* value <0.05 is considered as statistical significant.

RESULTS

STANDARDIZATION OF GT EXTRACTS

Validation of the HPLC method was carried out and the kaempferol and quercetin calibration curves plotted were linear within the concentration range of 13 to 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ and 31 to 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, respectively, with a correlation coefficient (r^2) of 0.9878 and 0.9961 also, respectively. The retention time of kaempferol in the GT extract was 14.280 min whilst for kaempferol standard was 14.750 min. Furthermore, the retention time for quercetin in the GT extract and its standard were 2.518 and 2.738 min,

respectively. The concentration of kaempferol in GT extract was 3.10 mg/g and quercetin was 0.8 mg/g.

ANTI-PEPTIC ULCER OF GT EXTRACT

Table 2 shows that the treatment and preventive groups using GT extract 50 mg/kg had significant different value in lowering pH of gastric juice ($p < 0.001$) when compared to vehicle control. The capacity to decrease the pH of gastric juice in prevention and treatment groups with pH of 3.88 ± 0.09 ($p < 0.001$) and 5.74 ± 0.08 ($p < 0.001$), respectively, showed lower than their own positive controls.

TABLE 2. Anti-peptic ulcer effect of *Camellia sinensis* induced by *H. pylori* in Sprague Dawley rats in experimental anti-peptic ulcer

Experimental	pH of gastric juice	Ulcer score	Body weight (g)
Healthy (normal control) rats	$2.36 \pm 0.17^{***}$	0	$253.32 \pm 5.85^{***}$
Vehicle control group	5.85 ± 0.12	1.50 ± 0.22	149.66 ± 8.32
Positive control of preventive group	$2.65 \pm 0.24^{***}$	$0.58 \pm 0.20^{**}$	$253.83 \pm 16.48^{***}$
Preventive group with GT extract	$3.88 \pm 0.09^{***}$	$0.50 \pm 0.18^{**}$	$249.67 \pm 6.73^{***}$
Positive control of treatment group	$4.31 \pm 0.21^{***}$	$0.66 \pm 0.16^*$	$229.66 \pm 0.03^{***}$
Treatment group with GT extract	$5.74 \pm 0.08^{***}$	$0.83 \pm 0.10^*$	$197.00 \pm 13.35^{***}$

Normal control was healthy rats without inoculation neither treatment, vehicle control was inoculated with *H. pylori* without prevention or treatment. Positive control of prevention and treatment groups were given the standard regimen (30 mg/kg clarithromycin, 30 mg/kg amoxicillin, 3 mg/kg esomeprazole) before and after inoculated with *H. pylori*, respectively. *, **, *** significant with *p* value <0.05, <0.01 and <0.001, respectively, compared with vehicle control. Values were expressed in mean \pm SEM. N = 6

In term of ulcer score evaluation, the anti-peptic ulcer effect of GT extract in preventive group and treatment group had significant different ulcer score 0.50 ± 0.18 ($p < 0.01$) and 0.83 ± 0.10 ($p < 0.05$), respectively, compared

to negative control that produce more ulcer 1.50 ± 0.22 . Contrary, these values were not significant different or comparable with their own positive control (Table 1, Figures 1 & 2).

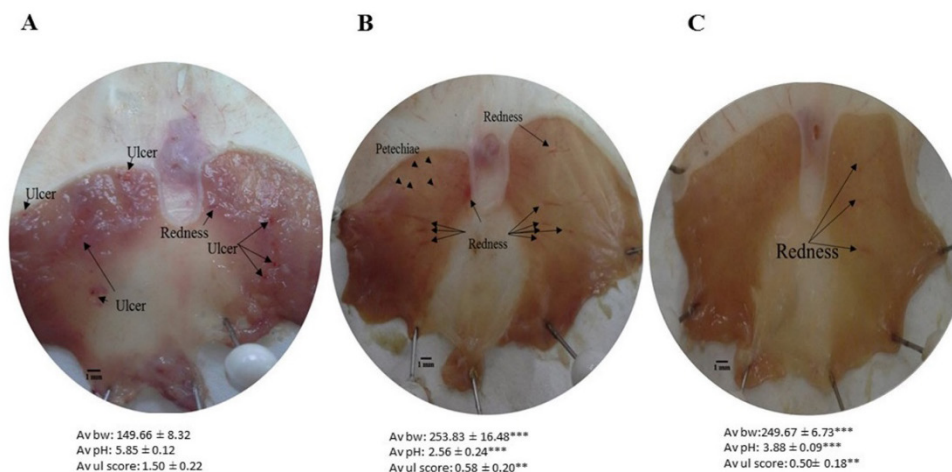


FIGURE 1. Representative picture of vehicle control group, positive control preventive group and preventive group with GT extract. Av bw: average of body weight; Av pH: average pH of gastric juice; Av uL score: average of ulcer score. All groups were inoculated with *H. pylori* 5×10^8 CFU/mL twice daily for 7 days after 14 days treatment (a) Vehicle control, (b) positive control of preventive group with standard regimen (30 mg/kg clarithromycin, 30 mg/kg amoxicillin, 3 mg/kg esomeprazole), and (c) preventive group with 50 mg/kg GT extract. *, **, *** significant with p value < 0.05 , < 0.01 and < 0.001 respectively compared with vehicle control. Values mean \pm SEM. N = 6

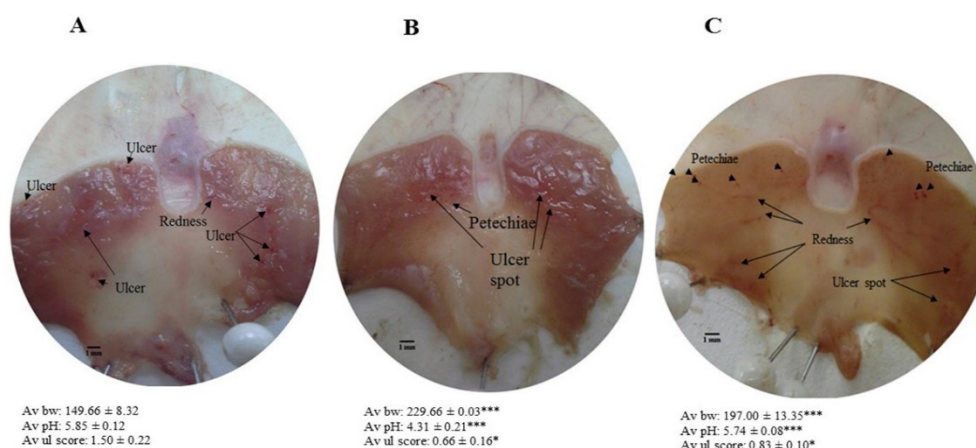


FIGURE 2. Representative picture of vehicle control group, positive control treatment group and treatment group with GT extract. Av bw: average of body weight; Av pH: average pH of gastric juice; Av uL score: average of ulcer score. All groups were inoculated with *H. pylori* 5×10^8 CFU/mL twice daily for 7 days before 14 days treatment (a) Vehicle control, (b) positive control of treatment group with standard regimen (30 mg/kg clarithromycin, 30 mg/kg amoxicillin, 3 mg/kg esomeprazole), and (c) treatment group with 50 mg/kg GT extract. *, **, ***: significant with p value < 0.05 , < 0.01 and < 0.001 respectively compared with vehicle control. ns: non significant compared with negative control. Values mean \pm SEM. N = 6

Moreover, the vehicle control group showed decrease in body weight with high significant difference with value 149.66 ± 8.32 ($p < 0.001$) compared with all groups in the study (Table 1). From the three parameters determined in this study, it was found that *Camellia sinensis* extract at dose 50 mg/kg had a potency to decrease the pH of gastric juice, to reduce the ulcer score and to increase the body weight of rats.

DISCUSSION

Human *H. pylori* have difficulty to infect and produce peptic ulcer in rodent as an animal model. In 1996, however, Hirayama et al. (1996) reported that a Mongolian gerbil (MG) is a good model of human *H. pylori* infection, with the bacteria detectable throughout a 12-month study period with the results of chronic active gastritis, peptic ulcers resemble lesions apparent in man (Hirayama et al. 1996). Moreover, Werawatganon (2014) established a simple rat model of chronic *H. pylori* infection using Sprague-Dawley rats to develop chronic peptic ulcer. Our preliminary study was performed subjected to Werawatganon (2014) with a small modification. The results of our study showed that *H. pylori* suspended in Muller-Hinton broth 5×10^8 CFU/mL administered orally twice daily for 7 days able to induce peptic ulcer with ulcer score in range of 1.50 ± 0.22 to 3.00 ± 1.00 in Sprague Dawley rats and the effective dose of *Camellia sinensis* extract was 50 mg/kg. The number of *H. pylori* and the treatment of GT extract were used for anti-peptic ulcer experiment.

In this experimental anti-peptic ulcer effect of *Camellia sinensis*, 50 mg/kg of plant extract been implemented to be used in rats based on the preliminary test result. This dose determined from the preliminary study and showed the anti-peptic ulcer activity. Parameters that been used to evaluate anti-peptic ulcer activity were pH of gastric juice, ulcer score, and the average weight of rats. These parameters were presented in the previous study done by Nair et al. (2010).

In our study, the pH of gastric juice in preventive and treatment groups using *Camellia sinensis* extract is lower significantly difference compared to the vehicle control but they showed higher pH compared with their positive control. It approved that positive control more effective in maintaining the pH of gastric juice to normal range compared to the test group. It indicated that plant extract had anti-peptic ulcer effects but not comparable with standard regimen (30 mg/kg clarithromycin, 30 mg/kg amoxicillin, and 3 mg/kg esomeprazole) in decreasing pH. Esomeprazole, a drug that targets specifically to inhibit H(+)/K(+)-exchanging ATPase, which is a gated channel that regulates gastric acid secretion and pH of gastric juice. To maintain the normal pH of gastric juice when infected by *H. pylori*, the GT extract was not strong

enough compared with the triple standard regimen with a specific mechanism of action. Based on the previous study carried out by Prabha et al. (2011), *Musa sapientum*-treated animal causes an increase in pH of gastric juice because of the ability of *Musa sapientum* extract inhibit the HCl (Prabha et al. 2011). However, this study showed that *Camellia sinensis* extract had a lower ability to maintain and regulate the pH of gastric juice compared to standard regimen (positive control).

Tea is consumed in three basic forms: GT, black tea (BT), and oolong tea (OT). Although BT accounts for 80% of the total tea consumption, studies on the pharmacological properties of BT are scarce. The tea polyphenols, especially the catechins are primarily responsible for the curing property of GT, however, during the production of BT, a significant part of the catechins is converted to the theaflavins (TF) (comprising of theaflavin-3-gallate, theaflavin-3'-gallate, and theaflavin-3,3'-digallate) and thearubigins by a polyphenol oxidase (Adhikary et al. 2011). Study by Adhikary et al. (2011) also showed that the biochemical transformation of GT into BT did not hamper the ulcer healing property, and also established TF as the active antiulcerogenic principle of BT. Both BT and TF were found to exert their action by augmenting mucosal antioxidant defense, protecting mucin and increasing the cyclooxygenase (COX-) derived prostaglandin E (PGE) synthesis in male Swiss albino mice was ulcer-induced by indomethacin. Their results are consistent with the anti-inflammatory property of TF. Based on the available evidence, the therapeutic effect of these BT and FT samples could be related to their antioxidant, mucin-protecting, and PGE-enhancing properties (Adhikary et al. 2011).

Our study has used *H. pylori* infection as an ulcer inducer in Sprague Dawley Rats treated with ethanol extract of *Camellia sinensis* (GT). The chemical contents of GT have been established such as catechin included in polyphenol group which susceptible to be oxidized by polyphenol oxidase (PPO) enzyme. The major polyphenolic compound in the GT is the flavan-3-ols called catechins which include epicatechin (EC), epigallocatechin (EGC), epicatechin gallate (ECG), epigallocatechingallate (EGCG), galocatechin (GC) and galocatechin gallate (GCG). Due to the possession of phenolic hydroxyl group attached to flavon-3-ol structure has been associated with the ability of GT to scavenge free radical, thereby attracting tremendous research interest (Amić et al. 2003). It has been reported that GT catechins have antibacterial activity against various foodborne pathogenic bacteria (Mabe et al. 1999). Ultimately, the previous study has shown that polyphenol group compound able to inhibit *Vac-A*, which play an essential role for *H. pylori* in its survival other than urease enzyme in the stomach (Tombola et al. 2003).

Furthermore, it has been suggested that *VacA* is a significant virulence factor of *H. pylori* by causing cell vacuolation and tissue damage by forming anion-selective, urea permeable channels in plasma and endosomal membranes. It has been activated by exposure to acid or basic pH (Palframan et al. 2012). Furthermore, it has been reported that *VacA* inhibitor such as phloretin had structural similarities with polyphenol such as flavonol, flavones, and isoflavone (Tombola et al. 2003). Besides, urease activity facilitates colonization either by producing ammonia which protects the acid sensitive bacteria in their transit across the gastric lumen to their final location below gastric mucus. The results of this study confirm that the urease activity not merely to modulate the pH but is also essential for colonization *in vivo*. The hypothesis state that without urease enzyme, the *H. pylori* cannot be able to survive in pH of gastric because *H. pylori* can only colonize and proliferate in alkaline gastric (Dunne et al. 2014).

The anti-peptic ulcer activity further evaluated based on the ulcer score. The results showed that preventive and treatment groups had significant differences in ulcer score values compared to vehicle control. Meanwhile, both groups showed comparable in ulcer score values with their positive control. It was demonstrated that *Camellia sinensis* extract is able to reduce the ulcer score at the same effectiveness with the standard regimen (clarithromycin, amoxicillin, and esomeprazole). The FDA already approved this standard regimen for their efficacy in treating peptic ulcer induced by *H. pylori*. The resistance of *H. pylori* towards antibiotics is worrying especially against metronidazole, which is the most common pattern of resistance worldwide (Savoldi et al. 2018). It had been reported that the resistance to other antibiotics had been risen because of gene mutation at certain protein will cause decrease drug binding and lead ineffectiveness of treatment (Mégraud et al. 2012). Hence it seems a good possibility for active substances in plants, especially GT leaves as an alternative for eradicating *H. pylori* and to overcome the possibility of resistant *H. pylori* against standard regimen.

There was a significant decrease in the average body weight of rats in the vehicle control compared to all groups. Treatment with *Camellia sinensis* extract had increased significantly in average body weight of rats. The vehicle control rats consistently decreased in body weight throughout the experiment. This result showed that *Camellia sinensis* extract could stabilize the body weight compared to negative control rats. Overall, *Camellia sinensis* extract had anti-peptic ulcer activity comparable with the standard regimen. GT itself as a nutraceutical but it is possible to isolate the active compounds as anti- *H. pylori* infection.

CONCLUSION

From the results of our study, it can be concluded that *H. pylori* suspended in Muller-hinton broth 5×10^8 CFU/mL administrated orally twice daily for 7 days able to induce peptic ulcer with ulcer score in range of 1.50 ± 0.22 to 3.00 ± 1.00 in Sprague Dawley rats. Furthermore, the *Camellia sinensis* extract was able to reduce the ulcer score with effectiveness comparable with standard regimen (clarithromycin, amoxicillin, and esomeprazole), but this extract had an ability to decrease the pH of gastric juice but is not as strong as standard regimen. It is seemed a good possibility for active substances in plants, especially GT leaves as an alternative to treat *H. pylori* infection and to overcome the possibility of resistant *H. pylori* against standard regimen with further study.

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