

**An investigation of the mechanism of a (1→6)- $\beta$ -D-glucan protein complex purified from the fruiting bodies of *Agaricus blazei* Murill (Himematsutake) to inhibit the growth of lung tumors and angiogenesis in the tumors**

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**[Objectives]**

*Agaricus blazei* Murill (Himematsutake) is known to have a polysaccharide, (1→6)- $\beta$ -D-glucan protein complex (hereafter, "ABP"), which exerts its antitumor effect by enhancing the immune system. However, there are still unknown factors about the mechanism of the antitumor effect. Thus, we conducted studies in mice to clarify the effects of ABP ingestion on the growth and metastasis of lung tumors as well as their ability to form blood vessels that deliver nutrients to the tumor cells.

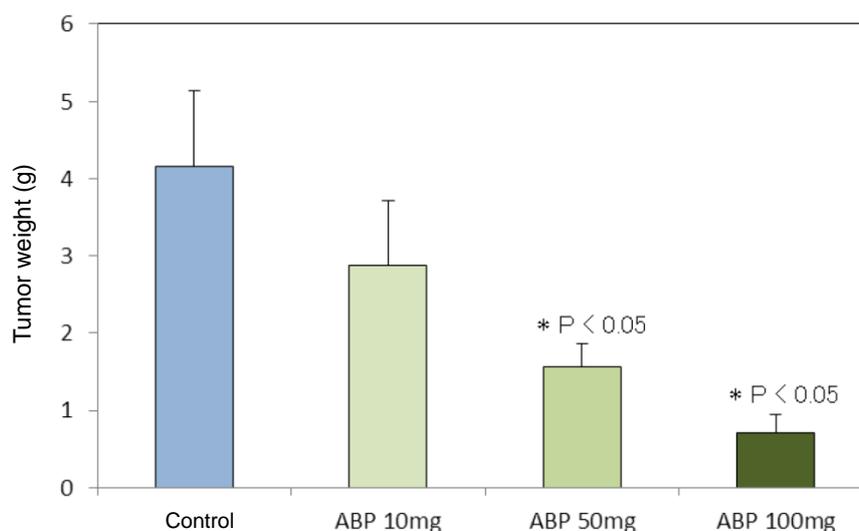
**[Methods]**

ABP was administered to mice, in which lung tumor cells were implanted in the thigh, at doses of 10, 50, and 100 mg/kg for 21 days to assess the growth of lung tumors and the number of metastases. In addition, ABP was administered to mice, in which the same lung tumor cells were implanted into the back, at doses of 20 and 100 mg/kg for 15 days to assess its effect on vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). It should be also noted that ABP was orally administered twice daily in the morning and evening.

**[Results]**

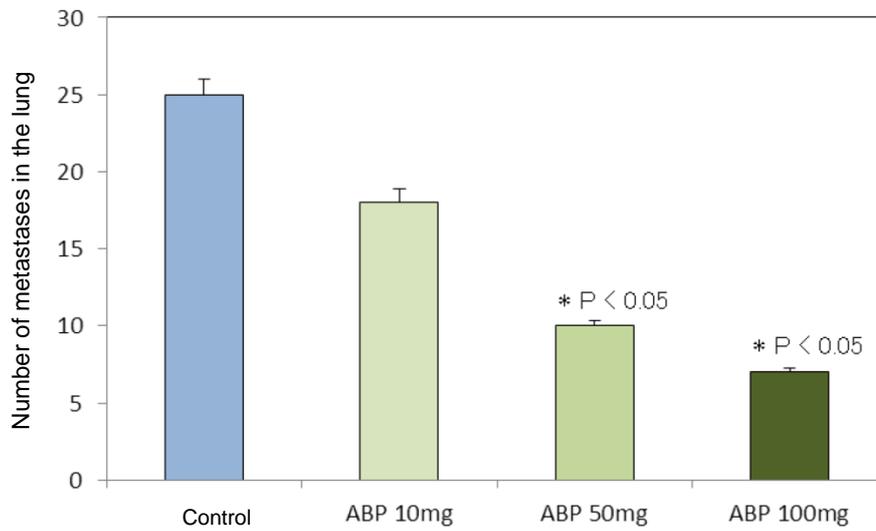
Administration of ABP was shown to inhibit the growth and metastasis of lung tumors (Figs. 1 and 2). In addition, the inhibitory effect of ABP on VEGF was demonstrated to contribute to the mechanism of the antitumor effect (Fig. 3). Furthermore, the higher the ABP concentration is, the stronger the antitumor and inhibitory effects.

Fig. 1 Results of inhibition of lung tumor growth



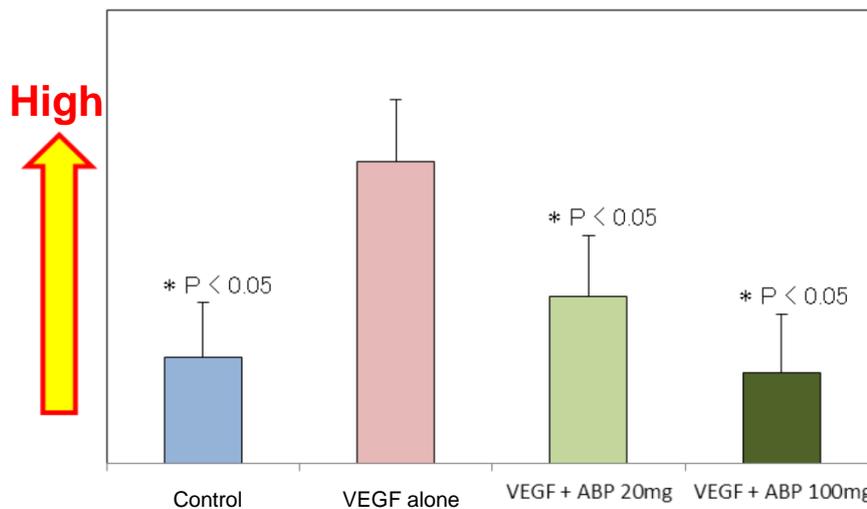
The mark "*P*" indicates a significant change compared with the control.

Fig. 2 Results of inhibition of lung tumor metastasis



The mark “\*P” indicates a significant change compared with the control.

Fig. 3 Results of the inhibitory effect on VEGF



The mark “\*P” indicates a significant change compared with VEGF alone.  
The shorter the bar is, the stronger the inhibitory effects.

This is the first report demonstrating that ABP ingested inhibits the growth and metastasis of lung tumors as well as the ability of the tumor cells to form blood vessels.

<<Details>>

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