

## Anti-Oxidative and Anti-Inflammation Activities of Pork Extracts

Juae Gil, Dongwook Kim, Seok-Ki Yoon<sup>1</sup>, Jun-Sang Ham<sup>2</sup>, and Aera Jang\*

*Animal Products and Food Science Program, Kangwon National University, Chuncheon 24341, Korea*

<sup>1</sup>*Korea Institute for Animal Products Quality Evaluation, KAPE, Sejong 30100, Korea*

<sup>2</sup>*National Institute of Animal Science, RDA, Wanju 55365, Korea*

### Abstract

This study was conducted to evaluate the antioxidative and anti-inflammatory effects of boiled pork powder (BPP) and hot water extract powder (HWEP) from 4 cuts of meat from Landrace × Yorkshire × Duroc (LYD). The highest DPPH radical scavenging activities determined were from BPP of Boston butt (13.65 M TE) and HWEP of loin (19.40 M TE) and ham (21.45 M TE). The 2,2-azino-bis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS) radical scavenging activities of BPP from shoulder ham (39.28 M TE) and ham (39.43 M TE) were higher than those of other meat cuts, while HWEP of ham exhibited the highest ABTS radical scavenging activity. A higher oxygen radical absorbance capacity was determined for BPP from ham (198.35 M TE) and in HWEP from loin (204.07 M TE), Boston butt (192.85 M TE), and ham (201.36 M TE). Carnosine content of BPP and HWEP from loin and were determined to be 106.68 and 117.77 mg/g on a dry basis, respectively. The anserine content of BPP (5.26 mg/g, dry basis) and HWEP (6.79 mg/g, dry basis) of shoulder ham exhibited the highest value as compared to the extracts from the other meat cuts. The viability of RAW 264.7 cells was increased with increasing HWEP from loin and ham treatment. In addition, the expression of IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  was significantly reduced by HWEP from loin and ham, in a dose dependent manner. These results suggested that boiled pork and hot water extract of pork have antioxidative and cytokine inhibitory effects.

**Keywords:** antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, cytokine, hot water extracts, boiled pork meat

*Received July 12, 2015; Revised March 1, 2016; Accepted March 15, 2016*

### Introduction

Oxidative damage generally occurs due to free radicals and reactive oxygen species. Synthetic antioxidants (e.g., propyl gallate, butylated hydroxytoluene, and butylated hydroxyanisole) are commonly used to act against free radicals in biological systems and food (Bouayed and Bohn, 2010). However, the use of these radical scavengers is restricted due to potential health risks (Chi *et al.*, 2014; Zarei *et al.*, 2014). Inflammation is a major defense mechanism against pathogens and is stimulated by a range of microbial products such as lipopolysaccharides (LPS). Macrophages exhibit a particularly vigorous response to LPS, and macrophage activation by LPS enhances the production and release of inflammatory mediators such as tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ), a pro-inflammatory cytokine (Guastadisegni *et al.*, 2002). However, the produc-

tion of excessive inflammatory cytokines must be regulated, since it can lead to harmful inflammatory responses such as rheumatoid arthritis, septic shock, and other chronic inflammatory diseases (Kim *et al.*, 2011).

Pork is one of the most popular meats in Korea, and the level of pork consumption has increased in recent years. Pork consumption per capita in 2005 was 17.8 kg and rose to 20.89 kg in 2013 (Korea Meat Trade Association, 2015). Pork cuts containing high fat content such as the belly and Boston butt are popular, and low fat portions such as loin and ham are less preferred by Korean. However, consumers have recently had a negative preconception about livestock products (Cross *et al.*, 2007). They misunderstand that meats contain high amounts of fat and believe this is a causative factor for the risk of obesity, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, cancer, etc. (Öz-vural and Vural, 2008). However, meat is a good source of protein with high biological value. Especially, pork is an excellent source of valuable nutrients such as vitamins, minerals (e.g., vitamin B12, folic acid, and iron), and antioxidative peptides. Histidine-di-peptides such as carnosine ( $\beta$ -alanyl-L-histidine) and anserine (N- $\beta$ -alanyl-3-methyl-

\*Corresponding author: Aera Jang, Animal Products and Food Science Program, Kangwon National University, Chuncheon 24341, Korea. Tel: +82-33-250-8643, Fax: +82-33-259-5574, E-mail: [ajang@kangwon.ac.kr](mailto:ajang@kangwon.ac.kr)

L-histidine) are functional peptides with antioxidative activities and are widely distributed in skeletal muscle, the central nervous system, and the heart at very high concentrations (up to 20 mM) (Quinn *et al.*, 1992). These antioxidant di-peptides are obtained from the muscle of animals such as pork, beef, chicken, and fish. Their well-known functions include discarding toxins from the body and regulating the immune function of macrophages (Guiotto *et al.*, 2005). In our previous study, the carnosine content of raw cuts of loin and ham from Korean native black pigs (KNBP) was determined to be 1.35 mg/mL and 1.27 mg/mL, respectively (Kim *et al.*, 2013). Although pork has many nutritional benefits, very few scientific studies have examined its antioxidation and anti-inflammation effect based on different cuts. Also, pork is often consumed by various cooking methods such as grilling, boiling, and stewing. Many water soluble compounds in pork can be eluted in the hot water when it cooked. Therefore, the objective of this study was to investigate the effects of boiled pork and hot water extracts of four different cuts on radical scavenging activity and pro-inflammation cytokine reduction activity.

## Materials and Methods

### Materials

Four different pork cuts such as loin, boston butt, sho-

ulder ham, and ham of LYD (castrated, n=4) were purchased from a local market in Chuncheon. All subcutaneous, intermuscular, and visible connective fat were removed and then each raw meat cut was added to five-fold distilled water and boiled for 1 h and filtered with cheese cloth (Fig. 1). The boiled pork and hot water extracts were separated and lyophilized. The lyophilized powder was dissolved in distilled water according to the concentration and used as sample for further analysis.

### Dipeptide (carnosine and anserine) content

Carnosine and anserine content were analyzed in accordance with the methods described by Gil-Agusti *et al.* (2008). A 3 g sample combined with 15 mL distilled water was homogenized (Polytron PT-2500 E, Kinematica, Switzerland) for 10 min at 15,000 rpm. Homogenized samples were centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 10 min. The slurry was filtered through Whatman No. 1 filter paper. The filtrate was combined with chloroform, shaken for 30 s, and then centrifuged at 3,000 rpm at 4°C for 10 min. The supernatant was used for dipeptide content analysis. The samples were conducted using an HPLC (Agilent Technologies 1260 Infinity, USA) and a zorbax eclipse XDB-C18 column (250×4.6 mm, 5 µm, Agilent, USA). The samples were analyzed at a flow rate of 1 mL/min for 20 min, column temperature of 25°C, and UV absorbance at 210 nm. The mobile phase was comprised of 0.01 M sodium dod-

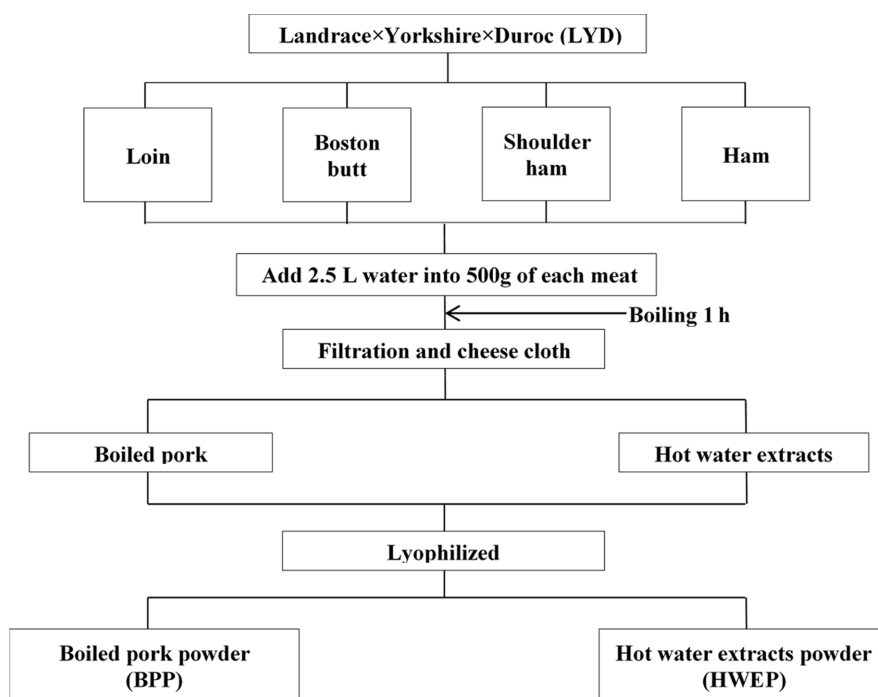


Fig. 1. Preparation procedure of boiled pork powder and hot water extracts powder.

ecyl sulfate soluble in 0.01 M sodium dihydrogen phosphate at pH 7.0, and sodium hydroxide was used for validation. Sample volumes injected were 20  $\mu$ L. All samples and solvents were filtered through 0.45  $\mu$ m membrane filters. Standard carnosine and anserine were purchased from Sigma (USA). The experimental values are indicated linearity, using the area ratio method.

### Antioxidative activity

#### 1,1-Diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging activity

The DPPH radical scavenging activity of BPP and HWEP were measured in accordance with Blois (1958), with slight modification. Briefly, 0.2 mM DPPH solution was mixed with each concentration sample in distilled water after which the mixture was vortexed and incubated at room temperature for 30 min. After standing for 30 min, the absorbance was determined at 517 nm using a UV/VIS spectrophotometer (SpectraMax M2e, Molecular Devices, USA) and calculated as millimolar Trolox equivalents (TE) per gram of low molecular weight sample.

#### 2,2-Azino-bis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS+) radical scavenging activity

ABTS+ scavenging activity was carried out according to the procedure described by Re *et al.* (1999). ABTS+ was produced by reacting 14 mM ABTS treated with 4.9 mM potassium persulfate. Prior to use, the mixture was vortexed and incubated in the dark at room temperature for 12-16 h to generate a dark blue solution. The ABTS+ solution (SpectraMax M2e, Molecular Devices, USA) was diluted in 5.5 mM PBS (pH 7.4) and equilibrated to 30°C until the absorbance reached  $0.70 \pm 0.02$  at 734 nm. The reactions consisted of 50  $\mu$ L sample and 950  $\mu$ L of the ABTS+ radical solution. Absorbance was measured (SpectraMax M2e, Molecular Devices, USA) at 30°C after 30 min and calculated as millimolar TE per gram of low molecular weight sample.

#### Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay

The capability of reducing ferric ions was assessed according to the Benzie and Strain (1996) method, with some modification. The FRAP reagent was produced and added to acetate buffer (300 mM/L, pH 3.6), 2,4,6-tripyridyl-S-triazine (TPTZ, 10 mM in 40 mM/HCl) solution, and  $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (20 mM) at a ratio of 10:1:1 (v/v). The mixture was incubated at 37°C. To test tubes, 25 L of sample and 175 L of FRAP reagent were added and incubated at 37°C for

5 min. The absorbance of FRAP was recorded at 595 nm (SpectraMax M2e, Molecular Devices, USA). The FRAP assay for each sample was expressed as mol TE per g of weight and calculated from the linear calibration curve.

#### Oxygen radical absorbance activity (ORAC) assay

The oxygen radical absorbance activity assay was performed using a modified version of Gillespie *et al.* (2007). Containers with 150 L of fluorescein (80 nM) and 25 L of sample were shaken, and each well contained a final volume of 200  $\mu$ L solution. The mixture was placed at 37°C for 15 min. Then, 25 L of AAPH (150 mM) was added to each well. A fluorometric spectrophotometer (SpectraMax M2e, Molecular Devices, USA) was used to record absorbances (excitation wavelengths of 480 and 520 nm, intervals for 60 min) after each set was automatically shaken at 37°C. Trolox standards and a blank sample were also used. The ORAC values were calculate using the respective area under curve (AUC) and regression equations between the TE and the net AUC. The final ORAC values are expressed as mol of TE.

#### RAW 264.7 cell culture

A mouse macrophage cell line, RAW 264.7, was obtained from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC TIB-71<sup>TM</sup>, USA). RAW 264.7 cells were plated in 100-mm tissue culture dishes containing Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Welgene, USA) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Gibco, USA). RAW 264.7 cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidied incubator containing 5%  $\text{CO}_2$ .

#### MTT assay for cell viability

RAW 264.7 cells were plated at a density  $5 \times 10^4$  cells/mL in tissue culture plates and incubated for 24 h. Five microliters of the sample with various concentrations (10, 50, 100, 200, and 500  $\mu$ g/mL) was transferred to the wells. After an hour, the cells were stimulated with LPS (1  $\mu$ g/mL) and incubated for 24 h at 37°C. To each well, 5 mg/mL of 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazoliumbromide (MTT) (50  $\mu$ L) was added and incubated for 4 h at 37°C. The medium with MTT was removed and then dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). The optical density (OD) of each well was measured at 540 nm (SpectraMax M2e, Molecular Devices, USA).

#### Cytokines (TNF- $\alpha$ and IL-6) assays

Cells were plated density  $2 \times 10^5$  cells/mL and grown to confluence in 24-well tissue culture dishes. Cells were

cultured in an incubator (37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>) for 24 h. On the following day, the medium was replaced with fresh serum free medium and the wells were loaded with 5 L of sample at various concentrations (10, 50, 100, 200, and 500 µg/mL). After approximately 1 h, the medium was stimulated with LPS (1 µg/mL) and incubated for 24 h at 37°C. The medium with LPS was collected and centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 5 min at 4°C. The levels of IL-6 and TNF-α were analyzed by ELISA as per the manufacturer's instructions. IL-6 and TNF-α were determined using mouse IL-6 BD OptEIA™, ELISA sets (BD Pharmingen, USA) and mouse TNF (Mono/Mono) BD OptEIA™, ELISA sets (BD Pharmingen, USA), respectively. The coating buffer contained capture antibody placed in a 96-well plate and incubated overnight (approximately 16 h) at 4°C. The capture antibodies were aspirated and washed 3 times. Blocking solution (Assay Diluent) was added and incubated for 1 h at room temperature. Standards (15.6, 31.3, 62.5, 125, 250, 500, and 1,000 pg/mL) or samples were added to wells and incubated for 2 h at room temperature. The standards and samples were removed and washed 6 times. Working Detector (Detection Antibody + SA<sub>v</sub>-HRP reagent) was added to each well and incubated for 1 h, followed by washing 6 times. To each well, 100 L of substrate solution (tetramethylbenzidine and hydrogen peroxide) was added. The plate was incubated for 30 min at room temperature in the dark. The stop solution (2 N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) was added to each well and absorbance from 450-540 nm was read.

### Statistical analysis

All results were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) according to the general linear model procedures for SAS software (ver. 9. SAS Institute Inc., USA). Results are shown as mean values and standard error of the sample. Duncan's multiple range tests were used to determine statistical significance between the treatments ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## Results and Discussion

### Carnosine and anserine content of BPP and HWEP of LYD

Table 1 shows the carnosine and anserine content of BPP and HWEP from the four pork cuts. In the case of carnosine, both BPP and HWEP of loin resulted in significantly higher carnosine content compared with the other pork cuts. Particularly, carnosine in HWEP of the four cuts was higher than BPP. The anserine content of both BPP and HWEP in shoulder ham was higher than that of BPP and HWEP of the other pork cuts. Tinberge and Slump (1976) reported that the carnosine and anserine concentration of pork was 104-338 and 7-16 mg/100 g, respectively. Aristo and Toldrá (1998) suggested that the carnosine content of four pork muscles (masseter, trapezius, semimembranosus, and longissimus dorsi) were 21.06, 180.98, 320.84, and 313.02 mg/100 g muscle, respectively. Also, anserine contents of those muscles were 6.09, 10.68, 17.56, and 14.56 mg/100g muscle. They suggested that the carnosine and anserine levels are a good indication of muscle glycolytic activity. Lumber *longissimus dorsi* (loin) and *semimembranosus* (ham) were classified as glycolytic muscle due to higher carnosine content. In cooked beef, the carnosine content was 134 mg/100 g of tissue (Park *et al.*, 2005). The higher fat content of beef could have a low concentration of carnosine, since carnosine is mainly present in the cytosol of skeletal muscle and the higher adipose fat would decrease skeletal muscle and thus carnosine concentration (Park *et al.*, 2005). Crush (1970) reported that the carnosine and anserine concentration of beef leg muscle was 150 and 50 mg/100 g of tissue, respectively. In addition, Plowman and Close (1988) reported that the carnosine and anserine concentrations in beef shoulder and rib steak were 341 and 58 mg/100 g of tissue, respectively. These results suggested that animal muscles have different carnosine content by classification if it is glycolytic or oxidative muscle.

**Table 1. Carnosine and anserine content (mg/g dry basis) of boiled pork powder and hot water extract powder from four different cuts of LYD**

Treatment <sup>1)</sup>		Loin	Boston butt	Shoulder ham	Ham
CNS	BPP	106.68±0.145 <sup>Ab</sup>	44.66±0.030 <sup>Db</sup>	68.34±0.005 <sup>Cb</sup>	72.43±0.040 <sup>Bb</sup>
	HWEP	117.77±0.015 <sup>Aa</sup>	56.08±0.015 <sup>Da</sup>	81.81±0.025 <sup>Ca</sup>	82.84±0.010 <sup>Ba</sup>
ANS	BPP	3.65±0.000 <sup>Cb</sup>	3.33±0.020 <sup>Db</sup>	5.25±0.010 <sup>Ab</sup>	4.18±0.005 <sup>Bb</sup>
	HWEP	4.26±0.000 <sup>Ca</sup>	3.96±0.010 <sup>Da</sup>	6.79±0.000 <sup>Aa</sup>	4.73±0.005 <sup>Ba</sup>

<sup>A-D</sup>Means±S.E. within same row with different superscript letters differ significantly at  $p < 0.05$ .

<sup>a-d</sup>Means±S.E. within same column with different superscript letters differ significantly at  $p < 0.05$ .

<sup>1)</sup>CNS, carnosine; ANS, anserine, BPP, boiled pork powder; HWEP, hot water extracts powder.

**Table 2. Antioxidative activities (M TE) of boiled pork powder and hot water extract powder from four different cuts of LYD**

Antioxidative activity <sup>1)</sup>	Treatment <sup>2)</sup>	Loin	Boston butt	Shoulder ham	Ham
DPPH	BPP	10.58±0.391 <sup>Cb</sup>	13.65±0.475 <sup>Aa</sup>	12.02±0.558 <sup>Bb</sup>	12.22±0.132 <sup>Bb</sup>
	HWEP	19.40±0.404 <sup>Aa</sup>	14.17±2.965 <sup>Ba</sup>	16.96±0.513 <sup>ABa</sup>	21.45±0.425 <sup>Aa</sup>
ABTS	BPP	34.61±0.256 <sup>Bb</sup>	26.60±0.473 <sup>Cb</sup>	39.28±0.492 <sup>Ab</sup>	39.43±0.334 <sup>Ab</sup>
	HWEP	39.15±0.093 <sup>Ca</sup>	28.81±0.336 <sup>Da</sup>	40.58±0.086 <sup>Ba</sup>	43.96±0.083 <sup>Aa</sup>
FRAP	BPP	5.19±0.075 <sup>ABb</sup>	3.66±0.033 <sup>Cb</sup>	5.31±0.072 <sup>Ab</sup>	5.09±0.042 <sup>Bb</sup>
	HWEP	8.30±0.171 <sup>Ba</sup>	4.15±0.073 <sup>Ca</sup>	8.88±0.048 <sup>Aa</sup>	9.00±0.023 <sup>Aa</sup>
ORAC	BPP	160.10±2.549 <sup>Bb</sup>	155.50±3.863 <sup>Bb</sup>	143.74±0.829 <sup>Cb</sup>	198.35±3.228 <sup>Aa</sup>
	HWEP	204.07±0.571 <sup>Aa</sup>	192.85±6.257 <sup>Aa</sup>	170.87±2.542 <sup>Ba</sup>	201.36±1.830 <sup>Aa</sup>

<sup>A-D</sup>Means±S.E. within same row with different superscript letters differ significantly at  $p<0.05$ .

<sup>a-d</sup>Means±S.E. within same column with different superscript letters differ significantly at  $p<0.05$ .

<sup>1)</sup>Sample concentration for antioxidative activity was 1 mg/mL.

<sup>2)</sup>BPP, boiled pork powder, HWEP, hot water extract powder.

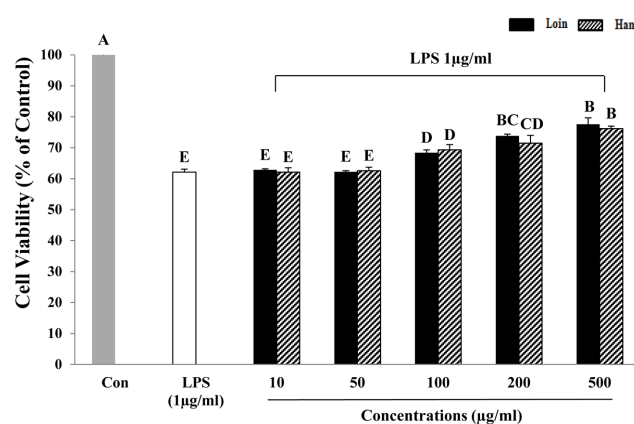
### Antioxidative effects of BPP and HWEP of LYD

The antioxidative effects, mediated by various radical scavenging mechanisms, including DPPH, ABTS radical scavenging activity, FRAP, and ORAC of BPP and HWEP of LYD are shown in Table 2. These assays are well known as screening methods for determining the total antioxidant capacity of foods and beverages (Alvarez-Suarez *et al.*, 2012). BPP of Boston butt exhibited the highest DPPH radical scavenging effect (13.65 M TE) compared with the other pork cuts. However, HWEP of loin (19.40 M TE), shoulder ham (16.96 M TE), and ham (21.45 M TE) exhibited significantly higher DPPH radical scavenging effects compared with Boston butt. The ABTS radical scavenging activity of BPP and HWEP of the four pork cuts are shown in Table 2. BPP of shoulder ham and ham exhibited significantly higher ABTS scavenging activity, 39.28 and 39.43 M TE, respectively. However, HWEP of ham had the highest ABTS radical scavenging effect at 43.96 M TE compared with that of the other pork cuts. In this study, we found that the ABTS radical scavenging effects of BPP and HWEP were a slightly higher than the DPPH radical scavenging activities. This may be because the scavenging activity of the DPPH radical assay is only suitable for lipid-soluble antioxidants and for the evaluation of hydrogen-donation of antioxidative compounds, whereas the scavenging activity of the ABTS radical assay assesses the single electron-transfer capabilities of these compounds and is applicable to both water-soluble and lipid-soluble antioxidants (Re *et al.*, 1999; Serpen *et al.*, 2012). Therefore, the measured ABTS radical scavenging activity values were higher than the measured DPPH radical scavenging results, and this might reflect various aspects of their antioxidant properties and different chemical mechanisms (Serpen *et al.*, 2012).

The results of the FRAP assay for HWEP from ham

appeared to have a similar trend compared to the ABTS radical scavenging activity, although no significant difference was found between that of shoulder ham and ham. Serpen *et al.* (2012) reported that the FRAP value of raw meat samples (beef tenderloin, chicken breast, pork tenderloin, and sea bream fish fillet) were between 3.0 and 4.9 mmol TE/kg. In addition, they indicated that beef samples had the highest FRAP value ( $4.9\pm 0.2$  mmol TE/kg), whereas the fish samples had the lowest ( $3.0\pm 0.1$  mmol TE/kg).

The antioxidative effects of BPP and HWEP from four different pork cuts were obtained using the ORAC assay (Table 4). The HWEP of loin, Boston butt, and ham generally had high ORAC values. Heat treatment might increase the antioxidant activity of some proteins due to structural changes. In this study, we have found that HWEP



**Fig. 2. Viability of LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells after treatment with HWEP from pork loin and ham. All values are means±S.E. Values of bars with different letters differ significantly ( $p<0.05$ ). Different capital letters indicate significant differences of HWEP from loin and ham according to different concentration ( $p<0.05$ ).**

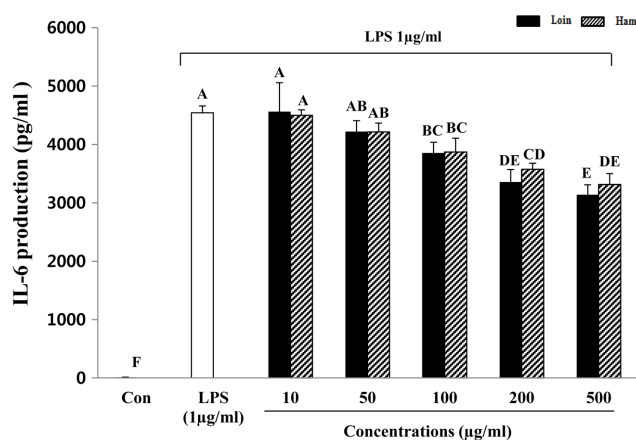
had higher ORAC values than BPP from loin, Boston butt, shoulder ham, and ham. In this study, we have found that the HWEP showed more high antioxidative activity compare to BPP ( $p < 0.05$ ). We assumed that the high antioxidative activity of the HWEP from pork cuts such as loin and ham might due to antioxidative peptides carnosine. Because it is a very important natural water soluble muscle di-peptide and it was eluted in hot water from the pork during heating. Also it can contribute to the inactivation of lipid oxidation catalysts and/or free radicals in the sarcoplasm (Decker and Crum, 1993). Also, denaturation of the proteins can increase their ability to scavenge radicals by increasing the solvent exposure of antioxidant amino acids (Serpen *et al.*, 2012). Wu *et al.* (2008) examined ORAC in beef extracts and consequently determined that beef extracts prepared with low ethanol concentrations (20%) demonstrated higher hydrophilic ORAC. In addition, it has been demonstrated that proteins and peptides have an important antioxidant action in meats due to their ability to scavenge free radicals. Soy protein, similar to meat, is potential antioxidant, and antioxidant peptides obtained from soybean protein have been reported in a number of studies (Hernandez-Ledesma *et al.*, 2009).

#### Effects of HWEP from loin and ham on viability of RAW 264.7 and inhibition of TNF- $\alpha$ and IL-6

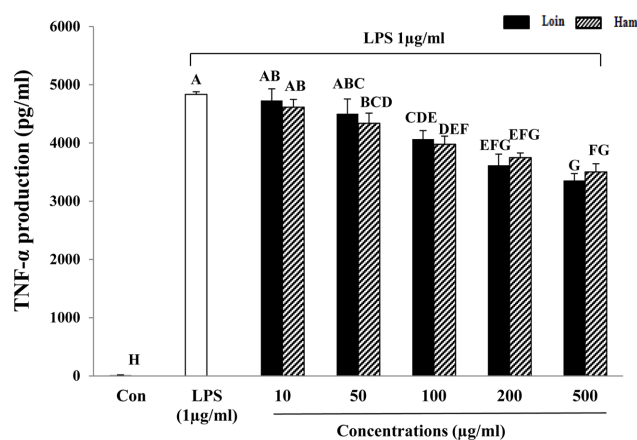
To investigate the anti-inflammatory effects of HWEP from loin and ham on macrophage cells (RAW 264.7), 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  of LPS was used for treatment. The LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells were treated with various concentrations of HWEP (10, 50, 100, 200, 500  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ). Cell viability of

LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cell was increased with increased HWEP concentration. HWEP concentrations more than 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  resulted in significantly higher cell viability compared with LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells alone. LPS-induced cells without HWEP treatment exhibited a cell viability of 61-63%, which was approximately 40% lower than control cells.

Inflammation is the response of an organism to the presence of pathogens, chemical or mechanical injury, or the first response of the immune system to infection or irritation (Hasko *et al.*, 1996). The acute phase of inflammation in macrophages and monocytes typically plays an important role in eliciting the response cascade (Baumann and Gauldie, 1994). After they are stimulated, they generate a number of chemokines and enzymes, including cytokines, inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) (Kim *et al.*, 2003; Kröncke *et al.*, 2001). LPS is a main component of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria and is an endotoxin that induces septic shock syndrome by promoting the production of inflammatory mediators such as TNF- $\alpha$  and interleukins (Ulevitch, 1999). In addition, IL-6 is known to be a multifunctional cytokine that regulates host defense, acute phase reactions, immune responses, nerve cell functions, and hematopoiesis (Hirano, 1998). IL-6 is considered an endogenous mediator of LPS-induced fever. TNF- $\alpha$  secreted by activated macrophages, lymphocytes, neutrophils, and mast cells and monocytes is an inflammatory cytokine (Vileek and Lee, 1991) and is a major mediator in defense responses and the induction of apoptosis. In this study, the cytokines TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 that were secreted by LPS-acti-



**Fig. 3.** Inhibition of IL-6 from LPS-activated RAW 264.7 cells by HWEP of pork loin and ham. All values are means  $\pm$  S.E. Different capital letters indicate significant differences by HWEP of loin and ham ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Fig. 4.** Inhibition of TNF- $\alpha$  from LPS-activated RAW 264.7 cells by HWEP of pork loin and ham. All values are means  $\pm$  S.E. Different capital letters indicate significant differences by HWEP of loin and ham ( $p < 0.05$ ).

vated macrophages were decreased with increased HWEP of loin and ham (Fig. 3 and 4). A dose of more than 100 µg/mL of HWEP significantly reduced the expression of IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  compared with the LPS-stimulated only group. The decrease in production of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 appeared to attenuate cytokine-mediated host-destructive processes in inflammatory tissues. TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 secreted as inflammatory cytokines suggest a greater effect on the reduction of the inflammatory response in HWEP of loin and ham. These findings are similar to those from soy protein, which has a rich protein content similar to meat, in that they exert potent inhibitory activity toward TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6 production downstream of LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells (Hernández-Ledesma *et al.*, 2009). Lee *et al.* (2009) provided evidence that hen egg white induced down-regulation of inflammation by reducing the expression of inflammatory cytokines such as TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$ , IFN- $\gamma$ , IL-8, and IL-17. Peptides obtained from enzymatic hydrolysates of cooked tuna juice had the greatest anti-inflammatory activity in the molecular weight range of 204-1,672.9 Da (Cheng *et al.*, 2015).

## Conclusion

The HWEP of pork loin and ham has antioxidative and anti-inflammatory effects as a result of decreasing free radicals and reducing pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$ . Further studies will be needed to determine these effects *in vivo*; however, this result can aid in reducing the negative perception of livestock products on human health.

## Acknowledgements

This work was carried out with the support of the Cooperative Research Program for Agriculture Science & Technology Development (Project No. PJ009809) Rural Development Administration, Republic of Korea. Also, this study was supported by 2012 Research Grant from Kangwon National University.

## References

- Alvarez-Suarez, J. M., Giampieri, F., González-Paramás, A. M., Damiani, E., Astolfi P., Martínez-Sánchez, G., Bompadre, S., Quiles, J. L., Santos-Buelga, C., and Battino, M. (2012) Phenolics from monofloral honeys protect human erythrocyte membranes against oxidative damage. *Food Chem. Toxicol.* **50**, 1508-1516.
- Aristoy, M. C. and Toldrá, F. (1998) Concentration of free amino acids and dipeptides in porcine skeletal muscles with different oxidative patterns. *Meat Sci.* **50**, 327-332.
- Baumann, H. and Gauldie, J. (1994) The acute phase response. *Immunol. Today* **15**, 74-80.
- Benzie, I. F. and Strain, J. J. (1996) The ferric reducing ability of plasma (FRAP) as a measure of "antioxidant power": The FRAP assay. *Anal. Biochem.* **239**, 70-76.
- Blois, M. S. (1958) Antioxidant determination by the use of a stable free radical. *Nature* **181**, 1199-1200.
- Bouayed, J. and Bohn, T. (2010) Exogenous antioxidants – double-edged swords in cellular redox state: Health beneficial effects at physiologic doses versus deleterious effects at high doses. *Oxid. Med. Cell. Longev.* **3**, 228-237.
- Cheng, M. L., Wang, H. C., Hsu, K. C., and Hwang, J. S. (2015) Anti-inflammatory peptides from enzymatic hydrolysates of tuna cooking juice. *Food and Agri. Immunol.* 1-12.
- Chi, C. F., Wang, B., Deng, Y. Y., Wang, Y. M., Deng, S. G., and Ma, J. Y. (2014) Isolation and characterization of three antioxidant pentapeptides from protein hydrolysate of monkfish (*Lophius litulon*) muscle. *Food Res. Inter.* **55**, 222-228.
- Cross, A. J., Leitzmann, M. F., Gail, M. H., Hollenbeck, A. R., Schatzkin, A., and Sinha, R. (2007) A prospective study of red and processed meat intake in relation to cancer risk. *PLoS Med.* **4**, e325.
- Crush, K. G. (1970) Carnosine and related substances in animal tissues. *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.* **34**, 3-30.
- Decker, E. A. and Crum, A. D. (1993) Antioxidant activity of carnosine in cooked ground pork. *Meat Sci.* **34**, 245-253.
- Gil-Agustí, M., Esteve-Romero, J., and Carda-Broch, S. (2008) Anserine and carnosine determination in meat samples by pure micellar liquid chromatography. *J. Chromatogr. A* **1189**, 444-450.
- Gillespie, K. M., Chae, J. M., and Ainsworth, E. A. (2007) Rapid measurement of total antioxidant capacity in plants. *Nat. Protoc.* **2**, 867-870.
- Guastadisegni, C., Nicolini, A., Balduzzi, M., Ajmone-Cat, M. A., and Minghetti, L. (2002) Modulation of PGE2 and TNF- $\alpha$  by nitric oxide in resting and LPS-activated RAW 264.7 cells. *Cytokine* **19**, 175-180.
- Guiotto, A., Calderan, A., Ruzza, P., and Borin, G. (2005) Carnosine and carnosine-related antioxidants: A review. *Curr. Med. Chem.* **12**, 2293-2315.
- Hasko, G., Szabo, C., Németh, Z. H., Kvetan, V., Pastores, S. M., and Vizi, E. S. (1996). Adenosine receptor agonists differentially regulate IL-10, TNF-alpha, and nitric oxide production in RAW 264.7 macrophages and in endotoxemic mice. *J. Immunol.* **157**, 4634-4640.
- Hernández-Ledesma, B., Hsieh, C. C., and Ben, O. (2009) Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of cancer preventive peptide lunasin in RAW 264.7 macrophages. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **390**, 803-808.
- Hirano, T. (1998) Interleukin 6 and its receptor: Ten years later. *Int. Rev. Immunol.* **16**, 249-284.
- Kim, D., Gil, J., Kim, H. J., Kim, H. W., Park, B. Y., Lee, S. K., and Jang, A. (2013). Changes in meat quality and natural di-peptides in the loin and ham cuts of Korean native black pigs during cold storage. *J. Life Sci.* **23**, 1477-1485.

20. Kim, S. B., Seong, Y. A., Jang, H. J., and Kim, G. D. (2011) The anti-inflammatory effects of *Persicaria thunbergii* extracts on lipopolysaccharide-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells. *J. Life Sci.* **21**, 1689-1697.
21. Kim, S. S., Oh, O. J., Min, H. Y., Park, E. J., Kim, Y., Park, H. J., Han, N. Y., and Lee, S. K. (2003) Eugenol suppresses cyclooxygenase-2 expression in lipopolysaccharide-stimulated mouse macrophage RAW 264. 7 cells. *Life Sci.* **73**, 337-348.
22. Korea Meat Trade Association (2015) Statistics of meat consumption. Available from: <http://www.kmta.or.kr/eng/sub4-1.html?kej=eng&scode>. Accessed July 3, 2015.
23. Kröncke, K. D., Fehsel, K., Suschek, C., and Kolb-Bachofen, V. (2001) Inducible nitric oxide synthase-derived nitric oxide in gene regulation, cell death and cell survival. *Int. Immunopharmacol.* **1**, 1407-1420.
24. Lee, M., Kovacs-Nolan, J., Archbold, T., Fan, M. Z., Juneja, L. R., Okubo, T., and Mine, Y. (2009) Therapeutic potential of hen egg white peptides for the treatment of intestinal inflammation. *J. Funct. Foods* **1**, 161-169.
25. Özvural, E. B. and Vural, H. (2008) Utilization of interesterified oil blends in the production of frankfurters. *Meat Sci.* **78**, 211-216.
26. Park, Y. J., Volpe, S. L., and Decker, E. A. (2005) Quantitation of carnosine in humans plasma after dietary consumption of beef. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **53**, 4736-4739.
27. Plowman, J. E. and Close, E. A. (1988) An evaluation of a method to differentiate the species of origin of meats on the basis of the contents of anserine, balenine and carnosine in skeletal muscle. *J. Sci. Food Agric.* **45**, 69-78.
28. Quinn, P. J., Boldyrev, A. A., and Formazuyk, V. E. (1992) Carnosine: its properties, functions and potential therapeutic applications. *Mol. Aspects Med.* **13**, 379-444.
29. Re, R., Pellegrini, N., Proteggente, A., Pannala, A., Yang, M., and Rice-Evans, C. (1999) Antioxidant activity applying and improved ABTS radical action decolorization assay. *Free Radical. Biol. Med.* **26**, 1231-123.
30. Serpen, A., Gökmen, V., and Fogliano, V. (2012) Total antioxidant capacities of raw and cooked meats. *Meat Sci.* **90**, 60-65.
31. Tinbergen, B. J. and Slump, P. (1976) The detection of chicken meat in meat products by means of the anserine/carnosine ratio. *Zeitschrift für Lebensmittel-Untersuchung und Forschung* **161**, 7-11.
32. Ulevitch, R. J. and Tobias, P. S. (1999) Recognition of gram-negative bacteria and endotoxin by the innate immune system. *Curr. Opin. Immunol.* **11**, 19-22.
33. Vileek, J. and Lee, T. H. (1991) Tumor necrosis factor. New insights into the molecular mechanism of its multiple actions. *J. Biol. Chem.* **266**, 7313-7316.
34. Wu, C., Duckett, S. K., Neel, J. P. S., Fontenot, J. P., and Clapham, W. M. (2008) Influence of finishing systems on hydrophilic and lipophilic oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) in beef. *Meat Sci.* **80**, 662-667.
35. Zarei, M., Ebrahimpour, A., Abdul-Hamid, A., Anwar, F., Bakar, F. A., Philip, R., and Saari, N. (2014) Identification and characterization of papain-generated antioxidant peptides from palm kernel cake proteins. *Food Res. Inter.* **62**, 726-734.