

> [Int Immunopharmacol](#). 2019 Jun;71:1-6. doi: 10.1016/j.intimp.2019.02.041. Epub 2019 Mar 9.

Berberine suppresses mast cell-mediated allergic responses via regulating FcεRI-mediated and MAPK signaling

Shuilian Fu ¹, Saihong Ni ¹, Danni Wang ¹, Meng Fu ¹, Tie Hong ²

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PMID: 30861392

DOI: [10.1016/j.intimp.2019.02.041](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.intimp.2019.02.041)

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Abstract

The anti-allergic effect of berberine was evaluated in cellular and animal models of allergic responses. In this study, the results of the in vitro model of immunoglobulin (Ig) E-mediated mast cell degranulation showed that berberine significantly inhibited the release of β-hexosaminidase (β-HEX), histamine, IL-4 and TNF-α in rat basophilic leukemia cells (RBL-2H3 cells). Pretreatment with berberine prevented morphological changes in IgE-stimulated RBL-2H3 cells such as the recovery of an elongated shape. Pretreatment with berberine also suppressed the phosphorylation of antigen-induced Lyn, Syk, and Gab2, thus suppressing the downstream MAPK pathways. In the in vivo model of allergic responses, administration of berberine inhibited passive cutaneous anaphylaxis (PCA) in mice. The above results indicate berberine could suppress mast cell activation and allergic responses.

Keywords: Berberine; IgE; Mast cell; Passive cutaneous anaphylaxis.

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