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# The role of selenium supplementation in cardiovascular disease prevention: an in vitro study to identify the molecular mechanism(s).

LEIGHTON, D., GOUA, M., DOLAN, E., BURGESS, K. and BERMANO, G.

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The role of selenium supplementation in cardiovascular disease prevention: an *in vitro* study to identify the molecular mechanism(s)





Dean Leighton Ph.D Student Robert Gordon University A role for selenium supplementation to prevent cardiovascular disease in obese individuals : Exercise and Nutrition-based Interventions



#### **High Intensity Interval Training**

#### **Nutrition**









## Obesity is characterised by systemic oxidative stress



## Atherosclerosis is driven by systemic oxidative stress

**OBESE ARTERY** 



# An optimum selenium status for cardiovascular health?

- Essential micronutrient incorporated as selenocysteine into selenoproteins
- Important selenoproteins (glutathione peroxidase GPx) have antioxidant capacity
- Reference nutrient intake = 55-70ug/day
- GPx-1/GPx-4 are ubiquitously expressed and their enzymatic activity is dependent on selenium status.





To investigate the effect of selenium supplementation to modulate oxidative stress in U937 monocytes (*in-vitro*) in relation to:

- I. Cell viability (MTS assay)
- 2. **ROS levels** (CM-H<sub>2</sub>DC-FDA flow cytometry)

3. GPx-I/GPx-4 antioxidant enzyme gene expression (RT-PCR)





Reverse Transcription PCR (GPx-1/GPx-4)



#### 100nM selenite ensures greater cellular protection than 200nM selenite under stress conditions



n=10; mean +SEM



- Selenium supplementation (100nM/200nM Na<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub>) of unstressed cells did not significantly change cell viability compared to control cells (no PQ/SNAP).
- Monocytes pre-supplemented with 100nM Na<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub> before PQ/SNAP treatment, significantly increased cell viability by 33% (p<0.001) compared to PQ/SNAP treated cells.</li>
- Monocytes pre-supplemented with 200nM Na<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub> before PQ/SNAP treatment, did not significantly improve cell viability compared to PQ/SNAP treated cells.

### 100nM selenite attenuates reactive oxidative species levels under stress conditions



n=3; mean +SEM



- Selenium supplementation (100nM Na<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub>) of unstressed cells did not significantly change ROS levels compared to control cells (no PQ/SNAP).
- Monocytes pre-supplemented with 100nM Na<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub> before PQ/SNAP treatment, significantly reduced ROS levels by 32% (p<0.001) compared to PQ/SNAP treated cells.</li>

### 100nM selenite augments both GPx-1 and GPx-4 gene expression under stress conditions

n=3; mean +SEM



Monocytes pre-supplemented with  $100nM Na_2SeO_3$ before PQ/SNAP treatment, significantly increased **GPx-1 expression by 146%** (p<0.01) compared to PQ/SNAP treated cells. Monocytes pre-supplemented with **100nM Na<sub>2</sub>SeO<sub>3</sub>** before PQ/SNAP treatment, **significantly increased GPx-4 expression by 77%** (p<0.05) compared to PQ/SNAP treated cells.

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#### Discussion

Potential beneficial effects of 100nM selenium supplementation:



#### **Future Directions**



#### Acknowledgements

