



# Food Toxins

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### Introduction

Toxin is derived from Latin word 'Toxicum' means Poison

 Definition: Small molecule, peptide or protein which alters the normal metabolism of host cells with deleterious effect on the host
The condition caused by this toxin when

infected by the host is reffered as toximia

### Defination

According to title 18 of United States code, the term "toxin" means toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms or infectious substances, whatever their origin and method of production



# **Classification of Toxin**



## **ENDOTOXIN MECHANISM**



### **Endogenous Toxin in Plants**



- 1. Lectins/Haemaglutinin
- 2. Saponins
- 3. Alkaloids
- 4. Glucosinolates
- 5. Coumarine

- 6. Toxic amino acids
- 7. Toxic lipids
- 8. Lathyrogens
- 9. Favism

#### 10. Enzyme inhibitors

Lectins/Haemoagglutinins

Phytoagglutinins

✓ Agglutinate the RBC

Saponins (saotoxins)

✓ Bitter taste

✓ Foam producing activity

✓ Causes nausea and vomiting





### **Alkoloids**

Heterocyclic compounds

Pharamcological effect



✓ Glycoalkaloid: solanine and tomatine



## Glucosinolates

- ✓ Brassiaceae
- ✓ Hydrolysis the enzyme
- Thyiocyanate ion released









Chemically 1,2 benzopyrine

✓ Cinnamom

✓ Heptatoxicity

✓ EFSA TDI for coumarine as 0.1mg/kg body wt

#### **Toxic amino acids**

✓ non-proteinaceous amino acid
✓ Hypoglycin A – Hypoglycemia



#### **Toxic lipids**

✓ Eurcic acid- MUFA (rape seed)

✓ PUFA oxidized by cooking & storage,

#### **Protease inhibitors**

✓ Cereals and potatoes

✓ Supress the release of amino acids

✓ Pancreatic hyperplasia

### Lathyrogens

✓ Lathyrus sativus

✓ It causes lathyrism
✓ β-OAA, free amino acid
✓ <300g/day</li>



### Favism



✓ Broad beans

#### ✓ Inhaling the pollen of its flower

#### Haemolytic anemia

### **Control measures**

- Thermal treatment
- Soaking
- Fermentation
- Germination

# **Endogenous Toxin in Animals**





✓ Infectious particle✓ Degeneration of CNS

✓ Crutzfelt Jacob's disease & BSE

### **Avidin**

✓ Egg white

✓ Binds non-covalently to vitamin H





### **Phytanic acid**

 Chlorophyl metabolism in the rumen of rumenants

✓ Neurological problem, blindness

✓ Refsum disease



#### Ciguatoxin

✓ Cigutera fish

 Toxin occurs from the ingestion of fish that feed on sea weed and reef fishes

✓ Dinoflagellates

✓I.P 3-6hours



#### **Tetrodo toxin**

Present in fugu or puffer fish

- ✓ Potent neurotoxin
- ✓ Blocks the Na channels

### **Scombroid toxin**

 Bacterial action on Scombroid fish such as tuna or mackerel

✓ Histamine toxicity







### **Clostridium botulinum**

- Botulin toxin
- ✓ Thermo liable



- Soils, fresh water and marine sediments and processed canned foods
- ✓ <1µg of botulin is enough to kill an adult by oral administration</li>
- ✓ There are 2 types of botulism
  - Food borne botulism
  - Infant botulism



#### Staphylococcus aureus

Ingestion of food that contains enterotoxins

➢Heat stable

Meat, poultry, fish, mucous membrane of nose, throat and skin of the humans







### Clostridium perfringens

- Gas gangrene
- Heat stable
- Meat, poultry, canned foods





### Bacillus cereus



 Types: type 1 and type 2
Symptom: abdominal cramps, diarrhea and severe vommiting
Emetic syndrome is also called Chinese restaurant syndrome

#### Shigella



- ✓ Shigellosis caused by Shigella sps.
- Causes dysentery in humans
- ✓ I.P 7 hr to 7 days
- Abdominal pain, vomiting and fever
- ✓ Traveler's diarrhea

### **Mycotoxins**



- Mycotoxins are produced as secondary metabolities of fungi
- Some Mycotoxins are mutagenic and carcinogenic
- 14 Mycotoxins are known to be carcinogens
- Secondary metabolities are formed during end of the exponential growth phase

### **Different Types of Mycotoxins**

- $\circ$  Aflatoxins
- Patulin
- Ergotoxin
- Zearalenone
- Citrinin
- Ochratoxin
- Alternaria Toxins
- Mushroom Toxins

#### Aflotoxins

- Aspergillus flavus, A. parasiticus, A.nominus
- High temperatures and humidity levels
- Carcinogenic substances
- peanuts, milk , corn









Penicillium claviforme, Penicillium

<u>expansum, Penicillium patulum, Aspergillus</u>

<u>clavatus</u>

Corn, beans, apple

#### Ergot



- It is an alkoloid
- Causes Ergotism
- Caviceps purpurea and C. paspali
- Rye, barley, wheat, oats and pearl millet



#### ○ Zeralenone

• Fusarium graminearum and F. tricinctum

- Field corn at the silking stage
- Most cereals are affected



### o Citrinin



• Penicillium citrinum, Penicillium viridicatum

moldy bread, wheat, oats, rye and other similar products

#### • Ochratoxin



- It comes in three secondary metabolite forms, A, B, and C
- Penicillium and Aspergillus species
- Potent nephrotoxin
- Cereals, barley

#### **o** Alternaria Toxins



 Produced by <u>Alternaria citri</u>, <u>A.alternate</u>, <u>A.solani</u> and <u>A.tenuissima</u>

• Apples, tomatoes, blue berries, grains

### Mushroom toxin



- <u>Amanita phalloides</u>, <u>Amanita verna</u> and Amanita <u>muscar</u> are highly toxic
- Cause serious illness, even death
- Paralysis of nervous system and degeneration of the liver



#### **Control of Mycotoxin in Food and Feed**

- Proper Cultural practices
- Post harvest storage
- Proper handling
- Resistance varieties

## **Heavy Metal Toxins**





✓ Fungicides as dimethylmercury



- Silver amulgum used for filling teeth
- ✓ Toxicity: Hg reacts with –SH groups
- Causes tiredness, loss of apetite, weight loss and kidney failure

#### Lead

- Industrial emissions, air pollution from automobile, gas fire powerstation, paint's and anti-rust agent
- Binds with enzyme participating in Heme synthesis
- Damages CNS system and reproductive organs





#### Arsenic

 Mining ores, various pesticide and ground water(main source).

 Causes pigmentation of skin, keretosis, goitre, cancer.

✓ Affect to CNS



#### Cadmium

✓ Mineral fertilizer & fungicides, from the water pipes.

Causes severe pneumonitis caused by enzyme inibition.

✓ It will lead to fragile bones as it affects the 'Ca' metabolism



### Selenium

✓ Fertilizers

 $\checkmark$  Daily dose of 50-200µg of selinium is recommended

Causes fatigue, numbress of hands, digestive disorder, irritability and loss of hair



## **Effect of Toxic Food**



### **Preventive measures**

- Thermal treatment
- Risk assesment
- Hyginic practice
- Refrigeration

### Conclusion

- > Awareness
- Varies of food
- Risk assesment
- Processing
- Visual examination
- Permissible limits

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