Soluble ficin disrupt bacterial biofilm

Elena Trizna¹, Baydamshina Diana¹, Holyavka Marina², Koroleva Victoria², Kayumov Airat¹

¹Kazan (Volga Region) Federal University, Russian Federation; ²Voronezh State University, Russian Federation; trizna91@mail.ru

Many opportunistic bacteria like Staphylococcus, Micrococcus, Pseudomonas form biofilms on chronic and acute dermal wounds retarding their healing, causing reinfection and sepsis. Several proteases like trypsin, chymotrypsin were reported to exhibit anti-biofilm properties degrading the backbone of the biofilm matrix and thereby speeding up the wound healing. Our results indicate that ficin, protease from the plant, efficiently degrades the structural components of biofilm matrix formed by S. aureus, S. epidermidis and P. aeruginosa although with less efficiency. The anti-biofilm effect of ficin was significantly more pronounced compared to trypsin, a protease that is widely used in wound treatment. Significance of the biofilm disruption activity has been also supported by fluorescent microphotographs. Moreover, presence of ficin also led to the increase of the antimicrobial efficiency of ciprofloxacin against biofilm-embedded cells of S. aureus and P. aeruginosa. While 24h antibiotic treatment did not lead to the increase of red-fluorescent dead cells of neither S.aureus nor P. aeruginosa embedded into the biofilm matrix, in the presence of ficin the fraction of viable cells decreased significantly. Ficin does not exhibit the cytotoxicity and does not affect the growth of adipose derived stem cells. Similarly, no genotoxic effects were observed in Ames test and SOS-chromotest. Accordingly, soluble ficin appears safe and beneficial for outer wound treatment to prevent the biofilm formation and reduce the reinfection risk.