

Beta-carotene, lycopene prevent dermatitis in murine model

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(HealthDay)—Oral administration of β -carotene or lycopene prevents



atopic dermatitis (AD)-like dermatitis in HR-1 hairless mice, according to an experimental study published online March 19 in the *Journal of Dermatology*.

Makiko Hiragun, M.D., Ph.D., from Hiroshima University in Japan, and colleagues examined the effect of oral administration of β -carotene or lycopene on AD-like symptoms of HR-1 hairless mice fed with a low zinc/magnesium diet. Mice were divided into four groups and fed for eight weeks with a standard diet; low zinc/magnesium diet (HR group); low zinc/magnesium and β-carotene diet (HR-C group); and low zinc/magnesium and lycopene diet (HR-L group).

The researchers found that in the HR group, mice developed clinical and histological AD-like dermatitis. Xerosis and wrinkle-like skin changes developed in the HR-C and HR-L groups, but they were milder than in those of HR group mice. Epidermis thickening and inflammatory cell infiltration in the skin was statistically less in the HR-C and HR-L versus the HR group. Compared with the HR group, the concentration of thymus and activation regulated chemokine in the skin of the HR-L group and concentration of CCL27 in the skin of the HR-C group were significantly lower.

"In conclusion, per os administration of β -carotene or lycopene prevents AD-like symptoms in association with a suppression of T-helper 2 chemokines in a murine model," the authors write. "Ingestion of carotenoids may be beneficial for patients with AD."

More information: Abstract

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