Study on the Treatment of Soft Tunic Syndrome in Korean Sea Squirt Using Probiotics

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Sea squirt is a major source of income for the south coast and east coast in Korea. However, since the damage caused by soft tunic syndrome (STS) is increasing, it is necessary to develop a new fundamental method for the treatment of STS. The STS is mainly observed during March through June when the water temperature is relatively low. But it hardly occurs during summer when the water temperature exceeds 20 °C and during winter when the water temperature is very low. At present, *Azumiobodo hoyamushi* is considered to be the main cause of the STS. Since there is no fundamental cure yet, the damage to STS is expected to increase in the future. Therefore, it is urgent to study the pathogenesis of STS through systematic and practical research, and to develop a therapeutic method by increasing immunological activity to prevent disease. We have concluded that the cause of STS in Korea is the result of *A. hoyamushi* infection. Experimental conditions for infection model caused by *A. hoyamushi* were investigated, and the preventive effect of new probiotics developed in our lab was verified in this infectious disease model. Studies are also under way to see how the *A. hoyamushi* destroy the membranous fibers of the sea squirt and overwhelm the innate immune system of it.

Biography

Hyung Ki Do is a native of South Korea and has international experience includes various programs, contributions and participation in different countries for diverse fields of study. His research interests reflect in his wide range of publications in various national and international journals.

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