

Molecular Modeling Study of 2-Substituted Isoindoline Derivatives of α -Amino Acids as Inhibitors of Lipoxygenase by Docking Simulations

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Abstract. In this work two series of isoindolines **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)** were evaluated as possible inhibitors of lipoxygenase (LOX) by docking studies, as well as for the antiinflammatory isoindolilamides **3-5** and ibuprofen **6**, as part of a theoretical study to found dual LOX/COX inhibitory activities. Therefore, dihydromethylbenzofurane **7**, licofelone **8** and darbufelone **9** were also evaluated, which are well-known as dual LOX/COX inhibitors and consequently, in this work they were used to identify their binding sites on the LOX and compared with those obtained from **1(a-g)**, **2(a-g)** and **3** to **6** under study. Analysis of the results showed that all compounds under study could inhibit to the LOX, since they are binding in the same or close to the region as the compounds **7-9** taken as references. Several interactions of heteroatom of all compounds with the amino acid residues of binding sites of LOX were determined. The ΔG values were obtained for all the complexes (LOX-compound), among all the complexes, LOX-**8** (-12.76 kcal/mol) resulted to be the most stable; and from the compounds under study, LOX-**1f** (-8.97 kcal/mol) resulted to be more stable than the other compounds tested. Whereas, theoretical dissociation constant values K_d (μM) were obtained. Among all compounds, **8** (0.000433 μM) showed more affinity to LOX; while from compounds under study, **1f** (0.266 μM) exhibited more affinity to LOX. These results also show that compounds **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)**, and **3-6** could have a dual LOX/COX/ inhibition, as have been shown for **7-9** and from their similar docking study within the COX-1 and COX-2 previously reported.

Key words: Lipoxygenase, Docking, Isoindolines, Antiinflammatory, Analgesic, α -Amino acids.

Resumen. En este trabajo se evaluaron dos series de isoindolinas **1(a-g)** y **2(a-g)** como posibles inhibidores de lipoxigenasa (LOX) por estudios docking, así como para los antiinflamatorios isoindolilamidas **3-5** e ibuprofeno **6**, como parte de un estudio para encontrar actividades inhibitorias duales LOX/COX. Además, también fueron evaluados dihidrometilbenzofurano **7**, licofelona **8** y darbufelona **9**, los cuales son bien conocidos como inhibidores duales LOX/COX y consecuentemente, en este trabajo fueron usados para identificar sus sitios de enlazamiento sobre la LOX y comparados con aquellos obtenidos de los compuestos bajo estudio **1(a-g)**, **2(a-g)** y **3** a **6**. El análisis de los resultados muestra que los compuestos bajo estudio podrían inhibir a la LOX, dado que actúan en la misma región o cerca que los compuestos **7-9** usados como referencia. Se determinaron algunas interacciones de los heteroátomos de todos los compuestos con los residuos de los aminoácidos de los sitios activos de LOX. Se obtuvieron los valores de ΔG para todos los complejos (LOX-compuestos), entre todos los complejos, LOX-**8** (-12.76 kcal/mol) resultó ser el más estable; y de los compuestos bajo estudio, LOX-**1f** (-8.97 kcal/mol) resultó ser más estable que los otros compuestos probados. Además, se obtuvieron los valores de las constantes de disociación teórica K_d (μM). Entre todos los compuestos, **8** (0.000433 μM) mostró mayor afinidad a la LOX; mientras que de los compuestos bajo estudio, **1f** (0.266 μM) exhibió mayor afinidad a la LOX. Estos resultados muestran que los compuestos **1(a-g)**, **2(a-g)** y **3** a **6** podrían tener inhibición LOX/COX dual como ha sido mostrado por **7-9** y del estudio similar docking en COX-1 y COX-2 previamente reportado.

Palabras claves: Lipoxigenasa, Docking, isoindolinas, antiinflamatorio, analgésico, α -Aminoácidos.

Introduction

The pain is the main cause of medical attention and also, it is a symptom of some diseases defined as “unlikable sensitive and emotional experience, related with real or potential tissue damage” [1]. It is known that ciclooxigenases (COX-1 and -2) and lipoxygenase (LOX) are involved in the metabolism of arachidonic acid generating eicosanoids, which have been implicated in the pathogenesis of a variety of human diseases [2]. It is established that conventional nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and selective COX-2 inhibitors decrease the bioconversion of arachidonic acid to pro inflammatory prostaglandins (PGs) by inhibiting the COX catalytic activity [3]. In spite of COX-2 inhibitors have showed to have more effective

anti-inflammatory properties than classical NSAIDs, still they are not totally safe, due to the implication of COX-2 in several physiological functions; for instance, renal homeostasis, in different stage of pregnancy, in the protection of the gastric mucosa, as well as in the cardiovascular system [4-7]. On the other hand, it is known that leukotrienes and lipoxins produced via the LOX pathway, play role in inflammation and promote the development of gastrointestinal tract [4, 8, 9]. Moreover, expression of LOX and the presence of their products are associated with immune, proliferative diseases, inflammatory bowel diseases, psoriasis, asthma, allergic, inflammatory disorders, cochlear acoustic injury, atherosclerosis and osteoporosis [2,10-19]. Thus, it has been considered that the inflammation is a multifactorial process and biochemical pathways

should be taken into account, including the LOX pathway [8]. In consequence, drugs able to block COX and LOX pathway (drugs inhibitors) have been developed and pharmacologically investigated, which, should not only present a superior anti-inflammatory profile but also fewer side effects than NSAIDs and selective COX-2 inhibitors [2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 13, 20-28]. On the other hand, we have been interested in the biological activities of isoindolines, various of them have been important as intermediates for the syntheses of novel multidrugs resistance reversal agents [29]. They have also shown diuretic activity [30, 31], as well as used for treating coronary vessel diseases and evaluated as alpha-adrenergic and adrenergic neuron blocking agents [32-34]. Therefore, several isoindolines have exhibited anti-inflammatory [35,36] and analgesic activity [36, 37]. Our interest in the synthesis [38] and biological application of isoindoline derivatives of α -amino acids, we have recently reported the theoretical study as COX-1 and COX-2 inhibition as well as inhibitors *in vitro* [39,40]. Thus, we attempt a theoretical study of isoindolines **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)** by docking, as well as for isoindolilamides **3-5** and ibuprofen **6** as part of a theoretical study to found dual LOX/COX inhibitors. Therefore, dihydrodimethylbenzofuran **7** [26], licofelone **8** [14, 15, 27] and darbufelone **9** [9] were also evaluated, which have showed dual 5-LOX/COX inhibition and in this work they were used to identify the active sites on the 15-LOX and compared with those obtained from **1(a-g)**, **2(a-g)** and **3-6**.

Result and discussion

Molecular modeling (docking) study was carried out for two series of isoindolines **1(a-g)**, **2(a-g)**, (Fig.1), as well as for isoindolilamides **3-5**, ibuprofen **6** (Fig. 2) and also for dihydrodimethylbenzofuran **7**, licofelone **8**, and darbufelone **9** (Fig. 3). The results show that both isoindolines **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)** series, as well as compounds **3-9** bind within LOX.

Compounds **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1g**, **2c**, **2d**, **2f**, **2g**, **5**, and **6**, as well as compounds **7-9** taken as references, binding within LOX in the vicinity of the amino acid residues 96-168 (β -barrel domain) and amino acid residues 377-396, (Fig. 4, Tables 1 and 2), which are part of catalytic domain (360-366 and 537-543 residues); whereas this domain is characterized for containing the residues His 361, 366, 541, and 545, and they are coordinated to the non-haem catalytic iron [10]. Due to compounds **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1g**, **2c**, **2d**, **2f**, **2g**, **5** and **6** are binding to the LOX at the same region that compounds taken as reference; this indicates that these compounds could be LOX inhibitors.

The compounds **1a**, **1b**, **1f**, **2a**, **2b** and **4** are binding to LOX in the region of the core of the catalytic domain (360-366 and 537-543 residues), (Table 3). Although these compounds are not binding within to LOX exactly at the same region as compounds **7** to **9**, they can be considered as feasible LOX inhibitors due they are within the catalytic domain.

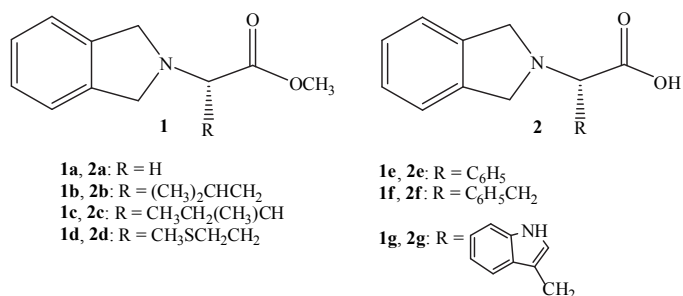


Fig. 1. Isoindolines series **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)**.

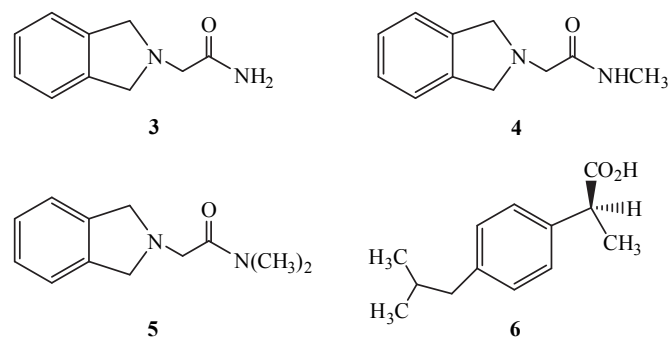


Fig. 2. Isoindolilamides **3**, **4**, **5**, and ibuprofen **6**.

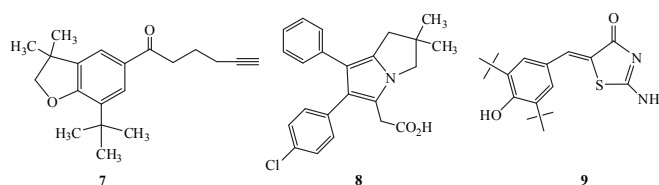


Fig. 3. Dihydrodimethylbenzofuran **7**, licofelone **8** and darbufelone **9**.

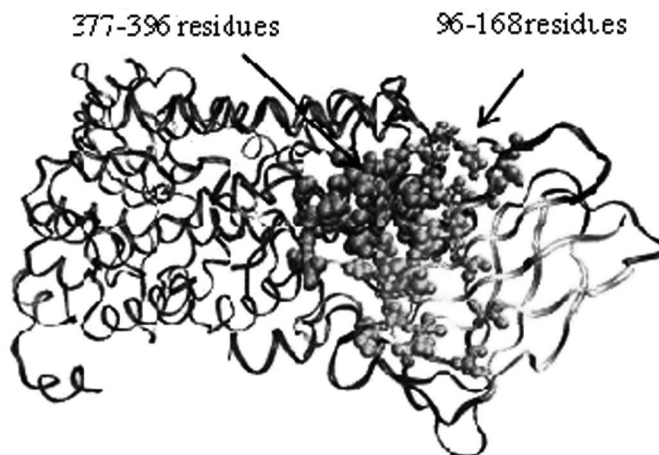


Fig. 4. Docking **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **2c**, **2d**, **2f**, **2g** and **5** to **9** (ball) in LOX site (ribbon).

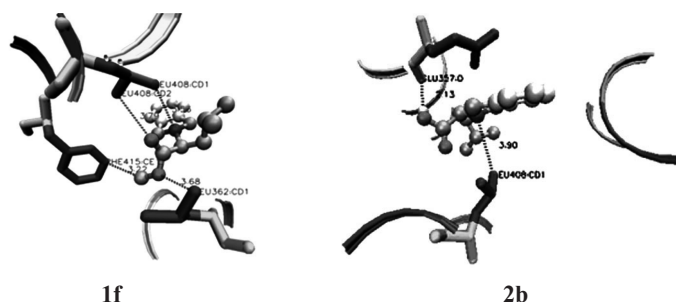


Fig. 5. Docking **1f** and **2b** in active sites of LOX, bond distances are indicated by broken lines.

of 2.73 Å with backbone O of Ser382. The distance between nitrogen of **2d** with backbone O of Ser 382 is of 2.03Å. The distance of 3.10 Å is observed for C=O of **6** with backbone N of Ile383. The OH group of **2c** exhibits a distance of 2.17 Å with side chain N of Lys388. Carbonyl group of **5** displays a distance of 2.65 Å with side chain N of Lys388. The N2 and N1 of **9** show distances of 2.24 Å and 2.43 Å, respectively with side chain NZ of Lys388. Carbonyl group of **1g** shows a distance of 2.87 Å with backbone O of Val 391. Nitrogen atom of **1b** exhibits a distance of 3.53 Å with side chain CD1 of Leu408. Nitrogen atom of **1f** and **2b** exhibits a distance of 3.73 and 3.90 Å, respectively, with side chain CD1 of Leu408 (Fig. 5).

Methyl group of **1b** shows a distance of 3.22 Å from side chain CE1 of Phe415. Carbonyl group of **4** shows a distance of 2.61Å with side chain N of Gln548 and NH group a distance of 2.51 Å with backbone N of Val594. The NH of **3** shows a distance of 1.71 Å with side chain C=O of Glu613. Carbonyl group of **2e** displays a distance of 2.50 Å with backbone O of Phe615. The NH of **3** shows a distance of 1.65 Å with backbone C=O of Phe615. The C=O group of **3** shows a distance of 2.70 Å with backbone C=O of Gly617. Carbonyl group of **2e** shows a distance of 2.94 Å with backbone N of Arg621. The N atom of **3** display a distance of 2.81 Å with side chain C=NH of Arg621. Nitrogen atom of **2e** displays a distance of 2.88 Å with side chain C of Leu624.

The ΔG values were obtained for all the complexes (LOX-compound), among all the complexes, LOX-**8** (-12.76 kcal/mol) resulted to be more stable and from the compounds under study, LOX-**1f** (-8.97 kcal/mol) resulted to be more stable. Therefore, the ΔG values for **1b**, **1g**, **2b**, **2e**, **2f** and **2g** show to be also stables due to they are almost similar to the value obtained for **7**, which is a dual inhibitor. Whereas, theoretical dissociation constant values K_d (μM) were obtained, among all compounds **8** (0.000433 μM) showed more affinity to LOX, while from compounds under study **1f** (0.266 μM) exhibited more affinity to LOX and **1g** exhibits a similar affinity to **7**. These results show that compounds **1f** and **1g** could be dual inhibitor as compound **7**. Table 5 summarizes the ΔG and K_d values obtained for isoindolines **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)** and compounds **3-9**.

Table 5. ΔG (kcal/mol) and K_d (μM) values for compounds **1** to **9**.

Compound	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f	1g
ΔG	-6.84	-8.40	-6.51	-7.15	-7.71	-8.97	-8.79
K_d	9.678	0.696	16.908	5.740	2.230	0.266	0.360
Compound	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g
ΔG	-6.34	-8.19	-7.40	-7.54	-8.16	-8.14	-8.86
K_d	22.527	0.992	3.764	2.972	1.043	1.079	0.320
Compound	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ΔG	-7.32	-6.89	-7.32	-6.90	-8.74	-12.76	-10.81
K_d	4.308	8.903	4.308	8.754	0.392	0.000433	0.0119

Molecular modeling (docking) methodology

The ligands were drawn using Isis/draw program [42] and converted to three-dimensional format (*i.e.* pdb) using the WebLab Viewer and Molekel Visualization Package [43,44]. The geometry pre-optimization (molecular mechanic, MM+) of the ligands was carried out by using HyperChem-6 software. The minimum energy structure of the ligands was obtained by means of Density Theory Functions (DFT) calculations at B3LYP/6-31G** level using Gaussian 98 software [45]. To understand the recognition mechanism between LOX enzyme and the ligands, docking simulations were done on the 3-D structure of LOX from rabbit (pdb cod: 1lox [10]). Before starting the docking evaluations, the partial atomic charges (Gasteiger-Marsili formalism), as well as all possible rotatable bonds of the ligands and the Kollman charges for all atoms in enzymes were assigned by using the AutoDock Tools 1.4.5 version [46]. Moreover, missing residues were also built and hydrogen atoms were added to the amino acids of the protein with the mentioned program. For docking studies, the AutoDock (3.0.5) was chosen because its algorithm allows full flexibility of small ligands [46]. It has been shown that it successfully reproduces many crystal structure complexes and includes an empirical evaluation of the binding free energy. The preparation of protein and ligand input structures and the definition of the binding sites were carried out under a GRID-based procedure [47]. First, a rectangular grid box were constructed over all protein ($126 \times 126 \times 126 \text{ \AA}^3$) with grid points separated by 0.375 Å under blind docking procedure. Previously, the enzyme structures were cleaned of its water molecules and co-crystallized ligands maintaining the haem group. All docking simulations were carried out by using the hybrid Lamarckian Genetic Algorithm, with an initial population of 100 randomly placed individuals and a maximum number of energy evaluations (1.0×10^7). The resulting docked orientations within a root-mean square deviation of 0.5 Å were clustered together. The lowest energy cluster returned by AutoDock for each compound was used for further analysis. All other parameters were maintained at their default settings. All the docking result visualizations were achieved by using a Visual Molecular Dynamics (VMD) program [48].

In conclusion, we describe a theoretical study of two series of isoindolines **1(a-g)** and **2(a-g)** and compounds **3** to

6 as possible LOX inhibitor, which were compared with compounds **7** to **9** taken as reference to find the active sites within LOX. Analysis of the data showed that the compounds investigated exhibit interactions at the same or nearby of amino acid residues within lipoxygenase sites. Due to compounds **1c**, **1d**, **1e**, **1g**, **2c**, **2d**, **2f**, **2g**, **5** and **6** are binding to the LOX at the same region that compounds taken as reference they could be considered as dual inhibitors. Although compounds **1a**, **1b**, **1f**, **2a**, **2b** and **4** are not binding within to LOX exactly at the same region as compounds **7** to **9**, they can be considered as feasible LOX inhibitors due they are in the region of the core of the catalytic domain. Compounds **2e** and **3** showed bind to the LOX among amino acids residues near to catalytic iron atom and **3** shows also bind in the vicinity of catalytic domain, in consequence they could be inhibitor. On the other hand, distances between several atoms of all compounds with some atoms of amino acid residues were obtained.

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