THE INHIBITORY EFFECT OF KEISHI-KA-SHAKUYAKU-TO (TJ-60), A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HERBAL MEDICINE, ON VISCERAL PAIN INDUCED BY COLORECTAL DISTENSION

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A mouse study found that the Japanese herbal medicine Keishi-ka-shakuyaku-to (TJ-60) reduced visceral pain responses to colorectal distension, with effects partially mediated by the TRPV1 receptor.

KEY POINTS

- TJ-60 administered at 1g/kg for 7 days significantly decreased abdominal withdrawal reflex scores at distension pressures of 20, 25, and 30 mmHg in control mice.
- TRPV1 knockout mice showed reduced baseline pain responses at 15 and 20 mmHg distension pressures compared to control mice ($p<0.01$), but required higher pressures (>40 mmHg) to show TJ-60 benefit.
- The study used colorectal balloon distension to assess visceral pain, with AWR scores measured by blinded observers across pressures from 10 to 55 mmHg.
- The findings suggest TJ-60 exerts antinociceptive effects in part through TRPV1 signaling, a receptor involved in visceral hypersensitivity and inflammation.
- This preclinical work may be relevant to researchers investigating mechanisms of herbal medicines used for IBS-related abdominal pain.

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