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Summary

IMMUNOREGULATORY EFFECTS OF RHEIN ON NON-ALCOHOLIC STEATOHEPATITIS IN MICE

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Rhein, a bioactive component from Rheum palmatum, reduced liver steatosis and inflammation in a mouse model of NASH by modulating immune cell populations in mesenteric lymph nodes.

KEY POINTS

- In male C57BL/6 mice fed a high-fat diet for 10 weeks to induce NASH, Rhein administration at 100mg/kg and 200mg/kg for 4 weeks reduced body weight, liver weight, and liver-to-body-weight ratio and improved histological markers of steatosis and inflammation.
- Rhein treatment significantly decreased numbers of pro-inflammatory Th1 cells (CD3+CD4+IFN-γ+) and Th17 cells (CD3+CD4+IL-17+) in mesenteric lymph nodes while significantly increasing anti-inflammatory Treg cells (CD3+CD4+Foxp3+).
- The protective effect of Rhein was not mediated by reduced food intake, as no significant differences in food intake were observed among treatment groups.
- The authors conclude that Rhein has therapeutic potential as an immunology-targeted strategy for NASH, for which no approved therapeutic drug currently exists.

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