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# Red ginseng extract improves coronary flow reserve and increases absolute numbers of various circulating angiogenic cells in patients with first ST-segment elevation acute myocardial infarction

[Chul Min Ahn](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Soon Jun Hong](#), [Seung Cheol Choi](#), [Jae Hyung Park](#), [Jae Sang Kim](#), [Do-Sun Lim](#)

Affiliations

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## Abstract

The effects of red ginseng extract on circulating angiogenic cell mobilization and improvement of microvascular integrity were evaluated in ST-elevation acute myocardial infarction (AMI) patients during 8-month follow-up. AMI patients (n = 50) were randomly assigned to the red ginseng group (3 g/day, n = 25) or the placebo group (n = 25) after coronary stenting. Coronary flow reserve (CFR) was measured at baseline and at 8 months with an intracoronary Doppler wire. Serial changes in the absolute numbers of circulating angiogenic cells such as CD34(+), CXCR4(+), CD117(+), CD133(+) and C-met(+) were measured at baseline, 1 day, 5 days and at 8 months. CFR were similar between the two groups at baseline, and CFR was significantly higher in the red ginseng group than in the placebo group ( $2.80 \pm 0.91$  and  $2.56 \pm 0.77$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , respectively) after 8 months of red ginseng administration. The absolute numbers of circulating CD34(+), CXCR4(+) and CD117(+) cells were significantly higher in the red ginseng group at 1 and 5 days after stenting. Significant positive correlations were found between the numbers of circulating angiogenic cells at day 1 and the changes from baseline in CFR for CD34(+), CXCR4(+), CD117(+) and C-met(+) cells. Red ginseng extract increased CD34(+), CXCR4(+) and CD117(+) circulating angiogenic cell mobilization and decreased inflammation in AMI patients, thereby improving CFR during the 8-month follow-up.

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