

Review Article

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Source of Free Radicals and Consequences of Oxidative Stress Following Secondary Brain Injury after Intracerebral Haemorrhage

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Received Date: April 05, 2023

Published Date: April 13, 2023

Abstract

Free radicals are reactive chemical species having a single unpaired electron in an outer orbit. Intracranial haemorrhage (ICH) is an acute and spontaneous extravasation of blood into the cranial vault. The most important sites of ICH are basal ganglia followed by cerebral hemispheres. The pathological mechanisms of hematoma after ICH within brain parenchyma trigger a series of adverse events causing secondary brain injury and severe neurological deficits. The global incidence of ICH is increasing year by year, with a trend towards growing incidence at a younger age. A variety of pathways can induce the generation of free radicals in secondary brain injury after ICH. During ICH, mitochondria dysfunction occurs, and substantial ROS production follows. Iron overload is also involved in secondary brain injury, leading to neuronal death, brain edema, and neurodeficits after ICH. Neuroinflammation is recognized as a vital factor in the pathophysiology of ICH-induced brain injury. After ICH, both oxidative and ER stress levels are upregulated and NADPH oxidase is thought to play an important contact role during the oxidative and ER stress process. Excessive free radicals can cause the peroxidation of lipid, protein, and nucleic acid through direct and indirect pathways, leading to apoptosis. Autophagy may also play different roles in pathogenesis at different stages of cerebral hemorrhage. Electronic search was carried out through the period up to 2020.

Keywords: Free radicals; Oxidative stress; Intracerebral haemorrhage; Secondary brain injury after intracerebral haemorrhage

Introduction

As the key life-supporting element, oxygen was independently discovered by Priestly, in 1775 [1], and Scheele, in 1777 [2]. Within a few years of these seminal findings, oxygen toxic side effects that did not support life were also discovered. This revelation was made by Lavoisier in 1785 by a simple experiment in which guinea pigs exposed to oxygen in a container showed congestion of the right heart as well as lungs and died before the oxygen was fully utilized [3]. The good and bad facets of oxygen are played out by its unique molecular structure. Free radicals are reactive chemical species having a single unpaired electron in an outer orbit [4]. This

unstable configuration creates energy that can initiate autocatalytic reactions so that molecules to which they react are themselves converted into free radicals [5]. The term oxidative stress is used to describe the condition of oxidative damage to a wide range of cellular structures as a result of an imbalance between free radical production and antioxidant defenses [6]. Short-term oxidative stress may occur in tissues injured by trauma, infection, heat injury, hypertoxia, toxins, and excessive exercise [7]. And harmful effects are balanced by the action of antioxidants, some of which are enzymes present in the body [8]. However, long-term oxidative stress despite the presence of the cell's antioxidant defense system, ROS

have been implicated in the induction and complications of various cardiovascular diseases [9]. The reactive species generated in cells include hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), hypochlorous acid (HClO), the hydroxyl radical ($\cdot OH$), the superoxide anion radical ($O_2^{\cdot -}$), the nitric oxide radical ($NO\cdot$), and the lipid peroxyl radical ($LOO\cdot$) [10,11]. Although ROS (reactive oxygen species) are more common in biological systems (5), free radicals also include RNS (reactive

nitrogen species) [12]. The endogenous sources of ROS are the mainly by-products formed in the cells of aerobic organisms within mitochondria. Additional sources are certain enzyme, neutrophils, eosinophil's, macrophages, microsomes and peroxisomes [13,14]. ROS can be also produced by a host of exogenous sources such as xenobiotics, chlorinated compounds, environmental agents, metals (redox and nonredox), ions, and radiation [13,15].

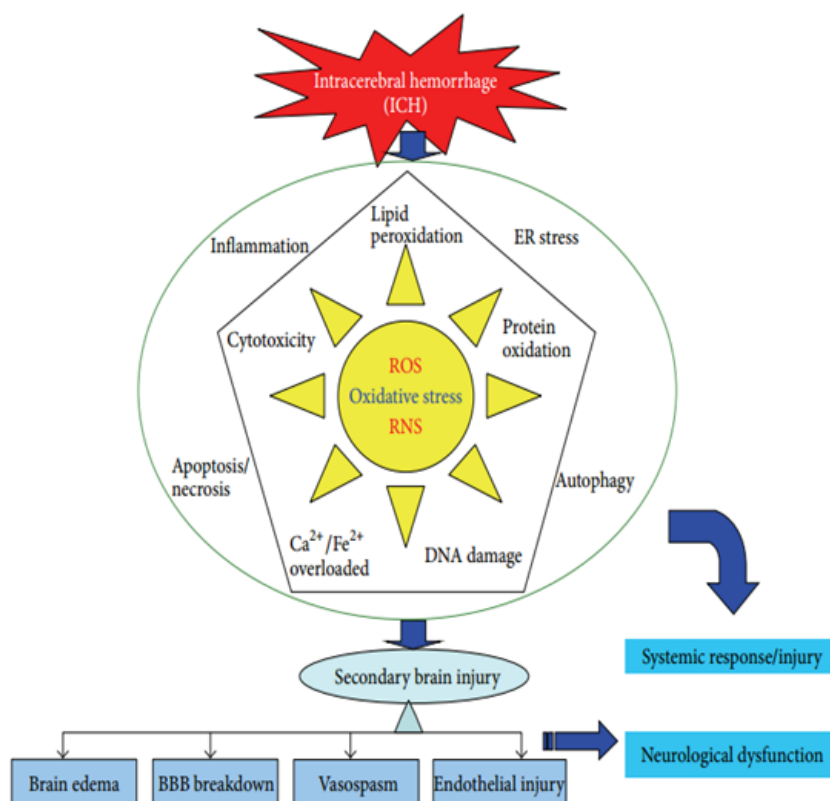


Figure 1: Major intracellular pathway in the role of oxidative stress in intracerebral hemorrhage. ROS: Reactive oxygen species; RNS: reactive nitrogen species; ICH: intracerebral hemorrhage; ER stress: endoplasmic reticulum stress

Intracerebral Haemorrhage and Oxidative Stress

Intracranial haemorrhage (ICH) is an acute and spontaneous extravasation of blood into the cranial vault [16]. It comprises intracerebral haemorrhage, subdural hematoma, epidural bleeds, and subarachnoid haemorrhage. The most common sites of ICH are basal ganglia (35 – 50% of cases), cerebral hemispheres (approx. 30%), thalamus (10 – 15%), brainstem (predominantly the pons (5 – 12%), and cerebellum (7%) [17-19]. The gross and microscopic changes in the brain depend on the location of ICH, but the general appearance is similar [20]. Microscopically, in the acute stage, the ICH consists of a liquid or semiliquid mass of blood with well-preserved red blood cells without any inflammation surrounding oedema. Subsequently, the RBC begins to lyse and neutrophils appear. This is followed by infiltration of macrophages whose main role is to phagocytosis blood products and necrotic tissue [21]. After a few days, the haematoma changes its consistency and adopts a brown colour, while oedema begins to recede. The brown discolouration

of the slightly older haematomas noted macroscopically is due to the presence of two major haemoglobin-derived pigments, haemosiderin and haematoidin. One of the late events involves proliferation of astrocytes, some containing haemosiderin reflecting their phagocytic activity. The transfer of haemosiderin from macrophages to astrocytes, an event that rarely happens in infants, is common in the adult [22]. After several months or years, depending on its size, the haematoma becomes a cavity. These pathological mechanisms of hematoma after ICH within brain parenchyma trigger a series of adverse events causing secondary brain injury and severe neurological deficits [23]. Numerous preclinical studies show that secondary brain injury after ICH is caused by the interaction of cytotoxicity, excitotoxicity, oxidative stress, and inflammation from the products of red blood cell lysis and plasma components [24,25]. Depending on the underlying cause of bleeding, ICH is classified as either primary or secondary. Primary ICH, which accounts for 78 – 88% of cases, originates from the spontaneous rupture of small vessels damaged by chronic hypertension or amyloid angi-

opathy. Conversely, secondary ICH occurs in association with trauma, vascular abnormalities, tumours or impaired coagulation [17]. The global incidence of ICH is increasing year by year, with a trend towards growing incidence at a younger age. Despite significant progress in clinical treatment, ICH still remains a significant cause of morbidity and mortality throughout the world, with the 5-year mortality rate remains 52% for males and 56% for females older than 45 years [26]. ICH not only causes serious morbidity and mortality in patients, but also incurs a serious burden on families and society. Even after surgical treatment, 20% of ICH patients experience varying degrees of neurological dysfunction, requiring long-term hospitalization and rehabilitation [27]. Oxidative stress plays a role not only in the pathological process of ICH, but also at various important stages of pathophysiological response during ICH and secondary brain injury (SBI) after ICH (Figure 1) [24,28].

A variety of pathways can induce the generation of free radicals in secondary brain injury after ICH, of which there are two major pathways. First, blood cell decomposition products such as iron ions, heme, and thrombin can induce the production of free radicals [29,30]. Second, inflammatory cells, such as microglia and neutrophils, can generate free radicals [31]. Damage to nerve cells caused by free radicals ranges from cell membrane damage to DNA interruption or even apoptosis. The lipid-rich brain tissue is particularly sensitive to ROS that can enhance lipid peroxidation, cause membrane damage, and increase cell membrane permeability and calcium ion influx [32]. In the meantime, crosslinking and polymerization of membrane lipids will occur due to lipid peroxidation, which will indirectly inhibit the activities of membrane proteins such as calcium pumps, sodium pumps, and $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ exchangers [33]. This leads to a further increase in intracellular calcium concentration which subsequently stimulates mitochondrial calcium pumps to take in calcium [34]. Calcium and phosphate in the mitochondria combine and form insoluble calcium phosphate, which causes interference in mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation and leads to a decrease in ATP production [35]. Meanwhile, increased intracellular calcium ion concentration can activate phospholipase, promoting membrane phospholipid decomposition and causing damage to the structure of cell and organelle membranes [36,37] (Figure 1).

Sources of Free Radical in Secondary Brain Injury After Intracerebral Haemorrhage

Mitochondria Dysfunction

Physiologically, 1 – 3% of all electrons in the electron transport chain in mitochondria leak, generating superoxide radicals that can be neutralized by normal antioxidant systems [38]. During ICH, mitochondria dysfunction occurs, and substantial ROS production follows. Kim-Han *et al*, detected an obvious reduction in the oxygen consumption rates of mitochondria in ICH patients, indicating that mitochondria dysfunction, and not ischemia, is responsible for the decreased oxygen metabolites after ICH [39]. Direct evidence of ROS from malfunctioning mitochondria was reported in a recent study, which found that a mitochondrial ROS-specific scavenger can significantly alleviate the increased ROS following ICH [40]. The

mechanism of excessive ROS formation by mitochondria after ICH remains unclear but may be partially attributable to mitochondrial permeability transition pore (MPTP) because the inhibition of MPTP can attenuate ROS production.

A. Hb-Heme-Iron

As the most abundant erythrocyte protein, hemoglobin (Hb) is released into the extracellular space via complement-mediated cell lysis in the hours after ICH and is a potent mediator of OS-induced injury. Both *in vitro* and *in vivo* investigations have shown that ROS is highly produced after exposing Hb to cell culture or injecting Hb into mouse striatum [41-43]. It is commonly believed that iron released from its degradation is responsible for oxidative damage because an iron chelator may block Hb-induced neurotoxicity [44]. In fact, Hb itself can release a large amount of superoxide during spontaneous, nonenzymatic oxidation to oxyhemoglobin and methemoglobin [45,46]. Heme, released from methemoglobin, quickly oxidizes to form hemin, which also triggers oxidative damage in brain tissue around the hematoma [47]. *In vitro* experiment demonstrated that hemin exposure leads to cell death, preceded by a significant, iron-dependent increase in ROS [48]. Another *in vitro* study showed that hemin could stimulate lipid peroxidation, irrespective of iron mediation, because the reaction could not be inhibited by deferoxamine or transferrin [49]. Hence, the mechanism of hemin-related oxidative damage partly involves its breakdown to iron by HO, similar to that of Hb [50]. Indeed, hemin is redoxactive and can react with peroxides to produce cytotoxic free radicals. Moreover, hemin can intercalate into the cell plasma membrane, facilitating lipid peroxidation [51]. Given the effect of hemin in pre-clinical studies, biphasic functions are observed. Hemin-induced brain injury is evidenced by increased brain water content at 24 hours after intracerebral hemin infusion [46]. In contrast, systemic hemin treatment is neuroprotective after ICH [52]. Although the mechanisms underlying the protection provided by systemic hemin administration are poorly understood, it is clear that most hemin is in circulation rather than in the brain [47].

Iron overload is also involved in secondary brain injury, leading to neuronal death, brain edema, and neurodeficits after ICH [53,54]. Intracerebral iron overload begins within 24 h, peaks at 7 days, and continues for at least a month after hemorrhage [55]. Excessive iron in the extracellular space induces oxidative damage via the Fenton reaction, which yields ROS, especially toxic hydroxyl radicals [56]. Direct evidence of iron-mediated oxidative injury has shown that injecting FeCl_2 into rat brain causes oxidative DNA damage [57,58]. The strongest finding supporting the hypothesis of iron-mediated oxidative brain injury is that iron chelators decrease iron accumulation, attenuate ROS generation, exert anti-inflammatory effects, and improve neurological function.

B. Inflammation

Neuroinflammation is recognized as a vital factor in the pathophysiology of ICH-induced brain injury and is characterized by microglia activation, leukocyte infiltration, and cytokine and chemokine production [24,59,60]. In addition to the release of inflammatory factors, the activation of inflammatory cells following

ICH, initially to remove oxidative toxins, also participates in ROS production [47]. As one type of innate immune cell within the brain, microglia are rapidly activated within 1 h after ICH, peaking at 3–7 days and persisting for several weeks [61]. The imbalance of the phenotypic shift between the M1 and M2 phenotypes of microglia contributes to a large release of ROS in addition to proinflammatory factors [62]. Cell experiments have shown that microglia can induce ROS production *in vitro* [61,63]. Furthermore, the inhibition of microglia was reported to decrease the ROS production and brain damage volume in an ICH animal model [64]. Neutrophils are the earliest leucocytes to enter the brain after ICH. The role of neutrophils in radical production during ischemic brain stroke has been confirmed by reduced radical formation after neutrophil depletion [65]. OS-related brain injury is part of the pathogenesis mechanism of neutrophil infiltration after ICH [66]. The inflammation linked to OS following ICH indicates that neuroinflammation and OS are intercalated in ICH-induced secondary brain injury.

Consequences of Oxidative Stress Following Secondary Brain Injury after Intracerebral Haemorrhage

i. Inflammation

Inflammation and oxidative stress are closely related. Oxidative stress induces inflammation, while inflammation causes damage through oxidative stress [67]. ROS can induce the expression of acute proinflammatory cytokines directly such as Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF- α) and Interleukin-10 (IL-10) and also activate nuclear factor- κ B (NF- κ B) which plays the vital role in inflammation reaction [68,69]. Likewise, proinflammatory cytokines can induce the production of ROS [69]; thus, a positive feedback cycle is formed. Oxidative stress may also initiate the up-regulation of MMP-9 levels in brain damage after ICH [70]. The MMP-9 expression was also increased, accompanied by elevated TNF- α and IL-1 β levels, and cerebral edema and SBI were aggravated [71]. MMP-9 activity may have dual role and temporal profile in post-ICH [72]. Clinical studies suggest that MMP-9 may be detrimental in the acute phase through destruction of basal lamina, activation of vascular endothelial growth factor, and activation of apoptosis but assist in recovery in the subacute phase through angiogenesis. Additional studies have shown that prostaglandin mediated inflammatory mechanisms are involved in secondary brain damage after ICH. In a collagenase-induced ICH model in mice, prostaglandin E2 receptor 1 (EP1R) was expressed in neurons and axons but not in astrocytes and microglia. EP1R agonists induce brain edema, cell death, neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation, and behavioural defects, while EP1R suppression protects the brain. Research has confirmed that the inhibition effect of EP1R is mainly through the reduction of Src enzyme phosphorylation levels and MMP-9 activation, thus attenuating oxidative stress and white matter damage [73]. Studies have also shown after ICH the expression of HO-1 and PrxI was induced around the hemorrhagic region. Peroxiredoxin I (PrxI) and heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) are considered to be oxidative stress- and heme-related proteins, and heme inhibits PrxI antioxidant activity. PrxI is important for cell protection against oxidative stress, but also works to facilitate

production of prostaglandins E2 and D2 (PGE2 and PGD2) through nuclear factor- (erythroid-derived 2) like 2 (Nrf2) [74]. In the acute bleeding phase, PrxI and HO-1 are mainly expressed in microglia, while in sub-acute and chronic phases expression is mainly in astrocytes [75]. Acute inflammation is regulated by the time- and cell type-dependent production of cytokines and other signaling molecules including reactive oxygen species and prostaglandins [74]. In SBI after ICH therefore inflammation and oxidative stress may play major roles; however, the relationship between inflammation and oxidative stress is complicated and needs further exploration.

ii. Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress

The pathological conditions may cause an imbalance between ER protein folding load and capacity after ICH, leading to the accumulation of unfolded proteins in the ER lumen, leading to a condition known as ER stress [24]. Moderate activation of unfolded protein response after exposure to oxidation stress may be an adaptation mechanism to protect cell function and survival, but ROS accumulation caused by excessive ER stress will further aggravate oxidative stress [76]. Neurons mainly express NOX2 in NADPH oxidase, which comprises gp91 phox catalytic subunit and p47 phox assembly subunit [77]. NMDA receptor is activated after ICH; a large amount of Ca²⁺ fluxes into the cells, leading to an NADPH oxidase and mitochondrial electron transport chain to produce superoxide [77,78]. Using NADPH oxidase inhibitors and nonspecific ROS scavengers can reduce oxidative stress, improve cerebral vascular function, and reduce cerebral amyloid angiopathy-related microhemorrhages [79]. NADPH oxidase generated by NMDA activation is considered a major superoxide source [80]. After ICH, both oxidative and ER stress levels are upregulated [24,81]. NADPH oxidase is thought to play an important contact role during the oxidative and ER stress process [82]. Studies have shown that NOX-mediated oxidative stress is induced by unfolded protein response/ER stress, whereas ER stress induced apoptosis can be blocked by knockout of NOX2 gene or antioxidant N-acetylcysteine [83,84]. The PERK pathway is considered a molecule pathway which links oxidative and ER stress. Nrf2 induces considerable antioxidant gene expression [29]. After ICH, due to cytotoxicity mediated by heme, hemoglobin, and iron overload, Nrf2 is phosphorylated by PERK and then dissociates from the Nrf2/KEAP1 complex and enters into the nucleus to promote antioxidant gene expression, leading to a resistance to oxidative stress and playing a cell-protective role [29,85]. In Nrf2 knockout (Nrf2^{-/-}) mice ICH model, injury volume was significantly larger in 24 h after induction of ICH, which correlated with neurological deficits. This exacerbation of brain injury was also associated with an increase in leukocyte infiltration, production of reactive oxygen species, DNA damage, and cytochrome c release during the critical early phase of the post-ICH period [86]. After subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH), KEAP1-Nrf2-ARE pathway is activated, and after sulforaphane or tertbutylhydroquinone activates the Nrf2 pathway, NQO1 and GST- α 1 levels are increased, thus playing a protective role in the brain [87–89]. Nrf2 and Transcriptional Factor 4 (ATF4) also activate antioxidant response factor (ARE) by up-regulating its expression [90,91], indicating that the ER and oxidative stress signaling pathways have synergistic effects. Endo-

plasmic reticulum oxidoreductase (ERO1 α) forms a disulfide bond, promoting protein refolding and helping reduce ER stress. However, ERO1 α activation transfers the electron to the oxygen molecule and produces ROS [92]. The endoplasmic reticulum stress marker CHOP, a downstream molecule of PERK, induces ERO1 α expression and aggravates ER oxidation; on the contrary, in cells lacking CHOP, the ER stress level induced by ERO1 α is reduced [93]. Other studies have shown that after ER stress inositol 1, 4, 5-trisphosphate receptors (IP₃Rs) are activated and calcium release from the endoplasmic reticulum calcium storage is increased, leading to intracellular calcium overload and ROS production [94]. In addition, the elevated ROS level causes the activation of ryanodine receptor (RyRs), another endoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺ release channel, and the release of Ca²⁺ from the ER [95,96]. Thus, Ca²⁺ activates IP₃Rs or RyRs as an input signal, aggravating intracellular calcium overload. After ICH, ER and oxidative stress activate ER Ca²⁺ release via RyRs and IP₃Rs pathways, leading to neuronal toxicity and aggravating SBI.

iii. Neural Cell Apoptosis or Necrosis

Apoptosis is a regulated cell death, which is also called programmed cell death (PCD). However, necrosis is characterized by plasma membrane rupture as well as nuclear and cellular swelling, other than regulated cell death. Necrosis was formerly considered to be an accidental, unregulated form of cell death resulting from excessive stress, although it has been suggested that this is an oversimplified view as necrosis may under certain circumstances involve the mobilization of specific transduction mechanisms [97]. The main causes of nerve cell apoptosis in ICH are the release of thrombin during blood coagulation, the toxic effects of hematoma components and its degradation products, and the oxidative stress reaction in perihematomal [24]. Oxidative stress induces apoptosis through pathways, such as the mitochondrial, death receptor, and endoplasmic reticulum stress pathways. These findings suggest that DNA damage cytosolic reactive oxygen species (cROS) generation, and mitochondrial hyperactivation induced necrosis through a PARP1-dependent pathway, while generation of nitric oxide (NO) and mitochondrial ROS (mROS) remained unaffected [98]. It can also induce apoptosis by activating the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway, activating NF- κ B and up-regulating its expression, or activating caspases [99]. Excessive free radicals can cause the peroxidation of lipid, protein, and nucleic acid through direct and indirect pathways, leading to apoptosis [100]. The intrinsic and extrinsic pathways of apoptosis are not necessarily independent of each other; some of the factors in both types of pathway may have a synergistic effect in the regulation of the apoptosis process, initiated by a single stimulator [101]. Hypoxia, nitric oxide (NO), and ROS inducers can all cause the exposure of neuronal membrane phosphatidyl Serine [102]. Hypoxia and nitric oxide (NO) are also inducers, can all cause the exposure of neuronal membrane phosphatidyl Serine [102]. Superoxide production paralleled the increase in iNOS expression, and inhibition of either iNOS (aminoguanidine or iminopiperidine) or superoxide (apocynin) significantly reduced cell death. Furthermore, hydrogen peroxide and NO can lead to nuclear condensation and DNA fragmentation and have a synergistic effect on inducing neuronal apoptosis [103]. Additionally, NO can induce

apoptosis of hippocampal and dopamine neurons [104,105], and hydrogen peroxide can induce apoptosis through disrupting mitochondrial function and promoting proapoptosis gene expression [106,107]. Nevertheless, the relationship between necrosis and oxidative stress after ICH is still not fully clear.

Necroptosis was recently discovered as one form of programmed cell death (PCD) that shares characteristics with both necrosis and apoptosis. Necroptosis involves Fas/TNF- α death domain receptor activation and inhibition of receptor interacting protein I kinase [108]. Recent study identified a novel role for the necroptosis inhibitor, necrostatin-1, in limiting neurovascular injury in tissue culture models of hemorrhagic injury [109]. Another study demonstrated that the specific inhibitor necrostatin-1 suppressed apoptosis and autophagy to exert these neuroprotective effects after ICH and that there existed a cross talk among necroptosis, apoptosis, and autophagy after ICH [110]. Moreover, necrostatin-1 reduced RIP1-RIP3 interaction and further inhibited microglia activation and TNF- α and IL-1 β expression after ICH. These findings indicate that RIP1/RIP3-mediated necroptosis is an important mechanism of cell death after ICH [111]. In another study, hemin concentration dependently induced necroptotic cell death in cortical astrocytes within 5 h of treatment. Hemin induced peroxidative injury was associated with a rapid depletion of intracellular glutathione (GSH), culminating in lipid peroxidation and cell death [112]. Together, these studies suggest a novel role for oxidative stress in necroptotic brain injury after ICH.

iv. Autophagy

Autophagy is a lysosomal degradation pathway, which is essential for survival, development, and homeostasis [113]. Autophagy is also involved in the pathological process of cerebral hemorrhage as a degradation process of proteins and organelles within the cells [114-116]. During this process, oxidative stress may contribute to autophagy formation. Likewise, autophagy may reduce oxidative damage by engulfing or degrading stress products [117]. Autophagy plays a dual role in ischemic stroke pathological processes [118]. The intracellular mechanism which regulates autophagy via ROS levels can be summarized as transcriptional and posttranscriptional regulation, including various intracellular signaling pathways such as ROS-FOXO3-LC3/BNIP3 autophagy, ROS-Nrf2-P62 autophagy, ROS-HIF1-BNIP3/NIX autophagy, and ROSTIGAR autophagy [113]. Autophagy can also regulate ROS levels through a chaperone-mediated autophagy pathway, the mitochondrial autophagy pathway, and P62-mediated signaling pathways [119]. Autophagy may play different roles in pathogenesis at different stages of cerebral hemorrhage [120], and further study of the relationship between oxidative stress and autophagy after ICH may provide a theoretical basis for elucidating the pathogenesis of cerebral hemorrhage.

Conclusion

ROS have been implicated in the induction and complications of various cardiovascular diseases. Intracranial haemorrhage (ICH) is an acute and spontaneous extravasation of blood into the crani-

al vault. The most common sites of ICH are basal ganglia, cerebral hemispheres, thalamus, brainstem and cerebellum. Secondary brain injury after ICH is caused by the interaction of cytotoxicity, excitotoxicity, oxidative stress, and inflammation from the products of red blood cell lysis and plasma components. Depending on the underlying cause of bleeding, ICH is classified as either primary or secondary. ICH not only causes serious morbidity and mortality in patients, but also incurs a serious burden on families and society. Oxidative stress plays a role not only in the pathological process of ICH, but also at various important stages of pathophysiological response during ICH and secondary brain injury (SBI) after ICH. The mechanism of excessive ROS formation by mitochondria after ICH remains unclear but may be partially attributable to mitochondrial permeability transition pore (MPTP) because the inhibition of MPTP can attenuate ROS production. The strongest finding supporting the hypothesis of iron-mediated oxidative brain injury is that iron chelators decrease iron accumulation, attenuate ROS generation, exert anti-inflammatory effects, and improve neurological function. In addition to the release of inflammatory factors, the activation of inflammatory cells following ICH, initially to remove oxidative toxins, also participates in ROS production. OS-related brain injury is part of the pathogenesis mechanism of neutrophil infiltration after ICH. In SBI after ICH, inflammation and oxidative stress may play major roles; however, the relationship between inflammation and oxidative stress is complicated and needs further exploration. After ICH, ER and oxidative stress activate ER Ca^{2+} release via RyRs and IP3Rs pathways, leading to neuronal toxicity and aggravating SBI. The main causes of nerve cell apoptosis in ICH are the release of thrombin during blood coagulation, the toxic effects of hematoma components and its degradation products, and the oxidative stress reaction in perihematoma. Autophagy is also involved in the pathological process of cerebral hemorrhage as a degradation process of proteins and organelles within the cells.

Availability of Data and Material

The datasets used and analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Competing Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

Funding

Nil support in financial or other manner.

Authors' Contributions

LM had participated in the design of the study, data analyses, and manuscript preparation; and the authors could have read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgements

The Author is grateful to College of Health Sciences Research and Community Office of Arsi University as well as researchers who their documents were used in the preparation of the review.

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