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## *Lactobacillus plantarum* alleviate aflatoxins ( $B_1$ and $M_1$ ) induced disturbances in the intestinal genes expression and DNA fragmentation in mice

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## ABSTRACT

This study aimed to assess the disturbances in intestinal genes expression and DNA fragmentation in mice treated orally with a flatoxin  $B_1$  (AFB<sub>1</sub>) or a flatoxin  $M_1$  (AFM<sub>1</sub>) and the protective activity of Lactobacillus plantarum (LP). Male Balb/c mice were divided into 6 groups including the control group, the group treated with 2 mg/kg b.w of LP (2  $\times$  $10^9$  cfu/ml), the groups treated with AFB<sub>1</sub> or AFM<sub>1</sub> (100 µg / kg b.w), and the groups treated with AFB<sub>1</sub> or AFM<sub>1</sub> during, after or before LP. Small intestines were collected for the determination of DNA fragmentation, gene expression and target protein content. The results showed that AFB<sub>1</sub> or AFM<sub>1</sub> increased DNA fragmentation, down regulated the expressions of caspase-3, caspase-9, CYP3A13, Bax and p53 as well as up-regulated the expression of TNF- $\alpha$  and Bcl-2 and their target proteins. LP succeeded to alleviate the disturbances in DNA fragmentation and the expression of these genes. The improvement was more pronounced in the group co-administered with the toxins plus LP. It could be concluded that  $AFB_1$  and  $AFM_1$  induced disturbances in intestinal function via the disturbances in DNA fragmentation and genes expression. LP induced a potential protective effect and is considered a promising agent against the genotoxicity induced by these mycotoxins.

Keywords: Aflatoxin  $B_1$ ; Aflatoxin  $M_1$ ; Mycotoxins; genotoxicity; intestine; gene expression

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