

Article

Investigation of the Antiviral Mechanism of Curcumin Analog EF-24 against *Siniperca chuatsi* Rhabdovirus

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Abstract: *Siniperca chuatsi* rhabdovirus (SCRV) is a major strain of viral fish virus resulting in multiple transmissions and devastating damage in aquaculture. Currently, there are no available approved therapeutics. In this study, we screened and identified a novel curcumin analog (EF-24) for evaluating its in vitro anti-SCRV properties and potential molecular mechanisms. Present results demonstrated that EF-24 could strongly delay the occurrence of cytopathic effects (CPEs) in epithelioma papulosum cyprinid cells (EPCs) and inhibit SCR replication and viral nucleoprotein expression in the early stages of infection by the time-of-addition assay. Furthermore, flow cytometry analysis after Annexin V-FITC/PI double staining and immunofluorescence microscopy observation after JC-1 incubation showed that EF-24 downregulated cell mitochondrial apoptosis induced by SCR. The enzymatic activities of caspase-3 and caspase-9 were also reduced after EF-24 treatment, indicating that EF-24 may protect cells from SCR infection by decreasing mitochondrial intrinsic apoptosis in infected cells. Collectively, we demonstrated for the first time that the curcumin analog EF-24 possesses antiviral ability against SCR, suggesting its potential for effective control of fish rhabdovirus spreading.

Keywords: curcumin analogue; EF-24; virucidal activity; antiviral mechanism

Key Contribution: We demonstrated for the first time that curcumin analogue EF-24 possessed antiviral abilities against SCR, suggesting its potential for effective control of fish rhabdovirus spreading.



Citation: Ju, P.-M.; Ma, S.-W.; Li, Y.-Y.; Zhang, S.-F.; Li, J.; Zhou, G.-Z. Investigation of the Antiviral Mechanism of Curcumin Analog EF-24 against *Siniperca chuatsi* Rhabdovirus. *Fishes* **2024**, *9*, 179. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fishes9050179>

Academic Editor: Maria Angeles Esteban

Received: 1 April 2024
Revised: 10 May 2024
Accepted: 13 May 2024
Published: 15 May 2024



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1. Introduction

As highly invasive viral pathogens, fish rhabdoviruses can infect a wide range of host species, causing high economic losses, and representing a serious threat to aquaculture due to the lack of approved antiviral treatments [1,2]. Hence, there's a strong demand to develop antiviral measures to prevent infection by different strains of fish rhabdoviruses. Until now, researchers have focused more on its isolation, identification, molecular sequencing, phylogenetic analysis of different strains, susceptibility, and pathology to fish hosts [3–6]. In addition, other basic theoretical research on their pathogenic process, including the immunological and cellular modulation of different fish rhabdoviruses, was also investigated [7–10]. These measures provide solid data for potential antiviral techniques or drugs in the future.

Presently, to prevent and restrict viral infection in actual production, several fish rhabdovirus DNA vaccines have been developed in the lab [11,12]. Wang et al. also applied live hiram novirhabdovirus (HIRRV) vaccines under temperature-controlled conditions, aiming to induce protective immunity in flounder [13]. In addition, subunit vaccines against different dominant epitopes of fish rhabdoviruses were also developed in the laboratory [14,15]. However, we should note that until now, no commercially used vaccine is available in aquaculture, considering real multiple-factor water environments, complicated rhabdoviruses–host relationships, and the high cost of vaccines. So, developing

new antiviral techniques or molecules for potentially inhibiting infection of fish with rhabdoviruses is an urgent demand.

Siniperca chuatsi rhabdovirus (SCRV) was isolated and characterized from cultured turbot *Scophthalmus maximus* Linnaeus, which is associated with lethal hemorrhagic disease [16]. Mechanically, we conducted pathogenic mechanism research and found that SCRV infection activated autophagy and apoptosis in one fish cell line and epithelioma papulosum cyprinid cells (EPC), whose interplay was also investigated [17]. Moreover, we also screened potential antiviral molecules and studied their anti-SCRV activities according to regular protocols [2]. Among them, one curcumin analog, 3,5-bis[(2-fluorophenyl)methylene]-4-piperidinone (EF-24, molecular formula $C_{19}H_{15}F_2NO$) [18], exhibited its high ability to inhibit SCRV replication in EPC cells. In this study, we concluded that EF-24 could block the occurrence of cytopathic effects (CPEs) in SCRV-infected cells and reduce progeny virus titers in the early stage of infection. In addition, EF-24's virucidal activity was confirmed by time-in-addition tests on EPC cells. Furthermore, E-24's antiviral mechanism against SCRV replication was also explored. These studies clearly provided a potential chemical candidate for the characterization and future application of antiviral molecules to fish rhabdoviruses.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Chemicals and Cell Culture

Curcumin analog EF-24 was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Merck KGaA, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) and dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO; stock solution concentration 40 mM). EPC cells were cultured with M199 (Procell, Wuhan, China) medium containing 10% FBS in 25 cm² culture flasks at 24 °C in an incubator. SCRV virus was stored in our laboratory in a −80 °C refrigerator.

2.2. Cell Viability Assay

EPC cells were inoculated in 6-well plates and grown overnight, then treated with DMSO and a series of EF-24 concentrations (1.25–20 μM) at different times, respectively. Changes in cellular morphology were detected by inverted microscopy (Canon, Tokyo, Japan). An MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide, 5 mg/mL; Sorabio Technology Co., Ltd, Beijing, China) assay was applied to determine and analyze cell viability. Cells were inoculated at 1×10^4 cells/well into 96-well plates overnight, and treated with a range of EF-24 concentrations (1.25–20 μM) at different times. Then, 20 μL of MTT was added to each well and incubated for 4 h at 37 °C. After discarding the original medium, 100 μL of DMSO was added to each well. The plate was shaken at 110 rpm in a shaded shaker. Absorbances were measured using a microplate spectrometer (TECAN SPARK, Hombrechtikon, Switzerland) with a detection wavelength of 490 nm.

2.3. CPE Observation

EPC cells were first inoculated with 6×10^5 cells and grown overnight in 6-well plates. Then, EPC cells were treated with EF-24 and SCRV (300 TCID₅₀) in three exposure manners for 12 h, 24 h, 36 h, and 48 h, respectively, including pre-exposure (the culture medium with EF-24 was added first and sucked out after 2 h; then, the culture medium with SCRV was added), co-exposure (add mixture solution to EF-24 and SCRV), and post-exposure (the culture medium with SCRV was added first and sucked out after 2 h; then, the culture medium with EF-24 was added). CPEs in the EPC monolayer were observed and photographed under a microscope (Canon, Tokyo, Japan).

2.4. Virus Titer Determination

EF-24 and SCRV viruses were treated with EPC cells at different exposure sequences for 24 h and 48 h, and the cell supernatants were collected to detect virus titers. Briefly, EPC cells were inoculated into 96-well plates and grown overnight. The supernatants of the infected cells were diluted into nine different viral dilutions from "10⁻¹" to "10⁻⁹" with M199 culture medium containing 5% FBS and inoculated into each well (100 μL). Six

replicate wells were set up for each group. The CPE numbers of the cell monolayers were counted by light microscopy 4–5 days after incubation. The viral TCID₅₀ values were calculated according to the typical Reed–Muench method.

2.5. Reverse Transcription-Quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR)

EPC cells were inoculated into 25 cm² cell culture flasks and cultured overnight. EPC cells were treated with EF-24 and SCR_V viruses at different exposure sequences for 12 h and 24 h. Total RNA samples of the treated cells were extracted according to an experimental procedure recommended by the reagent kit manufacturer (Beijing Tsingke Biotech Co., Ltd., Beijing, China) and then reverse-transcribed into cDNAs. PCR experiments were performed using the following primer sequences: N-F. ATCCATCAGATCACAGAACGC, N-R: TCCCAGCCATTCTCCTCAGTCC, 18s-F: CATTCTGATTGTGCCGCTAGA, 18s-R: CAAATGCTTTCGCTTTGGTC [17]. The thermal cycling conditions were as follows: pre-denaturation (30 s at 95 °C), followed by 40 extension cycles (10 s at 95 °C, 15 s at 60 °C), and solubility curves (15 s at 95 °C, 60 s at 60 °C, 15 s at 95 °C). RT-qPCR analysis was performed using the SYBR Green real-time fluorescent quantitative PCR system. Finally, the relative mRNA values of each group were calculated using the 2^{-ΔΔ} Ct method.

2.6. Western Blot

After infecting EPC cells with EF-24 and SCR_V of different chronologies, infected cells were collected and lysed in a lysis buffer containing a protease inhibitor cocktail (MedChemExpress, Monmouth Junction, NJ, USA) and phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride. Proteins were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). The target proteins in the gel were then transferred to nitrocellulose membranes (Solarbio, Beijing, China). The NC membrane was blocked in TBS containing 5% skim milk powder for 1 h, then incubated with the primary antibody against N and β-actin (as the internal reference antibody) at 4 °C for 18 h, respectively. After washing with TBST solution, the membranes were incubated with the corresponding secondary antibodies (LI-COR Biosciences, St. Lincoln, NE, USA) for 1 h at room temperature. Immunoblots were processed using the Odyssey CLX infrared imaging system and their fluorescence intensity was analyzed using the Odyssey application.

2.7. Hoechst 33342 Staining

EPC cells were inoculated into 24-well plates (2 × 10⁵/well) and cultured overnight. Following different exposures to EF-24 and SCR_V, the cells were incubated with Hoechst 33342 solution (600 μL) for 15 min and then washed twice with PBS. Cells were observed and photographed under a microscope with ultraviolet-stimulated light. CCCP was used as a positive control.

2.8. Flow Cytometry Analysis

After treatment with EF-24 (5 μM) and SCR_V, EPC cells were washed with PBS solution and collected for flow cytometry analysis. Infected cells were resuspended in binding buffer and incubated with annexin V-FITC (5 μL) and PI (10 μL) for 20 min at room temperature in the dark. As a Ca²⁺-dependent phospholipid binding protein with a high affinity for phosphatidylserine, annexin V binds to the membrane of early apoptotic cells through exposure to phosphatidylserine outside the cell. The samples were then analyzed by flow cytometry (FACS Calibur, Becton Dickinson, NJ, USA). Data analysis was performed using Flowjo software, v10.

2.9. Caspase Activities Assay

Caspase-3, caspase-8, and caspase-9 activities in treated cells were determined according to the protocols of the Enzyme Activity Kit (Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology, Shanghai, China). After incubating EPC cells with SCR_V for 24 h, the cell supernatants were collected and incubated overnight at 37 °C in the dark. The light absorbance values

of the samples were analyzed at 405 nm using a microplate spectrometer (Bio-Tek Epoch, Beijing, China).

2.10. Mitochondrial Membrane Potential Detection

EPC cells were inoculated into 12-well plates overnight at a ratio of 1×10^4 cells/well. After being treated with SCR-V and EF-24 (5 μ M) for 24 h, respectively, cells were used to determine mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP) by JC-1 staining according to the manufacturer's instructions. The mitochondrial probe JC-1, a fluorescence probe that can quickly and sensitively detect potential membrane changes in cells, tissues, or purified mitochondria, can be used for early apoptosis detection. Treated cells were stained with JC-1 (Beyotime, China) staining solution at 37 °C for 30 min, followed by fluorescence microscopy (Nikon Eclipse TS200-U, Tokyo, Japan). Carbonyl Cyanide3-ChloroPhenylhydrazine (CCCP, Beyotime, Shanghai, China) was used as a positive control.

2.11. Statistical Analysis

All experiments were repeated at least three times, and all data were analyzed using SPSS software (version 21, IBM, Armonk, NY, USA). Two sets of data were compared using unpaired two-tailed Student's *t*-test, while multiple sets of data were compared using one-way ANOVA combined with Tukey's multiple comparison tests. The data are expressed as mean \pm standard error of the number of experiments specified. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$ and $p < 0.001$ (***) denote statistically significant differences.

3. Results

3.1. EF-24 at Low Concentrations Was Not Toxic to EPC Cells

EPC cells were exposed to different concentrations (1.25, 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 μ M) of EF-24 for 12, 24, 36, and 48 h. Microscopic detection showed that EF-24 at low concentrations (1.25 μ M, 2.5 μ M, and 5 μ M) did not significantly impact morphological changes in EPC cells (Figure 1A). The cell monolayer was relatively complete 48 h after treatment. EF-24 at high concentrations (>10 μ M) significantly damaged the cell monolayer, causing cells to become round and shed. At 48 h, there were almost no intact adherent cells in the cell monolayer treated with EF-24 (20 μ M). To further examine the cytotoxicity effects of EF-24 on EPC, an MTT assay was used to estimate cellular survival rates after EF-24 treatment. Our results showed that cell viability in low-concentration treatment groups (1.25 μ M, 2.5 μ M, and 5 μ M) was still maintained at higher levels (Figure 1B), exhibiting no significant cytotoxicity to EPC cells. These findings offer a solid basis for detecting EF-24's antiviral activities in SCR-V-infected EPC cells.

3.2. Antiviral Activity of EF-24 against SCR-V Replication in EPC Cells

To investigate the effects of EF-24 against SCR-V progeny virus replication, we observed CPEs with different dosing temporalities in EPC cells. Here, a time-of-addition assay was conducted at different exposures. The results showed that compared to the other two groups, co-exposure of EF-24 and SCR-V to EPC cells exhibited the best anti-viral effects on inhibiting replication, in which the cell monolayer was kept relatively complete at 24 h (Figure 2A). This finding indicated that EF-24 had direct virucidal activity on the SCR-V virus and inhibited virus proliferation.

Furthermore, the cell supernatants were extracted from infected cells at 24 h and 48 h after the different exposure programs described above. Measurement of progeny virus titers by the Reed–Muench method showed that the co-exposure group also had a lower virus titer value (Figure 2B), especially at 24 h, which confirmed the antiviral effects of EF-24 and SCR-V co-treatment.

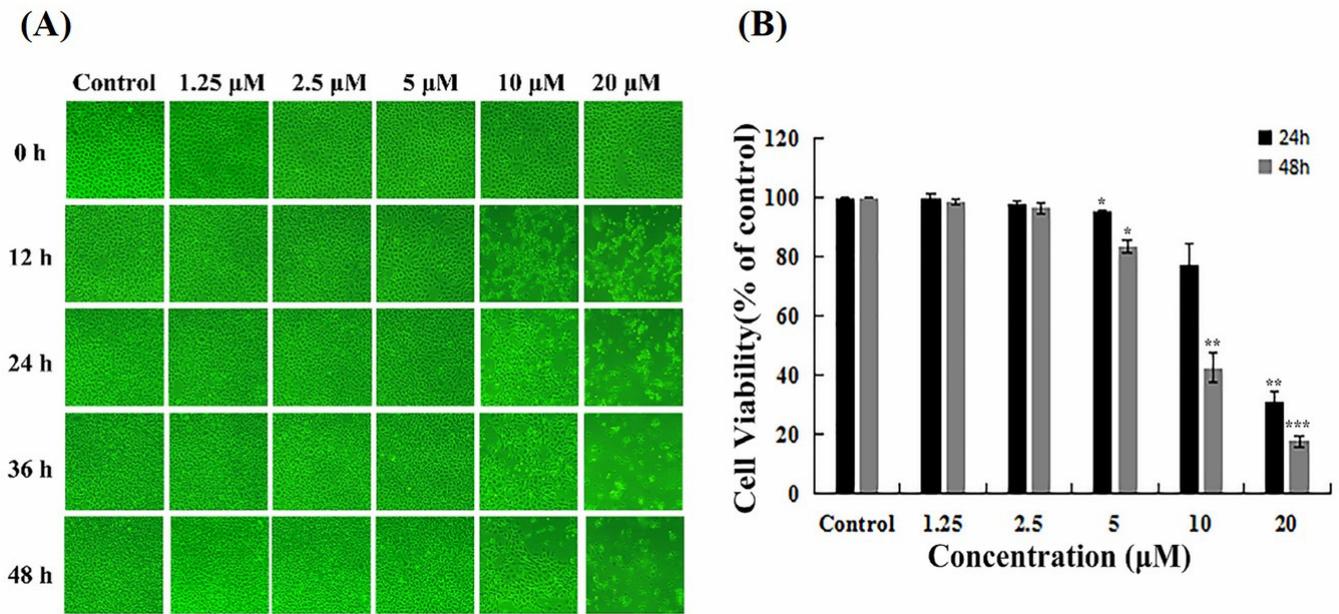


Figure 1. EF-24 at low concentrations had no cytotoxicity to EPC cells. (A) Morphological changes in EPC cells after treatment with a series of EF-24 concentrations at different times. (original magnification: 100×). (B) Cell viability analysis of EPC cells treated with different EF-24 concentrations at 24 h and 48 h. (n = 3; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ and *** $p < 0.001$).

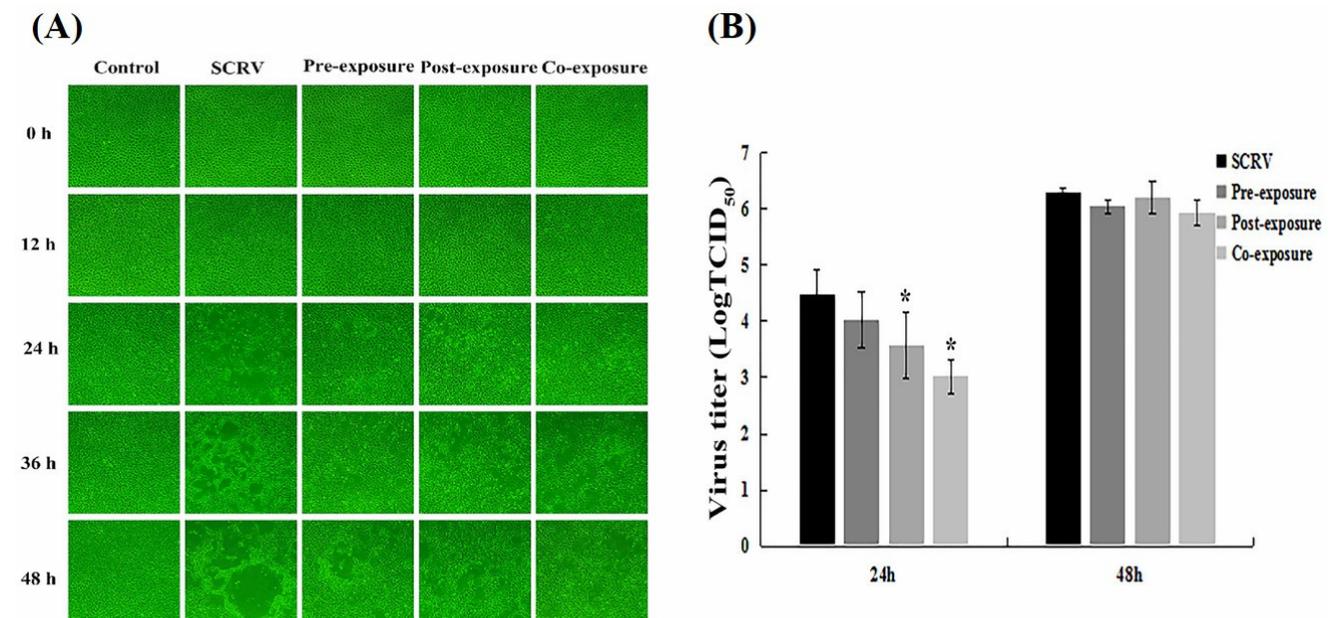


Figure 2. EF-24 had direct virucidal activity on the SCR virus in EPC cells. (A) Morphological changes in EPC cells from different exposure methods. (original magnification: 100×). (B) Virus titer analysis of EPC cell supernatants treated at different exposures for 24 h and 48 h. (n = 3; * $p < 0.05$). Pre-exposure, EF-24 was added first and sucked out after 2 h; then, the culture medium with SCR was added. Post-exposure, SCR was added first and sucked out after 2 h; then, the culture medium with EF-24 was added. Co-exposure involved adding the mixture solution to EF-24 and SCR.

3.3. EF-24 Inhibited SCR V Nucleoprotein Expression

The nucleoprotein (N) of rhabdoviruses plays a key role in viral replication. Hence, to identify the antiviral molecular mechanism of EF-24 against SCR V, we continued to explore transcriptional and expression changes in SCR V N in EPC cells at different exposure programs. Current RT-qPCR analysis showed that under all three treatment conditions (pre-exposure, post-exposure, and co-exposure), EF-24 effectively reduced N gene transcription (Figure 3A). Comparatively, in the co-exposure group, EF-24 was effective in decreasing N gene transcription at either 12 h or 24 h, with a statistically significant difference compared to the solely SCR V-infected group. Moreover, Western blot analysis demonstrated that the N protein also had a lower expression in EPC cells after co-exposure to EF-24 and SCR V (Figure 3B), which was consistent with the morphological observations and RT-qPCR results described above.

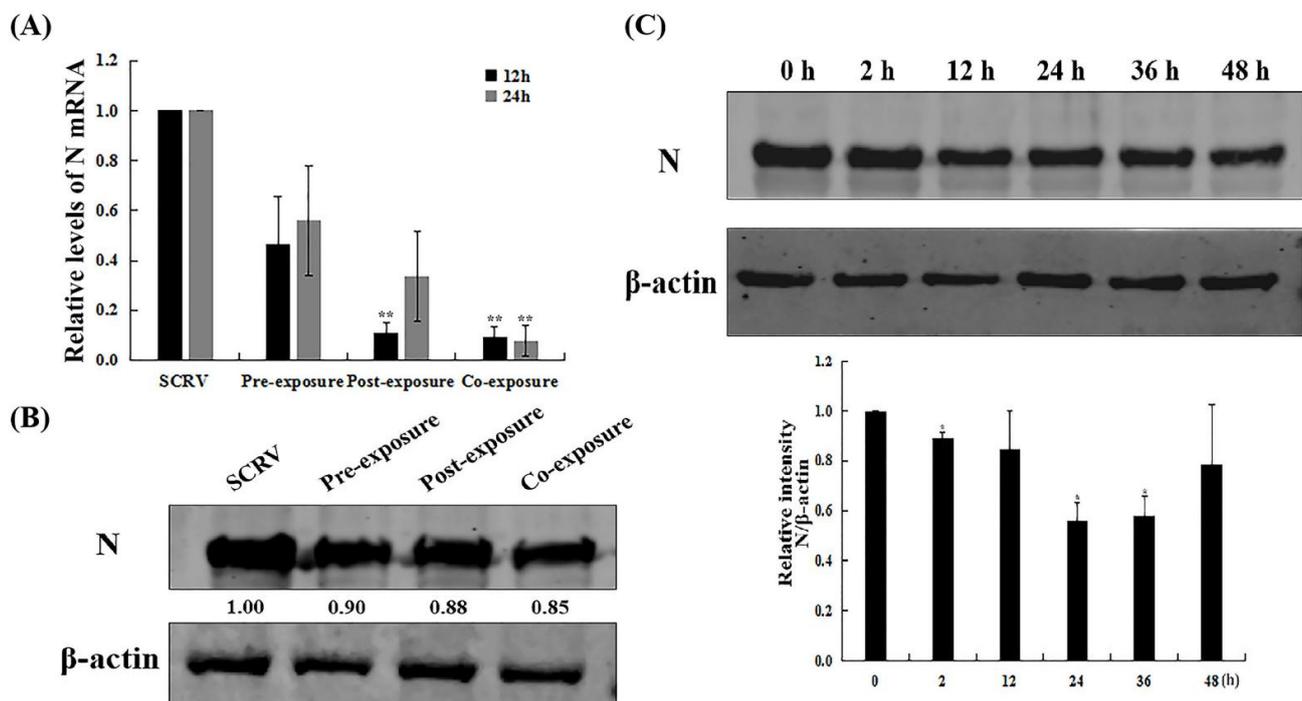


Figure 3. EF-24 inhibited SCR V nucleoprotein expression in EPC cells. (A) RT-qPCR analysis of SCR V N mRNA at 12 h and 24 h with different exposure methods. (B) Western blot analysis of SCR V N protein at 24 h with different exposure methods. (C) Western blot analysis of SCR V N protein after co-exposure to SCR V and EF-24 at different time points. Bar graphs represent densitometric analysis of SCR V N protein to β -actin ratio. (n = 3; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$).

In addition, we detected expression changes in SCR V N protein after co-exposure to SCR V and EF-24 at different times (from 0 h to 48 h). The results showed that before 24 h, N expression presented a gradual downward, then upward trend at 36 h and 48 h (Figure 3C), which may be attributed to the release of more offspring viruses.

3.4. EF-24 Reduced Apoptosis Induced by SCR V Infection in EPC Cells

Cells were first analyzed by Hoechst 33342 staining. The results showed that typical apoptotic features, such as partial rupture and the crescent shape of the nucleus, reduced significantly in the co-exposure group with EF-24 and SCR V compared to the solely SCR V-infected group (Figure 4A, CCCP was used as a positive control), indicating that EF-24 could decrease apoptosis caused by SCR V.

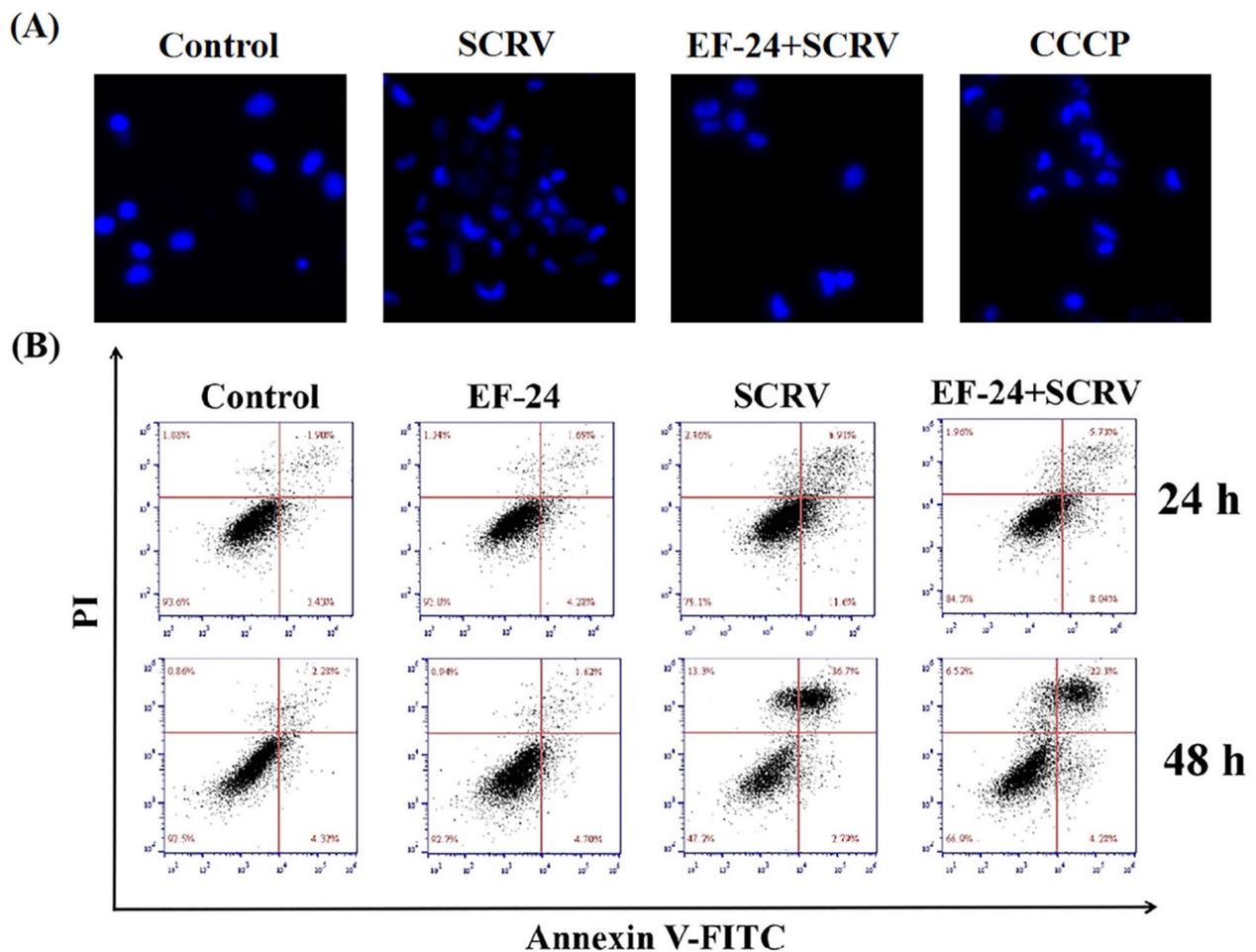


Figure 4. EF-24 reduced SCR-induced apoptosis in EPC cells. **(A)** Hoechst 33342 staining of cell nuclei after co-exposure to SCR and EF-24. The number of cells with normal nuclear shape increased in the co-exposure group. CCCP treatment was used as a positive control (original magnification: 200 \times). **(B)** Flow cytometry analysis of EPC cells treated with different exposure methods. The number of early (AV staining) and late (PI staining) apoptotic cells significantly decreased in the co-exposure group at 24 h and 48 h, respectively.

In addition, cell apoptosis rates were counted by flow cytometry in the blank control group, EF-24-treated group, SCR-infected group, and co-exposure to EF-24 and SCR. The results showed that the apoptosis percentages in the solely SCR-infected group were 18.5% and 39.4% (including early and late apoptotic cells) at 24 h and 48 h, respectively. EF-24 retarded cell apoptosis induced by SCR to some extent, with cell apoptosis rates of 13.7% and 26.5% at 24 h and 48 h, respectively (Figure 4B). These findings also reaffirmed that EF-24 protects EPC cells from apoptotic cell death triggered by SCR infection.

3.5. EF-24 Reduced Caspase-3 and Caspase-9 Activities in SCR-Infected Cells

The cystatin family of proteases is closely associated with apoptosis. Changes in the enzyme activities of the main executive proteins of apoptosis (caspase-3, caspase-8, and caspase-9) after SCR infection were examined in EPC cells. The results showed that effector caspase-3 activity increased 4.5-fold 24 h post-infection in the SCR virus-infected group compared to the control group. By contrast, EF-24 significantly decreased caspase-3 activity in the co-exposure group compared to the only SCR-infected group (Figure 5A).

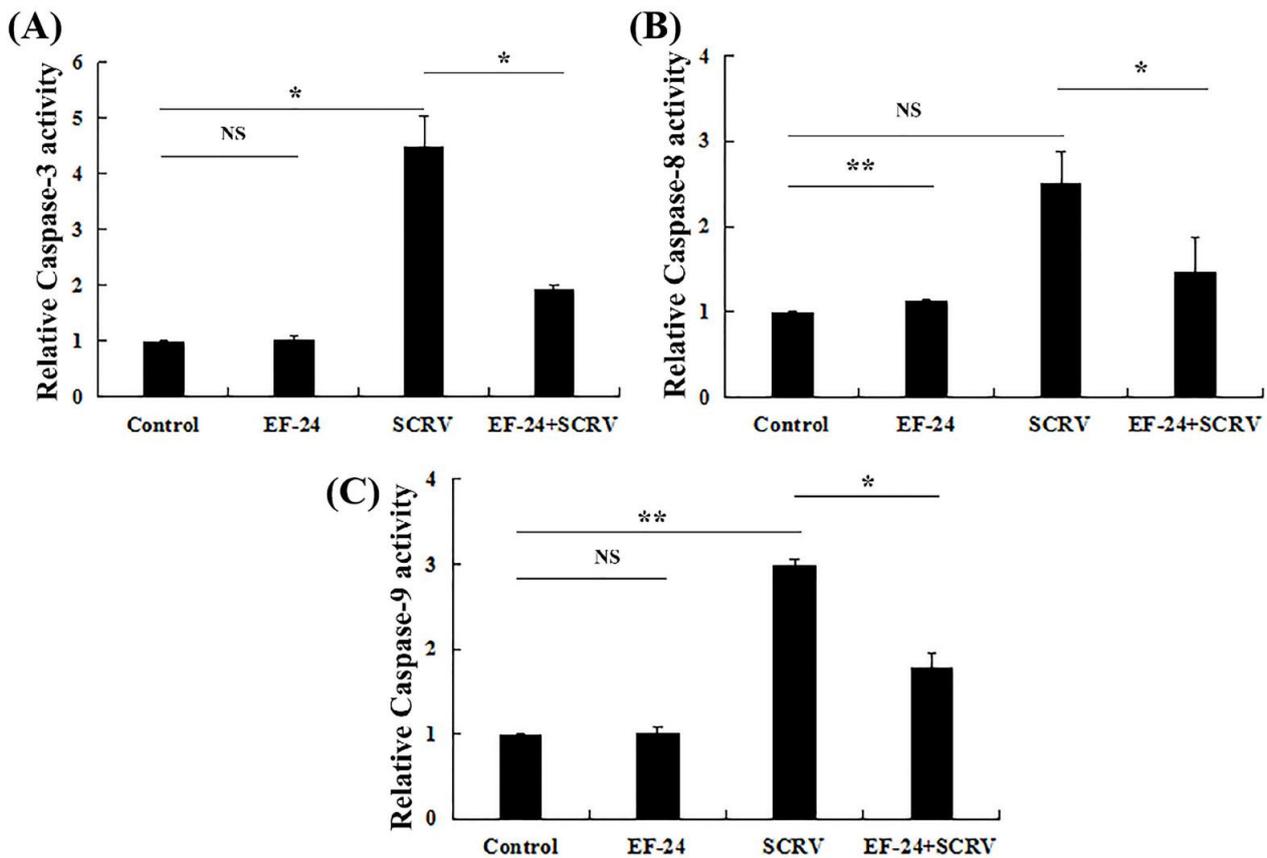


Figure 5. EF-24 decreases caspase-3 and caspase-9 activities in SCRV-infected EPC cells. (A–C) show caspase-3, caspase-8, and caspase-9 activities and changes in cells treated with different exposure methods at 24 h, respectively. (n = 3; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, NS, non-significant).

To explore potential apoptotic pathways, the activities of another two key caspases (caspase-8 and caspase-9) were also detected. Both enzymatic activities increased in the SCRV-infected group compared to the untreated group. However, there was no significant difference in caspase-8 activity compared to the control group (Figure 5B,C). Among them, caspase-9 activity increased 2.98-fold in the SCRV-infected group compared to the control group. Conversely, this value was significantly reduced in the co-exposure to SCRV and EF-24 compared to the SCRV-infected group (Figure 5C). Thus, we suggested that EF-24 might block the intrinsic mitochondrial apoptosis pathway activated by SCRV infection in EPC cells.

3.6. EF-24 Inhibited Mitochondrial Apoptosis in SCRV-Infected Cells

To further confirm EF-24's inhibitory role in apoptosis induced by SCRV infection, we used a JC-1 probe to detect changes in EPC cells' MMP. JC-1 produced red light in the matrix with high MMP, and green light when the potential was low. Current results demonstrated that green fluorescence signals were significantly enhanced in SCRV-infected cells, suggesting the activation of cellular mitochondrial intrinsic apoptosis. However, co-exposure to EF-24 and SCRV efficiently reduced green signal generation (Figure 6). These data indicated that EF-24 inhibited mitochondrial apoptosis in SCRV-infected EPC cells.

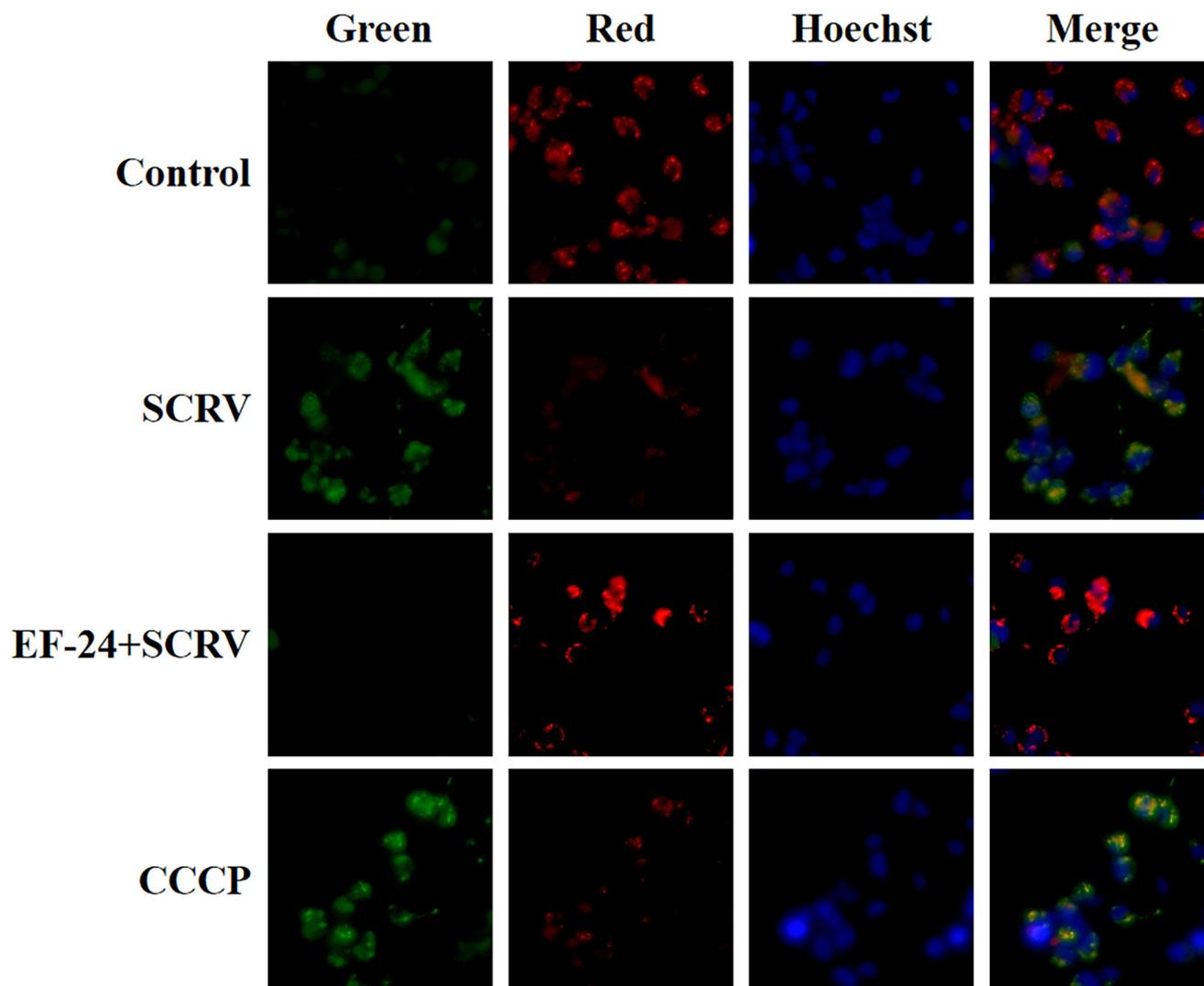


Figure 6. Detection of MMP changes in EPC cells by different exposure methods. Co-exposure to EF-24 and SCRV effectively reduced green fluorescence signals in JC-1 staining cells. Green and red signals denote JC-1 monomers and JC-1 aggregates, respectively. The CCCP treatment group was used as a positive control, and Hoechst 33342 was used to stain the nuclei of treated cells. (original magnification: 200 \times).

4. Discussion

Over the past decades, several antiviral compounds or chemicals against fish rhabdoviruses were extracted or synthesized, including mixtures extracted from different organisms, proteins, nucleic acids, lipids and polysaccharides, and other chemical derivatives [19,20]. Recently, there have been reports on the screening and identification of new chemicals against fish rhabdoviruses, such as honokiol, bufalin, mangiferin, taurine, and so on [21–23]. But, apart from one commercially available protease, Neutrase[®], which inactivates VHSV and koi herpesvirus (KHV) [24], most potential antiviral organic or inorganic substances have not been widely used in real aquaculture conditions due to time and space factors. Although significant progress has been made in identifying antiviral agents, new anti-fish rhabdovirus drugs or chemicals must be screened or characterized for their high mortality and transmission [20].

Curcumin has been intensively studied for its anti-tumor, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant pharmacological properties [25]. For its antiviral effects, some reports focused more on mediating curcumin's antiviral activity through a variety of mechanisms. For example, curcumin inhibits the replication of Rift Valley fever virus

by disrupting NF- κ B signaling [26]. Curcumin also inhibits hepatitis C virus (HCV) replication by impairing viral binding and inhibiting virus particle entry [27]. In the field of aquatic virology [28], researchers found that curcumin could inhibit VHSV replication by suppressing viral entry via the rearrangement of the F-actin/G-actin ratio by down-regulating the Hsc71 protein. However, low bioavailability restricts its utility, and novel different analogs with better pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties have been designed to overcome its limitations. As an important curcumin derivative, EF-24 has been characterized for its antiproliferative and anti-migration activities in different cancer cells by stimulating several cellular signaling pathways [29,30]. In this study, EF-24 was first applied to inhibit SCR V infection in fish cells, remarkably delaying the occurrence of CPEs in SCR V-infected cells. Further mechanistic studies indicated that EF-24 had virucidal activity against SCR V and demonstrated its most important inhibitory effects before viral entry. Considering the important role of nucleoproteins in rhabdoviruses' replication cycles [31], their transcriptional and expression levels were also investigated in infected cells with EF-24 treatment. Our results suggested that the inhibition of transcription and translation of SCR V N could prevent progeny virus replication and decrease virus titers after EF-24 treatment. These findings are consistent with our results on SCR V N protein function by RNAi [31]. In fact, previous reviews of antiviral agents for fish rhabdoviruses suggested that several substances can suppress fish rhabdoviruses by directly inactivating viral particles, decreasing CPEs, inhibiting virus absorption (internalization), and blocking the expression of viral structural protein genes [20,32]. Our present study provides new experimental evidence for these theories.

Our previous report demonstrated that SCR V could induce mitochondrial apoptosis in EPC cells by increasing caspase-3 and caspase-9 activities, downregulating MMP, and increasing intracellular ROS [17]. Given its central role in cell apoptosis, MMP loss is a marker of mitochondrial apoptosis. In this study, our results demonstrated that EF-24 inhibited a SCR V-induced decrease in MMP through caspase-dependent mechanisms. In fact, many molecules that resist fish rhabdoviruses achieve their antiviral abilities by reducing cell apoptosis caused by virus infection [20]. For example, coumarin and arctigenin derivatives inhibit virus replication by inhibiting apoptosis in SVCV- or IHNV-infected cells [2,20]. Recent studies on honokiol's antiviral mechanism against *Micropterus salmoides* rhabdovirus (MSRV) demonstrated that it significantly decreased virus titers and suppressed MSRV-induced apoptosis [21]. Hence, current research on EF-24's antiviral effects against SCR V indicates a decrease in fish rhabdovirus-induced cell apoptosis for many chemical compounds and may be a common antiviral mechanism.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, our study revealed that the curcumin analog EF-24 inhibited SCR V-induced mitochondrial apoptosis and blocked SCR V infection in the early stages of EPC cells. These findings provide a baseline for further studies on curcumin analogs' anti-SCR V effects and anti-apoptosis mechanisms in experimental animal models infected with fish rhabdoviruses. Additionally, they might also be used as antiviral compounds in real aquaculture.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, G.-Z.Z. and P.-M.J.; methodology, P.-M.J. and S.-W.M.; software, P.-M.J. and J.L.; validation, S.-F.Z. and Y.-Y.L.; formal analysis, P.-M.J.; investigation, P.-M.J., J.L. and S.-W.M.; resources, G.-Z.Z.; data curation, J.L.; writing—original draft preparation, P.-M.J. and S.-W.M.; writing—review and editing, J.L.; visualization, J.L.; supervision, G.-Z.Z.; project administration, G.-Z.Z.; funding acquisition, G.-Z.Z. and S.-W.M. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was partly supported by the Natural Science Foundation of Henan (232300420018), the Science and Technology Planning Project of Henan Province, China (222102110212), and the High-level Talents Fund from the Henan University of Technology (2023BS001).

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Data is contained within the article.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no financial/commercial conflicts of interest concerning this article.

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