



Article

Dual Role of PM_{2.5} Water-Soluble Constituents in Respiratory Viral Infection: Enhanced Cellular Susceptibility and Reduced Virion Infectivity

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Texts

Text S1: Virus infection and viral load quantification. BEAS-2B cells seeded into a 48 well-plate and pre-exposed to WSM for 24 h, followed by co-exposure to H1N1 at multiplicity of infection of 0.5 at 48 h. After infection, total RNA was extracted from lysed cells using the RNAeasy Minni kit according to the manufacturer (Vazyme Biotech, Nanjing, China). Viral copy numbers for the HA and NP genes were then absolutely quantified on an ABI 7500 Fast System (Thermo Fisher, Waltham, MA, USA), employing the PrimerScript RT reagent (AG, Changsha, China) and SYBR green Real Time Quantitative RT-PCR kit (AG, Changsha, China). A standard curve was generated using ten-fold serial dilutions (from 1.0×10^2 to 1.0×10^8 copies mL⁻¹) of in-house plasmids.

Text S2: Description of the PLS regression model. Partial least square regression model is widely employed to analyze high-dimensional and collinear dataset [1]. In this study, PLS regression was applied to identify chemical components associated with intracellular and extracellular viral infectivity. In PLS regression model, systematic variation in X is partitioned into a predictive component that correlates with Y. The optimal number of predictive components were determined through validation and permutation analyses. A 7-fold cross-validation was performed, where R² and Q² represented the goodness and predictive accuracy, respectively. In 999 permutation tests, both R² and Q² from the permuted

models required to remain lower to than those from the original model, with Q² intercept on the Y-axis remained less than zero [2].

Variable importance in projection (VIP) scores offer an effective approach for assessing the relative significance of X on Y. In this study, the VIP score was used to identify the importance of each variable to viral infectivity, with calculations performed as described previously [3]. Variables with VIP values exceeding 1 were considered to exert a substantial impact on cytotoxic outcomes. To further determine the direction of these relationships, the correlation coefficients between significant variables and the responses were examined, identifying whether they had a positive or negative associations.

Text S3: Radom forest (RF) model. Radom forests model, an ensemble of decision trees based on the classification and regression tree (CART) algorithm, was employed to assess the impact of key chemical components of PM_{2.5} on disease outcomes [4]. RF regression model was constructed using the “RadomForestRegressor” from the “scikit-learn” library. The dataset was randomly split into a 70% training set and a 30% test sets, with the final prediction derived by averaging the outputs of all individual trees. The hyperparameter optimization was performed using the “RamdomizedSearchCV” function from the “scikit-learn” library, which evaluated 100 different combinations via 3-fold cross-validation.

To quantify the relative significance of WSM chemical components to viral infectivity, we applied the



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SHapley Additive explanation (SHAP) algorithm. This explainable machine learning approach, based on cooperative game theory, assesses feature importance by analyzing the marginal impacts of each variable on prediction of model [5,6]. The SHAP value for each variable was calculated using the following formula:

$$y_i = y_{base} + \sum_{j=1}^K f(x_i, j)$$

where $x_{i,j}$ represents the value of feature j in the sample i , and K denotes the total number of different features. $f(x_i, j)$ is the SHAP value of feature $x_{i,j}$, indicating contribution of $x_{i,j}$ to y_i . The y_{base} is the average predicted viral entry efficiency, serving as the baseline value. A higher absolute value of $|f(x_i, j)|$ indicates a greater importance of $x_{i,j}$ on this efficiency. The relative contribution of feature j is then calculated based on the average absolute value of $f(x_i, j)$.

Table S1. Samples collection and atmospheric meteorological conditions.

Sample	Date	PM _{2.5} ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	NO ₂ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	O ₃ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	SO ₂ ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)	T (°C)	WS (m s^{-1})	WD (°)	RH (%)
1	2022/10/25	64.5	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
2	2022/10/27	65.6	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
3	2022/11/1	29.2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
4	2022/11/29	31.7	19.0	21.2	7.5	25.8	2.0	47.2	76.4
5	2022/12/8	45.3	29.6	38.8	7.7	16.6	1.8	214.3	58.6
6	2022/12/29	51.0	25.5	82.0	9.1	13.9	2.6	229.9	42.9
7	2023/1/3	39.6	20.3	59.4	5.6	14.7	2.6	230.1	57.4
8	2023/1/4	43.1	30.9	42.8	5.7	14.8	1.6	227.7	59.1
9	2023/2/16	66.2	19.5	67.4	4.5	14.1	1.5	227.9	50.4
10	2023/2/21	71.3	20.1	140.4	7.2	19.4	1.6	246.4	43.9
11	2023/3/19	62.4	45.0	84.0	9.8	25.2	2.5	124.1	64.7
12	2023/3/22	61.0	43.2	35.2	8.0	24.3	2.6	81.6	77.1

Table S2. The proportion of water-soluble organic matters, ions, and metals in WSM.

Constituents	Proportions (%), n = 12
WSOM	1.2 ± 0.2
NO ₃ ⁻	28.3 ± 6.1
SO ₄ ²⁻	19.9 ± 4.5
NH ₄ ⁺	8.0 ± 3.1
Ca ²⁺	6.0 ± 1.9
Na ⁺	3.6 ± 3.3
Cl ⁻	2.2 ± 2.3
K ⁺	1.8 ± 0.5
Metals	1.2 ± 0.2
Al	0.3 ± 0.1
Fe	0.3 ± 0.1
Cu	0.3 ± 0.1
Zn	0.1 ± 0.0
As	0.01 ± 0.0
Cd	0.002 ± 0.0

Table S3. The paired primer sequence used to qRT-PCR assays.

Gene	Primer	Sequence (5'→3')
HA	Forward	GGACCTTGCTAAACCCGGA
HA	Reverse	GCGTTTGAGGTGATGATGCC
NP	Forward	TGGATCCCAGGATGTGCTCT
NP	Reverse	CTCCTTTGACTGCAGCACCT

Table S4. Summary of cross-validation and overfitting results of PLS regression.

Toxic Effects	Number of Components	7-Fold Cross-Validation		999-Time Permutation	
		R ² Y	Q ²	R ² Y	Q ²
Cellular HA	3	0.76	0.10	0.83	-0.10
Cellular NP	2	0.68	-0.13	0.72	-0.008
Reduced HA	2	0.64	-0.20	0.73	-0.003
Reduced NP	5	0.97	0.21	0.96	-0.006

Table S5. The markedly compounds associated with viral infectivity.

Toxic Effects	Positive Correlation	Negative Correlation
Cellular HA	Sn, NO_3^- , Zn, As, Al	K^+ , Hg, Br^- , Mg^{2+} , NO_2^- , SO_4^{2-} , Cr, Cu
Cellular NP	Mg^{2+} , Na^+ , Cl^- , Cd, V	Ba, Fe, Sb, Mn, Zn, NH_4^+
Reduced HA	NO_3^- , Pb, Sn, Sb, Se, Mg^{2+} , Cd	SO_4^{2-} , Ti, Mn, Ca^{2+} , Na^+ , As
Reduced NP	Mg^{2+} , NO_3^- , Pb, Se	SO_4^{2-} , Cd, As, Mn

Table S6. Overview of machine learning model performance after three cross-validation.

Toxic Effects	RMSE	MAE	R ²
Cellular HA	0.29	0.21	0.65
Cellular NP	0.15	0.13	0.61
Reduced HA	0.02	0.01	0.85
Reduced NP	0.02	0.02	0.95

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