A peptide selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Gla-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof has a myoblast differentiation promoting effect superior to conventional arts.
MYOBLAST DIFFERENTIATION PROMOTER

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a myoblast differentiation promoter comprising peptide molecule(s) or the like.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Recently, prevention and the like of locomotive syndrome and sarcopenia (reductions in muscle quantity and muscle strength, and decrease in physical function) attract attentions, and it is demanded to ameliorate such symptoms by increases in muscle quantity and muscle strength. Also for healthy persons, prevention of muscular fatigue and enhancement of muscle are demanded.

[0003] In an initial process of muscle cell differentiation, an undifferentiated cell differentiates into a myoblast which is a cell derived from a muscle fiber. The myoblast further differentiates, and a protein that is specific to a muscle cell is expressed. A phenomenon characteristic of differentiation of a muscle cell is cell fusion, i.e., a phenomenon that myoblasts which are mononuclear cells fuse to differentiate into a myotube cell which is a multinucleate cell. Further, through a process of formation of a muscle fiber having a contracting ability from a matured myotube cell, muscle is completed. During the differentiation of myoblasts, characteristic proteins such as tropomyosin and myosin heavy chain are generated, and these are used as differentiation markers (Non-Patent Literature 1).

[0004] Peptide molecules are known to have various pharmacological effects. For example, Patent Literature 1 describes that dipeptides such as Hyp-Gly have an osteoclast differentiation inhibiting effect, an alkaline phosphatase inhibiting effect, and so on. Non-Patent Literature 2 describes that peptides such as Hyp-Gly-Pro have an antioxidative effect. Patent Literature 2 describes that peptides such as Pro-Gly and Hyp-Gly which further have up to ten amino acids in their upstream region and/or in their downstream region, have effects of stimulating growth, maintenance and repair of bone or the like.

[0005] Patent Literature 3 describes that Rosa roxburghii, a soybean peptide, a C12 peptide, and the like have a myoblast activating effect. However, whether these peptide molecules have a myoblast differentiation promoting effect has not been known.

[0006] Non-Patent Literature 3 shows the rate of change in muscle weight when American football players took in an equivalent mixture of a collagen peptide and a whey peptide for three months in combination with exercise. Although the muscle weight increased (FIG. 2), the body weight also increased (FIG. 1) after intake of this equivalent mixture, and the muscle, in terms of a ratio of the muscle weight to the body weight, was rather reduced in comparison with the starting point. In contrast to this, in the present invention, the ratio of the muscle weight to the body weight significantly increases as described in later-described Test Example 2.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Technical Problem

[0013] It is an object of the present invention to provide a myoblast differentiation promoter comprising peptide molecule(s) that is superior to conventional arts.

Solution to Problem

[0014] As a result of diligent efforts, the present inventors have found that a peptide molecules Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp have an excellent myoblast differentiation promoting effect, and have accomplished the present invention. Specifically, the present invention is as follows.

[0015] [1] A myoblast differentiation promoter comprising a peptide selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0016] [2] The myoblast differentiation promoter according to [1], comprising a peptide selected from the group consisting of Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0017] [3] The myoblast differentiation promoter according to [1], comprising two or more peptides selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

[0018] [4] The myoblast differentiation promoter according to any one of [1] to [3], wherein the promoter is in the form of a preparation for oral administration, an injection for direct administration to muscle, a transdermal agent, a suppository, a nasal drop, or an inhalant.

[0019] [5] A beverage or food product or a feed, comprising a peptide selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0020] The present invention can provide a myoblast differentiation promoter comprising a peptide molecule of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly, and Pro-Hyp, that is superior to conventional arts.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0021] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail.

1. Peptide

[0022] Peptides used in the present invention are Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, and these peptides can be in the
of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt. Examples of preferred peptides include Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp.

[0023] Examples of the “pharmaceutically acceptable salt” include inorganic acid salts such as hydrochloride, sulfate and phosphate, organic acid salts such as methanesulfonate, benzzenesulfonate, succinate and oxalate, inorganic basic salts such as a sodium salt, a potassium salt and a calcium salt, and organic basic salts such as a triethylammonium salt.

[0024] The present peptide can be synthesized, for example, by “a solid-phase synthesis method” and “a liquid-phase synthesis method” (for example, Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 2003-183298). As the solid-phase synthesis method, a Fmoc method and a Boc method are known, and the present peptide may be synthesized in any of these methods. One example of the solid-phase synthesis method will be concretely described below. A bead of polystyrene polymer gel having a diameter of about 0.1 mm whose surface is modified with an amino group is used as a solid phase, and diisopropylcarbodiimide is used as a condensing agent. First, the amino group of C-terminal amino acid is protected with a Fmoc group or a Boc group, and allowed to form a peptide bond with the amino group of the aforementioned polystyrene polymer gel. The solid phase is washed well with a solvent to clean and remove the remaining reagent and amino acid, and then the protecting group of the amino group of the amino acid bound to the solid phase is removed. Subsequently, by sequentially repeating the same reaction using the amino acid whose amino group is protected, a peptide is synthesized on the solid phase. At last, the solid phase is digested in trifluoroacetic acid to detach the peptide from the solid phase, and thus the peptide can be synthesized.

[0025] The present peptide can also be produced by hydrolyzing gelatin with a combination of two or more kinds of endoprotease and exoprotease. Also, the peptide mixture itself obtained by above hydrolysis, or a mixture obtained by partial purification of the peptide mixture can be used as a myoblast differentiation promoter.

[0026] In the present invention, the present peptide may be chemically modified. Chemical modification can be carried out for an individual amino acid, for example, at the hydroxyl group of hydroxyproline, at the amino group of an N-terminal amino acid, and at the carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid. Such chemical modification enables dissolution under weak acidic conditions, and also allows improvement in compatibility with other active ingredient as described later.

[0027] Concretely, chemical modification at the hydroxyl group of hydroxyproline include, for example, O-acetylation. Chemical modification at the amino group of an N-terminal amino acid include, for example, polypeptidation, succinylation, maleylation, acetylation, deamination, benzoylation, alkylsulfonfyl, allylsulfonfyl, diethylphosphonylation, triisopropylphosphonylation, carbamylation, phenylcarbamylation, and thiolation are recited. Chemical modification at the carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid include, for example, esterification and amidation. When the present peptide is cationated, ethylenediamination, spermination, and so on can be carried out.

[0028] As to concrete measures and treatment conditions of chemical modification, a usual chemical modification technique for peptide is applied. For example, O-acetylation of the hydroxyl group of hydroxyproline can be achieved by allowing acetic anhydride to act in an aqueous solvent or in a nonaqueous solvent. For example, esterification of the carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid can be achieved, for example, by aeration with a dry hydrogen chloride gas following suspension in methanol, and amidation thereof can be achieved by allowing carbodiimide or the like to act on the same. Further, as other concrete examples of chemical modification, chemical modification techniques described in Patent Publication No. 62-44522 and Patent Publication No. 5-79046 can be applied.

2. Myoblast Differentiation Promoter

[0029] The present peptide or the like has a myoblast differentiation promoting effect as described in later-described Test Examples. Therefore, the present peptide or the like can be used for therapy or prevention of various diseases that require muscle enhancement. The myoblast differentiation promoter of the present invention can be used, for example, for therapy of locomotive syndrome, therapy of sarcopenia, improvement in the effect of training in athletes, students and so on, enhancement in physical strength of aged persons, long-stay inpatients and so on, and improvement in quality of meat of livestock.

[0030] The myoblast differentiation promoter of the present invention can be administered orally or parenterally in pharmaceutical preparations of various forms. Examples of the forms include tablet, granule, capsule, powder, liquid, suspension and emulsion for oral administration, and injection, transdermal agent, suppository, nasal drop and inhalant for parenteral administration. Preferred examples include tablet, granule, capsule, and liquid to be directly administered to a diseased site such as muscle. The present peptide is preferably taken in oral administration because it is little digested into amino acids in the digestive tract, but is rapidly absorbed in the intestinal tract. The present peptide may be taken in while it is mixed with a meal or a beverage.

[0031] A dose of the present peptide varies depending on the condition or the body weight of the patient, the kind of the compound, the administration route and so on. In the case of oral administration per day for one adult, for example, about 0.1 to 1000 mg, preferably about 1 to 500 mg, and more preferably about 30 to 200 mg are recited, and in the case of direct administration to a diseased part such as muscle, for example, about 0.01 to 200 mg, preferably about 0.1 to 100 mg, and more preferably about 1 to 50 mg are recited. Doses of preparations of other forms can be appropriately determined with reference to these doses. These preparations can be administered daily in one to several divided doses, or may be administered once every one to several days.

[0032] The myoblast differentiation promoter of the present invention may appropriately comprise other active ingredient(s) and ingredient(s) for formulation as far as the effect of the present invention is not interfered. Examples of the other active ingredient include muscle-enhancing agents such as a male hormone, and muscle-enhancing supplements such as an amino acid mixture. Amounts of the other active ingredients formulated can be appropriately changed depending on the individual effects. Examples of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier used in preparation into a pharmaceutical preparation can include a diluent, a binder (syrup, gum arabic, gelatin, sorbit, tragacanth, polyvinylpyrrolidone), an excipient (lactose, sucrose, cornstarch, potassium phosphate, sorbit, glycerine), a lubricant (magnesium stearate, talc, polyethylene glycol, silica), a disintegrant (potato starch) and a humectant (sodium lauryl sulfate). The present pharmaceutical preparation can be produced by mixing the present peptide(s), other active ingredient(s), a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and so on according to conventionally known techniques.
3. Beverage or Food Product or Feed

Since the present peptide or the like is a peptide derived from gelatin, it is very safe for daily intake or application. Hence, it is also useful as a beverage or food product or a feed comprising the present peptide(s) or the like with the use of the excellent myoblast differentiation promoting effect of the present peptide(s) or the like. For example, the present invention can be used for enhancement in physical strength of aged persons, long-stay inpatients and so on, improvement in effect of training in athletes, students and so on, and improvement in quality of meat of livestock. The content of the present peptide(s) or the like used in a beverage or food product or a feed of the present invention can be varied appropriately depending on the effect to be utilized.

EXAMPLES

Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in more detail by Examples, Comparative Examples and Test Examples, but is not limited thereto in any way.

Examples 1 to 22 and Comparative Examples 1 to 4

Using the aforementioned peptide solid-phase synthesis method, the following peptides of Examples 1 to 8 and Comparative Example 1 were synthesized. Using these peptides, the following equivalent molar ratio mixtures of two kinds of peptides of Examples 9 to 21 were prepared, and the following equivalent molar ratio mixtures of two kinds of amino acids of Comparative Examples 2 and 3 were prepared. Also, the following commercially available collagen peptides of Example 22 and Comparative Example 4 were used.

(Example 1) Ala-Hyp-Gly (AOG)
(Example 2) Hyp-Gly-Pro (OGP)
(Example 3) Leu-Hyp (LO)
(Example 4) Glu-Hyp (EO)
(Example 5) Gly-Pro-Hyp (GPO)
(Example 6) Pro-Ala (PA)
(Example 7) Hyp-Gly (OG)
(Example 8) Pro-Hyp (PO)
(Example 9) Mixture of OG and PO (OG+PO)
(Example 10) Mixture of OG and AOG (OG+AOG)
(Example 11) Mixture of OG and OGP (OG+OGP)
(Example 12) Mixture of OG and LO (OG+LO)
(Example 13) Mixture of OG and EO (OG+EO)
(Example 14) Mixture of OG and GPO (OG+GPO)
(Example 15) Mixture of OG and PA (OG+PA)
(Example 16) Mixture of PA and AOG (PA+AOG)
(Example 17) Mixture of PA and OGP (PA+OGP)
(Example 18) Mixture of PA and LO (PA+LO)
(Example 19) Mixture of PA and EO (PA+EO)
(Example 20) Mixture of PA and GPO (PA+GPO)
(Example 21) Mixture of PA and PO (PA+PO)
(Example 22) Collagen peptide “Type-M” produced by Nitta Gelatin Inc.)

As a result of LC-MS/MS analysis, this collagen peptide contained the following respective peptides.


(Comparative Example 1) Ala-Hyp (AO)
(Comparative Example 2) Mixture of Hyp and Gly (OG)
(Comparative Example 3) Mixture of Pro and Hyp (P+O)

(Comparative Example 4) Collagen peptide “HDL-50SP” produced by Nitta Gelatin Inc.)

As a result of LC-MS/MS analysis, this collagen peptide contained the following respective peptides.

Hyp-Gly: 11 ppm, Pro-Hyp: 8 ppm

Test Example 1

Myoblast Differentiation Promotion Test in Myoblast Culture

For culture of C2C12 myoblast derived from mouse, a D-MEM culture medium containing 10% FBS, 100 units/mL sodium penicillin G, 100 µg/mL streptomycin and 1.0 g/L NaHCO₃ (D-MEM culture medium (10% FBS, +P/S)) was used. Culture was conducted in an incubator at 37°C containing 95% air and 5% CO₂. In the condition that C2C12 myoblast was 90% confluent, the culture medium was replaced by a D-MEM culture medium including 2% horse serum (HS), 100 units/mL sodium penicillin G, 100 µg/mL streptomycin and 1.0 g/L NaHCO₃ (D-MEM culture medium (2% HS+P/S)), and then the D-MEM culture medium (2% HS+P/S) replacement was repeated every two days to lead to differentiation into myotube cells. The peptides of Examples 1 to 21 and Comparative Examples 1 to 3 were added in a final concentration of 100 µM to the culture medium every culture medium replacement, and cells were continuously exposed thereto for eight days.

The Western blotting method was conducted in the following procedure. The cells used for protein measurement were washed twice with PBS at the time of recovery, and the cells were scraped with a cell scraper and transferred to a tube, and centrifuged at 4°C and at 250xg for 5 minutes, and then PBS was completely removed. For each tube, the cells were suspended in 100 µL of a buffer (20 mM HEPES-NaOH (pH 7.5), 0.5% NP-40, 1 mM EDTA, 100 µM AEBFSE, 1 µg/mL aprotinin, 10 µg/mL leupeptin, 1 mM DTT, 1 mM sodium ortho-vanadate, 10 mM sodium fluoride, 10 µM ammonium molybdate, 10 mM sodium pyrophosphate), and then crushed under ice cooling for 5 seconds three times for each sample by using an ultrasonic disperser, followed by quantification of the amount of a protein. Quantification of the amount of a protein was conducted according to the method of Bradford using bovine serum albumin as a standard protein. After end of SDS-PAGE, a blotting device was used to conduct electro-transferring at 1.5 mA per 1 cm² of a membrane for 1 hour on a PVDF membrane equilibrated with methanol and subjected to pre-wetting by infiltration with a transfer buffer (48 mM Tris, 39 mM glycine). After end of the transferring, the PVDF membrane was blocked with PBS (–) containing 6% skim milk for 1 hour. A primary antibody was diluted in the following manner, and an antigen-antibody reaction was conducted overnight at 4°C. A peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibody against each primary antibody was diluted in PBS (–) containing 6% skim milk in the ratios: mouse anti-myosin heavy chain monoclonal antibody (ME20) culture supernatant 1/2000, mouse anti-actin monoclonal antibody (CH1) culture supernatant 1/2000, rabbit anti-GAPDH polyclonal antibody 1/3000, peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG 1/5000, and peroxidase-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG 1/2000, allowed to react for 30 minutes, and washed three times with PBS (-) for 10 minutes. Then the membrane was immersed in Immobilon TM Western Chemiluminescent HRP Substrate for 3 minutes, and detected by LAS-4000 (GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK). A band was converted
into numbers by image, and expressed in a numerical value in relation to 100 which was the value of the control. The result of the test for myoblast differentiation promotion is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tropomyosin</th>
<th>Myosin heavy chain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 1</td>
<td>AOG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 2</td>
<td>OGP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 3</td>
<td>LO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 4</td>
<td>EOG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 5</td>
<td>GPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 6</td>
<td>PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 7</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 8</td>
<td>PO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 9</td>
<td>OGP + PO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 10</td>
<td>OGP + AOG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 11</td>
<td>OGP + GPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 12</td>
<td>OGP + LO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 13</td>
<td>OGP + EO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 14</td>
<td>OGP + GPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 15</td>
<td>OGP + PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 16</td>
<td>PA + AOG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 17</td>
<td>PA + GPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 18</td>
<td>PA + LO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 19</td>
<td>PA + EO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 20</td>
<td>PA + GPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 21</td>
<td>PA + PO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Example 1</td>
<td>AO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Example 2</td>
<td>O + G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Example 3</td>
<td>P + O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

was measured using TANITA body composition monitor right and left regional inner scan 50V BC-622-BK. Also, the water content (kg) measured at the same time was taken away, and a rate of muscle weight (%) per body weight was calculated and evaluated. The result is shown in Table 2 by mean value/standard deviation. The mark ** in the table means significance with $p<0.001$ with respect to Comparative Example 4 in Two-way-ANOVA.

TABLE 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starting point (%)</th>
<th>After 10 weeks (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example 22</td>
<td>16.07 ± 3.68</td>
<td>22.19 ± 4.08**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Example 4</td>
<td>16.10 ± 3.08</td>
<td>16.71 ± 3.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[0071] As shown in Table 2, the peptide mixture abundantly comprising Hyp-Gly, Pro-Ala, Pro-Hyp and so on, hydrolyzed with a specific enzyme (Example 22), exhibited significant effectiveness in muscle weight percentage in comparison with the peptide mixture hydrolyzed with a conventionally-known ordinary enzyme (Comparative Example 4).

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0072] The present invention is able to provide a myoblast differentiation promoter comprising peptide(s) derived from natural collagen, that is superior to conventional arts.

1. A method for promoting myoblast differentiation promoter comprising administering a peptide selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof;

2. The method according to claim 1, comprising administering a peptide selected from the group consisting of Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a subject in need thereof;

3. The method according to claim 1, comprising administering two or more peptides selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, to a subject in need thereof;

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide(s) are administered in the form of a preparation for oral administration, an injection for direct administration to muscle, a transdermal agent, a suppository, a nasal drop, or an inhalant;

5. A beverage or food product or a feed, comprising a peptide selected from the group consisting of Ala-Hyp-Gly, Hyp-Gly-Pro, Leu-Hyp, Glu-Hyp, Gly-Pro-Hyp, Pro-Ala, Hyp-Gly and Pro-Hyp, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

6. The method according to claim 1, used for therapy of locomotive syndrome, therapy of sarcopenia, improvement in the effect of training in athletes, students and so on, enhancement in physical strength of aged persons, long-stay inpatients and so on, and improvement in quality of meat of livestock;

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the dose of the peptide(s) per day for one adult is about 1 to 1000 mg in the case of oral administration, and about 0.01 to 200 mg in the case of direct administration to a diseased part;

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the peptide(s) is administered with other active ingredient(s) and/or ingredient(s) for formulation.

* * * * *