Production of extracellular L-asparaginase: from bioprospecting to the engineering of an antileukemic biopharmaceutical.

Artur Ribeiro\textsuperscript{1, 2}, André Moreni Lopes\textsuperscript{3}, Attilio Converti\textsuperscript{4}, Marcos Antonio de Oliveira\textsuperscript{5}, Cristina Maria de Souza Motta\textsuperscript{6}, Pêrola de Oliveira Magalhães\textsuperscript{7}, Jorge Gonzalo Farias Avendaño\textsuperscript{8}, Priscila Gava Mazzola\textsuperscript{9}, Carlota de Oliveira Rangel-Yagui\textsuperscript{10}, Artur Manuel Cavaco-Paulo\textsuperscript{1}, Adalberto Pessoa Júnior\textsuperscript{3}

\textsuperscript{1} CEB - Centre of Biological Engineering, Universidade do Minho.  
\textsuperscript{2} Department of Biology, Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology (CBMA), Universidade do Minho.  
\textsuperscript{3} Department of Biochemical and Pharmaceutical Technology, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of São Paulo – FCF/USP.  
\textsuperscript{4} Department of Civil, Chemical and Environmental Engineering, University of Genoa, Italy  
\textsuperscript{5} Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho, Campus do Litoral Paulista - Unidade São Vicente.  
\textsuperscript{6} Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, Centro de Ciências Biológicas, Departamento de Micologia.  
\textsuperscript{7} Universidade Brasília, Faculdade de Ciências da Saúde, Curso de Ciências Farmacêuticas.  
\textsuperscript{8} Universidad de La Frontera · Departamento de Ingeniería Química, Chile – Temuco.  
\textsuperscript{9} Faculdade de Ciências Médicas/UNICAMP, Departamento de Patologia Clínica.  
\textsuperscript{10} Department of Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of São Paulo – FCF/USP.

E-mail presenting author: arturjamr@gmail.com

Abstract

The L-asparaginase (L-asparagine amino hydrolase, E.C.3.5.1.1) catalyzes the hydrolysis of L-asparagine into L-aspartic acid and ammonia. The effective depletion of L-asparagine results in cytotoxicity for leukemic cell. Therefore the enzyme has been a clinically acceptable anti-tumour agent for the effective treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and lymphosarcoma. L-asparaginase production using microbial system had attracted considerable attention, owing to the cost effective and eco friendly nature. A wide range of microorganisms such as filamentous fungi, yeasts and bacteria have proved to be the good sources of the enzyme L-asparaginase. Thus, in this review mainly focuses on the biochemical aspects of L-asparaginase production, aiming to comprehend the physiochemical characteristics, such as stability, bioavailability, toxicity, allergic aspects, application, and enzyme properties and kinetics of recombinant enzyme production by fermentation. Processes central to these biochemical aspects, including fermentation of L-asparaginase producing organisms and downstream processing of the enzyme are also discussed.