

# Polydatin alleviates sepsis-induced acute lung injury via downregulation of Spi-B

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**Abstract.** Sepsis-induced acute lung injury (ALI) is related to the dysregulation of inflammatory responses. Polydatin supplement was reported to exhibit anti-inflammatory effects in several diseases. The present study aimed to investigate the role of polydatin in sepsis-induced ALI. A cecum ligation and puncture (CLP)-induced mouse ALI model was established first and the pathological changes of lung tissues were assessed using hematoxylin and eosin staining. Meanwhile, to mimic sepsis-induced ALI *in vitro*, pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells (PMVECs) were treated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS). Pro-inflammatory cytokines levels were measured in lung tissues and PMVECs using ELISA. Reverse transcription-quantitative PCR was used to measure the mRNA levels of Spi-B in lung tissues and PMVECs. Moreover, the expression levels of Spi-B, p-PI3K, p-Akt, and p-NF- $\kappa$ B in lung tissues and PMVECs were determined using western blotting. The data revealed that polydatin attenuated CLP-induced lung injury and inhibited sepsis-induced inflammatory responses in mice. Furthermore, polydatin significantly inhibited the expression of Spi-B, p-PI3K, p-Akt, and p-NF- $\kappa$ B in lung tissues of mice subjected to CLP-induced ALI, while this phenomenon was reversed through Spi-B overexpression.

Consistently, the anti-inflammatory effect of polydatin was abolished by Spi-B overexpression. Taken together, the current findings revealed that polydatin alleviated sepsis-induced ALI via the downregulation of Spi-B.

## Introduction

Generally, sepsis, a major public health burden worldwide, is caused by an unbalanced response from the host to an infection (1,2). Organ failure is a hallmark of sepsis, and it is related to high morbidity and mortality during sepsis (3,4). Among patients with sepsis, ~40% are at risk of developing acute lung injury (ALI) (5). Sepsis can trigger lung cell apoptosis, leading to the progression of ALI (6,7). Although numerous studies investigated ALI induced by sepsis, their outcomes remain unclear. Thus, there is an urgent need to explore novel strategies for the treatment of sepsis-induced ALI.

Polydatin (also known as resveratrol-3-O- $\beta$ -mono-D-glucoside), a natural polyphenol compound, was extracted from the roots of *Polygonum cuspidatum* Siebold & Zucc. (8). Polydatin was shown to exhibit anti-inflammatory effects in multiple diseases. For example, polydatin downregulated IL-17 expression in activated human peripheral blood monocytes (9). Lv *et al* (10) found that polydatin could attenuate spinal cord injury by inhibiting microglial apoptosis (10). Moreover, polydatin relieved sepsis-induced lung injury through upregulation of HO-1 (11). However, the mechanism by which polydatin regulates the development of sepsis-induced ALI remains unclear.

Spi-B, a transcription factor that belongs to the E26 transformation-specific (ETS) family, is highly expressed in plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs) (12). Silencing of Spi-B suppressed pDC generation from CD34<sup>+</sup> progenitor cells (13). In addition, Spi-B-knockout mice were reported to have defects in T cell-dependent humoral immune responses and activation of B-cells (14). The results from the aforementioned studies revealed that Spi-B acts as a crucial modulator in inflammation and immune responses. Nevertheless, the relation between polydatin and Spi-B in sepsis-induced ALI remains unclear.

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Conversely, NF- $\kappa$ B and PI3K/Akt signaling are crucial mediators in sepsis-induced ALI (15,16), and Spi-B can activate NF- $\kappa$ B and PI3K/Akt signaling (17,18). Polydatin was reported to inactivate NF- $\kappa$ B and PI3K/Akt signaling (8,19). Therefore, the current study aimed to explore the relationship between polydatin and Spi-B in sepsis-induced ALI. The results of the present study may provide novel insights into exploring strategies for the treatment of sepsis-induced ALI.

## Materials and methods

**Cell culture, treatment, and transfection.** Pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells (PMVECs; Pricella) and 293T cells (American Type Culture Collection) were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS (Gibco; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.) at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. PMVECs were transfected with pcDNA3.1 [negative control (NC)] or pcDNA3.1-Spi-B [Spi-B overexpression (OE)] using Lipofectamine™ 2000 (Invitrogen; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.) for 6 h and cultured for a further 18 h at 37°C. pcDNA3.1-NC and Spi-B OE were obtained from Shanghai GenePharma Co., Ltd.

To mimic sepsis-induced ALI *in vitro*, PMVECs were treated with lipopolysaccharide (LPS; cat. no. L2630, 100 ng/ml) for 24 h. PMVECs were pretreated with polydatin (0.5 mM) for 4 h, and then exposed to LPS (100 ng/ml) for 24 h at 37°C. LPS, polydatin (cat. no. 15721) and dexamethasone (Dex; cat. no. D1756) were obtained from MilliporeSigma.

**ELISA.** The levels of IL-6 (cat. no. H007-1-2), TNF- $\alpha$  (cat. no. H052-1-2), IL-1 $\beta$  (cat. no. H002-1-2) and IFN- $\alpha$  (cat. no. H023-1-2) in the supernatants of PMVECs or bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) of mice were evaluated using ELISA commercial kits (Nanjing Jiancheng Bioengineering Institute) using a microplate reader (DR-200Bs, Diatek GmbH).

**Reverse transcription-quantitative (RT-q)PCR.** The RNAiso Plus reagent (cat. no. 9018, Takara Bio, Inc.) was used to extract total RNA from cells or tissues. An EntiLink™ 1st Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit [cat. no. EQ003, ELK (Wuhan) Biotechnology Co., Ltd.] was used to reverse transcribe total RNA (1  $\mu$ g) into cDNA, according to the manufacturer's protocol. qPCR was subsequently performed using EnTurbo™ SYBR Green PCR SuperMix [cat. no. EQ001, ELK (Wuhan) Biotechnology Co., Ltd.] with the following thermocycling conditions: Initial denaturation at 94°C for 2 min; followed by 35 cycles of 94°C for 30 sec and 55°C for 45 sec. The levels of mRNA were quantified using the 2<sup>- $\Delta\Delta$ C<sub>q</sub></sup> method (20) and normalized to the internal reference gene  $\beta$ -actin. The following primer pairs were used for qPCR: Spi-B forward, 5'-TGGGTACTTCAGGGATCCAG-3' and reverse, 5'-TGA GGCTCTTCCCTCACTGT-3'; and  $\beta$ -actin forward, 5'-CTG GAACGGTGAAGGTGACA' and reverse, 5'-CGGCCACAT TGTGAACCTTTG-3'.

**Western blotting.** Cells were lysed using the RIPA lysis buffer (cat. no. P0013B, Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology) on ice, samples were then centrifuged at 10,000  $\times$  g, for 5 min at 4°C. Next, total protein concentrations were quantified using a BCA kit (cat. no. P0010, Beyotime Institute of

Biotechnology). Total protein (40  $\mu$ g/lane) was separated by SDS-PAGE on a 10% SDS-gel and then transferred to PVDF membranes (cat. no. IPVH00010, MilliporeSigma). Subsequently, the membranes were incubated overnight at 4°C with the following primary antibodies: Anti-PI3K (1:1,000; cat. no. 4249; CST Biological Reagents Co., Ltd.); anti-p-PI3K (1:1,000; cat. no. 17366; CST; Biological Reagents Co., Ltd.); anti-Akt (1:1,000; cat. no. ab8805; Abcam); anti-p-Akt (1:1,000; cat. no. ab81283; Abcam); anti-NF- $\kappa$ B1 (1:1,000; cat. no. ab288751; Abcam), anti-Spi-B (1:1,000; cat. no. ab283286; Abcam), and anti- $\beta$ -actin (1:1,000; cat. no. ab8226; Abcam). The membranes were then incubated with HRP-conjugated secondary antibodies (1:5,000; cat. no. ab7090; Abcam) for 1 h at room temperature. An ECL kit (cat. no. AS1059, ASPEN) was used for visualizing the signals using  $\beta$ -actin as the loading control. Image-Pro Plus version 6.0 (Media Cybernetics, Inc.) was used for densitometry analysis.

**Adeno-associated virus (AAV) infection.** For overexpression of Spi-B in animal experiments, 293T cells were transfected with pAV-TBG-Spi-B (AAV8-Spi-B; Vigene Biosciences) for 24 h at 37°C. The cultures containing the virus were centrifuged at 2,000  $\times$  g for 15 min at 4°C and the supernatants were collected and filtered using a 0.45  $\mu$ m filter. The viral titer of AAV8-Spi-B was 7.94 $\times$ 10<sup>13</sup> vg/ml.

**Animal study.** C57BL/6 mice (n=36; 6-8 weeks old, 18-22 g) were obtained from Beijing Vital River Laboratory Animal Technology Co., Ltd., and randomly assigned into one of six groups: Sham, cecum ligation and puncture (CLP); CLP + polydatin; CLP + Dex, CLP + AAV8-Spi-B; and CLP + polydatin + AAV8-Spi-B (n=6/group). To establish the sepsis-induced ALI model, 30 mice underwent CLP surgery as previously described (21). Subsequently, mice in the CLP + AAV8-Spi-B group were injected with 100  $\mu$ l AAV-Spi-B (10  $\mu$ M) through the tail vein. Mice in the CLP + polydatin and CLP + Dex groups were orally administered with 50 mg/kg polydatin and 40 mg/kg Dex respectively 48 h. In addition, mice in polydatin + AAV8-Spi-B were administered with 100  $\mu$ l AAV-Spi-B (10  $\mu$ M) via the tail vein and treated with polydatin (50 mg/kg) via gavage. Polydatin, Dex, and AAV8-Spi-B treatments were performed 48 h before CLP. Finally, BALFs and lung tissues of mice were collected. Lung tissues were lysed using RIPA lysis buffer, and then ground in a tissue grinder (KZ-II; Wuhan Servicebio Technology Co., Ltd.). Next, samples were centrifuged at 4°C at 12,000  $\times$  g for 10 min, and the supernatant was then collected and used for western blot analysis. Dex was used as a positive control. All procedures were performed in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (22). The Ethics Committee of Zhongshan Hospital approved the present study (approval no. ZH20210809). The mice were euthanized using CO<sub>2</sub> at a displacement rate of 40% of the chamber volume/min (CO<sub>2</sub> flow rate, 2.5 l/min), and animal death was confirmed by cessation of heartbeat.

**Hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining.** Lung tissues of mice were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (cat. no. AS1018, ASPEN)

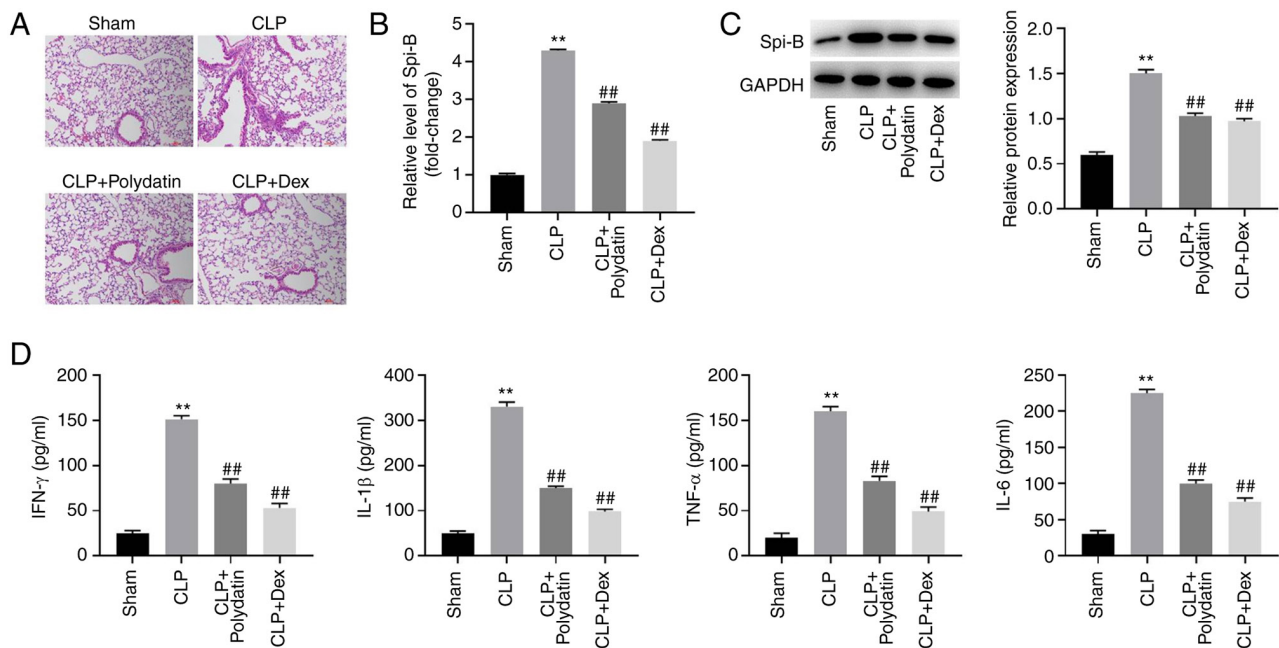


Figure 1. Polydatin attenuates the expression of Spi-B in lungs of the mouse model of sepsis-induced ALI. Lung tissues of mice were extracted. (A) Lung injury in mice was observed by Hematoxylin and eosin staining. (B) The mRNA expression levels of Spi-B in the lung tissues of mice. (C) The protein levels of Spi-B in the lung tissues of mice were detected. (D) The IFN- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , and IL-6 levels in the BALF of mice were detected by ELISA.  $n=3$ . \*\* $P<0.01$  vs. Sham; ## $P<0.01$  vs. CLP. ALI, acute lung injury; BALF, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid; CLP, cecum ligation and puncture.

at room temperature overnight and then the tissues were paraffin-embedded and sectioned (4- $\mu$ m thick). Subsequently, the sections were stained with H&E solution (cat. no. C0105S, Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology) at room temperature and the injury to lung tissues was observed using a light microscope (magnification,  $\times 200$ ).

**Statistical analysis.** Data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of three independent experimental repeats. For comparison among multiple groups ( $>2$  groups), a one-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post hoc test was used.  $P<0.05$  was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

## Results

**Polydatin attenuates the symptoms of sepsis-induced ALI in vivo.** To investigate the function of polydatin in sepsis-induced ALI *in vivo*, a sepsis-induced mouse ALI model was constructed. As shown in Fig. 1A, inflammatory infiltration was observed in mice after CLP surgery, whereas this effect was abolished via treatment with polydatin or Dex (positive control, a drug that has been used to treat ALI) (23). Compared to the sham group, the mRNA levels of Spi-B were increased 4.3-fold and the protein levels of Spi-B were increased 2.5-fold in mice subjected to CLP (Fig. 1B and C). However, the mRNA and protein levels of Spi-B in the CLP + polydatin group were reduced by 33 and 31% compared to the CLP group, respectively; and the mRNA and protein levels of Spi-B in the CLP + Dex group were reduced by 56 and 35% compared to the CLP group (Fig. 1B and C). These results showed that the expression of Spi-B in mice was upregulated by CLP, an effect that was partially counterbalanced following treatment with polydatin

or Dex (Fig. 1B and C). In addition, CLP increased the levels of IFN- $\alpha$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, and IL-1 $\beta$  in the BALF of mice, while the pro-inflammatory effect of CLP was inhibited by polydatin (Fig. 1D). Taken together, these results show that polydatin could attenuate the symptoms of sepsis-induced ALI *in vivo*.

**Polydatin antagonizes CLP-activated PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling in the lungs of the sepsis-induced ALI mouse model.** Western blotting was performed to assess the effects of polydatin on the NF- $\kappa$ B and PI3K/Akt signaling pathway. CLP increased p-PI3K, p-Akt, p-NF- $\kappa$ B, and NF- $\kappa$ B levels in mice; however, these phenomena were partially reversed by treatment with polydatin or Dex (Fig. 2A and B). Polydatin was able to reverse CLP-activated PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling in mice.

**Polydatin antagonizes LPS-induced inflammatory responses in PMVECs via the downregulation of Spi-B.** To evaluate the role of Spi-B in sepsis-induced ALI, PMVECs were transfected with the Spi-B OE vector. The RT-qPCR data indicated that the expression of Spi-B in PMVECs was increased following Spi-B OE vector transfection (Fig. 3A and B). In addition, LPS-induced upregulation of IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , and IFN- $\alpha$  in the supernatant of PMVECs was further increased following Spi-B overexpression, while the upregulation of cytokines was reversed by polydatin (Fig. 3C). Meanwhile, the anti-inflammatory effect of polydatin was significantly restored by pcDNA3.1-Spi-B transfection (Fig. 3C).

Next, to explore the relationships between polydatin, Spi-B, PI3K/Akt, and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling, western blotting was used. As shown in Fig. 4A, LPS-induced upregulation of

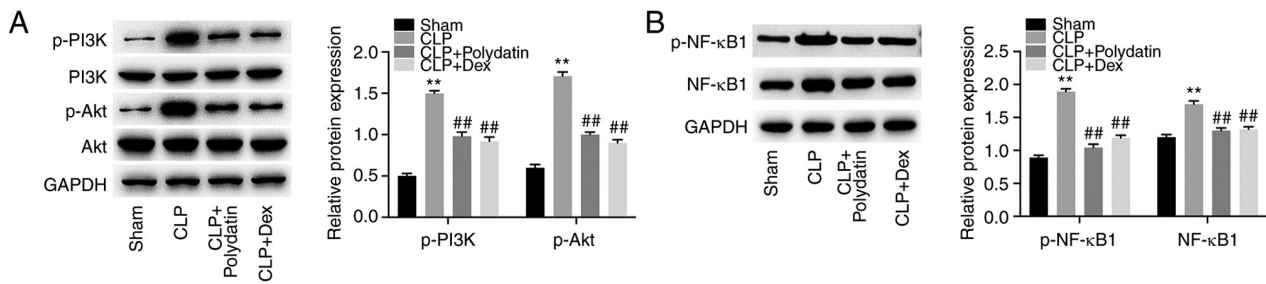


Figure 2. Polydatin antagonizes CLP-activated PI3K/Akt and NF-κB signaling in lung of mice model of sepsis-induced ALI. Lung tissues of mice were extracted. (A) The PI3K, p-PI3K, Akt and p-Akt levels in lung tissues of mice were evaluated by western blot assay. (B) The level of NF-κB1 in lung tissues of mice was detected with western blot assay.  $n=3$ . \*\* $P<0.01$  vs. Sham; ## $P<0.01$  vs. CLP. ALI, acute lung injury; CLP, cecum ligation and puncture; Dex, dexamethasone.

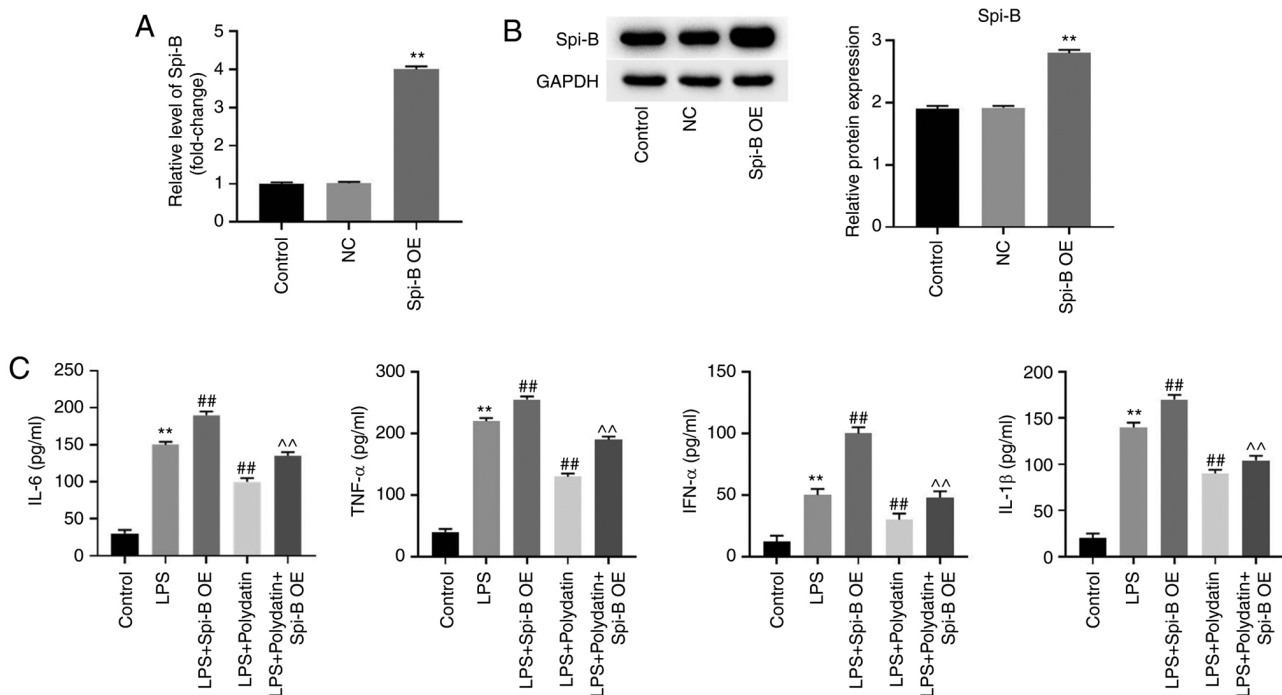


Figure 3. Polydatin antagonizes LPS-induced inflammatory responses in PMVECs via downregulation of Spi-B. PMVECs were transfected with pcDNA3.1 or pcDNA3.1-Spi-B and the (A) mRNA and (B) protein levels of Spi-B in PMVECs were assessed. (C) PMVECs were treated with LPS (100 ng/ml), LPS + pcDNA3.1-Spi-B, LPS + polydatin (0.5 mM) or LPS + pcDNA3.1-Spi-B + polydatin. The levels of IFN-α, IL-1β, TNF-α, and IL-6 in the supernatants of PMVECs were determined by ELISA.  $n=3$ . \*\* $P<0.01$  vs. control; ## $P<0.01$  vs. LPS; ^^ $P<0.01$  vs. LPS + polydatin. LPS, lipopolysaccharide; PMVEC, Pulmonary microvascular endothelial cell; NC, negative control; OE, overexpression.

Spi-B in PMVECs was significantly reversed by polydatin, while this phenomenon was partially abolished by Spi-B OE. In addition, LPS upregulated p-Akt, p-PI3K, and NF-κB1 levels in PMVECs; however, polydatin partially reversed the effect of LPS on these proteins (Fig. 4B and C). Meanwhile, pcDNA3.1-Spi-B slightly affected the levels of p-Akt, p-PI3K, and NF-κB in PMVECs co-treated with LPS and polydatin ( $P>0.05$ , Fig. 4B and C). Together, it was shown that polydatin reversed LPS-induced inflammatory responses in PMVECs via downregulation of Spi-B.

*Spi-B overexpression abolishes the anti-inflammatory effect of polydatin in CLP mice.* To further confirm the relation between polydatin and Spi-B in sepsis-induced ALI *in vivo*, western blotting was performed. As shown in Fig. 5A, the protective effect of polydatin against ALI in CLP mice was

significantly abolished by Spi-B overexpression. Consistently, Spi-B overexpression increased the levels of Spi-B in CLP mice even when treated with polydatin (Fig. 5B). In addition, IL-1β, IL-6, TNF-α, and IFN-α levels in the CLP mice were decreased by polydatin, while Spi-B OE transfection reversed this phenomenon (Fig. 5C). In summary, the anti-inflammatory effect of polydatin in CLP mice was abolished by Spi-B overexpression.

*Spi-B overexpression abolishes the inhibitory effect of polydatin on PI3K/Akt and NF-κB signaling.* The function of polydatin in PI3K/Akt and NF-κB signaling *in vivo* was further explored. The data indicated that CLP increased p-Akt, p-PI3K, p-NF-κB1, and NF-κB1 levels in mouse lung tissues; however, polydatin treatment completely abolished these effects (Fig. 6A and B). Consistently, the polydatin-induced



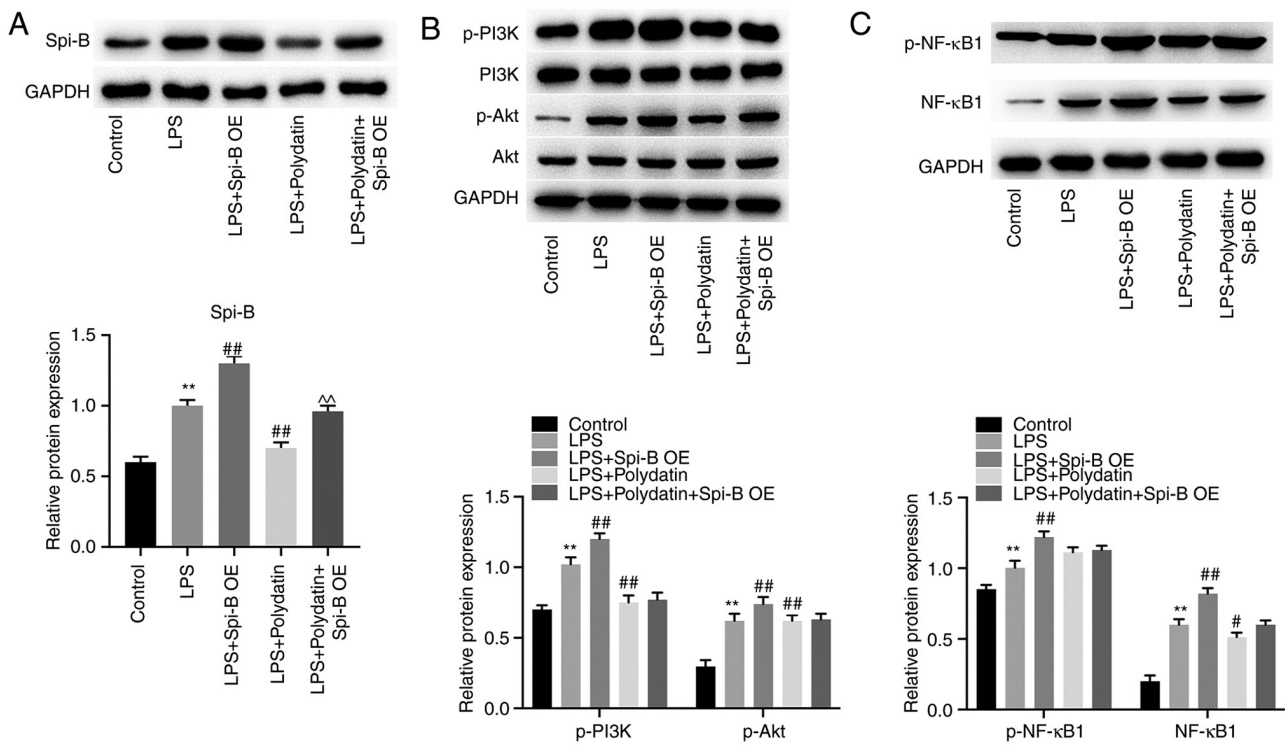


Figure 4. Polydatin significantly reduces Spi-B expression and counteracts LPS-induced activation of PI3K/Akt and NF-κB signaling. The protein levels of (A) Spi-B, (B) PI3K, p-PI3K, Akt, and p-Akt in, and (C) NF-κB in PMVECs in PMVECs were detected by western blotting. The relative expression was quantified by normalizing to GAPDH. n=3. \*\*P<0.01 vs. control; #P<0.05 and ##P<0.01 vs. LPS; ^P<0.01 vs. LPS + Polydatin. LPS, lipopolysaccharide; PMVEC, Pulmonary microvascular endothelial cell; OE, overexpression.

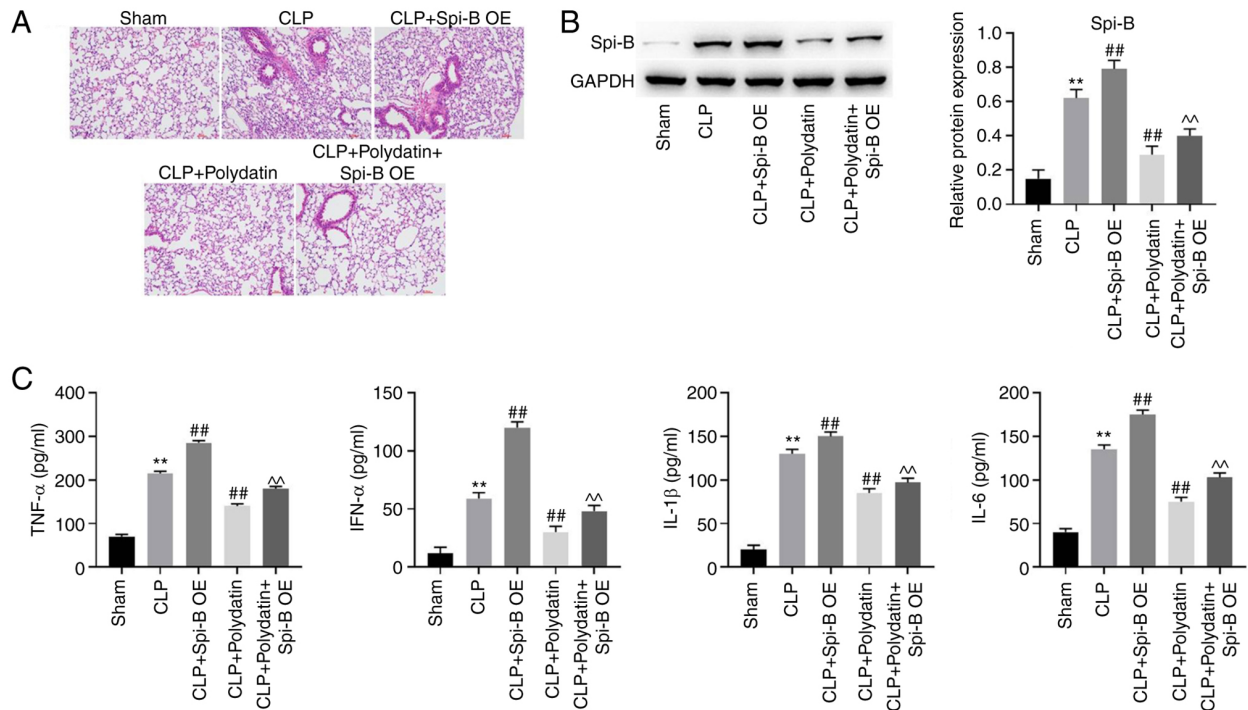


Figure 5. Spi-B overexpression abrogates the anti-inflammatory effect of polydatin in CLP mice. Lung tissues from the mouse models of ALI were extracted. (A) Lung injury in mice was observed using hematoxylin and eosin staining. (B) The protein expression levels of Spi-B in the tissues of mice were detected by western blotting. (C) ELISA was used for detection of IFN-α, IL-1β, TNF-α, and IL-6 levels in the BALF of mice. n=3. \*P<0.01 vs. Sham; ##P<0.01 vs. CLP; ^P<0.01 vs. CLP + polydatin. CLP, cecum ligation and puncture; ALI, acute lung injury; BALF, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid; OE, overexpression.

downregulation of p-PI3K, p-Akt, and NF-κB1 in CLP mice was partially restored by Spi-B OE. In summary, polydatin

inactivated PI3K/Akt and NF-κB signaling in CLP mice through the downregulation of Spi-B.

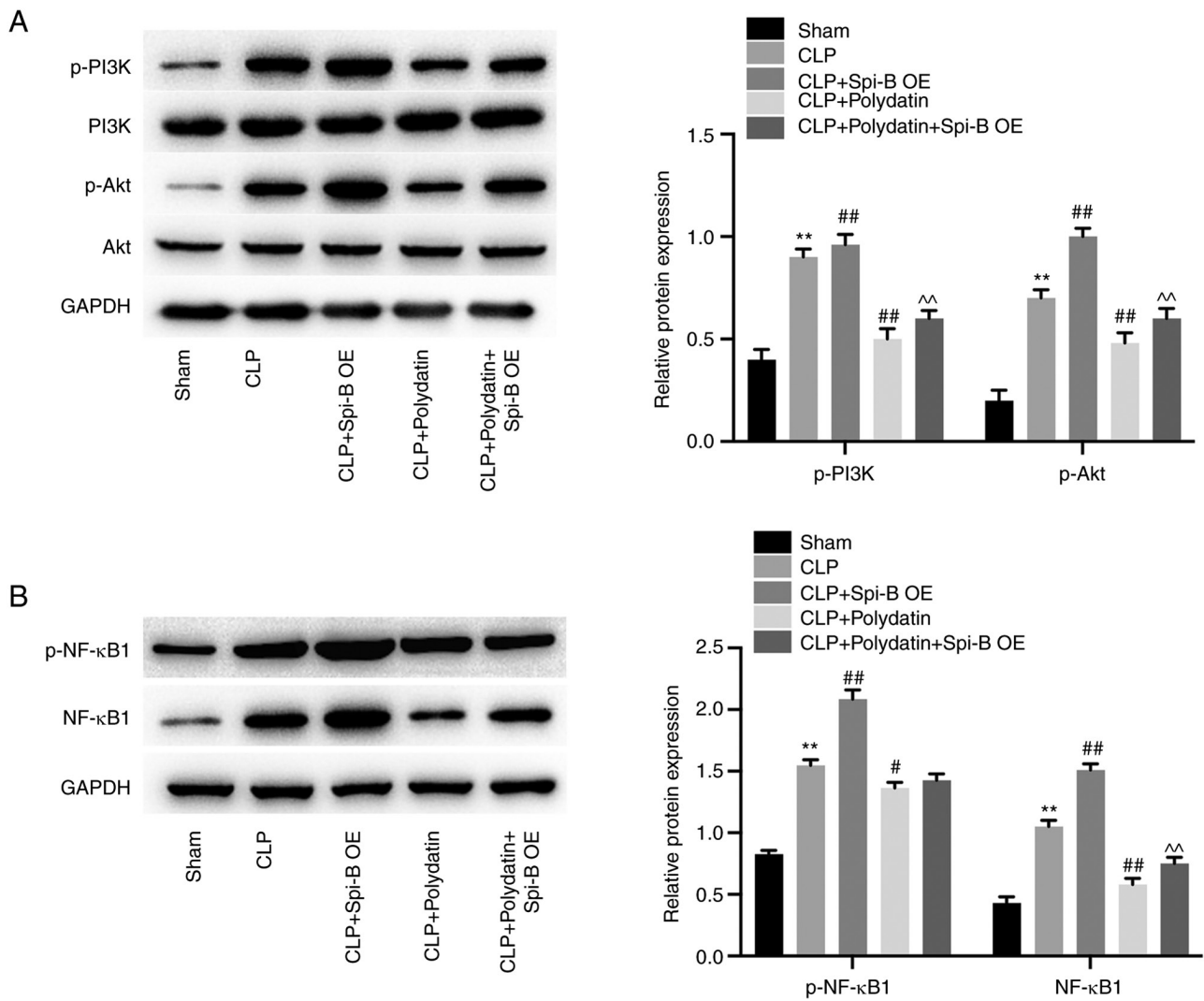


Figure 6. Spi-B overexpression abrogates the inhibitory effect of polydatin on PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling. Lung tissues of mice were extracted. (A) The PI3K, p-PI3K, Akt, and p-Akt, and (B) NF- $\kappa$ B1 in the lung tissues of mice were detected by western blotting.  $n=3$  \*\* $P<0.01$  vs. Sham; # $P<0.05$  and ## $P<0.01$  vs. CLP; ^^ $P<0.01$  vs. CLP + polydatin. CLP, cecum ligation and puncture; OE, overexpression.

## Discussion

It has been previously reported that Polydatin can mediate inflammatory responses. For example, Chen *et al* (24) found that polydatin exerted anti-inflammatory effects in LPS-induced macrophages, while Oliviero *et al* (25) found that polydatin could prevent calcium pyrophosphate crystal-induced arthritis. IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IFN- $\alpha$  are pro-inflammatory factors that play crucial roles in mediating inflammation response in various diseases including ALI (26,27). Tian *et al* (27) found that methionine enkephalin could attenuate ALI in influenza A virus-infected mice by decreasing IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IFN- $\alpha$  levels. The present study found that polydatin notably reduced IL-6, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , and IFN- $\alpha$  levels in LPS-treated PMVECs and in CLP mice, suggesting that polydatin could suppress inflammatory responses in sepsis-induced ALI. Meanwhile, it was demonstrated that polydatin could inhibit the progression of sepsis-induced ALI (11). The present study found that polydatin significantly attenuated the progression of sepsis-induced ALI *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Thus, the present

study was consistent with previous work. In addition, it was also found that Spi-B was downregulated following polydatin treatment in sepsis-induced ALI. Thus, it is hypothesized that polydatin may act as an inhibitor of Spi-B in inflammatory responses.

Spi-B is known to be a crucial mediator in immune reactions and inflammatory responses (28,29), and its upregulation could lead to the dysfunction of T and B cells (30). Consistently, the current study found that overexpression of Spi-B could reverse the anti-inflammatory effect of polydatin. Conversely, it was shown that the levels of cytokines secreted by macrophages were significantly increased during the progression of ALI (31). Therefore, the results of the present study were consistent with this previous study. In addition, Jiang *et al* (32) demonstrated that polydatin alleviated LPS-induced ALI progression by downregulating TLR4. TLR4 upregulation could promote inflammation by positively regulating NF- $\kappa$ B signaling (33,34). Therefore, the similarity in function between Spi-B and TLR4 may result in the similarity between the present results and the study by Jiang *et al* (32).

It was reported that polydatin could prevent 1-methyl-4-phenylpyridinium-induced neurotoxicity by enhancing the activity of myocyte enhancer factor 2D (MEF2D) and polydatin could interact with MEF2D (35). In addition, the transcriptional inhibitor was reported to reduce promoter activity (36,37). Based on the aforementioned studies, polydatin may inhibit the expression of Spi-B by interacting with a transcriptional factor.

PI3K/Akt signaling is known to be a modulator of cell growth (38) and it could be activated during the occurrence of ALI (16,39). In addition, upregulation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling could lead to the dysregulation of inflammatory reactions and this phenomenon could result in the development of lung tissue injury (16,40). It was demonstrated that Spi-B could promote the activation of PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling during the inflammatory responses (17,18). Consistently, the present study found PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling could be activated by Spi-B overexpression in sepsis-induced ALI. Moreover, previous studies indicated polydatin was able to down-regulate the PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathways (11,32). Therefore, it could be suggested that polydatin could reverse the progression of sepsis-induced ALI via the downregulation of PI3K/Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling.

According to Huang *et al* (41), polydatin prevented LPS-induced Parkinson's disease through the mediation of the AKT/GSK3 $\beta$ -nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2)/NF- $\kappa$ B axis. In addition, the current study indicated that polydatin could alleviate sepsis-induced ALI through inhibition of Spi-B and Spi-B OE could activate Akt and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling. Thus, polydatin may inhibit NF- $\kappa$ B signaling through the mediation of AKT/GSK3 $\beta$ -Nrf2 signaling. The detailed function of polydatin in GSK3 $\beta$ -Nrf2 will be investigated in future.

The present study has certain shortcomings such as: i) The interaction between polydatin and transcriptional factors in ALI induced by sepsis needs to be further investigated; and ii) the detailed function of polydatin in GSK3 $\beta$ -Nrf2 requires further investigation.

In conclusion, polydatin prevented sepsis-induced ALI via the downregulation of Spi-B. Taken together, the present findings revealed that polydatin alleviated sepsis-induced ALI via downregulation of Spi-B. This research may provide novel insights in uncovering novel strategies for the treatment of sepsis-induced ALI.

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## Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and are available from FAIRsharing.org: 4TU.ResearchData; 4TU.ResearchData, DOI: 10.25504/FAIRsharing.zcveaz. The raw data is available from <https://figshare.com/s/43e3da3395e65cf0ea5c>.

## Authors' contributions

QL, FL, YS and YY were responsible for the conception and design of the study. QL, FL, MX and WC performed the experiments. ZT, MX and WC performed the analysis and interpretation of the data. ZT wrote the manuscript. YS and YY revised the manuscript. All authors confirm the authenticity of all the raw data and have read and approved the final manuscript.

## Ethics approval and consent to participate

All animal experiments were approved by the Ethics Committee of Zhongshan Hospital (approval no. ZH20210809).

## Patient consent for publication

Not applicable.

## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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