



# Bee Venom Exerts Neuroprotective Effects on Neuronal Cells and Astrocytes under Hypoxic Conditions Through MAPK Signaling Pathways



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# Disclosure



- I have no relevant financial relationships to disclose or conflicts of interest to resolve
- I will not discuss any unapproved or off-label, experimental or investigational use of a product, drug or device.





# Background

- **Hypoxia and ischemia**
  - Essential factors of neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy.
  - Many biochemical changes
  - **Involvement of multiple signal transduction cascades**



# Background



- **Hypoxia/Ischemia**

- Involvement of signaling pathways for apoptosis
- Its modification → neuroprotection



- **Bee venom**

- Anticancer mechanisms under hypoxia
- Modification of signaling pathways for apoptosis





# Bee venom (BV)

- Contains various peptides, enzymes and non-peptide components
- **BV peptides**; melittin, apamin, mast cell degranulation peptide and adolapin
- **Enzymes**; phospholipase A2, hyaluronidase, phosphomonoesterase,  $\alpha$ -d-glucosidase and lypophospholipase
- **Non-peptide components**; histamine, dopamines, noradrenaline, carbohydrates and some lipids





# Bee venom

- **Anti-inflammatory**, anti-neurotoxic, antibacterial, anti-allergic, and anti-hypertensive effects and regulatory functions in the autonomic nervous system (*Choi et al 2014, Lee et al 2012, Kwon et al 2001, Park et al 2008, Boman et al 1989*)
- Rheumatoid arthritis, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, neuro-muscular pain syndrome, skin disease and immune disease (*Wu 2014, Cho et al 2010*)



# Background

## BV and neuroprotection



- Bee Venom and Its Component Apamin as **Neuroprotective Agents** in a Parkinson Disease Mouse Model (Alvarez-Fischer, D., et al. (2013))
- A secretory phospholipase A2-mediated **neuroprotection** and anti-apoptosis (Armugam, A., et al. (2009))
- Bee Venom Phospholipase A2, a Novel Foxp3+ Regulatory T Cell Inducer, **Protects Dopaminergic Neurons** by Modulating Neuroinflammatory Responses in a Mouse Model of Parkinson's Disease (Chung, E. S., et al. (2015))
- Bee Venom **Protects** against Rotenone-Induced Cell Death in NSC34 **Motor Neuron Cells** (Jung, S. Y., et al. (2015))
- Apitoxin **protects rat pups brain** from propionic acid-induced oxidative stress: The expression pattern of Bcl-2 and Caspase-3 apoptotic genes (Khalil, S. R., et al. (2015))





# Background

- **Anti-inflammatory effect of BV**
  - Inhibiting NF-kB activation and modulating the expression of various inflammatory cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor alpha (*Choi et al 2014, Lee et al 2012*)
  - Downregulates inducible nitric oxide synthase and cyclooxygenase-2, possibly through NF-kB and **MAPK activation** in neuronal and glial cells (*Lee et al 2012, Tu et al 2011*)
  - Melittin; decrease the expression of inflammatory cytokines through the regulation of NF-kB and **MAPK signaling pathways** (*Lee et al 2014*)





# Background



- **MAPK pathways**
  - Mainly composed of key regulatory protein
  - Control **inflammation** and physiologic processes
  - Regulated by phosphorylation cascades
  - At least 3 distinct group MAPKs in mammals





# Background

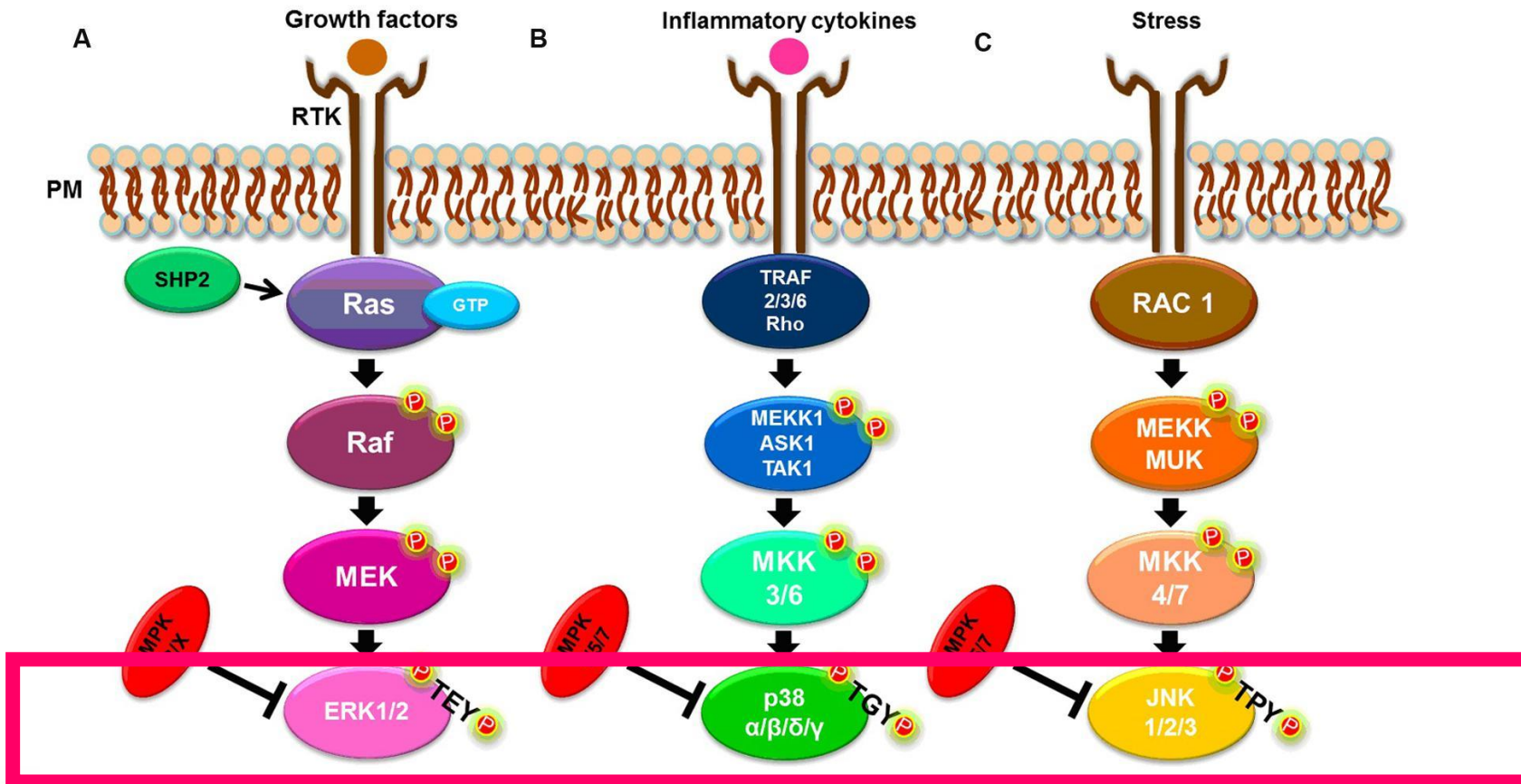
- **MAPK pathways**

- Mainly composed of key regulatory protein
- Control **inflammation** and physiologic processes
- Regulated by phosphorylation cascades
- At least 3 distinct group MAPKs in mammals
  - Extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase 1/ 2 (ERK 1/ 2)
  - Stress-activated protein kinases (SAPK/JNK)
  - P38 kinases





# Background





# Objectives

- 1) the effects of BV on cell viability following hypoxia with low glucose condition in neuronal cells and astrocytes
- 2) their neuroprotective mechanisms through expression of the activated MAPK pathways, including ERK, p38MAPK, and SAPK/JNK.





# Methods

Neuronal Cells  
(E14)

Astrocytes(P1)

**Normoxia (N)**

**Hypoxia**

(1% O<sub>2</sub>, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 94% N<sub>2</sub>)

**Low glucose (H+lowG)**

**Hypoxia**

(1% O<sub>2</sub>, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>, 94% N<sub>2</sub>)

**Low glucose+ BV  
(H+lowG+BV)**

ERK

P38

SAPK/JNK

Cell viability

0 hr

6 hr

15 hr

24 hr

**BV**



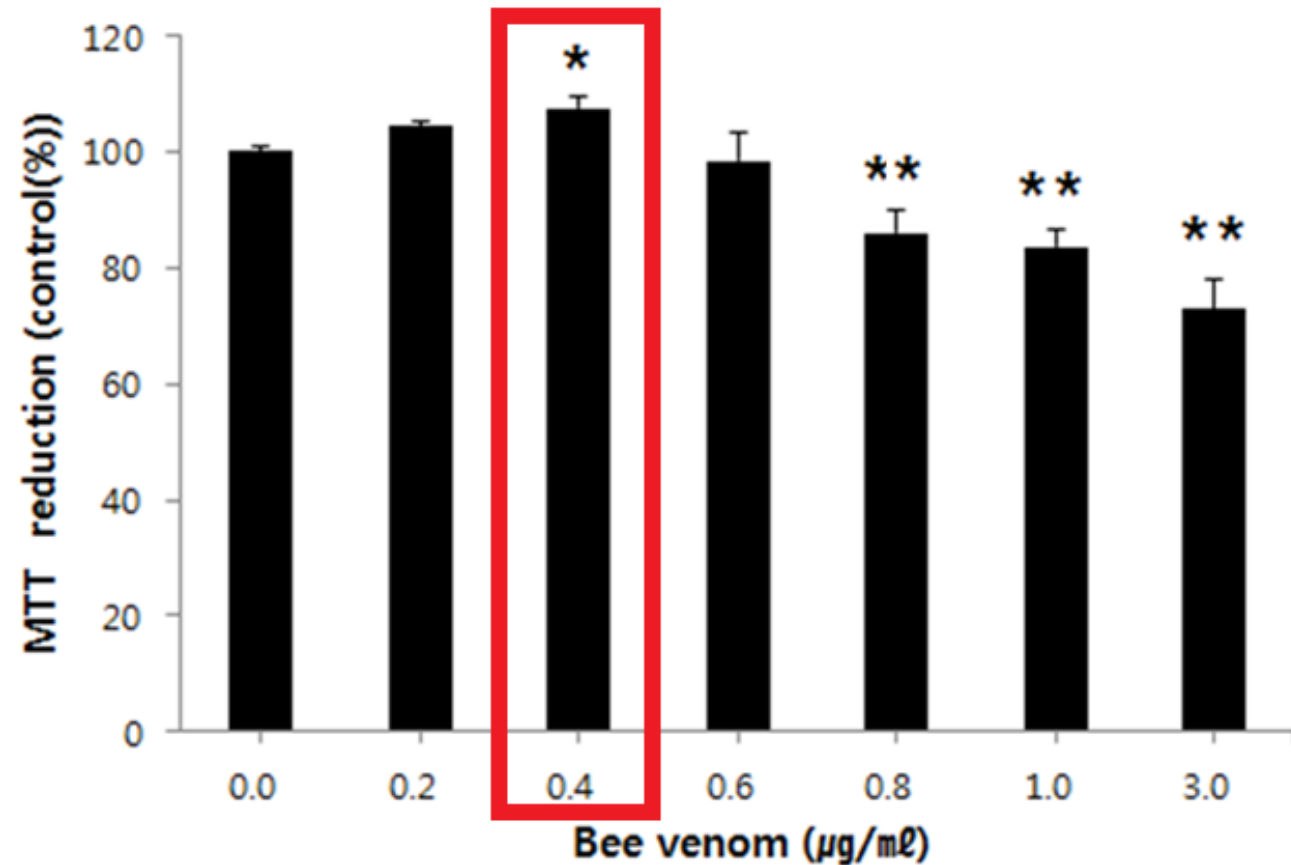
# Results





# Optimal concentration of BV

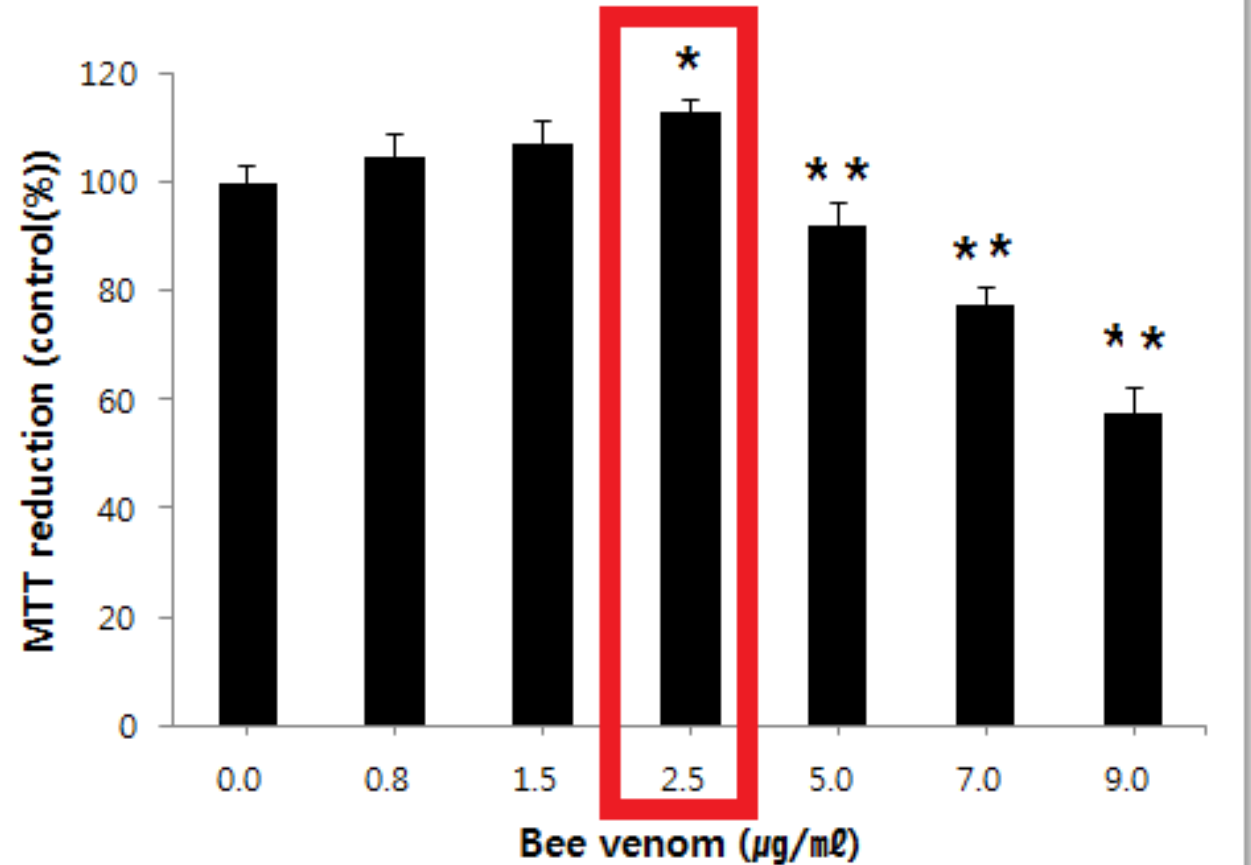
## Neuronal Cells



# Optimal concentration of BV



## Astrocytes

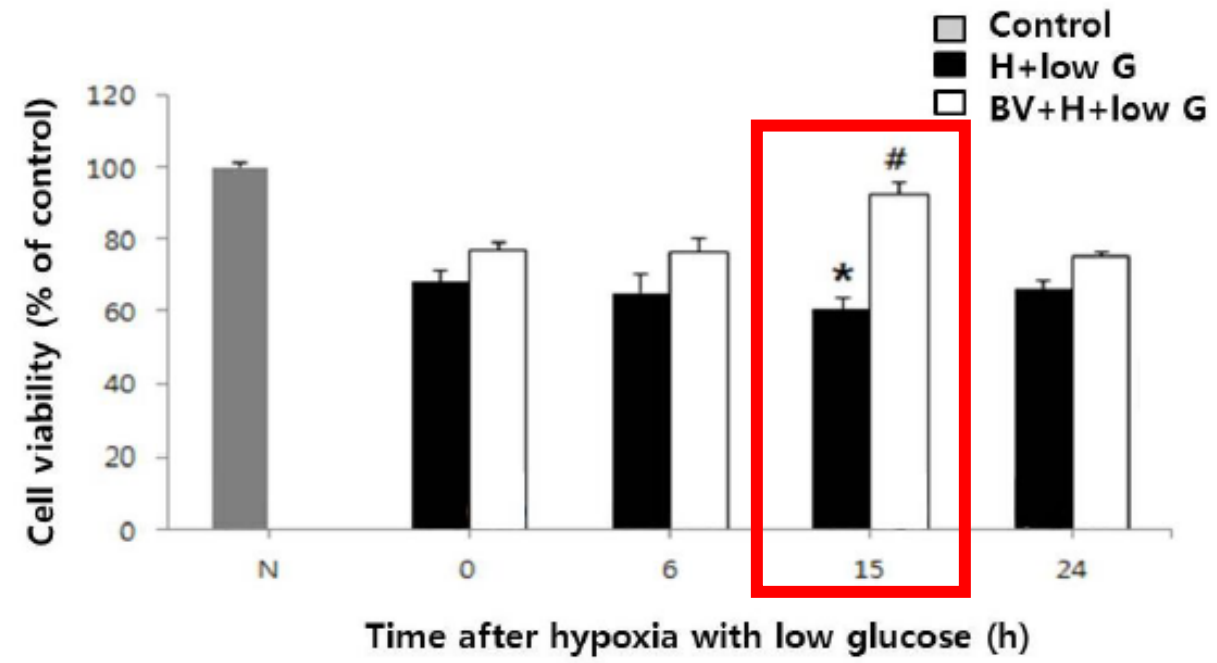
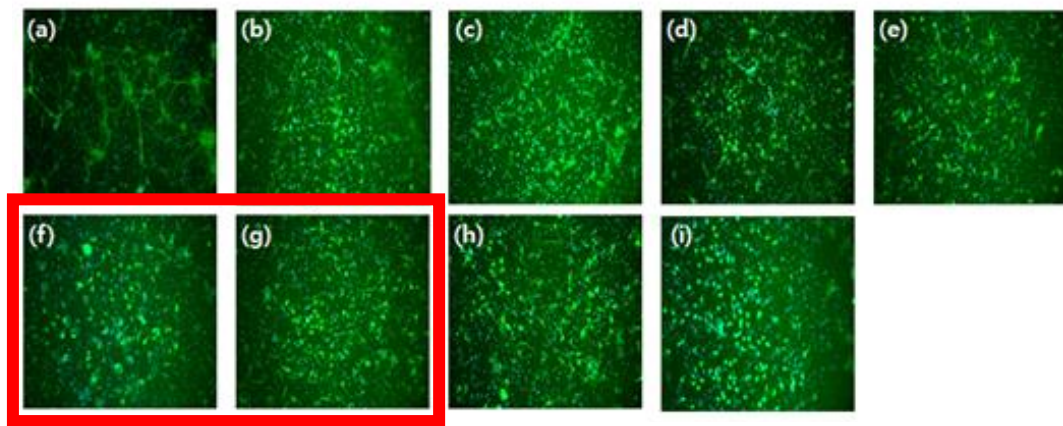






# Cell viability

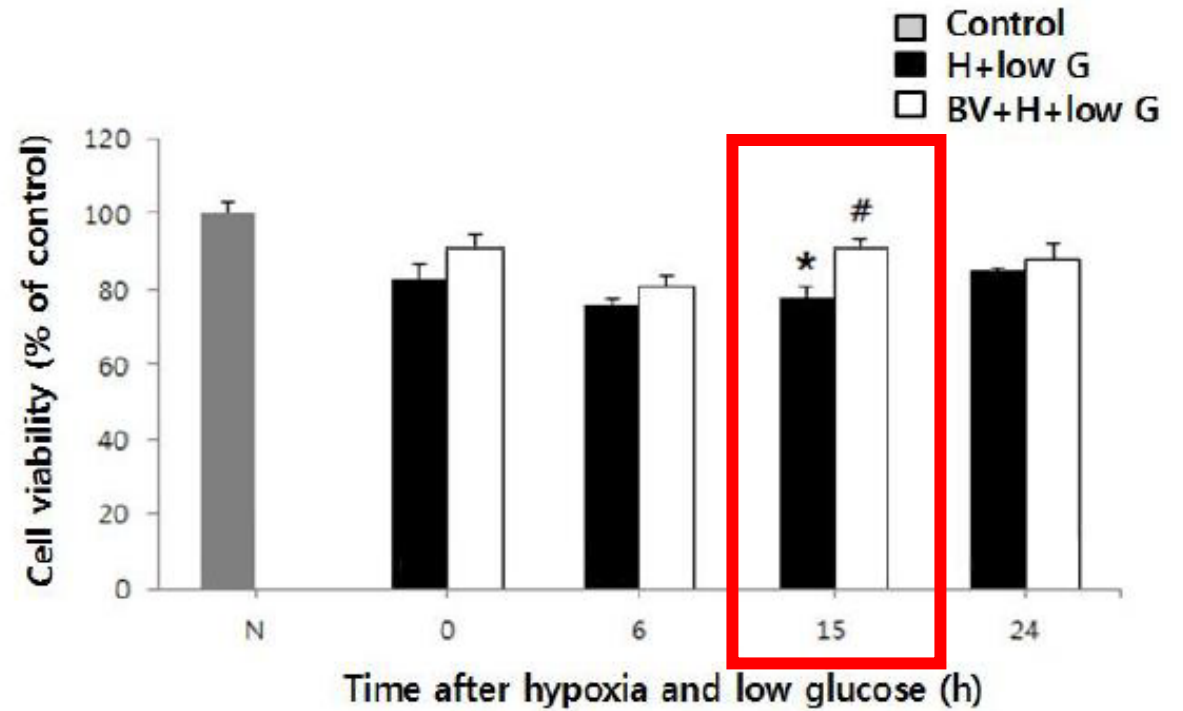
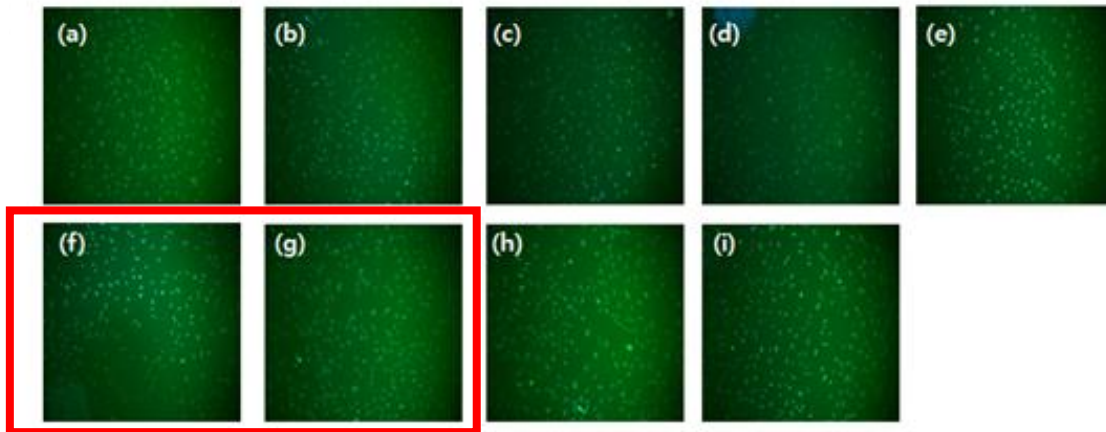
## Neuronal cells



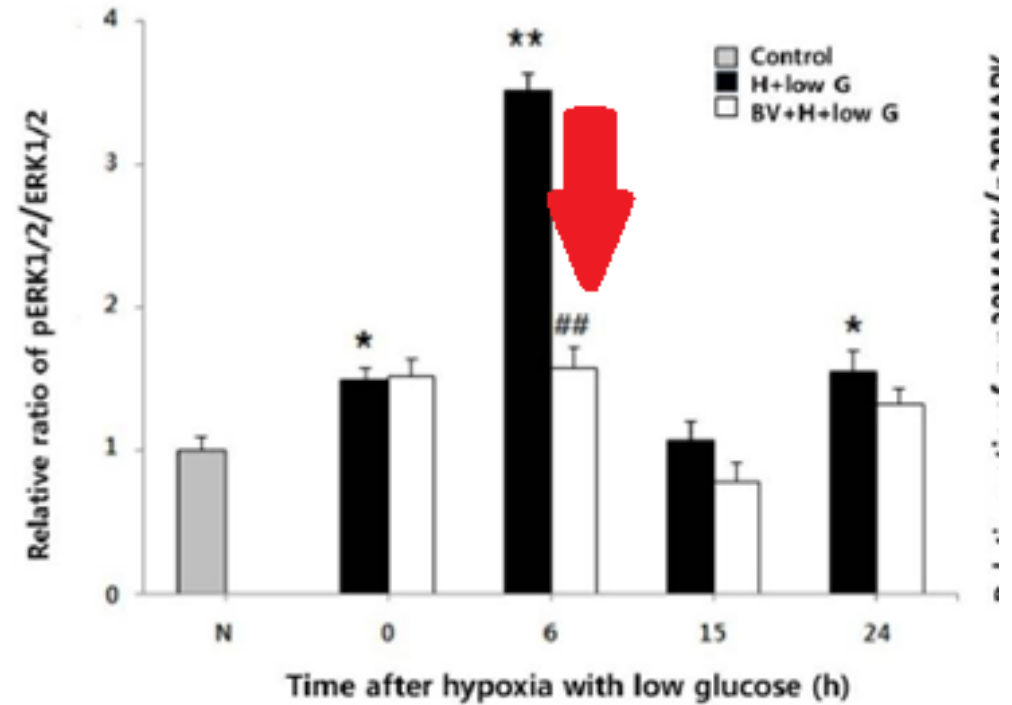
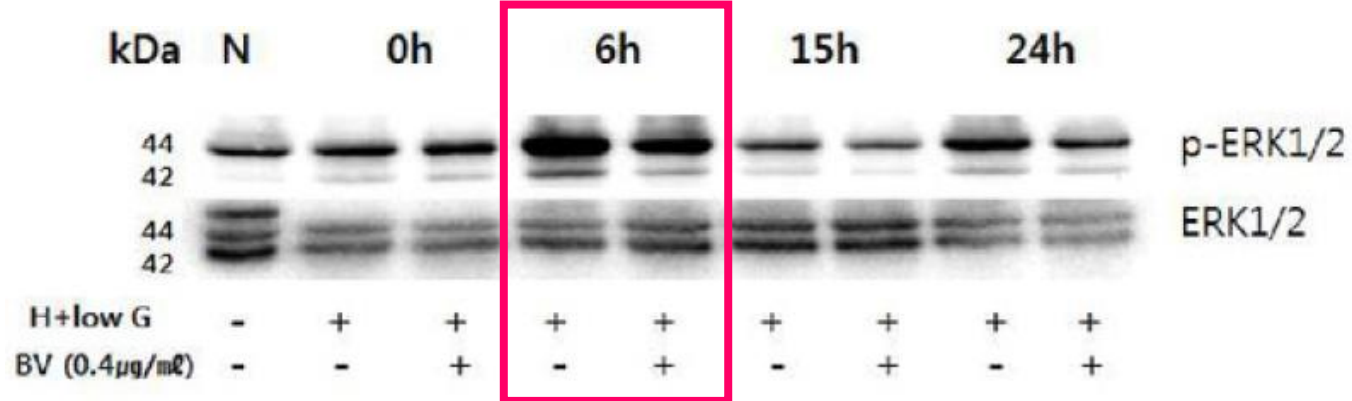


# Cell viability

## Astrocytes

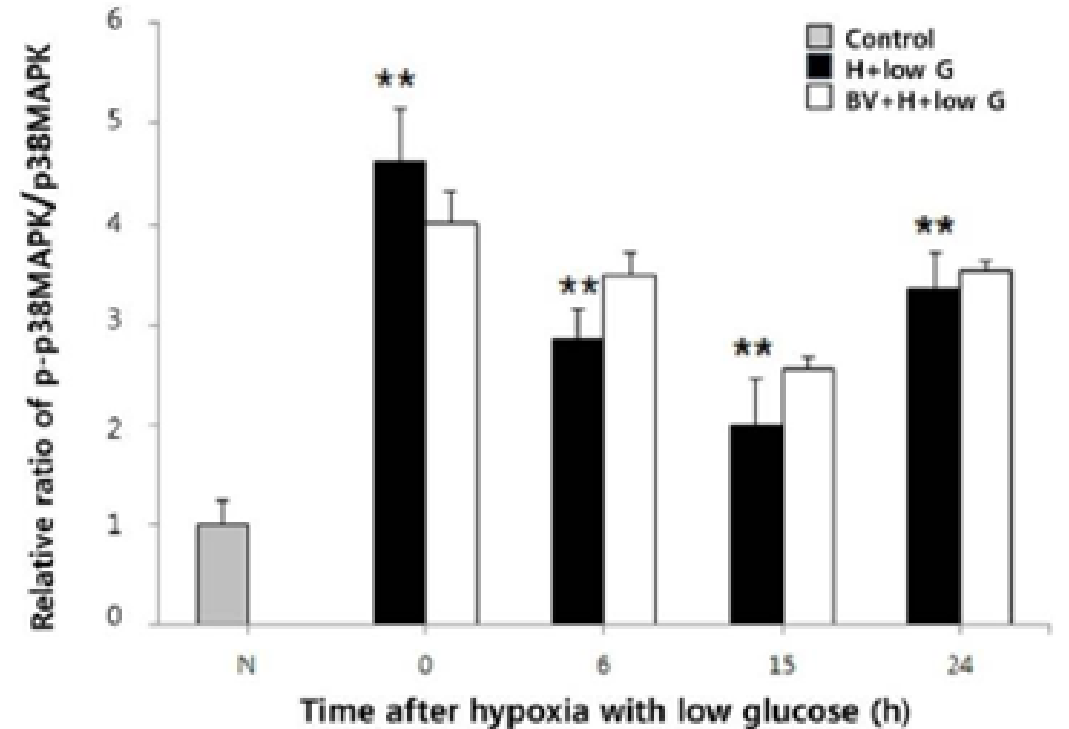
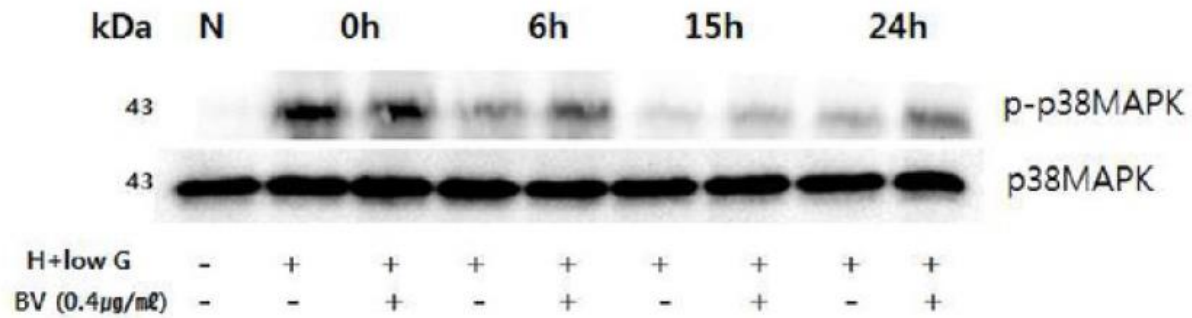


# ERK



# Neuronal Cells

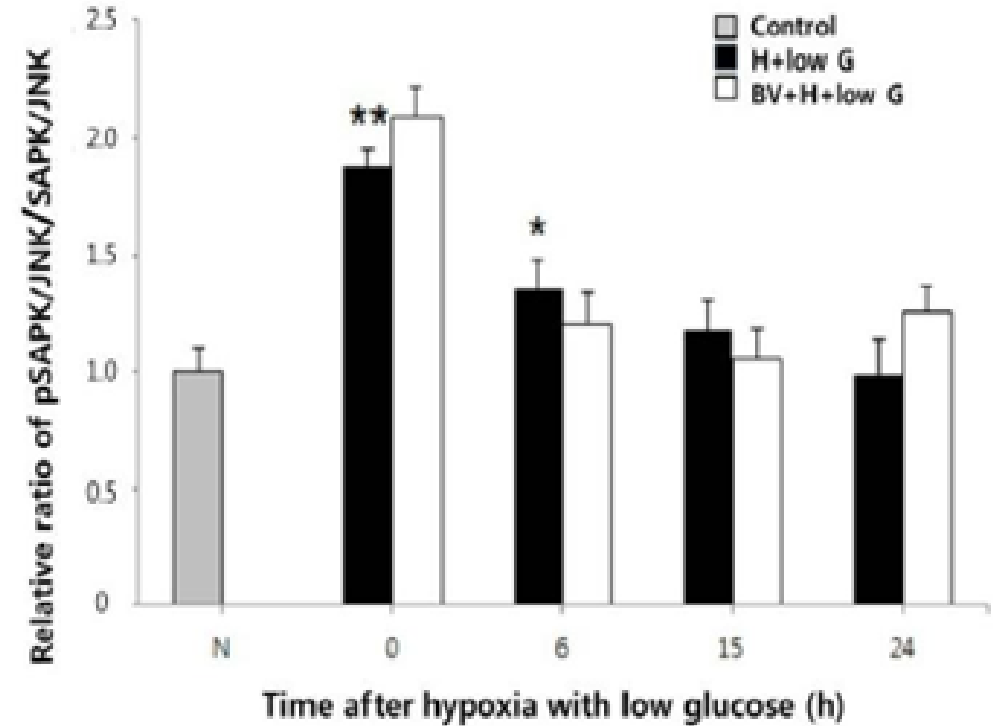
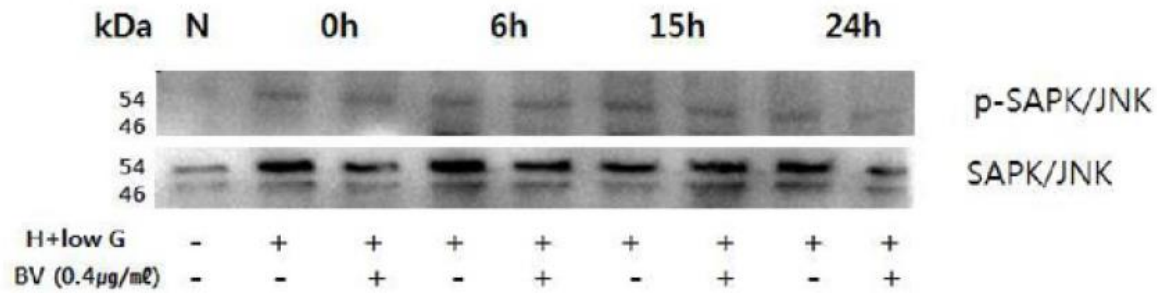
# p38



# Neuronal Cells



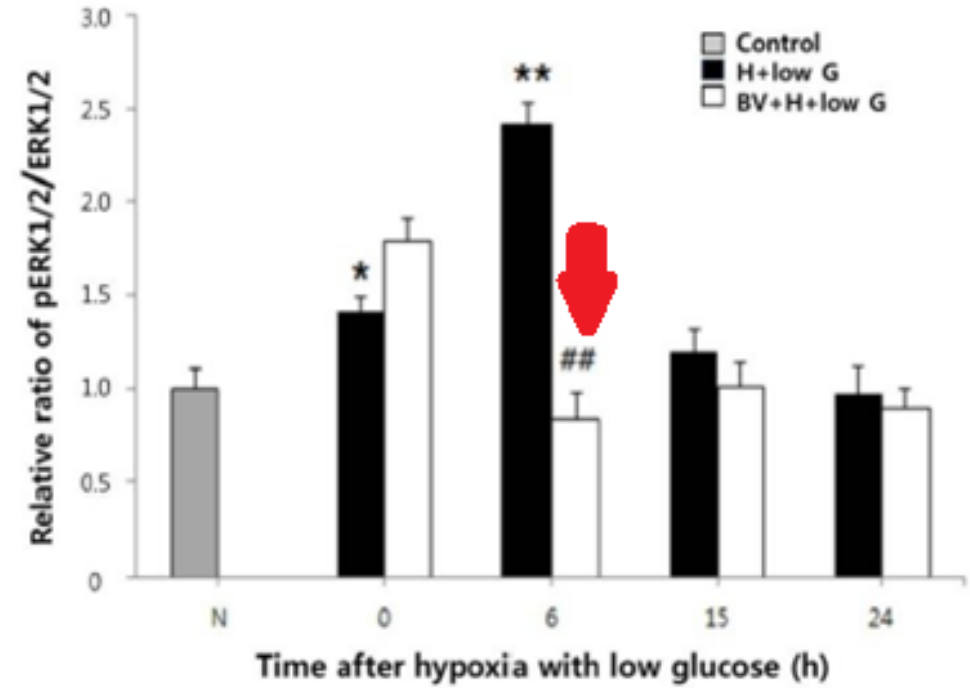
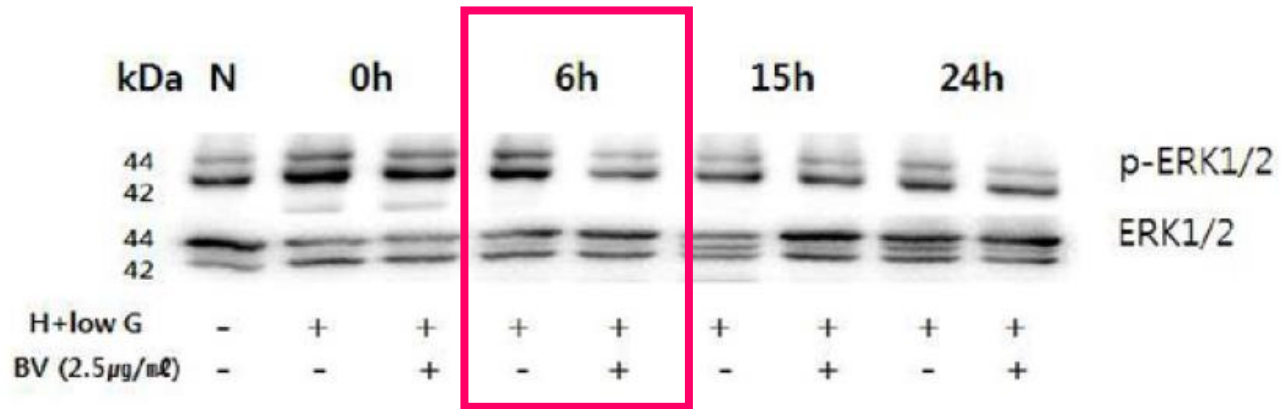
# SAPK/JNK



## Neuronal Cells



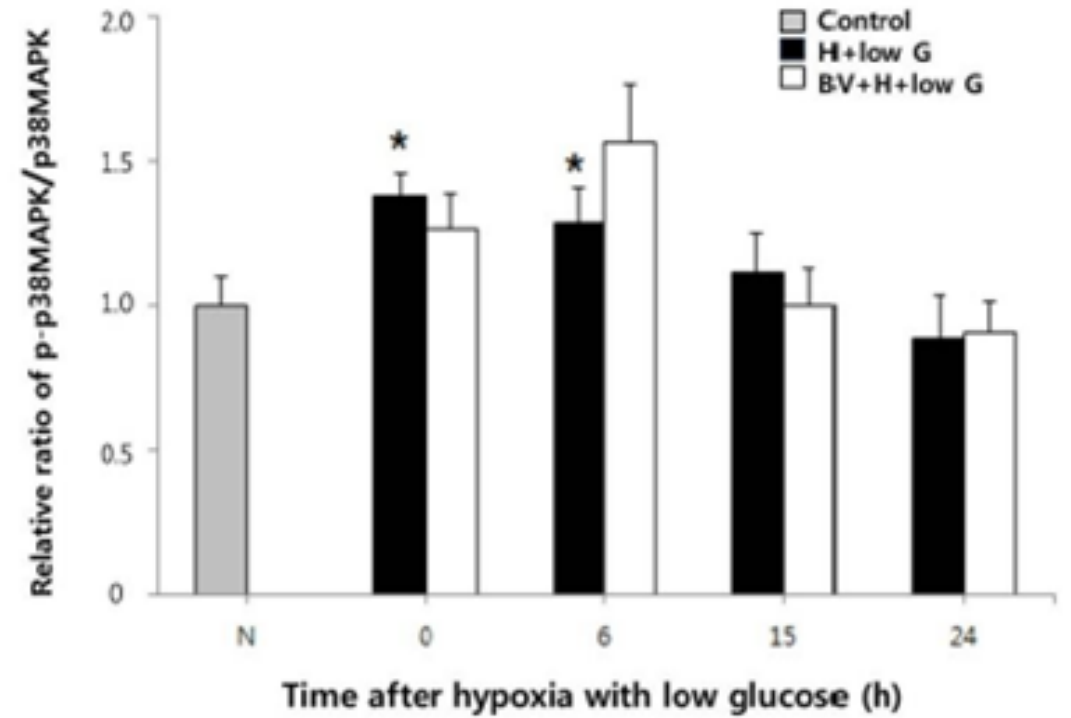
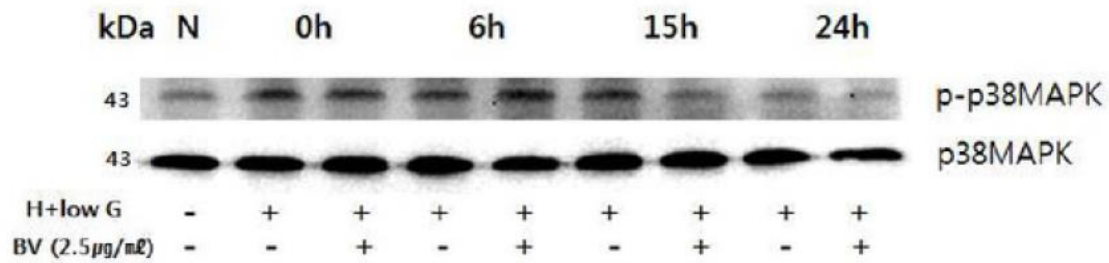
# ERK



# Astrocytes



# p38

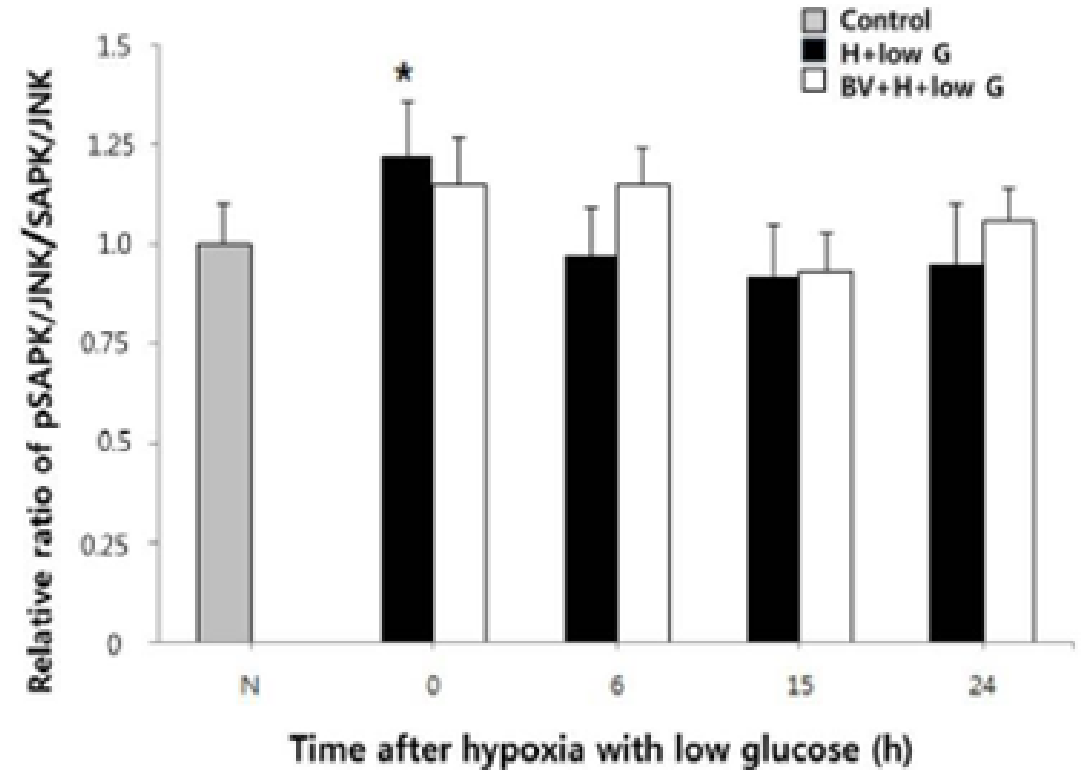
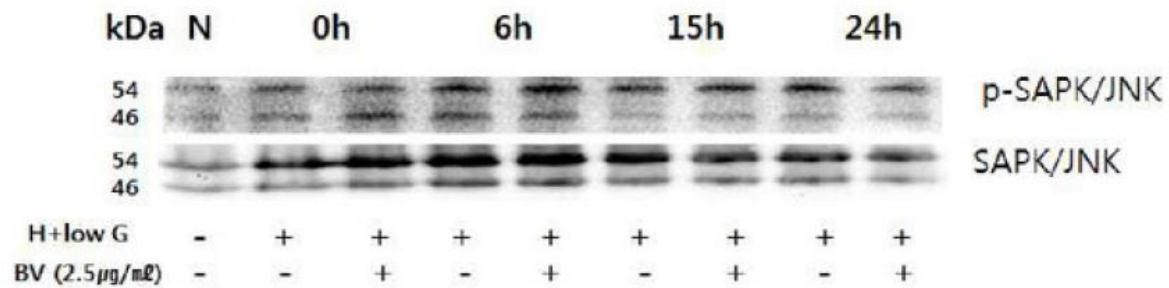


# Astrocytes





# SAPK/JNK



## Astrocytes





# Conclusion

- Phosphorylation of all MAPKs and reduction of cell survival after hypoxia and low G condition.
- Improved cell viability with BV pretreatment
- Inhibition of phosphorylation of ERK1/2 in BV pretreated neuronal cells and the astrocytes following H+low G condition
- No effects on p38MAPK and SAPK/JNK with BV pretreatment
- BV has neuroprotective effect through ERK1/2 mediated mechanism.



# Acknowledgement

