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### Author
粕谷, 美南子(Kasuya, Minako)
糸井, 素一(Itoi, Motokazu)
小林, 静子(Kobayashi, Shizuko)
須永, 博之(Sunaga, Hiroyuki)
鈴木, 和夫(Suzuki, Kazuo)

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Changes of Glutathione and Taurine Concentrations in Lenses of Rat Eyes induced by Galactose-cataract Formation or Ageing

Minako Kasuya*, Motokazu Itoi*, Shizuko Kobayashi, Hiroyuki Sunaga**
and Kazuo T. Suzuki**

Sulfur-containing compounds in the lens were studied in relation to galactose cataract formation. Female Wistar rats were fed a 35% galactose diet and the changes in lens sulfur concentration and its distribution on a gel filtration column were compared with age-related changes. Concentration of sulfur in the whole lens decreased with time. A low constant level was attained on the fifth day of the galactose diet. A decrease of sulfur concentration in the soluble fraction of the lens paralleled that of the whole lens which was correlated with the decrease of glutathione and taurine concentrations on a gel filtration column by high-performance liquid chromatography-inductively coupled argon plasma atomic emission spectrometry (HPLC-ICP). Concentration of magnesium in the lens decreased after the fifth day, while the ratio of sodium to potassium increased. These changes in sulfur-containing compounds and metals were observed prior to the onset of cataract formation.

* (財)白内障研究所,
** 国立環境研究所 Exp. Eye Res.54 (1992), 49–53.に発表.