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Influence of Biofield Treated Vitamin D₃ on Proliferation, Differentiation, and Maturation of Bone-Related Parameters in MG-63 Cell-Line

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Abstract: The study was aimed to evaluate the effect of Consciousness Energy Healing-based vitamin D₃ and DMEM medium on bone health parameters such as alkaline phosphatase (ALP), collagen, and bone mineralization in human bone osteosarcoma cells (MG-63). The test items (vitamin D₃ and DMEM), were divided into two parts. One part of each sample was received the Biofield Energy Treatment by Dimitrius Anagnos and those samples were denoted as the Biofield Energy Treated (BT) samples, while the other parts of each sample were referred as the untreated test items (UT). The test samples were found as safe in the tested concentrations by MTT cell viability assay. The level of ALP was significantly increased by 74.86% in the BT-DMEM + BT-Test item and 40.17% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item group at 0.1 and 50 µg/mL, respectively compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Moreover, collagen level was significantly increased by 228.22%, 185.40%, and 256.69% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 0.1 µg/mL compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Further, the collagen level was significantly increased by 88.61% and 130.65% in the BT-DMEM + UT-Test item and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 1 µg/mL compared to the untreated group. Apart from this, the percent of bone mineralization was distinctly enhanced by 98.61%, 111.67%, and 68.26% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 0.1 µg/mL compared to the untreated group. Additionally, the percentage of bone mineralization was significantly increased by 83.3%, 99.52%, and 50.26% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 1 µg/mL compared to the untreated group. Altogether, the Biofield Energy Treated vitamin D₃ was significantly improved the bone health parameters and it could be an alternative approach for nutraceutical supplement to combat vitamin D₃ deficiency and able to fight against various bone-related disorders including rickets, low bone density, osteomalacia, bone and joint pain, bone fractures, osteoporosis, osteoma, osteogenesis imperfecta, Paget’s disease, deformed bones, chondrodystrophy fetalis, stress management and prevention, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases, and anti-aging by improving overall health.

Keywords: Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D₃), The Trivedi Effect®, Osteoporosis, Bone Health, Biofield Energy Healing Treatment, Osteosarcoma Cells

1. Introduction

Vitamin D has multiple effects, which regulate the functions in different target organs such as brain, liver, lungs, heart, kidneys, skeletal, immune, and reproductive systems. Additionally, it has a significant anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, anti-stress, anti-arthritis, anti-osteoporosis, anti-apoptotic, wound healing, anti-cancer, anti-psychotic and
anti-fibrotic actions [1]. Vitamin D receptors (VDRs) are widely distributed in most of the body organs viz. brain, liver, heart, lungs, kidney, pancreas, small and large intestines, muscles, reproductive, nervous system, etc. VDRs can influence cell-to-cell communication, normal cell growth, cell differentiation, cell cycling and proliferation, hormonal balance, neurotransmission process, skin health, immune and cardiovascular functions. In any living vertebrates, vitamin D plays an important role in maintaining a healthy skeletal structure and is essential for bone health. Naturally, it is synthesized in presence of sunlight in the skin [2]. Most of the foods do not contain vitamin D, additionally now-a-days due to aging, use of sunscreen, and change of zenith angle of the sun, the production of vitamin D3 has been decreased [3]. Increasing age is not only related to a decrease in bone marrow depression and muscle strength but is also associated with marked changes in the immune and inflammatory responses [4]. Deficiency of vitamin D3 causes metabolic bone diseases like osteomalacia and exacerbate osteoporosis, etc. [5]. The quality of life (QoL) for menopausal women is one of the most critical health problems in the modern world. Metabolic bone disorders like osteoporosis are mainly prevalent in post-menopausal women. Hormonal factors and rapid bone loss in post-menopausal women leads to an increased risk of fractures [6]. Hence, the serum calcium and alkaline phosphatase (ALP) levels in post-menopausal women are the main two vital biochemical markers of bone metabolism. However, bone-specific ALP is the most important marker for osteoblast differentiation [7]. Further, it is generally accepted that an increased calcium intake along with an adequate source of vitamin D is important for maintaining good bone health. Vitamin D also plays an important role in maintaining an adequate level of serum calcium and phosphorus. Therefore, vitamin D has a great impact on forming and maintaining strong bones [8, 9]. Bone strength depends on the quality, geometry, shape, microarchitecture, turnover, mineral content, and the collagen content. Collagen is the major structural protein responsible for bone calcification. In the aging state, the mechanical properties of the bones become impaired, and the bones get fragile, that causes various clinical disorders associated with bone collagen abnormalities and bone fragility, such as osteogenesis imperfecta and osteoporosis [10, 11].

In recent years, numerous scientific reports and clinical trials have revealed that the useful effects of Biofield Energy Treatment, which have shown to enhanced immune function in case of cervical cancer patients via therapeutic touch [12], massage therapy [13], etc. Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) therapies are now rising as preferred models of treatment, among which Biofield Energy Therapy (or Healing Modalities) is one approach that has been reported to have several benefits to enhance physical, mental and emotional human wellness. However, as per the data of 2012 from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which indicated that the highest percentage (~17%) of the Americans used dietary supplements as a complementary health approach as compared with other practices in the past years. The National Center of Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) has recognized and accepted Biofield Energy Healing as a CAM health care approach in addition to other therapies, medicines and practices such as natural products, deep breathing, yoga, Tai Chi, Qi Gong, chiropractic/osteopathic manipulation, meditation, massage, special diets, homeopathy, progressive relaxation, guided imagery, acupressure, acupuncture, relaxation techniques, hypnotherapy, healing touch, movement therapy, pilates, rolfing structural integration, mindfulness, Ayurvedic medicine, traditional Chinese herbs and medicines, nutraceuticals, bone health activity with respect to the assessment of different bone health parameters like ALP, collagen content, and bone mineralization using standard assays in MG-63 cells.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Chemicals and Reagents

Rutin hydrate was obtained from TCI, Japan, while vitamin D3, 3-(4, 5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2, 5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium) (MTT), Direct Red 80, ethylene diamine tetra acetate acid (EDTA) and L-ascorbic acid were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich, USA. Fetal bovine serum (FBS) and Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) were purchased from Life Technology, USA. Antibiotic solution (penicillin-streptomycin) was procured from HiMedia, India. All the other chemicals used in this experiment were analytical grade procured from India.

2.2. Cell Culture

The human bone osteosarcoma cells (MG-63) were used as the test system in this experiment. The MG-63 cells supplemented with 10% FBS were maintained under the DMEM growth medium for routine culture. Growth conditions were maintained as 37°C, 5% CO2 and 95% humidity and subcultured by trypsinisation followed by...
splitting the cell suspension into fresh flasks and supplementing with fresh cell growth medium. Three days prior the start of the experiment (i.e., day -3), the growth medium of near-confluent cells was replaced with fresh phenol-free DMEM, supplemented with 10% charcoal dextran stripped FBS (CD-FBS) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin [40].

2.3. Experimental Design

The experimental groups consisted of cells in baseline control (untreated cells), vehicle control groups (0.05% DMSO with Biofield Energy Treated and untreated DMEM), a positive control group (rutin hydrate) and experimental test groups. The experimental groups included the combination of the Biofield Energy Treated and untreated vitamin D3/DMEM. It consisted of four major treatment groups on specified cells with UT-DMEM + UT-Test item, UT-DMEM + Biofield Energy Treated test item (BT-Test item), BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item.

2.4. Consciousness Energy Healing Treatment Strategies

The test item (vitamin D3) and DMEM were divided into two parts. One part each of the test item and DMEM were treated with the Biofield Energy (also known as The Trivedi Effect®) and coded as the Biofield Energy Treated items, while the second part did not receive any sort of treatment and was defined as the untreated samples. This Biofield Energy Healing Treatment was provided by Dimitrius Anagnos, who participated in this study and performed the Biofield Energy Healing Treatment remotely for ~5 minutes. Biofield Energy Healer was remotely located in the USA, while the test samples were located in the research laboratory of Dabur Research Foundation, New Delhi, India. The Biofield Energy Treatment was administered for 5 minutes through the healer’s unique Energy Transmission process remotely to the test samples under laboratory conditions. Dimitrius Anagnos in this study, never visited the laboratory in person, nor had any contact with the test item and medium. Further, the control group was treated with a sham healer for comparative purposes. The sham healer did not have any knowledge about the Biofield Energy Treatment. After that, the Biofield Energy Treated and untreated samples were kept in similar sealed conditions for experimental study.

2.5. Determination of Non-Cytotoxic Concentration

The cell viability test was performed by MTT assay in the human bone osteosarcoma cell line (MG-63). The cells were counted and plated in 96 well plates at the density corresponding to 5 X 10^3 to 10 X 10^3 cells/well/180 µL of cell growth medium. The above cells were incubated overnight under growth conditions and allowed cell recovery and exponential growth, then they were subjected to serum stripping or starvation. The cells were treated with the test item, DMEM, and the positive control. The untreated cells served as baseline control (untreated cells). The cells in the above plate(s) were incubated for a time point ranging from 24 to 72 hours in CO2 incubator at 37°C, 5% CO2 and 95% humidity. Following incubation, the plates were taken out and 20 µL of 5 mg/mL of MTT solution was added to all the wells followed by an additional incubation for 3 hours at 37°C. The supernatant was aspirated and 150 µL of DMSO and was added to each well to dissolve formazan crystals. The absorbance of each well was read at 540 nm using a Synergy HT micro plate reader, BioTek, USA. The percentage cytotoxicity at each tested concentration of the test substance was calculated using the following Equation 1:

\[
\text{% Cytotoxicity} = \frac{(1-X/R)}{R} \times 100
\]

Where, \(X\) = Absorbance of treated cells; \(R\) = Absorbance of untreated cells

The percentage cell viability corresponding to each treatment was then be obtained using the following Equation 2:

\[
\text{% Cell Viability} = 100 - \text{% Cytotoxicity}
\]

The concentrations exhibiting ≥70% Cell viability was considered as non-cytotoxic [41].

2.6. Assessment of Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) Activity

The cells were counted using an hemocytometer and plated in a 24-well plate at the density corresponding to 1 x 10^4 cells/well in phenol free DMEM supplemented with 10% CD-FBS. Following the respective treatments, the cells in the above plate were incubated for 48 hours in CO2 incubator at 37°C, 5% CO2 and 95% humidity. After 48 hours of incubation, the plate was taken out and processed for the measurement of ALP enzyme activity. The cells were washed with 1X PBS and lysed by freeze thaw method i.e., incubation at -80°C for 20 minutes followed by incubation at 37°C for 10 minutes. To the lysed cells, 50 µL of substrate solution i.e., 5 mM of p-nitrophenyl phosphate (pNPP) in 1M diethanolamine and 0.24 mM magnesium chloride (MgCl2) solution (pH 10.4) was added to all the wells followed by incubation for 1 hour at 37°C. The absorbance of the above solution was read at 405 nm using Synergy HT micro plate reader (Biotek, USA). The absorbance values obtained were normalized with substrate blank (pNPP solution alone) absorbance values. The percentage increase in ALP enzyme activity with respect to the untreated cells (baseline group) was calculated using Equation 3:

\[
\text{% Increase in ALP} = \frac{(X-R)}{R} \times 100
\]

Where, \(X\) = Absorbance of cells corresponding to positive control and test groups
\(R\) = Absorbance of cells corresponding to baseline group (untreated cells)

2.7. Assessment of Collagen Synthesis

The MG-63 cells were counted using an hemocytometer and plated in 24-well plate at the density corresponding to 10 x 10^3 cells/well in phenol free DMEM supplemented with 10% CD-FBS. Following the respective treatments, the cells
in the above plate were incubated for 48 hours in CO₂ incubator at 37°C, 5% CO₂ and 95% humidity. After 48 hours of incubation, the plate was taken out and the amount of collagen accumulated in MG-63 cells corresponding to each treatment was measured by Direct Sirius red dye binding assay. In brief, the cell layers were washed with PBS and fixed in Bouin’s solution (5% acetic acid, 9% formaldehyde and 0.9% picric acid) for 1 hour at room temperature (RT). After 1 hour of incubation, the above wells were washed with milliQ water and air dried. The cells were then stained with Sirius red dye solution for 1 hour at RT followed by washing in 0.01 N HCl to remove unbound dye. The collagen dye complex obtained in the above step was dissolved in 0.1 N NaOH and absorbance was read at 540 nm using Biotek Synergy HT micro plate reader. The level of collagen was extrapolated using standard curve obtained from purified Calf Collagen Bornstein and Traub Type I (Sigma Type III). The percentage increase in collagen level with respect to the untreated cells (baseline group) was calculated using Equation 4:

\[
\% \text{ Increase in collagen levels} = \frac{(X-R)}{R} \times 100 \quad (4)
\]

Where, \( X \) = Collagen levels in cells corresponding to positive control and test groups
\( R \) = Collagen levels in cells corresponding to baseline (untreated) group

2.8. Assessment of Bone Mineralization by Alizarin Red S Staining

The MG-63 cells were counted using a hemocytometer and plated in 24-well plate at the density corresponding to 10 x10³ cells/well in phenol free DMEM supplemented with 10% CD-FBS. Following the respective treatments, the cells in the above plate were incubated for 48 hours in CO₂ incubator at 37°C, 5% CO₂ and 95% humidity to allow cell recovery and exponential growth. Following overnight incubation, the above cells were subjected to serum stripping for 24 hours. The cells were then treated with non-cytotoxic concentrations of the test samples and positive control. Following 3-7 days of incubation with the test samples and positive control, the plates were taken out, cell layers processed further by staining with Alizarin Red S dye. The cells were fixed in 70% ethanol for 1 hour, after which Alizarin Red solution (40 µm; pH 4.2) was added to the samples for 20 minutes with shaking. The cells were washed with distilled water to remove unbound dye. For quantitative analysis by absorbance evaluation, nodules were solubilized with 10% cetylpyridinium chloride for 15 minutes with shaking. Absorbance was measured at 562 nm using Biotek Synergy HT micro plate reader. The percentage increase in bone mineralization with respect to the untreated cells (baseline group) was calculated using the following Equation 5:

\[
\% \text{ Increase} = \frac{(X-R)}{R} \times 100 \quad (5)
\]

Where, \( X \) = Absorbance in cells corresponding to positive control or test groups; \( R \) = Absorbance in cells corresponding to baseline (untreated) group.

2.9. Statistical Analysis

All the values were represented as percentage of the respective parameters. For statistical analysis Sigma-Plot (version 11.0) was used as a statistical tool. Statistically significant values were set at the level of \( p \leq 0.05 \).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. MTT Assay

The cell viability using MTT assay of the Biofield Energy Treated test samples (vitamin D3 and DMEM medium) in MG-63 cells is shown in Figure 1. The cell viability results are expressed as percentage. The percentage of cell viability was found in the ranges of 86% to 223% in the tested concentrations of all the groups and did not show any cytotoxicity (as evidence of cell viability approximately greater than 86%) across all the tested concentrations up to 100 µg/mL. Hence, the safe concentrations were used in this experiment to see the effect of the test samples on the levels of alkaline phosphatase (ALP) activity, collagen synthesis, and bone mineralization in MG-63 cells.

![Figure 1](image-url)  
Figure 1. Assessment of the cell viability of the test items (vitamin D₃ and DMEM medium) after Biofield Energy Treatment in different tested concentrations in MG-63 cells. VC: Vehicle control (0.05% DMSO); UT: Untreated; BT: Biofield Energy Treated; TI: Test item.
3.2. Assessment of Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) Enzyme Activity

The effect of the Biofield Energy Treated test samples on ALP activity in MG-63 cells is shown in Figure 2. The vehicle control (VC) group showed 9.2% level of ALP as compared to the untreated cells group. The reference standard was used in this experiment (rutin hydrate) showed 43.44%, 53.55%, and 83.33% increased level of ALP at the concentration of 0.01, 0.1, and 1 µg/mL, respectively compared to the untreated cells group. The results of the test formulation showed that the level of ALP was significantly enhanced by 74.86% in the BT-DMEM + BT-Test item group, at 0.1 µg/mL as compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Moreover, the level of ALP was significantly increased by 13.61% in the BT-DMEM + UT-Test item group, respectively at 1 µg/mL as compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. ALP is one of the biomarker for the evaluation of bone formation and resorption [42]. Numerous literatures cited that apart from ALP, calcium, vitamin D, and anaerobic exercise also plays an equal role for the development and remodeling of bone [43]. Overall, the Biofield Energy Treated (The Trivedi Effect®) test item group (i.e., vitamin D₃) showed an improved synthesis of ALP enzyme in the MG-63 cells with respect to the untreated test item group, which might be advantageous to the patients those are suffering from various bone-related disorders.

[Figure 2. The impact of the test samples on alkaline phosphatase (ALP) enzyme activity in human bone osteosarcoma cell (MG-63). VC: Vehicle control (0.05% DMSO), UT: Untreated; BT: Biofield Energy Treated; TI: Test item.]

3.3. Assessment of Collagen Activity

The collagen activity of the test items in human bone osteosarcoma cells is shown in Figure 3. Collagen level in the VC group was found as 16.1% increased as compared to the untreated cells group. The positive control (rutin hydrate) showed 46.59%, 51.97%, and 65.41% increased the level of collagen at 0.01, 0.1, and 1 µg/mL, respectively compared to the untreated cells group. The collagen synthesis was significantly increased by 228.22%, 185.40%, and 256.69% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 0.1 µg/mL compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Additionally, at 10 µg/mL the level of collagen was also significantly increased by 88.61% and 130.65% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively with respect to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group (Figure 3). Altogether, the Biofield Energy treated test item group (i.e., vitamin D₃) showed an improved synthesis of collagen content in the human osteosarcoma cells with respect to all the treatment groups. Type 1 collagen is the most abundant fibers in all the connective tissue. It is contains approximately 25% to 35% of the total body proteins of extracellular matrix compartment [44]. A lot of literatures reported that supplementation of collagen peptides enhanced bone density, skin elasticity, and reduced the severity of bone-related disorders [45]. Here, the Biofield Energy Treated vitamin D₃ significantly improved the level of collagen which might be helpful to maintain a healthy bone in postmenopausal women selectively. Overall, The Trivedi Effect® - Consciousness Energy Healing Treatment modality showed a significant improvement of the collagen level in human osteosarcoma cells. Thus, it is assumed that The Trivedi effect® has the significant potential to improve the bone health in various skeletal disorders.
3.4. Bone Mineralization

The effect of Biofield Energy Treatment on bone mineralization in MG-63 cells is shown in Figure 4. The percentage of bone mineralization was significantly increased in a concentration-dependent manner by 47.98%, 59.73%, and 139.02% at 5, 10, and 25 µg/mL, respectively in the positive control group compared to the untreated cells group. The percent of bone mineralization was distinctly increased by 98.61%, 111.67%, and 68.26% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 0.1 µg/mL compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Further, an increased percentage of bone mineralization was observed by 83.3%, 99.52%, and 50.26% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 1 µg/mL with respect to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Moreover, the percentage of bone mineralization was significantly increased by 25.62%, 41.95%, and 17.90% in the BT-DMEM + UT-Test item and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 10 µg/mL compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group (Figure 4). Vitamin D is required for calcium absorption and bone mineralization process and chronic deficiency leads to rickets (in children) and osteomalacia (in adults) [46, 47]. Thus, in this study, authors have found that the Biofield Energy Treated vitamin D₃ significantly enhanced the level of bone mineralization in the form of calcium, assessed by Alizarin Red S Staining technique. Therefore, based on the above findings it is hypothesized that the Consciousness Energy Healing Treatment (The Trivedi Effect®) based test item groups (i.e., vitamin D₃) showed a remarkable improvement of bone mineralization content assessed by in vitro in the human osteosarcoma cells (MG-63).
4. Conclusions

The cell viability assay data using MTT assay showed more than 86% cells were viable, which indicated that the test samples were safe and nontoxic in all the tested concentrations. The level of ALP was significantly increased by 60% (at 0.1 µg/mL) and 74% (at 50 µg/mL) in the BT-DMEM + UT-Test item group, respectively, compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. The synthesis of collagen was significantly increased by 228.22%, 185.40%, and 256.69% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item and BT-DMEM + UT-Test item group, respectively at 0.1 µg/mL compared to the untreated group. Further, the collagen level was significantly increased by 88.61% and 130.65% in the BT-DMEM + UT-Test item and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 1 µg/mL compared to the untreated group. Besides, the percent of bone mineralization was distinctly increased by 98.61%, 111.67%, and 68.26% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 0.1 µg/mL compared to the untreated group. Further, the percentage of bone mineralization was significantly increased by 83.3%, 99.52%, and 50.26% in the UT-DMEM + BT-Test item, BT-DMEM + UT-Test item, and BT-DMEM + BT-Test item groups, respectively at 1 µg/mL compared to the UT-DMEM + UT-Test item group. Altogether, the Biofield Energy Treated test samples (The Trivedi Effect®) demonstrated a significant impact on bone health parameters. Therefore, the Consciousness Energy Healing based vitamin D₃ might be suitable for the development of an alternative and more effective supplement for vitamin D₃ deficiency, which could be useful for the management of various bone related disorders viz. Paget’s disease of bone, low bone density, osteoporosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, rickets, deformed bones, osteomalaecia, osteoma, bone and joint pain, bone fractures, chondrodystrophy, fetalis, etc. Besides, it can also be utilized in organ transplants (for example kidney transplants, liver transplants and heart transplants), various autoimmune disorders such as Lupus, Addison Disease, Celiac Disease (gluten-sensitive enteropathy), Dermatomyositis, Graves’ Disease, Hashimoto Thyroiditis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Multiple Sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pernicious Anemia, Scleroderma, Aplastic Anemia, Reactive Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Sjogren Syndrome, Systemic Lupus Erythematous, Vitiligo, Type 1 Diabetes, Alopecia Areata, Crohn’s Disease, Psoriasis, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Vasculitis, as well as inflammatory disorders such as Asthma, Ulcerative Colitis, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Atherosclerosis, Alzheimer’s Disease, Dermatitis, Diverticulitis, Hepatitis, inflammatory diseases, anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis, anti-osteoporosis, anti-apoptotic, anti-stress, wound healing, anti-cancer, anti-aging, anti-psychotic and anti-fibrotic action, stress management and prevention, Parkinson’s Disease etc. to modulate the immune system by improving Quality of Life (QoL).

Abbreviations


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