## Mechanism of cytotoxic activity of chalcone derivatives against K562 leukemia cell lines

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Author Order	2 of 5
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Abstract	Two chalcone derivatives i.e. (E)-1-(4-aminophenyl)-3-(2,3dimethoxyphenyl)-prop-2-en-1-one (Compound-1), and (E)-1-(4-aminophenyl)-3-phenylprop-2-en-1-one) (Compound-2),has been proven to have potential cytotoxic activity. The aim of this study was toevaluate the effect of these compounds on PI3K/Akt signalling pathway in K562 celllines. After incubation with the tested compounds, AKT, caspase-3, STAT3 and cyclinD1 concentrations were measured using ELISA. Furthermore, cell cycle was analysedusing flowcytometry. Imatinib and isotretinoin were used as positive control, whereascell culture without treatment was used as negative control. The AKT concentration aftertreatment with Compound-1 and -2 was significantly lower than that control, imatiniband isotretinoin (p<0.05). The apoptotic indices after treatment with Compound-1 and-2 were significantly higher than control, however they were lower than imatinib and isotretinoin (p<0.05). The caspase-3 concentration after treatment with Compound-1 at5 and 10 $\tilde{A}\tilde{Z}\tilde{A}^{1}$ g/mL and Compound-2 at 10 $\tilde{A}\tilde{Z}\tilde{A}^{1}$ g/mL was significantly higher than that control and isotretinoin (p<0.05). The caspase-3 concentration after treatment with Compound-1 at5 and 10 $\tilde{A}\tilde{Z}\tilde{A}^{1}$ g/mL (p<0.05) and similar with imatinib (p>0.05). The STAT3 concentration after treatment with Compound-1 and -2 was significantly lower than that control andisotretinoin at 50 $\tilde{A}\tilde{Z}\tilde{A}^{1}$ g/mL (p<0.05) and similar with imatinib (p>0.05). The cyclin D1concentration after treatment with Compound-1 and -2 was significantly lower than that control, imatinib and isotretinoin (p<0.05). In addition, Compound-1 and -2 arrested G0/G1 and G2/M phase in K562 cell lines, with comparable results to imatinib and isotretinoin. In conclusion, the mechanism of cytotoxic activity of Compound-1 and -2 are through thePI3K/Akt signalling pathway inhibition, apoptosis induction by upregulation of apoptoticmarkers, and inhibition of cell cycle progression by regulating cell cycle-related factors.
Publisher Name	Journal of the Medical Sciences (Berkala Ilmu Kedokteran)
Publish Date	2017-12-27
Publish Year	2017
Doi	DOI: 10.19106/JMedSci004904201701
Citation	
Source	Journal of the Medical Sciences (Berkala Ilmu Kedokteran)
Source Issue	Vol 49, No 4 (2017)
Source Page	153-164
Url	https://jurnal.ugm.ac.id/bik/article/downloadSuppFile/17777/1061
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