

Effect of extraction Alkaloids from *Zephyranthes candida* induces cell death through destruction microtubules in (China hamster cell line)

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Abstract

Background: In eukaryotic cells the cytoskeleton network consists of three major structural elements, microtubules, microfilament, and intermediate filaments. Tubulin is the basic protein of the MTs, molecules of tubulin arranged in dimers consisting of two forms, α -tubulin and β -tubulin. They are continuously changeable structures. Taxanes and vinca alkaloids are inhibitors MTC that destabilize microtubules, there by suppressing their dynamics which required for proper mitotic function and effectively blocking cell regulation progression resulting in cell death.

Objective: To evaluate the capability of alkaloids taken away from leaves of *Zephyranthes candida* to divert the MTC network of (CHO), which is an aggressive metastasis cell line.

Patients and Methods: In our experiments we used the mouse CHO cell line. This cell line was obtained from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Wuhan University, China. The cells were grown in Dulbecco's Minimal Essential Medium (DMEM) (PAA Laboratories GmbH, Linz, Austria), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 2 mM glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 μ g/ml streptomycin (PAA Laboratories, Austria) in a humidified atmosphere of 95 % air and 5 % CO₂ at 37 °C. *Zephyranthes candida* crude alkaloid extract treated cells were cultivated over microscopic cover slips, washed three Times for 4 min with PBS (pH 6.9) and fixed by 3% paraformaldehyde in PBS. The ability of alkaloid extract to inhibit CHO tumor cells growth in vivo was assessed; forty mice were injected subcutaneously in the right dorsal with this tumor cells, after the tumor developed to 8-1 mm², and eliminating the animals that did not develop tumors, the animals were divided to three groups each one with ten individuals.

Results: The extractor was capable of divert the MTC of the cells below realization after 1hr of in situation in a focus as little as possible 20 μ g/ml. while DAPI staining used, the cells death was not check in this focus and time. The cell death have been spotted when the focus of the alkaloid reproducer raised up to 80 and 100 μ g/ml through the aforesaid exposure time. The cells were able to improving there native MTC contraction after 12 hr of the alkaloid deletion. The excerpt focus of 1mg/Kg/Bw competently prevent CHO cell line cancer development in vivo to 97.14% after 3 weeks therapy contrast to natural control.

Conclusion: The invasive species H22 cells offer changes in the preparation of their MTC at a focus of *Zephyranthes candida* leaf alkaloids excerpt as low as 20 μ g/ml focus after 1hr of exposure time.

Key words: Cytoskeletal, Microtubules, Alkaloids, *Zephyranthes candida*.

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Introduction

In eukaryotic cells the cytoskeleton network consists of three major structural elements, microtubules, microfilament, and intermediate filaments (1). This network plays specific role in cell division, intracellular contacts, interaction with membranes, extracellular matrix, cell motion and maintenance or changes of cell shape (2). The diameter of microtubules (MTs) is about 25 nm they are composed of 13 equally spaced proto-filaments (2). Tubulin is the basic protein of the MTs, molecules of tubulin arranged in dimers consisting of two forms, α - tubulin and β -tubulin. They are continuously changeable structures (3), polymerization and depolymerization of MTs is regulated by extra and intra-cellular factors (4). The presence of GTP at MTs ends is necessary to maintain the stability of the polymer (5). Because of their key role in cell function, microtubules emerged as important targets for cancer therapy. Taxanes and vinca alkaloids are microtubule inhibitors that destabilize MTC, there by suppressing their dynamics which required for proper mitotic function and effectively blocking cell cycle progression resulting in cell death. In spite of their antitumor activity, drug resistance to such MTs inhibitors is common, limiting their overall clinical efficacy. Therefore the discovery of novel agents that may overcome resistance to conventional MTs inhibitors and provide higher efficacy of microtubule-targeting with limited toxicity is actually need (6). In addition, despite the success of vinca alkaloids taxanes to inhibit the progression of some cancers in clinical use,

resistance to antimicrotubule agents is encountered in many tumor types, particularly during multiple cycles of therapy. Therefore, there has been great interest in identifying and developing novel anti-microtubule drugs. (7) the most widely used alkaloid like vinbcastne , often induce some intractable side effects including neurological toxicities and in particular, experience with both acquired resistance focusing on the development of new semi synthetic Vinca alkaloids, with the aim of overcoming current restrictions. The vindoline coupled with catharanthine were chemically manipulated in an effort towards the finding of the promising therapeutics. Of that BM6 stood out as the most potent new Vinca alkaloids derivative. In comparison with classical Vinca alkaloids, BM6 had its distinct antitumor activities in vivo due to its better pharmacokinetics profiles and its more specificity towards tubulin (8). Natural products have provided key leads for drug discovery. Many interesting biological properties have been characterized for novel natural products. Alkaloids are a large group of secondary metabolites containing usually basic nitrogen derived from amino acids, purines, pyrimidine or other source such as transamination (9). classified alkaloids chemically according to the nitrogen-containing ring system. (10). *Zephyranthes candida* is a flowering plant it is commonly called dyers woad . woad is native to the steppe and desert zones of the Caucasus, (11). On the contrary to the species *Zephyranthes*

Zephyranthes candida which is understood to contain alkaloids that appear nontoxic in animal studies and have potent tumor-inhibitory effects and anti-angiogenic effects (12) (13) (14). The alkaloids of the species are not yet investigated. This study is the first to assess the activity of locally harvested *Zephyranthes*

Zephyranthes candida alkaloids against the microtubules of aggressive mice cell line CHO and induction of apoptosis.

Patients and Methods

The plant used in these experimentations was collected from gardens in Daiyla Figure (1).



Figure(1): *Zephyranthes candida*

Alkaloid extraction: alkaloids extraction from the flower of this plant was extracted as described by (15) and 16).

Cell line

In our experiments we used the mouse CHO cell line. This cell line was obtained from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Medicine, Wuhan University, China. The cells were grown in Dulbecco's Minimal Essential Medium (DMEM) (PAA Laboratories GmbH, Linz, Austria), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 2 mM glutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin, and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (PAA Laboratories, Austria) in a humidified atmosphere of 95 % air and 5 % CO₂ at 37 °C.

Characterization of invasive and metastasis properties in vivo: For invasive assay, group of five mice were injected in the intraperitoneal cavity with H22 tumor cells and observation for ascites formation was conducted through cavity volume measurement. For the evaluation of

metastatic potential mouse bone metastatic model was adopted, a group of five mice were injected with H22 tumor cells in the right leg muscle. After tumor development, right femur (the nearest bone) was extracted and evaluated morphologically (differences between normal and abnormal bone shape). Exposure to Crude Alkaloid extract In order to assess the kinetics and mechanism of *Zephyranthes candida* crude alkaloid extract effect on the MTs network of the cell line under investigation, three sets of experiments were conducted. In the first experiments, three different concentrations sets were used, sub-one hundred (20, 40, 80, 100 µg/ml), over one hundred (200, 400, 800 µg/ml), and over one thousand (4000 µg/ml and 9000 µg/ml), the crude alkaloids was prepared in 1 ml of 2% SDS. The cells were exposed to the prepared solutions for 60 min at 37 °C. Each concentration was tested in two replicates, the control samples were exposed to phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, pH 6.9). In the second experiment, the cells were

exposed to final crude alkaloid concentration 20 µg/ml for 15, 30, and 60 minutes at 37 °C in DMEM media. Cells were also treated for 5 minutes in a medium containing alkaloids at a concentration of 800 µg/L. control samples were treated with PBS (pH 6.9). The third series of experiments was performed with the crude alkaloid extract at a final concentration of 20 µg/ml for 60 min. After the time of the treatment was over, the drug containing medium was poured off and cells were subjected to three washings with PBS (pH 6.9). Plates were refilled with fresh growth medium and incubated for another 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 hour in order to evaluate the recovery processes. Recovery progressed at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere of 95 % air and 5 % CO₂.

Visualization of microtubules network:

Zephyranthes candida crude alkaloid extract treated cells were cultivated over microscopic cover slips, washed three times for 4 min with PBS (pH 6.9) and fixed by 3% paraformaldehyde in PBS. Thereafter, the cells were permeabilised by 0.2 % Triton X-100 solution in PBS. The microtubules were detected by means of the mice antitubulin monoclonal antibody TU-01 (Institute of Molecular Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic), diluted 1:300 by PBS, and a secondary swine antimouse IgG conjugated with Texas Red (TR) or conjugated with green fluorescent protein (SwAM/TR, GFP; Institute for Sera and Vaccines, Prague, Czech Republic) diluted 1:100 by PBS. Cells were washed with phosphate buffer three times for 5 min between the applications of individual

agents. The samples were then closed in the Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories, Inc., Burlingame, CA, USA) and visualized with fluorescent microscope. Staining with 4,6 -diamidino -2-phenylindole (DAPI) in order to assess the incidences of DNA condensation as an indicator of apoptosis, treated and control cells were stained with DAPI.

Antitumor activity in vivo: The ability of alkaloid extract to inhibit CHO tumor cell growth in vivo was assessed; forty mice were injected subcutaneously in the right dorsal with this tumor cells, after the tumor developed to 8-1 mm², and eliminating the animals that did not develop tumors, the animals were divided to three groups each one with ten individuals (of each group, five animals served as control untreated and five animals were treated with the alkaloid extract). The treated animals in each group were injected four times a week (every other day) subcutaneously with 1 mg/Kg/Bw for different periods of time. The treatment dose was determined according to the LD₅₀ (data not shown) of the crude alkaloid extract. The first group injected with the alkaloid for one week, the second group for two weeks, and the third group for three weeks.

Statistical Analysis

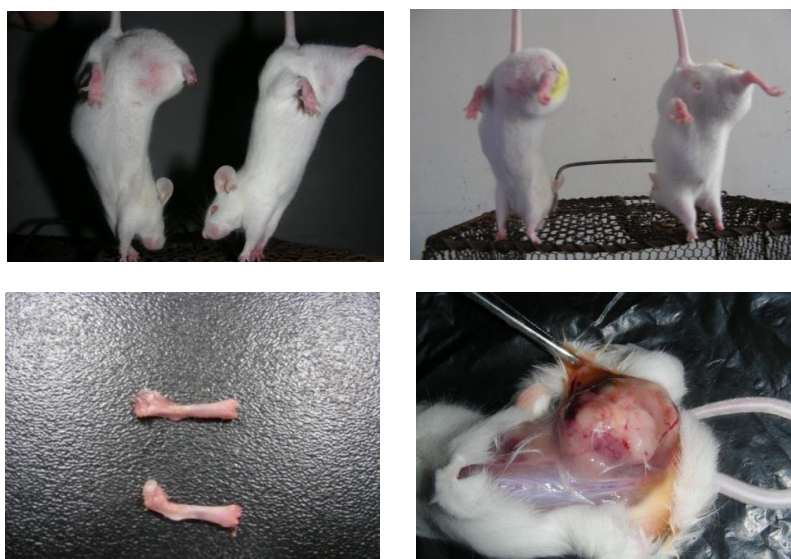
The control animals of the three groups were injected subcutaneously with DMSO. After the treatment times were over, animals were sacrificed and tumors were extracted and tumor mass was determined according to the relation $T_v = L(W)^{2/3}$, where T_v = Tumor volume, L =

Length of tumor, and $W =$ Width of tumor. Tumor growth inhibition was calculated according to the relation $GI\% = (A-B/A)100$, where $GI =$ Growth inhibition, $A =$ tumor volume in untreated animals, and $B =$ Tumor volume in treated animals.

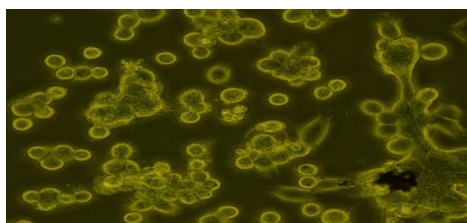
Results

Under the cell line realization was defined to an invasive species and metastasis (17). The cell was experience in vivo with metastasis, this was underline when the cancer cell added in the leg of a some of

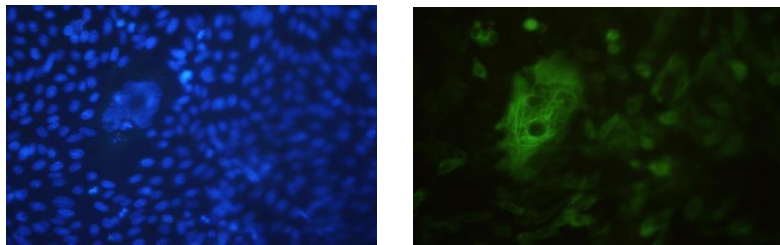
mice. The cancer cells were able to grow a secondary bone cancer in the right femur of the injected animals only after 1 week (Figure 1, A, B, C.). The aggressiveness of the H22 cells was truculence, the cancer cells was able to make tumor pointedly after 2 days of in traperitoneal injection (Figure 1, D). Bright field fluorescent microscope ,the used fluorescent dyestains the cell nuclei with green color .The MTC of natural control cells (Figure 3) display network orderly dispersed along the complete cell content



Figure(1):The CHO cells were injected subcutaneously in the right leg of mice. A and B; tumor development.C; right femur deformation after secondary bone tumor formation after one week of injection.D; ascites tumor formation only solid after three week of intraperitoneal injection in the mice



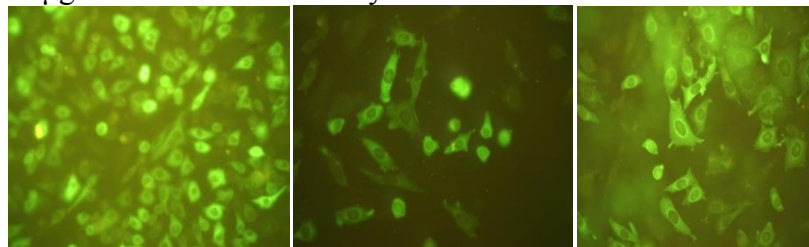
Figure(2): CHO cell line photograph in bright fielded microscopic .



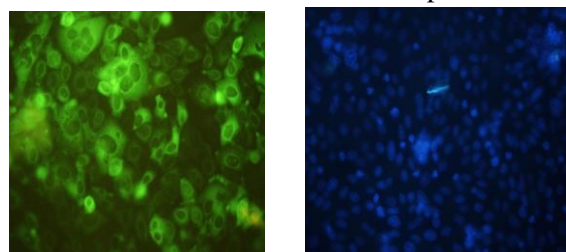
Figure(3): Visualizing CHO cells microtubules: untreated cells (control) and stained with secondary GFP conjugated swine anti-mouse IgG (upper panel), nucleistained with DAPI(lower panel).

When cells exposed to alkaloid crude extract from leaves of *Zephyranthes candida* at concentrations from 2 to 10 µg/ml for 60 min, it did not show considerable changes in the distribution of MTC (data not shown). Cells exposed to concentrations of 20, 40, 80, 100, 200, 400, and 800 µg/ml for 60 min they

showed changes in the arrangement of the MTC network (Figures 4 and 5). The network of cytoplasm MTC at the lowest concentration used (20 µg/ml) was clearly and obviously thinned down, and the treated cell individual MTC fibers had a destructed and granulated wavelike shape.



Figure(4): CHO cells treated with different sub-one hundred concentrations of *Zephyranthes candida* Alkaloid extract as indicated for 60 min. is a representative microscopic fields).



Figure(5): CHO cells treated with different over-one hundred concentrations of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract as indicated for 60 min.

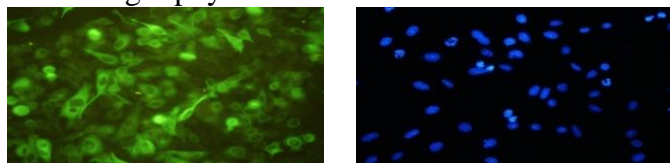
The network damage increased with the increasing of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract concentration from 20 to 800 µg/ml. In these concentrations DNA fragmentation was observed in the treated cells as indicated by DAPI staining cells.

The microtubules were more thinned down and fragmentation of microtubule fibers occurred at a higher concentration of alkaloid extract (4000 and 9000 µg/ml), sometimes blebs were formed in this elevated concentration and DNA

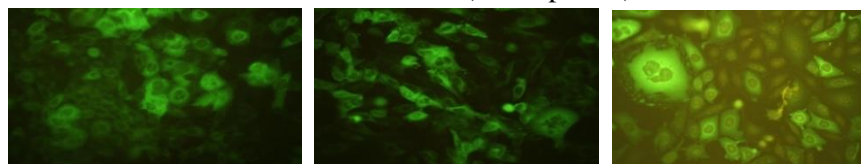
fragmentation was indicated (Figure 6). When cells were exposed to alkaloid at a concentration of 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ for 2, 5, 10, 15 or 20 minutes, no noticeable changes occurred in the microtubule network (data not shown). The 30 min treatment at concentration of 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ did not cause an obvious disruption of the treated cell microtubules Figure (7). When exposed to *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract at a concentration of 800 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ for 5 minutes, the treated cells showed a severely defected microtubules network. In this time and concentration the network was thinned down, and singular fibers had a granulated wavelike shape Figure (8).

In the microtubules recovery experiments, all the cells with the recovering period of 6 hours in a drug-free growth medium following *Zephyranthes*

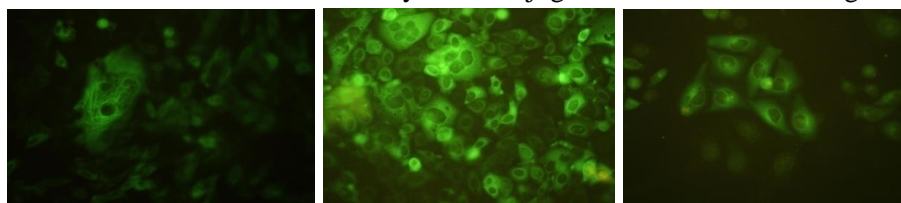
candida alkaloid extract exposure, showed no recovered but damaged microtubules. The cells after 7 hours recovery period had their microtubules network either partially restored or still damaged. After recovery for an 8 hours period, some cells showed a partially defective (thinned-down) network, but the majority of the cells showed restored microtubules Figure (9). When the cells were allowed to recover for 9 hours, the microtubules was also damaged, only several cells showed nearly restored microtubules. After a recovery period of 12 hours, microtubules were spread out comparably to those observed in untreated control cells Figure (9). The control cells showed their microtubule network regularly distributed along the whole cell volume.



Figure(6): CHO cells treated with 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract as indicated for 30 min. Stained with secondary GFP conjugated swine antimouse IgG (middle panels). Nuclei stained with DAPI (lower panels).



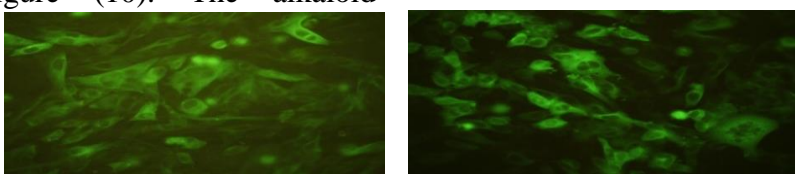
Figure(7): CHO cells treated with 800 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract as indicated for 5 min. stained with secondary GFP conjugated swine anti-mouse IgG.



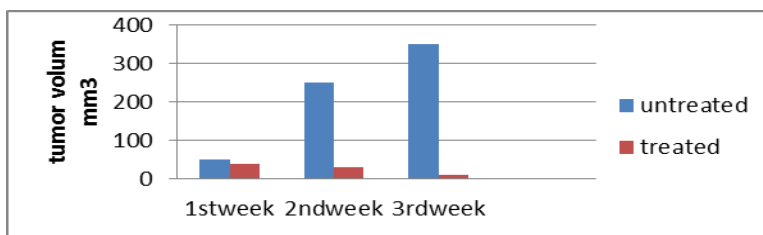
Figure(8): CHO cells treated with 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract as indicated for 60 min as indicated in the methods and recovered with fresh media for 6, 7 and 8 hr, stained with secondary GFP conjugated.

The antitumor activity of the crude alkaloid extract of *Zephyranthes candida* leaves in vivo was considerably substantial, the tumor volume was reduced significantly (< 0.01) ten times after only two weeks of crude alkaloid extract treatment, and significantly (< 0.01) five times after three weeks of alkaloid treatment figure (10). The alkaloid

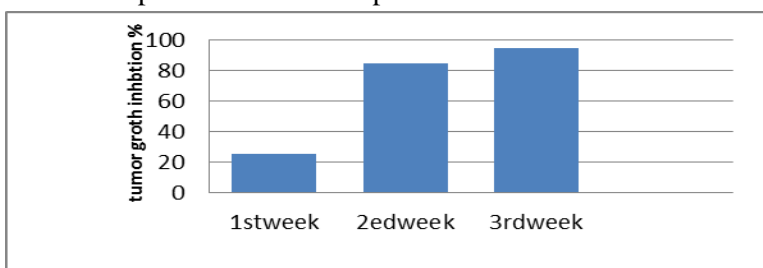
extract tumor growth inhibition ability reached almost 95% of that in control untreated animals figure (11&12). A huge difference (significant < 0.01) was observed in tumor mass between treated and nontreated control animals after three weeks of 1mg/Kg/Bw administration figure (13).



Figure(9): CHO cells treated with 20 µg/ml of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract for 60 as indicated in the methods and recovered with fresh media for 9 hr and 12 hr.



Figure(10): Tumor volume in mice treated with *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract for different periods of time compared to untreated control mice.



Figure(11): Tumor growth inhibition percentage in mice treated with the alkaloid extract of *Zephyranthes candida* during the three different times of administration in vivo.



Figure(12): Antitumor activity of *Zephyranthes candida* alkaloid extract, animals were injected for four times a week with 1 mg/Kg/Bw for A; one week treatment, B; two weeks treatment C; three weeks treatment. Upper row is for untreated control animals and lower row is for treated animals.



Figure(13): the appearance of representative control and treatment animals of group three (after three weeks of 1mg/Kg/Bw crude alkaloid extraction administration).

The antitumor activity of the crude alkaloid extract of *Zephyranthes candida* leaves in vivo was considerably substantial, the tumor volume was reduced significantly (< 0.01) ten times after only two weeks of crude alkaloid extract treatment, and significantly (< 0.01) the five times after three weeks of alkaloid treatment figure (10). The alkaloid extract tumor growth inhibition ability reached almost 95% of that in control untreated animals figure (11 & 12). A huge difference (significantly < 0.01) was observed in tumor mass between treated and nontreated control animals after three weeks of 1mg/Kg/Bw administration figure (13).

Discussion

Interaction of antitumor agents with components of the cytoskeleton is a theme studied in many researches (5–12). Targeting cancer cells microtubules is one of many strategies utilized to defeat different types of this disease (17). Natural products were of the realistic chemicals to be recognized as potent antitumor drugs as a result of their interaction with cancer cells microtubules (18–26). The cell line under this study was highly invasive and metastatic, its ability to induce ascites tumor in the peritoneal cavity of the mice after 48 hours after its injection indicated such conclusion. Moreover when it was injected in the right leg of mice group, it metastasized to the nearest bone (femur) in a period of one week in all individuals of the

injected animals. The huge femoral bone morphological deformations in the injected animals were clearly indicated as a result of bone tumor formation. These in vivo results confirm what has been characterized about this cell line in in vitro experiments, it was found that these cells can detach from the mother tumor nucleus to invade basement membrane and extracellular matrix by adhering to fibronectin for movement and migration, thus leading to tumor diffusion and metastasis. It metastasized to the lung when injected intravenously (27). Phytochemicals such as alkaloids compounds elicit various biological effects including cancer chemoprevention and treatment (28). Kim et al (14) studied the effect and action mechanisms of try Aqueous extraction on murine myeloid leukemia cells interaction of alkaloids with tubulin, and compared alkaloid and aqueous extract from leaves of *Zephyranthes candida*. He studied the affinity of the drug to tubulin heterodimers and apoptosis. Alkaloid exhibited a higher overall affinity for porcine brain tubulin than aqueous extracts. Under the present experimental conditions, a similar affinity was marked. The 20 concentration used in this study indicates a specific affinity of the to this invasive cell line. The minimum time required for this concentration to induce microtubules deformation was 60 min, where it induces no effect in exposure time less than

that. Elevating the concentration to 800 shortened the time needed to induce microtubules deformation in this cell line down to 5 minute. All these results indicated the specific targeting of the microtubules by alkaloid extract of leafs *Zephyranthes candida*. Cellswith apoptotic characteristics started to appears in alkaloid concentrations started from 100 µg/ml and higher during exposure time (60 min). This refer to another possible effectermechanism that alkaloid extract exercise towered H22 cells. Nagappan and co-workers found that Carbazole Alkaloids have antitumor activity with much higher concentration, the significant minimum inhibition concentration (MIC) values was 25.0–175.0 mg/mL against MCF-7, Hela and P388 cell lines (29). Some authors also studied the recovering processes of the cytoskeleton after treatment of cell cultures with physical factors or agents interfering with cytoskeleton compounds. Alkaloid caused a sequence of morphological change sinsensitive cells from three pleiotropic resistant MCF-7 human breast carcinoma cell lines mixed with vaginal adenocarcinoma cells. The cells were selected in serially increasing drug concentrations. These changes included precipitation of tubulin and disappearance of tubular structure. The changes occurred initially within 3 hours of incubation, but were expressed in all cells after 6 hours. After 3 hours of drug exposure, the cells were sub-cultured in drug-free media, the cells cytoskeletal structure reformed within 10 hours. The maximal recovery of the cytoskeletal structure occurred 22 hours after drug removal and was sustained up to 36 hours (13). Treatment of hippocampus neurons with alkaloid compound eliminated the microtubule bundles, leaving only tubulin paracrystals.

Within 24 hours after washing out the alkaloid, the microtubule bundles repolymerised in cultured cells (14). In competence with this, alkaloid extract of leafs demonstrate the same mechanism effect on the cell line under this study. Its antitubules effect was eliminated after 10-12 hr of in vitro cultivation in drug free media. The effect of *Zephyranthes candida*. the alkaloid extract toward this cancer cells was significant in vivo as well. The used dose was capable to inhibit tumor growth in 26.8%, 92.16% and 97.14% after one, two and three weeks of treatment respectively compared to nontreated control animals. This explains that action of the alkaloid extract on distraction of microtubules of this cancer cells is active in vivo as well in vitro in addition to other possible mechanisms.

Conclusion

The invasive H22 cells offer changes in the configuration of their MTC at a focus *Zephyranthes candida* leaf alkaloids excerpt as low as possible 20 µg/ml focus after 1hr. Its harm bigger with increase of the alkaloids excerpt focus. Rising exposure dose may lessen the exposure time; disorder of the MTC was also time-needy. The excerpt was able to lessen cancer growth in vivo up to 95% of control natural animals and prevent cancer development in the treated mice to 97.14% compared with control natural animals.

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