The Evaluation and Comparing of Cytotoxic Effects of *Ferula gummosa* Gum, *Scutellaria lindbergii*, *Kelussia odoratissima* and *Artemisia kopetdaghensis* Extracts on ACHN Cell Line

Azar Hosseini\(^a\), Elham Bakhtiari\(^{b,c}\), Abolfazl Khajavi Rad\(^d\), Samira Shahraki\(^d\), Seyed Hadi Mousavi\(^{f,*}\), Shahrzad Havakhah\(^d\) and Mohammad Sadegh Amiri\(^e\)

\(^a\)Pharmacological Research Center of Medicinal Plants, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran. \(^b\)Eye Research Center, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran. \(^c\)Clinical Research Development Unit, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran. \(^d\)Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran. \(^e\)Department of Biology, Payame Noor University, Tehran, Iran. \(^f\)Medical Toxicology Research Center, School of Medicine, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran.

Abstract

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is one of most fatal cancers. In most patients it is resistant to chemotherapy. *Ferula gummosa* gum, *Scutellaria lindbergii*, *Kelussia odoratissima*, and *Artemisia kopetdaghensis* are herbs about which there are some cytotoxic activity reports. In this study, cytotoxic and apoptotic activity of these four extracts on RCC cell line (ACHN) were evaluated and compared (ACHN) cells were treated with different concentrations of herbal extracts (15-500 μg/mL). Cell proliferation was determined after 24, 48, and 72 h. by MTT assay. Apoptotic cells were determined using PI staining of DNA fragmentation by flow cytometry. Cell viability decreased with all herbal extracts in ACHN cells by 24, 48, and 72 h. as compared with control. Extracts induced a sub-G1 peak in flow cytometry histogram of treated cells indicating apoptotic cell death is involved in extracts induced-toxicity. Results imply that four herbal extracts inhibit the growth of ACHN cells as a concentration- and time-dependent manner. Also, results show that apoptosis is proposed as the possible mechanism of action. So, four herbal extracts could be considered as good anticancer agents in RCC after further studies.

Keywords: Apoptosis; Cytotoxicity; *Ferula gummosa* gum; *Scutellaria lindbergii*; *Kelussia odoratissima*; *Artemisia kopetdaghensis*.

Introduction

Renal cancer accounts for nearly 2% of all cancers generally. The American Cancer Society expected about 36,160 new cases of kidney cancer in 2005. Over 80% of kidney cancers are renal cell carcinomas (RCC), and the rest are mainly renal pelvis cancers. Incidence ratio of death in RCC is higher compared with other urologic cancers. RCC is unpredictable even when diagnosed and treated early by nephrectomy. The neoplasm can remain constant for years and then metastasis to other body organs (1). RCC is considered by absence of specific clinical signs. So it doesn’t allow the diagnosis at an early stage.
Therefore high percentage of patients will have metastasis at the first diagnosis and can’t be cured. Unfortunately, there is no effective treatment for metastatic renal cancer. Classic approaches to RCC, such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy, or hormone-therapy have little or even no effect on this cancer (2). Immune-modulating agents, cytokines and differentiating agents, including retinoids, have shown antitumor activity in a low percentage of patients with metastatic RCC (3-5). These approaches don’t trace metastasis and even can stimulate tumor development by impairing the immune system. So, investigation of new approaches which focused on the regulation of tumor proliferation to effectively control RCC is necessary. Progress in the treatment of RCC has been little in the past 30 years and no effective chemotherapeutic agent presently is available against its (6, 7). So, there is a need for new and more selective agents with ability to affect targets directly involved in the progression of RCC development. On the other hand, the biological heterogeneity of RCC, its resistance to chemotherapeutic agents, and the several side effects of chemotherapeutics are the major problems in the treatment of RCC. The rate of systemic metastasis in RCC is high with approximately 50% of the patients with developing metastasis after surgical resection. So, radical nephrectomy of localized RCC is effective only in a few patients (8, 9). Therefore, the investigation for effective therapeutic agents for this cancer is urgently needed. Antioxidant-rich foods have many defensive properties against different diseases including neurologic degeneration, inflammatory disorders, coronary disease, and cancer (10, 11). *Scutellaria* L. (Lamiaceae) is a genus that contains about 300 species in the world, excluding South Africa (12). *Scutellaria* L. has 27 species and two hybrids in Iran. Among these 10 species and two hybrids are endemic to the country (13, 14). *Scutellaria lindbergii* Rech.f. is an Iranian species of this genus. Common distribution of this species is limited to Iran and Afghanistan (14, 15). In folk medicine, *Scutellaria* L. as a flavonoid rich plant is used for treatment of several diseases. Many studies have shown various biological and pharmacological activities of some *Scutellaria* species including antibacterial (16-18), antiviral (19), antifungal (20), anti-inflammatory (21), antioxidant (22), cytotoxicity, and anticancer (23-25). Several researches have been carried out on some biological effects of *Scutellaria lindbergii* including its antimicrobial, antioxidant (26) and cytotoxic activities (24). The genus *Ferula* belongs to the family Apiaceae and has about 170 species. These are produced from central Asia westward to northern Africa (27). The Iranian flora includes 30 species of *Ferula* that some of them are endemic (28, 29). The common Persian name of the most species is “Koma”. *Ferula* have been explored chemically (30-32). The members of this genus are well known as a good source of biologically active compounds such as derivatives (33-35), and sulfur containing compounds (36-38). *F. gummosa* was used astonic, anti-convulsant, anti-hysteric, decongestant and it is useful in treatment of neurological disorders, and stomachache (39-42). *Umbelliferae* comprises more than 450 genera and near 3700 species in the world (43). *Kelussia* is one of the most new genus of this family and is represented by only one species, *Kelussia odoratissima* Mozaff. which is found only in Iran (44). This sweet-smelling, self-growing monotypic medicinal plant is endemic to a limited area in western of Iran and is popularly called Karafse-Koohi. The aerial parts of the plant are usually used as a popular garnish and sedative. In traditional medicine, *K. odoratissima* is consumed to treat hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, and inflammation ulcers (45). The antioxidant properties of the methanolic extract of the plant were investigated by several methods. *Artemisia kopetdaghensis*, aromatic shrubs belonging to the Asteraceae family, is traditionally used in Iran as anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antifungal, and sedative (46, 47). In this study cytotoxic and apoptotic effects of different extracts were examined and compared on ACHN malignant cell line.

**Experimental**

**Cell line and agents:** Renal carcinoma cell line, ACHN, was obtained from the Pasteur Institute, Tehran, Iran. 4, 5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl, 2, 5-diphenyl tetrazolium (MTT) and Dulbecco’s Phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) were purchased...
from Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA). Propidium iodide (PI), sodium citrate, and Triton X-100 were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO, USA). Fetal bovine serum (FBS), Glucose-high Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium (DMEM), and penicillin streptomycin were purchased from Gibco (Grand Island, NY). Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was purchased from Merck.

**Cell culture**

ACHN Cells were maintained at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO2. The cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 100 Units/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin. All cells were maintained in a humidified atmosphere (90%) containing 5% CO2 at 37 °C.

**Preparation of different extracts**

Aerial parts of *K. odoratissima* were collected from Zard-Kooh Mountains, Charmahal-e-Bakhtiari; *F. gummosa* gum was collected from the roots of *F. gummosa*. The fresh *A. kopetdaghensis* was collected from Gonabad (Eastern area of Iran) and identified by the herbarium of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran (voucher specimen number: 35205). *S.lindbergii* was collected from Kang valley (height 1800 m) near Mashhad (Razavi Khorasan Province, northeast of Iran) in July (2014) and identified by Mr. M. R. Joharchi, from Ferdowsi University of Mashhad Herbarium (FUMH). A voucher specimen of the species was deposited in the Herbarium of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (MUMS) under number: 11309. The herbs were dried, powdered, and subjected to extraction with 70% ethanol in a Soxlet apparatus for 48 hr. The extracts were then dried on a water bath and dissolved in DMSO.

**Cell proliferation (MTT) assay**

Cells (5000/well) were seeded out in 96-well culture plate and after 24 h, he cells were treated with different extracts and then incubated for another 24, 48, and 72 h. MTT solution in phosphate-buffered saline (5 mg/mL) was added to each well at final concentration of 0.05%. After 3 h, the formazan precipitate was dissolved in DMSO. The absorbance at 570 and 620 nm (background) was measured using a Stat FAX303 plate reader. All treatments were carried out in triplicate.

**PI Staining**

Apoptotic cells were detected using PI staining of small DNA fragments followed by flow cytometry. It has been described that a sub-G1 peak that is reflective of DNA fragmentation can be observed following the incubation of cells in a hypotonic phosphate-citrate buffer containing a quantitative DNA-binding dye, such as PI. Apoptotic cells that have lost DNA will take up less stain and appear on the left side of the G1 peak in the histogram. Briefly, ACHN cells were seeded in wells of a 24-well plate overnight. Then, the cells were treated with different concentrations of extracts for 24 h. Floating and adherent cells were then harvested and incubated at 4 °C overnight in the dark with 750 µL of a hypotonic buffer (50 µg/mL PI in 0.1% sodium citrate with 0.1% Triton X-100). Next, flow cytometry was carried out using a FACS can flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson). A total of 10000 events were acquired with FACS.

**Statistics**

All results were expressed as mean ± SEM. Statistical analysis was performed using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Bonferroni’s post-hoc test. Differences were considered significant at p < 0.05.

**Results**

**Effect of *F. gummosa* gum on ACHN cell viability**

ACHN cells were incubated with different concentrations of *F. gummosa* gum extract (15-250 µg/mL) for 24, 48, and 72 h. As shown in Figure 1, after 24 h, viability of ACHN cells as a concentration dependent manner decreased with *F. gummosa* gum extract to 62.62±2.55% and 13.48±1.74% for concentrations of 125 and 250 µg/mL respectively (**P**< 0.001 at concentrations of 125-250 µg/mL). After 48 h, cell viability decreased to 72.16 ± 2.82%, 22.37±4.09% and 11.53±3.02% for concentrations of 60-250 µg/mL respectively (**P** < 0.001 at concentrations of 60-250 µg/mL). Also, after 72 h. cell viability
with *F. gummosa* gum extract decreased to 83.93±2.16, 68.28±1.46, 10.08±2.77 and 5.02±0.98 at concentrations of 30-250 µg/mL respectively (*P* < 0.001 at concentrations of 60-250 µg/mL and *P* < 0.05 at concentration of 30 µg/mL).

**Effect of *A. kopetdaghensis* on cell viability**
ACHN cells were incubated with different concentrations of *A. kopetdaghensis* extract (15-250 µg/mL) for 24, 48, and 72 h. As shown in Figure 2. After 24 h. viability of ACHN cells as a concentration decreased with *A. kopetdaghensis* extract to 84.58±2.34% for 250 µg/mL of extract (*P* < 0.01 at concentration of 250 µg/mL). Cell viability after 48 h decreased to 82.51±1.48%, 75.54±2.3%, 72.02±2.9%, and 64.41±2.95% at concentrations of 30-250 µg/mL respectively (*P* < 0.001 at concentrations of 60-250 µg/mL, *P* < 0.01 at concentration of 30 µg/mL). Also, after 72 h cell viability with *A. kopetdaghensis* extract decreased to 84.71±2.83%, 78.05±1.91%, 69.24±1.75%, and 59.42±2.52% for concentrations of 15-250 µg/mL respectively (*P* < 0.001 at concentrations of 30-250 µg/mL, *P* < 0.05 at concentration of 15 µg/mL).

**Effect of *S. lindbergii* on cell viability**
ACHN cells were incubated with different concentrations of *S. lindbergii* extract (15-250 µg/mL) for 24, 48, and 72 h. As shown in Figure 3, after 24 h. viability of ACHN cells as a concentration dependent decreased with *S. lindbergii* extract to 84.83±1.83% at 250 µg/mL of extract (*P* < 0.01 at concentration of 250 µg/mL). After 48 h, cell viability decreased to 82.24±3.52 % for 250 µg/mL of extract (*P* < 0.01 at concentration of 250 µg/mL). Also, after 72 h cell viability with *S. lindbergii* extract decreased to 87.65±3.66% and 79.91±2.78% for concentrations of 125 and 250 µg/mL respectively (*P* < 0.001 at concentrations of 250 µg/mL, *P* < 0.05 at concentration of 125 µg/mL).

**Effect of *K. odoratissima* on cell viability**
ACHN cells were incubated with different concentrations of *K. odoratissima* extract (15-250 µg/mL) for 24, 48, and 72 h. As shown in Figure 4. After 24 h, viability of ACHN cells as a concentration dependent manner decreased with *K. odoratissima* extract to 80.25±1.87% at 250 µg/mL of extract (*P* < 0.001 at concentration of 250 µg/mL). After 48 h, cell viability decreased to 83.96±0.87%, 83.77±1.38%, and 72.99±4.23% at concentrations of 60-250 µg/mL respectively (*P* < 0.001 at concentration of 250 µg/mL, *P* < 0.01 at concentration of 125 µg/mL, *P* < 0.05 at concentration of 60 µg/mL). Also after 72 h cell viability with *K. odoratissima* extract decreased to 83.01±1.4%, 67.07±2.71%, and 51.3±1.46% at concentrations of 60-250 µg/mL respectively (*P* < 0.001 at concentrations of 125-250 µg/mL, *P* < 0.05 at concentration of 60 µg/mL).

**Discussion**
In recent years, the use of natural products such as fruits, vegetables, and herbs has been particularly considered because of having antioxidant compounds. It is believed that many of natural products have the potential to act as anticancer agents in human (48). Many patients use natural products as alternative therapies for cancer or other chronic conditions (49). Several studies have demonstrated that antioxidant compounds have positive effects against different diseases, such as cancer, coronary diseases, inflammatory disorders, neurologic degeneration, and aging (10, 11). Whereas oxidative stress play role in cancer disease, as result herbal medicine can be have positive effects in cancer disease. The anti-cancer properties of medicinal herbs are mediated through different mechanisms including altered carcinoen metabolism, induction of DNA repair systems, immune activation, and suppression of cell cycle progression/induction of apoptosis (50). Herbal phytochemicals are used as promising resources for anticancer remedies or adjuvant for chemotherapeutic drugs to elevate their efficiency and reduce their side effects (51). RCC is the most deadly type of cancers of the urinary tract. Its incidence among males is more than females. Cigarette smoking, obesity, and hypertension are important risk factors for RCC. Surgery, hormone therapy, immunotherapy and chemotherapy are used for treatment (52, 53). Nowadays, herbal medicines are considered because of cheap and available.
Effect of *F. gummosa* gum on cell viability of ACHN. Cells were treated with different concentrations of extract for 24, 48 and 72 h. Viability were quantitated by MTT assay. Results are mean ± SEM (n = 3). The percentage cell viability was normalized against the control. *** *P*<0.001, *P*<0.01, *P*<0.05.

Figure 2. Effect of *A. kopetdaghenis* on cell viability of ACHN. Cells were treated with different concentrations of extract for 24, 48 and 72 h. Viability were quantitated by MTT assay. Results are mean ± SEM (n = 3). The percentage cell viability was normalized against the control. *** *P*<0.001, ** *P*<0.01, * P*<0.05.

Figure 3. Effect of *S. lindbergii* on cell viability of ACHN. Cells were treated with different concentrations of extract for 24, 48 and 72 h. Viability were quantitated by MTT assay. Results are mean ± SEM (n = 3). The percentage cell viability was normalized against the control. *** *P*<0.001, ** *P*<0.01, * P*<0.05.

Figure 4. Effect of *K. odoratissima* on cell viability of ACHN. Cells were treated with different concentrations of extract for 24, 48 and 72 h. Viability were quantitated by MTT assay. Results are mean ± SEM (n = 3). The percentage cell viability was normalized against the control. *** *P*<0.001, ** *P*<0.01, * P*<0.05.
Effect of Four Extracts on ACHN Cells

**Effect of F. gummosa gum on Apoptotic cell**

**Effect of A. kopetdaghensis on Apoptotic cell**

**Effect of S. lindbergii on Apoptotic cell**

**Effect of K. odoratissima on Apoptotic cells**

Figure 5. The proportion of apoptotic cells was measured with PI staining of DNA fragmentation by flow cytometry. The extracts induced a sub-G1 peak (one of the reliable biochemical markers of apoptosis) in flow cytometry histogram of treated cells compared to control.
In this research, we evaluated and compared four different extracts on cell viability of ACHN cells. Recent studies have shown that these medicinal herbs contain different levels of antioxidant compounds. *S. lindbergii* (Lamiaceae) is Iranian species of Scutellaria. Cytotoxic properties of total methanol extract of *S. lindbergii* and its fractions were investigated on some cancer cell lines (54). Anti-proliferative effect of *S. lindbergii* extract is related to its flavonoids and phenolic compounds. Many studies have shown that flavonoids and phenolic compounds are potent scavengers of free radicals such as hydroxyl and superoxide radicals (55). However, *S. lindbergii* might have potential for the prevention and treatment of diseases or conditions resulting from oxidative stress such as cancer and aging (56). *A. kopetdaghensis*, aromatic shrubs belong to the Asteraceae family. The recent studies have shown the anti-cancer effect of other species of *Artemisia*, such as *A. conformis* (57), and *A. absinthium* (58). The recent study has reported cytotoxic effect of *A. indica* against four cancer cell lines A-549, THP-1, Caco-2 and HEP-2 (59). *A. capillaris* and *A. herba-alba* have shown significant anti-proliferative activity against the human oral cancer and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (CEM) cell lines respectively (60, 61). The cytotoxic effect of Artemisia is due to increase in the amount of Bax protein, formation of DNA fragments, and finally induce apoptotic pathway (57). The genus *Ferula* belongs to the family Apiaceae. Recent studies have shown that ferula has toxicity effect against MCF-7 cell line (62). Ethanolic extract of *Ferula* decreased cell viability in BHY cells (63). And induced apoptosis in gastric cancer cell line (64). Also, *F. gummosa* Boiss. flower and leaf extracts have high phenolic and flavonoid contents. Therefore, anti-cancer effects observed by *F. gummosa* Boiss might be due to presence of the components (65). *Kelussia* is one of the newest genera of this family and is found only in Iran. The antioxidant activity of the methanolic extract of the plant was evaluated by several methods (45). Hence, the antioxidant activity of these herbs has been reported; as a result we evaluated the cytotoxicity effect of them on ACHN for the first time. Our findings showed that all extracts decreased cell viability as time and concentration dependently manner, but *Ferula gummosa* gum had more cytotoxicity and apoptotic activity in comparison with other extracts.

**Conclusion**

According to results of the present study, *Ferula* could be considered as source for natural cytotoxic compounds that can inhibit the proliferation of ACHN cells with involvement of apoptosis or programmed cell death. Further studies are needed to fully recognize the mechanism involved in cell death. *Ferula* could be considered as a promising agent in kidney cancer treatment.

**Reference**

(1) Chae EJ, Kim JK, Kim SH, Bae SJ and Cho KS. Renal cell carcinoma: analysis of post-operative recurrence patterns. *Radiol.* (2005) 234: 189–96.
(2) Motzer RJ, Bander NH and Nanus DM. Renal-cell carcinoma. *N. Engl. J. Med.* (1996) 335: 865–75.
(3) Vogelzang NJ, Lipton A and Figlin RA. Subcutaneous interleukin-2 plus interferon alfa-2a in metastatic renal cancer: an outpatient multicenter trial. *J. Clin. Oncol.* (1993) 11:1809–16.
(4) Minasian LM, Motzer RJ, Gluck L, Mazumdar M, Vlamis V and Krown SE. Interferon alfa-2a in advanced renal cell carcinoma: treatment results and survival in 159 patients with long-term follow-up. *J. Clin. Oncol.* (1993) 11: 1368–75.
(5) Motzer RJ, Schwartz L, Law TM, Murphy BA, Hoffman AD, Albino AP, Vlamis V and Nanus DM. Interferon alfa-2a and 13-cis-retinoic acid in renal cell carcinoma: antitumor activity in a phase II trial and interaction in vitro. *J. Clin. Oncol.* (1995) 13: 1950–57.
(6) Martel CL and Lara PN. Renal cell carcinoma: current status and future directions. *Crit. Rev. Oncol. Hematol.* (2003) 45:177–90.
(7) Sosman JA. Targeting of the VHL-hypoxia-inducible factor hypoxia induced gene pathway for renal cell carcinoma therapy. *J. Am. Soc. Nephrol.* (2003) 14: 2695–702.
(8) Weber KL, Doucet M, Price JE, Baker C, Kim SJ and Fidler IJ. Blockade of epidermal growth factor receptor signaling leads to inhibition of renal cell carcinoma growth in the bone of nude mice. *Cancer Res.* (2003) 63: 2940–47.
(9) Weiss RH and Lin PY. Kidney cancer: identification of novel targets for therapy. *Kidney Int.* (2006) 69: 224–32.
(10) Wollgast J and Anklem E. Review on polyphenols in *Theobroma cacao*: changes in composition during
the manufacture of chocolate and methodology for identification and Quantification. Food Res. Int. (2000) 33: 423–47.
(11) Sharifzadeh M, Ranjbar A, Hosseini A and Khanavi M. The Effect of green tea extract on oxidative stress and spatial learning in streptozotocin-diabetic rats. Iran. J. Pharm. Res. (2017) 16: 201-9.
(12) Mabberley DJ. The plant-book: a portable dictionary of the higher plants utilising Cronquist’s An integrated system of classification of flowering plants (1981) and current botanical literature arranged largely on the principles of editions 1-6 (1896/97-1931) of Willis’s A dictionary of the flowering plants and ferns: Cambridge University Press; (1993).
(13) Tayarani-Najaran Z, Makki F, Alamolhodaei N, Mojarrad M and Emami SM. Cytotoxic and apoptotic effects of different extracts of Artemisia bisieni Willd. on K562 and HL-60 cell lines. Iran. J. Basic. Med. Sci. (2017) 20: 166-71.
(14) Jamzad Z. Lamiaeaceae. In: Flora of Iran. Research Institute of Forests & Rangelands, Tehran; (2012).
(15) Attar F, Jochardi MR. New plant records from Iran. Iran. J. Bot. (2002) 9: 223–28.
(16) Skaltssaa HD, Lazarid GM, Kyriazopoulou P, Golegou S, Triantaphyllidis M and Kypriotakis Z. Composition and antimicrobial activity of the essential oils of Scutellaria sieberia Benth. and Scutellaria rupestris Boiss. ET Heldr. ssp. Adennotricha (Boiss. et Heldr.) Greuter et Burdet from Greece. Essent. Oil Res. (2005) 17: 232–35.
(17) Hahn DH, Yoom MJ, Lee EH, Shiml, Lee HJ and Kim HY. Effect of Scutellariae Radix as a novel antibacterial herb on the ppk (polyphosphate kinase) mutant of Salmonella typhimurium. J. Microbiol. Biotechnol. (2001) 11: 1061–65.
(18) Sato Y, Suzuki S, Nishikawa T, Kihara M, Shibata H and Higuti T. Phytochemical flavones isolated from Scutellaria barbata and antibacterial activity against methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. J. Ethnopharmacol. (2000) 72: 483–88.
(19) Nagai T, Miyaiichi Y, Tomimori T, Suzuki Y and Yamada H. Inhibition of influenza virus sialidase and anti-influenza virus activity by plant flavonoids. Chem. Pharm. Bull. (1990) 38: 1329–32.
(20) Cole MD, Bridge PD, Dellar JE, Fellows L, Cornish MC and Anderson JC. Antifungal activity of Neoclerodane diterpenoids from Scutellaria. Phytochemistry (1991) 30: 1125–27.
(21) Li BQ, Fu T, Gong WH, Dunlop N, Kung H, Yan Y, Kang J and Wang JM. Flavonoid baicalin exhibits anti-inflammatory activity by binding to chemokines. Immunopharmacol. (2000) 49: 295–306.
(22) Gao Z, Huang K, Yang X and Xu H. Free radical scavenging and antioxidant activities of flavonoids extracted from the radix of Scutellaria baicalensis Georgi. Biochim. Biophys. Acta. (1999) 1472: 643–50.
(23) Powell CB, Fung P, Jackson J, Dall’Era J, Lewkowicz D, Cohen I and Smith-McCune K. Aqueous extract of herba Scutellaria barbatae, a chinese herb used for ovarian cancer, induces apoptosis of ovarian cancer cell lines. Gynecol. Oncol. (2003) 91: 332–40.
(24) Tayarani-Najaran Z, Mousavi SH, Asili J and Emami SA. Growth-inhibitory effect of Scutellaria lindbergii in human cancer cell lines. Food Chem. Toxicol. (2010) 48: 599–604.
(25) Yin X, Zhou J, Jie C, Xing D and Zhang Y. Anticancer activity and mechanism of Scutellaria barbata extract on human lung cancer cell line A549. Life Sci. (2004) 75: 2233–44.
(26) Fazly-Bazzaz BS, Atefeh Arab A, Emami SA, Asili J, Hasanzadeh-Khayyat M, Sahebkar A. Antimicrobial and antioxidant activities of methanol, dichloromethane and ethyl acetate extracts of Scutellaria lindbergii Retief. Chiang. Mai. J. Sci. (2013) 40: 49–59.
(27) Pimenov MG, Leonov MV, Pfeiffer L, Mabberley DJ and Drude O. The genera of the Umbelliferae: a nomenclator. Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens (1993) 156.
(28) Mozaffarian V. The Family of Umbelliferae in Iran-Keys and Distribution. Tehran:Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands Press (1983) 114-16.
(29) Mozaffarian V. A Dictionary of Iranian Plant Names. Tehran Farhang-e-Moaser (1996) 228-30.
(30) Murray RDH, Mender J and Brown SA. The Natural Coumarins. 1st Ed. New York John Wiley & Sons Inc. (1982) 555-9.
(31) Iranshahi M, Hassanzadeh-Khayyat M, Sahebkar A and Famili A. Chemical composition of the fruit oil of Ferula flabellifolia. J. Essent. Oil-Bear Plants (2008) 11: 143-7.
(32) Iranshahi M, Kalategi F, Sahebkar A, Sardashti A and Schneider B. New sesquiterpene coumarins from the roots of Ferula flabellifolia. Pharm. Biol. (2010) 60: 657-62.
(33) Motai T, Daikonya A and Kitanaka S. Sesquiterpene Coumarins from Ferula fukanensis and nitric oxide production inhibitory effects. J. Nat. Prod. (2004) 67: 432-36.
(34) Iranshahi M, Shahverdi AR, Mirjani R, Amin G and Shafiee A. Umbelliprenin from Ferula persica roots inhibits the red pigment production in Serratia marcescens. Z. Naturforsch (2004) 59: 506-08.
(35) Iranshahi M, Arfa P, Ramezani M, Jaafari MR, Sadeghian H, Bassarello C, Piacenta S and Piras ML. Volatile Polysulphides of Assafoetida. Phytochemistry (2007) 68: 554-61.
(36) Rajanikanth B, Ravindranath B and Shankararanayana ML. Volatile Polysulphides of Assafoetida. Phytochemistry (1984) 23: 899-900.
(37) Al-said MS, Abdel Sattar E, El-Feraly F, Nahrstedt A and Coen M. New Sulphides from Ferula rutabensis. Int. J. Pharmacog. (1996) 34: 189-93.
(38) Iranshahi M, Amin GR, Amini M and Shafiee A. Sulfur containing derivatives from Ferula persica var. latisecta. Phytochemistry (2003) 63: 965-6.
(39) Ramezani M, Hosseinzadeh H and Mojtabehdi K. Effects of ferula gummosa boiss. Fraiss.
morphine dependence in mice. J. Ethnopharmacol. (2001) 77: 71–5.
(40) Sayyah M, Mandgary A and Kamalinejad M. Evaluation of the anticonvulsant activity of the seed acetone extract of *ferula gummosa* boiss. Against seizures induced by pentylentetrazole and electroconvulsive shock in mice. J. Ethnopharmacol. (2002) 82: 105–9.
(41) Eftekhar F, Yousefzadi M and Borhani K. Antibacterial activity of the essential oil from *ferula gummosa* seed. *Fitoterapia* (2004) 75: 758–9.
(42) Ebrahimzadeh MA, Nabavi SM, Nabavi SF and Dehpour AA. Antioxidant activity of hydroalcholic extract of *ferula gummosa* boiss roots. *Eur. Rev. Med. Pharmacol. Sci.* (2011) 15: 658–64.
(43) She M, Pu F, Pan Z, Watson M, Cannon J, Holmes-Smith I, Klijuykov V, Phillipp LR and Pimenov MG. “Apiaceae”. *Flora of China*. (2005) 1-205.
(44) Mozaffarian V. Two new genera of Iranian Umbellifera. *Bot. Zhrnn.* (2003) 88: 88–94.
(45) Ahmadi F, Kadima M and Shahedi M. Antioxidant activity of *Kelussia odoratissima* Mozaff in model and food systems. *Food Chem.* (2007) 105: 57–64.
(46) Ramezani M, Behravan J and Yazdinezhad A. “Composition and antimicrobial activity of the volatile oil of *Artemisia kopetdaghensis* Krash. M.Pop. & Linecz ex Poljak from Iran,” *Flavour Frag. J.* (2006) 21: 869–871.
(47) Mirdeilami SZ, Barani H, Mazandarani M and Heshmati AL. “Ethnopharmacological survey of medicinal plants in Maraveh Tappeh region, north of Iran. *Iran. J. Plant. Physiol.* (2011) 2: 327–380.
(48) Vazifedan V, Moussavi SH, Sargolzaei J, Soleymanifarad SH and Fani Pakdel A. Study of Crocin & Radiotherapy-induced Cytotoxicity and Apoptosis in the Head and Neck Cancer (HN-5) Cell Line. *Iran. J. Pharm. Res.* (2017) 16: 230-237.
(49) Montbriand MJ. Alternative therapies: Health professionals’ attitudes. *Can. Nurs.* (2000) 96: 22–6.
(50) Moussavi SH, Tavakkol-Afshari J, Brook A and Jafari-Anarkooli I. Role of caspases and Bax protein in saffron-induced apoptosis in MCF-7 cells. *Food Chem. Toxicol.* (2009) 47: 1909–13.
(51) Yin SY, Wei WC, Jian FY and Yang NS. Therapeutic Applications of Herbal Medicines for cancer Patients. Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine 2013; (2013).
(52) Lindblad P. Epidemiology of renal cell carcinoma. *Scandinavian J. Surg.* (2004) 93: 88-96.
(53) Steffens S. Caveolín 1 protein expression in renal cell carcinoma predicts survival. *BioMed. Central. Urol.* (2011) 11: 25.
(54) Chui CH, Lau FY, Tang JC, Kan KL, Cheng GY, Wong RS, Kok SH, Lai PH, Ho R, Gambari R and Chan AS. Activities of fresh juice of *Scutellaria barbata* and warmed water extract of *Radix Sophorae tonkinensis* on anti-proliferation and apoptosis of human cancer cell lines. *Int. J. Mol. Med.* (2005) 16: 337–41.
(55) Gate L, Paul J and Ba GN. Oxidative stress induced in pathologies: the role of antioxidants. *Biomed. Pharmacother.* (1999) 53:169–80.
(56) Ehtesham-Gharaei M, Eshaghi A, Shojaee S, Asili J, Emami SA, Behravan J and Mosaffa F. Protective effects of *Scutellaria lindbergii* root extract against oxidative-induced cell and DNA damage in mouse fibroblast-like cells. *Drug Chem. Toxicol.* (2013) 38: 293-9.
(57) Tayarani-Najaran Z, Hajian Z, Mojarrab M and Emami SA. Cytotoxic and Apoptotic Effects of Extracts of *Artemisia cinformis* Krasch. & Popov ex Poljak on K562 and HL-60 Cell Lines. *Asian Pac. J. Cancer. Prev.* (2014) 15: 7055-9.
(58) Taherkhani M. In-Vitro Cytotoxic Activity of the Essential Oil Extracted from *Artemisia Absinthium*. *Iran. J. Toxicol.* (2014) 8: 1152-6.
(59) Rashid S, Rather MA and Shah WA. Chemical composition, antimicrobial, cytotoxic and antioxidant activities of the essential oil of *Artemisia indica* Wild. *Food Chem.* (2013) 138: 693-700.
(60) Cha JD, Moon SE and Kim HY. Essential oil of *Artemisia capillaris* induces apoptosis in KB cells via mitochondrial stress and caspase activation mediated by MAPK-stimulated signaling pathway. *J. Food Sci.* (2009) 74: 75-81.
(61) Tilaoui M, Mouse HA and Jaafari A. Chemical composition and antiproliferative activity of essential oil from aerial parts of a medicinal herb *Artemisia herba-alba*. *Rev. Bras. Farmacog.* (2011) 21: 781-5.
(62) Eslami Jadidi B, Dehpouri A, Nemati F and Rezaei B. Cytotoxic effects of the Ferula gummosa extract on the cancer cell line MCF7. *J. Anim. Biol.* (2013) 5: 1 -7.
(63) Gudarzi H, Salimi M, Irian S, Amanzadeh A, Mostafapour Kandelous H, Azadmanesh K, et al. Ethanolic extract of Ferula gummosa is cytotoxic against cancer cells by inducing apoptosis and cell cycle arrest. *Nat. Prod. Res.* (2009) 29: 546-50.
(64) Gharaei R, Akrami H, Heidari S,Asadi MH and Jalili A. The suppression effect of *Ferula gummosa* Boiss. Extracts on cell proliferation through apoptosis induction in gastric cancer cell line. *Eur. J. Integ. Med.* (2013) 5: 241–7.
(65) Kandaswami C, Lee LT, Lee PP, Hwang JJ, Ke FC, Huang YT and Lee MT. The antitumor activities of flavonoids. *In-Vivo.* (2005) 19: 895–909.

This article is available online at http://www.ijpr.ir