IMMUNOGENICITY ANALYSIS OF TRITERPENE GLYCOSIDE FROM HOLOTHURIA ATRA TO DETECTING FAS AND BCL-2 PROTEIN ON THE SP-C1 CELL OF TONGUE CARCINOMA

UTMI ARMA1,2, MIEKE HEMIAWATI SATARI1, SYAFRUDDI INILYAS1, DIAN HANDAYANI1, AMETA PRIMASARI1, NILA KASUMA1, SUPRIATNO1, BASRI A GANI1,2,7

1Doctoral Program, Dentistry Faculty, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia. 2Department of Oral Medicine, Dentistry Faculty, Universitas Baiturrahmah, Padang, Indonesia. 3Department of Microbiology, Dentistry Faculty, Universitas Padjajaran, Bandung, Indonesia. 4Department of Biology, Mathematics and Natural Sciences Faculty, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia. 5Department of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Faculty, Universitas Andalas, Padang, Indonesia. 6Department of Oral Biology, Dentistry Faculty, Universitas Andalas, Padang, Indonesia. 7Department of Oral Medicine, Dentistry Faculty, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. 8Department of Oral Biology, Dentistry Faculty, Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

Email: basriunoe@unsyiah.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Objective: The objective of this study is to assess the role of triterpene glycoside of Holothuria atra to induce the Fas and Bcl-2-regulated apoptosis in Supri’s Clone 1 (Sp-C1) cell of tongue carcinoma.

Methods: The triterpene glycoside of H. atra was isolated by high-performance liquid chromatography. The Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma was cloned by DuBecco’s Modified Eagle Medium and cytotoxic assay by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl) 2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide assay. Expression Fas and Bcl-2 proteins were analysed by immunocytochemistry also apoptosis detected by double staining ethidium bromide/acridine. The datum of studied was analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), significance (p<0.05), and strength correlation (p<0.001) with R=1.

Results: The H. atra has triterpene glycoside, and in the dose of 4 mg/ml, it has been cytotoxic activities on the Sp-C1 (p<0.05), mortality 80%; inhibitory concentration 50 (IC50)=0.6 and anti-logarithm = 4. In general, the concentration of 2.5 mg/ml of triterpene glycoside has triggered the expression of Fas protein (active, 71%; moderate, 10%; and no-active, 27%), whereas the Sp-C1 cell protein (active, 59%; moderate, 14%; and no-active 27%). Statistically, both expressions of protein were significant (p<0.05). Triterpene glycoside caused the apoptosis of Sp-C1 cell (strong, 87%; and moderate, 13%).

Conclusion: The triterpene glycoside has the properties of cytotoxicity, and apoptosis in the Sp-C1 cell also could be triggering the expression of Fas and Bcl-2 proteins.

Keywords: Holothuria atra, Cytotoxic-apoptosis, Bcl-2 and Fas proteins, Supri’s Clone 1 cell, Triterpene glycoside.

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INTRODUCTION

Ninety-five percent of head, neck, and mouth cancers are squamous cell carcinomas (SCC) [1]. The frequency of the oral cavity SCC reached the sixth of the 10 most advanced cancers around the world and tended to increase [2]. The tongue is an area of concern for the incidence of oral cavity occurrence. SCC of the tongue represents 25%-50% of the total number of oral cancer SCC [3].

SCC is treated with surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy or in combination, but the 5-year survival rate is poor, about 50% [4], and according to Zhang et al. [5], even with 30% local and regional recurrence combination therapy, 25% metastasis, and 5% survival by 40%. Therefore, the target of developing anticancer drugs is directed to the induction of apoptosis [6], derived from natural materials, and one of them is a sea cucumber [7].

The tumor was called a disorder physiologically of cell growth in the body [8]. This is as a result of an apoptotic failure that caused by unsUCCESS checkpoint in G0 phase of cell cycle [9,10]. Theoretically, Bcl-2 and Fas proteins on Supri’s Clone 1 (Sp-C1) are being the target of chemotherapy of anti-tumor [11]. Bcl-2 engaged in intrinsic pathway, whereas the Fas protein in the extrinsic pathway [12].

The natural products have an important role in cancer therapy, and a substantial number of clinically-used chemicals are derived from plants or animal [13]. A number of active component of plant reported to adhere to the cancer cell metastatic such as Arctium lappa L. [14]. Liu et al. [15] reported that the triterpene glycoside of monk fruit was inhibited cancer into the body. It has to suppress P53 protein and decreasing regulation of matrix metalloproteinases and phosphorylated extracellular signal-regulated kinases.

Seas cucumbers are marine invertebrates that produce the secondary metabolites which have unique structures and useful biological activities [16]. In Indonesia, there are many sea cucumbers, one of them is Holothuria atra, originating from the sea of Mentawai (West Sumatra) [17]. The isolation of sea cucumber is triterpene glycoside which is the main bioactive compound of sea cucumber, with the wide structure of biological activity such as antifungal, cytotoxic, hemolytic, immune-modulatory effect, and antitumor [18].

The research of triterpene glycoside H. atra as the anticancer was reported by Aminin et al. [19] as the anti-malignant tumor of animal model, such as the cytotoxicity assay and apoptotic assay. Therefore, the development of anticancer by inducing apoptosis is importantly a
targeted therapy. The study of triterpene glycoside *H. atra* to detect the Bcl-2 and Fas protein has been not reported this far. In consequence, this research was reported the role of triterpene glycoside *H. atra* to induce the Bcl-2 and Fas protein-regulated apoptosis in Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma.

**METHODS**

**Materials**

The research has approved with the ethical clearance No.730/TGL/KEPK/FK USU-RSUP HAM/2016 issued by Faculty of Medicine, University of Sumatera Utara, Medan, Indonesia. The eight concentrations of triterpene glycoside of *H. atra* assayed on the Sp-C1 cell related the immune-expression of Bcl-2 and Fas proteins, cytotoxicity assay, and apoptosis assay.

**Purification of triterpene glycoside of *H. atra***

Isolation and purification of triterpene glycoside were used the column chromatography method with silica gel phase 660 and thin-layer chromatography with silica gel GF256 and Sephadex LH20 column method with methanol solvent to obtain one spot. Qualitatively of triterpene glycoside was analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography (also used to triterpenoid assay with added 50–100 mg/ml of triterpene glycoside in 0.5 ml of glacial acid and incubated 15 min in tubes, and then added strong sulfite acid 0.5 ml). Positive has triterpene glycoside emerged brownish-red and purple colors [20,21].

**Cytotoxicity assay**

Cytotoxicity assay of Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma had been analyzed by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay [22]. Triterpene glycoside concentrations used to inhibitory concentration 50 (IC₅₀) as the standard referred of the research model. 100 µl triterpene glycoside in various concentration entered into the well-microplate 96 as well as Sp-C1 cancer cells. Microplates were incubated in CO₂ incubator, then substituted 10% FBS medium and treated cells with various concentrations, incubated 24 h in the CO₂ incubator and then the next day dispeses of media and washed with PBS 2 times, covered by ethidium bromide and acridine orange, observed in fluorescent microscope ×40 [26,27].

**Statistical analyses**

The cytotoxicity, immunexpressions of Bcl-2 and Fas proteins, and apoptosis of the Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma were analyzed by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a p<0.05 and a correlation value of p<0.01.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Triterpenoid analyses of *H. atra***

The extracted total of *H. atra* tested the compound of triterpenoid by the triterpenoid assay. Furthermore uses to evaluating the cytotoxicity, apoptosis, and expression of Bcl-2 and Fas protein [Fig. 1] [28]. Triterpene has the natural bioactive plant, animal, and fungus. It has antitumor, inflammatory effect, antioxidative, antiviral, antibacterial, and anti-fungal and also has the cytotoxically and chemoprotective activities on the neoplasim therapy [29]. Bishaye et al. [30] reported that triterpene takes a role in the apoptotic response of chemoprevention and tumor or mammaries cases.

**Cytotoxicity of triterpene glycoside**

The IC₅₀ is a standard to measure the inhibition effect of triterpene glycoside with various doses (mg/ml). The minimum concentration (4 µg/ml) has a strong effect on cytotoxicity to Sp-C1 cell with mortality scores of 80%, IC₅₀=0.6, and anti-logarithm 4, as well as mortality, is significant (p<0.05). These data are referenced to prescribe a concentration of the cytotoxicity assay of triterpene glycoside against Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma (Table 1). The American National Cancer Institute suggested that the plant extract has the potential cytotoxic effect if they have IC₅₀<20 µg/ml [31]. Molyneux [32] declared that IC₅₀ is the antioxidant concentration related to obstruct of 50% free radical activity and be avoed active in cytotoxic if the mortality of cell is achieved 80–100% (active), 50–79% (moderate), and 49% down is non-active [4].

The evaluation triterpene glycoside doses 0.5–4 µg/ml were assayed with minimal cytotoxic elicited an expression of Bcl-2 and Fas proteins also apoptosis on the Sp-C1 cell. Based on the cytotoxic assay, the doses of 2.5 (µg/ml) is the best standard evaluated of cytotoxic with anti-logarithm (2.197) and antioxidant (81%). The scale of cytotoxicity are strong (0.049–0.199), moderate (0.222–0.699) and non-active (0.700–1.000).

**Apoptosis assay**

In this apoptosis assay, we used the product of Invitrogen Life Science Technologies, Foster City, CA, USA. Influence of triterpene glycoside of *H. atra* on the apoptosis activity of Sp-C1 was assayed by double acting ethidium bromide acridine orange method. The 80% confluent Sp-C1 cells harvested and centrifuged at 1500 rpm 5 min, then the supernantant was discarded. Pellet/precipitate added 1 ml complete medium and reset it after doing the calculation with the counting chamber. Perform starvation with a media containing containing 0.5% fetal bovine serum (FBS). The cell is grown on 24 well-supplied slipcover plates, as many as 50,000 per 500 µl at each well and 24-h incubated in the CO₂ incubator. The cell is grown on 24 well-supplied slipcover plates, as many as 500,000 per 500 µl at each well and 24-h incubated in the CO₂ incubator; then substituted 10% FBS medium and treated cells with various concentrations, incubated 24 h in the CO₂ incubator and the next day dispeses of media and washed with PBS 2 times, covered by ethidium bromide acridine orange, observed in fluorescent microscope ×40 [26,27].

![Fig. 1: The triterpene glycoside of *Holothuria atra* (circle of color)](image)

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(0.745). Fajarningsih et al. [33] explained the IC50 triterpene glycoside 0.239 µg/ml be included strong to adherent the development of cancer cells. The cytotoxic effect of triterpene glycoside on the Sp-C1 cell is shown in Fig. 2.

Our research has been in line with the study of Jangwan and Singh [34], and the triterpene extracted from Randia dumetorum Lamk was shown over cytotoxic effect (IC50 = antilog 2.55 = 354.8 µg/mL). Those findings are clarified again by Han et al. [35], triterpene glycosides (glycosides 1–3) isolated by sea cucumber showed the cytotoxicity activities on the tumor cell of P-388, A549, MKN-28, HCT116, and MCF-7 with concentration IC50 0.93–2.60 µmol/L. In our research used to concentration 0.5–4 μg/ml. Based on the data obtained from this study, the cytotoxic activity of the glycosides of H. atra is highly sensitive to the Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma.

Expression of Bcl-2 and Fas proteins

In general, the triterpene glycoside of H. atra has better than the potential for inducing the expression of Fas protein (active 71%; moderate 10% and non-active 27%). Meanwhile, Bcl-2 protein has active 59%, moderate 14%, and non-active 27%. Both Fas and Bcl-2 are statistically significant (p<0.05) (Fig. 3). These results were shown that the triterpene glycoside of H. atra has immunogenically better that to Fas protein compared to Bcl-2 (Fig. 4). Zhao et al. [36] (2012) [31] reported in his research that the triterpene glycosides could be causing to decrease the expression of the Bcl-2 protein and Mcl-1 and also to increase the sub-G0/G1 population of apoptotic cells and expression of Bax protein. These are a role in the expression of inhibitor cyclin-dependent kinase, p21, and the last to activated caspasas 3, 7, and 9 [27].

The result of the study identified that triterpene glycosides of H. atra can trigger the expression of Bcl-2 and Fas protein. Its active component possibility can be used to early detect the tumor of tongue carcinoma. Aminin et al. [19] give expression which the holothurian triterpene glycosides be a biology agent for cytostatics therapy.

Bcl-2 and Fas are the protein that mixed up with activated the tumor cell. Commonly, both expression Bcl-2 and Fas proteins were facilitated by ligand (FasL) contained in the cell surface that roles to improve the cell cycle and to prevent the apoptosis. Fas protein resistance-pathway also to contribute the Bcl-2 protein through linked-phosphatase-1, and soluble Fas (sFas) mRNA [37]. Expression of Fas protein and its ligand Fasl was detected on the 44 subjects (88%) of the mount 50 subjects (100%) [38].

Apoptosis analyses

Build on the study, triterpene glycoside has apoptosis effect on the Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma 87% (strong) and 13% (moderate) (Fig. 5), with indicator scale 0–5% (weak), 5–25% (moderate), and 25–100% (strong), significant (p<0.05) and strong correlation (r=0.92). Yun et al. [39] suggested that this research has been the strongly correlated effect of triterpene glycoside to induce the apoptosis in a way inactivated the Fas protein and caspase-8, cleavage of Bcl, mitochondrial damage, and caspase-3 activation [40]. Plati et al. [41] adduced that the apoptosis
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is inducible undergo FasL, tumor necrosis factor, and TRAIL bind on the target receptor. Meanwhile, caspases, family protein Bcl-2 will be the programming of death naturally. Meanwhile, caspases, family protein Bcl-2 will be the programming of death naturally in the regulation of immune response [36]. Furthermore, the flavonoid of plant herbal has to the prevention of cancer by inhibiting signal transduction enzymes, protein tyrosine kinase, protein kinase C, and phosphoinositide 3-kinases. The signals are involved in the regulation of cell proliferation [42].

Sp-C1 cell that experienced apoptotic to expressed the Fas and its ligand on the tumor cell surface [Fig.6]. In the case of hepatocellular carcinoma, changing the structure of Fas protein was related to the expression of the Bcl-2 protein and reported to inhibit the apoptosis [12]. In this guided that shown triterpene glycoside can interfere with Bcl-2 and fast protein expressions, so as the tumor cell is not developed and the checkpoint phase will be back operated in the apoptosis occurrence [43].

CONCLUSION
Triterpene glycoside of H. atra has been cytotoxicity effect on the Sp-C1 cell of tongue carcinoma, also inducible to expression the Bcl-2 dan Fas protein, at once to regulated the apoptosis of the Sp-C1 cell. Based on the result, triterpene glycoside of H. atra be possibility will be used as the active biology material to prevent the tumor metastatic of the tongue and applicable on the cancer whole body.

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Table 1: Cytotoxicity assay of triterpene glycoside H. atra on the Sp-C1 cell

| Doses (µg/ml) | Average (OD) | SDV | Mortality (%) | Scale | Log10-Concen | Anti-Log | p         | R        |
|--------------|--------------|-----|---------------|-------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 4            | 0.049        | 0.058 | 88            | Strong | 0.602        | 0.274    | 0.014 (p<0.05) | 0.939    |
| 3.5          | 0.096        | 0.076 | 83            | Strong | 0.544        | 0.248    |           |          |
| 3            | 0.082        | 0.069 | 85            | Strong | 0.477        | 0.217    |           |          |
| 2.5          | 0.118        | 0.021 | 81            | Strong | 0.398        | 0.181    |           |          |
| 2            | 0.326        | 0.090 | 57            | Moderate | 0.301       | 0.137    |           |          |
| 1.5          | 0.356        | 0.072 | 54            | Moderate | 0.176       | 0.080    |           |          |
| 1            | 0.515        | 0.066 | 36            | Non-active | 0.000       | 0.000    |           |          |
| 0.5          | 0.745        | 0.118 | 10            | Non-active | −0.301      | −0.137   |           |          |

Fig. 5: Apoptosis frequency of Supri’s-Clone 1 cell of tongue carcinoma after administrated by triterpene glycoside of Holothuria atra

Fig. 6: Analyzed by double staining ethidium bromide acridine orange on the culture of the Supri’s-Clone 1 cell, apoptosis cell (red), and non-apoptosis (green), magnified at ×40. (a) Control positive, (b) control negative, (c) treatment

AUTHOR’S CONTRIBUTIONS
UA carried out the conception, cytotoxicity assay, immunocytochemistry assay, and apoptosis assay also drafted the manuscript with BAG and MHS. Whereas, SI, DH, AP, and NK have been given the research ideas and design of research and include the preparation of triterpene glycoside of Holothuria atra. Specifically, BAG has been arranged the manuscript, statistical analysis, and corresponding author. All of the authors were read and approved the final manuscript.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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