

A novel thiazolidine molecules: Evaluation of their antiproliferative, mutagenic and genotoxic effects

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Cancer results from unregulated cell growth. Reactivating cell death in cancer cells, i.e. apoptosis, is a classical anticancer therapeutic strategy. The apoptosis-inducer property of the (2*RS*,4*R*)-2-phenyl-3-propinoyl-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester (ALC67) molecule has been discovered recently^{1,2}. To elucidate the mechanism of action of this molecule and to evaluate the impact of the phenyl group that the thiazolidine ring presents at its second position on the cytotoxicity, we developed derivatives ALC 67 analogues replacing the phenyl moiety with various aliphatic and aromatic groups.

The cytotoxic activity of the novel (2*RS*,4*R*)-2-phenyl-3-propinoyl-thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester derivatives were evaluated on human liver HUH7 and Mahlavu hepatocellular carcinoma cell (HCC) lines with the sulforhodamine B (SRB) assay. Results demonstrated that the antiproliferative property was conserved when the phenyl moiety was replaced.

Since the mutagenic and genotoxic properties of marketed anticancer molecules constitute a main issue to be addressed, then we focused on the analysis of the mutagenicity, antimutagenicity and genotoxicity of ALC67 molecule which has promising antiproliferative activity³. The mutagenicity and antimutagenicity of ALC67 were evaluated by Ames test performed on *Salmonella* TA98 and TA100 strains. The genotoxicity of this molecule was investigated in the chromosomal aberration assay on human lymphocytes. All results revealed that the analyzed structure is not mutagenic in two *Salmonella* strains tested and was not genotoxic in human lymphocytes *in vitro*. All these results indicate that after performing some more mutagenicity assay using other recommended strains, this compound can be safely used for the development of new structures exhibiting anticancer activities.

R		Yield (%)	Huh7 IC ₅₀ μM	MV IC ₅₀ μM
ALC 67			5.3 ± 0.9	0.4 ± 0.5
<i>p</i> -OCH ₃ -Ph-		(3a) 89	1.4 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.2
<i>p</i> -F-Ph-		(3b) 37	0.7 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.2
<i>m</i> -F-Ph-		(3c) 58	1.4 ± 0.4	1.7 ± 2.0
<i>o</i> -F-Ph-		(3d) 30	1.7 ± 0.4	1.7 ± 0.6
<i>p</i> -CN-Ph-		(3e) 24	2.6 ± 0.6	2.4 ± 2.3
-(CH ₂) ₄ CH ₃		(3f) 55	1.8 ± 0.4	2.0 ± 1.4
-(CH ₂) ₃ CH ₃		(3g) 87	0.5 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1
-CH(CH ₂ -CH ₃)-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH ₃		(3h) 30	1.7 ± 0.3	1.6 ± 0.2
-CH ₂ -CH(CH ₃)-CH ₂ -C(CH ₃) ₃		(3i) 55	1.6 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.6
-CH(CH ₃)-CH ₂ -CH ₂ -CH ₃		(3j) 63	0.6 ± 0.3	0.5 ± 0.1
-C(CH ₃) ₃		(3k) 52	0.8 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1
CPT			0.1	<1
5FU			30.7	10.0