Cytogenetics Changes on Cancer Cells as Affected by Ginger Extracts

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Abstract: A wide variety of phenolic substances derived from spice possess potent antimutagenic and anticarcinogenic activities. Some of these phenolic substances are present in ginger, possessing strong anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative properties as well as exert substantial anti-carcinogenic and anti-mutagenic activities. The present study was conducted to examine the in vivo cytogenetic effect of ginger extract on Ehrlich ascites cell inoculated in female mice.

This study was performed on two groups of female mice. The first, one was inoculated intraperitoneally (i.p.) with 2.5x 10⁶ Ehrlich ascites cells. However, the second one received oral daily ginger (100 mg/Kg body wt.) on day two of inoculating animals with Ehrlich ascites cells.

Results revealed that various types of chromosomal aberrations in Ehrlich ascites cells were detected. These aberrations were manifested in either numerical or structural aberrations. Ehrlich ascites cells contain different number of chromosomes ranging form 26 to 125 with an increase in micronuclei cells and incidence of mitotic index. The ginger extract increased the percentage of diploid cells (normal morphology), In addition, a reduction in micronuclei cells and mitotic index in Ehrlich ascites cells were detected. Also, a reduction in chromosomal aberration of Ehrlich ascites cells was achieved. The reduction of abnormalities in tumor cells by the extracts may stimulate the cells to divide normally or go to die (through apoptosis) if they cannot remove chromosomal abnormalities.

It was concluded that ginger extract may have a chemotherapeutic effect on Ehrlich ascites cells. The extract greatly changed tumor cells to diploid normal cells. The use of dietary agents such as ginger may have potency for the treatment and prevention of cancer. [Journal of American Science 2010; 6(8):525-539]. (ISSN: 1545-1003).

Key words: Zingiber officinale, Ehrlich ascites cell, chromosomal aberration, micronuclei cells.

1. Introduction:

Epidemiologic evidence suggested that regular consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains may reduce cancer risk in some individuals. This association has been attributed to these foods being rich sources of numerous bioactive compounds (Milner, 2004). Bioactive components present in fruits and vegetables can prevent carcinogenesis by metabolic activation, blocking by increasing detoxification, or by providing alternative targets for electrophilic metabolites (kuo et al., 2005). Numerous constituents of plant foods, including flavonoids (such as quercetin, rutin, and genistein), phenols (such as curcumin, epigallocatin-3-gallate and resveratrol), isothiocyanates, allyl sulfur compounds, indoles, and selenium have been found to be potent modulators of detoxification enzymes in vitro and in preclinical models (Milner ,2001 and Keum et al., 2004).

The effect of plant extracts as antitumors was widely studied due to their low toxicity and side effect. The inhibition of ascites tumor cells by Nigella sativa seed extracts was investigated (Musa *et al.*,2004). Willow extracts antitumor activity which is due to the presence of Salicin (Zahran *et al.*,2005). Curcuma longa extracts and active constituents have a potential role in the prevention of cancer and the management of infectious and chronic diseases (Ahmad *et al.*, 2008).

The metaphase of tumor cells was highly arrested by vincristine and vinblastine as alkaloids which have antimitotic effect (EL-Mrezabani *et al.*, 1979b).The abnormalities in chromosomes of tumor cells such as sister chromatid change and aberrations (Duthie *et al.*, 1997; Gonalez *et al.*, 1997) and DNA fragmentation (Royman and Ruddon, 1995) by natural extracts were illustrated. The induction of apoptosis in the cancer cells by natural plant extracts was studied by (Pirianov *et al.*, 1998; Filion *et al.*, 1998 and Choudhury *et al.*, 2010).

Mutagenicity, clastogenicity, cytotoxicity and carcinogenicity are inhibited by antioxidant compounds found in abundance in plants (Jeyakumar *et al.*, 1999 and Surh, 2003). Most chemopreventive compounds and their analogs or derivatives are initially of plant origin and inhibit spontaneous and

chemical mutagenesis in a variety of in vitro and in vivo test systems (Xifeng *et al.*, 2007).

Many herbs and spices are known to possess an array of biochemical and pharmacological activities including antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties that were believed to contribute to their anticarcinogenic and antimutagenic activities (Hung et al., 2006). Tumor promotion is closely linked to inflammation and oxidative stress; so compounds that exhibit anti inflammatory and/or antioxidant properties could acts as anticarcinogenic agent (Masuda et al., 2004). Some phenolic substances present in ginger(Zingiber officinale Roscoe, Zingiberaceae), generally, possess strong antiinflammatory, anti-oxidative and anti-mitotic properties and exert substantial anti-carcinogenic and anti-mutagenic activities (Surh, 2002; Bode, 2003; Kim et al., 2005a ; Vijayapadma et al., 2007 and Choudhury et al., 2010).

This study amid to evaluate the effect of ginger extract on characteristics of ascitic Ehrlich tumor cells by using chromosome aberration assay, mitotic index and micronucleus test.

2. Materials and Methods:

Preparation of plant extract

It is conducted according to Mothana *et al.* (2009) where air-dried and powdered plant materials (10 g) were extracted with 400 ml methanol (CH₃OH) by Soxhlet extraction for 8 hours. Residue was dried overnight and then extracted with 250 ml water (H₂O) by using a shaking water-bath at 70°C for 2 hours. The obtained methanolic and water extracts were filtered and evaporated by using a rotary evaporator and freeze dryer. The dried extracts were stored at -20°C until used.

Tumor Cell Line

A line of Ehrlich ascites carcinoma (EAC) obtained from Egyptian National Cancer institute, Cairo University. The tumor line was maintained in female Swiss albino mice by weekly interperitoneal injection of 2.5×10^6 cells/mouse according to the method recommended by the Egyptian National Cancer institute, Cairo university.

Such developed tumor is characterized by its moderate rapid growth which could not kill the animal due to the accumulation of ascites before injection using the bright line haemocytometer and dilutions were made by physiological saline and desired numbers of cells were injected in a volume of 0.5 ml.

Animals:

Forty female mice (18-20 g.) were obtained from experimental animal house found in National

Research Center, Cairo, Egypt. Animals were kept under normal healthy laboratory conditions. Inbred colony was used in the present study. Animals were provided with standard rat feed (procured from Animal Nutrient Co., Cairo) with water ad libitum and were maintained under controlled conditions of temperature and light (Light: dark, 10 hrs: 14 hrs.). Five animals were housed in a polypropylene cage with locally procured paddy husk (Oryza sativa) as bedding throughout the experiment. Tetracyclinecontaining water (0.13 mg/ml) was provided once a fortnight and was given as a preventive measure against infections. Animal care and handling were performed according to the guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland and the ETC (Ethical Committee National Research Center), Cairo, Egypt.

Experimental Design:

Mice were divided into two groups:

1-Ehrlich group: mice were intraperitoneally (i.p.)inoculated with 2.5x 10⁶ Ehrlich ascites cells. 2-Ehrlich and ginger group: animal received oral daily ginger (100 mg/Kg body wt.) on day two after inoculation with Ehrlich ascites cells.

Collection and preparation of Ehrlich ascites cells

After 7 and 14 days of tumor implantation, animals were necropsied. Ascitic liquid was collected in order to chromosome preparation and micronucleated cells. Smears were carried out from the cell suspension obtained from each animal and then they were submitted to Giemsa stain in order to determine mitotic index.

Chromosome preparation: was conducted according to Evans (1987):

Animals were sacrificed and Ehrlich ascites cells were collected. Ehrlich ascites cells was subjected to colchicine treatment (0.05 solution, 0.1 ml /culture), hypotonic treatment (KCl, 5.6 g/l), fixed in acetomethanol, spread and stained with Giemsa stain

Mitotic Index:

1000 cells per animal were counted and the number of dividing cells, including prophases and metaphases, was determined.

The micronucleus test: was conducted according to the method of Salamone *et al.*, 1980.

Ascitic liquid was collected from five animals of both groups and smear preparations were made by using fetal calf serum. Statistical analysis:

Obtained data were subjected to analysis of PRIMER Ver 5.0 according to Bary-curtis Similarity Inedex. and ANOVA-test according to Snedecor & Cochran (1980) at probability 0.01

3. Results:

Chromosome number aberrations

As shows in Table (1); on day 7& 14; in Ehrlich group, Ehrlich ascites cells contain different number of chromosomes ranging form 26 to 125 chromosomes (Plate 1, 2 & 3). The stem cells of this tumor had 46 rod – shaped chromosome (Plate3- a). In Ehrlich and ginger group, ginger extract significant decrease the variations of chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites tumor cells. The ginger extract a significant increase diploid Ehrlich ascites cells (46 chromosomes).

Structural chromosomal aberrations

Data cited in table (3) show the percentage of the Structural chromosome aberration in diploid Ehrlich ascites cells (46 chromosomes) on day 14. These aberrations included breaks, deletions, rings, end to end association, centric fusion and fragment (Plate

5

2.5

total

%

0

0

0

0

4&5). Centric fusion type observed in Ehrlich group with percentage more than all types of chromosome aberration (25%). Addition of ginger extract reduced chromosome aberration in Ehrlich ascites cells. Centric fusion type highly decreases in Ehrlich ascites cells treated with ginger extract (8%). Also the percentage of other type of chromosome aberration was decreased except in break type were increased (Fig. 3).

Mitotic Index

Cytological studies using Giemsa staining methods revealed a significant increase in number of mitotic cells in Ehrlich ascites cells at 7 and 14 days. While ginger extract induces a significant decrease in mitotic cells in Ehrlich ascites tumor cells (Table 4& Fig. 4).

The micronucleus test:

On analyzing the frequency of micronucleated cells in Ehrlich ascites tumor cells (Table 4), it was found that significant increase in the frequency of micronucleated cells in Ehrlich group. When Ehrlich ascites cells treated with ginger extrac significant decrease in the micronucleated cells was observed (Fig. 5).

Groups	number of chromosomes											
		26	32	34	36	40	42	44	46	86	92	125≤
Ehrlich 7days	total	12	6	6	16	10	6	10	50	8	36	40
	%	6	3	3	8	5	3	5	25	4	18	20
Ehrlich+	total	4	0	0	4	6	6	8	156	0	16	0
Ginger 7days	%	2	0	0	2	3	3	4	78	0	8	0
Ehrlich 14days	total	6	3	5	7	30	0	19	117	0	13	0
	0/	2	1.5	2.5	25	15	0	0.5	59 5	0	65	0

6

3

8

4

0

0

8

4

164

82

0

0

9

4.5

0

0

 Table (1): Distribution of chromosome numbers in Ehrlich ascites cells treated with orwithout ginger extract after 7 and 14days

Ehrlich+

Ginger 14days



Fig. 1: Distribution of chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells treated with ginger extract after 7 and 14days.

 Table (2): Distribution of chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells (normal and abnormal) treated with or without ginger extract after 14days

Groups	number of chromosomes									
		26	32	34	36	40	44	46	92	
Ehrlich 14days	normal	5	2	3	3	17	13	54	4	
	abnormal	1	1	2	4	13	6	63	9	
	total	6	3	5	7	30	19	117	13	
	%	3	1.5	2.5	3.5	15	9.5	58.5	6.5	
Ehrlich+	normal	4	0	0	3	6	5	120	4	
Ginger 14days	abnormal	1	0	0	3	2	3	44	5	
	total	5	0	0	6	8	8	164	9	
	%	2.5	0	0	3	4	4	82	4.5	



Fig. 2: Distribution of chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells (normal and abnormal) treated with or without ginger extract after 14days

 Table 3: Structural chromosomal aberration in diploid Ehrlich ascites cells (46 chromosomes) treated with or without Ginger extract.

	Abnormal cells								
Groups	Structural chromosomal aberrations								
	Break	Break Deletion		End to End association	Centric fusion	fragment	More aberrations in one cell		
	18	8	4	2	50	14	12	92	
Ehrlich (14 days)	9%	4%	2%	1%	25%	7%	6%	46%	
Ehrlich+	22	2	2	2	16	2	8	146	
Ginger(14 days)	11%	1%	1%	1%	8%	1%	4%	73%	



Fig. 3: Structural Chromosomal aberration in diploid Ehrlich ascites cells (46chromosomes) treated with or without Ginger extract after 14days

 Table 4: Mean of mitotic index and micronuclei cell in Ehrlich ascitic tumor cells treated with or without

 Ginger extract after 7 and 14days.

	Mean			
Groups	Mitotic index	Micronuclei cell		
Ehrlich (7days)	216	78		
Ehrlich +Ginger (7days)	33	19		
Ehrlich (14days)	238	91		
Ehrlich +Ginger (14days)	74	23		

Each point on the chart is 1000 cell counted from each animal.



Figure 4: Dendrogram represent similarity of mitotic index between different groups after 7 and 14 days



Figure 5: Dendrogram represent similarity of micronuclei cell between different groups after 7 and 14 days



Plate (1): Metaphases showing different chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells



Plate (2): Metaphases showing different chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells



Plate (3): Metaphases showing different chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells



Plate (4): Ehrlich ascites cells metaphases showing, structural chromosomal aberrations



c) Break, end to end association and fragment



4. Discussion:

Ginger has long been used in traditional medicine as a cure for some diseases including inflammatory diseases (Afzal *et al.*, 2001). Ginger contains active phenolic compounds such as gingerol, paradol and shogoal that have antioxidant (Jeyakumar *et al.*, 1999), anti-cancer (Shukla and Singh 2007), antiinflammatory (Hudson *et al.*, 2006), antiangiogenesis (Huang *et al.*, 2000) and antiartherosclerotic properties (Coppola and Novo 2007). It has also been shown to down-regulate NF- κ Bregulated gene products involved in cellular proliferation and angiogenesis, including IL-8 (Nonn *et al.*, 2007).

The present study, showed an increase in frequency of aberrant cell. Various pictures of chromosomal aberrations appeared in Ehrlich ascites cells. These aberrations were manifested in numerical (haploid and polyploidy) and structural aberrations. Treatment with ginger extract reduced aberrant cells. Also ginger extract greatly changed the polyploidy and haploid of tumor cells to diploid (normal morphology). The reduction of abnormalities in tumor cells by the extracts may stimulate cells to divide normally or go to die (through apoptosis) if they cannot remove chromosomal abnormalities. These results confirm these obtained bv Vijayapadma, et al. (2007), which show that saline extract prepared from ginger extract caused suppression of cell proliferation and marked morphological changes including cell shrinkage and condensation of chromosomes. This is attributed to its anticancer properties due to presence of certain pungent vallinoids, viz. [6]-gingerol and [6]-paradol, as well as some other constituents like shogaols, zingerone etc in its structure (Shukla and Singh 2007). The apoptosis of lung epithelium cancer (A549) cells by aqueous extract of ginger (GAE) is mediated by up regulation of tumor suppressor gene p53 .The morphological change of cells upon GAE treatment has also been demonstrated. Both the structural and functional properties of tubulin and microtubule were lost, as confirmed by both ex vivo and in vitro experiments (Choudhury et al., 2010).

The present data revealed that significant increase in the frequency of micronucleated cells in Ehrlich ascites cells. Ginger extract reduce the micronuclei cells in Ehrlich ascites cells. These results confirm these obtained by Nirmala *et al.* (2008) observed increased incidence of micronucleus following incubation of blood cells with Trans stillbene oxide (TSO). On the contrary, in the presence of ginger and TSO exposure, reduction in the level of spontaneously occurring micronuclei was observed. A decrease was noted with the increasing levels of ginger extracts present in incubation medium. Therefore, ginger might have therapeutic value as a possible chemopreventer by virtue of its anticytotoxic property.

Results obtained in the present study demonstrate that ginger extract can reduce the mitotic index in Ehrlich ascites cells. These results may be attributed to gingerdione is one of the components from ginger that has been demonstrated to be an effective anti-tumor agent in human leukemia cells (Hsu, et al., 2005). Also, gingerdione induces G1 arrest in human leukemia HL 60 cells. B-Elemene is a novel anticancer drug, which is extracted from the ginger plant. It triggers apoptosis in non-small-cell lung cancer cells through a mitochondrial release of the cytochrome c-mediated apoptotic pathway (Wang et al., 2005). Also, 6-shogaol exhibited the most potent cytotoxicity against human A549, SK-OV-3, SK-MEL-2, and HCT15 tumor cells (Kim et al., 2008). 6-shogaol inhibited proliferation of the transgenic mouse ovarian cancer cell lines. In addition 6-gingerol has two types of antitumor effects: 1) direct colon cancer cell growth suppression, and 2) inhibition of the blood supply of the tumor via angiogenesis (Brown et al., 2009).

5. Conclusion:

Ginger extract may have a chemotherapeutic effect on Ehrlich ascites cells. It is greatly changes tumor cells to diploid normal cells .The use of dietary agents such as ginger may have potential in the treatment and prevention of cancer.

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