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 10^6 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 blocking metabolic activation, 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, epigallocatechin-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 (Roymd 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 act as anticarcinogenic agent (Masuda et al., 2004). Some phenolic substances present in ginger (Zingiber officinale Roscoe, Zingiberaceae), generally, possess strong anti-inflammatory, 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 aimed 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 intraperitoneal injection of 2.5x10⁶ 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 Index. 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 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 micronuclei 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 extract significant decrease in the micronucleated cells was observed (Fig. 5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>number of chromosomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich 7days</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich+</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginger 7days</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich 14days</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich+</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ginger 14days</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 1: Distribution of chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells treated with ginger extract after 7 and 14 days.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>number of chromosomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich 14days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>normal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abnormal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich+ Ginger 14days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>normal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abnormal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 2: Distribution of chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells (normal and abnormal) treated with or without ginger extract after 14 days

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Abnormal cells</th>
<th>Structural chromosomal aberrations</th>
<th>Normal cell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Deletion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich (14 days)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich+Ginger(14 days)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 3: Structural Chromosomal aberration in diploid Ehrlich ascites cells (46 chromosomes) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Mitotic index</th>
<th>Micronuclei cell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich (7days)</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich +Ginger (7days)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich (14days)</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehrlich +Ginger (14days)</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- a) 40 Chromosomes
- b) 42 Chromosomes
- c) 44 Chromosomes
Plate (3): Metaphases showing different chromosome number in Ehrlich ascites cells

a) 46 Chromosomes

b) 92 Chromosomes

c) 125 Chromosomes
Plate (4): Ehrlich ascites cells metaphases showing, structural chromosomal aberrations

a) Centric fusion

b) Deletion

c) Break
Plate (5): Ehrlich ascites cells metaphases showing, structural chromosomal aberrations

a) Fragment

b) Ring

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 shogoaol that have antioxidant (Jeyakumar et al., 1999), anti-cancer (Shukla and Singh 2007), anti-inflammatory (Hudson et al., 2006), anti-angiogenesis (Huang et al., 2000) and anti-atherosclerotic properties (Coppola and Novo 2007). It has also been shown to down-regulate NF-κB-regulated gene products involved in cellular proliferation and angiogenesis, including IL-8 (Nnon 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 by 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 confirmed. 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 stilbene 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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27. Bary-curtis Similarity Index: PRIMER Ver.5.0


