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Detoxification of High Toxic Substances by Radiation Transformation Technique

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Developing a new substance takes a large amount of time, money and effort in the pharmaceutical developing process. Usually, translation of a promising molecule into an approved drug takes more than 10 years. Therefore, it leads to develop advanced techniques to reduce the time and cost. We have attempted to develop radiation fusion technology for transforming toxic substances such as abandoned drugs and naturally occurring polyphenols, known to be toxic, in order to reduce their toxicities. About 200 substances were exposed by gamma irradiation, resulting in 18 compounds being generated with low toxicity compared to their mother compounds. For instance, rotenone, isolated from roots of the derris plant, was reported as an anti-cancer agent. However, recent studies have demonstrated that rotenone has the potential to induce several adverse effects such as a neurodegenerative disease. Radiolytic transformation of the rotenone with gamma irradiation afforded new products, named rotenoisin A, and rotenoisin B, monitored by HPLC and purified by column chromatography. It was found that rotenoisin A and B were potent anticancer candidates similar to parent rotenone in breast cancer and hepatic cancer cells, respectively, without toxic effect to normal cells even at high concentrations compared to rotenone. These results suggest that the radiolytic transformation of high toxic compounds by gamma-irradiation may be a good strategy for modifying the structure and decreasing the toxicity of the parent compound. More systematic structural modifications together with gamma-irradiation will be performed in the future to further clarify these interesting findings in order to develop even more promising anti-cancer candidates.

Country/Organization invited to participate

Korea, Republic of

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