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Marine Organisms as a Source of New Anticancer Agents – Discovery, Development and Perspectives

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Abstract

The marine organisms provide a rich source of nutraceuticals and potential candidates for the treatment of several human cancers. Over the past decade, several new experimental anticancer agents derived from marine sources have entered preclinical and clinical trials. This field has expanded significantly as a result of improvements in the technology of deep-sea collection, extraction, and large-scale production through aquaculture and synthesis. They are taxonomically diverse, largely productive, biologically active, and chemically unique offering a great scope for discovery of new anticancer drugs. The phytochemicals possibly activate macrophages, induce apoptosis, and prevent oxidative damage of DNA, thereby controlling carcinogenesis. These marine-derived compounds are extremely potent in culture, with inhibitory concentrations generally in the nanogram range. Cytarabine, Gemcitabine, Didemnin B, Aplidine, Ecteinascidin, Dolastatin, Bryostatin-1 etc. are promising anti cancer agents from marine resources.

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Brain Targeting Improvised Nanoliposomes

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Abstract

Meningitis, most lethal disease. Limitation of meningitis treatment is passage of drug through blood brain barrier(BBB). Meropenem is effectively used against meningitis. We designed value added formulation of meropenem in order to improve its release profile as well as its permeation through BBB. Crossing BBB is the major bottleneck for reaching the drug to CNS. Lipidcarrier based bilayer Nanoliposomes has been formulated where the lipidcarrier has been conjugation of soya lecithin and cholesterol. Photographic study reveals that bilayer Nanoliposomes has been successfully prepared, about 80% of the drug has been successfully entrapped within the liposome. DLS study exhibited bimodal distribution of particle with size ranges 100nm and 400-500nm. Zeta potential measurements reveals good stability of formulation. FTIR studies reveal that meropenem has been successfully entrapped within the liposome with cholesterol being the outer lipid carrier. In-vitro release displays about 5 times improvement of the drug from liposome compared to free drug and permeation through BBB. In-vitro microbioassay suggest that the liposomal drug delivery system efficiently inhibits the microbial growth.

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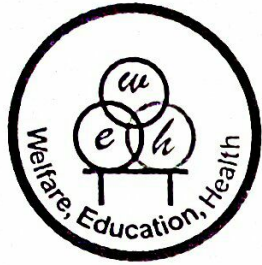
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