

**ROLE OF NARINGENIN AND ITS DERIVATIVES IN  
ANTIMUTAGENICITY - A REVIEW****K. Chandan\*<sup>1</sup>, R. Keerthiga<sup>1</sup> and J. Vinoth Arulraj<sup>2</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT**

Mutagenicity, was one of the main reason for the development of various diseases including cancer and diabetes. The mutagenic effects were decreased by use of natural antimutagenic agents which is most commonly present in edible plants. Among them naringenin, a natural flavanone exhibits antimutagenicity against gastric cancer cell line, steroids, chemotherapeutic drugs and genotoxic compounds. Present review attempts to furnish an outline of naringenin and its role in antimutagenicity.

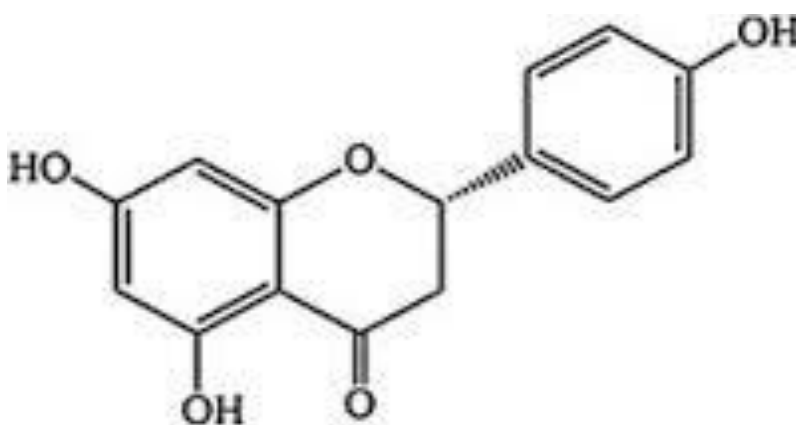
**KEYWORDS:** Mutagenicity, Naringenin, Antimutagenicity.**INTRODUCTION**

The capacity of the compound which affects the DNA structure and topoisomerase responsible for the genomic fidelity is known as genotoxicity.<sup>[9, 19]</sup> Combination of cytostatic drugs which were mostly genotoxic was used in treating patients who were suffering from disseminated malignant diseases. As the result, chemotherapy drugs not only affect tumor cell but also normal tissues and it undergoes cellular and DNA damage.<sup>[30]</sup> Phytochemicals, which are bioactive plant compounds present in fruits, vegetables, grains and other plant foods reduces the risk of major chronic diseases.<sup>[26]</sup> Antimutagen and antioxidative agents have been identified as anticarcinogens.<sup>[3]</sup> Thus, the genotoxic effects of mutagenic and carcinogenic factors can be reduced by regular intake of plants possessing antimutagenic and antioxidative agents.<sup>[14]</sup> Flavanoids, an extract of plants and fruits have been widely used in cancer therapy and it also

possesses multiple biological activities.<sup>[8, 34]</sup> Naringenin, a citrus fruit flavonoid possesses both antimutagenic and anticarcinogenic activities.<sup>[10, 17]</sup> Recent studies have shown that naringenin inhibits cancer cells including epidermoid carcinoma, human hepatocellular carcinoma, bladder cancer and breast cancer.<sup>[1, 2, 10, 12, 17]</sup>

### NARINGENIN- A NATURAL FLAVANONE

Naringenin [2, 3 dihydro-5, 7 dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4H-1-benzopyran 4-one], a natural flavanone was derived from hydrolysis of naringin and it is one of the most important water insoluble antioxidants. Naringin (Naringenin- 7 rhamnoglucoside), a bitter constituent were mostly found in grape juices, flowering parts, peels as well as vegetative parts.<sup>[20]</sup> Naringenin was insoluble in water where as naringin solubilise in water.<sup>[23]</sup> Different natural food sources including propolis, citurus species and skin of tomatoes contains naringenin and its glycosylated form naringin.<sup>[6, 33]</sup> Naringenin possesses electron donating activity and it quenches free radicals by its 4'-hydroxyl group present in B-ring.<sup>[5, 24]</sup> Free radical scavenging and antioxidants activity plays an important role in preventing cardiovascular diseases.<sup>[16]</sup>



**Fig.1 Chemical Structure of Naringenin<sup>[29]</sup>**

### PROPERTIES OF NARINGENIN

Naringenin and their derivatives possess both strong antioxidants potentials and plenty of protective effects required for the improvement of human health. Osteoporosis, cardiovascular and cancer were treated by naringenin and helps in lipid lowering. It also shares insulin like properties. Naringenin possesses impressive pharmacological profile which would be useful in treatment of different diseases.<sup>[29]</sup>

### PHARMACOKINETICS OF NARINGENIN

Oral administration of naringenin was detected in the plasma but it is reported to be below accurate detection limits<sup>[13, 15]</sup> and it has not exceeded above 4mM.<sup>[15]</sup> It is possible for

naringenin to get accumulated within tissue (liver, tissues and membranes) and reach higher concentration than observed in the plasma due to its lipophilic nature.

### **COMBINED ANTICANCER EFFECTS OF NARINGENIN AND ABT-737 ON GASTRIC CANCER CELLS**

Colony formation and gastric cancer cell growth were inhibited when naringenin used in combination with ABT-737. In addition it induces apoptosis through activation of caspase-3. Through down regulation of Akt and caspase 3-activation naringenin induces apoptosis in acute myeloid leukemia cells.<sup>[21]</sup> Similarly, it inhibits bladder cancer cell migration through the down regulation of matrix metalloproteinase-2 pathway and Akt respectively.<sup>[17]</sup>

### **GENISTEIN AND GINGEROL REDUCES GENOTOXICITY INDUCED BY NORETHANDROLONE AND OXANDROLONE**

Genistein is synthesized from naringenin which was catalysed by isoflavone synthase (cytochrome P 450 enzyme) through a ring migration reaction. The number of abnormal cell with chromosomal aberration induced by oxandrolone and norethandrolone were equally reduced by both genistein and gingerol. 30 $\mu$ M and 40 $\mu$ M of genistein, 20 $\mu$ M and 30 $\mu$ M of gingerol were effective in reducing the genotoxicity of 30  $\mu$ M and 40  $\mu$ M of orethandrolone and norethandrolone. Here, dose dependent decrease in number of abnormal metaphases were observed.<sup>[32]</sup>

### **GENISTEIN SUPPRESSES DOXORUBICIN ASSOCIATED GENOTOXICITY**

Growth inhibitory effects of most chemotherapeutic agents on selected cancer was enhanced when antioxidants were used in combination with chemotherapeutic drugs.<sup>[4, 22, 25]</sup> Possibility for development of secondary tumors and genotoxic damage by doxorubicin was reduced in treatment with antioxidant genistein.<sup>[31]</sup>

### **TREATMENT FOR LOMEFLOXACIN INDUCED GENOMIC INSTABILITY IN MICE BY NARINGENIN**

Micronuclei formation in bone marrow and chromosomal aberration in mice due to lomefloxacin were reduced by pretreatment of mice with naringenin. The protective effect of naringenin increases in dose depended manner. Here, the exact mechanism of action for naringenin on lomefloxacin was not clearly understood. However, one possible explanation is that, before free radicals reaches DNA naringin would undergo interception of free radicals.<sup>[28]</sup> Lipid peroxidation and GSH (oxidative markers) were measured after the animals

are treated with lomefloxacin in order to evaluate whether the antimutagenic effect observed were due to enhancement of free radicals generated by lomefloxacin. The result shows that lomefloxacin induce lipid peroxidation and prevents GSH reduction which were due to pretreatment of naringenin. Increased GSH level demonstrates that modulation of cellular antioxidant levels may be involved in protection by naringenin.<sup>[27]</sup>

### **INFLUENCE OF NARINGIN ON CADMIUM INDUCED GENOMIC DAMAGE**

Cadmium is highly toxic due to oxidative deterioration of biomolecules including proteins, lipids and DNA.<sup>[11]</sup> It was observed at 20 $\mu$ M and 40 $\mu$ M of cadmium increases the total chromosomal aberration in human lymphocytes<sup>[7]</sup> which were reduced in further treatment with naringin. One possible explanation for the mechanism carried out is that, before free radicals reaches DNA naringin would undergo interception of free radicals.<sup>[28]</sup> High dose of cadmium involves in induction of sister chromatid exchange. Even treatment with naringin not exert any protection against sister chromatid exchange induced by cadmium.

### **NARINGIN TREATMENT FOR CHROMOSOMAL INSTABILITY IN DIABETIC RATS**

Natural antioxidants prevent oxidative stress related sequences, among them certain antioxidants possess genotoxic or carcinogenic potentials.<sup>[3, 18]</sup> However, treatment with naringin was devoid of genotoxicity and cytotoxicity in both diabetic and non-diabetic rats. It also protects in increase of stomatic and germinal chromosomal instability in diabetes induced rats. After four weeks of Streptozotocin administration the diabetic rats were euthanized. When compared to the control rats it were observed that the frequencies of chromosomal instability and oxidative stress markers were significantly higher in diabetic rats. The mechanism by which naringin inhibits diabetes induced chromosomal instability was not clearly understood. However, one possible explanation is that, before free radicals (generated by diabetes) reaches DNA naringin would undergo interception of free radicals.<sup>[28]</sup>

### **CONCLUSION**

Mutation is one of the main reason for the development of various diseases including cancer. In this review, it is shown that naringenin and its derivatives were less genotoxic and used as an anti cancer and anti diabetic agent. Further, it is used in treatment for cell damage (normal cells) caused by chemotherapeutic drugs which was a major side effect of chemotherapy. The mechanism by which naringin inhibits genotoxicity was not clearly understood. However, one possible explanation is that, before free radicals reaches DNA naringenin would undergo

interception of free radicals. Thus, further studies have to be carried out in order to find exact mechanism of action of naringenin.

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