



Role of Fungal endophytes in Cancer Prevention

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ABSTRACT Cancer is the major threat worldwide, with considerable variations in incidence, mortality, survival, occurrence and causative factors. It was estimated that the number of new cases of cancer will increase from an estimated 10 million cases in 2000 to 15 million in 2020 and by 2050, the cancer burden could reach 24 million cases per year worldwide. According to latest world cancer statistics, approximately 14.1 million new cancer cases and 8.2 million cancer-related deaths occurred in 2012 (WHO, 2013). In developing countries oral cancer among males and cervical and breast cancers among females are the main causes of mortality. Available drugs in cancer chemotherapy are expensive and development of drug resistance is a common phenomenon. Therefore, finding natural and low cost drugs against various types of cancers is becoming an important challenge. Natural products are very promising source of alternative medicines. Endophytic fungi have been found to be a good reservoir of bioactive compounds and can have the potentiality to compensate the need of a novel low cost anticancer drug. In this study, two endophytic fungal isolates belonging to *Polyporales* sp and *Bjerkandera adusta*, were isolated from the *Rheum emodi*, Wall. Ex Meisn and *Dioscoria deltoidea* respectively. Cytotoxic effects of the compounds isolated from the two endophytes, were evaluated through MTT and colony formation assay. Both the compounds show potent anticancer activity against THP-1 (Leukemia), A549 (Lung), NCI-H322 (lung) and Colo-205 (colon) at a concentration of 70 and 100 μ M. However significant inhibition was found against A549 at 100 μ M. Furthermore, the compounds were treated with A549 cell line induces cycle arrest and mitochondrial potential loss in a concentration dependent manner.

Keywords: *Endophyte, cancer, cell line*