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Mexican medicinal plants used for cancer treatment

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Abstract

Medicinal plants constitute an important source of anticancer compounds. Mexico possesses a wide variety of plant species that might be important sources of anti-cancer compounds. However, only few plant extracts and compounds have been tested in vivo. The isolation and characterization of the active compounds also warrant more attention. We have studied the cytotoxic and antitumor effects of many plant extracts and plant derived compounds as well as their mechanisms of action. We have used athymic mice bearing tumor to evaluate the antitumor actions of plant extracts and plant derived compounds. In addition we have used C57BL/6 mice bearing tumor to evaluate the antitumor and immunomodulatory effects of plant extracts. It is necessary and important to increase the number of in vitro and in vivo studies with Mexican plants and their active principles to better propose new anticancer compounds.

Biography

The main research interest of Dr. Alonso-Castro focus on the evaluation of pharmacological activities of natural products. During 6 years, his studies have involved the evaluation of the antidiabetic, immunostimulatory, toxicological, cytotoxic and antitumor effects of plant extracts, plant-derived compounds and animal extracts. He has authored 20 peer-reviewed articles and 1 book chapter. He has presented several research seminars and posters. Currently, he has a postdoctoral position at School of Medicine, National Autonomous University of Mexico. Dr. Alonso-Castro has been major Thesis advisor for 5 undergraduate students. He has obtained some national awards regarding his research.