



EFFECT OF THE TRIAZOLE ANALOG TAN ON GDF-15 EXPRESSION IN HUMAN COLORECTAL CANCER HCT116 CELL LINE

Almedeny, A, S.^{1*}; Al-Kelaby K, K.²; Abdul Hussein, A, H.³, Gany, N, S³

¹University of Kufa, Iraq. Faculty of pharmacy, department of pharmacology

²University of Kufa, Iraq. Faculty of pharmacy, department of clinical and laboratory

³University of Kufa, Iraq. Faculty of medicine. Department of pharmacology

[*seheralmadany@yahoo.com](mailto:seheralmadany@yahoo.com)

Abstract

A tumor marker is a term usually refers to proteins that is indicating the presence of a tumor biochemically. They are mainly found in blood or urine and other body fluids, those markers may be used to detect expected primary or secondary tumor. GDF₁₅ is one of the tumor markers that engaged in controlling apoptosis & inflammatory response during disease & tissue injury). It is assumed to be a biomarker for p53 pathway enhancement in human CA. In the current study we try to assess the effect of our investigational drug TAN on the expression of GDF-15 in in human colorectal cancer HCT116 cell line by comparing its effect with the standard anticancer agents doxorubicin(DOX) and the traditional triazole member; itraconazole (ITC).

Objectives : To assess the effect of the triazole analog TAN on GDF-15 expression in human colorectal cancer cell line HCT116.

Results : TAN shows a significant decrease in GBF15 level at concentration of 20 and 40 µg/ml, and a significant increase at 80 µg/ml concentration .

Conclusions: TAN significantly decreased the GDF15 level in HCT 116 cells in low and moderate concentrations.

Keyword: TAN, GDF15, HCT116, CRC

Introduction

markers are almost helpful in assessing the progress of the tumor status after primitive chemotherapy and radiotherapy to plan for next management strategies⁽¹⁾.

The typical tumor marker should be both specific and sensitive to diagnose small tumors to permit early detection or aid in tumor screening, little number of markers are specific for a specific tumor. Tumor⁽²⁾. It is assumed to be a biomarker for p53 pathway enhancement in human CA^(3; 4; 5) Its level increase in many tapes of cancers including colorectal cancer⁽⁶⁾ and this is associated with poor clinical outcomes, its serum levels in CRC indicates reduced disease overall survival rates & lymph node penetration⁽⁷⁾. In this study we try to assess the effect of our investigational drug TAN on GDF-15 expression in comparison with the traditional triazole member ITC and the standard anticancer agent DOX.

GDF-15 is belonged to the β super family of the transforming growth factor & it is correlated with P53 pathway activation in human CA. GDF-15 is engaged in controlling apoptosis & inflammatory response during disease & tissue injury. Normally, GDF-15 expressed in significant amounts by the placenta only; although it is found in little amounts in some tissues like pancreatic, renal & colonic tissues

Materials and methods

Cell line

HCT-116 colorectal carcinoma cell line(ATCC® CCL-247™) USA

TAN and ITC solutions :

These solutions were prepared in a final concentration 1000 μ g/ml for application of biomarker assay, micro titration of these compounds was done as the experiment required.

Doxorubicin (DOX) :

The molecular weight for this drug is 580.0 and chemical formula: C₂₇ H₂₉NO₁₁,HCl. This solution was prepared in a final

concentration of 1000 μ g/ml for application of biomarker assay, and for use micro titration of this compound was done as the experiment required.

GDF-15

By using Human GDF-15 ELISA kit (Enzyme linked immune assay for GDF-15 Cloud clone, USA):

A. Principle : In these kits The micro-plate supplied has been pre-covered with a specific antibody to GDF-15. Standards or specimens are then added to the proper micro-plate wells with a biotin-conjugated antibody specific to GDF-15. After that, a conjugation of Avidin conjugated and Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP) is introduced to each micro-plate well and incubated.

When TMB substrate solution is applied, only the wells which have GDF-15, biotin-conjugated antibody and enzyme-conjugated Avidin will show a color difference. The enzyme-Substrate reaction is ended by the applying of sulphuric acid solution and the color difference is detected by spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 450 nm. GDF-15 concentration in the specimens is then detected by comparing the O.D. of the specimens to the standard curve.

B. GDF-15 concentration is measured for untreated cells and that treated with 20,40, and 80 μ g/ml of different compounds including TAN, ITC, and DOX by final absorbance reading at 450 nm wavelength ELISA reader

Statistical analysis

Statistical descriptive measures (mean and median) and scattering measures(SD and SE) in addition to R² and ANOVA were done using IBM SPSS software for windows of version 21.0. The P value considered < 0.05 for all tests.

Results

After 24 hours incubation of drug treated and untreated HCT 116 cells the cells are submitted to the standard procedure of tumor marker GDF-15 assay . IC₅₀ concentration of standard and test drugs (that obtained from our research Evaluation of the apoptotic effect of the triazole analog TAN on human colorectal Cancer cell line HCT 116 by flow cytometry) (⁸), IC₅₀ which was for TAN: 63.94 µg/ ml , for ITC: 21.85 µg/ ml and DOX: 345.176 µg/ ml).

TAN shows a significant decrease in GBF15 level at concentration of 20 and 40 µg/ml, and a significant increase at 80 µg/ml concentration with negative R² (table 1 and figure 1) .

Itraconazole shows a significant decrease in GBF15 level with positive R, (table 2 and figure 2) . DOX reveals a significant decrease in GBF15 level but with negative (table 3 , and figure 3) .

Discussion

TAN shows a significant decrease in GDF-15 level at 20 and 40 µg/ml concentrations and a significant increase at concentration of 80 µg/ml with negative R. This reveals that TAN has concentration independent effect on GDF-15 level. Lakhali et al., mentioned that hypoxia and iron depletion in the cell are responsible for elevating GDF-15 levels (9), this may explain the unexpected increase in the GDF-15 levels in cells treated with high concentrations of TAN as it could be due to hypoxia that results from apoptotic ITC shows a significant decrease in GDF-15 level with positive R , so it demonstrates a dose dependent effect on GDF-15 level.

DOX reveals a significant decrease in GDF-15 level but with negative R, this means that DOX has a dose independent ability to decrease GDF-15 level , however , in an invitro study on isolated cardiomyocytes GDF-15 shows a very interesting profile and responds to doxorubicin with a significant dose dependent up-regulation

at day 1, 2, 7, and 14. Based on the gene expression profile analysis of GDF-15 (¹⁰).

Conclusions

1. TAN showed a significant dose independent decreasing ability on the GDF-15 levels in low and moderate concentrations in HCT116 cells.
2. ITC appeared a significant dose dependent reducing effect on the GDF-15 in HCT116 cells.
3. DOX revealed a significant dose independent reducing effect on the GDF-15 in HCT116 cells.

Acknowledgement

Authors are so grateful to Prof. Anna Capasso , chief editor of PHOL and to Dr. Imma PAGANO for their great efforts in publishing this work.

References

1. Cooner WH. Definition of the ideal tumor marker. *Urol Clin North Am.* 1993;20(4):575-579.
2. Fairlie WD, Moore AG, Bauskin AR, Russell PK, Zhang HP, Breit SN (MIC-1 is a novel TGF-beta superfamily cytokine associated with macrophage activation. *J Leukoc Biol.* 1999 Jan; 65(1):2-5.)
3. Seetoo DQ, Crowe PJ, Russell PJ, Yang, JL . Quantitative expression of protein markers of plasminogen activation system in prognosis of colorectal cancer. *J Surg Oncol.* 2003 Mar; 82(3):184-93.)
4. Weber F, Shen L, Aldred MA, Morrison CD, Frilling A, Saji M, Schuppert F, Broelsch CE, Ringel MD, Eng C. Genetic classification of benign and malignant thyroid follicular neoplasia based on a three-gene combination. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 2005 May; 90(5):2512-21.)
5. Brown DA, Stephan C, Ward RL, Law M, Hunter M, Bauskin AR, Amin J, Jung K, Diamandis EP, Hampton GM, Russell PJ,

- Giles GG, Breit SN. (Measurement of serum levels of macrophage inhibitory cytokine 1 combined with prostate-specific antigen improves prostate cancer diagnosis. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2006 Jan 1; 12(1):89-96.
6. Mehta RS, Song M, Bezawada N, Wu K, Garcia-Albeniz X, Morikawa T, Fuchs CS, Ogino S, Giovannucci EL, Chan AT, J Natl A prospective study of macrophage inhibitory cytokine-1 (MIC-1/GDF15) and risk of colorectal cancer. *Cancer Inst.* 2014 Apr; 106(4):djuo16.
 7. Xue H, Lü B, Zhang J, Wu M, Huang Q, Wu Q, Sheng H, Wu D, Hu J, Lai M. Identification of serum biomarkers for colorectal cancer metastasis using a differential secretome approach. *J Proteome Res.* 2010 Jan; 9(1):545-55.
 8. Almedeny S., Al-Kelaby K., Gany S., Abdul Hussein H. Evaluation of the apoptotic effect of the triazole analog TAN on human colorectal Cancer cell line HCT 116 by flow cytometry. *Sys Rev Pharm,* 2019;10 (1) : 214-219.
 9. Lakhil S., Talbot N. , Crosby A., Stoepker C., Townsend A., Robbins P., Pugh C., Ratcliffe P. and Mole D. Regulation of growth differentiation factor 15 expression by intracellular iron. *Blood* 2009 113:1555-1563;
 10. Holmgren, G. , Synnergren J., Bogestål, Y., Améen C., Åkesson K., Holmgren S., Lindahl, A., and Sartip P. Identification of novel biomarkers for doxorubicin-induced toxicity in human cardiomyocytes derived from pluripotent stem cells. *Toxicology.* 2015 Feb 3; 328: 102–111

Table (1) The Effects of Different Concentrations of TAN on GDF-15 Levels

TAN Dose ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	N	Effect on GDF-15 marker	Level of significance
		Mean \pm SEM	
o (control)	2	2.45450 \pm .000000	
20	2	.77850 \pm .162635	.000
40	2	1.09000 \pm .088388	.003
80	2	2.97650 \pm .000000	.000

Table (2): The Effects of Different Concentrations of ITC on GDF-15 Levels

ITC Dose ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	N	Effect on GDF-15 marker	Level of significance
		Mean \pm SEM	
o (control)	2	2.45450 \pm .000000	
20	2	1.17500 \pm .020506	.001
40	2	1.11200 \pm .256680	.001
80	2	1.22250 \pm .033941	.003

Table (3) : The Effects of Different Concentrations of DOX on GF15 Levels

DOX Dose ($\mu\text{g/ml}$)	N	Effect on GDF-15 marker	Level of significance
		Mean \pm SEM	
o (control)	2	2.45450 \pm .000000	
10	2	.17650 \pm .082024	.000
100	2	.20800 \pm .013435	.000
500	2	.20800 \pm .024749	.000
1000	2	.20750 \pm .074953	.000

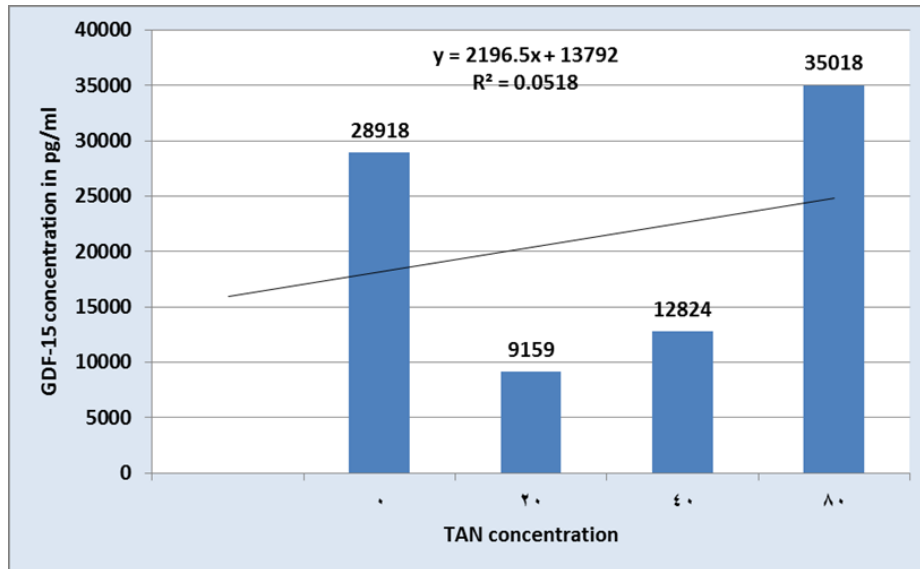


Figure (1) The Effects of Different Concentrations of TAN on GDF-15 Levels in Pg. / ml obtained from HCT116 homogenate 24 hr. after addition of TAN

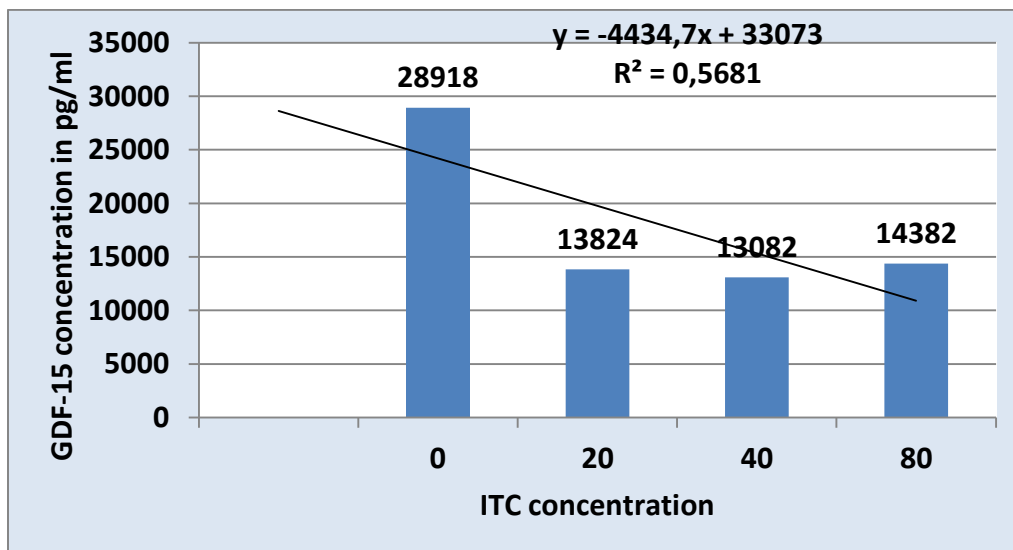


Figure (2): The Effects of Different Concentrations of ITC on GDF-15 Levels. Levels in Pg. / ml obtained from HCT116 homogenate 24 hr. after addition of ITC.

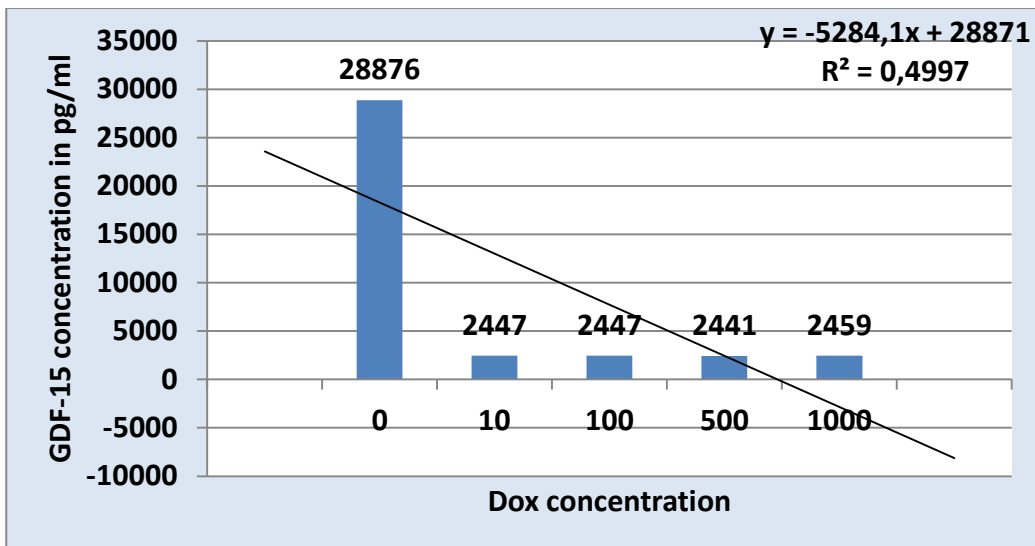


Figure (3) The Effects of Different Concentrations of DOX on GF15 Levels in Pg. / ml obtained from HCT116 homogenate 24 hr. after addition of DOX.