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***Semecarpus anacardium* Linn. nut milk extract: A siddha medicine with potent therapeutic effect in murine experimental mammary carcinoma**

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The siddha system of medicine is one of the oldest traditional systems of medicine, generated from Dravidian culture in Southern India. It is perhaps the foremost of all medical systems in the world and its definition is the conquest of death: "that which ensures prevention against mortality". *Semecarpus anacardium* Linn. (*Anacardiaceae*) commonly known as "marking nut" has high priority of use in the indigenous systems of medicine against various ailments. TLC, HPLC and HPTLC analyses have confirmed the presence of trihydroxyflavone, semecarpol, anacardoside and bhilawanols as chief constituents in the drug. Toxicity studies have revealed that the drug is non-toxic. With an increase in breast cancer incidences in India there is a surge in the screening of effective herbal drugs with minimal side effects. We have demonstrated the therapeutic effect of the drug SA in a DMBA induced experimental murine mammary carcinoma model as well as mammary carcinoma cell lines *In vitro*. The drug, by means of its strong antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti angiogenic, pro-apoptotic and membrane stabilizing properties, has a potent chemotherapeutic effect. SA restored deranged energy metabolism (to normal) in rats with mammary cancer and suppressed the expression of proteases, glycohydrolases, hypoxic and angiogenic factors. SA was also demonstrated to exhibit an immunomodulatory effect. This drug modulated the O glycosylation of mucin and down regulated the expression of matrix metalloproteinases, thereby preventing metastasis of cancer. Thus SA holds much promise as a therapeutic agent in breast cancer. Further evaluation in triple negative breast cancer would be a potential area of research.

Biography

Shanthi P has completed her MBBS and MD (Pathology) from the renowned Christian Medical College, Vellore and PhD from University of Madras. She has 33 years of teaching and research experience. She has guided a number of PhD students and MD students and published 103 research papers in peer reviewed journals. She has been the recipient of the prestigious ICRETT fellowship award of the UICC Geneva and the Academic Exchange fellowship of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. She has presented papers in various international/national conferences. Currently, she is the Director of University of Madras, Taramani Campus and Professor & Head, Department of Pathology of the same institute.

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