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In Vivo. 2007 Mar-Apr;21(2):349-55.

Inhibitory effect of an isopropanolic extract of black cohosh on the invasiveness of MDA-mB 231 human breast cancer cells.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: The **isopropanolic extract** of **black cohosh** (iCR)b has recently been reported to exert antiproliferative and apoptosis-inducing effects on estrogen receptor-positive MCF-7, as well as estrogen receptor-negative **MDA-MB 231 human breast cancer cells**. To broaden observations, the anti-invasive effects of iCR and its two major fractions triterpene glycosides (TTG) and cinnamic acid esters (CAE) were tested in highly invasive **MDA-MB 231 cells**.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: The **effect** of drugs upon the invasive potential of MDA-MB231 **cells** was studied in BD Biocoat Matrigel invasion chambers over a period of 24 h.

RESULTS: The suppression of invasion reached 51.8% at 77.4 microg/ml of iCR, an **extract** concentration where 89% of MDA-MB231 **cells** were viable. TTG and CAE reduced cell invasion by 34% and 25.5%, respectively, at a dose of 5 microg/ml. The motility of **cells** was only moderately reduced.

CONCLUSION: In this study iCR was found to suppress tumor cell invasion without affecting cell viability. This result together with the antiproliferative and apoptosis-inducing **effect** of iCR suggest its use as a secure agent in postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy with additional chemopreventive activity.

PMID: 17436587 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] **Free full text**

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