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Use of Annona Squamosa Seeds in the Treatment of Cancer

Shreya Melgiri, Dr.Lingayya Hiremath

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ABSTRACT
Annona squamosa, also known as sugar apple or custard apple, has been traditionally used in alternative medicine for the treatment of various diseases, including cancer. Recent studies have investigated the potential of Annona squamosa in cancer treatment and found that it possesses bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, acetogenins, flavonoids, and phenols that exhibit anti-cancer properties. In vitro and in vivo studies have shown promising results in inhibiting tumor growth, inducing apoptosis in cancer cells, and enhancing the cytotoxic effects of chemotherapy drugs. Annona squamosa also has antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory effects that can help reduce the side effects of cancer treatment. However, further research is needed to determine the optimal dosage and method of administration for maximum effectiveness and to establish its safety and efficacy in humans. Annona squamosa offers a promising natural product for the treatment of cancer that deserves further investigation as an alternative or complementary therapy to conventional cancer treatments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Annona squamosa, also known as sugar apple, sitaphal or custard apple, has been used in traditional medicine for the treatment of various diseases including cancer. Recent studies have shown that Annona squamosa contains bioactive compounds which have been found to have anti-cancer properties. Annona squamosa extracts have anti-angiogenic effects, induce apoptosis in cancer cells, and enhance the cytotoxic effects of chemotherapy drugs. Annona squamosa also possesses antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory effects which can help reduce the side effects of cancer treatment and improve the quality of life of cancer patients. This review paper focuses on the qualities and constituents of Annona Squamosa seeds along with the future enhancements in the field of use of Annona Squamosa seeds in the treatment of cancer.

BODY

Annona squamosa, commonly known as sugar apple, sitaphal or custard apple. It has been traditionally used in various forms of alternative medicine for the treatment of various diseases in Ayurveda and Unani, including cancer. In recent years, numerous studies have been conducted to evaluate the potential of Annona squamosa in cancer treatment.

Annona squamosa has been found to possess various bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, acetogenins, flavonoids, and phenols which have been shown to have anti-cancer properties. Acetogenins, in particular, have been extensively studied for their cytotoxic effects on cancercells.

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Fig. 1.1 Annona squamosa plant

Fig.1.2 Annona squamosa fruit

In vitro studies have shown that Annona squamosa seed extracts can inhibit the growth of various cancer cell lines including breast, prostate, colon, liver, and lung cancer cells. In vivo studies on animal models have also shown promising results in reducing tumor growth and improving survival rates.

Furthermore, Annona squamosa extracts have been found to exhibit anti-angiogenic effects, which can help prevent the formation of new blood vessels required for tumor growth. They have also been shown to induce apoptosis or programmed cell death in cancer cells, which is a crucial mechanism for preventing the growth and spread of cancer cells.

Several studies have also investigated the potential of Annona squamosa extracts in combination with chemotherapy drugs for the treatment of cancer. These studies have shown that the combination of Annona squamosa extracts and chemotherapy drugs can enhance the cytotoxic effects of the chemotherapy drugs, leading to increased cancer cell death.

In addition to its anti-cancer properties, Annona squamosa has also been found to possess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory effects, which can help reduce the side effects of cancer treatment and improve the overall quality of life of cancer patients.

Fig.1.3 Annona squamosa seed

II. CONCLUSION

Overall, the research conducted so far indicates that Annona squamosa extracts have significant potential in the treatment of cancer. However, more studies are needed to determine the optimal dosage, duration, and method of administration for maximum effectiveness, evaluation of Annona squamosa seedsin combination with other natural products or

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conventional cancer treatments,andclinical human trials to establish its safety and efficacy in humans.

In conclusion, Annona squamosa is a promising natural product for the treatment of cancer, which has been shown to possess a range of anti-cancer properties. Its potential use in cancer treatment deserves further investigation and may offer a promising alternative or complementary therapy to conventional cancer treatments.

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