Proceedings of the XXXVI GIRI meeting

Effects of homeopathic preparations of Viscum album on in vivo murine melanoma model

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Abstract

Recently, several authors have shown the benefits of homeopathy in improving the quality of life and survival of cancer patients. Preliminary data from the group showed that B16F10 murine melanoma cells treated with Viscum album (Va), collected from the host tree Quercus robur during the Swiss summer (VaQr.s) and prepared in different homeopathic scales: 12 dH, 200 cH and 5 lm decreased both viability and production of reactive oxygen species (ROs) and monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) cytokine, when compared to B16F10 cells treated with the chemotherapy drug carboplatin (p<0.05). However, the in vivo effects of these treatments have not been evaluated. Therefore, the aim of the present work was to investigate the effects of different homeopathic preparations of VaQr.s in mice with melanoma. For this, C57BL/6 mice were inoculated subcutaneously (s.c) on the left flank with B16F10 cells. After appearance of tumor nodule, mice were treated three times a week, orally, during 3 weeks with mother tincture (TM) or different potencies of VaQr.s (12 dH, 200 cH or 5 lm). As controls, mice were treated with ultrapure water or vehicle (10%-alcohol) or chemotherapy (carboplatin). Assessment of the general conditions and tumor growth were performed on alternate days until approximately 30 days after tumor cell inoculation. The results obtained showed that mice treated with VaQr 12 dH or 5 lm have increased survival and body weight, as well as a tendency to increase the quality of life of animals with melanoma, since these presented less clinical manifestations when compared to the other treatments, mainly the carboplatin group. Together, the data presented here demonstrated for the first time, the effects of Va potencies on alleviating cancer-related fatigue in an in vivo model of murine melanoma. Moreover, this work provides relevant information for understanding the molecular events induced by homeopathic preparations of Va as a support for future studies with ultradiluted Va.

Keywords: Skin cancer, B16F10 cells, homeopathic potencies, Quercus robur, integrative therapies.

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