

Recent Developments in Treatment strategies for Triple Negative Breast Cancer

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ABSTRACT

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is a highly aggressive and heterogeneous subtype of breast cancer, characterized by the lack of estrogen, progesterone, and HER2 receptors, accounting for 15% of all breast cancer cases, with a higher prevalence in premenopausal African and African American women. Despite advances in treatment options, TNBC remains a significant clinical challenge due to its poor prognosis, high recurrence rate, and limited targeted therapies. This review highlights the current understanding of TNBC's molecular landscape, clinical features, and treatment strategies, including chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and emerging targeted agents. However, further research is needed to unravel the complexities of TNBC and develop effective personalized treatment approaches to improve patient outcomes. The lack of effective targeted therapies and high recurrence rates emphasize the need for continued research into the molecular mechanisms driving TNBC, as well as the development of novel therapeutic strategies. By advancing our understanding of TNBC's biology and identifying new targets for therapy, we can hope to improve treatment options and outcomes for patients with this devastating disease. Ultimately, a multidisciplinary approach, combining basic science, clinical research, and patient care, is necessary to make meaningful progress against TNBC and improve the lives of those affected by this disease.

Keywords: Triple negative breast cancer, Apoptosis, Necrosis, Phytochemicals.

How to cite this article: Maurya S, Sharma V. Recent Developments in Treatment strategies for Triple Negative Breast Cancer. *Int. J. Pharm. Edu. Res.* 2024;6(2):1-11.

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in body. Cancer develops when body's normal control

mechanism stops working.¹ Old cells do not die and instead grow out of control, forming new abnormal cells. These extra cells may form a mass of tissue, called a tumor. Cancer is a wide term that encompasses about 277 different forms of cancer disease. Different stages of cancer have been identified, demonstrating that multiple gene mutations are involved in cancer pathogenesis.² The aberrant cell growth is caused by these gene alterations. Disorders of the genome induced by hereditary or inheritance factors play an important part in cell proliferation.³

On a global scale, cancer is the second most common cause of death.⁴ Overall, cancer has become more common; in 2014, roughly 1,665,540 persons in the United States were diagnosed with cancer, with 585,720 of them dying as a result of the disease.⁵ In 2021/78,22,644 peoples has died because of cancer so far. As a result, cancer is a major public health concern that affects all human communities.⁶ Unfortunately, it is a heterogeneous disease at the tissue level, and this heterogeneity is a key problem for accurate diagnosis and therapeutic efficacy.⁷ Prostate cancer, lung and bronchus cancer, colon and rectum cancer, and urinary bladder cancer all have significant percentages of cancer types in men.⁸ Breast, lung, and bronchus cancer, colon and rectum cancer, uterine corpus cancer, and thyroid cancer are the most common cancers in women. Prostate and breast cancer account for a significant part of cancer in both men and women, according to this data.

Classification of Cancer

Cancer can be classified in two ways: by the types of tissue in which the cancer originates (histological type) and by primary site or the location in the body where the cancer first developed.^{9,10} FROM a histological standpoint there are hundreds of different cancers, which are grouped into six major categories:

1. Carcinoma (Epithelial origin)
2. Sarcoma (Connective tissue origin)
3. Myeloma (originates into plasma cells of bone marrow)
4. Leukemia (blood cancers)
5. Lymphma (origin in lymphatic system)

Hence, Breast Cancer is a type of carcinoma or that arise from epithelial tissue.¹¹ Breast Cancer happens when

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cells in your breast grow and divide in an uncontrolled way, creating a mass of tissues called a tumor.¹² The risk of developing breast cancer increases with your age and with your weight gain. Signs of breast cancer can include feeling a lump breast, experiencing a change in the size of your breast and seeing changes to the skin on your breasts. Early detection is aided by mammograms (a breast examination using X-rays to check for cancer).¹³

* About 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer.¹⁴

Breast Cancer can also be classified into different subgroups

1. On the basis of molecular pattern
2. On the basis of Histological pattern¹⁵

According to molecular classification Breast cancer divided into 5- subgroups¹⁶

- Luminal A type breast cancer (Her-2-ve), Estrogen and progesterone receptor positive, good prognosis, Associated with BRCA-2 gene mutation.
- Luminal B type breast cancer (her-2+ve), Estrogen and Progesterone positive, poor prognosis, Associated with BRCA-2 gene mutation.
- Her-2 rich type breast cancer, Her-2+ve, but Estrogen and progesterone receptors negative, poor prognosis.
- Basal type of breast cancer (They are Her-2 negative, Estrogen and progesterone receptor negative means absent), so these breast cancers called triple negative breast cancer and these types of breast cancer will be having worse type of prognosis. Usually associated with BRCA-1 type of gene mutations.
- Claudin type of breast cancer (associated with tight junction molecules)¹⁷

According to histological classification,

1. Non – invasive (this type of cancer does not invade to other organs)
2. Invasive (that can invade to other organs also)¹⁸

Triple-negative Breast Cancer

Triple-negative breast cancer is one of the subgroup of breast cancer, that can be defined as the lack of expression of oestrogen, progesterone, and ERBB2 receptors.¹⁹ This subgroup accounts for 15% of all types of breast cancer and for a higher percentage of breast cancer arising in African and African American women who are premenopausal.²⁰ It's called as triple negative because it does not have three markers associated with other types of breast cancer, which is important for prognosis and treatment. It's one of the more challenging breast cancers to treat.

Breast cancer cells' receptors are open to estrogen and progesterone.²¹ Understanding if your breast cancer

cells have receptors and if they are housing hormones helps providers determine how your breast cancer might spread and what treatment might be most effective.

The other type of breast cancer that has another receptor is called her-2 neu.²² This receptors makes the cells more active, but allows healthcare providers to treat the cancer with specific medicines that target her-2 proteins. If your breast cancer doesn't have her-2 and hormone receptors, it's called triple negative breast cancer.²³

- It's an aggressive form of breast cancer
- Highly metastatic/migratory, invasive
- Poorer prognosis, advanced disease stage, and a higher histological grade
- High risk of early recurrence
- Survival rate – 40%²⁴

TNBC is more often associated with hereditary conditions as compared to other breast cancer subtypes. For instance, among newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, <10% have BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutated genes but this percentage is higher among patients with TNBC with around 35% of BRCA1 and 8% of BRCA2 mutations in this population.²⁵ Triple negative breast cancer appears more frequently in women age 40 and younger than in older women. Black and Latina women are more likely to develop TNBC than white women.²⁶ Women who have the gene change BRCA1 are more likely to develop TNBC than other women.²⁷ When the BRCA1 mutates, it stops preventing cancer and appears to make your body's cells more vulnerable to cancer.²⁸

Symptoms

- A new lumps or mass.
- Swelling in all parts of a breast.
- Dimpled skin.
- Breast or nipple pain.
- Nipple retraction, when your nipple turns inwards.
- Nipple or breast skin that's dry, flaking, thickened or red.
- Nipple discharge that is not breast milk
- Swollen lymph nodes. This symptom happens when breast cancer spreads to the lymph nodes under your arm or near your collarbone.²⁹

Etiology

Researchers don't know what causes TNBC, but they think BRCA1 genetic mutation might play a part. The BRCA1 gene is meant to prevent cancer. When it mutates, however, the gene reverses course and makes your cells more vulnerable to cancer.³⁰

Diagnosis

- Mammogram to evaluate a suspicious mass or lump in your breast.

- Biopsy to remove breast tissue for examination purpose.
- Magnetic resonance imaging.
- Ultrasound
- Computed tomography scan.³¹

Treatment Strategies

Surgery

This could be a lumpectomy to remove an individual lump, or a mastectomy to remove an entire breast.³²

Radiation therapy

Post-surgery radiation therapy helps reduce the chances your cancer will return or recur.³³

Immunotherapy

This treatment stimulates your immune system to produce more cancer fighting cells or help healthy cells identify and attack cancer cells.³⁴

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is often recommended for treating triple negative breast cancer.³⁵ Unlike most other types of breast cancer, triple negative breast cancer does not respond to the presence of certain hormones, such as estrogen, progesterone, nor does it have an abnormally high level of Her2 receptors. Therefore, hormone therapy is largely ineffective for treatment purposes. Nevertheless, triple negative breast cancer often responds very well to chemotherapy.

Depending on when chemo is administered, its goals vary. For instance, chemotherapy may be recommended prior to surgery to attempt to destroy rapidly dividing cancer cells. In this way, it may be possible to shrink tumors and make them easier to remove, which can increase the likelihood of a successful surgical outcome.

Additionally, because it is not always possible for a surgeon to completely remove a patient's cancer, chemotherapy may be recommended after surgery to target any remaining cancer cells and help prevent spread and recurrence.³⁶

Alternatively, chemo can be used as a primary form of treatment to control the growth and ease the symptoms of large tumors that cannot be surgically removed.

As a systemic form of treatment, chemotherapy is effective because it can potentially reach and destroy cancer cells located throughout a patient's blood stream.³⁷

Commonly Used Chemotherapy Regimens for Patients with Metastatic TNBC

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Paclitaxel | > Capecitabine |
| ERIBULIN | > Vinorelbine |

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Carboplatin | > Nab-Paclitaxel |
| Cisplatin | > Liposomal Dxorubicin |
| Gemcitabine | > Doxetaxel ³⁸ |

Chemo is often used first when the cancer has spread to other parts of the body (stage 4th). Common chemo drugs used include anthracyclines, capecitabine, gemcitabine, eribulin, and others.³⁹ Different therapies have also been summarized in Table 1. For women with TNBC who have BRCA mutation and whose cancer no longer respond to common breast cancer chemo drugs, other chemo drugs called platinum drugs (Like Cisplatin or carboplatin) or targeted drugs called PARP inhibitors, such as olaparib (lynparza) or talazoparib (Talzenna), may considered.⁴⁰

In patients with advanced TNBC treated with an anthracycline with or without a taxane in the neoadjuvant or adjuvant setting, carboplatin demonstrated comparable efficacy and a more favourable toxicity profile than docetaxel.⁴¹

Poly ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP) inhibitors

Olaparib FDA- and EMA-approved targeted therapy⁴²

In metastatic patients harboring a germline BRCA mutation, olaparib has shown important activity in both TNBC and Luminal-like disease. The OlympiAD study was designed to compare the use of olaparib versus standard single-agent chemotherapy (Capecitabine, eribulin, or vinorelbine in 21-day cycles) in BRCA-mutated breast cancer patients.⁴³ Among the 302 patients that underwent randomization, 205 received olaparib and 97 received standard chemotherapy.⁴⁴ Response rate was 59.9% in patients receiving olaparib and 28.8% in patients receiving standard chemotherapy.⁴⁵

Talazoparib FDA- approved targeted therapy

With a similar design as the OlympiAD study, the EMBRACA trial showed important activity for Talazoparib in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer patients harboring a germline BRCA mutation including women with TNBC.⁴⁶ This was a randomized open label phase 3rd study that included 431 patients divided into two groups: 287 patients received talazoparib and 144 received standard chemotherapy (capecitabine, eribulin, gemcitabine and vinorelbine) (Figure 1).⁴⁷ THE objective response rate was also higher in the talazoparib group than in the chemotherapy group.⁴⁸

Immunotherapy Atezolizumab

- Atezolizumab has shown safety and good clinical activity in TNBC. Chemotherapy taxanes in particular, may enhance tumors antigens release by activating tll-like receptors and promoting dendritic cell activity.⁴⁹ Based on this rationale, a phase 3rd trial randomized patients with metastatic TNBC to first

Table 1: Different Therapies used for treatment of TNBC

| S. No. | Therapy | Targeted part/cells | Research Outcomes | References |
|--------|-------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| 1 | Immune-therapy | To stimulate or modulate the immune system to fight disease | More effective , As some drugs have FDA approval of immunotherapy such as atezolizumab with nab-paclitaxel | 52 |
| 2 | Targeted therapies | PARP inhibitors, EGFR inhibitors, Angiogenesis inhibitors, Src inhibitors, mTOR inhibitors | Higher response rate was found in this case | 53 |
| 3 | Surgery and Radiation therapy | Masectomy, Breast conserving surgery (Lumpectomy), Lumpectomy with radiation therapy | There remain a number of grey zones with respect to optimization of the extent and timing of surgery and radiation therapy. | 54 |
| 4 | Chemotherapy | Target DNA repairing | Biologically aggressive , such as anthracycline drug, taxanes, antimetabolites, platinum agents | 55 |

line atezolizumab plus nab-paclitaxel and placebo plus nab-paclitaxel (Figure 2).⁵⁰

- Recently the combinations of atezolizumab plus nab-paclitaxel has been approved by FDA as first-line therapy in patients with PD-L1 positive TNBC.⁵¹

Ongoing PARP Trials

- 17- 428 (TBCRC 048): ‘OLAPARIB extended’
- Will allow for a variety of other hereditary breast cancer gene mutations
- And , for BRCA ½ mutations that are in the tumor (but not inherited)
- Phase Ib/2nd Olaparib + Sapacitabine in BRCA mutated breast cancer.⁵⁶

PARP inhibitor (olaparib) leads to tumor shrinkage in clinical trials of patients with BRCA1/2 – associated breast cancer.^{57,58}

Summary of Phase Trials

- Fewer side effects overall in the olaparib group
- Benefits seen in ER+ and TNBC patients
- Benefits seen in BRCA1 And BRCA2 patients
- Waiting to follow patients longer to understand effects on survival.⁶⁰

FDA approval granted on Jan 2018-2024.

*Talazoparib v/s Chemotherapy in gBRCA-Associated Breast Cancer*⁶¹

- Better quality of life in the Talazoparib group
- Benefits seen in ER+ and TNBC patients
- Benefits seen in BRCA1 and BRCA2 patients
- Waiting to follow patients longer to understand effects on survival⁶²

FDA approval on October 16, 2018

- Improvement in average length of survival for patients who received chemotherapy + immunotherapy
- But only seen in patients with PDL1 tumors
- Immune side effects were seen

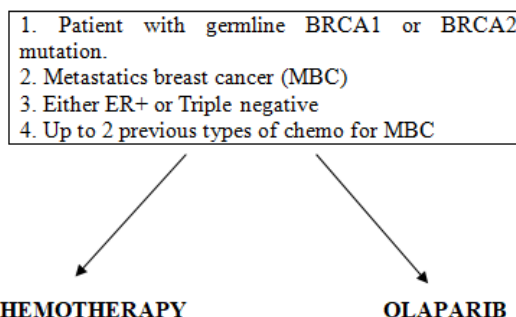


Figure 1: Phase 3 OlympiAD trials: olaparib v/s chemotherapy in gBRCA-associated breast cancer⁵⁸

- A good start, but still more progress to be made.^{64,65,}

FDA approval on March 8, 2019

Antibody Drug Conjugates

Moa: Antibody, Linker, Drug

- Antibody that recognizes a marker on tumor cells that is not/less present on normal cells. Linker that is stable in circulation but releases the drug in target cells. Potent drug designed to attack the cell when internalized and released.^{66,67} Different derivatives which have been approved in phase 3 and 4 trials are discussed shown in Table 2.

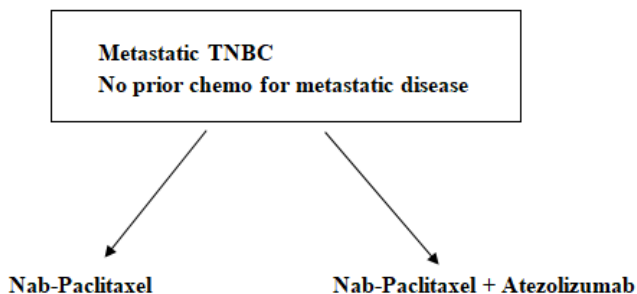


Figure 2: Impassion 130: Randomized phase 3 trial for first-line metastatic TNBC⁶³

Table 2: Recently approved drugs under phase 3/4 drugs or recent derivatives acting against TNBC

| S. No. | Newer drugs | Chemical structure | Targeted part/cells | Research outcomes | References |
|--------|---|--------------------------|--|---|------------|
| 1 | Anthracycline (Doxorubicin) | C27H29NO11 | Inhibits the DNA and RNA synthesis, block cell division | Anthracycline and taxane regimens yield unsatisfactorily low rates of pathologic complete response | 68 |
| 2 | Tivozanib | C22H19CIN4O5 | Actions by inhibiting the phosphorylation of VEGFR-1 and 2 , angiogenesis | Tivozanib alon with weekly paclitaxel improves clinical outcomes in patients | 69 |
| 3 | dasatinib | C22H26CIN7O2S | Work by blocking the action of abnormal protein that signals cancer cells to multiply | Dasatinib is a promising anti-BCSC drug that could be used in combination with paclitaxel to overcome chemoresistance in TNBC | 70 |
| 4 | Trodelivy (sacituzumab govitecan-hziy) | C76H104N12O24S | Targeted therapy, trop-2 antibody and topoisomerase inhibitor drug conjugate | FDA approved this drug for TNBC, who have already tried two prior therapies. | 71 |
| 5 | Pembrolizumab (keytruda) | C6534H10004N1716O2036S46 | Shrinkage of tumor , works by targeting the cellular payhway of proteins of immune system. | FDA approved this drug, after surgery it can be taken by patients. | 72 |
| 6 | Capecitabine (xeloda) | C15H22FN3O6 | Both normal and tumor cells metabolize 5-fu or 5-fluorouracil to 5-fluoro-2- deoxyuridine monophosphate (FdUMP) and 5- fluorouridine triphosphate (FUTP). | Approval after surgery, for 18-24 weeks ,reduce chances of recurrence. Or at stage 4th | 73 |
| 7 | Olaparib | C24H23FN4O3 | PARP inhibitor, exploits tumor DNA repair pathway deficiencies and kill cancer cells | Approval for the patients who have BRCA Mutation and after surgery also, for one year , so as to prevent recurring | 74 |
| 8 | Carboplatin | C6H12N2O4Pt | An alkylating agent, covalently binds to DNA and interferes with DNA function by producing interstrand DNA crosslink | Potentially Life saving treatment option for advanced clinical stage TNBC . | 75 |
| 9 | Nab-Paclitaxel | C47H51NO14 | Enhance the action of tubuline dimmers, stabilizing existing microtubules and inhibiting their disassembly, interfering with the late G2 mitotic phase, and cell replication | Effective in patients with more aggressive tumors, TNBC | 76 |
| 10 | Adriamycin | C27H29NO11 | Inhibits DNA and RNA synthesis | Typically used after surgery to reduce the risk of early-stage breast cancer coming back | 77 |
| 11 | Cyclophosphamide | C7H15Cl2N2O2P.H2O | Prevents cell division by cross-linking DNA strands and reducing DNA synthesis | More effective in TNBC | 78 |
| 12 | Glembatumumab | C4H11N5 | PARP enzyme fixes DNA damage incells, including damage caused by chemotherapy agents | Effective with some Chemotherap-eutic drugs | 79 |
| 13 | Metformin | C6H10O8 | Work on reduction of cell proliferation , oncogenicity and motility,inhibition of pro-oncogenic signaling pathways, apoptosis | Potent against triple negative breast cancer | 80 |
| 14 | MUC1 vaccine | C6H10O8 | Enhance the patients immune response against MUC1 protein and suppress the tumors ability to grow | Build effective immune response to kill tumor cells | 81 |
| 15 | Eribulin | C40H59NO11 | Eribulin is an inhibitor of microtubule dynamics with a unique tubulin based that results in inhibition of the growth phase of the microtubule. | Approved in 2010 for metastatic breast cancer | 82 |
| 16 | Trestuzumab (HERCEPTIN) | C6470H10012N1726O2013S42 | Monoclonal antibody | Patients do not benefits from hormonal or trastuzumab-based targeted therapy because of the loss of target receptors | 83 |
| 17 | Alpelisib | C19H22F3N5O2S | PI3K/AKT PATHWAY Inhibitors, regulate cell proliferation, growth and survival | Very effective by blocking cell proliferation pathway | 84 |

Table 3: Intervention of cancer using different phytochemicals

| S. No. | Plant name | Botanical name and family | Name of chemical constituents | MOA | Research outcomes | Reff |
|--------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|------|
| 1 | Turmeric | <i>Curcuma longa</i> , zingiberaceae | Curcumin | Inducing apoptosis, proliferation and invasion of tumors | Able to inhibits TNBC cells proliferation, inhibition of EGFR signalling | 101 |
| 2 | Chinese goldthread | <i>Coptis chinensis</i> , Ranunculales | Berberine | Inhibits cell proliferation by regulating cell cycle and cell autophagy | Reduce viability of MDA-MB-231 cells and reduction of proinflammatory cytokines | 102 |
| 3 | olive | <i>Olea europaea</i> , oleaceae | Ursolic | Could affect the resistance of TNBC cells to other drugs such as doxorubicin | UA promotes the TNBC cell sensitivity to DOX through inactivating ZEB1-AS1/miR-186-5p/ABCC1 signalling | 103 |
| 4 | wormwood | <i>Artemisia absinthium</i> , Asteraceae | Artemisinin | The <i>Artemisia annua</i> flavonols chrysofenol induce autophagy | Potential anticancer therapeutics | 104 |
| 5 | soyabean | <i>Glycine max</i> , fabaceae | Genistein (isoflavon) | Inhibits MDA-MB-231 triple negative breast cancer cell growth by NF- κ B activity | Study revealed that Gen elicited a dramatic effect on cell growth inhibition | 105 |
| 6 | Stephenia | <i>Stephania cephalantha hayata</i> , menispermaceae | Cepharanthine | Sensitizes TNBC cells to chemotherapeutic agent such as epirubicin via inducing cofilin oxidation mediated mitochondrial apoptosis | Combination of cepharanthine with chemotherapeutic agents represent novel treatment | 106 |
| 7 | Green tea plant | <i>Camellia sinensis</i> , theaceae | Epigallocatechin gallate | Antiproliferation, antimetastasis, apoptosis induction | Action of EGCG may exert a suppressive effect on gynecological cancers | 107 |
| 8 | Chinese rhubarb | <i>Rheum palmatum</i> , polygonaceae | Emodin | Interferes with AKT1-mediated DNA damage and decrease resistance of breast cancer cells to doxorubicin | Beneficial Affects cell proliferation, confers sensitization of BC to doxorubicin | 108 |
| 9 | Gamboge | <i>Garcinia hanburyi</i> , clusiaceae | Gambogic acid | Increases the sensitivity to paclitaxel in drug-resistant TNBC via the SHH signaling pathway | Combination of GA with paclitaxel may increase effects on paclitaxel-resistant TNBC | 109 |
| 10 | Milk thistle | <i>Silybum marianum</i> , asteraceae | Silibinin | Inhibitory effect of silibinin on TGF- β 2 action in TNBC cells | Suppresses metastatic potential of TNBC cells by inhibiting TGF- β 2 expression in TNBC cells | 110 |
| 11 | Alkanna tinctoria | <i>Dyers alkanet</i> , boraginaceae | Shikonin | Inhibits migration and invasion of TNBC cells by suppressing epithelial-mesenchymal transition via miR-17-5p/PTEN/Akt pathway | Shikonin as a promising therapeutic agent to counteract metastasis in the TNBC patients | 111 |
| 12 | mugwort | <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> , Asteraceae | Artesunate | It is antimalarial drug causes cell cycle arrest and apoptosis of triple negative MDA-MB468 and HER2-Enriched SK-BR-3 breast cancer cells | May have clinical utility in the treatment of TNBC HER2-cancer | 112 |
| 13 | Raloxifene | -- | Raloxifene | Reduce tumor cells growth and decreases EGFR expression | Acts independently of the estrogen receptor and may be relevant for the treatment as well as control the progression of TNBC | 113 |
| 14 | Rabdosia | <i>Rabdosia rubescens</i> , lamiaceae | Oridonin | Oridine-56, derivative of oridine acts as a antiproliferative | Compound 56 exhibited more potent anticancer activity than paclitaxel, may warrant further investigation | 114 |

Other Targets

- AKT1, PTEN, PIK3CA – Ipatasertib, capivasertib, etc
- Androgen receptor
- DNA repair – ATR inhibitors, etc.
- MYC – Bromodomain inhibitors, CDK7 or CDK9 inhibitors, Aurora kinase Inhibitors, CHK1 inhibitors⁸⁵

CHRYSLIN, a naturally occurring flavonoid, inhibits migration and invasion in triple negative breast cancer cell via PI3K/AKT PATHWAY.⁸⁶

Favonoids are polyphenolic compounds that are ubiquitously in plants. *The role of dietary flavonoids in cancer prevention.*⁸⁷

Mechanism of action : Carcinogen inactivation, Antiproliferation, Cell cycle arrest, induction of apoptosis and differentiation.⁸⁸

Lycopene (carotenoid) has been shown to block breast cancer cell metastasis.⁸⁹

Mechanism of action

Lycopene treatments inhibits cancer cell growth, induces apoptosis by suppressing ERK signaling pathway. Bcl-2 family and Caspases are considered to be the most effective apoptotic regulators. Lycopene decreases Bcl-2 and increases Bax expression, which induce cytochrome C from Mitochondria, leading to apoptosis.⁹⁰

Herbal agents in cancer management

Plant extracts as a chemotherapeutic drugs

- Red Guava extracts purified from leaf and bark have many bio-active molecules with anti-cancer activities.⁹¹ In addition, lycopene-rich extracts obtained from red guava fruit can induce apoptosis in estrogen receptors-positive breast cancers. Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) lacks estrogen receptors, progesterone receptors and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) and, therefore, hormone therapy and targeted therapy are not used in clinic.⁹² The purpose of this study was to determine whether red guava fruits extracts can affect the proliferation of TNBC cells.⁹³ In this study, cell viability was determined by using the MTT assay. Apoptosis and necrosis were analyzed using flow cytometry. Cleaved caspase-3 activation and PARP were analyzed by western blotting.⁹⁴ We found that red guava extracts can, through caspase-3 activation and PARP cleavage signaling, induce apoptotic and necrotic death in TNBC cells.⁹⁵ Our results thus show the therapeutic benefits of red guava extracts as a potential cancer treatment for TNBC in combination with doxorubicin or targeted therapy.⁹⁶
- Rosehip extracts decrease cell proliferation in all cell

lines without inducing apoptosis.⁹⁷ Rosehip extracts prevent cell migration in breast cancer cell.⁹⁸ Rosehip extracts synergize with doxorubicin to inhibit cell proliferation and cell apoptosis.⁹⁹

- Doxorubicin and the combination with rosehip extracts prevent cell metastasis in breast cancer cell lines.[100] Different other herbal agents active against TNBC also have been listed in Table 3.

CONCLUSION

Recent advancements in treatment strategies for triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) underscore the urgent need for continued research to address its aggressive nature and high recurrence rates. A multidisciplinary approach that integrates molecular understanding, clinical research, and innovative therapeutic options is essential to enhance patient outcomes and combat this challenging subtype of breast cancer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors want to thank almighty God, their parents and management of their institute.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Authors declare none conflicts of interest.

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