

# Resveratrol induces differentiation and apoptosis in human leukemic cells

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## ABSTRACT

Cancer is a severe problem in human health. The method to treat cancer, such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgical treatment, caused worse side effect in cancer patients. Recently, research on the induction of apoptosis and differentiation in tumor cells were considered as a new strategy with low toxicity and more effective. Natural products like resveratrol may correspond with this concept. Resveratrol (trans-3,5,4'-trihydroxystilbene) is a phytoalexin found in grapes and other herbs that has anticarcinogenic, anti-inflammatory, antiplatelet, antioxidant and profungicidal effects. In the present study, we investigated the effects of resveratrol on differentiation and apoptotic processes in human leukemic U937, HL-60, NB4 and K562 cell lines. Cytotoxicity of resveratrol on these four cells showed a dose- and time-dependent increase. Induction of apoptosis in resveratrol-treated U937, HL-60 and NB4 cells was demonstrated by the appearance of apoptotic body. However, resveratrol-treated K562 cells showed neither apoptotic body nor sub-G1 peak by flow cytometric assay. In addition, morphological observation, functional changes by Hb stain and cell surface antigens expression showed the erythropoiesis of K562 cells were induced by resveratrol.

Keywords : Resveratrol ; Leukemia ; Apoptosis ; Differentiation

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