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## Metabolism and Pharmacokinetics of Swertiamarin in Rats

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【Purpose】 Previously, we reported the metabolism of swertiamarin by human intestinal bacteria in vitro and three metabolites including a nitrogen-containing compound gentianine were isolated and identified. To investigate the metabolism and pharmacokinetics of swertiamarin, especially to find out if it is converted to gentianine in vivo, swertiamarin was subjected to rats by oral and intravenous administration. 【Methods】 Wistar rats were orally and intravenously administered with swertiamarin, and the plasma was prepared from the whole blood of rats. A solid-phase extraction column was used to extract swertiamarin and its metabolite before they were analyzed by LC/ESI/MS. The quantification of swertiamarin in plasma was carried out with negative ionization in multiple reaction monitoring mode by using sweroside as the internal standard. 【Results】 No obvious metabolites were detected after intravenous administration of 50 mg/kg swertiamarin by using the APCI interface. But the nitrogen-containing metabolite gentianine was detected 24 h after 1000 mg/kg oral administration of swertiamarin by EIC in positive mode. Pharmacokinetics was evaluated using a two compartmental analysis of the plasma concentration-time data. After rapidly achieving maximal levels in the plasma, both dosing routes produced a sharp decline in plasma concentration of swertiamarin followed by a slower phase of decrease until the levels fell below detection limits, within 9 h after oral administration. 【Discussion】 This is the first report that swertiamarin can be metabolized into alkaloid gentianine in vivo. It has been reported that gentianine exerts anti-ulcerogenic action as well as inhibitory action against gastric secretion. The conversion of swertiamarin into gentianine may help to interpret the pharmacological effect of swertiamarin. The pharmacokinetics parameters may be used as reference to the in vivo study of swertiamarin in human beings in order to rationally utilize it.

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Experimental studies on the pharmacodynamic effects of *Orobancha cumana* as a novel medicinal resource

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【Purpose】 *Orobancha cumana* Wallr.(OC), a harmful parasitic plant to sunflower, is considered as an invigorator in Chinese folk therapy, however, the systemic pharmacodynamic research of OC is not reported. In order to develop OC as a novel medicinal resource, the antifatigue effect, immunoactivity and andrin-like action of OC were studied in the present paper for the first time. 【Methods】 Mice were administered orally aqueous extract from OC (AE-OC) for 6 days and ethyl-acetate extract (EAE-OC) and butanol extract (BE-OC) for 10 days. On the 7th day, exhaustive swimming time, the index of antifatigue effect, was detected by using swimming test. The weight of immune organ was measured and the immune organ index was calculated. Meanwhile the change of mononuclear phagocytic system function was determined by carbon clearance method. On the 11th day, the weight of sexual organ and accessory sex organ was measured. 【Results】 The swimming time was increased significantly in high dose AE-OC group. The weight of spleen, but not the weight of thymus, was significantly increased in high dose AE-OC group. And the spleen index was higher in high dose AE-OC group than those in control group. Phagocytosis index K was increased obviously in high dose AE-OC group compared to that in control group, though the phagocytic coefficient  $\alpha$  did not changed. After 10 days administered orally, the weight of preputial glands was increased significantly in EAE-OC group and BE-OC group. 【Conclusions】 The results suggest that OC has effects of antifatigue, enhancement of immune system and andrin-like action. OC can be developed in expect into a new medicinal resource.