

Annual Conference on

MICROBIAL PATHOGENESIS, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, ANTIMICROBIALS AND DRUG RESISTANCE

August 23-24, 2017 | Toronto, Canada

***In vitro* anti-leishmanial activity of *Artemisia dracunculus* and *Heracleum persicum* extracts in comparison with glucantime**

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Background & Objectives: Cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is one of the most common parasitic diseases. It is one of the major public health concerns in developing countries and throughout the world. Pentavalent antimonial compounds like pentostam and glucantime has been used to treat CL for the last 50 years. The use of these compounds has some limitations such as long duration of treatment, high expenses of drugs, and methods of drug use which are intradermal and intramuscular injection. Beside these, lack of response to the treatment in 10-15% of cases and toxic effects on heart, liver, and kidney are other possible side effects [4-6]. Hence, the objective of the present survey was to state the antileishmanial activity of two herbal medicine (*Artemisia dracunculus* and *Heracleum persicum*) extracts were evaluated against *Leishmania major* and *Leishmania infantum* using colorimetric MTT (2-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-3,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide) assay and compared to the Glucantime as a reference.

Methods: The leaf extracts of selected plants were obtained by maceration. The in vitro assays were carried out on *Leishmania major* and *Leishmania infantum* using colorimetric MTT assay in comparison with Glucantime.

The concentration-response curves tested extracts and glucantime solutions were designed and IC50 values were located.

Results and Conclusions: Anti-leishmania effects of *Artemisia dracunculus* and *Heracleum persicum* on *L. major* and *L. infantum* promastigote were revealed with 50% inhibitory concentration (IC50) values of 50.97 and 49.57 mg ml⁻¹ for *Artemisia dracunculus*, 29.3 and 14.7 mg ml⁻¹ for *Heracleum persicum*. In comparison with the standard drug, glucantime had IC50 value of 40.2 mg ml⁻¹ for *L. major* and 18.5 mg ml⁻¹ for *L. infantum* promastigote after 72 hours incubation, respectively.

Conclusions: These results revealed that compounds from *Satureja khuzestanica* and *Heracleum persicum* have anti-leishmania properties that necessary to survey the effects of these extracts on leishmania genus in animal models in future.

Speaker Biography

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