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Anticancer Activity of Jatrophone an Isolated Compound from *Jatropha gossypifolia* Plant Against Hepatocellular Cancer Cell HEP G2 1886

INTRODUCTION

Almost any kind of vegetation can grow in Asia, and most of it has been used by Asian ancestors as a traditional medicine to treat many different types of disease¹. In Indonesia there are up to 90,000 kinds of medicinal plants which 9,600 of it already used as herbal medicine with different formulas and indications². Especially in Lampung Province which have a lot of agrarian resources, there is a wide variety of plants that have been studied as traditional medicinal plants such as

coffee robusta³. Other than robusta coffee, there are other plants that are known and used as traditional medicine i.e. *Jatropha curcas* plants (barbados nut) and *Jatropha gossypifolia* (bellyache bush). Research shown that both have potential effects as a traditional medicine on the stem, seeds and leaves⁴.

The name of genus *Jatropha*, which is a family of *Euphorbiaceae*, is derived from Greek word *iatros* meaning physician and *trophe* which mean food and closely connected as its function as a medicinal plant⁵. In India, some

parts of the bellyache bush that can be used as medicinal plant were the resin that has effect as a potential anticancer and its roots that can be used as antidote to snake bite venom. In addition the leaves, seeds, stem and twig is also believed to have analgetic effects, antimicrobial, antiinsect, antifungal, anticancer and anti inflammation agent⁶. In Indonesia, the part of bellyache bush commonly used as traditional medicine were resin, leaves, fruit and seeds. Indonesian citizens using those parts to treat variety of complaints such as vaginal discharge, ear inflammation, toothache, mouth ulcer, flatulence-cold, constipation, fungi, swelling, sores, bleeding, rheumatism, cough and deciduous phlegm⁷.

Main metabolite found from bellyache bush was terpenoids compounds. One of the derivate of these terpenoids compounds, namely diterpenoid have a chemical structure in the form of *phenolics*, *flavonoids* and *saponins* that functions as an antioxidant, anticancer and antiinflammation. This compound was found in root, stem and resin plants⁸.

Jatrophone, *curcusone B* and *jatrophalone* are three diterpenoid compounds which have been successfully isolated from both Barbados nut and bellyache bush. *Jatrophone* isolated from stem of bellyache bush while *curcusone B* and *jatrophalone A* were from the stem of Barbados nut⁹. Those compound has activity as antibacterial, antifungal and anticancer¹⁰. *Jatrophone* is diterpenoid compound with chemical bond cluster $C_{20}H_{24}O_3$ (11). *Jatrophone*, a diterpenoid isolated from the stem of bellyache bush, was believed to have significant cancer growth inhibition activity⁹.

Cancer is currently the main cause of death in the world, both of in developed and developing country¹². In the world as much as 14.1 million new patients suffering from cancers found annually and 8.2 million people die annually caused by cancer¹¹. The top five of cancer which causes death was lung cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer and gastric cancer¹³. The risk of cancer have been increased, caused by the lifestyle and behavior in the form of smoking, lack of fruit and vegetable consumption, less physical activity and reproductive changes in the form of a low birth rate and old age pregnancy¹⁴. Based on the number of risk factors

can be estimated an annual cancer cases will rise from 14.1 million from 2012 to 22 million in 2032¹⁴.

The number of cancer incidence in Indonesia by year 2013 amounting to 1.4% of the whole population or as many as 347,792 people with the largest population in Yogyakarta, Central Java and East Java province. Risk factors that cause the high numbers of cancer incidence in Indonesia are poor eating style and behaviour in the form of lack of vegetable and fruit consumption, smoking, obesity and the consumption of foods contain high fat¹⁴.

Hepatocellular cancer in top 5 large number of whole cancer cases and increase amount 500.000 new cases per year¹⁵. While in Indonesia, according to the data from installation of early detection and health promotion Dharmas Cancer Hospital 2010-2013 hepatocellular cancer is in the top 10 cancer incidence in Indonesia (14). Hepatocellular cancer in Indonesia tends to increase every year. It is associated with endemic hepatitis B and hepatitis C disease in Indonesia. Another risk factor is the habit of drinking alcoholic beverages that can cause the onset of liver cancer at a young age¹⁶.

The treatment for liver cancer is a high cost expenditure because chemotherapy drugs for liver cancer is very expensive. In Taiwan, cost needed for one package of chemotherapy drug sorafenib is amount to USD 16,280 for each patient (17). In China, one patient must pay USD 1.331,65 up to USD 4.524,33 to purchase the drug sorafenib¹⁸. In Indonesia for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma in type A hospital according to the INACBGS (Indonesia Case Base Groups) is provided funding in the amount of IDR 15 million for all treatments¹⁹.

Rapid development of science and technology, as well as the high cost for current treatment of hepatocellular cancer and growing interest of researchers towards the discovery of new active compounds for healing hepatocellular cancer, we conduct research to discover the new anticancer compounds from plants and herbs that can be effective as anticancer drugs, inexpensive and have a good anti-cancer effectivity. This is an invitro anticancer activity study to measure active

compounds of jatrophone, curcusone B and the jatropholone A against cancer cell Hep-G2 1886.

This research using hepatocellular cancer line Hep G2 1886 because it has octreotide antiproliferation effect. Octreotide in medicine has been used as a therapy for neuroendocrine tumors and pituitary tumor. In a recent study with humans, it has been proven that giving octreotide as hepatocellular carcinoma therapy lowers death rate due to cancer. From that moment, variety of research begin using human cell line hepatocellular carcinoma Hep G2, although some of the research data is still controversial. Hep G2 used in this study isolated from hepatocarcinoma cell because this cancer represent 5% of all cancer incidence and estimated more than 500.000 new case of hepatocellular cancer occur each year²⁰.

Jatrophone has been widely studied invitro to asses its cytotoxic effect rate against human cancer cell line in vitro i.e. assessment of jatrophone effect against P 388 lymphocytic leukemia-, KB cell lines, Eagle's nasopharynx carcinoma, Lung fibroblasts. it also has the effect of antiproliferation against fibroblasts cells CCL-171, AGS CRL-1739, HTB-58, HTB-1 bladder, and CCL-240 leukemia cells²¹. Sahidin et al has reported that jatrophone have better cytotoxic potential than other compounds like curcusone B and the jatropholone A against HeLa cell lines WiDr and even better against standard anticancer drugs such as tamoxifen and doxorubicin⁹. Cell culture technique of hepatocellular carcinoma cell line Hep G2 1886 was used in this study and to assess the cytotoxic activity of jatrophone, we use the default value of the inhibitor concentration 50 (IC50) for these compounds added invitro in varying concentrations, so that we can assess the anticancer effect of jatrophone against cell line Hep G2 1886.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Preparation and culture Cell Line Hep G2 1886

This study done in the laboratory of research and development of Dharmais Cancer Center Hospital Jakarta in March 2016 until January 2017. Research using cell culture techniques of cell line hepatocellular carcinoma Hep G2 1886 from Tohoku University of Japan. Cell Line Hep G2 1886

cultured in a Flask T75 using DMEM (Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium) (Sigma D5671) complete medium contains 10% FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum) (Himedia RM9955). Cells harvested after 80% confluent using trypsinization method and seeded in 96-well plate with the density 2×10^5 cells/well. Cells cultured in 50 μ l DMEM complete medium contains 10% FBS for 24 hours in an incubator at 37°C with 5% CO₂.

Next, the medium was replaced with DMEM medium without FBS. Cells incubated again for 6 hours in an incubator at 37 ° C with 5% CO₂ to synchronize the cell cycle. After the medium without FBS DMEM has been disposed, the cell ready to be given preferential treatment.

Jatrophone Active Compounds

Jatrophone active compounds that has been purified dissolved in DMSO (Sigma Aldrich M81802) as stock solution at 80 mg/ml. Next, the medium was replaced with DMEM without FBS, cells incubated again for 6 hours in an incubator at 37 ° C with 5% CO₂ to synchronize the cell cycle. After the medium without FBS DMEM has been disposed, the cell ready to be treat by serial dilution of jatrophone from various concentration from 5-0,156 ug/ml. For the treatment, jatrophone diluted by serial dilution method (diluted in DMEM medium containing 1% FBS) to be treat to Hep G2 cell line 24 hours. 1% FBS used on the medium to minimised the binding between the drugs and the protein on the FBS. The final concentration of DMSO (Dimethyl Sulfoxide) in each sample did not exceed 1% v/v, to keep the toxicity of DMSO at less than 10%. Each well washed with PBS (Phosphate Buffered Saline) twice before the medium change with DMEM containing MTT (Sigma Aldrich M2128).

MTT Assay

Method of MTT assay was performed to find out the percentage of cells that are still alive after being given the treatment with active compounds. After that MTT were dissolved with PBS until its concentration reaches a concentration of 5 mg/ml. MTT concentrates then dissolved in the medium of complete DMEM containing 10% FBS so that the final concentration of MTT is 7 mg/ml. 100 μ l MTT reagent are added into each of the wells. the cells are incubated for 4 hours in the CO₂ incubator. After

purple crystals of formazan formed, added 100 μ l of DMSO to each wells. 96-well plate wrapped with aluminum foil and incubated for 4 hours at room temperature.

Next 96-well plate read at 595 nm wave length (550-600 nm) with Biorad Microplate reader model 680. Formula to count % viable cells : $(\text{treatment OD} - \text{blank OD}) / (\text{control OD} - \text{blank OD}) \times 100$.

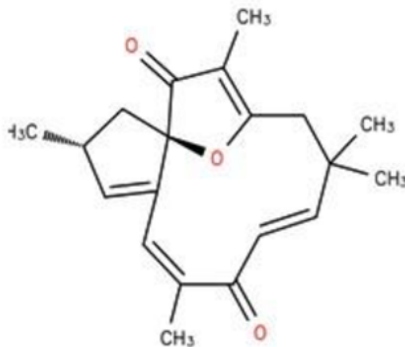


Fig. 1 : Chemical structure JatrophoneC₂₀H₂₄O₃(11)

Calculation of IC₅₀

IC₅₀ calculate by method that developed by Miller and Tainter²², Litchfield and Wilcoxon²³, Weil²⁴, and Finney²⁵. Percentage of the death cell which calculate from MTT Assay result then transformed into probit, or probability versus log concentration. % death cell count by formula : 100 - % viable cells.

RESULTS

IC₅₀ Jatrophone againts Cell LineHep G2 1886

Table 2 shows that on dose range between 50 – 0,156 μ g/ml, Jatrophone inhibited the diferentiation of Hep G2 1886 cells. It also shows that the IC₅₀ was on range between 1,25 – 2,5 μ g/ml. The percentage of death cells transformed into the probits score as shown on Table 1. From the

Table 1 : Transformation of percentage mortalities to probits

%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	-	2,67	2,95	3,12	3,25	3,36	3,45	3,52	3,59	3,66
10	3,72	3,77	3,82	3,87	3,92	3,96	4,01	4,05	4,08	4,12
20	4,16	4,19	4,23	4,26	4,29	4,33	4,36	4,39	4,42	4,45
30	4,48	4,50	4,53	4,56	4,59	4,61	4,64	4,67	4,69	4,72
40	4,75	4,77	4,80	4,82	4,85	4,87	4,90	4,92	4,95	4,97
50	5,00	5,03	5,05	5,08	5,10	5,13	5,15	5,18	5,20	5,23
60	5,25	5,28	5,31	5,33	5,36	5,39	5,41	5,44	5,47	5,50
70	5,52	5,55	5,58	5,61	5,64	5,67	5,71	5,74	5,77	5,81
80	5,84	5,88	5,92	5,95	5,99	6,04	6,08	6,13	6,18	6,23
90	6,28	6,34	6,41	6,48	6,55	6,64	6,75	6,88	7,05	7,33

Table 2 : The percentage of the number of viable cells

Dose (μ g/ml)	Log Dose	% Viable Cell	% Death Cell	Probits
5	0,699	47,525	52,475	5,05
2,5	0,398	48,535	51,465	5,03
1,25	0,097	53,586	46,414	4,9
0,625	-0,204	53,788	46,212	4,9
0,313	-0,505	54,192	45,808	4,87
0,156	-0,806	59,444	40,556	4,75

log dose versus probits on Fig. 2, it shows that as an anticancer candidate, jatrophone has IC₅₀ 1,31 µg/ml (3,2 µM). From NCI USA standardisation, compound that has IC₅₀ 0,0-2,0 µg/ml is categorised as a highly active compound for cancer.

DISCUSSIONS

Anticancer drugs generally have a narrow therapeutic window²⁶. Therefore on the research of the development of new anti-cancer drugs needed research cell present so that we can assess the lowest drug concentration had an effect of therapy²⁷. The lower the concentration of an active compound of anticancer drugs therapeutic effect conferring signifies a high selectivity in such compounds against targets cancer cells²⁸. Therefore current research many active compounds invitro done to human cell line so that we will get the concentration of the active compound of anticancer drugs lowest effect therapy. An in vitro IC₅₀ calculation is a very basic starting point in determining the potential efficacy of a developmental drug and can be used as the most simple method to measure the pharmacokinetic because it is focusing on the drug and the target. IC₅₀ value in cell culture will provide information on the concentration at which an enzyme's activity or receptor is 50% inhibited.

Jatrophone as new anticancer compounds much scrutinized against various human cell line due to the effect that promise as anti-cancer drugs^{9, 29, 30}. This study obtained the value of IC₅₀ at 1,31 µg/ml or equivalent to 3,2051 µM. As a comparison, IC₅₀ *Jatrophone* on cancer cell line WiDr is 8,97 µM, HeLa 5,13 µM⁹, dan AGS 2,5 µM³⁰ respectively. From the results of this research showed IC₅₀ of jatrophone compounds against cell line Hep G2 1886 is 3,2 µM. *Jatrophone* has better cytotoxic effects against liver cancer cell line Hep G2 1886 compared to IC₅₀ colon cancer cell line WiDr at 8.97 µM and cervical cancer HeLa cell line at 5.13 µM. However, it has lower value when compared against the cytotoxic effect of jatrophone on cell line of gastric cancer, where on a cell line of gastric cancer IC₅₀ *jatrophone* obtained amounted to 2.5 µM³⁰, whereas on the research on cancer hepatocellular cell line Hep G2 obtained 3.2 µM of IC₅₀.

This study will also be discussed comparison IC₅₀ jatrophone when compared to the standard drugs such as doxorubicin, sorafenib and ATO (Arsenic Trioxyde). Doxorubicin has 2.2 µM an IC₅₀ within 24 hours of the grant on the cell Hep G2³¹, cytotoxic effect of jatrophone is lower if compared to doxorubicin. However, if compared with other standard therapies such as sorafenib and ATO is given for 24 hours on the cell Hep G2

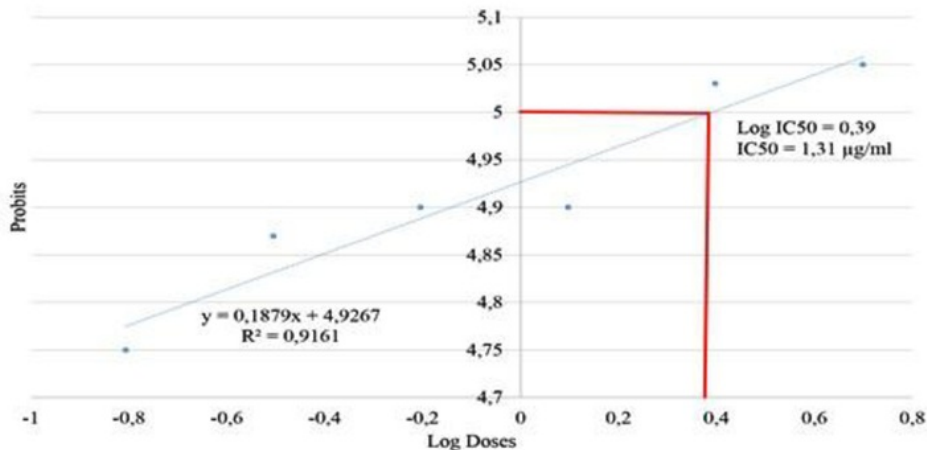


Fig. 2 : Plot of log dose versus probits from Table 1 for calculation of IC₅₀ of jatrophone againsts Hep G2 1886 cells

obtained results IC_{50} of 9.9 μM^{32} and 32.7 μM^{32} , then jatrophone has better anticancer activity when compared to both the drug. It can be said also hepatocellular cancer therapy using jatrophone is also very promising because jatrophone is derived from the bellyache bush, herbs grown in Indonesia that will be much inexpensive when compared to standard medication such as sorafenib and ATO.

CONCLUSION

Jatrophone is active compound isolated from bellyache bush that has better potential cytotoxic effect against hepatocellular cancer cell

line Hep G2 compared to colon cancer cell line WiDr and cervical cancer cell line HeLa. In addition jatrophone also has better anticancer effect against hepatocellular carcinoma Hep G2 1886 compared to standard anticancer drugs such as sorafenib and ATO.

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