Theoretical Evaluation of Furanone and its Derivatives for the Treatment of Cancer Through Eag-1 Inhibition

Abstract

Several studies suggest that some drugs such as astemizole and tetrandine can inhibit the expression of Eag-1 in cancer cells. Analyzing these data, this study aimed to evaluate the theoretical interaction of furanone (compound 1) and its derivatives (compounds 2 to 30) with Eag-1 using the 7CN1 protein as a theoretical model; in addition, astemizole, tetrandine, N-(4-2-(Diethylamino)ethoxy)phenyl)-2-nitro-4-(trifluoromethyl)-aniline (DNTA), 1-Dimethylamino-3-[4-(2-nitro-4-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-phenoxy]-propan-2-ol (ZVS-08), and 3-Chloro-N-[2-[3,5-dibromo-4-(3-di-methyl-amino-propoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl]-4-methoxy-benzamide (PD) were used as controls in the DockingServer software. Results showed that interaction of compounds 1-30, DNTA, ZVS-08, and PD with 7CN1 protein surface involves different aminoacid residues. Besides, inhibition constant was lower for furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 29, and 30 compared to astemizole, tetrandine, DNTA, ZVS-08, and PD. These data suggest that furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 29, and 30 could act as Eag-1 inhibitors in cancer cells. Therefore, these furanone derivatives could be good candidates for the treatment of cancer.

Keywords: Cancer, Furanone, Eag-1, Docking

Introduction

Cancer is one of the main public health problems worldwide;[1-4] this clinical pathology can be conditioned by several factors such as alcohol,[5, 6] obesity,[7-9] cigarette smoking,[8, 9] dietary fatty acid pattern[10, 11] and some genetic factors.[12-14] In addition, other data indicates that the Eag-1 (ether-a-go-go-1; member of the voltage-dependent potassium channel family) may be involved in cancer cell growth.[15, 16] For example, a study showed the expression of Eag-1 potassium channels in gastric cancer patients using immunohistochemistry methods.[17, 18] Another study shows that both Eag-1 mRNA and protein expression is increased in A549 lung cancer cells undergoing epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (a likely mechanism by which tumor cells become malignant) induced by TGFβ1 (growth factor beta).[19, 20] Besides, a report displayed that Eag-1 might be involved in the physiopathological processes of prostate cancer tissue using both reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and immunohistochemistry (IM) methods.[21, 22] Other studies carried out in a population of 12 Chinese women with breast cancer showed that this clinical pathology was associated with Eag-1 and HIF-1α expression.[23] In addition, Eag-1 expression was determined in esophageal squamous cell carcinomas tissues through both RT-PCR and IM methods.[24, 25] To try to inhibit the cancer cells’ growth some drugs such as astemizole have been used; for example, a study suggests that astemizole may decrease cervical cancer cell lines growth (HeLa, SiHa, CaSk, INBL, and C-33A) by decreasing Eag1 expression.[26-28] Other data suggest that imipramine may produce changes in Eag1 expression on a prostate cancer cell line (DU145).[29, 30] Furthermore, a study showed that calcitriol can inhibit Eag1 expression and the proliferation of human breast cancer.[31, 32] All these data suggest that some drugs can inhibit the Eag1 expression translated as a decrease in cancer cell growth; however, the interaction of these drugs with Eag1 is not very clear on cancer cells. Analyzing these data, this study aimed to evaluate the possibility that a series of furanone derivatives could interact with Eag1 using a 7CN1 protein as a theoretical model. Besides, astemizole, tetrandine, DNTA, ZVS-08, and PD drugs were used as controls on the DockingServer program.

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Magdalena Alvarez-Ramirez1, Lauro Figueroa-Valverde2, Francisco Diaz-Cedillo3, Marcela Rosas-Necticap4, Maria Lopez-Ramos2, Virginia Mateu-Armand1, Lopez-Gutierrez Tomas2
1Nutrition Laboratory, Faculty of Nutrition, University of Veracruz, Medicos y s/n Odontologos 910210, Unidad del Bosque, Xalapa, Mexico.
2Pharmacochemistry Research Laboratory, Faculty of Biological-Chemical Sciences, University Autonomous of Campeche; Humberto Lanz; Cárdenas s/n, Ex Hacienda Kalá, C.P. 24085, Campeche, Mexico.
3Laboratory of Organic chemistry, Biological Sciences, National Politechnic Institute; Prolongacion de Carpio y Plan de Ayala s/n, Col. Sto Tomas, 11340, Mexico.

Address for correspondence:
Lauro Figueroa-Valverde, Department of Chemistry, Laboratory of Pharmacochemistry Research, Faculty of Biological-Chemical Sciences, University Autonomous of Campeche; Humberto Lanz; Cárdenas s/n, Ex Hacienda, 24085, Campeche Mexico.
E-mail: figueroa@uaacam.mx


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Materials and Methods

Methodology general

Figure 1 shows the chemical structure of furanone and its derivatives which were used as theoretical tools to assess their potential interaction with 7CN1.

![Chemical structure of furanone (1) and their derivatives (2-31). Source: ChemPub](https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/).

1 = Dihydro-furan-2-one  
2 = 3H-Furan-2-one  
3 = 5H-Furan-2-one  
4 = Dihydro-3-amino-2-(3H)-furanone  
5 = Dihydro-2,2,5,5-tetramethyl-3(2H)-furanone  
6 = (S)-(-)-5-Hydroxymethyl-2(5H)-furanone  
7 = (Z)-4-Bromo-5-(bromomethylene)-2(5H)-furan-one  
8 = 2,2,4,5-tetraphenyl-3(2H)-furanone  
9 = 2,2-Dimethyl-3(2H)-furanone  
10 = 2,2-Dimethyl-5-phenyl-dihydro-furan-3-one  
11 = 2,5-Dimethyl-3(2H)-furanone  
12 = 2,5-Dimethyl-4-methoxy-3(2H)-furanone  
13 = 2-Hydroxy-2,4,5-triphenyl-3(2H)-furanone  
14 = 2-Methoxy-2,4-diphenyl-3(2H)-furanone  
15 = 2-Methyltetrahydro-3-furanone  
16 = 3,3,5-trimethyl-dihydro-2(3H)-furanone  
17 = 3-(Triphenylphosphanylidene)dihydro-2(3H)-furanone  
18 = 3,4,5-Triphenyl-2(3H)-furanone  
19 = 3,4-Dibromo-2(5H)-furanone  
20 = 3,4-Dichloro-2(5H)-furanone  
21 = 3-Allyldihydro-2(3H)-furanone  
22 = 3-Bromo-5-(Diphenylmethylene)-2(5H)-furo-none  
23 = 3-Methyl-2(5H)-furanone  
24 = 4-Acetoxy-2,5-dimethyl-3(2H)furanone  
25 = 4-Anilino-2(5H)-furanone  
26 = 4-Hydroxy-2,5-dimethyl-3(2H)-furanone  
27 = 4-Methoxy-2(5H)-furanone  
28 = 4-[(Cyclohexylamino)methyl]-3,3-diphenyl-dihydro-2(3H)-furanone  
29 = 5-Ethyl-3-hydroxy-4-methyl-2(5H)-furanone  
30 = 5-Ethyl-4-hydroxy-2-methyl-3(2H)-furanone

Ligand-protein complex

The interaction of furanone and its derivatives with the Eag1 protein surface was determined using 7CN1 (PDB DOI: https://doi.org/10.2210/pdb7CN1/pdb) protein[33] as a theoretical model. In addition, to evaluate the thermodynamic parameters involved in coumarin derivative-protein complex formation, the DockingServer program was used.[34]

Pharmacokinetics parameter

Theoretical pharmacokinetics involved in the chemical structure of furanone derivatives (7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30) were determined using the SwissADME software.[35]

Toxicity analysis
Toxicity evaluation for furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 was determined using GUSAR software.\cite{36}

**Results and Discussion**

**Protein-ligand evaluation**

In the literature, there are some methods to predict the interaction of some drugs with EAG-1 such as Autodock\cite{37} and Rosetta\cite{38}. In this way, a study showed that tetrandrine directly interacted with Eac1 through the amino acids Ile550, Thr552, and Gin557 surface.\cite{39} Another study showed that procyandrin B1 could interact with the EAG-1 surface which involves amino acid residues such as Ile550, Thr552, and Gin557. Analyzing these data, in this research furanone and its derivatives were used to evaluate their interaction with EAG-1 using 7CN1 protein as a theoretical model. The results shown in Table 1 indicate that the interaction of furanone and their derivatives with the 7CN1 protein surface could involve some different aminoacid-residues compared to astemizole, tetrandrine, DNTA, ZVS-08, and PD drugs.

**Table 1. Aminoacid residues involved in the coupling of furanone and their derivatives with 7CN1 protein surface using DockingServer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compounds</th>
<th>Aminoacid residues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astemizole</td>
<td>Pro426, Leu532, Leu533, Val533, Thr534, Leu536, Trp536, Cys538, Ile539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrandrine</td>
<td>Leu532, Val533, Val534, Ile535, Thr536, Trp536, Ile539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNTA</td>
<td>Pro426, Leu532, Val533, Val534, Ile535, Thr536, Trp536, Ile539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZVS-08</td>
<td>Leu532, Val533, Val534, Ile535, Thr536, Trp536, Ile539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>Leu532, Val533, Val534, Ile535, Thr536, Trp536, Ile539</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, it is important to mention that this interaction may involve some thermodynamic parameters such as the free energy of binding, electrostatic energy, total intermolecular energy, and 4) Van der Waals (vdW) + hydrogen bond (H-bond) + desolvation energy.\cite{34} For this reason, in this study, some thermodynamic parameters involved in the interaction of furanone and its analogs with the 7CN1 protein surface were evaluated using the DockingServer program. The results (Table 2) display differences in bond-energy levels for furanone and their derivatives compared with astemizole, tetrandrine, DNTA, ZVS-08, and PD. Besides, the inhibition constant (Ki) was lower for furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29 and 30 compared to PD. Other results indicate that Ki for furanone derivatives 1-9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-21, 23, and 25-30 were lower compared to astemizole. All these data suggest that these furanone derivatives (Figure 2) could act as EAG-1 inhibitors, resulting in a decrease in cancer cell growth.

**Table 2. Thermodynamic parameters involved in the interaction of coumarin and their derivatives with 7CN1 protein surface using DockingServer software.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astemizole</td>
<td>-5.91</td>
<td>46.76</td>
<td>-8.29</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>-7.91</td>
<td>828.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrandrine</td>
<td>-5.21</td>
<td>151.33</td>
<td>-6.95</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>-6.22</td>
<td>769.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNTA</td>
<td>-4.65</td>
<td>389.22</td>
<td>-6.19</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>-5.75</td>
<td>728.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZVS-08</td>
<td>-5.41</td>
<td>108.97</td>
<td>-6.10</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>-5.66</td>
<td>638.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purperealadin analog</td>
<td>-3.57</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>-5.29</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>-4.99</td>
<td>674.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-2.82</td>
<td>8.59</td>
<td>-3.00</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-2.73</td>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>-2.47</td>
<td>-0.25</td>
<td>-2.73</td>
<td>217.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>-3.09</td>
<td>6.42</td>
<td>-2.75</td>
<td>-0.34</td>
<td>-3.09</td>
<td>217.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-2.23</td>
<td>23.02</td>
<td>-2.93</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>-2.53</td>
<td>323.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-4.15</td>
<td>91.00</td>
<td>-4.16</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>-4.15</td>
<td>418.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>-3.19</td>
<td>4.56</td>
<td>-2.88</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>-2.89</td>
<td>321.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical evaluation of furanone and its derivatives for the treatment of cancer through EAG-1 inhibition

**Pharmacokinetic analysis**

Different methods have been used to predict some pharmacokinetic parameters involved in some anticancer drugs.\(^{40, 41}\) Analyzing these data, in this investigation, some pharmacokinetic parameters for furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 were evaluated using the SwissADME program.\(^{42}\) Tables 3 and 4 showed the pharmacokinetic parameters involved in the possible gastrointestinal absorption and metabolism of furanone derivatives, which involve some cytochrome P450 systems. This phenomenon could depend on the chemical structure of furanone derivatives and their lipophilicity degree.

### Table 3. Pharmacokinetic parameters for astemizole (i), tetrandine (ii), DNTA (iii), ZVS (iv), PD (v) and furanone derivative (7).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>26</th>
<th>29</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GI absorpt</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBB perm</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-gp substrate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP1A2 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2C19 inhibitor</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2C9 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2D6 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP3A4 inhibitor</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consensus LogP&lt;sub&gt;OW&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Toxicity analysis**

In the literature, there are some methods to predict the degree of toxicity of various compounds such as ADME/Tox,\(^{43}\) eToxPred,\(^{44}\) and GUSSAR.\(^{45}\) This study aimed to evaluate the possible toxic effect produced by furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 using the GUSSAR software.
The results shown in Table 5 suggest that higher doses of furanone derivatives (7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, and 29) are needed (via intraperitoneal) to produce toxicity compared to astemizol, tetrandine, DNTA, ZVS-08, AND PD drugs. Besides, other data indicate that furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 require higher doses (via oral) to induce toxicity compared to astemizol, tetrandine, DNTA, ZVS-08, AND PD drugs.

**Table 5. Theoretical toxicity for furanone derivatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>IP LD50 (mg/kg)</th>
<th>IV LD50 (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Oral LD50 (mg/kg)</th>
<th>SC LD50 (mg/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astemizol</td>
<td>253.30</td>
<td>36.59</td>
<td>835.00</td>
<td>710.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrandine</td>
<td>70.92</td>
<td>65.40</td>
<td>708.30</td>
<td>121.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNTA</td>
<td>345.80</td>
<td>84.54</td>
<td>992.80</td>
<td>473.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZVS-08</td>
<td>286.40</td>
<td>83.93</td>
<td>727.30</td>
<td>579.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>330.10</td>
<td>80.65</td>
<td>960.00</td>
<td>4990.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>496.40</td>
<td>29.71</td>
<td>910.00</td>
<td>856.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>263.20</td>
<td>40.96</td>
<td>872.00</td>
<td>651.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>426.00</td>
<td>14.56</td>
<td>2726.00</td>
<td>951.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>726.30</td>
<td>18.92</td>
<td>785.30</td>
<td>1824.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>653.70</td>
<td>32.21</td>
<td>909.50</td>
<td>1084.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>125.90</td>
<td>42.37</td>
<td>861.10</td>
<td>565.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>385.50</td>
<td>60.90</td>
<td>1975.00</td>
<td>727.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>181.40</td>
<td>67.78</td>
<td>1322.00</td>
<td>522.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Conclusion**

In this research, the theoretical interaction of furanone and its derivatives with Eag-1 was determined. The results showed a higher affinity of furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 for Eag-1 surface compared to astemizol, tetrandine, DNTA, ZVS-08 AND PD drugs. All these data suggest that furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 could act as Eag-1 inhibitors. This phenomenon could be translated as good candidates for the treatment of cancer cells.

**Acknowledgments**

None.

**Conflict of interest**

None.

**Financial support**

None.

**Ethics statement**

All procedures in this study were performed in accordance with protocols for Pharmacoechemistry Laboratory of University Autonomous of Campeche.

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