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, 26, 29, and 30 compared to astemizole, tetrandine, DNTA, ZVS-08, and PD. These data suggest that furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 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; this clinical pathology can be conditioned by several factors such as alcohol, obesity, cigarette smoking, dietary fatty acid pattern and some genetic factors. 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. For example, a study showed the expression of Eag-1 potassium channels in gastric cancer patients using immunohistochemistry methods. 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). Besides, a report displayed that Eag-1 might be involved in the pathophysiological processes of prostate cancer tissue using both reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and immunohistochemistry (IM) methods. 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. In addition, Eag-1 expression was determined in esophageal squamous cell carcinomas tissues through both RT-PCR and IM methods. 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, CaSki, INBL, and C-33A) by decreasing Eag1 expression. Other data suggest that imipramine may produce changes in Eag1 expression on a prostate cancer cell line (DU145). Furthermore, a study showed that calcitriol can inhibit Eag1 expression and the proliferation of human breast cancer. 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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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.

Figure 1. Chemical structure of furenone (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)-furanone
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-(Triphenylphosphoranylidene)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 their derivatives with the Eagl protein surface was determined using 7CN1 (PDB DOI: https://doi.org/10.2210/pdb7CN1/pdb) protein[34] as a theoretical model. In addition, to evaluate the thermodynamic parameters involved in coumarin derivative-protein complex formation, the DockingServer program was used.[35]

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.[36]

Toxicity analysis
Toxicity evaluation for furanone derivatives 7, 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29, and 30 was determined using GUSAR software.[37]

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[38] and Rosetta[39]. In this way, a study showed that tetrandrine directly interacted with EAG through the amino acids Ile550, Thr552, and Glu557 surface.[40] Another study showed that procyctealin B1 could interact with the EAG-1 surface which involves amino acid residues such as Ile550, Thr552, and Glu557. 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, DNA, 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>Pro226, Leu232, Val332, Thr356, Leu356, Thr556, Cys553, Ile567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetrandrine</td>
<td>Leu224, Val232, Val332, Pro356, Leu356, Thr556, Ile567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNTA</td>
<td>Leu232, Val232, Val332, Leu356, Thr356, Thr556, Ile567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZVS-08</td>
<td>Pro226, Leu232, Val332, Val332, Leu356, Thr556, Ile567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>Leu232, Ile556, Thr556, Leu356, Ile567</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.[45] 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, tetrandine, DNA, 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>Purpurealdin 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>
</tbody>
</table>

- 1: 2.82 8.59 -3.00 0.18 2.82 220.51
- 2: -2.73 10.05 -2.47 -0.25 -2.73 217.38
- 3: -3.09 6.42 -2.75 -0.34 -3.09 217.50
- 4: -2.23 23.02 -2.93 0.39 -2.53 323.42
- 5: -4.15 910 -4.16 0.01 -4.15 418.33
- 6: -3.19 4.56 -2.88 -0.01 -2.89 321.75
Pharmacokinetic analysis

Different methods have been used to predict some pharmacokinetic parameters involved in some anticancer drugs. 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. 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 absorption</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 permeant</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>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2C9 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2D6 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP3A4 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consensus LogP_{OW}</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>3.02</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4. Pharmacokinetic parameters for furanone derivatives 12, 16, 20, 25, 26, 29 and 30.

<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 absorp</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>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-gp substrate</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</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>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2C19 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2C9 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP2D6 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CYP3A4 inhibitor</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consensus LogP_{OW}</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.56</td>
<td>0.25</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,[44] eToxPred,[45] and GUSSAR.[46] 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>
<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>Astemizole</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>1242.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>653.70</td>
<td>32.21</td>
<td>909.50</td>
<td>1084.00</td>
</tr>
<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, 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

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## Conflict of interest

None.

## Financial support

None.

## Ethics statement

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

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