GnRH ANALOGUE CONJUGATED WITH MITOXANTRONE: A NOVEL ANTIPROLIFERATIVE AGENT IN BREAST CANCER CELLS

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BACKGROUND

Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in women. Even though many new treatments have been developed, the incidence of this disease is increasing every year [1].
The gonadotropin releasing hormone GnRH is a decapeptide that coordinates the release of Luteinizing Hormone and Follicle Stimulating Hormone, in order to regulate sex steroids and gametes. Moreover, GnRH interacts with the GnRH receptor (GnRH-R). Importantly, GnRH-R is highly expressed in various types of cancer cells, such as breast cancer cells. According to studies, GnRH analogues have antiproliferative effect in breast cancer cells, through their interaction with the GnRH-R [2].

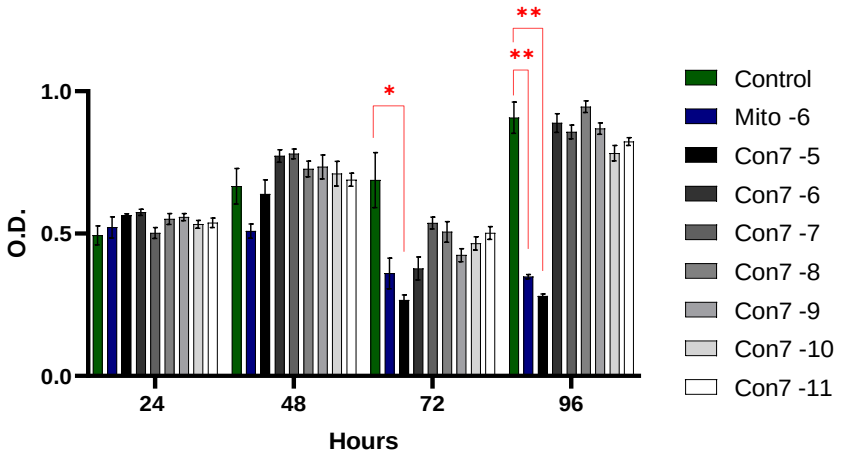
AIM

The aim of this study was to develop novel GnRH analogues with increased antiproliferative actions, by conjugating them with the cytotoxic agent, mitoxantrone, thus creating the analogue Con7. Con7 is expected to release mitoxantrone into cancer cells after its binding to GnRH-R and as a result internalize the GnRH-R/Con7 complex.

METHODS

To create the Con7 analogue, we chemically modified the GnRH analogue, leuprolide and conjugated it with mitoxantrone. The human breast cancer cell line MDA-MB-231 was used in order to examine the antiproliferative properties of Con7. Specifically, we incubated the breast cancer cells with Con7 at different concentrations for 1-4 days and measured the viability rate with the MTT assay. The statistical analysis was performed using the GraphPad Prism software. Two-Way ANOVA was applied for the comparison of the effect of Con7 among groups and values are expressed as mean ± SEM.

RESULTS



Antiproliferative effect of **Con7** incubated with **MDA-MB-231** cells at different concentrations measured with **MTT** assay at 4 time points.

The novel GnRH analogue Con7 inhibited the proliferation of MDA-MB-231 cells in a time-dependent manner (1-4 days). Con7 showed a statistically significant antiproliferative effect at day 3 and 4. Con7 was able to reduce the proliferation rate in 10^{-5} M.
(Data from 2 independent experiments with at least 5 replications/ group)

CONCLUSION

Proliferation of MDA-MB-231 cells was inhibited by Con7 in a time-dependent manner, reaching maximum inhibitory effect at day 4. Moreover, the inhibitory effect of Con7 was comparable to that of unconjugated mitoxantrone, a known anticancer drug.

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DISCLOSURES

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