

# Study of the Cytotoxicity Effect of New Cr(III), Mn(II), Fe(III) and Cu(II) Complexes of Chalcone on Cancer (Cell Line RD) and Antimicrobial Activity

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**Abstract:** The new complexes of Cr(III), Mn (II), Fe(III) and Cu(II) complexes with the chalcone ligand were studied on the growth of Rhabdomyo sarcomas (RD) cell Line in human by using in vitro system and compared with anticancer drug cis-platin (cis-pt) as appositive control. The cancer cells were treated with different concentration and cis-pt after 72 hr. exposure time. The cytotoxic activity was tested by inhibition rate as parameter. The results showed significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) for each three treatments when the inhibition rates were increased. The synthesized compounds were tested for antimicrobial activity by cup plate diffusion method. The results indicate the enhanced activity of metal complexes over the parent ligands. The synthesized complexes have been screened for in vitro antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, and new prepared complexes were compared with anticancer drug cis-platin.

**Keywords:** Chalcone, Complexes, Antimicrobial Activity, Cytotoxicity Cisplatin

## 1. Introduction

Chalcones are abundantly present in nature from ferns to higher plants [1]. They are aromatic compounds with an unsaturated side chain and often cytotoxic in vitro [2]. Chalcones have also been reported to be anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic [3]. Some chalcones possess bactericidal, antifungal and insecticidal activity and some of their derivatives are reported to be antimutagenic [4]. Chalcones are abundant in edible plants and are considered to be the precursors of flavonoids and isoflavonoids. flavonoids represent one of the largest groups of natural products. In addition to the various functions of flavonoids in plants, their widespread distribution in nature, their structural variability, their relatively low toxicity, and their antioxidant activities have increased the interesting flavonoids as beneficial for human health.

Chalcone is a common natural pigment and one of the important intermediate in the biosynthesis of flavonoids [5]. Several therapeutically interesting biological activities of certain chalcones have been reported including antibacterial [3], anti-inflammatory activity [6], chemopreventive activity

[7], cardiovascular disease [8], anticancer activity [9], cytotoxic activity [10], antiproliferative activity [11], antimalarial activity [12], antiviral activity [13], anti-HIV activity [14], etc. The biological activity of flavones can be modified upon formation of metal complexes.

The synthesized complexes have been screened for in vitro antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, and new prepared complexes were compared with anticancer drug cis-platin.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Instrumentation and Chemical

IR spectra were recorded Pye Unicam Sp. 3100 spectrophotometer, solid samples were measured as KBr disc. For UV measurement absolute methanol and ethanol were used as solvents. Rotary evaporator RE-120 Buchi. Gallenkamp (hot stage) determined M. P. BDH chemicals Ltd.-England, Fluka AG Buchs-Swaziland and Riedel Du Haen Germany supplied chemicals. (Cis-platin) (10mg/20ml) was provide by Ebew (Austria).

## 2.2. Preparation of Ligand and Their Complexes

New complexes Cr-L, Mn-L, Fe-L and Cu-L were provide by our study [14]. 10 mg of each complex dissolved in 20 ml of normal saline (stock solution) and were stored at (2-8) °C until processing.

### 2.2.1. General Procedure for the Preparation of Chalcone, (E)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-(2, 4, 6-trihydroxyphenyl) prop-2-en-1-one (L)

To the mixture of 2, 4, 6-dihydroxy acetophenone (13.6 gm, 0.1 mol), alcohol (50 mL) and p-hydroxy benzaldehyde (12.72 gm, 0.12 mol), NaOH (40%, 19mL) was slowly added with vigorous stirring (2-3 hrs), till orange solid mass was obtained and left it overnight at ambient temperature. Cold 5N, 42 mL HCl was poured on to it with constant stirring. The yellow solid was filtered, washed with water, dried and crystallized from alcohol. Yield 80%, brownish red powder, M. P. 136-138°C, IR (KBr disc) shows absorption at 3411  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (OH), 1630  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=O). UV-Vis shows max (EtOH) 290 nm, 311 nm. C. H. N. analysis; C=66.05 (cal. 66.17), H=4.32 (cal. 4.44).

### 2.2.2. General Procedure for the Preparation of the Complexes

0.2 mmole from L ( $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5$ ) was dissolved in MeOH (30 ml) then 0.1 mmole metal chlorides was added. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 30 min. and the volume of the final mixture was reduced under vacuum. The crude products were purified by recrystallization from MeOH to give a powder, yield 82%. Figure 1.

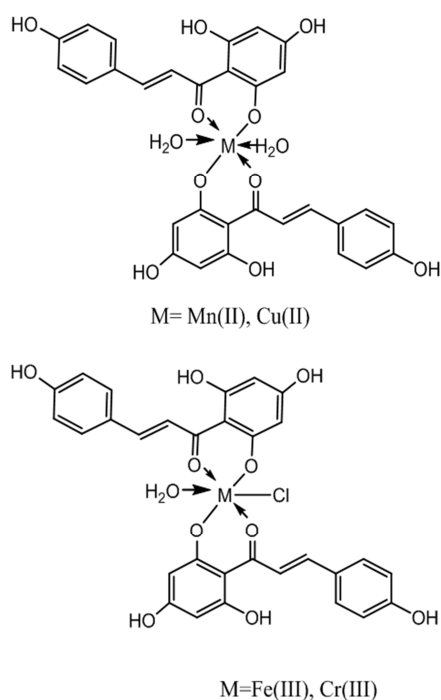


Figure 1. Suggested structure of the prepared complexes.

## 2.3. Study of Cytotoxic Effect on Cancer Cell Line

One type of cancer cell lines have been used to study the

impact of the prepared compounds under study on the growth of cells in laboratory and thus know the specifications of extracts as an anti-tumors, this work done at Department of Cancer Research in Bio-technology Research Center, University of Nahrain.

All solutions are prepared at the same center and culturing tissues were studied in vitro under optimum conditions by the same center. The growth media used in tissue culture technique was MEM (Minimum Essential Media) was provided by Fetal Calf Serum (10%) to form a confluent monolayer, then Subculture to discard the previous growth medium and the cell washed with sterilized phosphate buffer solution (PBS) by autoclave at 121°C for 15 min and addition 2-3 min and moving the culture flask kindness. The trypsin-versene solution to discard and cells incubated at 37°C until the cell separation from ground flask, added new growth media and redistribution of cells at the microtiter and incubated at 37°C [16].

## 2.4. Cytotoxic or Cell Growth Inhibition Assay

In this assay, the cell line (RD) was treated with new complexes and cisplatin by using four concentrations (31.25, 62.5, 125, 250)  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . immediately by adding of 25ml trypsin-versene solutions in to culture bottle and 20 ml of culture nedium which contains 10% of serum to provide the suspend cells, mixed very well and addition of 0.2 ml to each microliter. The plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hour until to form monolayer, then the previous culture medium which present in to the plates to discard 0.2 ml of compounds under study were added and these three preparation repeated as negative control (cancer cell line RD with buffer solutions) and incubated at 37°C for 72 hour exposure time. The culture medium to discard from microliter plates, about 0.2ml of crystal violet solution was added to wells and the plates were incubated for 20 min at 37°C. The plates washed gently with distilled water and left to dry. In the end of assay the plates were examined by ELISA reader at 492 nm transmitting wave length. Only viable cells were able to take a stain while the dead cells were not. The inhibition rate was measured according to were Gao. et. al [17] and as follows:

$$\text{Inhibition rate \%} = \frac{(\text{Abs. of negative control} - \text{Abs. of Test})}{\text{Abs. of negative control}} \times 100.$$

## 2.5. Antibacterial Activity

Agar-well diffusion method followed as the using of kirby Baauer method [18] in the measurement of the sensitivity of bacteria used in this research for various concentrations of compounds, Escherichia Coli and aurous Staphylococcus bacteria was obtained (isolated and diagnosed in culture laboratory in children's hospital in Ramadi). also we used Mueller Hinton agar to test the sensitivity of bacteria for compounds and it was prepared as company instruction process, then the dishes putted in incubator at (37)°C for (24) hours and inhibition diameter was then measure (Inhibition Zone) in each hole by ruler and record the results.

### 3. Result and Discussion

Claisen Schmidt condensation was chosen for the synthesis of chalcone (L). The reaction partners are 2-hydroxy acetophenone and benzaldehyde, which condense in the presence of base in aqueous alcoholic solution, (E)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-(2, 4, 6-trihydroxy phenyl) prop-2-en-1-one (L) (Scheme 1). Complexes formation between Cr(II), Mn(II), Fe(III) and Cu(II) chlorides and, (E)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-(2,4,6-trihydroxy phenyl) prop-2-en-1-one (L) performed in ethanolic dimethyl formide show the formation of mononuclear complexes with 1:2 metal to ligand stoichiometry (Figure 1). The complexes are stable at room temperature, non-hygroscopic, insoluble in water but slightly soluble in chloroform and soluble in DMF and DMSO. Prepared ligand have been characterized by spectroscopic methods (UV-VIS., IR) and C. H. N. analysis.

#### 3.1. FT-IR Spectra

The characteristic infrared spectral assignment of ligand (L) and their complexes are reported in experimental section. In the FT-IR spectra of ligand (L), the presence of phenolic OH and carbonyl group are confirmed by peaks at 3411 and 1630  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  respectively [15]. However, in the spectra of the complexes there is complete disappearance of peak at 3411  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  as suggesting absence of phenolic OH group indicates its coordination. The band assigned to the carbonyl group is shifted to a lower wave number comparing with that of the free ligand, proving its coordination.

#### 3.2. UV-Vis. Spectra and Conductivity Measurements

The UV-VIS. spectra of the complexes expected differences in the position of the absorption bands between the ligand and the related complexes, which are due to the coordination between the ligand and the transition metals. Appearance of new absorption maxima is considered as a hint for the formation of complexes. The bathochromic shift in band I upon coordination is due to the electronic transition ( $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ ) of the lone pair of electrons of the hydroxyl group in the complex.

Band II, which caused by the transition ( $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ ) of the aromatic ring, exhibit absorption maxima at 290nm. This measured wavelength reflect the effect of substitution by auxochromes (hydroxyl group) caused a bathochromic shift in bands I and II, of the complexes [16].

The measurements of the molar electrical conductivity of the complexes in DMSO are indicated that the results clearly show values for the molar conductivity of the complexes of bivalent metals are non- electrolyte. From the above spectroscopic results (IR, UV-VIS.) and conductivity measurement the following general structure can be proposed for the metal-Chalcone complexes Figure 1.

#### 3.3. Study of Cytotoxic Effect

Cancer cell lines have been used to study the effect of complexes on the growth of cells in laboratory to know the

specifications of extracts as anti-tumors. Cancer cell line type Rhabdomyo sarcomas (RD) used with different concentrations comparable with anticancer drug cisplatin as a positive control after 72 hr. exposure time.

In this method, we calculate the proportion of cells number within the optimal conditions for growth without the addition of compounds so the output is the control group (control). Then compounds are added for the purpose of knowing their effects on cell growth in elected lines.

The result statistically analyzed by one way ANOVA. the following results as figure 2 which demonstrates the impact of compounds on cells number ratio when using cell line (RD), it is clear that hot alcoholic extract have the greatest influence on the proportion of growth cell number and the effect was significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ). This result is identical to those published in literature [19].

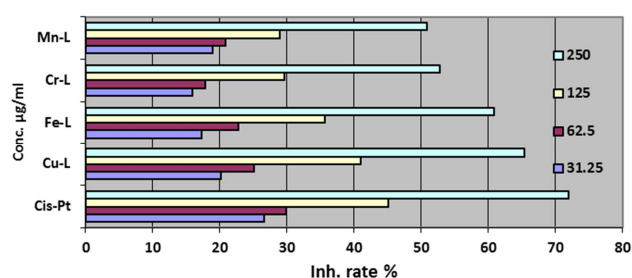


Figure 2. The comparison of inhibition rates between three treatments with cis-pt drug in cell line (RD).

The results in figure 2 shows evidence that new complexes have cytotoxic effect on cancer cell line by elevated of inhibition rates with concentration increased, this effect was similar to effect of anti-cancer cis-platin. In this study, we suggest the new complexes of chalcone ligand have inhibition effect; this effect was similar to Tsuda. et al [20] studied on colon and liver cancer in mice and result in DNA damage after shortly administration of relatively high dose, while carcinogenicity was detected after prolong treatment with low doses. Kenyon et al [21] showed the type of organic ligand (bis-8-hydroxyquinolin) coupled to tumor cellular copper forming potent protoeasome inhibitors and apoptosis inducers at copper concentration found in tumor tissues. Saadiyh et al [22] showed the new copper complexes and aqueous origanum vulgare extract have a cytotoxic effect on RD cell line in four concentrations. This study similar to our results which rise the inhibition rates with elevation of concentration. The new complexes were similar effect to cis-pt that could be attributed to the cis-pt binding to and cross linking of DNA which ultimately triggers opoptosis (programmed cell death) [23].

#### 3.4. Antimicrobial Tests

The activity have been studying for the complexes, in different concentrations and using two types of pathogenic bacteria Escherichia Coli and aurous Staphylococcus. Inhibition zone larger than 6mm indicated antimicrobial activity. The complexes showed better efficiency figure 3 for Staphylococcus aurous and Escherichia Col.

A comparison of the value of chalcone Ligand with these of the complexes indicates that the metal complexes exhibited higher antibacterial activity than ligand. Such increased activity of the complexes can be explained based on Overtones concept [24] and the tweedy chelation theory [25, 26]. Moreover, the copper complexes were more active than the other complexes against the tested microorganisms as shown in figure 3.

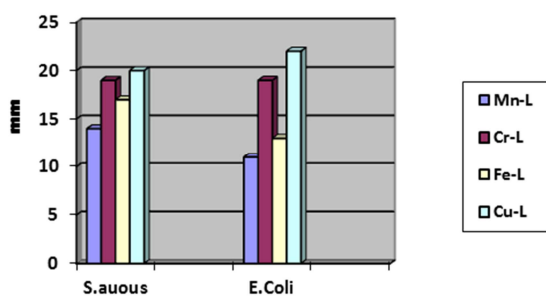


Figure 3. The effect of complexes on the growth of bacteria.

## 4. Conclusion

The available experimental data suggest that the prepared L possess two coordinating sites as bidentate ligand. Physical and spectroscopic characterization of the complexes revealed that the OH group of the Chalcone were involved in the coordination and that the Cr(III), Mn(II), Fe(III) And Cu(II) had octahedral geometry.

The study of biological activity of the ligands and its metal complex against four selected type of bacteria which included (*Staphylococcus aureus*) as gram positive (+Ve) and (*Escherichia Coli*) as gram negative (-Ve) to be cultivated and as control for the disc sensitivity test shows that different activity of inhibition on growth of the bacteria. The prepared complexes were studied effect on the cancerous cell line RD, it was found that theses ligand and complex have efficacious effects on the cancerous cell.

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