

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

# P01.07. The Chinese herbs Chuan Bei Mu and Huang Qin can produce dose-dependent biphasic response in endometrial cancer cells

K Ahmad<sup>1</sup>, J Pirog<sup>1\*</sup>, V Syed<sup>2</sup>, Y Jiang<sup>1</sup>, H Nguyen<sup>2</sup>

From International Research Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health 2012  
Portland, Oregon, USA. 15-18 May 2012

## Purpose

We shortlisted four commonly-used herbs from the Chinese Materia Medica, including Lian Qiao (*Forsythiae Fructus*), Chuan Bei Mu (*Fritillariae cirrhosae Bulbus*), Bai Zhi (*Angelicae dahuricae Radix*) and Huang Qin (*Scutellariae Radix*) due to suggestions in classical writings that they could possess antitumor properties.

## Methods

We were interested in testing the herbs' cytotoxic potential and used Ishikawa endometrial cancer cells. Cells were incubated for 24 hours in varying concentrations (1-500 µg/ml).

## Results

We found that at low doses Huang Qin induced cytotoxicity (1 µg/ml), but at high doses, 50-300 µg/ml, the same herb induced cell proliferation. Chuan Bei Mu exhibited a similar biphasic response with cytotoxicity at 1-200 µg/ml but proliferation at 400 µg/ml. Data on Lian Qiao was scattered but the herb induced cytotoxicity at low doses from 1-10 µg/ml and less significantly at high doses. Bai Zhi was the only herb that did not induce cytotoxicity in endometrial cancer cells.

## Conclusion

Taken together, the preliminary data underscore the effect of these herbs as bioactive compounds with chemotherapeutic potential, and contrastingly of their ability to enhance cancer cell growth or confound the effect of chemotherapeutic agents.

## Author details

<sup>1</sup>Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, USA. <sup>2</sup>Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, USA.

Published: 12 June 2012

doi:10.1186/1472-6882-12-S1-P7

**Cite this article as:** Ahmad et al.: P01.07. The Chinese herbs Chuan Bei Mu and Huang Qin can produce dose-dependent biphasic response in endometrial cancer cells. *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* 2012 **12**(Suppl 1):P7.

Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central  
and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at  
[www.biomedcentral.com/submit](http://www.biomedcentral.com/submit)



<sup>1</sup>Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, USA  
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article