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Review article

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Extraction, detection, bioactivity, and product development of luteolin: A review

Fajian Ren^a, Ying Li^a, Hanyuan Luo^a, Song Gao^a, Shanshan Jiang^a, Jian Yang^b, Chaolong Rao^{a,**}, Yan Chen^{a,*}, Cheng Peng^{c,***}

^a School of Public Health, Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chengdu, 611137, Sichuan, China

^b Chuan-chu UNITED INTERNATIONAL Engineering Co., LTD, Chengdu, China

^c State Key Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine Resources in Southwest China, Chengdu, 611137, China

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ABSTRACT

Luteolin is a kind of natural flavonoid, widely existing in a variety of plants, has been revealed to have a wide range of biological activities. In recent years, the research results of luteolin are abundant. Here we review the latest research results of luteolin in order to provide new ideas for further research and development of luteolin. In this paper, the focus of the search was published between 2010 and 2024 on the extraction and determination of luteolin, biological activities, and the development and application of luteolin products. A comprehensive search using the keyword "luteolin" was conducted in the PubMed, Web of Science and WIPO databases. Through the collection of related literature, this paper summarized a variety of extraction techniques of luteolin, including immersion extraction, solvent extraction, ultrasonic-assisted extraction, supercritical fluid extraction and so on. The determination methods include: thin layer chromatography (TLC), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), capillary electrophoresis (CE), electrochemical method (ED) and so on. In addition, the biological activities of luteolin, including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, antibacterial, analgesic and so on, were described. And luteolin as the main component of the product is being gradually developed, and has been used in the field of food, medicine and cosmetics. This paper provides a reference for further study of luteolin.

1. Introduction

Luteolin is a natural flavonoid compound with the chemical name of 3', 4', 5,7-tetrahydroxyflavone, also known as yellow flavin and yellow shiling. It is a yellow needle shaped crystal with weak water solubility and can be dissolved in organic solvents such as ethanol, ether, methanol, and alkaline solutions. The molecular formula is $C_{15}H_{10}O_6$ and the molecular weight is 286.24. It is a secondary metabolite produced by plants through the phenylpropanoid pathway, and its chemical structure is shown in Fig. 1. Luteolin is originally isolated from the leaves, stems and branches of Reseda odorata L., a herbaceous plant of the Resedaceae family. According to research, now luteolin can be isolated from more than 300 plants [1], such as *Cichorium intybus* L., Raw Chinese celery, Thyme fresh,

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^{*} Corresponding author.

^{**} Corresponding author.

^{***} Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: raocl@cdutcm.edu.cn (C. Rao), danshuicao@cdutcm.edu.cn (Y. Chen), cdtcmpengcheng@126.com (C. Peng).

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Cucumber and other crops. In addition, natural medicinal plants such as honeysuckle, *Perilla*, olive leaf and *Origanum vulgare* L also contain abundant luteolin [2]. Modern research has shown that luteolin has various biological activities such as antioxidant, anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, and neuroprotective effects [3].

This review mainly summarizes and understands the extraction process, detection methods, biological activities and product development patents of luteolin, in order to fully tap the research potential of luteolin and further develop high value-added products. The aim is to provide a scientific basis and theoretical basis for promoting the sustainable and healthy development of luteolin production industry.

2. Extraction process of luteolin

The extraction process of luteolin includes impregnation extraction, solvent extraction, ultrasonic assisted extraction, supercritical fluid extraction, etc., as shown in Table 1.

2.1. Macerated extraction

Maceration extraction (ME) is an ancient and gentle extraction technique, which achieves physical extraction by immersing solid powders in a solution of soluble compounds containing the active component and adhering the active ingredient to the solid, and is commonly used in pharmaceutical preparations [2]. Abidin et al. [4] used methanol, ethanol and chloroform as solvents to extract luteolin from *Vitex negundo* leaves by impregnation method, and determined the content of luteolin in the extract by high performance liquid chromatography. The results showed that the extraction efficiency of luteolin was up to 9.4 % when methanol was used as solvent, and the lowest was 5.2 % when chloroform was used as solvent.

2.2. Solvent extraction

Solvent extraction is a method of transferring a substance from one solvent to another by utilizing the property that the solubility or partition coefficient of the substance is different in two immiscible solvents. Solvent extraction is the most commonly used method for extracting flavonoids [5]. Hot water bath extraction and Soxhlet extraction (SE) are the most commonly used methods for extracting bioactive compounds including flavonoids [2]. SE technology combines the advantages of extraction and reflux extraction. The principle of siphon reflux is adopted to realize automatic continuous extraction and reduce solvent consumption [6]. Abidin et al. [4] described that the highest luteolin yield was observed by SE technique when methanol was used as the extraction solvent compared to ethanol, chloroform and dichloromethane.

2.3. Ultrasonic assisted method

Ultrasound-assisted extraction technology is mainly based on the existence of active ingredients in the material state in the role of ultrasound quickly into the solvent to get a multi-component mixture of extracts, and then the extracts with appropriate methods of separation, separation, purification, and ultimately obtain the required monomer chemical composition of a new technology [7], especially in food and pharmaceutical industries. Its main advantage is to reduce the extraction time, processing time and energy consumption, and improve the extraction yield [8,9]. Giacometti et al. [10] optimized the ultrasonic-assisted extraction process of luteolin-4 '-O-glucoside and several other components in olive leaves by response surface methodology. The results showed that the ultrasonic-assisted method significantly improved the yield of luteolin-4 '-O-glucoside. Wei et al. [11] established a combined procedure of thermal reflux and ultrasonic-assisted extraction, and an accurate high performance liquid chromatography to determine the



Luteolin

Fig. 1. Chemical structure of luteolin.

Table 1

Extraction method of luteolin.

Abstraction technics	Raw material	Extraction time	Conventional process temperature (°C)	Extraction efficiency (%)/content(mg/ g)	Process characteristics	Reference
Impregnation extraction method	Viticis leaves	>72 h	40	9.4 %	Mild, low cost; low extraction efficiency and long extraction time.	[4]
Solvent extraction- Soxhlet extraction	Viticis leaves	2 h	50	14.5 %	Automatic continuous process, less solvent consumption	[4]
ultrasonic assisted method	Lobelia chinensis	30 min	50	$\begin{array}{c} 0.323 \pm 0.014 \text{ mg/} \\ \text{g} \end{array}$	The operation is simple and convenient; the extraction time, temperature and	[11]
	Peanut shell	15 min	60	1409 mg/g	solvent consumption were reduced.	[12]
supercritical fluid extraction	-	-	-	6.56 %	High efficiency, not easy to oxidize, pure natural, no chemical pollution.	[14]
microwave-assisted method	Peony pod	>4 h	66	0.151 mg/g	High repeatability, simplified operation, reduced solvent consumption, reduced energy input	[18]
Alkali destruction technology (natural deep eutectic solvent)	Peanut shell	105 min	80	23.33 mg Rutin equivalent/g	It is helpful for flavonoid recovery, high extraction efficiency, and maintaining the antioxidant activity of the extract.	[168]
ultrasound-assisted enzymatic extraction method	celery	30 min	25~30	9.31 mg/g	The extraction efficiency is high and meets the high performance and economic requirements of the extraction process.	[22]

content of apigenin, baicalin and luteolin in *Scutellaria barbata*. It was found that this method reduced the extraction time, extraction temperature and solvent consumption compared with traditional thermal reflux extraction. The study of Imran et al. [12] also proved that the effect of ultrasonic extraction was significantly better than that of conventional extraction. According to the determination of luteolin content by high performance liquid chromatography, the conventional extraction was 1187 mg/g, and the ultrasonic extraction was 1409 mg/g.

2.4. Supercritical fluid extraction

The basic principle of this technology is to increase the temperature and pressure of the target molecule above its critical value, and to extract the soluble components from the solid or liquid with supercritical fluid as solvent [13]. Wang et al. reported that the extraction rate of luteolin by supercritical CO_2 extraction was 6.56 %, and the content of luteolin was 0.656 % by HPLC analysis [14]. Devequi et al. [15] studied the chemical properties and biological activities of six different extracts of propolis by conventional methods and supercritical extraction. The results showed that supercritical fluid extraction was fast and solvent-free for obtaining the highest content of antioxidants (including luteolin).

2.5. Microwave-assisted method

Microwave-assisted extraction (MAE) is a new type of green extraction technology that utilizes microwave energy for substance extraction [16], which can provide high repeatability, simplified operation, reduced solvent consumption and reduced energy input in a short time without reducing the extraction rate of the target material [17].

According to the research, when the irradiation power increased to 230 W, the extraction rate of luteolin increased significantly, but with the increase of irradiation power, the extraction rate of luteolin decreased continuously, which may be due to the oxidation or thermal degradation of luteolin caused by excessive irradiation [18]. Studies had also shown that the extraction rate of luteolin was significantly reduced in the order of acetone, methanol, water and ethyl acetate/water. In MAE with ethanol as solvent, the total yield of luteolin was up to 56–60 % [2]. Wang et al. [18] used effective MAE to extract luteolin and apigenin from peony pods at the same time, and used the response surface method (RSM) to optimize the MAE program. The results showed that 151 µg/g luteolin was extracted from peony pods under the optimal conditions. Darvish and Orsat proposed that MAE was the best method to extract three therapeutic flavonoids, isorhamnetin, luteolin and rutin, from the leaves and flowers of Russian olive [19].

2.6. Other approaches

On the basis of natural deep eutectic solvent (NADES) and alkali damage, Deng et al. used a green and efficient natural extraction process to extract flavonoids (including luteolin) from peanut shells [20]. The results showed that NADES had good antioxidant activity to maintain flavonoids, and the maximum extraction efficiency was 23.33 mg rutin equivalent/g. Hang et al. [21] prepared 34 kinds of deep eutectic solvents of choline and betaine. The study showed that the mixture of betaine hydrochloride and propylene glycol with a ratio of 1:8 had the best ability to extract apigenin and luteolin from celery seeds. Zhang et al. [22] applied

Table 2

4

Determination methods and results of luteolin.

Method	Object	Condition				Outcome					References
		Mobile phase/buffer	Temperature (°C)	Scan wavelength	Time	Linear range/ concentration range	Limit of detection (LOD)	Correlation coefficient	Recovery	Reproducibility (RSD)	
TLC	Artemisia rupestris L.	Chloroform: methanol: formic acid: water = 6.35:0.63:0.17:0.07	28–32	250、352 nm	_	0.0172–0.0976 µg	-	0.9934	99.9 %	-	[169]
	Hygrophila spinosa T. Anders	Toluene: ethyl acetate: formic acid = 6:4:1	-	349 nm	-	40–280 ng/mL	2.36 ng	0.998	99.48–100.82 %	-	[170]
HPLC	Aster tataricus	0.1 % formic acid acetonitrile solution and water velocity of flow:0.3 mL/min	40	-	-	-	-	>0.9970	97.32–102.0 %	-	[171]
	Propolis	Phosphate-buffered saline(pH $= 4.5$)and methanol(40/60, v/ v) velocity of flow:0.8 mL/min	25	260 nm	50 min	-	0.06 mg/mL	>0.9977	95.71–104.26 %	1.58 % (n = 5)	[172]
	Vernonia amygdalina Del.	2 % formic acid acetonitrile solution and water	25	-	-	-	0.5 μg/mL		0.998	2–10 %	[173]
	Honeys	Formic acid solution(pH = 2.8) and acetonitrile velocity of flow:0.2 mL/min	-	-	-	_	0.5 ng/mL	-	95.2 %	>5 %	[174]
UPLC	Compositae Species	Water with acetonitrile and 0.1 % formic acid velocity of flow:0.44 mL/min	45	254、280、 360 nm	14 min	-	0.26 µg/mL	0.999	$\begin{array}{c} 95.49 \pm 0.23 \\ \% \end{array}$	146-2.23 %	[175]
RP-HPLC	abnormal savda munziq decoction	0.3 % formic acid in water and 0.3 % methanol formic acid velocity of flow:1.0 mL/min	25、30、35	290 nm	97.678 min	0.2300–1.3800 µg	0.022 μg /mL	0.9991	99.39–104.85 %	00.66 %	[171]
CE	Red Wine Samples	40 mM borate $pH = 8.9$	18–25	215、280、 320 nm	15 min	-	0.16 μΜ	>0.999	98.1 %	0.358 %	[176]
	Flos Chrysanthemi and Flos Chrysanthemi Indici	20 mmol/LSodium borate-50 mmol/LSodium phosphate pH = 9.6 voltage:15 kV	30	330 nm	30 min	-	-	-	95.1–110.7 %	-	[177]
	Herbs	20 mmol/L borax buffer and 10 % methanol pH = 10.0 voltage:23 kV	23	210 nm	30 s	_	1.05 μg/mL	-	97.29–104.88 %	-	[178]
ED	Peanut shells	Graphene quantum dots (GQDs), Gold nanoparticles (GNPs)	-	-	-	$\begin{array}{l} 1\times10^{-8}1\times10^{-5}\\ M\end{array}$	1.0 nm	0.997	98.8–101.4 %	0.94–1.27 %	[179]
	Peanut shells	Multi-walled carbon nanotubes	-	-	20 min	2.4×10^{-3} -1.75 umol/L	$5.0 imes 10^{-10}$ mol/L	0.9964	-	7.3 %	[180]
	Luteolin	β -Cyclodextrin(β -CD), Indium tin oxide (ITO) pH = 6.0	-	-	-	$5.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mol/L-}$ $3.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol/L}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.00/12\\ 2.4\times10^{-8}\\ \text{mol/L} \end{array}$	0.9981	96.0–105.2 %	5.1 %	[181,182]

ultrasound-assisted enzymatic hydrolysis (USAEH) technology to the extraction of luteolin and apigenin for the first time. Under the optimized conditions, the yield of luteolin increased to 42.5 %, which was 26.1 times and 32.2 times higher than that of the control model without enzyme extraction and ultrasonic treatment, respectively.

3. Method for the determination of luteolin

Suitable detection methods are of great significance for the quality control of plants containing luteolin and for products prepared with luteolin as the main ingredient. The commonly used methods for the determination of luteolin include thin layer chromatography (TLC), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), capillary electrophoresis (CE), electrochemical method (EC), and other methods. The methods and results for determining luteolin are shown in Table 2.

3.1. Thin layer chromatography (TLC)

TLC utilizes the different adsorption capacities of each component on the same adsorbent to generate a continuous process of adsorption, desorption, re-adsorption, and re-desorption when the component flows through the stationary phase with the mobile phase, thereby achieving the goal of separating each component from each other [23]. As a chromatographic separation method with simple equipment, convenient operation, and low cost, TLC can quantitatively analyze target substances in a short time, and is often used for the content determination of many chemical components [24].

Swaha et al. established and validated an efficient TLC method for the quantitative determination of luteolin, and this method was validated by the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) guidelines [25]. However, TLC needs to be compared with the control substance, with poor accuracy. With the continuous deepening of research, TLC is more often used for the identification of chemical components and less used for the determination of the content of chemical components in practical applications.

3.2. High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)

Compared with TLC, which is simple and fast but with poor accuracy, HPLC is more widely used. It is mainly used to analyze the specimen by pumping mobile phases such as single solvents with different polarities or mixed solvents with different ratios into a column equipped with a stationary phase. When the components in the column are separated, they subsequently enter the detector for detection [26].

Lee et al. used gradient HPLC to simultaneously determine the content of luteolin and luteolin in dandelion, and ultimately determined the maximum content of luteolin in dandelion to be 5.817 ± 0.030 mg/g. This gradient HPLC can be used as a reference for quality control of dandelion pharmaceutical preparations [27]. HPLC has the advantages of simple, reliable, sensitive, easy to perform, short time, good resolution, and accurate determination results. It can be used as one of the quality control methods for pharmaceutical preparations.

3.3. Capillary electrophoresis (CE)

CE is a new type of liquid-phase separation technology that uses a capillary as the separation channel and a high-voltage DC electric field as the driving force to realize separation based on the differences in mobility and distribution behaviors among the components in



Fig. 2. The main antioxidant mechanism of luteolin.

the sample [28]. Wang et al. used CE to separate and detect flavonoids in traditional Chinese medicine, and the results showed that the detection range of flavonoids was $0.28 \sim 0.85 \mu$ M. The recovery rate is $84.7 \sim 113 \%$, indicating that CE has the advantages of simple operation, low cost, fast analysis speed, and wide application range [29].

3.4. Electrochemical method (EC)

Since lignocaine has a hydroxyl structure and is an electroactive compound, the content of lignocaine can be determined by EC. Compared with the traditional chromatographic analysis, EC can be an instrumental analytical method for qualitative and quantitative analysis of components based on the electrochemical properties of solutes and their patterns of change on the basis of the stoichiometric relationship between the electrical quantities and the quantities of the substances being measured, which has the advantages of high sensitivity, easy operation. It has the advantages of high sensitivity, easy operation, low cost, miniaturization, etc. [30].

With the deepening of research on luteolin, more and more scholars prefer to use electrochemical methods to determine luteolin. Liu et al. combined biomass porous carbon (BPC) and platinum (Pt) nanoparticles to form a synergistic composite material, which was further applied to the surface of carbon ionic liquid electrodes (CILE) to obtain an electrochemical sensing platform for rapid and accurate determination of luteolin [31].

3.5. Other methods

In addition to the commonly used methods mentioned above, many scholars have also explored other rapid and accurate methods for determining the content of luteolin. Shui et al. used multispectral imaging (MSI) to identify chrysanthemum varieties and determine the content of luteolin [32]. They combined MSI with Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Least Squares Support Vector Machine (LS-SVM), and Partial Least Squares (PLS) to classify 23 chrysanthemum varieties and determine the content of luteolin.

4. Bioactivities of luteolin

4.1. Antioxidation

There are many ways to produce free radicals in organisms. Under physiological conditions, there is a balance between the production and scavenging of free radicals. Once the production of free radicals becomes greater than the body's ability to scavenge them, oxidative stress occurs, which is an imbalance between reactive oxygen species and antioxidant defense systems. Oxidative stress can lead to the accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS). It is known that excessive ROS can lead to mitochondrial oxidative stress and irreparable damage to DNA, proteins and lipids, eventually leading to diseases including cancer [33,34]. The antioxidant mechanism of luteolin is mainly reflected in the following three aspects: ①scavenging free radicals by natural molecular structure; ②Activating the antioxidant signaling pathway, regulating the expression level of related genes, and enhancing the antioxidant capacity; ③ Regulating the activity of endogenous oxidase system and related proteins. The antioxidant mechanism is shown in Fig. 2.

4.1.1. Free radical scavenging by natural molecular structure

The natural antioxidant properties of luteolin depend on its unique molecular structure. Its structural feature is that two benzene rings (A and B) are connected to an oxygen-containing pyran ring (C), which contains four hydroxyl groups. In the hydrogen atom transfer (HAT) mechanism, the phenolic hydroxyl group mainly stabilizes peroxyl, superoxide and hydroxyl radicals by contributing a hydrogen atom, and scavenges free radicals by reducing oxidation mechanism, showing strong antioxidant effect. Researchers measured the ability of luteolin to scavenge free radicals by homolytic cleavage of the O-H bond. It was found that the 4' - OH on the B ring of the four hydroxyl groups had the lowest bond dissociation enthalpy (BDE) value.4' - OH was the strongest antioxidant hydroxyl group in luteolin, which was more involved in the free radical scavenging process of luteolin than other OH groups. Under the same conditions, the 5' - OH group had the worst ability to scavenge free radicals [35].

In addition, the antioxidant activity of luteolin also depends on the 3', 4' -dihydroxy structure (catechol group) on the phenolic B ring. The double bond at the C_2-C_3 position is linked to the carbonyl group at the C_4 position, allowing unpaired electron delocalization on the B ring, significantly improving stability, thereby enhancing the activity of scavenging free radicals [36–38]. It was reported that the coordination of luteolin with Cu (II) significantly inhibited the formation of hydroxyl and superoxide radicals in the Cu-Fenton system (80 %), and had a dose-dependent protective effect on ROS-induced DNA damage [39]. The scavenging kinetics of semi-stable free radical ABTS was studied by 734 nm absorption spectroscopy, and the scavenging activity of luteolin and its Cu (II) complex was quantitatively determined. The results showed that luteolin had different binding sites with Cu (II) under different pH conditions. The 3 ', 4 ' -dihydroxy structure could not only change the coordination of Cu (II), but also control the free radical scavenging efficiency. At low pH, Cu (II) further promoted the free radical scavenging activity of active 3', 4' -catechol by coordinating with weaker antioxidant groups 5-phenol and 4-carbonyl. At neutral pH, Cu (II) coordination occupied the antioxidant active group 3', 4' -catechol group, but the activity of the 5-phenol group with poor antioxidant activity was increased [40].

4.1.2. Activation of antioxidant signaling pathways and regulation of related gene expression levels

Luteolin directly or indirectly promotes the expression and activation of antioxidant signaling pathways, thereby exerting antioxidant effects. In the study of luteolin on aflatoxin B_1 (AFB₁) -induced oxidative stress in mouse liver, it was found that luteolin scavenged ROS and malondialdehyde (MDA) accumulation and increased antioxidant enzymes (catalase (CAT), total superoxide dismutase (T-SOD), glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px) and total antioxidant capacity (T-AOC)). Compared with AFB1 treatment group, ROS and MDA levels in luteolin treatment group were reduced by 38 % and 20 %, respectively. The activities of CAT, T-SOD, GSH-Px and T-AOC antioxidant enzymes were increased by 36.85, 30.27, 27.26 and 40.00 %, respectively. At the same time, the nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) antioxidant pathway was activated, and the expression of NADH Quinone Oxidoreductase 1 (NQO1), HO-1 and glutamate cysteine ligase catalytic subunit proteins (GCLC) was significantly up-regulated [41]. Nrf2 is considered to be the most important endogenous factor associated with cellular response to oxidative stress. It plays a central role in the activation of cell protection genes by binding to antioxidant response elements (ARE) to cope with oxidative stress. The activation of Nrf2 promotes the expression of downstream proteins heme oxygenase (HO-1), NQO1, SOD, and GCLC, reducing the production of ROS to alleviate oxidative stress [34,42,43]. Other studies have shown that the protective effect of luteolin on the heart of middle-stage diabetic rats is related to the antioxidant signaling pathway eNOS-Keap1-Nrf2. In some animal models of ischemia-reperfusion (I/R) injury, activation of endothelial NO synthase (eNOS) has been shown to reduce cardiac oxidative stress injury. Luteolin pretreatment can trigger Nrf2-dependent antioxidant response by activating eNOS and promoting the s-nitrosylation of Keap1, consistent with the results of the above antioxidant pathway, thereby reducing cardiac I/R injury in diabetic rats [44]. In addition, luteolin also has the effect of restoring Nrf2 pathway and enhancing antioxidant response in polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) rats [45]. It is worth noting that low levels of HO-1 expression (less than 5-fold) have protective activity against cells, while high levels of HO-1 expression (more than 15-fold) cause heme degradation to produce hydroxyl radicals, showing significant oxygen cytotoxicity. In the oxidative stress experiment of NRK-52E rat kidney cells induced by ochratoxin A (OTA), compared with the control, luteolin inhibited the expression of HO-1mRNA within 3 h, and significantly promoted the transcription of HO-1 within 24 h, indicating that luteolin may immediately inhibit the free radical reaction at the beginning and promote Nrf2 translocation at the later stage. Although different mechanisms may be involved, luteolin can produce preventive effects in any case [46].

4.1.3. Regulating the activity of endogenous oxidase system and related proteins

Luteolin can regulate the activity of antioxidant enzymes or change the activity level of related proteins to exert antioxidant effects. GSH and SOD themselves are key factors in maintaining cellular redox balance and are also involved in regulating cellular signaling and repair pathways. Researchers used dexamethasone (DXM) to establish an in vivo and in vitro model of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis (GIO). It was found that luteolin treatment could increase the SOD activity and glutathione level of GIO, reduce ROS level and lactate dehydrogenase release, inhibit oxidative damage, promote osteoblast proliferation and enhance osteoblast activity to maintain bone mass in GIO [47]. In irinotecan (CPT-11) -induced intestinal mucositis in the duodenum, luteolin showed a similar effect thereby reducing oxidative damage to cell membranes [48]. It has been reported that in the experiment of liver and kidney dysfunction in rats, doxorubicin (DOX) alone caused a significant decrease in liver and kidney antioxidant enzyme activity, GSH and TSH levels, as well as an increase in lipid peroxidation (LPO), reactive oxygen species and nitrogen (RONS) levels and xanthine oxidase (XO) activity. The combination of luteolin and DOX reversed these reactions and alleviated DOX-induced oxidative stress caused by liver and kidney system damage [49]. These facts suggest that luteolin has the ability to regulate antioxidant enzyme activity or change the activity level of related proteins. Chicken ileum inflammation and oxidative stress caused by Avian pathogenic E. coli (APEC) are one of the main causes of animal death and egg production decline, causing economic losses to the poultry industry. Chickens were fed with luteolin for 13 days, and the differences with or without luteolin were compared. It was found that the levels of HO-1, SOD1, SOD2, CAT, NQO1, glutamate cysteine ligase modifier subunit (GCLM) and GPX1 mRNA in 10 mg/kg luteolin group were significantly increased (p < 0.05). But there was no significant difference in the expression levels of CAT, NQO1 and HO-1 mRNA between the 20



Fig. 3. The main anti-inflammatory mechanism of luteolin.

mg/kg luteolin group and the *E. coli* group (p > 0.05). The results showed that luteolin could increase the mRNA expression levels of antioxidant genes (GCLM, GPX1, SOD1 and SOD2) and alleviate APEC-induced oxidative stress to a certain extent [50].

4.1.4. Other

Fipronil (FPN) is used to control pests and increase food production, and it can also cause toxicity to various cells and tissues of nontarget organisms through peroxide stress. It was found that luteolin can reduce the elevated levels of oxidative stress biomarkers caused by FPN, and increase mitochondrial antioxidant levels to alleviate ROS mediated oxidative stress and mitochondrial damage, and play a protective role in FPN-induced neurotoxicity [51]. Studies have also shown that under oxidative stress conditions, luteolin acts on NADPH oxidase complexes to reduce ROS production. In endothelial cells, the NADPH oxidase complex in the mitochondrial membrane is an effective mechanism for ROS release. The NADPH oxidase complex consists of a membrane-bound heterodimer, including a catalytic NOX2 (gp91phox) and p22phox subunits, and several cytoplasmic subunits assembled in activating enzymes, such as p47phox, p67phox, p40phox and Rac. In the *in vitro* model of human HUVECs, luteolin treatment inhibited the oxidative effects of membrane proteins gp91 and p22 phox, and reduced H₂O₂-induced ROS production. At the same time, luteolin treatment enhanced the expression of p-AMPK protein in a dose-dependent manner, significantly down-regulated the p-PKC subtype to prevent the excessive activity of NAD (P) H oxidase, thereby inhibiting H₂O₂-induced oxidative stress in HUVECs [52]. In addition, the protective



Fig. 4. The main anti-tumor mechanism of luteolin.

effect of luteolin on oxidative stress in endothelial cells was also achieved by down-regulating ROS-mediated P38MAPK/NF- κ B. H₂O₂-induced phosphorylation of P38MAPK and nuclear translocation of NF- κ B were inhibited in luteolin-treated cells, and similar inhibition was observed after pretreatment with ROS inhibitor DPI, suggesting that luteolin has antioxidant effects [53].

4.2. Anti-inflammatory

Inflammation is a complex biochemical reaction between immune cells and non-immune cells when the body is stimulated by external stimuli to maintain homeostasis. Appropriate inflammatory response is beneficial to the body to resist external invasion, but excessive inflammatory response can cause serious diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, and even cancer [54]. In the process of inflammatory reaction, the body secretes a large number of inflammatory factors to react with each other or trigger subsequent reactions. Inflammatory factors are divided into two types: pro-inflammatory factors and anti-inflammatory factors. Common chemokines, eicosane, Interleukin (IL) -1, IL-6, Tumor necrosis factor (TNF), Nitric Oxide (NO), Adrenaline (NA), IL-10, etc. IL-10 is an effective anti-inflammatory factor [55]. These inflammatory factors are closely related to fever, pain, tissue damage and increased vascular permeability caused by inflammatory response [56]. Aziz et al. [57] summarized the reports on the anti-inflammatory activity of luteolin published from 2009 to 2018. It was pointed out that luteolin could inhibit IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-6, IL-8, IL-12, IL-17, TNF- α , Interferon (IFN)- β and granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF) (stimulating the proliferation of granulocytes, monocytes and T cells), and increase the level of anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10. Luteolin could also reduce the permeability of leukocytes and other inflammatory factors [58].

The Anti-inflammatory mechanism of luteolin mainly includes: 0 regulating NF- κ B pathway; 0 regulating MAPK signaling pathway; 0 regulating JAK-STAT signaling pathway. The core idea of the luteolin anti-inflammatory pathway is to regulate the inflammatory factors in the body to a balanced level. The main anti-inflammatory mechanism is shown in Fig. 3.

4.2.1. Luteolin down-regulates NF-κB pathway

Nuclear factor kappa-B (NF- κ B) is a highly conserved family of multifunctional transcription factors. Activated NF- κ B induces transcription of inflammation-related genes and produces a large number of inflammatory factors. It is considered to be related to many diseases and has been used for targeted therapy of many inflammatory diseases [59,60]. Studies had confirmed that luteolin could reduce norepinephrine (NE), NA and NF- κ B levels, reduce sympathetic nerve activity, reduce the number of helper T cells, and treat hypertension (a chronic inflammation) [61]. Haidy Abbas et al. [62] established an animal model of sporadic Alzheimer 's disease (SAD), and confirmed that luteolin could improve the antioxidant level and reduce the levels of pro-inflammatory factors nitric oxide synthase (NOS), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), and TNF- α . It was also observed that the NF- κ B signaling pathway was inhibited by 0.6 times, with significant anti-inflammatory activity. Luteolin could inhibit NF- κ B activation by targeting inhibitor of kappa B kinase (IKK) activation in mouse bone marrow [63].

High Mobility Group Box 1 (HMGB1) is a nuclear protein present in all cells. HMGB1 is linked to Toll-like receptors (TLRs) on target cells to induce inflammatory responses and is used as a key protein in the study of targeted therapy for inflammatory diseases [64]. Toll-like receptor 4(TLR4) can recognize and bind extracellular HMGB1, activate the myeloid differentiation primary response protein 88 (MYD88) pathway and NF- κ B signaling pathway. Cao et al. [50] found that the mRNA expression levels of HMGB1, MYD88 and NF- κ B in the ileum of chickens treated with *E. coli* were significantly lower than those in the *E. coli* group. The mRNA expression level of TLR4 was significantly decreased, and the mRNA levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8 and TNF- α) and anti-inflammatory cytokines (IL-13 and IL-10) were down-regulated, which reduced inflammation and intestinal injury. Luteolin mainly exists in the blood in the form of luteolin glucuronide. Kure, A. et al. [65] found that luteolin glucuronic acid treatment reduced the expression levels of IL-6, IL-1 β , NF- κ B1 and recombinant Jun B proto-oncogene (JunB) in LPS-treated RAW264.7 cells after luteolin treatment for 24 h. Sirtuin silent information regulator sirtuin (Sirt) was a post-translational regulator that was closely related to inflammation [66]. Luteolin was believed to activate Sirt6 by binding to Sirt6 (a member of the Sirt family) -specific acyl-binding channel, reduce TNF- α -induced pro-inflammatory factors IL-1 β and IL-6 levels, and inhibit the phosphorylation of NF- κ B phosphorylation [67]. In addition, luteolin could also be combined with curcumin to treat cell inflammation. Curcumin (1 µm) and luteolin (0.5 µm) synergistically inhibited the protein expression of vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 (VCAM-1) by TNF- α , and synergistically reduced monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) and NF- κ B translocation in EA.hy 926 cells [68].

4.2.2. Inhibition of IL-36 activity regulates MAPK pathway

Mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) includes c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK), p38MAPK and extracellular regulated protein kinases (ERK). IL-36 is activated by MAPK and NF- κ B pathways and receptor IL-36R. Studies had shown that luteolin reduced the expression of IL-36c. Reducing the protein phosphorylation levels of p38MAPK, ERK and JNK proved that luteolin could treat neutrophilic asthma by inhibiting IL-36c (belonging to the IL-1 cytokine family) in the MAPK pathway to secrete pro-inflammatory factor 1L-1b, improving inflammation and reducing the number of neutrophils [69].

4.2.2.1. Down-regulation of JAK-STAT signaling pathway inhibits the secretion of pro-inflammatory factors. The JAK-STAT signaling pathway consists of the non-receptor tyrosine protein kinase JAK family and the 750–900 amino acid STAT family. There was increasing evidence that JAK-STAT signaling pathway disorders were associated with various cancers and autoimmune diseases [70]. Luteolin had anti-inflammatory effects by down-regulating the phosphorylation signal transducer, activating the transcription of p-STAT3 (mainly involved in the negative feedback of immune response) and up-regulating p-STAT6 (mainly involved in the

transduction of anti-inflammatory factors IL-4 and IL-13 signals) [71,72]. Luteolin at 14.3 μ g/mL and 28.6 μ g/mL reduced the total levels of phosphorylated JAK-1 and phosphorylated STAT-1 in cytokine-stimulated HT-29 intestinal cells, thereby significantly inhibiting IL-8 production, as well as iNOS, NO and COX-2 and overexpression [73]. The luteolin rich portion of Perilla seed meal significantly inhibited the expression of NLRP3, ASC, proproteinase-1 (p50), cleavage of caspase-2 (p20) and down-regulation of phosphorylation of JAK1 and STAT3 proteins in a dose-dependent manner. NLRP3 inflammasome was an intracellular complex composed of NLRP3, ASC and proproteinase-1 (p50). The receptor protein of NLRP3 was stimulated to activate caspase-1 and induce its cleavage of caspase-1 (p20). Activated caspase-1 promoted the hydrolysis of pre-IL1 β and pre-IL-18 proteins into IL-1 β and IL-18 and releases them outside the cell [74].

4.3. Antitumor

Cancer is a major health problem worldwide, referring to a group of diseases caused by abnormal cell growth with invasive potential [75]. Oxidative stress plays an important role in the pathophysiology of different types of cancer. Therefore, antioxidants have received extensive attention as a new therapeutic strategy for cancer [76]. *In vitro* and *in vivo* data showed that luteolin can inhibit the growth of malignant tumor cells, such as human liver cancer cells, lung cancer cells, gastric cancer cells, breast cancer cells and colon cancer cells [77,78]. It had been found that the anti-tumor activity of luteolin mainly promoted the induction of apoptosis, cell cycle arrest, inhibition of cell proliferation or migration, or angiogenesis associated with increased invasiveness and tumor development [79]. Its main anti-tumor mechanism was shown in Fig. 4.

4.3.1. Liver cancer

Recent studies had shown that luteolin combined with oncolytic virus (VV) carrying interleukin 24 (IL-24) could synergistically increase the apoptosis of hepatocellular carcinoma cells [80]. Luteolin could increase VV-mediated IL-24 gene expression in hepatocellular carcinoma cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*. IL-24 could activate apoptosis by making cancer cells sensitive to chemotherapy [81], thereby improving anti-tumor effects. Cao et al. [82] found that luteolin increased the expression of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), thereby limiting the growth of liver cancer cells by interfering with the mitochondrial pathway of tumor cells. Targeted modification of luteolin nanoliposomes more effectively enhanced the function of luteolin. Uddin et al. [83] had revealed the mechanism of synergistic anticancer effects of luteolin and tumor necrosis factor related apoptosis inducing ligand (TRAIL) in liver cancer cells. Luteolin promoted the expression of death receptor (DR)5 by inducing the activation of JNK, thereby promoting autophagy flux. Luteolin mediated elevated levels of LC3-I-phospholipid binding compound LC3-II also participate in the upregulation of DR5, and TRAIL triggers the trimerization of DR5 and the aggregation of intracellular adaptive death domains. A death inducing signaling complex is produced, which in turn incites downstream apoptotic executor caspase proteins to promote apoptosis, including in liver cancer cells.

4.3.2. Breast cancer

Breast cancer is one of the three most common gynecological cancers and the leading cause of cancer death in women under the age of 40 [84]. According to 2017 data, there are 255,180 new cases and 41,070 deaths of breast cancer patients in the United States [85]. Among a large number of phytochemicals, polyphenols showed excellent anti-breast cancer activity [86]. MicroRNAs(miRNAs) are small non-coding RNAs involved in the occurrence and development of breast cancer. MiR-203 is a carcinogenic miRNA located on chromosome 14q32.33. However, studies had shown that miR-203 was involved in the proliferation and migration of breast cancer cells as an anti-tumor factor [87]. Gao et al. [88] treated human breast cancer cells (MCF-7 and MDA-MB-453 cells) with luteolin. After treatment with luteolin, the apoptosis of MCF-7 and MDA-MB-453 cells increased significantly. The balance between Bax and Bcl-2 was broken, and Caspase-3 was clearly cut. Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) was an important process for cancer cells to achieve metastasis by reducing the specific protein expression of epithelial cells and the specific protein expression of mesenchymal cells. It was also one of the most important causes of poor tumor growth [89]. In the process of EMT, the transformation of E-cadherin into N-cadherin was considered to be a landmark event. In addition, increased expression of vimentin and Zeb1 was another feature that enhanced the EMT process [90]. In this study, it was found that luteolin inhibited the progression of EMT because the expression of N-cadherin, vimentin and Zeb1 was decreased, while the expression of E-cadherin was increased. In addition, the Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK signaling pathway plays a leading role in driving the physiological effects of breast cancer [91]. Ras was a proto-oncogene, and Raf was one of the downstream genes of Ras. Ras strongly activated Raf and the subsequent MEK/ERK kinase cascade, which in turn induced the metastasis and invasion of breast cancer cells. The current data found that luteolin could significantly inhibit the Ras/Raf/ME-K/ERK signaling pathway, which may be achieved by up-regulating miR-203 [88].

4.3.3. Lung cancer

Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) is a toxic air pollutant that significantly increases the incidence of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, and cancer progression by inducing intracellular oxidative stress, mutagenicity/genotoxicity, and inflammatory responses [92]. It had been reported that PM2.5 exposure promoted the expression of intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM)-1 in lung epithelial A549 cells and rat plasma [93,94]. The expression of EMT markers such as matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-2 and MMP-9, which degrade the extracellular matrix, was also increased in PM2.5-exposed cells. These studies showed that PM2.5 exacerbated the migration and invasion of cancer cells. Lin et al. [95] found that the treatment of luteolin inhibited the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)-protein kinase B(AKT)cascade signal transduction induced by PM2.5 exposure. EGFR was highly expressed in non-small cell lung cancer patients, driving the activation of downstream PI3K-AKT signaling and promoting lung cancer angiogenesis, invasion, survival and metastasis. In addition, luteolin reduced the

expression of MMP-2 and ICAM-1 in PM2.5-stimulated H460 lung cancer cells.

Activated Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog (KRAS) mutations are often observed in non-small cell lung cancer. More and more evidence showed that the expression of PD-L1(immunosuppressive ligand) in lung cancer was related to the KRAS signaling pathway [96]. Interferon- γ (IFN- γ) was an important cytokine, and activation of IFN- γ could down-regulate the downstream JAK-STAT3 pathway, resulting in STAT3 phosphorylation on tyrosine 705, initiating the PD-1/PD-L1 axis and helping tumor cells escape immune surveillance and immune killing [97]. In T cell-mediated cell killing experiments, luteolin increased the sensitivity of T cells to non-small cell carcinoma H460 and H358 cells. Luteolin showed a good inhibitory effect on IFN- γ -induced up-regulation of PD-L1 mRNA and protein expression in mouse and human KRAS mutant lung cancer [98]. Zhang et al. [99] mentioned that luteolin inhibited the migration and invasion of lung cancer cells by targeting the LIMK/cofilin signaling pathway. LIM domain kinase (LIMK)1 was a member of the serine/threonine kinase family and is highly expressed in various cancers [100]. LIMK1 was activated by up-stream kinases such as Rho-associated coiled-coil-containing protein kinase (ROCK) and transmits signals to downstream effectors to regulate actin/filament dynamics through phosphorylation to promote cancer cell growth [99].

4.3.4. Gastric cancer

Zang et al. [101] reported that after luteolin treatment of gastric cancer cells, the cytoskeleton was reduced and the epithelial biomarker E-cadherin increased. In contrast, mesenchymal biomarkers N-cadherin, vimentin and Snail were reduced in a dose-dependent manner, indicating that luteolin reversed the progression of EMT. At the same time, luteolin inhibited Akt, β -catenin and Notch signaling pathways. The Notch signaling pathway was associated with most cancers and promotes malignant changes in tumors by inducing cell proliferation, metastasis, drug resistance and reversing apoptosis [102]. It had been reported that luteolin (OXA). The combination of the two drugs arrested the cell cycle in G0/G1 phase, significantly increased the expression of cyclin D1, and further enhanced the inhibitory effect on the proliferation of SGC-7901 cells. In addition, this combination also activated the Cyt *c*/caspase signaling in SGC-7901 cells. By releasing Cyt *c*, Cyt *c* formed a complex with Apaf1 and procaspase-9, which induced caspase-9 activation, further activated cleaved-caspases-3, and reduced the Bcl-2/Bax ratio, eventually leading to apoptosis of cancer cells [103]. Wu et al. [104] showed that the inhibition of Bcl-2 expression by luteolin may be based on the miR-34a-mediated pathway.

4.3.5. Colorectal cancer

Epidemiological and experimental studies had shown that colon cancer was strongly influenced by nutritional factors, including the number and composition of dietary fat, and lipid peroxidation (LPO) was a free radical-mediated process. It was involved in the



Fig. 5. The main mechanism of luteolin on microorganisms.

formation of lipid free radicals. It was the rearrangement of unsaturated lipids, leading to various degradation products, such as alkanes, MDA, conjugated diene and lipid hydrogen peroxide, and which ultimately damaged cells. Research reports had shown that luteolin could reduce the number of tumors, inhibit lipid peroxidation and restore the role of antioxidant enzymes in colon cancer rat models induced by 1,2-dimethylhydroxy compounds, which may be due to the strong antioxidant properties of luteolin [105]. Some studies had reported that luteolin could inhibit the migration and invasion of colorectal cancer cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*, but does not affect the proliferation of colorectal cancer cells. Pleiotropic protein (PTN) was a small heparin-binding cytokine. It had been found that the expression level of PTN was positively correlated with the occurrence of several cancer cell lines and primary tumors [106]. In colorectal cancer cells, PTN was a direct target of miR-384, and inhibiting the expression of miR-384 reverses the inhibitory effect induced by luteolin, indicating that the anti-colorectal cancer mechanism of luteolin may be mediated by the miR-384/PTN axis. Therefore, miR-384 or PTN could be used as a therapeutic target for colorectal cancer treatment [107].

It had been reported that cAMP response element binding protein 1 (CREB1) was also a promising target for cancer treatment. CREB1 was a nuclear transcription factor and a proto-oncogene that was activated by Ser/Thr kinase phosphorylation at Ser133 [108]. Overexpression of CREB1 had been detected in various cancer patients, including rectal cancer. Liu et al. [109] reported that luteolin inhibited CREB1 expression at the transcriptional level and prevents EMT in colorectal cancer cells. In HCT-116 and LoVo colorectal cancer cells without luteolin treatment, overexpression of CREB1 restored mesenchymal phenotype, migration ability and expression of mesenchymal markers, whereas mRNA levels of CREB1 and its downstream target genes, including Cyclin A1, Cyclin D1, Bcl-2, VEGF and MMP- 2, were significantly decreased. It had also been found that luteolin showed its anticancer effect by increasing p53 phosphorylation and p53 target gene expression, leading to apoptosis and cell cycle arrest in HCT116 human colon cancer cells with wild-type p53 [110].

4.3.6. Bladder cancer

Bladder cancer is the tenth most common cancer in the world, with an estimated 549,000 new cases and 200,000 deaths each year [111]. Smoking is the largest risk factor for bladder cancer death and the largest risk factor for its incidence. Excessive ROS produced by cigarette smoke, as an oxidative stress, can induce genomic instability and promote tumorigenesis [112]. Thioredoxin-1 (TRX1) was a 12-kDa thiol redox-active protein that was thought to protect individuals from oxidative stress-induced damage by scavenging ROS [113]. Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) was a highly conserved serine-threonine kinase that acted as an anticancer agent to inhibit cell growth or proliferation and as an immunosuppressant for a variety of cancers, including bladder cancer cells [114]. Studies had shown that luteolin could up-regulate TRX1 and down-regulate mTOR signaling in human bladder cancer, and the use of TRX1 inhibitors would reverse the inhibitory effect of luteolin, indicating that TRX1 was a tumor suppressor gene in bladder cancer. In the study, it was also found that luteolin up-regulated the expression of cell cycle inhibitory protein p21 protein and induced G2/M phase arrest in human bladder cancer cells. In addition, the concentration of luteolin-3'-O-glucuronic acid, a metabolite of luteolin in plasma and urine of experimental rats, was closely related to the inhibition of cell proliferation and mTOR signaling. With the increase of luteolin-3'-O-glucuronic acid concentration, the squamous differentiation of bladder cancer decreased significantly. These results provided a theoretical basis for the treatment of bladder cancer with luteolin and its derivatives [115].

4.3.7. Pancreatic cancer

Induction of cancer cell apoptosis is an effective method for cancer treatment. It is regulated by members of the B-cell lymphoma 2 (BCL-2) protein family on the mitochondrial outer membrane, which is called the intrinsic pathway regulation of apoptosis [116]. Li et al. [117] found that the apoptosis rate of SW1990 pancreatic cancer cells increased from 13.6 % to 31.48 % and 88.38 % after exposure to 50 μ M and 100 μ M luteolin for 24 h, and SW1990 cells with higher BCL-2 expression (IC₅₀ = 35.67 ± 0.40 μ M) were more sensitive to luteolin than other cells (IC₅₀ = 112.3 ± 19.66 μ M). Compared with the control cells, the thermal stability of BCL-2 in luteolin-pretreated cells was better. At the same time, it was revealed that luteolin induced the death of pancreatic cancer cells by stimulating BAX release from BCL-2 to activate the mitochondrial apoptosis pathway. These results indicated that the specific binding of luteolin to BCL-2 in SW1990 cells could be used for the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

4.4. The effect of luteolin on microorganisms

Luteolin has a broad effect on microorganisms, which is mainly divided into three aspects: ① The antibacterial effect of luteolin; ② The antiviral effect of luteolin; ③ Regulation of luteolin on intestinal flora. The main mechanism was shown in Fig. 5.

4.4.1. Antibacterial effect of luteolin

Luteolin not only has a wide antibacterial spectrum and strong antibacterial activity, but also can eliminate bacterial resistance, and has a good effect on the treatment of bacterial infections, especially drug-resistant bacterial infections. The antibacterial mechanism of luteolin mainly includes three parts: ① Affect the formation of biofilm, destroy the integrity of cell wall and biofilm; ② Affect the secretion of toxic factors and reduce the cytotoxicity of pathogenic bacteria; ③ Inhibiting enzyme activity in pathogenic bacteria and affecting related metabolic pathways.

4.4.1.1. Affect the formation of biofilm, destroy the integrity of cell wall and biofilm. The integrity of bacterial biofilm is of great significance to maintain the normal life activities of cells. If the integrity of cell membrane and cell wall is damaged, the growth, development and reproduction of bacteria will be affected, leading to bacterial death [118]. *Trueperella pyogenes*(*T. pyogenes*) is often

found on the surface and mucosa of the upper respiratory tract and genitourinary tract of healthy animals. It can develop into pathogenic bacteria in a certain state, infect animals and humans, and cause purulent infection of tissue and organ mucosa [119]. Zhang et al. [120] and Guo et al. [121] showed that luteolin could inhibit the formation ability of suppurative *T. pyogenes* biofilms, destroy cell walls, eliminate mature biofilms, result in intracellular component spill and rough cell edges. In addition, Zhang et al. [120] evaluated the effect of luteolin on biofilm-related genes of *T. pyogenes* isolated by real-time quantitative PCR detection. The results showed that luteolin could significantly inhibit the relative expressions of biofilm-related genes LuxS, plo, RbsB and LsrB.

Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) is a clinically common and highly toxic bacterium. Sun et al. [122] found that MRSA N315 bacteria treated with luteolin (16 µg/mL) had sparse cell walls, light color, blurred cell membrane boundaries, and the synthesis of d-hemolysin, which played an important role in crossing the plasma membrane, was blocked compared with untreated cells. These results indicated that luteolin could regulate the synthesis or depolymerization of MRSA N315 bacterial wall, inhibit the ability of biofilm formation, and promote the morphological changes of MRSA. *Escherichia coli, Enterobacter cloacae, Staphylococcus aureus* and *Listeria monocytogenes* are common foodborne pathogens associated with foodborne diseases. Qian et al. [123,124] found that after luteolin treatment of the above foodborne pathogens, the number of damaged cells increased significantly, the integrity of the cell membrane was destroyed, and the cell morphology changed significantly. In addition, luteolin also had a strong inhibitory effect on the formation of biofilms. It could promote the diffusion of antibiotics in biofilms and effectively kill single and double biofilm cells. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is an important role in biofilm adhesion and provide a protective barrier for bacterial cells [125]. Geng et al. [125] found that luteolin could significantly reduce the production of EPS during the initial biofilm formation of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, making the biofilm to be formed thinner.

4.4.1.2. Affect the secretion of toxic factors and reduce the cytotoxicity of pathogenic bacteria. The pathogenicity of bacteria depends on the pathogenic factors they secrete, which can cause direct damage to host tissues or assist in invading the body and evade the immune response of the body [118]. Group A streptococcus (GAS, Streptococcus pyogenes) is a common pathogen that can cause a variety of human diseases. Streptolysin O (SLO) is an exotoxin produced by GAS, which allows GAS to evade phagocytosis and clearance of neutrophils, induce eukaryotic cell lysis, and activate inflammasomes [126]. Guo et al. [127] showed that luteolin could bind SLO with high affinity, inhibit its dissolution of red blood cells, affect its conformational stability and inhibit the formation of oligomers, thus inhibiting the toxicity of SLO. Pyocyanin was a special virulence factor of Pseudomonas aeruginosa, which has a variety of toxic effects by promoting systemic oxidative stress and inflammatory response [128]. The results of Geng et al. [125] showed that 200 µM luteolin could significantly inhibit the production of pyocyanin. A-hemolysin may cause tissue damage and it is a key component of Staphylococcus aureus products. Hla-A is a virulence-encoding gene of Staphylococcus aureus [122]. Sun et al. [122] found that luteolin inhibited the cytotoxicity of MRSA by reducing the level of Hla-A and blocking the synthesis of bacterial toxins. The α -toxin was a toxic factor encoded by the Hla gene and secreted by most pathogenic Staphylococcus aureus strains. This toxin was a 33.2 kDa cytolytic protein that dissolves red blood cells and some white blood cells [129]. δ-toxin, a member of the phenol-soluble modulins (PSMs) secreted peptide family, was encoded by the Hld gene and had lytic activity on human neutrophils, contributing to synergistic hemolysis and PSM-mediated phenotype and also playing an important role in the pathogenesis of Staphylococcus aureus [130]. Yuan et al. [131] showed that luteolin could reduce the pathogenicity of Staphylococcus aureus by inhibiting the expression of Hla and Hld genes and inhibiting the production of α -toxin and δ -toxin. Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) is a food-poisoning bacterium that grows in the intestine to produce Shiga toxin (Stx), which is the main virulence factor leading to many symptoms. Yuan et al. [132] showed that luteolin might inhibit the cytotoxicity of Stx1 and Stx2 by inhibiting the incorporation of Stxs into cells.

4.4.1.3. Inhibiting enzyme activity in pathogenic bacteria and affecting related metabolic pathways. DNA topoisomerase is a key enzyme in the regulation of nucleic acid metabolism, which can catalyze the expansion and breakage of DNA strands and complete the process of DNA replication and transcription [133]. Guo et al. [121] found that luteolin could inhibit the activity of the key enzymes topoisomerase I and II in the nucleic acid metabolism of *T. pyogenes*, resulting in a decrease in nucleic acid content. Under aerobic conditions, pyruvate was completely oxidized to carbon dioxide and water through the tricarboxylic acid cycle, thus becoming the main energy source for bacterial life activities. ATP is the direct energy source of metabolism and plays an important role in the energy metabolism of organisms. Under normal physiological conditions, the intracellular ATP content is always in a dynamic equilibrium state. Succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) is a key enzyme in the tricarboxylic acid cycle and is one of the centers linking oxidative phosphorylation with electron transport. The results of Guo et al. [121] showed that luteolin could inhibit the SDH activity of *T. pyogenes* and reduce the intracellular ATP content, thus interfering with energy metabolism. TatD DNase was a DNA enzyme that can be synthesized in a variety of organisms. It not only participated in the immune evasion process of pathogens and affected the pathogenicity of pathogens, but also has been proved to be closely related to the biofilm formation of *T. pyogenes* [134]. Zhang et al. [134] showed that luteolin might inhibit the binding of TatD DNase to DNA, resulting in a decrease or complete loss of TatD DNase activity, thereby reducing *T. pyogenes* biofilm and virulence.

4.4.2. Antiviral effect of luteolin

After virus infects specific living cells, viral nucleic acids and proteins can be synthesized by using the energy system, tRNA, ribosomes of host cells under the control of viral nucleic acids (genomes), and finally assembled into mature viral particles with complete structure and infectivity. At present, luteolin has been found to have an effective antiviral effect on influenza A virus (IAV),

severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), dengue virus (DENV), coxsackie virus B3 (CVB3), hepatitis B virus (HBV), etc. Inhibition of viral replication is the main mechanism for its antiviral effect.

IAV is the main pathogen of influenza, and influenza caused by IAV is one of the major public health problems facing mankind [135]. The COPI complex is involved in the content transport between the Golgi apparatus and the endoplasmic reticulum, mediating the entry and endocytosis pathways of influenza viruses [136]. Yan et al. [136] found that luteolin could not only inhibit the replication of IAV virus in the early stage, but also exert antiviral activity by inhibiting the expression of coat protein I (COPI) and affecting the entry and endocytosis of IAV. SARS-CoV-2 had rapidly become a global health pandemic. Among viral proteins, RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) was responsible for viral genome replication. Munafò et al. [137] found that luteolin showed stronger anti-RdRp polymerase activity against SARS-CoV-2. RSV was the main cause of acute lower respiratory tract infection in infants, children, immunocompromised adults and the elderly. MiR-155 and its target gene cytokine signaling pathway gene 1 (SOCS1) were key regulators of effector CD8 (+) T cells, which affect cytokine signaling pathway through STAT5 [138]. Wang et al. [138] showed that luteolin could inhibit the replication of RSV in vitro and in vivo by inducing miR-155 targeting SOCS1, thereby enhancing the activation of STAT1 phosphorylation and the expression of IFN-stimulated gene (ISG). Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by DENV. The host enzyme furin plays a key role in activating a variety of viruses. Peng et al. [139] found that luteolin disrupted the late life cycle of intracellular dengue virus by inhibiting furin in a non-competitive mode, resulting in inefficient cleavage of precursor membrane (prM) proteins and production of less mature viral particles, thereby effectively reducing or preventing subsequent viral infections. CVB3 infection can cause many inflammation-related diseases, such as viral myocarditis and aseptic meningitis [140]. Wu et al. [140] found that luteolin could effectively inhibit the replication of CVB3, and its antiviral mechanism may be through inhibiting the phosphorylation of p38 MAPK and JNK MAPK, inhibiting the nuclear translocation of NF-kB, and then weakening the expression of inflammatory cytokines such as IL-8, IL-6, IL-1β and TNF-α in CVB3 infected cells. HBV can cause transient and chronic liver infections, and chronic hepatitis B (CHB) is a major public health problem worldwide. Cui et al. [141] showed that luteolin-7-O-glucoside might inhibit the expression of hepatitis B virus antigen and viral replication by reducing HBV-induced mitochondrial ROS production and preventing the continuous activation of related signaling pathways.

4.4.3. Regulation of luteolin on intestinal flora

Intestinal microflora is an important part of the intestinal microecosystem, which plays a key role in the physiological functions and processes of nutrition absorption, growth and development, biological barrier, immune regulation, fat metabolism and anti-tumor activities in the host [142]. At present, many studies had found that luteolin had the function of regulating the composition and diversity of intestinal flora and improving nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, ulcerative colitis, diabetes and other diseases.

In the development of simple steatosis (SS) to nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), enhancing intestinal barrier function is one of the basic methods to inhibit inflammation [143]. Sun et al. [143] found that supplementation of luteolin could enrich more than 10 % of bacterial species, reduce intestinal permeability, plasma endotoxin, and inhibit TLR4/TLR/NF-KB pathway to reduce liver inflammatory factors TNF- α and IL-6, and prevent the progression from SS to NASH. Liu et al. [144] found that luteolin could play a therapeutic role in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) through the intestinal-hepatic axis. It could not only actively up-regulate the expression of intestinal tight junction proteins ZO-1, occludin and claudin-1 to help protect and maintain the integrity of the intestinal mucosal barrier, but also inhibit the TLR4 signaling pathway in the liver, thereby reducing the secretion of pro-inflammatory factors IL-1β, IL-6 and TNF-α, and effectively restoring the symbiotic ecosystem of the intestinal microflora. Ulcerative colitis (UC) is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease associated with intestinal biological disorders. Li et al. [145] found that luteolin treatment could change the diversity and composition of intestinal microflora in UC rats, reduce the levels of NF-κB, IL-17 and IL-23 in UC rats, increase the level of PPAR-γ, reduce colon injury in UC rats, and inhibit colon inflammation. Ge et al. [146] found that the modified 6, 8-(1, 3-diaminoguanidine) luteolin (DAGL) and its Cr complex (DAGL-Cr) could increase the relative abundance of beneficial microorganisms such as Alistipes and Ruminiclostridium in the cecum, improve islet function indicators, regulate serum and liver biochemical indicators, repair damaged tissues, and regulate PI3K/AKT-1 to improve hyperglycemia in T2DM mice. In addition, they also found that luteolin combined with metformin hydrochloride (MH) could regulate SREBP-1c/FAS and SREBP-1c/ACC/Cpt-1 signaling pathways, reduce the ratio of Firmicutes to Bacteroidetes (F/B), and increase the relative abundance of some microbiota to alleviate lipid metabolism disorders in HFD-fed mice [147].

4.5. Other biological activities of luteolin

4.5.1. Neuroprotective effect

Alzheimer's disease (AD)is a progressive neurodegenerative disease characterized by cognitive impairment and behavioral changes caused by synaptic damage and neuronal loss. It is the most common cause of dementia in the elderly (accounting for 50 %-70 % of all dementias). More than 50 million patients worldwide are affected by AD, and this number is expected to double by 2050. The endoplasmic reticulum stress response induced by overactive astrocytes is considered to be involved in the development of AD. Kou et al. [148] studied the protective effect of luteolin on AD. The AD mouse model was administered with 20 and 40 mg/kg luteolin for three weeks. From the molecular level, it was observed that luteolin not only inhibited the excessive activation of astrocytes and the secretion of neuroinflammatory cells, but also reduced the overexpression of endoplasmic reticulum stress markers glucose-regulated protein 78 (GRP78) and inositol enzyme $1\alpha(IRE1\alpha)$ in brain tissue. In LPS-induced rat C6 glioma cells, similar results were observed after luteolin treatment, which indicated that luteolin had the potential to improve AD and laid a certain experimental foundation for the future development of luteolin as a therapeutic agent for AD.

Ischemic stroke refers to hemiplegia and disturbance of consciousness caused by cerebral infarction and cerebral artery occlusion

on the basis of cerebral thrombosis or cerebral thrombosis. The resulting cell stress can also cause mitochondrial disorders, oxidative stress and a series of nerve damage [149]. Dong linked the neuroprotective effect of luteolin to neuroinflammation, endothelial cell injury, blood-brain barrier rupture, apoptosis, oxidative stress, thrombosis, and reduction in infarct volume. PC-12 cells were pretreated with 5,10 and 20 μ M luteolin for 24 h, followed by 6 h of OGD treatment. It was not only observed that luteolin maintained the viability of PC-12 cells after oxygen and glucose deprivation (OGD)-induced injury in a concentration-dependent manner, but also down-regulated the expression of inflammatory factors IL-1 β and TNF, MAPK signaling pathway, cyclooxygenase- 2(COX-2), MMP-9 and JNK signaling pathways to maintain brain tissue viability after ischemic brain injury [150].

4.5.2. Analgesic effect

Bone cancer pain (BCP)is common in patients with advanced breast cancer, prostate cancer and lung cancer because the skeletal system is the most common site of metastasis in these cancers. The mechanism of BCP is complex, involving the communication between osteocytes, cancer cells and bone nerve fibers and neurons. Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related death worldwide. It is estimated that 34.3 % of cancer cells are transferred to bone. Zhou et al. [151] use Lewis's lung cancer cells to establish a BCP mouse model. The experimental results showed that luteolin effectively alleviated bone pain in mice caused by lung cancer, and inhibited neuroinflammation by regulating phosphorylated p-38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) in the spinal dorsal horn (SDH)and blocking the activation of glial cells and NOD-like receptor protein 3 (NLRP3) inflammasome, which played an important role in cancer-induced bone pain.

5. Product development

Based on the excellent antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor functions and the characteristics of microorganisms, the application potential of luteolin in the food field has also been explored. Luteolin can be applied to the preservation of fruits and other agricultural products. The quality deterioration of fresh fruits after harvest is mainly caused by the imbalance of cell redox homeostasis and fungal infection caused by changes in environmental conditions. Liu et al. [152] studied the maintenance and disease resistance of sweet cherry quality by exogenous application of luteolin. The results showed that luteolin could not only improve the antioxidant capacity, but also inhibit the mycelial growth of fungal pathogens. Luteolin treatment significantly reduced the incidence of membrane lipid peroxidation in sweet cherries and significantly increased enzyme activities (SOD, POD, and GR), thereby maintaining the balance of cell redox state. At the same time, luteolin had different degrees of inhibitory effect on the mycelial growth and pathogenicity of the main fungal pathogens (B. cinerea and *P. expansum*) that caused postharvest decay of sweet cherries. It could better maintain the sensory quality of sweet cherries and reduce the incidence of diseases during storage.

As the main food and feed crop planted worldwide, corn is highly susceptible to *Aspergillus flavus* infection and aflatoxin contamination. Among them, aflatoxin is extremely toxic and classified as a class of carcinogens by the World Health Organization and is highly regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The production of flavonoids is related to the resistance of maize to aflatoxin accumulation. Corn has been shown to produce O-methyl flavonoids to deal with fungal infections and exhibit antifungal activity against several fungi. Castano et al. [153] showed that flavonoids such as luteolin regulated fungal proliferation and aflatoxin concentration, while low concentrations of flavonoids inhibited fungal proliferation. In addition, it was observed by scanning electron microscopy that the integrity of the fungal cell wall was destroyed after the treatment of flavonoids, and luteolin and apigenin may localize in the vesicle-like structure, suggesting that flavonoids can be used as potential signal molecules at low concentrations. The vesicle-like structure enters the fungal cells and changes the oxidation state of the microenvironment, which may lead to changes in proliferation, development and aflatoxin production.

In addition, flavonoids, as a chain-breaking antioxidant, supply hydrogen to replace unsaturated fatty acids (UFA) to peroxyl radicals during lipid oxidation, thereby delaying the oxidation rate of peroxy-induced UFA. Tsimogiannis et al. [154] studied the antioxidant structure-activity relationship of flavonoids in the process of cottonseed oil autoxidation. It was found that the rate constants of luteolin and rutin in the initial rapid stage of the reaction in the free radical 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) experiment were much higher than the rate constants of taxifolin, iodine diol, etc., which may be related to the presence of 2,3-double bonds leading to the increase of resonance structure, allowing electrons to delocalize from the aromatic oxygen group on the B-ring to the C-ring, thereby increasing the reaction rate with the peroxide group. The antioxidant activity of luteolin has been confirmed and can be used to develop natural antioxidants for oil, fat and fat-containing foods.

Based on the excellent antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-tumor functions of luteolin and its effects on microorganisms, researchers in the fields of food, medicine and cosmetics have developed products with luteolin as the main ingredient.

Among them, in the food sector, Sung has developed a health functional food composition for improving joint health with luteolin as the main active ingredient that can be used to alleviate or treat autoimmune diseases. KIM's invention could be used to prevent or treat liver disease.

In the medical field, Hofleitner et al. developed a composition for the treatment of viral infections using luteolin, quercetin, kaempferol, and vitamin C, as well as therapeutically acceptable vectors. Li et al. developed a drug based on luteolin that could be used to prevent and control dengue virus. Shang et al. found a composition with luteolin as the main active ingredient that could be used to combat myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury (MIRI).

In the field of cosmetics, with luteolin as the main active ingredient, Il et al. invented an anti-itch composition that was very effective in inhibiting the production of itch-related cytokines without causing toxicity or side effects. Chool et al. developed a skin whitening composition with luteolin -7-sulfate as the main active ingredient, which could inhibit the effect of melanin production by

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al.

Table 3 Patent table of luteolin related products.

Application type	Product name	Essential component	Manufacturing enterprise	Function	Website
Medicine field	Compositions for the treatment of viral infections	Luteolin, quercetin, kaempferol, vitamin C	Hofleitner, Peter[Us/Us]	Prevention or treatment of viral infection	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=WO2021257252
Medicine field	Compositions containing antioxidants for the treatment of pain and inflammation	Oleuropein, hydroxytyrosol (3 ' 4 ' -DHPEA) and tyrosol (p- DHPEA) and flavonoids (rutin, quercetin, luteolin and apigenin).	Atlas Olive Oils Sarl.[Ma/Ma]	In vitro inhibition of PGE2, LTB4, TNF- a, IL-6, IL-1 and high-sensitivity c- reactive protein (hs-CRP).	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=WO2020095236
Medicine field	Use of luteolin in preparation of medicament for preventing and treating dengue virus infection	Luteolin	Dongguan Mathematical Engineering Academy Of Chinese Medicine, Guanzhou University Of Chinese Medicine[Cn/Cn]	Anti-dengue fever virus, prevention and treatment of dengue fever infection	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=WO2018107614
Medicine field	Composition containing active components of <i>dracocephalum</i> <i>moldavica</i> L. Against myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury	Luteolin, kaempferol and luteolin-7-0 glucoside	Nanjing Road Yinglunze Biopharmaceutical Technology Co., Ltd.,Nanjing, Jiangsu (CN)	Reduce hypoxia/reoxygenation- induced rat primary myocardial cell injury and apoptosis rate; reduce cell LDH leakage; improve cell glycolysis, improve cell energy metabolism disorders	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=US204140502
drugs & medical technology	Use of luteolin-7-diglucuronide in preparation of drug for preventing cardiac damage or fibrosis	Luteolin-7-diglucuronide	Yueyang Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine Affiliated to Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences	Inhibition of myocardial cell necrosis, granulation tissue formation, inflammatory cell invasion, myocardial fibrosis formation	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=WO2017148338
Nanomedicine and pharmaceutical nanotechnology	Development of nanomaterial for controlled release of luteolin in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases	Luteolin-p (HEMA-MATrp) nanopolymer	EGE Universltesi[TR/TR]	Increasing oral bioavailability, increasing plasma half-life, reducing dose requirements and intake frequency play a neuroprotective and neuroregulatory role in neurodegeneration.	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=WO2022139732
The field of nutritional supplements	Nutraceutical composition for pde4 inhibition, enhanced dopamine metabolism and long term potentiation	Luteolin, quercetin, hesperidin, oleanthin A, luteolin, xanthone or resveratrol and cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) enhancer.	Justin Sher, San Mateo, CA(US)	Increase cognitive function	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=US294690857
Drugs, health products	composition for preventing or treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder comprising luteolin	Luteolin, <i>artichoke</i> extract or part thereof	Fuqing University Industry-University Cooperation Group, Quanbei University Industry-University Cooperation Group	It has antagonist effect on dopamine Da receptor (DR).	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR335127762
Pharmaceuticals, health functional foods	composition for preventing or treating arthritis and autoimmune diseases comprising luteolin 7-0-(6 prime; -malonylglucoside) derived from leaf of anthriscus sylvestris as active component	Luteolin 7-0- (6 ' -malonylglucoside)	Korea University Industry-University Cooperation Group	Inhibition of NF-KB nuclear translocation; inhibition of MMP-3 or MMP-13 production; for the prevention or treatment of arthritis	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR248945790

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Table 3 (continued)

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Application type	Product name	Essential component	Manufacturing enterprise	Function	Website
Pharmaceuticals, health food	pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating liver disease containing luteolin as active component	luteolin	Daegu Korean Medical University Industry-University Cooperation Group	Inhibition of hepatocyte CHOP protein expression; inhibit the activity of endoplasmic reticulum stress in hepatocytes	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR237670820
Pharmaceutical composition or health care composition	composition for inhibiting skin cell proliferation and/or anti-inflammation method for inhibiting skin cell proliferation and/or anti-inflammation and method for treating skin diseases and/or inflammatory diseases	Apigenin, luteolin	Industrial Technology Research Institute, Hsinchu(TW)	Inhibit skin cell proliferation and/or anti-inflammation	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=US313640107
Pharmaceutical products, functional foods	pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating endometriosis comprising quercetin, luteolin, delphinidin or mixture thereof	Quercetin, luteolin, delphinidin or their mixture	Koryo University Industry-University Cooperation Group	Inhibit the phosphorylation of lower signal transduction substances in PI3K/ AKT signaling pathway; inhibition of endometriosis cell proliferation; prevention and treatment of endometriosis	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR323639814
Pharmaceuticals, health products, functional foods	use of luteolin and derivatives thereof in the prevention and treatment of heart failure	Luteolin or its derivatives	The University Of Tokyo, Jp; Theravalues Corporation, Jp	Inhibition of cardiac fibrosis, ventricular wall thickening, large heart, heart failure and aneurysm, prevention and treatment of heart disease.	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CA96757129
Health functional food field	composition for preventing or treating diabetes	More than two compounds composed of glyceollin, luteolin, genistein and Daidzein.	Qingbei University Industry- University Cooperation Group	Inhibit α -glucosidase activity, prevent or improve diabetes	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR332966388
Cosmetics, pharmaceutical field	antipruritic composition containing mixture of luteolin and apigenin as active ingredient	Luteolin, apigenin	Atq & A Technology Co., LTD	Inhibit the production of IL-31 and IL33 <i>in vivo</i> , prevent or improve pruritus.	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR339300676
Cosmetics, drugs, food	composition for skin whitening containing ruteolin-7-sulfate as active ingredient	Luteolin-7-sulfate	Qingbei University Industry- University Cooperation Group	Inhibition of tyrosinase activity, inhibition of melanin production	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR203611707
Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food	extracellular atp concentration inhibitor	<i>Rosmarinic</i> acid, luteolin glucan	Ichimarupharcos Co., Ltd.[Jp/Jp]	Inhibit the increase of extracellular ATP concentration and improve skin viscoelasticity.	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=JP311618549
Medical products, pharmaceuticals, health functional food, cosmetics, animal feed	antibacterial composition for inhibiting antibiotic-resistant staphylococcus aureus containing luteolin	luteolin	Republic of Korea (Director of Rural Revitalization)	Inhibition of drug-resistant Staphylococcus aureus	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=KR200974894
Food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals	Composition containing luteolin and its manufacturing method	Water-dispersible powder compositions of luteolin and quinoa saponin	Petroeuroasia Co., Ltd. Shizuoka 411–0903(JP)	Increased water solubility of luteolin	https://patentscope2.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=JP300867650
Soil regulating material technology field	A soil conditioner which can reduce the sodium ion content in rhizosphere soil and improve the salt resistance of crops.	Quercetin, luteolin, naringenin	China agricultural university	Stimulate soil microbial activity, improve rhizosphere soil biological fertility, significantly reduce rhizosphere soil sodium ion content, reduce salt damage, and enhance crop salt resistance and increase yield.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN394457854
Medical health technology field	Application of luteolin in the preparation of drugs for the treatment or prevention of psoriasis	luteolin	Nanjing University (Suzhou) High- tech Research Institute	It is proved that luteolin exhibits good anti-inflammatory activity in the treatment of skin inflammation and can	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN383860716 (continued on next page)

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Table 3 (continued)

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Application type	Product name	Essential component	Manufacturing enterprise	Function	Website
food field	An anti-allergic functional food based on egg albumin and luteolin and its	Luteolin, egg white protein	Zhejiang Liziyuan Food Co., Ltd.	be used for anti-inflammatory treatment of psoriasis. Using luteolin to form anti-allergic functional food	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? dogtd=Cl/20104252
Pharmaceutical preparation technology field	Luteolin green algae hydrogel preparation and its preparation method and application	Luteolin, green algae	Tibet university	It can be applied to dermatology, such as the treatment of diabetic refractory wounds, with high bioavailability; improving the storage stability of luteolin green algae hydrogel preparation	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN391138697
Biological control technology field	A feeding inhibitor of soybean thrips and its screening method and application	Luteolin, coumaric acid, sinapic acid, phloridzin	China agricultural university	It is natural, green and safe, and the control effect on soybean thrips in the field can reach 82.6 %.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN376576852
drugs & medical technology	Application of Luteolin in the Preparation of Atopic Dermatitis Lesions Treatment Drugs	Luteolin and its medicinal derivatives	Wuhan university	By inhibiting the increase of IL-4, IL-13, IL-6, TNF- α , IL-17, p-JAK2 and p-STAT3 levels to prevent, alleviate or treat atopic dermatitis lesions, it is more friendly to patients with spleen deficiency or poor thymus, and avoids the damage of glucocorticoid drugs to the spleen and thymus.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN379907896
Emulsion preparation technology field	A Pickering emulsion stabilized by luteolin and its preparation method and application	Luteolin, deionized water, ethanol, specific edible oil	Dalian university of technology	The operation is simple, the light stability and viscosity of the prepared emulsion are improved, the retention rate of fat-soluble active substances is high, and the stability is good.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN382089055
Emulsion preparation technology field	A fish skin gelatin emulsion stabilized by luteolin and its preparation method and application	Luteolin, ethanol, deionized water, corn oil,	Dalian university of technology	The emulsion prepared by the invention has small average particle size, uniform structure distribution, strong free radical scavenging ability and good stability, and can be used as an effective embedding system for fat-soluble active substances.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN380626173
medicine field	The composition and application of luteolin and its derivatives as effective components to promote hair growth	Luteolin and its derivatives and preparation excipients	Zhejiang Xizhenglin Biotechnology Co., Ltd.	Promote hair growth in the hair removal area, increase growth rate and increase the number of hair follicles.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN376489988
Drugs & medical technology	Application of luteolin combined with cichoric acid in the preparation of breast cancer therapeutic drugs	Luteolin, cichoric acid	China pharmaceutical university	It has a very good effect against triple negative breast cancer, and no side effects	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN376162969
New drug use technology field	Application of a luteolin in the preparation of drugs for the treatment of gastric precancerous diseases	luteolin	Peking university third hospital	It significantly improved the state of gastric mucosal epithelial cells after bile acid intervention and down-regulated the expression of intestinal metaplasia- specific molecules CDX2 and KLF4.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN379067788
Microneedle technology field	A luteolin soluble microneedle and its preparation method	luteolin	Zunyi medical university	Inhibit the expression of NLRP3 inflammasome in rheumatoid arthritis, reduce the expression of caspase-1, RANKL, VEGF and HIF-1 α protein in toes, and break through the stratum	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN377044029

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Table 3 (continued)					
Application type	Product name	Essential component	Manufacturing enterprise	Function	Website
				corneum barrier of skin to effectively treat rheumatoid arthritis.	
Food processing technology field	Simultaneous reduction of 4-methyli- midazole and advanced glycation end products in baked foods based on natural active ingredients	Luteolin, rutin, naringenin	southern yangtze university	Reduce production costs and keep cake quality unaffected	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN371940248
Biomedical technology field	A water celery composition for preventing toothache and its preparation method and application	Apigenin, luteolin, diosmetin, chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid and gallic acid	Chengdu Zhuxiang Biotechnology Co., Ltd.	Inhibition of Candida albicans, prevention and treatment of toothache	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN364708860
medicine field	Application of luteolin in the preparation of drugs inhibiting the functional activity of Streptococcus pyogenes hemolysin	luteolin	Academy of Military Sciences, Chinese People 's Liberation Army	It can bind to SLO protein with high affinity to inhibit the functional activity of Streptococcus pyogenes hemolysin.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN362104413
drugs & medical technology	A drug composition for the treatment of viral myocarditis and its preparation method	Luteolin, L-carnitine	Jiamusi university	Inhibit the inflammatory response of VMC myocardial tissue, reduce the apoptosis of myocardial tissue, and alleviate CVB3 virus-induced myocardial injury.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN360635831
biosphere	An ES large biological fiber containing apigenin, luteolin and daidzein	Apigenin, luteolin, daidzein	Baicaobian Biotechnology (Qingdao) Co., Ltd.	It has excellent antibacterial properties, washing resistance and outstanding mechanical properties.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN364577449
biotechnology field	Application of luteolin in the preparation of health care products or drugs to improve hypoxia tolerance	luteolin	Institute of Environmental Medicine and Occupational Medicine, Academy of Military Medical Sciences	It can significantly increase the activity of GSH-Px and T-SOD in serum, the activity of T-SOD in myocardial tissue and decrease the content of MDA in liver tissue under closed hypoxia.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN365364681
Pharmaceutical cosmetics field	Application of luteolin and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts as dopamine receptor agonists in cosmetics	luteolin	Shanghai Chengmu Biotechnology Co., Ltd.	Activation of dopamine receptors, inhibition of adenylate cyclase activity and promotion of down-regulation of cyclic adenosine monophosphate	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN365362222
biomedicine field	Targets of luteolin-autism related genes and their screening methods	luteolin	Air Force Medical University of Chinese PLA	Through 19 related disease targets such as TP53, AKT1, ERBB2, TNF, etc., we can regulate related inflammatory molecular signaling pathways.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN370573340
drugs & medical technology	The use of luteolin in the preparation of drugs for the prevention and/or treatment of novel coronavirus infection	luteolin	Tianjin university of tcm	Inhibition of novel coronavirus S protein and ACE2 binding	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN351914442
drugs & medical technology	Composition and its application in the preparation of drugs for the treatment of retinitis pigmentosa	Luteolin, <i>Lycium barbarum</i> glycopeptide	Aier Eye Hospital Group Co., Ltd. ; jinan University; ningxia Tianren Wolfberry Biotechnology Co., Ltd.	Significantly improve the survival rate of retinal photoreceptor cells in RP model mice, significantly improve the visual behavior of mice, and protect the retinal structure of RP model mice.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN342346824
drugs & medical technology	New application of luteolin in enhancing the anti-Staphylococcus aureus effect of alkyl gallate compounds	luteolin	Taizhou university	Improve their inhibitory activity against Staphylococcus aureus, play a synergistic role	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN345642210
Tumor drug research	Application of luteolin in the preparation of drugs targeting inhibition of ovarian cancer stem cells	luteolin	Chongqing University Affiliated Tumor Hospital	Inhibition of PPP2CA gene in Hippo/ YPY pathway of ovarian cancer stem cells	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN341360642

Table 3 (continued)

Application type	Product name	Essential component	Manufacturing enterprise	Function	Website
biomedicine	Application of luteolin in the preparation of drugs to increase the relative abundance of AKK bacteria in the intestine	luteolin	Shenzhen Xianhu Botanical Garden Management Office (Shenzhen Landscape Research Center)	Increase the relative abundance of AKK bacteria in the intestine and decrease the relative abundance of Firmicutes.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN353411664
Disinfectant technology field	A medical antirust disinfectant and its preparation method	luteolin	Winnie Health (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.	Improve the solubility of luteolin in aqueous solution and inhibit the oxidative corrosion of metals.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN334794875
biomedicine	A drug composition for treating cerebral infarction and its application	Luteolin, kaempferol	Second Hospital of Hebei Medical University	Combined use can be prepared for the treatment of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, especially ischemic stroke.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN318561439
Pesticide technology field	A class of flavonoid metal complexes inhibiting citrus canker pathogen	Luteolin, metal (tin, chromium, copper, iron, zinc)	Nankai university	It has a significant bacteriostatic effect in vitro, and has the potential to develop as a new pesticide to inhibit plant bacterial diseases.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN320295248
drugs & medical technology	Application of luteolin and its drug combinations	luteolin	Hong kong university of science and technology	Improve the function of nerve growth factor, promote the growth of cell protrusions, activate the promoter of neurofilament coding gene, promote the up-regulation of neurofilament expression, and activate tyrosine receptors and their downstream pathways.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN357955599
Ophthalmic disease treatment technology field	Application of luteolin-7-O-glucoside in the preparation of drugs for the treatment of diseases caused by retinal degeneration	luteolin-7-o-glucoside	Hubei Ming Molybdenum Health Technology Co., Ltd.	Luteolin-7-O-glucoside can effectively treat retinopathy caused by retinal degeneration.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN311262777
Fruit and vegetable preservation technology field	Application of luteolin in delaying postharvest quality deterioration of fruits	luteolin	institute of botany	Significantly improve the sensory quality and antioxidant capacity of fruits, induce defense response and anthocyanin synthesis, thereby delaying senescence; inhibit the mycelial growth of Botrytis cinerea and Penicillium expansum and reduce the pathogenicity of Botrytis cinerea and Penicillium expansum.	https://patentscope.wipo. int/search/en/detail.jsf? docId=CN307162922

inhibiting tyrosinase activity with little side effects. In addition, in view of the good biological activity of luteolin, its application in various industries is more and more extensive. Table 3 shows the patents for some of the products.

6. Discussion

Luteolin, a flavonoid compound, is widely found in many plants in nature. It has a variety of biological activities and biological activities, such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor and antibacterial, this paper reviews the source and synthesis, extraction and determination methods, biological activity and product development of luteolin. Although luteolin has a variety of biological activities that may play a variety of roles in health, future research on luteolin still faces many challenges. We believe that the following four aspects are the most noteworthy frontiers of luteolin: The stability and bioavailability of luteolin; Issues related to the elimination of drug resistance by luteolin; Toxicology and safety evaluation of luteolin; The development and application of luteolin in food and drug.

The bioavailability, absorption and metabolism of luteolin are key to determining its health benefits. Because of its poor stability, low absorption rate and relatively low bioavailability *in vivo*, luteolin reduces its efficacy [155]. In order to overcome this problem, nanosystems are currently one of the main ways. Xiao et al. [156] prepared luteolin-loaded HER2 nanospheres (Her-2-NPs) by thin film ultrasonic method. The results showed that Her-2-NPs improved the absorption efficiency of luteolin, thereby improving the therapeutic effect of breast cancer. Shakeel et al. [157] prepared luteolin Self-Nano Emulsifying Drug Delivery Systems (LUT SNEDDS). The results showed that the optimized LUT SNEDDS had significant liver protection and could improve the dissolution rate and therapeutic effect of luteolin. Xiao and Shakeel's researches suggest that nano-delivery systems may be the main way to improve the bioavailability of luteolin and enhance its therapeutic targeting. In the future, the biological activity research and drug development of luteolin will not be limited to monomer luteolin, and the use of nano-delivery systems may promote the research and application of luteolin.

Luteolin has been found to have a strong inhibitory effect on many drug-resistant tumor cells and pathogenic bacteria. Drugresistant tumor cells often cause recurrence and metastasis in cancer patients. Tamoxifen is one of the most commonly used hormone therapy drugs for the treatment of estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. Wu et al. [158] found that luteolin could not only lead to cell cycle arrest in G2/M phase, but also inhibit Ras gene to up-regulate the expression of MLL3 and inactivate the PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway, resulting in tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cell apoptosis. Guo et al. [159] found that luteolin might increase the sensitivity of *T. pyogenes* to macrolides by inhibiting the macrolide resistance gene msrA and reducing the ATPase activity. Wu and Guo's study suggested that luteolin was a potential active substance to eliminate drug resistance of tumor cells and pathogenic bacteria and improve their sensitivity to drugs. More researches are needed on that tumor cells and pathogenic bacteria are affected by luteolin, and the related mechanism of action.

Studies had reported that luteolin had cytotoxicity [160], reproductive toxicity [161], prenatal developmental toxicity [162], and mutagenicity [163]. However, the toxicological data of luteolin still remain at the level of cells and rats, and there is a lack of animal toxicological data with high correlation with humans. Therefore, long-term consumption of high-dose flavonoids as dietary supplements, the use of appropriate concentrations and the mechanism of toxic effects should be the focus of research. In addition, Krewski [164] suggested that the toxicological genome was a key platform for toxicological research. At present, the toxicological genome data of luteolin is still lacking, which suggests that we can also conduct toxicological genomics research on luteolin.

At present, there are few products using luteolin as raw material on the market, presumably because of the low bioavailability of luteolin. If this problem can be solved, the application of luteolin will be greatly improved. We refer to the published patents on luteolin products. Luteolin is often used in medicine and health care products, daily chemicals and so on. In pharmaceuticals and health products, luteolin can be added to raw materials to prevent or treat myocardial ischemia-reperfusion or fibrosis, diabetes, pruritus, Staphylococcus aureus caused by a variety of diseases. In addition, Bi et al. found that luteolin could be encapsulated in nanoemulsions of oil-in-water system to develop a new type of active packaging material, which could effectively prevent the oxidation of substances in the packaging and the invasion of bacteria [165]. Luteolin nano emulsion (LUT NEs) prepared by Tu et al. could enhance oral absorption of lignocaine via the lymphatic transport pathway [166]. In cosmetic terms, luteolin can be used for skin whitening, or as a sunscreen product UV protection, and can be used to develop antibacterial products. Xi et al. developed an antibacterial hand sanitizer with luteolin. Because luteolin has a strong inhibitory effect on *Escherichia coli (E. coli)* and *Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus)*, it can induce cell dysfunction in *E. coli* and *S. aureus*, change the permeability of cell membrane, and lead to the overflow of contents in cells, so it can clean the skin of the hand [167]. These studies provide new ideas for the development of luteolin products, which can increase the utilization rate of luteolin in various fields.

7. Conclusion

In this review, we summarized the extraction process, determination methods, biological activities, and the development and application of luteolin products, which will help us better understand the research status of luteolin and contribute to further targeted research. Luteolin is a very promising flavonoid compound, which has a wide range of biological activities and has great potential for development. However, due to its poor stability, low absorption rate *in vivo*, insufficient *in vivo* and *in vitro* experimental data and lack of clinical experimental data, a large number of molecular mechanism research data are still needed to better elucidate the benefits of luteolin. In addition, more attention needs to be paid to the toxicological properties of luteolin to verify its safety.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Fajian Ren: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft. Ying Li: Writing – original draft. Hanyuan Luo: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft. Song Gao: Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft. Shanshan Jiang: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Supervision. Jian Yang: Writing – original draft. Chaolong Rao: Writing – review & editing. Yan Chen: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Supervision, Resources. Cheng Peng: Supervision, Resources.

Ethics statement

This review article does not involve any experimental studies with human participants or animals conducted by the authors. Therefore, no ethics approval or informed consent was required.

Data availability statement

Data included in article is referenced in the article.

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Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Abbreviations:

Maceration extraction
Soxhlet extraction
High Performance Liquid Chromatography
Microwave-assisted extraction
natural deep eutectic solvent
ultrasound-assisted enzymatic hydrolysis
thin layer chromatography
capillary electrophoresis
electrochemical method
International Conference on Harmonization
biomass porous carbon
platinum
carbon ionic liquid electrodes
multispectral imaging
Principal Component Analysis
Least Squares Support Vector Machine
Partial Least Squares
reactive oxygen species
hydrogen atom transfer
bond dissociation enthalpy
2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid)
aflatoxin B1
malondialdehyde
catalase
total superoxide dismutase
glutathione peroxidase

T-AOC	total antioxidant capacity
Nrf2	Nuclearfactor erythroidderived 2-like 2
NQO1	NADH Quinone Oxidoreductase 1
HO-1	Heme Oxygenase-1
GCLC	glutamate cysteine ligase catalytic
ARE	antioxidant response elements
eNOS	endothelial NO synthase
Keap1	Kelch-1ike ECH- associated protein 1
PCOS	polycystic ovary syndrome
OTA	ochratoxin A
DXM	devamethasone
GIO	alucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis
DOX	dovorubicin
тен	Thyroid stimulating hormone
	linid perovidation
DONG	reactive everyon species and nitrogen
XON3	venthing ovidese
ADEC	Avien nethogenie E. goli
APEC	Avian pathogenic E. con
GCLM GDV1	glutamate cysteme ngase mounter
GPXI	Glutathione peroxidase 1
FPN	Fipronii
NADPH	Triphosphopyridine nucleotide
NOX2	gp91phox
TNF	Tumour necrosis factor
NO	Nitric Oxide
NA	Adrenaline
IFN	Interferon
GM-CSF	granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor
NF-ĸB	Nuclear factor kappa-B
SAD	sporadic Alzheimer 's disease
NOS	nitric oxide synthase
COX-2	cyclooxygenase-2
IKK	Inhibitor of kappa B kinase
HMGB1	High Mobility Group Box 1
TLRs	Toll-like receptors
TLR4	Toll-like receptor 4
MYD88	myeloid differentiation primary response protein 88
IL-1β	Interleukin-1beta
Sirt	Sirtuinsilent information regulator sirtuin
VCAM-1	vascular cell adhesion molecule-1
MCP-1	monocyte chemoattractant protein-1
MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
JNK	c-Jun N-terminal kinase
ERK	extracellular regulated protein kinases
STAT	Signal transducer and activator of transcription
NLRP3	Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain, leucine-rich repeat and pyrin domain-containing 3
ASC	Apoptosis-associated speck-like protein containing a CARD
LDH	lactate dehvdrogenase
TRAIL	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member
EMT	Epithelial-mesenchymal transition
ICAM	intercellular adhesion molecule
MMP	matrix metalloproteinase
FGFR	enidermal growth factor recentor
DISK	phosphatidylinositol 3.kinase
VDAC	Activated Kirston rat sarcoma viral ancagana homolog
	Drogrammed cell death 1 ligand 1
	riogrammen teinaca
DOCV	LINI UUMAM MILASC Dha accordiated coil containing protein kingen
OVA	Autorassociated concurcon-containing protein killase
OAA Cut a	Oxanipiatin Cyteebyeene Complex
Uyi C	cytotinome complex
лран	apoptone protease activating factor-1

LPO	lipid peroxidation
PTN	Pleiotropic protein
CREB1	cAMP response element binding protein 1
TRX1	Thioredoxin-1
mTOR	Mammalian target of rapamycin
BCL-2	B-cell lymphoma 2
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant S.aureus
EPS	extracellular polymeric substances
GAS	Group A streptococcus
SLO	Streptolysin O
PSMs	phenol-soluble modulins
STEC	Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli
Stx	Shiga toxin
SDH	Succinate dehydrogenase
IAV	influenza A virus
SARS-Co	<i>V</i> -2 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
RSV	respiratory syncytial virus
DENV	dengue virus
CVB3	coxsackie virus B3
HBV	henatitis B virus
COPI	coat protein I
RdRn	RNA-dependent RNA polymerase
socs1	Suppressor of cytokine signaling
ISC	IEN stimulated gene
nrM	precursor membrane
СНВ	chronic henotitis B
MACH	nonaleoholia staatohonatitia
NAELD	nonalcoholic steatonepatitis
NAFLD	Zonula Occludenc Protein 1
20-1	Zonula Occidens Protein 1
	Dicerative collis
MII	mattermin hydrochloride
	Einerioutee te Destaroidatee
F/D	Firmicules to Bacteroideles
HFD	Al-haimania dianan
AD	Alzheimer's disease
GRP78	glucose-regulated protein 78
IREIα	inositol enzyme 1a
LPS	Lipopolysaccharide
OGD	oxygen glucose deprivation
BCD	Bone cancer pain
SDH	spinal dorsal horn
NLRP3	NOD-like receptor protein 3
FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
UFA	unsaturated fatty acids
DPPH	diphenyl picryl hydrazyl
MIRI	myocardial ischemia-reperfusion injury
Her-2-NP	s HER2 nanospheres
LUT SNE	DDS luteolin Self-Nano Emulsifying Drug Delivery Systems
LUT Nes	Luteolin nano emulsion
GQDs	Graphene quantum dots
GNPs	Gold nanoparticles
MWCNT	Multi-walled carbon nanotubes
β-CD	β-Cyclodextrin
ITO	Indium tin oxide
hs-CRP	high-sensitivity c-reactive protein
cAMP	cyclic adenosine monophosphate
RANKL	Receptor Activator for Nuclear Factor-ĸ B Ligand

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