

Inhibition of Various Cancer Cells Proliferation of Bornyl Acetate and Essential Oil from *Inula graveolens* (Linnaeus) Desf.

Tunay Karan¹, Ilyas Yildiz², Ali Aydin³ and Ramazan Erenler^{2*}

¹Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Gaziosmanpasa University, 60240 Tokat, Türkiye

²Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Gaziosmanpasa University, 60240 Tokat, Türkiye

³Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Science, Bartın University, 74100 Bartın, Türkiye

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Abstract: *Inula* species are medicinal and aromatic plants used for folk medicine extensively. In this work, hydrodistilled essential oil of *Inula graveolens* (Linnaeus) Desf. analyzed by GC-MS which revealed that bornyl acetate was the major product (69.15%). Camphene was the second major compound (11.11%). Antiproliferative activity of the essential oil and bornyl acetate was investigated on HeLa (human cervix carcinoma), HT29 (human colon carcinoma), A549 (human lung carcinoma), MCF7 (human breast adenocarcinoma) cancer cells and FL (human amnion cells) normal cells. The cytotoxicity was executed by a Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Cytotoxicity Detection Kit. Essential oil and bornyl acetate displayed the outstanding activities on HeLa (IC₅₀, 64.1, 72.0 µg/mL), HT29 (IC₅₀, 24.6, 60.5 µg/mL), A549 (IC₅₀, 28.3, 44.1 µg/mL), MCF-7 (IC₅₀, 66.5, 85.6 µg/mL), and FL (IC₅₀, 42.1, 50.6 µg/mL) cell lines respectively.

Keywords: *Inula graveolens*; essential oil; antitumor activity. © 2018 ACG Publications. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Plants which have been used in treatment of various illness for centuries play a significant role in drug discovery due to the consisting of bioactive compounds [1-3]. *Inula* genus belonging to Asteraceae family consists of almost 100 species distributed through Africa, Asia and Europe, mostly in the Mediterranean area. It is represented by 27 species with 7 endemic species in Turkey flora [4]. Plants of this genus revealed high variety in secondary metabolites and pharmaceutical effects [5]. *Inula graveolens* (L.) Desf. [Syn. *Dittrichia graveolens*. (Desf.) Greuter] is an annual herb, growing 20-50 cm tall, well known and wide spread in the Mediterranean area with pleasant odor [6]. *Inula* species have been used in traditional medicine throughout the world extensively. Hence, Commercial herbal preparations of *Inula* species were available, such as *Inula japonica* on herbal supplement tablet [7] and *Inula helenium* on the antiulcerous drug tablet [8] and some of them are recorded in European pharmacopoeias [8]. The secondary metabolites as well as extract from *Inula* species revealed a broad spectrum of biological and pharmaceutical activities including antioxidant [9], antiproliferative [10, 11], cardioprotective [12], antiinflammatory [13], antipyretic, antiphlogistic, antiseptic [14], antifungal [15], antibacterial [16], insecticidal, antifeedant [17], nematocidal activity [18]. Phytochemical

*Corresponding author: E-Mail: ramazan.erenler@gop.edu.tr; Phone:090-356-2521616/3055 Fax:90-356-2521585

investigation on *Inula* species resulted in the isolation of bioactive secondary metabolites such as eudesmanolides [19], guaianolides [20], pseudoguaianolides [21], xanthanolides [22], dimeric sesquiterpenes [23], flavonoids [24]. *Inula graveolens* essential oil has a significant pharmaceutical effects containing antimicrobial [25], anticandida [26], acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitory activities [27]. *I. graveolens* collected from Algeria included the isobornylacetate (50.8 %) as a main constituent [28]. A sesquiterpene and ilicic acid isolated from *Inula graveolens* displayed the selective and significant phytotoxic activity [29]. In addition, sesquiterpenes and flavones were isolated from *I. graveolens* [30, 31].

Cancers, a group of diseases described as uncontrolled cell growth and spread is the leading cause of deaths throughout the world. Due to the rising trend of cancer incidence, efficient treatment is urgently necessary to control tumor-cell proliferation. Therefore, new chemotherapeutic molecules are significant to deal with this catastrophic issue. Natural products have been acknowledged to a great medicine to prevent or suppress the progression of invasive cancers[32].

Herein, essential oil was generated by steam distillation and the components were identified by GC-MS analyses. Antiproliferative activity of essential oil and bornyl acetate which was the main constituent of essential oil of *I. graveolens* was investigated on HeLa (human cervix carcinoma), HT-29 (human colon carcinoma), A549 (human lung carcinoma), MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma) cancer cells and FL (human amnion cells) normal cells. The cytotoxicity was executed by a Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Cytotoxicity Detection Kit. Essential oil and bornyl acetate displayed the considerable activity on these cell lines.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 General Experimental Procedure

Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium-high glucose (DMEM-HG), fetal bovine serum (FBS), penicillin/streptomycin were supplied from Sigma-Aldrich (Darmstadt, Germany). ELISA and BrdU (colorimetric) kits were obtained from Roche Diagnostics GmbH (Mannheim, Germany). The other solvents and chemicals were used in analytical grade and obtained from E. Merck, Kenilworth, NJ, USA.

2.2 Plant Materials

Inula graveolens was collected in July 2015 from Tokat Turkey Provence and identified by Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ilcim, Mustafa Kemal University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology where a voucher specimen was deposited (No: MKUH-1823).

2.3 Isolation of Essential Oil

Aerial parts of the plant material (200 g) were dried at shade then, hydrodistilled for 4 h using a Clevenger-type apparatus. The distilled essential (1.5%, w/w) oil was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered and stored at 4 °C to further analyses [33]. Bornyl acetate was purchased commercially from Sigma-Aldrich.

2.4 GC Analysis

Perkin-Elmer Clarus 500 model Autosystem GC was used for analysis of essential oil. Oil was diluted with acetone (1:10) then injected to the HT-5 column (25 m, 0.22 mm, 0.1 µm film). The column temperature was adjusted from 50 to 120 °C at 3 °C/min, from 120 to 220 °C, at 5 °C/min with initial and final temperatures held for 0.64 min. Helium was used as a carrier gas at 5 psi inlet pressure. Injection and detection (FID) temperature was 250 °C. Sample (1.0 µL) was injected into the split/splitless (50:1) mode [34].

2.5 GC-MS analysis

Perkin-Elmer mass spectrometer with BPXT column (30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 μm film) was used for analysis of essential oil. An electron ionisation system with ionisation energy of 70 eV was used for GC-MS detection. Helium gas with a flow rate of 1.3 mL/min was used for carrier gas. MS transfer line and injector temperatures were set at 250 °C and 230 °C respectively. The sample (1/10 in acetone, v/v, 1.0 μL) was injected in the split/splitless (5:1 split) mode. Retention indices were calculated by an *n*-alkane series (C6-C32) with the same GC programme as for the samples. The relative amount (%) of individual components of the oil is determined as percent peak area relative to total peak area from the GC-FID analyses [34].

2.6 Cell Cultures Preparation

Antitumor capacity of essential oil and bornyl acetate which was the main compound of essential oil was investigated on HeLa (human cervix carcinoma), HT29 (human colon carcinoma), A549 (human lung carcinoma), MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma) cancer cells and FL (human amnion cells) normal cells. The cells were incubated in T75 cell culture flasks with Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium, complemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 2% PenStep solution (Penicillin-Streptomycin, Sigma, Germany) and sodium bicarbonate (0.026 M) at 37 °C with 5% CO₂ for 4 days. Additionally, RPMI1640 medium with sodium bicarbonate (0.019 M) was used for MCF-7 cell lines. After the cells became confluent, they were changed with Trypsin-EDTA (10 mL) solution and incubated for 5 min then, the flask was shaken slowly to form the suspension of the cells which were conveyed to 50 mL sterilized falcon tubes. Trypsin was neutralized by adding medium to the cells and cells were centrifuged at 1500 × g for 10 min. After removal of supernatant part, cell pellets were resuspended by adding 2 mL medium. 10 μL suspended cell was mixed with 10 μL trypan blue, then 10 μL of this mixture was pipetted to Thoma cell counting chamber to determine the cell concentration. The cell stock suspension was prepared into the 15 mL of falcon tube, then pipetted into the cell plates (5 × 10³ cells/well) [35,36].

2.7 Cell Proliferation Assay

Test samples and standard were treated with the cell plates and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM), DMSO (Dimethyl sulfoxide), 5-Fluorouracil were used for cell control, negative control and positive control, respectively. BrdU (5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine) Cell Proliferation ELISA kit (Roche) was used for antiproliferative effects. BrdU was added to the flask until the density to be 10 μL/well cells then incubated additionally for 4 h. When BrdU was added to medium, BrdU was inserted to DNA of divided cells. Therefore, DNA incorporated with BrdU can help the measurement of the proliferation. The medium with BrdU in plates was removed. Then, Fix Denat solution was added to the cells in plate for cell lysis and incubated at 25 °C for 30 min. Hence, BrdU-POD antibody can penetrate to the DNA and approach to the BrdU easily. Fix Denat solution was changed with Anti-BrdU-POD solution and incubated at 22 °C for 90 min, afterwards, plate was washed by washing solution and substrate solution was added to set the density as 100 μL/well. The flask was incubated at 22 °C for 30 min until the appearance of the color. Each well was added sulphuric acid, H₂SO₄ (25 μL 1.0 M) and then, the microplate was incubated for 2 min. The proliferation was executed by ELISA reader (Rayto, China) at 450-650 nm [37]. The results were indicated as % inhibition using the given formula:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \left[\frac{A_{\text{sample}} - A_{\text{control}}}{A_{\text{control}}} \right] \times 100$$

Where A_{sample} is the absorbance of treated cells and A_{control} is the absorbance of the untreated cells [38].

2.8 Cytotoxicity Assay

The cytotoxicity of the bornyl acetate and essential oil and standard was presented through a Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Cytotoxicity Detection Kit (Roche, USA) using the HeLa, HT29, MCF-7, A549 cell lines. LDH technique determines the test materials to be cytotoxic or cytostatic [39]. The increase of the death cells during the incubation in concern the test materials leads the increase of LDH in culture supernatant. Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) is the cytoplasm enzyme required during the process turning sugar into energy and found in many cells as stable form. About 3×10^4 cells in 100 μL were seeded into 96-well microtiter plates as triplicates and treated with various concentrations of bornyl acetate and essential oil at 37 °C with 5% CO_2 overnight. LDH activity was executed by evaluating the absorbance at 492-630 nm by a microplate reader (RAYTO RT100C). Percentage cytotoxicity was calculated as the given formula:

$$\text{Cytotoxicity (\%)} = \left[\frac{\text{Exp. value} - \text{Low control}}{\text{High control} - \text{Low control}} \right] \times 100$$

Where experimental value is the treated cells, Low control is untreated cells; High control is 2% Triton X-100.

2.9 IC_{50} and Inhibition %

The half inhibitory concentration of the bornyl acetate, essential oil and standard was calculated by XLfit5 software (IDBS) and explicated in μM at 95% confidence levels. The proliferation results were recorded as the percent inhibition of the compounds and control substances [40].

2.10 Cell Imaging

Seeded cells in well plates at a density of 5000 cells per well were allowed for 24h for attachment. The morphological changes with the treatment of the bornyl acetate and essential oil were appraised by phase contrast microscopy. Images of DMSO, bornyl acetate and essential oil treated cells were recorded during the experimental time using the digital camera attached inverted microscope (Leica 1L 10, Germany) [41].

2.11 Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis was carried out by one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) tests. SPSS for Windows was used for the statistical analyses. The results are reported as the mean values \pm the SEM of three independent assays, and differences between groups were considered to be significant at $P < 0.05$ [40].

3. Results and Discussion

Epidemiological studies revealed that compounds isolated from natural sources may protect against various types of cancers such as prostate, lung, colon and breast malignancies [42]. In addition, essential oils have significant effects on various cancer cell lines [43-47]. In this study, essential oil was generated from *Inula graveolens* L. Bornyl acetate was the chief compound (Table 1).

Table 1. Chemical composition of *I. graveolens* essential oil analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

No	Compounds	RI [48]	RI	Percent (%)
1	α -Pinene	932	935	0.16
2	Camphene	946	949	4.56
3	β -Pinene	974	981	0.45
4	2,3-dehydro-1,8-cineole	991	998	1.77
5	δ -2-Carene	1009	1015	0.41
6	Borneol	1165	1172	11.34
7	Bornyl acetate	1284	1288	60.43
8	Thymol	1290	1277	1.18
9	β -Cubebene	1390	1381	0.70
10	β -Caryophyllene	1417	1402	1.00
11	Lavandulol acetate	1439	1430	0.54
12	Humulene	1454	1448	0.53
13	δ -Cadinene	1524	1533	0.24
14	Caryophyllen oxide	1582	1570	11.58
15	δ -Cadinol	1636	1621	4.89
Total				99.78

^aRI: Retention indices calculated against n-alkanes, % calculated from FID data and RI of literature values.

Antiproliferative effect of essential oil as well as bornyl acetate was investigated *invitro*. Antiproliferative effects of bornyl acetate and essential oil of *Inula graveolens* was investigated on HeLa (human cervix carcinoma), HT-29 (human colon carcinoma), A549 (human lung carcinoma), MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma) cancer cells, and FL (human amnion cells) normal cells (Figure 1).

The cytotoxicity was also carried out by a Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Cytotoxicity Detection method. Due to the chief constituent of essential oil, bornyl acetate was investigated individually as well. In HeLa cell lines, bornyl acetate and essential oil displayed the better activity than that of the standard, *cis*-platin. Bornyn acetate and essential oil revealed the nearly same inhibitory effect on HeLa cells proliferation depending on the concentration. As a result, the viability of HeLa cells decreased sharply between the concentrations from 40 μ g/mL to 60 μ g/mL. After that point, steady decrease was observed for the viability of these cells. IC₅₀ values of bornyl acetate, essential oil and *cis*-platin were calculated as 71.97, 64.05 and 126.75 respectively. High inhibitory effect of essential oil than that of the bornyl acetate may be attributed to the synergic effect of the compounds into the essential oil. The same trend was observed in HT-29 cell lines. The steady decrease was observed for the viability of HT-29 cells depending on the concentration. Essential oil showed the better inhibitory effect on the proliferation of HT-29 (IC₅₀ 24.6) cells in all concentrations than that of the bornyl acetate (IC₅₀ 60.5) and *cis*-platin (IC₅₀ 119.9). This result showed that the essential oil has a capacity of being an anticancer agent. Essential oil revealed the excellent tumor specificity on HT-29 cell lines as well (Table 1). As for the A549 (human lung carcinoma) cancer cells, a significant inhibition effect of essential oil was observed. IC₅₀ values of essential oil, bornyl acetate and *cis*-platin were 28.3, 44.1, 131.0 respectively revealing that essential oil was 4.6 fold effective than that of the *cis*-platin.

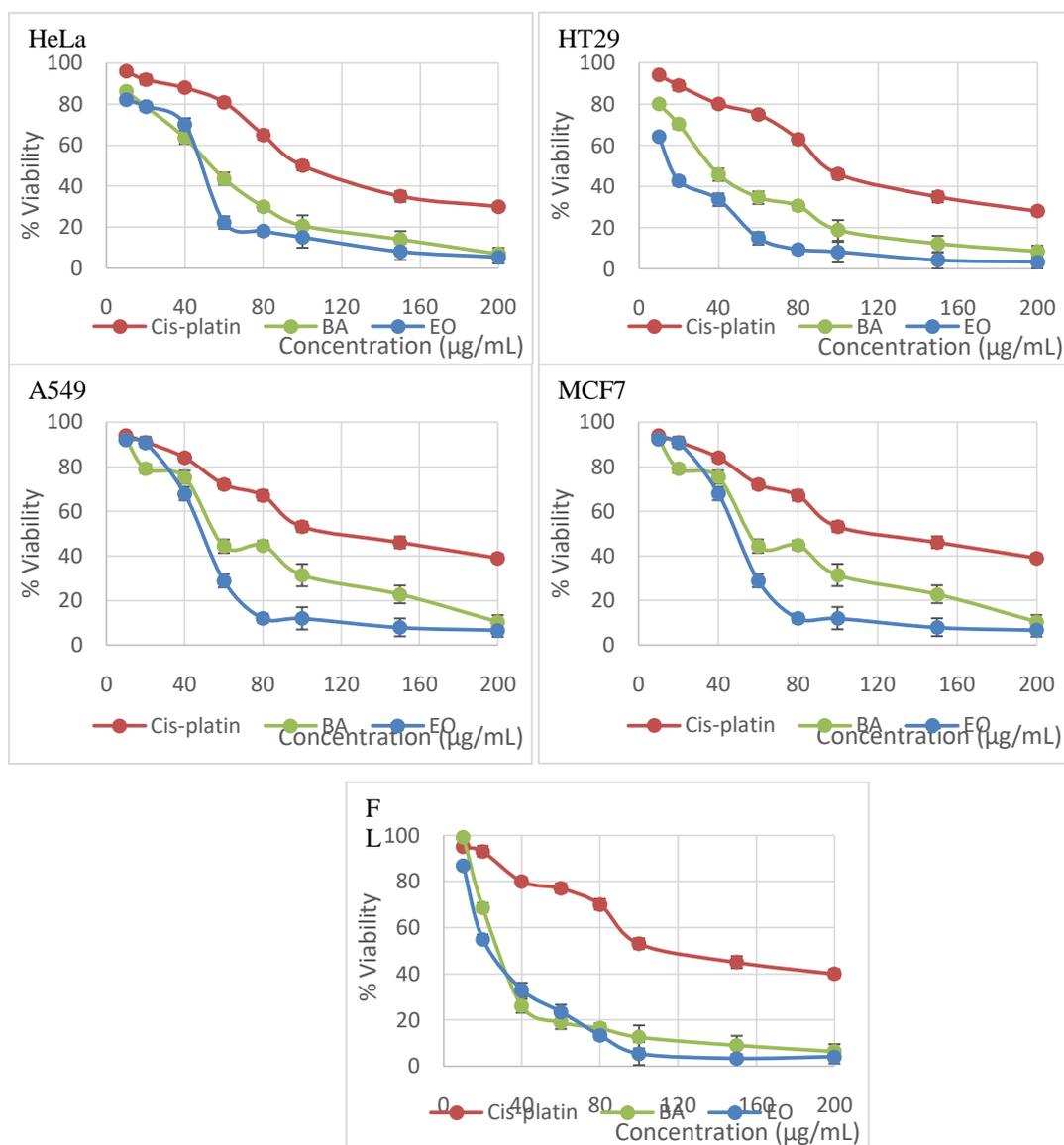


Figure 1. The Antiproliferative activity of bornyl acetate (BA), essential oil (EO) of *inula graveolens* and positive control, *cis*-platin on HeLa, HT29, A549, MCF7 and FL cell lines. Cell proliferation was measured using a BrdU Cell Elisa Assay Kit. Percent inhibition was reported as mean values \pm SEM of three independent assays ($P < 0.05$). Each experiment was repeated at least three times for each cell line.

Essential oil and bornyl acetate showed the greatest tumor specificity on A549 cell lines (Table 1). Essential oil has a considerable inhibition effect on the proliferation of MCF-7 (human breast adenocarcinoma) cancer cells. There was a sharp decrease of viability up to the 80 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Essential oil showed the superior inhibition effect at all concentration compared to the standard, *cis*-platin. Bornyl acetate also displayed the better activity than *cis*-platin. IC_{50} values of essential oil, bornyl acetate and *cis*-platin were calculated as 66.5, 85.6, 141.5 respectively. Essential oil and *cis*-platin have same inhibition effect on FL (human amnion cells) normal cells (Figure 2). A good drug for cancer should not damage to the normal cells while inhibiting the cancer cells. The disadvantage of essential oil and bornyl acetate was to cause the inhibition of normal cells. The cytotoxicity of bornyl acetate and essential oil as well as standard was determined using a Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) Cytotoxicity Detection Kit (Figure 2).

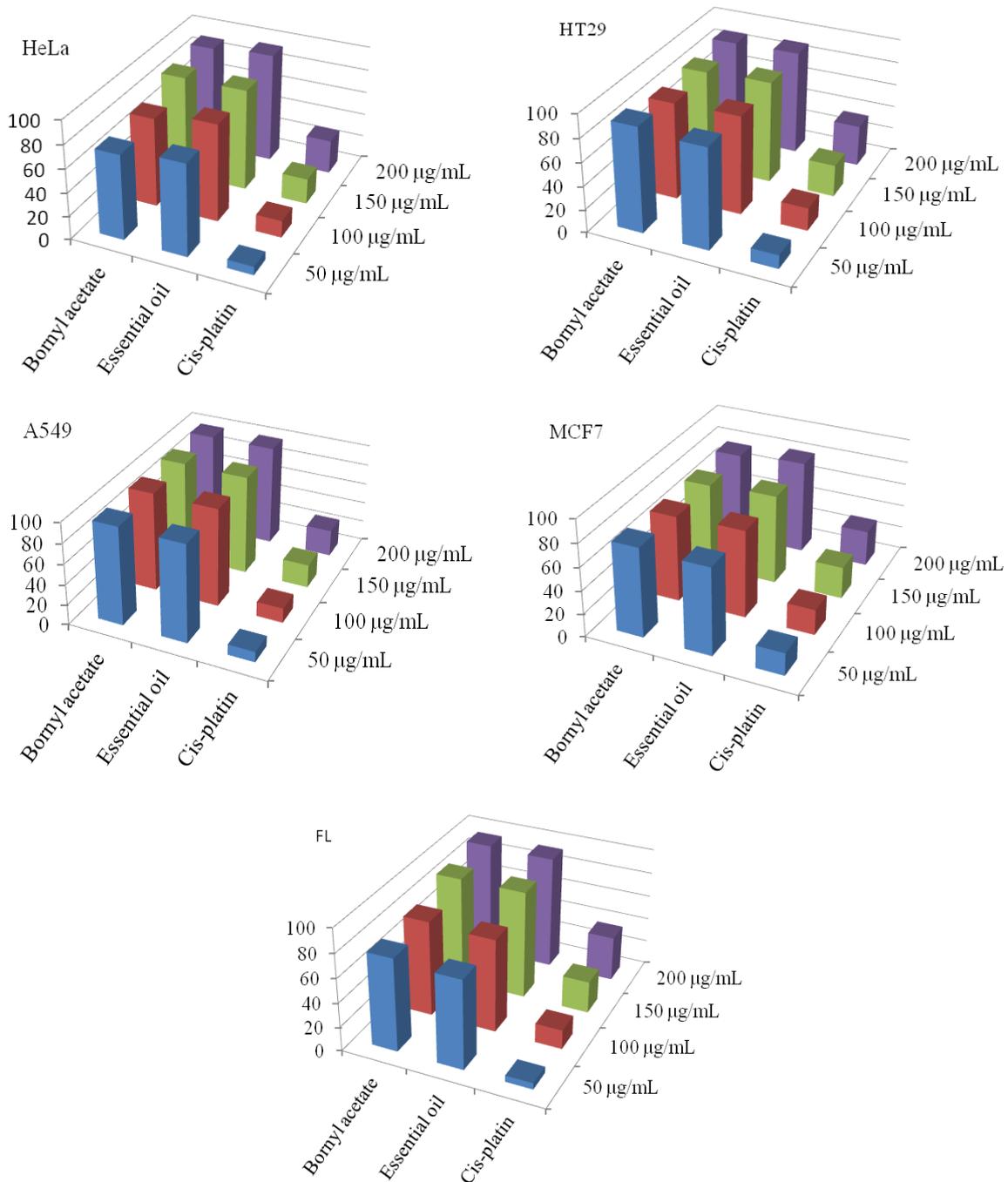


Figure 2. Cytotoxic activity of essential oil, borneol acetate of *inula graveolens* on HeLa, HT29, A549, MCF7 and FL cell lines. Cell lines were incubated with various concentrations of borneyl acetate and essential oil for 24 hours, and cytotoxicity was determined by LDH Cytotoxicity Assay Kit. Percent cytotoxicity was reported as mean values \pm SDs of three independent assays ($P < 0.05$).

Essential oil and borneyl acetate revealed the higher cytotoxicity than *cis-platin* on HeLa cells. Same trend was observed on HT-29 cells. For instance, Cytotoxic effect of essential oil and borneyl acetate was higher than that of the standard on HT-29 cells. Cytotoxicity of essential oil and borneyl acetate increased with dose dependant manner on A549 cells. Essential oil and borneyl acetate revealed the resemble cytotoxic effect on MCF-7 and FL cells. Treatment of cells with borneyl acetate and

essential oil brought about disruption and disintegration of cells in general, revealing its cytotoxic effect. Essential oil and bornyl acetate led to cell detachment from the plate surface (Figure 3).

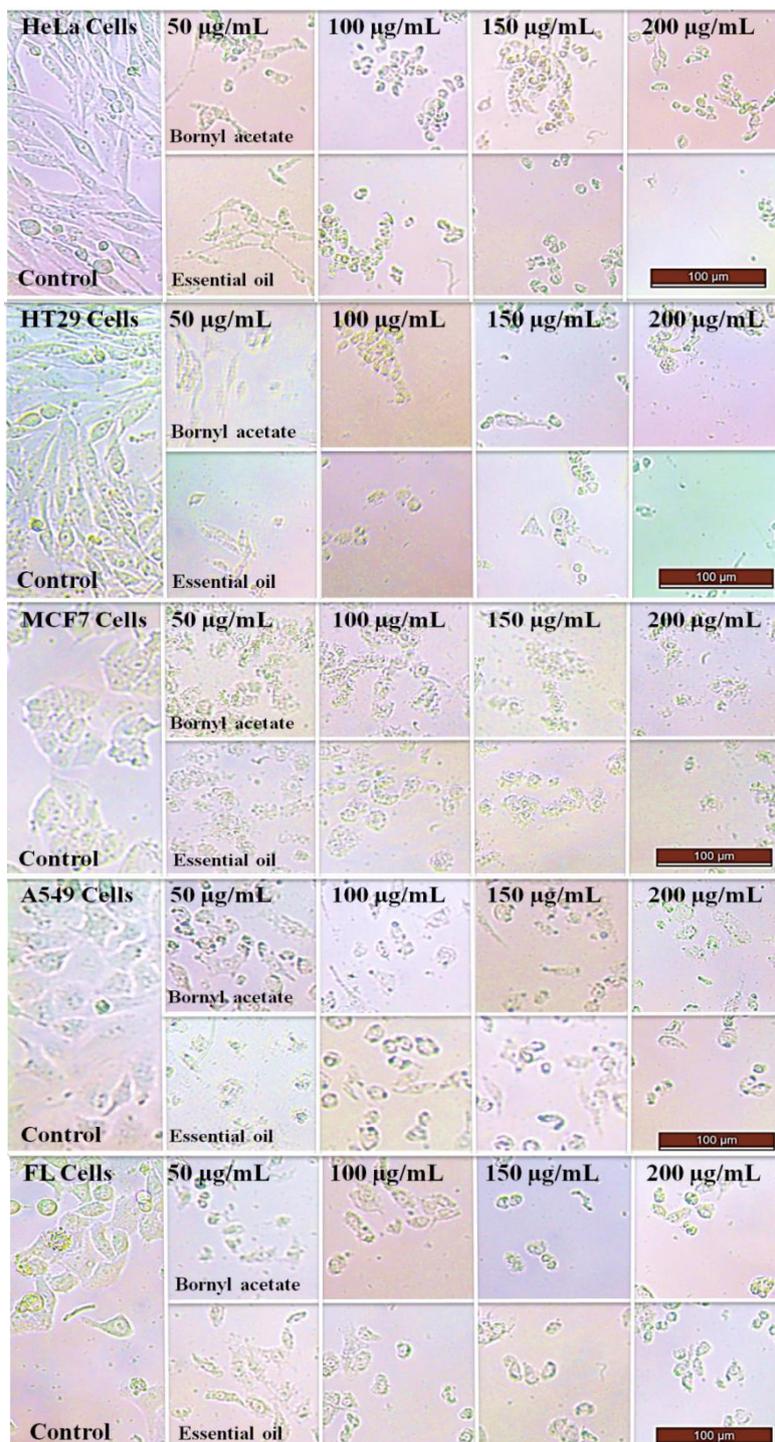


Figure 3. Effect of the essential oil and bornyl acetate of *inula graveolens* on the morphology of HeLa, HT29, A549, MCF7 and FL cells. Exponentially growing cells were incubated with various concentrations of essential oil and bornyl acetate at 37 °C for overnight. DMSO treated cells as controls.

In this work, cell growth and inhibition, and cellular morphological analysis indicated that in all tumor cells a dose-dependent decline was induced by essential oil and bornyl acetate. A fundamental

factor of tumor cell survival is resistance to apoptosis. As a result, *Inula graveolens* essential oil has a potency to be an anti-cancer agent. Moreover, it could be used in food and pharmaceutical industries.

ORCID

Tunay Karan: [0000-0002-9114-8400](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9114-8400)

Ilyas Yildiz: [0000-0003-1254-1069](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1254-1069)

Ali Aydin: [0000-0002-9550-9111](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9550-9111)

Ramazan Erenler: [0000-0002-0505-3190](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0505-3190)

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