Anti-cancer and phytochemical screening of Asparagus africanus extracts

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The screening for active compounds from plants leads to the discovery of new medicinal drugs which have efficient protection and treatment roles against various diseases including cancer. In this study, methanol and dichloromethane extracts from the roots of Asparagus africanus Lam. were tested against breast (MCF7), colon (HCT116) and prostate (PC3) cancer cell lines. Etoposide was used as a positive control. Total growth inhibition (TGI) of the cancer cells using the sulforhodamine B assay was determined to classify the extracts as inactive, weak, moderate or potent. And also the phytochemical properties of this plant were examined using quantitative method. The plant possesses some phytochemical constituents that show positive result, which give more questions to this research work. A. africanus extracts were inactive (TGI>50 µg/ml) against all the cell lines. The phytochemical screening of this plant shows positive result, which thereby raise questions for this plant to be tested with other type of cancer cell lines.However these results were inconclusive because the positive control was also inactive. More screening of the extracts with other cell lines and other positive standards may produce different results.

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Managing clinical data queries using an in-house built query management system- QMSPlus

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Background: Query management is a key process in data management used in the identification and resolution of data discrepancies. It directly impacts on data quality and also the integrity of research outcome. At DNDi data center we developed QMSPlus, a system that enables a simple yet rigorous, structured and semi-automated approach to QM for data managers and clinical trial managers."

Methods: QMSPlus is a web-based application which runs on Tomcat Server using Postgres Database Management System. Once QMS is installed, a study is setup using a simple interface. New users are defined and the necessary query related "csv" files are uploaded. These include Query Definition file and Query Variable file. When new queries are generated in STATA based on the edit check program logic, they are exported from STATA in csv format and continually uploaded onto QMSPlus. The Data Manager prints out data query forms are then sent to the respondents.

Results/Findings: On receiving query responses from the sites, the Data manager updates the QMSPlus with the necessary corrections and generates a STATA do-file which is executed to apply changes on the dataset extracted from Open Clinica and clean it. QMSPlus simplifies query Management process and helps generate query report based on different parameters.

Conclusions/Discussion: QMSPlus has greatly impacted data management activities at the DNDi Data Center providing useful features such as;

- An automated clinical data query management system developed on an open source software platform.
- Allows import and export of data in different formats hence easy to use with diverse data management systems
- It is 100% web-based - a user therefore only needs a computer, a web browser and internet connection to use the software.
- Includes automated query analytics module for query analysis and query report generation

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