



Antimicrobial properties of medicinal plants; The new therapeutic aspect of *Valeriana officinalis*

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Abstract

The increased use of antibiotics and chemicals with various side effects is now persuading scientists to develop natural substitutes with appropriate effectiveness and protection for humans. *V. officinalis* rhizomes contain two major constituent groups, including volatile oil sesquiterpens and valpotriates. Valerenic acid can be used to in different disorders such as depression, chronic anxiety, and sleep disorders on the basis of previous studies. Based on previous literatures, the valerenic acid component had antimicrobial effects on different microorganisms such as *Helicobacter pylori*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* and its methanolic extract functions were dose-dependent. Since the antimicrobial activity of *V. officinalis* in the total extract was correlated with abundant monoterpenoids and sesquiterpenoids, more research on various aspects of pharmaceutical effects is suggested.

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Dear editor:

The increased use of antibiotics and chemicals with various side effects is now persuading scientists to develop natural substitutes with appropriate effectiveness and protection for humans. The outbreak of the world's emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases has prompted pharmaceutical companies to develop new medicines. Valerian is one of the worldwide recognized medicinal herbs that consume abundantly for the treatment of various human diseases and disorders. The Valerianaceae family contains 10 genera and approximately 300 species [1]. It has widely cultivated for commercial purposes in some regions of Iran, including ornamental, edible, and medical [1]. *V. officinalis* rhizomes contain two major constituent groups, including volatile oil sesquiterpens and valpotriates. Both active components are present in the hypodermis in large thin-cells at the roots, and rhizomes periphery [2]. Although there are still some disagreements about the relative efficacy of various groups of *V. officinalis* compounds, it is widely accepted that valerenic acid is the most important biologically active component [3, 4]. Valerenic acid and its derivatives are commonly considered to contribute to

valerian extracts ' pharmaceutical effect, characterized and isolated by different analytical methods [5]. Valerenic acid can be used to in different disorders such as depression, chronic anxiety, and sleep disorders on the basis of previous studies [4]. Based on previous literatures, the valerenic acid component had antimicrobial effects on different microorganisms such as *Helicobacter pylori*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* and its methanolic extract functions were dose-dependent [6-8]. Since the antimicrobial activity of *V. officinalis* in the total extract was correlated with abundant monoterpenoids and sesquiterpenoids, more research on various aspects of pharmaceutical effects is suggested.

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Authors' contribution

All authors contributed equally to the manuscript.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no competing interests.

Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (including plagiarism, data fabrication, double publication and etc.) have been completely observed by author.

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