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Review: Flavonoids, their types, chemistry and therapeutic efficacy

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Abstract

In recent years, interest in plants and their contents of various compounds has increased, which are secondary metabolites of plants, and among these compounds are flavonoids. Flavonoids are known to contain aromatic rings that carry a number of hydroxyl groups and are found in all parts of plants such as leaves, fruits and roots. They appear in the form of aglycones, glycosides and methylated derivatives. They are used as antioxidants, anticancers, antibacterials. heart protective factors, anti-inflammatories, and the immune system Strengthening and protecting the skin from UV rays and an interesting candidate for pharmaceutical and medical application. A few decades ago, research studies focused on flavonoids of medicinal plant species have increased significantly due to Its various benefits for human health.

Keywords: Flavonoids. Antioxidant, Antibacterial ,Anthocyanins, Flavones

Flavonoids describe a variety of natural products that include the C6-C3-C6 carbon structure, and have a special structure that is phenylbenzopyrene. Depending on where the aromatic ring is attached to the benzopyrano moiety (chromano) moiety fig(1).

Natural flavonoids all possess three hydroxyl groups, two of which are on the A ring in the fifth and seventh positions, and one on the B ring, and these groups affect the metabolism of each compound. It can exist as free or bound forms aglycones or -glycosides (1-14).



Fig(1) Basic flavonoid structure

Types of flavonoids

Flavonoids are present in plants with different subgroups depending on the carbon in the C ring to which the B ring is attached, the degree of unsaturation and oxidation of the C ring (Fig. 1). The flavonoids in which the B ring is attached at position 3 of the C ring are called isoflavones. Those in which the B ring is attached at position 4 are called neoflavonoids. Those in which the B ring is attached at position 2 can be divided into several subgroups based on the structural structure of the C ring. These subtypes are: flavones, flavonols, flavanones, flavanonols, flavanols or catechins., anthocyanins and chalcone Figure (2) (15, .(16).



Fig(2)Flavonoid classes

1- Flavones

Flavones are one of the subtypes of flavonoids and are found abundantly in fruits, flowers, roots and leaves such as mint, red pepper, chamomile, celery, (parsley and ginkgo 17-20).

Flavones are characterized bv an unsaturated 3-C chain and have a double bond between C-2 and C-3, like flavonols, but differ from them by the absence of a hydroxyl in position 3 (21-23). And this simple difference in structure between flavonoids and flavonols has a very important influence on the biogenesis, physiological, pharmacological, phylogenetic and chemical roles of these compounds. Flavones are widely distributed among higher plants in the form of aglycones or glycosides (24-30).



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contain these compounds. These studies led to the fact that flavonoids have a range of treatments, including increasing the activities of the antioxidant enzyme in the blood, as well as superoxide dismutase, peroxidase. glutathione glutathione reductase, and catalase (31). The effect of artichoke leaf extract was also studied as a source of apigenin, and the proportion of the treatment group had lower cholesterol than those who took the drug. placebo, but no significant differences were found in HDL cholesterol, LDL cholesterol, or TGs (32). It also studied the extract of hawthorn rich in vitexin and found that it reduced total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol after 6 months of treatment, and it had no effect (33). HDL cholesterol TGs or Diosmetin and rutinozide supplements were used successfully in a European study to reduce bleeding and improve wound healing (34). The proposed experimental mechanisms include increased venous tension and anti-inflammatory. Identical

2-Flavonols

studies

Flavonols include their flavonoids with a ketone group. They are the building blocks of proanthocyanins. These compounds are

mediators of anti-inflammatories have shown activity of flavones in animal

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Fig(3)

A number of studies have been

conducted on flavonoids and foods that

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abundant in a variety of vegetables and fruits such as onions, turnips, lettuce, tomatoes, apples, grapes and berries, in addition to their presence in herbs. Examples of these compounds are kaempferol, quercetin, myricetin and fisetin. It has broad health benefits, acts as an antioxidant and reduces the risk of vascular disease. Its structure contains a hydroxyl group at position 3 of the C ring, and is glycosylated (36).

Fig(4) structure of Flavonol

3-Flavanone

These compounds are widely present in all citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons, and grapes. The most famous types are hesperitin, naringenin, and eriodactol. These compounds are due to the bitter taste of citrus peels and have health benefits and therapeutic uses in a broad way. They are called a dihydroflavone because they contain the C ring. saturated (37).



Fig(5) Type of Flavanone

4-Isoflavonoids

They are 4-benzopyrone derivatives formed by the shikimic acid pathway. These compounds are characterized by having a limited distribution, Figure (6). It is found abundantly in the plant kingdom in leguminous plants such as soybeans. Isoflavonoids have effective roles in treating a number of diseases.



Fig (6)structure of Isoflavonoids

Including it is used to treat diabetes, of allergies, some types infections. including bacterial and viral infections, and to reduce high levels of cholesterol and triglycerides (38). It has also been used to regulate hormone levels, as it binds to estrogen receptors and acts as a selective and agonist of estrogen receptors (39). It regulates the concentration and receptor of endogenous estrogen and the identification of target tissues. And the biological effect of isoflavonoids on intestinal bacteria was studied, because bacterial enzymes in the isoflavonoids into intestine convert different metabolites. Known as Phytoestrogens (40-44)

5-Anthocyanins

They are water-soluble pigments found in the sap of the neonate cells and excreted by the secondary metabolism of plants. They give fruits, vegetables, flowers and leaves a multi-graded color from orange to blue. These compounds are found in types:



delphinidin, malvidin. Cyanidin, pelargonidine and pionidin and are concentrated in the outer layers of cells Such as cranberries, black currants, red cranberries. grapes, merlot grapes, strawberries, cranberries, blackberries and And benefit from figs (7).these compounds because of their health benefits and were used in the food industries and food coloring instead of industrial dyes (45). The color of anthocyanins depends on the pH and the methyl or acyl group, as well as on the hydroxyl groups in the A and B rings. Anthocyanins are derived from flavonols, and have the structural formula of the flavylium ion, which is anoxic ketone in fourth place. Used as an appetite suppressant, stimulant. and choleretic agent 47). (46,





Fig(7) type of anthocyanins

6-Chalcone

It is a sub-compound of flavonoids called open-chain flavonoids. Chalcone is an aromatic ketone characterized by the absence of a "C-ring" from the basic skeletal structure of flavonoids and which is the central core of many important biological compounds, called chalcones. They are the genetic precursors of flavonoids and isoflavonoids, and are abundant in plants (48-51). It is considered one of the compounds in the field of medicinal chemistry and has been widely used to treat many diseases. It is considered as anti-inflammatory, anti-gout, anti-histamine, anti-obesity and antispasmodic (52-59).



Fig(8) Structure of Chalcone

Biosynthesis of flavonoids:-

These compounds are made through the phenylpropanoid metabolism pathway that uses the amino acid phenylalanine to produce coumaroyl-CoA. Which in turn reacts with manlonyl-CoA to produce the backbone of flavonoids called chalcones, which in turn contain two phenyl rings. and triflavonoid structure. Thus the metabolic pathway continues through a series of enzymatic reactions to produce flavonoids \rightarrow dihydroflavonol \rightarrow anthocyanins. (60,61).





Fig(9) Biosynthesis of flavonoids

Metabolism of Flavonoids in Humans

After the food is exposed to the process of digestion automatically in the mouth and then to the stomach, flavonoids are released, which are absorbed in the small intestine, whether in the form of glycoside or aglycone (62).

Aglycans are easily absorbed from the small intestine, and flavonoid glycosides into glycan water. Flavonoid glucosides such as quercetin are then transported through the small intestine by the sodium-dependent glucose transporter (SGLT1). An alternative mechanism has been proposed that flavonoid glucosides are hydrolyzed by lactase fluoride (LPH), a beta-glucosidase located on the outside of the brush border membrane of the small intestine. The released aglycone is then absorbed via the small intestine [63]. The substrate specificity of this LPH enzyme varies greatly depending on the wide range of glycosides (glucosides, galactosides, xylosides, and rhamnooids) which are flavonoids.

As for the glycosides that do not have digestive enzymes, they move to the colon, where there are types of bacteria that have the ability to break down these flavonoid glycosides, and at the same time they work to break down the liberated flavonoid aglycones, because the absorption capacity of the colon is much less than the small intestine, where little absorption of the glycosides is transported Flavonoids are transported to the liver via glucuronide, sulfur or methylation. They are converted into smaller phenolic compounds via conjugation reactions, and no free flavonoids were found in plasma or urine, except for catechins. The bioavailability of some flavonoids varies markedly, the absorption of quercetin contained in onions is four times greater than that of apples or tea. Flavonoids are excreted with the bile in the intestine and those in the colon are broken down by intestinal bacteria, thus breaking down the structure of the flavonoid ring. Some flavonoids can be affected by stomach acid (63-66). Observed in a study on green tea extract after ingestion of green tea, the content of flavonoids is rapidly absorbed as indicated by their elevated levels in plasma and urine. It enters the blood circulation shortly after ingestion and causes a significant increase in the antioxidant status in plasma (66-70).

Biological Activities of Flavonoids:-

1-Antioxidant Activity

Flavonoids have chemical properties depending on the structure of the hydroxyl groups around the nuclear structure and from this property their ability to act as antioxidants. The mechanisms of antioxidant activity are radical scavenging and the ability to chelate a heavy metal ion (71, 72). B-ring hydroxyl formation is the most important determinant of ROS and RNS scavenging as it gives hydrogen and hydroxyl, electron to peroxyl, and peroxynitrite radicals, stabilizing them and causing composition-stable flavonoid radicals (73). Flavonoids act as a combined



result of radical scavenging activity and interaction with enzyme functions. Whereas, flavonoids inhibit the enzymes involved in the generation of reactive oxygen species, ie, microsomal nitrogen monoxide, glutathione S-transferase, mitochondrial succinoxidase, NADH oxidase (71.69).

Flavonoids protect lipids from peroxide radicals caused by oxidative stress. [72,73]. Free metal ions enhance ROS formation by reducing hydrogen peroxide formation while generating highly reactive hydroxyl radical. Due to their low redox susceptibility, their flavonoids (Fl-OH) are dynamically able to reduce highly oxidative free radicals such as superoxide, peroxyl, alkoxyl, and hydroxyl radicals by donating a hydrogen atom. Due to their ability to chelate metal ions (iron and copper), flavonoids also inhibit the generation of free radicals (74-77). Quercetin is well known for its iron ion chelating properties and the trace minerals iron is stabilized by binding at specific positions of different rings of flavonoid structures (78), fig(10).



Fig(10) (a) Scavenging of ROS () by flavonoids (Fl-OH) and (b) binding sites for trace metals where indicates metal ions.

2- Protective activity of the liver

Flavonoids such as catechins, apigenin, naringin and rutin quercetin, are characterized by their hepatoprotective activities [81]. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic disease that leads to clinical manifestations. Such as a decrease in the expression of the stimulatory subunit (Gclc) and glutathione and ROS levels in the livers of diabetic mice when dosed with anthocyanin extracts [82]. Anthocyanin cyanidin-3-O-\beta-glucoside (C3G) has been observed to increase hepatic expression of Gclc by increasing cAMP levels to activate protein kinase A (PKA), which in turn CMP-binding regulates protein phosphorylation (CREB) enhance to protein binding. (CREB) CREB-DNA and increased Gclc transcription. Thus increased Gclc expression results in a decrease in hepatic ROS levels. In addition, C3G treatment reduces hepatic lipid peroxidation, inhibits the release of proinflammatory cytokines, and reduces the progression of hepatic steatosis. Silymarin is a flavonoid containing three structural components, silibinin, silidianin, and silicristin extracted from the seeds and fruits of milk thistle Silybum marianum (Compositae). Ban was found to have a role in DNA synthesis and cell proliferation, which leads the to regeneration of hepatocytes in the damaged liver [83]. Silymarin increases hepatocyte proliferation response FB1 in to (Fumonisin B1, a fungal toxin produced by Fusarium verticillioides) causing cell death without modulating cell proliferation in pharmacological The normal liver. properties of Silymarin are regulation of cell membrane permeability and integrity,

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leukotriene inhibition, scavenging ROS, suppressing NF- κ B activity, inhibiting protein enzymes and collagen production [84].Silymarin has other clinical applications including reducing ischemic injury and treating toxic hepatitis caused by various toxins such as acetaminophen and poisonous mushrooms (85).

The effect of flavonoids isolated from Laggera alata against infection caused by carbon tetrachloride and its effect on cultured neonatal primary hepatocytes and in rats with hepatic damage was studied. Flavonoids in a concentration range of 1 to 100 µg/mL improve cell viability and inhibit CCl-induced extracellular aspartate aminotransferase (ALT) enzyme. Flavonoids at oral doses of 50, 100, and 200 mg/kg also significantly reduced the levels of AST, ALT, total protein and albumin in the blood serum, and levels of hydroxyproline and sialic acid in the liver, Histopathology was also examined where improvement liver in damage was observed with flavonoids (86).

A number of clinical studies have confirmed the efficacy and safety of flavonoids in the treatment of hepatic dysfunction and digestive problems such as fullness, loss of appetite, nausea and abdominal pain. These flavonoids, Equisetum arvense, isolated hirustrin and avicularin have the potential to confer protection against chemically induced hepatotoxicity in HepG2 cells (87)..

3-Antibacterial activity

Flavonoids isolated from plants play an important role in microbial infection, the effect of these compounds was tested in vitro against microorganisms and the activity of plant extracts rich in flavonoids on different types of bacteria (88 9). The flavonoids include apigenin, galangin, flavones, glycosides, flavonols, isoflavones, flavonoids and chalcone, which have strong antibacterial activity (90).

And the reasons for the effectiveness of flavonoids were revealed. The tendency of bacteria to various cellular factors, including its molecular actions, is the complex formation of proteins through non-specific forces such as the formation of hydrogen bonds and hydrophobic effects or through the formation of covalent bonds. This helps explain its antimicrobial mode of action related to its ability to disrupt microbial adhesions, enzymes and cell envelope transport proteins. Lipophilic flavonoids also disrupt microbial membranes 91, 92).(

Extensive research was conducted on catechins, which were found to have antibacterial activity in vitro against Vibrio cholerae, Streptococcus mutans, Shigella, and other bacteria (93, 94)., 96]. Robinetin myricetin and epigallocatechin are known to inhibit DNA synthesis [97] as it has been suggested that the B ring of flavonoids may interfere or form hydrogen bonds with the stacking of DNA bases in addition to inhibiting DNA and RNA synthesis in bacteria. Another study demonstrated the inhibitory activity of quercetin, apigenin and 3,6,7,3,4'pentahydroxyflavone against Escherichia coli DNA gyras(98).

role for compounds Α such as Naringenin and sophoraflavanone G has been revealed to have antibacterial activity methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus of aureus (MRSA) and Streptococcus tog. This is attributed to changing the membrane fluidity in the hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions, and this effect indicates that flavonoids may reduce the fluidity of the outer and inner layers of the



membranes (99). The relationship between and membrane antibacterial activity interference supports the argument that mav exhibit antibacterial flavonoids activity by reducing membrane fluidity in bacterial cells. By containing the A-ring on the 5,7,2,4 or 2,6'-dihydroxylation of the B-ring in the flavanone structure is important for anti-MRSA activity (100). The hydroxyl group at position 5 in flavanones and flavones is important for its activity against MRSA(101).

There is a suggestion that the site of inhibition of these flavonoids was between CoQ and cytochrome in the bacterial respiratory electron transport chain (102). A number of studies support the diversity of edible ingredients and derivatives of medicinal plants as potent antibacterial agents(103,104).

4-Anti-Inflammatory Activity

Inflammation results from a normal biological process in response to tissue injury, pathogenic bacterial infection, or chemical irritation. Inflammation is initiated by the migration of immune cells from the blood vessels and the release of mediators at the site of the affected. The inflammatory cells are then recruited, releasing ROS, RNS, and proinflammatory cytokines to eliminate foreign pathogens, and the injured tissue is then repaired. Normal inflammation is rapid and selflimiting. (105).

To strengthen the immune system is done through diet, pharmaceutical agents, environmental pollutants and naturally occurring food chemicals. Some elements of flavonoids significantly affect the function of the immune system and inflammatory cells [106]. A number of flavonoids such as hesperidin, apigenin, luteolin and quercetin have been studied and their anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects have been noted. Flavonoids affect the generating function of inflammatory processes especially protein kinases tyrosine and serine-threonine enzyme that are involved [107, 108]. The explanation for the inhibitor of kinases is due to the competitive binding of flavonoids with ATP at the catalytic sites on enzymes. Thus these enzymes are involved in the processes of signal transduction and cell activation that includes cells of the immune system. And it was reached to a number of flavonoids able to inhibit the effect of inducible nitric oxide, cyclooxygenase, lipooxygenase, which are enzymes responsible for the production of a large amount of nitric oxide, prostanoids, leukotrienes in addition to the generation a number of mediators of of the inflammatory process such as cytokines, chemokines or adhesion molecules (109). And flavonoids inhibit phosphodiesterases involved in cell activation. As well as its role in the anti-inflammatory effect via biosynthesis of protein cytokines that mediate leukocyte diffusive adhesion at injury sites. A number of flavonoids have been found to act as potent inhibitors of the production of prostaglandins, molecules that make up powerful pro-inflammatory signals (110)-113).

5-Anticancer activity

Dietary factors such as fruits and vegetables play a clear role in the A number of prevention of cancers. studies have been conducted on flavonoids about their inhibition of initiating and enhancing the stages of cancer, as well as their effect on growth and hormonal activities (114,115). Its role in regulating mutant p53, cell cycle arrest, tyrosine kinase inhibition, heat shock protein inhibition, susceptibility estrogen to



receptor binding, inhibition of protein secretion where p53 mutations are the most common genetic abnormalities in human cancers. Inhibition of p53 expression stops cancer cells in the G2-M phase of the cell cycle. Flavonoids that downregulate the mutant p53 protein have been detected to marked levels in human breast cancer cell lines (116).

Tyrosine kinases are proteins in the cell membrane responsible for transmitting growth factor signals to the nucleus. It has a role in tumorigenesis by controlling the natural control of regulatory growth. Drugs that inhibit tyrosine kinase activity are potential antitumor agents without the cytotoxic side effects seen with conventional chemotherapy. The first compound, Quercetin, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, was tested in phase I human trials (117). It was found that flavonoids inhibit the production of heat shock proteins in many malignant cell lines, including breast cancer, leukemia and colon cancer (118).

Recently studied the effect of the flavanol compound epigallocatechin-3gallate on inhibiting the activity of fatty acid synthesis (FAS) in prostate cancer cells, an effect closely related to growth arrest and cell death (119, 121). compared to normal tissue

The effect of genistein, daidzein and biochanin A isoflavones on breast cancer was investigated by Barnes with a comprehensive review of the anticancer effects of genistein in in vitro and in vivo models(122-124). The study demonstrated that genistein inhibits the development of chemically induced breast cancer without reproductive toxicity or endocrine impact, and the subsequent non-development of induced breast cancer was observed in rats (125).

Hesperidin, a flavanone glycoside, has a role in the treatment of ozoxymethanolinduced colon and breast cancer in mice The anti-cancer properties (126).of flavonoids found in citrus fruits were studied by Carroll et al. (127). Several flavonols. flavones. flavanones and biochanin A isoflavones were found to have strong anti-mutagenic activity (128). Flavonoid-8-acetic acid has antitumor effects (129). In previous studies, ellagic acid, robinin, quercetin, and myricetin were shown to inhibit the formation of BP-7, 8-diol-9 and 10-epoxide-2 tumors on study mouse skin (130).

6-Antiviral activity

Natural products are an important resource for the development and discovery of new antiviral drugs and the reason for their availability and low side effects. The effect of isolated flavonoids on viruses was observed. The need to search for an effective drug against HIV has led to a structural-functional relationship between flavonoids and enzyme inhibition activity. Girdyn and Srensu (131) showed that flavan-3-o1 was more effective than flavones and flavones in selectively inhibiting HIV-1, HIV-2, and similar HIV infections. Baicalin, a flavonoid isolated from Scutellaria baicalensis (Lamieaceae) has a role in preventing HIV-1 infection and recurrence. A study revealed the role of robostaflavone and hinoclavon in inhibiting HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (132) and HIV-1 entry into cells expressing CD4 receptors, cardiac chemokines and an HIV-1 reverse transcriptase antagonist (133). The role of catechins in inhibiting HIV-1 polymerase has DNA been implicated, and demethylated gardenine A



and robinitin inhibit HIV-1 proteinase (134). The role of flavonoids such as chrysin, oxetine and apigenin have been studied in inhibiting HIV-1 activity through a novel mechanism. Involve inhibition of viral transcription (135)..(

Compounds such as Kaempferol and luteolin have been shown to have a synergistic effect against herpes simplex virus (HSV) and Pseudomonas infection (136). A study by Zande and others. The properties antiviral of quercetin. hesperetin, naringin and daidzein have been demonstrated in different stages of DENV-2 (Dengue virus type 2) infection. Quercetin was found to be most effective against DENV-2 in Vero cells. The dihydroquercetin, flavonoids dihydrovisitin, leucocyanidin, pelargonidin chloride and catechin, show activity against several types of viruses including simplex herpes virus. poliovirus, respiratory syncytial virus and sandpix virus. (134)

Conclusion

In recent years, interest in plants and herbs and their use for prevention and treatment of diseases because they contain chemicals, especially flavonoids, are known.Fruits and vegetables are natural sources of flavonoids. A variety of flavonoids found in nature possess their own physical, chemical, and physiological properties. The structure-function relationship of flavonoids is an example of key biological activities. The medicinal efficacy of several flavonoids has been demonstrated as antibacterial. hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, and antiviral. This material is

more commonly used in developing countries. The therapeutic use of new compounds must be validated using specific biochemical tests. By using genetic modifications, it is now possible to produce flavonoids on a large scale. More achievements will provide newer insights and will surely lead to a new era of flavonoid-based pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of many infectious and degenerative diseases .

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مركبات الفلافونيدات وأنواعها وكيميائها وفعاليتها العلاجية

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المستخلص

في السنوات الأخيرة ، ازداد الاهتمام بالنباتات ومحتوياتها من المركبات المختلفة ، والتي تعد مستقلبات ثانوية للنباتات ، ومن بين هذه المركبات مركبات الفلافونويد. من المعروف أن مركبات الفلافونويد تحتوي على حلقات عطرية تحمل عددًا من مجموعات الهيدروكسيل وتوجد في جميع أجزاء النباتات مثل الأوراق والفواكه والجذور. تظهر في شكل aglycones و glycosides ومشتقات methylated. فهي تستخدم كمضادات للأكسدة ، ومضادات للسرطان ، ومضادات للبكتيريا ، وعوامل وقاية للقلب ، ومضادات للالتهابات ، وجهاز المناعة. قبل بضعة عقود ، زادت الدراسات البحثية التي تركز على مركبات الفلافونويد من أنواع النباتات الطبية بشكل كبير بسبب فوائدها المختلفة لصحة الإنسان.